



THE South Street Sentinel

WESTMINSTER-MA.GOV***Westminster's Town Benefit Day Returns — Bigger, Bolder, and Better Than Ever!***

Save the date! Sunday, August 10, 2025, from 11 AM to 5 PM, Westminster's beloved Town Benefit Day is back on Academy Hill, packed with familiar favorites and exciting new attractions. Hosted by Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN), this annual tradition celebrates community, generosity, and fun for all ages.

What's Back: Fan-favorites are returning, including the Benefit Boutique, Muffin Pan Game, Pull Tabs, Kids Flea Market, 5K Road Race with Zen Yoga & Wellness, Chinese & Over-the-Top Auctions, School Supply Store, Kids' Carnival Games, and the always competitive Teen Challenges Fast Pitch Contest.

What's New: This year brings fresh thrills! Enjoy a 360 Photo Booth, beautiful henna tattoos by a local artist, and the big new challenge — a mechanical bull brought to you by Westminster Parks & Rec! Test your skills and compete for the longest ride in male and female categories.

Food & Entertainment: Enjoy delicious options from local food trucks, the Congregational Church's famous strawberry shortcake, and fried dough from the Westminster Fire Department. Live music by Westminster's own Fred Ellsworth will keep the energy high all day long.

Want to Help? NHN is still accepting auction donations and looking for volunteers to assist with setup, booths, and activities. Whether you have an hour or the whole day, your help makes a difference.

Keep an eye out for the NHN team — they'll be outside Vincent's Country Store every weekend leading up to the event, selling their signature tie-dye t-shirts, including this year's new design!

For the latest updates, follow Neighbors Helping Neighbors — Westminster MA on Facebook. Let's make this year's Benefit Day the best one yet! Admission is free, and all are welcome! We can't wait to see you there!



CONNECTING AND BUILDING COMMUNITY
WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL



NHN

Neighbors Helping
Neighbors
Westminster, MA

SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY AUGUST 10, 2025 - 11:00AM-5:00PM

ACADEMY HILL, WESTMINSTER MA

38TH ANNUAL TOWN BENEFIT DAY

****Join us for all your favorites****

🛍️ Benefit Boutique • 🍲 Chinese Auction • 🎈 Kids Zone & Teen Challenges 🏃 5K Road Race by Zen Yoga & Wellness 🍓
Famous Strawberry Shortcake • 🍪 Fried Dough • 🎵 Live Music by Fred Ellsworth
🚚 Food Trucks • 🎮 Games • 📦 School Supply Store • 🐻 Kids Flea Market and more!!

Stay tuned to our social media pages, over the next several weeks - we'll be hard at work planning another successful day on the hill. The Benefit would not be the same without the volunteerism and contributions of our local businesses and friends!

If you would like to make a Tax Deductible donation please use the Venmo code below or mail it to Westminster Benefit Fund, PO Box 63, Westminster, MA 01473. Want more info on donating, volunteering or the Benefit? Contact any of our Board members directly or via our social media pages below.

*Sam Albert: 978-874-0001 * Steph Lahtinen 978-793-3078 * Emily Cox 774-487-9446 * Caroline Albert 978-895-8254*
* Wayne Walker 978-833-3778 *

Neighbors Helping Neighbors has supported over 500 local families for 38+ years—thanks to you!

SCAN TO
VOLUNTEER



@WESTMINSTERNHN



WESTMINSTERNHN@GMAIL.COM



NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS
- WESTMINSTER, MA

For more information on Town Benefit Day, Neighbors Helping Neighbors or how you can
help! Follow us on Facebook or Instagram! Or via email!

SCAN TO DONATE



venmo

AUCTION DONATION **iNFORMATION**

Whether you're an individual, group, small (or big!) business please consider making a tax deductible donation towards our auctions held on Benefit Day

- ★ Donations can be single items, gift certificates, themed baskets or any variety of options. Only *new in box* items are accepted for the auctions.
- ★ Donations are separated into two categories: Chinese Auction, items valued \$20-\$99 and Over the Top, items valued at \$100 and up
- ★ These auctions are our largest fundraiser on Benefit Day and would greatly benefit from your generous support!

Please reach out on any of the platforms below to schedule a drop-off or pickup
OR you can bring your items to the Westminster Public Safety Building.
Donations can also be mailed to Neighbors Helping Neighbors, PO Box 63,
Westminster MA 01473



Westminster NHN@gmail.com



Neighbors Helping Neighbors -
Westminster, MA

The Westminster Benefit Fund Inc. is a non-profit organization under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code Tax ID #04-2971446





ACADEMY HILL PARK

~ OPEN 8AM TO DUSK ~

PLAYGROUND RULES:

- Use the playground at your own risk
- Children must be supervised by an adult
- No pets allowed (service animals only)
- No smoking, vaping, alcohol, or drug-use
- No climbing on the fence or tables
- Please carry-in, carry-out all trash
- No glass permitted in the play area
- Playground is under 24-hour surveillance

Thanks for doing your part to keep our
playground fun and safe for all!

SAFETY FIRST





WESTMINSTER FARMERS' MARKET

Open Fridays from 3-6pm on Academy Hill

Fresh, Local Foods, Friends and Fun!
Bringing you local meats, cheeses, vegetables, fruits, crafts and live entertainment.

<https://westminsterfarmersmarket.com/>
www.facebook.com/westminsterfarmersmarket



Westminster TOWN BAND

Join us this July for 5 straight weeks of music on Academy Hill with our Town Band! Bring your chairs or blankets and relax from 7-9pm. The show is free and baked goods and treats will be for sale.

Dates for this year's concerts are: July 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th and August 6th.

Rain dates will be Thursdays the day after, if necessary. Stay up to date with information, delays or cancellations by visiting the band's FB page: facebook.com/westminstertownband



AUGUST 1, 2025 *vendors*

PARTICIPATION MAY VARY WEEK TO WEEK FOR SOME OF OUR MAKERS AND GROWERS

2025 WESTMINSTER FARMERS' MARKET
ACADEMY HILL FRIDAYS 3-6PM MAY-OCTOBER

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| * HUBBARDS | * RACHEL'S EVERLASTINGS |
| * NORTHBROOK MARKET | * HEART TO HART GREETING CARDS |
| * GREENWOOD HILL FARM | * LILA'S PORCH BAKERY |
| * BLUE DARNER GRANOLA | * CIRCLELIFE SKIN FOOD |
| * WICKED CUTZ SHARPENING | * ROCK HARVEST FARM |
| * HOPPY POP | * HOME FRUIT WINE |
| * BLOOM AND BLOSSOM | * CRAZY FOR CANINES |
| * CURIOUS CRAVINGS BAKERY | * BEEBOO BEADS & JEWELRY |
| * TEA TIMES | |

with musical guest WARD BOWNE



VOLUNTEER WITH US!

Join Us in Creating Fun, Engaging Community Events!

The Parks and Recreation Department is excited to invite YOU to be a part of planning and organizing events that bring our community together. Whether you want to share ideas, volunteer your time, or offer your services, we would love to have your input!

We meet on the 1st Monday of every month at 6:30 PM at the Town Hall, and we'd be thrilled if you could join us. Your presence and contributions will make a real difference!

Have questions or want to get involved? Feel free to reach out to Audra at akirtland@westminster-ma.gov. Let's make something amazing happen together!

10TH ANNUAL WESTMINSTER CRACKER FESTIVAL

A FREE EVENT FOR ALL

October 18, 2025 | 10 AM - 5 PM
Village Square, Westminster

LIVE MUSIC FROM

THE FOOLS

**MR. STRICKLAND | THE TRIBE | FRED ELLSWORTH
WESTMINSTER ELEMENTARY BAND**

CHILI COOK-OFF



DRINKS



KIDS ACTIVITIES



VENDORS



5K RUN / WALK



**JOIN THE FUN
THIS FALL!**

WWW.CRACKERFESTIVAL.COM | [FACEBOOK: WESTMINSTER CRACKER FESTIVAL](https://www.facebook.com/WESTMINSTERCRACKERFESTIVAL)



2025 DATES OF OPERATION:

- Open Daily June 23rd- August 24th
- Open Weekends only August 30-September 1 and September 6-7

2025 HOURS OF OPERATION:

- 10AM-8PM Opening Day to August 11th
- 10AM-7PM August 12th to Closing Day

**Hours/days of operation may be adjusted due to weather or decisions made by the Crocker Pond Recreation Area Committee*



Vendor Application



Vendors

Approximately 100 vendors from all over Massachusetts attend the Westminster Cracker Festival. These clothing, craft, farm and food vendors help make this event a great success.



5k Run/Walk

**Westminster
Cracker Festival
5K**

**Register Here to
Walk or Run**



Check out the 2025 list of Wachusett Mountain Fall Festivals and Events!

**SEE UPCOMING EVENTS
HERE**

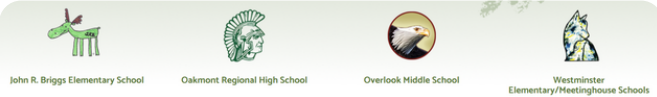


FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL - GRADES 1-12

MONDAY, AUGUST 25TH

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL - KINDERGARTEN

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27TH



Ashburnham Westminster Regional School District - 2025-2026 Calendar

AUGUST (31) 18-19: No School New Teacher Orientation 20-22: No School First Days for Staff Professional Development 23: First Day of School Children 1-12 27: First Day of School Kindergarten 29: No School Labor Day Weekend	14-20: No School February Break FEBRUARY (15) 1: No School Presidents' Day
SEPTEMBER (21) 1: No School Labor Day Weekend 2: First Day of School Preschool 17: Early Release	18: Early Release MARCH (22) 1: No School Presidents' Day
OCTOBER (22) 8: Early Release 13: No School Columbus Day	8: Early Release 20-24: No School April Break APRIL (17) 1: No School Good Friday
NOVEMBER (14) 4: No School Professional Development 11: No School Veteran's Day 26: Early Release 27-28: No School Thanksgiving	6: Early Release 22: Last Day for Seniors 23: No School Memorial Day 27: Early Release 29: Graduation High School MAY (20) 1: No School Mother's Day
DECEMBER (17) 24-25: No School December Break 10: 180° Day - Early Release 19: Juneteenth	JUNE (30) 1: No School Juneteenth
JANUARY (18) 1-2: No School New Year's 19: No School MLK Jr. Day 20: No School Professional Development	Superintendent's Office: 978-827-3434 Pupil Services: 978-827-3062 Oakmont Regional High School: 978-827-3907 Overlook Middle School: 978-827-3425 J.R. Briggs Elementary School: 978-827-4750 Westminster Elementary School: 978-874-2043 Meetinghouse School: 978-874-0143 Early Release Times: Oakmont 11:00am Overlook 10:00am Elementary Schools 10:00am Approved 3/6/2022



**FRIDAY, AUGUST 29TH &
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH**
LABOR DAY HOLIDAY
ALL GRADES!

**SCHOOL
SUPPLIES!**



NHN
Neighbors Helping
Neighbors
Westminster, MA

DON'T FORGET THAT YOU CAN GET MANY,
IF NOT MOST, IF NOT ALL OF YOUR
SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR THE COMING YEAR
AT THE NHN BENEFIT ON SUNDAY, AUGUST
10TH ON ACADEMY HILL FROM 11AM-5PM!

PRESENT

THE BLUES EXPRESS

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 24
3 - 5 PM
VFW FIELD**

3 EATON STREET, WESTMINSTER | INSIDE IF RAIN

FREE ENTRY & FUN FOR ALL AGES
BLUES CLASSICS & ORIGINALS
SNACK SHACK & BEVERAGES
BOUNCE HOUSES

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL HEROES!

WESTMINSTER VFW POST 7389

**HELP CREATE A TOWN
PAVILION AT THE VFW!**

**SHOW THE YOUTH THAT
IF YOU DREAM BIG, YOU
CAN ACHIEVE ANYTHING!**

QUESTIONS? EMAIL VFWPAVILIONEAGLE@GMAIL.COM



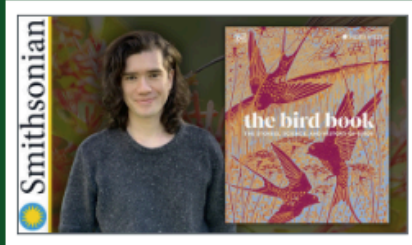
Forbush
Memorial Library



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

SIGN-UP FOR OUR WEEKLY NEWSLETTER ON OUR WEBSITE: FORBUSHLIBRARY.ORG!

August Author Talks



The Bird Book

The Stories, Science,
And History of Birds

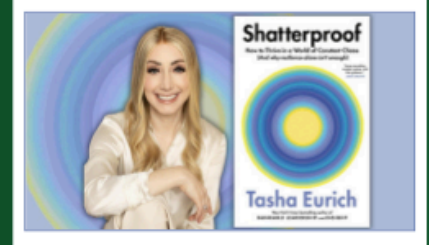
Tues, Aug 5, 2:00 PM ET



Casey McQuiston

Romance, Food, and
Flirty Fun in Fiction

Wed, Aug 20, 7:00 PM ET



Dr. Tasha Eurich

Thriving in a World
Of Constant Chaos

Thu, Aug 28, 2:00 PM ET

Attend live online,
or watch a recording later!

[Click here to register, and to access
an archive of on-demand content.](#)

COOKBOOK CLUB

**How to Cook
Everything
the basics**

All You Need to Make Great Food
— WITH 1,000 PHOTOS —

Mark Bittman

READ:

*How to Cook
Everything - The
Basics*
by Mark Bittman

COOK:

one of the recipes.

EAT:

Enjoy a potluck lunch!

**TUESDAY,
AUGUST 19**



**12:00 PM
- 1:30 PM**

ELORANTA ROOM

SIPS & SWEETS



**Tues. Aug 5
1:00 PM
For teens!**

[Click to Register!](#)



Book Vase Workshop

**Wednesday, August 13
6:00 PM** **ages 13+**
Eloranta Room

Learn how to transform an old book into a
unique vase for fake or real floral arrangements!

**Space is limited,
[click to register.](#)**



RETIREMENT OPEN HOUSE

for

SUE YRAOLA

Thursday, August 7, 2025

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Library Main Floor



Art & Artifacts



The Forbush Memorial Library has been richly endowed with artistic and historical collections, much of which is displayed throughout the library. Our collections are also available for research purposes. Contact the [Library Director](#) for more information.



Forbush
Memorial Library

**BUT WAIT, THERE'S
MORE...**

Meet MONTY

MWCC's Mountain Lion!

FREE Storytime, Crafts & Fun for the Family!

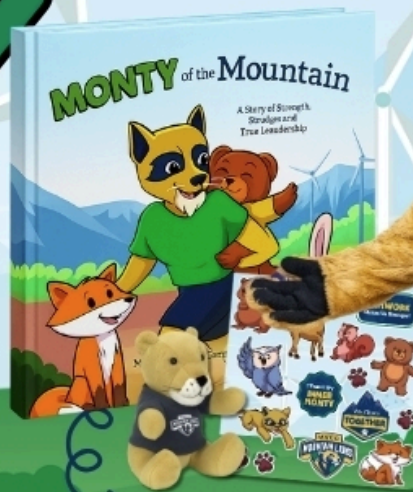
Tues. Aug 12 • 10:30 AM



Mount Wachusett
Community College



Forbush
Memorial Library



Free themed sticker
pack & Monty plushie!



Discovering Westminster
WICKEDLY FUN
Scavenger Hunt
AUGUST 2-17

Stop by the Forbush Memorial Library starting August 2nd to pick up your game card. Prizes await the boldest adventurers! More information at >

www.forbushlibrary.org

Forbush
Memorial Library



Museum Passes

Check the Forbush Library for museum passes! Discounted admission is available to cardholders through the Friends of the Library.



Get a Library Card

Forbush Memorial Library cards are free to all Massachusetts residents of all ages.

SUMMER READING 2025

WRAP PARTY WITH **Alissa Coates**
Children's Music

Friday, August 8 | 12:00-1:30PM



We're wrapping up (most of) our summer activities with a party, because why not? Play games, enjoy refreshments, and jam out to music with Westminster's very own Alissa Coates!

Details
online!



CONCERT
STARTS AT
12 PM!



GAME TIME!

with Storyteller
Diane Edgecomb

**Saturday
August 2**

10:30 AM

**Eloranta
Room**

Lots of Participation and Fun in this game-centric performance with Library Favorite Diane Edgecomb!



This program is funded by a grant from the Westminster Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.



Diane Edgecomb
Story Home

FIRE DEPT NEWS!



Re-Dedication of Fire/Police Monuments – Thank you to all of those who helped with the monument move over the past few weeks. The DPW assisted us with pouring the foundations and moving the monuments. Randy and Marty spent quite a bit of time working to clean the monuments and painting of the area. The firefighters on shift were able to cut in the bed, install the edging and mulch. This consolidated the fire and police monuments into a visible location to honor the work these individuals do on a daily basis.

This Saturday July 12th we will have a re-dedication ceremony for the monuments and invite all members both present and previous to the station for the event. We will have some brief remarks at the monuments and take a group photo to commemorate the event, light refreshments will be served.



200th Ceremony – Saturday the department held the 200th Anniversary Ceremony and Re-dedication of the Fire and Police Monuments. Thank you to all past and present members who attended the event.

Handtub Muster – On **August 16th** we will be hosting a hand tub muster which will be **held at the Westminster Elementary School** as part of our continuing 200th Anniversary celebration. This will be a great event and pays homage to the history of the fire service. Prior to motorized apparatus hand tubs were the means firefighters used to pump water to extinguish fires.

In the United States Hand Tubs began to gain prominence in the 1700's with Boston acquiring their first, hand tub in 1721. As time went on, larger cities began to switch to steam powered fire apparatus, later motorize apparatus; but in rural areas hand tubs remained in service into the early 1900's. In the United States there were a few major manufactures such as the Hunneman and Company, Button Fire Engine Works and Perkins and Company who produced hand tubs.

Our "Always Ready" was purchased by the Town in 1849 and was produced by the Hunneman and Company. It was the 376th hand tub produced by them out of a total of 716 built in Revere. It served in the Narrows Road area, later on South St before being moved to Main St where it remained in service into the early 1900's. It was eventually replaced by the first motorized fire engine when it was purchased by the Firefighters Association where it remains today.

In 2006 it was meticulously restored by Lt. Clay Swenor to its original condition and is still capable of operating today. William Hunneman founded the company in 1792 which produced hand tubs up to 1883. He apprenticed and worked for none other than Paul Revere learning the metalsmith trade. This is an iconic piece of fire service history and will be on display this weekend at our 200th Ceremony.

To put into perspective when the Westminster Fire Department was founded there was a total of 24 States in the Union and the Westward Expansion was in full swing. It would be 36 years after the founding of the department before the American Civil War broke out. The Boston Fire Department is generally considered the oldest Fire Department in the country being founded in 1678. Outside of larger municipal fire departments Westminster is generally accepted as being one of the 15th oldest organized volunteer fire companies in the United States.

FIRE DEPT NEWS!



FIRE DEPT NEWS!

Parks and Rec Water Day – Thursday afternoon we were able to participate in the Parks and Rec Water Day. Firefighters bring one of the trucks over and set up a hose stream, ultimately, we win the water gun fight every year! This is an amazing tradition for the Parks & Rec Summer Program! The kids look forward to it every year as part of the Water Week program!



E-Bike Fire – On Thursday afternoon Engine 1 was dispatched to an address on Bathrick Rd for an E-Bike on fire in the driveway. E1 arrived and found the bike well involved in the driveway and extinguished the fire. With the popularity of electric powered bikes and scooters there are risks involved, see the attached flyer from the NFPA for more info.

Here in Massachusetts we have seen an increase in battery fires. The following video was collected from Onset. It is a good video that shows how quickly these fires develop and the amount of toxic smoke that is produced. [WATCH: Fire erupts at Onset hobby shop, likely caused by lithium-ion batteries](#)

E-Bike and E-Scooter Safety

The popularity of electric bikes and electric scooters (e-bikes and e-scooters) has taken off over the past few years. Lithium-ion batteries are usually the source of power for both, and if not used correctly, or if damaged, those batteries can catch on fire or explode. Whether you use e-bikes or e-scooters as your main way of getting around, or just for fun, there are important safety tips to keep in mind when charging or storing these devices.

The Problem

- Damaged or defective batteries can over-heat, catch fire, or explode.
- Lithium-ion battery fires give off toxic gases and they burn extremely hot.

Safety Tips

- Only purchase and use devices, batteries, and charging equipment that are listed by a nationally recognized testing lab and labeled accordingly.
- Always follow the instructions from the manufacturer.
- Only use the battery and the charger that were designed for, and came with, the device.
- Do not keep charging the device or device battery after it is fully charged.
- Only charge one device or device battery at a time to prevent overloading the circuit.
- Keep batteries at room temperature when possible. Do not charge them at temperatures below 32°F (0°C) or above 105°F (40°C).
- Do not store batteries in direct sunlight or inside hot vehicles, and keep them away from children and liquids.

- Store e-bikes, e-scooters, and batteries away from exit doors and anything that can get hot or catch fire.
- Only have device repairs performed by a qualified professional.
- Do not put lithium-ion batteries in the trash. Recycling is always the best option. Take the batteries to a battery recycling location or contact your local waste department for disposal instructions.

Signs of a Problem

Stop using the e-bike or e-scooter if you notice any of these problems with the battery: unusual odor, change in color, too much heat, change in shape, leaking, smoking, or not keeping a charge.

**If you see a fire ...**

- ❗ Leave the building immediately.
- ❗ Don't try to fight the fire.
- ❗ Call 911.

LEARN MORE

Visit nfpa.org/ebikes





Daily Training – As part of the weekly check firefighters trained on ladder operations with the goal of setting up the ladder and being able to lower one cone onto the other cone. This requires quite a bit of fine movement skills that need to be trained on consistently.



Join our Police Department for their 54th Bike Rodeo!

You're Invited to the Westminster Police Bike Rodeo!

The Westminster Police Department, in partnership with MassBike is excited to host a Bike Rodeo for kids and families in our community!

Date: Tuesday, August 5, 2025

Time: 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Location: Westminster Elementary School

This fun, free event is a great opportunity for children Pre-K to 12 years old to learn important bicycle safety skills in a relaxed and supportive environment. Activities will include:

- Helmet fitting and safety checks
- Bike safety inspections
- Riding skills and obstacle course
- Tips on how to share the road safely

Whether your child is new to biking or already a pro on two wheels, this rodeo is a great way to build confidence, learn good habits, and have a blast with friends and neighbors!

Hosted by Officer Max Rameau and the Westminster Police Department

Space is limited! To sign up, email Officer Rameau at: mrameau@westminster-ma.gov



5TH ANNUAL ASHBURNHAM/WESTMINSTER NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

AUGUST 12, 2025 5:30P-8P

OAKMONT REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
9 OAKMONT DRIVE
ASHBURNHAM, MA 01430



📍 5th Annual Ashburnham/Westminster National Night Out 🌟

📍 Oakmont Regional High School

📅 Tuesday, August 12, 2025

🕒 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM

🚗 Car Seat Check: 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM (Front Parking Lot)

The Westminster Police Department is thrilled to host this incredible evening once again — in partnership with the Westminster Fire Department, Ashburnham Police and Fire, and many amazing community organizations!

National Night Out is all about building strong bonds between law enforcement and the community. It's a night to come together, promote safety, and celebrate the power of unity. 🤝💙



☀️ What to Expect:

🚗 Dunk Tank

👶 Child ID Kits

🐕 Comfort Dogs

🐕 K9 Demonstration

🏟️ Speed Pitch

🎵 Live Music

🚒 Touch-a-Truck (Fire Trucks, Police Cars, DPW & Military Vehicles!)

... and MUCH more!

☀️ NEW THIS YEAR:

We're hosting a Car Seat Safety Check from 3–6 PM — swing by early to make sure your child's seat is secure and properly installed by certified technicians!

Let's hope for great weather so we can all enjoy an amazing night together. Bring your family, friends, and neighbors for a night full of fun, food, and connection.

🗣️ PLEASE SHARE and help us spread the word!

We're also proud to support the 12th Annual Gardner National Night Out on Thursday, August 7, 2025 at Gardner High School — be sure to stop by and say hello!

🗣️ As National Night Out founder Matt Peskin says:

"This is a night for our nation to stand together. When law enforcement and the community work closely, amazing things happen."

We can't wait to see you there! 🌟



Hosted by Town Administrator Stephanie Lahtinen

We want to hear from you!

Have an idea for a podcast? A topic that you think should be covered in an upcoming episode? Are you a member of a club or group in town with a special event coming up you'd like to share? We want to know! Please reach out to Stephanie Lahtinen with your comments or ideas: podcast@westminster-ma.gov.

**NEW EPISODES EVERY TWO WEEKS! LISTEN IN
WHERE YOU GET YOUR PODCASTS:**

Listen on
amazon music



Listen on
Apple Podcasts

Keeping Westminster informed one episode at a time.

Welcome to The Town Crier, Westminster's official municipal podcast! Hosted by Town Administrator Stephanie Lahtinen, this podcast brings you the latest town news, upcoming projects, and behind-the-scenes insights straight from the people who help keep Westminster running. Whether you're curious about town decisions, want to hear from local leaders, or just love staying in the know, The Town Crier is your go-to source for reliable and engaging updates.

The Town Crier is available at www.westminster-ma.gov, Apple Podcasts, Spotify and the AWCN website. Like, listen and please subscribe for a notification every time a new episode posts! Tune in, stay informed, and be part of the conversation by submitting your questions to podcast@westminster-ma.gov!

~ RECENT EPISODES ~

Ep #10: Summer Safety: Fire & Police Talk Shop!

Happy Fourth of July, Westminster! In this special holiday episode, Stephanie sits down with Fire Chief Kyle Butterfield and Acting Police Chief Jason Tamulen, for a full rundown of practical tips to keep your family safe this summer. From fireworks rules and backyard fire and water safety, heatwave preparedness, and what to do during large gatherings.

Plus, get the latest on, Academy Hill Park soft opening, Woo Sox Town Takeover Night on July 31st, Westminster Town Band summer concerts, Fire Department's 200th Anniversary events, Road construction updates, trail volunteer opportunities, and more to help you plan your July. Stay informed, stay safe, and celebrate responsibly!

Ep #11: Dollars & Sense: Understand Your Tax Bill!

In this episode of The Town Crier, Treasurer/Collector Melinda Horrigan joins us to break down how your tax bills are calculated, when and how to pay them, and what to do if you fall behind. We cover real estate taxes, motor vehicle excise tax, online payment options, and common myths residents often have about the process.

Plus, Academy Hill Park is officially open! After a soft opening on July 5, families can now enjoy the new climbing structures, slides, and picnic areas. We share rules for using the park and details on temporary parking while the finishing touches are completed.

Ep #12: Master Plan Update & MBTA Communities Explained!

In this episode, we're joined by Planning Director Ryan Doherty for an in-depth look at two of big topics in Westminster: the Master Plan Update and the upcoming MBTA Communities zoning article. Ryan walks us through how residents can get involved, key dates, the survey currently underway, and a lot of important details about the MBTA Communities law.

We also recap the Fire Department's 200th anniversary celebration, monument rededication, and recent Select Board updates on the Police Chief hiring process. For more information and helpful FAQs about the MBTA Communities zoning initiative, visit: <https://www.westminster-ma.gov/planning-department/pages/mbta-communities3a-information>



1st Quarter Real Estate & Personal Property Taxes due August 4th, 2025

FY26 1st & 2nd Quarter Real Estate and Personal Property Tax bills have been mailed out. The 1st Quarter tax is due Aug 4, 2025 and the 2nd Quarter tax is due Nov 3, 2025. If you do not receive your bill in the mail, please contact the Treasurer/Collector Office.

Town Hall hours are Monday 7:00am - 7:00pm, Tuesday -Thursday 7:30am to 4:30pm (cash or check only at the counter), and closed on Fridays. For your after-hour convenience, we have a locked drop box located in front of the Town Hall for checks only. Checks are made payable to the "Town of Westminster".

You can also pay with a debit or credit card at the Online Payments link on our Town website (www.westminster-ma.gov).



HAVE YOU VISITED YET!?

Welcome to The Vice!

Westminster's newest dining option! Visit the Vice to enjoy a tasty variety of some of their favorite vices, including Herrell's ice cream, Dean's Beans coffee & espresso, Smith's Country cheese and Boar's Head meats in their renovated 1800's barn.

The friendly staff is there to provide you with a fun experience while you indulge in a special treat (or two!) Come in, relax and enjoy! Visit!

Downloadable Menu



Water/Sewer Billing Update



FY26 1st Qtr Water/Sewer Bills are Due August 18th

FY26 The Qtr 1 Water/Sewer bills have been mailed and are due by Monday, August 18, 2025.

Town Hall hours are Monday 7:00am - 7:00pm, Tuesday through Thursday 7:30am - 4:30pm, and closed on Fridays (cash or check at the counter). For your after-hour convenience, we have a locked drop box located in front of the Town Hall for checks only. Checks are made payable to the "Town of Westminster". You can also pay with a debit or credit card at the Online Payments tab on our Town website (www.westminster-ma.gov), until midnight of the due date. If you do not receive your bill, please contact the Treasurer/Collector's Office.

If you have any questions regarding billing dates, rates, or usage, please contact the Dept. of Public Works directly at 978-874-5572. The office hours at the DPW are 7:00am to 3:30pm, Monday through Friday.

HOW TO REDUCE YOUR SEWER BILL



Check your
pipes for leaks



Change your
shower habits



Don't leave your
faucet running



Wait until you
have a full load



Use energy-
efficient
appliances



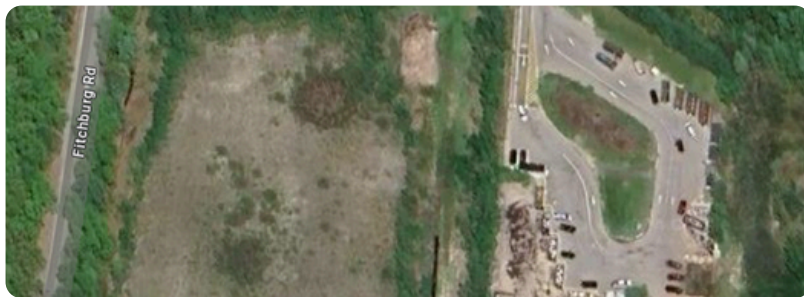
Use low-flow
fixtures

SOLID WASTE DROP-OFF CENTER

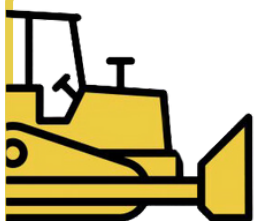
165 Fitchburg Road - Route 31 Westminister

HOURS:

Monday: 7:30am-3pm
Tuesday-Thursday: Closed
Friday: 7:30am-3pm
Saturday: 7:30am-1pm
Sunday: 9:00am-1pm



*Please check the town website or sign up for town alerts in the case of closures due to weather, etc.



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS



Our DPW crew, along with our Police Department are working hard to keep our roads safe for all. For the latest construction projects, including any road detours or closures, please visit the following pages: www.facebook.com/WestminsterDPW or www.facebook.com/WestminsterPD

Click below to bring you to our
Town Calendar page or
(<https://www.westminster-ma.gov/calendar/month>)

Town Calendar						
August						
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



Agendas, Meetings,
and Minutes

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

See our job
OPENINGS!

www.westminster-ma.gov/human-resources/pages/current-positions

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

Council on Aging **NEWSLETTER!**

A reminder that the Council on Aging Senior Newsletter is now being sent out in a separate email from the Town Sentinel. It is full of activities and events suitable for many members of our community, not just our senior population. Be sure to check it out!



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](#)

www.westminster-ma.gov

