


## MEMORANDUM

TO: Town Council  
FROM: David E. Cox, Town Manager   
DATE: April 21, 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. 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.

### **Collector's Office**

- Sewer customers are reminded that the second installment payment becomes delinquent after May 1, 2023. Bills may be paid 24-hours a day online through the Town's website with a fee for use of a credit/debit card or with no fee for a direct payment from a checking or savings account. Customers may also use the drop box outside of Town Hall at any time or may pay at the Collector's Office on the first floor of the Town Hall during office hours, which are Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8am until 4pm, Tuesdays until 6:30pm and Fridays until 12:30pm. Effective May 2, the bills are delinquent and late charges are applied.

### **Fire Department**

- East Hampton Fire Department, along with the East Hampton Ambulance Association, is hosting an open house to promote and seek volunteers and to promote life and fire safety for the community. A flyer for the event, which will be held on Saturday, April 29 from 10am to 2pm at both Fire Station #1 at 3 Barton Hill Road and at the Ambulance facility at 4 Middletown Avenue, is attached.
- Twelve members of the Department have completed a State certified Fire Instructor One course. During this 48-hour course, the team spent eight hours on six consecutive Saturdays to learn the fundamentals of instructing others. This class will help our membership and community as our team will be certified to teach. Fundamentals of this class are public speaking, what information is retained by students, how to cater to your audience and laws/standards pertaining to students.

### **Library**

- Library staff is busy planning for this year's "Find Your Voice" Summer Reading Program, which will once again kick off with a large event at Center School on Friday, June 23.
- Planning is also underway for the Bike Rodeo that will be a part of National Trails Day and is being hosted in conjunction with the Parks and Recreation Department, the Police Department,

and several downtown businesses. The grant-funded event uses hands on activities to teach youth about bicycle safety.

- The Library is pleased to announce that 3D printing services are now available at the Library for a small fee. More information about the size of items that may be printed and availability of models may be found on the Library's website. This new service is made possible due to a generous donation of the printing device and the fees will offset materials and operational costs.
- In recent weeks, the Children's Department has collaborated with the Senior Center to host two programs that bring youth and older adults together; a paint party and an interactive nature storytime and walk. Participants at the storytime were delighted to stroll the Library and Senior Center grounds, attempting to spot the flora and fauna from the book.

### **Parks and Recreation**

- Formal progress is being made on the grants received for improvements on the Air Line Trail to construct a boardwalk through the wetlands area of the Trail northwest of RT 66 near Public Works. In addition to the \$1.4 million grant received from the Congress, staff has been notified that the Town also received a \$400,000 grant from the CT DEEP, which will serve as a portion of the local match for the federal grant and will cover other, related improvements to the Trail. Staff and representatives from CTDOT, who is overseeing the federal grant, CTDEEP, and the engineer will be meeting next week to begin coordination and administrative efforts related to the grants. Staff is hopeful that the boardwalk project will commence in fall and continue through winter and be ready for use in spring 2024.

### **Police**

- Unfortunately, over the past several weeks the Department has seen an uptick in stolen motor vehicle cases (five) in densely populated areas of town. In every case, the vehicle was left unlocked and in some cases the key was left inside the vehicle. The types of vehicles that were stolen were two Hyundai's, one Mercedes, a BMW and a Nissan. Three of the four vehicles have been recovered in the towns of Southington, New Britain, Waterbury and Bristol. The New Britain Police Department arrested a 13 year old male when he was found driving one of the stolen vehicles from our town. All of the vehicles that were recovered have been processed by members of our Department or other law enforcement agencies. We are hopeful evidence obtained from the recovered vehicles will lead to other arrests. Residents are reminded to ensure that vehicles are locked, and that keys and valuables are removed whenever they are unattended.

### **Public Works**

- Public Works crews have been performing pavement shimming operations on Wopowog Road in preparation for chip sealing later this spring.
- Toward the end of next week, the Towns contractor Indus will begin crack sealing areas that areas not being shimmed on Wopowog Road, plus Brook Hill Road, Collie Brook Road, Hog Hill, Haddam Neck Road, and Lake Drive between Mott Hill Road and Staeth Road.
- Also, last week, the Department assisted with two smaller projects at Center School. One project was preparing a gravel pad for the installation of a greenhouse and the other was the installation of a concrete pad for the future bench honoring the Bevin family, who donated the land for the Center School fields.

### **Senior Center**

- The Senior Center Director and the Town Manager met with representatives of River Valley Transit to discuss a pilot project River Valley Transit (RVT) is hoping to implement in East Hampton. RVT is applying for a grant from the State DOT to implement an on demand transportation service that would allow users to begin and end trips locally within the main portion of East Hampton. Similar to a typical ridesharing or taxi service, users would be able to call for a ride, which would then be provided within a short time. Rides may be individual or shared, depending on demand at the time, and would bear a very minimal cost. The DOT is testing the viability of such a service in various areas of the state through several pilot programs like this one. As more information becomes available, it will be shared with the community.

### **Youth and Family Services/Prevention**

- The Department will be hosting a walking event for grades 4-9 on May 18 from 4-6 p.m. at the Air Line Trail. The activity will include a hike and an outdoor picnic and will reinforce the healing power of being outdoors in nature. Youth Service clinical interns from the Marriage and Family program will talk to kids about how they can use nature to build confidence, decrease anxiety and improve mental health while deepening their connection with others in a positive environment. Families interested in signing their children up can contact Youth Services at 860-267-9982 for a waiver/permission slip and to register.
- The Department will use grant funds to support the Middle School dance by funding one of the photo booths and providing other items for the event.
- The Prevention Coordinator will attend the East Hampton Ambulance Open House on Saturday April 29. Information will be provided about the Prevention Coalition and the harm reduction services available through the Coalition and throughout Town.

- Courtney Widrick, the Prevention Coordinator, will be leaving the Town on Friday, May 5 to take a position with another agency. Courtney has done tremendous work for the Town and the Prevention Partnership Coalition. She has established strong relationships with Coalition members and has gracefully agreed to be available to us by phone and email to support the Coalition and her successor with any assistance needed. While we are sad to see her go, we wish her the best.

DC

cc: Management Staff

# OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2023  
10 AM - 2 PM



MEET YOUR PUBLIC SAFETY EXPERTS FROM EAST HAMPTON

## AMBULANCE

*4 Middletown Avenue*

- ✓ Hands-only CPR
- ✓ Truck tours
- ✓ Overdose education
- ✓ File of life

## FIRE DEPT.

*3 Barton Hill Road*

- ✓ Fire extinguisher demo
- ✓ Truck tours
- ✓ Fire education
- ✓ Extrication demo