TOWN OF AVON
# NEWSLETTER

Issue LXXX | www.avonct.gov | October 2026

## Planning Underway for FY 2027/2028 Budget

The Town of Avon has officially begun planning for the Fiscal Year 2027/2028 Budget, which will take effect on July 1, 2027. All Town departments have submitted their capital budget requests, and operating budget requests are due in early November. Residents interested in learning more about the proposed budget are encouraged to attend the following public meetings:

- **Capital Budget Presentations** - Held in the Selectmen's Chamber at Avon Town Hall (60 West Main Street) and available virtually on Thursday November 5, 2026 and Thursday December 3, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Operating Budget Workshop** - This in-depth workshop is traditionally held on a Saturday in February as a half-day session, both in-person and virtually. The exact date will be announced in the January 2027 issue of the Town Newsletter. For a full schedule of budget-related meetings, visit www.avonct.gov/budget.

**Stay Informed & Get Involved!** The annual budget process is comprehensive and offers many opportunities for public input, culminating in the Annual Budget Referendum in May 2027. Throughout the process we encourage residents to:

- Visit www.avonct.gov/budget regularly to access key documents. These materials will be posted in late January, with updates in March and May.
- Subscribe to meeting notifications at www.avonct.gov/subscribe to receive alerts for Town Council, Board of Education and Board of Finance meetings, all of which play a direct role in shaping the budget.

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact the Town Manager's Office at (860) 409-4300. Your participation and feedback are vital to this important process.

## HOLIDAY GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

**2026 Holiday Donation Program:** The Town of Avon, Departments of Youth Services and Social & Senior Services are seeking local families, individuals, and organizations to sponsor Avon families in need this holiday season. If you are interested in spreading some holiday cheer, visit www.avonct.gov/holiday.



**Want to support your neighbors?** Donations to the Avon Food Pantry, Pet Pantry, Fuel Bank, Special Needs Fund, and Senior Center are welcome throughout the year. More information on ways to donate can be found at www.avonct.gov/donate. We wish all Avon residents a warm, safe and joyful holiday season! Thank you for supporting your community.

***Inside this issue...***Spooktacular Halloween Highlights | Updates from the Avon Historical Society | Your 2026 Election Voting Guide | NEW Short-Term Rentals Ordinance | Animal Control Corner...and more!

# Spooktacular Halloween Highlights

**Trunk or Treat** - Mark your calendars for our annual Trunk or Treat event on Saturday, October 24, from 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. at Sycamore Hills Recreation Area! There will be trunk or treating, a "Best Decorated Trunk" contest, a costume parade, crafts, face painter, inflatable obstacle course, and a hayride. Wear your favorite costume, bring a bag for your treats, and come enjoy a spooktacular day with the community! Please park only in designated areas at Sycamore Hills, Pine Grove School, or Thompson Brook School. We are also looking for Trunk Hosts! Visit avonrec.com for more information. This event is free to the public, with an optional donation of non-perishable food or household items to support the Avon Food Pantry. No registration is required. As always, be sure to check out avonrec.com and our social media pages for more great programs, events, and updates happening throughout the year!

**Recycle Your Pumpkins** - Did you know that over 1 billion pounds of pumpkins end up in landfills each year, contributing to climate change by releasing methane, a potent greenhouse gas? The Avon Sustainability Commission is once again partnering with Sub Edge Farm (199 Town Farm Road, Farmington) to host a Pumpkin Recycling Drive throughout November. Bring your unpainted pumpkins and gourds (with candles and other non-organic materials removed) to the farm during shop hours: Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Drop them in the designated trailer in the parking area. The collection runs from November 1 through November 30.



*Trunk or Treat 2025*
*Photo: Avon Recreation & Parks*

**A Note About Trick-or-Treating** - As you plan your Halloween festivities, please note that the Town of Avon does not schedule, cancel, or reschedule Trick-or-Treating, except in cases of extreme public safety hazards. In the event of inclement weather, parents should use their best judgement. For a safe and fun Halloween: wear light colored or reflective clothing, carry a flashlight and ensure children are accompanied by an adult.

# From the Avon Historical Society



*Photo: Deb Key*

The ***Avon History Museum*** at 8 East Main Street (Route 44) is open on Sundays year-round from 1-4 p.m., free of charge.

As part of Avon's America 250 Commemoration the interior of ***1865 Pine Grove Schoolhouse*** at 3 Harris Road was restored this summer with historically accurate colors. The last renovation was done in 1976. Thomas Mach Interiors donated the historic color consulting, project management and specialized paint, while labor was funded by two private donors and Tablescapes 2026 proceeds. The Schoolhouse will open on May 2, 2027 for the summer season.

***AVON TALKS*** history podcasts are available on major streaming services or at avontalks.buzzsprout.com.

## Annual Report & Town Calendar

Residents are reminded that the Annual Report is not mailed to households. A limited number will be available at the Town Hall, Avon Free Public Library, Avon Senior Center and the Landfill and electronic copies can be viewed at www.avonct.gov/annualreport. Reports will be ready for pick-up on or after December 1, 2026.

# Your 2026 Election Voting Guide

***By Nick Hogan, Town Clerk, and Christy Yaros and Ernest McNeill, Registrars of Voters (ROV)***

The General Election will take place on Tuesday, November 3, 2026. Avon voters will cast their ballots for various state and congressional positions. Voting will take place at your assigned polling location: Avon High School, Thompson Brook School, or Roaring Brook School. Please make a plan to vote and read on for important information about registration, early voting, absentee ballots and more.

## Voter Registration Deadlines

You can check your current registration status anytime at myvote.ct.gov/lookup (use the QR code to the right). If you find an error, please contact the Registrars. If you are not registered to vote in Avon, you can register in one of three ways:

myvote.ct.gov/lookup

- Online at myvote.ct.gov/register.
- In-person at the Registrar of Voters Office (Town Hall Building #1) or at the Town Clerk's Office (Building #2) if the Registrars are unavailable.
- By mail using a registration form available on the ROV webpage.

The deadline to register (online, by mail, in-person or at the DMV) is Friday, October 16. On that day, the Registrars will be available in-person from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Online registration closes at 11:59 p.m., and mail-in forms must be postmarked by October 16. Anything received after that date will not be processed until after the election unless you register in-person through Same Day Voter Registration. DMV registration is available until the DMV's close of business.

## Same Day Voter Registration

If you miss the October 16 deadline, you can still register and vote in-person:

- **During Early Voting:** Register and vote at Town Hall Building #1 on any day of the Early Voting period.
- **On Election Day:** Register and vote at Town Hall Building #1, Selectmen's Chamber from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

## Three Ways to Vote

1. **Early Voting:** Early Voting will be available for 14 days, from October 19 to November 1 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. with extended hours on October 27 and 29 (8 a.m. to 8 p.m.). All Early Voting will take place in the Avon Room, Town Hall Building #1. Look for signs to guide you to designated parking.
2. **Election Day Voting:** Polls will be open on Tuesday, November 3 from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. To confirm your polling location visit myvote.ct.gov/lookup. Please note that Fire Company #1 is no longer a polling location. All voters have been reassigned.
3. **Absentee Ballot:** Absentee ballots will be available from the Town Clerk's Office beginning October 2. To receive an absentee ballot, voters must first complete an Absentee Ballot Application. Applications are available at the Town Clerk's Office or online at www.avonct.gov/townclerk. Completed absentee ballots must be received by the Town Clerk's Office no later than 8:00 p.m. on November 3 in order to be counted.

## Need Help or Have Questions?

For more information visit the Town's website, Registrar of Voters page at www.avonct.gov/rov, or contact the Registrar of Voters Office at (860) 409-4350 or the Town Clerk's Office at (860) 409-4310. Make your voice heard - plan ahead and vote!

# New Short-Term Rentals Ordinance Now in Effect

The Town Council has adopted a Short-Term Rentals Ordinance establishing clear rules for operating rentals such as Airbnb or VRBO in Avon. The ordinance was initiated at the request of the Planning & Zoning Commission to help the Town monitor rental activity, promote safety, and address neighborhood concerns like parking, occupancy, and noise.

Under the new ordinance, anyone offering a short-term rental must obtain a Town-issued permit. The application process is straightforward: owners must provide basic contact information, identify a local 24/7 contact person, list available sleeping spaces, sign a compliance affidavit, and pay an application fee. The Town may conduct a safety inspection before issuing the permit, and nearby property owners must be notified when an initial application is filed.

Permits are valid for two years and must be renewed following the established procedures. The ordinance also includes safety, parking, and conduct standards to ensure rentals operate responsibly and in a manner consistent with community expectations.

For full details and application materials, visit the Planning & Community Development Department's Short-Term Rentals page at www.avonct.gov/shorttermrental.

# ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS



**Connecticut Energy Assistance Program:** The State of Connecticut can help households pay for primary heating bills (i.e., oil, propane, electric, and gas). To be eligible, the gross annual household income must be below 60% of the State Median Income, and those deemed categorically eligible based on enrollment in other assistance programs. If you have never applied and/or are interested in receiving more information on this program, please visit www.avonct.gov/energyassistance or call Social Services at (860) 409-4346, to see if you may qualify. Applications are by appointment only! Program deadline is May 31, 2027.

**Generation Power** (formerly Operation Fuel) may be able to provide one-time assistance with heating bills for those households who have applied for CT Energy Assistance and were found to be slightly over income. All those interested must apply for the CT Energy Assistance Program before contacting Generation Power. More information is available through Gifts of Love at (860) 676-2323.

# BACKYARD COMPOSTING MADE SIMPLE



The **Avon Sustainability Commission** and the **Avon Free Public Library** invite community members to dig into the world of composting with *Backyard Composting Made Simple*, an informative, practical program for gardeners of all experience levels. Join us on Wednesday, November 4 at 6:30 p.m. in the Library Community Room. The program will be led by composting educator Bob Lavorgna (UCONN Advanced Master Gardener & UCONN Master Composter), who brings extensive hands-on experience and a passion for sustainable gardening. Please visit www.avonctlibrary.info to register.

# Animal Control Corner: *Protecting Avon's Wildlife & Living Safely with Native Species*

Avon is home to a wide variety of native wildlife; from chimney swifts and bobcats, to songbirds and eagles. As our community continues to grow, we share more space with these animals than ever before. The good news: with a few simple practices, we can keep our homes safe and help protect the wildlife that makes Connecticut so special.

## RODENTICIDES: A GROWING CONCERN FOR OUR PREDATORS



*Photo: Mark G. Harutunian*

Across Connecticut, second generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs) are harming the very animals that naturally keep rodent populations in check. Eagles, hawks, owls, foxes, bobcats and even household pets can become sick or die after consuming poisoned rodents. Rehabilitation centers like A Place Called Hope have documented more than 100 rodenticide-related bird deaths in just the latter half of 2024, including multiple eagles. Many more cases likely go undetected.

Though SGARs are intended for restricted commercial use, the small black boxes outside many homes and businesses often contain these chemicals. Connecticut lawmakers continue to evaluate options to limit SGARs and protect local wildlife.

## A BETTER WAY: NON-TOXIC RODENT CONTROL

At Avon Animal Control, we have adopted fertility control methods for rodents; safe science-based products such as Evolve, ContraPest and Contraceptrol that reduce rodent populations without chemicals that can harm pets or predators. Residents can also take simple, natural steps at home:

Seal Entry Points | Remove Water or Food Sources | Declutter Storage Areas |
Manage Vegetation & Debris Outdoors | Keep Cats Indoors | Use Strong Natural Scents

## LIVING HARMONIOUSLY WITH LOCAL WILDLIFE



*Photo: Frederick Tesche*

Many wildlife encounters can be handled safely with simple awareness:

- **Don't trap animals.** It often separates mothers from young.
- **Chimneys.** Summer noises are usually chimney swifts; cap chimneys only October - February.
- **Young Wildlife.** Many babies are temporarily left alone. Give them space.
- **Raccoons.** Daytime activity is normal; rabies shows clear symptoms like disorientation.
- **Coyotes, Bears & Bobcats.** Supervise pets and give wildlife space.
- **Driving.** Watch for turtles and help them cross in their original direction.

## SUPPORTING A HEALTHY LOCAL ECOSYSTEM

Small changes around our homes can make a meaningful difference for local wildlife. Avoiding pesticides, herbicides, and rodenticides helps protect both pollinators and predators. Choosing native plants and allowing a portion of your yard to grow naturally creates beneficial habitat, while preserving open space supports long-term ecosystem health.

Together, these simple steps help keep our homes safe, protect pets, and maintain Avon's thriving natural environment. Please contact Animal Control at (860) 673-0297 or agrano@avonct.gov with questions about this article. For immediate assistance please call Dispatch at (860) 409-4200. For emergencies dial 911.

# Avon Honored with 2026 Wellspring Award

Avon is Aging Well! We are pleased to share that we have been selected as the recipient of the 2026 Local Government Wellspring Award, presented by the Connecticut Age Well Collaborative, an initiative of Connecticut Community Care.

This honor recognizes our community's ongoing commitment to fostering inclusivity and supporting older adults in aging well. As a participant in the 2026 Community Leaders Fellowship program, the Town of Avon has been collaborating closely with older residents to develop a comprehensive local resource guide grounded in the Collaborative's livability framework. The guide is available now at www.avonct.gov/agewell.

We are grateful for this recognition and proud of the hard work, authenticity, perseverance, and collaboration demonstrated throughout the Fellowship process. Avon remains dedicated to strengthening community connections and ensuring that residents of all ages can thrive. You can learn more about the AgeWell Collaborative at www.ctagewellcollaborative.org.

## A Reminder from the Collector of Revenue

The 2nd installment of the residential sewer usage bill is due October 1st. The last day to pay without penalty is October 30th. Payment must be received or US postmarked by this date to be considered on time. If you have already paid your balance in full, thank you!

## Save the Dates!

*Friends of the Avon Library*
*Used Book Sales*

**Adult Books:** October 16, 17, 18
**Kids & Teen Books**: October 24

For more information, visit www.avonctlibrary.info/friends-of-the-avon-library/book-sale/

# Avon & Farmington Celebrate 250!

The Avon & Farmington CT 250 Celebration was a tremendous community event hosted in Avon on June 26 to celebrate America's 250th birthday. More than 4,000 attendees came together for a celebration filled with community spirit, entertainment, and fun for all ages.

The community event offered something for everyone, including live music, local food and vendors, a car show, kids' activity zones, dance and musical performances, and *We Stand,* a special original song celebrating America, Avon, and Farmington, featuring youth from both communities performing together on one stage. The evening concluded with a spectacular fireworks display, bringing the community together to mark this historic milestone.



*Photo: Christine Petit*

This celebration was made possible by the generous support of our Avon-Farmington 250 sponsors, whose investment helped make this free community event possible for thousands of residents and visitors. We are incredibly grateful to the dedicated Avon-Farmington CT 250 Committee for the coutless hours, ideas and energy they contributed throughout the planning process. We also appreciate the Town departments, staff, volunteers, civic organizations, community partners, vendors and performers who helped make this event a success. Most of all, we are grateful to everyone who came out to celebrate and made this such a memorable evening for Avon and Farmington. **Happy 250th, America!**

# Winter Weather Reminders: Snow Removal & Ice Control

As winter approaches, the Avon Department of Public Works (DPW) is preparing to respond to snow and ice events across town. Our goal is to keep roads passable and reasonably safe during snow storms, and to clear streets curb to curb within 8 to 12 hours after the snow has stopped. Our plow drivers work long hours in hazardous conditions to keep the community safe. Your patience and cooperation are greatly appreciated!

**How Snow Removal Works:** Avon maintains approximately 112 miles of town roads, divided into 11 snow plow routes. Each route is assigned a dedicated plow truck and driver for the entire winter season. During a storm, our top priority is to keep main roads and emergency routes clear for safe travel. While snow is actively falling, plowing is generally limited to the center of the roadway to maintain one travel lane in each direction. Once the storm subsides, crews shift focus to local roads and cul-de-sacs. Depending on the severity of the storm, it may take up to four hours to make a full pass through town, with clean up continuing for 8 to 12 hours after snowfall ends.

***Frequently Asked Questions:***

### Why is there so much snow in my driveway, especially in a cul-de-sac?

This is an unavoidable byproduct of clearing the roads and it is not done intentionally. When we plow a street, we are simply moving the snow that is in the street off to the side. Plowing cul-de-sacs is particularly challenging due to their smaller frontage areas. Snow must be pushed into tighter spaces, which often results in larger deposits at the ends of driveways.

### Who clears the snow in front of my mailbox?

DPW plows as close to the curb as possible, but any remaining snow in front of mailboxes is the property owner's responsibility to clear to ensure mail delivery.

### Can I push snow from my driveway onto the street or sidewalk?

No! Town ordinance prohibits pushing snow back onto public roads or sidewalks. Violators may be subject to a $50 fine and could be held liable if an accident occurs as a result. If you hire a contractor for snow removal, you are still responsible for where the snow ends up.



### Should I dig out my fire hydrant?

Absolutely! The Avon Volunteer Fire Department encourages residents to shovel out hydrants located near your home to keep them accessible throughout the winter months. Please remove snow and ice, clear a wide enough perimeter around the hydrant for firefighters to work (about 3 feet) and clear a path from the hydrant to the street.

### What's the Town's Mailbox Policy?

Despite our best efforts, some mailboxes and posts may be damaged during plowing. Avon's policy allows for reimbursement of up to $85.00 for a standard mailbox and/or post. This only applies if the damage is caused by direct contact with a town plow. Damage from snow impact or mailboxes installed outside of USPS installation standards is not reimbursable. Decorative or specialty mailboxes are not eligible.

*IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING INFORMATION PRINTED IN THIS NEWSLETTER, CALL THE TOWN MANAGER'S OFFICE, AVON TOWN HALL, AT (860) 409-4300.*

Avon Town Council
Town of Avon
60 West Main Street
Avon, CT 06001-3719

PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
AVON, CT
PERMIT NO. 14

Postal Patron

# IMPORTANT ELECTION INFORMATION

## GENERAL ELECTION

**November 3, 2026 -** 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

### EARLY IN-PERSON VOTING AVAILABLE

*October 19 - November 1 - 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. with extended hours on October 27 & 29 - 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.*
*Appear at the Avon Room, Town Hall Building #1, 60 West Main Street, Follow signs to designated parking.*

### ABSENTEE BALLOTS AVAILABLE

*Please visit the Town Clerk's webpage at www.avonct.gov/townclerk for more information.*
*Call (860) 409-4310 with questions.*

***Visit myvote.ct.gov/lookup and enter your name and date of birth to verify your polling location.***

### VOTING DISTRICTS

1

***Avon High School***
510 W Avon Road
Gymnasium

2

***Thompson Brook School***
150 Thompson Road
Gymnasium

3

***Roaring Brook School***
30 Old Wheeler Lane
Gymnasium