

From "Medfield Insider" <editor@medfieldinsider.ccsend.com>
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Subject New principal, MHS racial incident, Swap opening, Plain St hearing

News Recap & Peak Into The Week

-March 31, 2025-

Looking Beyond the Surface...

The wavy glass in centuries-old homes has fascinated her since childhood.

With subtle variations and shifting reflections, she has always appreciated how the windows, shaped by fine craftsmanship, form a pattern all their own.

As she traces the bumps and warps along the surface, she's also reminded of how imperfections provide character and authenticity. While the old glass can create distortion, she knows clarity can be gained by taking a deeper look.

And just as no two panes are alike, they provide a reminder to tap into her unique skills and adhere to core values—ensuring the reflection she sees is one she'll always recognize.

The Week Ahead...

[Monday, March 31 - TOWN ELECTION -- town website](#) for information; [specimen ballot can be found here.](#)

[Tuesday, April 1 -- Board of Health](#), 5 p.m. -- Cheryl Sbarra, Esq., Director of Policy Law, Massachusetts

Association of Health Boards, to discuss **legal authority of Boards of Health**; Parks & Recreation modular unit stormwater and drainage review at (Hinkley Park); introduction of **Medfield State Hospital redevelopment project**; Colonial Road request for extension of disposal system construction permit; anti-idling campaign; review of most recent updates to **tobacco regulations**; Charles River Public Health District/shared services grant update; Sustainable Medfield update; and miscellaneous permit approvals, including one for a new food establishment.

Tuesday, April 1 -- Select Board (Executive Session, 5-6 p.m.; regular meeting, 6-7 p.m.; and joint Warrant Committee/Select Board for hearing, 7 p.m., with locations noted on agenda for each meeting) -- Key topics include:

- * **Executive Session** (at beginning of regular meeting) to discuss negotiation strategy related to Acting Fire Chief Bill DeKing, and to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property (former Medfield State Hospital);
- * **Reorganize Select Board** (with naming of new positions);
- * MEMO request to use gazebo and park for **summer concert series** on Thursdays from June 12 through Aug 14, and to hang a Main Street banner, and also Medfield Day, Sept. 27 requests;
- * Request for permission to use rail trail on Sunday, May 4 for a walk to highlight Mental Health May and Coalition for Suicide Prevention;
- * **Annual Town Meeting 2025 assignment of warrant articles**, vote to sign warrant, acceptance of fiscal-year 2026 operating and capital budgets; confirmation that fiscal-years 2025 and 2026 are in compliance with the Town's Financial Management Policies and Objectives;
- * Appointment of Robert LaPlante to Kingsbury Pond Gristmill Committee;
- * Appointment of Timothy J. Cutler as Emergency Plumbing Inspector;
- * **Memorandum of Understanding with Medfield Police League**, MASSCOP Local 257, effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028;

- * Proclamation for Noah Hutchinson who has earned the rank of **Eagle Scout**;
- * Pharmacy agreement with MetroWest Medical;
- * Request from New Life and Soles of Medfield running club to use parking area on Hospital Road during annual 5K-10K on Sunday, April 27;
- * Letter of support with the **Neponset River Watershed** for the MVP Resilient Neponset Flood Model and Climate Adaptation Project;
- * Planning Board application for **Parks and Recreation modular**;
- * Medfield Energy Committee, Medfield Garden Club and Fairy Walk representatives request sign approvals; and
- * Donations of \$119 for Council on Aging.

*** [Meeting packet available here.](#) ***

Tuesday, April 1 -- Warrant Committee (regular meeting & public hearing), 7 p.m. -- Key topics:

- * **Public hearing**, 7 p.m., with presentation of **proposed fiscal-year 2026 operating budget** and fiscal update, and review of **warrant articles and public comment**;
- * **Regular committee meeting** to follow hearing, with **Police and Fire collective bargaining agreements**, discussion of warrant articles and draft committee reports, town finance update, and committee updates (Capital Budget and School Building Committee).

*** [Meeting packet available here.](#) ***

[Wednesday, April 2 -- Council on Aging](#), 9:30 a.m. -- Key topics: *Agenda not posted at time of writing.*

[Wednesday, April 2 -- Zoning Board of Appeals](#), 6 p.m. -- Key topics: **First public hearing regarding proposed Winder Estates 40B project at 86 Plain St.** (former alpaca farm) to allow construction of 24 single-family homes, with no age restrictions. Of the homes, six will be affordable at 80 percent Area Median Income, and 18 will be market rate. [Plans can be found here.](#)

[Wednesday, April 2 -- School Building Committee & Communications Subcommittee](#), 8:30 p.m. -- Key topics: *Agenda for regular meeting not posted at time of writing.* Anticipated topics include **enrollment projection** to submit to Massachusetts School Building Authority, educational profile for MSBA, and other required documents.

[Thursday, April 3 -- Conservation Commission](#), 7 p.m. -- Key topics: *Agenda not available at time of writing.*

MHS Principal Denounces

Recent Racial Incidents

On March 23, in response to "**racially insensitive words** written in several of the boys' bathrooms," Medfield High School Principal Robert Parga [sent an e-mail to students denouncing the incidents.](#)

Parga stated, "This behavior is unacceptable and will not be tolerated," and pointed out the steps being taken to determine who was responsible:

- * Review of hallway camera footage;
- * Review of class sign-out data; and
- * Solicitation of information from students.

"The actions of one individual do not reflect the character of our entire student body," Parga wrote.

The racial incidents took place just before the launch of annual "**Kindness Week**," during which students write compliments on sticky notes for their peers and teachers (among other initiatives), and post them on the high school lobby wall (*as shown from a previous year*).

Warrant Hearing Set for April 1;

Fed/State Curve Balls Possible

At 7 p.m. on **Tuesday, April 1** in the Chenery Room at the Town House (and on Zoom), Warrant Committee will hold its **Annual Town Meeting Public Hearing**.

[The meeting packet with presentation materials is available here.](#)

Notable items include:

- * **Police and Fire collective bargaining agreements** (pages 39-46 of packet)
- * Historical data on tax impacts, state aid and budgets overall
- * Draft warrant articles

Select Board members will also be in attendance at the hearing, and will likely be joined by town department leaders and various committee chairs.

The hearing is for sharing preliminary Warrant Committee stances on most Town Meeting articles, and giving residents the chance to provide input prior to publication of final committee recommendations for town meeting.

Historically, resident turnout for the public hearing has been low. Even when community members are present, it is rare for anyone to speak up, even when invited to do so.

It is anticipated that [30 warrant articles](#) will be put forth to voters at 2025 Town Meeting on **Monday, May 5**.

Wait and see as ATM approaches

While the fiscal-year 2026 town budgeting process has been nearing completion, recent **federal funding cuts** could throw a curve ball into months of number crunching and intensive planning.

At the last Select Board meeting, Town Administrator Kristine Trierweiler noted that the town is still waiting for a SAFER grant reimbursement (for firefighter/paramedic hires). And while Medfield Outreach relies on a direct federal grant to fund substance-use prevention efforts, the department hasn't been notified about any detrimental changes.

Medfield Hires Sharon Principal

Kevin Madden for Wheelock

Superintendent Jeff Marsden announced late afternoon on Friday, March 28 that **Kevin Madden**, principal of **Cottage Street School in Sharon**, would become the next principal of **Ralph Wheelock School**.

Based on comments by Marsden at the School Committee meeting the night before, 11 sitting principals had pursued the position. After the search committee narrowed the candidate pool down to five individuals, Madden was ultimately chosen.

Madden has been principal of the grade K-5 Sharon school since 2011. The school serves 433 students, according to fall 2024 data from Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE).

Madden will replace current Wheelock Principal **Holli Caulfield** who is retiring at the end of the current school year. DESE data shows Wheelock School has 404 students in grades 2 and 3.

Said Marsden, "Mr. Madden brings over two decades of experience in elementary education, including more than 15 years as a principal, and is widely recognized for his dedication to fostering inclusive, collaborative, and high-achieving school communities."

More about Madden and the search committee can be found in the [official announcement](#) sent to Memorial School and Wheelock School families.

How much Madden will earn as Wheelock principal has not been made public. Based on the 2023 Sharon Annual Report, his compensation that year was \$136,441.

According to [Medfield Public School policy \(GCBP\)](#), Medfield School Committee must approve "all terms concerning compensation/benefits, prior to the presentation of a contract of employment to the Principal." (The contract was not discussed at the March 27 School Committee meeting.)

Sundays, Swap Opening & Drives

to Keep Transfer Station Busy

Now that spring has officially arrived, the Transfer Station is gearing up for **Sunday openings** throughout the month of **April**.

The **Swap** team is also getting ready for its own **opening day of Wednesday, April 30**.

Volunteers are needed the **first two weekends in April** to help get the Swap ready. Anyone available to

help for any length of time should [e-mail Nancy Irwin](#).

In the meantime, these two collections are planned:

- * **Saturday, April 12**, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. -- **Hazardous Waste Collection at Town Garage** (drive up); and
- * **Saturday, April 12**, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. -- [Clothing/household Goods Drive](#) to benefit Big Brother/Big Sister at **Transfer Station**.

Further ahead:

- * **Tuesday, May 6** -- [Transfer Station sticker renewal](#) system opens with new prices in effect. As of July 1, 2025, cars with expired stickers will not be allowed in the Transfer Station.
- * **Saturday, May 17** -- **Electronic Recycling Day** at Transfer Station.

Details on the various drives, plus other Department of Public Works news, can be found in the [April edition of "The Works" newsletter](#).

Also in the newsletter is recognition of **Ed Hinkley** who recently retired as tree warden. Current water crew chief, **David Mullen**, was also recognized as part of ongoing staff profiles.

In addition to serving as tree warden, Hinkley worked for 50 years as water department foreman until retiring that post in 2014. He took on tree warden responsibilities in 2006.

News Briefs & Reminders...

- * The start of the **town-wide water main flushing program** has been delayed. It will now begin **April 6** and run through **April 18** [based on this schedule for each location](#). The work will take place between 8 p.m. and 5 a.m.. Some water discoloration may occur, but running cold tap water should allow it to clear.
- * [The March Town Administrator newsletter](#) is now out. It provides information on the new fire chief appointment, recaps Department of Public Works response to storm damage and broken water main, and provides an election reminder. Of special note, **Town Administrator Kristine Treirweiler will be on hand in The Center library on Election Day** to meet with anyone who wants to stop in

before polls close at 8 p.m.

- * Council on Aging has [released its April newsletter](#) providing information on happenings at The Center at Medfield, including special events, ongoing programs, outreach initiatives, day trips and numerous services.
- * After April 1, late fees are applied to the \$10 cost of unpaid dog licenses. [More information, including a registration form, can be found here.](#)

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Further Ahead...

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

Monday, April 7:

-- Planning Board (*Bellforge hearing continued*)

Wednesday, April 9:

-- Medfield Energy Committee

-- Parks & Recreation Commission

-- Zoning Board of Appeals (*36 Foundry St. hearing -- proposed home occupation*)

Thursday, April 10:

-- School Committee

Tuesday, April 15:

-- Select Board

Thursday, Aug. 17:

-- Conservation Commission

Monday, April 21:

-- **HOLIDAY -- Patriot's Day** -- non-emergency town offices closed

Wednesday, April 23:

-- Planning Board

Monday, April 28:

-- Zoning Board of Appeals

Community Events & Initiatives...

HISTORICAL SOCIETY offers program, April newsletter

(Note: As of this writing, only a few seats were available for the upcoming program. **Pre-registration is required.** A waitlist will begin once full.)

At 6 p.m. on **Tuesday, April 2** at The Center on Ice House Road, Medfield Historical Society in partnership with Medfield Public Library and Council on Aging, will host a special program, "**The Boston Massacre Trials: Blood in the Snow**" with featured speaker retired Massachusetts Superior Court Judge Dennis J. Curran. [More information is available here.](#) (Image: engraving by Paul Revere)

The [April issue of "The Portal,"](#) the monthly Medfield Historical Society newsletter, is now out featuring articles on such topics as Patriot's Day history and 1774 letter from Boston (in society collection), Historic New England tour highlights, Volunteer Month overview and opportunities, and [Medfield History Weekend \(with tickets now on sale\).](#)

10TH ANNUAL Hunter's Run set for April 6

The annual event starts and ends at Kingsbury Club on Ice House Road to create awareness about organ donation and honor Hunter Williams, 15, who passed away in 2023. Proceeds benefit Boston Children's Pediatric Transplant Center. More information, [including race details, can be found here.](#)

FAIRY WALK house registration deadline is near

For anyone who wants to enter a house into this year's contest, the deadline to register is **Monday, April 7**. [The event](#) will be held at **Hinkley Park** on **Saturday, April 12** from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. [Registration information is available here.](#)

MEDFIELD TV holds annual meeting

At 7 p.m. on **Monday, April 7**, [Medfield TV](#) will hold its annual meeting at its studio at 18 North Meadows Rd. to report on 2024 accomplishments, vote on bylaw changes, and elect directors. Medfield residents or Medfield business designees age 16 or older are eligible to vote at the meeting, in addition to having a TV or Internet service subscription for a Medfield address.

GARDEN CLUB offers two programs

At 10 a.m. on Wednesday, **April 9** at United Church of Christ, 496 Main St., Medfield Garden Club will host a special program, "**Peonies: Love of My Life**," covering peony history, and also its selection, planting and ongoing care. Featured speaker: Master Gardener Christine Paxhia.

The club is also inviting the community to experience annual Art 'N Bloom at Medfield Public Library from **Friday, April 11** through **Sunday, April 13** during [regular library hours](#). The event features floral displays created by club members alongside artwork by Medfield High School art students.

ZULLO GALLERY continues summer sign-ups

Families still have the opportunity to register their children for summer art classes at the Zullo Gallery, led by local instructor, Kurt Jackson. [The registration site is here.](#) The classes are geared toward a span of ages/grades and kick off in July.

NEW LIFE & SOLES team up for races

New Life Furniture Bank, in partnership with the running club **Soles of Medfield**, will once again hold its second annual **New Life 5K/10K Run and Fun Run** taking place on Sunday, **April 27** at McCarthy Park & Fields (44 Hospital Hill Rd.). Proceeds benefit both organizations. [Register and learn more here.](#)

Planning a community event? E-mail information to MedfieldInsider@gmail.com by 5 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 simple photo.

Medfield Insider -- Past Issues

[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

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

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encourages engagement.

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