

# Dennis Water District

Board of Water Commissioners

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Paul F. Prue, *Chairman*  
Peter L. McDowell, *Vice Chair*  
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*

Volume 24, No. 1

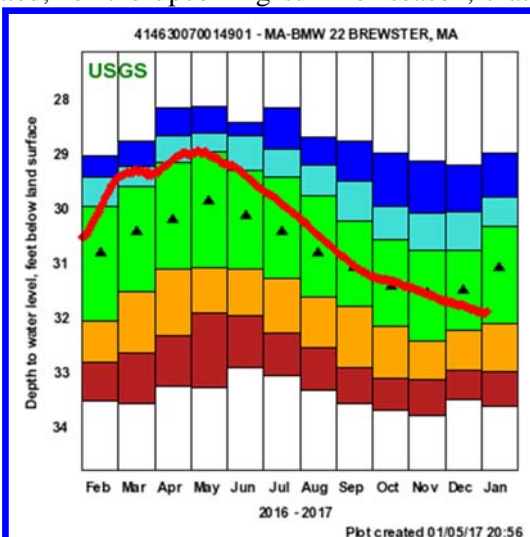
February 2017

### 2016 Water Demand and Drought Conditions

Last summer, the media extensively covered the drought affecting Massachusetts. The Cape was not affected anywhere near the degree that other regions of the state were. There were some water suppliers near the Cape Cod Canal that did have indication of declining ground water levels in the later part of the year. In Dennis, there was no indication that the ground water conditions should prompt a change in the Water Conservation Status in accordance with the District's Drought Management Plan. Dennis, and the immediate vicinity had experienced normal rainfall in the late fall/winter of 2015/16 leading into last summer. Late fall, winter and spring are the seasons in which the Cape's aquifer is replenished. As the summer of 2016 began, the monitoring wells were above normal levels.

The District constantly monitors ground water levels throughout the year and carefully predicts levels during those months of high-demand. Currently, the levels are lagging behind the normal recovery generally observed this time of year. It is estimated, for the upcoming summer season, that there may be a need to move the Water Conservation Status from "Normal" to an "Advisory Level". The Advisory Level asks customers to adhere to a voluntary odd/even outdoor watering schedule. If the situation does not improve, there may be a need to advance the Status to a "Watch Level". The Watch Level would require mandatory odd/even days for outdoor watering.

Officials ask that you monitor local media outlets and the District's website for announcements pertaining to a change in the District's Water Conservation Status that would impose outdoor watering restrictions and ask for your cooperation.



*Chart indicating a year's worth of ground water levels in the USGS Well (Brewster). Monitoring the levels is used to predict sustainability of the water supply during the high demands of summer.*

### ALAN TUTTLE WINS SEAT ON WATER COMMISSION

On December 6, 2016, in a Special District Election, Alan Tuttle was elected Water Commissioner. Alan has served as a community volunteer and elected official for many years. He served on the Dennis Board of Selectmen from 2009 to 2016, Golf Advisory Committee 2006 to 2009. Alan held elected offices in Millbury for 23 years. He resigned from the Millbury Board of Selectmen to move to Dennis in 1999.



He has been married to his wife Barbara (Egan) for 54 years. They have four children and nine grandchildren.

Alan is an Army veteran, attended Worcester State College and has been involved in the insurance business for his entire adult life. He enjoys walking and hiking, beaches and playing golf at the Dennis Pines and Highlands courses.

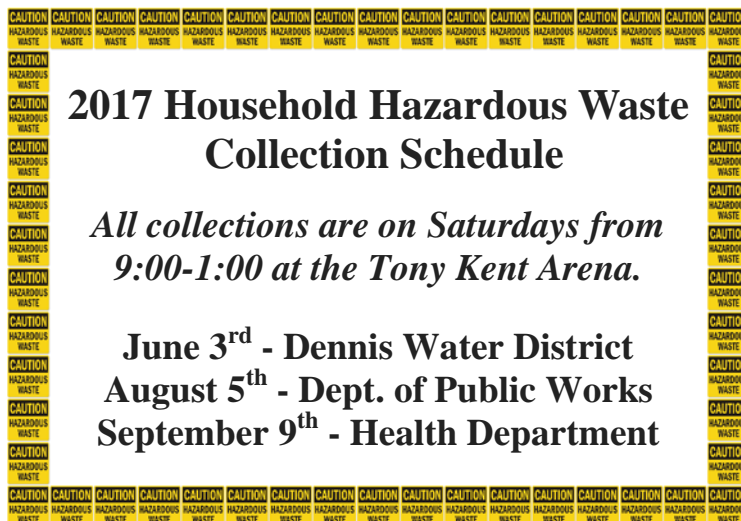
Alan was elected to fill the unexpired term of Charles F. Crowell who served as Water Commissioner from 1988 until his passing in June 2016.

**CONGRATULATIONS ALAN AND WELCOME TO  
THE DENNIS WATER DISTRICT**

### 2017 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Schedule

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

**June 3<sup>rd</sup> - Dennis Water District  
August 5<sup>th</sup> - Dept. of Public Works  
September 9<sup>th</sup> - Health Department**



## SUMMER OF 2016

For two consecutive years, customers of the Dennis Water District have consumed more than 1 billion gallons of water. The District operates under a water withdrawal permit issued by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. That limit is 1,189,000,000 gallons per year. This limit includes all water pumped into the distribution system whether it is used by metered customers, flushing water mains or fighting fires. The 2016 total pumped was 1,179,842,500. That is just 9,157,500 gallons short of the maximum.

With frigid temperatures and snow on the ground, it is difficult to remember how dry last summer was and how thirsty the appetite was for watering lawns and gardens. An analysis of 959 accounts that have irrigation systems indicates that the total amount used during the off-season was 56 million gallons. However, during the summer, these accounts used more than 177 million gallons. That's an increase of 210% over the winter season.

Irrigation systems are a significant cause of our dramatic increase in water usage. While the Town does receive thousands of tourists during the season, we have another tell-tale sign that the demand is in large part due to lawn sprinklers. The District has a sophisticated computer system for monitoring water levels in the tanks. It records and turns on and off wells as demand requires. As soon as lawn sprinklers turn on the first dramatic drop in tank levels occurs. It begins at about 4:00 AM, then again at 5:00 AM and then again at 6:00 AM. Wells automatically turn on and run continuously to meet this demand. Full recovery of the tank levels can take hours and may not be reached until late morning.

In an effort to help mitigate this impact, please consider deferring your watering until a little later in the morning or into the early evening. If you have a company take care of your system, talk with the representative to see if there is an opportunity to lower your usage. It will not only save thousands of gallons of water but, save you money as well.

## BY THE NUMBERS

Of the nearly 1.18 billion gallons of water pumped into the system in 2016, District customers were billed for approximately 1.05 billion gallons. That is about 90% of the water pumped being recorded by nearly 14,000 water meters at residential and commercial properties.

Consider this, if every account used just 5% less in 2017, the amount of water billed town-wide would be less than 1 billion gallons. It would also mean that you would save 5% on your water usage charges.

**SAVING WATER = SAVING MONEY**

## UPDATE: West Dennis Water Tank

This past October, construction bids were opened for a new one-million-gallon water tank. The new tank will replace the existing elevated tower that is still in use. The tank is located behind the Fire Station on Route 28 in West Dennis. The low bid of \$3,337,000 was awarded to Caldwell Tanks, Inc. of Kentucky. Construction will start in just a couple of months and will take approximately 18 months with the new tank being in service in the Spring of 2018.

The project was approved by District voters at the Annual Meeting held in April of 2016. Funding was accomplished by transferring \$2 million from available funds and an authorization to borrow an additional \$2 million. With the construction spanning 18 months, there may be an opportunity to transfer available funds to the project and thereby significantly reduce or eliminate the need for borrowing.

### FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Customers of the Dennis Water District are financially responsible for the repair and/or replacement of their water service line from the connection at the street main to the meter, even when the main is on the opposite side of the street. Unfortunately, most customers are unaware of this policy until they are in need of service. If you have any questions regarding your responsibility for the payment of repairs, please contact our office.

## PREVENTING BACKFLOW IS A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

Protection against “backflow” or “backsiphonage” is a shared responsibility between the public water supplier and the customer. In a continuing series on this topic, here are other common situations that are sometimes overlooked when it comes to backflow prevention.

In order to protect the public from contaminated water, where water is connected to a heating system boiler as a make-up water supply, it must be protected by a dual check valve with integral vent (standard no. ASSE 1012). This device is considered “non-testable” and should be replaced every five years. If chemicals are added to the heating water system (this is not common), an ASSE 1013 must be installed and tested annually. It also requires special provisions for drainage.

If you have a boiler or hot water heating system you should check to make sure this device is installed. Occasionally, the District discovers that these devices have not been installed or that it was removed and never replaced. If you're unsure, just ask your maintenance company to check during their next visit or call our office for further advise.

