



# The STOW MUNICIPAL MESSAGE

Welcome to the first issue of 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 and Happy New Year!

Denise M. Dembkoski, Town Administrator

*As of January 1st the Town Building will close at noon on Fridays.*

## Tax Collector/Treasurer's Office

Real Estate and Personal Property Tax Bills for the Third Quarter will be in the mail by January 1, 2024, and available to be paid online by January 1, 2024. Taxes for the Third Quarter are due in the Tax Collectors' Office by February 1, 2024. Delinquency notices for prior fiscal year Real Estate and Personal Taxes have been sent out. Prior Year Bills will be subject to further action, including Tax Title if not paid by the due date.

## What's Going on in Stow?

Subscribe to [e-Alerts](#) to stay up to date on meeting information, events, or breaking news!

## ASSESSOR'S NEWS

Applications for real estate and personal property abatements are due on February 1, 2024. For more info, use [this link](#).

## Storm Prep Reminder

At the entrance of the Highway Barn at 88 South Acton Road there is a sand/salt shed for residents to help themselves in the case of icing issues on their own property.

Two 5-gallon buckets are available to every resident per storm.

## Volunteer!

If you are interested in serving on a Town Board or Committee, visit our website and click on Volunteer Openings on the left hand side for the list of vacancies and the application form.

## Winter Parking Ban in Effect

Beginning December 1, parking on public ways for more than one hour at a time between the hours of 1 AM and 6 AM is prohibited on public ways in Stow. The annual parking ban will remain in effect through March 31, 2024 (Article IV, Sec. 3).

Residents whose vehicles are temporarily disabled may call the department at **978-897-4545** and notify dispatch that their vehicle will be parked overnight. They will be asked to provide contact information so they can be reached in the event the vehicle needs to be removed if it becomes a hazard.

## **Conservation Department**

Winter is a great time to explore new conservation properties in Stow. The ticks are fewer and the trails less crowded. The Conservation Department has just opened a new 370' boardwalk connecting the Stow Community Gardens at Captain Sargent Conservation Area to Red Acre Woodlands off South Acton Road. This hidden spot is the gateway to many miles of trails managed by the Town and Stow Conservation Trust. Have you explored Hallock Point off Sudbury Road at Lake Boon yet? How about Assabet Overlook, a short but beautiful walk along the Assabet River? Or for a longer adventure, our new Mapledale Trail along the Assabet offers a 2.5-3 mile walk around the Stow Acres South Course. You can find maps of trails and parking at all of these new areas, plus our larger conservation areas at:

<https://www.stow-ma.gov/conservation-commission/pages/conservation-lands-and-trails>



### **Stow Acres Public Forum**

We will be having the next Public Forum on the Master Plan for the North Course in February.

Please watch the Town website for details and join us to help plan for the future of the town-owned conservation and recreation land at Stow Acres!

*(photo of North Course to the left)*

### **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHT**

Recently, we have been dealing with significant rains, causing downed trees and powerlines, flooding, and damage to roadways.

We are in the process of keeping drainage open, cleaning up the trees and limbs, and repairing potholes and edge of roadways while also ensuring that any water leaching out of the ground onto the road does not freeze in the early mornings and cause traffic issues.

### **COUNCIL ON AGING EVENING OPEN HOUSE SOCIAL Wednesday, January 31st**

**Attention Stow Residents aged 60 and over!**

Still working? Can't attend our events? You are cordially invited to our evening Open House. Please stop by anytime between 5:30pm and 7:30pm to visit with staff, hear about what we offer, share suggestions about future plans and socialize with friends and neighbors. Enjoy a delicious assortment of appetizers and desserts and take a chance at winning door prizes. Call the COA at 978-897-1880 beginning 1/2/24 to RSVP, or register online, for what's sure to be a fun night! Transportation is available as well; call ahead. For more information go to:

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

## **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](mailto: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.

Information is shared by the VSO at the monthly social on the third Tuesday of every month at 10am at the Pompo Community Center.

## **Police Community Engagement**

December had some exciting updates for the Stow Police Department. We officially launched our Stow Police Department Community Engagement Team and put on several successful events including a holiday food drive, letters for Santa, and ornament decorating at the Council on Aging with Lt. Barhight.

## **PD Updates**

In December we had a few staffing changes.

Our former Dispatch Supervisor, John Fantasia, was promoted to Patrol Officer. Additionally, one of our dispatchers, Gabriel Lopez, was promoted to Dispatch Supervisor. We are always excited to give employees a chance to grow their careers within our department. We are excited to see what 2024 brings us.

## **Police Citizen's Academy**

The 7 session Citizen's Academy will begin on January 24th, with the first session being an overview of the PD and Dispatch. [Click here for more information](#) or [here to sign up](#).



Some members of the Police Community Engagement Team with the donated food from the Holiday Food Drive. Pictured left to right: Dispatch Supervisor Gabe Lopez, Stow PD Intern Olivia Kephart, and Sgt. Cassie Scott.

## Library of Things Spotlight:

### Light Therapy Lamp



Are the early dark days sapping your energy? Come check out the light therapy lamp! It is sure to increase your energy and improve your mood!

## Textile Recycling in Stow!

A Bay State Textile Recycling bin can be found in the parking lot (on the right side) of the Pompositticut Community Center, 509 Great Road. This bin is good for textiles in any condition, but please be sure all items are fully in the bin, clean, dry, and bagged.

**The Library is now (temporarily) located in the lower level of Town Building.  
Come check us out!**

## Donate to Seniors in Need

The Stow Council on Aging accepts gently used clothing and other soft goods such as sheets, blankets, towels, curtains, etc. Your donations will be used to help the senior residents of Stow! Contact the COA at [COAadminasst@stow-ma.gov](mailto:COAadminasst@stow-ma.gov) or 978-897-1880 before dropping your bagged soft goods at the rear of the Pompo Community Center.

**Stow TV** Is looking forward to finally having a public HD channel on both Comcast and Verizon in 2024, thanks to recent contract renewals with both cable providers.

Also, opportunities for learning video recording and editing on state-of-the art equipment, as well as involvement with town and school events, are always available to Stow residents. Please contact the director at [stowtv@stow-ma.gov](mailto:stowtv@stow-ma.gov) or stop by the office on the third floor of Town Building.



The **Stow Fire Department** would like to thank all the town residents for their continuous support throughout the year. In 2023 the department responded to a record high of 1100 emergency incidents. We are staffed 24/7 with a very dedicated full-time and part-time staff, along with a skilled and trained call firefighter force.

As a reminder, check your detectors throughout your home. This would include smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. Both are valuable life safety devices that have proven to save countless lives! If you have questions or concerns please stop by the fire station or call 978-897-4537.

**Life Safety is First Priority**



**THE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY IS MARCH 5, 2024**  
**EVERY REGISTERED VOTER MAY VOTE, INCLUDING UNENROLLED/INDEPENDENT**

***Is your voter registration up to date?***

Go online <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/> to make sure you are registered correctly.

**The online system allows you to:**

- \* register to vote (*deadline February 24, 2024*) \* update your name \* update your address
- \* change your party (Democrat, Libertarian, Republican) \* change to Unenrolled

**ALL REGISTERED VOTERS MAY VOTE IN THE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY**

U - Unenrolled aka Independent = choose any ballot

D - Democratic Party Voters = Democratic ballot

L - Libertarian Party Voters = Libertarian ballot

R - Republican Party Voters = Republican ballot

Political Designations = choose any ballot

**Check the website for updates on voting opportunities, sample ballots, and more:**

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

Stow Town Clerk's Office   townclerk@stow-ma.gov   978-897-5034

**SHARE YOUR TALENTS!**

Do you have some time to spare?

Do you like helping others?

Volunteers are needed to assist in  
many different areas.

Please become a COA Volunteer!

Contact Gigi, COA Office Manager  
at 978-897-1880 or by email  
at COAadminasst@stow-ma.gov.

**Crazy for Elvis!**

The Stow COA will be celebrating  
Elvis Presley's birthday during  
January! Check out the Elvis  
Tribute Concert, Movie Matinee  
"Elvis" and field trip to a 50's  
Diner in Hudson with Elvis  
memorabilia! [For more details,  
click here.](#)

**WELL ADULT DROP-IN CLINIC AT POMPO  
ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3**

**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 drop in clinics, the  
Nashoba Nurses are available for consultation  
weekdays 8a—4:30p by phone at the Nashoba  
Board of Health office at 978-772-3335 x 340, or  
visit them at [www.nashoba.org](http://www.nashoba.org).



Help us make a photo library of Stow's special places!

[www.surveymonkey.com/r/stowCP](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/stowCP)

Submit photos using the link above.

## Help us name Stow's Comprehensive Plan!

Use the link or QR code below  
<http://tinyurl.com/stowname>



Visit the project website for more information:

<https://tinyurl.com/stowCP>

### RECREATION DEPARTMENT NEWS

The Platypus Society, located at the Pompo Community Center, is a program for elementary school children featuring an array of fun and inclusive activities such as sports, games, art, homework assistance, outdoor exploration, confidence and team building, field trip opportunities, and much more!

We are excited to announce that after a successful first session, beginning in January the Platypus Society will be opening our doors all five days of the school week, Monday to Friday, for the entire school year! The program runs afternoons from the conclusion of the school day until 6pm. We also provide transportation to Pompo from The Center School at dismissal. Registrations for Session II and beyond are now open and can be accessed here:

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

### RECREATION FOR ADULTS:

- ♦ *Yoga with Maureen*  
*Mondays at 5pm at Pompo*
- ♦ *Men's Basketball*  
*Tuesdays 6:30pm—8:30pm,*  
*and Saturdays 8am-10:30am*  
*at Hale Middle School.*

### NEW YEAR'S FITNESS RESOLUTION?

#### Free exercise workout room at Pompo

Strength train on hydraulic machines to improve muscles and cardio. New user? Learn how to safely use the equipment by contacting [recreation@stow-ma.gov](mailto:recreation@stow-ma.gov) to schedule a training. Once trained, the room is available Monday—Friday from 8am to 3pm.

## BUILDING DEPARTMENT BULLETIN

When there is storm damage to your house make sure that building permits are obtained for the work when applicable. If you have a question about whether or not your project requires permits, contact the Building Department at 978-897-2193, or visit [www.stow-ma.gov/building-department](http://www.stow-ma.gov/building-department) more information.

If you install or replace a wood stove or other solid fuel burning appliance, be sure to obtain a permit from the Building Department. Once the installation is complete, we will come out and conduct an inspection of the installation.

Ensure that you have a functioning carbon monoxide (CO) detector/alarm on each level of your house. CO detectors are necessary if you burn any type of fuel to heat your house, for hot water, cooking, or clothes dryers. For questions about type and locations for CO detector you may contact either the [Building](#) or [Fire](#) Department for information and or assistance.

More Information about carbon monoxide may be found at the following links:

[Carbon Monoxide Fact Sheet](#)

[Carbon Monoxide Safety](#)

[Learn about Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms](#)

## **SURVEY** Visioning Stow's Housing Future

**Missed our forum? You can Still add your voice to the survey! Scan the QR code or use this link: [mapc.ma/stowsurvey](https://mapc.ma/stowsurvey)**

Questions? Contact  
Valerie Oorthuys [Planning@Stow-Ma.gov](mailto:Planning@Stow-Ma.gov)  
Michael Slagle [Planning2@Stow-Ma.gov](mailto:Planning2@Stow-Ma.gov)



## ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS—PUBLIC HEARING

The Zoning Board of Appeals has received the Comprehensive Permit Application for "The Residences at Stow Acres." This application is for the consideration of the development of 189 new housing units on the eastern portion of the Stow Acres North Golf Course. Of the 189 new units, 46 units will be deed restricted affordable.

To learn more about the content of the application, visit the [North Course Development Permitting Page](#) on the Town's website. To learn more about the collaborative planning work of the project, visit the [Stow Acres Info Page](#).

The first Public Hearing session for this application will be held on January 25, 2024, at 7pm. The session will be held in person and on Zoom. [Click here](#) to view the current Public Hearing Schedule. More information will be provided during the first Public Hearing session.

## **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.

### **Truck Driver/Laborer**

The Town of Stow is seeking qualified candidates for a full-time Truck Driver/Laborer position. Candidates must possess a High School diploma and a CDL Class B driver's license or better or be eligible to obtain a CDL Class B license (we will train!). Experience in or general knowledge of road maintenance, drainage installation, operation of small power equipment and snow plowing preferred. For those lacking experience, we will provide on-the-job training. Guaranteed 40 hours per week and overtime opportunities. Hours are Monday—Friday, 6:30 am to 2:30 pm.

### **Stow TV Technical Assistant**

Stow TV is seeking part time filming/editing help. Position is responsible for assisting the Director with technical and production tasks to carry out the operation of the Stow TV station. Duties include filming events and editing videos. Previous video experience is preferred but not required. Must be 16 or older. Part time hours are 8-20 per week on an as-needed flexible basis. Hours may include evenings and weekends.

**For more information on these and any other employment opportunities we have, please visit [our 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.