

## TOWN OF HINSDALE OCTOBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

The newsletter is gearing back up after three months of inactivity. Hopefully it was missed and residents will be happy to see its resurrection. Our new Town Administrator Robert Graves has been on the job for two months. In case folks have not read his greeting to Hinsdale when he started working, here it is:



Hi Everyone:

I am Bob Graves, the new Town Administrator, and I look forward to working with and for all Hinsdale residents.

A little about me: I grew up in Auburn, MA, attending and graduating from the local high school. I went to UMass, Amherst in the 1980s and completed a master's degree at Dartmouth College in the 1990s. I'd originally planned on a career in Boston, but as an undergraduate, I enjoyed working in the housing office. So after graduating, I was hired at UMass to manage room assignments and contracts for 11,000 on-campus students. A few years later I took my next job in higher education at Dartmouth College, and in what seems like a blink of an eye, it's thirty-four years later, and I have overseen campus life operations at Dartmouth, Kenyon, Bowdoin, Bennington, and Bard (Simon's Rock) Colleges. And after thirteen years as a Dean of Students on two of those campuses, I felt it was time to apply my skills to something new.

My wife Kaye, sons Derek (23) and Isaac (20), and I have lived and worked in many wonderful small towns, and through my job, I have often interacted with local officials on college/town gown matters. Town administration work has always interested me, so when I saw Hinsdale was looking for a new Town Administrator and told my wife and sons I might apply, they were all supportive. I am writing this as I complete my first day on the job. The day and my responsibilities will be dissected at the dinner table tonight, and then my boys will be pushing me to do my "homework." Yes, I have lots to read and much to learn, and I thank you for the opportunity.

I hope you will introduce yourselves in the coming weeks and months, as I said, I look forward to getting to know you.

Sincerely, Bob

### Free Firewood

Tree Warden Barry O'Keefe invites any resident to help him/herself to a large maple tree downed on Route 143 and Creamery Road. It has been felled and brushed out. Anyone wanting the firewood is responsible for cutting the tree up and loading it out.

### Hydrant Flushing Begins October 10

The Town of Hinsdale will be conducting a hydrant flushing of its water system starting Tuesday, October 10 from 7:30am until 3pm daily. Barring any unforeseen emergencies, it should be completed by Friday, October 20. During the flushing operations, residents may experience low pressure and roily water. Running the cold-water tap for a short period of time should resolve the roily water.

Any questions should be directed to Larry Turner, Water & Sewer Department at (413) 655-2307.

### Hazardous Mitigation Plan

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Association (MEMA) requires towns to have a Hazardous Mitigation Plan in place and be updated every five years before they are eligible for MEMA and FEMA (The Federal Emergency Management Agency) grants to improve preparedness. Hinsdale, through the leadership of Emergency Management Director Ray Bolduc and others, has an existing plan that we will update by March 15, 2017. The group working on this project includes: Fire Chief Larry Turner, Police Chief Susan Rathbun, DPW Director Rene Senecal, Select Board Administrative Assistant Kathe Warden, Town Administrator Bob Graves, and Ray Bolduc, as well as Berkshire Regional Planning Commission reps Lauren Gaherty and Peg McDonough.

Our future meetings are open to the public, and residents are always welcome to attend. We will also host a community forum on Hazardous Mitigation from 6-7 pm, January 24, 2018, before the Select Board Meeting.

### Cable Commission Forming

The Town of Hinsdale is looking for five residents interested in serving on the Hinsdale Cable Commission. The purpose of the committee will be to renegotiate a new franchise with Charter; the present franchise expires in 2020. It is expected that meetings will be monthly. If interested please send a letter of interest to the Select Board.

### Transfer Station News

First, we are pleased to report that Transfer Station permit purchases have exceeded FY 2017 already, and bag tags are also selling well.

Next, two new sheds are arriving this week, one for Transfer Station storage and the other for the new Swap Shop. A grant from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MA DEP) provides the Swap Shop shed. The Swap Shop will open six months a year beginning next April through October 2018. Watch the newsletter for more information.

Finally, we thank all residents who use the Transfer Station for your ongoing patience and cooperation as we continue to make our "Pay as you Throw" program a success.

—Bob Graves, Town Administrator

### **Tax Bills Being Mailed**

Hinsdale's Town Collector has announced Real Estate & Personal Property Tax bills for fiscal 2018 are being released. The first half will be mailed out on October 5, 2017, and is due on November 6, 2017, in the Collector's office; date of postmark will not be accepted. Interest of 14% will be added to all late payments.

This bill covers the period of July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018. The Town Collector's office hours are: Tuesday 8:00 AM-1:00 PM; 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 8:00-11:30 AM and 5:30-7:00 PM; 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 8:00 AM-1:00 PM; and Thursday 8-10:00 AM.

Make checks out to the Town of Hinsdale and mail with copy of your bill or the bill number written on your check to Town Collector, Town of Hinsdale, 39 South Street, Hinsdale, MA 01235.

On the back of the bill there are instructions for taxpayers who want the convenience of paying online.

For questions concerning the assessments, or for address and name changes, please call the Assessors' Office at 413/449-5172. For questions concerning payments only, please call the Town Collector's office at 413/655-2306.

### **Hinsdale Police Department**

Massachusetts resident LTC/FIC gun permits (NEW and RENEWALS) will be done on Wednesday October 25, 2017. Please, stop by the station to schedule an appointment.

What to bring to your appointment:

- License application

- Current license

- \$100 in form of check or money order made out to the *Town of Hinsdale*

**COMING SOON HPD ON FACEBOOK!!**



Artist and former resident Allen Freshler refreshing his original cartoons and adding new additions at the "Mickey Mouse Bridge" with help from some Hinsdale friends.