



TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

**December 6,
2022**



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.
- The Maynard Fire Department moved into their new Fire Station on Sudbury Street. The Maynard Fire Station Building Committee is excited to offer a public tour as soon as possible. The new Fire Station replaces the "old" Fire Station built in 1954, and the new station's construction completes a very long planning and advocacy process that was managed to the tiniest detail by Fire Chief Tony Stowers.
- Town offices will be closed:
 - Friday, December 16, 2022 for all day (8:00am-12:00pm) employee training.
 - Monday, December 26, 2022 in observance of Christmas state holiday.
 - Monday, January 2, 2023 in observance of the New Years state holiday.

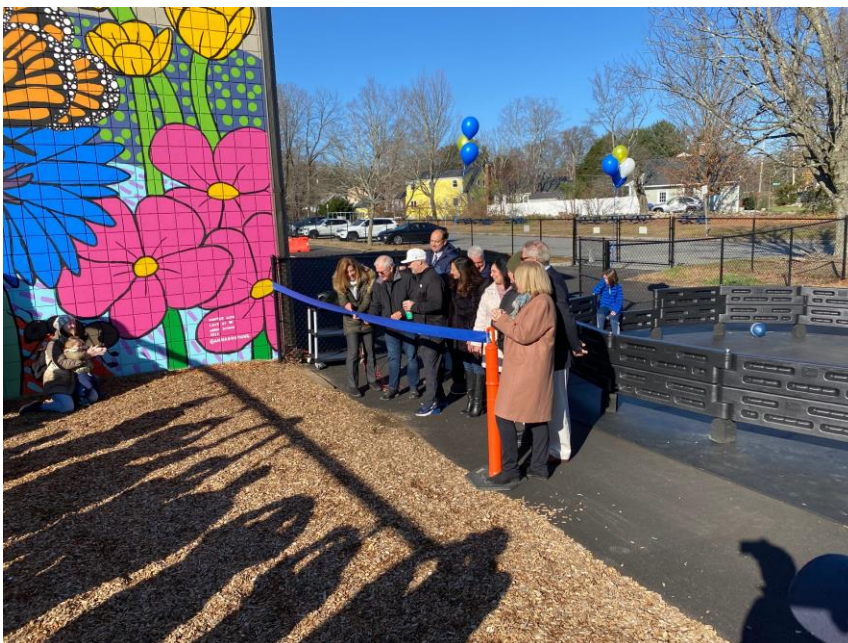
Please check the town's website for further closings information.

- The Maynard Business Alliance's (MBA) annual Holiday Sip & Stroll and Memorial Park lighting was held downtown held Saturday, December 3, 2022.
- The annual Holiday Parade was held Sunday, December 4, 2022.
- The Menorah lighting ceremony on Memorial Park is scheduled for Wednesday, December 21, 2022 at 5:30pm.

- Town staff are receiving training to edit the town's new website, a Civic Plus platform. The new website is expected to "launch" in January 2022.
- Following approval by the Select Board upon recommendation by the town's Board of Assessors, the town's Fiscal Year 2023 tax rate has been certified by the state's Bureau of Accounts of the Department of Revenue.
- Town staff toured 61-63 Summer Street with ArtSpace Maynard members on November 29, 2022. The purpose of the meeting was to observe the current condition of the facility and assess conditions for accepting the facility from ArtSpace in accordance with the lease agreement's "Yielding Up" clause.



- TA Johnson joined town and state elected officials at the Assabet Valley Boys and Girls Club to witness the ribbon cutting event for the club's new playground and mural.



- Eversource notified the town of projected increases to utility prices, and provided information for relief programs to residents.
- HR Manager Duggan orchestrated a Thanksgiving breakfast and pie contest for town staff:





- The [Green Meadow School Building Committee](#) hosted another public forum as it completes its submission of a Schematic Design to the Massachusetts School Building Authority to establish the scope, budget and schedule for the proposed new school project. Its expected that the spring's Annual Town Meeting will consider borrowing authorization for the new school's construction, followed by a local election that includes the Debt Exclusion borrowing question.





GREEN MEADOW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT



First Floor Plan



Second Floor Plan

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.
- The “Grab-n-Go” drive-through luncheons continue to be an extremely popular event with over 50 seniors enjoying a home cooked meal in the company of friends. Rep. Kate Hogan dropped by the November event and handed out delicious treats and warm hellos to the seniors.
- On November 18, students from Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School provided seniors with hands on support for pecky technical questions about setting up email accounts, smartphone snafus and the like.

- The COA offered several holiday craft classes including felted gnomes, sock snowmen, and mason jar soup mixes.



- The Northeastern Correctional Center provided holiday pies for our November 14 Grab-n-Go.
- COA programs include fitness classes offered via streaming at the COA, bingo, knitting, do-it-yourself crafts, and various drop-in activities including cards, games, adult coloring, puzzles, and painting. Upcoming programs include new felted crafts from Pop Up Art School and an acrylic painting class. Yachun Lin, the COA's Zumba instructor has created a seated senior fitness class for a total body workout. Mystery tours continue as well as COA van tours of Maynard's holiday lights in December.



- The COA produced a November newsletter promoting the COA's activities, including the Maynard COA Book Club, 6 Bridges Gallery 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.

LIBRARY:

- **Donation of Turtle Island painting:** There's something new on the third floor! "Turtle Island" was donated by Maynard resident, art educator, and member of the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe Aimeé Ledwell. In collaboration with Maynard Anti-Racism Alliance and the greater Maynard community, Aimeé created this large-scale artwork featuring an image of Turtle Island, a term used by many Native Americans to describe North America. Four canvases were used to represent the four directions. Many hands helped paint the image, most of them local children. The library is honored to be the home of this community creation.



- **Community survey results:** We received an excellent response to the community survey, with over 450 people of all ages participating. This exceeded our goal and will make our new strategic plan that much stronger and more relevant. The Strategic Planning Team has read through every response, and the input gathered is being incorporated into the plan we are now drafting.
- **Service on community committees:** Library Director Jean Maguire is serving on the ArtSpace Executive Director Search Committee, Cultural District Working Group, Emerson Health Mental Health Work Group, First Connections Advisory Council, and Minuteman Library Network Finance Committee.
- **Upcoming adult and teen programs** (Register & see more events at maynardpubliclibrary.org/calendar):
 - **Gift Making events**—Use a variety of craft supplies—including stamps, stencils, paint, specialty paper, and more—to make gifts and cards for the holiday season. Open to all ages. In the Storytime Room on the 3rd floor. No registration required; just drop in!
 - Tuesday, Dec. 6,
6:00-8:00pm
 - Monday, Dec. 12,
12:00-4:00pm
 - Saturday, Dec. 17,
12:00-4:00pm

- **Democracy Talks: Russia's Invasion, Ukraine's Resistance, & Prospects for Peace**—Online program, Tuesday, Dec. 6, 7pm. Professor Oxana Shevel (Tufts University & President of the American Association for Ukrainian Studies) will discuss the reasons behind Russian president Putin's invasion of Ukraine, Ukraine's determined resistance, and how the war might end.



- **Teen and Adult Take-and-Make Kit: Felt Coasters**—Available starting Wednesday, Dec. 7
- **She's on the Case: Mystery Author Panel Discussion**—Online program, Thursday, Dec. 8, 7pm. Join us for a discussion of intriguing mysteries with critically acclaimed authors Sulari Gentill, Hank Phillippi Ryan, and Eva Jurczyk. Moderated by Rachel Raczka of the *Boston Globe*.



- **Art Talk: 17th Century Women Painters**—Online or in person (at Acton Memorial Library), Monday, Dec. 12, 7pm. Martha Chiarchiaro will help us explore 17th-century Dutch, Flemish, German, and Italian artists, including Sofonisba Anguissola, Artemisia Gentileschi, Judith Leyster, Clara Peeters, Louise Moillon, Maria Sibylla Merian, and others.

- **The Nature of Winter with Mass Audubon**—Online program, Tuesday, Dec. 13, 11am. Have you ever wondered which animal left tracks in the snow? What happens to pond animals under a layer of ice? Or what trees are lining the trails on your winter walks? This online program will introduce the seasonal dynamics of nature in winter, and provide ideas and resources for observing, appreciating, and supporting wildlife near home this winter.



- **Get on the Cloud with Google Drive**—In-person program, Tuesday, Dec. 13, 7pm. Learn how to create, store, and collaborate on documents, spreadsheets, presentations, and more on Google's free adaptation of Microsoft Office.

- **All Ages Take-and-Make Kit: DIY Wrapping Kit**—Available starting Wednesday, Dec. 14

- **Introduction to Hanukkah**—Online program, Thursday, Dec. 15, 7pm. Learn about Hanukkah—a fun-filled eight-day festival celebrated by people all around the world who practice the Jewish faith.



- **December Cookbook Club: Favorite Holiday Recipes**—In-person program, Monday, Dec. 19, 12pm. Discuss and share favorite holiday recipes—something you make for gifts, special snacks, or dishes from your family traditions. Bring a dish to share and a copy of the recipe.

Children's programs (learn more at maynardpubliclibrary.org/calendar):

- **Baby Storytime**—Mondays, 10:30am, outdoors or hybrid (indoors and online), weather depending. Sing songs, listen to stories, and act out rhymes at this storytime for the youngest of library visitors!
- **Mr. Mark's Outdoor Storytime**—Ages 3 and up. Tuesdays, 3:30pm. Memorial Park or Storytime Room, weather depending.
- **Toy Time**—Ages 1-5. Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30am. Toddlers get to play with trains, build with blocks, color with crayons, and have parades!
- **Junior Thursday LEGO League**—Ages 4 and up. December 8, 22, and 29, 3:30-4:30pm.
- **Read to a Dog**—Fridays, 4:00-4:30pm. [Sign-up required](#). Read to Zora...and she'll listen! Have your own one-on-one ten-minute session, reading to Zora and petting her at the same time!
- **Family Storytime: Welcome Winter**—For families with children of all ages. Saturday, Dec. 17, 10:30am, Storytime Room, 3rd floor. Join Ms. Casey for a family-friendly storytime celebrating the start of winter! Enjoy books, rhymes, activities, and a craft.
- **The Real Live Bubble Show**—Wednesday, Dec. 28, 10:30am. Come meet a professional bubble-blower, watch beautiful, rainbow-tinted bubbles floating right above your head, and possibly get picked to go *inside* a bubble!