

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

MARCH 28, 2023

1. THE TOWN OF DENNIS IS HIRING FOR SEASONAL POSITIONS!

Town of Dennis is Now Hiring for summer seasonal positions, including Lifeguards, Police Community Service Officers, Natural Resource Monitors, Golf Rangers and Laborers, Beach Attendants, and Recreation Counselors and Instructors. Applications are open for the 2023 Summer Season.

We also have many year-round full and part-time openings as well.

Apply online at [View current job openings here.](#)

2. BARNSTABLE COUNTY AWARDS DENNIS \$619,463 AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT GRANT TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY (MEDIA RELEASE FROM BARNSTABLE COUNTY)

County Commissioners authorized the award and execution of an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant in the amount of \$619,463 to the Town of Dennis to fund water quality projects that will focus on the town's impaired water bodies and meet the requirements of the 208 Plan and MS4 permit. The projects will include constructing natural solutions to improve infiltration, increase flood control capacity, and improve resiliency. The ARPA funds will provide the matching funds needed for grants intended for water quality improvement projects.

Elizabeth Sullivan, Administrator for the Town of Dennis thanked the County Commissioners and county staff. She noted the uniqueness of the Dennis project and said, "... we will be able to use these ARPA funds for a number of wastewater and stormwater projects." Ms. Sullivan added "we are using these funds in Dennis to leverage millions of dollars in grant opportunities, some of them we know we are getting and some of them we have been shortlisted while we identify our match. I can't thank you all enough."

Thank you to Town Engineer, Tom Andrade for all his tireless and diligent work on wastewater and stormwater and in securing these matching grant funds.

To date Barnstable County has awarded \$8,173,068.92 million in ARPA grants to Cape towns.

3. 2023 STICKER SALES –

February 15, 2023 - Transfer Station permits available for on-line purchase

March 15, 2023 – Beach and Harbor permits available for on-line purchase

April 3, 2023 – ORV permits available for on-line purchase

April 3, 2023 – Sticker Office open for in person Transfer Station, Beach and Harbor Sales, part-time (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 10am – 2 pm)

May 1, 2023 – Sticker Office open for in person Transfer Station, Beach and Harbor Permits (Monday – Friday 10am – 4pm)

May 20, 2023 – Sticker Office adds in person hours on Saturday and Sunday, 10am – 2pm

This information will be posted on our website as well as shared on social media.

4. TOWN OF DENNIS - 2023 VOTING INFORMATION



Annual Town Meeting – Tuesday May 2nd @ 7:00PM

Nathaniel H. Wixon Innovation School
901 Route 134 South Dennis, MA 02660

Annual Town Election – Tuesday, May 9th Polls are open: 7:00AM – 8:00PM

Where to Vote:

The five voting precincts in the Town of Dennis are:

Precinct 1: Carleton Hall, 1006 Old Bass River Road, Dennis, MA 02638

Precinct 2: Dennis Senior Center - 1045 Route 134, East Dennis MA 02641

Precinct 3: Dennis Public Library, 5 Hall Street, Dennisport, MA 02639

Precinct 4: West Dennis Graded School, 67 School Street, West Dennis, MA 02670

Precinct 5: Dennis Police Station, 90 Bob Crowell Rd, South Dennis, MA 02660

On Election Day the Polls will be open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm

If you are unsure of where you vote on Election Day you can visit the Secretary of Commonwealth's website [Where Do I Vote?](#), view your precinct by using our reprecincting map below, or call the Town Clerk's Office at 508-760-6112.

[Click here for the Election Precinct Map](#)

The last day to register to vote at both the Annual Town Meeting and the Annual Town Election is Friday, April 21, 2023 and the hours on this day will be from 8:30AM until 5:00PM

Register to Vote Online: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/>

Vote By Mail Applications: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/elections/languages/vote-by-mail-applications.htm>

Check Your Voter Registration

Status: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/VoterRegistrationSearch/MyVoterRegStatus.aspx>

5. CHECK OUT THE PROGRAMS HAPPENING AT THE DENNIS PUBLIC LIBRARY –

Fall Prevention by the VNA

Friday, April 21st at 11:00 a.m.

Did you know that your health and medication can affect your balance? Learn exercises that can help decrease your risk of falling

Presented by Nikki Courtney, Exercise Physiologist, and Lauren Forziati, Town Public Health Nurse, from the VNA of Cape Cod.

Call the library to reserve you space: 508-760-6219. Transportation for Dennis residents can be arranged through the Dennis Center for Active Living at 508-385-5067.

This program is brought to you by the Dennis Health Department and the VNA of Cape Cod Public Health and Wellness.

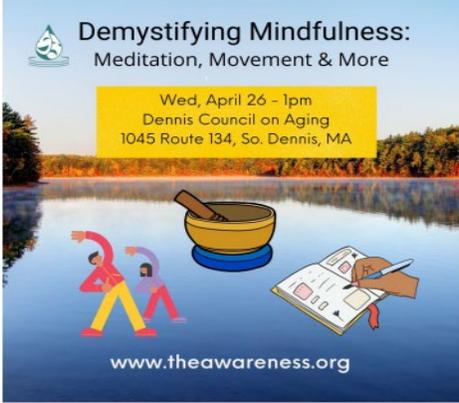
Genealogy Course

Wednesdays, April 5, 12, 19, 26; May 5, 10 at 6:00PM

Are you interested in researching your family history and learning special techniques for finding your roots? Come and discover genealogy methods: Immigration and Migration, Uses of the Census, DNA in Genealogy, Land Deed and Probate Research, and Case Studies in Breaking through Genealogical Brick Wall.

Led by members of the Cape Cod Genealogical Society. Must register by Friday, March 31st, as space is limited. Please call the library at 508-760-6219.

6. PROGRAMS HAPPENING AT THE DENNIS CENTER FOR ACTIVE LIVING

| MINDFULNESS | |
|---|--|
|  <p>Mindfulness Theater: short plays with mindful themes Wed, Mar 29 - 2pm Dennis Council on Aging 1045 Route 134, So Dennis, MA</p> <p>Presented by The Awareness Project Sponsored by the Cape Cod Foundation and the Arts Foundation of Cape Cod</p> |  <p>Demystifying Mindfulness: Meditation, Movement & More Wed, April 26 - 1pm Dennis Council on Aging 1045 Route 134, So. Dennis, MA</p> <p>www.theawareness.org</p> |
| <p>Mindfulness Theater - This 75-minute performance event features one or more short plays that dramatize a mindfulness practice happening in daily life. Attendees will also experience a brief guided meditation sit and gentle mindful stretching that can be done standing or seated. We'll conclude with a talk-back with the actors and an opportunity to reflect and share.</p> | <p>Demystifying Mindfulness - This hands-on 60-minute workshop introduces attendees to several forms of mindfulness including a brief guided meditation sit, a gentle mindful stretching experience that can be done standing or seated, and a mindful journaling or sketching component, which often facilitates deep reflection. We will conclude the program with an opportunity to reflect and share.</p> |
| <p>Studies show that a regular mindfulness practice can lower blood pressure, reduce anxiety and stress, and improve sleep. This session will be taught by Pete Cormier, founder of The Awareness Project, a nonprofit formed to promote mindfulness through art. Learn more at www.theawareness.org.</p> | |

7. MASSDOT ANNOUNCES FY24 CHAPTER 90 APPORTIONMENT FOR DENNIS

Dear Administrator Sullivan,

We are pleased to announce that under the new administration of Governor Maura Healey and Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll, a total of \$400 million for Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2025 has been filed for the MassDOT Chapter 90 Program to support local infrastructure across the Commonwealth's 351 cities and towns over the next two years.

While transition and planning are underway, this filing demonstrates the Administration's continued support in strengthening municipal partnerships and providing financial resources that support transportation improvements at the local level.

This letter certifies that, contingent upon legislative approval of the \$200 million annual bond authorization, Dennis's Chapter 90 apportionment for Fiscal Year 2024 is \$725,340.17.

Once the bill is enacted, this apportionment will automatically be incorporated into your existing Chapter 90 contract with MassDOT with no further action needed by the municipality. Apportionments for all communities are available online at www.mass.gov/chapter-90-program. Please note that while the bill enacting these funds has been filed, the funds are not available for municipal use until final legislative approval is obtained.

The Chapter 90 Program is an integral part of maintaining and enhancing your community's infrastructure and is an essential component of our state-local partnership. We look forward to working with you in the coming year to continue the success of this program.

Sincerely,



GOVERNOR MAURA T. HEALEY



LT. GOVERNOR KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL

8. LEGISLATURE PASSES SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET WITH PANDEMIC-ERA EXTENSIONS, KEY INVESTMENTS

The House and Senate both passed a compromise supplemental 2023 budget bill today that includes a majority of the governor's proposed "["immediate needs" bond bill](#)" as well as extensions of pandemic-related authorizations related to public meetings and outdoor dining.

The bill was originally filed by Gov. Maura Healey in January, and both chambers had passed slightly different versions earlier this month.

The final bill ([H. 3458](#)) includes extensions to pandemic-related authorizations that were set to expire next week.

The bill would:

- Allow remote and hybrid meeting options for public bodies through March 31, 2025
- Allow remote and hybrid participation options for representative town meetings through March 31, 2025
- Permit reduced quorums for open town meetings through March 31, 2025
- Extend the expedited outdoor dining permit process through April 1, 2024

The House and Senate reached a compromise on takeout cocktails, with the final bill adopting House language extending the ability of restaurants to offer to-go cocktails through April 1, 2024.

The bill contains millions in bonding authorizations, including \$400 million for the [MassWorks Infrastructure Program](#) and \$104 million for the [Massachusetts Clean Water Trust](#). There is an additional \$34 million for grant and loan assistance for the rehabilitation and redevelopment of blighted, vacant and underutilized properties, as well as a bond mechanism for this purpose.

The bill contains nearly \$92 million to address the migrant housing crisis, including nearly \$45 million for the emergency assistance family shelters program, \$40 million focused on communities with a large influx of school-aged children due to shelter placement, and an additional \$7 million to support refugee resettlement agencies.

The bill includes Healey's requested \$65 million to extend the universal school meals pilot program, and \$130 million for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Last month, the federal government announced an [end to Extra COVID SNAP benefits](#), known as SNAP Emergency Allotments.

Finally, the bill includes language to ease ambulance staffing requirements, a provision that was also introduced in another supplemental budget bill filed on March 17.

The bill now goes to the governor for her consideration. It has an emergency preamble to enable it to take effect immediately after being signed.

9. CANAL BRIDGES UPDATE: SAGAMORE BRIDGE MAINTENANCE WORK AND LANE CLOSURES TO BEGIN; CAPE COD BRIDGES PROGRAM PUBLIC MEETINGS SCHEDULED

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District announced that lane restrictions will begin March 20, 2023 on the Sagamore Bridge in order to perform critical maintenance work.

Beginning on March 20, 2023, vehicle travel over the Sagamore Bridge will be reduced from the current two lanes in each direction to a single 12-foot-wide lane in each direction. Lane restrictions will be in place 24 hours a day until crews complete the project. Repair work and lane restrictions are scheduled to run through May.

This maintenance work is critical to maintaining the structural integrity of the Sagamore Bridge. Work will include concrete and pavement repairs on the bridge roadway, repair of deteriorated steel supports, maintenance of bridge joints, repairs to the concrete abutment structures, and maintenance to the bridge lighting and drainage systems. Delays should be expected during the morning and afternoon peak travel periods each day. The bridge sidewalk will be closed during some phases of repair work. The Army Corps has indicated that signs will be posted, and public notices will be sent out to alert pedestrians and bicyclists when the sidewalk is closed.

This work on the Sagamore bridge is scheduled maintenance, separate from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation's (MassDOT) Cape Cod Bridges Program, which will include the replacement of the Bourne and Sagamore bridges, provide new connections to the local roadway network and improve multimodal accommodations within the Cape Cod Canal area. More information is available at: www.mass.gov/cape-bridges

For those interested in the Cape Cod Bridges Program, MassDOT will present information on the program's status, interchange alternatives, and next steps during virtual public meetings on March 22, 2023 and March 29, 2023. Each meeting will focus on one bridge.

Click the links to learn more about the meeting.

[Virtual Public Information Meeting: Interchange Alternatives - Sagamore Bridge, March 29, 2023 6:00 PM](#)

For more information, please visit www.capecodcommission.org/canal

Respectfully,

Elizabeth C. Sullivan
Town Administrator