



Town of Westford Massachusetts

Town Manager's Newsletter

August 2016



Jodi Ross,
Town
Manager

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www.westfordma.gov/tm
978-692-5500

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Watch
Meetings Online
westford CAT
community access television
www.westfordcat.org

Dear Westford residents,

Fox 25 Zip Trip on our common last Friday brought a lot of residents together for some fun, food, and a chance to be featured on their program. Thank you to Fox 25 for selecting our town for this broadcast. If you would like to watch the broadcast, here is a link: [Zip Trip Westford](#).



The Board of Selectmen set the date for our Special Town Meeting, which will be held on Monday, October 17th, at 7:30pm in the Abbot School gymnasium. 200 registered voters are required to begin the meeting, so please mark your calendars and join us for this important event. October's newsletter will have an outline of the warrant articles.

I am delighted to announce that the Keyes culvert replacement project was a great success! Even though closing a section of Route 40 posed a great inconvenience to many people, the project was completed in 19 days, and with relatively little disruption. Thank you to all of you for your cooperation and understanding during the process, and a special thanks to our town engineers, Paul Starratt and Jeremy Downs, along with Chip Barrett, our Highway Superintendent, and our town staff, for all of their efforts on this significant project.



The board recently approved a request by Firefighter David Christiana to construct a Minuteman Monument which will be located in Westlawn Cemetery. We are excited about this new endeavor on David's and our committee and board members' behalf and look forward to learning more about the process.

(Continued on next page)

The Selectmen appointed a task force to find a location and propose construction of a dog park in town. Eighteen members were appointed, with five alternates to begin this process. All meetings will be posted with minutes taken, with a web page constructed to follow their progress.

I am pleased to announce that our town received \$250,000 in Green Community Grant funding which will be used to make energy improvements in our municipal buildings. Many thanks for former Assistant Town Manager John Mangiaratti for his efforts to obtain these funds. Our new Assistant Town Manager, Eric Heideman will be coordinating these projects.

We released a Request for Proposals to lease space for our Parks, Grounds, and Recreation departments, received a proposal from Chris Yule to lease space at the Courier building, located across from Town Farm, that the board supported, pending town meeting approval, along with Mr. Yule completing his purchase of the building.

Our new ambulance arrived this week! It is beautiful, well-equipped, and will surely serve us very well for many years to come.



There are several openings on other local boards and committees, including the Agricultural Commission, Bylaw Review Committee, Communications Advisory Committee, Economic Development Committee, Energy Committee, Finance Committee, the 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](#).

Enjoy your last days of summer.

Sincerely,

Jodi Ross
Town Manager



*Debris Clean-up
12 North Main St.*

J.V. Fletcher Library

The next time you visit the Library, please take a moment to browse the New Titles Room by the Main Desk, where we have set up a temporary gallery of graphical renderings of the future 21st Century Library Expansion. These schematics seek to define the general scope and conceptual design of the project including scale and relationships between building components.

While the written word, Power Point presentations and lively discourse at public forums are critical components to understanding how the Westford community will benefit from a facility expansion, viewing the schematics can offer a visceral experience that is equally informative.



Please ask the Librarians any questions that occur to you as you peruse the renderings. We also invite you to write down your thoughts, ideas and impressions in one of the Library's several Suggestion Books, one of which is just around the corner from the New Titles Room.



We look forward to your support at the October 2016 Special Town Meeting where we seek your authorization to apply for, accept and expend any state grants which may be available or the cost of the design, construction and equipping of the library project, contingent upon the receipt of a state grant.

Research, learn and discover.
WWW.WESTFORDLIBRARY.ORG

Town Clerk's Corner

Updated Election Calendar

Date	Event	Voter registration deadline	Absentee Voting	Early Voting
September 8, 2016 7:00am – 8:00pm	State Primary (note: this is on a THURSDAY)	August 19, 2016, 5:00pm	Ends 12 noon Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2016	n/a
October, 17 2016 7:30pm	Special Town Meeting Abbot School	October 7, 2016, 8:00pm	n/a	n/a
November 8, 2016 7:00am – 8:00pm	Presidential Election	October 19, 2016, 8:00pm	Ends 12 noon Monday, Nov. 7, 2016	10/24/2016- 11/4/2016

Voter Registration is now ONLINE!

Massachusetts citizens can apply online by visiting Secretary Galvin's website at www.sec.state.ma.us and clicking the "Massachusetts Register to Vote Online" button to access the online application system. Any Massachusetts citizen who has a valid identification card issued by the Registry of Motor Vehicles will be able to use the online system to apply to register to vote, update their address or change their party enrollment.

Massachusetts citizens who do not have identification issued by the Registry of Motor Vehicles can still complete an application online which they can print, sign and mail or hand-deliver to the Town Clerk's Office.

Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots for the September 8, 2016 State Primary are now available at the Town Clerk's office. The deadline to [apply for an absentee ballot](#) is 12 noon the day before the election. View [sample ballots](#). Your voted ballot must be received by the Town Clerk's Office by 8:00pm on September 8, 2016 in order to be counted.

Military and overseas voters are entitled to have an absentee ballot emailed or faxed to them. [Link to information on military and overseas absentee voting.](#)

Early Voting

Early Voting will be available for the November 8, 2016 Presidential Election beginning October 24th until November 4th at 4:00pm. Early voting will take place at Town Hall during normal business hours and is available to all voters. Special evening, weekend and early morning hours will be announced in the near future to accommodate as many voters wishing to take advantage of early voting as possible. Early voting may also be conducted by mail. This does not replace absentee voting, but rather expands opportunities for voters. Stay tuned!

Town Clerk's Corner

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Pre-registration for 16 and 17 Year Olds

As of August 1, 2016, qualified residents aged 16 and 17 may pre-register to vote in Massachusetts. When a qualified 16 or 17-year-old pre-registers, his or her voter registration application will remain on file until he or she turns 18 years old. Once the pre-registrant turns 18, he or she will be registered to vote and is eligible to vote in Massachusetts elections.

Political Parties

If you wish to change your party enrollment, you may do so by filling out a new voter registration form. Members of political parties may vote only in their own party's primary elections. Unenrolled voters (commonly referred to as "Independents" and Members of political designations or minor parties may vote in the party primary of their choice. Choosing to vote in a particular party's primary does NOT enroll you as a member of that party.

Currently there are 4 parties:

[Democrat](#) (D)
[Republican](#) (R)
[Green-Rainbow](#) (J)
[United Independent](#) (CC)

Bow Hunting Permits

[Bow Hunting Permits](#) have been issued.

Four Bow Hunting permits have been issued for the following parcels:

Parcel A: Tadmuck Swamp North, Tadmuck Rd - 027 0029 0000 - **3 Hunters**

Parcel C: Behind New Highway Garage, North Main St - 035 0101 0000 - **1 Hunter**

Bow Hunting permits are valid from September 1st through December 31st



Recreation Department



The Parks and Recreation Commission has completed the [Recreation Master Plan](#). The Master Plan recommends having a feasibility study on what recreation facilities the Town may want to develop. The Parks and Recreation Commission will be seeking Community Preservation Funds and is meeting with the CPC at its next meeting.

Watch for our new program brochure

The fall/winter program brochure has gone to the printer and should be mailed to residents after August 24. On-line registration for programs is available as August 24th by going to www.westfordrec.com

Beaches

Beaches (Edwards and Forge) remain open to the public through August 27th. The Concession stands are closed after the 27th. The water is tested weekly and results are available on line at the Board of Health website.

PARKS

The drought has effected grounds maintenance but the Parks & Grounds Operations Supervisor Jon Revis and Parks Crew Leader Robert Upperman came up with a creative solution for saving some of the Town's larger trees. They built a tree watering device which would typically cost several hundred dollars. They created one device tested it and tweaked a second device for use by the Parks and Grounds crew. Water is pumped from a water tank through the device to the root system of the larger trees such as found at Roudenbush, Town Common and other areas. Thanks to Jon, Bob and crew for their continued ingenuity in managing Town Grounds.



Tree watering device

The Ronan McElligott Memorial Playground, an accessible playground located at Edwards Beach, has had some problems with the poured in place surfacing. The playground was shut down for a day and repairs to the surfacing took place. The crew will continue to monitor the playground for cracks in hopes of minimizing the creation of large holes.



Crew members repairing the accessible surfacing.

Recreation Department (continued)

CEMETERY

The Cemetery Commission is seeking additional members as long time member George "Yogi" Rogers and newer member Jonathan Ash have decided to give up their seats on the Commission. Interested individuals should fill out a Citizen Activity form available on line at www.westfordma.gov

The Cemetery Commission met to review the Westford Remembers Memorial Committee proposal for the construction of a Revolutionary War Monument at Westlawn Cemetery. The design and proposal created by Westford Remembers Memorial member and Westford Fire Fighter David Christiana, was unanimously accepted by the Commission. The Commission believes the proposal and cemetery improvements at Westlawn is an appropriate location as Lt. Colonial John Robinson is buried in Westlawn. Lt. Colonial Robinson is a significant figure from Westford who fought in the Battle at Lexington and Concord. The Commission endorsed the proposal and recommendation to the Board of Selectmen for site approval.



Register Additional Phone Numbers with Reverse 911

CodeRED is a Community Messaging System, used to notify residences of emergency, and general information through an automated telephone dialing system.

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

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

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



Be Prepared And Informed Incase of and Emergency

Set Your Radio Preset to Westford Emergency Management's 1630 AM

In an emergency tune in to Westford's 1630 AM for local information.



Health Department

Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) Training on Medical Countermeasures



In the weeks following the events of September 11, 2001, over 22 individuals from government and the news media were exposed to a release of anthrax. A powerful antibiotic, 'cipro' (ciprofloxacin), is a 'medical countermeasure' that was administered to protect those at risk of infection.

Two representatives of the Westford Health Department received federal funding to learn more about Medical Counter Measures (MCM) at a conference on August 2 and 3 in Providence, RI. Our HD is the host agent for the region's Upper Merrimack Valley Medical Reserve Corps (UMVMRC) unit, whose mission is to provide volunteer 'surge capacity' in case of disaster – including prevention of the spread of disease agents.

Westford Health Director and Upper Merrimack Valley MRC Director Sandy Collins, RN, and UMV MRC Coordinator Nancy Burns, EMT-B, attended the first of six MCM Regional Summits taking place across the nation. Participants included federal, regional, state, and local stakeholders. Top representatives from Centers for Disease Control (CDC), ASPR and Health and Human Services (HHS) were in attendance. The goal was to hear from MCM subject matter experts about best practices, to consider planning issues at the local level.



AUGUST IS IMMUNIZATION MONTH

August is Immunization Month and the Westford Health Department would like to remind you about the importance of vaccinations!

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, (CDC) college students should get the following vaccinations prior to going off to school:

- Flu vaccine
- Tetanus vaccine (Tdap or Td) if it's been 10 years since your last vaccination
- Human Papillomaviruses, (HPV)vaccines which are given for protection against certain cancers including cervical, anal, and oropharyngeal cancers and genital warts
- And lastly a meningococcal vaccine

Remember vaccines are not just for kids, adults 60 and over need to be up to date on all their vaccinations as well! Adults should receive:

- Yearly flu vaccine
- Pneumococcal vaccine after the age of 65 with the recommendation to have the PCV13 first then 1 year later receive the PPSV23 vaccine
- Shingles (Zoster) for those 60 and older
- Tdap given once, but recommended for each pregnancy, and Tetanus every 10 years thereafter



Health Department (continued)

ZIKA UPDATES

ZIKA Travel Notice Definitions

CDC issues different types of notices for international travelers. The definitions are laid out below. They describe both levels of risk for the traveler and recommended preventive measures to take at each level of risk. If you are traveling please go to <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices> to see if the country you are travelling to is impacted and what precautions to take.

Notice Level	Traveler Action	Risk to Traveler
Level 1: Watch	Reminder to follow usual precautions for this destination	Usual baseline risk or slightly above baseline risk for destination and limited impact to the traveler
Level 2: Alert	Follow enhanced precautions for this destination	Increased risk in defined settings or associated with specific risk factors; certain high-risk populations may wish to delay travel to these destinations
Level 3: Warning	Avoid all non-essential travel to this destination	High risk to travelers

1 **Zika primarily spreads through infected mosquitoes. You can also get Zika through sex.**

Many areas in the United States have the type of mosquitoes that can spread Zika virus. These mosquitoes are aggressive daytime biters and can also bite at night. Also, Zika can be passed through sex from a person who has Zika to his or her sex partners.



2 **The best way to prevent Zika is to prevent mosquito bites.**

- Use insect repellent. It works!
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants.
- Stay in places with air conditioning or window and door screens.
- Remove standing water around your home.



3 **Zika is linked to birth defects.**

Zika infection during pregnancy can cause a serious birth defect called **microcephaly** that is a sign of incomplete brain development. If you have a partner who lives in or has traveled to an area with Zika, do not have sex, or use condoms every time you have sex during your pregnancy.



4 **Pregnant women should not travel to areas with Zika.**

If you must travel to one of these areas, talk to your healthcare provider first and strictly follow steps to prevent mosquito bites during your trip.



5 **Returning travelers infected with Zika can spread the virus through mosquito bites.**

If you get infected with Zika and a mosquito bites you, you can pass the virus to the mosquito. The infected mosquito bites other people, who get infected. Returning travelers should also use condoms or not have sex if they are concerned about passing it to their partners through sex.



CDC's Response to Zika

PREGNANT?

WARNING: ZIKA IS LINKED TO BIRTH DEFECTS



Protect Your Pregnancy

From getting Zika from mosquito bites



Daytime is Most Dangerous
Mosquitoes that spread Zika are aggressive daytime biters. They can also bite at night.

Use Insect Repellent
It's safe and it works! Read the label and follow the directions.



Cover Your Skin
Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants.

Mosquito-Proof Your Home
Use screens on windows and doors. Use air conditioning when available. Eliminate standing water.



From getting Zika from sex



Don't have Sex
Don't have sex during your pregnancy.

OR

Use a Condom
Use a condom the right way every time you have vaginal, anal, or oral sex during your pregnancy.



Talk to your Healthcare Provider
If you think your partner may have or had Zika, tell your healthcare provider if you had sex without a condom.

There is No Vaccine to Prevent Zika Virus Infection

For more information: www.cdc.gov/chikungunya | www.cdc.gov/dengue | www.cdc.gov/zika



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Health Department (continued)

TICK AND MOSQUITO BORNE ILLNESS PREVENTION

As outdoor fall activities are set to begin, and summer activities are still in full swing, here is a reminder of some of the tips to help residents remain safe while enjoying outdoor activities.

In Massachusetts, West Nile virus infection (WNV) and eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) are the two viruses people may get if they are bitten by an infected mosquito. There are few cases of these infections each year, but most cases of WNV and EEE occur in late summer and early fall. Lyme disease, caused by a bite from an infected deer tick, is the most common tick-borne disease in Massachusetts. Lyme disease can cause serious complications if it is not recognized early and treated appropriately. There has also been recent identification of other tick species that had previously only survived in the southern states, such as the Lone Star Tick.

Below is a list of effective ways to help reduce your exposure to ticks and mosquitos:

- Limit your time outdoors during peak periods of mosquito activity (dusk and dawn). Wear a long-sleeved shirt and long pants if you're out during dusk and dawn.
- Use a mosquito repellent that contains DEET or Picaridin. Oil of lemon eucalyptus may also be considered. Always follow the directions on the label.
- DEET will also repel ticks, but sensible clothing and sticking to clear pathways and open areas when hiking helps avoid ticks as well.
- If you are out in an area with ticks (and these ticks occur all across the state), then do daily tick checks on you and your children, and remove ticks carefully according to directions you can find on the [DPH website](#).
- Cover the arms and legs of children playing outdoors. Cover a baby's carriage or playpen with mosquito netting.
- Fix any holes in your screens and make sure they are tightly attached to all doors and windows.
- Remove any standing pools of water around your home. Mosquitoes will breed in any puddle or standing water that lasts for more than four days. Make sure water does not collect and stagnate in ceramic pots, trash cans, recycling containers, old tires, wading pools, bird baths, etc. Remove leaves and debris that may prevent drainage of roof gutters.



For additional information, please see materials provided at numerous kiosks found on trails around town, or at the Health Department office, second floor of Town Hall. You can also find additional resources on the MA Department of Public Health (DPH) website www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dph/programs/id/epidemiology/ticks/ or contact the Westford Health Department at 978-692-5509. You may also find helpful resources on our website at www.westfordma.gov/health or at The Central Mass Mosquito control project at www.cmmcp.org.

Council On Aging News

Yeah!! Extended hours at the Cameron

We are excited about opening the Cameron for extended hours on Tuesday and Thursday evenings starting Sept. 19th from 4-8PM. We were able to offer these additional hours thanks to the Town increasing our Outreach Coordinator, Annette Cerullo's hours to support this new endeavor. I remember Annette telling me about a woman that works at ACE that wanted to use the Fitness Center but that was not possible because the Cameron closed at 4:00. In this effort we are excited to reach those individuals that work and can not take advantage of the amenities, classes, services and programs that we offer daily from 8-4PM. I was hoping possibly the WCAT could do a feature story and talk to Annette Cerullo, Katie Russell and myself about this effort.

Some of the new offerings will include the following:

Access to the Fitness Center which requires a year membership of \$50 for Westford residents or you can purchase a \$25 Fitness center punch card and receive 25 visits which simply equates to \$1 a visit. We are able to offer this great rate because of our partnership with our Recreation Department in providing the staffing to maintain the fitness center and train those new members during new hours.

Also, we will be offering a popular Cameron Fitness Camp class that is instructed by Kimberly Vespucci, a NPTI certified Personal Trainer, Nutrition consultant and owner of LEGIT.FIT in Acton. This class incorporates cardiovascular, Muscle training and core strength. Must register starting September 6th.

Watercolor class taught by Priti Lathia of Westford, Tuesday at 6PM. Priti has been teaching mediums of art for over fourteen years. She is known for her splashes of bright color and bold and harmonious balance of compositions. As a teacher she is known for her ability to explain abstract artistic ideas into simple words- An ideal combination of talent and communication - no wonder she is so popular with her ever-increasing body of student. So come enjoy this artistic opportunity to paint with Priti. Cost of class is \$20 and a supply list will be provided- Register September 6th

Annette Cerullo, Outreach Coordinator will be available during these extended hours to assist with Fuel Assistance, SNAP and/or Housing applications, handymen services, hardship situations, Tax relief applications, advocacy, medical equipment and other needs one may be experiencing in their home life.

Other amenities and programs we are excited to offer include computer lab, library, billiards and other scheduled programs with a special Sandwich Generation series highlighting various resources and support opportunities for those who are often overwhelmed by competing obligations, having to care for children and aging parents.

For more information about the Cameron Senior Center please go to our website found on www.westfordma.gov/coa under Council on Aging aka COA or give us a call at 978-692-5523.

Council On Aging Events

GOOD MORNING LADIES, JOIN US FOR WOMEN'S BREAKFAST THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH AT 8AM

We are excited about this fall's speaker line up for this monthly get together of Westford ladies Septembers program: Ron Wackowski, Antique Appraiser Ron will discuss how one begins to look at an item and assess its value.

Also, he will demonstrate this appraisal process by the appraising items for the first fifteen people that wish to find out more history and value on that family heirloom..

Please RSVP and sign up for appraisal if you wish..



MEN'S BREAKFAST

Tuesday, September 13th at 8AM

Come meet the new assistant Town Manager, Eric Heideman, learn about his military service, facility management background, special Town interests and hobbies (new baby daughter).

Please RSVP

CAMERON OPEN HOUSE- NEWCOMERS WELCOME!

Tuesday, September 13th from 10AM-noon

For those who may be newly retired or simply never come to the Cameron- come explore the many facets, activities and benefits of Westford's Cameron Senior Center.

Come join Friends of the Cameron Board and wonderful volunteers as they give tours of their center. Meet the COA staff and enjoy the refreshments and hopefully new fellowship.

LIVE THEATER SHOW- FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD AT 1PM

"Laugh With the Ladies"- this live theatrical production will feature Lynne Moulton and Fran Baron. meet famous "celebrity female comedians" from the yester years.

Singing, comedy, audience participation and prize awards- round out the show.

A celebration with root beer floats follow the performance.

This program was made possible by a **grant from the Westford Cultural Council, which is supported by the MA. Cultural Council.**

Please RSVP

TO RSVP PLEASE CALL 978-692-5523

To view the complete Council On Aging Newsletter please visit our website: www.westfordma.gov/coa and click on [Newsletters](#).



Westford Senior Center

Recycling Commission

Electronics & More Collection

Saturday, September 10, 2016 from 8am – 2pm

Westford Highway Garage, 28 North Street



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.

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, Batteries (NiCAD, Lithium and Rechargeable **ONLY**)
- Computers and towers (CPUs), Laptops, keyboards
- Flat Screen Computer Monitors – if recycled **WITH** a computer
- Fire extinguishers (empty)
- Propane tanks (empty)
- Grills
- Smoke/Carbon Monoxide detectors
- Game Consoles
- Home Electronics & Related Appliances (DVD, DVR, Stereos, etc.)
- Light Fixtures
- Printers, Copiers and fax machines
- Ink and Toner Cartridges
- Radios and Scanners
- Printed circuit boards
- Network equipment, modems, servers, switches and routers
- Wire, filing cabinets, metal desks
- Bicycles
- Battery operated tools and Power Tools
- Snow Blowers, Lawn Mowers -must be emptied of gas and oil

The Westford Recycling Commission thanks you for reducing, reusing, repurposing, and recycling!

No plastic toys.

ITEMS ACCEPTED WITH FEES:

Children's car seats - \$15

All TVs (regardless of size) - \$25

CRT Computer Monitors - \$15

Speakers \$10.00 (House Speakers with large wood or plastic housing)

WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV/RECYCLING