



# TOWN OF AVON NEWSLETTER

Volume 29

March 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](http://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.



## PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024

• Polls will be open from 7am to 8pm on Tuesday, March 5th in the Mary T. McDermott Room at the Town Hall, 65 East Main St.

• There will be three ballots at the primary: Democrat, Libertarian and Republican. If you are enrolled in one of those three political parties that is the ballot that you will receive. If you are Unenrolled "Independent" you will choose a party ballot on election day. All three ballots are posted on the town website for you to review.



• Voters are kindly asked not to congregate in the polling location.

• Voters that requested a vote by mail ballot must return it by 8pm on election day.

## ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION APRIL 9, 2024

The last day to register for the Annual Town Election and Annual Town Meeting is Friday, March 29, 2024. Residents can register online at <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/>. Early voting by mail is available for the April election, the last day to request a ballot by mail is Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5pm.

Election workers met on Friday February 16<sup>th</sup> for their annual poll workers training. A special thank you to Deputy Bartolotta and Office Donovan for their presentation on safety at the polls.



All election information can be found on the town website.



# TOWN OF AVON NEWS



## MUSEUM NEWS

The Captain Samuel Robbins House Museum is reopening for the 2024 Season! The tours begin on Saturday March 9<sup>th</sup> from 12-2PM. Admission to the Museum is free!



A circular seal of the Town of Avon featuring a portrait of a man, with the text "TOWN OF AVON" and "INCORPORATED FEB. 27, 1822". Below the seal is a photograph of a fluffy brown dog sitting in green grass with yellow flowers.

### It's time to renew your Dog License!

All dogs must be licensed by May 31<sup>st</sup> or be subject to a fine of \$25.

Online registration is available for dogs that have a current rabies certificate on file. There is a small processing fee for this online service.

Hello Neighbors,

Today many conservation commissions devote much of their time to reviewing wetlands permit applications and issuing wetlands permits. While this responsibility is vital, it is not the commission's original mandate. It is the Conservation Commission whose purpose is to protect the land and natural resources of the Town, establish a usage and resource protection plan, and adopt rules for use.

You are invited to consider joining the commission today if you have an interest in the original conservation mandate. Prior experience or knowledge is not required. And there is a formal training program available for new commissioners.

The first powers given to conservation commissions in the Conservation Commission Act focused on "promotion and development of natural resources...and protection of watershed resources." Additional commissioners interested in planning, acquiring, and managing open spaces, and encouraging and monitoring conservation and preservation restrictions would be useful for this focus area.



You may have noticed Article 1 which came up for a vote at the most recent Special Town Meeting. This land acquisition is an example of the type of open space and recreation decisions that conservation commissioners could take an interest in and bring forward. There are many natural resource areas in Avon that could benefit residents with more direct attention from boards like the Conservation Commission and others. You may contact the Conservation Commission or the Select Board for more information. If you are more interested in rehabilitation of decaying or underutilized areas, promoting sound growth, and participating in real estate development and revitalization, then the Redevelopment Authority may be for you.

Paul Garcia  
Chair, Conservation Commission

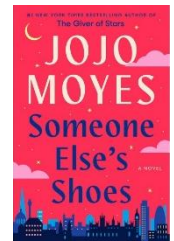


# TOWN OF AVON NEWS

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

### Jane Carthas – COA Director

1. **What inspired you to pursue the career you have today?**
  - a. I started here in 2014 as a secretary to Jane Hanley the Director at the time. Prior to working here, I worked at Massachusetts General Hospital as an operations coordinator for labor & delivery and the NICU. Then I opened my first of four locations for Curves for Women, which I owned for 12 years. I met Jane at my Braintree Curves, and she offered me a job when we were closing our business. I started as the secretary then moved to volunteer coordinator, then to the activities/volunteer coordinator, then finally to my present role as Director of Council On Aging.
2. **What is your favorite dish to make/eat?**
  - a. My favorite food is Swordfish. My favorite dish to make is lasagna.
3. **What is the last book you read?**
  - a. The last book I read was “Someone Else’s Shoes” by JoJo Moyes. The book grabbed me from the beginning. It is a great vacation read.
4. **What is your favorite hobby?**
  - a. My hobbies are traveling and being outside. I love walking!
5. **What is the best/last concert you’ve been to?**
  - a. The best concert I went to was Pink at Fenway. The last one I saw was Morgan Wallen.
6. **What is the next place on your bucket list?**
  - a. My next vacation is this month actually, I’m going to Aruba! I’ve been before, but I love it there.



# TOWN OF AVON NEWS

## TOWN OFFICES FEASIBILITY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Over the last several months, the Town Offices Feasibility Committee has been working closely with the Architect and Town Administrator to consider the best path forward for the town regarding renovating the existing town hall versus building a new municipal building. This committee has unanimously voted to recommended to the Select Board that building a new municipal complex which would house the Town Hall, COA, Park & Recreation, and School Administration, on land to be donated to the town, is a very wise decision.



Given the donated land's proximity to the police department and Sylvester Memorial Field, creation of a "municipal complex" consolidates town assets to better serve the town's needs into the foreseeable future. Article 12 at the upcoming 2024 Annual Town Meeting will be asking for \$1.95M to fund design and owner project manager services for this new municipal complex. Over the next couple of months, residents will have the opportunities to tour the current facilities, learn about perspective plans, and funding sources for the project.

On March 23, 2024, from 10 a.m. until noon, we will be opening the Town Hall and COA, so residents will be able to walk through and observe firsthand the current conditions of both buildings. Members of the Feasibility Committee and the Town Administrator will also be available to answer questions. Light snacks and refreshments will be served. All the information that has been utilized in making these decisions, including all the supplemental information, can be found on the town's website. If you have any questions, or would like to discuss the project in detail, please feel free to contact Jonathan Beder, Town Administrator at 508-588-0414 EXT. 1020, or by email at [jbeder@avon-ma.gov](mailto:jbeder@avon-ma.gov).



## 2024 POLAR PLUNGE

ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, AMHS STUDENT COUNCIL PARTICIPATED IN THE POLAR PLUNGE. THIS IS THE SECOND YEAR WE'VE TAKEN THE PLUNGE, AND WE'RE THRILLED TO HAVE RAISED \$5787 FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS. AS OF THIS PRINTING, WE ARE THE TOP FUNDRAISING SCHOOL IN THE STATE!



IN FEBRUARY SPARKIE, BLAZE AND THEIR HANDLER TRACY RYAN, FROM FIRST RESPONDER THERAPY DOGS, VISITED WITH AVON POLICE AND TOWN HALL EMPLOYEES. TO LEARN MORE ON THESE GOOD PUPS, FOLLOW @BARKIESPARKIE ON INSTAGRAM.

