


## MEMORANDUM

TO: Town Council  
FROM: David E. Cox, Town Manager   
DATE: October 20, 2023  
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 or agencies. 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.

### **Council Meeting Follow Up**

- Staff has received and is reviewing the engineering and testing information from the developer of the Edgewater development regarding construction to date of Edgewater Circle. This review is related to the ongoing discussion regarding potential Town acceptance of maintenance responsibility for the main road, including the portion in front of Town Hall. The matter will be presented to the Council at an upcoming meeting to determine how it wishes to proceed.

### **Assessor**

- The public is reminded that Personal Property Declarations are due by Wednesday, November 1 to avoid the statutory penalty of 25%. Filers of which the Town is aware have been sent information and a reminder. Forms are also available on the Assessor's page of the Town website. Filers with property that may be exempt should file an exemption form to ensure that proper assessment is performed.

### **Library**

- The Library hosted its first ever Cardboard Arcade this month. During the first week of October, sixteen teens and tweens utilized STEM skills to build arcade-inspired games out of recycled materials, with help from local business owner Brian Joy of The Pinshack. On Saturday, October 7, almost 100 members of the public visited the Library to play the games. Feedback from the community about the event was excellent.
- On Monday, October 9, Children's Librarian Christine Cachuela was named Library Director. The Town is currently accepting applications to fill the now-vacant Children's Librarian position.

## **Police Department**

- The Department will once again participate with the Town's Prevention Partnership in the Drug Enforcement Administration's National Prescription Drug Take Back day on October 28 between the hours of 10AM-2PM at the Town Hall. Members of the Department will be available for anyone wishing to dispose of prescription medications in front of Town Hall, where those interested may drive through and drop the items into a box, which will be taken to an off-site DEA facility for destruction. The purpose of this event is to encourage individuals to remove unneeded medications from their homes as a measure of preventing medication misuse and opioid addiction from ever starting.
- After seven years of service with the East Hampton Police Department, the Town's K-9 Ardo will retire during the first quarter of 2024. As many in the community will recall, Ardo had surgery on his left rear knee to correct an injury sustained during training in September of 2021. Ardo has not fully recovered from that injury. Additionally, Ardo is trained to "alert" on the presence of certain drugs to include the odor of Marijuana/Cannabis, of which possession of certain amounts is now legal for adults over 21. Since Ardo cannot distinguish between marijuana and other drugs, he can no longer be used to establish probable cause or reasonable suspicion for a further search for any drugs. The Department, with the assistance of the Rotary Club, is currently embarking on a fundraising effort to raise funds for a new K-9.

## **Recreation**

- Travel Basketball tryouts have been completed and the Department is looking forward to another great season! Teams will begin practices next week and games will be starting at the end of November. Registrations for Recreational Basketball will be live on the Recreation Department website next week.
- The Trunk or Treat event is scheduled for next Wednesday October 25 from 5:30 to 7:30pm at Bevin Park north of Center School. Currently, over 40 vehicle hosts signed up and over 300 kids pre-registered to participate. While pre-registration is not required, it is appreciated for planning purposes. Staff is anticipating one of the biggest turnouts yet.
- An Air Line Trail Maintenance Day and cleanup has been scheduled for October 28 from 9:00am to 12:00pm meeting at the Cranberry Bog. This is a great event involving the Recreation Department, The Air Line Trail Sub-Committee and many other local organizations and volunteers. Registration to help out at this event is available online or by contacting the Recreation Department office.

- The Department, working with the State of Connecticut DEEP, has arranged for the annual stocking of walleye in Lake Pocotopaug, which is scheduled for October 30. This year, 1,500 walleye fingerlings will be stocked.
- The Air Line Trail Ghost Run is scheduled for November 4. This event is a collaboration between the towns of Hebron, Colchester and East Hampton. The race begins in Hebron and heads down the Air Line Trail to East Hampton and finishes at Center School. Staff is anticipating about 300 runners this year.

### **Senior Center**

- Staff is continuing to work with the Commission on Aging as it initiates the East Hampton Community Cares program in coordination with UR Community Cares, Inc. through the affiliation, persons needing assistance are paired with local volunteers, who have been vetted, to receive assistance with chores, household work, transportation and other needs. With the support of the local Rotary club and its foundation, funds are being raised to support the operational cost of background screening and program expenses.

### **Youth and Family Services**

- The Department is currently developing a concise, two-sided handout that contains information on various social services available in town and in the surrounding area. Contact information will include telephone numbers, addresses and services provided. Visitors to the Department can ask for a handout and it will be available at other locations in the community as well.
- Department staff has begun preparing to connect families in the community with holiday donations that come through the East Hampton Police Stuff-A-Cruiser event and from other private donations. Parties interested in this opportunity are invited to contact the Department.
- The Department has two active Juvenile Review Board cases and both minors have been performing community service as part of their restorative plan. The new community service plan has included cleanup efforts at both the high school and in Town-owned cemeteries.
- The Prevention Partnership and the Prevention Coordinator will participate in the Trunk or Treat event. The community is encouraged to stop by to pick up some candy and learn more about the Prevention Partnership Coalition and the work it is doing and to volunteer if they are interested.

- The Prevention Partnership is sponsoring a family movie night at the East Hampton Library on October 30. The movie Frankenweenie will begin at 6:00pm. Goodie bags will be given out to the kids.

### **Town Manager/Other**

- Representatives of the Town's Economic Development Commission will be attending the initial meeting of the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce's Economic Development Council. The Council is a new initiative of the Chamber to coordinate and advance on a regional basis business retention and expansion efforts as well as workforce development activities and to share best practices for county-wide economic development.
- The Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG) is preparing an application for a grant under the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing program. The HUD initiative is to fund the evaluation of obstacles to the development of affordable housing and determination of ways to address removal of the obstacles. The RiverCOG will be holding a public meeting on Tuesday, October 24 beginning at 6:00pm to accept public comment on the application. Information on the application and the means to submit written comments may be found on the RiverCOG website here:  
<https://www.rivercog.org/plans/prohousing/>

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cc: Management Staff