

NPU you!



A community newsletter for the customers of

Norwich Public Utilities

NPU provides three local organizations with \$147,993 through Neighborhood Assistance Act

Norwich Public Utilities contributed \$147,993 to three local organizations through the State of Connecticut's Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA) program.

The NAA is a tax credit program administered by the Department of Revenue Services and is designed to provide funding for municipal and tax-exempt organizations through a tax credit for businesses that make cash contributions to organizations and projects approved by the State.

"The Neighborhood Assistance Act program is a very significant way for NPU to invest in our community with tax dollars that would otherwise go to Hartford," said Chris LaRose, General Manager of NPU. "By keeping these dollars here in Norwich, we are helping outstanding organizations do more of their work for the benefit of our community.

Through the NAA, the following organizations will receive funding from NPU in 2021:

- St. Vincent de Paul Place (\$92,772): The project will replace 16 original windows in the former St. Joseph School, a 96 year-old building, with new, energy efficient windows as well as a modern HVAC system. This will dramatically improve the air-flow, temperatures, and energy efficiency in the community meal center, which provides more than 90,000

meals a year to those in need.

- Norwich Historical Society (\$32,546): NPU funding will support two preservation projects in Norwichtown. \$7,890 will be used for a project to install an HVAC system at the East District School House, which was built in 1789. The new HVAC system will help with climate control in the building and aid in its preservation; \$24,656 will be used to help with energy conservation measures at the (circa 1783) Dr. Daniel Lathrop School House, which is used as the Norwich Heritage & Regional Visitor's Center.
- The Arc of Eastern Connecticut (\$22,615): The Arc will upgrade the lighting at its Sachem Street facility by converting 217 fluorescent light bulbs with LED bulbs, which will help the organization save nearly \$7,000 on its energy costs each year. This will allow The Arc to redirect resources toward programming, which include a range of occupational and recreational opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Each year, NPU pays Gross Revenues Tax to the State of Connecticut from the purchase of natural gas and electricity. The NAA limits participating organizations to \$150,000 per year in tax credits and the statewide program has a cap of \$5 million.

Help with past-due utility bills from UniteCT

The State of Connecticut's Department of Housing is administering an important program to provide financial assistance to renters who have fallen behind on their rent and / or utility payments as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This \$235 million program will provide rental and utility payment assistance to qualified Connecticut households. Eligible renters can receive up to \$10,000 in rental assistance and up to \$1,500 in utility payment assistance.

Eligibility requirements include:

- Those who have qualified for unemployment or have experienced a reduction in household income
- Incurred significant costs, or experienced a financial hardship due to COVID-19
- Demonstrate a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability
- Household income at or below 80% of the HUD AMI

Priority will be made to eligible household with an income less than 50% of AMI or with one or more members of the household who have been unemployed for 90 days

For more information on this important program, please visit www.bit.ly/UniteCT or call 1-844-UNITECT or 1-844-864-8328.



Attaching signs on utility poles poses danger to lineworkers

No one thinks putting a sign on a utility pole is a big deal, but it is to our line workers. If a nail, staple, or tack causes even one tiny hole in a lineman's glove, boot, or protective clothing it can put them at risk for electrocution. Even if an object is attached by tape or string (such as balloons) it can still interfere with the lineman's ability to do his job safely and efficiently. Utility poles should not be used as bulletin boards.

Even though it is illegal to hang a sign on a pole, and violators can be fined, unfortunately, it's not enough to deter it from happening.

Please help keep our linemen safe - don't hang signs or other objects on utility poles.



Norwich is part of the Norwich-New London, CT HUD Metro FMR area. The 80% AMI (area median income) for Norwich is as follows:

| Number in Household | 80% AMI cannot exceed |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | \$54,950 |
| 2 | \$62,800 |
| 3 | \$70,650 |
| 4 | \$78,500 |
| 5 | \$84,800 |
| 6 | \$91,100 |
| 7 | \$97,350 |
| 8 | \$103,650 |

The area median income for a household is the same as the income limits for families published in accordance with 42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)(2), available under the heading for "Access Individual Median Family Income Areas."

A minute with the Mayor:

Do your part and get vaccinated!



Mayor Peter Nystrom

As I am sure you are all aware, the State of Connecticut has begun the process to significantly ramp up its efforts to increase the number of individuals to be vaccinated.

Recently, Governor

Lamont shifted the strategy for vaccination to an age-based system that is intended to facilitate a more efficient process for the residents of our state.

The recent acceleration in the distribution of vaccines in Connecticut and across the United States is the clearest and most significant sign that we could be approaching the end of an unimaginably difficult period of time for Norwich, for our state, and our nation. I encourage everyone to carefully consider the overwhelming evidence that the available vaccines are the most effective means of helping to bring the pandemic to an end.

At the same time, we all must remain vigilant in following all of the health and safety

guidelines that have served us so well over the past year. Please continue to wear a mask, wash your hands frequently, maintain social distancing whenever necessary, and use the appropriate personal protective equipment when you need to, at work and at home.

As of March 15, 2021, the eligibility for the vaccination of state residents is based on age, as follows:

- Ages 65 and older – ongoing
- Ages 55-65 – ongoing
- Ages 45-54 – ongoing
- Ages 16-44: April 5, 2021 (tentative)

This schedule is subject to change, so please see the State of Connecticut's Department of Health website for eligibility updates and more details. This website is also the place to establish an account with the State's Vaccine Administration Management System to schedule an appointment.

There are a several locations where vaccinations are given and the State's 2-1-1 website has links to locations in our region. One local site for vaccinations is our Senior Center on Mahan Drive, where the Uncas Health District (phone 860.823.1189) is

operating a clinic for Norwich residents. The State's Vaccine Appointment Assist Line (877.918.2224) is also available seven days a week between 8 am and 8 pm to help schedule appointments.

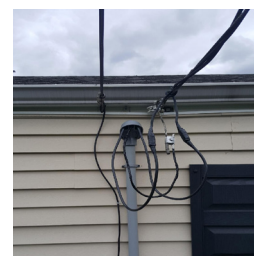
There are two "mega-sites" for vaccinations that can manage a large volume of individuals very efficiently. One location is at the Mohegan Sun, in collaboration with Yale New Haven Health (www.ynhh.org); the other is at Foxwoods, in conjunction with Backus Hospital and Hartford Healthcare (hartfordhealthcare.org). Please check the websites for both healthcare providers for more information.

In addition, a number of healthcare providers have their own vaccination scheduling systems serving our community, including CVS Pharmacy, Hartford Healthcare, Middlesex Healthcare, Yale New Haven Health, Walgreens, and Walmart.

And finally, the U.S. Veteran's Administration in Connecticut is offering vaccinations for veterans aged 50+ as well as essential works. Veterans should call 203-932-5711 to see if they are eligible to be vaccinated and to schedule an appointment.

Wrap your electrical service 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's 2021 United Way fundraising campaign raises \$32,318

Norwich Public Utilities (NPU) has completed another successful employee fundraising campaign event and will provide \$32,110 to the United Way of Southeastern Connecticut in 2021.

This amount includes individual employee contributions, through one-time gifts or regular payroll deductions throughout the year, and a corporate benefactor contribution from NPU. 62% of NPU employees participated in the 2021 campaign with nearly 30 increasing their contributions from 2020.

"Year after year, the men and women of NPU demonstrate their commitment to the community that we serve through their volunteer efforts and financial support," said Chris LaRose, General Manager of NPU. "The United Way has always been a great partner for us and we look forward to working with them in the years to come."

Over the past five years, NPU and its employees have contributed more than

\$175,000 to the United Way of Southeast Connecticut.

NPU hopes to add to their overall 2021 contribution to the United Way through smaller individual fundraising activities held in the workplace (breakfasts, lunches, holiday events) once more employees return to their normal work locations as conditions improve in the region.

Organizations that have been designated for support by NPU employees include United Community & Family Services (UCFS), the ARC of New London County, the Martin House, and Madonna Place.

NPU is also a site coordinator for the United Way's monthly Gemma Moran Mobile Food Pantry, partnering with UCFS and the Norwich Public School System.

Need help? United Way 2-1-1 is a free health and human service information and referral helpline. If you need help finding resources in our community contact 2-1-1 for confidential referrals.

Did you know there could be natural gas pipelines, water lines or electrical wires buried under the surface of your yard? Don't take any chances. Before you start any outdoor project that requires digging, Call Before You Dig.



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.
Dial 811.

Contact Call Before You Dig (CBYD) at 8-1-1 to ensure that the area you plan to dig is clear from any underground utility. By making one phone call, your utility company, phone company and cable company will be notified by CBYD and will mark out the locations of any wires or pipelines buried in the area where you plan to work.

For more information, visit www.cbyd.com/homeowners-help or call 8-1-1.

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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