

# **TOWN COUNCIL**

## **WEEKLY STATUS REPORT**

January 4, 2018

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### UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, Town Council Committee of the Whole, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall Annex, CR1.
- Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, RTM, 7:30 p.m., Groton Senior Center.

### THAMES RIVER INNOVATION PLACE INITIATIVE

The Thames River Innovation Place (TRIP) initiative recently launched its website, <http://thamesriverinnovation.quinnandhary.com/>, with focus on five key projects. In 2017, the TRIP initiative was successful in being competitively selected as one of four designated Connecticut “Innovation Place” communities. As a part of that designation, TRIP received a \$900,000 grant with the possibility of subsequent year funding for project implementation. Groton staff is actively involved with this important economic development effort with focus on creating “sense of place” in the region.

### DECEMBER HOLIDAY DISTRIBUTION

A total of 462 Groton households benefited from the holiday distribution at Groton Human Services on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Applications were accepted for 494 households with 32 “no-shows” on the distribution day. One week prior to the distribution day, approximately 35 volunteers from the faith community uniformly filled 500 food boxes with an assortment of canned, non-perishable items and holiday treats. On the distribution day, each food basket recipient was offered the choice of receiving a donated frozen turkey/ham or a \$15 voucher towards the purchase of any poultry, meat or other food items. Two hundred thirty-eight of the registered families also received toy bags for their children ages 12 years old and under and/or gift cards for children ages 13 years to 18 years old. Thirty-three new children’s bicycles of all sizes were received from various community donors and all the bikes were given out to families who had specifically requested a bike, pending availability. Sixty-four families were “adopted”, to receive toys and gifts, by a total of 46 local organizations, businesses, individuals, schools and the faith community. Significant toy donations were received from Toys-R-Us in Waterford.

Helping out Human Services staff on distribution day were numerous volunteers from the community, including students from Fitch High School's Future Business Leaders of America Club and their advisor, Deb Jenkins, players and support staff from the UConn/Avery Point men's basketball and baseball teams, State Senator Heather Somers and several officers and support staff from the Groton Town Police Department and the Groton City Police Department. Groton Town Police posted an officer at the Human Services' driveway on Fort Hill Road to keep traffic flowing safely throughout the distribution day. The Human Services Department received holiday donations of cash and gift cards totaling \$19,918 for its Food Locker and Donations Trust Fund. The department also contributed \$12,901 to the distribution. Gift cards utilized in the distribution are provided to clients in need throughout the year to help with special food/dietary needs, baby formula, work clothes and other items not normally available through the department's food locker and supplies inventory.

### GROTON MUNICIPAL TELEVISION (GMTV) INTERCONNECTION TO FRONTIER VANTAGE SERVICE

Frontier has recently started to roll out its Vantage TV service in the Groton area. When complete, Frontier will become the third video service provider in the Groton area, along with Comcast and Thames Valley Communications.

As part of their statewide video service agreement, Frontier will include community access channels in their channel line-up. Over the past several months, Frontier has been working to interconnect the library's GMTV broadcast studio to the Frontier system. So far, Frontier crews have established a fiber connection from the road to the library and are now in the last stages of installing equipment in the GMTV studio control room. The estimated completion of all work is mid-January.

When all work is complete, GMTV will be available for viewing on Frontier Vantage TV throughout the entire State of Connecticut on Channel 99. This project is being completely funded by Frontier per State mandate.

By the end of January, GMTV will be available on the following video services:

- Comcast Xfinity - Channel 2
- Thames Valley Communications - Channel 2
- Frontier Vantage TV - Channel 99
- YouTube – Live and On-Demand
- Town of Groton website – Live and On-Demand