

TOWN COUNCIL

WEEKLY STATUS REPORT

April 7, 2016

MRD Volume 24, No. 14

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Monday, April 11th, Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Committee, 4:30 p.m., Town Hall Annex, CR1
- Monday, April 11th, Golf Advisory Board Special Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Spicer House
- Tuesday, April 12th, Town Council Committee of the Whole Special Meeting (Budget Review Session), 6:00 p.m., Town Hall Annex, CR1
- Tuesday, April 12th, RTM Finance Committee Special Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Groton Senior Center, Classroom A
- Tuesday, April 12th, RTM Public Safety Committee Special Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Groton Senior Center, Rooms 1 and 2
- Wednesday, April 13th, RTM Public Safety Committee Special Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Groton Senior Center, Classroom A
- Wednesday, April 13th, RTM, 7:30 p.m., Groton Senior Center,
- Thursday, April 14th, School Facilities Initiative Task Force, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall Annex, CR1

SENATOR MURPHY VISITS GROTON

On March 28th, U. S. Senator Chris Murphy visited the Groton Town Police Department to speak with Chief Fusaro and other officers who recently started the Regional Community Enhancement Task Force. Several other southeastern Connecticut law enforcement leaders joined them to discuss the approach law enforcement in our area has taken to address the opioid addiction problem.

This visit was part of Senator Murphy's a "Day in the Life" - meeting with patients, health professionals, law enforcement, and advocates around Connecticut

to learn firsthand how he can improve federal efforts to combat Connecticut's addiction crisis and save lives. Senator Murphy learned of the challenges officers face in dealing with this epidemic, and he also learned of the new strategies departments have developed by joining with community groups to offer help to families dealing with addiction.

One of the points made by police was the fact that drug abuse is not a "victimless crime." In fact, examples of the destructive nature of heroin addiction, and the corresponding rise in associated crimes, demonstrated that there are considerable criminal impacts from this problem.

Murphy released the following statement:

"I spent all day yesterday getting to know the ins-and-outs of Connecticut's opioid epidemic. I listened to recovering patients, health experts, and law enforcement personnel, and it's beyond clear that we have a serious crisis on our hands. Connecticut has seen over 700 drug-related deaths in just the last year... Congress needs to take meaningful action and commit real federal dollars to address the problem – not in a few years, but right now – so we can offer some tangible relief to communities in Connecticut and across this country."



U. S. Senator Murphy and Chief Fusaro listen to members of the Regional Community Enhancement Task Force at the Groton Town Police Department on March 28th

GROTON COMMUNITY MEALS

A recent agreement between the Town of Groton and Groton Community Meals will allow the free meals program to operate on Monday nights at the Groton Senior Center. Groton Community Meals (GCM) is a non-profit program operating under the auspices of Union Baptist Church in Mystic. GCM is a member program of the United Way Gemma Moran Food Center and has been serving Monday evening meals since September 2014. The program has been cooking all its meals at the Faith Lutheran Church on Poquonnock Road and serving the meals at Faith Lutheran Church and St. John's Christian Church on designated Mondays. The Groton Senior Center will offer the program a commercial kitchen, serving area and spacious dining room, which will allow GCM to serve more people and also give its chef the opportunity to utilize the Center's state-of-the-art kitchen equipment.

Starting on June 6th, GCM will offer a free evening meal from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Senior Center on the 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th Mondays of each month. On the 3rd Monday of each month, GCM will return to Faith Lutheran Church to cook and serve its meal at that site. Community volunteers, many from the faith community, are the backbone of GCM which also includes the Director of Human Services as an ex-officio GCM Board member.

Groton Human Services provides storage space in its basement for perishable and non-perishable GCM food donations, paper goods and cleaning supplies. Additional storage space has been offered by the Senior Center, along with room for a GCM refrigerator and separate GCM freezer at the site. Prior to serving its first meal at the Senior Center, GCM will obtain the necessary Vendor Permit from Ledge Light Health District.

OTHER ATTACHMENTS

1. Attachment 1 is a news article from The Dolphin newspaper about the Youth Center Health and Safety Fair held on February 16th in which the Groton Police Department participated in.
2. Attachment 2 is a press release from the Arbor Day Foundation congratulating Groton on earning recognition as a 2015 Tree City USA.

3. Attachment 3 is an invitation from the Groton Public Library for artists to submit flower-themed work to be featured at the Garden Party Art Show in May. Submissions are being accepted from April 24th through April 30th. Please contact the Groton Public Library at 860-441-6750 for more information.
4. Attachment 4 is a letter from Aquarion Water Company requesting nominations for the Aquarion Environmental Champion Awards that recognize individuals or businesses for their outstanding volunteer efforts to protect or restore Connecticut's natural resources. The deadline for nominations is May 4th. Please see attachment for more information.
5. Attachment 5 is an invitation from Mystic Area Shelter and Hospitality, Inc. for the "Home on the Range" Gala on May 6th at 6:30 p.m. at the Mystic Seaport's River Room at Latitude 41°. A gourmet dinner, open bar and live country music are included in the ticket purchase. Individual tickets are \$125.00 per person with the option of purchasing multiple seating packages. Please visit <http://mashshelter.org/wp/special-events> for more information.

Attachments
MRO/lh

Youth Center Health and Safe

By MC1(SW/AW) Bill Lamed

GROTON, Conn. - The Naval Submarine Base New London (SUBASE) Youth Center held a Safety and Health Fair for local elementary and middle school students, Feb. 16.

The event also highlighted sports safety, and a visit from Officer Darren Kenyon, from the Groton Police Department.

The fair's timing took advantage of a non-classroom day for local school children, who were able to benefit from direct interaction with adults and to take a hands-on approach to safety and health.

U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Jikson Munoz, assigned to the SUBASE Veterinary Treatment Facility hosted a pet safety station.

"Children are curious and they usually have friendly intentions walking around in their local neighborhood," said Munoz. "They need to be careful before just reaching out and petting

a dog they don't know. They should be careful about luring other people's pets with food. I want to make sure they understand it's okay to be curious, but to be careful before trusting any animal they meet."

Children had the opportunity to sit in the seat of a Groton Town police cruiser outside the Youth Center, as Kenyon described the computer equipment and console controls inside.

"We want children to feel empowered and approach us in public if they ever have an emergency," said Kenyon. "The interactions I'm having with them are important. Today's event gives them a venue to feel comfortable around us. Then, when they're out in town, they'll remember seeing us in uniform here and it won't be an issue. They need to know they can turn to us anytime for help."

While safety was a prominent issue, health was also a vital theme of the fair. Civilians from SUBASE Body Works,

as well as Sailors from the Naval Branch Dental Clinic manned exhibits dedicated to various aspects of health.

Emily Johnson, from BodyWorks at SUBASE, helped arrange a wide variety of exercises for kids in attendance.

"We wanted to give the kids a full buffet of choices for exercise," said Johnson. "If you find a form of exercise you prefer at a really young age, you're more likely to have success in later life following a fitness routine you enjoy."

Participating children had the opportunity to enjoy jump ropes, hula hoops, a sprint, wall-sits and various other aerobic exercises, in addition to receiving health flyers.

The dental clinic's exhibition included jumbo-sized ceramic teeth which children used to practice good flossing techniques. Samples were also available for children to take home.

Brandy White, a representative from the Youth Center, was pleased with how informative the fair



GROTON, Conn. - Officer Darren Kenyon, from the Groton Town Police Department, describes the computer equipment and console controls inside his police cruiser for a child watching from the driver's seat at the Naval Submarine Base New London (SUBASE) Youth Center, Feb. 16.

Youth Center Health and Safety Fair promotes better living

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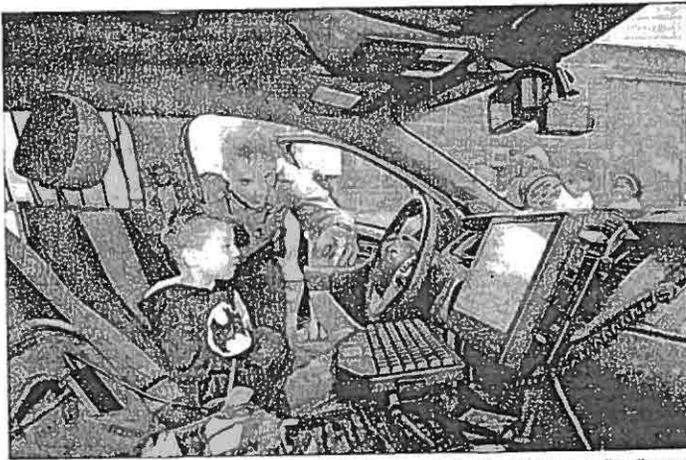
GROTON, Conn. - Emily Johnson, from BodyWorks at Naval Submarine Base New London (SUBASE), holds the feet of a child pushing himself to complete one last sit-up exercise during the annual Youth Center Safety Fair, Feb. 16. "We wanted to give the kids a full buffet of choices for exercise," said Johnson. "If you find a form of exercise you prefer at a really young age, you're more likely to have success in later life following a fitness routine you enjoy." The children had the opportunity to enjoy jump ropes, hula hoops, a sprint, wall-sits and various other aerobic exercises, in addition to receiving health flyers.

was. "Although our fair wasn't quite as expansive and big as last year, children had a lot of opportunities to learn about numerous safety and health categories," said White. "The younger you begin to learn about these kinds of things, the sooner you instill good habits."

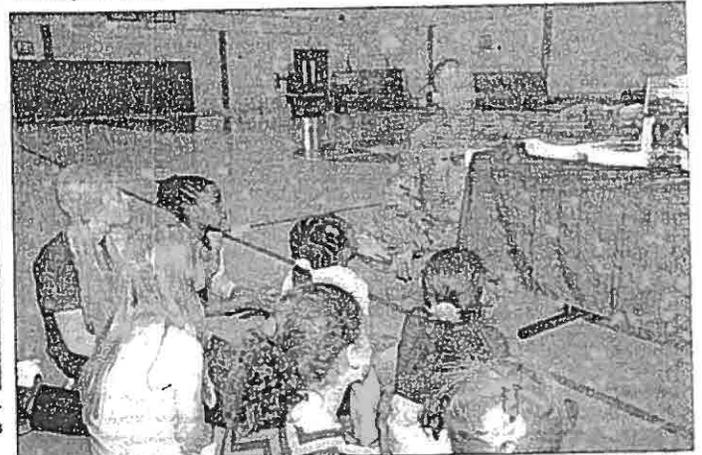
The Youth Center conducts numerous programs designed to inspire and enable all young people to realize their full potential as productive, caring and responsible citizens. Programs include open recreation for youth ages 10 to 18; instructional classes for ages 18 months and up; and

Youth Sports (offered through independent parent-run organizations) for ages four to 13.

For more information about the SUBASE Youth Center programs, call (860) 448-6843, or visit the center's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Subase-Youth-Center>.



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GROTON, Conn. - Army Staff Sergeant Jikson Munoz, assigned to the Naval Submarine Base New

For more information, contact:
Danny Cohn, 402-473-9563
dcohn@arborday.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Arbor Day Foundation Names Groton Tree City USA

Groton, CT was named a 2015 Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation in honor of its commitment to effective urban forest management.

Started in 1976, the Tree City USA program, sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation, in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters is celebrating its 40th Anniversary this year.

Groton achieved Tree City USA recognition by meeting the program's four requirements: a tree board or department, a tree-care ordinance, an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

"Tree City USA communities see the impact an urban forest has in a community first hand," said Dan Lambe, President of the Arbor Day Foundation. "Additionally, recognition brings residents together and creates a sense of community pride, whether it's through volunteer engagement or public education."

Trees provide multiple benefits to a community when properly planted and maintained. They help to improve the visual appeal of a neighborhood, increase property values, reduce home cooling costs, remove air pollutants and provide wildlife habitat, among many other benefits.

More information on the program is available at arborday.org/TreeCityUSA.

About the Arbor Day Foundation: The Arbor Day Foundation is a million member nonprofit conservation and education organization with the mission to inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees. More information is available at arborday.org.

CALL FOR ARTISTS

GARDEN PARTY

ART SHOW

MAY 2016

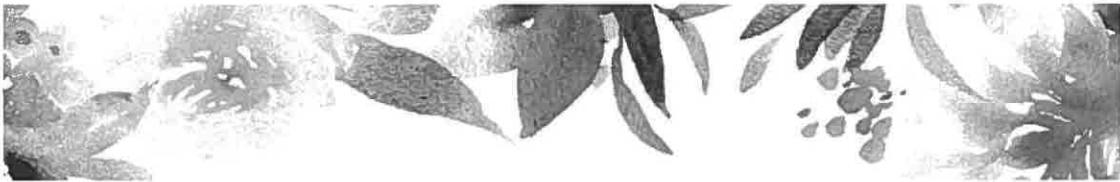
SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED:

4/24 -4/30

**Please see circulation desk for
more information.**



**GROTON
PUBLIC LIBRARY
COMMUNITY
ART SHOW**



Groton Public Library

Garden Party Art Show

Southeastern CT artists are invited to submit their **flower-themed** works from Sunday, April 24 to Saturday, April 30. Artists may submit one piece of matted and/or framed work ready for display. Three-dimensional artwork is also accepted and will be placed for display in locked cases.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Medium: _____

Submission of works implies acceptance of exhibit policy. Entries are submitted at exhibitor's own risk. The exhibitor will not hold the library, town of Groton, individual staff, or board members responsible for any damage.

Signature:

Received on: _____ by _____





AQUARION

Water Company

Stewards of the Environment™

Weekly Status Report

April 7, 2016

ATTACHMENT 4

Charles V. Firlotte

President & Chief Executive Officer

203.336.7628 phone

203.336.5639 fax

cfirlotte@aquarionwater.com

April 4, 2016

Mr. Mark R. Oefinger
Town Manager
Town Of Groton
45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340

Dear Mr. Oefinger:

As the May 4th deadline for this year's Aquarion Environmental Champion Awards approaches, we wanted to send a friendly reminder to encourage your constituents to consider nominating an individual, small or large business, student or non-profit organization who has contributed to the improvement of our environment through the protection, conservation, restoration and or stewardship of Connecticut's natural resources.

To recognize this important work, Aquarion is offering adults, high school students, businesses and non-profit organizations the chance to win statewide honors through the Aquarion Environmental Champion Awards program, announced at a special celebration to be held on June 4, 2016 at Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo. U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal and Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Commissioner Rob Klee will be in attendance to present the awards.

Adult, small and large business and non-profit winners have the opportunity to name an environmental non-profit to receive a \$2500 grant given in their name by Aquarion. The winning student (grades 9-12) will receive a \$1000 award.

You can find complete details on the program and nomination procedure on the posters we distributed earlier in the year, as well as on aquarionwater.com or [facebook.com/aquarionwater](https://www.facebook.com/aquarionwater).

We hope you will make this opportunity known to your constituents, as we would not want to overlook any environmental efforts that deserve recognition.

Thank you in advance for your support of this program and local volunteerism. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Chuck Firlotte
President and CEO



YOU ARE
WANTED

REWARD: END HOMELESSNESS



May 6, 2016
for the **HOME ON THE RANGE** Gala
to benefit MASH.

HOME
ON THE RANGE

HELP MASH GIVE FAMILY HOMELESSNESS THE BOOT!

**Join us as we
rustle up some fun
and honor
Lisa Tepper Bates,
a trailblazer in ending
homelessness.**

*Attire is western casual.
Cowboy hats and boots encouraged.*

**Your invitation is on the way or go to the
following link to purchase tickets today.**

<http://mashshelter.org/wp/special-events/>