

TOWN COUNCIL

WEEKLY STATUS REPORT

November 21, 2019

Volume 27, No.42

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Tuesday, November 26th, Town Council Committee of the Whole, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall Annex, CR1

TOWN OFFICES CLOSED

Please be advised that all Groton Town offices will be closed in observance of the Thanksgiving Day holiday on Thursday, November 28th and Friday, November 29th. Please enjoy the upcoming holiday with your friends and family.

EMERGENCY REPLACEMENT OF TRAFFIC SIGNAL

The State of Connecticut Department (DOT) will be making repairs to the traffic control signal at Route 184 (Gold Star Highway) and Flanders Road. Repairs began on Thursday, November 21st, but may not be completed for almost a week based on availability of replacement equipment. In the interim DOT Traffic Engineers have determined that they will utilize stop signs at the intersection. This may result in traffic backups on Route 184 until repairs are complete.

HOLIDAY KICKOFF CELEBRATION

The second annual Holiday Kickoff Celebration will be held on December 7th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on the campus of the Groton Senior Center and Groton Public Library. Santa will arrive at 5:00 p.m. to light the Christmas tree with Miss Connecticut. Music, a Tree Competition and children's activities will be held inside at the Senior Center. A hay ride, food trucks and music will also be located outside of the center. Santa will also be present for pictures with the kids. Come enjoy this start to the holiday season.

DIVERSITY EQUITY AND INCLUSION

The Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee held its first meeting with representatives from Groton Parks and Recreation, Police, Human Services and Economic Development attending. The hope is to expand representation to

include additional departments, members of boards and commissions, and members of the community.



At the initial meeting members:

- Discussed the importance of representation, and that the Town staff (as a whole) doesn't fully represent the diversity reflected in the people who live in Groton. The members shared ideas for how we could encourage diversity in applicants applying for Town jobs.
 - Updating job descriptions to encourage individuals who can speak multiple languages to apply.
 - Holding a "job fair" to educate the Community on the different types of jobs the Town has, what different departments do, how they impact the public, etc.
 - Including more diversity in the hiring panels new applicants meet with during the hiring process. Possibly including a member of the DEI committee?
- Suggested that Groton Parks & Recreation financial aid fliers in the Groton Human Service bags given to the families who participate in the "Adopt a family" Holiday program. The fliers will be in English and Spanish. Additional languages being looked into.
- Proposed connecting with and inviting Community members to join and/or participate in the DEI Committee, like have Community influencers join a meeting, and possibly hold a meeting at their location (example: local faith-based leader and organization).

Anyone interested in joining the DEI Committee is encouraged to contact Jessica Patterson at jpatterson@groton-ct.gov or 860-536-5685.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Groton Public Library was pleased to be one of five libraries in Connecticut awarded \$1,000 by the Libraries Lead with Digital Skills initiative sponsored by Google and the American Library Association. This initiative was created to ensure public libraries had ongoing access to free tools and resources supporting Americans grow their skills, careers, and businesses.

The Library is delighted to announce that, after a second round of evaluation, Groton Public Library will be awarded an additional \$3,000 as a result of the outstanding workforce development program developed by our very own Groton Public Librarian, Jessica Franco. Great work, Jessa!

Be sure to attend the award winning Job Club on Mondays from 12:00 p.m. to 2 p.m. and evenings by appointment. This ongoing program supports everything related to workforce development, including assistance with job applications, developing resumes, writing cover letters, sharpening interview skills, and more. The Library looks forward to meeting with anyone in need of help with these skills making the on your path to employment.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Attachment 1 is a flyer from Groton Human Services requesting food donations used to create Holiday Food Baskets for families in our community.

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Finance (July-September)

- Total General Fund expenditures are at 15% while overall revenues are at 38% of budget.
- From a fund level, expenditures are slightly lower than what would be expected for the first three months of the year (25%). However some of the areas of expense are either lower or higher than expected when viewed individually.
- Tax revenue is currently 53% of budget as the majority of collections are received in July. However, there are other revenues that are either over or under budget at this time.
- Staff distributed adopted FYE 2020 Budget Books and created templates for the FYE 2021 budget.
- Staff began to develop the Introductory Section of the CAFR and updated bond sheets with monthly expenditures.

