



City of Westminster, Maryland

News and Notes
June 2021 Issue

Mailing Address:

45 West Main Street
Westminster, MD
21157

Important Phone Numbers:

Police
410-848-4646

Finance/Billing
410-848-3255

Recreation & Parks
410-751-5501



[Westminster, Maryland](#): Holiday schedule changes, inclement weather and emergency information

[City of Westminster Recreation & Parks Department](#): Events, parade information, fitness classes, park openings

[Downtown Westminster, Maryland](#): News about Downtown Westminster, from business openings and specials to events and business news

[Westminster Fiber Network](#): Keep up to date with the WFN

City of Westminster General Election Results May 11, 2021

The City of Westminster held an Election on Tuesday, May 11, 2021, between the hours of 7:00 AM and 8:00 PM for the election of Mayor and two (2) members of the Common Council of the City of Westminster for four years commencing on May 17, 2021. The total number of votes cast is 1,619. Of that number, the votes cast for each candidate are as follows:

FOR MAYOR

Mona Becker 1,020 (960 voting machines, 60 absentee)

Dennis Dillon 591 (574 voting machines, 17 absentee)

COMMON COUNCIL

Morgan Barkley-Mathers 366 (352 voting machines, 14 absentee)

Tony Chiavacci 1,250 (1,206 voting machines, 44 absentee)

Dan Hoff 1,264 (1,221 voting machines, 43 absentee)

The candidate who received the highest number of votes for Mayor is Mona Becker.

The two candidates who received the highest number of votes for Common Council are Tony Chiavacci and Dan Hoff.

On Monday, May 17, 2021, Mona Becker was sworn in as Mayor, with a term expiration of 2025. Tony Chiavacci and Dan Hoff were sworn in as Council Members, both with term expirations of 2025 as well.



City of Westminster, Maryland

News and Notes
June 2021 Issue

Westminster Police Department

Chief Thomas Ledwell and his staff at the Westminster Police Department (WPD) are continuing their efforts to develop a more robust and interactive community policing program in 2021. Community-Oriented Policing is a community-based strategic approach where the police department works with community members to develop information-sharing and crime fighting and prevention strategies, consistent with community values.

As part of this effort, WPD is actively working to organize Community Groups based on common neighborhood locations/groups and/or shared public safety interests and goals. The department is looking for Community Group Coordinators to help it organize community groups and to share meeting times and virtual links/locations with neighbors who don't follow WPD's social media platforms. Being a Community Group Coordinator will not require much planning or work from citizens. WPD will do the leg work. Citizens just need to contact WPD to express their interest; give ideas of the scope of each Community Group; and, help WPD staff determine the best platform and times to schedule Community Group meetings. If citizens already have an organized Community Group, such as an HOA, a merchant or business group, a civic group, or other organization that already has scheduled meetings, WPD is happy to participate in the existing forum.

WPD assigns patrol squad commanders to particular geographic areas. WPD will introduce community members to a police officer to serve as a liaison with each Community Group. The WPD liaison will prepare a brief meeting agenda tailored to each group's goals, which may include a briefing on crime trends, traffic safety issues, or other current public safety issues in each area. At the meeting, WPD staff will discuss the department's current proactive initiatives to address those issues, provide specific ideas regarding how community members can partner with WPD regarding crime prevention, and listen to public safety concerns in order to adjust WPD strategies as warranted. Follow up actions taken in response to community concerns will be shared, whether at a subsequent meeting or through other communication means.

WPD continues to urge community members to be "engaged" in WPD's community-policing efforts. Citizen partnership has a major impact on maintaining the highest level of public safety and quality of life in neighborhoods and business districts. Please follow us:

- [WPD on Facebook](#)
- "@WestminsterPD1" on Twitter

Deputy Chief/Major Richard Gibson encourages residents to reach out to him directly regarding police-community collaboration and becoming involved in WPD's community policing initiatives. Please follow his social media pages:

- [Major Richard Gibson on Facebook](#)
- "@MajorRichGibson" on Twitter

Citizens may contact Chief Ledwell at Tledwell@westgov.com or Major Gibson at Rgibson@westgov.com regarding interest in becoming a Community Group Coordinator or Member, or to ask questions. WPD looks forward to partnering with you!



City of Westminster, Maryland

News and Notes
June 2021 Issue

City Services and the COVID-19 Pandemic

Westminster government operations are largely back to pre-coronavirus pandemic conditions. Provided below is information on the current status of City facilities, as well as public meetings.

- City parks; park pavilions; playgrounds; basketball, tennis, and pickleball courts; and, the Skate Park are currently open. Users are encouraged to practice proper hygiene and follow the recommended 6-foot physical distancing guideline. Park pavilions and playground equipment should be used at your own risk; the City cannot sanitize equipment. Always wash hands after using park equipment. Please note that public bathroom facilities remain closed at this time.
- The Westminster Fitness Center continues to operate, with safety measures in place to protect guests and employees. As required by the State, entrants will be monitored until capacity is reached. Masks are required at all times, unless engaging in physical activities where the use of a face covering is likely to pose a safety risk.
- Meetings of the Mayor and Common Council, as well as those of City boards/commissions, continue to be held virtually. The meetings are live-streamed through the City's Facebook page and available to view by visiting www.facebook.com/WestminsterMD. Those wishing to submit testimony for public hearings or to offer comments under the Citizen Comments portion of the Mayor and Common Council meeting agenda can send an email to City Clerk Shannon Visocky at Comments@westgov.com.
- City administrative offices at 45 West Main Street and the Police Department lobby remain closed to the public.
- To limit the number of employees in City offices, some staff members who can productively work remotely are continuing to do so. The City has taken measures to ensure physical distancing, including staggered work schedules and lunch breaks, to protect employees working onsite.
- Most of the City's special events were canceled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For 2021, the City has worked with the Carroll County Health Department to offer modified versions of the Flower & Jazz Festival and other future events. The City will continue to monitor the latest information on the pandemic, including vaccine availability for the general public and State capacity guidelines. Please check the City website for current event information.

The City continues to monitor developments related to the Governor's Roadmap to Recovery, found here: <https://governor.maryland.gov/recovery/>.

Additionally, City officials follow guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

Please check the City website and Facebook page for the most current information on City meetings and Westminster government's operational status.



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News and Notes
June 2021 Issue

Scheduled Yard Waste and Bulk Trash Curbside Collections

Weekly curbside collection of yard waste continues every Wednesday. Yard waste must be in paper bags or bushel containers, and pickups must be scheduled to ensure collection.

Bi-weekly curbside collection of tree limbs and brush, metal and tires, and other bulk trash also continues. Pickup requests must be scheduled in order to guarantee collection on the appropriate date.

To schedule a pickup request for any of the above items, please call:

410-848-9077



Automated City Phone Lines

The City continues to see improvements in customer service with the new, automated phone system. When calling 410-848-9000, callers are able to utilize the menu to reach their desired department or a dial-by-name directory.

Direct-dial phone numbers for each department are available by visiting the City's website at www.WestminsterMD.gov.





City of Westminster, Maryland

News and Notes
June 2021 Issue

Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Process

The City's new fiscal year will begin July 1, 2021. The City Administrator presented the FY 2022 budget proposal on April 12. The Mayor and Common Council directed certain changes to the draft budget at a work session on April 19.

Community members were given the opportunity to share their thoughts on the proposed budget for FY 2022. Public hearings were held on April 19 and April 26.

The FY 2022 budget was formally adopted by the Mayor and Common Council on May 10.

For more information about the City's budget process and FY 2022 budget details, please go to www.westminstermd.gov/agendacenter.

Westminster to Become Sustainable Maryland Certified

On March 8, 2021, the Common Council adopted Resolution No. 21-01, supporting the City of Westminster's participation in the Sustainable Maryland certification program.

Sustainable Maryland is a free and voluntary certification program for municipalities in Maryland that want to go green, save money, and take steps to sustain their quality of life over the long term. Sustainable Maryland is a collaborative effort between the Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland and the Maryland Municipal League.

Westminster Summer Camp

Fun, friends, and fresh air! With enhanced health & safety protocols, the City of Westminster's 10-Week Summer Camp has something for every camper, including outdoor play, pool days and field trips.

Cost: \$135 for City Residents and \$145 for Non-City Residents per week
Ages: 6 to 12 (children must have completed kindergarten)

Westminster Municipal Pool

Pool Memberships are now available for the 2021 Summer Season. Join us for our final season and reminisce on nostalgic memories at the Westminster Municipal Pool before we begin pool renovations to upgrade your experience. Make a SPLASH this Summer by creating memories with the family that will last a lifetime!

Cost: \$235 for Family Memberships (City Resident) and \$139 for Individual Membership (City Resident). \$315 for Family Memberships (Non-City Resident) and \$169 for Individual Membership (Non-City Resident).

Westminster Family Fitness Center

Are you looking for a gym to call home? Look no further than the Westminster Family Fitness Center! All the classes you want at no extra cost led by amazing instructors. Our welcoming classes will challenge you to move smarter, push harder and show up inspired day after day. With everything you want from cardio and yoga to spinning and barre, it's easy to find a class that fits you. Join our fitness family with special membership rates for City residents!



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News and Notes
June 2021 Issue

WE'VE MOVED!

City Administrative Offices have moved from 56 West Main Street to 45 West Main Street as of March 29, 2021. Department phone numbers have NOT changed. At this time, the building remains closed to the public. Offices located at the newly-renovated building include the following departments and services:

- Finance Department
 - ⇒ Water/Sewer bills
 - ⇒ City Invoice payments
 - ⇒ Business Personal Property Tax bills
 - ⇒ Lien Release Requests
 - ⇒ Accounts Payable
- Community Planning and Development Department
 - ⇒ Sign Permits
 - ⇒ Economic Development
 - ⇒ Water Allocation Applications
 - ⇒ Site Development Applications
 - ⇒ Planning and Zoning Questions
- Housing Services Department
 - ⇒ Section 8 Applications
 - ⇒ Rental Housing Licensing Program
 - ⇒ Landlord/Tenant Disputes
 - ⇒ Property Maintenance/Code Enforcement Issues
- Public Works Department
 - ⇒ Administrative Services
 - ⇒ Engineering and Inspections
- Human Resources Department
 - ⇒ Recruitment
 - ⇒ Employee/Management Relations
 - ⇒ Benefits
 - ⇒ Safety and Risk Management
- City Clerk
 - ⇒ Elections
 - ⇒ Public Information Act Requests
 - ⇒ Permits for Special Events, Handbill Distribution, Peddlers/Solicitors
- Technology Services Department
 - ⇒ GIS and Map Requests
- Office of the City Administrator