

# Dennis Water District

Board of Water Commissioners

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Paul F. Prue, *Chair*  
Charles F. Crowell (1936-2016)  
Peter L. McDowell

## Main-Line News

[www.denniswater.org](http://www.denniswater.org)

Appointed by Water Commissioners

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David Larkowski, Superintendent  
Sheryl A. McMahon, Clerk & Treasurer  
James Ritchie, Asst. Superintendent

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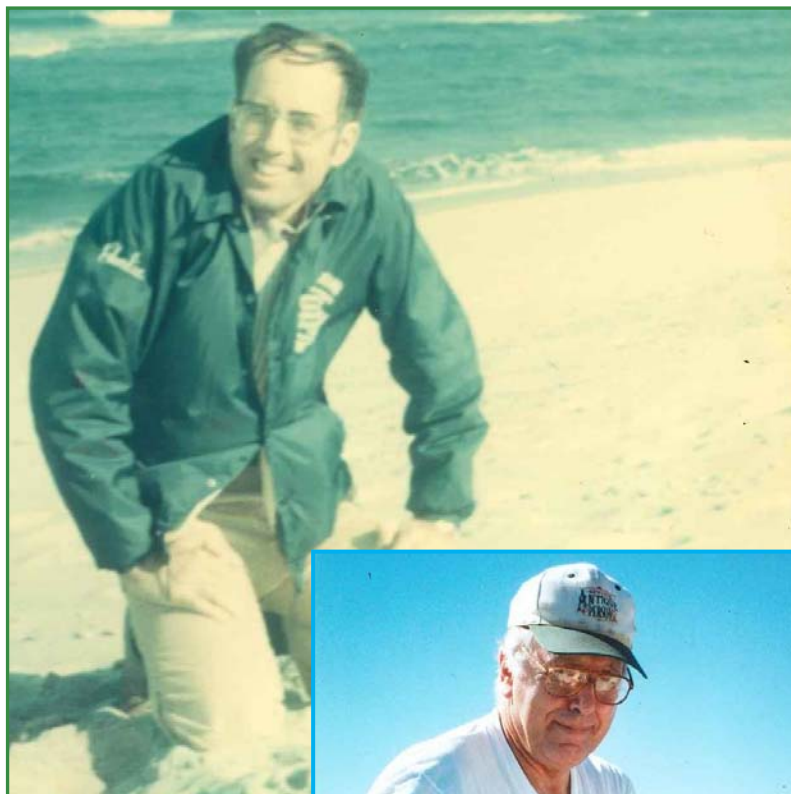
## In Memoriam: Charles F. Crowell Water Commissioner 1988 - 2016

This newsletter is dedicated to Charles F. Crowell who served as an elected Water Commissioner to the Dennis Water District for twenty-eight years. Charlie, as he was always called, was a direct descendant of John and Elishua Crowell who first arrived and settled here in 1639 as part of the Plymouth Colony land grant. Charlie was born and raised in Dennis and lived here until his passing on June 19.

Charlie graduated from Yarmouth High School in 1954 and attended Boston University followed by Portia Law School where he earned his law degree. Upon graduation and passing the bar, he joined his father's law firm in Dennis. He served his country honorably in peacetime with the National Guard. In October 1977, Charlie and Joan Heyliger were wed and enjoyed 38 years of marriage. Charlie was dedicated to serving his community and did so in a variety of ways throughout his life. He enrolled as a Dennis call fireman beginning in 1964 and served continuously until he reached mandatory retirement age in 2001. Charlie served as a member of the Planning Board, Waterways Commission, Shellfish Commission, Comprehensive Planning Commission, Cemetery Advisory Committee and as an elected Town Moderator. His most prominent role however, was serving for 16 years as a selectman. As a board member of the Village Improvement Society he also served many years as president of the Dennis Village Improvement Society, as an incorporator and trustee of the Cape Cod Five Cent Savings Bank and as a member of a Minister Search Committee for his church.

His service to the Dennis Water District began in 1988 when he was first elected to fill an unexpired term. His name as a candidate appeared on the same ballot with Edward A. Crowell (no direct relation) for Water Commissioner and William E. Crowell, Jr. (brother) for Moderator. The printer of the ballots kept calling to verify the names. They could not believe that the last name was the same for all three candidates. For years it became affectionately referred to as the "Crowell Ballot."

Over his 28-year tenure, Charlie, along with his fellow Commissioners, took great pains to evaluate all options, ask tough questions and weigh benefits versus costs when considering capital investments in the distribution system, implementing technological advancements and acquiring land for watershed protection. The merit of all decisions was measured against the goal of providing the residents and businesses of Dennis with highest quality of water at the lowest possible cost. He was supportive of management and staff and their desire to be innovative. He was genuinely proud of the District's achievements and the District management and staff were equally proud of him as Water Commissioner.



*A quiet gentleman who served in a very big way. His "seat" will not be filled easily and he will be sorely missed.*

## RESIDENTIAL BACKFLOW - 101

What is Backflow? Also known as backsiphonage, it is the reversal of the water flow from its intended direction in any pipeline. Backflow is dangerous because it can allow the drinking water in plumbing systems to become contaminated. This can happen when drinking water pipes have a point of cross-connection with a possible source of contamination and pressure is reduced or lost in the distribution system. Loss of pressure can be the result of unforeseen events such as a major water main break, fire-fighting or other disturbance.

Let's look at the most common household cross connection; the outside faucet. It acts like an extension of the plumbing system. A hose is attached to the faucet and the other end is connected to an aspirator dispensing insecticides, fertilizer or other chemicals. Another common cross connection is the end of the hose being submerged in a bucket of soapy water or in a pool. If pressure is lost, these chemicals would be sucked up and into the plumbing systems just like a straw out of a cup.

To prevent this, a simple and inexpensive device known as a hose bibb vacuum breaker (similar to the one shown here) should be installed. This would prevent any chemical from being sucked up because it lets air back into the pipe line eliminating the cross connection. Plumbing code regulations now require vacuum breakers be installed on new homes but, most older homes still have faucets without protection. These devices can be purchased at any local hardware store or where plumbing material is sold. We encourage you to invest in your personal safety and that of your family by installing these devices at a minimal expense.



## WEST DENNIS WATER TANK REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Voters at the Annual District Meeting in April approved a \$4 million article to replace the aging 500,000 gallon Route 28 elevated tank on Route 28.

Work began this spring when the District cleared the area around the existing tank. Borings of up to 100' deep for the geotechnical report were done in May in order to design the foundation. The estimated weight of the water alone is 8,340,000 lbs.

A composite style elevated tank (combination of concrete and steel) was selected earlier this year by the Board of Water Commissioners (Board). The firm Comprehensive Environmental Inc. is currently designing the tank for both bidding and local permitting approvals. It is anticipated that the plans will be available for viewing and bidding this September with construction to begin in the spring of 2017.

The Board is planning to hold an informational meeting this fall in order to provide the public with an opportunity to see the project design and schedules and officials will be available to answer questions. Please visit the District's website and media outlets for the announcement of meeting date, time and location.



### Reminders For Our Valued Customers

This newsletter is a great opportunity to share with customers some of the most frequent issues that are addressed by staff. They are not in any particular order of frequency but all are important. Please refer to the District's website for a complete list of Rules and Regulations.

- ◆ Property owners are *financially responsible for all repairs made to their water service* from the connection at the street main up to the water meter, even if the main is on the opposite side of the street. (Section 1).
- ◆ Payments made from your personal on-line checking account are usually debited from your account on the specified date but, the District may not be credited the funds or receive a check from the third-party processor for up to 3 - 5 days later.
- ◆ The District reads meters just twice a year. Don't let a huge water bill catch you off guard. Catch undetected leaks or high water usage early by reading the water meter monthly, especially if you have an irrigation system.
- ◆ Is the water supplied by the District "hard" or "soft"? The water is considered *soft* as it has only small amounts of dissolved minerals such as calcium and magnesium.

## 2016 Spring Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Thank you for another great turnout. At this year's District collection a total of 353 cars passed through the collection site. Approximately 18,925 lbs of varying hazardous products were received for proper disposal by a professional contractor. If you were unable to make this last collection day, don't forget the Town of Dennis will be sponsoring a second collection on Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup>—Rain or Shine at the Tony Kent Arena.