



A community newsletter
for the customers of

Norwich Public Utilities

NPU supports renovations to East District Schoolhouse

Norwich Public Utilities (NPU) recently awarded the Norwich Historical Society with \$38,951 to support efforts to restore the East District Schoolhouse on Washington Street in Norwichtown.

The funding from NPU was made available through the State of Connecticut's Neighborhood Assistance Act, a tax credit program which allows organizations to make contributions to eligible non-profit agencies in lieu of paying a portion of their State tax bill, which for NPU totaled \$2.35 million in 2016. The Gross Revenue Tax is applied to sales of natural gas and electricity.

"NPU is proud to partner with the Norwich Historical Society on a project that will keep more of the rich history of The Rose City alive," said John Bilda, General Manager of NPU. "With the completion of this project, generations of students in Norwich will have the opportunity to learn in the same building as kids in Norwich from the 1800s."

Built in 1789, the East District Schoolhouse has suffered from decades of neglect. Over time, the Norwich Historical Society intends to

fully restore the building and recreate an authentic late 18th Century schoolhouse interior and exhibit space that will serve as an educational resource for students and the public.

"Historic buildings can deteriorate quickly when they are not occupied. Both the 1783 Dr. Daniel Lathrop School and the East District Schoolhouse are remarkable survivors that deserve to be restored and appreciated in the years to come. We appreciate NPU's ongoing commitment to historic preservation," said Bill Champagne, President of the Norwich Historical Society.

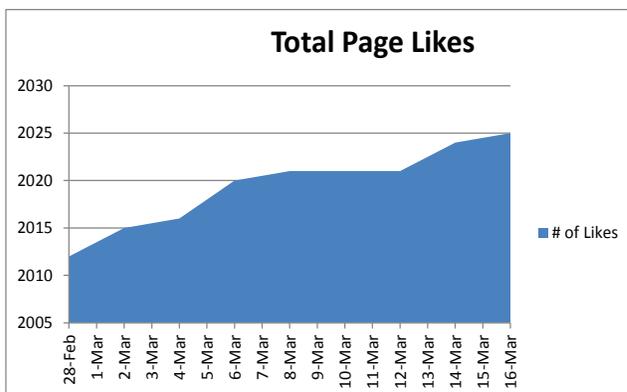
According to the Norwich Historical Society, when first constructed, the single-room schoolhouse taught boys and girls, a progressive approach for the times, in spelling, geography and math.



NPU's Fawn Walker presents a check to Norwich Historical Society members Regan Miner and Bill Champagne

Help us grow our Facebook presence

If you one of the thousands of people in Norwich on Facebook, have you liked NPU's page yet? If not, you are missing an opportunity to get updates on outages, helpful energy saving tips, and more. NPU has an active presence on both Facebook and Twitter, so you can follow us on the social media platform you prefer. Join us at www.facebook.com/NPUutilities or [@NPUutilities](http://www.twitter.com/NPUutilities).



Our Facebook page likes have been growing steadily. Are you following us?

Ten Tips...

To save energy when using household appliances.

1. **Buy Energy Star products.** Look for the blue Energy Star label on new appliances.
2. **Wash only full loads of dishes in your dishwasher.** Be sure you dishwasher is full but not overloaded when you run it.
3. **When running the dishwasher, let your dishes air dry.** If you don't have a automatic air dry switch, turn off the control knob after the final rinse and prop the door open.
4. **Don't keep your refrigerator or freezer too cold.** Recommended temperatures are 35^o-38^o F for refrigerators and 0^oF for freezers.
5. **Cover liquids and wrap foods stored in your refrigerator.** Uncovered foods release moisture and make the compressor work harder.
6. **Look for blue flames in natural gas appliances.** Yellow flames indicate the gas is burning inefficiently and an adjustment may be needed.
7. **Keep range-top burners and reflectors clean.** They will reflect the heat better and save you energy.
8. **Wash and dry full loads of laundry.** If you have to wash a smaller load, use the appropriate water-level setting.
9. **Clean the lint screen in the dryer.** Clean it after every load to improve air circulation and prevent fire hazards.
10. **Inspect your dryer vent to ensure it is not blocked.** This will save energy and may prevent a fire.



Look for the Energy Star label when purchasing new appliances.

A minute with the Mayor:

There is value for Norwich in a storm that missed the mark



Deb Hinchey
Mayor of Norwich

On Tuesday, March 14, like all of you, I was expecting that the Rose City would be pounded by a classic Nor'easter. According to the media, we should have expected high winds and up to 20 inches of snow.

In the end, the storm was less than half as treacherous as we expected, but because of the coordinated approach the City of Norwich puts into place for this type of situation, we were ready to respond to anything Mother Nature could have thrown at us.

Well before the storm was expected to hit, all of our City departments were talking to each other, sharing information and

making plans. Equipment, materials and personnel were organized, scheduled and put in place.

On 7:00 am on March 14, the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated at NPU's offices on South Golden Street. Having a centralized location for our city for receiving and sending out the latest information dramatically reduces the likelihood of any miscommunication during an emergency.

From the EOC, and with representatives from across the City, Norwich participated in a conference call with Governor Malloy during the early part of the storm which included the latest weather forecast and status reports from a number of state agencies.

Throughout any significant event, public safety and communication are the highest priorities for our city. NPU provided regular updates to the media before and during the storm and reached more than 5,000

people through social media.

Thankfully, NPU did not experience a single service related issue for natural gas, water, wastewater or electric services during the storm.

The major departments of our city – the City Manager's office, police, fire, public works, and public utilities – work so well together because of the trust and relationships they've built over many years and many storms.

And while the March Nor'easter did not measure up to its hype, it gave our team the opportunity to work with colleagues from other departments during what certainly had the potential to be a significant public safety situation.

These incidents – regardless of their severity – are a great opportunity for our employees to learn, which in the end, will benefit our city when the next storm comes along.

NPU offers a double rebate on central air

Norwich Public Utilities is doubling the rebate offered for central air systems. Between March 1st and October 1st, you can receive as much as \$600 per ton when you purchase and install a new energy efficient heat pump central air system.

Electric heat pumps can lower energy costs by an average of 30% compared to standard heating and cooling systems.

For more information, call Katie at 860-823-4514 or email katiemoors@npumail.com.

2017 Central Air Rebate Program

This tax season, save money and energy with your refund

March 1, 2017 – October 1, 2017
Norwich Public Utilities customers are eligible for doubled rebate levels on qualifying central air systems

Offered in 2016, three times as many customers participated in NPU's Cool Choice double rebate offer

Electric heat pumps can lower energy costs by an average of 30% compared to standard heating and cooling systems

up to \$600 per ton

DOUBLED REBATES ARE BACK!

FIND OUT MORE:
Call us at 860-823-4514 or email katiemoors@npumail.com

Have you checked out Norwich's regional calendar yet? Norwich Creates, a collaborative whose mission is to utilize the arts and cultural assets to provide positive economic impact for the City of Norwich, has established a regional calendar listing community events, municipal meetings and more. Visit <http://www.norwichctevents.com/calendar>



NPU employees and their families braved the bitter cold to participate in the 2017 St. Patrick's Day Parade held on March 5th.

Call Before You Dig

Spring is the time for home improvement projects, including getting your garden ready for planting. But before you place that shovel in the ground, please contact Call Before You Dig (CBYD) at 811.

Please dig responsibly. Unsafe or careless digging can result in personal injury and damage to underground utility lines, property and the environment. CBYD is a free service provided by NPU and other utilities that locates and marks underground utilities.

Anyone planning an outdoor project that requires digging with power equipment must notify CBYD - it's the law. If you are digging with hand tools, it is strongly recommended that you call CBYD.

Notifying CBYD is easy and it's free. Simply dial 811 at least 2 business days before you plan to start your job. For more information, visit www.cbyd.com.



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.
www.cbyd.com

HERE TO SERVE YOU

Visit our website for more information: norwichpublicutilities.com
Please call, fax or e-mail us your questions, comments and suggestions.
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