WEST NEWBURY WATER DEPARTMENT

New Brake Hill Water Tank and New Chemical Building with additional well located at Wellfield #1

Final funding for these two projects were approved at the Annual Town Meeting on April 29, 2019. Previously, funds were approved for these two projects separately. The new approval allows the funding for these two projects to be combined. Previous appropriations for these projects were insufficient based on the bids received for the construction. Some reasons for the escalation in cost are tariffs on steel and other construction materials, lack of available subcontractors due to heavy work load, abundance of general contractor work at this time and additional work requested by Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. These projects date back to 2017. At the Annual Town Meeting on April 29, 2019, voters approved borrowing an addition $1.1 million dollars to fund these two projects. It was anticipated that the water rate increase for the additional $1.1 million-dollar loan would be reflected in the Fall water bill in Fiscal Year 2021 (Fall of calendar year 2020). During the Water Rate Study that was conducted in November, 2019 it was realized that the projects are moving along faster than anticipated and the funds would be needed sooner. The water rate will increase $1.41/1000 gallons to be able to pay the additional 1.1 million-dollar loan and it will be reflected in the water bill that will be sent out in April, 2020.

New Brake Hill Water Storage Tank updates as of December 2019

- The gravel access road is approximately 75% complete.
- The electrical and communications duct bank is complete from the tank site to Hilltop Circle. Final connections to National Grid and Comcast utilities will occur at a later date.
- The water main is complete.
- The water storage tank materials have been delivered to the site and the steel tank construction is approximately 75% complete.
- Water storage tank steel construction is expected to be complete in January.
- In the spring and into early summer of 2020, the steel tank will be painted, disinfected, filled, and bacteriologically tested and remaining site work, electrical/communications, and mechanical work will be completed. Once satisfactory bacteriological results are obtained and upon MassDEP approval, the new tank will be put into service.
- Once the new tank is in service, the existing water tank will be demolished and removed from the site.
- All work is expected to be complete by August 2020. We anticipate receiving an updated schedule from the Contractor prior to the restart of spring construction activities.

New Meter and Chemical Injection Building updates as of December 2019

- Site work is complete except for installation of fencing and general clean up at the end of the project.
- Construction of the building is complete.
- Doors have been installed and the interior of the building has been painted.
- The well pump and pitless adaptor have been installed and the well is connected to the water main.
- Exterior piping is complete.
- The Contractor is currently installing the interior piping, chemical feed systems, HVAC equipment, and electrical work.
- The facility is currently on schedule for completion and ready for the Town’s use by the end of February pending MassDEP approval to put the facility into service.
- The new emergency generator is scheduled to be delivered to the site in late February and will be installed and tested by late March followed by completion of the fence and final site cleanup. The existing emergency generator will remain on site and available for use until the new emergency generator in service.
Water Restriction “Calendar Triggered Restrictions”

The West Newbury Water Departments water withdrawal permit from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) requires the department to limit nonessential outdoor water use through mandatory restrictions from May 1st through September 30th as outlined below. All outdoor nonessential water use should take place before 9 a.m. and after 5 p.m. when evaporation and evapotranspiration rates are lower. The restrictions are called “Calendar Triggered Restrictions”. Under these restrictions all nonessential outdoor water use is restricted to:

- **Seven (7) days per week** before 9am and after 5pm
- **One (1) day per week** before 9am and after 5pm when USGS stream gage 01101000 – Parker River at Byfield, MA falls below the 7-day low-flow statistic **0.48 cubic feet second** for three (3) consecutive days.

Once streamflow triggered restrictions are implemented, they shall remain in place until streamflow at the gage meets or exceeds **0.48 cubic feet second** for seven (7) consecutive days.

For more information on this subject visit the town web page at wnewbury.org and go to the Water Department page.

Fix leaking faucets and toilets as soon as you see them leaking. Those leaks can cost you hundreds of dollars and it puts more stress on the department to supply you with water and to maintain adequate water levels in our water tanks for fire protection.

For more information on this subject visit the town web page at wnewbury.org and go to the Water Department page.

**How to check for water leaks on your water meter**

The star shaped dial on the meter face below is called a leak indicator. Sometimes it will be shaped like a tri-angle. When you are not using water inside or outside of your home check that indicator dial for potential leaks. Watch the dial for a couple of minutes and see if it is moving. If it is, you have a leak. Usually the leaks will be found in your faucets, toilets and irrigation systems. If you have a leak and can’t find out where it is, you can call the water department and ask them some questions and if they can’t talk you through it, they can make an appointment to come check it out.

- **Hydrant shoveling and Hydrant Spring Flushing**

  The Board of Water Commissioners would like to thank all the customers that have adopted a fire hydrant near their home this winter and shoveled the snow away from the fire hydrant. They would also like to thank the Fire Department for the extra help they supplied to the Water Department so far this winter.

  Hydrant flushing usually takes place in April and October and will cause water to become discolored as sediment is removed from the water system and customers may have intervals of low pressure as well. Please check out the Water Department webpage at www.wnewbury.org for updates during those months.