

TOWN COUNCIL WEEKLY STATUS REPORT

September 22, 2016

MRD Volume 24, No. 38

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Tuesday, September 27th, Town Council Committee of the Whole, 6:00 p.m., Town Hall Annex, CR1

ACTIVE AGING WEEK

The Groton Senior Center is holding their Annual Active Aging Week programs beginning Monday, September 26th through Saturday October 1st. Programs during this weeklong event include a Scrabble tournament, the Walk with Ease Arthritis program, a free Tai Chi open session, a free Spaghetti Dinner and the Yellow Dot safety program.

The first of the center's two Flu Shot Clinics will be held on Thursday, September 29th from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Evening speakers during this week will speak on exercise and inflamed joints, weight control and exercise, and intensity versus duration in exercise. On Thursday, September 29th there will be a "Painting and Mocktails" event from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The week will conclude with a Boston Red Sox game on Saturday, October 1st.

For more information on the Active Aging Week and other programs, please contact the Groton Senior Center at 860-441-6785.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Attachment 1 is a press release from Aquarion Water Company for the mandatory watering ban issued for Mystic and Stonington customers on the use of outdoor watering devices, including irrigation systems, sprinklers, and soaker hoses.
2. Attachment 2 is an invitation from Windham Falls Estates for the Wine & Cheese Reception on September 30th from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Windham Falls Estates, 425 Drozdyk Drive.
3. Attachment 3 is a flyer from Community Speaks Out for the first annual Christopher Johns' Memorial Sober Softball Tournament on October 1st from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Washington Park.

4. Attachment 4 is the Town Referendum Question #1 Explanatory Text for the November 8, 2016 ballot regarding the bond ordinance for the Groton 2020 Plan.

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORTS

1. Parks and Recreation (August):

- The Director met with the Principal of Cutler Middle School and the Director of Building and Grounds for the Board of Education to propose building a footbridge behind Cutler Middle School to complete the cross town trail.
- The Director met with the Planning Department to discuss the permitting process for proposed lights at Calvin Burrow Baseball Field.
- The Director negotiated with consultants to develop a Beach Sand Management Plan for Esker Point Beach.
- The fall issue of Discover was printed and mailed to all Groton Residents.
- Marketing staff implemented the use of Constant Contact as a communication and marketing tool to reach customers and promote programs and special events.
- The 2016 Summer SoundWaves Concert Series at Esker Point Beach concluded with two successful rain date performances by Sugar and Hope Road.
- A moisture sensor monitor was installed on the athletic fields at Poquonnock Plains Park.
- Staff continued work on preparing the site for replacement of the Woods Walk playground.
- Shennecossett Golf Course hosted the Boston Area Golfing Society, Groton Long Point group, Old Blackpoint group and the Connecticut Shoreline league.

MRO/lh



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
9/16/16

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Director – Public Relations
Aquarion Water Company
Phone: (203) 336-7651

Aquarion Water Company Issues Mandatory Watering Ban

For Mystic and Stonington Customers

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. – September 16, 2016 – Aquarion Water Company, working in cooperation with town officials in Stonington, is implementing a mandatory ban on the use of outdoor watering devices, including irrigation systems, sprinklers, and soaker hoses. This ban is effective immediately.

Aquarion will be reminding customers about the watering ban with automated phone calls. Outdoor watering activities using a hand-held hose will be allowed for the time being.

“We are telling our customers to turn off their irrigation systems and sprinklers for the season,” said Charles V. Firlotte, Aquarion President and CEO. “We are doing this to ensure that we have an adequate water supply for everyday use and fire protection.”

Connecticut’s drought level has recently been upgraded to a “severe drought” for most of the state due to an extended dry spell, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). With below average rainfall and extremely high water demand, water levels in Aquarion’s reservoirs are continuing to decline.

Previously, customers had been asked to voluntarily conserve through notices and automated phone messages.

Visit www.aquarionwater.com/conserve for additional water conservation tips.

About Aquarion Water Company:

Aquarion Water Company is the public water supply company for more than 625,000 people in 51 cities and towns throughout Connecticut, as well as serving customers in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. It is the largest investor-owned water utility in New England and among the seven largest in the U.S. Based in Bridgeport, Conn., it has been in the public water supply business since 1857. Across its operations, Aquarion strives to act as a responsible steward of the environment and to assist the communities it serves in promoting sustainable practices.

For more information on Aquarion Water Company and its subsidiaries, please visit www.aquarionwater.com or www.facebook.com/aquarionwater.

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Wine & Cheese Reception

Back by popular demand!

Join us for an evening of mingling with your professional peers.



**Friday, September 30
4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.**

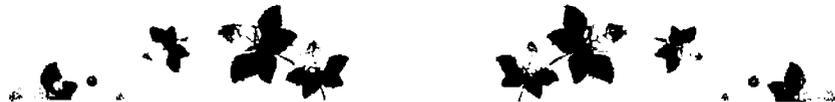


**Windham Falls Estates
425 Drozdyk Dr.
Groton CT, 06340**

Guitarist, Ron Murray

RSVP * Questions
860-446-2889

Hosts: Peter Oickle, LISCW/Laura Kinder
laura.kinder@holidaytouch.com



Christopher Johns' Memorial Sober Softball Tournament

Dear Potential Sponsor,

Community Speaks Out, Inc. is proud to announce the first **annual Christopher Johns' Memorial Sober Softball Tournament** in memory of Christopher Johns, who lost his battle with the disease of addiction on October 2, 2014. At the time of his death, Christopher was residing in a sober house having been placed on a waiting list for a long term treatment program.

This fundraising event will take place on **October 1, 2016 at Washington Park in Groton, CT from 9:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m.** In the event of inclement weather, the rain date will be held October 2, 2016 starting at 8:00 a.m. Funds raised from this tournament will be used to establish a spring/summer sober softball league for men and women in recovery who are striving to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Community Speaks Out, Inc., has helped many individuals and their families in communities throughout Southeastern Connecticut find the treatment and support services they need. However, through these efforts we've also validated that finding a continuum of services for treatment, recovery, and maintaining sobriety has been and continues to be a struggle in our state. Members of Community Speaks Out, Inc.'s board of directors have spent countless hours to date speaking with community leaders and legislators expressing what our communities need. Although we have made some headway and remain hopeful that change will continue to come, unfortunately, it has not been quick enough for those who have already lost their lives in their battle of the disease of addiction.

We believe it will take grass root efforts like Community Speaks Out, Inc. and the entire community uniting to make change continue to happen in our towns and cities across Connecticut. Creating a solid foundation of recovery that promotes health and wellness will assist not only those struggling with addiction but will also be instrumental in helping our communities heal.

Moving forward we continue to strive to accept one another's differences and the struggles that may accompany them. With acceptance comes love, with love comes peace, and with peace comes a sense of community filled with hope.

Teams for the tournament will consist of a minimum of 11 players with an entry fee of \$20.00 per player. The cost covers a dry-fit softball shirt. Each team will be assigned a Team Name. Community Speaks Out has chosen names of local folks who have lost their battle with addiction for team names. If you would like to be a sponsor of this community changing event, please contact me at 860-271-1835. Sponsors will be added to a program which will be given out during the event.

Thank you in advance for your support. ***TOGETHER WE WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE!***

Tammy de la Cruz
President, Community Speaks Out, Inc.



Referendum Question #1 Explanatory Text for November 8, 2016

Under Section 5.5.5.1 and 9.13 of the Groton Town Charter, the following question will appear on the November 8, 2016 ballot:

SHALL THE ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$184,500,000 AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT FOR THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE GROTON 2020 PLAN, CONSISTING OF A NEW, CONSOLIDATED MIDDLE SCHOOL AND CONVERSION OF THE EXISTING MIDDLE SCHOOLS INTO "RENOVATED LIKE NEW" ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS BE APPROVED?

PROJECTED BUDGET BASED ON ANTICIPATED STATE REIMBURSEMENT

Estimated Local Cost to be financed over 25 years	\$ 84,000,000
Anticipated State Reimbursement	\$100,500,000

Impact on Mill Rate

The estimated annual impact on the General Fund mill rate assumes no annual growth in the taxable Grand List and a series of financings with interest rates ranging from 2.9% to 3.69%. For every \$100,000 of assessed value, it is estimated that a taxpayer would pay \$9.00 the first year and \$179.00 in the sixth year, and the amount would gradually decrease thereafter to \$17.00 in the final year. These amounts are estimates, actual financing costs may vary depending on future events. The Town Council may reduce or modify the project and may delete portions of the project if funds are insufficient to complete the entire project.

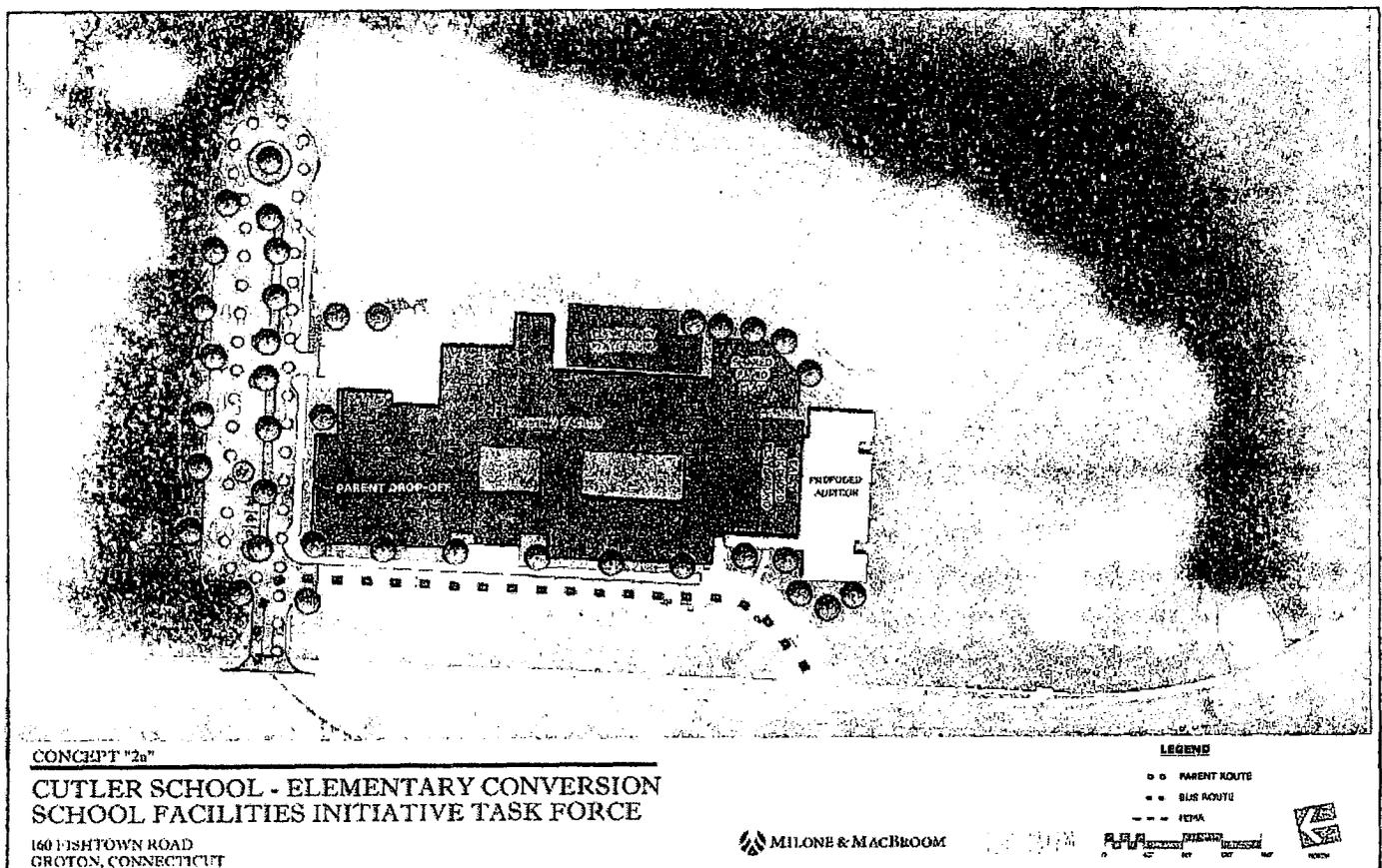
Fiscal Year	Estimated Mill Increase	Annual Cost on Home Assessment Per \$100,000
2016-17		
2017-18		
2018-19	0.09	\$9.00
2019-20	0.54	\$54.00
2020-21	0.97	\$97.00
2021-22	1.50	\$150.00
2022-23	1.71	\$171.00
2023-24	1.79	\$179.00
2024-25	1.75	\$175.00
2025-26	1.71	\$171.00
2026-27	1.67	\$167.00
2027-28	1.63	\$163.00
2028-29	1.59	\$159.00
2029-30	1.55	\$155.00
2030-31	1.51	\$151.00
2031-32	1.48	\$148.00
2032-33	1.44	\$144.00
2033-34	1.40	\$140.00
2034-35	1.36	\$136.00
2035-36	1.32	\$132.00
2036-37	1.28	\$128.00
2037-38	1.24	\$124.00
2038-39	1.21	\$121.00
2039-40	0.97	\$97.00
2040-41	0.74	\$74.00
2041-42	0.37	\$37.00
2042-43	0.17	\$17.00

Groton School Facilities Initiative

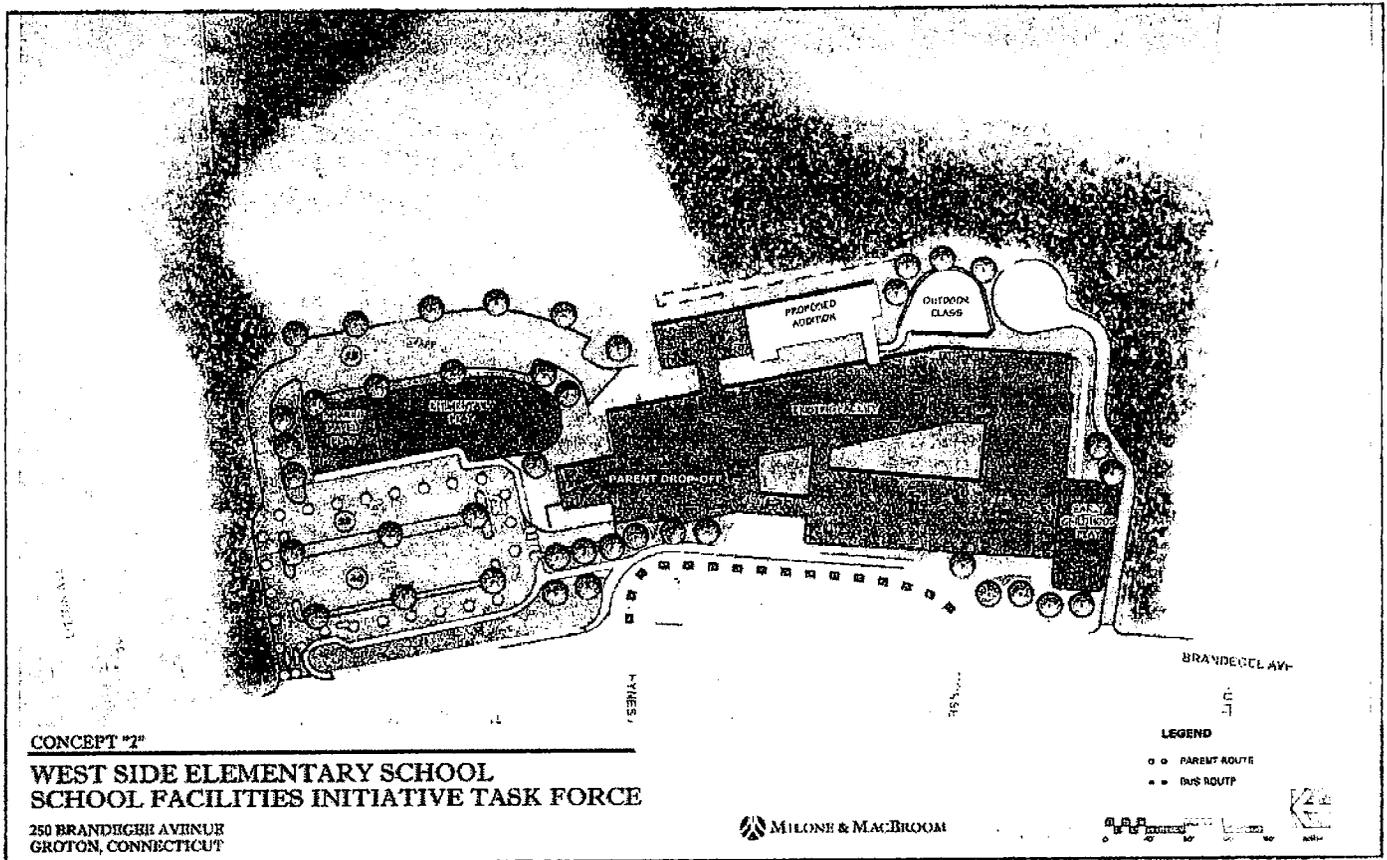
Cutler Middle School is proposed to be renovated to serve as an elementary school dedicated to students Pre-K through 5th grade.

West Side Middle School is proposed to be renovated to serve as an elementary school dedicated to students Pre-K through 5th grade.

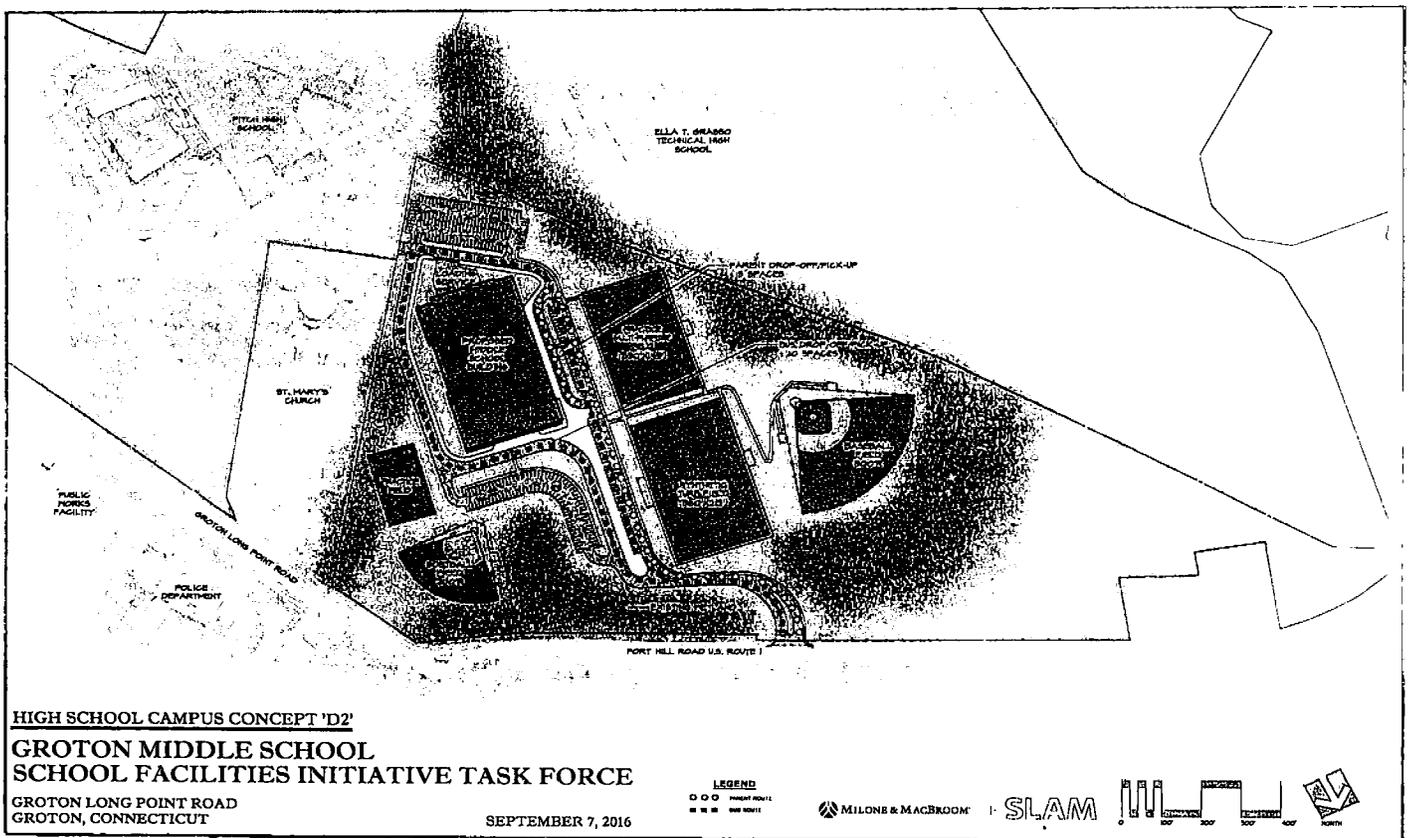
The proposed middle school will be located on the Merritt Farm, 35 Groton Long Point Rd, between the Ella Grasso Technical School and the Robert E. Fitch High School property and would house all students in grades 6 through 8.



Conceptual drawing of Cutler Middle School renovated into an elementary school



Conceptual drawing of West Side Middle School renovated into an elementary school



Conceptual drawing of consolidated middle school

Referendum Question #1 Explanatory Text for November 8, 2016

Shall the Ordinance appropriating \$184,500,000 and authorizing the issuance of bonds and notes in the same amount for the design and construction of the Groton 2020 plan, consisting of a new, consolidated middle school and conversion of the existing middle schools into "renovated like new" elementary schools be approved?

The full text of the bond ordinance is on file at the Town Clerk's Office and online at www.groton-ct.gov. For additional information, call 8660-441-6640.

Authorized by the Town Council
 Prepared and distributed by the Town Clerk
 Text Approved by the Town Attorney and the Town Mayor

PARKS AND RECREATION



Directors Report *August*

Planning/Coordination

Met with Principle of Cutler Middle School and Director of Building and Grounds for the BOE to propose building a footbridge behind school to complete the cross town trail. • Met with Town Manager to review plans for Veterans Memorial Park. • Worked with parks and administrative staff to develop a new Daily Log Sheet for park staff. • Met with Planning Department to discuss permitting process for proposed lights at Calvin Burrows baseball field.

Marketing/Promotion

Outlined division goals for the coming year, with recreation staff.

Communications

Attended Planning Commission meeting to approve waiving requirement of Open Space markers in Deerfield sub-division being stone walls. The proposed alternative was replacing crumbling stone walls with wooden fence.

Personnel

Weekly meetings with division supervisors • Biweekly and monthly meetings with department staff. Interviewed candidates for Parks Leader position and Regular Part-time Driver at Senior Center. Met with HR to review employee evaluation and discuss future actions.

Projects

Negotiating with consultants to develop a Beach Sand Management Plan for Esker Point Beach. Began application process for the installation of the pre-cast bathroom on the golf course. This is a CIP project in the FYE17 budget. It is funded from LoCip. Project approval will require Wetland's permitting and approval from Planning and Zoning.

Marketing *August*

Program Promotion

The Fall issue of Discover was printed and mailed to all Groton residents. New this season, the books were printed on white paper instead of gray newsprint, making the final product cleaner and sharper looking with more accurate colors and vibrant photos. The brochure is still an important marketing tool for promoting programs and registration to Groton residents and non-residents.

Implemented the use of Constant Contact as a communication and marketing tool to reach customers and promote programs and special events. The online email marketing program makes it easy to manage a database of contacts in different groups and send customized, user-friendly emails to better meet customers' needs. The messages sent through Constant Contact are more visually appealing and targeted more specifically to a customer's interests. Constant Contact also provides analytics on the number of emails sent and opened and clicks made on links, helpful feedback for planning purposes.

Special Events

Conducted a recorded radio interview with Kal London for the "Travel with Kal" show about the remaining shows in the Summer SoundWaves Concert Series and other special events and programs going on this summer and fall. The interview aired on August 10 on 1150-AM/WLIS 1420-AM.

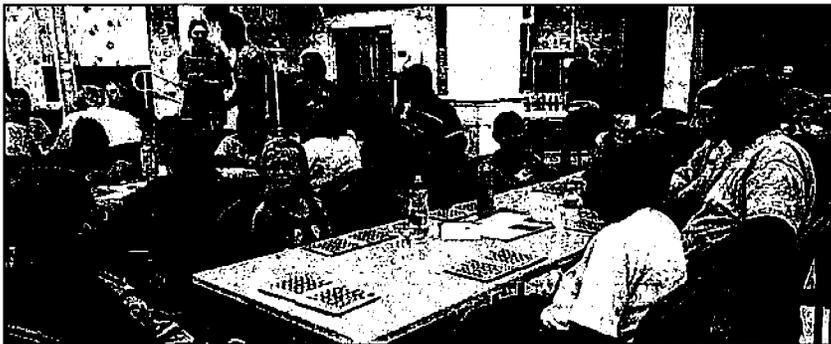
The 2016 Summer SoundWaves Concert Series at Esker Point Beach concluded with two successful rain date performances by Sugar and Hope Road. The concert series had another great year, with thousands of people attending each show.

Recreation *August*

Community Collaborations

The **Save the Kid Fund** provided Camp Button, our special needs camp, with three accessible bicycles that helped the children be more physically active at camp. Groton Parks and Recreation also worked to connect parents to the organization to enable them to apply to get a bicycle for their own homes.

Groton Public Schools food service staff worked amazingly with our summer camp program to provide healthy lunches for our children and other members of the public by providing daily breakfast and lunch. The food service staff also offered services for special events for our camps, including barbeques and meals for field trips.



The **Groton Senior Center** worked cooperatively with summer camp staff to host BINGO day at the Center. This interaction between children and our seniors is always an event the children look forward to each year.

The **Sandbox**, a local business that provides indoor volleyball, again provided nets for the sand volleyball courts at Esker Point Beach and organized a spring volunteer work party to prepare the courts for the summer. An end-of-season meeting was held with players in the various volleyball leagues to gather feedback and plan additional improvements for next year. Additional sand for Esker Point Beach continues to be the primary complaint along with making sure the seaweed from the off-season is removed before games begin.

Fostering Social Cohesion

The Summer Soundwaves Concert Series was successful and all seven scheduled concerts were held with the help of two "rain dates." Attendance remained steady and based on good crowd behavior from recent years we reduced the number of Police officers to lower expenses. The change several years ago to make the concerts "alcohol-free events" has paid off.

Rather than having a single permanent concessionaire at the concerts we now allow multiple vendors to pay a fee to vend. This year three vendors provided hot dogs, pizza and shaved ice to the spectators who were happy to have them there. The change also allowed the former concession stand area of the Esker Point Beach building to be used for sailing camp as classroom and storage area.

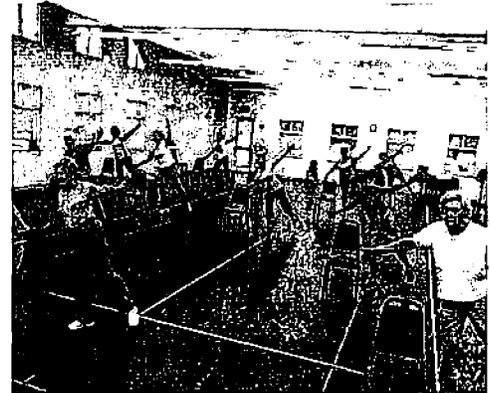
Senior Center *August*



Foster Health and Wellness

The Groton Senior Center gave away a Fit Bit to Helen Rush as one of the participants in the Walk with Ease exercise program for persons with arthritis or other joint disease. Helen attended every class to be entered for the prize. This program was funded by the Groton Parks Foundation

Fitness classes are some of the most popular programs at the center. Programs range from chair classes for persons with low level of fitness to advanced programs. Cardio Fit is a popular mid-range program that focuses on aerobic fitness as well as muscle strength.



Encourage Senior Independence

Not only did the National Parks celebrate its 100th Birthday in August. The center celebrated Virgil Huntley's 100th birthday. Virgil is an active member of Club 55 and participates in several classes at the center. He attributes his long life in part to participating at the Senior center.

Create Community Connections

The Senior Center has taken several lighthouse cruises this summer and in August took a tour of the Ledge Lighthouse. Participants were able to see the renovated light house and learn its history as well as the story of Ernie the lighthouse keeper that now haunts the light. Trips offered through the center are for all ages unless specified.



Parks *August*

Resource Protection

A moisture sensor monitor was installed on the athletic fields at PPP. The sensor is tied into the irrigation system. The goal is to conserve water yet maintain healthy, green playing fields.

Preventative Maintenance

Trees were removed and dead limbs were pruned around the Esker Point Beach picnic area and Noank Community Garden. The walking/running track at PPP was repaired. Each week hundreds of people use the track to exercise.

Ongoing Maintenance

Tasks that are completed on a daily, weekly or seasonal basis including: mowing and trimming, parks, athletic fields, cemeteries and public buildings, landscaping, lining and grooming ball fields, trash collection, and debris and leaf removal. Additional tasks include providing support services for recreation program and events.

Projects

Work continued on preparing the site for replacement of the Woods Walk playground. Framing and wire mesh were put down for the concrete pad, Timbers were also installed to contain the safety surface material once it is put down. This project is the result of the developer not installing the playground properly.

16 fields for various high school and youth sports are being laid out and painted. Fields are lined on a weekly basis. The department uses approximately 55 gallons of paint every week.



Shennecossett Golf *August*

Contribute to Economic Development

The course hosted the Boston Area Golfing Society, Groton Long Point group, Old Black Point group and the CT Shoreline league this month.

Marketing/Promotion

Facebook and e-blasts have been utilized to market the course.

Course Operations

The Men's' Club and Ladies' Club championships have been completed. The Men's Champion is Craig Lambert; the Ladies' Champion is Kim Capizzano.

A few bunkers were edged and had sand added to them.

Greens were treated three times with fungicide and soluble fertilizer.

Tees were treated twice with fungicide and soluble fertilizer.

Fairways were treated with fungicide.

Several repairs to the irrigation system were made during the month.

The 10th white tee was aerified.

This August the course played 2971 greens fees, 2285 cart fees, and 3277 season pass rounds.

Season passes sold was 1. The course was closed 0 days, with 4 weather days.

Last August had 3515 greens fees, 2561 cart fees, and 1719 season pass rounds. Season passes sold was 1. The course was closed 0, with 3 weather days.

Revenue this August was \$110,352 greens fees, \$40,016 cart fees, \$400 season pass fees, and \$3,000 Par 4 rent, for a total of \$153,768.

Revenue last August was \$116,182 greens fees, \$40,895 cart fees, \$265 season pass fees, and \$3,000 Par 4 rent, for a total of \$160,342.