



Town of Avon Newsletter

ISSUE L

October 2016

FY 2017/2018 Budget Process

The process is already under way to begin planning for the FY 2017/2018 budget that takes effect on July 1, 2017. 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 (during which the details of the budget are discussed) may be interested in the following announcements.

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

- ◆ Thursday, November 3rd at 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ Wednesday, November 16th at 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ Thursday, December 1st 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. Please check the January 2017 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 7, 2016 - 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.

November 1, 2016 - Last day to register to vote *in person* to be eligible to vote on November 8, 2016. 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 7, 2016 - Last day to apply for an absentee ballot.

November 8, 2016 (Election Day) - The polls will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. See back page of this Newsletter for polling locations.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Saturday, November 5, 2016

The Town of Avon, in conjunction with Simsbury, Canton, and Granby, will be holding a household hazardous waste collection on Saturday, November 5, 2016 at the Simsbury Public Works Facility at 66 Town Forest Road (Town Forest Road is located off Stratton Brook Road). The collection will run from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. 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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Avon Village Center: Progress Update

The Avon Village Center planning and development effort is moving forward. In November 2015, the developer, the Carpionato Group of Johnston, RI, was granted a Master Site Plan approval by the Planning and Zoning Commission. Since that time, a number of things have happened to move this complex process forward.

Under current zoning regulations and Town ordinance, the Town has the ability to retain “peer review” or “third party” consultants to review the applications of large, complex projects, such as the Village Center. The Town secured an agreement from the developer to retain an architecture firm and an engineering firm with experience with similar development projects to lend their expertise to the project. Per Town ordinance, the developer pays the firms’ fees and Town staff monitor and manage the peer review work and the funding. The Carpionato Group, the peer review team, and Town staff have met several times for productive discussions about the project. The goal of these meetings is to incorporate each parties’ questions and comments about the project in order to reach a position that the Planning and Zoning Commission may view favorably, in order to move the project forward.

In April 2016, the Carpionato Group applied to the Planning and Zoning Commission to begin earth excavation for the first phase of the Village Center development. Initially, the developer proposed excavation on three separate parcels of land located west of Climax Road. As a result of discussions with Town staff and peer review consultants, during a public hearing before the Commission on July 13th, the developer agreed to make reductions to the scope of the initial application request. The Commission approved the excavation of one of the three originally proposed parcels at this time and also made a number of modifications to the application. Town staff met with the developer in September to discuss the final pre-excavation requirements prior to the start of work on the approved parcel. It is expected that this work will begin in early October 2016.

The next step in the process requires the developer to submit schematic plans for the first phase of the development to the Town for review. The schematic plans will show a significant amount of detail and will allow Town staff and the peer review consultants to work out any problems with the roads, buildings, and infrastructure before the plans are finalized and submitted for official review and determination by the Planning and Zoning Commission. Additionally, a public hearing is required as part of this process under current zoning regulations. We anticipate that a public hearing will be held in fall 2016 regarding these plans. The developer hopes to begin “vertical development” in spring 2017.

As you can see, this project is large and complex. According to Hiram Peck, Director of Planning and Community Development, “this project will not be completed in a short period of time, so we are able to make adjustments as we go. As long as the framework of development, including the infrastructure, is well designed from the outset, the rest will follow along smoothly as the project progresses.” As such, the Department of Planning and Community Development welcomes all questions and comments on any aspect of the proposed Avon Village Center development. “In order to make the process informative for everyone, please come to our office as soon as the developer submits plans to the department and ask questions at that time,” advises Mr. Peck.

The Planning and Zoning Commission meets the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen’s Chamber. Every meeting and public hearing is open to the public and we encourage members of the public to attend and ask questions.

The Town looks forward to creating a unique development that is desirable for residents, businesses, and visitors in the near future.

Hiram Peck, AICP, CFM
Director of Planning • (860) 409-4328



CPR/AED Certified Town Staff



Pictured: Left to Right (seated): Susan Gatcomb, Jennifer Worsman, Sharon Brummert, and Denise Dwyer; Left to Right (standing): Hiram Peck, Nick Hogan and John McCahill

In support of police and fire personnel being designated as first responders, Automated External Defibrillators (AED) Units were placed in Avon police cruisers providing a vital link in the "Chain of Survival" when responding to a sudden cardiac arrest event. Subsequently, in 2011, the Town of Avon was designated as a HEARTSafe Community by the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health, having demonstrated a commitment toward ensuring Town residents and visitors receive the early lifesaving response proven to increase the chances of survival for such an event. In late 2015, the Town acquired two additional AED Units which were strategically placed in common corridors in Town Buildings #1 and #5.

The seven Town Hall staff members pictured above volunteered to be certified in CPR/AED and attended two days of extensive training conducted by the Farmington Valley Visiting Nurse Association in May 2016. Having quick access to an AED may be the difference between life and death in a sudden cardiac arrest event and we are fortunate to have concerned employees trained and equipped in the event of an emergency at Town Hall.

Avon Chamber of Commerce News

A significant amount of the money you spend at local businesses stays in the community and is reinvested in the schools, police and fire departments, civic organizations, and area businesses. Our **Local First** program encourages residents to look to the abundance of quality local retailers, restaurants and professionals when choosing where to shop, dine, or locate a service. To get your free **Local First Key Card** please email avonchamber@sbcglobal.net.



Saturday, November 26 is **Small Business Saturday**. Please consider supporting our member businesses, some of whom will be offering special discounts, by shopping locally that day. Our members are easily recognized by the Chamber Member Plaque and/or Local First window cling that they prominently display.

Our first annual **Food Drive** to benefit the Avon Food Pantry, held on Thursday, August 4, collected approximately 5,000 pounds of non-perishable food, along with gift cards to area grocery stores, and another 1,000 pounds of dog food. Thank you to everyone that donated!

Attracting and retaining young professionals is important to us. As a legacy to the Chamber's 50th Anniversary, on Thursday, September 29 we, in collaboration with Junior Achievement of Southwest New England, premiered the **JA Career Walk**, the goal of which is to provide Avon High School students with greater knowledge of the professional community by expanding their access to local businesses.

The Avon Chamber of Commerce is a vibrant, innovative, active not-for-profit business/economic development organization that achieves its goals without use of local, state or federal funding. If you are looking for a local business, or are interested in learning more about us, please visit us at www.avonchamber.com.



Who's Who?

Town Manager's Office: A warm welcome to Avon's new Assistant to the Town Manager, Grace Tiezzi. Grace is a native of Wethersfield, Connecticut. She earned a bachelor's degree in international studies and English journalism from Fairfield University before heading to the University of Connecticut to earn a master's degree in public administration.

Prior to coming to Avon, Grace was a grant writer for Area Cooperative Educational Services (ACES), the regional education service center serving the Greater New Haven area. While pursuing her degree at UCONN, Grace managed special projects for the Town Manager's Office in Farmington. Her areas of interest and experience include grant writing and administration, project management, economic development, and municipal finance and budgeting.

Grace started on June 6th and has enjoyed getting to know the Town staff, elected officials, and residents during her first few months on the job. She is very excited to be involved with the Avon community and to lend her experience to all of the great projects on the horizon!

As Grace continues her duties with the Town please feel free to reach out to her at (860) 409-4300, gtiezzi@avonct.gov, or in person in the Town Manager's Office. She looks forward to hearing from you with questions, concerns, suggestions, or just to say hello!

Avon Library: Please welcome the new reference librarians! Cyndi Larsen and Barbara Greenleaf have joined the dynamic reference team at the library, offering friendly expertise to our residents. Barbara's previous library experience includes work in a corporate library, a hospital library, a state agency, a library consortium, academic and school libraries, and several other public libraries in the Farmington Valley. She even worked at the Avon Free Public Library when it was in the little house on Route 44! Cyndi Larsen has lived in Avon for 15 years with her husband and 2 daughters and loves traveling, crafting, gardening and reading.

Senior Center: Please welcome our new administrative secretary, Keisha Freckleton, who started with us in April 2016. She has made a wonderful addition to our senior citizen community. We are very happy to have her onboard!



Read *The Wright Brothers* by David McCullough and join the Avon Library in a series of programs that explore birds, bicycles, and airplanes this fall. Special guest from the Smithsonian, Yale University, and the New England Air Museum! Details available at: www.avonctlibrary.info.

FRIENDS BOOK SALE! Avon Library

Date: Friday, October 14th

Time: 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Preview Sale: \$5 Admission

Date: Saturday, October 15th

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

No Admission Fee

Date: Sunday, October 16th

Time: Noon - 3:00 p.m.

No Admission Fee

BAG SALE: \$5 per bag

Veterans' Celebration • Avon Senior Center

Monday, November 14, 2016 at 12:00 PM

Cost: \$5.00

Meal & Entertainment

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 2016-2017 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, 2017, and all others, April 28, 2017. If you would like more information on this program, please visit the Town website, (www.avonct.gov) 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. Please note: the household must apply for the Energy Assistance Program prior to contacting Gifts of Love.
- ⇒ **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 Day for Thanksgiving** is Monday, November 21, 2016, at St. Ann’s Catholic Church (Avon Food Pantry). For the “Holiday Basket Program” please visit our website, under Social Services link “[Holiday Basket Program](#)” for a sponsor form. For the Winter Holiday Program, please visit our website for a sponsor form, under the Social Services link “[Holiday Basket Program](#)” or contact Suzi Alexe, at (860) 409-4394 or salex@avonct.gov. Gift cards are always welcomed and may be dropped off or mailed at any time to the Social Services Department.

Avon Volunteer Fire Department News

- **Fundraising** - The AVFD would like to thank the community for its continued generous support over the years to help sustain our all-volunteer status. If you would like to contribute to our annual fundraising campaign before year’s end, please contact us at (860) 677-2644 or visit www.avonvfd.org to make an online donation.
- **Prepare for Cold Weather** - As the cooler weather sets in, be sure to get chimneys inspected and cleaned, have furnaces serviced, clear away dried leaves and other debris from dryer and other exterior building vents, and test smoke and CO detectors – replace expired detectors and dead batteries. When the snow falls, please remember to clear away snow and ice from the hydrants nearest your home and/or office.
- **Live Fire Training Facility** - The live fire training facility in Farmington should be complete and ready for use this fall. The AVFD is very excited to offer its members the opportunity to train frequently to assure proficiency. The new facility will make it easier for volunteers to train with colleagues in their own fire companies, as well as those in mutual aid communities. AVFD members will be able to safely practice and improve skills in a realistic setting with a reasonable time commitment; learning how to better protect themselves so they can protect the residents of Avon and their property.

AVON RECREATION DEPARTMENT

After school ski program registration began October 4th and will go until November 10th or when spaces are full, whichever comes first. Register online at: www.AvonRec.com.

ANNUAL REPORT & TOWN CALENDAR

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 Thursday, December 1, 2016.



Avon Public Schools Smarter Balanced Assessment 2015-16

The Smarter Balanced Assessment is aligned to the English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics State Standards. The charts provided below reflect how Avon students performed as compared to the districts with whom we are generally compared. 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 percent of Avon students who scored at Level 3 or above in ELA and Mathematics are shown in the charts below along with the State percent of students who scored at Level 3 or above.

English Language Arts/Literacy					Mathematics			
Gr	Number of Students Tested	Avon Level 3 or Above	State Level 3 or Above		Gr	Number of Students Tested	Avon Level 3 or Above	State Level 3 or Above
3	236	78%	54%		3	236	76%	53%
4	218	83%	56%		4	218	77%	48%
5	273	78%	59%		5	273	63%	41%
6	275	84%	55%		6	275	76%	41%
7	267	84%	55%		7	268	83%	42%
8	271	80%	56%		8	271	77%	40%

Detailed below are a few comparisons of how our students' results ranked among other districts in the Farmington Valley and the highest performing districts in District Reference Groups A and B.

English Language Arts/Literacy					
Grade	Avon	Canton	Farmington	Simsbury	State
3	78%	75%	83%	79%	54%
4	83%	77%	82%	82%	56%
5	78%	71%	79%	84%	59%
6	84%	79%	76%	82%	55%
7	84%	72%	75%	76%	55%
8	80%	71%	77%	81%	56%

Mathematics					
Grade	Avon	Canton	Farmington	Simsbury	State
3	76%	83%	79%	74%	53%
4	77%	70%	78%	66%	48%
5	63%	60%	70%	70%	41%
6	76%	67%	64%	66%	41%
7	83%	62%	74%	58%	42%
8	77%	62%	72%	73%	40%

DRG A & B - ELA/Literacy			DRG A & B - Mathematics	
Average Grade 3-8			Average Grade 3-8	
Darien	86.9%		Darien	81.7%
New Canaan	83.3%		New Canaan	79.1%
Easton	83.0%		Easton	76.5%
Ridgefield	82.3%		Trumbull	76.3%
Westport	82.2%		Avon	75.2%
Trumbull	81.7%		Glastonbury	74.6%
Guilford	81.7%		Westport	74.4%
Avon	81.1%		Redding	74.0%
Simsbury	80.5%		Farmington	72.5%
Woodbridge	80.1%		Weston	71.8%



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.

ISSUE L
October 2016

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



PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
AVON, CT
PERMIT No. 14

RURAL PATRON
OR
BOXHOLDER
AVON, CT—06001



IMPORTANT DATE

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

NOVEMBER 8, 2016

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