

# 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)

## UPDATE:

### Plant 1 Water Treatment Facility Construction Completed

Thanks in part to the District's legal team, civic groups and United States Senator Charles E. Schumer (NY), the Department of Defense (D.O.D.) released the \$14.55 million settlement fee from the U.S. Navy for South Farmingdale Water District to construct and maintain the much-needed water treatment facility at Plant 1.

The District is happy to report that the construction is now complete, both inside and out, and the treatment facility will be operational in time for the peak pumping season. The plant was constructed to treat the groundwater of the impending plume of pollution threatening the aquifer of our water supply.

As many residents are now aware, the U.S. Navy operated the Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant in Bethpage, New York for several decades which resulted in soil and significant groundwater contamination containing volatile organic compounds.

After years of negotiations, a settlement was reached between SFWD and the Department of Defense to cover all construction, operating and maintenance costs for the water treatment system. Though the District went to bond to commence the construction during the D.O.D.'s delay, the bond obligation was retired with no cost to the consumer or taxpayer.

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Spring 2011



Fall 2010





## A Message from the Superintendent Charles Prucha

# Water Main Break

Welcome to the Spring 2011 Newsletter of the South Farmingdale Water District. On behalf of the Commissioners and management staff at the District, I want to thank the construction crew and project management team for all of their hard work, dedication and commitment to completing the construction of the water treatment facility at Plant 1. We're pleased to announce that the plant will be online in time for our heavy pumping season, and we'll begin construction at Plant 3 soon.



During the year, we installed back-up generators at Plants 1 and 6 to take the District off the grid in case of brownouts and blackouts. In fact, we've positioned ourselves to resell energy back to LIPA in case of an emergency.

We are certainly looking forward to the warm weather, but let's not forget the community support we received this winter. Thank you to all of you who took the time to shovel out hydrants, making them



### SFWD Employees Hard at Work

*Servicemen answer the call to a water main break in the middle of the night.*

accessible for the fire department in case of an emergency. Our crew worked tirelessly this year as they responded to over 50 water main breaks! Great job all around.

With summer around the corner, we ask that you be conservation-conscious during heat waves and water your lawns according to Nassau County Ordinance.

***Best wishes and have a happy Memorial Day Weekend.***

## SCADA Goes Online in the SFWD

**SCADA (Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition)** is a safe, secure computerized system that enables the District to monitor and run all operations from a centralized location through a wireless network. Through this network, officials can control all SFWD wells and plants from a single location.

SCADA systems are widely used to gather and analyze real-time data. They enable officials to monitor and control a plant or equipment in industries such as telecommunications, water and waste control, energy, oil and gas refining and transportation.

What does this mean to our consumers? The system can detect trouble anywhere in the system, then transfer the information immediately to a central office where the necessary remedial actions can be taken in real time. In public services systems such as the SFWD, the benefits are:

- **Continuous Monitoring of Water Quality**
- **Consistent Service**
- **Security from Invasive Actions**
- **Immediate Response to any Malfunction or Threat to the Public Water Supply**
- **Remote Access**
- **Efficiency and Cost Savings in Man Power**

SCADA systems were first developed in the 1960s. They can be relatively simple for monitoring environmental conditions of a small office building or a municipality like SFWD or can be highly sophisticated for a system such as a nuclear power plant.

The updates and upgrades made by SFWD to its new SCADA system will keep track of all functions of our water system.









# Water Conservation

## During Peak Pumping Season

With the warmer weather approaching, it's important to be mindful and look for ways to conserve water. 2010 was one of the hottest summers in recent history, and SFWD had its heaviest pumping season since 2000! To maintain peak performance and provide water without interruption, we turn to you, our customers, for assistance.

**Here are a few tips for you to conserve water this summer season:**

-  **Water your lawn and garden early in the morning or at night to avoid excess evaporation. Nassau County Ordinance prohibits watering between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. year round.**
-  **Even numbered addresses and non-numbered homes can water on even numbered days; odd numbered addresses can water on odd numbered days.**
-  **The use of a hose for flushing driveways, sidewalks and streets is prohibited.**
-  **Install a spring-loaded shutoff nozzle on each garden hose to avoid water waste.**
-  **Always remember to check underground sprinklers, pools and spas for leaks.**
-  **For gardens, make small irrigation ditches along rows of plants and flowers.**



## UPDATE: Plant 1 Water Treatment Facility Construction Completed *(Continued from Cover)*

Construction of the water treatment system began in spring 2010. The project started on time, stayed within budget and was completed on schedule thanks to the District Commissioners, management and hands-on supervisors. The great news moving forward is we'll continue to provide abundant, high quality water with no interruption of service.







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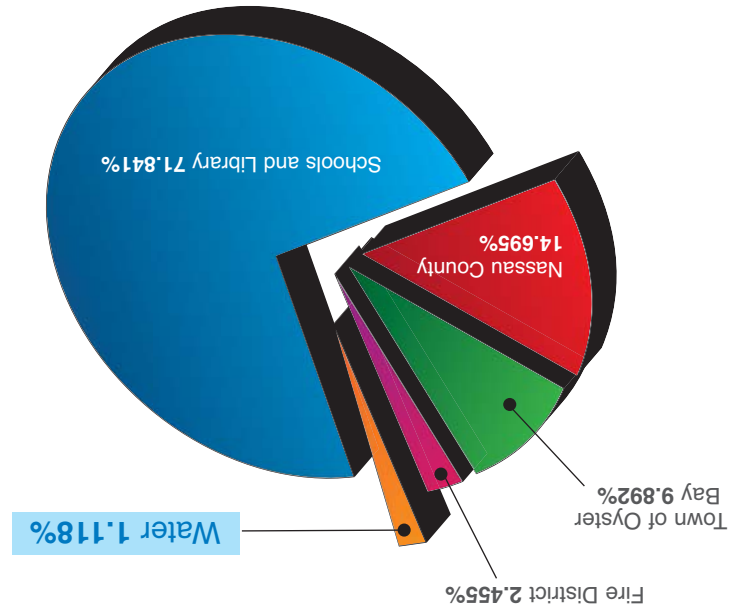
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## Typical South Farmingdale Tax Allocation

**The facts are simple:** Unlike private water utilities, our water rates are about 2% below the national average (source: American Waterworks Association), and your water tax is less than 1.2% of your total tax bill.



## Required Backflow Testing



A backflow condition may arise when very low or negative street pressure occurs due to water main breaks, hydrants knocked over, etc. If you have had a backflow device installed in your home, it is required by law that it is tested every twelve months by a New York State Certified Backflow Tester.

The SFWD Commissioners noted, "Backflow prevention devices when properly installed and maintained, guard against these conditions, so please check with our office or website regarding requirements when installing new plumbing systems including underground irrigation." The SFWD website has many of the required forms under the "Backflow Testing" page. Additionally, licensed plumbers or sprinkler/irrigation contractors are also knowledgeable of these mandatory requirements. A list of certified testers can be found on the website as well.

For more information, visit our website at [www.sfwater.com](http://www.sfwater.com).