



CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEE

TOWN HALL • 525 WASHINGTON STREET • WELLESLEY, MA 02482-5992

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wellesley's Wonderful Weekend is May 20 & 21

May 4, 2023 (Wellesley, MA) – Mark your calendars and make plans to attend the 25th Annual Wellesley's Wonderful Weekend, the largest community gathering of the year. This two-day event takes place on May 20 & 21 and includes events and activities for all ages.

The highlight of the weekend is the 55th Annual Wellesley Veterans Parade on Sunday, May 21 at 1:00 p.m., honoring the Veterans who have served our country and recognizing those organizations and individuals who serve our community. The day of the parade culminates with a concert, town-wide picnic and fireworks on Hunnewell Field. The weekend is organized by the Wellesley Celebrations Committee, a committee of the Wellesley Select Board.

This year, the parade theme is "*Birth of Our Nation: Celebrating the 250th anniversary of the Boston Tea Party.*" In 1773, a group of American colonists stole aboard ships of the East India Company and dumped their cargo of tea into Boston Harbor, in protest against British tax policies. The event, which today is known as the Boston Tea Party, is a significant milestone in American history.

"We look forward to the special events held during Wellesley's Wonderful Weekend and the opportunity for our community to celebrate together," said Roy Switzler, Wellesley Celebrations Committee Chair.

Throughout the weekend, a number of other enactment activities are planned as part of the celebrations. On Sunday, May 21:

- A Lexington Minuteman re-enactor will fire a musket shot to start the race for the Wellesley Hills Junior Women's Club (WHJWC) at the [9th annual Wonder Run 5K & Kids Fun Run](#) at 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.
- Harney & Sons Tea will serve iced tea as part of the community celebration at the Town-wide picnic beginning at 4:30 p.m.
- The annual fireworks display at dusk, co-sponsored by Roche Bros. and Needham Bank, will follow a special presentation by the Wellesley Theatre Project with its own Boston Tea Party theatrical production. An earlier performance will also take place at the reviewing stand on Central Street at the conclusion of the Wellesley Veterans Parade.

Community activities on Saturday, May 20 include:

- Pancake Festival at Wellesley High School from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. sponsored by the Wellesley Key Club and Wellesley Kiwanis Club
- Morses Pond guided trail walk from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. with the Trails Committee, starting at the Town beach access gate on Turner Road

- Bike Safety Rodeo for kids under 12 at the Tailby Commuter Rail lot (Linden & Crest Roads) from 10:00 a.m. to noon hosted by the Wellesley Police Department and Wellesley Kiwanis Club
- Town Department Open Houses
 - DPW Touch a Truck, 9:00 a.m. to noon at 20 Municipal Way
 - WMLP Open House, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at 4 Municipal Way
 - Wellesley Police Department Open House, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at 485 Washington Street
 - Wellesley Fire Headquarters Open House, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at 457 Worcester Street
 - Council on Aging Open House, Noon to 3:00 p.m. at 500 Washington Street
- Wellesley Historical Society Open House, Noon to 3:00 p.m. at Stanwood House, 323 Washington Street
- Art in the Park, Noon to 2:30 p.m. at Simons Park, left of the Library, hosted by the Wellesley Community Art Project & Wellesley Women Artisans
- Pups in the Park, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Hunnewell Field, hosted by the Rotary Club of Wellesley, Friends of Wellesley Veterans, and Celebrations Committee

For a complete schedule of events, visit the [Wellesley's Wonderful Weekend website](#).

NEW! Free Transportation with Catch Connect

This year, free transportation on Saturday, May 20 will be provided by the MWRTA [Catch Connect](#) from 10:00 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. to the many Wellesley Wonderful Weekend venues (e.g. Touch a Truck event, Wellesley Police and Fire Department open houses, Art in the Park and other events). Riders over 12 years of age can ride unaccompanied.

Catch Connect is a microtransit service provided by the MetroWest Regional Transit Authority (MWRTA) in Wellesley that regularly charges a small fee and is available on weekdays in our area. This service, along with ridesharing, carpooling, walking, and biking are alternative modes of transportation that help reduce traffic on our local roads. Complimentary Catch Connect rides during Wellesley's Wonderful Weekend will allow residents to try out this resource!

If you would like to use this service on Saturday, please email info@sustainableWellesley.com. In your email, make sure to share that you/family/friends would like to try Catch Connect so we can accommodate your travel plans.

"As we honor the past, and build a sustainable future, we are excited to focus attention on public transit during the 2023 Wellesley's Wonderful Weekend," said Carl Nelson, Celebrations Committee Treasurer.

The free rides on Saturday, May 20 are organized with the support of Catch Connect by the Wellesley Climate Action Committee, Natural Resources Commission, Celebrations Committee, Friends of Wellesley Veterans, and Sustainable Wellesley.

About the Celebrations Committee

The Wellesley Celebrations Committee was established by the Select Board to plan and carry out activities which honor the service and sacrifice of our nation's Veterans. Among other activities every year, the committee organizes Wellesley's Wonderful Weekend including the Veterans Parade, Town-wide picnic, concert, and fireworks. For more information, please email wellesleycelebrations@gmail.com

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