

August 24 Covid Update

Selectman Karen Connolly said the polls for the Sept. 1 State Primary will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Scituate High School.

Early voting continues for the remainder of this week at Town Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, Tuesday from 8:30 to 6 p.m.; and from 8:30 to noon on Friday.

Those who voted by mail can track their ballot by visiting the Secretary of State's website: www.sec.state.ma.us and click on "Elections and Voting."

Town Administrator Jim Boudreau said there were three new COVID-19 cases in Scituate. Two were at the same address with the other being traced to an infected person in Hingham. He said the state infection rate is still below 2 percent. Mr. Boudreau stressed that residents should continue to be vigilant by following safety protocols: masks, social distancing and hand-washing.

Mr. Boudreau said the state is now in a drought. Scituate is continuing to enforce a water ban that allows only hand-held can watering between the hours of 5 p.m. and 9 a.m. The town issued twenty-two \$100 fines last week to violators. He said the reservoir is at 39 percent and

the recent rain had little material impact. Activating well 17A is adding 350,000 gallons a day to the reservoir and the cold well water has considerably reduced the manganese levels and, thus the brown water problems. The town is still awaiting DEP approval for a chemical to treat the manganese problem.

The Bailey's Causeway and Gilson Road culvert work is finished and the roads are open, however, the gas company still has more work to complete on Gilson Road.

Mr. Boudreau said work on the berm at Egypt Beach has been paused until the town's consulting engineer can review the project. The goal is not to change the look of the berm while ensuring accessibility and to strengthen it for storms.

He also said the athletic fields project at the high school is nearing completion.

School Committee Chairman Peter Gates said the School Committee Zoom meetings are attracting an average of 300 viewers per week. He said the committee is taking part in a workshop that provides an update on the superintendent evaluation process.

Superintendent of Schools William Burkhead said as they become available, more details about the hybrid and fully remote plans will be shared with the community. Check the schools website: scituate.k12.ma.us for updates.

Teachers return to school next week; the first day for students is Sept. 16.

Parents are encouraged to reach out to their school principal with questions on the return to school.

School families were recently surveyed on which plan they would be enrolling their student in for the 2020-21 school year. The results are as follows:

91.8 percent hybrid

6.6 percent fully remote

1.6 other (home school or private school).