

Town Manager Report to the Board of Selectmen – Mon., August 10, 2020

Early Voting for the Primaries – Town Clerk Carin Kale would like to remind residents that the State Primary is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2020 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Voting for all three precincts will be at the Hamilton-Wenham Recreation Center at 16 Union St. in Hamilton. The last day to register to vote is Saturday, Aug. 22 and the Town Clerk’s office will be open from 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 8 p.m. on that day.

The deadline to request to vote by mail is Wednesday, Aug. 26 at 5 p.m. and the last day to submit a mail-in ballot for the Primary is Tuesday, September 1 at 8 p.m.

In-person Early Voting will be at held at Town Hall on the following days and times prior to Primary Day:

Saturday, Aug. 22 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Sunday, Aug. 23 8 a.m. to 12 noon
Mon. Aug. 24 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Aug. 25 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, August 26 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Thursday, Aug. 27 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Friday, Aug. 28 8 a.m. to 12 noon

Firefighter Grant – The Hamilton Fire Department, in a joint application with Boxford and Rowley, has been awarded an Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the amount of \$713,291 for new radios for all three fire departments. The Hamilton share of that grant is approximately \$237,000 and the town will need to approve a \$11,888 match to the grant in order to purchase the radios. We will be meeting with the Board of Selectmen and the Finance and Advisory Committee to identify the source of funds for the grant match.

Senior Center – The Council on Aging and Senior Center are gearing up to offer some social programming for local seniors in an outdoor setting over the next few weeks. Council on Aging Director Mary Beth Lawton has received some assistance from local residents to spruce up the outdoor space around the building, and will put up a tent in the rear of the building, with open sides, to allow a modest amount of appropriate, socially distant socializing with programs like hot dogs and bingo. Residents can visit the Hamilton Council on Aging Facebook page or look for updates on the town website for more information.

Recreation Programs – Recreation Director Sean Timmons reports that the summer youth programming has been successful and participation has actually been increasing, with more children enrolling each week. The program offerings and safety protocols have been well received and with the delay of school re-opening, due to the State’s reduction in required learning time, the Recreation Department will be extending the summer programs by several more weeks. Residents interested in having their children participate can learn more about the program offerings and dates on the Recreation Department web page.

Patton Park bathrooms – Renovations of the Patton Park bathrooms are scheduled to take place over the next week or so, with a likelihood that the work could be done before the end of the month.

The project includes replacement of bathroom fixtures, installation of touchless hand dryers, a new tile floor, paint, a new hot water heater and lighting upgrades. The Public Work department had a budget of approximately \$50,000 to work with, but at present it looks as though we'll be able to finish the project under budget.

Residents should be aware that the bathrooms may be unavailable over the next week or so as the work progresses.

Patton Homestead – Homestead Director Kaleigh Paré has begun opening the Homestead to in-person events at the Homestead again, on a limited basis. For example, last Thursday evening the Hamilton-Wenham League of Women Voters and the Homestead presented a performance of the historical play "I Now Pronounce You Lucy Stone" in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Women's Suffrage Movement.

Additionally, plans for a public-private partnership at the Homestead that will open the second third floors up to members of Inc.ubate, a co-working offices company, are proceeding well. A recent inspection of the building for that purpose was completed by the Hamilton Building Inspector, with the report that the building is compliant for the proposed purposes. Kaleigh and Inc.ubate founder and president Michael Lucerto will be visiting the Finance and Advisory Committee later this month to discuss the proposed arrangement.