

# DEDHAM-WESTWOOD WATER DISTRICT

## REPORT OF THE DEDHAM-WESTWOOD WATER DISTRICT

2012

The Dedham-Westwood Board of Water Commissioners sets policy, prepares operating and capital budgets, and establishes rates along with rules and regulations for the Water District.

### Board of Water Commissioners

The Dedham and Westwood Boards of Selectmen each appoint three Commissioners to serve three year terms. The Westwood Commissioners are Robert E. McLaughlin, Jr., James J. Galvin, Vice Chair and Joseph S. Carter, Jr. The Dedham Commissioners are Steven M. Mammone, Kenneth C. Bragg and Robert N. Blume, Chair.

### Projects

\$1.4 Million dollars was invested in the Water System during the past year. Highlights include the installation of 1588 feet of water main, 10 fire hydrants, 79 water services and 979 water meters. Water mains were replaced in Dedham Square and on Clark, Charles and Eleanor Streets in Dedham and on several MADOT bridges. Several large meter vaults were replaced including the Dedham Mall and at Nobles and Greenough School. Several pieces of laboratory equipment were replaced. A new pump and motor were installed at Well #5. Variable frequency drives were replaced at Bridge Street Treatment Plant. The District received a \$12,000 grant from the

Commonwealth to purchase reagent free chemical analyzers and \$30,000 to conduct a leak survey and conservation rebates.

### Water Supply

The District continues to conduct its operations towards providing high quality safe drinking water, in compliance with all Drinking Water Regulations as well as actively pursue land use and regulatory measures



*FOX HILL WATER TANK*

which will serve to protect the water resources used to supply our drinking water. The District's partial membership in the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority allows for the annual purchase of up to 36.5 million gallons of water which is available as a supplement, as well as for an emergency, to the District's existing water supply. The District conducted monitoring for lead and copper in the drinking water in the summer of 2010. The testing proved to the satisfaction of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection that the water treatment has

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been optimized to prevent these harmful metals dissolving into the drinking water.

### **Security**

The District upgraded the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system which monitors the Districts treatment and other equipment sites electronically and provides operating data to District personnel 24 hours per day.

### **Rates**

There was an overall 2% rate increase in February, 2011. The so called residential minimum rate, unchanged at \$29.61 per quarter since 2000 was increased to \$35.62. A low income water rate was also implemented. A new conservation tier was added at 42 hundred cubic feet to further discourage outdoor watering.

### **Water Conservation**

District continues to partner with the Environmental Protection Agency Water Sense initiative to help consumers save water and reduce costs on their utility bills. The rebate program for toilets and low flow washing machines returned \$15950 to customers. Residents took advantage of these rebate programs and, in so doing, contributed significantly to water conservation. A new rebate has been introduced for high efficiency toilets, which came on the market, and commercial customers are allowed to participate.



*Beechnut Road Water Main Installation*

### **Rain Sensors and Rain Barrels**

Free Rain Sensors continue to be available at the District office to allow residents to comply with the District Rules and Regulations pertaining to irrigation sprinkler systems. 80 barrels were purchased with a subsidy from the District. Since the program began in 2003, over 820 barrels have been purchased.

### **Leak Detection**

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The District conducted an extensive leak survey in summer of 2012. Work continues on testing a new technology for leak detection with equipment consisting of acoustical logging devices which are dropped onto underground valves and which transmit leak noise data via a text messaging transmission to a computer system which can differentiate between water pipe leaks and other noises such as traffic or transformers.

### Resource Protection

With the support of the Dedham Conservation Commission, the District concluded participation in a study with the Massachusetts Highway Department (now MADOT) and the University of Massachusetts. The purpose of the study was to consider the District's request to have portions of the Route 128/Interstate 95 areas designated as low salt zones. The goal is to remediate water quality impacts to the District's wells that are attributed to MADOT winter road deicing practices. The MADOT has not acted on the District's petition for the low salt designation. They have introduced some new equipment and technologies, which they claim, will result in less salt usage.

### Future Goals

The District continues installing radio read water meters. Approximately 75% of customers now have them. These new radio meters continually monitor water flow data and can help identify customer leaks. Leak detection continues to be a priority for the District. Our existing water conservation programs that benefit

both residents and commercial interests will be expanded and new initiatives will be implemented in the future. The District will continue to communicate with the Towns of Westwood and Dedham on a regular basis, particularly regarding new development projects and their impact on our water resources. The Dedham-Westwood Water District is grateful to the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Building Department, Conservation Commission, Board of Health, the agents for the aforementioned Boards as well as the Fire and Police Departments, the DPW, the Assessor's and Treasurer-Collector's Offices, and especially the Town Administration and Board of Selectmen for their continued cooperation and support.



*Earth Day Thurston Middle School*