



# Town of Avon Newsletter

ISSUE LIX

October 2019

## FY 2020/2021 Budget Process

The process is already under way to begin planning for the FY 2020/2021 budget that takes effect on July 1, 2020. 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 in the Selectmen's Chamber at Avon Town Hall, 60 West Main Street, on the following dates and times:

- Thursday, November 7th at 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, December 5th 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 2020 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 leading up to the Annual Town Meeting and the Budget Referendum in May. 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 to News** on the Town's website to receive email notifications of Town Council, Board of Education and Board of Finance 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.

## PREVENTING CAR BREAK-INS

**LOCK YOUR DOORS, WINDOWS, & SUNROOFS.** The majority of car break-ins reported involve an unlocked car in the owner's driveway. No matter where you park **ALWAYS LOCK YOUR DOORS!**

**IF YOU NOTICE A CAR BREAK-IN HAS OCCURRED** Dial 911 and DO NOT TOUCH the car or the contents. Provide the responding officer with details such as the last time the car was secured and if any items are out of place or missing. Provide serial numbers or other details of missing electronics/high value items.

**PARKING YOUR VEHICLE.** When parked at home, remove all keys and garage door openers from your vehicle to prevent access to your home. Remove all valuables from sight, including electronics, shopping bags and packages, loose change, and gift cards prior to reaching your destination. Park in well-lit areas of public parking lots.

**AVON POLICE DEPARTMENT: EMERGENCY 911 / ROUTINE (860) 409-4200**



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## Construction Updates

**AHS Synthetic Turf Field & Track Improvement Project**—Work began on site in mid-April and as of this writing the track and the field are substantially complete. Remaining tasks include loaming and seeding, installing safety netting along the foul line of the baseball field, installing a new storage shed, an enclosure for the portable restroom, a new water fountain, and completing punch list items. The final task, is the installation of the landscaped buffer along the site's boundaries with Sudbury Way and West Avon Road. An event to celebrate the completion of this project is in the works.

**Fisher Meadows Fields Expansion**—Staff continue to monitor and treat the new grass. In order to best address the sparse growth, staff worked with an expert to conduct additional soil tests that revealed particularly dense, poorly draining soil with very low levels of calcium. Low calcium prevents fertilizers from being effective. To mitigate these issues, calcium treatments were applied, an athletic field grass seed mix was sown and a course of weed inhibitors and fertilizers were applied. Additionally, the fields continue to be mowed weekly. In order to encourage establishment and growth, the Town is not scheduling activities on the seven new fields this fall. In addition to the activity on the fields, staff have been working to complete some other tasks as part of the project including improvements to the rain garden in the center of the new parking lot and the installation of post and cable guard rail around the perimeter of the parking lot to prevent vehicles from accessing the fields.

**Public Safety Communication System Project**—An appropriation of \$3.89 million was approved in December 2018 to replace the Town's existing conventional analog communication system with a 700 MHz communication system meeting the Project 25 (P25) standard. In July 2019, the Town received confirmation that its application to the local region of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to acquire the required frequency licensing for the system was approved. In the coming months, staff will continue to work with the Town's consultant, Federal Engineering, and selected vendor, Motorola, to refine the system's design and acquire necessary land use approvals. A taller tower at the Kingswood Drive site is necessary to achieve the desired coverage specifications. The tower location is in the Town of Canton. As such, permitting will be subject to the approval of the Canton Planning and Zoning Commission.

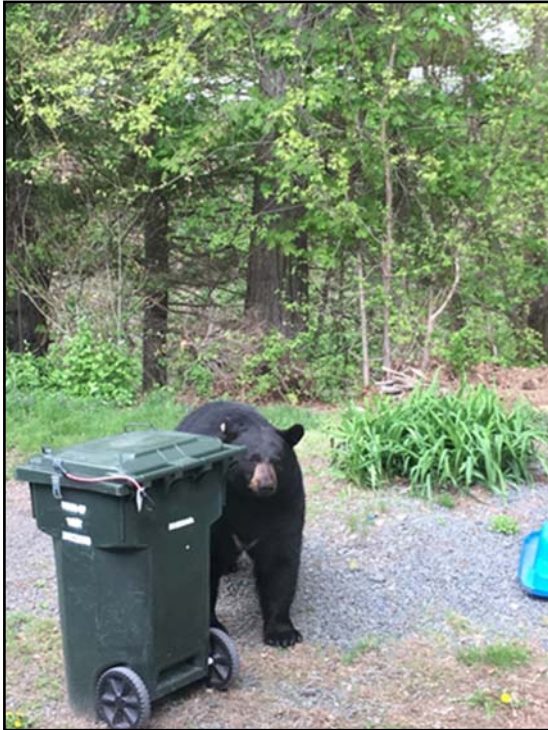
**Old Farms Road Bridge & Intersection Projects**—Town staff continue to coordinate closely with the DOT on this project to (1) replace the Old Farms Road Bridge, (2) raise the profile of Old Farms Road from Waterville Road to just west of Tillotson Road to reduce the potential for future flood damage, and (3) reconstruct the intersection of Old Farms Road and Waterville Road. This project is being managed and funded by the State. As of this writing, the contractor has completed the installation of the main carrying beams that span the river. These beams are 140 feet long and weigh about 145,000 pounds each. The remaining spans are much shorter and were installed in late September/early October. The project is proceeding on schedule and we anticipate that work will be completed in fall 2020.

**Police Department Improvements**—Improvements to the Police Department buildings began in spring 2017 with the construction of a storage building at the rear of the Town Hall property. In spring 2018, the Department of Public Works completed a small expansion to the detective bureau in Building 3 (administrative building) and made upgrades to the Town's IT closet which is housed at the Police Department. At this time, staff are working on another addition to Building 3, to house a larger emergency operations center (EOC) that can be used by Town staff as a command post in the event of a natural disaster or other emergency. Once these projects are complete, staff will begin interior renovations to the patrol building at the rear of the Town Hall property (Building 4). About \$800,000 has been appropriated for these projects over several years.

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## Be Bear Aware



**How to be Bear Aware:** 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 the DEEP's 24-hour hotline at 860-424-3333 or the Avon Police Department • Routine Line 860-677-9746  
Emergency 911**

**For more information please go to:**

<https://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?q=325930#dosanddonts>

## Idling Is A Turn-Off!

**Did you know that it's against the law to idle your vehicle for more than three minutes in the State of Connecticut?** Yet everyday we see cars, trucks, and buses idling in drive-thru lanes, parking lots and school pick-up lines.

**Did you know that every gallon of gasoline burned creates more than 20 lbs. of greenhouse gases?** An idling vehicle releases toxins, chemicals, gases and soot into the air, contributing to haze, acid rain and global climate change. The bottom line? Idling causes air pollution.

**Did you know that for each hour spent idling, a typical truck burns about 1 gallon of diesel fuel and a typical car wastes 1/5 of a gallon of gasoline?** Ten seconds of idling uses more fuel than turning off the engine and restarting it! The bottom line? Idling wastes fuel and money.

**Did you know that idling emissions are still present and harmful, even if you can't see the exhaust?** Breathing in exhaust can aggravate existing conditions like asthma, allergies and cardiovascular diseases, resulting in increased work/school absences, ER visits and even premature deaths. The bottom line? Idling is unhealthy.

### The bottom line? IDLING IS JUST PLAIN FUELISH!

For more information on idling, please visit the "Anti-Idling Efforts in Connecticut" page of the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) website at [www.ct.gov/deep](http://www.ct.gov/deep) which served as the source for this article. This is a message from the Avon Clean Energy Commission.

## 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, the Senior Center, and the Landfill. Reports will be ready for pick-up on December 2, 2019.



## Dates to Remember for the November Election

**October 4, 2019** - 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 29, 2019** - Last day to register to vote in person or mail to be eligible to vote on November 5, 2019. 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 4, 2019** - Last day to apply for an absentee ballot.

**November 5, 2019 (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.

## A Q&A about the Public Right-of-Way

### **Q: What is the Public Right-of-Way (ROW)?**

A: The Public ROW is the area of property between opposing street lines that is owned by either the Town or the State. The ROW includes both the paved portion of the street, as well as the area outside of the pavement that is required to accommodate traffic signs, utilities, sidewalks, etc. The width of the ROW can vary by street but the standard ROW in Avon for local roads is 50 feet from street line to street line, and the ROW on collector roads is 60 feet from street line to street line. ROWs on older roads often do not meet this standard, and ROWs on State roads can vary significantly.

### **Q: How do I determine where my property meets the Town's ROW?**

A: Often, but not always, the location where private property meets the Town's ROW is designated with a pin or a monument. If this is not the case, a general rule of thumb is to measure either 25 feet or 30 feet from the approximate centerline of the paved roadway perpendicular to the centerline. This will give a rough idea where the street line is if the pavement is centered within the ROW. The exact location of the Town's ROW in relation to your property can best be determined by locating property corners (monument or pins) as referenced by the description of your property within your deed and/or property map. The Town also has an online GIS mapping system which is available via the home page of the Town's website under "Citizen Action Center" that makes it possible for users to see their property in relation to the street lines and roadway, however this mapping is not always perfectly accurate.

### **Q: What type of things should residents do within the ROW?**

A: Quite simply, residents should maintain the ROW that stretches beyond the curb and immediately abuts your private property. Often this just means mowing the grass, mulching, or removing snow off the sidewalk.

### **Q: What type of things should not be done within the ROW?**

A: Residents should not install anything permanent, with the exception of a mailbox post, in the Town's ROW without first contacting the Engineering Department. This includes retaining walls, irrigation, paver aprons, fences, walkways, or landscaping. The Town generally has taken the position that residents are often allowed to make modest improvements in the ROW as long as they do not create an unsafe condition or a maintenance problem. To accommodate these types of things, the Town has a simple Encroachment Agreement which must be completed. Additionally, any excavation or driveway work that impacts the ROW requires a permit from the Engineering Department.

### **Q: Who should residents contact with further questions about the ROW?**

A: Residents should contact the Engineering Department at (860) 409-4332.

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## 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 2019-2020 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 APPLY EARLY! The program for oil ends on March 15, 2020, and all others on April 30, 2020. If you would like 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 with any questions and to make an appointment. **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!
- **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! 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 Basket Program](#)."

## Warm Welcomes, Best Wishes, & Fond Farewells

The Town would like to welcome some new faces, and offer congratulations to those employees and volunteers that were promoted or retired in 2019.

Please join us in welcoming **Chief Bruce Appell** who was appointed as Chief of the Avon Volunteer Fire Department in January. The Avon Police Department welcomed its new Police Records Manager, **John Zematis**, in February. In April, **Thomas Doane**, **Kris Strezpek** and **Sean Bristol** began their work as Public Works Maintainers. **Danielle Fales-Murry** came aboard as a part-time Library Specialist in May and the Avon Free Public Library welcomed **Anna Korkus** as its new full-time Reference Librarian in August. Also in August, **January Thompson**, **Norma Baldini**, **Heather George**, **Tifnay Hussan** and **David Czako** joined the Avon Police Department as Certified Dispatchers and **Mary Shea** started in the Building Department as its new Administrative Secretary I. Mary previously worked as a Certified Dispatcher in the Police Department. A warm welcome to all!

Congratulations to Fleet Operations Foreman **Adam Umberger** on his August promotion. Adam previously served as a Mechanic III. Best of luck to Adam in his new role!

We would like to wish **Jeanne Waters** well on her April 2019 retirement. Jeanne served the Town in several roles for the last 28 years, most recently as Assistant Assessor since 2002. Fortunately, we still have Jeanne with us at Town Hall as she continues to serve in her position on a part-time basis. Thank you Jeanne for your service and dedication to the Town and its residents over the years. We would also like to recognize **Patrice Celli** for her many years of service to the community through her work at the Avon Free Public Library. We wish you both well on your next adventures!

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## Household Hazardous Waste Collection November 9, 2019

The Town of Avon, in conjunction with Canton, Farmington, Granby, and Simsbury, will be holding a household hazardous waste collection on Saturday, November 9, 2019 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](http://www.avonct.gov) for more information.

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## Update On The Avon Village Center Development

The developer of the Avon Village Center (AVC) has informed the Town that its first tenant will be Whole Foods. While this may not be new information to some residents, it is positive movement toward securing tenants for all of the AVC buildings.

As you may recall, Phase 1A of the AVC was approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission on July 31, 2018. A significant amount of time has passed since that approval, during which the developer has drafted the final detailed construction plans that will enable construction work to begin. It is crucial to note that this development and its associated infrastructure (sewer, water, electric, gas, etc.) are extraordinarily complicated and coordinating all of these construction activities is a very time consuming task, as is the creation, submission, review, revision and final approval of the infrastructure plans. In addition to the detailed infrastructure plans, the developer has submitted plans to the Town Building Department for several buildings so that the construction of the first five buildings can begin as soon as possible.

In the coming weeks and months you will notice a significant amount of earth removal occurring on the site. This excavation is needed to facilitate the construction of Phase 1A. Town staff has worked closely with the developer and their construction personnel to minimize the impact of the earth removal as the material leaves the site. You may also notice that several trees will be removed from the site during this time. It is the Town and the developer's intention to relocate these trees to other Town properties in an effort to preserve them.

Additionally, efforts are being made at this time to minimize the inconvenience to the public during the construction process. For example, to allow for significant changes to portions of Climax Road, particularly near Route 44, temporary roads will be constructed to allow continuous service to these areas by emergency personnel and to allow for the movement of construction equipment. To accomplish this, the southern terminus of Climax Road will be temporary connected to Bickford Drive. Additionally, in order to provide safe travel from Climax Road to Bickford Drive and onto Route 44 via Ensign Drive, another temporary road will be constructed from Climax Road north of Bickford Drive, and will connect back to Bickford Drive near the Farmington Valley Arts Center. You may have noticed that vegetation clearing to allow for this temporary road has already begun.

As you read this update, the development is already underway. We expect that construction of the first building should take approximately 50 weeks, with construction of subsequent buildings beginning thereafter. While Town staff and the Commission understand that the construction will impact the community, we are working very closely with the developer and the construction team to minimize potential negative impacts to the extent feasible. We are excited to see this project become a reality after many years of careful planning.

As always, if you have any questions with regard to this development, please feel free to call the Planning Department at (860) 409-4328. If we cannot answer your question immediately, we will find the answer and get back to you quickly.

Hiram Peck, Director of Planning and Community Development.

## Avon Library and Senior Center Receive \$12,500 Award

The Avon Free Public Library and Avon Senior Center are pleased to announce they have been selected to receive an *All of Us Research Program Community Engagement Award* from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine. The \$12,500 award is designated for a year-long series to explore 10 key concepts in mental health and wellness, including programs for the public and sessions for Town of Avon employees.

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.

### AVON RECREATION DEPARTMENT

After School Ski program registration began on October 1st and will run through to November 1st or until the buses are filled. Log on to: [www.avonrec.com](http://www.avonrec.com) to register.

**ISSUE LIX**  
**October 2019**

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

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[www.avonct.gov](http://www.avonct.gov)



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## **IMPORTANT DATE**

### **MUNICIPAL ELECTION**

**NOVEMBER 5, 2019**

**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