

# 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!



## \* What's Emerging in our Water

When a new inorganic chemical is found in our environment, it is classified as an "emerging contaminant." This is done to allow for scientific discovery and research. Regulatory government agencies address potential health concerns and develop water standards for water suppliers to address and follow to combat these emerging contaminants. Our advanced treatment systems are designed and constructed to ensure quality, potable water is then delivered to our consumers.

## \* Context on Contaminants

**PFAS**, or polyfluoroalkyl substances, include thousands of carbon fluorine based chemicals used across a multitude of military, industrial, commercial and consumer industries. Products range from food and beauty to circuit boards, airplanes and frying pans. For over 100 years these chemicals were not only included in the products but, at times, they were released as a by-product in the making of the product.

\* **PFOA**, perfluorooctanoic acid, was globally banned in 2000. PFOA legacy of contamination continues in a wide range of consumer products that exist across the world including non-stick kitchenware, food packaging, paints, paper, stain repellents, carpets, cleaning products and water-resistant clothing.

South Farmingdale Water District (SFWD) has always been at the forefront of protecting our local water supply, and this requires thoughtful planning, vigilance, and foresight, and our penultimate responsibility is to deliver an adequate supply of potable water to over 13,000 households and businesses within our District.

Early detections of PFOS and PFAS have been found at Plant No. 5. Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) filtration is the proper treatment for the removal of all organic and inorganic contaminants including the detected Perfluorinated Compounds. SFWD has installed the GAC filtration prior to detection and consequently has been removing these compounds prior to a standard to be issued by the New York State Department of Health.

"We've been extremely proactive in monitoring, testing, and planning as we continue to meet the evolving State regulations and standards for treating emerging contaminants," commented Gary Brosnan, Water Commissioner.

# Water Meter Endpoint Replacement Program



Back in March, the SFWD began a mandatory replacement program of customer endpoints, which enables us to obtain water meter readings remotely. Replacement is mandatory due to the cellular industry's termination of 3G CDMA cellular service, which is the service that the old endpoints once utilized.

"We're extremely proud of the effort put in by our staff as SFWD employees performed an outstanding job of changing out nearly 9,000 endpoints between March and September," stated Ralph Atoria, Water Commissioner. "We are now in contract with VEPO Metering to assist with the remainder of the installations and finalize the project."

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

In most cases, the old endpoint is attached to the outside of your premises where the new endpoint will be placed.

VEPO work crews will be visiting certain neighborhoods and will knock on doors to advise you of their presence. If you are present, they will proceed with the work, which takes approximately 15 minutes to complete, and there will be NO INTERRUPTION to water service.

If you are not present, they may still attempt the work, or they will leave a notice for you to call VEPO directly for an appointment. Letters will also be sent by VEPO to customers advising you to call VEPO to make an appointment. In the few instances where it is predetermined that access to the inside of your premises is required, VEPO will call you to set an appointment.

## Schedule an Appointment

### Call:

1-877-860-8376 to speak with VEPO customer service.

### Visit:

<https://utilityscheduler.com/scheduler/sfwd>

Please have your water account number ready.



## How to Identify a Technician

- All VEPO employees will have proper VEPO identification and grey uniforms
- Vehicles will have a VEPO logo
- VEPO employees will identify themselves as working in conjunction with SFWD







# Water Main Replacement Project Nears Completion



As part of our infrastructure improvement campaign, the District began work on the next phase of our water main replacement program. This phase began September 19th. The area of construction was between North Hickory Street and North Central Avenue, and the full project is expected to be completed by mid-December when paving is completed.

SFWD has replaced 7,550 feet (1.4 miles) of main for the year, which is a remarkable feat, especially while being challenged with supply chain issues and delivery of materials. Communications went out to residents before and during construction to notify consumers if there was any interruption of water service. As always, SFWD takes every effort to eliminate any potential interruption of service to ensure the delivery of water to each home and business we serve.

"Thank you to all consumers for your cooperation and patience during this important infrastructure improvement project," stated John Hirt, Water Commissioner. "We will continue our water main replacement program in 2023 to improve distribution throughout our water supply system."



## SFWD FUN FACTS

How well do you know your local water supplier



01

What year was the SFWD established?

• 1877 • 1905 • 1931 • 1960

02

How many plant sites does the SFWD have serving the community?

• 1 • 3 • 6 • 11

03

How many total gallons of water was pumped by SFWD in 2021?

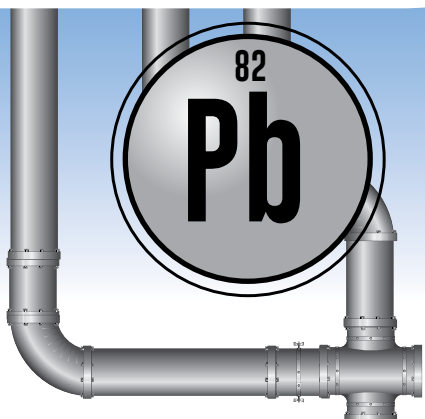
• 87 million • 250 million • 1.6 billion • 7 billion

04

Approximately how many miles of water main serve SFWD customers?

• 7 • 46 • 124 • 287

# Lead and Copper Inventory



## What's in Your Plumbing?



In August 2022, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a Lead and Copper Rule Revision (LCRR) which included guidance for developing and maintaining service line inventory for water suppliers across the country. SFWD has been following this proposed ruling for some time, to ensure we comply with all the requirements of the EPA.

SFWD is currently undertaking this project to identify the service line material type (lead or copper) on both the District side and the customer side. We will complete this task by October 2024.

### \* Lead and Copper Background – What's in Your Plumbing:

The most common source of lead in tap water is from the customers' plumbing and the service line. Providing safe, reliable, potable water to our consumers is our top priority. We test and monitor for a wide range of contaminants, including lead. While our tests conclude that lead is not an issue in the treated water that leaves our facilities, lead levels may be detected at some properties due to the corrosion of:

- Lead service line serving older homes and buildings
- Lead solder in household plumbing installed before the EPA lead ban in 1986

### \* Project Overview:

The project will consist of reviewing existing and available data and conducting subsequent field investigations, which may include customer surveys, simple interior home inspections, predictive modeling and/or test digs. Once this information is gathered, SFWD will develop a public-facing web-based map that will show service line material.

Our preliminary findings indicate that a very low percentage of our customer's residences and commercial businesses have lead services. As the District compiles all data, we will inform our customers immediately about our next course of action.

### \* What You Need to Know:

SFWD may ask customers to fill out a survey as we begin to roll out the inventory project District wide.

You may see us digging on or near the utility strip outside your home or office to determine what type of material is underground. Please know that all SFWD personnel will have proper identification and District uniforms, and our vehicles will be clearly marked with our logo.

### \* Our Approach to Corrosion Control

SFWD already takes the proper steps to reduce the potential for lead to leach from your pipes into the water. This is accomplished by injecting two chemicals into the water at our plant sites:

1. Caustic Soda to raise the pH to slightly above neutral, and
2. An orthophosphate which inhibits the corrosion of your plumbing.

### \* Results from Lead Sampling

The results from samples collected in your water system are included in your annual drinking water quality report (also known as the Consumer Confidence Report). You may access the report by visiting: [www.sfwater.com/waterquality](http://www.sfwater.com/waterquality)

**For more information, please visit:**

[www.epa.gov/flint/lead-and-copper-rule-updates](http://www.epa.gov/flint/lead-and-copper-rule-updates)



## Water Tower at Plant No. 1 gets a Power-Shower!



The SFWD ongoing maintenance program is a checklist of several responsibilities to ensure everything is running with optimal efficiency and this includes making sure our elevated water tower at Plant No. 1 is standing tall and handsome. Overall, this effort helps extend the life of the tank and prevent corrosion.

So how do you power wash a 125 foot water tank you may ask? It's not as easy as going to Home Depot to rent a power washer that's for sure. After all is said and done, our tank is sparkling clean, and we've gotten a lot of compliments from our neighbors.

## SFWD Food Drive

**Help us to help others by making a food donation at our Headquarters this holiday season**

- Monday thru Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Through December 2022

### \* TOP 10 MOST NEEDED ITEMS

- Cereals
- Low fat, boxed & non refrigerated milk
- Canned vegetables
- White rice
- Cooking oil
- Pasta, tomato sauce
- Canned meat, poultry, fish
- Peanut butter
- Jelly, jam & spreadable fruit

*Please – no glass jars*



Food insecurity is very high on Long Island. If you or someone you know is experiencing a troubling time, call 631-582-FOOD.



## Annual Water Commissioner Election

**December 13, 2022 • 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

South Farmingdale Water District encourages all residents to continue to exercise their civic duty and vote in the 2022 water commissioner election. Only through the voting process can District residents in South Farmingdale, North Massapequa, Massapequa Park, and parts of Bethpage and Seaford truly have a voice in choosing the leaders of our local communities.

### ELIGIBILITY

- Be a registered voter in Nassau County
- Be a resident of the South Farmingdale Water District at least 30 days prior to the election date.

### COME OUT AND VOTE

South Farmingdale Water District  
40 Langdon Road • Farmingdale, NY

For more information, please call our office at 516-249-3330, or visit our website: [www.sfwater.com](http://www.sfwater.com)

## Keep Those Hydrants Clear During Snowstorms

**Did you know that the fire hydrants in our District are installed and maintained by SFWD?**

We kindly ask our neighbors to clear a path to these hydrants during snowstorms to help make them more accessible for volunteer firefighters to quickly locate a hydrant in the event of an emergency. Snowplowing cul-de-sacs can be difficult, and it is here that hydrants are more susceptible to being buried.

### Damaged or Broken Hydrants

SFWD personnel canvass the entire District yearly and inspect each hydrant. However, if you notice a hydrant is damaged or potentially broken, please notify SFWD immediately by calling: 516-249-3330.

