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The Wells Connector

Connecting local government to the people we serve!

Welcome to your new newsletter

We want to make sure as many people as possible are able to keep up with all the great things that are happening with your local government. This new newsletter platform will allow anyone to sign up for bi-monthly newsletters emailed directly and will make it easy for us to archive past editions to store on our website. We hope you like it and look forward to your feedback on how we can make this newsletter a resource you look forward to seeing in your inbox!

Thank You!

Larissa Crockett, Town Manager

Thank you to everyone that came out in the intense heat of last Tuesday to cast a ballot. We are grateful that all of the articles passed with healthy margins of support. This new budget will go into effect on July 1 but we are already working to make the transition seamless.

The voters approved four new positions - 2 firefighters, 1 public safety dispatcher, and 1 HR/communications coordinator. We are accepting applications now and look forward to welcoming the new staff members later this summer.

Voters also approved the money needed to hire an independent consultant to assess our current model of emergency service provision and to do analysis of other models for the Town to consider. Our goal through this process will be to identify the model that will continue to provide exceptional care and response to all of the people we serve.

You can see a complete breakdown of how each article fared as well as the results of the races for elected positions [on our website](#).

Planning Update

Mike Livingston, Town Planner

The Planning Board held a public hearing May 17th and granted Preliminary approval to the Bradford Village subdivision, 13 cluster lots with 15 acres of Open Space. A preliminary public hearing was also held for the Parker Ridge subdivision, 13 cluster lots with 18 acres of Open Space. The Village at Highpine development review continued at both meetings in May. A site walk was conducted for the Lewis subdivision on Tatnic Road: 12 cluster lots with 16 acres of Open Space.

Two public hearings were held during the June 7th Planning Board meeting: a medical marijuana growing facility on Willie Hill Road and the final Bradford Village subdivision application. Preliminary approval was granted to the Parker Ridge Subdivision on June 7th.

A public hearing is scheduled for June 21st for the Willow Bend Subdivision amendment. Construction monitoring of projects continues. The Harbor Road Walk project has started with the clearing of some trees.

Police Update

Jo-Ann Putnam, Chief of Police

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the voters of the Town of Wells, you once again showed the employees of the Wells Police Department your support at the voting polls on June 8th approving an additional public safety dispatcher. This position will help us with our continued quality customer service to the residents and visitors of the Town of Wells.

As I'm sure most everyone has noticed that traffic has picked up significantly along Route 1, we all need to remember that everyone is here to enjoy the town that we get to enjoy all year round by either living or working here. Please be patient, plan ahead and give yourself plenty of time to get to wherever you are going.

Starting Tuesday, June 15th, the three main parking lots (Eastern Shore, Drakes Jetty and Gross Lot) will be staffed 7 days a week weather permitting. The staff is available to assist you with parking and answer questions you may have.

Library Update

Cindy Appleby, Library Director

Summer Reading is here! It's all about *Tails and Tales* this summer for kids, teens, and adults.

Registration begins Monday, June 14th. Join us outside for our kickoff event on Saturday, June 19th from 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. for games, music, bubbles, chalk, tattoos and at 11:00 a.m., watch Flying High Dogs do their amazing acrobatic feats!

Summer Reading prizes and kids' programs officially begin the week of June 21st.

For children, Books at the Beach is at the Harbor Pavilion on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. Mother Goose Story Time will also be at the Harbor Pavilion on Mondays at 10:30 a.m. Crafty Kids (for all ages) will be outside at the library on Thursdays at 3:00 p.m. All weather permitting.

June's special children's program is Bryson Lang. Watch Bryson's amazing juggling show on Monday, June 28th at 1:00 p.m. outside.

The library resumed regular hours on June 1st.

Congratulations to Sarah Hamlyn on earning her Basic Library Certification through the Maine State Library!

Harbor Update

Michael Yorke, Harbor Master

It's starting to look a lot like Summer here in Wells Harbor. Many boats have been commissioned in the last two weeks and the slips and moorings are filling up fast. All the amenities are up and running for the season and yes, the hoses on the floats are on.

The Town of Wells has taken delivery this week of a roofing system for the addition to the Wells Shellfish building. Along with a generous monetary grant from Velux, they also donated a polycarbonate panel roofing system for the building. Special thanks to Wells Public Works for moving the crates to Town property.

The Assistant Harbor Master Jim Black and I spent the first part of this week clearing the area where the addition is going to be located. Dig Safe has marked the area for underground utilities and the Public Works department will dig test holes to see what kind of foundation will be needed.

We are very excited to get this project started!

Fire Update

Mark Dupuis, Fire Chief

Two weeks ago Velux, located at 85 Spencer Drive in Wells reached out to the Wells Fire Department to request our assistance with getting some of their employees vaccinated with the Johnson & Johnson Vaccine. On Thursday June 10th we were

able to gather up several of our on call firefighters as well as some of our off duty firefighters to assist with two volunteers from York County Emergency Management to get this done. At the end of the two hour event we were able to successfully vaccinate a dozen of their employees. We were pleased to be able to help out a Wells business and to help make a positive impact with the company and their employees.

Later in the week we were able to celebrate another firefighter completing her probation within the department. Although Carissa, passed her probation last November, none of her family members from Massachusetts were able to celebrate with her except for her grandparents who live in Wells. Because of that we decided to celebrate this occasion with all of her family members on Friday. With the Covid restrictions dropped, this was a great celebration for her family and friends. It was a treat to be able to meet publicly again without the need for facemasks or social distancing!

We were also pleased to offer one of our Lifeguard Captains to Channel 8 news for a story about what people can expect this year at our beaches. Channel 8 did a segment on the Coastguard and what people can still expect even with the hot weather, noting that although the air is hot the water is still hypothermic around 55 degrees Fahrenheit. Garrett Early, also a call firefighter with Wells, was interviewed by Channel 8 news and can now be considered a local celebrity! Garrett did a great job!

Lastly, the Wells firefighters wish to thank our Select Board and our community for their support in voting for two additional firefighters. This support is not lost on our members and they are truly grateful for the added support and safety two more firefighters will provide.

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