

# Dennis Water District

Board of Water Commissioners

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Paul F. Prue, *Chairman*  
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Alan Tuttle

## 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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### ODD-EVEN OUTDOOR WATERING CONTINUES

This Spring, the Board of Water Commissioners declared a change in the drought advisory level from "Normal" to "Advisory". This level asks that on a voluntary basis, property owners only conduct outdoor watering on an every-other day basis. Ground water levels earlier in the year, while in the normal range, were slightly below the 50th percentile and the move to Advisory was simply an effort to educate consumers that limiting outdoor watering can help manage demand.

Watering on odd-even days, (*no more than every other day*) spreads the pumping demand over two days. Although the District's pumping capacity is extensive, the heavy demand of lawn irrigation systems all going on early in the morning can tax the system. Spreading the load out helps ensure that there is sufficient water in the system to meet the needs for potable water and fire suppression.



### WATER LAWNS WISELY

#### MANAGING SCHEDULES:

Proper irrigation scheduling is a skill that surprisingly few have mastered. Many people don't realize that they should change their irrigation program regularly as the seasons change. Ideally sprinkler clocks should be programmed weekly or even daily to maximize efficiency. Even basic changes to a monthly irrigation schedule can result in substantial water savings and improved plant health. Few people have the time or inclination to take this micro-managing approach. This article is intended to provide you with essential information for sensible scheduling and monitoring.

*Continued on Back: Wisely*

**2017 Household Hazardous Waste Collections**

*All collections are on Saturdays from 9:00-1:00 at the Tony Kent Arena.*

**August 5<sup>th</sup> - September 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Sponsored by Town of Dennis**

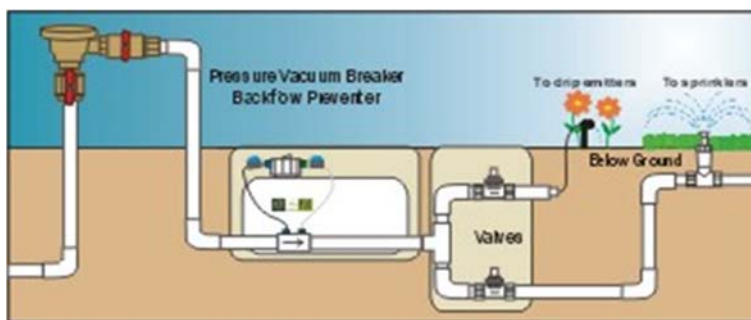
## Water Tank Progress

At the time this newsletter was going to press, construction of the new composite-style tank is well underway. Each ring is a 4-foot pour of concrete. In this picture the concrete pedestal is at 76' and can easily be seen in the immediate area behind the Fire Station on Rte 28 in West Dennis. The steel tank portion will be assembled on the ground and is scheduled to be raised in October. Final construction will be completed in the Spring of 2018.



### Our Continuing Series on Backflow

*Does a drip irrigation need a backflow preventer? Without exception, yes! Both commercial and residential systems installed by contractors or homeowners must have a backflow prevention device installed to prevent the potential of dirt, fertilizers, bacteria and a host of other hazards that can be found in the soil around your home or property, from being sucked back into the plumbing. The most common device for these systems is a Pressure Vacuum Breaker (PVB). If you are not sure if you have one or have any questions, please call the District office and we will be glad to answer your questions.*



### TEST YOUR WATER KNOWLEDGE

The total amount of water on the earth is about

- a. 326 million cubic miles.
- b. 453 million cubic miles.
- c. 514 million cubic miles.

*Answer on Back*

## WHERE IS THE WATER METER?

We can't stress it enough. Monitor your water meter readings on a regular basis, at least monthly. This is the best way to detect any unknown leaks. Each billing cycle customers call to say that, *"There is no way I used this much water"*. Come to find out, they have never read their own meter.

Monitoring your water readings will not only give you a sense of what your normal usage is for each billing cycle, but being familiar with its location and accessibility will enable you to turn the water off at the main valve in an emergency (broken pipe, busted washing machine hose, etc).

The District obtains most readings by electronically capturing it from a device that is mounted on the outside of the home or building. Special reading equipment is necessary to capture the reading. The device may be round, oval or a small box shape like one of these in the picture. We understand that contractors working on your house may need to disconnect

this device from the siding. Please feel free to contact our office if you notice that the device is missing or disconnected or needs to be relocated. We will gladly provide this service at no cost.

Properly working auto devices are essential for the District to read your meter accurately and efficiently. You can help by clearing away vegetation or ornamental plantings that make it difficult to make contact with the device. If you should have a question about your water meter or the auto reading device, please call our office or email us at [customerservice@denniswater.org](mailto:customerservice@denniswater.org).

**Answer to Water Knowledge:** a) 326 million cubic miles

## UP FOR AUCTION



This fall the District will conduct a sealed bid auction for a used truck. If you are interested, submit your name and contact information via email to [dlarkowski@denniswater.org](mailto:dlarkowski@denniswater.org). We will forward the bid information to you when it becomes available.

### DESCRIPTION:

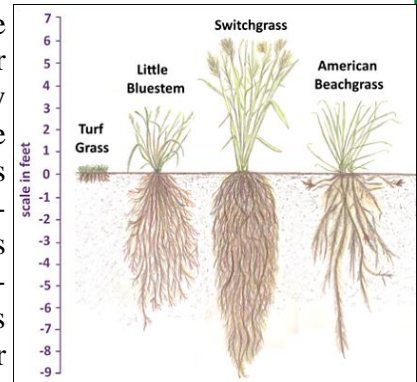
- ◆ 2005 Chevrolet 3500 dual wheel dump
- ◆ 4WD with a 6600 Turbo Duramax diesel engine
- ◆ Allison 5-speed transmission
- ◆ electric hydraulic dump body
- ◆ 9' Fisher plow
- ◆ approximately 55,000 miles

*Continued from Front: Wisely*

One of the most significant problems encountered are watering too much and too frequently. Many of the common turf grass and landscape shrub diseases can be caused, or made worse, by watering too frequently.

## WHEN WATERING, DON'T BE STINGY

The roots of turf grass extend about 6" into the top soil. Watering for just a few minutes many times a week keeps the grass roots shallow. This makes the grass susceptible to disease and less resistant to drought conditions. Watering less frequently but for longer durations will help develop



op a lawn that has a stronger and deeper root system. Experts recommend at least 1" to 1½" per week. The soil should be saturated throughout the root zone to develop a strong root system.

## IRRIGATION SCHEDULING TIPS

- Know the controller and how to change watering times.
- Adjust the length of time for watering and how many days per week based on weather conditions.
- Change settings to adjust for seasonal differences and reset the timer as needed.

## USING A RAIN GAUGE

Rain gauges are a great way to save water and manage your watering schedule. A rain gauge measures not only rain, but can be used to keep track of sprinkler output which is essential for truly measuring the amount of water your lawn is receiving. After the sprinklers have run for at least 30 minutes in the zone where the gauge is located, take the amount of water captured and multiply by two to figure the output of water over the course of an hour.

## HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

Take a water meter reading just before your irrigation system starts. If your system goes on in the wee hours of the morning, take the reading before you go to bed. Don't use water for anything else, like laundry or dishwashing. After it shuts down, take another reading. Subtract one from the other. Now you know how many gallons are being put on the lawn. Multiply that by the number of days you expect to water for the season. Then apply the current water rates. Of course, this doesn't include your normal household use, but it will give you a pretty good idea of what your next water bill will be.