

Town of Wendell

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2024 SPONSORED BY THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD
THE TOWN OF WENDELL IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER



ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Saturday , June 8th at 10:00am

Wendell Town Hall, 6 Center St.

The warrant will be posted on the town website www.wendellmass.us

Please stay tuned to the possibility of a Special Town Meeting the beginning of May.



Are you considering supporting the town of Wendell by joining a board or committee?

Perfect timing!

We have open seats for the **School Committee** and **Planning Board**. If you are interested in being a write-in candidate for either position, please contact the Town Clerk's office for more information or ask Wendell voters to write you in.

Nominations for Citizen of the Year

Every year it is the Selectboard's pleasant job to choose a **Citizen of the Year** to be celebrated at Old Home Day. The honor goes to a person who has served Wendell in a special way during the past year or, often, for many years.

The Selectboard welcomes nominations for this honor! If you have a suggestion contact a Selectboard member or email them at selectboard@wendellmass.us.

Board members can be reached at these numbers or emails individually: Laurie DiDonato, Chair, 978-544-8270; Gillian Budine, 978-544-7309; Paul Doud pdoud@wendellmass.us. **Please submit nominations by June 1st.**

Participate in the "Ted Walk"

During the week of April school vacation (begins April 14th) we will be picking up trash/litter along the roads in Wendell.

You can bring bags, etc to WRATS or leave it safely by a telephone pole or guardrail and we will pick it up on **Saturday, April 20th** in the afternoon.

Wear bright colors and gloves- be safe. Grabbers and vests will be available at the library.

Watch for posters with more information!

Please call one of us for more information and to let us know where you have cleaned or plan to clean.

Maggie Houghton at 978-544-7773

Deb Lewis at 978-544-7102

Anne Diemand Bucci at 413-522-4453

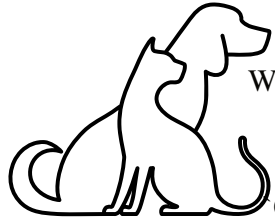
Thank you,

Anne Diemand Bucci, Maggie Houghton & Deb Lewis

HAPPY
EARTH DAY

TOWN CLERK UPDATES

Rabies Clinic offered at Wendell Police Department at 4 Center St. Saturday, April 27th from 10 am - Noon.



Windy Hollow Veterinary Clinic will offer rabies vaccines for cats and dogs for \$20.

No appointment is needed. Please spread the word and vaccinate your pets!

Dog licenses will also be available onsite.

Cats in carrier. Dogs leashed. Proof of prior rabies vaccination for 3 year vaccine.

Neighbors from surrounding towns are welcome to participate in the rabies clinic.

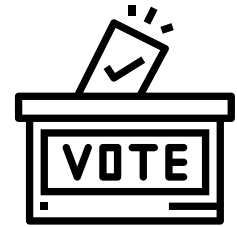
Town Election

Monday, May 6th is Wendell's Annual Town Election. Polls will be open from noon until 8 pm.

We have open seats for the School Committee and Planning Board. If you are interested in being a write-in candidate for either position, please contact the Town Clerk's office for more information or ask Wendell voters to write you in.

Please note- if you applied to vote by mail in all elections this year, you would also receive your Wendell ballot in the mail. Please complete it and return it by the end of April.

Anna Wetherby, Wendell Town Clerk
Notary Public
9 Morse Village Road
P. O. Box 41
Wendell MA 01379
Tel. (978) 544-3395 x102



COUNCIL ON AGING NEWS

The medical rides program supported by the Wendell Council on Aging is looking for volunteer drivers, to drive elders to medical appointments. Volunteers receive reimbursement for mileage. Please contact Nancy Spittle at 544-6760 for information about volunteering.

The Council on Aging is looking for another member. The COA provides programs for elders in Wendell, including social events, medical equipment loans, and a monthly health clinic. The senior center provides a meeting space for community activities, such as yoga, meditation, and drumming. Please contact Nancy Spittle at 544-6760 for information.

Please contact Katie Nolan, 544-2306, for appointments to the foot care clinic, held the first Wednesday of each month. The clinic is staffed by a nurse from FootCare by Nurses.



CDC news about respiratory illness: Due to fewer hospitalizations and deaths from Covid-19, the CDC is taking a more unified approach for limiting the spread of respiratory illnesses such as COVID, Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) and influenza. People should continue to stay up to date with their vaccinations for these viruses, stay home when sick, and seek advice from health care providers about available treatments if they contract these illnesses.

The CDC suggests implementing the following care prevention steps, which are effective for all respiratory viruses:

- Get vaccinated. Flu and COVID-19 inoculations are usually administered annually in the fall (see note below.) RSV vaccinations are recommended for those over 60 when advised by the primary care provider. To protect an infant after birth, the RSV vaccine Abrysvo is recommended for all pregnant people who are between 32 and 36 weeks pregnant during the months of September to January. Always get advice from your health care provider first.
- Practice good hygiene habits. Cover coughs and sneezes, wash or sanitize hands often, and clean frequently touched surfaces.
- Take steps for cleaner air. Open windows when possible, purify indoor air, and have gatherings outside rather than inside when feasible.

If you become ill with a respiratory illness, stay away from others. The CDC advice does not mention masks, but if someone in your home is immunocompromised or has underlying health conditions, you may want to consider wearing them. Treatments are available for flu and COVID-19. You may return to normal activities when symptoms improve overall and fever has been absent for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication. For the next 5 days take additional preventive strategies.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health is reviewing the new CDC guidance but as of this writing (3/15) is still recommending isolation for 5 days following symptom onset and wearing a mask when in public for days 6-10 when you have COVID.

For those 65 and older, the CDC has recommended 1 additional dose of any updated (2023-2024 Formula) COVID-19 vaccine at least 4 months following the previous dose. Those 65 and older who are moderately or severely immunocompromised should get their extra dose at least 2 months after their previous dose. These shots are recommended because immune response diminishes with age, so older people's immunity wanes faster after vaccination. Medicare and Medicaid should cover this shot.

Personnel changes:

Barbara Craddock is not running for re-election in May due to family needs in New Jersey. Amy Simmons will be on the ballot to fill the open position. Amy has previous experience serving on the board and is also a former Chair. We feel very fortunate to have her joining the team. She has been attending our meetings for some time now. She and Barbara are working together to make the transition a smooth one. Please give her your support.

Wibby Swedberg, our Health Agent, is retiring at the end of the fiscal year on June 30. She has served our board well for many years, and we wish her a relaxing and septic-problem-free retirement. Please give her a hearty "Thank you" when you see her. The Health Agent is a contracted position, so we will post it in the near future.

North Quabbin Public Health Collaborative news (Orange, New Salem, Petersham, Warwick, Wendell):

Several new staff members have been hired by the collaborative. Jason O'Brien has been hired as our Housing and Food Inspector. Carolyn Hochard has been hired as our Public Health Nurse, and Nikki Riel is our new Shared Services Coordinator. Our board has met with all of them, and we look forward to working together to improve and expand health services to our five towns.

Contact the Wendell Board of Health at
978-544-3395 ext. 106 or boardofhealth@wendellmass.us

NEWS FOR THE WRATS-TERS

Big WRATS news for April! The WRATS will be collecting BLOCK STYROFOAM every Saturday in April from 9:00 to 12:00 noon! This started as a pilot project last year in Montague and Northfield. This year, Leverett and Wendell are getting in on the styrofoam action! This collection is for Wendell residents only. Block styrofoam, and coolers only. No peanuts, food cups or other food packaging. All styrofoam needs to be CLEAN with no tape, wood or cardboard. We could use volunteers! It will be fun! Come on down.

We've been making some improvements at the WRATS lately. We've moved the Salvation Army box into the barn. No more wandering off to the back 40 to recycle textiles! This will also keep the box clean and dry, and it makes it easier to load the bags on the truck when it comes. Speaking of bags: all clothing and textiles need to be in a sturdy plastic bag that is tied shut. Paper bags break. Loose clothing is very difficult to handle. Avelar and I spent well over an hour with the Salvation Army worker to bag all the clothing in the box. And, we only got through half of it! Bag those textiles, people! Take pride in your textile recycling! I have had to pull out non-textile items like broken dishes, toys and knitting needles. Remember these bags are loaded onto a box truck and then unloaded. Broken items, knitting needles can hurt workers handling these bags. **TEXTILES ONLY**. All items need to be clean and dry. FYI, the last time we emptied the box, it was a thing of beauty! Made me proud:)

HOLD THE FOAM!

Free Styrofoam Block Recycling Collections

On 4 dates:

**Saturdays in April:
6, 13, 20, and 27,
2024
9 am - 12 noon**

At 4 locations:

open only to residents of these towns:

- ✓ **Leverett Transfer Station**
5 Cemetery Rd, Leverett
- ✓ **Montague Transfer Station**
11 Sandy Lane, Turners Falls
- ✓ **Northfield Transfer Station**
1 Caldwell Rd, Northfield
- ✓ **Wendell Recycling and Transfer Station**
341 New Salem Rd, Wendell

YES – DO bring: #6 PS/EPS Expanded Polystyrene.

- ✓ White foam packing blocks, sheets, and Styrofoam coolers *only*
Remove any tape, labels, cardboard, or wood before the event.



NO - DO NOT bring:

- ⊗ NO wet or dirty foam
- ⊗ NO food related items: no cups, plates, meat trays, egg cartons, or take-out containers
- ⊗ NO packing peanuts
- ⊗ NO #4 (LDPE) foam
- ⊗ NO insulation board (XPS)



Styrofoam, EPS and other foams are NOT accepted in household recycling in Massachusetts. Foam from these events will be recycled at Gold Circuit E-Cycling in Agawam. MI-BOX Moving & Storage supports this project with discounted rates.

For more information, contact Franklin County Solid Waste District: info@franklincountywastedistrict.org or 413-772-2438.
MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD)



We have exciting news to share! **Wendell Free Library received a national grant** for small and rural libraries. The \$10,000 grant will help the Library work with residents with disabilities to improve Library accessibility. Wendell Free Library is proud to be chosen to be part of Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities, an American Library Association initiative that provides community engagement and accessibility resources to small and rural libraries to help them better serve people with disabilities. Stay tuned for more details about an upcoming community conversation. Read more about this opportunity at:

<https://www.wendellmass.us/wendell-free-library-to-receive-national-accessibility-grant/>

Also we would love to remind everyone about our home delivery program:

Home Delivery Service: The Wendell Free Library is now offering home delivery to Wendell patrons.

*To be eligible, residents must be temporarily or permanently unable to travel to the Library.

*A valid CWMARS library card is required; however, card application may be completed over the phone.

*There is no fee for the delivery service.

For more information call the Library (978-544-3559) or check the Library website at

<https://www.wendellmass.us/documents/home-delivery-program>

UPCOMING LIBRARY EVENTS



Tuesdays, April 2 & 16: “Dive into Yoga” Workshops with Shay Whitman Cooper. Allow the magic of doing yoga to energize and renew your body, mind, & spirit. Registration requested. 11 am -12:15 pm

Friday April 5 at 6:30 pm: Dale Monette “I See You” photographs and stories.

A program of the stories behind the photos of Dale Monette’s 4th book release. Monette juxtaposes his favorite unpublished images with the interesting stories behind them under the title “I SEE YOU: Stories from Wetlands and Woods”. In this program Monette delves into the camera equipment and lenses used for the images, the habitat, the time of the season and the circumstances that made getting the photograph possible. This program is possible due to funding from the Friends of the Wendell Free Library.

Saturday, April 6 1-3 pm: Karie Neal Art Show Opening

Tuesday, April 9: Tech Help Tuesday: By registration. Spots are available at 4:30 & 5 pm.

Thursdays, April 11 & 25: Fiber Night. 6:30 pm

Friday, April 12: Homeschool Hangout 10:30 am

Friday, April 12: Office Hours with Aaron Saunders. 2 pm

Saturday April 13 1-2p.m: Phyllis Brooks presenting her new book “Hold On To What Is Good: A Dementia Caregiver’s Story and a Memorial to an Exceptional Being” Phyllis will play one or two songs that she wrote during her experience, including the title song, “Hold on to What is Good.”

Tuesday, April 23: Adult Book Group. 10 am

Tuesday, April 30: Collage your own Magnetic Poetry Set. 4-5 pm. All ages.

REGULARLY SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING

All Month: Art Exhibit. Watercolors by Kari Neal.

Every Friday: LEGO club. 4 - 5 pm.

Every Saturday: StoryCraft. Picture book read-aloud and connected craft. Story at 10:30 am, drop in until 2:30 pm for craft.

Every Sunday: Yoga. All levels, pay what you can. 10 am.

Every Tuesday: Art Group at 5 pm

Every Wednesday: CNC Playgroup at 10 am

Every Wednesday: Matinee Movie at 4 pm



FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Burning Brush

Greetings, fire safety conscious residents. Do you know what month is the busiest for out of control brush fires in Massachusetts? It's APRIL. Some folks are surprised, as it can be rainy, snowy, muddy etc. However, it's the plants that burn. Until green-up when plants get moisture in them again, they can burn ferociously, especially if there is wind. We have had two brush fires already this year. One went to 2 acres and took 3 towns to get it under control.

Here are the regulations, and how to burn safely:

- January 15 to May 1.
- Permit required: www.FCburnpermits.com. Issued 8:30 - 1:00.
- Brush only! No leaves, hay, stumps, building debris.
- Start at 10:00 am, must be completely extinguished by 4:00 pm.
- At least 18 years old to apply for permit or to start fire.
- Have tools nearby (extinguisher, hose, shovel, rake) to extinguish the fire COMPLETELY by 4:00 pm or if requested by the Fire Department.
- Wendell Fire Dept can refuse/cancel permits at any time. (violation of regulations or change in weather conditions).

TIPS:

- Never use gas, kerosene or flammable liquids to start fire.
- Don't set a large pile of brush on fire.
- Burn one small pile at a time, and slowly add to it. Keep it under control.
- Burn fire down to the coals, drown with water, spread the coals out and drown them again.

Brush burning can only take place when both air quality and fire safety conditions are acceptable. Weather conditions can change rapidly, watch the wind and be prepared to extinguish the fire. Sudden wind change is how most open burning fires get out of control. Winds can fan the flames and fire can spread faster than a person can run.

Home Safety

The Wendell and New Salem Fire Departments have been awarded grant money for SAFE and Senior SAFE programs. This money is used to teach fire safety at Swift River School and at community events throughout the year. Senior SAFE can do home safety inspections and smoke alarm installations for seniors, as well as install reflective street numbers at your home.

If interested in a home safety inspection contact:

Asa de Roode

asaspades911@gmail.com

978-544-8695



STAY CONNECTED

Have you visited the Town of Wendell website?

www.wendellmass.us

- Find out when a meeting is
- View the library calendar of events
- Pay a tax bill
- Find forms for the Board of Health or Building Inspector and more!
- View past Town newsletters
- Contact information for Town officials, boards, committees
- WRATS schedule



WENDELL NET  whip city fiber

CUSTOMER SERVICE | 1-413-485-1251
customerservice@wgeld.org

TECH SUPPORT | 1-413-485-1204
techsupport@whipcityfiber.com

INFO | whipcityfiber.com/wendell/

SIGN UP FOR "WENDELL ALERTS"

through the CodeRed system

CodeRED® is the FREE community notification system available to local residents that will send you alerts concerning time-sensitive and/or emergency information that may impact your area via phone calls, text messages, and emails. You choose how to receive the messages.

The **Town of Wendell** encourages you to register your cell phone, email or home phone for this service and verify your home location to receive notifications that directly impact your community.

The CodeRED system will be used to send critical and time-sensitive communications such as:

- Road Closures/Traffic Alerts
- Emergency Preparedness
- Natural Disasters
- Evacuation Notices
- Town Meeting Notices
- Wildfire Alerts
- Public Health Crisis
- Missing Persons/Children
- Other alerts as needed

Don't wait! Sign up today!

Ways to sign up to receive Wendell Alerts:

- Visit the Town of Wendell website at <https://www.wendellmass.us/code-red-alerts/> to access the link to enroll online OR
- Text "WendellAlerts: to 99411 to receive link to enroll
- Download the CodeRED Mobile Alert app available in the App Store or Google Play

QR CODE to download the app

