

Stoughton Town Crier

TOWN OF STOUGHTON UPDATED JUNE 9, 2025 ROBERTA HARBACK



Latest
Announcements
for
Stoughton's
Town
& School
Departments

All information taken from various Town of Stoughton pages



Water-Sewer-Trash Due this Thursday June 12th

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 **Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) 4th quarter Water, Sewer, Trash bills** to the Town of Stoughton water, sewer, and trash customers. The 4th quarter Water, Sewer, Trash bills were mailed on **Tuesday, May 13, 2025**, and are due **Thursday, June 12, 2025**, 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 June 12, 2025.

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, the Senior Discount will be forfeited if this quarter's balance is not paid in full and a water, sewer, trash lien will be added to the 3rd quarter FY26 real estate tax bill.

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 of Stoughton

Office of the Town Manager

10 Pearl St. Stoughton, MA 02072 • 781.341.1300 • FAX 781.297.2879

June 3, 2025

To the Residents of Stoughton,

Over the past several years I committed to informing Stoughton residents of the coming municipal waste crisis facing our country, state and town. Diminished capacity, closed landfills, retired incinerators, and a lack of newly-built facilities contribute to this issue.

This morning I was informed that one of our rubbish trucks waited for three hours in line to offload at SEMASS. A senior executive informed me that their facility accepted municipal waste from competitors who closed temporarily due to infrastructure and mechanical failures. This minor disruption is a major indicator of the future of refuse disposal in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, which is ill-equipped to manage the sheer volume of trash. Decreased capacity necessitates greater reliance upon out-of-state facilities. Failure to plan for the future will almost certainly impact the future cost and quality of waste management services in Stoughton.

Please know that we are closely monitoring market changes and analyzing available options for use in the coming years. It is not my intention to disrupt the status quo in Stoughton, but I know that it is my responsibility to plan for the future.

I committed to addressing the big issues facing the Town of Stoughton and to share with residents all of the data available to me. It is my plan to conduct informational sessions this autumn so that all residents are fully informed both of our challenges and opportunities.

Thank you,



Tom Calter
Stoughton Town Manager



HELP PLAN STOUGHTON'S HOUSING FUTURE!

Take our quick 5-7 minute survey:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/StoughtonHPP



- Share your needs
- Share your priorities
- Anonymous



JOIN STOUGHTON'S VIRTUAL HOUSING FORUM

**Join us Tuesday, July 9, 7-8:30 pm for a Virtual
Housing Needs & Visioning Forum as part of
Stoughton's Housing Production Plan.**



- Hear housing trends
- Share your ideas
- Live polls & interactive tools



Register now to be part of the conversation!

<https://tinyurl.com/StoughtonHPPForum1Registration>



OPENING FOR APPOINTMENT
TO THE STOUGHTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

The Select Board and the Stoughton Redevelopment Authority invite applications for appointment on the Stoughton Redevelopment Authority that will expire in April 2026. An application or a statement of interest with qualifications may be submitted to the Office of the Select Board or by email to gpereira@stoughton-ma.gov by June 11, 2024 at noon. Applicants will be notified of an interview date.

Stephen M. Cavey, Chair
Select Board

Roberta Harback, Chair
Redevelopment Authority

STOUGHTON PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS:

Local Horror Author John Grover

Community Room



**Saturday
June 14th
2:00pm**



Stoughton Author John Grover will read from his horror series "The Lockwood Cryptid Chronicles" and discuss his love of the paranormal and Cryptozoology.

Mr. Grover has written and published numerous books in the horror, fantasy and sci-fi genres.

To register, please click on the date or title above, call 781-344-2711, visit the circulation desk or our [website](#).

SUMMER PE

9:00AM - 11:00AM

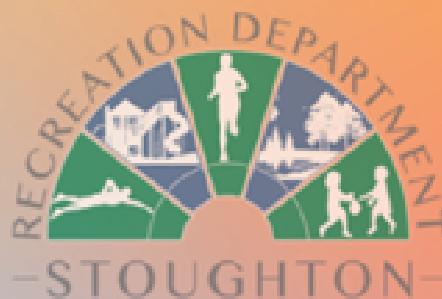
JULY 21-24

HALLORAN PARK

AGES: 7-13

JOIN COACH KEVIN FOR FUN AND ACTIVE OUTDOOR GAMES LIKE CAPTURE THE FLAG, ULTIMATE FOOTBALL, KICKBALL, TAG, AND MORE! KIDS WILL ALSO GET THE CHANCE TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN GAMES OR SKILLS TO PRACTICE. THE FOCUS IS ON HAVING FUN, STAYING ACTIVE, BUILDING TEAMWORK, AND SHOWING GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP.

WEATHER PERMITTING.



SIGN UP TODAY AT WWW.STOUGHTONREC.ORG

KNIT/CROCHET CIRCLE

FOR TEENS

TUES. 6/10

Starts at 2:45PM

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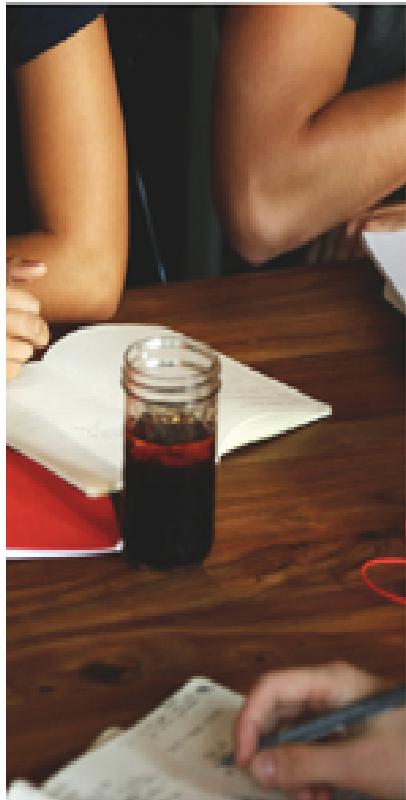


Join us for knitting or crocheting
w/ special pop up monthly!



STOUGHTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

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



Stoughton Public Library
84 PARK STREET | STOUGHTON, MA



TEEN ADVISORY BOARD

BE A TEEN LEADER IN
THE LIBRARY!

CREATE AND RUN
EVENTS!

EARN COMMUNITY
SERVICE HOURS!

MONDAY, 6/16 AT 5:30PM



Stoughton Equal Opportunity Committee Town Survey

There is a 'U' in Stoughton but is there a YOU?

The Stoughton Equal Opportunity Committee (SEOC) would love to know whether you feel a sense of belonging in the community. Please help us in our mission to make Stoughton a more welcoming place by answering these few questions.

Our goal is to collect feedback from the community about what is working or how things can be improved. To complete the survey, please scan the QR code. Please feel free to share the survey with family, friends and neighbors.

The survey will be open until September.

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact:
Stoughton Equal Opportunity Committee at beheard@stoughton-ma.gov.

Access the survey here:



or visit <https://forms.gle/LEaht3CQuHHCfjE7A>

Anime / Manga Club for Teens



Enjoy manga, anime, and fun activities!



Wednesday, June 18 @ 3pm



Stoughton Public Library
184 Park Street!
Stoughton, MA

DIY RAINBOW BATH BOMBS FOR TEENS

TUESDAY, JUNE 17
3:00PM



STOUGHTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
84 PARK STREET
STOUGHTON, MA 02072
781-344-2711



STOUGHTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 2025

THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL WILL BE AN EARLY RELEASE DAY

EARLY RELEASE SCHEDULE:

- SHS / OMS - 7:35AM - 11:32AM
- ELEMENTARY - 8:30AM - 12:20PM

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED



LAST DAY FOR PRESCHOOL

TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 2025



THE LAST DAY IS A REGULAR
TUESDAY SCHEDULE FOR THE
JONES EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

The deadline to register for bus transportation

for next school year is coming up. Tuesday, June 17, 2025 is the last day to sign up. The registration form is available on the PowerSchool Parent Portal. Students entering grades K-12 are eligible to apply.

Please note that all payments are also due by June 17. If you have registered, but not submitted a payment by the June 17 deadline, your child's application will not be processed for a seat on the bus.

The cost to ride the bus is \$375 per student with a family cap of \$750.



SUMMER STREET HOCKEY CLINIC

MONDAY-THURS 8/18-8/21 | \$45
9:30 AM - 11:00 AM | AGES 6-14
HALLORAN PARK



Do you love hockey but don't know how to skate on ice? Or just love the sport? Join us for a street hockey clinic! The program is open to individuals ages 6-14 and we welcome all skill levels. We will rotate through stations each focusing on an individual skill and every day will end with an organized street hockey game. No equipment required, just sneakers and a water bottle. The program will be run by trainer and coach Jay Thebado



WWW.STOUGHTONREC.ORG

GORUMET ON A BUDGET TEAM CHALLENGE

JUNE 26TH | 5:15pm | \$25 | Ages 17+

Join Season 4 & Season 12 Masterchef contestant Malcolm Green for a team challenge to celebrate the year!



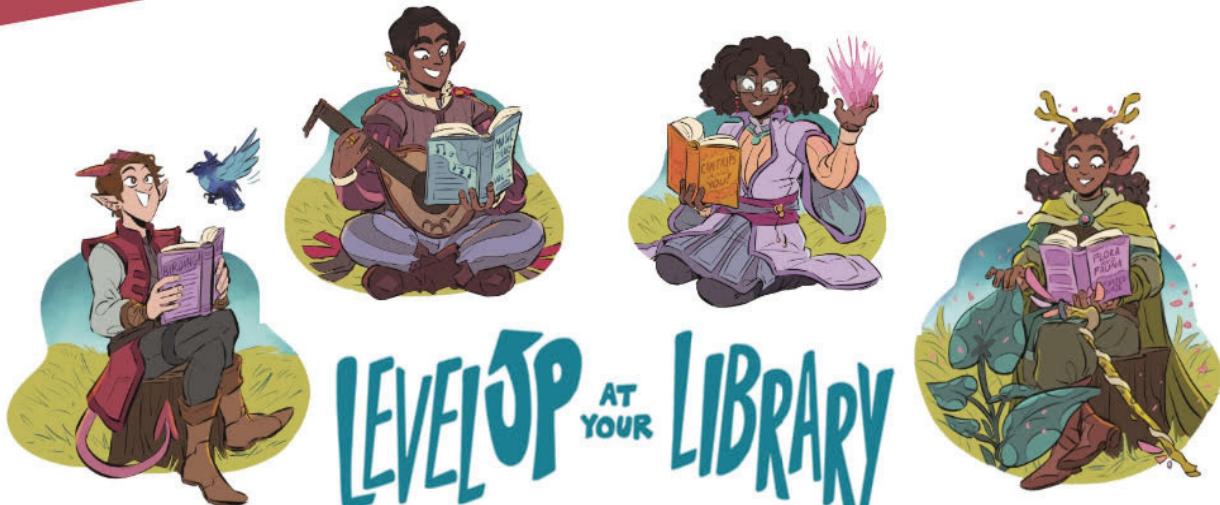
SIGN UP NOW AT WWW.STOUGHTONREC.ORG

Stoughton Public Library 2025

TEEN

SUMMER READING

EVENTS &
GUIDELINES



LEVEL UP AT YOUR LIBRARY

JUNE 2 - AUGUST 15

- Event Guidelines -

All programs require registration. You can register on our website, or by calling the library at 781-344-2711. Registration will begin for all programs on June 2nd, 2025 at 9am, except for the Stand Alone D&D sessions which will begin on July 7th.

All of our programs are at the Stoughton Public Library unless otherwise noted.

- Program Guidelines -

Teen Summer Reading is available to those in grades 6-12. The minutes a teen reads will be entered into Beanstack, an online reading log accessible from the library website, which will allow participants to read and complete in challenges to earn raffle tickets for prizes. Books which are read for school can be counted both for the school and the public library summer reading program.

For students in the Stoughton schools who participate via Beanstack, we will share their name and grade with the School system to let them know they participated in the Summer Reading Program.

Sign up today!

<https://stoughtonlibrary.beanstack.org/reader365>



The Massachusetts Statewide Summer Library Program is funded by the Massachusetts Library System, the Boston Bruins, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, the Stoughton Public Library and SOLA.

Come join us at this year's 2025 Juneteenth celebration.

This year's theme: A Day of Recognition: Forgotten Female Veterans!

Throughout the years women played a significant role in our country's defense. Listen to 'Courage Under Fire' by Brigadier General Andrea Gayle-Bennett DMSc, PA-C, Deputy Secretary of the Executive Office of Veterans' Service and hear the experiences of other female veterans who helped to shape America's future. We will pay tribute to our forgotten female WWII troop Six Triple Eight, the only U.S. Women's Army Corps unit of color, and their contributions to the United States.

Live performances include Stoughton High School's Jazz Combo, the Mean River Blues Band, and X-CLUSIVe Step Dancers.

Other activities include Youth Olympics for ages under 12, gaming for teens and tweens, and Mind, Body & Service breakout sessions by the Red Cross, professional massage therapist, a yoga instructor and more. Food and drinks will be offered through the services of food trucks and vendors.

Let's celebrate 2025 Juneteenth and honor those who sacrificed for us!

Regards,
SEOC Members and Juneteenth Committee Members



The Town of Stoughton Presents

JUNETEENTH 2025

A Day of Recognition: Forgotten Female Veterans

Courage Under Fire:

Andrea Gayle-Bennett DMSc, PA-C

Deputy Secretary of the Executive Office of Veterans' Services

Stoughton High School

232 Pearl St, Stoughton, MA 02072

June 19th, 2025 • 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM

Interactive programs:

- Mind, Body, and Service Sessions
- X-CLUSIVe Step Dancers
- Gaming for teens/tweens
- Youth Olympics
- Stoughton High School's Jazz Combo
- Brockton High School's JROTC Color Guard
- The Mean River Blues Band
- Local Vendors

Event attendance is **free** and all are welcome!

Presented by the Juneteenth Committee:

Debra Roberts, Chair • Bettye Sabree, Vice Chair

Christine Iacobucci • Janet Crimmins • Teresa Dolloff

Michael Hardman • Pat Yanikoski • Sharon Johnson • Brian Turner
Stoughton Equal Opportunity Committee Members (SEOC)



PAINT POURING

w/ WANITA



TUESDAY, JUNE 24
2:30-4:30PM



STOUGHTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
84 PARK STREET
STOUGHTON, MA 02072
781-344-2711



DIY AXOLOTL SLIME

THURSDAY, JUNE 27
2:30PM

STOUGHTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
84 PARK STREET
STOUGHTON, MA 02072
781-344-2711





SUMMER READING KICKOFF EVENT



**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25
3:00-6:00PM**

STOUGHTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
84 PARK STREET
STOUGHTON, MA 02072
781-344-2711



AMES POND BEACHFRONT

June 27, 2025- August 17, 2025 10:00 am
- 5:00 pm
1000 Highland St. Stoughton MA

WE ARE NOW CASHLESS!

Passes can be purchased online or at the gate with a credit card

DAY PASSES

Child (2-17) - Resident \$3 | Non-res \$5
Adult (18-55) - Resident \$5 | Non-res \$8
Senior (55+) - \$3

Available for purchase at the gate. Children under 2 are free

SEASON PASSES

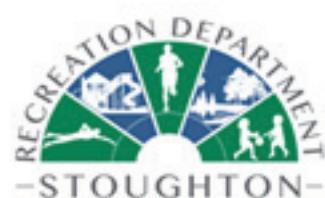
Family (up to 5 members) - Res \$75 | Non-res \$95
Child (2-17) - Resident \$20 | Non-res \$30
Adult (18-55) - Resident \$30 | Non-res \$40
Senior (55+) - \$5

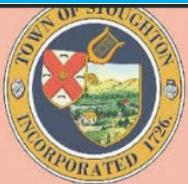
Season passes available for purchase or pick-up 5/19-6/26 during business hours at the Recreation Department.
15 Pleasant St Mon-Wed 8:30-4:30 pm, Thurs 8:30-7 pm, Fri 8:30-12 pm

Season passes and day passes available for purchase 6/27-8/17 at the beachfront entrance 10 am - 5 pm

Day passes are only available at the gate. Passes purchased require proof of residency for resident rate. The Recreation Department reserves the right to void any season pass used inappropriately or if the pass holder's behavior deems it necessary.

WWW.STOUGHTONREC.ORG





Stoughton Town Hall

ATTENTION

Beginning June 15:
Front Door Entry Only

**Other entry points will be locked to
non-employees. You may still exit
through any door.**

This operating adjustment was advised by our Security Consultants.

2025 Message to the Citizens of Stoughton

Should residents have questions, comments, or concerns that relate to the Town of Stoughton, they can contact Communications Coordinator Kelsey Lynch at klynch@stoughton-ma.gov or 781-341-1300 ex. 9514. She will discuss your issue with the Town Manager and respond accordingly.

Greetings Stoughton Citizens,

I am pleased to provide a report summarizing the condition of Stoughton's financial affairs. Following a six-month process in the FY26 Operating Budget's creation, I want to provide you with an executive summary. On May 5, 2025, we will present the proposed budget for Town Meeting consideration and vote. Should you have any questions regarding the FY26 Operating Budget, I invite you to contact me at 781 344 1300 ex. 9211.

The FY26 budget process began on October 15, 2024 with the budget committee's recommendation of guidelines to the Select Board. With the Select Board's input, Mr. Marc Tisdelle created a schedule from October 24, 2024 to the Annual Town Meeting. On December 30, 2024, in strict compliance with the Select Board's budget guidelines, the School Committee voted in a 3.8% budget increase for the School Department's FY26 operating budget. The Select Board also voted in a 3.37% budget increase for the municipal departments' operating budget. The total Select Board FY26 budget is \$139,956,816, which is a 3.59% increase over FY25. As required by Charter, the consolidated Town FY26 operating budget was transmitted to the Finance Committee on January 21, 2025. Since its submission, we have responded to many requests for information from residents, Finance Committee members, and Town Meeting Representatives. We appreciate the caliber of collaboration between all stakeholders.

I would like to share a few highlights from the FY26 operating budget.

- We had a 7-year plan to stop the use of free cash and one-time funds to balance our operating budget. Now, in year two of that 7-year plan, we balanced the budget without use of free cash or one-time funds. I am grateful to the Budget Team for their efforts toward resource consolidation and more effective technology use in our efforts to reduce expenses while maintaining services.
- In accordance with DOR guidelines, local receipts are conservatively estimated at 90% of FY24 actuals. The Moody's Bonding Agency commended the Town of Stoughton's conservative budgeting methods.
- The Department of Education, DESE, determined the Stoughton School Foundation budget to be \$65,412,011. Stoughton net school spending is \$22,756,152. Therefore, the Town's total financial support of its schools is \$88,168,163. This education investment represents 63% of the Town's total budget. We should all be proud of this commitment to our town's children and future.
- Through position consolidation and technology utilization, the Municipal Department's FY26 budget includes 4.47 fewer full-time-equivalent (FTE) employees than FY25 and 18.67 fewer FTE employees than FY24.
- As stated, there is no free cash used in the FY26 operating budget. On February 7, 2025 the Town of Stoughton's "free cash" of \$12,722,449 was certified by the Mass Department of Revenue's Division of Local Services.
- Cost of living adjustments of 3% were budgeted for employees not subject to collectively bargained agreements.
- The employee health insurance trust fund is solvent and budgeted at a 3.7% increase in FY26.
- General liability insurance is budgeted at a 10% increase.
- Merit increases are budgeted for employees who consistently exceed expectations. Market comparisons are provided in the budget book. I want to note that, on average, it is 10-20% more expensive to replace a high-performing employee than to increase their salary.

- Wages are adjusted for employees who consistently meet expectations but are paid below market or who are impacted by systemic pay parity inequities.
- Because of job consolidation and effective technology use, water and sewer rates are budgeted at FY25 rates.
- \$500,000 of rubbish and solid waste operational savings allowed us to maintain FY25 rates.
- The VNA Enterprise Fund's current operating structure is not financially sustainable. Strategic planning is necessary to determine its organizational viability. In the next six months we will seek public input on a new strategic approach to reduce costs, increase revenue, and elevate the level of service to Stoughton citizens.
- A budget account in our HR department was created to pay for a yet-to-be-ratified labor contract.
- The FY26 Operating Budget includes a fund balance of \$18,421,000 across five stabilization accounts, a balance never achieved in Stoughton's history. The decision to build our savings reserves is made in recognition of today's uncertain economic times. This is an achievement of which Stoughton residents should be proud. This level of financial stability differentiates our town from similar-sized municipalities across the Commonwealth.

In response to decades of challenges and deficiencies in the town's balance sheet, we completely restructured our Finance and Accounting Department. We recruited a seasoned Finance Manager with Forensic Accounting expertise, as well as two certified municipal accountants well versed in policy and procedure development. Their combined exemplary efforts cleaned up the past while preparing staff to work more effectively in the future. Though training is well underway, the Forensic Accounting project will require another 12 to 18 months to complete.

A considerable portion of the \$12.7 million in certified free cash was realized by closing old balance sheet accounts. Our Finance and Accounting staff's work, in collaboration with Assessing and Treasury, is truly remarkable. Under Elizabeth Zaleski's leadership, the town is compliant with municipal finance and taxation laws. Our entire accounting staff is on a first name basis with the Division of Local Services, the external support team of the Department of Revenue. We frequently interact, including a visit in February where they congratulated our team on a job well done.

I am extremely proud of this team and grateful for their achievements. Stoughton now stands on a strong financial footing. Impressive economic development, smart growth, and a conservative budgeting strategy combine to ensure a bright financial future.

Please note several changes to the FY26 operating budget's structure. Under Mr. Tisdelle's leadership the format was simplified and enhanced. Our expectation is that with greater clarity and documentation budget examination will be more transparent, allowing for greater financial understanding and management control.

As the nation, Commonwealth, and municipalities face uncertain socioeconomic times, the Town of Stoughton is prepared for whatever may come. Every member of your town government is committed to our citizens' welfare. On behalf of town employees, I pledge to you that we will always do what is best for the Town of Stoughton and its residents. We are both honored and proud to contribute to this wonderful community.

Thank you,



Thomas J. Calter,
Town Manager

