

Stoughton Town Crier

TOWN OF STOUGHTON UPDATED DECEMBER 10, 2024 ROBERTA HARBACK



All information taken from various Town of Stoughton pages



Selectboard Agenda

Tuesday Dec. 10, 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: xqd-fwtr-flks
PHONE: 401-426-3259
PIN: 910 370 789#

The meeting will be recorded by SMAC cable television and broadcast live and may be livestreamed at 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:**
Executive Session pursuant to Open Meeting Law (Chapter 30A Section 21 (a)(3)) - To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares -THEA and Library
3. 7:25 p.m. Citizens' Comments
4. 7:35 p.m. Select Board Comments
5. 7:45 p.m. Town Manager Comments
6. 7:55 p.m. Traffic re:
 - Pleasant St - Lincoln St. Intersection
 - Chapman Rd.
 - Parking on Grove St. at Pleasant St.
 - Simpson St. Parking
7. 8:15 p.m. Open the Warrant - Votes may be taken
8. 8:25 p.m. **Consent Agenda:**
Approval of Open Session Minutes Meetings of November 13, 2024, November 19, 2024 and November 26, 2024

Marc Tisdelle
Town Engineer
Deputy Chief
James O'Connor



Water-Sewer-Trash Due this Thursday

Town of Stoughton

OFFICE OF THE TOWN COLLECTOR

10 Pearl Street • Stoughton, MA 02072 • (781) 341-1300 • FAX (781) 341-1032

The Water, Sewer, Trash Department has issued **the FY25 2nd quarter Water, Sewer, Trash bills** to the Town of Stoughton water, sewer, and trash customers. The 2nd quarter Water, Sewer, Trash bills **were mailed on November 12, 2024, and are due December 12, 2024**, and must be received in the Collector's Office or the PO Box in Medford on or before this date. A postmark date is not acceptable as payment made if the payment is not received in the Collector's Office or the PO Box in Medford by December 12, 2024.

When sending payment(s) to the Lockbox address in Medford, checks, AND water, sewer, trash remittances MUST BE SENT. PLEASE do not mail checks only to the Medford address. If there is/are no remittance(s) with the check(s), the payment(s) cannot be processed and will be returned to Town Hall for processing. This will delay the payment(s) from being applied to your water, sewer, trash bill(s).

When processing a payment online through your bank's Bill Pay, you MUST include the bill number, and the year and type in the Memo field (for example, Bill #25, 2025 water, sewer, trash) so your payment will be properly applied. When paying multiple bills, you must include each bill number. If this information is not included on your check, your check may be returned to you, and interest/charges may accrue due to a late payment. **Online bank payment checks must be mailed to** Town of Stoughton PO Box 9108 Stoughton MA 02072.

The Water, Sewer, Trash bills may be paid online at [HTTPS://WWW.STOUGHTON.ORG/428/ONLINE-BILL-PAY](https://www.stoughton.org/428/online-bill-pay), at Town Hall with cash, checks and credit and debit card with a 3% fee and for your convenience, there is a secured payment drop box outside of Town Hall on Pearl St. The payment drop box is emptied two to three times a day, once in the morning and once in the afternoon, and if needed, once before leaving for the day.

All unpaid water, sewer, trash bills will accrue interest at 14% from their respective due dates, a \$15.00 demand fee will be added to the bill, and the Senior Discount will be forfeited if this quarter's balance is not paid in full.

The Collector staff members are available by phone Monday through Wednesday from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, Thursday from 8:30 AM to 7:00 PM, and Friday from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM. Please call 781-341-1300 X 9222 if you need your bill number(s) and or amount(s) due.



Town Hall will be closed
on
Thursday, December 12th
at 4:30 P.M.
due to the Town Hall Holiday Party

please note ...
it's the last day to pay the
water/sewer/trash bill.



Town Hall Pocket Park and Exterior Public Access Improvement Project

Public Survey Open – Please Voice Your Opinion

The Town of Stoughton would like your input. At the Annual Town Meeting in 2023 an Article was approved to prepare design plans for improvements to Town Hall parking and site improvements.

The project goals are to increase public parking and to improve traffic circulation, accessibility access and safety as well as enhance the appearance of Town Hall by providing a public pocket park with amenities and landscaping.

The design is complete. Use QR Code to view and complete survey or see Survey Notice at stoughton.org under News and Announcements. The Survey has a link to the plans.

The survey will be open until Wednesday, December 18th.

Hard copies of the survey as well as a copy of the plan are available at the Engineering Department on the 2nd floor of Town Hall.

If you have any questions you may contact Marc Tisdelle at mtisdelle@stoughton-ma.gov or 781-341-1300 x9263. Thank you.



HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

During the Holiday Parade of Lights

12/14/2024 | 4:00–7:00 PM

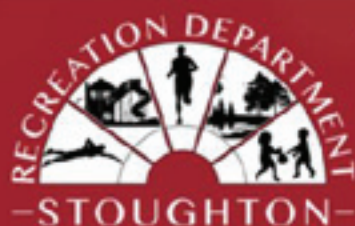
Rec Center, 15 Pleasant St

4:15 – Storytime with
Stoughton Public Library

4:30 – Holiday Crafts,
Cookies, and Hot Coco

5:00 – Parade Starts!

6:15 – Photos with Santa



HOLIDAY PARADE OF LIGHTS 2024

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14th at 5 PM



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



Starts at High School, through Town Center, ends at corner of Park & Leach St

www.StoughtonRec.org



LETTERS TO SANTA



Get your letters in by
December 16th to
guarantee a return
letter before Christmas!

Looking to send a letter to jolly old Saint Nick before Christmas arrives? Stoughton Recreation has you covered!

Drop off a letter to Santa with a full name and return address no later than December 16th and we will make sure he gets your letter and writes you one back! All letters can be dropped off in the red mailbox on the front steps of the Recreation Department located at 15 Pleasant St (weather permitting).



TUES. 12/17/24

2:45PM - 4:45PM

LEARN TO CROCHET

FOR TEENS



Join us to learn how to crochet.

STOUGHTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

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

GIVE THE GIFT OF RECYCLING SMART.

RECYCLE



- ✓ Brown kraft wrapping paper
- ✓ Cardboard boxes
- ✓ Thin gift boxes
- ✓ Wine and champagne bottles (no corks)
- ✓ Paper greeting cards with no glitter, foil, metallic ink, etc.

REUSE



- ✓ Bows and ribbons
- ✓ Tissue paper
- ✓ String/fairy lights*
- ✓ Plastic garlands and wreaths*
- ✓ Gift bags
- ✓ Wrapping paper

**Can also be donated.*

TRASH



- Decorations and wreaths
- Wrapping paper
- Confetti, shredded paper, tissue paper
- Styrofoam (all kinds)
- Tinsel
- Cellophane

Learn more at recyclesmartma.org.

Recycle
Smart

NO STYROFOAM IN THE RECYCLING



Recycle
Smart

No Styrofoam of any kind.

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



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 doantions.
Aslo accepting VENMO
(@stoughtonpolicerelief)



All donations to help local families

SAFE STREETS 4 ALL

REGIONAL VISION ZERO ACTION PLAN

VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING



OLD COLONY

PLANNING COUNCIL IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



BETA



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway
Administration

massDOT
Department of Transportation

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR REGISTRATION

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



TELL US ABOUT:

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



ENSURING A SAFE TRANSPORTATION ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL

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 3/26-4/16 | 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 1/15-2/12 | 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 | 5:00-8:30 pm | Ages 11-16

Location: Recreation Department | \$75

STOUGHTON RECREATION



WINTER 2025 PROGRAM GUIDE

ADULTS

Create with Clay with Molly **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 16+

Location: Recreation Department | \$40

Paint Night with Beeble Art Studio

Friday 4/4 | 5:15-7:00 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 2/18-2/20 | 10:00-11:30 pm | Grades K-3

Location: Recreation Department | \$25

DIY Mini Golf Course with Matt **NEW!!**

Tues-Thurs 2/18-2/20 | 1:00-4:00 pm | Ages 8-13

Location: Recreation Department | \$35

Create-Your-Own News Segment with SMAC

Tues-Thurs 2/18-2/20 | 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

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



**ONEUP
GAMES**

Entrepreneurship
&
Building Wealth

Public Health
&
Education

Pursuing your purpose

Economic & Community
Development

Featured
Speakers
TBA!

What Is It Like To Be
Black In America?

Let's normalize this conversation!

Save The Date!

Monday January
20th 2025

10am-2pm

Stoughton Public Library

Presented By :
The MLK Jr. 2025
Committee

Debra Roberts
Bettye Sabree
Dr. Patricia Randolph
Christianna Odunze
Carma Pearl-Ohimor
Carla Smith
Eryn Roberts

Free Admission, Arts and Crafts For Children , Food and Drinks Will Be Available!

Town of Stoughton

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

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

