

Stoughton Town Crier

TOWN OF STOUGHTON UPDATED JULY 31, 2023 ROBERTA HARBACK



All information taken from various Town of Stoughton pages



Selectboard Agenda

Tuesday August 1, 2023 - 7:00 p.m.

Great Hall Town Hall 3rd floor & virtually with Google Meets

In accordance with Governor Baker's declaration of June 16th, 2021 granting certain pandemic-related authorizations related to public board and Town meetings and recently extended until March 31, 2025, this meeting will be conducted both in person and virtually via Google Meets.

To Join via Google Meets:

<https://meet.google.com/bde-otqk-nmn>

PHONE: (US) +1 530-770-2050

PIN: 745 357 040#

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.	Discussion and prioritization of FY24 objectives/strategic initiatives	Select Board members
3.	7:35 p.m.	Department Head input on the three primary objectives/strategic initiatives as established by the Select Board. What needs and resources are required.	Department Heads
4.	8:15 p.m.	Staff support needed to achieve FY24 strategic priorities	Debra Roberts, Chair
5.	9:00 p.m.	Wrap and summarize	Debra Roberts, Chair



**at our newest addition to the
Sanitation Fleet.**

Truck 26 is finally here

**This truck was ordered two years ago as a result of the
May 2021 Annual Town Meeting vote and appropriation.**

**Be on the lookout for our next addition, Truck 27,
also approved and ordered after a
December 2021 Special Town Meeting Vote.**

Coming Soon!

**New curbside trash/solid waste regulation approved at
last weeks Selectboard Meeting beginning October 1, 2023
Details to follow.**

**The Selectboard also lowered the age from 70 years old to 65
years old to receive the senior discount on your trash bills.
You do not have to reapply if you already have the discount.**

**If you have any questions please call
781-341-1300 x9414 or x9379**



Due Tuesday August 1

Town of Stoughton

OFFICE OF THE TOWN COLLECTOR

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

The Treasurer/Collector, Paula Nute, has announced the 1st quarter Fiscal Year 2024 REAL ESTATE and PERSONAL PROPERTY tax bills are due August 1, 2023, and must be received in the Collectors' office or at the PO Box in Medford on or before this date.

A postmark date is not acceptable as payment made if payment is not received in the Collectors' office or at the PO Box in Medford by August 1, 2023.

The 1st and 2nd quarter tax remittances were mailed in the same envelope on June 30, 2023.

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

When processing a payment online through your bank, you MUST include the bill number, year, and type in the Memo field (for example, Bill #25, 2024 real estate or personal property) so your payment will be properly applied.

When paying multiple bills through your bank, you must include each bill number. If this information is not included on your check, your check may be returned to you, and interest may accrue due to a late payment.

Online bank payment checks must be mailed to Town of Stoughton PO Box 9108 Stoughton MA 02072.

There is a secured payment drop box outside 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 the office.

Real Estate and Personal Property tax bills may be paid online at:

<https://www.stoughton.org/home/pages/pay-bills-online>

The Collector's Office is now accepting payments by credit and debit cards in the Collector's Office for all tax and water, sewer, trash bills. There is a 3% fee if a card is used to process a payment.

All Fiscal Year 2024 Real Estate and Personal Property taxes remaining unpaid after their respective due dates are subject to 14% per annum interest.

Please call 781-341-1300 X 9222 if you need your bill number(s) and or amount(s) due. The Collector staff are available by phone and in person 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.

STOUGHTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



HIRING FAIR

JOIN OUR TEAM!

WE'RE HIRING SUPPORT STAFF POSITIONS:

- Paraprofessionals
- School Security Monitors
- Substitute Teachers
- Custodians
- Food Service

Tuesday, August 15, 2023

9am - 1pm

Jones School (137 Walnut St.)

- Apply and interview for job openings
- Bring a copy of your resume and ID
- Coffee & refreshments will be provided

Get a head start!
Visit [Stoughtonschools.org](https://stoughtonschools.org)
or SchoolSpring to see
current job opportunities.



MOVIES ON THE GREEN

AT CEDAR HILL GOLF COURSE, 1137 PARK ST IN STOUGHTON



AUGUST 1ST: THE SUPER MARIO BROS. MOVIE

AUGUST 15TH: WALL-E

Bring your blankets and join us for a FREE
movie on the green at Cedar Hill Golf Course.
Movies start at dusk, no registration required



Have you ever
wondered,
how do I
become a
Stoughton
Firefighter?

The Stoughton Fire Department hires Paramedics from the Massachusetts firefighter civil service list. Below you will find two links. One to sign up for the Civil Service test and the other is for accredited paramedic programs in the state of Massachusetts.

Civil Service Exam: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/2023-municipal-firefighter-examination>

Accredited paramedic programs: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/find-an-accredited-emt-training-institution> look for approval levels to include paramedic.

2023 MUNICIPAL FIREFIGHTER EXAMINATION

The Human Resources Division (HRD) Civil Service Unit is administering this examination to establish an eligible list from which to fill Firefighter vacancies in Civil Service Fire Departments. This examination consists of two components which make up your total score; a written examination 50% and an entry level physical ability test (ELPAT) 50%.

- Written Examination Period: October 14, 2023 through October 21, 2023
- Application Open Date: July 1, 2023
- Application Deadline: August 29, 2023*
- Examination Processing Fee: \$75.00 *

*There is an additional \$50 late fee for applications received after this date. Applications will not be accepted after September 12, 2023.



To apply, please go to
<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/2023-municipal-firefighter-examination>



Stoughton Lion's Club Summer Concert Series

Sundays 5-7 pm - FREE!

Gibbons Elementary School Soccer Fields
235 Morton St



~~7/16 The Joe Kidd Band~~

~~7/23 Jack Raeke & the Supermags~~

~~7/30 The Jessie Liam Band~~

8/6 The Corvairs

8/13 Puddlefish

8/20 It Is What It Is



Donations to the Lion's Club are welcome!

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Stoughton Cultural Council,
a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency



Free Teen Program

Every Wednesday 5-7
all summer long

Come to one or come to them all and
enjoy some ice cream, art projects and animals.

Thank you MA Audubon and DCR



JUL 5 – AUG 16

JOIN US EVERY
WEDNESDAY | 5-7 PM FOR
ART PROJECTS, ICE CREAM, LIVE
ANIMALS AND MORE!

STOUGHTON RECREATION
15 Pleasant St. in Stoughton



For additional information contact
recreation@stoughton-ma.gov or
781-341-1300 x9244

Explore the Possibilities: Films of Adventure & Discovery

with Stoughton film historian Frank Mandosa.

Thursday, August 3rd, 6:30-8:00pm

Part 2: (reality-based) NOT ALL WHO WANDER ARE LOST



Click on the program date or visit our Event Calendar
at <https://www.stoughton.org/595/Attend> to sign up!
A Zoom link will be sent 1 day prior to the program.



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



**Stoughton
Public Library**

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

Stoughton Public Library

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

www.stoughton.org/261/library

Youth Prevention Leader - Stoughton MassCALL3 Prevention Grant

Wanted: The Town of Stoughton's Substance Abuse Prevention Department is currently looking for high school students **from each of the following communities: Easton (3) and Stoughton (1)** to join our team and to help us support youth in the Region of Stoughton, Easton, Avon and Norwood.

Job Description: Youth Prevention Leaders will be responsible for implementing interviews, research and activities that focus on substance prevention in young people. Additionally, they will be responsible for submitting information they collect as well as paperwork (i.e. timesheets). Each student will be required to do a mini presentation at the end of the year on their experience. The successful candidate will be an excellent communicator with strong organizational and leadership skills.

Commitment: September 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (10 Hrs. per month)

Rate: \$15.00/Hour

Qualifications:

- High School Student in Stoughton (1) / Easton (3)
- Ability to commit to at least 2 in-person hours per month at their community Prevention Office
- Self-starter
- Organized
- Good Communication Skills
- Motivated to serve the community

Benefits:

- Gain awareness of substance misuse prevention
- Build public speaking and leadership skills
- Opportunity to meet community members
- Represent your high school
- Develop and maintain relationships with local businesses and community organizations
- Work with municipal government employees
- Leadership opportunities

Training & Experience: Youth leaders will receive training from their supervisor or other leaders in the organization. Training may include: learning about the organization's mission, programs, and activities; roles and responsibilities as an advocate for substance prevention in their community; leadership skills and techniques.

Job Environment: Youth leaders will be expected to participate in 1 one hour regional group meeting per month (may be either virtual or in person), as well as one in person meeting with the Town prevention coordinator per month. Other work will be completed independently.

Resumes will be accepted until position filled at: Human Resources Department, Town of Stoughton, 10 Pearl Street, Stoughton, MA 02072 AA/EOE, tpereira@stoughton-ma.gov .

The Town of Stoughton is committed to the ongoing pursuit of strategic diversity initiatives that help to position diversity, equity, and inclusion as central to municipal and community-wide excellence in the town. In doing so, Stoughton strives for a town culture and environment that fosters a true sense of belonging for all and provides opportunity for everyone to participate equally and fully in the town, communities, and neighborhoods.

*"The Town of Stoughton is an **Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer** and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, gender or gender identity, familial status, disability, ancestry, age, marital status, public assistance status, sexual orientation, veteran history/military status or genetic information."*

Maj Jong Mondays

12:15 to 3



We also have a table for those that want to learn



Every Tuesday

Doors open at 11:30AM.

Games begin promptly at noon

Stoughton Council on Aging

(781) 344-8882 • 110 Rockland Street

EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES: SUMMER IN STOUGHTON



HISTORIC HIKES WITH DWIGHT

*Stoughton Historical Society President & longtime Bird St. explorer
Dwight MacKerron will lead us through historic lands of Stoughton.*

Wednesday, August 2nd, 9:30am

The East Side Trails at Glen Echo

*Includes sites of private cottages, the 18th century cart path which
connected Glen Echo to Stoughton & Canton, a newly restored trail
along the eastern shore line, plus a lot of scenic views.*

Meet at the Glen Echo park at the end of Glen Echo Blvd. off Rte. 139.

To register, click on the date above or call the
library or visit our Event Calendar at
<https://www.stoughton.org/595/Attend>

Hike begins promptly at 9:30am
& should wrap up by 11:00.

Please dress appropriately.

Sponsored by



Stoughton Public Library

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

www.stoughton.org/261/library



TOWN OF STOUGHTON

OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

10 Pearl Street – Stoughton, MA 02072 (781) 341-1300 Fax (781) 297-2879

July 28, 2023

To the good people of Stoughton,

I began serving the Town of Stoughton on December 12, 2022. Roughly three months later, I published in the media and on the Town Manager's page of the Stoughton website a letter to the community introducing myself. Among the values I discussed in that letter, I noted my commitment to openness and transparency in Town government.

In this spirit, I am writing today to share with you, as fully as I can at this time, accurate information about an occurrence at one of our water treatment plants that has become the subject of rumor and speculation through social media and other conversations. You deserve factual information in all things, especially when it concerns public health and safety.

What happened?

At approximately 5:30 p.m. on November 29, 2022, someone entered Water Pumping Station 7 (also known as the Goddard Station) off Sumner Street. The chlorine pump at this site was shut off. The Town's water stations are remotely monitored and may be partially controlled through what is known as a SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) system. While an alarm would ordinarily be sent out through the SCADA system to the main control panel at Water Department headquarters and to the on-call employee's cellular phone whenever chlorine levels fall below a predetermined set point, the alarm functions were also disabled on this occasion.

How was this discovered?

When employees arrive at Water Department headquarters each morning at 7 a.m., the first order of business is to check SCADA readings and to re-start any stations that may have shut down overnight due to reaching their tank capacity. The SCADA system showed that the chlorine pump had been off since 5:30 p.m. the previous evening. It is important to note, though, that flow from this station shut off automatically at 10 p.m. the previous evening, as the tank was at capacity.

What did the Town do?

The top priority on November 30th was to ensure that public health was not compromised. Two Water Department employees went immediately to Station 7. They found that the main pump was on, but that the chlorine option was turned off. The employees restarted the chlorine option and remained on site to verify that it was then functioning properly and chlorine levels were being restored.

The Town's Water Superintendent arranged a conference call with the state DEP (Department of Environmental Protection), followed up with a call to the federal EPA (Environmental Protection Agency). These agencies gave technical counsel on how to proceed to ensure continuing water quality. It was determined that water treatment remained in compliance throughout this time. Testing was undertaken and the results indicated that no additional remedial action was necessary.

Was this matter referred to law enforcement for investigation?

It seemed likely to the employees who responded to Station 7 on the morning of November 30 and to the Water Superintendent that this event had to have been caused by someone "on the inside." The entrance drive to Station 7 is blocked by a locked gate. A locked chain link fence surrounds the station building. The door to the building itself is reinforced metal and locked as well. There were no signs of forced entry of these physical barriers. Beyond this, only someone with access to and knowledge of the alarm and chlorine systems could have adjusted them in this manner. All Water Department employees involved in water treatment functions (as opposed to water distribution) had keys to this facility and all had the requisite knowledge. However, at a mandatory meeting for all such employees held on November 30th by the Water Superintendent, all employees denied accessing Station 7 after hours on November 29, 2022.

Considering all this, the Water Superintendent referred this matter to the Stoughton Police Department. The Police Department, in turn, advised the FBI of this incident, due to the potential domestic terrorism implications. Since the incident, the FBI and our Police Department have been investigating this matter to identify the responsible party and bring them to justice. This investigation remains active currently.

Was our water at risk at any time?

No. The Town responded in time to prevent chlorine levels from remaining low long enough to jeopardize the water quality. Despite the apparent intentional disabling of its alarm functions, the SCADA system did what it was designed to do. Notice of the low chlorine levels alerted employees at headquarters and facilitated an immediate response the next morning. As noted above, water quality testing confirmed that no additional remedial action was necessary. At no time was the water in the tank unchlorinated.

What about the employee allegedly responsible for this?

All Water Department employees initially denied accessing Station 7 at the time of the chlorine incident on November 29th. One employee recently changed his story and acknowledged that he adjusted the chlorine settings on November 29th. He was not on duty at the time, he was not on call at the time, he did not log his time or his activities at the station on that occasion, and he was not otherwise authorized to be there or take the actions he took. This employee has been placed on paid leave, as required under the circumstances, pending further investigation and action.

What is the Town doing to better protect us in the future?

The Town has undertaken a review of its practices and security measures in light of this occurrence. Without compromising our security measures, I can tell you that we are implementing system changes to enable us to have a more complete audit trail of those who access our water treatment and pumping facilities and log their actions in real time. We are also taking steps to better secure the alarm functions of the SCADA system from tampering.

What's next? The investigation is proceeding and will be concluded as soon as possible, consistent with the interests of thoroughness and justice. That investigation rests in the capable hands of our local police and federal law enforcement authorities and I cannot comment further on that portion of this incident. As to matters in my bailiwick, what can be said is that my commitment to openness is ongoing. I will update you when there is more to share. In the meantime, please rest assured that the Town will continue to make your health and safety its highest priority.

Respectfully,

Thomas J. Calter
Tom Calter, Town Manager

