

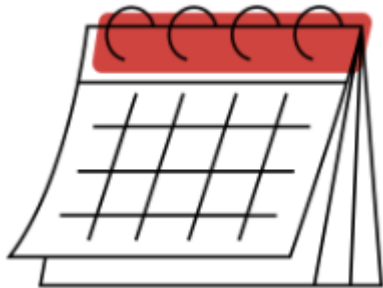
NORTHFIELD TOWN HALL NEWSLETTER

MAY-JUNE 2024



Calendar

The **Northfield Town Calendar** lists upcoming public meetings and events. View the calendar on the Town of Northfield website, where updates are made on a regular basis. Upcoming public meetings are also posted on the boards inside the lower-level entrance to Town Hall.



Contact Town Hall

Residents can contact town staff by:

- Submitting a message through the **Online Contact Form**
- Calling the main Town Phone line at **413-498-2901**
- Contacting staff directly through the **Staff Directory**
- Visiting Town Hall Monday – Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Departments have differing times of availability, and we recommend calling before you arrive to ensure the office you need is open.

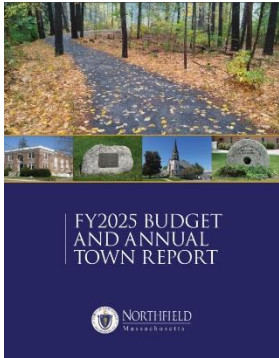
Newsletter Sign-up

To receive the newsletter in your email inbox when a new issue is published, visit www.northfieldma.gov/subscribe or scan the QR code using your phone. Input your email address, check off the “Town News & Announcement” box, and click on the “Subscribe Me” button at the bottom of the page. You’ll receive all future Town Hall e-newsletters unless you unsubscribe.



Spring Has Sprung!

Spring is here, and with it: Town Meeting and Town Election season! Northfield bylaw mandates that Annual Town Meeting takes place on the first Monday in May. This year, that makes it almost the latest it can possibly be, on Monday, May 6th. Town Meeting will be held at the Pioneer Valley High School at 7:00 PM. The warrant and the motion warrant are posted on the Town's website at: <https://www.northfieldma.gov/home/news/town-election-town-report-town-meeting>.



At that link is also the Town's new Budget Book/Town Report – which has a lot of information, including department reports followed by a breakdown of each department's individual budget by line item. I urge you to take a look at this new format, as Town departments put in a lot of work to detail their mission, describe the work of their department and outline their accomplishments from this year and their goals for next year. We moved to this expanded format in the hope that it would provide more useful and interesting information for town residents, and allow them to see the relationship between the department's responsibilities, goals and budget. I want to thank all the Town departments for their cooperation in this new project – I think the results speak for themselves!

I hope that you will join myself and Town officials at the Annual Town Meeting on May 6th to ask questions, learn more about the town's finances and operations, and vote for the next fiscal year budget.

-Andrea Llamas
Town Administrator

News from the Town Clerk's Office

- **Town Meeting is Monday, May 6th at Pioneer Valley Regional School at 7:00 p.m.**
- **Town Election is Tuesday, May 7th at Town Hall from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.**

Northfield's Annual Town Meeting is held on the first Monday in May with the Town Election the following Tuesday. Candidates are nominated at the Non-partisan Caucus in March. Most elected positions are for a three-year term, and a list of offices up for reelection can be found on the town website under the Town Clerk's page. Candidates are nominated for each office on the ballot, and can speak or send someone on their behalf.



All registered voters were sent a Vote by Mail postcard application at the beginning of the year. If you selected "All Elections" you will receive a ballot for all elections in 2024 including our local election. **The State will be mailing a second round of postcard applications for the September Primary and November General Election for anyone who has not already signed up.** You can always check your application status, apply for a ballot, register to vote/check your voter registration status at <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/OVR/>.

Transfer Station stickers and dog registrations can be purchased online at <https://unipaygold.unibank.com/customerinfo.aspx>. Make sure to provide a copy of your dog's current rabies vaccination. If you received a letter stating your dog's registration is past due and you are no longer a dog owner, please let us know so we can remove you from our list.

Sign up for CodeRed to receive notifications and town alerts here: <https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/en-US/BF9EC25CBDEC>

The Town Clerks Office will be closing early at 11am on Wednesday June 6th for training.

Upcoming Board and Committee Meetings

Visit the town calendar or review the bulletin board in the lower-level entry to Town Hall to stay up to date on all future board and committee meetings: <https://www.northfieldma.gov/calendar/month/2023-11?page=0>

Series: Tips On Navigating the Town Website

In each newsletter, we'll be sharing tips on how to navigate the town website. At www.NorthfieldMA.gov, you'll find plenty of important information and resources.

This issue, we would like to let Town residents know that there is a new option added to the online payment system through the Treasurer's Office, called Bill Presentment.

UNIPAY

Northfield residents have the convenience of online payments through UniPay, where they can schedule payments, save payment information, view payment history, and set up payment reminders. Best of all, you can now download your bill and go paperless!

To pay your taxes have your bill and checkbook or credit card in hand, and then...

1) Go to: <https://www.northfieldma.gov/>

2) Click:



3) Select the bill you would like to pay. 4) Enter your bill details and click:



UniBank, our banking partner, will charge a nominal processing fee for credit card payments. A fee schedule is located on the welcome page for your convenience. Use your checking account and there will be a 50¢ fee.

Internet Access Map Check



Do you or anybody you know in Northfield **lack an internet connection?** We want to hear from you! We are working with the Massachusetts Broadband Initiative to help identify and connect unserved and underserved homes. This information will also support our application for a digital equity implementation grant, allowing us to close [gaps in internet service](#). Please contact Leslie Roberts by phone at 413-498-2901 ext. 111 or by email at grantdevelopmentdirector@northfieldma.gov to report locations without service.

Updates from the Assessor's Office

Cyclical inspections starting in May: The Board of Assessors has retained contracted services with **Mayflower Valuation, LTD** to assist us with cyclical inspections. We do 100 cyclical inspections a year to be in compliance with the Massachusetts Department of Revenue directives. Letters were mailed out to those property owners who are subject to a property inspection. The letter includes the inspectors name as well as the vehicle they will be driving (including make, model, color, year, and License plate number).



The purpose of the cyclical inspection is to verify the data in which the assessed values are in part based. Since soundly based equitable assessments require accurate property data, we ask for your cooperation. Our inspector will have a copy of your property record card on hand and will review it while on your property and may ask you questions to confirm accuracy of the card. The inspector will also measure your dwelling and any additional structures on your property. Your property record card will get updated accordingly. A photo may be taken of your dwelling if the one on file is outdated. **Again, only those who receive the letter from our office will have this inspection.** Any questions or concerns, please contact the Board of Assessors Office.

Contact us by phone: (413) 498-2901 ext. 118

Or email: assessors@northfieldma.gov

A Note from the Sewer Collector

You should have received your second half FY24 Sewer bill which is due **May 15, 2024**. If you have not, please reach out to Michele (contact info below) for a copy. Don't forget we have an added convenience feature that allows you to pay your bill online. Follow the links to Pay Bills at www.northfieldma.gov. See "Series: Tips On Navigating the Town Website" earlier in this newsletter for a guide!

Pay your bill on time to avoid receiving a Demand Bill that includes a \$5 demand fee plus interest.

You may have already heard that we are switching to **quarterly billing** in FY25. The due dates will be as follows:



- 1st quarter: due August 15, 2024
- 2nd quarter: due November 15, 2024
- 3rd quarter: due February 15, 2025
- 4th quarter: due May 15, 2025

These due dates will be consistent unless of course there was to be a problem getting the bills issued. In that case the due date will be 45 days from the date of issue. Should the due date fall on a weekend the payment will be accepted the following Monday. Michele has limited hours at the Town Hall – Monday and Wednesday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., so please plan accordingly.

The quarterly billing system should allow you to better budget and plan how you choose to pay for your Sewer Use charges. Michele does have customers that make monthly payments, and is happy to accommodate those. For those of you who may prefer to pay in advance you are also welcome to do that. Please note that any amounts owed after the due dates will accrue interest and all amounts outstanding after the 4th quarter due date will be charged interest and a demand fee. Thank you!

You can reach Michele Turner at (413) 498-2901 ext. 113 or by email at Mturner@northfieldma.gov.

Updates from the Grant Development Director

Funding requests submitted in March and April included:

- A request for Congressionally-directed spending, to fund \$5 million of the remaining funds needed for the Pauchaug-Schell Bridge reconstruction. We may not hear back until spring 2025, unfortunately...
- A grant application submitted to the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Action Grant program, to fund repairs and upgrades to the Dickinson Street Sewer Sub-Area. Grant awardees will be notified in summer 2024 and Leslie will provide an update in the Town newsletter if we receive the funds.



Results from the Economic Development Community Survey (which concluded in January 2024) are in!

Important figures include:

- Roughly 5% of Town residents completed the survey
- 82% of respondents think that **outdoor recreation** should be highlighted or pursued, to attract visitors
- Respondents do want to see business development, commercial activity, and tourist/visitor activity **increase in Northfield** – however, most would like this activity to occur **away from their homes**
- 92% of respondents feel that **renovation and redevelopment of existing buildings** is the best strategy for accommodating new businesses in Northfield
- Many people want to see a more **“vibrant” Main Street** – but believe that new development should be aligned with Northfield’s **“small-town” feel**

Survey results will be used to guide economic development initiatives, grant opportunities, and future community engagement opportunities. For more information, please contact Leslie at grantdevelopmentdirector@northfieldma.gov.



There is a **Listening Session** on **Wednesday, May 1st at 6:00 p.m.** in the **Select Board meeting room** to discuss the Business Park Feasibility Study, completed by consultants at Westmass Development. This was funded by a Community Planning Grant secured by Mallory from the Executive Office of Housing and

Economic Development. Sean O'Donnell and Sarah LaCour will present on the study and take questions and comments from Town residents. Please join us!

Finally, for any Town residents who are interested in serving on the Northfield Economic Development Advisory Committee, please head to the Town website, fill out the Interested Citizen Form, and submit it to Sandra (Town Secretary) or call her with any questions. Appointments occur on a rolling basis, with reappointments to be made by July 1st. https://www.northfieldma.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf991/f/uploads/citizen_interest_10.pdf

Bulky Waste Recycling Day

The Franklin County Solid Waste Management District is collecting the Spring “Clean Sweep” Bulky Waste Recycling Day on **Saturday, May 11th** from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The three drop-off sites are: Erving Senior Center at 1 Care Dr (off Rt. 63) (*note new site instead of Northfield Highway Garage*); Mohawk Trail Regional School at 26 Ashfield Rd. (Route 112 South); and Whately Transfer Station at 73 Christian Lane.

Residents from any of the District's 21 member towns may bring bulky items such as tires, appliances, scrap metal, furniture, carpeting, construction debris, computers, televisions, propane gas tanks, and other large items. Materials will be recycled whenever possible. For more information about the event and what will be accepted, visit franklincountywastedistrict.org. **Mattresses and box springs will not be accepted at this event;** visit franklincountywastedistrict.org/mattress-recycling for more information about mattress recycling locations across Franklin County.

There are charges for most items. Disposal fees, cash only, will be collected during check-in at each site. A complete list of prices for the most common items is at: franklincountywastedistrict.org. The price list will also be provided to participating town halls and transfer stations. Residents and businesses do not need to pre-register for the collection.

You can contact the District at (413) 772-2438 MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1 (800) 439-2370

Veterans' Services on the Fourth Tuesday

The Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Service District advocates for veterans and their spouses, dependents, widows, or widowers for veterans' benefits at the local, state and federal levels. They assist veterans in filing for benefits like burial or death benefits, VA healthcare, property tax exemptions, military records, and more.

They also provide referrals for issues regarding homelessness, health, education, and employment; archival of discharges; discharge upgrade requests; and SHINE counselor assistance, which provides free health insurance information and counseling.

District Veterans' Services comes to Northfield Senior Center (in the Town Hall) every fourth Tuesday of the month from **9 to 11 a.m. (May 28th, and June 5th)**. You can visit their webpage for more information by heading to northfieldma.gov, clicking on the “Useful Links” tab, and scrolling to the bottom.

FirstLight Updates

Starting on April 10th, Northfield Mountain Recreation began taking reservations for the 2024 camping season for Barton Cove and Munns Ferry via the following link: <https://firstlight.energy/stewardship/barton-cove-and-munns-ferry-campgrounds/> Camping begins on Friday, May 24th.

Northfield Bird Club

Bird and nature walks, adventures and programs – Join us! Programs are free and open to the public. Check our website for details and sign up for email updates: northfieldbirdclub.org. Walks will commence on May 1, and will happen on Wednesday and Saturday mornings.

Birds of our Meadows – Thursday, May 16th at 6:00 p.m. in the Dickinson Memorial Library community room. A presentation by ornithologist Mara Silver will include pictures, information, and suggestions for conservation – with an optional supplemental walk on Saturday, May 25th in the Northfield area meadows at 9:00 a.m.



*Prothonotary Warbler,
photographed by Nat Fleck*

At the April 16th Selectboard Meeting, the Northfield Bird Club was recognized by the Open Space Committee with the 2023 Citizen Stewardship Award. The award was given to Nick Fleck, a founder of the club who has also served on many boards in town (the Select Board, Open Space Committee, and Conservation Commission).

Senior Center Updates and Events

Read the [May or June editions of the Northfield Senior Center Newsletter](#) or pick up a paper copy at the Senior Center.

Northfield Senior Center, COA
NEWSLETTER
MAY 2024



Important updates include:

- **Concert with The Klines** on May 7th starting at 11:00 a.m. in the Senior Center – open to anyone
- The Senior Center will be **walking in the Memorial Day Parade** and you can join – meet us at the Trinitarian Church by 9:30 a.m.! Those who need a golf cart ride due to physical mobility limitations should RSVP ASAP using the contact information below.
- Contact **LIFEPATH (413) 773-5555** for resource for Elders, Caregivers, and persons with disabilities.
- The Council on Aging is actively **looking for new board members** to join the group. Please call Colleen for more information!

The Senior Center can be reached at (413) 498-2901, ext. 114 for Colleen (Director).

Northfield Recreation Commission Information



Northfield Recreation Commission (NRC) offers recreational activities to the residents of Northfield and surrounding towns. Most of our activities take place at Northfield Elementary School (NES) at 104 Main Street.

The Northfield Recreation is running the Carnival and Fun Run this year! We are working hard on some cool games and events for our Northfield Elementary School families and Northfield Residents, so **SAVE THE DATE!** The Carnival will take place on **Saturday, June 1st** at the Northfield Elementary School, from **9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** (Rain date is Saturday, June 8th). More info to come!

The NRC will also have summer programming five days a week at the Northfield Elementary School, from **July 1st to August 2nd**. Activities will include: bike rodeo; water day; puppet class; tie dye; art and sports; and a mounted police visit. Kids can be registered at the website below OR by calling the NRC phone. **Financial help is available for Northfield residents in need.**

If you haven't already created an account through our website, which will give you updated information on all our activities, you can easily do that at: <http://www.northfieldrec.com>

NRC email: reccom@northfieldma.gov

NRC Phone: (413) 498-2901 extension 126

Dickinson Memorial Library

Hello from Dickinson Memorial Library! We have lots of great programs coming up in May:

- **Every Thursday from May 2 to May 23** Mindfulness with Jeanette Eaton, at 1:00 p.m. All are welcome!
- **May 1 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.** Tech Help with Jeroen van der Maat
- **May 2** Spice Club available: this month's spice is Celery Seed!
- **May 3 from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.** Coffee and Tea social
- **May 4 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.** Puzzle Pickup Day
- **May 9** Kids Take and Make pick up starts. This month's activity: paper flowers
- **May 9 at 6:00 p.m.** Trivia at the Brewery
- **May 10 at 4:00 p.m.** Kids' Author Talk with Diana Renn
- **May 16 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.** Lego afternoon
- **May 16 at 6:00 p.m.** Birds of our Meadows
- **May 30 at 5:30 p.m.** MA Center for the Book, Book Club (at Erving Public Library)

The whole month of June is Fairy House Month. Also, summer reading is coming up! Our summer reading program will start on June 22 with our Ice Cream Social and the Summer Reading Shop will open on June 25 and run through August 3. Other programming in June will include:

- **June 1 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.** Puzzle Day
- **June 1** Come see the Library at the PTO Carnival!
- **June 5 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.** Tech Help with Jeroen van der Maat
- **June 6** Spice Club available (spice TBD)
- **June 6 at 5:00 p.m.** Natural Ink workshop
- **June 7 from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.** Coffee and Tea social
- **June 13** Kids Take and Make available (activity TBD)
- **June 13 at 6:00 p.m.** Trivia at the Brewery
- **June 22 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.** Summer Kickoff Ice Cream Social
- **June 27 at 5:30 p.m.** MA Center for the Book, Book Club (at Northfield Public Library)
- **June 19 at 10:00 a.m.** Crossing the River, with Joel Fowler

Aside from programming, we have a lot going on here at the library. We are wrapping up collecting data for our strategic planning. Thank you to all of you who answered the survey! We appreciate all of your opinions. We also have a new book drop, thanks to our wonderful Friends of Dickinson Memorial Library. You may be seeing the annual fundraising letter from the Friends in your mailboxes soon. The money that the Friends raise goes towards big purchases outside of the usual budget, like our book drop, and towards events, such as the ice cream social. We are so grateful to have a supportive Friends group and community.

Please stop by the library! We always look forward to helping the community. We are open Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00-7:00, Wednesdays and Fridays 10:00-5:00, and Saturdays 10:00-3:00. For everything we offer, check out our website at <http://www.northfieldpubliclibrary.org>, give us a call at 413-498-2455, or email us at dmemlib@gmail.com.

Hope to see you soon,
Misha and all the Library Staff



Northfield Police Updates



*"Clean Up With the Cops"
hosted by Northfield PD*

On Saturday, April 27th the Police Department held "Clean Up with the Cops" to support clean up efforts in the Town, for Earth Day.

Officer Oleg Cobileanschi has completed 40 hours of Crisis Intervention Team Training and was awarded his certification in March at GCC.

Officer Curtis Weaver has completed his Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice from Southern New Hampshire University. He also completed the Municipal Police Training Committee Bridge Academy Training Program in April.

The [Blue Envelope Program](#) is now available in Northfield! This is an initiative intended to promote a safer and more understanding environment for drivers with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) during traffic stops. Drivers who have autism can pick up their blue envelope at the Police Department or at the High School.

Information for Local Business Owners

The Small Business Capital and Resource Networking Matchmaker is on **Friday, May 3rd from 8:30 am to 12:30 PM at the Basketball Hall of Fame** in Springfield. Join this free event where you'll find everything you need to start, grow, and expand your business. With representatives from SBA, MSBDC, SCORE, lenders, and more, this is your chance to connect and access valuable resources. Don't miss welcoming remarks from Dilawar Syed, Deputy Administrator of the US Small Business Administration, Mayor Domenic Sarno, and possibly Congressman Richard Neal. Save the date and elevate your business game! Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com>.

There is also a Small Business Block Party taking place on **June 6, 4:30 to 7:00 p.m** at the **Franklin County Community Development Corporation (CDC), 324 Wells Street in Greenfield**. This party to celebrate local entrepreneurs will also commemorate the CDC's 45th anniversary.

Share Your Seasonal Photos!

We'd love to see photos that celebrate our Town, and may choose to include it in a future edition of this newsletter. Submit photos to grantdevelopmentdirector@northfieldma.gov by June 19th for a chance to have your seasonal photo included in the May-June issue. Please include the photographer's full name. If the photographer is a child, you can include their age or grade too (not required). Open to Northfield residents of all ages.

Subscribe

We aim to share practical reminders and exciting opportunities in the Town newsletter. If you or someone you know would like to get the newsletter in your inbox, be sure to subscribe at www.northfieldma.gov/subscribe.

Thanks for reading, and stay tuned for the next newsletter in July!

CARNIVAL & FUN RUN!

BLOSSOM WINKS
Face Painting
blossomwinkscreative@gmail.com



LOCATED AT THE NORTHFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Sat June 1st 9am to 1pm (raindate June 8th)

SCHEDULE

- 9AM FUN RUN STARTS
- 10AM DJ GAMES
- 10:30AM NECCA CIRCUS PERFORMANCE
- 11AM MORE DJ GAMES
- 11:30AM NECCA CIRCUS PERFORMANCE
- 12PM TUG-O-WAR: STUDENTS VS. TEACHERS/PARENTS

ACTIVITIES

- FACE PAINTING WITH BLOSSOM WINKS \$5 EACH
- TOUCH-A-TRUCK WITH NORTHEAST PAVING AND TOWN DEPARTMENTS
- BOUNCE HOUSE AND DUNK TANK SPONSORED BY FIRSTLIGHT
- PHOTOBOOTH WITH DICKINSON LIBRARY
- ARTS & CRAFTS WITH PVCFCE PROGRAM
- OBSTACLE COURSE AND GAMES



THE NEW ENGLAND CENTER FOR CIRCUS ARTS (NECCA) PRESENTS A STUDENT DEMONSTRATION SHOW FEATURING ASPIRING PERFORMERS FROM THE SCHOOL'S INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED PROFESSIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM ALONGSIDE ADVANCING COMMUNITY STUDENTS. THE BRATTLEBORO BASED NATIONAL EDUCATION CENTER OFFERS RECREATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES AND ALL LEVELS. BE AMAZED AND ENTERTAINED AS THEY SWING, LEAP AND FLY PRESENTING ACROBATICS, JUGGLING AND AERIALS.
WWW.NECCAFORCIRCUSARTS.ORG TWO SHOWS: 10:30 AM & 11:30 AM



DICKINSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY



FirstLight

NECCA

New England Center for Circus Arts



BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE NORTHFIELD RECREATION COMMISSION