

# I Heard It At Town Hall

As I type this I am watching our highway crew clean up the last of the first real storm of 2021.

They have been out clearing snow since 9 p.m. Monday night and they won't quit until the work is done.

I don't know if you know this or not but this is the first time this crew has plowed snow together. Last Fall we found ourselves in the seemingly terrible spot of having only one highway laborer on staff. For different reasons our crew members left the employment of Buckland and we needed to regroup and regroup quickly!

In addition the Select Board and the Finance Committee made the decision to leave one of the three vacant positions unfilled for financial reasons. That meant the two people we hired were going to join Mike, our last man standing, and the three of them would have to work as hard and as long as four full timers. No time to hire someone that can't pull their weight.

We hit the jackpot when we hired Jake Purinton and Anthony Gutierrez. In between laying hot patch and catching up on projects the "new" guys learned their new plow routes. No easy task in hilly Buckland. Because, well we live in New England, we added some insurance and brought on contracted drivers, Buckland resident Craig Purinton, Richard Pantermehl and Kyle Canepari. They are on call to help out during the bigger storms.

The end result has been a success, in my opinion. Buckland Snow Patrol 2021 has hit it out of the park for Buckland's residents and if you agree with me please, next time you pass one of the trucks, give the driver a thumbs up!

I hope you all have a warm and safe February.

Best, Heather



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## HELP WANTED

### Temporary Town Clerk

The Town of Buckland is accepting applications for the position of [Temporary Town Clerk](#) to fulfil the term of elected position. Applicants should send a resume and cover letter to Heather Butler, Town Administrator, 17 State Street, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370. [townadmin@town.buckland.ma.us](mailto:townadmin@town.buckland.ma.us)

## Where To Get Your Vaccine



### Current/upcoming vaccine providers and sites:

Here is the link to the state's interactive vaccine location map: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccination-locations>. In addition to CVS, Big-Y in Greenfield is now on the map with a sign-up link.

The state has set up seven "mass vaccination sites" (high volume, large venues) – one of these is in Springfield at the Eastfield Mall, sign-up access here: <https://curative.com/sites/24182#9/42.1408/-72.4864>. These sites generally are receiving in excess of 10,000 doses per week per site. They post their available appointments once a week on Thursdays at 1pm.

o Valley Medical Group and the Community Health Center of Franklin County will begin vaccinating eligible patients Monday, February 1, 2021; Baystate Franklin's Greenfield vaccination site for its patients will open in late February. These private medical providers will reach out directly to their own clients when vaccines become available – *patients are asked NOT to about vaccinations, but wait to be contacted*

## REGIONAL HEALTH NOTES

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE COVID-19 VACCINE

- **Where are we?** We are currently in Phase 2a – those 75 years and older are eligible to receive vaccine, as is anyone who was part of Phase 1 but hasn't gotten vaccinated yet. To see the progression of the phases, go to: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-covid-19-vaccination-phases>
- **People who would like help registering online** for a vaccine, or help getting to a vaccination appointment can call the Life Path Vaccine Access Hotline and leave a message with their name, town, and phone number. A volunteer will call you back. Direct line: (413) 829-9285 Extension: 2375
- **INFORMATION:** FRCOG has an information hotline that is updated frequently:  
Call FRCOG's COVID Vaccine Information Hotline at 413-774-3167 x 153 for an updated message about current vaccine status in our region."  
FRCOG's most recent vaccine information can also be accessed via their vaccine web page, here: <https://frcog.org/covid-vaccine/>
- **Shots for the Homebound** – this <https://www.recorder.com/How-will-the-county-vaccinate-the-homebound-38405524> is the Recorder's article detailing the challenges facing setting up delivery of vaccine to the homebound. Public Health nursing staff are actively working to develop a plan for how to vaccinate hard to reach populations, detail still to come.
- **For individuals wanting to help:** a great first step would be to sign up with the Medical Reserve Corps (Franklin County unit), which is partnering with FRCOG's Public Health and Emergency Response departments and affiliated agencies to coordinate volunteers for the vaccination effort.

Through the MRC, volunteers receive a standard CORI/SORI check and are required to take a minimum amount of training that prepares them to work in an emergency response environment. Therefore, if you are interested in helping us this spring (and are not already an MRC volunteer), please go to <https://wmmrc.org/volunteer/> to learn how to join. Once you create a profile, you can affiliate yourself with the Franklin County MRC unit and someone will contact you to follow up. (TIP - "go to MAREsponds: <https://maresponds.org> and set up a profile. *Be sure to select MRC, then Region 1, then Franklin for your unit.* Fill out the information for your profile and then go to our website <https://wmmrc.org> and look for Covid Response")

## Town Meeting Feb 13, 2021—11 am



Buckland will hold a Special Town Meeting on **Saturday, February 13 at 11 a.m.** in the Mohawk High School parking lot. There are two articles on the [warrant](#).

The first article will authorize the Select Board to move forward with easements from six residents on Ashfield Street as part of a major road improvement and sidewalk replacement project schedule for this Spring. The easements are needed to accommodate a five-foot wide sidewalk in accordance with MassDOT criteria. Unfortunately the unique location of Ashfield Street limits the ability to either decrease the width of the travel lanes or take land from the other side of the street. The Town has hired a certified real estate appraiser and will work with affected residents to make reasonable compensation. The project will allow the Town to replace the water main and some sewer pipe beneath the road, improve drainage and improve sightline for motorists. The project, which will start in May, will be paid for by a combination of grant awards including \$133,000 from Complete Streets and approximately \$750,000 from the Community Development Block Grant program.

The second article authorizes the Town to pay bills from prior fiscal years. State law prohibits a city or town to pay these past due bills without Town Meeting's approval.

Voters will be asked to wear face coverings and adhere to social distancing while at the Town Meeting. We anticipate this will be a quick meeting and we appreciate your participation.



# BE IN THE KNOW — GET INVOLVED !

## What Is a Senior Services District?

A Senior Services District (SSD) is a governance structure that would allow the current Senior Center, or a different building, to be purchased and renovated to meet the needs of the growing aging population in our member towns. While the existing intermunicipal agreement provides for the Center's operation and maintenance, it does not delineate legal ownership. Although community residents have expressed high interest in renovating the Center's longtime "home" in Shelburne Falls, no progress can be made toward that until an entity is designated to actually own the property. For this reason, the Expansion Committee is recommending the establishment of the Senior Services District as the next step to address our future needs.

*How much would it cost to establish the SSD?* Language being proposed for consideration at the annual Town Meetings in Ashfield, Buckland and Shelburne, specifies that formation of the SSD does not cost anything. The towns will vote on their assessment, to operate and maintain the Senior Center, in the same way they have in years past. Once the District is formed and an official expansion site is identified, each town will have to vote to approve the project and, also at Town Meeting, to approve the capital cost and any borrowing.

*Who will run the show?* The Select Boards in each town, with representation from their Councils on Aging, will appoint a Board of Manager to oversee the operations and maintenance of the Center-- responsibilities currently handled by the Town of Shelburne--giving each town an equal say. The Senior Center will be run as it is now with a Director, staff and volunteers, and a Board of Directors that will continue to serve as an advisory council.

*What's happening now?* Municipal officials in each town are reviewing the proposed District agreement, raising questions and concerns to further clarify the Expansion project and District document. A small advisory working group was meeting regularly with Dan Pallotta, President of P-Three, Inc. the firm hired to consult and aid the expansion committee, to determine the next course of action. This group is currently on hiatus pending the decision by Ashfield to take a break from the discussion. Read [the letter](#) from the Ashfield Select Board.

This segment contributed by the Senior Center Expansion Committee ([www.the-senior-center.org](http://www.the-senior-center.org)) .

## Mexico City ban on single-use plastics takes effect

Why is this in the Buckland newsletter?  
Why do we care ?

Glad you asked because it's a good way to give you all a pat on the back . Remember You Did It First!

The 2019 Annual Town Meeting approved a bylaw that was the first of its kind—anywhere—eliminating all single use plastics. Many cities and town are systematically reducing their carbon footprint by banning one item at a time. But here in Buckland, and now Mexico City— we got it done in one act. And our planet is a better place for it.

Good Work!

Read more about [Mexico City's ban.](#)

## Stay Social with the Schools

[www.vimeo.com/mtrsd](http://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

**JANUARY 12, 2021 & JANUARY 26, 2021**

### **NOTES & VOTES**

- Held a Dangerous Dog hearing for dogs owned by Courtney Zarish of 150 Bray Road. Dogs deemed dangerous and restrictions set.
  - Heard from BOH and the Police Chief their concerns for residents not abiding by Governor's Covid-19 Order #55.
  - Met with Planning Board Co\_Chair to discuss the need for clarity on fees to be charged for applications to the Zoning & Planning Boards.
  - Open the warrant for a Special Town Meeting on Feb. 13, 2021 at 11 am.
  - Heard an update on the Senior Center Expansion Committee's activities.
  - Signed FEMA's Certification of Adoption for the recently updated Hazard Mitigation Plan.
  - Signed a contract to work with FRCOG to update the Town's ADA Self Evaluation & Transition Plan, funded by grant award.
  - Recognized volunteer Sue Samoriski for her work with the Mary Lyon Foundation.
  - Heard Town Administrator's Repot.
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- Approved the warrant for the Special Town Meeting, Feb. 13, 2021
  - Approved a new fee schedule for the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals.
  - Heard an update on the Senior Center Expansion Committee's activities.
  - Had a brief discussion about the need to regionalize town services.
  - Approved a three-year contract for Cooperative Public Health Services.
  - Approved the FY20 CDBG Contract
  - Had a moment of remembrance for retired SF Fire Chief Rick Bardwell.
  - Recognized volunteers Paul & Judy Willis and Jackie Welsh for the coordination of the Covid-19 Remembrance event.
  - Heard the [Town Administrator's Report.](#)

## HEARD AROUND TOWN

### The Basketball Court at the Buckland Recreation Area is getting a facelift.

The Buckland Recreation Committee is working to bring residents a brand new basketball court this Spring. The Court will be multi-purpose and will also be lined for Pickleball and Hopscotch.

The old tar was removed and new pavement was put down last Fall. This Spring Vermont Tennis Court Surfacing will be back to install four MVP Series adjustable backstops installed in concrete footings and will apply a sealer as a top coat before lining the area.

The Committee is grateful for the donations that made this project possible.



#### CONTACT US!

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