

## Thank you, Joe Slattery!



The Water Department would like to thank Joe Slattery for his many years of service to the Water Department as a Water Commissioner and Water Superintendent.

Joe started as a Water Commissioner in the late 60's until he was hired as Water Superintendent April 1, 1971. One fine day Rheel Labrie reached out to Joe and said, "Hey Joe, we need someone with equipment!" Joe said "OK." The rest is history! Joe retired from his Water Superintendent position in May of 2015 and came back to work as a part-time Water Technician/Consultant until May of 2019. He then ran for Water Commissioner and served as the chair until May 2025. Joe really enjoyed his many years with the Water Department, when asked he said, "it was an excellent experience."

During Joe's 55+ years he oversaw the development and construction of the Pequot Road building, and the Gilbert Road chlorination station (when we were still connected to Holyoke). The Pequot Road building is now the Southampton Water Department's office and the Gilbert Road building is now a Water Department storage facility. In the early 1990's, Joe oversaw the construction of the 750,000-gallon water storage tank located off of Wolcott Road. Since the mid 1990's the water distribution system has been expanded with over 34 miles of water main including the Hampton ponds area and Pomeroy Meadow Road area. He was also involved in the test well study and ultimate final location of the town's primary water well (Glendale Well O2 installed in January of 2002) still in operation after 23 years. In 2007, Southampton won **BEST TASTING WATER** in Massachusetts through Mass Rural Water Association. In 2008, the Southampton Water Department went on to win the Gold Medal for **THE BEST WATER IN THE USA** through the National Rural Association. This was a very proud moment for The Southampton Water Department and Joe!

We wish Joe the very best as he retires from his Water Commission position.

Joe plans on spending time with his family. He enjoys time with his great grandson and has two more great grandchildren on the way, to keep him on his toes!

Joe is like a "jewel in a junkyard," we will all miss him and his incredible knowledge of the Southampton water system.....and all his one liners! Yes, that's one of his many lines.....if only we had kept track of them over the years, we could have written a fabulous book! So long Joe!

