

# From the TAP



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## Meet The Chairman: **Ralph Atoria**

Ask Ralph Atoria to describe himself and his immediate response is he's not special; he's just like all the guys he grew up with in Farmingdale — a simple person leading a simple life.

But dig deeper and you'll learn that he's been a volunteer fireman since 1968 serving as Lieutenant, Captain and Chief of the South Farmingdale Fire Department during his career...and he currently serves as Trustee of the South Farmingdale Benevolent Association.

His philosophy is simple, "I care for the people and the quality of life here so I volunteer to help things along, it's that simple." Ralph has served as Water Commissioner since 1991 and is presently Chairman of The District.

After graduating from Farmingdale High School, Ralph attended SUNY Farmingdale to study Business Administration and Accounting. He later served in Vietnam for 13 months as a Sergeant in the U.S. Army. Upon returning home he got married. He and his wife raised three children in South Farmingdale and now have four grandchildren.

Ralph worked with the IBEW#25 for 10 years. Since 1978, he has worked for the LIRR as an electrician and supervisor in the Engineering Department.

In his own words, he sums up his feelings, "Family and the community...that's pretty much my life. I couldn't be more pleased serving as Water Commissioner for South Farmingdale Water District and working with our knowledgeable and caring staff."

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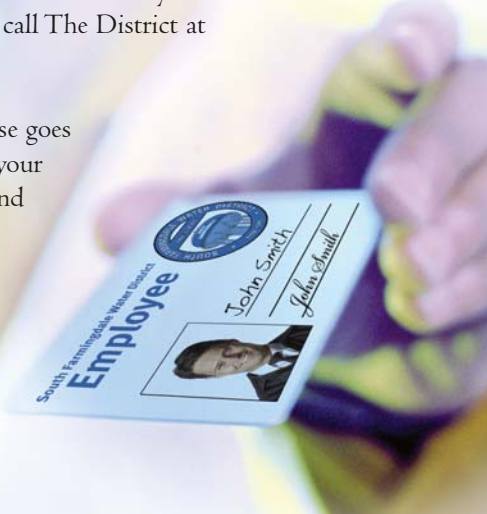
# Use **SENSE**, Stay **SAFE**

The old saying goes, "A man's home is his castle." Nobody wants to think they may not be safe in their own house. Unfortunately, there are fraudulent people who will try to gain access to your home in order to commit a crime. Therefore, we urge you to be careful when someone claiming to be a Water District employee appears on your doorstep to read a water meter, confirm a leak or sell you a water filtration device. Don't be fooled by impostors.

It is rare that anyone from The District will show up at your home. In fact, 99% of our visits to residents' homes are by appointment. Even if there is an emergency, such as a water main break, we will notify you when we'll be in your area.

If someone comes to your door claiming to be a Water District employee, ask to see his or her identification card. If you have any doubts about their identity, please call The District at (516) 249-3330 for verification.

Remember, a little bit of common sense goes a long way in protecting yourself and your family members. Trust your instincts and call The District. We will be happy to help you.

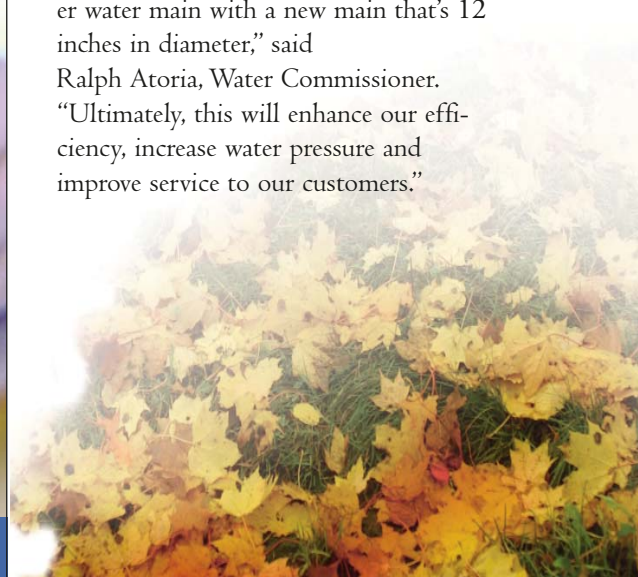


# New Water Main Means Better Service



This past May, the South Farmingdale Water District finalized construction on a new water main in the southeast corner of The District. The project was designed to upgrade water distribution throughout our area of service.

"Simply put, we replaced an older, smaller water main with a new main that's 12 inches in diameter," said Ralph Atoria, Water Commissioner. "Ultimately, this will enhance our efficiency, increase water pressure and improve service to our customers."



## Tips and Stats...



### Winterizing Solutions at Home

- Disconnect all outdoor hoses. Drain and store them in a garage, shed or basement.
- Turn off the water leading 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 your basement so pipes won't freeze.
- Cover your outdoor pool or hot tub to reduce wasteful evaporation.

For more winterizing solutions, or water conservation tips, visit our website at [www.sfwater.com](http://www.sfwater.com).

## Don't Forget To Clear Those Hydrants

With winter around the corner, it's a sure bet that we'll see snow fall soon. This is why The District is asking residents to keep an eye on any fire hydrants that may become buried in the wake of a snowplow.

Life saving seconds can be wasted if local fire fighters can't find or hook up to a hydrant during an emergency.

So, if you have a hydrant nearby, clear the snow away if you're able. If not, report it to The District.



## Water Quality Ratings Earn Highest Grades

Drinking water from your tap costs 1,000 times less than bottled water, and it is just as safe as filtered water. In fact, The District's water quality has passed all federal, state and county tests with flying colors — earning the highest grades possible for quality. Most importantly, you should have absolutely no doubts about The District's ability to maintain that level of excellence...now and into the future.

Recently, there have been several attempts by local businesses to test homeowners' water for free which has prompted some residents to inquire about The District's water quality.

These offers are not connected in any way with The District and should be viewed purely for what they are — an attempt to market home filtration systems, bottled water delivery and other products. Some promotions include direct deliveries of small test tubes asking residents to fill the tubes to be tested for quality assessment.

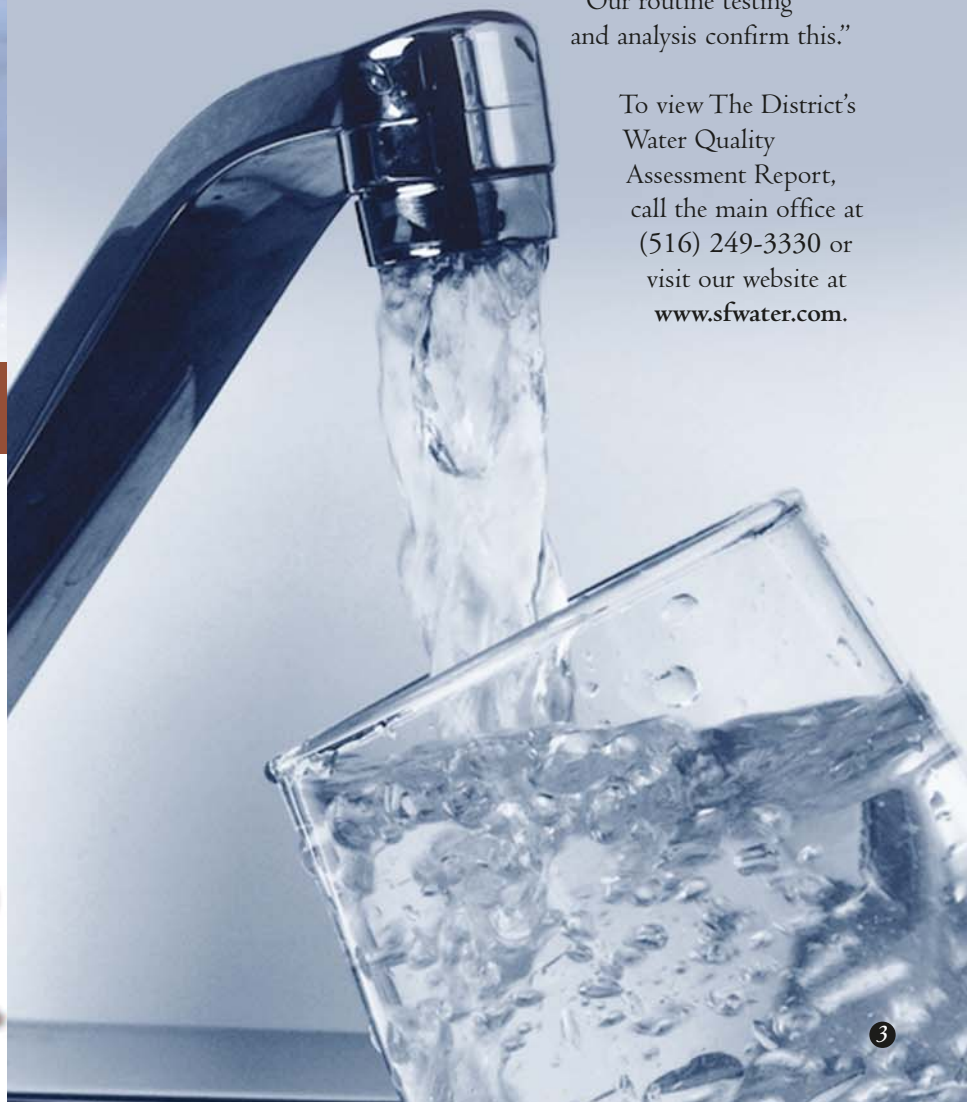
These promotions are not endorsed by The District and are not viewed as a credible critique against the area's water supply. "Our water is of the highest, safest quality, and it is constantly monitored according to all appropriate regulatory standards," stated John Hirt, District Commissioner.

"Our routine testing and analysis confirm this."

To view The District's Water Quality Assessment Report, call the main office at (516) 249-3330 or visit our website at [www.sfwater.com](http://www.sfwater.com).

### Ralph Atoria *Continued from front cover*

Ralph believes that his background in the construction and electrical industries is a valuable asset in his position as Water Commissioner and he thanks all consumers within The District for giving him the opportunity to serve a community that he loves.





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## **BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS**

**Ralph Atoria**-Chairman

**John Hirt**-Treasurer

**Gerard F. McCormack**-Secretary

**Leonard Constantinopoli**-Business Manager  
**William Bier**-Superintendent

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**Come  
Out  
and  
Vote**

The South Farmingdale Water District's annual election is December 13, 2005. 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*

Have you considered becoming a volunteer at your local fire department? It's challenging, yet rewarding...and a great way to serve your community. Volunteers are desperately needed. Call for more information.

1-800-Fireline  
(347-3546)

