



Hubbardston
Massachusetts

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

SEPTEMBER 5, 2023

August 31, 2023 - As the warm summer days give way to crisp autumn air, activity in Hubbardston is ramping up. There are many exciting projects and initiatives underway that aim to enhance the community.

Conversations continue around the transformative Town Center Project that promises to revitalize the heart of Hubbardston. My office remains available to address any questions or concerns residents may have about this major endeavor - please reach out at 978-928-1400 x200 or admin@hubbardstonma.us. Your input is valued as we shape the town center.

I recently joined Superintendent Mucha, Director Clark, Principal Cook, and Commissioner Lancini on an informative walkthrough of Hubbardston Center School. We assessed capital needs such as parking lot upgrades, water infrastructure improvements, and generator enhancements to boost sustainability and emergency preparedness. Ensuring these important projects are included in the Capital Improvement Plan will allow us to be proactive and strategic with resources.

Board and Committee members should mark your calendars for the Fall 2023 Board & Committee Summit on September 14th at 6pm at the Senior Center. This is a valuable opportunity for boards to share progress on current projects and initiatives. We'll also have important presentations on Open Meeting Law and board expectations and posting requirements. Please send representatives from your board or committee, and RSVP by September 4th. Connecting with one another fosters collaboration and unified vision.

We've launched the Community Choice Capital Program to get input on how capital improvement funds should be used over the next 5 years. Propose projects like park upgrades, road repairs, and infrastructure improvements by submitting your ideas through a Google Form by November 1st. Or attend Capital Improvement Planning Committee meetings to provide direct feedback. Your proposals will be reviewed for feasibility and community-wide benefit. This participatory program gives Hubbardston residents a greater voice in determining priorities for the future.

As summer transitions to fall, our work continues to enhance Hubbardston's quality of life. Please reach out with any questions or suggestions - I look forward to our continued collaboration and community engagement as we shape the bright future of Hubbardston.

Hubbardston Fire Dept



As of the end of August, the Hubbardston Fire Department has reached the two-thirds mark for calendar year 2023. Thus far, the department has responded to a total of 526 calls for service, including 61 calls in August alone. By comparison, the total number of responses for the full 2010 calendar year was 498. With four months remaining in 2022, the Hubbardston Fire Department is poised to exceed last year's record call volume and experience the busiest year in its history.

Hubbardston Headlines

Tune in to the latest episode of Hubbardston Headlines to meet our new Hubbardston Center School Principal, Erin Cook!

Host Nathan Boudreau sits down with Principal Cook to discuss her vision for leading HCS this year. Learn about her background, goals for the school, and how she plans to address challenges.

How will Principal Cook's leadership shape the student experience and evolution of HCS? Find out by watching the newest installment of our community show.

This informative and engaging episode provides insight straight from the head of our elementary school. Don't miss it!

Let your friends and neighbors know to check out this episode to get to know Principal Cook. We're excited to share her story and the great things happening at Hubbardston Center School.

The annual **Dinghy Dash** event was held successfully with 11 competing vessels of varying designs. The Hubbardston Fire Department assisted by rescuing sinking competitors. The Hubbardston Police Department helped transport the fire boat trailer safely. Town Administrator Nate Boudreau served as judge. The organizers thank all participants and town departments for making the event possible.



Personnel

I'm excited to share that **Treasurer Collector Mary Markowski** has been accepted into the Fall 2023 Municipal Finance Management Seminar hosted by the MMA. This is program known for expanding municipal finance knowledge and skills. Having completed the Suffolk MMA Senior Leadership Program myself in 2017, I can speak firsthand to the tremendous value these seminars provide. Mary's initiative in pursuing professional development opportunities is admirable and shows her commitment to gaining expertise relevant to her role.

Please join me in congratulating Mary on this accomplishment. I'm confident Mary will gain valuable insights from this experience that will benefit the town. Please let me know if you have any other questions!



Police **Chief Couture** recently attended the Central Massachusetts Chief's Conference in August. This important training and networking event brought together law enforcement leaders to discuss critical issues like retention, recruiting, and leadership development. These topics are vital as police departments everywhere face challenges with hiring and maintaining staffing levels. Chief Couture was able to connect with peers and experts to gain insights and strategies for sustaining and strengthening the Hubbardston Police Department. Attending conferences like this demonstrates Chief Couture's dedication to continued learning and professional growth. Investing in training for law enforcement helps ensure we can provide top-notch police services to our community. We're grateful Chief Couture is committed to bringing back knowledge that will benefit our town.

Mary Markowski and Bobbie Thibault from the Treasurer Collector's Office recently attended a week-long Treasurer Collector training program and sat for a challenging certification exam. Earning this specialized certification requires great effort and dedication. We commend Mary and Bobbie for their commitment to continuing education and professional growth. Having certified Treasurer Collectors enhances Hubbardston's financial operations. Their hard work and new expertise in municipal finance is an investment that greatly benefits our town.

I'm pleased to share that Treasurer Collector **Mary Markowski, Library Director Christine Barbara, and I** are currently enrolled in a 3-month cyber security training program. This course covers crucial topics like threat assessment, data protection, incident response, and best practices for mitigating cyber risks. With cyber attacks on the rise, strengthening our cyber security knowledge is essential. Participating in this program demonstrates our dedication to continuing education in order to best serve Hubbardston and its residents. Investing time in developing our cyber security skills will help ensure our systems and networks remain secure. I'm thankful to be taking this journey with Mary and Chris as we work together to enhance our understanding of this critical field.

Have Feedback?

Please contact the Town of Hubbardston via phone at 978-928-1400 or email us at admin@hubbardstonma.us with questions, comments or suggestions regarding the information in this report. Additionally, you may review the Town's other Reports on the Town website.

In accordance with the Hubbardston Charter, the Town Administrator maintains a comprehensive inventory of all town property, including real estate and other assets. As outlined in the charter, bylaws, and other directives, the Town Administrator oversees the maintenance and repair of all town property under their supervision. To comply with the charter and optimize insurance coverage, maintenance expenses, and purchasing practices, the Town Administrator thoroughly audits the entire town inventory at the start of each fiscal year.

The last complete inventory and audit of Hubbardston's town property was conducted in 2019. As of September 2023, Town Administrator Nathan Boudreau has updated the town webpage to include a complete inventory and records on all town property, assets, and real estate. You can view the documents [here](#), and don't hesitate to contact the [Office of the Town Administrator](#) with questions or concerns.



It has come to our attention that many in the community do not know about the Rutland Regional Alert System (Rave). We encourage all Hubbardston residents to sign up for the Rutland Regional Alert System powered by Smart911. This system allows the town to send important emergency and non-emergency notifications directly to you via text, email, or voice message.

Registering for this free service takes just a few minutes at www.rrecc.us/alerts. Your information remains private and will only be used for sending alerts. When emergencies occur, notifications through Rutland Regional Alerts can provide life-saving information about the actions you need to take.

We strongly encourage all residents, along with anyone who works in or frequently visits Hubbardston, to sign up to receive these critical notifications. Stay informed, stay safe, and sign up today!



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