

News to Know - October 2025

Happy Fall! Some key things to know this month:

- MassBay Development Community Meeting #2 is October 8
- Wellesley Cultural Council has grant money, apply by October 16
- Register for Civil Discourse Initiative facilitated dialogues on *Belonging* on October 27 or October 30
- Please! Mind your manners at the RDF

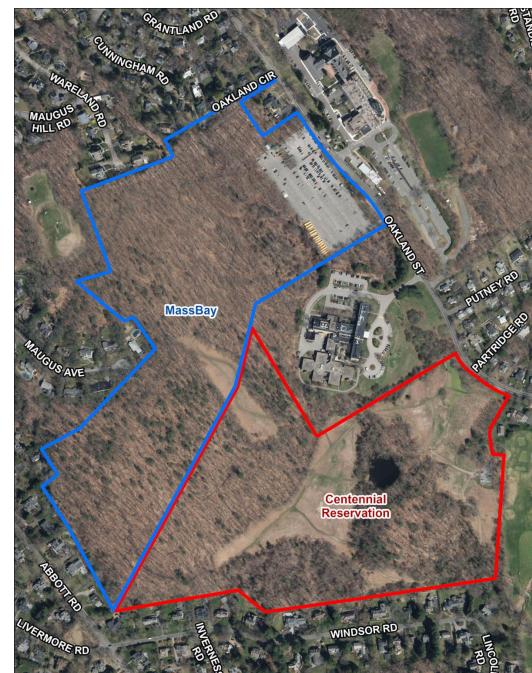
And, mark your calendars for **2025 Special Town Meeting** on November 3 and (maybe) November 4 at 7 p.m. at Wellesley High School.

Stay up to date on things going on in Wellesley by reading *The W*, sending input to [our editors](#), and encouraging others to [subscribe to this newsletter](#). We now have 4,000+ readers! [Watch this Wellesley Media video about The W](#).

MassBay Development Proposal

The Select Board and Planning Board have heard from many residents about a proposal by MassBay Community College (50 Oakland Street) to build a new Cybersecurity, Health, and Wellness Center and sell 45-acres of undeveloped land across the street, including the current student parking lot, to the State Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) for housing development.

This proposal is coming forward under the [Massachusetts Affordable Homes Act of 2024](#) which helps address housing challenges in the Commonwealth and prohibits cities and towns from imposing restrictions on the development of housing. Under this proposal, the State would buy the land and will consider proposals to build housing at a minimum density of four units per acre.



MassBay and DCAMM are asking for community feedback on this proposal. [Share comments in-person on Wednesday, October 8 at 6:00 p.m.](#) in the MassBay Library Atrium, by email at realestate.dcammm@mass.gov, or [using this comment form](#).

More information, including remarks from Select Board Chair Marjorie Freiman responding to resident concerns, is on [the MassBay Development Proposal webpage on the Town website](#). Additional comments can be emailed to OaklandStreet@wellesleyma.gov and will be forwarded to MassBay and DCAMM.

Coming Soon, from the Select Board

Watch for a town-wide letter from the Select Board in your mail later this month with information about FY2027 budgets, major capital projects, and upcoming issues facing Wellesley. This letter will contain a short survey on communications and public engagement. We want to hear your thoughts!

October Office Hours

Select Board member Beth Sullivan Woods will hold office hours at Town Hall in-person and on Zoom on Tuesday, October 7 from 12:00 pm. to 1:30 p.m. Please [email Beth](#) directly for an appointment and indicate your preference for in-person or Zoom. Select Board vice chair Tom Ulfelder will hold office hours later in the month on Thursday, October 23 from 12:00 pm. to 1:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall or on Zoom. Please [email Tom](#) directly for an appointment on that day and indicate your preference for in-person or Zoom.

Boston Marathon Bibs

Interested in running the 2026 Boston Marathon and raising funds for local nonprofits? Information and applications for the Town of Wellesley invitational entry program will be available in late October. Check the [the Boston Marathon webpage on the Town website for announcements](#).

Apply for a Cultural Council Grant

The Wellesley Cultural Council (WCC) has money to fund creative community-based projects that celebrate local culture and expand access to the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences. This year the Council will distribute \$8,200 from the State, supplemented by funds from the Town. Submit your grant application by Thursday, October 16 at 11:59 p.m.

Applications and information are on the [Massachusetts Cultural Council website](#), or contact WCC for information at culturalcouncil@wellesleyma.gov

Join a Conversation about Belonging

How do you celebrate and observe cultural and religious traditions? This month, join the [Wellesley DEI Task Force](#) and the [Wellesley Civil Discourse Initiative](#) for a facilitated dialogue, ***"Many Traditions, One Community: A Conversation About Belonging in Wellesley."*** The conversation will also include a short presentation on the Wellesley DEI Equity Audit conducted last spring.

Two dialogue sessions are planned, with the same content and format.

- In-person on Monday, October 27. Light refreshments from 6:00-6:30 p.m. and a presentation and dialogue from 6:30-8:30 p.m. (Location upon registration)
- Virtual (via Zoom) on Thursday, October 30. Presentation and dialogue from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

All community members are welcome, including residents, business owners, people who work in Wellesley, and members of Wellesley's faith communities. Space is limited in both sessions, so please [sign up in advance using the registration form.](#) Registration will close on Friday, October 17 at 5:00 p.m. (or before if all spots are filled).

Climate Action Committee Takes Action

The [**Wellesley Climate Action Committee**](#) recently took the unusual step in expressing strong opposition to a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposal. The committee voiced its support for preserving the [**Endangerment Finding**](#), which concluded that greenhouse gas emissions are a danger to public health and welfare. This finding provided the EPA the authority to set and enforce regulations to limit emissions but is currently proposed for removal. Wellesley's [**Climate Action Plan**](#) is built around these existing standards.



[**Read the Climate Action Committee news release supporting the Endangerment Finding.**](#)



Skip the Stuff in 2026

Beginning in January 2026, all food service establishments in Wellesley will provide single-use items ONLY by customer request or at a self-service counter.

This new Board of Health bylaw, known as [**Skip the Stuff**](#), was passed by 2025 Annual Town Meeting and is intended to: 1) Reduce the amount of waste generated by single-use articles, 2) Change customer habits, 3) Help reduce unnecessary costs to food service establishments. Single-use food ware is a huge and growing portion of the waste stream entering landfills and incinerators, and polluting city streets and waterways.

We appreciate the cooperation from all of our food service establishments who will be asking customers if they want utensils or condiments. Watch for much more information on "Skip the Stuff" in the coming months from the Health Department, the Climate Action Committee, and the RDF.

Please! Mind Your Manners at the RDF

Recycling and Disposal Facility (RDF) staff is reminding users to do their part to be safe, efficient, and respectful when visiting. A few tips:

- Listen to Staff - Employees are available to keep things running smoothly and offer help when needed.
- Be Kind - Please be patient and understanding, especially at busy times.
- Drive Safely & Slowly - Be careful, watch out for other cars, equipment, and pedestrians.

- Unload Smart - Place items in the correct locations. Personal items (keys, wallets, phones) should remain in your car, not in the bins! Use care with heavy or sharp materials.
- Practice Courteous Behavior - Reckless driving, arguing with staff, or incorrect dumping is risky and may result in a loss of RDF privileges according to Board of Public Works regulations.

Please contact the RDF office with questions or concerns at 781-235-7600 ext. 3345 or [email dpw@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:dpw@wellesleyma.gov)

Hydrant Flushing Begins October 20

The [DPW Water and Sewer Division](#) will flush water mains from Monday, October 20 through Friday, October 24 between 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. This annual activity removes sediment buildup in the mains and makes sure fire hydrants and valves are working correctly. Flushing may temporarily discolor water due to small particles dislodged during the flushing, and may also briefly reduce water pressure. Discolored water is not harmful but may stain laundry. [Learn more about hydrant flushing.](#)



Also...please remember that the State remains in a Level 1 drought emergency. One-day per week non-essential outdoor watering restrictions are in effect. [Find more drought information on the Water & Sewer webpages.](#)



Scholarships for Young Students

[Wellesley Public Schools](#) is grateful to the Kiwanis Club of Wellesley for supporting our youngest learners. Kiwanis is funding up to \$12,390 in scholarships for students at P.A.W.S. (Preschool at Wellesley Schools) whose families demonstrate need. Scholarships are available for the second semester and applications are due on October 24, 2025.

[Learn about the Kiwanis Scholarships on the WPS website.](#)

Wellesley High School Community Day

WHS is celebrating the community on Saturday, October 25 from 11 a.m.- 2 p.m. with family-friendly fun and food on Hunnewell Field. More than 20 clubs and teams will be running games and activities as part of WHS Homecoming festivities. All are welcome!

School Committee Office Hours

The School Committee will hold virtual office hours on Tuesday, October 7 from 9-10 a.m. [Sign up in advance using this office hours registration link.](#)

Talk Transit with the MWRTA

The MWRTA, our regional bus system, is working to build a more efficient, flexible, and rider focused service, and is considering a network redesign. Share your ideas by [visiting the MWRTA website.](#) Also, the MWRTA is updating their 5-year Regional Transit Plan - [complete a survey to give your input.](#) MWRTA



service in Wellesley is provided by:

- [The Route 1 Bus](#)
- [The MassBay Riverside Shuttle](#)
- [The Catch Connect](#)



A reminder from the Treasurer...

Real Estate tax bills have been mailed. Payments are due on or before Monday, November 3. [Online payment is encouraged](#), or payments may be delivered to the Treasurer's office during business hours or dropped in the secure ballot and payment drop box in front of Town Hall.

Community Kudos



Thank You!!

Weston Road reopened to traffic on Friday, October 3. Thank you to the community and especially the residents and businesses on [Weston Road](#) for your patience during the recent major road construction.

Resident and photographer Beth Shedd captured these pictures of the "Nighttime Paving Show."

AND Congratulations! On

Wednesday, October 15, three of our business and community members will be honored at the [Charles River Regional Chamber](#) Wellesley Night at Babson College. The winners were nominated by members of the community.

Congratulations to:

- Captain Marden's Seafoods
- Peter J. Mongeau, Wellesley Historical Society
- Sustainable Wellesley

Dates to Know

REMINDER: All municipal buildings, schools, and the RDF will be closed on Monday, October 13 for Indigenous Peoples' Day.

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:

- October 4 & 5, [Town-wide Yard Sale](#), Recreation Department

- October 16, [Health Fair](#), Friends of the Council on Aging
- October 16, [Heat Pump Forum & Pizza Party](#), Climate Action Committee & WMLP
- October 23, [Understanding Antisemitism Speaker Series #2](#), World of Wellesley
- October 22 & 30, [Flu Clinics 16+](#), Health Department

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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