



Town Administrator's Transcript & Newsletter

Michael Mullen, Jr.
Dighton Town Administrator

August 2021

Hello, Dighton!

Where did the summer go? This is what I'm wondering as I'm gathering my thoughts to write this month's update. There was a fall-like fog surrounding the Town Hall complex as I arrived to work this morning. And with school starting today at Bristol Aggie and next week at Dighton-Rehoboth, we're already planning out our fall schedules and routines.

After a few days off to spend time camping with my family in Maine earlier this month, I'm now thinking about Patrick and Clara's preschool orientation and our fall schedule consisting of soccer games and practices, swim class and dance class in the coming weeks. It is always bittersweet to see summer fading into fall, but I am looking forward to cooler nights, fall activities, and continued progress on a number of fronts here in town.



Photo Captions: Ready with a new pair of boots to judge this year's Lions Club Cow Chip Contest with Selectman Leonard Hull and my daughter, Clara.

Speaking of which, I am very excited to report that I have fulfilled a key onboarding requirement prioritized by town officials upon being hired earlier this year. Last weekend, I was proud to join Selectman Leonard Hull in judging the Lions Club's Annual Cow Chip Contest!

While COVID-19 prevented a full Cow Chip Festival from taking place, it was great to take part in such a special community event—and even better that the winners of this year's contest were decided in record time! I want to extend a special thanks to the Dighton Lions Club for organizing such a successful event and for all the Lions do to support our community efforts!

As always, please keep reading for recent news, information and updates. Please feel free to contact me should any need arise.

See you around Town,

Mike Mullen, Jr.

Upcoming and Important Dates

September 3 and 4, 2021 – Dighton Permanent Firefighters 'Fill-the-Boot' Drive from 9:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Center Street and Somerset Avenue

September 6, 2021 – Labor Day, Town Hall Closed

September 9, 2021 – Special Town Meeting Warrant Closes

September 11, 2021 – Dighton Fire Department 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony at Station #2, 132 Chase Street, at 9:45 a.m.

September 15, 2021 – Board of Selectmen meets at 6:00 p.m.

September 18, 2021 – Dighton Food Bank Distribution, Town Hall

September 29, 2021 – Board of Selectmen meets at 6:00 p.m.

Plans Move Forward for Dighton Public Library to be Temporarily Relocated to Town Hall Complex

The current building safety, egress and accessibility needs of the Library building have been front and center for town officials, residents and families for some time now. While these challenges have been significantly amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic during the last year and a half, they came to a head in late spring when the Town learned of an updated state policy requiring the Library to be open by Labor Day in order to maintain state accreditation.

For the last three months, town officials have been working together to begin developing what are now being referred to as short, medium, and long-term plans.

With the priority on meeting the Labor Day deadline, town officials and the Library Trustees worked to secure and coordinate a temporary relocation of the Dighton Public Library to the Town Hall Complex.



Photo Caption: Town Hall's Lower Conference Room has been reconfigured for library operations and programming

More information will forthcoming later this week, but the plan is for library operations and programming to be based out of a new, temporary modular unit and the lower-level conference room at Town Hall. Construction drawings for a second egress and accessibility improvements for the Main Street Library Building are also in the works. Town officials plan to continually reassess as the construction projects at the Main Street building are complete.

A sincere thank you to the Library Director, the Library staff, the Library Trustees, Building Commissioner, Highway Superintendent, the Highway Department staff, and the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee for their assistance to make these quick efforts possible. We will continue to share updates as they become available.

SAVE THE DATE: Special Town Meeting Planned for Monday, November 1, 2021

Cybersecurity, police vehicle funding, offsetting debt service funding, and Pleasant Street Bridge engineering costs will be among the many likely issues to be discussed and considered at this year's Special Town Meeting planned for Monday, November 1, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Dighton-Rehoboth Regional High School Auditorium.

The Board of Selectmen opened the Special Town Meeting Warrant earlier this month, which will remain open until the close of business next Thursday, September 9. The Board of Selectmen will begin discussing submitted Special Warrant Articles at their meeting on September 15, followed by meetings and discussions with the Finance and Capital Outlay Committees. The Board of Selectmen are also planning a Special Town Meeting information session for residents on October 25. More information to come!

Update on Dighton Elementary and Middle School Traffic Drop-Off Presented at Aug. 11 Board of Selectmen Meeting

Public and school community feedback has factored significantly into plans that have been designed to alleviate longstanding traffic issues in the Dighton Elementary and Middle School driveway and on Center Street and Somerset Avenue, town officials reported to the Board of Selectmen during an update earlier this month. The next phase of the project involves further planning and permitting efforts before various local, state and federal agencies. Town officials are now working to coordinate meetings to further discuss the project with Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District officials, members of the School Committee and school community leaders to continue planning the project forward.

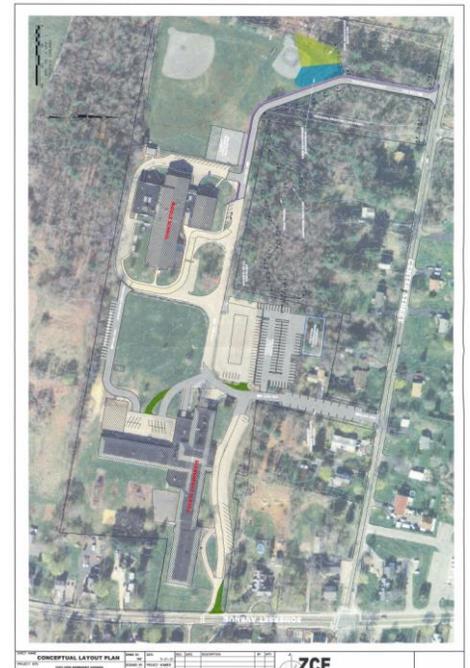


Photo Caption: Proposed plans for the DES/DMS driveway redesign presented to the Selectmen on Aug. 11

Dighton Portal Additional News and Updates

[Dighton Mosquitos Test Positive for West Nile Virus, Community Members Urged to Take Precautions](#)

[Town of Dighton Installs New Drop Boxes at Town Hall](#)

[Dighton Police Department Welcomes Three New Officers](#)

[Town of Dighton Encourages Face Masks in Municipal Buildings](#)

[Dighton Fire Department Now Offering Online Permitting, Online Payments for Residents and Business Owners](#)