



TOWN OF AVON NEWSLETTER

Volume 26

December 2023

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	911
Police Department	508-583-6677
Fire Department	508-583-5361
Town Hall	508-588-0414
Accountant	1031
Assessors	1023
Board of Health	1016
Board of Selectmen	1019
Building Inspector	1022
DPW	1024
Planning Department	1017
Tax Collector	1012
Town Administrator	1020
Town Clerk	1013
Public Library	508-583-0378
Council on Aging	508-559-0060
School Department	508-588-0230
Housing Authority	508-588-1847

TOWN WEBSITE

www.avon-ma.gov

TOWN HALL HOURS

Mon. – Wed. 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Friday 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

TOWN HALL CLOSED:

Monday, December 25, 2023
Tuesday, December 26, 2023



SPECIAL TOWN MEETING RECAP

The Special Town Meeting was on Saturday November 18th, 2023. The Moderator, Frank Staffier called the Special Town Meeting on Saturday, November 18th to order at 10:00 AM. Eight-six registered voters were checked in. Interim Fire Chief Kevin Partridge lead the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance. Congressman Stephen Lynch recognized and thanked Moderator Staffier for his 30 years of service and dedication to the Town of Avon. All eight articles passed; minutes form the meeting can be found on the town website.



COMPOST SITE WINTER HOURS

STARTING SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23RD
THE COMPOST SITE WILL BE OPEN
SATURDAYS 9:00AM – 2:00PM



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EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARDS

On Friday November 17, 2023, the Board of Selectmen hosted the annual Employee Appreciation and Recognition Luncheon. Employees who have reached milestone anniversaries, in five-year increments, were honored.

Nancy Dunay = 40 years
Michael Buccella = 25 years
Jane Carthas = 10 years
Michael Theil = 10 years
Anthony Famalore = 5 years
Julie Burns = 5 years
Matthew Lucio = 5 years
Jeffrey Donovan = 5 years
Donna Stanton = 5 years



TOUCH A TRUCK AT AVON NURSERY SCHOOL

In November, the Avon Nursery School held "Touch a Truck Day." This was a great opportunity to learn about the equipment firsthand, and to hear from our first responder about all of the great work they're doing.



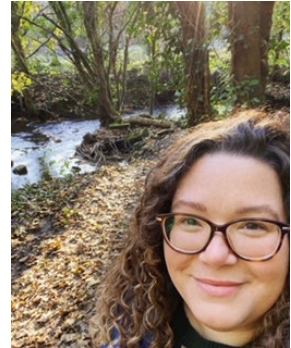
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STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Sharon Simon – Administrative Assistant Town Clerk/Board of Health

1. What inspired you to pursue the career you have today?

- a. I have a bachelor's degree in Communications from Salem State University and have held a wide range of administrative roles within different industries. Public Relations, Accounting, Manufacturing, Engineering, and Athletics. I have been looking into working in a municipality for a while and was able to make connections with Avon when I worked at the Randolph emergency Covid Clinic in 2021 for their Board of Health. I've been with Avon for over a year now, and I am fond of the town and its residents. Creating these newsletters for you all is a fun part of my job!



2. What is your favorite hobby?

- a. Besides reading, one of my favorite things to do is paint. Using acrylic, oil-based, or alcohol ink, I will watch YouTube tutorials, Bob Ross clips, or just create my own abstracts. While not all my creations are winners, it makes me happy just to create!

3. What is the last book you read?

- a. I am currently in the middle of reading a few books, that's normal for me, but the one I just finished is *Moorewood Family Rules* by HelenKay Dimon. It's Knives Out and Ocean's 8 meets The Nest. I really enjoyed it. So far, I have completed 68 out of 75 books for the year on my Goodreads list.



4. What is your favorite dish to make/eat?

- a. I make a mean red sauce! I don't eat red meat anymore, so I sub in chicken and turkey for meatballs. My favorite thing to get for takeout is chicken/shrimp Pad Thai with a Thai tea. The spice level depends on the restaurant I get it from, but a little heat is always a plus.

5. What is the best/last concert you've been to?

- a. The best and last concert I've been to was the Boston Symphony Orchestra. They performed the score to Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone while the movie played behind them. It was unlike anything I have seen before. If you're a fan of Harry Potter, it is something you should experience. Keith Lockhart is a legend.



6. What is the next place on your bucket list?

- a. The top of my list was Scotland, but I was just there a few weeks ago! Outlander tours, hiking Old Man of Storr, staying in a castle, the whiskey... It was incredible. I'll have to start looking for my next vacation. Maybe a beach somewhere with good scuba diving. I'll just have to learn to scuba dive first!



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WINTER SAFETY TIPS FROM DPW

•**Patience, please** – During a snowstorm, a team of 8 DPW workers and up to 6 contractors are out working. Plowing arterial roads, roads that connect to high-traffic areas, Emergency response units, public safety facilities, schools, and town buildings is Public Works' top priority, so please be patient when waiting for roads to be clear.

•**A passable road does not mean a completely clear road** – Remember, in the initial stages and during a snowstorm, crews work hard to make roads passable, not completely clear. Always drive for conditions (monitor speed, leave earlier than normal and leave extra space — at least 250 feet — between yourself and plow trucks.)

•**Monitor weather conditions. If you don't have to go out, Don't** – Of the many factors people should evaluate before heading out into snowy weather, the impact of wind on visibility should be considered. High winds along with snow accumulation affect a vehicle's ability to move through the snow as well as visibility, and people must take into consideration these factors before making the choice to go out in the snow.

PROTECT YOUR HOME AND PIPES

Pipes and utility meters can freeze when the temperature remains below 25 degrees for extended periods of time. The following tips will help protect water lines during periods of cold weather.

- Wrap exposed faucets and pipes, including those outside the house or in unheated crawl spaces, attics, garages, and other areas. Be extra alert if you have had frozen pipes in the past.
- Let a thin stream of cold water run from a basement faucet, or allow faucets to slightly drip in Kitchen, etc. The stream or drip should be a continuous flow, no more than the size of lead in a pencil. This water can be caught in a bucket and used later.
- Open cabinets below sinks to allow the heat to circulate around the water pipes.
- If your interior pipe is frozen, warm it with hot air from a blow dryer or heat gun where it enters your house.
- Be sure you know the location of the water shutoff valve in your home. Check and maintain it periodically to ensure it works properly.
- Cover any vents around your home's foundation.
- Be sure to shut off water to outside faucets.
- Monitor your sump pump. A frozen drainpipe could result in a flooded basement.
- Invest in a snow shovel and/or a snowblower and use it to keep driveways and pathways clear for emergencies.
- Make sure storm drains remain clear of debris and are not blocked by cars, garbage cans, or accumulated snow.

PROTECT PEOPLE

Keep warm and stay inside, if possible, when temperatures see extreme lows. If you need to go out, dress in layers and wear hats, gloves, and an appropriate coat and shoes.

- If driving, be sure you have traction devices, your smart phone, some drinking water and non-perishable snacks in case you get stuck and must wait for help.
- Avoid overexertion, as cold weather puts added strain on your body.
- Observe heater safety: never place a space heater on top of furniture or near water; keep heat sources at least three feet away from furniture and curtains.
- Never leave children unattended near a space heater.
- Protect yourself from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning by installing a battery-operated CO detector and never using generators, grills, camp stoves, or similar devices indoors.

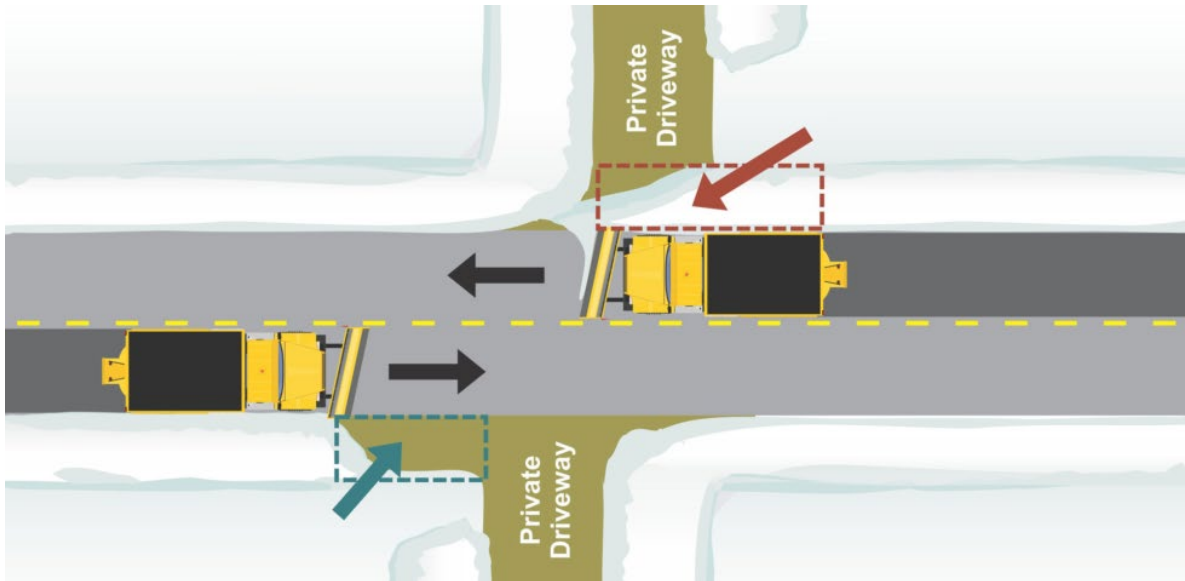
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SNOWPLOW SAFETY

The Town of Avon prioritizes plowing and road treatment on the highest-use streets that accommodate the most drivers, major employment areas, schools, and transit routes. We ask the community to drive cautiously, safely and do not follow closely behind nor pass the snowplows.

SNOWBANKS

- Minimize potential for snowbanks in front of your driveway. To do so, clear a wide apron in front and to the right of your driveway or walkway (when facing your property from the street). This allows snow that the plow has accumulated to drop off before it reaches your driveway.



Do not let children play in snowbanks near roads!

- Encourage children to play and build their “snow forts” in the back/front yard or on private property and NOT in the right-of-way snow/ice banks. Plows cannot always see children!

PARKING SAFETY

- Whenever possible, park your vehicle in a safe location and off the street during snowstorms. Street parking impedes snowplows and makes roadways narrower, sometimes impassable for emergency vehicles.
- If your vehicle is buried in the right-of-way and cannot be moved, please make every attempt to periodically clear off built up snow. Pile snow away from the right-of-way and as far back from storm drains. Plows cannot always judge a vehicle vs. a large snowbank. Please do your part in removing vehicles that may be in the way of the plows.
- Please remove outdoor basketball hoops, hockey nets, etc. from roadways before a snowstorm.

Last, but not least, PLEASE Stay Safe and Have fun!

The Friends of the Avon Public Library need your support!

Who are the Friends of the Avon Public Library?

The Friends of the Avon Public Library is a non-profit volunteer organization that raises funds to support the library's mission, particularly through their sponsorship of various library programs such as the Summer Reading Program and services such as the library's museum pass program.

The Friends are always seeking volunteers to help maintain their support of the library. They host regular meetings to discuss activities and fundraising opportunities. New members are always welcome at Friends meetings, which can be found on the library's events calendar at avonpubliclibrary.org

If you would like to support the Friends without volunteering, you can become a member with a monetary donation. If you would like to join or renew your membership please include your personal information and select the level of support below.

Name:

Address:

Email:

Student \$5

Family \$25

Individual \$10

Business \$50

Please make checks payable to: Friends of the Avon Public Library

Please mail to or drop off at:

Avon Public Library c/o Friends of the Avon Public Library
280 West Main Street
Avon, MA 02322

Meet the Friends!
Join the Friends on Friday, Dec 8th
as they prepare crafts for the
library's Holiday Party and learn
what the Friends of the APL
are all about!



Avon Civic Association
Holiday Celebration

Saturday, Dec. 2 12-4:00
DeMarco Park

**Baptist Church ~ Homemade Soups,
Fire Pit for toasting, Train Rides**

**Visit St. Michael's - popcorn, cotton candy,
handmade items & more**

Blanchard's Tavern - Santa, facepainting & craft
**Don't miss the Holiday Victorian Carolers at the
park and Mrs. Clause & Elf**

**Warming tent - pizza, pretzels ,raffle baskets,
hot cocoa, Sue's Cookie Corner**

Lighting of DeMarco Park 4:00
Rain Date Sunday Dec 3, 2023

visit avoncivic.org

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A MESSAGE FROM THE SELECT BOARD

Happy holidays to all,

November was a busy month for the town. We welcomed Chief Kevin Partridge as the interim fire chief while we conduct a search for a new permanent chief. Chief Partridge has hit the ground running and is doing a great job. We are very happy to have him here assisting our great town at this time.

We also had a very successful tax classification hearing attended by some town residents and business owners and had a great conversation during this meeting. I encourage everyone to watch this meeting on local cable.

The town meeting held this month was also a great success and I want to thank all involved in this process. I especially want to thank our Moderator, Frank Staffier. As many know, Frank has decided not to run for another term and has done an amazing job over the years for the town. Frank has not only been the Moderator for many years but has represented Avon on the Old Colony Planning Council with honor and distinction in fighting for the town for attention from the state on projects important to us all. If you see Mr. Staffier, thank him for all his years of service to our great town. Frank is a true asset to the town and will be missed.

In closing, Avon is a very strong community and I thank everyone for their participation in all aspects. From the great community members, we have on various boards and committees to our elected officials who work hard on a daily basis to ensure Avon is the best we can be.

Thank you all for being a great town and I wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season.

With all good wishes,
Eric Beckerman
Chairman, Board of Selectmen

