

News to Kno *W* - December 2025

Happy holiday season, Wellesley! It's a busy month and we appreciate that you take time to read this newsletter.

Key things to know for December:

- Run for a Town Office
- New! Annual Parking Permits now online
- Get Ready to Skip the Stuff
- Read our Ode to E-Bike Safety



Holiday Schedule: Town of Wellesley municipal buildings and the Recycling and Disposal Facility (RDF) will follow the below schedule for the Christmas and New Year holidays.

- December 24 - Buildings close at Noon
- December 25 - Closed All Day
- December 31 - Buildings close at Noon
- January 1 - Closed All Day

Regular hours of operation resume on Friday, January 2, 2026, but please check with specific departments as open and closed hours may vary.

Holiday Stroll Highlights

It was a festive afternoon in Wellesley Square on Sunday, December 7 as shoppers strolled Central Street and enjoyed special holiday offerings from merchants, a scavenger hunt, caroling by Wellesley High School choirs, and visits from favorite costumed characters, including Santa.

Thank you to everyone who attended, and to the Wellesley Square Merchants Association, DPW crews, and Municipal Light Plant crews for bringing the sparkle to our community!



Next weekend! Mark your calendars for the Linden Square Holiday Stroll on Saturday, December 13 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Featuring free hot cocoa and holiday treats, kids' crafts, and special deals from select businesses. [RSVP using the Linden Square Holiday Stroll link.](#)

Run for an Elected Office

Nomination papers are now available for individuals who want to run for an elected office in Wellesley. Get involved in local government and give back to our community. Interested candidates can pick up papers now through January 9, 2026 if you're running for a town-wide office, or until January 23, 2026 if you're running for a Town Meeting member seat. Nomination papers are available in the Town Clerk's Office at Town Hall during business hours, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Wellesley's Annual Election is Tuesday, March 3, 2026. [Find candidate information, dates, and additional election resources on the Town Clerk's webpages.](#)

Select Board Update

MassBay Status

On November 26, the Select Board announced it was postponing the visioning workshop for the [MassBay land disposition proposal](#) at 40 Oakland Street. This decision was due to concerns by the Board that representatives of the Commonwealth have given conflicting information about their intentions and the role the Town and our residents can play in influencing the project at MassBay. The Board wants to make sure the visioning is conducted under shared assumptions so that all input will be considered and constructive.



Annual Town Meeting Begins March 30, 2026

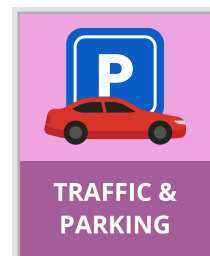
The Warrant for [2026 Annual Town Meeting](#) is open and will close on Wednesday, December 23 at 4 p.m. Motions for any articles to be considered at Town Meeting are due in the Select Board Office by Friday, February 6, 2026 at 4 p.m. 2026 Annual Town Meeting will be held in the Wellesley High School auditorium (50 Rice Street) beginning on Monday, March 30 at 7 p.m. Town Meeting is expected to last for three weeks with meetings continuing on March 31, April 6 and 7, and April 13 and 14.

December Office Hours

Select Board member Kenny Largess will hold office hours on Friday, December 12 from Noon to 1:30 p.m. Both in-person and Zoom appointments are available. [Email Kenny directly](#) to request a 15-minute appointment and the Zoom link if applicable. In-person appointments will be in Conference Room #330 at Town Hall.

New! Annual Parking Permits Now Online

Do you regularly purchase a permit to park in Wellesley municipal lots? Starting December 15, annual parking permit applications and payments will now be [accepted online via the OpenGov portal](#). This is the same system used for all other Town of Wellesley online permits.



This new process will allow customers to apply for and purchase annual permits easily without having to rely on USPS or a trip to the Parking Clerk office at Town Hall. The registration(s) provided will be digitally recorded as "paid in full" for the year. Unlike in prior years, parking permit holders will not need to display anything in your vehicle



Skip the Stuff Starts January 1, 2026

Get ready! Starting on January 1, 2026, the new Town bylaw known as **Skip the Stuff** takes effect. Under this new law, 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.

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 displaying Skip the Stuff signs and working to educate customers in the coming weeks. We appreciate their partnership communicating this new law. [Read more about Skip the Stuff in the Health Department webpages.](#)



Health & Recreation Departments Move Back

Renovations are nearly complete on the Warren Building! The Wellesley Health and Recreation Departments will be moving back to 90 Washington Street in mid-December. Health & Rec offices will be closed on Tuesday, December 16 and staff will be working remotely for a few days until set up is complete.

Please watch for information on the Town website.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Wellesley Health Department

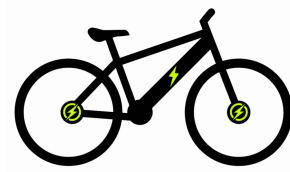
Food Safety Forum

On Tuesday, December 9 at 10 a.m. join Health Department officials for a virtual forum on *Food Safety Best Practices*.

Learn about employee health and preventing food borne illnesses. Employees of food service establishments are encouraged to attend.

For convenience, the forum will take place on Microsoft Teams.

[Register using the Teams meeting link.](#)



This holiday season, as you make your list and check it twice, remember to follow [e-bike safety advice](#).

E-bikes and E-scooters are fun to receive, but please know the LAWS to avoid criminal charges or fees.

Dirt bikes and motorcycles are not e-bikes in disguise. Shop smart, do your research, and you can save lives.

At speeds of 20 MPH and higher, you're on a motorized bike. You need a license, registration, and plate – not allowed for a tyke.

The news has been full of E-bike dangers of late. Please help all of us avoid this same fate.

Under 17? Helmets are a must. A message for parents, in whom we trust.

No E-bikes on sidewalks, NRC trails, dirt paths, and at Morses Pond. Keep e-bikes off Wellesley school and athletic fields, and public areas where people bond.

*Most important of all, please keep your eyes peeled. When encountering pedestrians, riders always **MUST** yield!*

No reckless operation, use common sense, and show respect. Ride safely and have fun, with all boxes checked.

Have a safe & happy holiday season!

Save Property Tax Information

Help the [Treasurer's Office](#) serve citizens more efficiently. As you prepare to file 2025 taxes, please keep a copy of your property tax payment information. Having this information in your records makes it easier to file taxes without having to contact the Treasurer's Office. If you do have questions, please [email treasurer@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:treasurer@wellesleyma.gov)



Congratulations to the 2026 Boston Marathon "Team Wellesley" Nonprofits

The local nonprofits selected by the Select Board to receive invitational entries for the [2026 Boston Marathon](#) are:

Community Fund for Wellesley
Community Investors
Elizabeth Seton Residence
Friends of the Council on Aging
Friends of the Wellesley Free Libraries
Friends of Wellesley METCO
Friends of Wellesley Veterans, Inc.
MassBay Community College Foundation
Sustainable Wellesley

Wellesley A Better Chance (ABC)
Wellesley Community Children's Center
Wellesley Education Foundation
Wellesley Food Pantry
Wellesley Friendly Aid
Wellesley Historical Society
Wellesley Neighbors
Wellesley Scholarship Foundation
Wellesley War Memorial Scholarship Fund
World of Wellesley

Congratulations and good luck to runners with their fundraising!

A P.S. from DPW

The Wellesley Department of Public Works publishes its own digital newsletter! [Read the Winter 2025 issue](#) for winter road maintenance information, holiday waste recycling, and more! For DPW questions, [please email dpw@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:dpw@wellesleyma.gov)

Dates to Know

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:

- December 8-24, [Wellesley Kiwanis Red Kettle Drive](#)
- December 10, [TBE Racial Justice Initiative: The State of Democracy & Civil Rights](#)
- December 14, [Wellesley Town Band Winter Concert](#)
- December 30, [Wellesley Police & WPS Winter Blood Drive](#)

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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