

TOWN COUNCIL WEEKLY STATUS REPORT

June 29, 2017

NRD Volume 25, No. 26

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- There is no Town Council meeting on Tuesday, July 4th due to the Independence Day holiday. The next regular scheduled Committee of the Whole meeting is July 11th and the next regular scheduled Town Council meeting is Tuesday, July 18th.
- Thursday, July 6th, Permanent School Building Committee, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall Annex, CR2

TOWN OFFICES CLOSED

Please be advised that all Groton Town offices will be closed in observance of the Independence Day holiday on Tuesday, July 4th. Please enjoy the upcoming holiday with your friends and family.

2017 SUMMER READING PROGRAM

On June 23rd the Groton Public Library kicked off their “Build a Better World” themed Summer Reading Program. Children, teens and adults are invited to participate in the program by registering at www.grotonpl.org or in person at the Library. Programs related to the “Build a Better World” theme will take place at the Library through August.

As an incentive, children can earn book bucks to use at the Library store; teens can earn raffle tickets for a chance to win cool prize bags and adults can earn raffle tickets for a family prize. Some of the family prizes include guest passes to the Mystic Seaport, a gift certificate to Tuscan Restaurant, a signed Matt Harvey baseball and much more. Registration is required to be considered for prizes.

REVALUATION DATA MAILERS

The October 1, 2016 revaluation has been implemented and the Assessment Division is looking toward the October 1, 2021 revaluation which will be a full list and measure project. With an eye toward cost reduction in 2021, the division will

be implementing a data mailer program which will reduce the number of properties needing a full measure and list. This policy is supported by State Statutes and has been adopted in other Connecticut municipalities to reduce the costs of the full revaluation.

Over the next five years all residential (improved) real estate owners will receive a data mailer with current property information for their review. Taxpayers will be asked to return the form noting any inaccuracies. Staff will schedule an on-site visit to any property that does not return the data mailer. While this process will involve continual field data verification by staff over the next five years, it is anticipated that the end result will be a reduction in the cost of the 2021 revaluation as some of the work will have already been completed in-house by Assessment staff.

A five year schedule by neighborhood has been created and the first data mailers will be mailed during the second week of July to the following neighborhoods:

- Eastern Point
- Poquonnock Bridge (south of I-95)
- Noank (not village)
- Old Mystic

Assessment recognizes the data mailers may generate questions and phone calls from taxpayers since the October 1, 2016 revaluation was just completed, and staff are fully prepared to explain this new project and the expected results it will produce.

Two samples of the data mailers are attached (Attachment 1). Note that sale information is provided for properties that sold after 2006.

SPRING 2017 FISCAL SURVEY OF STATES

The GFOA June newsletter included a summary of the Spring 2017 Fiscal Survey of States prepared by The National Association of State Budget Officers. The report contains some interesting information and statistics and reflects that Connecticut is not alone in struggling with a State budget.

Key findings from the report include:

- State general fund spending would increase just 1%, compared to current estimated spending levels under governors' fiscal 2018 budgets.
- States experienced sluggish general fund revenue growth in fiscal 2017 – 2.4% – with 33 states reporting collections below budget projections.
- At least 23 states have already made net mid-year budget cuts totaling \$4.9 billion in fiscal 2017.
- General fund revenues are projected to grow 3.1% in fiscal 2018, based on governors' budgets.
- States continue to strengthen their reserves despite slow revenue growth.
- General fund spending on Medicaid grew at an estimated median rate of 5.2% in fiscal 2017, with a median growth rate of 4.3% projected for fiscal 2018.
- States that expanded Medicaid expect to spend \$8.5 billion from state funds on expansion in fiscal 2018.
- Governors' proposed tax and fee changes would result in a net increase of \$3.7 billion.

A summary of the report is attached (Attachment 2).

OTHER ATTACHMENTS

1. Attachment 3 is a press release from Groton Public Schools for the Summer Food Service Program being provided until August 18th. Breakfast and lunch will be served free of charge to all children 18 years old and under at various sites throughout Groton. Please see the attachment for site locations and meal serving times.
2. Attachment 4 is a flyer from Groton Human Services for the Farmers' Market Coupon Program. Coupons are provided to Groton residents, 60 years or older, who have a maximum household income of not more than \$22,331 for a single person or \$30,044 for a married couple. The coupon books are valued at \$18.00 and can be used at local farmers' markets. The books are provided while supplies last.

