

Nat King Cole sang about the “Lazy, Hazy, Crazy Days of Summer”, but that is not the tune we’re singing at the Durham Town Hall. It will be more like BTO singing “Taking care of business, every day, taking care of business, every way.” We are busy and we are excited. Here are some of the projects we are working on this summer.

First and foremost, we are busy getting the new Durham Activity Center ready to officially open in September. Painting began last week which will be followed by floor installation and build out of a kitchenette. Thank you to those of you who have sent in monetary and equipment donations but we still need more, specifically a pool table, ping pong table, banquet and card tables, folding chairs, soft chairs, couch, board games and puzzles, kitchen equipment and just about anything you can think of to make our activity center more inviting.

A new committee, the DMIAAB Task Force will begin work this summer as soon as the Town of Middlefield appoints their members. The new task force has been created because the agreement between Durham and Middlefield that governs the existence and operations of our transfer station is expiring in 2011. The new task force will evaluate the current interlocal agreement for up-to-date utility, research contemporary models for interlocal, regional municipal agreements according to state statutes, conduct efficiency review of current operations, conduct management/operational review and research best practice models or alternate service delivery models and will make recommendations for modifications and reapproval of the interlocal agreement.

As of this writing, we have signed off on approximately \$36,000 of storm damage with FEMA. We are also working with them on 2 other projects. Our plan is to use this federal aid to repair some of our flood prone areas of town including White’s Farm, Haddam Quarter Road, Higganum Road, Bear Rock Road, Guire Road and other areas. Not only will we restore the roadway at White’s Farm, but we are working closely with state and federal officials to create a plan to restore the stream bed and reduce flooding elsewhere on White’s Farm.

We will begin to replace our road signs to comply with new federal reflectivity standards. Because no funding accompanied this mandate, we are phasing in the approximately \$45,000 project over the next five years. You may have already noticed the larger blue signs and how much more noticeable they are which is particularly appreciated by our emergency responders. What are we doing with the old signs? They will be collected and put up for sale once we have a good supply to offer, possibly as a fundraiser.

Speaking of fundraisers... the Public Safety Committee, Volunteer Fire Department, Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Emergency Management Department will join together and soon announce a fundraiser to help us properly display our house numbers. Highly reflective house numbers will be sold with the proceeds to benefit the Durham Animal Response Team (DART) and the Fire Explorer program. There is a town ordinance which you can find at http://library6.municode.com/default-test/home.htm?infobase=12177&doc_action=whatsnew that requires all houses to have house numbers prominently displayed. Look for more details about how you can purchase your new sign.

These are just a few things that will keep us busy this summer. Don't get me wrong, we will also find time to enjoy this glorious season. In fact, I am off to the beach for a few days to celebrate our 50th birthdays with some high school friends. The big 50! Yikes.