

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

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Michele Turner

JANUARY 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
- HOLIDAY RECYCLING
- COMMISSIONS AND
BOARD OPENINGS! GET
INVOLVED!
- TRASH SCHEDULE
- SMART 911 NEWS
- HEATING PROGRAMS
- EXEMPTION INFO
- ELECTIONS NEWS
- CHECK IT OUT!

Erving Historical Commission News

The Erving Historical Commission is seeking additional members for appointment to our commission. We are searching for up to four more residents to participate in our efforts related to historic properties, documentation, and preservation.

This promises to be a productive year, as we seek grant funds from the state to complete a historic inventory of structures in town, as well as reviewing proposed by-laws and policies relating to historic preservation. We meet once a month, or as needed, at a time to be determined by a consensus of members.

Join us on Tuesday, January 10 at 3 pm at the Erving Public Library meeting room if you would like to learn more.

Ready to join? Send a letter of interest to the Selectboard's office by postal mail to Erving Select Board, 12 East Main Street, Erving MA 01344 or email at: volunteer@erving-ma.gov. We look forward to welcoming new thoughts and ideas.

Thank you,
Sara E. Campbell, Chair
Philip Johnson, Vice Chair
David Brule, Secretary

Have a Business/Community Event In Erving?

We will put in the Around Town for Free!

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

ervingaroundtown@comcast.net



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

Thank you



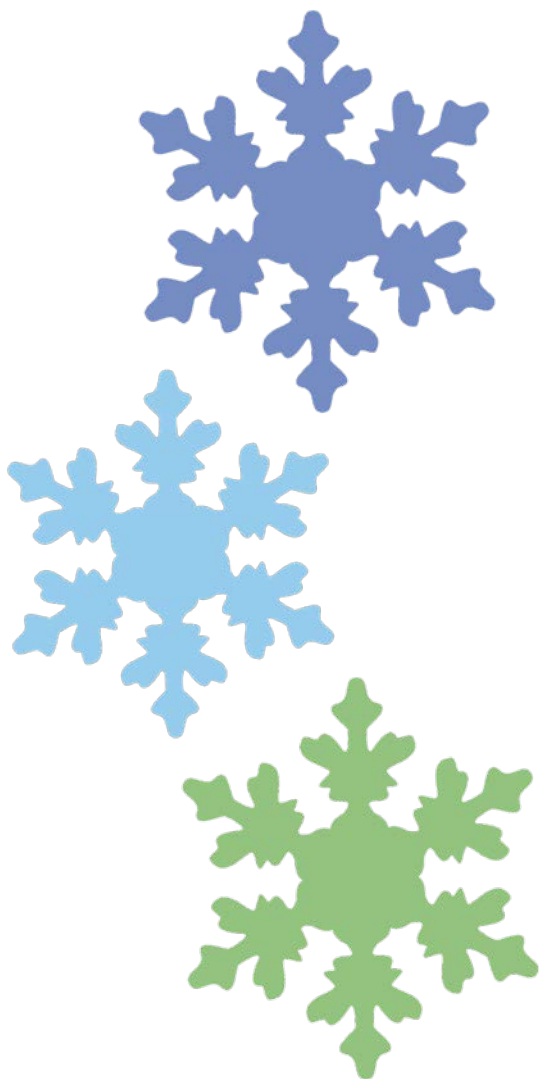
for clearing sidewalks & fire hydrants!

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!



EXEMPTION INFORMATION

ERVING TAXPAYERS: You may be eligible for an exemption on your real estate taxes if you meet certain requirements under Mass General Laws, Chap 59, Section 5. All Exemption Applications are to be filed by April 1st of the fiscal year that the real estate taxes have been issued for. Please note that even if the exemption amount is larger than your total tax bill, Massachusetts General Law states that you must pay 10% of your Real Estate Tax Bill. Listed below are the exemptions that the Town of Erving has authorized:

Clause 17D (Exemption -\$175)

Widows/Widowers/Persons over 70/Minor Children

This exemption is for widows or widowers, or minor children with a deceased parent or persons 70 years or older.

1. You must have owned and occupied the property for at least 5 years and live in your house on July 1 of the year you are filing.
2. The value of your estate, minus mortgages, cannot exceed \$40,000. Please note that the value of your home, if not more than a 3 Family is not included in the Estate amount.

Clause 22 Veterans Exemptions

Veterans are individuals who served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States for certain time periods during peace or wartime eras and were discharged from military service. In order to be eligible for an exemption, the discharge must be under other than dishonorable conditions.

You must occupy the property as your domicile. If you are a spouse of the veteran, you and the veteran must occupy the property as your domicile. Your domicile is where your principal and legal home is located.

You must own the property and your ownership interest must be worth at least \$2,000. If your property is held in a trust, you must be a Trustee and have an enough beneficial interest in the property.

Clause 22(a-c)(Exemption- \$400)

Veterans, Spouses (where the domicile is owned by the veteran's spouse) and Surviving Spouses of Veterans (who have never remarried) are eligible if one of the following criteria is met:

1. Veteran with a service-connected disability of 10% or more
2. Veteran awarded the Purple Heart Medal
3. Gold Star Parents

Clause 22A (Exemption- \$750)

Veterans or Surviving Spouses of Veterans (regardless of current & future marital status), who meet the following requirements is eligible for this exemption:

1. Loss or permanent loss of use of one foot or one hand in the line of duty or,
2. Lost sight of one eye in the line of duty or,
3. Received the Congressional Medal of Honor, or Distinguished Service Cross, or the Navy Cross, or the Air Force Cross.
4. The Exemption will be prorated if domicile is greater than a single-family home.

Clause 22B (Exemption - \$1,250)

Veterans or Surviving Spouses of Veterans (regardless of current & future marital status), who meet the following requirements is eligible for this exemption:

1. Loss or permanent loss of use of both hands or both feet or,
2. Loss or permanent loss of one hand and one foot or,
3. Loss of sight in both eyes.

EXEMPTION INFORMATION

Clause 22C (Exemption - \$1,500)

Veterans or Surviving Spouses of Veterans (regardless of current & future marital status), who have a permanent and total disability that is service connected and Specially Adapted Housing. The Exemption will be prorated if domicile is greater than a single-family home.

Clause 22D (Full Exemption)

Surviving spouses, until remarried, of service members or guardsmen who are missing in action & presumed to have died or who have died as a result of injuries or illness contracted during active duty.

Clause 22E (Exemption - \$1,000)

Veterans or Surviving Spouses of Veterans (regardless of current and future marital status), who have a 100% Service-Connected Disability as of July 1st of the year you are Applying for the exemption. You must present an annual statement from the Veteran's Administration verifying this 100% disability. The Exemption will be prorated if domicile is greater than a single-family home.

Clause 22F (Full Exemption)

This exemption is available to Veterans or the Surviving Spouses of Veterans, who are certified by the Veteran's Administration as paraplegic or have a 100% disability for service-connected blindness. The Exemption will be prorated if domicile is greater than a single-family home.

Clause 37A (Exemption - \$500)

Blindness

This exemption is for those individuals who are certified by the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind attesting to legal blindness.

1. You must own and occupy your house.
2. You must submit a Certificate from the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind attesting to legal blindness annually

Clause 41C (Exemption - \$1,000)

Persons over 65 years of Age

This exemption is for those individuals who are 65 years or older who satisfy certain income, assets and residency requirements.

1. You must have lived in Massachusetts for the past 10 years and,
2. You must own and occupy your house for at least 5 years and,
3. Your annual gross income cannot exceed \$20,000 if single, \$30,000 if married minus Social Security allowance.
4. Whole estate, (less value of the home unless home is larger than 4 family) cannot exceed \$40,000 if single, \$55,000 if married.

If you have any questions, please contact the Assessors Office at 413-422-2800, Extension 1107 or by email at assessor@erving-ma.gov

TOWN OF ERVING NEEDS YOU!



The following Boards and Committees have vacancies:

- **Cultural Council – (One vacancy)**

Cultural Council members are appointed. The local Cultural Council supports public programs that promote access, education, diversity and excellence in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences in communities across the Commonwealth. Local decision-making is an integral element of this system. Local councils have the right and responsibility to award grants that address cultural needs specific to their communities, and they can decide how to distribute funds if the state policies outlined in these regulations and supplementary guidelines are followed. They meet 2-4 times per year.

- **Planning Board Alternate**

Planning Board Members are elected, but the alternate is an appointed position. The Planning Board is charged with overseeing and guiding development in the community. The Planning Board reviews permit applications for subdivisions and some special permits, and it is designated as the authority for Site Plan Review permits.

- **Council on Aging – (Three vacancies)**

Councils on Aging & Senior Centers provide support services to elders, families, and caregivers in the community. As a local agency, the Councils on Aging & Senior Centers serve as an elder advocate, offers services, and activities for elders. Council on Aging offerings may include Outreach, Transportation, Meals (congregate or home delivered), Health screenings, Health insurance counseling, Socialization, Fitness, wellness and recreation activities, Life-long learning. They serve as a link to and support for elders. Each Council on Aging determines its own priorities based on local needs and resources. Senior centers are a welcoming place for older adults who wish to remain independent in their community.

- **Gill-Montague Regional School District Representative (Two vacancies)**

Gill-Montague Representatives are appointed by the Town Moderator and are charged with attending Gill-Montague Reg. School District meetings and advocating for parents and students in the district. The representative also reports information from these meetings to the School Committee. Representatives are non-voting members.

These are volunteer positions. If you've been asking yourself "How can I be a help to my community?" and/or you'd like to be a part of something new, or return to something you've done previously, please email a letter of interest to volunteer@erving-ma.gov or via mail to *Town of Erving, ATT: Bryan Smith, 12 East Main Street, Erving, MA 01344.*

COMMUNITY NEWS

CONGRATUATIONS TO BRAYDEN MCCORD OF ERVING IN BEING SELECTED TO RECEIVE THE MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AT GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT AND KITANA RODRIGUEZ OF ERVING IN BEING SELECTED AS TO RECEIVE THE MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AT FRANKLIN COUNTRY TECHNICAL SCHOOL.





Town of Erving

12 East Main Street, Erving, MA 01344

Phone: 413-422-2800

The Town of Erving is looking to residents for ideas for the COVER of our 2022 Annual Town Report. If you have ideas, we want to hear from you! Please use the form below and send to Town Hall, 12 East Main Street, Erving, MA 01344 and mark the envelope "Annual Town Report Cover". Please return your form no later than January 31, 2023. We are excited to hear your ideas!

ANNUAL TOWN REPORT COVER SUGGESTION FORM

Name of Person Making Suggestion and Contact Information:

Name: _____ Email: _____ Best Phone: _____

Theme or Idea Being Suggested (You can suggest up to 3):

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Why do you think your idea(s) should be on the Annual Town Report Cover?

- 1) _____

- 2) _____

- 3) _____

Please give a brief description of your vision (include a picture if you have one):

Thank you for taking time to participate in this process.

HOME HEATING TIPS

Staying warm in the winter is important! With rising costs, heating your home can be stressful. That's where homeowners and renters can use fuel assistance.

You are eligible for fuel assistance if your household income is not more than 60% of the estimated [state median income](#). For a single-person household, that's \$42,411; for two people that's \$55,461. [For three people it's \$68,511 and \$81,561 for four people.]

These numbers, and more information on who can get help is available on the Community Action website: <https://www.communityaction.us/fuel-assistance>. Locally, Community Action is the agency that processes applications for fuel assistance; the program itself is called LIHEAP in Massachusetts. If you have not used fuel assistance in the last two years, you'll need to first apply and then have an intake.

Apply over the phone (413-774-2310) or online (website above). An application checklist and a list of necessary documents are available online, or you can call the phone number and an automated message will guide you to the list of documents.

Community Action wants its participants to know:

- From Nov 15 – March 15, there is a moratorium in place that prevents shutting off your gas or electric if that heats your home
- Fuel assistance can only pay for deliveries/heat usage from Nov 1 to April 30
- Please plan ahead—it can take weeks to process an application
- This is an assistance program; you are still responsible for your bills

Separate from fuel assistance, Community Action has other programs for renters and homeowners, including free energy efficient and weatherization assessments, and programs for homeowners that have funding to repair/replace heating systems. They also have an Older Adult Modification Program to help eligible homeowners age in place.

Please remember that state minimum wage increases to \$15/hr starting January 1st and may change income.

YOUR ENERGY BILLS ARE GOING UP THIS WINTER. HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO.



Due to the New England region's reliance on natural gas to fuel our power plants and the impact on gas prices from the war in Ukraine, customers in New England will experience record-high electricity and gas supply prices this winter. Assistance programs are available to help customers pay bills or manage the increase.

YOUR UTILITY COMPANY CAN HELP

If you are behind on your utility bills, you should call your utility company immediately and ask about their payment plans. Utilities are offering several customer assistance programs, including flexible payment plans (regardless of income) and balance forgiveness plans for those eligible. You will be protected from shutoff if you make payments as scheduled under the plan.

BERKSHIRE GAS
(800) 292-5012

EVERSOURCE
(866) 861-6225 (East)
(877) 963-2632 (West)
(800) 688-6160 (EGMA)

LIBERTY
(800) 544-4944

NATIONAL GRID
(800) 322-3223

UNITIL
(888) 301-7700

INCOME-ELIGIBLE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Don't wait to apply for income-eligible assistance programs. First, contact your utility to apply for an income-eligible rate which provides a discount on your whole bill. Second, you may qualify for the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). LIHEAP eligibility is evaluated based on your gross household income for the past 4 weeks. Use the contact info below to find your local community action agency where you can apply for LIHEAP.

→ masscap.org/heatinghelpma • Cold Relief Hotline at: (800) 632-8175 • mass.gov/hed/fuel

MANAGE YOUR USAGE AND BILLS

- Consider contacting Mass Save for an energy efficiency audit to see how you can reduce your overall energy use, which should result in lower monthly bills over time.
- Install a programmable thermostat.
- Enroll in budget billing with your utility.
- Replace outdated light bulbs with ENERGY STAR certified light bulbs.
- Consider solar energy.

→ MassSave.com • mass.gov/ago/solar

SHUTOFF MORATORIUM

From November 15 to March 15, there is a moratorium in place that prevents shutting off your gas or electric if you use that to heat your home. But know that you will still owe payment for your bills. To avoid falling into debt, take advantage of fuel assistance programs or enroll in a budget-installment plan.

OTHER ASSISTANCE

If you don't qualify for income-based assistance, there may also be funds available to assist you. If your household income is between 60 to 80 percent of the state median income, you may be able to receive help from the Good Neighbor Energy Fund.

→ magoodneighbor.org/assistance

ELECTRIC SUPPLIERS

A study by the AG's Office found that most electric supplier customers lose money in the long run. Beware of deceptive marketing promising savings as compared to the utility's high winter electric prices. If you have a supplier, check if your rate is still competitive with your utility's. Contact the AG's Office with questions.

ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE

{ Attorney General's Office • (617) 727-8400 • mass.gov/ago/fuelassistance
Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities • (617) 737-2836 • mass.gov/dpu

Residents of Erving: **Smart911™**

If you received a call advising a COVID-19 vaccine was available. Just call this number # would that had made life easier for you ? If you answered YES. Then take the time and sign-up for **Smart 911**.

What is it you ask. It is a direct **EMERGENCY WARNING to you**

It gives the emergency team the ability to communicate direct to your cell phone, home phone, text message or email address.

It is easy to sign up: www.smart911.com to register. If you need assistance call the Erving Senior Center 413-423-3649 

The message is customized for your town. If the message is important you should want to hear it. Be ready, plan ahead know what's happening in your area. Keep you and your family **SAFE & SECURE**.



Receive information ahead about severe weather activities and how your community plans to prepare and act.



Amber Alerts an emergency in your area or an incident that can impact safety.

**AMBER®
ALERT** 

Help us help you. Take the time to sign up for Smart911 It only takes a few minutes. *Remember* Your worth it!

**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 1st with the polling hours from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Erving Town Hall, 12 East Main Street.

Gill-Montague Representatives Needed!!

Looking to get involved in our community? This is an opportunity for you. This is available to any registered voter in the Town of Erving. No experience necessary.

Here are the details:

- Attend Gill-Montague School Committee Meetings (2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month)
6:30 p.m. – Currently remote
- Report back to Erving School Committee (3rd Tuesday of the month)
7:00 p.m. – Erving Elementary School

Still interested? Email both Jennifer Eichorn (jennifer.eichorn@erving.com) and Richard Peabody (richard.peabody@erving-ma.gov) with your contact information. This is a paid position - \$1,375.78 annually. There are 2 openings.



The Board of Library Trustees
would like to say an extra big

Thank You
to the

**FRIENDS OF THE
ERVING PUBLIC LIBRARY**

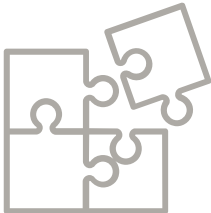


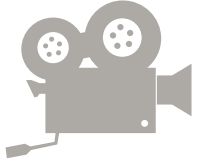

for their generous service in support of the
Erving library



We'd especially like to thank those who have donated a considerable amount of time to the cause: Rebecca Hubbard, Arlene Wonsey, Linda Bowman, Dulcie and Kathie McAndrews

ERVING PUBLIC LIBRARY

January Snapshot

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU
<p>1/8 1:00 PM PUZZLE SWAP WITH THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY</p>			<p>Get involved in the library! The Friends of the Erving Public Library meet on the first Thursday of the month and all are welcome. The January 5th meeting starts at 1:30 pm</p>	
<p>1/15 10:00 AM STORY & PLAY GROUP</p> <p>1/15 1:00 PM CRAFTS WITH THE FRIENDS</p>	<p>LIBRARY HOURS Sunday & Wednesday 10am-4pm</p> <p>Monday & Tuesday 12-6pm</p> <p>Thursday 1-7pm</p>			
<p>1/22 1:00 PM FAMILY GAME DAY</p>			<p>1/26 5:30PM BOOK CHALLENGE! Monthly Coffee Hour & Discussion Hosted by the Library Director</p>	
	<p>1/30 3:30PM TEEN MOVIE MONDAY</p>			

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

The library will be closed on
Sunday, January 1, 2023, and Monday, January 16, 2023
in observance of the state holidays.

ERVING PUBLIC LIBRARY

January Programs

WWW.ERVING-MA.GOV/LIBRARY

EVENTS THIS MONTH

Puzzle Swap: Sunday, January 8th, 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.

Story & Play Group: Sunday, January 15th, 10-10:45 a.m.

(1st & 3rd Sundays, no group Jan. 1) A sensory playtime with storytelling and word development for toddlers and their caregivers. No RSVP required. Spanish and English friendly. Coffee for adults. Location: Kids' Room.

Craft Day for Adults: Sunday, January 15th, 1:00 p.m.

Join other crafters as they learn to make paper flowers with instructor Paulina Borrego. Create a bouquet for yourself or give it to your Valentine. 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.

Family Game Day: Sunday, January 22nd, 1:00 p.m.

Bring your gaming skills and try one of the library's Nintendo Switch games! Fun for the whole family, children under 11 must be accompanied by an adult. Participation prize for all attendees. RSVP requested, 12 spots are available, please call or email the library to sign up. Location: Community Room.

Book Challenge Coffee Hour: Thursday, January 26th, 5:30 pm

Join the library director in taking on the 2023 Massachusetts Center for the Book Reading Challenge! Each month has a specific challenge. In January we will read "a book that is less than 100 pages in length". Sign up for the challenge online: www.massbook.org/readingchallenge. Visit our display of books that fit the monthly category and join us on the last Thursday of the month for coffee/tea and discussion. Decaf available. No RSVP required. Location: Adult area.

Teen Movie Monday: Monday, January 30th, 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 January movie. No RSVP required. Location: Makerspace.

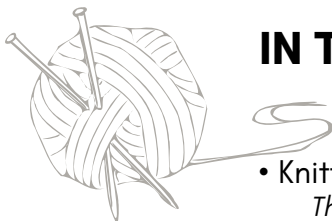
IN THE MAKERSPACE THIS MONTH:

GET STARTED WITH KNITTING!

We have everything you need to get going:

- Knitting & Crochet Needles
- Small balls of yarn

This activity is for adults or teens with an adult helper.



Books on display at the library that fit the monthly challenge or ask a librarian to help you find one!

Monthly discussion group with the Library Director:

Last Thursday of the month at 5:30 p.m.
Coffee & tea served (decaf available)

Party at the end of the year for anyone who reads at least one book!

ERVING
PUBLIC
LIBRARY
does the
READING



2023 Reading Challenge

JANUARY

A book less than 100 pages in length

FEBRUARY

A book set in your home town/city or state

MARCH

A Mass Book Awards honoree

APRIL

A collection of poetry

MAY

A book of nonfiction on a subject new to you

JUNE

A book set in a country you've never visited

JULY

A book borrowed from your local library

AUGUST

A book in translation

SEPTEMBER

A book by an author with your first or last name

OCTOBER

A bestseller from the year you turned 18

NOVEMBER

A book recommended by a local bookseller

DECEMBER

A book published in 2023

1. Sign up at massbook.org/readingchallenge.
2. Choose a book that fits the monthly challenge.
3. After you read, fill out a short form to tell us about the book.
4. That's it!
 - If you read at least one book, you will be invited to a year-end celebration hosted by Mass Center for the Book.
 - If you read a book in each of the 12 months, you will be entered in a drawing to win 1 of 2 totes filled with books and Massachusetts goodies.

SIGN UP ONLINE:
[MASSBOOK.ORG/READINGCHALLENGE](https://massbook.org/readingchallenge)

2023 MCB
CHALLENGE

Friends of the Erving Library Wish You Happy New Year !



*“The new year stands before us,
like a chapter in a book,
waiting to be written.” Gwen Geez*

The Friends look forward to writing about the exciting activities and events they plan for the Erving Library throughout the coming year. The Friends thank the community for supporting their fundraising events. It is through your support that the Friends are able to offer programs and events at the library.

TWO NEW PASSES at the Library! Two exciting new items at the Erving Library are two passes to the Pioneer Valley Symphony 84th Season. If you enjoy listening to a symphony then you will want to make plans to attend one or more of the musical performances by the Pioneer Valley Symphony during their 84th season, For the Love of Music. Each pass may be redeemed for up to four tickets! The concerts take place at various venues within Franklin or Hampshire county. The Friends thank the Pioneer Symphony for generously making these passes available to libraries throughout the county. The first concert of this year is **Spring Choral Festival, “Celebrating the Joy of Community Singing” - Saturday, March 4, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. in Hadley** Visit pvsoc.org for additional information (location of concert) and for the most up to date season information. *For Friday and Saturday performances, you must pick up the pass by Thursday of that week.*

Puzzle Swap-January 8, 2023 Community Room at the Library 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Thank you to everyone that has generously donated to the puzzle swap. Stop by to pick up a jigsaw puzzle for relaxation or select one that may present a challenge for you. We have one puzzle that claims to be the “world’s most difficult” puzzle, which sounds like a challenge to me. Do you want to take on the challenge?

Craft Day for Adults and Teens-January 15, 2023 Makerspace at the Library 1:00 p.m. Join other crafters as they learn to make paper flowers with instructor, Paulina Borrego. Create a bouquet for yourself or give to your Valentine. The craft is free and materials are provided by the Friends of the Library. *You can call the library at 423-3348 to reserve your seat early or call the day of the craft to see if space is available.*

To serve the community in the best way possible when planning events, activities or the monthly craft sessions for teens and adults, the Friends need your help in selecting topics that would be of interest to you.

Friends of the Library News

Would you like to learn the art of quilling? *As stated on Wikipedia, "Quilling is an [art form](#) that involves the use of strips of [paper](#) that are rolled, shaped, and glued together to create decorative designs. The paper is rolled, looped, curled, twisted, and otherwise manipulated to create shapes that make up designs to decorate greetings cards, create pictures..."*

The Friends would like to offer a crafting class on using the art of quilling to decorate a greeting card. We would like to know if there is community interest in this art form to substantiate hiring an instructor to teach one or more classes. Each crafter that attends will be given a quilling tool, a small glue bottle designed to use for quilling, greeting card paper, and paper strips.

If you are interested in attending this class, please let the Friends of the library know by: sending an email to ervinglibraryfriends@gmail.com OR complete the form below and leave it at the circulation desk of the library or put the form in the book drop and the message will be delivered to the Friends group.



Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Phone number: _____

____ I am interested in taking the quilling class.

Please list any other ideas you may have for a crafting event:

Events or programs that you would like to see at the library that could be sponsored by the Friends. (i.e. musical events, informational events or demonstrations, performances).

Schedule for 2023



The cost of toenail clipping is \$7.00

This is still a great value. Erving is subsidizing
\$8.00 for a total cost of \$15.00

Schedule: 2nd Tuesday of each month 8:30 to 10:00

January 10th

February 14th

March 14th

April 11th

May 9th

June 13th

No Clinic

August 8th

September 12th

October 10th

November 14th

December 12th

There is an
in-home nail
clipping service.
Please call Mindy
for details
978-544-2587
Please note the
dates on your
calendar





Erving Senior Center

2023

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
<p>Open week-days 8:30am - 3:00pm 413-423-3649</p>	<p>Happy New Year!</p>	<p>3 9:00 ASK the Nurse Blood Press 9:00 Good for U 10:00 Line Dancing 11:00 Social Stringer</p>	<p>4 9:00 Strength & Cond (Linda) 10:15 Chair Aerobics 11:30 BINGO 1:00 Veterans Ser-</p>	<p>5 9:00 Core & Bal 10:00 Barre Fusion 12:00 Brown Bag Coffee & Cards</p>	<p>6 9:00 to 3:00 Quilting open sew Fitness room open Coffee & Snacks</p>	<p>Thank you all who attended our Holiday Bazaar. It was a success for all</p> 
 <p>Nail clipping will be on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Yearly calendar available Cost \$7.00 no appointment necessary</p>	<p>9 9:00 Interval (Linda) 10:15 Seated workout (Laura) 12:00 Pitch Cards</p>	<p>10 8:30 Toe Nail Clipping 9:00 Good for U 10:00 Line Dancing 11:00 Social Stringer</p>	<p>11 9:00 Strength & Cond (Linda) 10:15 Chair Aerobics 11:30 BINGO</p>	<p>12 9:00 Core & Bal (Linda) 10:00 Barre Fusion Coffee & Snacks</p>	<p>13 9:00 to 3:00 Quilting open sew Fitness room open Coffee & Snacks</p>	 <p>Holiday Greeters</p>
<p>Come ride with us. Van available for Medical Rides shopping or to the center. Please call 24hr ahead</p>	<p>16 9:00 Interval (Linda) Workout 10:15 Seated workout 12:00 Pitch Cards</p>	<p>17 9:00 Good for U 10:00 Line Dancing 11:00 Social Stringer Fitness Room open Coffee & Snacks</p>	<p>18 9:00 Strength & Cond (Linda) 10:15 Chair Aerobics 11:30 BINGO Coffee & Cards</p>	<p>19 9:00 Core & Bal (Linda) 10:00 Barre Fusion Coffee & Snacks Fitness Rm open</p>	<p>20 9:00 to 3:00 Quilting open sew Fitness room open Coffee & Snacks</p>	<p>Lots of great stuff coming this spring. Will let you know about it as we get closer to March 2023</p>
	<p>23 9:00 Interval (Linda) Workout 10:15 Seated workout 12:00 Pitch Cards</p>	<p>24 9:00 Good for U 10:00 Line Dancing 11:00 Social Stringer Fitness Room open</p>	<p>25 9:00 Strength & Cond (Linda) 10:15 Chair Aerobics 11:30 BINGO Coffee & Cards</p>	<p>26 9:00 Core & Bal (Linda) 10:00 Barre Fusion Coffee & Snacks Fitness Rm open</p>	<p>27 9:00 to 3:00 Quilting open sew Fitness room open Coffee & Snacks</p>	<p>Coffee & Treats Daily</p> 
	<p>30 9:00 Interval (Linda) Workout 10:15 Seated workout 12:00 Pitch Cards</p>	<p>31 9:00 Good for U 10:00 Line Dancing 11:00 Social Stringer Fitness Room open</p>		<p>AUSTRALIAN Natural Soap: Always in stock at The Center.</p>		

ERVING COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS NEWS



Dahna Virgilio
REAL ESTATE

Sarah Underwood

Your REALTOR for LIFE
Since 2014

413-834-3263 sarah@dahna.com
486 Main St, Ste 2 Greenfield, MA 01301

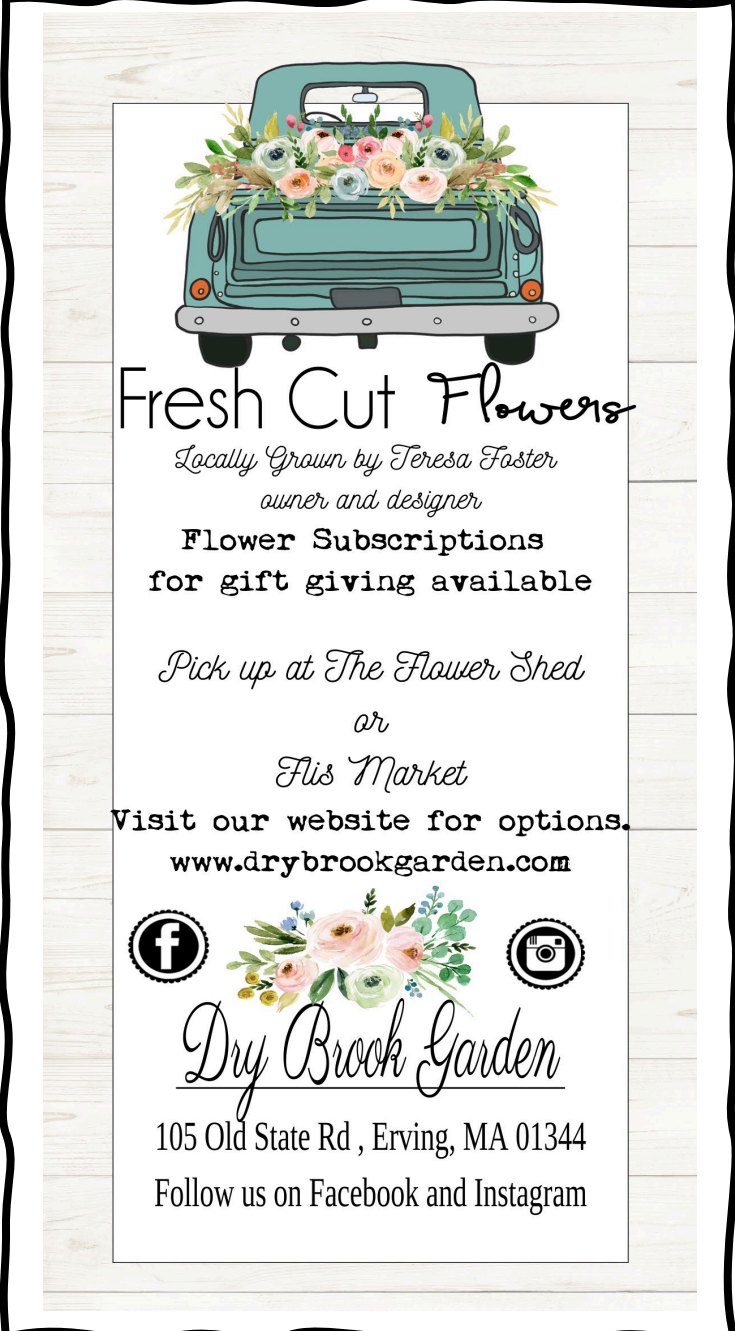
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2015 WINNER 2017 FINALIST 2018 WINNER 2022 WINNER 2019 FINALIST 2020 FINALIST 2021 WINNER

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

- 2022 Price & Product List**
- 1/2 Gallons \$32.00**
 - Quarts \$20.00**
 - Pints \$12.00**
 - 1/2 Pints \$7.00**
 - Maple Cream 1/2 lb. \$10.00**

Support Local for the Holidays! Makes a great gift!




Fresh Cut Flowers
*Locally Grown by Teresa Foster
owner and designer*

**Flower Subscriptions
for gift giving available**

*Pick up at The Flower Shed
or
Flis Market*

Visit our website for options.
www.drybrookgarden.com

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

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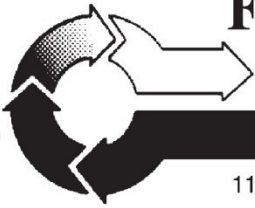
4 Elm Street
South Deerfield, MA 01373

Each Office Is Independently Owned and Operated

 **COLDWELL BANKER**
COMMUNITY REALTORS

REDUCTION
RECYCLING
COMPOSTING
DISPOSAL



Franklin County Solid Waste Management District

117 Main Street., 2nd Floor, Greenfield, MA 01301 • (413) 772-2438 • Fax: (413) 772-3786
www.franklincountywastedistrict.org • info@franklincountywastedistrict.org

PRESS RELEASE: For Immediate Release

Re: Holiday Recycling Guidelines
Contact: Amy Donovan, Program Director (amy@franklincountywastedistrict.org)
Date: December 2022

Reduce Trash this Holiday Season What to recycle, creatively reuse, and compost

During the holiday season, the average American family disposes of 25% more trash than they usually do (Source: US EPA). Think about your household: could some of this trash be reduced, reused, recycled or composted? When families reduce their holiday trash, they can save money on “Pay As You Throw” town trash stickers or bags, reduce carbon and methane emissions, and protect our environment.

Recycling Yes/No

These items are on the “yes” list for household recycling: wrapping paper, gift bags, tissue paper, and paper greeting cards/envelopes that do NOT contain metallic inks, glitter, or foil (for example, foil-lined envelopes). Tape and labels are okay. Remove batteries from singing greeting cards before recycling the card.

Other recyclable paper items include catalogs, calendars, paper shopping bags, and cardboard (corrugated and paperboard). Here’s a holiday tip: when opening or wrapping gifts, keep a paper bag handy to collect paper recyclables.

These items are on the “no” list for household recycling: ribbons, bows, tinsel, glossy photo cards, holiday light strings, Christmas tree netting, bubble wrap, paper envelopes lined with bubble wrap, packing peanuts, Styrofoam in any form, plastic shipping envelopes, or formed plastic used to package toys, electronics, etc.

Holiday light strings, power cords, and Christmas tree netting are not acceptable in municipal recycling programs because these “tangles” get wrapped around the sorting equipment at recycling facilities.

Recyclables from Franklin County towns are processed at the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility (MRF). For recycling guides, including a colorful yes/no holiday recycling guide, visit springfieldmrf.org and click on “What’s Recyclable.”

Recycling Options for Other Materials

Holiday light strings and power cords are accepted for recycling at scrap metal dealers and in the scrap metal dumpsters at town transfer stations. In addition, mail-in programs are available at holidayleds.com and christmas-light-source.com.

“Pack and ship” stores, for example The UPS Store in Greenfield, accept clean, dry packing materials such as bubble wrap, packing peanuts, and inflatable “air pillow” packaging for reuse.

Plastic bag recycling programs at grocery and retail stores accept bubble wrap, plastic shipping envelopes (no paper), inflatable “air pillow” packaging, and other bags/films marked #2 or #4. A list of acceptable items is at: plasticfilmrecycling.org.

Certain batteries (rechargeable, button, and lithium) are accepted for special recycling at transfer stations; place in a bag or container and hand to attendant.

When the holidays are over, check with your town about Christmas tree recycling. Your tree may be recycled as mulch this spring.

Creative Reuse

In addition to recycling, consider wrapping your gifts in reused materials that you already have at home. Gifts can be creatively wrapped in reused wrapping paper, old calendar pages, sheet music, maps or map book pages, paper bags, old posters, wallpaper scraps, fabric, scarves, newspaper, comics, or kids' artwork.

Gifts can be wrapped in cloth bags, reusable decorative tins, reusable shopping bags, or baskets. Or make the wrapping part of the gift; for example, a kitchen towel or oven mitt to hold kitchen utensils or gadgets, or a book wrapped in a scarf.

Wrapped gifts can be tied up with twine and adorned with pine or holly branches, pinecones, shells or buttons. Last year's holiday cards can be cut up to reuse as beautiful gift cards.

For a fun craft activity with kids, this online tutorial from Tori Avey shows how to make beautiful Hanukkah gift wrap with homemade potato stamps:

toriavey.com/homemade-hanukkah-wrapping-paper/ Grab some reused paper bags, a

couple of potatoes, and some acrylic paint or stamp pads. Cut bag along the side and bottom to make one big sheet. Cut the potatoes in half and (adults) carve shapes into the flat potato surface or use cookie cutters to press shapes into ½ inch potato slices. When you are all done, you can cut off the painted parts of the potato and compost the rest!

One of the most important steps for reusing materials is unwrapping gifts carefully and saving gift-wrap, gift boxes, ribbons, bows and gift bags for reuse next year.



Compost

Another way to reduce holiday trash is to compost food and paper waste generated from holiday meals. Food scraps might seem small, but they add up: 28% of the residential trash in Massachusetts is compostable material such as food and paper waste. (Data from MassDEP's 2019 Waste Characterization Study: <https://tinyurl.com/2019WasteStudy>)

Municipal compost programs accept all types of food waste, including meat, bones, cheese, plus paper waste such as paper napkins, paper towels, and more. Unacceptable items include liquids, foil, metal, glass, and plastic. These programs accept compostable material are free of charge (access permit or entrance fee may be required). The following transfer stations in Franklin County have compost programs: Bernardston, Charlemont, Conway, Deerfield, Greenfield (open to non-residents for a \$5 host fee), Leverett, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Orange, Shelburne, Warwick, Wendell, and Whately.

The Solid Waste District sells discounted "Earth Machine" home compost bins and compost pails to District residents. Pricing is \$25 or \$55 depending on the resident's town. It is not recommended to put meat, bones, dairy in home compost bins. For more details and pricing, contact the solid waste district or see: franklincountywastedistrict.org/Composting

For more information, contact Franklin County Solid Waste Management District: (413) 772-2438, info@franklincountywastedistrict.org; or visit franklincountywastedistrict.org. MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD).

HOLIDAY RECYCLING REMINDER

Happy Holidays! Thank you for your recycling efforts over the past year. Following are some guidelines for recycling during the holiday months and all year long:

Please **DO** include the following items in your paper recycling mix:

YES

- ✓ wrapping paper, gift bags, tissue paper (except those with metallic inks, glitter, or foil)
- ✓ corrugated cardboard boxes, paperboard gift boxes
- ✓ paper shopping bags (any type of handle is okay)
- ✓ paper greeting cards (not with metallic inks, glitter, or foil; remove batteries)
- ✓ Catalogs, calendars and magazines



TIP: Keep a recycle bin or paper bag handy near gift unwrapping.

Please **DO NOT** include the following items in your household recycling:

NO

- ☒ ribbons, bows, and tinsel (reusable from year to year)
- ☒ holiday light strings (accepted in scrap metal dumpsters, + WtE scrap metal, Greenfield)
- ☒ packing peanuts, Styrofoam™, bubble wrap, inflatable "air pillow" packaging (clean, dry packing materials accepted for reuse at The UPS Store in Greenfield.)
- ☒ plastic bags, plastic shipping envelopes, bubble wrap, air pillows (these materials plus clean, dry plastic bags marked #2 or #4 accepted in retail plastic bag bins. plasticfilmrecycling.org)
- ☒ formed plastic packaging from items like toys and electronics
- ☒ glossy photographs, paper envelopes with bubble wrap inside, ornaments, decorations

Questions? Franklin County Solid Waste Management District: info@franklincountywastedistrict.org, (413) 772-2438
More info: franklincountywastedistrict.org, springfieldmrf.org.
MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD).

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



800-CASELLA
casella.com



Town of Erving
MASSACHUSETTS

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

TOWN HALL OFFICE HOURS		12 East Main Street
Town Hall is opened to the public on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 - 5 p.m. or by Appointment.		
Selectmen's Office	Monday thru Thursday Friday	9:00am – 5:00pm 9:00am – 1:00pm
Town Accountant	By Appointment	
Assessor	Monday Tuesday & Thursday	9:00am–5:00pm
Treasurer	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday	9:00am – 3:00pm
Tax Collector	Tuesday & Thursday Wednesday	10:00 am - 3:00 pm 8:30 am - 12:00 pm
Town Clerk	By Appointment	
Emergency Mgmt Director	By Appointment	

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

SENIOR & COMMUNITY CENTER AND PUBLIC LIBRARY HOURS		
Senior & Community Center 1 Care Drive	Monday thru Friday	8:00am – 4:00pm
Erving Public Library 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.	

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

