

Weekly Video Update, August 1, 2022

**Jim Boudreau, Town Administrator**

Don't adjust your set, there is no problem with SCTV and I am not having a stroke. This is what happens when I go to the beach and forget my hat.

1. The total number of Covid cases for this past week according to our MAVEN data was 14, down from 25 last week. We had a positivity rating over the last 14 days of 8.94% up from 6.88%. Plymouth County is at 8.54, up from last week of 7.96 %. State wide the positivity rate yesterday for the past 7 days was 8.09%, down very slightly from last week's 8.17%. Statewide there are 48 individuals in ICU, down from 52. 19 patients are intubated down from 20. So local numbers have increased while state wide the numbers are down. The new BA.5 is now the most prevalent strain and is more adept at avoiding the antibodies in our bodies from the vaccines or that we get after having the virus.

We are not done with COVID yet. Although it is only one week, the numbers are trending up. There is a new Omicron variant, BA-2 that is now the dominant strain in the US. At this point, being vaccinated is a much better defense then not being vaccinated, so please, if you have not yet gotten vaccinated and can receive the vaccine, we urge you to do so. Vaccinations and booster are widely available. Go to [mass.gov](https://mass.gov) for details.

2. Water update. Reservoir is at -35", last week we were at -27.75". Tack Factory Pond is -8". Average daily demand was at 1.623 MGD down from 1.869 MGD last week. We are currently rated as having severe drought conditions by the Commonwealth. As the drought worsens, the water tables supplying our wells continue to drop, lowering the output from those wells, making us more dependent on the water treatment plant. The more we have to use the plant, the more Manganese we are putting into the system and the more discolored water we get. Manganese measured at the WTP is still high and is causing discolored water to go through the plant and into the system. As the temperatures rise, so will the Manganese levels in the water. Our latest manganese measurement was .33 ppb which exceeds the state level of .3 ppb. The water department will be sending out a notice, similar to that when we have TTHM violations, to residents this week. We are working with our consultants and DEP to try and come up with a short - term fix while we wait for the construction of a new water treatment plant.

If you have brown water, please call the water department or email [brownwater@scituatema.gov](mailto:brownwater@scituatema.gov)

Rainfall over the last 7 days was .07" measured at the Plant.

With the worsening of drought conditions and the strains being placed on our wells, we will be implementing a Tier 4 water ban effective today. This is a total ban on all non-essential outside water use. This includes vehicles and boats at marinas. The water department will be fining violators. We have fined over 75 violators since putting the ban

in place. Fines can be as high as \$300 a day. Details of the ban can be found on the town web site. We all need to do our best to conserve water during these drought conditions.

Celco will working on Ridge Hill road and finishing work on Old Driftway.

3. We have received submissions from design firms looking to work on the Pier 44 and Lighthouse repair projects. Interviews of firms will be conducted this week with the hope of having contracts before the Board for your next meeting.
4. The Sanctuary at Herring Brook will be holding a lottery for the affordable housing units on August 8, 2022. Completed applications were due at SEB Housing by 2:00 pm yesterday. This information will be posted on the town web site or you can go to [sebhousing.com](http://sebhousing.com) and click “Affordable Housing Opportunities” at the top of the page for more details.
5. The paving contractor for the Town has confirmed that they will begin work next Monday, August 8. Work will commence on Old Oaken Bucket, Maple Street and Woodland.
6. Although it may seem early with temperatures forecast to reach close to 100 on Thursday, the Town is looking for plow drivers for the winter and for positions in the DPW, interested parties should contact the DPW. We also have vacancies in our Highway and Grounds Department.

### **Karen Canfield, Select Board Member**

Ms. Canfield thanked everyone for conserving water at this time. This weekend is our Annual Heritage Days, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. The luminaria and boat parade kick off on Friday and they will be honoring our Purple Heart families with purple luminaria bags.

### Meetings this week:

Tonight (8/1) is Conservation at 6 PM

Tuesday (8/2) Traffic Rules & Regulations at 4:30 pm

Tuesday (8/2) Scituate Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee at 6:30 PM

Wednesday (8/3) is Affordable Housing Trust

Thursday (8/4) Advisory Committee meets at 7 PM and will be reviewing warrant articles for Special Town Meeting on September 19, 2022.

See you at Heritage Days!