



# Town of Westford Massachusetts

Town Manager's Newsletter

January 2016



Jodi Ross,  
Town  
Manager

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[www.westfordma.gov/tm](http://www.westfordma.gov/tm)  
978-692-5500

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**Annual Town Meeting  
Citizen Petition Articles  
Due Tuesday, January 26  
By 10:00 AM**

**Last day to register for  
Presidential Primary  
Elections is  
Wednesday, February 10  
8:00 PM  
Page 9**

**Annual Town Meeting  
Will be held  
Saturday, April, 2  
10:00 AM**



Watch  
Meetings Online  
**westford** CAT  
community access television  
[www.westfordcat.org](http://www.westfordcat.org)

**Dear Westford residents,**

I am delighted to announce that Schooldigger.com ranked our school system as [No. 3 in the state](#); the Day and Abbot Schools in the top 20 elementary schools in the state; the Blanchard and Stony Brook among the top 5 middle schools in the state, and Westford Academy in the top 20 high schools in the state. Also Niche.com school rankings were just released, and our [Westford Schools ranked No. 10!](#) Congratulations to everyone in the school department including our maintenance people, our administrative staff, our teachers, our School Superintendent Bill Olsen, and our School Committee who all work tirelessly to keep our children and young adults challenged and educated at such a high level.

Westford was featured in the January 3, 2016, Boston Sunday Globe in an article titled "[What is it like to live in Westford?](#)". This article highlighted our very special community and favorably compared us with other municipalities. We posted a link to the article on our facebook page [www.facebook.com/townofWestfordMa](http://www.facebook.com/townofWestfordMa) and received 2,600 views.

I am very pleased to report we just received the results of our audit for Fiscal Year 2015, with outstanding results. All of our Financial Department employees, along with our town department heads and staff are to be congratulated for adhering to our financial policies and procedures to allow us to receive no formal comments on improvements to make.

Recently we were featured in the Massachusetts Municipal Association's publication *The Beacon* in their Mass Innovations section with an article entitled "Westford's emergency radio station ready for winter". This article shared our fairly new 1630 AM radio station, where we offer our residents messages to assist them during storms and other emergencies. You may read the article at this link: [www.mma.org/emergency-radio-station-ready](http://www.mma.org/emergency-radio-station-ready). We are now working on beginning entertainment/newsworthy broadcasting when the station is not in use during emergencies.

Please mark your calendars for our [Annual Town Meeting](#) (ATM) which will be held on April 2, 2016 in the Abbot School gymnasium at 10:00 a.m. The warrant is in draft form and will be reviewed by the Board of Selectmen at their January 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. Please note that citizen petition articles are due to the Town Clerk's office by 10:00 a.m. on January 26<sup>th</sup>.

At their January 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Board of Selectmen voted to not exercise their right of first refusal on the Drew Gardens property, located at 66-68 Boston Road, and entered into an agreement with the purchaser of the property, Ebi Masalehdan. Mr. Masalehdan plans to partner with Springdell Farms to oversee the agricultural part of the project, and build a high end restaurant, along with a barn-like function room on the site. There will be an article in the ATM warrant allowing an amendment to the Agricultural Preservation Restrictions that exist on the parcels.

(Continued on next page)

[WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV](http://WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV)

I am pleased to announce our receipt of three District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) grants for assistance with an Affordable Housing Production Plan, Multifamily Zoning Phase II and the Community Compact project for 12 North Main Street redevelopment.

The Westford Scholarship and Grant Committee (SAG) announced the first round of SAG Educator Grants is now open, with applications due on January 30, 2016. The SAG Committee 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](http://www.westfordma.gov/sag).

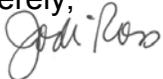
By now, most of you have received the results of our energy aggregation bid to procure a competitive supply rate for electricity for our entire community with the low bid received of \$.0949/kWh for a term of 24 months, beginning January 2016. In December those of you who are not in another energy supply contract, received a 30 day opt-out Customer Notification Letter. 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. Customers with a competitive supplier may 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 (through a broker called Good Energy.) I have received many questions from residents, so please feel free to email me if you have questions still unanswered.

There are several openings on other local boards and committees, including the 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](#). Also, please consider following us on two of our new social media accounts: Twitter: [@westfordma tm](#) and Facebook [Town Manager](#).

Winter is finally here! Stay warm!

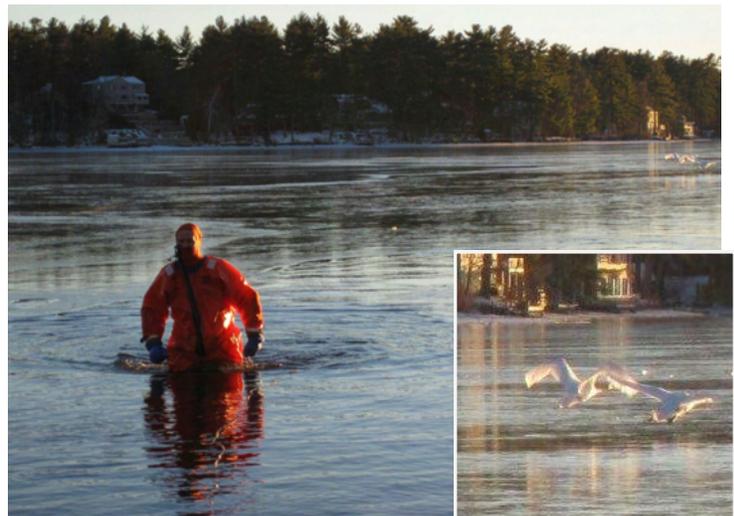
Sincerely,



Jodi Ross  
Town Manager



*We wish Brian Shipley, Highway / Parks Department, a long, healthy, happy retirement, he will be greatly missed by co-workers and residents alike.*



*Firefighter Shawn Ricard in Forge Pond on January 6th responding to a call of swans stuck in the ice, as he approached the swans they were able to free themselves.*

## Council On Aging



### **MID-WINTER LUNCHEON**

**Monday, Feb. 3, at 11:30 am**

at the Westford Regency, 219 Littleton Rd. (Rte. 110).

Come enjoy a 'Manicotti Pomodoro' lunch with Caesar salad, broccoli, garlic bread, and tuxedo chocolate mousse cake.

Delightful entertainment by vocalist, Tommy Rull.

Seating is limited. Reservations required, please call 978-692-5523.

Cost: \$10, due at registration.

### **VETERANS SERVICES**

**Thursdays, 8 am to noon.**

Meet with Westford Veterans Agent/Veterans Service Officer Terry Stader at Cameron.

His regular office, in the Millennium Building behind Abbot School, 23 Depot Rd, is open Monday through Thursday, from 8 am to 4 pm

Fridays by appointment only. For more information, call 978-392-1170

or visit [www.westfordma.gov/veterans](http://www.westfordma.gov/veterans)

### **ALZHEIMER'S & RELATED DEMENTIAS CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS**

1st Wednesday each month at 6:30 pm, at the Cameron Senior Center,

For information, call Sandy at 978-758-6072.

Chelmsford Senior Center, 2nd and 4th Monday each month at 1 pm

For information, call 978-251-8880.

### **ASK THE OFFICER**

Thursdays, Jan. 14 and Feb. 11 from 11 a.m. to 12 noon.

Westford Police Department, Family Services Detective, Nirisa Nicoletti will be available for consultation 2nd Thursdays each month at Cameron.

Walk-in or call 978-692-5523 for an appointment.

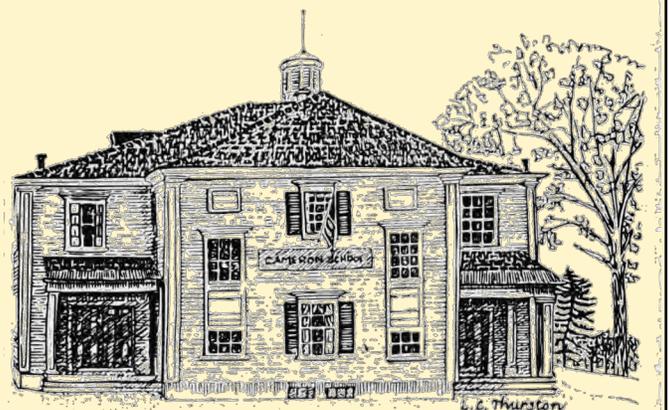
### **MEALS ON WHEELS**

**Monday through Friday.**

Along with traditional meals, five special diets are now available to clients, with a doctor's authorization.

Meal deliveries are to your door, Mondays - Fridays, around noon. Call 1-800-892-0890 to register.

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



Westford Senior Center

## J.V. Fletcher Library

### Programs for Adults at the Library

At the J. V. Fletcher Library, programs for adults are selected, created and re-invented to be both reflective of, and responsive to, the community we serve. We also include programs whose topics are drawn from current events or which explore the latest cultural and social trends.

Consider our next line-up of scheduled events (from the end of January through the beginning of May) where you can:

**learn** how to research your family's roots

**discover** how to start and grow plants from seeds

**watch** a performance of Rudyard Kiplings wildly imaginative "Just So" Stories

**discuss** death, yes really! at our first "Death Café" where "the aim is to increase the participants' awareness of death with the view of helping us make the most of our (finite) lives"

**experience** the latest trend in relaxation by coloring in specially designed-for-adults coloring books

**paint** a *Still Life* with pastels by applying the techniques used by the Masters

**marvel** at a Wildlife Photographer's images of birds inhabiting a typical New England swamp

**wonder** at the vital role dogs can play in the search for Cancer Cures

**plant** a vegetable garden with tips from a Master Gardener

**step back** into time to unravel the threads of the Westford Knight's history by attempting to separate fact from fantasy.

Westford patrons are not only avid readers, they love Book Clubs; the library supports 22 Community Book Clubs in addition to the multiple offerings for all ages at the library. Our adult book groups include a NEW Mystery Book Club:

-  check out our popular, drop-in Library Book Discussion Group which alternates works of Fiction and Nonfiction and meets the *second Thursday evening of every month at 7:30pm*
-  spend a delicious evening with the quarterly 7:00 pm Cookbook Book Discussion Group (in which recipes are discussed in between mouthfuls of the chosen Cookbook's dishes)
-  find out "who dun it" at the NEW Monday Mystery Book Club which will meet the fourth Monday of every month (first meeting on Monday, March 14) at 10:30 a.m. First mystery up for discussion will be "Still Life" by Louise Penny.

**Research, learn and discover.**

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

**[WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV](http://WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV)**

## Health Department

### EMERSON DONATES SECOND \$10,000 TO SUPPORT HEALTH PROGRAMS!

Thanks again to the generous donation of Emerson Hospital, two of our very popular programs will continue. As part of their commitment to assisting the communities they service, has donated \$5,000 toward the shingles program. This program targets our residents age 60 and older. Over 150 residents have been inoculated over the past 4 years, through our clinics, against this very painful and potentially dangerous disease.

Emerson also donated \$5,000 to enable us to continue our elderly dental program which provides dental care for those senior residents who are low income and have no dental insurance. Emerson understands the relationship between maintaining good oral health and the effect it has on personal health, and supported this program to keep our residents healthy.

The Health Department applauds and thanks Emerson for supporting these two wonderful and popular preventative services!

***To seek information or sign up for the next shingles clinic call 978 692-5509. To request dental services please pick up an application at the Cameron Senior Center.***



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### DEPARTMENT SEEKS AND RECEIVES THREE FDA GRANTS

Being a very progressive and proactive department, the Health Department identified an opportunity to increase our effectiveness in the community by developing a risk based electronic inspection system using principals consistent with our current efforts to meet the requirements of the Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards (VNRFRPS). Through funds awarded through an FDA grant, new software called WinWam will be implemented to more effectively standardize and streamline the inspection process of retail food vendors. In turn, our inspectors will be able to store data electronically while decreasing the need for paper.

The VNRFRPS define what constitutes a highly effective and responsive program for the regulation of foodservice and retail food establishments. They provide a framework designed to accommodate both traditional and emerging approaches to food safety. The Retail Program Standards are intended to reinforce good retail practices such as proper sanitation, operations and environmental programs, while encouraging regulatory agencies and industry to focus on the factors that cause and contribute to foodborne illness, with the ultimate goal of reducing the occurrences.

Additionally, the Department received two other smaller grants to continue to provide education to our community and the food establishment industry, as well as funding to establish a local food advisory committee. The committee will help improve communication between the department which regulates and the food industry, and also provide an opportunity to discuss and strengthen the Health Department's food safety efforts.

## Information Technology

### Town's IT Helpdesk Completes 10,000<sup>th</sup> Ticket

The IT departments of the Town and Schools manage their user requests and problem reports through an online system. On December 22nd, less than three years after it was adopted, the system has handled its 10,000<sup>th</sup> ticket. The user who submitted the request was Lt. Jim Peloquin from the Police Department and he 'won' a novelty USB drive.

Between the Town and Schools the two departments support more than six thousand devices and twelve hundred users (excluding students) on a network that interconnects all the main town buildings. Uses of those systems cover just about every aspect of municipal operations such as:

- accounting
- building security systems
- document storage and retrieval
- Internet based services
- billing and collections
- classroom computers
- general office automation
- public works management



*Technology Department Director, Mike Wells (l) with Lt. Jim Peloquin (r).*

Keeping all those systems and devices working smoothly is essential to efficient, high quality public services.



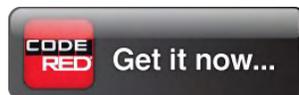
### Register Additional Phone Numbers with Reverse 911

CodeRED is a Community Messaging System, used to notify residences of emergency, and general information through an automated telephone dialing system.

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

[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 Westford's 1630 AM for local information.



## Recreation Department

### INDOOR ROWING



With New Year's Resolutions toward health and fitness try the Adult Indoor Rowing class. Whether you already have used an Erg (indoor rowing) machine or not, here is your opportunity to keep/get in shape, lose weight, cross-train for another sport or just try something new for your fitness routine. Arms, legs, chest, back, abs for a whole body work out. Next session starts January 26-February 25 6-7PM Tuesdays and Thursdays. The class is located at 35 Town Farm Road and is class limited to 10 participants. For registration information go to [www.westfordrec.com](http://www.westfordrec.com) or pick up a form at the Department Office.

### PLAN AHEAD FOR FEBRUARY VACATION

**Vacation Basketball** with Bill Denzel! Join Coach Bill and staff for a week of basketball skills, game strategy, and play. Tuesday-Friday February 16-19 from 9AM-1PM Abbot School Gym. Cost: Residents \$140/week or \$45/day, Non-Residents \$150/week or \$50/day. Registration forms and information available online [www.westfordrec.com](http://www.westfordrec.com)



**Special Vacation Program K-8** Join the WPC Afterschool program staff for a fun filled week of activities. Tuesday-Friday 8AM-5:45PM Cost: WPC participant \$70/day, non \$80/day. Program information and registration forms available on line at [www.westfordrec.com](http://www.westfordrec.com)

**Junior Golf at Pappas Golf** in North Chelmsford. For participants ages 7-14 here is your opportunity to learn the fundamentals of golf or if already a golfer to develop skills tailored to your skill level. Tuesday-Friday, February 16-19, 9-11AM. \$199/resident; \$209/non-resident. Program information and registration forms available on line at [www.westfordrec.com](http://www.westfordrec.com)



Town Clerk's Corner



# Become a Poll Worker!

## BECOME AN ELECTION WORKER!

The Town Clerk's Office is looking for enthusiastic individuals who can work at the upcoming elections.



If you are interested in this civic opportunity, please complete an [Election Officer Profile](#) and submit it to the Town Clerk's Office.





Town Clerk's Corner (continued)

**PLEASE READ!**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR WESTFORD VOTERS  
THERE ARE FOUR ELECTIONS IN 2016

**WHERE ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?**

**Are you new to Town? Have you moved within the Town?**

**Have you responded to your census? Do we have your updated information?**

- If you are a U.S. Citizen and born on or before March 1, 1998, you are eligible to vote in the Presidential Primary as long as you are a registered voter in Westford by February 10, 2016.
- There are six precincts and five voting locations in Westford
- Knowing your **Precinct** and **voting status** ahead of time will save you time on Election Day
- Use the [QR code \(or click this link\)](#) above to obtain your voting status and precinct information or call the Town Clerk's Office at **978-692-5515**

**SAVE TIME. AVOID AGGRAVATION. KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!**

**Your enrollment as a voter will affect the party primary in which you can vote.**

There are four political parties in Massachusetts. If you are enrolled in one of these political parties, you will find the following letter codes next to your name in the column marked "PARTY":

**D** - Democratic Party

**R** - Republican Party

**J** - Green-Rainbow

**CC** - United Independent Party

When voting on March 1, 2016, **voters who are enrolled in one of the above parties can only vote on the ballot for that party.**

Voters who are not enrolled in a party (commonly known as "Independent") will be listed with the party code "**U**" in the PARTY column. **Unenrolled voters and voters who are members of Political Designations (indicated by other letter codes) can choose which party's ballot they would like to receive.**

If you wish to change your party enrollment for the Presidential Primary, you must do so on or before February 10, 2016. You may change your party enrollment by completing a new voter registration form in person, by mail, or online at [www.RegisterToVoteMA.com](http://www.RegisterToVoteMA.com).

2016 Election Dates	Election Type	Last Day to Register (8:00pm)
Tuesday, March 1, 2016	Presidential Preference Primaries	Wednesday, February 10, 2016
Tuesday, May 3, 2016	Local Town Election	Wednesday, April 13, 2016
Thursday, September 8, 2016	State Primaries	Friday, August 19, 2016
Tuesday, November 8, 2016	State Election	Wednesday, October 19, 2016

## Recycling Commission

**Westford Styrofoam Collection April 16, 2016.** Start to collect all your clean Styrofoam for 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. Styrofoam will be collected by ReFoamIt, Leominster, MA. Details: [www.refoamit.com](http://www.refoamit.com). Collection arranged by the Green Action Team, First Parish Church. Open to Westford residents only. No charge.

### Upcycle It!

You can recycle even more using *Sustainable Westford's* Upcycling program; It builds on the curbside program allowing you to recycle items you would, normally, throw away in your trash. Upcycling generates funds that benefit Westford Schools. You can find Upcycle collection containers at three convenient locations: JV Fletcher library (basement near elevator), Starbucks at 174 Littleton Rd and Roudenbush Community Center on Main Street (basement). visit [www.sustainablewestford.org/upcycle-it](http://www.sustainablewestford.org/upcycle-it) for more information.

#### What we can Upcycle:

- Foil Drink Pouches and their straws (i.e. Capri Sun, Kool Aid, Honest Kids etc.).
- Energy or Granola Bars (ANY brand energy, granola, cereal, or protein bar).
- Chip Bags (ANY chip bag small or large).
- Oral Care Products (toothbrushes, plastic toothpaste tubes) No electric toothbrush heads.
- Writing Instruments (pens, mechanical pencils, markers, highlighters, – **no** wooden pencils or crayons).

#### New!! :

- Beauty Item Packaging – ANY brand makeup/personal care packaging (mascara, lipstick/lip balm, eye shadow, deodorant, lotion tubes) **Please do not include items that can be curbside recycled such as most shampoo or conditioner containers.**
- Brita and Pur brand water filters and accessories – Brita and Pur brands ONLY
- Baby and Toddler food pouches – ANY brand baby or toddler food pouches and their screw caps.
- Cereal Bags – ANY brand cereal bag including clear liners inside a cereal box.

**WESTFORD THANKS YOU  
FOR RECYCLING, REDUCING,  
REUSING, AND REPURPOSING.**

[www.westfordma.gov/recycling](http://www.westfordma.gov/recycling)



**Around Westford**



*12 North Main  
Street  
Chimney  
Stabilization  
Completed  
January 6th,  
2016*