



Town Manager's Newsletter

March 2025

Dates of Interest:

- Mar. 2 Celebrate Seuss
- Mar. 5 CPS Art Show Reception
- Mar. 10 Sharps Drop-Off
- Mar. 14 Deadline for Strategic Plan Feedback
- Mar. 17 Excise Taxes Due
- Mar. 23 Compost & Rain Barrel Pre-order Deadline
- Mar. 26 Bridge Meeting
- Mar. 27 Youth Mental Health First Aid
- Apr. 1 Town Election

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Volunteer Showcase Fair and Volunteer Recognition at the Chelmsford Senior Center

**Saturday, March 22
1:00-4:00 PM
Senior Center
75 Groton Road**

This Volunteer Fair is an opportunity for non-profit organizations, community groups, and town departments to connect with potential volunteers and new members, network with each other, and to showcase their organizations. More than thirty groups will be present to offer ways that everyone can

take part in our town and community.

This event is sponsored by the Chelmsford Public Library and the Chelmsford Senior Center. Click [here](#) for more information.

Volunteer Recognition at the Volunteer Fair:

The Select Board will recognize the contributions of the many volunteers who serve the Town by providing a reception at the



volunteer fair. This will be highlighted by a brief ceremony at 2:00 PM to present a recognition for outstanding volunteerism to a few individuals.

Non-Binding Question on Annual Town Election Ballot Regarding Recreational Marijuana

The Select Board has placed a non-binding advisory question on the April 1 Annual Town Election ballot to gauge the community's interest in allowing the retail sale and delivery of recreational marijuana. Massachusetts voters passed a ballot

initiative in 2016 to make recreational cannabis legal in the state. Retail sales have occurred across the state, including neighboring communities, for several years. Chelmsford would need to amend its zoning and general bylaws to allow for and



regulate the retail sale and delivery.

Westford St. & Gorham St. Bridge Replacement Project: Public Information Session

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) will replace two bridges in Chelmsford: **Westford Street over I-495 and Gorham Street over I-495**. The project, expected to run from **April 2025 to August 2028**, will improve safety, traffic flow, and pedestrian/bicycle access. Both bridges will undergo construction in two phases, with closures affecting traffic while

maintaining pedestrian access. Local detours will be in place during construction.

MassDOT will hold a public information session to discuss the project on **Wednesday, March 26, at 6:00 PM** at the **Chelmsford Police Station Community Room, 2 Olde North Road**. For more details, visit the [MassDOT website](#).



The final configuration of the Westford Street Bridge.

Pre-Order Now to Save on Compost Bins and Rain Barrels



The Town is offering Chelmsford residents a fantastic opportunity to save on compost bins and rain barrels through a special pre-order sale! Compost bins are available for just \$25 (regularly \$100), and rain barrels are offered at \$70 (regularly \$120).

By purchasing these items, you'll be able to reduce waste,

conserve resources, and enhance the health of your garden. Composting not only helps create nutrient-rich soil but also eliminates the need for chemical fertilizers, promoting healthier plants while reducing landfill waste. Rain barrels allow you to capture rainwater, which can lower your water bill, reduce runoff, and improve your soil's pH balance for bet-

ter plant growth.

Pick up your orders on Saturday, March 29, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Chelmsford DPW, 9 Alpha Road (side entrance on Tracy Road). **The pre-order deadline is March 23.** Don't miss out on this great opportunity to make a positive environmental impact! [Pre order here](#)

Health Department Attends Opioid Task Force Meeting



On February 24, representatives from the Chelmsford Health Department attended the Middlesex District Attorney's Opioid Taskforce meeting at Lahey Hospital. This important gathering brought together health professionals, law enforcement, and community leaders to address the ongoing opioid crisis. A key topic of discussion was opioid-related deaths and overdoses among

injured workers, particularly in the building trades. Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan and special guest, former Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, joined a panel of industry speakers to emphasize the importance of support and recovery resources for those in the physically demanding building trades profession.

The Massachusetts Building

Trades Unions (MBTU) have established a comprehensive recovery group to support members struggling with substance use, especially in light of the opioid crisis. This initiative offers a variety of resources, including weekly recovery meetings, peer support, and access to union health benefits.

For more information, visit the [MBTU Recovery website](#).

April 1 Annual Town Election



The Annual Town Election is Tuesday, April 1. Polls will be open 7:00 AM-8:00 PM. [Find your polling location here.](#)

Voters who wish to vote by mail for the Annual Town Election must submit an application

for the new year. A paper application was included with the 2025 annual census. Vote-By-Mail Applications can also be found online [here](#). Applications must be received by the Clerk's Office by 5:00 PM on March 25 to receive a mailed ballot for the

April 1 election.

Not sure if you're registered to vote? Check your status and more at www.voteinma.com. If you are not already registered to vote in Chelmsford, the voter registration deadline is 5:00 PM on Friday, March 21.

"The Board will continue a public hearing for proposed zoning amendments to be included in the Spring Town Meeting warrant."

Planning Board, ZBA, & Conservation Commission

The Planning Board will next meet on March 12 in Room 204 of Town Offices at 6:30 PM. The Board will continue a public hearing for proposed zoning amendments to be included in the Spring Town Meeting warrant. These include the floodplain bylaw, the outdoor lighting bylaw, and miscellaneous minor amendments related to MBTA zoning compliance. In addition, the continued discussion with property

owners in the Kate's Corner/Byam School area will be held to discuss zoning/land use with the existing commercial and industrial zones. A new public hearing will open for reduced parking at 103 Drum Hill Rd. to accommodate a change of use in tenants. The Planning Board will also meet on March 26.

The Zoning Board of Appeals will meet on March 6 at 7:00 PM at Town Offices to continue the public hearing for Cob-

blestone Place, a 5-unit 40B comprehensive permit, located off Marose Ave. and an administrative appeal for Ledge Rd. challenging the Building Commissioner's zoning enforcement.

The Conservation Commission will next meet on March 11 and 25.

The posted agendas for these meetings will be available on the [agenda center](#) of the Town's website.

Motor Vehicle Excise Tax Bills

The Town recently mailed 2025 motor vehicle excise tax bills to vehicle owners on February 14. The State-established base tax rate of \$25 per \$1,000 of a vehicle's value is uniform across the Commonwealth. A vehicle's value for excise tax purposes is not based on the purchase price, book value, or condition. Instead, the vehicle's value is based on the manufacturers' list price as determined by the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV). The

value is set at 90% of the manufacturers' list price in the year of its manufacture. In each of the following years, a vehicle's value is depreciated at a schedule of 60%, 40%, 25%, and 10% each year thereafter. This means that when a vehicle's age reaches five years, the value will not depreciate any further for excise tax calculation. Under State Law, the Town of Chelmsford must use the billing information exactly as provided by the RMV. Motor

vehicle excise tax bills issued Feb. 14 are **due March 17, 2025**.

If you have questions regarding tax payment, please contact the Tax Collector's Office at 978-250-5210. If you did not receive a motor vehicle excise tax bill or if you sold or traded a vehicle and need information concerning abatements, please contact the Assessors' Office at 978-250-5220.



Youth Mental Health First Aid: A Crucial Skill for Today's World

In today's fast-paced world, the mental health of young people is a growing concern. With pressures from school, social media, and relationships, it's vital to have the tools to support youth mental health. One such tool is Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA).

What is Youth Mental Health First Aid?

YMHFA is a training program that teaches individuals how to help adolescents facing mental health or substance use challenges. Similar to traditional first aid, YMHFA equips people to recognize and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders.

Why is it Important?

Early Identification and Intervention: Mental health issues often begin in adolescence. Recognizing the signs early allows for intervention, improving outcomes.

Reducing Stigma: Mental health struggles are often stigmatized, preventing young people from seeking help. YMHFA promotes understanding, encouraging open conversations about mental health.

Empowering Communities: Training more people in YMHFA creates a stronger community support system for youth, fostering a safer and more supportive environment.

Building Resilience: Learning about mental health helps

young people build resilience, empowering them to take charge of their mental well-being.

The Chelmsford Health Department offers these classes for FREE. Join us on **March 27 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM** at Chelmsford Town Hall. To register, call 978-250-5241 or email Tangel@chelmsfordma.gov.

Youth Mental Health First Aid can profoundly impact young people's lives. By learning how to identify and respond to mental health struggles, we can build a more supportive community. Let's take action to ensure youth receive the help they need.

“Learning about mental health helps young people build resilience, empowering them to take charge of their mental well-being.”

2025 Dog Licensing: Late Fees Now in Effect!

If you haven't yet licensed your dog(s) for 2025, **late fees are now in effect!** All 2024 dog licenses expired on December 31, and licensing for 2025 began on December 1.

For every month the dog remains unlicensed through June 1, a \$5.00 incremental late fee will be added to the initial tag fee of \$15 for spayed/neutered

dogs and \$20 for unaltered dogs. After **June 15**, citations will be issued, adding a \$50 fine, along with the initial tag and any accumulated late fees.

How to Renew: If your dog was previously licensed, you can [renew online](#), [by mail](#), or in-person at the Town Clerk's Office.

For New Dogs: Register in-

person at the Town Clerk's Office or by mail with a completed application and check.

Requirements: A current rabies vaccination is required, and documentation must be provided.

For more information and to renew online, [click here](#). License your dog today to avoid further penalties!



Chelmsford PD Welcomes Three New Officers



Left to Right: Town Manager Paul Cohen, Lt. Jason Poor, Ofc. Carly Rose, Ofc. Andrew Finerty, Ofc. Ricardo Garcia, Chief Colin Spence, and Select Board Chair Pat Wojtas

Chief Colin Spence is pleased to announce that three new officers have joined the ranks of the Chelmsford Police Department following their graduation from the [Massachusetts Police Training Committee \(MPTC\) Northern Essex Community College Police Academy](#): Ricardo Garcia, Andrew Finerty, and Carly Rose. The officers were celebrated at a graduation ceremony attended by family, friends, and local law enforcement.

Officer Garcia, who grew up in

Boston and Lawrence, is bilingual in English and Spanish. He is currently pursuing an associate degree at Northern Essex Community College and has previous experience working security at Lawrence High School.

Officer Finerty, from Rockland, MA, holds a degree in Criminal Justice from UMass Lowell and has worked as an EMT for Pridestar Trinity EMS for four years.

Officer Rose, a Billerica native, graduated from Keene State

College with a degree in Criminal Justice and is pursuing a master's degree at UMass Lowell. She previously worked as a police cadet with the Waltham Police Department.

The new officers have begun their 12-week field training program. This program will help them apply their academy training in real-world policing scenarios as they integrate into the Chelmsford community.

2025 Annual Town Census: Respond Today



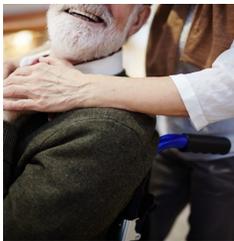
The 2025 Annual Town Census has been mailed to every household. Participating in the town census keeps our voting list up to date. **Returning your town census keeps you ACTIVE on the voting list** and eliminates the need to step out of line at the polls to sign an affirmation that you still

live at that address. Even if you are not a registered voter, responding to the census will ensure that the Town Clerk's Office can provide you with proof of residency. An accurate count of residents in Chelmsford assists in providing better municipal services.

Online Response: You will

be able to respond online if there are no changes to your census form. Your form will have your household ID # on it with a link to respond online if you have no changes. If you have changes, mark them on the form, sign and return the completed form to the Town Clerk's Office.

Companion Respite Program



The Chelmsford Senior Center's Companion Respite Program offers family caregivers the opportunity to run errands or enjoy personal activities while their loved ones receive one-on-one attention. The companions provide social interaction through conversa-

tion, games, light exercise, and other activities, all in a safe and supportive environment. The program serves Chelmsford, Westford, Dracut, Carlisle, Tewksbury, and Tyngsborough. All companions undergo work reference checks and CORI background screening. The cost

is \$18.00 per hour, with a 2-hour minimum per visit, and visits are in-home only (companions do not provide transportation). For more information, contact April Hunt at 978-788-6174 or via email at ahunt@chelmsfordma.gov.

Nashoba Valley Technical HS Committee Appointment



The Chelmsford Select Board and School Committee will meet at 6:00 PM on March 24 to appoint one representative and one alternate representative to the Nashoba Valley Technical High School Committee for 3-year terms ending 3/31/2028. Applications are available on the Town website at www.chelmsfordma.gov. Applications should be forwarded to the Town Manager's Office, 50 Billerica Road, Chelmsford, MA 01824 by 7:00 PM on Tuesday, March 18.

Household Hazardous Waste Day April 26

Save the date! The next Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off will take place on Saturday, April 27 at the DPW, 9 Alpha Road, from 9:00 AM-1:00 PM.

For more details, see page 5 of the [Annual Recycling and Solid Waste Flyer](#).



Draft Strategic Plan Feedback

Based upon the community's input several months ago, the Strategic Plan Steering Committee has worked with consultant BerryDunn to produce a draft strategic plan. This includes a revised Mission State-

ment, a Vision Statement, and Core Values. Please review the draft strategic plan and provide feedback by completing a survey **by Friday, March 14.**

[Click here to complete the survey.](#)



Free Residential Medical Sharps Disposal

Did you know that tossing your medical sharps into the regular trash is not only dangerous, but also against the law? Proper disposal of needles, syringes, lancets, auto injectors, and other medical sharps is crucial to maintaining community safety.

The Chelmsford Health Department is here to help! We offer a free residential medical sharps disposal drop-off several times a year. This service provides Chelmsford residents with a safe and convenient way

to dispose of their medical sharps.

Next Drop-Off Date: **Monday, March 10**, Health Department at Town Offices, 50 Billerica Rd.

Important Guidelines:

- **No Registration Required:** We've simplified the process—no need to register in advance.
- **Photo ID/Proof of Residency:** Please bring a photo ID or proof of residency.
- **Residential Sharps Only:** This service is for residential use only.
- **Container Requirements:**
 - Sharps must be in a hard plastic container with a secure lid.
 - The container must be clearly labeled as sharps.
 - The container should be at least 3/4 full.



Chelmsford Public Schools K-12 Art Show Reception

**Wednesday, March 5
5:00-6:30 PM**

Students from grades K-12 will have work on display throughout the month, with artwork

hanging in the library lobby and meeting room, and three-dimensional work in the children's room and the display case! On Wednesday, March 5, we will have an opening recep-

tion where the public can meet with students showing off their work, along with their families and teachers.



String Light Recycling Program Hits New Heights

Chelmsford's holiday string light recycling program has seen incredible growth over the past three years! In 2023, we collected 100 lbs. of lights, which increased to 1,300 lbs. in 2024, and reached an impressive **1,450 lbs. in 2025.**

Thanks to your participation, these lights were sent to specialized facilities for proper recycling, helping to prevent waste and protect the environment.

A huge thank you to everyone

who helped make this program such a success. We look forward to continuing to work together to keep Chelmsford a greener, more sustainable community.



Celebrate Seuss with the Friends of the Library

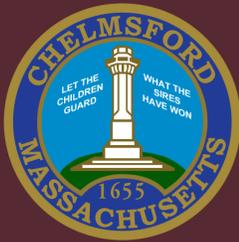
**Sunday, March 2
2:00-4:00 PM**

Join us at the library for a celebration in honor of Dr. Seuss'

birthday. Adults and children of all ages are welcome. Play a game, make a craft, eat cake and check out our Suess-

sional photo booth! Dr. Seuss books will be read aloud during the event.





TOWN OF CHELMSFORD

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www.chelmsfordma.gov



Sign Up for Notifications!

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View previous editions [here](#).

Marching Into a Month of Unforgettable Events at the CCA!

Get ready for an action-packed March at the CCA. There is something for everyone in this month's amazing program of events.

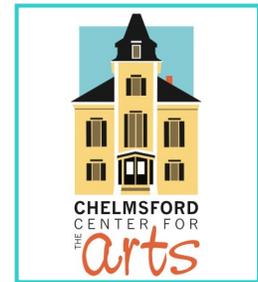
Are you a student hoping to make a career in the arts? Look no further than our Visual and Performing Arts College and Career Fair on March 8 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM in the auditorium, sponsored by the Friends of the CCA. This free event is the perfect place to explore the many career paths available to those interested in the arts, with representatives from a variety of colleges and industry professionals there to help guide you.

Looking for an evening of non-stop laughs? Join us in the auditorium for the next installment in The Playground Theatre Co.'s "Comedy and a Cocktail" series, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Litterbox! Written by talented

local playwright Erin Enwright, this show follows the misadventures of single thirty-something Josie and her talking cat with an attitude, Gigi. Performances will take place on March 14 and 15 at 7:30 PM and March 16 at 2:00 PM. Tickets are just \$20, including admission and a drink at our bar.

Instrumental music fan? Come on down to our auditorium on March 23 at 3:00 PM for "Stories of New Beginnings", a stunning instrumental performance by the Delphinium Duo featuring flute and piano works by a Pulitzer Prize-winning American composer and French and German masterworks. Celebrate the change of the season with an engaging concert of classical music for all ages! General tickets \$15, student discount tickets \$5.

Missing the tunes of the '70s? Then you'll love Little Lies: A Tribute to Fleetwood Mac, on



March 29 at 8:00 PM in the auditorium. Little Lies is an 8-piece tribute band from Boston performing an authentic playlist of your favorite Fleetwood Mac hits. Join us for a night of romance, drama, and, of course, Rumours! General tickets \$25, student and senior tickets \$20.

Whether you're a student, a music fan, or just looking for a laugh, the CCA has an event for you this March. To purchase tickets, or to learn about our other upcoming events, visit us at

www.chelmsfordarts.org

Library Strategic Planning

The Chelmsford Public Library is in the midst of its three-year strategic planning process! During March, we will be seeking public input, starting with a brief survey and continuing on with focus groups and interviews. Please stay tuned for

more information on how to take part and provide your thoughts on how we can create a library that will continue to serve Chelmsford well into the future and make life better for everyone!



The purpose of this newsletter is to provide timely information to the Chelmsford community regarding its town government. Publications will be issued as needed, but on no less than a monthly basis. Your suggestions and comments are welcome at tmoffice@chelmsfordma.gov.

Paul Cohen, Town Manager