

Newsletter from the First Selectwoman

As we close Fiscal Year 2012, and in an effort to keep people informed, I am publishing the first of what I hope will be monthly newsletters. So, in my first update for June 2012 – here's what's happening:

Kids, Kids, Everywhere!



On Friday, June 8th, we had the entire second grade class from the Mile Creek School pay a visit to Memorial Town Hall as part of their "Our Town" unit, and the Lyme Street Tour. Thankfully, the teachers understood that bringing in 200 students at one time would be overwhelming, so they came in 5 groups, with 5th grade Tour Guides from Center School. We visited the Selectmen's Office, where they all knew this is where to get *BEACH STICKERS!* Then it was on to the Town Clerk's vault, where we were in awe of the old Land Records with such beautiful script from the 1800's and before. I dare say, the two gentlemen doing research in the vault were surprised as they were surrounded by these students, but they handled themselves well, and did not run in panic. The group then had an opportunity to find a familiar name on one of the plaques gracing our front stairwell, and finally, after we all voted AGAINST banning apple juice in Old Lyme, we enjoyed a snack of everyone's favorite juice with cookies. Congratulations to the parents who have raised such curious, well-behaved students, and the teachers who braved bringing such an active bunch onto Lyme Street to enjoy "Our Town". Special thanks to Emily Zemba, whose Gold Award Girl Scout project from 6 years ago gave the students the guide to this tour. Everyone in Town Hall enjoyed the visit, and yes – even the noise they brought with them! Thank you letters were received and our staff got some chuckles out of the letters. They are on display in the Selectmen's Office, and worth the read ☺!

New Offices / New Staff

As of July 1st, we have some changes in staff and offices to report. After 25 years serving the people of Old Lyme in our Health Department, **Marilyn Swaney** will be retiring. We will all wish her well on her last day with us on June 29th at noon. Thank you Marilyn for all your hard work, and now – RELAX and enjoy yourself! Taking her place is **Patti Myers**, from East Lyme. Patti comes to us with great office experience and we are sure she will fit right in.

We now have a Senior Center Director who is working 25 hours a week focusing on Senior Center programs. **Sherry White** (formerly Meyer) no longer divides her time between Social Services and Senior Center, but can focus all of her efforts on the Senior Center. Her hours will be posted in the near future as she works out the details. **Ruth Roach**, who has served as Information Technology (IT) Coordinator and Tax Clerk, will now divide her time between IT and Social Services (SS). We have renovated the old Probate Judge offices (Lower Level, rear) to accommodate the new SS Department. Ruth will post her SS office hours in the near future.

Toni O'Connor, who has worked in the Tax Collector's office previously, has returned as our new Tax Clerk. We are delighted to have her back. *Welcome to all of our new staff and new positions!*

Summer is Here!



We all wait for this wonderful, sometimes too hot, weather, when we can enjoy the great outdoors. With that, we also deal with crowds, traffic and Sound View. This year, we have a slight change to an old approach. Our newly named **Old Lyme Town Rangers** oversee parking on Hartford Ave. and Sound View as well as Miami Beaches. It is easy to spot our Rangers in their yellow polo shirts, shorts, and sunglasses. They have been on duty since Memorial Day weekend, and have not only improved behavior at the beaches but are issuing parking permits for Hartford Ave. spaces. Now that we have paid parking on the street, we have minimized the “musical cars” practices that we had in years past with the Two Hour Free Parking. In addition, because we have more Rangers on duty, we are able to monitor beach behavior and maintain a safe tourist attraction.



You may have heard some rumors about a park down at Sound View. The Sound View Commission (SVC) has worked with an engineering firm, BSC, to develop plans for a park in the Town Parking Lot, along with re-configured parking on Hartford Ave. All will be paid parking and fees will be processed through kiosks installed in Sound View. In addition, the plan INCLUDES new public restrooms! Sounds expensive, and it is, but we have applied for a DOT Enhancement Grant through our local Regional Planning Agency (CRERPA), and are waiting to hear if the grant has been approved. Thanks go to Frank Pappalardo, Chairman of SVC, for his hard work in putting the application together. Wish us luck!

You might also take notice of our Police Boat patrolling occasionally off Sound View Beach. This is in an effort to prevent the boats and personal watercraft (jet skis) from coming too close to the swim area. The Board of Selectmen feels it is important to set the tone in the beginning of the season through enforcement of safe boating practices. Safety is of utmost concern, and we need to get the message out that rules will be enforced and we will not tolerate risky behavior on boats.

Lyme-Old Lyme High School Class of 2012



Congratulations to the Class of 2012! We are all very proud of you and your many accomplishments. Thanks to the beautiful weather on June 18th, the graduation was held outdoors, and more people were able to celebrate with graduates, family and friends. Special Congratulations to Selectmen Sibley and his family as his son, Dustin, was among the graduates. Best wishes to our Superintendent, Betty Osga, on her retirement, and thanks go to her for all she has done to make the Lyme-Old Lyme Schools an award winning District.

Blood Drive Scheduled Moral Support for Daniel Coburn, Class of 2012

Speaking of the Class of 2012, one of our graduates, **Daniel Coburn**, has recently been diagnosed with leukemia. One aspect of his treatment may include the need for blood. The American Red Cross has an EMERGENCY need for blood and platelet donors of all blood types. In June, blood donations are down more than 10 percent across the country, with 50,000 fewer pints of blood than expected. There is almost half the amount of readily available blood in the Red Cross inventory than there was this time last year. Please consider donating blood in support of this courageous young man when we have a Blood Drive on Tuesday, July 3, 2012 at Memorial Town Hall from 1:30 PM to 6:30 PM. Our best wishes and thoughts go out to the entire Coburn family.



Statewide Emergency Preparedness Drills

After the two major weather events last fall, the State of CT, in conjunction with CL&P will be coordinating a statewide weather even drill. Old Lyme will take part in this drill on July 30 and 31. The drill will test our readiness in the event of a Category I hurricane landfall – with Day 1 for Pre-Landfall preparations, and Day 2 for Post- Landfall Response. In addition, the Town of Old Lyme will take part in drills in preparation for a nuclear disaster. Due to our proximity to Millstone in Waterford, our Emergency Management Director, David Roberge, regularly reviews and practices procedures in case of any type of an event. Though it is summer, it appears that July and August will be busy months for us!

Midsummer Festival – July 27 and 28



Plans for this annual event have been ongoing since early January, and now the festival is almost upon us. Each year, we have more participants and everyone looks forward to a fun event. The brochures are now ready, plans almost complete, and we will even have new, recycling containers throughout the event this year. Join us on Friday, July 27 and Saturday, July 28 for another great year of the Midsummer Festival. Though we are again unable to provide fireworks for the event due to the High School construction, it still promises to be full of fun activities, great food and Old Lyme tradition. Find all the information you need at www.oldlymemidsummerfestival.com

I hope this newsletter has helped to keep you updated on what is going on in Town and Town Hall. On behalf of the Board of Selectmen, I wish you a **Happy 4th of July**, and remind you to please celebrate safely. Feel free to stop in to say hi, or email me at breemsnyder@oldlyme-ct.gov. Your feedback and suggestions are welcome.