



# THE South Street Sentinel

INCLUDING THE COUNCIL ON AGING NEWSLETTER



[WWW.WESTMINSTER-MA.GOV](http://WWW.WESTMINSTER-MA.GOV)

December is just around the corner, and the holiday magic is about to begin! From sparkling lights and cheerful gatherings to heartwarming traditions, this is the season where our community truly glows with joy. Whether you're sipping cocoa by a crackling fire, joining in on festive fun, or spreading holiday cheer, December brings us all closer in the most wonderful ways.

This month's newsletter is packed with everything you need to embrace the season—from can't-miss events like our Tree Lighting Celebration to meaningful ways to be part of our cherished traditions. Mark your calendars, gather your loved ones, and let's make this December the brightest and most magical yet!



CONNECTING AND BUILDING COMMUNITY  
WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL



# Thank you to all who attended the Special Town Meeting!

"Almost 300 registered voters attended! It was great to have so many [people] attend the meeting, ask questions and make their voices heard!"

~Missy Banks, Select Board Chair



## NOV. 19th SPECIAL TOWN MEETING votes at a glance



### - APPROVED -

- \* \$2M to Capital Equipment Stabilization
- \* \$650 for Prior Year Bills
- \* \$1.25M to Pension Stabilization
- \* \$12,000 for an Industrial Appraisal
- \* \$10,027 to Opioid Stabilization

Free Cash  
Transfers

- \* \$12,000 transfer from the Giles Fund to the Emergency Home Heating Assistance Committee

Other  
Transfers

- \* Sewer Bylaw Amendment
- \* Petition to dissolve the Holmes Park Water District

Public Works

### - NOT APPROVED -

- \* Home Depot TIF
- \* Unified Global Packaging (UGPG) TIF
- \* Vincent's Country Store - All Alcohol/Off Premises License

TIF Agreements  
& Liquor Petition

### - PASSED OVER -

- \* Citizens Petition to keep the total number of liquor licenses in town at two (2) until the Town population reaches 10,000 per the Federal Census

Citizens  
Petition



**UPCOMING  
EVENTS**



**WESTMINSTER PARKS & RECREATION PRESENTS**

**A HOLIDAY  
TREE  
LIGHTING  
CELEBRATION**

**SANTA  
ARRIVES  
@ 6:00PM!  
TAKE PHOTOS  
AT THE  
GAZEBO!**

**SUNDAY, DEC. 8TH**

**STARTS AT  
5:00PM ON  
ACADEMY HILL**

**CAROLS  
BY THE  
W.E.S.  
CHORUS  
@ 5:30!**

**FIRE PITS ❄️ HOT COCOA ❄️ S'MORES ❄️ MORE!**

*Should weather be an issue, we will reschedule this event for Saturday, December 7th. Stay tuned for more details!*

Town of Westminster  
**CHRISTMAS TREE  
BONFIRE  
PARTY**

Presented by Westminster  
Parks & Rec / VFW / Fire Dept

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 11TH  
4:30pm - 7pm**

**@ THE VFW**

**FOOD & DRINKS  
LIVE MUSIC**

**FIREPITS & S'MORES SPONSORED BY  
NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS**

**TREE FIRE STARTS @ 5:30PM**

**Drop your Christmas Tree in the field behind the VFW!**



**Holiday Tree Lighting  
Decorating Party**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5TH  
4:00PM - 7:00PM**

Get into the holiday spirit with Parks & Rec! Join us for a cheerful evening decorating the Academy Hill Gazebo area in preparation for the Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration on Sunday, December 8th. Bring your friends and family, and help us make this season bright!



**Decorating materials, snacks and hot cocoa included! Click the QR Code to sign-up!**



Join the Lion's Club and Parks & Recreation Department for

**BREAKFAST**



**With Santa**

**SUNDAY, DEC. 15TH \* 8-11AM**

**Westminster VFW** 3 EATON STREET

- \* PHOTOS WITH SANTA ❄️
- \* HOLIDAY MUSIC
- \* LION'S CLUB HOLIDAY LOTTERY
- \* TREE RAFFLE
- \* PANCAKES & SYRUP, HAM, COFFEE & JUICE (\$6 PER PERSON)



Proceeds to benefit the Westminster Food Pantry ❤️





# Holiday CELEBRATION



Join the Westminster Village Foundation on **Sunday, December 8th** from **6-8PM** at **BLUEPRINT!** The Wachusett Jazz Quartet will be performing in the side room and all are welcome! Enjoy free hot chocolate, cookies and snacks!

**BLUEPRINT**  
NEW AMERICAN BAR AND GRILL

Prior to the music, there will be a lighting up of Main Street with holidays lights and decor! Come from the Tree Lighting on Academy Hill and enjoy a full evening of festivities!



## Forbush Library Christmas Concert

Saturday, December 14 | 11:00AM—1:00PM

Join us as our own Jan LeClair will be performing with the a cappella chorus, Surround Sound, a family-oriented a cappella chorus in this area for over 50 years. We are very excited to have them come to Forbush to spread some holiday cheer! All are invited to this performance of holiday favorites. No registration needed. For more information about Surround Sound please check out their website at [surroundsoundchorus.com](http://surroundsoundchorus.com).





**Forbush**  
Memorial Library



TUE-THU: 10AM-8PM  
FRI: 10AM-5PM | SAT: 9AM-2PM  
SUN & MON: CLOSED

SIGN-UP FOR OUR WEEKLY NEWSLETTER ON OUR WEBSITE: [FORBUSHLIBRARY.ORG!](http://FORBUSHLIBRARY.ORG)



Check availability and reserve online



On our website you can...

**BOOK A MEETING ROOM**

**Reading Dragons Tournament**

Wednesday, Dec. 4th  
4:15 - 5:00 PM  
Eloranta Room  
All ages

[forbushlibrary.org](http://forbushlibrary.org) |

FRIENDS OF FORBUSH PRESENTS

**PICTURES WITH SANTA**

DECEMBER 07, 2024  
10:00AM - 1:00PM  
FORBUSH LIBRARY

Outside on the lawn, weather permitting. We will head inside if the weather doesn't hold. Hot chocolate, bake sale, and crafts while you wait or browse the library (open from 9:00-2:00).

Bring your own camera. \$5 suggested donation.

**HOMESCHOOL CONNECTION**

at FORBUSH LIBRARY

Wednesday Dec. 11 3:00-4:30 PM

Details on our website:

118 Main St. Westminster, MA 01473 | 978-874-7416 | [forbushlibrary.org](http://forbushlibrary.org) |

**Library Loot Boxes**

For teens and tweens

**NEW** Details and sign-up:

**Holiday Hours**

Tuesday, December 24th:  
Closing @1:00pm-Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 25th:  
Closed for Christmas

Tuesday, December 31st:  
Closing @1:00pm-New Year's Eve

Wednesday, January 1st:  
Closed for New Year's Day





**LIONS CLUB CHRISTMAS TREE SALES BEGIN THE WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 23RD** – This year the Lions Club will have about 100 smaller (6-7 foot) trees for \$65 and 100 premium (7-8 foot) trees for \$85. The team will be on site each weekend so long as trees last (may only be a couple weeks so plan ahead and get yours early) to help tie up trees or assist with loading in or on vehicles. Trees can also be bought on the honor system during outside hours using the honor system. See directions on signs in the lot for details.

Thank you for helping us help those in our community in need by purchasing a tree from your local Lion's Club or Westminster!



**VFW  
3 EATON STREET  
WESTMINSTER**

**WESTMINSTER VFW HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR – Saturday, November 30th 9:00AM-2:00PM**

Join us for Our Annual Holiday Craft Fair! Sponsored by The Ladies Auxiliary Post 2012.



**Open Thanksgiving Day from 10am-8pm!**

Join us for Bloody Mary's, Mimosa's and Football!



**Every Tuesday at the Westminster VFW from 7-9PM!**

Enjoy a delicious \$2/\$3 Taco Bar and FREE Jukebox music!

Fun for all and all are welcome!





# WESTMINSTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS FLEA MARKET

DECEMBER 7TH & 8TH, 2024  
9 AM - 3 PM



A great place find some holiday decorations from garland to tree ornaments; Christmas dishes to display your delicious desserts or to use as your host gift when your homemade desserts are displayed on them; paper, boxes, & ribbons to wrap those special items; and maybe that special white elephant gift for one of the holiday parties you're headed off to. All at bargain prices!

[HTTPS://WESTMINSTERHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG](https://westminsterhistoricalsociety.org)



Did you know that our High School runs its own newspaper? Check it out!





## Boosterthon Fun Run Update



We are overjoyed to share that, thanks to your incredible generosity, we have raised **\$27,065** for our schools! This achievement wouldn't have been possible without each and every one of you who contributed, spreading the word, and showing unwavering support for our students and staff.

Your donations are a powerful reminder of the strength and dedication within our community. The funds raised will directly enhance our students' learning experiences and help us continue

to provide an enriching, inspiring environment for them to grow and thrive.

Thank you once again for your generosity, kindness, and commitment to our school's vision. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of our students and building a brighter future.

With heartfelt gratitude,  
MHS/WES Staff and Students

## December

### SCHOOL CLOSINGS

All AWRSD Schools will be closed for December break the week of December 23-27 and again from December 30 to January 1. All students will return to school on Thursday, January 2nd! Enjoy the time off!

## POLICE DEPT



### NEWS & UPDATES

**Route 140 Road Work** – The final (expected) major road closure for the 2024 season has recently wrapped up. While additional work and paving may still alter traffic patterns, we want to thank our law enforcement team for their continued efforts in directing traffic and maintaining a safe driving experience for all who live near or travel along 140.



**Stuff A Cruiser Toy Drive** – Thank you to our Westminster and Princeton Police Departments who set up shop at Wachusett Mountain on November 9th to collect new, unwrapped toys for kids in need this holiday season.





# FIRE DEPT



## NEWS & UPDATES

**Senior Housing Project** – The Senior Housing project is progressing. The majority of the framing is done and the fire protection contractor has started to install the sprinkler system piping. Over the past few months the duty crews have been going through the building as it progresses. This is an important time for firefighters to be able to see the construction of the building and see how the systems are laid out before the sheetrock is installed.



**Open Burning Ban** – With the unseasonably dry conditions we have faced over the past few weeks we have banned all outdoor open burning. Throughout the state there are numerous 100+ acre brush fires and many smaller fires. One thing we can do is limit human factors that contribute to brush fires. The ban will be lifted once it is safe to do so.



**Matthew Amendola** – Congratulations to Matt Amendola for graduating from the Call/Vol Recruit Firefighter Training Class 114 Thursday evening. His class consisted of 25 firefighters from around the state. Congratulations Matt!!

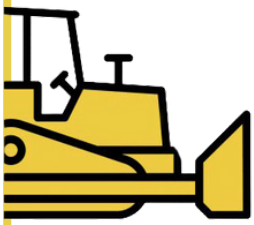


**New Forestry Truck** – This week we received delivery of our new Forestry truck. This truck replaces Engine 5 which is a 2007 and at end of life. The new vehicle was built to fight forest fires which often can be in areas that are inaccessible to our larger apparatus. It is built on a Ford F-450 cab/chassis that was upfitted with a lift kit and super single tires, carries 200 gallons of water with a 315 GPM pump and has some compartments to carry hose and hand tools.



**Drought Conditions** – We continue to see drought conditions that are conducive to rapid growth of brush fires. There have been numerous 100+ acre brush fires throughout the state.





# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS



## HOW TO FIND A LEAK



### STEP 1

Open the toilet tank

### STEP 2

Release dye tablet or 5 drops of food coloring.

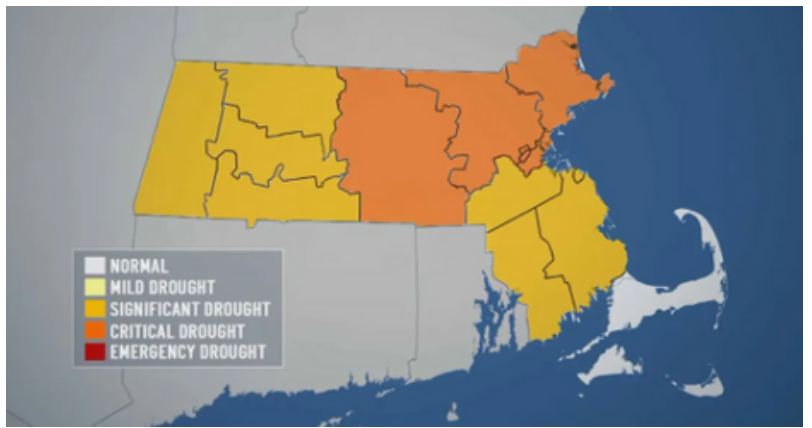
### STEP 3

Don't use the toilet for 15-20\* minutes. Check toilet bowl for any signs of the dye.

**IF YOU SEE COLOR, YOU HAVE A LEAK!**

\* To check for slower leaks, wait overnight

[MASS.GOV/CONSERVEMAWATER](http://MASS.GOV/CONSERVEMAWATER)



### Westminster Currently under Critical Drought!

Our region is in a critical drought, and we ask the following:

- Minimize overall water use
- Fix any toilet or faucet leaks immediately
- Aggressively reduce indoor water use by taking shorter showers, running dishwashers and washing machines only on a full load

## THE WESTMINSTER COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY IS LOOKING FOR YOUR HELP!

WOULD YOU CONSIDER ADOPTING A FAMILY FOR THE NEXT 3, 6 OR 12 MONTHS AS PART OF YOUR HOLIDAY PLANNING?

WHILE FOOD AND CAN DRIVES ARE VERY HELPFUL TO THE CONTINUED SUCCESS OF THE PANTRY, WE WOULD LIKE TO WORK WITH FAMILIES, BUSINESSES AND OTHERS IN TOWN WHO MAY BE WILLING TO STEP UP AND DO JUST A LITTLE BIT MORE ON A CONSISTENT BASIS.

WE HAVE MULTIPLE WAYS FOR YOU TO GET INVOLVED AND WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU! PLEASE EMAIL US AND WE WILL REACH OUT TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITIES.

[WESTMINSTERFOODPANTRY@GMAIL.COM](mailto:WESTMINSTERFOODPANTRY@GMAIL.COM)

IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF FOOD ASSISTANCE, PLEASE ALSO EMAIL US, OR CALL US: 978-874-7970. THE FOOD PANTRY IS LOCATED AT THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH ON MAIN STREET IN WESTMINSTER.



## Election Update

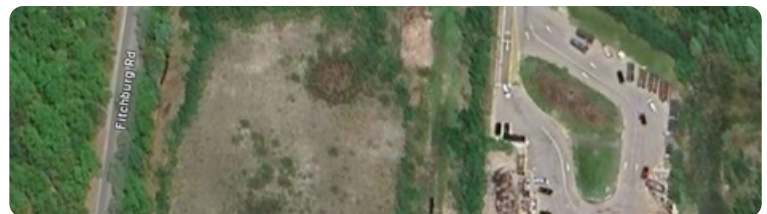
77% of eligible Westminster voters took part in the Presidential Election



### SOLID WASTE DROP-OFF CENTER HOURS:

Mon: 7:30am-3pm / Tues-Thur: Closed  
Fri: 7:30am-3pm / Sat: 7:30am-1pm  
Sun: 9:00am-1pm

Permits obtained at the DPW (Mon-Fri 7am-3:30pm @ 2 Oakmont Ave)





# Town Hall *Little Art Gallery* - Bren Bataclan



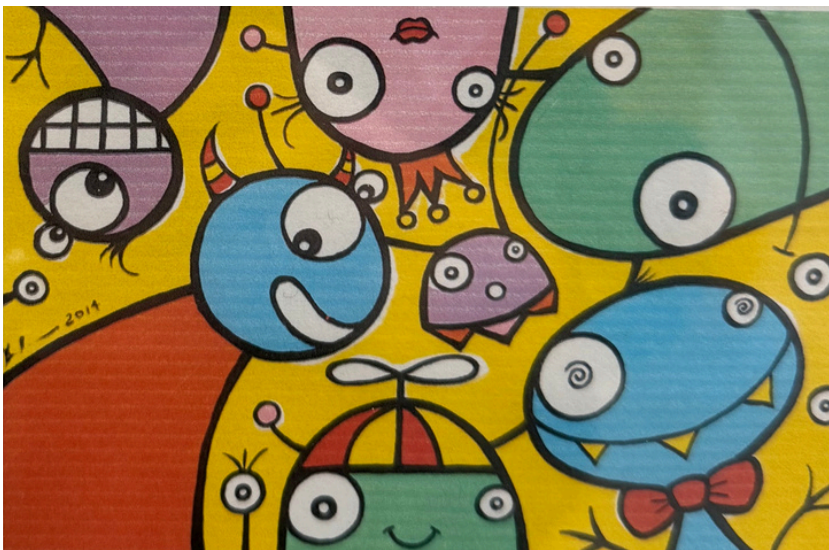
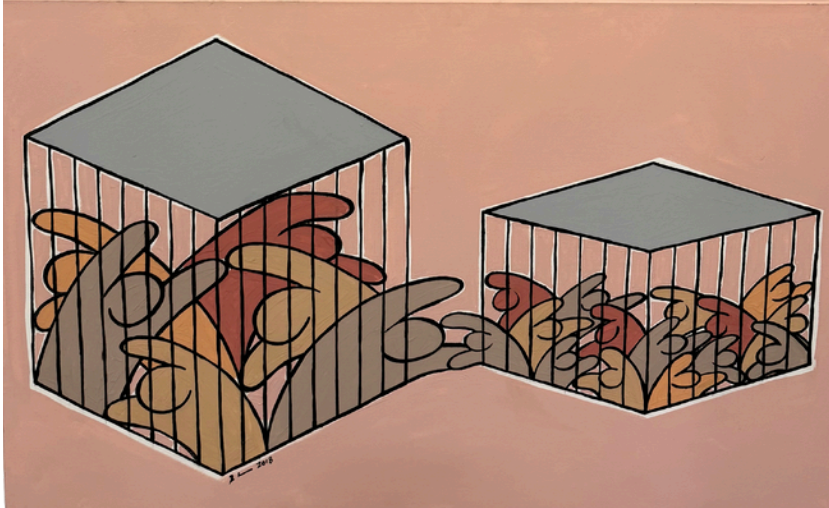
"I like to make people smile - that's why I give away acrylic painting with whimsical characters. My kindness-related street art project let me to work with schools where I feel so fortunate to be able to collaborate with students, incorporating their work into large scale murals. I didn't expect to become a muralist but I am loving it. Lastly, I explore Filipino-related subjects in my more personal work. Expressing my cultural background through my artwork is one of my passions."





## *Bren Bataclan is a Boston-based artist...*

He was born in the Philippines and grew up in Daly City/Bay Area, CA. Prior to becoming a full-time artist, Bren taught design and computer animation at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and the Boston Museum School. In the early 2000s, Bren began giving away paintings in public spaces with a note saying, "This painting is yours if you promise to smile at random people more often." Since then, he has given away close to 4,000 paintings in over 100 countries and to all 50 states in the US. As anti-bullying programs gained popularity, schools began to ask Bren to give presentations about his kindness-related street art project.



His "Pay-it-forward" themed presentations led to mural projects. Bren has now painted over 300 murals for hospitals, businesses and schools (including Westminster and Meetinghouse School here in Town).

The cartoon-like characters Bren draws are inspired by his days watching "Giant Robot" Anime shows when he was a kid in Manila. The color scheme he uses for his acrylic-based painting is what he used to see growing up in a tropical, festive and vibrant community. Bren now goes beyond his painting giveaways. He currently delves deeper into his Filipino culture, both personally and politically. Since a recent spate of "Super Storms" in his homeland, Bren has created a series of typhoon-related artwork to heighten Global Warming awareness and to raise funds for storm victims. His newer works deal with his immigration experience.

Bren has exhibited his work across the country. Heinemann Press also published an elementary school textbook entitled "The Smile Artist," about his artwork. In 2017 he gave a TEDx Talk about his street art project. In 2021, Bren's book, *Fe: A Traumatized Son's Graphic Memoir*, was published by PAWA. In 2022, he became an Artist Fellow with the Cultural Diplomacy initiative at the Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy at Tufts University.

Bren received his BA in design at UCLA and his MA in computer animation at Ohio State University.



## A LITTLE NOTE FROM OUR COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR AS WE HEAD INTO THE HOLIDAYS...

When my son was little, Fridays were legendary. Every week, I'd meet him at the bus stop dressed in a new costume or with an over-the-top themed setup on the side of the road. The look on his little Kindergarten face—was it joy or utter embarrassment?—sparkled brighter than any holiday light and filled me with a happiness I'll never forget.

Fast forward five years, and while those moments are now treasured memories, I've never stopped chasing the magic of those "simple holidays" that spread joy to my son and everyone around us.

Sure, Thanksgiving kicks off the season, and December is packed with Christmas and New Year's festivities, but did you know there's a whole lineup of quirky and unexpected holidays this month, too? While we gather for the big celebrations, why not take a moment to savor the smaller joys along the way?

December is full of meaningful holidays and important causes, but for this article, we're turning our attention to the lighter (and tastier!) side of things. Let's face it—sometimes you just need to hit pause on the hustle and bustle, channel your inner kid, and embrace a little whimsy. So, without further ado, here are **31 days of fun and foodie-inspired December holidays to help you think outside the box and savor the season!**



December 1st: "National Twin with your Dog Day" (Think Facebook posts!)

December 2nd: "National Skip School Day" (Bad idea!) How about "Play Basketball Day!"

December 3rd: "Let's Hug Day" (because who doesn't need a hug!) Or if you're not that type, I guess settling for "National Green Bean Casserole Day" would suffice!

December 4th: "National Cookie Day!" (One I think we can ALL agree should be celebrated!)

December 5th: "National Blue Jeans Day" followed in the evening by "Bathtub Party Day!"

December 6th: "National Microwave Oven Day" (Friday night popcorn & a movie anyone?!)

December 7th: "National Joy Day" (The purpose of this list!) "National Slime Day" (Get the glue & borax!)

December 8th: "Pretend to be a Time Traveler Day" (Where would you go!?)

December 9th: "Christmas Card Day" (A great chance to get those cards sent out!)

December 10th: "National Salesperson Day" (Say thanks when you head out shopping!)

December 11th: "National Have a Bagel Day" (Breakfast is served!)

December 12th: "Gingerbread House Day" (Always a kid favorite - try the pre-molded ones!)

December 13th: "National Cocoa Day" (Like a warm, delicious hug from the inside!)

December 14th: "Monkey Day" (ooo-ooo-aah-aah - let the littles bounce around the house!)

December 15th: "National Cupcake Day" (More sweet treats!)

December 16th: "National Stupid Toy Day" (Admit it, our childhoods were filled with them!)

December 17th: "National Maple Syrup Day" (Pancakes anyone!?)

December 18th: "Answer the Telephone like Buddy the Elf Day" (INSERT NAME, What's your favorite color!?)

December 19th: "National Re-gifting Day" (Just be sure not to re-gift to the person who gave it to you!)

December 20th: "National Games Day" (Monopolize the laughter! I know, dad joke!)

December 21st: "Don't Make your Bed Day" (This could make you either really happy or really stressed!)

December 22nd: "National Cookie Exchange Day" (See December 4th - same!)

December 23rd: "National Christmas Movie Marathon Day" (A great way to kick off vacation week!)

December 24th: "Last-Minute Shoppers' Day" (Don't rush me, I have it all under control!)

December 25th: "National Pumpkin Pie Day" (Or 'Thanksgiving lovers trying to take over Christmas Day!')

December 26th: "National Thank You Note Day" (This one goes without saying!)

December 27th: "Make Cut-out Snowflakes Day" (Seemed more legit in MA than "Visit the Zoo Day!")

December 28th: "National Call A Friend Day" (Better than hiding on a phone for "National Download Day")

December 29th: "Still Need To Do Day" (Isn't this all day everyday!?)

December 30th: "National Bacon Day" (No offense to the animal lovers, but... bacon!)

December 31st: "Make Up Your Mind Day" (This MIGHT be possible since it's also "No Interruptions Day!")



Town of  
Westminster, MA

# JOB VACANCY

## Director of Elder Services

➤ Full Time: 35 hours/week

### About Westminster

The Town of Westminster, a welcoming New England community of approximately 8,400 residents, combines historic charm with well-managed municipal services and a AAA bond rating. Westminster is home to a new Senior Center that is at the heart of services for the town's older adults, offering a range of activities and resources. With the upcoming addition of 50 affordable senior housing units set to open in July 2025, the Senior Center is poised to expand its impact on the town's aging population.

### Overview of the Elder Services Department and Senior Center

Westminster's Senior Center serves as a vital gathering space and resource hub for senior residents. As head of this active center, the Director of Elder Services will be responsible for utilizing a \$16,000 annual programming budget to create diverse, engaging programs that support community-building, health, wellness, and lifelong learning for Westminster's seniors. The role is pivotal to Westminster's community services, coordinating with town departments and regional partners to ensure that senior needs are met in an inclusive and supportive environment. The Town of Westminster's current Senior Population (those over 55) is approximately 3,200 people.



### Role Summary

The Director of Elder Services manages the daily operations of the Senior Center, collaborating with the Community Services Director to align senior programs with Westminster's broader community goals. Reporting to the Town Administrator and working closely with the seven-member Council on Aging Board, and the Director of Community Services, the Director will oversee three part-time staff, four van drivers, additional support staff, and a volunteer team. This position offers the unique opportunity to shape and expand services, ensuring that Westminster's seniors have access to activities, support services, and community connections that enrich their lives.



### Mission Statement

The Westminster Council on Aging mission is to identify the needs of the elderly in the community and provide appropriate programs and services to meet those needs. The Council offers health, fitness & nutrition programs, referral services, SHINE, transportation, and events.

### Current Senior Center Activities & Spaces

Yoga, Line Dancing, Cardio, and Strength Exercise Classes \* Woodcarving Group Art Group \* Crafters Group \* Walkers of Westminster \* Bingo, Mahjong, Bridge & Games Let's Eat Out Group \* Daily Lunch Served \* Seminars and Presentations \* Ukulele Group Dances and Events \* Social Trips \* Piano Lessons \* Reiki and Footcare Clinics Friendship Club \* Book Club \* Movie Showings \* Coffee with the Chiefs Pool Tables \* Library & Puzzle Room \* Kitchen Facilities \* Ballroom \* Art Room Veteran's Support Group \* SHINE \* Van Services \* AND MUCH MUCH MORE!



### Position Benefits

**Salary Range:** \$34.48 to \$48.63 (Grade 5)

**Offered:** Health, Dental, Vision, Short-Term Disability, Long-Term Disability, Paid Time Off, County Pension, and more!

### Application Process

To apply, please submit a Cover Letter, Resume, and Employment Application (found [HERE](#)) by **December 12, 2024** to [hr@westminster-ma.gov](mailto:hr@westminster-ma.gov).

The Town of Westminster is an Equal Opportunity Employer.  
[www.westminster-ma.gov](http://www.westminster-ma.gov)

### Key Responsibilities

- Leadership and Management:** Direct and support part-time staff and senior volunteers, building a team-oriented, supportive work environment that enhances the experience of center patrons.
- Program Development:** Leverage the \$16,000 annual programming budget to create social, educational, and recreational programs tailored to senior interests and needs, coordinating with local and regional elder services agencies as needed.
- Community Partnerships and Advocacy:** Collaborate with the Community Services Director to extend senior programs and services into broader community initiatives. Represent seniors' interests by participating in relevant local, state, and regional meetings and training.
- Financial and Grant Management:** Develop and manage the department budget, including seeking additional funding through grants to support programming. Track and report on program effectiveness.
- Administrative Oversight:** Ensure smooth daily operations and a safe environment at the Senior Center, maintaining security protocols and managing records for services and participation.

### The Ideal Candidate

The ideal candidate for this role is an enthusiastic leader who is deeply committed to the well-being of the elderly community and skilled in building programs that foster social connection and personal growth. Key qualities include:

- Compassionate Leadership:** A genuine passion for serving older adults, with the ability to create an inclusive, empathetic atmosphere within the Senior Center.
- Strong Communication Skills:** Exceptional verbal and written communication skills, able to interact effectively with seniors, staff, volunteers, and community partners.
- Innovative Program Development:** Creativity in developing and managing engaging programs that respond to seniors' evolving needs.
- Financial Acumen:** Ability to manage budgets effectively, secure grants, and responsibly allocate resources to maximize program impact.
- Community-Focused Mindset:** A talent for building partnerships and collaborating with other departments and agencies to integrate senior services into the broader community.
- Organizational Skills:** Highly organized with the ability to prioritize and balance multiple responsibilities, ensuring that all programs run smoothly and are well-coordinated.

### Preferred Skills & Qualifications

- Education:** Bachelor's degree in gerontology, social work, public administration, or a related field.
- Experience:** 3-5 years in senior services, community services, social work, or a related field.
- Technical Proficiency:** Knowledge of office technology, database management, and online tools for efficient program and data management.
- Skills:** Excellent leadership, communication, and problem-solving abilities, with a strong foundation in community building and elder care.
- Familiarity with My Senior Center a plus.**

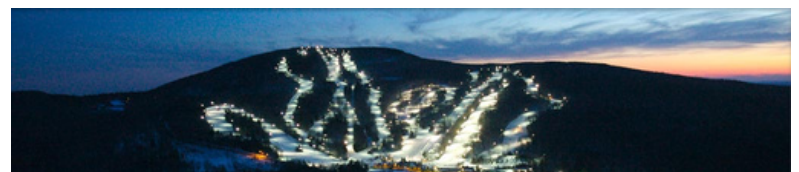


VISIT NORTH CENTRAL  
MASSACHUSETTS  
JOHNNY APPLESEED COUNTRY

Check out the newest NCM Guide to everything going on in North Central MA This season. **[CLICK HERE!](#)**



PLAN AHEAD!  
Opening Day is  
scheduled for Friday,  
November 29th!







All Town Offices will be **closing at 12PM** on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. We will be **CLOSED** on Christmas Day and New Year's Day! Enjoy the holidays!

## Find the Cracker!




Hidden somewhere within this newsletter is a tiny Westminster cracker, just waiting to be found! If you find the cracker, email your full name and answer to [parksandrec@westminster-ma.gov](mailto:parksandrec@westminster-ma.gov) and you will be entered into our monthly 'Cracker Contest' where you could win a cool, Westminster-themed prize!

Congratulations to Sue Millman for finding the Cracker in November!



### MEETING Minutes & Agendas

Stay up to date on our recent meetings and upcoming agendas.

Town Calendar						
December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Never miss another Town meeting! Click the calendar to bring you to our Town Calendar page or visit: (<https://www.westminster-ma.gov/calendar/month>)

## See our job \_\_\_\_\_ **OPENINGS!**

[www.westminster-ma.gov/human-resources/pages/current-positions](http://www.westminster-ma.gov/human-resources/pages/current-positions)

**BOARD AND COMMITTEE VACANCIES: [CLICK HERE!](#)**

### SHARE YOUR *STORY*

Please share your news by reaching out to our Community Service Director, Audra Kirtland: [akirtland@westminster-ma.gov](mailto:akirtland@westminster-ma.gov). Please understand the Town reserves the right to choose what to publish.



Evacuation notices, bio-terrorism alerts, boil water notices, missing child reports, and any other crucial alerts. **"Code Red!"**



Stay up to date on Town news, alerts and more: **'Town News & Announcements.'**



Meetings, concerts, games & more! You can see it all by visiting **Ash-West Community Media.**



**TOWN HALL HOURS**  
Monday: 7:00am–7:00pm  
Tue–Thur: 7:30am–4:30pm  
Friday: CLOSED



**TOWN HALL**  
11 SOUTH STREET  
WESTMINSTER, MA 01473  
[EMAIL US](#)







# Council on Aging Newsletter



## *Holiday Party* **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19TH**

**Doors open at 12:00pm, buffet lunch served at 12:30pm, followed by festivities!**

*'Tis the season to celebrate! Join us for special holiday buffet luncheon by S'amoreRay's, music, raffles, door prizes, a 50/50, and a special 'regift an item you no longer need' Yankee Swap! Cost for the luncheon is \$5 and raffles will be sold separately. All proceeds will go to support the Westminister Food Pantry! Sign-up at the front desk. Payment is due at the time of signing-up. All are welcome!*

**The Senior Center will be CLOSED on Christmas Day and New Year's Day!**

***We will also be closing at 12pm on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve***



**Westminister Council on Aging | Senior Community Center**

Mon-Fri: 8am-4pm | 69 West Main Street Westminister, MA 01473 | (978) 874-7402





The Council on Aging is offering Foot Care Clinics for anyone in need of pedicure services AT THE SENIOR CENTER, in the nurses office. Routine Foot Care Services include:

- General Foot and Skin Assessment
- Nail Trimming, Thinning, and Filing
- Reduction of Corns and Calluses
- Advocacy and Guidance

**COA CLINIC DATE:** December 11th  
(Second Wednesday of every month moving forward)

**HOURS:** 9:00AM-3:00PM

**COST:** \$45 (cash or check or card)

*HealToToeRN can also be reached at: 978-696-1009 or [Vanessa@healtotoern.com](mailto:Vanessa@healtotoern.com) for more information or to schedule an IN HOME visit.*

*To schedule your appointment at the Senior Center, please call us: 978-874-7402.*



## Reiki Healing Sessions

**Sessions Available Every Monday in December**

**Appointments available 11am-3pm**

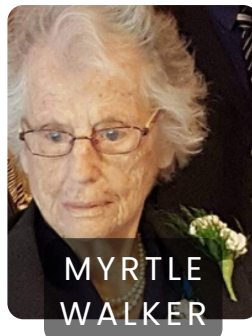
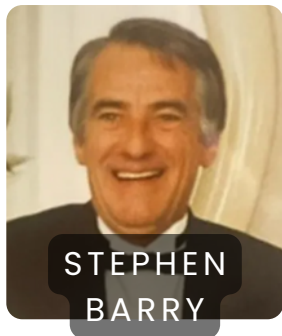
Eric Goodhart is offering private, personalized 45-minute reiki sessions in our nurses station area! Cost is \$35 (cash or check) per session. Please call the Senior Center to sign-up for a space. Many people claim the benefits of reiki - now is your chance to try a session!



## Tax Savings for Seniors

**Thank you to all of our seniors who participated in the 2024 Senior Tax Work Off Program!** Information for the 2025 program will be available in the January newsletter!





The SHINE Program provides free, non-biased health insurance information and counseling to all Massachusetts residents with Medicare & their caregivers. Please call 978-874-7402 to make an appointment. SHINE is on site on the first and third Wednesday of every month.



**As the weather cools down, come inside for some fun! Play pool, do a puzzle or read a book!**

### Van Service & Inclement Weather

Just a reminder that as the weather changes, the Council on aging Van Service aligns with the Westminster School Closings. If the schools are CLOSED due to bad weather, the VAN will NOT RUN!

**Operating Monday-Friday 8:00AM-4:00PM.** Call for a Ride: 978-874-7402 (24-hour notice required). Van services are free of charge through June 2025.



Join Brenda Albert, Realtor, LAER Realty, on the last Friday of each month from 12-12:30PM for a Q&A Session to help you with your needs, whether buying or selling!



PATTI of Gables Assisted Living will be providing Dessert at Bingo on the Second Friday of every month! Thank you Patti!

### Noble LeBlanc Collects A Ton Of Pull-Tabs ... Again!

He's done it again! **Daniel LeBlanc**, a member of the Aleppo Motor Patrol and Charles Moore Lodge of Masons in Fitchburg, travels once a month to several senior centers in the region he covers including Ashburnham, Fitchburg, Leominster, Lunenburg, Pepperell, Townsend, Westminster and Winchendon.

Daniel dropped them off during the July Divan Meeting so some of the Divan came out for the photo-op and to help bring them into the transportation bay.

He collects pull-tabs from these and many other places in the area to support the Aleppo Shriners Children's Transportation Fund. Just as he did two years ago, he brought the tabs in a trailer to drop them off. It kept the volunteers sorting the tabs a couple of weeks to go thru the lot.



**NEED MEDICAL EQUIPMENT?** Check in at the front desk! We have a variety of items available to borrow.





The Westminster Fire Department will be providing **FREE carbon monoxide and smoke detector inspections and replacements** for Westminster seniors. To participate in this program, please call the Senior Center to sign up: 978-874-7402. If leaving a message, please include your name, address and phone number. The Fire Department will then follow-up to schedule a home visit. Be sure to take advantage of this valuable program and keep your home safe!

### Free 'File of Life' Folders are Available at the Senior Center

These folders are designed to be kept on your refrigerator as an alert to medical personnel during an emergency situation. They contain your medical information, emergency contacts, medications and dosages, and much more. During times of stress, it can be difficult to remember this information. **These files could save your life, or the life of a loved one!** Pick yours up today!



### Town Fuel Assistance Apps will be available at the Senior Center as of December 1st!

The Westminster Select Board has instituted an Emergency Home Heating Assistance Program (EHHAP) for eligible Westminster residents. Funding for the program is

provided from monies available in the Fred Smith Poor Fund as well as the Giles Fund. To be eligible, residents must have lived in Town for the past six months or longer and must meet income eligibility guidelines established by the most recent HUD low-income limits for the Westminster area. Once approved, applicants are able to receive a benefit once during the 2024-2025 season. The EHHAP will be administered through the Emergency Home Heating Committee, appointed by the Select Board. Information provided will be kept confidential.



### ADDITIONAL HOME HEATING ASSISTANCE OPTIONS:

New England Farm Workers Council (NEFWC): 978-342-4520  
Salvation Army: 978-342-9407 | Joe for Oil: 877-563-4645

### Are you concerned about a Senior living in our community?

Please contact the senior center at 978-874-7402 or email [klawrence@westminster-ma.gov](mailto:klawrence@westminster-ma.gov) and we will happily conduct a confidential wellness check and provide any assistance or services that may be needed. It's better to check-in ahead than stay quiet!







### Veterans Coffee Social

**Tuesday, Dec. 10th at 10:00AM:**

Join veterans for conversation and refreshments. We ask that only veterans attend this event to respect their privacy. Feel free to bring pictures, badges, and more. Thank you for your service!

### Coffee with the Chiefs!

**THURSDAY, DEC. 12TH | 10:00-11:00AM** (Acting *Police Chief Jason Tamulen* & *Fire Chief Kyle Butterfield*) Feel free to talk about whatever is on your mind! Bring your thoughts & Ideas!

### Ukulele Jam Session: Fridays 1:00-2:30PM

The Westminster Strummers meet every week as part of the COA's 'Ukelele Jam' program! Join the fun! Open to both new and experienced players! Singers are also welcome to join in!

### Card Bingo: Thursday, December 12th | 1:00-3:00PM

Invite friends, enjoy coffee and refreshments. No Sign-up needed! Please BRING \$5 in QUARTERS!

### Beginner Piano Lessons! Mondays 2:15-3:15PM

Join instructor Dennis Deyo for "Intro to Piano" classes. More details will be shared during your first class on how the program works.



### WESTMINSTER SENIOR CENTER

**Wednesday, Dec. 4th  
1:00PM - 3:00PM!**

### Christmas Party!

Bring a \$10 wrapped gift for the gift exchange.



**COA Board Meeting  
Tuesday, Dec. 10th**

**@ 11:30am at the Senior Center**



**WALKERS OF WESTMINSTER**

We meet at the Senior Center every Thursday at 9AM, All YEAR ROUND!

### November Fitness Classes:

#### YOGA WITH PAULA BRISBOIS

Mondays 9:30-10:15AM | Sign-up not required  
This 45-minute class with no floor work!

#### YOGA WITH LORI PUCKO

Fridays from 9:30-10:15AM  
Chair Yoga with Optional Floor Options  
Please bring a Mat if using the floor.

#### CARDIO STRENGTH FOR SENIORS

Wednesdays 9:30-10:15AM  
Bands & balls provided, but participants should bring 1-5lb weights. Sneakers are required.

#### Line Dancing with Anne Gilmartin

9:30-11:30AM \$3 (1st hour) / \$5 (2 hours)

*Let's Eat Out!*

There is no Lunch scheduled for the month of December!

#### Woodcarvers Group

**THURSDAYS  
9AM-12PM**

#### Art Group

**TUE, WED, FRI  
9-11:30AM**

#### Crafters Group

**THURSDAYS 1-4PM**

**BOOK CLUB - a reminder that There is no meeting in december! See you in january!**



There will be no movie showing in December due to the holiday party



# DECEMBER

# ACTIVITIES



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>2</p> <p>9:30-10:15 Yoga 11-3 Reiki Healing (by Appt) 11:30 Lunch 1-4 Mahjong 2:15-3:15 Piano Lesson</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9-11:30 Art 11:30 Lunch 1-3 Bingo</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9-11:30 Art 9-3 SHINE (by Appt) 9:30-10:15 Cardio Strength 11:30 Lunch 12-3:30 Bridge 1-3 Friendship Club</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8:30-9:30 Line Dancing Intro 9-11 WOW (Walkers) 9-12 Wood Carving 9:30-11:30 Line Dancing 11:30 Lunch 1-4 Crafts</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9-11:30 Art 9:30-10:15 Yoga 11:30 Lunch 1-2:30 Ukulele Jam 1-3 Bingo</p>
<p>9</p> <p>9:30-10:15 Yoga 11-3 Reiki Healing (by Appt) 11:30 Lunch 1-4 Mahjong 2:15-3:15 Piano Lesson</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9-11:30 Art 10-11:30 Veteran Coffee 11:30 Lunch 11:30 COA Board Mtg 1-3 Bingo</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9-11:30 Art 9-3 HealtoToe (by Appt) 9:30-10:15 Cardio Strength 11:30 Lunch 12-3:30 Bridge</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9-11 WOW (Walkers) 9-12 Wood Carving 9:30-11:30 Line Dancing 10-11 Coffee w/Chiefs 11:30 Lunch 1-3 Card Bingo 1-4 Crafts</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9-11:30 Art 9:30-10:15 Yoga 11:30 Lunch 1-2:30 Ukulele Jam 1-3 Bingo</p>
<p>16</p> <p>9:30-10:15 Yoga 11-3 Reiki Healing (by Appt) 11:30 Lunch 1-4 Mahjong 2:15-3:15 Piano Lesson</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9-11:30 Art 11:30 Lunch 1-3 Bingo</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9-11:30 Art 9-3 SHINE (by Appt) 9:30-10:15 Cardio Strength 11:30 Lunch 12-3:30 Bridge</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9-11 WOW (Walkers) 9-12 Wood Carving 9:30-11:30 Line Dancing 11:30 Lunch <b>12:00 Christmas Party</b> 1-4 Crafts</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9-11:30 Art 9:30-10:15 Yoga 11:30 Lunch 1-2:30 Ukulele Jam 1-3 Bingo</p>
<p>23</p> <p>9:30-10:15 Yoga 11-3 Reiki Healing (by Appt) 11:30 Lunch 1-4 Mahjong 2:15-3:15 Piano Lesson</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9-11:30 Art 11:30 Lunch <b>CLOSE AT NOON</b></p> 	<p>25</p> <p><b>CLOSED</b></p> 	<p>26</p> <p>9-11 WOW (Walkers) 9-12 Wood Carving 9:30-11:30 Line Dancing 11:30 Lunch 1-4 Crafts</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9-11:30 Art 9:30-10:15 Yoga 11:30 Lunch 12:00 LAER Realty 1-2:30 Ukulele Jam 1-3 Bingo</p>
<p>30</p> <p>9:30-10:15 Yoga 11-3 Reiki Healing (by Appt) 11:30 Lunch 1-4 Mahjong 2:15-3:15 Piano Lesson</p>	<p>31</p> <p>9-11:30 Art 11:30 Lunch <b>CLOSE AT NOON</b></p> 	<p><b>JOIN US FOR CONGREGATE MEALS AT THE CENTER!</b> Served Monday-Friday @ 11:30am. Reservations required by 10am on the prior business day. Reserve your meal: 978-874-7402. A \$3 donation is suggested.</p>		

