

### **JANUARY 13, 2025**



Michael J. King, MPA Interim Town Manager

Thank you for your interest in the latest edition of In Town News. This is my first newsletter as Interim Town Manager. For the past several years I have been serving as the Town Finance Director, and I appreciate the opportunity to serve the community in an enhanced capacity during this transition period as Wrentham searches for a new Town Manager. Communication and resident engagement are important to building strong communities, and I encourage you to reach out if there is information you would like to see in a future issue. Enjoy!



### From the desk of Mike King

#### **Community Electricity Program Update:**

Currently, we're expecting the Department of Public Utilities to approve Wrentham's plan in February, following their 120-day review timeline. Once the Town receives approval, we'll have the option to go out to bid and select a supplier for the program. Once the bid process has concluded, the Town will begin planning the launch and program outreach, which will take about 2-3 months. Be on the look out for more information including public information sessions. More information can be found at: <a href="https://www.wrenthamcommunityelectricity.com">www.wrenthamcommunityelectricity.com</a>

#### **MSBA/Roderick School Update:**

The Wrentham Elementary School Building Committee has hired an Owner's Project Manager, Vertex, and Designer, TSKP, for the project. Next steps are to work with these firms to develop educational programming and design plans.

#### **December 16, 2024 Special Town Meeting**

- **Article 1** involved a Water System Land Purchase to authorize the Select Board to take the necessary action to acquire property at 20 Hancock St. for the purpose of permitting a new well in West Wrentham.
- Residents voted in favor, 436 to 164, and the article passed.
- **Article 2** concerned a Zoning Bylaw amendment for the MBTA Communities Multi-family Overlay District (MCMOD).
- The MBTA article was defeated by a vote of 53 to 542.
- The Town is required by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40A, Section 3A to add zoning that would allow multi-family housing by right. Guidelines associated with the law issued by the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities were recently determined to be legally ineffective by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. The guidelines must now be repromulgated with new compliance deadlines.

### From the desk of Mike King

#### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:**

Chapter 318 of the Acts of 2024 was signed by Governor Maura Healey on January 3, 2025. This grants the Town 7 additional on-premises all alcohol licenses to establishments located within in Village Zone A, Village Zone B, and Stonewall Blvd Development. Having these additional licenses available can be appealing from an economic development standpoint for businesses to operate in Wrentham.

Chapter 267 of the Acts of 2024 was signed by Governor Maura Healey on December 19, 2024. This amended Wrentham's Charter to change the term for the Moderator from 1 year to 3 years.

H.4237 - An act approving the town of Wrentham Home Rule Charter as Amended, was recently signed into law by the Governor, this included changing the name of Town Administrator to Town Manager, Superintendent of Public Works to Director of Public Works and Town Planner to Director of Planning & Economic Development.

#### WHAT'S HAPPENING THERE?

715, 721, 775 South Street, also know as a the former Marra Property, was granted a special permit and site plan approval for Earth Removal from the Planning Board on September 4, 2024. The gravel operation is expected to last 3 years.

31 Nickerson Lane, the Planning Board granted a Special Permit (SP2024-11) & Site Plan Approval for construction of a new 8,744 gross square foot single-story metal frame building with office space and associated site improvements.

# IMPORTANT DATES JANUARY - FEBRUARY

JAN 20

Municipal Offices Closed
In observance of MLK Day

FEB 03

Real Estate & Personal Property Taxes Due

FEB 17

Municipal Offices Closed In observance of President's Day

FEB 18 Deadline to submit nomination papers for the Annual Town Election

Papers must be submitted to the Town Clerk

FEB 28

Deadline to License Dogs

Available through the Town Clerk



SCAN THE QR CODE TO SEE
THE FULL CALENDAR OR VISIT
OUR WEBSITE FOR MEETINGS,
EVENTS, AND MORE!



## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

# SWEARING IN & PINNING CEREMONIES



The Select Board & Interim Town
Manager, Michael King, participated
in the Swearing in and Pinning
ceremony of Deputy Police Chief
Derick Cassidy and Officer Brendan
Meehan on December 17th.

The Select Board and Interim Town manager, Mike King, also participated in the Swearing in and Pinning Ceremony of Sergeants Jon Coliflores and Dave Halloway on January 9th.





# **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Road Project Updates:**

Route 1A to 495 - Slip Ramp Construction

MassDOT will start this construction project beginning in January with land clearing on rights of way and easements.

The **Park Street Bridge** has been closed until further notice, per the Massachusetts Department of Transportation. MassDOT has implemented detours to route around the bridge.

A damaged culvert has forced the closure of **Myrtle Street**, with no access to Route 1.

### WINTER PARKING BAN REMINDER

There is no parking allowed on public streets during the hours of 6PM and 6AM through April 1, 2025. Vehicles which are found to interfere with snow operations may be town to a storage area at the expense of the owner.







**Shovel Early & Often:** Snow is easier to remove when it's fresh. Shovel periodically during heavy snowfalls to prevent buildup.

**Don't Block the Street:** Avoid pushing snow into the street when clearing driveways and sidewalks. This can create hazards for drivers and additional work for plows.

**Mark Driveways:** Use stakes or reflective markers to indicate the edges of your driveway to prevent plows from damaging your property.

**Report Issues:** Notify DPW of blocked storm drains, downed tree branches, or hazardous road conditions. Notify National Grid for power outages.

### **DEVELOPMENTS**

# Projects in the Permitting Phase (with Planning Board)

#### **Beach Street and Taunton Street, Residential Subdivision, Edgewood**

**Application Request:** Request for a Definitive Plan and a Stormwater Permit for a sixteen-lot residential subdivision including two roadways and associated site utilities on the site.

Location: 256 Beach St, 516, 521 & 584 Taunton St

**Applicant/Owner:** Edgewood Development

Status: Public Hearing Continued to January 15, 2025

#### **Beach St and Taunton St, Senior Living Community, Edgewood**

**Application Request:** Request for a Special Permit/Site Plan Approval and Stormwater Permit for a 66 unit senior living community and associated site work and utilities.

**Location:** 256 Beach St, 584 Taunton St **Applicant/Owner:** Edgewood Development

Status: Public Hearing continued to January 15, 2025

#### 275 Green St Major Mod Warehouse Facility, Simeone

**Application Request**: Request for a major modification of the previously approved special permits, site plan approval, and stormwater permit for a warehouse facility.

Location: 275 Green Street

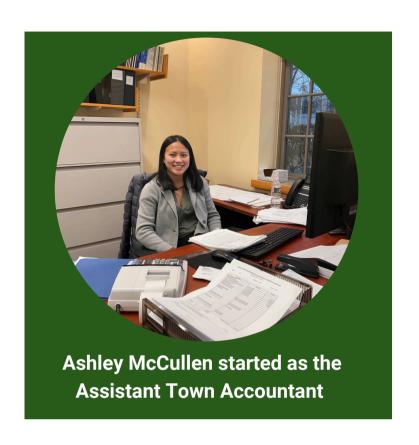
Applicant/Owner: Simeone Associates

Status: Public Hearing Continued to January 15, 2025

See Projects Under Review
& Decisions Rendered
on the Planning
Board webpage



# STAFF SPOTLIGHTS





Christian Rodriguez and Brayden
Thompson graduated from the MA Fire
Academy in December!



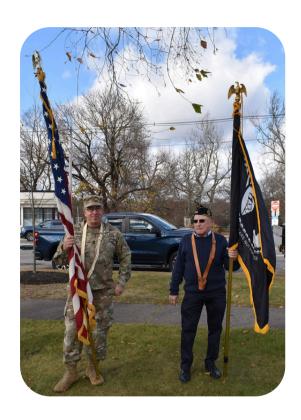
Officer Brendan Meehan joined the Wrentham Police Department in September



# COMMUNITY

The Select Board with the American
Legion joined Veterans and members of
the community for the Annual Veteran's
Day Observance on the Common.













# RECREATION

The Annual Turkey-Wacker held on November 28th was a very successful event, with over 600 participants!





# **UPCOMING PROGRAMS**

#### **AEROBIC DANCE WITH CAROLYN TRIPP**

A high-energy class that's all about getting fit, having fun, and feeling fabulous!

#### **PICKLEBALL - INDOOR OPEN PLAY**

Thursdays at the Wrentham Elementary School

SIGN UP FOR PROGRAMS AT: wrenthamma.myrec.com/info/default.aspx OR SCAN THE QR CODE

RICE RECREATION COMPLEX
54 EMERALD STREET
RECREATION@WRENTHAM.GOV
508-384-2101



## **TOWN CLERK**

### **2025 DOG LICENSES**



Dogs must have updated rabies information.

Dog licenses are issued for a calendar year.

Dog licenses obtained after the last day in February are subject to a late fine of \$50 per dog (per Mass. General Law, Chapter 140, Section 141).

All dogs six months or older, moving to Wrentham, must be licensed within 60 days of arrival to Wrentham.

### **APRIL 7, 2025 ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION**

The Election will be held at Delaney Elementary, 120 Taunton

Street, with polling hours from 7AM to 8PM

**Nomination papers** are available for the below listed elected positions and due back February 18, 2025,

Board of Assessors (1)

Board of Health (1)

Constable (3)

Fiske Public Library Trustee (2)

Moderator (1)

Planning Board (2)

Select Board (2)

Town Clerk (1)

Wrentham Housing Authority (1)

VOTE

Wrentham Elementary School (1)

Last day to obtain papers: February 13, 2025

Last day to submit papers: February 18, 2025

Want to know who has pulled nomination papers? Visit: <a href="www.wrentham.gov/263/Town-Clerk/Elections">www.wrentham.gov/263/Town-Clerk/Elections</a>



TOWNCLERK@WRENTHAM.GOV

508-384-5415

www.wrentham.gov/257/Town-Clerk

# SENIOR CENTER

#### THE MAGIC OF ILLUSIONIST LYN DILLIES

Wednesday, January 22 at 1:30PM

Lyn Dillies is the most highly acclaimed female illusionist in America. She delivers a dazzling display of spectacular magic for audiences!

Call to sign up.

#### **MEET THE AUTHOR - CLAIRE MAURO**

Wednesday, February 12 at 1PM

Claire Mauro will give a presentation of her co-authored book, of For Grief's Sake:

The Resilient Caregiver Caring and Coping Well

Call to sign up.

If you have signed up for a class, trip or activity and are unable to come, please let us know!

# COUNCIL ON AGING LOOKING AHEAD JANUARY





### **WRENTHAM SENIOR CENTER**



**400 Taunton Street** 

Mon - Thurs: 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Fri: 8:30 AM - 2:00 PM



508-384-5425

### FISKE LIBRARY

### Artificial Intelligence and ChatGPT

Thursday, January 30, 6:30 p.m.

Virtual Reality. Chatbots. Deep Fakes. Do you sometimes feel like the technological world is moving too fast? Take a breath and enjoy an in-person, real presentation on artificial intelligence. Bring your opinions and questions! Great for beginners, skeptics, and anyone worried about the fate of humanity. Registration is recommended.

MISSION: EARTH & SPACE Wednesday, February 5, 6:00 p.m.

Uncover mysteries of the grandest science of them all through hands-on experiments and demonstrations with the ecotarium.

Register at fiskelib.org

Read to Sophie, the Therapy Dog Saturday, February 8, 1:00 p.m.

Kids age 5-10 are invited to come read to Sophie, a therapy dog from Dog B.O.N.E.S of MA. Register at fiskelib.org

The Fiske Public Library is hosting **Free IT Help Office Hours** with IT expert Ben Elliot who will be available to help with personal technology related issues in an informal setting. Ben is available at the Fiske Public Library on a first come, first serve basis. **TUESDAYS, 5:00PM – 7:45PM** 

### LIBRARY SURVEY

The Fiske Public Library will be conducting a survey in January 2025 to help us better serve our community. It will be available both online and in print. What do you like about the Library? What can we do to improve? Let us know!



**MON**: 10AM - 5PM

TUES, WED, THURS: 10AM - 8PM

**FRI**: 10AM - 5PM **SAT**: 10AM - 4PM

Telephone: **508-384-5440** 

Fax: **508-384-5443** 

FISKEPL@SAILSINC.ORG

# **VOLUNTEER**

Looking to make a difference in Wrentham?

Consider joining one of the Town's boards, committees, commissions!

Fill out the Volunteer Application!

Applications are forwarded to the applicable board/committee/commission for review and then applicants are scheduled to attend a Select Board meeting for an interview/appointment.

### **VACANCIES**

Economic Development Commission - (1) Vacancy Open Space Committee - (1) Vacancy Cultural Council - (2) Vacancies

### **GET INVOLVED!**

Check out the Volunteer Opportunities on our wrentham.gov/520/Volunteer-Opportunities or scan the QR Code!



