



TOWN OF RIVERHEAD NEWS

Office of the Supervisor

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PRESS RELEASE

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Press Release: Senator Schumer Announces \$3.5M Federal Grant to Provide Public Water to Manorville Residents Plagued by Contaminated Wells.

Senator Charles Schumer notified the Town of Riverhead today that he has secured \$3.5 million in federal funding to provide pure and clean water to the 60 homes in Manorville. The total cost is expected to exceed \$7 million.

The funds were applied for by the Community Development Department through Senator Schumer's Congressionally Directed Spending, in an effort to provide water from the Riverhead Water District to approximately 60 residents whose private wells have become contaminated. "The Town of Riverhead's efforts to address the need to provide clean and pure water to our residents was supported by many public officials, the entire Riverhead Town Board and with strong public support. As a result, Senator Schumer was able to successfully advocate on our behalf," said Supervisor Yvette Aguiar. The Senate Appropriations committee has designated \$3.5 million dollars directed solely to provide clean and pure water from the Riverhead Water District to these residents." The wells have tested for many contaminants, including Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)/ Perfluoroalkyl Carboxylate (PFOA) in excess of NYS limits. These substances were developed in the 1940s and 1950s, and commonly used in firefighting foams.

Aguiar said in 2020, the Town Board directed the creation of an Engineering Map and Plan, which was funded by the Town of Riverhead. "I appreciate the efforts of the Senator Schumer for securing the funds to continue addressing this important public safety issue. I also

want to thank Congressman Lee Zeldin, NYS Assemblywomen Jodi Giglio, Suffolk County Legislator Al Krupski and the entire Town Board, who all have rigorously petitioned their support in Washington for this effort. The Town of Riverhead will continue to seek further funding to ensure we are able to move this effort forward as quickly as possible. We are all committed to finding the best possible solutions and it is my hope we will continue to work cooperatively with our federal, state and county partners towards this important, mutual goal.”