



Norwich welcomes John Salomone

Norwich's new city manager arrives with a wealth of experience

The City of Norwich welcomed its new City Manager, John L. Salomone on February 1, 2016.

John brings to his position as City Manager over 35 years in municipal management and finance, with extensive experience in various positions in Connecticut. He has served in positions of Town and City Manager for the past 23 years, most recently serving as Town Manager for Newington, Connecticut. John also served as City Manager for Auburn, New York, and Town Manager for the towns of Watertown and Cheshire, Connecticut.

Early in his career, John held a number of positions focusing on municipal finance, including Director of Finance/Data Processing for the city of Milford, Connecticut, and Director of Finance for Ridgefield and East Hartford, Connecticut.

John's considerable experience has given him a deep understanding of municipal finance, labor relations, general



management, and economic development. This extensive experience will be called upon as John's first order of

business for the City of Norwich is the preparation of the 2016/2017 Fiscal Budget.

John has authored articles for professional publications and presented at numerous state and local seminars and symposiums. He also was an Adjunct Professor in Public Finance at Western Connecticut State University.

"Norwich is a special place," states Salomone. "I look forward to living and working here."

John and his wife Karen, who have been together since middle school, have two children, Jaclyn, a teacher, and Jonathan, a special education professional.

Natural gas expands into Occum

Norwich Public Utilities is bringing natural gas to the Village of Occum this construction season. Residential and commercial customers residing along Route 97, from the Taftville border to the Canterbury Turnpike and Old Canterbury Turnpike intersection are eligible to connect to NPU's natural gas infrastructure.

New customers who sign up for natural

gas service are eligible for incentives of up to \$1,000 to help offset some of the cost of converting their heating equipment. There are also substantial rebates available for high efficiency natural gas heating equipment. NPU continues to work with Smart – E Loan approved contractors and local financing institutions that are offering both no money-down and zero interest loans for qualifying households.



Customers living in areas where NPU currently provides natural gas are always eligible to sign up for new service. Call Katie at 860.823.4514 for more details.

Unloading pipe for the natural gas expansion project in Occum

Ten Tips

TO SAVE ON ENERGY COSTS THIS SPRING:

- 1. Choose energy efficient lighting.** Replacing 5 of your home's most frequently used lights with energy-efficiency CFLs or LED bulbs could save as much as \$75 a year in energy costs.
- 2. Use sunlight to your advantage.** Choose curtains and blinds that allow you to use natural light.
- 3. Switch to Energy Star appliances, fans and electronics.** Using Energy Star certified products can save almost \$750 over the lifetime of the products.
- 4. Maintain your heating and cooling systems.** Check and replace your air filters regularly and use a qualified technician to provide annual maintenance on your heating and central air equipment.
- 5. Reduce energy for water heating.** Simple steps, like lowering your water heater temperature and installing low-flow shower heads will reduce your water heating bills.
- 6. Install and set a programmable thermostat.** You can save as much as 10% on your heating and cooling costs by using a programmable thermostat.
- 7. Use a power strip for electronic equipment.** Reduce phantom loads by plugging your electronics into a power strip, and turning it off when not in use.
- 8. Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes.** Consider air drying both dishes and clothes.
- 9. Minimize activities that generate a lot of heat.** These include running a computer and dishwasher, and using hot devices such as hair dryers and curling irons.
- 10. Avoid placing lamps or TVs near air conditioning thermostats.** The heat generated from these appliances can cause your air conditioner to run unnecessarily.

Source: www.energy.gov/energysaver/spring-and-summer-energy-saving-tips

A minute with the Mayor: Outreach with local businesses continues to pay dividends



Deb Hinchey
Mayor of Norwich

Over the past several months, I have been part of a small group that has been visiting with local businesses for brief, informal meetings with the goal of increasing communication and coordination with various departments of

the City of Norwich.

This initiative includes representatives from Norwich Public Utilities (NPU), the Norwich Community Development

Corporation (NCDC), and the Norwich Police Department, all of whom are following-up with businesses after our meetings.

Since September, 2015, our group has visited more than 70 local businesses, meeting with companies of all sizes and in an incredible array of industries. I have been impressed and inspired as I've listened to unique stories of how and when these businesses were launched, what has gone well, and where they have run into challenges.

Our meetings typically include a tour of the businesses' facility or building, information on the customer base and an update on how the business has performed over

the past few years. An important part of these meetings has been the candid – and sometimes very candid – feedback from our businesses on what the City is doing well and where we are falling short.

I value these meetings a great deal because it is only through open and honest discussion that City officials can learn where we need to improve and where we can be more helpful to the businesses that play such a vital role in the day to day life of our city.

If you would like our group to visit your business, I encourage you to reach out to my office (mayorsoffice@cityofnorwich.org) to arrange a meeting over the next several weeks.

Easterseals converting fleet to natural gas

NPU's natural gas expansion program is providing the Easterseals Capital Region & Eastern Connecticut with an additional – and unexpected – benefit.

As part of their conversion process, Easterseals decided to invest in a number of compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicles that could be conveniently fueled on-site at their facility in the Norwich Business Park. These vehicles are used every day to shuttle their participants to activities and appointments throughout the region.

In 2014, they were awarded \$452,000 from the State of Connecticut through the Nonprofit Grant Program to purchase CNG vehicles and establish an on-site CNG filling station. And In 2016, Easterseals was awarded \$464,666 to purchase additional CNG vehicles and upgrade the filling station to handle the new vehicles.

In April, Easter Seals officially changes its name to Easterseals.

Because of the unusual layout on the inside of the CNG vehicles



being utilized by Easterseals, participants in wheel chairs are able to ride in the front of the car – some for the first time in their lives.

According to officials from the Easterseals, this added benefit has been very popular, and provided many of their participants with a new and nicer view when they are out and around in the community.

The Easterseals mission is to provide comprehensive medical and vocational services to people with disabilities in order to maximize their independence and self-sufficiency. To learn more about Easter Seals, please visit www.easterseals.com/hartford.

Transfer Station fees waived

As mentioned in the last edition of **NPYou!**, the Norwich Transfer Station will be holding extended hours one weekend a month in 2016. In response to popular demand, fees for disposal of waste at the Transfer Station will be waived during these days.

City of Norwich Transfer Station

Regular Hours of Operation:

Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 11 AM &
12 PM - 2:30 PM

Saturday
8 AM - 12 PM

2016 Extended Weekend Hours:

Apr. 23-24;

May 21-22

June 18-19

(additional dates to be
announced)

Saturday 8 AM - 4 PM
Sunday 12 - 4 PM

For more information, contact
Norwich Public Works at
860.823.3798.

This Spring, call before you dig

Did you know there could be natural gas pipelines, water lines or electrical wires buried under the surface of your yard? Don't take chances.

Do you know what may be in the ground where you are planning to install a deck, a tree or shrub, or even a new mailbox post?

Before you start any outdoor project that requires digging, *Call Before You Dig*.

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 local 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 about the *Call Before You Dig* program, 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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