

Winchester Weekly

Report from Winchester Town Manager, Lisa Wong

Cultural District taking shape



The Winchester Cultural District (designated in 2019) signs are being installed, and the Photoville Project gets a boost with a \$5,000 grant from the En Ka Society. <https://www.winchester.us/599/Winchester-Cultural-District>

COVID NEWS

Homebound Residents: Any Winchester resident who is physically unable to leave their home to receive a COVID vaccination, may be eligible to get vaccinated at home. If you or someone you know is homebound, contact the Health Department at 781-721-7121.

Vaccines: Residents 55+ and residents with one certain medical condition will be eligible for a vaccine starting April 5th. Any resident the age of 16 or older will be eligible starting April 19th. Book at: VaxFinder.mass.gov
Book Ahead at: VaccineSignup.mass.gov/#/

Some states are considering vaccine passports. Gov. Baker says it's too soon to consider in Mass.

SELECT BOARD

The next meetings will be April 12th at 7:30pm and April 19th prior to Town Meeting. Click on the Government Calendar at [winchester.us](https://www.winchester.us).

TOWN MEETING

Town Meeting will begin on Monday, April 26th; Thursday, April 29th and Monday, May 3rd at 7:30. The meeting will be remote.

HAZ WASTE COLLECTION

Hazardous Waste Collection on May 22nd 9am-12pm at DPW Yard. www.winchester.us/Calendar.aspx?EID=6900&month=5&year=2021&day=22&calType=0

April is Alcohol Awareness Month

Alcohol can prevent us from being present. Have you been drinking more during the pandemic than you were? Is alcohol interfering with your relationships with your family members or friends?

If you want to make a change or if you just want to talk to someone about your drinking, call 1-800-662-HELP (4357), which is a free helpline open 24 hours a day/7 days a week offered by [SAMHSA](#).

Local Aid Agreement increases funding for towns

The House and Senate Ways & Means committees have reached a local aid agreement for the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget. Thanks to our local delegation - Senator Jason Lewis, Senator Patricia Jehlen and Rep. Day for their advocacy and support. The local aid agreement includes the following parameters:

- Funds Chapter 70 at its highest level ever at \$5.503 billion, an increase of \$219.6 million over FY 2021;
- Creates a \$40 million enrollment reserve fund targeted to stabilize school districts adversely impacted by pandemic-related enrollment changes; and
- Funds Unrestricted General Government Aid at \$1.16 billion, an increase of \$39.5 million over FY 2021, providing additional local aid support to our cities and towns.

In other news:

- Blue lights have been installed downtown for Autism Awareness Month.
- The Climate Action Advisory Committee has developed a Heat Statement that has been endorsed by the Board of Health, and Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director Rick Tustin. The statement will be on Monday's Select Board agenda. Among the many climate impacts identified in Winchester's 2020 Climate Action Plan, heat and drought are called out as urgent and insufficiently addressed vulnerabilities in Winchester at this time. With the summer months approaching, there needs to be greater public awareness regarding the health concerns and increased fire risk due to more frequent high heat days.