

ABOUT THE PIPELINE

The Pipeline publications help the Department to explain to you about the work we do. If, after reading this publication, you have questions or suggestions for future feature articles that you believe other customers would be interested in, please let us know. By hearing from our customers regularly, we can complete our mission to serve you better.

UPDATES FROM THE CHAIRMAN

By Dale Alderi, Chairman, Water Pollution Control Authority

We are now in full implementation of our integration with the Mattabassett Regionalization Project, the Pump Station, has been sending our sewage discharge to Cromwell and our sewage plant decommissioning is nearly complete. Our staff is quickly getting up to speed with the sewage transfer pump station's operation.

As I have stated in previous letters the completion of the Regionalization Project brings the reality of paying for the portion that is not funded by the CT DEEP Clean Water Fund. We on the authority board, along with the staff, have worked extremely hard to minimize the burden on our rate payers. For now our rate's should stabilize. Our plans going forward do not call for large spikes in the rates, similar to what is being seen throughout other communities in the state of Connecticut. As they struggle to comply with the rising costs of transporting clean water to the citizens of this state. And the waste water treatment that goes along with that.

Our Water & Sewer Department has successfully made it's transition to Regionalization and cost sharing on the sewer side. And the water side is on it's way to providing the Town of Durham with clean water that they have desperately needed.



FALL PROJECTS IN THE WORKS

By Brian Robillard, Chief Engineer

Work on several significant projects for the Water and Sewer Department are underway:

Durham Meadows Waterline

Progress update for the EPA project to extend the City of Middletown water supply in Durham. Through September 2020, 98% of all water main has been installed. All curb stop connections to the water main are complete in Middletown and only four remain to be installed in Durham. All fire hydrants have also been

installed, however they will not be functional until the Water Tank is in service. The concrete structure for the Water Tank at the end of Talcott Ridge Drive has been completed. The access driveway to the Water Tank has also been completed. In 2021, the following activities are planned:

- Water Tank construction will be completed and the tank is expected to be brought into service by late summer 2021.
- A water meter and meter building will be installed at the City of Middletown/Town of Durham line.
- A Booster Station will be constructed on the CTDOT property at the intersection of Talcott Ridge Drive and Route 17.
- A pressure relief valve and vault will be installed on Route 17 in Durham.
- Upgrades to pumps and chlorination system for the City of Middletown Long Hill Pump Station will be completed by Summer of 2021.
- Full water service connections will be made for the properties designated for connection with the Durham Meadows Superfund Site.
- Final pavement restoration (mill and overlay) will be performed for Route 17 and Route 68 in the Spring or Summer of 2021
- Final pavement restoration on Talcott Ridge Drive and Watch Hill Drive as well as the access driveway to the Water Tank.

For more information about the Durham Water Line Extension Project please go the EPA Durham Meadows Superfund Site website at: www.epa.gov/superfund/durham

Columbus Avenue and Mazzotta Place Area

The project to improve the City utilities and roadways in the Columbus Avenue and Mazzotta Place area is well underway. Ludlow Construction has completed almost all of the replacement and rehabilitation of the water and sewer mains. The sewer mains and manholes in Berlin Street have been repaired or lined completely to bring them to nearly new condition. In early October, Ludlow started roadway reconstruction which involves removing the old roadway, building it back up and paving. It is anticipated that the roads will be paved by the end of October. The sidewalks and driveway



apron improvements will begin shortly thereafter. The contractor will likely return in the spring to complete any remaining work which may include placing topsoil, seeding and other site restoration, including tree plantings.

FOUNTAIN AVENUE AREA PROJECT

By Seth Lantz, Assistant Chief Engineer

The Water and Sewer Department along with the Department of Public Works is finishing up work to improve the Fountain Avenue area near Wesleyan University. Fountain Avenue, Pine Street, Warren Street, and sections of Cross and Church Street are included in the project.

The contractor, DeRita and Sons Construction Co., Inc., began work on the project in early March to replace water mains and replace and rehabilitate sewer mains.

Nearly, all of the water and sewer work has been completed including:

- 2,100 linear feet of water main replacement.
- 200 linear feet of sewer main replacement.
- 1,900 linear feet of sewer main lining.
- 600 linear feet of sewer lateral lining.
- 10 new manhole structures.

Additionally, sections of the roadways are being paved and improved under the Public Works portion of the project. All remaining work is scheduled to be completed by the summer of 2021.

WATER CONSERVATION ALERT

By James Sipperly, Environmental Resource Specialist

On your November 2020 Water and Sewer bill, you will notice a Water Conservation Alert statement under the water consumption graph.

The statement is “Water Conservation Alert! Please voluntarily conserve water! Fix any leaky plumbing. Avoid washing your car and watering your lawn during this early period of drought conditions. Thank you.”

In Middletown, in the beginning of October, the reservoirs dipped to 56% capacity prompting the water department to issue a water conservation advisory. In addition to the recommendations above, we ask that you run washing machines and dishwashers only with full loads, take shorter showers and shut the tap off while washing hands, shaving and brushing teeth.



Four Tips to Help Conserve Water Indoors

- Turn off faucet while brushing teeth.
- Take shorter showers.
- Fix leaks in faucets, showerheads and toilets.
- Only wash full loads.

If the capacity of the reservoirs reach a low of 50%, the water department may move to mandatory restrictions that will need to be enforced.



The scorching summer heat brought record low rainfall and much of the northern and eastern parts of Connecticut are in severe drought, prompting us to ask you to limit water use.

At Bradley International Airport, precipitation from June 1 to August 31 totaled 4.42 inches, the lowest level recorded in more than a century of data collection, according to state weather expert Gary Lessor. Hartford had 39 days of summer with a high of at least 90 degrees, the most ever.

DO YOU HAVE BILLING QUESTIONS?

By Patty Green, Account Clerk

DON'T WAIT!!

Please contact the Water Department within 30 days of the billing date if you have a question regarding your bill. After this 30-day grace period, *per state statute*, interest will



accumulate on unpaid balances and the account will be considered delinquent. If you wait to contact us with a billing question until after this grace period is over, *even if there is a correction to the account*, the applied interest will remain. Therefore, to avoid additional charges, contacting us early is always best!

ESTIMATED BILLS

By Mary Ann Cochefski, Account Clerk

At this time, due to the pandemic, we are still unable to schedule appointments to change out meters and resolve these issues. However, if you have outside access to your basement, our meter technician is able to change out your meter. Please call to set up an appointment. We are keeping track of those who have called and need meter updates. If you see the word ESTIMATE on your bill, it is important that you call our office. If you can call in a reading off the meter, we can adjust your bill. We normally estimate a little high so it would be to your advantage to call. Please contact the Billing Office at 860-638-3501.

Thank you.

WHAT'S NEW WITH THE CREW

Devin Darley was hired by the City in September 2003 as a Utility 4 Worker conducting routine maintenance and construction activities for the Water and Sewer Department. He then went on to become the Acting Superintendent for the Sewer Department. Recently, he was promoted to the Field Maintenance Manager for the Water and Sewer Department. Devin holds a Distribution 3 state license, is a Certified Back Flow Preventer Tester, Certified in Sewer Collections and is a member of the departments Hazmat Team. Devin also is a lifetime member of the Westfield Fire Department. Devin lives in Middletown with his three children, Danielle, Reann and Joseph.

Rickie Miano was hired by the City in October 2004 as a Park Maintainer 1 Worker in the Parks and Recreation Department. Rickie then transferred to the Water and Sewer Department as a Utility 3 Worker. Recently on July 27, 2020 Rickie was promoted to serve as the Assistant Field Maintenance Manager. Rickie was the Chief Pump Station Technician, has a Water Distribution license and a Back Flow Tester/Inspector license from the state of Connecticut. Rickie also has a State Sewer Collections Certification. Rickie is married, lives in Middletown and has 1 child, a boy, named "little Ricki" 2 ½ years old. Rickie graduated from Middletown High School and went on to enroll in various continuing education classes.

We wish them well in their respected new positions with the department.