



TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

**May 8,
2024**



ADMINISTRATION

- Town Administrator (TA) Johnson and Assistant Town Administrator (ATA) Stephanie Duggan are conducting regular collective bargaining agreement negotiations with the AFSCME Clerical Union, and have commenced negotiations with the IAFF Fire Fighters Local 1947 union. We are expecting to commence negotiations with Public Safety Tele-Communicators NEPBA Local 114 dispatchers union.
- Thanks to the Town Clerk's Office, election workers and volunteers, and other officials for supporting the Annual Town Election on Tuesday, May 7, 2024. Congratulations to the new, or returning incumbent officials!
- The Request for Proposals (RFP) for the disposition of 1 Summer Street (old Fire Station) went live on April 24, 2024, with a submission deadline for proposals on May 28, 2024.
- Auctioning of "surplus goods" remaining in the old fire house at 1 Summer Street is being led by Auctions International, and began on Friday, April 26, 2024. Final bids are due May 10, 2024.
- TA Johnson, ATA Duggan, Executive Director of the Office of Municipal Services (OMS) Steve Silverstein, and Planning Director Bill Nemser, attended the State House Day event hosted by the 495/Metrowest Partnership on April 24, 2024. Speakers included State Senate President Karen Spilka and Speaker Pro Tempore Kate Hogan.



- TA Johnson joined Fire Chief Lawless in observing the physical testing of candidates in application to join the Maynard Fire Department.



- TA Johnson is expecting to join Planning Director Bill Nemser for the Legislative Breakfast hosted by the MAPC's MAGIC coalition at the town of Bedford old town hall on Friday, May 10, 2024.

LIBRARY

Fixit Clinic

The Library partnered with Green Maynard and new collaborator Sustainable Stow to offer our second Fixit Clinic on Saturday, April 20. Community members were invited to bring their items in need of repair (appliances, clothes, electronics, bicycles, toys, etc.) to receive help from volunteers in trying to fix them. The goals are 1) to encourage people to throw away fewer items, 2) to help people learn how things work and how to repair them, and 3) to provide a chance for people to meet their neighbors and bond as a community. It is one of our favorite events of the year. Twenty volunteers assisted at the event, and around 50 items were repaired. Thank you to the very kind and generous volunteers who donated their time!





Maynard High School Student Art Show

The annual Maynard High School Student Art Show will once again be on display at the Library. The community is invited to come and see this wonderful array of artwork from Saturday, May 4, through Friday, May 10, during the Library's open hours.

Mind in the Making Grant Application

The Library has applied for a \$15,000 "Mind in the Making" grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners to improve and enhance the Library's play area and programming for children ages 0-6. Through this project, we hope to provide families with a more accessible, educational, inclusive, and stimulating play space and with more programs in the areas of STEM, music, and sensory development. The grant is funded through the federal Library Services and Technology Act. Grant awards will be announced in July.

Library on WAVM

On March 27, during WAVM's Community Broadcast Week, several members of the Library staff hosted an hour-long radio show. We featured Library collections, events, and services, along with musical selections tied to the topics that were presented. Thank you to the very nice folks at WAVM for giving us this opportunity! We look forward to doing it again.



Professor Bugman's Arthropod Petting Zoo

One of several special activities offered by the Library during April school vacation week was Professor Bugman's Arthropod Petting Zoo on April 19. A crowd of 25 children had a chance to learn fascinating facts about many different kinds of insects and even got to hold and pet them. We thank the Friends of the Maynard Public Library for funding this program!



There are many more programs coming up! See maynardpubliclibrary.org/calendar for details and registration.

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.
- Researchers from the Center for Social & Demographic Research on Aging at the Gerontology Institute of UMASS Boston are conducting a study focusing on the needs and interests of Maynard's current and future older adult population (age 50 and over). The study will inform the Town of Maynard's planning for programs and services meant to address the evolving needs and interests of Maynard's older residents. An online and mailed survey has been completed as well as key informant interviews and focus groups. Results of the study will be released in October.

- The Council on Aging Senior Watercolor class had an exhibition of their artwork at the Maynard Library for the month of April.



- Special programs in April included felted craft Kusudama flowers, a Do-It-Yourself Herb Garden, and a presentation on residential transitions.





- The COA co-sponsored Doug Tallamy's *Nature's Best Hope* program with the Maynard Library.
- The COA's April newsletter included the Council on Aging Board's column, special community and Maynard Library programs, Maynard Firefighter Jenn Hureau's guidance on cleaning up safely when outdoors, State Senator Jamie Eldridge's 43rd Senior Conference, and more!
- The COA Director and Town Administrator, with input from the COA Board, are working with Liturgical Publications (LPi) on a contract for a newsletter with more effective distribution to the Maynard community. We will continue to publish our current newsletter with/through Action Unlimited with the target start date with LPi being the October 2024 newsletter. The new platform will provide online access and easier editing, and email subscriptions. The best part, its free to the town, because the company sells ads, like a newspaper. However, the Council on Aging will be responsible for the cost of the mailing of the newsletter to 5,100 households – still a significant savings to our current newsletter costs.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

This week with collaboration with MPD & Communications departments we held a presentation to Maynard High School Junior and Senior students on the realities of what could happen if you drive distracted. Thank you to Maynard High School students who helped make it realistic.



We held a skills day for our potential new firefighters. It was a challenge to conduct our ladder out for repair. Thank you very much for the generosity of the Holliston Fire Department to send over their ladder and firefighters for the morning. We held interviews the next week and hope to hire two firefighters to start ASAP.



We wish Firefighter Nick Cutone the best of luck as he heads off to the State Fire Academy in Stow for recruit training. This is a 10-week program.