



The Auburn Account

Successful Trunk or Treat Reimagined Event Distributes Halloween Candy to 600 families

Volume 11, Issue 1 January 2021

Traditional Halloween door-to-door trick or treating was deemed by the CDC to be “high risk” for spreading the Coronavirus. Based on the DPH Community Data which placed Auburn in the high risk category and CDC Guidelines, and weighing the risks versus the benefits, Town Administration and the Board of Health recommended that the Board of Selectmen cancel



door-to-door trick or treating to protect the health and safety of all of our residents during this global pandemic. The Board of Selectmen voted to support the recommendation of Town administration and cancel traditional door-to-door trick or treating due to Covid-19 concerns, and the Board endorsed the Trunk or Treat



event, in which the Town partnered with Faith Church and the Cub Scouts Pack 53 to provide an innovative and safe alternative

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: Trunk or Treat, Election calendar, public safety initiatives, library news, senior holiday packages, roadway updates, and much more...

Trunk or Treat (Continued from Page 1)

that mitigated the risk of the spread of the disease by implementing health measures that protect both the passengers in the vehicles and the volunteers distributing the candy.



These measures included contactless distribution of candy, safe distancing between the parked vehicles from which candy will be distributed, masks worn by all volunteers, and providing candy that was pre-wrapped only.

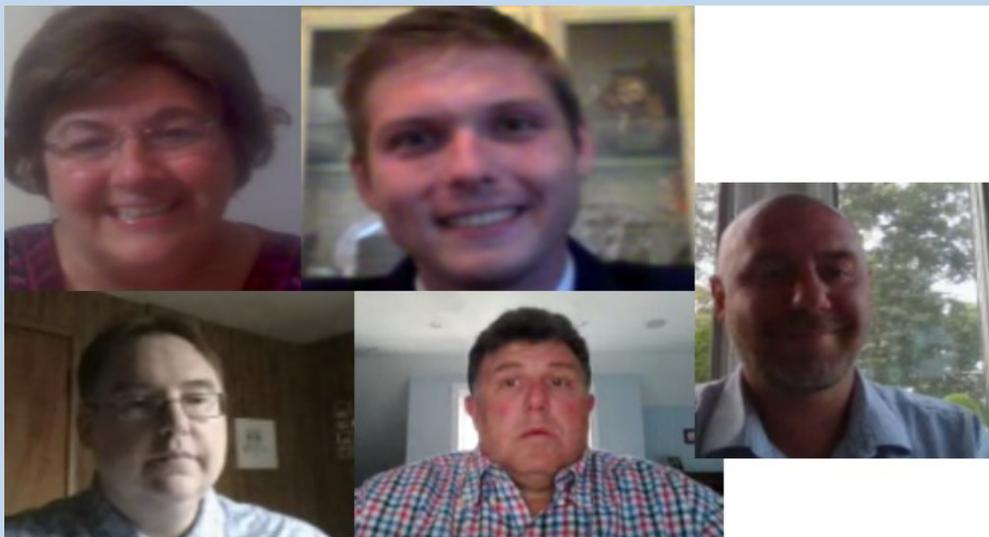
Approximately 600 pre-registered vehicles filled with families, ghosts and goblins drove through the Pappas Recreation Complex to safely receive candy from the many volunteers who manned 30 decorated trunks.

We recognize that people are frustrated by the disruptions that Covid-19 has caused to their normal daily lives as well as to the traditional events and celebrations they typically enjoy. However, municipal officials have a responsibility to protect the health and welfare of all of our citizens and to discourage activities that could be harmful. We are grateful for our community partners who made this event possible. While approximately 2,000 people participated in the event, the volunteers – town employees, elected officials, residents and local businesses, seemed to have as much fun as those collecting candy!



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.



-This group picture of the Board of Selectmen was done social distanced via GoToMeeting, 2020 -

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:

Doreen M. Goodrich (Chairman)

21 Hill Street

Cell: 508-951-9157

Email: dgoodrich@town.auburn.ma.us

te@town.auburn.ma.us

Tristan j. Laliberte (Vice Chair)

7 Rock Ave

Home: 508-721-9974

Email:

tlaliber-

Lionel Berthiaume

13 Rochdale St

Cell: 508-245-9334

Email: lberthiaume@town.auburn.ma.us

Dan Carpenter

33 Goulding Drive

Cell: 508-277-9519

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Scott C. Wrenn

28 Loring St

Cell: 508-340-5896

Email: swrenn@town.auburn.ma.us

NEWS FROM THE TOWN CLERK

John E. & Ethel E. Riley Outstanding

Citizenship Award 2020

The John E. & Ethel E. Outstanding Citizen Award was created in 1976 to honor the Riley's for their contribution to serving and making life for Auburn citizens better.

This years recipient is Sari L. Bitticks. Due to the COVID pandemic the Annual Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service which traditionally the recipient would received the award, was not able to take place. Sari is currently the president of the Auburn Historical Society and leads the Auburn Historical Museum. She has a dedication to the past, present and future of the Town of Auburn. Sari is extremely dedicated to Auburn and its history, and frequently gives historical talks at the senior facilities



and other historical societies and civic organizations and area schools. Besides her dedication to Auburn and its history, she frequently gave historical talks at the senior center and other historical societies, civic organization and area schools. Sari goes out of her way to help anyone who needs it. She serves as a member of the Historical Commission and Cemetery Commission which allows her to preserve Auburn's history for future generations. If you would like to see the presentation it can be seen on the Town Clerks webpage along with a list of past winners:

<https://www.auburnguide.com/250/Riley-Outstanding-Citizenship-Award>

CONFLICT OF INTEREST REQUIREMENT

The Summary of the Conflict of Interest has been distributed. 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.

The annual conflict of interest law education and training requirement compliance period runs from December 10, 2020 through April 10, 2021.

CENSUS – 2021 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 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 at the kiosk, 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 2021. To license by mail, fill out the form and enclose a check to cover the fee. Registration Period is January 1, 2021—March 31, 2021. Town bylaw imposes a \$10.00 late fee per dog if not licensed by April 30, 2021. 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.

2021 Annual Town Election Information and Calendar

- | | |
|--|---|
| Tuesday, May 4, 2021 | Annual Town Meeting-High School Auditorium |
| Tuesday, May 18, 2021 | Annual Town Election-Precincts 1,2,3,4 & 5
Auburn High School Gym |
| NOMINATION PAPERS – Available February 17, 2021 | |
| Tuesday, March 30, 2021 | 5:00 PM Last Day for candidates to file nomination papers with the board of registrars |
| Thursday, April 15, 2021 | 5:00 PM Last day for filing objection/withdrawals |
| Wednesday, April 28, 2021 | 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM Last day to register to vote |
| Monday, May 10, 2021 | 4:00 PM Campaign Finance Reports (Town-wide only) |
| | 8 day report |
| Thursday, June 17, 2021 | 4:00 PM Campaign Finance Reports Due |
| | 30 day report |

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 Meeting Members	Last day to notify the Town Clerk in writing they wish to be on the ballot, is Tuesday, March 23, 2021.

Auburn residents 18 years of age by Election Day, May 18, 2021, 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 28, 2021 for the voter to be eligible to vote at the annual town election. 16 and 17 years of age may also pre-register.

**BALLOT OPENINGS 2021
ANNUAL ELECTION MAY 18, 2021**



On Tuesday, May 18, 2021 to 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 Auburn Housing Authority Member for	Five Years
Two Library Trustees, Auburn Free Public Library for	Three Years
One Moderator for	One Year
Two School Committee Member for	Three Year
Two Board of Selectmen Members for	Three Years

TOWN MEETING MEMBERS

Precinct One	8 to be elected for	Three Years
Precinct Two	8 to be elected for 1 to be elected for	Three Years One year unexpired term
Precinct Three	8 to be elected for 1 to be elected for 2 to be elected for	Three Years One year unexpired term Two year unexpired term
Precinct Four	8 to be elected for	Three Years

Billing, Exemptions, and Discounts...

Forms of List (State Form 2) are due on or by March 1, 2021.

Businesses should be expecting their Income and Expense questionnaires soon failure to return these to the Assessor's Office may result in a \$250 fine.

Exemption Applications for Qualifying Seniors, Surviving Spouses, Disabled Veterans and Blind were mailed out. If you would like information to find out if you might qualify for an exemption for this Fiscal year 2021, please contact the Assessors' Office at 508-832-7708. **These Applications are due in the Assessor's Office NO LATER THAN APRIL 1, 2021.**

**** THIS YEAR DUE TO COVID-19 YOU CAN SUBMIT YOUR DOCUMENTATION & APPLICATION TO THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE BY:**

US MAIL

DROP BOX - 24/7 (located back of Town Hall – Handicap Accessible)

DRIVE UP KIOSK/DROP OFF ONLY (in Town Hall parking lot Mon thru Thurs 8-4 & Fridays 8-1) ** MASKS REQUIRED AT DRIVE UP

Third Quarter Actual Bills for Real Estate and Personal Property are due on February 1, 2021.

Fourth Quarter Actual Bills for Real Estate and Personal Property are due on May 3, 2021

Payments can be made by:

US MAIL – CHECK ONLY

DROP BOX - 24/7 (located back of Town Hall – Handicap Accessible) – CHECK ONLY

WINDOW BY BACK DOOR (handicap ramp) – MASKS ARE REQUIRED – CASH OR CHECK ONLY

ONLINE AT AUBURNGUIDE.COM – CREDIT/DEBIT CARDS OR ECHECK (fees will apply)



PUBLIC SAFETY NEWS



AUBURN POLICE ASSOCIATION'S PATCH PROJECTS



In recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness month, the Auburn Police Association [sold](#) Pink Patch Project patches from October 1 - October 31 for \$10 each. All Pink Patch sale proceeds were donated to the Adam Bullen Memorial Foundation.

No Shave November raises awareness and funds for the critical, life-saving care that Home Base provides to Veterans and their Families to heal from the

invisible wounds, such as post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury.

In addition to putting down the razors, Officers pledged \$50.00 and a commitment to raise awareness and support for Home Base.

The 2020 campaign successfully raised \$1,300.00!



On November 11, 2020, the Auburn Police Association [began](#) the November Camo Patch, to support Project New Hope, an organization committed to raising awareness and funds to Veterans and their families.

Through the generosity of our community and officers, the Auburn Police Department raised \$2,833 for families of veterans!



COATS 4 VETS BUCKET EVENT



On December 08, 2020, Detective K. Chipman and Officer M. Rodwill travelled to [Gillette Stadium](#) for the #Coats4Vets Bucket, an event that brought together local police departments, state police and sheriff's departments from 351 cities and towns across the Commonwealth to pick up buckets containing a coat, masks, hand sanitizer and snacks to distribute to veterans in need. The program was meant to encourage local authorities to engage and connect with homeless veterans in their communities and was sponsored by Home Depot, Ocean State Job Lot, MA Chiefs of Police, [Massachusetts State Police](#) and the [New England Patriots](#) Foundation.

LOCAL PUBLIC SAFETY GRANT FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT



The Executive Office of Public Safety and Security has designated funding for the Town of Auburn in the amount of \$20,843.57 for medical equipment and protective cases and mountings for communication devices.

The award is part of an annual initiative known as the Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program, which has totaled \$4.3 million in support for the Commonwealth this year. The federal program is the

premier source of criminal justice funding provided by the Department of Justice for state and local jurisdictions, which seeks to support drug and violence prevention and education, as well as enforcement and prosecution among other areas.

The Auburn Police Department is also a recipient of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration grant totaling \$19, 814. As part of traffic enforcement campaigns such as “Click it or Ticket”, the money will be utilized toward the reduction of vehicle crashes, injuries, losses of life, and the resulting economic costs .

TEAM EXCELLENCE AND MERIT (TEAM) AWARD

On December 10, 2020, Joseph D. Early Jr., Worcester County District Attorney's Office honored Auburn Police Department Detective Keith Chipman with the Team Excellence and Merit (TEAM) Award. Detective Keith Chipman was recognized for assisting a 78-year-old scam victim in recovering \$65,000. All too often, victims of scams will never see their money again. Detective Chipman’s diligent work and commitment on this case helped the victim restore some of her life savings. This is a great reminder to be vigilant about scams.

Congratulations, Detective Chipman! Well deserved.



DOOR DECORATION COMPETITION



In order to brighten things around the police station during the holidays, several members of the Auburn Police Department decorated doors throughout the building in a little friendly competition. On their own time and with their own supplies, they chose a few doors throughout the building to spruce up!

FIRST RESPONDER COVID-19 VACCINE CLINIC

The Town of Auburn held its two First Responder Covid-19 Vaccine clinics at the Auburn High School on January 13, 2021 and on January 16th. The clinic was a regional effort that served Fire, Police, EMS and Communications Specialists from the towns of Auburn, Brookfield, East Brookfield, Mendon, North Brookfield and Ux-bridge.

AFRD Paramedics and nurses from the Auburn Public Schools administered the vaccine to about 200 first responders between the two clinics.

Thanks so much to the Auburn Board of Health and the Department of Inspectional Services for all the work and effort they put in to make this clinic possible.

There is a light at the end of the tunnel!



SECRET SANTA



The Auburn Police Association's annual Secret Santa Event kicked off on November 02, 2020, a toy drive designed to assist Auburn residents by gifting toys, clothes, and other needs to children ages 0-16.

APD Community Room becomes Secret Santa's staging area

The unpredictability of 2020 did not hinder the annual Auburn Police Department's Secret Santa Event. A huge thank you to Ma State Elks President and Auburn resident Bob Wambach, Project New Hope, and the generous residents and businesses in Auburn for making this year a tremendous success!



In the photo from left to right: Patrolman Tyler Bresse, Secret Santa Coordinator, Sargent Stephanie Hayward (and her little Elf), Mr. Wambach who is presenting the check to Elk Member/School Resource Officer Brian Kennedy, Elk Member/Patrolman Brandon Starkus and Elk Member/Patrolman Randy McCarthy.

Fire Fighter Riggs

On September 18, 2020 at 5:52 p.m. the Auburn Emergency Communications Center received several 911 calls, reporting a boating accident on Electric Pond in the area of Bryn Mawr Ave. Fire and Police units were dispatched, boats were immediately deployed on the water, and Divers from the Auburn Fire Rescue Department were deployed. Assistance from the Massachusetts Fire District 7 Regional Dive Team was also requested.



Divers searched for about



an hour before it was called off due to dangerous conditions with the body of water and night time diving. The operations resumed the next morning at 7:30 a.m., and with the use of K-9 Riggs, an Urban Search & Rescue and Human Remains Detection K-9 from the Auburn Fire Rescue Department, Riggs hit on an area that divers focused on, and a short time later the victim was found.

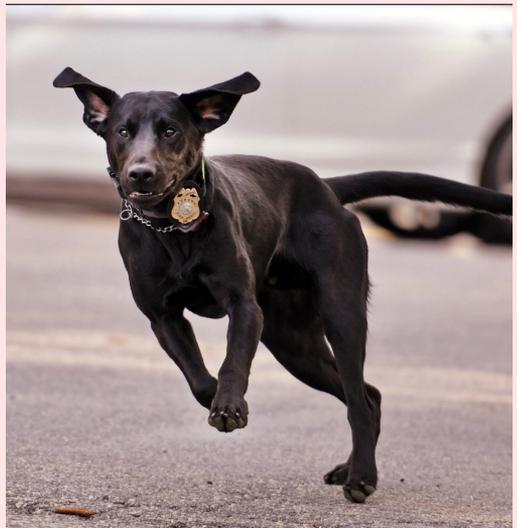
The work of K-9 Riggs was absolutely amazing. This asset allowed us to bring quick closure to the family and

to reduce the risk to divers in extremely dangerous conditions in this pond.

K-9 Riggs also responded mutual aid to the Town of Ashland on December 18, 2020 and assisted in the recovery of a drowning victim.

Riggs hit on a spot in the water from a boat approximately 20 feet from where the victim was found in about 40 feet of water.

Riggs is a 20 month old black lab owned and handled by Firefighter Matthew Ethier. Riggs is trained as a Human Remains Detection (HRD) K-9. He and his handler train together daily and Riggs works for his food by detecting human blood, bone, teeth and tissue. As a department we are extremely fortunate to have FF Ethier and Riggs and their commitment to their craft.



Address Indicator Program



In January the department launched a new street Address Indicator Program. This new program will enhance the visibility of a residents street address by using a highly reflective material to make their address stand out at night. The address indicators are installed by members of the AFRD. To order an address indicator follow the link:



<https://auburnguide.com/685/Address-Indicator-Program>

TRAINING FACILITY

Installation has been completed on the training facility for the AFRD. This new regional training facility was made possible from a \$525,000 federal grant and a very generous donation from a former Auburn resident and friend of the AFRD, Norma Card who passed away and generously bequeathed the department \$120,000. We are very excited to have this amazing building as an addition to our training and education for the area.



Santa Tour 2020

On Saturday December 19, 2020 the AFRD took to the streets for the 65th year in a row for the annual Santa Tour. Although it looked a little different this year with COVID-19 precautions, it was great to see the families of Auburn.



Business and Economic Development...



Baker-Polito Administration Announces \$668 Million Small Business Relief Package

The Baker-Polito Administration launched a \$668 million program to provide financial assistance to Massachusetts small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The program in part relies on the pending federal COVID-19 relief bill recently passed by Congress. Regardless of the developments at the federal level, the Baker-Polito Administration will start releasing millions in new funding to restaurants, retailers, and other small businesses throughout the Commonwealth as soon as next week.

The Administration announced nearly \$49 million in grants through the Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation (MGCC) COVID-19 Small Business Program to support over 1,158 small businesses. More than 10,000 applicants had sought relief in this grant round.

Additional grants will be made available to eligible small businesses through MGCC. The Small Business Grant Program was established in the fall, and currently has a pool of eligible applicants awaiting funding. This additional funding will allow the Administration to award more of those pending applicants. Eligible businesses that already applied to the program, but were not funded due to limited funds available, will be prioritized for funding first and do not need to reapply.

The funds will also be used to stand up an additional grant program at MGCC. This program will target the industries most hard-hit during the pandemic.

Eligible industries for the new program include:

Restaurants, bars, caterers

Indoor recreation and entertainment establishments

Gyms and fitness centers

Event-support professionals (photographers, videographers, etc.)

Personal services

Retail

The new business relief program would offer grants up to \$75,000, but not more than three months' operating expenses, to be used for employee wage and benefits costs, space-related costs, and debt service obligations.

The online application portal for the new program will open on Thursday, December 31, and will close on Friday, January 15. Awards are expected to be announced in early February.

More details on how to apply and eligibility requirements are available at www.empoweringsmallbusiness.org.

Central One Federal Credit Union

Central One Federal Credit Union purchased a 1 acre parcel located at 20-30 Elmwood Street from the Town of Auburn by auction in December of 2016. On December 15th 2020, employees began moving into the new facility. The new call center is expected to add up to 100 jobs to the local economy and the style of business is consistent with the Economic Development Strategic Plan. Town Administration is thrilled that Central One Federal Credit Union chose to expand in Auburn. Welcome!



Did You Know? Small Business Development Center at Clark University

Did you know that Clark University has a Small Business Development Center that provides free one-on-one comprehensive and confidential services focused on business growth and strategies, financing and loan assistance, and strategic analysis? The statewide program has three integrated product lines: Business Advisory Services, Government Contracting, and International Trade Services.

Currently, they are helping businesses navigate through the Covid-19 pandemic. The Center is offering Small Businesses and Non-Profit digitization services.

The digital services include but are not limited to:

- Recommendations to digitize existing operations or sales.
- Create, modify or search optimize a website.
- Create or modify a digital storefront to enhance e-commerce (for example, list the top 50 products).
- Implement or modify a scheduling system (for example, for a repair or e-commerce delivery business).
- Train managers and staff to work remotely using available tools and security.
- Assistance on a variety of digital tools and resources available on the cloud/web.
- At this time, onsite hardware or software installation and configuration is not available.

The SBDC at Clark University schedules appointments Monday–Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Currently, they are offering virtual appointments. To set up an appointment, please call 1-508-793-7615 or visit <https://www.clarku.edu/offices/small-business-development-center/> .

Local Rapid Recovery Grant- Covid 19

The Mass Downtown Initiative (MDI) recently accepted applications for Local Rapid Recovery Planning (LRRP) which is part of the Baker-Polito Recovery Plan to revitalize downtowns, respond to the effects of COVID-19 on local businesses, and prioritize actions and strategies. All 351 Massachusetts cities and towns were eligible to apply.

The LRRP program provides technical assistance by consultant teams with expertise in effective strategies to stabilize business districts. There is no direct funding available through this program, applicants will be matched with consultant team(s). There is a total of \$9.5 million in technical assistance available. Town Administration applied for a number of short term and long term goals to assist businesses in their recovery from the effects of Covid-19. Communities will be notified in January 2021 if they received any technical assistance. The Economic Development Coordinator will keep businesses and residents updated regarding the Local Rapid Recovery Grant.

On The Road...

ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

This fall, the Town's contractor, P. J. Albert, Inc. completed the roadway reconstruction and resurfacing work specified in the current contract. The roads included in the contract are listed below.

STREET

Bancroft Street
Barbara Ave
Cooper Street
Heard Street
Hilton Ave
Jerome Ave
Marion Ave
Marjorie Ave
Midstate Drive
Overhill Drive
Rice Road
Rochdale Street
Rochdale Street
South Street
South Street
Westchester Drive
Wyoma Drive

LOCATION

Millbury St to Bridge
South St to Westchester Dr
Jerome St to End
Duncan St to Worcester City Line
Pakachoag St to Wyoma Dr
Pakachoag St to Southbridge St
Barbara Ave to Westchester Dr
Barbara Ave to Marion Ave
Goulding Dr to End
Bancroft St to End
Overhill Dr to No. 6
Lorna St to No. 200
West St to Oxford Town Line
Washington St to No. 139
No. 414 to Oxford Town Line
School Street to End
Hilton Ave to Pakachoag St

In addition to these roads, the work includes reconstruction of the DPW parking lot which is scheduled for the spring of 2021. The Engineering Division will be preparing the next roadway reconstruction contract this winter in order to continue with the ongoing roadway improvements throughout Town.



Facilities Improvements

The Facilities Maintenance Section has recently started renovations of the Camp Gleason clubhouse. Both interior and exterior improvements to the building are underway. Following completion of the renovations, the clubhouse will be used for community activities, including a filming location for the Cable & Community Television Division.



Town of Auburn Dog Park

The winning bidder on Auburn's dog park, JAM, Inc., started construction this fall, and is nearing completion! The work performed included installation of water and drainage infrastructure, concrete walkway, fencing, and artificial "k9" grass, in addition to grading, landscaping, placement of pea stone surface.

Project completion is anticipated this spring with final loaming and seeding.



Stormwater Work

The Town is authorized to operate its stormwater infrastructure through a "MS4" Permit, which is jointly administered by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and Environmental Protection Agency. The goal of this permit is to restore our waters to support "all designated uses", including fishing, swimming, and boating. When the permit became effective on July 1, 2018, it posed a significant challenge to how we in Auburn – public institutions and private citizens alike – handle stormwater runoff to control flooding and reduce pollution. As we strive to comply with the requirements of the permit, please remember that good stormwater management is everyone's personal responsibility – **We Need Everyone's Help!** Visit the Town's stormwater website to learn more about what residents, businesses, and developers can do to contribute: <https://www.auburnguide.com/668/Stormwater-Management>

A major requirement of the MS4 permit is implementing a regulatory mechanism to control stormwater discharges on new and re-development sites during and after construction. This is to ensure that proper erosion and sediment controls are used during construction and that the harmful impacts of impervious area are mitigated through treatment devices, often called "green infrastructure" or "best management practices" following construction.

The Town's Stormwater Committee has been meeting regularly to begin the first steps of updating our existing stormwater bylaw and implementing rules and regulations that comply with the requirements of the MS4 permit. As these documents are finalized, a set of public meetings will be held to introduce the changes and solicit public comments.

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!

PLEDGE TO BE SALT SMART



1. Shovel

Clear walkways before snow turns to ice. Apply salt only if needed.



2. Select

Salt doesn't melt ice below 15°F. Use sand for traction when it's too cold, or a different de-icer.



3. Scatter

Use salt only where critical. Aim for 3 inches of space between salt granules.



4. Sweep

Clean up leftover salt, sand, and de-icer to save and reuse as needed.

Graphics courtesy cleanstorm.org



Senior Center and Elder Affairs News

The Auburn Senior Center is staffed Monday and Friday from 8:00am to 3:00pm and Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8:00am to 4:00pm for any questions or concerns by calling 508-832-7799. The building is still closed to the public.

Congregate lunches through the Elder Services of Worcester meals on wheels program are still being offered. Meals are delivered to the client's houses by a group of dedicated volunteers. Please call 508-832-7799 if you would like to register for a lunch with a suggested donation of \$2.50.

Transportation is available to Auburn residents by scheduling 48 hours in advance with the WRTA by calling 508-752-9283. Our drivers are equipped with personal protection equipment to keep you safe while riding on the vans. Due to COVID-19 we are taking all necessary precautions to keep our staff and riders safe. All riders must wear a face covering at all times. If you are ill or do not feel well, please stay home.

The Senior Center is closed but there are a variety of programs being offered on local cable, zom and on auburnguide.com, senior center page. Please call the Senior Center for a complete list of on line, zoom and cable programs.

If there is any assistance that you need please call the Senior Center so that we can help. Keep Safe!

Thank you to the Auburn Community "Our Seniors Matter" – donations to FASCA

Thank you to the Auburn community for their overwhelming generosity for donating items to FASCA (Friends of the Auburn Senior Center) for "Our Seniors Matter." They were able to make 125 amazing holiday bags for the meals on wheels clients. Thank you to Mary Gough, Webster First Federal Credit Union, Hometown Bank, Auburn Junior Women's Club, Auburn Post Office, Pack 53, Penny Ellsworth, Mike Savage, Jenn, Natalia, Ed, Ayden, Sari Bitticks, Linda Moulin, Penny Ellsworth, Kim Daigle, Jen Gilmore, Bob Lynch, Tim, The Masked Makers, Jill Pellegrini, Auburn Board of Selectmen, FASCA members, our anonymous donors and so many more!!! You truly made the difference for us and we are extremely grateful. Behind those masks are great big senior SMILES!



*Word search book, calendars,
note pads*



*Pack 53—handmade cards
and ornaments*



Masks by Maskmakers



FASCA members – Bev Geddes, Delores Sciamacco and Terry Bradley prepare to fill the bags with all of the generous donations!



FASCA members - Bev Geddes and Joyce DiPasquale delivering bags.



FASCA member - George Fournier delivering a bag to our senior.



Outreach



Usha Verma, the Senior Center Outreach Coordinator, is available Monday through Friday between 9:00am - 3:00pm 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.

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.

FILE OF LIFE

KEEP INFORMATION UP TO DATE !!
Review At Least Every Six Months !
MEDICAL DATA REVIEWED AS OF MO. YR. Sex
M F

Name: _____
Address: _____
Doctor: _____ Phone #: _____
Preferred Hospital: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Name: _____ Phone #: _____
Address: _____
Name: _____ Phone #: _____

SHINE: Health Care Options



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. He is currently scheduling appointments by phone, zoom or email. Please call 508-832-7799 and we will notify the counselor for you.

Worcester Community Action Council – Heating Assistance Information

We know many households are struggling financially due to lost or reduced wages as the result of COVID. We also know many households are experiencing increased utility usage because they are working from home or have children doing remote learning. What we want those households to know, is that WCAC is here to help – home heating help is here. Learn more here about applying for help whether you are a returning client or someone finding themselves struggling for the first time. Email LIHEAP@wcac.net with any additional questions.

WCAC's Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), best known as fuel assistance or home heating assistance, helps homeowners and renters pay home heating bills, past due balances on utility bills, and in some cases receiving forgiveness credit and making monthly payments. Financial assistance is available for income-eligible households to help pay home heating bills between November 1 – April 30 of each year.

PLEASE NOTE: In order to do our part to keep our employees, our clients and the community safe, WCAC's offices remain closed to the public due to the COVID-19 health crisis. Staff is working and is available by email and phone but please be patient if there is a delay in our response time. Please email us at LIHEAP@wcac.net or call 508-754-1176 to leave a message for our staff.

FY21 LIHEAP Income Eligibility

Number in Household	Annual Income	Income Past 4 Weeks
1	\$39,105	\$3,008
2	\$51,137	\$3,933
3	\$63,169	\$4,859
4	\$75,201	\$5,784
5	\$87,233	\$6,710



COLD WEATHER SAFETY TIPS



When you are outside, frostbite and hypothermia are possible so you need to protect yourself.

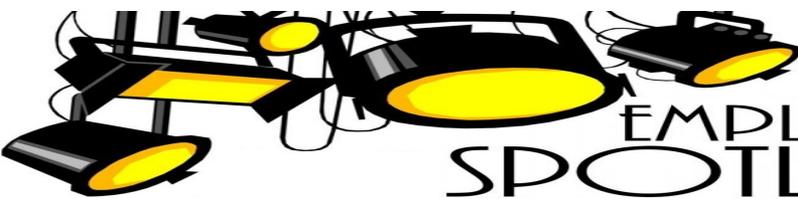
Wear layers of loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing. 2. Wear a hat. Try to stay dry and out of the wind. 3. Cover your mouth to protect your lungs from extreme cold. 4. Mittens, snug at the wrist, are better than gloves.

To keep pipes from freezing on an outside wall:

Let hot and cold water trickle or drip at night from a faucet. 2. Open cabinet doors to allow more heat to get to un-insulated pipes under a sink or near an outer wall. 3. Make sure heat is left on and set no lower than 55 degrees. 4. If you plan to be away: (1) Have someone check your house daily to make sure the heat is still on to prevent freezing, or (2) drain and shut off the water system (except indoor sprinkler systems).

Carbon monoxide poisoning is a silent, deadly killer claiming about 1,000 lives each year in the United States.

Install a carbon monoxide detector. 2. NEVER run generators indoors. 3. Open a window slightly when using a kerosene heater and follow the manufacturer's instructions. 4. NEVER use a gas oven to heat your home. 5. If your heat goes out, you can keep warm indoors by closing off rooms you do not need, dressing in layers of lightweight clothing, and wearing a cap.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



December 8, 2020 marked the end of an era in the AFRD. Long time Captain Stephen Anderson officially retired from the Auburn Fire Rescue Department.

Captain Anderson spent 37 years in the department starting as an Auxiliary member in 1983 and became a call firefighter on October 15, 1988. He was appointed a full time member of the department on October 25, 1990 and was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant by Chief Belhumeur on July 1, 1995. Then appointed to the rank of Captain on September 14, 2006 by Chief Coleman.

Captain Anderson was involved in so many initiatives over the years, to many to name. Although a few he is most proud of is his time as the departments training officer, his service for over 15 years as the departments fire inspector, his service on the committee to bring the first version of E-911 to the community and long dedication and service as an Arson Investigator.



Three Ways to Avoid COVID-19 Vaccine Scams

While vaccination details are getting worked out, here's what you can be sure of:

- You can't pay to put your name on a list to get the vaccine. **That's a scam.**
- You can't pay to get early access to the vaccine. **That's a scam.**
- Nobody legit will call about the vaccine and ask for your Social Security, bank account, or credit card number. **That's a scam.**

Ignore any vaccine offers that say different, or ask for personal or financial information.

Learn more at

ftc.gov/coronavirus/scams





Veterans Services

News Releases

VA plays crucial role in COVID-19 treatment study

WASHINGTON — U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) researchers and Veteran volunteers from the Atlanta and San Antonio VA medical centers were part of a recently [published study](#) that yielded crucial insights into COVID-19 treatment.

The study published Dec. 11, 2020, by the *New England Journal of Medicine*, showed the drugs baricitinib and remdesivir combined were far better at improving and reducing recovery time of COVID-19 patients than treatment with remdesivir alone.

“Safe and effective vaccines for COVID-19 are being rolled out in VA and other health care settings, but finding treatments remains crucial,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “VA researchers and all the Veterans who volunteer for studies are contributing to steady progress with regard to both vaccines and treatment options.”

The combined use of baricitinib, an anti-inflammatory drug, and remdesivir, an antiviral drug, has already influenced clinical practice. On Nov. 19, 2020, the [Food and Drug Administration](#) issued an [emergency use authorization](#) of the treatment in certain hospitalized adults and children, based mainly on the trial results.

The initial idea for the [National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases](#) (NIAID)-sponsored trial was advanced, in part, by a [research team](#) at the Atlanta VA Medical Center (VAMC). They had been studying baricitinib prior to the pandemic as a potential agent against other infectious diseases.

Among other studies on the drug, the Atlanta VA team reviewed the medical records of 15 patients with moderate to severe COVID-19 who had received daily doses of baricitinib in addition to other treatment. The addition of the drug was associated with recovery in 11 of the patients.

The [results](#) appeared June 2020 in the journal *Clinical Infectious Diseases*. The researchers interpreted the results cautiously, since the study was based on a small number of patients and was not a randomized, placebo-controlled trial. Nonetheless, the results helped lay the groundwork for the large NIAID-sponsored study that followed.

News from the Auburn Public Library

Winter 2021



Wishing our Patrons a Happy New Year and Peace on Earth to All

Auburn Public Library Expands Services to the Public

Although the building remains closed to the public, the staff at the Auburn Public Library continues to be extremely busy with ongoing, robust curbside pickup services; purchasing and processing new books and other materials; providing virtual programs for adults and children; video-taping staff-read stories; and creating program-themed literacy packets to children.

We also launched several new services and resources, described below.

New Resources

Digital Browsing is Here!

Need some ideas for what to read? Interested in perusing new titles in various categories? Digital browsing is an exciting alternative to physical browsing!



- Scroll to the bottom of our home page at <http://www.auburnlibrary.org> and digitally browse items in our collection. The book or media cover graphics automatically advance through the titles included on the banner, and then loop back to the beginning.
- Click on the graphic of interest, which will bring you directly to the catalog to place a hold.

- The browsing options are updated each Wednesday.
- Look for many other categories to be added within the next few weeks. Those will be available via a direct link beneath the digital banners on the main page.
- Please call us M-F 8:00am-4:00pm if you have questions or need assistance placing a hold.



News access from the Auburn Public Library

NewsBank™ is a full-text news database offered to members of the Auburn Public Library.

This is a subscription-based resource that provides a comprehensive collection of reliable news sources covering a wide array of topics and issues.

Patrons must have a valid Auburn Public Library card | Log-in is required

Access now includes

- *Daily* access to the Telegram & Gazette, with full text and full color images.
- Links to hundreds of newspapers, news magazines, journals and other news formats
- Archives to decades of the T&G and other news sources
- Options to set up email **NewsBank** updates
- Options to create personal news folders
- Special Reports * Hot Topics * Daily Headlines and Lesson Plans
- Audio format for many articles

Click [NewsBank](#) for access

Access to this resource is also located on the Library website.

Please call the Library at 508-832-7790 M-F 8:00am - 4:00pm if you need assistance!



Auburn Public Library introduces a 'new generation' reading format for children



VOX Books are an exciting modern format for children up to age 12 that brings technology and literacy to a new level. Our collection will shortly include over 100 outstanding picture books and fiction and non-fiction titles that capture children's attention and make learning and literacy development fun.

The audio device shown on the left is embedded into the inside front cover of each book.

VOX books are the first audio books that live in print books. The permanent, firmly attached VOX™ Reader transforms an ordinary print book into an all-in-one read-along. There is no need for computers, tables, CDs, or other peripherals. Children simply push a button to listen and read along, or opt to read the book without audio.

[Click here to go directly to the children's catalog for current VOX holdings](#)

Additional titles will be added each week!

Find Peace - Read!



Curbside Pickup | On-going and Robust!

We continue to provide robust curbside pickup option for our patrons. Except in extreme weather conditions that might damage the materials, we will continue this service until the building is once again fully open to the public.

*Auburn is one of the top 20 of the 147 libraries in the CWMARS system for volume in curbside service!

All items are wrapped for sanitization and privacy.

They are then placed on the curbside station racks in alphabetical order, labeled with your last name and the first two initials of your first name.

Masks fully covering the nose and mouth are required for pickup.

For more information on curbside pickup, please [click here](#) and/or call the Library M-F 8-4 | 508.832.7790. We are happy to assist you!

Our **Book Return**, located to the right of our main library doors, is open 24/7 for return of all library materials, whether from Auburn or from another library in the CWMARS system. You may return books, magazines, CDS, Books on CD, or DVDs. Items are now checked in the same day; materials are then quarantined for 3 days before being shelved or loaned to the next patron.

Don't forget to register for Constant Contact!

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

Constant Contact



If you would like to know about our programs and services as soon as they are open for registration and promotion, join the more than 400 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.

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 2021.



Town of
Auburn
Massachusetts

