

## News to Know - January 2026

2026 is off to a strong start as capital planning discussions continue and Town budgets take shape in preparation for 2026 Annual Town Meeting this spring. If you're considering getting involved in Town government, now is the time!

Key things to know for January:

- Run for a Town Meeting Member seat
- Try the Catch Connect extended weekend hours
- Remember! Skip the Stuff at Wellesley food establishments
- Check your Town website subscriptions

**MLK Day Holiday Schedule.** Town of Wellesley municipal buildings, the Recycling and Disposal Facility (RDF), all Wellesley Free Library branches, and Wellesley Public Schools are closed on Monday, January 19 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Regular hours of operation resume on Tuesday, January 20.

**World of Wellesley MLK Day Program.** Celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 19, and attend the World of Wellesley's annual MLK luncheon and program featuring keynote speaker J.R. Harris, a wilderness explorer and author. This event takes place at Wellesley College - Tishman Commons from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. [Register and purchase tickets using this link.](#)

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## Become a Town Meeting Member

Nomination papers are still available for individuals who want to run for a Town Meeting Member seat in their precinct. Pick up papers in the Town Clerk's Office at Town Hall during business hours, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Candidates must live in the precinct in which they're running and must collect 10 signatures of registered voters in that precinct in order to be added to the ballot. Nomination papers must be returned by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 27.



Wellesley's Annual Election is Tuesday, March 3, 2026. See [the list of candidates running for Town-wide office](#). Find voter registration information and deadlines, and other election resources on the [Town Clerk's webpages](#).

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## Select Board Update

### Select Board Office Hours

Select Board vice chair Tom Ulfelder will hold in-person office hours on Friday, January 23 from Noon to 1:30 p.m. [Email Tom directly](#) to request a 15-minute appointment. Appointments will be in Conference Room 330 at Town Hall.



Select Board secretary Colette Aufranc will hold office hours on Wednesday, February 4 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Town Hall. Both in-person and Zoom appointments are available. [Email Colette directly](#) to request an appointment and indicate the type of appointment you prefer.



### **New! Weekend Hours for Catch Connect**

The Wellesley Catch Connect is going places, and now you can ride on weekends too! [Catch Connect](#) is a curb-to-curb micro transit service. Trips can be anywhere in Wellesley and to/from the Woodland and Waban MBTA Green line T

Stations, Needham Heights Commuter Rail Station, Newton

Wellesley Hospital, and the Natick Community Center. Fares are currently free! As of January 11, 2026 Catch Connect is available on Saturdays and Sundays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

[Visit the MWRTA Catch Connect webpages](#) for full service area details and additional information. Download the MWRTA Catch App on your phone to begin booking today! No smartphone? No problem! Call (508) 283-5083 to book Catch Connect over the phone.

For service to local hospitals, the [MWRTA Hospital Shuttle](#) provides door-to-door pick up and drop off service on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday between 8:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. (you must create an account and register in advance for this service). Visit the Town website to explore [other ways to for getting around Wellesley and beyond](#).

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## **Planning Board Update**

### **Proposed Project at 592 Washington Street**

The Planning Board will hold a hearing on Tuesday, January 26 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss a Project of Significant Impact (PSI) located at 592 Washington Street. The proposed 19-unit multi-family project renovates the existing historic structure, removes a separate building in the rear of the property, removes a rear addition and adds a three-story addition with underground parking. Ahead of the Planning Board's public hearing, the Select Board will review of the traffic, pedestrian, and bicycle safety requirements. Public input is welcome. Please check the meeting calendar on the Town website for details. The [application materials can be viewed on the Planning Department webpages](#).

### **Planning Board Office Hours**

The Planning Board is holding office hours this month. Sign up to speak with Board chair Marc Charney on Tuesday, January 27 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Town Hall. [Email Marc directly](#) to schedule an appointment. Office hours will be in the Juliani Room, 1st Floor, Wellesley Town Hall.

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**Career Corner: Work for the Town of Wellesley**

Looking for a new job? The Town of Wellesley is hiring for both full- and part-time positions. Current opportunities include:

- Director, Senior Services
- Emergency 911 Dispatcher
- Information Technology Manager
- Superintendent/DPW Park & Tree Division
- Part-time Parking Clerk
- Part-time Crossing Guards
- And more!

See the [complete list of job postings, descriptions, and application information the Human Resources webpages.](#)

## Health Department News

### New! Parent and Newborn Support Program

Having a baby is one of the most significant and transformative experiences in life. The Health Department has launched a new program, Parent & Newborn Support Services (PNSS), to support prenatal, postpartum, and newborn health and well-being for families in our community. Led by Wellesley public health nursing staff, the goal of the program is to meet the unique needs of each family through perinatal support and care, health assessments, newborn care and feeding guidance, and connections to clinicians and community resources.

Services are confidential and free. Appointments for home visits and telephone consultations are available by calling the Wellesley Health Department perinatal nursing team at 781-489-4412 or by [emailing the PNSS program.](#)

Learn more about the [PNSS program on the Health Department webpages.](#)



### Are You Skipping Stuff?

Wellesley's [Skip the Stuff bylaw](#) went into effect on January 1, 2026. 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 will help 1) Reduce waste and greenhouse gas emissions associated with single-use articles; 2) Change customer habits; and 3) Reduce



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
Wellesley Health Department

### Mark Your Calendars!

**Keep Well Clinics.** The Health Department hosts regular Keep Well Clinics for all residents. Have your blood pressure monitored and health questions answered. Clinics take place at various locations in town. See the [2026 Winter Schedule](#) and for more information contact the Health Department at 781-235-0135 or check the Health Department webpages.

**Community Meeting.** On Monday, February 23 join the Health Department for a community

unnecessary costs to food service establishments.

A shout-out to all of our businesses who have Skip the Stuff information on display and are working hard to educate customers! [Learn more on the Skip the Stuff webpages.](#)

meeting on the health status of Wellesley residents, and how best to use funds from the recent Opioid Settlement. The meeting will take place at 6 p.m. in the Wakelin Room, Wellesley Free Library Main Branch and will be live streamed on [Wellesley Public Media.](#)

Be in the know about local public health information by [subscribing to the Health Department monthly newsletter.](#)



## Pay Tax Bills Online

Real estate and personal property tax bills for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of FY2026 were mailed in December 2025. Payments are due on or before Monday, February 2, 2026. Online payments are encouraged. [Contact the Treasurer/Collector's Office with questions.](#)

## DPW Water & Sewer Line Inventory

The DPW Water & Sewer Division is conducting a federally required inventory of water service lines under the EPA's Lead and Copper Rule. Letters were mailed to residents and property owners to share information about the known or suspected material of the service line connecting properties to the public water system. Some landlords received letters for distribution to tenants.



Service lines may be classified as 1) unknown/not verified or 2) Galvanized Requiring Replacement (GRR). Galvanized pipes do not mean lead has been found in the water, but the GRR designation requires further verification. No lead service lines have been identified in Wellesley. At this time, most residents do not need to take any action.

For questions, [visit the Service Line Inventory webpage](#) or contact the Wellesley Water & Sewer Division at 781-235-7600 x 3355.

## New looks for the New Year



**Council on Aging Kitchen**



**RDF Administration Building**

Construction has started on a new administration building for the [Recycling and Disposal Facility](#)

Renovations are almost complete on a new commercial kitchen for the [Council on Aging](#) at the Tolles Parsons Center (500 Washington Street). The new kitchen is fully equipped for on-site meal preparation and cooking demonstrations. The previous kitchen facility could not be used to prepare meals, only serve them.

COA users can look forward to exciting meals, special food celebrations and events, and other culinary opportunities.

**And in other COA news...**on Monday, February 2 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. representatives from the Massachusetts Unclaimed Property Division will be visiting to check names for unclaimed property. This event is in the Schuller Room at the TPC. Please bring a photo ID.

Stop by, see the new kitchen, and see if you have any 'found money!'

[\(RDF\)](#). This new building will replace the current facility where mechanical systems are failing, roofing is deteriorating, rooms are too small, there is limited office and storage space, and the area is not ADA accessible.

Design plans for the new 3,300 sq. foot space include more office and public space, training and muster rooms, adequate storage, LED lighting, and solar power capability. The new building will be located near the RDF visitor parking making it easier for the public to access services.

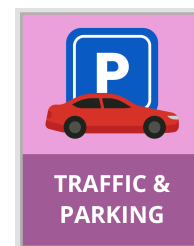
Construction is expected to finish in Spring 2027.

The RDF will be open and operating as usual throughout the building period. Please be alert when using the facility! Drive slowly and carefully and watch for heavy equipment.

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## Reminder: Purchase Annual Parking Permits

If you regularly park in Wellesley municipal lots, please remember to purchase your 2026 annual parking permit. Applications and payments are now [accepted online via the OpenGov portal](#). Registrations are digitally recorded as "paid in full" for the year and captured by the parking system, so permit holders do not need to display anything in vehicles.



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## Review Your Website Subscriptions

The new year is a good time to refresh and restart. If you've signed up to receive notifications from the Town via our website, to enhance security a CivicPlus account is now required. If you subscribe to any of the Town's [website lists](#) (agendas, alerts, bids, calendars, jobs, news, etc.) but have never created an account, you will need to do so to make any changes. New subscribers will automatically be prompted to create an account. To receive notifications, go the Town website homepage, click on the light blue 'Subscribe to News' button, and you'll get to [the Notify Me Sign In screen](#). When creating your account, use the same email address that you use for subscriptions you currently receive, and all of those subscriptions will be maintained.

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## Dates to Know

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## 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:

- Jan. 18, 2 p.m. - [Swift Boat Skipper: Stories from a Vietnam War author talk](#) (Wellesley Historical Society/Wellesley Free Library)
- Jan. 19, 11 a.m. - [MLK Day community read and luncheon](#) (World of Wellesley)
- Jan. 28, 4 p.m. - [Webinar on the health impacts of microplastics/plastics](#) with Dr. Philip Landrigan (Sustainable Wellesley)
- Jan. 28, 6:30 p.m. - [Colossal Collage Community Art Project - Night 1](#) (Art Wellesley)
- Feb. 1, 2 p.m. - [Fredrick Douglass "What to a Slave is the Fourth of July?" community read](#) (Wellesley Hills Congregational Church)
- Feb. 11, 7 p.m. - [Conversation with the Candidates Night](#) (Sustainable Wellesley)
- Feb. 12, 6:30 p.m. - [Meet the Candidates Night](#) (League of Women Voters)

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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