



# THE South Street Sentinel



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

## **Westminster in Full Bloom: A Summer to Reconnect, Recharge, and Rediscover Home**

As summer arrives in Westminster, the town once again settles into the familiar rhythm that generations of residents have cherished: long golden evenings, children racing toward the playgrounds and ballfields, neighbors gathering at community events, and the quiet beauty of Wachusett skies stretching over forests, farms, and back roads.

In recent months, Westminster has faced difficult conversations. Residents have passionately discussed issues ranging from PFAS concerns in town wells to housing development under Chapter 40B, causing many to reflect on how growth may affect the small-town character that makes Westminster feel like home.

**These conversations matter because people care deeply about this town.** And while opinions may differ on the path forward, one thing remains undeniable: Westminster continues to be a vibrant, resilient, and beautiful community with extraordinary opportunities to enjoy life together—especially in the summertime.

Few communities are as fortunate as Westminster when it comes to outdoor recreation and scenery. Summer offers endless opportunities to explore the natural spaces that define the town’s character.

Residents can spend mornings hiking wooded trails, afternoons fishing or kayaking on local waters, or evenings watching sunsets over open fields and rolling hills. Whether it’s a walk through Crocker Pond conservation areas, an afternoon near Wachusett Mountain, or simply enjoying the quiet along country roads lined with stone walls and wildflowers, Westminster still offers the peaceful charm that first drew many families here. That connection to nature remains one of the town’s greatest strengths.

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CONNECTING AND BUILDING COMMUNITY  
WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL

## Summer Traditions That Bring Us Together

Summer in Westminster has never been just about the scenery—it's about community. The season brings farmers markets, youth sports, cookouts, library programs, local concerts, campfires, and neighborhood gatherings that remind us how connected this town truly is. Families reunite after busy winters, children make memories that will last for decades, and new residents begin discovering the traditions that make Westminster special.

In a world that often feels fast and divided, small-town moments still matter here! Waving to neighbors on an evening walk, stopping to talk outside local businesses, cheering together at community events, or simply sharing a quiet summer night under the stars. Those experiences cannot be measured in headlines or public meetings, but they are the heartbeat of Westminster.

## A Community That Cares

The recent public discussions surrounding environmental health, development, and growth have shown something important about Westminster: residents are engaged.

People are paying attention. They are asking questions. They are advocating for their families, their neighborhoods, and the future of the town. That level of civic involvement reflects a community that values both its heritage and its responsibility to future generations.

Healthy communities are not built by avoiding difficult conversations. They are strengthened when residents remain involved, informed, and committed to working together—even when perspectives differ. Westminster has always evolved over time, but its greatest asset has never been a particular project, policy, or debate. Its greatest asset is the people who continue to invest their energy, care, and pride into making this town a place worth calling home.

## Looking Ahead

As June begins and summer unfolds, there is reason for optimism. Westminster remains a town where children can grow up surrounded by nature, where neighbors still know one another, and where residents continue to show deep commitment to the future of their community. It remains a place where history and progress meet, where challenges are met head-on, and where the qualities that define small-town New England still endure.

This summer, perhaps the best reminder of what Westminster has to offer is simply stepping outside and experiencing it: the trails, the lakes, the local businesses, the community events, the conversations, and the people. Because despite the challenges and changes that come with any growing town, Westminster remains a remarkable place to live. And summer is the perfect time to rediscover why.





# TOWN MEETING TAKEAWAYS

MAY 2, 2026

25 ARTICLES. 2 MEETINGS. 100% APPROVED.

Thank you to everyone who participated. Your engagement helps strengthen our community and plan for a successful future.



**ALL 25 ARTICLES PASSED**

## BUDGET SNAPSHOT

The FY27 budget and enterprise budgets were approved.



**TOTAL TOWN BUDGET**  
**\$30,447,534**



**SEWER ENTERPRISE**  
**\$1,392,810**







**WATER ENTERPRISE**  
**\$997,531**



**SOLID WASTE TRANSFER FACILITY ENTERPRISE**  
**\$274,200**

## FINANCIAL STRATEGY

Smart use of Free Cash to support our community and manage costs.

-  **\$230,000** to reduce the FY27 tax rate
-  **\$50,000** for town-wide fuel & utilities expenses
-  Investments in historic preservation and research
-  Cemetery facility improvements






## INVESTING IN PEOPLE

New full-time positions approved to strengthen key town services.

-  Executive Assistant  
Council on Aging
-  Maintenance Mechanic  
Department of Public Works
-  Digital Services Librarian  
Forbush Library

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS \$1.65M TOTAL

Investing in roads, public safety, facilities and technology.

 Road maintenance & improvement .....	\$800,000
 Public safety radios .....	\$475,465
 Fire equipment & cardiac monitors .....	\$175,000
 Library boiler replacement .....	\$90,000
 Technology & infrastructure upgrades .....	\$90,000

FULL BREAKDOWN INCLUDED IN TOWN REPORTS.

## BYLAW UPDATES

Bylaw amendments approved to modernize police authority and traffic enforcement.

- Direct traffic
- Operation of heavy commercial vehicles
- Violations & penalties

## SPECIAL TOWN MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

 **\$950,000** approved to supplement Snow & Ice Removal accounts (Dept. 423).

 **No prior-year unpaid bills.** Financial accountability remains a top priority.



**STRONG SERVICES. SMART SPENDING. FORWARD MOMENTUM.**

*Thank you, Westminster!*



You may have noticed that prior to the opening of our Farmers' Market, the Gazebo on Academy Hill was blocked off with caution tape for a few weeks. This was so that our AMAZING maintenance department team of **Randy** and **Marty** could completely refurbish the platform surface of the gazebo. After tearing up the existing concrete, they leveled and laid a strong new base, followed by a durable surface and a final coat. The results speak for themselves! Not only does the platform look better, but it is now safe and free of debris and a welcome spot for the many town events held at the gazebo. After completing this work, the team then power-washed the gazebo base and completed the transformation with fresh mulch around the gazebo. Thank you to Randy and Marty for a job well-done. By taking on this massive task, they also saved the town thousands of dollars. We appreciate you both for all of your efforts!

The next phase of the project will be replacing the rotted railings around the gazebo and painting the structure to really make it shine. Marty and Randy will be working with Monty Tech teachers and students for the replacements - a great real-life learning opportunity!





As Memorial Day approaches, we pause to honor the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country. Their courage and sacrifice are the foundation of the freedoms we cherish today. We invite everyone to come together for our Town Memorial Day Parade as we pay tribute and celebrate the strength of our community.

## **Memorial Day Parade! Monday, May 25th**

Join us for our annual parade along Main Street!

### **Schedule of Events:**

Start your day with breakfast (free to all Veterans) at the VFW on Eaton Street from 6:30-8:00am then join us as we recognize Veteran Monuments in town. We will depart the VFW at 8:30 then make the following stops:

- 8:45 – Whitmanville Cemetery
- 9:05 – Woodside Cemetery
- 9:20 – Mount Pleasant Cemetery
- 9:30 – WWI Monument (Leominster St and Academy Hill Rd)
- 9:40 – Civil War Monument (First Congregational Church)
- 9:45 – Spanish War Monument (Bacon St near old Town Hall)
- 9:50 – VFW Veterans Monument



A multitude of civic organizations will join in our Memorial Day Parade which **begins at Lovell St at 11:00am** (when Oakmont Band arrives) and travels Main St to the Gazebo atop Academy Hill. There we will have recitals of the Gettysburg Address and Flanders Field, a guest speaker and musical performances.

There will be applications at the VFW for those who wish to purchase a brick to honor a veteran. The bricks will be placed along a walkway leading to the VFW monument. Forms need to be completed by September 1st.



Join us at the VFW Monday May 25th after the Memorial Day Parade for our Annual Chicken B.B.Q. We are serving from 12pm-3pm. Tickets can be purchased anytime during business hours and are \$20/each. We always sell out so don't wait!



## MOVIE NIGHT

What screams summer more than an outdoor movie night surrounded by nature!? Join us at Crocker Pond for a special showing of the iconic summer classic JAWS – fun for the whole family!

Crocker Pond will be open for swimming and beach fun until 7:00 PM, then we'll transform the beach area into our outdoor movie theater under the stars. The playground will remain open for kids to enjoy, and bathrooms will be available throughout the evening.

Starting at 7:00 PM, Maddy's Ice Cream Truck will be on site serving up delicious sweet treats, and Parks & Rec will be handing out FREE popcorn to all movie-goers!

Grab your chairs and blankets, pack a picnic dinner, bring a sweatshirt for when the sun goes down, and don't forget the bug spray – then settle in for a fin-tastic night at the pond!

Car stickers are NOT required for entry to Crocker Pond for this event. Let's have some fun!

**BATTLE**  
*with the Badges*

**SOFTBALL**  
*Tournament*

Grab your lawn chairs and bring the whole family for an action-packed, fun-filled evening as our local heroes trade their gear for gloves and go head-to-head on the softball field versus our Baseball/Softball Parent & Coach Volunteers!

**WESTMINSTER**  
BASEBALL & SOFTBALL

**5:00PM SUNDAY, JUNE 7TH**  
**SOUTH STREET FIELD ACROSS FROM THE TOWN HALL**

The Little League Snack Shack will be Open for Food & Drinks!



10th Annual 5K Run/Walk to benefit the Foundation's violence prevention, safety awareness & gender equality programs.

WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN  
PRINCETON, MA

Kids' Run (100 Yard Dash):

9:00 AM

5K Run/Walk:

9:30 AM

Virtual 5K Run/Walk:

9:30 AM

[REGISTER HERE](#)



**LET'S PLAY BALL, WESTMINSTER!**

Grab your lawn chairs and your hometown spirit because it's GAME TIME! Join us on **Sunday, June 7th at 5:00PM** for an action-packed softball showdown featuring our Police & Fire Departments vs. our awesome Baseball/Softball Coaches and Volunteers!

Come cheer on the teams, enjoy a warm summer evening, and celebrate what makes our community so special. Expect friendly competition, big laughs, and plenty of hometown fun for all ages!

**The Snack Shack will be OPEN!** Fuel up with burgers, hot dogs, chips, snacks, and ice cream treats! Every purchase helps support the baseball/softball program.

**FREE ADMISSION!** Bring your lawn chairs or blankets, as bleacher seating will be limited. **Location:** The field across from Town Hall. Please park respectfully in the school or Town Hall lots. No on-street parking on South Street.

We can't wait to see the community come together for a fun-filled evening!



**WooSox Town Takeover Day at Polar Park**  
**Tuesday, July 21st**  
**Supporting our local scouting troops!**

**BUY YOUR TICKETS HERE:**  
**[www.gofevo.com/event/westminster26](http://www.gofevo.com/event/westminster26)**



Proceeds from ticket sales will be benefitting our local Boy and Girl Scouting Troops. More details to come as we continue to coordinate the events of the day with the WooSox. But mark your calendars and save the date!

**TOWN WIDE**  
**YARD**  
**SALE**

**WESTMINSTER TOWN**  
**WIDE YARD SALE!**

Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>

Stop by the Historical Society at 110 Main Street for a map of the various sale locations and yard sales taking place across town.





## 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!



### SLOW DOWN & LOOK!

Though the speed bumps have been installed near Academy Hill Park, we must remind everyone to please look both ways when crossing the road. Cars should ONLY PARK on the side of the park, not on the green/gazebo side. This is for safety so that the roadway stays open and available emergency vehicles.

Thank you!

### KEEP IT CLEAN & SAFE!

A quick reminder to please follow the rules on the signs at Academy Hill Park! We appreciate your cooperation in helping to keep this special town resource safe and clean for all!



## Celebrating one year on July 5th

Stay tuned for upcoming details about our official playground celebration, taking place during the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Town Benefit Day on Sunday, August 9th!

### STAY OFF THE WALL!

Please do not climb on the historic stone walls near the playground. A lot of effort and cost was put into their restoration, along with extensive invasive plant removal. Climbing on, or moving the stones will degrade the wall and allow for the poison ivy, bees, etc. to return. We appreciate your understanding!



# Just a little reminder!

## **BBALL COURT & AREA**

This is a reminder to anyone using the basketball court next to the Town Hall... please follow the rules of the court. **TRASH MUST BE PICKED UP AND/OR THROWN OUT.** Also, a strict reminder that there are **NO BIKES OR BOARDS OF ANY TYPE ALLOWED ON THE COURT.** If these rules are not followed, use of the courts may no longer be allowed. Thank you for your understanding!

## **BASKETBALL COURT RULES**

1. TOWN CONDUCTED PROGRAMS HAVE PRIORITY OVEP ALL OTHER USES
2. USE OF COURTS ARE ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS EXCEPT AS PROVIDED BY RULE #1
3. THE COURTS MAY BE USED FREE OF CHARGE
4. SLAM DUNKING IS PROHIBITED
5. SMOKING AND ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE PROHIBITED
6. DOGS ARE PROHIBITED
7. SKATEBOARDS , SCOOTERS, BICYCLES ETC. ARE PROHIBITED
8. LOUD OR OBSCENE LANGUAGE IS PROHIBITED
9. THROW AWAY ALL TRASH, BOTTLES, ETC. OR COURTS MAY BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC
10. WHEN OTHERS ARE WAITING:
  - A) ONLY HALF COURT GAMES ARE ALLOWED
  - B) ONLY (1) GAME MAY BE PLAYED FOR A MAXIMUM OF THIRTY (30) MINUTES, AFTER WHICH THE COURT MUST BE RELINQUISHED
  - C) WARMING UP BEFORE A GAME MUST NOT EXCEED FIVE (5) MINUTES
  - D) WAITING PLAYERS MUST REMAIN IN PERSON AT THE COURT TO SAVE THEIR PRIORITY



## **2026 KIDS' SUMMER REC PROGRAM**

**ARTS & CRAFTS, GAMES, SPORTS, TEAM BUILDING, WATER FUN AND MORE FOR WESTMINSTER KIDS ENTERING GRADES 1 THRU 6 NEXT SCHOOL YEAR!**

### **2026 SUMMER REC SCHEDULE:**

**MONDAY-FRIDAY 8:30AM-12:30PM**  
**JULY 6-10 | JULY 13-17 | JULY 20-24**  
**JULY 27-31**

**Information: 978-874-7461 or [akirtland@westminster-ma.gov](mailto:akirtland@westminster-ma.gov)**

**FOR ADDITIONAL PROGRAM AND REGSITRATION DETAILS, PLEASE VISIT:**

**[facebook.com/parksandrec](https://facebook.com/parksandrec)**

**[westminster-ma.gov/parks-and-recreation](https://westminster-ma.gov/parks-and-recreation)**



Open to and  
**FREE!**  
for Westminster  
Residents  
ONLY!

**SUMMER REC IS HELD AT**  
**WESTMINSTER**  
**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**



## **WESTMINSTER SUMMER REC INFORMATIONAL HANDBOOK**



**We are still accepting applications for the summer of 2026.** All weeks are currently near the waitlist mark as of the sentinel's release date. Applications can be printed by visiting our parks and recreation [Town Webpage](#).

# FREE OUTDOOR YOGA

ALL ZEN CLIENTS AND WESTMINSTER TOWN RESIDENTS WELCOME!



## Calling all Westminster residents!

Join us every Wednesday morning through the Summer for a FREE yoga session on beautiful Academy Hill! 7:30-8:30am. Please bring your own yoga mat, towel for under mat and a water! We can't wait to see you! *\*Canceled for inclement weather.* Sign-up here:

<https://webapp.fitdegree.com/t/dashboard/live-schedule...>

Join us at the VFW for the first concert in the Westminster Village Foundation's Summer Concert Series!



PRESENT

# LAST CALL

Saturday, June 20 at 2 PM - 5 PM  
VFW Field  
3 Eaton Street, Westminster

**FUN FOR ALL AGES, FREE TO ATTEND**  
BOUNCE HOUSE | SNACK SHACK | BEVERAGES  
rain or shine – indoors if rain



ROCK & COUNTRY HITS  
JOIN THE PARTY & LET'S MAKE SOME NOISE TOGETHER!



The Westminster V.F.W.

# Cruise Night

every Tuesday  
thru Summer  
weather permitting



5p.m. - dusk  
978-874-2424

**BAR OPEN • BEER & GRILL**  
available outside

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 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th and August 5th.** 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: [www.facebook.com/westminstertownband](http://www.facebook.com/westminstertownband)

# MEMORIAL DAY OPENING WEEKEND

## DID YOU KNOW!?

Crocker Pond is not only a great place to hang at the beach, swim and enjoy the playground, but there are also hiking trails, a story walk, basketball court, volleyball, and activities taking place throughout the season!



This gem of Westminster is open to Town residents with parking permits. To secure your permit, stop at the gate at Crocker Pond with your license and registration and our staff will set you up for the season. Two parking permits per family/residence are allowed.



## 2026 DATES OF OPERATION:

- Season opening: May 23rd-May 25th
- Open Weekends only until June 20th-21st
- Open Daily June 22nd-August 23rd
- Open Weekends only August 29th-September 1st and September 6th-7th

## 2026 HOURS OF OPERATION:

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

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

## KAYAK PASSES/STORAGE

All kayaks left at Crocker Pond must be registered for the season by checking in at the gate. Space is limited.

## Key Points:

- Kayaks must be washed before being stored to avoid invasive species being brought in to the pond.
- A Lock & Chain are required when leaving kayaks.
- Paddles & life jackets need to be brought back and forth from home and cannot be stored with kayaks.



## Agricultural Commission Updates!



### 2026 Farmers' Market Entertainment Schedule

- May 22 - Tribe / Nate Grigos
- May 29 - John Sullivan
- June 5 - John Warren
- June 12 - Louis Arnold
- June 19 - Lizards in the Hayloft
- June 26 - Daniel Cate
- July 3 - Anna Perry
- July 10 - Hip Swayers
- July 17 - Casey LJ
- July 24 - Ralph DeFlorio
- July 31 - Jeff Mendoza
- Aug 7 - John Warren
- Aug 14 - Bob Jordan
- Aug 21 - Dr. Sway / Norman Bowne
- Aug 28 - Daniel Cate
- Sept 4 - Joe Reidy
- Sept 11 - Tribe / Nate Grigos
- Sept 18 - Chuck & Mud
- Sept 25 - Louis Arnold
- Oct 2 - Joe Pete as 3/N1
- Oct 9 - John Sullivan
- Oct 16 - The Westminster Strummers



# 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](http://www.facebook.com/westminsterfarmersmarket)



## VISIT WESTMINSTERMAFARMERSMARKET.COM/VENDORS FOR A FULL LIST OF THE 2026 MARKET VENDORS!



HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW  
 JULY 10, 2026



PEAK OF THE HARVEST AUGUST 21,  
 2026



ART IN AGRICULTURE SEPTEMBER 18,  
 2026

# Adams Street Comprehensive Permit (40B) Information & Schedule

Dates subject to change. Be sure to check the town website <https://www.westminster-ma.gov/minutes-and-agendas>

- 4/21** - What is a 40B? Overview & Introductions
- 5/19** - Traffic
- 6/16** - Stormwater
- 7/21** - Department / Peer Review / Board Comments
- 8/18** - Site Plan
- 9/15** - 2nd Round of Peer Review comments ( if needed )
- 10/6** - Conditions / Determination

\*\*\*Subject to Change\*\*\*

**QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS EMAIL [CALBERT@WESTMINSTER-MA.GOV](mailto:CALBERT@WESTMINSTER-MA.GOV)**



Please scan QR code for a link to all documents or find them under Zoning Board of Appeals > Pending Applications

<https://www.westminster-ma.gov/zoning-board-appeals/pages/pending-applications>

## WESTMINSTER BOARD OF HEALTH



Spring is a good time to get your well water checked! Please see the suggested companies below and report all results to the BOH.

Nashoba Analytical Lab  
31A Willow Road  
Ayer, MA 01432  
(978) 391-4428  
FAX (978) 391-4643  
[www.nashobaanalytical.com](http://www.nashobaanalytical.com)

Nelson Analytical  
Our new address:  
103 Monadnock Highway  
N. Swanzey, NH 03431  
Phone: 603-357-2577  
<https://www.eai-labs.com/>

## INFORMATIONAL PFAS MEETING

**JUNE 1ST | Time: 6:00pm-8:00pm**

Location: Community Senior Center, 69 West Main St.  
(an online, listen only option will be available, closer to the meeting date) check back for the link

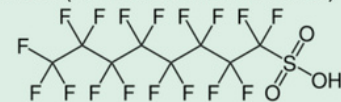
The following participants will be in attendance to answer questions:

- ◆ DPH
- ◆ DEP
- ◆ Westminster Board of Health
- ◆ Public Involvement Plan Petitioners

All residents of Westminster are welcome to attend. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) will provide a presentation and Q&A on a planned Westminster health evaluation. This Health Evaluation is applicable to all residents in Westminster!



PFOS (Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid)



PFOA (Perfluorooctanoic acid)





# Where to get ICE CREAM

## In (and around) Westminster

Looking for a place to help you cool off from the inside this summer!? See below for a round-up of some of our favorite local ice cream establishments!

Everyone knows about the big-name ice cream spots in the area, such as Kimball's in Lancaster, Cherry Hill in Lunenburg, or Rota-Springs in Sterling... but you don't have to go very far to find a delicious dish right here in our own hometown!



Located in the heart of town at 134 Main Street, The Vice not only fills the hunger void with creative sandwiches, but also serves up unique ice cream flavors, sundaes and other sweet treats!



Just a short drive from the center of town lies a long-running classic, Kay's Dairy Bar where you can enjoy classic New England foods, our famous lobster rolls, and a huge variety of soft-serve and hard ice cream flavors.



Large buildings not your thing!? You can always head just outside our borders to find Izzie's Ice Cream truck in Templeton, Pops Sweet-Harts roaming from their homebase in Gardner, or Maddy's Ice Cream Truck, who was recently highlighted for their "turn no child away" service statement in this article in **TODAY!**

### SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, August 9, 2026 | 11AM-4PM

Academy Hill exactly three months away from everyone's favorite summertime event!

We're back for the 39th (eep!) year in a row with all your tried-and-true favorites, and a few fresh surprises because we're traditional but also creative! Same incredible friends, neighbors, same mission, same "wow, this town really shows up" energy.

And because subtlety is overrated... there may be some limited edition, borderline iconic, super patriotic tie-dyes for America's 250th. No promises. But also... probably promises

### BEFORE that we've got:

- ✓ Volunteer night coming mid-June, stay tuned for details
- ✓ Mailers going out... repeatedly... aggressively... lovingly
- ✓ A steady stream of posts until you get a little tired of us in your newsfeed

Neighbors Helping Neighbors exists because of YOU. Donations, volunteers, showing up, spreading the word... that's the whole engine. Over the years, (ALMOST 40 of them omg) this event has helped hundreds of local families when they needed it most, and that doesn't happen by accident.

So if you're local and even thinking about getting involved - you won't regret it

Mark your calendars, support the cause, stay for the community, leave feeling like you're part of something that actually matters.

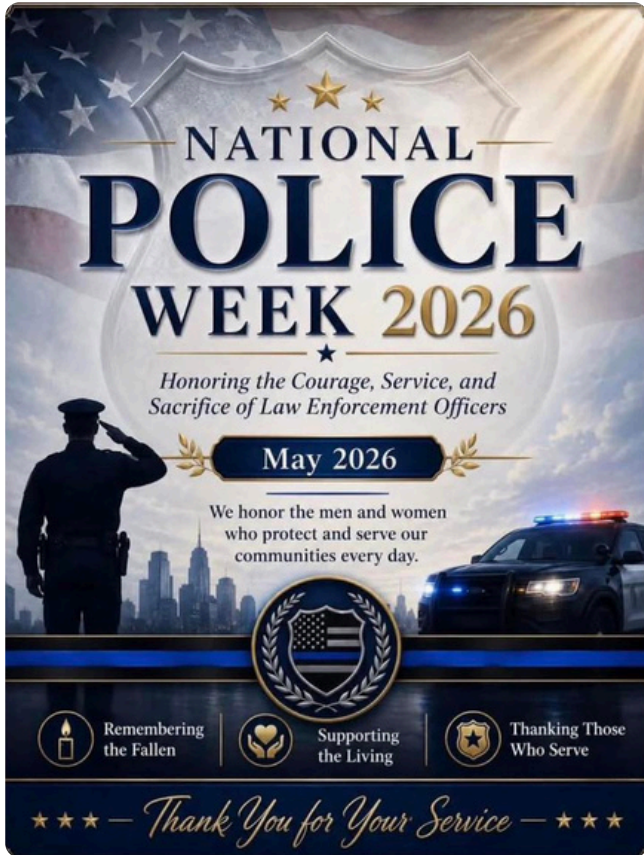


# SAVE THE DATE FOR TOWN BENEFIT DAY!



# TOWN OF WESTMINSTER *Massachusetts* POLICE BULLETIN

Check out the latest edition of the Westminster Police Bulletin! You can view all of the reports by visiting our [Police Department Police Bulletin town webpage](#) or stay up to date by viewing the latest reports and other police-related activities on their [Facebook Page](#).



In case you missed it, May 10-16 was National Police Week. During this time we pause to recognize and honor the courage, dedication, and sacrifice of law enforcement professionals across our nation. This week serves as a meaningful reminder of the men and women who put on the badge each day and commit themselves to protecting others, often at great personal risk.

We especially extend our sincere gratitude to the members of the Westminster Police Department for their continued service, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to the Westminster community. Their daily work goes far beyond responding to emergencies. They build relationships, support families, maintain public safety, and stand ready at all hours to help those in need.

The strength of a community is rooted in the people who serve it, and Westminster is fortunate to have officers who dedicate themselves so fully to that mission.

Please take a moment to thank the officers who serve our community, our Commonwealth, and our country. Their dedication, integrity, and sacrifice deserve our respect and appreciation not only during National Police Week, but throughout the entire year.

## Westminster Police Department - Fleet Design Update

You may notice a new look to our police vehicles around town.

As part of our ongoing efforts to modernize our patrol fleet, the Westminster Police Department is introducing an updated vehicle lettering and design package. This new design improves visibility, safety, and professionalism while strengthening our connection with the community.

The clean, consistent look makes our vehicles easier to recognize in emergencies and reflects our commitment to being approachable and engaged. A standardized design across the fleet also helps reduce long-term costs and improves overall efficiency.





**Gear Dryer** – We were able to utilize the new gear dryer this week following both our live-fire training exercises and the fire in Gardner. After incidents and training events, firefighters' protective clothing must be thoroughly cleaned and dried to remove smoke, soot, carcinogens, and other contaminants before being placed back in service. The new dryer significantly improves our ability to return gear to service quickly and safely. Using the dryer, we were able to wash and dry all sets of turnout gear in a fraction of the time previously required. In the past, drying gear could take four to five days, especially when multiple sets needed to be cleaned at the same time. With the new equipment, gear can now be cleaned, dried, and returned to service much more efficiently, helping ensure firefighters always have properly maintained protective equipment available for emergency responses and training. This equipment is an important investment in firefighter safety, operational readiness, and long-term health protection for our personnel.



**Engine Company Training** – Recently, firefighters conducted live-fire training with the new engine. When this engine was spec'd out, the hose beds were carefully evaluated to meet the different challenges we face throughout the community.

In the photograph below, you can see a larger 2.5-inch hose line that reduces down to 1.75-inch hose for the final two sections. The reason for this setup is that, with the large buildings in town and recent construction projects, firefighters are often required to stretch hose lines over long distances.

Stretching attack lines over long distances requires careful planning and layout; it is not as simple as just adding additional lengths of hose. As water flows through fire hose, it loses pressure due to friction created as the water rubs against the inside of the hose. We call this friction loss. The smaller the hose diameter, the greater the friction loss. To ensure firefighters have the correct fire flow, measured in gallons per minute at the nozzle. We target 185gpm as our target flow for fire attack. We utilize two different hose diameters; the larger hose allows more water to flow with less friction loss, enabling us to move water over greater distances without having to pump at extremely high pressures.

The hose line is then reduced to two sections of smaller hose for the handline used in fire attack. This setup gives firefighters a handline that is easier to maneuver while still providing the necessary fire flow for effective operations. Without flowing the appropriate amount of water, a hose line can look good but it is not supplying enough water to extinguish the fire and cool the environment creating a major safety concern. This is especially important in today's fire environment which burns hotter, faster and produces more smoke than ever before.



**Flag Pole** – Thank you very much to DPW for their assistance in installing the flagpole at the dept. monuments. This was the final piece of the move and had been delayed due to their extremely busy schedule and the winter season. Without their help, none of these moves would have been financially feasible for us.



DEPARTMENT  
OF  
PUBLIC WORKS

# RESIDENTIAL WASTE PICK-UP

## HOLIDAY DELAY



### Memorial Day Trash & Recycling Schedule Update

The Solid Waste Drop-Off Center will be closed on Monday, May 25, 2026, in observance of Memorial Day.

Recycling pickup will be delayed by one day that week:

- Monday, May 25 → Tuesday, May 26
- Thursday, May 28 → Friday, May 29
- Friday, May 29 → Saturday, May 30

Regular service will resume the week of June 1, 2026.

**CLOTHING & HOME GOODS FUNDRAISER**  
HELP WESTMINSTER SCOUTS TROOP 33 RAISE MONEY!  
TROOP 33 HAS PARTNERED WITH  
MASS VALUE THRIFT STORE & GARBAGE GURUS

**SATURDAY MAY 30TH 9AM - 12PM**  
BEHIND WESTMINSTER VFW - 3 EATON STREET  
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DROP DONATIONS OFF EARLY, TEXT  
(978) 790 7906 OR EMAIL TROOP33MAFUNDRAISING@GMAIL.COM

WESTMINSTER SCOUT TROOP 33 WILL RECEIVE CASH FROM  
MASS VALUE FOR THE DONATIONS COLLECTED!  
THIS MONEY WILL HELP SUPPORT CAMP OUTS AND OTHER GROUP ACTIVITIES,  
AND ALL OF THE ITEMS COLLECTED WILL BE SOLD FOR \$1-5 EACH AT  
MASS VALUE THRIFT STORE IN LEONISTER (300 HAMILTON STREET)

WE CAN ACCEPT ANY ITEMS IN THE AVERAGE HOME OTHER THAN LARGE  
FURNITURE, HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, BROKEN ELECTRONICS, OR TRASH

**ACCEPTABLE ITEMS INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:**

- ALL CLOTHING, SHOES & LINENS (NO BED PILLOWS)
- SMALL ELECTRONICS, COOKWARE & GLASSWARE
- COLLECTIBLES, DECORATIONS, WALL HANGINGS
- TOOLS, SPORTS EQUIPMENT, SMALL FURNITURE
- BOOKS, DVDS, CDS, RECORDS, VIDEO GAMES
- TOYS, PUZZLES, BOARD GAMES ETC.

EMAIL OR TEXT THE CONTACT ABOVE IF YOU ARE UNSURE ABOUT THE ITEMS YOU'D LIKE TO DONATE



Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day – Please see the following information regarding the upcoming hazardous waste collection day. For further information please check out the Solid Waste Drop Off Center website [Solid Waste Drop-Off Center \(Residents Only\)](#) | Town of Westminster MA

### Fitchburg and Westminster Residents Only 2026 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days Sponsored by Waste Management

Fitchburg/Westminster Landfill, 101 Fitchburg Road (RT 31S)  
June 20, 2026 and November 14, 2026  
These are Saturdays from 9:00am to 12:00pm.

REGISTRATION NO LONGER REQUIRED, any questions may be directed to Frank Sepiol, Environmental Protection Manager at (413) 519-3916 (cell)

#### The following SHOULD be brought to the Hazardous Household products collection:

Antifreeze*	DDT	Furniture Polish	Motor Oil*	Rodent killers
Art/photography supplies	Disinfectants	Gasoline	Moth ball	Septic tank cleaners
Automotive fluids	Dry gas	Herbicides	Muriatic acid	Spot removers/solvent
Button batteries*	Drain cleaners	Insect pump spray	Pesticides	Thermostats*
Car batteries*	Engine degreaser	Kerosene	Photographic supplies	Toilet bowl cleaners
Cresosote	Flea killers	Lead acid batteries*	Rechargeable batteries*	Varnishes
Chemistry sets	Fluorescent bulbs*	Metal polish	(Nickel-Cadmium)*	

Paint: oil, marine, lead, hobby wood preservatives & stains  
\*Check with recycling center, these items may be collected on a permanent basis.

#### PLEASE DO NOT BRING:

Air fresheners/deodorizers	Cosmetics	MEDICAL, INFECTIOUS WASTE
Alkaline/carbon zinc batteries	Empty containers	Nail polish
Ammunition	EXPLOSIVES	Oven cleaners, scouring powder
Asbestos	Fertilizer w/out pesticides	PCB's (transformers, ballasts)
Car waxes/polishes	Glass & window cleaner	Propane tanks/cylinders
	Latex products(e.g. driveway sealer)	Smoke detectors (radioactive)

Registration is no longer required, however proof of residency will be necessary at the site.

Vehicles will be taken in turn, beginning at 9am. 50 gallons of material maximum per vehicle however only 5 gallons of gasoline per vehicle

To transport your materials safely: Leave materials in original containers, do not mix chemicals. Use sturdy boxes, not bags, to pack your material. Do not smoke near the material.

Contractor reserves the right to reject unacceptable material.

## WARNING

**WYMAN LAKE TO BE TREATED ON  
THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2026**

THESE WATERS WILL BE/HAVE BEEN CHEMICALLY  
TREATED WITH SONAR (FLURIDONE) HERBICIDE TO  
CONTROL THE GROWTH OF NUISANCE AQUATIC  
VEGETATION

DO NOT USE THE WATER FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSE(S)  
UNTIL THE DATE NOTED BELOW:

SWIMMING, BOATING, FISHING	05/29/2026
IRRIGATION	08/29/2026

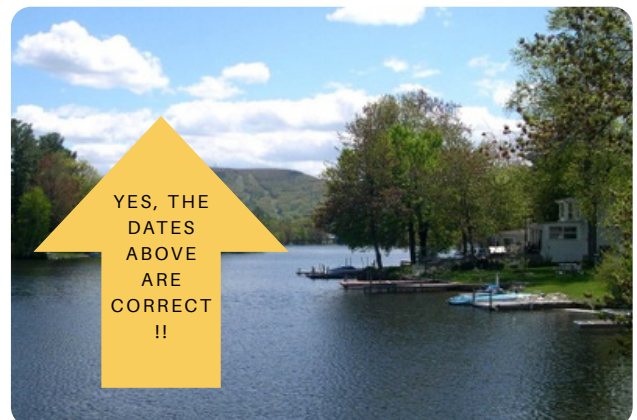
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:



590 Lake Street  
Shrewsbury, MA 01545  
508-865-1000

THIS CHEMICAL TREATMENT IS BEING CONDUCTED PURSUANT TO A PERMIT ISSUED BY THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (MASSDEP) AND AN ORDER OF CONDITIONS ISSUED BY THE WESTMINSTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION DEP FILE #335-0222

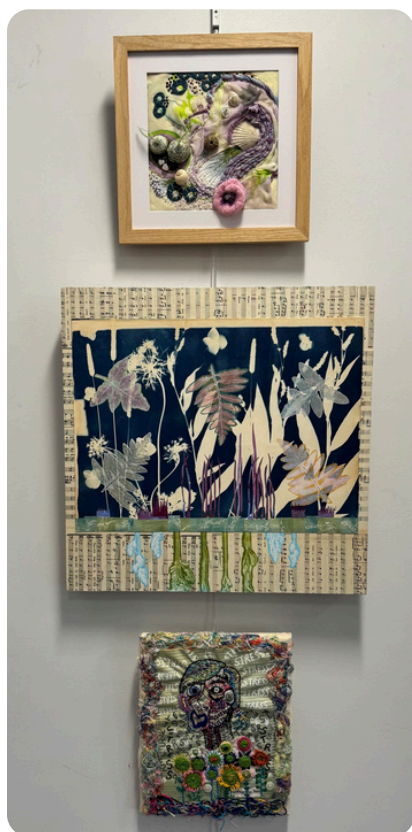
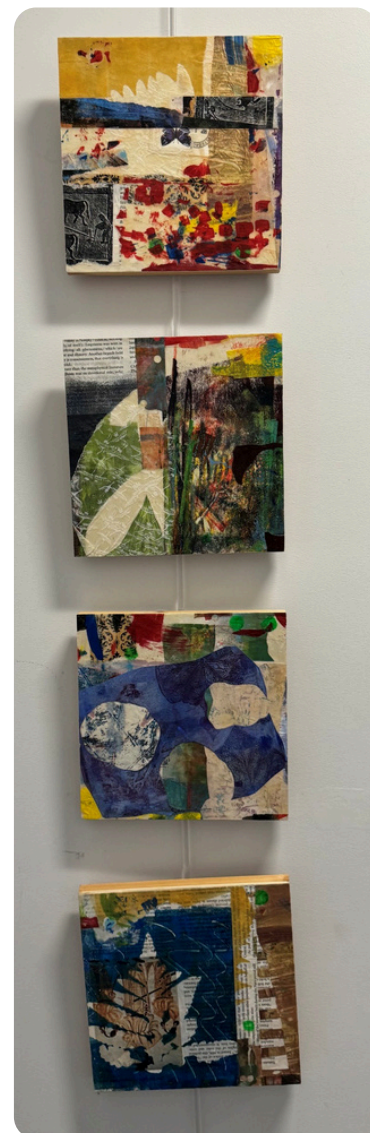
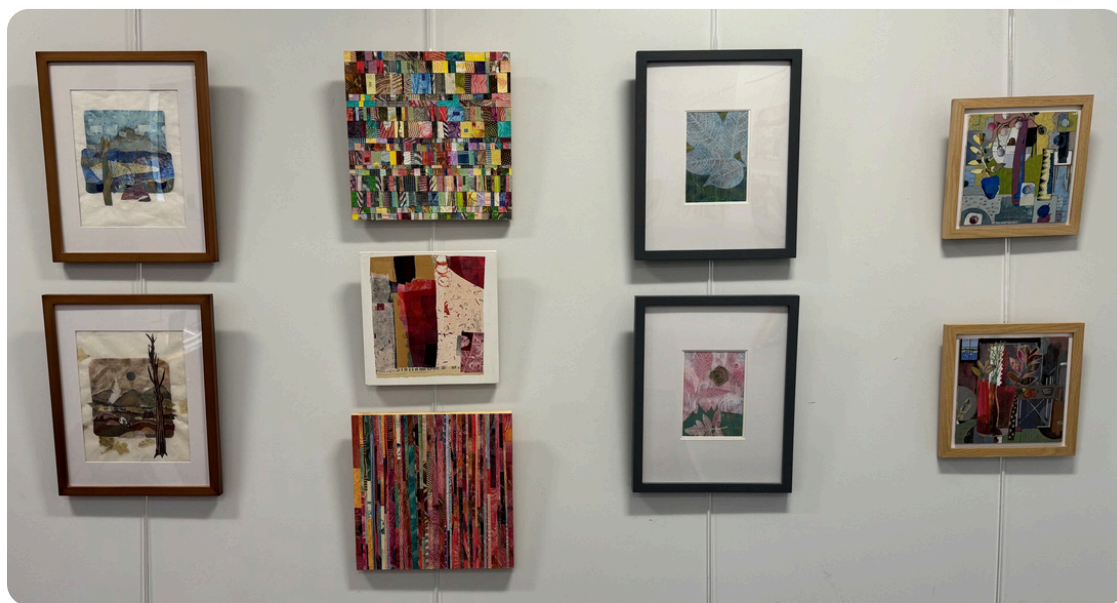
THIS SIGN MUST REMAIN POSTED 7 DAYS AFTER TREATMENT OR UNTIL THE LATEST DATE LISTED ABOVE



Currently Featured Artist:  
**ANN-MARIE LABOLLITA**

*Little Art  
Gallery*

**AT THE TOWN  
HALL**



*"I enjoy painting, printmaking, fiber and assemblage art. I explore color, texture, space and identity. I try to convey a sense of mood or atmosphere in both abstract and representational work. I use additive and subtractive methods when building imagery and often use plastic and packaging waste in addition to traditional materials.*

*Playing, exploration and spontaneity dominate my process. I rarely work with specific plans and let the unfolding dialog with the work guide me. If I'm working on a series it begins with a theme or a feeling. I find the process of making art meditative and healing and a way to give form to my experiences.*

*My art is about sharing how I view the world, and I hope these images resonate with the viewer."*



**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)



THE LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED ON SATURDAY, MAY 23<sup>RD</sup> IN OBSERVANCE OF MEMORIAL DAY! THE LIBRARY WILL ALSO BE CLOSED, PER THE USUAL SCHEDULE ON SUNDAY AND MONDAY MAY 24<sup>TH</sup> AND 25<sup>TH</sup> AS WELL.

**Better hours, better access.**

**NEW HOURS:**

Tuesday & Wednesday 9:30am-8pm  
Thursday & Friday 9:30am-6pm  
Saturday 9:30am-2pm  
Closed Sunday & Monday

starting 7/7!

A Friends of Forbush Event

And join us for our Bake Sale!!

Forbush Memorial Library

**Book Sale & Ice Cream!!**

Saturday  
June 13th  
10am-1pm

The activity announced here is not sponsored or endorsed by the Ashburnham Westminister Regional School District. It is offered by a private agency.

**KING KONG**

Still Top Banana

SATURDAY, JUNE 6  
11:00 AM  
ELORANTA ROOM

Weekend Cinema

**WOMEN OF '76:** A THEATRICAL TRIBUTE TO LESSER KNOWN WOMEN OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Presented by Rita Parisi of Waterfall Productions

**Tuesday, June 30  
6:00 PM  
Eloranta Room**

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Westminster Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Mass Cultural Council

Waterfall Productions  
Women, History, Literature, Theatre

**Summer Reading @ Forbush**

June 20-Aug. 15

Plant a seed, read  
Planta una semilla, lee

Read for prizes!

Events for all ages!

Learn more:

Forbush Memorial Library

The activity announced here is not sponsored or endorsed by the Ashburnham Westminister Regional School District. It is offered by a private agency.

# SCHOOL NEWS

**Early Release Day!**

**NO SCHOOL - MEMORIAL DAY  
MONDAY, MAY 25TH**

**EARLY RELEASE  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 27TH**

**Last DAY OF SCHOOL**

**THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL IS  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17TH**



Support your Oakmont Spartans and Overlook Eagles! View all of the athletic team schedules [HERE!](#)



## 5th Grade Town Flag Day Contest

Take a blank sheet of paper and draw your version of the American Flag. Below or next to that, write up what the American Flag means to you.

The Town of Westminister Community Services Director will collect all submitted entries and work with the Select Board to choose a Top 5. The winners will get to appear live on Community Access Television during the Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup> Select Board Meeting at 5PM where they will show their work and read their American Flag statements. All submissions will be displayed at the Town Hall leading up to Independence Day!

Submissions are due back to the school by Wednesday, June 3rd!



Ashburnham Westminister Regional School District - 2026-2027 Calendar

<b>APRIL (30)</b> 24-25: No School Now Teacher Orientation 24-28: No School Fast Days for Staff Professional Development 31: First Day of School Grades K-12	<b>FEBRUARY (19)</b> 15-19: No School February Break
<b>SEPTEMBER (20)</b> 4: No School Labor Day Weekend 7: No School Labor Day Weekend 8: First Day of School Kindergarten & Pre-K 14: Early Release	<b>MARCH (23)</b> 10: Early Release 24: Early Release
<b>OCTOBER (21)</b> 12: No School Columbus Day 21: Early Release	<b>APRIL (17)</b> 19-23: No School April Break
<b>NOVEMBER (17)</b> 3: No School Labor Day Weekend 11: No School Veterans' Day 25: Early Release 26-27: No School Thanksgiving	<b>MAY (20)</b> 28: Last Day for Seniors 31: No School Memorial Day
<b>DECEMBER (17)</b> 22: Early Release 24-31: No School December Break	<b>JUNE (11)</b> 2: Early Release 4: Graduation High School 15: TENTATIVE LAST DAY ** 16: Juneteenth (observe-d) ** pending unexpected days off
<b>JANUARY (18)</b> 1: No School New Year's 18: No School MLK, Jr. Day 25: No School Professional Development	Superintendent's Office: 978-827-1434 978-827-3042 Oakmont Regional High School: 978-827-8927 Overlook Middle School: 978-827-8750 J.R. Briggs Elementary School: 978-827-8750 Westminister Elementary School: 978-874-2643 Meetinghouse School: 978-874-0143 8:30am-2:55pm Early Release Times: Oakmont 11:04am Overlook 10:50am Elementary Schools 12:00pm Approved 3/11/2024

**THE 2026-2027 DISTRICT CALENDAR IS NOW AVAILABLE! [CLICK HERE TO VIEW IT!](#)**

Labor Day is later this year! The first day of school for grades 1-12 is August 31<sup>st</sup>, and the first day for preschool & K is Sept. 8th.

**Welcome to Overlook Middle School 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Presentation**

Wednesday, June 10  
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

**Oakmont Graduation**  
**May 29<sup>th</sup> @ 6PM**  
**at Arthur I Hurd Field**

**HAPPY SUMMER VACATION!**



# FROM THE TOWN CLERK

Please [CLICK HERE](#) for the results of the Annual Town Election held on Tuesday, April 28th!

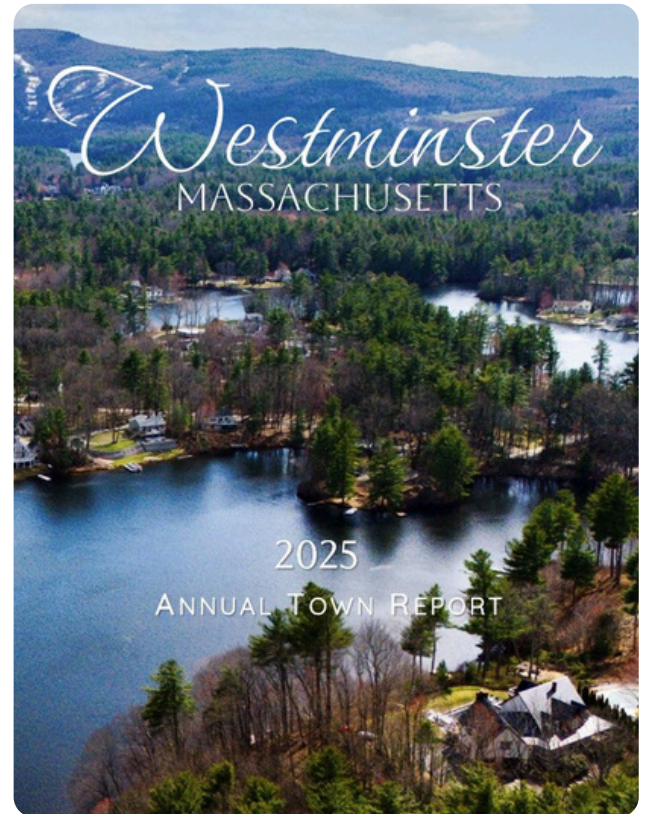


## **Episode 26: Staying Healthy This Summer, PFAS Update & Community Happenings**

In this episode Westminister Health Director Abby Conlin joins Stephanie to talk about summer health considerations, including mosquitoes, ticks, swimming safety, heat, and seasonal public health reminders. Abby also highlights the upcoming June 1 Board of Health PFAS informational session, including what residents can expect, the state agencies attending, how the public question period will work, and what we know about the upcoming Massachusetts Department of Public Health public health evaluation for Westminister. Plus, a recap of recent Select Board updates, share details on Memorial Day events, JAWS Night at Crocker Pond, the Adams Street 40B hearing schedule, and the Town Wide Yard Sale.

### **We want to hear from you!**

Have an idea for a podcast? A topic that you think should be covered? Are you a member of a 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@westminister-ma.gov](mailto:podcast@westminister-ma.gov).



Congratulations to Tamie Chiarelli for another AMAZING version of our Annual Town Report! Her hard work in putting this together does not go unnoticed! Please check out the 2025 Report which is filled with information about our amazing town!

[TOWN REPORT](#)

**Hosted by  
Town  
Administrator  
Stephanie  
Lahtinen**



Have an event coming up? Want to see something in the Sentinel? **Please send your ideas and details** to Community Services Director, Audra Kirtland: [akirtland@westminster-ma.gov](mailto:akirtland@westminster-ma.gov)

THE TOWN HALL WILL BE **CLOSED ON MONDAY, MAY 25TH** IN OBSERVANCE OF MEMORIAL DAY.

THE TOWN HALL WILL BE **CLOSED ON FRIDAY, JUNE 19TH** IN OBSERVANCE OF JUNETEENTH.

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

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

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

**"TOWN DUMP 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 for updates.



**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](http://www.westminster-ma.gov)