

From "Medfield Insider"
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Subject PFAS alert, Zullo news, Wing visit, Parcel B committee

News Recap & Peak Into The Week

-June 30, 2025-

Cherishing Everyday Events...

Nearly 13 years ago, her father was the first person close to her to pass away, and she didn't know what to expect from grief.

Whether it was remembering how he'd read the daily newspaper, folded his handkerchiefs or sorted his coins, she learned that it was her father's everyday habits she missed the most.

Her mother's passing stirred different kinds of memories, ones that still make her laugh. With six children and endless loads of laundry, she kept a tall bucket of powdered detergent with a scoop in the cabinet above the washer. As a young girl, this daughter would inevitably spill the powder everywhere, and her mom would be beside her helping to clean it up. That memory had long faded, until a recent soap spill of her own without extra hands nearby brought it vividly back.

Never did she ever imagine how much sharing simple routines with loved ones would matter all these years later. She only wishes she had understood sooner how their steady presence and predictable nature gave her so much stability growing up -- mishaps and all.

The Week Ahead...

[Monday, June 30 -- Medfield Outreach Advisory Board](#), 6 p.m. -- Key topics: **Renovation plans**, clinical services update and fall intern, needs-based updates, and **prevention staffing** and progress report.

[Monday, June 30 -- Zoning Board of Appeals](#), 6 p.m. – Key topics: Continued public hearing regarding proposed **40B at 86 Plain St./Winder Estates** with 24 single-family homes on 14.86 acres of land previously used for an alpaca farm. Units would be non-age restricted for homeownership, with six of the total units designated affordable at 80% of area median income (AMI).

[Monday, June 30 -- Medfield Energy Committee](#), 6:30 p.m. – Key topic: Showing of recorded Department of Energy Resources (DOER) presentation from June 17 Select Board meeting (as part of **public information session on specialized energy code**, with [more information here](#)).

[Monday, June 30 -- Conservation Commission](#), 7 p.m. -- Key topics: Pare Corporation proposal for engineering services related to **tree removal project at dam** (likely Danielson Pond dam; vote anticipated), and administrative updates.

[Tuesday, July 1 -- Board of Health](#), 5 p.m. – Key topics: Permit request for **body art establishment** and practitioner; recent update to tobacco regulations; Charles River Public Health District shared services update; Sustainable Medfield update; and miscellaneous permit requests for renewals (animal, mobile food) and new food permits.

[Tuesday, July 1 -- Select Board Executive Session](#) *(with brief open meeting segment beforehand)*, 5 p.m. – Key topic: Strategy discussion with respect to **litigation**.

[Tuesday, July 1 -- Select Board](#) *(regular meeting with Permanent Planning & Building Committee in attendance)*, 6 p.m. – Key topics:

- * Arrowstreet presentation on **20-year Medfield Municipal Building Capital Plan & Decarbonization Study** *(see meeting packet link below for document)*;
- * **Parcel B requirements and RFP development committee(s)** formation and process;
- * Changes to **solicitor license process**;
- * Review and potential vote on **revised charter for Capital Budget Committee**;

- * **Board and committee reappointments** for fiscal-year 2026 (list attached to agenda);
- * Appropriation transfers (11 listed on agenda);
- * Second contract amendment with **Environmental Partners Group**, LLC for engineering and supplemental services related to Medfield State Hospital peer review services for \$2,700;
- * OPEB actuarial and consulting services engagement letter with Odyssey Advisors, Inc for \$9,900 for fiscal-year 2025/2026 valuation cycle;
- * Council on Aging (**COA**) **garage construction** administration services contract with Signature Designs for \$10,000;
- * COA sidewalk extension project contract with R Federico Company for \$10,500;
- * Contract with BETA Group for design of **Complete Streets sidewalks** for \$115,900;
- * Yearly contract with town **clinical consultant** Rhona Kerans for Medfield Outreach;
- * License agreement with Charles Stark Draper Laboratory, Inc. for use of MSH grounds to test software with **small drones and ground robots** around the structures from July 28 through Aug. 1;
- * **State 911 Department** grants for fiscal-year 2026;
- * One-day beer/wine permit requests for **Zullo Gallery July and August community gatherings** (dates on agenda);
- * Acceptance of **\$500 grant** from student arm of Medfield Foundation to beautify the entrance area of Medfield Outreach; and

- * Town Administrator updates and Select Board member reports.

***** Meeting packet accessible here *****

Wednesday, July 2 -- Council on Aging Board, 9:30 a.m. -- Key topics: *Agenda not available at time of writing; check town calendar for update closer to date.*

Friday, July 4 -- INDEPENDENCE DAY holiday -- all non-emergency town offices closed; no public meetings.

Zullo Now Owns Building with Closing, Deed in Hand

After decades of “some day” hoping to purchase the 454-456A Main St. building, that day finally arrived.

On June 24, the Zullo Gallery-Center for the Arts officially secured its permanent home for the arts in downtown Medfield with the sale closing, and Zullo Executive Director Bill Pope proudly receiving the deed (*pictured*).

Pope noted the entire journey to purchase the building was complicated, challenging, and even tense at times, but that made it all the more gratifying when everything fell into place at the closing. He's also deeply grateful to all the community support that made the purchase possible.

Read the rest of the press release here.

Select Board to Discuss Forming Parcel B Committees

At its meeting on July 1, Select Board will engage in a follow-up discussion about forming two committees focused on Parcel B off Hospital Road (across from the main campus) and future development of the 12-acre parcel.

Based on previous discussions and the July 1 meeting agenda, the first committee would look at requirements and constraints related to developing a site, while a second committee would be charged with creating a Request for Proposals.

It is anticipated that the July 1 meeting discussion will focus on who should serve on the committee. As previously reported, Select Board Chair Gus Murby was not in favor of opening volunteer recruitment to the "Requirements Committee" to anyone who wants to serve on it. Instead, he prefers to identify key stakeholders, drawing from Parks & Recreation, and possibly even Council on Aging and the schools, to sit on the committee.

Ultimately, Murby is striving to bring a Parcel B-related article to 2026 Town Meeting.

Based on public input at a previous Select Board meeting, plus recent social media posts, Medfield citizens have expressed opinions both for and against development of the land. Some residents want to preserve the open space and pastoral view, while others want to create a Parks & Recreation facility on the site by pursuing the Dover developer who sought to make it happen.

State Alerts Town

About PFAS Results

On June 25, Massachusetts Division of Capital Asset Management & Maintenance (DCAMM) notified Medfield officials [via this e-mail](#) that groundwater sampling at three monitoring wells at the **former Medfield State Hospital site tested positive for PFAS** at concentrations above allowable limits.

[\(Learn more about PFAS and health-related concerns here.\)](#)

According to the DCAMM e-mail notification:

- * Consultants Weston & Sampson performed the sampling that identified total PFAS 6 concentrations at levels (max 29.8 ng/l) that are **slightly above the reportable concentration** of 20 ng/l;
- * The three monitoring wells are located within the **northern portion** of the former Medfield State Hospital property near the Charles River (believed to be state owned). The closest well with total PFAS 6 above the standard is approximately **30 feet from the river**;
- * Weston & Sampson was required to report the findings to **Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection** on behalf of DCAMM. As an immediate step, MassDEP has approved an assessment of the PFAS release; and

- * Further PFAS sampling and site analyses will be conducted over the next three quarters, as already planned.

This is a developing story. A June 30 meeting is scheduled with stakeholders, including watershed partner **Charles River Watershed Association**.

MA State Police Air Wing

Visits MPD Youth Academy

On Thursday, June 26, the [Massachusetts State Police Air Wing](#) paid a midday visit to about 20 members of the new **Medfield Youth Academy** for students in 6th, 7th and 8th grade.

With the helicopter circling the skies above, it eventually came in for a landing on the **field between Dale Street School and Memorial School**.

The academy students, members of Medfield Police Department, community onlookers, and Parks & Recreation campers and staff, all watched the visit unfold. After landing, Air Wing officers spent about an hour describing their job, and answering student questions.

The Air Wing unit is often called into **aerial service** to search for missing or endangered persons, to conduct assessments or surveillance, or assist with other tasks. While it tends to operate in the Greater Boston area, it will travel statewide or even further, to provide help if needed.

Students asked officers numerous questions, and learned a variety of facts, including:

- * The helicopter has a 150-gallon capacity for jet fuel giving it about two hours of flight time;
- * It typically flies at about 1,500 feet, but has ascended as high as 4,000 feet;
- * Maximum carrying load for helicopter is about 6,000 lbs.;
- * Bird strikes are the most common form of damage to the helicopter when flying;
- * Finding missing Alzheimer's patients is one of the common services the unit provides; and
- * A search and rescue dog will accompany Air Wing officers if needed.

Reflecting on the first week of the Youth Police Academy, Medfield Police Chief Michelle Guerette shared that it's not only the students who benefit from the experience -- she and the officers get a lot out of it too.

"Everyone is really enjoying working with the kids," said Guerette. "Seeing so much student excitement about police work reminds all of us why we chose this career."

Town, School Leaders Grapple with Capital Costs on Horizon

With 2025 Town Meeting in the rearview mirror, Medfield boards and committees have been taking an especially hard look at future long-term capital improvement costs, and trying to find ways to plan ahead.

Capital priorities not only include the most urgent and well-known sites -- **Dale Street School** and **Pfaff Center** – but work also needed at 10 other municipal buildings.

An overall list of capital improvements needed and prioritized, with estimated costs included, was published in the **new 20-year masterplan for municipal buildings** (including a decarbonization section) developed by Arrowstreet consultants. This plan will be discussed at the **Tuesday, July 1 Select Board meeting**, and the plan is [included in the first section of the meeting packet](#).

Examples of top-priority projects identified in the masterplan include:

- * Roof replacements at three schools (total estimated cost of about \$19 million);
- * Window replacements at schools and library;
- * Exterior wall repairs at Town House and library; and
- * Pedestrian way improvements/paving at The Center (Council on Aging); and

Total projected cost for addressing all capital improvement needs for town buildings by **2045**, as identified in the masterplan, is **\$121,778,495** (reflecting all priority levels). The total includes projected costs for repair of Dale Street School and Pfaff Center, but not costs for new or fully renovated/expanded facilities.

Water-sewer projects are extra costs

On June 12, **Board of Water & Sewerage** held a joint meeting with **Enterprise Fund Committee** to discuss the scope, timing and funding of capital projects related to water and sewerage services that would impact customer costs during the next rate cycle, and over the long term. About \$48 million in capital costs is estimated for water/sewerage over the next 20 years, explained Warrant Committee Co-chair Steve Callahan at a recent School Committee meeting to discuss town and school financial outlook.

Water main replacements (previously estimated at \$500,000) are among the projects that have been discussed at length in recent years, but three other capital projects have been deemed by board members as especially high priorities::

- * **Available Fire Flow (AFF)** fire hydrant work to achieve minimum pressure needed for effective firefighting. This work would address both safety and insurance concerns.
- * **Continued work to control excessive water entering and overtaxing the wastewater treatment system** (known as “Inflow & Infiltration” or I&I) to ensure the town meets regulations. In 2022, Environmental Protection Agency found Medfield in violation of the Clean Water Act for illicit discharge into the Charles River.
- * **Repairs and/or replacement of components at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.** Built in early 1970s, the aging facility has significant ongoing capital needs, but was not included in the Arrowstreet assessment.

(PFAS mitigation, especially as it relates to Well 6, was not factored into the capital improvement discussion. See separate article about latest development.)

At the recent meeting, it didn’t take long for the board to lay out its water/sewerage priorities, but **how to pay for all or some of it had no immediate answers.**

Acknowledging that water/sewerage borrowing may not take place until roughly four years from now – with **potential overlap with the Dale Street School project** -- Town Administrator Kristine Trierweiler expressed concern. “Nobody wants to start to add all of these projects together and negatively impact that school project. So I think we’re trying to be cautious about how we can make these (water-sewer projects) happen, and within what timeframe,” she noted.

Board of Water & Sewerage and Enterprise Fund Committee plan to meet again to continue discussions with the date to be determined.

School Committee Approves

Extended Day Program

With Medfield Public School **start and end times changing as of Aug. 27** (the first day of school for grades 1 to 12), last week School Committee approved creation of an extended-day program of about **one hour and 20 minutes** to fill a gap resulting from an earlier elementary school dismissal time.

Dismissal time for grades K to 5 will now be 2:35 p.m. instead of 2:55 p.m., while high school and middle school dismissal time will now be 3:10 p.m. instead of 2:07 p.m.

Superintendent Jeffrey Marsden presented these details to the committee about the new program:

- * Hours will be **2:40 to 4 p.m.**
- * All students will attend in **Wheelock School cafeteria**;
- * Students from Memorial School and Dale Street School will be **transported by bus** to Wheelock (a five-minute bus ride is estimated);
- * Cost will be **\$10 per day** on regular school days, and **\$40 per day** for early-release days during which longer hours of coverage will be provided;
- * **Current teaching staff** will be operating the self-supporting program, and **retired Wheelock Principal Holli Caulfield** will be overseeing it;
- * Based on Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) requirements, maximum capacity per day is **75 students**, and student-to-teacher ratio required is **13 to 1**;
- * After School Committee program approval, **DESE must also approve it.**

No details were provided about what students will be doing during their extended time at Wheelock. Medfield Afterschool Program and Kidsborough were asked if they could accommodate a new program, but both said it wasn't possible, according to Marsden.

(The presentation Marsden gave to School Committee last week was not posted to the meeting packet on the district website at the time of this writing. A direct request for the information went unanswered.)

News Briefs & Reminders...

- * On **Monday, June 30** at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom, **Medfield Energy Committee** is holding a public information session on the **Specialized Energy Code** -- an article that will be voted on at 2026 Town Meeting. [View the flyer here.](#)
- * Residents are encouraged to be part of the pink sticker club -- **Transfer Station stickers**, that is. **Old stickers expire on June 30**, so without a new sticker, access to the Transfer Station will be denied at its next opening on Wednesday, July 2. [More information here.](#) On a related note, the

Swap at the Transfer Station is set for paint-related supplies, but with summer now underway, volunteer organizers would welcome **bottles of Gatorade** to help keep them cool and hydrated.

- * The **Trinity redevelopment of the former Medfield State Hospital** site hit a significant milestone with **unanimous Planning Board approval of the site plan and subdivision plan** at its June 23 meeting (with conditions, inclusive of waivers, and assuming town counsel review and approval). Trinity also addressed concerns about water usage, and provided assurances that it would not exceed allowable limits based in part on a number of water conservation efforts on the property. The response was affirmed by peer reviewers and director of Department of Public Works. One last permitting-related step for Trinity is submitting a Single Environmental Impact Report to the state, which then triggers a 30-day public review and comment period. One related note of interest as part of the Planning Board review process: While Trinity anticipates removing 86 trees, it plans to plant 1,646 new trees, including 366 canopy trees, and 1,280 understory trees.
- * [World Atlas named Medfield](#) one of eight most bike-friendly towns in New England citing its "peaceful neighborhoods," cultural offerings, downtown businesses, wooded paths, and open vistas as attractions.
- * On June 23, **Conservation Commission** voted to close the public hearing, and approve the Harding Street, North Street, Hospital Road intersection improvement projects, and issue an order of conditions. One special request was for Trinity to explore creation of a rain garden or limited impact feature in the North Street roundabout design.
- * **Charles River Public Health Advisory Board** wrapped up its final strategic planning session on June 26 with representatives from the member towns of Medfield, Dover, Needham and Sherborn. The initiative is funded by a state grant to provide for shared health services between towns, and to increase the professionalism of health departments. Key focal areas for the first year of the strategic plan include tobacco-use prevention, environmental health, department capacity-building/recordkeeping, municipal partnerships, data collection, and developing and implementing communications processes with the community.

Further Ahead...

(Dates/topics based on town calendar, public hearing notices, or prior meeting information; subject to change)

Wednesday, July 9:

-- Medfield Energy Committee

Thursday, July 10:

-- 375th Anniversary Celebration/Parade Committee

Tuesday, July 15:

-- Select Board

Thursday, July 17:

-- Conservation Commission

Tuesday, Aug. 5:

-- Board of Health

Wednesday, Aug. 6:

-- Council on Aging Board

Tuesday, Aug. 12:

-- Select Board

Wednesday, Aug. 13:

-- Medfield Energy Committee

Monday, Aug. 25:

-- School Committee

Thursday, Aug. 28:

-- Affordable Housing Trust

New Community Events & Initiatives...

ZULLO CALL for artists; classes still accepting signups

The Zullo is now calling for artist to submit work for consideration for the **31st Annual Juried Art Exhibit**, with Ruth Scotch as jurist. [Details on how to submit work by the Sunday, Aug. 10 deadline and information on Scotch, is available here.](#)

Zullo Gallery summer art classes for children with Kurt Jackson still have some seats available, with the exception of the sold-out Artist Studio. [Complete information is available here.](#)

MEMO FEATURES Route 109 this week

The Route 109 band will return as a featured performer for the MEMO summer concert on Thursday, July 10 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the library gazebo area. Route 109 includes Medfield's own headliner, Larry Kramer, with the band performing a variety of songs for all ages, including tunes from Black Pumas, Green Day, Queen, country repertoire, and more. Performance will be cancelled in the event of rain. *(Photo credit: Medfield TV.)*

[The complete MEMO summer concert lineup can be found here.](#)

BELLFORGE CONTINUES with "Summer Sounds"

On **Wednesday, July 9** from 6 to 8 p.m. as part of its free "Summer Sounds" series, Bellforge will host **Wyn and White Light**, and **Hayley Sabella**.

The event includes the option to purchase beer and cocktails, plus food options from local vendors.

[More Bellforge event information is available here.](#)

Event Reminders...

- * **Medfield Community Market** is held on the lawn adjacent to **Meetinghouse Pond** each **Sunday** from **9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** Medfield Select Board has approved two farmer's market wineries to be present on alternate Sundays. The [market website](#) provides additional information.
- * The next opening of **Peak House Heritage Center** is **July 12**. On that day, PHHC will also offer Colonial cooking for kids. Tickets are free for all ages, but [must be reserved in advance](#) to manage capacity and staffing. [More about PHHC here.](#)
- * From 12 to 5 p.m. on **Sunday, Aug. 31**, the Trustees Medfield property **Rocky Woods** will host an afternoon of live music with its 2nd annual "Rock the Woods" music festival. [Tickets can be purchased here.](#)

SUMMER DEADLINE: Please e-mail community event information to MedfieldInsider@gmail.com by **2 p.m. the Friday prior to publication** each Monday morning. Brief details **in the body of an e-mail** is appreciated, along with a PDF flyer and representative photo.

Medfield Insider -- Past Issues

[June 23](#) -- Heat cool off, WBZ firefighter wish, historic site projects, Parcel B SB discussion, legal costs

[June 16](#) -- Cancelled P&R modular & updates, Hospital Rd. parcel B committee, Health Dept changes

[June 10](#)*-- Retiring teachers, updated Rte. 27/West roundabout, MHA Rosebay 40B & annual plan

[June 2](#) -- Notice of roundabout & 40B hearings; more Trinity review w/town boards, Rte. 109 closure

[May 26](#) -- Roundabout hearing date, PFAS info & settlement \$, W/S capital needs, grad requirements

[May 19](#) -- Housing Authority OML/issues, Ryder P&R case, School Choice, Fire Chief SB swearing in

[May 12](#) -- Services for h.s. senior, Trinity MSH extension, Dale enrollment & MSBA items, COA update

[May 5](#) -- Town Mtg, Ormberg ethics penalty/school concerns, Hospital Rd Parcel B-SB mtg, TA contract

[April 28](#) -- Town mtg poll, Oxbow fund, 86 Plain mtg alert, Harding & Parcel B mtg notices, new fire help

[April 21](#) -- West St/Oxbow Rd fires/help; Asst TA to depart; MSH/Bellforge updates, Town Meeting prep

[April 14](#) -- Zullo bldg agreement, Parks Rec modular & court update, teacher aide & fire chief contracts

[April 7](#) -- Town election results, Medfield Day move, teacher aide bargaining, Plain St. 40B, Harry Pritoni

[March 31](#) -- Election day, racist writing, new Wheelock principal, Swap/DPW/TA news, Plain St hearing

[March 24](#) -- Candidate Q&A, DeKing as new fire chief, Hospital Rd. article pulled, DPW reorg, Hunt Club

[March 17](#) -- Supt. extension/raise, Uzo's DeSorgher shout out, Fed agents, teacher fire, Caulfield retiring

[March 10](#) -- Plain St. 40B, wind/water impact, farm plots, Select Board/SBC mtg recaps, candidate forum

[March 3](#) -- B'ball facility mtg recap., ADU bylaw, Grist Mill Committee info., candidate forum & ballot

[Feb. 24](#) -- Basketball facility mtg info., ATM articles, candidate forum, Town/Fire/COA news, BOH reorg

[Feb. 17](#) -- Dover rail trail, health insurance jump, SC mtg recap, opioid fund use, candidate Qs form

[Feb. 10](#) -- Election candidates, Fire Chief process, West/27 roundabout, Trinity/Bellforge & SBC updates

[Feb. 3](#) -- Hospital Rd. basketball site, Rte. 27-West roundabout, Community Market, OML violations

[Jan. 27](#)-- Fire chief retiring, TS sticker increase, snow work, Harding vote, police update, town budgets

[Jan. 20](#) -- R.Costello death, Harding intersection vote, Trinity MSH update, MPS English learning review

[Jan. 13](#) -- 98 Pine mtg recap, Montrose update, MHA/Rosebay-no Select Board, volunteer fair success

[Jan. 6, 2025](#) -- 98 Pine 40B, School Resource Officer doc, Rosebay transparency, Fire cadet program

[Dec. 30](#) -- Top 10 topics 2024/questions 2025, Harding Rd redesigns, youth gambling, library passes

[Dec. 23](#) -- New property values, holiday schedule, giving list, Town Admin newsletter, key action items

[Dec. 16](#) -- Supt. contract talks, nomination papers, MSBA invite, enrollment, 40Bs status, MWAHS data

[Dec. 9](#) -- Park St Books new owner, Bellforge update/infrastructure, Rosebay on Pound St. notice

[Dec. 2](#) -- Property value jump, enrollment drop, lead/copper water testing, EPA pending regs w/turf

[Nov. 25](#) -- Pfaff discussion/demise, stalled MWAHS results, Rep. Garlick party, hate hotline open

[Nov. 18](#) -- Pfaff \$700K repair, Wilkins Glen/Hinkley fire, Butterfly news, SC start time vote, MSH award

[Nov. 11](#) -- Election results/MCAS ballot divide, more Pfaff, Dale site & school start time votes, fire alert

[Nov. 4](#) -- Election day info., Pfaff wall alert, drought/fire safety, Elm St. & BOH topics, new Harley cycle

**Published on Tuesday*

[Click here to access back issues from July 2, 2020 through Oct. 28, 2024.](#)

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