Swampscott News

Summer Fest Block Party to Showcase Seaside Attractions



The block party featuring food trucks, music, beer gardens, kids' carnival and local vendors on Aug. 12 to 4 PM.

Bringing those residents together for community events — especially in the seaside hub of the Humphrey Street section of town — has been a goal for town officials seeking to build connection, town pride and reduce isolation in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Humphrey Street Summer Block Party will feature at least two beer gardens (East Regiment Beer Company and Coastal Mass Brewing), a kids' carnival area, and local vendors lining the streets.

Fish House Benefits From Bent Water On The Beach Bash



Residents enjoy an evening on the beach at Fisherman's Beach. A portion of the ticket sales go toward the Fish House, which was built in 1896 and remains in operation on Blaney Beach adjacent to Fisherman's Beach.

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Swampscott Library News

Beat the heat with our movie night August 16th at 6 PM! Check with reference desk for film title. Popcorn will be served.

Check out these book groups!

Young At Heart (YAH) - Are you an adult who enjoys reading young adult fiction? The Swampscott Library's Young at Heart Book Group welcomes new members! Our August book is Queen of the Tiles by Hanna Alkaf.

Rainbow Reads - newly formed group that will read and discuss LGBTQ themed materials. Contact Bernadette at reference for more information.

Teen Scene Events

Anime Club – August 8th and 22nd Writing Club – August 7th 1 UP Games - August 16th Kinsey Knights – August 21st

Children's Events

Lindsay and her Puppet Pals – August 3rd at 2 PM. Lindsay brings her larger-than-life Puppet Pals to child and family audiences across New England. Filled with silliness, active audience engagement, and memorable characters, this series of charming short stories will delight the young and the young at heart! Ideal for ages 3-8.





Miramar Print Making Workshop

Join Sammia Atoui of Miramar Print Lab for an introduction to print making. Registration required. Ages 8 – 12 – August 10th at 3 PM.

Magical Minis

August 14th at 3 PM. Join Marianne Hartmann of "Minis With a Mission" for her annual visit.



Swampscott Wins Distinguished Budget

The Town of Swampscott has received GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its budget. The award represents a significant achievement by the Town's Finance Department led by Amy Sarro—the Director of Finance & Administration.

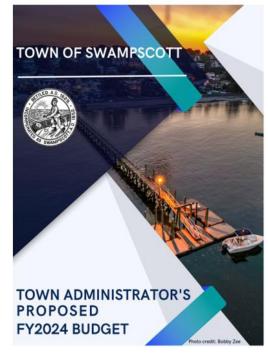
A panel of independent reviewers completed its examination of the Town of Swampscott budget document and voted to award the Town the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for the FY 2023.

It reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the budget award, the entity had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well an entity's budget serves as:

- a policy document
- a financial plan
- an operations guide
- a communications device

Budget documents must be rated "proficient" in all four categories, and in the fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories, to receive the award. When a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award is granted to an entity, a Certificate of Recognition for Budget Presentation is also presented to the individual(s) or department designated as being primarily responsible for having achieved the award. This has been presented to Town of Swampscott Finance Department.

There are over 1,700 participants in the Budget Awards Program. Award recipients have pioneered efforts to improve the quality of budgeting and provide an excellent example for other governments throughout North America. Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) advances excellence in government finance by providing best practices, professional development, resources and practical research for more than 22,500 members and the communities they serve.





GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

PRESENTED TO

Town of Swampscott Massachusetts

For the Fiscal Year Beginning

July 01, 2023

Christopher P. Morrill

Executive Director

Tree Committee News

Help Restore Swampscott's Tree Canopy

Illustration by Lola Muntiu

A recent study by two students from the Salem State University Masters in Geo-Information Science program revealed the loss of 110 acres of tree canopy in Swampscott from 2010 – 2016.

Trees provide wildlife benefits, help cool our streets, and protect against floods and water pollution. While the town plants public shade trees along streets and in parks, we are asking residents to help by planting trees on their property, if appropriate.



What you can do:

- Request that the town plant a public shade tree near your house if one is needed. If there is no space along the sidewalk, the town will consider planting a tree for public benefit in a homeowner's front yard, upon request.
- Donate to the Memorial Tree Program. This program allows you to honor someone with a tree planted in their name. Memorial trees can be planted for a gift of \$350. General gifts to the Tree Gift fund are also always welcome.
- Plant a tree on your property.
- "Adopt" a tree in your neighborhood by watering it during times of water stress.
- Visit the Tree Committee and the Forestry Division websites for information on these programs and to view a Tree Care Brochure.

Tree Committee: <u>https://www.swampscottma.gov/tree-committee</u> Forestry Division: <u>https://www.swampscottma.gov/forestry-division; 781-596-8860</u>

Assessor's Corner

Property Tax Relief

An exemption is a partial or full reduction of local property tax. Exemptions are governed by the State of Massachusetts and are a privilege, not a right. Exemptions are available for persons over 65, persons over 70: those who are legally blind: and veterans who have a service-connected disability. To qualify the applicant must provide documentation concerning the percentage of war service disability, certificate of blindness, or income, and assets. Please visit mass.gov or the Town of Swampscott Assessor for further information and an application.



Two Recruits Among Latest Firefighting Academy Graduates

Two Swampscott firefighter recruits, Arianna Sarro and Brittney Coppinger were among the 25 recruits from across the state who graduated from the 50day Career Recruit Firefighting Training Program this week.

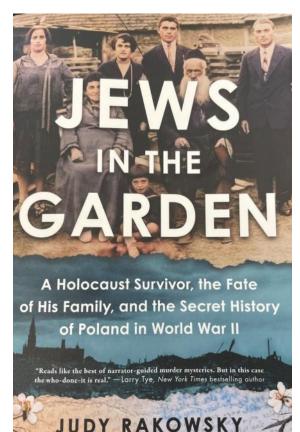
To graduate, students must demonstrate proficiency in life safety, search and rescue, ladder operations, water supply, pump operation, and fire attack.

The program includes classroom instruction, physical fitness training, skills training, and live firefighting practice.



Department of Fire Services Swampscott graduates Ariana Sarro & Brittney Coppinger

Author Judy Rakowsky is Coming to Senior Center



Monday August 28, 2023 3-4 PM

A globe-trotting detective story, *Jews in the Garden* turns investigative eyes and ears towards the horrific actions taken by regular citizens during the Holocaust. This unlikely sleuthing pair knocks on doors, petitions court documents, gets run off properties, seeks clandestine meetings, and ultimately discovers what really happened to the "Jews in the garden next door."

To order a copy before the visit or also to bring and have the author sign it, <u>visit here.</u>



Senior Center News and Events

COMPOSTING HAS ARRIVED AT THE SWAMPSCOTT SENIOR CENTER!

A collaboration between the Climate Action Team, Swampscott Senior Center and the Public Health Department has been rolled out successfully at the Center. Members can now compost food scraps onsite and pair this environmental action step with our regular food services. Members may dispose of their own countertop compost waste at the Senior Center during regular hours! Additionally, our Countertop Bin Liner exchange program provides a free

compost liner to every member who disposes their personal compost at the Center. Come in and learn about this wonderful program!

SWAMPSCOTT SENIOR WRITERS GROUP

Established in 1997 has published a book. A reception sponsored by the Group was held on Wednesday, July 19, 2023 at the Senior Center to celebrate their book "The Write Stuff." The book is a creative compilation of poetry and essays created by members of the Writing Group. It is on sale for \$10 at the Swampscott Senior Center.

PARTY WITH US FOR AT THIS SUMMER'S LUAU

enjoy a delicious Polynesian luncheon including pulled pork sliders and chicken kabobs with green peppers and pineapple. Fruity mocktails with umbrellas and coconut shortbread for dessert. Wednesday, August 2, 2023 @ 11:30 am – 1:30 pm. Bobby Kerrigan will entertain us with show tunes and music from the Rat Pack. Cost is \$5. Preregistration and payment required.

AN EVENING AT THE WILLOWS

The Senior bus, The Wave will be leaving the Senior Center at 5:30 pm on Tuesday, August 8, 2023 for Salem Willows for an evening of dinner and music by the North Shore Concert Band who will be performing Pride of America: All American Composers under the Stars! Cost is \$5 for transportation. Pre-registration is required. You can pack a snack or pick up dinner at the Willows. Bring your lawn chair.

COMPUTER HELP?

Need help with your iPhone, laptop, iPad, e-reader? No problem...the SSC has you covered. Theresa the Tech is at the Center on Thursdays from 9:30 – 11:00 am to assist you. Appointments are 30 minutes and the service is free! Call the Center to Register. 781-596-8866.



Men's Club Schooner Ride and Lunch



Senior Center News and Events

Adaptive Fitness Class

Generously sponsored by the Jauron Family Foundation and taught by well-known North Shore fitness instructor Colby Boulay. This class is designed to be supportive and inclusive with the goal of participants reaching their full potential. Classes are scheduled on Friday, July 28 & August 11, 2023 at 11:00- 11:30 am. This class is designed for all levels. Free.

SCREAM, YOU SCREAM, WE ALL SCREAM FOR ICE CREAM!

Come celebrate the dog days of summer with an ice cream sundae. An Ice Cream Social graciously sponsored by The Friends of the Swampscott Senior Center will be held at the Center on Wednesday, August 16, 2023 at 1 pm.

EXCURSION TO ROCKPORT

Thursday, August 24, 2023. Enjoy dinner, shopping and sightseeing on your own. The Senior Bus The Wave will be leaving the Center at 3pm and returning to the Center at 7:30 pm. Cost \$8 for transportation. Pre-registration and payment required.

MEET THE AUTHOR

The Swampscott Senior Center Book Group will host author, Judy Rakowsky to discuss her book, Jews in The Garden. A globe- trotting detective story that turns investigative eyes and ears towards the horrific actions taken by regular citizens during the Holocaust. This event will be held on Monday, August 28, 2023 from 3-4 pm at the Center and is free to all.

SUMMER COOKOUT

Join us for a Send-off Summer Cookout on Tuesday, August 29, 11:30- 1pm . There will be hot dogs, hamburgers, entertainment and lots of fun. Cost \$5. Pre-registration required.

Interested in Holding a Block Party?

Block party applications are on the <u>Town Website</u>. Applications need to be submitted no less than two weeks prior to the event. Check out the application for more details.



Senior Center Writing Class publishes their first book of works called <u>The Write Stuff</u>



Senior Center News and Events

Volunteer Orientation

Thursday, July 20 11 AM-12 PM or Wednesday, August 30 3-4 PM Swampscott Senior Center



Interested in volunteering at the Swampscott Senior Center or learning about and utilizing the Swampscott Senior/Veteran Work Off Program? Come join us for an orientation where we will introduce the possible opportunities and responsibilities available. Some duties may include: collecting money, greeting people, helping with sign-in, touring new people, instructing your own class and more!

Swampscott Public Library Awarded \$30,000 Grant

Swampscott Public Library was recently awarded a federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA)

grant for \$30,000 from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC).

"Libraries in communities across the Commonwealth are committed to meeting the local needs of the residents they serve," said Robert Favini, Head of Library Advisory and Development at the MBLC. "LSTA grants allow libraries to address those local needs directly, whether its programming to meet the challenges of food insecurity and rising food costs, preserving and protecting Indigenous history, or developing creative technology spaces accessible for everyone."



The Swampscott Public Library plans to use these funds to establish a Maker's Space for youth and the community of Swampscott. The Maker's Space will provide a safe and accessible environment for hands-on learning, experimentation, and creativity through the use of various technologies.

Twenty libraries received funding from the Direct Grants for Libraries program, totaling \$360,949. Federal grant opportunities from the MBLC include financial and health literacy programs, STEM and STEAM projects, programs that help people learn English and become citizens, programs that serve teen needs and projects that preserve valuable historical documents. Grants are also available to help communities highlight local history, increase access to library services for people with disabilities, and support small business development and entrepreneurs.

SUMNER TUNNEL CLOSURE



The Sumner Tunnel/Route 1A South is closing for <u>8 weeks from</u> July 5, 2023, to August 31, 2023. Swampscott Residents are encouraged to use the Commuter rail or the Lynn or Salem Ferry.

Also there is a free shuttle bus and free parking at Swampscott High School to the train Swampscott train station.

Swampscott Conservancy News

Nature in the Neighborhood - Staycations

Ready for a Staycation-vacation? Merriam-Webster defines "staycation" as "a vacation spent at home or nearby." Though frequently thought to be a recent addition to our lexicon (gaining in popularity during the 2007-2008 financial crisis and the 2020 pandemic), the word apparently dates at least as far back as

almost eighty years ago ("Take a Stay-cation instead of a Va-cation, this year." ~ Cincinnati Enquirer, 18 July 1944). Back then it wasn't the pandemic, but World War II and the rationing of gas and tires that prompted the inspiration for staycations.

This notion of taking a staycation instead of a vacation has been the topic of a number of articles over the years (including, now, mine). Some tout its benefits (saves money) while others warn of its risks (not far enough away from the temptations to work). At this time of year, when the weather's warm and the sun shines much later in the day, my personal preference is to stay close to home and enjoy that warmer weather and extra sunlight -- saving more distant travels for the colder, darker New England months. In short, I think summer is an ideal time for a staycation.

The summer is also a great time to get outdoors -- and getting outdoors (no matter what the season) is what study after study shows is good for both our physical and mental health. A recent report even now suggests that spending more time in nature, or just living near green space, can help protect against some of the risks associated with dementia.

We are lucky to be close to the coast and the many outdoor water-related opportunities that offers. To name just a few, there's kayaking in the Essex River Basin or canoeing along the Ipswich River, going whale watching out We are lucky to be close to the coast and the many outdoor water-related opportunities that offers. To name just a few, there's kayaking in the Essex River Basin or canoeing along the Ipswich River, going whale watching out of Gloucester, or taking one of Essex National

Heritage Area's boat tours, maybe to visit Misery Island. Plum Island and Parker River National Wildlife Refuge offer walking trails and wildlife observation, as do also the area's many parks, including Bradley Palmer in Topsfield, Stage Fort in Gloucester, and Halibut Point in Rockport -- the latter where you can climb along Cape Ann's rocky coast exploring tide pools. ("Dog Town," the hidden five square miles of trails in the center of Cape Ann, stretching from Gloucester and Rockport with its inscribed boulders, is a favorite of mine).



For swimming and beachcombing, there are the area's many beaches, for example, Crane's in Ipswich, Good Harbor in Gloucester, and Singing in Manchester-by-the-Sea. There are also farms to visit, Appleton Farm and Russell Orchard in Ipswich, and Cider Hill in Amesbury.

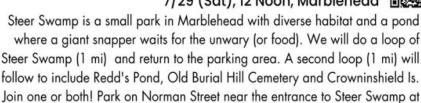
In short, there's much to do outdoors as this shortlist shows. To help you in planning an outdoor staycation, the Swampscott Conservancy has been hosting a series of local walks and one bike ride this summer season.



Swampscott Conservancy News

CONSERVANCY SUMMER WALK: STEER SWAMP & CROWNINSHEILD IS. 7/29 (Sat), 12 Noon, Marblehead

MMER



HIKES & BIKES



Steer Swamp

"Black Joe's Trail." Dogs (on leash) & children are welcome. Rain cancels Details & Sign Up here: Click Here

SUMMER WALK: APPLETON FARMS GRASS RIDES 8/13 (Sun), 12 Noon, South Hamiliton

Swampscott

Appleton Farms is the oldest continuously operated farm in the United States, being granted to Samuel Appleton in 1638, then deeded to the Trustees of Reservations in 1988. We will wander about 4 mi through the pastoral landscape and Appleton Farms Grass Rides Loop to "collect" several of the pinnacles that found on the grounds. Meet up in small parking lot on west side of Farms near 877 Highland Street, S. Hamilton Dogs are not allowed at the Farms. Rain cancels



Details here: Click Here



CYCLING DAY TRIP: "BORDER TO BOSTON RAIL TRAIL" 9/3 (Sun), 12 Noon-4p, Peabody to Boxford to Peabody

The section for this day trip of the Border to Boston Rail Trail runs from Lowell Street in Peabody through Danvers, Ipswich, Topsfield and ends up in Boxford. It's a stone dust path suitable for all bicycle types. Round trip is 22 miles, but the terrain is easy and we'll proceed at a relatively leisurely pace. Bring a snack. Rain cancels

Details & Sign-up here: Click here



BlueBikes Comes to Vinnin Square

Right on the Swampscott line, the city of Salem deployed a BlueBikes station in Vinnin Square last month. See the map below.

Swampscott will have a BlueBikes station at the General Glover site when that project is built, but for now the Salem site covers the Vinnin Square area.

BlueBikes, MetroBoston's public bike share system is constantly expanding which is made possible with funding



from MassDOT, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, Salem State University, and Salem Hospital. The bike share system provides a healthy and sustainable way for residents, employees, and visitors to get around without driving. With the current Sumner Tunnel construction, residents are looking for new ways to get into Boston. BlueBikes to train stations are helping with that.

Membership and pricing: A single BlueBikes membership provides access to bikes across the system. BlueBikes offers a variety of <u>membership options</u>, including discounts for <u>income-eligible riders</u>. For

June Loring Hills 199 The Ave Paradise Plaza

BlueBike Location North of Vinnin Square

Upcoming Events & Meetings

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A COMMUNITY MEETING FOCUSED ON DEFINING

DESIGN GUIDELINES FOR

VINNIN SQUARE

 August 29TH, 2023 6:00PM
 Swampscott High School - Cafeteria 200 Essex Street

This past May, Town Meeting approved zoning changes that regulate a portion of Vinnin Square located between Essex Street and Paradise Road. These zoning changes are intended to encourage future mixed-use redevelopment and investments that would strengthen the Town's commercial tax base. The adoption of "Design Guidelines" is a required component of the new zoning. The purpose of Design Guidelines is to provide direction for and help regulate the architectural, landscape and pedestrian aspects of any future redevelopment project.

The Town of Swampscott, with the Planning Board as the lead, is working with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) to facilitate a planning process to develop the Design Guidelines for this area. We invite Swampscott residents to join us for an interactive community meeting where you will provide feedback to help to define the Town's vision for this portion of Vinnin Square, identify priorities for Design Guidelines, and begin to establish parameters for a successful transformation of Vinnin Square properties. If you have questions or special needs, please contact: Josh Fiala, Metropolitan Area Planning Council at (617) 933-0760 or jfiala@mapc.org



Upcoming Events & Meetings

SWAMPSCOTT PUBLIC SCHOOLS



AUGUST SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

AUGUST 17, 2023 THURSDAY 6PM ** REGULAR SESSION - SHS ROOM B129 ** TENTATIVE

<u>AUGUST 24, 2023</u> THURSDAY 6 PM REGULAR SESSION - SHS ROOM B129

Upcoming Events & Meetings



EMPTY BOWLS

SUMMER PARTY TO BENEFIT MY BROTHER'S TABLE

AUGUST 18, 2023 | 6PM-8:30PM LYNN MUSEUM 590 WASHINGTON STREET, LYNN

Follow My Brother's Table on Facebook or Instagram

<u>@mbtlynn</u> or their webpage <u>www.mybrotherstable.org</u>

Upcoming Recreation Events & Meetings

August 2 August 6 (13, 20, 27)August g August 12 August 16 August 17 August 23 August 24

TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT List of Events for August 2023

SWAMPSCOTT BY THE SEA SUMMER CONCERT STAN STRICKLAND - JAZZ

6:00-8:00pm @ Town Hall Lawn Free to the public Joe's on a Roll & Boards for Days Food Vendors

SWAMPSCOTT FARMERS MARKET

10:00am-1:00pm on Town Hall Lawn Every Sunday, rain or shine, thru October 29 Farms, vendors, crafters Fresh produce, food, handmade items & more!

SWAMPSCOTT BY THE SEA SUMMER CONCERT PICK 6 - COUNTRY

6:00-8:00pm @ Town Hall Lawn Free to the public Coastal Mass Brewing and TJ's Taste Truck

HUMPHREY STREET SUMMERFEST BLOCK PARTY

12:00-4:00pm Free to the public Beer gardens, food trucks, pop-up shops, kids carnival, live music, and more!

SWAMPSCOTT BY THE SEA SUMMER CONCERT BIG OL' DIRTY BUCKET - FUNK

6:00-8:00pm @ Town Hall Lawn Free to the public East Regiment Beer Co & Hungry Nomad Food Truck

MOVIE NIGHT ON TOWN HALL LAWN

TRUE SPIRIT (1 hr 49 min) Movie starts at 8:15pm - Free to the public Chick Chick Food Cart

SWAMPSCOTT BY THE SEA SUMMER CONCERT THE NEW GROWN-UPS - AMERICAN ROOTS MUSIC

6:00-8:00pm @ Town Hall Lawn Free to the public Granite Coast Brewery Co & Hungry Nomad Food Truck

MOVIE NIGHT ON TOWN HALL LAWN

SUPER MARIO BROS. MOVIE (1 hr 32 min) PG Movie starts at 8:00pm - Free to the public Chick Chick Food Cart

2023 REGULAR TRASH HOLIDAY DATES

Pick-up will be delayed by one day on the day of the following holidays and for the remainder of that holiday week

January 16	February 20	April 17	May 29	June 19
July 4	September 4	October 9	November 23	December 25

METAL RECYCLING & STYROFOAM DROP-OFF DATES

8 am-12 pm (Weather Permitting)					
March 25	April 29	May 27	June 24	July 29	
August 26	September 30	October 28	November 25	December 30	

YARD WASTE COLLECTION

On	your	regular	trash	day
-	/	- 5		/

April 24June 5July 24September 11

October 16 November 13 December 11

COMPOSTING

There are two free <u>compost stations</u> in Swampscott or sign-up for Black Earth's paid curbside service

CLOTHING/SMALL HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

Schedule a free pick-up from simplerecycling

MATTRESSES

Recycle your mattress by purchasing a \$20 mattress recycling sticker from Town Hall or <u>online</u>. *Note: Mattresses will be picked up curbside*



<u>Check out the town website for more</u> <u>information on Trash and Recycling</u>



Upcoming Meetings

Up-to-date Information about Town of Swampscott Public Meetings can be found at: <u>Town Meetings</u> on the town website.

CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP FOR IMPORTANT TOWN NOTICES

The town is going to be changing to a new, enhanced notification system called CodeRed. We will be asking residents to sign up to receive notification by email, text or phone calls over the summer. Stay tuned for more information.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

CUSTOMER SERVICE	(781) 596-8850
ASSESSOR	(781) 596-8850
Building	(781) 596-8857
COMMUNITY DEV.	(781) 596-8829
DPW	(781) 596-8860
FACILITIES	(781) 596-8850
FINANCE	(781) 596-8877
Fire	(781) 595-4050 OR 911
HEALTH	(781) 596-8864
Human Resources	(781) 596-8810
LIBRARY	(781) 596-8867
POLICE	(781) 595-1111 OR 911
RECREATION	(781) 596-8854
RETIREMENT	(781) 596-8827
SENIOR SERVICES	(781) 596-8866
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR	(781) 596-8850
TOWN CLERK/ELECTIONS	(781) 596-4167
VETERANS	(781) 586-6911

TOWN WEBSITE:

WWW.SWAMPSCOTTMA.GOV

FACEBOOK: LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

TWITTER: Follow us on Twitter

OTHER NEWSLETTERS: <u>SWAMPSCOTT RETIREMENT</u> <u>NEWSLETTER</u> <u>COUNCIL ON AGING</u>

EMAIL NEWS@SWAMPSCOTTMA.GOV TO SIGN UP FOR THIS NEWSLETTER WEBSITES OF INTEREST: <u>TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT</u> SWAMPSCOTT SENIOR CENTER