

W H A T ' S H A P P E N I N G I N

SEEKONK



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Get Involved: Seekonk's Annual Town Meeting – May 12, 2025

Town Meeting is one of Seekonk's most important civic events, where residents gather to make decisions about the town's budget, projects, and policies. It's a direct way for you to have a voice in the future of your community. The next Town Meeting will be held on **Monday, May 12th at 7:00 PM at Seekonk High School**. This is your opportunity to engage in discussions, vote on key issues, and shape the direction of our town.

Anyone who lives in Seekonk and is registered to vote can attend Town Meeting. It's open to all, and we encourage everyone to come, even if you don't plan to speak. You can learn about the articles being discussed, and your presence shows support for the decisions that impact our daily lives. For detailed information on the agenda, including the 21 articles that will be discussed, visit the Town of Seekonk website ahead of the meeting.

If you're attending Town Meeting for the first time, here are a few tips to help you navigate the process. **Review the warrant in advance** so you know what's being discussed and prepared to ask questions. **Arrive early** to grab a good seat, as meetings can sometimes run long. **Stay respectful during debates**—different opinions are part of the process. Bring water and snacks as discussions can stretch late into the evening, and don't be shy about asking questions if you need clarification.

Town Meeting is your chance to make a difference in Seekonk's future. Whether you're voting on the budget, supporting important projects, or engaging in lively debate, your participation matters. We look forward to seeing you on **May 12th at 7:00 PM** at Seekonk High School!





SPRING PROGRESS REPORT: BUDGET, TOWN MEETING, AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

As spring turns to summer, our town is buzzing with activity, and I'm pleased to share a few updates on the work happening across departments.

Fiscal Year 2026 Budget

We are nearing the finish line for the Fiscal Year 2026 budget. Throughout April, we worked closely with the Select Board and Finance Committee to review department requests and capital priorities. Thank you to everyone who participated in the budget and public hearing process. The budget will be presented for a vote at Town Meeting later this month, and we encourage all residents to attend and take part in these important decisions.

Annual Town Meeting

Our Annual Town Meeting will take place on Monday, May 12th at 7:00 PM at Seekonk High School. In addition to the operating budget, the warrant includes several key articles:



- \$825,000 for designer services for the Medeiros Farm project,
- Various capital requests for both the Town and School Department,
- Two articles proposing increases to the Veterans Tax Exemption and adjustments to exemptions based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI),
- A \$10.4 million request for Library building renovations,
- A voter petition article to move the South End Fire Station project forward,
- And several other important items.

We encourage all residents to attend and have a voice in the decisions that shape our community.

Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Report

The Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Report is now available online. The FY2022 Annual Report received recognition with a Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) award for excellence. Special thanks to Assistant Town Administrator/HR Director Carol Days for her hard work in compiling and formatting this award-winning report. We are proud of this accomplishment and encourage everyone to take a look. The annual reports can be found on the Town's website at www.seekonk-ma.gov/158/Annual-Reports

Community Events

Join us for the Memorial Day Parade on Saturday, May 24th at 10:00 AM. The parade will kick off from Seekonk High School and conclude at Seekonk Middle School. This is a wonderful opportunity to honor and remember those who have served our country.

Thank you to our residents, volunteers, and employees who continue to support and strengthen our community. Your dedication is what makes Seekonk a great place to live and work.

As always, if you have any questions or feedback, please reach out to my office. I look forward to seeing many of you at Town Meeting and at upcoming community events!





FROM ASSESSMENTS TO SMILES: MICHELLE MUGGLE MAKES IT ALL ADD UP

In the often-mundane world of property assessments and tax inquiries, there's one person who consistently stands out: Michelle Muggle, Senior Clerk in the Assessor's Office. Since joining the team in October 2021, Michelle has quickly become more than just a helpful face behind the counter—she's the heart of the office, bringing warmth, humor, and a personal touch to every interaction.

Her personality is nothing short of contagious—light, funny, and always welcoming. Whether a resident is seeking answers to complex assessment questions or simply trying to navigate motor vehicle excise, exemptions, or abatements, Michelle is always ready to step in with a smile, making sure no question feels too small and no resident feels unheard. Her ability to explain things with patience and humor has turned a sometimes-stressful experience into something residents can approach with confidence.



Employee Spotlight

MICHELLE MUGGLE

Senior Clerk - Assessor's

What's your favorite local spot in Seekonk? The shopping plaza (I know big shocker!).

If you could have any superpower, what would it be? Healing power to cure all sickness, especially kids with terminal illnesses.

If you could swap jobs with anyone for a day, who would it be and why? Town Administrator. I already think you have a crazy demanding job that requires so much from you and I can only imagine what you really have to do. Call me crazy it would be interesting and exciting to actually live it for a day!

Michelle's true gift, however, lies in the way she makes people feel. As the first person many encounter when they visit the Assessor's Office, she has an uncanny ability to leave everyone's experience on a positive note. Her friendly greeting and willingness to help ensure that no matter what brings you to the office, you leave with a smile on your face and your questions answered.

We're lucky to have Michelle in the Assessor's Office. Her presence makes a real difference, not just in the efficiency of the office, but in the sense of community she fosters with every interaction. It's people like Michelle who remind us that behind every service, there's a personal touch that can truly make a town feel like home.

Seekonk's Memorial Day Parade – A Day of Reflection and Community

Memorial Day in Seekonk is a time to pause, reflect, and honor those who gave their lives in service to our country. This year, the **Seekonk Department of Veterans Services and Seekonk Veterans Council** will host the annual Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony on **Saturday, May 24th**. The parade will step off from **Seekonk High School at 10:00 AM**, with participants gathering at 9:00 AM. The familiar route, traveling down Arcade Avenue, turning onto Newman Avenue, and ending at Hurley Middle School, invites us all to participate in this time-honored tradition.

For those looking to continue the day's celebration, a complimentary cookout will be hosted at American Legion Post 311 (351 Fall River Avenue) from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM.

This Memorial Day, let's not just celebrate—let's reflect on the legacy of those who gave everything for our nation, and renew our commitment to honoring them year-round.





FAREWELL TO A FAMILIAR FACE: CELEBRATING KATHY COYLE'S 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

After four decades of dedicated service to the Town of Seekonk, Kathy Coyle will be retiring on May 2nd — leaving behind a legacy of loyalty, kindness, and an unmistakable laugh that echoed through the halls of Town Hall.

A lifelong Seekonk resident, Kathy has been a steady and trusted presence in the Town Accountant's Office, serving as a Senior Clerk. Her work behind the scenes has supported countless town departments, ensuring

purchases were made, payments were on time, and everything ran smoothly and efficiently. But beyond her professionalism, what truly set Kathy apart was her warmth and her ability to make everyone feel like family.

Whether you were a colleague, a resident, or just passing through Town Hall, Kathy's welcoming smile and sense of humor made your day a little brighter. Her presence has become a part of the very fabric of Town Hall, and her absence will surely be felt by all who had the pleasure of working with her.

As she heads into retirement, we celebrate Kathy's incredible 40 years of service, her unwavering commitment to the Town of Seekonk, and the joy she brought to so many. We will miss her dearly — but we wish her all the best in this next chapter of life, filled with relaxation, laughter, and well-deserved time with loved ones.

Thank you, Kathy, for everything. Town Hall won't be the same without you.



2025 Street Paving Schedule

Holly Drive
Barberry Drive
Bear Hill Road
Anthony Street
Arcade Avenue
Old Fall River Road
Linden Street
Musket Drive
Coleen Drive
Buckboard Road
Wagonwheel Road
Forest Avenue
Willis Avenue



DPW GEARS UP FOR \$2 MILLION IN ROAD IMPROVEMENTS THIS SUMMER

The Seekonk Department of Public Works is preparing to launch an ambitious slate of road improvement projects this summer, with over **\$2 million** in planned investments. The work will focus on resurfacing, drainage improvements, and roadway upgrades across several neighborhoods, aiming to enhance safety, extend road life, and improve overall driving conditions for residents and visitors alike.

These improvements are part of the Town's yearly commitment to maintaining and investing in its infrastructure. Residents may experience temporary detours or delays in work zones, but the DPW will make every effort to minimize disruption and provide advance notice for impacted areas. Stay tuned for project updates and timelines as work gets underway in the coming weeks.





SEEKONK'S FY 2024 ANNUAL TOWN REPORT: YOUR GUIDE TO THE YEAR IN REVIEW

The **Annual Town Report** is a vital part of local government transparency in Massachusetts. This document serves as a comprehensive snapshot of the town's activities, accomplishments, financial performance, and future goals. For residents, it provides insight into how taxpayer dollars are being spent and the progress being made on key projects that impact their community. The report is an important tool for fostering civic engagement and ensuring that residents stay informed about their town's operations.

We are excited to announce that the **FY 2024 Annual Town Report** is now available for viewing. As in years past, it highlights the achievements and challenges that have shaped Seekonk over the past year. From financial summaries to department-specific updates, this report offers a clear picture of where we've been and where we're headed.

It's also worth noting that our FY 2022 Annual Town Report earned recognition for its outstanding design and content, receiving an **award for excellence**. This acknowledgment reflects the hard work and dedication that goes into crafting a report that not only informs but engages the community.

We encourage all residents to take a look at the **FY 2024 Annual Town Report**—whether you're interested in town finances, community initiatives, or the plans for the coming year. It's an essential resource for anyone who wants to understand the pulse of Seekonk and how we're working to build a better future together.




Accessory Dwelling Units

ADUs, are small, self-contained living spaces located on the same lot as a single-family home. Often called in-law apartments, garage apartments, or backyard cottages, ADUs offer flexible housing options for families, seniors, and renters. In Massachusetts, recent changes to state law, allow homeowners to create ADUs by allowing them **"as of right"** in single-family zones.



EMBRACING THE FUTURE OF HOUSING: ADU GUIDELINES FOR MUNICIPALITIES

On March 19, the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) released its much-anticipated model zoning and guidance document to help municipalities implement the recently established **Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) regulations**. These regulations, which became effective on January 31, mark a crucial shift in how Massachusetts is addressing its growing housing needs. By allowing ADUs as-of-right in all single-family zones, the state is making a bold move toward increasing affordable housing options while maintaining the character of its communities.

These new guidelines provide municipalities with the tools they need to adjust local zoning laws in a way that's both efficient and in line with the state's housing goals. The checklist and annotated zoning code offer clear, practical steps for planners to follow, ensuring smooth implementation across diverse communities.





STIGMA-FREE: SEEKONK'S COMMITMENT TO MENTAL HEALTH

May is **Mental Health Awareness Month**, a time to reflect on the importance of mental well-being and to break down the barriers that too often prevent people from seeking the help they need. Mental health is just as important as physical health, yet for far too long, it's been overshadowed by stigma and misconceptions. At Seekonk, we are committed to creating a workplace that recognizes the value of mental health and provides resources to help our employees navigate life's challenges—whether at work or at home.

The Town of Seekonk firmly believes that a healthy, supported workforce is key to the success of our community. We are proud to offer several resources designed to prioritize the mental health of our employees. Through the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), employees have access to confidential counseling services, offering support for everything from everyday stress to more serious mental health challenges. We also provide counseling services for traumatic events that may occur in the workplace, ensuring that our employees have the necessary support during difficult times.



In addition to these resources, Seekonk also recognizes the value of prevention and self-care. That's why we host Wellness Week, an initiative designed to promote overall well-being by encouraging healthy habits, mindfulness, and self-reflection. It's a reminder to our team that taking time for yourself isn't just acceptable—it's essential. Whether it's through physical activities, relaxation techniques, or simply taking a mental break, we want our employees to know that their mental health matters and that they are supported.

Mental health awareness means more than just providing services—it means actively working to break down the stigma that surrounds mental illness. The more we talk about mental health openly, the less shame and fear are associated with seeking help. Whether you're experiencing a tough time at work, struggling with personal issues, or simply feeling overwhelmed, it's okay to reach out. Asking for support is a sign of strength, not weakness.

As we observe Mental Health Awareness Month, let's remember that mental health is a vital part of our overall well-being. At Seekonk, we are committed to creating an environment where our employees feel valued, supported, and empowered to prioritize their mental health. Let's continue to work together to create a community where seeking help is seen as a step toward strength and healing, not something to hide or feel ashamed of.

Remember, taking care of your mind is just as important as taking care of your body. This month, and every month, let's prioritize our well-being—together.



MENTAL HEALTH

Quick Mental Health Tips

- **Take breaks throughout the day to recharge.**
- **Practice mindfulness for just 5 minutes each morning.**
- **Stay active: even a short walk can boost your mood.**
- **Prioritize sleep and aim for 7-9 hours a night.**





TOWN MEETING: A CRUCIAL MOMENT FOR SEEKONK'S FUTURE

As we approach our Annual Town Meeting on **Monday, May 12th at 7:00 PM** at the High School, it's important to reflect on the significance of this event. This gathering is more than just a formality; it's a crucial moment where each of us has the opportunity to shape the future of our community. With **21 articles** on the warrant, there are a variety of key decisions that will directly impact the growth and well-being of Seekonk.

The first order of business, as always, will be the operating budget. But beyond that, there are several items that stand out as pivotal to our town's progress. One such article proposes **\$825,000 for designer services** to advance the **Medeiros Farm project**—a project that promises to be a transformative asset for our community. The ongoing investment in both the Town and School Department capital requests is another significant focus, ensuring that our infrastructure and educational facilities continue to meet the needs of our residents and students.

Perhaps one of the most meaningful discussions will center around the articles proposing increases to the **Veterans Tax Exemption** and adjustments to these exemptions based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Supporting our veterans is not only a civic duty but also a moral obligation, and these changes reflect our commitment to providing them with the recognition and support they deserve.

Another major topic for discussion will be the proposed **\$10.4 million request for Library building renovations**, which will ensure that our library continues to thrive as a cornerstone of learning and community engagement.



Also on the table will be important appropriations from the **Community Preservation Act fund**, which supports the preservation of our town's heritage and the development of recreational spaces. Additionally, the appropriation of **PEG access money** to both TV9 and the School Department reinforces our commitment to local media and educational programming—both vital elements of a well-rounded, informed community.

Each of these items represents a piece of the larger puzzle of what Seekonk will become in the years to come. The decisions made at Town Meeting will shape how we grow and what we value. It's easy to feel detached from the process, but it's essential to remember that Town Meeting is not a distant, abstract event. It's a chance for all of us to engage with our town's future. This is your community, your home, and your voice matters. The changes we vote on at Town Meeting will impact everyone in Seekonk, from our children to our veterans, from our students to our seniors.

I encourage each and every one of you to attend and to make your voice heard. May 12th at 7:00 PM is not just another date on the calendar—it's an opportunity for all of us to come together and decide what kind of community we want to build. Let's make sure our collective future is one we can all be proud of.





COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT: A VITAL INVESTMENT IN SEEKONK'S FUTURE

As we approach our Annual Town Meeting, where we will vote to appropriate funds from the **Community Preservation Act (CPA)**, it's important to pause and reflect on just how critical this program is for Seekonk. For many, the CPA may seem like one of those behind-the-scenes initiatives, a line item that doesn't always grab the spotlight, but it's an essential part of how our community grows and thrives.

Enacted in Massachusetts in 2000, the **Community Preservation Act** allows municipalities to raise funds through a small surcharge on local property taxes, which is then matched by the state. This fund is designated for the **preservation of open space, historic resources, affordable housing, and recreational facilities**—key pillars that sustain the character and quality of life in any town. Seekonk, which adopted the CPA in 2002, has reaped the benefits of this program for over two decades. In that time, the funds have supported numerous initiatives that directly enhance our community.

Each year, the town sets aside a portion of the CPA funds for projects that align with the goals of the program. This process culminates in the Annual Town Meeting, where voters decide on the specific allocation of the funds. The upcoming meeting will be no different, as the town seeks approval to continue funding these vital efforts.

In Seekonk, CPA money has already helped to preserve open spaces that enhance the natural beauty of our town. Projects like the conservation of key parcels of land ensure that future generations will have access to the scenic outdoor spaces we cherish today. The town has also invested in historic preservation, helping to maintain the unique architecture and landmarks that give Seekonk its distinct character. These efforts not only preserve our heritage but also contribute to the town's overall aesthetic and cultural identity.

One of the most significant aspects of the CPA is the state's matching funds. In Seekonk, the state provides a substantial match, increasing the impact of every dollar raised through the local surcharge. This means that the town's investment in these areas is significantly amplified, stretching our tax dollars further and enabling us to take on larger, more ambitious projects. Without this state funding, many of the projects we've been able to support would not have been possible.

As we head into the Annual Town Meeting, it's important to remember that the decisions we make about the CPA fund are investments in our future. The money we approve today will help build a more vibrant, sustainable, and inclusive Seekonk for years to come. From preserving our natural environment to supporting affordable housing, from enhancing our historic sites to providing recreational opportunities for future generations, the CPA touches every corner of life in our town.

The upcoming vote on the appropriation of CPA funds is more than just a routine procedure—it's an opportunity for us to reaffirm our commitment to building a town that values preservation, accessibility, and community. The projects funded by the CPA are investments in the things that make Seekonk a special place to live, work, and raise a family.





GOVERNOR HEALEY UNVEILS BOLD PLAN TO LOWER ENERGY BILLS FOR MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENTS

Source: **The Beacon**

On March 10, Governor Maura Healey took a significant step toward easing the financial burden of energy bills for Massachusetts residents with the launch of her Energy Affordability Agenda. This initiative is not just a short-term fix; it's a full-fledged effort to tackle energy costs head-on, promising to save \$220 million in April alone and a staggering \$5.8 billion over the next five years. The plan's focus is simple but impactful: reduce costs, eliminate price volatility, and make energy more affordable for all residents. And with inflation and rising prices still looming large, this couldn't have come at a better time.

The most immediate relief comes through a \$50 credit on the bills of residential customers served by Eversource, National Grid, and Unitil. This is expected to bring a much-needed breath of fresh air to households struggling to stay afloat as energy costs surge. But the Healey administration isn't stopping there. Over the next year, the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) will work to establish a first-of-its-kind moderate-income discount rate, alongside expanding existing tiered discounts for

lower-income families. For heat pump users, the savings could reach up to \$1,000 during the winter months—a real game-changer for many.

But what really sets this plan apart is its long-term vision. It's not just about quick fixes, it's about fundamentally rethinking how Massachusetts handles energy pricing. The administration is reviewing every charge tied to electric grid infrastructure, looking for ways to finance improvements without slamming customers with steep bills. Moreover, the state is committed to eliminating unnecessary programs that no longer serve their purpose, which will reduce the costs passed on to consumers.

Another key aspect of the agenda is its commitment to innovation. By exploring fixed-price contracts for clean energy and new rate designs, the administration hopes to lock in more predictable prices for the future, helping residents avoid the kind of sticker shock that often comes with fluctuating energy costs. The administration is also rolling out an outreach and engagement strategy to ensure that all eligible residents can access discount rates and energy assistance. After all, what good is a savings plan if people don't know how to access it?

Governor Healey's Energy Affordability Agenda isn't just a set of policies—it's a lifeline for Massachusetts residents. By focusing on both immediate savings and long-term solutions, this plan aims to make energy costs more manageable, while also ensuring that the state's energy infrastructure can keep up with the demands of the future. And as energy bills continue to climb, the Healey administration's commitment to both affordability and innovation could very well be the blueprint other states need to follow. It's an exciting step forward, and one that promises to make a tangible difference in the lives of everyday residents.





HELP PAINT SEEKONK'S CULTURAL CANVAS: HOW THE CULTURAL COUNCIL SUPPORTS THE ARTS

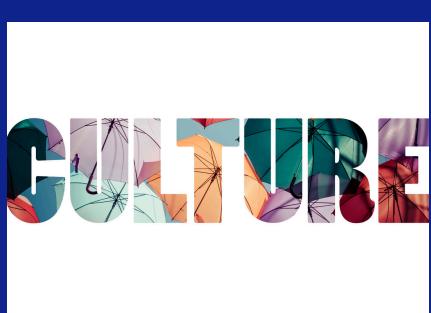
The Seekonk Cultural Council is a dedicated group of residents committed to supporting community-based projects in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences. Their work helps bring a variety of cultural experiences to our town—from art exhibits and theater productions to historical programs and music performances—enriching Seekonk's cultural landscape and fostering creativity for all ages.

By facilitating access to state funding, the council helps local organizations and artists bring their ideas to life, ensuring that everyone in Seekonk has the opportunity to engage with the arts. These projects not only provide entertainment but also contribute to education and community building, making the town a more vibrant and dynamic place to live.

The Cultural Council is always looking for new members who are passionate about the arts and want to have a direct impact on our community. If you're eager to help shape the future of cultural

programming in Seekonk, this is your chance to get involved. Your creativity and ideas could help fund the next exciting arts project in town.

For more information on how to apply or get involved, visit the town website. Join us in making Seekonk's cultural scene even brighter!



Board Spotlight

CULTURAL COUNCIL

Members: Not less than 5 or more than 22

Term: Maximum 6 years

Vacancies: 2

Meeting Schedule: Monthly

Purpose: The Seekonk Cultural Council is a group of interested residents whose purpose is to support community-based projects in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences.

CALL for VOLUNTEERS

Help Shape the Future – Volunteer for a Board or Committee

Volunteer Opportunities - volunteers are needed for the following boards and committees:

Board of Registrars, Capital Improvement, Commission on Disability, Cultural Council, Energy Committee, Finance Committee, Historical Commission, Parks & Recreation, Recycling Committee, Zoning Board of Appeals.

[Click here to fill out your Talent Bank Form!](#)





THINK YOU KNOW SEEKONK? PROVE IT!

WHAT POPULAR ENTERTAINMENT SPOT, OPENED IN 1952, MADE SEEKONK ONE OF THE FIRST TOWNS IN THE COUNTRY TO HOST A DRIVE-IN THEATER EXPERIENCE?

Think you know the answer? Find out if you're right in next month's newsletter!

April's Answer:

What historical Seekonk landmark was once a stagecoach stop for travelers heading to Boston?

That would be the Old Grist Mill Tavern! Originally built in the mid-1700s, it served many purposes over the years, including being a stagecoach stop for travelers heading to and from Boston. The tavern offered food, drink, and a place to rest for weary travelers during colonial times.

Think you can stump Seekonk? We're looking for fun and challenging trivia questions to feature in our monthly newsletter! Send your best Seekonk-themed questions and answers to Sandra Smith at SaSmith@seekonk-ma.gov and see if you can leave the town guessing!



Seekonk's

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **May 12th - 7pm**
Spring Town Meeting

- **May 24th - 10AM**
Memorial Day Parade

[Read More on our website](#)



STAY CONNECTED



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