

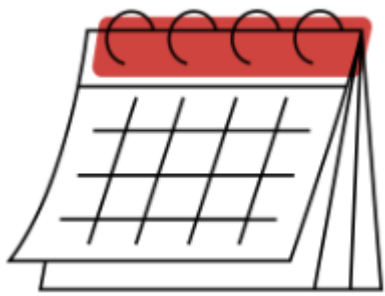
# NORTHFIELD TOWN HALL NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 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

To receive the newsletter in your email inbox when a new issue is published, 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 at the bottom of the page. You’ll receive all future Town Hall e-newsletters unless you unsubscribe.



## Welcome!

In this edition of Northfield Town Hall's newsletter, we recap the wonderful 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary grand parade, provide info on state and federal programs for farmers and small businesses, and share important updates from town hall.

As Northfield's 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary draws to a close, I'd like to offer a special thanks to the 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee for its dedication to hosting events throughout the year that honor Northfield's history, present, and future. If you see a member of the 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, be sure to thank them and congratulate them on a job well done.

With the year coming to an end, town staff wish you a joyful holiday season, with good health and time with loved ones. If you have suggestions for topics related to town governance you'd like to learn more about, please [let us know by sharing your thoughts here](#). These e-newsletters will continue to 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

## Northfield 350<sup>th</sup> Grand Parade an Enormous Success

On the afternoon of September 30<sup>th</sup>, Northfield was filled with excited faces watching as vintage cars, clowns, farm equipment, bands, and groups and organizations from around the region made their way down Main Street as part of the 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Grand Parade. Bleachers at Northfield Elementary School and lawn chairs in front of homes were filled with residents and visitors partaking in the commemoration. The event was led by Parade Marshals Tom and Pat Shearer and was organized by volunteer members of the 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, chaired by Stacy Bond. If you missed it – or want to relive the fun – check out the images below or [watch the recording online](#).

2023 isn't over yet! To learn about what's next in this exciting year of events, [visit the 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee's website](#) or check out the list of events later of page 7 of this newsletter.



*Antique Northfield Fire Engine*



*PVRS Marching Band*



*Patterson Farm Pumpkin Bus*



*Vintage Tractors*

## Community Access Television BNCTV Now on Channel 1075

Looking for your local station on Comcast? Comcast has made upgrades to HD that resulted in the change, and BNCTV can now be found on [Channel 1075](#). Tune in to BNCTV to view Select Board, School Board, and other meetings. You can also livestream meetings or watch them after they take place online, at [BNCTV.net](#).



## Northfield PD Reminds Residents to Beware of Scams



Northfield PD reminds residents to beware of scams. A current phone scam is advising residents that their bank accounts and information have been stolen and they need to secure their cash with the caller. Scammers always claim to be someone official, suggest there is great urgency to the matter, and sometimes call from a local number so as to not cause suspicion.

What should you do if you get a call from a robocaller or suspect a scammer? The best thing to do is to simply hang up. Do not share confidential personal or financial details. You can always call Northfield Police with concerns or questions. You can also [sign up for e-mail updates](#) from the Federal Trade Commission, which works to stop deceptive and unfair business practices and scams, and to help consumers recognize and recover from them.

## Senior Center Updates

### Coffee Social on Fraud Trends and How to Protect Yourself

Join the Senior Center for a Coffee Social on “Fraud Trends and How to Protect Yourself.” The coffee social is on Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (Speaker at 11). Come join our discussion on fraud. We will highlight how Greenfield Savings Bank’s Compliance Department serves to protect.



### Bernardston/Northfield Senior Centers Travel Club Upcoming Trips

- Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup> - 9:30 a.m. pick-Up: Yankee Candle & Pete’s Fish Market
- Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup> - 9:00 a.m. pick-Up: Athol Walmart and Lunch

The cost is \$6.00 for a round trip. Pick up is at the Bernardston Senior Center. Call Shannon at 768-1824 to reserve a space or contact the Senior Center at 413-498-2901 x 114 to learn more!

## Series: Tips On Navigating the Town Website

At the request of a reader, we’ll be sharing tips on how to navigate the town website in each edition of the newsletter. When you browse [www.NorthfieldMA.gov](http://www.NorthfieldMA.gov), you’ll find plenty of important information and resources.

First up, learn how to register to receive alerts, announcements, meeting agendas and minutes, and even this newsletter right in your email inbox. [Review the visual guide and instructions to learn how to sign up for town alerts.](#) Copies of the instructions will also be available in print form at Town Hall.

## Free Paper Shredding Day

Safely dispose of your sensitive papers this Friday, Nov. 3, 2023, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at a Shred Event in the back parking lot of the Town Hall. Safely dispose of old legal papers, bank or credit card statements, income tax documents, medical records, or other documents with confidential information. This free service is sponsored by Neighbors at Home and the Town of Northfield. Limit: 3 to 4 bags.

## Internet Access Map Check

Do you or anybody you know in Northfield lack an internet connection? As part of an ongoing digital equity effort to identify remaining unserved and underserved homes and inform targeted investments in broadband infrastructure, the Massachusetts Broadband Initiative wants to know what locations do not have internet connectivity. If you have information on unserved locations in Northfield, please contact Mallory Sullivan by phone at 413-498-2901 ext. 111 or by email at [grantdevelopmentdirector@northfieldma.gov](mailto:grantdevelopmentdirector@northfieldma.gov).

## Northfield Wins over \$500,000 in State Grants

Northfield was recently awarded \$538,000 in three competitive state grants for infrastructure and economic development through the Community One Stop for Growth program.

### ***MassWorks Infrastructure Program - Highland Avenue Culvert Reconstruction Program***

An award of \$490,000 was made to the town through the MassWorks Infrastructure program. MassWorks provides the largest and most flexible source of capital funds to municipalities and other public entities, primarily for public infrastructure projects. Northfield's grant will support the Highland Avenue Culvert Replacement Project. The Town will use grant funds to fully replace the existing failing culvert beneath the roadway. Improvements will also allow for the Town's accessible sidewalk network to be expanded and for crash-worthy barriers to be installed, while decreasing the risk of roadway flooding. The design, permitting, and construction are expected to take approximately one year. This project will be completed simultaneous with sidewalk replacements on Highland Avenue, which will be funded by a \$127,380 Complete Streets grant awarded in August, for a total of \$617,380 in competitive grant funds across both projects. Both the culvert and sidewalk projects will be led by Highway Superintendent Tom Walker.

### ***Commonwealth Places Program - Placemaking on Main Street Workshop Series & Prioritization Plan***

An \$8,000 grant from the Commonwealth Places program will empower residents to actively contribute their ideas, wants, and needs for cultivating a strong sense of place in Northfield's Village Center through a community-wide workshop series. The Commonwealth Places Program aims to advance locally driven placemaking in downtown and neighborhood commercial districts. Placemaking is a collaborative process through which people in communities work together to improve vacant, underutilized, or repurposed publicly-accessible spaces and maximize their shared value. The workshops will take place in spring and summer 2024 and include a variety of engagement methods to encourage broad community participation. The project will result in an action plan that will guide the investment and implementation of high-priority solutions and enable the town to seek additional grants.

### ***Community Planning Grant Program - Business Park Study***

The Community Planning Grant Program provides funding for technical assistance for local planning projects. Building on the foundational work of Northfield's Business Park Development Committee (BPDC) in 2019 and 2020, this \$40,000 grant from the Community Planning program will be used to conduct a full business park feasibility study with robust community input opportunities. The project outcome will be a report assessing feasibility and potential uses of previously identified sites, evaluation of financial, legal, regulatory, economic, employment, environmental, and residential impacts, a summary of industry market opportunities, an exploration of ownership models, and an action plan for development. The project is leveraged by \$5,000 appropriated at a June 2020 Special Town Meeting to fund activities related to the study of developing a business park in town. The project supports Northfield's Master Plan goal "to promote economic development town-wide" and aims to explore opportunities to catalyze community economic development through job creation and entrepreneurship opportunities, increasing the commercial tax base, and supporting suitable development. The project is anticipated to begin early next year and conclude by late 2024.

The MassWorks grant will be carried out by Highway Superintendent Tom Walker with a hired contractor, while the Community Planning and Commonwealth Places grants will be managed by Mallory Sullivan, Northfield's grant development director.

## Town Welcomes New Assistant Treasurer/Collector

Welcome to Ann Petrain, who started as Northfield's new assistant treasurer/collector after being appointed by the Select Board on September 19<sup>th</sup>. Petrain brings significant knowledge to the role, with 12 years of experience as a collector, including currently working part-time in Erving. In the new position, Petrain works closely with treasurer/collector Michele Turner. Be sure to stop by and say hello next time you're at Town Hall!

## Grants and Loans, Training Programs, and Fellowship Opportunities for Farmers and Business Owners

### Rural Energy for America Program Loans & Grants

The program provides guaranteed loan financing and grant funding to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems or to make energy efficiency improvements. Agricultural producers may also apply for new energy efficient equipment and new system loans for agricultural production and processing. The program is currently accepting applications on a quarterly basis, with the next deadline coming up on 12/31/23. Funds may be used for the purchase and installation of renewable energy systems, and for the purchase, installation and construction of energy efficiency improvements. Grants of \$1,500 to \$1 million can be used to cover up to 50% of a project and loans can cover up to 75 percent of a project. [To learn more about eligibility and the application process, visit the program webpage.](#)

### Workforce Training Fund Program

If your business has fewer than 100 employees, pays into the Massachusetts Unemployment Insurance system, and has a need for workforce training, the Commonwealth Corporation Workforce Training Fund is for you! The Workforce Training Fund Program helps address business productivity and competitiveness by providing resources to Massachusetts businesses to fund training for current and newly hired employees. Learn more about these opportunities by visiting [mass.gov/futureskills](https://mass.gov/futureskills) or by contacting the local office, [Mass Hire Franklin Hampshire Workforce Board](#). Many programs are offered in collaboration with Greenfield Community College. If you have questions about working with these partners before reaching out to them, [please contact Mallory Sullivan](#).

### Emergency Farm Fund Zero-Interest Loan Deadline November 11

Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA) and the Franklin County CDC have extended the deadline to apply for the Emergency Farm Fund (EFF) to December 1. The fund offers zero-interest loans of up to \$25,000 for Massachusetts farms in Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire counties affected by fluctuating winter temperatures in February, the deep freeze of May 18, and widespread flooding and excessive rain in July. The goal of the fund is to respond to critical, time-sensitive needs by helping farms recover from their losses, continue farming, and/or build resilience for future extreme weather events. If you are a farmer who experienced these losses, [apply here](#).

### Become a Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Fellow

The [Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Fellowship \(CAMF\)](#) is now accepting applications from farmers and service providers interested in taking action to address the challenges presented by climate change in their region. Beginning in winter 2024, participants will attend cohort meetings to learn about climate-adaptive strategies and develop adaptation and mitigation plans for their own farms. 2024 cohorts will include a group for diversified agriculture and agroforestry producers, and a group for women and non-binary vegetable and small fruit producers. [The fellowship application will close November 11.](#)

## Reminders from the Assessor's Office

- The State of Massachusetts has changed the deadline for all Chapter 61 Applications. The new deadline is December 1<sup>st</sup> so if you haven't submitted your application in yet, there is still some time!!!
- Reminder to those age 65 + and to our Veterans with a Service-Connected disability rating of 10% more, you may be eligible for an Exemption on your Real Estate taxes. Please call or stop by the Assessors office and Beth Walker will go over everything with you.
- 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 correct office!
- Anytime you would like a copy of your Property Record Card or tax map showing your parcel of land, please stop by the Assessors office and we will be happy to print one off for you.

## Town Clerk Reminders: Voter Registration and Annual Census

The next election is on March 5, 2024. The last day to register to vote for the Primary is February 24, 2024. You can check your voter registration online or in the Town Clerk's office. Vote by mail requests can be made starting in January 2024.

Annual census forms will be mailed in January. The General Laws of Massachusetts mandate an annual street listing of residents as of January 1st each year (M.G.L. ch. 51 § 4). The Town Clerk sends out census forms to every household in Northfield each year, at the end of January or beginning of February. Forms are due back to our office within 10 days. The census form asks for your name, gender, date of birth, occupation, and nationality if respondent is not a U.S. citizen. If you are a registered voter, failure to respond shall result in removal from the active voting list and may result in removal from the voter registration rolls, turning you into an inactive voter.

If you are not a registered voter, it is still important for you to return your census form as many public benefits require proof of residency, which the Election Commission office can provide for any resident who has been counted in the Census.

In addition, an accurate count of residents leads to better municipal, state, and federal services, as the current population count is the basis for determining eligibility and allocation of State and Federal funds, programs, and grants. The census mailing also includes the form for transfer station stickers and dog registrations.

## Happy November from Dickinson Memorial Library!

The holidays are getting closer, which means it is time to get ready for the Children's Bazaar! The Bazaar will take place on December 16 at 10:00. Kids grade K-6 are welcome to shop for their families, all by themselves! We will have treats and coffee for parents to entertain themselves while the kids shop with our high school shopping assistants. This event is made possible by the Friends of the Library and by YOUR donations! If you have lightly used items that you'd like to donate, please bring them by the library anytime we are open. Think small gift items that kids would buy for all family members, including pets and siblings!

Between now and then, we have great events for all ages:

- November 15 at 5:00, join us at the library for a family campfire and s'mores.
- November 16 at 6:00, come to the Brewery for Trivia.
- November 30 at 6:00, hear Richie Davis read local stories from his latest book.

Remember that the library is here for you! There are 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. Come enjoy our cozy library and give your heat at home a little break. 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](http://www.northfieldpubliclibrary.org), give us a call at 413-498-2455, or email us at [dmemlib@gmail.com](mailto:dmemlib@gmail.com).

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

## Senior Center November Newsletter

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



**Northfield Senior Center  
NEWSLETTER  
NOVEMBER 2023**



*The Northfield Council on Aging provides services to promote healthy aging of Northfield citizens ages sixty and older in Northfield and surrounding communities.*





**Northfield Tree50th  
Volunteers Needed!  
Planting and Mulching**

The Northfield Tree50th is planting 25-30 trees on Saturday, November 4th and possibly Sunday, November 5th in various locations on Main Street between Maple and Dickinson! This includes installations at the Veterans' Memorial and the Town Fountain. Tom Walker from the Town highway department is digging the holes, but . . .

**We need YOUR help for planting and mulching!**  
**Anyone! Big and strong or just handy with a spade!**  
It's a great cause and a great way to be a part of making our awesome little town even more beautiful and green for generations to come!

**Donate as much or as little time as works for you.**  
Email one of the following people and please include your phone number and availability:  
Judy Wagner [judy.wagner37@gmail.com](mailto:judy.wagner37@gmail.com)  
Pam Eldridge [pamela.n.eldridge@gmail.com](mailto:pamela.n.eldridge@gmail.com)  
Lynn Hansell [LHansell2015@gmail.com](mailto:LHansell2015@gmail.com)

**Share Your Seasonal Photos!**

Whether you're an avid photographer, and iPhone amateur, or are just proud of a great photo you took, we'd love to see it and possibly share it in a future edition of this newsletter. Send us your seasonal photos from around Northfield and we may share them in our next newsletter. Please include 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. Submit photos to [grantdevelopmentdirector@northfieldma.gov](mailto:grantdevelopmentdirector@northfieldma.gov) by December 27<sup>th</sup> for a chance to have your seasonal photo included in the January-February issue.

**Thank you for reading the Northfield Town Hall e-newsletter!**  
**Stay tuned for the next edition, coming in January 2024.**

