



A Message from your Town Administrator

August 2019

DIGHTON BOARD OF HEALTH CLOSES TOWN- OWNED PROPERTIES DUE TO EEE RISK

Per order of the Board of Health, all Town-owned parks and recreation spaces are closed between dusk and dawn due to the moderate risk level of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). There have been at least two confirmed human deaths due to the EEE virus and you should take all precautions to avoid exposure. The order remains in effect until the first hard frost. Contact the Board of Health for updates.

August was spent pushing forward various projects on behalf of the Board. The Briggs Street culvert engineering and design work has been completed. We've contracted and coordinated with various third-party vendors on a variety of projects, including a study on the concerns of speeding throughout the Town and engineering services for the Municipal Vulnerability Plan grant the Town was awarded through MEMA. The sewer study services that were authorized at Town Meeting in June will get underway in September. It's rewarding to see projects moving along, and in many cases being completed through teamwork across various departments.

In coming to Dighton, a primary goal of mine was to add some cohesion to the town's departments and unify them by inspiring constant communication and teamwork. I'm happy to report that we have achieved that, and the various initiatives being rolled out, and completed, is a sure sign that its working. A special thanks to all the personnel in Dighton, in particular the department heads and committee chairmen, who have been open to the changes and done their part to advance this town.

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TOWN UPDATES

RECOGNITION OF THREE OFFICERS

On August 21, 2019, the Board recognized Officer Greg Steele, Officer Jay McGovern, and Sergeant Shawn Cronin for their life-saving efforts during an incident on June 17, 2019. Officer Steele was provided a Proclamation recognizing his quick thinking and response in jumping into the Taunton River which were critical in rescuing a man in distress. Officer McGovern and Sergeant Cronin were also recognized for their support and leadership in assisting Officer Steele. The Town thanks these police officers for their valiant efforts in going above and beyond the call of duty to save a life.



NEW WEBSITES

As I discussed last month, the Town has partnered with John Guilfoil Public Relations to assist us in getting out information, specifically information with Police and Fire news. Each agency has its own specialized site where you can view department rosters, messages from the Chiefs, and keep up to date with happenings

around town, whether it be public safety announcements and advisories, or recaps of the good work by our police officers and firefighters/EMTs. These sites are dightonfire.com and dightonpolice.com. We also have a new site dedicated to town events, dightonportal.com. I urge you to check them out and get familiar with your local officials and all the good work that doesn't always make the newspaper!

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

The Board of Selectmen have called a Special Town Meeting for Monday, October 28, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. The location of the meeting is at the Dighton Middle School. The Warrant will be posted by October 14, 2019. We hope to see you there!

MUNICIPAL VULNERABILITY PLANNING GRANTS

The town recently received a sum of money from MEMA to create a Municipal Vulnerability Plan (MVP) and a Hazard Mitigation Plan. We have partnered with Fuss & O'Neil out of Providence, RI, to create these plans and to hold required workshops to identify vulnerable areas of our community. Due to our proximity to the Taunton River, flooding is a significant concern. Developing the plans is the first step in our eligibility for climate change and action grants, also through the state. Governor Charlie Baker has allocated significant resources to these competitive grants, and having an approved, established MVP gives us a greater likelihood of an award.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

A quick thank you to our local scouts! Brownie Troop 82230 and Cub Scouts Pack 45 paired up for a school supply and food pantry drive this month! Pack 45 also volunteered to pick up litter along the Broad Cove Nature Trail. Thank you to our young residents and their parents for helping them do their part to make the world a better place! Well done!

The Board of Health has raised fees for the purchase of sharps containers and disposal. A quart-sized container is \$4.00; a 1 gallon container is \$8.00; and a 2 gallon container is \$12.00. If you do not purchase your container through the town, a \$5.00 disposal fee will apply. Please visit the Board of Health website at https://www.dighton-ma.gov/departments/health_department/health.php for more information on the proper disposal of syringes and sharps.

The Highway Department is seeking applications for administrative services for up to ten hours a week. https://www.dighton-ma.gov/government/job_vacancies.php Applications are due on September 25, 2019. Contact Highway Superintendent Tom Ferry at tferry@dighton-ma.gov for more information.

THE BIG CHEESE



August's Big Cheese award was given to Ms. Linda McCaron, Assistant Town Accountant. Since the departure of our Town Accountant in early July, Linda has taken over the reins. She has worked tirelessly and the department hasn't missed a beat. Linda has shown that she is capable of adapting in even the toughest of situations, always able to find the humor and maintain top notch service. Thank you, Linda, for all you do for Dighton and for truly going above and beyond as we undergo the process of hiring a new Town Accountant. It does not go unnoticed!

IMPORTANT DATES

September 18, 25 – Selectmen's Meetings

September 14 – Fire Association's 3rd Annual

Touch-A-Truck fundraiser

*September 16 – Taste of Dighton fundraiser,
to benefit the Public Library*

October 20 – Park and Rec's Annual Paint a

Pumpkin Party, 12:00p to 4:00p