



The City of
Medford
Massachusetts

02155

July 7, 2022

Message from the Mayor



Hello everyone, and happy summer!

It has been a busy few weeks and months here in Medford. Together with members of the community, our departments have been hard at work advancing our shared goals and values and we have so much to share with you.

Most recently, I am extremely happy and thankful that we reached an agreement with the City Council on June 28th and my proposed Fiscal Year 2023 budget was unanimously approved by all seven councilors.

There is still so much to do and we're still facing economic shortfalls due to the lingering effects of the global pandemic on our finances—but this is great news.

Thank you to the City Council for advocating for their priorities and working with me and my team to reach a compromise and for passing this budget, and a special thanks to our department heads and especially my Chief of Staff, Nina Nazarian, for working so tirelessly over the last few weeks and months to help us present a responsible, balanced budget.

While we faced financial challenges through this process, we allocated additional funding to the library to support increased staffing and maintenance needs in the new building, we allocated an additional \$300,000 in ARPA funding to the Medford Public Schools budget on top of a 2.5 percent overall increase to the school budget, and we continued our investment in our parks and open spaces, stump removals and tree plantings, affordable housing, climate resiliency, and so much more.

You can view my full budget proposal at www.medfordma.org/mayor2/city-budget.

Bruno L. Koehn

Recent News

Mayor Establishing Committee to Study City's Charter

Mayor Lungo-Koehn is forming a committee that will comprehensively

Residential Shared Streets Program Returning for Summer/Fall 2022

study the City's current charter, gather input from the community and ultimately propose recommendations on changes and content to the existing document.

Medford's charter establishes the City's governing system and structure. It specifies term lengths for elected officials, the presence or absence of term limits, the composition of the City Council and School Committee, the City's form of executive leadership, and much more.

[More Info.](#)



The City's residential Shared Streets program is returning, by resident request.

Shared streets are temporary interventions with cones and signage to give people more space to get around in their neighborhoods car-free and safely. Local traffic, deliveries, and emergency vehicles will still have access to the street, but these interventions discourage cut-through traffic and prioritize the safe use of streets for pedestrians and bicyclists.

In order to be selected, the City asks that nominated streets show strong support from people who live on and around the street. The nomination form is available at <https://bit.ly/medford-shared-streets22>.

[More info](#)



Looking for Summer Fun? Check Out Medford Recreation Programs!

Don't forget to check out Medford Recreation programs and opportunities this summer! Wright's Pond and Tufts Pool are open all summer for residents of all ages, and there is a free summer park program you can also take advantage of. Find more information at www.medfordrecreation.org.

Help Keep Medford Clean + Reduce Rodent Activity by Reviewing our "Clean Up, Seal Up" Campaign Info

Like most cities and towns, Medford has rodent activity on both public and private property. To be effective in addressing this issue, we are asking residents and businesses to help by making sure all

City Working with 40B Applicants + External Partners to Expand Affordable Housing Options

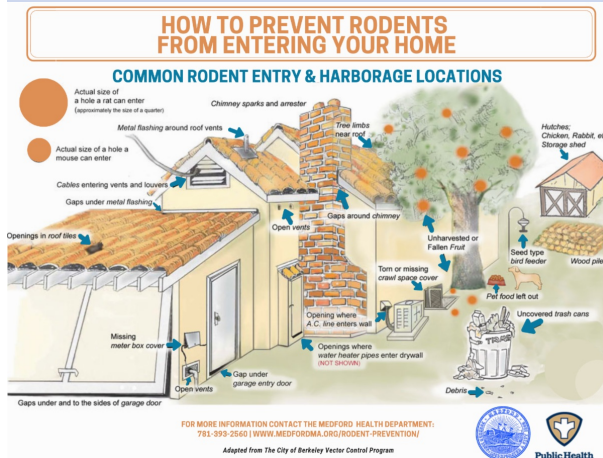
The Mayor's office and the Office of Planning, Development and Sustainability continues to evaluate the 40B projects that have been granted Project Eligibility by MassHousing and recently provided an update to residents on the status of the applications, the City's appeal of "Safe Harbor" status, and ongoing planning to address housing needs more comprehensively throughout the City. You can read the full update at the link below.

[Read more.](#)

Parking Department: Reminders + Updates on Procedures

The Medford Parking Department has

properties are clean and do not provide food, water, or harborage sources for rodents. In 2021 we rolled out a new "Clean Up, Seal Up" rodent prevention campaign with easy-to-follow steps and advice. Last year we also updated the City ordinance to require all street opening permits and/or development projects to have an Integrated Pest Management plan (including city projects). Read more at www.medfordma.org/rodent-prevention.



Housing Updates

The City teamed with partner agencies Action for Boston Community Development, Metro Housing Boston, Housing Families Inc. and the Medford Housing Authority to hold a community meeting on June 22 on housing resources available to the public. Panelists offered insights and information on assistance programs, affordable housing applications and where to go if you're worried about becoming unhoused.

For more info on housing resources, programs and information, and to get an overview of the services offered by the groups mentioned above, visit www.medfordma.org/covid-19-housing-resources/, or call our multilingual resource line at 781-475-5644.

Watch the Meeting
Here

been issuing tickets, accepting payments and granting permits to residents and visitors for over two months and with the process in full swing, the City is providing an update to residents on parking procedures and violations.

Beginning July 1, the City will be issuing yearly parking permits on a pro-rated basis for 2022. In the past, permits were issued for an entire calendar year based on the date in which it was purchased. In an effort to streamline this process, the City's parking department will be offering a reduced rate for people buying permits this late into the year. For example, a permit issued on July 1 will be valid until December 31, 2022 but offered at a discounted price.

For a full list of parking policies and other important information, visit www.medfordma.org/parking.

Reminder: Plan Ahead for Fall Street Sweeping!

We're still a few months away from the "Big Sweep" fall street sweeping, but it's never too early to plan ahead!

As a reminder, the "Big Sweep" is conducted on all side streets twice each year - once in the spring and once in the fall. Usually beginning in mid-November and continuing for approximately 3 weeks, the Medford DPW will conduct street sweeping on all secondary roads in the city. During scheduled street sweeping, street parking is restricted on the day your street is assigned to be swept. Plan ahead by making sure you're signed up for city alerts at www.medfordma.org/alerts,

Medford's First Pride Month: a Huge Success!

In June, the City held its first PRIDE celebration—a series of events and programs that united

the community and fostered inclusivity, togetherness and love.

From a flag raising ceremony, to a dinner + drag show, to a community celebration, our Pride Planning Committee worked hard and created an inclusive series of events. We can't wait to bring this month-long festival back next year. Check out these sample event photos:



See more City news at www.medfordma.org/news

Business + Development

Medford's development potential is huge, and developers in large sectors such as life sciences, manufacturing, biotech, and retail marijuana establishments are taking notice thanks to the efforts of our Economic Development Director and the Office of Planning, Development, and Sustainability. While continuing to protect and enhance residential neighborhoods, Medford's primarily commercial areas such as Mystic Ave. and portions of Mystic Valley Parkway are poised for new growth and strategic development that will put Medford on the map, increase our commercial tax base, and bring in new jobs and revenue to the city.

Over the last decade Medford's commercial tax rate was decreasing, when so many of these factors meant we could and should be investing more and attracting the kinds of smart development that could increase our commercial tax rate, lessen the burden on residential taxpayers, bring in more jobs and revenue, and bolster the city's financial stability. I am so proud of the work we have been able to accomplish in just over two years to make this a reality.

In the last 18 months, the Economic Development team has successfully attracted several potential developers from the life science industry, set up, managed, and saw the successful culmination of a Cannabis Advisory Committee that has already resulted in one Host Community Agreement (HCA) with another to follow within weeks, and discussions for a third retail HCA and a cultivation HCA currently in process. These HCAs will bring huge community benefits - such as a community arts center - to Medford along with important revenue.

Here are a few of our most recent updates:

Life Science Development

Two life science developments are currently under construction, with up to eight other potential developers in planning phases, totaling a possible 1.5 million square feet.

The Office of PDS has proposed zoning changes to existing industrial areas to encourage biotech and life science development. These could improve large areas of the city that are designated industrial and currently allow only for low-rise buildings with large surface parking lots.

The City is also working with MassBIO to be designated as a “bio-ready” community, a list developed by the organization to help encourage the expansion of biotech in the region.



A rendering of RISE Together, a proposed project on Mystic Valley Parkway.

Host Community Agreements

In June, Mayor Lungo-Koehn [signed the City's second Host Community Agreement](#) with a recreational marijuana dispensary. Medford voters approved recreational marijuana dispensaries (with regulations) in a citywide election in November 2016. The City Council began working on an ordinance in 2016 and approved zoning amendments to support the siting of these dispensaries, in September 2020, with a vote to adopt a Cannabis Advisory Committee in November 2020. A Committee was convened and began its process in February 2021 with final recommendations submitted in Fall 2021. The Mayor [signed the first CHA](#) in early March.

These HCAs will bring huge community benefits - such as a community arts center - to Medford along with important revenue.

Wellington Area RFI

This summer the City is launching a Request for Information from large scale developers about what they hope to see in the area surrounding the Wellington MBTA station. Per an act of the legislature, Medford owns the air rights to these areas and we want to see which kinds of developers are interested in pursuing projects here to better inform how we move forward.

Façade Improvement Program

This spring, the City's Office of Planning, Development, and Sustainability launched a matching grant program for new and existing small businesses looking to make façade improvements. The program is intended to enhance the exterior appearance of commercial spaces and attract new customers and patrons to the City's local business scene.

The city anticipates opening a second

[More Info](#)

Planning + Sustainability

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Medford Climate Action and Adaptation Plan

April 2022



Medford continues to lead on climate, energy, and environmental initiatives. Earlier this year, thanks to the very hard work by staff in the Office of Planning, Development, and Sustainability, we released a comprehensive Climate Action and Adaptation Plan. The plan sets new goals for future efforts, like expanding renewable energy sources, and providing tools for property owners and tenants to prepare for climate hazards. It also expands on ongoing work like protecting and growing our tree canopy, investing in stormwater maintenance, addressing food insecurity and increasing local food system resilience.

Collectively, the 32 strategies in this plan detail the key steps that will enable us to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050, build our resilience to growing climate hazards, advance environmental justice, and create a city where all residents can benefit from a more sustainable future.

We have made substantial progress in mitigating the effects of climate change but with the help of this plan we are taking real steps to ensure that Medford is a leader in climate action. While the plan sets short- and long-term goals, we have already been working to address climate change and prepare the community for a green and renewable future by:

- Installing solar panels at DPW, Library, and Police Station
- Updating lighting at some municipal facilities to LED
- Expanding the City's tree canopy
- Working to update the city's stormwater regulations
- Installed 19 micro food pantries
- Launching a curbside composting program

- Installing Medford's first dedicated bus lane on Mystic Ave.
- Bringing a bike share program to Medford (in process)
- Expanding/adding dedicated bike lanes citywide
- Expanding EV charging stations citywide with Hormel as our newest location

Read the Full Plan
Here

Adding More EV Charging Stations



We recently added new charging stations at Hormel Stadium and Carr Park, and will continue to explore additional options throughout the City.

Coming Soon: Blue Bikes!

We recently received three grants to implement BlueBike stations throughout Medford, and we have already worked with private employers who plan to host stations. We have been working with several of our surrounding communities to negotiate new stations and, once the contract is complete hopefully in the very near future, we are fully prepared to launch stations as soon as possible. Potential sites will be assessed based on proximity to dense employment centers, residential neighborhoods, commercial centers, high-traffic bicycle/pedestrian facilities, and key public transit nodes.

COVID-19 News + Updates

Rapid Tests Available for Residents

In need of a COVID-19 Rapid Test? The City has secured kits and is distributing them to the public at the following locations:

- City Hall, Room 303 (85 George P. Hassett Drive)
- Council on Aging (101 Riverside Avenue)
- Medford Housing Authority (99 Riverside Avenue)
- Medford Public Library (111 High Street)
- West Medford Community Center (111 Arlington Street)
- Medford Farmer's Market (2501 Mystic Valley Parkway)

Each kit consists of two tests and there's a limit of two kits per person. If you need help acquiring a kit, please call our multilingual resource line at 781-475-5644.

Upcoming Events + Meetings

All events and meetings are listed on the City's online events calendar at www.medfordma.org/city-events. Meetings are added frequently, so please check the calendar for updates.

EVENTS

July 14th

- **3:00 - 7:00pm:** Medford Farmer's Market (Condon Shell)

July 21st

- **3:00 - 7:00pm:** Medford Farmer's Market (Condon Shell)

July 28th

- **3:00 - 7:00pm:** Medford Farmer's Market (Condon Shell)

MEETINGS

July 11th

- **10:00pm:** Library Board of Trustees Meeting ([See agenda here](#))
- **6:00pm:** Virtual Neighborhood Meeting re: Residential Development at 970 Fellsway
- **7:00pm:** Historical Commission Meeting ([See agenda here](#))

July 12th

- **10:00am:** Mystic Valley Public Health Coalition Youth Health Focus Group ([Register here](#))
- **7:00pm:** Cemetery Board of Trustees Meeting ([See agenda here](#))

July 14th

- **6:00pm:** Community Development Board Meeting
- **6:00pm:** Historic District Commission Meeting

July 19th

- **6:00pm:** Parks Commission Meeting

July 27th

- **7:00pm:** Bicycle Advisory Commission Meeting

July 28th

- **7:30pm:** Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting

Job Opportunities

The City of Medford currently has several open job opportunities, and we encourage residents of all backgrounds to apply! Open positions, job descriptions, and materials are available at www.medfordma.org/departments/personnel/jobs/. The webpage is updated regularly, but current opportunities include:

Full-Time Positions:

- 911 Public Safety Dispatcher
- Assistant Assessor
- Assistant Civil Engineer (Engineering)
- Chief Assessor
- COVID-19 Public Information Officer (Mayor's Office)
- Elections Manager
- Facilities Director (DPW)
- Land Use Planner (PDS)
- MVPHC Prevention Coordinator (Board of Health)
- Technology/Reference Librarian (Library)

Part-Time Positions:

- Circulation Assistant Youth Services (Library)
- Information/Reference Librarian (Library)
- Social Worker (Council on Aging)
- Zamboni Driver/Rink Supervisor (DPW)

Non-Permanent Positions:

- Program Instructor (Recreation Department, non-permanent)
- Veterans Services Work Study Position (Veterans Services)

Other/Ongoing Positions:

- Firefighters
- Female Detention Attendant/Police Matron (Police Department)
- Police Officers
- Traffic Supervisors

To apply, visit www.medfordma.org/departments/personnel/jobs, or contact the City's Office of Human Resources at 781-393-2406.

Medford city services are available to all residents, regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, age, language ability, economic situation, or immigration status.

