



News to Know - September 2025

Welcome back, Wellesley - to school, to town, and to a very busy September! Some key things to know for this month:

- New! E-bike safety information from the Wellesley Police Department
- Special Town Meeting starts November 3, read the Warrant
- Summer WPS projects completed by the Facilities Department

Stay up to date on things going on in Wellesley by reading *The W*, encouraging others to [subscribe to this newsletter](#), and sending input to [our editors](#).

Remembering September 11

Wellesley's annual September 11 ceremony will take place at 10 a.m. at Wellesley Fire Department headquarters (457 Worcester Street). The community is invited to attend as we reflect and remember the victims and the many heroes of that tragic day on September 11, 2001.



Firefighter Entrance Exam. Interested in becoming a Wellesley firefighter? The next firefighter exam is scheduled for September 27, 2025. Read information about [the entrance exam requirements and expectations](#).

E-bike Safety from WPD

Electric-assist bicycles, or e-bikes, are becoming increasingly popular in our community as a fun, sustainable way to get around town; exercise with assistance; and enjoy the outdoors. It's important to know that e-bikes are subject to specific rules under Massachusetts law. Riders must follow the same traffic laws as motor vehicles and traditional bicycles, including obeying traffic signals, yielding to pedestrians, and riding safely and predictably. The [Wellesley Police Department](#) has developed a new e-bike safety campaign to help riders follow the rules. Watch your mail for a postcard with details and look for safety signs around Town. Please help by making sure you and your family members know and follow the laws.

[Read more about E-bike Safety.](#)

E-BIKE SAFETY

Know the LAWS! Violators may be issued citations or face criminal charges.



Riders **must** follow traffic laws as motor vehicles & traditional bicycles, including obeying traffic signals, yielding to pedestrians, and riding safely and predictably.

RECKLESS OPERATION

Operators who jeopardize the lives and safety of the public may be cited for Operating to Endanger. **Violators under 18 may have their bike impounded.**

WHERE YOU CAN RIDE

- ✓ Public Roads
- ✓ Bike Lanes
- ✓ Shared Use Paved Paths

WHERE YOU CAN'T RIDE

- ✗ Sidewalks
- ✗ NRC Trails
- ✗ Playing Fields
- ✗ Dirt Paths
- ✗ Sprague Fields
- ✗ Hunnewell Fields
- ✗ School Fields
- ✗ Morses Pond

KNOW YOUR CLASS OF E-BIKE

CLASS 1 & 2

Pedal-assist or throttle up to 20mph.
No License or Registration Required.
Helmet required if under 17.

SPEEDS ABOVE 20 MPH

You're riding a **MOTORIZED BIKE**!
You **must** have a driver's license,
registration and moped license plate.
Any e-bike **exceeding** the power or
speed thresholds of Class 1 or 2 or
has been **modified** is considered a
"motorized bicycle" under M.G.L. c.
90, § 1. Violators will be **towed** and
face **criminal charges**.



Know the Laws

[E-Bike Laws & Regulations](#)

Select Board Updates: Special Town Meeting Warrant

Special [Town Meeting](#) will take place this fall beginning on Monday, November 3, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wellesley High School auditorium.



The Warrant, a list of articles to be considered at Town Meeting, has been signed and [a digital copy](#) is posted on the Town website, and hard copies are posted outside the Town Clerk's office and at the Wellesley Police Department (485 Washington Street). There are 12 articles on the Warrant, along with a citizen petition asking to allow Wellesley residents aged 17 to vote in Town elections.

The [Advisory Committee](#) will hold a public hearing on the Warrant on Wednesday, September 24 at 6:30 p.m. in the Great Hall at Town Hall.

Town Meeting Member Special Election

Due to vacancies in Precincts A and C, the Town Clerk will hold a special election in October for Town Meeting Members in those precincts. Candidates must be registered voters in those specific precincts. [Email Town Clerk KC Kato](#) for more information by September 30 if you'd like to run. The Special Election will take place on October 7. Only current Town Meeting members in Precincts A and C will vote in this special election.

September Office Hours

Select Board member Colette Aufranc will hold office hours at Town Hall in-person and on Zoom on Tuesday, September 9 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Please [email Colette](#) directly for an appointment and indicate your preference for in-person or Zoom. Select Board chair Marjorie Freiman will hold office hours later in the month on Thursday, September 25 from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in-person at Town Hall or on Zoom. Please [email Marjorie](#) directly for an appointment on that day and indicate your preference for in-person or Zoom.

Adjusted Hours for Weston Road Closure

Crews are installing granite curbing along Weston Road this month as part of the [Weston Road Reconstruction Project](#). Road closure hours have been adjusted to fit school schedules. Detours are in place on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday

from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. At other times there may be one-lane closures.



We appreciate your patience during this project. Project updates are regularly posted on the [Wellesley Police Department Facebook page](#) and [X account](#). For information or concerns, [contact the Wellesley Police Department](#).

Summer Vacation Projects to Improve Schools

What did you do over summer vacation? Here's a look at three key schools projects completed by our Facilities Management Department (FMD) this summer.

Bates Elementary Stormwater Management

Using cash-capital funds, FMD partnered with DPW to improve Bates School grounds by replacing a paved surface with grass for better stormwater runoff and adding a bioswale to help clean water surfaces. Benches and trees are coming soon!



WMS IT Department Office Renovation

Improvements to the Wellesley Middle School Information Technology office included a new HVAC system, new furniture and carpet, paint, and refurbished storage cabinets. This was also a cash-capital funded project and included moving the IT Department out for the summer.

WPS Air Conditioning Study

Four pilot programs at Wellesley Public Schools involved installing window air-conditioning units at Bates, Fiske, and Schofield Elementary Schools and a mini-split system at Wellesley Middle School. Feedback from these pilot studies will help the Town gather information for future discussions on installing air conditioning in schools.

From Other Departments

DPW Street Resurfacing

The [DPW Highway Division](#) is completing summer street resurfacing. Overnight paving is scheduled for many

Wellesley streets between Friday, September 5 and Friday, September 12 between 8 p.m. and 5 a.m. [Please check the DPW webpages for specific roadway information.](#)



Please note: On-street parking is prohibited during paving and please turn off sprinkler systems before and during this work. Vehicles may drive on paved surfaces after a few hours but please avoid make sharp turns with tires for 24-hours.



Health Department West Nile Virus Info

Health officials are reminding people to take precautions against mosquitoes since they're still active until the first frost. Cases of mosquito-borne illnesses like West Nile Virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) have been reported in the Commonwealth, but NOT in Wellesley.

Currently, Wellesley's risk for WNV is in the MODERATE category. A recent mosquito sample in our area did test positive for WNV, but infection with WNV is unlikely. Wellesley's risk for EEE is in the REMOTE category. There have been no positive EEE samples in our area. [Visit the Health Department webpages for resources and information on protecting yourself from mosquitoes and ticks.](#)

Read [the monthly Health Department newsletter](#) for other public health information.

NRC Needs Wetlands Protection Committee Volunteers

The [Natural Resources Commission](#) is looking for volunteers to fill two empty seats on the [Wetlands Protection Committee \(WPC\)](#). The five-member WPC helps enforce the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Wellesley Wetlands Protection bylaw, including reviewing and permitting proposed work in Town wetland areas. Interested candidates can fill out the [online Town volunteer form](#) or [contact the NRC](#).

And! Trails Committee guided fall walks begin this month. [Visit the Trails Committee webpages for dates and information.](#)

Read [the monthly NRC newsletter](#) for more information about Wellesley's natural resources.

Planning Board Public Hearing

The Planning Board will hold a public hearing on 49 Walnut Street on Thursday, September 11 at 6:30 p.m. This project of significant impact (PSI) is a proposed development of a 28-unit multi-family residential building and parking garage along the Charles River behind the Walnut Street office park. [Read the project materials](#) on the Planning Department webpages.

Treasurer's Office Parking Ticket Payments

Need to pay a parking ticket? Payments are accepted online and in-person. When [paying online](#), you'll be redirected to a page that says *County of Plymouth Parking Ticket Payment System. This is correct!* (We know it's also confusing).

In-person payments are accepted in the Treasurer's Office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Read [Parking Ticket payment information](#).

And a reminder from the Climate Action Committee...

Federal clean energy incentives are ending soon. Electric vehicle (EV) purchases or leases must be completed before September 30, 2025 to qualify for incentives. Home energy upgrades (air source heat pumps, weatherization/insulation, electrical panel upgrade, home energy audits) must be completed before December 31, 2025.



Dates to Know

September is Suicide Prevention Month. To raise awareness, here are some community resources if you or someone you know needs help.



- [Wellesley Health Department](#) social workers: Joyce Saret, 781-489-4354 and Wanda Alvarez, 781-489-4358
- [Wellesley Police Department](#): Dispatch, 781-235-1212 or 9-1-1 Emergency
- [Human Relations Service \(mental health agency\)](#), (781) 235-4950

Upcoming Public Meetings

All board and committee meetings are posted on the [Public Meeting calendar](#).

Upcoming Community Events

Here's a sampling of events for our community:

- Sept. 4, 11 & 18, 2:30-3:30 p.m. - Social Worker Drop in Hours @ Wellesley Free Library
- Sept. 19 & 20, All Day - [Parents Days Out @ Wellesley Square](#) (free parking at 2-hour street meters)
- Sept. 23 - Rosh Hashanah Observed
- Sept. 27, 2:00-4:00 p.m. - [Fall Into Flavors @ Linden Square](#)
- Oct. 2 - Yom Kippur Observed

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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