

# Water Talk

South Huntington Water District

## Is Bigger Really Better?

**Bigger may not necessarily be better, but when it comes to the water we drink, bigger apparently costs more.**

According to a Newsday report (August 2009), South Shore Nassau County residents were shocked at their very large, privately-owned, public water supplier's proposed major rate increase. The cost of 9,000 gallons of water would increase \$5.00, from an already astoundingly high \$42.00 to \$47.00. The water supplier also sought to raise fire hydrant rental some \$150.00 to a whopping \$693.18 per hydrant per annum. This fee, charged to the volunteer Fire Department for every hydrant, is a "back door" rate increase for each water customer. Since the Fire Department must raise its own tax rate to pay for the rental increase, the water consumer winds up footing that bill as well.

Newsday further relates how some Nassau County legislators are seeking to have the large, unwieldy water supplier replaced by smaller, locally-controlled water districts.

### IS BIGGER REALLY BETTER? DRAW YOUR OWN CONCLUSIONS.

	<p><b>Cost of 9,000 Gallons of Water:</b>  <b>Proposed rate: \$47.00</b>                  (\$4.66 per 1,000 gallons!)</p> <p><b>Fire Hydrant Rental Fee:</b>  <b>Proposed \$693.18</b>                  per Fire Hydrant</p>		<p><b>Cost of 9,000 Gallons of Water:</b>  <b>\$4.50</b> ✓                  (\$0.50 per 1,000 gallons)</p> <p><b>Fire Hydrant Rental Fee:</b>  <b>\$20.00</b> ✓                  per Fire Hydrant</p>
<p>LARGE NASSAU COUNTY SUPPLIER</p>	<p>SOUTH HUNTINGTON WATER DISTRICT</p>		

Your South Huntington Water District proudly provides superior service and uncompromised water quality at a cost (.50 cents per 1,000 gallons) that larger, unwieldy, water suppliers can only dream about.

**BIGGER IS NOT ALWAYS BETTER.** The proof, as Mom used to say, is in the pudding!

## Two Decades of Service

LONG-TIME HUNTINGTON RESIDENT KEN CARSTEN was recently honored by the Board of Commissioners for his 20 years of service with the Water District. A product of the South Huntington School system and a Coast Guard veteran, Ken has been a key asset to the District where he serves as a Maintenance Mechanic and is also a New York State-licensed Water Treatment Plant Operator. Ken and his wife Kim reside in Melville. Congratulations, Ken!





District Mechanic Chris Chan (Left) holds radio-read meter while District Foreman Brian O'Donnell (Right) displays hand held receiver

## Is Your Water Meter In The Cellar?...Read On!

While the vast majority of the Water District's customers have their water meters located outdoors, some of our older homes have the meter located indoors, usually in the basement. When we can't access your indoor meter, an estimated bill is generated. And even when the owner is at home, it's often an inconvenience to let our meter reader into the house.

However, there is a solution to this problem through remote-reading water meters. We are currently installing a wireless system for indoor meters. Each meter contains a small, integral radio transmitter that sends the meter reading to a compact receiver carried by the meter reader out at the curb. The reading can be obtained and recorded in seconds at any time of the day - without inconveniencing the homeowner. This guarantees a timely and accurate meter reading for you and a cost-saving and efficient task for us.

If your water meter is indoors and has not yet been changed to radio-read, please call our Office at 631-427-8190 to arrange an installation during the work week. There is no charge for this service and the work normally takes a half-hour or less.

## It's 3:00 A.M... Do You Know Where Your Main Water Valve Is?

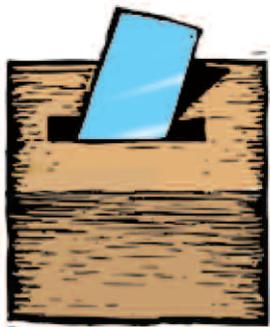


Our water main distribution crew spends a lot of effort making sure our water main and fire hydrant shutoff valves are accessible and in working order. When a hydrant is damaged or a water main breaks, it is essential that those valves be quickly located and promptly shut down.

But as a business or home owner, you too operate a small distribution system right in your own home or building. Do you know where the main water shutoff valve is located? And if so, do you know if it's working properly? Is it kept clear of obstructions and marked as the main emergency shutoff valve so your family or employees can quickly locate and operate it?

If your main valve does not work properly, you may want to consult with a plumber to have it repaired or replaced. While the Water District does not own the main valve (nor any plumbing inside of the property line), we may be able to assist your plumber by turning the water off outside while the main valve repair is made.

If you ever have an emergency situation where you cannot shut off your water, please never hesitate to contact us at any time of the day or night. We can be reached at our 24-hour a day phone, 631-427-8190.



## Notice of Upcoming Election

The annual election for the office of South Huntington Water District Commissioner will be held on Tuesday, December 8, 2009, from 3:00 P.M. until 9:00 P.M. For your convenience, there are two polling places - the North Cafeteria at the Walt Whitman High School on West Hills Road and the King of Kings Lutheran Church on Old South Path in Melville. Any resident who has lived in the District for at least 30 days and who is a registered voter is eligible to vote.

## WaterTalk

South Huntington Water District  
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### Board of Water Commissioners

George Kopp, Chairman  
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Paul J. Tonna, Secretary

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