



**Dates of Interest:**

- Feb. 5 African-Style Drumming
- Feb 6 Deadline to Obtain Nomination Papers
- Feb. 11 Youth Mental Health First Aid
- Feb. 17 Washington's Birthday (Trash Delay, Town Offices Closed)
- Feb. 22 Black History Month Jazz Brunch
- Mar. 1 Dog Licensing Late Fees Begin

**Inside this issue:**

Intergenerational Game Time	2
Vote-By-Mail	2
2025 Paving Plan	2
Planning Bd., ZBA, & ConCom	3
Dog Licensing	3
CCA in February	3
Nomination Papers	4
Annual Census	4
Trash Delay	4
African-Style Drumming	5
Teen Violence	5
Open Burning	5
Vinal Square Clock Fundraiser	6

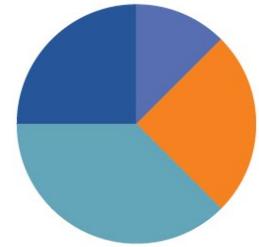
# Town Manager's Newsletter

February 3, 2025

## Town Manager's Proposed FY26 Budget

Town Manager Paul Cohen has released his proposed FY26 Town operating and capital budgets. The proposed \$168.4M operating budget and \$6M capital improvement plan utilizes the maximum property tax levy within the constraints of Proposition 2 1/2, the Governor's proposed State Aid, and projected local receipts. Despite the overall operating budget increase of 3.52%, there

would be a reduction in General Government and School Department personnel and services such as Sunday hours at the library, lifeguards at the Town beaches, and human services positions. A projected 17.5% increase in health insurance premiums and an 8.38% increase in the Town's assessment from the retirement system absorbs \$3.97M (69%) of the \$5.73M budgetary increase. Further



details are available in FY26 budget documents found on the [budget page of the Town website](#).

## Town Meeting Approves ADU Zoning Bylaw Amendments

On January 27, Town Meeting overwhelming approved amendments to the Town's accessory dwelling unit (ADU) zoning bylaw in advance of the February 3 effective date of the State's new housing law. State law now allows for attached and detached accessory dwelling units by right in any zoning district where single-family dwell-

ings are allowed at a size that is the smaller of 900 square-feet or 50% of the principal dwelling unit. Towns cannot impose limits on owner occupancy, age restriction, or affordability. The Town's new bylaw does restrict short-term rentals of ADUs for periods less than 31 days, limits only one ADU per lot, prohibits front yard detached ADUs, and



prohibits a new curb cut for an ADU. For further information, contact the Building Commissioner/Zoning Enforcement Officer.

## American Heart Month

February is recognized as American Heart Month, a time dedicated to raising awareness about heart disease and promoting cardiovascular health. This initiative began in 1964 when President Lyndon B. Johnson, who had experienced a heart attack himself, issued the first proclamation. Since then, every U.S. president has continued this tradition.

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States, affecting millions of peo-

ple each year. During American Heart Month, organizations like the American Heart Association (AHA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) focus on educating the public about the risks of heart disease and the importance of maintaining a healthy heart.

Promoting cardiovascular health involves adopting a heart-healthy lifestyle. Here are some effective strategies:

- ◇ Stay Active: Aim for at least



150 minutes (about 5 hours) of moderate aerobic exercise, like brisk walking, or 75 minutes of vigorous exercise, like running, each week. Even daily activities like gardening or walking can contribute.

*(continued on page 6)*

## Intergenerational Game Time at the Senior Center



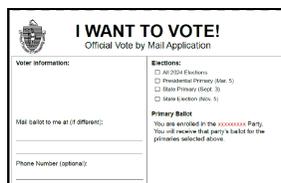
Looking for something fun to do during February Break? Join us at the Senior Center at 75 Groton Road on **Thursday, February 20 from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM** for an afternoon of games that everyone in the family can enjoy! Whether you're a kid, a teen, or a grandparent, all ages are welcome

(children under 14 must be supervised). We'll have a variety of games ready for you to play, or feel free to bring your own favorite to share. Light refreshments will be provided, or you can bring your own snacks to enjoy while you play.

Don't miss out on this fun and free opportunity to connect

with family and neighbors. To register, call 978-251-0533 or email [ndus-sault@chelmsfordma.gov](mailto:ndus-sault@chelmsfordma.gov).

## Vote-By-Mail Applications



Voters who wish to receive a mailed ballot for the **April 1, 2025 Annual Town Election** need to submit an application for the new year. A paper application is included with the 2025 annual census.

Applications can also be found online [here](#). Applications must be received by the Clerk's Office by 5:00 PM on March 25 to receive a mailed ballot for the April 1 election.

Unsure if you're registered to vote? Check your status and more at [www.voteinma.com](http://www.voteinma.com).

## 2025 Paving and Sidewalk Program

*“This list totals approximately 7.6 miles of roadway with an estimated construction value of \$3.0M.”*



The DPW will be presenting the Town's 2025 Roadway and Sidewalk Program at an upcoming Select Board meeting in February. Below is the current list of streets that the DPW plans to rehabilitate this 2025 Construction season (April – October). The majority of roads will include a mill and overlay application, which is when the top surface, approximately 2” of the pavement, is milled/removed, and then a new 2” asphalt course is replaced. The streets listed below as reclaim work include structural rehabilitation to not only the asphalt layer but also the subbase. The asphalt is pulverized along with the subbase to structurally restore the subbase prior to installing a binder and top course of asphalt. This list totals approximately 7.6 miles of roadway with an estimated construction value of \$3.0M. Additional sidewalk and other roadway related work such as microsealing will be presented in DPW's February presentation to the Select Board.

- ⇒ Ansie Road – Mill and Overlay
- ⇒ Baldwin Road – Mill and Overlay
- ⇒ Buckman Drive – Mill and Overlay
- ⇒ Burton Lane - Reclamation
- ⇒ Checkerberry Lane – Mill and Overlay
- ⇒ Clarissa Road – Mill and Overlay
- ⇒ Dayton Street - Reclamation
- ⇒ Gallup Drive - Reclamation
- ⇒ Garrison Road - Reclamation
- ⇒ Grove Street – Mill and Overlay
- ⇒ Joyce Street – Mill and Overlay
- ⇒ Kensington Drive - Reclamation
- ⇒ Lauderdale Road – Mill and Overlay
- ⇒ Livery Road - Reclamation
- ⇒ Longview Drive - Reclamation
- ⇒ Manwell Road – Mill and Overlay
- ⇒ Maple Avenue – Mill and Overlay
- ⇒ Miland Avenue - Reclamation
- ⇒ Newtowne Way - Reclamation
- ⇒ Oak Street – Mill and Overlay
- ⇒ Overlook Drive – Mill and Overlay
- ⇒ Research Place - Reclamation
- ⇒ Seneca Avenue – Mill and Overlay
- ⇒ Stillwater Drive - Reclamation
- ⇒ Sunset Avenue – Mill and Overlay
- ⇒ Whippletree Road – Mill and Overlay

## Planning Board, ZBA, & Conservation Commission

The Planning Board will next meet on February 12 in Room 204 of Town Offices at 6:30 PM. Continued public hearings for 4 Paillet Drive for the construction of a new parking area and 65 Dunstable Road for a new duplex will be discussed. The Board will also review final drafts of a revised floodplain zoning bylaw in accordance with FEMA requirements and a final draft of a proposed outdoor lighting general bylaw intended to replace the existing outdoor lighting zoning bylaw. On February 26, the Planning Board

will open a public hearing for proposed zoning amendments to be included on the Spring Town Meeting warrant. These include the floodplain bylaw, the outdoor lighting bylaw and miscellaneous minor amendments related to MBTA zoning compliance. In addition, the continued discussion with property owners in the Kate's Corner/Byam School area will be held to discuss zoning/land use within the existing commercial and industrial zones.

The Zoning Board of Appeals will meet on February 6 at 7:00

PM at Town Offices to continue the public hearing for Cobblestone Place, a 5-unit 40B comprehensive permit, located off Marose Avenue and an administrative appeal for Ledge Road challenging the Building Commissioner's zoning enforcement.

The Conservation Commission will next meet on February 11 and 25.

The posted agendas for these meetings will be available on the [agenda center](#) of the Town's website.



## License Your Dog Before February 28 to Avoid Late Fees

Dog licenses for 2024 expired on December 31, and 2025 licensing is already underway! Be sure to license your dog by February 28 to avoid late fees. The license fee is \$15 for spayed or neutered dogs, and \$20 for unaltered dogs.

In order to license your dog, you must provide proof of a current rabies vaccination.

**Renewals:** If your dog was

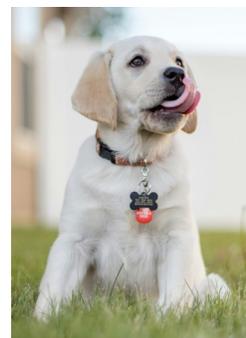
previously licensed, you can [renew online, by mail](#), or in person at the Town Clerk's office.

**New dogs:** Register in person at the Town Clerk's office or [by mail](#) with a check and completed application.

Starting March 1, **late fees** will apply—\$5 for each month your dog remains unlicensed, through June 1.

After June 15, **citations** for unlicensed dogs will be issued, adding an additional \$50 charge plus the initial license and late fees.

Don't wait — [Click here](#) for more information and to get your dog licensed today!



## Fabulous February at the CCA

Looking for some exciting events this February? The Chelmsford Center for the Arts (CCA) has an amazing lineup that is not to be missed!

Start your month off right with **Karaoke Night on February 7 at 7:00 PM in the Cabaret Cafe**. For only \$5 to enter, sing your heart out with friends and enjoy a drink from our full bar to keep the fun going! Whether you're a seasoned performer or a shower-singing superstar, this is the perfect place to show off your vocal chops.

Then, join us for a heartwarming night of entirely original

theater with the Playwrights Collaborative's show, "**Heartbreak to Hilarity: All New Plays for 2025**", on **February 21 at 7:30 PM and February 23 at 2:00 PM**. This collection of original plays, written by Merrimack Valley's finest talent, mixes drama with humor to create one unforgettable evening! General tickets \$20.

Finally, celebrate Black History Month with the **Black History Month Jazz Brunch on February 22 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM**, sponsored by the Chelmsford Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee. Enjoy

a delicious brunch, live jazz, and wonderful company while honoring the cultural contributions of Black artists and leaders. Tickets \$40 per person, food included.

And don't forget to tune in to our brand-new podcast, "**The Arts in Action**", where we dive into all things artistic in Chelmsford. Available now on [www.chelmsfordtv.org/podcasts](http://www.chelmsfordtv.org/podcasts)

The Chelmsford Center for the Arts has something for everyone— so mark your calendars, tell your friends, and experience all the CCA has to offer!





## Nomination Papers Available Through February 6

The deadline to pull papers for a Town Wide Seat and/or Town Meeting Representative seat is February 6.

Nomination papers are available in the Town Clerk's Office for the following positions:

### Town-Wide Offices:

- Two Select Board Members for three years;
- One Select Board Member for two years;
- Two School Committee Members for three years;
- Two Planning Board Members for three years;
- One Planning Board Member for two years;
- One Planning Board Associate Member for two years;
- One Board of Health Member for three years;
- Two Trustees of Public

Library Members for three years;

- One Cemetery Commission Member for three years;
- One Housing Authority Member for five years;
- One Housing Authority Member for two years

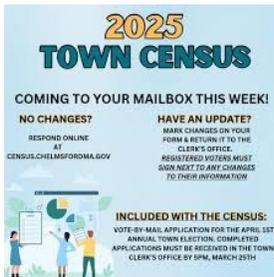
### Town Meeting Representative:

- PRECINCT 1 - Five for three years; One for two-year unexpired term
- PRECINCT 2 - Five for three years; One for one-year unexpired term
- PRECINCT 3 - Five for three years;
- PRECINCT 4 - Five for three years; One for one-year unexpired term
- PRECINCT 5 - Five for three years; Three for one-

year unexpired term

- PRECINCT 6 - Five for three years; Three for one-year unexpired term, One for two-year unexpired term
- PRECINCT 7 - Five for three years; Two for one-year unexpired term
- PRECINCT 8 - Five for three years; One for two-year unexpired term
- PRECINCT 9 - Five for three years;
- PRECINCT 10 - Five for three years;
- PRECINCT 11 - Five for three years; One for two-year unexpired term

## 2025 Annual Town Census: Respond Today



The 2025 Annual Town Census has been sent to all Chelmsford households. Participating in the census helps keep our voting list accurate and up to date. By returning your census, you remain ACTIVE on the voting list, which means no need to sign an affirmation at the polls confirming your address.

Even if you're not a registered voter, responding ensures the Town Clerk's Office can provide you with proof of residen-

cy. An accurate census count also helps improve municipal services for everyone in Chelmsford.

**Online Response:** If there are no changes to your information, you can respond online using the household ID # and link provided on your census form.

If you have updates, simply mark the changes on the form, sign it, and return it to the Town Clerk's Office.

Thank you for helping us keep Chelmsford's records up to date!

## Washington's Birthday Trash Delay



There will be no solid waste or recycling collection on Monday, February 17 in observance of Washington's Birthday. Collection for the rest of the week will be delayed by one day. Please note that no bulk items

are collected during holiday weeks.

For information on trash and recycling events as well as tips on how to reduce, reuse, recycle, compost, and dispose of refuse here in Chelmsford,

check out the [2024-2025 Annual Recycling & Solid Waste Guide](#).

## Celebrate Black History Month with African-Style Drumming

Join us at the Senior Center on **Wednesday, February 5 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM** for an exciting evening of African-Style Drumming in celebration of Black History Month! This interactive event offers a chance to explore the rich history of African drumming, learn basic drum beats, and participate in a lively drum circle.

Open to participants ages 15

and older, this free family-friendly event is a wonderful way to connect with African culture through rhythm and community. Light refreshments will be served, and the event promises to be a fun, dynamic experience for all.

Registration is required—please call the Senior Center at 978-251-0533 or email [ndusault@chelmsfordma.gov](mailto:ndusault@chelmsfordma.gov) to reserve your spot today! Don't

miss out on this inspiring evening, sponsored by the Chelmsford Senior Center and the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee.



## Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

February is recognized as Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month (TDVAM), dedicated to raising awareness surrounding the prevalence and impact of dating violence among teens. This month-long effort focuses on advocacy and education to prevent dating abuse before it starts. Teen dating violence can have severe consequences, including emotional trauma, academic difficulties, and increased risk of substance abuse. By promoting healthy relationships and providing resources for teens, parents, and educators, TDVAM aims to

create a safer environment for young people and empower them to build respectful and supportive relationships.

In support of Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, the Chelmsford Health Department will be hosting Youth Mental Health First Aid training to equip adults with the skills to recognize and respond to signs of mental health issues in teens, which can be exacerbated by experiences of dating violence. Much like traditional first aid, which provides the skills to assist someone in a

physical health crisis, Youth Mental Health First Aid equips people with the knowledge to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental illness and substance use disorders.

**Please join us for our next class on February 11 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Chelmsford Town Offices. To register please call 978-250-5241 or email [Tangel@chelmsfordma.gov](mailto:Tangel@chelmsfordma.gov).**



## Residential Open Burning

The 2025 Residential Open Burning season will run through April 30 with the following rules:

- \* No burning on Sundays
- \* Burning may not start before 10:00 AM or after 2:00 PM
- \* All burning must be at least 75 feet from any building
- \* You may burn brush, cane, branches and forestry debris in a small pile
- \* You may NOT burn leaves, grass, hay, stumps, building

debris, rubbish or materials from commercial or industrial land clearing operations

- \* You must have a garden hose that reaches the area where you are burning
- \* The permit holder must be in attendance of the fire while burning

**NO** fires may be left unattended at any time. Permit holders are responsible for their fire and any damage it may cause. After obtaining a permit to burn, permission is granted on a day-to-day basis and can be

obtained by calling 978-806-2850, or by driving by any of the five Fire Stations and looking for the "OK to Burn" sign in the window.

To apply for a burn permit online, [log in to PermitEyes](#), choose "New Application", and select the burning icon.





**TOWN OF CHELMSFORD**

50 Billerica Road  
Chelmsford, MA 01824

Phone: 978-250-5200

Email the Town Manager:  
[tmoffice@chelmsfordma.gov](mailto:tmoffice@chelmsfordma.gov)

[www.chelmsfordma.gov](http://www.chelmsfordma.gov)



**Sign Up for Notifications!**

Would you like to be notified when new editions of the Town Manager's Newsletter are published? Sign up [here](#). Under the News Flash category, choose "Home Page Newsflash." You will receive a notification when any news item is published to the home page of the Town's website, including the Newsletter.

View previous editions [here](#).

**American Heart Month (continued from page 1)**

- ◇ Eat a Heart-Healthy Diet: Focus on consuming plenty of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, and healthy fats like those found in olive oil and avocados. Limit intake of saturated fats, trans fats, sodium, and added sugars.
- ◇ Quit Smoking: Smoking is a major risk factor for heart disease. Quitting smoking can significantly improve your heart health, and the benefits start almost immediately after quitting.
- ◇ Manage Stress: Chronic stress can negatively impact your heart. Techniques like deep breathing, meditation, and yoga can help manage stress levels.
- ◇ Maintain Healthy Weight: Being overweight increases the risk of heart disease. A balanced diet and regular exercise can help you achieve and maintain a healthy weight.
- ◇ Monitor Blood Pressure and Cholesterol Levels: Regular check-ups can help you track your blood pressure and cholesterol levels, allowing you to act if they are too high.
- ◇ Limit Alcohol Consumption: Drinking alcohol in moderation, if at all, can help reduce the risk of heart disease. For women, this means up to one drink per day, and for men, up to two drinks per day.
- ◇ Get Enough Sleep: Aim for 7-9 hours of sleep per night. Poor sleep can contribute to heart disease and other health issues.
- ◇ Making small, sustainable changes in these areas can have a significant impact on your cardiovascular health.

**Vinal Square Strategic Action Plan Committee Presents:**



**DONATE TO HELP REACH THE GOAL**



**OUR GOAL**  
\$35,000

**Raised to Date**  
\$12,000

Contact Info:  
Bill Gilet Jr.  
[billgilet@gmail.com](mailto:billgilet@gmail.com)



**To learn more, visit [www.vinalsquareclock.org](http://www.vinalsquareclock.org).**



The purpose of this newsletter is to provide timely information to the Chelmsford community regarding its town government. Publications will be issued as needed, but on no less than a monthly basis. Your suggestions and comments are welcome at [tmoffice@chelmsfordma.gov](mailto:tmoffice@chelmsfordma.gov).

**Paul Cohen, Town Manager**