



## Letter from the Director

As I write this letter, we are entering into Phase 2, the 'cautious phase' of the State's re-opening plan. Restrictions are being lifted on restaurants, retail stores, day camps, youth sports and many other activities. At the DPW, we too are being cautious, and will continue to resume services while taking steps to protect the public and our staff as we navigate our way towards a 'new normal'.

The journey so far has posed unprecedented challenges for us all and I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to the citizens of Wellesley for their ongoing patience and support as we have modified operations to help flatten the curve and keep everyone safe. Special thanks go out to the local group, *Sewing COVID19 Help*, for their donation of 200 homemade masks to our staff. Masks were hard to come by and these wonderful masks provided needed protection for our staff. An additional boost was received when the *Wellesley Gentlemen's Society*, along with the *Maugus Restaurant* provided and delivered lunch to DPW staff on May 8th. Over the past three months we've received many other gestures and words of thanks from folks all over town and this generous spirit will certainly benefit the Town in the weeks and months ahead.

While so many things have changed, for the DPW many things remain the same due to the seasonal and cyclical nature of our work. We are taking advantage of lighter traffic to keep up with maintenance around town and with restrictions easing, our busy construction season is now fully underway. At the RDF, we've been as busy as ever and hope to resume our full scope of services as soon as possible.

In this newsletter you will find an update on our annual street resurfacing program, tips on reducing stormwater



Photo Credit - Beth Shedd Photography

pollution, information about the RDF, and an important reminder to take extra care when you encounter workzones so that our crews can complete their work as safely as possible.

We encourage you to read the annual Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report. To reduce paper and conserve resources, we have made the Report available electronically at [www.wellesleyma.gov/water](http://www.wellesleyma.gov/water) and hard copies are available on request.

Finally, I want to extend my appreciation to the entire DPW Staff for adapting seamlessly to our new environment to keep Wellesley working. When we ask our folks what we can do to better recognize the work they do, one answer we hear frequently is that a simple thank you will do. While this hardly seems enough, please allow me

this opportunity to say to the entire DPW Team, THANK YOU!

We welcome all comments and questions about DPW operations. Please email the DPW at [dpw@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:dpw@wellesleyma.gov) or visit us on the website [www.wellesleyma.gov](http://www.wellesleyma.gov) for more information.

Thanks for reading and be well!

David Cohen  
Director of Public Works

## 2020 Street Resurfacing Program

The DPW's street maintenance strategy includes a range of treatments including crack seal, rubber chip seal, bituminous concrete overlay, and grinding and paving existing

surfaces as conditions require. This approach defers the cost and disruption of full reconstruction almost indefinitely.

The streets listed below are scheduled for attention this summer. Notices will

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# Help Keep Pet Waste Out of Wellesley's Catch Basins!



**W**hen pet waste is improperly disposed of in the street catch basins, it is picked up by storm water runoff and washed into Wellesley's ponds, streams, and wetlands causing significant water pollution.

Decaying pet waste consumes oxygen and releases ammonia both which can damage the health of fish and other

aquatic life. Pet waste can also carry bacteria, viruses, and parasites that threaten the health of humans and wildlife.

Nutrients in pet waste promote weed and algae growth causing cloudy and green water making swimming and recreation unappealing and potentially unhealthy.

Dog owners can help prevent contamination of local waterways, wetlands and parklands by picking up after their dog and disposing of the waste in a proper trash receptacle. Help keep Wellesley's waterways and environment clean and healthy!

To report a problem area please call 781-235-7600, Ext. 3325 or e-mail [dpw@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:dpw@wellesleyma.gov).

# 2020 Street Resurfacing Program ...continued from page 1

be mailed to affected property owners, in particular reminding owners that any changes to underground utilities that involve excavating in the street or sidewalk must be done prior to the street resurfacing work.

When you see work in progress, please slowdown in construction zones and be alert to workers, bicyclists, pedestrians, and other motorists.

|                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Bacon Street        | Kenilworth Road    |
| Bemis Road          | Madison Road       |
| Benton Street       | Martin Road        |
| Benvenue Street*    | Manadnock Road*    |
| Chatham Circle      | Oakland Street**   |
| Fox Hill Road       | Pierce Road        |
| Fuller Brook Road   | Sagamore Road      |
| Great Plain Avenue* | Tappan Road        |
| Hillside Road       | Vane Street        |
| Hundreds Road*      | Wellesley Avenue*  |
| Ingraham Road       | Wildon Road        |
| Juniper Road        | Winthrop Road      |
| Kenilworth Circle   | Winding River Road |

\* Portions of the street will be resurfaced

Some of these streets will be paved with a rubber chipseal treatment. Check out this article from the Swellesley Report that provides more details about why this treatment is an important part of our road maintenance strategy. (<http://theswellesleyreport.com/2013/10/pave/>).

Please note that some work may be postponed due to conflicts with utility company work, weather conditions, and restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For further information call the Highway Division at 781-235-7600 ext.3325 or e-mail [dpw@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:dpw@wellesleyma.gov).

## RDF NEWS

### Mattress and Box Spring Recycling Program!



With help from a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, the RDF is now recycling mattresses and box springs. These items are comprised of three highly recyclable materials: textiles, wood, and metal. We're excited to provide this new program which will reduce the amount of waste that goes to the landfill.



### RDF HOURS

M-W : 7:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

TH-SAT : 7:00 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.

SUN : Closed (Dec - March)

Sundays - Re-opening July 12!

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

### The RDF is closed on state holidays, including:

- Independence Day – July 4<sup>th</sup>
- Labor Day – September 7<sup>th</sup>
- Columbus Day – October 12<sup>th</sup>
- Veterans Day – November 11<sup>th</sup>
- Thanksgiving Day – November 26<sup>th</sup>
- Christmas Eve – December 24<sup>th</sup> (closed at noon)
- Christmas Day – December 25<sup>th</sup>
- New Year's Eve – December 31<sup>st</sup> (closed at noon)
- New Year's Day – January 1<sup>st</sup>

## The Right Way to Mulch

**W**ith spring in full swing, you may have seen mulch "volcanoes" dotting the landscape of Wellesley—tall cones of mulch piled into a cone around a tree trunk. What you may not realize is that this kind of mulching is actually detrimental to tree health. Piling mulch high around a tree trunk can trap moisture and eventually lead to root rot, or create an environment for rodents or insects to feed on the tree. The wrong kind of mulch can also promote weed growth.

When mulching your trees, remember:

- Bark chips, shredded bark, old wood chips, and composted leaves are the best materials for mulch
- When mulching around your tree, a 2" to 4" mulching depth is ideal
- If you have an adequate mulch layer in place, rake the old mulch to break up any clumps
- If you haven't already, pull back the mulch layer so that the base of the tree trunk and root crown are visible.



# The Stormwater Projects in the Works

The Town is always looking for opportunities to improve the quality of stormwater in Wellesley. Over the last several years, significant and important projects at Morses Pond and along Fuller Brook have been completed. More recently a constructed wetland was built into the Hunnewell Field Softball Reconstruction Project.

During the initial survey and resource assessment for the Lee and Warren Field reconstruction project, stormwater quality samples indicated that intermittent flow was high in nitrogen. We suspect that the culprit is lawn fertilizer as the 34-acre watershed is comprised of mostly residential properties. In response, the Town engaged Weston and Sampson, our engineering consultants on the project, to design a constructed wetland.

So what is a constructed wetland? In this case it's a man-made bioretention area, including three primary components; a forebay, a wetland area and a micropool.



The forebay is sized and designed to remove sediments and debris that in the runoff. Although sedimentation can be a natural stormwater process it can also be the conveyor for pollutants, including nitrogen.

The constructed wetland area is planted with low and high marsh plants and is graded to include small hummocks and stones so that diversified aquatic organisms can grow, even in dry conditions. These plantings and the soil matrix are designed to replicate the vegetative, and geologic conditions of a natural wetland to maximize infiltration and filtering of the stormwater in a biological way.

The micropool is like a final polishing filter for the stormwater, and it provides refuge for amphibians. The design included upper story trees to mitigate for some of the lost trees and to provide shading and cooling for the water.

The design was retrofitted to recognize that the water table fluctuates and the flow is intermittent, as both the wetland area and the micropool will likely go dry in mid-summer or during extended droughts. However, the system is designed and will activate during the next rain event.

When you're at Hunnewell Field near the tennis courts look for the education sign and enjoy learning more about this new stormwater feature.

## Grass Clippings and Fertilizer Use

How you maintain your lawn is a big deal to Wellesley's receiving waters and the Charles River! Whether you manage the lawn yourself or hire a landscaper there are some simple steps you can take to make a big difference. These include leaving the clippings on the lawn, cutting with a sharp blade and at a time when the grass is dry, growing grass taller, reducing lawn areas where possible, and minimizing or eliminating fertilizer use.

Yard debris such as leaves, grass clippings and other organic plant material are actually sources of stormwater pollution. Yard debris blown into the street may cause the storm drainage system to clog and eventually to flood. It's best if debris and fertilizers are removed from the lawn before entering our streams, rivers and lakes. Some good lawn management practices for you to consider are:

- Grasscycling' or recycling clippings by leaving them on the lawn. This

provides a food source for the lawn, improves moisture, saves time, energy and pollution related to capturing and transporting the clippings to the RDF.

- Making lower cuts and growing taller grass. Keep blade heights between 2 and 3 inches as this will make for a healthier lawn, will reducing mowing frequency, and watering needs.

**Did you know that a ½ acre lawn area can produce over 3 tons, or about 260 barrels of grass clippings annually!**

- Sweep excess fertilizer and grass clippings from the pavement back onto your lawn so that they don't wash into storm drains.
- Use grass clippings, which can be up to 80% water and are loaded with nitrogen, in a home composter.

## Information

### Phone Numbers

**(781) 235-7600**

|                         |              |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Engineering .....       | ext. 3315    |
| Highway .....           | ext. 3325    |
| Park .....              | ext. 3335    |
| RDF .....               | ext. 3345    |
| Water and Sewer .....   | ext. 3355    |
| Director's Office ..... | ext. 3300    |
| Customer Service/ ..... | ext. 3364    |
| Utility Bills .....     | 3365 or 3369 |

### DPW Hours of Operation

**Monday to Friday**  
7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

### EMERGENCY NUMBERS

#### Highway DPW

(for emergencies after 3:00 p.m.)

781-235-7600  
ext. 3322



#### To report a power outage:

781-235-7600 ext. 3390

- Modify your landscape to include sustainable plantings and transform lawn areas into planting beds of ivy, pachysandra, periwinkle, and plant a wildflower garden!

Some important considerations for fertilizer use are:

- Don't apply when it's raining or forecast to rain as rainwater washes fertilizer and other pollutants from our lawns over our driveways, sidewalks, and roads, and into our storm drains where it flows directly into our rivers, lakes, and streams.
- Test your soil and apply fertilizers only as needed
- Use Phosphorus-free fertilizers (look for the middle number to be "0")
- Use slow-acting fertilizers
- Follow instructions and do not over-fertilize

More information on lawn management and stormwater can be found at Sustainable Landscapes UMass Extension, [OrganicLandCare.net](http://OrganicLandCare.net), and at [thinkblueMassachusetts.org](http://thinkblueMassachusetts.org).

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- Work Zone Safety

## Resident Town of Wellesley



 **Town of Wellesley**  
Spring 2020 no. 39  
**Department of Public Works**

## Work Zone Safety — Slow down to get around

In work zones, DPW crews are performing essential services such as maintaining streets, cleaning catch basins, caring for trees, taking care of the water and sewer infrastructure, and ensuring that trash and recycling are properly disposed of.

We need your help to ensure the safety and accessibility of all users of our roadways.

Whether driving, riding or walking, use care when approaching work zones. Here are some safety tips to avoid a potential accident:



- Stay alert and minimize distractions
- Follow other vehicles at a safe distance
- Slow down when you see a work zone
- Look for instructions from police officers and flaggers
- Be aware of workers as you drive through the work zone
- Proceed cautiously
- Be patient

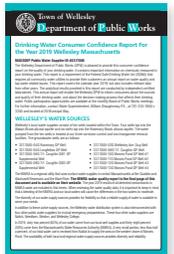
Please remember that the Recycling and Disposal Facility is an active work zone. Keep within the 10 MPH speed limit

and check all directions for motorists and pedestrians.

Thank you for helping to keep us all safe.

## Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report 2019 is Online.

The Town of Wellesley Department of Public Works' Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report for the year 2019 is now available online at [www.wellesleyma.gov/water](http://www.wellesleyma.gov/water). If you would like to receive a printed copy by mail call us at 781-235-7600x3355 or email us at [dpw@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:dpw@wellesleyma.gov).



Questions, comments, concerns... please contact us.

Call 781-235-7600,  
email [dpw@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:dpw@wellesleyma.gov)

or mail to:

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