

WATER WATCH

Connecticut

November 2021

Prepare Your Plumbing For The Cold Days Ahead

Frigid temperatures can cause water pipes to freeze and split open if they are not properly protected. Now's a perfect time to make some simple fixes that could save you thousands of dollars in emergency repairs later. Here's how:

- Make sure any pipes that run in or along outside walls are insulated, with no places exposing them to the outside or drafts. This includes inside cabinets and vanities.
- Turn off all outdoor faucets (unless you're sure they have a freeze-proof design).
- Is your water meter in an outdoor pit? If so, make sure that the cover fits tightly, with no cracks to let cold air inside. (And if your meter ever seems frozen or damaged, immediately call Aquarion's Customer Service Center at 1-800-732-9678.)
- On extremely cold days, let your hot and cold water taps drip. Open cupboards and cabinets where water lines run to let the room air prevent freezing.
- Make sure everyone in your household knows how to close the main water shut-off in case a pipe bursts.
- If a pipe freezes, don't try thawing it with an open flame. Instead, wrap it in a towel soaked in hot water, or call a plumber. Flames can easily set surrounding materials on fire.



So, do all you can to keep your plumbing well insulated this winter. You'll save yourself a lot of inconvenience – and, most likely, a lot of money. Learn more at www.aquarionwater.com/frozenpipes.

Reservoir Project Targets Exotic Invader

It's pretty, it loves reservoirs and it's been called "the world's worst invasive aquatic plant."

Hydrilla is choking open waters across North America. Native to Asia, and like so many invasive species, it has few if any natural enemies here to keep its growth in check. It can grow an inch a day to form thick, impenetrable mats at the water's surface and elbow out native plants and wildlife that are key to maintaining a water body's ecological balance. Plus, in a reservoir, it can clog intakes, complicate water treatment and spread into downstream waters.

That's why, after discovering Hydrilla growing in our Laurel Reservoir, on the Stamford/New Canaan border, Aquarion launched a pilot project to find the best way to eliminate it.

It's not an easy task. Even a tiny fragment of the plant can take root and establish a new colony. So we're testing two different ways to remove it. With one, divers use what's basically an underwater vacuum cleaner to suck up the plants. The other involves applying a copper compound to the plant. To gauge the effects of these treatments on all the reservoir's life, we mapped its biomass before and during the project, and will map it again in the spring.



Solar Power Shines For Aquarion's Monroe Office

Passing by our office in Monroe you may have noticed solar panels sprouting there last summer. In September, they generated 16.71 megawatts of power – almost a third of the facility's needs.

Looking at it a different way, in that one month alone they kept over 4 tons of CO₂ out of the air – and the need to plant 21 trees to compensate.



Did You Know?

Connecticut has extended the COVID-19 Payment Program through February 15, 2022. If you're having difficulty paying your water bill, we can help. Learn more at www.aquarionwater.com/assistance.



"Buy One, Get One" Free Ticket Deals

Great Family-Focused Entertainment

Aquarion has arranged top deals for you at great attractions across Connecticut. Your choices include Stamford Museum and Nature Center, The Mystic Seaport Museum and Mystic Aquarium. Visit www.aquarionwater.com/freetickets for more information – and have fun!



Stamford **Museum**
& **Nature Center**



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