

Around Town Newsletter  
12 East Main St.  
Erving, MA 01344

STAFF:  
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Betsy Sicard, Jean  
Fountain &  
Michele Turner

# FEBRUARY 2023

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## AROUND TOWN

*An Erving Community Newsletter*

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*  
LOCAL  
POSTAL CUSTOMER  
ERVING MA 01344

### WHAT'S IS INSIDE THIS MONTH'S ISSUE?

- **LIBRARY HAPPENINGS**
- **SENIOR CENTER  
CALENDAR**
- **BURNING PERMIT INFO**
- **SIDEWALK BYLAW**
- **POLICE NEWS**
- **CLOTHING RECYCLING  
NEWS**
- **SNOWTUBING EVENT**
- **TRASH SCHEDULE**
- **SMART 911 NEWS**
- **HEATING PROGRAMS**
- **CONSERVATION  
COMMISSION NEWS**
- **ELECTIONS NEWS**
- **CHECK IT OUT!**

### Erving Senior Housing Committee

The Erving Senior Housing Committee is seeking additional members for appointment to the Committee. We are searching for up to three more residents to participate in the Committee's efforts to realize the development of senior housing.

The Senior Housing Committee is working with Mass Housing Partnership with a goal to update the request for proposals (RFP) the Town may issue to develop the long-sought senior housing development.

Individuals that are interested in joining should send a letter of interest to the Select Board's office by postal mail to Erving Select Board, 12 East Main Street, Erving MA 01344 or email at: [volunteer@erving-ma.gov](mailto:volunteer@erving-ma.gov).

### Have a Business/Community Event In Erving?

We will put in the Around Town for Free!

Please send your ad photo ready by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month before publication to:

[ervingaroundtown@comcast.net](mailto:ervingaroundtown@comcast.net)

**THE FOLLOWING ELECTED POSITIONS WILL BE ON THE  
BALLOT FOR THE ANNUAL TOWN ELECTIONS ON MAY 1, 2023.**

Selectman for 3 years  
Assessor for 3 years  
Treasurer for 3 years  
Library Trustee for 3 years  
Moderator for 1 year  
School Committee for 3 years – 2 Positions  
School Committee for 1 year  
Tree Warden for 1 year  
Constable for 3 years  
Planning Board for 3 years – 2 Positions  
Planning Board for 1 year  
Recreation Commission for 3 years – 2 Positions  
Recreation Commission for 1 year  
Recreation Commission for 2 years - 2 Positions  
Board of Health for 3 years

**PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING DATES:**

Nomination papers can be picked up in the Town Clerk's Office anytime, but must be returned to the Town Clerk's Office no later than March 13, 2023. There must be 20 valid signatures of registered voters in the Town of Erving to place your name on the ballot. It is recommended that you obtain extra signatures in the event that someone signs that is not a registered voter, which is a very common occurrence.

The Annual Town Meeting will be Wednesday May 10, 2023 with the location and starting time to be set by the Select Board. The Annual Town Elections will be Monday May 1<sup>st</sup> with the polling hours from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Erving Town Hall, 12 East Main Street.

## Letter to Town of Erving

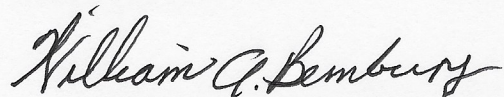
In May of 2023, my three-year term as an Erving Selectmen will come to an end. I will have served a total of 12 years as Erving Selectmen and served on various committees and Boards before and during my tenure. It is with sadness that I state, I will not seek re-election. My decision not to run is simply based on my belief that it is not a lifetime position and that it's time for fresh new ideas.

I want to thank all who have supported me; and I encourage you to run for Selectmen, become involved, make a difference, imagine what the best of Erving can be. There are no qualifications for the position of Selectman, but you must have a desire to listen, learn and do what is best for the community.

In order to have your name placed on the ballot, you must have 20 plus signatures of registered Erving voters, and present the nomination form by 5:00pm on Monday, March 13, 2023 to the town clerk's office.

If interested contact Richard Newton, Town Clerk or Betsy Sicard, Assistant Town Clerk, for nomination papers. If you have any questions, feel free to stop by my home or call 413-422-2294.

Respectfully,



William A. Bembury, Selectmen Town of Erving

*Thank you*



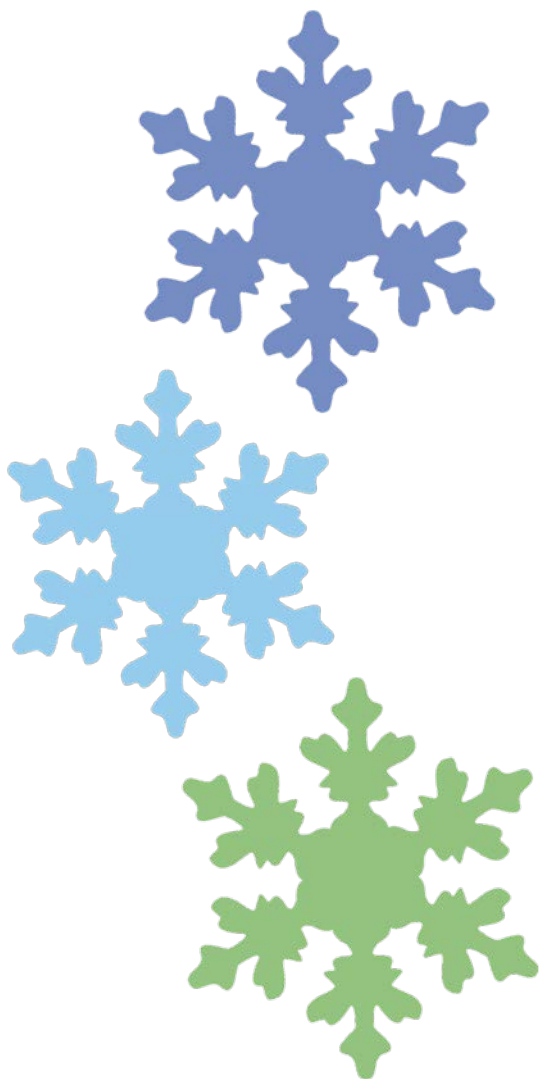
# for clearing sidewalks & fire hydrants!

As we prepare for the winter season we wanted to thank property owners for their continued clearing of adjacent sidewalks and the area surrounding fire hydrants.

In accordance with Town of Erving bylaws, property owners are responsible for clearing sidewalks and fire hydrants, that are adjacent to their properties, within 24 hours of the end of a snow storm.

Please note that the bylaw does provide for a penalty for property owners that do not cooperate.

We truly appreciate your cooperation!





February 2023

### **Collaborating with our school:**

You may see our Officers making appearances at Erving Elementary School. This is to foster a positive relationship with the youth within our community. Some days we meet students as they begin or end their day. K9 Ziva will also check in with students & staff. Officers may also be present for drills & other educational programs. We look forward to continuing our work with the youth in our community.



## **Erving Police Department**

### **Meet Officer Ziomek**

My name is Matt Ziomek, I started here in Erving a few months ago. Before that, I was a police officer in the Town of Amherst for 6 years. I enjoy fishing, skiing, and spending time with my wife and dogs when I'm not at work. I look forward to continuing to meet members of the community as I get acquainted here in Erving. Please say hi if you see me out and about!





## Erving P.D.

### Meet Your K9

Hi, my name is Ziva. I'm pawsitively excited to be the newest K9 of the Erving PD. I'm a one-year-old bloodhound, and my handler is Officer Gordon. When I complete my training my specialties will include trailing missing persons, & suspects, scent discrimination & comfort work. At the end of my day, I go home to the Gordon residence. I cannot wait to meet all my new friends in the community.

Photo by Paul Franz



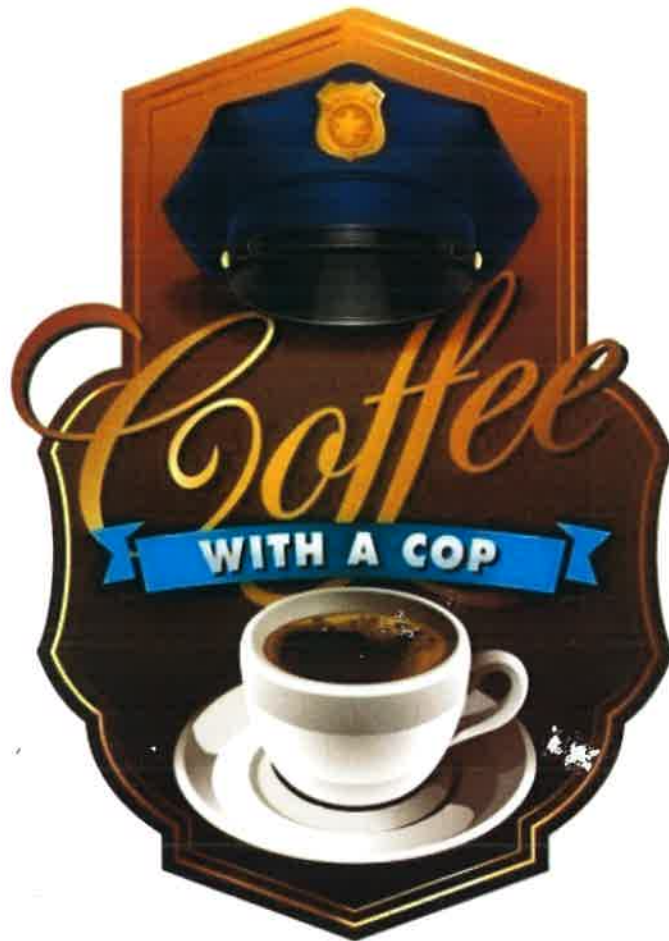
## Coming Up

Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup> 5:30 pm  
Erving Public Library,  
Community Room

### Coffee with a Cop

Come talk with Officer Gordon & meet K9 Ziva. You'll also have an opportunity to meet a representative from the Opioid Task Force Connect Program. Connect is a team that responds to fatal/ non-fatal opioid overdoses & to those at high risk of overdose. NO RSVP needed.

**CONNECT**



**Join the Erving Police Department  
for Coffee & Conversation**

**Thursday, February 16, 2023, 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm  
Erving Public Library, 2 Care Dr., Erving MA**

Come meet K9 Ziva & the Community Opportunity, Network, Navigation, Exploration, & Connection Team (CONNECT) which provides information about this program, the first 24/7 rapid response team to respond to fatal & non-fatal opioid overdoses & those at high risk of overdose, including their children, in our rural 30-town region. No RSVP



## BURN PERMIT INFORMATION

As reminder Massachusetts allows residents to burn brush between January 15 and May 1, depending on weather conditions. You must obtain permission from the Fire Department or <http://www.fcburnpermits.com/> . The permits are free of charge, but availability depends on weather conditions.

### Regulations

- You may only burn BRUSH! All other materials are illegal. No leaves, grass, hay, stumps, building debris or any other materials are allowed to be burned.
- All open burning must be a minimum of 75 feet from buildings or structures.
- Burning will be allowed to start at 10:00am and must be extinguished by 4pm.
- Any open fire must be attended at all times by the permit holder.
- No person shall set, maintain, or increase a fire in open air at any time except by permission.
- You must be 18 years or older to apply for permit and/or set, maintain, or increase fire once permission has been granted by the Fire Department.
- You must have an appropriate means to extinguish an open-air fire completely at the end of the day or if requested by the Fire Department.
- The Fire Department can refuse or cancel a permit at any time. (Example: Violation of permit regulations or change in weather conditions.)
- Open burning season is January 15 - May 1.
- Massachusetts Regulation 310 CMR: DEP 7.07 "Open Burning"
- More information from the Massachusetts DEP website at [www.mas.gov/service-details/open-burning-safety](http://www.mas.gov/service-details/open-burning-safety)







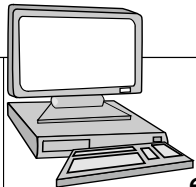
# ERVING PUBLIC LIBRARY



## February Snapshot



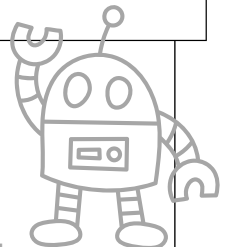
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU
Feb 12th 1:00 PM <b>PUZZLE SWAP</b> with the Friends of the Library			Feb 15th 1:30PM <b>AFTERNOON                      STORY TIME</b>	Feb 16th 5:30PM <b>COFFEE W/                      COPS &amp;                      CONNECT</b>
Feb 19th 1:00 PM <b>CRAFTS</b> with the Friends of the Library	Feb 20th Library <b>CLOSED</b> for state holiday		Feb 22nd 1:00-3:00 PM <b>BUTTON                      MAKING</b> co-sponsored by Senior Ctr.	Feb 23rd 5:30PM <b>BOOK CLUB                      CHALLENGE</b> Monthly Coffee Hour & Discussion
	Feb 27th 3:30PM <b>TEEN                      MOVIE                      MONDAY</b>		<i>Coming next month</i> 	March 2nd <b>Friends of the                      Library</b> monthly meeting <b>OPEN TO ALL</b>
March 5th 1:00 PM <b>FAMILY                      MOVIE:</b> <u>Raya and the                      Last Dragon</u>	<b>LIBRARY HOURS</b> Sunday & Wednesday: 10am-4pm Monday & Tuesday: 12-6pm Thursday: 1-7pm			



**LIBRARY@ERVING-MA.GOV - (413) 423-3348**

**COMING SOON: Computer Take-Apart! Coding & Robot Camp!**

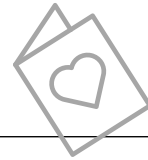
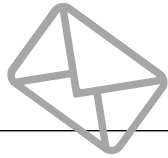
Workshops for kids 8-12 years old to see inside technology and explore coding. Look for our announcements next month and on Facebook - space for these awesome classes will be limited!



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# ERVING PUBLIC LIBRARY

## February Details



[WWW.ERVING-MA.GOV/LIBRARY](http://WWW.ERVING-MA.GOV/LIBRARY)

### EVENTS THIS MONTH

**Puzzle Swap: Sunday, February 12th, 1:00-3:00 p.m.**

We have many jigsaw puzzles for you to browse or select as a swap. Bring a puzzle to swap or select a puzzle to borrow. All ages welcome. Brought to you by the Friends of the Library. Location: Community Room.

**Afternoon Story Time: Wednesday, February 15th, 1:30 p.m.**

Family friendly story time recommended for ages 2-7 years old. Siblings welcome. Snacks and juice boxes included! No RSVP. Location: Children's Room

**Coffee with Cops and CONNECT: Thursday, February 16th, 5:30 p.m.**

Erving Officer Laura Gordon and the Community Opportunity, Network, Navigation, Exploration, and Connection Team (CONNECT) provide information about the first 24/7 rapid response team to respond to fatal and non-fatal opioid overdoses and those at high risk of overdose, including their children, in our rural 30-town region. No RSVP. Location: Community Room.

**Craft Day for Adults & Teens: Sunday, February 19th, 1:00 p.m.**

Join the Friends and other crafters to make a seasonal wreath. Materials are provided. 10 spots available. Call to reserve your seat early or call the day of the craft to see if space is available. Brought to you by the Friends of the Library. Location: Makerspace.

**Button Making: Wednesday, February 22nd, 1:00-3:00 pm**

Try the library's button maker! We have pin back and magnet back options. Bring your own picture to make into a button or use supplies in the Makerspace. Button maker brought to you by the Friends of the Erving Public Library. Event co-sponsored by the Erving Senior & Community Center. No RSVP needed, drop-ins welcome.

**Book Club Coffee Hour: Thursday, February 23rd, 5:30 pm**

Take on the 2023 Massachusetts Center for the Book Reading Challenge! Each month has a specific challenge. In February we will read "a book set in your home town/city or state". Visit our display and join us on the last Thursday of the month for refreshments and discussion. [massbook.org/readingchallenge](http://massbook.org/readingchallenge) No RSVP required. Location: Adult area.

**Teen Movie Monday: Monday, February 27th, 3:30pm**

Enjoy free snacks, drink, and chat with our Youth Services Librarian. For youth ages 11-19. Movie of the month starts at 4pm! There will also be a craft activity to go along with the February movie (Turning Red!). No RSVP required. Location: Makerspace.

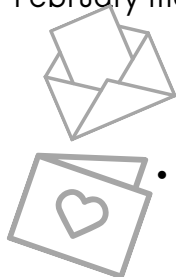
### IN THE MAKERSPACE THIS MONTH:

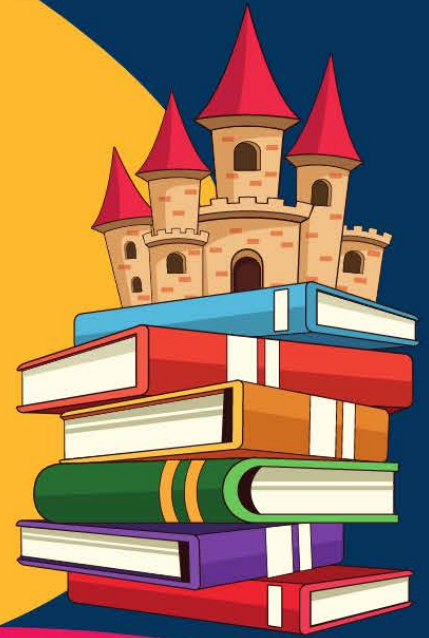
#### CARD & ENVELOPE MAKING!

*We have everything you need to get going:*

- Stamps • Pads • Hole Punches • Decorative Paper • and more!

*This activity is for all ages*





# AFTERNOON STORYTIME

Recommended for  
ages 2-7-years-old.  
Siblings welcome!

Snacks & juice  
boxes included!



Wednesday, February 15th  
1:30 p.m.  
Children's Room

Erving Public Library  
413-423-3348  
library@erving-ma.gov

ERVING PUBLIC LIBRARY

# Teen Movie Monday



**Monday, 2/27**  
**3:30 PM**  
**in the MakerSpace**



**Make anime  
characters  
out of perler  
beads!**



**With  
Andrea the  
Librarian**



**Movie Pick of the Month**  
*Turning Red*

**2 CARE DRIVE, ERVING, MA 01344**  
**413-423-3348**  
**LIBRARY@ERVING-MA.GOV**



## **Friends of the Library News**

**Puzzle Swap-Sunday, February 12, 2023; 1:00pm.-3:00pm. Community Room at the Library.** Looking for a jigsaw puzzle to do? Come by and check out the variety of puzzles that are available for you to swap. We have extra puzzles you can use for the swap. Puzzle themes include; ocean life, flowers, birds, country life, and history. Piece counts range from 300 to 1,000!

**Craft Day- Sunday, February 19, 2023; 1:00 pm.-3:00 pm. Wreath making using a pizza pan** December's craft was so popular that we quickly filled the available seats. We are repeating the craft for those crafters that were unable to attend the December session due to limited seating. There will be a variety of flowers, leaves, decorative fillers, and other items to use for decorating the wreath. **Registration for this craft begins on Sunday, February 5. Call the library at 423-3348 to register or stop by the library and sign up at the circulation desk.**

**Candy Sale-February 12th, 13th and 14th: Friends of the Library Valentine's Day candy sale.** Chocolate heart lollipops, peanut butter cups, chocolate covered pretzels plus other sweet treats will be available for your special valentine.

The Pioneer Valley Symphony donated 2 passes for their 2023 concert series to the Erving Library. Each pass is good for up to 4 tickets to the concert. **The next concert is on March 18 and the pass must be picked up at the Erving Library on the Thursday prior to the concert.**

Rediscovering A Ukrainian Master: Thomas DeHartmann, "The Eclectic Works of a 20th-Century Master"-Saturday, March 18, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. Tillis Hall, Bromery Center for the Arts, 151 Presidents Drive, Amherst, MA 01003

**Town Wide Tag Sale-Saturday, April 29, 2023 Additional information and registration form will be in the March issue of the *Around Town Newsletter*.**

ERVING RECREATION COMMISSION

# SNOW TUBING AT BERKSHIRE EAST

Family fun slipping and sliding  
in the snow and possibly sun!

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24**  
**SESSION 1: 10-11:30 AM**  
**SESSION 2: 11:30 AM - 1 PM**



Tickets \$7 Erving Residents; \$22 Non-residents

Registration Required - space is limited

Register at <https://www.erving-ma.gov/recreation-commission>

This event is funded in part by Erving Taxpayers. Thank you!



**ERVING SENIOR CENTER**

*Where Community Meets*

**413-423-3649**



## Do you qualify for any of these programs ? Brown Bag Food

# of Household Members	Annual	Monthly	Weekly
1	25,142	2,096	484
2	33,874	2,823	652
3	42,606	3,551	820
4	51,338	4,279	988
5	60,070	5,006	1,156
6	68,802	5,734	1,324
7	77,534	6,462	1,492
8	86,266	7,189	1,659
For each additional household member, add:	+8,732	+728	+168

qualify for Brown Bag. You also qualify for **SNAP** =

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program



If you can get **SNAP** it also means you qualify for **HIP** = **free extra SNAP money**.

The money is used for fruits & vegetables. Extra HIP money can be up to \$80. for a family. It is simple to use, and it is added to your EBT card. You can apply for SNAP

<http://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-snap-benefits-food-stamps>

### Community Action Fuel Assistance

See chart to see if you qualify. If you do contact Community Action: 413-774-2310

[www.communityaction.us](http://www.communityaction.us)



Household Size	Household Income
1	\$42,411
2	\$55,461
3	\$68,511
4	\$81,561
5	\$94,610
6	\$107,660
7	\$110,107



**What is SHINE?** It is a state health insurance assistance program that provides **FREE** health insurance information, counseling, and assistance to MA residents. SHINE counselors are trained and certified. They can help you understand Medicare and Mass Health benefits, along with other health insurance options. They also review eligibility for Public Assistance programs such as the new Medicare Savings Program, Prescription Advantage, and other programs to assist beneficiaries with limited resources to pay for health care costs. Becky can be reached at the Erving Senior Center 413-423-3649

Hello  
**FEBRUARY**

# Erving Senior Center

2023

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥
<p><b>Open week-days 8:30am 3:00pm</b> <b>413-423-3649</b></p>			<p><b>1</b> 9:00 Strength &amp; Cond (Linda)   <b>10:15 Chair Aerobics</b>  <b>11:30 BINGO</b>   <b>1:00 Veterans Service</b></p>	<p><b>2</b> 9:00 Core &amp; Bal            10:00 Barre Fusion  <b>12:00 Brown Bag Coffee &amp; Cards</b></p>	<p><b>3</b> 9:00 to 3:00            Quilting open sew            Fitness room open            Coffee &amp; Snacks</p> 	<p><b>It is a NEW Year Time to exercise</b></p>
<p>Nail clipping will be on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Yearly calendar available Cost \$7.00 no appointment necessary</p>	<p><b>6</b> 9:00 Interval Linda            10:15 Chair Aerobics  <b>12:00 Pitch Cards</b>            Coffee &amp; Snacks </p>	<p><b>7 9:00 ASK the Nurse Blood Press</b>             9:00 Good for U            10:00 Line Dancing  <b>11:00 Social Stringer</b></p>	<p><b>8</b> 9:00 Strength &amp; Cond (Linda)  <b>10:15 Chair Aerobics</b>  <b>11:30 BINGO</b> </p>	<p><b>9</b> 9:00 Core &amp; Bal (Linda)             10:00 Barre Fusion            Coffee &amp; Snacks</p>	<p><b>10</b> 9:00 to 3:00            Quilting open sew            Fitness room open            Coffee &amp; Snacks</p>	
<p><b>Valentines Day Lunch</b>  <b>12:00 Noon</b> You must sign-up space limited.  <b>Hearty Beef Stew &amp; sides. \$4.00</b></p>	<p><b>13</b> 9:00 Interval Linda            10:15 Chair Aerobics  <b>12:00 Pitch Cards</b>            Coffee &amp; Snacks </p>	<p><b>14 8:30 Toe nail Clipping</b>             9:00 Good for U            10:00 Line Dancing  <b>12:00 Valentines L</b></p>	<p><b>15</b> 9:00 Strength &amp; Cond (Linda)   <b>10:15 Chair Aerobics</b>  <b>11:30 Valentine's BINGO &amp; Snack</b></p>	<p><b>16</b> 9:00 Core &amp; Bal (Linda)             10:00 Barre Fusion            Coffee &amp; Snacks            Fitness Rm open</p>	<p><b>17</b> 9:00 to 3:00            Quilting open sew            Fitness room open            Coffee &amp; Snacks</p> 	<p><b>8 Exercise programs a week.</b></p>
	<p><b>Happy Presidents Day!</b></p> 	<p><b>21</b> 9:00 Good for U            10:00 Line Dancing  <b>11:00 Social Stringer</b>            Fitness Room open            Coffee &amp; Snacks </p>	<p><b>22</b> 9:00 Strength &amp; Cond (Linda)  <b>10:15 Chair Aerobics</b>  <b>11:30 BINGO</b>             Coffee &amp; Cards</p>	<p><b>23</b> 9:00 Core &amp; Bal (Linda)             10:00 Barre Fusion            Coffee &amp; Snacks            Fitness Rm open</p>	<p><b>24</b> 9:00 to 3:00            Quilting open sew            Fitness room open            Coffee &amp; Snacks</p> 	
<p>Music Entertainment after Valentines Lunch</p> 	<p><b>27</b> 9:00 Interval Linda            10:15 Chair Aerobics  <b>12:00 Pitch Cards</b>            Coffee &amp; Snacks </p>	<p><b>28</b> 9:00 Good for U            10:00 Line Dancing  <b>11:00 Social Stringer</b>            Fitness Room open</p>		<p>AUSTRALIAN Natural Soap:            Always in stock at The Center.</p>	<p><b>Coffee &amp; Treats Daily</b></p> 	





The Community Center is open and invites Erving residents to join us for so much we offer. See monthly calendar for time and dates

**8 Exercise Classes a week 5 workouts 2 chair exercise, Line Dancing**

**Fitness Room: 4 Treadmill, 4 Recumbent Bikes, 1 Elliptical**

**Card Games Daily. Monday Pitch Card Players**

**Billiard Table, Library of Books, Puzzles, Movies & Word Games**

**Sewing, Quilting and All types of yarn works and Crafting**

**Bingo bring your lunch and we provide the dessert**

**Veterans Services, SHINE services, Outreach services anytime.**

**Brown Bag, Help with SNAP or other medical services**

**Van Rides: We pick you up and deliver you home safely**

**Blood Pressure Clinic Meet the Nurse, Nail Clipping**

**Massage Monthly. Innovative programs see calendar for dates.**

**Snacks, Coffee daily, Lunches monthly. More coming soon.**

**Open Daily 8:30 – 3:00**

**413-423-3649**



## News of Poplar Mountain Conservation Area

December 11<sup>th</sup> was a chilly and cloudy day but 9 people; including a repeat appearance by one hesitant grandson; and one dog (although as big as some in the humans in the group) attended and went around portions of Poplar Mountain Yellow Trail. There were 5 or so new folks and a good time was had by all. There are icicles on the Weeping Wall and the bear has likely retired to her den. There are four more names on the list of those interested in goings on in the conservation area.

I had a brief talk after the hike with Todd and Liese at the farm on Old State Road and looked at some pictures of the original area 'back in the day'. No trees at all and a big barn on the hill behind the house. Quite a change? I have talked to a few residents who remember parts of this.

With the mild winter there have been more individuals using the conservation area. A recent Sunday saw over 10 individuals out on the trails. Please remember to use the marked entrances and not private land where old trails used to go.

We have a hike on "Winter Tracking" scheduled for Saturday February 25<sup>th</sup> with David Brown. He has led hikes in Northfield and throughout the region. It will be February and dress for the weather. A thermos of coffee or cocoa in the car is a regular for me. Bring snowshoes with cleats or devises on boots depending on snow and/or ice conditions. Trekking poles or a ski pole are also helpful when going up or down hill. We plan on starting at 9 and being done around noon at the new parking lot.

We also are scheduling a late March hike with Adam Kohl of Wendell which is titled "Plants and Insects in Late Winter", although I'm hoping there will be some life showing in our vernal pools by then.



The Kiosk is in, Thanks Glen, crew, and Bryan. We are waiting for a large map, and a few other additions.

We can always use volunteers. Small projects waiting for a nice day include turning a Birch log by the Weeping Wall into a low bench and a little brushing out where the yellow trail recrosses the power line.

Come out when the weather is nice and look for tracks in the snow and owls staking out territory for nesting in the later winter.

Mark Blatchley  
Conservation Commission Chair

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

**2023 GMEF Annual Gala**  
**Faithfully presents “An Eagles & Journey Experience”**

**On Saturday, April 29, 2023@ 7:00pm** in the TFHS Theater, “Faithfully” will present “An Eagles & Journey Experience” for the **Gill-Montague Education Fund Annual Gala.**

“Faithfully” will perform the music of The Eagles & Journey with material from all eras of the band's career, encompassing the band's biggest hits as well as fan favorites, including: Tequila Sunrise, Desperado, Open Arms, Don’t Stop Believin’ and many more. “Faithfully” re-creates the music of The Eagles & Journey making them a hit with fans for their high energy show, spot-on vocals, and superior performance.

Advance tickets are \$30. They are available the GMEF website – [www.thegmef.org](http://www.thegmef.org).

Returning in April 2023 after a 4 year hiatus generates mixed emotions – excitement, hope, and uncertainty – to name just a few. The impact of the pandemic on K–12 student learning was significant. During the past 4 years, we have continued to award 3 (\$250) scholarships, roses to our graduates and assisted our staff financially with enrichment projects.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION....**

**The GMEF Newsletter** (every 2 months)

- Subscribe today @ [www.thegmef.org](http://www.thegmef.org)
- Learn all about the Gill-Montague Education Fund
- Who We Are & What We Do
- Scholarships ~ Grants ~ Roses for Graduates
- Keep Informed and Up-To-Date on our Annual Gala & Performers.
- Get Ticket Information with Dates/Outlets/Costs

**Visit Our Website -** [www.thegmef.org](http://www.thegmef.org).

- Watch a “Faithfully” video;
- Know the Ticket Outlets listing on March 1<sup>st</sup>.



Erving Elementary School  
Preschool and Kindergarten  
Registration

Erving Elementary School is beginning to register preschool and kindergarten aged students for the 2023-2024 school year.

**Preschool:** If you have a child who will be 3 or 4 years old by September 1, 2023 and you live in the town of Erving, they are eligible to attend preschool at Erving Elementary School.

**Kindergarten:** If you have a child who will be 5 years old by September 1, 2023, and you live in the town of Erving, he/she is eligible to attend kindergarten at Erving Elementary School.

**\*\*Students currently attending Erving Elementary School are automatically enrolled for their next school year.**

**All registration packets are due by March 3, 2023**

Please contact the school at 413 423-3326 with any questions and to obtain a registration packet.

## A Letter to the Residents of Erving From the Erving Teachers' Association

You may have heard some of what is happening with contract negotiations between the teachers of the children of our community and the elected school officials. In last month's Around Town, the school committee chairwoman shared her view on negotiations. Since Around Town published her individual letter, we felt it was only fair that we share our thoughts, as well. We'd like to take a different approach, though. The chair published her letter on her own, without any consultation or discussion with other members of her committee in public session. The Erving Teachers' Association agrees on the contents of this letter since we value all of our voices, not just the opinion of one person.

### **What does school look like now for students?**

As you may know, or expect, school is very different than it was pre-covid. While over a year of remote teaching allowed students to access curriculum and standards via screen, it also inadvertently created new challenges that no one could ever have anticipated. Students who didn't have direct supervision would do other things, such as watch tv, play video games, or just plain log out and not participate. Many students now have trouble understanding basic school expectations that they do have to be present and participate. Students have been traumatized and they are bringing a broken sense of school and lack of grade-appropriate student skill into the classroom.

What is different? Students need more time and opportunities to build up a better understanding of what it means to take initiative and sustain stamina. Understandably, the learning process has shifted but we still have the great responsibility to educate. Teachers do this while navigating the following:

- dysregulated behaviors
- anger outbursts that range from verbal abuse to physical destruction
- anxious students who struggle maintaining focus
- apathy for learning
- disruptions in attendance

Yes, Covid may be over, or nearly over, but the effects of it are very much still with us. We are doing this all with fewer staff than before. Our behavior specialist has retired and the position has not been filled. Multiple support staff paraprofessionals have left and replacements haven't been hired. These positions are not being filled due to lack of applicants. Those that remain are doing more with less.

### **What we are looking for:**

1. More preparation time:

Currently, we are given only 150 minutes of prep time per week (equivalent to 30 minutes/day). We asked for 225 minutes/week (45 mins/day), which is typical in most every district. The best offer we received from the school committee was just another 5 minutes per day, for 175 mins/week. We acquiesced, since that's all they would offer. We question why lesson preparation and teacher collaboration to best provide for students is disregarded.

2. An added salary lane:

This is for staff who have taken 60 or more post-graduate level credits, which is the equivalent of two Master's Degrees or a Doctorate (PhD). This is a significant amount of work. These courses have to be approved by the principal and superintendent. As you've read, we are dealing with unprecedented student behavior and academic decline. Our membership is consistently taking courses to improve our teaching on how to work with students dealing with trauma, learning loss

and other things. The school committee is only willing to give a PhD column because that is study in a very specific area. In some specific areas that can be important, but as general educators it is important to have advanced knowledge in a wide array of areas because we teach many subjects and deal with a variety of behavioral issues. This enables us to better serve students.

The committee says this lane would cost too much money. We have only 3 members that would currently reach that lane for an approximately \$10,000 total increase.

2. Increased salary: We feel that based on all of the new seriously difficult situations and work conditions that we are dealing with, with less staff to do so, that a 4% increase is fair. The school committee disagrees and feels 2% is. It's taken us a year of negotiations and mediation just to get them to rise to that basic level. The school committee has told us it would cost too much money.

An increase from 2% to 4% would cost approximately \$32,000.

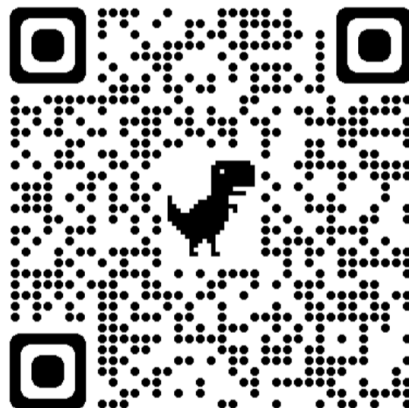
Last year's school budget was just under \$3.5 million. To get to our request we are talking about less than 1% of that budget.

This year 4 town workers outside of the elementary school received increases of over \$56,000 from their previous year's amount. To reach the 4% increase that we feel is fair, it would only cost a total of \$64,000 for our 28 members.

We're happy for all workers in all jobs to get increases. Everyone is suffering through historic inflation that has reached up to 9% last year. We're happy for these administrative town workers to receive these increases. Wouldn't it be nice if firefighters, police officers, highway workers, librarians, town hall staff, water and sewer department workers, senior center employees, and teachers, could receive such increases.

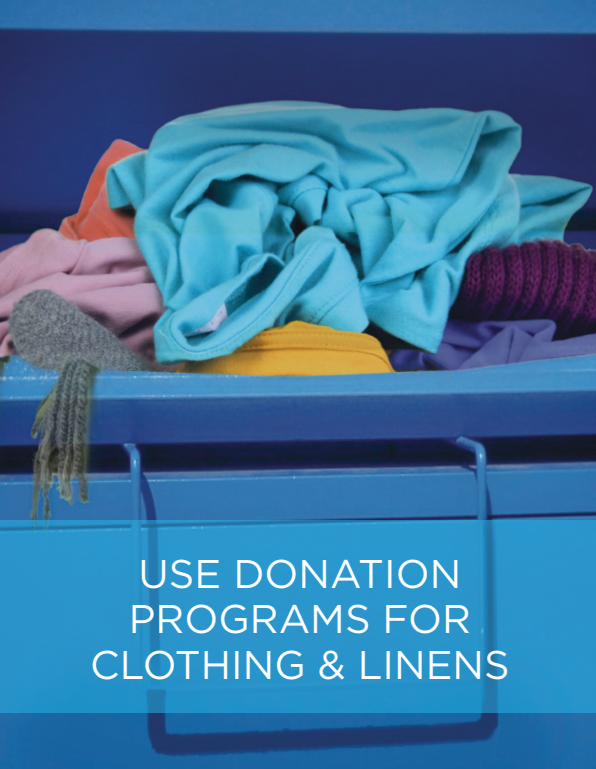
Please support Erving teachers by signing this petition. This is an opportunity for our community and beloved school to grow and succeed. Either type in the link, or use the camera of your phone with the QR code, which will bring you to the petition.

<https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/support-erving-teachers/>



Sincerely,

Elizabeth DeSorgher, President, on behalf of the entire Erving Teachers' Association



USE DONATION  
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Town of Erving  
12 East Main Street  
Erving, MA 01344

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Dear Erving Resident,

Effective November 2022, the Salvation Army will be offering **free** curbside pickup of your used textiles. You may also include shoes, hats, purses, and backpacks, belts, non-plastic linens, and ties. The items cannot be wet, soiled, or moldy. They may have rips, stains, missing buttons/zippers, and holes.

There are a few easy ways to schedule your pickup:

1. Visit **www.SAtruck.org** and schedule your pickup; or
2. Use the Salvation Army family store app available on Android and IOS; or
3. Call the dispatch office at (413) 785 1921 and dial extension 331400 to schedule your pickup. Phone hours are from 8:00am-3:30pm Monday through Saturday; however, you may call during off hours and leave a message. Please be sure to include a good call back number.

Scheduled pickups for textiles will occur on **Thursdays**.

**Important:** Please label all bags with a tag stating it is for SA or write it on the bag itself if it is visible enough.

If you have other items besides textiles to donate you may also schedule it the same way, but the availability may be different.

For more information visit: **www.erving-ma.gov/solid-waste-recycling**

# ERVING COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS NEWS



*Dahna Virgilio*  
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*Dry Brook Garden*  
105 Old State Rd, Erving, MA 01344  
Follow us on Facebook and Instagram

**POPLAR MOUNTAIN MAPLE**  
151 Northfield Road Erving 413-423-3242  
Warren, Jacquelyn, and Daniel Boyden  
Email: [dansveggies@comcast.net](mailto:dansveggies@comcast.net)

- 2023 Price & Product List**
- 1/2 Gallons \$34.00**
  - Quarts \$22.00**
  - Pints \$14.00**
  - 1/2 Pints \$8.00**
  - Maple Cream 1/2 lb. \$10.00**

**Support Local for the Holidays! Makes a great gift!**



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Each Office Is Independently Owned and Operated



## Four New Videos from Recycling Facility Advisory Board

The [Springfield Materials Recycling Facility](#) (SMRF) [Advisory Board](#) has released four short videos about household recycling to help viewers understand what happens to the materials they recycle. The videos are an antidote to misinterpretations recently shared by media outlets. The new videos are available at [springfieldmrf.org](http://springfieldmrf.org) and on YouTube ([www.youtube.com/@springfieldmrf4175](https://www.youtube.com/@springfieldmrf4175)).

The videos focus on four different topics: Container Recycling, Paper and Cardboard Recycling, What Happens to Recycled Materials, and Recycling's Most Unwanted. Produced by Reelife Productions, the videos include interviews with recycling industry experts, footage of recyclables being sorted and baled, and information on the industries that purchase local recyclables for reuse.

These videos will be useful in classrooms, for community sustainability groups, family discussions, social media pages, and other applications. Director and Owner of Reelife Productions, Tom Adams, notes "It's a good feeling to know we are helping to increase the efficiency and efficacy of the recycling program in Massachusetts."

The SMRF annually processes and sells over 18,300 tons (95%) of the material collected by its [65 western Massachusetts member communities](#). Major news outlets have reported that "only a small percentage of plastic is recycled," but that statistic refers to the recycling rate of *all plastic manufactured*, including durable items not intended or designed for recycling. This figure does not refer solely to the items that residents put in their bins.

This new video series clarifies that the items western Massachusetts residents are [instructed to recycle](#) have value to processors and manufacturers who turn the materials into new products and packaging. In fiscal year 2022, through the sales of recyclables to commodity markets, the Springfield MRF paid its 65 member communities a combined revenue share of \$375,500.

This new series, along with the already popular [Me and My Bin](#) that was released earlier this year, gives western Mass residents a behind-the-scenes look at the environmental and economic values of recycling. The series sends a clear and simple message: **Recycling is important, and we each have a role to play.**

# TOWN OF ERVING

## DUAL STREAM RECYCLING & TRASH SERVICE

### 2022-2023 CURBSIDE COLLECTION CALENDAR & DETAILS

- Trash is collected **every Friday**
- Paper & cardboard recycling is collected on the **blue shaded** Friday collection day
- Plastic, glass, & metal is collected on the **green shaded** Friday collection day

- Place trash & recycling at the curb by **7:00 AM** on Friday
- Weeks with a holiday have a one day delay in service, regardless of the day that the holiday falls on as depicted below
- The Town will notify you of any delays in service

JULY 2022							AUGUST 2022							SEPTEMBER 2022							OCTOBER 2022							NOVEMBER 2022							DECEMBER 2022							
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
					1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3							1			1	2	3	4	5						1	2	3
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31	25	26	27	28	29	30	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	27	28	29	30	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				
31																			30	31																						

■ = Paper & Cardboard ■ = Plastic, Glass, & Metal ■ = Holiday

Sorting your recyclables is quick and easy. Just focus on tossing all paper and cardboard into one bin and plastic, glass, and metal containers into another. Please **EMPTY** and **RINSE** all containers and **flatten** and **break down** cardboard boxes.

#### BLUE SHADED DAY



##### Paper & Cardboard

Clean papers, magazines/catalogs, greeting cards, gift wrap & gift tissue paper (no foils or metallics), calendars, paperbacks & phonebooks, paperboard, empty pizza boxes (Paper clips, staples and metal spirals are ok)

#### GREEN SHADED DAY



##### Plastic Bottles, Jugs, Tubs, Lids, & Containers

Empty kitchen, laundry, & bath containers

##### Cartons

Milk & Juice



##### Glass Bottles & Jars

Empty food & beverage bottles & jars



##### Aluminum & Steel Cans

Foil & empty food & beverage cans

#### NOT ACCEPTED

Plastic bags or trays, black plastic, bagged recyclables, clothing/textiles, food waste/liquids, tangles such as rope or hoses, scrap metal, batteries of any kind, electronics, wood, medical waste, hazardous materials, explosives, toys, hangers, shoes, waxy cups or plates, frozen food packaging, food bags or wrappers, plastic wrap or film, shrink wrap, tarps, diapers, human/pet or yard waste, tires or rubber, Styrofoam™, napkins, paper towels, tissues, plastic utensils, register tape, condiment packets, straws, stirrers, coffee pods, ceramics



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Town of Erving  
MASSACHUSETTS

413-422-2800  
info@erving-ma.gov  
www.erving-ma.gov

<b>TOWN HALL OFFICE HOURS</b>		<b>12 East Main Street</b>
Town Hall is opened to the public on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 - 5 p.m. or by Appointment.		
<b>Town Administrator</b>	Monday thru Thursday Friday	10:00am– 5:00pm By Appointment
<b>Administrative Assistant</b>	Monday thru Thursday Friday	10:00am - 5:00 p.m. By Appointment
<b>Principal Assessor</b>	Monday Tuesday & Thursday	10:00am–5:00pm
<b>Treasurer</b>	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday	9:00am – 3:00pm
<b>Tax Collector</b>	Tuesday & Thursday Wednesday	10:00 am - 3:00 pm 8:30 am - 12:00 pm
<b>Town Clerk</b>	By Appointment	
<b>Community Planning Office</b>	By Appointment	

<b>POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENT HOURS</b>		
<b>Police Department</b> 71 French King Highway	Monday thru Thursday	7:00am – 4:00pm
<b>Fire Department</b> 10 East Main Street & 18 Moore Street	Monday thru Friday	7:00am – 4:00pm & by Appointment

<b>SENIOR &amp; COMMUNITY CENTER AND PUBLIC LIBRARY HOURS</b>		
<b>Senior &amp; Community Center</b> 1 Care Drive	Monday thru Friday	8:30am – 3:00pm
<b>Erving Public Library</b> 2 Care Drive	Sun. 10 am to 4 pm, Mon.&Tues. 12 pm to 6 pm, Wed. 10 am to 4 pm &Thurs. 1 pm to 7 pm.	

<b>BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE</b>		
<i>Note: Subject to change. Always use the official posting board at Town Hall for meeting dates, times, and locations.</i>		
<b>Board of Health</b> at Town Hall	3rd Wednesday of the month	3:00 pm
<b>Board of Library Trustees</b> at Erving Library	As posted	
<b>Board of Selectmen</b> at Senior & Community Ctr	Mondays as posted	6:30pm
<b>Conservation Commission</b> at Erving Library	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the Month	6:00pm
<b>Council on Aging</b> at Senior & Community Ctr	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the Month	9:30am
<b>Finance Committee</b> at Senior & Community Ctr	As posted	
<b>Historical Commission</b> at Erving Library	As posted	
<b>Open Space Committee</b> at Town Hall	As posted	
<b>Planning Board</b> at Erving Library	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the Month	7:00pm
<b>Recreation Commission</b> at Erving Library	4th Saturday of the Month	1:00pm
<b>School Committee</b> at Erving Elementary School	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the Month	7:00 pm
<b>Senior Housing Committee</b> at Senior Center	As posted	

**Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans Services:** (413) 772-1571  
**U.S. Post Office- Erving, MA Branch:** (413) 423-3600

## ERVING OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

### Town Hall Office Number and Extensions

**(413) 422-2800**

- 1101** Administrative Assistant & BOH - Betsy Sicard
- 1102** Town Administrator – Bryan Smith
- 1103** Town Accountant - Deborah Mero
- 1104** Tax Collector/Water Collector- Michele Turner
- 1106** Town Clerk – Richard Newton
- 1107** Assessors Office – Principal Assessor Jacquelyn Boyden
- 1108** Town Planner – Mariah Kurtz
- 1112** Treasurer – Jennifer Eichorn
- 1114** Assistant Treasurer – Jean Fountain

### TOWN OFFICES

**423-3649** Senior Center

**423-3348** Library

**422-1187** Recreation

**423-3310** Police

**423-3500** Public Works

**423-3326** Erving Elementary

**423-3866** Fire Station

Check out the Town of Erving's website and our Facebook pages for updated news on what is going on in the Town of Erving!



Town of Erving, Erving Senior Center, Erving Recreation Commission, Erving Public Library and Erving Historical Commission

Or on the web @

[www.erving-ma.gov](http://www.erving-ma.gov)

