


MEMORANDUM

TO: Town Council
FROM: David E. Cox, Town Manager 
DATE: February 19, 2021
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.

Assessor

- The Assessor and the contracted appraiser that performed the Town's 2020 revaluation are scheduled to present information on the revaluation at the Council's March 23 meeting. They will describe the process, the final value and how the values have grown and shifted within the community since the last full revaluation in 2015.

Finance

- The Board of Finance has established a non-lapsing Unexpended Education Funds account in accordance with State Statute 10-248a. The account, into which unexpended education funds up to two percent (2%) of the total education budget may be placed by the Board of Finance annually, would be available to the Board of Education to be expended on appropriate Education-related expenses in future years. The Board of Education policy related to use of the funds calls for a focus on capital, one-time or emergency expenditures.

Library

- The Library launched an email newsletter on Thursday, January 18th. The newsletter, a copy of which is attached, was sent to approximately 3,500 library cardholders and was developed based off of community feedback. In January 2020, the Library surveyed the community and heard that publicity and promotion could be better. One of the actions outlined in the Library's recent strategic plan is: Establish engaging digital, print and virtual content and spaces to promote, deliver and showcase library programs, services and collections. The Library's email newsletter is progress towards that action.
- Librarians April Hannon and Stephanie Smith were interviewed on iCRV radio to talk about upcoming events at the Library including our upcoming life-size Candy Land Game. A copy of the interview can be heard here:
<https://icvradio.com/programs/program/56>.

- The Library distributed over 180 early-literacy kits to six daycares around East Hampton. The kits were dropped off along with a rotating collection of children's materials to be used in the classroom and links to pre-recorded virtual story times. The children's department prepares new kits and new collections for each day care on a monthly basis.

Parks and Recreation

- The Conservation Lake Commission applied to the State for an Aquatic Invasive Species Grant. This grant proposes a full-lake aquatic plant and benthic (lake bottom) cyanobacteria survey for Lake Pocotopaug. The only known aquatic plant survey to be performed on Lake Pocotopaug was from September 2015 and it is recommended that a survey of this magnitude is done every few years. Currently, there is unconfirmed information that Lake Pocotopaug has seen remnants of the invasive *Najas Minor* washed up on shore. This study will determine if this is true and locate the source of the problem so it can be addressed. Additionally, the study will investigate Benthic Cyanobacteria mats that have been prevalent in the waters of Lake Pocotopaug. The study will reflect on the prevalence and potential role of this type of cyanobacteria. A total grant amount of \$14,720 is sought with a town match of 35% (\$5,152) which is intended to be covered from the Conservation Lake Commission's budget for next fiscal year.
- Recreation basketball games start this week with no fan attendance due to COVID protocols. All games will be broadcasted live via Zoom for parents and families to watch.
- As in the past, Glastonbury High School Rowing Team will be using Sears Park and the lake from March 17 through April 15 for rowing practices. The team will be using the park between 4:00pm and 6:00pm weekdays and will have approximately 80 students in the park. They will be following their school and the Town's COVID protocols while here. Also, Wesleyan Sailing has requested use of the park for their sailing team again this year and staff is working on the dates and times.
- The Air Line Trail Committee has set a date of Saturday, May 1 for its next Trail Clean-up Day and will partner with local Boy Scouts to help clean swales and trash off the trail. The event will run from 8:00am – 12:00pm.
- The Parks and Recreation Department is partnering with the Middlesex Land Trust to develop trails that will connect the Middlesex Land Trust trails at the end of Dogwood

Drive through Town and Land Trust owned properties to Seamster Park and the Air Line Trail.

Police

- The Department received 27 applications for the open Police Officer position, which is the most the Town has received in the past several years. The next phase of the process will be the oral boards, which are scheduled for March 2.
- Once again, the Prescription Drug Take Back Box in the Police Department lobby was a huge success for 2020, even with the pandemic. The total collection for 2020 was 341 pounds of unused or outdated drugs that will be properly disposed.

Public Works

- Despite previous assurances from the Town's road salt provider that there would be no interruption in salt delivery this winter, the recent loss of the State pier in New London has affected municipalities across the State including the Town. When the State forced closure of the salt stores at the pier, East Hampton's supplier was forced to relocate and would now supply us from Albany, New York but at a much increased price. Staff has been in touch with many different suppliers over the past week but because many State municipalities are in the same situation, staff is having limited success in enlisting a new supplier. Staff is working through the situation and has salt being delivered by our existing supplier at the higher rate to ensure that the Department will be able to respond to weather events. The Department will continue working with the State bid and other joint bid contractors to enlist a replacement supplier.

Senior Center

- The Senior Center, Town Hall and Chatham Health District held a Vaccine Clinic on Monday, February 8 for those age 75 and older and 100 vaccines were administered that day. The second dose clinic will be held at the Town Hall March 11 by appointment only.
- Another first dose clinic is being scheduled for March and will likely be held at the High School to accommodate the increased number of vaccines that will be available to distribute. The State vaccine distribution now includes residents over 65 years old and this clinic will be available through the VAMS website and, for those who cannot use the VAMS site, with assistance from the Senior Center staff.
- Staff is averaging about 50 or more calls each day most of which concern vaccine clinics and utilizing the VAMS registration system. Staff is focused on providing this assistance,

which is allowing for only basic programming services such as food and grocery assistance programs and Zoom programs.

- Virtual programming continues as the winter months progress. Another state-wide program is being held virtually from the Connecticut Science Center and is focused on the topic of DNA. Friendship Tours is hosting a Zoom trip to Nashville in March.

WPCA

- The Joint Facilities Committee approved its budget for the upcoming year at its meeting on February 9. The East Hampton Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) will consider its budget at a Public Hearing and meeting on March 2.
- WPCA personnel are taking on some small projects at the Wastewater Treatment Plant such as replacing tanks, pumps and controls in the seal water system, which is part of the system of pumps that move wastewater through the plant. In addition to installation of a new hoist to remove the Plant's grit pump, staff has been responding to emergency repairs to Colchester's force main on the Air Line Trail. Colchester is in the process of hiring a contractor to replace this line, which has been having problems since the last half of 2020.

Youth and Family Services

- Social Services will be hosting two internet safety programs for East Hampton schools, which will be presented online by Scott Driscoll, President of Internet Safety Concepts. The presentations, which are funded through the Department's Enhancement Grant, will be geared toward elementary and middle school students for one presentation and toward high school students for the other to account for the way technology is accessed by different age groups.
- On Wednesday February 10, the Director of Social Services and the Department Case Manager participated in a Zoom presentation to the Rotary Club to talk about services the department provides to the community.

Town Manager/Other

- East Hampton remains at the "Red Alert" under the State's COVID Response Framework. Although the situation has been better in the last few weeks, the Town has a slight increase in its case rates in the last report. According to the most recent information from the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH), East Hampton had 57 new confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the last two weeks, which leads to a two-week average

daily positivity rate of 31.7 per 100,000 population. That equates to just over 4 new cases each day in East Hampton. The most recent reporting from the DPH indicates the total number of diagnosed COVID-19 cases in East Hampton is now 634 since tracking began in March. Also, according to the most recent data from the State, over 1,800 (14.28%) Town residents have received at least their first dose of the vaccine. Over 90% of our population over 75 has been vaccinated.

- The solar installation being constructed on Skinner Street, which is the facility that will be providing energy for the Town's Net Metering Agreement, is expected to be online soon. The facility, which generates approximately 1.7 million megawatt hours of electricity, is expected to additionally offset significant portions of the Town's electrical utility costs for both Board of Education and Town Government facilities as well as some WPCA facilities. Without actual history on which to base the estimations, conservative budget estimations will be made.
- The Town's Annual Report for the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 is complete and has been posted on the Town's website. Print copies have been distributed to the Town Council, Board of Finance and staff and some limited print copies are available in the Town Manager's office.

DC

cc: Management Staff



EAST HAMPTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

THE NEWS YOU NEED

We've gone fine free. Forever!

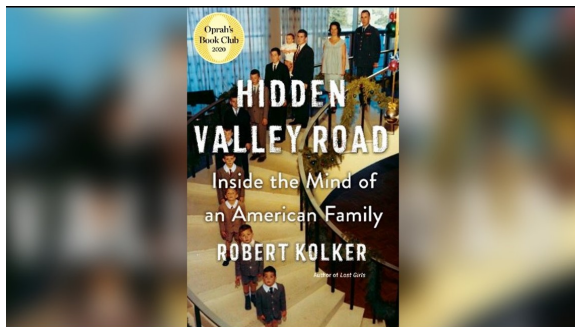
Have you heard? We're now fine free, forever! On January 26, 2021, the East Hampton Town Council approved a policy eliminating late fines. Simply put, we want everyone to be able to use their library. Now, late fines won't stand in anyone's way. Thank you to the Town Council and the Library Advisory Board for approving a change that was *(ahem)* long overdue!

[Learn more about this new policy](#)

Early literacy story times for children expand!

We're offering more virtual story time programs than ever. With new morning, afternoon, and evening spots available, there are more opportunities to connect with local families in your community. Can't make it in person? We'll send out the recordings every week. Story time, any time.

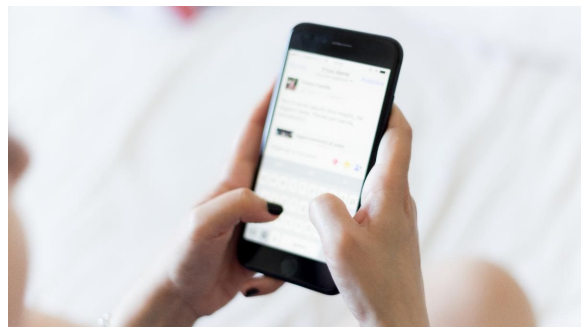
[Check out all of our events here.](#)



Join our growing book club!

Our book club has expanded to two sessions: one in the evening and one in the afternoon! Pick up a copy of the March book club pick: [Hidden Valley Road](#), the true story of a family with six children with schizophrenia who became the subject of studies on the genetic origin of the disorder.

[Learn more here.](#)



Hotspots Available for Check Out

We now have five hotspots available for check out! Hotspots allow any Wi-Fi enabled device to connect to the Internet. Perfect for car trips or distance learning. Call us or come in to borrow yours today!

[Learn more here.](#)

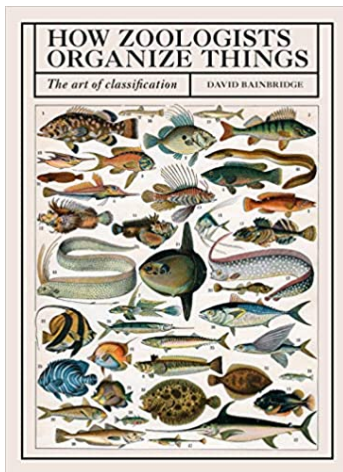


1000 Books Before Kindergarten

Great news! We've made it easier than ever for you to participate in 1000 Books Before Kindergarten! You can now participate fully online or through the mail. Whatever is convenient for you, we'll make it happen. Our goal is for every child in East Hampton to experience the amazing benefits of reading 1000 Books Before Kindergarten.

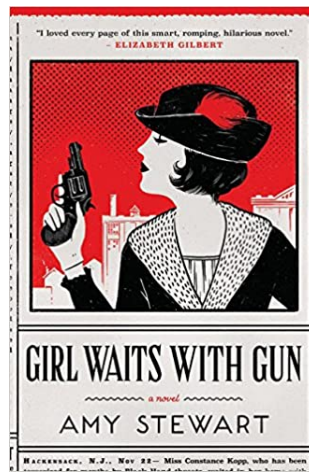
[Sign up and learn more here!](#)

... and the books you read!



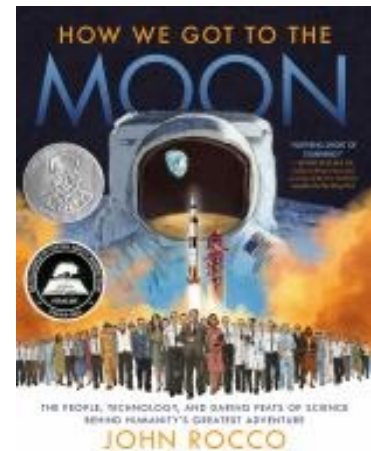
New Non Fiction! Rich in scientific illustration, this beautiful book is a primer on how and why humans began understanding and classifying the animals that surround us. Perfect for those with an interest in nature or those just looking to take a beautiful tour through the animal kingdom.

[Check it out here.](#)



Mystery Back List! Looking for a new cozy mystery? Try Amy Stewart's Kopp Sisters series.

Based on the true story of Constance Kopp, a deputy sheriff in Patterson, New Jersey and her two sister's Norma and Fleurette, these sisters battle crime and criminals in this page-turning series. [Check it out here.](#)



Non Fiction For Kids! Although designed for readers aged 8 to 12, everyone can appreciate the illustrations from Caldecott Honor Medalist John Rocco. There are tons of books out there about the moon landing but this one tells stories of the 400,000 unsung heroes that got us there.

[Check it out here.](#)

The East Hampton Public Library connects people, information and ideas to enrich lives and our shared community.

Our vision is to be the welcoming center of the community where East Hampton gathers to connect learn and grow.

We prioritize people. We build community. We promote learning.



EAST HAMPTON
PUBLIC LIBRARY

East Hampton Public Library | www.easthamptonpubliclibrary.org

