

# Dennis Water District

Board of Water Commissioners

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Paul F. Prue, *Chair*  
Charles F. Crowell, *Vice Chair*  
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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### HELP WITH HYDRANTS

The winter months bring a special concern to the District and Dennis Fire Department as storms can often hide fire hydrants under a pile of snow making them impossible to find quickly. In the event of a fire, firefighters have to locate and shovel out fire hydrants before hooking up to them. Precious time is lost. Please don't let your neighborhood hydrant remain "undercover".

We are asking that you help us by keeping the fire hydrant closest to your residence or business clear of snow. There needs to be a 3 foot clearance on all sides. When shoveling snow be aware of vehicle traffic.

Do not stand in the street and be careful not to slip and fall out into the roadway. If you know of a hydrant that is buried and are unable to dig it out, please call the office and we will get to it as soon as possible.

What applies for snow clearance also applies to natural vegetation and intentionally placed ornamental plantings, fences and stone walls. Most hydrants are visible and unobstructed but, there are many that are hidden or



Vegetation too close impedes firefighter operation during an emergency

*"Hydrants" Continued on reverse.*

### High Summer Demand Equals Higher Water Bills

The demand for water in 2015 was a record for Cape & Islands suppliers. Here in Dennis, 1.169 billion gallons was pumped from the wells. It was 163 million gallons over the average withdrawal. While the summer seemed long and dry, the actual rainfall was normal for the year. Groundwater levels never dropped below average and therefore the state of water conservation remained stable at "Normal Condition" in accordance with the District's Drought Management Plan.

As we wrap up the 2015 numbers one thing is clear, customers used more water during the July through December billing cycle and the February 2016 water bills will be more than usual. Remember, water rates have remained the same since July 2009. Customers experiencing significant increases in their bill will be the result of increased water usage.

There is no better way to predict your water bills than to monitor your meter readings throughout the year. You are particularly urged to read and record readings if you have a lawn irrigation system. Cape Cod is essentially a sand bar and excess water from broken irrigation

*"Water Bills Continued on reverse.*

### Update on Water Management Act Permit Renewal

For the past year, we have been reporting on the progress of the renewal of our water management permit. Early on in the permitting review process, state officials were advising that the basis for the permit limit would be primarily based on a five year-average. By the very definition of average, the District would fail to keep within its limit 50% of the time, essentially setting the District up for failure during years with higher than normal demand.


DEP has not designated the Cape's water supply as being stressed in any way and have failed to substantiate its decision with scientific evidence. The Commissioners and Superintendent have opposed the imposition of a limit less than what is presently allowed. In association with Barnstable County Water Utilities, the District, along with nearly every other Cape water supplier, has received a one-year extension of the permit review. We will continue to report on the process and progress as it unfolds.

### *"Water Bills Continued..."*

systems easily dissipate into the ground undetected. If you have an irrigation system we strongly urge you to take the reading before it runs and then one immediately after it completes all zones. If it starts early in the morning, take the reading before going to bed. The difference will tell you how much water is being put on the lawn and gardens. Multiply this by the number of times it runs per day and/or per week and it should give you a good idea how much will be used just for irrigation. Taking the readings once a week will give you a heads up if there are any issues with the system.

According to District Rules and Regulations:

***All water consumers are responsible for the payment of water passing through the meter, whether lost or used at the applicable rate.***



**Does Your House Hold Hazardous Waste?**

**ANNUAL DENNIS WATER DISTRICT HHW COLLECTION DAY**  
**SATURDAY, JUNE 4**  
**9:00 AM to 1:00 PM**  
**Tony Kent Arena**

Nationally, each home is estimated to accumulate 20 lbs. or more of toxic products and waste annually. Let's do the math; about 13,000 homes in Dennis times 20 pounds each — that's 130 tons of hazardous products that need proper collection and disposal. On average, the two collections hosted in Dennis take in 20 tons leaving a 110-ton gap.

Let's see if we can close the gap by preparing early. Before spring arrives, find and put aside those left over and unused cleaners, chemicals, stale gasoline, mercury products, oil-based paints and stains, pesticides chemicals so on Collection Day you can just **Grab & Go**

**REMEMBER THE "DO'S AND DON'TS"**  
Don't bring Latex Based Paints and Latex Based Products. These can simply be dried out and thrown away in the trash. Do bring good unused paints to be recycled at the Transfer Station on the first Saturday of the summer months beginning in June.

If you can't make the spring collection, the Dennis Health Department will hold a second collection on September 10th.

*See you there!!!*

For a detailed list of items or any questions visit [www.capecodextension.org](http://www.capecodextension.org) or call: 508-375-6699.

## PROPOSAL TO REPLACE WEST DENNIS TANK WITH NEW

In the last newsletter we reported that the District was proceeding with an extensive rehabilitation and painting project of the Route 28 tank in West Dennis. Bid results for the work was between \$1.7 to \$2.1 million, far exceeding the \$1.2 million budgeted. The Board regrouped following those results and investigated the feasibility of replacing the 1955 water tank with new. The resulting evaluation recommended that the 500,000 gallon tank be replaced with a 1 million gallon tank at the same location.



Three styles of tank were explored and a composite tank was selected. A composite tank combines a concrete riser or pedestal with a steel water storage tank on top. Preliminary construction estimates, including the design-bid phase is \$4,035,000. If approved by voters at the Annual District Meeting on April 26, 2016, construction would begin in the fall of 2016 and would be completed in approximately 18 months.

### *"Hydrants" Continued...*

inoperable. The District would like homeowners and business owners to know that fire hydrants must be visible and accessible at all times. Of course it is illegal to park in front of a hydrant, and with good reason. It is equally important to keep hydrants visible and free from obstruction so they can be accessed in an emergency. Please consider this message and keep hydrants clear or call the District office to report any obstructed hydrant.



***Hydrant is barely visible behind bushes.***