

Swampscott News

December 2023

Photo Credit: J & J Graphics



NEW COMMUNITY ALERTS SYSTEM CODERED LAUNCHES DECEMBER 1ST

The Town of Swampscott is launching a new communication platform to keep residents and businesses up-to-date with important information and alerts. Starting December 1, the Town will utilize OnSolve CodeRED to distribute alerts and information. Notifications are sent from the Town and can be received via text, email and phone. This new communication system will be used to update residents on many topics including:

- Weather Alerts
- Public Health Alerts
- Elections
- Road/Traffic Alerts
- Sanitary Sewer Overflow Alerts
- Trash & Recycling
- Community Events
- Monthly Newsletter

When you create your free account, you can decide how you want to receive updates and on what topics. You can also make changes to those selections at any time.

Next month this newsletter, *Swampscott News*, will be distributed through CodeRED so be sure to create your account and select “Monthly Newsletter” to continue to receive it.



*NOTE: your current subscription to the newsletter and Town phone calls/email **will not** carry over to the new system. You **need** to create a free account on the new platform to continue to receive notices. To set up your new account, visit the [Swampscott CodeRED Portal](#).*

GET IN THE SPIRIT OF GENEROSITY BY GIVING BACK

Donate to Toys for Local Children (TLC)

The Swampscott Police Association is collecting toys on behalf of Toys for Local Children (TLC). Donation boxes will be located inside the lobby of the police station and will also be collected along the parade route on December 16th.



Anchor Food Pantry Needs Donations

A donation station is set up on the first floor of Town Hall, in front of the fireplace. Suggested donations include: canned soups and stews, veggies, tuna, and chicken; cereal, granola & cereal bars, pasta, beans (canned or dry) and hygiene products (toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, shampoo, deodorant, shaving cream and razors). The Anchor Food Pantry is open Mondays 11am-1pm · Wednesdays from 6pm-8pm and is at 86 Burrill Street.

Table of Contents

1

[CodeRed Launch](#)

2

[Halloween Wrap-up](#)

3

[Grants Fund New Initiatives](#)

4

[Volunteers for Swampscott](#)

5- 7

[Upcoming Events](#)

8

[Upcoming Classes/Workshops](#)

9

[Health Department News
and Events](#)

10

[Senior Center News and
Events](#)

11

[School Department News](#)

12

[Public Library News and
Events](#)

13

[Police Department/Veterans
Affairs News](#)

14

[Climate Action/Renewable
Energy Committees](#)

15

[Trash and Recycling](#)

16

[Calendar](#)

17

[Town Information and
Meetings](#)

Halloween Wrap-up

SCENES FROM HALLOWEEN IN SWAMPSCOTT

Trick or treaters took to the streets (and some familiar buildings) across Swampscott this Halloween. A highlight was this year's first annual Swampscott Recreation Halloween Decorating Contest. The winner, collecting 44.8% of over 600 votes was...The Roches Family on Stetson Avenue!



Above: Stetson Avenue contest winner by day...and night! Night picture thanks to Jennifer Shire

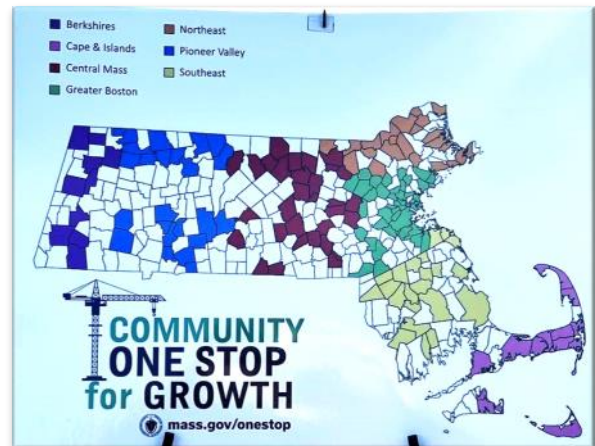


Staff at Town Hall and the Police Department stand ready for trick-or-treaters!

Grant Funding Supports New Programs and Initiatives

COMMUNITY ONE STOP FOR GROWTH AWARDS \$100K FOR MASTER PLAN

Swampscott received funding to update its 2016 Master Plan as part of the Housing Choice Grant Program of the Community One Stop For Growth, which supports local economic development projects in 161 communities across the state. The grant will enable Swampscott to create an updated series of goals and strategies that will guide future development initiatives.



Governor Maura Healy (center) and Lt Governor Kim Driscoll (right) at the Oct. 25th Awards announcement, with Secretary of Housing and Livable Communities Ed Augustus, Economic Development Secretary Yvonne Hao and Revere Mayor Patrick O'Keefe

SENIOR CENTER RECEIVES GRANT FOR OPENING MINDS THROUGH ART (OMA)

An award-winning, evidence-based, intergenerational art-making program for people living with dementia, OMA was founded by Dr. Elizabeth “Like” Lokon in 2007 and is grounded in person-centered care principles. People with dementia (artists) will be paired with volunteers (Swampscott High School students) who are trained to rely on imagination instead of memory and focus on remaining strengths instead of lost skills. OMA enables people living with dementia to assume new roles as artists and teachers and leave a legacy of beautiful artwork.

Generously funded by Greater Lynn Senior Services and the Mass Executive Office of Elder Affairs, the program is FREE, and will offer three 6-week sessions through summer of 2024.

Space is limited. To reserve a space please call the Swampscott Senior Center 781-596-8866 or email Outreach Social Worker Sabrina Clopton at sclopton@swampscottma.gov.



Making a Difference...How Can You Participate?

SENIOR AND VETERAN PROPERTY TAX WORK-OFF PROGRAM CREDIT INCREASES TO \$2000

Swampscott is fortunate to benefit from a large Senior and Veteran work force who commit their time and skills to making our town a better place to live. From blood pressure clinics to grant writing, landscaping and helping out with communications, elections and town events, our Senior and Veteran Tax Work-Off program impacts many. Swampscott is able to take on projects and initiatives that would not be possible without these valuable residents. In return, Senior and Veteran residents receive a credit toward their property tax bill.



Fast Facts About the Senior/Veteran Work-Off Program:

- 42 Actively working volunteers
- 3,436 Hours worked so far in 2023
- 10 Departments supported by volunteers
- Participants receive credits on the Property Tax bill

Do you have time and skills you'd like to utilize for a property tax credit? Complete the [2024 Senior & Veteran Tax Work-Off Application](#). Applicants must be property owners in Swampscott and over 60 years old.

RESIDENTS INVITED TO JOIN NEW STORMWATER & WASTEWATER COMMITTEE

Help your community to avoid pollution while protecting the health and well-being of residents, businesses, and visitors by joining this new committee, established by the Select Board.

The Committee will help to advise the Select Board of various activities and needs related to the Town's stormwater and wastewater systems. Members on the committee will have an important role in helping to guide and steward the ongoing improvements, operation and expansion of this integral infrastructure system.

[Submit your application](#) for consideration by completing the form, select "Stormwater & Wastewater Committee" (as well as any other boards you may be interested in serving on) attach a resume, and provide a brief description as to why you'd like to serve on the committee and how you believe you could help.

We'd love to see people with engineering, marine science and public health backgrounds apply.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN SWAMPSCOTT?

Interested in becoming a Town Meeting member? Run for office in our next election? Or [volunteer on a Board or Committee](#)— there are lots of ways to join in! Stay tuned for updates on our next election or you can volunteer anytime for a Board or Committee.



Holiday Events

Swampscott Recreation Holiday Events

December 4th

Last day to purchase Wreath Raffle tickets

December 11th 6:00-8:00pm

Upcycled Sweater Tree Workshop with Sew Envious
at the ReachArts building

December 12th-17th

Light Up Swampscott decorating contest

December 14th-18th

Gingerbread House Contest at Swampscott Town Hall during regular
business hours

December 16th 9am-11am

Breakfast with Santa sponsored by TLC and Swampscott Recreation

December 16th 4:00-7:00pm

Holiday Festival & Market on Town Hall Lawn
Flashlight candy cane hunt, carriage rides, electric train rides, crafters/vendors, and
more! *Coincides with the Swampscott Police Association parade

For more details and to purchase tickets and/or register for any of
these events, visit www.swampscottrec.com

Holiday Events

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA, HOLIDAY FESTIVAL AND PARADE AND MORE ON DEC. 16TH

Activities start with [Breakfast with Santa](#), followed by the **Holiday Festival, Parade** (see below) and **Flashlight Candy Cane Hunt** (Linscott Park), and finally the **Tree Lighting**. The festival will feature music, kiddie train rides, horse and wagon rides, Gingerbread House Display, Mrs. Claus and her mini reindeer helpers, annual Tree Lighting Ceremony, and an outdoor Holiday Market! Activities will include crafts for kids, hot cocoa with the Boy Scouts and S'mores for sale with the Girl Scouts!



SCHEDULE:

- 9:00 am - 11:00 am **Breakfast with Santa** at the Senior Center
- 4:00 pm –5:30 pm **Holiday Parade** starts at Swampscott High School
- **Holiday Fair Open for Shopping** on Town Hall Lawn (Until 7 pm)
 - **Gingerbread Houses** on display inside Town Hall
 - **Take a Picture with Mrs. Claus** and her mini reindeers (Until 7 pm)
 - **Kiddie Train & Horse & Carriage Rides** (Until 6:45 pm)
- 6:00 pm **Flashlight Candy Cane Hunt** at Linscott Park (Bring a flashlight!)
Town Hall Tree Lighting



Holiday Parade



December 16, 2023 @ 5:30PM

~ Hosted by the Swampscott Police Association ~

Merry Christmas **Happy New Year!** *Happy Hanukkah*

Parade Route: Starts at SHS, travels Essex to Burrill, Burrill to Paradise, Paradise to Vinnin to Salem St, Salem St to Humphrey St ending at Town Hall., where the Recreation Department will host music and family events following. If your organization would like to participate please contact, Candace Doyle, Jay Locke, Mike Kenyon or Bill Waters at 781-595-1111 or Swampscottpoliceassociation@gmail.com

Swampscott Recreation Presents:

FIRST NIGHT 2023

New Years Eve Celebration

1-4pm

31 SUN
DEC

Bring the family and join us as we ring in the New Year with a variety of performances, a countdown, balloon drop and much more!

\$25
/FAMILY

Swampscott High
School's Cafeteria/Gym

200 Essex Street
Swampscott, MA



For more information and to purchase tickets: <https://rb.gy/qwalcs>



Upcoming Classes and Workshops

STEM ROBOTICS



Stem Robotics Workshop

In this workshop, students get an opportunity to see what the world of STEM and robotics is all about as they build their own simple machines, then use gears, motors, axles, and batteries to bring their creations to life!



Date: Friday Dec. 1st
Time: 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM
Location: Swampscott Public Library
Cost: Free



781-596-8854

jcamerlengo@swampscottma.gov

<https://swampscottma.myrec.com/>



= BATTLE = ROBOTS



Battle Robots

Lead your fearless robots into thrilling battles, strategizing and outsmarting opponents in intense robot warfare.



Date: 8 weeks, 01/06 to 03/09 -Saturdays
Time: 2:30 PM to 4:00 PM
Location: Swampscott High School
Cost: \$325.00



YOUTH WINTER TENNIS PROGRAM

Swampscott Recreation
& Marcy's Tennis
Academy Presents:



6 Saturday Sessions Starting January 6th
Grades K-4 3:00-4:00pm
Grades 5-8 4:00-5:00pm

\$120

Swampscott High School
Gymnasium

To register:
SwampscottRec.com

SWAMPSCOTT RECREATION &

SUPER SOCCER STARS WINTER SESSION

FOR Boys & Girls
2-5 Years Old

SATURDAYS

January 6th - February 10th


LOCATION

Swampscott High School
Gymnasium


COST **\$144**

Health Department News

COVID VACCINE CLINICS



North Shore Public Health Nurses
REGIONAL COVID
VACCINATION CLINICS



Open to eligible* individuals age 12+
**to be eligible you must have had your last COVID vaccine at least 2 months ago*


Available Vaccine: Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine (2023-2024 Formula)

NOVEMBER 29th 1:00-3:00 PM Salem Community Life Center 401 Bridge St., Salem, MA 01970	DECEMBER 6th 1:30-4:00 PM Peabody Council on Aging 79 Central St, Peabody, MA 01960
---	--

You are welcome to attend the clinic that is most convenient for you!

Pre-register for your appointment by using this link or QR code:
<https://home.color.com/vaccine/register/peabody>

If you have health insurance, please make sure to bring your insurance card with you.



These regional COVID Vaccination Clinics are sponsored by the Beverly, Danvers, Marblehead, Peabody, Salem, and Swampscott Health Departments

INPUT NEEDED: HOW SHOULD SWAMPSCOTT SPEND OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS?

Share your thoughts by completing the [Opioid Settlement Funds Survey](#) which closes Dec. 4th. After compiling the responses, the Swampscott Health Department will hold a listening session/idea

exchange and form a 'Lived Experience' working group to help with how best to utilize these funds.

[Complete the survey online](#) or obtain a paper copy to fill out and return at Town Hall, the Library, or the Swampscott Senior Center.

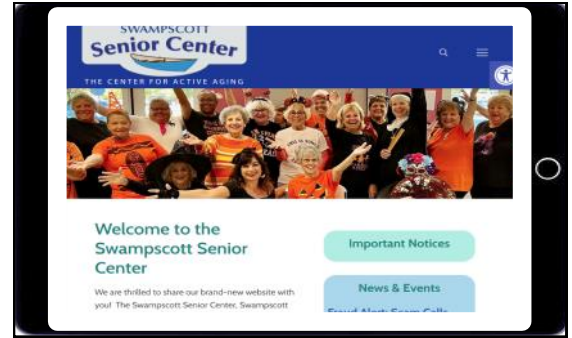


**Opioid Settlement
Funds Survey**

Senior Center News and Events

STAY UPDATED WITH THE SENIOR CENTER WEBSITE!

Check out the updated site and discover a range of programs, services (including transportation) and events offered, including the [Events Calendar](#) which is packed with something for everyone! Visit activeagingswampscott.com



A VISIT WITH CURIOUS CREATURES

Chloe from Curious Creatures visited the Senior Center in November. So much fun!



HOLIDAY PARTY AT THE SENIOR CENTER

Join fellow neighbors on December 6th from 2 - 4 pm catered by Brett Henry with entertainment by Bobby Kerrigan. \$12 to register, registration required. Call 781-596-8866 to register.



FREE OPENING MINDS THROUGH ART (OMA) PROGRAM OPEN FOR RESERVATIONS

An award-winning, evidence-based, intergenerational art-making program for people living with dementia, OMA enables people living with dementia to assume new roles as artists and teachers and leave a legacy of beautiful artwork. [See article on page 2](#) for more information. To reserve please call the Swampscott Senior Center 781-596-8866 or email Outreach Social Worker Sabrina Clopton at sclopton@swampscottma.gov.



School News

NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TAKES SHAPE

In just eight months the sight and sounds of students and teachers will replace those of construction vehicles. The building is in full progress with windows being installed daily, drywall being hung, and so much more. Check out this time lapse video to see how progress continues!



SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS



Public Library News

DOWNSIZING MADE EASY

Tuesday, Dec. 2nd 11:00 AM

Learn how to simplify your life by following the 5 Easy Steps to Downsizing as outlined in *Downsizing Made Easy Guide*. Speaker: Jean-Marie Minton, Seniors Real Estate Specialist. [Register here.](#)



HYGGE DAY: GET COZY AND COMFY

Thursday, Dec. 21st

Hygge ("hooga") is a Danish word which describes a quality of coziness and comfortable conviviality that engenders feelings of well-being or contentment. Take a break from your daily rush and join us to relax and enjoy life's quieter pleasures. Check the [website](#) for more info.



HOLIDAY HOURS & PROGRAM CHANGES

Please note that during school vacation time there will be no Children's Room story times. Please check the [website](#) for any pop up events.



The library will be closed Monday **December 25th** and Tuesday **December 26th**, and the following Monday **December 31st** and Tuesday **January 1st** for the holidays.

TRIVIA NIGHT

Thursday, Dec. 21st, 6:00 PM

Form a team and compete at trivia night. May the team with the most random knowledge win! Check our [website](#) for more information.

SUPPORT THE FRIENDS OF SWAMPSCOTT LIBRARY

HOLIDAY FLOWER BULB SALE

THROUGH DECEMBER 15

<http://SwampscottLibraryFriends.fpfundraising.com>

Shop for beautiful amaryllis and paperwhite bulbs for the holidays!

Check the library website swampscottlibrary.org or call 781-596-8867 for updated information on programs and events.

Police Department News/Veterans Affairs News

POLICE ASSOCIATION HOLIDAY PARADE INTRODUCES NEW SAFETY MEASURES

The Swampscott Police Association is proud to host this annual event for all to enjoy. It is a great time to come together as a town. Some new safety measures are in place this year, with NO DROP-OFF in the rear of the high school/staging area on parade night and NO PARKING in the rear lot.

988 LIFELINE SHIELD ADDED TO POLICE CRUISERS

Created by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the 988 crisis hotline was established to help those who may be in need. Last month the 988 decal was added to Swampscott Police Department cruisers as a way to help raise awareness for this resource.

If you or someone you know is struggling or in need of assistance please reach out and learn of the available resources.

The holiday season can be challenging for many of our neighbors. Spread the word about 988.



VETERANS DAY BREAKFAST

Many thanks to the Swampscott Rotary Club, the ROTC of Lynn English High School and the ElderAct Club of Swampscott and Marblehead for helping to make the breakfast a success!



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA



Join Lynn-Swampscott Veterans Services & Military Friends Foundation & VFW Post 1240 Auxiliary on the mission to Remember Our Fallen Veterans, Honor Those Who Serve and Teach The Value of Freedom. All are welcome to join for a brief ceremony and to place wreaths on the grave of a veteran. [Wreaths can be purchased for](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/MA0197) Swampscott Cemetery online until November 28th.

Climate Action Plan Committee/Renewable Energy Committee

THE WEATHER IS GETTING COLDER...GET YOUR FREE HOME ENERGY ASSESSMENT!

Have you signed up for your free home energy assessment? Get up to 100% off on insulation upgrades and substantial rebates on heat pumps!

Homeowners, Renters, and Landlords can visit <https://www.callrevise.com/swampscott-lynn-saves/> or call 800-885-7283.

Small Business Owners visit <https://www.energysource.com/> or call 888-490-7555.



MASS SAVE® COMMUNITY FIRST PARTNERSHIP FOCUSES ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Lynn and Swampscott are participating in the Mass Save® Community First Partnership, sponsored locally by National Grid, to increase participation in energy efficiency programs.

For more information or assistance, contact our Energy Advocate Marissa Meaney mmeaney@swampscottma.gov.



Buildings & Energy



**RESILIENT
SWAMPSCOTT**
CLIMATE ACTION FOR OUR COMMUNITY

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

April 24	June 5	July 24	September 11
October 16	November 13	December 11	

COMPOSTING

There are two free [composting stations](#) 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 [online](#). *Note: Mattresses will be picked up curbside on the 2nd and last Saturday of each month*



2023 CHRISTMAS TREES WILL BE PICKED UP THE WEEK OF JANUARY 9th
Trees will be picked up on your normal trash day during the week of January 9th. Please remove ornaments, tinsel, lights, etc.

[Check out the town website for more information on Trash and Recycling](#)

Town of Swampscott Calendar

NOV 18	Hazardous Waste Dropoff
NOV 23	Big Blue Football plays Marblehead at Blocksidge Field
NOV 29	Regional Covid Vaccine Clinic in Salem
DEC 1	CodeRED Alert System Begins: New Signup Required Battle Robots Stem Robotics Workshop – Demo Class
DEC 2	First Friday Zoom Open Mic at Reach Arts Downsizing Made Easy - Workshop
DEC 4	Last Day to Purchase Wreath Raffle Tickets Tin Box Poets of Swampscott Monthly Workshop at Reach Arts
DEC 6	Regional Covid Vaccine Clinic in Peabody Senior Center Holiday Party
DEC 11	Upcycle Sweater Tree Workshop at Reach Arts
DEC 12	Deadline to enter the Light Up Swampscott Holiday Decorating Contest
DEC 12-17	Light Up Swampscott Holiday Decorating Display and Contest
DEC 13	Gingerbread House Contest: Drop Off Day at Town Hall
DEC 14-18	Gingerbread House Display and Contest at Town Hall
DEC 16	Breakfast with Santa Swampscott Police Association Holiday Parade Holiday Festival, Tree Lighting, Candy Cane Hunt
DEC 21	Hygge Day at the Library Trivia Night at the Library
DEC 31	First Night Swampscott



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



Upcoming Meetings

Up-to-date Information about Town of Swampscott Public Meetings can be found at: [Town Meetings](#) on the town website.

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	(781) 596-4167
VETERANS	(781) 586-6911

TOWN WEBSITE:

WWW.SWAMPSCOTTMA.GOV

FACEBOOK:

[LIKE US ON FACEBOOK](#)

INSTAGRAM:

[@SWAMPSCOTTMAS](#)

X (TWITTER):

[FOLLOW US ON X](#)

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP FOR
IMPORTANT TOWN NOTICES AND THIS
NEWSLETTER](#)

OTHER NEWSLETTERS:

[SWAMPSCOTT RETIREMENT NEWSLETTER](#)
[COUNCIL ON AGING NEWSLETTER](#)

WEBSITES OF INTEREST:

[TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT](#)
[SWAMPSCOTT SENIOR CENTER](#)