

TOWN COUNCIL WEEKLY STATUS REPORT

May 26, 2016

TYRO Volume 24, No. 21

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Wednesday, June 1st, Town and City Councils/RTM/Board of Education Liaison Committee, 5:30 p.m., Administration Office, Room 11
- Thursday, June 2nd, Economic Development Commission, 4:45 p.m., Town Hall Annex, CR1
- Thursday, June 2nd, Permanent School Building Committee, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall Annex, CR2

TOWN OFFICES CLOSED

All Town offices will be closed in observance of Memorial Day on Monday, May 30th. Please enjoy the holiday with your families and friends.

WALK WITH A DOC



The first Walk with a Doc event was held at Poquonnock Plains Park on Saturday, May 21st. About a dozen walkers joined Beverly Genader, a nurse practitioner from L+M Hospital, as she presented information about Lyme Disease. Walkers received a free t-shirt, listened to the expert, asked questions and received general

advice before they began walking. Participants had the opportunity to continue the discussion as they walked. They also had a chance to view the landscaping demonstration project at the park that showed them how to landscape a yard to make it less favorable for ticks.

The topic for the next walk on June 18th will be about diabetes. The Groton Parks and Recreation Department hopes to generate enough interest in the four walks scheduled throughout the summer to be able to offer the walks year-round.

For more information on future walks, please contact Groton Parks and Recreation at 860-536-5682.

OTHER ATTACHMENTS

1. Attachment 1 is a letter from the UCONN School of Fine Arts regarding the closing of the Alexei von Schlippe Gallery and the refocusing of the Arts programming at Avery Point.
2. Attachment 1 is an invitation from Southeastern Connecticut Television Studios for their Summer Kick off Art Show and Party on June 15th from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at 80 Plaza Court.

Attachments
MRO/lh



5/18/16

Mark R. Oefinger, AICP
Town Manager, Town of Groton
45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340

Dear Mr. Oefinger,

President Herbst has asked me to write a response to your letter and resolution regarding the closing of the Alexei von Schlippe Gallery, as I have been charged with helping to refocus the arts programming at Avery Point. On behalf of the President and the University's administration, please allow me to express sincere thanks to you and the Town Council for your attention to this matter.

We do appreciate that the closing of the Alexei von Schlippe Gallery and the termination of Julia Pavone's position represent a painful loss for the Groton community. As you know, the University has experienced over \$100 million funding loss from the State. Ms. Pavone's salary and fringe benefits were identified as part of Avery Point's contribution toward deficit mitigation.

Every unit at the University has had to make cuts to meet the deficit caused by the State's reduction in our block grant. We are at the point of cutting valuable programs to meet the deficit and, in that context, we must focus our resources on supporting students' degree progress. This focus on students, of course, directly supports the educational, economic and cultural development of Groton – over 160 Groton students study at Avery Point.

There are several initiatives under way to refocus arts programming at Avery Point in ways that will benefit both students and the larger community. For example, we have begun the work of rebuilding the popular sculpture walk – currently, half the sculpture bases are empty. I am working with the Benton Museum and the University's public art collection to remedy this and to enhance conservation and care of these sculptures. We are proposing an expansion of studio art courses at Avery Point, which will also enable us to mount exhibitions of student work there.

The School of Fine Arts has proposed an Ensemble-in-Residence program for the regional campuses. This program would designate one of the Music Department ensembles as "in residence" at each regional campus and offer free public concerts and additional programming for students, the community, and regional high schools.

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Summer Kick Off Art Show And Party

Wednesday, June 15

5:30 to 8:00pm

SEC-TV

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT TELEVISION STUDIOS

80 Plaza Court

in the Groton Shopping Plaza

Featuring Local Art—Meet the Artists

Complimentary Refreshments

Celebrate Summer!

