



Town of Avon Newsletter

ISSUE LIII

October 2017

FY 2018/2019 Budget Process

The process is already under way to begin planning for the FY 2018/2019 budget that takes effect on July 1, 2018. 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 2nd at 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ Wednesday, November 15th at 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ Thursday, December 7th 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 2018 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 6, 2017 - 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 31, 2017 - Last day to register to vote *in person or mail* to be eligible to vote on November 7, 2017. 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 6, 2017 - Last day to apply for an absentee ballot.

November 7, 2017 (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.

Election Day Registration will be held at the Avon Town Hall, Building #1, Registrars of Voters Office.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Saturday, October 28, 2017

The Town of Avon, in conjunction with Canton, Farmington, Granby, and Simsbury, will be holding a household hazardous waste collection on Saturday, October 28, 2017 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, Farmington, Granby, and Simsbury. Please visit www.avonct.gov for more information.

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Town Center Streetscape Improvement

Take a drive down Simsbury Road and check out our nearly-completed Streetscape Improvement Project! Last fall, sidewalks were added to the east side of Simsbury Road from Fisher Drive (Sperry Park) to the Simsbury town line. Over the winter months, decorative LED carriage lighting was installed adjacent to the new sidewalks. This fall, we'll wrap up the project by installing decorative light fixtures from Sperry Park, heading south, to just north of the Route 10/Route 44 intersection. This project is the result of a \$450,000 Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant from the State that the Town received in 2014.

This is the fourth STEAP grant the Town received for Village Center Streetscape Improvements. The Town's last project, the installation of sidewalks and decorative curbing from the intersection of Route 44 and Simsbury Road to Fisher Drive, was completed in 2013. To date, the Town has received over \$1 million in STEAP funding. Each of these improvement projects has contributed to the development of the Avon Village Center as a more identifiable, vibrant, pedestrian-friendly area that remains true to Avon's history, character, and tradition.



Fisher Meadows Trail Closure



Please be advised that silt fence has been installed around the construction site located to the north of the existing playing fields in preparation for construction beginning this fall. As a result, the portion of the Fisher Meadows trail located to the west of Spring Lake, from the parking lot heading north along the project area, will be closed to users during construction. Trail users can still access the Fisher Meadows trail at the Trail Head on Old Farms Road and along the east side of Spring Lake. Closures have been posted at the project site and on the Town's website. Further updates will be posted on the Town's website as necessary. We apologize for any inconvenience and we thank you for your cooperation and understanding.



Staff Spotlight

The Town of Avon works to recruit top talent who are experts and leaders in their field. We are very proud to share the accomplishments of just a few of our employees who hold professional credentials in their fields or are leaders in regional, statewide, or national professional organizations. Keep a look out in future editions of the newsletter as we spotlight more members of our hard working staff!

Jennifer Bennett, Senior Center Coordinator, is a Licensed Master Social Worker. Jennifer is involved in the CT Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers as a member of many committees. She's also served as Vice President of the CT Association of Senior Center Personnel and as a member of the CT Local Administrators of Social Service.

Glenn Grube, Director of the Avon Free Public Library, was installed as the President of the Connecticut Library Association (CLA) on June 1st. CLA is Connecticut's chapter of the American Library Association, the oldest and largest library association in the world. CLA works to improve library service, advance the interests of librarians, and increase public awareness of the benefits of libraries.

Brandon Robertson, Town Manager, earned a Credentialed Manager designation from the International City/County Management Association in 2015. The Credentialed Manager designation recognizes professional local government managers that possess specific educational qualifications, significant senior management experience, and a commitment to professional integrity, lifelong learning and professional development. Brandon completes a significant amount of professional development activities each year to maintain his credentials.

Alan Rosenberg, Director of Social Services, is currently serving as Treasurer of two professional organizations: the Executive Board of the CT Association of Local Administrators of Social Services (CLASS) and the Board of Directors of the New England Organization of Human Services (NEOHS).

Warm Welcomes & Fond Farewells

The Town would like to welcome some new faces and offer congratulations to those employees that have been promoted or have retired over the past year.

Please join us in welcoming **Mark Arbogast, Zachariah Bellmer, John DeMarco and Steven Levin** to the Avon Police Department. These new officers joined the Department in October 2016 and graduated from the Police Academy in June 2017. They are currently completing their training and field experience and will soon be out on the road and working with citizens. In February 2017 **Patricia Munroe** joined the Town Clerk's Office as the new part-time Assistant Town Clerk and in April we welcomed **Elizabeth Shaffer** as the new part-time Administrative Secretary I at the Senior Center. Finally, the Building Division recently added two new faces: **Raymond Steadward** began his duties as the Town's Building Official in May and **Sitara Gnanaguru** joined the division in August as the new Administrative Secretary I. Sitara previously worked part-time in the Planning Department. A warm welcome to all!

Congratulations to **Sergeants Erin Connoles and Jennifer Raspardo** and **Lieutenant John Schmalberger**. Sgt. Connoles and Lt. Schmalberger were promoted from Officer and Sergeant, respectively, in November 2016 and Sgt. Raspardo began her duties as Sergeant in May 2017. We'd also like to congratulate **Linda Landi** who joined the Assessor's Office as the new Assessment Technician in September 2017. Prior to this, Linda worked in the Collector of Revenue's Office.

Finally, we would like to wish the following employees well on their retirements: **Officer Dena LeFleur** retired from the Police Department in December 2016; Building Official **Jim Sansone** retired in May 2017; Assessment Technician **Elaine Phillips** retired in June 2017; and Maintainer III **JP Bellott** retired from the Highway Division in September 2017. Additionally, **Susan Gatcomb**, Building Office Technician, left the Town in July after many years of tireless service. We would like to thank all of these men and women for their service and dedication to the Town and its residents over the years and we wish them well in their next adventures!



Senior Center Happenings

The Avon Senior Center would like to take this opportunity to say "Thank You" to **Chrissie (& John) D'Esopo** for their donation of all the plantings in front of the Senior Center, and for volunteering their time, energy and resources to make our Senior Center a beautiful space. Their generosity is appreciated!

The Avon Senior Center received a *Certificate of Appreciation* from Favarh Board of Education for participating in their 2017 Summer Program. This is the second year in a row that the Senior Center has participated and we appreciate the recognition. The program was a success and it was great to see the interaction between our older adults and Favarh clients. We are pleased that we were asked and considered for this program.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oktoberfest in Canton

Avon & Canton Event

Date: Monday, October 30, 2017

Time: 12:00 PM

Meal & Entertainment

Cost: \$5.00

Veteran's Celebration

Avon Senior Center

Date: Monday, November 13, 2017

Time: 12:00 PM

Meal & Entertainment

Cost: \$5.00

For additional information on these events, please call the Avon Senior Center at (860) 675-4355.



The Hadsell Brothers: Avon in Photographs and Words 1899 - 1919

The Avon Free Public Library and *The Avon Historical Society* proudly present a landmark exhibit showcasing one of our most important historical collections. The exhibit features selections from The Clinton B. Hadsell Glass Plate Negative Collection and the Diaries of Frank M. Hadsell.

Exhibit Dates: October 10, 2017 - November 29, 2017

The photos were selected from the "Hadsell Collection," one of the treasures of the library's Marion Hunter History Room, which is dedicated to the preservation of local history. The collection includes 269 glass plate negatives, original camera equipment, 45 diaries, photos and postcards generously donated by Seth Stewart of Maine and the late Doris Miller of North Carolina.

The exhibit was curated by Avon Town Historian Nora Howard, whose extensive research on the Hadsell family is a key contribution to the exhibit. Using the History Room archives, she meticulously studied the brothers' writings, papers, and photographs to produce a narrative for the exhibit photographs as well as a biographical sketch for each family member.

The exhibit is free and open during regular library hours. The Avon Public Library is located at 281 Country Club Road, Avon, CT 06001, (860) 673-9712, www.avonctlibrary.info.



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 2017-2018 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). PLEASE CALL AND MAKE AN APPOINTMENT SOON! The program for oil ends on March 15, 2018, and all others, April 30, 2018. The Department's ability to provide emergency fuel deliveries through the Avon Fuel Bank is limited. If you would like more information on this program, please visit the Town's 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.
- **Holiday Baskets:** 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 between 7:30 AM and 9:30 AM on Monday, November 20, 2017, (and any prior Tuesday 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM, and by appointment, call (860) 409-4346), at St. Ann's Catholic Church (Avon Food Pantry). The **Winter Basket Drop-Off Day** is Thursday, December 21, 2017, at the same location and times. For more information please visit our website, under the Social Services link "[Holiday Basket Program](#)."

From the Avon Volunteer Fire Department

- **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.
- **Help Us Find You** - Please be sure mailboxes display large, reflective house numbers to both sides of the mailbox so emergency personnel can see them clearly when responding to calls for help. Consider placing numbers in conspicuous places on homes and/or garages as well.
- **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 discarding ashes from a fireplace, place them in a covered metal container and keep them outside, away from any structures and combustibles. Treat all ashes as hot, even if you think they are cool. Please remember to clear away snow and ice from the hydrants nearest your home and/or office.
- **Join the AVFD** - The Avon Volunteer Fire Department is always looking for new members - everyone from firefighters to fire police to administrative support. To learn more, visit www.AvonVFD.org, call (860) 677-2644, or stop by the Company 1 firehouse located at 25 Darling Drive any Monday evening after 7:00 p.m.

[AVON RECREATION DEPARTMENT](#)

After school ski program registration, grades 5-12, began on October 2nd and will go until November 3rd.
Register online at: www.AvonRec.com.



Be Bear Aware!



Currently, the Avon Police Department dispatches an officer to all reported black bear sightings as manpower and call volume allow. If the bear is seen upon the officer's arrival, the officer will utilize an air horn to attempt to scare the bear away. In rare cases, an officer may deploy less-lethal bean bag rounds which cause the bear pain and have proven effective in causing the bear to immediately leave the area. For example, officers may utilize bean bag rounds if a bear is found in a homeowner's garage or if a bear is sighted in a highly populated area such as Route 44 or the Rails to Trails. On most calls that officers respond to, the bear is simply making its way through yards or along wood lines. In these cases, it would not be appropriate for an officer to deploy bean bag rounds, as the bear is not creating a nuisance or a hazard. It is important to remember that bears are wildlife that are becoming increasingly common in Connecticut. Frequent sightings in a highly forested community like Avon are not unusual.

Please head to the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection's website: www.ct.gov/deep and select "Black Bears" on the home page for more information on black bears in the Connecticut.

Upcoming Intersection Improvements

The Town of Avon recently hired the services of a civil engineering consultant to conduct traffic studies at the intersections of West Avon Road at Country Club Road, and Country Club Road at Burnham Road to assess the safety and efficiency of these intersections. Based on the results of these studies, recommendations were made for improvements to both intersections. It was recommended that the Town re-stripe Country Club Road as it approaches West Avon Road to provide a dedicated left turn lane and a combined through/right turn lane. This project will be completed pending State of CT DOT approval. It was also recommended that an all-way stop be installed at the intersection of Country Club Road and Burnham Road. Both of these projects will be completed by Avon DPW. Further updates regarding project schedules and changes to traffic patterns will be posted on the Town's website as the projects progress.

Amendments to Town Ordinance Chapter 43

At its September 7th meeting, the Town Council voted to amend Chapter 43 of the Code of the Town of Avon, "Peddlers, Solicitors and Closeout Sales," as follows.

- ♦ The hours that a hawker or peddler may solicit within town limits will be changed from "8:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m." to **"9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. or one half-hour before sunset, whichever is earlier, except by appointment."**
- ♦ Additionally, the license requirements will be changed from "licenses shall be issued to a qualifying applicant no later than four weeks after application is made" to **"license shall be issued to a qualifying applicant once their fingerprints are received from the State Police Bureau of Investigations."**

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, the Library, Senior Center, and the Landfill. Reports will be ready for pick-up by Friday, December 1, 2017.

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



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.

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

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www.avonct.gov



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IMPORTANT DATE

MUNICIPAL ELECTION

NOVEMBER 7, 2017

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