SUFFOLK COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY — CELEBRATING 70 YEARS

1937
The **Suffolk County Water Authority** is created by a vote of the **Suffolk County Board of Supervisors** on March 29.

1946
In its third expansion since federal regulation of drinking water began in 1914, the U.S. Public Health Service **sets criteria for bacteriological quality of drinking water** mostly applied to contaminants that could cause contagious disease.

1937-1951
Though not yet an operating utility, SCWA, led by **Chairman W. Kingsland Macy**, repels attempts by Nassau County and New York City to access Suffolk County's water supply.

1954
Governor Thomas Dewey signs law **permitting SCWA to purchase water districts with approval of district residents.**

1950s-Early 1960s
SCWA disinfects drinking water with **gas and liquid chlorinator systems.**

1957
- SCWA acquires Deer Lake Water Company in Deer Park and Home Water Company in East Hampton.
- 500-foot deep well drilled on Woodchuck Hollow Road in Huntington **produces twice as much water as any other well on Long Island.**

1959
- Stony Brook Water District votes to reject SCWA acquisition, later buys water from SCWA.
- SCWA acquires Northport Water Works Company.

1960
- **Record 235 miles of water main added** to service territory.
- SCWA moves into new administration headquarters in Oakdale.
- Suffolk County's population reaches **666,786**, up from 276,129 in 1950, while **SCWA's customer base crosses 75,000.**

1961
SCWA constructs **1.4 million gallon standpipe storage tank** that provides service to new State University of New York campus at Stony Brook. (A standpipe is supported by the ground, meaning the water at its base is at ground level. Height is less than its diameter).

1969
SCWA provides water service and fire protection to the new campus of Suffolk County Community College on College Road in Farmingville.

1970
- Establishment of Environmental Protection Agency.
- **Double pump well on Blue Spruce Lane in Commack is drilled** by SCWA, becoming the largest well on Long Island. (Double pump well contains two submersible pumps inside a single well).
- **SCWA launches well program** with 20 wells along **Fire Island's barrier beach.**

1971
- Suffolk County Legislature **bans sale of detergents containing benzene sulfonate**, the first ban of its kind in the country.
- SCWA constructs **2.3 million gallon standpipe storage tank** - its largest ever - in North Bay Shore. (A standpipe is supported by the ground, meaning the water at its base is at ground level. Height is less than its diameter).

1972
- SCWA drills record **21 wells** in one year.
- Federal government establishes **Clean Water Act**.

1973
With 195,360 customers, SCWA now **serves more than half of Suffolk County's population.**

1976
To detect metals, SCWA Laboratory adds **atomic absorption spectrophotometer**.

1980
SCWA Laboratory now **monitors water quality at all 348 production wells**.

1982
Research program begins to remove **volatile organic compounds** and **pesticides** from groundwater using **air stripping and granular activated carbon treatment systems.**

1983-1984
First use of granular activated carbon (at three Southampton wells) and first **air stripping plant opens** (at Bellerose Avenue well in Northport), landmark steps in drinking water treatment.

1989
SCWA **installs 31 granular activated carbon treatment systems** throughout its service territory.

1993
- SCWA forms **"Rustbusters" team** to address iron issues in high iron groundwater areas such as South Shore low zone.
- Over the next 15 years, transmission water main improvements open the way for low iron well sources from the north to supply water to the South Shore low zone. Along with iron filters in problem wells, these steps largely eliminate high iron issues.
- Shorewood Water Company is acquired by SCWA.
- Governor Mario Cuomo **signs landmark Long Island Pine Barrens Protection Act**. This law, created with substantial SCWA input, protects the underground water resources of a swath of land ultimately totaling more than **100,000 acres**.

1995
- SCWA aquires Swan Lake Water Company in Patchogue and Sunhill Water Company in Selden.
- Water use **sets record of 54.7 billion gallons,** a 32 percent increase over the past ten years.
- SCWA pumps more than **4 million gallons** of water to combat wildfires that char thousands of acres in the Westhampton area.
- New **26,000-square foot state-of-the-art Laboratory opens** in Hauppauge, the **largest groundwater testing laboratory in the country.**

1997
- **SCWA.com** debuts.
- **SCWA settles a lawsuit over Temik contamination with Rhone-Poulenc Inc.** (successor to Union Carbide) to recover cost of granular activated carbon filters in nine of its wells.

2000
- SCWA enters into 40-year agreement to operate Brentwood Water District.
- The SCWA Laboratory, which has grown to test 130,000 water samples per year, institutes **Laboratory Information Management System** which automatically collects sample results.

2001
- SCWA begins a pilot test using **advanced oxidation to remove MTBE**, a gasoline additive and octane booster.
- Elevated storage tanks become source of new revenue, as **SCWA begins leasing antenna space to cellular companies.**

2004
- SCWA begins pilot testing for removing perchlorate using **ion exchange resin.**
- **Nitrate removal plant goes into service** at South Spur Drive pump station in East Northport.
- **New York State bans gasoline additive MTBE. SCWA and Suffolk County sues petroleum manufacturers** over contamination to recoup millions of dollars in treatment costs.

2007
Solar panels installed on the roof of the technical services building, further advancing SCWA's commitment to green energy with the capacity of producing 11.80 kWhs of electricity annually.

2008
- **$73.4 million awarded** to SCWA as part of 17-state settlement against oil companies responsible for MTBE contamination.
- **Automated meter reading program** launches, allowing SCWA employees to read as many as 100 meters per minute by driving through a neighborhood.

2012
- After conducting full property inventory and analysis, **SCWA sells first surplus property for $241,000.**
- Through the use of an elaborate network of generators, **SCWA keeps water pumping** to all areas but Fire Island despite widespread, multi-day power outages caused by **Superstorm Sandy.**

2015
- SCWA **replaces 12,000 feet of undersized, antiquated water main** on thirteen Huntington Village streets.
- Service to majority of **North Haven Village** is completed with installation of **17,737 feet** of ductile iron water main.
- SCWA launches **Fire Department Educational Outreach Program**.
- **SCWA is honored by Long Island Pine Barrens Society** for its work in protecting the quality of drinking water resources.
- SCWA releases **Strategic Plan 2025**, its first ever strategic business plan.

2016
- **7,000 feet** of water main is installed on Elijahs Lane and County Road 48 in Cutchogue, completing phase two of **15,000 foot project that improves water distribution on the North Fork.**
- **Compressed Natural Gas** fueling station opens at Oakdale complex, further signifying SCWA's commitment to green energy.
- **LICAP launches WaterTraq**, developed by SCWA, and the first program in New York State allowing the public to track water through an easily accessible, GIS-based mapping system.
- LICAP issues its first **State of the Aquifer report**.
- **Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies** presents SCWA with **Platinum Award for Utility Excellence**, one of ten water companies nationwide recognized for management excellence.

2017
- SCWA receives a **$1.3 million state grant towards the cost of installing 6,923 feet of water main**, enabling SCWA to supply the East Farmingdale Water District during emergencies.
- SCWA opens **Education Center** in Hauppauge to educate the public about the public water supply and Long Island's sole source aquifer.
- SCWA conducts system-wide upgrade of backup generators.
- SCWA launches **WaterTalk** public education forum.
- New York State legislation proposed by SCWA mandates that **unpaid customer balances will be placed as liens on property tax bills.**
- **SCWA commences legal action** against companies responsible for PFAS/PFOA and 1,4-dioxane contamination to recover costs of removing contaminants from public water supply.

2021
- SCWA installs 10,800 feet of new water main in East Quogue to **connect more than 115 homes formerly using private wells impacted by the contaminants PFOS/PFOA.**
- SCWA's total **water main exceeds 6,000 miles**, enough to stretch from here to Siberia.
- **SCWA Board** for first time is comprised of a **female majority**.
- **EPA National Drinking Water Advisory Council** names **SCWA Chief Executive Officer Jeffrey Szabo as a member**, signifying SCWA's growing status as a national leader in the public water industry.
- SCWA launches podcast, **"What About Water?"**

2020
- Laboratory **tests for 414 contaminants, 250 more** than required by regulators.
- As part of comprehensive response to COVID-19 pandemic, **SCWA facilitates quick connection of Southside Hospital's 60-patient surge hospital** to public water.
- **900,000-gallon** water storage tank goes into service at Cross Highway Pump Station in Amagansett.

2019
- SCWA introduces **first conservation rate** in its history, **protecting the water rates of those who use resources judiciously.**
- LICAP, under SCWA guidance, launches **Our Water, Our Lives**, a comprehensive campaign to encourage residents to conserve the sole source aquifer that provides 100 percent of Long Island's drinking water.
- **SCWA secures $4 million in funding** from federal government as compensation for costs of remediating groundwater pollution. The contamination was caused by PFOS/PFOA, resulting from the use of firefighting foams for training purposes at Gabreski Airport in Westhampton Beach.
- **SCWA chemist develops testing method for PFOS/PFOA** that is less expensive, quicker and more effective than U.S. EPA-approved method.
- **The Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies awards SCWA its highest honor:** the Sustainable Utility Management Award.
- SCWA completes its largest water main installation in 20 years with a **45,000-foot water main project in Wainscott** that brings safe drinking water to more than 500 residents in an area impacted PFOS/PFOA.
- 14,000 feet of 24-inch water main is installed, connecting the water system in the Northampton area to the Westhampton system, **providing Westhampton with high quality water straight from the heart of the Central Pine Barrens.**

2018
- **New York State approves SCWA's landmark advanced oxidation treatment system** for the removal of 1,4-dioxane, the first full-scale system approved in the state.
- **The American Water Works Association awards its Project of the Year (Treatment)** to SCWA for its advanced oxidation treatment system for removal of 1,4-dioxane and **Project of the Year (Storage)** for its concrete reservoir and booster tanks at Laurel Lake that increase water pressure for the North Fork during peak pumping periods.
- **Automated meter reading completed nearly $5 million under budget and months ahead of schedule,** resulting in the near elimination of manual reads.
- **Clevest automated work order system** is launched in Customer Service.

2014
- The **Long Island Commission for Aquifer Protection** holds its first meeting. Based on a concept formulated by SCWA, its mission is to foster a regional approach to the protection of Long Island's sole source aquifer.
- SCWA launches first-of-its-kind **online backflow test portal**, allowing backflow testers and master plumbers to submit test forms electronically.

2011
- SCWA is **first water provider in New York State** to create a pilot program to treat and remove 1,4-dioxane from water using an **advanced oxidation process.**
- **Hybrid and natural gas vehicles** introduced into SCWA fleet.
- **Electronic billing** begins.

2006
- Amendments to **Safe Drinking Water Act** create the **Groundwater Rule**, which provides protection against microbial pathogens in public water systems that use groundwater sources.
- SCWA consolidates several offices into a centralized **Customer Service Center** in Coram.

2009
- SCWA enters into **40-year operating agreement** with **East Farmingdale Water District.**
- Suffolk County and SCWA enters into **$2.6 million agreement for easements on 34 parcels** acquired under the county Drinking Water Protection Program for use as potential well fields.
- Laboratory tests **64,000 water samples for 278 contaminants.**

2002
- **Six month moratorium on new North Fork customer connections** initiated to give Southold town and SCWA time to plan supply and zoning options to address area's fragile groundwater resources.
- With funding from New York State Drinking Water Revolving Fund, SCWA **adds 164 miles of water main** and **5,355 customers.**

1998
- SCWA acquires Fire Island Pines water system and agrees to manage and operate the Riverside Water District.
- SCWA installs **pipeline supplying 20 million gallons of water annually from Amagansett to Montauk,** supplementing ten existing wells threatened with rising chlorides and salt water intrusion during summer population influx.
- Annual rate of **customer growth over recent years nearly triples** with addition of 8,400 new customers.
- Signifying its increasing commitment to the environment, **SCWA contributes $200,000 to Long Island Groundwater Research Institute** to help fund research on bioremediation, groundwater modeling and public education efforts.
- To improve operation of SCWA's overall system, **SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) is put into service** at Production Control in Bay Shore.

1996
- **First Iron/Manganese removal filtration system goes into service** at SCWA's Harvest Lane, West Islip pump station.
- **SCWA connects homes that are downgradient of Brookhaven National Laboratory** - and potentially impacted by groundwater contamination - to public water. Project funded by U.S. Department of Energy.

1992
SCWA acquires Bridgehampton Water Company.

1987
Suffolk County voters **approve Drinking Water Protection Program** to fund water quality improvement and land preservation measures.

1981
SCWA acquires Eastern Suffolk Water Corporation, Great Beach Water Company and Bevon Water Company.

1979
With funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, **water service is extended to Canaan Lake in North Patchogue, Gordon Heights** and **East Patchogue.**

1975
SCWA acquires Selden Water Company, Ronkonkoma Water Company, Amagansett Water Company and Shinnecock Shores Association's water facilities.

1974
Federal government establishes **Safe Drinking Water Act** to protect drinking water quality in United States.

1962
- U.S. Public Health Service **adopts drinking water standards for 28 chemical constituents** in the most comprehensive federal standards prior to the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974.
- SCWA opens **new Production Control** building in Bay Shore.

1956-57
Construction budget increases **55 percent** from $2.05 million to nearly $3.2 million. Customers number **54,333.**

1956
Approximately **500 homes per month** are connected to SCWA's water system.

1955
SCWA has **10 percent growth** in customers, bringing total to **46,000.**

1953
SCWA acquires New York Water Service Company and its **23,217** customers.

1951
SCWA begins operations on June 1 as **New York State's first public benefit corporation for water service** after acquiring the South Bay Consolidated Water Company. At its beginning, SCWA has **21,159** customers.

SCWA CHAIRS

June-Sept. 1934
John R. Robinson

1937-1952	W. Kingsland Macy
1952-1959	Franklin Koons
1959-1964	T. Bayles Minuse
1964-1970	Richard D. Zeidler
1973-1977	Walter C. Hazlitt
1977-1987	Robert Flynn
1987-1990	Leon Campo
1990-2010	Michael LoGrande
2010-2018	James Gaughran
2019-Current	Patrick G. Halpin

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★ 70 YEARS OF HIGH QUALITY DRINKING WATER ★