

The Works

January
2025



MEDFIELD DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

** The DPW presents "THE WORKS", a quarterly newsletter to inform the residents of Medfield on the happenings of their Public Works Department including updates on projects, current events, and upcoming developments **

WATER DIVISION: Water Main Breaks



Water main breaks are a common occurrence throughout the year, often making headlines in larger cities and towns where large volumes of water flood the streets, buckling pavement and flowing like a river. While this also happens in Medfield, it generally occurs to a lesser degree. Older water main pipes can develop cracks or leak at frost connections due to factors like age, ground shifting, heaves, the presence of other utilities nearby, and sometimes contractor error. Depending on the time of year, these breaks can be especially difficult to manage, with challenges such as frigid temperatures, high groundwater levels, and mechanical breakdowns.

Our Water Department is highly trained and responds quickly to address issues when they arise. When a call comes in requiring immediate attention, everyone is ready to pitch in and help, even during the late hours of the night. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated group of professionals who work tirelessly to maintain and protect our system.

Once the repair to the water main break is completed, the roadway can be restored. This includes tasks like backfilling, compacting, and repaving the large disturbed area. It's worth noting that each division of the DPW contributes to projects when needed or when called upon.



The fall/winter drought in Massachusetts had a significant impact on the water system, especially as reduced rainfall and lower groundwater levels strained local water supplies. In some areas, water levels in reservoirs and wells dropped, creating challenges for maintaining adequate water pressure and ensuring a consistent supply. The Medfield Water Department, like many others, closely monitored these conditions and adjusted operations to conserve water and prevent shortages. The drought highlighted the importance of efficient water management and conservation efforts to ensure a reliable water supply during dry spells.





Our cemetery team has been hard at work completing fall cleanup at Vine Lake Cemetery. They've been carefully tending to the grounds, ensuring that the cemetery remains well-maintained and respectful for visitors during the autumn season. Their dedication to the upkeep of this important space is greatly appreciated by the community.



Highway Division-

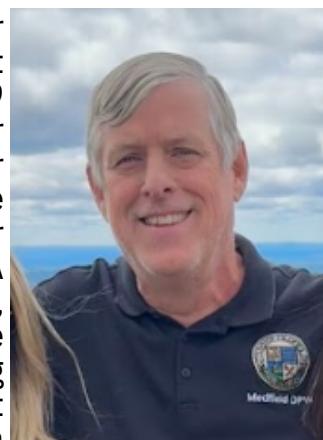


The Highway Division worked diligently over the fall months to prepare for Medfield's annual holiday weekend, which included the Holiday Stroll, Parade, and Angel Run. Our team took an active role in the setup and cleanup efforts to ensure these events ran smoothly.

Additionally, the team completed Tub Grinding at the Transfer Station. This process involves grinding down all debris discarded by residents and staff from various cleanup activities. The result is smaller, more manageable pieces that can be repurposed for mulch or composting. This process not only reduces the volume of waste but also makes it more environmentally friendly. Beyond these efforts, the Highway Division also made sure that all roads were properly maintained and cleared of debris, ensuring safe passage for event attendees and the general public. The team's hard work and dedication were crucial in keeping the town safe, accessible, and festive during the holiday season, ensuring that everyone could enjoy the season to its fullest.

Employee Spotlight

Meet David O'Toole, the Water Superintendent for the Medfield Water Department. A lifelong resident of Medfield, David has been with the town for 39 years, dedicating his entire career to the Water Department. In addition to his role as Water Superintendent, he also serves as the Deputy Fire Chief. When he's not responding to a water emergency, you might find him on the fire front. A highly skilled water operator and first responder, David is respected by both his peers and the community. In his spare time, he enjoys spending quality time with his family and exploring the great outdoors. Medfield is truly fortunate to have such a dedicated and professional employee like David.



DPW SAFETY TIPS DID YOU KNOW?

Shoveling snow can be physically demanding, so take frequent breaks and drink water.

Ensure that your home's heating system is properly ventilated, and keep vents clear of snow.

Keep your thermostat at a consistent temperature, even when you're not home, to prevent pipes from freezing and to ensure your home stays warm.



For more information or have questions, please contact our main office at (508) 906-3003 or visit our town website at www.town.medfield.net