

TOWN HILL NEWS

Norfolk's Quarterly Municipal Newsletter

VOLUME 1
ISSUE 3
Spring 2024



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony

The Memorial Day parade and ceremony will be held on Monday, May 27, 2024. The parade will commence at 8 AM from Main Street between the Fire Station and The Federated Church of Norfolk. The parade will proceed to the cemetery for a memorial service to be held at the Veterans Memorial followed by a closing ceremony at Town Hill. At the close of services, all participants and the public are invited to enjoy fellowship and refreshments at the parking area of The Federated Church of Norfolk. For the traditional Memorial Day Parade and Service Memorandum and the Memorial Day Parade March Order of Anticipated Participants

 [CLICK HERE](#)

- TA Office, Town Clerk, Land Use...2
- Town Meeting...3
- Recreation...4
- Library...5
- DPW, Fire Station Building Committee...6
- Council on Aging...7
- Volunteering...8
- 1st Annual Autism 5K...9



A Memorial Day Parade on Main Street

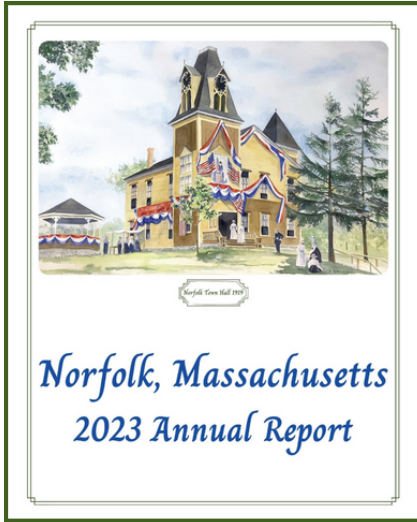
To subscribe to the newsletter

 [CLICK HERE](#)

Scroll down to the General section and check the Newsletter circles for email and or text options.



TA Office



2023 Annual Report Is Available

To download Norfolk's 2023 Annual Report on the Town's website



[CLICK HERE](#)

Limited hard copies are available in the Town Administrator's Office.

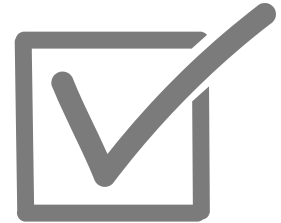
The cover photograph is of a painting of Norfolk's Town Hall in 1919. This grand building with its magnificent architectural features was lost when the building was completely destroyed by fire on December 5, 1922. The painting, beautifully capturing the early 1900s, was done by Kristin Stashenko. The artwork was donated to the town and hangs majestically in the foyer of Norfolk's current Town Hall. Thank you to Ms. Stashenko for portraying this inspiring and impressive picturesque moment of a former time in the Town of Norfolk. Ms. Stashenko can be reached at kristinstashenko.com.

Town Clerk



Early In-Person Voting Hours for the Annual Town Election Start May 7

Saturday, April 27	9 AM – 5 PM
Monday, April 29	8 AM – 8 PM
Tuesday, April 30	7 AM – 6 PM
Wednesday, May 1	8 AM – 8 PM
Thursday, May 2	7 AM – 6 PM



All voting is held on the ground floor at the Town Clerk's Office.

Land Use



Housing Choice

The Planning Board held a public hearing on March 12, 2024, for the proposed MBTA zoning bylaws and recommended their approval at the May 15, 2024, Annual Town Meeting. To learn more about the Town's proposed MBTA zoning bylaws



[CLICK HERE](#)



Norfolk's Vision

The Town is in the final phase of completing the Master Plan. There will be a final community meeting in late spring; stay tuned for date and location. To learn more about the Master Plan process and watch the Master Plan Steering Committee meetings



[CLICK HERE](#)

Town Meeting

Norfolk's 2024 Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for May 15 at 7 PM at King Philip Middle School, 18 King Street. The Town Meeting page on the Town's website is the go-to place for all Town Meeting resources such as warrant articles, up-to-date news, rules of procedure, past warrant articles, meeting minutes, and a "Citizen's Guide to Town Meetings." This webpage will be updated as information becomes available to post. To read the 2024 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

[CLICK HERE](#)



Melissa

5 Things I Wish I Knew at My First Town Meeting

We asked Planning Board member Melissa Meo, who attended her first Town Meeting a few years ago, what five things she wished she knew before attending her first Town Meeting.

When I attended my first Town Meeting, I had so many questions. When is it okay to ask questions, and do I raise my hand? Do I wait until the end of the meeting, or is there Q&A after each presentation? When we vote, do we say "yes" or "yea" or "aye?" Thankfully, the Town Moderator explained all of the rules to follow at the beginning of the meeting and also provided voting instructions throughout the meeting—pew!

Here are the top five things that I wish I had known before attending my first Town Meeting:

1. The Town Warrant is mailed to all Norfolk residents prior to the meeting. The articles in the warrant are the items to be voted on during the Town Meeting. The warrant includes the exact language to be voted on, but it does not include all the supporting documentation that will be available at Town Meeting. There are often printed handouts and presentations by the author/owner of the article that provide much more detail on each item before voting. The table of printed handouts will be next to the auditorium entrance.
2. The articles in the warrant are months in the making before they get to Town Meeting. Prior to Town Meeting, the articles have been reviewed by stakeholders (boards/committees/Town officials) in various public meetings. They will have all been reviewed, in great detail, by both the Advisory Committee and the Select Board prior to Town Meeting. All public meetings including meeting details/agendas/meeting notes are posted on the Town of Norfolk's website.
3. The Advisory Committee is the group of folks seated in the front of the auditorium at the table(s) in front of the stage. The Advisory Committee meets for several weeks prior to each Town Meeting reviewing the proposed articles that Town department heads and elected officials wish to present at Town Meeting. These meetings are recorded by Norfolk Community Television (NCTV) and are available for replay on NCTV's YouTube channel. For each warrant article, a member of the Advisory Committee reads the article and notes if they approve or request to "IP" the article. IP stands for Indefinitely Postpone.
4. If an audience member has a question to ask about a particular article, wait until the presentation is concluded, and at that point the Town Moderator will allow questions. The audience member will need to go to a microphone so that everyone can hear the question. There will be two microphones at the front of the room, one on each side of the auditorium. If someone is at the microphone already, just wait patiently behind that person until it is your turn. Before asking your question, simply state your first and last name and your address, and then ask your question.
5. Finally, when it is time to vote, if you wish to vote yes, say "aye." If you do not support the article, say "nay." The Town Moderator will ask for the yes/no votes separately and determine which one has more support from the residents in the room. Some articles only require a majority vote while others require a two-thirds vote, but that will be explained by the Town Moderator prior to taking a vote.

If you would like to have a voice in the major decisions that shape our town, join us at Town Meeting. The next Town Meeting is May 15 at 7 PM in the King Philip Middle School auditorium. Hope to see you there!

Recreation

New Registration Website

Norfolk Recreation has a new registration website at norfolkrec.com. If there are any questions or if help is needed, please email recreation@norfolk.ma.us or call the Recreation Office at (508) 520-1315.

To check out everything Norfolk Recreation is offering this summer

➡ [CLICK HERE](#)



Save the Date: Community Day Is June 15

Mark your calendars! Norfolk Recreation has fireworks, food trucks, and live music planned for the evening of Community Day, Saturday, June 15! Sponsorship information is available at norfolkrec.com or by reaching out to Josh Walther at jwalther@norfolkrec.com. For more information

➡ [CLICK HERE](#)



2024 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

THURSDAYS ON TOWN HILL 6:30 PM - 8 PM

JUNE 13: The Reminisants

JUNE 20: Ken DoRosario

JUNE 27: SE New England Community Band

JULY 11: BC & Company

JULY 18: Jumpin' Juba

JULY 25: Pub Kings

AUGUST 1: FSPA's Electric Youth

AUGUST 8: Heartland Radio

2024 TUNES FOR TOTS

TUESDAYS ON TOWN HILL 5 PM - 6 PM

RAIN LOCATION: INSIDE LIBRARY

JUNE 18: BenAnna Band

JUNE 25: Rockabye Beats

JULY 9: Ken DoRosario 'Kendo'

JULY 16: Toe Jam Puppet Band


JULY 23: Matt Heaton

JULY 30: Philip Alexander

LIVE
MUSIC



Library

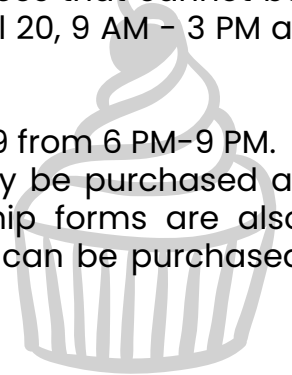
Spring is finally here and things are blooming at the library! Gather your little ones ages 2-5 for a fairy tale-themed story and STEM craft with [Fairy Tale STEM for Littles](#). Sign up weekly between March 26 and April 23. Stop by on Tuesdays for [Watercolor Meet Up](#) from 1 PM - 3 PM or Fridays for Fiber Art Group from 10:30 AM - 12 PM. Looking for activities for your tween? Try [Blanket Forts & Board Games](#) (grades 4-6) on April 19. Get your spring cleaning off to a great start with [Declutter with Peace and Purpose](#) on May 7. Learn the benefits of signing with your baby as well as learn and practice several signs. Join us for a [field trip to the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum](#) on June 24 to coincide with our book groups reading *The Lioness of Boston*. This trip is open to all. It is not necessary to be in either book group to attend, but feel free to join us on June 5 at 1:30 PM at the library to talk about the book! The library offers regular story times, book groups, craft programs, kids painting events, music programs, and one-on-one tech help all year round. Check out our website and event calendar. Want to receive library news and events in your inbox? To sign up for our monthly newsletter and be the first to know about upcoming programs  [CLICK HERE](#)



Friends of the Library Book and Bake Sale

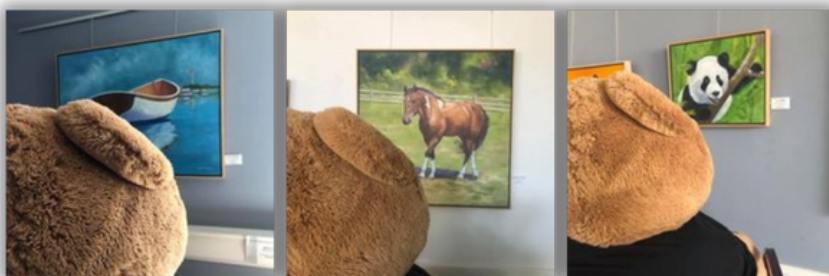
Join us for the best book (and yummiest bake sale) of the year! Thousands of books, CDs, DVDs, puzzles, games, and more will be available to purchase at prices that cannot be beat. The public sale starts Saturday, April 20, 9 AM - 3 PM at the Freeman-Kennedy School.

Friends of the Library Preview Night: April 19 from 6 PM-9 PM. A current membership is required or may be purchased at the door beginning at 5 PM. Membership forms are also available at the library, or memberships can be purchased online.



Call for Artists

Are you an artist looking for a space to display your art? The Library's Community Room is a common space used by many groups in town and a great place to display your talent! What can you display? Paintings, quilts, collages, photography, and anything 2D that can be hung on a wall. Displays are up for one month at a time. Interested in reserving a month? Contact Library Director Sarah Ward at sward@sailsinc.org or call (508) 528-3380.



DPW

The Norfolk Department of Public Works announces the implementation of a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Education Program for the Town of Norfolk's public works employees. For many decades, municipalities and companies were able to train their employees in-house followed by a road test at the RMV, much like most people do when getting their personal driver's license for the first time, but all of that changed in February 2022.


In 2022, the federal government mandated that a rigorous in-depth CDL training curriculum be followed and taught by an approved and vetted training provider utilizing experienced drivers of equal or higher class of license to instruct. This new requirement has frequently pushed municipalities and employers towards utilizing driving schools, easily averaging a cost of more than \$5,000 to train each student. With very tight budgets and with less time than ever to send employees to school for a few weeks, the DPW has taken the next step and has been accepted by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) as a private training provider for the commercial driver training of our DPW employees, therefore, saving tens of thousands of taxpayer dollars in the years to come.

The required curriculum involves classroom, range (parking lot) and over the road instruction by instructors meeting the FMCSA requirements. Written testing is also required upon course completion with a passing grade of 80% or better prior to a student being eligible for CDL testing and licensing by the RMV.

Currently holding a CDL Class A license and with decades of CDL experience dating back to the 1980s, Norfolk Public Works Director Blair Crane has been approved as the program administrator with some staff as behind-the-wheel instructors yet to be determined. While the program gets underway this spring, the ultimate goal is to have seven additional CDL drivers licensed and prepared prior to next winter's weather. "It's been a long road to get to this point, no pun intended, but we are very pleased that we now have the ability to provide this training for our employees with minimal expense to the residents of Norfolk," Crane said.

Fire Station Building Committee

When driving through the center of Norfolk, it is easy to see that the new fire station is really beginning to take shape. The building structure has been erected and exterior walls are underway. Over the coming months the exterior walls will be painted, interior walls and finishes will be completed, electrical and HVAC utilities will be installed, and furniture will be selected and purchased. Once the new building is complete, the old fire station will be demolished, and the site work will be finished. As of the Fire Station Building Committee's meeting held in February, the project continues to be on schedule for completion of the new building in summer 2024 and completion of site work in fall 2024. The project is also on budget with only 16.6% of the construction contingency utilized (less than 1% of construction cost) even though the project is 47% complete.

To learn more about the project, join us at a regular Fire Station Building Committee meeting held at Town Hall on the second Wednesday of each month. To see construction photos and videos posted on the Town's website  [CLICK HERE](#)

Council on Aging

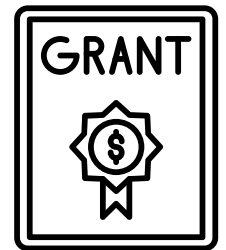
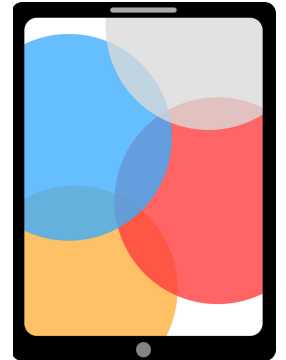
Council on Aging Receives Digital Literacy Grant

The Norfolk Council on Aging applied for an Enhancing Digital Literacy for Older Adults grant in May 2023 and received confirmation last fall that they were one of 24 awardees.

The grant comes from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA). The purpose of this grant is to allow Councils on Aging (COAs) to purchase devices, software, or broadband for older adults and provide training and support for older adults to enhance digital literacy. The Norfolk COA has been awarded \$61,070 to implement a new program which will help achieve this goal. We have purchased 6 desktop computers that are available for use by the public during Senior Center operating hours, and 12 Apple iPads for use here at the Center as well.

We will be adding more classes to help people learn how to use the computers and iPads and will also be scheduling instructors who can help older adults learn how to access the internet and make use of it to access services including email, telehealth, ordering products, using social media, grocery shopping, etc.

We would like to thank our Director of Technology, Thanh Tran, who was integral in the development of the grant application and the ordering and preparation for use of our new devices.



Job Opportunity

The Council on Aging/Senior Center is hiring a part-time bus driver. This non-benefited position is 5-16 hours per month and is responsible for providing transportation for Norfolk's seniors and disabled residents to and from appointed destinations. Mass Class D (passenger vehicle) and Mass Class B (CDL) licenses are required. To read the full job posting and learn about other job opportunities

JOIN OUR

TEAM

[CLICK HERE](#)

We Want to Hear From You!

The intent of this newsletter is to make it a regular news source published quarterly throughout the calendar year. The next issue will be released in late summer. We want this newsletter to be valuable to you, so we encourage you to offer your feedback and suggestions on what you would like to see in future issues by sending an email to Assistant Town Administrator Kate O'Brien at kmobrien@norfolkma.us.



Town Hill Reservations

Did you know Norfolk residents, businesses, and governmental agencies can request the use of Town Hill for events, gatherings, weddings, and more. As Town Hill is the responsibility of the Norfolk Select Board, they must vote and approve the use of Town Hill in an open meeting. The Select Board typically meets on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. For more information on the process

[CLICK HERE](#)

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS



The Town of Norfolk Needs You!

Why volunteer?

- Learn about your community
- Watch your ideas get implemented
- Add to your resume



OPEN POSITIONS:

- CONSERVATION COMMISSION
- DESIGN REVIEW BOARD
- ENERGY COMMITTEE
- HISTORICAL COMMISSION
- NORFOLK CULTURAL COUNCIL
- AND MORE!



CLICK HERE



For an application go to www.norfolk.ma.us under Human Resources or



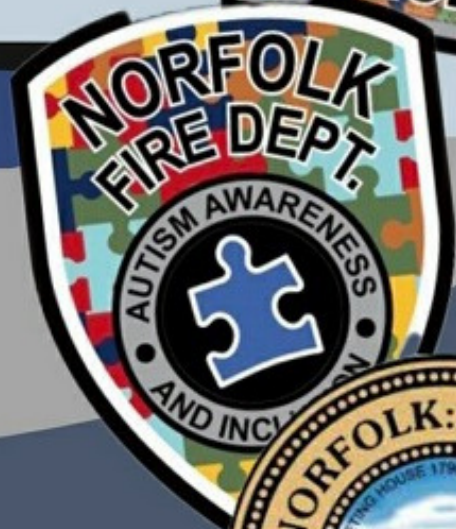
CLICK HERE

or contact the Town Administrator's office at 508-440-2855



1st Annual

5K RUN



To Support autism awareness & programs

SUNDAY

APRIL 28TH

Freeman Kennedy
70 Boardman Street
Norfolk, MA



For questions relating to event,
email:
kappel@norfolk.ma.us

REGISTRATION FOR 5K **\$50**
INCLUDES AN EVENT SHIRT AND BIB
REGISTRATION FOR KIDS **\$15**
INCLUDES AN EVENT SHIRT TO
DECORATE!