



WESTWOOD

A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Coming soon! Wentworth Hall nears completion



Westwood's new Wentworth Hall is really beginning to take shape. The new building was designed by McKay Architects to incorporate the old Wentworth Hall as part of a much larger 8,000 square foot structure which maintains the scale of its historic forbearer. Upon completion, it will be home to the Islington Branch Library and the Department of Youth & Family Services. The new Wentworth Hall will also offer a spacious, fully-accessible Community Center on the lower level.

Tower Construction is now finishing work on the new roof and carefully fitting panelized wall sections from the circa 1884 building into the fabric of the new Wentworth Hall. The project is on schedule for move-in this summer, and we are looking forward to welcoming the public into this charming new space in the heart of Islington Center which is sure to be enjoyed for generations to come.

For more information about Wentworth Hall and the Islington Center Redevelopment Project, see the Project Page on the Town's webpage.

Westwood Department of Public Works

Sadly, we lost a very valued, committed, and much loved member
of The Westwood Department of Public Works Family

William J. "Billy" Troiano
August 14, 1965 - January 27, 2021



TROIANO, William J. "Billy" Age 55 of Norwood passed away on January 27th, 2021. Born August 14th, 1965 to the late Mary Troiano (Lally) and Arthur Troiano. He was survived by his wife of 26 years Patti Troiano (Fisler) of Norwood. Cherished father of Meaghan and her husband Shane McBride and Kevin Troiano, all of Norwood. He was also the proud papa to Finn McBride of Norwood. Beloved brother of Nick Troiano and his wife Joanne of Walpole, Linda Troiano of Weymouth; as well as the late Michael Troiano, Maryann Troiano and Frances Ciardi (Troiano). He was also survived by his children Melissa, William, Daniel, and Joseph Troiano and their children; as well as many nieces and nephews. He worked for the Town of Westwood for over 20 years and was involved throughout his life in the towing industry; working at Mike's Automotive and eventually owning Bill and Mike's Automotive in Dedham. He loved working on cars in his spare time, especially rebuilding his 1985 Chevy C-10 truck. He also enjoyed vacationing with his family, spending time with them at home in his backyard, cooking for them on Sundays and hosting his infamous pig roasts during the summer.

Westwood Department of Public Works

To print the 2021 Westwood Trash & Recycle Brochure/Collection Services go to DPW website:
<https://www.townhall.westwood.ma.us/departments/public-works/recycling-waste-management>

With **Inclement Weather**, please check the DPW Website, Recycle Coach App, or Social Media for Trash & Recycling delays.

Household Bulk Collection Event will be held the week of March 22, 2021:

Residents can place one bulk item at their curbside for pickup free of charge. Pickup will be on your regular scheduled trash day. This is for bulk items only, **NO appliances, TVs, computers, monitors (nothing with a plug), metal items, construction, hazardous or yard waste.** Think of a wooden piece of furniture; mattress or a box spring; large plastic item such as a kayak or children's play toy.

Visit the DPW website for more details and information

Yard Waste Collection Weeks for 2021:

April 5-9	May 3-7	June 14-18	September 20-24
October 4-8	November 1-5	November 8-12	November 15-19
November 22-27 (1-day delay Thursday-Saturday)			November 29-Dec 3

Yard Waste Collection Requirements:

- Leaves **must** be placed in paper leaf recycling bags or loosely in barrels that are clearly marked "leaves." Do not put yard waste in your Westwood Recycling or Trash barrel for disposal.
- Each barrel and/or bag shall not exceed 45 pounds. Anything in excess of 45 pounds will not be collected.
- **No** plastic bags can be collected with yard waste, as they will cause the entire truck load to be rejected at the composting site.
- Place barrels and bags curbside by 7:00am on your trash pickup day and Waste Management has until 6:00pm to pick up.
- **DO's:** grass clippings, leaves, weeds, small twigs
- **DONT's:** rocks, stones, gravel, sand, dirt, wood, plastic, bags exceeding 45 pounds

Visit the DPW website for more details and information

Down load the free Recycle Coach App to get all trash & recycling news, reminders, schedules, do's & don'ts and what goes where (trash or recycle) at your fingertips:

<https://www.townhall.westwood.ma.us/departments/public-works/recycling-waste-management/sign-up-for-recycle-coach>

Visit DPW website for more information and updates

<https://www.townhall.westwood.ma.us/departments/public-works>

WESTWOOD EARLY CHILDHOOD CFCE PROGRAMS



The Westwood Early Childhood Program is a Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) grant funded by the MA Department of Early Education and Care. We service families with children age birth through 8 years old. We support parents as their child's first teacher by providing early learning and literacy activities that enhance meaningful interaction between parents and children. The CFCE program also provides resources and referrals that help connect families to local support services.

Spring Programs

Despite the COVID restrictions, we have been busy providing a variety of virtual and outdoor programs throughout the year! Families have enjoyed bundling up for socially distanced stroller strolls, winter outdoor playgroups, and StoryWalks! For families that prefer virtual options, Baby Kneads and Family Playgroup have met virtually since the fall. We hope you will join us this spring for our upcoming programs! Registration is required for all programs except StoryWalks. Register via the website at:

<http://www.westwood.k12.ma.us/early-childhood-council/>

Virtual Programs

Virtual Baby Kneads (birth-6 mo)
(Mon 10:30 March 15, 22, 29, April 5, 12)
Virtual Playgroup (18 mo-3)
(Mon 9:30 March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29)

Outdoor Programs

Run & Fun (12 mo-3) (Sat. 5/8, 5/15, 5/22 5/29)
Gym Play (3-5) (10:00 Sat. 4/10, 4/17)
Little Yogis (3-7) (10:00 Sat. 5/24, 6/1)
StoryWalks (all ages) (self-directed)

New Initiatives

Calling all creative Westwood Residents! Help us paint and transform our Little Free Libraries into Little Free Diverse Libraries! This past fall we joined the Read In Color Initiative <https://littlefreelibrary.org/read-in-color/> to help distribute books that share different perspectives on race and social justice. We believe everyone should be able to see themselves in the pages of a book and that books can be a window into experiences that are different from our own. We have several Little Free Libraries in Westwood in need of updating to help fit this mission! We provide the paint and supplies, you provide the creativity, and artwork! Please submit your ideas and proposals to jlucey@westwood.k12.ma.us. Winners will be announced on May 4th. Projects should be completed by June 12th. If you would like to donate a book to one of the Little Free Diverse Libraries, check out our amazon book list <https://tinyurl.com/weccric>

For more information call Janet Lucey, Early Childhood/CFCE coordinator, at 781-461-9548 or email jlucey@westwood.k12.ma.us.

Hale Reservation



Whether you're at traditional day camp or the new family camp, chances are you'll get to experience some of the many ropes elements at Hale.

Westwood residents have long enjoyed the acres and acres of open space at Hale. Over the past year, the pandemic has forced the organization to make some adjustments to their policies for visitors and program participants alike but the staff remains committed to finding ways for people to be outdoors and active of their property.

One particular change is the creation of yearlong memberships to Hale. As an independent nonprofit, members allow Hale to keep 20 miles of trails and over 1,100 acres open and maintained. Annual membership lets Hale share the property with outdoor enthusiasts and offer programs that serve tens of thousands of people from more than 70 communities.

Memberships benefits include: two parking decals that entitling members to park at Hale (space permitting) from Mar. 1, 2021 until Feb. 28, 2022, discounts on activities and programs and special registration opportunities for events and a copy of the Hale Magazine.

The organization has also had to reimagine many of their summer offerings. As did last year, Hale will continue to offer their well-known camp programs following guidelines from the Department of Public Health.

In addition, there will be opportunities to partake in several new programs at Hale. Those longing for more time in nature, might try Hale's new Outdoor Fitness and Recreation program that encourages lap swimming, boating, trail running and more. Folks looking for a more relaxing afternoon, will want to check out Summer Days at the beach. And families looking for a summer experience for every member of the house will want to try Hale Family Camp – a full week of outdoor fun where everyone participates in activities like archery, ropes, team building, swimming, camping out, family dinners and more.

Check out Hale1918.org for more information on pricing and registration for all these offerings.



Boating is a favorite activity at Hale.

Spring at the Council on Aging

As this pandemic continues, we are making decisions month to month. **The Westwood Senior Center will be closed to the public through the spring due to an abundance of caution to keep seniors and staff safe.** Please know we are still here (in the office Monday through Friday 8-1pm – phone calls only – 781-329-8799) if you need us. If we don't answer, just leave a message on the general phone line.

The good news is that most of our regular classes (Yoga, Exercise, Line dancing, and Music) continue to run on cable (see below for tentative schedule) and we now offer numerous Zoom classes (Current Conversations, Pilates, Drawing Classes, Book Group, Tai Chi, Cooking, Book Group) with more to come. If you are interested in any of the Zoom programs, please send us your email address, and which program you would like to join, so we can send you the link and information. And please check out our Spring Newsletter for any updates. There are no costs to any of these programs.

ALL OF THESE PROGRAMS CAN BE FOUND ON LOCAL CABLE: Comcast 8 & 12 and Verizon 32 & 42 daily

Cable Classes tentative schedule:

Monday

9:00-9:45 - Cardio Strength & Stretch
10:00-10:45 - Line Dancing

Thursday

8:00-9:00 Floor Yoga
9:30-10:30 - Chair Yoga

Tuesday

8:00-9:00 - Floor Yoga
9:30-10:30 - Chair Yoga

Friday

9:00-9:45 - Cardio Strength and balance
10:00-10:45 - Line Dancing

Wednesday

9:00-9:45 - Sit and Get Fit
10:00-10:45 - Line Dancing

Weekly Lunch and Learns:

Watch these special programs and bring your own lunch. We are pleased to add special cable programs every Tuesday and Thursday at noontime to keep you informed. From Winter Bird watching with the MA Audubon society to understanding your legal responsibilities with Attorney Maria Baler, to COVID updates with Big Y Pharmacist Eddie, these unique programs will rotate weekly. More details are available if you check out our spring newsletter.

- **Fuel Assistance** continues and if you need information or help, call the Center to talk with or and leave a message for Karen.
- **Meals on Wheels** continues to grow and are delivered daily; any Westwood resident 65 or older needing a meal please call HESSCO at 781-784-4944. We are also available to grocery shop for homebound at risk elders, just give us a call at the Center and we can set this up for you.
- Our van is now available on a *very limited basis*. We can take you grocery shopping on Tuesdays and Wednesdays (Shaw's and Roche Bros only), and medical appointments (in a very limited area) on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays as well as Errands on Friday. Please call us for details.
- **Books and a Bite:** Westwood Council on Aging and Westwood Public Library are excited to partner together for this! On Thursday afternoons, Claire Connors and Karen Gallagher are connecting seniors with library materials and a simple lunch (which includes a sandwich, chips, salad and a drink) provided by HESSCO Elder Services. If you are interested in participating, please call the library for details. This program is open to all Westwood seniors. *Special thanks to the Foundation for Westwood Education for their grant to help underwrite this program.*
- **One on one counseling:** Please consider contacting the William James College INTERFACE Referral Service at 888-244-6843 and they can help you find a counselor under your current insurance policy. This referral is free to any Westwood resident. **What to Expect When You Call:** You will speak with a resource and referral counselor about your needs. **Connect:** You will receive information about potential matches within 2 weeks. **Care:** You will receive a follow-up call to make sure you have made a successful match.
- **Bereavement Group:** Or perhaps you are not able to join your loved ones due to the pandemic or are feeling especially vulnerable due to the loss of a loved one. We offer a bi-monthly Bereavement Group with MSW consultant Nina Johnson. Call the Center to sign up with your email address and phone number.
- **Weekly Phone Check In - if you are feeling isolated or lonely,** please let us know (leave a message with Lina or Karen). Our COA Board volunteers would love to give you a weekly friendly call and chat with you.

Westwood Youth & Family Services

WESTWOOD YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES BIRTHDAY GIVING PROGRAM

*INTRODUCING A NEW PILOT PROGRAM FOR
WESTWOOD FAMILIES IN NEED MODELED
AFTER THE WY&FS HOLIDAY GIVING PROGRAM*

THIS CONFIDENTIAL GIFT GIVING PROGRAM
MATCHES LOCAL DONORS WITH WESTWOOD
FAMILIES WHO NEED ASSISTANCE
PURCHASING BIRTHDAY GIFTS
FOR THEIR CHILDREN

For more information:

Email youth@townhall.westwood.ma.us

or visit:

[www.townhall.westwood.ma.us/departments/
youth-family-services](http://www.townhall.westwood.ma.us/departments/youth-family-services)



Westwood Youth & Family Services Presents...

CALM & COPE



Anxiety Coping Group for Kids

This 6-week group will focus on ways to cope with and overcome feelings of worry and anxiety. This group is free of charge, completely virtual, and open to Westwood residents in 2nd-5th grade on the corresponding days.

2nd & 3rd Graders:

Thursdays, April 1st- May 13th at 4:00pm-5:00pm

4th & 5th Graders:

Tuesdays, March 30th- May 11th at 4:00pm-5:00pm

Registration closing soon - Spots are limited.

Register at:

www.townhall.westwood.ma.us/departments/youth-family-services



(781) 320-1006

www.townhall.westwood.ma.us/departments/youth-family-services

Has your world been
turned upside down
because of COVID-19?

Do some days just
feel too
overwhelming?

You Are Not Alone



Ivy Watts Speaks

INTRODUCING:

**Mental Health Support Modules for
Students During COVID-19 & Beyond**

Providing you with tools & tips for:

**Self-care
and Self-
worth**

**Strength,
Resilience &
Positivity**

**Dealing With
Uncertainty &
"What If?"**

**Practicing
Positivity &
Gratitude**

**How To stay
Motivated
During COVID**

**And so
much
more!!**

Ready to get started?

**Head to: bit.ly/CHNA18-mentalhealthmodules
Create a login & gain lifetime access to the modules!**

**Questions? Contact Ivy Watts at:
ivy@ivywattsspeaks.com**

**Discount Code
for FREE
Access:
CHNA18**



**FOUNDATION FOR WESTWOOD EDUCATION DELIVERS SPECIAL GRANT FUNDING TO SUPPORT
COMMUNITY NEEDS DURING COVID-19 CRISIS**

ACCESS TO REMOTE LEARNING TOOLS

The Foundation for Westwood Education's special grant cycle funded, among other programs, subscription based access for the Westwood Public Schools to utilize a remote learning tool known as NearPod across all grade levels. This interactive platform is designed to optimize student engagement and is especially useful during this current hybrid learning model.

NearPod delivers an extended library of existing curriculum based content, including games, quizzes, and other interactive exercises, all of which may be modified by individual teachers to align with their class benchmarks. In fact, Doreen Cusick, a fourth grade teacher at Sheehan Elementary School confirms how freely she is able to adapt the pre-loaded lessons to meet her students' needs, "If one of the lessons includes questions about something we haven't covered yet, I can tailor it to their particular learning set by deleting the irrelevant material and adding an additional question or two."

In addition to NearPod's pre-loaded library, teachers can easily add their own course material from different mediums like Google and PowerPoint to the platform. This allows them to utilize the existing coursework they've spent a career refining to suit their individual teaching style. As an added bonus, the assessment tools available in NearPod allow teachers to efficiently gauge student participation and growth and recalibrate learning, if necessary.

Almost all of the teachers and administrators who provided feedback were specifically excited about one tool in Nearpod. The "*Collaborate Board*" replaces the typical question/response model that students and teachers have been engaging in for generations. Inviting students to share their thoughts about a topic anonymously has increased class participation by encouraging students who might otherwise be hesitant to wade into group discussions to 'raise their hands' and engage with their classmates. This is helping students feel connected and lessons feel cohesive, despite the hybrid model. This tool allows teachers to target classroom discussion to include the perspective of all of their students. According to Westwood High School Social Studies Teacher Jonas Sherr, classroom dialogue improves around any given question "because the students have thought about their response and written it down" and, "the quality of discussion is way better."



SUPPORTING SEL RESOURCES

A considerable component of this funding was allocated to address social emotional learning among K-8 students, responding to the need for programming in this area made even more urgent due to the ongoing pandemic.

Within the elementary schools, all classroom teachers were provided Responsive Classroom training resources. The Responsive Classroom framework provides educators with strategies for developing routines, using supportive language, and integrating opportunities for social-emotional skill-building throughout classroom experiences. According to Erin Kuehn, the K-8 SEL Coordinator for Westwood Public Schools, elementary teachers are using the responsive classroom framework to enhance classroom morning meetings and closing circles – helping students have a positive start and end to the day by providing opportunities for sharing, reflection and community building. In addition, grant funding provided elementary classroom and specials teachers with a series of Energizer resources. Energizers are activities used throughout the day to support students in learning how to gain control over their energy levels and body movements. Energizers include activities geared at invigorating students, as well as more calming activities designed to promote important self-regulation skills.

Within the middle school, funding provided by the Foundation for Westwood Education has been used to integrate two new resources, Refocus and Recharge Activities and Middle School Motivators, into the existing social-emotional learning curriculum. Like elementary Energizers, Refocus and Recharge activities help students to continue developing skills in energy level management and self-regulation. Middle School Motivators provide a variety of teaching strategies that can be used in the classroom to enhance student engagement and promote SEL skills. Motivators support teachers in helping middle school students gain skills in developing a positive mindset, learning to identify bullying and harassment, regulating thoughts and emotions, engaging in productive discussions, managing relationships, and resolving social conflict.

Within the Westwood Public Schools, the K-8 social emotional curriculum is grade specific, and students continuously build upon learning and skills developed in previous years. Westwood’s K-8 SEL Coordinator Erin Kuehn states she has been “struck by the resilience of students” who continue to demonstrate a “joyful vibe and energy” and have “adapted really well” despite the unprecedented educational landscape of the 2020-2021 school year.

The Foundation is proud to have assisted in providing these extraordinary programs at a time when it was greatly needed and we look forward to continuing our mission by supplementing existing school and community agency budgets with grant funding to maintain their exceptional levels of programming.

To learn how the Foundation has impacted Westwood in recent years, check us out on social media or go to our website at www.foundationforwestwoodeducation.org.

Westwood School Department

Learn More About Westwood's Proposed Elementary School Community Meeting Set for March 18

The Westwood School Committee is inviting residents to a virtual community meeting on Thursday, March 18, at 7:00pm, to learn all the details of the town's proposed new elementary school and how it's being funded.

"This project not only consolidates two of our five elementary schools, but will also provide a lot of community-wide benefits to the town," said Maya Plotkin, member of the School Committee and chair of the School Building Committee (SBC). "It's really important to be informed about this project because it will impact everyone."

The project, estimated to cost \$87 million, proposes to combine elementary students from the Hanlon and Deerfield districts. It would be located on the site of the current Hanlon School.

In April, the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) will review the town's plans, the final step before voting to approve an \$18 million reimbursement to the town.

With the MSBA's participation, we can provide a new school for two districts in one building project. It's a huge economic opportunity for Westwood."

"Soup to Nuts" Presentation

At the community meeting, the School Committee will make a "soup to nuts" presentation, Plotkin said, examining deteriorating conditions at existing elementary schools, why the School Committee chose to consolidate Hanlon and Deerfield, why the SBC opted to build a new school rather than renovate, what the new building will look like, and how much it will cost.

"We'll also talk about the economic impact on the town," she added. "It will be the most comprehensive community forum we've had." Residents will have an opportunity to ask questions, too.

Hanlon and Deerfield Schools were built in the 1950s and, while they have been well maintained, they both have significant issues due to their aging infrastructure and design, according to Plotkin. In February, a ceiling collapsed inside a Hanlon classroom, requiring the closure of the school for two days to make the necessary repairs. Luckily, it happened before students and teachers arrived for the day.

Town Meeting Votes

In May 2021, Town Meeting will vote on the SBC's request for \$1.46 million in bridge funding to allow the project's architects to move forward with their design work over the spring and summer. A special Town Meeting will be scheduled for the fall, at which time residents will vote on the entire project.

"By keeping the work going through the summer, we can break ground in July 2022, starting the outside site work in the middle of summer when the kids aren't there," Plotkin said. "Those are much better conditions in which to start a construction project."

If all goes as planned, the new school will open in Winter 2024.

The community meeting will be held on Zoom. Information on how to participate, as well as information on the project, are available online at www.westwoodschoolbuilding.com

WESTWOOD DAY



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2021

- 5K - 9:00 /Fun Run 10:00
- Activities - 10:00-3:00
- Vendor Village - 10:00-3:00
- Food Court - 10:00-3:00

CONTACTS:

SPONSORSHIP: Richard Adams: radams@townhall.westwood.ma.us

VENDOR VILLAGE: Brian Macdonald: bmacdonald@townhall.westwood.ma.us

FOOD COURT: Sue Perry: sperry@townhall.westwood.ma.us

ENTERTAINMENT: Richard Adams: radams@townhall.westwood.ma.us

ACTIVITIES: Kelley Peterson: kpeterson@townhall.westwood.ma.us

VOLUNTEERS: Angela Lassig: alassig@townhall.westwood.ma.us

LOGISTICS: Joe Bertone: jbertone@townhall.westwood.ma.us



NEWS FROM THE TOWN CLERKS OFFICE

Dorothy A. Powers

781-326-3964 or 781-320-1013

townclerk@townhall.westwood.ma.us



Dog licensing for 2021 began on January 1, 2021 and is continuing through March 31, 2021.

- You may license your dog online, or by mail, provided you include a copy of a current rabies certificate.
- If you are licensing your dog for the first time, proof of spay or neutering is also required.
- Licenses will be valid from January 1, 2021 until December 31, 2021.
- You must license your dog on an annual basis.
- If you own more than 4 dogs this is considered a “Personal Kennel” per MGL c. 140 §136A.
- You must go through a special permit application process through the Zoning Board of Appeals to license a kennel. You must initially contact the building inspector at 781-320-1091.
- Failure to license your dog on or before March 31, 2021 may result in a fine of \$25.00, per town bylaws §184-10, B. (1).
- Please be sure to include the correct licensing fee. If you are unsure, please contact the Town Clerk’s office at 781 326-3964 or townclerk@townhall.westwood.ma.us.

Licensing Fees are as follows:

Online convenience fee: \$2.00

Postage fee: \$1.00

Dogs not Neutered or Spayed: \$15.00

Dogs Neutered or Spayed: \$10.00

Residents ages 70 or older, the fee is waived for one dog per household (*proof of age is required*)

Kennel Fees-please contact the Town Clerk’s office (*special permit is required*)

The 2021 Annual Town Census

- The Annual Town Census was mailed to each household in January 2021.
- It is extremely important that each household fills out the census form and returns it within 10 days of its receipt.
- The completed, signed form can also be scanned and emailed to census@townhall.westwood.ma.us.
- If you did not receive a form, you may download a form by visiting the Town Clerks webpage, or contact the Town Clerks office and one will be mailed to you.
- Failure to return the Annual Town Census may cause a voter to be designated as inactive on the voting list (M.G.L, Ch.51, § 4).
- ****You may not register to vote or change your political party on the census form. To register to vote or make changes to your voter registration you may do so online by visiting <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/>**

NEWS FROM THE TOWN CLERKS OFFICE

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Annual Town Election Information

- The Annual Town Election will be held on Tuesday, April 27, 2021; please visit the Town website for more information: <https://www.townhall.westwood.ma.us/departments/town-clerk/voting-elections>.
- The Annual Town Meeting will be held on Monday, May 3, 2021; Please visit the town website for more information: www.townhall.westwood.ma.us.
- The last day to register new voters or make changes to your voter registration for the Annual Town Election and Annual Town Meeting is Wednesday, April 7, 2021; This can be done online <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/>, by appointment or by mail.
- The deadline to request an Absentee ballot by mail is 5:00 PM on Wednesday, April 21, 2021.
- The deadline for in person absentee voting is 12:00 PM, Monday, April 26, 2021; please visit the Town website for more details: <https://www.townhall.westwood.ma.us/departments/town-clerk/voting-elections>.

A note from the Town Administrator

2021 Annual Town Meeting

- Monday, May 3rd
Rain Date Tuesday, May 4th
 - *Being held outdoors on Flahive Field*
- Registration: 4:00 p.m.
- Town Meeting will begin at 5:00 p.m.
- COVID guidelines will be followed (*including face coverings and appropriate social distancing*)

Town Communications

As the Town moves closer to our Spring Town Meeting, we will be continuing to use our resident communication software, ALERTWestwood to reach residents with important messages. It is necessary that residents are signed up for the alerts to ensure no information is missed regarding Town Meeting and beyond. ALERTWestwood participants can choose between phone call, text, or email notifications to allow no message to go missed.

To sign up, go to our website and click "notify me" on the homepage. From there, click "sign up for ALERT notifications" and it will prompt you to fill out a registration form. Once complete, you will be in the know of all things Westwood.

This Spring in Westwood
580 High Street
Westwood Ma, 02090

WCIA and COA Planning Celebrations for the Class of 2021

Two community groups are working on creative ways to celebrate WHS's Class of 2021. *Westwood Community in Action* is reimagining the annual **All Night Graduation Party** while the *Council on Aging* is launching a new program, "**Seniors Celebrating Seniors**"



More than 30 years ago, a group of parents formed *Westwood Community in Action*, a non-profit dedicated to organizing an overnight event to provide the Westwood High graduates a final night of celebration in a safe, fun, entertainment filled event. Since then, the *All Night Grad Party* has become one of the High School's most revered traditions. Plans for the event this year will be finalized once state and local guidelines for gathering are confirmed.

"The committee is dedicated to reimagining the event again this year and doing whatever it takes to give the WHS graduates a safe celebration" remarks Jennie Conway, one of the committee chairs. "Last year we hosted a late-night drive-in movie event and created the *Grad Walk* photo banners displayed along Flahive field and through the school entrance. The graduates and their families were touched by the special recognition and celebrations."

New this year, the Council on Aging has started a program to connect seniors with seniors. Wisdom comes with age and "**Seniors Celebrating Seniors**" is a wonderful opportunity for community members age 65+ to embrace a high school senior and share "words of wisdom" or "congratulatory comments." If you are interested in participating, please call the Senior Center 781-329-8799 and leave your name, address, and phone number with Lina or Lorraine. They will get back to you in late March with the details for how you can send your words of encouragement to a graduate in late April.

The *All Night Grad Party* is funded solely from donations, corporate sponsors, and funds raised by Westwood Community in Action. Please consider a financial contribution or get involved as a volunteer this year. Information is available on the website www.westwoodangp.org. Donations may also be sent directly to WCIA, P.O. Box 2605, Westwood, MA 02090.