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# *Town of Watertown* Spring 2021 Newsletter

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*Issued by Michael J. Driscoll,  
Town Manager*

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*Town of Watertown, Massachusetts*

*149 Main Street Watertown, Massachusetts 02472*

*[www.watertown-ma.gov](http://www.watertown-ma.gov)*

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## **Charter Review Is Happening Now!**

Watertown is undertaking the once in a decade challenge of reviewing how our town government works and WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU! The Charter Review Committee is discussing and recommending changes to how Watertown is governed so NOW IS YOUR CHANCE! The Committee meets the first and third Tuesday of the month, starting at 6 pm. Visit <https://www.watertown-ma.gov/charter> to send in comments, sign up for notifications, and join us at the virtual meetings.

## **Watertown Farmers' Market**

The 2021 Farmers' Market season opens on Wednesday, June 16<sup>th</sup> and runs weekly through October 20<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 – 6:30pm. The market is located in beautiful Saltonstall Park on the corner of Main Street & Whites Avenue. (Next to Town Hall, 149 Main Street). Visit our website for news and information about this year's market and vendors: [www.watertownmarket.com](http://www.watertownmarket.com).

## **Bluebikes Bike Share Launches in Watertown**

Watertown Bluebikes has launched, and spring is a great time to give it a try! Bluebikes is a bike share system where users can get a bike at any station and return it to any station. The bikes can provide a direct link to MBTA stations and can connect to other Bluebike stations in Boston, Cambridge, Somerville, Brookline, Newton, and Arlington.

Bluebikes offers many membership options, including annual, monthly and an income-eligible option. A single ride for non-members is \$2.50. Start by going to [bluebikes.com](http://bluebikes.com), or download the app.

Bluebike stations are or will be at these locations:

1. Coolidge Square, in front of Coolidge Playground, northeast corner of Arlington St. and Mt. Auburn St. (installed)
2. Arsenal Yards, facing Arsenal Street (installed)
3. Watertown Square, at the Bus Delta (installed)
4. Watertown Square across from Town Hall (installed)
5. Nichols Ave. at the Community Path, within the parking lot at Linx (just installed!)
6. Arsenal Street at Kingsbury Street, near Mosesian Center for the Arts, on the campus of Arsenal on the Charles (coming soon)
7. Arsenal Street, in front of 202 Arsenal (vacant lot), between Gables and Elan (just installed!)
8. California Street at Fifth Avenue, near the DCR Charles River Path (coming soon)

Watertown Bluebikes is funded by a combination of public and private sources, including MassDOT, Arsenal Yards, Marriott Residence Inn, Alexandria, and the Town of Watertown.

## **Watertown Free Public Library**

The Watertown Free Public Library is open for browsing and checkouts with curbside pickup service available. We offer special hours for ages 65+ and those with underlying health conditions every weekday, 9 – 10 AM. Please review our safety policies and hours before you visit: [watertownlib.org/reopening](http://watertownlib.org/reopening)

### *Laptops and Hot Spots*

Need internet access? WFPL is now providing laptops and internet hot spots for patrons to take home for two weeks at a time. Call 617-972-6431 or visit [watertownlib.org/laptops](http://watertownlib.org/laptops) to make a reservation

### *WFPL Homebound Delivery*

If you are stuck at home due to a medical necessity, we can deliver books to you. Sign up here: [watertownlib.org/delivery](http://watertownlib.org/delivery)

### *The Library of Things*

Did you know you can borrow a metal detector, a stand mixer, or a power washer with your library card? The Library of Things is WFPL's collection of non-traditional materials. Browse the full collection at [watertownlib.org/things](http://watertownlib.org/things)

Questions about using the Library? Call us at 617-972-6431 or visit [watertownlib.org](http://watertownlib.org)

### **Watertown Council on Aging/Senior Center/Food Pantry**

The Watertown Senior Center building is closed to visitors, but staff members are available to connect you to their Zoom programs and to provide information and referral for supportive services. Senior Parking Permits, which provide up to two hours of free parking in Watertown municipal parking lots, can be renewed over the phone, and new permits can be purchased by calling the Senior Center and making an appointment. Applications are available for the FY 2022 Property Tax Work-Off Program, where adults age 60 and over volunteer in a Town department in exchange for a reduction on their property taxes. The Watertown Food Pantry is open Tuesdays, 10 AM until 2 PM at 80 Mt. Auburn Street, rear. Shelf-stable food donations are accepted at the Food Pantry on Tuesdays starting at 8:30 AM until 2:00 PM at the Food Pantry. For more information about the Food Pantry or any senior issues, call the Senior Center at (617) 972-6490 or send an e-mail to [SeniorCenter@watertown-ma.gov](mailto:SeniorCenter@watertown-ma.gov).

### **Department of Public Works**

In the spring, bag your grass clippings for curbside pickup. See the pick-up calendar at <https://www.watertowndpw.org/DocumentCenter/View/1129/2021-Collection-Calendar>. Even better, leave the clippings on the ground or compost them to make a natural fertilizer. But whatever you do, don't dump them in a storm drain or leave them on the sidewalk! Also, if you use too much fertilizer, the excess will just wash away in the next rain, polluting your local waterways. Wondering if you need fertilizer? Get a soil test: <https://ag.umass.edu/services/soil-plant-nutrient-testing-laboratory/ordering-information-forms>. If you need to use fertilizer, use a slow-release, non-phosphorus fertilizer (look for "0" as the middle number). Want more tips? See [www.mysticriver.org/stormwater](http://www.mysticriver.org/stormwater)

Check out the DPW home page (<https://www.watertowndpw.org/>) for weekly construction updates and frequently asked questions.

### **Overgrown Vegetation**

Spring is almost upon us, please maintain your property to prevent blight and hazardous conditions by ensuring that:

1. Vegetation does not intrude into public sidewalks by more than 6-inches, except at a height of 8-feet or above the public sidewalk (i.e., tree limbs)
2. A clear view/sightline is maintained at intersections, and adjacent to driveways, by keeping vegetation, hedges, fences, etc. below 3-feet
3. Any parcel of land, vacant or otherwise, is maintained so that such parcel of land is free from overgrown vegetation and standing water.

For more information, contact Michael Mena, Zoning Enforcement Officer, at (617) 972-64278 or [mmena@watertown-ma.gov](mailto:mmena@watertown-ma.gov).

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