

TOWN HILL NEWS

Norfolk's Quarterly Municipal Newsletter

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Winter 2024



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Norfolk Community Forum Returns

As part of the Town's ongoing communication and engagement efforts, Select Board Chair Kevin Kalkut has revived *Norfolk Community Forum*, a monthly program on NCTV which aims to keep residents informed of important Town issues. Chair Kalkut said, "One theme has been very clear from the community, which is the desire for more communication and information be made available through a variety of mediums. To that end, *Norfolk Community Forum* will focus on consolidating relevant information from Town Hall as well as from various boards and committees so that residents can get a 50,000 ft. view of what's happening and what's coming down the road in the near future. Then, if they would like additional information or more details, those communication paths will be clear and readily available. The goal is simple, to have an informed and connected community." New episodes coming in the new year!



AVAILABLE
NOW

To watch *Norfolk Community Forum*



VISIT US AT NORFOLK.MA.US



**NORFOLK
MASSACHUSETTS
ANNUAL REPORT - 2022**

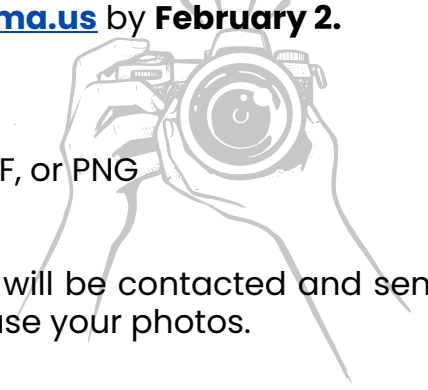
Photos for Norfolk's 2023 Annual Report Needed

Have you ever taken an amazing photo of a sunset in Norfolk and thought this should be published. Now is your chance to show off your photography skills and the beautiful Town of Norfolk. The Town is seeking photographs to use on its website and to feature on the cover of its 2023 Annual Report. Please submit photos to jlizardi@norfolk.ma.us by **February 2**.

Image Requirements:

- High quality
- Standard format such as JPEG, GIF, or PNG
- Relevant to the Town of Norfolk

If your submission is selected, you will be contacted and sent a waiver form allowing the Town to use your photos.



Annual Town Meeting Is Scheduled for May 14, at 7 PM at King Philip Middle School, 18 King Street

The Town usually holds two meetings a year, an Annual Town Meeting typically held on the second Tuesday in May, and a Special Town Meeting held in November.

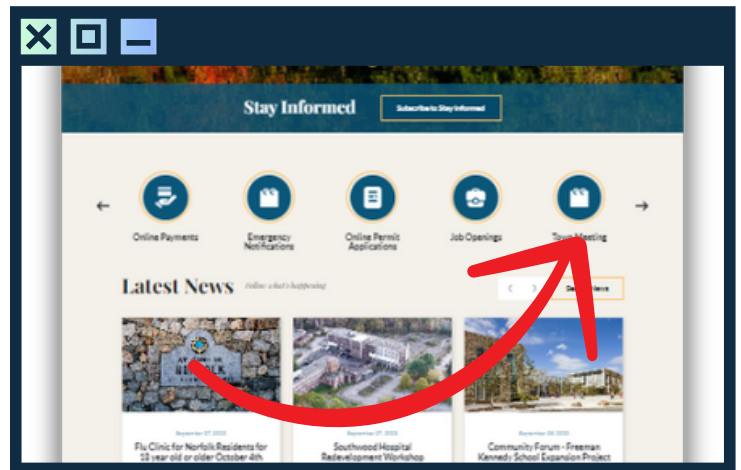
Town Meetings have been in use for over 300 years and are an important way for taxpayers in Massachusetts to voice their opinions and directly affect change in their community. While Town Meetings in Massachusetts vary by form of government and size, the one constant theme is the responsibility of taxpayers to make their voices heard to decide the right course of governing for their community.

Town Meeting Webpage

Whether you are a seasoned Town Meeting participant or you are thinking of attending for the first time, please keep checking the Town's website on the Town Meeting page for various resources such as warrant articles, up-to-date news, rules of procedure, past warrant articles, meeting minutes, and "A Citizen's Guide to Town Meetings." This webpage will be updated as information becomes available to post.



CLICK HERE



Town Clerk



Busy 2024 Ahead for the Town Clerk's Office

As we begin the new year, there are a few things to look for. First is the annual town census. As well as being required under Massachusetts General Law, responding to the census helps you with proof of residency as well as voting rights. If you do not return your signed census, we are required to inactivate you as a voter which adds more paperwork for you if you still live in town and show up to vote. So, get your census checked, signed, and returned to the office (either in the drop box, or by mail) so you will have a smooth and easy voting experience on election day.

Speaking of Election Day, we have plenty of those in 2024. From the Primary in March and the Town Election in May to the State Primary in September and the General in November, everyone should have plenty of opportunities to exercise their right to vote!

Dog licensing in Norfolk is on a calendar year basis; therefore, all 2023 licenses expire on December 31. It seems that everyone is waiting on pins and needles to see what the 2024 tag is going to look like, but dog owners will have to send in the completed registration, a copy of a current rabies vaccination, and payment to find out.

The Town Clerk's Office is looking forward to an exciting year ahead and serving all of our human and furry family members' needs. Please check out the Town Clerk's website for updates throughout the year!

 [CLICK HERE](#)

Affordable Housing

Retire-in-Place Assistance Program Funded by Norfolk Municipal Affordable Housing Trust

A new Retire-in-Place Assistance (RIPA) program is now available to Norfolk residents. The RIPA program provides limited financial assistance to income-eligible senior or disabled households to help repair and rehabilitate existing owner-occupied housing units. The grant limit is \$5,000 per applicant, or per household.

To get eligibility requirements and more information  [CLICK HERE](#)

The application period for this funding round opens **Jan. 5, 2024** and closes **Feb. 15, 2024**.

Grants are reviewed and awarded once per year. Norfolk residents who are interested in applying can acquire an application by emailing Affordable Housing Trust Director Susan Jacobson at sjacobson@norfolk.ma.us. Applications will also be made available at the Town Hall.

Recreation

Norfolk Recreation prides itself on having something for everyone, and this winter is no exception! Registration is underway for the winter session with programs beginning in the new year. Along with all of our popular returning programs, we are excited to offer new, Saturday programs including Sticky Fingers (parent with child), Creative Kids Crafts (age 3.5-6yrs), and American Sign Language (for children and adults). Zoombinis for grades 3-6 is being offered in conjunction with the NPS Tech Department. Held at the Freeman-Kennedy School after school, Zoombinis has students embark on a fun and challenging journey that is rich in logic puzzles and high on adventure. For adults, new and diverse enrichment and exercise programs are being added including Circuit Training, Pebble Art, Terrarium Creation, and Knitting/Crafting classes offered by Norfolk's own Heirloom New England. Additional information and registration for these and all programs is available at Norfolk.activityreg.com.

While the spring and summer may seem far away, planning for these busy months is well underway at Norfolk Recreation. An important part of this planning includes fundraising efforts for our Summer Concert Series, Tuesday Tunes for Tots, and our annual Fireworks Display planned as the finale to Norfolk Community Day on June 15. We are actively seeking sponsors for these events. Several sponsorship levels are available so businesses, community groups, families, and individuals can contribute. All donations are welcome, helpful, and very much appreciated!

To inquire about sponsorship opportunities for these events, donations to our scholarship fund, or any other recreation program, please call us at 508-520-1315, email us at recreation@norfolk.ma.us, or stop by the Recreation office on the ground floor of the Norfolk Town Hall. While at Town Hall, say hi to Ashley Lint, our new Assistant to the Recreation Director. Ashley has been with us for over two months and brings a wealth of administrative and recreational experience from organizations such as Brand New Ballgame where she still oversees the Rox Softball program.

We hope to see everyone around town this winter!

DPW

Roadside Obstructions

Please remember to remove roadside obstructions before the snow begins. This includes cars, trash barrels, basketball hoops. These objects are within the towns right of way and interfere with snow removal.




Fire Hydrants

Residents and property owners that have a fire hydrant on/near their property are asked to help to clear a **3 ft. area** around the Hydrant. The Fire Department counts on hydrants being cleared of snow to help protect public safety.



Library

Happy winter! Come out of the cold and spend some time at the library. Is the book better than the movie? Let's put that to the test on January 18 at [Watch the Book](#). Pick up a copy of *The Princess Bride* to read ahead of the meeting and then watch the movie on January 18. Stop by on Tuesdays for Watercolor Meet Up from 1 pm–3 pm or Fridays for Fiber Art Group from 10:30 am–12 pm. Looking for a free, low-key afterschool activity for your tween? Come build a blanket fort, listen to music, and play games with Miss Allison on January 23 at [Blanket Forts & Board Games](#) for grades 4–6. Start planning your 2024 garden with the Garden Club of Norfolk on January 27 at [How to Choose the Right Seeds for Your Garden](#) and check out what is available in the Seed Library afterwards. Have craft supplies that are too good to throw away? Bring all your extra craft supplies to the library for a [craft swap](#) on January 31. Come have fun with a music and movement class with [Miss Jenn](#) on February 7. Leigh Baltzer will be back on February 22 for a [puppet storytime](#) that will include a hands-on puppet play session. The library will also be offering a [baby sign language class](#) on March 27. Learn the benefits of signing with your baby as well as learn and practice several signs. The library offers regular story times, book groups, craft programs, music programs and one-on-one tech help all year round. Check out [our website](#) and [event calendar](#). Would you like to receive library news and events in your inbox? To sign up for our monthly newsletter  [CLICK HERE](#)



Passport Walk-In Event

Get ready for summer travel and apply for your passport during our walk-in event! The library will be hosting a [Passport Walk-In Day](#) from 10 am–6 pm on Thursday, February 22. No appointments are necessary. Please read all requirements about who needs to be present (especially for children's passports), what documentation needs to be brought, and what forms of payment are accepted on our [passport information page](#).

Call for Artists

Are you an artist looking for a space to display your art? The Library's Community Room is a common space used by many groups in town and a great place to display your talent! What can you display? Paintings, quilts, collages, photography, and anything 2D that can be hung on a wall. Displays are up for one month at a time. Interested in reserving a month? Contact Library Director Sarah Ward at sward@sailsinc.org or call (508) 528-3380.



We Want to Hear From You!

The intent of this newsletter is to make it a regular news source published quarterly throughout the calendar year. The next issue will be released on April 3, 2024. We want this newsletter to be valuable to you, so we encourage you to offer your feedback and suggestions on what you would like to see in future issues by sending an email to Assistant Town Administrator kmobrien@norfolkma.us.



Meet the Team

In each newsletter issue a member of our team will be highlighted for what they do and what projects they are working on. In this issue, we introduce you to Betsy Fijol from the Land Use Department.

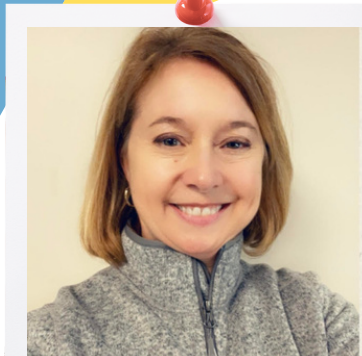
How long have you worked here? 26 years next month!

What boards do you work for? The Planning Board and Board of Health.


What do you like to do for fun? Floral design, spend time at the beach, pool, and boat in the summer, ski in the winter, travel, and spend time with friends and family.

What do you like best about working for the Town? I was born and raised in Norfolk, and I am a people person, so I enjoy helping the residents and contractors that I interact with.

What can residents ask you about? Septic system and private well information, regulations, bylaws, various permitting processes for each department, notary public services, public health and environmental inspectional services, commercial site plan and residential subdivision information, and general information about Town services and permitting.



Betsy

 508-918-5536

 bfijol@norfolk.ma.us

To access the Land Use webpage

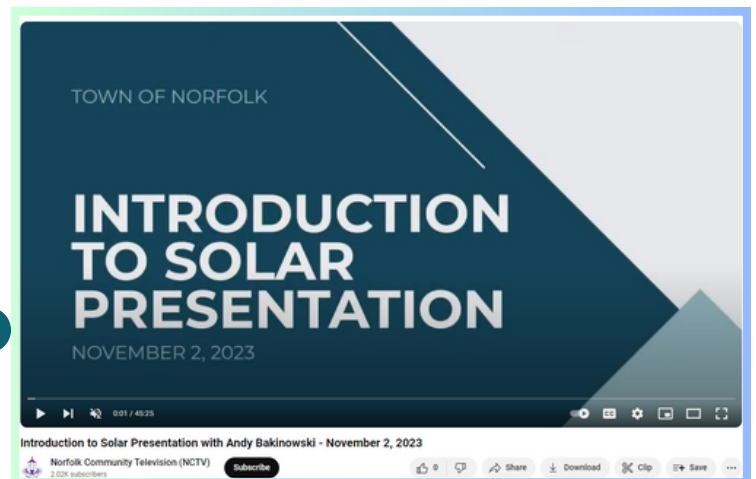
 [CLICK HERE](#)

Energy

Introduction to Solar

Interested in solar energy but do not know where to start? Energy Committee member Andy Bakinowski discussed the basics of Solar PV panels in November with NCTV.

To watch the full discussion  [CLICK HERE](#)



Council on Aging

Property Tax Work-Off Program 2024

Applications are currently available for participation in the property tax work-off program. The program's goals are to assist senior citizens with property tax bills, reduce Town departments' workloads because they are staffed with skilled and dependable seniors, allow seniors the chance to put their skills to use, and assist seniors with opportunities for socialization and a sense of purpose. Participants must meet eligibility guidelines and have appropriate skills for available positions. Participants may work for a Town department up to 100 hours between January 2024 and November 2024 and earn a credit of \$15 per hour which will be applied to their February 1 tax bill in 2025. Types of past positions available include program leaders, administrative, reception, data entry, document scanning, library assistance and project assistance, for various Town departments.



Program Requirements:

- Must be 60 years or older as of January 1, 2024
- Must fully complete the application
- Must pass a CORI background check and present a photo ID with the application
- Must own and occupy a property in Norfolk and present a tax bill with the application
- Property must NOT be held in a trust unless the person applying for the program has a beneficial interest in the trust

To receive an application packet for this program, please call the Norfolk Council on Aging at 508-528-4430 or stop by the Senior Center at 28 Medway Branch.

PLEASE NOTE: Applications will no longer be accepted after March 15, 2024 and SPOTS ARE LIMITED.



Job Opportunity

The Council on Aging/Senior Center is hiring a part-time bus driver. This non-benefited position is 5-16 hours per month and is responsible for providing transportation for Norfolk's seniors and disabled residents to and from appointed destinations. Mass Class D (passenger vehicle) and Mass Class B (CDL) licenses are required. To read the full job posting and learn about other job opportunities

[CLICK HERE](#)

Town Hill Reservations

Did you know Norfolk residents, businesses, and governmental agencies can request the use of Town Hill for events, gatherings, weddings, and more. As Town Hill is the responsibility of the Norfolk Select Board, they must vote and approve the use of Town Hill in an open meeting. The Select Board typically meets on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. For more information on the process

[CLICK HERE](#)



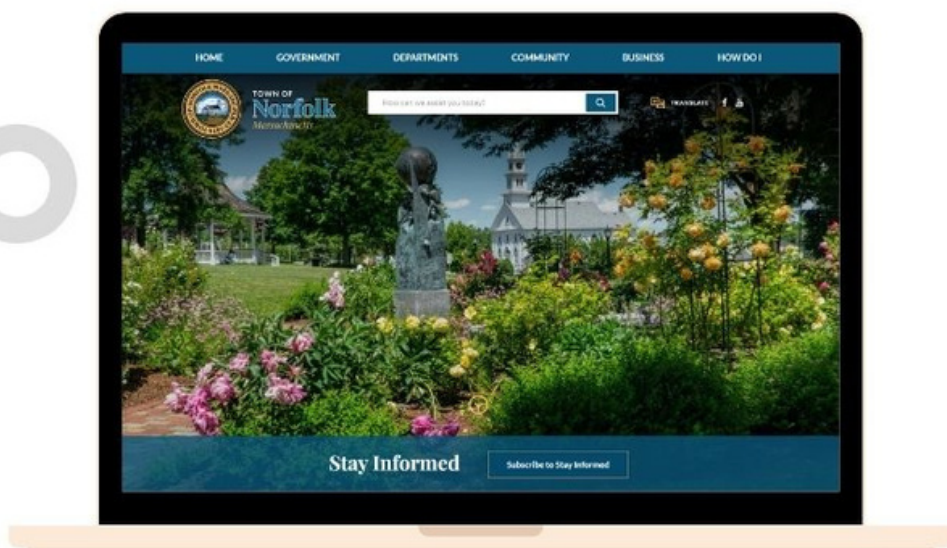
Drop by the Town Clerk's office and pick up a Norfolk mug for \$10 each. Proceeds go to the Historical Commission. Cash or check accepted.



STAY INFORMED STAY CONNECTED



[SIGN UP NOW!](#)



Annual Town Meeting is
May 14!

What's going on with the
Southwood Hospital
property?

Sign Up for Alerts

- Public meetings
- Newsletter
- Job opportunities
- Town Meeting
- Transfer Station updates

Register online for
Recreation's summer
programs

Did you know you can
pay your taxes online?

norfolk.ma.us/enotify

