

Town Manager's Report

August 19, 2014

To: Board of Selectmen
From Christopher Whelan, Town Manager

Following are some of the matters reported on this week by various Town Departments:

- **Youth Services** – Youth Services: Concord-Carlisle Youth Services is partnering with the Carlisle Council on Aging to offer area residents free suicide alertness training. safeTALK, a program of LivingWorks, is a three hour suicide alertness training presented by American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Boston Chapter. This training prepares anyone over the age of 15 to identify persons with thoughts of suicide and connect them to suicide first aid resources. Most people with thoughts of suicide invite help to stay safe. Alert helpers know how to use these opportunities to support that desire for safety. Thursday, October 2nd from 10-1 at the Gleason Public Library, Carlisle. Tickets:<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/safetalk-suicide-alertness-training-for-concord-carlislemetrowest-residents-tickets-10672883883>

- **Recreation** For the summer of 2014 the Department provided financial assistance to 44 Concord families (64 children) in the amount of \$81,575. Funding for scholarships comes from a variety of revenue sources including The Concord Open Golf Tournament, The Shamrock Ball, The Silent Fund and Community Chest. No taxpayer funding is used for these programs. In addition the 2014 summer Recreation Department activities included the following metrics:
 - The last “official” day of the Recreation Day Camp program was Friday, August 15, 2014. The Department does offer an additional one week , Post Camp, at which 40 students will be in attendance
 - We had 350 different campers attend during the 7 week period over our various camps, many returning for multiple weeks.
 - Over a seven week period the Concord Recreation Department employed; 40 additional paid staff, many under the age of 21 and an additional 80 unpaid “Workreation” students. Those in our Counselor-in-training program are also unpaid as are our 20 Community Service students who receive high school community service hours.

- **Community Services** – Community Services partnered with the Gaining Ground/Food for Families program and invited 50 Concord families to attend and participate in the Saturday morning distribution events that run from June through September. This year’s family count is a 35% increase from last year’s total. Also of note:

- **Community Services** has coordinated with the Boys and Girls Club of Assabet Valley to receive new backpacks to distribute to the children of families that receive services from Concord Community Services.
- During the week of August 11th - 15th, the **Community Services** worked with local funding agencies to assist **7 Concord families** with rent and utility payments. The Coordinator also worked with various agencies to assist 13 families with transportation, food stamp application, clothing and housing issues. The local funding agencies that provided assistance include The Concord Carlisle Community Chest, The Salvation Army, The Masonic Angel Fund, Hugh Cargill Trust and the Society of St. Vincent De Paul.
- **Council on Aging** - Ginger Quarles reports that the new generator at Harvey Wheeler was successfully tested on August 12th. Special thanks go to Bill Nocke from the Fire Department for overseeing the whole project from start to finish and to Chief Cotreau. Special thanks also to retired Deputy Town Manager, Doug Meagher for his support in making the possibility of converting Harvey Wheeler Community Center into a shelter for Concord residents a reality. The COA also thanks the IT Department, particularly Mark Howell for being onsite (and staying much longer than anticipated) to ensure the protection of computer systems.
 - The COA is expecting the delivery of a new 14 passenger wheel chair lift equipped van next week. This van will replace two aging older model vans that having been increasingly in need of repairs. Demand for transportation services for seniors continues to rise. We offered 6582 rides during last fiscal year.
 - The COA will host its annual BBQ on Wednesday, August 20th. The rotary club members have graciously volunteered to cook and serve again this year.
 - Roof replacement work is scheduled to begin on Wednesday, August 20th. The sidewalk between the parking lot and Main Street will need to close for the duration of the project.
 - The construction project at the Harvey Wheeler building is continuing. Bids for the demolition and insulation removal in the attic along with bids for the reinstallation of new insulation are currently being sought. The final phase of the work which includes the installation of an energy management system is expected to be completed this fall.
- **Recreation – Beede Swim & Fitness Center** - The HVAC construction project is in full swing. This week the domestic hot water boilers are being installed. The Fencing designed to provide a safety perimeter around the project construction activity has been installed. Since that installation required the elimination of existing handicapped parking spaces, new spaces have been striped and a temporary ramp has been installed outside the construction zone. Excavation at the site will begin next week.

- **Online Registration Project** - The good news regarding program registration is that within the next two weeks, online registration will be available for Fall/Winter program registration and membership. Beede staff has been diligently working with Vermont Systems (our software vendor), Pat Robinson (Finance) and John Blanchard (IT) for many weeks to bring this project to fruition. Credit card transactions on the web will be via our new merchant account with Century Bank.
- The new Fall/Winter Recreation Brochure produced by Jon Straggas is at the printers and will be mailed to all Concord and Carlisle households during the week of August 25th. The brochure will announce that online registration is now available.
- The online registration will also be announce through “news and notices” from the Town webpage.
- **Annual Shutdown Week** - The Beede Center’s annual shutdown is schedule for August 23-September 1, 2014. During shutdown the following building maintenance is scheduled:
 - Interior painting on all public areas as needed.
 - Caulking of pool joints and end of lap pool.
 - Tile repairs on pool deck and in locker rooms.
 - Replace urinals in men’s room and locker room.
 - Compass Facility Services (our current contract cleaner)project team along with the regular cleaning staff will be conducting extensive cleaning –carpets, floors, pool deck, the natatorium, locker rooms, offices and all common areas.
 - Fitness equipment will be cleaned and maintained.
 - New Lobby Furniture will be delivered.
 - New Treadmills will be installed.