

Weekly Video Update, August 22, 2022

Jim Boudreau, Town Administrator

1. The total number of Covid cases for this past week according to our MAVEN data was 15, down from 17 last week. We had a positivity rating over the last 14 days of 9.17% up from 8.94%. Plymouth County is at 8.86%, down very slightly from last week of 8.95%. State wide the positivity rate yesterday for the past 7 days was 7.84%, down very slightly from last week's 8.05%. Statewide there are 64 individuals in ICU, up from 57. 24 patients are intubated double last week's 12. So local numbers have increased while state wide the numbers are down for the second straight week.

At this point, being vaccinated is a much better defense then not being vaccinated, so please, if you have not yet been vaccinated and can receive the vaccine, we urge you to do so. Vaccinations and booster are widely available. Go to mass.gov for details.

2. Water update. Reservoir is at -44.5", last week we were at -40.25". Tack Factory Pond is still at -13.75", last week was -10.75". Average daily demand was at 1.374 MGD essentially the same as last week's 1.376 MGD. We are currently rated as having a critical drought 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. 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 The Town also has water available for residents at the WTP during regular business hours.

Rainfall over the last 7 days was .05" measured at the Plant.

With the worsening of drought conditions and the strains being placed on our wells, we have implemented a Tier 4 water ban. 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 Old Driftway and will be working in North Scituate on Gannet and Country Way starting on 8/29.

3. The paving contractor for the Town has finished paving on Old Oaken Bucket, Maple Street and Woodland. Those roads are scheduled for striping this week, weather dependent. A warning to drivers on Old Oaken Bucket - when finished the SPD will be doing intense traffic enforcement to keep speeds down. Forewarned is forearmed. We are also working on pulverizing the roads

around the Utility Road neighborhood behind Town Hall in preparation for paving. Paving will also be taking place this week on Country Way towards N. Scituate. We will be overlaying several sections in that area.

4. The Town will be hosting a Home Elevation seminar in conjunction with MEMA on August 30 from 5:00 – 6:00 in the Scituate Library Community Room. This free seminar will answer questions about home elevation projects, why a home owner should consider it, how much it might cost and opportunities for funding among other topics. Interested residents should email our Coastal Resource Officer Corey Miles at cmiles@scituatema.gov so we can get a handle on how many people might attend.
5. Its Back! This Friday, 8/26 the DPW will be hosting the always popular *Touch a Truck* here at the Town Hall from 9:00 am-11:30 am. This is a free event. If you have children who were fascinated with big trucks this is a great time to bring them and let them climb in and around some of our biggest vehicles. Popcorn and water will be available free to those who attend. Always a great event and we hope to see you there.
6. Even though the calendar says it is still summer, for many of our lifeguards it is fall as they head off to college. Because of that, there are no Lifeguards on Egypt and Humarock beaches at this point. Minot beach will have lifeguards through the end of this weekend (8/28) and the last day for lifeguards at Peggotty is 9/5.
7. The Town is looking for plow drivers for the winter and for positions in the DPW. Interested parties should contact the DPW.
8. Finally, meetings this week include:
 - a. Conservation tonight at 6:00 PM
 - b. Select Board tomorrow night at 6:30 PM
 - i. WTP update with water resources committee
 - ii. Field rental fees
 - c. ZBA will continue hearings on the proposed 40B on Old Oaken Bucket at 7:00 PM
 - d. Capital Planning on Wednesday at 6:30 PM
 - e. Thursday Planning Board at 6:30 PM
9. Special Town Meeting is 9/19 at 7:00 pm in the High School gym. Be there or be unheard!