

Stoughton Town Crier

TOWN OF STOUGHTON UPDATED FEBRUARY 27, 2024 ROBERTA HARBACK



All information taken from various Town of Stoughton pages

Going on now!

Early Voting Presidential Primary

Great Hall 3rd floor
Stoughton Town Hall



Monday, February 26 from 9-4
Tuesday, February 27 from 9-4
Wednesday, February from 9-4
Thursday, February 29 from 9-6
Friday, March 1 from 9-noon

**Deadline to request a mail-in ballot
Tuesday February 27th at 5PM**

Agenda

Municipal Regulations Committee Wednesday February 28 at 7PM Yaitanes Room, 3rd floor, Town Hall ***Public Hearing***

In Person and Virtual Meeting (Online)

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, MGL Chap 30A, Section 20" until March 31, 2025 this meeting will be conducted both in person and virtually via Google Meets.

A Public Hearing will be held by the Municipal Regulations Committee on Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at 7:00PM to discuss the Annual Town Meeting Articles listed below.

The meeting may be recorded and may be broadcasted live over SMAC (www.stoughtontv.org) and/or recorded for later broadcast and internet access.

To participate in the Public Hearing with Google Meets: <https://meet.google.com/fzc-qrak-nir>

To join the Public Hearing by Phone: (US) +1 318-565-6618 PIN: 528 378 370#

Agenda items may be taken out of order at Chairperson's discretion. Votes may be taken on Recommending Articles(s) to the Annual Town Meeting.

1. Meeting Called To Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Determination of Quorum (50% +1)
4. Review and Approve Draft Meeting Minutes from Prior Meeting
5. Motion To Open Public Hearing
6. Articles to be Heard and Discussed at Public Hearing: (Votes May Be Taken On All Articles)

Article 45 – Zoning Bylaw Amendment – Stoughton Center District,
Section 9.3.4 SCD Table of Use Regulations

Article 46 – Zoning Map Amendment

Article 47 – Zoning Bylaw Amendment – Zoning Bylaw Amendment – proposed Industrial-2 ("I-2")
Zoning District, section 2.1 Establishment of Zoning Districts, Section 9.3.4 SCD Table of
Use Regulations and Zoning Map Amendment Proposed I2 zoning district

Article 51 – Single-Serving Drinking Water Plastic Bottle Reduction Bylaw (Petitioned Article)

Article 53 – Rezone Map 54 Lot 433 from RU (Residential Urban) to
GB (General Business) (Petitioned Article)

Article 54 – Columbus Day name changed to Indigenous Peoples Day (Petitioned Article)

7. Motion to Continue Public Hearing or Close Public Hearing
8. Discussion of Articles from Public Hearing. Votes may be taken on Recommending Articles to
Town Meeting
9. Motion to Adjourn Meeting

This Public Hearing may be shown live on the local broadcast channel by SMAC and recorded for later broadcast and internet access.

AGENDA

Committee on Finance and Taxation
Wednesday , February 28 at 7PM

Fitzpatrick Room, 1st floor, Town Hall 10 Pearl St. Stoughton

Public Hearing

A Public Hearing will be held by the Committee on Finance and Taxation on February 28, 2024 to discuss the FY25 Town Budget and Annual Town Meeting Articles.

Agenda items may be taken out of order at the Chairman's discretion

1. Meeting Called to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
 - 2a. Approve Minutes of November 2, 2023
3. Motion to Open Public Hearing
4. TOWN BUDGET (FY25) SEWER DEPARTMENT
5. Article 8 – Sewer Department Enterprise Fund Budget
6. Article 24 – Sewer Capital - Inflow and Infiltration: \$400,000
7. TOWN BUDGET (FY25) WATER DEPARTMENT
8. Article 9 – Water Department Enterprise Fund Budget
9. Article 25 – Water and Sewer Department Capital
 - a. New Jet Truck: \$350,000
 - b. Two F250 Work Trucks with Plows (Replacements): \$154,000
 - c. One New F250 Work Truck with Plow: \$82,000
10. Article 26 – Pratt's Court Water Treatment Improvements: \$4,440,000
11. TOWN BUDGET (FY25) CEDAR HILL
12. Article 6 - Cedar Hill Enterprise Budget
13. Article 27 – Cedar Hill Capital
 - a. Cart and Equipment Storage Tent: \$30,000
 - b. Course Renovations: \$40,000
 - c. Greens Roller: \$18,000
14. Any other matters relating to FY25 or FY24 Budget and Town Meeting Warrant Articles
15. Motion to Continue Public Hearing
16. Adjourn

-Votes may be taken-

This meeting may be shown live on the local broadcast channel by SMAC and recorded for internet access.

RECEIVED
STOUGHTON, MASS
2024 FEB 22 A 11: 27
OFFICE OF
THE TOWN CLERK

AGENDA

Committee on Finance and Taxation

Thursday, February 29 at 7PM

Fitzpatrick Room, 1st floor, Town Hall 10 Pearl St. Stoughton

Public Hearing

A Public Hearing will be held by the Committee on Finance and Taxation on February 29, 2024 to discuss the FY25 Town Budget and Annual Town Meeting Articles.

Agenda items may be taken out of order at the Chairman's discretion

1. Meeting Called to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Motion to Open Public Hearing

4. ARTICLE 15 GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET (FY25)

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| a. Engineering. | e. Planning Department |
| b. Economic Development | f. Moderator |
| c. Building and Code Enforcement | g. Finance Committee |
| d. Board of Health | |

RECEIVED
STOUGHTON, MASS
2024 FEB 22 A 11:21
OFFICE OF
THE TOWN CLERK

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING ARTICLES

5. Article 28 – Town Pond Management Program: \$64,000
6. Article 29 – Intersection Improvements Design – Plain and West Street Intersection: \$55,000
7. Article 30 – Canton and School Street Intersection Improvements Design: \$225,000
8. Article 31 – Cedar Hill Drainage and Parking Improvements: \$67,000

9. Any other matters relating to FY25 or FY24 Budget and Town Meeting Warrant Articles
10. Motion to Continue Public Hearing
11. Adjourn

-Votes may be taken-

This meeting may be shown live on the local broadcast channel by SMAC and recorded for internet access.



Banner Application

Please review the Hometown Hero Banner Program Guidelines for further details.

Nominee Information

Full Name (as it will appear on banner)	Military Rank
Branch of Military	Era of Service (see options below)
Is Veteran Alive, Deceased, KIA, POW/MIA?	Year of enlistment/discharge

Veteran must grant permission to be honored on a banner if currently living. Please Have Veteran sign and date below.

Signature	Printed Name	Date
Era of Service - Official DOD Dates		
Global War on Terror: September 11, 2001 - Present	Korean Conflict Era: June 27, 1950 -January 31, 1955	
Persian Gulf War: August 2, 1990 - August 31, 1991	WWII Era: December 7, 1941 - December 31, 1946	
Cold War: September 2, 1945 - December 26, 1991	WWI Era: April 6, 1917 - November 11, 1918	
Vietnam Era: February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975	Peacetime: _____	

Nominator Information

Contact Name	Relationship to Veteran
Phone	Email
Address	

Please submit the photograph you would like to use on the banner with your application. Please check box if you would like the photo returned to you once the banner is approved and completed

☐

Photo Release:

I hereby grant the Stoughton Veterans Services permission to use the attached photo, which includes a likeness of myself, in the Stoughton Hometown Hero Banner Program. The Town of Stoughton Veterans Services may use images of the banner in promotional materials without notification or additional permission. I take full responsibility that all information provided about the Veteran being honored is accurate and correct. **MUST BE SIGNED BY VETERAN IF LIVING.**

Signature	Printed Name	Date
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Please see page 2 for submission and contact information

Completed submission should include the following:

1. Completed application
2. Photograph & signed photo release
3. Copy of Military Verification (DD-214, Letter from Commanding Officer, or Military ID)

Please email completed application, photo, and Military documentation to:

Veterans Services
Town of Stoughton MA
10 Pearl Street, Stoughton, MA 02072

Contact and Questions:

For questions or more information on the Banner Program, please call or email:

vetagent@stoughton-ma.gov or sjohnson@stoughton-ma.gov

781-341-1300 ext. 9221

Biography of Service Person

You may provide a short biography of the service person being honored, if you wish to, for future recognition, or in the event we are able to do a walking tour guide for the initial presentation and unveiling of the banners. It is not required to be submitted with the application.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.



2024 Hometown Hero Banner Program Guidelines

Mission

Honor and recognize Stoughton servicemen and women who are serving, have served or given their lives to our country in the United States Armed Forces.

Application Requirements

To be considered for a banner, the nominee must meet the following requirements: Resided in or currently living in Stoughton; Served in one of the following branches: Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, or Coast Guard, Space Force and either honorably discharged or died in the line of duty. Current active duty Service Members are eligible. National Guard Members are eligible if, they meet the criteria as a "veteran" under M.G.L. c. 4, sec. 7, cl. 43rd as amended by the Acts of 2005, ch. 130. Banners will be ordered and reviewed in the order they are received. One or two orders will be placed per year, depending on the number of applicants.

Banner Design, Time Period and Location

Banners are 18" x 45", double sided, DUAL PLY material and include service person's name, branch of service, era of service and photograph. Applications for the 2024 Banner Program will have banners displayed from memorial Day 2024 through Veterans Day 2024. Banner locations will be selected randomly, and specific display locations can be requested, but not guaranteed. Submission Deadline: No later than March 31, 2024.

Banner Photograph

Please submit a high-resolution photo, jpeg, if possible, or an original photo of the Hero in uniform (5x7 or 8x10) if possible), along with the completed application and proof of honorable discharge or current active duty status, to Veterans Services, 10 Peal Street, Stoughton, MA 02072. Photos will be returned if requested.

Banner Pricing and Donations

Banners will be provided at no cost to the Veteran or family, provided funding is available; or a \$175.00 donation from the applicant can be submitted with the application. All efforts will be made to defray the cost whenever possible.

Sponsorship

Individuals or business interested in supporting the program may want to consider sponsorship. A sponsorship is a general donation toward the Banner Program. Please fill out the 2024 Stoughton Hometown Hero Sponsorship Form and submit to Veterans Service, 10 Pearl Street, Stoughton, MA 02072

Contacts and Questions

For further questions or more information on the Banner Program, please email Veterans Services at Vetagent@stoughton-ma.gov or Sharon Johnson at sjohnson@stoughton-ma.gov



2024 Hometown Hero Banner Sponsorship Form

Date of Sponsorship Submission: _____

Please review the Hometown Hero Banner Program Guidelines for further details.

Sponsorships

Individuals or businesses interested in supporting the program may want to consider sponsorship to help defray expenses. A sponsorship is a general donation toward the Banner Program.

Sponsor Information

Contact Name: _____ **Business "If applicable:** _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ **Email:** _____

SIGNATURE: _____ **PRINTED NAME:** _____

Sponsorship Amount \$ _____

Please make check payable to Stoughton Hometown Hero Program and mail or drop off payment to:
Veterans Services, 10 Pearl Street, Stoughton, MA 02072

Questions?

Please contact Sharon Johnson at sjohnson@stoughton-ma.gov or call 781-341-1300 ext 9221



stoughtontv.com
781-341-1708
421 Page Street, Suite 2

Verizon: Public 28 / Education 26 / Government 24
Comcast: Public 9 / Education 6 / Government 8

This March, the **League of Women Voters** will be hosting a **LIVE DEBATE** with the Select Board Candidates.

Once the date is scheduled, SMAC will post the information on their Website and Facebook Page.



www.stoughtontv.com

**WE WANT TO
HEAR FROM YOU!**

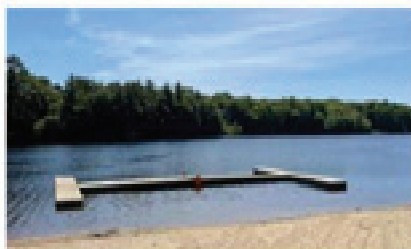
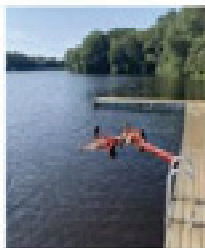
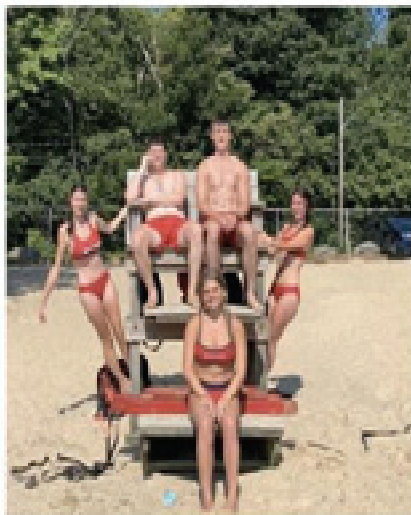
Are you interested in
producing your own
show, volunteering, or
learning how to edit??

Don't Just
Watch TV
- MAKE IT! -

Contact
Anya Zulawnik,
Station Manager

781-341-1708

azulawnik@stoughtontv.com



JOIN OUR TEAM!

Now Hiring Lifeguards!



We are looking for certified or willing to
become certified lifeguards for Ames Pond

Find a seasonal employee application on our website
<https://stoughtonma.myrec.com/info/dept/default.aspx>

BEAUTIFICATION OF STOUGHTON



TOWN-WIDE CLEAN UP DAY

Saturday, April 27th 8am-noon

**T-Shirts will be provided
as well as cookout after**

This will be the first of many events

Please register at

https://stoughtonma.myrec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=30085

The Stoughton Town Moderator
is seeking volunteers for the
following appointments:



Committee on Finance and Taxation

Two Appointments Available

Appointments are for a 3 year term.

Per the Town Charter; No member of the Committee on Finance and Taxation shall serve more than a total of 9 years.

The Moderator's expectations are that you attend Finance Committee meetings, learn about the town budget and participate in Finance Committee discussions.

The appointments are Open Until Filled.

Please send current resume and letter of interest to the
Town Moderator's Email address: bmullen@stoughton-ma.gov.
or via regular mail to Town Moderator, c/o Town Clerk's Office,
10 Pearl Street, Stoughton, MA 02072

Bob Mullen, Stoughton Town Moderator

Teen Crafternoon Paint Party

Thursday, February 29, 2024 3:00-4:30

TEEN PAINTING WORKSHOP

Create a painting with Wenta guiding you step-by-step.



Stoughton
Public
Library



STOUGHTON PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS: **GONE BEFORE THEIR TIME:**

ACTORS WHO DIED TOO YOUNG

with Stoughton film historian Frank Mandosa.

A look at the shortened lives and careers of Jean Harlow, Carole Lombard, James Dean, Heath Ledger, Philip Seymour Hoffman and River Phoenix.



**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29th
6:30 PM - 8:15 PM ON ZOOM**

Please visit: <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 & Film teacher, Frank Mandosa gives talks on a wide variety of film-related topics & has 2 movie podcasts, Silver Screeners (host) & Moves Across the Pod (co-host). Facebook movie group: "Silver Screeners" Twitter: @filmbuff1974 Email: silverscreenerspod@gmail.com www.frankmandosa.weebly.com

New Elementary School Building Project Community Forum

Save the Date

Monday • March 4, 2024 • 7PM
Community Forum

to learn more about the
new elementary school building project



The photo above is a rendering of what the front entrance of the new elementary school building would look like at night.



Stoughton Public Library Pajama Drive

February 1-March 15, 2024

The SPL has partnered with the Boston Bruins and Cradles to Crayons for their annual pajama drive. Please help us collect NEW pajamas sizes 0-3 months - Adult Medium so we can reach our goal of 100 pairs to benefit children in need in Massachusetts.

Thank you for your support!



Stoughton Public Library

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

CAREER



FAIR

**Win!!
Prizes**

Municipalities have power!

March 7th, 2024



Stoughton High School
Starting at 12PM

**Swag
Bags!!**

**Free
Food!!**

Take part in an event full of job opportunities, career development, food & more!

- Leadership
- Engineering, Public Safety and Billing
- Informational Interviews
- Job Shadowing

Open to all highschool students.

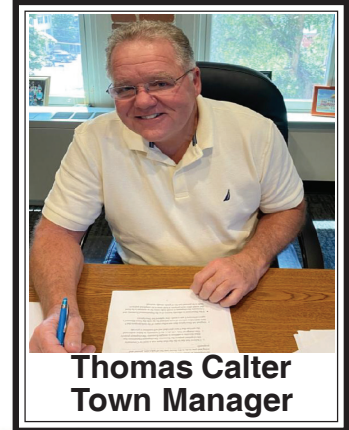


From the Town Manager's Office!

FY24 Objectives

(July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024)

UPDATES



1. Centralized Purchasing

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

02.14.2024 Update: We hired a new Purchasing Coordinator in January. He is now licensed in procurement as well. In his first 30 days, the Town has saved \$60,000 in purchases. This program and position is key to strengthening the Town's Financial position.

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.

11.30.2023 - 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 **February 15th**. 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.

02.14.224 Update: The FY25 operating budget reflects a reduction of 6 full-time employees versus FY24.

4. Stabilization Fund

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

02.14.2024 Update: Article 17 in the FY25 warrant proposes a deposit of \$250,000, which increases the stabilization fund to greater than 20%.

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.

02.14.2024 Update: The first information session was held on February 1st. The second public information session is scheduled for April 11th. The appraisal is complete and a plan is under development which will result in starting construction on the hole in the ground in 2024.

6. Unutilized Equipment

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

11.30.2023 - 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.

11.30.2023 - Progress is being made. More to report next month.

8. Senior Housing

Develop and implement a plan for increasing affordable Senior Housing Units.

11.30.2023 - Hebrew Senior Life 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.

02.14.2024 Update: The CPC voted a \$2,300,000 grant to Hebrew Senior Life.

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.

11.30.2023 - The Fire Dept. is now part of Regional 911. The Police will join on February 28th. The dispatch staff has been reduced from 11 to 2 employees. Savings in FY25 budget reallocated to add some 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.

02.14.2024 Update: We have received consent from Police. Under negotiation with the Fire Union.

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.

02.14.2024 Update: Several sites under consideration. Recommendation by April 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.

11.30.2023 - 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.

02.14.2024 Update: The program is achieving the desired results. A beautification committee has scheduled a spring clean-up day on April 27th. 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.

02.14.2024 Update: A Christmas event was held in December. \$300k of public funding has been raised to replace the HVAC system. The design 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.

02.14.2024 Update: The quarterly reports were well received. Public information sessions are scheduled for the Town budget and Annual Town Meeting warrant on April 25th, Downtown Development Plan on April 11th.

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.

11.30.2023 - 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.

02.14.2024 Update: We meet regularly with Joe Baeta on issues of School Safety, shared cost allocation, South School building project, capital needs and budget limitations. A sub-committee has been formed by Select Board member Cavey for further collaboration with 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.

11.30.2023 - 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.

02.14.2024 Update: A project update is scheduled during the Select Board meeting of February 20th.

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.

11.30.2023 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.

11.30.2023 - We are searching for public funding sources to supplement the cost of PFAS regulation requirements. We selected a law firm in December 2023 to join in class action law suit which has the potential to generate substantial funding.