TOWN OF WESTMINSTER Mass

VOLUME 35 | DECEMBER 2026



WWW.WESTMINSTER-MA.GOV

The South Street SENTINEL

Stay Informed ~ Stay Connected ~ Stay Involved



There's something special about this time of year. The lights shine a little brighter, the gatherings feel a little warmer, and our community comes together to celebrate the traditions that make the holiday season so memorable. From festive celebrations and familiar faces to simple acts of kindness, December is all about making memories and sharing a little extra joy!





This month's newsletter is packed with holiday happenings, community updates, and plenty of reasons to get out and enjoy the season! From our annual Holiday Tree Lighting to other festive activities happening around town, there's something for everyone to enjoy. We look forward to celebrating with you, Westminster!



WESTMINSTER, MA COMMUNITY SERVICES
Creating Connections ★ Building Community

PROUDLY BROUGHT TO YOU BY
THE WESTMINSTER COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPT
11 SOUTH STREET, WESTMINSTER, MA 01473 | 978-874-7461 | EMAIL US

TOWN OF WESTMINSTER

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING RESULTS

NOVEMBER 17, 2026 | WESTMINSTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

15 ARTICLES | **141** ATTENDEES | **6:30 PM** START TIME

FINANCIAL & CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS

ARTICLE 1	Passed over — no prior-year bills to fund.
ARTICLE 2	$1,250,000 from Free Cash to Capital Equipment Stabilization.
ARTICLE 3	$1,000,000 from Free Cash to Pension Stabilization.
ARTICLE 4	$100,000 from Free Cash to the OPEB Trust Fund.
ARTICLE 5	$200,000 for Public Safety Building project management/design.
ARTICLE 6	$20,000 from Giles Fund for emergency home heating assistance.
ARTICLE 7	$8,000 for appraisal of land near Crocker Pond Recreation Area.

PUBLIC SAFETY & PERSONNEL

ARTICLE 8	Created a full-time Fire Department Captain position.
ARTICLE 9	Created a full-time Police Department Patrolman position.
ARTICLE 10	Created a full-time Police Department Sergeant position.
ARTICLE 11	$35,340 from Ambulance Receipts for paramedic training.

BYLAWS, ZONING & HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ARTICLE 12 — **Approved creation of a Town Historical Commission.**
This article was requested by the Historical Commission members and serves to establish a Historical Commission by general bylaw and sets out its membership, purpose, powers, duties, and activities. This will codify the existing Historical Commission and give them permanence in our bylaws.

ARTICLE 13 — **Amended multi-family overlay district parking standards.**
This article removes the maximum of one parking space per bedroom per unit in the Multi-Family Overlay District. The requirement for walkways connecting parking areas to structures remains.

ARTICLE 14 — **Added data center definition; prohibited use in listed districts.**
This article defines Data Centers as a distinct use and lists that use as prohibited in all zoning districts shown in the table, effectively banning Data Centers in Westminster.

ARTICLE 15 — **Revised Pleasant Street heavy commercial vehicle restriction.**
This article revises the Pleasant Street segment listed in the heavy commercial vehicle restrictions to extend from Bacon Street southerly to Main Street (Route 2A), in place of the segment from Overlook Road to Elliott Street.

All motions carried except Article 1, which was passed over.

Articles 12 through 15 will go to the Attorney General for approval.

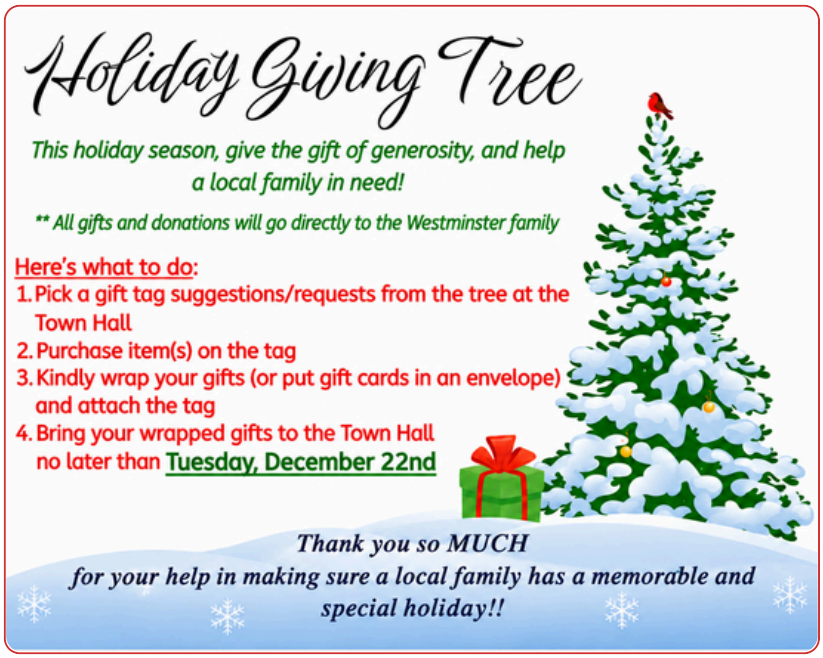
Summary of the official Town Clerk proceedings. Refer to the full minutes for exact bylaw language.

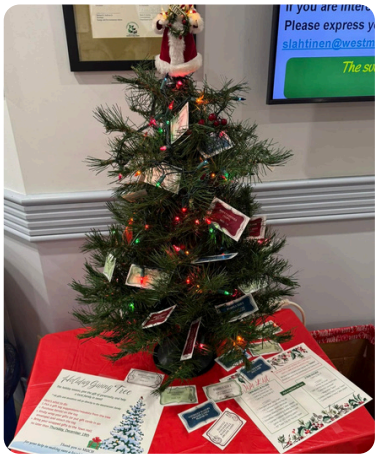
FUEL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Town Fuel Assistance Apps will be available at the Senior Center and on the Town website 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. Applicants are able to receive a benefit once during the season. The EHHAP will be administered through the Emergency Home Heating Assistance Committee, appointed by the Select Board. Information provided will be kept confidential.







This holiday season, give the gift of generosity, and help a local family in need! The annual Town Hall giving tree will be set up the first week of December with tags you can stop by and pick up to contribute to this wonderful cause! Let's make this holiday season special for a wonderful Westminster family!



LIONS CLUB CHRISTMAS TREE SALES ARE NOW OPEN FOR THE SEASON – 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 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 Lions Club of Westminster! Either way, you are helping us to help others in need. We help those with eyesight needs, diabetes, school organizations/scholarships, community and world needs of those less fortunate. WE SERVE. Your support is very appreciated and it all goes to a good cause.

WESTMINSTER, MA
COMMUNITY SERVICES
Creating Connections ★ Building Community

STAY UP TO DATE WITH WHAT'S GOING ON IN Westminster

FACEBOOK.COM/
WESTMINSTERMACOMMUNITYSERVICES



Join the Lions Club and
Parks & Recreation Department for

BREAKFAST With Santa



Sunday, December 20th
8:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Westminster VFW

3 EATON STREET

- Photos with Santa
- Holiday Music
- Lions Club Holiday Lottery Tree Raffle

Pancakes & Syrup, Ham, Coffee & Juice
$6 per person

Proceeds to benefit the Westminster Food Pantry



BOARD OF HEALTH UPDATE

Yearly Permits – Due January 1, 2027

Letters have been sent out for yearly renewals for **Food Establishments, Tobacco Retailers, Septage Haulers, Septic Installers, Title 5 Inspectors, and Trash Haulers.**

Please contact the office if you have not received this or need an application!



Tax Savings for Seniors

Thank you to all of our seniors who participated in the 2026 Senior Tax Work Off Program! Information for 2027 will be available in the January newsletter! Please reach out to Senior Center Director of Elder Services, Kailee, for more details about the program and what different opportunities exist to get involved!

Friends of Forbush present:

PICTURES WITH SANTA

Saturday, December 12th, 11-12pm

Bring the family to take photos with Santa and enjoy a festive day of holiday fun! We'll have hot chocolate, a book sale, bake sale, craft fair, and children's crafts!

Bring your own camera.
A $5 suggested donation is appreciated.
Cash only!

Elsie's Elves TOY DRIVE 2026



Help us bring Christmas joy to local children and families in need this holiday season!

DONATION DEADLINE: December 11th

What donations are accepted:
- New, unwrapped toys
-New, clothing with tags
- Games and puzzles
- Arts and crafts
- Gift cards
- Gifts for all ages 0-17!

Drop Off Locations:
Ashburnham Police Department
Westminster Police Department
J.R Briggs Elementary School
Westminster Elementary School
Overlook Middle School
Oakmont High School



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

Please reach out to Elsieselves222@gmail.com with questions

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WESTMINSTER'S WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

2nd Annual Holiday Door Swag Sale

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH | 10AM-2PM



CRAFTED WITH CARE, FRESH GREENS, ASSORTED RIBBONS AND OTHER PRETTY THINGS!

COST: $20 EACH

If you need multiple swags with matching ribbons and greens, please pre-order by calling or texting Sammi Dawley: 978-430-9359 by Monday November 23rd

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP TO FULFILL THEIR MISSIONS WITHIN THE CHURCH AND COMMUNITY.

SALE LOCATED ON THE FRONT STEPS OF THE CHURCH (138 MAIN STREET, WESTMINSTER)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

WESTMINSTER Village Foundation PRESENTS

ANNUAL WESTMINSTER CRACKER FESTIVAL
OCTOBER 16, 2027

- Two Free Summer Concerts
  VFW • TBA in July/August
- Permanent Downtown Holiday Lights
- Westminster Dog Show 2021/22
- Many Projects Done - More to do

PLEASE JOIN US
December 6th, 2026
BLUEPRINT NEW AMERICAN BAR AND GRILL

Holiday Lighting Celebration 5pm
FREE Christmas Jazz Concert • 5-8pm
Hot Chocolate • Cookies for the Kids

Be part of what we do! Join our committee or volunteer.
info@crackerfestival.com or call Joe Serio 978-870-2361



Visit wachusett.com for details and tickets









WESTMINSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWS & UPDATES



Westminster Police Department Welcomes Officer Hiram Velazquez

The Westminster Police Department is pleased to welcome Officer Hiram Velazquez to our team. Officer Velazquez was formally sworn in as a Westminster Police Officer on Monday evening, November 2, 2026, during the Westminster Select Board's regularly scheduled meeting.

Officer Velazquez brings nine years of law enforcement experience, having previously served in neighboring communities. His experience and knowledge will be valuable assets to our department as we continue our commitment to providing professional police services to the residents of Westminster.

Please join us in welcoming Officer Velazquez to the Westminster Police Department. We look forward to his contributions to our department and the community we proudly serve.







Check out the latest edition of the Westminster Police Bulletin!

TOWN OF WESTMINSTER Massachusetts POLICE BULLETIN

You can view all reports by visiting the Police Bulletin town webpage or stay up to date by viewing the latest reports and other police-related activities on their department's Facebook Page.

WESTMINSTER FIRE DEPARTMENT

NEWS & UPDATES

Happy holidays from Westminster Fire Local 4911!

This holiday season, Westminster Fire Local 4911 is proud to be participating in Homeless for the Holidays at Vincent's Country Store! Our members will be spending 24 hours camped out in support of Elsie's Elves, Neighbors Helping Neighbors, and two local food pantries. Throughout the event, we'll be collecting monetary donations (cash and checks), new toys, and nonperishable food items to help support these wonderful local organizations and families in need.

We invite everyone to stop by, say hello, and show your support on December 5th and 6th. Every donation, big or small, makes a difference. Thank you for helping us spread some holiday cheer and give back to our community! We look forward to seeing you! Happy holidays from Local 4911



SAFE Grant – Congratulations to Lt. Lemoine who successfully obtained the SAFE Grant which helps support and offset the costs of providing school-based and community-based fire education activities.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
STATE HOUSE BOSTON, MA 02133
(617) 725-4000

MAURA T. HEALEY
GOVERNOR

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

November 3, 2026

Dear Chief Butterfield:

Congratulations! We are pleased to inform you that the Town of Westminster has been awarded $2,629.42 for the Student Awareness of Fire Education (SAFE) program and $1,202.82 for the Senior SAFE program in FY27.

The SAFE Program has provided immeasurable benefits to the Commonwealth since its inception, and we are so proud to be continuing that tradition again this year. Please know how thankful we are for your ongoing dedication to educating and protecting our most vulnerable populations.





Rope Rescue Tech – The Westminster Fire Department recently hosted the Massachusetts Fire Academy's advanced Rope Rescue Technician class, providing specialized training in rope systems, rappelling, ascending, mechanical advantage systems, and safely rescuing patients from difficult-to-access locations. These skills are especially important in Westminster, where areas such as Wachusett Mountain and Crow Hill Ledges present unique rescue challenges. In fact, Crow Hill is one of the region's premier climbing destinations, with cliffs reaching over 100 feet high and emergency responses occurring there annually. This valuable training strengthens the department's technical rescue capabilities and enhances its ability to respond safely and effectively to challenging emergencies. Special thanks to Lt. Alden and Pvt. Logan for participating in the training and helping expand the department's rescue capabilities!



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.

RESIDENTIAL WASTE PICK-UP

HOLIDAY DELAY



Due to the upcoming holiday, residential waste pick-up will be delayed by one day for Thursday and Friday routes.

- **Collection scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 26, is expected on Friday, Nov. 27.**
- **Collection scheduled for Friday, Nov. 27, is expected on Saturday, Nov. 28.**

Please place your cart at the curb on your adjusted collection day and keep it clear of parked vehicles and other obstacles.

For questions about collection, please contact Waste Management directly at (800) 972-4545.

Thank you for your patience and have a happy and safe Thanksgiving!

****The Town Dump will be open during regular operating hours on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.***

REMINDER!

FY27 Water/Sewer Bills for Quarter 2 are due

Thursday, December 3rd!

TOWN HALL HOURS

Monday: 7:00am – 7:00pm
Tuesday – Thursday: 7:30am - 4:30pm
Fridays: Closed
(cash or check at the counter)

AFTER-HOUR CONVENIENCE

A locked drop box is located in front of the Town Hall for ***checks only.***

PAY ONLINE

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

If you do not receive your bill, please contact the Treasurer/Collector's Office.

QUESTIONS ABOUT BILLING DATES, RATES, OR USAGE?
Contact the Dept. of Public Works at 978-874-5572.
DPW Office Hours: 7:00am to 3:30pm, Monday through Friday.

VOLUNTEER

Make a Difference IN WESTMINSTER

Our Community NEEDS YOU!

Do you enjoy meeting people, being part of community events and having fun? The Town of Westminster is looking for volunteers to help out at community events!

We have some great events in the works – and now all we need is YOU!

COMMUNITY EVENTS · PARKS & RECREATION · TOWN PROGRAMS · & SO MUCH MORE!

Stronger Together
PEOPLE • EVENTS • COMMUNITY

Contact Audra at **978-874-7461** or email **akirtland@westminster-ma.gov**

Get Involved!

Christmas

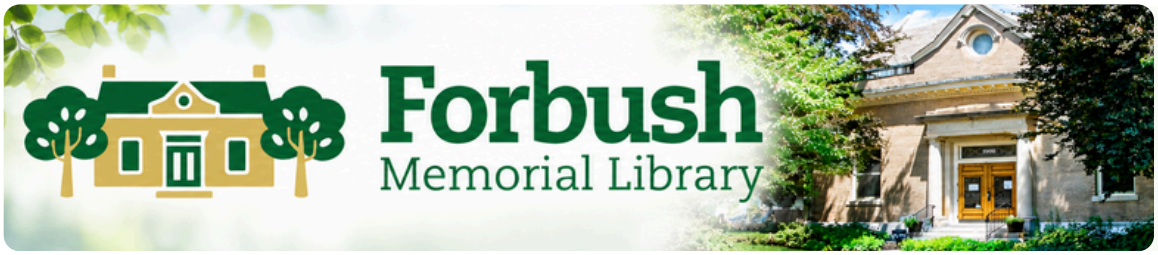
Word Search

Name: _____

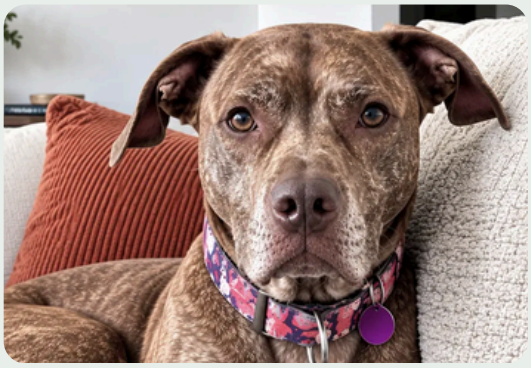
S L E S N O W M A N S T A R S
T F N R Z Q G R E E T I N G S
O C R F R O S T Y Y J I N A G
C Z A U E O Q M T M Y I P Y B
K F A M I L Y I M Q D B L A H
I S R R F T V G W I A N G E L
N L C P E I C E T R N V V P D
G E Y H T I U A S Q E I F J S
F I F A R W N Z K M C A B B R
Z G N P I I E D F E A S T T Y
X H U R B J S G E Y O N U H L
Y Q S P I R I T G E Q E G Q H
S S C O L G P K M N R O A E Z
P Q B G I F T C Q A O O P C R
P R E S E N T S G J S G Y X S

Word list:

ANGEL
CHRISTMAS
EGGNOG
ELVES
FAMILY
FROSTY
FRUITCAKE
GIFT
GREETINGS
MANGER
NATIVITY
PRESENTS
REINDEER
SLEIGH
SNOWMAN
SPIRIT
STAR
STOCKING
TIDINGS
WREATH



HOURS:
Tue/Wed: 9:30am-8:00pm
Thur/Fri: 9:30am-6:00pm
Sat: 9:30am-2:00pm
Sun/Mon: Closed



Paint an Adoptable Dog

December 2nd-3rd

We've partnered with Westminster-based pit bull rescue Crops and Flops for a very special painting event! Sign up to paint a portrait of one of their adoptable dogs and help them find their new fur-ever home. Kids ages 6+, teens, and adults are all welcome to sign up for a take-home kit. Register by Dec. 1 to pick up a kit on Dec. 2-3.



Surround Sound Christmas Concert

Saturday, December 12th, 11-12pm

Surround Sound, a local a cappella chorus, will be spreading some holiday cheer with a concert at Forbush! All ages are invited to this performance of holiday favorites!

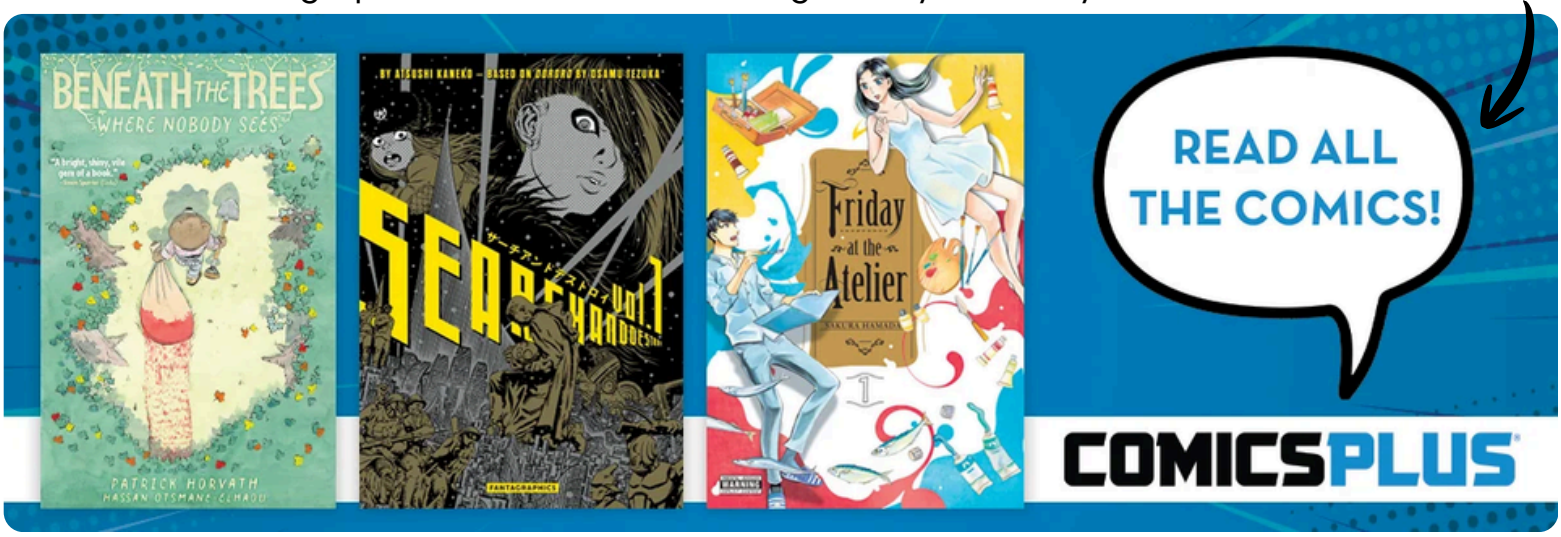


Sparks, Shadows, and Epic Romantasy with Helen Scheuerer

December 3rd, 7-8pm, VIRTUAL

Join a virtual conversation with bestselling fantasy author Helen Scheuerer and delve into her thrilling new novel, Kiss of the Black Flame. Register to get a link to access the program and to submit author questions!

Get thousands of graphic novels, comics, & manga with your library card! No waitlists, no holds!



Youth Activities at Forbush



MOC CFCE Playgroup

December 10, 10-11am
Ages 0-6

Join us for a morning of creating, exploring and sharing! You and your little one(s) will enjoy toys, art activities, stories, and more!

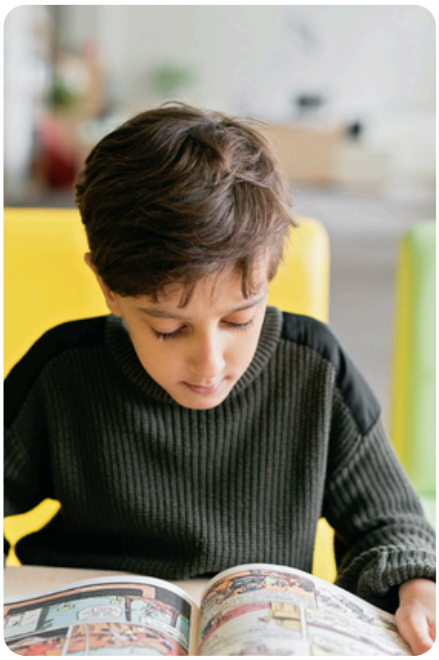
MOC CFCE is a program funded by the Department of Early Education and Care.



Chapter Book Book Club

December 3, 4-5pm
Grades K-2

Each month we'll read a chapter book selected just for this age group, then do a fun activity based on the book. This month's book is Stink by Megan McDonald. Kids can choose any book in the series! A parent/guardian is required to stay for this program.



Graphic Novel Book Club

December 15, 4:30-5:30pm
Grades 3-5

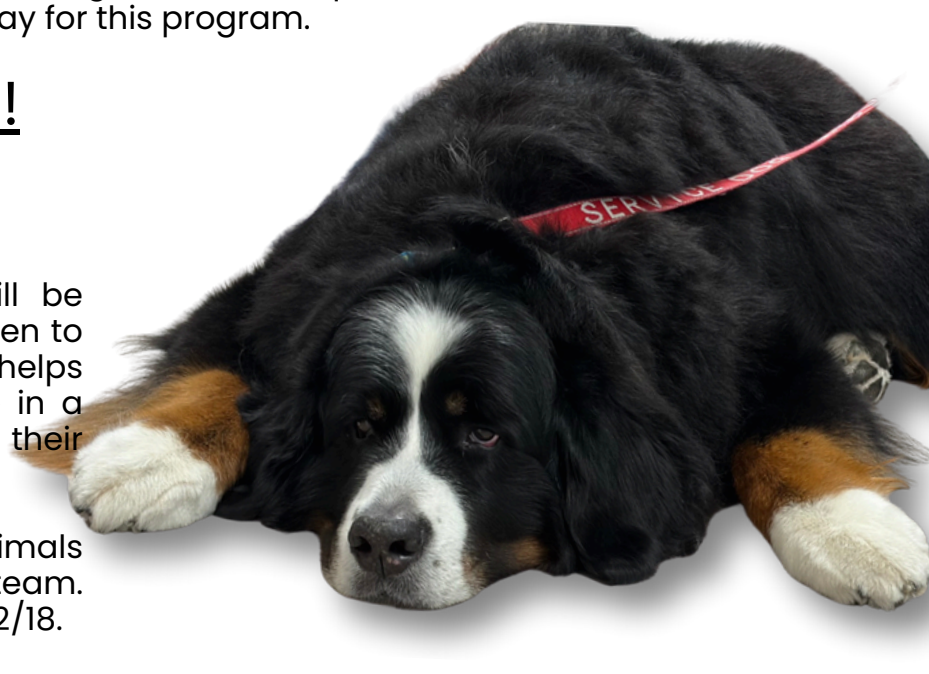
Each month, we dive into a new graphic novel and pair it with a hands-on activity that brings the story to life. Copies available at the Children's Room desk.

Read with TheraPAWS!

December 18, 4:30-5:30pm
Grades preK+

The BePAWSitive Therapy Pet team will be bringing therapy pets to the library to listen to stories! Reading aloud to animals helps readers and emerging readers practice in a safe environment and gain confidence in their reading skills.

Sponsored by Friends of Forbush. Animals provided by BePAWSitive Therapy Pet team. Register in person starting at 3:30pm on 12/18.



AWRSD
ASHBURNHAM-WESTMINSTER REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL NEWS

AWRSD | OAKMONT REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL | OVERLOOK MIDDLE SCHOOL | JOHN R. BRIGGS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL | WESTMINSTER/ MEETINGHOUSE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL | MONTY TECH



REMINDER!
NO SCHOOL
THURSDAY/FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 26-27

OAKMONT GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY TAKES HISTORIC LEAGUE TITLE

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SCHOOL HISTORY, THE GIRLS' CROSS COUNTRY TEAM HAS WON A LEAGUE TITLE! WITH THIS HISTORIC WIN, EVERY OAKMONT HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS TEAM HAS NOW EARNED A LEAGUE TITLE. CONGRATULATIONS!



MHS / WES REMINDER:
HELP US KEEP OUR SCHOOL HEALTHY!
PLEASE KEEP YOUR CHILD HOME IF THEY ARE SICK.

WHEN TO STAY HOME (SYMPTOMS)

1. **FEVER** 100°F (37.8°C) OR HIGHER
2. **PERSISTENT COUGH** Severe or constant cough.
3. **SORE THROAT** Accompanied by other symptoms.
4. **VOMITING** Vomiting within the last 24 hours.
5. **DIARRHEA** Three or more loose stools in 24 hours.
6. **RASH OR SKIN INFECTION** New and unexplained rash.
7. **RED EYES** Redness, itching, or discharge.

HOW LONG TO STAY HOME (RETURN GUIDELINES)

1. **FEVER FREE** MUST BE FEVER-FREE FOR AT LEAST 24 HOURS (without fever-reducing medication like ibuprofen or acetaminophen).
2. **VOMITING & DIARRHEA FREE** FREE OF VOMITING & DIARRHEA FOR AT LEAST 24 HOURS
3. **COUGH IS IMPROVED** Significant improvement in symptoms. Energetic enough for school.
4. **AFTER STARTING MEDICATION** e.g., for pinkeye (24 hours on drops) or Strep (24 hours on antibiotics).

CONSULT YOUR DOCTOR for specific advice on contagious conditions (flu, strep, COVID).

OTHER HEALTHY HABITS:

WASH HANDS FREQUENTLY! | COVER COUGHS & SNEEZES! | DON'T SHARE DRINKS OR UTENSILS!

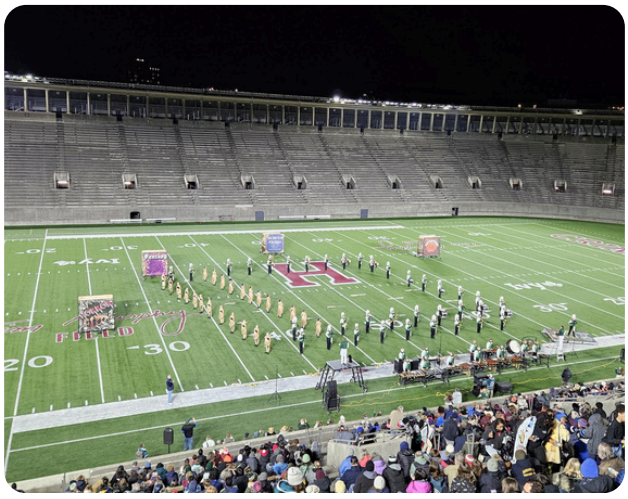
THANK YOU FOR HELPING US KEEP EVERYONE HEALTHY!



Oakmont-Overlook Marching Spartans

A HUGE WIN!

Marching Spartans Become NESBA Division Four Champions - by Jacob Desrosiers, Reporter





On October 31st, for the first time ever, our own Marching Spartans traveled to Harvard Stadium to compete in the NESBA Division Four Finals! The location was an unfamiliar venue for the Spartans. It marks the largest and most prestigious venue we as a band have ever performed at. We ventured blind into the dark with the hope of maintaining our undefeated record this season, and being crowned the title of Division Four Champions.

In 2014, the Marching Spartans set a high bar, winning the Division Three Championship with a score of 96.00 while performing their show titled "Rhapsody". More recently, we found success in 2023 when we won the Division Three title for the second time, with our show, "A Grimm Tale". Last fall, our Spartans broke Platinum for the first time since 2017 with their show "Uncaged". Being motivated by the cognizance that we were on track to make history, we pushed on with every last ounce of energy to make the most out of our new season.

Beginning all the way back on June 11th, our 2026-2027 Spartans gathered for the first rehearsal of our show "The Pagemaster". Each year these early rehearsals are brought with a lot of apprehension from our staff and upperclassmen who wonder whether we will be able to uphold the high expectations of the group after each class of seniors graduate. Tied to this apprehension is hope! This leads the staff to challenge us and push us to exceed the expectations that we hold for ourselves. Through the summer and the tough week of band camp, our students become committed to the idea of achieving excellence, and our program begins to show much potential.

In the blink of an eye, the countdown begins for the remaining hours left in our season. What was once just a group of musicians and dancers has become a family. As we took our position on the field at Harvard stadium and were called to attention, the adrenaline we all felt began to boil with excitement and confidence.

Every last moment of the hundreds of hours we spent together rehearsing this show was unleashed like a wave of energy into the audience. As we moved around the field in coordinated forms whilst playing technical musical phrases or spinning equipment with intricate precision, the magic of the marching arts hit our audience with immense force. As we moved into our final position and played our final sustain, an indescribable feeling washed over every single member on the field that night; the feeling of knowing that you just achieved greatness. In the stands, we were all awaiting further validation by the judges. We wondered whether we might have broken the school record.

Indeed, the Marching Spartans did make history that night, scoring a 96.13 and winning four out of the six high caption awards! These include, Best Music, Best Visual, Best Colorguard, and Best Overall Effect. This also marks Oakmont's first NESBA championship title in Division Four.

None of this could have been achieved without the support of our Oakmont-Overlook Music Parents Association, instructional staff and design team, and our volunteers that help with uniforms, props, and chaperoning. Most of all, we could not have done this without our band director, Mr. Demoura, who dedicates his life to music education.

–With Pride!



Jingle and Mingle

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16TH

Doors open at 12:00 PM | Lunch served at 12:30 PM | Followed by festivities!

'Tis the season to celebrate! Join us for a special holiday buffet luncheon by McNally's Catering, music, raffles, door prizes, a 50/50, and a special 'regift an item you no longer need' Yankee Swap! Cost for the luncheon is **$15** and raffles will be sold separately. All proceeds will go to support the Westminster Food *Pantry*!

Sign-up at the front desk. Payment is due at the time of signing up.

All are welcome!

JOIN US FOR A

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

SHORT TERM REHAB & HOME CARE TALK

DECEMBER 15TH 9AM

COME JOIN US FOR PANCAKES, INFORMATION TALK AND HOLIDAY BINGO

SPONSORED BY
LIFE CARE CENTER OF LEOMINSTER, THE HIGHLANDS AND CARE CENTRAL VNA & HOSPICE

Sign up at Senior Center

SENIOR LEARN TO BOWL EVENT

Let's go out!

AT GARDNER TEN PINS
560 West Broadway, Gardner, MA 01440

December 21st
12:00PM - 1:30PM

FREE Senior Learn to Bowl event!

Whether you're brand new to bowling or haven't bowled in years, everyone is welcome!

FREE Bowling • FREE Shoe Rental • Friendly Instruction

Ways to Sign Up:

Sign up at Senior Center if you want to attend

If you need the van let us know and it will leave center at 11:30

GTP GARDNER TEN PINS

FREE HEARING TESTING

Hear more of life's little moments!

Wicked Good Hearing LLC
Fitchburg, MA

Ask the Desk to Help Sign Up for an Appointment!

MART VAN SERVICES

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICIES

As the weather changes, the Council on Aging van service aligns with Westminster school closings.

If the schools are CLOSED, **THE VAN WILL NOT RUN.**
If the schools are DELAYED, **THE VAN WILL BE ON SCHEDULE.**

SENIOR CENTER: Please visit the town website, www.westminster-ma.gov for closings or opening delays. The Senior Center will mimic the Town Hall's schedule.

PLEASE REACH OUT IF YOU NEED ANY HELP DUE TO THE COLD WEATHER AND POTENTIAL SNOW!

Meeting Reminder!

NEXT COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD MEETING!
Tuesday, Dec. 8th at 11:30am - AT THE SENIOR CENTER

ALL ARE WELCOME! Please feel free to join us, or suggest items to add to the agenda ahead of the meeting!

COA MART VANS

Operating Monday - Friday | 8AM - 4PM

Call the Senior Center for a Ride: 978-874-7402

Please note that a minimum 48-hour notice is required. While we will make every attempt to accommodate last minute requests, we cannot guarantee day-of services.

Van services are free at this time!



Episode 37: Sammi Dawley and Matt Jatkola of the Westminster Cultural Council

This week on The Town Crier, Stephanie welcomes Westminster Cultural Council Chairwoman Sammi Dawley and newest member Matt Jatkola for a conversation about the people, programs, and creativity that make our community special! Learn how local arts funding works, what goes into awarding Cultural Council grants, and how local artists can showcase their talents at the Little Art Gallery in Town Hall.

Plus, we recap a fantastic Halloween in Westminster, catch up on the latest Select Board meeting, and take another look at the upcoming November 17 Special Town Meeting.

Calling all artists! The Little Art Gallery is accepting applications for its 2027 exhibition calendar! Interested artists are encouraged to reach out to Gallery Liaison Matt Jatkola at matthewjatkola@gmail.com for more information. The priority application deadline is December 13, 2026.

Episode 38: What Westminster Voted For: Special Town Meeting Recap

In this solo admin update, Stephanie catches you up on what's happening around Westminster. More than 140 residents came out for Special Town Meeting, and she walks through what passed, from the next phase of design for the Public Safety Building to heating assistance for local households and an appraisal of land next to Crocker Pond.

Plus, a recap of the November 16 Select Board meeting, a first look at Fletcher, the Police Department's prospective new comfort dog, and a few community updates. Find out how to watch the Board of Health's public health study discussion, hear how Westminster's first community pasta dinner went, and get a preview of what's coming up in December at the Senior Center and Forbush Memorial Library.

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! Reach out to Stephanie Lahtinen with your comments or ideas: podcast@westminster-ma.gov.

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From Episode 37...

The Westminster Cultural Council is seeking applicants to display at the Little Art Gallery inside Town Hall for 2027!

It is free to apply and exhibit! The priority deadline is December 13. You can apply at by visiting HERE!

Are you interested in getting involved in arts and culture in Westminster? We'd love to hear from you! Consider joining the council!



Little Art Gallery

AT THE TOWN HALL





Afterimages

Photos by Bob Parlin

Bob Parlin has had a passion for photography since he was given a camera at the age of seven. Retired after 35 years as a high school teacher, Bob now travels the world in the search for new sights and experiences, capturing vivid images on film. A lifelong resident of MA, Bob has visited all fifty U.S. States and more than sixty countries in his ongoing endeavor to explore beguiling scenes of nature, colorful locales and fascinating people.

My "Afterimages" photography exhibit centers on experiences, especially those tied to moments of beauty, where an image stays with you long after seeing it. My favorite photographs capture creations of nature and humanity, revealing how truly breathtaking our world is. I hope they give the viewer a sense of both wonder and joy. *NOTE: None of these images has been altered in any way - not even cropped. Except for the canvases, every photo was taken with an iPhone 13 Pro.* If interested in purchasing a piece, please contact Bob at brobsf@comcast.net or text 617-460-4272.













Good morning Commander Lahtinen,

Thank you for submitting your digital certification (inventory) of U.S. Army loaned equipment.

On your certification you stated that your M1905 3" Field Gun was recently refurbished and all funding was provided by the Town of Westminster. After reviewing the photographs you provided I can confidently state that this gun is one of the nicest looking loaned items currently on display in the country. Please extend our sincere gratitude to all personnel involved in the refurbishment of this gun.

Thank you again for taking such great care of your loaned equipment.

NOTE: the M1 rifle requires the use of clips to function (otherwise you must single load) Free clips and ammunition may be ordered here
https://www.aschq.army.mil/Resources/Ammo/

JACOB BAUER

ARMY DONATIONS PROGRAM AND HERALDRY
ARMY MATERIAL LOGISTICS SUPPORT BRANCH
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

ACADEMY HILL CANNON RECEIVES HUGE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT!

From the Select Board Meeting Minutes...

Peter Lahtinen, Commander of American Legion Post 174 and Linda Bergeron, Legionnaire and retired Army veteran, were present and provided announcements and information about the US Army Cannon on loan for display purposes only from the US Army, located on Academy Hill. Peter Lahtinen took pictures of the recently refurbished cannon and submitted them into the Dept of Army to explain the updates to the cannon that were made by the Town's Maintenance Dept and all expenses were paid by the Town.

The US Army TACOM, Jacob Bauer, responded in writing to Peter Lahtinen stating that he was in receipt of the photos of the M1905 3" Field Gun that was recently refurbished and after reviewing the photos, he can confidently state that this gun is one of the nicest looking loaned items currently on display in the country! He expressed the Army's utmost thanks to all personnel involved for their great care in the refurbishment of the gun.

Stephanie stated that this was all taken care of by our Maintenance team, Marty LaPorte and Randy Sullivan and much thanks to them for their time and efforts.



We do not notarize any deeds or documents for a real estate closing.

If your documents require witnesses, you need to bring your own witnesses with you.

The individual who is having their signature notarized must have proper identification.

All documents to be notarized need to be signed in the presence of the notary public, not before you arrive.

CLICK THE CALENDAR BELOW TO ACCESS OUR TOWN MEETINGS

December 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29	30	01	02	03	04	05
06	07	08	09	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	01	02

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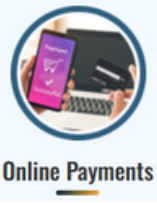
OPENINGS!

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BOARD AND COMMITTEE VACANCIES



Agendas & Minutes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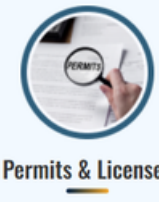
Permits & Licenses

AWCM
ASH-WEST COMMUNITY MEDIA


FIRE



POLICE



SUBSCRIBE TO TOWN NEWS & ALERTS



All Town Offices will be **closing at 12PM** on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, which are both Thursdays.



Town Offices will be **CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING** on Thursday and Friday, November 26th & 27th





TOWN HALL HOURS

Monday: 7:00am-7:00pm
Tue-Thur: 7:30am-4:30pm
Friday: CLOSED

WESTMINSTER, MASS. Incorporated October 2013

TOWN HALL

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