



Town of Avon Newsletter

ISSUE XXIX

October, 2009

Fall Referendum & Municipal Elections

This fall the Town will be holding both a referendum on October 22nd and municipal elections on November 3rd. Information about the referendum for the expansion of the Library and important dates to remember for the municipal elections are listed below.

A sample ballot showing the list of candidates for Districts 1, 2 and 3 is shown on page 7.

GENERAL ELECTION DATES TO REMEMBER

October 17, 2009 - Registrar of Voters will be in their office at 60 West Main Street, Building #1, Avon, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to register voters.

October 27, 2009 - Last day to register to vote in person to be eligible to vote on November 3, 2009. The Registrar of Voters will be in their office at 60 West

Main Street, Building #1, Avon, from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. to register voters. Any questions regarding voter registration should be directed to the Registrars of Voters at 409-4350.

October 31, 2009 - The Town Clerk will be in her office at 60 West Main Street, Building #2, Avon, to issue **absentee ballots only** from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

November 2, 2009 - Last day to apply for an absentee ballot. Last day to register to vote by 12:00 p.m. in person if you just turned 18 years of age, became a United States Citizen or have moved into Avon since October 27, 2009.

November 3, 2009 - Election Day – The polls will open at 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. See back page of the newsletter for polling locations.

Library Referendum

A Special Town Meeting was held on September 21st to provide residents and voters with information about a proposal to renovate and expand the Avon Free Public Library located at 281 Country Club Road. The Town Meeting was adjourned to a referendum that will be held on Thursday, October 22nd from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Avon Senior Center, located at 635 West Avon Road. The question before the voters that will appear on the ballot is:

“SHALL THE TOWN OF AVON APPROPRIATE \$9,500,000 FOR THE AVON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY RENOVATIONS AND ADDITIONS PROJECT, AND PROVIDE THAT THE APPROPRIATION BE FUNDED IN PART FROM AN ESTIMATED \$1,500,000 IN GRANTS AND DONATIONS AND THE BALANCE FROM THE PROCEEDS OF NOT TO EXCEED \$8,000,000 IN BONDS OR NOTES?”

The last day to register to vote is Wednesday, October 21st at 4:00 p.m. at either the Town Clerk’s Office or Registrar of Voters’ Office, both located at 60 West Main Street. Electors and taxpayers are permitted to vote. A taxpayer must be at least 18 years of age, owner of real or personal property in the Town of Avon with a total assessed value of \$1,000 or more as of the October 1, 2008 Grand List and is an American Citizen.

Residents interested in determining the amount of tax owed as a result of this project may multiply their assessment by .004325 or log on to the Avon Assessor’s website at:

www.town.avon.ct.us/Public_Documents/AvonCT_Assessor/assessor



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Construction Updates

Avon Middle School Roof: At a referendum held in February 2009 voters approved a \$2,845,000 project to fund the replacement of the Middle School Roof as well as the rooftop mounted air conditioning units that serve the building. The original roof was 40 years old, and the newer addition, 17 years old. The roof and 7 of the 13 air conditioning units were replaced over the summer, and the balance of the work will be completed in October. The project is anticipated to cost \$110,000 less than budgeted.

The new roof and air conditioning units have higher energy efficiency ratings, and thus are eligible for various rebate programs from CL&P totaling \$49,930.

Deepwood Drive Sewer Installation:

Construction has begun on a project to install gravity-fed sewers in a portion of Deepwood Drive. Mastrobattisto, the company hired through a competitive bid process, began work on September 28th and anticipates completion of the project by November 30th. This project is the first phase of a two-phase project on this street. The second phase is planned to be done in 2010, after which the road will be repaved. Assessments will be levied to cover most of the cost.

Avon Mountain: Work continues on the reconstruction of Route 44 from the Avon/West Hartford town line to the intersection of Route 10 and Nod Road. Construction this year has focused on building the new sections of road and the infrastructure to support them. Drivers can anticipate that travel will be shifted at times to these new lanes in order to allow construction to start on changes required on the existing road. Although the traffic

patterns will change, travel will continue to be one lane in either direction until the completion of the project. Construction of the planted median strip will commence in 2010, after which the full four lanes of traffic will be open. The entire project is scheduled to be completed by November, 2010.

Town Center Streetscape Improvements: Construction is underway on a project to make improvements to the streetscape along Route 44 in the Town Center. Improvements include installation of new granite curbing, replacement and relocation of the sidewalk in accordance with handicap accessible standards, installation of decorative street lighting and new driveway aprons. The project area starts at the Town Green and ends at the intersection of Route 10 and Old Farms Road. This project is funded primarily from a \$309,595 State of Connecticut Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant.

Salt Shed Replacement: Construction is underway on the replacement of the salt shed located at the Public Works Garage. \$200,000 was included in this year's capital budget to replace the shed built by employees 19 years ago with a covered shed that can hold up to 2,000 tons of salt. The shed should be complete and ready for salt deliveries by mid-November. The new shed will allow for larger deliveries, which has been a critical issue in past winters when we are experiencing frequent storms. The new building will also offer better protection to the material which should not be exposed to weather until it is spread on the streets.

Town Manager Transition

The Town Council is in the process of conducting a search to find a replacement for Philip K. Schenck, Jr., who is retiring at the end of this year after more than 31 years of service to the Town of Avon. Mr. Schenck joined the Town in 1978, and is currently the second longest serving Town Manager in the State of

Connecticut. He will retire on January 4, 2010 but will continue working for the Town until June, 2010 to assist with the transition of the new Town Manager and complete some special projects. The new Town Manager will begin their duties on January 4, 2010.

The Town of Avon would like to thank Mr. Schenck for his many years of dedicated service to the Town, and we wish him well in all of his future endeavors!!!!!!!



After School Ski/Snowboard Information

Registration will be held November 4th & 5th on a first come, first served basis from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. at the Avon Town Hall. Registration for the ski program cannot be done online. Ski/Snowboard registration forms will be available on our website at www.town.avon.ct.us or in the Recreation Office in late October. We cannot accept regular registration forms for this program. You must fill out the appropriate form specific to the ski/snowboard program.

Registration ends November 20th for the after school program and January 22nd for the February Vacation program.

After School Ski/Snowboard program for grades 5-12

Grades 5-6 go on Thursdays, January 7,14,21,28, February 4.

Grades 7-12 go on Tuesdays, January 5,12,19,26, February 2. or

Grades 7-12 go on Wednesdays, January 6,13,20,27, February 3.

Pick up immediately after school dismisses, and the bus returns at approximately 7:45 p.m.

February Vacation Ski/Snowboard program for grades 4-8

February 16,17,18,19, 2010. Pick up approximately 11:00 a.m., returns at approximately 3:45 p.m. to the Avon Middle School.

Detailed registration information will be sent out through the Avon School system in mid October.

Landfill Changes and Updates

Compactor Area Renovations: With the addition of 12 new parking bays, we have doubled the parking area in front of the compactor area, allowing for easier access and quicker dumping times. The new curb-less area is being lauded by young and old. Overall residents are finding it more convenient to use the area.

Single Stream Recycling: With the ability to mix the recyclables into one compactor bin, residents are finding it much easier to dispose of their recyclables. In addition, the Town has cut down on the number of loads being sent to CRRA resulting in a cost savings on transportation fees. Single Stream Recycling is also beginning to show an increase in recycling tonnage collected. By discarding less household refuse through increased recycling rates, this will also lead to future cost savings on household trash transportation and disposal fees.

Electronic Recycling Center: Since August 1st we have recycled over

10,000 pounds of electronics. All of the electronics recycled have cut down the tonnage previously dumped into a bulky roll-off container resulting in transportation and disposal fee cost savings for the Town.



Books, toys, bikes, and small furniture, etc. are accepted. All items dropped off must be in good, serviceable condition. Due to the limited amount of space in the Exchange, please check with an attendant before dropping off larger items. Larger items that cannot be dropped off in the Exchange that are still in good, serviceable condition can be advertised on the bulletin board inside the Exchange. You can

also access the following websites:

<http://www.freecycle.org/>

<http://www.ourearth.org/>

Note: The Exchange is not equipped to handle mattresses, bedsprings, firearms, ammunition, explosives, pots, pans, dishes, knives, Freon units, large mirrors, plate glass, toilets, clothes, pillows, large stuffed toys, food items, carpets, and electronics.

ANNUAL REPORT & TOWN CALENDAR DELIVERY

Residents are advised that due to budget constraints the Annual Report will not be mailed to all households as has been done in the past. The Town Council, during the budget process, voted to limit printing of the report to 500 copies, which will be available at Town Hall and the Library. The reports should be ready for pick-up by December 1st.



Federal Stimulus Grant Funds

The Town of Avon will be receiving several types of funds as part of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) approved by Congress earlier this year. Specifically, the Town is receiving:

- \$769,004 in education grants, primarily for use in the areas of special education and pre-school education. A portion of these funds has also been used to retain some positions that had



otherwise been eliminated from the current year's budget;

- \$75,189 in energy efficiency and conservation grant funds. The Avon Clean Energy Commission has recommended that these funds be used to develop a comprehensive energy plan, replace overhead doors at the Public Works Garage, and purchase signage to educate residents on the benefits of not letting vehicles idle. A comprehensive energy plan will assist the Town in identifying

the best way to utilize future dollars to be spent on energy efficiency;

- \$30,000 in funding to support public safety programs. The Town intends to use these funds to purchase seven defibrillator units of the latest technology for use by our Police Department who are the Town's designated First Responders, as well as new radar and laser units for traffic enforcement programs. These items had been removed from the current year's budget due to limited funding.

Avon Free Public Library Upcoming Events

The Lionheart Puppet Company will present "The Emperor's New Clothes" at the Avon Free Public Library on Saturday, October 24th at 3:00 p.m. (sharp), for ages 4 and up. Patrons are encouraged to bring a cushion to sit on.

The Teen Advisory Board of the Avon Free Public Library will hold a Halloween party with computer gaming for grades 7 and up on

Friday, October 23rd at 3:00 p.m. Contact Amber Lansing at 673-9712.

The Friends of the Avon Free Public Library will host the annual birthday party, at the Library for children ages 3 and up on Saturday, November 14th at 3:00 p.m. Robert Rivest, Mime, will perform "Laughter".

For more information on the children's programs, call the Children's Room at 673-9712.

Avon Senior Center

- Event:** Veteran's Celebration
Date: Wednesday, 11/18/2009
Time: 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.
Place: Avon Senior Center

This event is FREE. Please sign up by November 1st by calling the Senior Center at 675-4355.

Candidate Forum - Wednesday, October 28th

The League of Women Voters is sponsoring a candidate forum at the Avon Senior Center located at 635 West Avon Road; the event is scheduled to start at 7:00 p.m. This event is free of charge and open to all Avon voters and interested parties. This evening is sponsored in cooperation with both the Democratic and Republican Town Committees. The purpose of the forum is to provide Avon voters with the opportunity to

hear candidates from the various Town Boards speak about issues facing Avon. The event will be moderated by Carole Mulready, League of Women Voters of Greater Hartford Voter Service Chairperson.

For additional information about this event, Carole can be contacted at: cgm1@mulready.biz or (860) 478-5760.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING INFORMATION PRINTED IN THIS NEWSLETTER, CALL THE AVON TOWN HALL AT 409-4377.

BLYTHE C. ROBINSON - ASSISTANT TOWN MANAGER



FY 2010/2011 Budget Process has Started

The process is already underway to begin planning for the FY 2010/2011 budget that takes effect on July 1, 2010. All town departments have submitted their capital budget requests, and operating budget requests are due in early November. Residents who are interested in participating in the meetings at which the details of the budget are discussed may be interested in the following.

Capital Budget Presentations: all to be held in the Selectmen's Chamber at Avon Town Hall, 60 West Main

Street, on the following dates and times:

November 5th - 6:30 p.m.

November 16th - 7:00 p.m.

December 3rd - 7:00 p.m.

Operating Budget Workshop: This is traditionally an all day meeting to be held in February in the Selectmen's Chamber at Town Hall. Watch your January issue of the Newsletter for the date! The complete budget calendar is available on-line at: www.town.avon.ct.us.

FEMA Updates Flood Zone Maps

In September 2008 the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released an updated version of its flood maps for Hartford County. These maps can be overlaid on digital maps to determine the risk areas for a 1% and 0.2% annual flood (previously referred to as 100-year and 500-year flood). Because it is now easier to determine which properties are in flood zones, properties that had not previously been designated in a flood zone now are, and owners are being required by their lending institutions to purchase flood insurance which was not previously compulsory.

FEMA has created the digital maps for the entire Town using the previous FEMA map information, without performing additional flood studies. The Town has been evaluating its elevation contour mapping (from 1984) against these new maps, and has found locations where the defined flood zones do not match ground contours. Engineering department staff has been in contact with

FEMA to petition for Letters of Map Revision (LOMR), but this is only feasible where flood zone studies were performed.

Residents who have been notified of the new requirement that they obtain flood insurance, or are interested in determining if they are now in this zone should check FEMA's website which is located at: <http://msc.fema.gov> or <http://www.FEMA.floodmaps.gov>. FEMA allows individual homeowners to seek relief from the requirement by filing a Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA). Details about what is required for this is also accessible from this website. The Town can supply information to homeowners that is helpful in the LOMA process, though an elevation certificate is often required which must be prepared by a licensed surveyor.

Residents who have questions or would like to know more about flood zone information may contact the Engineering Department at 409-4322.

Management Consulting Study

In May of this year Matrix Consulting Group concluded its work to review several areas of the Town and Board of Education operations that are non-educational in nature to determine if these areas could be managed in a more efficient or effective manner. Matrix presented its findings to the Town Council, Board of Finance and Board of Education in June, and the report was accepted by the Town Council in July. The consultant found that both organizations possess a number of strengths in the delivery of services with the resources available to them. The report provided twenty-seven recommendations for

the Town and Board of Education to consider streamlining processes, improve technology, and conduct operations in accordance with best management practices for municipal operations. A majority of these items have no additional cost to implement. Opportunities for cost savings were identified, as well as recommendations where additional funds should be spent to increase efficiency. The Town Council has appointed a joint Town and Board of Education internal staff committee to recommend an implementation plan for all items contained in the report.



Avon Volunteer Fire Department Reminders

October is Fire Prevention Month

Throughout the month, the Avon Volunteer Fire Department will visit nursery schools, day care facilities, and elementary schools in town to teach children about fire prevention and safety.

You should be able to respond "yes" to the each of the following statements:

- ◆ There is at least one smoke detector located on every floor of my home.
- ◆ Smoke detectors are placed near bedrooms, either on the ceiling or on the wall six to 12 inches below the ceiling.
- ◆ Smoke detectors are tested at least monthly in accordance with

the manufacturer's instructions and are kept in working condition at all times.

- ◆ Batteries are replaced according to the manufacturer's instructions, at least twice annually. Change the clocks – change the battery.
- ◆ Batteries are NEVER disconnected.
- ◆ Smoke detectors have a distinct warning signal that can be heard by those both asleep and awake.

Don't forget to make a fire escape plan – gather with all the members of your household and draw a floor plan, marking two exits from each room, especially bedrooms since most fire deaths occur at night during sleeping hours. Practice the escape

plan and identify a designated meeting place to help determine whether everyone is out of the house. Remember, once you are out, stay out. Finally, make sure your house number is visible from the street. That will help emergency personnel find your home quickly.

Daylight Savings Time

Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 1st. So, before going to bed Saturday, October 31, remember to change your clocks back one hour. At the Avon Volunteer Fire Department (AVFD), this is the time of year when we remind residents and businesses to change their smoke alarm and carbon monoxide (CO) detector batteries.

Social Services

2009 Holiday Gift Basket Program:

The Town of Avon, Department of Social Services is seeking local families, individuals, and other parties who would be interested in sponsoring an Avon family in need for the Thanksgiving and/or Christmas holiday. Please check out the Town website, under Social Services link ("2009 Holiday Gift Basket Program") if you are interested in sponsoring an Avon family or call our office at 409-4346.



pay for primary heating bills (i.e. oil, propane, electric, & gas). To be eligible, household income could be up to 200% of the federal poverty income guidelines and must meet a certain limit for assets.

For the upcoming 2009-2010 winter season, Avon Social Services has mailed RETURNING applicants a packet in September. If you

have not received this mailing, please call Social Services at 409-4346 or email us at ksong@town.avon.ct.us

If you have never applied and/or are interested in receiving more information on this program, please check out our website, under the Social Services link ("Energy Assistance & Renters Rebate") or call our office at 409-4346 to see if you qualify & to schedule an appointment.

Operation Fuel:

Operation Fuel provides one-time assistance with heating bills for those households who may be slightly over-income/assets for government programs (like the one listed above). More information is usually available by October-November each year through Gifts of Love at (860) 676-2323.

CT Energy Assistance Programs:

The State of CT can help households



Town Center Improvements

State funds Additional Town Center Improvements

On September 25th the Governor's Office announced that the Town's application submitted in January 2009 for \$500,000 under the Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) had been awarded at the reduced amount of \$200,000. The funding will be used to continue improvements to the Avon Center Streetscape on Route 44

from the Town Green eastward to Old Avon Village. The improvements include installation of granite curbing, decorative lighting, realignment and replacement of sidewalks, replacement of driveway aprons and other decorative features. This grant compliments \$309,595 received in 2008 to start the project. Construction will likely take place in the spring of 2010.

Peachtree Village

Work has begun on a new elderly housing rental apartment project known as Peachtree Village. The project consists of 103 apartment units located on a 17-acre parcel of land in Avon Park South. This property has frontage on Darling Drive, Security Drive, and Arch Road. Driveway access to the project will be from Darling Drive. The unit styles are in "flats"; each unit will have an independent entrance to the exterior. The project also

includes a clubhouse for residents who reside within the project, a substantial amount of landscaping, and the construction of sidewalks on Darling and Security Drive, which provide a connection with the Farmington Valley Greenway. Occupancy of the first unit is expected to be late 2010. The project is being developed by Metro Realty of Farmington. For more information they may be reached at (860) 674-5641.

Municipal Election "Sample" Ballot

State of Connecticut
Official Ballot

Avon, Connecticut Municipal Election Date of Election
November 3, 2009

Be sure to read the instructions on the reverse side of this ballot.

OFFICE →	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
PARTY ↓	Town Council Vote for Any Five					Board of Finance Vote for Any Four				Board of Education Vote for Any Four				Board of Assessment Appeals Vote for Any Two		Zoning Board of Appeals Vote for Any Two	
REPUBLICAN	<input type="radio"/> 1A William R. Hooper II	<input type="radio"/> 2A Pamela V. Samul	<input type="radio"/> 3A Mark W. Zaccio	<input type="radio"/> 4A Douglas M. Evans	<input type="radio"/> 5A	<input type="radio"/> 6A Cathy M. Durdan	<input type="radio"/> 7A Margaret H. Bratton	<input type="radio"/> 8A James E. Speich	<input type="radio"/> 9A	<input type="radio"/> 10A Peggy J. Houli	<input type="radio"/> 11A William C. Stokesbury	<input type="radio"/> 12A Kathy Zirilli	<input type="radio"/> 13A	<input type="radio"/> 14A Richard S. Connel	<input type="radio"/> 15A	<input type="radio"/> 16A Eric C. Jehansen	<input type="radio"/> 17A
DEMOCRATIC	<input type="radio"/> 1B James J. Langworth	<input type="radio"/> 2B David Pusa	<input type="radio"/> 3B William J. Stea II	<input type="radio"/> 4B	<input type="radio"/> 5B	<input type="radio"/> 6B Brien W. Preleski	<input type="radio"/> 7B Peter J. Mahoney	<input type="radio"/> 8B Thomas A. Gugliotti	<input type="radio"/> 9B Thomas R. West III	<input type="radio"/> 10B Jay S. Spivak	<input type="radio"/> 11B Thomas S. McIntyre	<input type="radio"/> 12B Benjamin S. Colman	<input type="radio"/> 13B Kelley R. Lanahan	<input type="radio"/> 14B Timothy S. Owens	<input type="radio"/> 15B Samuel D. Chester	<input type="radio"/> 16B David B. Belzer	<input type="radio"/> 17B Suzanne C. Hard
PETITIONING CANDIDATE	<input type="radio"/> 1C	<input type="radio"/> 2C	<input type="radio"/> 3C	<input type="radio"/> 4C	<input type="radio"/> 5C	<input type="radio"/> 6C	<input type="radio"/> 7C	<input type="radio"/> 8C	<input type="radio"/> 9C	<input type="radio"/> 10C John Douglas Corning	<input type="radio"/> 11C	<input type="radio"/> 12C	<input type="radio"/> 13C	<input type="radio"/> 14C	<input type="radio"/> 15C	<input type="radio"/> 16C	<input type="radio"/> 17C
	<input type="radio"/> 1D	<input type="radio"/> 2D	<input type="radio"/> 3D	<input type="radio"/> 4D	<input type="radio"/> 5D	<input type="radio"/> 6D	<input type="radio"/> 7D	<input type="radio"/> 8D	<input type="radio"/> 9D	<input type="radio"/> 10D	<input type="radio"/> 11D	<input type="radio"/> 12D	<input type="radio"/> 13D	<input type="radio"/> 14D	<input type="radio"/> 15D	<input type="radio"/> 16D	<input type="radio"/> 17D
WRITE-IN VOTES →	<input type="radio"/> 1E	<input type="radio"/> 2E	<input type="radio"/> 3E	<input type="radio"/> 4E	<input type="radio"/> 5E	<input type="radio"/> 6E	<input type="radio"/> 7E	<input type="radio"/> 8E	<input type="radio"/> 9E	<input type="radio"/> 10E	<input type="radio"/> 11E	<input type="radio"/> 12E	<input type="radio"/> 13E	<input type="radio"/> 14E	<input type="radio"/> 15E	<input type="radio"/> 16E	<input type="radio"/> 17E

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October, 2009

Avon Town Council
Town of Avon
60 West Main Street
Avon, CT 06001

Phone: (860) 409-4300
Fax: (860) 409-4368
www.town.avon.ct.us



PRST STD
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PAID
AVON, CT
PERMIT No. 14

RURAL PATRON
OR
BOXHOLDER
AVON, CT—06001



IMPORTANT DATES

AVON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY
RENOVATIONS AND ADDITIONS

REFERENDUM
OCTOBER 22, 2009
AVON SENIOR CENTER
6:00 A.M. TO 8:00 P.M.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION

NOVEMBER 3, 2009
DISTRICTS #1-3
6:00 A.M. TO 8:00 P.M.

Absentee Ballots will be available.

**Any questions regarding absentee ballots should be directed to the
Town Clerk's Office at 409-4310**

DISTRICT #1 – AVON HIGH SCHOOL
510 WEST AVON ROAD
GYMNASIUM

DISTRICT #2 - AVON TOWN HALL
60 WEST MAIN STREET
BUILDING #1 – SELECTMEN'S CHAMBER

DISTRICT #3 - ROARING BROOK
SCHOOL
30 OLD WHEELER LANE
GYMNASIUM