

News to Know - July 2025

Happy summer from *The W*!

While schedules may be more relaxed this month, July 1 is the start of the Town's Fiscal Year 2026. Funds appropriated at Annual Town Meeting are now available and many projects are ramping up. Stay informed by reading *The W*, encouraging others to [subscribe to this newsletter](#), and keep sending input to [our editors](#).



A reminder that Town offices, the RDF, and the Libraries are closed on Friday, July 4 for Independence Day. The RDF and Library Main Branch will be open on Saturday, July 5. All other offices will reopen for business on Monday, July 7.

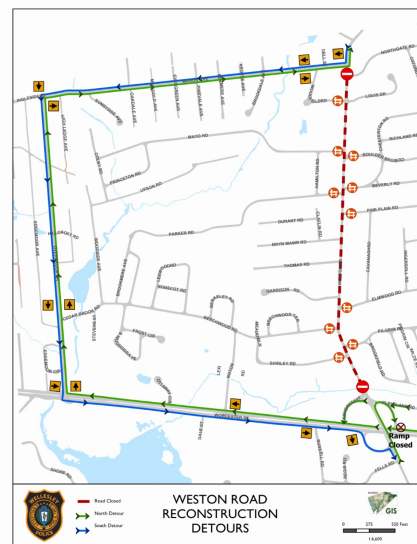
A note from the Wellesley Fire Department: Fireworks are dangerous and illegal in Massachusetts for anyone without a professional license. Please take care and celebrate safely. Happy Independence Day!

Weston Road Closure & Detours Began July 1

The [Weston Road Reconstruction Project](#), is entering the next phase. From July 1 through most of the summer, Weston Road is completely closed between Route 9 and Manor Avenue on weekdays from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Traffic delays are expected and signs are in place to alert drivers.

Detail officers are on-site daily to help manage traffic and pedestrian safety, and ensure residents living on Weston Road and side streets can safely access their homes. Drivers exiting Route 9 West should use Alhambra Road or Martin Road to reach the Cleveland Road detour.

All other traffic must follow posted detours or use alternate routes. Delivery drivers (eg. US Postal Service, UPS, Fed Ex, Amazon) were notified about this closure. Please be patient as drivers adjust to the detours.



Businesses along Weston Road are open and accessible throughout construction. Please continue to support these local retailers during this important

public works project.

Stay Informed. Regular project updates and traffic alerts will be posted on the [Town website](#) and [Wellesley Police Department Facebook](#) page and [X account](#). **Contact WPD with concerns or questions.**



Hunnewell Sports Courts Closed

This summer, restoration and repairs are planned for the tennis and sports courts along Washington Street at Hunnewell Field. The courts and parking lot are closed until September, with crews working Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Please contact the Department of Public Works with questions at dpw@wellesleyma.gov

Affordable Housing Opportunity

Applications are now available for six affordable condominiums at The Albion, 16 Stearns Road in Wellesley. This development is a four-story, 24-unit condominium project. The deed restricted units are available to households earning less than 80% of the area medium income. There are five 2-bedroom 2-bath condos, and one 3-bedroom 2-bath condo.



Complete details, submission requirements, and pricing information are [available in the application packet](#). The deadline to submit applications is September 5, and the lottery is September 9. An information session is scheduled for July 30.

Paper applications are available in the Select Board office, 3rd Floor, Wellesley Town Hall (525 Washington Street), and the Wellesley Free Library Main Branch (530 Washington Street). Online applications can be downloaded at: [L.A. Associates, Inc.](#) or the [MA Affordable Housing website](#).

Wellesley Strategic Housing Plan

Thank you to everyone who submitted comments on the [draft Strategic Housing Plan](#). The comment period closes on July 3, and all feedback will be shared with the Town's consultant, Barrett Planning Group, and online. The Select Board and the Planning Board will also review the comments and suggest edits to the draft plan before it's finalized. Another public meeting to present the new plan is tentatively scheduled for September. Meeting announcements and dates will be posted on [the Wellesley Strategic Housing Plan website](#).

Select Board Updates

The Select Board chose new leadership as of July 1: Marjorie Freiman, Chair; Tom Ulfelder, Vice Chair; Colette Aufranc, Secretary; and Beth Sullivan Woods and Kenny Largess as members. To reach the Board, please email sel@wellesleyma.gov or

contact members directly via the [emails linked on the Select Board webpage](#). Members also serve as liaisons to other elected boards and appointed bodies and can assist if you have concerns on specific issues. [Read the list of FY2026 Select Board liaison assignments](#).

The Board also appointed individuals to fill vacancies or expired terms on the following boards and committees: Climate Action Committee, Historical Commission, Historic District Commission, and Zoning Board of Appeals. The Board has not yet taken up vacancies on: the Kepes Panel Committee, and Council on Aging Board.

Join the Wellesley Affordable Housing Trust

The Town is seeking candidates to fill three (3) volunteer positions on the board of the new Wellesley Affordable Housing Trust (WAHT), which is being established to replace the existing Wellesley Housing Development Corporation (WHDC). The mission of the WAHT is to provide for the creation and preservation of affordable housing in Wellesley to benefit low- and moderate- income households, with a particular focus on assisting the Town and other public agencies including the Wellesley Housing Authority.

Individuals who are passionate about advancing affordable housing are encouraged to apply. If you'd like to be considered, [please complete the Town of Wellesley online volunteer form](#). The target date to establish the WAHT and fill these board positions is September 2025. [Read more about the Wellesley Affordable Housing Trust](#).

July Office Hours

Select Board Vice Chair Tom Ulfelder will hold in-person office hours at Town Hall on Tuesday, July 15 from 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. in the Upper Conference Room (3rd floor). Please [email Tom directly for an appointment](#).

Complete Streets

We've received many comments about Wellesley's Complete Streets Prioritization Plan. Please continue to share your thoughts on traffic safety in our community. Public input will be accepted through Wednesday, July 30. Explore the [Complete Streets webpages](#) and email comments directly to Wellesley Transportation and Mobility Manager Sheila Page at spage@wellesleyma.gov



Mode Shift Challenge Winners!

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Mode Shift Challenge offered by the Town and [Sustainable Wellesley](#). We hope you enjoyed exploring Wellesley's public transit options.

Congratulations to our prize winners!

- Sustainable Wellesley \$200 Grand Prize - Teddy
- MWRTA swag bags - Hilary and Alannah
- Keolis/MBTA swag - Shoumita
- Cooler bag - Cathryn and Odessa

This summer, we hope even more people consider parking their cars and [using public transit to get around Wellesley and beyond](#).

From Other Departments

DPW News - Read the Drinking Water Report

The Department of Public Works (DPW) Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report for calendar year 2024 is now available. [Read the Water report online](#), pick up a printed copy at Town Hall or the Council on Aging, or [email DPW](#) to request a copy mailed to your home.



DPW publishes an online newsletter twice a year with updates on key infrastructure projects, upcoming road work, and important community reminders. Read the [DPW Summer 2025 digital newsletter](#) to stay up to date on public works projects.

WMLP News - New Bill Payment Vendor

On July 1, the Wellesley Municipal Light Plant (WMLP) changed its online bill payment vendor to City Hall Systems. This is the same system used by the Town Treasurer for tax payments. Visit the [Online Payment webpage on the Town website](#) for information.



Banner Hanging Fee

The WMLP is now charging a \$500 fee to hang banners over the RDF access road. This applies to all organizations, nonprofits, and Town departments unless waived by the WMLP Director. Banner permit applications are accepted no more than six months in advance. Requested dates are not guaranteed. [Guidelines and the online application](#) are on the Town banner permit webpage.

Shave the Peak & Help the Climate

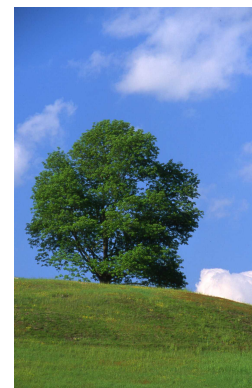
Help reduce energy costs and greenhouse gases by decreasing electricity use on very hot days with the [WMLP Shave the Peak program](#). Email shavethepeak@wellesleyma.gov to sign up for heat alerts. The first alert for 2025 was on June 24, and more peak alert days are expected throughout the summer.

For other energy saving incentives, explore the [WMLP Sustainability webpages](#) and the [Climate Action webpages](#).

NRC News - Open Space & Recreation Plan

The Natural Resources Commission (NRC) is updating its [current Open Space and Recreation Plan](#) through 2032 and wants public feedback.

A new section in the plan is to finalize the [Land Conservation Plan](#) that identifies land parcels with conservation value and maps out strategies to protect them. [Email comments to NRC Director Brandon Schmitt](#). Feedback will be accepted through July, and the NRC will be discussing the plan updates at regular meetings throughout the summer.



COA News - Kitchen Renovation

Renovations to the Tolles Parsons Center kitchen begin on July 7. Council on Aging (COA) programs that are affected have been moved to other rooms in the building. Exercise classes have been moved to Zoom.

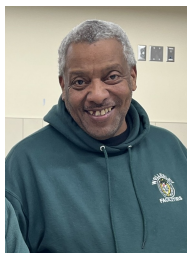
The COA publishes a bi-monthly newsletter with program details, activities for senior citizens, Keep Well clinics, and more. [Read the July/August 2025 newsletter](#) and find other key information on the [COA website](#).

Health Department News - Heat Safety

As we head into the warmest weather of the year, the [Health Department](#) is reminding everyone to stay safe in hot weather, protect yourself from UV (ultraviolet) sun rays, take care of yourself and your children when near water, and use precautions to avoid tick and mosquito bites when enjoying the outdoors.



[Read and subscribe to the Health Department monthly newsletter](#) to stay up to date on public health issues for Wellesley.



Thank you Bill Newton!

Town Hall head custodian Bill Newton is retiring in July after more than 27 years of service to Wellesley. Bill works behind the scenes to make sure meetings and events at Town Hall run seamlessly. He's kept our building spotless, kept us safe during the pandemic, and is always willing to help with special projects. We'll miss him and his ready smile, and wish him the very best in retirement.

Dates to Know

Upcoming Public Meetings

- July 7, 6:30 p.m., Planning Board
- July 8, 7:00 p.m., NRC
- July 10, 7:30 p.m., Zoning Board of Appeals
- July 14, 5:00 p.m., Board of Public Works
- July 17, 4:00 p.m., Council on Aging
- July 22, 6:30 p.m., Select Board

For complete details on these meetings and others, view the [public meeting calendar](#).

Upcoming Community Events

- July 4, Town offices CLOSED
- July 10, Health Department social worker drop-in hours, 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Wellesley Free Library. No appointment needed. For information on social worker services, go to the [Health Department website](#).
- July 19, Jubilation Sidewalk Sale 2025, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Wellesley Square. Support our local merchants, enjoy free parking, special discounts, live music and entertainment, and fun for the whole family! For complete details and information, go to [the Wellesley Square Merchants website](#).

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](#).



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