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## October 2019 Newsletter

An update on Hinsdale's events, meetings, and celebrations.

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Hi Everyone:

The Fall is such a beautiful time of year in the Berkshires. I love driving up Pittsfield Road and over the railroad tracks towards the Ashmere Marsh. The colors are spectacular. I hope you have been able to enjoy the foliage because if the winds keep up, there'll be no leaves left on the trees.

It has been busy here in the Town Hall. We are following up on many projects and working on a few new grant possibilities. They are not huge dollar amounts, but every bit helps, right? I share more below.

Best to you and yours,

Bob

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## Good News - The Manganese Problem is Resolved

The manganese concern residents were notified about in September was caused by a sediment buildup in and around the intake valve of a pump at Belmont Reservoir. Larry Turner exchanged the pump with a new one, then opened the used one to examine it with the water consultants. It had a sediment build-up inside that was causing the much higher than usual manganese levels. Within days of the exchange, the manganese level in the test results showed a distinct drop, and they are now recording extremely low levels of manganese once again. While we still need to comply with the State's testing requirements over several weeks, it appears there is no longer a manganese worry. The Water Department will be implementing a revised maintenance program to prevent future manganese build-up, and we thank them for their diligence keeping our Town's Water safe.

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## Plunkett algae level is back in the normal range

The Board of Health had alerted residents to the elevated Cyanobacteria/blue-green algae level in Plunkett Lake a few weeks back. We were told to avoid swimming, boating, and asked not to allow children and animals to play in scummy water.

The Board of Health has continued to monitor and test the lake water. They now report the algae level is back in-line with the State's standard health-based threshold (cyanobacteria is acceptable at levels less than 70,000 cells per millimeter). They need to wait a few more days and test again before they are allowed to lift the advisory, but are confident that things are headed in the right direction.

We will post a notification on the Town Website ([www.hinsdalemass.com](http://www.hinsdalemass.com)) when the Advisory is officially lifted. If you have further questions, feel free to contact the Board of Health at [public.health@hinsdalema.gov](mailto:public.health@hinsdalema.gov).



## The Roads Meeting was Postponed

The Roads Meeting was postponed due to a family matter. It will be rescheduled for a date yet to be determined, but I'll be sure to notify you. Thanks for your patience.

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## The Transfer Station Project Update

The Tree Clearing Project at the Transfer Station is out to bid. Berkshire Engineering is providing specifications on the project to those who request it from them at [staff@berkshireengineering.com](mailto:staff@berkshireengineering.com). This same information is posted on our website, [here](#). This information has been widely distributed to interested vendors via the Mass COMMBUYS network and Central Register.

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## The Community Community Center

As announced in the September Newsletter, the Select Board would like to know by January if we intend to use or sell this building so that we may make decisions by the 2020 Annual Town Meeting scheduled for May 13, 2020.

The Select Board has agreed to extend their October 23rd Select Board Meeting that night in order to have an extended discussion about the future of the building. The Select Board Meeting that evening will begin at 6:30 pm and run until 8:00 pm. The biweekly business will be conducted first, and then we will go right into an extended discussion on this issue. Please join us.

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## New Grant Possibilities

The Select Board Members, Lynne, and I have been working on a few new grants. The first is a Mass Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) grant to focused on hazard mitigation due to climate change. This category includes addressing culverts and waterways impacted by flash flooding and the like, and we have submitted part of the Old Dalton Road project (the \$350K culvert) for consideration. If we receive both grants, we are allowed to use both toward the project.

The second opportunity is a State-funded grant focussing on innovative ideas and uses of Information Technology. Select Board Assistant Lynne Baumgartner led this project seeking funding for scanning and the software to manage all Town documents. This is a project we have already been working on, but a successful grant could help achieve the goal much faster than initially anticipated. This system would help eliminate most paper

files, in accordance with Mass State law, and allow for more emailed copied of documents to be sent out instantly.

The third opportunity is also for State IT funding to scan, map, and computerize all records for the Maple Street Cemetery. This project would allow Town Staff, residents, relatives, and friends to access accurate on-line information on burial sites and locations. It will also help with the management of the cemetery.

Finally, we are still seeking grant opportunities that would help fund work to the new Plunkett Beach and reduce the cost of capping the Transfer Station. There are some possibilities that I'll be reviewing this weekend.



Please remember that the Town Hall and related services are closed for the following holidays:

- Monday, October 14 - Columbus Day
- Monday, November 11 - Veterans' Day
- Thursday and Friday, November 28 & 29 - Thanksgiving and the Day After
- Wednesday, December 25, Christmas

The DPW responds on-call to inclement weather regardless of holidays.  
The Hinsdale Police and Fire Departments are always on duty, 24/7/365.

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