



TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

January 3, 2023



ADMINISTRATION:

- Town Administrator (TA) Greg Johnson encourages the public [to subscribe](#) to the regular newsletter edited by Assistant Town Administrator (ATA) Megan Zammuto that highlights current and future projects, new businesses and upcoming public meetings.
- TA Johnson and Human Resources (HR) Manager Stephanie Duggan continue negotiations with the Firefighters' union. In the new year and spring, we will begin negotiations with the Police and Clerical unions.
- The town's new website is tentatively scheduled to "launch" on January 17, 2023.
- Town offices are to be closed Monday, January 16, 2023 in observance of MLK Day.
- The state's Attorney General's Office, Municipal Law Unit ("MLU"), is now e-mailing to towns information about establishments where defendants convicted of operating under the influence say they were served alcohol before being arrested. MLU sends this information to Town Clerks periodically as it becomes available from the Trial Court. The most recent reporting of operating under the influence (OUI) "last drink reports" showed no data of instances in Maynard's establishments.
- The Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) TA Recommended Budget Development Status:
 - End of Year (EOY) FY22 is still not certified by Department of Revenue, therefore a Free Cash amount is not yet known for consideration of allocation to capital or reserves or otherwise.
 - The operating budget for the FY24 General Fund is balanced as currently drafted, with conservative estimates for revenue and expenses.

Highlights:

- Health insurance at 8% increase

- Liability insurance stabilizing, but with increase for new Fire Station coverage
- Most departments level funded and meeting contractual obligations.
- No capital pay-as-you-go in the Operating Budget
- Maynard Public Schools listed at \$649,992 or 3% increase over FY23.
- Personnel Contract Settlements set at \$50,000 to cover negotiations for unions (Police, Clerical), and employment agreements (Police Chief and Deputy Chief, HR Manager, Planning Director)
- No hiring in town departments.
- More research may require adjustments for IT support, Assabet Vocational Regional School District assessment, staff training, utility/energy costs.
- Revenue conservatively estimated for local aid from state budget, set at 2%
- New Growth of revenue from property taxes is set at \$300,000

OFFICE OF MUNICIPAL SERVICES:

Economic Development

Planning Director Bill Nemser coordinated a meeting with the Massachusetts Area Planning Council (MAPC) Arts and Culture Department, Maynard's Cultural Council and ArtSpace to discuss potential technical assistant grant opportunities to assist ArtSpace in their effort to find a new location in Maynard.

Public Health

Health Director Ivan Kwagala organized a training for town staff on hoarding on December 20th. The training, provided by ClearPath, discussed hoarding disorder and best practices to support residents dealing with this issue. The program was attended by members of the Police Department, Council on Aging, Board of Health, and the Office of Municipal Services.

LIBRARY:



The Real Live Bubble Show: On December 28, during school vacation week, the library presented a Bubble Show, which was attended by 60 children and adults. Bubbles are clearly very popular among the people of Maynard! For the grand finale of the show, the presenter put each child inside a bubble, which was a definite highlight for the attendees. The program was generously funded by the Friends of the Maynard Public Library.

Year in Review

In 2022, the Maynard Public Library...

- began offering open hours on **summer Saturdays**
- lowered the minimum age for library-card signups to **4 years old**
- installed a **StoryWalk®** on the path outside the library (a new story, *Snowmen at Night*, has just gone up in time for the winter school vacation!)
- implemented Wowbrary to inform patrons of **new items added to the library collections** through an e-newsletter, social media posts, and a website feature on our homepage (Haven't signed up for the weekly Wowbrary newsletter yet? You can [do so here.](#))
- began our **strategic planning process** and received over 450 survey responses from community members like you!
- held **over 300 programs**, with nearly **5,000 participants**
- hosted **art exhibits**, including a group show by ArtSpace artists
- welcomed **over 48,000 visits** to the library building, with countless more visits to our online resources, including [ebooks and e-audiobooks](#), streaming [movies](#) and [music](#), and [databases](#)
- and so much more!

While our small staff is certainly mighty, we couldn't accomplish all of the above without the support of the Board of Library Trustees, the Friends of the Library, volunteers, town officials, community partners, the Minuteman Library Network, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, and the Massachusetts Library System. We are so fortunate and so grateful to have all of them contribute time, advice, funding, and more.

What did we read in 2022? Top Ten Adult Book Titles Borrowed

There have been over 56,000 checkouts this year at the Maynard Public Library. Here are the top ten most popular adult book titles checked out by our community in 2022. During the week leading up to New Year's Eve, the library shared these titles on its social media, along with the most popular magazines, graphic-novel/young-adult books, children's books, movies, and most popular titles overall.



1. [Beach Read](#) by Emily Henry
2. [This Time Tomorrow](#) by Emma Straub
3. [The Woman in the Library](#) by Sulari Gentill
4. [Where the Crawdads Sing](#) by Delia Owens
5. [Night of the Living Rez](#) by Morgan Talty
6. [Horse](#) by Geraldine Brooks
7. [The Midcoast](#) by Adam White
8. [Black Dog](#) by Stuart Woods
9. [The Bullet that Missed](#) by Richard Osman
10. [Lucy by the Sea](#) by Elizabeth Strout

COUNCIL ON AGING:

- The Council on Aging is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The COA provides information and referral for supportive services including home care, health insurance counseling, fuel assistance, food resources, housing, legal issues, public assistance programs and transportation. The Council on Aging accepts and lends durable medical equipment.
- The Council on Aging van service provides transportation Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Destinations include medical appointments, grocery shopping, banks, and salons. Special trips include Walmart in Hudson and Savers thrift store in Marlborough.
- New programs for January include: a seated senior fitness class for a total body workout, an acrylic painting class, felted animal and mason jar cookie mix crafts, a new title for the COA Book Club and another elder law presentation by Generations Law Group at the Maynard Library. Grab-n-Go luncheons continue to be extremely popular.



- December was full of special events including Mystery Tours to the Cracker Barrel Restaurant and gift shop and evening holiday light trips throughout Maynard and surrounding communities.



- The COA produced a December/January newsletter promoting the COA's activities, including the Maynard COA Book Club, 6 Bridges Gallery ArtSpace Maynard events, Maynard Library programs, food and fuel resources, and Rep. Kate Hogan's monthly article.
- The COA offers an iPad and Chromebooks lending program for those with limited financial resources to increase opportunities for Zoom classes, online activity, and the means to contact friends and family.