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APRIL BRINGS A HOST OF COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS IN GREENFIELD



From L: Student and mannequin from FCTS; Northwestern DA David Sullivan; GPD Chief Robbie Haigh; State Rep. Paul Mark; Mayor William Martin; Mary Kociela, Chair, Mayor's Task Force on Domestic Violence

WHITE RIBBON WEEK

April 6-10, 2015

On an overcast and damp April 10, Mayor William Martin led an ardent and concerned gathering of town and state officials, as well as students and local individuals, in recognizing White Ribbon Week in Greenfield, encouraging men and boys to partner with women and girls to end domestic violence. Following remarks and a reading of the proclamation by the Mayor, State Rep. Paul Mark spoke of the importance and impact of direct advocacy. Town Council President Hillary Hoffman provided hard data concerning domestic violence nationwide and in Franklin County, followed by Chief Robbie Haigh of the Greenfield GPD, who pledged to support and help those women who come forward to report instances of abuse.

Art work from various classes at the Franklin County Technical School was on display, highlighting creative images dedicated to ending the cycle of violence in observance of White Ribbon Day.

At the conclusion of the event, Northwestern DA David Sullivan led the group in the White Ribbon Pledge:

**From this day forward, I pledge
to never commit, condone or remain silent about violence against
women and girls, including sexual assault
and domestic and dating violence.**



APRIL is DONATE LIFE MONTH

Led by State Rep. Paul Mark and Mayor William Martin, a group of local volunteers and guests helped commemorate organ and tissue donation by proclaiming April as Donate Life Month. Organized by Matt Boger, state representative for the New England Organ Bank, Mayor Martin read the proclamation and spoke to the importance of registering as an organ donor. Rep. Mark urged all in attendance to go online or stop at the local RMV to enroll as an organ donor.

Also in the audience were relatives of donors whose personal stories touched all those listening. Two parents spoke movingly of the lasting impact and meaning their children's deaths had through the donation of their organs to multiple individuals. As Matt Boger stressed, thousands of lives have been saved nationwide through the gift of organ donation.

Can't remember if you're signed up to be an organ donor? Look for the little red heart with the word "donor" in the right-hand corner of your driver's license. For questions or more information, go to http://www.massrmv.com/rmv/license/organ_donor.htm.



From L: State Rep. Paul Mark, Mayor William Martin, and Matt Boger of New England Organ Bank with volunteers and attendees



ARBOR DAY *April 24, 2015*

Mayor William Martin, Don Ouellette, DPW Director, Paul Raskevitch, DPW Ass't. Field Supt. and Tree Warden, and Mike Duclos, DPW Ass't. Field Supt. joined about two dozen other participants in an Arbor Day celebration at Artspace on Mill Street on Friday, April 24. Mary Praus of the Greenfield Tree Committee presided over the gathering. Following Mayor Martin's reading of the official proclamation designating April 24 as Arbor Day, the Tree Committee thanked the DPW for all their work in planting and maintaining our downtown trees.

Also thanked were two major tree donors who gave 16 trees! Amy Swisher, Director of Public Affairs & Community Relations, accepted thanks on behalf of Baystate Franklin Medical Center (10 trees), and Calvin Layton accepted thanks on behalf of Eversource, formerly WMECO (6 trees). Mary Praus read an original poem she had written about the linden tree being planted, and several hands then helped complete the planting of the tree. Joseph Berger, Artspace board member, concluded by expressing his appreciation to the Town and the Greenfield Tree Committee for their continued efforts at beautifying Greenfield and invited everyone inside for refreshments and a viewing of the current exhibit at Artspace.

TOWN HALL & DISPATCH GET SPRING MAKE-OVERS!



The Grand Old Lady we call the Town Hall has undergone a much-needed makeover this late winter, and she definitely has a new spring in her step, just in time for warm weather. Urged on by Mayor Martin to discover what lay beneath the time-worn blue carpet throughout the downstairs hallway, George VanDelinder, Director of Central Maintenance, provides the following timeline:

The first order of business was to pull up the old carpet to expose the marble floor underneath. A crew from the Office of Corrections came in and preformed the task in about 45 minutes. The floor was covered with old mastic and leveling compound so I contracted a floor cleaning company to come in and remove it. Enough was removed to show the floor had potential. However, I could not find any company that specialized in restoring marble flooring. Two companies out of the Boston and Springfield areas looked at pictures I had sent them and told me it would not come back to the quality of floor it once was. The Mayor then made some phone calls and found a company called Boston Stone Restoration out of central Massachusetts that looked at the floor. They were very excited about it and convinced me it could be polished. They used commercial polishers and five levels of sandpaper grit over two weekends. With a lot of hard work on their part, the floor was brought back to a polished surface. Unfortunately, there were no extra marble sections to replace those that had broken so some sections were left as is with black filler compound.

Booska Flooring was then brought in to recommend a runner for the floor since a highly polished surface would present a slipping hazard to the public. Dennis Booska recommended a very durable commercial carpet and the Mayor designed the layout. A thin film of mastic was laid down under the carpet just to hold it in place but not damage the marble underneath. It took Booska's team a Saturday and Sunday to complete the job. The area near the stairs and in front of the bathrooms was concrete and hopes were to polish it as well. However, the concrete was cracked and stained so polishing it was not an option. It was therefore covered completely with carpet and a dense rubber tile at the side entrance. The result is a hallway that shows the beauty of the original marble floor accented by the green runner carpet.

Your FEEDBACK

is welcome!

Please send your comments/suggestions to:

Office of the Mayor

mayor@greenfield-ma.gov



Janine Greaves of the DPW was the creative brains behind the new green wall paint in the Town Hall (at least, according to Janine...). After receiving her new “Customer Service Counter” for the office, she wised up and decided the baby blue walls and kids’ wallpaper border just didn’t look *professional* enough. Gaining inspiration from a lovely acrylic painting of the Poet’s Seat Tower hanging in the DPW, gifted to her by a 90-year-old resident, Janine and our dedicated Chris Phillips went through approximately 10 samples of various greens before settling on “the wonderful color that we now have,” says Janine. After the DPW and 2nd Floor hallway were painted green by staff from the Office of Corrections, Janine -- in her inimitable style -- suggested to Mayor Martin that all the walls in the Town Hall be painted the same color; the rest, as they say, is history. In all humility, Janine gives full credit to her devoted fellow judges – Judi Collins, Kelly Varner, Sara Campbell and Chris.

Have you seen the new Town Clerk’s Office?

WOW!

A once cramped and unorganized room has been transformed into a spacious and inviting office.

I’d like to thank the following people who made the move come together: George and Ed from Central Maintenance; Fernando, Bill and Horace from IT; Linda, Jeff and Bernie from DPW; Chris Phillips; and Lane for all her assistance.

Last but not least, I thank Jerry, Gail and Kathy for all their hard work in organizing and moving the office all in one day. Please stop in and see the fabulous results.

Deb Tuttle



Hard at work in their new office: Town Clerk Deb Tuttle (L) and Ass’t. Clerk Gail Zukowski



DISPATCH BEFORE...



DISPATCH AFTER!

During the last week of February, Greenfield Dispatch began its transition across the hall at the police station to its temporary home for a week. With the help of multiple agencies, dispatchers were able to settle back into an updated, cleaner, and roomier dispatch center that is operated 24/7.

Through the cooperation of multiple entities (Verizon, State 911 department, Beliveau Communications, IT from Greenfield, electricians, Central Maintenance, flooring company, window installation company, and Dispatch), the updated room now boasts the following: Two brand new radio consoles, new flooring, fresh paint on the walls, wiring for the entire room (including more outlets and updates to prepare for the installation of VoIP), rearrangement and consolidation of computers/computer screens, light dimmer switches and new lights, a bulletproof glass window for walk-ins at the station, newly repaired built-in furniture, removal of carpeted walls with cork boards and dry erase boards, new floor mats underneath the chairs, and even a toaster oven donated by the police department!

Special thanks to the following people for their essential roles during the dispatch upgrade:

- Chief Strahan for help throughout the week and volunteering time to paint dispatch
- Lieutenant Gordon for being the point of contact at the police station during the project and helping out with the various projects
- Dispatcher Guidaboni for volunteering time on a Saturday along with Dispatch Manager Danielle Marie and Chief Strahan to paint the dispatch center
- Dispatchers Licata and Harris for helping clean and put together the dispatch center once they were moved back into their room
- Town Electrician Edward Reniewicz for the dedication, attention to detail, and hours spent on this project with little assistance
- Horace Moody and the IT Department
- Head of Central Maintenance George VanDelinder
- Drew Paton from the Central Maintenance Division

--Danielle Marie, Dispatch Manager

MEET THE NEW NEIGHBORS !



Larry Jutres, Economic Development Director

Meet Larry Jutres, the new Economic Development Director for the Town of Greenfield. According to Larry, “I am a fairly ‘unique person’ as I am the last one, besides my son, to carry on the name Jutres (not Jutras). Larry says his wife of 41 years, Christine Prialaga Jutres, also carried a last name, too! When asked about his career in the field of economic and community development, Larry says it has been all about “money, usually other people’s money: banks, funding agencies, businesses. And with it I have seen great success and sadly some failures.” He has consulted for over 800 businesses and a dozen different communities, and he has traveled in all 351 MA towns and cities. This required spending considerable time in local banks and all the federal, state and local funding offices. Says Larry, “The final result: The funding secured has kept most of these businesses’ doors open and people working.” While doing all this Larry managed to get his MSBA, live in the valley for 42 years -- the last 27 in Sunderland – and bring up two great kids (Johanna Grace & Martin James, both living and working in NYC). In his off time, Larry enjoys having fun in the sun: bicycling, barbecuing and beaching – and obviously kayaking.



Bill St. Denis grew up in Sixteen Acres, MA and continues to call that Springfield neighborhood home. Before joining the IT department in Greenfield late this winter, he attended Springfield Technical Community College, studying IT Security. Using what he learned at STCC, Bill worked at Post Computers for a year before joining the Network Security department for a local start-up, Geniusesatwork.

Bill was first bitten by the computer bug at the age of thirteen. At his high school, he was known for his ability to fix any and every computer trouble. In Greenfield Bill works in IT Support alongside Fernando.

According to Bill, “Protecting your computer and network from threats is my passion.”

When he’s not taking care of computer systems Bill enjoys working out, playing guitar. When warmer weather arrives, you can find him playing golf with friends. Bill looks forward to marrying his high school sweetheart next spring and buying their first home together.



Bill St. Denis, IT Support



AUCTION OF TOWN-OWNED PROPERTIES

Friday, April 24



ID# H1: 5 LAUREL ST



ID# H2: 133 SCHOOL ST



ID# H4: 11 WALNUT ST

The Town held our 3rd auction with Sullivan & Sullivan on April 24th at noon time in the Town Hall meeting room. At our last auction we had such a huge turnout that it was standing room only and people were spilling out into the hallway, and we had a similar turnout this time.

The Town hopes that everyone who made a purchase at the auction will give these homes some TLC and bring them back to the condition they were once in. Not only is it great for the neighborhood where these homes are located -- it puts them back on the tax rolls which is good for the Town.

I'm happy to say we successfully sold 3 single family homes to all people new to buying at Town auction. We made a total of \$105,000 profit at the auction, which is above and beyond what was owed to the Town for back taxes. We hope to continue having such successful auctions in the future!

Kelly Varner
Treasurer/Collector