

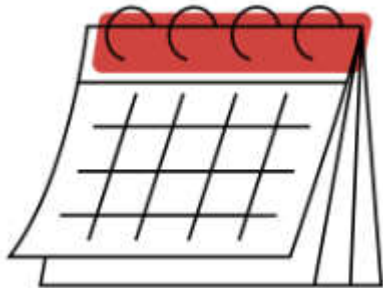
NORTHFIELD TOWN HALL NEWSLETTER

MARCH-APRIL 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.



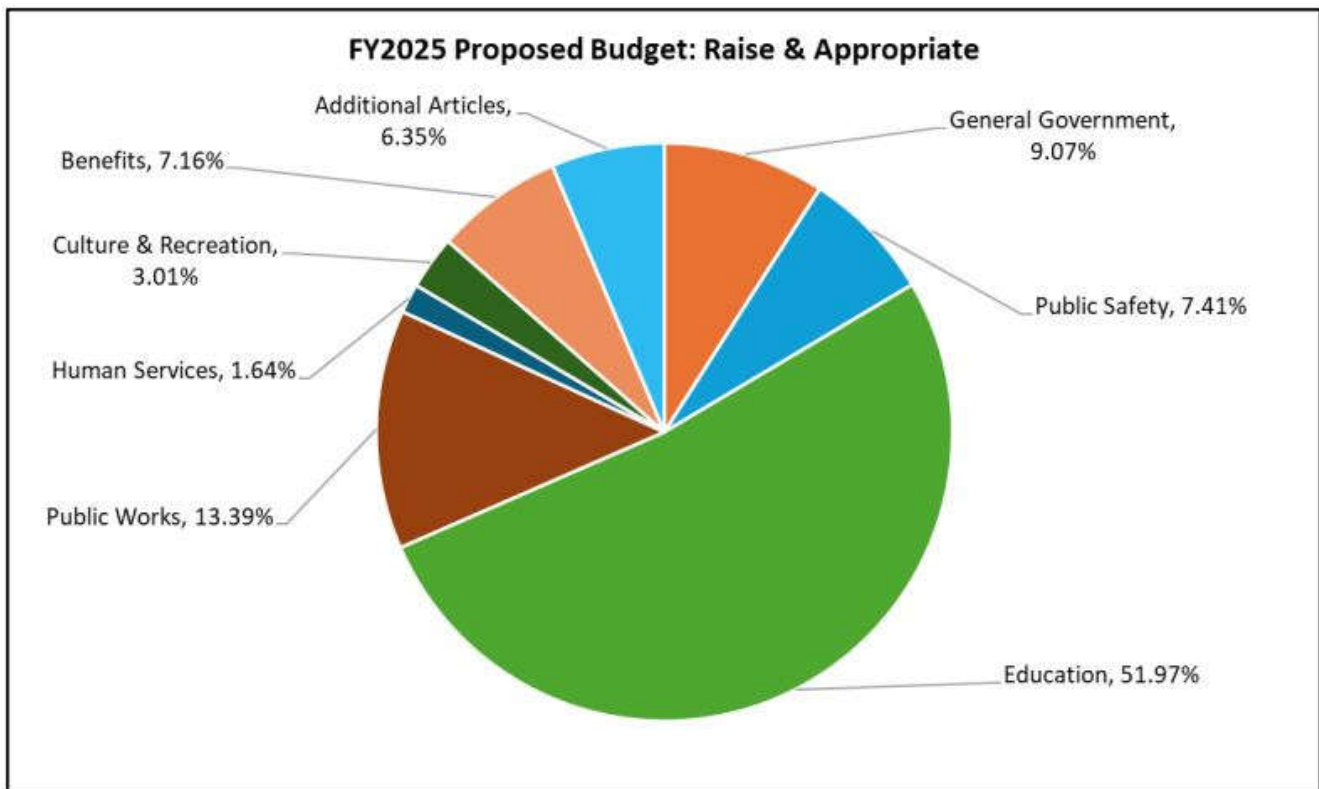
Spring Has Sprung!

The days are getting longer, and new growth is arriving to Northfield's gardens and fields, as well as in our very own Town Hall. Our budget process began in November, and through the cold, dark months of winter it has blossomed into the preliminary draft which will be voted upon at the Select Board meeting on April 2nd. As always, Northfield residents' requests and expectations steer our budget endeavors.

The proposed budget demonstrates our continued commitment to providing exceptional public services and making improvements in the community within the constraints of our available resources. It reflects our dedication to education, public safety, and the desire to support and serve Northfield residents. Review of the budget details will continue right up until Town Meeting on May 6th. A special thanks to the members of the Finance Committee, the Treasurer Collector and Assessor's Office, and the Select Board for their collective leadership and vision.

We hope all Northfield residents are able to enjoy the brightness and warmth that March and April begin to bring!

-Andrea Llamas
Town Administrator



News from the Town Clerk's Office

The total number of ballots cast for the presidential primary (by mail or in-person at the March 5th Election) was 732. There are 2,469 registered voters in Town, so this equates to 30% of voters participating in the election. Thank you to Amanda and Dan in the Town Clerk's Office who help to make all our elections run smoothly!

View Northfield results for the presidential primary, as well as candidates for State Committee, [on the Town website](#) under "Announcements." **The next election is on May 7, 2024.** You can check your voter registration online or in the Town Clerk's office. About 16% of the Town of Northfield is *not* registered to vote – so come see us if you need support getting registered!

Also, **dog licenses are due by April 1st**; there is a late fee incurred for any licenses requested after this date.

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, learn how to [view the Town's financial policies and procedures](#), which were updated in 2022.

In previous issues, we have provided more information about how to [find meeting agendas and minutes](#), as well as how to [register for updates](#) from Town Hall and Town committees.

Winter Parking Ban Ends April 30th



The snow may not have left us yet! Please remember that, until April 30th, any vehicles left unattended on Town highways between the hours of 11:00 pm and 7:00 am will be towed at the owner's expense.

You can find more [reminders of Town bylaws](#) related to snow and snow removal on the Town website.

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.

Town Election Day 2024

The Annual Town Election will be held on Tuesday, May 7th, 2024 from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Northfield Town Hall (69 Main Street). More information will be provided in the May-June Town newsletter.

You can apply online, download an application, track your ballot and find a Ballot return box at <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/elections/voting-information/vote-by-mail.htm>. **If you selected 'All Elections' on the Vote by Mail postcard, you will receive a ballot for our local election.**

The results from the March 12th Town of Northfield caucus are in, and the current nominations for the following Town officers are:

Board of Assessors (vote for one)

Bethany R. Walker

Board of Health (vote for two)

David C. Balk & Karen G. Boudreau

Board of Library Trustees (vote for two)

Nolan B. Kitfield & Gretchen F. Licata

Select Board (vote for two)

Bernard J. Boudreau & David P. McCarthy

Board of Trustees of Veterans

Memorials-Veteran (vote for one)

Robert T. Henry

Board of Trustees of Veterans

Memorials-Non Veteran (vote for one)

Write In

Constable (vote for four)

Francis "Frank" Froment, David M. Kelly, Debby Weisen-Kelly, & Write In

Moderator (vote for one)

Nathan W. Letoile

Planning Board (vote for one)

Stephen F. Seredynski, Victoria E. Luksha, & Joseph A. Stacy

Recreation Commission (vote for one)

Chelsea R. Depault & Robert W. Emberly

Sewer Commission (vote for one)

Thomas E. Walker



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.

Town Welcomes New Grant Development Director




*Leslie Roberts, Town
Grant Development Director*

Leslie Roberts is the Town's new Grant Development Director! Leslie comes to us after completing a Masters in Public Administration program at UMass Amherst. She has previous project management experience working at a few public health organizations in the Pioneer Valley, and is excited to gain more experience with municipal government and economic development. In her free time, Leslie enjoys playing ultimate frisbee, rock climbing with friends, and hanging out with her two adorable cats. Be sure to stop by and say hello next time you're at Town Hall!

Mallory Sullivan, who served as the town's Grant Development Director since October 2022, has begun a new role as the Rural Programs Manager with the Massachusetts Executive Office of Economic Development (EOED). She'll be continuing to support rural and small towns in this new role. We wish Mallory the best of luck and are extremely grateful for all the support she provided to the Town during her time with us!

Reminders from the Assessor's Office

- Real Estate and Personal Property tax bills are due April 1st, as well as Personal Property Abatement Applications. The Board of Assessors cannot accept late applications under any circumstances. Applications for abatements and exemptions are available online at <http://www.northfieldma.gov/board-assessors> OR are available outside of the Assessor's Office
- Payments can be made on the Town website – visit northfieldma.gov and click this tab on the left side of the home page: 
- Friendly reminder when mailing in your tax payments: please send payments attention to the **Tax Collector**. There have been quite a few payments being sent to the attention to the Assessor's office. To ensure no delay in the receiving of your mailed tax payment, please be certain to send to the right office!
- Those age 65 + and Veterans with a Service-Connected disability rating of 10% more may be eligible for an Exemption on your Real Estate taxes. **All Senior and Veteran Exemptions are due April 1st**. Please call or stop by the Assessors office and Beth Walker will go over everything with you.
- Did you recently get rid of your motor vehicle or trade it in for a new vehicle? You may be eligible for an excise abatement and get a portion of your paid excise returned to you. Reach out to us for more info!

Contact us at:

Assessor's Clerk: Beth Walker
Phone: (413) 498-2901 ext. 118
Email: assessors@northfieldma.gov

Styrofoam Recycling Collection

The Franklin County Solid Waste Management District is collecting Styrofoam blocks for recycling, on four Saturday mornings in April. Northfield residents can go to the Transfer Station (at 31 Caldwell Road) on the following days **between 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.** with their white foam packing blocks, sheets, and Styrofoam coolers:

- Saturday April 6
- Saturday April 13
- Saturday April 20
- Saturday April 27



No permit is required for this event; first-come, first-served.

On these same collection days, residents of Leverett, Montague, and Wendell can also bring their Styrofoam goods to their respective transfer stations. Tape, labels, cardboard, or wood must be removed from the items, and they should be clean and dry. Food-related items will not be accepted, nor packing peanuts, #4 (LPDE) foam, or insulation board (XPS).

You can contact the District at:

info@franklincountywastedistrict.org

(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.** (**Tuesday March 26th**, and **April 23rd**). You can visit their webpage for more information by heading to northfieldma.gov, clicking on the "Useful Links" tab, and scrolling to the bottom.

Northfield Community Meal

There will be ready-made meals for pick up at the Trinitarian Congregational Church (174 Main Street) on **Thursday, March 28th from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.** This month's meal is ginger chicken, broccoli, and a dessert. All are welcome. RSVPs are appreciated: www.fccmp.org/rsvp/413-325-6631

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; further updates upcoming.

[Lyme Disease – Understanding, Prevention and Safety](#) – Thursday, April 4th at 6:00 p.m. in the Dickinson Memorial Library community room. Just in time for Tick Season, learn more about Lyme Disease. Presenter Sarah Kerns has extensive knowledge of the Lyme pathogen, and resources for safety will be available.



*Red Shouldered Hawk,
photographed by Nick Fleck*

Dickinson Memorial Library

Happy Spring From Dickinson Memorial Library! We have lots of great programs coming up in April:

- **March 30 at 10:00 a.m.** Summer Conferences with Peter Weis
- **April 3 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.** Tech Help with Jeroen van der Maat
- **April 4** Spice Club pick up starts, this month the spice is fennel seeds
- **April 6 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.** Puzzle Pickup Day
- **April 11** Kids Take and Make pick up starts. This month: a paper plate frog
- **April 17 at 7:00 a.m.** An online program on Cooking with Scraps
- **April 18 at 3:30 p.m.** Lego Day for Kids
- **April 18 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.** Campfire and S'mores for Families
- **April 25 at 5:30 p.m.** Our MA Center for the Book book club meets at Northfield

Every Wednesday morning that NES has school, we have a music and movement storytime for little ones at **10:00 a.m.** thanks to the PV CFCE. We also have 3 regular book groups for adults. If you're interested in those, reach out and we can give you all the details.

As we start moving into spring, remember that **the library has a seed library!** You can take small seed packets to grow in your garden. We have lots of veggie seeds, and some herbs and flowers. Of course we have all our regular services as well: books and movies to check out, 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.

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 www.northfieldpubliclibrary.org, give us a call at 413-498-2455, or email us at dmemlib@gmail.com.

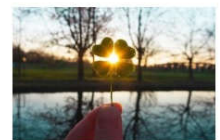
Hope to see you soon,
Misha and all the Library Staff

Senior Center March Newsletter

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



Northfield Senior Center, COA
NEWSLETTER
MARCH 2024



Important dates include:

- **Ask the Audiologist** on Thursday, April 18th from 1:00 -3:00 p.m. – a talk and Q&A with Julie Fisher Au.D., and free hearing screenings
- **Happy Feet walking group** returns on Monday, April 22nd at 11:30 a.m.
- **Memory Café program** on Wednesday, April 24th from 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. – support and socialization for those dealing with memory-related issues, and their caregivers. This month: soothing piano music and a light lunch (please RSVP by April 11th by calling the Senior Center)
- **Happy Little Feet** on Monday April 29th at 9:30 a.m. – gathering the NES Kindergarten class for a performance at Town Hall
- ... and so much more, in March and April!

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.

It's almost spring! That means the NRC has its usual spring sports signups happening NOW on our website: www.northfieldrec.com! We also have some new youth sports programs being offered:

- **T-Ball** (PreK to 1st)
- **Coach Pitch Baseball** (1st to 3rd)
- **Girls Softball** (3rd to 6th)
- **Mountain Bike Club** (3rd to 6th) FREE! Limit 12 spots
- **Inclusion Soccer Program** (PreK to 2nd) Only \$20!



In addition, the NRC is already taking registrations for five weeks of our **Summer Program** this July! For the adults, we have programs year-round, such as **Pickleball, Yoga-Pilates Fusion Class, Dance Aerobics, and FREE Adult pick up sports** (which alternate seasonally).

Northfield residents always get discounted rates, but the NRC tries to keep all activities as low cost as possible, with some activities being free! If you ever have a financial need, please contact us directly via our email below. We can also help people register over the phone (contact information below) – be sure to leave a voice message on our extension for a prompt response.

NRC email: reccom@northfieldma.gov

NRC Phone: (413) 498-2901 extension 126

Follow the Facebook page for updates: "NORTHFIELD RECREATION COMMISSION"

Results of the Economic Development Community Survey

The Town's Economic Development Committee issued a survey in November, to gather perspectives on economic opportunities in town with the goal of using these to guide future goals and projects. The survey closed at the end of January, and results will be available by the next newsletter. Thank you to everyone who provided their feedback!

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 April 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 May!

