

# CHATHAM WATER NEWS

Published by the Chatham Water & Sewer Departments  
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Spring 2010

## Spring Flushing & Chlorination Program

The Water Department has once again started conducting its spring water distribution system flushing program. The program is aimed at cleaning the system of any sediment that may have accumulated over the winter and to bring fresh water to those areas that have low usage during the winter months.

The Water Department also started adding a small amount of chlorine to the water system as a precautionary measure to kill any bacteria, which may be stirred up as a result of the flushing program. Flushing began in the middle of March. Notices were published in the local newspapers prior to adding the chlorine to the water system and the start of flushing. Signs will be posted in the area being flushed.

You may experience some discoloration in the water for short periods of time. In most instances, letting your water run for a few minutes should clear the discoloration. Please check the water coming from your faucet before you begin to do a wash, shower, or other chores that require clear water. We also suggest that customers keep a gallon or two of water stored in the refrigerator for drinking or food preparation should off-taste or discoloration develop.

System wide flushing of the distribution system is an important aspect of our ongoing maintenance program. We understand you may experience some inconvenience and thank you for your cooperation and patience during this important task.

## Water and Sewer Facilities Open Houses

The Water Department will be hosting their annual open house on Saturday, May 8, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. through 2:00 p.m. in celebration of "National Drinking Water Week". This is your opportunity to stop by and see two of your well pumping stations first hand. Due to the pending construction of the

new wastewater treatment facility, this year's Sewer Department's open house has been suspended for the safety of the public. When the new Treatment Facility is completed the Sewer Department will resume its open house.

The water and wastewater systems are the largest capital investment that the residents of Chatham have made. The Water Department's open house will be held at the Training Field Well Pumping Stations #5 & #8, located at 125 Training Field Road.

## Wastewater Management Update

Chatham taxpayers will benefit from the federal grants and low-interest loans coming to the town to help expand the wastewater treatment facility. The package of financial aid, that the U.S. Department of Agriculture confirmed earlier this year, includes up to a \$18 million grant and \$21.6 million low-interest loan. Chatham is one of the first Cape towns to deal with nitrogen contamination in coastal waters from septic systems. Nitrogen fuels the growth of algae, which in turn kills off marine life by depleting the water of oxygen and shading out vital plants such as eelgrass. After numerous years of research and evaluation, it was determined that a central treatment facility was the most effective approach to removing nitrogen from the Town's sewage sheds that require over 75% removal. Listed below are typical nitrogen removals for the different types of wastewater treatment management systems:

<u>Technology</u>	<u>Typical % Removal</u>
• Title 5 septic system	23 %
• Individual nitrogen removal septic system	50 %
• Community/cluster system	75 %
• Upgraded Town's treatment facility	93 %
• Removing sewage from a sewage shed area and treating it at the central treatment and disposal area	100 %

Local contractor Robert B. Our Company was awarded the sewer collection construction work along Main Street and in the Barnhill Road area. Work is scheduled to begin in late winter/early spring of 2010.

## **Irrigation Systems Testing**

The Chatham Water Department will be testing backflow prevention devices installed on irrigation systems beginning in May of 2010. These devices prevent lawn fertilizers, chemicals, and other contaminants from entering the water supply system. A copy of the test results will be left at each tested location. It is not necessary for the property owner to be present during the testing of the device since most devices are located on the outside of the building. If you prefer to be present during the testing you must call the Water Department office at 508-945-5150 prior to May 30, 2010 to schedule an appointment.

### **Thank you**

We thank the numerous residents that assisted the Department's personnel by shoveling out the fire hydrants right after a snowstorm over this past winter. By making the fire hydrant accessible they help preserve their property and protect their loved ones.

### **Ideas for Using Water Efficiently:**

Efficient water use can have major environmental, public health, and economic benefits by helping to improve water quality, maintain aquatic ecosystems, and protect drinking water resources. By using water more efficiently and by purchasing more water efficient products, you can also help mitigate the effects of drought. Water efficiency measures can also save you money on your water and energy bills.

This list of measures is not meant to be comprehensive, but rather a starting point.

- Do not let the water run while shaving or brushing teeth.
- Take short showers instead of tub baths. Turn off the water while soaping or shampooing.
- If you must use a tub, close the drain before turning on the water and fill the tub only half full.
- Bathe small children together.
- Never use your toilet as a waste basket.

- Keep drinking water in the refrigerator instead of letting the faucet run until the water turns cool.
- Wash fruits and vegetables in a basin. Use a vegetable brush.
- Do not use water to defrost frozen foods. Thaw frozen foods in the refrigerator overnight or use a microwave oven.
- Scrape, rather than rinse, dishes before loading into the dishwasher and wash only full loads.
- Add food wastes to your compost pile instead of using the garbage disposal.
- Wash only full loads of laundry or use the appropriate water level or load size selection on the washing machine.

### **We've Moved**

During the week of November thirty through the fourth of December, the Chatham Water and Sewer Departments' offices moved into the Department of Public Works facility at 221 Crowell Road. The Departments' telephone numbers have remained the same and we still have a 24 hour answering service for response to your emergencies when you call 508-945-5150 even during after work hours.

### **South Chatham Wells' Chemical Feed Building Update**

Robert Our Company of Harwich was awarded the bid for the replacement of the South Chatham wells' chemical feed building. Weston & Sampson designed the new facility which will allow for greater control and monitoring of the water from these wells and provide additional generator power to the two wells which currently do not have a backup power supply. Work began on August 31, 2009 and should be completed by June, 2010. You may have experienced discolor water over the fall and winter month. The discolored water is caused by the shutdown of the South Chatham Wells for this project and the reversing of the water flows from other active wells through the water mains.

### **Visit Our Website**

The Chatham Water Department maintains a web site where you can read the latest information on your public water supply. You can access the website at [www.chatham-ma.gov](http://www.chatham-ma.gov) and click on the Depts. & Divisions button to get to the Water and Sewer Division web page. Here you will find valuable information on conservation and restrictions, permits and fees, rules and regulations and the latest Consumer Confidence Report.