

Come Out and Vote

The South Farmingdale Water District's annual election is December 14, 2004. Voting will take place at the North Massapequa Fire Department headquarters, and the South Farmingdale Fire Department headquarters from 4 to 9 pm.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Get on board!

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

1-800-FIRELINE
(347-3546)



www.sfwater.com

From the TAP

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

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Gerard F. McCormack-Chairman
John Hirt-Treasurer
Ralph Atoria-Secretary

Leonard Constantinopoli-Business Manager
William Bier-Superintendent

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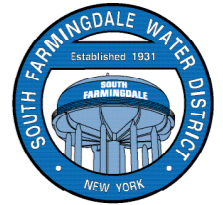
Remember to Vote:
December 14, 2004, 4-9 pm

Board of Water Commissioners Election To Be Held At:
North Massapequa Fire Department
South Farmingdale Fire Department

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From the TAP

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WINNING THE CHALLENGES TO QUALITY GROUNDWATER

In the 1940s, the regulations and procedures protecting our groundwater were much different than those common today.

Manufacturing activities at that time were not subject to current strict environmental codes. On-site waste management had not developed into a science, and the long-term effects of in-ground disposal were not the subject of intense scrutiny as they are now.

Today, the South Farmingdale Water District monitors the groundwater supply intensely to deliver the best quality water possible to residents. This monitoring includes keeping a close watch on past issues that threaten water quality in the present, then developing a strategy to meet those issues and win.

Clearing Up The Past

Right now, an underground plume is moving slowly toward two of the utility's water stations, predicted to reach these wells within three to ten years. The plume consists of chemical solvents and volatile organic compounds that were once used to break down grease at the former Grumman Aerospace plant and the Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve plant sites in Bethpage during the highly active production period of the 1940s.

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The South Farmingdale Water District, working with environmental engineers from H2M Group, has started a series of public forums to clarify the issues and demonstrate the efforts being made to ensure a continuing safe water supply.

As outlined in the first forum, remediation plans are already prepared and are being put into place. The solution chiefly consists of deploying sophisticated filtration technology in the field, so that water is purified before it enters the public distribution system. If the situation develops where the groundwater is found to contain these impurities from 50 years ago, the system will remove them to produce the high quality water that residents have expected and enjoyed for years.

The District, The Navy, The Solution

The area of the plume's origin is currently owned by Northrop Grumman, a major contractor to the U.S. Navy. The Water District will develop the filtration solution to the plume's impact, and the U.S. Navy will absorb the cost of its implementation and maintenance. Negotiations between the District and the Navy are currently underway.

South Farmingdale Water District Commissioner, Gerard McCormack stated, "The first message consumers need to understand is this; the water quality in the District is absolutely safe and in excellent quality. The District is orchestrating a concerted effort to minimize any negative impact this plume may have on the quality of our water supply and treatment costs to our taxpayers. Our goal is to protect our consumers from any costs associated with this situation."

As details emerge and developments continue, more public information will be made available. If you are interested in attending and learning more, contact the District at (516) 249-3330.

MEET GERARD McCORMACK, CHAIRMAN OF THE SFWD BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

■ If anyone knows the South Farmingdale Water District inside and out, it's Commissioner Gerard McCormack.

Although he was born and raised in Ozone Park, Queens, he has been an active resident of the District since 1953. His father came from Ireland to start and raise his family, his profession being a metal worker. Gerard still looks back on those formative years with fondness, and remembers his parents as "saints." Indeed, some of his dad's most memorable work was done for churches in the region.

During the Korean War, Gerard served in the Army at home in domestic counterintelligence. It was at this time that he started to develop the investigative, analytical and leadership skills that would help him serve his community for the next 50-plus years. He was honorably discharged from the service in 1953 at the rank of sergeant, and he found his best opportunities in Farmingdale, at Republic Aircraft. His life on the Island had started.

At Republic, he worked on technical instrumentation projects, and it was around this time that he met his lifetime partner, Patricia. On September 25, 1954 they were married, and have been together to this day – over 50 years – living and raising their family in North Massapequa.

The 1950s were boom years for the aeronautics industry and Gerard found himself next at Fairchild, and then at Grumman, where the new field of aerospace was emerging. It was a new high point not only for America, but also for Gerard, because this is where our commissioner helped build the first Lunar Excursion Module (LEM) that would put man on the moon. His work involved the instrumentation for this spacecraft.

Gerard had also been a volunteer firefighter, but after his time with Grumman, it became his profession. To this day, he is active in the North Massapequa fire department. Throughout 50 years, he rose from firefighter to Assistant Chief, then to Fire Chief. He was also North Massapequa's Fire Commissioner from 1974 to 1983, and served with the Nassau Fire Commission until taking retirement from that organization in 1992. It is easy to see how these credentials qualify him to be the current Chairman of the South Farmingdale Water District.

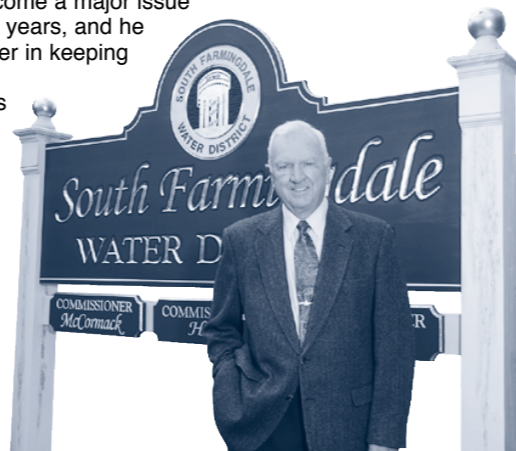
He has been the SFWD Chairman for the past 10 years, having been invited to serve on the Board of Commissioners in 1987.

"It is challenging to serve on the commission and be a steward of our community's water supply. We have pushed to upgrade or create new wells since I've been here; there are 11 wells in operation, and it's a tremendous responsibility to keep them in top shape. Then there's the constant need to monitor the water and make sure it's exceeding all standards set by the government. We're proud of our water; it's been rated highly by all standards."

The challenges are greater today than when Gerard took office. For example, he has had to use all his managerial skills to keep problems such as potential in-ground pollution under control, calling on Grumman, the Navy and government authorities to do their part in helping the district maintain its high standards. Security has become a major issue in the past three years, and he has been a leader in keeping water wells and pumping stations safe from outside harm.

His comment on the challenges: "No problems, no troubles."

When he isn't involved in public service, you may find Gerard working at his favorite hobby, gardening. In warm weather he's outside growing flowers and tomatoes for friends and family. He's also a baseball fan. His all-time sports hero? Stan Musial. "The greatest athlete that ever lived."



Gerard McCormack

5 YEARS OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS UNDERWAY

■ The South Farmingdale Water District's 5-year plan is aimed at improving and upgrading the water supply for the future. These capital improvements will immediately put important enhancements in place to help ensure an abundant supply of high quality water for coming generations.

The capital improvement projects will be rolled out in a priority determined by practicality and need. Funding for all the projects is in place, in an agreement between the District and the Town of Oyster Bay. The program is now underway, and the first three projects are as follows:

Water Main Replacement

The old water main in the Southeast section of the district has been replaced with a new main that is 12 inches in diameter. This project started in mid-March of 2004 and was finished on schedule and on budget by the summer. The entire area now benefits from increased water pressure and greater efficiency in water delivery.

New Well At Lourae Drive

Twice as deep as its predecessor, the new 600-foot-deep well at Lourae Drive was unveiled in October of this year. The new well features modern technology, efficient operating motors and a greater depth for water retrieval. It replaced the original well that was built in 1955.

Prior to installation of the new well, an elaborate filtration system was installed to remove excess iron from the water. Extensive testing has rated water from the well as good to excellent quality.

Back Up Generators and Increased Security

With the blackouts and brownouts we experienced over the past couple of years, and on-going Homeland Security concerns, the District is staying ahead of these disruptive events. Back up generators have long been a part of the District's emergency plan. As Commissioner Gerard McCormack commented, "The blackout we experienced in August put us in a position to implement our emergency response plan and it passed with flying colors." Our backup generators kicked in to keep our water flowing."

Security measures will also be increased to protect the water supply and the systems that deliver the water. All possible weaknesses have been identified and protected from harm in a plan that encompasses the entire SFWD system.



Pump Station at Lourae Drive

TIPS, FACTS AND STATS

WINTERIZE YOUR HOME.....WHAT YOU CAN DO

■ Disconnect and drain outdoor hoses. An overnight freeze can burst either the faucet or the pipe it's connected to.

■ Insulate pipes or faucets in unheated areas. Wrap water pipes before temperatures plummet.

■ Seal off access doors, air vents and cracks. Winter winds can blow in your house and quickly freeze exposed water pipes.

■ If a pipe bursts, find the master shutoff and call a plumber immediately.

