



# Town of Hinsdale

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January 2018

Hi Everyone:

Happy New Year!

I hope you were able to enjoy time with friends and family over the holidays, and that you are keeping warm during this nasty cold spell.

### **Council on Aging's Annual Holiday Event – a follow up**

Congratulations to the Council on Aging for hosting a delightful holiday event in the Fire Station. I am sure many other events went on, but this particular one was a highlight for me. It was lovely to see and meet so many residents at the same time. *And, just when I thought I could sit and have a meal the COA leaders put me to work!* The food provided by Ozzie's was terrific, and all attendees were served with smiles. Then, a select choir from Kittredge School, accompanied by Ms. Frissell, serenaded us all with songs of the season.



*The Town of Hinsdale is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*



### **2018 Census Mailed**

The Town Clerk mailed the 2018 street listing (census) to all Hinsdale residents. The annual census is a requirement of Mass.General Law. Residents should return them to the Town Clerk's office within ten days. There is a return envelope provided. The census form cannot be used to register to vote. Any resident who is not registered to vote can do so at the Town Clerk's office or by mailing a voter registration form to the Office of the Town Clerk. Any resident who did not receive a census in the mail may obtain one at the Hinsdale Public Library or call 413/655-2301 and a form will be mailed.

### **Rabies Clinic Set for January 30**

Wahconah Veterinary Services will offer a Rabies Clinic at the Hinsdale Fire House on Tuesday, January 30, from 5:00-6:00 p.m. The cost is \$10.00 with half of the proceeds donated to the Hinsdale Public Library.

### **2018 Dog Licenses Now Available at Town Clerk Office**

The licensing period begins on January 1 and ends on March 31. Licenses are good from January 1-December 31, 2018.

### **Hinsdale is a Green Community**

On December 28, 2017, Hinsdale was designated a Green Community, after documenting and demonstrating ways the town could reduce energy costs and improve energy efficiency. As part of this recognition, the town has been awarded a grant of \$130,410.00 that can be spent working to meet our goals. This funding will help us upgrade heating systems, automate lighting to gain efficiency, and explore some energy-saving technology that might not have been possible without this support. Watch for updates and a few new signs around town publicizing this recent recognition and designation. Thanks to all who helped make this designation and grant happen for our town.

**Plunkett Lake Gate Valve project**

The Plunkett Lake Gate Valve project was awarded to David G. Roach & Sons, Inc. out of Ware, MA, just before the holidays. We anticipate signing a contract and host the kickoff meeting before the end of January. More details will follow as soon as that meeting takes place. Thanks to the leadership of Emergency Management Director Ray Bolduc and our consulting engineer Marc Volk at Foresight Land Services, the Gate Valve Project is moving forward.

**Avoid the Flu This Year**

We are in the midst of Flu Season, and it is particularly vicious this year. So here is information about those things, and other vaccines now available: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/index.htm>

**From the Hinsdale Police Department**

The next day for FID/LTCs is January 24, 2018 from noon-6pm. Stop at the station for an appointment.

**Hinsdale Police Department**  
**Saturday, January 20, 2018**  
**Gun safety course**




MASSACHUSETTS LTC/FID course	\$ 70.00
Utah course (permit covers 31 states)	\$125.00
Utah combo with MA	\$150.00

The course will cover handgun safety, MA gun laws, fingerprinting, passport photos (Utah) the complete package on that day.

The class will begin at 9:00am and end at 1:00pm.

**Hinsdale Town Hall  
Community Room  
39 South Street  
Hinsdale, MA**

Sign up at the Police Department  
SIGN UP SHEET

### **Open Burning Season Starts January 15 and Ends May 1**

A permit must be obtained. To obtain a permit, call Dispatch 413/655-2533 and give your name, address and phone number. A permit will be issued if weather conditions allow. Weather conditions can change rapidly, especially in the spring, and fire wardens will determine on a daily basis when it is safe to conduct open burning. If winds kick up or other atmospheric conditions change suddenly, making it unsafe to burn, permits can be rescinded (cancelled).

The open burning must be a minimum of 75 feet from all buildings and must be conducted between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. and must take place on the land closest to the source of material to be burned.

People conducting illegal burning, or who allow a fire to get out of control, may be held liable for costs of extinguishing a fire, fined, and even imprisoned (MGL c.48 s.13).

*With A Permit, Burning of the Following Materials Is Allowed:*

Brush, cane, driftwood, and forestry debris from other than commercial or industrial land clearing operations

Materials normally associated with the pursuit of agriculture such as fruit tree prunings, dead raspberry stalks, blueberry patches for pruning purposes, and infected beehives for disease control.

Trees and brush resulting from agricultural land clearing.

Fungus infected elm wood, if no other acceptable means of disposal is available.

*Burning of the Following Materials Is Prohibited Statewide:*

Brush, trees, cane and driftwood from commercial and/or industrial land clearing operations.

Grass, hay, leaves and stumps, and tires.

Construction material and debris

### **Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) – Updating Hinsdale’s 5-Yr Plan**

The Hazard Mitigation Plan group is meeting with representatives from Berkshire Regional Planning Association to update the town’s Hazard Mitigation Plan. We met a couple of times in the fall, and our work will continue through the winter months, culminating in a revised plan for approval by MEMA (the Massachusetts Emergency Management Association) and ultimately FEMA (the Federal Emergency Management Agency). These updates are now required every five years.

### **HMP Meetings Planned – All are welcome**

- Jan 9, 2018, 10:30 a.m. – Our next HMP group meeting is Tuesday, January 9, 2018, at 10:30 a.m. We will be meeting in the Community Room of the Town Hall. All interested residents are welcome to attend.
- Jan 24, 2018, 7:00 p.m. – The HMP group will update the Select Board on work at the regularly scheduled bi-monthly Select Board meeting on January 24, 2018, in the Town Hall Community Room.
- March 7, 2018, HMP Public Forum – The HMP invites all residents, especially those working in emergency, health, elder, and educational services join us at this forum. We will discuss the concerns, mitigation proposals, and the ultimate 5-yr plan we intend to share with State and Federal Authorities on behalf of the town. Your input, feedback, and support are essential as we prepare for the next several years. We hope you will join us, even for just a short time on this evening in early March.

### **Budget Season**

Looking ahead, I know we are gearing up for budget season. I look forward to working with all department heads, committee chairs, and members of both the Finance Committee and the Select Board as we begin planning for FY19. Information, including a schedule of deadlines and meeting dates,

will be forthcoming by the end of next week, and I plan to keep residents updated on the process in the monthly newsletters throughout the winter and spring.

So looking ahead, I recognize we have lots to do. I will approach the process with an open mind and a willingness to listen to all needs. Then, we will sort through the multiple priorities before us and develop plans for the work of FY18. All I ask is that at the end of the process, regardless of decisions made and those left on the table for another time, we enter and exit the Annual Town Meeting as friends and neighbors of this great Green Community, Hinsdale.

Respectfully,

Bob