



Town of Wendell

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2022 SPONSORED BY THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD
THE TOWN OF WENDELL IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

Wendell NEEDS your help and participation!

As a resident of Wendell you are eligible to participate in your community. Please review the available positions and consider participating! Your involvement matters and is appreciated.

BOARD VACANCIES

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Elected position- will be appointed until the next election

The Board of Assessors is involved in setting property tax valuations. Current members are Martha Senn (chair) and Dan Keller - Meetings are bi-weekly, Wednesdays 6:30pm. email: assessors@wendellmass.us. This position comes with an annual stipend of \$3,500.

OTHER VACANCIES

Town Newsletter- someone to compile this newsletter on a quarterly basis. Please contact the Town Coordinator if interested.

The Town Clerk is looking for interested residents to assist as poll workers for upcoming elections and early voting.

Paid position at \$16.25/hr and includes a meal!

TOWN VACANCY

SELECTBOARD RECORDING SECRETARY

The position requires attendance at evening Selectboard meetings, taking notes, and writing clear and concise minutes that accurately reflect the decisions and discussions that took place during these meetings. Selectboard meetings last approximately 2 hours and are scheduled for the first and third (sometimes fifth) Wednesdays of the month (currently remote via Zoom, but likely to return to in-person soon).

This position is currently paid hourly but has the option of becoming salaried. \$16.25 an hour - approximately 5-7 hours/month.

If you are interested, please contact the Town Coordinator, at 978-544-3395, ext. 0 or via email at coordinator@wendellmass.us



NEWS FROM THE TOWN CLERK

Dog License Drawing - make sure your dog is eligible to be the #1 dog in Wendell!

All dogs registered and licensed in Wendell before May 1st are eligible to receive Wendell Dog Tag #1 for 2023. Your dog is number one to you, let it be #1 in Wendell.

Please license your dog today.

Upcoming elections:

State Primary: September 6 (last day to register to vote August 16)

State Election: November 8 (last day to register to vote October 19)

Early Voting: Dates yet to be determined.

News from the Wendell Municipal Light Plant (MLP):

Due to the success of Wendell's town owned network through the committed participation of its subscribers as well as the network support of Whip City Fiber, the Wendell MLP is pleased to offer a decreased monthly internet rate of \$94 beginning July 1st. No action is needed to receive the reduced rate.

New customers interested in receiving high-speed internet service may contact Whip City Fiber by calling 413-485-1251 or signing up online: <https://www.whipcityfiber.com/wendell/>

WENDELL CEMETERY COMMISSION

Gravestone Cleaning and Resetting Workshop

with

Ta Mara Conde

Historic Gravestone Services

Wendell Center Cemetery

Saturday, July 23, 2022

10:00am to 4:00pm

To Pre-register:

Email: Sylvia Wetherby at rosebriarfarm68@gmail.com

or

Florrie Blackbird at fdblackbird@gmail.com

\$15.00 per person

Payment in the form of a check may be made out to the Town of Wendell on the day of the workshop.

This workshop is sponsored by the Wendell Cemetery Commission and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.



SIGN UP FOR WENDELL ALERTS via CODE RED



Don't wait! Sign up today!



Ways to sign up to receive Wendell Alerts:

- Visit the Town of **Wendell Website** 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

BOARD OF HEALTH UPDATES

Covid-19 update

A the time of this writing (June 26) the CDC ranks Franklin County at low risk for Covid transmission. We have had recent reports of people in Wendell who tested positive for Covid, however. The BA4 and BA5 variants of Covid-19 are becoming more widespread and are likely to become the dominant strains for the summer. They are more transmissible than previous variants, which seems to be true for each new variant. According to the New England Journal of Medicine, these variants produce lower levels of neutralizing antibodies compared with the original coronavirus. We may see more break-through cases in those who have been vaccinated, boosted, and/or have had prior infections. Booster shots continue to provide very good protection against serious disease and hospitalization. So far, these variants do not seem to cause more serious disease in most people than previous strains. Pharmaceutical companies are working to create vaccines that will better deter these variants, which takes time. In the meantime, keep up with your boosters, especially if you are age 60 or older. Vaccines are also now available for children under the age of 5.

New masking guidance

The Baker administration has made the wearing of masks inside optional as of July 1, 2022. Considering the information given above, we advise that you thoughtfully assess the risk to yourself and others in your household for getting Covid when making masking decisions. N95 masks and good ventilation remain effective methods to prevent transmission. If you are up to date on your vaccinations and are exposed to a person who tested positive for Covid, you do not need to quarantine but should wear a mask around others for 10 days. If you are not up to date and are not boosted, you should quarantine. Test on day 5 or later with an at-home antigen test. If the test is negative you may stop the quarantine but should continue masking through day 10. If you develop symptoms or if the test is positive, you should isolate and continue to do so at least until day 10. Then if your symptoms are improving and you have been fever free without medication for 24 hours, test again using an antigen at-home test. A PCR test can produce a positive result for a while after recovery. If the antigen test is negative, you may end the isolation. Your primary care physician should always be consulted, as they know you best.

Monkeypox

This is a rare disease that is related to smallpox but is usually not as severe. It causes a similar rash that evolves into fluid-filled pustules. It is not easily transmissible to humans. It requires lengthy close contact with someone who has it or to bedding, towels, etc. used by those who have it. Most, but not all, of those with it in this country are men who are sexually active with other men. A person who is exposed to monkeypox should be monitored for 21 days. Symptoms include flu-like symptoms with a fever and a rash. It can look like other diseases at first. A doctor can confirm the disease by testing through the state Department of Public Health. Monkeypox usually resolves in 2-4 weeks. Isolation is required until the lesions heal over. Two vaccinations are available for those most at risk.

Are you planning an event in Wendell?

Please be aware that ALL food trucks, food carts, etc. MUST have a permit issued by the Wendell Board of Health to operate here. Vendors and event planners may email us at boardofhealth@wendellmass.us to get an application and necessary information. A Temporary Food Permit fee of \$10 is charged if we receive advance notice, \$20 if the permit is issued on the day of the event. An inspection of the site is also required. Please notify us, preferably a week in advance, so that paperwork can be prepared in a timely manner.

Temperature requirements and air conditioning use

There seems to be some confusion about 105 CMR 410.201, the section of the Massachusetts Housing Code that deals with temperature control for all residential buildings. 105 CMR 410.201 specifies that the heating season runs from September 15 through June 15, and requires minimum and maximum temperatures that must be maintained in all habitable housing units during that time. The regulation does not prevent property owners from turning heat off or turning on air conditioners between September 15 through June 15, as long as required minimum temperatures within each dwelling unit are maintained. To read the full text of the regulation, type mass.gov/CMR 410.201 into your search engine on your computer.

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



**Wendell Selectboard
Town Offices
PO BOX 41
Wendell, MA 01379**

**Prsrt Std
US Postage
PAID
Permit #183
Greenfield, MA**

**RESIDENT
WENDELL, MA 01379**

In This Issue

- Vacancies
- Town Clerk News
- MLP news
- Board of Health Updates
- Cemetery Commission offerings
- Sign up for Wendell Alerts

**Contact the Selectboard or Town coordinator at (978) 544-3395 ext. 100
Or visit the Town Website for town information: www.wendellmass.us**