

# 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)

## SwiftReach

### *Your New Emergency Notification System*

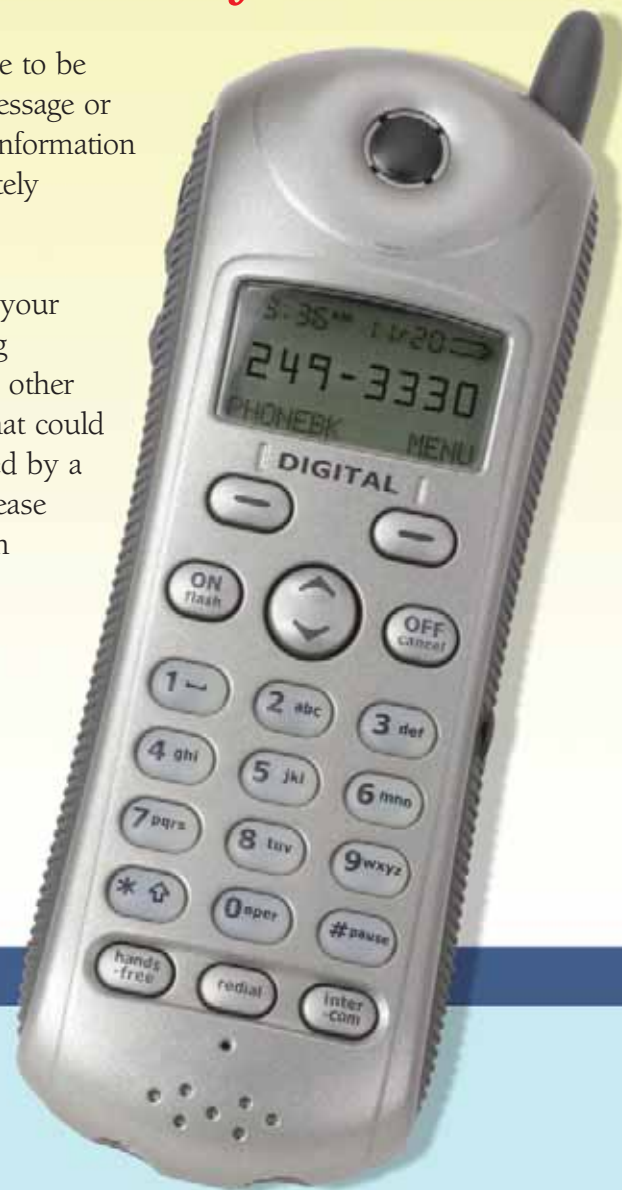
The South Farmingdale Water District has completed installation of **SwiftReach**, the Emergency Notification System that alerts consumers in the District in the event of a water emergency. It works like 9-1-1 in reverse.

SwiftReach automatically calls your home or office in the event of a water emergency situation with a pre-recorded message within minutes.

It is important that your telephone number is in our database so you can be notified in case of a water emergency. Please contact our office at (516) 249-3330 if you have any doubt that your phone number is not in our system, or if it has been changed recently.

You may also choose to be contacted by text message or email as well. Your information will be kept completely confidential.

If you or anyone in your household is hearing impaired or has any other medical condition that could potentially be affected by a water emergency, please contact us so we can make arrangements.



#### IN THIS ISSUE

Tips & Stats - How You Can Do Your Part .....	2
Think Before You Drink .....	3
"Meter Madness" With Mario Argentina .....	3
Water Efficiency For Over 75 Years .....	4

# Local Water District Makes Plain 'Cents'

The debate continues about surrendering local control of the South Farmingdale Water District to the bureaucratic control of Nassau County.

One of the most important points in this issue is that the Commissioners of the SFWD are residents of the district. They have close, long-time community ties, and a very personal interest in what happens in the district in terms of their families and future. Keeping control in the hands of local, loyal residents ensures a level of involvement and concern that outside managers would not be able to attain.

But the issue that has been used as a "red flag" is money, especially your money – the taxpayer who supports public works such as the SFWD. Please take a look at these verifiable facts:

- Through SFWD management, our water rates are **2% below the national average** (source: American Waterworks Associations)
- The Commissioners' job is to protect your water supply and deliver it at a low cost; SFWD water is among the lowest of your utility bills; in fact it is less than 1.7% of your total tax bill.

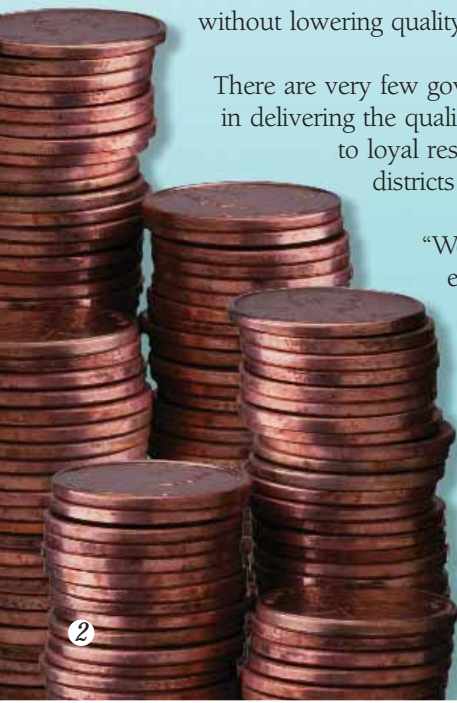
Although cost-to-consumer for other utilities climbs year after year, SFWD customers can rest assured that access to safe and reliable water is stabilized at only about a dollar a day.

This cost takes into account the fact that SFWD personnel are on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to ensure that safe drinking water is available to the public at all times.

The fact is, the SFWD has produced and delivered extremely high quality water at prices that rank lowest of most public services for decades. The flow has continued without interruption, without lowering quality, and with stabilized low costs.

There are very few governments that can claim success in delivering the quality service and water at low cost to loyal residents that the special water districts of Long Island can claim.

"We provide a service that is essential to every household in our community," says SFWD Commissioner John Hirt. "In doing so, we ensure that the community receives the highest quality water at the lowest possible cost. And we will continue to explore ways to minimize the cost of water to our community. It's that simple."



# VICTORY AT THE LIBERTY SUPERFUND SITE

Over the past years, the Liberty Superfund Site has been the focus of cooperative cleanup activity involving the South Farmingdale Water District and Massapequa Water District.

The mutual goal has been to ensure a high quality water supply now and for future generations, as well as to control expenditures and protect taxpayers from the cost of cleanup operations.

After many years of negotiations, the districts have reached a settlement over the Liberty Superfund Site. The Principle Responsible Parties (PRPs) will reimburse the South Farmingdale and Massapequa Water Districts for the costs of permits, design, construction, sampling and installation of the outpost monitoring wells, which were installed by the two Water Districts in 1997.

The last round of sampling showed absolutely no signs of contamination from the site. Both Districts will continue to monitor the situation, and the commissioners want to assure community members that they will remain vigilant.

For more information about the Liberty Superfund Site, contact the South Farmingdale Water District's office at 40 Langdon Road, Farmingdale, NY 11735, telephone (516) 249-3330, or visit [www.sfwater.com](http://www.sfwater.com).

## Tips and Stats...

- Know where your water shut-off valve is located in case of emergency. An indoor leak can easily turn into a flood before you know it causing thousands of dollars in damages.
- Repair dripping faucets and leaky toilets. Dripping faucets can waste up to 2,000 gallons of water each year in the average home. Leaky toilets can waste as much as 200 gallons per day.

*Do your part and help conserve our most vital natural resource*  
*For more water conservation tips, visit our website at [www.sfwater.com](http://www.sfwater.com).*



# Think Before You Drink... that plastic- bottled water!

Here are some sobering facts about the plastic bottles that water comes in, quoted from a *Reader's Digest* article:

- Without the proper certification, there is no guarantee that bottled water meets national tap water standards
- Virgin petroleum – that precious fossil fuel – is used to create bottles for water
- Fossil fuels are burned to fill those bottles and distribute them
- Worldwide, it takes about 72 billion gallons of water just to make empty bottles yearly
- Some estimates figure it takes about 2 liters of water to make every liter we see on store shelves
- Fewer than 20% of the bottles are recycled; the rest can live a thousand year “trash life,” or require more energy to process

The SFWD has consistently exceeded safety standards for water quality, without causing the environmental damage that bottled water potentially does, and without reliance on the quantity of energy that bottled water demands. So please, for your health's sake and for the environment, consider filling your own containers with our great tap water to take with you!



## Mario Argentina Wins Long Island “Meter Madness” Then Takes On NY State!

Mario Argentina, a SFWD Water Servicer, has done something very few people even try to do.

In February at the Inter-Water-Utilities Conference on Long Island, Mario beat all challengers in the “Meter Madness” competition by being the fastest to assemble an actual water meter.

Sound easy? Take a look at your water meter, imagine it completely in parts, then think about putting it together under heavy competition, and finally standing up to the judges as they test it for leaks! It's all done in fun, but it also demonstrates the high technical and mechanical skills of the SFWD team that produces our water.

Mario did not stop there, however. He qualified for the State competition in Saratoga Springs this April, where he was given a meter to assemble that was of a different make and model than any he had experienced. Still, he placed 4<sup>th</sup> statewide!

He kept his comments brief, “Next year, we’ll be #1 in the State!”

Married with no children – yet – Mario has been with the district since June 2003, and at 31 years old, we predict a great future for this talented technician.

*Mario Argentina holding the assembled water meter.*



**South Farmingdale Water District**  
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**BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS**

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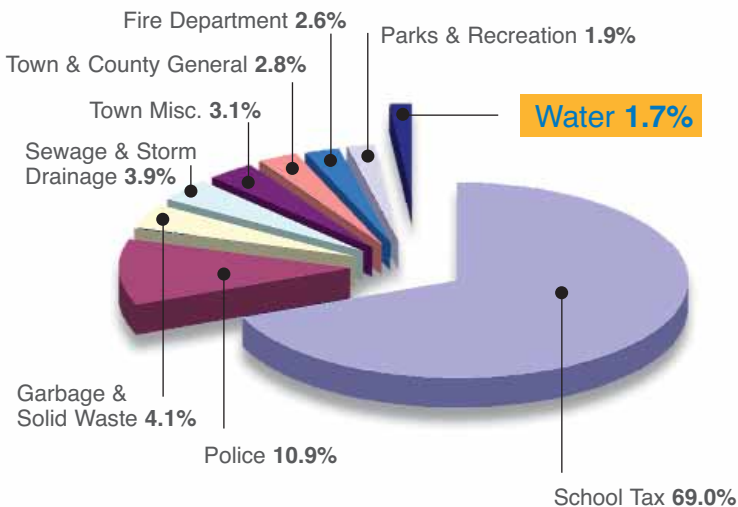
## Over 75 Years of Water Efficiency

**“Here’s How Water Cost Stacks Up Against The Rest”**

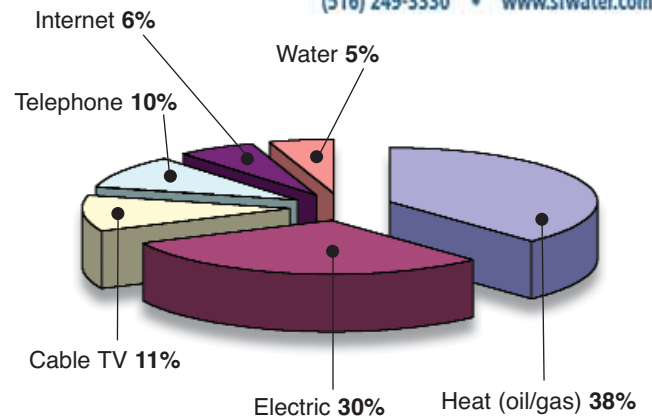
*Due to proactive planning and budgeting in 2008, there will be no water rate increase and no tax increase to our customers.*



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**Breakdown of Nassau County Residential Taxes**



**Average Monthly Utility Costs for Nassau County Residents**