

Dennis Water District

Board of Water Commissioners

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Main-Line News

www.denniswater.org

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WEST DENNIS WATER TANK ON SCHEDULE AND ON BUDGET

On November 14th the long awaited jacking of the steel water tank onto the 130 foot-high concrete pedestal was achieved. During the rest of that same week work continued on securing steel tank and making the final concrete pour. This was capped off with the lifting and setting of



the roof section of the tank. As of this printing, the new million-gallon elevated water tank in West Dennis is structurally complete. With weather hampering further progress on the internal components and final painting, work will resume and be completed this spring. We are pleased to report the project is on-time

and on-budget as of this publication.

The estimated construction cost of \$4 million was originally financed with a \$2 million transfer from available funds and a \$2 million borrowing authorization. Over the design and construction phases, District voters supported an additional transfer of \$1 million from surplus funds. This has enabled the District to pay cash for the construction of the tank so far. It is anticipated that an additional transfer of \$500,000 - \$600,000 from available funds will complete the project without having to borrow. The Water Commissioners and District Finance Committee will review and make their recommendations at the Annual District Meeting to be held Tuesday, April 24, 2018 at 7:00 PM (location to be determined).

DO YOU HAVE A CHANGE OF ADDRESS?

Please let us know if you change your mailing address as soon as possible. We are also trying to update contact phone numbers as well. Write it on your water bill remittance, call or email us at customerservice@denniswater.org. Thank You!!!

OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITY

The Dennis Water District is somewhat unique on Cape Cod and in Massachusetts for several reasons. One, is a regulation adopted by the Board of Water Commissioners in 1972. Section 1: Water Services of the Rules and Regulations states:

Owner's Responsibility: The property owner is financially responsible for all repairs made to the water service line from the connection on the street water main up to the water meter.

The responsibility for repairs varies greatly among water suppliers. Some cover the costs from the water main all the way to the meter, others from the main to the curbstop (the valve that shuts the water off between main and the house). Here in Dennis, the property owner is billed for the repairs or replacement of their entire water service.

Second, in Dennis, none of the property tax collected by the Town goes to supporting any operations of the Dennis Water District. The operations, maintenance and capital investment of the District is solely provided by the water revenues collected from customers, lease payments from cellular providers on the water tanks and net metering credits received from the solar arrays at the Dennis Transfer Station.

It was the then Board of Water Commissioner's concept that every customer should pay for their own water service installation and any needed repairs. It was felt that an owner that had a short water service line shouldn't have to pay for an owner with a very long one. In other words, there are no taxes raised to pay for individual water service lines. Every property owner pays for the installation and maintenance of their own water service line. Please visit our website at www.denniswater.org for a complete copy of the District's Rules and Regulations.

2018 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Schedule

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

June 2nd - Dennis Water District
August 4th - Dept. of Public Works
September 8th - Health Department

How Much Salt Do I get from Water?

A question we receive from time to time comes from customers that tell us they have just been put on a low sodium diet and they want to know how much Sodium is in our water? The American Heart Association recommends 2,300 milligrams (mgs) per day with an ideal limit of no more than 1,500 mgs per day. Yes, there is Sodium in Dennis' water. The District tests for Sodium



at its 22 public water supply sources with an average result in the distribution system of 30 milligrams per liter (mg/l). That means a person would have to drink 50 liters of water a day to reach the ideal limit of 1,500 mgs per day. It's a great question but, the amount of Sodium a person would ingest from drinking the recommended amount of eight 8-ounce glasses per day would be but a tiny fraction of the daily recommended limit. Exactly how much would it be? Let's do the math. Eight 8-oz glasses is 1/2 gallon or 1.85 liters. At 30 mg/l that would be 55 milligrams of Sodium.

DROUGHT CONDITIONS RETURN TO "NORMAL"

It might seem a bit early to start thinking about lawn irrigation systems but, leading into the 2018 watering season, ground water levels are normal and are expected to remain normal in 2018. Total rainfall for 2017 was 5" above normal as measured here in Dennis. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) ground water monitoring station, located in Nickerson State Park in Brewster, is the official site we monitor for determining the ground water status according to the District's Drought Management Plan. That USGS site is also above normal at this time and we continue to constantly monitor conditions and will change the status if necessary.

While a "Normal" drought condition means there are no restrictions for outdoor watering uses, please consider using best lawn irrigation practices and conservation methods this coming season. Water is a valuable natural resource. Managing your usage during the warm weather is not only good for the environment, it will save you money.

FIRE HYDRANT USE AND MISUSE

Did you know that using a hydrant without authorization is illegal? Water systems are compromised when water is illegally taken from fire hydrants. Illegal and unregulated connections increase the risk of contaminating our water supply. If you see anyone taking water from a hydrant (such as landscapers or pool water trucks) please call our office at 508-398-3351 or the Police Department. There are occasions when landscapers and others do have permission to use a hydrant but, it is better to be safe than sorry.



VERIZON TO ADD ANTENNAS IN WEST DENNIS

If you have Verizon cell phone service, you know their service on the south side of Route 28 can be frustrating. Finally, after signing a contract with Verizon Wireless for the installation of antennas on the newly constructed water tank in West Dennis, the company has temporarily installed equipment on the old tank and, it is up and working. The new lease is for twenty years with the first year's payment of \$51,504. The new terms include yearly increases of three percent.

This brings the total number of cellular leases to six and yields an annual rental income of approximately \$300,000. When the new water tank is completed in the spring, the three companies that are on the old tank: Verizon, AT&T and T-Mobile, will move their equipment over to the new tank. Special provisions like conduits, clips and railing were specifically designed for accommodating cell carriers on the new tank.



Backflow Prevention

The Dennis Water District makes every effort to ensure that the water delivered to your home and business is clean, safe and free of contamination. What happens after the water reaches your home or business? Is there still a need to protect the water from contamination caused by a cross-connection?

Without the proper protection, something as simple as a garden hose has the potential to contaminate the drinking water in your house. In fact, over half of the country's cross-connection incidents involve unprotected garden hoses. There are very simple steps that you can take to prevent such hazards. They are:

- ⇒ NEVER submerge a hose in soapy water buckets, pool, tubs, sinks, drains or chemicals.
- ⇒ NEVER attached a hose to a garden sprayer without the proper backflow preventer.
- ⇒ Install a hose bibb vacuum breaker on any threaded water fixture. The device is inexpensive and available at most hardware stores and home-improvement centers and is easily installed.
- ⇒ Identify and be aware of potential cross-connections in and around your home.



Never hesitate to call the District with questions or concerns you have about your water service and backflow prevention.