



The STOW MUNICIPAL MESSAGE

March 2024

Welcome to the Stow Municipal Message!

I hope you find it to be a beneficial source of information for the month ahead. Additional information on all items can be found on our website at stow-ma.gov.

Thank you for reading!

Denise M. Dembkoski, Town Administrator

"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant." - Anne Bradstreet

PRIMARY VOTING DAY

In Person on Election Day

March 5, 2024

More information at: www.stow-ma.gov/town-meeting-election-information

Subscribe to have this Newsletter delivered right to your email.

[Click here](#) and select Stow Municipal Message - Monthly Newsletter under Upload File!

Excise Tax Bills for the first commitment of 2024 were mailed on 2/23/24 and are due to the Tax Collector's Office on 3/25/24.

Save The Date!

March 27th



Housing Production Plan Forum on housing goals & strategies.

More details to come!

Information to be posted soon on the Town's website.

Discussions with Denise

Do you have questions, suggestions, comments, or complaints?

Meet with the Town Administrator at Pompo on the first Wednesday of the month! Open Forum: 9:30am–11am; Private Appointments: 11am-11:30am

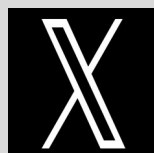
Call 978-897-1880 to schedule an appointment.

March's Discussion

Wednesday, March 6th, 9:30am

With special guest:

Valerie Oorthuys,
Planning Director



Stow Recognizes Women's History Month

Women's History Month had its origins as a national celebration in 1981 when Congress passed Pub. L. 97-28 which authorized and requested the President to proclaim the week beginning March 7, 1982 as "Women's History Week." Throughout the next five years, Congress continued to pass joint resolutions designating a week in March as "Women's History Week." In 1987 after being petitioned by the National Women's History Project, Congress passed Pub. L. 100-9 which designated the month of March 1987 as "Women's History Month." Between 1988 and 1994, Congress passed additional resolutions requesting and authorizing the President to proclaim March of each year as Women's History Month. Since 1995, presidents have issued a series of annual proclamations designating the month of March as "Women's History Month." These proclamations celebrate the contributions women have made to the United States and recognize the specific achievements women have made over the course of American history in a variety of fields.

On May 22, 2021, Town Meeting voted for a new bucket truck and after an almost 3 year wait, the truck was delivered to the Highway Department on February 6, 2024!



Stow Police Department Creates Task Force to Re-Examine 1985 Disappearance of Catherine 'Cathy' Malcolmson

STOW — Police Chief Michael Sallese is pleased to announce that the Stow Police Department has created a task force that will be reexamining the 1985 disappearance of Catherine “Cathy” Malcolmson.

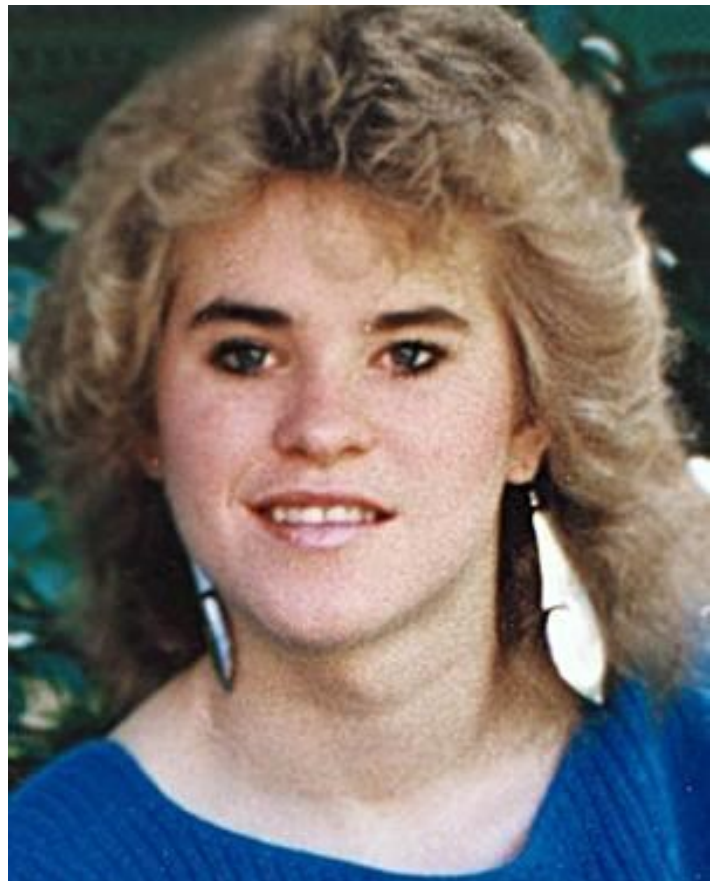
Cathy Malcolmson was 16 years old when she disappeared in 1985 while riding her bike to work in Hudson. Although the case has been looked at several times since her disappearance, this is the Department’s first task force solely dedicated to Cathy and her disappearance. Her bicycle was discovered approximately two years later in Hudson. Since then, there have been no substantial leads or developments.

Stow Police received funding through the Edward J. Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program for the creation of the task force, overtime for the officers involved, and the creation of a podcast focusing on Cathy’s disappearance and subsequent investigations.

This task force will be led by Sgt. Cassandra Scott.

“Cathy’s disappearance has always remained on the minds of our department members and this town” said Chief Michael Sallese. “I am glad that we were given the opportunity to bring more attention to this case. There have been both technological and investigative advancements since her disappearance and we are looking forward to utilizing those tools. Our hope is that given the time that has passed, people who may not have come forward then will come forward with information now and we can finally get some answers as to what may have happened to Cathy.”

If you have any information about Cathy’s disappearance you can call the tip line at 978-897-4545, ext. 1985, or email the task force at: tipsforcathy@stow-ma.gov



VETERANS OUTREACH

The Veterans Service Officer (VSO) and the Town of Stow continuously seek to increase awareness of events and information of interest to our Stow Veterans. As part of this effort, we want to let you know how you can receive such information. Choose the way you want to stay informed, and let us know what other ways we can share information:

- Send an email to: Veterans@Stow-MA.gov to share your ideas.
- Information is available on the town website <https://www.stow-ma.gov/veterans-services>. You can subscribe to e-alerts.
- We maintain a confidential database including emails for residents that we have interacted with or attended one of our activities. We use that information to send targeted emails.
- We utilize electronic mediums such as: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and Nextdoor.

VETERANS SOCIAL

The COA and Stow's Veterans Agent, Joe Jacobs, co-host a Veterans Social at 10am on the third Tuesday of every month at Pompo Community Center (509 Great Road). Get to know fellow veterans in a welcoming and casual atmosphere. Light refreshments and coffee will be served.

This event is free and open to Stow veterans of all ages.

To register:

- Use MyActiveCenter: <https://myactivecenter.com/#>
- Call the COA at 978-897-1880
- Come in person to Pompo
- Email the COA at COAAdminAsst@Stow-MA.gov

From the Zoning Board of Appeals—The Residences at Stow Acres

The Zoning Board of Appeals has worked with MCO & Associates (applicant) to create a schedule for upcoming public hearing sessions for **The Residences at Stow Acres** Comprehensive Permit. The schedule outlines the topics that the Board and applicant will discuss at each meeting. Below is the schedule created.

- **March 5, 2024** - Water, Wastewater, and Other Utilities
- **April 8, 2024** - Stormwater Management and Wetland Permitting
- **June 3, 2024** - Ownership Structure (HOA/Trust), Affordability, and Integration with Town Owned Land
- **July 8, 2024** - Final Questions and Comments, Miscellaneous Topics
- **July 24, 2024** – Tentative Closure of Public Hearing

You are welcome to attend each public hearing session, or just attend a session that is of interest. To stay informed on the scheduled, please visit the [Public Hearing Schedule Page](#) on the Board's website.

Can't attend a meeting but want to share a question or comment with the Board, visit the [All About Correspondence](#) page to learn how to submit questions and comments to have your voice heard.

COUNCIL ON AGING – OFFERED TO STOW RESIDENTS AGE 60+

- Free AARP income tax return preparation and filing. Do you qualify for the Massachusetts Senior Circuit Breaker Tax Credit?
- Spring is in the air! Assabet River Wildlife Nature Slide Show & Talk.
- It's Maple Syrup Season - Parker's Maple Barn.
- Celebrate St. Patrick's Day - Irish Pub in Newton.
- Are you adventurous? Explore Ireland from your Armchair!
- Cooking Class – Hearty Cold Weather Soups.
- Welcome Spring Social – come out of hibernation!
- Spring Cleaning – Let's Get Organized Talk, hear from local professionals!

For more details and to register: www.stow-ma.gov/council-aging.

THE SENIOR SCOOP

Stay up to date on COA news and information with the Stow Senior Scoop!

The paper copy of the Stow Senior Scoop is delivered to every household in Stow as an insert in Action Unlimited on the last Friday of the month.

Paper copies are available at the COA, the Town Building, and other locations around town.

Sign-up for e-alerts to be notified by email when the newsletter is posted online.

**From the Treasurer/Collector:
Delinquency Notices for 2023
Excise and 2024 Boat Excise will be
mailed on February 29, 2024.**



For details and application, visit NRHS guidance office

**Attention
graduating seniors!
Stow TV now offers a
scholarship for students
planning to pursue
journalism or
video media studies
in college!**

Upcoming shows in March

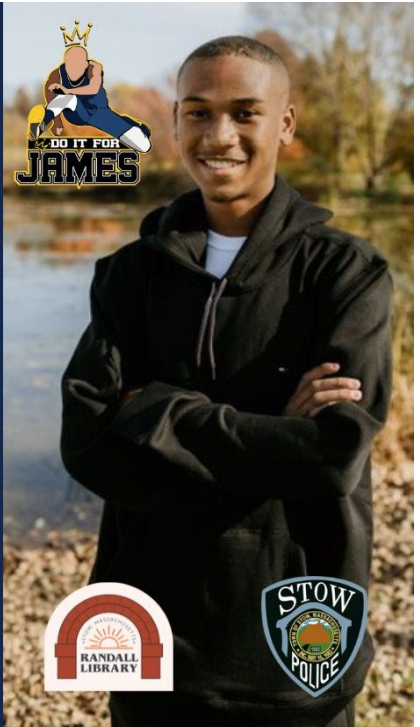
***Nashoba Symphonic Band- An American In Paris!
Mapledale Golf Course Talk with Dr Bob Bellinger
Stow COA Armchair Travel Talks
Miss Tricia's Dance Recital
New Revival Coffeehouse, and more..!***

presented by the Randall Library and Stow Police Department

Discussions with the *Do It For James Foundation*

Join us to learn about sextortion and why
you should start the conversations now

Monday, April 8th @ 6:00 pm
Hale Middle School Auditorium



Discussions with the Do It For James Foundation

Monday, April 8th, 6:00—7:00 pm Hale Middle School

Join the Stow Police Department and the Randall Library for a presentation by Timothy and Tamia Woods, founders of the Do It For James Foundation. On November 19th, 2022, their 17-year-old son James took his own life after being sextorted online. This is when someone creates a fake social media account to lure victims into sending explicit photos of themselves, and then threatening to send them to their friends and family unless they pay. Timothy and Tamia present to parents and children to encourage communication and warn others of cyberbullying.

James was a 17-year-old high school student growing into a young man. Unfortunately this beautiful life was cut short because of the actions of money hungry criminals. They targeted James. James was being cyberbullied. The culprits extorted money from James, mentally tortured him, threatened him, and harassed him all night and into the next day. James was exhausted from lack of sleep. James tried everything he could think of to stop his parents from learning of the embarrassing acts that took place. The last resort was that of the ultimate price; his life.

On January 13, 2023, the Woods' founded a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) organization called the Do It For James Foundation that caters around the need to be the microphone and warn others. The Do It For James Foundation encourages communication between children and adults and gives children a helping hand in lifting their talents and battling evil. Like James, the foundation will continue to run year-round giving life, providing love, educating, and doing it all for James.

Please note that this talk features heavy topics, including suicide, coercion, and guns. While this is intended for people of all ages and children are encouraged to join, parental discretion is advised.

This program will be recorded and posted on the Stow TV YouTube channel after the event.

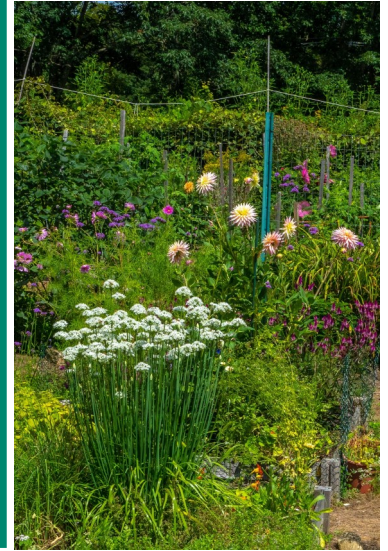
FROM THE ASSESSORS OFFICE:

Applications for personal exemptions, including the Community Preservation Surcharge exemption, are due by April 1, 2024.

CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT FOURTH FRIDAY WALK

Our "Fourth Friday Walk" will be a 2-2.5 mile walk at the Stow Acres North Course on March 22 from 1 to 2:30pm. This will be an opportunity to explore a newly created trail on the property and talk about the town's current planning effort there. The walk will be at an easy pace on a mix of easy trails, golf course, and paved cart paths. Interested participants should meet in the parking lot in front of the clubhouse at 58 Randall Road.

Dogs are not permitted. Advance registration required at conservation2@stow-ma.gov.



Attention Gardeners! Stow Community Garden plot applications are now available!

30x50' and 30x25' annual and perennial plots are available at the Stow Community Gardens at Captain Sargent Conservation Area on Tuttle Lane. Also available are raised beds (4' x 8' x 2' high) that allow those with mobility challenges to garden at the Community Gardens. Applications for raised beds and all other Community Garden plots for the 2024 Season are now available. The deadline to apply for a raised bed plot is March 15th, all other plot applications are due March 31st.

Please see the Stow Conservation Commission website for applications and more information on the Community Gardens:

<https://www.stow-ma.gov/conservation-commission/pages/stow-community-gardens>



WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR IDEAS FOR STOW'S FUTURE!



Read on to see how you can get involved!



Attend or host your own Meeting-in-a-box! Scan above or visit: tinyurl.com/MIABstow

Take the Community Survey!

tinyurl.com/StowSurvey



Add your ideas to the Crowdmap! Go to the project website to fill it out.

The Stow Comprehensive Plan project team invites you to participate in three engagement tools launching this Spring.

We want to hear your ideas for Stow in topics like housing, economic development, land use, historic and cultural resources, open space, sustainability, public facilities, transportation, and more!

The comments and suggestions gathered now will help shape the vision, goals, and strategies for the Comprehensive Plan.



Scan the QR code or use the link below to visit the Project Website and learn how you can get involved!

<https://tinyurl.com/StowCP>

POLICE DEPARTMENT—CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

The third session of our Citizens Police Academy will be on March 20th from 6:30pm-8:45pm. This session will be a Community Services Panel featuring DA Marian Ryan, Minuteman Senior Services, Domestic Violence Services Network, Advocates (featuring our JDP Clinician Kristin Normandin), Communities for Restorative Justice and our Town Social Worker/COA.

The other sessions are as follows:

- April 10th: Community Alerts and Scams hosted by Sgt. Cassie Scott
- May 8th: Basic Patrol and Motor Vehicle Stops hosted by various PD Members
- June 12th: Use of Force and Firearms hosted by Officer Butler
- July 17th: Our final session featuring an all-encompassing scenario hosted by various PD members with help from our friends at Stow Fire.

You can sign up here: <https://www.stow-ma.gov/stow-police-department/webforms/stow-police-citizens-academy-sign>

Thank you to those that have already signed up; we look forward to seeing you!

(Pictured at right is Session One of the Citizens Police Academy.)



Board and Committee Opportunities

[Agricultural Commission](#)

[Capital Planning Committee - Associate Members](#)

[Complete Streets Committee](#)

[Constable](#)

[Cultural Council](#)

[Economic Development & Industrial Commission](#)

[Finance Committee - Associate Members](#)

[Open Space Committee](#)

[Planning Board - Non-Voting Associate Member](#)

[SpringFest Committee](#)

[Town Hall Building Reuse Committee](#)

[Veterans Graves Committee](#)

[Zoning Board Of Appeals Associate Members](#)

Interested individuals should fill out the online [Application Form](#)
Questions? Call: 978-897-4515 or email: selectboard@stow-ma.gov

STOW FIRE DEPARTMENT

The weather is warming, so it's time for spring cleaning! This year, don't forget to add some fire safety tips to your list. By following these tips, you can help reduce the risk of a fire happening in your home. Keep reading for our top tips on how to keep safe this spring! One of the most important things you can do to prevent a fire is to keep your home clean. Dust and dirt can quickly build up and become combustible. Make sure to dust all surfaces, especially those that tend to collect dust, like bookshelves and window sills. Don't forget to vacuum regularly too!

We've compiled a quick list of additional fire prevention and safety measures to include in your cleaning routine this year:

Indoor Spring-Cleaning Fire Safety Tips

When it comes to spring cleaning, mops, brooms, and dustpans quickly come to mind. Keeping fire prevention in mind as you go about your spring-cleaning routine can help prevent a fire in the future. Check out these six indoor fire safety tips:

1. Clear out any clutter from your home, especially in hallways and stairways.

Did you know that clutter provides fuel for a fire to spread? Make sure that all of your exits are clear and have a clear path to them. If you have any items blocking an exit, move them immediately. This ensures your family will have good escape routes should you need to evacuate due to fire.

2. Check your smoke alarms & carbon monoxide detectors.

Test your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors to ensure they are working properly. Now is an excellent time to install them if you don't have any. Replace your carbon monoxide and smoke detector batteries and look for any corrosion on the batteries or their connection points in the device. Replace the entire device if you notice any corrosion inside the battery compartment. Otherwise, supply your carbon monoxide and smoke detectors with a fresh set of batteries.

3. Don't use electrical appliances or tools with frayed cords.

If you have any electrical appliances or tools with frayed electrical cords, replace them as soon as possible. Using damaged electrical cords could start a fire. This is also an excellent time to check your extension cords too. Too many devices plugged in can overload the outlet and cause a fire.

4. Check for water around electrical appliances.

Check for water around electrical appliances, such as your washing machine, dryer, or dishwasher. If you notice any water, have a professional inspect your appliance to make sure it is safe to use.

5. Check all of your appliances to make sure they are in good working condition.

This includes your stove, oven, microwave, toaster, coffee maker, and anything you use daily. If you notice any issues with an appliance, have it repaired or replaced as soon as possible.

6. It's a great time to clean your clothes dryer vent and lint trap.

Regularly clean your clothes dryer lint trap. Lint is highly combustible and can easily cause a fire if it isn't removed. Clean your dryer vent and hoses at least once a year to remove and prevent any excess lint buildup or blockages.

STOW FIRE DEPARTMENT, Continued

Outdoor Spring-Cleaning Fire Safety Tips

While cleaning up your yard this spring, don't forget about fire safety. Here are a few outdoor spring-cleaning tips to keep in mind:

1. Trim any trees or bushes that are close to your home.

Trimming away any bushes or trees that are too close to your house creates a “defensible space” between your home and potential fire sources. Additionally, if you have dead or dying trees, now is an excellent time to remove them. Dead vegetation is highly flammable and can easily catch fire.

2. Check your gas grill for rust, worn parts, grease, and other debris before use.

Grilling is a popular spring and summer activity, but it's essential to ensure your grill is clean and in safe operational order before firing it up for the first burger of the season. Remove any rust, grease, or debris built up over the winter. Inspect all parts to make sure they are in good working condition. If you notice any worn parts, have them replaced. It's a great time to check your grill's propane tank for gas leaks.

3. Move the grill at least 10 feet away from the house before use.

It's essential to keep your gas grill at least ten feet away from your home when in use. This will help prevent any accidental fires from happening. Additionally, make sure that the area around the grill is clear of any debris or flammable materials.

4. Make sure your home's address is visible from the street.

If your home's address is not visible from the street, it will be difficult for emergency responders to find your home in the event of a fire or other emergencies. Make sure that your house number is visible and easy to read from the street. If you need to, repaint or replace your address sign.

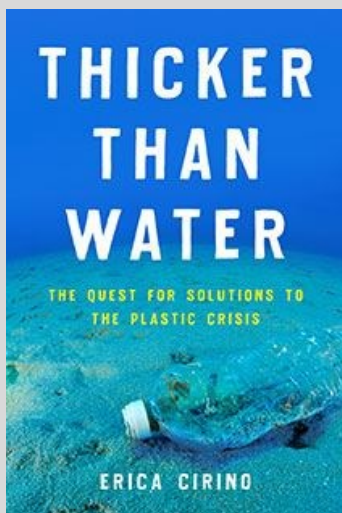
Summary

By following these simple tips, you can help reduce the risk of a fire happening in your home. So take some time this spring to clean and declutter – it could just save your life. As always, if you have any questions about fire safety or fire prevention, you can always call the Stow Fire Department at 978-897-4537. We are always happy to help! (Fire Prevention Tips, the cleaning part is your job.) For more information and safety tips, follow us on social media @StowFireRescue.



Randall Library Program Highlight—Monday, March 4, 2024 at 7pm

Virtual - Q&A with Author Erica Cirino Discusses
"Thicker Than Water The Quest for Solutions to the Plastic Crisis"



As plastic pollution piles up, time to negotiate real solutions is running out, and meanwhile plastics' impacts on the Earth and our health grows worse. Erica hopes to share important facts and immediate action we can take to help our communities and protect our health from plastics.

This is a presentation on Erica's findings and current work communicating science-backed facts and solutions to the plastic pollution, featuring original reporting, research, and images from the frontlines of the plastic crisis (including from the middle of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch).

Register here:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_XFceftN4SMGShvmDNUDkpw#/registration

Sponsored by the Friends of the Ashland Library

From the Recreation Department

Camp Stow 2024

Camp begins on June 24th and all weeks are currently full, but we have a waitlist and we are working hard to register people from the waitlist as soon as spaces open. If you would like to be added to the waitlist, please email recreation2@stow-ma.gov with the weeks you would like to get in to Camp Stow.



Platypus Society

The Platypus Society is a program for kids in kindergarten through grade 5 featuring fun and inclusive activities such as sports, games, art, homework assistance, outdoor exploration, confidence and team building, field trip opportunities, and much more! The program runs at the Pompo Community Center from the end of school until 6 pm. We also provide transportation from The Center School at school dismissal.

We still have openings on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from now through April 12. All days of the week are available from April 22 through the end of the school year.

Register here:

<https://www.stow-ma.gov/recreation-department/pages/recreation-department>

and have a blast with the Platypus Society!



South Acton Train Shuttle

Pick Up: Old Fire Station 16 Crescent St Stow, MA 01775	Drop Off: South Acton Station 4 Central St Acton, MA 01720	Pick up: South Acton Station 4 Central St Acton, MA 01720	Drop off: Old Fire Station 16 Crescent St Stow, MA 01775
5:30am	5:38am	4:45pm	4:53pm
5:46am	5:54am	5:01pm	5:09pm
6:02am	6:10am	5:17pm	5:25pm
6:18am	6:26am	5:33pm	5:41pm
6:34am	6:42am	5:49pm	5:57pm
6:50am	6:58am	6:05pm	6:13pm
7:06am	7:14am	6:21pm*	6:29pm T
7:22am	7:30am		
7:38am	7:46am T		
* -Hold until 6:20pm train (last service) - Driver will wait up to 15min for late train arrival			
T= Terminate (service terminates at this time)			

MBTA Train Schedule	INBOUND 6:02am	6:57am	7:07am	7:57am	OUTBOUND 4:28pm	5:14pm	5:30pm	6:20pm
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To use this shuttle, Residents may park in the municipal lot at the former fire station at 16 Crescent Street.

Fare-Free until May 1, 2024	
One-way Ride	\$2.00
Monthly Pass	\$40.00

-Call 1-800-922-5636 option 3
-Pay by credit/debit card or while boarding the van