

# Dennis Water District

Board of Water Commissioners

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Paul F. Prue, *Chair*  
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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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### *The Watershed Belongs to All of Us*

Most people understand and appreciate that property owned by the Dennis Water District is for drinking water supply and protection. It is commonly referred to as the watershed. The land actually belongs to all of us collectively as rate payers of the District while the District serves as manager and custodian of the lands.

Unfortunately, some folks that are adjacent to the watershed mistakenly or intentionally encroach. Encroachments come in many forms, shapes and sizes. A pile of dirt, lawn clippings and tree trimmings can seem relatively harmless. Other instances are much more egregious such as the construction of sheds, fences or the disposal of unwanted appliances and vehicles. There have even been cases of extensive removal of trees and natural vegetation in order to expand a backyard or other purposes. In all instances, even if it seems harmless, encroachments are illegal.

*Do you know where your property line is?*



*Ancient ways crisscross through District watershed.*

Over time folks can forget where the exact location of their property boundaries lie. Before you clear overgrown vegetation or build that shed, be certain of your property line. It doesn't necessarily require you to spend a lot of money. A plot plan of our property can generally be found at Town Hall. This can be helpful and a good start but of course, if you have doubt, you may want to hire a professional land surveyor to be certain.

*What are the consequences of encroachment?* The unauthorized use or misuse of public lands is illegal and enforceable under Massachusetts General Laws. Abutters to District lands generally enjoy relatively pristine tracts of some of Cape Cod's remaining wooded landscapes. In return, it is hoped that these neighbors will continue to be good stewards of our watershed by respecting the property lines and reporting unauthorized uses on the public's land. If you are aware of a possible encroachment, please contact David Larkowski, Superintendent at 508-398-3351 or [dlarkowski@denniswater.org](mailto:dlarkowski@denniswater.org).

### *Set Aside Now Drop off in June*

#### HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTIONS

**Mark Your Calendar  
Save these Saturdays!  
June 7 & September 13  
9:00—1:00**



**UPDATE: NO ACRYLIC OR LATEX PAINTS**

The collection and proper disposal of unused Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) products that can be harmful to human health and the environment is a worthwhile program that has been undertaken by the Dennis Water District and the Town of Dennis for many years. Of all HHW, paint is the single most voluminous and expensive material that is collected by municipalities. However, latex and acrylic paints along with water based stains and wood finishes can be left to dry in the container or more substantial amounts can be poured onto cat litter or other soluble material and then tossed in with the regular trash. Metal cans with dried out paint can be tossed in the household metals bin at the transfer station. Latex paints and other water based products will not be accepted during HHW Collection Days.

#### **FOR THE FUTURE: NEW REGULATIONS?**

Architectural paints refer to those paints and wood stains used on the interior and exterior of residential and commercial properties. Leftover architectural paint is a concern across the country because of its high volume in the waste stream and associated costs of collection and management. There exists a significant potential for reduction, recovery, reuse and recycling as well. Like many other HHW products, the disposal of unused paint is a financial burden most municipalities have had to assume because of a lack of alternatives and a mandate to keep the product from being improperly disposed. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) laws require manufacturers or distributors to take back from consumers empty or unused portions of a particular product sold. The passage of an EPR law for paints had been tried for many years with

*Continued on reverse—See "HHW"*

# WATER USAGE

Was this February's water bill more than you had thought it would be? A lot more?

## READ YOUR WATER METER MONTHLY!

Water meters are read and usage billed twice per year. Reading your meter monthly and knowing exactly how much water is being used is the best way to ensure that your next bill won't be a surprise. Undetected leaks can add up fast. The most common are running toilets. Toilets can begin leaking long before you hear it or you have to "jiggle the handle" to get it to stop. Drop some food coloring in the tank and if the color shows up in the bowl, you've got a leak. If you have a lawn sprinkler, taking weekly readings is the best way to know how much you are putting on the grass and how much it will cost when the bill comes in February.

## PROJECT UPDATES

### TRANSMISSION MAIN

In 2012, the District undertook a project to improve the water distribution to the Dennisport area. Water is delivered to Dennisport primarily by three water mains that are hung beneath three bridges; Lower County Road, Upper County Road and Route 28. The installation of a new underground 12" transmission main is being accomplished in three phases. The first phase was the installation of nearly one mile of main on Depot Street. The second phase was the installation of approximately 4,200 feet of main from the vicinity of Eagle Pond Rehabilitation to Great Western Road. Phase III will be the installation of approximately 1,400 feet from Great Western Road to Center Street. Not only will this additional main provide water to Dennisport due to the loss of the road bridges but, it will help improve water flow to the area. The estimated cost of the project is \$725,000

### WELLS 5 & 22 JOIN TREATMENT PLANTS

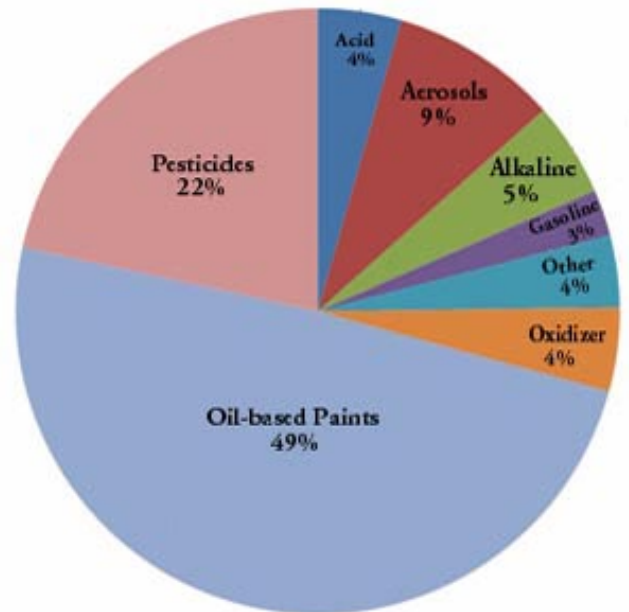
At the April 2013 Annual District Meeting, \$500,000 was appropriated to begin a project that would divert two existing wells to receive treatment for iron and manganese removal. The treatment vessels have recently been delivered and District personnel will be performing most of the installation work, including the new mains that will redirect water from Well 5 to the south treatment plant and Well 22 to the north treatment plant. Project completion is anticipated by the end of the year. \$100,000 was appropriated in 2012 for engineering and permitting of the project, \$500,000 was appropriated in 2013 and an additional \$250,000 will be requested at the 2014 meeting.

### "HHW" - Continued

little success but, that changed dramatically in 2010 when the paint industry decided to support EPR legislation in Oregon. Since then, seven states have adopted paint EPR laws including, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Maine. Legislation is currently being introduced in New Hampshire and it is likely that such legislation will be introduced in Massachusetts this year.

What will this mean for paint consumers? If a paint EPR bill were to pass, a small fee would be added at the point of sale and those fees would pay for the collection and disposal of all architectural paint in the state. Retailers would be allowed to setup permanent paint collection sites in their stores for free disposal for the public. In addition, all architectural paint collected by municipalities would be free to dispose. The possibility of being able to simply drop off unused paint and empty containers where it was purchased or at a local permanent collection site would be of great convenience for consumers as well as ensure continued and perhaps even enhance HHW collection opportunities by municipalities. For more information visit <http://www.paintcare.org/> to see how paint EPR is working in other states.

The pie chart below shows how much of each type of HHW materials typically collected annually when taking into consideration the June collection by the District and the September collection by the Town.



## 2014 DISTRICT REMINDERS

**Annual District Meeting—Tuesday, April 22**  
**Town & District Elections, Tuesday, May 13**