

# TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

## AUGUST 22, 2023

### **1. TOWN OF DENNIS CHILDCARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM**

Dennis, MA – The Town of Dennis is pleased to announce that funding was approved at the Dennis May 2, 2023 Annual Town Meeting to pay the costs of funding and administering a childcare subsidy program for birth through 5-year-old children of Dennis residents to attend a state-licensed childcare program. Financial assistance will be provided for children who are born by August 31, 2023, and are not five years or older as of August 31, 2023. A subsidy in the form of direct payment to provider for one child per household up to a maximum of \$2,400 will be provided for eligible families who meet the income threshold of 150% Average Median Income. For a Childcare Subsidy Program Overview, an Application Form and a Required Documents List, visit the town website at: <https://www.town.dennis.ma.us/select-board-administration/pages/childcare-subsidy-program>  
The application form includes questions to obtain information for verification of eligibility. Applications and complete instructions will be available September 1, 2023.

Please note that additional documents or information may be requested by the Childcare Subsidy Program Administrator as needed. An application form and required documents should be completed and submitted by **September 28, 2023** for the program period September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2024.

#### **Applications and required documents must be completed fully and returned to:**

Dennis Town Hall

Attention: Childcare Voucher Program

685 Route 134

South Dennis, MA 02660

Or may be scanned and emailed to [DennisCSP@town.dennis.ma.us](mailto:DennisCSP@town.dennis.ma.us) with the subject line "CSP."

All applicants will receive notification once the application deadline has closed. If you have questions about the program, please contact us by email at: [DennisCSP@town.dennis.ma.us](mailto:DennisCSP@town.dennis.ma.us)

### **2. TOWN OF DENNIS PUBLIC NOTICE: SENIOR CENTER UPPER PARKING LOT RENOVATIONS**

**Project Commencement Date:** Monday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023

#### **Estimated Duration:** One Month

The Town of Dennis renovations to the Dennis Center for Active Living (DCAL), will involve new paving operations on the upper parking lot. This enhancement will take up to one month to complete. We appreciate your patience and cooperation during this period.

#### **TRAFFIC AND ACCESS DISRUPTIONS:**

- **Route 134 Access:** Starting August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, access to the DCAL via Route 134 will be completely blocked for approximately one month due to paving operations.
- **Alternate Entrance/Exit:** Visitors are requested to enter and exit through Setucket Road and make use of the rear lower-level parking lot. Appropriate signage will be placed to guide visitors.
- **Parking Limitations:** Please be aware that the lower-level parking lot may experience higher than usual traffic, and parking may be limited during peak hours.

#### **EMERGENCY SERVICES NOTIFICATION:**

The Town of Dennis has alerted the Fire and Police Departments regarding these disruptions, ensuring that emergency services are aware and prepared for any special considerations related to access during this time.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we work to improve our community facilities.

### **3. WASTEWATER PHASE I DESIGN PROJECT UPDATE**

#### Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) Design

- Recently completed 60% design deliverable for Town review
- 90% design to be delivered in November
- Contractor pre-qualification process to begin in the fall prior to bidding
- Submitted Project Evaluation Form to MassDEP State Revolving Fund (SRF) program
- Will be submitting Notice of Project Change for MEPA approval in August
- Project will be presented for Town Department Head/ Staff Review in August or September

#### Collection System Design

- Continued development of Phase I pipeline design sheets
- Determined Phase 1 pumping station components (generators, buildings, fencing, etc.)
- Continued development of Preliminary Design Technical Memorandum
- Working toward 30 percent preliminary design submittal in late August/early September

Conduct monthly technical review meetings for WRRF and Collection System

### **4. MASSDOT WORK NOTIFICATION: CULVERT REPLACEMENTS ROUTE 6A (MAIN ST) OVER SESUIT CREEK, DENNIS**

Town Engineer Tom Andrade provided the following update on upcoming Mass Dot work. Attached please find a MassDOT work notice for the replacement of culverts on Route 6A.

The work involves replacing two culverts that convey flow along Sesuit Creek between the Sesuit Harbor and Scargo Lake. Both culverts are located under Route 6A between Scargo Hill Road and Paddocks Path.

The existing culverts are undersized and have historically had issues with clogging, causing flooding and preventing herring from passing through to Scargo Lake (Sesuit Creek is a herring run). These culverts will be replaced with 7-foot-wide by 5-foot-high box culverts, allowing for better flow and fish passage. The work will also include the installation of a sidewalk along the north side of Route 6A (within the project limits) and utility relocation.

The work is scheduled to start on or about September 6 with the installation of variable message signs to notify motorists of the upcoming work. The main construction is scheduled to start the week of September 18. The work will take place over a 2-year period is scheduled to be completed by the Spring of 2025. No work will take place during the summer months.

Depending on the construction, one or both lanes of traffic may have to be detoured. When construction is taking place on the westbound side of Route 6A, westbound traffic will be detoured to Scargo Hill Road and Old Bass River Road. When construction is taking place on the eastbound side of Route 6A, eastbound traffic will be detoured to Sesuit Neck Road and Bridge Street. At least one lane of traffic will be maintained through Columbus Day. Full closure will be required during the actual culvert installation after Columbus Day and through the winter/early spring months.

We will put out a press release prior to the construction and will provide regular updates during construction.

## **5. MEDIA RELEASE - CAPE COD COMMISSION TO CONDUCT BROADBAND SPEED TESTING**

*Data collected to inform recommendations for network improvements*

How reliable is broadband on Cape Cod? That is among the key questions to be answered by a new assessment of the region's fixed and broadband networks.

The Cape Cod Commission and consultants CTC Technology and Energy and Rural Innovation Strategies Inc. are collecting speed test data to capture network capacity data during the high-demand summer season.

Cape-based internet users are encouraged to take the speed test as often as possible and across different devices and connection types.

"This assessment aims to quantify what we've heard anecdotally about connectivity challenges in the region," Commission Deputy Director Steven Tupper said. "The results will inform recommendations for improving the network and help guide conversations about future investments."

The speed test is part of a broader assessment of user experiences, and existing infrastructure within Barnstable County. The assessment is funded with American Recovery Plan Act funds distributed by Barnstable County. It is distinct from, but complementary to, the speed test promoted by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI). The MBI effort is part of a broader digital equity survey in support of the statewide plan.

Both are important to broadband planning efforts locally and in the state. If possible, start with the MBI test, and follow up as often as possible with the Cape-based test.

- Massachusetts Broadband Institute Survey and Speed Test
- Cape-Based Speed Test: [capecodcommission.org/speedtest](https://capecodcommission.org/speedtest)

Internet accessibility on Cape Cod varies seasonally, with higher demand coinciding with the annual influx of seasonal residents and visitors. Additionally, the year-round population has increased over the past decade and during the COVID-19 pandemic, which drove increases in remote work, virtual public meetings, telehealth, and other virtual engagements.

"To provide a complete picture of broadband connectivity, it's important that we have benchmarks that reflect the Cape's seasonal peaks and off-season capacity," Tupper said. The assessment will also include a statistically valid phone survey to further understand connectivity and affordability challenges.

Understanding the functionality of the region's existing internet network and potential for upgrades or expansion to increase access to high-speed broadband is important for the region. The full assessment is expected to be completed in spring 2024.

Take the speed test here: [capecodcommission.org/speedtest](https://capecodcommission.org/speedtest) .

## **6. DENNIS CHANNEL 18 MOVING TO CHANNEL 8**

On Thursday, August 17, Comcast reconfigured its channel lineup for the Dennis system. Along with those changes, our own Government Access TV station has changed from channel 18 to channel 8 on your Comcast Cable box. You can also watch Dennis TV live, and stream past meetings on Roku and Apple TV devices in the "Cablevision" App, as well as on the town website here <https://www.town.dennis.ma.us/channel-8>

**Dennis 18**

Now watch local government programming on channel 8 on your Comcast cable box.

**Dennis 8**  
COMCAST

You can also view live streaming and recorded meetings online at:  
[www.town.dennis.ma.us/channel-18](http://www.town.dennis.ma.us/channel-18)  
 as well as Roku & Apple TV

## **7. YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

**Town of DENNIS**  
Volunteer Opportunities

Join a Board or Committee      Serve Your Community

visit:  
[www.town.dennis.ma.us/select-board-administration](http://www.town.dennis.ma.us/select-board-administration)

Dennis town government needs citizens who are willing to give time in the service of their community. If you have ever wanted to give back to your town by volunteering on a board or committee, now is the time!

### [Beach Management Advisory Committee](#)

The Committee monitors fresh and salt water shorelines, identifies potential issues related to ongoing erosion, access, and activities that impact the natural resource areas, and advise Select Board accordingly.

### [1867 West Dennis Graded Schoolhouse Committee](#)

The Committee shall be advisory to the Select Board and provide architectural and historical oversight to the 1867 Graded School House and Museum.

### [Solid Waste and Recycling](#)

The Committee's role is to advise the Select Board on recycling strategy that is environmentally friendly, appropriately funded, and economically fair.

### [Advisory Committee on Disabilities](#)

**The purpose of the committee is to advise the Select Board on matters affecting the lives of the residents and taxpayers of the Town of Dennis who are disabled and on matters relative to accessibility laws.**

[Agricultural Commission](#)

**The purpose of the Commission is to encourage and facilitate the pursuit of agriculture, and agricultural based activities or economic opportunities in Dennis.**

[Alternative Energy Advisory Committee](#)

**The Committee shall assist the Town Administrator and Select Board on the investigation, research and consideration of siting and utilizing alternative forms of energy for municipal purposes, or the generation of energy for sale, resale, or distribution to or by commercial or nonprofit electrical suppliers, wholesalers or distributors.**

[Caretakers of Veterans Graves](#)

**It shall be the duty of such veterans' graves officer to cause every veteran's grave within such city or town to be suitably kept and cared for.**

[Climate & Coastal Resiliency Advisory Committee](#)

**The Committee will develop 3-year and 10-year plans of short-term and long-term goals for Coastal Resiliency plans including, mitigation, adaptation, flood prevention, emergency management response, and ways to address issues relating to climate change, to limit waste, and to decrease our carbon footprint.**

[Community and Economic Development Committee](#)

**The Dennis Community and Economic Development Committee shall proactively promote, encourage, and facilitate sustainable economic growth while preserving and enhancing neighborhoods and the environment.**

[Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee](#)

**The Dennis Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee shall promote, embrace, and support the cultural enrichment of Dennis' diverse population as an important element of a healthy and vibrant community.**

[Donald Trepte Memorial Scholarship Committee](#)

**This scholarship is intended for a Dennis resident, graduating high school.**

[Human Services Advisory Committee](#)

**A long-range goal of the Committee will be to complete a needs assessment for human services needs in the Town.**

[Josiah Dennis Manse Committee](#)

**The committee shall oversee the general maintenance and appearance of the Josiah Dennis Manse Museum and the 1745 Old West Schoolhouse.**

[Library Board](#)

**The responsibilities of the Library Board are to assist the Library Director in advising and proposing recommendations to the Board of Selectmen.**

[Memorial Day Observance/Parade Committee](#)

[Water Quality Advisory Committee](#)

**The Committee involves itself in matters pertaining to, and impacting, the fresh and salt water quality in the Town of Dennis.**

Zoning By-Law Study Committee

The Zoning By-Law Study Committee shall research, update, and foster community consensus on zoning by-laws of the Town of Dennis.

Recreation Commission

The purpose of the Dennis Recreation Commission is to provide quality leisure and recreational activities for all citizens in the town of Dennis.

Substance Use Disorder Advisory Council

The Dennis Substance Use Disorder Advisory Council shall advocate for a healthy community by promoting best practices for the prevention, intervention and treatment of alcohol, tobacco, opioid and other substance use disorders.

**8. SPECIAL/FALL TOWN MEETING DATE**

Special Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm. We are underway with the Town Meeting article review process; the Select Board will be reviewing draft Town Meeting Articles for placement on the warrant in September and the Town Meeting Warrant must be posted no later than October 26, 2023. The deadline to submit Citizens Petitions is September 19, 2023, at 4:00 pm to the Town Clerk's Office. Information on how to submit a Petition can be found on the Town's website: <https://www.town.dennis.ma.us/town-clerk/pages/town-meeting-information> For more information on the Special Town Meeting, contact the Town Clerk's Office at (508)760-6112 or Town Administration at (508)760-6148.

Date – Year 2023	Event
September 19, 2023	Deadline for filing a Citizens Petition at the Town Clerk's Office: 4:00 pm
October 27, 2023	Last day to register to vote at the Special Town Meeting
November 7, 2023	Special Town Meeting, 7:00 pm, Location TBD

**9. NEXT MEETING DATES OF THE DENNIS SELECT BOARD**

The Dennis Select Board will meet on August 22, 2023 at 4:30PM for regularly scheduled business. The Dennis Select will meet again on September 12, 2023 for regularly scheduled business.

All are welcome to attend and participate in our open and public meetings. The agenda for each meeting is posted 48 business hours prior to the scheduled meeting time and can be accessed through the Select Board's webpage or the Town calendar webpage.

Attend in-person at the Town Hall, Stone Meeting Room. Or for alternative public access join the meeting online via zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7660036712> or participate by phone by dialing 1-646-558-8656 and entering Conference ID 766 003 6712 #.

**10. TOWN OF DENNIS IS HIRING**

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

Respectfully,  
Elizabeth C. Sullivan, Town Administrator