

## **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR MONTHLY UPDATE: NOVEMBER 2010**

Welcome to the Town of Scituate's new website design! We hope you find this new look to be easier to navigate and that it will provide you with more information than was previously available. Some of the new features include a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section that was prepared by staff in Town Hall. We are fortunate to have beautiful pictures provided by Holly Curran, whose work often graces the cover of our Annual Town Report. Finally, many thanks to Tom Rose, who spent months making changes to the homepage after we submitted edit after edit. The new design and features are still a work in progress and additional changes will continue to be added.

Another new feature is that each month I will have a brief update of town happenings and recent events occurring in and around Town Hall. With so many things going on at the federal, state and local level, accurate, factual, and timely information becomes more important than ever. In addition, if there are particular topics that would benefit from more information or clarification, than the update can serve that purpose. It will also give me an opportunity to report on the positive things that happen day in and day out in our community that often goes unreported. My goal is to provide citizens with a better understanding of how our different departments function, what laws they must comply with, and how we are working to insure your tax dollars are being effectively managed.

We have a special town meeting scheduled for November 8 and it contains just under two dozen articles on a variety of important Town matters, including some bylaw changes and funding adjustments to the current budget. On November 3 an informational meeting was held by town officials to provide an overview of the Town's financial picture as well as to answer questions about the November 8 town meeting. Most of the material available at this meeting will be posted on the website later this week so please check back as it contains some good information about town finances and initiatives.

November signals the beginning of the annual budget cycle in earnest. On November 4 all town department receive budget instructions to begin formulating their FY 12 budget requests as well as their proposed goals and objectives. Capital budget requests were distributed last month. After the first of the year, the Board of Selectmen and Advisory Committee will review each budget. The schedule for review will be posted here in next month's update.

In addition to the financial matters that dominate our weeks there are some ongoing projects and initiatives that are also keeping us busy. You have probably noticed some new paved roads such as Beaver Dam, which has a new base coat of asphalt and will receive a new top coat soon. Around town various water trench patches have been paved and potholes repaired. Stockbridge Road is undergoing a water line installation and the contract has been awarded for a new water main on Hollett Street. The Town has started an aggressive replacement program for water hydrants and will be replacing a handful each year.

Also, after receiving 35 applications to serve on the Pier 44 Feasibility Study Committee the Board appointed nine individuals: Stan Humphries, Audrey Reidy, Ed DiSalvio, Colin McNiece, Doug Anderson, Gabrielle Dorsey, Ryan Owens, Jonathan Warner, Tim Fitzgerald and Ned Baldwin. The first committee meeting will be later this month. The Committee charge is posted on the website. It took a few months to “clean” Pier 44 as much debris was left and the building had been dormant for a long period of time. After the kitchen equipment is sold the building will have some minor repairs, be cleaned, and hopefully open for meeting space. Many thanks to the DPW who spent many, many days there.

Police Officer Gerald O’Brien has been appointed Sergeant effective October 27, 2010. This promotion was made after a new and intensive selection process was implemented for supervisory staff.

Again, we sincerely hope you enjoy the new web design, and look forward to continuing to improve it so it is responsive to community needs.

Patricia A. Vinchesi  
Town Administrator  
November 3, 2010