

# IN TOWN NEWS



A newsletter for Town of Wrentham Employees Issue 5

February 2019

## New Director of Human Resources in Wrentham

Effective Tuesday, January 29, Mary Beth Bernard joined Wrentham as the first part-time Director of Human Resources. A Wrentham resident, Mary Beth served the last five years as Assistant Town Manager / HR Director for the Town of Foxborough. Prior to that she worked for over twelve years as Director of Human Resources for the Town of Westwood. In addition, she has served as a Human Resources Consultant for several municipalities in Massachusetts. As the Director of Human Resources she will be responsible for performing a broad range of human resource functions directing and supervising the personnel systems of the Town, including classification, compensation, recruitment, selection, chief negotiator for collective bargaining, labor relations, and training. Mary Beth has served as the Chairman of the Massachusetts Municipal Personnel Association since 2015 and is a Presidential Member of the Massachusetts Municipal Policy Committee on Labor Relations. She is a Certified Senior Professional in Human Resources, Certified Society of Human Resources Management Senior Professional and a Certified Trainer for the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD). Mary Beth will be in the Office all day on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The Human Resources Office will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Town Hall.



*Mary Beth Bernard the new part-time Human Resources Director*

## Calendar

- Town Census due now
- Feb 28 Dog Licenses
- Mar 5 Town Warrant Open
- Mar 12 Voter Registration
- Mar 19 Healthy Luncheon
- Apr 1 Town Election
- Jun 1 Arts on the Common
- Jun 3 Town Meeting



*Nurse Judy Fenton retired after 15 plus years as a nurse with the Town of Wrentham*

## Public Health Nurses

After spending more than fifteen years as a public health nurse, Judy Fenton retired on February 6, 2019. A luncheon hosted by fellow employees at Town Hall was held for Judy on February 5. Later that day, the Board of Selectmen honored Judy with a proclamation and presented her with flowers at their meeting. The Wrentham Public Health Nurses will now be led by Lauren Hewitt, R.N. who was promoted on February 11 to Senior Public Health Nurse.

## Planning

Welcome Wrentham's new Director of Planning & Development, Rachel Benson, who joined us in January from the Town of Grafton. Her prior experience includes working in the private sector for Meridian Associates and Nitsch Engineering as a Land Use Specialist and Survey CAD Technician. Rachel is a U.S. Air Force veteran where she served as an Engineering Journeyman. Rachel volunteers in her hometown of Plainville as Planning Board Vice-Chair and ZBA Member. She holds a B.S. in Geography from Bridgewater State University and is working toward completion of an M.S. in Urban Planning and Community Development from UMass Boston.



*Rachel Benson, Director of Planning & Development*



*Wrentham's new Veterans' Agent Mike Hennessy*

## New Veterans' Agent

In January, Mike Hennessy was appointed as Wrentham's new Veterans' Agent. Hennessy was appointed by Town Administrator Kevin Sweet following the recent retirement of longtime Veterans' Agent Ken Oles. Hennessy served as a medic in the Army from 2000-2006. During his service he was stationed at bases in New York, Wisconsin and New Jersey. He was also part of a protective detail for a U.S. Senator and received the Army Commendation medal. He is currently pursuing a degree in nursing at the University of Massachusetts Boston through his VA benefits. Hennessy, age 37, lives in Bellingham with his wife and three children.

His office hours will be Wednesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Wrentham Senior Center, 400 Taunton St. Appointments can also be made by calling 508-808-8431.

## Wrentham Public Schools

### LED Light Replacement Project

The district is working with National Grid to replace all lights, interior and exterior, in the district with energy efficient LED lights. The project did not cost the district any money upfront. The project is paid for partially through a grant from National Grid. The rest of the money will be paid through the savings in our electric bill over three years. After three years, our electricity bill will be significantly reduced. The new lights are energy efficient, last for years without needing to be replaced, provide excellent light, and look great.

### New Emergency Radios

The school district is continuously improving the safety and security of the buildings and grounds. The Wrentham Police Department and Wrentham Fire Department have been wonderful partners. Recently, the district purchased a number of radios that communicate directly with Wrentham emergency personnel. The radios are located in offices and classrooms throughout the district. They provide people in the schools with immediate and direct access to emergency personnel. This will significantly reduce response time and increase district security.

### 2019 MCAS Preparation

The teachers and students are getting ready for MCAS, the annual state tests. Students in grades 3 through 6 take MCAS in reading, writing, and math. Fifth graders also take a science and technology/engineering MCAS. Wrentham students perform very well on MCAS. Last year, our students exceeded the state averages on every standard in every grade in every subject except one math standard; we missed that one standard by one point. They performed comparably or better than area districts on all tests in all grades. Our students performed well on MCAS because of the authentic and engaging learning that happens in class, and at home, every day. This is a credit to our students, their teachers, their parents, and the entire community.

### Roderick School Playground Project

Superintendent Allan Cameron and Roderick School Principal Kevin Martes are leading a drive to replace the playground at Roderick School. The goal is to replace the current Roderick playground and Tot Lot with a larger, safer, and more accessible playground. They formed a committee comprised of staff members and students' parents to solicit bids from contractors, select the new playground design, and raise money for the project. The goal is to raise \$300,000 over the next two years.



## Clerk's Corner

### Fiske Public Library

Evening Book Group—next meeting February 28 at 7 p.m. *Be Frank with Me* by Julia Claiborne Johnson

Documentary film next showing will be Tues., Feb. 19 at 7 pm

Foreign film—next showing will be Wed., Feb.27 at 7 pm

Drop-In Intro to Yoga— Sat. Feb. 23 10-11:15 sign-up at the front desk

Chess Club: Sat., March 2 and April 6 from 1:00-3:30 Open to age 8 and up

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day Sat. Mar. 16 – 10:30-11:30 Music, Dance, Crafts and some Irish Soda Bread! Join us for an Irish Step Dance Performance for all ages. Drop-In, No Registration

2019 Dog Licenses: The Clerk's office has licensed over 800 dogs since January 1<sup>st</sup> (about 40%). A reminder that the deadline to license is February 28<sup>th</sup> before being subject to fines.

Annual Town Census: The Annual Town Census was mailed to each address in Wrentham on January 8<sup>th</sup>. Residents are urged to check the information contained on the form, make any necessary corrections/additions, and sign and return it to the Clerk's office as soon as possible. Anyone who does not receive a census should contact the Town Clerk's office to be mailed a blank form. It is important to return the Annual Town Census because:

1. It is the law
2. It is used to create the annual street list
3. It is used to assist public safety and emergency responders
4. It is used to apply for grants
5. It is used to assist the Town and State in calculating state and federal aid
6. It is used to project future school enrollment and costs
7. It is used to create the voter list - if you are a voter and do not respond, you will be made inactive on the voting list
8. It serves as proof of residency which residents need to qualify for veteran's benefits and in-state tuition at state schools
9. Failure of residents to fill out and return census could lead to the state's losing a representative in Congress as well as Federal funds

Federal Census: The Federal Census will be taken in 2020.

Nomination Papers: Nomination papers for the April 1, 2019 Annual Town Election are available in the Clerk's Office. The deadline to return nomination papers was Monday, February 11<sup>th</sup>.

Voter Registration: Voter registration for the Annual Town Election is Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Clerk's office and from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Public Safety Building.

Annual Town Election: The Annual Town Election will be held on Monday, April 1, 2019. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Delaney Elementary School.

## Board of Health

The Wrentham Board of Health held its annual Rabies Clinic on Saturday February 9, 2019. The clinic was held from 8:30am to 11am at the rear of the public safety building. The cost was \$20 per animal and a total of 10 dogs and 5 cats were treated. Town Clerk was also there to license any dogs if needed.

# Information Technology

## **Public Safety IT Systems Administrator, Craig Gavazzi**

Craig joined the IT team in late September filling a position previously occupied for two decades by the Town's only other IT person [excluding schools]. Craig continues to identify and document each aspect of Public Safety's Technical network infrastructure. In addition, Craig has addressed and resolved multiple IT related issues ranging from replacing failing hardware to software upgrades, PC replacement and working closely with Public Safety specific vendors to ensure optimal "up time" across all systems. We will continue to challenge Craig as he embraces all other aspects related to Public Safety's Technology infrastructures.

## **Public Safety Network Infrastructure study**

IT will perform a high level review of Public Safety's Server Room with respect to all hardware, operating systems, data bases, applications and storage requirements in effort to; identify, assess and document the full network infrastructure. The deliverable will be the road map to aid IT to bring the Public Safety network infrastructure as close to industry standards as possible, and improve maintenance, support and growth where possible. To Date the Public Safety Technology infrastructure has successfully served, maintained and sustained the needs of Public Safety and we look to continue this pattern conforming to industry standards.

## **New billing Software for Wrentham Fire Department**

IT is working with Fire department personnel and the vendor, Alliance, to install/test/train and move into production a new Ambulance billing system.

## **Police Sub Station**

IT is working the Delaney elementary school's IT personnel to establish a police sub-station at the elementary school where there will be a police presence. The officers will have the same computing ability as they currently do at the Police Station.

## **Town Hall server OS upgrades**

All Town Hall Server Operating Systems (OS's) have been upgraded to the latest industry versions and will accommodate the Town Hall well into the next decade. The final upgrade to Exchange 2016 (for Town Hall & DPW) will take place in February.

## **Hardware Asset refresh (desktop, laptop, peripherals)**

IT continues to replace aged, out of date, out of warranty, desktop, laptops and peripherals at Town Hall, Public Safety, Building Department, DPW & COA based on a 5 year rotation schedule. Equipment taken out of production is either redeployed where possible based on actual computing demand, otherwise the hard drive is removed or scrubbed clean to industry standards before donating or recycling.

## **Digital Signage at Town Hall & Beyond**

Recently, IT placed a monitor at each of the Town Hall's entrances displaying the Town Hall's Directory in an effort to continue to improve resident communication. IT is currently looking at options that will include more information that is presently visible on the Town's web site and additional informational services.

## Senior Center

Please join the Norfolk Sheriff's Office in conjunction with the Wrentham Council on Aging on Wednesday, March 27, 2019 at 11:30 a.m. at the Wrentham Council on Aging for a meet and greet with Norfolk County's new Sheriff, Jerome P. McDermott. Sheriff McDermott looks forward to meeting the residents of Wrentham and discussing programs available to all Wrentham seniors. A pizza lunch will follow the meet and greet, all are welcome. Cost is \$4, payable at sign up and includes pizza, salad, drink and dessert. Please call the Senior Center at 508-384-5425, to sign up for lunch.



Wrentham Police Department gets a new look for the new cruisers. The redesign was a collaboration by Officers Dave Hallaway, Pete Lown and John Coliflores.

## Assessors

There have been lots of changes in the Assessors Department. Anne Carney completed her position as our Interim Assessor in December 2018 and is again enjoying her retirement. Ann MacCarthy has been appointed the new Principal Assessor.

We accepted Personal Property and Real Estate Abatement applications until the deadline of February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 and we will begin processing the applications for a decision by the Board of Assessors within three months.

We have been very busy with mailings of the Forms of List for Personal Property, and Income & Expense forms for all Commercial properties. We have recently completed our CAMA Software conversion to Vision, and are now working with CAI to link the new CAMA database with the mapping software.

We began the process of interviewing candidates for the open Data Collector position and are looking forward to hiring the right person to begin soon.