



The Auburn Account

Annual Tree Lighting Event Resumed!

Volume 12, Issue 1 Jan 2022



The Town of Auburn was thrilled to resume its Annual Tree Lighting Event after having to cancel in 2020 due to the pandemic. This popular community event was held on Friday, December 3, 2021 at Fire Department Headquarters on Auburn Street. Attendees enjoyed music by the Auburn High School Marching Band and refreshments featuring delectable holiday cookies created by the Bay Path

Regional Vocational Technical High School culinary arts students. Parents and children warmed up inside the Fire Station where town employees and volunteers served coffee and hot cocoa with the cookies.

This exciting family event is held each year on the Friday night of the week after Thanksgiving, providing an opportunity for family, friends and community to come together to celebrate the holidays.

Reverend Doug Geeze gave the invocation followed by brief welcoming remarks from State Senator Michael Moore, State Representative Paul Frost, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen Tristan LaLiberte, and School Superintendent Dr. Casey Handfield. Town Clerk Deb Gremo and Assistant Town Manager/CFO Ed Kazanovicz joined in the celebration and Town Manager Julie Jacobson emceed the event. *(continued on next page)*



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

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!

In this issue: 2022 Census information, Recreation Programs, Julia Bancroft update, Auburn Public Library Programs, Animal Safety Tips, Senior Center Programs, and much, much more...

ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING RESUMED! (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)



L-R: State Senator Michael Moore, Town Manager Julie Jacobson, State Representative Paul Frost, Select Board Chair Tristan LaLiberte.

This year's event marked the first time that the new pine tree, donated to the Town by the Chamber of Commerce, was lit and decorated for the event. Of course, the highlight of this event was special guest Santa Claus who arrived on the back of a fire engine to the cheers of attendees and "Here Comes Santa Claus" played by the Auburn High School Marching Band joined in song by the girl scouts and boy scouts. All children had the opportunity to visit with Santa, assisted by the Elf, to tell him their Christmas wishes.

Many thanks to Recreation and Culture Director Kristen Pappas for her work to coordinate the event and to the enthusiastic seasonal employees/students who helped make the event a success; Department of Development and Inspectional Services Director Darlene Coyle; Communications Director Penny Ryan; the Fire Rescue Department for hosting this event at their facility and for providing transportation to Santa; the Police Department; the Auburn High School Marching Band; and the DPW for all your work which allows us to provide this wonderful community event. Special thanks to retired firefighter Gary Almstrom for "arranging" for Santa's appearance, accompanied by his "elf", Kayla.



Wishing everyone a healthy, happy and safe New Year!

MASK ORDER REMAINS IN EFFECT IN MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS

The Mask Order issued September 29, 2021 remains in effect for all municipal buildings. This Order was put into place due to the increase in COVID-19 cases that began in September and has continued ever since. The Delta variant and the Omicron variant of the COVID-19 virus have become increasingly prevalent in Massachusetts, throughout the United States and beyond. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) have released updated guidance on the need for urgently increasing COVID-19 vaccination coverage and a recommendation for everyone in areas of substantial or high transmission to wear a mask in public indoor places, even if they are fully vaccinated. Additionally, the State Department of Public Health has a mask advisory in place.



While many individuals have been fully vaccinated, our overall vaccination rate in Auburn is 68%. The Board of Health continues to encourage all individuals to get fully vaccinated and boosted. We have seen many breakthrough cases, although most of those cases are not severe, and some have impacted our government operations, so we remain vigilant to try to reduce the risk of spread of this virus.

We have a responsibility to the public to keep the town buildings as safe as possible, and the Auburn Board of Health in September determined that immediate action was needed in order to prevent or minimize the spread of the Delta and other emerging variants by and among Town employees and visitors to Auburn municipal buildings. As a result, the Board of Health voted to mandate that all persons, employees and visitors, wear a face covering when inside any municipal building where six (6) foot social distancing cannot be met.

The Town Manager then issued a Mask Order for all municipal buildings with the following requirements:

1. All town employees in departments under the Town Manager shall wear a face covering while in the performance of their official duties, whether in a town building or working in a non-town building where six (6) foot social distancing cannot be met, regardless of vaccination status.
2. All visitors to municipal buildings over the age of two must wear face coverings while inside municipal buildings where six (6) foot social distancing cannot be met. This includes Town Hall, Library, Senior Center, Department of Public Works, Pakachoag Golf Course Clubhouse, Police Station, and Fire Station or any indoor location where a town program or event is held.
3. Employees may remove the face covering while in the employee's own private office, provided that the employee is alone. Employees in shared workspaces must wear face coverings where six (6) foot social distancing cannot be met.
4. Social distancing should be practiced in offices and when interacting with the public, especially in break rooms and areas where employees are eating and drinking. When possible, department heads should stagger employee breaks to reduce occupancy in shared break rooms.
5. When two or more employees are inside a town vehicle, the employees shall wear a face covering. Face coverings are not required when employees are alone in town vehicles.
6. The face covering requirement does not apply to employees working outdoors.
7. A face covering may include, but is not limited to, dust masks, scarves, bandanas, and other coverings that cover the person's nose and mouth.
8. The face covering requirement does not apply to individuals with a medical condition or disability.

The Mask Order will remain in effect whenever the Level of Community Transmission data from the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for Worcester County is categorized as either "Substantial" or "High" over a consecutive two week period. This mandate will no longer be in effect whenever the Level of Community Transmission data from the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for Worcester County is categorized as either "Low" or "Moderate" over a consecutive two week period.

Please respect the mask order, and be mindful to keep a safe distance away from others you are interacting with in municipal buildings.

The Town would like to thank you for your cooperation in keeping yourself and others safe during this challenging time. We all have a responsibility to protect our health and those around us, and to do our part to move us out of this pandemic.

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:

Tristan j. Laliberte (Chairman)

7 Rock Ave

Home: 508-721-9974

Email: tlaliberte@town.auburn.ma.us

Scott C. Wrenn (Vice Chair)

28 Loring St

Cell: 508-340-5896

Email: swrenn@town.auburn.ma.us

Lionel Berthiaume

13 Rochdale St

Cell: 508-245-9334

Email: lberthiaume@town.auburn.ma.us

Daniel Carpenter

33 Goulding Drive

Cell: 508-277-9519

Email: dcarpenter@town.auburn.ma.us

Sarah Ruffli

32 Waterman Road

Cell: 619-729-6769

Email: skchilson@gmail.com



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Jacob Bond

The DPW would like to welcome new employees Michelle Johnson, Jacob Bond, and Cody Johnson. Michelle has filled the Highway Secretary position left vacant from Deb Peterson's departure this fall. Both Jacob and Cody have joined the Sewer Department each to fill the much-needed role of Sewer Mechanic.



Cody Johnson



CONFLICT OF INTEREST REQUIREMENT

The Summary of the Conflict of Interest has been distributed. All board, commission and committee members are considered Municipal Employees for the purposes of this law. If you serve on a committee or volunteer in some capacity and have not received the Summary in the mail or as an email attachment, please contact the Town Clerk's office at (508) 832-7701 or on the website at:



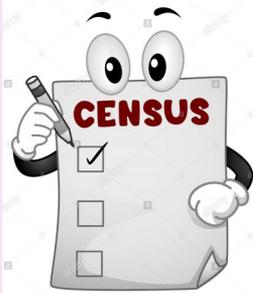
<https://www.auburnguide.com/246/Conflict-of-Interest-Information>

Some part-time volunteer positions are exempt. The Summary and a list of exempt positions are on the Town Website auburnguide.com - Town Clerk Department - Conflict of Interest.

2022 CENSUS

CENSUS:

2022 Annual Street Listing forms will be mailed at the beginning of January. Please fill out, sign and return promptly even if there are no changes. If someone living in your household has moved you may indicate that, if they are a registered voter they must sign to be removed. There is a line for any moved household members to sign or give the address we will mail a form for them to sign at their new address. 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. The signed census forms can be mailed back in the return envelope, dropped off, or scanned and emailed back: townclerkemail@town.auburn.ma.us

DOG LICENSING

On the bottom of the census form is a dog license form for 2022. To license by mail, fill out the form and enclose a check to cover the fee. Registration Period is January 1, 2022—March 31, 2022. Town bylaw imposes a \$10.00 late fee per dog if not licensed by April 30, 2022. If you would prefer to license on-line please use: 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. Any person seventy (70) years of age or older, upon proof of age and ownership shall be exempt from the annual fee for one dog, per household, per year.

Please be aware that as of January 1st, 2022, there will be a fee increase for delinquent dog accounts for annual dog licensing. It is important to note that this increase will NOT affect any owners who license on time or within the same calendar year of the licensing due date. This delinquency fee will ONLY affect owners who have failed to previously license for a full calendar year or longer. If you no longer have your dog, you must report that information to the Town Clerk's Office so your dog can be removed from the system. If you have any questions, please contact the Town Clerk's Office at 508-832-7701.

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION

Town of Auburn 2022 Annual Town Election Information and Calendar

Tuesday, May 3, 2022 - Annual Town Meeting-High School Auditorium

Tuesday, May 17, 2022 - Annual Town Election-Precincts 1,2,3,4 & 5

Auburn High School Gym

NOMINATION PAPERS – Available February 14, 2022

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 - 5:00 PM - **Last Day** for candidates to file nomination papers with the Board of Registrars

Thursday, April 14, 2022 - 5:00 PM - Last day for filing objection/withdrawals

Wednesday, April 27, 2022 - 8:00 AM - 8:00PM Last day to register to vote

Monday, May 9, 2022 - 4:00 PM - Campaign Finance Reports (Town-wide only) 8 day report

Thursday, June 16, 2022 - 4:00 PM - Campaign Finance Reports Due - **30 day report**

NOMINATION PAPERS – NUMBER OF SIGNATURES REQUIRED

Town-wide Office Minimum of 50 voters of the town. No more than four blank nomination papers issued

Town Meeting member Minimum of 10 voters of the precinct in which the candidate resides. No more than one blank nomination paper issued

Incumbent Town Last day to notify the Town Clerk in writing they

Meeting Members wish to be on the ballot, is **Tuesday, March 22, 2022.**

Auburn residents 18 years of age by Election Day, May 17, 2022, or older may register to vote in the Town Clerks Office. A resident may register to vote by mail, in person or online <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/> ; the mail-in form must be postmarked on or before April 27, 2022 for the voter to be eligible to vote at the annual town election. 16 and 17 years of age may also pre-register.

TOWN MEETING MEMBERS

Because of re-districting, all Town Meeting Members must run for election. The first third of members elected in order of votes received will serve three years. The second third will serve for two years. And the remaining third of the 24 will serve for one year from the day of the annual election.

Precinct One 24 members

Precinct Two 24 members

Precinct Three 24 members

Precinct Four 24 members

Precinct Five 24 members



2022 BALLOT OPENING

BALLOT OPENINGS 2022

TOWN OF AUBURN

ANNUAL ELECTION MAY 17, 2022

On Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at eight o'clock AM to eight o'clock PM elect by Official Ballot the following Town Officers and Committees for the following terms of offices as provided by the Charter, March 10, 1969, under General Laws, Chapter 43B Section (9c).



One Housing Authority for	Five Years
Two Library Trustees, Auburn Free Public Library for	Three Years
One Library Trustee, Auburn Free Public Library for	Two Years
One Moderator for	One Year
One School Committee Member for	Three Years
One Board of Selectmen Member for	Three Years
One Southern Worcester County Regional Vocational School Member for	Three Years

BILLING, EXEMPTIONS, AND DISCOUNTS...



EXEMPTIONS:

Applications were mailed out after Labor Day to current applicants for the Senior, Veteran & Blind Exemptions. We would like to encourage people to get those returned with ALL documentation needed for processing as stated in the letters mailed with the applications. DUE NO LATER THAN APRIL 1, 2022.

If you are interested in seeing if you may qualify please contact our office at 508-832-7708 and we will be happy to go over the qualifications with you.



ASSESSOR DATA INSPECTIONS:

Reminder: A member of the Assessor's Office will be out doing property inspections for new sales, building permits or cyclical Data Collection/Inspections. If we were at your property, we will leave an orange door hanger.

REMINDERS

FY 2022 3rd Actual Real Estate Payments due by February 01, 2022.

Next Trash Bill Payment due by February 01, 2022.



Business and Economic Development...



JULIA BANCROFT—COMING SOON!



Julia Bancroft Apartments is a mixed-income community for seniors 62 and older currently under construction in Auburn, MA. The 60-unit community will offer studio, one- and two-bedroom apartment homes. The historic redevelopment plan of the school building includes the renovation of the historic school, demolition of later built additions, and construction of a new addition. The brand-new community will include inviting resident spaces, fitness center, two outdoor patios, on-site laundry facilities, and more.

Occupancy is currently slated for Summer 2022. A lottery will be held for the apartments by the owners, Pennrose Properties. For the initial lease-up, households who live, work, or have children that go to school in Auburn will have a preference in the lottery for 70% of the apartments.

If you would like to be contacted when leasing activities for this location begin, you can go to: <https://www.pennrose.com/apartments/massachusetts/julia-bancroft/> and fill out the “Contact” form at the bottom of the webpage. This is not an application or pre-application and in no way implies or ensures any order of notification or residency. Please note that this is not a Town owned or operated housing development. It is a private development owned by Pennrose Properties.

WHAT DO TOWN PLANNERS DO?

The Town Planner provides technical and administrative support to the Planning Board by reviewing and making recommendations on development proposals, and assisting landowners and developers with the development process. The Town Planner is also responsible for the updating of the Town’s Zoning Bylaw, Master Plan, and Open Space Plan. These documents aid in shaping development in the Town in a manner consistent with the residents desires as well as best planning practices. Planners have all kinds of different skills and knowledge, a great way to explain what a town planner does is they are a true Jack of All Trades. Some skills necessary include development assessment, strategic planning, policy planning, community and stakeholder engagement, and land use planning all while contemplating the environmental, social and economic outcomes. Planners identify the strategies by which the community can reach its goals and vision. Planners are also responsible for the implementation or enforcement of many of the strategies, often coordinating the work of many groups of people. It is important to recognize that a plan can take a variety of forms including: policy recommendations, community action plans, comprehensive plans, neighborhood plans, regulatory and incentive strategies, or historic preservation plans. Contact Adam Menard for questions about development projects and planning in Auburn at Amenard@town.auburn.ma.us



ZONING BYLAW UPDATES



Auburn Town Meeting Members passed a number of zoning bylaw amendments at Town Meeting on October 26th. The approved zoning bylaw amendments will help Auburn remain competitive for commercial development. The proposed zoning bylaw warrant articles included increasing maximum building heights in commercial and industrial zones, adding and/or amending the description of uses and updating the zoning bylaw use chart. Appropriate zoning is essential to community development because it dictates land usage. Building communities that “work” – inclusive, healthy, resilient,

and sustainable – requires intensive policy coordination and investment choices. There has not been a complete substantial update to the zoning bylaws since 1941 in Auburn.

The Town of Auburn Economic Development Strategic Plan, completed in 2017, outlines a number of strengths, weaknesses and strategies to help facilitate economic development in Auburn. Much of the report identifies a need to review the current zoning bylaws and make strategic changes consistent with economic development opportunities; including changes to height restrictions. Closely related, a few interviewees included in the report felt that outdated zoning designations may be the biggest deterrent to development in Auburn (Economic Dev. Plan pg. 20).

In the past 20 years, there has been an increasing desire for greater ceiling heights for warehouses and commercial buildings. Auburn currently allows a maximum building height of 35’ in our industrial and commercial zones. Due to this restriction, the existing building heights are not always conducive to attracting more modern uses to Auburn (i.e. biotech, high-tech, modern distribution). Many of these modern uses are economic development incubators that bring higher paying jobs to the region. Recently, a number of surrounding towns changed their height restrictions due to demand. Sutton, MA recently approved a maximum height of 70’. Charlton recently changed their maximum height to 75’ (up to 110’ with special permit). Oxford, Upton, Millbury, Spencer, Uxbridge, Leicester, Dudley and Webster all have maximum building heights of 45’-55’, well over the allowable 35’ in Auburn. Auburn cannot rely on location alone to attract business anymore. Auburn has some of the lowest building height for commercial and industrial areas and limited available commercial land. Commercial investments helps generate revenue for Town services, creates new jobs and presents opportunities to improve infrastructure. Additionally, many commercial developments utilize and promote more sustainable and environmentally friendly features and practices. It is important to note that these bylaws will not allow 80’ buildings in residential zones.

Town Administration has been working diligently the past few years to update our zoning bylaws to reflect the current commercial landscape of town while also encouraging more modern development. These changes wouldn’t have been possible without Town Meeting support. Town Administration sincerely appreciates Town Meeting Members taking the time to hear the town’s vision and voting in favor of the proposed zoning bylaw changes.

AUBURN BOARD OF HEALTH CONTINUES FIGHTING COVID-19

The Auburn Board of Health continues their effort to fight COVID-19, as we have done since the start of this pandemic nearly two years ago. This Fall, we began a wonderful partnership with the Auburn Pharmacy & Home Health Care, a local pharmacy in Auburn that has been serving the community in wellness for several years now. Seeing the need in Auburn for COVID booster vaccines, we planned and completed four vaccine clinics and administered over 1,200 shots to Auburn residents and beyond!! These week-end clinics were done with a team of staff and volunteers on the weekends through November and December, in an



effort to “booster” as many people as possible. In is our hope that this community work provides protection from the COVID virus/variants for the vaccinated individuals at their family gatherings this holiday season! These clinics were a momentous accomplishment for the Board of Health and Auburn Pharmacy team. This partnership bridged the opportunity to extend our joint efforts to offer a Pediatric Clinic.

During the week of Christmas, the Board of Health and Auburn Pharmacy offered a Pediatric Pfizer COVID-19 Clinic for eligible children ages 5 through 11 at the Auburn High School. Close to 100 pediatric first shots were administered with minimal tears shed. This clinic was holiday themed. Staff working the clinic wore Santa hats and Jingle Bells to ease any woes in receiving a scary shot. There were sweet treats, coloring activities, and Christmas Classic movies playing, ready in the observation area for the children immediately after they braved their first COVID-19 vaccine shots. Of course, the star of the show was a Comfort Dog, named “Ellie” who provided emotional support to the schools.

Amid the ongoing pandemic, the spread of influenza is still a relevant concern. The Board of Health conducted our 3 annual flu vaccine clinics for Auburn Seniors, Town Employees and the General Public. These clinics were well attended and many of the residents remarked how convenient it was to have these clinics in town.



The Auburn Board of Health would like to express our immense gratitude and appreciation to the Auburn Pharmacy staff and volunteers, Senior Center volunteers, Auburn DPW, Auburn Fire, Auburn Public Schools, Public Health Nurses, and Quinsigamond Community College Nursing Program & their Nursing Students. These vaccination clinics were all positive and successful experiences that helped protect the health of our Auburn Community.

HOLIDAY RECYCLING



Holiday Tree Recycling



Holiday tree drop-off is available
for Auburn residents from
December 26th to January 9th
at Auburn DPW Brush Pile Yard
5 Millbury Street
Auburn, MA

Hours of Operation:
M-F 8am-1pm
Sat/Sun 9am-3pm
Phone: 508-832-7814



Fee: \$5 for those residents that do not have a brush pile sticker
There is no additional fee for residents already with a sticker

****Please remove all lights, tinsel, garland or ornaments from trees****

Recycle Your String Lights

**Keep your old or broken holiday string lights out of the trash and
recycle them at the Board of Health!**



**Town of Auburn - Board of Health
Town Hall - 2nd Floor
104 Central St
Auburn, MA**



**Collection bins will be available
December 27th - January 21st at the Town Hall**

**Please call the Solid Waste & Recycling Coordinator at 508-832-7703
with any questions. Thank you!**



A LOOK BEHIND THE (RECYCLING) CURTAIN!



Recycle Smart MA recently launched the Recycling Road Map, a new, interactive webpage that goes behind the curtain to explain the recycling life cycle. Because after our recycling leaves the curb, how many of us really understand the next steps in the journey? From sorting recyclables and producing marketable commodities, to creating a “new” feedstock for manufacturing goods and returning those items to retailers, this webpage explains it all.

Fun fact: Recycling is a vital part of a manufacturing supply chain that supports over 680,000 jobs and generates more than \$37 billion in tax revenue each year!

Find answers to questions like these and more:

- How does that jumble of cans, bottles, and paper in the recycling truck get separated?
- Does anyone really want the materials I put in my recycle bin?
- What do old milk and detergent bottles become in their next life?
- Does my community send recycling to a MRF? What IS a MRF?



What you'll find on the Recycling Road Map webpage is just the beginning of what Recycle Smart MA has to offer. We encourage you to explore their FAQ page, the Recyclopedica, and newsletter archive to find answers to many common recycling questions. Check it out at recyclesmartma.org/ or call the Solid Waste & Recycling Coordinator at 508-832-7703 for additional information. Happy recycling!

NOTICE OF FEE CHANGE

THE SELECT BOARD HAS APPROVED THE FOLLOWING FEE INCREASES FOR SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING SERVICES, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2022.

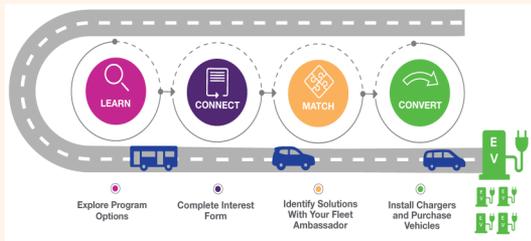
	Current Fee (12 mos)	Annual Increase	New Fee (12 mos)
SINGLE FAMILY			
1 small 35 gl trash and 1 small 35 gl recycling	\$181.00	\$21.20	\$202.20
1 small 35 gl trash and 1 large 96 gl recycling	\$181.00	\$21.20	\$202.20
1 large 64 gl trash and 1 large 96 gl recycling	\$241.00	\$31.20	\$272.20
TWO FAMILY			
2 small 35 gl trash and 2 large 96 gl recycling	<u>NEW SERVICE OPTION</u>		\$404.40
2 large 64 gl trash and 2 large 96 gl recycling	\$426.00	\$118.40	\$544.40
THREE FAMILY			
3 large 64 gl trash and 3 large 96 gl recycling	\$528.00	\$288.60	\$816.60
FOUR FAMILY			
4 large 64 gl trash and 4 large 96 gl recycling	\$608.00	\$480.80	\$1,088.80

Any single or two family property owner that would like to change cart sizes must complete the Cart Change Form and submit it to the Board of Health. Please note, there is a one-time fee (\$25 per cart) for the swap to take place. The Town accepts cash or check payable to the Town of Auburn. The Solid Waste & Recycling Coordinator will reach out to schedule the swap once the completed form and payment have been received by the Board of Health. If you have any questions, please contact us at 508-832-7703. Thank you!



NATIONAL GRID FLEET ASSESSMENT

The Town recently completed a comprehensive fleet assessment with National Grid and ICF. The National Grid MA Fleet Advisory Services Program provides free, expert analysis to help municipalities understand how shifting publicly owned vehicle fleets to electric power sources can benefit your organization and your community.



The program offers personalized guidance and comprehensive knowledge about electric vehicles and public fleets. The program assigns an expert advisor for electric fleet vehicles, conducts a thorough analysis of the town's existing fleet, provides a customized report and personalized recommendations and assists municipalities to find financial assistance to offset the costs of electric vehicles. This plan can be updated twice per year for free and the advisors are available to help guide municipalities as they implement electric vehicles into their fleet. The town is currently waiting to hear back from the State regarding a grant application for electric vehicle charging stations at Town Hall. The EVIP program covers up to 100% of the costs associated with purchasing and installing charging stations at municipal owned parcels. This report will help guide the town to hopefully secure additional future funding as well. The full report will be available on Auburnguide.com in January.

GREEN COMMUNITIES



Recently, the Energy Manager submitted the town's annual Green Community Report to the state. The Town reminds committed to implementing energy saving strategies and looking for opportunities to upgrade outdated energy infrastructure to help offset raising energy costs. The annual report helps the State remain up to date with yearly energy usage, green energy initiatives and allows the town to apply for Green Community grants during the next fiscal year.

Reminder – Community Choice Power Supply Program

We all know energy costs are rising and that the winter weather can put a strain on household and business energy usage. Thankfully the Town selected Dynegy Energy Services as the supplier for our municipal aggregation program. This program enables local government to combine the purchasing power of its residents and businesses to provide them with an alternative to National Grid Basic Service. This program allows municipalities to take advantage of a fixed aggregation rate that helps prevent sharp increases of service rates due to weather and other factors. As a result of utilizing Dynegy Energy as the supplier, the Town is able to save residents and businesses money on their monthly electric bill. You are automatically enrolled into this program as long as you were a NGRID Basic Service member. If you are enrolled in the program you should see "Dynegy" listed under the "Supply Services" section of your monthly bill.

For more detailed information regarding Auburn's Program, please visit colonialpower-group.com/auburn or call (866) 485-5858 ext. 1. To learn more about Dynegy, please visit dynegy.com/municipal-aggregation/communities-we-serve/massachusetts/auburn.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT



As we move into the winter months here in New England, the potential for heavy snowfall increases. Homeowners, tenants, and businesses should be cognizant of the danger posed by heavy snow loads on roofs, and the importance of recognizing the warning signs of potential structural weaknesses. In many instances, the risks posed by accumulated snow can be mitigated by safely removing snow from roofs. Flat and low-pitched

roofs, most often found on industrial buildings, but also used in certain home designs, are at the greatest risk of buckling under heavy snow and ice accumulations. Snow on roofs, particularly around gutters and soffits, also may contribute to ice dams and damage from water leaking into walls, ceilings, insulation and other areas.

To safely remove snow from roofs, the Massachusetts Department of Public Safety (DPS), the Department of Fire Services (DFS) and the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) recommend the following tips:

DO

- Use a snow rake for pitched roofs (available at most hardware stores and home centers) to remove snow from your roof.
- Start from the edge and work your way into the roof.
- Try to shave the snow down to 2 or 3 inches on the roof instead of scraping the roof clean, which will risk damage to your shingles or other roof covering.
- Keep all ladders, shovels and roof rakes away from utility wires.
- Plastic shovels are usually best. Metal tools may cause damage to your roof.
- Shovel snow from flat roofs throwing the snow over the side, away from the building.
- Remove large icicles carefully if they're hanging over doorways and walkways. Consider knocking down icicles through windows using a broom stick.
- Protect gas and electric meters and piping from falling snow, icicles, and melting water.
- Wear protective headgear and goggles when performing any of these tasks.
- Consider hiring professionals to do the job. The combination of heights and ice makes this a dangerous household chore. If you choose to do the task yourself, have someone outside with you to assist.
- Keep gutters and drains clean, free of ice and snow and keep downspouts clean at ground level.

DO NOT

- Do not add your weight or the weight of equipment to the roof.
- Do not use a ladder since ice tends to build up on both the rungs of the ladder and the soles of your boots.
- Do not use blow torches, open-flame, electric heating devices, or heat guns to remove snow and ice.

How to Recognize Problems with Roofs

- Sagging roofs
- Severe roof leaks
- Cracked or split wood members
- Bends or ripples in supports
- Cracks in walls or masonry
- Sheared off screws from steel frames
- Sprinkler heads that have dropped down below ceiling tiles
- Doors that pop open
- Doors or windows that are difficult to open
- Bowed utility pipes or conduit attached at ceiling
- Creaking, cracking or popping sounds

What to Do if You Have Problems

- If you notice any signs that you have a problem with your roof, or suspect a gas leak, leave the building immediately without touching light switches and call 9-1-1 from safely outside the building.
- For general questions, call your local building or fire department business line.

Ice Dams

- Ice dams can cause major damage to a home or building. Ice dams occur after a heavy snowfall, followed by a period of cold weather. An ice dam is a wall of ice that forms at the edge of the roof, usually at the gutters or soffit. When it forms, the water backs up behind the ice dams and creates a pool of water which can leak into your home and cause damage to your walls, ceilings, insulation and other areas. Ice dams are caused, in part, by poor ventilation causing a temperature differential on the roof surface. To learn more, see the Preventing Ice Dams article from University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Other Safety Tips for Homeowners

- Clear snow away from furnace and dryer exhaust vents to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. Make sure you have working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms on every level of your home.
- Clear snow from fire hydrants near your home or business.
- Clear snow from storm drains near your home or business to prevent street flooding.

To receive emergency information on your smartphone, including severe weather alerts from the National Weather Service and emergency information from MEMA, download the Massachusetts Alerts free app. To learn more about Massachusetts Alerts, and for additional information on how to download the free app onto your smartphone, visit:

www.mass.gov/mema/mobileapp.



WILDLIFE RESCUES



Animal Control is happy to share with you two successful wildlife rescues from November and December!

This Red-Tailed Hawk was picked up by Animal Control after being found on the ground in a resident's yard and unable to fly. The hawk was transferred to a local wildlife clinic for evaluation of injuries and treatment. The hawk required several weeks of treatment and rehabilitation but made a successful recovery!

While ACO Aimee Contois was out of the office, Darlene Coyle, Colleen Hynes, and Jordan Brusco of DDIS were able to release this now healthy bird back into the wilds of Auburn!

Successful release # 2 came in the form of a Canada Goose! This goose was picked up by Animal Control in mid-November after flying into the side of a moving vehicle. The goose was clearly disoriented after the accident but had no visible injuries. It spent the night with Animal Control but when it was still reserved and quiet the following morning, it was transferred to a local wildlife clinic for evaluation and treatment.



This lucky goose required just under a month of treatment and rehabilitation before it was healthy and strong enough to be released back into the area it had been found in. We are happy to say it appears that its family had stayed in the area and so they could be successfully reunited!



DOG LICENSING

NOTICE OF FEE CHANGE

DOG LICENSING LATE FEES

The Select Board has approved the following fee increases for Dog Licensing Late & Delinquency Fees as of January 1, 2022:

Annual licensing year late fee: **\$10.00****

*Late fees applied as of May 1st annually

Delinquency fee for each previously unlicensed calendar year: **\$35.00**

** indicates fee unchanged



Winter Safety Tips

Top Winter Hazards



Check their skin, coat and paws often for cracks or drying. Stay off of salted roads



Keep access to fresh unfrozen water, winter temps cause excessive dryness



Watch their weight, pets are less active in the winter



Indoor/outdoor cat (yours or the neighbors) check your car engine and tires before starting, these are warm places to nap. Also watch for antifreeze leaks



Keep them inside! Temps can drop, and most pets are not equipped to handle the extreme cold



Consider booties and/or jackets for short-haired breeds

provided by ProPetHero.com



On The Road...

ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS



This year's Roadway Paving Program has come to a close. The Engineering division will be preparing an invitation to bid for a new contract over the winter. Evaluation of Auburn's public ways has already begun in preparation for next year's Roadway Paving Program.



NEW STORMWATER LAND DISTURBANCE REGULATIONS

The new regulations include requirements for enforcing removal of illicit discharges (aka pollution) into local water bodies, as well as establishing procedures for the application and review of land disturbance permits. A permit is required for the following activities:

- Any land disturbance activity equal to or greater than 5,000 square feet;
- Any land disturbance activity where there is an existing or proposed slope of 15% or greater AND disturbs equal to or greater than 2,500 square feet;
- Any land disturbance activity that will result in equal to or greater than 50 cubic yards of material filled, removed, or altered; and/or
- An increase of equal to or greater than 1,000 square feet of new impervious area

For additional information, please refer to: <https://www.auburnguide.com/701/Land-Disturbance-Permit>

FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS

The Facilities Maintenance Section has made significant progress in the renovation of the Gleason Park Clubhouse. Following renovations, the clubhouse will be used for community activities, including a filming location for the Cable & Community Television Division. In addition to the clubhouse, the Facilities Section continues to support Town facilities with improvements and repairs.



FLUSHING WIPES

**WIPES
CLOG
PIPES!**



What can go down the toilet? Only the three P's should be flushed: Poop, Pee and Paper (toilet paper only). Toilets are not trash cans! Even if a product is labeled "flushable" that does not mean that it will break down after being flushed like toilet paper does. Clogged sewer pipes, sewer backups, and equipment failure at wastewater treatment plants can impair the process and threaten our clean water goals. Protecting infrastructure also saves all of us a truckload of money.

Very few wipes dissolve like toilet paper, even "flushable" wipes. Spread the word! Inform your friends and family of the dangers of flushing wipes down the drain.

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING WINTER STORMS

During snow storms it is the Department of Public Works' top priority to keep people safe and roads passable. Because the conditions of each storm are different, staff work diligently to ensure the best use of finite staffing and equipment, but, in general, the following steps are taken:



- Depending on temperatures and the rate and duration of snowfall, salt is often applied prior to the start of the storm. This gives the salt a chance to work before plows come to remove snow.
- Once snow begins to accumulate, plowing operations begin and continue until the storm ends.
- It takes 3 hours for 21 Town employees and multiple private contractors to complete one pass of the Town's approximately 200 lane miles of roads.
- At the completion of the storm, salt is applied a final time and plowing begins on the Town's approximately 14 municipal parking lots and 24 miles of sidewalk.

Snow plow drivers do their best to keep roads passable during the storm and then clear once the storm ends. Unfortunately, as snow is plowed off the streets, it piles up at the end of driveways. Due to the amount of snow, it is near impossible to prevent this from happening. Snow plow drivers work long hours before, during, and after a snow storm to clear as much roads as possible. Your patience, along with complying with the following guidelines, are always appreciated!

- Observe the Parking Ban (November 1st – March 31st)
- Use reflectors to delineate areas of concern
- If possible, remove snow from around fire hydrants and drainage grates
- Stay off the roads during the storm, whenever possible, and don't crowd snow plows

Any snow related concerns can be reported to the Highway Division office at 508-832-7814.

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING SNOW STORMS



Reminder: The Auburn Parking Ban begins November 1st and lasts until March 31st. During that time, no vehicles may be parked within the travel way or sidewalks between the hours of 1:00 AM and 6:00 AM. Thank you for adhering to this rule, which, among other things, allows the Town to efficiently plow during snow storms. Additional information may be found in the Auburn General By-laws, Section 15.11.

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL SALT APPLICATION

Rock salt, or sodium chloride, is an essential part of keeping sidewalks and driveways safe during snowy conditions. However, chlorides can cause damage to vehicles, infrastructure, and the environment, particularly the health of our local waterways. Avoiding over-application of salt is a great way to mitigate this damage. Always clear your walkways before snow turns to ice and before you apply salt. The more snow you clear manually, the less salt you'll need.

Remember a 12-ounce coffee mug full of salt is enough to treat a 20-foot driveway or 10 sidewalk squares!

Winter Road Maintenance Tip

As an environmentally-friendly alternative to road salt (sodium chloride), you should consider magnesium chloride to melt snow and ice.





PUBLIC SAFETY NEWS



CHIEF ROGER BELHUMEUR REGIONAL TRAINING FACILITY



On Saturday November 14, 2021 the AFRD was joined by federal, state and local politicians and administrators, other District 7 fire departments, family and friends to see the naming of the departments new training facility. Retired Fire Chief Roger Belhumeur passed away in 2015 and was a staunch supporter of regional training within the fire district and was one of the Chiefs who resurrected the defunct District 7 Mutual Aid Association in the early 1990's.

The new training facility that was constructed with a \$525,000 grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agencies, Assistance to Firefighters Grant program and \$120,000 that was willed to the department after longtime Auburn resident and friend of the AFRD Norma Card passed away in 2011. The new facility, the "Chief Roger Belhumeur Regional Training Facility" pays tribute to the man who was responsible for the construction of the departments first training facility at the same location on West St. in 1999. An additional plaque recognizing Norma is also affixed to the building.



NEW MEMBERS OF THE AFRD FAMILY



The AFRD saw two new members join the department this fall after vacancies were created. On September 29, Nick Johnson was sworn in as a Firefighter/Paramedic. Nick comes to us from the Westborough Fire Department. On November 27, Firefighter/Paramedic



Molly Kachanis was sworn in by the Asst. Town Clerk. Molly comes to us from the Blackstone Fire Department. We are excited to have both Nick & Molly join the AFRD family.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER



On December 14, 2021 the Town's Emergency Management Department under the direction of Director Eric Otterson conducted a drill within the towns Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The center located within the towns Police station was occupied with department heads and other key officials from the town to work a scenario that affected the highway system in Auburn and a half mile radius into the adjacent residential neighborhood. A third party independent evaluator was brought in to run the drill and evaluate the process.

NEW ROAD RESCUE AMBULANCE



The week before Christmas the AFRD received an early present when they took delivery of their new 2021 Road Rescue Ambulance built by Allegiance Fire Apparatus in Florida. The new Ambulance will be in service just after the first of the year and will be stationed at Fire H.Q. on Auburn St.

LEARN THE SOUNDS OF FIRE SAFETY



During Fire Prevention Week we visited the schools to review this year's theme, "Learn The Sounds of Fire Safety". We reviewed the sounds of working smoke & carbon monoxide detectors as well as evacuation procedures for their homes. We always love spending time with the kids and staff within the Auburn Public Schools.

SANTA TOUR 2021



On Saturday December 18 Santa Clause took to the streets of Auburn with the assistance of the AFRD. The APD helped the Grinch get around by lending him one of their motorcycles. This is always a special day in the town of Auburn where generations of families can gather for this long standing tradition that has lasted over 65 years.

Senior Center and Elder Affairs News



The Auburn Senior Center is open Monday and Friday from 8:00am to 3:00pm and Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8:00am to 4:00pm. You can reach the senior center by calling 508-832-7799.

Congregate lunches through Elder Services of Worcester are served daily at 12:00pm with a suggested donation of \$2.50. Please call (2) days in advance to make your reservation.

Transportation is available to Auburn residents by scheduling at least (2) days in advance of your appointment. Please call the WRTA at 508-752-9283. Clients using the vans for transportation must wear a face covering. If you are ill or do not feel well, please stay home.

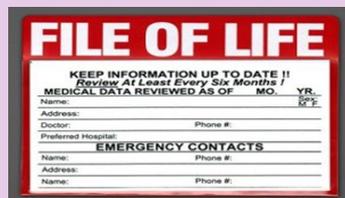
HEALTHCARE



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. Appointments only, please call 508-832-7799. To reach the Central Mass SHINE Program by phone: **508-422-9931** or by email: info@shinema.org For other regions call 1-800-243-4636 and wait for the SHINE prompt. Visit Central Mass website (www.shinema.org) for useful information and applications for various programs.

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.

TRANSPORTATION

Your Community's link to Public Transit



Worcester Regional Transit Authority

wrtta.com

WRTA is the second largest regional transit authority in Massachusetts, serving 37 communities.

The Auburn van is available for Auburn residents 60+ and younger disabled. Those under 60 years of age with a disability need to provide a doctor's note or letter from a service agency. To register to use the service, please call the WRTA at 508-752-9283. Appointments must be booked two days in advance.

The ADA transportation provides longer service hours with a slightly higher cost. To register for ADA transportation, call the WRTA at 508-752-9283.

WEEKLY EVENTS AT THE AUBURN SENIOR CENTER - JOIN US!

Monday:

9:30am - yoga, \$3.00 donation

10:00am - senior sweat, \$3.00 donation

10:30am - coloring for adults

11:00 am - walking club (Auburn Mall, food court)

12:00pm - lunch (reserve 2 days in advance, call 508-832-7799)

12:45pm - canasta

12:45pm - movie of the week



Tuesday:

10:00am- chair dance, \$3.00 donation

11:00am - racquet volley balloon, free

12:00pm - lunch (reserve 2 days in advance, call 508-832-7799)

1:00pm - whist

6:30pm- pitch



Wednesday:

9:30am - knit and stitch

10:00am - strength and balance, \$3.00 donation

11:00am - walking club (Auburn Mall, food court)

11:00am - drop in tech

12:00pm - lunch (reserve 2 days in advance, call 508-832-7799)

1:00pm- pitch

6:00pm - cribbage



Thursday:

10:00am - chair dance, \$3.00 donation

12:00pm - lunch (reserve 2 days in advance, call 508-832-7799)

12:45pm - bingo

1:00pm - I-pad club



Friday:

9:30am- blood pressure clinic, 1st Friday of the month

10:00am - strength and balance, \$3.00 donation

11:00am - meditation

12:00pm - lunch (reserve 2 days in advance, call 508-832-7799)

12:00pm - quilting

12:45pm- dominos

6:30pm - pitch

Please call the Senior Center for a complete list of programs and upcoming activities for the month.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Auburn Senior Center: 508-832-7799
Auburn Town Hall: 508-832-7720
Auburn Housing Authority: 508-832-3852
Auburn Food Pantry: 508-798-8779
Auburn Library: 508-832-7790
Elder Abuse Hot line: 1-800-922-2275
Elder Services of Worcester: 508-756-1545
Auburn Fire Department: 508-832-7800
Fuel Assistance: 508-754-1176
Mass Health: 1-800-841-2900
Medicare Help line: 1-800-333-4114
Shine: 1-800-243-4636
Social Security Administration: 1-800-772-1213
Food Stamps/SNAP: 1-617-887-8765
Suicide and Crisis Hotline: 1-800-784-2433
Veterans: 1-800-698-2411

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.

- Fuel Assistance- Worcester Community Action Council assistance program
- Food Assistance- Food Pantries, SNAP (food stamps)
- Medical alert buttons-
- Transportation options-
- File of life- a card you complete with your emergency contacts, medications, allergies, etc. placed on your refrigerator. The paramedics look for it if they respond to a medical emergency.
- Benefits checkup- (you may qualify for a discount program that you don't know about).
- Housing help- downsizing, affordable rent, or to apply for subsidized housing.
- Caregiver Assistance- information about memory care programs, nursing homes, or assisted living options.
- Real Estate tax-exemptions and abatements-
- Referrals to support groups for caregivers, grandparents raising their grandchildren, specific diseases or specialty groups.
- Prescription Advantage - Prescription Advantage is a program to help defray the cost of seniors' medication costs when they reach that "donut hole" in Medicare Part D. 1-800-243-4636
- AARP Tax Help- During tax season counselors are available to complete taxes at no charge for low or moderate income clients. Call the senior center for information.
- Meals on Wheels - federally sponsored home delivered meal service program administered locally to deliver well-balanced, lunchtime meals to frail, homebound individuals who are at least 60 years of age. Contact Elder Services of Worcester for information 508-756-1545

ON GOING ACTIVITIES

Canasta



Only \$2

Looking For More Players

Every Monday
12:45pm

Adult Coloring Club

Join Jessie Harrington for a relaxing hobby.

Every Monday

10:30am — No Charge

Coloring pages, colored pencils



Cribbage



Every Wed.—6:00pm

Would you like to join the Auburn Senior Center's WALKING CLUB?



Please call
USHA VERMA
508-832-7799
if you are interested.

We meet Every Mon. & Wed. at
11:00am at Auburn Mall

Dominos



Fridays at 12:45pm

FITNESS CLASSES: are paid from a grant through Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA). Participants are urged by EOEA to make a donation towards fitness classes.

The donations are used to replace equipment, supplies and expenses for programs offered at the Senior Center.

Strength & Balance

with Lin Hultgren Ace certified fitness instructor

Every Wed. & Fri. 10:00am — \$3.00 class donation

Strengthen & tone your body while improving your mobility.

YOGA for Mindfulness

with Ann Ramsey, certified instructor, E-RYT 500 level

Every Monday 9:30am — \$3.00 class donation

Increase flexibility & improve joint health & mental clarity.

CHAIR Dancing

with Forty Arroyo, instructor

Every Tuesday & Thursday 10:00 am — \$3.00 class

Join us for Fun, Energizing & Social activity.

WEEKLY TECH CLINIC

with Scott Baeder & Paul Holzwarth — No Charge

Every Wednesday 11:00am — 12:00pm

If you're having trouble with email or any questions we will work with you to solve the issue or make it work better.

iPAD Club

How do you use your iPad?

Every Thursday at 1:00pm — No Charge

Join us as we investigate the world of iPad apps.

MEDITATION CLASS

with Usha Verma — No Charge

Every Friday at 11:00am

Meditation positive effects on our health, well-being, sleep problems, chronic pain, anxiety & depression.

Blood Pressure Clinic

with Auburn Visiting Nurses - No Charge

Every 1st Friday of the month 9:30 - 10:30am

Includes checking your blood pressure, pulse & weight.

QUILTING—No Charge

Every Friday at 12:00 noon

No experience necessary, we adapt to whatever skill levels students bring to class. Ideas for projects welcomed.

WHIST



Only \$2

Every Tuesday
1:00pm

Senior Sweat

with Dr. Harvey Clermont

Mondays at 10:00am

This class emphasize balance, stretching and strengthening.

We will deal with posture, coordination and essential muscle groups, such as upper chest, core and buttocks.

Most of the time, we will be in a chair or use a chair for safety.

Bring a water bottle.

\$3.00 class donation



Every Thursday
12:45pm



PITCH

Tues. 6:30pm

Wed. 1:00pm

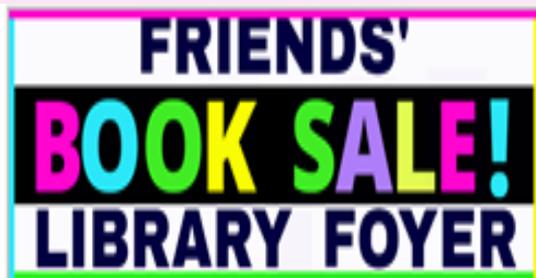
Fri. 6:30pm

News from the Auburn Public Library....

THE FRIENDS OF THE AUBURN PUBLIC LIBRARY

After a hiatus of several years, the Friends of the Auburn Public Library have returned to active status! Led by president, Linda Dattis, and supported by Suzette Dowd as Chair of the Donations Committee and Nan Johnson as Treasurer, as well as many other dedicated members, the Friends have been hard at work sorting, categorizing, and preparing donated books for sale in the foyer of the Library. All proceeds received from the Friends are used in support of the Library for program materials and other expenses, at the request of the Director. The Library Director serves as a liaison to the Friends.

A special thank you to Matt Toth, who worked hard at ensuring the Friends' 501c3 is up to date and in full compliance with Massachusetts tax and other requirements.



Book donation schedules and other (upcoming) information is located on the Library website on the left side menu under Friends. Thank you to every hard working member of the Friends, and thank you to members of the public for donating books in such excellent condition, which are used for resale by the Friends.

TAX FORMS AND FREE PRINTING

For the third consecutive year, we have compiled and updated a listing of all Federal and MA State tax forms and documents.

- Tax information and form links are available from the Library website
- Although we have not received State booklets, we do anticipate receiving them toward the end of January. As this booklet contains about 100 pages, we cannot print them for the public. However, we do have two copies in binders that patrons can peruse for help in tax-related guidance.
- We will not be receiving any Federal booklets
- Printing of other tax-related materials and/or forms is free during tax season
- We pre-print and replenish copies of the most frequently-requested forms, which can be picked up at the Library during normal operating hours
- Although we do not provide tax information or suggestions, nor can we discuss your personal information, our tax *form* experts can often help determine which form(s) you may need, and locate and print them for you



LIBRARY PARTNERSHIPS AND INITIATIVES

The fall of 2021 was a busy one for the Library, offering full reopening of our building to visitors and programs, and collaborating with several Town departments and other organizations. In addition to supporting the Board of Health with promotions for their COVID clinics and VAX Bus, and preparing for registration and distribution of Library cards for children at Bryn Mawr and Pakachoag, we partnered with the following organizations:



Auburn Chamber of Commerce: We partnered with the Auburn Chamber of Commerce for their fall Scarecrow Contest. The Library provided the space on the lawn and promotions for the many unique scarecrow designs. The public provided many appreciate comments for the efforts of Town businesses and the Chamber for their efforts!



Auburn Mall: The Auburn Public Library and the Auburn Mall partner for a Story Walk initiative. The physical pages of a book are displayed at the former “Sears’ end of the Mall, offering visitors a chance to rest in comfortable seating and to ‘walk the story’ provided by the Library. The stories are changed out every three weeks.



Brookdale Eddy Pond: We participated in the Eddy Pond Town-wide wreath initiative, along with almost 70 other Town departments and organizations in town. We submitted two wreaths; one created by children who visited the Library, shown to the left. Twenty eight children decorated two miniature snowfriend faces with hats. One was for the wreath, and the other was to take home!



Hanover Theatre: We partnered with the Hanover Theatre Conservatory for the Performing Arts for a reading and dance presentation, *Clara and the Nutcracker Ballet*. Clara’s reading of the *Nutcracker* mesmerized a capacity crowd of 18 children, after which the Director of the Theatre, Jennifer Agbay led the children through a lively and engaging discussion of the nuances of the story. Following the story and discussion, children were invited to learn steps of the dance, led by Clara, who also performed a solo dance and posed for photos with each child. This was truly a unique opportunity, which we are already scheduling to repeat in 2022.



PROGRAMS

We held 31 well-attended in-house toddler programs over the past several months. In addition, we offered programs from Ted Reinstein for his new book *Beyond Brooklyn*; a three-session 'Tai chi Basics' program for adults; several in-house Prek-K programs; a hibernation-education program for children with Heather from Hands on Nature; Amanda Goodheart: *The Seven Sisters Go to War: American Women's Colleges During WW II*; and others.



Co-hosted with Bemis Farms: Making a Snowfriend Basket

Always a well received program, we added a third session when the first two sessions filled to capacity.

Upcoming Programs

Although we will temporarily suspend in-house programs in January due to post-holiday COVID transmissions rates, we have several spring programs scheduled:

Ice Harvesting with Town Historian Ken Ethier (February) * **Presentation:** *Sweethearts of the Sea: Love and Marriage in the Age of Whaling* with historian Amanda Goodheart, Ph.D. (February) * **Iditarod dogs**, with Musher Karen Land and her dogs (March), as well as many other in-house children and adult programs. Stay tuned!

DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER FOR CONSTANT CONTACT!

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

	<p>Auburn Public Library 369 Southbridge Street Auburn, Massachusetts 01501 508-832-7790 (phone) 508-832-7792 (fax)</p> <p>Monday - Thursday: 9:30 am - 8:00 pm Friday: 9:30 am - 6:00 pm Saturday: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm Sunday: Closed</p>					
Home	Children's Page	Teens / Young Adults	Hours / Directions	Staff and Trustees	Policies and Forms	Contact Us
Library Hours						
Library Catalog Online						
Children's Catalog						
Community Information						
Join our Program Notification System						Check out some of our newest books and materials...
<small>For Email Marketing you can trust.</small>						

If you would like to know about our programs and services as soon as they are open for registration and promotion, join the nearly 600 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.

8TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR



The Town was happily able to resume its Annual Holiday Craft Fair this year after having to cancel last year due to the pandemic. This wonderful event was held on December 11th at Auburn High School.

Over 150 vendors provided beautiful arts, crafts, food products and more so that shoppers had an array of great products to choose from while holiday shopping. Vendors were safely spaced apart and attendees all wore masks.

Thank you to our vendors and thank you to the Recreation and Culture Department for organizing this event again this year!



Veterans Services Lincoln Barber, Director of Veterans Service

Veteran Health Identification Card

When you're enrolled in VA health care, you get a Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC) that you use to check in to your appointments at VA medical centers. You may also use this card to get discounts offered to Veterans at many stores, businesses, and restaurants. If you have a VHIC, you don't need to request another type of photo ID card to prove you're a Veteran or to get retail or business discounts.

Veteran Choice Card

When you receive care from a community provider through the VA Choice program, you get a form of ID called a Veteran Choice Card. To learn more about the Veteran Choice program, contact (866)606-8198.

Veteran ID Card

A Veteran ID Card (VIC) is a form of photo ID you can use to get discounts offered to Veterans at many stores, businesses, and restaurants. When you have this card, you won't need to carry your military discharge papers or share sensitive personal information to receive discounts. If you have a VIC, you don't need to request another type of photo ID card to prove you're a Veteran or to get retail or business discounts.

You may be eligible if you meet both of the requirements listed below:

- Served on active duty, in the Reserves, or in the National Guard (including the Coast Guard)
- Received an honorable or general discharge (under honorable conditions)

**If you received an other than honorable, bad conduct, or dishonorable character of discharge, you're not eligible for a Veteran ID Card. If you have an uncharacterized or unknown discharge status, we'll have to verify your eligibility before we approve your application.*

Veteran's designation on a state-issued driver's license, ID, & License Plates

At this time, all 50 states and Puerto Rico offer a Veteran designation printed on state-issued driver's licenses, IDs, and license plates. With a Veteran's designation, you may be able to get discounts offered to Veterans at many stores, businesses, and restaurants. Most states ask you to provide a copy of your discharge papers (DD214 or other separation documents). Please check with the Registry of Motor Vehicles about what you need to apply for a Veteran's designation.



MassNotify

Add your phone to the fight

MassNotify is a new tool that works through smartphones, with a focus on privacy, to alert users who may have been exposed to COVID-19. You can enable MassNotify on your iPhone or Android phone to add another tool to our fight against the spread of COVID-19.

This is how MassNotify works:

When two people using MassNotify on their smartphones are near each other, their phones exchange random codes using Bluetooth. The code is completely anonymous, with no location tracking or exchange of personal information.



When someone in Massachusetts tests positive, they will receive a text message from the Dept. of Public Health with a verification link.



The person who tests positive can follow the link to anonymously share their positive test result with other MassNotify users. This is voluntary.



Anyone who also has MassNotify and has been near the user who tested positive for a significant length of time in the last 14 days may receive an anonymous alert that they might have been exposed to COVID-19.



Notifications have a link to information about what to do next to protect yourself and others. They do not contain any information about who tested positive or where the exposure may have happened.



How to add MassNotify to your phone:

On an iPhone:

1. Go to Settings
2. Scroll down to Exposure Notifications
3. Click "Turn On Exposure Notifications"
4. Click "Continue"
5. Select United States, then select Massachusetts

On an Android phone:

1. Go to Settings
2. Click "Google"
3. Click "COVID-19 Exposure Notifications"
4. Tap "Select your region"
5. Select United States, then select Massachusetts

Mass.gov/MassNotify

Materials were provided by the WA State Department of Health.

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 April 2022.



Town of

Auburn

Massachusetts

