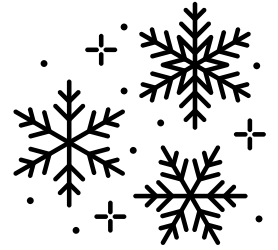




Town of Wendell

NEWSLETTER



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

Snow Update from the Wendell Road Commission

Even though it's been so warm lately, winter with its frigid nights and snowy conditions will arrive at some point. Snow. Some call it a four letter word, but here in Wendell we know it is a doorway into fun on skis and snowshoes and sleds.

Winter snows can be deep and slippery so it's good to consider how to best to navigate this coming season. I see there are a number of new folks in town, and some of you are hailing from a more urban setting so don't have much experience here in the winter-land hinterland. Well, unlike your typical urban or suburban town, Wendell has fewer resources to battle the snows. Fewer plows, fewer drivers, smaller budgets are the name of our game. Heck, we even have less salt on the roads! And that's a good thing because it keeps our plants and aquifers healthier.

But this shorter end of the resource scheme has a real effect on snow removal efforts. Did you know that Wendell has 56 miles of roads to maintain? That's both paved and gravel roads and during a snow storm those roads have to be cleared repeatedly. That's like having to plow all the way to the east end of Worcester during a storm...and back....and forth...and back....you get the picture.

And wouldn't you know that many times these storms are nighttime events so our road crew must handle this load all night long to just maintain a clear path. It is not only grueling, but dangerous too. Imagine navigating an ice patch in a huge dump truck loaded with sand in the back and a plow in the front. First, actually being able to see the road in front of you can be crazy hard, and keeping that beast under control takes brains, muscles, and a deep familiarity with the complex Wendell road map. To make matters worse, overhanging icy branches swipe at and have even cracked the plows' windshields. Unmaintained driveway culverts create ice patches into the road adding danger to rigs that are too heavy and too cumbersome to easily swerve and dodge. Let's face it; we owe it to our road crew to give them the best opportunity to safely succeed at this difficult, demanding job.

Homeowners can help by keeping driveway culverts clear and flowing. We can keep tree branches, slash piles, parked cars, and other obstacles clear from the roadways. There is also a town bylaw forbidding throwing snow into the roadway ... say while you are clearing your own driveway.

Yes, Wendell is different. We are not an urban mega-town. We are a close-knit, caring community of people who help each other when the chips are down. Helping our road crew as much as possible is a great way to keep our roads open and our crew safe. Let's all get our roads and driveways ready for the coming snows so we can get out and go sledding!

Submitted by Beth Erviti, Member, Wendell Road Commission



Town Clerk News

Election Updates from the

Many thanks to the dedicated election workers who put in long hours on our Annual Election Day in May. Be prepared to vote many more times in 2024! The election dates for 2024 are:

- March 5 (Presidential Primary)
- May 6 (Wendell's Annual Election)
- September 3 (State Primary)
- November 5 (General Election for State and National levels)

Please stay active and participate in the election process whenever you can. If you would like more information on the ballot initiatives, the election process, or just to check that you are a registered voter, please contact the Town Clerk's office. We are happy to help!

Dog License Reminder

It is time to renew your dog license! The fee is \$4 for a spayed or neutered dog and \$8 for an intact dog. Every dog must have a valid rabies vaccination certificate presented to the Town Clerk at the time of licensing. If we have your certificate on record from last year, and it is still valid, you do not need to bring in the paperwork again this year. If 4 or fewer dogs are under one ownership, the owner has the option to buy individual licenses or a kennel license for \$10. Five or more dogs constitute a kennel and the owner must pay for a kennel license and be subject to the state inspection regulation. The kennel fee is \$25 if more than 4, but not more than 10 dogs are kept.

The dog license deadline is April 1st.

2024 Annual Street Listing

Did you get your annual census/street list form? The Board of Registrars is required by state law to verify and update the name, address, age, and occupation of all residents. Census responses are used as proof of residency to protect voter rights and veteran status, and to assist the COA with service projections, and the Swift River School with enrollment information and projections. Population figures are also used by the State to calculate state and federal aid monies to the Town.

Census data is also used to update the annual street list which is, in turn, made available to our police chief, fire chief, and our emergency management director to aid them in the daily performance of their duties. Census information about children under the age of 17 is not made available to the public.

If you are a registered voter and do not respond to the census, the Board of Registrars is required by law to move you to the "Inactive Voter" list which can put you at risk of being removed from the voter registration rolls altogether. Please help us make the Annual Town Census as complete and accurate as possible. If you did not receive a form, please call the Town Clerk at (978) 544-3395 x102, leave your name and number, and we will mail you a blank form to complete. Mail all completed forms to Town Clerk, P.O. Box 41, Wendell, MA 01379 or drop them off in the black box in the town office driveway.

Town Election – May 6th

Nomination papers for the Annual Town Election on Monday, May 6th are now available at the Town Clerk's Office. The last day to obtain nomination papers is Thursday, March 14th, and the last day to submit nomination papers to the Board of Registrars for certification is Monday, March 18th. Papers must be signed by candidates for re-election as well as new candidates. The list of offices that will be on the May 2024 ballot include open seats for Library Trustee and Board of Health. If you are interested in taking out nomination papers for either of those or running against an incumbent for any of the positions in 2024, please contact the **Town Clerk's office 978-544-3395 ex 2 or townclerk@wendellmass.us**. Please contact the Town Clerk's office to inquire about vacancies and all the wonderful ways to support this community.

News from the Wendell Free Library



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>.

January Events: To find out more information on any of these events, please call, visit our website, or stop by the library. 978-544-3559. Make sure to subscribe to the library email list at www.wendellmass.us/newsletter-and-updates/. Open Hours: Tuesday 2-7/ Wednesday 10-6 /Friday 1-5 /Saturday 10-3

All Month: *Art Exhibit Robot Quilts* by Marge Barrett-Mills

All Month: *Grab and Go Kit* for the Wendell Tiny Art Show

Every Friday: *LEGO Club* from 4 to 5 p.m

Every Saturday: *StoryCraft*, picture book read-aloud and connected craft. Story at 10:30 a.m.; drop in until 2:30 p.m. for the craft.

Every Sunday: *Yoga*. All levels, pay what you can. 10 a.m.

Every Tuesday: *Art Group*. 5 p.m.

Every Wednesday: *CNC Playgroup* at 10 a.m. / *Matinee Movie*. 4 p.m.

Tuesdays, January 2 & 30: *Adult Book Group*. 10 a.m.

Tuesdays, January (TBD, check website for dates): *One Legged Yoga for Balance* with Shay Cooper. Registration Required. 11 a.m.

Friday, January 12: *Homeschool Hangout*. 10:30 a.m.

Friday, January 12: *Office Hours with State Rep. Aaron Saunders*. 2 p.m.

Tuesday, January 16: *Rolled Wax Candle and Clay Holder Kids Craft*. 4-5 p.m. Registration required.

Wednesday, January 17: *Rolled Wax Candle and Clay Holder Kids Craft*. 2-3 p.m. Registration required.

Tuesday, January 23: *Tech time*. By appointment, 4:30 & 5 p.m.

Friday, January 19: *Film Screening*. REGENERATING LIFE, How to cool the planet, feed the world, and live happily ever after. A three-part documentary film by John Feldman . 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 20: *Puzzle Swap*. 12:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 20: *Puzzle Palooza Competition*. 1-3 p.m.

Sunday, January 28: *Cookbook Book Club*. 4:30 p.m.

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No Assault & Batteries!

There is a group of concerned citizens who are working on ways to prevent a 105-MW standalone battery storage project from being sited in a forested part of Wendell. Our major issue is one of safety, specifically the potential for fire in one or more of the 780 lithium ion batteries. This group is called No Assault & Batteries or NAB for short. Friends and neighbors are sending around a petition to Governor Healey asking for a freeze on lithium storage battery installations. More details to come from NAB (No Assault & Batteries).

Submitted by citizens group with approval of the Wendell Selectboard

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WENDELL BOARD OF HEALTH UPDATE

Happy New Year to one and all!

By the time you receive this newsletter you will most likely already know that the Wendell Board of Health purchased another supply of iHealth at-home Covid -19 test kits to help our town get through the next several months of the respiratory virus season. They are packaged two kits per box, and have an expiration date of April 5, 2024. They are available at the Senior Center, the Wendell Free Library and the Good Neighbors program during their regular hours for as long as supplies last. Please be aware that the test kits are temperature sensitive and must be stored between 36 and 86 degrees Fahrenheit or the chemicals inside will not work properly.

After dealing with Covid-19 for several years now, it appears that it is not going away anytime soon. It continues to mutate, so getting vaccinated regularly is very important. The current vaccine being administered was formulated to address the strains now in circulation. Vaccination may not prevent getting the virus altogether, but it is very effective at preventing serious levels of the disease that can lead to hospitalizations and deaths, especially for those over 60 and/or those with underlying health conditions. According to CDC data through December 2, just 17% of adults and about 8% of children are getting the latest shot. They also report a recent increase of multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) following Covid infection in the United States. If you have not yet received this fall's vaccinations for Covid and flu, please do so as soon as possible. RSV vaccinations are also available; check with your doctor or pharmacist for recommendations for that one.

The Board of Health has been working on updating our portion of the Town of Wendell website. We hope you will find it easier to locate and download the documents you need, and that you will find the information we have posted under the topic headings useful. Please email us at boardofhealth@wendellmass.us if you don't find what you need.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has created a website to provide accurate information for landlords, tenants and owners regarding home environmental risks that can create sources of illness or injury for residents. This website provides a summary of laws, rules and regulations for information purposes, but it does not constitute legal opinion or alter any person's obligation to comply with the law as written. Topics covered include Lead; Asbestos; Solid Waste, Hazardous Waste, Odors and Pets; Mold and Water Damage; Noise; Drinking Water; Manufactured Housing; Sewage and Septic Systems and Legal Assistance. Many links to sites for additional resources are also included. To learn more about this site, search <https://www.mass.gov/guides/health-at-home>. We think you will find this website very helpful.

Take care and be well,
Wendell Board of Health

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Pickle Ball on Saturday at Swift River School



A small group of Wendell citizens is still playing pickle ball this winter! Swift River School is kindly allowing us to use the gym. Join us between 9 and 10:30 am for practice and non-competitive games. We really have a lot of fun and would love more players. If you want more information, please call Christine Heard at 544-2282. Or just show up! Enter the school by going around the building to the right and come through the open recess doors. The gym is right inside. Bring a racquet, if you have one.

Thanks to the **Wendell Recreation Committee** for sponsoring us.

Open Space Committee receives a grant from MA DCR Service Forestry Program to conduct a “Neighborhood Outreach Project”

The Open Space Committee (OSC) will be reaching out to approximately 160 landowners in Wendell who own “unprotected, yet important forestland” of 10 or more acres. These forests provide important habitat for a wide variety of plants and animals. They also help protect the quality of the water in our wetlands, rivers and brooks. These forests play an important role in protecting our groundwater - the source of Wendell’s drinking water. And, in a warming world, these forests are critical in efforts to mitigate future climate change.

The **Neighborhood Outreach Project** will include a series of mailings to landowners and an invitation to an informational dinner meeting at the Wendell Town Hall. Additionally, landowners who have conserved their land in the past, will host meetings on their land, and will share their experiences in the land protection process. The goal of these activities is to inform landowners of the conservation values of their land and identify where their land is located within the mosaic of protected lands in Wendell. For those interested, the OSC will help landowners learn about conservation-based estate planning, including land protection options, forest management programs and for those not currently enrolled, the Chapter 61 tax program. The focus of this effort will be neighbors learning from neighbors along with assistance from local land protection partners who are familiar with Wendell.

The OSC is excited to provide information to help to landowners as they contemplate the future of their land. **The Neighborhood Outreach Project** will begin in mid to late January 2024 and continue through early April 2024. All costs associated with this program will be covered by the grant.

If landowners have any questions, please contact the OSC at openspace@wendellmass.us or you can reach Dan Leahy, Chair of the OSC at 978-544-6512.



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Fiske Pond Advisory Committee: Seeking Members!

The Fiske Pond Advisory Committee (FPAC) is an esteemed body of volunteers that keeps an eye on one of Wendell's most loved bodies of water. Do you love this place and want to help preserve its integrity? Do you like poking around in its woods and waters to see how they change from season to season? Do you have ideas for how its management could be improved?

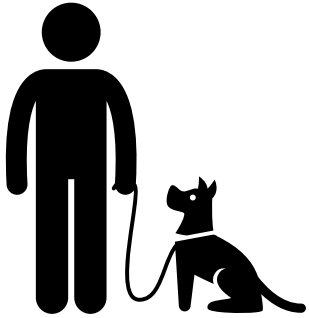
If so, please consider joining FPAC! This committee advises the Conservation Commission about Fiske Pond and makes recommendations for its upkeep and protection. FPAC meets as needed, so the work involved is irregular and relatively light, but nonetheless vital.

Contact the **Conservation Commission** at concom@wendellmass.us if you have questions or are interested in volunteering.



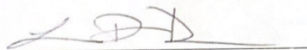
NOTICES FROM THE SELECTBOARD

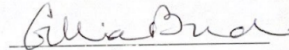
LEGAL NOTICE

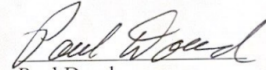


By virtue of the provisions of Section 167 of Chapter 140 of the General Laws, the Selectboard of the Town of Wendell has this day voted and hereby ordered that all dogs owned or harbored within the Town shall be restrained from running at large between January 1, 2024 and the 31st day of December, 2024, both days inclusive. A police officer, a dog officer or constable may, at his or her discretion, hold any such dog for a period not in excess of seven days. If the owner thereof claims such dog and pays the appropriate charges for care of the dog, in accordance with said Section 167, it shall be returned to the owner.

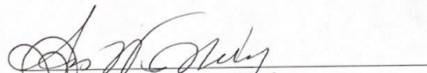
Wendell Selectboard


Laurie DiDonato, Chair


Gillian Budine


Paul Doud

Attest, a true copy.


Anna Wetherby, Town Clerk

PARKING BAN

Please note that the Selectboard recently made a change to the parking restrictions. Previously a vehicle's tires needed to be 4 feet from the edge of the road. Now the entire vehicle must be 4 feet from the edge of the road.

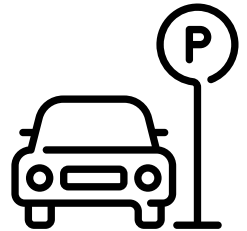
"A year-round Parking Ban remains in effect for the town of Wendell. No on-street parking is allowed except in marked parking places. No on-street overnight parking is allowed, including around the Town Common or in marked parking spaces. All vehicles must be at least 4 feet from the edge of the road. No parking is allowed within 20 feet of intersections.

Any vehicle in violation of these regulations will be towed at the owner's expense."

The Wendell Selectboard

Laurie DiDonato, Chair Gillian Budine Paul Doud

Amended December 6, 2023



Town of Wendell Newsletter Submissions

The Town of Wendell Newsletter is mailed to residents and posted on the town's website on a quarterly schedule.

All town boards and committees are invited to submit updates, information for residents or upcoming events.

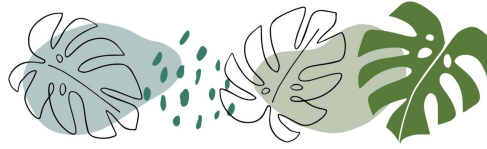
Newsletters are sent in April, July, October and January. ***Please submit articles NO LATER THAN the 15th of the preceding month.***

Many thanks to Christine Heard who has volunteered to help with the newsletter. She will receive and compile your items and Gillian Budine will format the newsletter.

Please send items to cheard59c@aol.com

Christine does not use Microsoft Word so please paste your items into the body of an email rather than send an attachment.

The newsletter is also shared on the town website: <https://www.wendellmass.us/town-newsletters/>



The **Wendell Board of Assessors** is seeking your help! There is and will continue to be information about properties available in various formats on the big table outside the Assessors' office. One of those formats is contained in two large black binders with all property records printed on full size sheets of paper. Every year when the records are updated, it takes approximately 1,000 double sided pages to replace the outdated information. Wendell's environmentally conscious mindset would suggest that there is a more environmentally friendly way to display the same information. Please complete the following short survey so that the Board of Assessors can appropriately serve the Wendell community!

1. How often do you use the resources on the Assessor table?
2. When you use the resources, for what information are you most likely to search? (Owner names / addresses / property values / something else?)
3. What changes, if any, would you support for the way in which information is displayed? (None, keep everything the same / more concise information on less paper / less frequent printed updates / something else?)
4. Any additional thoughts to consider for displaying information?

**Please return to the
Assessors' Office, or use
the following web address
to complete the online
version -->**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/L8F9W37>



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

**Prsrt Std
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Greenfield, MA**

**RESIDENT
WENDELL, MA 01379**

In This Issue

- Snow-Road Commission
- Town Clerk Update
- Library News
- Official Notices- DOG/VEHICLE
- Assessors SURVEY
- and MORE!

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