



**Bedford, Carlisle, Concord, Lincoln and Weston, MA** — As part of a public health initiative to provide residents with a safe and secure way of removing unwanted firearms from their homes, the Towns of Bedford, Carlisle, Concord, Lincoln and Weston are partnering to host two “Safer Homes, Safer Communities - Gift Cards for Guns” events in October. Residents of the partnering towns will have the opportunity to safely and securely dispose of unwanted firearms on Saturday, October 5, 2024, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Bedford Department of Public Works (DPW), 314 The Great Road, Bedford and on Saturday, October 26, 2024, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Weston Department of Public Works (DPW), 190 Boston Post Road By-pass, Weston.

The Bedford, Carlisle, Concord, Lincoln and Weston Police Departments and Middlesex Sheriff’s Office ask that the following steps be taken by anyone interested in disposing their firearms at the events:

- In accordance with state law, individuals planning to turn in firearms at the October 5<sup>th</sup> event should notify the Bedford Police Department at [BedfordPolice@police.bedfordma.gov](mailto:BedfordPolice@police.bedfordma.gov) or call 781-275-1212 in advance. Those planning to turn in firearms at the October 26<sup>th</sup> event should notify the Weston Police Department at 781-786-6200 in advance. Individuals turning in firearms at either event will not be asked for identification.
- Please bring firearms unloaded with the safety engaged in a bag, box or case.
- Leave the unloaded firearm inside the trunk of your vehicle upon arrival at the event you choose to attend.

Please note the following details for the events:

- Residents who surrender 1, 2 or 3 firearms will receive a \$100 Visa gift card.
- Residents who surrender 4 or 5 firearms will receive \$200 in Visa gift cards.
- Residents who surrender 6 or more firearms or any semi-automatic firearm will receive \$300 Visa gift cards.
- BB guns/Airsoft guns and ammunition do not qualify for gift cards but can be turned in for disposal.
- Gift cards will be provided while supplies last.
- The Middlesex Sheriff’s Office will work with the Massachusetts State Police will safely destroy all guns collected at the events.

The partners hosting this event encourage residents to take advantage of this opportunity to help prevent accidents and injuries in our homes and community.

“After a successful collection event last year in Bedford, where 35 unwanted firearms were surrendered, I am pleased to work with our Health Department, Board of Health and regional partners this year to expand the opportunity for safe and secure disposal of unwanted firearms across all our towns,” said Bedford Police Chief John Fisher.





“We are proud to support our partners in Bedford, Carlisle, Concord, Lincoln and Weston with this critical public health and public safety effort,” said Middlesex Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian. “By providing residents the opportunity to safely and securely dispose of unwanted firearms, we are reducing the chance of accidental discharge, self-harm and theft. This makes our homes and our communities safer.”

These events are being held as part of a regional campaign on gun violence prevention with a goal of protecting our children, youth and families from gun violence in homes. Removing unwanted and unsecured firearms from homes, reduces the chances of suicide, accidental discharge and theft. For more information and resources on gun safety, you’re invited to visit the Bedford Safe Campaign website at [www.bedfordma.gov/BedfordSafe](http://www.bedfordma.gov/BedfordSafe).

