

## DISTRICT AT A GLANCE

Established in 1936.

- Geographical areas serviced:
  - South Farmingdale
  - North Massapequa
  - Areas of Bethpage
  - Areas of Seaford
  - Areas of Massapequa
- The district maintains 3.2 million gallons of stored water in three ground storage tanks and one elevated storage tank.
- The district has a pumping capacity of 20.5 million gallons of water per day.
- The district has six plant sites that include 11 water wells, 16 buildings, 22 employees and four gas generators that provide auxiliary electrical power.
- The district's annual operating budget is \$3.5 million.
- The district encompasses:
  - 5.4 square miles
  - 44,700 people
  - 12,568 service connections
  - 1,290 fire hydrants
  - 122 miles of water mains (pipes)

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Get on board!

■ Consider becoming a volunteer at your local Nassau fire department. It's challenging...rewarding...and a great way to serve your community. For more information call:

**1-800-FIRELINE  
(347 35 463)**



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# From the TAP

**South Farmingdale Water District**  
40 Langdon Rd., PO Box 3319  
Farmingdale, NY 11735  
(516) 249-3330

**BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS**  
**Gerard F. McCormack**-Chairman  
**John Hirt**-Treasurer  
**Ralph Atoria**-Secretary

**Leonard Constantinopoli**-Business Manager  
**Edoardo Licci**-Superintendent

**Don't forget to vote!**  
The South Farmingdale Water District's annual election is Dec. 12, 2000. Voting will take place at the North Massapequa Fire Department headquarters, and the South Farmingdale Fire Department headquarters from 4 to 9 pm.

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# From the TAP

Vol. 1, No. 1

Fall 2000

A Publication of the South Farmingdale Water District

### IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome to the debut issue of *From the Tap*, the official publication of the South Farmingdale Water District. Actually, not so much a debut, but rather the launch of a more informative, semi-annual communications vehicle with news, analysis and features that keep you up to date on developments within the district.

With its clean layout and targeted editorial content, *From the Tap* will be a very useful way for you to understand what the water district does to ensure that you have the best possible water supply available, at home or at your business. We'll post helpful tips for water conservation. We'll give you an inside look at the people who serve the district. And, we'll be open to feedback at all times.

So without further introduction, we're pleased to present Vol. 1, No. 1.

■ Get a free water bottle and fill it up with your very own tap water. It's better than what you'd buy off-the-shelf and there's no charge (p. 2).

■ High-tech meter readers lead to greater efficiency for the district (p. 3).

■ When the snow plows go out, keep an eye on your fire hydrant. Great advice for safety's sake (p. 3).

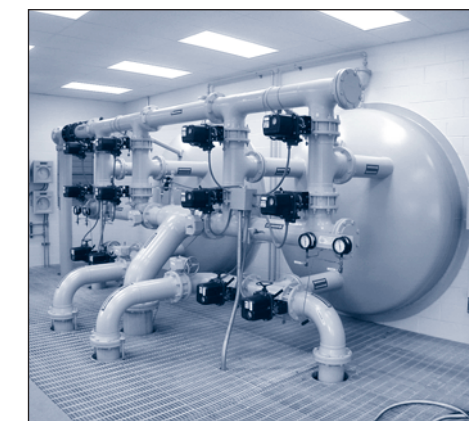
Plus...tips for shutting off those outside faucets before winter kicks in.

## DISTRICT IRONS OUT WHAT NATURE PUTS IN

■ Clear and clean. That's what local water consumers get from the tap. And a large part of that assurance comes from state-of-the-art iron filtration plants installed last year.

The facilities were integrated into the South Farmingdale Water District's network to reduce iron levels in the utility's drinking water. Though these levels were never a threat to safety, they did produce a significant amount of complaints among consumers. The source? Natural iron deposits along the south shore of Long Island. The solution? Advanced filtration.

The plants - located at Heisser La. and Hicksville Rd. - reduce iron levels in the water through a sophisticated technology developed exclusively for the district. Since their installation, the district has seen a 99.9% drop in complaints attributed to discoloration. In addition, the utility no longer needs to flush out various water mains as often as it did in the past as part of a supplementary effort to keep iron sediment out of the system.



■ Pumping station inside the iron filtration plant.

"We used to have two district employees go out to strategically located mains, usually at night, and flush each main all night," said Leonard Constantinopoli, Business Manager for the district. "That went on twice a year. Now we do it just once. This has increased efficiency and the quality of our water."



■ Control panel for the plant.

# MEET THE COMMISSIONER

When he was the Fire Commissioner at the South Farmingdale Fire Department, John Hirt depended on water to save lives and property. He wasn't as concerned with its quality as much as its availability. Now, as Commissioner of the South Farmingdale Water District, water quality is foremost on his mind.



John Hirt

"Our local water quality goes through the most stringent testing in New York State in order to be deliverable to consumers," Hirt says. "And we've implemented several strategies that enable us to pass those tests with flying colors."

Being a resident of Farmingdale since 1958, this is important to Hirt, who counts himself among the 44,700 consumers who rely on the utility for clean, clear water.

"It's not something we can take for granted," he says. "Water is a key component to our health, our lives, and our livelihoods. That's the mindset I had when I first became Water Commissioner two years ago." And it's shown. Under his tenure, the district has integrated a state-of-the-art iron filtration plant that has eliminated all traces of iron in local drinking water.

The district has also increased the efficiency of reading water meters with more technically advanced field equipment.

"New technology, computerization and good people have certainly helped drive the success of the district over the last few years," Hirt says of the changes.

Being the one to call the shots is nothing new for the three-year commissioner. By day, John is Operations Manager, Federal Express at Kennedy Airport. And before that, he served as Assistant Fire Chief at Republic Airport, in Farmingdale.

"Fortunately, I've been involved in leadership positions, and I believe that experience is very beneficial to the water district and our consumers."

# DISTRICT TO RESIDENTS: FILL IT UP!!!

Free water bottles are being given away as a way to encourage residents to consume water provided by the South Farmingdale Water District. And why not? It's better than bottled water sold through retailers and it's as close as your kitchen sink.

"You won't be disappointed," says Edoardo Licci, Superintendent of the water district. "No water bought on the shelf can measure up to the quality of our local water supply."

The South Farmingdale Water District services and maintains the public water supply for more than 44,700 people in South Farmingdale, North Massapequa and parts of Bethpage, Seaford and Massapequa Park. South Farmingdale's 11 water wells are tested frequently for bacteria, metals, and pesticides as part of the district's stringent quality assurance program.

Residents can pick-up their free water bottle at the water district's main office at 40 Langdon Rd., in Farmingdale.



# FASTER METER READING IMPROVES EFFICIENCY

Remember the last time you saw your water meter being read? Probably not...thanks to the South Farmingdale Water District's remote meter reading system, which has been operating smoothly for more than five years now. Always striving to stay on the cutting-edge, the district has recently upgraded this remote technology, now making it faster, more efficient than ever before.

The district replaced its handheld meter reading devices with new, state-of-the-art wireless technology that enables meter reading to be done in less than half the time than with previous devices. That's an

enormous time-savings that can be re-channeled for other critical operations, such as routine maintenance and safety checks at the district's six plant sites.

The remote meter reading system was originally installed through a phase-in plan during the mid-90s. The mission of the project was two-fold:

- 1) Provide more convenient water meter reading to residents whose meters were located within their homes or business;
- 2) Improve the time and efficiency of reading water meters.

Today, nearly all of the district's 12,568 service connections are equipped with a water meter



A faster way to read water meters.

extension, enabling district employees to take remote readings without entering the house or business. The system has been highly successful, enabling the district to provide a better, less-intrusive service to its residents and businesses.

# A WORD ABOUT THOSE HYDRANTS

The next time your neighbor's kid offers to shovel snow from your driveway, give him a bonus if he clears snow away from the nearby hydrant too. It's a good idea.

Though Long Island winters yield minimal snowfall at best, it only takes one plow-through to cover up a life saving piece of equipment like a fire hydrant. And there are 1,290 of them in

the South Farmingdale Water District.

It's also a good idea to assist the elderly and handicapped in your neighborhood during the winter. Be a good neighbor by clearing hydrants near their homes.

Spot a broken hydrant? Don't ignore it, and don't try to fix it either. Call the water district for assistance.



Keep those fire hydrants clear after a snowfall.

# TIPS, FACTS AND STATS

## WINTERIZING WATER TIPS.....WAYS TO PREPARE FOR THE WINTER AHEAD

Disconnect all outdoor hoses, drain and store them in a garage, shed or basement.

Turn off the water that leads to the outside of your house.



Leave outside water faucets open. It allows any trapped water to expand after a freeze, and prevents broken pipes.

Be sure to stop all drafts in the basement area so pipes won't freeze.

Cover your outdoor pool or spa to reduce wasteful evaporation.