



# The STOW MUNICIPAL MESSAGE

February 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](http://stow-ma.gov).

Thank you for reading!

Denise M. Dembkoski, Town Administrator

## ***Town Offices Closed on Monday, February 19th for President's Day***

***Beginning February 5th, the Town, partnering with MART will be offering shuttle service to/from the South Acton train station during peak hours. See page 3 for more details!***

**Subscribe to have this Newsletter delivered right to your email.**

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

## **ANNUAL CENSUS / STREET LISTING**

This was mailed to every household in January. Review, update, sign and return as soon as possible. If census is not returned, voters are made inactive and may be delayed at the polls.

## **2024 DOG LICENSES ON SALE NOW**

\$10 per dog –deadline is January 31  
(grace period until April 15)  
\$35 per dog after April 15

### **LICENSE ONLINE:**

<https://epay.cityhallsystems.com/>

**LICENSE BY MAIL:** Applications were mailed with the 2024 Census/Street Listing

## **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.

## **February's Discussion**

Wednesday, February 7th, 9:30am  
With special guest:  
Frank Ramsbottom,  
Building Commissioner

**Stay Connected with the  
Town of Stow!**



## The Town of Stow recognizes and honors Black History Month

Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history.

The story of Black History Month begins in 1915, half a century after the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery in the United States. That September, the Harvard-trained historian Carter G. Woodson and the prominent minister Jesse E. Moorland founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), an organization dedicated to researching and promoting achievements by Black Americans and other peoples of African descent.

President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month in 1976, calling upon the public to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.” Today, Black History Month is a time to honor the contributions and legacy of African Americans across U.S. history and society—from activists and civil rights pioneers such as Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, Marcus Garvey, Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X and Rosa Parks to leaders in industry, politics, science, culture and more.

The Town of Stow recognizes Black History Month and those who have contributed to the legacy of African Americans throughout U.S. history.

Join the Randall Library in collaboration with the Ashland Public Library for a virtual program, Wednesday, February 21, at 7 PM

### **Bending Towards Justice: African Americans as Subject and Creators in American Art**

Register [here](#) or call the Library at 978-897-8572.



Martin Luther King, Jr. once said “The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice.” This program examines that arc as it relates to African American history enshrined in American Art. From colonial era portraits to 19th-century and Jim Crow-era prints to 1960s Civil Rights photography, this program will provide a visual overview of African American oppression, struggle and progress towards equality.

# BEGINNING FEBRUARY 5, 2024!



## 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

## **MARCH 5, 2024 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY**

ALL registered voters may vote in the Primary including those that are unenrolled (aka Independent). Deadline to register to vote is Saturday, February 24 at 5p.

Make changes to your voter registration online:

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/> The online system allows you to:  
Register to Vote, Change Name, Change Address, Change Party

### **PRIMARY VOTING OPTIONS**

In Person on Election Day: March 5

In Person Early Voting:

February 24, and February 26 — March 1

Vote By Mail: the State is mailing postcard applications to every registered voter.

More information at: [www.stow-ma.gov/town-meeting-election-information](http://www.stow-ma.gov/town-meeting-election-information)

### **Assessing Information:**

State Tax Form 2, State Tax Form 2HF and 3ABC Forms are due by Friday, March 1.

This pertains to all businesses, taxpayers with second homes, and non-profit organizations.

## **Monthly Conservation Department Walks**

Join the Conservation Department in 2024 for our new Fourth Friday walks!

We will be hosting a walk on the 4th Friday of every month at 1pm. Each month will feature a different property with various distances, walking paces, and themes. Some will be shorter hikes highlighting natural history topics and others will be longer hikes for more vigorous exercise.

Take a lunch break and join us for conservation conversations and exercise!

### **February Walk:**

Please join Jacquie Goring, Conservation Assistant, on Friday, February 23 at 1pm for a winter track and sign walk at Captain Sargent Conservation Area. Enjoy a leisurely walk on the trails, around the fields, and at the Community Gardens while learning how to find and identify wildlife tracks and sign. Parking will be at the main Captain Sargent Conservation Area parking lot on South Acton Road. Registration is required. Please email [conservation2@stow-ma.gov](mailto:conservation2@stow-ma.gov) to register. While our properties are dog friendly, please leave your dog home for these group events.

To learn about future walks, follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/stowconservation](https://www.facebook.com/stowconservation) or check the [News and Announcements](#) section of the [Conservation Department webpage](#).

## **STOW COA IS HERE FOR STOW RESIDENTS!**

from Alyson Toole, Stow COA Director

Did you know that the state of Massachusetts requires every town to have a Council on Aging (COA)? And that the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs allocates money to each town for programs and services benefiting its residents?

Stow has a proud history of very active seniors, starting back in the early 1970s when a senior citizen club was formed. Stow has been very fortunate to have had forward thinking citizens and a very supportive town government prioritizing the Stow COA. This support continues today providing a beautiful location for the Stow COA within the Pompositticut Community Center. Through the years, Stow COA has received awards for excellence and recognition for its outstanding small town COA senior center with a commitment to Stow citizens.

Stow's older adult population has had a continuous rapid increase. When I first started at the Stow COA 17 years ago there were 752 seniors. Now there are over 2,000. In addition to serving seniors, the Stow COA also acts as the social service agency for the town assisting all residents with their needs. With limited resources and staff compounded by an increase in resident needs, the Stow COA must devote its resources toward helping only Stow residents.

Towns have formed Friends of the COA to financially support their town's COA mission. The Stow COA is very fortunate to have an active and successful Friends group, Stow Friends of the COA (SFCOA). Their mission is to raise funds to help Stow seniors. The SFCOA gives on average over \$20,000 each year to subsidize Stow COA events, programs, grocery gift cards, fuel assistance, vans and much more. The Stow COA could not do what we do without their generous financial support.

In the past, Stow COA has always been attractive to residents from other towns which do not offer the programs and services that Stow does. Through the years, we continually are assessing the capacity of Stow COA programs and the changing demands of our residents. After a great deal of thought, discussions with Stow residents and learning from past experiences, it was a very difficult decision, but Stow COA decided to prioritize Stow residents' needs and interests by allowing only Stow residents to attend the Stow COA. This will ensure the continuation of offering high quality services to Stow residents. The Stow COA believes that in order for other towns to have vibrant COAs, those seniors must share their needs and wants with their town COA and Town officials, in order to get those needs and wants met. We are not insensitive to the challenges that these other towns and their residents face, and that is why we spend time sharing what we do with other towns to help them become more attractive to their residents.

Hopefully Stow residents understand, appreciate, and support our position on only offering our services to Stow residents. As taxpayers, I'm sure that is how you want your money spent, benefiting our seniors here in Stow. Remember, we are always seeking input for new activities and how we can better meet your needs, so please let us know what more we can do for you.





**STOW**  
MASSACHUSETTS  
Incorporated 1683

# COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

Your Voice is Important!



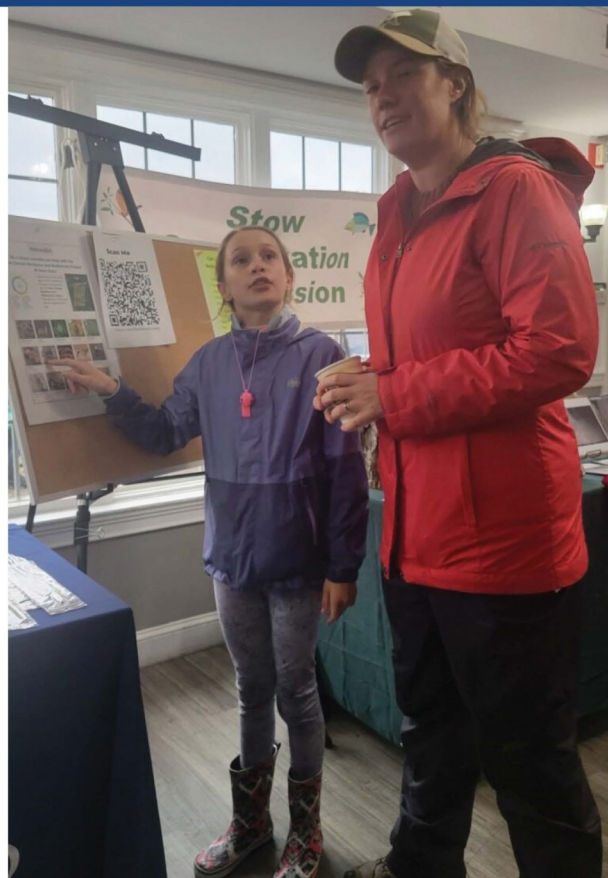
## JOIN US IN PERSON

**WHAT** Help Craft the Plan  
for Recreation and  
Conservation at Stow Acres

**WHEN** February 12, 2024  
Join us anytime during our  
**Drop In Sessions**  
2:00PM-5:00PM  
6:30PM 8:30PM

**WHERE** Pompositticut Community  
Center, 509 Great Road  
in Stow, MA

**WHO** All Ages Welcome,  
Bring the Family!



To learn more about Stow Acres visit: <http://tinyurl.com/stowacresplan>



## WELL ADULT DROP-IN CLINIC AT POMPO ON FEBRUARY 7

The Clinic is the first Wednesday of every month from 10am to 12pm and is open to all adult Stow residents each month, free of charge.

*(The clinic is open to healthy adults. If you are feeling unwell, please contact your physician.)*

### ***Offered services include:***

Blood Pressure/Pulse Screenings—Blood Sugar Screening — Medication Review  
Diet/Nutrition Information and Teaching—General Health Counseling, and  
Assistance With Coordinating Community Resources and Referrals

In addition to the monthly clinics, the Nashoba Nurses are available for consultation weekdays 8am—4:30pm by phone at the Nashoba BOH office at 978-772-3335 x 340, or visit them at [www.nashoba.org](http://www.nashoba.org).



## WHAT'S IT CALLED?

HELP US NAME THE PLAN TO BEST  
DESCRIBE STOW AND THIS PROCESS!



<http://tinyurl.com/stowname>

We're collecting name submissions to  
help name the comprehensive plan.  
Submit your idea today!

check the website below for more information.

<https://tinyurl.com/stowCP>

## COUNCIL ON AGING HAPPENINGS FOR FEBRUARY

### OFFERED TO STOW RESIDENTS AGE 60+

**LET'S GET CREATIVE - DECOUPAGE PLATE CLASS – Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>**

**JFK PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM – Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>** Presidents Day is in February.

Let's celebrate a leader of our country and learn a little about U.S. history.

**JOIN THE FUN - VALENTINE'S DAY LUNCHEON – Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>**

**ARE YOU ADVENTUROUS? COME TO ARMCHAIR TRAVEL: EXPLORE JAPAN – Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>**

**IT ONLY HAPPENS EVERY 4 YEARS! LEAP YEAR – THE MOVIE – Feb. 29<sup>th</sup>**

Shown on the large screen in the function room at Pompo Community Center



For details, please read our newsletter "The Stow Senior Scoop".

To register and for more info go to:

[www.stow-ma.gov/council-aging](http://www.stow-ma.gov/council-aging).

### ATTENTION NASHOBA HIGH SENIORS!

Stow TV has created a scholarship for graduating students who plan to study journalism or video/film production.

See the NRHS Guidance Department for details.

### Volunteer!

If you are interested in serving on a Town Board or Committee, check out the current openings here:

[Board & Committee Openings](#).

### STOW TV NEWS

As of this writing Verizon is working to get Stow TV's public channel up and running in HD! The channel number will be 2132, we'll make an announcement when it has launched. Comcast's HD public channel should be following soon.

Want to learn how to produce and edit videos? Come see us; free use of our equipment for residents and private lessons on editing are available. Make your own show or help with recording a public event! Upcoming volunteer opportunities include the Nashoba Symphonic Band concert in February, ongoing school sports, and the upcoming Spring Band and Choral concerts in March. You can also help broadcast the twice monthly Select Board meetings. Email us at [stowtv@stow-ma.gov](mailto:stowtv@stow-ma.gov) for more information.



**Erin Mulcahy has joined the Town's leadership team as  
Assistant Town Administrator/Human Resources Director.**

Mulcahy comes to Stow from the Town of Concord, where she was a Business Systems Analyst. Mulcahy brings to Stow extensive experience in finance, human resources, and technology. She worked as an information and business systems analyst in the private sector before joining the Town of Concord in 2011.

"Erin is a great fit for the Town," Town Administrator Denise Dembkoski said. "We were incredibly impressed with Erin's experience and enthusiasm, and the innovation she has shown in her career. Her skill set and vision will make her a valuable contributor."

Mulcahy holds a Bachelor's degree from St. Anselm's College, and a certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management from Suffolk University's Sawyer Business School. She is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Public Administration from Suffolk. "I am honored to have been selected for this position and excited to collaborate with the Town of Stow's employees and residents to make meaningful contributions to the community," Mulcahy said.

**Police Department Update**

Our Community Engagement Team recently signed up for the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Trust Building Campaign Pledge. The department has 36 months to implement 25 key policies and promising practices focusing on six areas.

These areas include:

- bias-free policing
- use of force
- leadership and culture
- recruitment/hiring/retention
- victim services
- community relations.

Our department and the Community Engagement Team is excited to strengthen our commitment to enhancing trust and increased collaboration between our department and the residents of Stow.

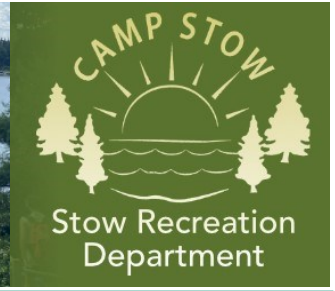


Assistant Town Administrator &  
Human Resources Director  
**Erin Mulcahy**

## **Recreation Platypus Society**

Join the Platypus family! The Platypus Society is a program for kids in kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade 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.

Space is available this session on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The cost will be prorated as this session ends, February 16<sup>th</sup>. The next full session will start after the February vacation and run until April vacation. Register here: <https://www.stow-ma.gov/recreation-department/pages/recreation-department> and have a blast with the Platypus Society!



## **Camp Stow 2024**

begins on June 24<sup>th</sup>, and REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR STOW RESIDENTS!

Eight (8) weekly sessions will run through August 16<sup>th</sup>. *Note: The week of July 1<sup>st</sup> will be a 3-day session in observance of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday.* Register at:

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

Make sure your emergency and health information is up to date! If you have any issues, please reach out to: [recreation@stow-ma.gov](mailto:recreation@stow-ma.gov) for assistance.

## **CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY**

The second session of our Citizen's Police Academy will be on February 28 from 6:30-8:45p. This session will be a General Law Overview and will also feature a conversation with Chief Sallese and Lt. Barhight regarding what they see for the future of Stow PD. There is still time to sign up for that session and the other sessions as well. Those sessions are as follows:

March 20: Community Services Panel featuring DA Marian Ryan, Minuteman Senior Services, Domestic Violence Services Network, Communities for Restorative Justice, Advocates (featuring our JDP Clinician Kristin Normandin), and our Town Social Worker/COA.

April 10: Community Alerts and Scams hosted by Sgt. Cassie Scott

May 8: Basic Patrol and Motor Vehicle Stops hosted by various PD Members

June 12: Use of Force and Firearms hosted by Officer Butler

July 17: 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:

[www.stow-ma.gov/stow-police-department/webforms/stow-police-citizens-academy-sign](http://www.stow-ma.gov/stow-police-department/webforms/stow-police-citizens-academy-sign)

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

## STOW FIRE DEPARTMENT—OPEN AIR BURNING SEASON

The season has started! As of January 18, there are over 700 active users that have open air fires. Residents must obtain a permit prior to conducting open burning, and activate it each day they are planning on burning brush during the open burning season. Permits can be obtained at no cost at [stow.burnpermits.com](http://stow.burnpermits.com) or visit the fire station lobby. An adult must attend the fire until it is completely extinguished.

### What am I allowed to burn?

- Brush, cane, driftwood, and forestry debris from **other than** commercial or industrial land clearing operations.
- Agricultural materials such as fruit tree + bush prunings, raspberry stalks, and infected bee hives for disease control.
- Trees and brush resulting from agricultural land clearing.
- Fungus infected elm wood, if no other acceptable means of disposal is available.

### What am I NOT allowed to burn?

- Brush, trees, cane and driftwood from commercial and/or industrial land clearing operations.
- Grass, hay, leaves, stumps, and tires.
- Construction material and debris.

### How can I safely ignite and tend to my fire?

An adult should always be present during open burning. Children and pets should be kept a safe distance away. Use paper and kindling to start the fire and add progressively larger pieces of wood. Parts of a discarded Christmas tree can be used. Never use gasoline, kerosene or any other flammable liquid to start a fire because the risk of personal injury is high. Burn one small pile of material at a time and slowly add to it. This helps to keep the fire from getting out of control. Select a burn location away from any utility lines.

### What tools should I have with me?

Have fire extinguishing materials on hand including a water supply, shovels and rakes. The water supply can be a pressurized water fire extinguisher, a pump can or a garden hose. Test the water source before igniting the fire. You do not want to find out that the water is off or that the hose is cracked when you need it.

### What should I do if my fire is out of control?

CALL **911** IMMEDIATELY. Use the utmost caution to prevent injury to yourself and others or any fire damage to your home. People conducting illegal burning, or who allow a fire to get out of control, may be held liable for the costs of extinguishing the fire, and fined or imprisoned. Remember to call 911 and NOT the fire station. Crews may be out on another emergency, training or inspections.

Open air fires are regulated by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) According to Department of Environmental Protection regulation (310 CMR DEP7.07). Open air burning will only be permitted on days of acceptable air quality.

*For more information and safety tips, follow us on social media @StowFireRescue*

**Life Safety ~ First Priority**



# BEGINNING FEBRUARY 5, 2024!

## Stow Shopping Shuttle

### Mondays - Highland Commons

Mondays - Outgoing		
Locations	Times	Pickup Locations
Meeting House Apartments	10:45AM	Main Entrance
Elizabeth Brook Apartments	10:50AM	Front Offices
Pilot Grove Apartments	10:55AM	1) Grove Hill Road - Building D - Mailbox Area 2) Warren Road - Sidewalk next to building 5 driveway
<u>Destination - Highland Commons</u>	11:15AM	

Mondays - Returns	
Pickup Locations and Times	
<u>Destination - Highland Commons</u>	12:45PM
Pilot Grove Apartments	1:05PM
Elizabeth Brook Apartments	1:10PM
Meeting House Apartments	1:15PM

### Thursdays - Stow Shopping Plaza / Maynard Crossing

Thursdays - Outgoing		
Locations	Times	Pickup Locations
Pilot Grove Apartments	10:45AM	1) Grove Hill Road - Building D - Mailbox Area 2) Warren Road - Sidewalk next to building 5 driveway
Elizabeth Brook Apartments	10:50AM	Front Offices
Meeting House Apartments	10:55AM	Main Entrance
<u>Destination - Stow Shopping Plaza</u>	11:00AM	
<u>Destination - Maynard Crossing</u>	11:10AM	

Thursdays - Returns	
Pickup Times and Locations	
<u>Destination - Maynard Crossing</u>	12:45PM
<u>Destination - Stow Shopping Plaza</u>	12:55PM
Meeting House Apartments	1:00PM
Elizabeth Brook Apartments	1:05PM
Pilot Grove Apartments	1:10PM

## FARE FREE UNTIL MAY 1ST, 2024!



For more information call:  
(800) 922-5636 option 3



Pay by credit/debit card or while  
boarding the van.



## \$500,000 DOER Green Communities Division Grant Received

The Town of Stow has received \$500,000 in grant funding from the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) Green Communities Division for the Randall Library building decarbonization renovation project.

The \$500,000 in funds will be used to aid the Randall Library renovation project and transform the building into a fossil-free space.

The renovation will include the installation of an all-electric HVAC system to support both the addition and the renovation of the existing building, with the aim to lower the Town's overall greenhouse gas emissions.

DOER staff selected grant applications to fund based on a number of factors, including energy impacts, emissions reductions, utility incentives, reasonable budget, efficacy of measures in terms of energy savings per DOER investment, and previous grant awards.

DOER also looked favorably on projects that exhibit innovation and consistency with the Commonwealth's stated clean energy priorities.

## Board and Committee Opportunities

[Agricultural Commission - three](#)

[Capital Planning Committee](#)

[Cemetery Committee - two](#)

[Complete Streets Committee](#)

[Constable](#)

[Cultural Council](#)

[Economic Development & Industrial  
Commission - seven](#)

[Finance Committee](#)

[Gleasondale Local Historic District Study  
Committee - two](#)

[Open Space Committee](#)

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

[SpringFest Committee - five](#)

[Town Hall Building Reuse Committee - new!](#)

[Veterans Graves Committee - two](#)

[Zoning Board Of Appeals](#)

*Interested individuals should fill out the online [Application Form](#)*

If you have questions, please contact the Select Board Office at 978-897-4515  
or via email at : [selectboard@stow-ma.gov](mailto:selectboard@stow-ma.gov)

## Come Work With Us!

### COA Activity Coordinator/Outreach Worker (Local, part-time, rewarding opportunity)

The Stow COA is looking for an energetic and creative person who can multitask to join our team as an Activity Coordinator/Outreach Worker. Every day is different in this fast-paced but fun and gratifying role. The Outreach Worker will plan and coordinate COA activities including in-house events and offsite field trips. They will also assess the seniors' needs and advocate and provide information and referral services. This is a part time, non-benefits eligible position. The hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10:30 am–3:30 pm.

### Public Works Business Manager

The Town of Stow is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Business Manager for the Highway/Cemetery Department. This full-time (40 hr/wk), benefit eligible position handles all duties in the administration of the department. The position provides a wide variety of clerical, administrative, website, and customer service tasks for the efficient and effective operation of the Highway/Cemetery Department. (Pending name change to Public Works Department) Bachelor's degree or equivalent, and three to five years of experience in a responsible administrative or accounting position, preferably in a municipal setting, or any equivalent combination of education and experience.

**For more information on these and any other employment opportunities we have, please visit [our website](#).**

### FT MPTC Academy Trained POST Certified Officer

Are you ready to make a difference? The Stow PD is actively seeking qualified candidates for an exciting job opportunity in law enforcement. If you have excellent written and oral communication skills, interpersonal abilities, and a commitment to public safety, we invite you to apply. Must be POST certified. No exam required to apply. Discover minimum requirements, and details on our generous salary and compensation package at [getbadged.com](http://getbadged.com).



**FT MPTC Academy Trained POST Certified Officer**



[www.getbadged.com](http://www.getbadged.com)