



January 8, 2021 Edition

TOWN MANAGER HIGHLIGHTS

Happy New Year! I love a new year and the inner assessment of the past year and goal setting and dreaming for the new. My best friends and I spend the week or so leading up to New Year's Day deciding on words we feel best reflect our intention for the upcoming year. These are personal words, carefully chosen, that we return to throughout the year when we struggle to decide what to do or how to react. I decided to give myself two words this year, a personal life word and a word for my professional life.

My Town Manager word for 2021 is, "open". This year will continue to present challenges from COVID-19. We will need to remain flexible and nimble as each week brings new questions and concerns. I thought of both nimble and flexible as 2021 words but wanted something more complete, something that is not just about responding to crisis but also allows for building foundations for future successes. Open seems right - open to seeing the good that is around us even when things feel scary and unpredictable. Open to new ideas that are needed to be flexible and nimble. Open to different perspectives and experiences from others when developing policy so that the results serve the most people in the most effective ways. Open to all that this new year has to offer in our wonderful community.

UPCOMING EVENTS

1/11/2021

Planning Board Meeting @7PM

1/14/2021

WEMS Board of Directors Meeting @ 5PM - Public Safety Building, 1st Floor

1/14/2021

Conservation Commission Meeting @6PM via ZOOM

POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

I would like to thank everyone for their generosity and well wishes for the members of the department during the holiday season!

During the holiday season we sponsored two families providing them with a holiday meal and gifts for under their tree!

All employees have been busy completing their yearly mandatory Maine Criminal Justice Academy training, so they retain their state certification and the Bureau of Labor Standards training which helps the town stay in compliance. We now have had our COVID-19 testing machine for approximately a month and to date we have tested 63 individuals with only one positive test.

Having access to this testing has allowed people to get the test and results quicker so they can either remain or go back to work. I almost forgot to let you know that we have grown by one here at the department as Sally Stewart, Executive Assistant, and Aaron Stewart, Dispatcher, became the proud parents of Willow Theresa Stewart on December 19th. They are all doing well and we expect Sally back to work in a few weeks.

LIBRARY DEPARTMENT UPDATE

The library enjoyed a happy holiday break and is ready to start 2021!

Story times begin again the week of January 4th. Crafts for Wednesday Toddler Story Time can be picked up in the rear vestibule. Goodnight Stories podcast offers soothing bedtime stories for the younger ones. Older children will enjoy Chill with a Chapter Book featuring The Land of Oz by Frank L. Baum, and Jaded YA Reads is reading The Girl with the Silver Eyes by Willo Davis Roberts.

Join us for The Involuntary American on Tuesday, Jan. 12th at 6:30 p.m. Author Carol Gardner will talk about her book about Scottish POWs in the 1600s brought to the Massachusetts Bay Colony as indentured servants.

We have a new Adult Fiction book discussion group, Wishful Reading, beginning on Tuesday, Jan. 19th at 2:00 p.m. We will be discussing Daisy Jones & the Six by Taylor Jenkins Reid.

Relax your mind and body with our Meditation class on Monday, Jan. 25th at 12:00 p.m.

Our next Nonfiction title will be Born a Crime by Trevor Noah. This group meets on Wednesday, Feb. 3rd at 4:30 p.m.

Email Stefanie Claydon at sclaydon@wellstown.org for Zoom invitations to the above programs. More info available at wellslibrary.org.

FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

The Fire Department has been working diligently these last few weeks to consolidate all the tools, equipment and supplies from both the High Pine and Branch Stations to the New Fire Station on The Berwick Road. There is still a lot to do including assembling storage racks, moving and building gear racks, organizing and inventorying the department's equipment and so much more. Since last month the apparatus has been moved to the new station and the firefighters have been getting accustomed to their new home.

In other news the Wells firefighters have had their first series of Covid 19 vaccinations over the holidays. They will be getting their second dose later in the month. So far there have been no problems with the vaccination process and none of them have been negatively affected by the vaccine.

Later this month our department will be providing 50 meals to seniors at the Senior Center on Post Road. Typically this is done as a team effort with our personnel assisting in the kitchen and others serving the residents with a lot of interaction and socializing with everyone. Unfortunately with the pandemic this year, we will not be able to participate in the process but we will be present to give them a warm welcome. The food will be provided by "For the Love of Food and Drink" and will be handed out by those working at the center. Hopefully next year we can be more involved as was done in the past.

From the Wells Fire Department we hope you all had a great holiday season and wish you all a happy New Year!

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