



Town of Avon Newsletter

ISSUE XLVII

October 2015

Meet Avon's New Town Planner

The Town of Avon is pleased to announce that effective August 24, 2015, Hiram W. Peck III, formerly the Director of Community Planning and Development for the Town of Simsbury, has been hired by the Town of Avon for the position of Director of Planning and Community Development. Hiram had been with the Town of Simsbury since 2007 and had served as Director during that time. Prior to Simsbury, Hiram had also been a Planning Director for many years in several other Connecticut municipalities. He has a Master's Degree in regional planning from the University of Massachusetts and is a certified planner by the American



Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). As an AICP certified professional planner for over 25 years, Hiram has worked with municipalities, the federal government/USDA, regional planning agencies, and private clients.

Hiram was selected following two open recruitment processes in which the Town received a total of 15 applications. He was among 9 applicants to participate in an oral examination process which included interviews with Planning officials from other communities and agencies as well as senior Town department heads.

Hiram brings a wealth of experience to the Town of Avon. He is very familiar with regional and local issues and concerns, is well versed in building consensus and is experienced in economic development activities as well as promoting the interests of the Town to outside groups. In short, the Town expects that this will be a seamless transition and he will hit the ground running as the Town's new Planner following 26 years of Steve Kushner's leadership.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Saturday, November 7, 2015

The Town of Avon, in conjunction with Simsbury, Canton, and Granby, will be holding a household hazardous waste collection on Saturday, November 7, 2015 at the Simsbury Public Works Facility at 66 Town Forest Road (Town Forest Road is located off of Stratton Brook Road.) The collection will run from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and will be open to all residents from Avon, Canton, Granby, and Simsbury. Please visit www.avonct.gov for more information.

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Health District Offers Free In-Home Asthma Program

The Farmington Valley Health District is offering a FREE in-home asthma program called *Putting on AIRS*. This program provides families with an interactive health education session and an environmental assessment of the home to check for possible asthma triggers. A registered nurse/asthma educator conducts the education session, reviews medications, and provides ongoing asthma case management. A registered sanitarian conducts an environmental assessment of the home. Recommendations are made for relatively low-cost and low-technology interventions that each family may easily incorporate into their lifestyles in order to reduce exposure to asthma triggers. The nurse will then continue to follow the patient over a 6 month period.

Putting on AIRS is open to anyone whose doctor has said they (or their child) have asthma and lives in the ten towns served by the Farmington Valley Health District: Avon, Barkhamsted, Canton, Colebrook, East Granby, Farmington, Granby, Hartland, New Hartford and Simsbury.

The Farmington Valley Health District office is located at 95 River Road in Canton. For more information, or to make a referral, please call the Farmington Valley Health District at (860) 352-2333, Monday - Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Black Roof Stains? Check for Algae

It's not mold. It's probably not soot. The black spots discoloring your asphalt roof are more than likely the pervasive and prevalent algae known as *Gloecapsa Magma*. These roof-invaders require a moisture-rich environment, usually supplied by dew and shade. The first stains usually appear on the north-facing sides of a roof, which receives less light, and in areas with heavy tree coverage. Algae travels through the air, so if one neighbor receives a few spores, the whole neighborhood will soon be sporting the black streaks. Unfortunately, they love to feed on the calcium carbonate contained in most asphalt shingles. According to Tom Bollnow of the Asphalt Roofing Manufacturers Association, "The algae is mostly an aesthetic nuisance, although with time, the moisture retained in the algae can prematurely age the shingles."

No matter how tempting, don't attack the discoloration with a high-pressure washing system, which will affect the integrity of shingles. Instead, William Woodring, the Director of Technical Services at GAF, suggests gently spraying on a solution made from one cup of trisodium phosphate (available at most hardware stores), one gallon of bleach, and five gallons of water and letting it sit for about twenty minutes. "Apply the treatment on a cloudy day so the liquid doesn't just evaporate," says Woodring. Be sure to protect the plants and bushes that might be affected by the bleach runoff with plastic tarps. Then, rinse with a soft-pressure wash.

Of course, cleaning the roof doesn't keep the mold from reoccurring. You might have noticed how the shingles near metal, like around skylights or chimneys with copper flashing, aren't affected by the algae. That's because the water running off contains minute traces of metal that stops its growth. A similar solution can be created by installing copper or zinc strips under the full course of shingles at the ridge of the roof. As rainwater washes across the metal it will create an uninhabitable environment for future spores.

Use strips that are six or seven inches wide and ten feet long, fastened with low profile, round-head ring-shank nails or screws made of compatible metal. Or, if starting from scratch is an option, re-shingle the roof with shingles that have metal granules to exact the same effect as the metal strips—manufacturers of algae-resistant shingles include Owens Corning, CertainTeed, and GAF. They cost a few dollars more per square foot, but ensure at least ten algae-free years. If what you have are green stains, instead of black, then the culprit is moss, usually spread from overhanging trees. The solution is the same as with the algae, although a broom might be used to help gently dislodge the clingy spores. The same metal strips prevent the green vegetation from returning, but you can always help the process along by trimming overhanging trees and foliage away from the roof.



Farmington Valley Arts Center

Did you know that Avon has a cultural icon? It's not as mighty as what the Gateway Arch is to St. Louis, or the Bean is to Chicago, or the Hollywood Sign is to Los Angeles but it's a place where our community can relax from daily tasks and escape into a serene world of color and creativity. That cultural icon is the Farmington Valley Arts Center at 25 Arts Center Lane in Avon.

The Farmington Valley Arts Center has been supporting local artists, offering instruction and inspiration, and connecting art to daily life for over 40 years! The center is a historic two-story brownstone building that features 19 artists' studios, 2 classrooms for adult and youth programs, an exhibition gallery and a unique gift shop.

The studio artists offer 'open studios' on the first Saturday of each month. Classes are available for all age groups along with arts adventure programs for children. You'll find detailed information on the website: www.artsFVAC.org and through Avon's Recreation and Parks Department.

With the holiday season just around the corner, the Arts Center invites the community to join them for a twinkling start to the holiday season with a festive event called **"Candlelight" on Friday, November 20, 2015 from 5pm to 9pm**. While sipping a glass of wine and nibbling on goodies, you can browse and shop in the studios and galleries, all stocked with a thoughtful mix of fine arts and crafts hand made by over 70 local, regional and national artists. A one-of-a-kind gift for everyone on your list!

The Farmington Valley Arts Center is open throughout the year: Tuesday – Friday: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm and Saturday: 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Avon Free Public Library

Death on Your Own Terms: Making Sense of End-of-Life Planning (part of the Medical Ethics Series with Dr. Thomas Robey)

Thursday, October 22nd, 7:00 pm - Please contact the library for an advance reading list (860) 673-9712, Ext. 4. With Dr. Robey's guidance, an informed, generous, and intelligent series of conversations will take place throughout this series. Please be ready to discuss this sensitive material. *Dr. Robey is the Emergency Physician and Ethics Committee Chair at Waterbury Hospital.*

Marriage Equality: Share your story!

Monday, November 9th, 7:00 pm - Join us for an evening of marriage equality history, sharing, and hope with Ann Stanback, Avon Resident and Director of Strategic Partnerships for the Equality Federation.

Holiday Farmers Market

Monday, November 16th, 4:00 to 7:00 pm - All your favorite farmers from the summer return for a pre-Thanksgiving market! Indoors, at the library.

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



Social Services Programs

- ♦ **CT Energy Assistance Programs:** The State of Connecticut can help certain households pay for primary heating bills (i.e. oil, propane, electric, and gas), if those households meet certain federal poverty income guidelines and limited asset tests. For the upcoming 2015-2016 winter season, you may call Avon Social Services to see if you qualify for an appointment (regardless of whether you are a new or returning applicant). The program for oil ends on March 31, 2016, and all others, April 29, 2016. The Department strongly encourages clients to apply for Energy Assistance as early as possible, as the Department's ability to provide emergency fuel deliveries through the Avon Fuel Bank will be extremely limited! If you would like more information on this program, please visit the Town website, under the Social Services link "[Energy Assistance & Renters' Rebate,](#)" or contact the Social Services Office at (860) 409-4346 with any questions.
- ♦ **Operation Fuel:** Operation Fuel provides one-time assistance with heating bills for those households who may be slightly over the income/assets threshold for government programs (like the one listed above). More information is usually available by December each year through Gifts of Love at (860) 676-2323.



- ♦ **Holiday Season Donations:** The Social Services Department would like to remind everyone in the community that they will be collecting donations for the upcoming holiday season in order to help Avon families in need. Please join us again! **Drop-Off for Thanksgiving** is between **8:00 am and 10:00 am** on **Friday, November 20, 2015** (and any prior Tuesday (9:30 am - 11:30 am) at St. Ann's Catholic Church (Avon Food Pantry) or by appointment, call (860) 409-4346). The deadline for **Winter Basket Drop-Off** is **Friday, December 18, 2015** at the Social Services Department. For more information about our Holiday Basket Program or to download a sponsor form, please visit the Town website, under the Social Services link "[Holiday Basket Program](#)" or contact Suzi Alexe, at (860) 409-4394. Gift cards are always welcomed and may be

dropped off or mailed at any time to the Social Services Department.

ANNUAL REPORT & TOWN CALENDAR DELIVERY

Residents are reminded that the Annual Report will not be mailed to households. A limited number will be available at the Town Hall, the Library, Senior Center, and the Landfill. Reports will be ready for pick-up by Monday, December 1, 2015.



FY 2016/2017 Budget Process

The process is already under way to begin planning for the FY 2016/2017 budget that takes effect on July 1, 2016. All town departments have submitted their capital budget requests, and operating budget requests are due in early November. Residents who would like to attend the meetings (at which the details of the budget are discussed) may be interested in the following announcements.

Capital Budget Presentations: All to be held in the Selectmen's Chamber at Avon Town Hall, 60 West Main Street, on the following dates and times:

Thursday, November 5th - 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 17th - 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 3rd - 7:00 p.m.

Operating Budget Workshop: This is traditionally a half-day meeting held on a Saturday in February in the Selectmen's Chamber at Town Hall. Look in your January issue of the Newsletter for the date. The complete budget calendar is available on-line at: www.avonct.gov.

Dates to Remember for the November Election

October 2, 2015 - Absentee ballots became available in the Town Clerk's Office. If you need an absentee ballot, you may pick up an application and ballot at the Town Clerk's Office during normal business hours, or call (860) 409-4310 to request that an application be mailed to you.

October 17, 2015 - Registrars of Voters will be in their office at 60 West Main Street, Building #1, Avon, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., to register voters.



October 27, 2015 - Last day to register to vote **in person** to be eligible to vote on November 3, 2015. The Registrars of Voters will be in their office at 60 West Main Street, Building #1, Avon, from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. to register voters. Any questions regarding voter registration should be directed to the Registrars of Voters at (860) 409-4350.

November 2, 2015 - Last day to apply for an absentee ballot.

November 3, 2015 (Election Day) - The polls will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. See back page of the Newsletter for polling locations.

Senior Center Event

On Monday, November 16, 2015 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. the Avon and Canton Senior Centers and the Senior Citizens of Avon Organization will join together to honor and celebrate our Veterans. We will enjoy a delicious meal, a wonderful program and great music! The event will cost \$5.00; please call the Avon Senior Center at (860) 675-4355 to sign up. Thank you to our community providers who have already agreed to volunteer time or resources. We appreciate you!



Avon Chamber of Commerce - Fall for #LocalFirst Selfie Drawing

The Avon Chamber of Commerce, as part of its recently launched Local First initiative, is encouraging people that live and work in Avon, as well as those in the surrounding Farmington Valley, to take part in its *Fall for #LocalFirst Selfie Drawing*. In April of this year, every residence and business in Avon received a Local First Preferred Customer Key Card and Brochure that listed all the member businesses of the Chamber, along with special discounts available to Key Card holders. Local First was developed by the Avon Chamber as a means of encouraging people to get to know and support their local community businesses.

Fall for #LocalFirst is a continuation of that program; designed to promote all the wonderful member businesses that comprise the Avon Chamber of Commerce. From October 1st to December 31st you can enter to win a \$150 Gift Card to the #LocalFirst business of your choice.* Simply follow @AvonChamberCT on Instagram or 'Like' Avon Chamber of Commerce on Facebook. Take a selfie at any one of the 340 #LocalFirst Avon Chamber of Commerce businesses. Post the selfie to your Instagram, Facebook, or Email to AvonChamberSocialMedia@gmail.com include #LocalFirst & tag us @AvonChamberCT or on Facebook or Avon Chamber of Commerce. For more information about our Local First program or official rules, please visit www.AvonChamber.com and click on Local First on the left navigation bar.

**Only Local First businesses that accept gift cards are eligible to be chosen.*

Avon Students Excel in Smarter Balanced Assessment

The 2015 Connecticut Smarter Balanced Assessment are new tests that replace the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) and the Connecticut Academic Performance Text (CAPT) in English Language Arts (ELA)/Literacy and Mathematics. The Smarter Balanced Assessment is aligned to the new ELA and Mathematics State Standards and the results measure student progress toward college and career readiness. Scores on the Smarter Balanced Assessment should not be compared to the former CMT or CAPT results because this assessment measures a different set of knowledge and skills.

Overall scores in ELA and Mathematics are reported in scale-score units. Within the scale-score range, there are four performance levels: Level 1 - Does Not Meet, Level 2 - Approaching, Level 3 - Meets, and Level 4 - Exceeds. The Avon students who scored at Level 3 or above in ELA and Mathematics have surpassed State percentages by up to 40% higher. As compared to the highest performing districts in District Reference Groups A and B, Avon has placed within the top four towns in both Literacy and Mathematics joining Darien, Westport, Monroe and New Canaan. The charts below reflect how Avon students performed as compared to other districts in the Farmington Valley. Needless to say we are very pleased with our results, which will set the baseline for Avon as a district moving forward.

English Language Arts/Literacy					
Grade	Avon	Simsbury	Farmington	Canton	State
3rd	91%	78%	77%	80%	54%
4th	77%	86%	77%	67%	56%
5th	82%	83%	79%	77%	59%
6th	85%	80%	81%	76%	56%
7th	84%	76%	77%	72%	57%
8th	82%	71%	83%	72%	54%
11th	75%	87%	72%	85%	53%

Mathematics					
Grade	Avon	Simsbury	Farmington	Canton	State
3rd	84%	70%	76%	81%	48%
4th	74%	70%	70%	51%	44%
5th	64%	64%	49%	51%	37%
6th	76%	53%	61%	50%	37%
7th	73%	61%	65%	51%	39%
8th	77%	69%	74%	66%	37%
11th	61%	73%	51%	51%	30%



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 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.

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

Phone: (860) 409-4300
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www.avonct.gov



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IMPORTANT DATE

MUNICIPAL ELECTION

NOVEMBER 3, 2015

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—Fire House Co. #1
25 Darling Drive
Upper Level

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