



Farmingdale Board of Education (BOE) Trustee Anthony Giordano, Assistant Superintendent Joan Ripley, Superintendent John Lorentz, BOE Vice President Kathy Lively, BOE President Ralph Morales, BOE Trustee Suzanne D'Amico, BOE Trustee John Capobianco, BOE Trustee Michael Goldberg, Assistant Superintendent Paul Defendini and Districtwide Operations Nelson Dominguez break ground on the new playing fields at Saltzman Elementary School, part of a district-wide project to build Long Island's premiere public school district sports complex and aquatic center and redevelop the playing fields at each of its six schools.

## District Breaks Ground On Athletic Field

The Farmingdale School District has announced the groundbreaking on the first installment of the district's facilities upgrade initiative. This is part of a district-wide project to build Long Island's premiere public school district sports complex and aquatic center and redevelop the playing fields at each of its six schools. The first field under construction is at Saltzman Elementary School.

"We're proud to start construction on the next chapter of the Farmingdale School District's future," said Farmingdale School District Superintendent John Lorentz. "We want to reassure the community that

construction will not cause any disruption to normal school activity."

In addition to the new fields at each school, the new sports complex and aquatic center will be built on the Weldon E. Howitt Middle School campus and will include multipurpose baseball and softball fields as well as a track that will allow the district to host home events. The new aquatic center, with both a competition pool and community pool, will increase access to aquatic activities for both students and community groups. Construction of the sports complex and aquatic center will also support the exciting revitalization of the Farmingdale downtown area that

has been unfolding over the past several years. The entire project comes at no additional cost to the taxpayer, and it will be funded by the bond that the community approved in October of 2016.

"We are excited to begin this next chapter in the Farmingdale School District's future and provide students with outstanding opportunities to reach their full potential," said Assistant Superintendent for Business Paul Defendini. "Our student-athletes at every age and skill level will benefit from the new fields and the sports complex and aquatic center for many years to come."

—Submitted by the  
 Farmingdale School District

## The Plume Is Not Just Bethpage's Problem

BY FRANK RIZZO

FRIZZO@ANTONMEDIAGROUP.COM

Those waiting for the country's largest toxic groundwater plume to be remediated might as well think they're in geological time.

Hydrogeologists say the plume could be moving at about one foot per day, maybe more.

One study suggests it will take more than a century and hundreds of millions of dollars to clean it up fully.

In the meantime, stakeholders and technical experts gather, remediation plans are proposed (and have been put in place), monitoring wells are drilled, and politicians have their say.

But the years pass, and the plume keeps on traveling. It is now threatening water supplies far southeast of its origins, approaching the Southern State Parkway.

And please don't call it "The Bethpage Plume."

The "Grumman-Navy Plume" is more appropriate, said more than one speaker at one of a series of public meetings held this spring to discuss the decades-old contamination affecting the Magothy Aquifer that supplies much of Nassau County's drinking water needs.

County legislators Laura Schaefer and Rose Marie Walker and Town of Oyster Bay Supervisor Joseph Saladino organized an informational meeting at the Bethpage JFK Middle School that featured presentations from officials of the Bethpage Water District (BWD).

Less than a week later, many of

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