



News to Know - November 2025

Thank you to everyone who shared feedback on *The W - October 22, Select Board Edition*. A similar community update will go out in March prior to 2026 Annual Town Meeting. **Please note:** hard copies of this newsletter are available at Town Hall (Town Clerk's Office & Select Board Office) and the Council on Aging (500 Washington Street).

Now back to our regular monthly news. Please let us know how you receive information and how we can improve Town communications by [completing the Town Communications Survey](#).

Key things to know this month:

- Help for Our community
- Special Town Meeting summary
- Hunnewell Tennis & Pickleball courts re-open
- Wellesley Fire Department Thanksgiving Safety tips

Mark your calendars. Wellesley's Annual Veterans' Day ceremony is Tuesday, November 11 at 11:00 a.m. in front of the War Memorial at Town Hall (Washington Street). All are invited to attend as we honor our Veterans. Rain location is the Great Hall, Town Hall.

Save the date. On Monday, December 8 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. the Town of Wellesley invites residents to a Community Visioning Workshop at Wellesley High School. This workshop will explore the future development of [the 45-acre MassBay Community College property](#), designated as surplus land for redevelopment under the [State's Affordable Homes Act](#) (Section 122 Surplus Land provisions).

Learn about the State program, review site opportunities and constraints, and share input on housing design, density, and open space priorities. While the workshop will not determine or approve a specific development project, it will help define a community-driven vision that reflects Wellesley's housing goals, environmental values, and community character. [Read more about the Community Visioning Workshop and how to participate.](#)

Help for Our Community

Wellesley is a community that works together to support and assist each other. The status of federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits remains uncertain due to



the continued shutdown of the federal government. While emergency funds will allow SNAP recipients to receive some benefits in November, households in our community continue to struggle to afford food and essential supplies.

If you need help, [visit the resources page on the Town website](#). If you would like to help, consider donating to the [Community Social Services Gift Fund](#) or donating gift cards in small amounts (\$25 suggested) to local grocery stores and restaurants and dropping them off at the Wellesley Police Department. Thank you!

Special Town Meeting Summary

[2025 Special Town Meeting](#) was held on Monday, November 3 at Wellesley High School. Town Clerk KC Kato swore in five newly-elected Town Meeting members.

During the one night of discussion, Town Meeting voted on 11 articles on the Warrant. They approved more than \$8 million in funding for three major capital projects: a new administration building at the Recycling and Disposal Facility (RDF) for \$5.5 million; a new RDF baler and compactors for \$800,000; and team rooms at the Hunnewell Track and Field complex for \$1.785 million.



Town Meeting also approved the job classification and salary plan for the Town's IT department, appropriated more funds for the Advisory Committee administration, established a PFAS Revenue Fund, and modified animal control regulations to comply with Ollie's Law, which is aimed to keep dogs safe by setting standards for dog kennels and requiring kennels to be licensed and annually inspected.

A Citizens Petition asking the Select Board to consider a nonbinding referendum supporting a Special Act that would allow 17-year olds to vote in municipal elections narrowly passed. [See the complete Special Town Meeting scorecard](#). 2026 Annual Town Meeting is scheduled to begin on March 30, 2026.

November Office Hours

Select Board member Colette Aufranc will hold office hours on Thursday, November 20 from noon to 1:30 p.m. Both in-person and Zoom appointments are available. Please [email Colette](#) directly for an appointment and indicate your preference for in-person or Zoom.

Apply for a Boston Marathon Bib

The Town of Wellesley has a limited number of invitational entries for the 2026 Boston Marathon to distribute to local nonprofits and the War Memorial Scholarship Fund. Applications are now available for organizations and individual runners who want to be considered for an entry. The deadline to apply is

Thursday, November 20. Entries will be awarded by the Select Board in early December. Read more information and download the nonprofit and/or individual application on the [Boston Marathon webpage on the Town website](#).



Hunnewell Tennis & Pickleball Courts Re-open

After months of hard work by the Department of Public Works and contractors, the Town is excited to announce the re-opening of the Hunnewell Tennis and Pickleball Courts. Players can reserve the courts in advance through the [playlocal system](#) with a [Wellesley Recreation Department](#) membership.

Please note: A few punch list items will be completed in the coming weeks and may temporarily impact availability on some courts. Thank you for your patience as we work to better serve players! And please, keep the courts in top shape by carrying out anything you bring in. [Read more about the Hunnewell Sport Courts Restoration project.](#)



Coming Soon! Skip the Stuff

Beginning in January 2026, all food service establishments in Wellesley will provide single-use articles (eg. plastic utensils) and single-serving condiment packages 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 foodware is a huge and growing portion of the waste stream entering landfills and incinerators, and polluting city streets and waterways. This is a collaborative effort between the Health Department, Climate Action Committee, and the RDF.

Wellesley food service establishments are prepping for this change, and we appreciate their cooperation. We also appreciate those customers who are already skipping the stuff! Watch for much more information and signs in local businesses in the coming months.

WFL Short Story Competition

Love to write? Throughout November, the Wellesley

Free Library is celebrating National Writing Month

with a short story competition for all ages. Take part in writing workshops and submit your short story to become part of the Library's collection. Submissions may be in all languages and no longer than 1,000 words. Short stories are due by December 1. For



WELLESLEY FREE
LIBRARY



WFD Thanksgiving Safety Tips

The Fire Department is sharing safety tips for holiday cooks. Some key things to remember: keep cooking areas clean; stand by your pan; put a lid on it; buy it, don't fry it! **If you can't put out a fire quickly and safely, get out, stay out, and call 9-1-1. Find more safety tips on the Fire Department webpages.**

Wanted: Wetlands Protection Committee Members

The Natural Resources Commission needs volunteers to serve on the [Wetlands Protection Committee](#). Residents with experience in environmental science, natural resource management, science, botany, ecology, conservation, forestry, engineering, land use and law, and those with bilingual skills, or a strong interest in environmental protection, are especially encouraged to apply. Submit a letter and/or resume to nrc@wellesleyma.gov and include "Wetlands Position" in the email title. [Contact NRC Director Brandon Schmitt with questions.](#)

Dates to Know

Thanksgiving Closures

Wellesley municipal buildings and offices, the RDF, and the Wellesley Free Libraries will be closed all day on Thursday, November 27 for Thanksgiving. Buildings will be open on Friday, November 28, but please check specific departments as hours may vary. Happy Thanksgiving!

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:

- November 19, [Wellesley Education Foundation 36th Annual Spelling Bee](#)
- November 22, [Wellesley Marketplace Holiday Market](#)
- November 22, [Wellesley Council on Aging Thanksgiving Luncheon](#)
- November 25, [Health Department Flu Clinic, Ages 16+](#)

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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