

TOWN of TOLLAND COUNCIL on AGING

FALL NEWSLETTER

241 West Granville Rd.
Tolland, Massachusetts 01034

Nov. 9, 2022

Hi Neighbors,

Summer is over and it was a good one that has stretched into a very mild fall. The warmer weather seemed to allow the fall colors to last longer in all their New England splendor. Now it's time to clean up the rest of the leaves and unpack the holiday decorations.

Although this newsletter is smaller than some there are some interesting items inside.

A Broadband Update by Kevin Donovan on the substantial progress of the Broadband installation is on the inside pages

A DPW Update by Kate Donovan, Tolland DPW Superintendant, is on the inside pages

The Tolland Council on Aging's **"Rides For Seniors"** program provides rides for Tolland's full and part time senior residents to doctor's appointments, lab work or therapy appointments, grocery or drug store shopping or other transportation needs that our senior residents might have. To reserve a ride, call 413 258-4794 x 129 at least 72 hours before you need a ride. Leave a message containing your name, phone number, when you need a ride and where you are going to. You will get a return phone call confirming the appointment. There is no charge for this service. All of our drivers have received the Covid 19 vaccine. All our passengers must also be fully vaccinated against Covid 19. If you would like to be a volunteer driver call this same number, leave a message and we will get back to you. You can also call Mary Ann Deming, the COA outreach worker, at 413 427-5532.

A SHINE presentation is scheduled for Dec 1, from 10 MA to 11 AM, The SHINE program (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) provides free health insurance information to MA residents and their caregivers, serving those who have Medicare or who are about to become eligible. Medicare annual open enrollment is 10/15 - 12/7/22, the time period to enroll in health and drug plans for 2023. There will be a 45 minute presentation followed by a 15 minute Q+A session. Lorraine York-Edberg, Western MA Regional SHINE Program Director will be making the presentation at the Public Safety Complex.

A Foot Care Nurse is available for Tolland Seniors at the Foot Care Clinic in Southwick at the Senior Center; the fee of \$40.00 must be paid directly to the nurse, Dates: November 15 and December 20. You must make an appointment by calling - (413) 569-5498. The Otis Senior center also has a Foot Care nurse visit the first Wednesday of every month. Call 413 269 0100 x 131 to make an appointment.

Be on the lookout in News & Notices for a **"Chili Day in Tolland"** coming up this February.

The COA is looking for new Board members. If you would like to know more about the Council call 413 257-4794 X 129, leave a message, and we will get back to you.

That's all for now, enjoy the winter!

TOWN OF TOLLAND

Department of Public Works Update

Kate Donovan
Superintendent of Public Works

October 31, 2022

PROJECTS COMPLETED TO DATE:

- Route 57 is complete; Palmer finished driveway aprons in September.
- Roadside mowing
- Ditching and drainage improvements to Schoolhouse (North end), Clubhouse, Hartland section, and Beetle Road
- Tree work completed on North end Schoolhouse, Clubhouse, and at Town Hall
- Reclaim and Pave completed on Beetle, Hartland, North End of Schoolhouse Road
- Burt Hill Road Preservation Treatment completed in September – Crackfill to follow in spring 2023.

FALL OPERATIONS

- Winter prep to equipment
- Salt shed full
- Mark ditches for plowing
- Schoolhouse Road – replaced 3 cross pipes in project area
- Clubhouse Road – Widening to prep for paving next year
- Shouldering new pavement
- Line painting – Burt Hill, Schoolhouse, Beetle
- Roadside leaf blowing
- Fall grading of gravel roads

The new 2023 Western Star dump truck has finally arrived. The DPW is looking forward to using it this season for plowing operations.

Broadband update by Kevin Donovan

October 24, 2022

Phase 1 and Phase 2, which encompass everything South of Route 57, is released, which means the fiber is strung, spliced, tested, and live.

Phase 3: All South Trail and Clubhouse Rd is released. North Trail fiber is up, and splicers are actively working on it, with completion scheduled for this week. The fiber crew has finished all primary line fiber on New Boston and E Otis Roads and will finish on fiber taps this week. Splicers will complete New Boston and East Otis Roads after North Trail is complete, with estimated completion by the end of next week. Lakeview Lane, Pinewood Drive, Moreau Road, Ona Road, and Lands End Drive are released.

Energy Assistance Program

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), known commonly as Fuel Assistance, provides eligible households with help in paying a portion of winter heating bills. This assistance can be provided if you heat with propane, oil, wood, wood pellets, electric or kerosene.

All eligible homeowners and renters, including households whose cost of heat is included in the rent, can apply for the LIHEAP. Eligibility is based on a number of factors including but not limited to household size and the gross annual income of every household member 18 years of age or older. Household income cannot exceed 60% of estimated State Median Income.

Number of people in household	60% of Estimated State Median Income
1	\$40,951
2	\$53,551
3	\$66,151
4	\$78,751
5	\$91,351

The Valley Opportunity Council, based in Holyoke, is the local agency that administers the program for residents in Tolland. They can be reached at 413 552-1548 for more information and to apply for this assistance.

The required documentation when applying is:

Identification: State ID; Proof of Income: Present all income statements

Proof of Residency: Utility bill with MA address; Applicants must reside in Hampden County.

Eversource (www.eversource.com) offers a discount rate for income-eligible residential customers who participate in certain state and federal assistance programs and whose income does not exceed 60% of the state median income (1 person household \$42,411; \$55,461 for 2 persons). Eligible programs include: Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled and Children (EAEDC); Supplemental Security Income (SSI); MassHealth (Medicaid); Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Public/Subsidized Housing, and some VA benefit programs. Applications are available on-line or call Eversource to request one: 1-877-659-6326. If you have a verified financial hardship in which your income is within 60% of the state median income as listed above, Eversource offers New Start, an arrearage management program. New Start allows income eligible residential customers to earn past due balance forgiveness. For more information call 1-877-963-2632. Translation services are available.

Veterans' Services has a state program known as Chapter 115 benefits that provides cash and medical assistance to low-income Massachusetts wartime veterans and their families who are in need of immediate help, including help with fuel. To determine eligibility visit the Massachusetts Veteran Benefit Calculator (<https://massvetben.org>). It helps residents who have served in the military to quickly and easily determine if they may be eligible for financial assistance. You can also call the Veterans Services Officer (VSO) in your area: 528-1580 (South County), 662-3040 (North County), and 499-9433 (Pittsfield area). There is a VSO finder online at <https://massvetben.org/find-your-vso>.

The Heating System Repair and Replacement Program (HEARTWAP) provides emergency heating system repair and replacement services to low-income households. The program is administered by a network of local agencies, in most areas the same agency that administers the Fuel Assistance Program. For more information, call BCAC: 445-4503 x 602 or visit their website bcacinc.org/heating-repair. The first priority of the program is to address heating emergencies during the heating season (November-April). Eligible applicants are those that are eligible for LiHeap (Fuel Assistance) with a gross annual income that does not exceed 60% of the estimated state median income. The program is designed to primarily serve homeowners as landlords are required to maintain the heating system for their tenants.

Important Dates Coming Up

Nov. 24 - Thanksgiving
Dec. 11 - First Day of Hanukah
Dec. 21 - Winter Begins
Dec. 25 - Christmas Day
Dec. 26 - Kwanzaa Begins
Jan. 1, 2023 - New Year's Day
Jan. 16 - Martin Luther King's Day
Feb. 20 - Presidents Day
Feb. 14 - Valentine's Day
Feb. 16 - Mardi Gras Day
March 17 - St. Patrick's Day
March 22 - Ramadan Begins
April 6 - First Day of Passover
April 9 - Easter Sunday
May 10- Mother's Day

**When a kid says "daddy, I want
mommy" that's the kid version of
"I'd like to speak to your
supervisor" 🤖🤖🤖**

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