



## SUMMER 2022

### SUMMER AT THE BEEBE LIBRARY



This year marks the Lucius Beebe Memorial Library's centennial celebration, and the summer months are packed full of great programming. Drop in to enjoy the redesigned Living Room, book displays, or a 100th Anniversary gallery exhibit.

The Library's annual Summer Reading program is a fun way for children to prevent loss of reading skills and may even improve existing ability. Better readers make better learners. Discover [Beebe's Summer Reading challenges, games, book suggestions, and events](#).

Summer at the library is not just for kids. Enjoy Trivia on Tap, virtual lectures, and special online book discussions with nationally-known authors. [Check out the upcoming events](#).

Plaza Jazz is back! Every Thursday from 6 to 8 p.m., you can enjoy music on the Plaza in front of the Library. Bring a chair and a picnic dinner and enjoy a relaxing night of music. In inclement weather, the concert will be in the library's Living Room. See the [library calendar](#) for the performance schedule.

### FROM THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

I hope that everyone stayed healthy this spring and avoided the latest subvariants in the COVID arena. We in the Maio household were not so lucky, and although fully vaccinated and boosted, my wife Jean and I both came down with COVID in the middle of May. Since we were vaccinated, the symptoms were relatively mild, and after a week of flu-like symptoms, we were back at work (although with texts, Zoom, and email are we ever really away from work?). But the relative downtime did provide me with some time to reflect upon how the past two years have affected us individually and as a society.

It's no secret that the events of the last two years have cast a pall of unease. I have spoken with many adults regarding their views on COVID and its aftermath. Almost everyone reported increased anxiety, not only among themselves, but also among their families, especially their children.

This is a phenomenon that we are seeing nationwide. So I would like to utilize this venue to remind the public of a wonderful service we have through our School and Health Departments that is open to all residents. *continued on page 2*

### MASTER PLAN

A [Master Plan](#) is a strategic framework that guides the Town's future physical and economic development based on the community's vision and goals. It provides a roadmap of strategies and recommendations for the next ten years.

The [second community survey](#) of four throughout the project, is open until August 2.

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In collaboration with Williams James College, Wakefield offers its residents a unique helpline service called INTERFACE that connects children, teens, and adults to mental health care. You can call to obtain the names of providers that meet your specific needs, accept your insurance, and have available appointments. The service is free, and the phone number is 1-888-244-6843. If you feel the need, please take advantage of this wonderful service.

Another common sentiment passed on to me from many is a longing for “things to return to normal.” Many believe that we will never get back to “normal” again. Perhaps a return to “normal” shouldn’t be our goal. I submit that we need to improve on how we in government meet the physical, emotional, and social needs of the public.

After the Civil War, the New York Times editorialized:

*The contest touches everything and leaves nothing as it found it. Great rights, great interests, great systems of habit and thought disappear during its progress. It leaves us a different people in everything.*

I know that I am stretching that analogy as to how we move forward from COVID, but it is clear to me that we can. The public demands that we not return to “normal,” but we move to provide a better tomorrow. Part of that movement is creating more efficient, convenient, and safe systems; part of that is enhancing services and infrastructure; and part of that is promoting acceptance, diversity, and equality. We have much work to do together and I know that we, as a community, are ready to answer the challenge.

Now for some project updates! Unlike the Boston Celtics in the final two quarters of their run for the championship, we have not been “standing around.” Much has been happening and will continue over the summer months. These projects are funded through a combination of Town funds, State and Federal earmarks, and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds.



Multi-use pickleball/tennis courts are nearing completion at Veterans Field. An improved stormwater drainage system is being installed nearby.

Pickleball is coming after a long approval process, mainly due to the environmental sensitivity around Lake Quannapowitt. This July, we will unveil four new pickleball courts at the old McKenna Tennis Court site at Veteran’s Field. The surface has been completely renovated and the main coloring (red and green) will designate the four pickle ball courts. The courts will also be striped for tennis, but with eight tennis courts at the High School, the focus here will be pickleball.

This project also included very necessary drainage improvements to prevent runoff into Lake Quannapowitt, as well as accessibility improvements to the entire area, including the Floral Way. The end result is testament to a great collaboration between our Engineering Department and the Historical Commission. The funding for this project came from a vote at Town Meeting, supplemented with State grants.

Albion Street, from Main to North Ave., has been improved with trees, plantings, scaled lighting, and strategically located bump outs to allow for easier crossing. I am particularly pleased with the hanging plants already in place as well as newly designed banners highlighting the artistic, cultural, and innovative spirit of the district. The banners, if not up by now, will be shortly. Take a walk down the street—you will enjoy it! This project was funded by a State Massworks grant.



Crosswalks were incorporated into the Albion Street design, a feature the roadway previously lacked. Greenery, trees, and new lighting were also part of the project.

Due to the hard work of our Recreation Director Dan McGrath and Catherine Dhingra in our Health and Human Services Department, the Town received a grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield for the installation of a fitness court. The plan is to install this 21st century community-health outdoor gym at Moulton Park, outside the baseball field fence on the Albion Street side. The fitness court will provide a system which will allow for full-body work outs to adults of all ability levels. This project will be funded by the grant and ARPA funds.

Enjoy the warm summer months with family and friends,

Steve Maio  
Town Administrator

# SENIOR PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION



If you received the Senior Citizen Circuit Breaker Income Tax Credit (MA Schedule CB), have owned and occupied a home in Wakefield for at least 10 consecutive years, have no other significant assets that may disqualify you, and any co-applicant is 60 or older, the Town of Wakefield will grant real estate tax relief equal to your MA Circuit Breaker credit. The maximum MA CB credit for 2021 is \$1,170.

The Assessor's Office will open the application process during August and September. [Complete a simple application](#), bring a copy of your 2021 income tax filing indicating your Circuit Breaker credit amount, and the Wakefield Board of Assessors will make a final determination on eligibility. If you do not file MA income taxes, please call us to determine eligibility. The exemption amount will be credited to your fiscal year 2023 actual tax bills due in February and May 2023.

You must apply annually for this form of tax relief. If your property is in a trust and we have not previously reviewed it, please bring your real estate trust documents, in their entirety, to the Assessors' Office with your application.

Please feel free to contact the Assessors' Office at 781-246-6380 or [check our web page anytime](#) for further details.

## MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS SERVICES

Wakefield residents of all ages can use the free, confidential INTERFACE referral service to get matched with licensed mental health and wellness providers. Each referral best meets the location, insurance, and specialty needs of the caller. Call Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 1-888-244-6843 or [visit their website](#) to start the process.

The Town also partners with Eliot Community Services, which can assist residents in crisis via a 24/7 mobile emergency service. Eliot staff will travel for psychiatric evaluation, crisis intervention, stabilization, and follow up. Call 1-800-988-1111 or [visit their website](#) for information.

Feel free to browse these and other other [health and wellness resources](#).



## DATES TO REMEMBER

Fiscal year 2023 runs from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023, and there are new tax payment due dates.

While the first- and second-quarter preliminary bill coupons are included in one bill, an actual bill is created for each one of the third and fourth quarters.

**Preliminary or Estimated Bills**  
*combined in one mailing:*

- Quarter 1: August 1, 2022
- Quarter 2: November 1, 2022

**Actual Bills**

*after the tax rate has been set:*

- Quarter 3: February 1, 2023
- Quarter 4: May 1, 2023



Kerri Beede, Anna Amatucci, and Susan Auld managed the Department of Public Works booth at the Festival by the Lake.

Learn more about Public Works services:

- [refuse](#) and [recycling](#)
- [yard waste](#)
- [composting](#)
- [water](#) and [sewer](#) facilities
- [engineering](#)
- and [more](#).

# COVID-19 VACCINATIONS APPROVED FOR CHILDREN AGES 6 MONTHS TO 4 YEARS

Wakefield's Health and Human Services Department reports that the CDC has approved COVID-19 vaccinations for children ages six months to four years. The vaccines will be available through many pediatrician offices and pharmacies. The Pfizer vaccine consists of three pediatric doses and the Moderna vaccine consists of two pediatric doses. The vaccine for this age group has been rigorously tested and parents are encouraged to add this to the list of critical vaccinations their children should receive. Vaccines are already available to those five years and older. Parents are encouraged to contact their pediatrician with any questions or concerns.

The Health and Human Services Department has a supply of at-home COVID tests available for Wakefield residents. Please visit the reception desk at Town Hall if you need one.

To schedule a pediatric COVID-19 vaccination appointment:



- Contact your child's pediatric office directly.
- Visit [VaxFinder](#) for a full list of available locations.
- Call the COVID-19 Vax Resource Line at 2-1-1. The Resource Line is available in English and Spanish and has translators available for approximately 100 additional languages.

## STAY INFORMED

**Web:** Visit [anytime](#) for news and information.

**Email:** Never miss a message--all news posted to our website can be sent right to your inbox. You can also opt to receive agendas for upcoming meetings that interest you. [Sign up today.](#)

### Community Events:

View community events and submit your own on the [community calendar](#) managed by the Beebe Library. Access it on the Town and Library websites.

### Volunteer & Participate:

Community organizations looking for participants and volunteers searching for opportunities can connect at [Join In Wakefield.](#)

## PROTECTION FROM MOSQUITOS AND TICKS

Summer is here, and dusk-to-dawn is peak biting time for mosquitos and ticks. Mosquitos and ticks can carry disease which could make you and your pets sick. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health [posts community risk levels](#) for Eastern Equine Encephalitis and West Nile Virus, two of the more common mosquito-borne illnesses. It also [posts monthly tick reports](#) showing seasonal trends in reported tick bites and tick-borne disease diagnoses in residents.

Mosquito control is provided by the East Middlesex Mosquito Control Program. The services include mosquito and wetland surveillance, larval and adult mosquito control, ditch maintenance, and public education. Information on the spray schedule is available [on their website](#) and questions about the East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project can be directed to (781) 899-5730.

To protect yourself from mosquitos and ticks, follow these recommendations:

- Use an EPA-approved repellent any time you are outdoors.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts, pants, and socks to reduce exposed skin outside.
- Repair torn screens to prevent bugs from entering your home.
- Remove standing water around your house and yard to prevent mosquitos from breeding.
- Wear light-colored clothing to make ticks easier to spot and protect your scalp by wearing a hat.
- Check yourself, your children, and pets for ticks as soon as you come indoors. If you find a tick attached to your skin, remove it using fine-tipped tweezers.
- Call your doctor if you see a rash or feel like you have the flu, especially if you have been outdoors and exposed to ticks.

## VOTES ACT SIGNED INTO LAW

On June 22, 2022, the Massachusetts VOTES Act was signed into law. The VOTES Act makes several of the temporary changes from the pandemic permanent. The new law also makes the absentee voting process and early voting by mail processes consistent.

Following are some of the VOTES Act changes:

- Beginning July 22, 2022, the voter registration deadline for all elections and town meetings will be 10 calendar days before the date of the meeting or election.
- Effective immediately, early voting by mail must be available for all state elections, state primaries, and presidential primaries. The State's Elections Division will be mailing Vote by Mail applications at least 45 days before every regular state primary, state election, and presidential primary. The applications will be sent to everyone registered to vote by the 60th day before the election who has not already applied for a ballot. [Learn more about voting by mail.](#)
- In-person early voting must now be offered for all regular state primaries, state elections, and presidential primaries. It must also be offered for special elections and primaries to fill vacancies for U.S. Senate or Congress. In-person early voting must also be held for any municipal elections being held on the same day as one of the above listed elections. For local elections, cities and towns may choose to have in-person early voting. [Learn more about early voting.](#)

To familiarize yourself with voting in Massachusetts, the State's [Election Division website](#) is a comprehensive resource. Residents are also welcome to connect with Wakefield's Town Clerk, located in Town Hall at 1 Lafayette Street.



### Residents can register to vote in three ways:

- [online](#)
- via mail [using this form](#), returned to our Town Clerk's office
- in person at our Town Clerk's office



## UPCOMING ELECTIONS

### September 6, 2022: State Primary

The voter registration deadline for this event is August 27, 2022. [View sample ballots.](#) Note that there are distinct ballots for precincts (4-6) and (1-3, 7). Election Day polling hours are 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Galvin Middle School.

### November 8, 2022: State Election

The voter registration deadline for this event is October 29, 2022. Election Day polling hours are 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Galvin Middle School.