



March 19, 2021 Edition

TOWN MANAGER HIGHLIGHTS

We had a tragic shooting on Sunday, March 14. One man is dead, another is wounded but healing. When Jo-Ann called to let me know what was happening, I was again reminded of what we ask of the people in public safety. One of our dispatchers answered a phone call and stayed calm while efficiently toning out the services that were needed. Police officers, fire fighters, and EMTs all drove to the scene not knowing exactly what they would find. Medical care was administered, a traumatized witness was comforted, a body was removed. When it was all over, these first responders finished their shifts and went home.

I've never been called by someone witnessing a violent crime. I've never been asked to respond to a scene of death and blood and chaos. I have no idea how to keep a person who has been shot alive while transporting them to a hospital. And I've never had the challenge of seeing the worst of humanity and then needing to go home to my family and keep it together so that my son doesn't know how hard my job is.

I use this space often to thank our staff for the excellent service they provide. All our staff serve the people of Wells with care, competency, and efficiency. But today I want to focus on those that see society at its worst and keep coming back to work. If you have mastered the art of calm reassurance while on the phone with hysteria, if your workday starts by putting on a bullet proof vest, if you have spent hours training how to keep someone you have never met alive, thank you. You all come to work each day knowing that you may be asked to do what many of us will never experience. You come to work ready to protect us, sometimes by risking your own lives. We are deeply grateful for you and for your families that support you when you go home. Thank you for all you do.

UPCOMING EVENTS

3/23/2021

Staff Review Committee - 9AM

3/23/2021

*Selectmen / Budget Review
Committee Joint Meeting - 6PM*

3/25/2021

*Comprehensive Plan Update
Committee - 6PM*

FINANCE AND TAX COLLECTION

The Finance Staff is starting to prepare for the summer season. We are working with the Assessing Office and Rydin Decal to get the online sticker program updated and ready for the 2021 season. Residents and Taxpayers will again be able to purchase their beach parking stickers online starting the first Monday in May.

Please remember that trailers registered for over 2,000 pounds with a mandatory date of February 2021 are due for re-registration. Motorcycle registrations with a mandatory date of March 2021 are due for re-registration. The second installment of 2021 taxes comes due next month on April 23, 2021 and interest will start June 8, 2021. Watch for your reminder notices in the mail around the week of April 12th.

We are pleased to congratulate the newest member of our staff, Brandy Bourassa, on becoming New Registration Certified through Motor Vehicle this week. Remaining staff members over the past month have taken advantage of the opportunity to participate in Motor Vehicle refresher workshops and trainings.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICE

The Code Office is working in split teams as we call the "A Team and B Team" between the office and home due to COVID. This has been going on since the first week of December. The theory is that if someone on a Team comes down with COVID that Team goes home and the other Team steps in so the office would not have to shut down.

Unfortunately, as Spring moves forward, and the office becomes busier we may not be able to provide the services that many of you are used to receiving. We may not be able to accommodate same day and next day inspections and permits might take a full 10 to 15 business days.

We all understand that everyone is on a timeline, the importance of your timeline is my philosophy to the daily operation of the Code Office. But on behalf of myself and Staff we just might not be able to meet that expectation right now. Please be patient with Staff.

ASSESSING OFFICE

The Assessing Office has currently been working in the field doing their spring pick up. The permits given to us by the Code Enforcement Office helps a great deal with this process. We are currently applying those changes we find in the field to the working tax cards.

Personal property letters have been sent out in the mail. Monthly deeds are being processed regularly. Homestead, veterans, open space, tree growth, exemption applications are all due by April 1, 2021.