

Weekly Video Update November 29, 2021

Select Board Vice Chair, Karen Canfield

On Wednesday, online Recreation winter programming goes live at 9 AM. Visit the Recreation page on www.scituatema.gov for information.

Tuesday, November 30th we will be celebrating the 10- year relationship with our Sister City, Sucy-en-Brie. Stay tuned for a video that will highlight the celebration.

There are few meetings this week: On Wednesday there will be Charter Review at 5:30 via Zoom, and Waterways Commision meets at 7 PM at the Scituate Senior Center.

This Friday is First Friday and kicks off the holiday shopping this season. Santa arrives by boat on Saturday at 10 AM. All details can be found on the Scituate Harbor Business Association Facebook page or website <http://www.scituateharborma.com/>

The Superbowl Division Four State Championship between Scituate and Duxbury will be on Monday December 6th at 7:30 PM. Tickets must be purchased in advance on Ticketmaster.

Town Administrator, Jim Boudreau

Water main construction is done for the season. The contractor is still installing services on Brook St, Tilden Rd, Foam Rd, and Rainbow Court. The pilot study is finished for now, but will come back in the winter to test cold water. We will receive a report on that in December.

The Water Department will be doing flushing this week in Old Forge, Satuit Trl, Doctors Hill, Deer Common, First Parish Rd., Judy Rd., Arborway, Mann Lot, Forest Ln. and parts of Rte. 3A.

Covid Update: We had 47 cases, up 1 from 46 previous week. Our positivity rating is 5.17% up from 4.14%. Plymouth County is 4.98% up from 3.67%, and the State is at 3.37% up from 3.08%. These are consistent with the increase in case numbers. We would also expect increase in numbers due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

The World Health Organization and CDC have announced a new variant, Omicron variant first discovered in Africa, with new cases in Europe and Canada. It's too early to say whether it's more contagious, or more or less severe. We won't know how affective the current vaccines are against this new variant. If you aren't vaccinated, please do so, as it will prevent hospitalization and death. Vaccinations and booster are widely available. Go to mass.gov for details.

We will continue to provide updates on this new variant as we receive them.

Widows Walk Clubhouse made great strides last week and received temp certificate of occupancy for the Pro Shop and the staff have moved in. We removed the trailers and the renovations are on- going. Kitchen equipment will take about two weeks to be installed and we will begin work on the RFP to run the concessions. We will have a contract ready to go for the spring. We will post some pictures on the town website.

Humarock Fire Station is set to occupy this Friday, December 3rd a few days later than anticipated. We need the truck to be removed from the tent on Fourth Cliff to the heated space in the new station. There's still work on going but the truck and the fire fighters will be in the new building.

Closing on the Minot Fire Station sale for \$585,000 is scheduled to close tomorrow and the money will off-set the tax impact from the new Senior Center.

Superintendent, Bill Burkhead

Covid number for the week was 11, down 1 from the previous week. We hosted a Covid -19 vaccine clinic for newly eligible 5-11 year- old students. Thank you to all our nurses, Nurse leader Kelli Roche, and the state. A total of 176 doses were administered and Mr. Burkhead thanked all the families who supported this initiative. The second dose will be on December 19th.

The School Committee is reviewing our facial covering policy that would provide us with the opportunity to make masks optional if vaccination is over 80% - working with School Committee, Mass Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Mass Dept. of Public Health, local Board of Health, and the Medical Advisory Team. Unvaccinated students would still need to wear mask.

High school is eligible as it's over 80% vaccinated. We would need to apply to DESE and if all metrics look good and it's voted, then the mask optional policy could be made possible. Notification will be sent out later this week with additional details.

PE Team applied for a grant from Scituate Education Foundation (SEF) to purchase equipment to build a Disc Golf Course on the Gates Middle School campus. They started mapping in September and it's now up and running and available to students and the community. It's a great opportunity to have fun. He thanked Jim Flynn, PE teacher at Gates and SEF for providing the funding. He also thanked Mr. Boudreau for supporting this initiative.

Finally, good luck to the football team in the Superbowl and have a great week.