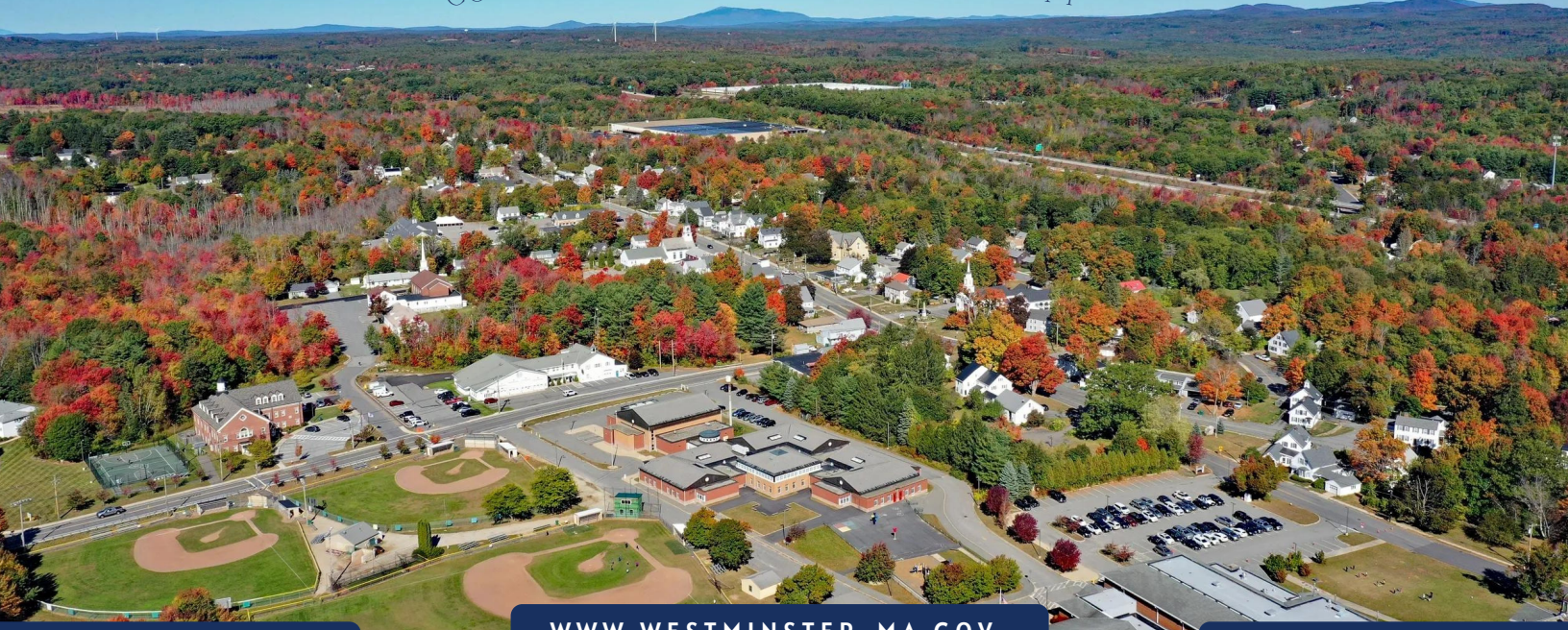




THE South Street Sentinel

Featuring the Council on Aging Senior Newsletter Insert

CONNECTING AND BUILDING COMMUNITY



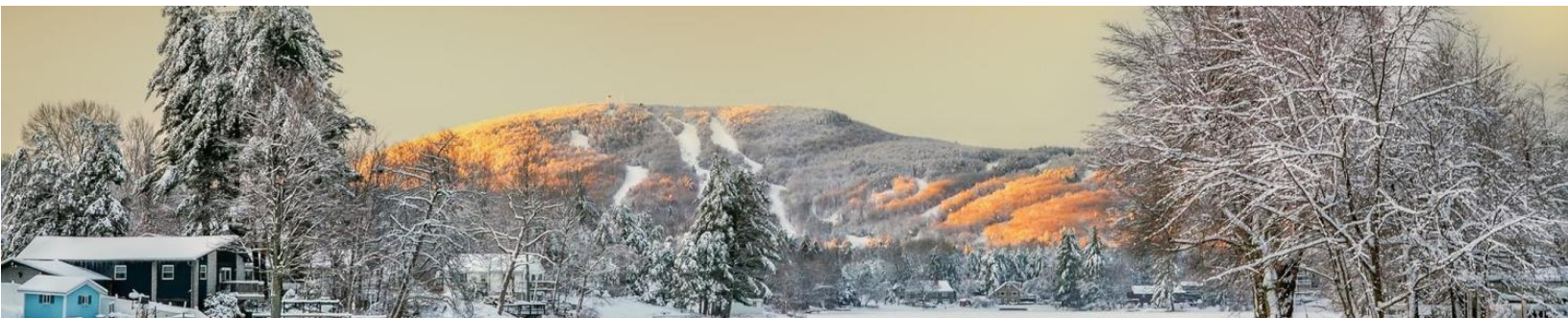
WWW.WESTMINSTER-MA.GOV

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the South Street Sentinel! We hope this newsletter will serve as a channel of communication between our Town and our community as a way to stay connected, informed, and engaged with one another. The editions that follow are intended to be more than just a collection of words, but a means to share our stories, events and experiences through a dedicated channel that reflects all facets of our vibrant community.

We invite you to be an active part of this journey; to share your stories, milestones, achievements and thoughts. Let's work together to make this newsletter a place to come for insight and information as we weave together the story that is Westminister!

Thank you for welcoming us into your home and our community!
Audra Kirtland, Community Services Director

We're so glad you're here!



WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL

11 SOUTH STREET, WESTMINSTER, MA 01473 | PHONE: (978) 874-7406 | [EMAIL US](#)



FROM THE TOWN CLERK

2024 Census Forms are Due back to the Town Hall.

2024 Dog Licenses are available for purchase.

State postcards have been mailed to most registered voters to send in if you would like to Vote by Mail.

The In-person Early Voting period will begin Saturday, Feb. 24th from 11:00AM to 5:00PM at Town Hall and continue Feb. 26th thru 29th during Town Hall regular business hours.

The Last day to register to vote or change party enrollment for the March 5th Primary is Saturday, Feb. 24th up until 5:00PM.



TOWN OF WESTMINSTER BOARD VACANCIES

Agricultural Commission

Contact ML Altobelli 978-874-2471

Assessor's Board

Contact Stephanie Lahtinen 978-874-7400

Crocker Pond Committee

Contact Heather Billings 508-479-3713

Parks and Recreation

Contact Audra Kirtland 978-874-7461

Economic Development Committee

Contact Tracy Murphy 978-874-7414

Those interested in being appointed are asked to call the contact person for further information, **attend a meeting**, and submit a letter of interest to:

Town Administrator, Town Hall, 11 South Street
Westminster, MA 01473

Minimum Eligibility Requirements, MUST:

(1) Be a Registered Voter (2) Live in Westminster

"THE SUCCESS OF ANY LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEPENDS LARGELY ON THE PARTICIPATION OF ITS CITIZEN VOLUNTEERS."

!! TOWN NEWS !!

STAY UP TO DATE!

Town Calendar						
January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Never miss another Town, Board or Department meeting! Click the calendar to bring you to our Town Calendar page.

WE ARE HIRING!

See our job **OPENINGS!**

We currently have multiple open positions available. Please click the image above to to see our current openings.



WATER BILL

WATER BILLS WILL BE SENT OUT SOON!

DUE DATE: FEBRUARY 26TH

DPW & FRIENDS TO THE RESCUE!

Winter has officially kicked into gear, raising commute and safety concerns for anyone on the road. Luckily for our Town, **we have an amazing team maintaining the streets...** from pre-storm preparations to post-storm clean-up and everything in between. We cannot thank our crew enough for all the hard work - and long hours!





Thank you to all who joined us for our Annual Tree Lighting on Academy Hill and "1st Annual" Christmas Tree Burning at the VFW!

Valentine's Day - Parents Night Out

February 14th | 5-8pm

Drop your kids currently in grades K-5 at the Community/Senior Center and enjoy an evening to yourselves! **Our Town's Senior Girl Scouts will help babysit** and lead activities. There will be pizza, snacks, cookie decorating and much more! Cost is \$10 for the first child and \$5 for each additional child.



[REGISTER HERE](#)



February 19th-23rd

Plan ahead for some fun activities including Bowling, Ice Skating, A Day at the Movies, and a Yoga/Crafts opportunity! **Full details will be sent home shortly in the local Elementary School Newsletter, as well as posted online.** Activities are for Ash-West residents only as space will be limited.



We are excited to announce that we will be expanding our summer recreation program offerings in 2024 with some full day options and additional activities. Applications for counselors will be available in March. Stay tuned for more details!

To reach Parks & Rec, please Contact: parksandrec@westminster-ma.gov



Agricultural Commission Updates!

Farmers' Market Applications Now Available!

Are you or is someone you know interested in becoming a vendor at the **2024 Farmers' Market on Academy Hill**? Now is the time to start the process by filling out an application!

The market runs from **May thru October on Friday afternoons** from 3-6pm and offers fresh produce, meats and cheeses, baked goods and prepared foods, along with hand-made crafts and more! There is also live music every week! Consider joining this annual tradition in 2024!



[2024 WFM RULES & REGS](#)

[2024 CRAFTERS' APP](#)

[2024 PRODUCERS' APP](#)

Cultural Council News!



DID YOU KNOW?

The Westminster Cultural Council is a community group committed to **providing a broad range of cultural programs** to the residents of our town. Support for the arts is evidenced here by the annual allocation of town funds that enhances our state funding. For many years we have supported programs in our schools, town library and senior center in addition to town-wide music and art events. Our audience ranges from preschoolers to senior citizens, and participation has been strong and enthusiastic.

2024 UPDATE:

For the 2024 fiscal year, the WCC received \$7,400 in MCC funding in addition to a \$4000 appropriation from the Town. Each year in October the WCC solicits grant applications that are then reviewed for funding. The WCC funds **"The Little Gallery"** in Town Hall for local artists to display their works.



DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO MAY BE INTERESTED IN DISPLAYING THEIR ARTWORK (PHOTOGRAPHY, PAINTINGS, ETC.) AT THE TOWN HALL?



IF SO, PLEASE REACH OUT TO NANCY:
978-874-2139.

"FUNDING DIVERSE CULTURAL PROGRAMS FOR A VARIETY OF AUDIENCES AND PARTICIPANTS."

TO VIEW THE WCC'S 2024 BROCHURE, INCLUDING UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES, CLICK BELOW!

[2024 WESTMINSTER CULTURAL COUNCIL BROCHURE](#)

>>> HAVE YOU COME ACROSS THIS BUILDING AND WONDERED WHAT IT IS? >>>



Located on the corner of Leominster Street and 2A, the Westminister Farmers' Cooperative is a building that has served many different functions over the years. **The Town was fortunate to receive a \$50,000 earmark from the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism for improvements and site work.** The work was completed through a collaboration of effort with Town staff, volunteers and local interested parties and included the installation of a gravel parking area, new paint, glazed windows, storage and full site work utilizing clover grass seed and wildflowers for an aesthetic and environmentally friendly approach. For the time being it is providing additional public green space, and a visually appealing entrance to town. Stay tuned for more as we continue to improve this parcel of land.



Forbush

Memorial Library

HAVE YOU VISITED THE LIBRARY'S NEW WEBSITE YET?

FIND US ON SOCIAL   OR VISIT US ONLINE TODAY! [FORBUSHLIBRARY.ORG](https://forbushlibrary.org)

TUE-THU: 10AM-8PM | FRI: 10AM-5PM | SAT: 9AM-2PM | SUN & MON: CLOSED

~ LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT ~

CLICK AN AREA BELOW FOR MORE DETAILS



Join the Friends



Art & Artifacts



Online Resources



Get a Library Card

Homebound Delivery

Museum Passes

ADULT EVENTS

Great Decisions

Thurs, Feb. 1 | 6:30–8PM
Discussion of World Events

Trivial Pursuit Club

Tue, Feb 6 | 7–8PM

Adult Book Club

Wed, Feb 7 | 6–7PM

TEEN EVENTS

Babysitter Basics with 4H

Tue & Wed, Feb 20 & 21
10AM–2PM

For youth ages 11–18
Must attend both days to earn
certificate of completion and
Babysitter's ID card.
\$10 Fee

KIDS EVENTS

Bi-Lingual Story Time

Thurs, Feb. 8
10–10:30AM (3–6)
4–4:45PM (6–11)

Creative Drama

Thurs, Feb 22
Little Kid 10–11AM
Big Kid 11AM–12PM

IT'S THAT TIME
OF YEAR AGAIN!
FEDERAL & STATE
TAX FORMS ARE
NOW AVAILABLE AT
THE LIBRARY.

FOR A FULL SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS & REGISTRATION DETAILS, [CLICK HERE!](#)



THE WESTMINSTER HISTORICAL COMMISSION ANNOUNCES THE RETURN OF THE "GOLDEN KEY AWARDS"



AWARD RECIPIENTS WILL BE CHOSEN
IN MAY OF 2024

CATEGORY 1: HOMES | CATEGORY 2: PUBLIC BUILDINGS & BUSINESSES

The Golden Key Awards are presented to local homeowners, public building business owners/volunteers who have chosen to conduct renovation work in a manner that preserves, honors and enhances the architectural beauty and integrity that is found throughout Westminster. If you have seen a renovation project in town that you feel is noteworthy of accolades, please consider nominating that person or business.

Nominations can be sent to:

Westminster Historical Commission PO Box 456 Town Hall, Westminster, MA 01473

Please Include:

- Public Building / Business / Homeowner's Name AND Address
- Describe the restoration/renovation project and explain why you think this is a good example of historic preservation
- What change has this project made in the neighborhood?
- As far as you know, when was the project started? Completed?



Council on Aging Senior Newsletter Insert



While the Council on Aging still offers an independently printed newsletter, we aim to integrate the existing COA newsletter into our new Town Newsletter in the near future. The Council on Aging Newsletter will still be provided separately for the next month or two to allow everyone to acclimate to this new format. We look forward to these exciting changes!

Happy
Birthdays

TO ALL OUR SENIORS
CELEBRATING IN FEBRUARY!

Important Updates

JUST A FRIENDLY REMINDER!



With the inclement weather upon us, the Council on Aging Van Service aligns with the Westminster School Closings. **If School is cancelled due to bad weather, the van will not run.** The Senior Center building ONLY closes if the Town Hall closes. Happy... and SAFE... trails to you!

SMOKE & CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR INSPECTION PROGRAM

The Westminster Fire Department is providing **FREE Carbon Monoxide and Smoke Detector inspections and replacements** for Westminster residents. To participate in this program, please call the Westminster Senior Center: 978-874-7402. Please provide your name, street address, and phone number. The Fire Department will contact you directly to schedule a visit. Be sure to take advantage of this valuable program for the safety of yourself and your loved ones... fur-babies included!



SHINE (SERVING THE HEALTH INSURANCE NEEDS OF EVERYONE)

SHINE will be at the Westminster Senior Center every FIRST and THIRD Wednesday of the month. SHINE representatives provide **FREE, UNBIASED and CONFIDENTIAL counseling** assistance to Medicare beneficiaries, their families, and caregivers. To make your personal appointment with SHINE, please call the Westminster Senior Center at 978-874-7402. SHINE is here to help ease the burden of healthcare!

FUEL ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE!

If you are in need of fuel assistance, please call the following:

- *NEWFC (New England Farm Workers Council): 978-342-4520
- *SALVATION ARMY: 978-342-9407
- *JOE FOR OIL: 877-563-4645

Westminster Council on Aging | Senior Community Center
69 West Main Street, PO Box 212, Westminster, MA 01473

(978) 874-7402 | Council on Aging Director, Susan Fisher: sfisher@westminster-ma.gov

PLEASE NOTE THESE UPCOMING CENTER CLOSINGS DUE TO ELECTION SET-UP & VOTING

Thank you in advance for complying with and understanding these closures. We will miss you on these days!

MARCH 4 & 5 | APRIL 29 & 30 | AUGUST 30 | SEPTEMBER 3 | NOVEMBER 4 & 5

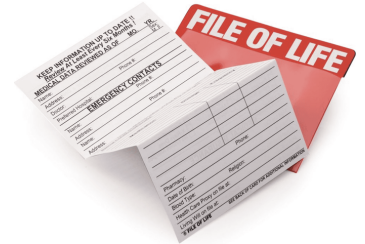


NEXT COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD MEETING SET FOR FEBRUARY 13 @12PM

Held at the Senior Center, this meeting is **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!** All are welcome to attend!

FREE 'FILE OF LIFE' FOLDERS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE SR CENTER

These folders are designed to be kept on your refrigerator as an alert to medical personnel during an emergency situation. They contain your medical information, emergency contacts, medications and dosages, and much more. During times of stress, it can be difficult to remember this information. **These files could save your life, or the life of a loved one!** Pick yours up today!



CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP - 1ST & 3RD MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH

From 9:00AM-10:00AM this support group will help allow you to learn, share and support one another. Hosted by Rev. Joelle Johns, MDiv., PT-Csp, GC-C / Hospice Care Consultant. Caring for a loved one can be difficult, **but we are here to help you** navigate the challenges.

Upcoming Events & Activities -- Fun for All!



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH @ 1:00PM IN THE SENIOR CENTER BALLROOM!



CELEBRATE THE MONTH OF LOVE! Entertainment provided by the **Westminster Strummers Ukulele Group and singers!** Please bring a dessert to share! Be entered into the Valentine Drawing! Please RSVP by February 12th to: 978-874-7402.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH | 9:00-10:00AM BREAKFAST SANDWICHES & COFFEE "ON THE HOUSE"

Hosted by our friend, Bill O'Connor! Enjoy a delicious breakfast while enjoying a **'heart to heart'** talk about staying healthy! Please Sign-Up by February 9th at the Senior Center or by calling: 978-874-7402.



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST | MEET AT 11:45AM BREAKFAST SANDWICHES & COFFEE "ON THE HOUSE"

Do you like to dine out... but hate going alone!? Please join us for a casual lunch and great company at the **99 Restaurant in Gardner.** We will meet at the Senior Center and load up the van / carpool. Everyone orders off the menu and pays their own way! RSVP as the van fill fast: 978-874-7402

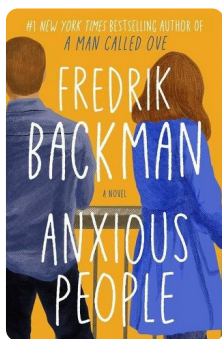
FRIENDSHIP CLUB DETAILS

Please note that the Friendship Club will **NOT be meeting in February!** Mark your calendar for the next monthly meeting schedule for Wed., March 6th!



MONTHLY BOOK CLUB

Good books, good company, good discussions! Meets on the 1st Monday of the month (or Tuesday if there is a holiday). **Next Mtg: Monday, Feb. 5th!** Book to be discussed is Frederick Backman's "Anxious People."



UKULELE JAM SESSION

This group meets every **Friday in February from 1:00PM-2:30PM**. Join the fun! Open to both new to ukulele and experienced players! Singers are also welcome to join in for the fun!



COFFEE WITH THE CHIEFS!

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8 | 10:00-11:00AM

Acting Police Chief Jason Tamulen & Fire Chief Kyle Butterfield

All are welcome to stop in to the Senior Center to meet with our Chiefs in a relaxed setting. Feel free to ask questions, voice concerns and share new ideas.

IT'S SHOWTIME! FEATURING: P.S. I LOVE YOU

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22nd | 12:00-2:00PM

Join us for a movie on the big screen! Relax and enjoy in a comfortable setting with popcorn and drinks provided. **P.S. I LOVE YOU was voted one of the best romantic comedies in a long time!** Sign-up by February 20th!



VETERAN COFFEE MEETUP: TUESDAY, FEB. 13TH | 10:00-11:30AM

Join area veterans for conversation and complimentary refreshments. We ask that only veterans attend this event in order to respect those who attend's time in sharing personal experiences. **We appreciate all who have or are serving.** Thank you for your service and dedication to our country!

CARD BINGO! THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH | 1:00-3:00PM

Invite friends, enjoy coffee and refreshments and win prizes! A lot of fun to be had by all! Please Sign-up by February 6th. If you are attending, please **BRING \$5 in QUARTERS!**



Fitness Classes -- Get Up, Get Moving!

DUST OFF THOSE BOOTS FOR LINE DANCING CLASS WITH ANNE GILMARTIN

Thursdays from 9:30-11:30AM | Beginners \$3 (1st hour only) & Improvers \$5 (full 2 hours) | No sign-up needed

RELAX AND REJUVINATE AT YOGA WITH PAULA MAGEE

Mondays from 9:30-10:15AM | Sign-up is not required

Join Paula to add physical and emotional strength, flexibility, and balance to your daily activity. This 45-minute class is designed for ALL. No floor work as we will be working standing or seated.



FIND YOUR HAPPY PLACE DURING YOGA WITH LORI PUCKO

Fridays from 9:30-10:15AM | Sign-up is not required ahead of time.



CARDIO STRENGTH FOR SENIORS

Wednesdays from 9:30-10:15AM | Sign-up is not required

Join Paula Magee in this fun, 45-minute class that includes cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, and balance. Bands & balls are provided, but participants should bring their own weights (1-5lbs). Sneakers are required and water is encouraged! Contact Paula for questions: 978-467-6173.

February

ACTIVITIES



Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

<p>JOIN US FOR CONGREGATE MEALS! SERVED MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY ~ 11:30 AM WESTMINSTER SENIOR CENTER SUGGESTED DONATION \$3 RESERVATIONS REQUIRED BY 10AM PRIOR BUSINESS DAY PLEASE CALL SENIOR CENTER 978-874-7402</p>				<p><i>*Ham w/Gravy</i> 1 9-11 WOW 9-11 Cribbage 9-12 Wood Carving 9:30-11:30 Line Dancing 11:30 Lunch 1-3 Scrabble 1-4 Crafts</p>		<p><i>*Macaroni/Cheese</i> 2 9-11:30 Art 9:30-10:15 Yoga 11:30 Lunch 1-2:30 Ukulele Jam 1-3 Bingo</p>			
<p><i>*BBQ Pulled Pork</i> 5 9-10 Caregiver Support Group 9:30-10:15 Yoga 10:30-11:30 Book Club (Barbara Friedman) 11:30 Lunch 1-4 Mah Jong</p>		<p><i>*Breaded Chicken</i> 6 9-11:30 Art 11:30 Lunch 1-3 Bingo</p>		<p><i>*Chicken Scampi</i> 7 9-11 Canasta 9-11:30 Art 9-3 SHINE (by Appt) 9:30-10:15 Cardio Strength 10-12 Fix It To List It 11:30 Lunch 12-3:30 Bridge 1-3 Pitch</p>		<p><i>*Turkey Chili</i> 8 9-11 WOW 9-11 Cribbage 9-12 Wood Carving 9:30-11:30 Line Dancing 10-11 Coffee w/Chiefs 11:30 Lunch 1-3 Scrabble 1-3 Card Bingo 1-4 Crafts</p>		<p><i>*Garlic Salmon</i> 9 9-11:30 Art 9:30-10:15 Yoga 11:30 Lunch 1-2:30 Ukulele Jam 1-3 Bingo</p>	
<p><i>*Yankee Pot Roast</i> 12 9:30-10:15 Yoga 11:30 Lunch 1-4 Mah Jong</p>		<p><i>*Beans & Hotdogs</i> 13 9-11:30 Art 9:00 Breakfast Sandwiches 10-11:30 Veteran Coffee 11:30 Lunch 12:00 COA Board Mtg 1-3 Bingo</p>		<p><i>*Ravioli & Marinara</i> 14 9-11 Canasta 9-11:30 Art 9:30-10:15 Cardio Strength 11:30 Lunch 12-3:30 Bridge 1-3 Pitch</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♥</p> <p>HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!</p>		<p><i>*Turkey Cobb Salad</i> 15 9-11 WOW 9-11 Cribbage 9-12 Wood Carving 9:30-11:30 Line Dancing 11:30 Lunch 1:00 Valentine's Day Party 1-3 Scrabble 1-4 Crafts</p>		<p><i>*Breaded Fish</i> 16 9-11:30 Art 9:30-10:15 Yoga 11:30 Lunch 1-2:30 Ukulele Jam 1-3 Bingo</p>	
<p>CLOSED 19</p>		<p><i>*Turkey w/Gravy</i> 20 9-11:30 Art 11:30 Lunch 1-3 Bingo</p>		<p><i>*Chicken Cacciatore</i> 21 9-11 Canasta 9-11:30 Art 9-3 SHINE (by Appt) 9:30-10:15 Cardio Strength 11:30 Lunch 11:45 LEO Club 12-3:30 Bridge 1-3 Pitch</p>		<p><i>*Beef/Veggie Stew</i> 22 9-11 WOW 9-11 Cribbage 9-12 Wood Carving 9:30-11:30 Line Dancing 11:30 Lunch 12-2 Movie Time 1-3 Scrabble 1-4 Crafts</p>		<p><i>*Spinach Lasagna</i> 23 9-11:30 Art 9:30-10:15 Yoga 11:30 Lunch 12-12:30 LAER Realty 1-2:30 Ukulele Jam 1-3 Bingo</p>	
<p><i>*Meatloaf w/Gravy</i> 26 9:30-10:15 Yoga 11:30 Lunch 1-4 Mah Jong</p>		<p><i>*Stuffed Shells</i> 27 9-11:30 Art 11:30 Lunch 1-3 Bingo</p>		<p><i>*Turkey Cranberry Salad</i> 28 9-11 Canasta 9-11:30 Art 9:30-10:15 Cardio Strength 11:30 Lunch 11:45 Social Trip 12-3:30 Bridge 1-3 Pitch</p>		<p><i>*Chicken Kiev</i> 29 9-11 WOW 9-11 Cribbage 9-12 Wood Carving 9:30-11:30 Line Dancing 11:30 Lunch 1-3 Scrabble 1-4 Crafts</p>			

BONNIE of Baldwinville Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation Center will be providing Bingo Treats on the First Friday of every month! **Thank you Bonnie!**



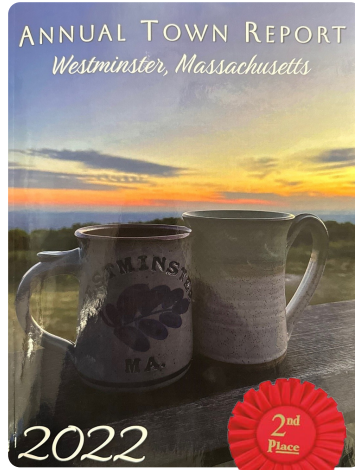
PATTI of Gables Assisted Living will be providing Bingo Dessert on the Second Friday of every month! **Thank you Patti!**



"LOVE IS OUR TRUE DESTINY. WE DO NOT FIND THE MEANING OF LIFE BY OURSELVES ALONE; WE FIND IT WITH ANOTHER." ~THOMAS MERTON

Congratulations Are In Order!

The Town of Westminster received notification that we have been awarded **second place for the 2022 Annual Town Report**, out of all Towns in Massachusetts with a population less than 50,000! This is a great honor for our staff and Town and we appreciate everyone who had a hand in helping to produce the Report.



A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT FOR THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR & SELECT BOARD, **TAMIE CHIARELLI** FOR ALL OF YOUR HARD WORK!



Thank You...



STAY CONNECTED IN TOWN!



This newsletter is a chance to share information with our community, but also for our community to share news with us! If you have an article, story, or update you think would be informative or enjoyed by residents, please reach out to Audra Kirtland, Community Services Director: akirtland@westminster-ma.gov. Please understand the Town of Westminster reserves the right to choose what to publish.

To receive this newsletter electronically in the future, along with options for updates on other important messages from the Town of Westminster, sign up for Town News & Alerts. This newsletter will be under the option **'Town News & Announcements.'**



If you would like to sign up for updates from our local emergency response team in the event of emergency situations or critical community alerts, please click **CodeRED** to the left. Examples include: evacuation notices, bio-terrorism alerts, boil water notices, and missing child reports.

Want to attend certain town meetings but can't physically make it to the Town Hall? Want to relive the action from a child's recent concert or sports game? Or see an interview with a local community member? You can do all of these through **Ash-West Community Media**. Click right to see all the options available!



For Additional Town Updates & Information, visit: westminster-ma.gov

TOWN HALL HOURS

Monday: 7:00am–7:00pm
Tue–Thurs: 7:30am–4:30pm
Friday: CLOSED



WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL

11 SOUTH STREET
WESTMINSTER, MA 01473
[EMAIL US](#)