

I Heard It At Town Hall

The Marble film crew has come and gone and taken their piles of fake snow with them. It's ironic that on their last day of filming nearly a foot of real snow fell in our area. That's so New England.

We want to thank you, our residents, our business owners and our guests for the two week imposition on your daily lives.

We know not everyone is a fan of Dexter and his Code and some of you would just as soon never experience the delays and detours caused by the weeks of prep and then the weeks of filming. Others, hopefully the majority, enjoyed the distraction from winter, made longer by the pandemic's forced hibernation.

We were pleased that the Marble crew adhered to a strict Covid-19 protocol, allowing those who wished to venture out and watch some of the filming do so without great risk or exposure. Did you know that each person associated with the production was tested twice a day? One 48 hour test and one rapid test.

There have been questions about how much money the Town of Buckland "made" from the experience. The Buckland Select Board signed a contract with Marble Productions for a base rate of \$20,000. That fee covered the use of the Town's public spaces, including parking. The production company also paid the Town \$500 per week rent for the upstairs at the Town Hall. Additional costs associated with Police, Highway, Health and Fire will be billed separately.

What we do with this money will be somewhat up to you. The Select Board will likely add an article to the Annual Town Meeting warrant to create a special revolving account for film & media related permit fees. The monies collected in this account would be use for improvements to the village area. Have some ideas? Send them along!



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CONSTRUCTION AHEAD!

Road Improvements on **Lower Ashfield Street** will start in May. The road from Clement Street to the Railroad tracks will be reconstructed while new sidewalks will stretch the entire length of the road. Follow the progress of his project and others planned in 2021 **[here](#)**.

Where To Get Your Vaccine



WANT TO GET A SHOT LOCALLY?

Local clinics for Franklin County residents are rotating through Deerfield, Buckland, Bernardston, and Montague. Times, dates, and locations can be found by checking:

<https://frcog.org/covid-vaccine/>

Or Call 413-774-3167 ext. 153

REGIONAL HEALTH NOTES

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE COVID-19 VACCINE

Where are we? Massachusetts is in the final Phase of the Vaccine rollout – Starting Monday, April 19th anyone 16 years and older are eligible to receive vaccine. To see the progression of the phases, go to: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-covid-19-vaccination-phases>

WHERE TO GET VACCINATED

There are many places to [schedule a vaccine appointment](#). Vaccine supply is limited, but we expect availability will increase over the upcoming weeks.

Those able to travel are encouraged to schedule appointments at the High Volume Vaccination Sites at [UMass Amherst](#) and [The Eastfield Mall](#) in Springfield.

Pharmacies, like [CVS](#) and [Big Y](#), are accepting appointments through their websites.

Franklin County Doctor's Offices and Health Centers are scheduling appointments with their patients when they have vaccine, though there is very little vaccine going to primary care practices at this time. Please do not call about vaccinations, when one is available they will call you to schedule an appointment.

Local Clinics are open throughout the county as part of a state approved regional collaboration. These clinics intended to support Franklin County residents and are a coordinated effort between many stakeholders in our region. Greenfield maintains a weekly clinic and FRCOG clinics are rotating between Deerfield, Bernardston, Buckland, and Montague (sites and locations may change based on vaccine availability and other factors). Times, dates, locations, and private registration links for upcoming clinics are posted Monday morning and released in coordination with our regional partners.

Town Meeting Feb 13, 2021—11 am



Buckland will hold the Annual Town Election on **Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.** at the Buckland Town Hall, 1 William Street. Check out the [ballot](#) here.

In addition to choosing representatives to serve on the Select Board, Finance Committee, School Committee and other important elected boards and committee voters will be asked to vote on a ballot question that references a 2018 Annual Town Meeting.

Question One: Shall the Town of Buckland be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so called, the amounts required to pay the town's share of the bonds issued to pay for repair work to the Buckland Shelburne Elementary School, to include asbestos abatement and floor replacement totaling \$230,000, as voted at the May 9, 2018 Annual Town Meeting?

This is not a typo. In 2018 those residents who attended the Annual Town Meeting voted to approve an article to borrow \$230,000 for improvements to the Buckland Shelburne Elementary School. The vote was contingent upon the amount being [debt excluded](#) which means the Town could borrow the money but would not have to pay the annual payments within the restrictions of Proposition 2 1/2. The Town had 90 days to bring this same question before voters in a town election to affirm the Town Meeting Vote. Unfortunately we never took that step and never realized the step had been missed until the money was borrowed, the work was completed and the bills needed to be paid. Because we had missed putting the question on the ballot the state would not allow us to debt exclude the amount and we had to raise the money within the confines of our general budget.

The Department of Revenue has reviewed our situation and has determined that we can put the question back on the ballot now, as it is clear that the money has already been approved and spent by MTRSD. If supported by you, the voter, we will be able to exclude the debt from our general budget as originally approved by Town Meeting.

For those who wish to learn more about the Debt Exclusion and Override process we encourage to you check out [this link](#) Mass.gov website. You can also contact the Town Administrator at 413 625-6330 ext 5 or townadmin@town.buckland.ma.us for more information. Voters will be asked to wear face coverings and adhere to social distancing while in polling place.

BE IN THE KNOW — GET INVOLVED !

SHELBURNE FALLS SENIOR CENTER

April 2021 Services & Programs

RETURNING in MAY 1-on-1 Computer Instruction

Instructor Clint Davis will be offering 1-on-1 computer instruction beginning every Thursday in May. There will be two 90-minute sessions offered: 8:30-10 a.m. or 10-11:30 a.m.

NEW Chromebook Computer / Webcam Loan Program:

1 week loan period with possible extensions. Call to reserve your free loan.

NEW Library Book Delivery Service (for clients of Arms, Ashfield & Buckland Libraries):

A FREE service. Various dates - call us for information.

Virtual Caregiver Support Group:

Mondays: 4/5 & 5/3 at 2 p.m.*A simple registration process is required for this program. Call us for more information.

Tai Chi Outdoors & on ZOOM

Taught by Lois Bascom. Outside in the Trinity Church parking lot: Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. - \$20 / month / Zoom

AND so much more: See the Senior Center's full [Calendar of Events](#) or call 413 625-2502

Ready For A New Book?

The [Buckland Public Library](#) is offering curbsite pickup.

See the [catalog](#) and [order online](#).

The [Arms Library](#) is open, on a limited basis. Visits have been decreased to twenty minutes per visit and three people in the library at a time. Appointments, computer use, plus a limited browsing area are part of the Arms Library's current open state. Call us at 413-625-0306 to make appointments.

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

GET INVOLVED cont.

DOG AND CAT RABIES VACCINATION CLINIC

Clinic Locations:

TURNERS FALLS Saturday, April 17th 2021 10am-12pm Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter 10 Sandy Lane, Turners Falls, Ma 01376

HEATH Saturday, April 24th 2021 10am-12pm Former Heath Elementary School 18 Jacobs Road, Heath, Ma 01346

SHELBURNE FALLS Saturday, April 24th 2021 1pm-3pm Shelburne Falls Fire Department 121 State Street, Shelburne Falls, Ma 01370

Due to COVID-19 this clinic will be for a rabies vaccination only. No other veterinarian services will be offered at this time. **Cost: \$20.00 (CASH)** per vaccination. Payment Terms: Cash only. A mask or face covering **MUST** be worn. Social Distancing will be in place.

All dogs **MUST** be on a static leash. Flexi or extendable leashes are not allowed. All cats need to be in a carrier. No exceptions. Both 1 year and 3 year rabies shots will be available. To be eligible for a 3 year vaccine you will need to provide proof of a previous 1 year vaccine.

Hosted by: The Franklin County Sheriff's Office Regional Dog Shelter Regional Animal Control www.fcrdogkennel.org

Struggling to pay your Real Estate Taxes ? Help is Available!

Residents struggling to keep up with their property taxes due to Covid-19 are encouraged to apply to the Residential Assistance for Families in Transition or RAFT.

[Residential Assistance for Families in Transition](#) (RAFT) Emergency Rental & Mortgage Assistance (ERMA) For individuals and families at risk of being displaced or forced to leave due to their homes due to COVID-19 employment loss, there are programs that can help. RAFT and ERMA are programs that can provide eligible households up to \$10,000 to help keep their housing, obtain new housing, or otherwise avoid becoming homeless, regardless of source of income or lack of income.

BUCKLAND RECREATION: Getting Better All The Time

There are exciting improvements happening at the Buckland Recreation Area located at 66 Ashfield Road.

Stop by and check out the new basketball courts as well as improved parking and accessibility at the pavilion.

Did your daughter participate in the Girls on the Run program? Let us know how it went?

We are excited for Camp 2021. Follow Recreation on [Facebook](#) for more info!

The Recreation Commission has updated their pavilion rental forms. [Download them here](#) to reserve your space today!



SELECT BOARD MEETING NOTES & VOTES

March 9, 2021

- Approved revised Town Election warrant, adding a ballot question.
- Accepted Annual Town Meeting schedule, setting June 5th date.
- Appointed Peggy Hart to fill unexpired term on the Board of Health.
- Discussed Juneteenth
- Discussed preliminary FY22 Budget
- Discussed Regional Services
- Signed minutes from Feb. 23, 2021
- Heard Town Administrator's Report.
- Recognized volunteers Regina Purinton, Andrea Donlon, Laura Scot, Laurie Benoit, and Marti Ferguson for their vaccination clinic work.

March 30, 2021

- Held a public hearing for a Verizon pole relocation. Request withdrawn by Verizon representative.
- Appointed Animal Control Officer and Animal Inspector
- Approved the FY20 CDBG grant Administrative services contract to Breezeway Farm Inc.
- Approved FY20 CDBG Construction Services contract to A. Martins & Sons.
- Approved Order of Taking for Ashfield Street construction (sidewalk)
- Approved Poetry in the Rain project as proposed by ARMS Library
- Approved Little Free Library project as proposed by resident on Wilde Rd.
- Approved revised Employee Evaluation forms
- Approved the probation period closure for Lisa Provencher and Jake Purinton.
- Signed Filming Permit, Marble Productions
- Signed minutes from March 9, 2021
- Heard the Town Administrator's Report.



SELECT BOARD MEETING NOTES & VOTES

April 13, 2021

- Reviewed state and local revenue and current legislative issues with Rep. Natalie Blais and Sen. Adam Hind's aide Jon Gould.
- Held non-compliance hearing for dangerous dog on Bray Road with ACO Kyle Dragon.
- Appointed Zack Turner as representative to the Franklin County Sheriff's Regional Animal Control Advisory Committee. H. Butler will serve as alternate.
- Designated 1 William Street (Town Hall) as official polling location and appointed election workers.
- Discussed FY21 Free Cash and options for use.
- Reviewed Annual Town Meeting warrant articles for capital projects at MTRSD, BSE and draft language for a revolving account for film and media permit fees.
- Approved the option for outdoor business, including retail and restaurants, to obtain permits for the summer.
- Heard preliminary proposal for a change of official posting location.
- Appointed Tony Jewell to fill vacant position on Council on Aging.
- Approved a curb cut application for 2 Union Street.
- Amended and approved minutes from March 30, 2021
- Heard Town Administrator's Report.

HEARD AROUND TOWN



Photos from Around Town during “Dexter” filming

CONTACT US!

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413 625-6330

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Assessor—ext. 3
assessor@town.buckland.ma.us

Town Clerk—ext. 4
twnclerk@town.buckland.ma.us

Town Administrator—ext. 5
twnadmin@town.buckland.ma.us

