



## ***The View from Main and Marshall***



Welcome to the first edition of *North Adams Notes*. I'm starting this newsletter as another way of staying connected and of sharing news and information about our great city and the work of city government with residents and visitors alike.

Summer is in full swing and great events are happening all over the city, from Concerts at the Lake, to an exciting Steeplecats season, to the Thursday evening Downtown Bike Arounds, to summer science programs in the North Adams Public Schools, to DownStreet Art Thursdays presented by MCLA's Berkshire Cultural Resource Center, to the Farmer's Market every Saturday. That barely begins to cover it all, much of it offered free of charge, with more to come! In August we can look forward to Parties in the Park, National Night Out (where I will be taking a turn in

the dunk tank!), Downtown Celebration, and Motorama! It can be hard to keep track of everything, but the [Explore North Adams](#) site offers a great event calendar.

I want to highlight one event in particular that reminded me about the strength and connectedness that exists in our community, and that has been woven into the fabric of life in North Adams for decades. On Thursday, July 11, the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition's United Neighborhood Organization (UNO) officially welcomed their newest Community Outreach Volunteers. These nine individuals made the choice to learn about our community, about the needs our friends and neighbors face, the services that exist to meet those needs, and the gaps in service that need to be addressed. By training as Community Outreach Volunteers they are part of a network of service, leadership, and advocacy. They have learned the skills of community organizing – of understanding and empathy; of asking questions; of helping people to find their voices and shape their own solutions; and of making connections to the people and resources that can help them realize those solutions. I can't wait to see what they do with the skills they have learned, and how our city will become stronger thanks to their efforts.

We'll also have a chance to celebrate UNO's role in the community on Saturday, August 11 with the ribbon cutting ceremony for the UNO Park at the corner of River and Houghton Streets. The event runs from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. I hope to see you there!

*Tom Bernard*

## **North Adams students shine at Kids4Harmony gala**



After a year of performances at venues ranging including Brayton Elementary School, Chapin Hall at Williams College, and the North Adams Farmers' market (among others), the North Adams students in the Berkshire Children & Families [Kids4Harmony](#) program joined their Pittsfield counterparts on the stage at Berkshire Community College for a gala concert on Tuesday, July 31. Thank you to the [North Adams Public Schools](#) faculty, staff, and volunteers who support this program, and thanks especially to the Kids4Harmony students for so proudly representing our city as well as for sharing your gift of music with everyone in attendance!

## **Eagle Street Beach Party turns 20 years fun**



A downtown tradition for 20 years, the Eagle Street Beach Party was the first (and remains the world's greatest!) urban beach party! The 20<sup>th</sup> annual party took place on Saturday, July 14, 2018. Thank you to Eric Rudd for the vision behind the party, to Specialty Minerals for generously donating the sand again this year, and to the North Adams Office of Tourism and the Department of Public Services for supporting this annual community celebration.

## **City seeks bidders for publicly owned properties**

Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for four properties currently owned by the City of North Adams – the public services salt yard on Ashland Street; the former Notre Dame Church and School buildings on East Main Street; land in Pownal, VT; and the former Sullivan School on Kemp Avenue – were issued July 11, 2018. Proposals are due August 13. See the announcement [online](#), or contact Chief Procurement Officer [Michael Nuvalie](#) for more information.

**THANK YOU TO THE VOLUNTEERS, DONORS, STEEPLCATS STAFF AND CITY EMPLOYEES WHO MADE OUR ANNUAL 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY CELEBRATION AND FIREWORKS SHOW SUCH A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS. IT WAS A FANTASTIC DISPLAY OF COMMUNITY COLLABORATION AND PATRIOTIC SPIRIT!**

### **One Country, One Game celebrates baseball's past, present, and future**



From the LaFesta Baseball Exchange – which played its 100<sup>th</sup> game on Saturday, July 21 – and Drury athletics to the professional players with connections to our region to a traveling exhibit inspired by the players and the experience of the [Negro Leagues](#), *One Country, One Game* is amazing, inspiring, and thought provoking - and incredibly curated! Located at 66 Main Street, and open from 12:00 – 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays – Sunday through Labor Day, the exhibition is a great complement to the summer season in North Adams.

On Tuesday, July 17, the exhibition space hosted the 2004 Boston Red Sox World Series Trophy. Thank you to Berkshire Bank, MASS MoCA, and the other exhibition sponsors for helping to make this free event possible.

Equally exciting was the visit to North Adams by [Pedro Serra](#), a player in both the Negro Leagues and Major Leagues during his career. Mr. Serra, who played briefly in Pittsfield with the Eastern League, visited with the North Adams and North End players during the July 21 LaFesta Baseball Exchange game and threw out the first pitch at the July 22 SteepleCats game against the Upper Valley Night Hawks.

### **Commonwealth invests \$195,973 in workforce skills for the Berkshires**



Congratulations to Superintendent Jim Brosnan and the [McCann Technical School](#) team for securing \$195,873 from the Commonwealth's Skills Capital grant program to purchase new equipment to prepare students in advanced manufacturing, install the latest engineering and robotic generated technology and provide continuing education and training opportunities otherwise not available in Berkshire County. With the funds McCann will purchase advanced manufacturing engineering workstations capable of supporting the five software packages required, a 3D printer/prototype system, and a robotic manufacturing center.

Thanks to Governor Charlie Baker and Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Jay Ash for presenting the award to McCann at a June ceremony hosted at Salem High School.

### **\$90,000 federal grant to support airport master planning**

Congressman Richard Neal visited Pittsfield Municipal Airport on Friday, July 27, to announce that the cities of Pittsfield and North Adams were recipients of grants from the United States Department of Transportation to update each community's airport master plan. The \$90,000 awarded to North Adams will support a planning process that provide insight about current and future needs around operating space, use patterns, facilities, and management structure. The result will be a plan to manage current operations and future growth. The grant complements existing plans for a new administration building, and will help provide increased structure and stability for the airport, which serves hobbyists, small businesses, and the major aircraft maintenance operation at [Turboprop East, Inc.](#)

### **\$30,000 state grant will help city address climate change vulnerability**

The City of North Adams was awarded a \$30,000 grant to conduct a climate change vulnerability assessment through the Commonwealth's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program. This state program provides communities with technical support, climate change data, and planning tools to identify hazards and develop strategies to improve climate resilience. Through the MVP Program, the City will participate in a community-based workshop to identify key climate-related hazards, vulnerabilities, and strengths; and develop climate change action plans.

### **Upcoming Events**

- National Night Out, Tuesday, August 7, 4:00 – 8:00 p.m., Disanti Field
- **North Adams Public Library closed for cleaning, Saturday, August 11**
- 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Downtown Celebration, Wednesday, August 15, 5:30 – 9:00 p.m.
- Farmers' Market, Saturdays 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m through October 20, St. Anthony's Parking Lot
- Windsor Lake Concerts, Wednesdays 6:30 – 8:00 p.m through August 29
- Downtown Bike Around, Thursdays 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. through September 20, meet at St. Anthony's Parking Lot
- Party in the Park, Thursdays 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. through August 16, Noel Field

### **Contact Information**

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