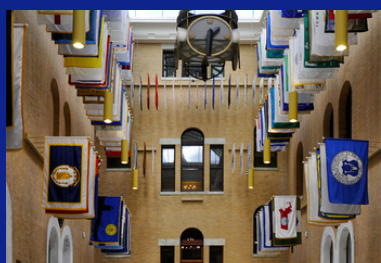


WHAT'S HAPPENING IN

# SEEKONK



## Massachusetts

### Great Hall of Flags

- The Massachusetts Great Hall of Flags was completed in 1990 as part of a State House expansion to provide space for public gatherings, events, and exhibitions.
- The hall features 351 municipal flags, one from each city and town in Massachusetts, hung in alphabetical order.
- The flags hang from the ceiling beams, making it possible to walk among the collection and locate your hometown's flag.



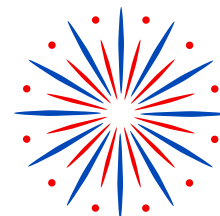
## A Flag Among 351: A Visit to the State House

There's something powerful about standing in the Great Hall of Flags at the Massachusetts State House during the month of July. As the sunlight filters through the glass ceiling, the room seems to glow with the collective identity of the Commonwealth—351 flags, one for each city and town, suspended in quiet tribute to local government.

Among them, Seekonk's flag waves proudly. It's a small but meaningful reminder that even in the halls of state power, our community has a voice and a place. You can't help but feel a sense of pride seeing it there, surrounded by the symbols of towns big and small, each with its own story.

The visit reminded me that democracy isn't just something we celebrate on the Fourth of July—it's something we practice. It's woven into our meetings, our decisions, our shared responsibilities. From the State House to Town Hall, every action builds on the legacy of local leadership and self-governance.

If you ever find yourself in Boston, I encourage you to take the walk through the Great Hall. Find our flag. Stand beneath it for a moment. In that simple act, you'll feel a deeper connection to something bigger than any one person—but built by all of us, together.





## A SPIRIT OF INDEPENDENCE AND COMMUNITY

As July arrives and we gather to celebrate Independence Day, we're reminded of the values that founded our nation: self-governance, perseverance, and the belief that a community can come together to shape its own future. These principles aren't just for history books or national holidays—they are alive and well in Seekonk.

Independence, at its core, is about responsibility. The freedom to govern ourselves means we also carry the duty to make thoughtful, forward-looking decisions for our town. And in local government, that sense of responsibility is especially pronounced in July—not only as we reflect on our national history, but as we turn the page into a new fiscal year.

July marks the official start of Fiscal Year 2026. It's a time when the planning and preparation of the past several months begins to take shape in real ways. Budgets are implemented, capital projects begin to move, and new initiatives start rolling out. While the work is year-round, July is our launchpad—it sets the tone for the months ahead.

### FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR'S DESK



**Shawn Cadime**  
**Town Administrator**

This year, we've worked hard to develop a budget that balances fiscal responsibility with progress. From critical infrastructure and public safety investments to targeted improvements in technology and community services, our focus remains on delivering efficient, transparent, and responsive government. The path forward isn't always easy, but it reflects the strength of a community that values both independence and collaboration.

In a town like Seekonk, independence means having a voice in how we grow, how we spend, and how we serve. It's seen in the residents who attend Town Meeting, the volunteers who serve on boards and commissions, and the dedicated town employees who keep things running every day. That's the real power of local government—it's personal, it's accessible, and it belongs to all of us.

We don't take that for granted. Our local democracy works best when people stay engaged, speak up, and stay involved. Whether

you're keeping an eye on the budget, following a new proposal, or just checking in to see what's happening around town, your involvement matters. Every voice adds to the collective independence we strive to protect and preserve.

As we enjoy the July sunshine and celebrate with family and friends, let's also take pride in the work we do together as a town. Our independence doesn't just live in our founding documents or fly on our flag—it's something we actively practice every day through service, civic engagement, and shared commitment to Seekonk's future.

Wishing you all a safe, meaningful, and hopeful start to the new fiscal year—and a Happy Independence Day.





## THE OUTREACH MVP YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOU NEEDED

If you've ever wandered into the **Human Services** office and felt **immediately welcomed**, chances are **Nicole Buffington** had something to do with it. Since joining the Town of Seekonk in May 2023, Nicole has been the **Outreach Caseworker**—and let's just say, she's been working overtime to redefine what "outreach" really means (and no, it's not just about flyers—though hers are admittedly very well-designed).

Nicole isn't just a **team player**; she's the kind of person who shows up, steps up, and supports her coworkers without being asked. Need someone to help set up a room for a last-minute event? Nicole's there. Struggling with a challenging situation and need backup? Nicole's already rolling up her

sleeves. She's like the office's unofficial **human Swiss Army knife**—capable of just about everything, with the added bonus of a great sense of humor and holiday décor game that's second to none (all thanks to her not-so-secret obsession with Aldi finds).

When it comes to **serving the community**, Nicole is more than a connector—she's a calming force. Whether she's helping residents navigate housing, food access, or insurance issues, Nicole does it with empathy, patience, and a natural ability to build trust. She's especially gifted at diffusing difficult situations, a skill that's proven invaluable in a department that works with everyone—from seniors with memory impairments to young families in need of support.

Her work doesn't stop at the office door. Nicole delivers food to homebound residents, creates outreach strategies that are actually effective (not just buzzwords on paper), and designs flyers that make you want to attend a program—yes, even the one at 9 a.m. on a Tuesday.

And while she brings **heart and hustle** to every part of her job, it's her genuine warmth that makes her stand out. Nicole was the **missing puzzle piece** Human Services didn't even know they needed until she walked through the door—and now we're not sure how we ever managed without her.

So, the next time you spot a perfectly decorated office corner that makes you think, "**Did this come from Pinterest?**"—you'll know. **That's Nicole**. And she's not just making our office brighter—she's making Seekonk better.



Employee Spotlight

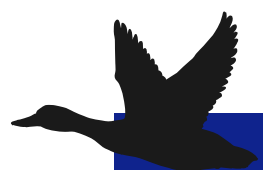
**NICOLE BUFFINGTON**

**Outreach Caseworker**

What's your favorite local spot in Seekonk? **Fun places to take my children... Fun City, Seekonk Grand Prix, or Sundaes for Ice Cream.**

If you could have any superpower, what would it be? **Time Travel, I love History and would like to Travel in Time and see so many amazing events and people.**

If you could swap jobs with anyone for a day, who would it be and why? **A dog trainer, who wouldn't enjoy cuddling puppies for a day.**





## DEMOLITION BEGINS AT 69 SCHOOL STREET: CLEARING A DANGEROUS LANDMARK

This month, demolition will begin on the **Old School Administration Building** at **69 School Street**—a long-overdue step to eliminate a serious safety hazard and begin turning the page on a property that has sat vacant and dangerous for far too long.

Once used for school department operations, the building has fallen into deep disrepair. Years of neglect left it structurally unsound, and the risks became alarmingly clear when two firefighters were injured after the floor gave way beneath them while responding to a fire alarm.

Originally, this demolition was supposed to be included in the larger **South End Building Project**, but when that project was put on hold, the Town had to pivot. At the **Fall Town Meeting** in November, residents voted to appropriate **\$400,000** to ensure the building could still be razed. After going out to bid, the Town received a **low bid of \$198,500**, significantly under budget.

This project is not just about tearing something down—it's about doing what's necessary to keep our community safe and responsible. Removing the building now prevents future harm, saves on long-term liability, and clears the way for future possibilities at the site.

Demolition work will begin this month, and with it, we take an important step forward. It's a reminder that when public safety, good planning, and community will come together, we can make real progress.



## INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE: LIBRARY RENOVATION HEADS TO THE BALLOT

Libraries are more than just buildings filled with books—they are centers of learning, connection, and community. In Seekonk, our library has long served as a cornerstone for residents of all ages. Now, with voter support, we have the opportunity to ensure that legacy continues for generations to come.

At this year's **Spring Town Meeting**, voters approved the **\$10.4 million borrowing** authorization for a major renovation of the Seekonk Public Library. This investment will modernize and preserve one of our most vital public spaces—creating a facility that is safe, accessible, and ready to meet the evolving needs of our community.

To move forward, the project now heads to the ballot for a **Proposition 2½ override**, where voters will decide whether to approve the funding through a debt exclusion. This step is required to raise the necessary funds beyond the limits set by state law.

**Early voting** will be held at **Seekonk Town Hall from July 14–17**, and the **Special Election** will take place on **Monday, July 21st at Seekonk High School**.

This is more than a vote on bricks and mortar—it's a vote on what kind of town we want to be. A renovated library will ensure we remain a community that values access to knowledge, inclusive public spaces, and lifelong learning.







## A DAY AT THE STATE HOUSE TO CELEBRATE SEEKONK'S OWN HEROINE

Some days remind you why public service matters. June 26<sup>th</sup> was one of those days.

We boarded the new South Coast Rail early that morning—not just to visit Boston, but to witness something special. We were headed to the Massachusetts State House to watch **Brittney Faria**, Seekonk's Director of Human Services, be officially honored as a **2025 Commonwealth Heroine**. And while we shared the exciting news of her selection last month, the experience of that day deserves its own moment of recognition.

After arriving in the city and navigating the busy streets by Uber, we stepped into the historic State House. The building was buzzing. Both the House and Senate were in session, and the energy was palpable as we walked through the chambers where the business of the Commonwealth unfolds. But even in that flurry of policy and debate, Brittney's presence was felt and celebrated.

Representative Steven Howitt and Senator Kelly Dooner—who nominated Brittney for the award—greeted her warmly and made clear how proud they were to recognize her contributions. Their kind words and visible pride were a powerful reminder that the impact of local work truly echoes at the state level.



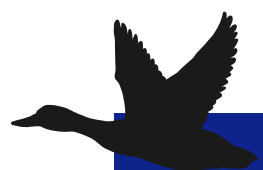
The Commonwealth Heroine Award is given to women across Massachusetts who lead with compassion, purpose, and quiet strength—often without fanfare. That is exactly who Brittney is. Since 2018, she's been the steady hand behind so many of Seekonk's most important human services—connecting residents to resources, advocating for our seniors, and showing up for people when they need it most.



To watch her stand among other remarkable women from every corner of the state was not just humbling—it was inspiring. It was a proud day for Brittney, but also for Seekonk. Her recognition shines a light on the kind of employee every town hopes to have: someone who leads with empathy, who gets the job done without needing the spotlight, and who always puts community first.

So while we celebrated Brittney's nomination last month, the celebration continues—and rightfully so. We are incredibly proud of her and grateful for her dedication to Seekonk. Her recognition as a Commonwealth Heroine isn't just about one day at the State House—it's about every day she makes our town stronger.

Thank you, Brittney. You are what public service is all about.





## READY FOR THE STORM: WHY HEALEY'S CLIMATE PLAN MATTERS LOCALLY

In the face of rising sea levels, aging infrastructure, and extreme weather that no longer fits neatly into any season, Massachusetts is being called to lead—and not just on principle, but with purpose.

That's exactly what Governor Maura Healey's **\$2.9 billion environmental bond bill**—dubbed the **Mass Ready Act**—aims to do. Unveiled in late June, this sweeping proposal is more than a climate investment plan. It's a declaration: we can't wait on Washington, and we won't.

Packed with funding for clean water, dam repair, land conservation, and municipal resiliency, the Mass Ready Act touches nearly every corner of local government. For cities and towns, this means something rare—**real resources** for the real work ahead. It includes **low-interest loans for local resilience projects**, hundreds of millions in support for conservation and flood mitigation, and a renewed focus on clearing the bureaucratic logjams that often slow down progress.

**MASS READY ACT**  
A historic **\$2.9 billion** investment in our infrastructure and the environment.

- FIX ROADS & BRIDGES**
- PROTECT HOMES & BUSINESSES**
- FAST TRACK PERMITS**
- INVEST IN LOCAL ECONOMIES**
- PROTECT WATER & NATURE**

This isn't just another green initiative. It's a recognition that small towns, aging infrastructure, and under-resourced municipalities can't go it alone. And it's coming at a moment when the federal government is signaling retreat—with proposed cuts that put everything from environmental protections to public infrastructure at risk.

That's why leadership at the state level matters now more than ever.

For towns like Seekonk, the bill could mean critical support for culvert replacements, dam safety inspections, PFAS contamination response, and even food security planning. It's easy to overlook the connective tissue between climate policy and local government—but ask anyone who's managed a flash flood, a boil-water order, or a blocked drainage system after a heavy storm, and the link becomes painfully clear.

The Mass Ready Act also takes on something more elusive: speed. By streamlining environmental permitting—without compromising accountability—it acknowledges a reality that's often ignored in state-level policy: urgency. The climate isn't waiting for paperwork. Neither should we.

This bill isn't perfect. No bond bill is. But it's ambitious, it's smart, and most importantly—it's ready. It provides towns with tools we've long needed, from grant flexibility to planning support, and backs them up with the kind of long-term investment that matches the scale of the challenge.

Massachusetts is often at its best when it leans into bold, community-centered solutions. This is one of those moments. Let's not miss it.





## SUMMER HOURS TRIAL PROGRAM UPDATE

We are now one month into the Town of Seekonk's Summer Hours Trial Program, and we're pleased to report that we've received mostly positive feedback from the community.

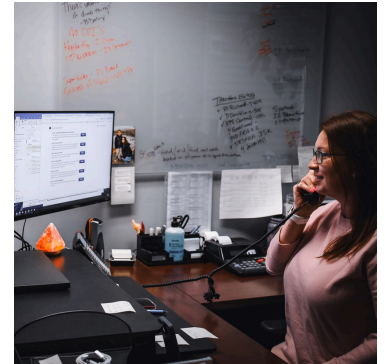
Launched on **June 9, 2025**, the program is designed to improve access to Town services by offering extended hours Monday through Thursday, while allowing for early closures on Fridays. The trial will continue through **August 29, 2025**, and participating departments at Town Hall are operating on adjusted weekly schedules to better serve residents and support a more flexible work schedule for staff during the summer months.

### What Changed?

- Monday–Thursday: Departments are opening earlier and/or staying open later.
- Friday: Some departments close early, while others may not be open at all.

### Please note:

It's important to note that the total number of hours Town departments are open to the public has not been reduced. The hours have simply been shifted to better align with peak times and resident needs.



Each department has tailored its schedule based on operational requirements and staffing levels, so we encourage residents to check updated hours before visiting. A full listing of department-specific schedules is available at [www.seekonk-ma.gov](http://www.seekonk-ma.gov).



## SUMMER HOURS

### Building Department

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 6:30 AM to 3:30 PM  
Wednesday 6:30 AM to 4:30 PM  
Closed Friday

### Health Department

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 6:30 AM to 3:30 PM  
Wednesday 6:30 AM to 4:30 PM  
Closed Friday

### Human Services

Monday through Thursday 8:30 AM to 4:15 PM  
and Friday 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM

### Public Works

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM  
Wednesday 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM  
Friday 6:00 AM to 10:00 AM

### Town Hall

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM  
Wednesday 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM  
Closed Friday

### We Want to Hear From You!

The Summer Hours Community Feedback Survey is now available online and at all Town locations. This is your chance to share your thoughts on the trial program and suggest any adjustments. Whether you're a resident, business owner, or visitor, your input is important in helping us shape a schedule that best serves the community.

The survey is brief and takes just a few minutes to complete. Thank you for taking the time to help us improve how we serve you!



The survey can be located on the Town's website at:

<https://www.seekonk-ma.gov/forms.aspx?FID=73>





## GREEN MINDS WANTED: HELP SHAPE SEEKONK'S SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Want to make a real impact right here in Seekonk? Here's your chance.

The Seekonk Energy Committee is looking for new members—people who care about sustainability, smart energy use, and the future of our town. This isn't just a seat at the table—it's a chance to help shape local policies that reduce our carbon footprint and protect the environment for generations to come.

From advising the Select Board on clean energy programs to promoting practices that preserve our natural resources, the Energy Committee plays a key role in making Seekonk greener, more efficient, and more resilient. Whether it's pushing for solar, improving building standards, or encouraging energy-saving practices across town departments, the committee's work touches every corner of our community.



Board Spotlight

### ENERGY COMMITTEE

**Members:** 5

**Term:** 3 years

**Vacancies:** 4

**Meeting Schedule:** Monthly

**Purpose:** Advises the Select Board on policies, programs, and issues promoting practices to reduce the town's "carbon footprint" and preserve and enhance Seekonk's environment, natural resources, and quality of life.

No experience in energy policy? No problem. We need passionate, solution-minded residents who want to be part of the conversation—and the change.

If you're ready to make a difference, now's the time. Step up, speak out, and help lead Seekonk toward a cleaner, smarter future.

## CALL *for* VOLUNTEERS



### Help Shape the Future – Volunteer for a Board or Committee

**Volunteer Opportunities** - volunteers are needed for the following boards and committees:

**Board of Registrars, Capital Improvement, Commission on Disability, Cultural Council, Energy Committee, Finance Committee, Historical Commission, Parks & Recreation, Recycling Committee, Zoning Board of Appeals.**

[Click here to fill out your Talent Bank Form!](#)







## THINK YOU KNOW SEEKONK? PROVE IT!

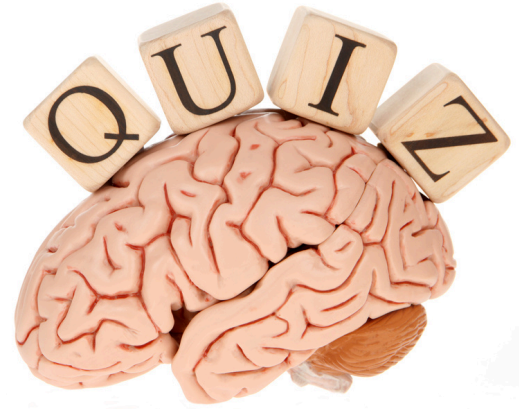
**WHAT FAMOUS REGIONAL FOOD PRODUCT WAS MADE JUST OVER THE LINE BUT HAD STRONG SEEKONK TIES?**

Think you know the answer? Find out if you're right in next month's newsletter!

### June's Answer:

**What well-known Massachusetts hiking trail has a section that runs through Seekonk?** The Ten Mile River Greenway, part of the larger East Coast Greenway, has a section that runs near or through Seekonk.

**Think you can stump Seekonk?** We're looking for fun and challenging trivia questions to feature in our monthly newsletter! Send your best Seekonk-themed questions and answers to Sandra Smith at [SaSmith@seekonk-ma.gov](mailto:SaSmith@seekonk-ma.gov) and see if you can leave the town guessing!



Seekonk's

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- **July 14th - July 17th**  
Early Voting for Special Election
- **July 21<sup>st</sup>**  
Special Election
- **July 17<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm**  
Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU)  
Workshop hosted by BayCoast  
Bank - Venus de Milo Restaurant
- **June 9 - August 29**  
Summer Hours for Town Depts.

[Read More on our website](#)



## STAY CONNECTED



Town of Seekonk



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



@townofseekonk7712



[townofseekonk](#)



Town of Seekonk, Massachusetts

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