

Franklin Selectman's Corner

The dog days of Summer are upon us. Living in New England makes me appreciate the change of seasons. I hate to say it, but I am looking forward to the cooler days of Fall.

As I compose this article, the paving contractor is paving Plains Road culvert area. The guide rail is scheduled to be installed Friday, July 26. The hope is the ribbon cutting will take place Friday afternoon after the guide rail install.

The contractor for the Sewer and Water project has started work installing the Water and Sewer lines. Many road crossovers have been marked, equipment is being staged, test holes are being bored. Be prepared for traffic slowdowns in this area.

Removal of the Underground Fuel Storage tank at Franklin Elementary School has begun. The new tank should be in place the second week of September. A temporary tank has been located to allow the use of hot water for the Summer staff. The new above ground tank will be located in back of the School to maintain the appearance of the Entrance.

The retaining wall in the upper parking lot of the Town Hall is complete. The installation of stairs in the middle of the upper parking lot will allow for easier access to the lower level of the Town Hall. The stone used in the construction was mined in Franklin.

The Public Works Department has been busy getting caught up after the Plains Road culvert job. Roadside mowing will continue, as well as road sweeping of the material left over from the recent chip sealing. I asked for and received an increase in the Town's Tree Removal 2019/2020 budget line item. We will be assessing dead trees in the Town right of way to prioritize their removal with these additional funds. One area of concern is Under the Mountain Road. The Tree warden and I will be tagging trees and assessing the priorities in this area. The tree canopy on Country Club Drive was cut back to a twelve-foot height to

allow safe vehicular passage. We are looking at cutting back the tree canopy in an area on Pleasure Hill Road as well.

I have recently fielded several complaints from residents about outdoor burning. I need to emphasize to all residents that outdoor burning of brush is not allowed without a permit. Permits can be obtained thru the Fire Marshall's office. The burning permit process reduces the number of nuisance calls to 911.

If you have any questions or concerns about Town affairs, please feel free to call me at 860-642-6055, extension 16 or my cell phone 860-886-3114. Better yet, come in to visit! The Town Hall is open Monday thru Thursday 8:30 am until 3:00 pm, and Tuesday evenings from 6pm until 8 pm. I am always available to answer any questions or field any concerns.