



Community Services

1. BACKGROUND: The following provides a brief overview of data and trends on a variety of Community Services available in Yarmouth that add to the fabric of our community including recreational and senior services, libraries, public safety, educational institutions, and cultural and historical opportunities. Links to websites and programs for more in-depth information are embedded throughout the text.

Data/Trends:

- The population in Yarmouth is aging with a median age of 53 and over 30% of the population age 65 and older (2018). The trend is toward fewer families with children and fewer working age adults.
- Annual median household income is about \$63,000 with approximately 7% below the poverty level (2018).
- The population of approximately 23,400 full time residents (2018) is projected to be relatively stagnant through 2035.
- Yarmouth has a diverse demographic of full time working residents, retirees and second home owners with varying wants, needs and interests.
- The Senior Center had over 35,650 seniors come to the center in 2019 with an increase seen in all categories of services, programs, transportation and volunteerism.
- The two Town Libraries saw almost 185,000 visitors in 2019.
- The Town Recreation Department had over 4,500 participants in their programs in 2019.
- The [Yarmouth Fire Department](#) has 63 fire fighters/EMTs/Paramedics and 9 other staff including administrative, Fire Alarm Operators and EMS trainers, making up approximately 8.4% of the Town budget. In addition to firefighting and emergency calls, the Fire Department issues many permits under the MA Comprehensive Fire Safety Code.
- Fire and EMT calls are increasing annually with 7,413 emergency responses in 2019 (5,832 of those calls being medical calls). A 2018 [Fire Department Operational Review](#) provides detailed information on the Fire Department operations.
- The [Yarmouth Police Department](#) has 61 sworn police officers/supervisors and 13 civilian personnel, along with 23 part-time/seasonal workers, making up approximately 8.6% of the Town budget. The Department includes the Patrol Division, Detectives Division, Administration and Specialty Divisions such as the Canine Unit, School Resource Officers and the Proactive Anti-Crime Unit (PAC).
- The Police Department recorded 34,865 calls for service in 2019 with a record low number of break-ins in 2019. The [Police Facebook](#) page is a popular source of information about our community and police activities. The Yarmouth Police Department has won several community policing awards and is very active in community outreach and support programs, such as the [Yarmouth Neighborhood Crime Watch](#) (YNCW). The YNCW provides tools and training to build strong, safe neighborhoods and includes such programs as neighborhood crime watch blocks, dog walker crime watch, and a monthly [CAT Newsletter](#).
- Educational costs constitute 44% of the Yarmouth annual budget through the combined total of Dennis-Yarmouth (DY) Regional School District, Cape Cod Regional Technical High School and payments for charter school students. The DY Regional School District includes 6 schools



with approximately 3,000 student. Of this student population, 34% are minorities, 58% have high needs, and 44% are economically disadvantaged. The DY District has an 88% graduation rate (4-year adjusted). The 2019 Massachusetts Accountability Classification shows “substantial progress toward targets” for the district. Performance by the DY district can be viewed through annual [Report Cards](#). Detailed information on the various programs and statistics for each school within the DY Regional School District and for Cape Cod Regional Technical High School can be found in the Town Annual Reports.

Studies and Reports: In addition to the links embedded throughout, more detailed information and data can be found at the links below:

- **2019 Annual Report:** The Annual Report provides a wealth of information on all facets of our government and community. [Annual Reports back to 1869](#) are available at the South Yarmouth Library and on the Town Website and provide an excellent history of the Town.
- **Town of Yarmouth Website:** The Town Website includes information on all Town Departments and various Boards and Committees that help run our Town.

2. EXISTING PROGRAMS/PROJECTS/INITIATIVES: Yarmouth has a wide variety of existing programming that enriches our community with valuable services for all ages.

- **Senior Services:** Yarmouth has a Senior Center that serves as a multi-purpose drop-in center enhancing the quality of life for our senior residents through advocacy, information, programming, activities and socialization. An active [Council on Aging & Senior Services](#) program helps seniors to access services including fuel assistance, food programs, tax assistance, housing, transportation, support groups, health resources, wellness programs, as well as a staff social worker at the Senior Center. The Age Friendly Team promotes ways to make Yarmouth a welcoming community for all age groups and brings awareness to ageism. The bi-monthly [Milestones Newsletter](#) provides valuable information and contacts for senior services and programs.
- **Libraries:** Yarmouth has two [Public Libraries](#) (in West Yarmouth and South Yarmouth), along with a [Private Library](#) in Yarmouth Port. Libraries often serve as multi-generational community centers as they have something to offer everyone. In addition to access to books, DVDs and CDs, the public libraries provide museum passes, computer access/free WiFi, children’s room, special events and workshops for children and young adults, a popular author series, a monthly on-line [Newsletter](#) and reference librarians. A 5-year [Strategic Plan](#) (2016-2021) was developed for the Town Libraries that outlines long range goals and objectives.
- **Recreation:** In addition to passive recreation and [conservation areas](#) outlined in the Open Space datasheet, there are many active Town recreational opportunities at our various [Parks and Playgrounds](#), [Fresh and Saltwater Beaches](#), and [Golf Courses](#), including Bayberry Hills Golf Course which recently underwent a \$2 million renovation. The Recreation Division provides a wide variety of programming including summer camps, sailing, basketball, tennis and summer movie nights. Pickleball is increasing in popularity with courts recently completed at Flax Pond.
- **Education:** Primary and secondary education for Yarmouth is provided through a partnership with the Town of Dennis through the [Dennis-Yarmouth \(DY\) Regional School District](#). The schools in Yarmouth include the DY Regional High School, Mattacheese Middle school, and the Marguerite E. Small and Station Avenue Elementary Schools. The Cape Cod Regional Technical High School serves 12 Cape Cod Towns and offers specialized training in 15 technical programs for vocational training in a new 220,000 square foot building. St. Pius



X Catholic School is a private school that offers education from pre-K through Grade 8. Local Charter schools, such as Sturgis Charter Public Schools also offer educational options for our children. Adult education is available through the DY District, Cape Cod Community College in Barnstable and the Bridgewater State University Cape Cod in Yarmouth.

- **Arts, Culture and History:** Arts, culture and history add to the flavor of Yarmouth including the [Cultural Center of Cape Cod](#), the Whydah Pirate Museum, and [historical homes/museums](#) such as the Edward Gorey House, Captain Bangs Hallet House, Winslow Crocker House, and many historic homes along Route 6A, especially the [Captains Mile](#) on the north side of Town and the Bass River Historic District on the south side. Other historic sites to visit include Taylor-Bray Farm, the Baxter Grist Mill and the Judah Baker Windmill.
- **Social Media:** Yarmouth has an active [Town Facebook page](#) and [Town Twitter page](#) to help share useful and interesting town information. These social media accounts are used to inform the public of important issues and events in Town, as well as to entertain residents and visitors with fun Yarmouth-centric content.

3. WHAT'S IN THE WORKS: Many projects are in the works throughout the community, such as:

- **Library:** The Library Planning Committee is continuing the work of the Library Study *ad hoc* Committee to look into improving library services and facilities in Yarmouth, including the potential for a new combined library.
- **Recreation:** The Recreation Commission is moving forward with the recommendation of the Recreation Master Plan to make multi-phase improvements to the Sandy Pond Recreation Area including tennis and pickleball courts, basketball courts, splash pad, gazebo, an inclusive playground and upgrades to the parking area. A funding request has been submitted to the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) for Phase 1 of the project.
- **Police Foundation:** The Yarmouth Police Foundation launched a capital campaign to establish an officer training complex at the Yarmouth Police Headquarters to be named after Sgt. Sean M. Gannon. The facility will be the first of its kind on Cape Cod enabling law enforcement officers and K-9 teams to train in realistic environments. The interactive simulator in the police station's basement has been up and running since 2019. Construction of Phases 2 & 3 is underway and includes a two-story mock house and outdoor K-9 obstacle course.
- **Police Community Relations Team:** The Yarmouth Police Department is establishing a community relations team to build and maintain relationships between the Department and the diverse populations in Yarmouth, and will include outreach and community engagement.
- **Schools:** Design is finishing up for a new \$117 million [Mattacheese Middle School](#) for students in the DY Regional School District to be located on Station Avenue, near the DY High School. A State reimbursement amount of \$44 million helps to offset the costs for this project. The new Middle School will replace the Town owned Mattacheese Middle School on Higgins Crowell Road, opening up other opportunities for this site.
- **Riverwalk Park:** The Drive-In Site Utilization Committee (DISUC) worked for years to identify uses for the vacant 22 acre former drive-in site at 669 Route 28 before settling on the creation of a Riverwalk Park along the Parkers River, with walking trails, a looped Boardwalk along the marsh and outdoor event space. This project is in development and will create a high quality recreation and open space destination.



4. THINGS TO THINK ABOUT: Now that you have had an opportunity to learn a little bit about Community Services in Yarmouth, bring your thoughts and ideas to the Workshop or include them in your Survey responses. Some things to think about include:

- What strengths do we have regarding our Community Services?
- What initiatives are we doing successfully?
- What challenges do you see related to Community Services?
- What populations are not being adequately served?
- What opportunities could we tap into to address these challenges?
- Are there issues and influences holding us back?
- Is the Town spending its time and resources on the right projects or initiatives?
- If not, where should we be spending our time and resources?
- How do Community Services impact your vision for Yarmouth's future?

