

Town of Wendell

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2023 SPONSORED BY THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD
THE TOWN OF WENDELL IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

WENDELL NEEDS YOU!

Would you like to get involved and support your town? Not sure where to start? Just ask!

Here are some opportunities:

Elected positions:

- **Planning Board (3 open seats)****
- Selectboard (1 open seat)

Non-Elected positions:

- **Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)****
- Finance Committee
- Finance Coordinator
- Conservation Commission
- Council on Aging
- Historical Commission
- Recreation Committee
- Road Commission
- WRATS Supervisor

****URGENT NEED** for members for a quorum and to transact town regulatory business.

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

**Wendell Open Space and Recreation Plan
PUBLIC FORUM**

Thursday, May 11, 2023

6:30 - 8:00 pm. Wendell Library



The Wendell Open Space Committee needs **YOUR** feedback to help prioritize action steps.

Agenda:

- Light Refreshments and Viewing of Maps
- Presentation of Draft Plan
- Input and Discussion on Proposed Action Steps

A copy of the Draft Plan is available for review at the Wendell Library and at the Open Space Committee page at <http://www.wendellmass.us>

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Tuesday, June 6th at 7:00pm

Wendell Town Hall, 6 Center St.

The warrant will be posted on the town website. This year we are returning to an evening meeting during the week. The usual practice is to alternate Saturday morning with a weeknight meeting each year for the Annual Town Meeting. That rotation was paused due to the pandemic.

Leverett-Wendell Policing Partnership Forum

Listening Session

April 10, Monday, at 7:00PM.

In person at the Leverett Town Hall and hybrid access online via Zoom. Access the Zoom link via the Leverett town website at www.leverett.ma.us

(Session in Wendell to be scheduled at a later date.)

TOWN CLERK UPDATES

Rabies Clinic offered at Wendell Town Garage

Saturday, April 22 from 10 am - noon.

No appointments needed!

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

Great opportunity to get your pets current with rabies vaccinations.

Town Clerk will be onsite to license Wendell dogs.

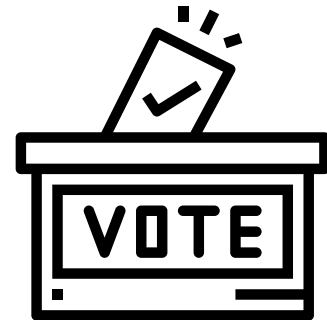
Tell your friends and bring your pets!



Wendell Town Election to take place on Monday, May 1st from noon - 8 pm.

Application for Vote-By-Mail available online at www.VoteInMA.com or by emailing or calling the town clerk's office townclerk@wendellmass.us 978-544-3395 ex2

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



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 some special way during the past year or, often, for many years.

The Selectboard welcomes nominations for this honor! If you have a suggestion just call a SB member or email them at selectboard@wendellmass.us. Board members can be reached at these numbers: Laurie DiDonato, Chair, 544-8270; Gillian Budine, 544-7309; Dan Keller, 544-2857 (until the elections!). Nominations are needed by mid-June.



**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 NEWS

Submitted by Barbara Craddock, Chair

Covid-19 status: At the time of this writing (March 21) the CDC ranks Franklin County as being at Low risk for Covid-19. This is based only on PCR test results, and most people are now using at-home kits to assess for the virus. The board of health continues to receive reports of low numbers of people in Wendell contracting Covid. While we are not having a surge, some people who have evaded Covid-19 for three years are now getting it for the first time.

If you are immunocompromised, have a chronic medical condition, or are age 50 and older and have not gotten the Omicron bivalent booster, please be cautious when traveling, being in crowded areas, or attending events in poorly ventilated locations. If you become ill, notify your close contacts, follow [mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov) protocols for quarantine and isolation, and ask your primary care health provider about antiviral treatments. Covid boosters and vaccines are still available for free, but funding for that ends on May 11.

Members of MassHealth insurance: All members must have their eligibility redetermined by April of 2024. By then you should have received a blue envelope from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts marked “RESPONSE REQUIRED!” on the front. It contains the redetermination forms and instructions for completion. If you have automatic renewal, you will receive an auto-renewal form, which is NOT blue. You may also receive other correspondence from MassHealth, so keep a careful watch on your mail. You will have 45 days to respond to the renewal notice, 30 days if you are in a long-term care facility. Failure to respond in a timely manner may lead to loss of coverage.

If you are under 65, the fastest and easiest way to renew is online using your MA Login Account at www.mahix.org/individual. If you are over 65, are in a nursing facility or HCBS waiver, the fastest and easiest way to renew is via eSubmission at <https://mhesubmission.ehs.mass.gov/esb>. ; Tell MassHealth if you moved, changed jobs or income, became pregnant, or had other changes in your household over the past 2-3 years. Only the Head of Household (HOH) can update MassHealth information for household members.

If you receive a termination notice due to failure to respond, you can contact MassHealth to complete your renewal. You will be reinstated to the day you were closed as long as you contact MassHealth within 90 days of your termination.

Resources for help:

- Schedule an appointment with a MassHealth representative at a MassHealth Enrollment Center by going to www.mass.gov/info-details/schedule-an-appointment-with-a-masshealth-representative. ; Appointments can be by phone, virtual, or in-person.
- Call the MassHealth Customer Service Center at (800) 841-2900, TDD/TTY: 711. Hours are 8am-5pm Monday through Friday. Due to the large numbers of renewals needed this year, you may have longer wait times.

If you no longer qualify for MassHealth, you can search for affordable coverage here:

- Members under 65:
 - MA Health Connector at <https://www.mahealthconnector.org>
 - Losing Mass Health coverage is a Qualifying Life Event (QLE) which allows you to enroll in a plan through the Health Connector outside of the regular Open Enrollment Period.
- Members over 65:
 - If you do not qualify for Medicare you may be eligible for Connector coverage. If you are eligible for Medicare, loss of MassHealth is a Special Enrollment period (SEP) that allows enrollment in Medicare outside of regular enrollment periods. Loss of coverage due to loss of Social Security income because of certain conditions may allow you to re-apply.
 - Members no longer eligible for MassHealth may qualify for the Medicare Savings Program (MDP), a federally funded program that pays for some or all of a Medicare recipient’s premiums, deductibles, co-payments, and co-insurance. Other programs that you may qualify for include the Frail Elder Waiver (FEW), the Program of All Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), Prescription Advantage, and other programs/services run through Aging Services Access Points (ASAP.)

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



TOWN OF WENDELL ROAD COMMISSION

submitted by Chair, Phil Delorey

Mud Season??

It looks like another very easy mud season is coming around this year, somewhat like 2021. It is interesting to look back and see that mud seasons change like all of the other seasons; 2020 and 2022 were horrendous, and 2021 passed without notice. Let's hope this year does the same.

Paving

The Road Crew has been out clearing branches (still) after the storm earlier this month, but they have also started some road grading and are looking forward to paving in May and June. The early paving this year will include the section of Lockes Village from the Common to the store, a section from the bottom of Morse Village up a bit past the WRATS and a section of Wendell Depot from around Farley Rd toward Quist Road.

Looking forward, the Road Commission is hopeful that we can get to the lower end of Wendell Depot Road to connect with paving that we did a few years ago. Unfortunately, the State agency that provides paving funds, MA DOT, has level funded for the last several years and the cost of paving has nearly doubled in the same period. There is some discussion that the state may increase our funds but the notice for FY24 funds did not provide an increase. The Road Commission has requested that the Town budget supplement those funds in some amount so we can keep up with the rate of pavement deterioration.

Thank You

Let's not forget the Road Crew for a couple of recent heroic efforts; you can't imagine what it is like to stay behind the wheel of a plow truck for 30 hours at a stretch, but the crew knows! Thanks, Guys!

WRATS

Many of you have noticed that Ray Stone retired from his position as WRATS Supervisor in December, and that Carl Johnson took over for him. It is a tough job, only part-time, and it requires being outside quite a bit in all weather. Unfortunately, Carl has conflicts with the hours and will be moving on in early April. Thanks for the time and effort, Carl; we are sorry you are leaving. Thanks to Ray, too, for 5-1/2 years of service and for organizing the systems at the WRATS. (We're pretty sure he missed the last newsletter.)



There was a notice on the list serve for the WRATS Supervisor position, and we will repeat it here.

The Town of Wendell seeks a PERMANENT PART TIME EMPLOYEE to fill a vacancy at the Wendell Recycling and Transfer Station (WRATS) as the WENDELL TRANSFER STATION SUPERVISOR.

The town seeks applicants who are willing to assist the public dispose of their recyclables and trash. Applicants must be able to manage the facility and work with town residents, assuring that regulations and policies are followed, and must be able to maintain positive working contacts with residents and other town employees. The Supervisor oversees collecting and turnover of fees, scheduling the removal of waste containers and the volunteer operation of the Free Store. The successful candidate must be able to lift up to 50 pounds. Hours of operation for the WRATS are Tuesday from 12 noon to 6 PM and Saturday from 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM. Applications may be requested at phil.delorey@gmail.com. Applicants may email their information to Phil Delorey or mail it to the Wendell Road Commission, PO Box 187, Wendell, MA 01379. The job will be advertised in the local newspapers on March 27, if the position is not filled.

Thanks to anyone who may apply.

Road Commission (Continued)

Road Commission – Upcoming Vacancy

Michael Gifford has served on the Commission for over 15 years, and he has decided to hand off his seat in order to have more home and family time. We will miss Michael and his expertise with all things to do with highway work. So the Road Commission will have a vacancy coming up, and we are hoping to attract someone whose interests and experience will help us out with our projects. This opportunity will be a one year appointment as Micheal's term will not end until next year. The Road Commission work is varied. We manage the Highway operations, from purchasing equipment to prioritizing road repairs; we oversee the WRATS operation and staffing and manage the budgets of both; we meet twice a month to figure out how to support each of those operations. Someone with a little time to take on small tasks and perhaps who has some experience with a computer and budgets would be most welcome. Please contact Phil Delorey, Chairperson, if you are (perhaps) interested, and have questions.

Returnable/Recyclable Items at the WRATS

The Road Commission is considering the costs and benefits of the service it provides for the bottles and cans that are returned and recycled through the WRATS. We are planning to hold a public forum sometime in the late spring and to share some of the pros and cons that the Commission sees to help us decide if the town might benefit from repurposing the space and time that that function requires. Currently, the Good Neighbors receives half of the revenue generated from recycling those returnable containers, last year in the amount of just over \$300. As mentioned, that operation takes considerable space and time. We have looked at possibly having a compactor in that space, which would reduce transporting costs of bulky items, and perhaps other uses that will save the town some funds. The items would still be recycled, they would just go directly into the large containers with all of the other bottles and cans. More on this conversation at a later date.

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 call Jonathan von Ranson at 544-3758 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.



Participate in the “Ted Walk”

During the week of April school vacation we will be picking up trash/litter along the road 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 **Saturday 4/22** in the afternoon.

Wear bright colors and gloves- be safe.

Watch posters and more information to be shared!

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

Maggie Houghton at 978-544-7773

Deb Lewis at 978-544-7102

Anne Diemand Bucci at 413-522-4453

Thank you,
Anne Diemand Bucci