



HOOKSETT VILLAGE WATER PRECINCT

VILLAGE WELLSPRING

November 2019

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

Assistant Superintendent Matt Norris was hired in June 2019, filling a vacancy that was open for many months. This position is difficult to fill due to the unique blend of highly technical and middle management skills required. Matt was "stolen" from Weston & Sampson, an engineering firm, where he operated a similar but larger water system for the Town of Hudson. Prior to that, Matt worked for about a decade at Aquarion Water Co. in Hampton. We reaped the benefits of his experience this past summer as he led the field crew in addressing the backlog of hydrant, valve and service line work, and gave a shot of adrenaline to our asset inventory project. Matt is dedicated, knowledgeable and friendly – please say "hi" and welcome him to our community if you get a chance.

WATER TANK PROJECT UPDATE

The construction of the new 1-million gallon storage tank and about half of the associated new water mains has been completed. While the remaining water main work is critical to its long-term success, the tank was able to be brought on-line quickly and with little fanfare in May 2019. It immediately began providing dramatically improved fire protection and source well pumping efficiency. This phase of the project cost \$2.1M and was funded using a low-interest loan from NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) and as well as HVWP's capital reserves and operating budget.

The next phase of the project is to connect the tank directly to the heart of the distribution system on RT3A, as described in our last newsletter. We have partnered with the Town and local business leaders to apply for a \$444K Phase 2 grant through the NH Drinking Water & Groundwater Trust Fund. This is a highly competitive program with funds awarded via an inherently political process – please feel free to put in a good word for the project if you know any politicians!



June 2019 – The new 1MG glass-fused-to-steel water storage tank goes on-line. It is 59' wide and 51' tall. Treated water is pumped into the tank from the Pinnacle Pond area. The tank feeds the water into the Village by gravity.



Example of a newly tested and marked hydrant at Donati Park. Blue indicates estimated flows >1,500 GPM at 20 PSI. Markers are reflective to improve nighttime emergency visibility.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

- **Hydrant Flow Tests:** HVWP completed its first ever round of comprehensive hydrant flow testing this summer, using a new and innovative technique which allowed us to collect a large amount of data over a period of weeks instead of months. The data were used to calculate hydrant capacities at a nominal pressure of 20 psi and to color code all hydrants in accordance with national fire standards. In combination with the new storage tank and our ongoing hydrant/valve/main inventory and mapping project, the hydrant testing results will significantly improve fire response.

- **Mapping of Critical Assets:** The infrastructure inventory project is in full gear. This project is partially paid for by a \$20K NHDES grant and includes digital mapping; an asset condition and criticality assessment; and preparation of an Asset Management Plan with long-term financial analysis. The results will allow us to better maintain the system, and improve the sharing of resources with other town departments. You may notice our crew or

contractors out and about with tablets and drones collecting data for the project; they would be more than happy to explain our activities if you're interested. We've also been sorting and organizing decades of paper plans at the office, and locating critical missing valves.

- **Controls, Alarms & Communications:** We are investing over \$100K in a near-total revamping of our internal controls and alarms. We've applied for and received a new FCC license for a dedicated radio communications system that will enable our operators to remotely monitor and troubleshoot operations and emergencies at our pumping stations, treatment plants and storage tanks in real-time. Work on the new system should be completed by the end of the year, resulting in smoother operations; less vulnerability to mechanical and natural disasters; and significant monthly savings on utility bills.

- **Winter is Coming:** We don't have any White Walkers to worry about, but the cold weather can do a number on water systems! Please take a minute to make sure your water piping, meter and backflow protection device(s) are protected from freezing. Vacant homes, poorly insulated basements and irrigation system components are especially vulnerable. Replacing damaged equipment and thawing frozen lines can be frustrating and expensive. Please also help us to clear snow around hydrants near your home or business. This greatly improves fire protection and reduces costs.

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

- **New Meters:** Please call us to make an appointment to change out your meter. New meters are much more efficient and allow you to quickly detect costly water leaks. Also, you are now able to access your water usage information and trends via a web link should you so choose.



Matt Norris, Dennis Bell and Gary Hebert testing hydrant flow and pressure using the Big Boy Hose Monster, innovative new technology to calculate fire flow ratings from single hydrants.