HOOKSETT VILLAGE WATER PRECINCT

VILLAGE WELLSPRING

January 2023

HVWP is pleased to release this issue of the *Village Wellspring*, a periodic newsletter designed to keep you better informed about HVWP activities and events. We would like to take this opportunity to thank those customers that let us know about unusual water usage, leaks, water quality changes and hydrant damage – this makes it easier for us to monitor water system health and safeguards our shared water resources. Please call or stop by anytime to talk about water – it's our favorite topic.

STAFF & BOARD CHANGES

Operator Gary Hebert retired in July 2022 after 7 years of service to the Village. Gary provided an energy and enthusiasm for the job that will be sorely missed and is the last in a long line of family members that have kept the system running for decades. In December 2022, Matt Gordon was hired as a Water Utility Technician. Matt is training to become an Operator and is a welcome addition to the staff with his easy smile and years of road and heavy equipment experience at the Hooksett DPW. Commissioner Mike St. Germain completed his first full year on the Board in 2022. Mike brings valuable business management experience and a strong commitment to the community, particularly in the area of youth sports and the HYAA. Please say "hi" to Matt and Mike and "thanks" to Gary if you get a chance.

COMPREHENSIVE ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

This past August, HVWP completed a comprehensive update to its Asset Management Plan. The update included integration of our "vertical" assets such as pump stations and tanks into the plan and our capital improvement funding strategy, as well as a rigorous water audit following nationally accepted protocols. Moving forward, this valuable document will help guide our annual Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) analyses and provide a logical, sustainable framework for funding capital reserve accounts.



Our crew flow tests a hydrant on Riverside St. with help from an enthusiastic young assistant. In addition to routine flushing/testing in 2022, 3 new hydrants were installed + 5 were replaced/repaired. (Photo from June Childs, used with permission)

TANK PROJECT UPDATE

Thanks to our voters and the Governor/Executive Council, $2.5M in ultra-low interest State loan/grant funds was approved in 2022. These funds when combined with the funds we have already raised are being used to complete the connection of the new quarry tank directly to the heart of the distribution system on RT3A, and to finally replace the old but still important welded steel tank off of Hooksett Road. Water main construction from

Vista Drive to RT3A is scheduled to begin this month and end in June 2023±. Tank construction will begin after that. Completion of this project is a major CIP goal.

DROUGHT RESPONSE & SOURCE IMPROVEMENT

Through careful monitoring of weather and water levels, in combination with coordinated pumping schedule and aquifer recharge adjustments, we were fortunate and made it through the Moderate-Severe Drought of 2022 with no mandated water use restrictions. Future drought response actions will be aided by source improvements completed in 2022 including new pond gauges; the purchase of 0.4 acre of critical watershed land off of Pine Street; the redevelopment of the North Well resulting in a 12% increase in yield; the submittal of a $50K source development grant application to NHDES; and ongoing efforts to secure emergency interconnections with Bow and Manchester.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST



May 2022: New high-tech insertion valve installed at critical location on the Hooksett Rd. water main. Four other gate valves were installed/replaced or repaired on water mains in 2022.

- **Meter Testing & Replacement:** Approximately 85% of the water meters in the system have been upgraded to date. In addition over 300 meter transmitters were replaced this past year due to the unanticipated retirement of cellular "CDMA" technology. All residents with the newer meters now have the ability to go online and monitor their own water usage and get leak alerts. Also, a modern meter testing bench was installed at the South Station in early 2022, improving regulatory compliance and allowing us to test the accuracy of old or troublesome meters.

- **Did You Know??** Pinnacle Pond was the source of drinking water for the Village until the 1980s when the North and South Wells came online. Reservoir volume was supplemented by inflow from a mile-long diversion pipe that transported water from Brickyard Brook to the pond. Nowadays the diversion is used to indirectly recharge the aquifer near the wells.

- **Open House:** Thank you to everyone that visited us at the South Station on Pinnacle Street during our first public Open House in May; the event included hands-on displays, snacks and live drone demos. We enjoyed sharing info on the water system's inner workings, history and recent projects.

- **Diesel Spill:** An accident on I93 near Pinnacle Pond released the contents of a tractor trailer's fuel tank in September. The spill migrated to a difficult-to-access low spot adjacent to the highway. Due to the spill's proximity to the pond and HVWP wells, NHDES directed a focused cleanup effort over subsequent weeks. The aggressive cleanup actions appear to have thwarted the crisis. We are researching ways to improve future response actions.

- **Lead Service Lines:** We're not aware of any lead service lines (LSLs) in the Village, but to be proactive and due to regulatory changes stemming from the Flint crisis we will be initiating an LSL survey in 2023. Don't be surprised if we reach out to you to investigate pipe materials.



No leaks were detected in our distribution system during a State grant-funded survey last October. Estimated annual unauthorized/unmetered use is ~1.5%, much less than the 15% max allowed. This results from proactive system O&M, CIP projects and water use tracking (and a wee bit of luck!).

- **Web Site Packed with Info:** Check it out! **www.hooksettvillagewater.org**