

Issue 2

July 2016

First Selectman Report

1. A public hearing was held on March 30th to discuss the use of the 31-39 Main Street property owned by the Town. Approximately 15 residents were in attendance. Proposed ideas were a Solar Powered Carousel, additional parking, landscaping and a raised deck bump out that could accommodate tables and chairs and discussion of an entrepreneur building a 4 story hotel on the site with valet parking elsewhere. The Board of Selectmen appreciate everyone who attended the meeting with their ideas. The Department of Public Works is currently working in the lot removing the old floor and securing the back wall.
2. I have received several applications for the Citizens Advisory Committee, the Board of Selectmen appointed members, Selectman John Locke will be serving as the chairman of the committee. Selectman Locke will be contacting members to set up an initial meeting sometime in August to work on a mission statement for the committee.
3. The town has received a grant for the reconstruction of the Swap Shed at the Transfer Station. We hope to have the building constructed mid-August if the funding is received by then.
4. On April 5th I held a meeting at the Community Center to discuss setting up a Drug Task Force. Present were the Board of Selectmen, Dr. Pat Collin Superintendent of Schools, Lt. Thomas Duncan and approximately 20 residents. Recently our officers went for training to dispense Narcan and now are able to administer it if they are the first on scene to an overdose.
5. Welcome Loki, Stafford was able to acquire a narcotics canine through a donation from Norcross Wildlife, Inc. and our local officer James Kodzis has completed his training with the new canine. Officer Kodzis is a retired State Police Officer who ran the canine operation for the State Police.
6. Some of you that frequent the town hall may have noticed some changes to some office locations. Public Works is now together in one office in the 2nd floor front office across from the Selectman's Office. The Small Cities office has moved from the 3rd floor to sharing space in the Treasurer's office on the 2nd Floor off the auditorium.
7. On behalf of the Town of Stafford, Community Opportunities Group has filed a Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$400,000.00 to continue the successful housing rehabilitation program. Unfortunately, Stafford was not approved for funding this year. We will apply again next year for funding.
8. The two Chevy Volts (electric vehicles) have been received and I can report they are being utilized daily by the town and the Board of Education decreasing the cost we have to pay out for mileage.
9. Thank you to the Towns of Ellington and Somers Building officials for assisting with local inspections while Stafford Building Official Dennis Milanovich was on vacation.

10. The Town of Stafford will be celebrating our 300 Year Anniversary in 2019. I will be looking to put together a committee after the 1st of the year so if you're interested in serving on the committee please contact my assistant Beth DaDalt at 860-684-1777 or staffordtownhall@staffordct.org and she will forward you the informational form to fill out and return.
11. Summerfest 2016 went well, there was good attendance, feedback was positive. Thanks again to Stafford Savings Bank for their incredible donation sponsoring the fireworks. Big Thanks as well to all the volunteers for their dedication and hard work not just that day but for the months leading up to it. It was a tremendous success. Barbara Bresnahan led the effort and did an outstanding job.
12. Reminder, I have office hours every Friday in the Town Hall Veterans Room from 8:30am-12Noon if you want to stop by with questions or concerns.
13. I have recently negotiated and the Board of Selectmen have settled 3 of the 5 Bargaining Unit contracts. 1 has a tentative agreement and the other is still being negotiated.
14. On Monday July 25th I attended a Capital Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) meeting with other local leaders along with Stafford's building official to remain informed on the crumbling concrete issue so I can give residents the most current information possible.
15. DPW Director Rick Zulick has been working on a 2.9 million dollar grant for the Gulf Road/Boyer Road area. The project is in the design phase so we will keep you updated on this as the project progresses.
16. In a continued effort to beautify the downtown area and assist the Garden Club with clean up, the town will be working to replace the existing wood guardrail in the EagleMart (Sunoco Station) parking lot which the town leases for downtown parking, remove the ugly box container on the lot and get the soil prepared for the Garden Club to plant flowers.

Thank you to the Garden Club for all the beautiful flowers and the Lions Club for the hanging baskets.