



Wrentham

IN TOWN NEWS

MARCH 20, 2025



Michael J. King, MPA
Town Manager

Thank you for your interest in the latest edition of In Town News. This is my first official newsletter as Town Manager after serving in Interim capacity for the past 3 months. It is a tremendous honor and responsibility to assume this role and I could not be more excited! I look forward to engaging with officials, staff, and community members, fostering open communication and active listening. Together, we can strive to develop a world class local government for our staff, residents, businesses, and community.



From the desk of Mike King

Community Electricity Program Update:

The Department of Public Utilities approved Wrentham's Plan on January 17, 2025, now the Town is able to procure electricity supply and launch its program. The Town plans to review bids on April 1st on March 18th, the Select Board voted. www.wrenthamcommunityelectricity.com

Right of First Refusal - 2095 West Street

On March 18th, the Select Board voted to exercise the Town's Right of First Refusal for property located at 2095 West Street. The property is subject to MGL c.61B, which is a recreational land classification program designed to encourage the preservation of open space and promote recreational land use, sometimes referred to as "Chapter Land". Whenever property that is covered under this statute is to be sold and it's use is anticipated to be changed, the property owner(s) must notify the Town of the intent to sell. At that time, the Town may chose to purchase the property. The Select Board, after receiving input from the Recreation Commission, Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee and Community Preservation Commission, opted to exercise the Town's right and purchase the property, contingent on Town Meeting funding. The funding appropriation would need to approved at an upcoming Special Town Meeting.

Sweatt Park Project

On March 11th Community Preservation Committee (CPC), voted to support the electrical/lighting portion of the Sweatt Park Project and recommended that an article be placed on the next Town Meeting Warrant.

Update on Annual (Spring) Town Meeting

The Annual Spring Town Meeting will be held on Monday, June 2, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at King Philip Regional High School.

From the desk of Mike King

Update on MBTA Communities

On March 6th, Town commenced legal action against the Commonwealth, seeking relief from enforcement of the so-called MBTA zoning law. The Town had previously exercised its rights to seek a determination from the State Auditor that the MBTA zoning law constitutes an unfunded mandate. Ultimately, the Auditor, through its Division of Local Mandates, agreed, declaring that the law constitutes an unfunded mandate and directing the Commonwealth's housing agency, EOHLC, to provide required information on the fiscal impact of the law including on Town services and infrastructure. To date, the Commonwealth has refused to do so and has emphatically declared that it will enforce the law, including the requirement that Wrentham pass a complying zoning bylaw by July 14.

Water Rates

The Select board held a Public Hearing on February 18th that included a presentation on Water Rates from Tighe and Bond. A 6% increase will go into effect starting July 1, 2025. The Board voted to set the Water Rates through June 30, 2028.

Fee Updates

The Select Board held a Public Hearing regarding Fee Updates at their March 18, 2025 meeting. The Board set updated fees for the Department of Inspections, the Department of Public Works, and the Town Clerk which will go into effect on July 1, 2025.

<https://wrentham.gov/666/03-18-25-Fee-Schedule-Updates>

Department of Public Woks Building Project

The Public Works Building Committee met in February to review Bids received for Architecture Designers and Helene Karl Architects was ranked #1. The Town is in the process of reviewing and negotiating the fee proposal.

IMPORTANT DATES

MARCH/APRIL

MAR
28

Voter Registration for Town Election
9am to 5pm at Fiske Public Library

APR
7

Annual Town Election
Delaney Elementary 120 Taunton Street

APR
21

Municipal Offices Closed
Patriot's Day

APR
26

Wrentham Youth Baseball & Softball Opening Day
Parade & events starting at 9:30AM

STAY
up
TO DATE

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



PUBLIC HEALTH



The Metacomet Public Health Alliance is a collaboration between the Towns of Franklin, Norfolk, and Wrentham. The Alliance offers shared services of Public Health Nurses and Environmental & Health Agents. It is funded through the Public Health Excellence grant offered by the Mass Department of Public Health.



AVIAN FLU:

Information on how to report sick or dead wild and domestic birds, the handling of birds and other wildlife, how to keep your pets safe and how to safely hunt geese.

www.wrentham.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3555/Avian-Flu-Press-Release?bidId=

mass.gov/reportbirds

BODY WORK REGULATIONS:

The Board of Health reviewed proposed regulations to Bodywork, at their March 3, 2025 meeting. The regulations are set to govern the practice of a person who represents themselves as a bodyworker or bodywork therapist, or the practice of a person using primarily touch to manipulate tissue which does not constitute a Massage as defined in MGL c.135. This topic will be discussed further at an upcoming Board of Health meeting.

Visit our website:

www.metacometpha.org/

Follow the Nurses on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/WrenthamPHN



Board of Health:

508-384-5480

Nurses:

508-384-5485

PUBLIC WORKS

ROAD PROJECT UPDATES:

Route 1A to 495 - Slip Ramp Construction

MassDOT started in January with land clearing on rights of way and easements. MassDOT has been conducting rock drilling & blasting that will be ongoing through March.

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.



WRENTHAM DPW

508-384-5477

EL HARVEY

800-321-3002

All trash and recyclables intended for curbside collection must be properly placed, **not in the roadway**, in the provided wheeled carts by 7am.

Please take note, the Town is not responsible for bins that may be blown or pushed into the roadways. Residents should keep an eye on their trash & recycling bins during inclement weather.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT TRASH & RECYCLING ON OUR WEBSITE:

wrentham.gov/248/Trash-Recycling

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: Approved with conditions

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: Approved with conditions

279 & 289 East St - Pond Home Major Mod

Application Request: Request for a major modification of the previously approved special permit to construct a 26-unit memory care addition with additional parking

Location: 279 & 289 East Street

Applicant/Owner: The King's Daughters and Sons Home for the Aged in Norfolk County, Inc. & Pond Home Community, Inc.

Status: Public Hearing continued to April 16, 2025

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



STAFF SPOTLIGHTS



Kerry DeVillis started in the Finance Department as the Accounts Payable Coordinator



Michael Motta graduated from the MA Fire Academy in February!



Christine Dupras has been appointed as the Finance Director/Town Accountant, Christine has been serving as the Town Accountant since 2019.



Kathy Nelson has been appointed as the Treasurer/Collector, Kathy has been serving as the Assistant Treasurer/Collector since 2020.

COMMUNITY



Wrentham Engagement will be hosting the Candidates on the Common event on March 22nd at 10AM, an annual casual gathering on the Town Common that enables voters to connect directly with candidates.



Open Space Committee & Return2Wild On March 20th at 7PM at Fiske Public Library learn about how founder, Susan Siegel and her team work tirelessly to rescue, rehabilitate and release wildlife back into their natural habitats.



Keep Wrentham Beautiful, an event aimed at cleaning specific roadways of trash & debris, will take place on April 12th starting at 10AM. Check out the Keep Wrentham Beautiful Facebook page for more info & how to sign up to volunteer!



Wrentham Youth Baseball & Softball will hold their Opening Day Festivities on April 26th starting at 9:30AM. Visit www.wybsa.info for more info & volunteering!



The SAFE Coalition will hold a DEA National RX Take Back Day on April 26th in the Town Hall Parking Lot on April 26th starting at 11:00AM - 1:00PM



Hummingbird Run: Safe Driving Initiative will be held on Sunday, April 27th during National Distracted Driving Awareness Month, at the Crackerbarrel Fairgrounds on Emerald Street.

RECREATION

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

MARCH MADNESS PICKLEBALL

Get ready for a month of fast-paced, friendly competition, and fun pickleball as we bring the madness to Monday nights at the Gibbons Gym!

Dates: March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

TUESDAY NIGHT COMPETITIVE PICK-UP BASKETBALL

Stay active, have fun, and enjoy some friendly competition. Teams will be created each week based on registration. Please bring both a white and black jersey for team play and water to stay hydrated.

KP SUMMMER BASEBALL CLUB 2025

Wrentham Recreation Teams Up Once Again with KP Baseball Club for their exciting Summer Baseball Camp located at the Rice Recreation Complex! Learn the right baseball skills and techniques from KPHS coaches in a fun and positive environment.

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**

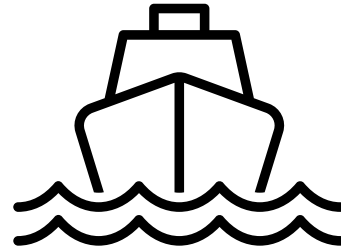


LAKE PEARL



BOAT LAUNCH

Parking permits are required for individuals who wish to park and launch a boat at Lake Pearl from the boat ramp.



Fees for Parking Permits (valid for calendar year)

Residents

\$60 for residents - power vessel;

\$40 for resident Senior (age 60+), Veteran, Disabled - power vessel;

\$40 for residents - non-power vessel;

\$20 for resident Senior (age +60), Veteran, Disabled - non-power vessel

Non-Residents, For Fishing Only

\$85 for non-residents - power vessel;

\$65 for non-resident Seniors (age 60+), Veterans, Disabled - power vessel

\$40 for non-resident - non-power vessel;

\$20 for non-resident Senior (age 60+), Veteran, Disabled - non-power vessel

Scan the QR Code or visit

www.wrentham.gov/359/Online-Payments

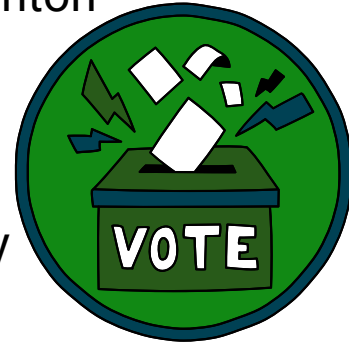
to get your parking permit today!



TOWN CLERK

APRIL 7, 2025 ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION

The Election will be held at Delaney Elementary, 120 Taunton Street, with polling hours from 7AM to 8PM



VOTER REGISTRATION

Friday, March 28th from 9AM to 5PM at the Fiske Library

Dog License Reminder 

If you have yet to license your dog for 2025, it is overdue.
Fines will apply!



TOWNCLERK@WRENTHAM.GOV

508-384-5415

www.wrentham.gov/257/Town-Clerk



FLAG STATUS

Typically, the Town follows the Governor's Orders for flying the flags at full & half-staff. However, there are some occasions when the Town makes that decision.

The Town may lower flags upon notification of the death of any employee or elected official, past & present. On these occasions the flag shall be at half-staff from the day of notification until the evening of the day of burial or for a period of three days in the event of a late notification.

Sign up to receive notices on the flag status from the Governor:

www.mass.gov/info-details/flag-status

SENIOR CENTER

April 24 - Health Fair - 10:30AM to 1:30PM

The Metacomet Public Health Alliance will be hosting a Spring Community Health Fair with 20 local agencies and companies who offer many services. Admission is free!

Join us for free screenings & information.

For more info, call the nurses at: 508-384-5485



**COUNCIL ON AGING -
LOOKING AHEAD MARCH**




WRENTHAM SENIOR CENTER

 **400 Taunton Street**

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

Fri: 8:30 AM - 2:00 PM

 **508-384-5425**



**To recognize and celebrate individuals who have
reached their 100th birthday!**

**Residents may utilize our online form to be recognized
on our special webpage!**

**A photo may be submitted to be displayed alongside
their name and they'll receive a birthday message from
town officials!**

www.wrentham.gov/678/3753/Wrentham-100-Club

FISKE LIBRARY

How Women's Liberation Transformed America: In Conversation with Clara Bingham **Thursday, March 20 at 2PM**

Join us for a transformative conversation with award-winning journalist and author, Clara Bingham, as she chats with us about her new book, *The Movement: How Women's Liberation Transformed America, 1963-1973*.

Boston Marathon Traditions & Lore with Author Paul Clerici **Thursday, March 27 at 7PM**

The Boston Marathon was first run on Patriots' Day, April 19, 1897, after competing Boston Athletic Association athletes returned from the 1896 Modern Olympic Games in Athens, with the idea of bringing the marathon to their BAA games in Boston. The oldest continually run marathon in the world has witnessed the famous and infamous, national and world records, triumphs and heartaches, and is hailed as the greatest of all of them.

Dreams we Chase: An Author Talk with Novelist with Jennifer Weiner **Wednesday, March 26th at 7PM**

You're invited to a glimmering conversation with New York Times bestselling author Jennifer Weiner as we chat about the signature emotional depth of her books that have been inspiring readers toward self-discovery for decades. Hearing from the queen of fun herself, we'll chat with the author about her New York Times bestselling novels, *Good In Bed*, *In Her Shoes*, *Big Summer*, *The Breakaway* and many more. .

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**



MON: 10AM - 5PM

TUES, WED, THURS: 10AM - 8PM

FRI: 10AM - 5PM

SAT: 10AM - 4PM

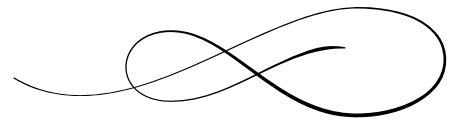
Telephone: **508-384-5440**

Fax: **508-384-5443**

FISKEPL@SAILSINC.ORG

JOSEPH F. BOTAISH, II

01/04/1965 - 01/15/2025



We remember Joe Botaish with fondness and gratitude. A longtime Wrentham resident, he was first elected to the Select Board in 2010, serving continuously for 15 years, with 10 of those years as chair. He had a passion for public service and viewed Wrentham as not just a town, but as a family. Joe personified Wrentham and his devotion to the community will be strongly remembered and deeply missed. He leaves a beautiful legacy of dedicated service worthy of praise and emulation.



FOLLOW US



WRENTHAMMASS



WRENTHAM_MA



TOWN OF WRENTHAM



TOWN OF WRENTHAM



**VISIT OUR WEBSITE
WWW.WRENTHAM.GOV**

**Have info you'd like to see in a future issue?
Email: TMOffice@wrentham.gov**