



# Town of Westford Massachusetts

Town Manager's Newsletter

June 2014



Jodi Ross,  
Town  
Manager

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Strawberries 'n Art  
Festival  
Saturday, June 14  
10 AM to 4 PM

Strategic Planning  
Retreat  
Thursday, June 19  
5:30 PM at Kimball Farm

Summer Solstice  
Celebration  
Saturday, June 21  
5:30 PM  
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Summer Water Use  
Restrictions  
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Watch Meetings Online

**westford**  
*CAT*

[www.westfordcat.org](http://www.westfordcat.org)

## Dear Westford residents,

At their June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Board of Selectmen formally waived their right of first refusal on the sale of the Agnew Parcel, located at 64 Main Street, where 26 acres of land are being taken out of Chapter 61B, and entered a Donation Agreement with Dave Guthrie and Chris Finneral, who agreed to “sell” 19 acres to our town for \$1 for conservation purposes, and add a conservation restriction to 1 acre, while also will providing a 50 foot buffer to the Tom Paul Trail. The neighbors to the parcel along with others concerned with preservation presented an offer through the Westford Conservation Trust to purchase the property at the Purchase and Sale price of \$700,000, however after a 5 hour meeting weighing the pros and cons of each offer, the board voted to support the Guthrie/Finneral offer as they felt it presented the least risk to our town, and gained approximately 20 acres of new conservation land.

The Board of Selectmen issued a Cease and Desist Order to the owners of Drew Gardens (formerly Eric’s) 66-68 Boston Road for trucking in mountains of compost, which was in violation of terms of the Agricultural Preservation Restriction the town holds on that property. The Selectmen had been advertising for interested citizens to be appointed to a task force to investigate and make a recommendation to the Selectmen regarding the potential purchase of the property, which is currently for sale, however when the board learned there was a newly signed lease on the property, they requested to review the lease to understand the obligations prior to forming the task force. The lessee was not willing to release the lease to the board, so the board took no action pending receipt of that lease. The Selectmen will consider this issue at their June 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The Board of Selectmen was asked to approve an application for a LAND Grant by the Conservation Commission as they have negotiated an offer to purchase 44.3 acres of land from Dan and Robyn Timberlake for conservation purposes. The \$900,000 funding for this purchase would involve Conservation Commission CPA funds, an appropriation at our fall town meeting, and reimbursement of up to \$400,000 from this LAND Grant.

The Selectmen voted to enter an Inter-municipal Agreement with the town of Acton to join the Crosstown Connect Transportation Management Association (TMA), to assist with transportation problems of businesses and residents, in particular helping with the reverse commute of workers who live in Boston area and commute to our communities.

The Pedestrian Safety Committee received support from the board to submit a grant application to *Safe Routes for Schools* to design and construct a sidewalk along Plain Road in the Nabnasset School area.

(continued on next page)

I am pleased to announce that the Westford Friends of East Boston Camps received the Cummings Foundation Grant in the amount of \$100,000 to construct a new bath house at the camps. Also, the Westford Tax Relief Fund received an anonymous donation of \$10,000, and Drew Webber, owner of the Lowell Spinners, through the Joann Webber Foundation donated \$1,000 to the Westford Food Pantry.

We recently received funding to add an ice melt system on the town hall roof to avoid large icicles from forming which will protect residents and others who walk close to our building.



At the May 27<sup>th</sup> Selectmen's meeting, the board honored Genevieve Johnson (photo on left) for graduating from Westford Academy at the age of 94, thereby fulfilling her lifelong dream of receiving a high school diploma. Ms. Johnson was accompanied by her "dream team" consisting of seniors Caroline, Grace, and Christina, along with Annette Cerullo (our Westford COA Outreach Coordinator) who helped her complete this process.

My thoughts and prayers are with the Enos family who were present at the graduation ceremony. They lost their precious daughter Katie in a tragic accident 4 years ago, and attended to receive her diploma with the class she would have graduated with.

Thank you to Westford Daisy Troop 66305 (photo on right), who took part in a service project to clean up the grounds at Westford Academy under the guidance of Ellen Harde. The girls seemed to enjoy using the trash grabbers as they went about their business helping to beautify our school grounds.



Our 2014 Strategic Planning Retreat will be held on Thursday June 19<sup>th</sup> at Kimball Farm from 530 to 830pm. Whether or not you have attended one of our first three annual retreats, please try and attend this one. The discussion is always lively, your input is greatly needed, there is a delicious complimentary meal and ice cream bar to enjoy, and it is a great way to learn about the important issues facing our town, and express your opinions and insights in a relaxed, casual atmosphere. More information may be found about this year's retreat and past events at this link: [Strategic Planning Retreat](#).

(continued on next page)

I would like to advise residents to not enter the 12 North Main Street property (formerly Westford Anodizing) as we have found hazardous materials in the soil. The property is currently being fenced off to protect the public, and an assessment of the cleanup is underway. The Massachusetts House of Representatives approved funding of \$1.5M for the cleanup and restoration or demolition and we are hopeful this funding stays intact through the Senate and Governor's recommended budgets too.

The Selectmen have opened the warrant for our October 20, 2014 Special Town Meeting. The calendar for the meeting may be found at this link: [October Special Town Meeting](#).

There are several openings on local boards and committees, including the Affordable Housing, Bylaw Review, Communications Advisory, Cultural Council, Historical Commission, Pedestrian Safety, Public Works Initiative Committee, 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

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of one of our retired municipal employees. Rita Shipley, formerly a senior clerk in our Town Clerk's office for 9 years, following serving in our schools, passed away on Saturday, June 7th. Rita was a wonderful person who took great pride in her Native American heritage. She always brought a smile to our faces, especially when driving her motorized "trike" in full gear! She is survived by her husband, Brian Shipley, who is also employed by our town in our highway/parks department, and her four sons and one daughter, grandchildren, and her brother Don Guillemette who is also employed by our town in the police department. Rita will be missed.



I hope to see you at the Strawberries 'n Arts Festival this weekend, and at our Strategic Planning Retreat next Thursday evening.

Sincerely,

Jodi Ross

*Genevieve Johnson  
accompanied by her  
"dream team."*



## Recycling Commission News

### Paper and Cardboard Recycling Tips from the Recycling Commission

“If it rips, recycle it!” With some exceptions, you can recycle all clean colored and white paper and cardboard.

Please do NOT recycle paper towels, paper cups, paper plates, and paper napkins; waxed paper; photographs; foil wrapping paper; wallpaper; and Tyvek mail envelopes. Please do NOT put plastic bags in recycling bins/toters or recyclables in plastic bags as the bags will jam the recycling sorting machines. Thank you.

Recycle phone books, junk mail, newspapers, magazines, newsletters, file folders, spiral notebooks, and school, fax, office, and computer paper. Recycle cardboard egg cartons, pizza boxes (cut out food stains), and cardboard rolls from toilet tissue, paper towel, and kitchen wraps.

Recycle wrapping paper, gift bags and tags. Recycle paperback books and hardback books (without covers) if not acceptable for the library book sale. Recycle cardboard cereal, powdered milk and detergent boxes.

Recycle the shiny cardboard boxes from plastic or foil wrap with the metal cutting edge; paper envelopes with see-through windows; paper with an occasional paper clip, staple, or transparent tape; and the strings on shopping and gift bags.

Recycle paperboard juice and milk cartons with the plastic spouts; cardboard tissue boxes with plastic at the opening; the paper backing from labels, stickers, and postage stamps; and paper artwork with paint and crayon.

Larger cardboard boxes must be flattened and no larger than 3-ft. x 3-ft.

Shredded paper should be put in a closed paper bag to prevent blowing around. For paper shredding events, check our web site.

Visit [www.westfordma.gov/recycling](http://www.westfordma.gov/recycling)  
for more recycling  
information.



## J.V. Fletcher Library

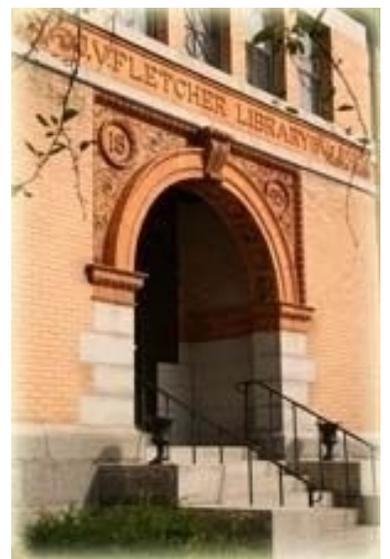
### **The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) Awards The J. V. Fletcher Library a \$50,000 Planning & Design Grant**

In 2014 twenty-eight Libraries across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts competed for a state-funded Planning and Design Grant Award. All twenty-eight applications underwent a rigorous, independent grant review process. The applications chosen to receive grant awards were selected based on many factors, including: community need, an understanding of future trends in library services, integration with the library's long-range plan, support from local officials and a plan for community input.

"We are thrilled," notes Library Director Ellen Rainville, "to receive a grant award that allows us to take this step forward in ensuring responsive, state-of-the-art library service for Westford's future. The Feasibility Study that will be conducted with this award will inform and poise the Town of Westford for consideration of the next planning phase – an application under the next projected Massachusetts Public Library Constructions Grand round in 2016 or 2017."

This Feasibility Study will receive support from the Permanent Town Building Committee and will assess the potential for renovation/expansion of the current J. V. Fletcher Library facility on the present Town Common site, as well as site options elsewhere (a grant mandate) for the projected population of 2034. A design of the future Fletcher Library would address the inadequacies Identified in the 2013 Library Needs Assessment, plus incorporate new and future trends in service, programs, collections, formats and outreach within the anticipated new space.

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



## Council On Aging - Coming Events

### **INDEPENDENCE COOKOUT**

The Friends of Cameron Senior Center invite you to their Independence Cookout Thursday, July 3rd with food served at 11:30 AM.

We will be grilling hot dogs and hamburgers.

Please bring a salad or dessert for all to share.

Register at 978-692-5523.



### **SOCIAL DANCE**

Join us for a Dance Party here at Cameron on Friday, June 27th from 2 - 5 PM.

Live Music by D.J. Jon Mansfield.

Tickets are \$5.00 in advance or \$7.00 at the door.

Any questions see Annette or Mandi.

### **CAMERON GRILL NIGHTS**

The Cameron Senior Center invites you to sign up for our series of Cookouts and Grill Nights.

Reservations are a must. Please call 978-692-5523.

Dining will be indoors.

Dates: Thursdays, June 19th and July 17th from 4-6:30 PM.

Burgers and Hot Dogs served, please bring a salad or dish to share.

Suzie's Ice Cream will be available at 6 PM, treats include regular and diabetic choices. The cost is \$2.00 per grill night. (Grill closes at 6:00 PM).

Volunteers needed for clean-up.



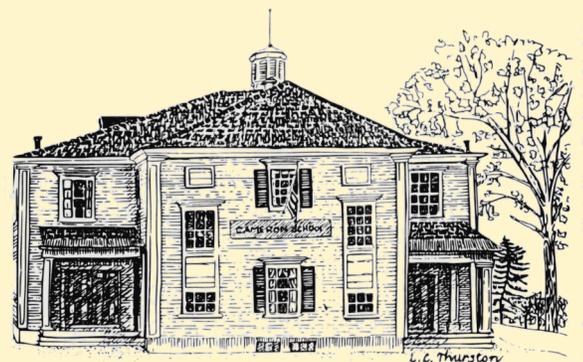
### **TRANSPORTATION**

Transportation offers various trips to local business establishments such as Market Basket, hairdressers, drug stores, department stores and medical facilities. Trips to Cameron Senior Center and social calls to your friends are also available. Please call 978-399-2322 or email

lmitchell@westfordma.gov as soon as you know you need transportation. Roundtrip fares are \$3 within Westford; \$6 to neighboring towns; and \$8 to outlying towns. If school is closed due to inclement weather, transportation does not operate.

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

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



Westford Senior Center

## Westford Fire Department - Outdoor Fire Safety

Our department receives numerous calls about outside fires or what is typically referred to as a “camp fire”. Many people enjoy the ambiance that an outdoor fire can bring however there is often confusion as to the requirements or regulations.

Massachusetts Air Pollution Control Regulations prohibits burning which creates a nuisance or a condition of air pollution or hazards to others. Outdoor fire pits, outdoor fireplaces and chimineas have gained popularity over the past several years.

Although these devices are not specifically regulated there are specific requirements that must be adhered to concerning their use:

- Only clean fire wood can be burned, the burning of trash refuse or the burning of brush is prohibited.
- Such devices must be placed in an area away from other combustibles or from conditions likely to cause a fire (devices located on decks or porches or close to buildings).
- The use of such devices can only be used when permission from the fire department has been granted. Permission from the fire department is granted only by calling the fire department 978-692-5542 to inquire each time such device is to be used.
- Anytime burning creates a nuisance or a condition of air pollution or hazards to others the fire department does have the authority to enforce these provisions and can order such conditions to be remedied or extinguished.



Safety around any type of fire is always a concern. Please review the following safety precautions as we wish you to enjoy your experience otherwise it could turn tragic very quickly including injury to yourself, others or property.

### Safety Precautions

- Burn only appropriate clean fire wood as not to cause a nuisance
- Never burn on windy or during extremely dry weather; **reminder permission from the fire department is required**
- Keep the fire small and enclosed so there is no potential of the fire getting away from you
- Never leave a fire unattended and make sure any fire is fully extinguished
- Keep small children away from any fire
- Have the ability to quickly extinguish a fire by having a bucket of water nearby or a hose
- Never use any type of accelerant to start a fire such as gasoline or lighter fluid
- Know how to cool a burn and when in doubt call 911 especially burns to children or the elderly



We sincerely wish you to enjoy your experience by adhering to these simple safety rules and requirements. Thank you for your cooperation as we wish you and your family a joyous summer.

Sincerely,  
Lieutenant Donald R. Parsons - Fire Prevention Officer

A copy of the relevant sections of 310 CMR 7.00 can be found by visiting:

[www.mass.gov/dep/air/laws/regulati.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dep/air/laws/regulati.htm)

Memorial Day 2014



*(Left to Right) Town Manager, Jodi Ross with Selectmen, Kelly Ross, Scott Hazelton, Andrea Peraner-Sweet, and Don Siriani*



*(Left to Right) Kelly Ross, Scott Hazelton, Andrea Peraner-Sweet, State Senator Eileen Donaghue, State Representative Jim Arciero, Don Siriani, and Veteran Service Officer - Terry Stader*

## Friends of East Boston Camps

The poster features a vibrant, painterly background of a forest scene. A large, bright sun with swirling yellow and orange rays is positioned in the upper center. The trees are rendered in shades of green and brown, with a path leading through them. The text is overlaid on this scene.

Summer  
**Solstice**  
Celebration

Westford's East Boston Camps

Saturday, June 21, 2014  
5:30 pm

- ★ An elegant, romantic evening under the stars
- ★ Gourmet Dining by Two Chefs are Better Than One Catering
- ★ Live music & dancing with The Lookouts & critically acclaimed blues singer Sunny Crossover

Sponsored by Westford Friends of East Boston Camps  
WestfordFriendsEBC.org solstice@westfordfriendsebc.org  
Call Peter Mahler at 617 759-7323

## Water Department News - Summer Water Use Restrictions

Summer is almost here and with the hot weather comes increased demand on our water supply. The Westford Water Department's outdoor water conservation stages are described below. **Currently, we are under the Stage I Voluntary Odd/Even Restrictions**, and with our customer's support (and a little help from Mother Nature) there won't be a need to implement the Stage 2 or 3 mandatory restrictions. If we do need to implement mandatory outdoor water use restrictions then we will notify our customers in the local newspaper, on Westford CAT, and using outdoor signage.



### **Stage I (Voluntary Odd/Even With Time Restrictions):**

#### **Voluntary Restrictions (May 1 – October 31):**

Odd/Even Outdoor Watering with Time Restrictions: customers are requested to voluntarily minimize outdoor water usage by complying with an odd/even schedule. Those with odd numbered addresses should restrict outdoor watering to odd numbered days, and even numbered addresses to even numbered days.

Outdoor watering should not be performed between 9 am and 6 pm.

Customers are requested to fill swimming pools before June 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Stage II (Mandatory Odd/Even With Time Restrictions):**

#### **Mandatory Restrictions:**

Odd/Even Outdoor Watering Using Automatic Sprinklers: customers must restrict non-essential outdoor water usage by complying with an odd/even schedule. Those with odd numbered addresses must restrict outdoor watering to odd numbered days, and even numbered addresses to even numbered days.

Outdoor watering is prohibited between 9 am and 6 pm.

The filling of swimming pools is prohibited.

Use of a hand-held hose with an automatic shut-off or watering can is not subject to this restriction.

### **Stage III (Emergency):**

#### **Mandatory Restrictions:**

**ALL OUTDOOR NON-ESSENTIAL WATER USE IS PROHIBITED**

**Non-essential outdoor water usage shall mean those that are not required:**

- For health or safety reasons
- By regulation
- For the production of food and fiber
- For the maintenance of livestock
- To meet the core functions of a business

**Non-essential outdoor water usage subject to mandatory restrictions includes:**

- Irrigation of lawns using sprinklers or automated irrigation systems
- Filling of swimming pools, washing of exterior building surfaces, parking lots, driveways, or sidewalks, except as necessary to apply paint, preservatives, stucco, pavement, or cement
- Washing of vehicles
- Any other use deemed non-essential by the Water Department

## Health Department News

### Recreational Camps Licensed

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health requires that all recreational, day, and overnight camps for children must be inspected and licensed by the local board of health in the city or town where the camp is located.

The primary purpose of the regulations and inspection is to ensure that the camp provides an appropriate environment to protect the health, safety, and well being of the campers. The regulations also establish minimum sanitary and housing standards to protect the children at camp.

At the Health Department, we inspect and check all camp polices, safe structures and equipment, background checks on all staff and volunteers, adequate sanitary facilities, sufficient supervision of campers, appropriate plans in case of medical emergencies, natural and other physical disasters, injury and fire preventions plans, and immunizations.

The proposed 2014 licensed and inspected Recreational Camps for Children located in Westford, MA are:

1. One Stop Fun - Powers Rd.
2. The Camp at Nashoba Valley - Powers Rd.
3. Westford Swim and Tennis Club Camp - Littleton, Rd.
4. Triple Threat Academy, Westford Academy
5. Marcus Lewis Day Camp Program - East Boston Camps
6. Emily Piper of Rumphius - Meadowbrook Farm
7. Volo Farm

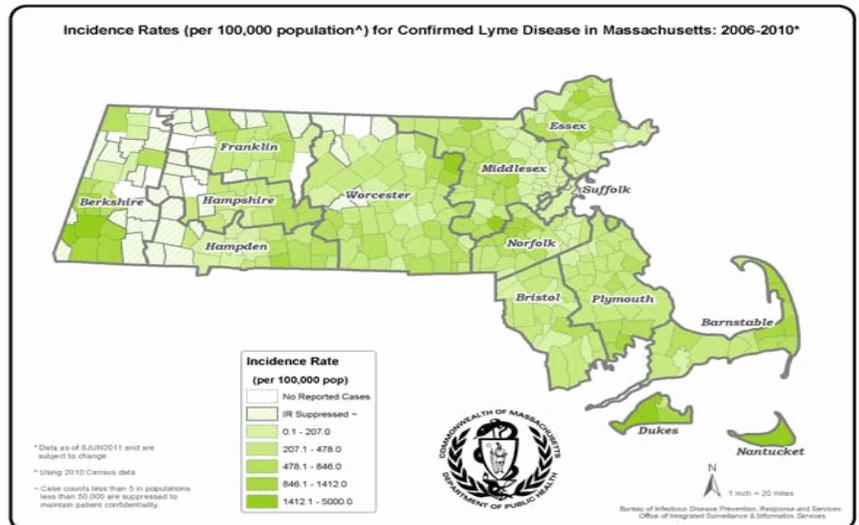
Any other programs, clinics, or listed camps are **not** inspected by the Westford Health Department.

Health Department News (continued)

Tick Borne Illnesses and Prevention

Tick-borne illnesses are of great concern in Westford, as they are in most of Massachusetts as well as the northeastern part of the United States, but the illness is preventable! Please take our survey to test your knowledge about tick-borne diseases and how to prevent them. The survey is on-line at <http://tinyurl.com/MiddlesexTickSurvey>.

The survey contains answers to questions about ticks, tick-borne illnesses, and prevention strategies for residents and their pets. Survey results will help our Health Department and the region to better understand residents' baseline knowledge of tick-borne illnesses, experience with these diseases, and risk of exposure. This will help tailor future educational programs toward the needs of our communities. Data will be collected through the end of June.



Watch for early signs and symptoms of tick-related illness and be sure to report to your doctors if you have cause for concern. Untreated, these diseases can cause a number of health problems, but prevention methods have proven to be effective. Please go to [www.westfordma.gov/health](http://www.westfordma.gov/health) for more information on tick-borne illness.

Reported Cases of Lyme Disease -- United States, 2010



1 dot placed randomly within county of residence for each confirmed case

## **Health Department News (continued)**

### **Discounted Rate Arranged For Residents to Test Deer Ticks**

If residents find a deer tick they want to have tested, a discounted rate has been arranged through the Laboratory of Medical Zoology (LMZ) at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. The LMZ will receive, identify, test and report the occurrence of ticks and associated diseases to residents, the Health Department and the state Department of Public Health.

To submit a tick, go to [www.tickdiseases.org](http://www.tickdiseases.org) and fill out the information required. At the checkout phase of the process, you can also choose additional tests (prices are shown). Results will be received by email within 5-10 days.

The tick will be tested for *Borrelia burgdorferi*, associated with Lyme disease, as well as *Anaplasma phagocytophilum* and *Babesia microti*, the principal emerging and potentially lethal pathogens that cause Anaplasmosis and Babesiosis, respectively. The cost for testing is at a discounted rate of \$50. You can pay by credit card or by check.

Medical Zoologist Stephen Rich, LMZ Director, shares "It's been exciting to be a part of truly collaborative effort between town health officials and the University. The \$50 is a discount from the \$140 currently charged to the public to test for three important tick pathogens. The reduction is possible because with higher volumes and fixed funding the LMZ can meet costs and provide high quality service, Rich says. Distribution of these pathogens in ticks is poorly understood and likely varies substantially across the state, he adds.

At present the LMZ at UMass Amherst receives thousands of ticks, dead or alive, from across the country to help map the distribution of different types and categorize the many disease-causing pathogens they carry. The service helps families and their physicians as well as epidemiologists, says Rich, and is a good example of how the university's flagship campus can partner with communities to meet concerns about a very real threat to public health.

Established in 2006, the LMZ tested about 2,000 ticks from 40 states last year, Rich says. Building its database continually expands its usefulness to epidemiologists who track the growing number of disease causing pathogens carried by these ticks.

Rich explains, "We're not practicing medicine or diagnosing disease, but we can help provide clues for patients and physicians. It's like radon testing. If you have your house tested for radon and it's positive, you don't go to your oncologist and tell him or her that you have cancer. But still, your exposure level is important information for both you and the doctor. It's the same thing with ticks. If you know the tick that bit you tested positive for a pathogen that causes a certain disease, you can take that information to your doctor. It can help to narrow down your diagnosis more quickly."

## Conservation Commission News

### Stony Brook Conservation Land Update

The new sign (right) at the entrance on Depot Road for the Stony Brook Conservation Land as required by the passage of Article 29 at Annual Town Meeting last March has been installed.

Former Select Person Nancy Rosinski has volunteered to refinish the East Boston Camps sign that used to be in this location, and it will be relocated to the entrance of the Day Camp area when that is completed. The EBC sign that was located at the camp gate has been relocated up to the Boys Camp (below).

Thanks to Steve Vinal of the Highway Department for his help in relocating the old signs and setting up the new sign.

