



September 2015



Jodi Ross,  
Town  
Manager

[jross@westfordma.gov](mailto:jross@westfordma.gov)  
[www.westfordma.gov/tm](http://www.westfordma.gov/tm)  
978-692-5500

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Electronics &  
More Collection  
Saturday, September 19  
8am – 2pm  
Westford Highway  
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Drug Take-Back Day  
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Special Town Meeting  
Monday, October 19  
7:30 pm at Abbot School



Watch  
Meetings Online  
**westford** CAT  
community access television  
[www.westfordcat.org](http://www.westfordcat.org)

**Dear Westford residents,**

On Friday, September 11th, two services were held in the center of Westford to recognize the tragic events which occurred 14 years ago.

A citizen-led event originated by John Pyra was held on the common with *Taps* played at the time of the planes crashing in NYC, Washington DC and Shanksville PA. Following *Taps*, volunteers read the names of the New England residents who perished that fateful day.



At the Town Hall/Public Safety Courtyard in front of Westford's 9-11 Monument, another service was held to recognize the public safety personnel from NYC and the rest of the victims who perished that fateful day. Those who attended were presented with the "last alarm", The Firefighter's Prayer and the reading of the poem "One".



Town Hall, Police and Fire employees joined us in the courtyard to honor our own public safety personnel for their roles in protecting our lives and property. Guest speakers were Senator Eileen Donoghue, Representative Jim Arciero and Board of Selectmen Chair Scott Hazelton. Thank you to all who participated in and attended these two memorable events.



(continued on next page)

Our October 19, 2015 Special Town Meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Abbot School gymnasium. The Timeline and Warrant are now available at the following link: [STM 2015](#). The Selectmen will begin taking positions on the warrant articles on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Selectmen have also approved the Timeline for the 2016 Annual Town Meeting which is available here: [ATM 2016](#). The Annual Town Meeting will be held on Saturday, April 2, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in the Abbot School gymnasium.

Our Surplus Auction held in August was a success, bringing in a total of \$4,563 to the town's general fund. This auction freed up storage space, helped us avoiding sending surplus equipment to landfills, and generated a small amount of revenue.

Work has started on Phase II of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail expansion with work crews starting to clear brush along the route. These photos taken on September 3rd at the crossing in Acton along Routes 119 and 2A. During the month of September, the contractor will begin to remove the rail tracks starting from the northern side of the trail. Turtle barriers will be placed in the environmentally sensitive areas of the trail. For additional information on the BFRT expansion, please visit: [www.westfordma.gov/bfrrt](http://www.westfordma.gov/bfrrt)

I would like to thank the members of the Perkins/ Buretta family for their work replanting the Contemplation Garden in the Pine Grove Cemetery. Organized by Julie Perkins, the daughter of the late Christina Buretta, members of the families generously donated and planted over seventy shrubs, grasses and flowers. This revitalized garden is a stunning addition to our local cemetery.



*Contemplation Garden - Pine Grove Cemetery*

On September 3, I joined municipal officials from the towns of Acton, Boxborough, Littleton and Maynard to sign a Commonwealth Community Compact with Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito. The Community Compact is a voluntary, mutual agreement entered into between the Baker-Polito administration and the individual towns. In a Community Compact, a community agrees to implement at least one best practice that they select from across a variety of areas. Our communities utilized a Regional Transportation Management Association best practice by creation of a CrossTown Connect program to expand transportation opportunities which promote



economic development. By joining the Community Compact, our community will receive additional points on selected state grant programs and will be prioritized for various technical assistance programs.

**(continued on next page)**

Over the course of the summer, the Westford Community Garden has donated a significant amount of produce to the St. Paul Soup Kitchen and the Cameron Senior Center Food Bank. In just the past week alone, the Community Garden work group delivered 88.5 pounds of produce to the two organizations. Thank you to the committed community gardeners for their generosity. The photo to the right depicts a large donation of locally grown tomatoes to the soup kitchen.



The Communications Advisory Committee successfully completed negotiations for a ten year license renewal agreement with Comcast, with the Selectmen unanimously approving the new agreement on August 25th. Comcast also agreed to several side agreements, including a discount to eligible Westford Senior Citizens of a \$2.00 per month off the Digital Starter package. To qualify, residents must be at least age 65 or older, head of household, and receiving SSI or Medicaid. Over the term of the agreement, Comcast will also provide \$100,000 in capital payments to help support Westford Community Access Television.

At their Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting, the Board of Selectmen are being asked to declare the week of October 4<sup>th</sup> as Westford Substance Abuse Prevention Week. At the same meeting, the Selectmen will also review the results of the Resident Communications Survey which was sent to all residents in the recent tax bill.

There are several openings on other local boards and committees, including the Affordable Housing Committee, Communications Advisory Committee, Cultural Council, Historical Commission, and others, and I urge you to peruse our website for information about the work of these committees. If you have interest, please complete a Citizen's Activity form at this link: [Citizen Activity Form](#) or stop by and fill out a form in the Town Manager's office.

Would you like more detailed information on Board of Selectmen meetings? Click the following links to access: [Board of Selectmen Documents](#) & [Board of Selectmen Meeting Videos](#).

I hope to see you at town meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jodi Ross". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jodi Ross  
Town Manager

## Council On Aging - Coming Events

### LIVE THEATER SHOW

Friday, Sept. 18, at 1 p.m.

#### ***"The Funniest Woman EVER (Totie Fields)"***

Come join us for this delightful live, two-person performance that centers around the inspiring, hilarious Totie Fields, a woman that Ed Sullivan and Merv Griffin called "The Funniest Woman EVER!"

"Totie" will perform some of her funniest stand-up comedy routines along with singing, joking about shopping, food, her husband and adult children and will interact joyfully with her audience.

In past years, the Delvena Theatre Company has presented "All the President's Women" and "Meet Julia Child."

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Westford Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

A celebration with root beer floats follows the performance.

Call 978-692-5523 to sign up.



### GENEALOGY PRESENTATION

Thursday, Sept. 17, at 10 a.m.

A trio of local genealogists will discuss different aspects of genealogy.

Dave Welsh will address getting started with family research; Patti Mason will discuss lesser-used sources: newspapers, city directories and FindAGrave.com;

and Bob Oliphant will talk about Canadian and Swedish research using Ancestry.com.

Starting in October, private one-on-one consultations will also be available.

Call 978-692-5523 to arrange a mutually-agreeable time.

(Access to genealogy resources such as newspaper archives, Ancestry.com, and Heritage Quest is free for J.V. Fletcher Library card holders via Westford's [J.V Fletcher Library Genealogy Database](#).)

### SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Wednesday, Sept. 30, from 4 - 6 p.m.

Come enjoy nice Italian fare sponsored by the Friends of the Cameron Center.

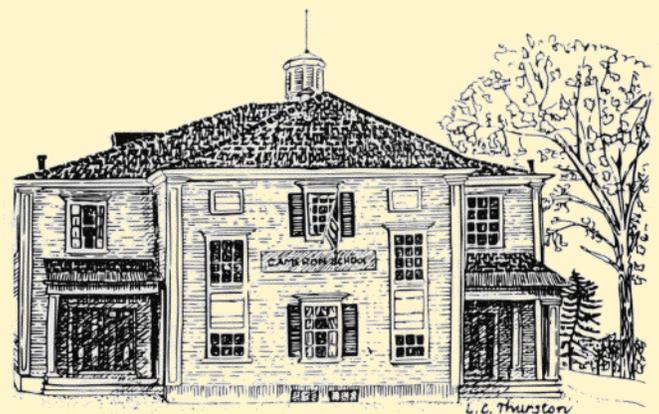
David Loiselle is planning a sumptuous dinner – and wine will be available for purchase. Charge is \$2.

Please bring a dessert to share.

Reservations required.

Call 978-692-5523 by Friday, Sept. 25.

Clean up crew needed.



Westford Senior Center

To view the complete Council On Aging Newsletter please visit our website:

[www.westfordma.gov/coa](http://www.westfordma.gov/coa)  
and click on [Newsletters](#).

## J.V. Fletcher Library

### LIBRARY FEASIBILITY AND DESIGN STUDY UNDERWAY

With Grant funding from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and support from both Town Meeting and Library Trust Funds, the Library is half-way through a two-year grant to study the feasibility of a potential renovation/addition to the library facility. At twenty-seven years since the most recent addition — and in preparation for the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Project grant application due January 2017 — the library is anticipating a design that makes space for the “public” in the “public library!”

With the Owner's Project Manager and Architect/Design Team on board, community input will be sought on the future offerings and design of Westford's public library; this will be the basis of a competitive grant round for up to 50% funding from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

A future 21<sup>st</sup> Century Westford Library might be realized by 2021 and might offer the following:

-  **A larger, responsive Youth Services and Story Hour area that works for families**
-  **An imaginative and collaborative Young Adult area**
-  **space for study, research and interaction**
-  **A Conference area/lab/maker space**
-  **More relaxing and inviting seating and browsing areas**
-  **Energy-efficient sun-lit public spaces**
-  **Ample Community Meeting space**
-  **A Reading Garden or outdoor courtyard**
-  **A public building compliant with current safety and building codes**  
**(rather than those of the mid-1980's design era)**

Look for more details about the upcoming Community Forum(s) via our eNewsletter, Facebook and Twitter and share your input, views, hopes and desires for a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Westford Library!

**[WWW.WESTFORDLIBRARY.ORG](http://WWW.WESTFORDLIBRARY.ORG)**

## Health Department

### National Preparedness Month

September is National Preparedness Month which makes it a perfect time for families to come together to develop a communication and evacuation plan and ensure that expired items in kits are replaced. For those who do not have a kit, the Upper Merrimack Valley MRC has purchased supplies in bulk and assembled a kit which can be purchased at the Health Department on the second floor of town hall. This is meant to be a Starter Kit! Don't forget your pet needs too! Cost is \$45, payable to the Health Department.

[Ready Massachusetts](#) asks individuals to do four key things to be prepared for emergencies:

[Be Informed](#) – Know what emergencies may occur and stay informed

[Make A Plan](#) – Plan for your family before an emergency

[Build a Kit](#) – Assemble an emergency kit

[Get Involved](#) – Volunteer opportunities in emergency preparedness and response

Is your reason for not preparing because you think it's too expensive? Check out the [Preparedness on a Budget](#) tips.

### Register Additional Phone Numbers with Code Red / Reverse 911

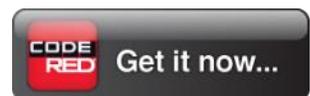


CodeRED is a Community Messaging System, used to notify residences of emergency, non-emergency and general information through an automated telephone dialing system, which sends a message automatically to thousands of targeted residences and/or contact databases.

Most residents will not need to take action in order to receive notification of events on their home telephone. However, if you have recently moved into Westford, changed your home phone number, or have an unlisted phone number you will need to register your phone number. If you had previously registered in the CityWatch system you do not need to register again in CodeRED.

[Click here](#) to register additional phone numbers or email addresses.

Download the CodeRED Mobile Alert App for your smartphone [Here](#):



**Set Your Radio Preset to Westford Emergency Management's 1630 AM**  
In an emergency tune in to 1630 AM for local information.

**DON'T WAIT. COMMUNICATE.  
MAKE YOUR EMERGENCY PLAN TODAY.**



**SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH!**



## Health Department (continued)

### **FLU/PNEUMONIA CLINIC SCHEDULE**

#### **WESTFORD RESIDENTS ONLY**

Westford Health Department is holding a High-Dose Fluzone, Flu Clinic for seniors 65 or older on Wednesday, September 30, 2015 at 12:30pm to 3:30pm at Franco American Club. Walk-In Only.

**Wednesday Sept. 30 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm High-Dose Fluzone ONLY for 65 Older @ Franco American Club. Walk-In**

**12:30 pm - 1:30 pm A - H**

**1:30 pm - 2:30 pm I - Q**

**2:30 pm - 3:30 pm R - Z**

**Homebound individuals**, who require a home visit, should contact the Health Department at 978-692-5509 to schedule an appointment.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the high-dose flu vaccine called Fluzone for seniors 65 years and older. This year's vaccine is Fluzone High-Dose is formulated to contain the following recommended for the 2015-16 influenza trivalent vaccines used in the United States contain an A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus, an A/Switzerland/9715293/2013 (H3N2)-like virus, and a B/Phuket/3073/2013-like (B/Yamagata lineage) virus

#### **Regular Flu Clinics:**

**October 6: 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Millennium**

**October 28: 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Millennium**

**October 30: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm JV Fletcher Library**

**November 6\*: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm JV Fletcher Library ( \*Please note that there was a wrong date listed for this clinic in the mailer- this date is correct )**

**These vaccines will not prevent illness caused by other viruses. It takes up to 2 weeks or more for protection to develop after the vaccine. Protection lasts about a year. Anyone with an allergy to egg cannot receive this vaccine at one of our public clinics.**

**Annual influenza vaccine is recommended for everyone 6 months of age and older. Everyone, regardless of prior vaccination, will need to be revaccinated to be protected this year.**

#### **People at Increased Risk for Influenza-Related Complications:**

- All children 6 months through 4 years of age
- All persons > 50 years of age
- People 6 months - 18 years of age who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy
- Women who will be pregnant during influenza season and postpartum women
- People > 6 months of age who have:
  - Chronic pulmonary (including asthma), cardiovascular (except hypertension), renal, hepatic, neurological, hematologic, or metabolic disorders, including diabetes
- Immunosuppression (including immunosuppression caused by medications or HIV);
- Any condition (e.g., cognitive dysfunction, spinal cord injuries, seizure disorders, or other neuromuscular disorders) that can compromise respiratory function or the handling of respiratory secretions or that can increase the risk of aspiration
- Residents of nursing homes and other chronic-care facilities
- American Indians/Alaska Natives
- People who are morbidly obese (BMI > 40)

To get up to date information during the flu season, visit the Health Department website at [www.westfordma.gov/health](http://www.westfordma.gov/health) or sign up for our listserv at [www.westfordma.gov/subscriber](http://www.westfordma.gov/subscriber)

## Health Department (continued)

### SEPTEMBER IS FOOD SAFETY MONTH

It is important to remember to regularly wash your reusable shopping bags, back packs, and lunch totes. The fabric or materials in reusable grocery bags, lunch totes, and backpacks can become contaminated with germs like Salmonella or E.coli from food or other items.



Here are some simple tips that can help you reduce cross contamination and keep yourself and your family safe from germs.

- Wash all reusable bags and backpacks in a washing machine (gentle cycle) using laundry detergent and dry in the dryer or air-dried.
- Plastic-lined reusable bags or lunch totes should be scrubbed using hot water and soap and air-dried.
- Check that both cloth and plastic-lined reusable bags are completely dry before storing them.
- A disposable plastic bag helps contain any juices that drip off of raw meat packages, which can touch other foods and contaminate them.
- Use separate bags dedicated for meats, fresh fruits and vegetables, and ready to eat foods. This will help reduce cross contamination.
- Remember that cold foods need to be refrigerated within two hours of leaving the store or market. Cold foods should be refrigerated within one hour when temperatures outside are above 90 degrees.
- Store reusable bags in a cool dry place, such as in your home or in the garage. Higher temperatures, like those inside of a car or in a car's trunk, can cause germs like Salmonella bacteria to grow faster.
- Reusable food bags should be used for food only. Don't use bags for baby items, gym clothes, etc. and then use for food items.
- When using reusable insulated bags, wipe them with a disinfecting wipe after each use. Since you're probably transporting raw meat in these bags.
- Don't forget to add a cooler pack to your lunch box or tote to keep your cold foods cold!!

These simple steps will help keep you and your family safe from harmful bacteria.

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### HEATING SYSTEM TIPS

Please be advised that the official start to the home heating season begins as of September 15<sup>th</sup> per the Massachusetts State Sanitary Code. This means that all home heating units must now be installed and fully operational with the ability to heat any residential unit to a minimum of 68 degrees during the day and 64 degrees at night. All home owners and property owners are strongly encouraged to inspect and service all heating systems and furnaces, as well as all associated equipment such as oil tanks, radiators, pellet stoves, and thermostats to ensure proper operation. Proper maintenance not only helps protect against equipment failure, it may also improve efficiency. If you have questions about your heating system or need further advice, you may contact the Westford Health Department at 978-692-5509.

## Health Department (continued)

### SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION WEEK

The week of October 4-10 is designated as Westford Substance Abuse Prevention Week. The following programs will be held during the week for students and adults. The department has arranged for numerous activities. Please come learn about the heroin epidemic and what drugs are circulating in our community.

- October 5** All are invited to attend a one hour vigil, lining the Town Common, showing support for our fight against substance abuse.  
**Time:** 6:00 pm -7:00 pm  
**Location:** Town Common



- October 8** Showing of the 32 minute movie "If Only", produced by the Mark Walberg Foundation dealing with teens and substance abuse. If you have teenagers, this is a movie you must see to provide insight into substance abuse. Q & A will be held after the movie. WASA will also provide a bedroom display, to help show how drugs and paraphernalia can be hidden in plain sight.

**Time:** 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm  
**Location:** Stony Brook Middle School Auditorium

- October 9** Jeff Allison, former Peabody High School and Miami Marlins Baseball Player who became addicted to Opioids will speak at WA during the day.

**For additional information contact:**  
**Ray Peachey, Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator at 978 399- 2528**

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### DRUG TAKE BACK DAY

This is a great time to clean out those medicine cabinets and get rid of expired drugs or over the counter medications. The Health Dept. will also accept, from Westford residents only, used syringes, needles, and lancets. Please ensure that they are brought in a puncture proof container (such as a detergent bottle) and placed in the smallest containers possible. This will help minimize costs associated with disposal. Co-sponsored by the Westford Police Dept., the Westford Health Dept. and the Drug Enforcement Agency.



**Date:** September 26  
**Time:** 10 am - 2 pm  
**Location:** Police Station Lobby, accessible from Town Hall lot, 55 Main St.

## Health Department (continued)

### PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

This support group is free drop in group available to any parent who is concerned that their child might be struggling with a mental health issue or behavioral issue. This can be something such as ADD, or some sadness, lots of worries or perhaps something more defined. This is a pro bono group offered for parents to come together and share ideas, offer support to each other and realize that they are not alone in our concern for our children.

Facilitators are: Dianne Walsh, LICSW (Cognitive- Behavioral Therapist) and Sue Hanly, RN (school nurse).

**September 14\*\*\*** Open discussion of issues – How was the summer? Concerns for back to school?  
**(\*\*\*NOTE THIS DATE WAS CHANGED FROM PREVIOUS PUBLICATIONS)**

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## Veterans Services

### Westford Academy Alumnus Commissioned

US Navy Ensign Ryan Gorell was recently commissioned in to the US Navy Nurse Corps at a ceremony at the Westford Academy on Saturday, August 22, 2015.

Mr. Gorell graduated this year from Old Dominion University with a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing entitling him to a direct commission in the US Navy.

Ryan, a 2003 WA graduate, had served 12 years as a Hospital Corpsman, and earned the designation as a Fleet Marine Force Hospital Corpsman. Prior to his commission, Ensign Gorell served overseas tours in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Ryan and his family are shown in these pictures receiving a letter of recognition from Representative Jim Arciero from the Massachusetts House of Representatives accompanied by Westford Veterans Service Officer Terry Stader.

Congratulations to Ensign Ryan Gorell. May he have “fair winds and following seas” throughout his Navy career.



## Recycling Commission

### Electronics & More Collection

**Saturday, September 19, 2015 from 8am – 2pm**  
**Westford Highway Garage, 28 North Street**



The Westford Recycling Commission hosts two Electronics Recycling events each year in Westford, one in the Spring and one in the Fall. The events are held from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Westford Highway Garage located at 28 North Street, Westford, MA.

Westford utilizes the services of Northeast Materials Handling of Lowell, Massachusetts. This is a fee-based collection; CASH OR CHECK ONLY. OPEN TO ALL.

The Town of Westford receives no proceeds from this event. No plastic toys, please.

#### EVENT PRICING:

The following are accepted FREE OF CHARGE:

- Appliances: Small, anything that plugs into an electrical socket: (irons, hair dryers, toasters, electric toothbrushes, hand mixers, blenders – no glass, etc.)
- Refrigerators, washers, dryers, Air Conditioners / Dehumidifiers, Microwave Ovens, etc.
- Cell Phones and Telephones (Home & Office)
- Chargers
- Computers and towers (CPUs), Laptops
- Copy Machines, Printers and fax machines
- Fire extinguishers (empty)
- Propane tanks (empty)
- Smoke/Carbon Monoxide detectors
- Game Consoles
- Home Electronics & Related Appliances (DVD, DVR, Stereos, etc.)
- Light Fixtures
- Power Tools, Battery operated tools
- Radios and Scanners
- Network equipment, modems, and routers
- Wire and Printed circuit boards
- Snow Blowers, Lawn Mowers

**Come visit us at the Farmers' Market,  
 Tuesday, September 22.  
 We are there to answer your questions.  
 You can pick up information, and also order an  
 Earth Machine (\$45) or a recycling toter (\$50).**

**For more information, please see our  
 website [www.westfordma.gov/recycling](http://www.westfordma.gov/recycling)  
 or direct event questions to  
 Susan Thomas at 978-692-1027.**

#### Items accepted with fees:

- Children's car seats - \$5
- TV console with built in cabinet - \$25
- TV, small portable (under 26 inches) - \$20
- TV, large Portable, TV widescreen Large Flat screen, projection screen (over 26 inches) - \$25
- Computer Monitors - \$15
- Speakers \$10.00 (House Speakers with the wood)