



MAYOR'S UPDATE

BY MAYOR CINQUANTI

SENATOR BRESLIN PROVIDES HUGE ASSIST TO CONSTRUCTION OF BOARDWALK

The City received word on Friday, May 12th, that our State Senator, Neil Breslin has secured a SAMs grant in the amount of \$500,000 toward the construction costs of the Boardwalk, which will be connected to the MVGO Pedestrian Bridge and create a new elevated pathway that will run along the southern shoreline of the Mohawk River across the Chalmers property. When completed, this new space will provide our community with another attractive destination to stroll, congregate and host entertainment and social events.



One of my biggest frustrations upon taking office as Mayor was realizing just how underfunded the major City-owned components of the DRI were. Then the pandemic came and not only stalled the State's DRI project-review and approval process, the COVID induced inflation that followed has just about doubled the anticipated costs of the Boardwalk and Recreation Center. Which is why this grant secured by Senator Breslin is so critical to our city. It brings total secured funding for the Boardwalk up over the million-dollar mark and also brings us very close to beginning the first phase of the construction. Our Community & Economic Development Department also sent requests for community grants to complete the Boardwalk to the offices of Congresswoman Stefanik and Senator Gillibrand. Our application to the Congresswoman did not make the cut but we did get past the first hurdle in Senator Gillibrand's approval process so we're keeping our fingers crossed. We are also preparing a Consolidated Funding Application (CFA), which will include a request for the remaining amount needed to complete the Boardwalk. Based on the feedback we received from a previous attempt to secure CFA funding, we are very hopeful this second attempt will be more successful.

Meanwhile, I want to sincerely thank Senator Breslin for understanding just how important the Boardwalk project is to our City's DRI strategy. When he became our Senator in January, he promised me he would always listen, always consider and always do his best to respond to the needs of our City and he's proving that with this much needed grant.

2023 ROAD PROGRAM HAS BEGUN

One of the most significant annual road repaving programs ever undertaken by our City kicked off this past week. The complete length or substantial sections of 30 of the worst streets in Amsterdam will be getting brand new surfaces. We will have the complete list of streets to be included posted at the City's Web site sometime next week. (NOTE: The large and annoying rough patch of gravel that has existed on Locust Avenue near Veteran's Field since repair of a major water line break was performed this winter will be repaired within the next two weeks. The patch needed to repair it is large enough to have the contractor doing our road program this year make the repair.)



MUNI CLUBHOUSE UPDATE

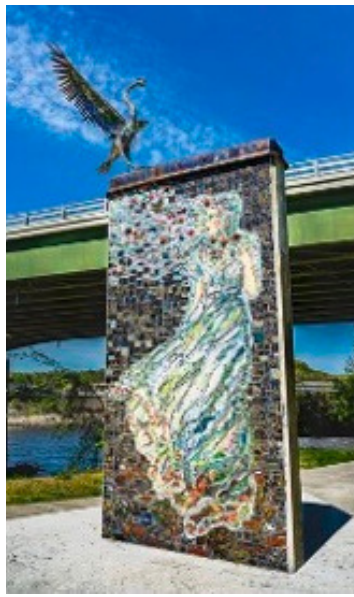
The contract that the City has in place with Lance Orcutt's LLC to build and operate a new Clubhouse at Amsterdam Muni, contains a deadline of May 2022 for the opening of the new facility, which was one full year ago. The City has received numerous explanations and excuses from Mr. Orcutt regarding the various delays. The City's frustration regarding these delays culminated in March, with Mr. Orcutt providing the City with a working schedule detailing how the construction of the Clubhouse at Muni shall proceed. Both the schedule and Mr. Orcutt's comments published in a recent local newspaper article covering the story, call for an opening date for the Clubhouse as the first day of the 2024 golf season at Muni.

Meanwhile, Mr. Orcutt's recent acquisition of the Rolling Hills golf club was both confusing and disturbing and was made even more so because he failed to inform the City that he was even contemplating the transaction. In any event, the City continues to closely monitor the progress (or lack thereof) of the construction of the new clubhouse and while we continue to hold out some hope it will reach completion without further delays, the City will continue to consider remedies available through the deed and through the subject contract.

Performance, communication and follow through by Mr. Orcutt's group is key. If he is acting in good faith, then the new clubhouse will be ready by opening day of the 2024 golf season and it will be a great success. But the City needs action and not just words and as of today he is already a month and a half behind his new schedule for completion and most recently he has failed to respond to the City's requests for updates. The level of progress and communication over these next few months will be critical in the City's assessment of options and recourse. Most importantly for right now, playing conditions at Muni remain outstanding. Our new management at the course is in the process of implementing some exciting changes that the golfers who play there are going to appreciate. And Sal DePasquale and Settles Hill Catering will again do their superb job catering to the golfer's needs for food, beverage and tournament catering services.

NEW ART IN RIVERLINK PARK

If you haven't yet, get down to Riverlink Park and check out the stunning addition of Andrew Benson's "Crane" mounted atop Ann Thane's "Mother Mosaic"! It creates an incredibly dynamic combination of artistic talent from a pair of Amsterdam-based artists. And it has found the perfect home!



NEW THINGS TO DO AND NEW PLACES TO DO THEM IN AMSTERDAM

This week, our City's DPW finished the final supply line connection necessary to turn the water on at Amsterdam's newest recreational water attraction, the splash pad at Veterans Park. The goal is to get the sprayers spraying cool water in time for the hot weather. Generously funded by Alpin Haus, the pad adds yet another great reason to visit the Locust Avenue recreation and exercise destination. Stay tuned for the ribbon cutting!

Disc Golf is also coming to Amsterdam thanks to the passion and hard work of Terry Hudson, a local disc golf enthusiast who was determined to bring the sport to our City. He enlisted some great donors, hard-working volunteers and secured county funding championed by County Executive, Matt Ossenfort to turn his dream into a reality. The first nine of what will eventually become the 18-hole Dove Creek Disc Golf Course located are nearing completion and will be open to the public in the very near future.

Paddle Ball - If the weather cooperates, six newly resurfaced paddleball courts should be completed by the contractor by the end of next week along with two resurfaced tennis courts! Brand new nets have already been delivered. Thank you to former State Senator George Amedore, Montgomery County and the Shuttleworth Foundation for funding this much anticipated venue!





SPRING FLING

Tomorrow, Saturday May 19, is Spring Fling Saturday here in Amsterdam. Our Tourism, Marketing and Recreation Department converts East Main Street west of the Mall into a bustling, vendor-filled street fair where you can shop, eat, listen to great music, enter wonderful raffles, let your kiddies enjoy some great bounce houses, and pick up all sorts of freebies. Hours are 11am to 5pm. I hope to see you there!

NEW STREET SWEEPER

If you haven't seen the City's new 2022 Dulevo 6000 Street Sweeper on your street in the last few weeks, you will soon. After leasing a similar model last summer, our DPW reported they were thrilled with the technology it employed and the efficiency with which it operated. It is faster and more maneuverable than our old chain driven sweeper, does a much better cleaning job, it is easier to keep clean and maintain and much more reliable.



NEW MINI-DOG PARK NOW OPEN IN EAST END

We need to thank Creative Connections and their tireless assistant director, John Sumpter for taking the lead in constructing a very attractive dog park on a previously unkempt corner of Vrooman Ave. and Forbes Street. We also wish to thank Hannaford's for donating time and materials to the park's construction and give a huge shout out to the art students at Amsterdam High School who painted a beautiful dog-themed mural on the retaining wall fronting the park. Great job by all! Volunteerism at its very best!

