To Sandwich residents,

On January 18, 2017 a letter was sent to residents by the Sandwich Public Schools regarding results of independent lead and copper tests obtained through the Assistance Program for Lead in School Drinking Water through the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MaDEP).

The lead testing results in one of the three schools tested had “first draw” (the fixture is inactive for six hours or more) sampling results that exceeded the Safe Drinking Water Act Action Level of .015 MGL (milligrams per liter) for lead in two faucets. The two faucets were flushed, resampled and the results were then below the regulatory action level indicating the source of lead was from the faucet not the water. The faucets were subsequently removed from service and have since been replaced.

The Sandwich Water District is the purveyor of water to all the public schools in Sandwich. The source water supplied to the schools is lead free and meets the regulatory requirements of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MaDEP).

Plumbing fixtures manufactured before 2014 and solder used in plumbing before 1986 contain lead and its usage in those products has been banned as of those dates by Federal Regulations.

The Sandwich Water District is in compliance with the Federal “Lead Contamination Control Act” (LCCA) of 1988 and subsequent revisions. The District implemented and has maintained a treatment strategy since 1992 by raising the PH levels of the source water from 5.8 (acidic) to 7.4 (neutral) thereby minimizing the reaction of corrosion on the metals and the leachate of lead and copper into the water from plumbing fixtures and solder that may contain lead.

Please be aware that the longer a fixture remains inactive, the potential for lead to accumulate in that fixture or pipe increases. It is recommended that taps used for cooking or drinking be flushed for a brief period before use to remove any potential accumulation of lead.