



Town of PRINCETON MASSACHUSETTS

Municipal Update

AUGUST 2021



TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

Welcome to the new electronic Town of Princeton Municipal Update Newsletter. This bi-monthly publication will be available on the Town of Princeton website and will highlight recent and upcoming municipal and community events in Princeton.

First, I would like to extend my gratitude to the Town of Princeton first responders, employees, board/committee/commission members, and volunteers for their resilience and dedication during the unprecedented times brought on by the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Princeton Selectboard will be celebrating these efforts with an appreciation event later this summer.

Princeton municipal buildings have re-opened their doors but visitors are asked to wear a mask if they are not fully vaccinated. Thank you for your cooperation as we strive to keep health and safety top priorities.

Town Boards and Committees have begun meeting in a hybrid model which allows residents to attend either in person or virtually. We are working on improving remote meetings and have ordered equipment that will help to improve the audio and visual capability of remote meetings in the future. It is exciting to see people back on the municipal campus again!

The Public Safety Building Committee has begun meeting and discussing ways to reduce the cost estimate of the Public Safety Building Proposal to bring to a future Town Meeting. More information on this matter can be found by visiting the [Public Safety Building Committee Webpage](#).

Our application to become a Green Community has been approved and we are working with the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning to submit projects to fund with our \$130,869 designation grant. You can learn more about this and other grants in the [Grant Matrix](#) posted on the town website recently.

Grants and other municipal successes represent collaboration, hard work, and outside-of-the-box thinking by many who work together to make Princeton a better place to live, work, learn, and play. With many challenges and opportunities on the horizon, please visit <https://www.town.princeton.ma.us/town-clerk/pages/board-and-committee-vacancies> to learn more about ways you can serve your community.

Please feel free to reach out to me at any time by calling 978-464-2102 or emailing townadministrator@town.princeton.ma.us. Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Sincerely,

Sherry Patch
Town Administrator

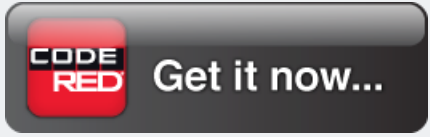
TOWN HALL HOURS

- Monday: 8:00 AM - 4:00PM
- Tuesday: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
- Wednesday: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
- Thursday: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Non-vaccinated visitors are asked to wear masks when visiting public buildings.

TOWN HALL

[Department Directory](#)



Click the button above to receive CODE RED Alerts from the Town of Princeton.



Click the button above to connect with the Town of Princeton on Nextdoor.

PFAS IN TOWN AND PRIVATE WELLS

The Selectboard has authorized the Town Administrator to work with Licensed Site Professional (LSP) Jeffrey Arps from Tighe & Bond, and Attorney Barry Fogel from Keegan Werlin on the continued execution of the Immediate Response Action (IRA) Plan filed with MassDEP. Though private well testing was slowed down because of COVID restrictions, quarterly well testing is back on schedule. Residents are kept updated on the PFAS situation through updates on the PFAS page on the town website and by updates during Selectboard meetings. An information session was held on 7/12/21 where Jeffrey Arps informed residents of the status to date and discussed the next phase of the IRA which has begun. A recording of this session can be viewed [here](#).

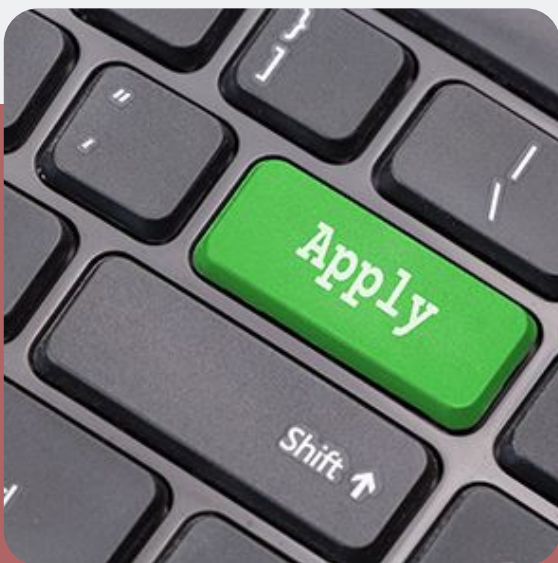
The Selectboard has heard from affected residents that the Town should install POETs (point of entry treatment systems) in houses with PFAS levels below the existing cutoff of 20 PPT and that some taxpayers might be willing to spend more money now to fight PFAS if it reduces risk to residents and gets us to a long-term solution faster. The Selectboard and Advisory Committee are considering the question of which houses should receive POETs and when.

The Environmental Action Committee (EAC) is set to begin playing a role in helping with PFAS communications and ensuring terms are explained and easy to understand. They appointed Matt Charpentier to be the EAC liaison on PFAS and he will be working with the Selectboard to make filings to MassDEP more resident-friendly.

The Selectboard voted on 7/13 to move forward with the development of a Request for Proposals for a feasibility study for bringing a small public water system to the areas of town affected by PFAS. Our Licensed Sight Professional noted that the only way we can move away from the regular testing of private wells and the installation and maintenance of POETs is to provide uncontaminated water to that part of town.

In order to avoid any possible conflict of interest, Selectboard Chair Karen Cruise will no longer be involved in PFAS-related matters in town. Moving forward, Selectboard Vice Chair Richy Bisk will be the lead on PFAS and all discussions, deliberations, and votes will be handled by Selectboard Member Matthew Moncreaff and himself. Karen's property at 33 Allen Hill Rd tested above the non-detect level over the winter but was non-detect at the most recent test. Since decisions by the Board may affect Karen's property values, she was advised to recuse herself.

PFAS in Town is an ongoing and constantly evolving issue that is a high-ranking priority of the Selectboard and Town Administrator. As mentioned, regular updates are posted on the Princeton PFAS Webpage. Please direct any questions about this to Town Administrator Sherry Patch at townadministrator@town.princeton.ma.us or at 978-464-2102.



Electronic Permitting in Princeton

Coming Soon - Soon there will be changes to the way the Town of Princeton does building, electrical, plumbing, and gas permits. In late summer 2021, the town will begin accepting permit applications through an online permitting system that will allow residents and contractors to apply, pay, and track the permitting process from start to finish. This is an exciting way for the town to progress our permitting procedure while ensuring a high level of constituent service. More information will be available via the town website in the coming weeks.

Princeton Public Library

Did you know...

- The library offers both curbside pickup and book delivery: While we would love to see you inside the building, we are happy to provide materials to those who are uncomfortable or unable to visit in person. Book deliveries are made on Wednesdays and curbside pickup is available whenever the library is open. Call 978-464-2115 or visit our website for information on both options.
- The library is now open three evenings per week (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday) until 7pm: Our full summer hours and new school year hours are listed at the bottom of the page.
- The library's wifi is available outside the building 24/7: For the best signal, sit in front of the building in the parking lot or under the tree. No password required.

Summer at Princeton Public Library

It's been a busy summer at Princeton Public Library. In June, we welcomed our new children's coordinator and Princeton resident Jessie Trowbridge to the staff. Her Wednesday morning storytimes have been very popular with the under-6 crowd. We have also hosted a number of programs, including tie dye, origami, Wild World of Reptiles, and critter clay time and held our first storywalk in July. More than 80 kids have been taking part in our annual summer reading program, which wraps up this week. The program finale, with the Juniper Farms ice cream truck, will take place on Wednesday, August 11, from 1 to 3pm.



NEW Summer hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10am-7pm,
Saturday 10am-1pm

NEW Regular hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10am-7pm
Friday 10am-5pm
Saturday 10am-1pm

Ongoing programs

- Our afternoon and evening book clubs and cookbook club continue to meet via Zoom. For more information or to join, email eredihan@cwmar.org or call the library during business hours (978-464-2115).
- Grab and go crafts are available on the first Tuesday of the month (September—June) for adults and kids. Crafts are first come, first served.
- Our Teen Advisory Board is seeking new members! The group will begin planning activities in September for those in grade 7-12. Stop by the library or visit the website for more info.

Upcoming COA Events

Mobile Farmers Market: The COA and Growing Places Mobile Produce Market are pleased to be offering bi-weekly produce markets from local farms! The markets are held in the Wachusett House parking lot, 13 Boylston Ave., Princeton, 5PM – 6PM. August dates: Tuesday, August 10th and Tuesday, August 24th. The produce is beautiful, fresh, varied, and local! FYI – SNAP, HIP, WIC, and Senior Farmers Market Coupons are all accepted as well as cash and credit cards.

SAVE THE DATE: The COA SUMMER BBQ will be held, rain or shine, at Krashes Field on Thursday, September 9th! Live entertainment will be provided by the HipSwayers and we will be serving traditional BBQ fare of grilled hamburgers, hot dogs, salads, chips, and, of course, ice cream! Tents will protect us from the sun or rain and will be easily accessible from the parking lot. ADA compliant bathrooms and WiFi are onsite too. This is free for all Princeton seniors, so come on down and join the fun starting at noon! Call the COA to register – 978 464 5977.

BINGO: Bingo at the COA on Wednesday, August 11th and Wednesday, August 25th at 12:30 PM. \$1/card to play. Multiple games and Bingo configurations. This is so much fun, we are adding another day this month.

Coffee & Conversation with the “New” Director: Meet the “new” Director of the Council on Aging, Judith Webster, on Thursday, August 19th at 10:30 AM. Although she has been here since December, we haven’t been able to meet together face-to-face due to the pandemic. Come say hello at the COA and join us for coffee, pastries, and conversation. RSVP to 978 464 5799.

Princeton Police Department



The Princeton Police Department is announcing that they will be conducting additional traffic enforcement in August and September as part of their Municipal Road Safety Grant and have already applied for this grant opportunity for next summer.

The PPD has recently purchased Tritech Software new Live Scan Fingerprint machine as part of the JAG Grant received last year. Additionally, the department has applied for a Security Trust Fund Grant which would allow the purchase Mobile Data Terminal Computers for cruisers.

As part of the new Police Reform bill, the Princeton Police Department is in the process of updating their Use of Force Policy and our Internal Affairs Policy. Regularly updated policies help departments ensure safety for all and accordance with state and federal rules and regulations.

Chief Powers has announced that new bulletproof vests will be ordered for the second half of the department. These vests are paid for by the Federal Bulletproof Vest Partnership and the Executive Officer of Public Safety and Security.

Highway Update



The Town of Princeton Highway Department has spent the first few months of their busy season maintaining the roads, recreation areas, and public ways of the Town. On top of this and dealing with an incredibly wet season, they have done numerous road and culvert repairs including drain, culvert, and catch basin work on Worcester, Mountain, and Ball Hill Roads.



The Princeton Highway Department usually spends some time mowing roadside with their boom mower this time of the year. However, unfortunately, the equipment has broken down and the parts are back-ordered like many other construction and maintenance items. The department does not have a date as to when these parts will arrive and wanted residents to be aware of why this was not happening at this time. This is a busy season for Highway and we aim to complete this task when the equipment is operational.



Meet Ruger - Princeton Highway Superintendent Ben Metcalf's new black lab, and the unofficial mascot of the Princeton Highway Department.

Any Highway questions or concerns can be sent to Superintendent Ben Metcalf at highwaydept@town.princeton.ma.us

Princeton Hikes!



Princeton Hikes! Is off to a great year with over many people joining their June hike to Bickford Pond and July hike to the west shore of Paradise Pond down to the dam and wolf Rocks in Leominster State Forest. The three hikes scheduled for August listed below

- August 14 - East Princeton - Exploring the trails behind the Onion Patch, including a hike out to the Cat Rocks. A moderate 4 mile hike.
- August 25 - Senior hike to Poutwater Pond. An easy 3 mile hike on the east side of town out to a pretty and isolated pond.
- August 28 - Mountain ramble across the southern trails on Mount Wachusett for lunch at Mountainside Cafe. An easy-moderate 3-4 mile walk with an option for more.

For more information please contact Rick Gardner at rick.s.gardner@gmail.com

Redemption 5K Fund Run



Princeton Parks and Recreation is hosting the First Annual Redemption 5K Fund Run to be held on August 28, 2021 at 10:00AM. The race will begin at the Mountain Barn and bring participants down Worcester Road, through the Jillian Drive /Stagecoach Drive loop, further down Worcester Road to the Hickory Drive/Oak Circle loops, and back up Worcester Road to Mountain Barn. This is an all ages and skill levels event which can be signed up for [here](#). Sign up by August 14, 2021 to receive a race day tee shirt. All proceeds from the event will go to support the activities of the Princeton Parks and Recreation throughout the year. Celebrate at the finish line with food and live music. Any questions can be sent to Princeton Parks and Recreation Director Scott Morris at recreation@town.princeton.ma.us



Happy Retirement Marie!

Marie Auger, the Town of Princeton Land Use Coordinator and Administrative Assistant is set to retire in mid-September. Marie has been with the Town in this capacity since 2012. After finding her passion for Land Use and municipal government as a government reporter for The Gardner News, Marie has worked here in Princeton as well as served on the Westminster Planning Board since 1993. Marie plans to continue her involvement in town issues as a longtime volunteer on the Midstate Trail Committee and Open Space Committee Member in Westminster. Please join us in thanking Marie for her contributions to Princeton over the last 9 years and wishing her well in retirement.

TAXES DUE OCT 1, 2021

Semi Annual Real Estate and Property Taxes will be due October 1, 2021. Bills can be paid online by visiting <https://www.town.princeton.ma.us/home/pages/online-payments>

Please contact the Office of the Treasurer Collector at 978-464-2105 if you have any questions or concerns.

COVID - 19 By The Numbers

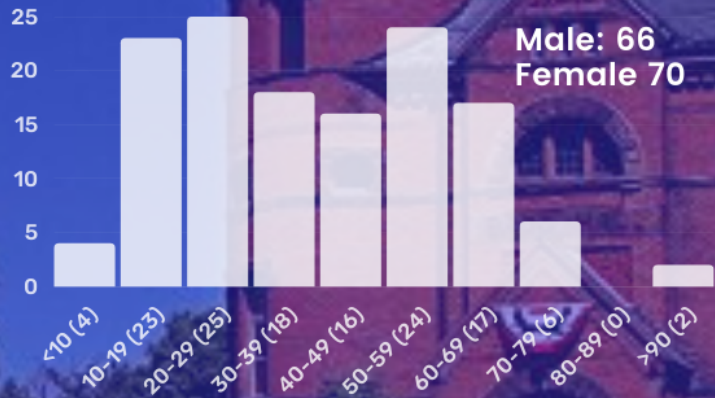


978-464-2104 - www.town.princeton.ma.us

COVID UPDATE

as of August 9, 2021

- 3** Confirmed Covid-19 since 6/8/2021
- 136** Total Cases to date
- 2** Fatalities to date



FIRE PULL

On Friday July 16, 2021 the Princeton Fire Department lent one of their fire trucks to a summer camp of local youth. The team building event took place on Bigelow Road and bystanders watched as 100+ teens teamed together to move the truck 100 feet over a slope.



Have an idea for the next edition of the Municipal Update? A community event to promote? A volunteer or employee you would like to see highlighted for their good work in the Town of Princeton?

Send suggestions:

Town Clerk Nathan Boudreau

6 Town Hall Drive townclerk@town.princeton.ma.us

978-464-2103



Click the photo above to learn more about Town of Princeton employment opportunities including Administrative Assistant