



TOWN OF EAST LONGMEADOW

Town Manager's Report

August 21, 2018

Good evening -

Thank you to everyone who participated in National Night Out! Although incredibly hot once again, it was a great event that has increasing attendance every year. Also, thank you to all the residents near the Maple Street water project for their patience while the construction was going on. That project is completed.

Grants - This has been the month for release of grants. We have received notification of the following:

- We have been awarded an Assistance to Firefighter's Grant. The total federal award amount is \$132,404 which is less than we requested. The adjustment to the grant reflects results of market research that concluded that we can purchase the SCBA needed for the revised amount.
- We received a letter from Senator Lesser's office that the Governor has signed a bill that will provide "\$1.1 Million for design, renovation, construction and expansion of the police station in the Town of East Longmeadow".
- And finally, our application for a Community Development Block Grant was successful. The Town will be receiving \$798,882 for a mobile food pantry, plans for an elevator at Town Hall and Housing Authority property improvements.

Our veterans – I had originally reported that the veterans' event we have been planning was slated for a September date, however, to give sufficient time to correctly plan this new event, the group has moved it to October 7, see the attached flyer. We are expecting it to be a spectacular event with representatives from numerous veteran related organizations participating to provide veterans with information on available services. In addition, representatives from Cartamundi, Big Y and MGM are expected to attend to bring job opportunities to veterans. Also, some local colleges are expected to bring information on educational opportunities.

Also great news, the Veterans group that is working on the new Veteran's Memorial received notification from the Attorney General's office that they have been granted VCO status which allows them to begin fundraising. They will be at the Veterans' event on October 7 and I have been told they already have their first fundraiser planned. As soon as I hear more about their plans, I will let you all know.

Building Department – at our monthly meeting the Building Commissioner provided me with the following statistics that I thought you might find interesting:

Calendar Year	# of permits issued	Estimated valuation of permitted work
2018	732	\$51,481,480
2017	673	\$31,020,518
2016	576	\$21,559,426
2015	673	\$17,529,969
2014	484	\$15,305,987

Public Works - Milling was scheduled to begin on Westwood and Mapleshade on yesterday, August 20 and is expected to last for 3 to 4 days. During that process, a single lane of one-way traffic, in only the westerly direction, will be allowed on Mapleshade Avenue. The entire project will encompass a section of Mapleshade Avenue (from Elm to North Main) and a 300' section of Westwood Avenue (west of North Main). Paving is also scheduled for a section of Porter Road (from Heritage Circle to Parker), John Street, Rankin Avenue, Redin Drive and Redin Lane. The projects are expected to be completed by the beginning of November.

The Elm Street Sidewalk Project was awarded to the low bidder, D & P Construction Inc. I will let you know timing for the project as soon as that is determined.

Health Dept – Using the Attorney General’s process for dealing with abandoned and/or neglected properties, a receiver has been approved to take ownership of two problem properties, one on Chestnut, the other on Brynmawr. The receiver expects to begin cleanup of both properties shortly.

Also, we continue to have issues with our trash company, Republic Services. In addition to not completing the daily routes throughout the summer (as recently as last Thursday), we have also discovered they are not following provisions of our contract that are causing our disposal fees to increase. We have notified Republic that they need to adhere to the contract or we will be imposing fines in accordance with their contract.

The Board of Health has received confirmation from state officials that we are one of multiple communities where a mosquito has tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). Information on WNV is posted on the Town’s Facebook and Website, see the attached WNV fact sheet.

The Health Department will have a more in depth report about their activities at the Council’s September 25th meeting.

General info - We are beginning the planning for next year’s 125th anniversary for East Longmeadow. We have been advertising for people to serve on a committee to discuss ideas for ways to celebrate our incorporation on July 9, 1894. We have had a few outside volunteers and quite a few department heads that have volunteered. Councilman Anderson has also agreed to join. Please let me know if you would like to help. Our first meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 17 depending on availability of group.

Springfield Casino - With the expected opening of MGM Springfield on August 24, I thought you might appreciate a little information about the project. I have been attending the MA Gaming Commission meetings via their live streaming option as most of their meetings are in Boston. Their recent meetings had significant discussion about the Springfield MGM project. MGM has hired close to 3,000 employees to date, approximately 80% are Massachusetts residents.

COA - Carolyn Brennan, Lissa Fountaine, the COA’s Health Educator, and I along with some outside participants have begun working on making East Longmeadow an Age & Dementia Friendly Community. This long-term project will provide awareness and training with the goal of becoming an Age & Dementia Friendly Community.

SAVE THESE DATES

August 26	5 pm	Coaches Appreciation & Family Movie Night at Center Field
August 28		School year begins
September 8	9 am	Bike rodeo at the Police Department
September 11	8 pm	Candlelight service at the Fire Station
September 15	9-1	Regional Household Hazardous Waste Collection at Minnechaug High School
September 15	10-noon	Free Car Seat Safety Check-Up at Town Hall
October 7	11-5	Military Family Appreciation Day

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Menard