

# From the TAP

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

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN CONTINUES

*District to Apply for Bond to Meet Anticipated Needs*



South Farmingdale Water District (SFWD) has been providing an uninterrupted water supply for our consumers since 1931. Overseeing our District takes ongoing commitment and attention to detail, and we continually stay up-to-date with technology and infrastructure advancements.

In order to meet the existing and anticipated demands on our water supply, SFWD recently applied for a \$16.3 million bond with the Town of Oyster Bay to fund a Five-Year Capital Campaign. We anticipate the bond will pass by late May and our campaign will address four key projects:

- Iron Removal at Plant No. 4
- Water Distribution System Improvements
- A Garage at Plant No. 1
- Advanced Oxidation Treatment at Plant No. 3

### IRON REMOVAL AT PLANT NO. 4

Constructed in 1958, Well 4-1, the only well at Plant No. 4, has seen an increase in iron concentration as water is pumped into the system. Based on scientific and engineering studies, the current iron sequestering system is no longer viable. In order to maintain water quality and consumer confidence, the District will construct an Iron Removal Facility at this plant. It is anticipated that two horizontal pressure filters will be needed to treat iron levels.

### WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

The District will continue its water distribution system improvement program. Water main replacement is determined by pipe material, age, main break susceptibility and critical location. These enhancements to our aging infrastructure will improve our water system and increase pressure and flow.

### A NEW GARAGE AT PLANT NO. 1

The District's main garage, built in 1950, has reached its storage capacity. The construction of a new garage is required to accommodate the expanding service efforts of the District and to accommodate equipment and materials. This will allow for a more expeditious response to water system emergencies.

### ADVANCED OXIDATION TREATMENT AT PLANT NO. 3

The Drinking Water Quality Council, established by New York State in December 2018, provided a recommendation to set the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for the emerging contaminant 1,4-dioxane at 1.0 ug/L. Although an MCL standard has not yet been set, it is expected that the New York State Department of Health will issue a standard sometime within the near future.

Based upon recent tests and water sampling, SFWD only has one well over the proposed MCL of 1.0 parts per billion (ppb) for 1,4-dioxane (Well 3-1). SFWD does not plan on using Well 3-1, and this will not affect water quality and water flow for our consumers.

In anticipation of a set standard, SFWD intends to install an Advanced Oxidation Process (AOP) in Well 3-1 to maintain the high quality water standards the District is committed to providing.



# A Message from Superintendent Francis Koch, P.E.



Warmer weather is finally upon us, and as we break into spring, SFWD has many exciting projects in the works. In addition to our Capital Campaign, the District is focusing on improving our security by adding more cameras to our existing system. We continually encourage our residents to be vigilant and notify us if you see any suspicious activity at our sites. If you see something, say something. If you notice anything out of the ordinary, notify the District at (516) 249-3330.

Also, don't forget that you can monitor your water usage by utilizing smart technology right from your mobile device. Once you download the EyeOnWater® app,

set up a user profile and you can monitor your water usage daily, weekly, monthly or yearly. This can help you detect leaks if you see spikes in average water use, and fixing those leaks will save you money!

In an effort to make it easier for consumers to pay their bills, we implemented a new online payment processing system. Simply go to [www.sfwater.com](http://www.sfwater.com) and click on the "Pay Your Bill Online" button at the top of the home page and follow the simple instructions.



**On behalf of the staff and Board of Water Commissioners, we wish you a safe, enjoyable summer!**

## Water Conservation and Sustainability

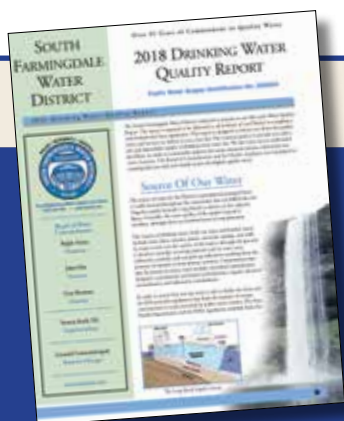
The importance of conservation and sustainability of our water supply is nothing new for South Farmingdale Water District. The District has promoted conservation for decades and we continually meet our goals by educating residents and enforcing Nassau County Ordinances.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) has requested that all water suppliers that deliver water to 3,000+ consumers reduce water pumpage by 15 percent during the peak water pumping season of May through September

## Continuing Our Educational Initiative

each year. We're happy to report that SFWD has been meeting this objective time and time again – thanks to our consumers!

"We wish to thank all of our residents for helping us meet the 15 percent reduction goal," stated the Board of Water Commissioners. "We all benefit from this conservation program, which not only helps save water for future generations, but also keeps our infrastructure from being overtaxed during the summer months."



## 2018 DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT - NOW ONLINE!

In accordance with federal and state regulation, SFWD has produced our annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This in-depth report is available to the public and contains valuable information regarding our water quality, treatment, sources, cost and more.

Our water meets and exceeds all local, state and federal drinking water standards.

The 2018 report can be found on our website at [www.sfwater.com/news/water-quality-reports](http://www.sfwater.com/news/water-quality-reports)



# WHAT IS 1,4-DIOXANE?



**R**ecent media coverage on the detection of an emerging contaminant, 1,4-dioxane, in various Long Island drinking water wells has heightened public awareness of the issue. To better educate our consumers, let's examine what 1,4-dioxane is and where it comes from.

1,4-dioxane is a synthetic chemical that has reached area wells primarily because of industrial manufacturing operations that used a solvent containing 1,4-dioxane known as TCA, which was banned in the 1990s and is no longer used. 1,4-dioxane is also used in small concentrations in a variety of applications such as inks and adhesives, and it is commonly found in products such as cosmetics, detergents, shampoos, deodorants, pharmaceuticals, and food packaging.

## TAKING PROACTIVE MEASURES TO TREAT 1,4-DIOXANE

While waiting for New York State to finalize its process of establishing an MCL, SFWD has taken every precaution necessary to test, monitor and assess all water sampling for 1,4-dioxane. The District has also put in place operational measures to reduce any potential exposure, and aggressive water sampling is conducted regularly. This advanced planning has placed the District in a very favorable position to implement wellhead treatment as quickly as possible once an MCL is set.

SFWD is preparing for New York State Department of Health's adoption of stricter standards for 1,4-dioxane/PFAS. Proactive planning has been put in place and the District is taking every step possible to minimize the economic impact on consumers. To cover the additional treatment costs, SFWD is applying for grants and is separately seeking restitutions from the companies that caused the contamination.

For more information, please visit our website and download our "1,4-Dioxane Fact Sheet" at [www.sfwater.com/resources/fact-sheets](http://www.sfwater.com/resources/fact-sheets).



## How We Get Our Drinking Water

**T**he water that comes into our homes and out of our faucets originates far below the earth's surface in deep, interconnected underground layers of sand, gravel and silt – called Aquifers. The water they contain consists entirely of water from precipitation.

These plentiful Aquifers contain over 60 trillion gallons of water. This unique system makes us less dependent on yearly rainfall as some other areas, such as New York City for example, which relies on surface water reservoirs for its public water.

Our water source, constantly replenished by precipitation, has many unique benefits. Starting as rainwater, it seeps through hundreds of feet of soil and closely packed natural particles before reaching the Aquifers. This procedure is actually a natural filtration process, which cleanses the water of some impurities.

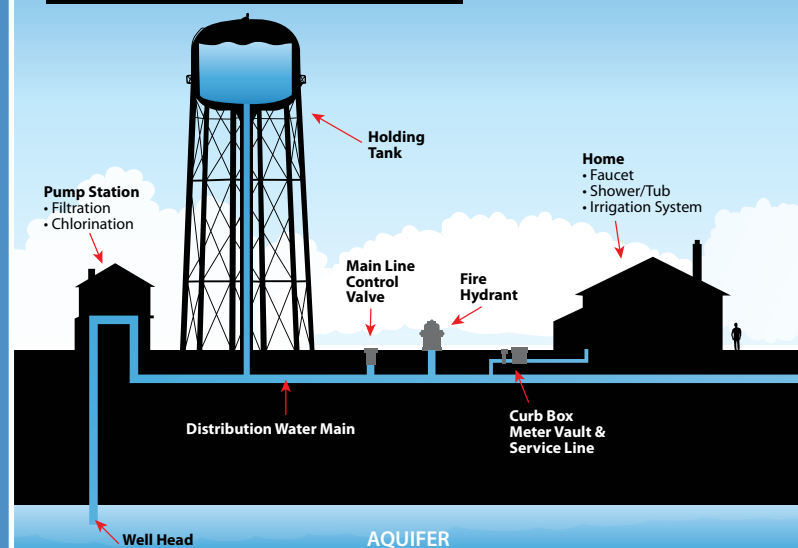
Some 1,000 deep wells throughout Nassau and Suffolk Counties pump about 150 to 200 billion gallons of water from our Aquifer system each year for use by the area's three million residents. The more than 300 billion gallons of recharged precipitation, which returns annually to the Aquifer system, dwarf this. This water cannot be taken for granted, as water suppliers across Long Island make a conscience effort to conserve water – thus planning for dry weather events at any given year.

Long Islanders should be reminded that the future of our water supply will be determined by how well we treat our environment today. SFWD obtains its source water from six plant sites and eleven water wells located throughout the geographic territories we serve – including South Farmingdale, North Massapequa, and parts of Bethpage, Seaford, and Massapequa Park. Water is drawn from these Aquifers located 400 to 600 feet below ground level and we

maintain 3.2 million gallons of stored water in three in-ground tanks and one elevated tank (located at Plant No. 1 Langdon Road).

Many wells on Long Island have been impacted with naturally occurring and manmade contamination from past practices of dumping chemical materials and solvents. Most manmade contaminants are the byproducts of manufacturing and chemical discharge from the past several decades. To this end, our water is monitored, tested and treated regularly, meeting and exceeding all local, state and federal standards, before it ever enters your home.

### How Water Is Delivered to a Consumer





# SUMMER SAVINGS!

## Water Conservation Tips For Your Home



Water can become a scarce resource if we do not practice conservation methods. Only three percent of the world's water is fresh, and of that, two-thirds is stored in icecaps and glaciers, leaving just one percent of drinking water.

Here are some simple conservation tips we can all follow to ensure a robust water supply for years to come:

- Use a broom or leaf blower instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks.
- Don't let the hose run while washing your car.
- Repair leaks in hoses and install a water-saving shutoff nozzle.
- Before watering, check the weather forecast. Periods of cool, cloudy weather reduce the need to water.
- Avoid watering your lawn on windy days.
- Follow the Nassau County Code:
  - Lawn watering is prohibited between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
  - Follow the odd/even system – Water on even calendar days if your address is an even number; odd days if your address is an odd number. Non-compliance can lead to a fine.
- Use mulch to save moisture. Use drought resistant and native plants.
- Watch pool water levels to avoid spillage and use a cover to prevent evaporation.

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