



# Town of Avon Newsletter

ISSUE LXV

October 2021

## FY 2022/2023 Budget Process

The process is already under way to begin planning for the FY 2022/2023 budget that takes effect on July 1, 2022. All town departments have submitted their capital budget requests, and operating budget requests are due in early November. Residents who are interested in the details of the proposed budget may be interested in attending the following meetings:

**Capital Budget Presentations** will be held either in the Selectmen's Chamber at Avon Town Hall, 60 West Main Street, and/or virtually on the following dates and times:

- Thursday, November 4th at 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, December 2nd at 7:00 p.m.

**Operating Budget Workshop** is traditionally a half-day meeting held on a Saturday in February in the Selectmen's Chamber at Town Hall, and/or virtually. Please check the January 2022 issue of the Newsletter for the date. The complete budget calendar is available on-line at: [www.avonct.gov](http://www.avonct.gov).

The annual budget process is a long one with plenty of opportunities for public participation, culminating with the Annual Budget Referendum in May 2022. The process may be affected by the Governor's Executive Orders concerning COVID-19. We encourage you to visit the Town's website often to access documents related to the process, including the proposed operating budget in its entirety, and the Town Manager's Budget Message which includes a high level summary of the budget. We expect that these documents will be posted in late January, and will be updated in March, and again in May as the budget process progresses.

We also recommend that you "**Subscribe**" on the Town's website under the **Citizen Action Center** to receive email notifications of Town Council, Board of Education and Board of Finance meeting agendas, as these three Boards have a direct role in the budget process. Finally, as always, please do not hesitate to call the Town Manager's Office at (860) 409-4300 with questions.

## A Note About Trick-or-Treating

When planning Halloween festivities, parents should be aware that the Town of Avon does not "cancel" or "reschedule" Trick-or-Treating unless there are extreme hazards that would make it unsafe for the public to be out on the roads. In the event of inclement weather, parents should consider whether they feel comfortable allowing their children to Trick-or-Treat. When Trick-or-Treating, remember to wear clothing that will reflect light, or is of a light color. Children should be accompanied by an adult and carry a flashlight. Happy Halloween!



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## Annual Report & Town Calendar

Residents are reminded that the Annual Report is not mailed to households. A limited number will be available at the Town Hall, Avon Free Public Library, Avon Senior Center and the Landfill. Reports will be ready for pick-up on December 1, 2021.



## Avon Village Center Welcomes First Tenants

The much-anticipated grand opening of Whole Foods Market took place on September 1, 2021. Since that time, the Village Center area has seen a large number of shoppers accessing the store by car and via the Rails-to-Trails. We are beginning to see tenants taking up leases for some of the other spaces in the Village Center. The very first tenant in the development, Ivy Physical Rehab, located on Market Street, began operations in August. The next tenant will most likely be an AT&T store in the building on Climax Road directly across from Whole Foods. We understand that the developer is fielding daily inquiries from interested tenants and it is quite likely that these businesses will have some new neighbors very soon!

One of the major goals of the Planning & Zoning Commission during the design process was to avoid creating a high speed roadway between Simsbury Road and Route 44. The new roads are functioning well in this regard and residents and shoppers are beginning to adjust to the direction and flow of traffic in the area. Traffic appears to flow well and at the proper speed, making it safer for pedestrians and bicyclists. **As a reminder to drivers, when approaching the new traffic circle, stay to the right and always yield to the traffic already in the circle!**

Many groups are beginning to see the opportunities for community engagement that the Village Center creates. We continue to hear about a number of activities that are in the works to encourage residents and visitors to come to the Village Center. For example, a pre-holiday winter festival is being planned by a local non-profit group for early December. At this time, plans indicate that it will utilize a large portion of the Village Center area's outdoor space, creating opportunities to walk the area and engage with the businesses in the new development and in the existing buildings along East and West Main Street.

The Town is very pleased that the Avon Village Center has finally come to life. We encourage you to visit often! As always, please contact the Department of Planning & Community Development with questions at (860) 409-4328.

## Dates to Remember for the November Election

### ABSENTEE BALLOTS

- Absentee ballots became available in the Town Clerk's Office on **October 1, 2021**.
- **November 1, 2021** is the last day to apply for an absentee ballot.

### VOTER REGISTRATION

- Last day to register to vote **in person or by mail** to be eligible to vote on November 2, 2021 is **October 26, 2021**. The Registrars of Voters will be in their office at Town Hall, Building #1, from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. to register voters that day. Any questions regarding voter registration should be directed to the Registrars at (860) 409-4350.
- Persons whose rights as to age, citizenship and residence mature after the above date may apply to vote until **November 1, 2021**.
- Election Day Registration will be held at the Avon Town Hall, Building #1, Selectmen's Chamber.

### POLLING LOCATIONS

- The polls will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, November 2, 2021**. See back page of this Newsletter for polling locations. Voters should wear masks at all polling locations and social distance.





## Social Services Programs

**Holiday Donations:** The Social Services Department is collecting donations for the upcoming holiday season in order to help Avon families in need. Please join us again! You may download, complete, and submit the **Donor forms**, and find information on the **Drop-Off** days and times, by visiting the Town's website, [www.avonct.gov](http://www.avonct.gov), and go to the Social Services link "Holiday Donation Program."

**CT Energy Assistance Program:** The State of Connecticut can help certain households pay for primary heating bills (i.e. oil, propane, electric, and gas). To be eligible, the gross annual household income must be less than 200% of the federal poverty income guidelines, and the applicant must meet a certain limit for assets. If you have never applied and/or are interested in receiving more information on this program, please visit the Town's website, [www.avonct.gov](http://www.avonct.gov), and go to the Social Services link "Energy Assistance" or contact the Social Services Office at (860) 409-4346 to see if you may qualify. **Applications are by appointment only! Program deadline is May 31, 2022.**

**NOTE:** The Avon Social Services Department may have limited ability to provide emergency fuel deliveries through the Avon Fuel Bank, so OIL users should apply EARLY!

## Be Bear Aware! Dos and Don'ts for Living with Black Bears



Bears are attracted to garbage, pet food, compost piles, fruit trees and birdfeeders.

**DO** remove birdfeeders and bird food from late March through November.

**DO** eliminate food attractants by placing garbage cans inside a garage or shed. Add ammonia to trash to make it unpalatable.

**DO** clean and store grills in a garage or shed after use. (Propane cylinders should be stored outside).

**DON'T** intentionally feed bears. Bears that become accustomed to finding food near your home may become "problem" bears.

**DON'T** approach or try to get closer to a bear to get a photo or video.

**DON'T** leave pet food outside overnight.

**DON'T** add meat or sweets to a compost pile.

If you see a black bear, call DEEP's 24 hour hotline at (860) 424-3333 or the Avon PD at (860) 409-4200. For more information on Wildlife please visit [www.ct.gov/DEEP](http://www.ct.gov/DEEP).

### Want to Serve on a Town Board or Commission?

*The Town is always looking for residents to share their time and talents with their neighbors by serving on one of our voluntary boards or commissions. Interested? Visit [www.avonct.gov](http://www.avonct.gov) and select "Volunteer Opportunities" under the "Find it Fast" menu to download an Application for Appointment to a Board/Commission/Committee. Completed applications should be returned to the Town Manager's Office. The applications are reviewed by the Town Council when vacancies occur to assist in making appointments.*



## Garden Club of Avon Celebrates 75 Years



The Garden Club of Avon is pleased to announce the completion of its 75th Anniversary Garden! Located to the right of the entrance sign to Avon's Town Hall buildings, it is now a welcoming site for visitors. The project began in the spring of 2019 when the Town of Avon gave the space to the Garden Club to design a garden that would honor its 75 years as a civic steward to the Town. It has been a work in progress that has included clearing the space of overgrown daylilies, ivy, and grass and working with a local grower to select a variety of choice evergreen and deciduous plants that create interest throughout the year. Annuals have been interspersed to add color. A rock was chosen to mount a plaque commemorating the 75th Anniversary Garden and the Club was grateful to receive grant funding from Avon Together Community Funds to complete the project. The garden is visible from Route 44,

but please stop by as you visit the Town Hall to enjoy a lovely space.

## Watch for Me! Pedestrian Safety Updates

A new Connecticut state law intended to protect pedestrians went into effect October 1, 2021. The new law (PA 21-28 "AN ACT CONCERNING PEDESTRIAN SAFETY") includes two sections:

1. Expanding the circumstances under which drivers must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians at marked and unmarked crosswalks that are not controlled by traffic signals or police officers.
2. Prohibiting a person from causing physical contact between a vehicle door and moving traffic (i.e. motor vehicles, pedestrians, bicyclists) by opening the door, or leaving the door open for longer than needed to load or unload passengers. Under this provision "dooring" violations are considered infractions.

More detail regarding this new law can be found at [www.watchformect.org/the-pedestrian-rules](http://www.watchformect.org/the-pedestrian-rules).

This fall, the Town will install pedestrian-activated, solar-powered beacons at four Farmington Valley Greenway trail crossings. The beacons are intended to alert drivers to their proximity to the trail and to the presence of pedestrians and bicyclists crossing the road. Be sure to give the new beacons a try and always remember the following tips from Watch For Me CT:

- Pay attention and avoid distractions like cell phones and music players.
- Look left, right, and left again before crossing.
- Don't assume vehicles see you. In fact, it's safer to assume they don't!

Bike Walk Avon, CT, a volunteer group interested in advocating for the improvement of our local non-motorized transportation infrastructure, is planning some pedestrian safety educational events this fall. Please keep your eye on the Town's website and Bike Walk Avon's Facebook page for details. See you there!

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING INFORMATION PRINTED IN THIS NEWSLETTER, CALL THE  
TOWN MANAGER'S OFFICE, AVON TOWN HALL, AT (860) 409-4300.





## BINGO! Avon Senior Center to Attempt a World Record

Avon Senior Center is excited to participate in a historic community event. On October 22, 2021 at 1:00 pm, we're attempting to set a GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS™ with an exciting game of online bingo!

We're raising awareness of our efforts to fight social isolation and reframing the face of aging by hosting the largest hybrid game of Bingo the world has ever seen. We're partnering with Cigna & Televeda to offer this free game in-person and virtually. There will be games, prizes, food & beverages, and of course a chance to hang out with family and friends. This is your chance to be a part of something huge! Please call us if you are interested in participating or register here: <https://live.televeda.com/signup> and use Referral ID "AVONBINGO21"

Now more than ever, it's important that we make people feel like they're not alone, and that the community experience is growing stronger and bolder—not older! All age groups welcome to support this fun cause.

## Avon/Canton Chamber Sponsors Small Business Saturday



#ShopSmall on November 27, 2021! The Avon/Canton Chamber of Commerce is once again sponsoring their Small Business Saturday Promotion as part of the Chamber's ongoing Local First Initiatives. More information on participating businesses and the special offers accessible to Local First Key Card holders will be posted on the Chamber's website ([www.avonchamber.com](http://www.avonchamber.com), under "Local First") in the coming weeks. **Need a**

**Local First Key Card?** Please email the Avon-Canton Chamber at [acocbookkeeper@sbscglobal.net](mailto:acocbookkeeper@sbscglobal.net) and include your name and mailing address.

Don't forget to check out the Chamber's new podcast "**Valley Vibes**" for entertaining conversations that enrich, educate and inform about life in the Farmington Valley and beyond. Find Valley Vibes on Spotify, Google Podcast and other providers.

## Warm Welcomes, Best Wishes, & Fond Farewells

The Town would like to welcome some new faces, and offer congratulations to those employees that were promoted or retired in 2021.

Please welcome our newest employees: **Sara Roccapiore**, Recreation Program Specialist; **Dean Accomando**, Patrol Officer; **Bruce Appell**, Fire Marshal & Emergency Management Director; **Janet Stokesbury**, Administrative Secretary I (Planning); **Douglas Martindale**, Communications Dispatcher; **Kamber Bulica**, Communications Dispatcher; **Mateo Chacon**, Patrol Officer; **Dustin Rinaldo**, Patrol Officer; **Maxine Kollar**, Administrative Secretary I (Police); and **Emily Kyle**, Planning & Community Development Specialist. A warm welcome to all!

Congratulations to all those who were reclassified or promoted this year: **Anna Maria Amato**, Assistant Town Clerk I; **Mary Shea**, Building Office Technician; **Susan Guimaraes**, Administrative Analyst (HR); **Daniel Beaudoin**, Mechanic II; **Rich McKinnon**, Building Official; **Cruz Saubidet**, FT Administrative Analyst (Finance); **Susanne Farrah**, FT Assessment Technician; and **Kimberly King**, FT Police Records Aide. Best of luck to all in their new roles!

We would like to wish four employees well as they begin retirement: **John McCahill**, Planning & Community Development Specialist - 26 years; **John Neddermann**, Mechanic III - 24 years; **Fred Bohn**, Maintainer III - 20 years; and **Gary Petralito**, Maintainer III - 17 years. The Town is fortunate to have a number of employees whose dedication to the community is reflected in the length of their tenure. We thank you all for your service and commitment and we wish you well on your next adventures!

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## APD Community Satisfaction Survey

The Avon Police Department has launched an online Community Satisfaction Survey in order to receive feedback on its service delivery. The survey will be available from October 25 through November 8. The survey link will be posted on the Police Department's Facebook page, the Town's website, and sent out through the Town's email blast system. You can also pick up a paper copy at the APD Records Unit by stopping by or calling (860) 409-4220. We strive to continually improve our services to the community and your feedback is an essential component of that effort. Thank you in advance for taking the time to respond to the survey. We look forward to hearing from you!



## Used Book Sale

The Friends of the Avon Library are planning a streamlined and safe Used Book Sale weekend at the Avon Library from October 22-24. In order to limit crowding in the Community Room, this fall sale will include adult fiction and nonfiction books only. (A separate children's book sale will be planned for another time.)

- ◆ Friday, October 22nd 4 to 8 PM – Preview sale (\$5 admission, free for Friends members with a postcard mailed out prior to the event).
- ◆ Saturday, October 23rd 9 AM to 4 PM – No admission fee
- ◆ Sunday, October 24th 12 to 3 PM – Bag sale (\$5 per bag of books)

Masks and social distancing required – no strollers please!

## Enroll to Receive Emergency Updates from the Town!

The Town of Avon is committed to providing residents with up to date information about storm preparations and emergencies. Below are three ways to make sure that you stay up-to-date when weather and other emergencies strike.

**[SUBSCRIBE TO TOWN NEWS](#)** - To receive regular updates about Town business in a variety of categories, including storms and other emergency situations, **["Subscribe"](#)** on the Town's website under **Citizen Action Center** to receive email updates straight to your inbox. Select "Town Alerts" and "Town News and Announcements" to receive updates regarding storms, emergencies, and other types of timely general news.

**[CT ALERTS](#)** - To ensure that you receive critical emergency information even when the power is out and you can't receive emails, you should also sign up for the **[CTAlert system](#)** (link on the Town's website) which sends time-sensitive notices wherever you specify, such as your home, cell or business phone, SMS text messages, email, hearing impaired receiving devices and more. Both the State of Connecticut and the Town of Avon have the ability to send alerts to those registered with the CTAlert system. When the State or the Town issues a message about an emergency, the message will be sent to all phone numbers and email addresses enrolled in the system in order of the priority set by the user. If you do not confirm receipt of the message, the system will attempt to reach your next contact number or device entered into the system. **The Town suggests enrolling in both "Subscribe" and CTAlert to stay informed.**

**[LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!](#)** - "Like" and "Follow" **[Avon Police Department, Connecticut](#)** and **[Avon Fire Prevention and Emergency Updates](#)** for updates related to public safety and emergency management.

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## DPW Snow Removal & Ice Control Operations and Guidelines

**General:** Avon Public Works is charged with the responsibility of responding to winter snow and ice events. Our goal is to keep streets passable and reasonably safe during the storm and to clear the streets, curb to curb, within 8 to 12 hours after the storm has ended. Our plow drivers work long hours in hazardous driving conditions, and we appreciate your patience during snow and ice events.

**Snow Routes:** The 112 miles of town roads (approximate) maintained by DPW are divided into 11 snow plow routes. One plow truck and driver is assigned to each plow route for the entire winter season.

**Priorities:** During snow events, the primary focus is to provide a safe travel way for cars and emergency vehicles on heavily traveled roadways. While snow is actively falling, plowing is generally limited to the center portion of the roadway to clear a path wide enough for one travel lane in each direction. As a winter storm subsides, more efforts can be directed to local roadways and cul-de-sacs. Depending on the severity of a storm, it can take up to 4 hours +/- to make passes on all streets in town. Snow removal often continues for 8 to 12 hours after snow has stopped falling.

**Mail Box Damage:** During the winter season, it is inevitable that some mailboxes and posts will be damaged during winter plowing operations. Avon's policy is to reimburse residents \$20.00 for mailboxes and \$65.00 for posts that are damaged as a result of direct contact with a town snow plow. Mailboxes that are damaged from the force of snow thrown against them or mailboxes that are located closer than 9-inches to the roadway are not eligible for reimbursement.



### Frequently Asked Questions:

**I live on a cul-de-sac and end up with significant amounts of snow in my driveway. Why?** Plowing cul-de-sacs is one of the most challenging operations during a snow storm. Most properties on cul-de-sacs have frontages that are narrower than lots on a straight street. Therefore, snow must be pushed into a smaller space.

**Why is snow pushed into my driveway by street plows?** It is unavoidable and it is not done intentionally. Snow cast into driveways is an unfortunate byproduct of a very necessary service we provide. When we plow a street, we are simply moving the snow that is in the street off to the side of the street. The greater the amount of snow, the more snow that is deposited on the side.

**Who is responsible for clearing snow in front of my mailbox?** We plow the streets curb to curb, or as close as we can get. Whatever snow is

left in front of mailboxes is the responsibility of the property owner to remove (or at least to move in order for the mailbox to be accessible to the mail carrier).

**Can I, as a resident, push snow from my property onto the sidewalk or street? NO!** Town Ordinance restricts the act of pushing snow back onto a street and doing so may result in a fine of \$50 and/or liability if an accident is caused by this dumping of snow. Please be respectful of passing motorists expecting a clear street by not putting snow back onto the street. Remember, if you contract for snow removal, you are still responsible for where the snow ends up.

## RECREATION DEPARTMENT

**Saturday, October 30, 2021**

**What:** Halloween Party for Pre-k through Grade 4 (masks & social distancing required)

**Where:** Sycamore Hills Park • **Cost:** \$8.00 Per Person

Register at <https://avonct.myrec.com/info/>

Space is limited

**ISSUE LXV**  
**October 2021**

Avon Town Council  
Town of Avon  
60 W. Main St.  
Avon, CT 06001-3719

Phone: (860) 409-4300  
Fax: (860) 409-4368  
[www.avonct.gov](http://www.avonct.gov)



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## **IMPORTANT DATE**

### **MUNICIPAL ELECTION**

**NOVEMBER 2, 2021**

**6:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.**

**Absentee Ballots will be available.**

**Any questions regarding absentee ballots should be directed to the  
Town Clerk's Office at (860) 409-4310.**

**District #1**—Avon High School  
510 West Avon Road  
Gymnasium

**District #2**—AVFD Co. #1  
25 Darling Drive  
Upper Level

**District #3**—Roaring Brook School  
30 Old Wheeler Lane  
Gymnasium