

MARBLEHEAD WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION



THE FLOW N' GO

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A DECADE OF SPRING AND SUMMER WATER TIPS IN REVIEW

This issue of *The Flow N' Go* wraps up the tenth year of publication for the Water and Sewer Commission's quarterly newsletter. The first issue, dated July, August, and September 2013, introduced our readers to a new water and sewer billing format, the announcement that the Commission had received a Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Public Water System Award, and a plea to our customers to eliminate non-degradable debris from the sewer system - a warning that we have had to repeat numerous times.

Over these years we have also offered dozens of tips and suggestions on how to conserve water, save money, and keep our water supply safe. These tips covered everything from protecting your water pipes from freezing during the winter months to the efficient (and safe) use of water in the spring and summer.

In this, the 40th edition of *The Flow N' Go*, we offer a review of some of the most popular spring and summer safety and water saving tips and suggestions from the past ten years. Watch for more tips in our next issue as the *Flow N' Go* enters its 11th year in July.

Your irrigation system is a hazardous connection to the water supply system

Federal, state, and local regulations and the Water and Sewer Commission's Cross Connection Plan require that all permanently-installed irrigation systems have, at a minimum, a testable pressure vacuum breaker device (a backflow preventer) installed to protect the Town's water supply. Failure of the homeowner to maintain a device in proper working order or failure to provide proof of inspection will result in the termination of water service. Any homeowner with an in-ground sprinkler system is subject to the provisions of these regulations.

Further information on backflow device testing requirements can be found on the water department's website at www.marblehead.org/water.

Paving your driveway? Don't cover your water gate box

Having your driveway or walkway repaved or bricks installed? Before your contractor starts the job, you need to locate your water gate box so that it doesn't get buried. The water gate box is where the water department can turn off the water supply to your residence in case of an emergency. (Contact the water department if you need assistance in finding the gate box.)

Should you have a break in a water line inside your house and the water gate box is covered, valuable time could be lost if the water department can't locate the gate box or, even worse, has to jackhammer a newly-paved driveway to access it. The amount of water damage inside your home that this delay could result in could be considerable - and costly to you.

Check your irrigation system for possible leaks before turning it on

Winter can cause a lot of damage to an underground irrigation system. Freezing temperatures and the weight of snow removal equipment running over irrigation lines can result in leaks that are not always noticeable - until the homeowner receives their water bill. When readying your irrigation system in spring, remember these four simple steps:

Inspect - Check your system for clogged or broken sprinkler heads.

Connect - Examine points where the sprinkler heads connect to the pipes for leaks.

Direct - Redirect sprinkler heads to water the grass and gardens, not the walkway or driveway.

Select - A watering schedule appropriate for the season and adjust the timer accordingly.

For more information on maintaining and operating your irrigation system, visit www.greenscapes.org and search for "Top 10 Ways to Make Your Irrigation System More Efficient."

When paying your bill by check...

When paying your water and sewer bill by check, use only black or blue ink when writing the check. The automatic check reader cannot recognize other ink colors.

Also, do not staple or paper clip the check to the remit form. Envelopes are opened by machine and staples and clips can damage the machine or tear the check.

Include remit form to assure the correct account is credited.

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MWRA TEMPORARILY SUSPENDS FLUORIDE TREATMENT IN WATER SUPPLY

The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), which supplies Marblehead with its drinking water, has commenced a project to replace portions of the fluoride feed piping and equipment at the Carroll Water Treatment Plant located in Marlborough. This will require a short-term suspension to the addition of fluoride in our drinking water.

The MWRA has been providing fluoridated water to its member communities for over 40 years. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (the CDC), one of the world's leading public health institutions, takes a strong position toward promoting fluoridation to reduce tooth decay and promote community public health.

The MWRA's approach to fluoridation is further supported by the views of several other public health and

medical organizations including the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the World Health Organization, the American Dental Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

"MWRA has been adding fluoride to the water since the 1970's to reduce tooth decay and promote community public health," said Fred Laskey, MWRA's executive director. "Like most other water suppliers, we follow the recommendations of the CDC, as well as the World Health Organization and the American Dental Association. These are the public Health experts and we look to them for guidance on this important issue."

The Marblehead Water and Sewer Commission wants to make its customers aware of this system upgrade and of the temporary suspension to the addition of

fluoride and to assure them that they do not need to take any special action at this time. Brushing teeth with fluoride toothpaste and observing other recommended dental hygiene practices will suffice during this brief shut-down period.

Questions and updates concerning this project should be directed to the MWRA's water quality phone line (617) 242-5323. Advice on proper oral health care can be found by visiting the American Dental Association website at www.mouthhealthy.org/oral-health-recommendations.

It is expected that the fluoridation system will be off-line for approximately three months.

(Material for this article was provided by the MWRA. Further information can be found at www.mwra.com.)

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN HONORED BY TOWN ON 90TH BIRTHDAY

Marblehead Water and Sewer Commission Chairman F. Carlton Siegel was honored by the Town of Marblehead on the occasion of his 90th birthday with a Proclamation from the Select Board declaring Thursday, March 16, 2023 as F. Carlton Siegel Day in Marblehead. The Proclamation was presented by Select Board Chair Moses Grader during a surprise birthday party sponsored by the Marblehead Rotary Club.



While not a true "Marbleheader" by birth (Siegel was born in Buffalo, New York - but we won't hold that against him), he has earned the title for his endless dedication and commitment to the Town since arriving here in 1960.

First elected to the Water and Sewer Commission in 1989, Siegel has served as its chairman since 2002. Utilizing his experience and background as a professional engineer for General Electric, he has provided incomparable leadership to the Commission over these many years and has steered it through several major construction projects.

Prior to being elected to the Water and Sewer Commission, he was a member of the Recreation and Parks Commission. He was also a staple at municipal elections and could be seen at Abbot Hall on election nights posting voting results on the tally board as they were received.

Known for his woodworking skills, his craft can be seen throughout town in the various hand-carved signs that adorn several town buildings, schools, and parks. He has also fabricated scoreboards, bleachers, goal posts and other fixtures at local parks and game fields and constructed the Marblehead Light Tower replicas that can be found at the Village School and at the Municipal Light Department office.

A Navy veteran, Siegel was an organizer of Marblehead Midget Football, a long-time coach and referee, and an official time-keeper for Marblehead High School football. Hundreds of Marblehead's youths have fond memories of Coach Siegel.

He is also a past recipient of the Frank Regan Community Service Award by the Marblehead Chamber of Commerce and is a Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow.

In addition to the F. Carlton Siegel Day Proclamation bestowed by the Town at his birthday celebration, Siegel was presented with two Avenues Of Service Awards by Rotary District Governor Alexander Falk, one for service to the Marblehead community and another for service to the Marblehead Rotary Club, and a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition from US Congressman Seth Moulton for his "outstanding and invaluable service to the community."

Carl Siegel has redefined the definition of what it is to be a true Marbleheader. Thank you for your enduring dedication.