

Dennis Water District

Board of Water Commissioners

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Main-Line News

www.denniswater.org

Appointed by Water Commissioners

David Larkowski, *Superintendent*
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James Ritchie, *Asst. Superintendent*

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Dog Days of Summer

What a difference a year makes. Last year the District pumped the least amount of water in more than 20 years. This year we are poised to have one of the largest pumping years on record. In fact, on July 5, a new record of 10.7 million gallons pumped in one day was set. Fortunately, the earlier winter and spring rains left the wells topped off nicely and no problems being able to meet demand are anticipated. While there are no water supply problems this year, all customers should continue exercising good conservation measures.



Lawn Maintenance: Most lawns in our area consist of a mixture of cool-season lawn grasses such as Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, and fine fescue. These grasses naturally slow down and may go dormant in the heat of summer. Consumers should make a conscious decision whether to water

lawns throughout the summer to keep them looking green or let the grass go dormant. Do not allow lawns to turn brown and then water them back to a green condition as this depletes energy reserves and stresses the plant. If you decide to water your grass all summer-long, you are probably going to pay a hefty water bill next February.

Water lawns deeply and infrequently, applying about 1"-1 1/2" per application. This encourages deeper root growth which makes the grass more resistant to disease and drought conditions. If allowed to go dormant, lawns only need about 1/4 to 1/2 inch of water every 2 to 3 weeks to keep root and crown tissue alive. Once more favorable weather returns, the lawn should break dormancy and green-up again.

Mowing height is probably the most important practice to prepare lawns for hot weather. Mow at heights around three inches as the summer heat increases. Lawns maintained at greater heights usually develop deeper roots and dry out more slowly than closely mowed turf. It is best to hold off until later in the season for most other lawn care practices, including fertilizing, seeding, thatch control, and applying weed killers.

For now, help your lawn by proper mowing, watering, and keeping foot and vehicle traffic off the grass as much as possible during the heat of the summer months.

Don't Flush It. Crush It.

FOUR SAFE STEPS TOWARD PROPER DISPOSAL

1. Pour medication into a sealable plastic bag. If medication is a solid (pill, liquid capsule, etc.) crush it or add water to dissolve it.
2. Add cat litter, sawdust, coffee grounds to the plastic bag so that it mixes together and makes it less appealing for pets and children to eat.
3. Seal the plastic bag and put it in the trash.
4. Remove and destroy ALL identifying personal information (prescription label) from all medication containers before recycling them or throwing them into the trash.



Patients should ALWAYS refer to printed material accompanying their medication for specific instructions.

How Important Is It?

All uses of water on Cape Cod—whether for drinking, swimming, boating, shellfishing, cranberry farming or wetland habitat—depend on the health and quality of our aquifer. Cape Cod's Sole Source Aquifer is directly affected by everything that goes down your drain, including expired or unwanted medications.

What Is An Aquifer?

All of the drinking water on Cape Cod comes from our Sole Source Aquifer. A Sole Source Aquifer is an underground supply of water designated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as the "sole or principal" source of drinking water for an area. EPA guidelines also require that these areas have no alternative drinking water sources(s) which could physically, legally, and economically supply water to all who depend on the aquifer for drinking water.

For More Information Regarding Safe Medications and Prescription Disposal....

- ♦ Cape Cod Cooperative Extension at 508-375-6699
- ♦ www.capecodextension.org
- ♦ www.capecodgroundwater.org
- ♦ www.smarxtdisposal.net

WIND POWER FEASIBILITY STUDY

In March, the Water Commissioners awarded a contract to Boreal Renewable Energy Development to conduct a wind power feasibility study. The study will address the potential benefits of installing a utility scale wind turbine on District-owned property. The scope of the study includes site conditions, wind data, potential environmental impacts and economic analysis which will outline various development scenarios for consideration by the Water Commissioners and a possible recommendation to the District voters.

A preliminary analysis concluded that the well field off Airline Road (330 +/- acres) has wind and site conditions that will support a wind turbine at 80 meters. The District uses approximately 1.25 megawatts of electricity at a cost of \$230,000 to \$250,000 per fiscal year. The size of the turbine could be as large as 1.5 megawatts in order to cover the District's annual costs of electrical power demands and the cost of constructing the turbine.

The next steps in developing this renewable energy source will be determining the necessary size of the turbine and begin work on the conceptual design. These plans will be used to obtain initial permits such as a Certificate of Appropriateness from Old Kings Highway Regional Historic District Commission and a Special Permit from the Town of Dennis Planning Board.

Water Quality Report Issued by Silent Spring Institute

In May, the Silent Spring Institute, an organization that researches the links between the environment and women's health, especially cancer, published its latest report entitled "Emerging Contaminants in Cape Cod Public Drinking Water Wells." The study tested wells across the Cape for new contaminants not normally tested. Two of the District wells were a part of this study.

The findings for the two wells showed detection of two compounds. Sulfamethoxazole and Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid were detected in the parts per trillion. Sulfamethoxazole is an antibiotic and Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid is used in consumer products to make them stain and grease resistant, including food packaging. The report concluded that the detection of these compounds

How Much is One-Part-Per-Trillion?

- ♦ one square foot of floor tile on a kitchen floor the size of Indiana
- ♦ one square inch in 250 square miles
- ♦ one mile on a 2-month journey at the speed of light
- ♦ one minute in 2,000,000 years

does not mean the water is unsafe. There are no regulations for these compounds; in fact, the extremely low concentrations are well below any known health risk levels.

There are two conclusions that can be garnered from this report. One is that the ability to detect at such low levels demonstrates that compounds we have direct contact with in our homes and daily lives can pass down drains and toilets and enter our drinking water resources. The second is that the District's efforts to purchase or restrict development on more than 1,000 acres of land in our water sheds has been a good investment for protecting our resources. A copy of the full report can be found at the Silent Spring's website at <http://www.silent.spring.org/our-publications/study-reports/emerging-contaminants-cape-cod-drinking-water>.

Prescription drugs, while intended to help and protect us, are now being included on the list of emerging contaminants. They get into the drinking water supply primarily by the previously favored practice of flushing unused or unwanted medicines down the drain or toilet. Once they pass through the septic system they move along with the groundwater and can end up in our public or private wells, ponds, streams or coastal waters.

Please read "Don't Flush It. Crush It." on reverse.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY

**Saturday
Sept. 11, 2010**

**Tony Kent Arena
9 am to 1 pm**



There are two Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days in Dennis. The Spring collection is sponsored by the District and the Fall collection is sponsored by the Dennis Health Department. Due to municipal budget cuts, the Town's Fall collection had been reduced from 4 hours to just 1½ hours. The Water Commissioners voted to help fund the September collection with a contribution of \$4,000. This will enable the Town to restore the collection hours.

As was evident in the Silent Spring study released earlier this year, Dennis has done a good job of purchasing and preserving land for protecting our watersheds. Land use within the watersheds needs to be managed responsibly to ensure the continued safety of our drinking water supply. **Your participation in this collection program is important and appreciated.**