

Wareham for Law and Democracy Newsletter Nov. 8-15

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Wareham for Law and Democracy



Updates For the Week of Nov. 8-15

Our **Saturday Stand Out** at Wareham Town Hall is going strong: even in less-than-perfect weather we had 92 attendees this past Saturday (Nov. 8). We'll continue throughout the fall and winter as long as the roads are safe, so keep coming out to stand with your neighbors and stand for justice and fairness for all!

We gathered Wednesday night at the Council on Aging where 45 members heard from **Damien's Food Pantry** and the **Marion Institute** about their successful collaboration to provide our neighbors with the nutritious foods they need as well as household goods and even holiday gifts for kids. And we learned about the many ways people can volunteer with them to build even stronger communities. We also got updates from our committees about their recent initiatives while generating ideas for new ones. Read on for more details about regional food security and WLD's activities.

The **Overpass Banner Brigades** are back and we have new signage with great visibility that we're eager to get out with!



Take Action Now!

- Saturday Stand Out at Wareham Town Hall from 11:30 - 12:30 every Saturday!
- Overpass Banner Brigade on Fridays and Sundays from 3:00 - 4:00 ([email Dave for Details](#))
- Letter-Writing Session for Teen Voter Preregistration Wednesday, Nov. 19 ([sign up here](#))
- Bridging the Divide Breakfast at Cranberry Cottage Thursday, Nov. 20 ([email Cynthia for details](#))
- ICE Watch verifier trainings with LUCE ([sign up here](#))

Improving Regional Food Security with Damien's and Marion Institute

The recent government shutdown and subsequent denial of SNAP benefits highlighted how critical food distribution programs are across the country. In Southeast Massachusetts, we're fortunate to have many committed people and organizations striving to address the problem and to ensure our community's nutritional needs. **Rachel Resendes, Executive Director of Damien's Food Pantry**, and **Liz Wiley, Executive Director of the Marion Institute**, spoke to our community gathering and greatly expanded our understanding of, and appreciation for, their organizations activities.

Damien's Food Pantry has witnessed an increase in residents seeking food assistance, especially among older retired residents, as well as an increasing demand for food delivery to the homebound or people forced to sell their cars. While they've experienced an increase in donations of food, money and other necessities, the crisis continues and there are many ways concerned citizens can help. Volunteers can help check expiration dates, pack bags of produce or pet food for weekly household use, distribute applications to those in need and work in their neighborhoods to gather food and donations to bring to Damien's. Visit [Damien's Food Pantry](#) and look for the Donate and Volunteer links along with its wealth of other information.

The Marion Institute, founded in 1993, has had an increasing focus on improving our regional food systems by ensuring that growers, distributors and residents collaborate to ensure families can find nutritious local foods from local farmers. But they go beyond that into many other critical community needs as well in health, education and environmental matters. At Frogfoot Farms, they put their pursuits into practice by raising food on their 6 acres, providing education programs for kids and adults. There are many opportunities to engage and learn at the Marion Institute and Frogfoot Farm as well as donating to aid their

mission. Visit [Marion Institute](#) to volunteer and to learn about the many amazing projects they pursue.



Committee Updates

Bridging the Divide

The **Bridging the Divide** committee is focused on re-establishing understanding across socio-political differences, and is always open to ideas to do so!

We'll meet at **Cranberry Cottage** on Thursday, Nov. 20th for an informal breakfast gathering to surface some issues and see where we go next. If you're able to attend, email cynthia@blisses.org so we set a place for you! We'll also talk about the book *Getting to Yes*, a perennial favorite about finding common ground.

Communications

If you're reading this newsletter, you're witnessing our new email platform that will enable us to communicate with our growing membership about upcoming events, community needs and noteworthy topics. The software is provided by Indivisible but is in our WLD team's control to ensure your personal information isn't shared.

Saturday Sing Out! Let's lift our voices in harmony at our **Saturday Stand Outs** with [this list of chants and song lyrics](#) you can pull up on your phone. And if you're interested in really harmonizing, join the rehearsals before our Stand Out at the Wareham Library from 10-11am on Dec. 13th and Dec. 20th!

Carl sent thank you letters to all the neighbors surrounding Wareham Town Hall who have kindly supported our gatherings, even waiting to mow their lawns until we've departed for the day. Be sure to continue respecting their property and all our neighbors who we encounter on the sidewalks, parking lots and grounds whenever and wherever we gather.

We can accept [donations now on our website](#) through our partnership with Indivisible and ActBlue. 100% of the donations will be received by Wareham for Law and Democracy

Voter Registration (+ Youth Outreach)

In addition to our usual voter registration efforts, we are organizing letter-writing sessions in cooperation with the Wareham Democratic Town Committee to preregister high school seniors ahead of their 18th birthday so they are automatically eligible to vote. If you're interested in participating, our first session will be on Wednesday, Nov. 19th. [Register here](#) to get details on the time and location.

ICE Watch

Under advice from **LUCE**, the Immigrant Justice Network of Massachusetts, our participants are switching to the Signal app for secure, private messaging, and are receiving verifier training, an orientation to ensure we know safe and effective methods of documenting incidents and advocating for victims. If you're interested in participating, [register here](#).

Faith

WLD leaders met with **First Congregational Church's** pastor, Reverend Philomena Hare, to learn about the church's community initiatives and discover opportunities to collaborate. We're hoping Rev. Hare will join us at upcoming Saturday Stand Outs.

We're also pursuing further connections with the Wareham Area Clergy Association that represent many denominations in Wareham.

❤️ Thank You ❤️

We know the times are scary and actions may feel futile but every bit helps. Coming to the Saturday Stand Out for an hour makes each of us appreciate a community of kindred spirits. Calling a friend who's struggling to ask How are you? lightens their day. Even opening this email encourages us to keep writing them. Thank you for caring.



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