



July 2015



Jodi Ross,
Town
Manager

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Dear Westford residents,

I am pleased to announce our recent receipt of several grants. We were awarded a Green Community Grant in the amount of \$235,000 to allow us to complete five energy efficiency projects to help meet our goal of achieving a 20% municipal energy reduction by FY17. We received a \$30,000 grant from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection for Water Infrastructure Planning and Technical Assistance, and a \$20,000 grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission for addition improvements to the Westford Museum. Our staff is committed to applying for any and all grants to help us save our taxpayers money while also allowing us to achieve our goals and complete needed projects for our town.

I am proud to announce we just received a Local Governance Excellence Award from the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) for our town's participation in the regional Transportation Management Association, called CrossTown Connect. More information is available here: [CrossTown Connect](#).

As part of the Westford Knight Preservation and Revitalization Project, on Saturday, June 13th the [Westford Remembers Memorial Fund](#) unveiled the



*Steven Sinclair of Clan Sinclair,
Richard Gunn of Clan Gunn, and
David Christiana.*

Westford Knight Sculpture, designed and created by Westford firefighter David Christiana. Over 120 people from across the country attended the unveiling. Thank you to the artist and sculptor David, the Memorial Fund volunteers, Westford Recreation Department for landscaping the site, the Firefighters Pipes and Drums for performing, and the Police Department for doing a great job diverting traffic. The pictures from the unveiling ceremony are courtesy of Tammy Fannon.

(continued on next page)

I take great pride in announcing and congratulating our first full time Deputy Fire Chief, Dan Britko, on his promotion from Fire Captain to this new position, and also to Fire Captain Paul Lemieux who was promoted from Lieutenant, and Lieutenant Michael Denehy who was promoted from firefighter. These are remarkable achievements and I know these new officers will greatly contribute to the already outstanding fire department we have. I would also like to congratulate Firefighter Sean Brown for successfully completing the Fire Academy. Please join me in also congratulating Firefighter David Christiana for receiving the Westford Academy Alumni Association's "Distinguished Alumni" Award. He is one of only 19 to receive this award since its inception.

Leslie Thomas was honored during the June 17, 2015 Unsung Heroines of Massachusetts Celebration by the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women for outstanding contributions to our community. To learn more about Leslie's 35+ years of community service, please view the Lowell Sun Q&A here: [Leslie Thomas](#)



Lowell Sun Staff Photo-Ryan McBride

On June 25th Selectmen Chair Scott Hazelton and I had the opportunity to join MassDOT Secretary and CEO Stephanie Pollack and other state and local officials at the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Phase 2A groundbreaking. When completed, the Rail Trail will join the communities of Lowell, Chelmsford, Westford, Carlisle, Acton, Concord, Sudbury, and Framingham, following the 25-mile route of the old New Haven Railroad's Framingham & Lowell line. Phase 2A will extend the trail through Westford, Carlisle, and Acton ending at a location just north of Route 2. A Lowell Sun article on the Phase 2 expansion can be accessed here: [BFRT Phase 2](#)



The Board of Selectmen is interested in hearing from residents regarding improving communication from Town government. Please consider participating in the Resident Communication Survey at the following link: [Communication Survey](#)

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MassDOT is looking to expand regional bus service throughout the Commonwealth and is requesting input from residents. Please fill out the survey below to help them identify areas of need and to develop recommendations to enhance their service. [BusPlus](#)



A program sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation

The October 19, 2015 Special Town Meeting Timeline is now available: [STM Timeline](#). Please note that the deadline to submit a citizen petition warrant article is Tuesday, September 8, 2015 at 12:00 noon.

The Selectmen recently approved my appointments to the newly formed Commission on Disability. Thank you to Patricia Reppucci, Janet Horner, Katherine Phaneuf, Raymond Clark, Scott Hazelton, Marguerite Sabatino, Joyce Benoit and Alternates Linda Clifford and Dawn Dillon. To contact the Commission please visit: [Commission on Disability](#)

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There are several openings on other local boards and committees, including the Bylaw Review, Communications Advisory, Cultural Council, Historical Commission, Public Works Initiative Committee, Tax Possession Sale Committee, Arts Technology Scholarship 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.

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](#).

And finally it is with great sadness that I acknowledge the passing of long time Westford resident, town volunteer including former Selectman, and 21 year military service veteran John "Jack" Wrobel, who passed away unexpectedly on July 7th. His contributions to our town were numerous and significant, extended over many years, and included membership on several committees and boards, including holding both elected and appointed positions. The flag will be flown at half mast in his honor on July 18th, the day of his memorial services and burial. He will be greatly missed.

Sincerely,



Jodi Ross
Town Manager



*Summertime in Westford's new
Community Gardens*



Council On Aging - Coming Events

CAMERON GRILL NIGHT

Thursday, July 23rd from 4:00 - 6:30 PM.

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

The cost is \$2.00 per grill night. (Grill closes at 6:00 PM).

Volunteers needed for clean-up.

DANA GOCNE DABE (HELLO MY GOOD FRIEND)

Tuesday, July 28th at 1:30 PM.

Come enjoy a fantastic Native American experience for all to enjoy.

Given by Sandy Shepherd and friends.

Sandy will speak about the part Native Americans played in the wars.

You will have an opportunity to look at weapons, important documents and pictures as well as enjoy some other Native American talent.

Refreshments will include fried corn bread and herbal tea.

Please RSVP by calling 978-692-5523.



Westford Senior Center

INTERGENERATIONAL SUMMER FUN DAY

Wednesday, August 5th, 11 AM 'till 1 PM

Summer Fun for all ages; outdoor and indoor activities with a cook out lunch.

Activities will include, Canvas Creations with Eggs and Paint, a Water Relay, Bean Bag Toss, Orange Toss, Face Painting, Cookie Decorating and BINGO!

Please RSVP at least two business days ahead of time so we can plan for food.

RSVP by calling the Front Desk at 978 692 5523.

VOLUNTEER/ACTIVITIES

Please Join our Team! We are always looking for new Volunteers. If you are interested, please give Katie a call at 978-399-2330 or send her an Email at krussell@westfordma.gov.

Areas and programs that are looking for more volunteers:

Fitness Room: Multiple shifts available

Cameron Closet Sales Clerk: Seeking shifts Thursdays 12 PM - 3 PM

Meals on Wheels Drivers: A rewarding way to give back to the community.

Each route takes about an hour to deliver food to the door of the Meals on Wheels clients.

Newsletter Volunteers: Seeking helpers to fold the newsletters.

Salad Bar Helper: To cut the vegetables, set-up and clean-up the salad bar.

Thursdays and Fridays during the summer.

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

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

J.V. Fletcher Library

PLAYAWAY LAUNCHPADS ARE READY FOR TAKE-OFF!!

The Library is thrilled to introduce Westford families to our newest, cutting-edge “kids only” technology collection: “Playaway Launchpads.” Imagine a tablet device, encased in thick rubber - so that it is easy for children to hold yet hard to break - that comes preloaded with age-appropriate, high-quality learning apps. Specifically, each Playaway Launchpad is labeled as either: Ages 3-5; Ages 5-7; Ages 8-10 or Ages 10 and up; they feature learning apps grouped together by subject area, theme, grade level and age. From math to monkeys to science and super heroes, every Launchpad experience is an adventure.



Playaway Launchpads are ideally suited for summertime educational fun as they are pre-loaded with age-appropriate content which caregivers may monitor through a parental console to follow how children have spent their time on the Launchpad. The [content collection](#) spans subject areas from math and science to critical thinking and creativity, and features themed learning packs including animals, princesses, fantasy, nature and much more. Visit Youth Services at the Fletcher Library to check one out and let the fun begin.

WWW.WESTFORDLIBRARY.ORG

Agricultural Committee Photo Contest Winners

“Grown Here in Westford” Photo Contest and Exhibit

Hundreds of Westford residents took part in the Agricultural Commission’s “Grown Here in Westford” Photo Contest in June. Residents were invited to submit a photo of anything that was grown or raised in town, and the photos were judged by popular vote by visitors to the the First Parish Church’s 40th Annual Strawberries ‘n Art Festival held on June 20 on Westford Common. This program gave the Westford Agricultural Commission a chance to meet and get to know many more supporters of local agriculture in town, and it raised awareness of the wide array of agricultural pursuits that are enjoyed by our residents.



“Porch Pumpkins” by Jennifer Hammond, first, 18 and over category



“Organic Pest Control” by Meghan Bearfield, second, 18 and over category



“Lily of the Valley” by Kim Cassie, third, 18 and over category



“Beauty” by Sidney Shea, first, under 18 category

The Agricultural Commission congratulates all of the winners, and reminds us that an exhibit of all entries is on display through August 31 in the Avis Gallery at the Roudenbush Community Center.



“Handful of Happy” by Brienne Gouldson, 5, second, Under 18 category



“Lilac” by Makayla Cassie, 7, third, under 18 category

Recycling Commission

Westford Yard Waste Collection August 1

Acme Waste Systems will be collecting yard waste for a fee from Westford residents' homes on Saturday, August 1, 2015. The cost is \$1.25 per bag with a minimum charge of \$20.00 per pickup. To register before August 1, call the Westford Town Clerk's office at 978-692-5515.

There must be a minimum of 50 residents' requests to insure the yard waste collection is held. Please tell your neighbors!

Place your leaves, grass clippings and pine needles into brown paper leaf bags and have them at the curb by 7 AM on August 1. Leaves will not be picked up if they are not in brown paper leaf bags.

You pay Acme directly by attaching a check payable to Acme Waste Systems to one of your leaf bags on the August 1 collection day.

Detailed information about recycling in Westford can be found at www.westfordma.gov/recycling.

Westford Summer Recycling Update - 2015

Is it time to upgrade your recycling bin to a 64-gallon wheeled recycling toter? They are available to buy as an option for Westford residents. Send a check for \$50 to the Westford Town Hall, 55 Main St., payable to "Westford Recycling Commission," and you will be contacted for pickup of your new toter.

Do you have a barrel you can turn into a recycling container? Obtain a free "RECYCLE" sticker for the barrel from the Town Clerk's office.

Have you thought about composting your kitchen vegetable scraps? It is a way to reduce your trash, and when the compost is ready you can use it in your garden.

Earth Machine composters are available for \$45 by calling 978-692-6986.

Do you have discards of furniture, carpeting, and other items too large to fit in a trash barrel for pickup at the curb? Go to www.westfordma.gov/recycling and click on the Quick Link button: Bulk Items & Policy. You will find places where you can purchase a bulk item sticker for \$5 and then you can leave those items at the curb on trash day.

Do you have things that are reusable and can be donated? Go to www.westfordma.gov/recycling and click on the Quick Link button: Recycle Everything for suggestions.

Westford thanks you for recycling, reducing, repurposing, and reusing!



Conservation Commission

Hill Orchard Opens July 17th



The Westford Conservation Commission is pleased to announce the opening of the Hill Orchard located at 4 Hunt Road. Meet Farmer Dave and check out his locally grown produce including tomatoes, cucumbers, beans, summer squash, kale, beets and berries!

The farm stand is open 11 to 6 every day except Tuesday and Wednesday. On Tuesdays you can find Farmer Dave at the Westford Farmers Market.

Attention Realtors and Residents

Are you selling a home? Has it been inspected for compliance with Title V? If a septic upgrade is required and the work is within 100 feet of a wetland resource area a wetland filing with the Westford Conservation Commission will be required.

Contact Carol Gumbart, Westford's Conservation Resource Planner for more information and assistance at 978-692-5524.

Health Department

Department says Goodbye to Director of Environmental Services

After 17 years in the Town of Westford, The Department said goodbye to Darren MacCaughey, Director of Environmental Services, who accepted a new position in Wayland. Darren provided Westford many years of excellent service and worked diligently to make our community healthier. He will be missed! The Board of Health and the Health Department wish him the very best in his new endeavors.



Town Clerk's Corner

Bow Hunting on approved town parcels for Westford residents only.

Bow Hunting Lottery/Permit applications are available for Westford residents only beginning July 1st and are due no later than Friday, August 7, 2015. The Lottery will be held by August 14, 2015.



Bow Hunting permits are valid from September 1st through December 31st. A Town Notice identifying parcels for which permits have been issued shall be broadcast no later than August 25th.

Town regulations, lottery/permit applications, and hunting maps are available on the town website at www.westfordma.gov/hunting or at the Town Clerk's Office Monday through Friday 8:00am to 4:00pm.

Fish & Wildlife Abstracts:

Online Version: <http://www.eregulations.com/massachusetts/huntingandfishing/pageFlip>

PDF Version: http://www.eregulations.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/15MAAB_LR.pdf

Voter Information

Updated Election Calendar		
Date	Event	Voter registration deadline
October 19, 2015 7:30pm	Special Town Meeting Abbot School	October 9, 2015, 8:00pm
March 1, 2016 7:00am – 8:00pm	Presidential Primary	February 10, 2016, 8:00pm
April 2, 2016 10:00am	Annual Town Meeting, Abbot School (Sat.)	March 11, 2016, 8:00pm
May 3, 2016 7:00am – 8:00pm	Annual Town Election (Tues.)	April 13, 2016, 8:00pm
September 20, 2016 7:00am – 8:00pm	State Primary	August 31, 2016, 8:00pm
October 19, 2016 7:30pm	Special Town Meeting Abbot School	10 days before Town Meeting
November 8, 2016 7:00am – 8:00pm	Presidential Election	October 19, 2016, 8:00pm

Census and Voter Inactivation

Final census notices were mailed in June and voter inactivation has begun. This is an important step to ensure that our voter data is current. We rely on your feedback and are required to inactivate census non-respondents who are voters. Inactive voters will have to fill out paperwork and show ID before voting at the polls. It's a lot easier to just return your census! If you never received one, please let us know (townclerk@westfordma.gov).

(Voter Information continued on next page)

Town Clerk's Corner (Voter Information continued)

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.

With the Presidential Primary on March 1st, 2016, now is the time to visit Secretary Galvin's website to check your voter registration status and make any updates as necessary.



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 (**This is new**). 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 \(CC\)](#)

Boards & Committees, Got Minutes?

Calling all past and current members of boards and committees! We are looking to complete our vast collection of committee minutes and we need your help. If you served on a board or committee, no matter how big or small, and have saved minutes, reports or other documents that pertain to that committee, please consider forwarding them to the Town Archives at the Clerk's Office.