

TOWN COUNCIL

WEEKLY STATUS REPORT

June 7, 2018

 Volume 26, No.22

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Monday, June 11th, Town Council Committee of the Whole Special Meeting, 6:00 p.m., City Municipal Building
- Tuesday, June 12th the Town Council Committee of the Whole meeting has been cancelled.
- Wednesday, June 13th, RTM, 7:30 p.m., Groton Senior Center

OPERATION FUEL

Operation Fuel, Inc. has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Groton Human Services for the program year running from July 9, 2018 through May 31, 2019. The agreement authorizes Human Services to complete Operation Fuel applications for emergency energy assistance for eligible Groton households whose income does not exceed 75% of the State's Median Income Guidelines. Operation Fuel funds grants of up to \$500 to assist households with oil, electric, natural gas, kerosene, wood, propane, pellets and other energy sources. Their payments are made directly to designated energy vendors. On their website, Operation Fuel states that it "partners with local government and community-based organizations at more than 100 sites throughout Connecticut to ensure that families in need have access to year-round energy assistance. In addition to helping clients apply for energy assistance programs, the partner agencies may be able to connect clients with programs that provide assistance for food, clothing, health services, childcare, and more." Human Services has partnered with Operation Fuel for over 25 years. Clients receiving Operation Fuel assistance must first apply for the Connecticut Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, which Human Services offers in conjunction with TVCCA, Inc. Operation Fuel's Board of Directors was recently authorized to provide administrative compensation in the amount of \$25 per completed, approved and paid client application to participating agencies like Groton Human Services, which annually processes an average of 35 Operation Fuel applications. The administrative compensation will be returned to Groton's General Fund. Operation Fuel funding levels are determined in basically two increments, a summer program and a winter program. Groton is usually allowed \$4,000 for the

summer program and \$15,000 for the winter program. Additional funds are often authorized, based upon Operation Fuel's financial status and individual community needs.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Attachment 1 is the May 2018 update on Groton economic development projects from the Office of Planning and Development Services.
2. Attachment 2 is a News Release from the Government Finance Officers Association for the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting awarded to the Town of Groton for its comprehensive annual financial report.
3. Attachment 3 is a flyer from Southeastern Connecticut Television for the Water, Water Everywhere Art Show Opening on June 14th from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at SEC-TV Studios, 80 Plaza Court.
4. Attachment 4 is a flyer from the Groton Town Police Department for the Tour De Force 9/11 Memorial Bike Ride Fundraiser on July 7th from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Custom House Pier in New London. The cost is \$20.00 per ticket with food, beer and wine available. Please contact Chief L.J. Fusaro for more information, or to purchase tickets, at lfusaro@groton-ct.gov.

Attachments

JB/lh

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION UPDATE

May 2018

The following summarizes economic development division activities for May 2018.

Economic Development Activities:

- **Marketing:** Every year, the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) www.iedconline.org/ presents "Excellence in Economic Development Awards" recognizing the world's best economic development programs and partnerships, marketing materials, and the year's most influential leaders. These awards honor organizations and individuals for their efforts in creating positive change in urban, suburban, and rural communities. The Town of Groton's Office of Planning and Development Services (OPDS) recently submitted an entry for an "Internet & New Media Award" in the category of "General Purpose Website" for Groton's new economic development website found at www.exploremoregroton.com. This award recognizes exceptional and inventive use of the Internet and new media for economic development. Judging of the entries will occur in June with winners notified in August. Winners are recognized at IEDC's Annual Conference in Atlanta, GA. Staff was also interviewed on the "Mystic Matters" show which will be released on Monday, June 11th.
- **Thames River Innovation Place (TRIP):** Staff has been coordinating with the Undersea Supply Chain Consortium Manager, Alexandra Halvordson, who started on May 22nd. Her position is being paid for by TRIP by way of the CT Next Innovation grant funds. Preliminary discussions have occurred with CT Next Innovations with an indication that the Consortium budget should be increased given it is a high-profile state supported effort. Staff attended a joint U.S. and Australia announcement in Mystic that the two countries are working together to improve supply chain systems to assist Australia. A formal summit on this topic will occur this fall in Mystic with over 100 invited companies.
- **Economic Assistance Fund (EAF) Request:** Staff sought and gaining preliminary Council approval for the 10 Fort Hill Road project to partially fund infrastructure needs for a 19 unit residential unit development. Additionally, staff worked to prepare materials for another EAF request at 90 Leonard Drive for an athletic complex with supporting chiropractic offices. This gained support from the EAF Committee.
- **Tax Abatement Program:** Staff has initiated the development of a more formal tax abatement program in Groton in coordination with the tax assessor's office. There were changes in state statute that have enabled more flexibility at the local level. Groton needs a well-defined program to clearly outline goals, strategy and process.
- **Wayfinding Sign Plan:** The document is anticipated this spring. As a subset to the larger Groton effort, staff continued working with key interests regarding the Mystic kiosk component.
- **Public Property Redevelopment (Mystic Education Center):** Short-list proposals have been selected and the process is advancing with key firms.

