

NPU you!



A community newsletter
for the customers of

**Norwich
Public Utilities**

NPU emergency interconnection water project for Sprague underway

Norwich Public Utilities (NPU) hosted a groundbreaking ceremony in May to mark the start of construction of an emergency interconnection water line that will serve the Town of Sprague. The unique partnership provides NPU with additional state resources while allowing Sprague to avoid the cost of installing the water line on its own.

“We are very excited begin construction on a project that demonstrates the importance and value of regionalization and cooperation,” said Chris LaRose, Acting General Manager at NPU. “By working with the Town of Sprague, Senator Osten and the Department of Public Health, everyone benefits and our communities have greater access to safe and clean drinking water.”

The project has a budget of \$3.2 million and is funded through the Department of Health’s Clean Water State Revolving Fund (50% grant, 50% low-interest loan). When complete, the interconnection will have the ability to provide Sprague with up to 60,000 gallons of water a day in an emergency.

Under the agreement, NPU is installing a water main from the Norwich into Sprague to serve as an emergency interconnection to the town’s water system. In consideration for this investment, NPU receives a significantly higher reimbursement from the State of Connecticut’s Department of Public Health for a number of other water projects already underway.

By supporting the Sprague project, NPU is eligible for 30% grant funding to support a number of projects instead of the typical 8%; these projects include:

- \$7 million upgrade at the Stony Brook Water Treatment Plant
- \$2 million to upgrade the water filtration system at the Deep River Water Treatment Plant
- \$5.4 million to upgrade the transmission main from the Stony Brook Water Treatment Plant
- \$850,000 for a new mixing and aeration system at the Occum Water Tank.

NPU’s contractor on this project, Haluch Water Contracting of Ludlow MA will install 9,700 feet of ductile iron piping in a 5.5 foot deep trench along Baltic Road (Route 97) from the Occum area of Norwich into Sprague (in the vicinity of the town-owned softball field).

The project is scheduled to be completed by the end of August.



Haluch Water Contracting is installing the emergency interconnection water line on Route 97 to Sprague

Wrap your wires for safety

NPU offers a free service to help protect you from electrical danger when working on your home or business’s exterior. Before doing an structural painting or siding, call us at 860-887-2555 or email communitymatters@npumail.com



to have one of our linemen place a protective cover over the wires attached to the home or building. Please allow a minimum of two business days for this service. The cover will be removed in 30 days unless we receive a request for an extension.

NPU employees participated in the 2019 Uniting for United Competitive Food Drive, donating 330.9 pounds of food to the Gemma E. Moran United Way/Labor Food Center. NPU was one of 50 local business and agencies to participate.



Tammy McCarty and Sean Ryan load the donations; NPU filled two large bins.



10 tips to stay safe this summer:

Summer is a great time to enjoy the outdoors, stay active and have fun. Make sure you take steps to avoid illness or injury this summer:

1. Avoid heat exhaustion or heat stroke by staying hydrated, wear loose, lightweight clothing, and avoid spending time outdoors during the hottest part of the day (11 a.m. to 3 p.m.).
2. Use insect repellent with DEET to prevent contracting mosquito-borne illnesses.
3. Nearly 80% of playground injuries are caused by falls. Before letting your children play, look for any potential hazards and report any that you find. Limit playtime during peak sun exposure times if shade is limited.
4. Fireworks are a major cause of injuries and fires every year. Even sparklers can cause burns. Leave fireworks to the experts.
5. Water safety should be everyone’s priority, no matter the age. Never leave a child unattended near water, never swim alone and only swim in areas supervised by a lifeguard. Don’t dive in unless you are sure the water is deep and free from rocks.
6. At the beach, don’t underestimate the power of water, watch for strong currents and undertows.
7. Never drink alcohol when operating a boat, and always have enough life jackets for all passengers.
8. Always wear a helmet when riding a bike and make sure it fits properly. If riding a bike at night, wear reflective clothing and use flashing lights.
9. When riding a bike on the road, follow the same rules as motorists. Ride single-file in the same direction as traffic and use hand signals when turning at intersections.
10. When out walking, pay attention to your surroundings. Walk on sidewalks if possible; if not, walk facing traffic and use crosswalks. Avoid distracted walking (using a cell phone or wearing ear buds). Wear bright and/or reflective clothing and use a flashlight at night.

For more summer safety tips, visit the National Safety Council’s website at www.nsc.org.



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A minute with the Mayor:

Economic development momentum continues in Norwich



Mayor Peter Nystrom

Each week, representatives from Norwich Public Utilities (NPU), the Mayor's office, the Norwich Community Development Corporation (NCDC), the City's Planning and Neighborhood Services Department and the Fire Marshall meet to discuss economic development activities for dozens of projects and developments that require interaction and assistance from the City in one way or another.

Over the past four months, these meetings have revealed a clear picture of the momentum that is building in Norwich.

A number of small-and medium-sized businesses have opened across Norwich, attracted by our ever-vibrant Downtown and our sense of community. These businesses range from small restaurants

and retail outlets to a large, chemical engineering firm, Nalas Engineering, that purchased a 76,000 square foot building in the Business Park for nearly \$2 million.

So what is next? Taking advantage of what is already here.

The next generation of submarines that will be built by General Dynamics will require thousands of new employees, many who will want to live, eat, and visit the Rose City. On May 29th, the City of Norwich was a sponsor of the "Leading the Way" event in Groton, where we spent the day meeting vendors who supply Electric Boat, while promoting sites in Norwich for investment and residency. We will continue to reach out and demonstrate what a smart place Norwich is to bring a business or a family.

Norwich is already seeing a housing boom with the continued progress of three major developments. In Taftville, Ponemah Mill is in the midst of its second phase which includes an additional 120 units and more of the beautiful amenities

that have made it so popular already. The Hills at Riverview continues to expand, with another 10 units under construction in addition to the 120 on site already. And on the West Side, 120 market-rate apartments will be constructed by the Gebbie family, owners of Pledge Property Management, Inc.

Beyond these clear signs of progress, I have been involved in preliminary meetings on three large-scale proposals that could create additional economic development opportunities in different parts of our city. These proposals – each at various stages – represent another level of opportunity for our city and our future. While these discussions have been preliminary and private, I look forward to sharing the details with the public if and when it becomes appropriate.

Trying to move our great city forward is not easy – and not always fun. But if we continue to work together and believe in one another, the recent surge of momentum in our community will continue.

U.S. Navy recognizes NPU for support of active duty employee

At the May 2019 Board of Commissioners meeting, NPU Electric Operations Integrity Manager Eric McDermott present NPU with a commendation from the U.S. Navy in appreciation of the support given to him and his family during his recent year-long naval deployment.

In March 2018, McDermott was called from reserve to active duty by the United States Navy. Commander McDermott was deployed to the Republic of Djibouti, a country located in the Horn of Africa, bordered by Eritrea in the north, Ethiopia in the west and south, and Somalia in the southeast. He was responsible for Task Group 68-6, which included 150 personnel and seven patrol boats.

His deployment separated him from his wife Sarah and his children Tyler (7),

and twins Emma and Hanna (4) for a year and also require he take a long-term leave of absence from NPU to fulfill his military obligations.

During his military service, NPU paid the differential between his Navy and NPU salaries for the duration of his deployment. When his service was completed in March 2019, he returned to his job and resumed all of his responsibilities.

"My deployment was an exciting and challenging opportunity for me as a Naval officer but it came with a huge impact on my family life and required a significant sacrifice by my wife," said McDermott. "But knowing I would be fully supported by NPU in my absence made it much easier for me and my family while I was away."

The commendation included a flag that had been flown above McDermott's boat as it provided escort and defense of the

USNS Henry J. Kaiser, a fleet replenishment oiler.



"NPU has always been committed to our employees, our community

and the United States, so we were proud to support Eric in any way that we could during his deployment," said Chris LaRose, Acting General Manager of NPU. "While it is nice for NPU to be recognized by the Navy, our entire organization thanks Eric and his family for the sacrifices they have made for our country."

Help support Operation Fuel

Do you know that when you support Operation Fuel, your donation helps your neighbors, friends and possibly even your family members? You never know if anyone around you needs a little help now and then.

Donations to Operation Fuel are used by NPU to provide energy assistance grants to lower to moderate income households,

the elderly, and the disabled who are struggling to make ends meet.

Please consider adding a dollar (or more) to your next utility payment. If you mail in your payment, please check the appropriate box on the remit slip on the statement. If paying online there is now a link on the login screen allowing you to make a direct payment to Operation Fuel.



Every Dollar Makes a Difference

#addadollar



www.operationfuel.org

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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