HOOKSETT VILLAGE WATER PRECINCT

VILLAGE WELLSPRING

January 2024

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

In May 2023, Jeff Wright was hired as a Grade 2 Water Operator to fill a vacancy after Matt Gordon's departure. Jeff has extensive experience as a distribution operator for larger systems in California and brings a fresh new perspective to our field crew, as well as his easygoing personality. Please join us in welcoming Jeff to our community if you get a chance.



Can you guess why we got a "no water" call from this homeowner? View of plugged ¾" copper service on 1960s era 6" AC main.

SERVICE LINE INITIATIVE

To strengthen our Capital Improvement Program (CIP), and better support those that depend on the Precinct for their water, for the next few years we will be focused on locating, mapping, operating and repairing (as needed) all service lines. These are the smaller pipes that connect homes and businesses to the water mains in the streets. Some of the older metal lines may have degraded over time, resulting in loss of flow or quality. In some cases, this has been happening so long that a resident may think it is "normal" but it is not (please call us if that sounds like you!).

In addition, due to regulatory changes stemming from the Flint crisis we are surveying all service lines in the Village for confirmation that they do not contain lead. Please don't be surprised if we reach out to you to investigate pipe materials. This may include an interior inspection as well as digging a test pit at your service shutoff valve.



Nov. 2023: The end of an era!! The Thompson Corner Tank off of RT3 is removed by Costello Dismantling Co. This 200,000 gallon welded steel tank served the Village for over 70 years, and was the only water storage for most of that time.

TANK-MAIN PROJECT UPDATE

The connection of the Quarry Tank directly to the heart of the distribution system on RT3A was completed in 2023, eliminating a long-term water main "bottleneck" in the Pinnacle St. area. This work came in $21K under budget and included about 1,850' of new 12" PVC

water main replacing 750' of old 6" asbestos-cement (AC) main, plus a dozen new/renewed house services. The old welded steel tank off of Hooksett Road was taken off-line in October. Construction of the new 400,000 gallon glass-fused-to-steel tank, including the replacement of 550' of old 8" AC main with new 12" HDPE water main, has begun and is scheduled to be completed by June 2023±. Anticipated cost savings via "smart" bidding are being used to design and replace another 350' of 12" water main, connecting the new tank directly to RT3 and Main St.

WATER MAIN PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION

The "to-do list" for water main maintenance and improvements is pretty long. If you have been inconvenienced by construction, please know that we appreciate your cooperation and make every effort to minimize system down-time. We are actively supporting the Town's Exit 11 TIF Project which includes the installation of over a mile of new water main to date in the Cross Rd./Hackett Hill Rd. area. Related improvements in the Meadowcrest Rd. area are planned for the spring to prepare for a southern river crossing, a critical CIP item. Design plans are now complete for the Highland St. main replacement, another key CIP item, and construction is anticipated in 2024 if funding is secured.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST



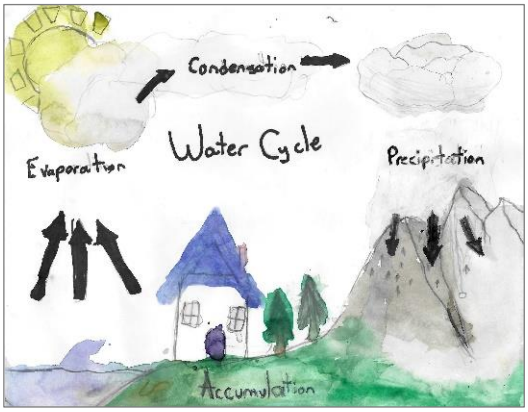
Operator Bell completing a hydrant repair at the corner of College Park Dr. and Main St. In addition to routine flushing/testing in 2023, 11 new hydrants were installed and 3 were replaced/repaired.

• **Meter Testing & Replacement:** Getting close now! Approximately 99% of the water meters in the system have been upgraded to date. All residents with the newer meters now have the ability to go online and monitor their own water usage and get leak alerts.

• **Did You Know??** The water system was created through the purchase of two private water systems that operated in the early 1900s, the Hooksett Aqueduct Co. and the Arel (or Dundee Mill) System. The Precinct was formed in 1941 and held its first meeting in 1942. Alfred Collerette was hired as the first Superintendent in the 1960s, followed by "Uncle Leo" Hebert who served many years.

• **Outreach:** We enjoy finding opportunities to interact with the public outside of our normal operations. This past year we co-hosted a rain barrel presentation with the Library and Garden Club, participated in the Hooksett Touch-A-Truck Day and spoke at the Granite State Rural Water Association's Climate Change Workshop.

• **New Grants:** Studies are now underway to look at (a) the feasibility of treating for manganese, a hot topic in the public health field and (b) new sources of water for the Village. These studies are funded by two Strategic Planning Grants totaling $85K from NHDES. We are searching for a new source to plan for the future growth of the town and to provide a backup to the current sources in the event of potential contaminant spill near Pinnacle Pond.



Water is always on the move! When used wisely, the small percentage of water that soaks into the ground is enough to feed our community. Do you know where your drinking water comes from?

(Water cycle image: Ethan Norris, Exeter, NH)

• **Emergency Planning:** A comprehensive cybersecurity assessment and action plan was completed in October. A new cloud-based emergency and events notification system has been secured for rollout in 2024. This system will allow us to blast a quick notice out to water users for main breaks, etc. Please make sure your contact info is up to date at our office.

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