

Dan Hoffman ([00:06](#)):

Hello, and welcome to another edition of the Rouss Review. I am your City Manager, Dan Hoffman. And with me is Amy Simmons, Communications Director. Hello, Amy.

Amy Simmons ([00:12](#)):

Hello, Dan.

Dan Hoffman ([00:13](#)):

How was your weekend?

Amy Simmons ([00:14](#)):

It was excellent.

Dan Hoffman ([00:15](#)):

Excellent.

Amy Simmons ([00:16](#)):

Yep. Another softball tournament.

Dan Hoffman ([00:18](#)):

Yes, and you yourself had a good, big weekend. Didn't ya?

Amy Simmons ([00:21](#)):

I don't know what you're talking about.

Dan Hoffman ([00:23](#)):

Oh, I know exactly what I'm talking about. You know what, for the next...I should've invited some of the staff. I couldn't make it, but I know some of the staff did. Amy had a dance recital.

Amy Simmons ([00:35](#)):

Making me sound like a three-year-old.

Dan Hoffman ([00:38](#)):

No. There were children, but you're a grown person.

Amy Simmons ([00:41](#)):

Yes.

Dan Hoffman ([00:42](#)):

Now, just to be clear, you weren't dancing with the children.

Amy Simmons ([00:44](#)):

No.

Dan Hoffman ([00:44](#)):

It wasn't a bunch of three-year-olds and then you.

Amy Simmons ([00:46](#)):

Right.

Dan Hoffman ([00:47](#)):

Showing them up.

Amy Simmons ([00:48](#)):

I have been dancing since I was three, though.

Dan Hoffman ([00:50](#)):

There you go. Well, how'd you do?

Amy Simmons ([00:52](#)):

I did well. I was proud.

Dan Hoffman ([00:55](#)):

You're modest.

Amy Simmons ([00:56](#)):

Yes.

Dan Hoffman ([00:56](#)):

You're modest. Well, I'm sure it was a wonderful event.

Amy Simmons ([00:59](#)):

Thank you.

Dan Hoffman ([01:00](#)):

Everyone said that you did a great job and it's good to have hobbies.

Amy Simmons ([01:06](#)):

Yes. So getting back into the hobby, it's been awhile.

Dan Hoffman ([01:08](#)):

Good. Well, you know, now that COVID is lifting, I think we're all looking to get out and do stuff.

Amy Simmons ([01:11](#)):

Yes. It's been nice to get around adults and do something you enjoy doing.

Dan Hoffman ([01:17](#)):

Absolutely. Absolutely. And you know, there's plenty of that. I know we'll probably be talking about some of the activities happening out at the park in a little bit, but this summer we are planning for and preparing for a pretty active summer. A lot of stuff.

Amy Simmons ([01:32](#)):

Hallelujah.

Dan Hoffman ([01:32](#)):

Exactly. A lot of stuff for folks to do out at the park and all around town. The walking mall has been very active, so I'm looking forward to it.

Amy Simmons ([01:41](#)):

Love the outdoor cafes.

Dan Hoffman ([01:43](#)):

Absolutely. So let's talk about tomorrow night's, City Council meeting. Relatively light agenda. Work Session's canceled. We didn't have any items for it. This is the second time in a row we canceled the Work Session.

Amy Simmons ([01:58](#)):

Thanks to the committees.

Dan Hoffman ([02:01](#)):

Thanks to the committees. Exactly. So the committees are working as intended. They're making Tuesday evenings a little less onerous, which is great. And allowing for some more in-depth discussion around issues at the committee level. So the agenda is pretty light overall. We're going to be talking about...now that the budget's done, I think you'll see a lot of the agendas will be a little less lengthy through the summer. They'll still be plenty of stuff to discuss. But tomorrow we are going to talk about some blighted properties and I think you'll see more and more of that. The state is allowing us to be a little more aggressive with properties that are blighted. It's definitely one of my priorities to make sure that we're doing something to address the number of blighted properties around town, especially given the cost of housing. You know, the fact that we're landlocked, we don't have a lot of land just to sit with a house that's crumbling. So we're going to be a little more active, a little more aggressive in getting some of those issues taken care of. This won't be the last time we discuss blighted houses with the City Council. Other than that, today we're talking about building safety month. David Parker is going to be in here in a couple of minutes. Amy, do you have anything before we invite David in?

Amy Simmons ([03:24](#)):

No, let's get started.

Dan Hoffman ([03:25](#)):

All right. And here he is, David Parker, Building Inspector, the person that makes sure your houses don't fall down on top of you and that your contractors do good work, at least up to to law.

David Parker ([03:37](#)):

Minimum standards.

Dan Hoffman ([03:39](#)):

Minimum standards.

Amy Simmons ([03:40](#)):

There you go.

Dan Hoffman ([03:41](#)):

That doesn't sound like enough, though.

Amy Simmons ([03:42](#)):

No, it doesn't. I don't like minimum.

Dan Hoffman ([03:42](#)):

Up to minimum standards, safe standards.

David Parker ([03:46](#)):

Yes, safe is fine.

Dan Hoffman ([03:51](#)):

There you go, safe standard. I know technically it's the minimum standard.

David Parker ([03:53](#)):

It is technically the minimum standard.

Dan Hoffman ([03:54](#)):

Technically the minimum standard. But it's the safe standard.

David Parker ([03:55](#)):

It is.

Dan Hoffman ([03:55](#)):

David, first off introduce yourself. And what is your role? What does the building inspector do?

David Parker ([04:01](#)):

Okay, thanks. First of all, for having me. I'm David Parker, I'm the Building Official with the City of Winchester. And our role as a building inspector is like you said, to ensure compliance with the building code and that has lots of different aspects. So that comes in from the plan review part. We verify compliance with the plans and then once the plans are approved, we set that in motion as far as the building aspects go. We want to verify compliance with the building code, make sure we have a safe structure. Once a structure is under roof and occupied, we want to make sure that those occupants are safe in the structure.

Dan Hoffman ([04:40](#)):

What kind of plans are we talking about?

David Parker ([04:42](#)):

Typically, what we receive most of the time is a designed set of plans from an RDP, Registered Design Professional.

Dan Hoffman ([04:49](#)):

Like, for a house? Shed? Anything.

David Parker ([04:53](#)):

Anything.

David Parker ([04:56](#)):

Typically, we receive plans for most everything, unless it's minor in nature, then we can waive that requirement.

Dan Hoffman ([05:03](#)):

Yeah, and put generally what's the threshold for needing an inspection, needing a permit versus not? So if I'm going to put up a tent in my backyard, I don't need one right?

David Parker ([05:16](#)):

It depends on the size and the occupant load. Anything less than 900 square feet and less than 50 occupants would not require a permit.

Dan Hoffman ([05:24](#)):

Okay. So a pop-up tent, I'm all good.

David Parker ([05:28](#)):

That's correct.

Dan Hoffman ([05:28](#)):

Like one of those tents that you see, like at Apple Blossom or something like that.

Amy Simmons ([05:31](#)):

The big ones.

Dan Hoffman ([05:33](#)):

The big ones, circus tent kind of things.

David Parker ([05:34](#)):

Absolutely.

Dan Hoffman ([05:35](#)):

Those things pretty heavy, they could crush you.

Amy Simmons ([05:37](#)):

Yeah.

David Parker ([05:37](#)):

Oh, absolutely. And then we have the whole concern about the sides. If it has sides, they have to have exit signs, no smoking signs, fire extinguishers. So there's lots of different things. And also the flame spread on the tent itself that we want to verify.

Dan Hoffman ([05:50](#)):

Gotcha. What if I'm putting a deck in my backyard.

David Parker ([05:53](#)):

Decks are a big thing. Most people don't consider a deck as a hazard, but it can be if it's not attached right. So yes, if you put a deck up, you're definitely gonna need plans and a permit. Although with those, in saying that we do have a deck design guide which is basically basically like a recipe, like a cookbook, you follow the certain guidelines and it tells you exactly step by step, how to build a deck. So in lieu of plans, you can sign the deck design guide as an affidavit saying that you're going to comply with those requirements.

Dan Hoffman ([06:29](#)):

All right. So, I go to Lowe's and I see a shed and I go by one of the prefab sheds and I plop it down on my backyard.

David Parker ([06:35](#)):

Happens a lot.

Dan Hoffman ([06:37](#)):

Do I need a permit?

David Parker ([06:38](#)):

It depends on the size of it. If it's larger than 256 square feet, then a permit is required.

Dan Hoffman ([06:44](#)):

Okay.

Amy Simmons ([06:44](#)):

Well, what doesn't require a permit then?

David Parker ([06:47](#)):

What doesn't require a permit. Okay. Retaining walls three feet in height or less. The replacement of outlets, snap switches, light switches. Of course for residential, any kind of roofing, re-roofing, as long as it's shingles and not more than a hundred square feet of underlayment, then that wouldn't require a permit.

Amy Simmons ([07:10](#)):

That's interesting.

Dan Hoffman ([07:11](#)):

What about a pergola?

David Parker ([07:13](#)):

If it's attached to the structure, we do require a permit.

Dan Hoffman ([07:17](#)):

Okay.

David Parker ([07:19](#)):

There's been some back and forth on that.

Dan Hoffman ([07:22](#)):

Might have to fill out some paperwork.

David Parker ([07:22](#)):

Yeah. And you know, that happens quite a bit. Most people don't think, well, I'm going to go get a permit. They just put it up.

Dan Hoffman ([07:27](#)):

Is it for something that's got a roof? It has to be load bearing or if it's going to be load bearing, is that one of the thresholds?

David Parker ([07:36](#)):

Well, with the roof, our considerations are snow load.

Dan Hoffman ([07:40](#)):

Okay.

David Parker ([07:41](#)):

So, we have a ground snow load at 35 pounds per square foot. There's two different ways. There's rafters and there's trusses. So rafters, usually something that's hand-built. And we have a span chart that we verify the spans and make sure that you meet that loading based on the size and the spacing of your lumber. If it's a truss, typically, it comes from manufacturer. The manufacturer is going to certify everything. And they're going to give the snow load on the trustee detail.

Dan Hoffman ([08:14](#)):

Okay. Okay. And this is all to make sure you're safe.

David Parker ([08:17](#)):

Oh, absolutely.

Dan Hoffman ([08:17](#)):

If this sounds like a lot though, it's just because you don't want your kid to get smushed when your pergola collapses.

David Parker ([08:27](#)):

I just want to just mention, on that, that the whole purpose of the USBC, which is a Uniform Statewide Building Code is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the Commonwealth.

Dan Hoffman ([08:41](#)):

It's for your own good, people. All right. So, we are a little tardy. Last month was Building Safety Month.

David Parker ([08:50](#)):

It was.

Dan Hoffman ([08:52](#)):

My apologies, David, we need to you in here during the month, but it's important all year around.

David Parker ([08:56](#)):

It is.

Dan Hoffman ([08:56](#)):

We are doing a little catch up. It was a busy month last month.

Amy Simmons ([08:59](#)):

It was.

Dan Hoffman ([09:00](#)):

We had the budget and all kinds of stuff going on. So, we are retroactively observing it for last month. Tell us why we have Building Safety Month.

David Parker ([09:11](#)):

Building Safety Month is to highlight and make the citizens aware of the importance of building codes. Building Safety Month actually started in 1980 as Building Safety Week. And in 2011, it was expanded for the entire month. Basically, they break it down per week. The first week is energy and innovation. It wants to talk about green construction and resiliency to product evaluation. When we think about product evaluation, we're always getting new products, they're always designing and coming up with

better ways to build things. They like to highlight that, just to make people aware that it's constantly changing. When we talk about code change, one of the things is, is those new products that come in?

Dan Hoffman ([10:05](#)):

Okay.

David Parker ([10:10](#)):

When they talk about energy, energy conservation is a big thing. We have renewable energy, mainly solar, water reclamation. And it's used for water irrigation, flushing toilets, gray water. And then I talked about the new products. And typically we said that with decks. Simpson makes lots of different products for decks, deck attachments, joist hangers, things like that. That's the first week. The second week is training the next generation. The next generation of code enforcement staff is one of those things where code enforcement is, it's an aging profession and most of the individuals have been in the profession for quite a while. So we're always trying to recruit new people. There's always constantly training through the state to I guess brush up on the building codes or get knowledgeable on the building codes.

Dan Hoffman ([11:08](#)):

That's true because you don't hear a lot of kids saying, 'oh, I want to be a code inspector when I grow up.'

Amy Simmons ([11:12](#)):

No.

Dan Hoffman ([11:12](#)):

Hey, it's a very viable and good career. How long have you been doing it?

David Parker ([11:17](#)):

Building codes, I've been doing it for 16 years.

Dan Hoffman ([11:22](#)):

16 years. What were you doing before that?

David Parker ([11:25](#)):

Well, before that, I worked for the City in a different department. I worked for the Parking Authority.

Dan Hoffman ([11:30](#)):

Oh, okay. Okay.

David Parker ([11:32](#)):

Yeah. Still enforcing codes, but chapter 14, which is parking regulations, so yeah.

Dan Hoffman ([11:38](#)):

Different chapter. Excellent. So what else?

Amy Simmons ([11:43](#)):

What's week three?

David Parker ([11:43](#)):

Week three is water safety. Water safety is a big thing. People usually take water for granted. They just go and hit the faucet and it comes down. One thing that I can kind of think where the City and our City Utilities and our department work together was the expansion tank project. The City went in and put double checks on all the water meters. In doing so, they required an expansion tank for thermal expansion. It's a closed system. Water, once it heats up, expands. It has no place to go. We had to do expansion tank in basically all the buildings in the city.

Dan Hoffman ([12:18](#)):

Oh, what does an expansion tank do?

David Parker ([12:19](#)):

The expansion tank basically just like it sounds there. There's a bladder in just a small little tank and just basically takes the pressure off the system.

Dan Hoffman ([12:32](#)):

Oh, okay.

David Parker ([12:32](#)):

Because it's a closed system it has no place to go.

Amy Simmons ([12:34](#)):

When we replaced all the water meters we had to do expansion tanks for all the houses and buildings that didn't have any.

Dan Hoffman ([12:40](#)):

Oh, wow.

Amy Simmons ([12:41](#)):

So it was a big, huge project.

David Parker ([12:42](#)):

It was a big project, but it was actually very important.

Dan Hoffman ([12:44](#)):

That was pre-me.

Amy Simmons ([12:45](#)):

Yes, it was. It took several years.

David Parker ([12:48](#)):

Yeah. And it was a good project because now the water system, if there was a break in the water main, that water that could potentially be coming from the house that could be contaminated, cannot flow back into the city's main.

Dan Hoffman ([13:00](#)):

There we go.

Amy Simmons ([13:03](#)):

Another safety measure.

Dan Hoffman ([13:05](#)):

Another safety measure. Week four.

David Parker ([13:05](#)):

Week four is disaster preparedness. We talked about disasters, we talked about the ground snow load, and they're constantly evaluating that the wind speed has just been increased during the last code cycle.

Dan Hoffman ([13:18](#)):

What does that mean?

David Parker ([13:19](#)):

We have a maximum three second gust, it was 90 miles an hour and it just increased to 115.

Dan Hoffman ([13:29](#)):

Okay. And so a building has to withstand that.

David Parker ([13:32](#)):

That's correct.

Dan Hoffman ([13:34](#)):

How often do we get that?

David Parker ([13:36](#)):

Not very often, but I don't know if you've noticed how the pattern with weather. It's definitely increased and it's definitely gotten worse. A couple weeks ago we had a lot of wind come through. It was pretty strong. So just makes you wonder. But evidently it does happen.

Dan Hoffman ([13:53](#)):

Yeah I guess it only needs to happen once for it to knock your house down.

Amy Simmons ([13:54](#)):

Yeah. I mean, the derecho, however you say that.

David Parker ([13:56](#)):

That was like in 2007.

Amy Simmons ([14:00](#)):

Was that high enough to meet that threshold?

David Parker ([14:02](#)):

It may have been, yes. I know around the Jim Barnett Park and I think that's where...

Amy Simmons ([14:08](#)):

It knocked over a lot of trees.

David Parker ([14:08](#)):

Yes it did.

Dan Hoffman ([14:08](#)):

Wow.

David Parker ([14:08](#)):

Luckily, no structures were damaged.

Dan Hoffman ([14:11](#)):

Because we have good building codes.

Amy Simmons ([14:12](#)):

That's right.

David Parker ([14:12](#)):

Yeah, we do.

Amy Simmons ([14:12](#)):

And we followed them, yes.

Dan Hoffman ([14:15](#)):

So what else do we need to know about building safety? What else is on the list there?

David Parker ([14:20](#)):

Well back to the disaster preparedness, they also have seismic design. We're not in that category, but you know, it does cover basically the

Dan Hoffman ([14:32](#)):

When we had the earthquake, when DC had the earthquake, did we?

David Parker ([14:34](#)):

We did, yes.

Amy Simmons ([14:35](#)):

We had little tremors.

Dan Hoffman ([14:37](#)):

A little bit there?

Amy Simmons ([14:37](#)):

Yeah. It was a little freaky.

David Parker ([14:39](#)):

Yeah it was, but there are new requirements for us, for the seismic.

Dan Hoffman ([14:41](#)):

Like generally.

Amy Simmons ([14:44](#)):

Pretty safe here for that.

Dan Hoffman ([14:44](#)):

Yeah pretty safe here.

David Parker ([14:44](#)):

I think that's it for the Building Safety Month.

Dan Hoffman ([14:50](#)):

Awesome. Yeah so for Winchester, you got no hurricanes, kind of, I mean you get a little.

Amy Simmons ([14:59](#)):

Remnants of it, yeah.

Dan Hoffman ([15:01](#)):

Remnants of a hurricane.

David Parker ([15:02](#)):

Yeah, we're pretty lucky.

Dan Hoffman ([15:02](#)):

We're not a seismically active area.

Amy Simmons ([15:06](#)):

No volcanoes.

Dan Hoffman ([15:08](#)):

No volcanoes.

Amy Simmons ([15:08](#)):

No tornadoes, normally.

Dan Hoffman ([15:08](#)):

I mean, we get a blizzard-ish, but not like they get in places like Boston.

Amy Simmons ([15:15](#)):

Once every 10 years, almost.

David Parker ([15:18](#)):

We're very lucky with our weather.

Dan Hoffman ([15:20](#)):

Yeah. No wildfires.

David Parker ([15:22](#)):

No, thank goodness.

Dan Hoffman ([15:24](#)):

So we're actually kind of perfect in that regard.

Amy Simmons ([15:26](#)):

Yeah. Good all four seasons. Not a whole lot of bad stuff.

Dan Hoffman ([15:30](#)):

It's a great place to live, people.

David Parker ([15:31](#)):

Yeah, it is.

Dan Hoffman ([15:32](#)):

All right. So before we go, what is the most common question that folks get or misconception that folks have when they come to get a permit? Things that people should have gotten a permit for, but they never got a permit.

Amy Simmons ([15:51](#)):

Maybe that happens a lot.

David Parker ([15:51](#)):

It happens a lot. That's a good question. I would say the biggest misconception is that people think that we intentionally try to find things wrong with them, with their buildings or their plans. And again, our whole role is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens. So we do have these requirements and we definitely try to meet them. But generally we try to be a facilitator. We try to work with the builders, contractors, homeowners, to ensure that we do meet these requirements.

Dan Hoffman ([16:23](#)):

Yeah. They're there for your safety.

Amy Simmons ([16:25](#)):

So which ones are violated the most, if that's the right word?

David Parker ([16:29](#)):

Decks and porches a lot.

Amy Simmons ([16:32](#)):

Decks and porches. So people are building decks without getting a permit.

David Parker ([16:35](#)):

Yeah, usually. Or they'll go in there and modify an existing deck or redo a deck. And, you know, generally if they're just doing the deck boards, it's usually not a problem. But once they open it up, they see some joints that are bad or they want to change the stairs or they want to redo this. And that would require a permit.

Amy Simmons ([16:52](#)):

Yeah. During May we did a little video.

David Parker ([16:53](#)):

Oh yeah.

Amy Simmons ([16:53](#)):

About common codes that you guys see.

David Parker ([16:58](#)):

Well, that was a whole other side of the codes that I can talk a little bit about. We have the new construction side and then we also have the property maintenance side. So on the property maintenance side, we did do a video for Building Safety Month, which featured Trevor and tall grass, which is very common this time of year when we have lots of vacant parcels.

Dan Hoffman ([17:18](#)):

Mow your grass, people.

David Parker ([17:18](#)):

Mow your grass. Yes.

Dan Hoffman ([17:22](#)):

Don't attract pests.

David Parker ([17:23](#)):

Yeah. And then we also did the rubbish as well.

Amy Simmons ([17:26](#)):

Right, litter.

David Parker ([17:26](#)):

That's another concern. Litter.

Dan Hoffman ([17:29](#)):

Pick up your trash.

David Parker ([17:29](#)):

Pick up your trash, yeah.

Amy Simmons ([17:30](#)):

Inoperable vehicles.

David Parker ([17:31](#)):

Inoperable vehicles, yep. Those are big things. So a vehicle by definition, is it inoperable if it lacks state inspection license, or if it's just not drivable, flat tires are partially dismantled.

Amy Simmons ([17:43](#)):

So they can't have those sitting on a property.

David Parker ([17:45](#)):

That's correct.

Dan Hoffman ([17:47](#)):

They can't have them sitting on a property? I know they can't be sitting on a road, but could someone, they would have to be zoned appropriately? Like you could be a mechanic.

David Parker ([17:55](#)):

Well, yes. Yeah. If you're running a business.

Dan Hoffman ([18:02](#)):

But I couldn't have it in my driveway of my house.

David Parker ([18:02](#)):

Correct. You couldn't have that. We're talking on residents.

Dan Hoffman ([18:07](#)):

Interesting. I think about that. Yeah, now if it's in a garage or something like that, or shielded from public view, then that's one thing. But if it's just out in the middle of the yard and not covered or anything and just kind of sitting, then it's usually an issue.

Amy Simmons ([18:18](#)):

And people can use our City 311 system to let us know when they see the inoperable vehicles or tall grass. And then you guys will go out and check it.

David Parker ([18:27](#)):

Oh absolutely, yes. We're proactive, so we're out and about all the time and also complaint-driven as well.

Dan Hoffman ([18:35](#)):

Excellent. Well, David, thank you very much. Thanks for coming in and talking to us about Building Safety Month.

David Parker ([18:38](#)):

Yeah, thank you. I appreciate it.

Dan Hoffman ([18:41](#)):

Which is every year in May.

Amy Simmons ([18:45](#)):

Last month.

Dan Hoffman ([18:46](#)):

Last month. So next year I promise we'll talk about it in May.

David Parker ([18:49](#)):

Okay, great. Look forward to it.

Dan Hoffman ([18:50](#)):

Thanks, David.

David Parker ([18:51](#)):

Thank you.

Dan Hoffman ([18:52](#)):

So I know David was a little...he had notes and he was a little nervous. Whenever we bring staff in and they're a little nervous.

Amy Simmons ([18:58](#)):

It's also the boss interviewing them. So you know.

Dan Hoffman ([19:01](#)):

Yeah, but I'm not the boss.

Amy Simmons ([19:03](#)):

In title.

Dan Hoffman ([19:03](#)):

Yeah maybe.

Amy Simmons ([19:05](#)):

And nobody likes to have a microphone shoved in their face.

Dan Hoffman ([19:08](#)):

That's really what it is. Putting a mic in someone's face.

Amy Simmons ([19:08](#)):

Yep, or a camera.

Dan Hoffman ([19:12](#)):

But no, this is a safe space. It's just us in this room. No one else, really, not many other people are listening to this. Who knows?

Amy Simmons ([19:20](#)):

Hopefully there will be.

Dan Hoffman ([19:23](#)):

Hopefully there will be. But David did great job.

Amy Simmons ([19:25](#)):

He did.

Dan Hoffman ([19:25](#)):

As all staff, whenever we bring staff in that are a little bit nervous, some of them just take to it like ducks to water, but everyone always does a great job. And David's been doing this for a long time.

Amy Simmons ([19:36](#)):

Everybody's just so nice. Nice to talk to them.

Dan Hoffman ([19:39](#)):

And I may or may not have a pergola that needs a permit now that I realize that. So I will be filling that out promptly.

Amy Simmons ([19:44](#)):

Let's say this was good for something.

Dan Hoffman ([19:47](#)):

Yeah. I don't know if, well, anyways, I'll talk to David about it. So Amy, what do we have coming up?

Amy Simmons ([19:53](#)):

Okay. So I'll start with some good news. Not only was it your birthday last weekend.

Dan Hoffman ([19:58](#)):

Yeah. Fake news.

Amy Simmons ([20:02](#)):

The Old Town splash pad is now open.

Dan Hoffman ([20:05](#)):

Finally, I've been getting so many questions about that.

Amy Simmons ([20:07](#)):

Yes, that's going to make a lot of people happy.

Dan Hoffman ([20:08](#)):

Now, they fixed it? Cause it was getting repaired.

Amy Simmons ([20:10](#)):

There was some maintenance, unexpected maintenance, because the governor finally lifted the requirement to close it. And then once that was done, we realized there were some issues. So it took them a little while to fix that.

Dan Hoffman ([20:21](#)):

I hope you guys love the splash pad because I'm not going to be proposing building another splash pad ever. They are maintenance hogs. Every jurisdiction I've worked in, constant issues, constant upkeep.

Amy Simmons ([20:33](#)):

It keeps Corey busy.

Dan Hoffman ([20:36](#)):

It keeps Corey busy. So enjoy it, folks. It is a very nice amenity to have in the walking mall. And we put a lot of effort into it.

Amy Simmons ([20:42](#)):

Yeah. And it's beautiful, it lights up different colors at night. It's very pretty. So speaking of that, the hours are Monday through Thursday, 10:30 AM to 10:00 PM and Friday through Sunday, 10:30 AM to midnight.

Dan Hoffman ([20:55](#)):

To midnight?

Amy Simmons ([20:56](#)):

Yeah. So you can go out there and splash into bedtime. It's free to use, of course.

Dan Hoffman ([21:03](#)):

Okay, see how that goes.

Amy Simmons ([21:03](#)):

Yes. It's free, but bring a few quarters in case you need to use the public restrooms right there behind it. I think it's 25 cents just to open the door and that is just to keep it clean and free.

Dan Hoffman ([21:15](#)):

Absolutely.

Amy Simmons ([21:17](#)):

It is self-cleaning, did you know that?

Dan Hoffman ([21:19](#)):

I did. It's very fancy. And that too, also a fair amount of maintenance. So if you residents any issues with it, or if it's not working, please feel free to let us know, we'll keep on top of it.

Amy Simmons ([21:32](#)):

Okay. So we talked about Jim Barnett Park earlier and all the things they've got going on. The outdoor pool is now open. They have specific hours for general swimming, lap swimming, aquatic fitness classes, and pool rentals at the outdoor pool. But the indoor pool is now only open for lap swimming and senior and therapeutic swimming. And they also have an aquatics arthritis class, Tuesdays and Thursdays. So check the website for that.

Dan Hoffman ([21:58](#)):

I might need that.

Amy Simmons ([22:00](#)):

Got some sore knees?

Dan Hoffman ([22:01](#)):

Always. Old man.

Amy Simmons ([22:03](#)):

No dancing for you.

Dan Hoffman ([22:03](#)):

No dancing for me.

Amy Simmons ([22:06](#)):

So Winchester police department has announced their new CORE program in partnership with NAACP.

Dan Hoffman ([22:11](#)):

What is that?

Amy Simmons ([22:11](#)):

So CORE stands for Community Organized Response and Education. It's a way for them to bring community members together with officers and talk about issues. Have that two way communication. On June 15th, they're going to hold their first meeting at 5:00 PM at the Timbrook Public Safety Building. And they're going to just talk about school resource officer program and juvenile justice.

Dan Hoffman ([22:33](#)):

Cool.

Amy Simmons ([22:34](#)):

That system there. So it's just a little educational piece they're starting. And then if you need cooling assistance, social services will be starting applications, accepting applications, June 15th. So local residents can apply for assistance for purchasing and installing a window air conditioning unit, repairing an air conditioning unit or heat pump, electric bills for cooling equipment, and security posits for electric.

Dan Hoffman ([22:58](#)):

So this is not assistance for people that are uncool. This is assistance for people who are literally too hot in their house.

Amy Simmons ([23:04](#)):

It's hot in their house.

Dan Hoffman ([23:05](#)):

We're not giving them tips on how to be a cool person.

Amy Simmons ([23:07](#)):

No.

Dan Hoffman ([23:08](#)):

Okay. But I'm pretty sure Amber, over at social services could do that.

Amy Simmons ([23:10](#)):

She is pretty cool.

Dan Hoffman ([23:13](#)):

She is very cool.

Amy Simmons ([23:13](#)):

When are we going to have her on the podcast?

Dan Hoffman ([23:15](#)):

That's a good idea.

Amy Simmons ([23:17](#)):

Maybe this month or next?

Dan Hoffman ([23:19](#)):

Yeah. What are we doing next time?

Amy Simmons ([23:21](#)):

See, we don't know. Maybe it's Amber.

Dan Hoffman ([23:23](#)):

Maybe it is Amber.

Amy Simmons ([23:24](#)):

Amber is awesome.

Dan Hoffman ([23:25](#)):

She's very cool. And offers cooling assistance.

Amy Simmons ([23:30](#)):

So, she's double cool. Okay. Check the social services website for that or the, I think also you can apply through commonhelp.com on the website.

Dan Hoffman ([23:40](#)):

Help.

Amy Simmons ([23:41](#)):

Help. We need a pop filter.

Dan Hoffman ([23:43](#)):

Yeah, those little pop filters.

Amy Simmons ([23:44](#)):

Okay. Anyway, back to our actual podcast.

Dan Hoffman ([23:50](#)):

Back to the podcast.

Amy Simmons ([23:50](#)):

Okay. Winchester, Parks and Recreation is offering a long list of recreational activities, as you mentioned this summer for all ages. There are stories and craft programs for families, cookie decorating classes, art classes, music lessons, sport camps. And they're also bringing back a lot of their summer events, family day fishing rodeo...

Dan Hoffman ([24:07](#)):

Family day fishing rodeo?

Amy Simmons ([24:09](#)):

Is coming up mid June.

Dan Hoffman ([24:11](#)):

Where do they fish?

Amy Simmons ([24:11](#)):

In Wilkins Lake in Jim Barnett Park.

Dan Hoffman ([24:14](#)):

Do we have enough fish in there?

Amy Simmons ([24:14](#)):

We're going to restock it. There's a special stocking.

Dan Hoffman ([24:16](#)):

What kind of fish do we put in there?

Amy Simmons ([24:18](#)):

I have no idea.

Dan Hoffman ([24:19](#)):

Do we eat the fish?

Amy Simmons ([24:20](#)):

You can.

Dan Hoffman ([24:21](#)):

Really?

Amy Simmons ([24:21](#)):

Yeah.

Dan Hoffman ([24:23](#)):

Oh, okay.

Amy Simmons ([24:23](#)):

Yeah. It's a beautiful lake.

Dan Hoffman ([24:24](#)):

It is. It's very pretty. Spring-Fed.

Amy Simmons ([24:26](#)):

Yes.

Dan Hoffman ([24:26](#)):

Clear.

Amy Simmons ([24:27](#)):

It's awesome.

Dan Hoffman ([24:28](#)):

Is it really a lake? It's more of a pond. What's the difference between a lake and a pond?

Amy Simmons ([24:32](#)):

I have no idea.

Dan Hoffman ([24:35](#)):

It's like pond size to me.

Amy Simmons ([24:36](#)):

It looks like a pond, but it's called lake.

Dan Hoffman ([24:39](#)):

Well, we call it a lake. So it's a lake.

Amy Simmons ([24:40](#)):

We're going with it.

Dan Hoffman ([24:41](#)):

There you go.

Amy Simmons ([24:42](#)):

So that's mid June 7:00 to 10:00 AM. I think it's the 19th, don't quote me on that. I didn't write that down, but it's mid June, go on the website. Disc golf tournament. We have a disc golf course. Did you know that?

Dan Hoffman ([24:53](#)):

I do, it's beautiful.

Amy Simmons ([24:53](#)):

18 holes through Jim Barnett Park. We have a tournament coming up for ages 18 and up.

Dan Hoffman ([24:57](#)):

18 and up?

Amy Simmons ([24:57](#)):

Yes. It's an adult tournament. All Paws on Deck. Do you know that one?

Dan Hoffman ([25:05](#)):

I don't know that one. I guess it has to do with dogs.

Amy Simmons ([25:08](#)):

It does. So when the outdoor pool closes to humans, we open it up for a day to the dogs so people can bring their dogs as long as they have their shots. And they can swim in the pool.

Dan Hoffman ([25:20](#)):

Very nice.

Amy Simmons ([25:21](#)):

Yep. It's a very popular program.

Dan Hoffman ([25:24](#)):

My dog would hate that.

Amy Simmons ([25:24](#)):

He's not very social.

Dan Hoffman ([25:25](#)):

He's loving. He loves me.

Amy Simmons ([25:28](#)):

He does. But that's it.

Dan Hoffman ([25:31](#)):

Not the only person he loves.

Amy Simmons ([25:31](#)):

Yes. Okay. And then they also have Swim Under the Stars, which is just come swim at night.

Dan Hoffman ([25:36](#)):

Okay.

Amy Simmons ([25:36](#)):

And there may be some music and activities going on. And then they do Christmas in July at the pool.

Dan Hoffman ([25:41](#)):

Okay. Well, our new Parks and Recreation Director will be very busy.

Amy Simmons ([25:45](#)):

I was going to ask you about that. Yes.

Dan Hoffman ([25:49](#)):

If you see him around, welcome Chris Konyar.

Amy Simmons ([25:52](#)):

Yep.

Dan Hoffman ([25:52](#)):

He is our new Director of Parks and Recreation, about a month away. So July 6th, I believe, will be his first day. So a little ways off, but we are very excited. Paula Nofsinger has done a great job being the interim. She's normally our HR Director so she has been pulling double duty for a while.

Amy Simmons ([26:08](#)):

And the interesting part is where is he coming from?

Dan Hoffman ([26:13](#)):

Oh, Frederick County.

Amy Simmons ([26:14](#)):

Yeah. Frederick County Parks and Rec.

Dan Hoffman ([26:15](#)):

We got one.

Amy Simmons ([26:15](#)):

We stole him.

Dan Hoffman ([26:18](#)):

We stole one.

Amy Simmons ([26:18](#)):

So yeah, he was the superintendent there for 14 years.

Dan Hoffman ([26:21](#)):

Long time.

Amy Simmons ([26:21](#)):

Yeah. So now he's coming over here to be director.

Dan Hoffman ([26:23](#)):

Awesome.

Amy Simmons ([26:24](#)):

Next career move.

Dan Hoffman ([26:25](#)):

Great place to work.

Amy Simmons ([26:26](#)):

It is.

Dan Hoffman ([26:27](#)):

What else you got?

Amy Simmons ([26:28](#)):

That's it. We do have lots of jobs, speaking of that.

Dan Hoffman ([26:30](#)):

Yeah, check out our website.

Amy Simmons ([26:32](#)):

Yeah, tons of jobs.

Dan Hoffman ([26:32](#)):

I'll tell ya. I know we are coming out of a pandemic and everything, but there's no reason to not have a job.

Amy Simmons ([26:38](#)):

We have lots of jobs right now. Part time and full time.

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Dan Hoffman ([26:41](#)):

Yeah so check out our website. All right. And with that, that's going to wrap up another episode of the Rouss Review. Thank you for listening. If you have any ideas, if you have any suggestions for things we should cover in the podcast, go check out the website. Amy, where in the website can they find that?

Amy Simmons ([27:01](#)):

On Open Town Hall.

Dan Hoffman ([27:03](#)):

Winchesterva.gov.

New Speaker ([27:03](#)):

Yes, Winchesterva.gov and go to Rouss Review and then there's a form there you can fill out.

Dan Hoffman ([27:09](#)):

There you go. Give us some ideas. And maybe next time we'll talk to Amber Dopkowski. Thank you everybody for listening. I'm your City Manager, Dan Hoffman. And with me, as always, is Amy Simmons, Communications Director. And we'll see you around City Hall.