

# Town Manager's Update

## December 1, 2016

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### Announcements

- The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Holiday Parade & Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place this Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. The theme of this year's Parade is a "Griswold Family Christmas" and it will kick off at 3:00 pm from the Commons Shopping Plaza (515 Daniel Webster Highway), travel down Daniel Webster Highway to Baboosic Lake Road and end at the Town Hall parking lot. The Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony with Santa Claus will begin immediately afterwards at Abbie Griffin Park at approximately 3:45pm. For questions contact the Parks & Recreation Department at 882-1046 or visit their website [www.merrimackparksandrec.org](http://www.merrimackparksandrec.org)
- Tax bills have been issued and are due by Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>
- The 2017 resident decals for the Transfer Station are in. Residents can pick up the decals at the Transfer Station, Town Clerk's office, or the Public Works office.

### Town Manager's Report

- The Merrimack Wastewater Treatment Facility set a new record by marketing 18,560 yards of compost for calendar year 2016 resulting in revenues of more than \$192,000.
- Did you know that it costs \$100 more per ton to dispose of items through the trash stream than through the single stream recycling? This holiday season please help save money by bringing those cardboard boxes to the recycling center instead of throwing them in the trash. Be Green, Save Green.
- **4 Executive Park Drive.** Conceptual plans for 2 possible developments have been proposed for the site of the closed former Merrimack Hotel and Conference Center site.

Proposal 1 is for a residential development as outlined below:

- A total of 200 apartment units in 4 buildings
- 3 of the buildings will have underground parking for a total of 120 cars.
- A fifth building will contain a 3500 sq. /ft. clubhouse.

Proposal 2 is for a retail development as outlined below:

- A total of 76,240 sq./ft. of retail space in 5 separate buildings
- 1 building proposed as a restaurant of 1.840 sq./ft.

Here are the updates that you asked me for this morning. I also spoke to Merrimack Friends & Families about their scarecrows and they said it would be removed today.

**Parks & Recreation Updates:**  
**12/1/16**

### **Annual Holiday Parade & Christmas Tree Lighting**

The Town of Merrimack invites you to bring the whole family out for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Holiday Parade & Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony which will take place this Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. The theme of this year's Parade is a "Griswold Family Christmas" and it will kick off at 3:00pm from the Commons Shopping Plaza (515 Daniel Webster Highway), travel down Daniel Webster Highway to Baboosic Lake Road and end at the Town Hall parking lot. The Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony with Santa & Mrs. Claus will begin immediately afterwards at Abbie Griffin Park at approximately 3:45pm.

### **Dog Park Update:**

The new dog park is just about complete and ready to open at this point. There are two last remaining steps for the Park to be complete. The fence posts have been put into the ground already and we're just waiting for the fence pieces themselves to be added to the posts. This work is expected to be completed during the week of December 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> (assuming good weather). The other remaining task is the sponsorship sign which we are working with the Eagle Scout candidate Daniel Figueroa who is building the sign for us. The Park Rules sign will be installed in the next couple of days and so once the fencing is complete we can open the Park. We wanted to wait until the sponsor sign was installed before we hold an official ribbon cutting.

### **Function Hall Usage:**

Since the Function Hall became available to rent out in September, we have had a fair amount of usage on the building without much advertising on our part. Of the usage we've had, some of it is for new Recreation programs we were able to offer, some of it was for other Town Departments and some of it was for Private Rentals. Currently the building is getting used on average 2- 3 times per week. We're just now starting to get calls for future rentals. Below is a summary of our users to this point up thru the end of December and the total hours of use:

• Merrimack Fire Department – 3 Day Incident Command Training	24 Hours
• Merrimack Library – Turkey Shoot Fundraising Event	5 Hours
• Cub Scout Pack 424	2 Hours
• Private Birthday Party	4 Hours
• Anniversary Party	4 Hours
• Adult Health & Wellness Programs	14 hours
• Family Recreation Programs	23
Hours	
• Hosted American Camp Association Training	8 Hours
• Environmental Education Workshops	9 Hours
• School Vacation Week Recreation Programs	40 Hours
• Recreation Department Special Events	4 Hours
<b>Total Usage</b>	<b>137 Hours</b>

**\*We have already received several rental inquiries for January & February 2017.**

### **Winter Recreation Programs**

Looking ahead to the winter months, our new Winter Activities Brochure will be coming out on Friday, Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>. We cut back on some of our programming because we have so much else going on right now but once we get the new Program Coordinator position filled (hopefully Mid January) we will begin adding more. Here is what we are currently offering this winter.

- Parent & Child Free Monthly Movies in Partnership with the Library and held in the Function Hall on weekday mornings.
- Family Snowman Building Challenge
- 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Carnival – Feb 25<sup>th</sup>
- 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Easter Egg Hunt – April 8<sup>th</sup>

- School Vacation Week Programs – Dec, Feb & April
- Horseback Riding Programs thru Walnut Hollow Farm (Independent Contractor)
- Youth Soccer Programs
- Youth Enrichment Programs – Photography, Painting, Drawing
- Bus Trips to: The Lion King and Foxwoods
- Barre Body Fitness & Yoga Classes
- Wilderness First Aid, Wilderness First Responder Courses, Heartsaver CPR

Other Updates:

- O’Gara Drive Ice Skating Rink: We purchased a new liner for the rink this year which will be delivered on December 5<sup>th</sup>. The rink typically opens for the season in late December/Early January depending on the weather.
- Registration for Summer Camp opens January 23<sup>rd</sup> for Summer 2017