

# Community matters

NORWICH PUBLIC UTILITIES

JULY/AUG 2008

## Save the date!

For Norwich's 350th-year celebration



Actually, save the whole month! June of 2009 promises to begin a grand celebration as the

City of Norwich salutes its 350th birthday! Beginning on June 6, 2009, representatives from the Mohegan tribe will paddle up the Thames River to reenact the transfer of land that started it all. 350 years later, the Rose City is still in full bloom.

Residents and business leaders from all over Norwich are combining their time and talents so that anticipated crowds in the hundreds of thousands can celebrate the heritage and experience the renaissance that is "Norwich Now."

"There are 14 different committees, each chaired by different people who all have one thing in common," states 350th Anniversary chairperson Evelyn Bessette.

"We want to showcase everything that Norwich was, is and will be; and we want people to come back. This celebration is one of the best promotional opportunities that Norwich has had in, well, 350 years!"

Semiseptcentennial events include visits by ten confirmed tall ships, including the Amistad on June 26. A display of the Vietnam wall, a laser light show, Black Tie Ball, historical tours and reenactments of many Norwich historical events will all be part of the festivities. The NAACP will also celebrate its 100th Anniversary while remembering Juneteenth day.

The events will be capped off on July 5th with a parade and commemorative fire works display.

If you would like to volunteer for the Semiseptcentennial, please contact co-chair Evelyn Bessette at (860) 639-7527 or Jackie Quercia at (860) 204-9433. You can also learn more and sign up to volunteer at [www.norwichct350.com](http://www.norwichct350.com)

### Calendar of Events

June 6, 2009

- Reenactment of Deed Signing
  - Riverfest
- Interfaith Celebration
  - Historic Tours

June 13, 2009

- Juneteenth Celebration
  - Cemetery Tours
  - Norwich Vignettes

June 17—22, 2009

- Traveling Vietnam Wall at H.T. Brown Park
- Soldiers Thru History at Chelsea Parade

June 20 & 21, 2009

- "Ride to Remember"

June 26, 2009

- Tall Ships Parade of Sail
- Mayor's Reception
  - Harbor Day
  - Laser Show

June 27 & 28, 2009

- Tall Ship Tours
- Harbor Day
- Captain's Ball
- Laser Show

July 1, 2009

- Concert Dodd Stadium
- Norwich World Gathering

July 2, 2009

- Oldies Night Downtown
- World Gathering Reception

July 3, 2009

- World Gathering Tour at Mohegan Sun
  - First Friday Events

July 4, 2009

- Picnic
- Fireworks

July 5, 2009

- Parade
- Fireworks

### Less Energy = More Change: The Gas Efficiency Fund

If you're a natural gas customer, you'll notice a new line item on July's utility bill. The "Gas Efficiency Fund" was created to provide resources that will help natural gas customers reduce their usage and manage their natural gas bills.

"Energy efficiency doesn't apply just to electricity," noted General Manager John Bilda. "Heating costs

are a huge part of a household budget, so we want to help customers control those costs as much as possible."

The Natural Gas Efficiency fund sets aside 2.2 cents from the sale of each ccf of natural gas. That equals 1.03 percent of the typical residential natural gas bill. The fund will be used expressly for offering

programs and rebates targeted at natural gas efficiency. For more information on the availability of natural gas efficiency programs, watch for future issues of Community Matters. You can also visit our web site at [www.norwichpublicutilities.com](http://www.norwichpublicutilities.com)



# Turn In and Save!

Do you have an air conditioner that's more than 15 years old? Or, maybe you have one that just isn't cooling the room like it used to. By replacing your old air conditioning unit with a new, high-efficiency model, **you can save 20% or more on your home's energy costs.**

To make the decision to buy a new, energy efficient air conditioner even easier, NPU is participating in the **Connecticut Room Air Conditioner Turn-In Program.**

This program, which runs through September 1, 2008, offers NPU customers up to \$100 back by mail when you replace an old air conditioner with a new, energy efficient model.

## Here's how the program works

Visit a **participating retailer\*** and purchase a new, Energy Star-rated room air conditioner. When you bring your old, inefficient air conditioner back to the retailer and complete the necessary forms, you will receive a \$25, \$50, or \$100 rebate. The amount of the rebate is dependent upon the cost of the new model.

Retail Price of Energy Star A/C	Rebate Amount for Turn-In
\$100-\$200	\$25
\$201-\$300	\$50
\$301 and up	\$100

## Save gas—shop local!

Don't waste gas shopping for a new air conditioner—support your local retailers instead! To make it convenient for our customers to take advantage of this offer, NPU is pleased to partner with our local appliance retailers, Keith's Appliance on West Thames Street and Jerry's Appliance

**\*It's important to know that not all retailers are participating in this event.**

Store on Central Avenue. Other participating retailers in our region include Best Buy and Bernie's.

## The higher the SEER rating—the higher the efficiency!

The higher the SEER rating, the higher the efficiency—and the greater the energy savings! SEER stands for Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio. Be sure to buy an air conditioning unit that is properly sized for the room. If it is too big for the area it's cooling, it will actually be less efficient.

In order for an air conditioner to work properly, it needs to remove heat and humidity from the air. If the room cools too quickly, the humidity won't be effectively removed and the room will feel cold and clammy. To avoid this, be sure to buy an air conditioner that is sized for the square footage of the space you want to cool.

For instance, an 8,000 BTU air conditioner will effectively cool a 300 square-ft. room.



## Power Alert Days

During the hottest days of the summer, listen for NPU to announce a "Power Alert Day." This means that the demand on the power system (more commonly known as the "power grid") is

expected to be very high between the hours of 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. It is during this peak time, that the wholesale electric prices for the next year are likely set. In other words, the power system operators determine how much electricity a region will require based on the peak, or maximum, demand need. Although this

peak demand is only required a few days a year, and for just a few hours a day NPU must pay a premium price to ensure this supply is always available throughout the entire year. If we can keep the demand low during the peak period, it will help keep the wholesale price lower.

Simple steps help reduce energy use. When you hear the "Power Alert" announcement on local radio or see it posted on the NPU web site, just avoid using high energy-use appliances like washers, dryers and dishwashers until after 6 p.m. Turn the temperature a few degrees warmer on your air conditioner, and turn off any unnecessary lights.

**NPU IS OFFERING UP TO \$60 BACK BY MAIL WHEN YOU PURCHASE AN ENERGY STAR®-QUALIFIED WASHING MACHINE, DISHWASHER, REFRIGERATOR OR ELECTRIC WATER HEATER.**

Only products that deliver the highest level of energy efficiency are awarded the Energy Star designation from the U.S. Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Department of Energy. For more information about Energy Star, including a list of qualifying models, visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov). For more information about the appliance rebate program, or other efficiency program details, visit [www.norwichpublicutilities.com](http://www.norwichpublicutilities.com), or call us at 887-2555.

**Summer energy saving tips:**

- Take advantage of the summer heat—use a clothesline to dry laundry
- Run pool pumps only when necessary
- Don't place heat-producing appliances like lights or TVs near an air conditioner thermostat; it will sense the heat and run longer than necessary
- Seal air leaks to keep heat out and cool air in
- Use fans with air conditioners; this allows the cool air to spread more effectively without greatly increasing the power use
- Limit the use of heat-producing appliances like dishwashers and ovens
- Keep shades or curtains closed during the day to block out the heat and humidity
- Don't run a dehumidifier at the same time an air conditioner is running; the humidifier will actually cause the AC to work harder

# River Fest Recap



The significance of the harbor in attracting new people to downtown Norwich was never more evident than at the River Fest on Saturday, June 7, 2008. The second annual event, which featured Dragon Boat racing, food, and fun for the whole family, took place from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Howard T. Brown Park.

Andy Messier, chairman of the River Fest Committee as well as the Norwich Chamber of Commerce board of directors, was clear about the event's purpose. "It's about promoting the region," Messier said. "The harbor is a tremendous resource for bringing people into the city and into the downtown area."

And, he is certainly right. This year's festival exceeded expectations, attracting 9,000 visitors to Norwich as compared to the previous year's festival, which drew between 2,500 and 3,000.

The River Fest Committee consisted of Andy Messier, Tucker Braddock, Christi Hallstrom, Kim Michaud, Nancy Gray, Andrew Nollman, Samuel Browning, Ellen Lind, Brian Kobylarz, Rodney Green, Allison Keefe, Doug Moss, Lisa Griffin, Stacie Lambert, Ted Phillips and Bob Reed. So while NPU's own "Hydrowers" were proud to claim first place in this year's first-ever Dragon Boat Race, the real winners were the unsung heroes of the River Fest Committee and the nearly 100 volunteers who made the event possible. River Fest volunteers assisted rowing teams, posted results, took photos (except of themselves), directed visitors, staffed booths, all the while supporting vendors and entertainment groups like Mad Science and the Fat Cats.

NPU's General Manager John Bilda noted, "With the wastewater treatment plant just a few hundred yards away, we're absolutely committed to doing our part to make our Norwich harbor as clean as possible. Yet it is groups like the Chamber, the River Fest Committee, and all of these local volunteers that are bringing it to life. All of us at Norwich Public Utilities just want to say thank you..."

Dragon boat racing involves teams of 21 navigating a 41-foot long, 550-pound vessel down a set lane in the water. The Norwich Chamber relied on the Montreal firm, 22Dragons, to run the event.

## Avoid fire damage from smoking materials

Important information (Please have translated)  
 Wa ne informacjie (Prosimy o ich przet. umaczenie)  
 Enfòmasyon ki enpòtan. Tanpri souple, fè yo tradil  
 重要信息 (请翻译)  
 重要資訊 (請翻譯)

Norwich has recently suffered major losses from fires as a result of careless or improper disposal of smoking materials. To help minimize the threat to our community, the City of

Norwich Fire Marshal has provided the following information.

### Did you know?

- Smoking materials (i.e., cigarettes, cigars, pipes, etc.) are the leading cause of deaths from fire in the United States. Smoking materials caused roughly one out of every four deaths from fire per year in 2002-2005.
- In 2002-2005, there were an estimated 82,400 fires per year caused by smoking materials in the United States. These fires caused 800 civilian deaths and 1,660 civilian injuries.
- Older adults are at the highest risk of death or injury from smoking material-related fires even

though they are less likely to smoke than younger adults.

- The most common material first ignited in the home of smoking material-related fire deaths are mattresses, bedding and upholstered furniture.

### Fire prevention recommendations

- If you smoke, smoke outside
- Wherever you smoke, use deep, sturdy ashtrays; Ashtrays should be set on something sturdy and hard to ignite, like an end table.
  - Before you dispose of butts and ashes, make sure they are completely out; cover with water or sand for best results
- Check under furniture cushions and in other places people smoke for cigarette butts that may have fallen
- Smoking should not be allowed in a home where oxygen is used
- If you smoke, choose fire-safe cigarettes as they are less likely to cause fires
- To prevent a deadly smoking material-related fire, be alert! Don't smoke if you are sleepy, have been consuming alcohol, or have taken medication or other drugs

**If you smoke: put it out,  
all the way out—every time!**

# Norwich Recycles!


Recycling is not only good for the environment, but can also help your wallet. The city of Norwich has a recycling goal of 58%. This means that **more than half of what you throw away should be recycled**. Yet, the city's current recycling rate is projected to be only 20%.

Did you know that every percentage we achieve towards Norwich's recycling goal results in about \$18,000 in city savings? That means **achieving the 58% target could result in almost \$700,000 in reduced expenses!!!!**

**You can do your part by following these do's and don'ts of recycling:**




### DO RECYCLE:

- All colors and sizes of glass bottles and jars
- Uncolored milk, water, juice and cider plastic jugs with an HDPE codes  PETE HDPE
- Clear plastics
- Colored HDPE\* #2 plastics where the neck is smaller than the body
- Rinsed Metal Cans, Lids and aluminum cans
- Cleaned Aluminum foil trays
- Newspapers and magazines
- Junk mail, catalogs and flyers
- Office paper (shredded or not)
- Chip and paper board
- Telephone books
- Egg cartons
- Cereal boxes (without the plastic insert)



### DO NOT RECYCLE

- Light bulbs – ALL light bulbs should be recycled as hazardous waste
- Drinking glasses, dishes and ceramics
- Plate glass, auto and tempered glass
- Mirrors
- Any glass that is not a container
- Broken glass
- Scrap metal
- Paint cans, aerosol cans, automotive product cans
- Plastic wrap, or plastic bags
- Plastic bottles like those used for motor oil, antifreeze, or other hazardous materials
- PVC, foam cups or Foam packing material
- Unmarked plastic containers or plastic containers marked  3 4 5 6 7 V LDPE PP PS OTHER

For more information on Norwich's recycling initiatives, contact Joe Cooper, Norwich's Recycling Coordinator, at 823-3798.

\*High-density polyethylene (HDPE) is a polyethylene thermoplastic made from petroleum. It takes 3.85 pounds of petroleum (in terms of energy and raw materials) to make 2.2 pounds of HDPE.

# Communitycalendar

NORWICH PUBLIC UTILITIES

JULY/AUG 2008

## 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](http://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.

## July - August 3, 2008

### Performance of 'Tomorrow Morning'

Spirit of Broadway Theater, 24 Chestnut St. Call the box office at 886-2378 for tickets or information.

## July-October 2008

### Farmers Market

Fresh fruit and vegetables grown by local farmers. Brown Park, Chelsea Harbor Dr. on Wednesdays from 11-2 and at Uncas on the Thames-Campbell Building, 401 West Thames St., Mondays and Fridays from 10-1. Call 886-4683 for more info.

## August 20 - September 28, 2008

### Performance of '29'

Spirit of Broadway Theater, 24 Chestnut St. Call the box office at 886-2378 for tickets or information.

## September 6, 2008

### Taste of Italy

The Italian community in Norwich shares their tasty culinary heritage with the world at this annual event, which also includes bocci games, art exhibit and fireworks. Held at Brown Park. Contact Frank DeMicco at 889-1369 or Frank Jacaruso Jr. at 889-0864 for details.

## September 21, 2008

### Family Day

Share your family with your community! Food, fun and games for all including "Harry O Youth Race." Join the fun from 11 am-4 pm at Mohegan Park. For more information all Sherry Filiatreault at 823-3782.

## September

### Annual Flea Market

The Disabilities Network of Eastern CT presents its 5th annual flea market held at 238 W. Town St. from 10 am to 3 pm. Silent Auction and raffles will also be offered. Proceeds to benefit the DNEC. Call 823-1898 for more information.

## September 18, 2008

### Wine & Roses

Annual Wine Tasting Benefit for the Tommy Toy Fund held under the tent at the Marina at American Wharf. Enjoy fine wine, entertainment and hors d'oeuvres from 5:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Call Cathy Cline at 887-9211 for more information.

## September 21, 2008

### Eastern CT Antique Auto Show

22nd Annual antique and classic car show held on the grounds of Dodd Stadium, Stott Avenue, Norwich. Activities include auto auction, food vendors and features hundreds of antique, classic cars and enthusiasts! Contact the Chamber of Commerce at 464-7373 for more information.

## September 21, 2008

### 2nd Annual YMCA Rose Pedal Criterium

Riders will compete in 10 different categories in separate races on a 1 kilometer closed course in downtown Norwich. Distances/Laps will range from 10 laps to 80 laps. Call Cheryl Hughes at 889-7349 for more information.



## Free Fridays — Norwich Summer Concerts 2008

Date	Group	Location
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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Proudly printed in Norwich.

## Here to Serve You

Visit a special link on our web site for more information:

[www.norwichpublicutilities.com/communitymatters](http://www.norwichpublicutilities.com/communitymatters)

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

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