

# TOWN HILL NEWS

Norfolk's Quarterly Municipal Newsletter

VOLUME 1  
FALL 2023



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



## Welcome to the First Edition of Norfolk's *Town Hill News* Electronic Newsletter!

The Town is always looking for new ways to share information and connect with the community. The hope is this publication will give residents, business owners, and visitors access to all that is happening in our bustling small town, delivered right to their email inbox.

The goal of this newsletter is to provide a convenient way for residents to obtain important Town and election news, project updates, and program information. This newsletter is best used as an access point to gain more in-depth information to the resources on the Town's website through easily clickable links. It will provide a guide to the who, what, where, when, and why of the important decisions made everyday in Town Hall at board and committee meetings, at Town Meetings, and at the ballot box throughout the year.

The intent is to make this a regular news source published quarterly throughout the calendar year. The next issue will be released January 3, 2024. We want this newsletter to be valuable to you, so we encourage you to offer your feedback on this edition and suggestions on what you would like to see in future issues by sending an email to Assistant Town Administrator [kmobrien@norfolkma.us](mailto:kmobrien@norfolkma.us).

VISIT US AT [NORFOLK.MA.US](http://NORFOLK.MA.US)



## Special Town Meeting Is Scheduled for Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at 7 PM at King Philip Middle School, 18 King Street

Town Meeting is often referred to as being the purest form of democratic governing and is practiced right here in the Town of Norfolk. The Town usually holds two meetings a year, an Annual Town Meeting, typically held on the second Tuesday in May, and a Special Town Meeting held in November.

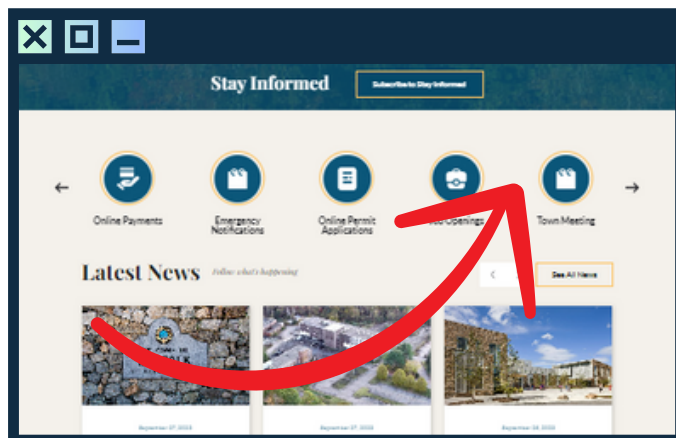
Town Meetings have been in use for over 300 years and are an important way for taxpayers in Massachusetts to voice their opinions and directly affect change in their community. While Town Meetings in Massachusetts vary by form of government and size, the one constant theme is the responsibility of taxpayers to make their voices heard to decide the right course of governing for their community.

### Norfolk's Town Meeting Webpage

Whether you are a seasoned Town Meeting participant or you are thinking of attending for the first time, please keep checking the Town's website on the Town Meeting page for various 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.



[CLICK HERE](#)



### Community Choice Power Supply Program Aggregation Plan

The Town of Norfolk developed the aggregation plan in compliance with Massachusetts law regarding public aggregation of electric consumers. It contains required information on the structure, operations, services, funding, and policies of the Town's plan. The plan has been developed in consultation with the Town's municipal aggregation consultant, Colonial Power Group, Inc. (CPG), and the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER).

The purpose of this plan is to represent consumer interests in competitive markets for electricity. It seeks to aggregate consumers in the Town to negotiate rates for power supply. It brings together the buying power of more than 11,600 consumers. Furthermore, the Town seeks to take greater control of its energy options, including enhancing the ability to pursue price stability, savings opportunities, and the amount of renewable energy procured. However, savings cannot be guaranteed. Participation is voluntary for each consumer. Consumers have the opportunity to decline service provided through the plan and to choose any competitive supplier they wish. The Town has distributed this plan for public review prior to submitting it to the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU).

To read the Town of Norfolk's Aggregation Plan



[CLICK HERE](#)

**The public review and comment period is open from Friday, September 22, 2023, at 8 AM through Monday, October 23, 2023, at 5 PM.**




**VOTE**

### Tri-County Regional Vote - October 24

Norfolk and 10 other local towns that are part of the Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School district will be voting on a debt exclusion Special Election on **October 24**. The vote is for construction of a new building. The cost assessment to each town is based on the number of students from their town attending Tri-County. Hours for the vote will be **12 PM to 8 PM** and will be the same in all towns. There will be no early voting or early vote by mail for this election. Absentee voting will still be available. You can vote by absentee ballot if:

- You will be away from your city or town on Election Day.
- You have a religious belief that prevents you from voting at your polling location on Election Day.
- You have a disability that prevents you from voting at your polling location.

The towns that make up the district are: Franklin, Medfield, Medway, Millis, Norfolk, North Attleboro, Plainville, Seekonk, Sherborn, Walpole, and Wrentham. For more information about the project, existing conditions, budget, and assumed impact on taxpayers  **CLICK HERE**

### Land Use

**Southwood Hospital**

**COMPLETED:**

- ✓ RESEARCH
- ✓ ENVIROMENTAL ANALYSIS
- ✓ FORUMS
- ✓ SURVEYS

**NEXT UP:**

PRESENT & DISCUSS  
BEST VIABLE  
DEVELOPMENT SCENARIOS

**WE NEED YOU!**

MIXED-USE HOUSING

RESIDENTIAL

55+ HOUSING

COMMERICAL

**OCTOBER 10  
7 PM  
Town Hall  
Rm 124  
and  
Virtual**

**JOIN VIRTUALLY:**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84474046211>  
Zoom Meeting Call-In: 1-929-205-6099 (Meeting ID 844 7404 6211)

### Southwood Hospital Redevelopment Scenarios Public Workshop October 10

On October 10, 2023, at 7 PM in Town Hall Room 124, the Planning Board is hosting a community workshop to discuss redevelopment scenarios for the former Southwood Hospital site.

The meeting will be held in person, but people can attend via the Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84474046211> or the Zoom Meeting Call-In: 1-929-205-6099 (Meeting ID 844 7404 6211).

Southwood Hospital closed in 2003 and was sold in February 2021 to a private developer who wants to redevelop the property. The site has abandoned buildings with contamination from its former use as a cancer hospital. The goal is to find redevelopment options that work for the town, the neighborhood, and the developer.

 **CLICK HERE** for all the Town's Southwood Hospital project resources.

**What's *your* vision for Norfolk?**

**Norfolk's Master Plan Launches Now!**  
The Town wants to hear from you. *Norfolk Master Plan 2035* will help shape the look and feel of Norfolk over the next 10 years. The plan's vision, values, and goals should reflect Norfolk residents, so your input is crucial!

**Get Involved!**

**Sign up for updates:**  
[mapc.ma/norfolkupdates](http://mapc.ma/norfolkupdates)

Keep up to date with the Norfolk Master Plan by joining our listserv. We'll share updates throughout the process and let you know when there are engagement opportunities to provide your input!

**What is a master plan?**  
A master plan provides a roadmap for a Town's future planning and development decisions, as well as how Town resources should be invested into services, facilities, and infrastructure. The master plan will guide decision-making in Norfolk for the next decade.

**How can I learn more?**  
Visit our website at [mapc.ma/norfolk2035](http://mapc.ma/norfolk2035) to learn more about the process and how to get involved.

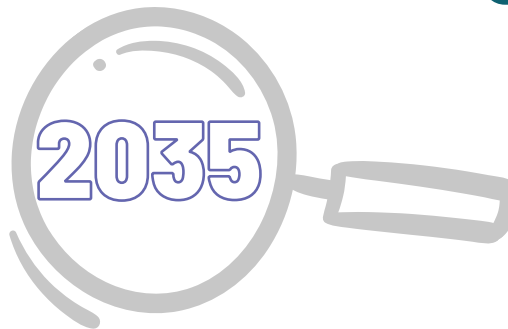
**NORFOLK**  
Master Plan 2035

## Norfolk's Master Plan

Did you know the Town is in the midst of conducting a master plan?

Earlier this year, the Master Plan Committee sponsored an online survey to get residents' input on their vision for Norfolk. Over 1,000 citizens engaged in the survey process which is a great response for a town of Norfolk's size. The master plan is being developed by the Master Plan Steering Committee. For more information, sign up for updates, or watch the meetings, please go to Norfolk's Master Plan 2035 website. ➡

**CLICK HERE**



- Parks & Playing Fields
- Sidewalks
- Starter Homes
- More Social Services
- Senior Housing
- Tax Relief

## Housing Choice

What is Housing Choice? An MBTA community shall have a zoning ordinance or bylaw that provides for at least one district of reasonable size in which multi-family housing is permitted as of right provided, however, that such multi-family housing shall be without age restrictions and shall be suitable for families with children. For the purposes of this section, a district of reasonable size shall: (i) have a minimum gross density of 15 units per acre, subject to any further limitations imposed by section 40 of chapter 131 and title 5 of the state environmental code established pursuant to section 13 of chapter 21A; and (ii) be located not more than 0.5 miles from a commuter rail station, subway station, ferry terminal, or bus station, if applicable.

The Town of Norfolk submitted an action plan in January 2023 outlining the steps the town will take to comply with the new statute by December 31, 2024. The Planning Board discussed with the consultant at their May 9, 2023, and August 8, 2023, meetings how to comply with the new statute. View past meetings on Norfolk Community TV at <https://norfolkcable.com/watch-on-demand>. The Planning Board will be working on the new zoning bylaws for the 2024 Annual Town Meeting.

## Metacomet Greenway Update

The purpose of the Metacomet Greenway is to provide a safe, efficient, and continuous facility that encourages non-motorized multi-modal transportation and passive recreation along the original transportation route of the former Old Colony Rail between Cumberland, RI, and Walpole, MA. Within the limits of the town, the proposed shared-use path will provide an attractive transportation and recreation facility appropriate for a wide range of ages and abilities. When considered in the context of the larger 17-mile corridor, the facility will provide users from the Norfolk community with a non-motorized alternative to making meaningful connections to attractions along the Route 1/1A corridor. The Community Preservation Committee is being asked to fund 20 percent of the design costs for phase 1 of the Metacomet Greenway which connects Wrentham, Walpole, and Norfolk. The state will provide an 80 percent match of the design cost. More information can be found on the Metacomet Greenway website. ➡

**CLICK HERE**

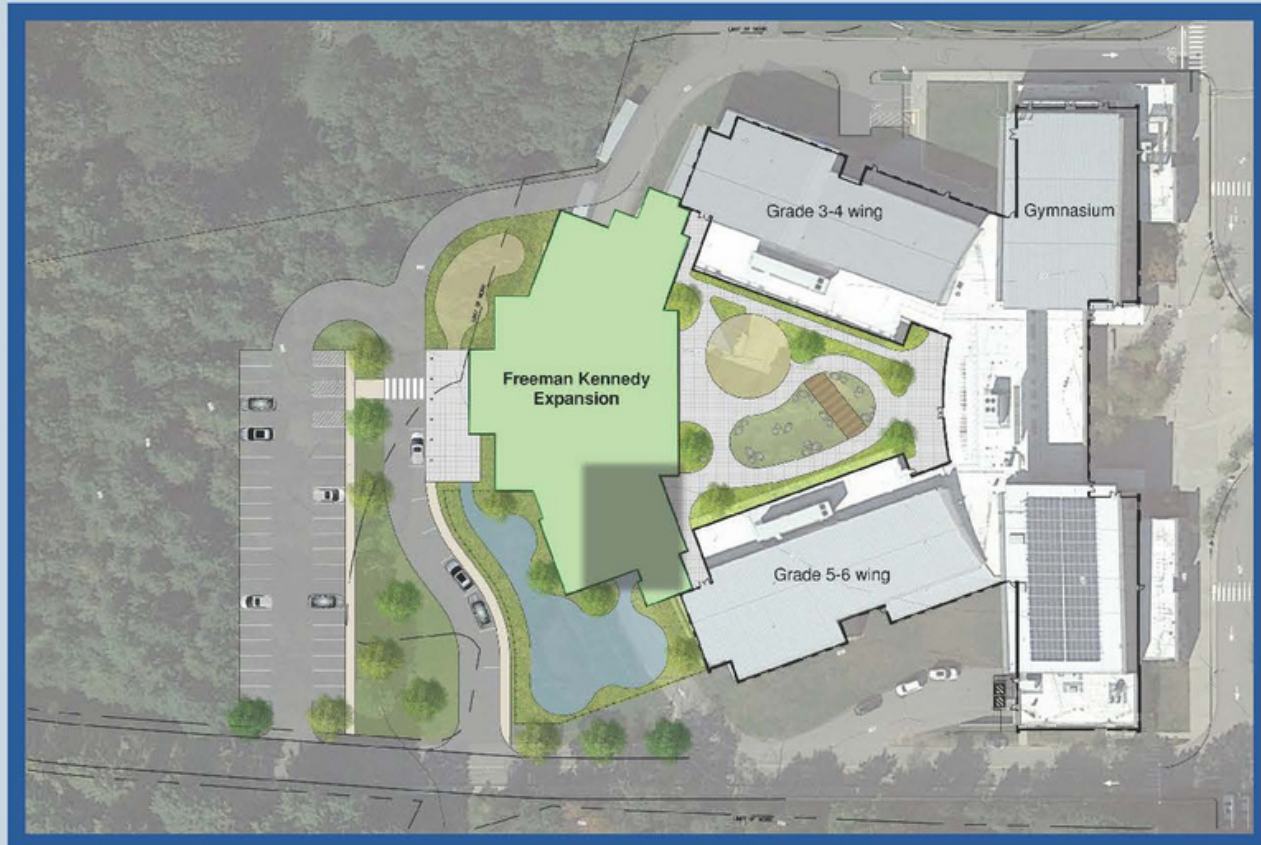
# Please join the COMMUNITY PUBLIC FORUM #3

## Freeman Kennedy School Expansion Project

Tuesday, October 17, 2023 • 7:00PM

Norfolk Public Library

2 Liberty Lane



### LEARN ABOUT...

- Project history and timeline
- Projected student enrollment
- Facility education analysis
- Expansion floor plans
- Expansion site and circulation plan

### QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

*All questions and comments are welcome at the conclusion of the presentation*

# Norfolk Public Schools

VISIT US AT [NORFOLK.MA.US](http://NORFOLK.MA.US)

## Library

The Norfolk Public Library offers a wide range of programming for all ages. Enjoy a weekend [family concert and dance party with Elijah T. Grasshopper](#), try a [3D Crafting Workshop](#), get ready to watch the Eras Tour movie with an [Eras Tour Bracelet Party](#), read Dracula and then come to [Watch the Book](#) and watch Renfield, get creeped out with some [Spooky Bones & Creepy Crawlies](#), test your knowledge at [Horror Trivia](#), try some STEM at [Hands on Building](#), check out [Coastal Mountain Railroad's](#) train exhibit, and enjoy a [Winter Show with Toe Jam](#), and more! The library offers regular storytimes, book groups, craft programs, 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? Sign up for our monthly newsletter and be the first to know about upcoming programs.



[CLICK HERE](#)

### 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 a month at a time. Interested in reserving a month? Contact Library Director Sarah Ward at [sward@sailsinc.org](mailto:sward@sailsinc.org) or call (508) 528-3380.

### Going to See the Eras Tour Movie?

Stop by and make some friendship bracelets to trade at the theater on Wednesday, October 11, from 4-5:30 PM, in the Community Room.



## Building

### New Solar, New Roof?

There has been a tremendous rise in solar projects in town, and we would like residents to be informed as there are many different solar companies trying to sell their services. Information they may not share with you is that, depending on the age of your roof, you may need a roof replacement at some point during the life of your solar panels. This means the panels would need to be removed, then put back once the roof is replaced. This process is why we encourage homeowners to replace their roofs prior to solar installations. For your protection, we have made an affidavit requirement in all solar permit applications to make sure homeowners are reminded to consider the age of their roofs prior to signing with a solar company. Please reach out to the Building Department with any questions by calling (508)528-5088.

## Police

The Norfolk Police Department was pleased to participate in the Hockomock YMCA backpack drive once again this year. Officer Appel, Officer Mazzola, and Officer Mitch set up at the Norfolk Public Library for a Fill-A-Cruiser event, and we were thrilled by the outpouring of support from the community. Residents came out in droves donating backpacks and school supplies for local children in need.



The Norfolk Police Department is excited to announce their participation in the national Faith & Blue weekend, in partnership with the Norfolk Federated Church and St. Jude Catholic Church. A benefit concert will be held on October 14, 2023, for local teens, spotlighting local bands, and raising money for suicide awareness. Please save the date!

For more information and a short video about the Faith & Blue Weekend.



[CLICK HERE](#)

## Fire

### Fire Station Building Committee

If you have driven through the center of town over the last few months, you have surely noticed that construction of the new fire station is well underway! Recently, the Fire Station Building Committee attended a tour of the project site. The tour was hosted by the Town's owner's project manager Vertex, represented by Steve Kirby, and the project architect Dore & Whittier, represented by Ron Lamarre.

We are pleased to report that the project is currently on schedule and on budget. Work completed to date includes demolition of some ancillary buildings/structures, site preparation, rock removal, utility installation, foundation construction, and steel erection. Over the next couple of months, the exterior walls of the building will start going up, and it will really start taking shape! Needless to say, the fire department and the committee are thrilled with the project and looking forward to the new building being occupied before the end of 2024.

To learn more about the project, go to the Town website which is updated periodically with construction photos and videos, agendas, and minute meetings.



[CLICK HERE](#)


Or better yet, join us at a regular Fire Station Building Committee meeting held at Town Hall on the second Wednesday of each month.

-Kevin Champagne

Fire Station Building Committee Chair

## Council on Aging

### Norfolk Senior Center Reopening Event


The Norfolk Senior Center held a Grand Reopening event on Saturday, September 23. Approximately 75 people attended and were able to view the building's new interior and enjoy the activities. Both the Knitting/Crocheting group and the Diamond Art group had tables displaying their work for visitors to see. A new watercolor class will be starting in November, and the instructor provided a display of painting examples from other senior centers. Another table provided program and trip information and outreach resources. The reopening event also featured a scavenger hunt and a free raffle of three beautiful flower arrangements donated by the Norfolk Garden Club. Refreshments were available for all. We are grateful for the support received from Shaws, Big Y, and Norfolk Dunkin' Donuts as well as our Friends organization. We are also grateful for Andrew Barker from Norfolk Community Television for putting together a YouTube video showing a sampling of what Norfolk's Senior Center has to offer. To view the video  [CLICK HERE](#)

We welcome everyone to visit the Senior Center at 28 Medway Branch for a tour and to try some of the great fitness and arts programs. The Senior Center is open Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 4 PM. Please call the Senior Center at (508) 528-4430 if you have any questions or would like more information.



**COMING SOON**

### Scholarship Opportunities for College Juniors and Seniors Majoring in History

The Norfolk Historical Commission is pleased to announce the NHC History Scholarship in memory of Barbara Bartholomew. Barbara was a life-long resident of Norfolk, taught high school history for many years, and was a member of the Norfolk Historical Commission during her retirement. Barbara left a trust fund to the Town of Norfolk for educational purposes with a portion of the funds to be awarded to a college junior or senior majoring in history or a related subject. Applicants must have been a resident of Norfolk while attending Norfolk schools. To obtain scholarship and application details which will be available from the Historical Commission  [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:

- PLANNING BOARD
- ADVISORY COMMITTEE
- ENERGY COMMITTEE
- FIRE STATION BUILDING COMMITTEE
- NORFOLK CULTURAL COUNCIL
-  [CLICK HERE](#) FOR MORE!



For an application go to

[www.norfolk.ma.us](http://www.norfolk.ma.us)

under Human Resources or

 [CLICK HERE](#)

or contact the Town Administrator's office at 508-440-2868



# STAY INFORMED STAY CONNECTED



[SIGN UP NOW!](#)



Special Town Meeting is November 14!

What's going on with the Southwood Hospital ?

### Sign up for alerts

- Public meetings
- Newsletter
- Job opportunities
- Town Meeting
- Transfer Station updates

Register online for Recreation's summer programs

Did you know you can pay your taxes online?

## [norfolk.ma.us/enotify](https://norfolk.ma.us/enotify)

