

Town Manager's Update

November 17, 2016

Announcements

- The Town of Merrimack invites you to bring the whole family out for the 23rd Annual Holiday Parade & Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony which will take place on Sunday, December 4th. 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 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
- The Department of Public Works is pleased to announce the promotion of Wayne Lombard to Equipment Operator II. Wayne has been with the Department for 19 years and is a longtime resident of Merrimack.
- The Hard Hats vs. Badges food drive is on. The annual food drive helps to support Merrimack families who need help this holiday season. Please help Public Works break the Police Department's 2 year winning streak. Donations can be made at the following locations:
 - Merrimack Highway Garage,
 - Transfer Station,
 - Police Department,
 - Hairthurium (located at the Harris Pond Mall)

Town Manager's Report

- We discovered an issue with non-profits inadvertently receiving a tax bill; however, this error has no impact on the 2016 tax rate or any other tax bills that went out. Loren Martin will be present at the December 15th Town Council meeting to provide additional details regarding this issue.
- On 12/6 the Planning Board will hold its initial public hearing for the Monahan Mixed Use project, located at the corner of Continental Boulevard and Industrial Drive, adjacent to the Merrimack Premium Outlets. The applicant is proposing 388,520 square feet of hotel, retail, restaurant/conference area, office, and residential on the parcel. The Planning Board must first act on the application for a Conditional Use Permit, which if approved, would set the framework for future site plans and subdivisions (a mixed use CUP does not allow for construction, it only gives permission to move forward to traditional site plan/subdivision review).
- Also at the 12/6 Planning Board meeting, the Board will hear an initial conceptual discussion (a non-binding work session prior to any applications being sought) regarding the redevelopment of the former Shaw's Plaza on DW Highway. The concept plan, at this stage, call for redevelopment of the existing building formerly occupied by Shaw's to include a new facade, roof, lighting, and HVAC system. Two new buildings with footprints of approximately 5,000 and 2,400 square feet are proposed within the existing parking lot area. Site improvements are anticipated to include new signage, drainage, landscaping, site lighting, and parking lot striping.

- Lastly, Staff is working with a company seeking to relocate into the facility currently home to GT Advanced Technologies. The company (which we expect will be making a public announcement soon) is proposing purchase the facility, and take over majority of building (GT will maintain some kind of presence in a small portion of the building for an undetermined amount of time). The potential company is a mix of Research & Development and manufacturing, employs 60+/- people currently, and have stated that they will be adding more staff (no specific timeframe). Town Staff will hold a kickoff meeting with all the departments to game plan permitting for this company in the near future. Additionally, the company is interested in the ERZ program through the State, which will require staff to prepare a new ERZ application with the State. Staff will bring forth this ERZ request for the Council's approval in the coming weeks.