



OCTOBER
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DIGHTON DIGEST

ISSUE
NO. 1



Flu Clinics Now Available to Residents!

Flu season is upon us and the Town of Dighton is stepping up to ensure all residents interested in receiving a flu shot have the opportunity to do so!

Flu Clinic Open to All: On Saturday, Oct. 28 from 9 a.m. to noon, residents can visit the Old Town Hall, 1111 Somerset Ave., to receive a flu shot. Appointments are required and parental consent is needed for anyone under the age of 18. [Click here to make your appointment.](#)

The Council On Aging hosted a Flu Clinic on Oct. 18 for residents ages 60+ in need of their flu shot. During the clinic, Town Nurse Nicole Mello conducted blood pressure readings as well. The clinic had a great turnout.

Library Building Project Receives State Grant

The Town's library building project at 207 Main St., the newly-acquired Smith Memorial Hall, has been awarded a \$200,000 grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council's Cultural Facilities Fund. The grant will fund the replacement of the building's antiquated oil-fired forced hot air heating system with new high-efficiency electrical variable refrigerant flow (VRF) HVAC systems.

The CFF funding awarded to Dighton is expected to lessen the town's reliance on the \$323,000 Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding approved at Dighton's June Town Meeting. The CPA funds were allocated to the project to complete the \$700,000 proposed interior and exterior rehabilitation project at Smith Memorial Hall. [To learn more about the grant, click here.](#)

From Board of Selectmen Chair Peter Caron



The Board of Selectmen is excited to launch this improved newsletter initiative to make sure we're providing important information directly to you! The Selectmen have finalized article recommendations included in this month's Special Town Meeting Warrant. The Warrant can be accessed on the Town of Dighton website, [click here](#). We're recommending a fiscally-conscious Warrant that includes various priorities. We encourage you to join us for our Special Town Meeting on Oct. 30.

We also recently approved the hiring process that will guide us in selecting Dighton's next chief of police. The Department has not missed a beat thanks to the efforts of Acting Police Chief George Nichols and Dighton Police Department personnel. We greatly appreciate all that our first responders do.

Also, be sure to stop by the Selectmen's table at the upcoming Lions Club Arts Festival on Nov. 5 at Araujo's! As always, we are here to help answer any questions you have relating to Dighton's town government. Please feel free to email us at boardofselectmen@dighton-ma.gov.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE



Hello, Dighton!

Welcome to the first edition of our new bi-monthly Town e-newsletter! We're looking forward to our improved newsletter serving as another tool to share key updates regarding department highlights and important community news!

Though it's been a while since my last update, we are continuing to make progress on a number of fronts, including the launch of a new town website, moving the library building project forward, strengthening financial management processes, and working to streamline town permitting processes. Efforts have also been devoted to pursuing a number of important grant initiatives and completing required procurement processes for a number of projects.

During the last few months, we have welcomed new Town Clerk Shara Costa who succeeded Mark Pacheco, now the Director of Elections for the City of Taunton. We also bid a fond farewell to Library Director Jocelyn Tavares who was hired to become the Director of the Swansea Free Public Library. On behalf of our grateful community, we thank Jocelyn for her dedicated service to our community for more than the past fifteen years.

Make sure to check out information regarding our upcoming Oct. 30 Special Town Meeting included in this month's newsletter. We look forward to seeing you at 7:00 p.m. in the Dighton-Rehoboth Regional High School Auditorium.



Upcoming Events

Special Town Meeting: Monday, Oct. 30 at 7 p.m. at the Dighton-Rehoboth Regional High School Auditorium

Blood Pressure Clinic: The Dighton Fire Department hosts weekly clinics on the first Wednesday of the month at the Lincoln Village Community Room.

Monday at the Movies: The Dighton Public Library hosts weekly movie nights on Monday beginning at 6 p.m. [Check out the library's calendar to see what movie is next!](#)



Dighton Town Hall employees dressed up at last year's Town Hall Trick-or-Treat.

Photos Around Town



This summer we were thrilled to welcome Dighton resident Abi Eckerson to Town Hall as a state Division of Local Services Municipal Finance Management Fellow.

We thank Miss. Eckerson for spending her summer with us and are grateful for all she helped us to accomplish.

School Bus Safety Week



In recognition of School Bus Safety Week (Oct. 16-20), Dighton Police SRO Hathaway, SRO Bennett, Det. Richards and Acting Chief Nichols conducted school bus evacuation drills and spoke with Middle and Elementary School students about bus safety.

Happy Halloween!

It's getting spooky in Dighton! In the spirit of Halloween, Dighton has several events for residents of all ages to enjoy. Events include:

Trick-or-Treat at Town Hall: Dighton Town Hall will be hosting its second Trick-or-Treat from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Community members are invited to stop by in their costumes and get some treats from Town Hall employees.

Dighton Public Library's Children's Halloween Party: Parents are invited to dress their little ones up in their best Halloween costume and attend the spooktacular event at the library, 979 Somerset Ave., from 10:30-11:30 a.m. The party will feature games, prizes, snacks and trick-or-treating.

Council on Aging's Halloween Party: The COA will host a Halloween Party on Oct. 31 at 11 a.m. to conclude its walking challenge. The COA staff, Community Outreach Officer Steven Ferreira, and those who attend will walk one last lap around the track together and then head inside for a Halloween-themed lunch, snacks and drinks. Costumes are encouraged! RSVP at 508-823-0095.

Bristol-Plymouth Groundbreaking Ceremony

On Saturday, Oct. 14, Bristol-Plymouth Regional Technical School hosted a groundbreaking ceremony to commemorate the kickoff of the new school building project.

At the ceremony, Dighton Selectman Nicole Mello, Dighton B-P School Committee Member Ed Dutra, and Selectman Leonard Hull, Jr. posed for photos with shovels and hardhats to celebrate the occasion.

The \$305 million project will include the construction of a brand new school building that will serve over 1,400 high school students in 19 vocational programs. The new school is set to open in 2026. More information about the project can be found [here](#).



Dighton Community Electricity Aggregation New Prices

Our Town's electricity supply program has been renewed. New prices go into effect in December and will be fixed through November 2025.

●		●
Standard Product	Plus (formerly called Green 100%)	National Grid Basic Service
15.784 ¢/kWh All Rate Classes	17.372 ¢/kWh All Rate Classes	18.213 ¢/kWh Residential
No additional renewable energy	Adds voluntary renewable energy (MA Class 1 RECs) to total 100%	No additional renewable energy
December 2023 through November 2025	December 2023 through November 2025	November 2023 through July 2024

*Savings cannot be guaranteed compared to the utility's Basic Service rate which changes every six months for residential and commercial customers, and every three months for industrial customers. The aggregation program seeks to provide price stability and average savings over the full term of the program, but because future basic service rates are not known, there is no guarantee of savings.

Questions about the changes? Join a virtual info session on Oct 26, 2023 at 6 PM or Nov 9, 2023 at 2 PM. The links are available on the program site: MassCEA.com/Dighton

Dighton Community Electricity Aggregation New Prices

Electricity Aggregation Program Update

The Town of Dighton is pleased to announce the renewal of its Community Electricity Aggregation. The program has been renewed with Constellation and features new pricing through November 2025. [Updated program pricing can be found online here.](#)

Since Dighton's Community Electricity Aggregation program launched in 2016, over 2,100 participants have cumulatively purchased 30 MWh of renewable energy. In total, participants have collectively saved more than \$3.7 million since the program's launch.

Good Energy, the consultant to the program, will hold virtual public information sessions to answer any questions residents may have and provide more information on the renewal of Dighton Community Electricity Aggregation. These sessions will be held on:

- Thursday, Oct. 26 at 6 p.m. [Click here to access the session.](#)
- Thursday, Nov. 9 at 2 p.m. [Click here to access the session.](#)

Questions and comments can also be directed to Constellation or Good Energy on the program's support page at MassCEA.com/Dighton.

Bristol County Agricultural High School's Fall Show

Bristol County Agricultural High School presented its 86th Annual Fall Show on Oct. 21-22. The Fall Show featured student exhibits and displays, including landscape displays, animal shows, arbor educational demonstrations and more. There was also live music, raffles and giveaways for all to enjoy.

To learn more about upcoming events, visit www.bristolaggie.org.

Town Clerk's Office Now Fully Staffed to Meet Town's Needs

The Town Clerk's Office is pleased to welcome Ashley Diagneault! Ashley will work in the Town Clerks office for 10 hours a week to assist with a variety of tasks. She's been training and working with Town Clerk Shara Costa on various projects to date and has been a great addition to the office.

Town Clerk Costa is also pleased to share that the Town Clerk's Office has recently promoted Rebecca Mello to Assistant Town Clerk.

With the office fully-staffed, it's been focusing on preparing for the upcoming Special Town Meeting and Election. To do so, members of the office have attended election training conducted by Massachusetts Town Clerks Association and Tri County Clerks Association.

As a reminder, all nomination papers for Town Committee elections must be returned to the Town Clerk's Office on Friday, No. 10 by 5 p.m.

Assessing Dighton's Solid Waste Program

Thanks to the continued work of Dighton's Solid Waste Committee, the town has been devoting significant efforts during the last year to assessing the structure of the town's trash and recycling program, including related budgetary needs and challenges.

The town applied earlier this month for a Technical Assistance Grant through the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to help further inform and bring additional subject matter data, research, and best practices to these discussions. Town officials will continue sharing news and information regarding additional updates as they become available.



Keep an eye out for the Dighton Digest!

The Dighton Digest is a bi-monthly newsletter. Every two months a new edition will be shared to help keep residents up-to-date. Check out the newsletter on the Dighton News and Events Portal and subscribe to receive the newsletter directly to your inbox.

