

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN

SEEKONK



About

What It Takes to Equip a Station

- **Staffing \$800,000/Year:**
Minimum of 8 firefighters (2 ff per group).
- **Fire Engine \$1,000,000**
- **Ambulance \$500,000**



South End Fire Station Back Before Town Meeting, Sept. 15th

The future of the South End Fire Station will once again be in the hands of voters. On **Monday, September 15, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.**, residents will gather for a Special Town Meeting to consider a \$9.5 million appropriation for the proposed station. The article, submitted by citizen petition with more than 200 signatures, will require a two-thirds vote to pass.

This marks the second time the project has appeared before Town Meeting in recent months. At the Spring Town Meeting, a similar article received **112 votes in favor and 108 opposed**, but failed to reach the two-thirds threshold needed to authorize borrowing.

The project has faced challenges before. In October 2023, the Select Board voted not to proceed with construction after bids came in at

\$11.2 million, well above original estimates. That decision paused the project, though interest from residents has kept it on the agenda.

Supporters say the South End needs its own station to improve emergency response times and meet the demands of a growing community. Opponents remain concerned about costs, long-term borrowing, and other financial priorities.

The September 15 Special Town Meeting will determine whether the project moves forward or is halted once again. With the same two-thirds threshold required, every vote will be critical in deciding the outcome.



THE DANGER OF IMPULSE-DRIVEN GOVERNMENT

The conference table in the Select Board's meeting room was crowded with paper packets, notebooks, and the steady shuffle of pages. One by one, we went through the list, project updates, construction timelines, and budgets. These meetings may seem routine, but taken together, they sketch the **bigger picture** of where we're headed and what it will **cost** to get there.

That bigger picture has been on my mind a lot lately. Over the next five years, the needs staring us in the face are significant, and so are the price tags attached to them. That's the essence of planning: identifying the priorities, estimating the costs, and laying out how to pay for them. Sometimes that's through grants, sometimes through the operating budget, sometimes through borrowing or debt exclusions. And always, it has to be done with an eye toward fairness and responsibility to the taxpayers who make it possible.

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR'S DESK



Shawn Cadime
Town Administrator

As the meeting ended, a department head asked me a question that cuts to the heart of local government: **"Why can't we just move money around when something important comes up?"** It's a fair question, and tempting. But that's how towns lose their footing. Following financial policies takes discipline; ignoring them takes only an impulsive vote dressed up as urgency. One is leadership. The other is risk.

Communities often fall for the promise of a **"special project."** A ribbon cutting, a headline, applause, it all feels like progress. But projects that bypass financial policies aren't achievements; they're temptations. And temptations come with a cost: **short-term satisfaction** at the expense of **long-term stability**.

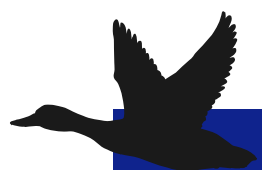
I believe in progress, and my **11 years** in Seekonk have been dedicated to moving this town forward, but not at the expense of its **financial health**. Real leadership means resisting the easy applause

and choosing the harder path: steady growth, responsible planning, and stability that lasts longer than any ribbon cutting.

Departments across town have **real needs**, and they deserve support. But **leadership** requires knowing the difference between meeting a need and mortgaging the future. Every taxpayer dollar must align with policy, ensuring **fairness, balance, and sustainability**. Policies are not obstacles; they are safeguards. They protect against imbalance and prevent one "special project" from starving the rest.

Real leadership means remembering that every dollar belongs to the people of this town, not to a department, not to a program, and not to a single project. It means looking at the whole picture and resisting the pull of short-term wins that weaken long-term stability.

The lure is always the same: a project so urgent it feels worth **bending the rules**. But once rules are bent, they're easier to break. And once broken, balance is lost, reserves dwindle, debt grows, and yesterday's "urgent" project becomes tomorrow's regret.





WELCOMING OUR STUDENTS BACK TO SCHOOL

Written By: Superintendent Rebecca Kidwell

As we roll into late August and the temperatures cool a bit, that Back-to-School feeling starts to creep in! Whether it caught you in July when the school supplies first hit store shelves, appeared earlier this week when your student-athlete's equipment suddenly showed up near the front door, or it finds you this weekend as you and your family try to build a new school morning routine, I hope it brings a welcome change with the excitement and opportunity of a new year.

At this point, your family has already heard from your students' schools. Please consider this just a reminder and a further welcome. We can't wait to see your children in grades 1-12 on Wednesday, August 27th for the first day of school. PreK and K students will start after the Labor Day weekend. The [calendar](#) for our school year is available on our website at www.seekonkschools.org.



We look forward to partnership with your family this year, beginning with the orientation events on Monday for new middle school and high school students and continuing through our September family open house nights to meet your child's teachers. I hope to see you at a school event in the coming weeks!

Thank you for your support and for trusting us to help your child learn, grow, and succeed. We're looking forward to a great year together!



51ST ANNUAL PUMPKIN SOMETHIN' RETURNS SEPTEMBER 20

It's that time of year again, the leaves are turning, the air is cooling, and Aitken Elementary's PTO is gearing up for one of Seekonk's favorite traditions: the **51st Annual Pumpkin Somethin'**.

On **Saturday, September 20, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**, the Aitken Elementary grounds will be alive with community spirit. Families can enjoy a full day of food, games, live entertainment, and local vendors.



For more than half a century, Pumpkin Somethin' has been a gathering place where neighbors catch up, kids laugh and play, and the community comes together to celebrate the season. The PTO has once again put together a lineup that promises fun for all ages.

Events like this remind us why Seekonk is so special. When parents, teachers, and neighbors join forces, we not only strengthen our schools, we strengthen our community. Mark your calendars, bring your family, and be part of this year's Pumpkin Somethin'.

Because sometimes the best way to support education starts with a pumpkin, a laugh, and a Saturday spent together.





THE WOMAN WITH A DREAM JOB AND A FLASHLIGHT FOR EVERY OCCASION

If you've ever wondered what it looks like when someone lands their **dream job**, look no further than **Tracy Jamieson**, our Assistant Treasurer/Collector. Tracy has been with the Town of Seekonk since October 1, 2007, and from the start, she's been an integral part of the Treasurer/Collector's Office. In fact, during her interview all those years ago, she admitted that this was the position she'd always dreamed of, and judging by her **17 years** of dedication, it's safe to say the job has lived up to the dream.

Tracy is known for her precision, reconciling the Town's cash balances down to the penny each month (yes, the penny). She's the kind of person who once came into work at **4:00 a.m.** just to make sure the direct deposit file was sent to the bank on time. Whether it's payroll, taxes, receipts, grants, or new



Employee Spotlight

TRACY JAMIESON

Asst. Treasurer/Collector

What's your favorite local spot in Seekonk? **The Nature trail behind Town Hall – it is so peaceful and there is actually a lot of wildlife.**

If you could have any superpower, what would it be? **DIY Expert – I enjoy fixing things around my house, but I'd love to be really good at it!**

If you could swap jobs with anyone for a day, who would it be and why? **Meteorologist – I have a fascination and interest in anything weather related; I often delight my coworkers with the daily forecasts and storm predictions!**

systems like ExecuTime, OpenGov, and EnerGov, Tracy dives in without hesitation and makes it look effortless. She's a true go-to resource for employees and department heads on all things money-related.

But there's more to Tracy than spreadsheets and reconciliations. She's got a quick wit that keeps her coworkers laughing daily and a compassion that extends beyond the office. A huge animal lover, she cares for her own cats and even the strays that wander by, she's even been known to hand-feed a squirrel. Insects invading the office? Don't worry, Tracy will gently rescue them too.

And did we mention she's a collector of **flashlights**? That's right, if the lights ever go out in Town Hall, you'll want to find Tracy first. She's got us covered. And while she may have once said the Assistant Treasurer/Collector position was her dream job, she did confess in our employee newsletter that if she could swap jobs for a day, she'd love to be a **meteorologist**, thanks to her fascination with all things weather.

Tracy's supervisor sums it up best: **"Tracy is an integral part of our office, a dedicated, conscientious team player who jumps in wherever needed. She takes on new challenges without hesitation, keeps us laughing every day, and is as great a friend as she is a colleague."**

Seventeen years in, Tracy continues to be a cornerstone of our team, proving that when someone finds their dream job, the whole town benefits.





NEVER FORGET: SEEKONK'S 24TH ANNUAL 9/11 REMEMBRANCE

On **Wednesday, September 11, at 6:00 p.m.**, our community will gather at the Public Safety Complex for Seekonk's **24th Annual 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony**.

Each year, this moment offers more than just reflection. It's a chance to honor the nearly 3,000 lives lost, to thank the first responders who put duty before fear, and to remind ourselves that unity and resilience are among America's greatest strengths.

In Seekonk, we mark this day not with speeches alone but with shared silence, solemn tributes, and a visible reminder that even in a small town, memory matters. The Fire, Police and Communication Departments will once again lead ceremonial honors, joined by town officials and residents who refuse to let September 11th fade into the background of history.

As the years pass, it becomes even more important to bring our children, our families, and our neighbors to this event. For those who lived through that day, remembrance is personal. For those too young to remember, it's a lesson: about sacrifice, about courage, and about the kind of unity that defines a nation at its best.

On September 11th at 6 p.m., let us come together once again, not just to remember what was lost, but to reaffirm who we are when we stand together.



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE: EXPLORING OPTIONS TO CREATE MORE SPACE IN OUR SCHOOLS

Seekonk's schools are facing a challenge familiar to many communities: space. Even though overall enrollment has remained steady, the way students are distributed across grades and schools has created real pressure on certain buildings. The School Committee is examining how to ensure that every



student has the environment they need to thrive.

One option now under consideration, presented by **Superintendent Kidwell**, would move 5th grade to the Middle School and 8th grade to the High School. This shift is intended to ease pressure on existing facilities and better balance the use of space across the district.

While the idea is straightforward, the implications are significant. Adjusting grade configurations impacts curriculum, staffing, transportation, and student experience. That is why the Committee is weighing all options carefully, with one guiding principle: decisions must put students first.

The next School Committee meeting to review this proposal will be held on **Monday, September 22nd at 6:00 p.m. in the Seekonk High School Library**. Parents, staff, and residents are encouraged to attend, ask questions, and be part of the conversation about how we shape the future of our schools.





WHEN FOUR TOWNS DISAPPEARED TO QUENCH BOSTON'S THIRST

Massachusetts is famous for many things, clam chowder, the Red Sox, Route 128 traffic. But here's a trivia question most people get wrong: **How many municipalities are in the Commonwealth?** The answer is 351. But it wasn't always that way. Once upon a time, Massachusetts had 355.

So, what happened to those missing four? They didn't fade away from declining populations. They weren't annexed by bigger neighbors. No, they were **erased**.

In the 1930s, the state decided that Boston and its booming suburbs needed a long-term, reliable water supply. And the fertile Swift River Valley, home to the towns of **Dana, Enfield, Greenwich, and Prescott**, was chosen as the sacrifice zone. These weren't ghost towns in decline; they were living communities with schools, churches, cemeteries, and generations of history. But the greater good, the argument went, required their disappearance.



About Quabbin Reservoir

- **Capacity:** 412 billion gallons of water
- **Size:** 39 square miles across Franklin, Hampshire, and Worcester County
- **Reach:** Supplies drinking water to nearly 3 million people in Greater Boston
- **Wildlife Haven:** Now home to bald eagles, moose, and black bears

On April 28, 1938, the towns were officially disincorporated. Residents packed up. Some homes were moved to higher ground, others bulldozed. Cemeteries were dug up and relocated. Imagine being told your hometown was about to vanish, not because of fire or flood, but because the state said so. And then watching as everything you knew was submerged under billions of gallons of water.

That water became the **Quabbin Reservoir**, one of the largest man-made water supplies in the United States. Today, it delivers drinking water to nearly **3 million people** across Greater Boston. It is a modern marvel of infrastructure, yes, but it is also a monument to loss.

Walk along the Quabbin's shoreline today and you'll see a postcard-perfect landscape. Bald eagles soar overhead, the air is crisp, and the water stretches to the horizon. It's hard to imagine entire towns resting quietly beneath the surface. But they are there, Dana, Enfield, Greenwich, and Prescott, their streets and foundations drowned in silence.

This story says something about Massachusetts. On one hand, it shows bold planning and foresight, we built an engineering wonder that still serves us 80 years later. On the other hand, it's a reminder that "progress" always comes with a price, usually paid by someone else.

So the next time someone confidently tells you Massachusetts has 351 municipalities, you can smile and say: **"True, but it used to be 355."**





FILLING THE BOOT, FILLING HEARTS: SEEKONK FIREFIGHTERS CARRY ON A PROUD TRADITION

On **Saturday, September 6th**, if you're driving through Baker's Corner, you'll see more than traffic, you'll see Seekonk Firefighters, boots in hand, raising money for a cause bigger than all of us. Members of **Local 1931 of the Seekonk Firefighters Union** will once again take part in the annual **"Fill the Boot"** fundraiser for the **Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA)**.

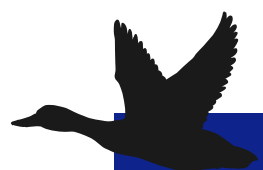
From the morning until 1:00 p.m., they'll be out there collecting donations, and here's the best part: **100% of what you give goes directly to the MDA**. It's one of those simple but powerful traditions that proves when a community comes together, real change can happen one boot at a time.

The tradition of firefighters "filling the boot" has deep roots right here in Massachusetts. It began in **1954 in Boston**, when a group of firefighters took to the streets with empty boots to collect money for children battling muscular dystrophy. They raised just over \$5,000 that first year (nearly \$60,000 in today's dollars), and in the process, sparked a nationwide movement.

Since then, **Fill the Boot** has grown into one of the most recognizable firefighter fundraisers in America. Fire departments across the country have raised hundreds of millions of dollars to support the MDA's work in research, treatment, and care for families living with muscular dystrophy, ALS, and related neuromuscular diseases. What began with a few Boston firefighters and a simple idea has become a tradition that blends service, compassion, and community.

Here in Seekonk, your firefighters are proud to carry on that legacy. Every boot held out at Baker's Corner is a symbol of that original promise: to fight not just fires, but also for hope, progress, and the families who need us most.

So mark your calendars for Saturday, September 7th, and bring a little extra cash when you're heading through Baker's Corner. Toss a few bills or coins into the boot, wave to your firefighters, and know that your contribution is part of something larger. Together, we can keep this proud tradition alive, one boot, one dollar, one act of generosity at a time.





DECISIONS THAT MATTER: WHY SEEKONK NEEDS YOU ON THE ZBA

Think zoning sounds dry? Think again. Behind every new business sign, building addition, or neighborhood project is the quiet but powerful work of the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). And right now, Seekonk needs a volunteer to step up and join the conversation.

The mission of the ZBA is straightforward but essential: to hear and decide appeals in accordance with the law, to review and act on applications for special permits, and to consider petitions for variances. In plain English? The ZBA is where residents and businesses go when their plans bump up against the rules. It's the board that helps balance fairness, growth, and community character.

Serving on the ZBA isn't just about reading bylaws. It's about problem-solving, listening, and making decisions that have a real impact on how Seekonk looks and feels. If you've ever driven past a new project and thought, "I wonder how that got approved," this is your chance to find out, and to be part of the process.

Volunteering means giving back in one of the most meaningful ways possible: helping shape the future of our town. No special degree required, just common sense, a willingness to listen, and a commitment to fairness.

So if you've got the time, Seekonk has the need. Join the ZBA, and help keep our community moving forward one decision at a time.

Zoning Board of Appeals

Board Spotlight

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Members: 5 Members, 3 Alternates

Term: 3 years

Vacancies: 1 Alternate Member

Meeting Schedule: Monthly

Purpose: The Mission of the Zoning Board of Appeals is to hear and decide appeals in accordance with the law, to hear and decide applications for special permits upon which the Board is empowered to act under and to hear and decide petitions for variances.

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!](#)





STAY CONNECTED WITH THE TOWN

The Town of Seekonk is committed to keeping residents informed, involved and engage in local government. Whether you're looking for real-time updates, community events, emergency alerts, or access to public meetings, there are many ways to stay connected with what's happening in your town!

SIGN UP FOR CODERED EMERGENCY ALERTS



The CodeRED emergency alert system is used by public safety agencies to rapidly notify resident and businesses about time-sensitive emergencies, such as severe weather, missing persons, or evacuation orders.

Sign up here: <https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/en-US/4FC988D792A5>

STAY INFORMED WITH "NOTIFY ME"



Want to stay in the loop with what's happening in Seekonk? Sign up for **"Notify Me"** on the Town's website and get important updates delivered right to your inbox or phone!

With this customizable notification system, you can choose to receive alerts about:

- The release of the Annual Town Report
- The Human Services and Town Administrator Newsletters
- Board and Committee agendas (you select which ones!)
- Town calendar events
- Newsflashes from Town departments, including Police and Public Works
- Emergency alerts, storm closures, and other time-sensitive announcements through the Alert Center



This is an easy and effective way to get notified about special elections, public meetings, and key community updates.

Sign up here: <https://www.seekonk-ma.gov/list.aspx#>

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TOWN OF SEEKONK AND SEEKONK POLICE ARE ON NEIGHBORS BY RING



You don't need a Ring device or account to join Neighbors by Ring—just download the free Neighbors app to stay informed about local safety updates, community alerts, and public posts from the **Seekonk Police Department** and **Town of Seekonk**.



Scan to get the app

Download the Neighbors app for free on [iOS](#), [Android](#) and [FireOS](#) devices or scan the QR code. **You do not need to own a Ring device** or any home security system in order to participate on Neighbors.



WATCH MEETINGS LIVE OR ONLINE

Tune in live or watch recordings of Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, and other committee meetings. And previous Town Meetings.



TV9 Seekonk: Comcast Channel 15 / Verizon Channel 29



On-Demand Streaming at: <http://cable9.dyndns.org/CablecastPublicSite/?channel=1>

