



The Auburn Account

Construction of Dog Park Underway!

Volume 10, Issue 4 October 2020

The Town is pleased to announce that construction of the Auburn Dog Park began on October 14, 2020. This construction project is made possible through generous grant donations from the Stanton Foundation and the fundraising efforts of the Auburn Fur Friends who provided the required 10% match to the Town.

The Town applied for and received approval from the Stanton Foundation for a \$222,969 capital grant for the construction of the Dog Park. The Auburn Fur Friends donated \$24,774 to the Town as the match to the Stanton grant for the construction of the Dog Park. The total construction project cost is \$247,743 in addition to a \$20,000 design grant provided by the Stanton Foundation last year. No taxpayer dollars are being used for the Dog Park.

JAM Corporation was selected for the construction job following a competitive bidding process.

The dog park will be located within Lemansky Park, taking the place of the existing skateboard park which will be relocated to another site in Lemansky Park. Due to the start of construction for the Dog Park, the skateboard park closed October 14th.

Construction of both the dog park and new skateboard park is anticipated to be complete in late spring/early summer 2021.

The Town will collaborate with the Fur Friends of Auburn to develop Dog Park rules and regulations.

The Stanton Foundation was created by Frank Stanton, longtime President of CBS. One of its missions is to promote the welfare of dogs and to encourage the dog-human bond. *Continued on next page...*

Sign up today to receive electronic communications and updates on a variety of issues, including *The Auburn Account*, emergency and road work updates from the Town of Auburn. Visit our web site at www.auburnguide.com or [click here](#) to sign up now!



Auburn Town Hall
104 Central Street
Auburn, MA 01501
www.auburnguide.com

Important Contact Information (508) 832-

| | |
|---------------------|------|
| Town Manager | 7720 |
| Board of Selectmen | 7720 |
| Building Inspector | 7719 |
| Clerk | 7701 |
| Fire | 7800 |
| Health | 7703 |
| Library | 7790 |
| Planning | 7704 |
| Police | 7777 |
| Public Works | 7814 |
| Senior Center | 7799 |
| Treasurer/Collector | 7705 |
| Veterans | 7706 |

Hours of Operation

Town Hall:

| | |
|----------|---------------|
| Monday | 8:00AM-7:00PM |
| T, W, Th | 8:00AM-4:00PM |
| Friday | 8:00AM-1:00PM |

Senior Center:

| | |
|-----------|---------------|
| Mon & Fri | 8:00AM-3:00PM |
| T, W, Th | 8:00AM-4:00PM |

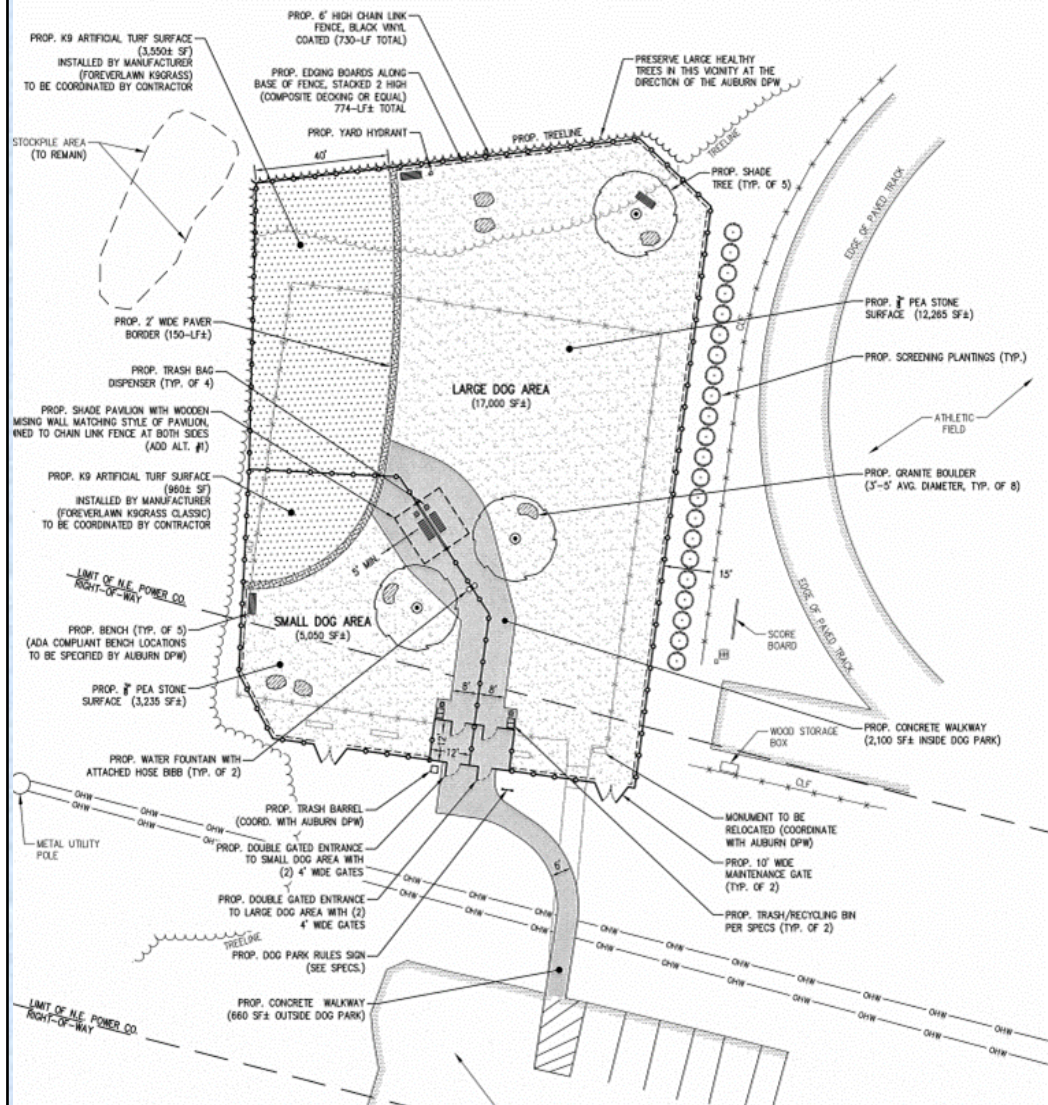
Library:

| | |
|-----------|---------------|
| Mon—Thurs | 9:30AM-8:30PM |
| Fri | 9:30AM-5:30PM |
| Sat | 9:00AM-1:00PM |

In this issue: Dog Park Plans, Election News, Update on Covid-19, Trick or Treat News, Highway Updates, Storm water runoff, and much more...

Dog Park Construction Underway (Continued from page 1)

Thank you for your patience during this project. If you have any additional questions, please contact the Department of Public Works at 508-832-7814 or visit www.auburnguide.com.



Voters elect Wrenn and Laliberte to Select Board

Auburn voters elected Scott Wrenn and Tristan Laliberte to the Board of Selectmen at the September 1st Special Town Election. The Special Town Election was held simultaneous to the State Primary Election.

Scott Wrenn, who was on the Planning Board until he was sworn in as Selectman, captured the 3-year seat in a contested field of four candidates. He garnered 1,735 votes, defeating former school committee member Wayne C. Page (1,301 votes); former Planning Board member David P. DeLollis (1,049 votes); and Gregory A. Bohling (369 votes).

Former Selectman Tristan Laliberte did not run for re-election to a 3-year term in the Annual Town Election in May, however, he ran in the Special Election to fill the one-year seat created when former Board Chair Ken Holstrom resigned upon moving out of town. Mr. Laliberte was the top vote getter in a field of four candidates with 1,381 votes, defeating Sara K. Ruflin (1,207 votes); Steven Chambers (1,083) votes; and Randall C. Lawrence (514 votes). Mr. Laliberte's term will expire at the next Annual Town Election in May 2021.

A total of 4,569 residents voted at the Special Town Election, which is 38% of the town's 12,084 registered voters.

At the Select Board meeting on September 8th following the Special Election, Doreen Goodrich was elected chair and Tristan Laliberte was elected vice chair.

Congratulations, Selectman Laliberte and Selectman Wrenn!

SPECIAL ELECTION RESULTS - SEPTEMBER 1, 2020



BOARD OF SELECTMEN FOR 3 YEARS
SCOTT WRENN

BOARD OF SELECTMEN FOR 1 YEARS
TRISTAN LALIBERTE

VOTE EARLY BY MAIL

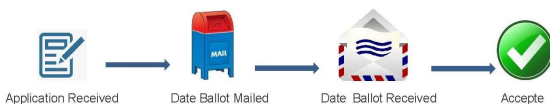
Deadline to request a mail-in early ballot will be 5pm on October 28th

The Secretary of State's office mailed the postcard application in September if you checked all elections you do not need to fill out another. If you did not send back or check all elections, you should receive another in the mail.

Download the application: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elepdf/2020-Vote-by-Mail-application.pdf>

Once you have filled out the application return by mail, deliver it to Town Hall, put in drop box in the rear of the building or scan back the application to: townclerkemail@town.auburn.ma.us

Where is my Ballot?



Voters who have requested an Absentee or Early Voting by mail ballot now have the ability to track their ballot through the Massachusetts Secretary of State's website at

V
O
T
E

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/wheredoivotema/track/trackmyballot.aspx>



EARLY VOTING in Person - AVAILABLE AT SENIOR CENTER REAR ENTRANCE:

| | | | | | |
|-----------|------------|--------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Saturdays | Oct 17, 24 | 8 AM – 12 PM | Tuesdays | Oct 20, 27 | 9 AM – 3 PM |
| Sundays | Oct 18, 25 | 8 AM – 12 PM | Wednesdays | Oct 21, 28 | 9 AM – 3 PM |
| Mondays | Oct 19, 26 | 9 AM – 3 PM | Thursdays | Oct 22, 29 | 9 AM – 3 PM |
| | Friday | Oct 23, 30 | | | |

SAVE TIME. AVOID AGGRAVATION. KNOW BEFORE YOU GO.

2020 STATE ELECTION - WITH GREAT POWER....COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY!



www.sec.state.ma.us/VoterRegistrationSearch/MyVoterRegStatus.aspx

SAVE TIME. AVOID AGGRAVATION. KNOW BEFORE YOU GO.



Last Day to register to vote **Saturday, October 24th** Clerk's office 2-4PM – 7-8PM
Polls open 7am to 8pm – Auburn High School Gym



Clerk's Office at 508-832-7701 - Information will be posted on website
<https://www.auburnguide.com/256/Voting-Elections>

CONFLICT OF INTEREST REQUIREMENT

The Summary of the Conflict of Interest will be distributed in December as it is every year. Committee Members are considered Municipal Employees for the purposes of this law. If you serve on a committee or volunteer in some capacity you will receive the Summary in the mail or as an email attachment, any questions please contact the Town Clerk's office at (508)832-7701. Some part-time volunteer positions are exempt. The Summary and a list of exempt positions are on the Town Website auburnguide.com under the Town Clerk Department - Conflict of Interest.

<https://www.auburnguide.com/246/Conflict-of-Interest-Information>

Training is every two years. 2021 the training needs to be completed and the **acknowledgement** is due every year. Once you have printed the training certificate, please either email the certificate along with the acknowledgement or print and drop off at the Town Clerk's Office. Additional information can be found on the State Ethics Commission:

<https://www.mass.gov/orgs/state-ethics-commission>

CENSUS – 2021 census forms will be mailed at the beginning of January. **Please fill out and return.** Voters are made inactive in June of each year if the census is not updated. This creates long lines at elections when a voter is made inactive. Then the voter must fill out a form and provide proof that they still live at their Auburn address. **Dog licensing** - On the bottom of the census form is a dog license form for 2021. To license by mail, fill out the form and enclose a check to cover the fee. If you would prefer to license on-line: https://www.mapsonline.net/auburnma/dog_licensing If you have licensed a dog in the past you will be able to license with this link, provided your rabies is up to date. Once you go online you will need to know your previous current dog tag number.

Board of Selectmen

Select Board meetings are held on the second and fourth Mondays each month as well as potentially on the 5th Monday of the month when necessary. If a holiday falls on a Monday, meetings are held the following Tuesday. Minutes and agendas are available on the Town's web site. Meetings are televised live on Auburn Cable Television.

To contact the Board of Selectmen during regular Town Hall business hours:

Phone: 508-832-7720

Fax: 508-832-4270

To reach individual members of the Board of Selectmen:

Doreen M. Goodrich (Chairman)

21 Hill Street

Cell: 508-951-9157

Email: dgoodrich@town.auburn.ma.us

Tristan j. Laliberte (Vice Chair)

7 Rock Ave

Home: 508-721-9974

Email: tlaliberte@town.auburn.ma.us

Lionel Berthiaume

13 Rochdale St

Cell: 508-245-9334

Email: lberthiaume@town.auburn.ma.us

Dan Carpenter

33 Goulding Drive

Cell: 508-277-9519

Email: dcarpenter@town.auburn.ma.us

Scott C. Wrenn

28 Loring St

Cell: 508-340-5896

Email: swrenn@town.auburn.ma.us



FOR AUBURN RESIDENTS ONLY

Faith Church and The Town of Auburn Present

TRUNK OR TREAT

RE-IMAGINED



RESERVE YOUR TIMESLOT TODAY

*Must have a registration to be admitted

FOR KIDS tinyurl.com/AuburnOct31



SATURDAY OCT 31 // 4:00 TO 8:00PM

Pappas Recreation Complex

203 Pakachoag St. Auburn, MA 01501

**Sponsored by Faith Church in Partnership
with The Town of Auburn & Cub Scout Pack 53**

Town wide Door-to-Door Trick or Treating Canceled; Alternative Trunk or Treat Event

After much thoughtful discussion at its October 13th meeting, the Board of Selectmen voted to support the recommendation of Town administration to cancel traditional door-to-door trick or treating due to Covid-19 concerns. The Board endorsed the Trunk or Treat event described below as an alternative, safer activity for families. ***This is NOT a traditional Trunk or Treat event where people are walking through a parking lot! See below for details.***

Auburn has been designated in the yellow zone and had two red zone designations since the State began its Community Data mapping. Other communities in Central Massachusetts are in the red and yellow zones, prompting public health officials to implement additional measures to reduce the spread of the virus in those high-risk communities. Traditional Halloween door-to-door trick or treating has been deemed by the CDC to be “high risk” for spreading the Coronavirus. Based on the DPH Community Data and CDC Guidelines, and weighing the risks versus the benefits, Town Administration and the Board of Health recommended that the Board of Selectmen cancel door-to-door trick or treating this year to protect the health and safety of all of our residents during this global pandemic.

The Auburn Board of Selectmen annually vote to set the official trick-or-treat hours based on a recommendation of the Chief of Police. While we recognize that families will make their own decisions on how to best celebrate Halloween, Town administration and the Board of Selectmen cannot endorse traditional door-to-door trick or treating during the Covid-19 public health crisis. While the Town cannot prevent families from bringing their children door-to-door, there is no official trick or treat this year and we urge residents to take all precautions during Halloween and to respect those who do not wish to participate in the traditional door-to-door distribution of candy. We strongly encourage residents to enjoy Halloween outside in small groups, rather than attending indoor events, and to develop creative, safe ways to celebrate with your immediate family members or very small groups so as to not expose your children or other residents to Covid-19.

In order to provide a safer, organized alternative door-to-door trick or treating for children, Town Administration has partnered with Faith Church and Cub Scout Pack 53 to hold a specially designed Drive-Through “Trunk or Treat” event that mitigates Covid concerns. The event will be held on Saturday, October 31st from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Dr. Arthur and Dr. Martha Pappas Recreation Complex on Pakachoag Street. In the case of severe inclement weather, the event will be held on Sunday, November 1st at the same time. **Attendees to the Trunk or Treat event are limited to those who have pre-registered only.** Register at tinyurl.com/AuburnOct31. Those who wish to attend (i.e. families driving through in vehicles) will be required to reserve their time slot. Registration is limited to about 650 vehicles.

While the CDC classifies traditional Trunk or Treat activities as high risk due to the typical distribution of candy from vehicle trunks to groups of trick or treaters walking past the vehicles, Town administration has collaborated with these community partners to hold a Trunk or Treat event that mitigates the risk of the spread of the disease by implementing health measures that protect both the passengers in the vehicles and the volunteers distributing the candy. In conjunction with the recommendations of the Board of Health, these measures reduce the risk of this event. These measures include contactless distribution of candy, safe distancing between the parked vehicles from which candy will be distributed, masks worn by all volunteers, and providing candy that is pre-wrapped only. Attendees must remain in their vehicles as they drive through the route while volunteers will distribute candy in a contactless manner. All participants and volunteers are required to wear masks, including the adults and children in the vehicles. *It is important to note that traditional Halloween costume masks are not designed for Covid-19 protection so children should wear masks recommended by the CDC and Department of Public Health – which can be decorated in Halloween themes.*

We are excited to collaborate these community partners to present this safer alternative to traditional Halloween events. We recognize that people are frustrated by the disruptions that Covid-19 has caused to their normal daily lives as well as to the traditional events and celebrations they typically enjoy. However, municipal officials have a responsibility to protect the health and welfare of all of our citizens and to discourage activities that could be harmful.

Despite the measures that will be taken to mitigate the spread of Covid-19 for this event, it is important to note that no event can be categorized as completely risk-free. Families need to decide the best and safest manner to celebrate Halloween this year. Visit the CDC’s website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html#halloween> or the State’s website for Halloween tips at <https://www.mass.gov/news/halloween-during-covid-19>

Billing, Exemptions, and Discounts...



Second Quarter Preliminary Bills for Real Estate and Personal Property are due on November 2, 2020.

Exemption Applications for Qualifying Seniors, Surviving Spouses, Disabled Veterans and Blind have been mailed out. If you received an exemption last year, you will automatically get an application in the mail to apply for this year. If you would like information to find out if you might qualify for an exemption for the upcoming year, please contact the Assessors' Office at 508-832-7708.

**** THIS YEAR DUE TO COVID-19 YOU CAN SUBMIT YOUR DOCUMENTATION & APPLICATION TO THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE BY:**

US MAIL

DROP BOX - 24/7 (located back of Town Hall – Handicap Accessible)

DRIVE UP KIOSK/DROP OFF ONLY (in Town Hall parking lot Mon thru Thurs 8-4 & Fridays 8-1) ** MASKS REQUIRED AT DRIVE UP



Veterans Services News Release

VA launches program to send caring letters to 90,000 Veterans

Evidence-based research shows simple act can help prevent Veteran suicide

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today its [Veterans Crisis Line](#) (VCL) formally launched the Caring Letters Program, an evidence-based suicide prevention intervention that involves sending periodic messages with simple expressions of care and concern to Veterans who use VA health care and contact the VCL.

The program aligns with the [2019 VA/DOD Clinical Practice Guidelines](#), which suggests brief, nondemanding follow-up communication keeps Veterans engaged and could facilitate opportunities for connecting them with treatment options.

“In the first 11 weeks of the program VCL has mailed Caring Letters to almost 19,000 Veterans,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “This is one of the largest caring letters programs ever implemented. We’re planning to send letters to over 90,000 Veterans over a 12-month period of time.”

[Research](#) has found caring letters can reduce the rate of suicide and suicide behaviors for individuals receiving them. Caring letters are thought to reduce suicide by promoting a feeling of caring connection and reminding Veterans that help is available if they need it.



Employee Spotlight



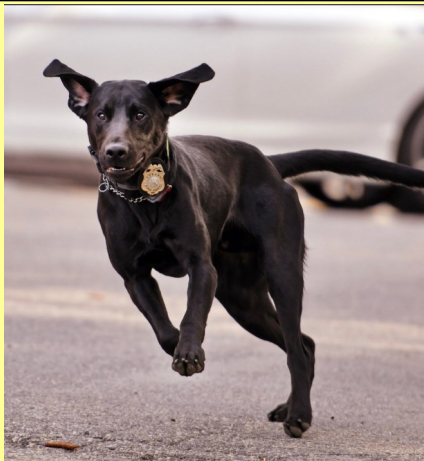
Melissa Colby joined the Assessor's Office in early October. She brings over 25 years of experience in the transportation field. Her managerial and logistic skills will bring valuable insight and experience to the office. Missy resides in Leicester and is eager to serve the public.

We welcome Missy to our Office and Town Hall.

Newest Member of the Auburn Fire Rescue Department

The Auburn Fire Rescue Department has a new member sworn to protect its citizens. He's a little younger than the average age of the department, 16 months old to be exact. His name is Rigley, Riggs for short and he is a Black Lab Urban Search & Rescue and Recovery K-9.

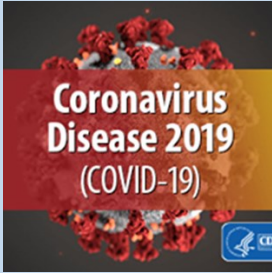
Riggs was donated to Firefighter/EMT Matthew Ethier by Foxbend Labs from Hillsborough NH. FF Ethier has been training Riggs with the assistance of former Auburn Police K-9 handler and recognized expert in K-9 training and handling James Ljunggren. Riggs is being trained on a different scent pallet than any other K-9 known in the US. Riggs is able to detect human scent, bodily fluid, bone, decomposed tissue, even if that tissue and bone is burnt.



Riggs has also been assigned to operate with the MA Fire District 7 Regional Dive Team and soon hopes to join a federal urban search team. On September 17th our department responded to a boating accident on Electric Pond in the area of Brynmawr Ave. Fire and Police units were dispatched, boats were immediately deployed on the water, and Divers from the Auburn Fire Rescue Department were deployed. Assistance from the District 7 Regional Dive Team was also requested. Divers searched for over an hour that night before it was called off due to dangerous conditions with the body of water and night time dive operations. When operations resumed in the morning at 7:30 a.m., K-9 Riggs with his handler were the first assets deployed on the water. Operating on a boat around the last scene point Riggs hit on an area that we focused divers on, and a short time later the victim was found within 20 feet of where Riggs hit. The work of K-9 Riggs was absolutely amazing that morning. He allowed us to bring quick closure to the family and to reduce the risk to divers in extremely dangerous conditions in this pond.

We are so blessed that the Town of Auburn, specifically it's public safety departments have always had support to be the leader in specialty initiatives. We are considered leaders and innovators in our region for the ways we operate and the equipment we have. We cannot thank our elected and appointed officials, town meeting members and our citizens for their constant support of our department and our innovative programs all designed and implemented with you and the safety of our members in mind.





Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

The global health pandemic caused by Covid-19 has impacted our local, state and national economies as well as those economies across the globe. Communities across the country, including Auburn, have had to adapt to those social and economic impacts as we forge a new reality, which means new ways of doing business, new ways of interacting and communicating with others, new ways of learning, and new ways to deliver health care. Covid-19 has compelled municipal and state officials to develop new and creative strategies for operating and delivering services to the public while protecting the health and welfare of our citizens. Here in Auburn, these innovative ap-

proaches have enabled the Town to continue to provide critical and essential services to our residents and businesses.

The Drive-Through Kiosk outside Town Hall remains open Monday through Thursday 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM and Fridays 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The Kiosk is very busy and has enabled Town administration to continue to provide services to the public while limiting visitors into Town Hall, which remains closed to the public other than by-appointment-only. Our town employees all remain in their municipal offices working their regular hours, and many more hours above the regular workday, to provide critical services to the residents and businesses. If you need to pick up a birth, marriage or death certificate, dog license, building or health permits or any other documents at the Kiosk, you must call the appropriate Town Department ahead of your visit to the Kiosk. This will ensure that your documents are ready when you arrive at the Kiosk. No cash or credit cards can be used at the Kiosk. Payments can be made on-line at www.auburnguide.com or via telephone prior to arriving at the Kiosk to pick up permits, licenses and other documents.

The outside Service Window at the Treasurer/Collector's Office can be accessed via the handicapped ramp at the back of Town Hall. **PLEASE NOTE THAT ONLY TREASURER/ COLLECTOR BUSINESS CAN BE HANDLED AT THIS WINDOW.** This window is only staffed by employees in the Treasurer/Collector's Office. *All other non-Treasurer/ Collector's Office inquiries and town business must be done through the Drive-Through Kiosk or by calling the appropriate Town Department.* We thank you for your cooperation so we can continue to service the public efficiently through the Kiosk and the walk-up Service Window at the Treasurer/Collector's Office.

The Auburn Public Library continues to provide curbside pick-up and drop-off. Visit the library's website at <http://www.auburnlibrary.org/> for more information. Check out the library's many new virtual programs and services! The Lorraine Nordgren Senior Center remains closed to the public to protect our most vulnerable population. However, staff continue to conduct critical outreach through Auburn CARES Program's Our Seniors Matter. Some outdoor programs were held over the past few months but with the cold weather settling in, the Senior Center will focus on additional virtual programming for seniors.

Based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines and the State's Department of Public Health guidelines and data, large gatherings and events, both indoors and outdoors, have specific restrictions in Massachusetts under Governor Baker's Orders, and many activities and events are prohibited under the current Phase III of the Commonwealth's Statewide Reopening Plan. Since Covid-19 was declared a global pandemic in March, several community events have been cancelled in Auburn and across the State. Given that health experts predict Covid-19 positive cases to continue to increase across the State and throughout the nation this fall and winter, and given the occupancy restrictions under the Governor's Gatherings Order, we anticipate that community events in Auburn and municipalities will continue to be cancelled over the next few months.

(Continued on next page)

As of the printing of this newsletter, Auburn has been designated in the yellow zone, following a red zone designation the prior week, based on the State's Department of Public Health's Community Data reporting. Several Central Massachusetts communities are now in the yellow or red zone, indicating an increase in the number of positive cases in this region. Here in Auburn, there is no one incident or cluster to which we can attribute the rise in cases. The cases are scattered throughout multiple households with no relation to one another. This could be due to an increase in informal social gatherings and behavior changes. As the temperatures become colder, there will be less opportunity for outdoor activities which may drive the positivity rates even higher. Currently, Auburn is in Step 2 of Phase 3 based on the Community Data two weeks ago. For more information, please visit: www.mass.gov/reopening.

We urge Auburn residents to remain vigilant and take all precautions to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Frequent hand washing, wearing face coverings and social distancing are critical to preventing the spread of the Coronavirus. There are more than 250 testing locations in the state. Click on www.mass.gov/covidtestmap to find a location. We also encourage all residents to utilize the state's existing Stop-the-Spread (STS) testing sites, which are operating through December and are located throughout the Commonwealth. For Stop-the-Spread locations, please visit: www.mass.gov/stophthespread.

Thank you and stay safe.

Auburn Fire Fighters Association Participates in Pink Shirt Project



Once again the Auburn Fire Fighters Association participated in the "Pink Shirt Project" selling tee shirts to raise many for cancer awareness. Proceeds from shirt sales this year will be donated to the Adam Bullen Foundation in Oxford MA.

Department members also traded out their regular uniform shirts for the month of October and are wearing the newly designed shirt.



Town Completes ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan



Town of Auburn, Massachusetts

Part C – Self-Evaluation Summary

June 2020



Prepared by the

Institute for
Human
Centered
Design

200 Portland Street, First Floor
Boston, MA 02114
617.695.1225 voice/tty
www.IHCDesign.org



The Town of Auburn received a FY20 grant from the Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD) through its Municipal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Improvement Grant Program grant to develop a Self-Evaluation or Transition Plan required under Title II of the ADA. The grant-funded project's scope of services involved conducting an ADA Self-Evaluation, developing a Notice to beneficiaries and employees of a commitment to nondiscrimination on the basis of disability, the designation of an ADA Coordinator, adopting a Grievance Procedure, and developing a Transition Plan for facility access.

Through a contract with the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMROC) and its sub-contractor, the Institute for Human Centered Design, Town administration completed its ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan and submitted the documents to the State's MOD.

The Transition Plan is designed to ensure that each program, service and activity, when viewed in its entirety, is accessible to people with disabilities. It does not require a public entity to make each of its existing facilities accessible. The Plan establishes priorities for corrective action where needed. It does not require a public entity to take any action that it can demonstrate would result in an undue financial and/or administrative burden. Please note that the Town of Auburn will strive to make each of our programs, services and activities - when viewed in its entirety - accessible and will work towards implementing the priorities over a multi-year program based on available financial resources.

The Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan is available to view on the Town's website at www.auburnguide.com. The direct link to the documents is https://www.dropbox.com/sh/bi23urc8f2z1umi/AABNMzzkjphdnY3GvA_BxGZBa?dl=0. Included are:

- Part A: Executive Summary
- Part B: Evaluation on Non-discriminatory Policies Practices in Programs Services Activities
- Part C: Self-Evaluation Summary
- Municipal Buildings (combined PDF)
- School Buildings (combined PDF)
- Outdoor Facilities (combined PDF)
- Web Accessibility Summary Report
- Excel spreadsheets with priorities for the Transition Plan

For more information on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), visit ADA.gov. We look forward to beginning to implement the identified priorities over the next few years!

Business and Economic Development...

COVID-19 Business Resources & Update

On March 23, 2020 Governor Baker issued an emergency order that required all businesses and organizations that did not provide “COVID-19 Essential Services” to close their physical workplaces and facilities to workers, customers and the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, many businesses experienced significant financial hardship during the shutdown and many businesses are still struggling to adapt to their “new normal” as Massachusetts moves through the phased reopening plan. During the shutdown, town services remained operational and the Economic Development Coordinator and Town Administration worked diligently to stay informed about any available aid or programs for local businesses. Town Administration made sure that any important updates regarding COVID-19 business resources were distributed to the Business Roundtable, Auburn Chamber of Commerce and published on Auburn-guide.com and the Town of Auburn Facebook page.

Below is a partial list of COVID-19 related aid and services that were available to impacted businesses:

Many programs were created by the passage of the the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act that was signed into law on March 27, 2020.

- Small Business Debt Relief Program
- Baker-Polito Administration- \$10 Million Small Business Recovery Loan Fund
- Small Business Administration Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) Program
- Paycheck Protection Program & Loans
- Counseling, technical assistance & training through the Small Business Development Center, Women’s Business Center and SCORE
- SBA Grants & Loans for Farms and other Agricultural Businesses
- Main Street Lending Program that offered business loans to help eligible medium-sized and small companies through the COVID-19 pandemic
- Various FEMA grants and loans
- Worcester Chamber of Commerce extended chamber services to all businesses in Greater Worcester, regardless of membership
- Auburn Chamber of Commerce made calls to all members and offered payment plans if a business was having issues paying their Chamber renewal fees
- The North Central MA Chamber in conjunction with the Worcester Chamber provided emergency loans of up to \$20,000 for small businesses negatively impacted by COVID-19
- CMRPC administered a grant assistance program for small businesses in Central MA that were impacted by COVID-19. The grant was funded through the MA Office of Attorney General Maura Healey, through the Small Business Relief Partnership Grant Program.
- Town of Auburn published a “Back to Business Toolkit” in May 2020 regarding the reopening of Massachusetts businesses
- The Auburn Board of Health and Town Administration worked with businesses to prepare for Phase II of the Commonwealth’s reopening plan for outdoor dining

Continued on next page:

Business Programs During Covid-19 Continued....

On June 4th, The Board of Selectmen, in accordance with Governor Baker’s Covid-19 Executive Order #35, granted approval of extension of premises for the holders of liquor licenses upon review of Town Administration and approval of the Building Commissioner and Director of Public Health. Additionally, the Board of Selectmen granted approval for the service of food and outdoor dining for holders of common victualler licenses, conditional upon the review of Town Administration and approval from the Building Commissioner and Director of Public Health. The Board of Selectmen also voted to waive any associated local fees with these applications in order to reduce the financial burden on local business establishments.

On September 15th, Governor Charlie Baker, Lt. Governor Karyn Polito, Senate President Karen Spilka and House Speaker Robert DeLeo announced an extension of administrative tax relief measures for local businesses that have been impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak, especially in the restaurant and hospitality sectors. This relief measure includes the extension of regular sales tax, meals tax and room occupancy taxes for small businesses.

Town Administration will continue to utilize any available resources and programs to help local businesses recover from COVID-19.

Mary D. Stone Redevelopment Project

Contact Us

First Name *

Last Name *

Email *

Phone

Address


City

State


Zip Code

Message



☐ I'm not a robot


Privacy - Terms

Submit


Mary D. Stone

Please complete the Contact Us form below to be contacted when leasing activities for this location begin. This is not an application or pre-application and in no way implies or ensures any order of notification or residency.



Many residents are excited to see the new senior housing at the former Mary D. Stone Elementary School come to fruition! Now that Mary D. Stone project is currently under construction, Town Administration has been receiving calls for leasing information and updates for the new housing project. Town Administration is happy to answer any questions you may have regarding the project but please be advised that Mary D. Stone is officially owned and operated by Pennrose Properties. They are fully in charge of all leasing activity and maintenance. There are a couple of ways to stay informed about the

progress of the project and leasing activities.

If you are interested in receiving updates regarding leasing please visit:

<https://www.pennrose.com/apartments/massachusetts/mary-d-stone/>

There is an option to complete a “Contact Us” form to be contacted when leasing activities for Mary D. Stone begins. The form is not meant to be a pre-application and no way implies or ensures any order of notification or residency.

You can also find updates for Mary D. Stone and the Julia Bancroft Redevelopment Project at: <https://www.auburnguide.com/171/Re-Development-of-Mary-D-Stone-Julia-Ban>

Auburn Chamber of Commerce “Best Business Scarecrow Contest”

We are all experiencing a bit of pandemic fatigue and could use something to lift our spirits. Communities are still being challenged to create a sense of togetherness without typical face to face conversations, especially as school begins. As a way to bring some joy to the community, the Auburn Chamber of Commerce has created an event that allows businesses to have some fun while advertising their business. The Auburn Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a “Best Business Scarecrow Contest”. All local Auburn businesses are invited to enter the scarecrow contest and build a scarecrow that best represents their business. The scarecrows will be displayed at Goddard Park in Auburn, Massachusetts from October 16th until November 5th. The Auburn Board of Directors will judge all the submissions and announce the winner in early November. Winners will be spotlighted on the Auburn Chamber of Commerce webpage and social media platforms. All participants are expected to follow social distancing protocols and regulations. The event provides an opportunity for businesses to show their personalities and creativity while keeping the community safe. Residents will also have the opportunity to enjoy the displays at their leisure and learn more about their local businesses. Maintaining a sense of normalcy and finding creative ways to facilitate meaningful connections between businesses and their communities is essential to make it through this time of uncertainty.



Let's Have Some Fun! Best Business Scarecrow Contest

The Auburn Chamber of Commerce invites local businesses to enter a scarecrow contest that will help bring some cheer to the Auburn Community.

Build a scarecrow that best represents your business!

- Scarecrows will be displayed at Goddard Park behind the Fire Headquarters
- Businesses will be able to set up their displays between October 16th - 19th
- Businesses will be required to take down their displays between November 2nd - 5th
- All participants will be expected to follow social distancing protocols and regulations
- The Auburn Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors will judge all the submissions and announce the winner in early November
- Winners will be spotlighted on the Auburn Chamber webpage and on all social media pages



If your business is interested in participating, please reach out to: Virginia Parent | VParent@worcesterchamber.org | (508)

753-2924



Auburn Cultural Council Seeks Funding Proposals

Contact: Amie Tailor Auburn Cultural Council Chairperson

E-mail: auburnculturalcouncil@gmail.com

Auburn, MA - Friday, October 2, 2020 - The Auburn Cultural Council (ACC) invites organizations, schools, and individuals to apply for grants that support cultural activities in the community. Interested parties are asked to submit proposals for community-oriented arts, humanities, and science program funding for 2021.

Applications for funding went live on Thursday, October 1, 2020. The submission deadline is Monday, November 16, 2020. Projects can support a variety of artistic projects and activities in Auburn and its surrounding towns -- including exhibits, festivals, short-term artist residencies or performances, workshops, and lectures. Recipients are expected to adhere to the COVID guidelines present at the time of their program's completion.

According to ACC Secretary Diane Spanos, 2020 was a record year for the ACC, which awarded more than 25 grants totaling over \$7,000. Unfortunately with COVID, some programming was stalled, however, many recipients were able to move to virtual platforms and enriched the community during even these trying times. The application as well as a list of guidelines and restrictions can be found at mass-culture.org/Auburn. Questions about these reimbursement-based grants can be sent to auburnculturalcouncil@gmail.com.

The ACC is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The LCC Program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sciences and humanities every year. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community.

APPLY 10/1 THRU 11/16

**APPLICATIONS FOR 2021
ARTS & CULTURE
FUNDING ARE NOW
AVAILABLE. VISIT
MASS-
CULTURE.ORG/AUBURN
TO APPLY!**

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, EMAIL
AUBURNCULTURALCOUNCIL@GMAIL.COM



**Mass
Cultural
Council**

YARD WASTE COLLECTION

FALL 2020

Residents on the municipal solid waste & recycling service will have their yard waste collected on their normal trash day during the following weeks:

October 19th-23rd

October 26th-30th

November 2nd-6th

November 9th-13th

November 16th-20th



Please have all yard waste curbside on collection day by 7 am following these guidelines:

- Use open containers or biodegradable bags (plastic bags will **NOT** be collected)
- Bags/containers must weigh less than 50 pounds
- For twigs and branches, the maximum length is 3 feet. The maximum diameter is 3 inches.
- If containing twigs and branches with ties, the ties must be string or twine. **NO** plastic ties or tape.
- **DO NOT** use the carts issued by the Town for trash and recycling for yard waste.

Please contact DDIS at 508-832-7703 with any questions. Thank you!

MVP Action Grant

The Town of Auburn has been awarded a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Action Grant for FY2021. The Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs has awarded the Leesville Pond Water Quality Protection and Community-Wide Resiliency Improvements grant in the amount of \$209,895. There are two main elements of Auburn's FY21 MVP grant. The first initiative focuses on water quality improvements to Leesville Pond through public education and outreach efforts. The second initiative builds upon outcomes of the Town's current FY20 MVP Project, which plans for ecological restoration and infrastructure improvements at the Sword Street crossing over Kettle Brook. Leesville Pond is located partially in the Town of Auburn and partially within the City of Worcester and has been identified as an impaired water body by the Massachusetts Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. Through the MVP grant, Auburn will expand public outreach efforts to area residents and businesses to educate the public in how each person can assist with efforts to improve the water quality of Leesville Pond. The Town of Auburn was awarded FY20 MVP Action Grant funds towards community resiliency efforts, which included the development of conceptual "green" bridge design alternatives to replace the existing culverted crossing. Activities within this FY21 project include further design activities to support the much needed replacement of this crossing. Auburn is committed to building resilience against the threat climate change, for more information on the MVP program or climate change visit <http://resilientma.org/>. For additional information, please contact Adam Menard, Town Planner, amenard@town.auburn.ma.us.

Safety Tips for the Winter

As we move into the colder months here in New England, the Building Department will see a rise of permits for different styles of stoves/heaters. Below are some advisements to help you navigate the purchase and installation of this type of appliance. Also included are current requirements for smoke and carbon monoxide detection for new construction as well as tips to maintain existing older devices that may not meet the requirement of new construction.

Purchasing

Be sure the stove you are purchasing is approved by Underwriter's Laboratory or another recognized testing laboratory.

Installation

A building permit must be obtained prior to the installation of fireplaces, wood or coal burning stoves. They must be inspected by the local building inspector prior to their initial use as required by the Massachusetts State Building Code. Allow at least 36 inches of space around the appliance to prevent combustibles from coming into contact with a heat source. Solid fuel heating appliances cannot share a common flue with chimney flues utilized by other solid fuel, fossil fuel, or gas fired appliances.

Inspections

Have the chimney and flue inspected by a qualified mason prior to use. Cracks in the flue or mortar joints can allow flames and heated gases to extend into the structure.

Proper Use

Most chimney fires occur due to a build-up of creosote, a tarry by-product of burning wood. Have your chimney flue cleaned before each heating season. Burn only dry, well-seasoned, hardwood to reduce creosote accumulation. Do not use flammable liquids to start the fire. Never leave children unattended near the stove. Check that the damper is open before lighting the fire. Failure to do so can result in an accumulation of smoke and carbon monoxide within the home. Do not close the damper before the fire has died out and the embers are cold. Use a fireplace screen to prevent flying sparks and embers from falling out onto the floor. Install and maintain smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors to provide protection for your family.

Proper Ash Disposal

Ashes cleaned out from the stove or fireplace should be shoveled into a metal bucket with a metal lid, placed outside, on the ground, away from the building, to prevent fires. Do not place ashes into a paper bag or cardboard box. Ashes and embers can stay hot for days and ignite combustibles.

Carbon Monoxide Detection

Carbon monoxide alarms must be listed in accordance with UL 2034 and UL 2075. Carbon monoxide alarms are required in dwelling units where the dwelling contains a fuel fired appliance or the dwelling has an attached garage with an opening that communicates with the dwelling unit. Carbon monoxide alarms should be located outside of each separate sleeping area within ten feet of the bedrooms. Where a fuel-burning appliance is located within a bedroom or its attached bathroom, a carbon monoxide alarm should be installed within the bedroom. At least one alarm should be installed on each story of a dwelling unit, including basements and cellars.

Smoke Alarms

Smoke alarms should be photoelectric type listed in accordance with UL 217 or UL 268. Smoke alarms should be installed in the following locations

1. In each Sleeping room.
2. Outside each, separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of bedrooms.
3. On each additional story of the dwelling, including basements and habitable attics. In dwelling units with split-levels and without an intervening door between the adjacent levels, a smoke alarm installed on the upper level shall suffice for the adjacent lower level if the lower level is less than one full story below the upper level.
4. Smoke alarms should not be installed less than three feet horizontally from the door or opening of a bathroom that contains a bathtub or shower when feasible.
5. For each 1000 square feet of floor area.
6. Near all stairs

Existing Alarms

Test alarms regularly and change alkaline batteries when we change the clocks. Consider installing alarms with sealed, 10-year batteries.

On The Road...

Roadway Improvements

Work on the Town's FY 2020 Roadway Reconstruction and Resurfacing project by the Town's contractor P.J. Albert, Inc. is starting to wrap up for the year. Reconstruction of portions of Bancroft St, Barbara Ave, Cooper St, Heard St, Hilton Ave, Jerome Ave, Marion Ave, Marjorie Ave, Midstate Dr, Overhill Dr, Rice Rd, Rockdale St, South Street, Wetchester Dr, and Wyoma Dr is complete. The DPW's parking lot is slated to be resurfaced in Autumn 2020.



The final design for the Auburn Street Reconstruction Project was finalized this past July. This project will extend from Walsh Avenue to Millbury Street and include pavement rehabilitation and reconstruction, decorative street lighting, landscaping, traffic signal upgrades at the intersection of Auburn Street and Southbridge Street (Route 12), full traffic signal reconstruction at Auburn Street and Brotherton Way, and additional emergency pre-emption equipment at the fire station. Construction is anticipated to start in Autumn 2020.

Residential Leaf and Brush Disposal

As any farmer will tell you, compost is an essential component to improving or maintaining high quality soil. If you don't already mulch or compost your leaf litter at home, make sure to bring them down to the Yardwaste drop-off area where they can be turned into compost and used through-out town. And remember to come back in the spring to pick up the finished compost to revitalize lawns or fertilize gardens!

Yard Waste Drop-off Permits are valid from July 1 to June 30, and are available to Town residents for purchase at the drop off site for \$20 (\$15 for Senior Citizens).

Hours (Weather Permitting) Monday – Friday: 8am – 1pm - Saturday & Sunday: 9am – 3pm



Did you know Auburn DPW turns your yard waste...



Into compost and mulch to put in your back yard?



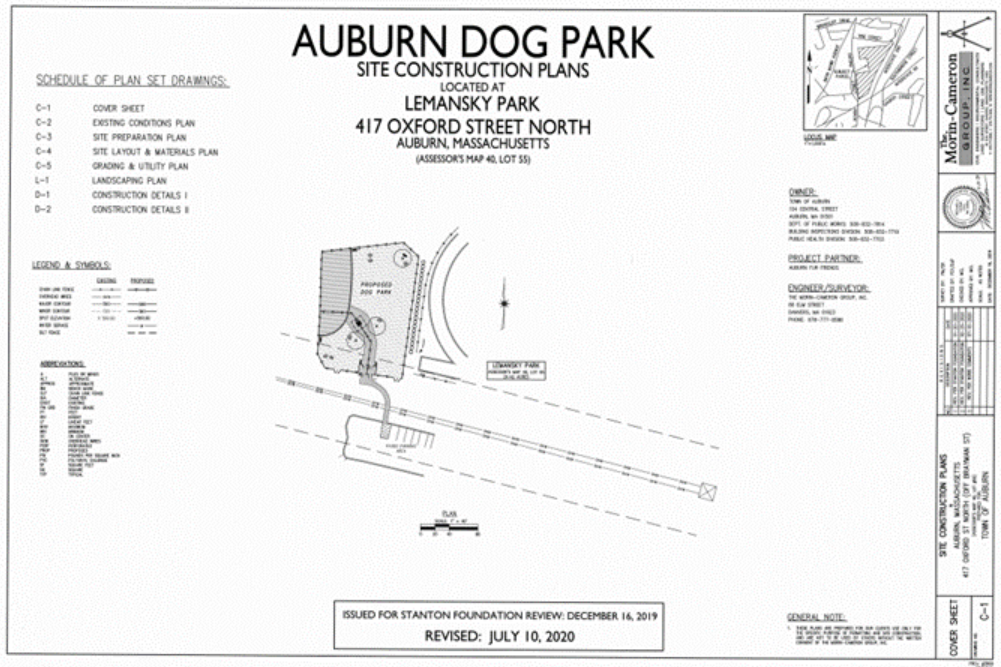
The Town is authorized to operate its stormwater infrastructure through a “MS4” Permit, which is jointly administered by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and Environmental Protection Agency. The goal of this permit is to restore our waters to support “all designated uses”, including fishing, swimming, and boating. When the permit became effective on July 1, 2018, it posed a significant challenge to how we in Auburn – public institutions and private citizens alike – handle stormwater runoff to control flooding and reduce pollution. As we strive to comply with the requirements of the permit, please remember that good stormwater management is everyone’s personal responsibility – **We Need Everyone’s Help!** Visit the Town’s stormwater website to learn more about what residents, businesses, and developers can do to contribute: <https://www.auburnguide.com/668/Stormwater-Management>

A major requirement of the MS4 permit is an Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) program. The purpose of this program is to monitor the stormwater system and identify the sources and types of pollution that cause issues in our receiving waters. Once identified, these “illicit discharges” can be removed. This summer inspections were completed at over 200 “outfalls”, which are places where the town stormwater system discharges water. An additional 100+ outfalls will be inspected this autumn and spring. The results of the inspections will be used to create a prioritized list of outfalls for further pollution investigations.



Auburn Dog Park Construction

Some exciting news for Auburn's canine residents! Design of the Auburn Dog Park was completed this Spring and construction is anticipated to begin Autumn 2020. This project is years in the making and only possible through generous donations from the Auburn Fur Friends and the Stanton Foundation, a private foundation created by Frank Stanton, longtime President of CBS, that includes as one of its missions to promote the welfare of dogs and encourage the dog-human bond. The dog park will take the place of the existing skate park, which will be relocated, and construction is anticipated to be completed in late spring/early summer.



CLEAN WATER
BEGINS WITH YOU



BE A LEAF hero

KEEP FALLEN LEAVES OUT OF STREETS

Do not blow or rake leaves, grass clippings, brush, and tree branches into the street. These will leach nutrients into stormwater runoff and contribute to pollution in our waters. Leaf litter can also plug storm drains and increase flooding issues. Instead, mulch or compost yard waste away from streams or other waterways, or dispose at your local landfill.

What is Stormwater Pollution?

It's the toxic mix of bacteria, chemicals, metals, nutrients and other contaminants that washes over pavement and other impervious surfaces and flows down storm drains to our waterways.

HELP KEEP OUR WATERWAYS CLEAN

For more tips and information visit stormwater.capecodcommission.org



Senior Center and Elder Affairs News

The Auburn Senior Center is staffed Monday and Friday from 8:00am to 3:00pm and Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8:00am to 4:00pm for any questions or concerns. The building is currently closed to the public. Congregate lunches through the Elder Services of Worcester meals on wheels program are still offered and being delivered to the participants house by volunteers. Please call 508-832-7799 if you would like to register for a lunch with a suggested donation of \$2.50.

Transportation is available to Auburn residents by scheduling 48 hours in advance with the WRTA by calling 508-752-9283. Our drivers are equipped with personal protection equipment to keep you safe while riding on the vans. Due to COVID-19 we are taking all necessary precautions to keep our staff and riders safe. All riders must wear a face covering at all times. If you are ill or do not feel well, please stay home.

The Senior Center is closed but there are a variety of programs being offered on local cable and on auburnguide.com, senior center page. Please call the Senior Center for a complete list of on line, zoom and cable programs. A limited number of outside programs with capacity limits and social distancing are being held outside at the Senior Center under the gazebo.

If there is any assistance that you need please call the Senior Center at 508-832-7799 so that we can help. Keep Safe!

Thank you to our meals on wheels packers and drivers!



Meals on Wheels Volunteer packers: Bev Geddes and Bob Breault, Terry Bradley-Nutrition Site Interim Manager Packing lunches for 90 meals on wheels participants.



Meals on Wheels Volunteers - Bob Breault- packer Marilyn Pierce and Ron Pierce –drivers. Two of our drivers who help to deliver meals.

Outreach

Outreach Coordinator, Usha Verma is available Monday through Friday between 9:00am - 3:00pm to provide information and referrals for: Fuel Assistance, SNAP, food pantries, transportation options, benefits check-up, housing help, real estate tax exemptions, abatements, referrals to support groups for caregivers, grandparents raising their grandchildren and many more. All information is kept confidential.



FILE OF LIFE CARDS

FILE OF LIFE

KEEP INFORMATION UP TO DATE !!
Review At Least Every Six Months !

MEDICAL DATA REVIEWED AS OF _____ **MO.** _____ **YR.** _____

Name: _____ Sex: **M** **F**

Address: _____

Doctor: _____ Phone #: _____

Preferred Hospital: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Medical emergencies can happen anytime. When they do, there is confusion, panic and urgency. Paramedics arrive on the scene with no information about the person in need. Seconds count, they can make the difference between life and death. Does the patient have

prior medical conditions? Allergies? What medications are they taking? Who do they want us to call? How do we contact their family or friends? File of Life puts these answers at their fingertips. It allows first responders to immediately begin the best possible treatment, notify loved ones, and pass this vital data on to awaiting physicians at the emergency room. File of Life has already saved thousands of lives. It is an absolute asset to emergency preparedness, and peace of mind, for every household and community across the nation. Please call the Senior Center at 508-832-7799 if you would like a file of life card mailed to your house.

SHINE: Health Care Options



Patrick Morris, certified SHINE counselor can assist with health care options: Medicare, prescription insurance, Medigap plans, Medicare advantage plans, low income subsidy, prescription advantage, etc. He is currently scheduling appointments by phone, zoom or email. Please call 508-832-7799 and we will notify the counselor for you.

IMPORTANT MAIL ABOUT YOUR DRUG AND HEALTH PLANS!

It's that time of year again! If you have a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan or a Medicare Advantage Plan (HMO, PPO), your Plan will mail you an information packet called an ANNUAL NOTICE OF CHANGE by the end of September. It is important to **understand** and **save** this information because it explains the changes in your plan for **2021**.

Your plan premiums, deductibles, copays, providers and covered drugs may change significantly!

This is important information and if you do not understand it, you should discuss it with your family or caregivers. During the current COVID crisis, we will not be doing on site presentations at senior centers. We will make presentations available on our website, www.shinema.org, and also through your local cable channel.

During the annual Medicare Open Enrollment Period (**October 15th - December 7th**), you will have a chance to CHANGE your plan for next year. SHINE's certified Medicare counselors can help you understand your plan changes, as well as other options you may have.

Trained SHINE (Serving Health Information Needs of Everyone) counselors can help you! We offer, unbiased, confidential counseling on all aspects of health insurance to anyone on Medicare. Call your local senior center and ask for a SHINE appointment. Remember you can contact us at the regional office: 508-422-9931. Once you get the SHINE answering machine, leave your name and number. A SHINE counselor will call you back.

We are available via multiple platforms such as FaceTime, Zoom and Skype to do one-on-one appointments if needed. Watch our website for Medicare 101 presentations on Zoom. Our newly upgraded website: www.shinema.org has information on Medicare, MassHealth, links that can be a valuable resource. **Auburn residents:** Please call the main SHINE number 508-422-9931 or call the Auburn Senior Center at 508-832-7799. Staff members will take your name, phone number, email address and questions. This information will be provided to our counselor Pat Morris who will then contact you directly.



News from the Auburn Public Library

Fall 2020

Message to our patrons

We thank all of our patrons for your patience during these unprecedented times and for your obvious enthusiasm and support regarding the robust curbside services we offer. We anticipate continuing curbside pickup - even in the winter months - until we return fully to our 'new normal'.

Keep your spirits up - keep reading!



Curbside Pickup is available outside the main Library doors M-F | 8:00am-4:00pm
Appointments are not required | All items must be placed on Hold in order to enter the queue.

All items are wrapped for sanitization and privacy.

They are then placed on the curbside station racks in alphabetical order, labeled with your last name and the first two initials of your first name.

Masks fully covering the nose and mouth are required for pickup.

- Due to heavy volume and quarantine protocols, we are unable to serve walk-up requests except in an emergency.
- Please place Holds online or call us on the telephone for assistance. We are happy to assist you by teaching you how to place a Hold, or we will place the Hold for you if you prefer. Even if you are unsure of what you are looking for – we can help!
- We run our 'Holds' reports twice per day, M-F. If your request is available from our building, you are next in the queue, and the item is not currently in quarantine, you will receive notification to pick up your item the next day, or sometimes even that same day.

For more information on curbside pickup, please call the Library M-F 8-4 | 508.832.7790

Library staff currently process an average of 2,692 materials *each week* through curbside pickup, receiving items from other libraries, providing items to other libraries, and returns from our book drop!

For the health and safety of patrons and staff, each item is individually processed, which includes quarantine and sanitization according to professional standards and protocols.

Book Returns | 24/7



Our Book Return, located to the right of our main library doors, is open for return of all library materials, whether from Auburn or from another library in the CWMARS system. You may return books, magazines, CDS, Books on CD, or DVDs. Items are now checked in the same day, or Monday, if returned over the weekend. All materials are then placed in 3-day quarantine prior to loaning to another patron, or being re-shelved.

We continue to waive fines resulting from late returns due to COVID challenges and will continue to do so until December 31, 2020. Beginning January 2021 we will return to previous 'fines' protocols. Waiving fines does not extend to fees for lost or damaged materials. However, we recognize there are hardships – please call the director at 508.832.7790 for individual assistance!

Library staff

To help counter the challenges from the shutdown and stay connected to our patrons as much as possible, we developed many resources and services that we applied to a virtual and/or remote delivery platform. We also served our patrons in other ways as well:

We developed two supplemental websites to provide information and resources to children and to patrons in general. Library staff videotaped themselves reading stories, provided literacy documents for download or pickup, and we used the sites to post virtual programs. As of this date, connections to those two sites (not including our library home page) surpassed 14,000 page hits

We shelf-checked just under 20,000 items in the children's room alone and weeded a significant number of those titles. We continue to work on this very time consuming, but important, project.

We also shelf-checked a large percentage of the adult section, slightly more than 40,000 items and will continue weeding items that have not circulated in recent years to make space for new titles.

We helped serve Auburn's senior population by participating in the Town 'Our Seniors Matter' Call Program, spending about 30 hours making phone calls to residents

We worked closely with the Auburn Youth and Family Services (AYFS) program, providing over 1,000 activity sheets and hundreds of books weeded from our collection.

Auburn Public Library Five Year Strategic Plan FY2021-2025

The Library Board of Trustees recently undertook the significant responsibility of developing the Fiscal Year 2021 – 2025 Strategic Plan for the Auburn Public Library. The Plan was successfully completed, submitted, and accepted by the Mass Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC).

The process also involved input from the Town Manager, the Library Director and staff, and of course, the public. We appreciate the efforts of the Chairman of the Board, Matthew Toth for his leadership throughout the process, and the commitment from the members of the Board for their energy and diligence throughout the process. They sought bids, selected the consultant, initiated community surveys and focus groups, ensured the Plan met all State and local compliances, and submitted the final version on time and in required format to the MBLC.

As Director, I would like to join the Board members and the Town Manager in thanking our community for their time in providing insight, suggestions, and feedback on the services and resources of the Auburn Public Library. In addition, I would like to thank the dedicated staff of the Auburn Public Library for their input into the Plan, and for whom the community demonstrated well-deserved appreciation by ranking Library staff in the following categories: Helpfulness 94% • Professionalism 93% • Knowledge 94% • Friendliness 93%.

The link to the Strategic Plan is available in multiple formats and from multiple platforms:

The Auburn Public Library website beneath the Plans tab and beneath the Staff and Trustees tab
As a pdf - direct download [APL Strategic Plan FY2021-2025](#)
The Town of Auburn AuburnGuide website.

The Library placed several printed, bound copies in the public area of the Library for in-Library perusal by the public. However, as the building is not currently open to the public, Library copies may be borrowed by contacting the Library Director at jcollins@town.auburn.ma.us or by calling the Library at 508.832.7790 M-F, from 8:00-4:00. We will be happy to place a copy for curbside pickup. Copies may be returned to our book return 24/7.



Butterfly Program

Our virtual butterfly program was filled to capacity, with more than 70 patrons registered to participate in the virtual program. Library staff recorded stories and provided information and instructions for nurturing the monarch butterfly from the caterpillar through the chrysalis, to the butterfly. Butterfly kits were also provided as part of the program.



Feedback and photo from one of the nearly 70 patrons who participated in this program.

We wanted to share some photos of the butterfly program that the library offered. My son and I have anxiously watched our caterpillar go into a chrysalis and today startled to hatch into a butterfly. Such an amazing process to watch. Thank you for offering these great programs for our kids to learn remotely while we are unable to visit in person. We loved it!

This was so amazing. My child had never witnessed anything like this before and the transformation from caterpillar to butterfly was an opportunity we would not have had to share, without the Library.

We loved the program that went along with it and the preparation with stories and instructions that went along with this program. Thank you for all that you do!

My little girl was amazed at the butterfly! She also really liked seeing all of you on the video as she really misses the library. Thank you

We enjoyed this program as a family and would not have had the opportunity without the Auburn Public Library

We love the program packets!

Hands on Nature Summer Camp Partnership

Our second annual Summer Camp Partnership Series between the Auburn Public Library and *Hands on Nature* was also presented virtually. The series, funded by the Auburn Cultural Council, included four virtual programs on the following topics: Backyard Birds, Creepy Crawly Creatures, Incredible Earthworms, and Fireflies.

E-content

Loans to e-content have doubled, and we continue to add titles weekly. We recently purchased several hundred new adult (print) books and added an additional several hundred books to our children's collection, so there is plenty to borrow! You can access <http://www.aplvirtual.org> for additional information on how to use our digital resources, or you are welcome to call the Library for assistance at any time during our normal operating hours.

Upcoming

Ted Reinstein will visit us for a series of virtual programs, hosted by Ted via Zoom.

| | | |
|---|---|--|
|  | Presentation Series Schedule | |
| | All presentations are on Thursday at 7:00pm | |
| | October 8 th | "Fighting Back: New England's Underdogs" |
| | November 5 th | "New Normal New England Road Trip" |
| | December 10 th | "New England General Stores" |
| January 14 th | "Who Knew?" | |
| Registration is required for all presentations | | |
| Register online at www.auburnlibrary.org | | |
| or call the Library for assistance | | |
| Monday – Friday 8:00am – 4:00pm 508.832.7790 | | |

Other

- ❖ We have been working on our 'Library of Things' program – coming soon!
- ❖ A redesign of our main website is nearly complete. The website will include a 'digital browsing' option for adult and children's books

Don't forget to register for Constant Contact!

Constant Contact is your best resource for notification of Library programs and Information

Constant Contact



Auburn Public Library
100 Southbridge Street
Auburn, Massachusetts 01501
(508) 832-7790 (Library)
(508) 832-7792 (Fax)

Hours: Monday - Thursday: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Friday: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Saturday: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Sunday: Closed

Library Hours:
Library Catalog Online
Children's Catalog
Community Information

[Join our Program Notification System](#)

Check out some of our newest books and materials

If you would like to know about our programs as soon as they are open for registration, join the more than 400 patrons who have registered for our email notification system, *Constant Contact*, via the link available at the top of our home page at www.auburnlibrary.org. Program and informational updates for all ages and populations will be sent to your mailbox weekly, or as information is updated. You may opt out at any time with the click of a button.

Respectfully submitted, Jean E. Collins, Library Director

Question or comments? Contact us at townmgr@town.auburn.ma.us or call (508) 832-7720.

To subscribe to the quarterly municipal newsletter, *The Auburn Account*, visit our website to submit an electronic sign-up form or [click here](#). Our next edition will be released in January 2021.

