

I Heard It At Town Hall

DECKING THE HALLS

And all of a sudden it's the Holidays! How did we get from talking about missing our friends and families at our Thanksgiving tables to talking about missing them even more for the holidays.

As I type this note it is Wednesday and again I have the perfect view of the Village. It's great to see so many of you shopping downtown and supporting your local business. They appreciate it this year more than ever.

Inside you'll find the hours for local restaurant owners this winter. Please Dine Local. Make sure they will be here in the Spring. And check out page 3 for good news about recycling your pizza boxes from Buckland Pizza.

There is also a link to a great interactive Story Map of all the best kept secrets for Winter Fun in the Franklin County area.

I'm heading out soon to start my own holiday celebrations but not before stopping in to wish the crews at the police department, the highway garage and the wastewater treatment plant a happy holiday and delivering some of Mo's most excellent fudge.

If you come downtown to finish up your last minute shopping and enjoy the decorations that have been put up to lift everyone's spirits. There are some special candy canes which were added this week that you don't want to miss. Students at the Shelburne Falls Preschool made them and they are perfect additions to the traditional lights on display.

Keep you masks on and your spirits up my friends. We'll be around the bend on this pandemic in no time.

Until next year, be safe, be well, be happy.

Heather



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WATCH FOR

Engineers from Weston & Sampson will be on Charlemont Road next week taking test borings around the culvert.

This is part of the work that will be done early next year to fix the partially collapsed culvert.

If you travel that way please be on the look out for them and give them plenty of room as you pass.

Thank you!

**SUPPORT YOUR
NEIGHBORS—
DINE LOCAL**



We asked our Village Restaurants Owners for their Winter Plans—barring any further state-wide roll backs., of course.

BUCKLAND PIZZA

Open for Take-Out Only for lunch & dinner Wednesday thru Sunday.

THE BLUE ROCK RESTAURANT

Open for Take Out and Dine in from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday through Monday. (Closed 12.24 to 1/7)

WEST END PUB

Open for Take-Out and Dine In from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. (Closed 12/24 & 12/25)

REGIONAL HEALTH NOTES

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT COVID-19 IN YOUR TOWN.

Buckland continues to see positive cases but to date our rate of cases keeps us in the grey zone of the community-by-community map. This rate is 100 percent driven by you. The more you wear your face covering, social distance and wash your hands the healthier our Town will be. Thank you for doing your part and keeping our community color-free.

But if you or someone you live with do test positive here are some important facts about isolation and quarantine.

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/tips-to-make-covid-19-isolation-and-quarantine-easier> or <https://mass.gov/isol8>

If you need anything to help you isolate or quarantine, please call the Board of Health and leave a message. Someone will get back to you! 413 625-6330 ext 7.

What about the vaccine? Here's a link to how it will roll out in Massachusetts.

<https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine-in-massachusetts>

Or

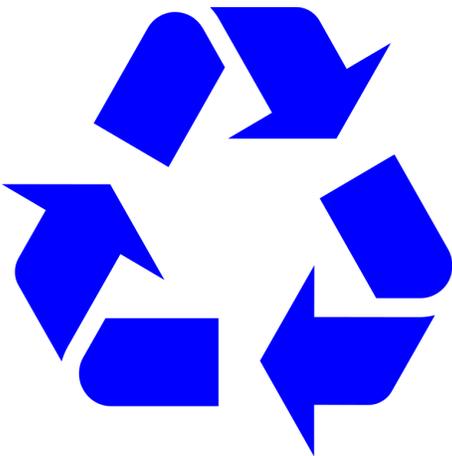
<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccine-frequently-asked-questions>

Big News!

Pizza boxes can be recycled after all!

2020 update: A recent study by West Rock (a major US corrugated cardboard recycler) found that, contrary to what we've always been told, grease in pizza boxes does NOT cause problems for recycled paper manufacturers (strength) and printers (ink wouldn't stick). So, it is OK to put the ENTIRE pizza box into paper recycling...as long as it is empty (no crusts, food, foil, plastic or waxed paper, please!) The WestRock study concluded that "...there is no significant technical reason to prohibit post-consumer pizza boxes from the recycle stream"

— Amy Donovan, Program Director at Franklin County Solid Waste Management District. [Click here to read Amy's latest report.](#)



BE IN THE KNOW – GET INVOLVED !

FRANKLIN COUNTY ECONOMIC RESILIENCY AND RECOVER PLAN

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) is developing an economic resiliency and recovery plan for Franklin County to address current challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic and to better prepare the region to respond to future economic shocks, as could be caused by a natural disaster. We have developed a survey for key community and business stakeholders like you to hear your perspectives on the economic impacts of COVID-19 in Franklin County as well as how the region can best recover and respond moving forward.

We would very much appreciate your time to complete this survey at <https://forms.gle/ekAi1v6FZzvuHwVk8> by Friday, January 8, 2020. Individual responses will be kept confidential by FRCOG and our consultant Hodge Economic Consulting, who is supporting this critical initiative. A summary of findings from the survey and related outreach efforts will be posted on FRCOG.org in April and included in the final plan.

Winter Fun In Franklin County

Looking for a new adventure this winter? Franklin Land Trust has assembled an interactive [Story Map](#) of their favorite winter activities from in and around Franklin County. With the help of their friends, family and staff they have put together a listing of the best sledding hills, ski trails and holiday events in the area. This map wouldn't be complete without help from our community so they would love if you would share YOUR family's favorite things to do during the snowy New England winter. Share your recommendations on our [Facebook page](#), or send an email the bmatthews@franklinlandtrust.org.

For more information about this and other projects visiting the Massachusetts Woodlands Institute at <http://www.masswoodlands.org/events/>

Stay Social with the Schools

www.vimeo.com/mtrsd

Facebook

Mohawk Trail Regional School:

@mohawktrailregional

Buckland-Shelburne Elementary:

@BucklandShelburneElementary

Colrain Central School: *@colraincentral*

Sanderson Academy:

@SandersonAcademy

Instagram

Mohawk Trail Regional School:

@mohawktrailregional

Colrain Central School: *@colraincentral*

District Social Media

Twitter: *@MTRSDistrict @MTRSDSuper*



SELECT BOARD MEETING NOTES

DDECEMBER 8 & 22, 2020

NOTES & VOTES

- Met (via Zoom) the new Director of Senior Services at the Shelburne Falls Senior Center. Welcome Amanda Joao.
- Heard an overview of next fiscal year's solid waste budget from Jan Ameen, Director of the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District.
- Renewed Liquor Licenses for 2021.
- Accepted a proposal from Weston & Sampson for design services for Charlemont Road reconstruction and culvert repair.

- Extended the contracts for the FY18 and FY19 CDBG contracts allowing more money to be contributed to the Franklin County food bank and adding one additional Wayfinding sign to the Village.
- Signed a letter of support for Red Gate Farm's grant application to building a winter dormitory.
- Accepted with regrets a resignation from James Sullivan from the Conservation Commission and appointed Steve Howland as a new member.
- Approved modifications to the Town's CARES Act expenditures for MTRSD and the police station.

*** This feature does not replace official minutes. Minutes can be found [online](#). For more information including documents reviewed during this meeting please visit the Town's website for the [Dec. 8, 2020 meeting](#) and the [Dec. 22, 2020 meeting](#).

HEARD AROUND TOWN

SHELBURNE FALLS PRESCHOOL SCHOOL STUDENTS HELP LIGHT UP VILLAGE!

The Shelburne Falls preschoolers made 28 large candy canes to display in town. The students used PVC, ribbon and lots of fairy dust!

They can be seen on the lamp posts along Bridge and State Streets, on each entrance to the Iron Bridge. These candy canes welcome shoppers to the downtown and help our downtown shine just a little more brightly.

Thank you to Ben Coburn, age 4, and Nick Doneilo for their part in making the Village just as festive as it can be.



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