



**Mashpee
Environmental
Coalition**



Environmental News - Upcoming Events

Earth Day 2024 - In Mashpee

Saturday, April 20, 2024, 9am to 1pm

**Textile Recycling, Secure Shredding, and Composting Event
Mashpee Senior Center, 26 Frank E Hicks Drive, Mashpee**

This free event is co-sponsored by the Mashpee Environmental Coalition and Mashpee Department of Public Works. As it is now illegal to discard any/all items made of textiles in the trash, residents can drop off bags of clean and dry **bedding, clothes, shoes, towels, curtains, handbags, accessories, and even stuffed animals** – including those that are ripped, frayed, and stained. At the same time, a **Secure Shredding Company** will be onsite to safely dispose of documents containing personal and confidential information. And, for those interested in composting, information plus a **free kitchen food scrap bucket** will be distributed by Mashpee DPW, with home compost bins also available for purchase. See our [flyer](#) for additional information. Questions can also be sent to info@mashpeemec.us.

Saturday, April 20, 2024, 11am to 4pm

Honor the Earth Fair

Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Government Center, 493 Great Neck Road South, Mashpee

Co-sponsored by the Native Land Conservancy and the Mashpee Wampanoag Natural Resources Department. This free event is open to the public and will feature exhibitors and vendors with a shared mission to protect and preserve the ancestral homelands of the Wampanoag. Activities include opening remarks by Chief Earl Mills Jr., cultural crafts, traditional singing and dancing, and children's activities. For additional information, go to: <https://mashpeewampanoagtribe-nsn.gov/2024-march-mittark-blog/2024/2/28/honor-the-earth-fair>.

Sunday, April 21, 2024, 1pm to 3pm

Atlantic White Cedar Tree Planting at Santuit Pond Preserve

Santuit Pond Parking Lot (followed by a short walk), 117 Main Street, Mashpee

Hosted by the Mashpee Conservation Department, the Mashpee Environmental Coalition is pleased to be a sponsor of this worthwhile endeavor. Volunteers who wish to help should contact Dan Kent at dkent@mashpeema.gov, and bring gloves, boots, and a shovel that day, if possible. Additional information may be found [here](#). MEC's donation in support of this event is being made In Memory of Evelyn Buschenfeldt -- a longtime MEC board member, environmental advocate, and Santuit Pond resident (see notice below).

Earth Day 2024 - Upper Cape and Beyond

Friday, April 19, 2024, 12:30pm to 3:30pm

Beach Upcycle - Making Art from Found Material

Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve Visitors Center, 131 Waquoit Hwy, East Falmouth

This free, drop-in program to celebrate Earth Day is offered for kids and adults alike, rain or shine, where art projects will be made using materials found at South Cape Beach. Additional information may be found at: <https://waquoitbayreserve.org/events/earth-day-beach-upcycle/>.

Saturday, April 20, 2024, 10am to 2pm
23rd Annual Cape Cod Canal Clean-Up

Herring Run Recreation Area, 810 Scenic Highway, Bourne

Clean-up supplies provided, as well as lunch, family-friendly activities, and more! To register and for more information, go to: <https://www.capecod.gov/departments/amicorps/what-we-do/annual-program-events/>.

NOTE: For a full list of **Earth Day Events Worldwide**, check out the map on the earthday.org website toward the bottom of the page at: <https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2024/>.

Looking Ahead

Tuesday, April 30, 2024, 10:00am – 4:00pm; Wednesday, May 1, 2024, 8:00am – 2:00pm
2nd Annual Big Blue Conference

Aloft Aviation Hangar, Cape Cod Gateway Airport, Hyannis

Sponsored by the Cape Cod Blue Economy Foundation, the 2024 Big Blue Conference will focus on renewable energy and coastal resiliency. For additional information and to register, go to: <https://www.capecodchamber.org/members/events/big-blue-conference/>

Saturday, May 4, 2024 - 9am to 1pm

Santuit Pond Town Landing Event, 177 Timberlane Drive, Mashpee

Meet with members of the Natural Resources Department for a chance to review the proposed Town Landing design and art installation; and provide your input. An area cleanup will also take place. The proposed changes are designed to help minimize stormwater runoff into the pond as well as beautify the area. All are welcome.

Sunday, May 5, 2024 - 12:30pm to 2pm

"Let's Talk Trash" - A Free Public Panel Discussion

Mashpee Congregational Church, 259 Shore Drive, Mashpee

The Cape is approaching a solid waste crisis. Join experts Catherine Laurent of Mashpee DPW, Kari Parcell of MA DEP, and Specialist Kalliope Chute for a discussion on how Massachusetts is addressing this issue -- and how every Cape household can be part of the solution. Sponsored by the Green Team of the Mashpee Congregational Church, this program is free and open to all. Click [here](#) for more information.

Monday, May 6, 2024 - 7pm

Special and Annual Town Meeting

Mashpee High School, 500 Old Barnstable Road, Mashpee

A number of important issues will be decided by Mashpee voters at this meeting. Articles pertaining specifically to Mashpee's Wastewater Management program include Articles 4, 5 and 6 of the Special Warrant, and Article 4 of the Annual Warrant. At the April 1st Mashpee Select Board meeting, Town Manager, Rodney Collins presented a summary of funding sources as well as the impact to residents if Mashpee's Wastewater Plan, Phase 2 is approved. Starting at minute 56, his presentation may be viewed at: <https://www.mashpeema.gov/select-board/events/214066>. For those interested in seeing which roads will be included in Phase 2, these are viewable at www.mashpeema.gov by clicking on the "Clean Water" tab. The warrant, in full, is posted at: <https://www.mashpeema.gov/home/news/may-6-2024-special-and-annual-town-meeting-warrants>.

Saturday, May 11, 2024, In-person Voting; Early voting also available.

Mashpee's Local Town Election

Mashpee voters will elect members to a number of town committees and boards. In addition, if the Annual Meeting's Article 4 passes at Town Meeting (see above), voters will be asked to approve a corresponding Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion ballot question. For election information, please go to: <https://www.mashpeema.gov/town-clerk/pages/election-information>.

Information Items

Waterways Updates

- At its meeting on April 4th, the Mashpee Conservation Committee unanimously approved a preliminary proposal for reconfiguring the **Mashpee-Wakeby Pond** Boat Ramp, presented by representatives of APCC and the Horsley-Whitten Group. The proposed changes are aimed at reducing stormwater runoff into the pond.
- According to the Town of Mashpee website, dredging of the **Popponneset Bay** Approach Channel has been completed. Additional information may be found at: <https://www.mashpeema.gov/home/news/popponneset-approach-channel-dredge-update>.
- As of April 15, 2024, **Santuit Pond** now has a 10hp limit. Direct abutter permit holders will receive a waiver until April 15, 2025. A notice to this effect is posted on Mashpee's Natural Resources webpage at: <https://www.mashpeema.gov/natural-resources>. The reduction in hp is intended to result in less phosphorus being churned up from the bottom of this shallow pond.
- As reported by *The Enterprise* on April 5th at www.capenews.net, Falmouth has joined Mashpee and Sandwich in approving the Intermunicipal Agreement aimed at addressing nitrogen pollution in **Waquoit Bay**.

Recycling News

Between April 1 and June 30, Mashpee residents may drop off their **Boat Shrink Wrap** for recycling at one of four transfer stations across Cape Cod, including Falmouth and Bourne. This program is free and is fully explained at: <https://seagrant.whoj.edu/community-engagement/shrinkwraprecycling/>.

On a Sad Note

We recently learned that **Evelyn Buschenfeldt** passed away peacefully on March 7th at the age of 94. She will be remembered fondly by all of us at the Mashpee Environmental Coalition where she was a longtime board member. She was also a member of Mashpee's original Open Space Committee and was appointed to the Community Preservation Committee in 2002, where she served for 15 years. Always an environmental advocate who acted on her beliefs, Evelyn generously shared her experiences and wisdom with us. She will be missed. Her obituary may be viewed at: <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/bostonglobe/name/evelyn-buschenfeldt-obituary?id=54616895>.

Please consider sharing this email with your friends, colleagues, and neighbors who may have an interest in this information.

Our thanks to each of you for your own efforts on behalf of our town and the environment!

To Join or Donate

The Mashpee Environmental Coalition (MEC) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization – dedicated to educating and advocating on behalf of Mashpee's natural resources for over 25 years.

info@mashpeemec.us | www.mashpeemec.us

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