



September 2016



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Town
Manager

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**Light Up The Night:
Remembering
The Victims of
Domestic Violence
Wednesday, October 5th
Page 6**

**Brush Chipping
Saturday, October 15th
28 North Main Street
Highway Garage
10AM - 4:30PM
Page 12**

**Special Town Meeting
Monday, October, 17th
Abbot School**



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Dear Westford residents,

At a service of solemn remembrance, our town honored those who died in the terrorist attack on our country 15 years ago on September 11th, 2001. I am thankful for all who attended, with a special thanks to our State Representative Jim Arciero, Vice Chair of our Board of Selectman Andrea Peraner-Sweet, resident Nancy Cook, and Veteran's Agent, Terry Stader, and members of our Fire and Police Departments for their participation in the event.



- Photo by Joyce Pellino Crane

Our fall Special Town Meeting is quickly approaching, scheduled for 7:30p.m. on October 17th in the Abbot School gymnasium. The Board of Selectmen has reviewed the draft articles and motions and set the order for the warrant. They will be voting their positions on the articles at their upcoming meetings. Next month's Town Manager's Newsletter will include a listing of the articles to be presented at town meeting.

The Selectmen have been busy at their recent meetings discussing many items, including the proposal for a local developer to build a restaurant/function hall at 66 Boston Road. The Board and the Drew Gardens Task Force continued their research into the legal and financial aspects of a possible amendment to add a restaurant as an allowed use to one of the Drew Gardens parcels, which contains an agricultural preservation restriction.

You may have noticed a bump out on the Lincoln Street intersection with Boston Road. The Selectmen approved the installation of a permanent bump out, to slow traffic at that intersection, and temporary bollards have been installed to "test" the changes prior to installation.

At their September 13th meeting, the board approved an application for up to \$400,000 in reimbursement from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, for the costs to improve town center for traffic and safety, to add a sidewalk on Concord Road to the Robinson School, and to make cross walk improvements at the Day School.

Members of the Dog Park Task Force reported they are actively investigating locations for a future dog park.

(Continued on next page)

The Middlesex County 4H Fair provided another fun-filled event this year, and our community is so fortunate to have this organization in our town.

In our continuing endeavor for energy efficiency, I am excited to report that the Highway Department's facility will be upgrading its energy management controls, as funded by a Green Communities grant. Additionally, separate money from this grant, along with incentive funding from National Grid, will be used to add LED lighting systems to four town buildings. These are few examples of our efforts in cost control and environmental consciousness.

It is always a special pleasure to welcome visitors to town hall, and particularly so when students come by to learn more about their local government and what their town employees do every day. This month, Town Clerk Kaari Tari and Town Moderator Ellen Harde hosted Honors History students from Westford Academy and shared with them the history of town hall and provided a tour of our town offices. I hope the students feel inspired to one day be involved with our town through volunteerism, committee membership, or perhaps becoming town employees in the future.

Congratulations to Peter "Woody" Dennechuk on his recent retirement after 40 years of service with the Westford Fire Department. The town is grateful for your dedication to its safety and wishes you well in your new life's chapter.

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.



Thank you Woody!

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,

Jodi Ross
Town Manager

J.V. Fletcher Library

Next Step in Library Design Dependent on Fall Special Town Meeting Support

Having concluded the matching Planning and Design Grant, the Westford Library is now poised to apply for the competitive Massachusetts Public Library Construction Grant in January 2017. Despite the fact that potential grant funding is not anticipated until 2020, the Westford Library Grant application requires a supportive Fall Special Town Meeting vote on Article 11 to allow the Library to pursue the next step -- applying in the 2017 eligibility pool.

The proposed 21st century Library design **retains the entire historic façade on Main Street**, with more modern touches to the rear. The proposed footprint increases the total library to slightly over 35,000 sq. ft. In the proposed design:

- ◆ the Children's Area more than doubles, and allows an increase in collections
- ◆ the Young Adult Area triples in space
- ◆ the number of public Meeting Rooms double (from two to four)
- ◆ the historic front rooms are retained
- ◆ study rooms quadruple
- ◆ the design centralizes circulation functions
- ◆ the design is ADA- and code-compliant, as well as more energy-efficient

Fall Special Town Meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 17, 2016 at 7:30PM at Abbot School. ***Note that no funding is tied to this warrant article. Future votes on funding by Annual Town Meeting and at the Ballot will occur only in the event a grant is awarded to the Town and could be years in the future.***



Research, learn and discover.
WWW.WESTFORDLIBRARY.ORG

Recreation Department



Saturday's 3rd Annual Lucky Duck Regatta, presented by Team Forever Young and Westford Area Rowing, provided the community with a day of food, music, and duck racing excitement. The day's event had an array of kid friendly activities, including face painting, a bounce house, and a visiting Westford Fire Truck that provided a little education and a lot of fun for both the children and the adults. Among other activities were fitness and martial arts demonstrations, acoustic music sets, a raffle with prizes, vendor stands, and community tables that shared information on issues such as the prevention of Lyme disease (Jeff Stephens, Director of Environmental Services, Westford Board of Health) and the protection and preservation of Forge Pond (Friends of Forge Pond).



Most importantly, the proceeds from the regatta will help Team Forever Young, and Westford Area Rowing (formerly Westford-Littleton Crew), raise awareness for suicide prevention, as well as provide the community with opportunities to develop teamwork, sportsmanship, and leadership through rowing.

Carried on throughout the day were the fast-paced lucky duck racing heats. The heats consisted of rubber ducks purchased by hundreds of supporters over the last several weeks, and during the day of the event. Each duck was labeled with a special number linked to its purchaser. The individuals whose lucky ducks won in the final regatta received the following prizes:

1st prize winner, Travis Foster, will receive the grand prize: dinner for two and a two-night stay anywhere in the world. Travis and his wife are leaning towards a trip to Greece.

2nd prize winner, Rachel Bent, will receive a round trip airfare anywhere JetBlue flies. Rachel bought her lucky ducks on the day of the race.

3rd prize winner, Harvey Kupferman, will receive a weekend stay at the Courtyard Marriot, along with dinner for two at Burtons in Westford.

Thank you to all of the families and friends that participated in this event. And a big thank you to the many sponsors who supported these causes with their generous contributions:

Platinum sponsors:

Dee Bus Service Inc.; jetBlue, Marsha and Rick Grey; Rotary Club of Ayer

Gold Sponsors:

Concord Oil; FunStuff Rentals; Panera Bread Westford; Storbridge Global Inc.; Westford Veterinary Emergency Referral Center, LLC; CSA Graphics

Silver Sponsors:

Courtyard Boston (Billerica/Westford); Fitness Together Westford; Howe Wood Products; Residence Inn Marriot Boston Westford; Mass Diving Inc.; Middlesex Savings Bank; Yule Development; Sorrento's Pizza; Northern Bank and Trust; Westford Police Department



Town Clerk's Corner

Election Worker Training Sessions

Thursday, October 6, 2016
Chelmsford Senior Center
Beginning at 5:00pm - refreshments will be served

Interested in working? Please complete an [Election Officer Profile](#) and submit it to the Town Clerk's Office.

Recycle Your Reusables

Saturday, October 15, 2016
Ayer-Shirley Regional Middle School
9:00am - 2:00pm
[For more information, click here](#)

Brush Chipping

Saturday, October 15, 2016
Highway Garage - 28 North Street
10:30am - 4:30pm
\$10/load - cash or check only



Special Town Meeting

Monday, October 17 at 7:30pm at the Abbot School
Voter registration deadline is Friday, October 7th at 8:00pm

Presidential Election!

We will have "Early Voting Hours" at Town Hall.

EARLY VOTING HOURS:

Anyone can vote early

- Oct 24th 8:00am - 4:00pm
- Oct 25th 8:00am - 8:00pm
- Oct 26th 8:00am - 4:00pm
- Oct 27th 8:00am - 4:00pm
- Oct 28th 8:00am - 4:00pm
- Oct 29th 10:00am - 2:00pm Saturday
- Oct 31st 8:00am - 4:00pm
- Nov 1st 8:00am - 8:00pm
- Nov 2nd 8:00am - 4:00pm
- Nov 3rd 8:00am - 4:00pm
- Nov 4th 6:00am - 4:00pm

ABSENTEE VOTING

For those who are unable to get to the polls

[Absentee Ballot Applications](#) are available now at the Town Clerk's Office or [Online](#)

Monday thru Friday 8:00am - 4:00pm as well as the extended hours listed for Early Voting

The deadline to apply early voting by mail is 12 noon on Friday, November 4th.

Deadline to apply for an Absentee Ballot is 12:00 noon on Monday, November 7th.

Health Department

LIGHT UP THE NIGHT: REMEMBERING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Westford Coalition for Non-Violence in partnership with the Live for Liv foundation, will be hosting a Domestic Violence program in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The Westford Town common will be lit up with purple lights to symbolize this event. Please join us to remember victims of domestic violence with this annual program and vigil. The event will feature a live performance and music by WA theatre arts students and a candlelight ceremony to remember those who have lost their lives to domestic violence. We welcome all teenagers and their families.

Date: October 5
Time: 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Location: PCA on Lincoln Street



**Live for Liv
Foundation**

Parent Support Group

This support group is a free drop in group, available to any parent who is concerned that their child might be struggling with a mental health 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 at Stony Brook School). All groups include discussion and sharing by any member who is interested in getting feedback from the group. You do not need to be a Westford resident to attend. To be included on the group email: feel free to contact: Dianne Walsh, LICSW (walshnr@comcast.net or 508-566-3189) or Sue Hanly, RN (smhanly@earthlink.net or 978-501-0837)

October 11th - Understanding ADD/ADHD; treatments as well as misconceptions

Location: Millennium School (behind Abbot) Large Old Purpose Room

Time: 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Fee: Free

Health Department (continued)

SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION WEEK

October is Substance Abuse Prevention Month. The Westford Health Department has asked the selectman, at their September 27th meeting, to proclaim the week of October 9th - 15th as Westford Substance Abuse Prevention Month. The following program has been arranged during the week for parents:



YOUTH SUBSTANCE USE: WHY IT MATTERS, HOW IT HAS CHANGED & WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT!

Come join us for this informative parent presentation which will include information on how the brain and addiction works. There will also be representative from the police department to discuss what the Police Department has seen in Westford. Presenter is Lee Anne Dodge, a Health Educator from the Maine Department of Public Health, she is a credentialed prevention specialist and has recently worked on the Tobacco and Substance Use Prevention Team at the Maine Center for Disease Control. She has worked in the substance use prevention field for over twenty years.

Date: October 13

Time: 7:00 pm- 9: 00 pm

Location: Blanchard Middle School

RED FLAGS HEALTH RESOURCE BOOKS AVAILABLE

The health department has also updated and printed new "Red Flags and Resource Books" for parents. They will be available free of charge, at the Westford Health Department and the J.V. Fletcher Library. This is a great reference for all parents. It gives advice and references for many different problems parents have to deal with their children.

TABLE TALK HOSTS NEEDED

We are still looking for parents to hold a Table Talks meeting in their homes. The Westford Table Talks is a program sponsored by the Westford Health Department. The program model was developed to provide parents with a comfortable opportunity to communicate openly with each other about underage drinking and other substance abuse situations. Each discussion is meant to be friendly and relaxed, held in a home or a similarly comfortable community setting.

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 at the Franco American Club. **Thursday, October 20 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm.**

		By Alphabet
12:30 pm to	1:30 pm	A - H
1:30 pm to	2:30 pm	I - Q
2:30 pm to	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 formulated to contain higher hemagglutinin (HA) of each of the following three influenza strains recommended for the 2016-2017 influenza season: A/California/07/2009 X-179A (H1N1), A/Hong Kong/4801/2014 X-263-B(H3N2), and B/Brisbane/60/2008(B Victoria Lineage).

Regular Flu Clinics:

October 28:	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	JV Fletcher Library
November 4:	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	JV Fletcher Library
November 8:	6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Millennium
November 16:	6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Millennium

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. Although CDC is now stating that those with egg allergies can receive this vaccine, it does require careful monitoring of the patient. Therefore, anyone with an allergy to eggs *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.

SCHOOL-BASED FLU CLINIC PROGRAM

THIS YEAR WE WILL ONLY BE PROVIDING FLU SHOTS AND NOT THE FLU MIST at these schools only: Middle Schools (6-8 grades) and Westford Academy.

- **November 1, 2016** **Blanchard Middle**
- **November 2, 2016** **Stony Brook Middle**
- **November 3, 2016** **Westford Academy**

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 or sign up for our listserv at www.westfordma.gov/subscriber

Health Department (continued)

TIPS FOR PROTECTING YOURSELF AGAINST TICKS

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. As outdoor fall activities begin, the Westford Health Department would like to remind residents that fall is the time of year when ticks reach the adult stages of their lifecycle. This means that they are looking for their next host. When you are out enjoying fall activities, please remember to be vigilant in checking for ticks on you, your children and pets.

There are effective actions people can take to help limit exposure to ticks:

- DEET will 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 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 web site.
- Examine gear and pets. Ticks can ride into the home on clothing and pets, then attach to a person later, so carefully examine pets, coats, and day packs.



Conduct a full-body tick check using a hand-held or full-length mirror to view all parts of your body upon return from tick-infested areas. Parents should check their children for ticks under the arms, in and around the ears, inside the belly button, behind the knees, between the legs, around the waist, and especially in their hair.

For more information on ways to protect yourself and your family check out <http://www.cdc.gov/ticks/index.html> for additional information or our website at www.westfordma.gov/health.

Westford's Edible School Gardens.

During the month of September, students in all of Westford's elementary schools were served lunches made from foods they grew by their own hands. Thanks to a program that was sponsored in full by Circle Health, students in Nabnasset, Col. John Robinson, Rita Edwards Miller, Norman E. Day, Abbot and John A. Crisafulli Elementary Schools were given the opportunity to plant, study, harvest and eat foods grown in onsite school gardens.



The goals for the program are to:

- Connect kids to the real food that sustains them,
- instill confidence in the students' ability to grow their own nutritious food, and
- let them experience the sense of wonder that comes with that experience.

In each school, teachers are welcomed and encouraged to use the garden at their discretion as a teaching resource to meet a specific



learning objective or simply as an alternative classroom setting.

Special thanks to Colleen Wallace, WPS Food Service Director, Elaine Santelmann, WPS K-5 Science Curriculum Coordinator, Principals Kennelly, Pobuk, DuBois, Huntley, LaCoste, and Regan, and the respective onsite staffs for their support.

Council On Aging Events

FALL HAVEST FAIR

Saturday, October 29, from 9 am to 3 pm.

We're looking forward to the festivities, food, camaraderie and shopping the year's fair, Vendors invited! Table rentals are only \$15!

Volunteers are needed to help with set-up (on Fri, Oct. 28 at 1pm) and with cleanup on Sat. pm. Donations welcomed especially different themed raffle baskets, silent auction items and baked goods.

SMALL APPLIANCES SALE

Monday-Friday, October 3-7, from 9am to 3pm

Need a replacement toaster, coffee maker, iron or other small appliance?

Or, looking to declutter and get rid of that hot dog cooker or bread maker you never use?

Our first "Small Appliances Sale," sponsored by Friends of the Cameron, will feature a wide selection of new and used appliances!

Please let us know if you're willing to help with prep or set-up on Friday, Sept 30 ~ all for a good cause!



SEEKING HOLIDAY BASKETS

Our annual Holiday Basket program, which provides assistance to local families experiencing financial hardship at Thanksgiving and the Christmas Holidays, is getting underway.

If you would like to be a sponsor by donating food or holiday gifts for a Westford family, please contact Katie Russell at krussell@westfordma.gov or call 978 399 2330 for more information.

NEW *THE MEMORY CAFÉ *

We are pleased to announce a new initiative that will start in September at the Cameron Senior Center Library. On the 3rd Monday of each month, from 10:30 am to 11:45 am we will host a Memory Café for folks to drop in. A Memory Café is a welcoming, casual place for people with forgetfulness or other changes in their thinking. Cafés are a place to talk with others who can relate to what you are going through and your friends and family are welcome. Light music and refreshments will be provided. This is a collaborative effort with the Westford Council on Aging and ComForCare, a local home care agency.

Any questions, please call Annette, Outreach at 978-399-2326.

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



BACK TO SCHOOL RECYCLING TIPS

- Adapted from: *Keep America Beautiful*

Reduce: Purchase school supplies with less packaging to cut down on waste. Invest in sturdier products that will last longer.

Reuse: Before shopping, take inventory of school supplies still in good shape, e.g., binders, paper, notebooks, pencils, markers, and scissors. Swap with friends.

Recycle: When you discard unusable old school supplies (notebooks, papers, folders, etc.), put them in the recycling bin.

Buy Recycled: A great way to support the green economy is to purchase school supplies made from recycled content. Look for labels on paper, pens, binders, and paper clips that say "made with recycled content" or "made with post-consumer content."

Brush Chipping

10:30 am – 4:30 pm, Saturday, October 15, 2016
Westford Highway Garage, 28 North Street

- **Proof of Westford residency required.**
- **Accepted:** Brush and branches up to 3 inches in diameter and 10 feet in length. Must be average residential brush categories and reasonable amounts: A load ranges from a trunk to pickup truck volume, includes tow behind a full trailer.
- **Not accepted:** Building materials (e.g. fences, boards), land clearing materials and debris (e.g., roots, bushes, anything mixed with poison ivy), grass, and leaves.
- **Cost:** \$10 per load, checks preferred, payable to the Town of Westford.

WIN A FREE RECYCLING TOTER

Visit the Westford Recycling Commission table at the Westford Farmers' Market on October 4, 2016, from 2:30-6:30. Enter your name in the drawing for a free new 64-gallon wheeled recycling toter (\$50 value)!

(You must be over 18 and a Westford resident to enter. Winner will be announced in October.)

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



Westford Remembers September 11 Tragedy

On Sunday, September 11, 2016, two services were held in Westford to recognize the events of 15 years ago.



A citizen-led event originated by John Pyra was held at the bandstand. Taps were played at 8:46, 9:03, 9:37 and 10:07. Following each respective taps segment, volunteers' readers read off the names of the New England residents who perished that fateful day.

At 10:00 at the Town Hall/Public Safety Courtyard in front of the Westford's 9-11 Monument, a Town of Westford service was held although the rain chased the event indoors to the bays of the center fire station. The service was held to recognize the public safety personnel as well as the two Westford residents who perished that fateful day. Those that attended were presented with the "last alarm", The Firefighter's Prayer, placing of wreaths by Westford Police and Fire department representatives and the Cheryl Sawyer poem "One" read by Nancy Cook and heartfelt comments by State Representative Jim Arciero and Board of Selectmen member Andrea Peraner-Sweet.



Thanks to all that attended these two events.

