

National Drinking Water Week



A safe, reliable water supply is critical to the success of any community. It creates jobs, attracts industry and investment, and provides for the health and welfare of citizens in ways ranging from disease prevention to fire suppression. We often take our water supplies for granted until they are threatened by drought, water main breaks, or some other event. Each year, Norwich Public Utilities joins other water companies around the country in celebrating National Drinking Water Week, which is the first week in May.

Drinking Water Week was created by the American Water Works Association (AWWA) to recognize the vital role that water plays in our daily lives. Established in 1881, AWWA is the oldest and largest nonprofit scientific and educational organization dedicated to safe water in North America.

Pharmaceuticals in drinking water?

In March of 2008, the Associated Press released a story alerting the public about trace quantities of pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCPs) that have been detected in our nation's water supplies. But NPU water customers, and Connecticut water customers in general,

can take comfort in knowing that our water supplies are among the safest in the nation.

The reason? Connecticut and Rhode Island water sheds are unique from those of all other 48 states because both states prohibit the discharge of cleansed wastewater into community drinking water supplies. This significantly reduces the risk of PPCP contamination.

Connecticut also protects its drinking water supplies by ensuring the absence of sludge in our landfills. Sludge refers to the solids left over from the wastewater treatment process. In Connecticut, wastewater sludge is incinerated and not used as landfill spread. Spreading sludge over landfills may promote vegetation growth, but can also cause groundwater contamination. This affects drinking water supplies because reservoirs collect water from local streams and aquifers.

Proper disposal of prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) medicines

- The safe way to dispose of medications and OTC products is to put them in the trash. Do not flush down the toilet or pour into the sink.
- Keep the medication in its original container. Cross out patient's name, remove label or cover with duct tape to protect privacy and discourage misuse.
- Modify the medication to discourage anyone from digesting it. For pills and capsules, add a small amount of water. For liquid medicines, add table salt, flour, charcoal, or nontoxic powdered spice, like mustard.
- Seal and conceal. Tape the medication container lid shut with packing or duct tape and place it inside an empty yogurt or margarine tub so the contents cannot be seen.
- Discard the container in your trash can. Do not put the container in your recycling bin!

For more information, please contact the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Pollution Prevention at (860) 424-3297 or visit www.ct.gov/dep/p2

It is also important to note that PPCP treatment technologies have not yet been developed for sewage treatment plants anywhere. Yet, about half of Connecticut's sewage treatment facilities provide advanced treatment—and Norwich will soon be among them. At the completion of the Sound Norwich Wastewater Treatment Upgrade Project, treatment technologies that reduce toxicity, including ammonia toxicity, and remove nutrients, will reduce pollutants in the waste stream — including PPCPs. For more information on the Clean Rivers, Clean Harbor, Sound Norwich Sewage Treatment Improvement Project, visit our website at www.norwichpublicutilities.com

Call Before You Dig!

Planting bushes, putting in a new sidewalk or installing a new mailbox? Warmer weather means that it is time for all those outside projects. But, before you pick up that shovel or post-hole digger, you need to know where your underground utility lines are

located. **Before starting any outdoor project that requires digging, you MUST call 811 or 1-800-922-4455. CALL BEFORE YOU DIG (CBYD).** CBYD is a non-profit organization made up of all public utility companies and municipalities in Connecticut. It is the free, one-call system whose main objective is to

prevent damage to underground utilities in the state.

CBYD's purpose is to protect the public safety with regard to excavations near underground utility facilities. Unsafe or careless digging can lead to injury or damage to property and the environment. Plus, you can be subject to costly state fines if underground utilities are damaged and CBYD was not properly notified.

You need to contact CBYD at least two full working days before your planned excavation work is scheduled. Provide the location and type of work you are planning. CBYD will notify NPU as well as other utility companies in the area. NPU will visit the site and clearly mark the location of pipes and cables. You may not use power tools within 18 inches of these markings. If you have hired a contractor to

excavate, he or she must contact CBYD with the location information.

Even if you are using only hand tools such as shovels, axes or posthole diggers, please be safe and contact CBYD. It is the safe and smart thing to do and it is the law. For more info, visit www.cbyd.com or call 811 or 1-800-922-4455.

Consider overhead power line safety, too!

If you are planning to paint your home or install siding or gutters, think about electrical safety. Watch out for power lines and be especially careful when using aluminum ladders and tree-trimming equipment. You can be seriously injured if the metal pole or ladder touches a power line. Better yet, if you are working around overhead wires, give NPU a call and we can make arrangements to remove or cover your wires so that you can work safely. Call us at 823-4158 and allow us two days notice.

Enjoy the spring weather — safely!

Norwich in Bloom... Again!

During the month of May, many of us turn our attention outside. In addition to raking and mowing, why not show some community pride by planting a garden?

Norwich received the "Heritage Award" out of 40 other competing cities

In 2008, Norwich will once again compete in the National America in Bloom contest. This year, Norwich will compete against five other communities in the 25,000 to 50,000 population categories.

They include:

- Collierville, Tennessee
- Euclid, Ohio
- Michigan City, Indiana
- Richmond, Kentucky
- West Lafayette, Indiana

Last year Norwich received high marks from the America in Bloom judges, earning four out of a possible five "blooms" in the

population category contest. The America in Bloom contest evaluates communities in eight different categories:

- Floral Displays
- Environmental Awareness
- Landscaped Areas
- Tidiness
- Urban Forestry
- Heritage Preservation
- Turf and ground covers
- Community Involvement

But while Norwich didn't take first prize in its population category, the city was recognized for protecting and celebrating its history. Norwich received the "Heritage Award" out of 40 other competing cities. America in Bloom judges compared the Rose City to historic



Williamsburg, Virginia, describing it as the "best kept secret" to local media.

This year's Norwich in Bloom Chairwoman is local resident Bernadette Grecchi, who chaired last year's hospitality committee. "We've got a bit of a different strategy this year and a lot of new volunteers, so we're very excited," said Grecchi. "But one of the best things about this contest is the pride and partnerships it creates in the community." The America in Bloom judges will tour Norwich on July 28th and 29th of 2008.

To raise funds for Norwich in Bloom, Hart's Greenhouse & Florist is offering a limited supply of the Norwich Sweetheart® miniature rosebush, aptly named and hybridized by Connecticut resident David Berg. Its extraordinary magenta flowers with classic form are lovely and fragrant. All proceeds of the sale will benefit the Norwich In Bloom program.

Energy efficiency for warmer weather

Did you know that NPU offers a rebate for the purchase of a new, energy efficient central air-cooling system? Visit www.norwichpublicutilities.com or call (860) 823-4514 for more information.

Now that winter is officially over, we can relax and stop thinking about energy efficiency right? Wrong! It's just as important to make energy efficiency a priority during the hot summer months as it is during the winter. So, before the "dog days" of summer arrive, follow these tips to save money on cooling costs.

- Close window shades or curtains during daytime hours to keep out unwanted heat.
- Avoid using heat-producing appliances like clothes dryers or dishwashers during the day when the temperature is at its hottest.
- Use a clothesline to air-dry laundry.
- Keep your home's air-cooling system well maintained. Clean or replace the filters on a regular basis and keep the coils clean. Dirt build-up is the leading cause of inefficient systems.
- Don't run a dehumidifier while the air conditioner is on. The dehumidifier will cause the A/C to work harder.
- Keep lamps and TVs away from the air conditioner thermostat. The heat they produce will cause the A/C to run

longer. And use compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs). Besides using less energy, they produce less heat than incandescent bulbs.

- When purchasing a new air conditioner, don't just shop price. Look for a SEER* rating of 15 or higher (for central air systems) or the Energy Star label on window units (generally 13 SEER or greater). A more efficient model will save you money over the life of the unit.
- Use fans to help circulate cool air from the air conditioner around the room.
- Keep the heat outside and the cool air in — use caulking and weather stripping to seal leaks around windows and doors.
- Pool filters use a lot of electricity, so don't run them any longer than necessary. Check the filter's instruction manual to determine how many hours your filter needs to run to keep your pool clean. Use a timer to turn the filter on and off.

Power Alert Days

Remember, during the hottest days of summer, demand for electricity is at its peak. This demand — or amount of power used at a point in time — determines the price for electricity over the next year. If we can keep the demand low, it keeps the price lower. This makes it even more important we take steps to use less energy without sacrificing comfort. Look for more information about Power Alert Days in the next issue of *Community Matters*.

*SEER – Seasonal Energy Efficiency Rating



Update:

Clean Rivers, Clean Harbor, Sound Norwich



(l-r) NPU GM John Bilda; US Senator Chris Dodd; Norwich Mayor Ben Lathrop

In September of 2007, Norwich Public Utilities General Manager, John Bilda, promised local residents to leave "no stone unturned" when seeking funding for the Clean Rivers, Clean Harbor, Sound Norwich Sewage Treatment Upgrade Project. A visit to the Norwich Sewage Treatment Plant by US Senator Chris Dodd proves that General Manager Bilda is committed to that promise.

On Friday, March 28, 2008, Senator Dodd visited the treatment plant to discuss plans for the Sound Norwich project and the Intermodal Transportation Center, for which he has already been key in obtaining federal funding.

Dodd met with city leaders, including Bilda, and then addressed a group of city residents and business leaders who braved the raw weather conditions to welcome him. While the Senator made no firm commitment towards the Sound Norwich \$100+ million project price tag, he recognized that "it is important that we invest in our communities for the future."

For more information on Sound Norwich, please visit www.norwichpublicutilities.com

AutoPay — the new, convenient way to automatically pay your utility bill!

Simplify your bill payments by enrolling in NPU's convenient, automatic recurring payment service — AutoPay. Each month, the "amount due" shown on your utility statement will be automatically deducted from your bank account or credit card account. You'll never have to worry about making another utility payment again!

Enrolling for AutoPay is easy. Just download the application form from our web site, www.norwichpublicutilities.com, stop by the customer service center located at 173 North Main Street, or call us at (860)887-2555 and we will mail the form to you.

Ongoing—1st Friday of each month First Fridays

Downtown Norwich comes alive with arts and entertainment every first Friday of the month! View original art at several galleries or enjoy a musical or theater production in our theaters. Call 886-4683 for more information.

Ongoing—Swing-Dance Sunday Norwich Social Dance Club

Sundays from 7-10 p.m. \$7 per person, Swing, East & West. Lessons 6-7 p.m. \$10 per person. No partners needed. Wauregan Ballroom, 25 Broadway. Visit www.NorwichSDC.org or call 860-237-5457 for information.

Ongoing—1st Thursday of each month

Taftville Lions Pasta Supper

ALL YOU CAN EAT Pasta Supper held on the FIRST Thursday of EVERY month at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Taftville from 4:30-6:30 p.m. \$5 per person. Take out available. All profits benefit various Lions Charities and local Taftville projects. Call 889-8300 for more information.

(Ongoing)

Breast Cancer Remembrance

Honor a woman's battle with breast cancer with her name in pink on the breast cancer memorial Sail of the Valiant. Free. Sponsored by Chelsea Groton Bank, Dime Bank. Call (860) 889-3424 for information or to register. Sail of the Valiant is a Del Function nonprofit breast cancer program.

May 9 – May 25, 2008

Norwich Art School 118th Annual Exhibition

Featuring a variety of paintings, photography, sculpture, jewelry, prints, furniture and more. Slater Memorial Museum, 108 Crescent St. Call 887-2506 for more information.

May 26, 2008

Memorial Day Parade

Starts 10:30 a.m. from Little Plain to Chelsea Parade. Call 334-1855 for more information.

May 28, 2008

An Evening Under the Stars

Wine Tasting and Silent Auction. 6:00 p.m. at the Branford House Mansion, UCONN Avery Point, Groton, CT. Proceeds benefit the Madonna Place. Call 860-886-6600 for more information.

June thru July 30, 2008

Check out a new stress-buster method!

Stage II & III breast cancer survivors can sample the wave-motion method relaxing aboard the sloop HADO for free. Contact Carline Lutynski at (860) 889-3424 to attend the Del Function-sponsored breast cancer research. Open between June 1st and July 30th, 2008, Westbrook, CT. UConn Health Center Study #06-571-2.

June-September 2008

Afternoons in New England

The Leffingwell House Museum presents craft demonstrations and educational programs for all ages and levels of experience on Saturday afternoons from June through September. Museum tours are \$5 for adults and \$3 for seniors and children. From noon - 4 p.m. and by appointment. Call 889-9440 for more information or visit our web site at www.LeffingwellHouseMuseum.org

June 7th, 2008

River Fest

Free Admission. The Greater Norwich Area Chamber of Commerce will hold it's second Annual event at Howard T. Brown Park in Norwich beginning with breakfast at 8:00 a.m. followed by Dragon Boat Racing. Free Children's entertainment from 11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Two local bands will play from 3:30 - 8:00 p.m. Food vendors, beer and wine available all day. Rain or Shine. For more information or to start a dragon boat team, call 887-1647.

June 7, 2008

Dash of Summer 5K Race

Second annual race sponsored by the YMCA. A one-mile walk and .5 mile Fun Run for kids will also be held. Races start and end at the downtown YMCA. Check-in and same-day registration begins at 7:45 a.m. Call Cheryl at 889-7349 for info or visit www.thelastmileracing.com.

June 14, 2008

Connecticut Open House Day

Join the City of Norwich as it celebrates its art, history, film and tourism. Free events take place at the DAR Museum, Norwich Arts Council, Slater Museum and Spirit of Broadway Theater. Call 886-4683 for more information.

June 14, 2008

Rose Show

View roses grown in the "Rose of New England." The Women's City Club of Norwich presents this annual event from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. at the Rose City Senior Center. Free admission. Contact Joyce Brewster 376-4167 for more information.

June 21, 2008

Juneteenth

A celebration of African-American history in commemoration of the Emancipation Proclamation. Parade, vendors, food and entertainment from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the tent at American Wharf. Call Jacqueline Owens for information 887-4888.

Free Fridays — Norwich Summer Concerts 2008

Date	Group	Location
June 27	Norwich Concert Band	Norwichtown Green
July 4	Ask Your Father — Acoustic Folk	Brown Park Gazebo
July 11	Fat Cats — Classic Rock	Norwichtown Green
July 18	River City Slim & the Zydeco Hogs	Brown Park Gazebo
July 25	The Little Big Band — Swing	Norwichtown Green
August 1	Silver Cornet — Salute to America	Norwichtown Green 6:30 PM
August 8	Digger Stevens — Rhythm & Blues	Brown Park Gazebo
August 15	Amy Gallatin & Stillwaters — Blue Grass	Norwichtown Green
August 22	Silver Cornet Band — Children's Concert	Norwichtown Green 6:30 PM
August 29	Laura Delgado Band — Jazz	Brown Park Gazebo

All concerts start at 7:00 pm unless noted – Rain dates to be announced – Listen to WICH-1310AM. Call 886-4683 or 887-2789 for more information.

*Slate of performers subject to change

Concerts are sponsored by The City of Norwich, The Music Performance Fund (MPF) and The Norwich Arts Council



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Here to Serve You

Visit a special link on our web site for more information:
www.norwichpublicutilities.com/communitymatters

Please call, fax or email us your questions, comments and suggestions.
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