

# Where Has All The Water Gone?

## Water, From Page 1

At Vito's urging, selectmen approved letters threatening shutoff of town water to home owners who haven't replaced underground water pipes.

Some 15 homes in Norfolk are known to have leaks in their underground copper water pipes between the water main at the street and their home. Town officials believe the town may have inadvertently caused the leaks when a chemical was added to town water several years ago to try to address other problems that the state's environmental agency had ordered addressed. But town officials say they were acting under direction from the state and according to industry standard at the time, and that therefore the town isn't legally responsible for the pinhole leaks.

So home owners have to pay for their pipes to be replaced — and cost estimates have ranged from \$2,000 to \$12,000, depending on the distance between the home and the road.

Selectmen implemented a policy last year of allowing home owners to pay off the cost of replacing water pipes over time at low interest.

But some home owners have balked at replacing their water pipes. Vito said one home owner recently replaced water pipes more than a year after the town's Department of Public Works first requested the replacement, meaning the pipes leaked water into the ground for more than a year.

But selectmen are struggling with whether even the lost water from leaks can account for all the lost water. Vito told selectmen there may be about 20 homes in total in Norfolk with leaks (which includes the 15 that have been identified).

"If you have 20 homes out there with leaks, and they all have a quarter-inch leak, you've still got a difference of what you're pumping versus what you're now accounting for of about 40 million gallons," Lehan said.

"Some of the lines we've been pulling up are rattled with holes. I mean, it's like Swiss cheese, not just one hole," Town Administrator Jack Hathaway said.

But Lehan noted that each subsequent hole after the first hole would theoretically be subject to less water pressure, and therefore should leak less water than the first hole.

Yet while thinking it through, Lehan concluded it's at least possible the leaks are to blame.

"I guess my point is it's not off the wall. If you've got 20 homes, and that's accurate, and you have multiple leaks, it could account for that," Lehan said.

But another, more sinister explanation is also on town officials' minds.

"Cause the only other side to this is pilferage," Vito said.

"Yeah. That's what I'm afraid is going on," Garity replied.

"And that's why we've got to get these letters out, get these residents to shut them down, so we can get a better handle on this thing. If we have no leaks, and we're still seeing a differential, we've got someone out there pilferaging water," Vito said.

Town officials have no suspects for drawing town water without paying for it, but Vito discussed possible ways of doing it.

"It used to be trucks, you know these swimming pool trucks? They'd get on a dead-end street, pull out of a hydrant, do something like that," Vito said.

Another possibility is that some homes in Norfolk are receiving town water without meters recording it.

But Vito said it would have to be a lot of houses in order to explain the gap.

"How many houses could be unmetered for that amount of water? There's something going on," Vito said.

Lehan said he has a private well that he uses for irrigating his property. But he also said he watched the contractor connect his irrigation system to the private well, and that he saw how a contractor could connect an irrigation system to town water without much trouble.

"It'd be easy to do," Lehan said.

The town doesn't allow residents and business owners to connect irrigation systems to town water, at least in part because town officials are trying to meet the state environmental agency's standard for water consumption of 65 gallons per person per day.

"It is my opinion that there are irrigation companies in this town that are putting in irrigation systems knowingly on homes that are hooked up to town water. No doubt in my mind," Lehan said. "... They know we have a town bylaw that says you can't do that."

If there are irrigation systems being hooked up to town water, that would violate the town's bylaw. If the users are hooked up to town water while circumventing a water meter to measure usage, that would amount to stealing town water.

Some observers think the town's outright ban on allowing town residents to hook up irrigation systems to town water is counterproductive.

"So what do we do about irrigation?" Lehan said.

"We need to bring it in, we need to make it legal, we need to control it," Vito said. "... Let's make sure it's being done right."

# Religion In Norfolk

*Editor's Note:* Norfolk has three churches and a fourth church congregation that uses the town's library.

The summer schedule at Emmanuel Baptist Church of one service at 9:30 a.m. runs from Sunday, June 20 through Sunday, September 5.

At St. Jude's, Deacon David Ghioni is leading exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, rosary, and benediction from 7 to 8 p.m. Thursdays.

Below are the regular schedules of church services for the church congregations in Norfolk.

**Federated Church of Norfolk**  
(American Baptist and United Church of Christ)  
1 Union Street, Norfolk  
www.fcon.org 508-528-0262

Sunday 10 a.m.: Worship

**Emmanuel Baptist Church**  
63 Rockwood Road (Route 115), Norfolk  
www.emmanuelbaptistchurch.org 508-528-5862

Sunday Worship Service:  
9:30 a.m. (Sunday, June 20 through Sunday, September 5)

Wednesday 7 p.m.: Community Prayer

**Providence Baptist Church**  
church office: 80 Boardman Street, Norfolk  
church worship space: Norfolk Public Library, 139 Main Street, Norfolk  
www.ProvidenceBaptistChurchMA.org 508-528-5750

Worship Service: 10 a.m. Sunday, at Norfolk Public Library Community Room, 139 Main Street, Norfolk

Adult Bible Study: 6 p.m. Sunday (except first Sunday of the month), Call church for location

Evening Men's Bible Study: 7 p.m. Tuesday church office, 80 Boardman Street, Norfolk

**St. Jude's Church (Roman Catholic)**  
86 Main Street, Norfolk  
www.stjudenorfolk.com 508-528-0170

Mass Schedule

5 p.m. Saturday  
7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., and noon Sunday  
9 a.m. Monday through Friday

Most Holy Days of Obligation: 5 p.m. on the eve; 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. on the holy day

Confession: 4 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday

## Religion Near Norfolk

*Editor's Note:* Religious congregations near Norfolk that have Norfolk residents among their congregation are welcome to send listings of services by email to NorfolkBoomerang@gmail.com. Each congregation is responsible for keeping its information up-to-date.

**Temple Etz Chaim (Reform Jewish)**  
900 Washington Street, Franklin  
www.temple-etzchaim.org 508-528-5337

Shabbat Service: 7:30 p.m. Friday  
(Oneg immediately follows)

Some large temple services take place at Franklin Federated Church at 171 Main Street in Franklin. B'nai Mitzvah celebrations take place at First Universalist Society of Franklin at 262 Chestnut Street in Franklin. Check web site or call for schedule.

**The First Universalist Society in Franklin**  
262 Chestnut Street, Franklin  
www.fusf.org 508-528-5348

Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

**First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church**  
26 North Street, Medfield  
www.firstparishmedfield.org 508-359-4594

Service: Sunday, 10 a.m.

**Christ The King Lutheran Church**  
600 Central Street, Holliston  
508-429-5705 christtheking@verizon.net  
www.christtheking-holliston.org

Sunday  
8:30 a.m. — Traditional Service  
9:45 a.m. — Contemporary Service and Sunday School  
11 a.m. — Blended Service

[through June 26, 2010]

## Soccer Camp for Kids Ages 3-6

*Contributed to The Norfolk Boomerang*

NLYS will again sponsor a North American Soccer Camp for players ages 3 to 6.

Camp will be held August 23-27 at the Pond Street Fields in Norfolk.

Camp for 3- and 4-year-olds will be held at 4:00 to 5:30 p.m., and camp for 5- and 6-year-olds will be held 5:30 to 7 p.m.

NASC has 40 years of experience with soccer training and employs a tested and age-appropriate "Kidriculum" designed to teach kids how to play the world's most popular game.

Everyone is welcome - you do not have to play Norfolk Lions Youth Soccer or live in Norfolk to participate.

Cost is \$75. Each camper receives a ball and t-shirt.

To register, visit the website at www.NASC.com.

## Norfolk in Brief

### Briefs, From Page 2

The resident contacted police Monday, July 19 about beer cans in the home, a closet door ripped off its hinges, and eggs taken from the refrigerator that had been thrown at a shed, said Norfolk Police Lieutenant Jon Carroll. Police are investigating the break-in.

### Furry Burglar

A burglar alarm that went off at about 4:03 a.m. Friday, July 16 at a home on Stop River Road did indeed detect an intruder, police said.

An investigation revealed that a squirrel had gotten inside the house and set the alarm off.

### Hungry Burglar

A woman who came home Thursday afternoon found evidence that someone had broken in and raided her refrigerator, police said.

The woman called police at 5:45 p.m. Thursday, July 22 to say that while she was away for the day someone had apparently eaten half a cheesecake and all of leftover pizza that was in the refrigerator at her home on Noon Hill Avenue, said Norfolk Police Lieutenant Jon Carroll.

Two dirty plates and forks were also in the sink, Carroll said. Nothing else was missing from the house, Carroll said.

### Mountain Bike Stolen

A Boardman Street resident lost a bicycle to a thief this week who broke into a shed to get it, police said.

The resident reported the incident at 7:33 p.m. Thursday, July 22. The missing bicycle is a black Mongoose mountain bike with yellow and silver, said Norfolk Police Lieutenant Jon Carroll.

Earlier in the week, a Kingsbury Road resident called police at 12:29 a.m. Tuesday, July 20 to say that three men were trying to steal a bike at his home, but the men didn't get away with the bike, according to police.

### Too Hot To Handle

As if the unusual heat earlier this month weren't enough, a Lawrence Street resident was also bothered by some fireworks.

The resident called police at 5:34 p.m. July 17 to say that it was too hot to be lighting fireworks off.