

Town Manager Update

February 2020

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Individuals may complete the 2020 US Census survey on-line, by phone, or by mail...it only happens once every 10 years, so please take the time to complete the survey.

Front Page Accomplishments

Town Report. Staff's annual "chore" to prepare the Town Report is complete. As always great assistance and leadership in its completion was conducted by Miranda Bergmeier, Jean Lawe, and Doug Lufkin. The report currently is at the printers and soon should be ready for pick up at Tracy Hall. A postcard will be sent to households indicating when the reports will be available. From a sneak peak, the cover photo is pretty cool, the dedication is most appropriate, it includes the usual informative menagerie of reports and financials, there is a smattering of local photos, contact info, etc., and, of course, there's voter information for Town Meeting.

👉 **DON'T FORGET TO VOTE ON TUESDAY, MARCH 3** 👈
TOWN/SCHOOL BUDGETS, OTHER ARTICLES, AND THE
PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

Kicking Off Strategic Planning. During the most recent Department Head meeting, the TM "kicked off" a renewed effort to conduct strategic planning between and among Town Departments that are under the supervision of the TM. That effort will interface with the new Town Plan's implementation element, the 2018 Selectboard survey, the updated capital budget & program, and past Town strategic planning efforts. Eventually, the outcome(s) will be provided to the Selectboard for their use and consideration.

Snippet from the Manager

The 2020 US Census is fast approaching. Between March 12 and 20 (next month), the US Census Bureau will be sending out "invitations". Once you receive that notification, you can respond to the US Census survey. Individuals may complete the 2020 US Census survey on-line, by phone, or by mail. For additional information, visit the US Census website at: www.2020census.gov.

The US Census only happens once every 10 years, so please take the time to complete the survey. The results of the survey are very important for the distribution of federal funds, re-districting of voting areas, creating an updated nationwide database related population, housing, income, employment, etc.

By the way, if you have some time, and want to make a little cash, the Census Bureau is looking to hire "Census Takers". If interested or you know someone with interest, information can be found on the website listed above.

Employee News

The Norwich Police Department has a couple of new faces. **Officer Joseph Pregent** was hired full-time to replace Officer Frank Schippert. In addition, **Officer Curtis Taft** was hired as a part-time officer to help fill in with vacant shifts especially over the next 6 months to a year. Both officers come with a host of previous law enforcement experience. Notably, they both indicated in their interview with the TM that they look forward to learning from the Marion Cross students about the finer techniques of kickball and, of course, striving to meet community members, businesses, and visitors. Welcome Officers Pregent and Taft.

*Welcome Officers
Pregent and Taft.*

General shout out to staff members participating in the re-formed Town Safety & Wellness Committee – **Miranda Bergmeier**, **Judy Powell**, and **Police Chief Frank**! Together with reps from NFD, DPW, the Library, the Fire District, and the VT League of Cities & Towns, I hope we continue to improve on general safety issues and employee wellness. This will help both Town employees/personnel and our insurance rates!

Department Profile: Recreation

Cool Healthy Lifestyle Graphic!



Source:
<https://livelongstayyoung.com/wellness-wheel-life-balance/>

Since taking over the position of Recreation Director, **Brie Swenson** has built upon the foundation established by former director, Jill Kearney. Brie's focus has been to develop and offer programs for persons of all ages and abilities. While a ton of credit has to be given to the Recreation Council, the part-time staff/counselors, Buildings & Grounds crew, and all the volunteers that step up to ensure a high level program with numerous offerings, it's all put together and organized by Brie (with a little help from her 3 school-aged children!)

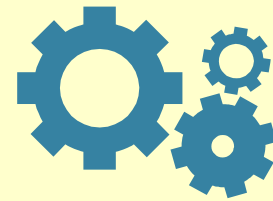
At least quarterly, Brie orchestrates a collection of offerings for youth, adults, and those in between. For example, the "Mud Season" programs include indoor lacrosse, Girls on the Run, indoor baseball, intro to spring sports, pickleball, coed table tennis, fencing, pa kua chang kung fu, yoga, badminton, basketball, volleyball, and futsal.

In addition, Brie works with other organizations and people to provide additional opportunity to Norwich residents. For instance, on Saturday, February 29th with funding via a Prevention Network Grant through Mt. Ascutney Hospital and Health Center and the VT Dept of Health, Norwich Recreation is having "Nordic in Norwich" day filled with outdoor and indoor activities including Nordic skiing (Huntley), skating (Town Green), Learn to Play with Hanover Wild, bike/hike/run at Parcel 5, hike at Brookmead Conservation Area, pickleball, potluck brunch & LISTEN Up!, yoga, and open basketball.

All the above, and more, is on-line at the new registration program and website. Visit: <https://norwichrecreation.org>.

Some Additional Accomplishments...

- Working with Rec and Lydia Voss to replace the water fountain at Huntley Meadow.
- Collaborating with Tracey Hayes on a Prevention Network Grant through Mt. Ascutney Hospital and Health Center and the VT Department of Health – a short-term, pass-through grant to foster youth and family programs and events in Norwich to help reduce the prevalence of substance misuse by persons of all ages.
- Continuing to participate in collective bargaining and other labor relation activities.
- Piecing together strategical planning efforts conducted by the Town in the early to mid-2010's.
- Continuing efforts to carry out the responsibilities of the VTrans grants related to replacing two culverts on Tigertown Rd. and conducting a sidewalk scoping analysis for Beaver Meadow Rd. (from Moore Ln to where the sidewalk ends toward the village area).
- Already mentioned, but significant effort was made to help prepare the Town Report, the Town Warning, and completing budgetary responsibilities for both.
- Working with Symquest to have an assessment completed regarding the Town's systems related to technology (e.g., hardware, software, etc.) in order to prepare a request for qualifications for the Selectboard's consideration.
- Participating in VLCT's Legislative Day, including offering cybersecurity "testimony" for the House Committee on Energy and Technology, Chaired by Rep. Tim Briglin, and participating in the joint meeting of the Senate and House Government Operations committees.
- Amid re-visiting the Town's fee structure for revision and ultimate approval by the Selectboard.
- Striving to address issues raised by the Selectboard.
- Numerous other projects, individual resident requests, e-mails, and the like. If more information is necessary, please ask.



"If you are in your everyday life, and you feel like you just accomplished something big that you had going on, then that's Beast Mode. It's an accomplishment, that you put yourself through something to get something better out of it. I feel that that's Beast Mode."

Marshawn Lynch

**★THANK YOU TO ALL PROPERTY OWNERS FOR
PAYING TAXES LAST WEEK.
VERY MUCH APPRECIATED!★**

Town Manager & Department Heads

Herb Durfee, Town Manager	802-649-1419 x1
Jennifer Frank, Police Chief	802-649-1460
Larry Wiggins, Public Works Director	802-649-2209
Bonnie Munday, Town Clerk	802-649-1419 x3
Alex Northern, Fire Chief	802-649-1133
Rod Francis, Planning & Zoning Director	802-649-1419 x8
Brie Swenson, Recreation Director	802-649-1419 x9
Becky Grammer, Interim Finance Officer	802-649-1419 x6

MARCH 2020						
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MAY 2020						
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Upcoming Events

The following information are meetings and hearings of the Selectboard, along with other important dates (e.g., tax payments, Town Meeting Day, and an attempt to bring back Town "Eating" Day – a potluck opportunity for the community to get together and, in this case, talk about the draft Town Plan.

Norwich Women's Club Candidate Forum	Feb 25 (7 pm – Tracy Hall)
Selectboard Meeting / Plan Public Hearing	Feb 26
Public Informational Meeting	March 2
Town Meeting (VOTING)	March 3
Selectboard Re-Organizational Meeting	TBD – March 4 (?)
Town "Eating" Day / Plan Public Hearing	March 7
April/May Selectboard Meetings	TBD (based on re-org.)
Memorial Day Holiday	May 25

Other Contact Info

Fire District	802-649-3474
Library	802-649-1184
Listers	802-649-1419 x6
Town Treasurer, by appointment	802-649-1678
Transfer Station & Recycling Center	802-649-1192

The Town Report includes a host of other information, including contacts, meeting schedules, office hours, general information, committees, etc.