



A Message from your Town Administrator

February 2020

Coming Soon: Electric Vehicle Charging Stations!

The Town is moving forward with installing two electric vehicle charging stations at the Municipal Campus. One will be in the rear of Town Hall; the other will be at Old Town Hall.

The funds of these were originally provided through the Green Communities designation the Town received in late 2018.

However, National Grid provided rebates in an amount exceeding the cost and this frees up some funding for other green energy changes that the Town is discussing.

It's the shortest month, but February sure was a productive one! The Town has many projects and grants in the works, and we have been chipping away at all of them. We've even been able to take advantage of the warmer-than-usual weather to work on some outdoor projects, like installing footings for two electric vehicle charging stations. The Town held a public listening session for the Municipal Vulnerabilities Plan and the Hazard Mitigation Plan. We also have kicked off our budget process and the Selectmen have begun reviewing the entire budget, line by line, at their meetings.

We also explored new initiatives too, like a community garden and a senior tax workoff program. The Town Clerk oversaw early voting for the Presidential Primary and was even showcased on the news. Good work to all involved – running early voting elections is arduous work.

Continue reading below for updates on all we've accomplished this month and for what you can expect in the months to come.

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TOWN UPDATES

Speeding Issues

Various residents have made mention of town-wide speeding issues.

Enforcement has been increased for this issue, but we've also explored various options to help curb speeding. This includes studying speed zoning for specific areas. After we worked with SRPEDD to perform a town-wide speed survey, we recognized that most vehicles are traveling at an average rate of speed of 45-50

mph, some areas seeing much higher speeds. We've increased enforcement on those areas with the higher speeding rates and started to study the other areas. Working with the Police Chief, Fire Chief, and Highway Superintendent, Selectman Brett Zografos and I have focused on what the Town can do outside of issuing speeding tickets to help correct the program. The group recently got together and decided that fog lines will be painted on Pleasant Street. The Police Department will be requesting funding for blinking speed signs and an additional speed limit trailer at the Annual Town Meeting this year. Speed zoning includes accepting language at a Town Meeting and would lower the speed limit on areas with specific criteria. The Town is looking to see the effects of increased enforcement while weighing options to continue with speed zoning.

Sewer Study

The Town was authorized to begin a study into the viability of extending sewer infrastructure along Route 138 to Hart Street. We hired Woodard and Curran to perform these calculations and analyses, designing an expanded system and phasing out the project. We have received a draft of this study and will have a finalized version available in March. It will be discussed at a Selectmen's meeting. The final document will discuss options for grants, low interest loans, or no interest loans for financing purposes. We could also potentially qualify for environmental grants in at least one sewer shed, especially if we have an approved MVP/HMP plan

at the ready, as we are working so diligently to have prepared. The draft will also discuss betterment and tie in fees as the Town determines the best plan to put forward. Stay tuned for more information on this initiative.

MVP Listening Session

As a requirement of our grant for the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness plan, we held a public listening session for members of the public to comment on our plan. This took place on February 12, 2020 at the start of a Selectmen's Meeting. It is available for viewing on YouTube as all Selectmen's meetings are. The plan takes a

comprehensive look at our community's weak points in the event of a natural disaster, such as flooding, and maps out ways to not only mitigate those issues and to coordinate what our response would be in the event of a disaster. The plan relates those emergencies to the effects of climate change: Extreme weather events, flooding, rising sea level, and increased temperatures/drought. This plan also hits upon economic issues we may face due to weather changes, as we have a healthy and robust agricultural industry.

Animal Shelter opening

I spent Saturday, February 8 with some local leaders to officially open the new Animal Shelter located on Tremont Street. It is a beautiful building, decorated with the smiling faces of those adopted pets that passed through Dighton's Animal Control services. I'd like to acknowledge Michael Berube and Joe Simao, who worked to transform the old police station trailers into a new facility that we can truly be proud of, as well as Building Commissioner James Aguiar who oversaw the project. The entire Highway Department came together to actually move those trailers in house saving a great deal of money. Thanks also goes to Senator Marc Pacheco who secured the seed money for this project, which vastly improves the conditions in which our stray cats and lost dogs are kept until owners are found. Thanks

also to the voters of Dighton, who matched the state funds and allowed us to truly upgrade our local services. I'm very excited for the expanded services that Animal Control Officer Stacy Ferry expects to roll out now that there is a venue to do so, including Reading to Pets, vaccinations, and other care that we can offer. This is another building project that showcases how much can be achieved when we are all working in concert toward one goal. Great work!



IMPORTANT DATES

March 3 – Presidential Primary election

March 11, 25 – Selectmen's Meetings

March 11 – 5:00 p.m. – Budget Workshop

*April 11 – Town Election Day; Parks and Rec
Easter Egg Hunt; Fire Department Open
House*

April 26 – 1:00 p.m., Medal of Honor Ceremony

Pink Bag Textile Program

It is February, so let's talk about something pink! The Board of Health rolled out a new program in March of 2019 which enabled residents to recycle textiles in pink bags and leave them out with their trash to be picked up curbside. In 2019, the town collectively recycled 16.4 tons of textiles, keeping them from landfills and enhancing recycling efforts to preserve our environment. Additionally, that's 16.4 tons that was kept OUT of our trash, which we pay for by weight through disposal fees. As textiles are generally heavier items, this makes a lasting impact. Currently our disposal fees are \$74.51/ton. Keeping any weight out of that calculation makes sense, and it's environmentally beneficial at the same time. Thank you for embracing this new program! Every bit helps. If you're in need of a pink bag, visit the Board of Health office at 1111 Somerset Avenue. For more information, view the flyer at the end of the newsletter.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The Board of Selectmen have scheduled the Annual Town Meeting for Monday, June 1, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at the Dighton-Rehoboth Regional High School. We hope to see you there and hear your opinions on the many initiatives we have in the works.

We also have a pretty busy April coming up with local events. The Town Election, Annual Easter Egg Hunt, and Fire Department Open House will all take place on April 11, 2020. It'll be a busy day in Town, but you will definitely have time to stop at all three.

Keep your eye out for a flyer in your mailbox – it's not junk mail! It's a notice from the Board of Health regarding recycling in Dighton, including those pink textile bags. I've placed a copy here, but the mailed version will be much nicer. The information is part of the Board of Health's Recycling IQ campaign, which they have begun thanks to a grant through MassDEP. The flyer also contains the trash pick up schedule, so be sure to keep it handy.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Parks and Recreation Commission is gearing up for their Annual Easter Egg Hunt in April and is seeking volunteers to help stuff eggs and set up the day of the event. Contact the Commission today to join in on the fun.

PrimeTime is seeking clients. If you or someone you know would benefit from meeting new friends, trying new experiences, and staying active, call Sheila at 508-669-6272.

Do you have Dighton news to share? Tell us about it! Visit <https://dightonportal.com/submit-a-story/> to provide details on our story!

PRESIDENTIAL TRIVIA – GEORGE H.W. BUSH

As we observed President's Day this month, I have to share some fun presidential trivia about a man who I consider to be an often overlooked president: George H.W. Bush. President Bush was known for wearing stylish socks, usually themed for whatever event he was attending. The GOP even went so far as to start selling Bush-inspired socks, usually with stripes and other fun patterns. President Bush and First Lady Barbara Bush also take the title for longest married presidential couple, ringing in 73 years together. Sweethearts until the end, President Bush died just months after his beloved wife. A true patriot, President Bush was buried in socks featuring flying jets, a nod to his service during WWII as a naval aviator. Bush received his wings just three days shy of his 19th birthday, serving as the U.S. Navy's youngest.





DIGHTON RECYCLES
RECYCLE BEST PRACTICES



- X NO PLASTIC WRAP, PLASTIC BAGS, or RECYCLING IN PLASTIC BAGS**
- X PLEASE EMPTY & RINSE ALL CONTAINERS**

EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2020 THE TOWN OF DIGHTON WILL NO LONGER ACCEPT CONTAMINANTS IN YOUR SINGLE-STREAM RECYCLING BIN

Metal



Food and Beverage Cans
EMPTY & RINSE!

Plastic



Bottles, Jars, Jugs and Tub
EMPTY, RINSE & REMOVE CAP!

Glass



Bottles and Jars
EMPTY & RINSE!

Paper & Cardboard

NO WAXED CARDBOARD or FROZEN FOOD BOXES



Mixed Paper, Newspaper, Magazines, Boxes
EMPTY & FLATTEN!

PLEASE DO NOT RECYCLE: ITEMS BELOW ARE NOT ALLOWED IN SINGLE STREAM RECYCLING



Do Not Bag Recyclables No Garbage



No Plastic Bags or Plastic Wrap
 (return to retail)



No Food or Liquid
 (empty all containers)



No Clothing or Linens
 (use donation programs)



No Tangles
 (no hoses, wires, chains or electronics)

For items not allowed in the single-stream recycle process, please visit recyclesmartma.org to find out how to responsibly recycle

If you have any questions about what can be recycled, please visit the MassDEP's website:

RecycleSmartMA.org



TEXTILE RECYCLING
 Use Pink Bags or Donate



RECYCLABLE ITEMS:

- Men's Clothing
- Women's Clothing
- Children's Clothing
- Coats & Jackets
- Jewelry
- Shoes
- Purses
- Hats
- Toys
- Blankets
- Drapes/Curtains
- Pillows
- Sleeping Bags
- Tools
- Silverware
- Dishes
- Pots/Pans
- Backpacks



Sharps Disposal Containers

Dispose of properly and safely



Sold at the Board of Health Office

- 1 Quart - \$4.00
- 1 Gallon - \$8.00
- 2 Gallon - \$12.00



Local Postal Customer

PRSR STD
 ECRWSS
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 EDDM RETAIL

Holiday schedule for calendar year 2020: Trash and Recycling will not be picked up on the holidays listed below. The pick-up schedule will be delayed one day for these holidays and for the remainder of that week.

- New Year's Day - Wed., January 1
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Mon., January 20
- President's Day - Mon., February 17
- Patriot's Day - Mon., April 20
- Memorial Day - Mon., May 25
- Independence Day - No Change

- Labor Day - Mon., September 7
- Columbus Day - Mon., October 12
- Veteran's Day - Wed., November 11
- Thanksgiving - Thurs., November 26
- Christmas - Fri., December 25

Inclement Weather: Trash and Recycling pick-up schedules may need to be adjusted due to inclement weather throughout the year. In the event that the Governor of Massachusetts declares a "State of Emergency", pick-ups will be delayed one day for that day and each day for the remainder of that week. Other delays, due to inclement weather will be decided mutually between the Town of Dighton and Borges Bros. Trucking. Delay notifications can be found on the Town's website.

Dighton Health Department



- Thomas Pires Chairman
- Matthew Tanis Clerk
- Kevin Bernardo Member

- Contact:**
- Rosalind Grassie Office Manager
 - Todd Pilling Health Agent/Inspector
 - Lori Desmarais Town Nurse
 - Stacy Ferry Animal Control
 - James Aguiar Building Commissioner

Old Town Hall, Lower Level, 1111 Somerset Avenue, Dighton, MA 02715
 Phone: 774.872.0943 / Fax: 774.872.0293
 Hours: Mon., Tues. & Thurs. 7:30 am - 4:30 pm / Wed. 7:30 am - 5:30 pm / Closed Fri.
 Meeting: 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6 pm