

WEST MILFORD MUNICIPAL UTILITY AUTHORITY

WHAT'S GOING ON! Issue No. 15 – Crescent Park Water Emergency
Sunday, June 12, 2016

The water tank in Crescent Park is not holding water due to a potential break in the underground water main. The MUA's challenge in making repairs has been especially difficult because the community is built on sand, thereby absorbing the water rather than it flowing and breaking to the surface. The MUA recognizes the extent of the inconvenience imposed upon the users in Crescent Park who are most effected, i.e., those on the high end of the community where the water pressure is the least.

The process, and what you should know: The West Milford MUA has been working with their Professionals to locate the source of the water loss so it can be repaired. A major part of the process is to install a leak detection system. This involves placing sensors in various locations in the piping system, to send flow readings to integral meters. One would be lead to believe that to maximize the effectiveness of the leak detection system, it would be ideal if all the water was turned off, leaving only a leak apparent. However, this is not practical nor the way it works. There must be a positive flow and pressure in the pipes, as well as silence in order for the system to measure the water loss. Therefore, sensing is done in off peak hours when usage is down. Digging up the roads to check the water mains is not a method of detection.

At this time, there have been minor leaks found, the roads dug up and piping repaired, but there remains the possibility that another leak has been undetected due to the status of the system. We ask the residents of Crescent Park who DO have water to be mindful of the water use restriction so any other leak can be found.

The MUA has been working with the Township Office of Emergency Management, the Town Administrator, the DPW and the Police Department in an effort to communicate with all and maximize the use of local resources. There has also been much communication with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection who have given their blessing for the use of a supplementary water source, i.e., water trailers to help fill the tank and remediate the current hardship. The MUA has also supplied a potable water truck for residents to use which is located in a central flat area of the development, has plenty of parking and will not cause a hazard to residents and is not in the way of any work in progress. This area where the water tuck has been placed has been approved by the Department of Environmental Protection.

Due to the fact that this MUA has a small staff, individual office calls during an emergency are not always possible. Therefore, the 911 Swift Reach program was put into effect to keep users informed. Out of 206 residents in Crescent Park, there are 193 who have signed up for the 911 Swift Reach Program. Out of those 193, some have signed up with the incorrect phone number and/or have moved from the system, or only have one family member's information. We ask that anyone who has not signed up to do so and if you are signed up, please log into the system to check your information. Information can also be found on the scroll across the top of the webpage at www.westmilfordmua.org. The Township has posted information on the Bulletin Board outside town hall as well as their own website at www.westmilford.org, Channel 77 and the Office of Emergency management has sent out information to those who have signed up for the Township's notification system.

The mandatory water restriction will remain in place until further notice. Absolutely no washing cars, homes, filling pools, irrigations or sprinklers and running of hoses of any kind. The boil water notice will also remain in effect until further notice and the system has been restored and samples have come back clear.