

Town Manager's Update

July 21, 2016

Announcements

- In partnership with the Merrimack Parks and Recreation Department, the Merrimack Police Department will be hosting their first **NATIONAL NIGHT OUT** on Tuesday, August 2nd between the 6:30 pm and 10:00 pm at Watson Park. National Night Out Day is observed annually on the first Tuesday in August. It is a community-police awareness-raising event in the United States. National Night Out was created to increase awareness about police programs in communities. Some of these programs include: Drug prevention, Town watch & Neighborhood watch. This year with the help of the Merrimack Parks and Recreation there will be a movie “ZOOTOPIA” playing on the lawn starting at 8:00 pm. At 6:30, while you are waiting for the movie, there will be an egg toss contest for all ages, so please come join us and be part of this “BIG COMMUNITY” event.

Town Manager's Report

- As you may know, the library's lower level suffered extensive flooding during Monday's storm. The staff acted quickly to remove materials and equipment from affected areas to prevent further damage. The library closed early on Monday and the lower level has remained closed to the public while the area is drying out. The Children's Services Department has been operating from the Teen Area on the Main Floor and any changes to our Summer Reading Event locations will be updated on our website events calendar. We wish to thank everyone for their support during this series of unfortunate events, especially, the Town's Finance Director, Paul Micali, who has been working closely with us.
- On 7/19 the Planning Board granted conditional final approval of a site plan for Verizon Wireless to construct a new 100' tall cell tower on land owned by MVD off Turkey Hill Road (water tower site).
- Following a continuance by the Planning Board on 7/19, the Planning Board will hold their Public Hearing on Zoning Ordinance amendments (to revise Accessory Dwelling Unit language in the ordinance to address new state law and to revise sign section to ensure constitutionality is maintained following the Reed v. Gilbert US Supreme Court Case) at their August 2 meeting. Should the Board recommend these changes, they will be brought forth to the Council for their consideration in the near future.
- The Planning Board will also hold an initial workshop discussion (brainstorming and concept development) on August 2 for developing new language to encourage redevelopment of “underutilized sites” such as the former Shaw's and former Merrimack Hotel parcels, and others the Board feels may be appropriate.
- The Public Works Department is pleased to announce the hiring of Dawn Tuomala as Town Engineer. Dawn brings more than 30 years of experience in the field of engineering and surveying and will make a great addition to the Public Works Team.
- The Bean Road bridge is drawing nearer to completion. The contractor's current schedule calls for the bridge to be open to traffic in mid to late August. Once the opening date is known, the Public Works Department will schedule a ribbon cutting ceremony for the opening of the bridge.
- The McGaw Bridge Road bridge is back in full construction gear. The bridge is expected to be open to traffic in early November.