

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

Hometown Rule *Makes Sense*

Nassau County is on track to spend \$750,000 for a feasibility study to assess the impact of consolidating the County's water districts under a central authority.

The reality is that each community has responsibly financed and regulated its own water supply for many years. In fact, progress and improvement have come promptly and appropriately, without the bureaucratic disadvantages associated with massive political governing bodies. Your District operates 24/7 with a staff of 22 serving 45,000 people.

Local hometown rule for water districts means that each community can elect its own officials. Historically, the officials are long-time community residents who also volunteer for the general welfare of the community in other ways.

One issue that has been raised is money, as it relates to taxes, spending and accountability.

With hometown rule, tax dollars go directly to the production of high quality water for the community. This is an extremely small portion of the tax dollar. It has historically been applied directly to service and is sufficient enough to update technology, as well as handle all water emergencies. All records of income, distribution and management are matters of public record.

The SFWD is in favor of ways to reduce taxes, but consolidation of all the water districts is not the solution. Traditionally, your water bill has always been the lowest utility bill and the District will continue to keep it this way.

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Bill Bier Retires After Decades of Outstanding Public Service

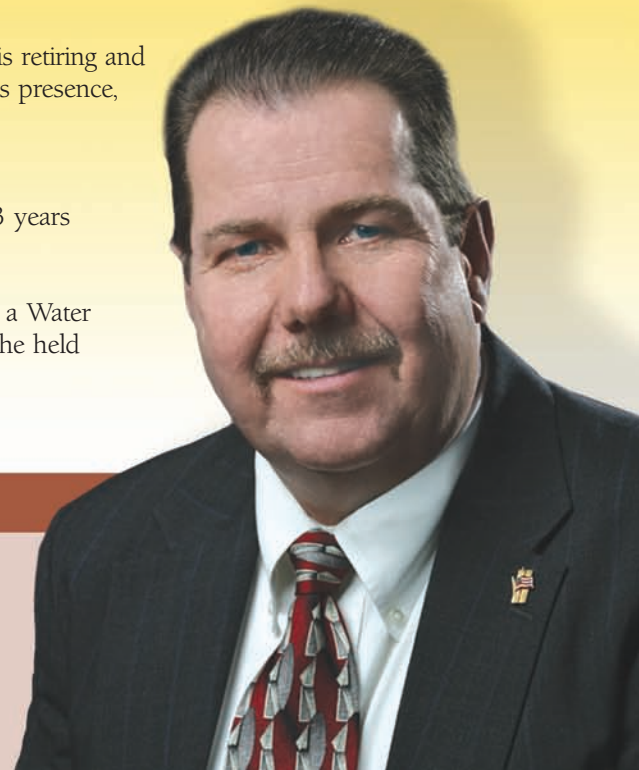
South Farmingdale Water District Superintendent Bill Bier has announced that he is retiring and will be relocating from his lifelong hometown. Everyone at the SFWD will miss his presence, guidance and countless contributions to public service.

Dedicated to Career and Community

Bill has dedicated his life to the welfare and health of our community including 33 years of service at the SFWD.

Bill wore many "hats" after starting his career at the SFWD in 1974. He served as a Water Servicer, a Water Plant Operator and then as a Water Service Supervisor — a post he held from 1989 to 2004.

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Why Do I Need A Backflow Prevention Device?

The South Farmingdale Water District requires a backflow prevention device to protect the public water supply against a backflow contamination.

What is Backflow?

Backflow is a hazardous situation that can threaten the safety of the public water supply. The danger arises when there is a connection to the water source where water can be drawn back into the pipes.

For example, if the water pressure suddenly drops, any water that has puddled near sprinkler heads, where fertilizers are often present, could be siphoned back into the water supply that the public relies on for drinking. The same thing can happen if a hose is left dangling in a swimming pool or fish tank.

A decrease in water pressure is not uncommon. If a nearby hydrant is being used to extinguish a fire or a nearby water main has ruptured, it will cause the pressure to drop suddenly. Backflow prevention devices must be used to stop contaminants from potentially entering the public water system.

New York State Law mandates the installation of backflow devices on all appliances attached to the public water system, like underground irrigation systems, swimming pools, dark rooms and solar heating systems. The devices must be tested annually by a certified tester. This service is available from the SFWD free of charge.

Better Communication... Means Better Service

Communication is a two-way street, and the SFWD always invites questions, suggestions, ideas and reports from all customers.

By training, we are ready to respond to emergencies and any concerns regarding our service or performance.

We constantly let you know what is going on "behind the scenes" especially in the financial, technological, operational and future planning areas. We believe that the more you know about our operations, the better it will be for the good of our community!

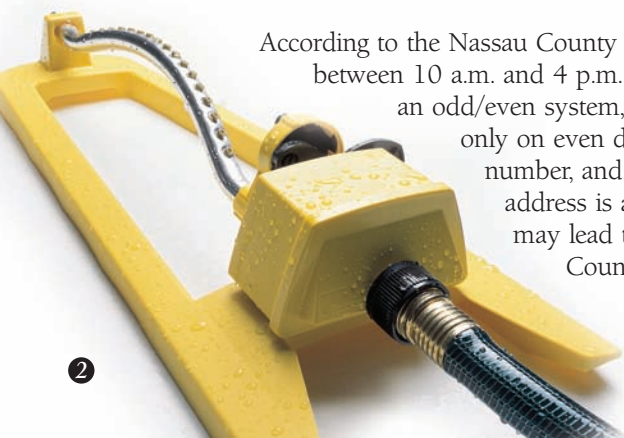
We'll keep you posted as programs come into being. In the meantime, talk to us if you have any questions.

Sprinkler Regulations

According to the Nassau County Code, you may not water your lawn between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Check your calendar, too. We follow an odd/even system, which means watering may be done only on even days if your street address is an even number, and only on odd days if your street address is an odd number. Non-compliance may lead to a fine issued by the Nassau County Police Department.



District employee James Edgette showing consumer Debbie Giannitsis how meter readings are performed.



Now that's Good Water!

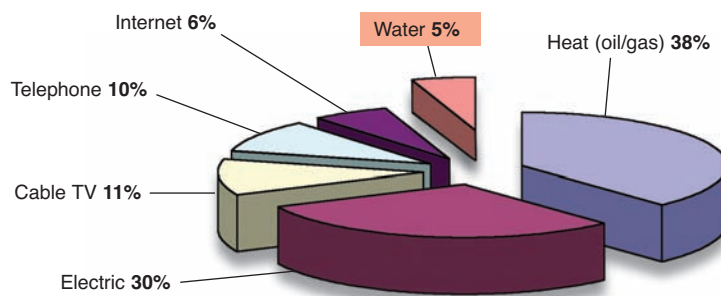


The SFWD participated in the Long Island Water Conference Tap Water Taste Contest during National Drinking Water Week.

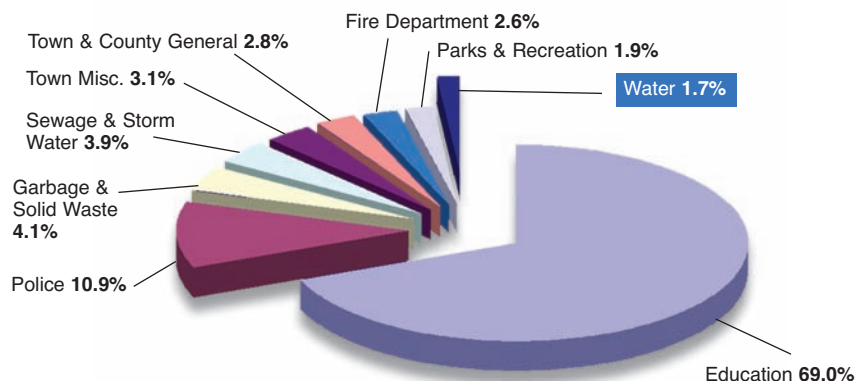
Pictured L to R: Town of Oyster Bay (TOB) Councilman Joseph D. Muscarella; Town Clerk Steven L. Labriola; SFWD Business Manager Len Constantinopoli; TOB Councilwoman Rose Marie Walker; and SFWD Commissioners John Hirt, Ralph Atoria and Kurt Ludwig.

Hometown Rule *Continued from cover*

Average Monthly Utility Costs for Nassau County Residents



Breakdown of Nassau County Residential Taxes



UPDATE Liberty Site Cleanup

Progress continues at the Liberty Aircraft industrial site. As always, we will update our community as events occur in the rehabilitation of this property.

We are pleased to report that the surface soils are currently being removed, a major step forward in this important, long-term project.

We closely monitor the conditions of the area, particularly as it relates to affecting our future water quality. The SFWD's consumers attend all governmental and procedural meetings to be certain that action is proceeding to achieve optimal results. In our monitoring process, we believe available money and resources are being used responsibly to remedy conditions at the site.

The mission of the SFWD commissioners is to protect taxpayers from bearing the cost of cleanup operations, and to ensure a high quality water supply now and for future generations.

Bill Bier Retires *Continued from cover*

In 2003 Bill was appointed to Superintendent, and he assumed direct responsibility for the day-to-day coordination of water services throughout the District. He had many duties; from operations to ensuring government compliance...to lobbying for the community's interests.

Bill was instrumental in formulating our 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan. He had a hands-on role as a manager, consulting with the engineers and making many field inspections to be sure things were done correctly.

A Planner of the Future

Bill once said, "It's much easier to promote the importance of conserving water to people than to legislate those activities. The individuals of the community can act more quickly and effectively for the public good than any other group." He brought these ideas to the grassroots in our community through newsletters (such as this one!) and at annual public

awareness events at the Sunrise Mall in Massapequa, which hosted National Drinking Water Week.

A True "Activist"

Bill was an active member in the American Waterworks Association, the Long Island Water Conference and the New York State American Water Association.

A lifelong resident of South Farmingdale, Bill was also a volunteer firefighter. He became Fire Chief, and is a member of the Nassau County Association of Fire Fighters and the New York State Fire Chiefs Association. Bill will be retiring to North Carolina to be near his children, a move he looks forward to. He also looks forward to playing golf, a true passion for him!

We wish the best for Bill and his family; he truly deserves to have a rewarding and satisfying retirement.



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BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

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Ralph Atoria - *Treasurer*
Kurt Ludwig - *Secretary*

Leonard Constantinopoli - *Business Manager*
Charles Prucha - *Superintendent*

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TIPS & FACTS

Drink Water... And Plenty of it!

Did you know...

that the average adult should drink eight 8-ounce glasses of water a day to stay hydrated? Seventy percent of the human body is made up of water, so the entire body (from your skin to your brain) relies on water to keep it functioning properly.

Drinking Tap Water...

- Regulates body temperature
- Aids in digestion
- Keeps skin clear and healthy
- Cushions and lubricates bones and joints
- Maintains muscle tone
- Helps metabolize fat
- Transports nutrients throughout the body

To conserve water, keep a pitcher of tap water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap to fill one glass of cold water.



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