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**BOSTON STRONG**

Watch Meetings Online



[www.westfordcat.org](http://www.westfordcat.org)

**Dear Westford Residents,**

On behalf of our town employees, our deepest heartfelt thoughts and prayers are being sent to those affected by the tragic bombing at the finish line of the Boston Marathon. I would like to personally thank all who helped others during and after the catastrophic event, including many of our own police officers, paramedics, members of the Upper Merrimack Valley Medical Reserve Corp, and other staff and volunteers who were at the event or called in afterwards to assist. The outpouring of helpfulness, concern, community action and support has been incredibly comforting after such a senseless act.

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of our long-serving Assistant Treasurer, Ann McEnnis. Ann, a Westford resident for over 25 years and town employee for over 12 years, was sadly diagnosed with pancreatic cancer last year. Ann fought a courageous battle against this dreadful disease with the loving support of her family and friends. Ann will always be with us in our hearts and thoughts, as she touched so many of us during her daily activities in the town hall. She is dearly missed, and we send our deepest sympathies to her husband Mark, her sons Mark and Sean, and her other family members and loved ones.



*In memory of  
Ann McEnnis*

Our annual town meeting was held on March 23<sup>rd</sup> with approximately 370 citizens in attendance. The results of the town meeting may be found at the following link: [2013 Annual Town Meeting](#). Many thanks to all town staff, board members, our moderator, volunteers, and others who helped to make this another lively, informative, legislative session.

Our town's new recycling policies have successfully reduced the amount of solid waste we are paying to dispose of. In February, we had 10 more tons of recycling picked up and 48 tons less trash than in February 2012. The estimated savings for this new policy is \$98,000 this year alone.

I am pleased to announce that the Upper Merrimack Valley Medical Reserve Corp was recently awarded a \$7,000 national competitive grant through the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) to enhance our regional preparedness efforts. In addition, our police department recently received a donation of a bullet proof vest and helmet valued at over \$2000.

I am pleased to report that our town just entered three agreements with Nexamp to purchase solar energy credits, which will reduce our electricity expenses by about \$400,000 per year.

The Board of Selectmen recently approved an inter-municipal agreement with the town of Boxborough to allow us to join their Route 495 Regional Technology Center Economic Target Area. If the state approves our application, we will be allowed to apply for Brownfields grant monies to help fund testing, cleanup and building stabilization or demolition at the 12 North Main Street site (Westford Anodizing).

Sandy Collins, Health Director and I were invited to MACK Technology's Green Light Event, which celebrated their energy-savings efforts of switching to environmentally-friendly LED lighting. This project allowed them to receive state tax incentives, along with National Grid incentives, and reduce their electricity costs substantially.

We continue to have black bear sightings in town, and contrary to rumors circulating, we do not shoot the bears. If they are a nuisance to our residents, our Animal Control Officers and/or Police Officers will try and scare them away.

Please remember to vote in our State Primary and Town elections on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

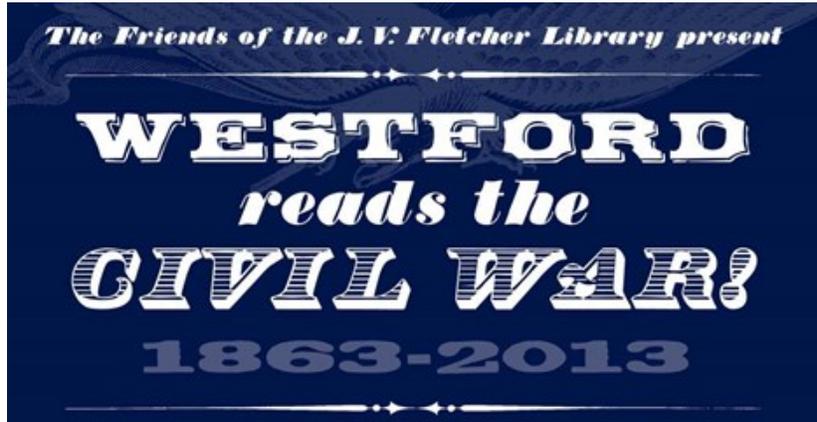
Sincerely,

Jodi Ross

**J.V. Fletcher Library News**

**“LIVING HISTORY”**

**for the children of Westford**



During the program “Kids’ Civil War Days” Westford Children got to experience what it would have been like to live during the Civil War, particularly as a child. So, they played with handmade marbles, strategized how to win the “Pigs and a Pen” game, and some of our youngest attendees tested their balancing prowess in Hopscotch.

Older Children goggled at the artifacts brought to them by a Civil War Reenactor – such as homemade bullets, real Civil War era coins and they even got to taste hard tack! Admiring the reenactor’s uniform was an event in of itself.

All were invited to create “their” version of the famous, “Fort Sumter Confederate Flag.” Of course, in this case, it wasn’t politics that interfered with “how the flag should look” but small hands and large imaginations.

Please join us for the final two events of this series:



<b>Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> 1:00PM</b>	<b>MILITIA RE-ENACTMENT WITH JEFF LAWRENCE Massachusetts 22<sup>nd</sup> Volunteer Infantry</b>
<b>Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> 3:00PM</b>	<b>HISTORICAL LECTURE WITH DR. IRA SPAR Life and Times in a Civil War Hospital</b>

## Cameron Senior Center News

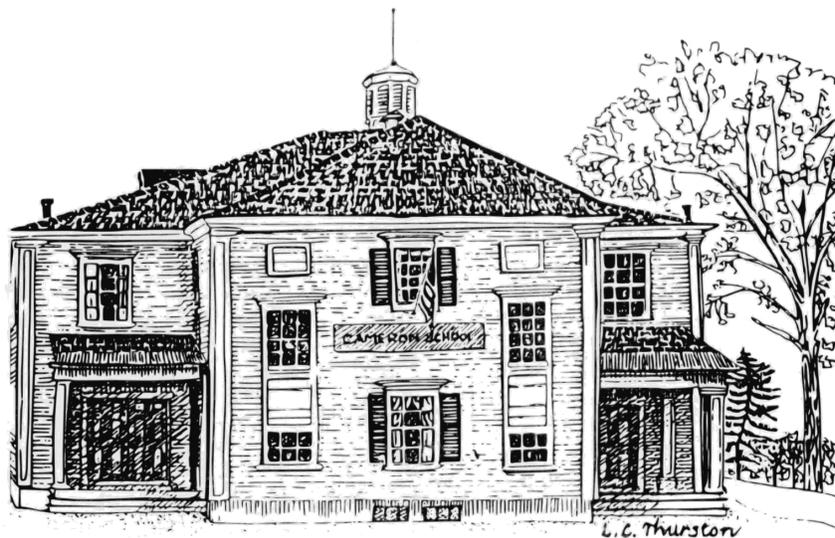
### YARD SALE

On Saturday, April 27th from 9 AM-1 PM, The Friends of the Cameron Senior Center will sponsor an indoor yard sale at Cameron.

We are in need of your yard sale donations in good condition. Donations should be brought to the Cameron (rear of building red door) on Friday, April 26th from 1 – 3 PM.

Table space is available to rent from us at \$15 per table. If you would like to rent a table please contact us at 978-692-5523, to fill out an application. Checks are to be made payable to 'Friends of the Cameron Senior Center.'

Volunteers are needed for set up on Friday, April 26th from 12:30-4 PM and clean-up on Saturday, April 27th from 12:45 - 2:30 PM.



Westford Senior Center

## Health Department News

### **April Is Oral Cancer Awareness Month - Free Screening!**

Approximately 42,000 people will be diagnosed with oral cancer this year. Some 66% of the cancers will be later stage, i.e., Stage 3 or Stage 4. Five-year survival rate is 57%. Someone dies from oral cancer every hour of every day.

Each year, oral cancer kills more people in the U.S. than do more widely known cancers – skin, lymphatic, thyroid, and cervical.

Human papillomavirus HPV 16 – responsible for the majority of cervical cancers – is becoming the dominant cause of oral cancer, along with use of alcohol and tobacco.

Increased patient awareness along with frequent oral screenings, i.e., semi-annual dental exams, can help reverse these trends. Oral cancer is particularly dangerous because in its early stages it may not be noticed by the patient, so oral screenings can be highly beneficial.

Dr. Koff will be conducting a free oral cancer screening at his office in Westford at 270 Littleton Road, #12 on Monday, April 29 from 8 am to 12 pm or longer, depending on the response.. Those interested in the screening can call 978 692-3051 to schedule an appointment.

#### **Important Links:**

**Oral Cancer Foundation:** [www.oralcancerfoundation.org](http://www.oralcancerfoundation.org)

**Oral Cancer Facts:** <http://oralcancerfoundation.org/events/pdf/OCF-Facts-2013.pdf>

**HPV Connection:** [www.oralcancerfoundation.org/hpv/](http://www.oralcancerfoundation.org/hpv/)

### **HOW TO TRICK YOUR PANCREAS A TYPE 2 DIABETES PREVENTION PROGRAM**

The Westford Health Department and the Emerson Hospital will co-sponsor a diabetic educational program. This program has been designed for both diabetics and non diabetics. Presenter is Cheryl Laundry, RN, BS, CDE a diabetic educator from Emerson Hospital.

At the completion of the program, patients will understand how to regulate blood sugar, identify problems associated with Type 2 diabetes, and create a workable Type 2 diabetes prevention "game plan".

For patients who have already been diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes, this program will help them gain greater insight into the disease process and offer strategies for non-pharmacological ways to manage their disease. Reservations required – book by April 18th by calling 978 692-5509

**Date:** Thursday, April 25  
**Time:** 7-9 pm  
**Location:** Town Hall- 2nd floor Meeting Room  
**Cost:** Free

## **Health Department News**

### **National Volunteer Week- April 21 - 27**

In recognition of National Volunteer Week, which honors volunteers who are dedicated to taking action and solving problems in their communities, we would like to recognize and thank our growing Upper Merrimack Valley Medical Reserve Corps (UMVMRC) for all their time and effort in helping our community and the department. Among many of their activities, members staff flu clinics, assist at health fairs, and provide shelter support during emergencies. During 2012 our unit provided ~140 volunteer hours at a substantial savings to the town. If you would like to be a part of this terrific volunteer response team or would like more information, please view our web site at [www.umvmrc.org](http://www.umvmrc.org) or call 978 399-2549. All medical and non medical volunteers are welcomed!

### **National Drug Take Back Day**

This is a great time to clean out those medicine cabinets and get rid of expired drugs or over the counter medications. The Health Dept. will also accept, from Westford residents only, used syringes, needles, and lancets. Please ensure that they are brought in a puncture proof container (such as a detergent bottle) and placed in the smallest containers possible. This will help minimize costs associated with disposal. Co-sponsored by the Westford Police Dept. the Westford Health Dept. and the Drug Enforcement Agency.

**Date:** Sat., April 27

**Time:** 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

**Location:** Police Station Lobby, accessible from Town Hall lot, 55 Main St.

### **Save the Date-Environmental Health and Wellness Expo**

The Water Department & the Health Department will present information on water conservation, backflow prevention; organic lawn care and environmental issues such as Title V, emergency preparedness, tick control and other topics will be provided by professionals. Over 25 vendors will be present. Educational materials and products will be available. Come learn about environmental and health issues that impact our community. Please see the Water Department News section (page 9) for more details.

**Date:** May 15

**Location:** Water Dept- Forge Village Rd

**Time:** 5:00 pm 8:00 p.m.

**Health Department News (Continued)****SERVE SAFE CLASS**

Due to popular demand the Health Department is happy to be once again offer a two day Serve Safe food safety training course. ServSafe is nationally accredited, recognized and often required by State and Federal Food Code(s) depending on the nature and menu of a particular food event in Massachusetts. will be made available for members and organizations of Westford's Community.

The cost to audit the lecture portion of the course is free for Westford residents, non-profits, members of local community organizations and food establishments; however the text books and answer exam sheets are \$70.00. Space is limited to the first 35 applicants. All book fees must be received by the Board of Health Office, located at Town Hall 55 Main Street, no later than Friday May 3 2013. At the time of registration please provide your name, the company or organization you are associated with, address, day time & evening phone number along with a valid email address. To obtain more information please call the Westford Board of Health office at 978-692-5509.

**Dates:** Wednesday May 22 and Wednesday May 29, 2013  
**Time:** 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Millennium School, 23 Depot Street  
All Purpose Meeting Room



## **Health Department News (Continued)**

### **LEARN HOW TO MANAGE TICKS ON YOUR PROPERTY THROUGH INTEGRATED TICK MANAGEMENT (ITM)**

Westford Health Department Staff along with some area experts will discuss products, basic techniques, and identify resources to help you reduce potential exposure to ticks in and around your home & yard (by natural means when available).

Ticks can carry and transmit a number of diseases to humans and pets including Lyme Disease, Human Babesiosis, and Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis (HGA) most commonly so it is very important to actively reduce your exposure.

A small number of vendors will be on hand, have booths set up, and will be available to help answer specific questions and provide additional information about their related products and services.

Areas of discussion are scheduled to include:

- **A BRIEF HISTORY OF TICKS & DISEASE**
- **TICKS 101 AND THEIR HABITS**
- **CREATING A TICK SAFE(R) ZONE THROUGH LANDSCAPING**
- **TICK REDUCTION TECHNIQUES**
- **PROTECTING YOURSELF & PETS FROM TICKS**



**Date: Monday April 29th 2013**  
**Time: 7 PM - 9:30 PM**  
**Location: Millennium Building (behind Abbot School)**  
**23 Depot Street**  
**Westford, MA 01886**  
**Cost: FREE**

Register: Registration required by 4/25 at (978) 692-5509,  
or via email to: [llessard@westfordma.gov](mailto:llessard@westfordma.gov)

## Water Department News

### WATER DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS EXPO

Mark your calendar for the Water Department Open House and Environmental Health & Wellness Expo on Wednesday May 15, 2013.

This year's event is a collaborative effort between the Westford Water and Health Departments. There will be lots of vendors and environmental information on...



- Water Conservation
- Organic Lawn Care
- Backflow Prevention
- Water Testing Laboratory
- [Rain Barrels for sale](#)
- Irrigation Specialist
- Drought Resistant Grass Seed
- Recent Water Projects
- Tick Control
- Water Department Tours
- Emergency Preparedness
- Organic Soil/Composting
- Title V/Septic Systems
- Private Wells
- Mercury Recycling
- Recycling
- Sustainable Westford
- Free Giveaways
- Kid Fun, and much more!

**Date: Wed, May 15th**

**Time: 5-8 PM**

**Where: Westford Water Department**

**Address: 60 Forge Village Road**

**Parking: At the Water Department**

**Kimballs Ice Cream and free giveaways provided!**

**Winners of the Water Department Grade 4 Poster Contest and the Health Department Grade 5 Recycle Contest will be announced at the Expo!**

## Water Department News (continued)

### WATER MAIN FLUSHING PROGRAM

As part of our ongoing maintenance program, Westford Water Department will be completing a comprehensive flushing of the water mains, in the North Street section of Graniteville and Nabnasset areas of Town. We are scheduled to begin the flushing program on April 16, 2013 and be completed by May 17, 2013. Flushing will be completed between the hours of 8:00 AM and 3:00 PM. This schedule is subject to change as weather conditions and length of flushing times may vary. Please check the Water Department website for updates ([www.westfordma.gov/water](http://www.westfordma.gov/water)).

Flushing is completed to maintain water quality throughout the distribution system. This program involves opening fire hydrants and flushing valves to create increased water flows which dislodge and clean out naturally occurring sedimentation in the pipelines. Minor flooding of streets, periods of low pressure and/or periods you may be without water could occur. Discolored water may result from the flushing so we recommend that you fill bottles with water for use during this time. If you experience colored water after the scheduled completion time, please run the cold water for 5 to 10 minutes to clear your service line.



Please avoid washing clothes during the hours we are flushing. Westford Water Department reassures customers the water is safe to drink and any discoloration should clear up after the water is run a few minutes.

If your water does not clear or if you have concerns regarding this flushing please call the Water Department at 978-692-5529.

## Fire Department News

On Sunday, April 14, 2013 the Westford Fire & Police departments responded to a medical call in the woods at the East Boston Camps. There were two males jogging when one of them felt ill. The second one ran for help, but by the time we arrived he was unsure where the patient's exact location was. The Fire Department deployed the UTV (Utility Vehicle) to help locate the patient, transport the paramedics with their equipment, and remove the patient from the woods. The UTV was purchased last fall by Emergency Management using Federal Homeland Security funds. As shown on the map the patient was along a trail but a good distance from a drivable road.

Currently, there is an effort being conducted by the Conservation Committee, Westford GIS, and local scouts to GPS, inventory, and map our trails. This would make trail location information readily available to emergency personnel on portable devices.



## Animal Control News

### REMINDER FROM WESTFORD ANIMAL CONTROL:

While we all enjoy and love to see our native wildlife, to keep them safe and avoid problems we need to be responsible and not offer them easy meals, which generally doesn't end well for the bear.

Homeowners can and should take these steps to help in preventing the bear from visiting their home:

- Stop all bird feeding by the time bears emerge from their dens, which is happening early this year because of the warm weather. As a rule APRIL 1st all bird feeders should be down. Clean up any spilled birdseed and dispose of it in the trash.
- Secure all garbage in airtight containers inside a garage or adequate storage area, and put garbage out ONLY on the morning of pickup, not the night before.
- Avoid putting meat or other food scraps in your compost pile.
- Don't leave pet food dishes outside overnight.
- Clean and store outdoor grills after each use.
- NEVER intentionally feed bears! Not only is this dangerous, it's ILLEGAL!



These steps will help to ensure that your backyard doesn't become attractive to bears. These steps are important to follow because it prevents property damage caused by the bears and because it keeps the bears from becoming a "nuisance." Please if you or your neighbors are still feeding the birds, STOP and ask your neighbors to do so as well. [www.westfordma.gov/animal](http://www.westfordma.gov/animal)

## Recycling Commission

Westford began to enforce its mandatory recycling policy on February 1, 2013. Households that do not leave a recycling bin or toter at curbside on their recycling pickup day at the time trash is collected will not have their trash picked up. The Recycling Commission is pleased there are very few non-compliers. Diverting recyclables from the trash reduces Westford's cost/ton to dispose of solid waste. In the first half of FY 2013, Westford had 127.7 fewer tons of trash, a 3% decrease over the same period in FY 2012. The savings to the town were \$9,068.12.



The Recycling Commission hails all residents who have begun to compost. By composting their fruit and vegetable scraps, residents lower trash tonnage and save the Town more money. The Recycling Commission sells [Earth Machine composters](#) for \$45, available by calling 978-692-6986. The Earth Machine is simple to set up, no turning is necessary, and it provides a small supply of rich compost for the garden. More information can be found at [www.westfordma.gov/recycling](http://www.westfordma.gov/recycling).

### Spring Events

#### **4/27: Brush Chipping**

Saturday, April 27, 2013

10:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Westford Highway Garage, 28 North Street

The fee is \$10 per load; CASH ONLY.

Accepted: branches with maximum dimension 3 inches in diameter and 10 feet in length.

Not Accepted: Commercial refuse. Building materials (fences, boards), land clearing material, debris (roots and bushes, brush mixed with poison ivy), leaves, pine needles, and grass clippings.

#### **6/22: Electronics Collection**

Saturday, June 22, 2013

Westford Highway Garage, 28 North Street

8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

The Westford Recycling Commission hosts three Electronics Recycling events each year in Westford - Spring, June, and September. Westford utilizes the services of Electronics Recyclers International from Holliston, Massachusetts. This is a fee based collection; CASH ONLY. OPEN TO ALL. The Town of Westford receives no proceeds from this event.

For a fee schedule and more information please [Click Here](#).

## Affordable Housing Committee

The Westford Affordable Housing Committee would like to announce the availability of several affordable housing opportunities in Town. For all of these units, income and asset limits must be met. In addition, applicants must be first time home buyers, meaning no one in the home has owned a home in the past three years (some exceptions are available). Other restrictions apply.

If you have questions about any of these units or wonder if you qualify, please call: Christine Pude at the Westford Housing Authority, 978-692-6011.

### Brookside Mill Resale Unit Now Available

Located at the beautifully restored Brookside Mill in Nabnasset, Sale price \$158,100.

- Two bedrooms, one bathroom
- Parking: 1 car garage, plus surface parking
- Age of home: 8 years
- Size of Home: 971 sq. ft
- 2012 Tax Rate : \$16.13 per thousand
- Heat: Gas
- Appliances: stove/oven, dishwasher, Microwave, washer/dryer
- HOA Fee: \$258 per month



#### *Eligibility Criteria\*\**

1. Income Limits: 1 person: \$45,100; 2 person: \$51,550; 3 person: \$58,000; 4 person: \$64,400
2. Assets Limit \$75,000
3. Must be first time homebuyer.

*\*\*Waivers may be available on eligibility.*

Please call for more information.

Estimated monthly housing expenses: \$1,295

This unit is available on a first come first serve basis.

### Cottages in the Woods

Cottages in the Woods, a 20-unit development that consist of 2- and 3-bedroom single family homes, is still accepting applications on an on-going basis. These affordable units will be made available first come first serve. Sales Prices: Ten 2-bedroom single family homes will be sold for \$151,000. Ten 3-bedroom single family homes will be sold at \$168,500. Sales prices do not change based on an applicant's income.

[www.cottagesinthewoods.com](http://www.cottagesinthewoods.com)



### Tadmuck Meadows

The Tadmuck Meadows (Bandon Circle) development is under construction, near to shopping areas and LRTA bus route on Littleton Road (Rt. 110.) These ten affordable units will include 1,392 SF townhomes with: 2-bedroom; loft; one car garage; and one and one-half baths. Sale Price \$159,900. Lottery applications are due by May 25, 2013. An application and information packet may be picked up at J.V. Fletcher Library, 50 Main Street, Westford or call the Housing Resource Group, LLC: 781-820-8797. The application deadline is May 25, 2013.

[www.tadmuckmeadowswestford.com](http://www.tadmuckmeadowswestford.com)



### Graniteville Woods

The Graniteville Woods development will be conducting its fourth and final lottery this fall.

[www.granitevillewoods.com](http://www.granitevillewoods.com)



**If you have questions about any of these units or wonder if you qualify, please call: Christine Pude at the Westford Housing Authority, 978-692-6011.**