

September Newsletter from the First Selectwoman

It's hard to believe that it's already Oct. 1! School has been in session for over a month, the leaves are beginning to show a little color, and there is the unmistakable feel of Fall. As always, there is a lot going on in the Town of Old Lyme.

Paving and other road work



Paving on Johnnycake Hill Road and Meetinghouse Lane has begun this weekend, with the cooperation of the weather. Some drainage work will also be performed at this time. The roads will remain passable while the work is being done. Drivers are reminded to exercise caution and to obey temporary signage as well as directions from site personnel.

Septic, Sewers and Water Pollution

For the last year, there has been a great deal of talk about sewers, on-site wastewater (septic) systems and water pollution, and understanding the complexity of these issues. The topic is an important one, because we have two Beach Associations who have had studies done within their associations on water pollution. As chartered beach associations, they function as independent municipalities to address these concerns, and they have utilized grants through the CT DEEP to fund the studies. In addition, grant money is available to fund the installation of sewers, which will be connected to the New London Wastewater Treatment Facility.

The Town of Old Lyme is a community that has adopted a sewer avoidance policy since the mid 1990's, which presents a conflict. Because of some questions and concerns about these studies, the Town of Old Lyme hired an engineer to do an analysis, and determine if all alternatives had been considered. The result of that study is a proposal for a community septic system, which may address the needs of the entire densely populated shoreline area. While this newsletter is not the best means of describing the full proposal, it is a good opportunity to inform you that you should pay attention to this issue. The Board of Selectmen will be appointing a Task Force to objectively look at the issue, utilize grant funds where available, and put out a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to determine if we should hire an engineering firm to do our own study. This will be discussed in detail over the next few months, and we will be looking for dedicated individuals who have the time and expertise to serve on this Task Force. Watch for continued updates on this issue!

Town Woods Park Update



As many of you know, this is the first season that Town Woods Park has been maintained without the use of pesticides or synthetic fertilizers and with an organic treatment plan. The plan has been developed with the volunteer help of Dr. Jerry Silbert of the Watershed Partnership, who believes fields can be properly maintained without the use of harmful chemicals. The challenge we have faced with maintenance of Town Woods is that we went a full year

without a viable plan to compensate for no chemical treatments, the increase in field usage due to the High School Construction project, and an increase in recreational team usage. While many athletes like to see pristine blue grass turf fields, this is difficult to accomplish in a transitional year. There has been some wear noted on the fields, as well as crab grass and clover. Aeration, overseeding and fertilization have been done, and some adjustments are already being discussed to address the areas of concern. We appreciate your patience while we work to produce healthy, sustainable fields without the use of chemicals, and please understand that all professionals in the area of organic care note that a transition takes about 3 years.

A new committee has been formed to look at the possible synergy between the District and the Towns of Lyme and Old Lyme. It is called the “Joint Committee on Playing Fields” and they have already had two meetings. Their initial goal is to determine if “RSD #18 and the towns of Lyme and Old Lyme can work to develop common athletic field maintenance protocols and practices for all fields within their combined jurisdiction to be implemented for the 2013-2014 management cycle.” Preliminary findings are very promising. We will keep you posted on the progress of this effort.

Sound View Improvement Presentations

For years, the issues at Sound View have been discussed, studied, and reviewed, with some effort for change, but no wholesale affect. Many people have referred to Sound View as a “diamond in the rough” or the “best beach in Connecticut”, indicating that it should be improved. Last Fall, the Sound View Commission worked with BSC Group to develop a plan for Sound View that would address several issues, including public restrooms, improved traffic flow, kiosk parking, and utilizing the town parking lot for a park. The Sound View Commission and Town of Old Lyme applied for a grant through the DOT Enhancement Fund to help pay for 80% of the cost of these improvements. Though there was hope that we would have a positive answer on the status of the grant application, we have yet to hear from the DOT about the approval. In the meantime, the Sound View Commission has made one presentation on the proposed plan for improvements at their meeting on Monday, Sept. 25. They will host two more presentations, which will be announced on our website, for the benefit of the general public. We will post the dates of the presentations with plenty of advance notice.

Landfill Closure: A Whole New Look!

There is not much more to report on the Landfill Closure except that it is proceeding as planned. It seems that we are ahead of schedule, as they are spraying the seed cover now. At our meeting last week, reports were good and they may be completed by the middle of October. After completion, we will drill the test wells for monitoring, which will assure that there is no contamination. If you haven’t seen it, drive by – it looks entirely different. Thanks to Ed Adanti and Don Rutty for working with me to oversee the project.



Eagle Scout – Zachary Harrison

Congratulations to Zachary Harrison of Old Lyme who just became an Eagle Scout on Friday, Sept. 28! I was delighted to attend the ceremony and celebration of his achievement. Zachary is just 15 years old, and completed a project up at Nehantic State Forest to clear the access road so that the state could improve the roadway. I also joined Zachary and his friends on a cold, rainy day last spring to see how the project was progressing, and despite the weather challenges, they got so much done – with smiles on their faces! Zachary – the Town of Old Lyme is so very proud of your achievement and your efforts! Congratulations to you and your family on this remarkable triumph.

Two New Roads? Woodcrest Estates and Village Lane



When does a private road become a town road? No, this is not a trick question – but one that you should know the answer to, because it only happens when YOU say it does. We have two private roads that are requesting to be accepted as Town Roads. Once the owners meet all the Town road standards, they can request that the Board of Selectmen bring it to a Town Meeting for a vote. That’s where you, the voter, comes in! We currently have two roads that are going to be scheduled at a Town Meeting for the very near future – Woodcrest Estates, which is off Route 156 near Oakridge, and Village Estates, which is just south of the I-95 northbound exit ramp on Route 156. Please be sure to watch for the legal advertisement, and announcement of the Town Meeting date, so you can decide if these should become roads that are owned and maintained by the Town.



Need Fuel Assistance? Sign up for Oct. 16

Energy Assistance is available through the State of CT for those in need, and our Social Services Coordinator, Ruth Roach, is working diligently to get applications in for assistance. In addition, a “sign up” day is being tentatively scheduled for Oct. 16th, for both Old Lyme and Lyme residents. Please watch for confirmation of this date, and where it will be held. In order to apply for assistance, you will need (for ALL members of household):

Date of birth and Social Security number

Proof of gross income for the 4 weeks prior to the appointment date including: paystubs, child support, monthly pension/social security/disability benefits, unemployment and rental income
Current proof of all assets, this includes bank statements for each account, dividend or monthly interest amount, cash value of stocks, bonds, and IRA’s, 2 months of checking account statements

Current copy of lease/mortgage or a rent receipt

Electric or Natural Gas, please provide a complete utility bill (top and bottom portions) For clients with a shut off notice, please bring copy to the appointment

For deliverable fuels (Oil, Kerosene, Propane, Wood) please provide the name of your vendor

Watch for more information to follow!

Department Highlight: Public Works

Big thanks go out to our Public Works Department for their hard work this summer. If anyone has called me with a concern, they know that the resolution has been almost immediate. Our Superintendent of Public Works, Ed Adanti, has worked diligently to address concerns from residents. From faded signs, to potholes, to sight lines, Ed and his crew are quick to correct reported problems. Town Hall grounds look wonderful, as does the Senior Center, where the tree was removed.

Our Public Works Dept: **Ed Adanti**, Superintendent; **Richard “Soupy” Campbell**; **Vince Doughty**; **Larry Galbo**; **Rick Gocka**; **Brian Lorentson**; **Rob Perry**; **Don Ruddy**; **Don Saunders**; **Bob Swaney** and **Bob Wanat**.

Great job, guys! Thank you for your hard work. Now get some rest in preparation for the snow to fly! I will be highlighting the efforts of another Department next month.

Happy Fall – stay safe and warm. Please do not “reply” to this post, but rather email me at breemsnyder@oldlyme-ct.gov if you have questions or concerns. Of course, you’re always welcome to stop in and chat or call me any time. Your feedback and suggestions are always appreciated.