



# TOWN OF TYNGSBOROUGH

Office of the Town Manager

Town Offices

25 Bryants Lane

Tyngsborough, MA 01879

Tel: (978) 649-2314 | Fax: (978) 649-2320

October 7, 2024

## Town Manager's Report

Dear Board Members:

I am pleased to report the following updates from Town Hall and throughout Town:

- I wanted to start today by sharing that we learned that Anne Paquin who has diligently run the Neighbor to Neighbor since 1983 will be retiring in the New Year and her last publication will be December 2024. Anne has been a truly remarkable partner allowing and encouraging us to post some of our most important updates in the Neighbor to Neighbor. She has reserved prime real estate each edition for important town updates including the Town Manager's report and we are extremely grateful.
- On the same note of celebrating local businesses, I am happy to share that Newsweek has named our very own Parlee Farms as the #1 apple orchard in America. Although it was published in Newsweek at the end of August, it was just featured by CBS Boston last week. Not only were they the #1 pick, they were also the only New England farm to make the top ten list.
- A quick update on our search for Tyngsborough's next Police Chief: I previously reported that the Town received 12 applications for the role and offered interviews to the five most qualified candidates. Those interviews took place on Friday morning in front of a panel of former police chiefs as well as the Town's panel which consisted of Select Board members Mr. Keohane and Mr. Moran, our Director of People and Culture Brigitte Bell, myself, and retired Police Chief Rich Howe. Following those interviews and based on feedback from the full panel, we've invited two finalists to participate in a finalist interview this week. I am very happy with the progress we've made and look forward to hopefully naming Tyngsborough's next Chief in the next couple of weeks.
- Last week, at the recommendation of Interim Chief of Police Shaun Woods, I promoted Sergeant Cynthia Shay to the rank of Acting Lieutenant. This promotion will allow the department to maintain adequate leadership staffing during the transition. I will work with whoever is appointed permanent Chief to determine the best staffing approach moving forward. Sgt. Shay has served the Town of Tyngsborough for more than 25 years. Lt. Shay will oversee the Special Services Division which includes our School Resource Officer Program, Detective Bureau, and other specialty units.
- Congratulations to the Tyngsborough Police Department which was awarded \$14,804 from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through the FY25 Municipal Road Safety Grant Program for FY25. Work under this grant will be directed to increasing road safety and minimizing the risk of injury or death due to motor vehicle accidents. The Police Department was also awarded \$3,000 from the Department of Justice through the Bulletproof Vest Program for FY25.





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- I am excited to share that on September 26, Standard & Poor affirmed our AA+ bond rating and issued their highest credit issue rating to us for the pending \$50M bond for the Tyngsborough Middle School project. Their affirmation cited our strong financial position, positive year end results over multiple years, Not only does this reflect positively on the Town's financial position, but it will ensure that future bonds including the one the Board will approve this evening for the Tyngsborough Middle School get favorable interest rates.
- Last week we announced that the Town had secured a very favorable 2-year contract with First Point Power for the Community Choice Power Supply Program. The pricing is lower than the current pricing which is set to expire in November and 19.1% lower than the basic rate offered by National Grid. The program, known as energy aggregation, was adopted in 2017 and unless a resident specifically opted out, all of our residents are enrolled. Residents who are curious about the program can call our office or visit [tyngsboroughma.gov](http://tyngsboroughma.gov) to confirm their participation or learn more.
- On the topic of energy aggregation, I am happy to share that in Q2 of 2024 Tyngsborough residents saved more than \$340,000 compared to National Grid supply users from our Community Choice Power Supply Program. I included the full report in your correspondence which also includes some historical data.
- As the Board will remember, last year the Town opted to join NMCOC's regional sealer of weights and measures program. Unfortunately, the staff assigned to the program have moved on and they are working to fill the position. In the meantime, the Town is working with the Massachusetts Division of Standards to contract directly with the state to provide these services.
- The DPW Pre-Engineered Steel Building will finally go out to bid beginning on October 16, 2024. The Town will host a pre-bid conference on October 23, 2024 and bids will be due on November 6, 2024. This project is funded by a \$450,000 Capital Asset appropriation from FY24 as well as matching funds from the Sewer Enterprise Fund proportional to the size of the building reserved for their use.
- The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has awarded nearly \$200,000 dollars from their "Small and Disadvantaged Public Water Suppliers" grant program to help address PFAS contamination for two large housing developments including the River Crossing Condominiums and the Greens housing complex. Both projects are in the Tyngsborough Water District.

## Assistant Town Manager's Report:

- Last week the Town Manager awarded the Scribner Road Culvert Replacement Project to J.J. Phelan and Sons. Work under this project is expected to begin at the end of the month.
- The Wreaths Across America event will be held again this year on December 14th. Last year was the first year the Town has hosted this event, and we had an excellent turnout. This is a community-wide affair that honors the memory of our veterans by laying





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wreaths on their graves. We are currently looking for volunteers to help lay wreaths on December 14th. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact me at [kfoster@tyngsboroughma.gov](mailto:kfoster@tyngsboroughma.gov) or 978-743-5339. Those who are looking to purchase wreaths or to donate can visit: [www.wreathscrossamerica.org/MA0191](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/MA0191).

Regards,

Colin F. Loiselle  
Town Manager

Katharine Foster  
Assistant Town Manager

