

# Stoughton Town Crier

TOWN OF STOUGHTON UPDATED DECEMBER 3, 2024 ROBERTA HARBACK



All information taken from various Town of Stoughton pages



# Selectboard Agenda

## Tuesday Dec. 3, 2024 - 7:00 p.m.

## Great Hall Town Hall 3rd floor

## & virtually with Google Meets

In accordance with Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, which extends the Governor's March 12, 2020 "Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L.C. 30A § 20", until March 31, 2025, this meeting will be conducted both in person and virtually via Google Meets.

**To Join via Google Meets: [mqj-ujwn-uec](https://meet.google.com/mqj-ujwn-uec)**

**PHONE: 413-438-7229**

**PIN: 173 661 854#**

The meeting will be recorded by SMAC cable television and broadcast live and may be livestreamed at [www.stoughtontv.org](http://www.stoughtontv.org). A recording of the meeting, transcript, or other comprehensive record of the proceeding will be posted on the Town's website and/or SMAC as soon as possible after the meeting if the live broadcast or livestreaming is unsuccessful. Times are approximate and items may be taken out of order at the Chair's discretion.

1. 7:00 p.m. **OPEN SESSION**  
**Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance**
2. 7:05 p.m. **Executive Session:**
  - a. Executive session, subject to the Chair's declaration, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation pursuant to G.L. c. 30A §21 (a)(3), in the matter of McGowan v. McNulty
  - b. Executive session pursuant to Open Meeting Law (Chapter 30A Section 21 (a)(3)) - To discuss strategy with respect to potential litigation concerning the Stoughton Media Access Corp. if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating or litigating position of the Board and the Chair so declares
3. 7:20 p.m. Stoughton Equal Opportunity Committee (SEOC) By-law Debra Roberts
4. 7:40 p.m. FY26 Revenue Projections Elizabeth Zaleski  
Finance Director
5. 8:00 p.m. **Public Hearing:**  
Application for a new All Alcohol Beverages License - KPA Restaurant & Sports Grill, Inc., 756 Washington Street Kelly Francois
6. 8:15 p.m. Interest and Process for calling a Special Town Meeting regarding the South School Project Stephen Cavey
7. 8:30 p.m. Citizens' Comments
8. 8:40 p.m. Select Board Comments
9. 8:50 p.m. Town Manager Comments

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INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** STOUGHTON SELECT BOARD  
**FROM:** STEPHEN CAVEY  
CHAIR OF THE STOUGHTON SELECT BOARD  
**SUBJECT:** POTENTIAL DEBT EXCLUSION VOTE AND SPECIAL TOWN MEETING CALENDAR  
**DATE:** NOVEMBER 26, 2024

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Fellow members of the Stoughton Select Board,

As you are likely aware, Article 15 of Special Town Meeting 2024 passed 111-34. That was a petitioned article that garnered over 2,400 signatures. Its intent was to ask the Stoughton Select Board to call for a vote of a debt exclusion to fund construction of a consolidated South Elementary School.

Though the number of signatures on the petition is impressive and the passing margin of the vote by Town Meeting significant, the measure was nevertheless non-binding on the Select Board. It is now incumbent upon us to choose a path forward that best represents our duty to all citizens of the Town of Stoughton. What follows are our available options and, where relevant, the timeline we need to follow to move forward. We need to be especially mindful of the fact that the original appropriation in May 2024 has expired, so a new appropriation by Town Meeting is required if we choose to authorize a revote.

**OPTION 1: Do Nothing**

The Select Board has the right to choose to take no action. In this scenario, a new appropriation is not necessary, and we will not have to hold an election for a debt exclusion. There is no calendar that follows, as there are no actions for us to take. The impacts of that Board decision are widely known.

**OPTION 2: Do Something**

If we choose to move forward with an election, and therefore also a new appropriation, we have a few options. There are also several constraints we need to be aware of. Town Counsel, the Interim Town Clerk, and I have identified the following constraints:

1. The MSBA has extended the deadline for a new election to April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025. After that date, we will no longer be eligible for \$47,000,000.00 in financial assistance from the MSBA.
2. The Stoughton Town Charter and Mass General Laws requires that the Select Board and Town Meeting comply with the following schedule for a Special Town Meeting:
  - a. The Select Board must open a Special Town Meeting Warrant.
  - b. The Warrant must remain open for at least 7 days.
  - c. After the Warrant has closed, Special Town Meeting cannot begin any sooner than 42 later.
  - d. At least 35 days must elapse between the time an election is called and the date of that election.
  - e. The ballot measure must be voted on within 90 days of a Town Meeting appropriations.

Additionally, I assume that we would target an April 1<sup>st</sup> election, which will allow for cost savings and fits within the deadline established by the MSBA.

### **OPTION 2a: Schedule a Special Town Meeting followed by an election**

This would be the most logical path, the one which we are certainly most accustomed to. In this scenario we would likely have to follow the following calendar in order to address the scheduling requirements outlined above:

**12/10/2024** – Open a Special Town Meeting Warrant.

**12/17/2024** – Close the Special Town Meeting Warrant (open for 7 days).

Failure to meet this deadline may cause delays because the following Tuesday is Christmas Eve, and the Tuesday after that is New Year's Eve.

**2/3/2025** – Special Town Meeting begins.

This is the first Monday after 42 days elapse (which takes place on Tuesday 1/28/2025).

**2/4/2025** – Select Board calls for an election (56 days before April 1<sup>st</sup> Local Election).

If the appropriation passes Special Town Meeting, we could choose to have the election as part of the Annual Town election. We may, however, call for an April 1<sup>st</sup> election on day in February up until the 25<sup>th</sup>.

**4/1/2025** – Combined Local Election and Ballot Measure Election.

90 days before April 1<sup>st</sup> is January 1<sup>st</sup>. So long as both the Special Town Meeting and the election occur within that window, we have successfully navigated all constraints and deadlines.

### **Option 2b: Schedule an election followed by a Special Town Meeting**

Though it is typical for us to vote on an appropriation before we hold a town wide election, the law does not require us to complete these tasks in that order. It is equally lawful to hold an election followed by an appropriation by Town Meeting. The following is a timeline that follows this order of events and considers all the above-listed constraints.

**12/10/2024** – The Select Board calls for an election for this single item ballot measure.

**1/14/2025** – Election can be held on this date at the earliest.

**1/21/2025** – Open a Special Town Meeting Warrant

**1/28/2025** – Close the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

**3/17/2025** – Hold Special Town Meeting on this date at the earliest.

### **Additional Notes to Consider**

If we choose to do something, we ought to be mindful that annual local elections are scheduled for April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, and Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025. I have confirmed that none of the dates for either Option 2a or Option 2b fall on a work-restricted religious holiday, though there are both State and religious holidays scattered throughout these time periods, which may impact scheduling. Additionally, none of these dates fall during School vacation periods.

Based on our understanding of the process, constraints and Mass General Law, I ecommend Option 2a if the Board chooses to call for an election.



## **TOWN OF STOUGHTON PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION SOLID WASTE MUNICIPAL WASTE RECYCLING**

**WEDNESDAY, December 4, 2024 - 6:00 p.m.  
The GREAT HALL, 10 Pearl St., 3rd Floor  
STOUGHTON, MA 02072  
& VIRTUALLY via GOOGLE MEETS**

On September 20, 2023, we held a public information session to provide insight into the looming crisis in the cost and management of municipal waste (rubbish). During that meeting, we learned a great deal about the growing demand and declining capacity for municipal waste disposal. We had a spirited discussion about alternative forms of waste management.

With clear direction from our citizens, we rejected the "pay as you throw bag" approach and chose to adjust rates in support of the current methodology of waste management used in Stoughton for decades. We also modified our existing program to separate bulky solid waste streams from municipal waste streams. Following the September 20, 2023, we promised to report back and to present various options for the Town to consider which will help mitigate the cost and capacity challenges we are sure to face in years to come.

**The December 4, 2024** public information session will provide an update on the current program and cost/benefit analysis. As promised, we will also present alternatives to our current way of doing business.

Although I don't expect any operational or rate changes in FY26 (beginning July 1, 2025), I believe that we need to understand our future challenges and options as related to solid waste management in the Town of Stoughton.

**Please attend the December 4<sup>th</sup> waste management information session. There will time scheduled for Q&A.**

Thank you.  
Thomas J. Calter  
Town Manager



**Thomas Calter  
Town Manager**



**TOWN OF STOUGHTON  
PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION  
WATER & SEWER  
THURSDAY, December 5, 2024 - 6:00 p.m.  
The GREAT HALL, 10 Pearl St., 3rd Floor  
STOUGHTON, MA 02072  
& VIRTUALLY via GOOGLE MEETS**

**To Join via Google Meets: mqi-tzcc-gmm  
PHONE: 307-370-1218  
PIN: 391 847 001#**

A Select Board water/sewer public rate hearing was conducted by the Stoughton Select Board on June 13, 2023.

During that rate hearing the Board promised to meet with public every year to give a financial report on the water/sewer enterprise accounts.

**On December 5, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Great Hall, Town Manager Tom Calter and Finance Director Elizabeth Zaleski will make a presentation to the public which will include water and sewer rates to be recommended to the Board for FY26, beginning July 1, 2025.

**Please attend the December 5<sup>th</sup> informational session.** There will be a Q&A period built into the agenda.

Thank you.  
Thomas J. Calter  
Town Manager



9TH  
ANNUAL

# FILL A CRUISER

In front of Stoughton Police Station

**Saturday, December 14  
from 10-4**

The collection box will be available from  
November 29 - December 20 in our lobby

Accepting  
new unwrapped toys,  
sports equipment, games  
and clothing for children  
from newborn to 17 years.

We will also be accepting  
gift cards and  
cash donations.  
Also accepting VENMO  
(@stoughtonpolicerelief)

All donations to help local families



# Early Thursday Art Workshop

**12/12 | 12:00-4:00 pm | Ages 10-15 | \$5**

Early Thursday and nothing to do?! No problem! Come to Rec and spend the afternoon making art, playing games and having fun.

Pre-registration required



[www.StoughtonRec.org](http://www.StoughtonRec.org)

## Ornament Workshop

**12/10/24 - 3:30-4:30 pm - Ages 10-16**

**12/11/24 - 3:30-4:30 pm - Ages 6-11**

Create your own one of a kind ornament to put in your home or give as a gift! This program will take place inside the Recreation Department at 15 Pleasant St. Pre-registration required



REGISTER AT

[WWW.STOUGHTONREC.ORG](http://WWW.STOUGHTONREC.ORG)



# SAFE STREETS 4 ALL

## REGIONAL VISION ZERO ACTION PLAN

### VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING

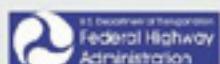


**OLD COLONY**

PLANNING COUNCIL IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



**BETA**



SCAN THE QR CODE FOR REGISTRATION

**DEC 11 | 6:00  
2024 | PM**



[HTTP://TINYURL.COM/2Z9C14](https://tinyurl.com/2z9c14) MEETING REGISTRATION

#### TELL US ABOUT:

- ✓ HIGH-RISK LOCATIONS
- ✓ MISSED LOCATIONS
- ✓ YOUR EXPERIENCE ON LOCAL ROADS



**ENSURING A SAFE TRANSPORTATION  
ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL**

Town of Stoughton

# New Online Building Permit Software

Stoughton is excited to announce the launch of a new online building permit software!

## Benefits of the New Software:

**Convenience:** Apply for permits from the comfort of your home or office.

**Efficiency:** Reduce paperwork and wait times.

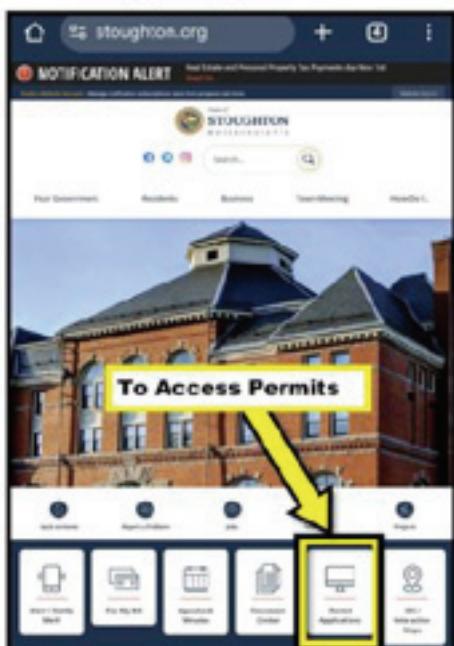
**Transparency:** Track the status of your permit application in real-time.

## How to Get Started:

**Visit our website:** [www.stoughton.org](http://www.stoughton.org)

**Create an account:** Register for your personal account.

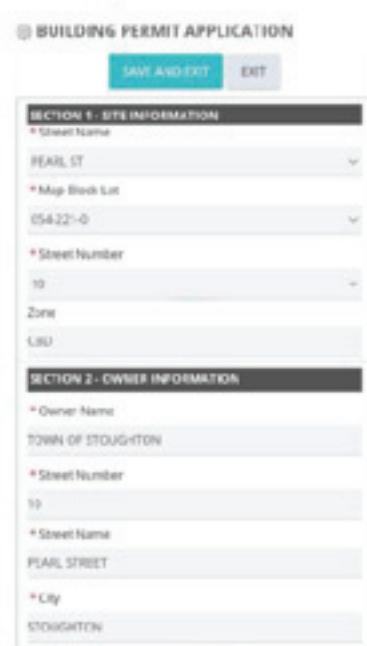
**Start your application:** Follow the simple steps to submit your permit request.



Www.stoughton.org



Login Screen

A screenshot of the building permit application form. It shows two sections: "SECTION 1 - SITE INFORMATION" and "SECTION 2 - OWNER INFORMATION". The "SECTION 1" form includes fields for Street Name (PEARL ST), Map Block Lot (054-221-0), Street Number (10), Zone (CSD), and City (STOUGHTON). The "SECTION 2" form includes fields for Owner Name (TOWN OF STOUGHTON), Street Number (10), Street Name (PEARL STREET), and City (STOUGHTON).

SECTION 1 - SITE INFORMATION	
* Street Name	PEARL ST
* Map Block Lot	054-221-0
* Street Number	10
Zone	CSD
City	STOUGHTON

SECTION 2 - OWNER INFORMATION	
* Owner Name	TOWN OF STOUGHTON
* Street Number	10
* Street Name	PEARL STREET
* City	STOUGHTON

Application Screen



<https://permiteyes.us/stoughton/loginuser.php>

For more information or assistance, please contact: Stoughton Building Department

# Maria Lawton



The long awaited second book is finally here! Join us for an exclusive book signing event to meet the Green Bean herself at the Stoughton Public Library!

**Saturday, December 7 | 2 PM**  
**84 Park St, Stoughton, MA**

# Town of Stoughton

10 Pearl Street • Stoughton, MA 02072 • (781) 341-1300 • FAX (781) 344-5048  
[www.stoughton-ma.gov](http://www.stoughton-ma.gov)

**FY25  
2024-2025 Snow Plowing Operations  
Tentative Schedule of Proceedings**

Dear Snow Plowing Contractors

In preparation for the upcoming winter season, the Town of Stoughton will begin the solicitation for on-call snow plowing services.

In order to keep the contractors informed, the Procurement Department has put together this tentative schedule of proceedings in regards to significant dates.

As in the past winter seasons, the number of the pieces of snow plowing equipment contracted will be determined by the Department of Public Works Superintendent. Snow Plowing services are on call and as needed solely under the direction of the DPW Superintendent to supplement the Towns equipment. The DPW Superintendent does not guarantee a need for services. In cases of emergency conditions, the Town may add on additional pieces of equipment to be used.

**Tentative Date Schedule:**

September 23, 2024 10:00am	Snow Plowing Operations documents available by emailing a request to: <a href="mailto:bids@stoughton-ma.gov">bids@stoughton-ma.gov</a> or by picking up documents at the Town Hall 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor Procurement Dept 10 Pearl Street Stoughton, MA 02072
October 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2024 12:00pm	Questions due in regards to snow plowing operations
October 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	Addenda issued (if necessary)
November 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	In order to assign routes for contracted snow plowers <u>Complete Snow Plowing packages</u> will be accepted any time <u>before</u> November 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2024. Incomplete packages received will not be forwarded to the DPW Superintendent.

Best regards



Fran Bruttaniti  
Procurement Officer

Cc Paul Giffune

STOUGHTON PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS:

## Bing Crosby: King of the Christmas Crooners

with Stoughton film historian Frank Mandosa



"An Oscar-winning actor, a record-setting recording artist, and a staple of holiday TV specials for years, Bing Crosby remains one of the most famous and well-loved voices in music history. You will hear about his life and career and enjoy a behind-the-scenes look at his most iconic motion pictures, including the seasonal films *Holiday Inn*, *Going My Way*, *The Bells of St. Mary's*, and *White Christmas*!"

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12th  
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

To register, please visit or call the library at 781-344-2711  
or email [Joshin@stoughton.ocln.org](mailto:joshin@stoughton.ocln.org)

A Zoom link will be sent 1 day prior to the program.



High school English & Film teacher Frank Mandosa gives talks on a wide variety of film-related topics & has 2 movie podcasts, "Silver Screeners" (host) & "Movies Across the Pod" (co-host), Facebook movie group, "Silver Screeners", Twitter: @filmbuff1974  
Email: [silverscreenerspod@gmail.com](mailto:silverscreenerspod@gmail.com)  
[www.frankmandosa.a.weebly.com](http://www.frankmandosa.a.weebly.com)

## All Ages Holiday Sing Along With David Polansky

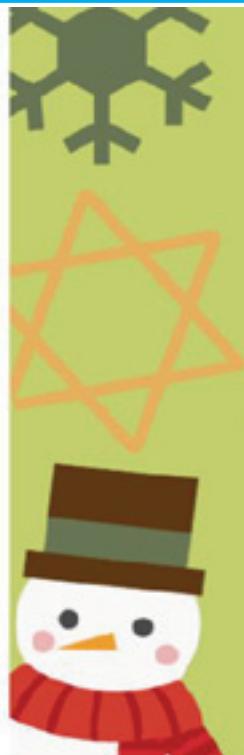
Thursday, December 19th, 6:30-7:30pm.

Holiday Fun For Everyone!

All Ages

All Holidays

No Registration Required



Stoughton  
Public Library

Stoughton Public Library

84 Park St., Stoughton, Massachusetts 02072 | 781-344-2711

<https://www.stoughton.org/657/library>

# STOUGHTON RECREATION



## WINTER 2025 PROGRAM GUIDE

### TODDLERS & KIDS

#### Craft & Play with Molly

Session 1: Wednesdays 1/22-2/12 | 10-10:45 am  
Session 2: Wednesdays 3/26-4/15 | 10-10:45 am  
Location: Recreation Department | Ages 2-5 | \$25

#### Tumble Time with Rec Staff [NEW TIME!](#)

Tuesdays 1/21-2/11 | 11:15-12:00 pm | Ages 3-5  
Location: Recreation Department | \$25

#### Dance with Me with Starline Academy [NEW TIME!](#)

Wednesdays 1/16-2/12 | 10:15-11:00 | Ages 1.5-3 | \$70  
Wednesdays 2/26-3/26 | 10:15-11:00 | Ages 1.5-3 | \$70  
Location: Starline Academy for the Performing Arts

#### Little Ballerinas with Starline Academy [NEW TIME!](#)

Wednesdays 1/15-2/12 | 11:15-12:00 | Ages 3-5 | \$70  
Wednesdays 2/26-3/26 | 11:15-12:00 | Ages 3-5 | \$70  
Location: Starline Academy for the Performing Arts

#### Max Monsters with MAXX Training Center

Tuesdays and Thursdays 1/21-2/20 | \$115  
Ages 4-7: 5:00-5:45 pm  
Ages 8-12: 6:00-7:00 pm  
Location: Maxx Training Center

#### Penguin Party with Rec Staff [NEW!!](#)

Monday 1/6 | 3-4 pm | Ages 5-7 | \$5  
Location: Recreation Department

#### Kids Night Out with Rec Staff

Friday 2/7 | 5-9 pm | Ages 6-12 | \$12  
Location: Recreation Department

#### Culinary Creations with Matt and Molly

Wednesday 1/7 | 3:00-4:30 pm | Ages 6-11  
Location: Recreation Department | \$15

#### Slime Workshop with Rec Staff

Monday 2/10 | 3:30-4:30 pm | Ages 6-12  
Location: Recreation Department | \$10

#### After-School Art Club with Molly

Tuesdays 1/21-2/11 | 3:30-4:30 pm | Ages 6-11  
Tuesdays 2/25-3/18 | 3:30-4:30 | Ages 6-11  
Location: Recreation Department | \$25

#### Blue Hills Ski & Snowboard Lessons

Thursdays 1/9-2/6 (make-up 2/13, 2/27, 3/6)  
Location: Blue Hills Ski Area | 4:45-6 pm | Ages 7-14  
Lessons (no rental) \$330  
Lessons and rental \$460

#### Kids Ceramics & Crafts with Laurice

Wednesdays 2/26-3/19 | Ages 8-14  
Location: Recreation Department | \$45

#### Tic-Tac-Go! with Molly [NEW!!](#)

Wednesdays 1/22-2/12 | Ages 9-14 | \$25  
Location: Recreation Department

#### Clay Club with Molly

Mondays 2/24-3/17 | Ages 10-17  
Location: Recreation Department | \$45

#### Teen Chefs with Matt and Molly

Thursday 1/8 | 3:00-4:30 pm | Ages 11-17  
Location: Recreation Department | \$15

#### Teen Pottery Wheel Workshop with Beeble Art Studio

Friday 2/28 | 5:00-6:30 pm | Ages 11-16  
Location: Recreation Department | \$75

# STOUGHTON RECREATION



## WINTER 2025 PROGRAM GUIDE

### ADULTS

#### Create with Clay with Moly [NEW!!](#)

Thursday 1/2 | 5:30-7 pm | Ages 18+ | \$30

Location: Recreation Department

#### Sea Glass Succulent Workshop [NEW!!](#)

with AC&DC Family Crafting | Ages 18+

Friday 1/17 | 5:30-7 pm | \$40

Location: Recreation Department

#### Easyfit Exercise with Mary

Tuesdays and Fridays 10:30-11:30 am | Ages 18+

Location: United Methodist Church | \$3 per class

#### Jigsaw Wizards with Winny

Friday 1/31 | 5:15-7:15 | Ages 17+

Location: Recreation Department | \$15 per team

#### Gourmet on a Budget with Malcolm

Thursday 3/13 | 5:15-7:00 | Ages 18+

Location: Recreation Department | \$40

#### Paint Night with Beeble Art Studio

Friday 4/4 | 5:15-7:30 pm | Ages 17+

Location: Recreation Department | \$25

### COMMUNITY EVENTS

#### Holiday Parade of Lights | Saturday, 12/14 at 5 pm

Join us for Stoughton's Annual Holiday Parade of Lights through the Town Center. Storytime, cookies, hot coco and crafts available at the Rec Department starting at 4 pm before the parade. Photos with Santa available after the parade until 7 pm.

### FEBRUARY VACATION PROGRAMS

#### Lego Club with Winny

Tues-Thurs 2/19-2/20 | 10:00-11:30 pm | Grades K-3

Location: Recreation Department | \$25

#### DIY Mini Golf Course with Mall [NEW!!](#)

Tues-Thurs 2/19-2/20 | 1:00-4:00 pm | Ages 8-13

Location: Recreation Department | \$35

#### Create-Your-Own News Segment with SMAC

Tues-Thurs 2/19-2/20 | 1:00-4:00 pm | Grades 5-9

Location: SMAC, 421 Page St #2, Stoughton | \$20

## DON'T WAIT UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE!

New programs added regularly!

*Not all programs are listed on this program guide. All dates, times, and location are subject to change. Pre-registration required unless otherwise noted. Programs are drop-off programs unless otherwise noted in program description.*

*Please be advised that refunds or credits may not be issued within 24 business hours of the program start time, and programs will not be prorated for missed classes. Participants may be eligible for a refund or account credit on a case by case basis prior to the first day of a program. Any approved cancellations resulting in a refund will incur a 5% cancellation fee, unless the cancellation of the program is initiated by the Recreation*

*Department. In the event that the minimum registration requirement is not met, the program will be canceled. In such instances, participants will receive a full refund, and notification of the cancellation will be sent via email. Prices listed on this guide are for Stoughton residents. Non-resident rates may apply and are listed on our website [www.StoughtonRec.org](http://www.StoughtonRec.org)*



# HOLIDAY PARADE OF LIGHTS 2024



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14th at 5 PM**

**CALLING ALL BUSINESSES AND  
COMMUNITY GROUPS -  
FLOAT REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!**

Help us light up Stoughton this  
holiday season by signing up  
your group to drive a float or  
march in the parade!

[www.StoughtonRec.org](http://www.StoughtonRec.org)



**TEEN**

## **GINGERBREAD** *House Decorating*

**THURSDAY 12/19/24**

**STOUGHTON PUBLIC LIBRARY**

84 Park St. • Stoughton, MA • 02072  
781-344-2711



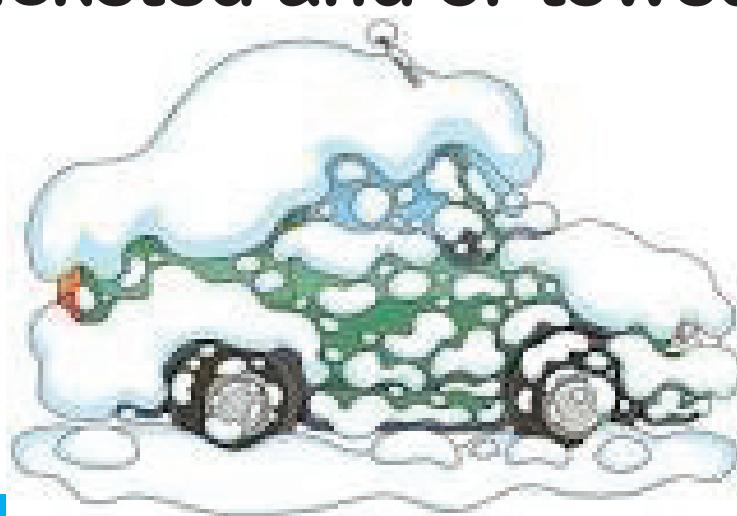
# No Street Parking

## 1 a.m. to 6 a.m.

beginning  
midnight December 1, 2024  
through  
April 1, 2025.

There is no authorized street or  
municipal parking.

Vehicles are subject to being  
ticketed and or towed



**TUES. 12/17/24**

2:45PM - 4:45PM

# **LEARN TO CROCHET**

FOR TEENS



\*

**STOUGHTON PUBLIC LIBRARY**

84 Park Street \* Stoughton, MA \* 02072  
781-344-2711



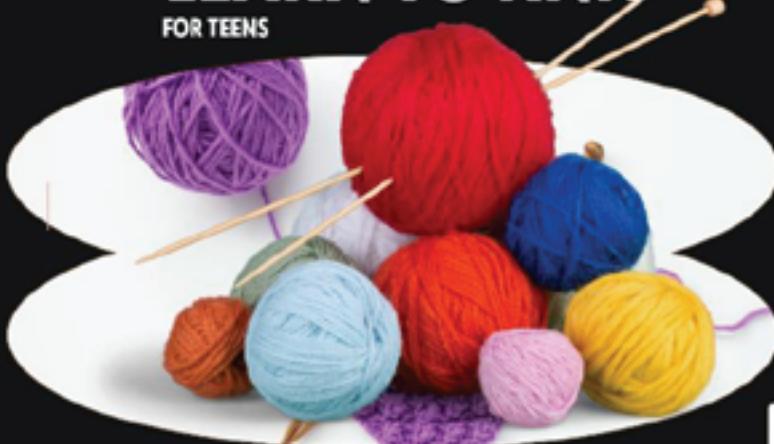
Join us to learn how to crochet.

**TUES. 12/3 & 12/10**

2:45PM - 4:00PM

# **LEARN TO KNIT**

FOR TEENS



\*



Join us to learn how to Knit.

**STOUGHTON PUBLIC LIBRARY**

84 Park Street \* Stoughton, MA \* 02072  
781-344-2711

THURSDAY 12/26/24 @2:30PM

TEEN  
**Paint Party**

Let's celebrate creativity together!



Stoughton Public Library  
84 Park St. \* Stoughton, MA \* 781-344-2711



**Friday 12/27  
@11AM**



**Teen Pizza &  
Gaming**



Join us for board games,  
video games, & delicious  
pizza! Registration required

STOUGHTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

84 Park Street \* Stoughton, MA \* 02072  
781-344-2711

**OPEN GAMING W/  
VIRTUAL REALITY**

FOR TEENS 12 & UP

THURSDAY 12/12 AT 1PM-4PM

STOUGHTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

84 PARK ST. \* STOUGHTON, MA \* 02072  
781-344-2711



# Town of Stoughton

10 Pearl Street Stoughton, MA 02072 (781) 341-1300 ext 9273 FAX (781) 341-1086

[www.stoughton-ma.gov](http://www.stoughton-ma.gov)

## Board of Health

### Rodent Informational Guide

#### History

Rats are and have been a part of the Massachusetts ecosystem since the area was originally settled in the early 17th century. They are a “cosmopolitan” species and are commonly found in most urban areas, including Stoughton and neighboring communities.

#### Current rat population in Stoughton:

Over the past several years the Stoughton Board of Health and Animal Control have received an increased number of reports for outdoor rat activity. Most live in the ground near food sources. Female rodents can have an average litter 8 pups monthly, as the gestation period is only 3 weeks. Experts claim that several factors may be contributing to the uptick in the population. One investigation reports that the population has increased due to climate change with warmer & shorter winter months. Rats are typically less active during the colder parts of the year and are less likely to breed. With a warmer winter, they can breed more and have more offspring that will eventually increase the size of the population we see during the summer and fall although the average lifespan of a wild rat is typically one year. Additional reasons for increased in rat sightings may include:

- Construction- vibrations disrupting their below ground habitat
- Lack of natural predators such as coyotes, foxes, and birds of prey, due to ever expanding development and decreasing green spaces.

Additional reports believe the COVID-19 pandemic also played a factor into the increasing rat population in residential areas due to more people remaining home & generating more household trash. Rats are a natural part of the urban and rural environments in Stoughton and the surrounding greater Boston area.

Rats have been with us for a very long time and will thrive in places where they can find food, water, and shelter. In general, where there are people, rats will often follow. We have heard from colleagues in many neighboring communities that they are experiencing a similar uptick in rat sightings/reports. Stoughton is not unique in this trend.

#### FAQ's

#### What is Stoughton doing?

The Stoughton Board of Health, Animal Control & the Environmental Affairs Officer work with other Stoughton departments, residents & business owners to promote better understandings of rat behavior & how to minimize their presence & impact on the community. With the increased rat activity in town, these departments have been educating the public, businesses & construction project managers with information to promote & ensure best practices in the area of pest management & control. The Facilities Department pretreats for rodents on town projects & monitors for rodent presence throughout projects, taking appropriate pest control steps as needed. Also many Town buildings including the schools receive routine pest control service. The Stoughton BOH has enforcement authority for “interior” building infestations. The Town can also send violation notices to residents who do not store their outside putrescible trash properly, which is required to be stored in dumpsters or cans with tight fitting animal proof covers. The BOH has permitting & enforcement authority for garbage dumpsters as well.

### **I have seen rats in my home or yard. Who should I call?**

If you notice any evidence of rodent activity on your property, make sure you are not providing any food source by using rodent proof cans with tight fitting covers for all garbage stored outside. Do not leave any pet food outside. Do not feed the wildlife (no bird or squirrel feeders that become rat feeders at night). If the problem persists you may need to contact a licensed pest control company to assist you to properly address the issue. Pest control companies can be found in the local phone book or online.

### **Will the construction I see in my neighborhood increase rodent activity?**

Construction doesn't lead to an increase in rats, but it can lead to a displacement with major land clearing projects or during demolition of existing buildings. Demolition permits are issued from the Stoughton Building Department but only after documentation that pest control companies have been hired to place bait stations onsite to decrease the onsite population prior to the actual demolition, to mitigate potential displacement of rodents. Increasing prevention strategies by owners & abutters working together with pest control companies ongoing throughout the projects, will help remediate rodent activity during extensive demolition or excavation projects.

### **Why do rats have such a bad reputation?**

Rats are actually quite intelligent and interesting creatures. However, they have been given a bad reputation throughout history for their spread of disease. Luckily, the odds of a human contracting a disease from a rat is very low, as humans do not have repeated, direct contact with rodents. The risk for disease from rats becomes even smaller if people take proper precautions to keep their properties rodent/harborage free. As always, people should use gloves when handling any material a rodent may have come in contact with, & should wash their hands promptly after any contact or cleanup project.

## **How to Help Prevent a Rodent Infestation**

### **1. Maintain your property in a sanitary manner.**

- Keep grills clean
- Store woodpiles neatly with a 12-inch ground clearance
- Remove dog and cat feces promptly

### **2. Rodent proof all foundations, building structures (ex. sheds) and garages using durable materials such as ¼ inch mesh, metal hardware, or sheet metal. Eliminate &/or seal all gaps greater than ¼ inch.**

### **3. Reduce or eliminate rodent accessible food, water, and harborage (potential shelter).**

- Do not leave pet food out at night or any other food debris out for local wildlife
- Remove birdfeeders that rodents can access.
- All garbage should be stored with watertight receptacles made of metal or other durable, rodent proof material.
- Remove water sources, this also helps eliminate mosquito breeding habitats
- Keep compost securely covered

### **4. Thin vegetation and keep up with grass and shrubbery trimming.**

### **5. Routinely inspect your property for evidence of rodents, including burrows, tracks, droppings, & chew marks.**

### **6. If you live in rental housing & you see signs of rodents, tell your landlord. If your building has a dumpster, make sure to close all dumpster doors after depositing your garbage within which. Do not leave garbage outside of a dumpster.**

### **7. Uncovered barrels or bags may be put out on the morning of your scheduled municipal garbage pickup day, but anything put out the night before must be stored in covered pest resistant receptacles.**

### **8. Share this information with your neighbors. Rodent problems are a community issue. Working together will help eliminate this problem.**

**If you discover rodent infestation on your property, contact a licensed pest control company for assistance.**

# Welcome to the Town Manager's Office!

On December 12, 2022 I was honored to begin my career in Stoughton. After enjoying a successful career in business, as a State Legislator and as a Town Administrator, I've taken on this challenge with eyes wide open. From a career of professional experiences, successes and mistakes, I join the Town well prepared to meet the challenges, and leverage the opportunities before us. I want you to know that I am true and committed to several core values.

First, you can always expect transactional honesty from me. I will respectfully say what I mean and mean what I say. Second, I am committed to openness and full transparency. Secrets, hidden agendas and old grievances will not play any part in my decision making process nor, will they eat up the valuable time needed to do this job properly. Third, you can always expect me to use prudent fiscal judgement. We have real financial challenges and clear solutions which will require your understanding and support. I am not promising a "Rose Garden". I am promising however, that within three years, the Town of Stoughton will stand on a strong financial footing.

We have some challenges that are among my top priorities. As Stoughton looks forward to its 300th Anniversary, it's important to understand that our infrastructure is old and has been neglected for decades. We seldom appreciate the value of clean running water and efficient waste management until those services are interrupted or lost. We all share 112 miles of Stoughton roads. Only 24.1 miles require minimal or no maintenance. As we develop a long-term infrastructure plan, we need to coordinate the replacement of 100 year old water and waste water distribution lines with the pavement of those roads. We need to replace water meters that are not properly recording water consumption. This may appear to be getting into the weeds. However, the condition of our water and sewer lines, town buildings, and town roads is beneath the standard you deserve. Meeting those challenges is among my top priorities. Meeting you and hearing your views will be among my greatest joys!

In closing, I want you to know that openness, transparency and constituent service are among my core values. Those values served me well as a business executive, business owner, legislator and municipal leader. Your confidence in Stoughton town government is needed in order for us to move our common agenda forward. I ask that you stay in touch, stay involved, share your thoughts and make your voice heard.

Respectfully,

Thomas J. Calter



Thomas Calter  
Town Manager