

From the TAP



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Your Neighborhood Water District Does It Best!
(516) 249-3330 • www.sfwater.com

Update: One Year Later With Kurt Ludwig...

It would be an understatement to say that Kurt Ludwig, SFWD Water Commissioner, hit the ground running during his first year in office. To us, it's more like he crossed the finish line in first place!

By every standard, Kurt has proven himself to be the right man for the right job, and an excellent asset to our organization, now and into the future.

Born For The Job

As a native Long Islander growing up in North Massapequa, attending Farmingdale High School and then SUNY Stony Brook, he knows the area well. He even lives in North Massapequa, five blocks from the house he grew up in!



Kurt Ludwig, SFWD Water Commissioner, serving as a volunteer for the North Massapequa Fire Department since 1989.

He has been a volunteer for the North Massapequa Fire Department since 1989, acting as Company Lead Engineer and a Department Public Information Officer. He is on the Department's Training Committee and is on its Board of Directors. He is also the Co-Race Director for the Annual Sleepy Hollow 5k Charity Run, benefitting the Hagedorn Little Village School for developmentally disabled children. And, Kurt serves as Public Relations Director for the Nassau-Suffolk Chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Football Hall of Fame.

Making Great Strides On The Fast Track

It is critical to all of us that we have leaders who can influence other utility leaders, government representatives, and political bodies so that our health and best interests are served. To Kurt's credit, he has the ability, friendships, and savvy to do just that. And this year, he proved it.

Kurt's professional background and decades of service are key in quickly resolving matters of district concern.

For example, as a young newspaper reporter, he gained a tremendous amount of knowledge of the practical workings of governmental processes. Since 1990, he has worked for the Town of Oyster Bay in the Public Information Office as a liaison between Town officials and the public. His knowledge of all levels of government and close ties to government representatives, enable him to help the SFWD on an unprecedented level.

Congratulations Kurt, on a great first year. We wish you many more!

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Meet Charlie Prucha, SFWD Superintendent

Charlie Prucha is very clear about his approach to both his professional and personal lives: "I like things simple and direct, and I like to take care of things as they come up."

This summer Charlie was awarded the position of Superintendent at South Farmingdale Water District based on his work ethic and experience with the District, where he has amassed comprehensive knowledge of its operations, plans and personnel during the past 30 years.

Charlie points out that most issues can be, and are, resolved quickly. "The beauty of local water supply control is that we can address any customer issue immediately, with minimal bureaucratic red tape," he says.

He began his career in 1978 as a Water Plant Operator Trainee, learning operational fundamentals by performing routine maintenance duties. In 1983, he earned his New York State 2A Pump Operators License, which paved the way for his promotion to Water Plant Servicer

and in 1991, to Water Plant Operator.

Charlie has also attained New York State's highest operator's license, a 1A-SW/GUI Water Systems Operators License.

In 2003, he was named General Foreman with the duty of overseeing all pump operations, meter readings, repairs, water sampling, restoration and general maintenance.

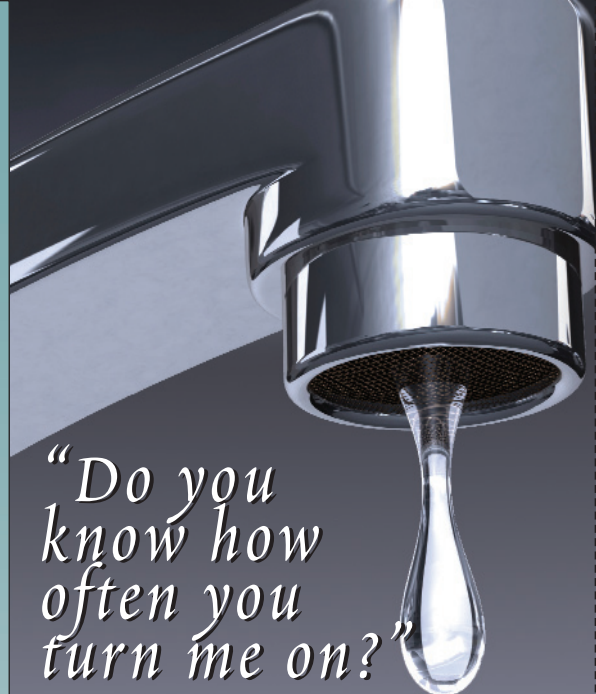
On a personal note, Charlie is a self-admitted home body. His favorite hobbies are not golfing, fishing or tennis, but redecorating, redesigning and remodeling his Lindenhurst home. He is very "hands on" at home as well as at the SFWD, and is truly a "man about the house."

Born in Elmhurst, Queens, Charlie moved to Uniondale at age 4, then to Farmingdale in 1975. He now resides in Lindenhurst with his wife, Margaret, and two daughters, Kimberley Dawn, 16, and Jessica Marie, 14. As you may imagine, he and Margaret spend a lot of time at softball, basketball, and cheerleading events with their children.

His Mission And Goals

Charlie states the goals of his tenure in simple terms: "Our mission is to serve our customers with the highest level of integrity and value...and we believe that nobody does it better than a neighborhood water district. Equally important is the leadership role we play in promoting water conservation, which comes through education and awareness. We also make sure our equipment is in tip-top shape, and we embrace new technology as it's made available."

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*"Do you
know how
often you
turn me on?"*

If only the water faucet could talk to us. It might remind us how often we turn to it for safe water to drink, to wash our clothes, to prepare our food, to provide us with the everyday quality of life we enjoy.

It might remind us that the water pipes below our streets make many daily conveniences possible.

Local Water Districts keep our community tap water safe, reliable and there for us —24/7 without fail. For more information, visit www.drinktap.org.

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. This allows any trapped water to expand during 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.*



Working With Different Levels Of Government

With new leadership in place — leadership that has experience, know-how, and the best of intentions — SFWD is ready, willing and more capable than ever to work with government bodies and officials to promote our community well-being.

Currently, SFWD implements emergency support strategies in cooperation with other municipalities, government bodies and utilities. Consulting with the Town Supervisor is common procedure when discussing matters of mutual concern.

To maximize our resources, SFWD also meets with higher government-level assembly members, Senators and other political officials to get optimum funding from various levels of government.

Our staff is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for our residents, and we volunteer with many local organizations that interact with different levels of government. Many of our employees, as well as the Commissioners, volunteer their time to local EMS, fire fighting and community organizations.

In order to fulfill our primary mission, the SFWD team is involved in many alliances to maximize the impact of the tax dollars we receive. A good example is our partnership with Nassau County to implement the “Reverse 911” response program, a system that alerts every household by phone if a water emergency threatens the area.



(standing) Water Commissioners Ralph Atoria, Kurt Ludwig and John Hirt at a recent meeting with Town Supervisor John Venditto (seated).

There are a multitude of District accomplishments, and many more to come, thanks to SFWD’s ability to work with other government bodies for our mutual benefit.

Our mantra is...
Your Neighborhood Water
District Does It Best!
VALUE • INTEGRITY • SERVICE
Preserving The Quality Of Your
Water Supply!

Charlie Prucha *Continued from page 2*

“The most important responsibility of the SFWD is to keep the water clean, pure and safe for now and future generations. The SFWD not only ranks among the top water districts in the USA, we are also among the least expensive, especially compared to other utility costs. And we’re keeping it that way.”

Charlie stands behind the slogan of SFWD: Value, Integrity, Service. He reminds us of how the SFWD delivers on that statement every day. “SFWD accomplishes its mission by

providing the highest quality water at rates less than the national average. Our dedicated employees, from the office staff to the technicians in the field, keep this operation running smoothly. Everyone performs to his or her best and it shows. I cannot praise them enough.”

Blessed with a great sense of humor, a down to earth attitude, and the desire to deal with issues immediately, Superintendent Charlie Prucha is on track to do well for the future of SFWD and the community.

FYI: Do You Know You Are Drinking Gourmet Water?

We know our water is among the best, but recent news confirms it.

A recent editorial published by *The New York Times*, “In Praise of Tap Water,” carried the themes of the AWWA’s *Only Tap Water Delivers* campaign. It explained that the United States “has some of the best public water supplies in the world...almost all municipal water in America is so good that nobody needs to import a single bottle. Meanwhile, if you choose to get your recommended eight glasses a day from bottled water, you could spend up to \$1,400 annually. The same amount of tap water would cost about 49 cents.”

The editorial went on to state that “the more the wealthy opt out of drinking tap water, the less political support there will be for investing in maintaining America’s public water supply. That would be a serious loss. Access to cheap, clean water is basic to the nation’s health.”

The Today Show also held a tap water taste test, noting the environmental impact of bottled water and the solid waste problem generated by the used bottles.

Our comment:
“Turn on your tap and enjoy great water!”



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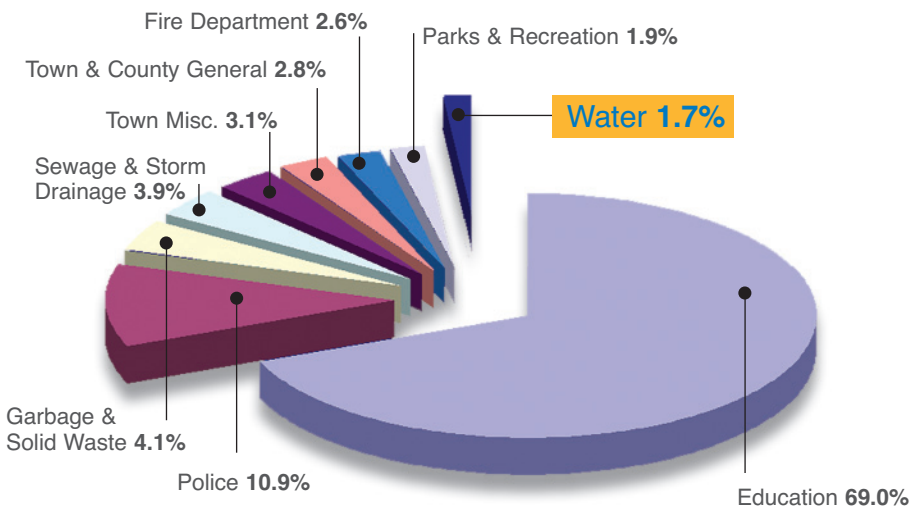
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Come Out and Vote

The South Farmingdale Water District's annual election is Tuesday, December 11, 2007. Voting will take place from 4 to 9 pm at the North Massapequa Fire Department headquarters located at Broadway and Albany Ave., North Massapequa. And the South Farmingdale Firehouse, 819 South Main Street, South Farmingdale.



BREAKDOWN OF NASSAU COUNTY RESIDENTIAL TAXES



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Due to proactive planning and budgeting, in 2008 there will be no water rate increase and no tax increase to our customers.