

Stoughton Town Crier

TOWN OF STOUGHTON UPDATED DECEMBER 5, 2023 ROBERTA HARBACK



All information taken from various Town of Stoughton pages

Town of Stoughton's Annual

HOLIDAY PARADE OF LIGHTS 2023



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9th

Starts at 5 pm at High School, ends at corner of Park & Leach St

**SEEKING GROUPS AND BUSINESSES TO PARTICIPATE!
VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO REGISTER!**

www.StoughtonRec.org



OF LIGHTS 2023



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9th at 5 PM

MCed by Mark Snyder

WHO WILL WIN THE CALLANAN TROPHY THIS YEAR?!



There's still time to register!

www.StoughtonRec.org





HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

During the Holiday Parade of Lights

12/9/2023 | 4:00–7:30 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



WWW.STOUGHTONREC.ORG





Selectboard Agenda

Tuesday December 5, 2023 - 7:30 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: meet.google.com/qmm-kqiu-jfq

PHONE: 507-591-1054

PIN: 200 287 088#

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.

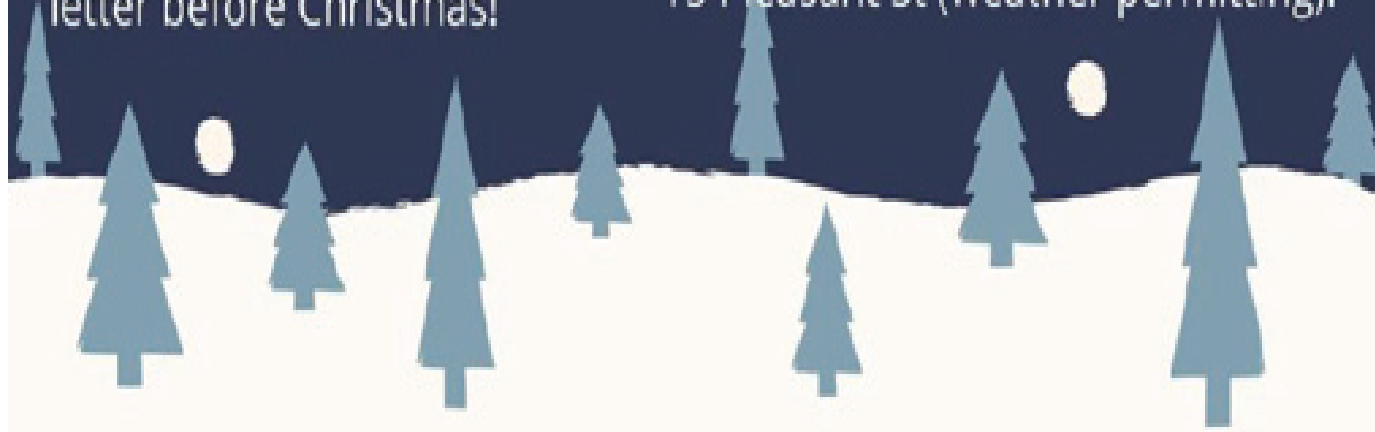
1. 7:00 p.m. **OPEN SESSION**
Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance
2. 7:05 p.m. Select Board Comments
3. 7:10 p.m. Town Manager Comments
4. 7:15 p.m. Citizens' Comments
5. 7:20 p.m. To consider and retain Special Counsel regarding PFAS litigation (Votes may be taken) Brian Winner
Town Counsel
6. 7:35 p.m. Town Manager's Preliminary Recommendation of expenses in FY25 Budget and Draft of the 4-year Capital Budget; Policy on Hiring Process, Job Descriptions and Organization Structure Tom Calter
Mary Jane Martin
Marc Tisdelle
7. 8:35 p.m. To consider and discuss Town Manager contractual compensation and remuneration for calendar 2023 (Votes may be taken)
8. 8:50 p.m. Update on FY24 Objectives Tom Calter
Town Manager

LETTERS TO SANTA



Get your letters in by
December 13th 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 name and return address no later than December 13th 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).



8TH
ANNUAL

FILL A CRUISER

In front of Stoughton Police Station
Saturday, December 9
from 10-3

The collection box will be available from
November 24 - December 15 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.

Donations via Venmo to
[@stoughtonpolicerelief](https://venmo.com/stoughtonpolicerelief)

All donations to help local families





Leaf/Brush Disposal

Town of Stoughton Residents Only

Bring your Brush and Leaves

from 8am to 3pm

to 1240 Washington St

Across from Canton Fence (Not Gay St.)

open to residents for leaf disposal and chipable brush.



There will be 3 trucks
available. All
containers will have to be
dumped (there will be a
barrel for bags etc)

The Recycle Center will
continue to be open
every Saturday
8 a.m to 4 p.m.
for leaves and
grass clippings
100 Page St.

Last chance!
Saturday December 9

TEEN CHEFS

Italian Night

Ages 11-15 | 12/19 | 3:00-4:30

Location: Rec Dept, 15 Pleasant St | \$15

Prep and create a delicious meal from start to finish! Learn different kitchen and cooking techniques all while having fun!



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TRIVIA NIGHT

THURSDAY 12/28

4:30-6:30 PM | GRADES 5-9

\$10 | PIZZA INCLUDED!



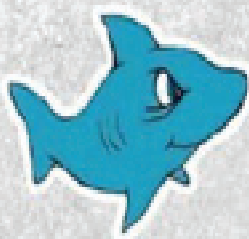
PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

WWW.STOUGHTONREC.ORG

STOUGHTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS




U.S. News & World Report List of Best Schools



South Elementary School

Wilkins Elementary School







The Little Theatre of Stoughton
invites you to


CHRISTMAS AT THE DEPOT

Featuring

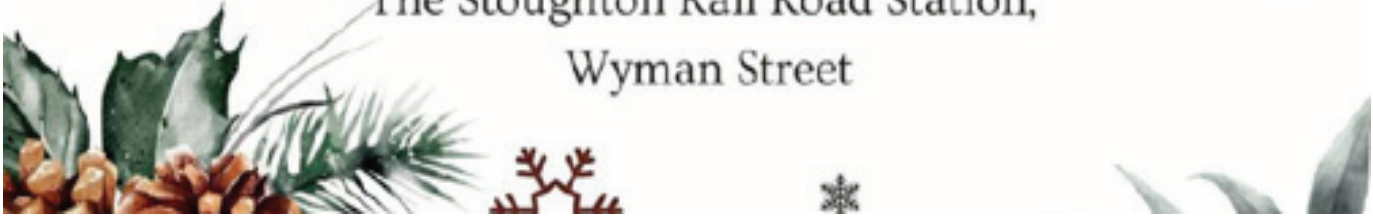


The Stoughton High School Choir
Christmas Tree Lighting
Santa's Sleigh Scavenger Hunt
A reading of "Twas the Night Before Christmas"

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16



4pm -7pm



The Stoughton Rail Road Station,
Wyman Street

WINTER EVENTS | FOR KIDS

December Programs



Little Lego Club for ages 2-6

Free play Lego fun for ages 2-6 and their caregivers. Little Lego Club meets monthly.

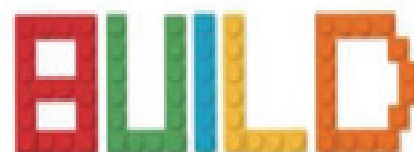
Monday, December 4th at 10:00 am.



Small Singers and Shakers Holiday Concert with Stacy Lake

Stacy Lake of Small Singers and Shakers will present a high energy holiday show with music and instruments! For ages 0-5.

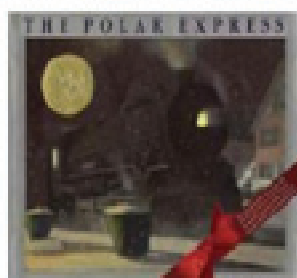
Friday, December 8th at 10:30 am.



Lego Club for ages 5-12

Free play Lego fun for ages 5-12 and their caregivers. Lego Club meets monthly.

Monday, December 18th at 3:30 pm.



Polar Express Pajama Storytime

Wear your pajamas, listen to a reading of Chris Van Allsburg's The Polar Express and get a take and make craft to do at home!

Story and craft are geared towards ages 3 and up, but all are welcome.

Registration required.

Tuesday, December 19th at 6:30 pm.



Gingerbread Man Puppet Show In English and Portuguese

In this twist on the classic story, the gingerbread man jumps out of the pan and runs away from the old couple who baked him. Everyone can sing along and help the Gingerbread Man "Run, run, as fast as you can!" This show will be presented in English and Portuguese!

Geared towards ages 3 and up.

Tuesday, December 26th at 2:00 pm.



Animal World Experience

Join Animal World Experience for Winter Wonders, a live animal show where you can get up close and personal with the animals and learn all kinds of cool facts! Geared toward ages 3-12.

Thursday, December 28 at 2:00 pm.



Noon Year's Eve Storytime Party

Join Ms. Amy and Ms. Stacey for a fun countdown to Noon Year's Eve! We'll read books and sing songs celebrating New Year's and have a countdown to 12 Noon for little ones! This event is geared towards 3-7 but all are welcome.

Registration required.

Friday, December 29 at 11:30 am.



Holiday concert Small Singers & Shakers

Friday, December 8th
10:30 AM

Recommended ages 0-6
No Registration Required



Stoughton
Public Library

Stoughton Public Library

84 Park St., Stoughton, Massachusetts 02072
781-344-2711
www.stoughton.org/library



HOLIDAY CERAMIC PLATE Workshop



Thursday 12/14 at 10:00 am
Ages 2-5 | \$25

Location: Recreation Department

Pick a design and create your one-of-a-kind gift for the holidays that will last a lifetime. Plates will be ready for pick up 1 week after the workshop. Pre-registration required



WWW.STOUGHTONREC.ORG



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 **FY24 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 14, 2023**, and are due **December 14, 2023**, and must be received in the Collectors' office or the PO Box in Medford on or before this date. Postmark date is not acceptable as payment made if the payment is not received in the Collectors' office or the PO Box in Medford by December 14, 2023.

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, year, and type in the Memo field (for example, Bill #25, 2024 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, 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.

There is a secured payment drop box outside of Town Hall on Pearl St for your convenience. 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 a rate of 14% from their respective due dates, and a \$15.00 demand fee will be added to the bill and the senior discount will be forfeited.

The FY23 unpaid water, sewer, trash balances will be reflected on the FY24 3rd quarter real estate tax bills as a lien. Payments for the FY23 water, sewer, trash lien balances may be paid at the Collector's office. Please call the Collector's office at 781-341-1300 extension 9222 to get the amount due.

The Collector staff members are available by phone Monday through Wednesday 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, Thursday 8:30 AM to 7:00 PM, and Friday 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.

Polar Express Pajama Storytime

Tuesday, December 19th
6:30 PM

Recommended for ages 2-8
Registration Required



Stoughton
Public Library

Stoughton Public Library

84 Park St., Stoughton, Massachusetts 02072
781-344-2711
www.stoughton.org/library

STOUGHTON RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Blue Hills Ski & Snowboard Lessons

Thursdays, 1/4/24 – 2/1/24 | Ages 7–15

Rental Equipment, Ski Program, & Snowpass: \$394 for residents

Ski Program & Snowpass: \$254 for residents | Transportation: \$35

We are offering a five-week instructional ski and snowboarding course for children ages 7 to 15 at Blue Hills Ski Area. Lessons are 75 minutes long and will be held from 4:30–5:45 pm. For an additional cost, transportation is provided but seats are limited. Helmets are required

Registration opens Thursday, 11/16

Registration deadline is Monday, 12/11

Sign up today at

www.StoughtonRec.org



No Street Parking 2 a.m. to 6 a.m.

beginning
midnight December 1, 2023
through
April 1, 2024.

There is no authorized street or
municipal parking.

Unauthorized vehicles will be
towed at owners expense



8" H



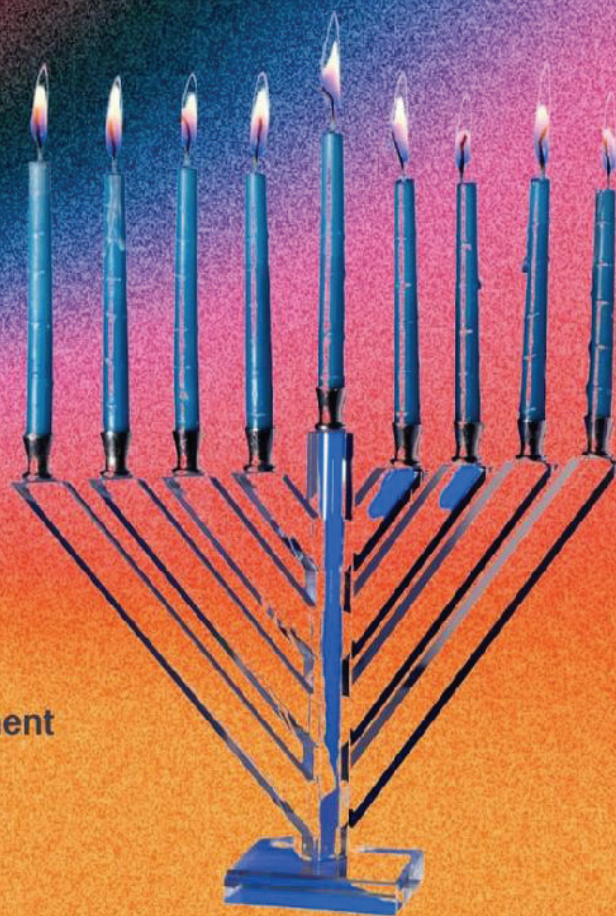
PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE

Stoughton Center Menorah Lighting

**FIRST NIGHT
THURSDAY, DEC. 7TH
5:00 PM**

SPONSORED BY :

Town of Stoughton Recreation Department
&
Shaloh House Chabad



For more information
www.shalohhouse.com
781-344-6334

FY24 Objectives

July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

Thomas Calter - Town Manager



1. Centralized Purchasing

The objective is to reduce Vendor costs by 10% through negotiation, Contract management, Vendor relations and improved materials management.

Position will be posted December 15th. New hire by January 1st.

2. Comprehensive Financial Policy

Establish a comprehensive financial policy and system of management control which formulizes our financial structure, reduces risk, increases free cash, strengthen our bond rating, reduces the cost of borrowing and eliminates the use of free cash in balancing our operating budget.

We received a \$30K grant to create a financial policies and procedures manual. Retained the Collins Center to manage the process. Work will begin on January 5th. Project will be complete by May 1, 2024. Voted by Select Board May 15th.

3. Net Zero FTE's

With better use of technology and information systems, maintain FY25 employee headcount at FY24 level.

Headcount analysis will be included in the FY25 operating budget. We will in fact, enjoy a reduction in FY24 v. FY25 headcount (FTE's).

4. Stabilization Fund

Increase the Town's Stabilization Fund to a minimum of 20%, as required for communities with a double AA bond rating.

An article will be presented at the Annual Town Meeting to use surplus cash to bring the Town reserve fund up to 20% of revenues.

5. Economic Development

Explore the possibility of taking the Malcolm Parsons and State Theater properties. Once taken, determine the highest and best use for these downtown sites. Utilize accelerate permitting process to make them shovel ready. Conduct public bid to accept offers from contractors who agree to the stipulated use of the property.

The appraiser has been retained and the motion is getting drafted by Town Counsel. A public information session is being scheduled to get feedback from Town Meeting reps with regard to the use of the State Theater.

6. Unutilized Equipment

Conduct a September equipment Auction. Sell, trade or scrap unutilized surplus equipment. Terminate insurance coverage and registration expense.

Complete. Raised \$160,000 and reduced insurance costs by approx. \$30K.

7. **Tax Title Takings**

Make meaningful progress in tax title takings. Return taken properties to the tax base.
Progress is being made. More to report next month.

8. **Senior Housing**

Develop and implement a plan for increasing affordable Senior Housing Units.
HSL made an application to the Community Preservation Committee for funding under the affordable housing category. The CPC will be reviewing it through their process and making a recommendation to Town Meeting for the Annual Town Meeting in May of 2024. HSL has also been working on the documentation and submittal requirements for a MassWorks project to help fund the infrastructure improvements necessary for the project. The actual applicant for MassWorks will have to be the Town. HSL has also sent in a project eligibility to the State. This is the first step in the process for HSL's eventual Comprehensive Permit ("friendly 40B) application.

9. **Regional 911**

Adopt Regional 911. Reduce dispatch operating budget by \$600,000. Invest between \$5,000,000 and \$10,000,000 in State funding to make Stoughton a leader in EMS technology.

The Fire Dept. is now part of Regional 911. The Police will join on March 1st. The dispatch staff has been reduced from 11 to 2 employees. Savings in FY25 budget reallocated to add key positions, i.e. Purchasing Coordinator, payroll coordinator for the Schools, Town communications rep., Library outreach coordinator, parking enforcement officer and wellness coordinator for Police and Fire employees.

10. **Exit Civil Service**

By achieving this objective, we will improve Labor Relations, remove poor performers, recruit highly qualified employees and improve overall performance of the Town's workforce.

We expect to have consent from Police and Fire to exit Civil Service by February 1st. An article to exit will be in the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting.

11. **Trash & Recycling Transfer Station**

Complete site selection and facility design. Develop project Budget and present to Town Meeting. Begin permitting process and finalize Capital Plan.

The site selection and facility design will be complete by March 1st.

12. **Continued Professional Development**

Every employee will engage in a form of professional development in FY24. Training shall include but will not be limited to skills training, certification, licensure and internal training in Town accounting software system. In addition, Department Heads will become trained in the use of progressive discipline requirements, Project Management.

A 10 course program has been created and will be presented to all Dept. heads beginning in January. The program curriculum shall include conflict resolution, corrective action training, purchasing, ethics management techniques, MUNIS, budget management, DEI and interviewing techniques.

13. Town Wide Beautification

It is our primary objective to beautify the Town by improving inspectional services, enforcing the new solid waste guidelines and by enhancing public spaces with landscaping and continuous maintenance.

The program is achieving the desired results. A beautification committee is planning a spring clean-up day. Money has been budgeted for beautification initiatives and plantings. Community is providing positive feedback on improvements.

14. Community Center

We will continue to seek grant funding for maintenance and repair of the Train Station. It is our goal to host the first public event at the Community Center in FY24.

A Christmas event is planned for December of 2023. \$300k of public funding has been raised to replace the HVAC system. The project is going out to bid in February 2024. Once complete, private funds will be raised to remodel the building interior.

15. Transparency and Communication

Several measures will be taken in FY24 to improve transparency and communication with residents and Town Meeting members. Those measures include investment in the Town Website, Electronic billboards at DPW and Town Hall, frequent public Information Sessions, Monthly emails to Town Meeting members, On line permitting and improved Department Head quarterly reports.

The quarterly reports were well received. Public information sessions will be scheduled for the Town budget. Annual Town Meeting warrant, Land takings and progress made on FY24 objectives.

16. Town Infrastructure

Our goal is to plan and promote further investment in water and sewer underground infrastructure which promotes economic expansion. Further, reconstruction and resurfacing of Town roads will be coordinated with underground projects. Articles will be presented at the Special Town Meeting so that services are coordinated in time for the following construction season.

Fall Town Meeting supported continued investments in water/sewer and road resurfacing. Approving those articles in the fall will allow us to begin our work in April 2024.

17. Collaboration with School System

After years of a them vs. us relationship, we plan to work closely and collaborating with the new Superintendent and the School Committee in support of common goals and objectives.

We meet regularly with Joe Baeta on issues of School Safety, shared cost allocation, South School building project, capital needs, etc. The Superintendent will be including his 4-year capital needs with our 4-year capital plan document. It is a pleasure working with the School Superintendent and the School Committee.

18. Water Meters

Completing the water meter project in FY24 will increase revenues and reduce expenses. Further, we will save substantial time by eliminating the current billing system and converting all Water/Sewer financial activity to Munis. Meter readings will be done remotely and leaks will be detected immediately.

We will restart the water meters project in the Spring of 2024 and complete it in the Summer of 2025. The project cost is approx. \$1.6 million dollars. It will be funded without borrowing. Once complete, all meters can be read from the Water Dept. office. Sudden and unforeseen water leaks will be detected and addressed immediately.

19. Fire Department

Complete construction of the new Fire Station on time and budget. Leave Civil Service. Coordinate the transition to Regional 911.

The Fire station project construction is progressing on time and within budget. We expect to be in the building by Summer of 2024.

20. Solid Waste

Implement Solid Waste plan. Explore more advanced methods of Waste Management and source reduction. Engage the DPW staff in Town's beautification objective, #13.

The solid waste program is working as planned. We are making fewer trips to SEMASS, therefore saving money. Solid waste bulky items are picked up weekly. Alternative methods of waste management are being researched. Will report back to the community in November 2024. The staff is doing an outstanding job of plan implementation.

21. Water

Anticipate, plan and react to the upcoming federal PFAS Regulations.

We are searching for public funding sources to supplement the cost of PFAS regulation requirements. Hiring a law firm in December 2024 to join in class action law suit which has the potential to generate substantial funding.

4/4

FY24 Objectives July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

