



Town of Westford Massachusetts

Town Manager's Newsletter

July 2016



Jodi Ross,
Town
Manager

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

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Meetings Online
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Dear Westford residents,

The Westford Agricultural Commission is holding an Open House at the Westford Community Gardens at Day Field (located at the intersection of Graniteville Road and Cold Spring Road) (on Thursday, July 14, 2016 from 4 to 6pm. They will be offering guided tours or you may stroll on your own through the beautiful patchwork of plots being tended by more than 100 families in town. For more information, please contact westford.community.gardens@gmail.com.

I would like to give a "shout out" to Cemetery Commissioner, George "Yogi" Rogers, who attended his final meeting as a commissioner at Pine Grove Cemetery on June 14th, where they discussed proposed changes to the current rules and regulations. Yogi has served on the commission since 2003, and chose to step down and "to make way for some new blood". Yogi remains active on other committees as well as organizations throughout our town since he retired from the position of Westford Fire Chief. Yogi has been instrumental in the way the cemetery currently operates and serves it's community. Thanks Yogi for a job well done!

In May, Lieutenant Melnicoff, of the 411th Civil Affairs Battalion, a special division of the U.S. Army Reserves, reached out to me to see if they could spend an hour or so with potential "key leaders" on a real mission.



I agreed to assist, and invited Selectmen Chair, Kelly Ross, Police Chief Tom McEnaney, IT Director, Mike Wells, Finance Director Dan O'Donnell, Project Procurement Specialist Greg Johnson, and Allison Christopher, Social Worker to participate in the meeting. The battalion's mission was to conduct an area assessment, where they learn about and analyze important social, economic, geo-political and religious factors in an area.

(Continued on next page)

WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV

This helps them prepare to assist in the rebuilding of communities, mostly in other countries that are devastated by war or natural disasters, or faced with extreme poverty and other unfortunate situations. Little did I know we would welcome two Humvees and 9 officers dressed in fatigues that morning! This was a fascinating and enjoyable meeting, and we enjoyed talking to these officers about our town. It was also interesting listening to them describe how working with civilian institutions helps them achieve the goals of their organization. The officers were friendly, engaging and impressive and expressed their appreciation for our time helping our U.S. Army with their mission.

Our 6th Annual Strategic Planning Retreat was a great success! Almost 300 residents met under the tents at Kimball Farm on June 16th where they mingled with other residents, town officials and staff, and learned about the large capital building projects currently approved or under review by the Board of Selectmen. These included the new center fire station and combined dispatch building, what to build to replace the existing fire station, the Roudenbush Community Center which is in need of extensive renovations, a possible J.V. Fletcher Library expansion utilizing a grant, and the future of the Recreation Department, which may include a leased facility or modular units, at least in the interim. More information may be found about this terrific event here: [SPR Final Report](#) .

At the same meeting, Edie Fruscione presented a request that the board consider supporting the creation of a dog park, by appointing a town committee to identify land and seek grant funding for the expenses related to the park. The board approved the request and Selectman Chair Kelly Ross volunteered to work with the group to develop a charge.

The board had several legal questions regarding the Agricultural Preservation Restrictions and the proposed development at 66 Boston Road, the former Drew Gardens property. Attorney Gregg Corbo of K-P Law (formerly Kopleman and paige) was present to answer the board's questions. The board also expanded the Drew Garden's Task Force to include two new members, one a direct abutter and the other a "near" abutter. The task force will be presenting a new draft charge at the July 12th Selectmen's meeting.

Our new Assistant Town Manager Eric Heideman is on board and learning about our town and all of his vast responsibilities. Please join me in welcoming Eric to our town!

It is with great sadness I report the passing of Bill Kavanagh, former moderator of Westford from 1975 to 1993. He was also a member of other boards and committees through the years.

There are several openings on other local boards and committees, including the Agricultural Commission, Bylaw Review Committee, Communications Advisory Committee, Economic Development Committee, Energy Committee, the 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.



*Assistant Town Manager,
Eric Heideman*

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](#).

Sincerely,

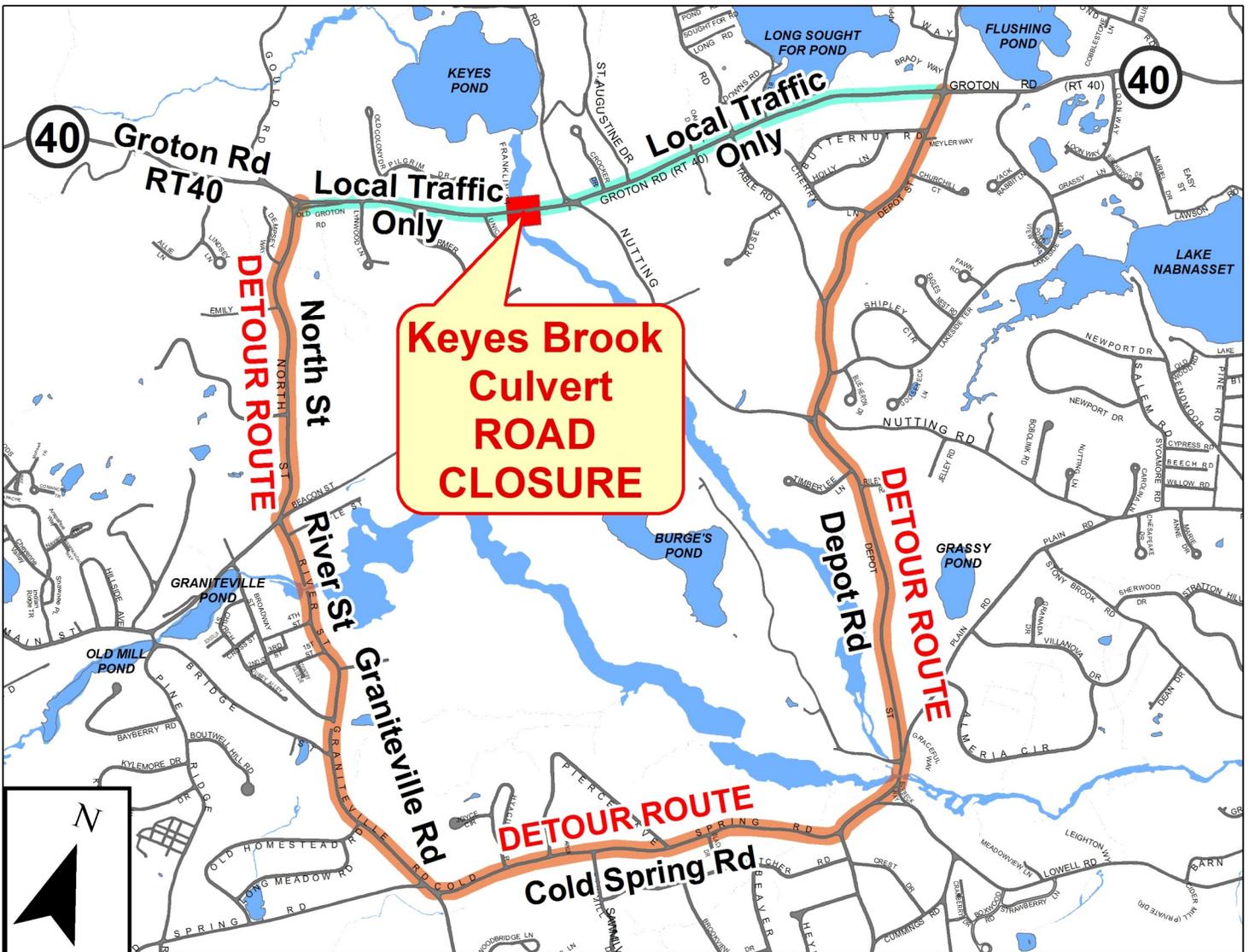
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jodi Ross". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jodi Ross
Town Manager

IMPORTANT ROAD CLOSURE INFORMATION

GROTON ROAD (ROUTE 40) CONSTRUCTION

The Town of Westford will be closing Groton Road (Route 40) to through traffic at Keyes Brook for period of approximately three weeks while Contractors remove an existing culvert and install a new structure. The road will be closed starting on **Monday, July 25, 2016** and will remain closed until the culvert is replaced. Commuters are advised to seek alternate routes and to adjust travel times accordingly.



GROTON ROAD (ROUTE 40) CONSTRUCTION (continued)

Construction materials and methods have been carefully selected to minimize the amount of time that the closure and detours will be in effect. All businesses and residences in the area will be open and accessible at all times throughout the project. Work is scheduled to be complete before schools open at the end of August.

The eastbound detour route begins at the intersection of Groton Road and North Street and directs traffic down North Street onto River Street and then Graniteville Road. From Graniteville Road, vehicles will turn left onto Cold Spring Road and left again onto Depot Street which intersects with Groton Road. The westbound detour is the same route in reverse. Signs, message boards and directional arrows will be in place to mark the detour route in both directions.

A map of the detour is available online at www.westfordma.gov/ROUTE40.

For additional information about this project, please contact Paul Starratt, Town Engineer, at 978-360-0498, or pstarratt@westfordma.gov.



Keyes Brook Culvert under Groton Road / Route 40

J.V. Fletcher Library

You are “Going Bananas” or “Exercising your Mind” or “Getting in the Game” then you are among 2,000 Westford residents who have signed up (so far) for the Fletcher Library's three 2016 Summer Reading Programs.

The Library Summer Reading Programs for children, adults and teens & tweens are all about FUN! Adults look forward to reaching their goals (like reading War and Peace or perhaps just one newspaper a week) and winning a Kimballs ice cream cone. Another perk for adults are the weekly raffles for gift certificates to Willow Books. And of course there is a Grand Prize. This summer we have *at least* one program a week for adults to enjoy and explore. The Gilson Gardening Series will take place on Tuesdays to complement the Town Commons' Farmer's Market. There are Programs for everyone, such as: creating a seashell wreath; joining our knitting club; relaxing at Adult Coloring parties, dropping by Library sponsored Book Clubs and much more.

Teens and tweens will be challenged and motivated as they: create graphic art; learn to make herbal sodas and teas; code in Minecraft; try Hula Hoop Yoga; program mini robots in Scratch, to name a few. Teens and tweens who get to scratch homemade “scratch tickets” to win raffle tickets for weekly prizes also have other avenues to earn raffle tickets for their Grand Prizes.

And the children of Westford, oh the children, are already dizzy with delight every time they run, I mean walk, up the Children's Room ramp to: win prizes for reading or being read-to; find the current hiding place of the adorable *Minion* doll; tell the Children's Librarians everything that they have been doing and reading since the last time they told them. The children's programs are over-the-circus-top amazing. Children are going to: pet farm animals; throw on lab coats to do science experiments; attend a Harry Potter birthday party; dance at lawn concerts; rock with the Rollie Polie Guacamole Band and SO MUCH MORE.

If you haven't signed up for a Reading Program, we encourage you to do so. Summer at the J. V. Fletcher Library is a good time!



Research, learn and discover.
WWW.WESTFORDLIBRARY.ORG

Health Department

HELPFUL TIPS TO KEEP OUR PONDS HEALTHY

Summer is in full swing and many of us love to spend our free time working in our yards and spending time at our beaches and ponds. Protecting the lake and ponds is a job that all of us can take part in! Whether you are working in your yard or getting ready to shove off in the boat, there are some things that all of us can do to help maintain healthy water bodies. Here is a list of tips that can help.

- Overfeeding your lawn can green our rivers and ponds.
Calibrate your spreader to avoid overfeeding.
- Leave grass clippings on the lawn to lessen the need for fertilizer.
- Use fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides sparingly.
Sweep any overspray back onto the lawn.
- Never discard yard waste down storm drains or into waterways.
- Never discharge laundry, car, or boat washing detergent into a storm drain or to a body of water.
- Please do not dispose of trash or waste near storm drains and water bodies.
- Extra nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen that are found in fertilizers can cause blue-green algae blooms and the blooms can have major impacts on animals, aquatic life, our water bodies, wells, humans, and our recreational lifestyles. **Consider using phosphorus-free fertilizer and detergents.**
- Do not discharge chlorinated pool water to a storm drain or a body of water.
- Keep a watchful eye on your septic system leaching area to make sure there is no discharge to the surface of the ground or into a lake or pond.
- Remove all plants from your boat motor, trailer, anchors, fishing gear, dive gear and dispose of them on dry land, well away from the water or in a trash can.
Take extra care to make sure you don't cross contaminate from another pond.



**For more tips or information, contact the Westford Health Department
at 978-692-5509 or go to:**

www.westfordma.gov/hlpc

Health Department (continued)

TIPS FOR KEEPING YOUR BARBEQUE GUESTS SAFE AT MEALTIME

With summer comes one of the greatest national past times, grilling and BBQ! Often times people are thinking fire, burn, and propane safety when it comes to grilling, and that is very important, but food safety is also something every grill master should have on their mind. When preparing for your gathering, keep in mind that proper cook temperatures, proper hot and cold holding of ground beef, chicken and steak, and a plan for keeping things clean will help to keep your guests safe. Here are just a few tips to make sure you are prepared.



- Transport all your food to be cooked cold. (41 degrees or less).
- Start with clean utensils and keep them clean at a sink or with bottled water.
- Use a thermometer to ensure proper cook temperatures.
(145 deg. steaks, 155 deg. ground meat, 165 deg. for poultry.)
- Tightly wrap and transport meat and chicken underneath ready to eat foods in the cooler.
- Have hand sanitizer, bottled water or clean cloths available if you travel to a spot with no running water.
- Clean that grill and get it nice and hot before use!

Check out this FDA website for more great tips on outdoor food safety at:
www.fda.gov/downloads/food/foodborneillnesscontaminants/ucm239489.pdf

HEALTH DEPARTMENT CO- SPONSORS MEDICAL PROVIDERS TRAINING ON OPIOID PRESCRIBING

On June 9th, the Westford Health Department along with the Tewksbury Police Department and Lowell General Hospital sponsored Dr. Ruth Potee, a well know family physician and addiction medicine physician. Dr Potee is a well-known speaker on addiction and the brain.

78 doctors, dentist and nurses attended her presentation, “**Opiate Prescribing in a Changed Climate**” at Lowell General Hospital. The excellent program covered the concerns of over prescribing of opioids by physicians and dentists.

Some of the take away messages Dr. Potee made were:

- Limit the amount of opioids initially prescribed to patients.
- That the United States has 5% of the world population and we prescribe 80% of the world opioids.
- That physicians should join and use the Massachusetts Prescription Monitoring Program. This is a program where the physicians input any prescription and the name of the individuals. This allows physicians and pharmacies to look up names and make sure that patients are not going from physician to physician for their drugs.



Council On Aging News

**Friends of the Cameron and COA Board
vote to rename the Clothes Closet to
TRUDY' S Boutique.**

Recently, a new name was revealed at the Grand Opening of Trudy's Boutique in the memory of Trudy Laslie, a very dedicated volunteer who oversaw the Cameron Closet for over seven years. Trudy also ran the Foxwood Casino trips with her wonderful sweetheart, Richard Severyn. She really appreciated and enjoyed the Cameron Senior Center. You had to be fast on your feet if you were to catch her at the Cameron. She enjoyed playing Hand and Foot, eating lunch with friends especially on BINGO days, supervising day trips, running the jewelry table each year at the Harvest Fair, registering and selling 50/50 tickets at special events and always willing to help if she had the time.



To learn more about Trudy's Boutique come visit us at the Cameron Mon.-Fri. from 9-3 and you will be sure to find nice clothing, gifts, jewelry or household items at a very low price. All donations go to the Friends of the Cameron Senior Center who wholeheartedly raise money for the myriad of daily programs, classes and services offered at the Cameron.

Donations are accepted at the Cameron Mon.-Fri. from 8AM-4PM. All donations are tax deductible and a donation receipt will be provided at your request.

Whole Foods donates to the Cameron

Each Thursday afternoon donations are picked up at the Westford store and are packaged for participants to pick-up each Thurs. afternoon around 2:00 by volunteers. Residents age 60 and over are encouraged to participate in this wonderful outreach provided by Whole Foods. Donations are also shared with the Westford Food Pantry. This program is first come first serve and participants are welcome to take four items per household. (pictures attached)

BOH holds a food handling training for volunteers

Thanks to Arnie Price, Food Inspector for the Town, many Cameron volunteers who work in our kitchen and handle perishable food items regularly learned the importance of maintaining SERVESAFE guidelines when handling and serving food.

Friends of the Cameron Grill Night- Thursday, July 21st at 4PM

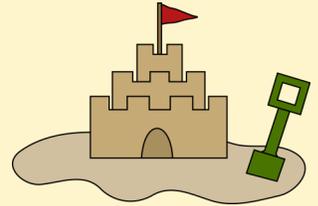
Fun, fun visiting new friends and familiar acquaintances while enjoying a hassle free dinner of hamburgers, hot dogs, salads, desserts and beverage. Please bring your favorite salad or dessert. (hint there are more desserts than salads) Friends members- \$2 and \$4-Non-Friends members- Please RSVP-978-692-5523

For more information about the Cameron Senior Center please go to our website found on www.westfordma.gov/coa under Council on Aging aka COA or give us a call at 978-692-5523.

Council On Aging Events

PODIATRY CLINIC

Monday, July 18 at 9:30 a.m.
Advance appointments are necessary with Dr. Aileen Gregorian. Call 978-692-5523. Cost is \$30.



ENJOY A SCENIC COA VAN TO REVERE BEACH SAND SCULPTURE FESTIVAL

Van departs Friday, July 22 at 10am
View impressive sand sculptures, inhale that fresh sea air and simply relax. On the way home we will stop at Kelly's Roast Beef for lunch (Cost of lunch not included). Trip is \$8.00p/p - RSVP- 978-692-5523.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS WITH BILL VULLO

Join us Thursday, July 28 at 12:30 pm for grilled chicken, pasta salad, cake and ice cream
Lunch will be provided free for birthday celebrants ~ \$5 for everyone else.
All are welcome to join us for free cake and ice cream at 1 p.m.,
in the Welcome Area at the Cameron.
RSVP to 978-692-5523 by Thursday, July 21.



T.R.E.A.D. APPLICATIONS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE SENIOR CENTER

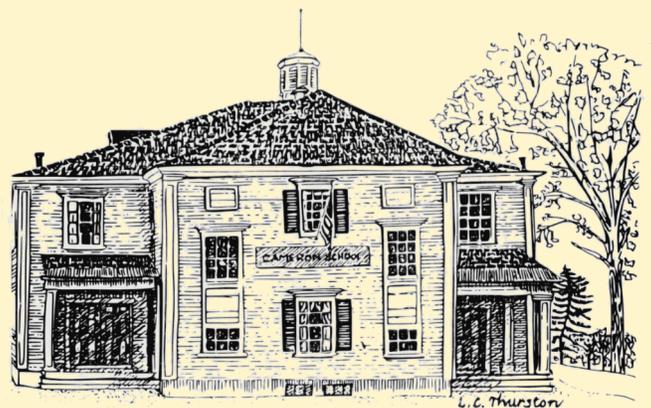
and will be due on August 1st.
Awards will be determined at the December 2016 T.R.E.A.D. Committee Meeting.
Tax Relief for Elderly and Disabled is a donation funded program for real estate tax relief.
Applicants must be 65 years or older OR have a state recognized disability, and must own and occupy their home. If you have questions about the program or need application assistance, call Alison Christopher, LICSW at 978-399-2325.

"FOXWOODS" NEW - INVITING ALL THOSE AGE 50 AND OVER

Tuesday, August 9th.
Buckingham Motor Coach departs from the Franco American Club at 7:30 AM.
The fee of \$30 includes drivers gratuity and is due at time of sign-up.
Receive bonus and coupon.
Please call 978-692-5523.



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



Westford Senior Center

Recycling Commission

New Recycling Vendor in Westford

As of Friday, July 1, residential and municipal recycling in Westford will be picked up by Republic Services. It has been many years since the town has changed vendors. Please review the following information:

- Recycling and trash must be at the curb no later than 7:00 am for pick up.
- Recycling and trash pickups will be delayed by one day the week of a holiday.
- Recycling and trash must be separated (either side of the driveway is best) and clearly marked.
- Recycling in plastic bags will be rejected.
- Recycling can be comingled (bottles, cans, plastics (#1-7, not #6), paper, cardboard. No Styrofoam.
- Cardboard must be flattened and cut into sizes no greater than 3 feet by 3 feet.
- Continue to use yellow/black toters (owned by the Town) and other acceptable recycling bins/toters.
- There is a limit of three containers/bags of trash at curb side. Recycling is unlimited.
- To ensure residents recycle, their trash will not be picked up if no recycling container is at the curb when trash is being picked up on a recycle week.

We ask for your patience and understanding during this transition. Should you encounter an issue, please call Republic Services at 1-800-442-9006. If your question is not answered, please contact Greg Johnson, Project/Procurement Specialist, in the Westford Town Manager's Office at gregjohnson@westfordma.gov.

For additional information about recycling in Westford, please visit www.westfordma.gov/recycling.

Westford Recycling Guide July 2016 - June 2017

In late June, the 2016-2017 issue of the Westford Recycling Guide was mailed to residents. It includes the Curbside Collection Calendar, Special Collection Events, recycling tips, who to call for problems with pickups and general questions, plus information on purchasing a recycling toter and composter. If you want additional copies, they are available at the Town Clerk's office.



The Westford Recycling Commission
thanks you for reducing, reusing,
repurposing, and recycling!



Grow



Open House at Westford's Community Garden

Thursday, July 14, 2016 4-6pm.



The Westford Agricultural Commission welcomes residents to an Open House at the Westford Community Gardens at Day Field.



Come for a guided tour or take a peaceful stroll on your own through the beautiful patchwork of plots being tended by more than 100 families in town. Day Field is located at the intersection of Graniteville Road and Cold Spring Roads. For more information contact

westford.community.gardens@gmail.com



Mission

The mission of the Westford Community Gardens is to promote community engagement through gardening. Residents will benefit from growing their own fresh produce, as well as enjoy the opportunities for recreation, exercise, fresh air, education, a connection to the land, and relationships with fellow residents.