

ANNOUNCING...www.sfwater.com

Our new site is up and running! In January, after months of hard work and preparation, our site went live. It is full of interesting and useful information, and is continually being updated and expanded with:

- Residential and commercial customer services
- Useful, year-round water conservation tips
- Security information
- News releases, both current and archived
- Customer billing information
- District commissioners' e-mail addresses

You'll also discover information about the district itself and the communities we serve. To visit our new web site, go to www.sfwater.com.



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

Look inside for South Farmingdale Water District's 2001 Drinking Water Quality Report.

Produced by Progressive Marketing Group, Inc.

PRSRST STD
U.S.POSTAGE
PAID
OAKDALE, NY
PERMIT No. 153

From the TAP

Vol.3, No.1



Spring 2002

A Publication of the South Farmingdale Water District

Water Conservation Reduces Utility Bills, Preserves Natural Resource

As the summer season approaches, it's especially important to be mindful of simple water conservation techniques that can make a real difference in your utility bill while also preserving water. This is especially important now, since rainfall has been consistently below normal amounts, and federal meteorologists predict there's less than an 8 percent chance that rainfall from now through July will end the drought on the East Coast.

While Long Island is not officially in a drought situation, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has declared a "drought watch" for Nassau and Suffolk counties, as well as many other counties throughout the state. As in the past, the South Farmingdale Water District

continues to advocate water conservation. "Practicing water conservation not only ensures a plentiful supply of water for everyone's needs – residential as well as commercial – it simply makes good sense not to waste something as important as our valuable water supply," said John Hirt, SFWD Commissioner.

One of the most important summertime conservation regulations is lawn watering. While everyone loves a lush, green lawn, there are specific regulations in Nassau County that all residents and businesses must observe. Specifically, county code restricts watering between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Lawn watering may be done only on even days if your street address is an even number, and on odd days if your address is an odd number. Non-compliance can lead to a fine. These conservation practices have been in place for several years and have made a very positive impact on water conservation efforts throughout the district and county.

To make the most of your assigned watering days and times, professional gardeners and landscapers recommend you treat your lawn, shrubs, trees and plants with longer, deeper waterings versus brief "surface" waterings. This encourages root growth and will help your garden withstand long periods without rainfall.

Effective water conservation can even help reduce your utility bill in ways you may not have realized. Here's a list of summertime tips and techniques you can easily put into practice on a day-to-day basis:

- Cover your outdoor pool or spa when not in use to reduce evaporation.
- Check your pool's walls and filtration system. Make repairs where needed.
- Use a broom or rake to clean sidewalks or driveways, instead of hosing them down.
- The average lawn needs only 1-2 inches of water per week. If you see footprints in the grass when you walk across your lawn during the summer, it's time to water.
- Before watering, check the weather forecast. Periods of cool, cloudy weather reduce the need to water.
- Avoid watering your lawn on windy days.

For additional year-round water conservation tips, be sure to visit the South Farmingdale Water District web site at www.sfwater.com. "We know that water conservation only works when everyone participates, and we're grateful to everyone who does their part to use water wisely and conserve it whenever possible," said Commissioner Atoria.

IN THIS ISSUE

- District participates in annual National Drinking Water Week celebration (p.2).
- New fees imposed on district by Nassau County (p.2).
- Get the latest information on the Liberty site cleanup (p.3).
- SFWD unveils new well drilling plans (p.3).
- Check out our new web site at www.sfwater.com (p.4).

DISTRICT PARTICIPATES IN NATIONAL DRINKING WATER WEEK EVENTS

Few things are more fundamental – or more important – than good drinking water. Most of us take it for granted. But not the South Farmingdale Water District. From May 5 – May 11, the district participated in National Drinking Water Week activities at the Walt Whitman Mall in Huntington and the Broadway Mall in Hicksville. Visitors to the booth were provided valuable water conservation tips and ideas.

Sponsored by the Long Island Water Conference (LIWC), the event featured exhibits from a variety of Long Island water utilities. Mall shoppers were treated to free water samples and participated in a taste test competition.

South Farmingdale Water District's Len Constantinopoli, Business Manager, gives local resident Eleanor McIntyre a sample of Long Island water at the recent LIWC.

More than 30 years ago, the American Water Works Association (AWWA) launched National Drinking Water Week to foster interest in the importance of maintaining good quality drinking water throughout America's communities. The week was given official government recognition in 1988 by President Ronald Reagan.



DISTRICT ASSESSED OPERATING FEES BY COUNTY

For the first time in the history of Nassau County, all water utilities are being assessed fees for certain operational activities by the County Health Department. The County feels this step is necessary to help offset its fiscal problems. Unfortunately, the fees were imposed after finalization of the South Farmingdale Water District annual budget, and have been effective as of January, 2002.

Examples of operating activities that now carry a fee include back flow applications, annual inspection of storage tanks and the review of plans and specifications. Fees range from \$4,000 – \$9,000 per activity. We've been in contact with the Nassau County district office regarding the levying of these fees. At the moment, the water district will absorb the current fees without impacting rate-payers. However, if

fees are assessed for additional activities in the future, it is likely that these increases will be reflected in higher rates to our customers. We plan to continue our dialogue with the County regarding these fees, and sincerely hope an alternate method can be found so that rates can remain at status quo. We will keep you fully posted on any future developments.

UPDATE ON LIBERTY PROPERTY CLEANUP

A dream come true. That's how one resident characterized the deal reached officiating the future of the Liberty Aircraft property.

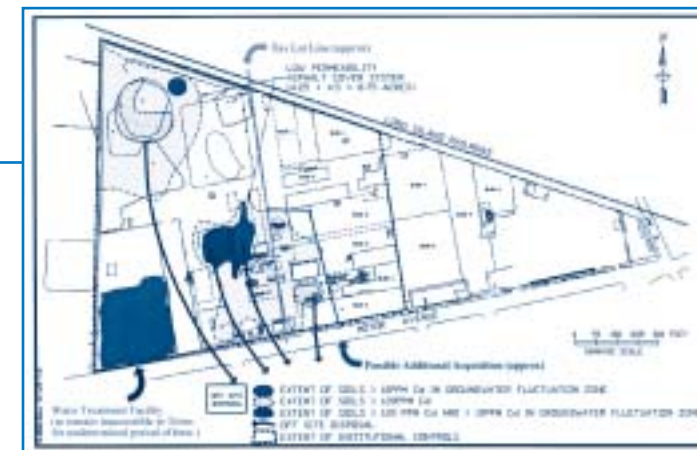
In a recent announcement, the Town of Oyster Bay has agreed to acquire approximately 15 acres of the site adjacent to Allen Park, and, after holding public hearings, plans to condemn it. As a result of this action, the EPA upgraded its earlier recommendation of a commercial-level cleanup, or SL-2, to a recreational, or SL-3 cleanup, which is more extensive and includes the removal of all contaminated soils so the site can be safely used for recreational purposes.

While the South Farmingdale Water District originally wanted a residential/non-restricted cleanup, which is the most pristine type, it is now satisfied that the most appropriate cleanup will be implemented, given the Town's plan to annex the property and make it part of Allen Park once the cleanup is complete.

Throughout this process, the South Farmingdale Water District has overseen a network of monitoring wells that enable the district to probe the groundwater

for traces of pollutants (none have been found to date). It has also been involved in monitoring the water treatment system installed by the EPA in 2000. However, the district has recommended a conventional "pump and treat" system for both on-site and off-site contaminated ground water. Today, the EPA has agreed to implement this recommended system. The system will draw water up from beneath the site, remove contamination and inject clean water back into the ground.

"Our thanks go to Town Supervisor John Venditto and the Town Board for proposing this condemnation plan that will result in a more favorable cleanup than what the EPA originally proposed," said Gerard McCormack, SF Water District Commissioner. We also want to thank the residents of the water district and the civic groups who participated in the public meetings. "We will stay involved to ensure water safety and quality remain a top priority throughout the cleanup process."



Map of the Liberty Industrial Site in Farmingdale.

NEW, DEEPER WELL PLANNED FOR 2003

While it generally makes sense to recycle rather than replace, there are times when new is, in fact, better. That's the case for a new well to be installed next year in the southeast portion of the district.

After assessing all options, it was decided that it would be more cost effective to drill a new well rather than incur retrofitting costs for the current 300-ft. well. The new well will be 600 – 700 ft. deep.

The plan is to demolish the current building and erect a new facility on the same site.

TIPS, FACTS AND STATS

CONSERVE WATER.....OUTDOOR PLANTS, BUSHES AND GARDENS

For gardens, make small irrigation ditches along rows of plants and flowers.

Water plants and flowers slowly to reduce runoff and to allow deep penetration.

Dig out water-loving weeds and cultivate soil often.

Place mulch or peat moss around plants, small trees and shrubs to retain moisture.

Adjust water sprinklers so they water your plants, not the driveway or sidewalk.