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Town of Wellesley Spring/Summer 2009, no. 26
 Department of Public Works

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Resident
 Town of Wellesley



Letter from the Director

Welcome to construction season! This edition of the newsletter includes our Construction Update, which highlights some of our ongoing construction projects in Wellesley, as well as more information on Jackie's Law, a change in the excavation standards for both public and private property. Please be aware of our crews as you travel through Wellesley—and consider looking at our website for the most up-to-date information on paving and other projects.

We are continuing to focus our attention on water issues in Wellesley; in that spirit, this issue highlights the issue of pet waste and stormwater contamination. All pet owners are reminded to dispose of pet waste responsibly, and keep it out of Wellesley's waterways. We also remind all residents to conserve water, especially in the high-demand summer season. Look inside for more information about water conservation. Finally, attached with the newsletter is your 2008 Consumer Awareness Report, detailing information on the water quality in Wellesley.

As always, we welcome your feedback—about the newsletter, or any other DPW issues. Feel free to email your comments, questions, or concerns to dpw@wellesleyma.gov.

Michael Pakstis
 Director of Public Works

**Changes in
 Excavation Regulations**

What You Need to Know

As of March 1, 2009, all excavators should be aware of new state regulations regarding trenches in the public way or on public or private property. This new regulation is called "Jackie's Law" after a young girl who fell into a trench and died as a result, and is designed to protect the public from unattended excavations. This regulation applies to subsurface excavations greater than 3 feet in depth, and less than 15 feet wide at the bottom of the trench.

First, the excavator must obtain a trench permit before beginning any work. In Wellesley, the DPW's Engineering Division is coordinating the permitting process. Permits are required even if the trench will never be unattended.

Second, all trenches must either be attended, or must be backfilled, covered with metal road plates measuring at least 3/4" thick, or barricaded with 6 foot fences at all times. If a trench is found to be in violation of these requirements, the municipality may order an immediate shutdown of the trench. Excavators in violation of these regulations may also be subject to Department of Public Safety fines.

If you have any questions, or need to obtain a permit for an excavation, please contact Engineering at 781-235-7600 x3315.

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Station Oak Restoration

You may have noticed that the stately oak tree at Post Office Park is looking much healthier these days. This red oak is one of the oldest and largest public shade trees in Wellesley. Last year, DPW employees identified signs of infection or infestation, and sent off soil, leaf and wood samples. UMass extension offices confirmed that the tree was suffering from several fungal infections.

Hartney Greymont, local arborists, offered to provide consultation and tree care at no cost to the Town. Hartney Greymont has been using cultural practices rather than chemical to address the fungal infections— aerating the soil to improve the air/soil exchange and drainage, surrounding the tree with compost to help regulate temperature, and pruning selectively. All the materials Hartney Greymont has utilized are organic.

Please take a moment to enjoy this amazing natural resource the next time you visit the Post Office on Grove Street—and appreciate the hard work and collaboration of our employees and Hartney Greymont!



**Construction News
 Update Spring/Summer 2009**

Glen Road Reconstruction Project

Phase I of the reconstruction of Glen Road from Washington Street to Croton Street is nearly completed. Some final restoration work will take place early this spring including signage, loam & seed and driveway restoration.

Phase II of the reconstruction of Glen Road from the railroad bridge at Hundreds Road to approximately Ridgeway Road is substantially complete. The DPW Highway Division has completed the drainage improvements and reconstruction, installing new pipe and catch basin structures. A subcontractor to the Highway Division has completed the installation of the granite curbing on both sides of the roadway. The road was cold planed, treated with hot-rubber sealant and then paved with bituminous concrete. The final restoration of Phase II of the Glen Road project will be performed the spring.

Phase III (Final Phase) of the reconstruction of Glen Road from Ridgeway Road to the Weston town line will begin in the spring/summer of 2009. Phase III of the Glen Road project includes the installation of a retaining

wall, reconstruction of old stone drainage structures, installation of bituminous concrete berm, full reconstruction of the roadway, and work by private utility companies, such as reconstruction of an existing gas main by National Grid.

Linden Street (Kingsbury Street to Rockland Street)

The section of the Linden Street Reconstruction Project between Kingsbury Street and Rockland Street is underway.

DPW Highway Division personnel began the drainage component of the project by installing new HDPE drain pipe, new catch basins and reconstructing old stone catch basins. Eighty percent (80%) of the drainage work has been completed; the remainder will be completed in the spring of 2009.

The sidewalks along the entire length of the project have been excavated and replaced with bituminous concrete. Portions of the sidewalk were completed before the end of the 2008 construction season. The sidewalk reconstruction includes the removal of driveway aprons, paving of a binder course for the driveway aprons and then paving the entire sidewalk and driveway aprons with the top or wearing course.

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Questions, comments, please contact us. Call 781-235-7600 or mail the DPW:
 Department of Public Works • Attn: Management Services • 455 Worcester Street • Wellesley Hills, MA • 02481-4925

Reusables Area Guidelines

You may have noticed the new structure at the Reusables Area, an exciting change for the RDF. In previous years, items placed at the Reusables Area were often damaged by weather and had to be thrown away. This structure will help these items extend their useful life—and keep them out of the waste stream. With trash costs at nearly \$80 a ton, this could amount to real savings for Wellesley!

While visiting the improved Reusables Area, please remember the following:

1. The Reusables Area is for Wellesley residents only. Staff may occasionally ask for proof of residency.
2. All patrons are reminded that there is a time limit of 30 minutes per day at the Reusables Area. Friends of Recycling Volunteers or RDF staff may enforce this limit.
3. Please donate items in good working or easily repairable condition, and do not donate prohibited items (mattresses/box springs, child seats, etc).
4. Courteous behavior is required of all residents at the Recycling and Disposal Facility, and is especially important at the Reusables Area. Do not take items from another resident, use inappropriate language, or physically confront other residents, RDF staff, or Friends of Recycling Volunteers. Residents may be asked to leave the Reusables Area for failing to comply with these standards.

Your cooperation helps ensure a positive experience for all residents! For more information on the Reusables Area or the RDF, please contact Gordon Martin, RDF Superintendent, at 781-235-7600 x3340.

RDF HOURS

Monday – Wednesday
7:00 am - 12:00 noon

Thursday – Friday
7:00 am - 3:45 pm

Saturday
7:00 am - 4:45 pm

Sunday – closed

The RDF is Closed on the following holidays:

- Memorial Day – 5/25/2009
- Independence Day – 7/4/2009
- Labor Day – 9/7/2009
- Columbus Day – 10/12/2009

Construction Update (from front page)

The portion of Linden Street between Kingsbury Street and Geraldine Drive was cold planed and paved by a subcontractor.

In the spring, work will continue on the portion of Linden Street between Geraldine Drive and Rockland Street. This work will consist of drainage improvements and reconstruction, full depth reconstruction of the roadway, and repaving. This will again be accomplished with a combination of DPW Highway Division personnel and sub-contractors. A new flashing pedestrian signal to be located at the corner of Linden Street at Alba Road will be completed as well. Conduit and bases for this signal have already been installed. Work will continue through to the fall.

Woodside Avenue

Work on the reconstruction of Woodside Avenue will be completed this spring. The project includes the reconstruction and paving of the roadway, installation of new stormwater collection and BMP (Best Management Practices) facilities, construction of a new bituminous concrete sidewalk on the east side of Woodside Avenue, and bituminous concrete Cape Cod berm. The work is being performed by Greener Excavating, LLC of Lowell, MA under contract to the Department of Public Works. The project is substantially completed with the exception of the sidewalk, top or wearing course of pavement and final site restoration, which will take place this spring.

Abutters to Woodside Avenue are advised that once the project is completed, no excavations will be permitted within Woodside Avenue for a period of three (3) years, except in case of an emergency. Abutters are urged to make any utility service upgrades or arrange for new services requiring excavation prior to the reconstruction of the roadway.

If the newly constructed roadway requires excavation due to an emergency, the following items will be required.

- The excavation or trench must be filled with flowable Controlled Density Fill (CDF). The finished product must be excavatable without the use of power tools.
- Pavement restoration requires cold planing and overlay pavement of the entire frontage from curb to curb of the property where the excavation was performed. Joints must be sealed with emulsion seal and sand cover. There must be a smooth transition from existing pavement to the new pavement.

Weston Road Reconstruction Project

The reconstruction of Weston Road from Linden Street to Route 9 is scheduled to commence in the late spring. Also included in the project is the reconstruction of Hardy Road and improvements to the pickup and drop off area. The total project length is approximately 4800 feet.

Construction will commence on the section of Weston Road from Route 9 to MacArthur Road (Phase 1), which will be cold planed and resurfaced. The section from MacArthur Road to Linden Street (Phase 2), which will be reclaimed and paved, will follow Phase 1 work. An additional lane will be added to the end of Linden Street for right or left turns onto Weston Road.

Work will include installation of granite curbing, replacement of sidewalks and installation of pedestrian crossing signals. The overall project duration is 365 calendar days. Construction project signs will be installed suggesting that alternate routes be considered during the construction.

STREET OCCUPANCY PERMITS

The Street Occupancy Permit Program is now open for the 2009 construction season. The permit program, governs all work within the public ways of Wellesley, including all excavations, placement of dumpsters, driveway reconstruction, and resurfacing. Kindly note, recent requirements include providing 72 hours advance notice to the Water and Sewer Division and the Engineering Division prior to the start of construction activities and placement of water and sewer utilities in separate trenches, in accordance with Mass DEP Guidelines.

Permits may be obtained by contacting Gerry Bruno of the DPW Engineering Division at 781-235-7600, ext. 3316 or gbruno@wellesleyma.gov. Mr. Bruno is also available to answer any questions regarding the Street Occupancy Permit Program.

Questions regarding this and any of the projects listed above may be directed to the DPW Engineering Division at 781-235-7600 x3315.

Winter Moth Caterpillar Affecting Wellesley Trees

In Wellesley and throughout eastern Massachusetts the winter moth caterpillar has been defoliating trees during the spring. Under the authority of the Natural Resources Commission and the guidelines of the Wellesley Integrated Pest Management Policy, the Department of Public Works selectively ground sprayed town trees to control winter moth caterpillars that are harmfully defoliating trees.

For winter moth caterpillars affecting privately owned trees, we recommend that private property owners should consult with an arborist to inspect any heavily damaged trees and develop an overall treatment plan to protect trees. To find an arborist call 508-653-3320 or go on line to www.certifiedtreeandlawn.org. For more information about the winter moth and other landscape pests, go to www.umassgreeninfo.org for pictures, fact sheets and updates. For information about the Wellesley Integrated Pest Management Policy, go to www.wellesleyma.gov/nrc.

Perhaps the only good thing about this pest is that it stops feeding in June and will allow your tree a chance to possibly re-grow new leaves. Still, your tree has been severely stressed and will benefit from extra attention during the rest of the summer growing season and through the fall, until the leaves start to turn color and drop off. During this time make sure your tree is well watered to help the recovery process. Also, you should not fertilize your trees during this time. At this point consider developing a treatment program for the following spring. We hope that with proper state government support the University of Massachusetts Extension Service will be able to keep working on its program to introduce a natural predatory fly to control this pest.

Michael T. Quinn, Deputy Tree Warden

781-235-7600 x3331 or

Email: mquinn@wellesleyma.gov

Update on

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Town of Wellesley continues to implement its stormwater management plan to eliminate pollutants from the runoff that occurs during rainfall and is carried off to the Town's streams and ponds.

Recently, pet waste has been identified as a contributor to this pollution. Residents are reminded to never dispose of pet waste collection bags by placing them in a catch basin. They will be flushed through the

Town's drainage system and eventually end up in wetlands or natural waterbodies. The result is lower oxygen levels that can kill fish, the introduction of nutrients that can promote weeds and algae in ponds, or the growth of bacteria found in pet waste that make the receiving waters unsafe for human contact.

Pet waste should be flushed down the toilet or placed in household rubbish.

IS IT GREEN TO KEEP YOUR LAWN GREEN?

Lawn watering is becoming controversial. In cool, damp England lawns became popular; but are they environmentally suited to North America? Perhaps it is too dramatic to question the entire philosophy of landscaping; but perhaps it is appropriate to question the degree you should irrigate your lawn.

Typically it is seasonal lawn watering that causes water usage to jump here in Wellesley; during a summer dry spell we can even see our water use double. In 2008, we used 70 million gallons in January and 103 million gallons in August—and that was with unseasonably mild and moist weather. If you have an automatic sprinkler system, be aware of its water use. How is the automatic timer set? Consider setting it for no more than a one day per

week frequency—the less frequent watering will help the grass “reach” for moisture and develop deeper roots.

If you're curious, you can determine how much water your household uses from the history log on your current water bill; the previous 12 months are listed. Each unit is a hundred cubic feet (CCF), which is equivalent to 748 gallons. You can calculate the usage per person (gallons per resident per day, abbreviated as rgpcd) by multiplying the number of units per month by 748 gallons and dividing by 30 days and dividing again by the number of people in your household. For example: A hypothetical usage of 10 CCF units in June for a family of four equates to 62 rgpcd (i.e. 10ccf x 748gals/ccf / 30 days/ 4 people).

Information

Phone Numbers

781-235-7600

Engineering ext. **3315**

Park and ext. **3335**

Highwayor **3325**

RDFext. **3345**

Water and Sewer ext. **3355**

Director's Office ext. **3300**

Customer Service/..... ext. **3364,**

Utility Bills **3365, or 3369**

DPW Hours of Operation

Monday — Friday
7:00 am - 4:00 pm

EMERGENCY NUMBERS:

Highway DPW

(non-business hours for emergencies)

781-235-7600 ext. 3322

Council on Aging:

781-235-3961

American

Red Cross:

781-642-7000

(updated MetroWest office info)

