



Town of Westford Massachusetts

Town Manager's Newsletter

November 2015



Jodi Ross,
Town
Manager

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

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

Dear Westford residents,

I am delighted to announce that our town recently received a \$200,000 MassWorks Grant to install an 8" ductile water main to the Abbot Mill Phase 2 apartment building. Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Jay Ash joined us at the Abbot Mill to present the award.



I am also pleased to inform you that both Secretary Ash and Secretary, of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Matthew Beaton, have recently toured the 12 North Main Street mill building. We are actively pursuing any and all state and/or federal funding to assist us with the redevelopment of this site.

At their October 13th meeting, the Board of Selectmen declared November 13, 2015 as World Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Day in an effort to bring more awareness to the disease. Pancreatic cancer is the fourth-leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the U.S. If you would like more information, or to get involved, please visit www.pancan.org.

The Agricultural Commission and community gardeners attended our October 13th Selectmen's meeting to thank our town staff for supporting their efforts and contributing towards a successful first year for the community garden.

Westford received three grants totaling over \$27,000 from our insurance company, Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association. These funds will support multiple loss control and risk management initiatives including: the purchase of emergency storage trailers, a snow blower for the Senior Center, playground repairs for various playgrounds, backup cameras for four fire trucks, and the implementation of a training and educational program related to information security.

Please join me in congratulating Selectman Andrea Peraner-Sweet for being named a Top Woman of Law by Lawyers Weekly. A complete list of honorees may be viewed here: [Top Women of Law](#).

(continued on next page)

Our October 19th Special Town Meeting was attended by 381 town residents. Please see the results of the articles below. If you would like to view Town Meeting documents they are available on our website at the following link: [STM 2015](#). Thank you to our town officials, employees and residents who contributed the success of this meeting.

Article	Title	Result
1	Approve Unpaid Bills from Previous Fiscal Year(s)	Passed unanimously
2	Approve Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Adjustments	Passed by majority
3	Approve Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Transfers	Dismissed unanimously
4	Appropriate to the Stabilization Fund	Passed unanimously
5	Purchase Two Storage Trailers for Emergency Shelters and Emergency Response Supplies	Dismissed unanimously
6	Reduce Amount Raised by Taxes in Fiscal Year 2016	Passed unanimously
7	Approve Community Preservation Committee Recommendations	Passed by majority
8	ADA Compliant Sidewalks on a Portion of Main Street	Failed for lack of majority
9	Authorize Board of Selectmen to Accept Easement on Depot Street	Dismissed by majority
10	Authorize the Board of Selectmen to Acquire by Gift a Vacant Parcel of Land Located off of 64 Main Street and Transfer Said Parcel From the Board of Selectmen to the Cons. Commission	Passed by 2/3 declared majority
11	Accept Aldrich Lane as Public Way	Passed unanimously

Veteran's Day services were held in the fire station on Wednesday, November 11, 2015, due to inclement weather. Many residents of all ages joined us as we honored our many veterans, past and present,



who have bravely served our country. Thank you to all who participated in this event, especially our own Veteran's Agent, Terry Stader, and our State Senator Eileen Donoghue and State Representative Jim Arciero, along with Selectmen Chair Kelly Ross.



The Westford Scholarship and Grant Committee (SAG) has announced that the first round of SAG Educator Grants is now open, with applications due on January 30, 2016. Also, the SAG Committee has worked with our Tax Collector/Treasurer to implement an online donation form for interested residents to donate to the Scholarship and Arts and Technology funds. For more information about the grant program and details about donating, please visit www.westfordma.gov/sag.

(continued on next page)

We recently received the results of our energy aggregation bid to procure a competitive supply rate for electricity for the entire community. We joined 24 towns to seek bids from competitive suppliers which were opened on November 10th with the low bid received of \$.0949/kWh for a term of 24 months, beginning January 2016. The town's energy consultant, Good Energy, will begin a public information campaign in December. At the start of the 30 day opt-out period, a Customer Notification Letter will be sent to all customers who are on the Basic Service with National Grid. This notification will include a chart comparing National Grid rates with the Competitive Supplier rate. During the opt-out period, if a resident or business owner does not send in the opt-out post card that is enclosed with the Customer Notification Letter, they will be automatically enrolled in the aggregation. If any customer has already signed up to receive electricity from a competitive supplier, they will not be sent a Customer Notification Letter. Customers with a competitive supplier can join the aggregation after their contract with the alternate suppliers has expired. If residents/business owners do not opt out, and choose to later, we have been informed they may opt out at any time. Those who do not opt out will still receive a bill from National Grid with ConEd Solutions listed as the supplier.

On November 10, 2015, the Board of Selectmen approved a single tax rate of \$16.30/thousand and a small commercial exemption of 10%, resulting in a rate of \$16.50/thousand for the remaining commercial/industrial taxpayers.

This year marked the 2nd Annual Preschool Trick-or-Treat at Town Hall. Local preschools and/or parents were invited to bring their preschool-age children for trick-or-treating at our Town Hall, Police Department and Fire Department. Many employees dressed in costumes, greeted the students and provide them with candy or other fun Halloween items. It was a fun time for everyone involved.



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.

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](#).

Happy Thanksgiving to you all!

Sincerely,

Jodi Ross
Town Manager

Council On Aging

HAM & BEAN SUPPER

Saturday, November 21, at 6 pm.

The Annual Ham and Bean Supper, sponsored by the Westford Firefighters Association, American Legion Post 159 and The Franco American Club. And will be held at the Franco American Club.

There is no charge for the dinner, but we encourage you to bring an item for the Food Pantry. Please pre-register at 978-692-5523.



THANKSGIVING DINNER

Sunday, November 22, at noon.

For the 17th year, Jim Geraghty, family and friends, are graciously hosting a Turkey Dinner for Westford seniors age 60 and over, November 22, at Westford Academy. Bingo will be from 10 am - noon, with lunch afterward.

Volunteers will serve this full-course homemade dinner to you.

Seating is limited. Reservations are necessary, so please call 978-692-5523.

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

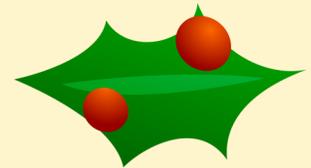
Wednesday, December 2.

Join us for a catered roast pork loin lunch, sponsored by the Friends of Cameron, at the Franco American Club. Doors open at 10:30 am.

Lunch, prepared by Shirley Caterers, will be served around 11:30 am.

Fee for residents is \$7; non-residents \$15.

For reservations, call 978-692-5523 by November 20.



Coldwell Banker recently donated \$1700 for Fuel Assistance to help ensure older adults and families in crisis are not without heat and hot water this winter season. We appreciate their partnership and their many areas of outreach that they provide to the Cameron Senior Center.

Pictured l to r: Kathy Cunningham, Coldwell Banker Realtor; Janet Moreno, Office Mgr.; Jennifer Claro, COA Director; Annette Cerullo, COA Outreach.

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

J.V. Fletcher Library

Lighting Upgrade at the J . V. Fletcher Library

The Library is pleased to be turning "greener"- thanks to Town of Westford Grant funding – as we embark on a comprehensive Lighting Upgrade and energy savings project. Patrons parking in the rear of the Library will notice a large storage container that will hold the new bulbs and lighting fixtures that eventually will brighten many departments in the Library.



We apologize for any inconveniences to our patrons as workmen hover above them during the installation period, but in the long run all Town projects benefitting from the Green Communities Grant mean savings for the community. In particular the Library's Lighting Upgrade means that our current building will contribute to the Town's overall goal of a 20 percent municipal energy reduction by the 2017 fiscal year.



Massachusetts
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
RESOURCES

WESTFORD
DESIGNATED 2013

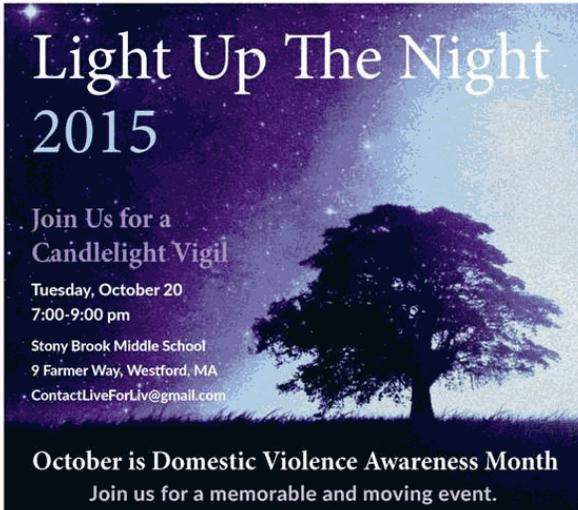
*Photo of existing
fluorescent lighting.*



WWW.WESTFORDLIBRARY.ORG

Health Department

WA STUDENTS COLLABORATE ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM



Special thanks to Westford Academy staff and students who collaborated with the Westford Coalition for Non Violence and Live for Liv for this year's **Take Back the Night** event, held on Oct 20 at Stony Brook School.

Westford Academy Playwriting, Theatre Arts and Honors Coral students performed original monologues and songs addressing domestic violence. The event was attended by close to 100 people who stated that it was one of the most "profound" "moving" and "impactful" events they had ever seen. Marie Crocker from Alternative House also presented on available resources . The night ended with a candlelight vigil to recognize victims of domestic violence.

Thanks also to John Hooper of TriLighting in Tewksbury, who donated the beautiful purple lighting in the town center and at Stony Brook School. He did this to bring awareness to Domestic Violence.

For additional information on available resources or WCNV please call 978 399-2908 or see www.wcnv.org.

Candlelight vigil honoring victims of domestic violence.
Performances by: Westford Academy Theater Arts students, who will perform original monologues and short scenes, and the Westford Academy Honors Choir, who will sing *Inspiration of Hope, Fix You* by Coldplay, and *Wide Awake* by Katy Perry.
Presentation by: Maria Crocker, Assistant Director of Residential Services at Alternative House in Lowell.





Health Department (continued)



NUTRITION FOR PEAK PERFORMANCE ON THE FIELD AND IN THE CLASSROOM

Joan Buchbinder, MS, RD, CSSD, LDN, FADA, FAND -- team nutritionist for the Boston Celtics, and formerly the New England Patriots is coming to Westford!! She will share her expertise on how to choose the right foods, for you and your children, to optimize performance on the playing field, in the gym, as well as in the classroom or at the worksite.

Joan will help you make wise decisions on what to feed your children to help them maximize their energy not just for team sports, but throughout the day in school. She will clarify some of the myths and misconceptions that surround nutrition today. You will leave having learned facts about nutrition that you didn't know.

Date: Tuesday, November 17
Location: Stony Brook Middle School Auditorium
Time: 7:00 to 9:00 pm

This program is co-sponsored by the Westford Parent Connection.
www.westfordparentconnection.com

Register Additional Phone Numbers with Code Red / Reverse 911

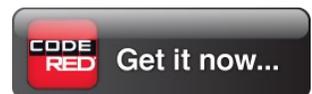


CodeRED is a Community Messaging System, used to notify residences of emergency, non-emergency and general information through an automated telephone dialing system, which sends a message automatically to thousands of targeted residences and/or contact databases.

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. If you had previously registered in the CityWatch system you do not need to register again in CodeRED.

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

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



Set Your Radio Preset to Westford Emergency Management's 1630 AM
In an emergency tune in to 1630 AM for local information.

Health Department (continued)

THE SECRET LIFE OF A MASSACHUSETTS TEEN

Do you wonder... What teens are really thinking? Why they don't share their fears? How we can better support teens? How we can become better parents?

Join us with our speaker, Jon Mattleman, for this high-energy presentation. The program actively focuses on what teens are really thinking, what they fear, why they do not share their fears, and how parents can more effectively support their teen. This presentation will cover areas such as acting out behaviors, drug and alcohol use, depression, suicide, and more.

Parents will leave the workshop with:

- Strategies they can implement immediately
- New ways of understanding teens
- Innovative techniques for engaging teens
- Confidence, courage, and a new language to speak to their kids



Jon Mattleman has 30 years of experience as a mental health counselor and trainer, and has spoken to thousands of parents in schools, community groups, and religious organizations. His presentation style is engaging, warm, respectful, humorous, accessible, and energetic.

Learn more about Jon at: jonmattleman.com

Date: Thursday, December 3, 2015

Location: Stony brook Auditorium

Time: 7-9 pm

RSVP recommended by Nov 27th by calling 978 692-5509

"Jon's many years of working with teens become quickly apparent by the insightful information he presents, in a very funny and right-on-target way. His connection with the audience was visible by the many heads shaking in agreement and the flurry of questions parents were anxious to ask. My only advice is to reserve a big room - we had close to 150 parents attend on a cold and snowy night!"

*- Susan Griffin,
PTO President, Belmont, MA*

This program is co-sponsored by the Westford Parent Connection.

www.westfordparentconnection.com

Health Department (continued)

SAFE TURKEY PREPARATION FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The holiday season is just about upon us again and the Westford Health Department and the Partnership for Food Safety Education wants everybody to celebrate and enjoy Thanksgiving safely! While preparing your family feasts, we want to remind everybody to keep food safety in mind. Here are a few tips and thoughts.

CLEAN: Wash hands and surfaces often.

SEPARATE: Separate raw meats from other foods.

COOK: Cook to the right temperature (Turkey to 165 degrees)

CHILL: Refrigerate food promptly



Additionally, The Westford Health Department and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission would like to issue some safety tips for preventing fires and burns when using turkey fryers. Turkey fryers have become very popular in the past few years, due to the ability to cook a turkey quickly, but there is some risk in using them. The majority of reported incidents occurred while the oil was being heated, prior to adding the turkey. For this reason, it is very important consumers monitor the temperature of the oil closely. If **any smoke at all** is noticed coming from a heating pot of oil, the burner should be turned off immediately because the oil is overheated.

There is a risk of injury resulting from splashing due to the cooking of partially frozen meats. Thoroughly thaw and dry ALL meats before cooking in hot oil. One reported burn incident occurred when partially frozen chicken wings were added to hot oil in a turkey fryer.

- Keep fryer in FULL VIEW while burner is on.
- Place fryer in an open area AWAY from all walls, fences, or other structures.
- Never use IN, ON, or UNDER a garage, breezeway, carport, porch, or any structure that can catch fire.
- Raise and lower food SLOWLY to reduce splatter and avoid burns.
- COVER bare skin when adding or removing food.
- Check the oil temperature frequently.
- If oil begins to smoke, immediately turn gas supply OFF.
- **If a fire occurs, immediately call 911. DO NOT attempt to extinguish fire with water.**
- Make sure there is at least 2 feet of space between the liquid propane tank and fryer burner.
- Place the liquid propane gas tank and fryer so that any wind blows the heat of the fryer away from the gas tank.
- Center the pot over the burner on the cooker.
- Completely thaw (USDA says 24 hours for every 4 to 5 pounds) and dry turkey before cooking. Partially frozen and/or wet turkeys can produce excessive hot oil splatter when added to the oil.



Follow the manufacturer's instructions to determine the proper amount of oil to add. If those are not available:

- Place turkey in pot
- Fill with water until the turkey is covered by about 1/2 inch of water
- Remove and dry turkey
- Mark water level. Dump water, dry the pot, and fill with oil to the marked level.

A Friendly Reminder From The Parking Clerk

Residents are reminded that a winter parking ban is in effect from November 1st until April 1st.

On-street parking is prohibited for more than 1 hour between the hours of 1:00 am and 8:00 am or when snow operations are in effect.



Vehicles that are illegally parked will be ticketed and may be towed at the owner's expense if they interfere with snow removal operations.



The Highway Dept's informational brochure on snow and ice removal procedures is available online at: www.westfordma.gov/highway or call 978-692-5520

Residents can assist the Highway Department during a snowstorm by heeding these suggestions:

- Trucks are plowing or spreading sand/salt. Stay back from the vehicle 100 feet to avoid problems. Plow trucks often have to back up. There are blind spots in the mirrors. For your safety, do not pull directly behind them. They may not be able to see you.
- Remain off the road during snowstorms unless absolutely necessary.
- Please do not plow, shovel or snowblow snow out onto the street. This is prohibited by town bylaw and is subject to a fine.
- Do not allow children to make snow forts at the edge of the road.
- Do not place rubbish or recycling bins in the street during snowstorms, as they will interfere with snowplowing.
- Residents are encouraged to place mailboxes at the maximum allowable distance from the pavement.
- Before final cleanup of your driveway, check the road. If it does not appear to be widened out, a plow will return to plow again, and may push snow back into the entrance of your driveway. Doing this might keep you from clearing your driveway more than once.
- Please have patience. Snow plowing is a time consuming and laborious job covering approximately 175 miles of road. Some residents will have their roads plowed first and some will be last, but all town roads will be cleared. The Highway Department is devoted to providing the residents with dependable snow removal in the shortest time possible. With your cooperation, we will all benefit during a snowstorm.



Town Clerk's Corner



2016 DOG LICENSING BEGINS

DECEMBER 1, 2015

\$15 for Spayed/Neutered

\$20 for Non-altered

(Must have current rabies certificate)

**A \$25 Fine Is Applied Beginning April 1, 2016
For All Non-Licensed Dogs**

[http://www.westfordma.gov/
pages/government/
towndepartments/
WestfordMA_clerk/dog_license](http://www.westfordma.gov/pages/government/towndepartments/WestfordMA_clerk/dog_license)



LEAF COLLECTION **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5TH, 2015**

Acme Waste Systems will be collecting leaves.

The cost is \$1.25 per bag with a minimum charge of \$20.00 per pick up.

Place your leaves, grass clippings and pine needles into paper leaf bags and have them at the curb by 7 AM on the collection day.

REMEMBER - Leaves will not be picked up if they are not in paper leaf bags.

**CALL THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE AT 978-692-5515
TO REGISTER.**



YOU PAY ACME DIRECTLY BY ATTACHING A CHECK PAYABLE TO ACME WASTE SYSTEMS TO ONE OF YOUR LEAF BAGS ON COLLECTION DAY.

Agricultural Commission

The Great Westford Lunch Crunch

On Oct. 23, more than 2,000 students and staff members from Nabnasset, Miller, Robinson, Crisafuli, Day and Abbott Elementary Schools celebrated National Food Day by participating in the 2nd Annual Great Westford Lunch Crunch. During the days prior to the Crunch, students learned how making local, whole food choices is better for our bodies, our community and our planet. A very successful food drive was also held in each school to benefit the Westford Food pantry.



The Great Westford Lunch Crunch is conducted by the Westford Agricultural Commission, with funding from the Westford Cultural Council, enthusiastic cooperation from school principals, and help from the Westford Elementary PTO. Crunchy Macoun apples were generously donated from Farmer Dave's at Hill Orchard for the event.



Westford Seed Library

Working in conjunction with the Westford Agricultural Commission, Will O'Neal, a Boy Scout from Westford's Troop 159 has created a Seed Library Program at the J.V. Fletcher Library.

A seed library is a place where community members may donate seeds, already dried and storage-ready, harvested from plants which they have grown themselves. These seeds may be of vegetables, flowers, or fruits. Community members may also "borrow" the seeds which have been donated. The expectation is that they will give back some seeds from the plants grown from "borrowed" seeds at the

end of the growing season to ensure the sustainability of the program (borrow, grow, return). The Westford Seed Library will allow local gardeners of all ability levels to participate in local agriculture while increasing local genetic diversity among plants.

A seed sorting session will be held on Saturday, November 14 at the J.V. Fletcher Library at 1 pm. Westford residents are encouraged to participate.

Recycling Commission

Do You Upcycle?



Upcycling is Westford's "other" recycling program! Upcycling is a way to recycle many items currently going into your trash, further reducing Westford's trash tipping costs. A sampling of items that can be Upcycled: chip bags, writing instruments, energy bar wrappers, toothbrushes, toothpaste tubes, and foil drink pouches. For a complete list and information on where to take these items, visit www.SustainableWestford.org and click on **Upcycle It!** at the top of the page. Proceeds from Upcycling benefit the Westford Public Schools.

Westford Styrofoam Collection April 16, 2016

Start to collect all your clean Styrofoam. Take it to the Styrofoam recycling event on Saturday, April 16, 2016, at the Westford Highway Garage, 28 North Street, from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm. The event is held in conjunction with Brush Chipping and is being arranged by the Green Action Team, First Parish Church, Westford. Styrofoam will be collected by Refoamit, Leominster, MA. There is no charge for Westford residents.

America Recycles Day:
Sunday, November 15th:
www.americarecyclesday.org

