



# TOWN OF TYNGSBOROUGH

Office of the Town Manager

Town Offices

25 Bryants Lane

Tyngsborough, MA 01879

Tel: (978) 649-2314 | Fax: (978) 649-2320

January 5, 2026

## Town Manager's Report

Dear Board Members:

I am pleased to report the following updates from Town Hall and throughout Town:

### General Updates

- I hate to open on a sad note but late last week we mourned the passing of our friend and former colleague Joanne Shifres. Joanne served as Tyngsborough's elected Town Clerk for nearly 25 years, retiring in May of 2024. Beyond that, she served as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, Finance Committee, and the Bicentennial Celebration Committee. Even in retirement, Joanne continued her long tradition of volunteerism by volunteering hundreds of hours for the Festival of Trees and Party by the Bridge. Joanne and her husband Marc raised their two kids, Andrew & Danielle in Tyngsborough and embodied the love of Tyngsborough that we all have. Joanne was a tremendous public servant and an incredible friend and we will all miss her very much.
- A shoutout to Ms. McCoy's 4th grade class at Tyngsborough Elementary School on being selected as the winner for this year's MassDOT "Name a Plow" competition. Their name "Flake Maye" is proudly displayed on a District 4 Snow Plow this winter.
- Today is Day 1 of the FY26 Senior Tax Work Off Program. We have placed participants in 9 different departments and the work they'll do for the town ranges from filing, to greeting residents, to digitizing documents, and much more. This program continues to be an incredible resource for the Town and for our residents and I'm grateful to all the departments who participate every year.
- As we start the new year, there are a handful of new laws that go into effect here in the Commonwealth. Of particular interest:
  - A new law requires that any individual who operates a motorboat or other personal watercraft in MA complete a boating safety education course. This can be done online or in-person and the Department of Conservation and Recreation can provide information for those looking to complete the course. If you were born after January 1, 1989, you must complete the course by April 1, 2026. If you were born before January 1, 1989, you have two additional years to complete the course. Hopefully this will help mitigate some of the dangerous boating activity we've seen on Lake Mascuppic. The Tyngsborough Police and Environmental Police will be able to enforce this law by checking for a certificate of completion beginning this summer.
  - As of January 2, 2026, so-called "Cannabis Cafes" will be permitted in the Commonwealth. These establishments would allow adults to consume cannabis products at a licensed facility. Before one could open, a city or town must





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proactively adopt zoning that permits them. As of today, Tyngsborough does not have compatible zoning and so the consumption on premise of cannabis is still illegal here in Tyngsborough.

### Staffing

- I am happy to share the promotion of Jacqueline Schnackertz from Executive Assistant to the Town Manager to the position of Director of People & Culture. Jackie has served in the Town Manager's Office since 2022 and in that time has totally revamped our licensing processes, the Senior Tax Work Off Program, and the Annual Town Report which has resulted in Tyngsborough being recognized for our Annual Town Report not once, but twice including earning the 1st Place Award for 2024 as a part of the MMA Annual Town Report competition. Jackie also served Tyngsborough as a member of the Board of Selectmen and of the Government Study Committee. Jackie brings incredible experience in process improvement, constituent services, and an unmatched familiarity with our staff to this new role. Additionally, Jackie has benefited from being able to work alongside Brigitte Bell for the last few weeks to ensure a smooth transition. Today is Jackie's first day in her new role which is why she is noticeably absent from the meeting today.
- Last week, Chief Woods issued commendations to Officer Sean Caron, Sergeant Nathan Abdallah, and Detective Bethany Bonczar for outstanding service and professionalism. Officer Caron is commended for his off-duty efforts to rescue a man who was in medical distress during a unique and dangerous situation. Sgt. Abdallah is commended for his work to end a multi-jurisdictional pursuit through the use of stop sticks and ultimately for de-escalating the situation and bringing the subject into custody without injury to the suspect or others. & Finally, Detective Bonczar was recognized for her work leading a large-scale fraud investigation involving more than \$800,000 and which resulted in a federal indictment and guilty plea. Chief Woods will appear before the Select Board at its next meeting and I am sure he will do a much better job highlighting these success stories.

### Reminders/Upcoming Events

- The Fire Station Building Committee announced last week a series of public information sessions to help bring the public along with our progress on the schematic design of a new Fire Department Headquarters. The first one is this Wednesday at 5:00 PM here at Town Hall ahead of the Fire Station Building Committee meeting at 6:00 PM. You can find the full schedule at [tyngsboroughma.gov](https://tyngsboroughma.gov) and flyers have been posted in Town Hall, the Library, and the Center for Active Living.
- Bingo returns this week to the Center for Active Living. Join us on Wednesday, January 7th for evening bingo! Doors open at 5:30 PM and the game starts promptly at 6:30 PM. We'll also host evening bingo on January 21st.





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- The Council on Aging will host a Paint & Sip (with non-alcoholic beverages) on Wednesday, January 28, 2026 at 6:00 PM at the Center for Active Living.
- The Tyngsborough Health Department and Town Clerk's Office will host their second Rabies Vaccine Clinic & Dog Licensing Event on Saturday, February 21, 2026 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Ironwood Park in the Clubhouse. Walk-ins are welcome or you can visit [www.tyngsboroughma.gov](http://www.tyngsboroughma.gov) to register ahead of time. Dogs must be on a leash and cats in a carrier. The cost for a vaccine is \$20.

### Assistant Town Manager's Report

- The Town recently completed a surplus auction of municipal vehicles and trailers, where 10 items were bid on over the course of a couple of weeks. I'm happy to report the completed sale of 7 items, netting the Town more than \$10,500 for equipment that is no longer needed. The additional three items may be re-listed in the near future to complete the offloading of surplus equipment.

Regards,

Colin F. Loiselle  
Town Manager

Sean M. Walsh  
Assistant Town Manager

