

MEMORANDUM

TO: Town Council
FROM: David E. Cox, Town Manager 
DATE: May 20, 2022
SUBJECT: Town Manager's Report

The following information includes follow up from general items that were discussed at previous Council meetings as well as updates of a general nature from the departments. The items are organized by department and are intended to provide information on activities currently being undertaken by the Town's departments and those matters that are upcoming. Not all departments will be represented in each Report.

Library

- Author and local resident Jack Matthews will be giving a presentation about his latest book *Arte Perdida* on Tuesday, May 31 at 6:30 PM. Much of his research and writing of the book took place in the East Hampton Library. Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing at the event. Registration is necessary to attend. Register at the Library or on the Library website (<https://easthamptonpubliclibrary.org/>) under the Events tab.
- Starting in June, Wednesday morning story times will be divided into two ages groups to better serve the community. The 10:15 am story time will be Toddler Time , which is best suited for ages 18 months to 3 years old, and Stories and Songs at 11:15 am, which is geared towards children ages 3 to 5.

Public Works

- Final restoration efforts continue on Edgerton Street and crews have been placing bituminous curbing, replacing driveway aprons, prepping for sidewalk placement and backfilling curbing in preparation for topsoil and seeding. Staff and the sidewalk installation contractor anticipate work on sidewalks will commence Monday, May 23. After Edgerton Street work by Town staff is complete, other minor restoration will be performed in the cul-de-sac on Huckleberry Acres and on some of the other roads that were addressed during this most recent round of paving. Once all restoration has been completed, Public Works' attention will turn to several small drainage projects including a pipe replacement project at 82 Main Street.
- This week and through next week staff will continue cemetery mowing/and spring cleanup in preparation for Memorial Day. Staff will also handle cleanup, mowing and mulching work in the Village Center other locations to prepare for the Memorial Day Parade and activities.

- The Town's contractor, Shaw Vac, has been cleaning catch basins in the Lake Pocotopaug watershed and other areas in town. As a reminder the catch basins in the lake watershed are cleaned twice a year in the late fall and springtime.
- Street sweeping is ongoing and will continue until all roads in town have been swept. Gravel road maintenance also continues. Approximately half of the gravel roads have been regraded and compacted at this time.

Youth and Family Services

- The Department continues to respond to calls for assistance through its work to facilitate resident applications for various energy and fuel assistance programs and through connecting families and individuals to the Food Bank and other resources.
- Staff in the Department and other Town Departments are working with the family and landlord in a case where the Chatham Health District issued an order causing the family to be relocated from their rental home due to conditions in the property. The landlord is seeking alternative housing and staff is working through that with the parties.
- The Department continues to provide limited counseling services and is interviewing candidates for the various internships that will be used to re-establish those services in the upcoming months.
- The Department is facilitating a Zoom presentation on June 6 with Johnny's Ambassadors, an organization seeking to reduce youth marijuana use through education, prevention, and awareness. The program is available to all who are interested and is being promoted in East Hampton as well as neighboring communities.
- The Department is also planning a program developed for middle school and high school students and their families regarding the effects of bullying. The program is scheduled for September 12.
- After disappointing results from recent efforts at Drop In activities, the Department is reassessing and evaluating new ways to deploy and administer the grant funds to increase or maximize youth reach and participation.

Town Manager/Other

- The Town's officially reported COVID rates have continued to rise. In the most recent reporting, the Town remains at the "Red Alert" level and is seeing about seven reported cases per day or a rate of 54.1 daily cases per 100,000 population. Residents are encouraged to maintain safe

habits to avoid spreading or suffering severe effects of any illness like staying home when sick, wearing masks when it is appropriate, and staying up to date on vaccines. All who are eligible continue to be encouraged to receive the COVID vaccine, which is available through Chatham Health District and other locations. About 75% of the Town's residents are fully vaccinated for COVID and about 46% have received booster shots.

- Staff is reviewing preliminary plans for streetscape improvement in the Village Center that will involve reinstalling the memorial bricks that were removed during emergency storm sewer work last year. The plan calls for extending the brick theme along with other pedestrian-related improvements throughout the Village Center area. After revision, staff will present the proposed plans to the Council and to Village Center businesses for comment before seeking ways to implement improvements over time.
- The Town has received its first disbursement of funds under the State program through which a 5 cent surcharge is added to the cost of alcohol bottles of 50ml or less (nips, nippers). The Town received \$8,258.20, which represents 165,164 bottles delivered to East Hampton retailers from October 2021 to March 2022. Disbursements are made by the State every six months. In accordance with the law, funds will be used to support efforts to collect bottle litter from roadsides and other areas of Town and to support other waste reduction efforts.
- The Town's budget was approved by voters during the referendum on May 17. Unofficial vote totals for the 1,286 ballots cast are: Town Budget, 851 in favor to 430 opposed and for the Education Budget, 764 in favor to 518 opposed.

DC

cc: Management Staff