

WASA pipes found in Gasparillo

Suspect on \$50,000 bail

A 28-YEAR-OLD man is on \$50,000 bail after being charged for stealing pipes from the Water and Sewerage Authority's (WASA) stockpile in Williamsville.

The man was granted bail by a justice of the peace at the Chaguanas Magistrates' Court late yesterday and is due to appear before a magistrate today, WASA said in a release.

WASA security officers detained the man after recovering two lengths of 20-inch ductile iron pipes from a house at Pond Trace, School Road, Bonne Aventure in Gasparillo at about 11 am yesterday. It is believed the pipes were stolen from Williamsville between Monday and Tuesday.

Bonne Aventure residents yesterday said they saw a white truck carrying

iron pipes in the area on Tuesday.

"I heard the noise outside like a truck reversing, I came outside and I heard another a man asking where someone living," an eyewitness told *Newsday*. "It look as if the truck stop by a house and just drop off these large pipes."

The discovery of the stolen pipes comes on the heels of the theft of an air valve and metal fittings at WASA's Caroni South Transmission Main at Perseverance, Chaguanas on Monday. The theft of the air valve resulted in the loss of an approximately 43 million gallons of water, disrupting the supply to 200,000 WASA customers in central and south Trinidad.

WASA said yesterday's arrest is not linked to the theft of the air valve on Monday but appealed to dealers of scrap

iron and metal to be on the lookout for persons attempting to sell the valve.

"We wish to encourage the public to continue to be vigilant as we seek to catch the perpetrators who removed the steel pipes and metal fittings from the Caroni South Transmission Main system," WASA stated yesterday.

A WASA crew completed the installation of a new air valve on a section of the 54 inch main just before noon on Tuesday. However, consumers were warned that "because of the system of water scheduling and the location of some communities at the extremities of the system, full normalisation in supply will take place over a 24-hour period."

Late yesterday consumers in most of the affected areas were receiving water once more.