

From the TAP

Volume 16 / No. 1 / Spring/Summer 2015



A Publication of the South Farmingdale Water District
(516) 249-3330 / www.sfwater.com / *Your Neighborhood Water District Does It Best!*

\$3.3 MILLION AWARDED TO SFWD



◀ South Farmingdale Water District receives the first installment check to cover costs associated with the new water treatment facility at Plant No. 3. Pictured L to R: Commissioner Gary Brosnan, Office Manager Joe Timpa, Commissioner Ralph Atoria, Supervisor Jim Edgette, Commissioner John Hirt and General Foreman Jim Martin.

"South Farmingdale Water District ratepayers didn't cause this toxic mess, and this \$3.3 million in reimbursement from the U.S. Navy means they won't have to pay to clean it up," said Schumer.

SFWD Commissioners commented that this is a major relief for District consumers. The Commissioners also emphasized that all water pumped from all wells meets or exceeds all local, state and federal standards. SFWD had no choice but to design, construct and build the water treatment facility at Plant No. 3 in advance of the plume's impact.

Thanks in part to U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer's unwavering support during final settlement negotiations with the U.S. Navy, South Farmingdale Water District (SFWD) was presented with a check for \$3.3 million as the first installment for covering all costs associated with the construction, ongoing maintenance and operation of the water treatment facility at Plant No. 3 (Hicksville Road).

Earlier this spring SFWD Board of Water Commissioners Ralph Atoria, John Hirt and Gary Brosnan along with Senator Schumer addressed the media at a local press conference announcing the news that District consumers will be relieved from any tax burden. "Today I have some good news for South Farmingdale Water District and many thousands of ratepayers," commented Senator Schumer. "The U.S. Navy finally paid for what affected 100,000 people."

This first installment is a huge first step as SFWD had borrowed almost \$5 million from the Town of Oyster Bay to construct a new water treatment facility at Plant No. 3 to filter and purify the groundwater from the impending plume. Since repaying the bond would have cost consumers approximately \$1.5 million each year over the course of the loan, Schumer called upon the U.S. Navy and Department of Justice (D.O.J.) to prevent significant water bill increases for all District taxpayers.

This announcement and settlement means that local ratepayers will not be financially responsible for the new water treatment facility at Plant No. 3. The second installment of funds will be made shortly. SFWD has submitted the appropriate paperwork, which needs to be reviewed and approved by the U.S. Navy.



U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer took center stage to make the announcement to the media and District consumers.

SFWD Welcomes Mr. Francis Koch, P.E., New Superintendent

It's not too often that water districts find the best of both worlds to help supervise and to run their daily operations...superintendent experience with an engineering degree? SFWD found this match in newly appointed Superintendent Francis Koch.

Francis (Frank to friends and to colleagues) arrives at SFWD with 23 years of experience from the Incorporated Village of Garden City. His first seven years there was as project engineer, followed by 16 years serving as Superintendent. What's also fortunate for SFWD is the Village of Garden City Water Department is quite similar in size and in the number of consumers served, so Frank's daily operations mirror his past two decades of experience.

As a professional engineer, Frank brings a wealth of knowledge and technical experience to South Farmingdale Water District. He's largely qualified to work directly with the District's professional engineering firms and brings a different perspective to the operations team.

"Part of my job is to have everyone come together for the betterment of the District," said Koch. "I look forward to working with our outside vendors and engineers and to having our crew be ready for all projects that help maintain and run this District. South Farmingdale has a stellar reputation within the water industry, and I'm fortunate to work alongside an incredibly dedicated group of individuals."

Frank grew up in Malverne and earned his Bachelor's in Engineering – Civil Engineering from Manhattan College. He moved to Westchester, NY for a brief period of time after college before returning to his neighborhood roots in Malverne. He's lived there since and has been married to his wife Kelly for the last 10 years. Frank is also a former volunteer for the Malverne Fire Department and is an active member in his local community.



New Superintendent Francis Koch, P.E.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS UNDERWAY

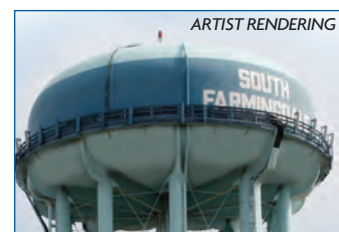
Water Tank Ready For Facelift...And More



South Farmingdale Water District is prepping for the facelift of its elevated water tank at Plant No. 1 (Langdon Road). The massive water tank, reaching 14 stories high, is showing definite signs of wear and tear since it was last worked on close to 20 years ago. The tank needs interior and exterior work to remedy corrosion and to keep it safe from the elements.

SFWD put the project out to bid and is under contract as of June 2015. The total process (start to finish) should take approximately nine months. Phase I started this spring as the District replaced valves underneath the tank in final preparation for the larger Phase II, which will include shrouding and painting the elevated tank this fall. The tank will be covered to protect nearby neighbors from paint and fumes. The rehabilitated tank will be unveiled before the end of the year.

Work-in-progress will be documented and shared on the District website at: www.sfwater.com.



South Farmingdale Water District
40 Langdon Rd., P.O. Box 3319
Farmingdale, NY 11735
(516) 249-3330
www.sfwater.com

Board of Water Commissioners
Ralph Atoria, Chairman
John Hirt, Treasurer
Gary Brosnan, Secretary

Business Manager
Leonard Constantinopoli
Superintendent
Francis Koch, P.E.

Water Main Maintenance Throughout The District

SFWD is committed to providing a reliable supply of uninterrupted, high-quality water for all of our consumers...24/7/365. Part of this commitment is maintaining and improving the infrastructure of our water delivery system, including all water mains within the District.

Most of the District's 127.6 miles of water mains were laid in the 1930s, 1940s and early 1950s, around the same time that most water mains were put in the ground to keep up with the immense population growth on Long Island. SFWD water mains need continuous upgrades and maintenance, and crews are always on-call should we experience an unpleasant break in the system.

Winter 2015 was unusual. The District responded to 42 water main breaks! The District typically averages 25 breaks during the winter season and 50 throughout the entire year. Winter is always the harshest season for our mains, yet our crews respond in superhero fashion. Response time to each water main break was less than one hour, and each main was repaired in less than four hours. This is an impressive feat for a service organization of fewer than 12 employees. We take our commitment to heart, we put pride in our work, and we'll continue to maintain our infrastructure at a moment's notice.



Conserving Water To Protect Our Source

When you use a garden hose to water your flowers and gardens, do you typically think about where your water comes from? The fact is, our water source is greatly impacted by how we use it. Being more mindful of our water usage can help to conserve and to protect that source.

PEAK PUMPING MONTHS

Summer is a great time to put water-saving measures in place. It's no surprise that our busiest pumping season is from May through September. When all of our wells are running at full capacity, a lot of stress is placed on our infrastructure, so it's important to follow the Nassau County Ordinance put in place to protect our water source. Lawn watering is not permitted between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. and is determined by your street address. Even-numbered addresses water on even-numbered days, odd-numbered addresses water on odd-numbered days.

OVERWATERING YOUR LAWN IS NOT THE ANSWER

While we can all appreciate beautiful garden beds and bright green lawns, there are some simple changes that you can make to your lawn care that will help conserve our most precious resource, still give you that beautiful lawn and save money on your water bill.

Frequent light watering promotes weak, shallow root systems susceptible to summer heat stress. To find out when you've watered enough, place an empty tuna can on your lawn – when it's full, you've watered the right amount.

Watering in the early morning will help prevent water loss due to evaporation. Grass clippings left on the lawn after mowing will also cool the ground and hold in moisture.

Be sure to check sprinkler heads for leaks and to make sure that your sprinklers are watering your lawn and not the sidewalk, street or your driveway. Set a kitchen timer when using a hose so you remember to turn it off. A running hose can discharge up to 10 gallons per minute!

CONSERVATION LEADS TO SUSTAINABILITY

We also urge our consumers to be active participants in water conservation to help sustain our local water source. Conserving water greatly benefits everyone by reducing stress on our water supply, minimizing wear and tear on the existing infrastructure and protecting our most vital resource.

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

In accordance with Federal and State regulations, the South Farmingdale Water District produces an Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This in-depth report is filled with important information regarding water quality, cost, sources, treatment and more. In keeping with our goal to provide a safe, uninterrupted water supply, we encourage you to read this year's report online at www.sfwater.com/waterquality. You can also read reports from years past.



NEW EQUIPMENT ADDED TO THE FLEET

South Farmingdale Water District employees Joe Licci, Jim Edgette and Rich Koslowski have put a new backhoe into operation within the District. The new piece of excavating equipment was added to the fleet this spring.

Our Water Report is online at:
www.sfwater.com/waterquality



South Farmingdale Water District
40 Langdon Rd., P.O. Box 3319
Farmingdale, NY 11735
(516) 249-3330
www.sfwater.com

Presorted
Standard Mail
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FARMINGDALE, NY
PERMIT NO. 125

