

Swampscott News

January 2024

Swampscott Runs on the Generosity of its Residents

We are fortunate to have a community that gives back in so many ways. In this season of giving, we want to highlight both the incredible contributions made to the town by its many residents who volunteer countless hours, and to feature local community groups and organizations who need our support.

ANCHOR FOOD PANTRY NEEDS DONATIONS

Donations can be made to Anchor Food Pantry at either Town Hall in front of the fireplace or Anchor Food Pantry is open Mondays 11 am-1 pm and Wednesdays from 6 pm-8 pm at 86 Burrill Street. 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).



MY BROTHER'S TABLE



Everyone is welcome.

My Brother's Table offers free meals to everyone who comes to their door, regardless of race, color, creed or sex. Looking for more information?

[GET INVOLVED](#)

[DONATE](#)

[EVENTS](#)

GIVE THE GIFT OF A TREE!

Swampscott's lush tree canopy benefits from the work of Swampscott's Tree Committee and your donations. All contributions are used to plant trees in Swampscott - you can even request a location!

[Make your donation online](#), or use the [printable letter](#) and accompany with a check.

If you have a location in mind for your tree or questions, contact Rich Frenkel at rich@frenkelfamily.org or Jim Olivetti at jim.olivetti@gmail.com.



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Residents Giving Back...to Swampscott

JOHN MCLAUGHLIN AND HIS TEAM OF ELVES DO IT AGAIN!

Have you noticed the stunning seasonal decorations and landscaping around town?

Much of the effort is thanks to super-landscaper John McLaughlin. For the twelfth year running, Swampscott buildings and landmarks were decorated in early December by John and his elves, Ryan and Jamie of the DPW. We hope you have a chance to enjoy the fruits of their labor.



WANT TO GET MORE INVOLVED IN SWAMPSCOTT?

Interested in becoming a Town Meeting member? Want to run for office in our next election or [volunteer on a Board or Committee](#) — there are lots of ways to join in! Currently, a new Water & Sewer Infrastructure Advisory Committee is being established, learn more [here](#).



Residents Giving Back...to Swampscott

HOLIDAY BAGS FOR HOMEBOUND SENIORS

Over 80 holiday bags with a handmade letter, cozy item, first aid kit and flashlight were created for homebound seniors in Swampscott and Lynn.

Many thanks to Marion Garfinkel, Swampscott Middle School's National Junior Honor Society, the Health Department, Climate Action Committee, Senior Center and The Landing in Vinnin Square!



Martha Schmitt Climate Action Committee

SMS teachers Matt Moran, Jackie Wilson and SHS alum Harper Clopton

Neia Illingworth Public Health Nurse and SMS Students

Holiday Event Pictures

WREATH RAFFLE AWARDS MORE THAN A DOZEN GORGEOUS WREATHS!

You can check out all the wreaths—and their winners—[here](#). Thanks to all who participated!



Holiday Event Pictures

FAMILIES RACE AROUND SWAMPSCOTT AT TURKEY TREASURE HUNT

Nearly 20 families competed to win a 6 foot inflatable Tom Turkey in the 2023 hunt, held on Sunday morning November 19. Special shout out to John Phelan for creating this year's Turkey Treasure Hunt clues and a big congratulations to the Berny-Lang Family for being the 2023 Turkey Treasure Hunt Winners! It was so much fun to see all of the smiling and out-of-breath participants! Thank you to everyone who participated.



The Berny-Lang Family

ARE THOSE GINGERBREAD HOUSES I SEE ALL OVER TOWN HALL?

Why yes, they are! Take a look at this year's incredible entries even comfort dogs Sora and Ryan made it into the contest! Some outstanding entrants this year! Come see them in person.



Holiday Event Pictures

CONGRATULATIONS GINGERBREAD HOUSE WINNERS!

The competition was stiff with 28 entries this year! We had so many fantastic entries. More than ever! The judges struggled but came up with these fantastic entries. Great job everyone!



MOST CREATIVE
THE MILLERS



BEST HOLIDAY SPIRIT
THE FEINSWOG FAMILY



BEST ADULT
JENNIFER NISBIT

BEST TEEN
AMIRA ATOUNI-RODRIGUEZ

BEST YOUTH
GIRL SCOUT TROOP 72182

BEST CHILD
JACK BUTTERS



Holiday Event Pictures

CONGRATULATIONS 2023 LIGHT UP SWAMPSCOTT CONTEST!

We had fantastic participation this year in voting for our People's Choice Award! Over 318 votes were cast! Thank you to everyone who participated in the contest by either entering your house or by voting! Remember, it's never too early to start planning ahead for NEXT year!



**Congrats,
Winners!**



135 Phillips Avenue



26 Rockland St



**618 Humphrey St
w/Backyard Winter Wonderland
"People's Choice"**

Swampscott Historical Commission News

1860 PHOTO OF RESIDENT JONATHAN PHILLIPS WITH PENOBSCOT RESTORED

The Swampscott Historical Commission is grateful to town employee Steve Vouboukis who discovered a very old framed photograph in storage at the Swampscott Public Library, and brought it to the attention of the Historical Commission.

After having the photograph carefully removed, it was cleaned and scanned at Hunt's Photo in Melrose. It was re-matted and placed back in its original frame by Vinnin Square Frames in Swampscott. The photograph is now hanging in the main display case in Town Hall.

Further study of the photograph and several copies that were available through various sources reveal that the framed, restored photograph is very likely original.



Photography experts at Hunt's Photo pointed out that the photograph was created using a salt and silver technique involving a glass negative. The resulting photograph is not a standard size, so any reproductions typically required cropping, omitting sections of the surrounding landscape and background, as is evident in each of the copies studied.

This photograph of the Penobscot with Jonathan Phillips took place on Phillips Point, now Little's Point, "during an encampment where the Penobscot erected wigwams and pursued their trade of basket making," as described in the *History of Lynn* (1865) by Alonzo Lewis and James Newhall.

This photograph and the entire exhibit may be viewed in person during normal business hours at Town Hall. In addition to hosting talks and maintaining archives for the Town of Swampscott, the Historical Commission's primary responsibilities are to protect and preserve Swampscott's historical heritage and resources, and, in particular, to preserve the town's historically significant buildings.

To listen to a recording of Anthropologist Mary Ellen Lepionka's recent lecture at Swampscott Public Library on this photograph and the history of the Penobscot, click on this QR code with your smart device camera or [click here](#).



Police Department News

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARADE SUCCESSFUL TOY DRIVE



Thanks to [Wicked Jeeps of New England](#) for the large toy donation to Toys for Local Children (TLC) and for being a part of our parade. Till next year! Beep beep and thank you to the all those who donated along the route! The lobby of the police station is full! There will be a lot of happy kids this holiday season.



REMINDER: ANNUAL SECURITY SYSTEM ALARM REGISTRATION



The annual Security System Alarm Registration for 2024 is happening now! To register your security system alarm with the Swampscott Police Department, please visit [CityHall Systems](#).

All residents and business with alarms must register with the Swampscott Police Department. For by-law information [click here](#).

For a registration form by mail or email, use alarmregistration@swampscottpolice.com or call the

REMINDER: USE CAUTION FOR PACKAGE DELIVERIES



Tis the season for online ordering! Residents are urged to use caution when having packages delivered for the holiday season. Packages left unattended on the front steps of a property can be easily taken.

Consider alternative methods to guarantee safer delivery, such as a signature for delivery requirement, delivery to a PO Box, delivery to your place of employment or arrange with neighbors to take in packages if they see any delivered. Amazon offers pick-up at Whole Foods in many cases. If you see suspicious package activity, call Swampscott Police at 781-595-1111, or call 911. Have a safe and happy holiday season.

SPREAD THE WORD: 988 LIFELINE

The holiday season can be challenging for many of our neighbors. The 988 crisis hotline was established to help those who may be in need. If you or someone you know is struggling or in need of assistance please reach out and learn of the available resources.

Connect to a trusted contact—it's free and confidential.



SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE FROM SWAMPSCOTT TO LYNN STATION ENDS



The new North Shore Commuter rail station in Lynn opened on December 18th. The new interim station means the end of the Swampscott shuttle that has been in use for a year following the closing of the Lynn Station.

Fire Department News

Firefighters visited New Sunrise Preschool in November where they talked to the preschoolers about fire safety. Firefighter Gino DiGiorgio taught the children some important fire related words in Spanish, including “los bomberos” which means firefighters.



Firefighter Brittany Coppinger wore full turnout gear for the class.

Firefighters Chris Cameron and Lieutenant Michael LeBlanc helped safely get the children in and out of Big Blue!



Muchas Gracias—Thank You!
New Sunrise Preschool!



Town Announcements

FEE CHANGES EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 16, 2023

The Select Board voted at their November 15, 2023 meeting to raise the following fees:

- Health Department, **Mattress Recycling Stickers**: Increase from \$20 per set (mattress + box spring) to \$30 per piece.
- Health Department, **Summer Camp Permit Fee**: Increase from \$75 to \$100

The Select Board also voted to establish the following fees:

- Planning Board, **ZBA Decision Recording Fee**: \$105
- Town Clerk, **Amended Vital Record Fee**: \$50
- Town Clerk, **Genealogy Request Fee**: \$150

Questions regarding fees should be directed to their respective department by dialing (781) 596-8850 and following the prompts.

ASSESSOR'S CORNER: REAL ESTATE/PERSONAL PROPERTY ABATEMENTS

If you believe the value of your Real Estate or Personal Property is incorrect (not if you feel your tax bill is too high), there is a process by which you may apply for an abatement with the Assessor's office. An abatement application may be filed by the person to whom the property is assessed, or the person who became the owner of the property after January 1, 2023.



By state law, applications for abatements can only be received during the month of January for the current fiscal year, **no abatements can be granted unless the application is filed by the February 1, 2024, deadline.**

An abatement application can be found on the Town's website under the Assessing department or [click here](#).

JANUARY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

A graphic for upcoming school committee meetings. It features a spiral notebook with several colorful sticky notes (yellow, orange, pink, blue, green) and a red pencil. To the right of the notebook is a small container with several colored pencils. The background is a solid teal color.

UPCOMING SCHOOL
COMMITTEE MEETINGS

JANUARY 11, 2024 THURSDAY 6PM
REGULAR SESSION - SHS ROOM B129

JANUARY 25, 2024 THURSDAY 6 PM
REGULAR SESSION - SHS ROOM B129

Town Announcements

RECOGNIZING PRIOR SELECT BOARD MEMBERS

In appreciation for years of service to the Town, the Select Board presented prior members of the Select Board Laura Spathanas, Naomi Dreeban and Neal Duffy personalized, commemorative chairs at the December 11th Town Meeting.

Laura Spathanas who served 6 years on the Select Board and now runs the Anchor Pantry.

Naomi Dreeban spent 6 years on the Select Board and now serves on the Finance Committee.

Neal Duffy served 3 years on the Select Board in especially difficult years during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you all!



Laura Spathanas is presented a chair from Select Board member Peter Spellios



Neal Duffy accepts a chair from David Grishman



Naomi Dreeban accepts a chair by Town Administrator Sean Fitzgerald

Town Committee News

RESIDENTS INVITED TO JOIN NEW STORMWATER & WASTEWATER COMMITTEE

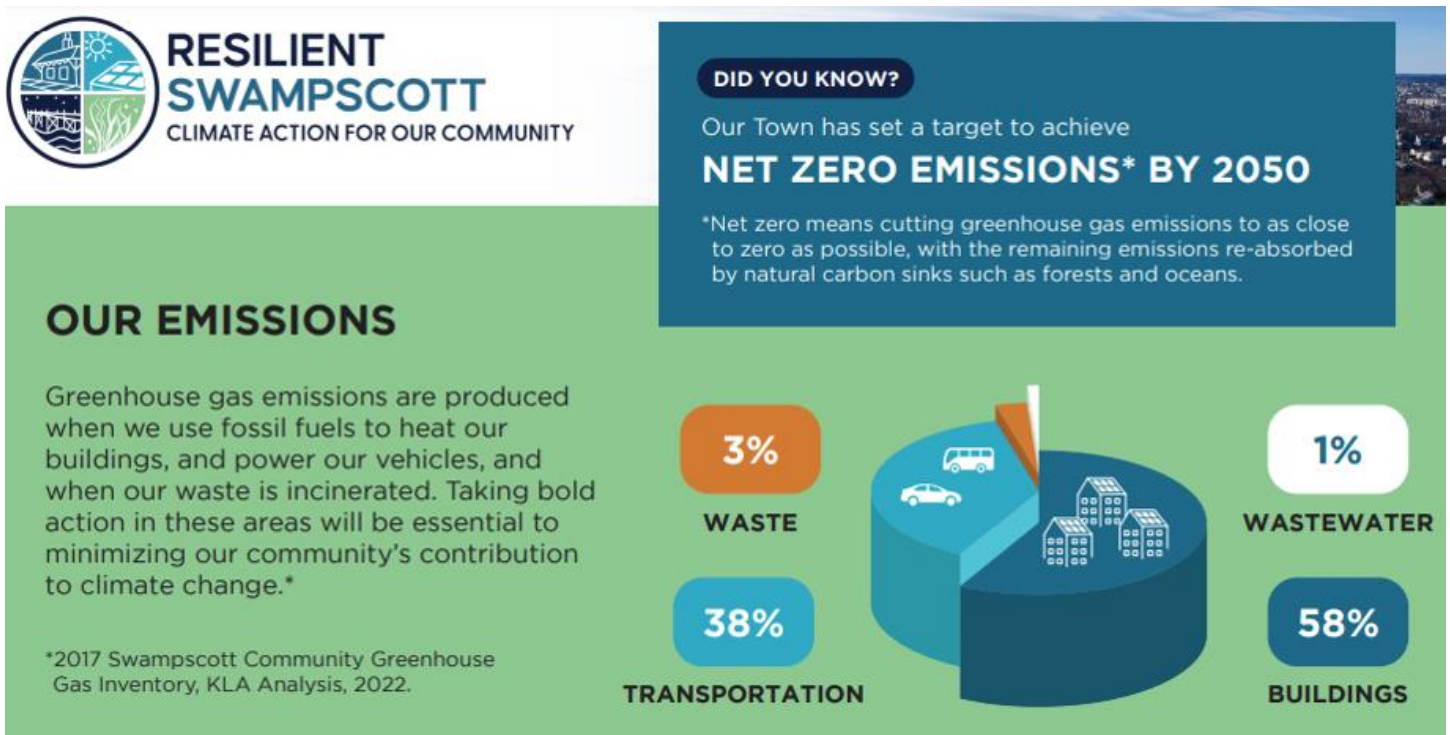
Help your community to avoid pollution while protecting the health and well-being of residents, businesses and visitors by joining this new committee, established by the Select Board.

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 "Water & Sewer Infrastructure Advisory Committee" (and 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 this committee and how you believe you could help. People with engineering, marine science and public health backgrounds are especially suited for this committee.

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE

Take climate action in your own life! Talk with friends and family. Attend a Climate Action Plan Committee meeting and [track our progress](#), read about the [five steps to take for a more energy efficient home](#), and [sign up for a free home energy assessment](#). Contact our Energy Advocate [Marissa Meaney](#) to learn more.



TOWN BOARDS AND COMMITTEES INFORMATION

Swampscott has more than forty committees and boards, and you can learn more about their activities by reviewing their agendas, minutes, and more [on the town website](#).

Holiday Events

SENIOR CENTER HOLIDAY EVENTS

A Christmas Carol

Thu. Dec. 21st, 2 pm

Our seniors can also enjoy a live performance of the Charles Dickens classic presented by the Delvena Theatre Company. Refreshments will be served. There is no charge for this program.



Nearly New Year's Eve Celebration

Wed. Dec. 27th, 3 – 5 pm

Ring in the New Year early at Fantasy Island, 516 Loring Avenue, with good friends and delicious food. We will feast on a Chinese Food Buffet. Cost is \$20.00 per person and includes the gratuity. [Pre-registration](#) and payment is required in advance.



SWAMPSCOTT RECREATION DEPARTMENT HOLIDAY EVENT

First Night Swampscott

Sun. Dec. 31st 1-4 pm

A family-friendly celebration with performances, a countdown, balloon drop and more. \$25 per family at the Swampscott High School Cafeteria/Gym. [Register here](#).



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Holiday Events

Swampscott Recreation Presents:

FIRST NIGHT 2024

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>



SWAMPSCOTT RECREATION'S

SNOWMAN CONTEST

JANUARY 1ST THRU MARCH 1ST



WE ARE LOOKING FOR THE BEST SNOW ENGINEERS IN TOWN! REGISTER TO ENTER OUR 2024 SNOWMAN CONTEST AND YOU COULD WIN ONE OF 4 PRIZES! PRIZES BEING GIVEN AWAY FOR BEST TRADITIONAL SNOWMAN, BEST SNOW CREATURE, MOST CREATIVE SNOWMAN, AND FUNNIEST SNOW CREATION!

FOR MORE DETAILS AND TO REGISTER VISIT: swampscottma.myrec.com

Upcoming Classes and Workshops

SWAMPSCOTT RECREATION PRESENTS:



**BASIC WIRE WRAPPING
WORKSHOP**

JANUARY 24TH, 2024

7:00-9:00PM
REACH ARTS GALLERY
\$30

SIGN UP NOW AT WWW.SWAMPSCOTTREC.COM

SWAMPSCOTT RECREATION &
NORTH SHORE GLASS SCHOOL PRESENT

**FUSED
GLASS:
AN INTRODUCTION**



Learn the ancient art of glass fusing. This class requires no prior experience! In this 4-week program, students will make pendants, coasters/suncatchers, bowls, clocks and more! All materials and tools needed for the class are provided and included in the cost.

INSTRUCTOR
ANYA CIARAMETARO

COST \$200
DATE TUESDAYS
Starting January 9th
TIME 7:00-8:30PM
LOCATION Reach Arts Gallery

REGISTER AT:
WWW.SWAMPSCOTTREC.COM

NEW!! ADULT PROGRAMMING STARTING IN JANUARY



SIGN-UP AT
WWW.SWAMPSCOTTREC.COM

SWAMPSCOTT RECREATION PRESENTS

Drilling
Sea Glass,
Stones & Shells



January 20th, 2024
12:00-4:00pm
Reach Arts Gallery - Swampscott
\$60

Register here www.swampscottrec.com

SWAMPSCOTT RECREATION'S

**Mastering
Crochet**

4-Week Program
Thursdays - Starting January 11th
7:00-9:00pm
Reach Arts Gallery

\$60.00

Learn all the essential techniques and create beautiful headbands and scarves while also connecting with a supportive and creative community. Don't miss this chance to take your crochet skills to the next level!

Register at: www.swampscottrec.com



Public Library News



SUITCASE STORIES

Join us for a Russian Language program on Saturday, January 20th at 10:00 A.M. Please contact [lryna](mailto:lryna@swampscottlibrary.org) at the library for more information.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

The library will be closed on Monday December 25th and Tuesday December 26th (Christmas), Monday January 1st and Tuesday, January 2nd (New Year's), and Monday, January 15th (Martin Luther King Day.)

WEBSITE UPGRADE

The weekend of January 6th and 7th the library catalog and patron account website will be unavailable due to a system upgrade. It is expected to be back up and running by Monday, January 8th. (The library will be open Saturday.)



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

School News

PROGRESS CONTINUES ON NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

It's starting to look like a school! The picture below shows the approach to the school and the canopies for the upper (left) and lower (right) schools with the two-story media center in the middle.

As of mid-December, there are only 5 more geothermal wells to drill. The bricking on the exterior of the building is mostly complete, skylights are set, and the large cafetorium windows are being placed as this newsletter is being written. The third and fourth grade classrooms are painted and the bathrooms in that wing are all tiled. It won't be long now and the new school is looking great!



Get updates on school progress, including time-lapse videos, on the [town website](#)

Business News

ATI THERAPY OPENS IN SWAMPSCOTT

A ribbon ceremony for the opening of ATI Physical Therapy was held on December 13th. ATI is a nationally-recognized rehabilitation provider. ATI is located in Vinnin Square at 1016 Paradise Road.

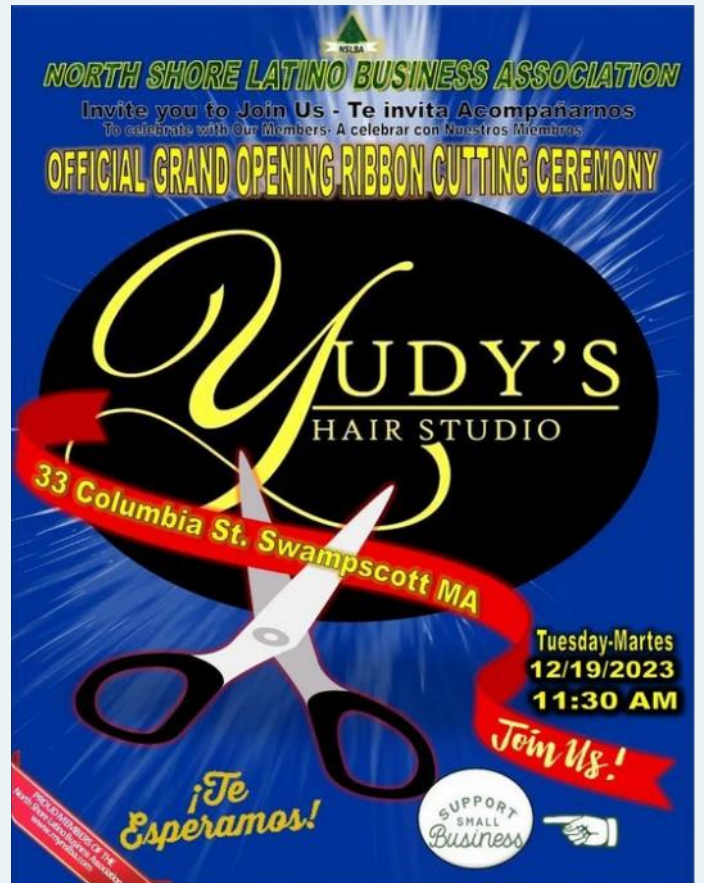


Marzie Galazka, head of Community & Economic Development, at the ribbon cutting ceremony for ATI Physical Therapy



YUDY'S HAIR STUDIO TO OPEN

A new hairdresser is scheduled to open with a ribbon cutting, scheduled for December 19th, sponsored by The North Shore Latino Business Association.



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

July 29

August 26

September 30

October 27

**Last pick up
until Spring 2024**

December 30

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.

COMPOSTING

There are two free [composting stations](#) at Swampscott Police Station and at the Dog Park or sign-up for weekly Black Earth's paid curbside service.

CLOTHING/SMALL HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

Schedule a free pick-up from [simplerecycling](#)

MATTRESSES

Recycle your mattress or box spring by purchasing a mattress recycling sticker from Town Hall or [online](#). *Items will be picked up curbside on the 2nd and last Saturday of each month (Note: new fee of \$30 per piece)*

Check out the town website for more information on Trash and Recycling



Upcoming Meetings

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

[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](#)

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:

[@SWAMPSCOTTMMASS](#)

X (TWITTER):

[FOLLOW US ON X](#)