



October 2011



Jodi Ross
Town Manager
978-692-5500

jross@westfordma.gov
www.westfordma.gov/tm

October 17,
Fall Special Town Meeting
7:30 p.m. Held in the Abbot School
School Gymnasium.

October 22,
Town wide white goods
appliance pick up. Pur-
chase stickers for \$30 per
item at the Town Clerk's
Office to have your appli-
ance or metal item removed
from curbside.

October 22,
10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
The Recycling Commission
and the Highway Depart-
ment will conduct brush
chipping for residents only
at the Highway Garage, 28
North Street.

October 28 and 29
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Cameron Senior Center
Harvest Fair
20 Pleasant Street
(Crafts, food, raffle and
more.) (see page 3.)

October 29
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Dispose of unused or ex-
pired drugs safely during
the Cameron Senior Center
Harvest Fair (see page 5.)

Watch Meetings Online



www.westfordcat.org

Dear Westford Residents,

Our fall Special Town Meeting is Monday, October 17, 2011, at 7:30 p.m. in the Abbot School Gymnasium. Please join us (a quorum of 200 is needed to begin the meeting) and exercise your vote on the 13 articles in the warrant. The warrant and all reports to be presented at the meeting are posted on our website www.westfordma.gov. I have highlighted some of the articles below:

Article 1 seeks funding to supplement town departmental operating budgets for the current fiscal year:

- 131 Finance Committee Reserve Fund \$50,000
- 291 Animal Control (Personal Services) \$16,040
- 543 Veterans Services (Personal Services) \$20,618
- 543 Veterans Services (Expenses) \$20,000

We are also asking town meeting to adjust the funding source for the Recreation Enterprise Fund and the Ambulance Enterprise Fund.

Article 2 will transfer \$6,052 from expenses to personal services within the Animal Control Department budget.

Article 4 is a citizen's petition, and is asking the town to authorize the Board of Selectmen to purchase the property located at 57 Main Street for general municipal purposes.

Article 5 is seeking a transfer of \$170,000 from the Perchlorate Stabilization Fund for the purpose of providing funds to remediate perchlorate contamination of our public and private water supplies.

Article 7 is seeking \$1,500,000 to complete water distribution improvements in the Graniteville section of town. This project is needed to improve fire hydrant flow and water quality to the customers in Graniteville by replacing aging and undersized infrastructure.

Article 8 Red Hat, Inc., an open source software company whose research and development headquarters is located in Tech Park West, is seeking approval of a Tax Increment Financing Agreement with the town, to enable it to construct an approximate 100,000 sq. ft. addition, and create at least 181 new computer engineering and other positions.

Article 9 allows the town to set the tax rate.

Article 10 is seeking approval to apply for a \$500,000 PARC Grant toward the \$2,100,000 estimated costs to create 3 new American Legion (Graniteville) ball fields on the Stepinski parcel; this vote is requirement of the PARC grant application.

Article 11 is seeking to amend the definitions of "Pond" and "Freshwater Wetlands" so as to exempt active quarry pits and storm water control basins from the definitions, and make the local bylaw consistent with the state Wetlands Protection Act Regulations.

Article 12 proposes to replace the existing Wireless Communications Facilities zoning bylaw with a more comprehensive new bylaw to regulate Radio Telecommunications Facilities, including cell towers. The article is intended to maximize the Town's control over the location and design of such facilities within the limits imposed by Federal law. The new bylaw sets out a clear special permit process to be administered by the Board of Appeals.

(Continued on page 2)



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Article 13 is seeking to transfer care and custody of three town-owned land-locked parcels along Vine Brook under the care and custody of the Tax Possession Sale Committee (Parcel 6 on Assessors' Map 6; Parcel 61 on Map 11; and Parcel 9 on Map 12) to the care and custody of the Conservation Commission.

We hope to see you at our special town meeting.

I am pleased to announce that the Senior Center's Open Studio Group art class was the recipient of six state awards in the State House Christmas card design contest. Also, our "town photographer" Bill Turner, also our long-time Conservation/Resource Planner, submitted his "planetized" 360-degree panorama of the Westford Common to the Massachusetts Municipal Association's annual "Heart of the Community" calendar contest. We wish him luck with this extraordinary photo!

In closing, it is with great sadness that I learned of the passing of another Westford treasure, R. Ward Healy, who left us at the young age of 47. Ward is survived by his wife Kim, his children, and a large, loving family – many of whom have served as town officials at differing times throughout their own lives. Ward was a truly exceptional person, a friend to all, and although I only knew him a short time, the stories I have heard illustrate what a wonderful man he was. He will be missed. Please join me in extending sincere condolences to his family.

Sincerely,

Jodi Ross



360-degree Panorama
of the Westford Common
by William Turner



J. V. Fletcher Library News

The Friends of the J.V. Fletcher Library Inc. will be holding a book sale on Saturday, October 22 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, October 23 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the meeting room of the library at 50 Main Street, Westford. On Sunday all materials will be offered at half price. Now there is more time to shop at the preview sale! The sale will be opening one half hour earlier at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, October 21 and closing at 9 p.m. This preview sale is for Friends members only. Memberships will be available at the door. The sale will include over 10,000 books plus CDs, cassettes, LPs/vinyl, audio books, DVDs, and videos. Regular prices are 50 cents and up for paperbacks and \$1 and up for hardcover books. 100% of the proceeds from all book sales directly benefit our library unlike other organizations collecting book donations that do not donate 100% of their proceeds. Approximately 95% of the books offered at these sales are donated by Westford residents.

\$\$ Help the Town Save Money \$\$: Sign up now to receive email reminders (to be notified of your reserved or overdue items): Help the Library save money on postage, supplies and staff by contacting us at 978-399-2301 -- or mentioning that you'd like your email address added to your account during your next Library visit -- to sign up for this service. If you already receive emails regarding reserved items, then you are already signed up! Thank you.

www.westfordlibrary.org



Cameron Senior Center News

Harvest Fair

Please join us on Friday, October 28 and Saturday, October 29 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Cameron, 20 Pleasant Street, Forgevillage and support our annual fund raiser.

The friends of Cameron Harvest Fair will feature homemade knitted goods, jewelry, American Doll clothes, gift baskets, games of chance, and a lot more.

Stop by and do some shopping, purchase a lucky raffle ticket, and browse in our thrift shop.

If you're too busy that weekend perhaps you can donate a prize that can be raffled.





Health Department News

Flu Clinic Schedule

The Westford Health Department will sponsor flu clinics on the dates, times and locations listed below. No appointments are necessary. ** Please note that because of limited pediatric vaccine, we request that those under the age of 36 months receive their vaccine from their MD, if possible. All children under 18 years must be accompanied by a parent at all clinics. The State's supply of vaccine has been greatly reduced, so clinics will be held until vaccine is depleted. Please bring insurance information to the clinic, as the town can seek reimbursement from insurance carriers.

Thursday Oct. 20: 12:30-3:30 Senior Citizens/High Risk @ Franco American Club

12:30-1:30 > last names beginning with A-J

1:30-2:30 > last names beginning with K-P

2:30-3:30 > last names beginning with Q-Z

Friday, Oct. 28: 10:00-12:00 @ JV Fletcher Library

Thursday, Nov. 3: 5:00-8:00 p.m. @ Millennium (dependent on vaccine availability)

Friday, Nov. 4: 10:00-12:00 @ JV Fletcher Library (dependent on vaccine availability)

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

For up-to-date information during the flu season, visit the Health Department website at www.westfordma.gov/boh or sign up for our Health Department listserv at www.westfordma.gov/subscriber

School-based flu clinics will be offered again in November to all Westford Public School students. The FluMist nasal spray will be the only form of the vaccine offered for this program. Parents will be notified about the dates, registration process and restrictions through the Westford Board of Health Listserv, via e-mail from the WPS Superintendent's office and through the WPS Billboard listserv. Information will NOT be mailed home. Registration information is available on the Board of Health website and at the Health Department.

The 2011-2012 vaccine provides protection against an A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like virus; an A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2)-like virus; and a B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus. It 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 eggs cannot receive this vaccine.

Annual influenza vaccine is recommended for everyone **6 months of age and older**. Everyone, regardless of prior vaccination with either seasonal or H1N1 vaccine, 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 may be pregnant during influenza season and postpartum women.

People > 6 months of age who have:

- Chronic pulmonary (including asthma), cardiovascular (except hypertension), renal, hepatic, neurologic, 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).



Health Department News (continued)

STROKE PREVENTION PROGRAM - HEROES ACT F.A.S.T.

Stroke is the number three cause of death and the leading cause of adult disability in the United States; yet only one in four people recognizes all the signs of stroke. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health developed the Stroke Heroes Act FAST program. The program teaches the importance of the FAST model (Face, Arm, Speech, Time) for recognizing and responding quickly to the signs and symptoms of stroke.

Facts about stroke and reducing your risk will also be discussed.

This information can be lifesaving for yourself or a loved one.

Presenter: Lisa Slattery R.N. Reservations required. Call 978 692-5509 by Nov 15 to register.

Date: Thursday, November 17
Time: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 pm
Location: Town Hall – Conference Room- 2nd floor

Unused or Expired Medication Collection

The Westford Police Department, in conjunction with the Health Department and the Upper Merrimac Valley Medical Reserve Corps, will have a booth at the Cameron Senior Center Harvest Fair. We will be accepting all of your unused or expired medication. We will have a recycling container available to dispose of the plastic containers. Please remove or obscure all identifying labels or marks on the containers prior to disposal. A pharmacist will be available to answer questions.

The Westford Board of Health will also be collecting Sharps (syringes and lancets) from Westford Residents only. All materials must be delivered in a sharps container, and it is requested that containers are full before dropping off. This will help avoid unnecessary costs pertaining to the disposal of the materials. No commercial businesses may use this service.

If you have any questions please call the Westford Board of Health Department at 978-692-5509

Please follow these directions to ensure proper disposal of sharps containers:

- No Loose Needles
- All sharps must be disposed of in a sharps container or you may use a puncture resistant container such as a one-gallon bleach bottle; a one-pound sealed and taped coffee can or a 1.5 liter plastic soda bottle.
- No glass containers.
- No plastic or paper bags.

This is a great time to clean out your medicine closets and dispose of the unused or expired meds safely!!

October 29, 2011
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Cameron Senior Center

