

# Town of Wendell

## NEWSLETTER

JULY 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 :

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

### Mark your calendar!

The OHDOG (Old Home Day organizing group) has let the Selectboard know that **Wendell Old Home Day** is being planned for **August 12, 2023**

### SIGN UP FOR WENDELL ALERTS via CODE RED



Don't wait! Sign up today!



Ways to sign up to receive Wendell Alerts:

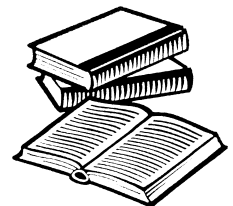
- Visit the Town of **Wendell Website** to access the link to enroll online OR
- Text "**WendellAlerts: to 99411 to receive link to enroll**"
- Download the **CodeRED Mobile Alert app** available in the App Store or Google Play

### ORDER 2021 AND 2022 ANNUAL WENDELL TOWN REPORTS

We are taking orders for printed annual reports.

If you would like to receive hard copy 2021 and 2022 Wendell Annual Reports in book format, please call the Town Coordinator at 978-544-3395 x 100.

If you would like to receive a link to an electronic version, please email: [coordinator@wendellmass.us](mailto:coordinator@wendellmass.us).



Glenn Johnson-Mussad  
Wendell Town Coordinator

## Greetings WRATSters and Transfer Station Enthusiasts!



We have had a couple issues come up recently that need some public education to address. It's all about the learning and cooperation here at the WRATS. Never shame and blame. OK?

### Power equipment in the metals container

People drop off old lawn mowers and other yard equipment. These can go in the metals. HOWEVER, they must be drained of gas, oil, and any other fluids (at home) 1st. Before unloading, please check in with a friendly attendant 1st to assure they are drained of fluids. We do not have the infrastructure to address this.

### Cardboard Recycling

I know recycling paper and cardboard can be confusing. There is particular confusion about the cardboard that holds frozen and refrigerated foods, beer and soda (often put in the fridge). This is known as "wet-strength paper" has plastic in it, and must go in the trash. We frequently need to pull cardboard out of the compactor with tongs to remove these boxes. It's fun at first, but it does get old after a while. You don't need to worry about all these individual products. The simple message is: **"If it's cold, it's trash"**.

Thanks for all the help. I love how conscientious this community is about the waste stream. Ya'll are awesome.  
Asa de Roode

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## Greetings Fire Safety Enthusiasts!

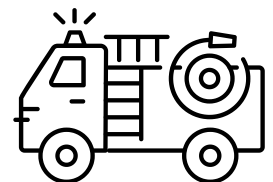
We folks in the firefighting community were anticipating a busy brush and wildfire season this summer. We've been ready! For rain..... That being said, the weather can be fickle. It could turn hot and dry, and fire danger could rise. **Be careful with outside fires.** Keep them small (2 feet in diameter per fire code) and contained with a defensible space all around free of material that can easily catch fire. When extinguishing a campfire, douse thoroughly with water, turn over the coals and soak them.

**FREE smoke and carbon monoxide alarm installation program.** If you are a senior or a family with school age children, you are eligible for a free fire and CO alarm inspection of your house, and installation of the appropriate alarms if needed. This is a state grant funded program for the towns of Wendell and New Salem. When we come to your house we also talk about home safety and home escape plans. Vitally important to have as you may only have 2 minutes to escape a fire in your home. You need two ways out of every room, and a meeting place a safe distance outside where everyone knows to meet. Practice your plan. It's fun! Also test your alarms every month to ensure they are working properly to protect you and your family.

**Street numbers for seniors.** Also part of the state grant is money to install easily visible and reflective street number signs in front of your house. These are an enormous help to finding you quickly in an emergency. Get one!

Alarms are expensive and grant funds are limited. If we run out of funds, we will still come to your house and do an inspection. We can advise you of the alarms you need, and we can help install them.

Stay fire safe this summer!  
Asa de Roode  
Captain Wendell Fire Dept.



## BOARD OF HEALTH NEWS

Submitted by Barbara Craddock, Chair

Summer protection against arboviruses: These diseases are transmitted by the bite of an infected mosquito and most often occur in summer and early fall. While more prevalent in southeastern areas of the Commonwealth, they can occur in our area as well. The most common arboviruses in Massachusetts are West Nile Virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE.) In addition to humans, these viruses can infect horses and other animals, but the animals do not spread the virus to humans. Humans must be directly bitten by an infected mosquito to become infected. These diseases are very dangerous to people. Vaccines licensed for horses are highly effective for them and may be used in some other animals, but there is no vaccine for humans. Therefore, we must use preventive strategies to avoid getting sick. Here are some effective strategies you can use at home:

- Avoid going outside at dawn and dusk.
- Avoid turning on outside lights if possible, as mosquitoes are attracted to lights.
- Check screens for holes and repair any you find.
- When outdoors, wear long sleeves, long pants and socks.
- Remove standing water at your home. Mosquitoes can breed in very shallow water. Products containing BTI (*Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*) target mosquito larvae specifically and can eliminate mosquito larvae in standing water without harming aquatic life, birds or other animals. Mosquito Dunkers is one example.

If camping, avoid areas near freshwater swamps and use mosquito netting and repellents.

Use an EPA-approved repellent anytime you are outdoors. Repellents that contain DEET, permethrin, IR3535, para-menthol-diol (PMD,) or 2-undecanone protect against mosquitoes. The only natural repellent that has proven to be effective against mosquitoes is oil of lemon eucalyptus, which provides as much protection as low concentrations of DEET. Whichever repellent you choose, read all directions carefully before using. Some should not be used on young children, and permethrin is intended for use only on clothing and camping/hunting gear. If using sunscreen, it should be applied to the skin before the repellent.

For more information about WNV or EEE visit [www.mass.gov/mosquitoesandticks](http://www.mass.gov/mosquitoesandticks)

Board of Health information for Wendell Food Vendors: All those selling food of any kind during events in the Town of Wendell must be registered or permitted by the Wendell Board of Health. Temporary Food Permits have a fee of \$10, paid by a check to the Town of Wendell. The permits are usually valid only for the day of the event. If a permit is not required (see below) we ask that you register with us so we know who will be present at the event. All vendors should register or submit a permit application at least 7 days in advance of the event date to allow time for processing and scheduling inspections the day of the event. Food establishments that use propane/gas fuel and/or generators for cooking, such as food trucks, must also be permitted by the Wendell Fire Department before being allowed to operate.

All vendors, permitted or not, will be inspected by the board of health to insure food items are being safely prepared and handled. You will receive operating checklists when you register or request your permit.

Vendors selling ONLY the following foods, which do not require Temperature Control for Safety (TCS) ,do not require a Temporary Food Permit but should register:

- Pre-packaged foods such as chips
- Spices/herbs, jams/jellies, chocolate/candy
- Whole, UNCUT fresh fruits and vegetables
- Unprocessed honey
- Pure maple products
- Farm fresh eggs
- Non-profit bake sales

Items containing cannabis are not considered to be food by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and may not be sold.

Establishments such as food trucks serving foods requiring Temperature Control for Safety (hot or cold) MUST obtain a Temporary Food Permit. A list of required documentation (Serv-Safe Certificate, Allergen Training Certificate, BoH Permit from town of base operation, etc.) will be included with the application, as well as an operating checklist. Please contact us at [boardofhealth@wendellmass.us](mailto:boardofhealth@wendellmass.us) to register or request permit applications. The Town Kitchen in the back of the Town Hall building is an approved commercial kitchen that may be rented to prepare foods for events, according to availability. For more information, contact our Town Coordinator, Glenn Johnson-Mussad at 978-544-3395, ext 0, or email him at [coordinator@wendellmass.us](mailto:coordinator@wendellmass.us)

We look forward to seeing you at Old Home Day on August 12.

**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**

- HELP!
- Board of Health updates
- WRATS notes
- Town Reports

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

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**RESIDENT  
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