

# Water Supply Update

## Serving the Community of Millbury

### News and Notes

#### *Aquarion Receives Grant to Address PFAS Contamination*

A \$200,000 grant from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection will help Aquarion cover engineering and design costs associated with correcting PFAS contamination in its Oak Pond Well. We shut down the well in October, 2019, when testing revealed high levels of chemicals from the PFAS family.



In wide use since the 1950s, PFAS chemicals are now linked to a variety of health risks, particularly in women who are pregnant or nursing, and in infants. They have been detected in some public and private water supplies as well as bottled water, consumer products, food, and cookware.

We're now working with an environmental engineering consultant to design a new treatment plant that would bring water from the Oak Pond Well into conformance with

the Commonwealth's new, stricter PFAS guidelines.

We're continuing to keep the Board of Selectmen updated on our work to address PFAS issues. You can see the latest test results and find other information about PFAS at [www.aquarionwater.com/pfas](http://www.aquarionwater.com/pfas).

#### *Recent and Upcoming Water Main Upgrades*

Aquarion crews have been busy upgrading water mains serving local customers. It's all part of our ongoing program of distribution system improvements needed to reduce water main breaks that can interrupt service.

Though this work can briefly disrupt water service, such as when we make connections to individual customers, in the long run the disruption (and the investment) is well worth it due to the improved service and reliability that result.

Projects include:

- **Elmwood Street** – 900 feet of 12-inch main installed over a five-week period, from October 19 through November 24.
- **Elm Street and Main Street** – 1,600 feet of main installed and coordinated with a town roadway improvement project. Completed in June.
- **Captain Peter Simpson Road and Aldrich Avenue** – Designs are complete and construction is slated to start in the spring.





### ***Stage 1 Drought Alert Issued In October***

Aquarion's Millbury water system receives a portion of its water supply from the City of Worcester. Due to drought conditions in the fall, the City of Worcester issued a Stage 1 Water Supply Alert. As such, Aquarion also enacted water use restrictions with the goal of reducing water use by 10%.

### ***Helping To Fight Hunger***

Hunger continues to be an issue for far too many families and individuals in our area. Our Millbury team recently delivered employee food donations to the annual Millbury Police vs. Fire Food Drive. Many thanks to our first responders who always go beyond the call to reduce hunger throughout our great community.



(Photo courtesy of The Millbury-Sutton Chronicle)