

# From the TAP



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A Publication of the South Farmingdale Water District

Your Neighborhood Water District Does It Best!  
(516) 249-3330 • [www.sfwater.com](http://www.sfwater.com)

## Good News For Consumers: No Increase in Taxes For 2009

South Farmingdale Water District (SFWD) announced that its new budget has no tax increases for residents. This cost management is a powerful testament as to how local control can successfully shape and implement utility budgets, with careful planning under the informed expertise of your local water commissioners.

And there is more good news: All current projects to improve efficiency and maintain high quality standards will stay in place, without compromise and without increased costs.

This is the 3rd consecutive year the SFWD contained costs and conserved tax dollars in the budget. The announcement is especially good news for taxpayers in a year when Nassau County has been having a difficult time balancing its budget while raising property taxes by 3.9%. SFWD is very mindful of its consumers during these uncertain times which include rising costs on basic necessities such as food, oil and gasoline.

Claims have been made that big government control will improve service and cut costs. These are completely unfounded and unjustified, and have major flaws in assertions and historical support. Big government control in other areas has actually demonstrated the opposite results.

The new SFWD 2009 budget proves that local control means a high level of care, accountability and efficiency.

Some little-known facts are that SFWD water rates are about 2% below the national average (source: American Water Works Associations) and that the consumers' water tax is less than 1.2% of their total tax bill.

The Commissioners noted, "It is our fiscal responsibility as public servants to work within our budgets and protect our District and the local taxpayer. We've done this for over 75 years and we will continue to provide the same excellent service for years to come."



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# A Message From The Superintendent Charles Prucha

Welcome to the Fall 2008 edition of the South Farmingdale Water District Newsletter.

As always, the #1 concern of the District is public health and safety, and we unequivocally stand behind our mission to deliver plentiful water that exceeds national standards to our consumers at a reasonable cost. Since 1931, SFWD has safeguarded our community by maintaining adequate water storage reserves, especially for fire protection purposes, and we are extremely vigilant in protecting our supply from all potential sources of contamination. The SFWD actively promotes water conservation and cooperates with all local and New York State authorities.



**Lower Costs:**

As Superintendent of SFWD, I am pleased to report good news. We have succeeded, through sensible financial planning and stringent efficiency measures, in delivering the highest possible quality water at a cost that is 2% below the national average. And that's with no new or increased taxes. Most of us live in the community, so we recognize the importance of public safety and fiscal accountability.

**Ongoing Maintenance:**

The SFWD supports an aggressive maintenance program at every level of operation. An important example is the ongoing maintenance of our fire hydrants, a public safety measure often taken for granted. Hydrants require regular painting to remain visible to firefighters and traffic. Some hydrants are flagged in key logistical locations in the winter so they can be easily located in deep snow. We routinely test our hydrants for performance, inspect them for leaks, and flush them to keep maximum pressure. Our technicians are trained to respond to any damage, leaks or accidents.

**Plant 5-1 Online:**

We are also happy to report that Plant 5-1 is up and running. The recently installed Granulated Activate Carbon (G.A.C.) filtration system is a proactive measure to safeguard the quality of water for the community before an incident can threaten it.

**New Emergency Notification System:**

Another innovation we believe to be of great value is our new emergency notification system that works like 9-1-1 in reverse. The system can alert the entire district by an automated telephone call with an important safety message within minutes. Please visit our website ([www.sfwater.com](http://www.sfwater.com)) and sign-up if you have an unlisted phone number so we can notify you in the event of an emergency.

**Advanced Technology:**

As with many industries, computerization has improved our efficiency while lowering costs. We have embraced digital technology because it demonstrates reliability and cost-effectiveness and our current staff performs work faster and with greater accuracy.

**Local Control:**

We firmly stand behind our position that local control by local commissioners is far more cost-effective for our consumers. The opportunity for oversight, misinformation and misguided effort inherent in larger governing bodies is a potential risk to public safety when it comes to running a local water district such as SFWD.

As always, the SFWD welcomes your comments, suggestions and feedback. Please feel free to contact me at (516) 249-3330, or visit our resourceful website at [www.sfwater.com](http://www.sfwater.com).

## Tips and Stats... *Winterizing Solutions at Home*

- If water pipes are located in an unheated area of your house, cover the pipes with insulation to prevent freezing.
- Disconnect all outdoor hoses, turn off the water leading outdoors, and open each outdoor faucet.
- Winterize irrigation systems by turning off the system and draining.
- Know where your shut-off valve is located in case of emergency.
- Keep any fire hydrant on your property clear of snow.

# Come & Get 'Em! Free Water Bottles From SFWD

If you drink bottled water, SFWD has great news to save you money while you help to improve the environment.

We are providing residents with free reusable water bottles to fill up with great tasting tap water. The service aims not only to save consumers money and protect the environment, but to raise awareness of the high quality of water in the SFWD.

SFWD water is rated among the best in the country, with quality and characteristics surpassing government standards. A SFWD commissioner commented, "No water bought on the shelf can measure up to the quality of our local water supply. It is constantly monitored for quality and safety."

Savings to the consumer can be immense. The average consumer pays about \$1.46 for a 20-ounce bottle of water from a convenience store. By comparison, \$1.25 pays for about 1,000 gallons of water from the SFWD tap. Using those figures, 1,000 gallons of bottled water would cost \$9,344!

Disposable plastic bottles are an environmental nightmare.

You see them discarded along roadsides, in parks and in public places as unsightly garbage. Recycling helps, but the energy consumed to process them is expensive in the light of high fuel costs. If they are tossed in the trash, they take up vast amounts of landfill space.

National figures tell us that in 2005 there were 2.3 billion bottles of water consumed in New York State alone, and 80% of those bottles were not recycled!

Now we can all start saving money in the grocery store and lower the energy expense of recycling, while protecting the environment — by filling our free water bottles with great tasting SFWD tap water.

The free water bottles are made from recycled, non-leaching, durable plastic, and can be used many times. All that is required is a simple washing to keep them reusable. Residents can pick-up their free water bottle at the District's main office at 40 Langdon Road, in Farmingdale. There is a limit of two water bottles per household. For more information, contact the District at (516) 249-3330, or visit [www.sfwater.com](http://www.sfwater.com).



## Grumman Update: It's A Go!

The threat to our water supplies at the Grumman site will be dealt with immediately, thanks to our staff, counsel, elected officials, and especially the civic organizations that supported and helped us throughout the process.

The SFWD had been in negotiations for three years with the United States Navy, which was the primary occupier of the site during the years of contamination. As such, we believed it is their responsibility to pay for the clean up of the site that threatens our water supply. The cost was determined to be \$18 million.

The United States Navy backed off negotiations, and for a longer-than-desired period there was no compromise or headway made. This concerned officials at the SFWD because the contaminants are "knocking on our door," in the words of Business Manager Len Constantinopoli.

A SFWD Commissioner commented that the water treatment system proposed would provide the same quality of water we enjoy today, but action had to be taken as soon as possible. We could not wait for the United States Navy to come to our aid with the funds necessary to meet this critical need.

Two plans of action were taken to succeed in protecting our water supply and protect our consumers from paying for the facility while we prodded the United States Navy into payment.

First, we had to bond \$18 million to begin construction of a filtration facility. We're confident that the United States Navy will pay this sum back entirely so consumers won't be paying a single penny of their tax dollars.

Second, we met with civic associations and asked for their help. They rose to the occasion and provided a tremendous amount of expertise, support and positive action that helped us move forward. Congressman Peter King also stepped up to help, and together...the SFWD, the water commissioners, civic organizations and elected officials we were able to bring the United States Navy back to the negotiation table.

The SFWD commissioners would like to thank and acknowledge all the civic organizations for their help and support throughout the process. We especially note the special efforts from the North Massapequa Civic Association and its president Rose Hobbins, plus The Citizens For Pure Water, and its president Diane Losurdo.

We will keep you informed of developments on this important issue as they unfold.



# From the TAP



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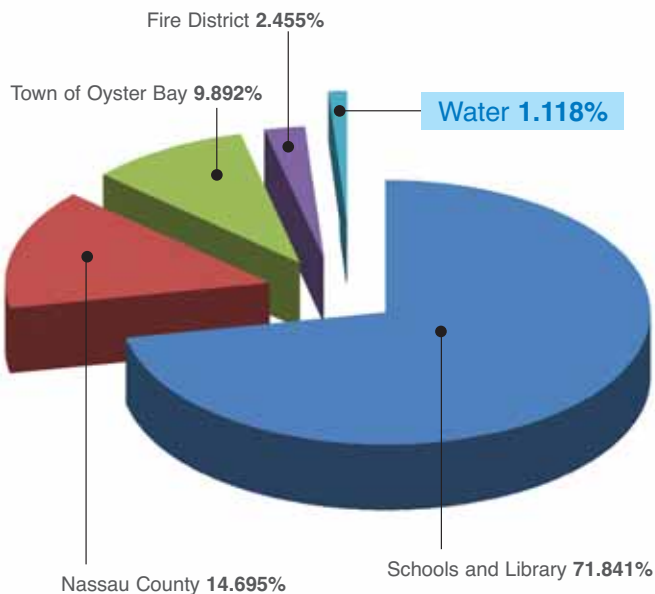
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## TYPICAL SOUTH FARMINGDALE TAX ALLOCATION



# Come Out and Vote

**The South Farmingdale Water District's annual election is Tuesday, December 9, 2008.**

Voting will take place from 4 pm 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 St., South Farmingdale.