



# A Message from your Town Administrator

September 2018

The Fall is here and with it comes more business for the townspeople! Specifically, we are holding a Special Town Meeting on October 15, 2018. Read below for a sneak peek at potential articles on the Warrant. Highway Superintendent Tom Ferry and I are working diligently to procure bids for some much-needed projects before the weather catches up to us. This will include a road closure on Tremont Street for about two or three weeks' time. Stay tuned for details. The Board of Selectmen also voted to establish a Dighton Trails Committee. If you're interested in serving on this, or any other board for the Town, please fill out a Volunteer Information Form found on the Town's website. We regularly update committee vacancies so check back frequently.

## SHARPS DISPOSALS, TRASH BAGS, & RECYCLING STICKERS NOW SOLD AT THE BOARD OF HEALTH

Residents will now purchase their sharps containers, trash bags, and recycling stickers at the Board of Health (1111 Somerset Avenue). The hours remain 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.; Closed Fridays.

## SAVE THE DATE: SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

The Board has called for a Special Town Meeting on **MONDAY, OCTOBER 15** at **7:00 p.m.** at the Dighton-Rehoboth Regional High School.

## MASSACHUSETTS HAS TWO SEASONS: WINTER AND CONSTRUCTION

We've all heard this funny joke about Massachusetts always being under construction. Here in Dighton, we are working hard to complete some much-needed projects before the first snowfall. Mr. Ferry and I have worked furiously this month to get our ducks in a row for a variety of projects. We completed a small tree-thinning project at the Town Forest to remove dead and hazardous trees. Thank you to Brightman Lumber Corp for their quick and thorough work.

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## MUNICIPAL FINANCE FUN FACT: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Local Receipts: Locally generated revenues outside of taxation on real and personal property. This includes license and permit fees, motor vehicle excise, and investment income.

Assessors' Overlay— An account established annually to fund anticipated property tax abatements, exemptions and uncollected taxes in that year. Since the passage of the Municipal Modernization Act, these funds no longer are returned to the General Fund, but rather can be added to each year.

We have solicited engineering services for the Pleasant Street Bridge to determine the best plan of attack to fix the various deficiencies here. We have gone out to bid for the replacement and delivery of a culvert on Tremont Street over Sunken Brook. This project will require a brief road closure. We will inform residents when that will occur. We have also gone out to bid for engineering services for our grant-funded field data collection and design project for the Briggs Street Culvert over Sunken Bridge. Special thanks to the Division of Ecological Restoration for their interest in this very unique project. We are looking forward to seeing how we can correctly manage

the stormwater and erosion in this area. The roadway is in desperate need of repaving. Fixing and strengthening the culvert will allow it to tolerate the weight of a newly-paved roadway without collapse. And not to be outdone, we are working feverishly to make an October 1<sup>st</sup> deadline for the Complete Streets construction phase for three local sidewalk projects: Center Street by the two schools, Pearl Street, and Somerset Avenue, from Main Street to 1881 County Street.

### **SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT - 10/1/2018**

At the October 15 Special Town Meeting, we will present a handful of warrant articles, mostly spending and a few by-laws, to the people for a vote. These requests include funds in anticipation of reimbursement through a grant for bullet proof vests for the Police Department, funding to repave the Town Hall campus, and funds to fix a leak in the roof at the Highway Garage. The Finance Committee will meet before Town Meeting to make recommendations on these articles. Other articles include by-law amendments. The Warrant will be posted on Monday, October 1. As is their practice, the Board of Selectmen will read the warrant at their meeting. The meeting will be held at the Dighton-Rehoboth Regional High School.

### **BURBIO.COM – A COMMUNITY EVENTS APP**

The Dighton Public Library is a happening place! To organize their many events, as well as events happening all throughout the community, they have recently launched a community calendar partnership designed to improve communication with residents. Burbio.com is a free platform for non-profits and residents that streams library, school, and non-profit event information for communities all in one place. Residents can access Burbio through a free app or website which will allow them to personalize which events they see, add events to their personal digital calendar, and be notified when things change. Want to learn more? Call the library! Or visit [Burbio.com](http://Burbio.com).

### **SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES**

I cannot believe how much was jam packed into September! The Selectmen and I joined the Dighton Fire Association at the start of the month at the Touch A Truck fundraiser that benefited resident Grant Medeiros. Not only was this a very fun, highly attended event, but the Board of Selectmen declared September 8, 2018 Grant Medeiros Day and made him an honorary firefighter for the Town. Welcome aboard, Grant!

The Board of Selectmen voted at their September 12 meeting to explore the vitality of moving the Dighton Animal Shelter to the old police station upon the Police Department moving to their new building. The decision came after the state, thanks to Senator Marc Pacheco, awarded Dighton with \$25,000 to be expended towards an Animal Control facility. Thank you Senator Pacheco! Our animals are in desperate need of an upgraded facility, complete with climate control and extra facilities that would allow an expansion of services. Expanding services will also provide an additional revenue source to the Town.

At the end of the month, long-time town partner Tim Hoegler, who manages Manheim Auto Auction, will retire from his post. He has been a wonderful friend to both the Police and Fire Departments, and to the Town as a whole. Thank you, Tim, for all you have done to make Dighton the great community it is and for being such a upstanding member of our business community. We wish you a retirement full of good health and happiness!

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

October 3 and 24 – *Selectmen's Meetings*

October 7 – *Rehoboth's 375<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

October 15 – *Special Town Meeting*

November 4 – *Dighton Lions' Art Festival*



I am also wishing a hearty congratulations to the Town of Rehoboth as they come up on their 375<sup>th</sup> anniversary which they will be celebrating on October 7, 2018. This event boasts historic reenactments, family-friendly activities, and a parade! Check it out if you can.

More congratulations go out to SRPEDD's Bill Napolitano who is the proud, and deserving, recipient of the Environmental Protection Agency Lifetime Achievement Environmental Merit Award. Bill has worked tirelessly in so many initiatives for the Town of Dighton, and for Massachusetts as a whole. Congratulations, Bill! And thank you for your continued work to benefit both our Town and our environment. Saving the best for last, a hearty congratulations also goes out to the Town of Dighton's Conservation Commission! They are being recognized by Save the Bay for their work on Broad Cove and will receive an award in a ceremony on October 1 at Heritage Park in Fall River. The award recognizes outstanding leadership and commitment to the environmental protection of Narragansett Bay and its watershed, according to the Save the Bay website. Congratulations to Bill Frenette, Charlie Mello, Jack Crawford, Jim Digits, Jim Souza, and Frank Crisfulli for your work!

All this good news makes me so proud to be affiliated with such a great Town and organization. Dighton truly is the gem of the south coast.



### **THE BIG CHEESE!**

This month's Big Cheese is Town Accountant Jennifer Luiz. Due to the Town Accountant's diligence, the Town of Dighton regularly is the first town in the Commonwealth to receive certification from the Department of Revenue. I wanted to recognize Jenn for her history of organization and prompt reporting. Moreover, Jenn really won the Big Cheese Trophy for her integral role in supporting an intern, Mr. John Boulay. By his own account, he learned a great deal of information about municipal accounting – something woefully undertaught in any academic program. Through mentoring and teaching John all the varied components of municipal accounting and finance, Jenn effectively inspired Mr.

Boulay in exploring a career in public service upon his graduation in the Spring. Great job, Jenn!