

# I Heard It At Town Hall

Recently I was invited to participate in [the virtual signing of the Governor's Transportation Bond Bill](#). [Buckland](#) was selected because it had come to someone's attention in the Governor's office that we—Buckland—had literally cleaned up with infrastructure grant awards in 2020. I am not kidding. The Commonwealth will reimburse us for roughly \$2.7 million for the road and infrastructure projects on the schedule for this Spring and Summer. That's right we will reconstruct Charlemont Road and Ashfield Street and replace two culverts on Apple Valley and Nilman roads and all of it will be paid for with grants. I am absolutely bragging here but I want you all to know how hard the Town staff works to make the Town of Buckland a little better without passing the cost directly on to you the tax payer. But I digress.

The bill signing was, of course, a Zoom call and I nervously sat in my office in the Town Hall waiting for my turn to speak. I had tortured my family and co-workers for a week while I rehearsed and edited my comments. The program coordinator gave a suggested target of three minutes and anyone who has met me knows that's simply laughable. I really wanted the Governor and the others in decision making roles to know what great projects we were using the grant money for and, more importantly, how necessary these programs are to small Towns like Buckland. It's critical that money is put aside for Complete Streets, MassWorks, Small Bridge and other infrastructure grant programs every year. You and I both know that we simply could not do any of these projects relying on our own budget appropriations. Some projects, like the culvert on Nilman Road and the reconstruction of Charlemont Road just HAVE to be done. It's not a matter of wanting a nice road to drive on. It's a matter of public safety. We would be forced to borrow this money and those costs would certainly be reflected in your property tax bills. And no one wants that!

After the program closed and after I called my mom (obviously!) I had the thought that if Boston was interested in the details of our Spring construction schedule you all might be too so we have created a new feature on our website called [Current Projects](#). Whether you live in a project neighborhood or are just interested in what's going on please navigate to the Highway Department page and use the drop down menu to select a project. If there is something you want to know but it's not on the page, please email me with the recommendation and I'll do my best to update accordingly.

And if you have an suggestion for what projects we should focus on next I would appreciate hearing from you as well.

Happy Spring and see you soon !

Heather



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## SHOWTIME!!!

By the end of March you'll see Showtime's Marble Production crews around Town prepping State and Conway Streets for filming. Filming will begin in early April and last about two weeks.

There will be parking restrictions in the Village. Please watch our [website](#) for updates.

## 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:**

[www.town.buckland.ma.us](http://www.town.buckland.ma.us)

or

[www.frcog.org](http://www.frcog.org)

**HOTLINE**

**(413) 774-3167**  
**ext 153**

## REGIONAL HEALTH NOTES

# Getting A COVID-19 Vaccine in Franklin County

## WHO'S ELIGIBLE?

Massachusetts is in the [second of three vaccination phases](#) and currently focusing on priority populations. Massachusetts residents 65 and older and residents 16 and older with two specific health conditions are eligible for the vaccine. Caregivers **for eligible people over 75** may receive a vaccine if they schedule the appointment at the same time and accompany the eligible person to their appointment.

## 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.



# **NEW PROGRAM COMING THIS SPRING TO BUCKLAND REC**

Girls on the Run is an afterschool program like no other! Twice per week for 8 weeks, girls of all abilities will have fun, make friends, increase their physical activity levels and learn important life skills. Trained and caring coaches lead 3 - 5 grade girls through interactive lessons and running activities.

The season ends with a noncompetitive 5K event.

**Register:** [www.girlsontherunwesternma.org](http://www.girlsontherunwesternma.org)

**Program Starts:** Week of March 29th, 2021

**Program Fee:** \$150 with a sliding scale down to \$5-no one is turned away because of financial need. Financial assistance is available during registration. Teams are made up of 12 girls, if more register a lottery will be run.

**Contact:** Molly Hoyt [molly.hoyt@girlsontherun.org](mailto:molly.hoyt@girlsontherun.org),  
413-320-1845

**Practice Days/Times:** Mon/Wed 3:15-4:45

# BE IN THE KNOW — GET INVOLVED !

## GENERAL ELECTION—POSITIONS TO BE ELECTED NOMINATION PAPERS STILL AVAILABLE—DUE MARCH 16th !

Moderator (1)	for one year
Town Clerk (1)*	for two years (unexpired term)
Select Board (1)	for three years
Board of Assessors (1)	for three years
Board of Health (1)	for three years
Board of Health (1)*	for one year (unexpired term)
Buckland Library Trustee (1)	for three years
Finance Committee (2)*	for three years
Finance Committee (1)*	for one year (unexpired term)
Constable (1)	for three years

\*The person previously elected to the position is NOT seeking re-election.

For more information please call the Town Clerk at 413 625-630 or email [townclerk@town.buckland.ma.us](mailto:townclerk@town.buckland.ma.us)

### DOG BYLAW PROPOSED CHANGES

The Franklin County Sheriff's Office is proposing an amendment to the General Bylaws of participating communities, including the Town of Buckland. The purpose of the amendment is to align each Town's bylaws for consistency as well as to include important changes in related Mass. General Laws.

A public information session was held on March 2, 2021 to review the changes. The video of the meeting will be available for viewing on [Falls Cable](#).

A second public information session will be held before Annual Town Meeting. An update to this page will be made when a date and time are chosen.

During the public information session many questions were asked and ACO Officer Dragon has already been working to find alternative language in response to the concerns raised by residents.

View proposed amendment documents [here](#)

### 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

### NOTES & VOTES

#### February 9, 2021

- Met with Cindy Schwartz and Carol Foote of the Recreation Committee addressed the current activity of the Committee in anticipation of the Recreation Area opening in warmer weather, and the status of the pool campaign fund
- Met with Phoebe Walker about the CPHS municipal agreement and the MOU to allow for COVID related FRCOG services.
- Met with Finance Committee Chair Larry Langford regarding the [FY22 Budget Process](#).
- Set a special meeting for Feb. 16, 2021 to interview applicants to fill the recently vacated Town Clerk's Position. The Select Board also agreed to put the unexpired term on the [General Town Election warrant](#) for May 4, 2021.
- Reviewed [motions](#) for Feb. 13, 2021 Special Town Meeting.
- Considered four [foreclosure properties](#) for possible sale by auction.
- Asked Select Board member Zack Turner to reach out to neighboring towns to discuss regional services.
- Approved [Jan. 26, 2021 minutes](#).
- Heard [Town Administrator's Report](#).
- Thanked Carmela Lanza-Weil for her volunteer work with the Medical Reserve Corps.
- Announced the [Shelburne Veterinary Hospital](#) will not be holding it's annual vaccine clinic due to Covid-19.

#### February 16, 2021

- Interviewed candidates for the Town Clerk vacancy
- Selected Karen Blom for the interim position to work up to 25 hours per week.

#### February 23, 2021

- Met with MTRSD Chairman Martha Thurber to discuss [upcoming Capital needs](#).
- Awarded the [engineering services contract](#) to GCG Associates for Lower Ashfield Improvement Project.
- Declared three [foreclosed properties](#) as surplus property for auction.
- Discussed employee evaluation schedules.
- Approved [Feb. 9, 2021 minutes](#)
- Approved [time off request](#) for the Town Administrator
- Signed a letter of support for the [Open Space & Recreation Plan](#)
- Signed the state contract for the [Local Cultural Council Grant](#).

## HEARD AROUND TOWN

### LEARN ABOUT OUR OPEN SPACE & RECREATION GOALS

The Buckland Open Space & Recreation Committee has completed its update of the Town's Open Space & Recreation Plan.

You can view the new [plan](#) and [maps](#) here.

Let us know what you think!

Email [twnadmin@town.buckland.ma.us](mailto:twnadmin@town.buckland.ma.us)



#### CONTACT US!

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413 625-6330

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[adminassist@town.buckland.ma.us](mailto:adminassist@town.buckland.ma.us)

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[treasury@town.buckland.ma.us](mailto:treasury@town.buckland.ma.us)

Assessor—ext. 3  
[assessor@town.buckland.ma.us](mailto:assessor@town.buckland.ma.us)

Town Clerk—ext. 4  
[twnclerk@town.buckland.ma.us](mailto:twnclerk@town.buckland.ma.us)

Town Administrator—ext. 5  
[twnadmin@town.buckland.ma.us](mailto:twnadmin@town.buckland.ma.us)