

Weekly Video Update, January 16, 2024

Karen Canfield, Select Board Member

Ms. Canfield thanked the Town Administrator Jim Boudreau, DPW, Police and Fire for keeping the town safe over the past weekend's storm. Yesterday, we had a well-attended Martin Luther King, Jr. event and it was a great turnout.

Meetings this week:

We have several meetings this week and agendas can be found on the website here:

<https://www.scituatema.gov/calendar/month/2024-01>

Of special note, tomorrow night (Wed, January 17) is the first meeting of the new Mordecai Lincoln Committee.

On Thursday, January 18th, there is a public meeting on the North Scituate Beach Nourishment Project which will be held at 6:00 PM in the Library Community Room.

Jim Boudreau, Town Administrator

1. Today, Tuesday, January 16 at 1:30 PM at the Senior Center there will be a Voting Information Session with Town Clerk, Kathy Gardner. Kathy will cover voting options for the upcoming elections, including options for voting, such as absentee voting, early voting, in person, by mail and on election day.

The Presidential Primary will be held on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at the SHS gym from 7AM- 8PM. The Secretary of the Commonwealth will be sending "Vote by Mail" forms to all voters. These forms are for voters to request a mailed ballot and should only be sending the form to the Clerk's office if they do not intend to vote early in-person during the early voting period (Feb. 24th -March 1st) or on election day. The voter has the option to request a mailed ballot for a specific election or all elections in 2024. If a voter is "Unenrolled" (formerly called "Independent") they must select a party's ballot. Please be sure to read the instructions.

If a voter needs to make changes to their voter registration, they may do so in the Town Clerk's office or online at registertovotema.com. The deadline for the Presidential Primary is February 24th by 5PM.

All election information can be found on the Town website on the Town Clerk's page at www.scituatema.gov.

2. Scituate Police Departments goal is keeping everyone safe - we would encourage everyone during winter to:

Slow down. Leave plenty of distance with other vehicles. Allow for ample stopping time.

Clear off your windshield, roof, lights, license plate, etc.

Police can use a couple of statutes to enforce snow-clearing. ...officers can issue a \$40 fine for impeded operation if a driver has obstructed windshield/ windows and a \$200 fine for driving with an unsecured load, which can include heavy sheets of snow or ice on a car's roof. Additional charges and liability can also be attached in the event of a crash or injury

3. 2024 Transfer Station and Beach Stickers information is live on the website. Please visit the Treasurer's page and click on 2024 Transfer Station & Beach Stickers on the left-hand side.

Resident beach and transfer station stickers will go on sale on **February 12, 2024, at 8:30 am** (online, at the counter, and mail-in). Resident Beach Stickers never sell out. 2024 stickers are valid from date of purchase to March 31, 2025. The Town of Scituate Select Board has unanimously approved a resolution for 2024 beach stickers, making them mandatory from Memorial Day (5/27/24) to Labor Day (9/2/24).

2024 Non-Resident Beach Stickers. New rates and days of use have been implemented for the 2024 season. Non-resident All Beach and Humarock only stickers will go on sale **online only** on February 12 promptly at 8:30 am.

Non-Resident All Access Beach stickers are valid only Monday-Friday, no weekends or holidays, for \$350.00.

Non-Resident Humarock Only Beach stickers can only be purchased online, are valid Sunday-Saturday, and can be used at Humarock Beach only for \$100.00

Transfer and beach stickers are non-refundable and non-transferable.

4. There will be a public information session about the beach nourishment that is planned to begin in February on North Scituate Beach. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday January 18th at 6:00 pm. You can join this meeting in person at the library or remotely on zoom. You can find the link to join remotely on our website. If you would like to submit written questions ahead of time, please email them to Corey Miles at cmiles@scituatema.gov.

A recording of the presentation will be posted on the SCTV YouTube page following the meeting.

5. Burning Season opens 1/15/2024

Burning Permit Regulations

Open burning is prohibited in the following areas: Minot, Humarock and any location EAST of Hatherly RD.

The Scituate Fire Department will strictly enforce the following State regulations. All permit holders must agree to abide by these rules, with the understanding that the Scituate Fire Department reserves the right to refuse or revoke any permit that does not conform to these rules.

- a) The open burning season for residential properties will be from January 15, 2024, through May 1, 2024
 - b) Permit burning is only allowed between the daylight hours of 10:00am to 4:00pm and all fires must be started before noon and all fires must be completely extinguished by 4:00 pm
 - c) Burning sites will be spot checked and permits for areas not meeting these requirements will be refused or revoked
 - d) All fires must be at least 75 ft from any structure and you must have an available water supply, such as, a pressurized water pump, can, or hose and shovels or rakes for controlling the fire.
 - e) **ONLY BRUSH MAY BE BURNED: LEAVES AND GRASS MAY NOT.** All fires must be tended to at all times. Piles of brush must be kept small and manageable. If fire extends beyond the initial area the permit may be revoked.
 - f) If we receive a complaint that the fire is causing a smoke nuisance, the fire will have to be extinguished.
 - g) You must check online each day to verify and request burning.
 - a. Permission will be granted only on those days when winds, dryness of woods and atmospheric conditions warrant the issue of same.
 - h) Increases in wind velocity, or change in other conditions, will be cause for the immediate extinguishments of fires by all permit holders.
 - i) A fine of \$500.00 is applicable by Mass. Law for any illegal burning
 - j) The Scituate Fire Department will immediately revoke the permit if the above rules and regulations are not strictly adhered to. There will be no refund of fees if the permit is revoked for cause.
6. Scituate Sister Cities will be hosting their annual 2024 Sister City Film Festival at the Reel Harbor Theater on January 11, 24, February 1 and March 5. Scy-en-Brie will be presenting *Chocolat* on January 24 at 1 pm. Cape Verde Santa Catarina do Fogo will present *The Volcano's Last Wish* will now be on February 13, at 7:00 pm. This is a change from the original date of February 1. Ireland West Cork will present *My Left Foot* on March 5 at 7pm.

Suggested donation is \$10.

- 7. The Recreation Department's Summer 2024 job applications are now available on the Recreation Department webpage on the Town website for volunteers, counselors, directors and lifeguards. Go to scituatema.gov, go to the Recreation page (scituatema.gov/scituate-recreation-department) and the applications are on the left side of the page.
- 8. Lighthouse renovations:

A decision was made last week to suspend operations on the lighthouse until warmer weather. The team pushed hard to control the temperatures within the enclosure, but this past week's winds and low temperatures showed us that the risk of pushing forward with

the injection process in the cold temperatures was too great. The decision was not an easy one, but the right one. The chance of getting a freeze of the injection material before the end of the 14-day cure period for the grout was just too great and not worth the risk. We will commence the grouting and painting in the spring to complete the project.

9. The Town has added a link to the Town web site for information on the proposed Cushing and Hatherly MSBA project. Residents seeking information about the proposal for a new elementary school here in Scituate can go to scituatema.gov and you will see the red banner with the link. Click and it will take you the link for the school page with information about the project.
10. The Scituate Food Pantry continues to see an increase in clients seeking assistance. The Food Pantry is deeply indebted and extremely grateful for the generosity of its donors. The pantry has a new list of most needed items as they are unable to get these items from the Greater Boston Food Bank.

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| Canned White beans | Mixed Vegetables (Canned) |
| Beef Soups | Sloppy Joe |
| Baked Beans | White Tuna |
| Jell-O and Pudding | Green and Herbal Tea |
| Hot Chocolate | |

Items can be dropped off at the Pantry during operating hours or in the bins behind the Old Gates School. The Scituate Library, Village Market and Shaw's also collect items for the Pantry.

11. Meetings

Tuesday-Traffic Rules, Design Review, Water Resources
Wednesday-Board of Assessors, Mordecai Lincoln Property Committee,
Affordable Housing Trust, Commission on Disability
Thursday-North Scituate Beach Nourishment Public Meeting, Cape Verde Sister
City, ZBA, Advisory