

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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Drought Advisory Status—*Normal*

At the January 2015 Board of Water Commissioners meeting, it was unanimously voted to re-set the status from *Advisory* to *Normal*. During the summer of 2014, customers were asked to voluntarily use an odd/even day outdoor watering schedule. The District's drought management response plan requires monitoring of ground water levels and precipitation. When levels did not quite recover to their normal spring time conditions, the Board took action by changing the drought status to *Advisory*. Currently, levels are ahead of the normal winter/spring recovery cycle. So long as average rainfall is observed throughout the spring, conditions should remain normal for the summer season.

Seasonal Removals Meter Tampering

All customers are reminded that water meters are the property of the District and are not to be removed for any reason by any person. The District Rules and Regulation 200.5 state:

"No one other than authorized District personnel are permitted to remove the water meter. No part of the water meter shall be tampered with no nuts loosened, etc. Meter Tampering is subject to a fine of triple the amount of damages sustained thereby or \$1,000, whichever is greater or by imprisonment for not more than one year, or both – per MGL Ch. 165, Sec. 11".

Property owners are advised to be mindful that they will be held responsible for the unauthorized removal or damage done by someone else such as a plumber, handyman or friend. Fines for disturbing or damaging a meter are assessed to the property owner. In many instances, owners claim that they were unaware that someone doing work had disturbed, disconnected or damaged the meter. In cases of winterizing homes you may disconnect the house side of the meter only. If you want the meter removed and the water service turned off, you must contact the District office and schedule a seasonal removal. The \$60 seasonal meter fee includes both the removal and reinstallation. Removal is at the discretion of the customer but, it is much less than the \$1,000 fine.

Spring Time Tradition Marks 20th Anniversary

HHW COLLECTION DAY

Saturday, June 6 from 9 am to 1 pm

This year's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day marks the District's twentieth year for the spring collection. While this drive through service is designed to give residents a quick drop off, it's popularity does lead to a long line and wait times.



What slows down the line the most is Latex and Acrylic paints and water based stains and wood products. PLEASE—do not bring Latex Paint and other water based products for collection

See HHWCD on back

WATER MANAGEMENT ACT PERMIT RENEWAL

All water suppliers like the District operate under a permit issued in accordance with the Water Management Act and under the close supervision and regulation of the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the MA Department of Environmental Protection. Cape water suppliers, including golf courses and agriculture activities, are currently undergoing the permit renewal process. The District currently operates under a permitted water withdrawal of 1.189 billion gallons a year with an actual average annual withdrawal of about 1 billion.

Why are we telling you about this? New draft permit withdrawal numbers are in and Dennis is expected to be reduced by 94,000,000 gallons annually to 1.095 billion. Reductions are happening to all Cape suppliers not just Dennis. While the renewal process continues with discussions on permit conditions, water consumers in Dennis along with those across the Cape may see water use restrictions become more common in the future.

See WMA Permit on Back...

HHWCD Continued...

at the Tony Kent Arena. It can take an inordinate amount of time to sort out the latex products so again, a reminder to our customers that **NO LATEX OR WATER BASED PRODUCTS** will be accepted at the site.

“WHAT CAN I BRING?”—Pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, rodent poisons, “no pest” strips, flea collars, gasoline, brake and power steering fluids, radiator flush, white wall cleaner, bug and tar remover, furniture polish, metal polish, moth balls, drain cleaners, spot removers, solvents, cesspool cleaners, acids, oil based paints and stains, marine paints, auto paints, solvent based paint thinners and strippers, turpentine, mineral spirits, acetone, varnish, shellac, photo and pool chemicals, chemistry sets, thermostats, switches, thermometers containing mercury.

PLEASE DO NOT BRING—Used oil and oil filters, spent antifreeze, lead-acid and rechargeable batteries, empty propane gas cylinders, empty cans, television and computer monitors, latex paint. All of these items are accepted at the Transfer Station—check with the attendant at the gate for instructions.

STRICTLY FORBIDDEN—Medical or bio-hazardous materials, syringes, explosives, ammunition, fireworks or flares.

WHAT TO DO WITH LATEX, ACRYLIC PAINTS



AND WATER BASED PRODUCTS—It is simple, if the product is still a liquid just pour it over cat litter or a soluble material and let it dry. Then throw it in with the regular household trash.

WPA Permit Continued...

Dennis’ Drought Management Plan is a major tool in our efforts to be responsible with water consumption during dry periods. Customers who are well informed and willing to curb their non-essential use during drought advisory periods is a key element of our permit conditions. As the summer season approaches the District will continue to provide information and reminders of effective ways to curb our appetite for water.

DISTRICT 2015 DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday, April 28—Annual District Meeting
Tuesday, May 12—Town and District Elections

SOLAR FARM IS ON THE GRID

On September 30, 2014, the official ribbon cutting ceremony and dedication of the largest solar development in New England was held in South Dennis on the site of the solar panel field (adjacent to the Transfer Station). Ironically, the day was overcast with sporadic misty-rain when local, state and corporate officials gathered to acknowledge the cooperative effort which brought together this public-private project. The solar field consists of 23,000 photovoltaic panels and is estimated to produce six megawatts of electricity annually.

The power generated is allocated as follows: three megawatts to the Town, two megawatts to Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District (DYRS) and one megawatt to the District. The Town will receive the net metering credits from NStar in cash payments and then distribute the appropriate shares to the District and DYRS. At the time the District entered into the agreement with the Town the estimated revenue for the District was more than \$120,000. Since the start date for actually generating power into the *grid* had been tentative, the revenue anticipated was not included in the FY 2015 Budget. The Board will consider the amount to be included in its revenue estimates for the FY 2016

MAKE METER READING A HABIT

Reading your water meter is like reading a car odometer. You read the numbers left to right. Just like a car odometer displaying the total miles driven the water meter displays the total gallons that have passed through since it was installed. Most meters have six dials with a fixed zero at the end. The reading in the picture is 296,220 gallons. The sweep hand shows single gallons. One complete sweep equals 10 gallons. On a water bill this reading would be “296”.

Since the District reads meters just twice a year, we can’t stress enough how important it is to read your water



meter regularly (at least monthly). Understanding your water usage and finding and repairing leaks on a timely basis will contribute to the overall management of our resources and SAVE YOU MONEY! Don’t be surprised by a high water bill. Pick a day of the month (like your birthday) and start keeping track. Customers with lawn irrigation systems are especially urged to monitor their readings during the summer.