



INFLOWMATION

Westford Water Department Newsletter



Water Commissioners:

- Elizabeth Denly, Chairperson
- Leslie A. Thomas, Secretary
- Hugh C. Maguire, Member
- Titus Palmer, Alternate Member



Department Contacts:

- Stephen Cronin, Superintendent
- Marco Philippon, Water Treatment Manager
- Larry Panaro, Business Manager
- Mark Warren, Environmental Compliance Manager



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Graniteville Road Water Main Replacement

Article 7 Approved by a 2/3 majority at the October 17, 2011 Special Town Meeting.

In May of 2012 the Water Department began replacing the old and undersized water mains on Graniteville Road and River Street. The Graniteville area was identified in the Water Department Master Plan as having low available fire flow, mainly due to friction loss caused by undersized water mains of 8", 6", and 4". Fire flow is the amount of water that should be available for fire protection at selected locations in the community.

As of September 14th, the initial phase of the Graniteville Water Main Improvements Project was completed. All of the new water main has been installed, trenches have been paved, and all residents along the project route have been connected to the new main. Over 4,700 feet of new 12-inch water main was installed on Graniteville Road, River Street, and Beacon Street providing a significant transmission main for the Water Department in this area of the distribution system. In addition, sixty one (61) homes received new service connections to the new water main. A key part of this project was completing two brook crossings on Bridge Street and over Stony Brook on River Street. These two crossings connected dead ends in the system and should significantly improve fire protection in Graniteville.

The work on West Street was completed just prior to school starting, and thirteen (13) houses received new service connections to the existing 8-inch main on the street. Once these services were completed, the other existing 6-inch main, which had been the source of several leaks and breaks over the years - the most recent break in April of this year - was taken out of service. In the spring of 2013, all of the affected streets will be repaved from curb to curb (all trenches have been temporarily paved).

Littleton Road (Route 110) Water Main Replacement

Article 21 approved by a 2/3 majority at the March 24 & 26, 2012 Annual Town Meeting.

The Route 110 area east of Boston Road was another area identified in the Water Department Master Plan as having a low fire flow. Consequently, the Route 110 Water Main Replacement project started on September 20, and is being done for the same reasons as for the Graniteville project—to replace undersized mains with larger ones to improve fire flow. This project will be completed in two phases with the eastern section being completed this year, and the western section scheduled to be completed in the spring of 2013. Refer to page 3 for diagrams of the project sections.

Construction for the first phase should take 8-10 weeks, and through traffic will be maintained in the area—although at times only one lane of traffic will be available. **For current project updates and additional detail visit the Water Department website at www.westfordma.gov/water.**

We are confident the benefits of an improved distribution system—which include better fire protection, increased water pressure, and overall improved water quality far outweigh the temporary inconveniences of increased traffic and other associated construction issues. Nonetheless, your patience with these projects is truly appreciated!



Rain Gardens: An Aesthetic Way to Save the Environment

By Aziz Rangwala, Westford Eagle Scout

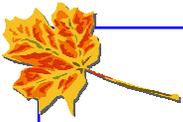
Troop 159 Eagle Scout Aziz Rangwala of Westford recently completed his fourth Eagle Project for the benefit of the Westford Water Department. Aziz designed and constructed a 400-square foot rain garden at the Westford Water Department Building at 63 Forge Village Road in Westford, MA. A rain garden is a bowl-shaped garden placed in a low-lying area and filled with hardy native plants. It is a natural way to reduce pollution and keep water out of the storm drain system by controlling runoff from roofs and parking lots. Rain gardens are essential to controlling air and water pollutants. By filtering the water from huge areas, they can remove above thirty percent of pollutants from water. They also lower the heat of the water before it enters larger bodies of water, which prevents heat pollution in streams and lakes. Rain gardens essentially mitigate the effects of impervious surfaces and improve groundwater retention. The garden itself was built using a sloped design that would draw water into it; from that point it was dug out, filled with loam, lined with concrete pavers, filled with native plants and shrubs, and mulched, all with the help of community volunteers.

Building your own rain garden is not at all difficult, and it provides immense aesthetic value to your home at an affordable price. Building a twenty-five square foot rain garden can cost as little as \$75.00 depending on the plants used in the garden. A publication outlining step-by-step procedures for building a rain garden is available at the Water Department building on 60 Forge Village Road. Feel free to visit the rain garden just across the street and adjacent to the Water Department building at 63 Forge Village Road. Both easy to build and relatively low maintenance, one can easily construct a rain garden and begin addressing the effects of air and water pollution in our local ecosystems today.

A special thanks to Dr. Mulch Garden Center in Westford and Weston Nurseries in Chelmsford for generously donating supplies to the construction of the garden and to the Westford Kiwanis for providing funding for the project. This rain garden could not have been built without the help of the Water Department, who provided both guidance and labor for the project. Our goal with this garden is to provide a prototype to the town of Westford for an affordable and beautiful way to help save our environment. Build a personal rain garden today!



The Rain Garden Construction Team



Littleton Road (Route 110) Water Main Improvement Project

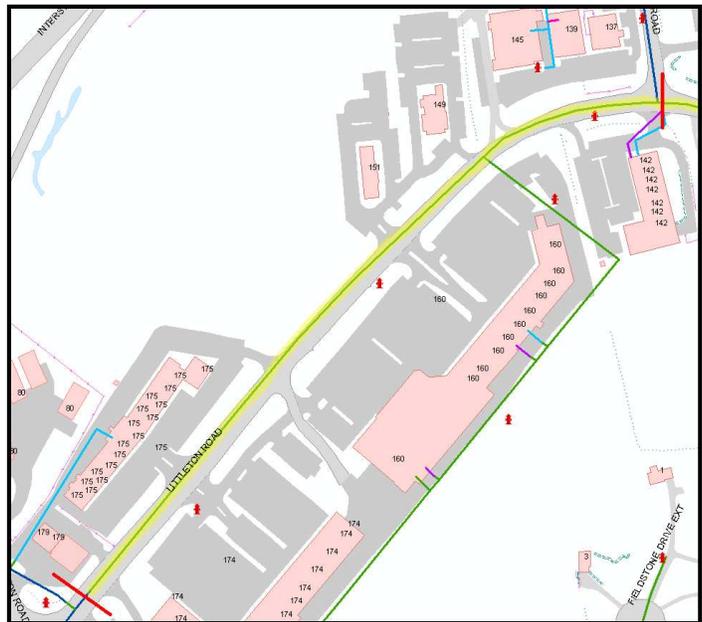
Nixon Road to St. Mary's Drive Project Section (Fall 2012) - Below:



Right:

Boston Road to Nixon Road Project Section (Spring of 2013)

(note: water mains to be replaced are highlighted in yellow and located between the 2 red lines)



Fire Hydrants

It's nearly that time again...get those shovels and snowblowers ready! This is a friendly reminder that we need your help in keeping the fire hydrants free from snow. Unlike many other towns, the Water Department is responsible for clearing hydrants of snow. With over 1,000 hydrants in town it takes us considerable time to get to them all after each major snow storm. The more help we get from folks the quicker we can get them cleared and easily accessible in the event of an emergency. The last thing anyone wants is to have to search for a buried hydrant during an emergency.

Also—please remember that: In accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 148 Section 27B it is unlawful to pile, push, or plow snow or ice on or against any fire hydrant in any public or private way. ***Please make sure not to shovel, plow, or blow snow onto the hydrants when clearing your property!***

The Westford Water Department not only digs out hydrants after the storm, but also annually inspects each fire hydrant, and notifies the Fire Department if any are out of service.



Test Your Residential Cross-Connection Knowledge

1. What is a Cross Connection?

- A) A connection between two water pipes.
- B) A puzzle found in the Sunday newspaper.
- C) Any connection between the public water supply (potable water) and a non-potable water source, contaminant, or a private drinking water well.
- D) None of the above.

2. What can an unprotected Cross-Connection do?

- A) Introduce contaminants into your home's water system
- B) Introduce contaminants into the public water system
- C) Create a public health problem

InFLOWmation is published twice a year for all residents and businesses of Westford. Our goal is to keep you informed of events, our challenges and our accomplishments. We also strive to educate and encourage good stewardship of our water resources. Thanks for reading!

- D) All of the above



3. Can a cross connection be found in a home?

- A) No. Cross-connections can only be found in businesses or somewhere else.
- B) Yes. A garden hose submerged in a swimming pool or attached to a chemical sprayer constitutes a Cross-Connection.

4. Where can a Cross-Connection commonly be found in a home?

- A) Submerged garden hose or a hose connected to a pesticide or fertilizer sprayer
- B) Irrigation system
- C) Fire Sprinkler System
- D) Private well
- E) Boilers
- F) Solar heat systems
- G) All of the above

5. What inexpensive and simple device can I buy at the hardware store to protect my garden hose from Cross-Connection?

- A) Only an expensive device can protect a Cross-Connection
- B) Flux Capacitor
- C) Only a super-complicated device can protect a Cross-Connection
- D) Hose Bibb

6. Do all Cross-Connections have to be eliminated or protected with an appropriate backflow prevention device?

- A) Yes
- B) Affirmative
- C) Absolutely
- D) All of the above

Answers: 1. C 2. D 3. B 4. G 5. D 6. D If you got all the right answers you are a Cross-Connection Super Genius!

For more information on Cross-Connections and Backflow Prevention visit the Water Department website at www.westfordma.gov/water or call Mark Warren, Environmental Compliance Manager/Cross-Connection Control Coordinator of the Westford Water Department at 978-399-2457.

Own a private well?

If you have questions about your private well contact Darren MacCaughey, Director of Environmental Services at the Westford Health Department:

Westford Town Hall
55 Main Street, Westford, MA
Tel: 978-692-5509 or Email:
dmaccaughey@westfordma.gov

Water Department Award

The Westford Water Department was honored at an awards ceremony on May 8th at the Waterworks Museum in Boston. The Department won a Public Water System Award from the MassDEP recognizing community water systems for outstanding performance in 2011. The top 5% highest-scoring public water systems were awarded, and Westford was one of ten medium and large community systems to earn the water system award. Scores were determined using several criteria including: system compliance with the drinking water regulations for all of calendar year 2011, effective administration, no enforcement actions for the last five years, and source and distribution system protection.

L-R: MassDEP Commissioner Kenneth Kimmell, Westford Water Department Environmental Compliance Manager Mark Warren, Westford Water Department Superintendent Stephen Cronin



Rules and Regulations Updated in 2012

The Westford Water Department updated its Rules and Regulations in 2012. Visit the Water Department website at www.westfordma.gov/water to see the updated Rules and Regulations.

Lead and Copper

Lead and Copper monitoring of MassDEP-designated locations was performed in 2012, and the results will be reported in the 2012 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR).

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Our public water system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. More information on lead in drinking water and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

We recommend the following tips to keep any potential lead and copper out of the water you drink:

- **Most importantly—Flushing your water is the simplest way to reduce exposure to lead. When your water has been sitting for several hours, flush the tap until the water feels cold before use (usually 30 seconds to 2 minutes).**
- **Never use hot water from the faucet for drinking or cooking—especially when making baby formula.**
- **Never boil water to remove lead or copper. Boiling water for an extended time may make the lead or copper more concentrated.**



Westford Water Department
INFLOWMATION
October 2012
60 Forge Village Road
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(except Holidays)

How to Reach Us

- Main Phone Line (978) 692-5529
- Superintendent (978) 399-2455
- Water Treatment Manager (978) 399-2456
- Business Manager (978) 399-2453
- Environmental Compliance Manager (978)399-2457
- Billing and Property Transfers (978) 692-5529
- Accounts Payable (978) 692-5529

Visit our website:
www.westfordma.gov/water

After Hours

In the event of a water emergency outside of the work day, call the Police Department at 978-692-2161. The police dispatcher will contact our on-call personnel for quick response.

Welcome To Our New Water Treatment Manager

We are pleased to welcome Marco Philippon as our new Water Treatment Manager.

Marco joined the Water Department in October, replacing Stephen Cronin who was recently promoted to Superintendent.

Marco brings over 24 years of practical experience working in the water industry, and holds several advanced industry licenses. We are confident that Marco's professional experience and exceptional knowledge of water works will be a valuable addition to the Water Department staff.

For real-time information on water main breaks and service interruptions visit the Water Dept. website at www.westfordma.gov/water.

