

Winchester Weekly

Report from Winchester Town Manager, Lisa Wong

Winchester Recreation Offerings!

Hard at work and play



The Staff at the Winchester Recreation Department understands the importance of supporting parents, kids and the community through quality programs. Under the leadership of director Nick Cacciolfi and program coordinator Jim Sullivan, the team has been hard at work making sure that the town still offers programs during the pandemic. This is no small feat, and there has been major adjustments to ensure that activities are safe for youth and families, both outdoors and in the Recreation Center. The staff is gearing up for activities over the school vacation weeks as well as readying the town for safe sports this spring and summer. More info at: <https://www.winrec.com/>

COVID NEWS

Vaccines: First responders in Mass will be able to get vaccines starting 1/11 as part of Phase I. Information about eligibility/locations: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccine-locations-for-first-responders>
Residents aged 75 or older, or residents of any age who have two or more comorbid health conditions will now be able to get shots during Phase 2.

New Variant: Researchers are looking for the COVID variant that is more contagious than the current virus. Cases have been found elsewhere in the Northeast. The Governor warned residents to “Be very vigilant” and assume that it is already here.

Local Data: <https://www.winchester.us/652/Dashboard>

SELECT BOARD

The next meeting will be January 11th at 7:30pm. Toole will provide design project updates. Click on the Government Calendar at winchester.us.

PROGRAMS @ THE JENKS

Converse in French or German, learn about Ayurveda and how to make dumplings, & more!
<https://www.jenkscenter.org/jenks-eventsx>

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The lottery application for two units at Winning Farm is due Jan 21 or postmarked by Jan 18
www.winchester.us/452/Affordable-Housing

Governor extends temporary Executive Order to January 24

In an effort to curb spread after potential Christmas travel and gatherings, the Governor has extended capacity and gathering limits for at least two more weeks to January 24th.

25% capacity levels will remain for restaurants and office spaces. Limits at indoor event venues are 10 people and Limits at outdoor event venues are 25 people. Current limits at private residences remain the same (10 indoors and 25 outdoors)

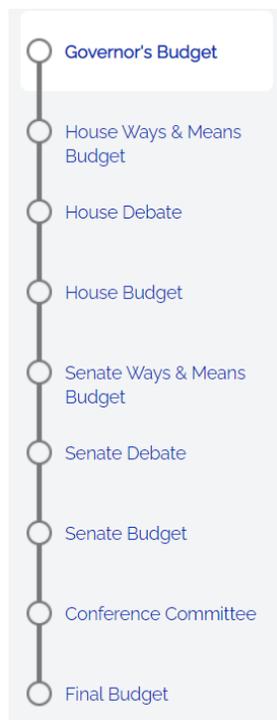
Hospitals across the Commonwealth will now meet at least daily to address the continued rise in hospitalizations and work together to address capacity constraints. Hospitals may be able to get a temporary exemption to the mandated ICU nurse staffing to patient ratios. Bottom line: let's all do our part so we don't overwhelm our health care system and keep ourselves and loved ones safe.

Census, Sticker and Elections oh my!

The Town Clerk's office had the smallest of breaks between November Elections/Town Meeting and the annual beginning of year rush of activities.

The Town Clerk will mail out the annual Census this month along with applications for transfer station permits and dog licenses. The annual Census is important to fill out so that we have accurate information about the town population, and can deliver adequate services. Transfer Station applications can be found online at winchester.us/207/Transfer-Station-Permits and dog license at winchester.us/209/Dog-Licenses.

The Town Clerk released nomination papers this week for those interested in running for local office, and also includes a guide on running for office on the town website. The Election Calendar can be found online at: <https://www.winchester.us/DocumentCenter/View/4046/2020-Election-Calendar>



It's budget season! Both the state and town budgets follow the same fiscal year. Fiscal Year 2022 runs from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. The Governor's budget will be available by January 27th, which will give the town a much better sense of the amount of State Aid to expect.

State aid consists mainly of Chapter 70 funds for schools and Unrestricted General Government Aid (UGGA).

The Town Manager will submit her budget to the Finance Committee (FinCom) no later than February 15th. The Town budget may change if the House, Senate or Final Budget from the state changes the expected state aid figures. FinCom will meet with department heads to review their respective budgets and changes might also be made before they submit the budget for consideration at Spring Town Meeting.