



SEEKONK HUMAN SERVICES



Town Crier

540 Arcade Avenue ~ Seekonk, MA ~ 508-336-8772
Monday through Thursday 8:30am - 4:30pm ~ Fridays 8:30am - 12:30pm
*Evening appointments available upon request

August 2020 Special Edition

Message from the Director



First off, we miss you and hope you all are staying well and healthy! Secondly, where have the past few months gone? You would think with social distancing and not being able to be at the center, the months would drag. Now, we are in August! We are starting to think of ways to have people return safely to the center. We will certainly let you know when we will be reopening to full capacity. For the time being we have made some modifications. There is much to consider when reopening. Things will be different for some time, but we will make it fun and enjoyable while following guidelines. We are currently open to see clients by appointment only. If you are in need of an appointment, you can call our office and we will schedule you! Starting in August we will be hosting health clinics at our building. Along with this, we will be hosting outdoor activities and gatherings (weather permitting). All clinics and activities will require advanced sign up.

During these months of the quarantine, the staff has been busy behind the scenes. We have called over 3500 seniors in town to check-in. Instead of having office appointments, we have been helping clients over the phone and through email. Seekonk Human Services was lucky enough to receive a large amount of donated masks and gift cards for our seniors and people in need. We have been busy with making sure residents who need assistance have all of the important essentials such as food and medication. Even though we have been closed to the public we have been staying extremely busy. We are looking forward to seeing all of your familiar faces again in the near future! Until then, there are many different trails around town! This is a perfect time to go and explore. If you would like more information regarding the trails, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Best,
Brittney Faria
Seekonk Human Services



SEEKONK MASSACHUSETTS

Summer Greetings from the Board of Selectmen

On behalf of the members of the Board, we would like to congratulate David Andrade on his re-election and Adam Petronio on his election to the Board in June. We would also like to thank Nelson Almeida for his dedicated service for the last 7 years. As you know the first half of 2020 has brought unprecedented challenges to our town. We would like to acknowledge the Town Administrator and all of our employees who have worked tirelessly to ensure the safety of the residents and businesses while doing their best to maintain services. The staff and volunteers at the Senior Center are particularly working hard for you! We truly appreciate your patience as we navigate these uncharted waters over the coming months while we try to safely reopen our town. If you should have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Board. Stay safe, stay healthy, and we hope you enjoy your Summer! - Justin Sullivan, Chairman

What Seekonk Veterans and Their Spouses Need To Know

The Veterans Administration and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts offer a number of benefits to Veterans and surviving spouses. This article is not intended to be a complete list of benefits for which you may be entitled.

Massachusetts Veterans, in general, are eligible for the following benefits:

- Under Chapter 115 of Massachusetts General Laws (M.G.L. ch. 115), the Commonwealth provides a uniform program of financial and medical assistance for indigent Veterans and their dependents. Qualifying Veterans and their dependents receive necessary financial assistance for food, shelter, clothing, housing supplies, and medical care in accordance with a formula, which takes into account the number of dependents and income from all sources. Eligible dependents of deceased Veterans are provided with the same benefits as they would were the veteran still living.
 - Note: Current monthly income limits for Chapter 115 is \$2,126 for single applicants & \$2,873 if married. The liquid asset limit is \$5,000 for single applicants and \$9,800 if married. The stimulus money received for COVID-19 is not included as income or an asset. In this current crisis, if you run out of unemployment benefits, Chapter 115 may well be a viable solution until you are able to get back to work.
- Welcome Home bonus
- Free tuition in all state community colleges, colleges, and universities
- Have the word Veteran printed on their driver's license, this just requires bringing a copy of your DD214 to the RMV when renewing your license.
- Burial in the state Veterans' cemeteries in Agawam or Winchendon or the Bourne National Cemetery and obtain grave markers
- Veterans License Plates
- Certain disabled Veterans and former POWs are eligible for a waiver of fees for motor vehicle registration and sales tax
- Free medical care by the VA for one year immediately upon discharge
- Participate in the VA Loan Guarantee Program to purchase or refinance a home

Contact your VSO for more information. Make sure your will is up to date and that the beneficiaries for any pensions and insurance policies are up to date. Keep in mind, the VA has access to Social Security and IRS records – be truthful at all times.

VA Compensation Claims must be service connected. In other words, the injury/disability must have taken place while on active duty and that the condition has been chronic. A previously existing condition made worse through military service is also valid. There are exceptions such as claims regarding Agent Orange and the contaminated water at Camp Lejeune. As a guardsman or reservist, if the injury happened during a drill weekend, it doesn't count for VA purposes unless you have a Line of Duty (LOD) document.

When a claim is filed, all evidence including private medical records must be included. The VA will obtain your military medical records. If you have received medical care by the VA, note it in the appropriate section of the claim form. The VA will obtain those records as well.

Evidence in support of your claim comes in many forms:

- Veteran statement
- Spouse statement
- Buddy statement (people you served with)
- Internet evidence from .mil or .gov web sites only
- Military service treatment records
- Private medical records (keep in mind, providers are required by law to save the records for only 7 years)



Once your claim has been finalized, you will receive written notification from the VA about their decision and how they made it. If you are dissatisfied with the VA rating decision, you have the right to appeal.

Veterans Charities - One last important note:

Most charitable organizations that support Veterans are excellent, but many have very high overhead – meaning less money is going to Veterans, and some are downright fraudulent. Shady organizations often solicit donations, supposedly for Veterans, prior to Memorial Day and Veterans Day. However there was recently at least two Seekonk citizens that were called for a donation by a fraudulent organization. It was a political action committee that stated that 100% of the donations were going to Seekonk Veterans. Fortunately they called me before handing a check over to them. Some red flags:

- An organization saying that 100% of donations that are going directly to Veterans or specifically Seekonk Veterans
- An organization asking you to leave a check taped to your door
- An organization with the initials PAC (Political Action Committee)
- An organization that thanks you for your previous donation – when you have no recollection of ever giving to them in the past

If you have any concerns, call or email me before donating. The Massachusetts Veterans Services Officers Association tracks Veterans related charitable organizations. For legal reasons, they don't make their findings public, but I can check with the POC that researches these charities.

Stay safe!

James LaFlame

Seekonk Veterans Services Officer

Office 508-336-2940

Email: jlaflame@seekonk-ma.gov



Flamingos? In Seekonk?

Yes, flamingos are coming to Seekonk! Starting July 15, be on the lookout for baby lawn flamingos to start appearing in yards throughout town. The flamingos are part of Seekonk Public Library's Summer Reading Challenge for children in preschool through grade 5. Children who sign up for the program are challenged to read 15 minutes a day and log their reading time online. After they read for 7 hours, they earn a plastic, baby lawn flamingo for their front yard. The children will also be invited to decorate their lawn flamingos to reflect the summer reading theme of imagination. If you know a child in town, encourage them to sign up for the program at seekonkpl.org/kids. Either way, keep an eye out starting July 15 to see how many flamingos start appearing in yards! For details about the program, visit seekonkpl.org/kids, email childrens@seekonkpl.org or call 508-336-8230 x56140

Seekonk Public Library

HOURS:

Library will be open normal business hours with limited services available

Monday - Thursday: 9:00am - 8:00pm

Friday & Saturday: 9:00am - 5:00pm

Sundays: Closed

PLACING ITEMS ON HOLD FOR PICK UP

Place items on hold and pick up when you're notified that they are ready. **Pickups are by appointment only**

Pick is available:

Monday - Thursday: 9:30am - 7:00pm

Friday & Saturday: 9:30am - 4:00pm

What you need to know:

- Place your holds online at seekonkpl.org or call us at 508-336-8230
- Wait until you are notified that your items are ready for pick up



Greetings from the Town Clerk's office

Summer is officially here. The Town Clerk's office hopes everyone has a fun and safe Fourth of July. I'm sure it will be different this year with everything that had been going on with the Covid-19 pandemic, but as things ease up we hope you can spend some time with loved ones outdoors having a barbeque or enjoying a nice walk around the Meadows in Seekonk.

For those of you who don't really know what a Town Clerk's does I have decided to provide a list of the variety of services we provide not only to the public but to town departments on a daily basis. (1) Post all meetings and agendas per MGL Open Meeting Law, (2) Swearing in of appointed board, committee and elected officials, (3) Swearing in of new Police and Fire personnel, (4) State Ethics training and open meeting laws, (5) Records Assess Officer (RAO), (6) Process Board of Appeal Decisions for Registry of Deeds filing, (7) Notary service, (8) File marriage intentions and process marriage certificate after marriage, (9) Justice of the Peace, (10) Birth certificates, (11) Death Certificates, (12) Seekonk cemeteries- Deeds, information on purchased plots , (13) Certified copies of vital records, (14), Dog licenses, (15) Business certificates (DBA's), (16) Yard Sale permits, (17) Raffle permits , (18) Process yearly census, (19) Prepare yearly street listing for printing, (20)Town meeting and Town meeting minutes, (21) Genealogy requests, and (22) Records for Pole locations.

Election procedures: (1) Run all town & state elections, (2) Hand out/collect nomination papers, (3) Certify signatures, (4) Process absentee ballot applications, (5) Process early voting ballots , (6) Post the warrant, (7) Test voting machines, (8) Maintain State computer voting registration information system (VRIS) , (9) Print the voters list, (10) Tally election results, (11) Prepare ballots for town elections, (12) Training and scheduling of poll workers, (13) File election reports with the state, and (14)File campaign finance reports.

The Elections coming up this fall

- ⇒ State Primary Tuesday, September 1, 2020
- ⇒ General Election Tuesday November 3, 2020

We encourage everyone to vote early by mail. Spread the word encourage your family and friends to vote early. Applications can for absentee and early voting can be found on our town website www.seekonk-ma.gov or you can call the Town Clerk's office at: (508) 336-2920 and we will mail one out to you.

Census information

As of June 16, 2020 the population for the Town of Seekonk was: 13,619

(Please note this figure is continually changing due to people being added and deleted off the voter rolls and people moving in or out of town).

Cemetery Information

The Town Clerk's office maintains the records for both Seekonk Cemeteries: Newman Avenue Cemetery and Dexter Street Cemetery. The first deeds sold for the Newman Avenue Cemetery date back as far as 1899. There are very few lots left in this cemetery, most are lots that people have been selling on their own as they find they do not need them. As of July 1, 2017 we have a new cemetery. It is off of Dexter Avenue which is located off of West River Street. It is in a beautiful quiet area. Lots for this cemetery are available to purchase.

Seekonk residents	Single lot: \$600.00 Perpetual care: \$200.00 Total: \$800.00
Non-resident	Single lot: \$800.00 Perpetual care: \$400.00 Total \$1,200.00

Yard Sale Information

Just a reminder to those people who are thinking about having a yard sale be advised you need a yard sale permit. You can get them online on the town web site www.seekonk-ma.gov under the Town Clerk page. It is \$5.00 a day with a total of 4 per year. There is a sign by-law in town concerning yard sale signage. Please be advised that it is not permitted to use telephone poles to post any type of sign. If you are going to have a yard sale please abide by the rules of the town. Thank you.

Enjoy the summer weather and remember the Town Clerk's office welcomes inquiries from all citizen seeking assistance, or information in relation to services provided by the Town of Seekonk.

Florice Craig, Town Clerk & Lorraine Sorel, Assistant Town Clerk

Happy Summer from Officer Vincenzo!

Hope everyone is doing well and staying safe. It's been a long and trying few months. This is just a reminder that you can reach out anytime with questions or concerns. With everything going on, there have been new scams circulating that seem legit.

- Stimulus checks
 - 30 – 35 million people are still waiting. Be patient if you haven't received it yet; the IRS will NOT call to verify or ask for financial information; the IRS will NOT send emails, text messages, websites or social media; do not open or reply; and do not give personal information. Go to IRS.gov for the latest information
- Wells Fargo email scam
 - Stating access to account is needed to verify information, do NOT open, delete email
- Department of Unemployment Assistance Scam, Pandemic Unemployment Assistance
 - Follow instruction to report as fraud with the information listed. call local Police Department to file a report

Any questions, please feel to call. Stay Safe! Officer Vincenzo, 508-336-8123 ext. 51120

Park & Recreation

The playground is near completion. If you haven't noticed we have rock gardens all around Town. We like that you love a rock in the garden and want to take it home. What we ask is that you bring one back to replace it so that there are always kindness rocks here for everyone to enjoy. Make a rock, take a rock or maybe move a rock to another garden and bring one back. If we all work together we can all enjoy the kindness rock garden all the time. Thank you for your help with this!



Animal Shelter

The Animal Shelter is completed! The Animal Shelter is open, please call the shelter to schedule a visit at 508-336-6663.



Seekonk Engine One and Rescue One participating in a birthday drive by.

Assessor's Office

The Town of Seekonk hopes to find all is well under the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The Town Hall, Seekonk Senior Center, another town offices remain closed to the public until further notice.

The Assessor's Office would like to inform you that all Statutory Exemption Applications are available online at: seekonk-ma.gov. Under the circumstances for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2021 (beginning July 1st, 2020) the Assessor's Office will be sending out ALL STATUORY EXEMPTION APPLICATIONS for those that were granted last year. These applications are due by April 1, 2021, but we encourage you to apply as soon as possible, as qualifying for some of these exemptions, also qualifies you for a discount on your annual trash bill.

The Assessor's Office will also send out the FY21 Elderly &/Or Disabled Taxation Aid application to all who applied last year. If you did not apply last year, but would like to this year, please feel free to request one by calling the office. These applications are due October 1, 2020, and awards are granted by December 31, 2020.

Applications can be dropped off at the white drop off box at the front door to the Town Hall which is checked on a daily basis, or mailed to the Assessor's Office, 100 Peck Street, Seekonk, MA 02771.

If you have any questions regarding the Statutory Exemption Applications or the Elderly &/or Disabled Taxation Aid Fund Application, please feel free and contact us at 508-336-2980.

Activities and Clinics

Advanced sign up is **REQUIRED** for all activities and health clinics.

Activities will take place outdoors at the Senior Center. Outdoor activities will be capped at 25 people. Masks are not required for outdoor activities as long as proper social distancing is taking place.

Please note: Outdoor Activities are weather pending.

Health Clinics will take place in the Senior Center. Appointments will be required for Health Clinics. Only one person is allowed in the center at a time. All participants will be required to fill out a COVID-19 self-assessment upon arrival. Facing coverings are required to enter the facility.

For all appointments and health clinics, please call,
508-336-8772 upon arrival to check in.

***Sign ups required 24 hour in advance for all Outdoor Activities & Health Clinics.**

Guided Meditation

Monday, August 3 & 17 @ 11am

Zumba!

Mondays at 10am

Chair Yoga

Wednesdays at 10am

Tai Chi

Fridays at 10:15am

Podiatry Clinic

Wednesday, August 5 @ 10am

Hearing Clinic

Tuesday, August 11 @ 1pm

Blood Pressure & Glucose Clinic

Wednesday, August 19 @ 9am

**SEEKONK HUMAN SERVICES
HUMAN SERVICES COUNCIL**

CHAIRPERSON
Michelle Hines

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Josephine Veader

MEMBERS

Irene Andrews

Beverly Della Grotta

Anne Libby

Theresa McGregor

**Council Meets fourth Monday of the month
@ 3:15pm at
Seekonk Human Services
Conference Room, 109**

**SEEKONK HUMAN SERVICES STAFF
508-336-8772**

DIRECTOR
Brittney Faria, LSWA

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
Ashley Cartwright, MBA

CLERICAL ASSISTANT
Kimberly Mallon

COMMUNITY LIAISON
Carol Poncin

OUTREACH WORKER
Veronica Brickley, LPN LSWA

OFFICE CLERK
Sharon Bettencourt
Maggie Perkins

PRSRRT STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
PROVIDENCE, RI
PERMIT NO: 1159

Seekonk Human Services
540 Arcade Avenue
Seekonk, MA 02771