

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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July Pumping Breaks Record

Many of us would love nothing better than to have last summer's weather back right about now and while those warm and sunny days are but memories, the majority of us are being reminded of just how warm and dry it was last summer as we open our water bills. July 2010 was the highest one-month total ever recorded for the District at 225.3 million gallons pumped. That was 20% of the entire year's total for just one month. The yearly total of 1,093,308,910 gallons was the fifth highest in the sixty-five year history of the District.

Many customers will have trouble accepting that they are being billed for so much water. Over the years, there have been a number of newsletter articles encouraging customers to monitor their water meter readings. Monitoring your water meter readings on a regular basis, particularly during the summer months will help customers become aware of just how much water they are using as well as being able to detect any abnormal usage. For most home owners, the majority of water during this billing cycle is used outdoors for lawn irrigation.

Breaking old watering habits may be difficult and it can be tough watching a beautifully green lawn turn brown for a few weeks but, planting native grasses that require less water, fertilizers and pesticides than non-native species will help transition a lawn over the summer. In sandy soil areas around Dennis, plant a mix of fine leafed fescues and perennial rye grasses. These types of grasses are drought resistant and will quickly recover once the rain and cooler temperatures return.

For information on conservation tips and useful links visit our web site at www.denniswater.org.

Top Ten Years of Pumping

1993	1,142,000,000
2007	1,129,000,000
2005	1,117,000,000
1999	1,097,000,000
2010	1,092,000,000
1994	1,059,000,000
2002	1,043,000,000
2001	1,033,000,000
1991	1,031,000,000
1995	1,016,000,000

5th Highest

As Easy as Reading Your Odometer

Your water meter has a set of dials, similar to the odometer of a car, that rotate as water passes through the meter. Most water meters are located in the basement and are wired to an automatic reading device. The square or round black device that is on the outside of your home can only be read with special readers.



The District reads and bills in thousands of gallons. This is shown as 0296 (296,000) on the meter pictured above. The fixed or "painted" zero is represented by the sweep hand. Each revolution of the sweep hand represents 10 gallons. Customers are encouraged to monitor their meter readings on a regular basis. Begin by writing down all of the numbers on the dial. Subtract the new reading from the previous reading to find out how many gallons have been used. The small red triangle (or other small red or black shape) on the meter is a leak indicator. If *no water* is being used and the triangle is spinning, water is going through the meter indicating a possible leak. Another way to determine if you have a leak is to write down the meter readings before going to bed at night or before leaving for the day. When you get up or return, if no water has been used then the reading should remain the same. If it is different you may have a leak, most likely a toilet.

Governor Signs New \$1,000 Water Meter Tampering Bill

On November 17, 2010 Governor Patrick signed into law an amendment to Section 11, Chapter 165 of M.G.L. increasing the fine for tampering with a water meter from \$100.00 to

“triple the amount of damages sustained thereby or \$1,000.00, whichever is greater”.

This will change the District Rules and Regulations Section 200.5 which sets the meter tampering fine to be the same as that established by State law. The regulations further state that ***“no one other than authorized District personnel is permitted to remove the water meter. No part of the meter shall be tampered with – no nuts loosened, etc.”*** As a matter of policy all water meters are wire sealed at the time of installation.

Water utilities are no different from an electric or gas company when it comes to securing its meters. Accurate meter readings are the primary source of revenue for a utility’s operations including Dennis Water. The Board of Water Commissioners has fined owners in the past for unauthorized removal of the water meter.

As a reminder, all owners should be aware that they are responsible for the security of the water meter. This includes the intentional or unintentional disturbance of the water meter by someone who may be working in their home. If you have a problem with the meter or have a leak, please do not hesitate to call the District and we will send a technician out to evaluate the situation and make repairs as necessary. As always, if you have a question about the water meter or the water service in general, please contact the office. If it is an emergency after hours dial 508-398-3351, and a live answering service will take your call and page the on-call personnel to respond to you directly.

NEW AND IMPROVED PAYMENT SERVICE



Customers who pay on-line through the District’s website can now setup and login to their own account on *UniPay Gold*. The new features will allow customers the ability to manage and save bank account and credit card information, set up payment reminders, schedule payments and access their payment history. Simply select **Pay On-Line** from the Dennis Water District home screen and set up an account at *UniPay Gold*.

Mark Your Calendar

**Tuesday, April 26, 7:00 PM
ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING
Dennis Senior Center**

**Tuesday, May 10, 7:00 AM—8:00 PM
ANNUAL TOWN & DISTRICT ELECTIONS**

**Saturday, June 4, 9:00 AM—1:PM
HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE
COLLECTION DAY
Tony Kent Arena**

The Board of Water Commissioners generally meet the fourth Thursday of each month and are usually cablecast live. More information regarding meetings is available through the District’s website. Videos of recorded meetings are available through our website or the Town of Dennis website at www.town.dennis.ma.us.

Wind Power Feasibility Update

This past fall, as part of the approval process for siting one or more large-scale wind turbines on District property, an application was filed with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). In December, the District received a response that the proposed turbine would be considered a “presumed hazard” due to the flight paths for Chatham Airport.

Following this announcement, several citizens with pilot experience, prodded the District to make further inquiries into the FAA determination. In January, the FAA advised that, with a detailed survey plan noting the specific location and elevation above sea level, a wind turbine of the size originally requested would be allowed. It is anticipated that the survey will be completed within a couple of weeks and final authorization will be granted by FAA shortly thereafter.

The Board of Water Commissioners are moving forward with obtaining all the financial projections, permitting requirements and public outreach that will enable them to seek funding for design and construction at a District Meeting at the earliest opportunity.

As required by the Open Meeting Law, discussions related to the development of wind power for the District are listed in the public meeting notice and is available no less than 48 hours prior to the meeting. Items anticipated for discussion at the Water Commissioners meetings are posted on the Town of Dennis website as well as on the Dennis Water District website.