

# The Water Connection

Spring 2006

The newsletter for Concord Water customers

## Where Your Water Dollar Goes

26¢

### SERVICES & SUPPLIES

Most of these funds cover paying for electricity to run pump stations, water treatment chemicals, and water quality testing.

### ADMINISTRATION

This revenue includes personnel, financial, engineering, billing and other work conducted by the Town to support Water Division programs.

13¢



25¢

### OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

This revenue includes the operating cost of maintaining the reservoirs, pump stations, and distribution system.

### CAPITAL INVESTMENT IN TREATMENT & DISTRIBUTION

These funds are used to finance improvements to and replacement of treatment facilities and the 121 miles of water mains in town that deliver drinking water and fire protection to homes and businesses.

36¢

## New! Discount for Senior Customers

Residential customers over the age of 65 may be eligible for a 30 percent discount on portions of their water bills. At its May 10 meeting, the Public Works Commission (PWC) voted to establish a senior discount rate for water customers.

Starting July 1, eligible seniors can receive a 30 percent discount on their billed water usage up to 24 units. Billed water usage in the 2nd and 3rd tier will not be discounted.

Residents automatically eligible for the discount are those who have a real estate tax deferral under Clause 41A or a real estate tax exemption under Clause 41C approved by the Concord Board of Assessors. You don't need fill out application forms – the Town House will directly notify the water billing personnel of your eligibility.

Residents who do not file for real estate tax deferrals or exemptions, but are eligible to receive a Senior Circuit Breaker tax credit on their Massachusetts State income taxes can also apply for the senior discount. Customers interested in receiving the discount need to file an application with the Town's finance department by June 15. ♪

## Town Meeting Approves \$3.4M Budget

The budget Town Meeting approved for CPW's Water Division totals \$3.4 million for fiscal year 2007. The Water Division is operated as an enterprise fund, which means it is dependent only on the revenues generated by water bills.

*Continued on next page*



## Concord Public Works Water and Sewer Division

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[www.concordnet.org/cpw](http://www.concordnet.org/cpw)

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## Garden Party Yields Water-Smart Results

One hot and sunny Saturday last June, a small group of volunteers spent a few hours getting down and dirty, planting a water-smart demonstration garden.

Cosponsored by Concord Public Works and Emerson Umbrella, the garden is located near the entrance of Emerson Umbrella at 40 Stow Street and promotes the beauty and low-maintenance qualities of native plants. The plants in the garden are native to the eastern US, and for the most part, native to New England. They are found growing naturally in sunny, dry sites and so are perfect for the home landscape with similar conditions.



**Volunteers work together to bury a soaker hose. From left, John McCarthy, Hasso Ewing, Emily Wheeler, and Scottie Hastings.**

The garden includes woody shrubs, such as low-bush blueberry and juniper, groundcovers such as barren strawberry, sedges and perennial flowers.

Once established, the plants require only rainwater and little or no maintenance. The garden will

showcase the fruits, flowers, and varied textures of native plants that also attract birds and butterflies. And because maintenance needs are low, there will be more time to enjoy a naturally beautiful garden.

The garden was designed by EWING Landscapes & Gardens and planted by volunteers. It was funded in part by a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. ♦

### **\$3.4M Budget** *from page 1*

While striving to keep rates reasonable, the Water Division is committed to provide high-quality drinking water to Concord's residents and businesses by continually improving and maintaining water treatment and distribution systems.

This year, the big news is that construction of the full-scale iron and manganese filtration plant at the Deaconess well site has begun this spring. This facility will house treatment equipment for both the Deaconess and the White Pond well

sites. When completed, it will provide immediate and direct improvement to drinking water quality for the entire community.

Other projects slated for this year include minor repairs to the dam structure at Nagog Pond, installing new and replacement water mains to ensure that aging and deteriorating mains are replaced in a methodical way, and continuation of the system-wide water meter replacement program. ♦

## Money-Saving Tips From Concord Water

### Stop flushing cash down the drain!



Concord Public Works is offering rebates of up to \$100 to residents who replace old, water-guzzling toilets with new low-flow models. Depending on the age of your toilet, you can cut the amount of water used by up to 75% and reduce your water and sewer bills.

Program instructions and forms are available at [www.concordnet.org/cpw](http://www.concordnet.org/cpw). You can also pick up information at our office at 135 Keyes Road.



## Three Easy Ways to Save Water

- ♦ **Keep drinking water in the fridge.** Don't let the faucet run until the water cools down. Instead, keep a container of drinking water in the refrigerator.
- ♦ **Water your lawn only when needed.** Step on the grass; if it springs back up when you move your foot, it doesn't need water.
- ♦ **If it doesn't grow, don't water it.** Make sure sprinklers apply water on your lawn or garden, not the driveway. Also, don't water when it's windy. Wind causes the water to evaporate quickly and blow onto areas where it's not needed.

## Concord Water in Top 5%

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has rated CPW's Water Division's performance in 2005 as "outstanding" and is within the top 5% of all public water supplies in the state.

In a letter to Water & Sewer Superintendent Alan Cathcart, DEP's

Drinking Water Program Director David Terry states, "The Department recognizes the effort and dedication that Concord Water has manifested over the past year to meet the ever-evolving federal and state requirements.

"[We] also recognize the fact that your system has conducted many non-

regulatory activities to help promote quality drinking water. Public water systems going above and beyond what is required to supply quality drinking water should be recognized for their endeavors," he adds. ♦