



TOWN OF AVON NEWSLETTER

Volume 27

January 2024

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, January 1, 2024
Monday, January 15, 2024



TOWN CENSUS

2024 Annual Street Listing/Census information is being mailed out to all residents. Update the information provided by adding, deleting, or making changes. Please sign and return, even if no changes are necessary. Census can be returned by mail, in person or in the drop box in the town hall parking lot. If you have any questions call the Town Clerk's Office at 508-588-0414 or email pbessette@avon-ma.gov.

Census



DOG LICENSE

Three ways to license your dog:

1. In person at the Town Clerk's office.
2. Mail – Mail in the Dog license renewal that was included with your 2024 Annual Street Listing/Census. Renewal forms can also be found at www.avon-ma.gov.

3. Process your dog license online www.avon-ma.gov.

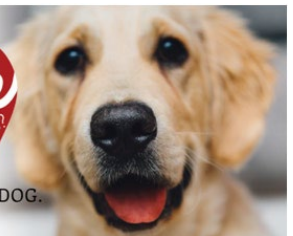
Save time- tags and license will be mailed to you! Online registration is available for dogs that have a current rabies certificate on file. There is a small processing fee for this online service.

Dog Licensing Fee is \$10 for neutered or spayed dogs, \$15 for male or female dogs. If you no longer have a dog, please contact the Town Clerk's office so that we can update our files, 508-588-0414.

All dogs must be licensed by **May 31st** each year or be subject to a fine of \$25.



LICENSE YOUR DOG.



TOWN OF AVON NEWS

HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

Avon celebrated the holidays in many ways. The Avon Civic Association held their Holiday Festival with cookies, Santa, ice sculptures, and more. The library celebrated their annual holiday party with Mark Binder who performed an interactive presentation with songs and told tales about holiday celebrations all over the world. The staff at town hall celebrated with a door decorating contest judged by the COA. The winner's theme was an advent calendar, well done Shana!



CAREER ACHIEVEMENTS

In December Patricia Besette, Town Clerk, earned the MMC (Master Municipal Clerk) certification. "The MMC program is the second and most advanced of the two professional designations granted by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. The MMC program is an advanced continuing education program. The program has an extensive and rigorous educational component and a professional contribution component. The MMC applicant must demonstrate that they have actively pursued education and professional activities."



A pinning ceremony was held on December 21, 2023 for firefighter Matthew Lucio. Promoted to Captain, he was accompanied by his wife Megan and their daughter Merida. Captain Lucio has been a member of the Avon Fire Department for over 6 years. He will serve as the Incident Commander for fire and other incidents as necessary.



TOWN OF AVON NEWS

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Kevin Partridge – Interim Fire Chief



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

- a. Ever since I was young, I had an interest in being a Fire Fighter. When I met a FF in my neighborhood, he got me interested even more so. I signed up to become a Volunteer FF on the Swansea Fire Dept. before I was old enough and as soon as I turned 18 and was eligible, I was voted in Swansea FD Company 4. I became an EMT a short time later. I have been a FF and EMT ever since and love it.

2. What is your favorite hobby?

- a. Golfing and Bowling have been my main hobbies. Now I like Cruising, I guess that can be the new hobby!

3. What is the last book you read?

- a. The last book I read was World War II Battlefields. I am a WW II history fan and went to France and Germany in 2019 on a Band of Brothers WWII tour, and the book talks about those battles. A lot of them are the ones I visited, including the highlight of visiting the Eagles Nest in Berchtesgaden, Germany. It was even more special that I did it with my son.

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

- a. Easy, Prime Rib! I love to make prime rib on the grill.

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

- a. I believe it was the Trans-Siberian Orchestra. TSO is a Symphonic rock group that has blended heavy metal bombast, classical music composition, and pyro-and-lasers theatrics into their music and live shows.



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

- a. I have several trips in the queue. Washinton DC, Cruise to the Caribbean, and a Cruise to Ireland. The top of my bucket list is Ireland and Italy. I especially want to visit the Vatican.



TOWN OF AVON NEWS

TOWN PLANNER ENLISTED

In November, the Town hired a full-time Town Planner, Rick Jordan. He brings many years of experience in the U.S. Department of Transportation as well as master's degrees in public administration and computer science. As an in-house consultant at the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center in Cambridge, Rick worked on projects for a variety of federal agencies including FAA, Coast Guard, Pipeline Safety, and the Air Force. He also worked at the Cape Cod Planning Commission, providing technical assistance to the 15 towns of Cape Cod. He was on the Avon Town Finance committee for 3 budget years.



His work for Avon involves municipal planning, zoning bylaws, and grant funding/applications. Current projects include the master planning process, potential grant applications, and recent development proposals before the Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Board. Rick is interested in engaging with community organizations on potential grant applications. Also, if you have inputs on priorities for the Town over the next few years, including priorities for open space, recreation, or anything involving our forthcoming master plan for Avon, please contact Rick at rjordan@avon-ma.gov.

SEEKING CITIZEN JOURNALISTS FOR AVON

The Town would like to encourage residents to help with communications about Avon. With no newspaper and busy lives, we could benefit from more information on the happenings involving Avon. If you would like to be a 'citizen journalist' for Avon, Town Hall can help with picking topics and final editing. Our goals are to inform, foster community engagement, and work to keep Town priorities aligned with the needs of Townspeople.

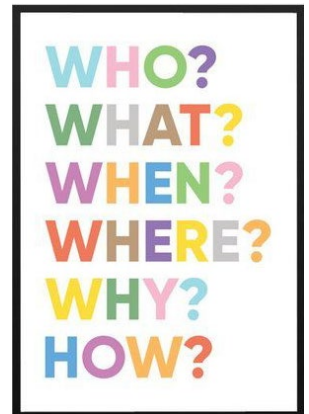
As a citizen journalist, you would:

Work with our Town Planner to pick a topic.

- Gather information on your topic and any images or photos – research.
- Write your article.
- Review it for final editing with Rick Jordan, Town Planner, who would then submit it for the Town Newsletter and/or Town website.

Some possible topics include:

- Article on Tucker House being added to a register of historic places.
- Articles on developments or changes at the Industrial Park
- "A walkthrough of the Avon Industrial Park" – a description of what's in the park
- An Interview with a Conservation Commission member on recent activities
- Interviews with Planning Board and/or Zoning Board of Appeals
- Summary of annual meeting of DW Field park Assn
- Articles on specific volunteer needs
- Why is stormwater mgt important for our town drinking water? How do we control and "treat" stormwater?
- Where are our town's water wells and water towers? How old are they? What's next for them?



To become a citizen journalist, please contact Rick Jordan, Town Planner, at 774-480-1682 or via email at rjordan@avon-ma.gov.

TOWN OF AVON NEWS

WINTER ANNOUNCEMENTS

For the safety of all residents, it is requested that residents abide by the following rules during the winter months.

- The Winter Parking Ban is in effect from November 2023 through April 15, 2024. No overnight parking on the street is allowed.
- Please remove all items such as basketball hoops, hockey nets and other items from the street during the winter months. The Town is not responsible for damaged items.
- Snowplow removal into the streets is strictly prohibited.
- Please do not place sump pump hoses into the street. Removal of water into the street is not allowed as it creates icy roads.

WINTER PARKING BAN * WINTER PARKING BAN * WINTER PARKING BAN * WINTER PARKING BAN * WINTER PARKING BAN



Winter Parking Ban in Effect

Through April 15, 2024

Remove all basketball hoops from the street;
No parking of vehicles on public streets

- *Vehicles that interfere with removing of ice and snow from any public way of the town are subject to a fine and the vehicle will be towed at the owner's expense.
- *No sump pump hoses/removal of water into the street.
- *No snow plow removal into the street.

WINTER PARKING BAN * WINTER PARKING BAN * WINTER PARKING BAN * WINTER PARKING BAN * WINTER PARKING BAN

COMPOST SITE WINTER HOURS

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



TOWN OF AVON NEWS

ANNUAL MEETING HELD FOR D.W. FIELDS PARK

Friends of D.W. Field Park had their annual meeting on Sunday, December 10th, at the Fuller Craft Museum. Patrick Quinn, President, introduced Karen Grey, President of Wildlands Trust, who gave a presentation on their work on the Parks. Wildlands Trust is completing a master plan for the middle section of the Park - between South Street and Oak Street. Once the master plan is available, there will be a public comment period. President Grey also described the recent collaborative effort between the Town of Avon and Wildlands Trust to acquire nearly 30 acres next to the park in the area south of South Street, near Katherine's Way. This item was approved at Avon's recent November Town Meeting. The next steps are to acquire the property and those are underway.

Patrick Quinn then gave a presentation on the finances and activities of the Park Association:

- Completed a habitat assessment and traffic study in 2022.
- Completed a community survey from October 2022 to March 2023 which had over 1400 responses.
- Students from a landscape architecture program at Conway School provided some design ideas for the Park.
- Organized another TowerFest in the Park in October 2023 and other events
- They are occasionally able to open the Tower to the public. There is a need for an analysis of the Tower for any repairs that may be needed.
- Completed a heat mapping of the park and a walking safety audit.
- The Park is on the national and state registries of historic places.
- The Park Association recently revised their website which is <https://dwfieldpark.info/>
- The one-hundred-year anniversary of the Park is coming in 2025.

Attendees nominated Karen Grey, CEO of Wildlands Trust, to join the Park Association's 6-member Board of Trustees. They have one vacancy remaining on the Board. If possible, there is interest in having a board member from Avon since the other members are from Brockton and nearby towns. If you are interested in joining the Board or just becoming a member of the Association, please contact them at <https://dwfieldpark.info/contact>.

AN ACT CHANGE: THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN TO A SELECT BOARD

At the Special Town Meeting of January 28, 2023, the voters passed Article #9 which would amend the General By-laws and Zoning Bylaws from Board of Selectmen to Select Board. On November 28, 2023, Governor Maura Healey signed the bill. At the Select Boards meeting on December 7th the board announced that going forward they would be known as the Select Board. The Town is currently working on updating the change in all its material.



LIBRARY NEWS – JANUARY 2024

LIBRARY HOURS:

Monday: 10 A.M. - 5 P.M.

Tuesday: 10 A.M. - 8 P.M.

Wednesday: 10 A.M. - 5 P.M.

Thursday: 10 A.M. - 8 P.M.

Friday: 10 A.M. - 3 P.M.

Saturday: 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.

Monday, January 1st:

CLOSED

Monday, January 15th:

CLOSED

ONLINE BOOK CLUBS

This year we are launching two online book clubs through Goodreads:

- *Mass Center for the Book 2024 Reading Challenge*
- *NovelList 2024 Reading Challenge*

Connect with us on Goodreads if you are participating in the challenges to see what others are reading! Visit us here:

[Goodreads.com/AvonPublicLibrary](https://www.goodreads.com/AvonPublicLibrary)

MUSEUM PASS

SPOTLIGHT: MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

This winter, be sure to visit the Museum of Science in Boston for a fun time at a low price! Our museum pass offers up to 4 guests at a 50% discount on tickets to the Museum's Exhibit Hall. To reserve your pass or for more information, visit AvonPublicLibrary.org, or give us a call at 508-583-0378.



AVON PUBLIC LIBRARY

THIS MONTH AT A GLANCE:

Happy New Year! We are excited to start off the year on the right foot - with awesome new books and fun programs! Check out below for some of our online resources and upcoming events. Interested in signing up? Visit AvonPublicLibrary.org, or give us a call at 508-583-0378.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

[VIRTUAL] Spark Joy Program

Thursday, January 18th at 6:30 P.M.

The Avon Public Library is excited to have Shannon for an inspiring presentation on what it means to lead a life that Sparks Joy®. You will learn the KonMari philosophy and guiding principles needed to tidy once and for all and leave feeling motivated to Spark Joy® in your home, office, and life! Join us in person or virtually on Zoom.

This program is for patrons aged 18 and up.

True Crime Book Group

Saturday, January 20th at 12 P.M.

Join us for our monthly True Crime Book Group! This month we will be reading *The Elissas* by Samantha Leach. Copies will be available at the front desk. For patrons aged 18 and up.



CONSUMER REPORTS

Making a big purchase this year? Check out our FREE online tool to help you find the best of the best when making a big purchase this year. Visit AvonPublicLibrary.org to get started.

ON THE SHELVES – NEW BOOKS

Adult



The Daughters of Block Island
Christa Carmen

Young Adult



Gwen & Art are Not in Love
Lex Croucher

Middle Grade



The Last Kids on Earth and the Monster Dimension
Max Brallier

TOWN OF AVON NEWS

“2024= **FOUR** ELECTION”



| Election | Election 7am-8pm |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Presidential Primary | March 5 th |
| Local Election | April 9 th |
| State Primary | Sept 3rd |
| Presidential/State Election | Nov 5 th |

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – MAY 7, 2024

VOTE BY MAIL FOR PRIMARY- On or around January 20th, all registered voters can expect to receive a Vote by Mail application postcard mailed to them directly from the Secretary of the Commonwealth's office. The postcard will allow you to choose a ballot for March's Presidential Primary, September's State Primary, November's Presidential Election, or all elections in 2024, which would include Avon's Annual Town Election.

NOMINATION PAPERS FOR LOCAL ELECTION

Nomination papers will be available for anyone intending to be a candidate in the 2024 Annual Town Election beginning January 3rd. Papers can be obtained in the Town Clerk's office. The last day to pull papers is Thursday, February 15th.

Offices for re-election: Select Board, Assessor, Board of Health, Planning Board, School Committee, Library Trustee, Park & Recreation, Moderator, Town Clerk, Sewer Commission and Redevelopment Authority. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact the Town Clerk's Office or visit the Town Website.

Scan for all your Election Information



**PLAN YOUR
VOTE**