



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Board of Selectmen

**FROM:** John C. Curran, Town Manager

**CC:** Susan Aker, Cathy O'Dea

**SUBJECT:** Town Manager's Report, November 4, 2019

**DATE:** November 1, 2019

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### **Last Weekend! Tote Bag Design Contest –**

The Town recently received a grant to place a design on reusable bags and hand them out to the residents. The theme of the contest will be recycling. All ages are encouraged to submit their designs. We will be taking submissions for image design on the bags until November 4th! You can either drop your submissions off at the Town Manager's Office or email them to [CMain@town.billerica.ma.us](mailto:CMain@town.billerica.ma.us) We will also be having an event with Waste Management to present the checks and the bags. I will let you know when the details are finalized.

### **Artscape Student Art Ceremony –**

This office in conjunction with the Billerica Public Schools Art Department would like to invite you to the Black Box Theater at BMHS on Dec 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:30PM. The students and their families will be presented with the banners that displayed their artwork on Boston Road for the last year on that night. We look forward to recognizing the students and hope you will be joining us.

### **Fire Department Update –**

Some benefits of the reorganization have already been noticed – one is the increase in the institutional knowledge of the administrative functions of the department by the senior officers. This is helping with training, budgeting, policy implementation and equipment maintenance.

The Fire Department has also completed classes in special operations disciplines of rope rescue and confined space rescue for the technicians that are assigned to our Rescue 1. These members will be completing water and ice rescue technician classes by the end of the year.

We have also begun our OSHA mandated fit testing of our SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) that has built in thermal imaging cameras. We will be able to purchase these masks with the generous donation of Sylvia Cabral. This technology will allow firefighters to be hands free and still locate fire and victims in smoke filled and darkened atmospheres.

### **COA Update:**

The COA and the Police Department have recently created a partnership to share access to Matt Page-Shelton and his mental health team. This enhances the COA's care, and supports our Outreach

Department with much needed Clinical/Mental Health professional. Increased caseloads and complexity in regards to mental health has increased especially in the aging population. A 2012 study from the Institute on Medicine found that approximately one in five older adults in the U.S. experience a mental illness, substance use disorder, or both. This shared service was much needed and we thank Chief Rosa for offering his support.

### **Recreation Department Update:**

The Recreation Department has been as busy as ever offering programs and special events for the residence of Billerica. On Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, the department hosted its first ever “Halloween Spookfest” in the woods and fields of VVP. This Halloween themed carnival featured: pumpkin decorating, cookie decorating, inflatables, games, a Fun Trail, a Spooky Trail, and even a visit from the Ghostbusters! Presale tickets were available to residents at \$5/ticket or a Family 4 Pack for \$15, or residents could purchase a ticket at the gate for \$5. Overall, 1100 people come through the event who experience a hauntingly good time. This event was a great success, and the department looks forward to making it an annual tradition.

Recreation will now shift gears to the many holiday events that we will be offered in December. Among these are: Santa Calling, Breakfast With Santa, and all-new this year, Candy Cane Carnival. Information for all of these events can be found on the Recreation Facebook page and website! Just a note, tickets for Breakfast with Santa will be available starting Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup> and are expected to sell out quickly! Due to the high demand of this event, tickets will be sold to Billerica residents only, so please be aware an ID with your address will be required.

### **Library Update:**

The library over the past few months has received feedback from patrons in regards to the lack of computers. The Library has installed some additional computers on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor to meet increased demand for computer access. They now have 16 public stations on the floor, which is supplemented with 3 laptops if all 16 computers are in use. The department has also increased the number of computers with scanners attached since demand for scanning has increased as well.

The library has also introduced Kanopy, an online streaming service featuring movies, documentaries, and great courses for adults, teens, and kids in July 2019. To date, patrons have watched 12,296 minutes of video through Kanopy, which equates to over 1,000 minutes a month.

The Library now also offers two online magazine services: Overdrive Magazines and RB Digital. Both services provide a number of popular magazines, including current and past issues. To integrate these services, the Library has created a periodicals webpage that lists all of our print and electronic magazines in one place, so that patrons can easily find the title they are looking for and then read it in their preferred format.

### **Upcoming Bills:**

Water/Sewer: Mailed 12/6/19, due 1/6/20

Real estate & Personal Property: Mailed December 31<sup>st</sup>, due February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Veterans Day Breakfast:**

The Veterans Day Breakfast will be held at the Billerica Lodge of Elks from 8:30 am to 11 am on November 11 2019. The Breakfast is being catered by Amazing Grace Catering Services out of Billerica. The Senior Center Band will be playing music from 8:30 to 10:00 am as background entertainment. The Shawsheen Tech is providing a singer for the national anthem. Congressman Moulton, Senator Freidman, Rep Mark Lombardo, Town Manager John Curran, Paul Cardello from Ipods For Veteran and Jessica French from Wreaths Across America are confirmed to be attending and speaking during the final hour of the event. This Breakfast is Sponsored by Dan Turco and Dan McGinnis from FLIR Systems in Billerica. The Flowers will be donated by Taylor Florist in Billerica and the Table Decorations are Donated and designed by Kellee Ruggiero. Jeanne Teehan of the Senior Center has been a great partner in gathering ideas and Volunteers for the event, as well as being a contact person for the Senior Center Veterans for Information.

**Wreaths Across America:**

This year, National Wreaths Across America day will be held on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Locally, a ceremony will begin at 11:30 PM on the steps of the Town Library, followed by the placement of wreaths at Fox Hill Cemetery located at 30 Andover Road, Billerica, MA at 12:00 PM. This event is open to anyone who would like to attend. Forms to buy a wreath are located in our office as well as the Veterans Office.

**Pinehurst Fire Station**

Geo thermal energy will be studied and an analysis of whether this would have a reasonable return on investment. The main focus right now is the most cost effective temporary fire station solution. The architect, the OPM and the Fire Department are collaborating on these issues.

**Howe School**

Four Firms came to the walk through on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Proposals are due on November 13<sup>th</sup> with interview expected for the week of the November 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Peggy Hannon Rizza Park Project**

The RFQ for Designers for this project was put in the central register on October 14<sup>th</sup>. RFQs were available to designers on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. A designer briefing is being conducted on November 6<sup>th</sup>. RFQ proposals are due on November 20<sup>th</sup>.