

waterwatch

Connecticut | September-October 2024

Stewards of the Environment $^{\text{\tiny{IM}}}$

Free Fun for Fall!



MYSTIC AOUARIUM







Reel to Real - Diversity Film Series

Throughout the fall season, be sure to take advantage of the special deals Aquarion has arranged for its customers at area attractions. You'll find ticket deals to places like the Stamford Museum and Nature Center, the Ridgefield Playhouse, Mystic Aquarium and Mystic Seaport Museum. Just head for aguarionwater.com/freetickets — and enjoy the fun!

Did You Know?

Aquarion offers a variety of assistance programs if you are struggling to pay your water bill. To learn more about eligibility requirements, visit www.aquarionwater.com/ assistance.



Flood Damages Wellfield But Service Continues

For many Aguarion customers and employees across Connecticut, it'll be a long time before memories of the devastating flooding of August 18 recede.

In Newtown, a raging river dropped a railroad trestle and tons of stone into the channel. The resulting backup flooded Aquarion's wellfield serving 8,000 residents in Newtown and Bethel, and also damaged our treatment facility.

Fortunately, we had built an interconnection to a secondary water source for additional system resilency. When we saw the intense storms aiming for Newtown, we shut down our wellfield, and water service continued uninterrupted with our interconnection.

Now we're working to quickly restore the

wellfield. That includes urging the railroad's owner and appropriate state and local officials to restore the river's original flow, so the flood waters can drain away from our essential wellfield.

A need to conserve

Because our secondary supply is limited, we're asking Newtown and Bethel customers to reduce water use to essential needs. That includes a ban on lawn and garden irrigation. We've also halted new customer connections to the system until our wellfield is restored.

Newtown's flooding shows the importance of our ongoing investments in system resiliency. Combined with your continuing attention to conservation, these investments help ensure the safe, reliable water supplies our communities need.

Ponder This: A Day Without Water

October 17 marks the 10th anniversary of Imagine a Day Without Water – a day to take a few minutes to think about what water and the systems that deliver it mean to all of our lives.

It's a story of sparkling reservoirs and pristine wells, miles of underground pipes, plus seemingly countless pumps, valves, filters and monitoring systems. And then there are the teams that run and maintain all that equipment, handle emergencies 24/7, treat and test your water, and answer



TENTH ANNUAL **Imagine a Day** Without Water

October 17, 2024

your calls. They are also working to meet new EPA standards for PFAS treatment, replace lead service lines and bolster our climate resiliency.

As you reflect on what water means to you, try to think of new ways to conserve it. For more on how we can all work together to protect our clean water supplies, visit aquarionwater.com.







