

Covid Narrative December 14, 2020

Select person Karen Connolly said the Santa and Mrs. Claus four-hour cruise around Scituate was a huge success. Scituate Community TV has highlights.

She noted that Shaw's has made a \$10,000 donation to the Scituate Food Pantry. The Select Board will meet Tuesday (Dec. 15) at 6:30 p.m. on zoom where they vote to accept a \$10,000 grant from the Scituate Rotary Club for a bocce court at the new Senior Center. (Check Scituatema.gov for the zoom link). The meeting will also address the Housing Production Plan, the Humarock Fire Station and coastal management updates.

Town Administrator Jim Boudreau said since last Monday Scituate has seen 42 new Covid cases up from 26 the previous week. He said officials hope, if the spike is due Thanksgiving, the numbers will start to go down.

Boudreau reminded citizens that the state travel ban is still in place and that out-of-state travelers must quarantine or have a Covid test before they return. The good news is that Massachusetts has received an initial supply of the Covid vaccine that will be administered to

health-care workers, those in nursing homes and assisted living facilities, and first responders.

Due to the Covid spike, the state has rolled back from Phase 3 Step Two to Phase 3 Step One. One notable guideline is that masks must be worn at all times at restaurants, even at the table, except when eating or drinking. Tables are capped at six and there is a 90-minute limit. For the latest Covid guidelines, visit: mass.gov/covid.

The reservoir is now 91 percent full up from 69 percent last week thanks to 6.62 inches of rain. Water usage is down 75,000 gallons per day over last week.

Boudreau implored residents not to flush wipes down the toilet because they are clogging the pumps at the sewer treatment plant. He noted they do serious damage at the plant and should be kept out of the sewer system. He said even if the wipe says “flushable” they should not be flushed.

Boudreau said Scituate could see its first plowable snow of the season Wednesday night into Thursday morning with anywhere from 6 to 14 inches of snow, depending on the track of the storm. There could be some coastal flushing on Thursday with a wind-driven high tide.

The Cole Parkway and Cedar Point projects are ongoing and citizens should be careful due to the construction.

Superintendent of Schools William Burkhead said there have been four new Covid cases over the past two weeks with a total of total 46 to date for the school year.

He said in an effort to communicate with staff before the holiday break, the district held a 75-minute question-and-answer forum on Covid with the Medical Advisory Team. Plans are to hold a Covid community-wide forum in the weeks ahead. The school Safe and Strong Task Force that has 60 members will meet Jan. 7 to discuss school reopening plans.

Boudreau said SHORE provided a \$63,000 grant to develop a plan that will reimagine the SHS library into a multi-media learning commons.