



# The Auburn Account

## New Dog Park Ribbon Cutting Event

Volume 11, Issue 2 July 2021



Auburn Town Hall  
104 Central Street  
Auburn, MA 01501  
[www.auburnguide.com](http://www.auburnguide.com)

We are very excited to announce that the newly constructed Auburn Dog Park will be opened to the public in a ribbon-cutting ceremony to be held on **April 21st, 2021 at 12:00 PM noon**. The grand opening will take place at the site of the new park, located adjacent to the walking track in lower Lemansky Park.

The public is welcome to attend the ceremony; however, a limit of 150 people will be enforced on a first-come, first-served basis and 6-foot social distancing/mask wearing will be required in accordance with current Covid-19 regulations and State Orders,

**Please do not bring dogs to the ribbon cutting event. Dogs and their owners are welcome to use the dog park after the event crowd disperses and the park officially opens.** Until the ribbon cutting ceremony, the dog park will remain closed to the public.

Through a collaborative effort of several Town divisions, including the Engineering Division at DPW, the Animal Control Officer, the Town Manager and the CFO, and in partnership with the Fur Friends of Auburn, town administration prepared and submitted a design grant application to the Stanton Foundation to fund the design of a dog park to be constructed at Lemansky Park in December of 2018. The \$20,000 design grant was awarded in January 2019, *(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](http://www.auburnguide.com) or [click here](#) to sign up now!

### Important Contact Information (508) 832-

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

### Hours of Operation

<b>Town Hall:</b>	
Monday	8:00AM-7:00PM
T, W, Th	8:00AM-4:00PM
Friday	8:00AM-1:00PM
<b>Senior Center:</b>	
Mon & Fri	8:00AM-3:00PM
T, W, Th	8:00AM-4:00PM
<b>Library:</b>	
Mon—Thurs	9:30AM-8:30PM
Fri	9:30AM-5:30PM
Sat	9:00AM-1:00PM

***In this issue: Dog Park Ribbon Cutting, Grant Initiative, Mary D Stone Progress, Town Manager's Think Tank, Home Depot Donates Shed to Animal Control and much, much more...***

## DOG PARK COMPLETION (*CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*)

which enabled the Town to hire an architectural firm to develop the design. The Town submitted the completed design to the Stanton Foundation in December 2019 and received approvals from the Foundation in early 2020. Once the design was complete, the Town issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the construction of the Dog Park and awarded the contract to J.A.M. Construction. The Town was approved for the construction grant in the amount of \$222,969 from the Stanton Foundation, which covers 90% of the construction costs of \$247,743. The Fur Friends provided the required 10% match in the amount of \$25,000. Construction of the Park began in October 2020.

Under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Town of Auburn and the Stanton Foundation, which outlines the terms and conditions of the construction grant and development of the Dog Park, the Town was required to create a Coordinating Group. This group is to meet at least quarterly once the dog park opens for a three year period and is charged with the following:

- Recommending operating policies such as rules and regulations to the appropriate Town Department
- Regulating use by out-of-town dog owners
- Developing the annual proposal to the Foundation for the use of follow-on capital grants from the Foundation.



Aimee Contois, Animal Control Officer, and Eilish Corey, DPW Civil Engineer and Point of Contact under the MOU for the dog park project, were appointed by the Town Manager to be the two Town representatives to the Dog Park Coordinating Group. The Fur Friends nominated Nancy Sarkisian, president of their organization, to serve on the Coordinating Group. The Coordinating Group has been meeting to develop the Rules and Regulations which will be posted at the Dog Park. We thank Aimee, Eilish and Nancy for all of their work on this project and look forward to their continued participation on the Coordinating Group.



The Fur Friends of Auburn have done a tremendous job fundraising for this project and we extend our gratitude to the them for their commitment and generosity. We also thank all those donors and the Auburn community for their support of this project. We also thank the Board of Selectmen for their support of this project.

# 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. During Covid-19, meetings are held remotely (access information on the Town's website).



- This group picture of the Board of Selectmen was done social distanced via GoToMeeting, 2020 -

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](mailto:dgoodrich@town.auburn.ma.us)

Tristan j. Laliberte (Vice Chair)  
7 Rock Ave  
Home: 508-721-9974  
Email: [tlaliberte@town.auburn.ma.us](mailto:tlaliberte@town.auburn.ma.us)

Lionel Berthiaume  
13 Rochdale St  
Cell: 508-245-9334  
Email: [lberthiaume@town.auburn.ma.us](mailto:lberthiaume@town.auburn.ma.us)

Dan Carpenter  
33 Goulding Drive  
Cell: 508-277-9519  
Email: [dcarpenter@town.auburn.ma.us](mailto:dcarpenter@town.auburn.ma.us)

Scott C. Wrenn  
28 Loring St  
Cell: 508-340-5896  
Email: [swrenn@town.auburn.ma.us](mailto:swrenn@town.auburn.ma.us)





**CENSUS** – 2021 census forms were mailed the first week of January. **Please fill out and return if you have not already done this, even if there were no changes. There are many households who have not answered the census.** Voters are made inactive in June of each year if the census is not updated. This creates long lines at the elections; because each inactive voter must fill out a form and provide proof that they still live at their Auburn address.

**Dog licensing** – The office is currently licensing dogs for 2021. Last year’s license expires as of March 31, 2021. If your dog has been licensed in the past and is up to date on rabies and would prefer to license on-line, use [https://www.mapsonline.net/auburnma/dog\\_licensing](https://www.mapsonline.net/auburnma/dog_licensing)

Town Clerk Department, Dog Licenses & Information, the Dog license application can be printed and mailed in. Please verify that the rabies on file is current or send a copy with the application or your census form. If your dog can not get a rabies vaccine owners will need to submit a letter. Letters need to be submitted annually to be reviewed by the Animal Control Officer and the Board of Health for acceptance, per MGL Chapter 140 Section 145B, (i). Owners will not receive a license for unvaccinated dogs without approval of their exemption letter. If you no longer have your dog please let us know so we can update our records.

For more information please visit: <https://www.auburnguide.com/241/Town-Clerk>

**Resident Listing Books** for 2021 will be available by mid-June. The cost varies depending on the form of media requested. Details and payment may be made through the website – Town Clerk Department – Listing Book.

For more information on any of the above items, please contact the Town Clerk’s office at 508-832-7701 or email: [townclerkemail@town.auburn.ma.us](mailto:townclerkemail@town.auburn.ma.us)

## **Election Calendar 2021**

TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2021 TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2021

### **Annual Town Meeting Annual Town Election**

6:00 PM in Auburn High School 8am to 8pm in the High School Gym

## **TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 2021**

**Last Day** for all candidates to file nomination papers for elective town offices with the Registrars for certification of signatures. Nomination papers will be accepted at the Town Clerk’s office until 5:00PM.



## **Interested in becoming a Town Meeting Member**

There are precincts with Town Meeting Member seats available. Although it is past the date to file for nomination papers – you can always do a write in. If you are interested in becoming a Town Meeting Member have residents that live in **your** precinct write your name in as a write in.

**Election Information can be found:** [Voting & Elections | Auburn, MA \(auburnguide.com\)](https://www.auburnguide.com)

## VOTER REGISTRATION SESSION

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 2021**

**Last day to register voters** before the Annual Town Election. Registration in the Town Clerk's office will be held from 8:00 AM until 8:00 PM.

Auburn residents 18 years of age by Election Day, MAY 18, 2021, or older may register to vote in the Town Clerk's office. A resident may register to vote by mail but the mail-in form must be postmarked on or before APRIL 28, 2021 for the voter to be eligible to vote at the annual town election.

You can also register online - <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/>



## BILLING, EXEMPTIONS, AND DISCOUNTS...



### ASSESSORS FORMS & DATA INSPECTIONS

Reminder: Please submit your State Form 2 and Income & Expense paper work if you have received them from our office.  
Data Collection/Inspections will now include Saturdays.

#### **Billing, Business Forms and Exemptions**

Fourth Quarter Actual Bills for Real Estate and Personal Property are due on May 3, 2021

Payments can be made by:

**US MAIL – CHECK ONLY**

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

**ONLINE AT AUBURNGUIDE.COM – CREDIT/DEBIT CARDS OR ECHECK (fees will apply)**

**IN PERSON (2 OPTIONS) –**

**BACK DOOR WINDOW – LOCATED BY HANIDCAP RAMP – CASH OR CHECK ONLY (MONDAY 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM, TUESDAY-THURSDAY 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM, FRIDAYS CLOSED)**

**IN TOWN HALL – CASH OR CHECK ONLY (MONDAY 2:00 PM – 7:00 PM, TUESDAY-THURSDAY 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM. FRIDAY 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM)**





## NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATIONS WEEK

**April 11-17, 2021**

The 911 Dispatchers of the Auburn 911 Communications Center are considered Public Safety Telecommunicators. Every year during the second week of April, telecommunication personnel in the public safety community are honored. This week-long event is held to celebrate and thank those who dedicate their lives to serving the public. They are largely unseen, but are every bit as vital to the safety of the public and responders they work with. They are the first, First Responders. Often working long hours, holidays, and weekends they are occasionally overlooked for all that they do.



These Telecommunicators are not sworn personnel, but civilians and work alongside Firefighters and Police Officers. This department dispatchers Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services while also answering 911 and all non-emergency business lines. The Telecommunicators handle thousands of calls for service each year, maintain several certifications and deliver 24-hour coverage 365 days a year. These men and women serve as the first point of contact for citizens and are the link, which connects the community to public safety services.

It is important to take a moment to recognize and reaffirm our appreciation. Please take a moment to recognize the efforts of these selfless individuals and their service to the Town of Auburn.

Thank you for your continued dedication and perseverance. Communications Director Penny Ryan!

### **Auburn 911 Communications Dispatchers:**

**Anthony Doray, Jamie Cantwell, Ann Trotto, Sheri Kaiser, Talisha Soto, Christopher McRel,**

**Brandyn Geldart, Sean Fleming, Megan Downing, Nicole Pray, Elizabeth Martinson, Carrie Girardin.**



## GRANT INITIATIVE / OFFICER WELLNESS PROGRAM

First responders in general and police officers in particular, experience stressful and often traumatic events in the performance of their duties. Cognizant of the potential negative effects this exposure has to our personnel, the department sought ways to bring about awareness and provide resources to our members. The search led us to the Stress Management and Resiliency Training (SMART) for First Responders program. The program content is the result of the collaboration of the Benson-Henry Institute for Mind Body Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital, the Healing Emergency Aid Response Team 9/11 (HEART 9/11) a nonprofit disaster relief organization founded in 2007 and the Newtown Connecticut Police Department.

This eight (8) week first of its' kind wellness program offered by the department for members will begin in April. The program is delivered by first responders for first responders and is designed to teach each of us how to develop self-care techniques to reduce stress and increase our overall wellbeing. We are grateful for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant award provided through the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security's Office of Grants and Research for providing the funding for this initiative. We are excited to bring this worthwhile training opportunity to our community and its' police officers.

## FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

On Monday February 1<sup>st</sup> Fire Inspector Joshua Donovan began his official duties in the Fire Prevention Division. Josh holds a master's degree from WPI and is a Fire Protection Engineer.

Inspector Donovan and Captain Greg Morin are the two inspectors assigned full time to the Bureau of Community Risk Reduction, Fire Prevention Division. The division handles over 1,000 inspections, code enforcement actions and permits annually for both commercial and residential property. Many of these inspections are required by law quarterly, bi-annually and annually. Some are targeted inspections on different building types and occupancy. It is our goal to work with the business community to reduce their fire problem and educate them on safe practices. For more information on



## READY TO ROLL



In March the AFRD put a new Supervisors vehicle in service. "Car 3", a 2021 Ford F350 Super Duty replaces the old 2008 Chevy Tahoe that previously filled that role. It is staffed by the on duty Lieutenant out of the West St. Fire Station. Car 3 responds to all types of emergencies and is equipped with equipment specifically for the supervisor such as a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), Thermal Imaging Camera, Fire Extinguishers, medical equipment, and spill containment equipment.

# Business and Economic Development...

## LOCAL RAPID RECOVERY PLANNING GRANT

The Mass Downtown Initiative (MDI) recently accepted applications for the Local Rapid Recovery Planning program (LRRP). This program is a part of the Baker-Polito Recovery Plan to revitalize downtowns, respond to the effects of COVID-19, and prioritize actions and strategies to help local business. All 351 Massachusetts cities and towns were eligible to apply. The LRRP provides technical assistance by consultant teams with expertise in effective strategies to stabilize business districts.



Town Administration applied for a number of short term and long term goals to assist businesses with their recovery from the effects of Covid-19. Due to the overwhelming demand for technical assistance, communities were required to select a specific district for this program. Town Administration selected the Route 20/12 corridor for this program. On January 30<sup>th</sup> Auburn was notified that we received \$60,000 in technical assistance through the BSC Group for the Route 20/12 corridor.

Town Administration met with Jef Fasser from BSC Group on March 15<sup>th</sup> for a kick of meeting to begin the LRRP process. The LRRP team did a site walk through the district on March 22<sup>nd</sup> and distributed a survey shortly after to business in the area to collect feedback regarding the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. The LRRP team will be reaching out to businesses in the Route 20/12 corridor by email, phone or in person to encourage them to take the survey and to begin conversations about recovery. Once responses are collected, the team will work on creating tools, actions and strategies to help businesses recover from Covid-19 and strengthen the identity of the Route 20/12 corridor. The final report will also identify potential grant opportunities for additional business aid.

If you are a business in the area and would like to take the survey please visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LRRPBiz>

Town Administration is looking forward to working with BSC to connect with local businesses and create strategies to help with Covid-19 recovery.

## MASTERMAN'S 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

In the spring of 1961, Ben Masterman started his company, Masterman's. They recently celebrated an impressive anniversary; 60 years in business! Masterman's has grown to be a national distributor, employing over 100 people at their 1000,000 sq. ft. warehouse located in Auburn. Masterman's continues to be invaluable community partners and Town Administration is grateful for their ongoing support and presence in Auburn. Town Administration would like to sincerely congratulate Masterman's and wish them continued success!



# SHEPPARD ENVELOPE CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

Sheppard Envelope celebrated an impressive milestone recently at a Virtual Breakfast Club meeting with the Worcester Chamber of Commerce.

**SHEPPARD**  
**ENVELOPE MFG CO**

*Celebrating 100 years!*

Since 1921

Since 1921, Sheppard Envelope has been revolutionizing the envelope making business. Celebrating 100 years is a testament to the invaluable products they continue to provide and their progressive leadership throughout the years. Even during tumultuous economic times, Sheppard Envelope has been able to remain a leader in the envelope making industry.

Town Administration would like to thank Sheppard Envelope for continuing to produce quality products while providing exemplary customer service to the Auburn community and beyond. Sheppard Envelope is a valued member of the business community and Town Administration extends our best wishes for their continued success.

## TOWN MANAGER PRESENTS AT AUBURN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE “THINK TANK” EVENT



Auburn Town Manager, Julie Jacobson was the guest speaker at the “Think Tank” event hosted by the Auburn Chamber of Commerce via Zoom on February 10<sup>th</sup>. At the event, members of the business community were updated about the town’s financial condition as well as a number of infrastructure and housing projects. Additionally, Ms. Jacobson shared some exciting planning initiatives currently underway as well.

Most notably, Ms. Jacobson explained the various revitalization efforts underway in

Drury Square. The attendees were able to learn more about the proposed library/ Goddard Park project, the recent Wayfinding and Branding grant and the Auburn Street reconstruction project.

Other topics the Town Manager covered at the Think Tank Event were:

- \*New Proposed Public Safety Complex
- \*Commercial Redevelopment at 190 Washington Street- Eastland Partners
- \*Housing project at Albert/ Blaker Street- Eastland Partners
- \*Progress of the two school redevelopment projects (Mary D. Stone & Julia Bancroft)
- \*How the town has adapted their services during the COVID-19 pandemic

The “Think Tank” event was a success and the business community was pleased to learn about all the exciting activity taking place in Auburn. If you would like to hear more about any of the topics listed above you can watch the event on the Auburn Chamber of Commerce website: <https://auburnchamberma.org/watch-the-first-auburn-chamber-think-tank-zoom-recording/>

# PROPOSED LIBRARY-GODDARD PARK-PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

The redevelopment of Drury Square has been an ongoing focus of Town Administration. The overall vision for Drury Square is to develop a sense of place and to enhance the economic value of the area as a place to shop, live, and visit. Creating a vibrant, walkable and identifiable town center will take time but with each initiative and grant we move closer to bringing this vision to life.

An important anchor in Drury Square is Goddard Park. Having this open space in Drury Square is a huge asset and can help facilitate civic engagement, community events and passive recreation. Recently, the Town presented a proposed three-phased project for the Library and Goddard Park to the Library Board of Trustees. The three-phased project includes installing a large sunroom addition on the back of the library, implementing various improvements to Goddard Park and constructing a pedestrian bridge over the brook to

to physically link the library parcel with Goddard Park. On March 10, 2021 the Library Board of Trustees voted to support the three-phased project and proposed financing plan.

This proposed project will create a welcoming environment at the Library and Goddard Park that will encourage visitors, residents and surrounding businesses to utilize the Park and provide easy access to the Library. By providing direct access to and from Goddard Park to the Library via a pedestrian bridge, the Park can be a huge asset to the Library for interactive programs and events. Auburn Pond (Mirror Lake) abutting Goddard Park, is currently underutilized but has great potential for programming and recreation.

Installing a glass sunroom structure on the back of the Library would provide additional indoor programming space as well as create a connection to the outdoor space on the Library parcel itself and the adjoining Goddard Park via the pedestrian bridge. This will facilitate library use of the outside space that is currently underutilized and not easily accessible. The sunroom addition would also create a visual connection to Goddard Park as well as a physical connection, which would provide significant opportunities to hold outdoor library programs on the newly connected town spaces including the pond, which would be cleaned and made accessible for use in passive recreational family and library activities.

Town Administration has been actively looking for ways to finance the project without burdening the tax payers. The town applied to the Pappas Foundation for a grant to help implement the Library/Goddard Park/ Pedestrian Bridge project. Town Administration was notified on January 22<sup>nd</sup> that the Pappas Foundation awarded the town \$505,000 for this proposed project. Town Administration would like to sincerely thank the Pappas Foundation for their invaluable support. This grant truly makes this project possible.

The projected project cost is estimated to be \$1 Million. Town Administration will be placing articles on the Annual Town Meeting warrant in May requesting approval for the remaining financing plan components.



*Auburn Free Public Library and monument to Goddard's rockets*



*Views of Auburn Pond as seen from Goddard Park*

# JULIA BANCROFT VIRTUAL GROUNDBREAKING



Pennrose Properties and the Town of Auburn celebrated the groundbreaking of the historic rehabilitation of the Julia Bancroft School, a 60-unit development for seniors 62 and older. Plans for the redevelopment include renovating the original 1920s historic school building, demolishing the later built addition and replacing it with a new, four-story building. Construction is currently underway and the project is slated for completion in summer 2022.

Speakers at the virtual groundbreaking ceremony included: Karyn Polito, Lieutenant Governor, Commonwealth of Massachusetts; Jennifer Maddox, Undersecretary, Dept. of Housing and Community Development (DHCD); Jim McGovern, Congressman, 2nd Congressional District of Massachusetts; Michael O. Moore, State Senator; Paul Frost, State Representative; Doreen Goodrich, Chairwoman, Auburn Board of Selectman; Julie Jacobson, Town Manager, Town of Auburn; Timothy Henkel, Principal & SVP, Pennrose; and Charlie Adams, Regional Vice President, Pennrose.

*“We are excited to begin construction on another transformative redevelopment with the Town of Auburn to expand the region’s affordable housing supply”* said Charlie Adams, Regional Vice President at Pennrose. *“Our shared vision for the site preserves the rich history of the building while creating safe, welcoming homes where seniors can continue to be active members of the community.”*

Town Administration is thrilled to see high-quality senior housing coming to town. Pennrose has been wonderful to work with throughout the redevelopment process and they have been fantastic community partners. Town Administration would like to sincerely thank all Local, State and Federal officials for their support and dedication to bring this project to fruition. Additionally, we would like to thank the Baker-Polito Administration for their advocacy for affordable housing and for their strong support for this critical housing project in Auburn.

## MARY D. STONE PROGRESS REPORT

Construction continues at Mary D. Stone! Currently, the developer Pennrose Properties is working on pre-leasing activities for Mary D. Stone. When this redevelopment project is complete there will be 55 total units (45 affordable units and 10 market rate units). Lottery pre-applications for housing at Mary D. Stone will be available soon. To be placed on the housing lottery list, you will need to fill out an application when it becomes available. If you would like to receive updates about leasing activities and be notified when applications are available, please visit: <https://www.pennrose.com/apartments/massachusetts/mary-d-stone/>

Please complete the **Contact Us** form on that page 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. Please note that the Town of Auburn does not own the property and leasing is done completely through Pennrose Properties, who is a private developer.



## MUNICIPAL VULNERABILITY PREPAREDNESS

In fall 2020, the Town of Auburn was awarded Action Grant funding through the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program, administered by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. The MVP program provides funding for communities across the Commonwealth to implement climate resilience projects at a regional or municipal-level. This project focuses on two main initiatives:



- Improving water quality and ecological conditions at Leesville Pond, with a focus on community education and outreach.
- Ecological restoration and infrastructure improvements at the Sword Street Crossing over Kettle Brook.

For more information on the MVP Program, please visit: <https://resilientma.org/mvp/>

For more information on the Town MVP Program, contact Adam Menard, Town Planner. <https://www.auburnguide.com/682/MVP>

### WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The redevelopment of Drury Square has been an ongoing focus of Town Administration. The overall vision for Drury Square is to develop a sense of place and to enhance the economic value of the area as a place to shop, live, and visit. Creating a vibrant, walkable and identifiable town center will take time but with each initiative and grant, we move closer to bringing this vision to life.

An important anchor in Drury Square is Goddard Park. Having this open space in Drury Square is a huge asset and can help facilitate civic engagement, community events and passive recreation. Improving Goddard Park and incorporating more public amenities such as a walking trail around the pond, or a pedestrian bridge connecting the library site to the park or even smaller additions such as more benches will help strengthen its character as a community destination.

The town received two separate grants totaling \$25,000 for district local technical assistance (DLTA) to work with the Central Mass. Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) to create a conceptual redesign of Goddard Park. Together, we worked on creating an interactive survey as an outreach tool to encourage residents to provide feedback about that amenities they would like to see at Goddard Park.

This interactive survey allows you to virtually "walk" around the park, view different potential amenities and vote on your favorite suggestions. The survey will be open until May 1<sup>st</sup>. We encourage residents and businesses to participate in this survey so Town Administration can truly make Goddard Park a place where the community can come together. Interactive survey can be found at: [experience.arcgis.com/experience/e50fef50f67444d999ad35503a84998f](https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/e50fef50f67444d999ad35503a84998f).

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the survey, please reach out to Adam Menard at [amenard@town.auburn.ma.us](mailto:amenard@town.auburn.ma.us) or Shannon Regan at [regan@town.auburn.ma.us](mailto:regan@town.auburn.ma.us).

They can also be reached at the Department of Development and Inspectional Services 508-832-7704





## VA, American Red Cross team up to provide virtual social engagement for Veterans during COVID-19 pandemic

**WASHINGTON** — The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and American Red Cross announced a partnership to boost volunteer recruitment efforts for the department's [Compassionate Contact Corps](#) program, which provides companionship to Veterans experiencing social isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The program allows physicians, chaplains, nurses and social workers to pair volunteers with Veterans who are experiencing loneliness, are at risk for social isolation or could benefit from a companion.

"Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, VA has worked diligently to find viable ways to engage Veterans who are staying home per guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention," said VA Center for Development and Civic Engagement Director Sabrina Clark. "Compassionate Contact Corps was born out of a desire to help our Veterans who are at home to constructively engage with others while keeping them and our volunteers safe."

"We regard VA's Compassionate Contact Corps as a best practice and signature program," said American Red Cross Senior Vice President Koby Langley. "It directly aligns with our organization's mission and the expertise of its cadres across a vast nationwide network of volunteers to prevent and alleviate human suffering whenever possible."

Veterans and volunteers are matched based on common interests, with volunteers making regular phone or video calls to Veterans.

Volunteers must be 18 years of age or older, successfully pass a background check and complete training on confidentiality, privacy, customer service, empathy, compassion, active listening and boundaries. Volunteers do not have to be Veterans or clinicians.

Veterans interested in participating require a referral by a VA clinician. Interested volunteers can find available opportunities at their local VA or at the [American Red Cross](#).

**VA**U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

# DDIS NEWS...

## LANDMARK COVID-19 VACCINATIONS BY THE TOWN OF AUBURN'S BOARD OF HEALTH AND FIRE DEPT.

The Town of Auburn's Board of Health and Fire Department have teamed up to facilitate COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics for eligible groups including, First Responders, Healthcare Workers, and community Seniors. This pandemic has been an anxious and uncertain time for so many. A vaccine has been a beacon of hope that life as we once knew, will someday soon return to normal. We are thrilled to feature two vaccine recipients that made our vaccination efforts all the more meaningful and unique.



Phyllis Gallant and her daughter Ginger Gulick with Board of Health Employees Jordan Brusco and Aimee Contois

The Auburn vaccination team takes pride in the fact that we were able to vaccinate two inspirational residents in town. Phyllis Gallant, an Auburn resident that turned 100 just before completing her vaccination series. Ms. Gallant was a cheerful and charismatic vaccine recipient and made our clinics all the more memorable. After meeting Ms. Gallant, we have learned she is a U.S. Navy Veteran. Her story is truly an inspiration for women today.



Secondly, a historic start to homebound vaccinations, the Auburn vaccination team had the opportunity to meet and vaccinate Helena Johnson. Ms. Johnson is a radiant 102 years

young and helped us make our very first homebound vaccination clinic an unforgettable experience. Since she was born in 1918 during the last pandemic, Ms. Johnson has experienced two pandemics in her lifetime. These two courageous and extraordinary women have a century of memories and wisdom that deserve some special recognition. We would like to sincerely thank Phyllis Gallant and Helena Johnson for the honor it was to vaccinate and protect them. We are thrilled that we can bring some peace of mind and joy to these two Centennial Auburn residents and their families. The Auburn Board of Health would like to extend our gratitude to the hardworking Firefighters/Paramedics who have graciously assisted us with our vaccination mission.



Firefighter/Paramedic Skylar Stafford vaccinates Helena Johnson

## HOME DEPOT DONATES NEW SHED TO ANIMAL COMPOUND

We would like to extend a big THANK YOU to Home Depot (Auburn, MA Store #2682) and The Home Depot Foundation for their very generous donation of a beautiful, new storage shed to the town's municipal animal shelter, the Kathleen Sabina Animal Compound!

The addition of this shed will help free up more space inside of the shelter for the lost and homeless animals that we serve and gives us some much needed additional storage space for supplies and donated items. This storage shed will be a BIG help to us.

Thank you again, Home Depot, from Animal Control and the Town of Auburn!



## THE WAYWARD GREAT PYRENEES



Gwen the Great Pyrenees mix was missing and on the run for 17 days before Animal Control and Missing Dogs Massachusetts were able to safely trap her and return her home. Gwen was a newly adopted dog and unfamiliar with her home and her new family when she got spooked and ran-away from her house. While on the loose, Gwen was too scared to be approached, so her sightings were tracked and monitored. When her travel pattern was established and she settled in a general area, a humane trap was brought in to be to catch her. It was a tricky rescue between

the unpredictable weather in February and the less than ideal location for trapping but Gwen is a good example that sometimes it takes a village to get a lost pet back home. A big thank you to Missing Dogs Massachusetts for all of their help throughout this rescue, particularly to MDM volunteers Bernie G. and Kim Z. Also a big thank you as well to the fire department for their assistance in helping to bring Gwen (and the trap!) back down an icy hill safely. We couldn't have done it without all of the great teamwork!



## BLACK BEARS IN SPRING

Over the past several years, we have seen an increase in black bear activity in town during the warmer months. It is important to note that “just because a bear is in the area, it doesn't mean it's a threat.” To proactively prevent any conflicts, we ask that residents secure any potential sources of food. To keep wildlife wild, we do not



want to habituate wildlife to people by either intentionally or unintentionally offering them sources of food. Over time, this decreases their fear of people which in turn leads to more conflicts.

If you have any concerns regarding wildlife in your area, please contact Animal Control at [acontois@town.auburn.ma.us](mailto:acontois@town.auburn.ma.us) or 508-832-7703.

Additionally, Mass Wildlife has released the following information regarding black bears this spring: Mass Wildlife officials are reminding the public that March is the month when hungry bears emerge from their winter dens and seek out food. If you live in northern Middlesex County, Worcester County, western Massachusetts, or other areas where bears have been spotted, it's time to take down your bird feeders. Natural foods such as acorns and other nuts are usually available on the ground, but last year's fall hard mast crop was meager. Bears will often ignore seasonally available natural foods including skunk cabbage in favor of an easy meal at a backyard bird feeder. Other species including wild turkeys and coyotes may also frequent bird feeders leading to a variety of nuisance issues. To avoid these problems, Mass Wildlife asks property owners to be proactive by removing bird feeders and other potential food sources including garbage or open compost. If you enjoy watching birds in your yard, Mass Wildlife suggests adding a water feature, growing native plants, shrubs, and trees to attract birds. Individuals should also secure bee hives, chickens, and livestock. Properly maintained electric fencing is the only way to protect chickens or bee hives from bears. Taking these actions may prevent the unnatural feeding of bears and other kinds of neighborhood wildlife.

# On The Road...

## STREET SWEEPING

Thanks to some early spring weather, this year's street sweeping program kicked off in early March. In addition to beautification, street sweeping has the added benefits of preserving the roadway pavement and improving water quality.

The order of sweeping is as follows:

Precinct 2, Precinct 3, Precinct 4, Precinct 5, and Precinct 1.



## CHANGES TO STORMWATER BYLAW



*Changes to the Stormwater bylaw will bring the Town into compliance with federal regulations and increase environmental protection*

This year's upcoming spring Town Meeting will include an article proposing changes to the Town's existing General Bylaw, Chapter 14.03: Stormwater Management. While the overall intent of the bylaw to protect water quality will not change, modifications are being proposed to bring the document into compliance with federal standards.

At the heart of these changes is the Massachusetts Small Separate Storm Sewer (MS4) permit, administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. The terms of the permit increase regulations of stormwater on new development and redevelopment, during

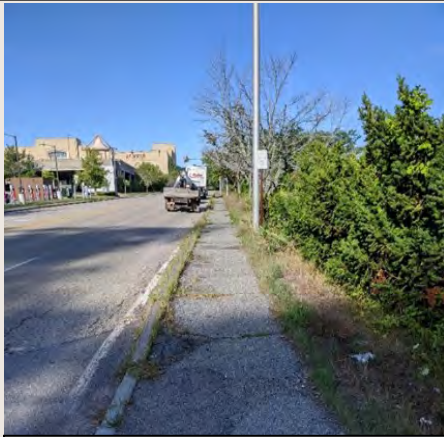
both construction and after construction. The goal is to stem pollution from entering our waterways, which can contribute to serious public health and environmental concerns, out-of-control vegetation growth, and impacts on recreational activities such as swimming and fishing.

Over 260 communities in Massachusetts with high-density populations, including Auburn, are impacted by the MS4 permit. Passing the proposed changes to the bylaw will bring Auburn in step with these other communities, increase protection for the environment, and bring the Town into compliance with federal requirements.

For more information on the proposed bylaw changes and other activities the Town is doing to increase water quality, please visit <https://www.auburnguide.com/668/Stormwater-Management>



# SHARED STREETS GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT



The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) has designated \$280,000 to Auburn in the 4<sup>th</sup> round of awards for the Shared Winter Streets and Spaces program. The program was created in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and provides assistance to municipalities in support of public health and safe mobility.

The award will fund enhancements to pedestrian facilities on Brotherton Way, providing additional safety features and increasing connections to Drury Square destinations including Goddard Park and the Library. The proposed improvements include installation of landscaping islands, expanding the northern sidewalk into a new multi-use path for pedestrians and bicyclists, enhancing pedestrian crossing signals, and reworking existing wheelchair ramps to be ADA-compliant.

*A \$280,000 Shared Spaces grant will fund improvements to improve the sidewalk and other pedestrian/bicyclist accommodations on Brotherton Way*

The project will tie into the on-going reconstruction of Auburn Street, as well as planned Town spring paving activities. We are very excited about breaking ground and working towards a friendly environment for all transportation users!

## RESIDENTIAL LEAF AND BRUSH DISPOSAL

Ready to start spring cleaning? The Leaf and Brush Disposal area allows residents to dispose of yard waste items at a low cost. There is also a compost and winter sand pickup area, available to residents free of charge. The leaf and brush pile opens on March 20, 2021 and, weather permitting, the hours are as follows:

Monday - Friday: 8am-1pm

Saturday + Sunday: 9am-3pm

Permits are valid from July 1 to June 30, and are available to Town residents for purchase at the drop-off site at 5 Millbury Street for \$20 (\$15 for Senior Citizens).



# Senior Center and Elder Affairs News



## AT THIS TIME, THE SENIOR CENTER BUILDING REMAINS CLOSED

The Auburn Senior Center continues to have staff working 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. You can reach the senior center by calling 508-832-7799. The building is still closed to the public.

Congregate lunches through the Elder Services of Worcester meals on wheels program are still being offered. Meals are delivered to the client's houses by a group of dedicated 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. The vans are also cleaned after each rider. All clients using the vans for transportation 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, zoom and on [www.auburnguide.com](http://www.auburnguide.com), Senior Center, stay connected tab. Please call the Senior Center for a complete listing of on line, zoom and cable programs. Beginning in the Spring we will start to offer outdoor socially distanced programs. Please call the Senior Center for information.

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

## OUTREACH

Usha Verma, Outreach Coordinator is available Monday through Friday between 9:00am - 3:00pm. She is available 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.



## THANK YOU!

Thank you to the Auburn Fur-Friends members for their generous donations. Some of our senior residents received pet food for their dogs and cats.

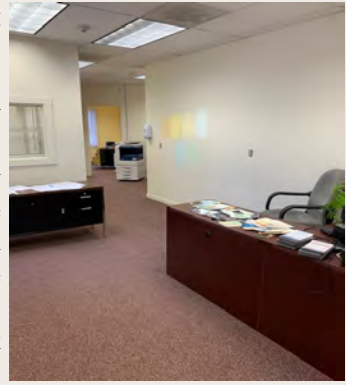


*thank you!*

# MAKEOVER!!



With the Senior Center being closed it was a perfect time to have the interior of the building painted. Every room inside the building is being updated with a new paint color. The results are brighter rooms! Pete and Chris worked hard over the winter months painting the interior of the building, thank you, thank you!



Hallway: Before and After

Thank you also to the DPW employees for helping to paint the two back rooms. This allowed us to have the back rooms ready for the Board of Health to hold the Covid clinics. We also had new cabinets and bookcases made and installed in the library. You will notice many changes and updates once the Senior Center reopens!



Left - Goddard Room: Before and After

## FILE OF LIFE CARDS

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.

### FILE OF LIFE

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

MEDICAL DATA REVIEWED AS OF MO. YR. SPR. M.F.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Doctor: \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Hospital: \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

## SHINE: HEALTH CARE

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.

### DO YOU NEED HELP WITH MEDICARE COSTS?

MassHealth Buy-in Programs, also called the Medicare Savings Programs, will pay for the Part B monthly premium, **\$148.50** per month. These programs may also help pay some of your out-of-pocket costs of Medicare. The Buy-In programs can also help get Medicare Part B for people who only have Medicare Part A. If you are in a Buy-In program, you will also be automatically enrolled in the Medicare Part D Extra Help program through Social Security, which can help with pharmacy costs. The information below is the financial eligibility for April, 2021.

<b>Monthly Gross Income</b> \$1,771 \$2,396	<b>Assets (i.e. savings account)</b> \$15,940 \$23,920	<b>Individual Couple</b>
---	--	------------------------------

If you feel you may be eligible under these new income guidelines, feel free to call the SHINE Program for more information. SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Everyone), is a federally-funded and state-administered program through the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. The Program annually certifies over 700 counselors statewide that provide unbiased, confidential counseling on all aspects of Medicare, related private insurance products, and financial assistance programs.

To reach the Central Mass SHINE Program by phone: **508-422-9931** or by email: [info@shinema.org](mailto:info@shinema.org) For other regions call **1-800-243-4636** and wait for the SHINE prompt. Visit us at our Central Mass website ([www.shinema.org](http://www.shinema.org)) for useful information and applications for various programs.





## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

On Thursday January 28<sup>th</sup> Town Clerk Deb Gremo swore in two new permanent Firefighters to the AFRD. Firefighter/Paramedic Nick Cantara came to us from the Charlton Fire Department. He is a graduate of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy and has been assigned to Group 2. Firefighter/EMT Joshua Donovan is a Fire Protection Engineer and a graduate of WPI. Josh has been assigned to the Fire Prevention Division. We are thrilled to have both members join the AFRD family!



## RECREATION AND CULTURE EVENTS

**POP Pilates** is a 55 minute Pilates inspired class that goes along to the beat of the music also known as a dance on the mat. Using only your body weight you will work your core, upper body, lower body, cardio and stretching for flexibility. All movements have modifications, which makes this class inclusive to all fitness levels. Starting April 12<sup>th</sup> Mondays and Thursdays Outside at Dr. Arthur and Dr. Martha Pappas Recreation Complex at Riley performance pavilion. Please bring a mat and water. Instructor ANGELIQUE J LAVACHE. Skilled Certified Personal Trainer/Fitness Instructor with 11 years' experience teaching POP Pilates, Group Power, PIYO LIVE, Step, Pilates, Yoga, Silver Sneakers MSROM and Silver Sneakers Cardio. I am an energetic instructor who is highly motivated and enjoys inspiring others to commit to long-term health and fitness goals.



**Zumba!!** Starting April 7<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays, 5:30– 6:30 pm. Amy has been teaching Zumba for the town of Auburn (Impact Fitness and Auburn Recreation Department) since 2018. Her classes boast a range of ages and fitness levels, and are marked by numerous years of dance experience (Sally McDermott Dance Studios of Auburn), innovative fitness routines, and extensive education. She holds a Masters of Education in Creative Arts from Lesley University, where she specialized in choreography and Creative Movement. Whether trying Amy's Zumba class as a first-timer or working out as a veteran student; members typically leave class feeling energized, fit, and successful. Amy also works as a professional writer for the Yankee Xpress Publication, where she authors the widespread dog column, Living with Lincoln, along with promotional and human-interest stories. Amy has her **BS in Ed** - Elementary Education **MS in Ed** – Curriculum and Instruction: Creative Arts in Learning



*Pre- registration is required and payment info contact [kpap-pas@town.auburn.ma.us](mailto:kpap-pas@town.auburn.ma.us)—Auburn Recreation and Culture. – 508-832-7736 or 508-755-3291*

The cost is 10 weeks for \$50 or \$8 drop in, Check only Payable to Town of Auburn.

# News from the Auburn Public Library

## Spring 2021

---

### Auburn Public Library Reopening Status

#### Auburn Public Library

#### Public Operating Hours – *By Appointment*

April 5, 2021 – April 30, 2021

Monday	8:00am - 12:00pm
Tuesday	12:00pm - 4:00pm
Wednesday	12:00pm - 4:00pm
Thursday	12:00pm - 4:00pm
Friday	1:30pm - 5:30pm

---

#### **50% capacity in three areas:**

Children's Room | Browsing | Computers

Assistance will be provided for computer copying and printing

Appointments available from our website or call the Library for assistance.

Operating hours will be reassessed at the end of April to determine next steps in the reopening.

Visit our website at [www.auburnlibrary.org](http://www.auburnlibrary.org) or call the Library at 508.832.7790 for more details.

---

## Programs

### Hands on Nature | Owl Pellet Dissections

Auburn Public Library and Hands on Nature<sup>SM</sup> partnered to offer a virtual program about owls. Library staff video-taped theme-related stories, which were followed by a customized program.



#### ***Fun, hands-on learning about owl pellets!***

What is an owl pellet? Many owls swallow their prey whole. The undigested parts of an owl's meal (mostly bones and fur) are rolled and compacted into a "pellet" and regurgitated several hours later. These pellets are fascinating packets of information about our ecosystem!

Children received sanitized owl pellets as part of the program literacy packet, supplied by the Library. They were guided through the process of carefully dissecting the pellets by experienced naturalist Heather Simpson of *Hands on Nature*.

The photo on the left represents tiny bones and other regurgitated parts of the owl's meal that were dissected from one of the pellets. As you can see by the photo of two sisters, learning and dissecting is fun! They and a number of other children also learned first-hand about owls, their habits and habitats, characteristics, owl sounds, and a focus on owls of the Northeast as part of the program.

## STEM



The **Auburn Public Library** was very pleased to have once again been selected to partner with and host the **Young Scientists** hands-on enrichment program funded by **YFCP**, a grant program supported by the MA Department of Early Education & Care, administered by the **YMCA** of Central Massachusetts and presented by **STEM Beginnings**.

Children ages 3-6 learn STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) concepts through hands-on activities, story time, music and movement, STEM challenges, and age-appropriate experiments.

Children learned about slopes by creating paper bunny puppets on skis (popsicle sticks) and then witnessed first-hand how the rise of the slope impacted the speed of the bunny on the skis!

Library staff video-taped stories relating to each of the programs in the six week series.

---

## Getting ready for summer programs!

With large gathering protocols and restrictions still under consideration, we are moving forward with an alternative – outside programs! DPW built and then installed a 30' x 10' presenter platform at the back of the Library. We purchased a portable sound system and are in the process of purchasing more picnic tables, small tables and chairs for children, and other resources to be used for outside presentations.

Some of the programs we hope to present outside are: Wingmasters Birds of Prey \* Learning to Play the Ukulele \* Multiple In-house Programs for Children \* Bemis Farms Petunia and Tomato Programs \* Monarch Butterflies \* Gardening Programs from BlackStone Veggie Gardens \* Bemis Farms Spring Craft \* The Importance of Bees, many elements of our Summer Reading Program, and more. Although we can't control the weather, we are eager to connect with our patrons again outside in the beautiful backyard area of the Library while adhering to all social distancing guidelines.



The presenter platform is 30' x 10'

The back of the Library property offers significant square footage in a u-shape for patrons to safe distance while enjoying programs. *Join us!*

## Resources

**Stocard™ Library Card App Wallet**





All your apps  
in one wallet!

Do you tend to forget your Library card? Do you want a touch-free option for borrowing Library materials? We encourage all library patrons to download a wallet app and store your Library card in that platform, along with your other personal loyalty cards if desired.

Although there are other wallets that will also work as well, we focused on the free Stocard™ app, available at <https://stocardapp.com/>

• *Link for Apple app store:*

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/stocard-rewards-cards-wallet/id444578884>

• *Link for Android app store:*

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=de.stocard.stocard>

#### To install the app:

- Choose the appropriate link above or search for “Stocard” in your mobile device’s app store, and tap “GET” or “Install”. There is no charge for the Stocard app.
- Once installed, open the app and tap on the white plus sign icon at the top right corner. This will display a list of retail stores whose cards you can also store in the app. To add your library card, scroll down the list and tap the icon for “Other card”.
- If you choose to allow the app access to your device’s camera, it will scan your library card automatically. (\*Note: The app may add an A at the beginning and a B at the end of the card number. The barcode will scan with or without this addition.\*) Give the card a name, then tap “Save” to add your library card to the app.
- You can choose to enter your card manually instead. Just type in your library card number, give the card a name, then tap “Save” to add your library card to the app.
- Your library card will appear as an icon in the Cards section of the app. When you arrive at the Library and are ready to check out, open the app and tap your library card to display the barcode, then hold it up for a library staff member to scan. As long as libraries in the CWMARS network have appropriately calibrated scanners, the app will work in those libraries as well.
- Do not hesitate to call the Library during our operating hours if you need assistance. A library staff member will be happy to help walk you through downloading and installing the app.



### Over 3000 Titles!

Access to popular magazines has expanded from 110 titles to over 3,000! Library patrons can log in to view thousands of e-magazines directly from our website or from the Libby app. All titles are available via simultaneous user, meaning there is no need to place holds.

Choose e-Magazines (or the Libby app) from the left side bar of the Library website at [www.auburnlibrary.org](http://www.auburnlibrary.org). Log in with your library card and proceed to select the category you want to explore!

## Children's Room Enhancements and Reorganization

### Welcome to the VOX Corner



#### Vox Books – Books that Talk!

VOX™ Books are the newest and best audio books that live in print books, for children. The permanently attached Vox Reader transforms an ordinary print book into an all-in-one read-along. There's no need for computers, tablets, or CDs. Children simply push a button to listen and read. Vox books are appropriate for ages 1-12.

The photo to the left is one of two “Vox” book cases made specifically by Auburn’s DPW for the Library to showcase our unique collection of Vox books.

We are one of only three libraries in the Network who currently own Vox books, and are the only one with the complete collection, just over 300 titles. A significant number of those titles are award winners; some are dual language; some are in Spanish; and others are categorized into Reading



levels 1, 2, and 3. In addition, there is a collection of non-fiction titles as well. Vox books may be borrowed for 3 weeks, with no renewals

To locate Vox books in the library catalog, simply log into a Basic Search, either in the children's catalog or the adult catalog and enter: *Juvenile > Vox > Audio* which will bring up the entire list. If you want a specific subject, such as butterflies, you can also try: *Juvenile > Vox > Audio > Butterflies*. If the word butterflies is in the title, that book will come up. *Note:* At this time we are still cataloging titles, so not all will display yet; however, we are making excellent progress and all titles will be available by May. We will continue to purchase new titles as they are published.

### **Children's Room Refresh!**

We have been very busy in the children's room in other areas as well: weeding, reorganizing, refreshing, and purchasing hundreds of new titles. We also redefined the reader level categories and are in the process of installing signage so that patrons can more easily identify the areas of interest.

We also created an entirely new category for our library – *Beginning Chapter Books*. This category is focused on children who are ready for chapter books but not for the subject matter or lengthy materials that are currently available for older children under the fiction (chapter book) category. We are in the process of weeding and cataloging hundreds of new titles and exciting, fun series for our young readers in that age group who are ready for beginning chapter books. Those titles are now available in a separate section rather than combined with fiction titles for older children, and are shelved at a level easily accessed by our young readers.

Our children's reading categories are now updated as: \* Board Books \* Picture Books (JJ) \* Readers, 1, 2, and 3 \* Beginning Chapter Books \* Juvenile Fiction (chapter books for older children) \* Non-fiction, \*Graphic Novels, \* Vox, and \* Reference. Board books are also available in a new section, easily reached by our youngest patrons.

### **DVDs**

The children's DVDs are now housed in the children's room, eliminating the need for children to leave the children's room to peruse titles which has long been a concern. The CDs are also now located in the same section as the DVDs. The DVD section that previously housed the children's DVD section is now the focus of a spotlight collection – hundreds of new titles on gardening, landscaping, flower arrangement, and other titles within that category. Those books will be on spotlight display until the fall, at which time the cookbooks will be housed in the spotlight collection, just before the adult DVD section.

### **Program Grants**

The Auburn Cultural Council generously awarded the Auburn Public Library with just over \$4,000 in grant funds to fund the following programs: Animal Adventures \* Bemis Farms, spring craft \* Hands on Nature, summer camp partnership series \* In-house materials for Library programs \* Ukulele Program \* Library Summer Reading Program \* Worcester County Beekeepers Association \* Bemis Farms, Petunias and Tomato plants. We also received a \$650.00 spring six-week series program grant for the STEM programs once again.

### **New Associates**

New employees Dan Fleek and Victoria (Tori) Glidden joined us in March as Library Associates. We are thrilled to welcome these new members of our team. They all hit the ground running!

---

*Respectfully submitted, Dr. Jean E. Collins, Library Director*

Question or comments? Contact us at [townmgr@town.auburn.ma.us](mailto: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 July 2021.

