

Town of Ayer

1 Main Street, Ayer, Massachusetts 01432
Phone: (978) 772-8220 Fax: (978) 772-3017
www.ayer.ma.us

FALL 2023 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Town Manager

Robert Pontbriand

Asst. Town Manager

Carly Antonellis

Town Accountant

Kerry Cooper

Assessor

Lynda McQuade

**Benefits & Payroll
Manager**

Amanda Lewis

**Building Commissioner &
Zoning Enforcement Officer**

Charlie Shultz

Town Clerk

Susan Copeland

**Conservation Commission
Agent**

Heather Hampson

Council on Aging Director

Dr. Katie Petrossi

**Dept. of Public Works
Director**

Dan Van Schalkwyk, P.E.

**Economic Development
Director**

Alan Manoian

**Finance Manager, Treasurer/
Tax Collector**

Barbara Tierney

Fire Chief

Timothy Johnston

Library Director

Luke Kirkland

Park Department Director

Jeff Thomas

Town Planner

Danny Ruiz

Police Chief

Brian Gill

Social Worker

Brittany Beaudry

Hello Neighbor!

The nights are getting cooler, and the leaves are starting to turn, which means Fall is almost here!

Students went back to school at the end of August after enjoying a few fun, relaxing months of summer vacation. With the thick heat of summer behind us, now is a perfect time to enjoy a family walk through your neighborhood, on one of our many local trails, or enjoy a bike ride down the Nashua River Rail Trail. You're sure to see some beautiful foliage and maybe even some local wildlife!

This summer we saw the return of the community volunteer lead Town of Ayer 4th of July Celebration parade and festivities at Pirone Park. We all owe a huge thank you to our generous local sponsors and to the volunteers who donated hundreds of hours of their time and energy to put on an amazing 3-day event! Residents also got their hands dirty with the planting of Ayer's very first Pocket Forest on East Main Street. The Pocket Forest is thriving in its natural wild state, full of over 60 varieties of native shrubs, flowers, and trees that will not only provide shade and shelter for area residents, human and animal alike, but will also have an impact on soil quality, air filtering effects, stormwater runoff and associated water pollution. It is the first project in Central Massachusetts and one of the first Pocket Forests in all of New England!

But the fun doesn't stop just because summer is over! Now we are getting ready for some other favorite events including the 3rd Annual Newton Street Folk and Arts Fair, and the Annual Fire Department Turkey Party and Thanksgiving Day Road Race to name a few. More information on these and other events, including the Fall Special Town Meeting, can be found inside this newsletter.

We hope you enjoy!

TOWN HALL GENERAL HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday – 8:00am to 4:00pm

Tuesday – 8:00am to 6:00pm

Friday – 8:00am to 2:00pm

Town Government

Select Board

Scott A. Houde: *Chair*

Jannice L. Livingston: *Vice-Chair*

Shaun C. Copeland: *Clerk*

*The Select Board meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm.
To view all scheduled events and meetings, please visit www.ayer.ma.us/calendar*

*Select Board members do not hold office hours at Town Hall but can be reached by contacting
the Select Board's Office by calling 978-772-8220 x:100.*

Elections & Voting

Unless otherwise noted, all Elections take place at Ayer Town Hall, 1 Main Street, on the second floor in the Great Hall. The Town of Ayer has three voting precincts and almost 6,000 registered voters.

For more information on voter registration, election calendars, and how you can get involved in working elections please visit www.ayer.ma.us/about-ayer/pages/election-voting-town-meeting-information or contact the Town Clerk's office directly by calling 978-772-8220 Ext: 153 or emailing clerk@ayer.ma.us.

2023 Fall Special Town Meeting

The 2023 Fall Special Town Meeting (STM) will be held on Monday, October 23rd at 7:00pm in the auditorium of the Ayer Shirley Regional High School, 141 Washington Street.

Voters will check-in with poll workers before entering the auditorium. Copies of the Warrant, and other supporting documents will be available.

The Council on Aging will offer complimentary van service to Town Meeting for those without transportation or just uncomfortable driving after dark. Please contact the Senior Center at 978-772-8260 to reserve your ride.

For questions on the Rules and Procedures of Town Meeting contact the Moderator, Geoffrey Tillotson, by emailing gtillotson@ayer.ma.us or calling 617-448-0503.

Important Fall Special Town Meeting Deadlines

Deadline for all Warrant Articles to Town Manager and Citizens Petitions to Town Clerk:
Friday, September 29th, 2023 at 12:00pm

Select Board to Approve the Fall Special Town Meeting Warrant:
Tuesday, October 3rd, 2023 at 6:00pm

Warrant to be officially posted and sent to print for mass-mailing to all Ayer households:
Friday, October 6th, 2023

Deadline to register to vote (if not already registered) for the Fall Special Town Meeting:
Friday, October 13th, 2023 by 5:00pm

Fall Special Town Meeting in the Auditorium of the Ayer Shirley Regional High School:
Monday, October 23rd, 2023 at 7:00pm

Get Involved!

Appointed Boards & Committees

The **Ayer Affordable Housing Committee** works toward guiding the process of creating more affordable housing opportunities in the community. The Committee has created and will work with the **Ayer Affordable Housing Trust Board**. Both groups hold 7 members.

The **Ayer Cultural Council's** mission is to promote, nurture and maintain the vitality of the cultural resources within the Ayer community. With the annual grant from the State, our role is to distribute the funding appropriately to support various activities that would enhance cultural awareness in the Ayer community. This committee holds 9 members.

The **Community Preservation Committee (CPC)** was designed as a smart growth tool to help with four general types of projects: the acquisition and preservation of open space; the creation and support of affordable housing; the acquisition and preservation of historic resources; and the creation and support of outdoor recreational uses. This committee holds 7 members.

The **Commission on Disabilities** promotes the inclusion and integration of persons with disabilities in the activities, services and employment opportunities of the Town of Ayer. This committee holds 8 members.

The responsibility of the **Finance Committee** is to act in the best interest of the taxpayer. The committee's primary responsibility is to present a balanced budget for Annual Town Meeting which provides an efficient use of available funds by maximizing revenue streams and ensuring expenses are quantified. This committee holds 5 members.

The **Rate Review Committee** is appointed by the Select Board and is charged with reviewing annually the Town's water, sewer, and transfer station rates and making formal rate recommendations to the Select Board. The Rate Review Committee meets on a quarterly basis at the Ayer Town Hall. This committee holds 9 members.

The **Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)** has the authority to approve variances from the requirements of the Zoning Bylaw and to hear and adjudicate appeals from any decision made by the Building Commissioner pertaining to a specific property. The ZBA also reviews special permit applications pursuant to the Ayer Zoning Bylaw. This board holds 5 members with 4 alternates.

Elected Boards & Committees

The **Board of Assessors** is responsible for determining the fair and equitable value of all property within the Town for the purpose of taxation. The Board also has the authority to grant abatements on all Property Tax, including Motor Vehicle Excise Tax. This board holds 3 members.

The Ayer Shirley Regional School District operates according to policies established by the **Ayer Shirley Regional School Committee**. The Committee then appraises the effects of its policies and makes revisions as necessary. This committee holds 3 members.

The **Board of Health** implements and oversees the policies and regulations as mandated by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Department of Environmental Protection. This board holds 3 members.

The **Ayer Library Board of Trustees** is the governing body of the Ayer Library, as established by the Massachusetts State Legislature via the Library's 1894 Act of Incorporation and as amended in 1991. The Trustees approve library policies and procedures, and oversee all library operations. This board holds 9 members.

The **Park Commission** is charged with the responsibility of seeing to the recreational needs of the Town by providing clean and well groomed park and beach facilities as well as safe, appealing recreational programs for members of the community. This board holds 5 members.

The **Planning Board** is responsible for enforcing and amending the Zoning Bylaws and District Map. The Planning Board reviews all subdivision plans for compliance with zoning and subdivision requirements. This board holds 5 members.

The **Select Board** is a three-person board of officials elected by the people of Ayer. The Board serves as the chief elected authority for the Town. This board holds 3 members.

This list is just an example of the many Boards and Committees you can get involved with.

Visit our website below for more information!

To see what Boards or Committees have vacancies, when current member terms are expiring, or to request more information visit www.ayer.ma.us/board-committee-information-center

Guide to Town Hall Departments

ASSESSOR

The Town Assessor works in conjunction with the Board of Assessors and is responsible for determining the fair and equitable value of all property within the Town for the purpose of taxation. Questions pertaining to the assessment on Real Estate, Personal Property, or Motor Vehicle Excise, or regarding exemptions available to senior citizens, veterans, and others, should be directed to the Assessor's office. Basic information on the assessment process, excise tax, abatements, as well as forms to change a mailing address or apply for tax relief are available online at www.ayer.ma.us/assessor.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

The Ayer Building Department is responsible for administering Massachusetts General Laws, Building, Electrical, Plumbing and Gas Codes, Architectural Access Board regulations, and General and Zoning Bylaws of the Town of Ayer as they relate to demolition, construction, reconstruction, and occupancy of buildings and structures. The Building Department conducts supervisory and inspection work related to the enforcement and interpretation of the state building code, the local zoning bylaw and other applicable regulations. Many home improvement activities require a permit from the building department before work can begin. If you are unsure if work requires a permit, please contact the Building Department and we will be glad to assist, or check the Building Department webpage for more information. www.ayer.ma.us/building-department.

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Ayer Office of Community & Economic Development (AOCED) is focused on visioning, cultivating, and sustaining a healthy, connective, and vibrant local/regional economic climate equally benefiting business-owners and employees, on designing and investing in strong neighborhoods, and on assuring broad local housing opportunity and choice for all residents. The AOCED strives to maintain and grow a diversified tax base and housing stock that well-positions the Town of Ayer to socio-economically compete and sustainably grow within the 21st century economy.

For more information visit www.ayer.ma.us/about-aoced.

TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR

The Treasurer/Tax Collectors' office is responsible for billing and collection of Real Estate, Personal Property and Motor Vehicle Taxes, Municipal Lien Certificate Requests, Tax Title liens and Collections through to the foreclosure process, Receiving and maintaining custody of all Town of Ayer funds, investing the Town of Ayer funds, insuring their safety, liquidity and yield, and borrowing and debt service. Visit www.ayer.ma.us/treasurertax-collector for more information.

TOWN CLERK

The Town Clerk's office is often considered the doorway to local government. The Town Clerk's office serves as the central information point for residents and visitors alike. The Town Clerk is the chief election official, recording official, registrar of vital records, and licensing officer. The Town Clerk oversees the polling place and the conduct of all elections and election-related activity, and records all actions of Town Meetings. The Clerk's Office maintains the municipal code, the official Town bulletin board, oaths of office, appointments and resignations of all Town Officials. The Clerk's office issues state licenses and permits, including marriage licenses, business licenses (DBA), dog licenses, raffle permits and certified requests for public documents. This office responds to inquiries from the public as well as from other departments, boards and committees.

For more information visit www.ayer.ma.us/town-clerk.

TOWN PLANNER

The Town Planner acts as the primary liaison to the public on land use, zoning, and development matters. The Town Planner reviews all development projects in conjunction with the Building Department to ensure they are compliant with the Zoning Bylaw and, if they are not, what type of zoning approvals are required (Site Plan approval, Special Permit, Variance, etc.). The Town Planner also provides technical assistance and advises Town boards and departments on issues relating to land use regulations, permitting, municipal planning, open space preservation, economic development, and affordable housing. Visit www.ayer.ma.us/planning-board for more information.

VETERANS' AGENT

The Veterans' Agent serves the needs of veterans and their dependents, spouses, children, and parents. This includes assistance in preparation of claims for pensions, medical care, and financial assistance. Office hours are Tuesdays 4:30pm-6:00pm and Thursdays 8:30am-12:00pm. For more information visit www.ayer.ma.us/veterans-services.

The Ayer Council on Aging (COA) Upcoming Events

Address: 18 Pond Street Rear, Ayer, MA 01432

Hours: Monday-Friday: 9:00am to 3:00pm

Phone: (978) 772-8246 **Website:** www.ayer.ma.us/council-aging-senior-center

Most events require registration. Please call 978-772-8246 for more information.

Wednesday, September 20th 12:45pm Council on Aging 18 Pond St. Rear, Ayer, MA	<u>Plant the Seeds Now to Live More Actively into Your 70s, 80s, and 90s with Holly Kuovo</u> Functional Aging Specialist, Brain Health Trainer, and founder of Fitting Fitness In, Holly Kouvo will show you how you can have your desired quality of life for the rest of your life. Learn the best changes you can make to improve the quality of your life and remain independent longer. Registration is required.
Friday, September 22nd 12:00pm Pleasant St. Park 62 Pleasant St., Ayer, MA	<u>Luncheon & Live Music at Pleasant St. Park</u> Enjoy the fresh fall air with friends old and new! Relax to the music of singer/songwriter Kenny Selcer and enjoy a hearty meal of baked haddock, pasta salad, and steamed vegetables from Il Forno. Transportation to the park is available. Registration is required.
Wednesday, September 27th 12:30pm Council on Aging 18 Pond St. Rear, Ayer, MA	<u>The Power of Gratitude</u> Join our new Social Worker, Brittany Beaudry, to learn about the power of gratitude. Gratitude is a buzz word you've probably heard of, but did you know that gratitude is associated with greater happiness? This workshop will help you learn simple and easy ways to discover gratitude in your life.
Friday, September 29th 12:00pm Council On Aging 18 Pond St. Rear, Ayer, MA	<u>Flu & COVID Vaccine Clinic hosted by Ayer Family Pharmacy</u> Ayer Family Pharmacy will be onsite to administer the newest flu and COVID vaccines. Please bring your insurance card and vaccine card. If you need a home visit from the nurse to receive your vaccinations, please let us know and we would be happy to come to you after the clinic is over. Registration is required.

Check out the Council On Aging's Monthly Newsletter for more information on the many activities, services and so much more offered at the COA! Available online at www.ayer.ma.us/council-aging-senior-center

Printed copies are also available at the Council on Aging, Library, and Town Hall buildings.

The Ayer Library Upcoming Events

Address: 26 E. Main Street, Ayer, MA 01432

Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 10:00a to 6:00p, Wednesday 10:00a to 8:00p, Friday 10:00a to 5:00p, Saturday 9:00a to 2:00p.

Phone: (978) 772-8250 **Website:** www.ayerlibrary.org

Some events may require registration. Please visit www.ayerlibrary.org for more information.

Tuesday, September 26th 1:30p—3:30p Ayer Library 26 E. Main Street, Ayer, MA	<u>Stitch Circle</u> Join us for our monthly stitch circle to spend time with others while you work on your current project! Knitting, crocheting, hand sewing, embroidery, and more are welcome. Registration is not required.
Saturday, September 30th 10:00a—12:00p Pine Meadow Trail Groton Harvard Road, Ayer, MA	<u>Mushroom Foraging Walk</u> Join local guide, Jonathan Kranz for a mushroom foraging hike on Pine Meadow Trail right here in Ayer! Meet at the Pine Meadow Pond Trail Head, off Groton Harvard Road, at 10:00am. Please be aware we will be hiking in a wooded area with tripping hazards. Sturdy footwear, sunscreen, and insect repellent is strongly suggested. To register, visit www.ayerlibrary.org/calendar .
Sunday, October 22nd 10:00am The Bull Run Restaurant 215 Great Road, Shirley, MA	*Fundraising Event* <u>Sy Montgomery on "Of Time and Turtles: Mending the World Shell by Shattered Shell"</u> Researching articles, films, and her 31 books for adults and children, nationally bestselling author Sy Montgomery has been all around the world studying our relationships with animals. "It's an important time to be writing about the connections we share with our fellow creatures," she says. "It's a great time to be alive." Proceeds will benefit both the Ayer Library and Hazen Memorial Library in Shirley. For tickets please visit tickets.bullrunrestaurant.com/symontgomery
Every Thursday & Friday 10:30a Ayer Library Children's Room 26 E. Main Street, Ayer, MA	<u>Story Time:</u> Every Thursday morning at 10:30am! Story Time is designed for children ages 0-5 and their caregivers. Participants will read stories, play games, sing songs and complete a craft. Registration is not required. <u>Tot Time:</u> Every Friday morning at 10:30am! Tot Time is a 30 minute early literacy program with stories, songs, facilitated play, and a craft or sensory activity for caregivers and toddlers to work on together. This program is designed for children ages 1-3 and their caregivers. Registration is not required.

Community

Friends of Pine Meadow: The Friends of Pine Meadow is a volunteer organization that supports the Conservation Commission's management of the Pine Meadow Conservation Area by performing trail maintenance, making improvements, and organizing public activities. For more information on how you can get involved, visit www.ayer.ma.us/conservation-commission.

Ayer Community Dog Park: The Ayer Community Dog Park opened in 2018 and features two fenced in play areas, one for large dogs and one for small dogs. The Ayer Community Dog Park is open dawn to dusk and is located at 101 Snake Hill Road.

Friends of Ayer Library: The Friends of the Ayer Library raise funds for library programs and services. Annual dues are just \$10.00 and can be paid at the library or online at www.ayerlibrary.org.

Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce: The Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce is a nonprofit business advocacy, community and economic development association. The Chamber services the area communities of Ayer, Devens, Groton, Harvard, Littleton, Shirley, and many more nearby towns. For more information visit www.nvoc.com.

American Legion Post 139: The American Legion is actively pursuing the many sons of Veterans living in or near the town of Ayer to become active members of the Post. For more information visit www.ayer.ma.us/community/pages/american-legion-post-139

Ayer Public Access Corporation (APAC): Ayer Public Access Corporation provides programming, training, and other assistance to organizations and residents of Ayer, Massachusetts. Videos and Bulletin Board posts are aired on APAC's three channels, Comcast Ch. 8 (Government), 9 (Public), and 99 (Education). For more information and to view the APAC video library, please visit www.ayerpublicaccess.org.

Local Newspapers:

Action Unlimited: www.actionunlimited.com

Ayer-Shirley Tracker: www.ayershirleytracker.com

Nashoba Valley Voice: www.nashobavalleyvoice.com

Annual Events

Holdenwood Trail Run: Scenic, challenging, and satisfying the Holdenwood Trail Run has been delighting walkers, joggers, and runners for over a decade. Walkers and runners of all ages are invited to join this annual charity run that benefits the Ayer-Shirley Education Foundation (ASEF) on September 24th in our neighboring town of Shirley. For more information please visit www.holdenwoodtrailrun.org.

Newton St. Folk & Arts Festival: Join us for the 3rd Annual Festival on Saturday, October 7th from 11 to 5 on Newton Street. Live music, dance and theatrical performances, local artisans, story-telling performances by children's book authors, local organizations, committees and groups, food trucks and so much more! This annual event is always the first Saturday in October, and we can't wait to see you there!

Annual Fire Department Open House: All ages are welcome on Saturday, October 14th from 10:00am to 1:00pm. Meet your firefighters, see all of the fire apparatus, firefighting gear and rescue equipment, learn about the ambulances and Advanced Life Support capabilities and take home fun safety activities and goodies for kids.

Ayer Fire Department Annual Turkey Party: Pretty self explanatory, I think. We party with (frozen) turkeys at the Fire Station. Light refreshments provided, and remember to bring all your quarters! This is an evening event that is usually held the week before Thanksgiving, keep an eye out for the 2023 date and time soon!

Thanksgiving Day 5k: The Ayer Fire Department's Annual Thanksgiving Day 5k has been a favorite event for over 20 years. Everyone who gets up bright and early to run the morning of Thanksgiving earns the last serving of whatever dish they choose at dinnertime. Registration fees support donations to local charities and community outreach events.

Downtown Candlelight Stroll & Tree Lighting: Early every December, beginning at the Rail Trail parking deck, candles will be lit and strollers will travel the length of Main Street to Town Hall to welcome the arrival of the Winter Holiday Season! Once you arrive at Town Hall, we light the Holiday Tree with Santa & Mrs. Claus then warm up inside with a rousing concert by the legendary Nashoba Valley Concert Band. 2023 date to be announced soon!

Town Social Worker, Brittany Beaudry, is looking forward to serving the members of the Ayer Community!

The Town Social Worker has officially been integrated into Ayer's beloved community. The Town has high hopes for the capacity of this new role and the benefit that the Town Social Worker will provide. Residents of all characteristics are encouraged to utilize this free, confidential, and accessible service in the office, community, or home setting. For more information, visit www.ayer.ma.us/sw

Phone: 978-501-3333

Email: bbeaudry@ayer.ma.us

Location: Brittany is currently working primarily out of the COA Center, 18 Pond St Rear, which is open 9am-3pm Monday through Friday.

For our full calendar of events and meetings, please visit our website
www.ayer.ma.us/calendar

Resources for Veterans

Veteran's Agent:

Mike Detillion is the Veteran's Agent for the Town of Ayer. The Veteran's Agent serves the needs of Veterans and their dependents, spouses, children, and parents. This includes assistance in preparation of claims for pensions, medical care, and financial assistance. Office hours are Tuesday 4:30pm to 6:00pm and Thursday 8:30am to 12:00pm on the second floor of Ayer Town Hall. Visit www.ayer.ma.us/veterans-services or call 978-772-8220 Ext:113 for more information.

Clear Path for Veterans New England:

Clear Path for Veterans New England (Clear Path NE) is a 501(c)3 established in 2017 with one mission — to build a safe, supportive and respectful place for Veterans to seek the help and resources they need in order to successfully integrate into their communities. Offering a wide variety of events and services such as Service Dogs, Peer to Peer Mentoring, Career Training, Social Gatherings, Wellness Programs, Volunteer Opportunities and more, Clear Path's vision is to create a community that understands and supports the journey home for our Veterans and their families and inspires other communities to do the same. Visit their website www.clearpathne.org for more information.

Clear Path for Veterans New England

Address: 84 Antietam Street, Devens, MA 01434

Phone: 978-384-8800

Hours: 9:00a-4:30p Mon-Fri & 10:00a-2:00p Saturday

Email: info@clearpathne.org

Fall Clean-up Tips

It's time to start thinking about getting your yard ready for winter! Fall is the perfect time to prune existing trees and shrubs, clean up fallen leaves and sticks, and to plant flower bulbs for spring blooms. When pruning, try to leave seed heads and berries behind to provide food for birds and wildlife during the winter months. According to the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map, Ayer is in gardening zone 5B, which makes fall the perfect time to plant tulip, daffodil, iris, crocus, allium and snowdrop bulbs, to name a few.

What to do with all your leaves, sticks, and small branches after you're done cleaning up? Bring them right to the Transfer Station (100 Groton Harvard Rd) and dispose of your yard waste properly. This service is included with your annual Transfer Station sticker at no additional cost.

The Ayer Fire Department does not issue permits for fall brush burning.

Don't forget your Mass Health Redetermination!

Due to the federal government ending the COVID-era continuous coverage requirements on April 1, 2023, MassHealth has returned to their regular renewal processes.

MassHealth needs to renew **all** members' health coverage to ensure they still qualify for their current benefit. These renewals will take place over 12 months, from April 2023 to April 2024. Be on the lookout for your renewal forms (many in a **blue envelope**) in the mail at any time during this one-year period. For more information visit mass.gov/masshealthrenew.

Ayer East Main Street Neighborhood Pocket Forest

The Ayer East Main Street Neighborhood Pocket Forest Pilot Project was successfully planted in April 2023 by over 100 Ayer residents and partners. The Pocket Forest is now growing in its proper wild state with over 31 species of native New England trees, 15 native species of shrubs, 20 species of native wild flowers and ground cover, and is doing its good work to lessen unhealthy heat-island effects from too much asphalt in the old neighborhood, to improve poor air quality from heavy freight railroad lines & trucking routes running through the neighborhood, to capture more rainwater/stormwater for Ayer's precious aquifers and groundwater wells, to attract and support our threatened native pollinators, and to bring more beautiful natural life and quality to the neighborhood for the mind, body and spirit of the residents of this close-knit historic Ayer neighborhood. Two additional innovative neighborhood Pocket Forests are proposed for the Devens Community next year, and two more for Ayer in 2025.

Where to get your 2023 Fishing and Hunting Licenses

Licenses can be purchased online via www.massfishhunt.mass.gov or in person at the MassWildlife Northeast District office located at 85 Fitchburg Road, Ayer, MA. Online purchases will require payment by credit card, although new licenses, no-cost duplicate re-prints, and stamps will be immediately available and printable from your home printer.

For more information on licensing requirements, please visit www.mass.gov/orgs/division-of-fisheries-and-wildlife.

Hunting, Fishing, and Sport Licenses are NOT available at the Town Clerk's office as of 2012.

Tuesday, October 31st is Halloween!

Town of Ayer Trick or Treat is always on the 31st, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm

Residences that are participating should turn on their front porch or walkway lights.

Halloween Safety Tips from your friends at the Ayer Police Department

- Always be aware of your surroundings
- Make sure costumes / masks do not affect your ability to see clearly
- Only go to houses with their outside lights on
- Use sidewalks and crosswalks whenever possible and walk—don't run—across streets
- Younger children should always be accompanied by an adult, older children should travel with at least one other person
- Wear bright colored clothing, carry a glow stick or flashlight etc., something to make you more visible to vehicles
- Have an adult check any treats for tampering or allergens
- Drivers should be extra vigilant and drive well below the speed limits in neighborhoods

Have you heard the news?

Ayer made headlines twice this year in two different major news outlets!

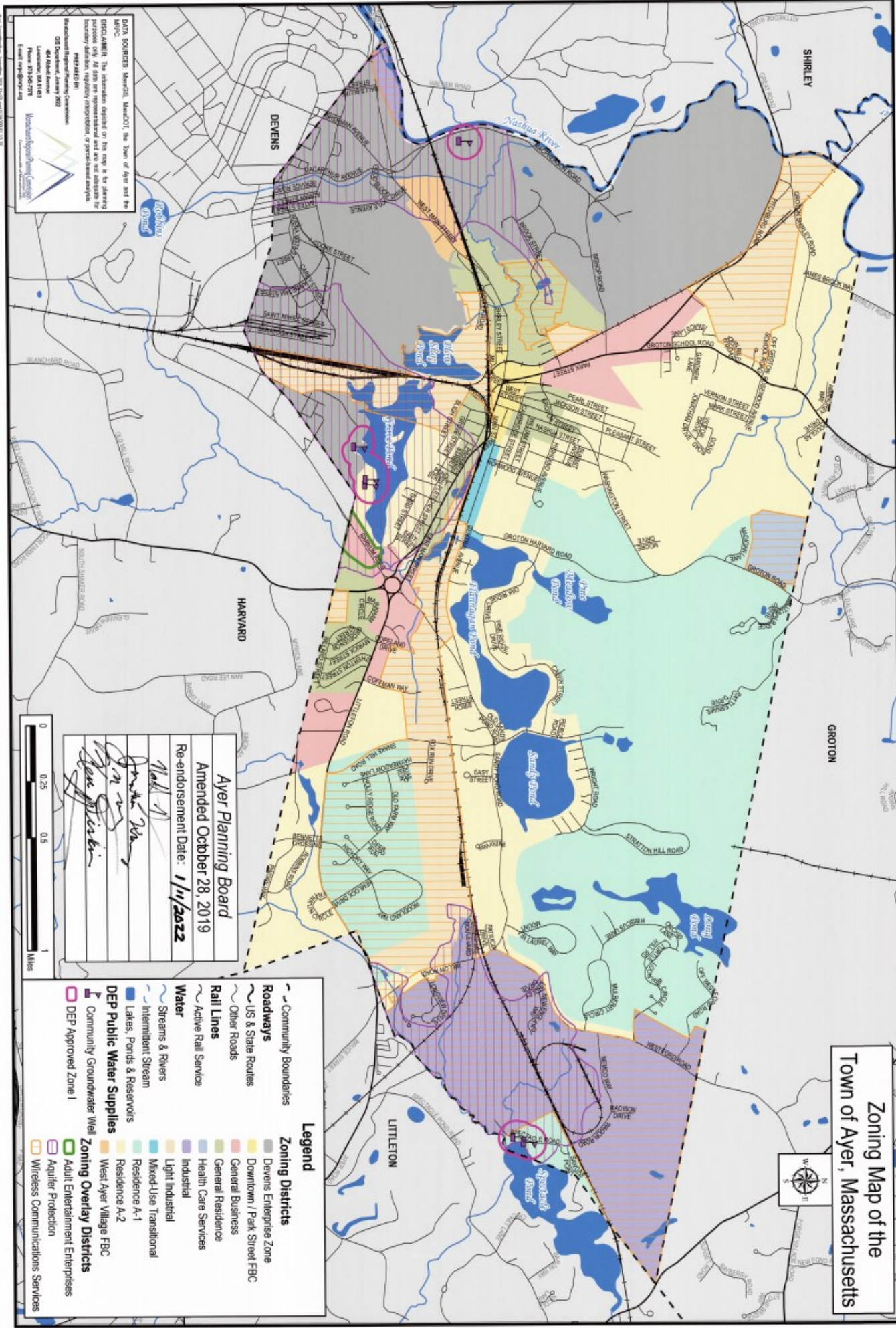
In March of this year, Ayer was ranked #3 on USA Today's 10 Best Readers' Choice Awards for best small town food scenes!

Per the article, some of the top-rated restaurants in the area are Lucia's Tavola (Italian-American), Woo Jung (traditional Korean), and Ruby Donut.

In April of this year, Ayer was awarded the Top Spot on The Boston Globe's list of Top Spots to Live west of Boston under \$600,000. Out of the 36 cities, towns, and city neighborhoods the Globe looked at, Ayer was one of 9 communities west of Boston that made the list.

*Bonus Headline: Not long ago in 2022, Ruby Donut was ranked #94 on Yelp's list of the Top 100 Donut Shops in the Country!

Zoning Map of the Town of Ayer, Massachusetts



Ayer Planning Board
 Amended October 28, 2019
 Re-endorsement Date: 1/11/2022

Frank W. ...
Mark ...
Alan ...

- Legend**
- Community Boundaries**
 - Devens Enticriple Zone
 - Downtown / Park Street FBC
 - General Business
 - Health Care Services
 - Industrial
 - Light Industrial
 - Mixed-Use Transitional
 - Residence A-1
 - Residence A-2
 - West Ayer Village FBC
 - Roadways**
 - Community Boundaries
 - US & State Routes
 - Other Roads
 - Rail Lines**
 - Active Rail Service
 - Water**
 - Streams & Rivers
 - Intermittent Stream
 - Lakes, Ponds & Reservoirs
 - DEP Public Water Supplies**
 - Community Groundwater Well
 - DEP Approved Zone I
 - Zoning Overlay Districts**
 - Adult Entertainment Enterprises
 - Aquifer Protection
 - Wireless Communications Services



DATE: 10/28/2019
 TIME: 10:00 AM
 PROJECT: ZONING MAP

DISCLAIMER: The information reported on this map is for planning purposes only. It is not intended to be used for legal or regulatory purposes. The information is provided as a general guide only. The user is responsible for verifying the accuracy of the information. The information is provided as a general guide only. The user is responsible for verifying the accuracy of the information.

Legend

- Community Boundaries
- Roadways
- Rail Lines
- Water
- DEP Public Water Supplies
- Zoning Overlay Districts

Quick Reference Guide

Town Hall

1 Main Street, Ayer, MA
www.ayer.ma.us

Town Manager: Robert Pontbriand
(978) 772-8220 Ext: 149

Assistant Town Manager: Carly Antonellis
(978) 772-8220 Ext: 149

Tax Collector: Barbara Tierney
(978) 772-8220 Ext: 152

Assessor: Lynda McQuade
(978) 772-8220 Ext: 140

Town Clerk: Susan Copeland
(978) 772-8220 Ext: 153

Building Commissioner: Charlie Shultz
(978) 772-8220 Ext: 154

Town Planner: Danny Ruiz
(978) 772-8220 Ext: 144

Veteran's Agent: Mike Detillion
(978) 772-8220 Ext: 148

Conservation Commission: Heather Hampson
(978) 772-8220 Ext: 143

Economic Development: Alan Manoian
(978) 772-8220 Ext: 141

Regional School District

Page Hilltop Elementary School

Phone: (978) 772-8600
Address: 115 Washington Street, Ayer, MA

Ayer Shirley Regional Middle School

Phone: (978) 772-8600
Address: 1 Hospital Road, Shirley, MA

Ayer Shirley Regional High School

Phone: (978) 772-8600
Address: 141 Washington Street, Ayer, MA

Nashoba Valley Technical High School

Phone: (978) 692-4711
Address: 100 Littleton Road, Westford, MA

MART Van Service

To Arrange a pickup call: (978) 772-8261

The MART van is available five days a week, by appointment only, during Council on Aging (COA) business hours Monday-Friday 9a-3p.

At least 24 hours advance notice is needed for an appointment (*no same day appointments please!*)
Charges are \$1.00 in Ayer, each stop, and \$2.00 each stop out of Ayer.

Emergency: DIAL 911

Police Department (Non-Emergency):

(978) 772-8200
Police Chief: Brian Gill
Address: 54 Park Street

Animal Control:

(978) 772-8200 Ext: 559
Animal Control Officer: Julie Thomas
Address: 54 Park Street

Fire Department (Non-Emergency):

(978) 772-8231
Fire Chief: Timothy Johnston
Address: 1 W. Main Street

Ayer Library:

(978) 772-8250
Director: Luke Kirkland
Address: 26 E. Main Street
Website: www.ayerlibrary.org

Department of Public Works (DPW):

(978) 772-8240
Director: Dan Van Schalkwyk, P.E.
Address: 25 Brook Street

Council on Aging (COA):

(978) 772-8260
Director: Dr. Katie Petrossi
Address: 18 Pond Street Rear

Park Department:

(978) 796-5915
Director: Jeff Thomas
Address: 35 Bligh Street

Department of Social Work:

(978) 501-3333
Social Worker: Brittany Beaudry
Address: COA Center, 18 Pond Street Rear
Email: bbeaudry@ayer.ma.us