

News to Kno *W* - June 2025

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Memorial Day Ceremony

Wellesley's annual Memorial Day ceremony took place on Friday, May 30 at dusk with a solemn community event to honor and remember those who gave their lives for our Country. Town officials, Veterans, and citizens first gathered at Woodlawn Cemetery to place a memorial wreath and recognize departed Veterans, and then moved to the Wellesley War Memorial in front of Town Hall for a longer ceremony.



With a solo bagpiper, music provided by the Wellesley High School band, and colors presented by the Wellesley Police and Fire Department honor guards, the program featured Memorial Day readings, the presentation of Governor Healey's Memorial Day proclamation, and a moving Memorial Day reflection from resident and Marine Corps Veteran Todd Bowers.

The ceremony included the presentation of the POW/MIA flag, a reading of the names of all residents who died in service, a salute to the dead from the Wellesley Police Department, and echo Taps performed by two high school trumpeters. Thank you to all who attended.



Wellesley Police & Fire Department Honor Guards.



Resident and Veteran Todd Bowers speaks to ceremony attendees.

Congratulations to our War Memorial Scholarship Recipients!

Two outstanding Wellesley High School seniors are the 2025 War Memorial Scholarship recipients. Congratulations to Patrick Maxwell and Katherine Stewart! Both received their awards from Select Board Chair Colette Aufranc in late May and were recognized during the the Memorial Day ceremony.

Patrick will be attending North Carolina State and Katherine will be attending UMass Amherst.



Town Hall Open House

Thank you to everyone in the community who stopped by Town Hall on Saturday, May 17 to join our ribbon cutting and see the renovated building! Watch this [Wellesley Media video about the renovations](#), and enjoy pictures from the event. (Photo credit: Beth Shedd Photography).



Did you vote for Wellesley's 2026 dog tag shape? The winning shape is a fire hydrant tag, beating out a rounded star shape and a flower shape! Renew dog licenses beginning on January 1, 2026.

REMINDER: Town Hall Moves to Summer Hours

Wellesley Town Hall departments will follow a summer hours schedule from May 30 through August 29. Departments will be open Monday - Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. to noon. On Friday, August 1, Town Hall will remain open until 5 p.m. to allow for tax payments.

Review & Comment on the Strategic Housing Plan

A [draft of Wellesley's Strategic Housing Plan](#) is now available and will be presented on **Tuesday, June 3 at 6 p.m.** at a joint meeting of the Select Board and the Planning Board in the Juliani Room at Town Hall. The public is invited to review the plan and share comments in-person on June 3 or by emailing housingplan@wellesleyma.gov

The Strategic Housing Plan is intended to help Wellesley plan for its future housing needs proactively, identify our community's vision for housing and its short- and long-term objectives, and offer strategies for implementing these objectives. It was prepared by the Town consultant Barrett Planning Group.

The draft plan includes six goals and 48 strategies to address housing in Wellesley, along with a proposed implementation timeline.

[View the Strategic Housing Plan website](#)



Equity Audit Update

The Town's DEI Equity Audit wrapped up earlier this spring with a presentation to the Select Board from consultant Racial Equity Group. The equity audit was proposed by the DEI Task Force with funding approved at 2023 Annual Town Meeting. It was conducted in two phases in 2024, and assessed a variety of equity aspects – race, ethnicity, gender, national origin, color, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, socioeconomic status, or other socio-culturally significant factors. The findings were summarized in a report that includes a best practices gap and barrier analysis and recommends strategic actions for the Town to help address the overall equity audit findings. Read a summary of the [Equity Audit Report](#).

There are plans to hold a facilitated dialogue with the community in Fall 2025 to discuss the findings of the equity audit and the steps our community, our businesses, and Town government may take to move forward in this work.

Rules of the Ride Bike Event is June 8

Parents & kids! Grab a bike and join the Rules of the Ride bike event for 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students on **Sunday, June 8 from 10:00-11:30 a.m.** in the Wellesley High School parking lot. Rules of the Ride is a FREE, fun, hands-on way to learn critical skills to help kids ride safely and legally to school and throughout Wellesley.



Participants will have helmets and bikes checked for proper fit, and Wellesley Police Department officers will lead a guided ride along the Brook Path. Look for Officer Winnie, our community service dog too! Space is limited - register through the [Wellesley Recreation Department](#).

Mode Shift Challenge Reminder. The Mode Shift Challenge continues through **June 16**. Get out of the car and explore ways to get around Wellesley by taking public transit, walking, or biking. Submit pictures of your travels to be entered into a drawing to win prizes. Read the [Mode Shift Challenge details](#).



Health Department News

The Health Department needs your help with a [community health survey](#) to identify major health issues with a focus on (but not limited to) substance use. This survey will gather valuable information about the health and well-being of our community. We want to hear from everyone—your experiences, concerns, and suggestions are important, regardless of your health status or background. The survey is 20 questions and should take about 10 minutes to complete. Your responses will make a meaningful difference in shaping community health initiatives. Take the [Community Health Survey](#).

Recovery Coaching Available

Is someone in your household in need of [support in their recovery](#) from

substance use? The Wellesley Health Department contracts with Riverside Community Care to provide recovery support at no charge, provide resources and encourage individuals in their recovery journey.

Riverside Recovery Coach, Johnny Pike: 781-915-7524 or

jpik@riversidecc.org

Questions? Call Joyce Saret, Wellesley Health Department: 781-489-4354 or

jsaret@wellesleyma.gov

Wellesley Free Library Authors & Illustrators Project



The Wellesley Free Library is expanding its permanent collection of work by Wellesley authors and illustrators. Local writers and illustrators who would like to participate should [email the Library](#) for more information.

Dates to Know

Upcoming Public Meetings

- **I-90 Corridor Mapping Session, 6:30 pm, Great Hall.** Attend a Metropolitan Planning Area Council (MAPC) mapping session to help determine development priorities (homes, jobs, environmental preservation) along the I-90 corridor.
- **Select Board Office Hours on June 9.** Select Board Vice Chair Marjorie Freiman is holding office hours on Monday, June 9 from noon to 1:30 p.m. at Wellesley Town Hall. Both in-person and Zoom meetings are available. [Email Marjorie directly](#) to sign up for a 15-minute appointment and specify what type of appointment you would like. You'll receive a confirmation with the time and Zoom link, if applicable.
- **School Committee Office Hours on June 11.** The School Committee is holding office hours on Wednesday, June 11 from 7-8 p.m. Sign up for a 15-minute appointment on the [Wellesley Public Schools School Committee webpages](#).

View the complete [public meeting calendar](#).

Upcoming Community Events

- **June 4, 9 am - 3 pm, [Wellesley Police Department Summer Blood Drive](#)** (485 Kingsbury Street).
- **June 7, 10 am, [Wellesley Trails guided walk - Guernsey Trail & Waban Arches](#)**
- **June 8, 10 am, [Rules of the Ride Bike Event](#)** (Wellesley High School parking lot)
- **June 9, 7 pm, [Webinar: EV Charging on the Go](#)**
- **June 12, 4 pm - 7 pm, [Climate Cafe](#)** (Wellesley Free Library, Main Branch)

Be in the Know about community events in Wellesley! Check out the complete [Community Calendar](#) on the homepage of the Town website. And submit your events using our [online event submission form](#).



Town Of Wellesley | 525 Washington St. | Wellesley, MA 02482 US

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