



THE FLOW N' GO

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THE BEST TASTING WATER COMES FROM YOUR FAUCET, NOT A BOTTLE

“Bottled water is not any better for you than tap water.”

That’s the conclusion reached by a recent editorial appearing in the *Kennebec Journal* in Maine.

According to the editorial, the average person in the United States drinks around 35 gallons of bottled water each year. This is more than double the amount of bottled water that Americans consumed just 15 years ago.

It is expected that as soon as 2017, bottled water will displace soda as the number one packaged beverage bought by consumers.

(For this writer, bottled water will *never* replace the old-time favorite Moxie—which can also be attributed to the Great State of Maine.)

While the increase in the consumption of bottled water may be better for us than sugary drinks health-wise, it is not so good for the environment.

The editorial contends that, “(I)t takes energy to manufacture the billions of bottles that Americans consume each year, and energy to truck them to market,

adding to the greenhouse gasses that cause climate change. Many of the empties end up as litter and the ones that are thrown away properly fill landfills.”

It further suggests that the alternative is as close as your kitchen sink.

With municipal water systems in the United States being as heavily regulated as they are, the water delivered to your residence is as good as—if not better than—the bottled water you buy.

Marblehead’s water comes from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), which supplies water to over two million customers in 51 Massachusetts communities.

In 2014, MWRA’s water was chosen as the best tasting in the country at an annual conference of water specialists.

What bottled water can make that same claim?

And there is a reason that our water tastes so good.

It comes from the pristine waters of the Quabbin

and Wachusett Reservoirs in central Massachusetts and travels through a state-of-the-art treatment plant in Marlborough.

Hundreds of thousands (yes, you read that right!) of tests are conducted by the MWRA each year on its water supply. MWRA’s water—and Marblehead’s—met every state and federal drinking water standard.

In addition to the many tests run by the MWRA, local water departments—including Marblehead’s—submit weekly water samples taken from faucets of local residences and submits them to the MWRA for testing.

Can the same be said for bottled water?

So, all you need to do is to remember to fill and bring a refillable bottle with you and you will never have to contribute to the demise of the environment again.



TIP OF THE QUARTER

What if water cost the same as soda?

The article to the left notes that, by 2017, bottled water is expected to out-sell soda. It encourages consumers to drink water from their faucet, which cuts “bottle pollution” and is far less costly.

If water from your faucet cost the same as soda, your water bill would increase more than 10,000%.

A savings to your wallet and your health!

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ON-LINE PAYMENTS MAKES PAPER CHECKS A HISTORIC RELIC

Gone are the days when one would see a horse-and-buggy trotting down Washington Street.

No longer can a Marbleheader catch a train to Salem from the railroad station where the National Grand Bank now stands.

And the trolley that carried residents around town? Not even the remnants of the old track are visible, having been paved over to make the streets safer for that darned new-fangled invention called the automobile.

These, and so many other cherished memories, are now relics of Marblehead's past.

How many of you remember paying your water and sewer bills in person when the office was located at Abbot Hall? Or on Commercial Street, with the Marblehead Light Department? Or at the old Sewall School at the corner of Elm and Spring streets?

(The water and sewer departments moved around a lot before settling in at our current office site on Tower Way.)

While we still accept in-person payments—and, in fact, enjoy seeing old friends and neighbors—most residents now choose to pay their water and sewer bills by mailing a check.

But just like the horse-and-buggy, the train and the trolley, paper checks—and personal visits—are quickly joining the list of relics.

Now water and sewer customers can register on the Town's website to pay their bills on-line.

Simply go to the Home Page at www.marblehead.org and click "On-line Payment Water & Sewer Bills" as seen to the right.

Your water and sewer account number is used as your bill number.

Please keep in mind that payments are *not* automatic. You must go on line each

quarter to initiate the payment.

The on-line payment option is only available for thirty days from the date of your bill.

After thirty days, you will need to pull out the antiquated checkbook and mail or drop a check off at our office. (No check book? We also accept cash—but not credit cards—at least not yet!)



COMMISSION MOURNS LOSS OF LONG-TIME MEMBER

It is with deep regret that the Marblehead Water and Sewer Commission notes the passing of its longest-serving member. Wilbur E. Bassett died peacefully this past October at the age of 89.

First elected in 1972, Wilbur continued as a member of the Commission until the time of his death—a total of 43 years. He also served as a member of the Municipal Light Commission for many years.

Wilbur was well-qualified for service on these commissions with a degree in mechanical engineering from UMass and a Masters Degree in Business Administration from Northeastern University. He also served his country after joining the Navy during World War II.

The remaining members of the Commission, the office staff and employees of the water, sewer and drain departments—past and present—thank Wilbur for his tenure on the Water and Sewer Commission and for his dedication to the Town of Marblehead.

A joint meeting of the Commission and the Board of Selectmen in December voted to appoint John Stanchfield to fill Wilbur's seat until the May Election.

Kids' Corner

Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head ...

... And just like the guy whose feet are too big for his bed."

You may never have heard this song made famous in the 1969 movie *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* and even your parents may not remember it but you can probably ask your grandparents to sing it for you.

Did you know that the water in those raindrops that are falling on your head today is the *same* water that was falling to earth millions of years ago?

The earth has a limited amount of water. That water keeps going around and around and around in what is known as the "Water Cycle."

The water from oceans, lakes and rivers heats up from the sun and *evaporates* into a

vapor that goes into the air. When that vapor hits the cold air above it changes back into liquid and forms clouds. This is known as *condensation*.



When the clouds get too heavy to hold the liquid, it falls back to earth as *precipitation* in the form of rain or snow. This then *collects* in the oceans and lakes and the water cycle starts all over again.

So, as you can see, the water you drink today is the same water that the dinosaurs drank millions of years ago.

Now lets see what you have learned. Go to [www. Discoverwater.org/water-cycle/](http://www.Discoverwater.org/water-cycle/) to play an interactive game that tests your knowledge of the water cycle.