

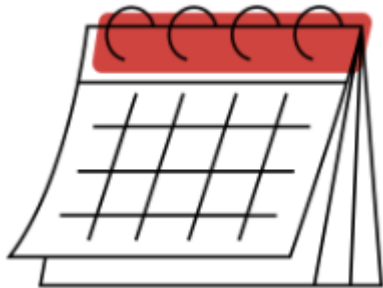
# NORTHFIELD TOWN HALL NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2023



## 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

Visit [www.northfieldma.gov/subscribe](http://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. You’ll receive all future Town Hall e-newsletters unless you unsubscribe.



## Welcome!

Welcome to the first edition of the Town of Northfield’s bi-monthly email newsletter! Your town staff have assembled updates, stories of interest, and notices for upcoming events and meetings to help keep you informed on what’s happening in Town Hall and beyond. What else would you like to learn more about? [Let us know by sharing your thoughts here](#). These newsletters will be published every other month and sent by email to all who register. If you or someone you know would like to get the newsletter in your inbox, be sure to subscribe to this and other town updates at [www.northfieldma.gov/subscribe](http://www.northfieldma.gov/subscribe).

-Andrea Llamas  
Town Administrator

# DEPARTMENT UPDATES

## Celebrate at the 350<sup>th</sup> Parade on Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>

Are you ready for the fun and festivity of Northfield's 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary parade? This celebratory event will reflect every characteristic of our community, featuring tractors, trucks, vintage cars, many local businesses and organizations providing unique floats, inspiring music of the U.S. Marine Band and other area bands, and the fun and antics of the Shriners parade clowns and mini-cars. In addition, local, regional, and statewide elected officials and our own Northfield first responders will march along the route. This great family event on Main Street begins at 1:00 and is expected to last two hours! Afterward, head over to the Brewery at Four Star Farms around 4:00 to partake in kids activities, drinks, food, music, and fireworks! There is still time to volunteer to help set up for the parade on the 29<sup>th</sup> or during the event on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Contact Robin van der Maat at [rvidmjobs@gmail.com](mailto:rvidmjobs@gmail.com) to sign up!

## Farewell to Sergeant Alexander Pirozhkov and Welcome to Officer Chris Miner



Chief Hall and Officer Miner

We would like to introduce our newest full-time Police Officer, Chris Miner. Officer Miner has his BA in Criminal Justice and a Minor in Psychology. He has over seven years of policing experience. Officer Miner looks forward to returning to Northfield PD on a full-time capacity. Please say hi to him while he is on patrol! He looks forward to re-connecting with everyone!

Officer Miner's position was anticipated to help fill some scheduling gaps when Northfield PD hoped to have a School Resource Officer (SRO). After the School District decided not to have an SRO, we learned Sgt. Alexander

Pirozhkov was in the process for the Massachusetts State Police. The timing worked out well, and Officer Miner will work evening shifts which were filled by Sgt. Pirozhkov. Sgt. Pirozhkov is scheduled to begin the State Police Academy on September 11<sup>th</sup>. We would like to thank him for his years of service! Sgt. Pirozhkov started as a part-time officer and rose through the ranks, even serving as the Acting Chief of Police. Sgt. Pirozhkov continued to serve the PD up until his last hours on duty, when he responded to a two-vehicle accident and subsequently made an arrest for OUI. Again, we appreciate his service keeping the community safe, and we wish him the best.

## Grant for New Gear to Benefit Firefighters

Northfield Fire Department has received a grant of \$120,671 to purchase new firefighter safety equipment. Grants from the competitive Assistance to Firefighters program, an initiative of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), help firefighters and other first responders obtain critical resources necessary for protecting the public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazards. This grant will fund 21 new self-contained breathing apparatuses, which protect emergency responders from toxic gases and harmful particulate matter resulting from fires, and two Rapid Intervention Team rescue packs. The current equipment is overdue for replacement, and the new gear will help keep Northfield's firefighters safe and healthy as they carry out their work to safeguard our community. The new gear is expected to be purchased in the fall and arrive by early winter.

## Natural Disaster Recovery Funds Available for Impacted Farmers

Governor Maura Healey's Office recently announced \$15 million in funding from the *Natural Disaster Recovery Program for Agriculture* to Massachusetts farms that were adversely affected by one or more of the extreme weather events in 2023. This funding will provide financial relief to farmers impacted by the February freeze, May frost, and July floods so they can recover and rebuild their growing operations. To learn more about the funding, visit [mass.gov](https://mass.gov). To apply for funding, [visit this page](#). The deadline to apply is Friday, September 29 at 4:00 PM. For questions regarding the application process or eligibility, contact Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources by telephone, at (774) 419-1808, or by email, at [mdargrants@mass.gov](mailto:mdargrants@mass.gov).

## NPD Summer and Back-to-School Updates from Chief Jon Hall



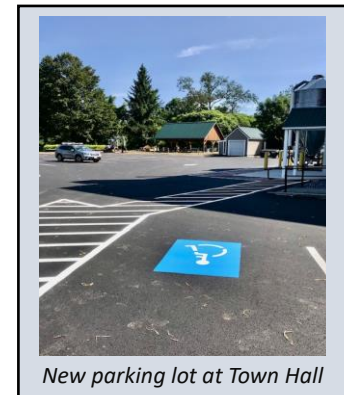
Northfield PD has had an eventful summer. A significant drug interdiction arrest for the possession and distribution of 531 bags of heroin was made by Officer Oleg Cobileanski. Officer Chad Sumner has continued to work with youths and families, collaborating with the Department of Children and Families on several cases this summer, responding to Northfield Elementary School for an incorrect school shooting rumor on September 6<sup>th</sup>, responding to Pioneer Valley Regional High School for a student leaving the school and refusing to go back inside and for another student found with a plastic bag with white powder inside. As usual, Ofc. Sumner did a great job with his response to the schools upon their request. Additionally, Officer Cowan stayed involved this summer with the community by helping out with

a Bike Rodeo and showing support for a local child lemonade stand.

There were many other police-community interactions this summer, including the report/investigation of a stolen vehicle, which was recovered, and for which the suspect was charged shortly after. NPD took a report of a missing person from a concerned mother, and the son was located safely. Several calls were made for welfare checks, with patients receiving mental health and medical care as needed. There were several serious motor vehicle collisions on our roadways, including a jeep that hit a tree on South Mountain Road, and a sedan rollover on Gulf Road.

### New Town Hall Parking Lot Improves Accessibility and Flooding Concerns

If you visited Town Hall in early August, you saw that the rear parking lot was closed for construction. Northfield's Highway Department, led by Tom Walker, removed existing pavement and two diseased trees in order in order to make accessibility improvements, address drainage issues, paint a new crosswalk, and designate spaces for police cruisers and staff parking so there are ample spaces close to the ground-level building entrance available for residents conducting business at Town Hall. While the paving has been completed, there are a few additions yet to come: new trees and shrubbery will be planted on the north side of the Town Hall property.



### Register for the Rural Downtown District Management Meeting on 10/10

Attention Business Owners of Northfield! Join us for the first meeting of the Rural Downtown District Management Project. This project will examine the needs of Northfield's business districts and evaluate models that can provide the capacity needed to generate greater economic activity. It is funded through a state Efficiency & Regionalization grant received by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) and will be completed in partnership with the FRCOG and a team of expert consultants. Come ready to share your experiences, needs, and ideas! The first meeting will take place on Tuesday, Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> 5:00-6:30 p.m. at the Dickinson Library Community Meeting Room and is open to the public but will focus on the experiences of business owners. Light refreshments will be served. [Register using this form](#) or by calling 413-498-2901 ext. 111.

### Northfield is Open for Business!

In an effort to help connect prospective business owners with owners of available buildings not currently in use, the Town of Northfield will be launching a free, voluntary Commercial Property Directory on the town website. If you are interested in leasing or selling property that could be used for commercial purposes and you would like it to be included in the Commercial Property Directory, you can [learn more here](#) or contact Mallory Sullivan at [GrantDevelopmentDirector@northfieldma.gov](mailto:GrantDevelopmentDirector@northfieldma.gov) for more information. If you are interested in renting or purchasing commercial property, please stay tuned.

## Storefront Renovation Program Revitalizing Local Businesses

The Town of Northfield announces local businesses that are the recipients of Storefront Renovation Grant Program funding. Grants supported permanent façade improvements and other exterior beautification projects. The varied projects include installation of a new awning, doors, windows, signage, plantings, outdoor furniture for gathering areas, window displays, and more. Recipients of grants include Cameron's Winery, Fiddleheads Gallery, the Northfield Creamie, Northfield Food Mart/IGA, Stellar Kayaks, and the 74 Main Street block. The ARPA Committee reviews applications and makes recommendations for funding to the Select Board.



Northfield Food Mart/IGA



Cameron's Winery

## Fall Updates from Dickinson Memorial Library

Hello from Dickinson Memorial Library! We always have a full calendar of events at the library, but as we enter fall, we want to remind you of our recurring programs.

- We have Trivia at the Brewery at Four Star Farms monthly. Future dates: Sept. 14, Oct. 5, & Nov. 16, all at 6:00.
- We have 3 book groups for adults. Our Readers' Choice group meets the first Wednesday of the month at 10:00, our American Fiction and Poetry group meets the second Wednesday of the month at 3:00, and our Environmental group meets the second Thursday of the month at 6:30. Anyone is welcome to join. Contact the library for what each group is currently reading.
- The first Saturday of each month, the Friends of the Library host a Puzzle Day from 10:00-11:30. Bring puzzles to swap or just come by to pick some up.
- Starting September 13, our musical story hour for 0-5 year olds will start back up. This will be every Wednesday at 10:00.

For other events, check out our website at [www.northfieldpubliclibrary.org](http://www.northfieldpubliclibrary.org), give us a call at 413-498-2455, or email us at [dmemlib@gmail.com](mailto:dmemlib@gmail.com).

Keep in mind our other services as well! There are books to check out of course, but we also have computers, copier, and fax to use, toys and room to run around in the children's room, and friendly librarians to help you with your tech problems and are always happy to chat. Stop by during our open hours. Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00-7:00, Wednesdays and Fridays 10:00-5:00, and Saturdays 10:00-3:00.

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

## New Ambulance arrives at Northfield EMS

In June, Northfield EMS's new ambulance was delivered! The new vehicle will help Northfield EMS respond to calls and provide emergency services in a timely, safe manner. A grant from the United States Department of Agriculture helped support the purchase. More information about the new ambulance is available in an article by the [Greenfield Recorder](#) (*paywall*).



New Ambulance

## Free Technology Workshops for Seniors available in Greenfield

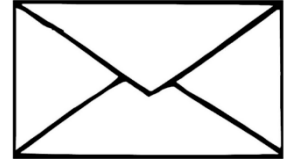
### Free Technology Workshops available in Greenfield

The Greenfield Senior Center received a grant to offer several technology workshops for older adults over the next year, and they will be FREE OF CHARGE! The very first one is coming up soon. It will run **Fridays 12:00-2:00 PM Sept 8th- 29th**. This four-part workshop will cover all of the computer basics you need to know to use your device efficiently and effectively! This is available for free to those who are 60 and over and are Franklin County residents. Register at <https://engage.gcc.mass.edu/workshops/computer-basics-for-seniors/>. Please email Judy Raper, Associate Dean for Community Engagement at GCC, at [raperj@gcc.mass.edu](mailto:raperj@gcc.mass.edu) with any questions!

## Reminders from Town Hall

### Semi-Annual Tax Bills

- Tax bills are due on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you have questions about your bill, please contact Treasurer-Collector Michele Turner at 413-498-2901 x113 or visit Town Hall on Monday or Wednesday between 9:00 – 3:00.



### A Note from Your Assessors Office:

- A friendly reminder to all the Chapter 61 property owners or those who are interested in the Chapter 61 program. All applications are due October 1. Applications are available outside the Assessor's Office or online on the Town Website under the Assessors Page. Please call the Assessors Office with any questions at 413-498-2901 ext. 118 or email [assessors@northfieldma.gov](mailto:assessors@northfieldma.gov)
- Are you 65 or older? Or are you a disabled Veteran with a 10% disability rating or more? Stop by the Assessors office to see if you qualify for an exemption on your Real Estate Taxes. There are very specific guidelines on eligibility, but Beth Walker in the Assessors Office will be happy to go over it all with you.

### Town Clerk Updates:

- Welcome back to Dan Campbell as our Assistant Town Clerk! Dan was appointed to the position by the Select Board on August 8.
- Citizens Interest - We encourage applicants to attend meetings to become familiar with the board or committee of interest prior to submitting a form. All board and committee meetings are posted at town hall on the bulletin board located inside the ground floor entrance by the senior center and on the town's website. Citizen interest forms are available at town hall and on the town website, if interested in joining a board or committee submit the completed form to Select Board, Town Hall, 69 Main Street, Northfield, MA 01360.
- Election Officers - There are openings for Election Officers (assist at elections) in preparation for the busy 2024 election year. Learn more by contacting the Town Clerk or visiting the office during regular business hours (Mon-Thurs, 9am-4pm).
- Voter Registration - Check voter status or register to vote here: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr>
- Transfer Station Stickers - Transfer station stickers are available for \$20 at the Town Clerks office Monday-Thursday from 9 to 4 and online at <https://unipaygold.unibank.com/transactioninfo.aspx>. Remember to purchase bags at IGA or Mims Market.
- Office Closure - The Town Clerk's office will be closed on Wednesday September 20<sup>th</sup>.

# COMMUNITY EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

## Opportunities to Get Involved

The Select Board seek residents to fill a vacancy or opening on the following committees:

- Agricultural Commission (1 active, 3 alternate)
- Emergency Services Facility Committee (3)
- Energy Committee (1)
- Open Space Committee (2)
- ZBA (2 alternates)

To express interest or apply, download and send a [Citizens Interest Form](#) to the Town Secretary; 69 Main St.; Northfield, MA 01360. Forms are also available in the main hallway at the Town Hall.

## Community Events and More

### Northfield 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events

The Northfield 350<sup>th</sup> Committee presents events all year long! Check out the events currently scheduled for September and October below, and visit the [Northfield 350 website](#) for the latest information.

- [Coffee Hour - West Northfield](#) - Saturday, September 16 at 10:00 AM
- [Architectural Tours](#) - Saturday, September 16 at 11:15 AM
- [Architectural Tours](#) - Saturday, September 16 at 1:00 PM
- [A Tale of Bloody Brook](#) - Sunday, September 17 at 2:00 PM
- [Harvest Moon Dinner Dance](#) - Saturday, September 23 at 5:00 PM – **Sold Out**
- [350th Parade](#) - Saturday, September 30 at 1:00 PM
- [Finale - Fireworks - Music](#) - Saturday, September 30 at 1:00 PM, Four Star Brewery

### Senior Center September Newsletter

The Northfield Senior Center holds events all year long. See this month's events in the [Senior Center Newsletter](#).

### Annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day

Franklin County Solid Waste District is planning to hold the 2023 household hazardous waste collection on Saturday, September 23rd at GCC's Main Campus and the Orange Transfer Station. Residents and businesses must pre-register by September 15th. Mail-in registration forms are available at town transfer stations and in local newspapers. Online registration is open at: [franklincountywastedistrict.org](http://franklincountywastedistrict.org). The collection is free for residents of most of the District's 21 member towns and provides an opportunity to dispose of hazardous items that should not be put in the trash. For more information visit: [franklincountywastedistrict.org](http://franklincountywastedistrict.org) or contact the District at [info@franklincountywastedistrict.org](mailto:info@franklincountywastedistrict.org), (413) 772-2438. MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD).

### Internet For All Listening Session

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) wants to hear from all Mass. residents about their experiences with getting and using internet service. As part of the statewide *Internet for All* initiative, the MBI has issued a statewide household survey to collect information about digital barriers residents face. Your input will help the State make sure that everyone can have access to high-quality and affordable internet service, devices, skills training, and support. [You can find and take a household survey here](#). An [Internet for All](#) Public Listening Session takes place on Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup> in Holyoke.

**Thank you for reading the Northfield Town Hall e-newsletter!**  
**Stay tuned for the next edition, coming in November 2023.**