



A Message from your Town Administrator

October 2018

I'd like to start this month's newsletter by offering a big thank you to the Dighton Junior Firefighters for their community service. This group of individuals, led by Firefighter Tom Medeiros, cleaned up the Corporal John L. Dutra memorial located at the Pleasant and Main Street intersection. I'm a strong believer in community service and giving back. Dighton is filled with wonderful volunteers that give back in many ways, whether it be this group cleaning up a veteran memorial, or residents picking up litter around their properties, or the various Eagle Scout projects that grace our community. We are also fortunate to have a large crop of volunteers that serve on our boards and commissions, all of which do very important work for the Town. We are nothing without our volunteers! If you're thinking about joining a committee or board, be sure to check our website for vacancies. The Open Space Committee is searching for volunteers, as is the 40B committee and the newly formed Dighton Trails Committee.

CHANGING LEAVES,

CHANGING SEAS With the new season, we are making a few changes at Town Hall as well. The Board of Selectmen has recently passed a Performance Evaluation Policy and Form that will apply to non-union employees under the jurisdiction of the Board. We are looking forward to professionalizing our workplace in this way. The Selectmen also will be submitting their application for Green Communities designation, an achievement that will open more

doors for grant funding for energy efficient initiatives. The final step is to accept an Energy Reduction Plan and submit the application in its entirety to the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources. Special thanks to Administrative Assistant Karin Brady and Mr. Eric Arbeene, of SRPEDD, for their endless work on establishing our current energy usage and working to compile our reduction plan. The Selectmen have also tested

EARLY VOTING IS UNDERWAY AT TOWN HALL – LOWER LEVEL.

Once again, the Town Clerk's office will be offering early voting on the following days:

**10/22, 10/23, 10/24,
10/25, 10, 29, 10/30,
10/31, and 11/1.**



Election
Day is
November
6, 2018.

SHARPS DISPOSALS, TRASH BAGS, & RECYCLING STICKERS ARE NOW SOLD AT THE BOARD OF HEALTH, 1111 SOMERSET AVENUE.

The hours are the same as Town Hall: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Wednesday 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

MUNICIPAL FINANCE FUN FACT: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Chapter 70 School Aid: This refers to a state mandated school funding formula that aims to establish equity amongst school districts. Funding comes from the state to localities based upon this formula, originally developed in the Education Reform Act of 1993. Currently, legislation is pending at the State House to reexamine this funding formula.

Chapter 90 Highway Funds: This is another formula derived from local roadway miles, population estimates, and employment data. Towns are reimbursed funding through MassDOT for work to keep the roads in good repair. Dighton averages about \$310,000 each year in Chapter 90 funds.

out a new meeting schedule, which is twice a month, rather than weekly. Having a Town Administrator present to manage day-to-day activities alleviates the need for such frequent meetings. The change has enabled us to streamline our process and take swifter action on necessary business. We now, as a courtesy to the public and any interested parties, post our meeting packets online along with meeting agendas and minutes. With this addition, we hope to provide the public with more information as they follow along either on Channel 9 or YouTube to what we are discussing.

The Town also submitted a letter of interest in assistance in putting together a Hazard Mitigation Plan with MEMA. Should Dighton be selected, 80% of costs of putting together this plan will be state and federally funded. The Town can then utilize the plan to qualify for more grants that would help us address vulnerabilities in our community, such as low bridges, old culverts, and the like.

The newly created TIF Review Board has met and started establishing guidelines for any businesses proposing a tax increment financing (TIF) plan in lieu of regular tax payments. Businesses using this economic development initiative make a case for this tax benefit by investing money into their business, public infrastructure, job creation, or something similar that benefits the Town. The TIF Review Board is charged with hearing these presentations and making a formal recommendation to both the Board of Selectmen and Town Meeting, should a project advance through the full process. Their second meeting, held on October 22, was centered around establishing guidelines and an application for prospective TIF holders to use in planning and presenting their project. I'd like to thank Dave DeRosa, Peter Roache, and Cathal O'Brien for their service on this committee with me.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING RESULTS - 10/15/2018

One hundred and twenty-nine voters gathered on October 15 to hear 24 articles at the Fall Town Meeting. Voters unanimously approved most articles. These included a Town Administrator By Law, amending the Zoning By laws for adult use and medical marijuana facilities, and accepting two streets as public ways (Mockingbird Lane and Silvia Way). Voters also approved expending funds to grind and repave the Town Hall campus, purchase an exhaust system for Fire Station 2, purchase bullet proof vests for our Police Department in anticipation of grant reimbursement, and provide \$25,000 to be combined with a \$25,000 grant from the state to convert the old Police Station to an Animal Shelter, among other items. Thank you, voters, for your support in these endeavors.

POLICE DEPARTMENT SELLING T-SHIRTS, HOODIES, & PATCHES



The Patrolman's Association is working hard for a good cause! They are currently selling DPD patches. DR Athletics benefit from the sale of the green DR patches which sport the Falcon logo. The pink DPD patches benefit breast cancer research in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness month. Both are \$10 each. T-shirts (\$15) and sweatshirts (\$30) are also available, the proceeds of which benefit youth sports sponsorships and scholarships.

Contact Patrolman Chris Magan or Detective Ryan Richards for more information. For the social media saavy, the Dighton Police are on Instagram. Follow them @dightonpolicema .

OCTOBER ACTIVITIES

Treasurer/Collector Mary Hathaway started a Walking Challenge this summer, for which she earned the Big Cheese Trophy in August! That challenge has since completed and I'm pleased to announce the three winners with the most steps! Library employees Britt Grelish Rust and Lori van Hook earned the first and second spot, respectively. Council on Aging

IMPORTANT DATES

October 27 – Parks & Rec Pumpkin Painting

October 31 – Happy Halloween!

November 4 – Dighton Lions' Art Festival

November 6 – Election Day!

November 10 – Veterans Breakfast, West Dighton Congregational Church

employee Francis Brezinski finished third in the contest. Congratulations to our fit and fabulous employees! And once again, thank you to Ms. Hathaway for coordinating and organizing the Challenge.

It was a pleasure to attend the Taste of Dighton this year in late September, an annual event that benefits the Friends of the Library. I couldn't believe how many people flocked to the Lions Club Pavilion right for the very start of the event! My family and I very much enjoyed the fare from local businesses in the region. The event was a rousing success for the Friends as well, so congratulations to them. Can't wait for next year!

I had the opportunity to tour the inside of the Police Station building currently under construction and it is beautiful! I'm so excited for the Town to have such a state of the art facility hosting our Police Department. One of my favorite things about the new building is a dedicated meeting space that will serve not only Town departments but also local organizations that are in need of a meeting space. This is truly a community building, here for the people of Dighton. Special thanks to Building Committee Chairman Denis Maguy for his continued and ardent leadership. His meticulous project management has resulted in a project being completed on-time, within budget, and with minimal change orders. I'd also like to thank Sgt. Shawn Cronin for his technical expertise and guidance as the Police Station is outfitted with updated radio equipment and is organized in a way to provide modern services in law enforcement and community policing.

Congratulations are due to the School Department as well! They have been selected for the TRANE Award, an international award recognizing excellence in energy efficiency. The award presentation will take place on October 25 at the DR High School Auditorium at 6:00 p.m. The public is invited to attend. DR is the only recipient in the United States – a hearty congratulations to them! The School is also currently fixing the DR roof which was recently approved by Rehoboth this summer, and their modular project for the Dighton Elementary School is underway. The modular units are on order and are slated for occupancy in late November.

Wishing you all a happy and safe **Halloween 2018!**