

Stoughton Town Crier

TOWN OF STOUGHTON UPDATED AUGUST 11, 2025 ROBERTA HARBACK



All information taken from various Town of Stoughton pages

STOUGHTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Elementary School Building Committee- CM Selection Subcommittee

Wednesday, August 13th
5:00pm-8:45pm

School Committee Conference Room
31 Pierce Street

Agenda:

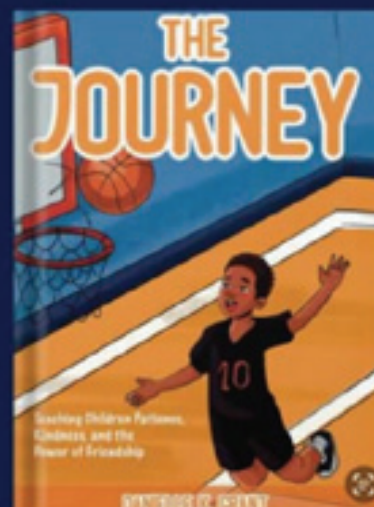
	TOPICS	Details	TIME
1.	Call to Order		5:00pm
2.	Construction Manager Interviews	- Consigli Construction Company - Gilbane Building Company - W.T. Rich Company	3hrs
3.	Executive Session – Deliberation		45 min
4.	Adjourn		8:45pm
SBC: Elementary School Building Committee Vertex: The Vertex Companies – Owner’s Project Manager DRA: Drummey Rosane Anderson – Project Designer • Votes may be taken on any of the above items. Agenda items may be taken out of order. • This meeting is being recorded for broadcast by Stoughton Media Access (SMAC) Channel at a later date. Consult the SMAC programming schedule or website for times and dates. • <u>For Project Information and Questions Visit:</u> Project Website: www.stoughtonschools.org/page/south-school-building-updates Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/SouthSchoolBuildingProject			

STORYTIME & ACTIVITY



with local author Danielle K. Grant!

Friday, August 22 at 10 am



For kids ages 1-6 and their caregivers
Registration required



stoughtontv.com
781-341-1708
421 Page Street, Suite 2



Verizon: Public 28 / Education 26 / Government 24
Comcast: Public 1073 (HD) 9 (SD) / Education 6 / Government 8

TUNE IN to discover a variety of
NEW SHOWS
by Stoughton's own residents, and also
see what's happening in our community!

Watch Alan Jacobson's
"Beacon for Wellness"
and learn more about holistic medicine.

Interested in becoming a Member of SMAC?

**Don't Just
Watch TV
- MAKE IT! -**

For more information contact
Anya Zulawnik, Station Manager

781-341-1708
azulawnik@stoughtontv.com

★★ **NORFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE** ★★
SHERIFF PATRICK W. McDERMOTT



**HOUSE TO HOUSE
FOR HEROES**

★ HONORING ALL WHO SERVED ★



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
STOUGHTON



EVENT DETAILS

The Norfolk County Sheriff's Office and The Town of Stoughton, in partnership with the Veterans' Service Office, are hosting an event designed to provide veterans with essential information and resources.

Date: September 6, 2025

Time: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Where: VFW Post #1645
14 Seaver St.
Stoughton, MA

**All volunteers are requested to arrive at VFW Post #1645 no later than 9:15 am.
We will provide our volunteers with pastries and light refreshments.**



Scan QR Code to Sign up



**If you are a veteran and live in the Town of Stoughton, but are unsure if you are registered as a veteran, please contact the Veterans' Service Office
781-341-1300 ext. 9220**

You witness an accident...

Call 9-1-1



Only exit your vehicle to help if it is safe to do so.

Don't move patients unless their well being is immediately in danger (fire, traffic, etc).

Once EMS arrives, step to the side and allow them to help the patients.

Stay at the scene until the police arrive if you are able to do so.



STOUGHTON DAY



11 AM - 3 PM

HALLORAN PARK

SATURDAY

9/27/2025

Notice from the Stoughton Community Preservation Committee (CPC):

The deadline to submit pre-applications for Community Preservation Act (CPA) projects for 2026 Annual Town Meeting is August 15, 2025.

This is the first part of the formal application process.

The deadline to submit full applications for Community Preservation Act (CPA) projects for 2026 Annual Town Meeting is September 15, 2025.

This is the second part of the formal application process.

CPC Application Forms are available online at
<https://www.stoughton.org/413/CPA-Fund-Application-Forms>

The CPC urges anyone with an idea for a project that fits within the scope of the CPA statute to submit an application.

For more information, please contact
CPC Program Administrator Barry Kassler at: bKassler@StoughtonMA.gov



TEEN ANIME / MANGA CLUB

FOR TEENS

SUMMER
EVENTS :



TUESDAY, AUGUST 20
2:30PM-4PM



STOUGHTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
84 PARK STREET
STOUGHTON, MA 02072
781-344-2711



BEANSTACK READING :



SUMMER BASEBALL CLINIC

MONDAY-THURS 8/11-8/14 | \$55

9:30 AM - NOON | AGES 7-14

NOVELLO VARSITY BASEBALL FIELD



Join Stoughton Recreation Dept. and SHS coach Ryan Kilday for a summer baseball clinic! This clinic will go over basic fundamentals in fielding, hitting, catching and pitching. Learn what it takes to become a varsity HS baseball player with coach Kilday! Players are responsible to bring their own water, snack, and equipment.



WWW.STOUGHTONREC.ORG

Volunteers for Finance Committee

**The Town Moderator has three (3) available
appointments to the
Town of Stoughton's Finance Committee.**

**These appointments are non-paying and strictly voluntary.
The requirement is to be a registered voter of the
Town of Stoughton.**

Having knowledge of finance and/or accounting is a plus.

**If you are interested in applying, please send your resume
and cover letter to
Bob Mullen, Town Moderator, at
bmullen@stoughton--ma.gov.**

**The deadline to receive all applications is
Wednesday, August 27, 2025 at 5:00 P.M.**

STOUGHTON PUBLIC LIBRARY SUMMER READING PROGRAM



All Ages Summer Film Screenings

6:30-8:15pm – Community Room



Thursday,
August 14th



'Clue', the movie that makes a scene of the crime!

Starring Christopher Lloyd, Tim Curry, Martin Mull, Lesley Ann Warren, Eileen Brennan & Michael McKean.

Thursday,
August 28th



'A Minecraft Movie'
Let your imagination run wild!

Starring Jason Momoa, Jennifer Coolidge, Jack Black, Danielle Brooks & Kate McKinnon

No registration is necessary and there will be snacks!

Generously sponsored by:



PIZZA & GAMING FOR TEENS

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15
11:00AM



STOUGHTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
84 PARK STREET
STOUGHTON, MA 02072
781-344-2711

SUMMER
EVENTS:

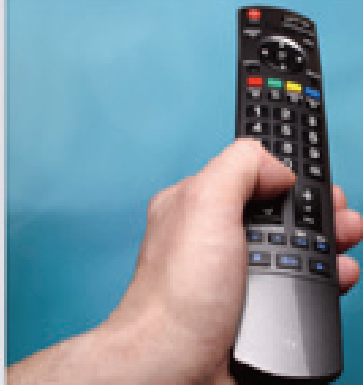


BEANSTACK READING:





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TUNE IN to discover a variety of
NEW SHOWS
by Stoughton's own residents, and also
see what's happening in our community!

Watch Michael Hardman's
"The Stoughton Writers Group"
and learn more about local authors like
Maureen Boyle who writes about real crime stories.

Interested in becoming a Member of SMAC?

Don't Just
Watch TV
- MAKE IT! -

For more information contact
Anya Zulawnik, Station Manager

781-341-1708
azulawnik@stoughtontv.com

Glen Echo Park
Open dawn to dusk enjoy!





DIY DUNGONS & DRAGONS DICE

W / SHERALEE
FOR TEENS



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13
2:30PM



STOUGHTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
84 PARK STREET
STOUGHTON, MA 02072
781-344-2711

SUMMER
EVENTS :



BEANSTACK READING :



Sponsored by:



SUMMER EVENTS :



CROCHET & KNITTING DROP IN

AGES 8 TO ADULT

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1
2:30PM-4:30PM

MONDAY, AUGUST 18
6:00PM-7:00PM



STOUGHTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
84 PARK STREET
STOUGHTON, MA 02072
781-344-2711



BEANSTACK READING :



Stoughton Lions Club

Summer Concert Series '25

Thursdays
Halloran Park | **FREE!**

~~7/17 Wiley Brothers 6-8pm~~

~~7/24 The Corvairs 6-8pm~~

~~8/7 The Standards 5:30-7:30 pm~~

8/14 Easy Access Band 5:30-7:30pm

8/21 The Jesse Liam Band 5:30-7:30pm

8/28 Puddlefish 5:30-7:30pm

Donations to the Lion's Club are welcome!

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Stoughton Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency



SUMMER STREET HOCKEY CLINIC

MONDAY-THURS 8/18-8/21 | \$45

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM | AGES 6-14
HALLORAN PARK



Do you love hockey but don't know how to skate on ice? Or just love the sport? Join us for a street hockey clinic! The program is open to individuals ages 6-14 and we welcome all skill levels. We will rotate through stations each focusing on an individual skill and every day will end with an organized street hockey game. No equipment required, just sneakers and a water bottle. The program will be run by trainer and coach Jay Thebado



WWW.STOUGHTONREC.ORG



Generously
Sponsored by:



TEEN SBC
STOUGHTON, MA

TEEN SILENT BOOK CLUB

FOR TEENS

SUMMER
EVENTS :



TUESDAY, AUGUST 12
2:30PM-4:30PM



STOUGHTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
84 PARK STREET
STOUGHTON, MA 02072
781-344-2711



BEANSTACK READING :



2025 Message to the Citizens of Stoughton

Should residents have questions, comments, or concerns that relate to the Town of Stoughton, they can contact Communications Coordinator Kelsey Lynch at klynch@stoughton-ma.gov or 781-341-1300 ex. 9514. She will discuss your issue with the Town Manager and respond accordingly.

Greetings Stoughton Citizens,

I am pleased to provide a report summarizing the condition of Stoughton's financial affairs. Following a six-month process in the FY26 Operating Budget's creation, I want to provide you with an executive summary. On May 5, 2025, we will present the proposed budget for Town Meeting consideration and vote. Should you have any questions regarding the FY26 Operating Budget, I invite you to contact me at 781 344 1300 ex. 9211.

The FY26 budget process began on October 15, 2024 with the budget committee's recommendation of guidelines to the Select Board. With the Select Board's input, Mr. Marc Tisdelle created a schedule from October 24, 2024 to the Annual Town Meeting. On December 30, 2024, in strict compliance with the Select Board's budget guidelines, the School Committee voted in a 3.8% budget increase for the School Department's FY26 operating budget. The Select Board also voted in a 3.37% budget increase for the municipal departments' operating budget. The total Select Board FY26 budget is \$139,956,816, which is a 3.59% increase over FY25. As required by Charter, the consolidated Town FY26 operating budget was transmitted to the Finance Committee on January 21, 2025. Since its submission, we have responded to many requests for information from residents, Finance Committee members, and Town Meeting Representatives. We appreciate the caliber of collaboration between all stakeholders.

I would like to share a few highlights from the FY26 operating budget.

- We had a 7-year plan to stop the use of free cash and one-time funds to balance our operating budget. Now, in year two of that 7-year plan, we balanced the budget without use of free cash or one-time funds. I am grateful to the Budget Team for their efforts toward resource consolidation and more effective technology use in our efforts to reduce expenses while maintaining services.
- In accordance with DOR guidelines, local receipts are conservatively estimated at 90% of FY24 actuals. The Moody's Bonding Agency commended the Town of Stoughton's conservative budgeting methods.
- The Department of Education, DESE, determined the Stoughton School Foundation budget to be \$65,412,011. Stoughton net school spending is \$22,756,152. Therefore, the Town's total financial support of its schools is \$88,168,163. This education investment represents 63% of the Town's total budget. We should all be proud of this commitment to our town's children and future.
- Through position consolidation and technology utilization, the Municipal Department's FY26 budget includes 4.47 fewer full-time-equivalent (FTE) employees than FY25 and 18.67 fewer FTE employees than FY24.
- As stated, there is no free cash used in the FY26 operating budget. On February 7, 2025 the Town of Stoughton's "free cash" of \$12,722,449 was certified by the Mass Department of Revenue's Division of Local Services.
- Cost of living adjustments of 3% were budgeted for employees not subject to collectively bargained agreements.
- The employee health insurance trust fund is solvent and budgeted at a 3.7% increase in FY26.
- General liability insurance is budgeted at a 10% increase.
- Merit increases are budgeted for employees who consistently exceed expectations. Market comparisons are provided in the budget book. I want to note that, on average, it is 10-20% more expensive to replace a high-performing employee than to increase their salary.

- Wages are adjusted for employees who consistently meet expectations but are paid below market or who are impacted by systemic pay parity inequities.
- Because of job consolidation and effective technology use, water and sewer rates are budgeted at FY25 rates.
- \$500,000 of rubbish and solid waste operational savings allowed us to maintain FY25 rates.
- The VNA Enterprise Fund's current operating structure is not financially sustainable. Strategic planning is necessary to determine its organizational viability. In the next six months we will seek public input on a new strategic approach to reduce costs, increase revenue, and elevate the level of service to Stoughton citizens.
- A budget account in our HR department was created to pay for a yet-to-be-ratified labor contract.
- The FY26 Operating Budget includes a fund balance of \$18,421,000 across five stabilization accounts, a balance never achieved in Stoughton's history. The decision to build our savings reserves is made in recognition of today's uncertain economic times. This is an achievement of which Stoughton residents should be proud. This level of financial stability differentiates our town from similar-sized municipalities across the Commonwealth.

In response to decades of challenges and deficiencies in the town's balance sheet, we completely restructured our Finance and Accounting Department. We recruited a seasoned Finance Manager with Forensic Accounting expertise, as well as two certified municipal accountants well versed in policy and procedure development. Their combined exemplary efforts cleaned up the past while preparing staff to work more effectively in the future. Though training is well underway, the Forensic Accounting project will require another 12 to 18 months to complete.

A considerable portion of the \$12.7 million in certified free cash was realized by closing old balance sheet accounts. Our Finance and Accounting staff's work, in collaboration with Assessing and Treasury, is truly remarkable. Under Elizabeth Zaleski's leadership, the town is compliant with municipal finance and taxation laws. Our entire accounting staff is on a first name basis with the Division of Local Services, the external support team of the Department of Revenue. We frequently interact, including a visit in February where they congratulated our team on a job well done.

I am extremely proud of this team and grateful for their achievements. Stoughton now stands on a strong financial footing. Impressive economic development, smart growth, and a conservative budgeting strategy combine to ensure a bright financial future.

Please note several changes to the FY26 operating budget's structure. Under Mr. Tisdelle's leadership the format was simplified and enhanced. Our expectation is that with greater clarity and documentation budget examination will be more transparent, allowing for greater financial understanding and management control.

As the nation, Commonwealth, and municipalities face uncertain socioeconomic times, the Town of Stoughton is prepared for whatever may come. Every member of your town government is committed to our citizens' welfare. On behalf of town employees, I pledge to you that we will always do what is best for the Town of Stoughton and its residents. We are both honored and proud to contribute to this wonderful community.

Thank you,



Thomas J. Calter,
Town Manager

