

**MAYOR'S UPDATE**  
**December 12, 2022**  
**Mayor Sean R. Reardon**

**Weekend Events:**

This was a busy weekend around Newburyport. We had our 2<sup>nd</sup> Invitation Night downtown that saw our streets and shops packed with patrons. We had the musical the Descendants performing at City Hall all weekend as well as Santa's Workshop across the street at Brown Square. The Annual William Lloyd Garrison Lecture and the Newburyport Port Choral Society also had events this past weekend as well as the Anna Jaques Hospital Aid Association Holiday House Tour.

**Plum Island Dredge Project:**

As I mentioned last time the 9-foot dredge is completed. The weather conditions were unfavorable for dredging for the next week or so and the majority of the crew will be leaving to assist on another project, returning once conditions improve. There will be personnel onsite to watch over the equipment that is remaining onsite. The large dredge OYSTER BAY is at the site with a gangway to the beach/landing barge to provide safe access to the vessel.

**Health Department:**

Newburyport is currently at a 9.61% COVID test positivity rate, which is higher than the state's average of 7.85%. Average daily cases over the last two weeks per 100,000 is 16.4 versus 12.1 statewide. While these metrics only tell part of the story, this does signal that COVID is still in the community and residents are reminded to get boosted and follow other recommended precautions. There is a vaccine clinic for Covid shots, including boosters, and flu shots for all ages at City Hall on December 14 from 9am to 11am and a Flu clinic on Thursday December 15 from 1 to 7pm at the Senior Center (18+ only).

**Philips Drive Project:**

Our contractor, Tropeano, has mobilized and set up for construction out on Ryan Road. Much of the piping and drainage structures have been delivered to the site but they are still waiting on a few critical structures before the construction can begin. As soon as we get a start date I will let you know.

**Sustainability, Recycling, and Energy:**

Our last information session to answer any questions regarding Newburyport's Community Choice Power Supply Program will be held December 15 at 6pm at the Senior Community Center, 331 High Street Newburyport. Thank you to Molly Ettenborough in the Energy and Sustainability Office and the Energy Advisory Committee for all their work in advancing this program.

**Appointments:**

I have 5 appointments in your packet tonight for a final vote. I have three very qualified citizens for the Tree Commission up for appointment. Jean Berger is an arborist, Stephanie Pellegrini has her own landscaping company and Bob Uhlig is a landscape architect who spent over 15 years as chair of Parks Commission. All three bring years of expertise to the roll.

I also have Andrew Shapiro for the Affordable Housing Trust and Jamie Gagnon for the Community Preservation Committee. Both of these residents bring incredible skills to the role and have impressive resumes to back up that experience. I am thankful to both for their willingness to serve.

**Fire Department:**

Santa Parade will be Wednesday December 21<sup>st</sup>. Santa will leave the fire station headquarters at 4pm and work his way around town. Check out the city website before 12/21 for the route.

**Building Department:**

Building Commissioner Greg Earls finished his last of three tests to become a certified building official. We congratulate Greg on his hard work and for his excellent management of this department.

**State Street Gas Line Replacement:**

A public meeting will take place tomorrow at City Hall at 6pm regarding the gas line replacement on State Street and Middle Street. National Grid will be replacing a 100 year old pipe and the work will begin in January. The goal is for all work to be completed sometime in April if not sooner.

**Mayor Sean Reardon**