

# TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

## OCTOBER 24, 2023

### **1. MASSDOT ADVISORY: DENNIS**

Daytime Culvert Replacement on Route 6A Over Sesuit Creek

Culvert work in effect Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday, October 23 through Friday, November 3

DENNIS- The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is announcing it will be performing two culvert replacements on Route 6A (Main Street) over Sesuit Creek in Dennis, beginning Monday, October 23. Work will be performed Monday through Friday between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., and it is expected to conclude on Friday, November 3.

Traffic will be maintained using standard traffic control measures and state police details. A detour will be in place as follows:

- Heading westbound on Main Street (Route 6A), take a left at road closure onto Scargo Hill Road, follow to Scargo Hill Road/Main Street intersection.
- Heading eastbound on Main Street (Route 6A), take a left at road closure onto Sesuit Neck Road, follow to Sesuit Neck Road/Bridge Street intersection, take a right at intersection heading southbound on Bridge Street, and follow to Bridge Street/Main Street intersection.

Drivers who are traveling through the affected areas should expect delays, reduce speed, and use caution.

All scheduled work is weather dependent and subject to change without notice.

For information on traffic conditions travelers are encouraged to:

- Download the Mass511 mobile app or visit [www.mass511.com](http://www.mass511.com) to view live cameras, travel times, real-time traffic conditions, and project information before setting out on the road. Users can subscribe to receive text and email alerts for traffic conditions.
- Dial 511 and select a route to hear real-time conditions.
- Follow @MassDOT on X, (formerly known as Twitter), to receive regular updates on road and traffic conditions.

### **2. SPECIAL/FALL TOWN MEETING DATE, LOCATION**

Special Town Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm **Dennis-Yarmouth Intermediate School - 286 Station Ave. S. Yarmouth, MA. 02664**

- The Town Meeting Warrant can be found here [Special Town Meeting Warrant](#)
- Deadline to Register to Vote: **October 30, 2023**
- Location: **Dennis-Yarmouth Intermediate School - 286 Station Ave. S. Yarmouth, MA. 02664**

### **3. NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAY: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28TH, 2023**

#### **DENNIS POLICE STATION**

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day will be Saturday October 28, 2023 from 10:00AM to 2:00PM at your local police station. You can also look up collection site locations near you by visiting [www.DEATakeBack.com](http://www.DEATakeBack.com)

This collection program protects our children, our water and our food supplies, and decrease prescription drug abuse by making it easier for you to properly dispose of unused or expired medication. This is a completely confidential program. No personal information will be collected.

### **4. LIBRARY HAPPENINGS AT THE DENNIS PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**KID-FRIENDLY COMPOSTING**  
**FAMILIES WELCOME!**

Dennis Public Library  
Embrace a Greener Future

**Topics**

- 1) Introduction to Dennis Composting
- 2) Can I Compost It?
- 3) Home Composting
- 4) Kits to Go

**REFRESHMENTS SERVED -  
MAKE YOUR COMPOSTING DECISIONS!  
DENNIS POLICE WILL HAND OUT COMPOST KITS**

**Join Us**

**Saturday**  
November 4th  
11am-12pm

**HOSTS**

**Julie Kennie**  
Climate and Coastal  
Resilience Committee

**Kari Parcell**  
Municipal Assistance  
Coordinator

### **5. COMMUNITY EVENT; DENNIS HALLOWEENPALOOZA**

The non-profit Friends of Dennis Recreation are sponsoring some festivities as well with food trucks, a beer/wine garden for the adults, live music and some cornhole action.

Johnny Kelley Field - Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup> 1-4PM

Kids Candy Haunt starts at 2PM - wear your costume!

### **6. MEDIA RELEASE: HEALEY-DRISCOLL ADMINISTRATION UNVEILS \$4 BILLION AFFORDABLE HOMES ACT**

#### **\$4 Billion Affordable Homes Act to Increase Production & Lower Costs**

**BOSTON** — The Healey-Driscoll Administration today unveiled a \$4 billion plan to jumpstart the production of homes and make housing more affordable across Massachusetts. The Affordable Homes Act, a comprehensive package of spending, policy and programmatic actions, represents the largest proposed

investment in housing in the state's history while simultaneously striking at the root causes of housing unaffordability and making progress on the state's climate goals.

## **7. STATE HOUSE PRESS RELEASE: GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES LIMITS TO SHELTER SYSTEM, PROVIDES INFORMATION FOR LOCAL SITES**

*Gov. Maura Healey and Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll announce that, "by the end of October, the Commonwealth will no longer be able to add additional units to its emergency shelter system for families experiencing homelessness" during a State House press conference on Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>.*

Along with Gov. Maura Healey's announcement last week that the state's emergency family shelter system will reach capacity by the end of the month, the administration published a related [FAQ document for municipalities](#) that host shelters.

The document addresses questions such as, "How long will this capacity limit stay in effect?" and "Will placements continue to be made in my community?"

The administration also launched a [website providing shelter placement data, listed by municipality](#), which it said would be updated daily.

For months, Healey said, the state's Emergency Assistance shelter system has been expanding at an unsustainable rate to meet rising demand driven by increasing numbers of newly arriving migrant families and slower exits of families in long-term emergency shelter stays. The unprecedented demand on the system has led to safety, operational and fiscal challenges that limit further expansion, she said.

Nearly 7,000 families with children and pregnant women, or about 23,000 individuals are currently living in the shelter system, spread out among 90 municipalities at hundreds of individual shelter sites, which include a large number of hotels and motels. About half of the individuals in these shelters are newly arrived migrant families, and the other half are longtime Massachusetts residents.

Healey said the number of people seeking shelter continues to grow daily due to global conditions and federal inaction, as well as the low inventory and high cost of housing in Massachusetts.

She said the state does not have enough shelter units, service providers, or funding to continue to safely and responsibly expand shelter capacity beyond 7,500 families, a number expected to be reached by the end of October. At that time, there will be no further net increase of shelter units, and the state will no longer be able to guarantee space to accommodate families in need, Healey said.

As of Nov. 1, families seeking shelter will be assessed, and those with high needs, such as health and safety risks, will be prioritized for placement. Families who are not immediately connected with shelter will be placed on a waiting list.

Healey has appointed Lt. Gen. L. Scott Rice, who "has extensive experience leading large-scale emergency management operations," as emergency assistance director. He will oversee management and coordination of the emergency shelter system, including leading the administration's Incident Command Team, which was launched in May and includes representatives from multiple state agencies. Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll said Rice "will be a valuable resource for local officials as we enter this new phase of the emergency shelter program." Healey said the administration is prioritizing helping families who have been in shelter long-term to exit into more permanent housing options. The administration will be expanding support for rapid rehousing and rental

assistance initiatives, such as HomeBASE, which helps eligible homeless families pay their first and last month's rent and security deposits, moving expenses, and other costs.

With the business community asking for assistance filling open jobs across the state, she said, the administration has launched two new programs to get shelter residents working. The first is a partnership with Commonwealth Corporation Foundation to develop a new job skills training program to connect businesses to individuals in shelter who are still waiting for their work authorization but looking to gain on-the-job training and skills development. The second connects MassHire Regional Workforce Boards and careers centers to shelters statewide with the goal of assessing skills and work readiness of residents who have their work authorization. The initial phase of this new program is focused on 14 shelter sites across the state, representing approximately 1,500 families.

Healey, joined by the attorney general, the Legislature, the Massachusetts Business Association and others, has made multiple requests to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for federal funding and improvements to the work authorization process.

The administration is joining biweekly MMA briefings for chief municipal officials and sharing resources to help municipal officials who have placements in their communities. The next one-hour briefing is scheduled for Oct. 25 at 4 p.m. Invitations are sent from the MMA.

The administration has shared a [10-page document](#) with local officials that includes a fact sheet, answers to frequently asked questions, answers to fiscal issues, and regional contacts for municipal officials.

While the state's Emergency Assistance shelter program is for families with children and pregnant women, the number of homeless individuals has also been on the rise. The administration shared a directory of [Services for those Experiencing Homelessness Statewide](#).

*Written by [John Ouellette, Mass Municipal Association Deputy Communications Director](#)*

## **8. RETIREMENT**

Natural Resource Director Karen Johnson- Sharing some bittersweet news with the Community. Karen previously announced her formal intent to retire effective October 27, 2023. The Board was previously made aware.

Karen has provided leadership for the Natural Resource Department and the Town of Dennis that has gone above and beyond. Her total career spans over 38 years in the natural resource industry; in local, state and private sectors and our municipality has benefited greatly by Karen's 13.5 years of public service and dedication to the Town of Dennis. Karen has been an instrumental part of the senior leadership team serving Dennis and her presence will be missed.

I know you will all share in my well wishes for Karen in her retirement!

Recruitment for the vacancy has commenced.

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

The Dennis Select Board will meet on November 7, 2023 at 4:30PM and November 14, 2023 for regularly scheduled business. Upcoming meeting dates of the Select Board can be found on the [Town of Dennis website here](#).

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**

Are you or someone you know looking for work? The Town of Dennis is hiring! Several full and part-time positions available. Apply and View current job openings [here](#).

Have a great week!

Respectfully,  
Elizabeth C. Sullivan, Town Administrator