



Town of Westford Massachusetts

Town Manager's Newsletter

February 2014



Jodi Ross,
Town
Manager

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

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Watch Meetings Online
westford
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www.westfordcat.org

Dear Westford residents,

At their meeting on February 11th, the Board of Selectmen thanked members of the Fire/Ambulance Departments for their excellent response during a recent cardiac emergency call. Our staff, especially Scott Florio, Dave Lefebvre, Matt Svateck and Captain Valcourt, as well as Fire Alarm Operator Brian Fedderson and the police dispatchers did an awesome job - from receiving the 911 call, to on scene arrival, to Lowell General Hospital Cardiologists giving the patient the appropriate treatment - all in under an hour. This is a great example of the quality of care being delivered by our dispatchers, EMTs and Paramedics, and the staff at Lowell General Hospital.

The selectmen also recognized our entire Highway Department for their excellent work in keeping our roads safe for us to travel during all of the recent snow storms. Our amazing Highway staff often work through the night when these storms last for several hours. I continually receive positive comments about their dedication to their jobs, and their efforts to go above and beyond to help others they encounter along their routes.

As I mentioned last month, Westford recently received designation as a "Green Community" after much work by the Energy Committee and Assistant Town Manager, John Mangiaratti. Along with this designation, the town was awarded a \$156K grant to be used for energy efficient projects. On February 10th Richard Sullivan, Secretary, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Department of Energy Resources Commissioner Mark Sylvia, State Senator Eileen Donoghue and State Representative Jim Arciero, joined Selectman Kelly Ross and other local officials from the towns of Lunenburg and Ashby for a celebratory event.



L to R; Assistant Town Manager, John Mangiaratti; Selectmen, Kelly Ross; Town Administrator, Jodi Ross; Energy Committee Member, Paul Mucci ;State Representative, Jim Arciero; State Senator, Eileen Donoghue; Secretary, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Richard Sullivan

(continued on next page)

WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV

There are several openings on local boards and committees, including the Affordable Housing Committee, Agricultural Commission, Cultural Council, Energy Committee, Historical Commission, and others, and I urge you to peruse our website for information about the work of these committees and if you have interest, complete a Citizen's Activity form at this link, or in the town manager's office: [Citizen Activity Form](#).

The East Boston Camps and Stepinski Parcels Naming Study Committee has mailed surveys to each resident to seek input on whether or not the name of these parcels should be changed. Please complete the survey if you would like to contribute your opinions to this committee's work.

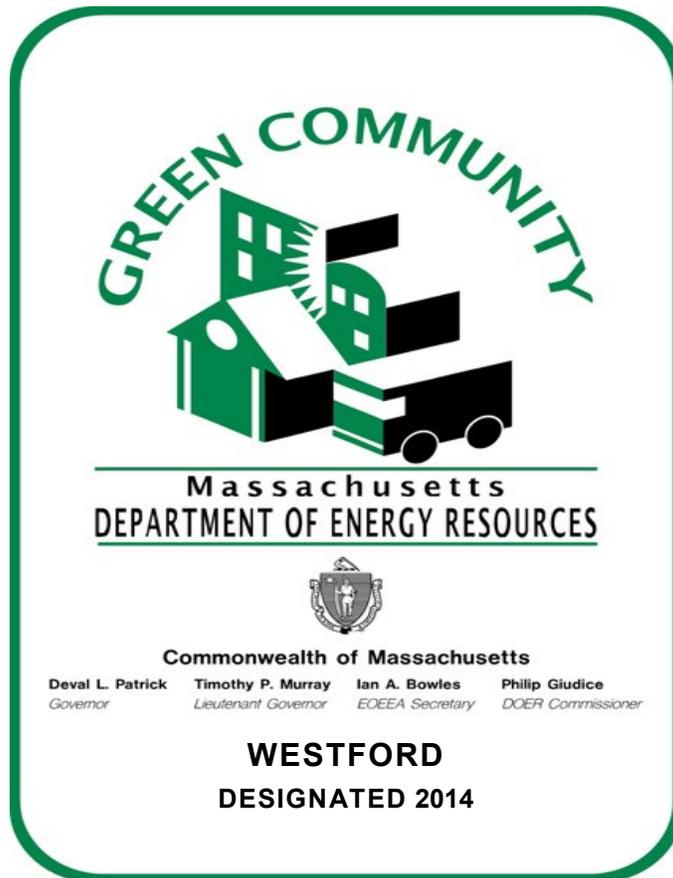
The town just awarded the contract for designing the intersection improvements at Oak Hill and Route 40, and Dunstable Road and Route 40 to TEC, Inc.

Our annual town meeting will be held on March 22nd at 10:00 a.m. in the Abbot School Gymnasium. The warrant contains 36 articles and is still in draft form, as the motions are being developed. This information should be available on our website shortly. The Finance Committee approved the FY15 Operating Budget and will be reviewing the Capital Budget shortly.

Sincerely,



Jodi Ross



Council on Aging News

Weekday Breakfasts

A nutritious breakfast is available weekdays for senior citizens age 60 and over at the Cameron Senior Center. Stop in between 8:30 – 9:30 AM and you will be served a bowl of hot oatmeal, muffin or loaf cake, juice and milk. You may also pick it up on the run as a take home item. The food is provided by the Merrimack Valley Nutrition Program and we are doing a two month pilot program. With sufficient interest we will continue to offer this free breakfast.



Cameron Closet Sale

The February sale is underway at the Cameron Closet, Monday – Friday 9 AM – 3 PM. February 18 – 28th all items of clothing and small knick knacks are \$1 per bag. We are in need of spring and summer clothing in excellent condition for all ages and sizes. Donations are accepted weekdays from 9 – Noon at Cameron.

Pool Tournament

There is still time to register for the pool tournament to be held on Tuesday, February 18th. When you stop in try out our recently donated ping-pong table and dart board. Will we have a champion? You may call to register at 978-692-5523.

Drop In... Play A Game...

We encourage you to drop in and participate in canasta on Thursday, cribbage and/or Mah-Jongg Wednesday; and scrabble Tuesday. These activities are held from 1 – 3 PM and have room at the table.

Fitness Room

Fitness Room members may avail themselves to a clinic on the fitness equipment with Dave from Precision Fitness. This free session will be held on Thursday, February 27th at 11 AM. Please have clean dry athletic footwear on as you enter the room.

Trip to the Salem Cross Inn

Travel with us on Wednesday, March 12th as we explore “St. Patrick’s Day at The Salem Cross Inn”. The Inn is acclaimed throughout New England for its fabulous cuisine. Enjoy a four course Lunch with soup, salad, choice of Corned Beef with Cabbage or Scrod, potatoes, vegetables, dessert and coffee. Entertainment after your meal and motor coach transportation for the all inclusive price of \$72. per person. Seating is limited so reserve now at **978-692-5523**. (Motor coach leaves Westford 9:45AM and returns 4:00PM)



*Banquet room at The Salem Cross Inn,
West Brookfield, Massachusetts*

Council On Aging - Coming Events

AN AFTERNOON OF SINGING

Will be presented by the voice students of Jeanne Masterman at the Cameron Senior Center on Saturday, March 15th at 1PM. Admission is free and all are invited!

ST. PATRICK'S DAY LUNCHEON

Wear your green and come join us for our Annual St. Patrick's Day Luncheon!

Tuesday, March 18th at the Franco American Club.

Doors will open at 10:30AM

Traditional corned beef and cabbage dinner served around 11:30 AM.

Reserve your seat by March 5th by calling 978-692-5523.

The \$7 fee is due at the time of registration.

Non-resident fee is \$15.

You will not be registered until payment is received.



LUNCH SERVED ON WEEKDAYS AT CAMERON SENIOR CENTER

The Merrimack Valley Nutrition Program provides anyone age 60 and over with low cost nutritional meals at Cameron, Monday – Friday at 11:30 AM.

Please call 978-692-5523 a minimum of two days in advance between 8:00 - 10:00 AM to make your reservation.

The donation is \$2.00. If spouse/partner is under the age of 60, the meal cost is \$4.50.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation offers various trips to local business establishments such as Market Basket, hairdressers, drug stores, department stores and medical facilities.

Trips to Cameron Senior Center and social calls to your friends are also available.

Please call 978-399-2322 or email lmitchell@westfordma.gov as soon as you know you need transportation. Roundtrip fares are \$3 within Westford; \$6 to neighboring towns; and \$8 to outlying towns. If school is closed due to inclement weather, transportation does not operate.

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

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



Westford Senior Center
L.C. Thurston

Recreation Department News

Crew Erg-A-Thon

Westford Friends of Recreation - Crew will be holding their 3rd annual erg-a-thon on Saturday, March 29th, from 8AM-Noon in the parking lot at Burtons Grill in Westford, MA.

Westford-Littleton Community Crew (WLCC) is composed of high school and adult competitors who help raise funds toward the purchase of rowing equipment. Each competitor, on an erg (rowing machine), rows a total of 10,000-meters to raise funds to support the crew programs. The event has been successful in raising over \$20,000 which has been used to purchase equipment and to add middle school age programs.



Burtons Grill has kindly sponsored this event in the past and will again this year. In addition to Burtons Grill, Panera Bread and Starbucks have join up to help sponsor this year's event.

The public is welcome to come join us for a cup of coffee and muffin and cheer on the athletes as the competitors try to reach their goal. Current athletes and coaches will be available to answer questions on WLCC and crew programs! For more information about Westford-Littleton Community Crew visit our website:

www.Westford-LittletonCrew.org



J.V. Fletcher Library



The J . V. Fletcher Library Presents:



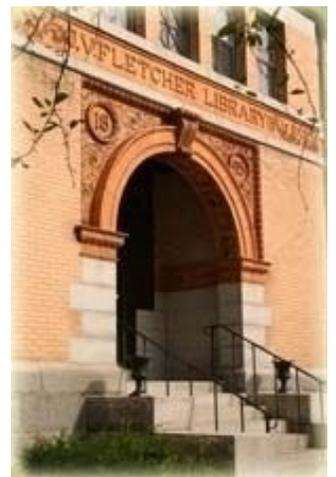
PLANNING FOR A 21st CENTURY WESTFORD LIBRARY:

Milestones:

- ◆ **1988** - the "new" Library addition and renovation
- ◆ **2001** - the Library bond issue funding the 1988 addition/renovation is paid off
- ◆ **2007-2011** - Friends, Trustees, the Town and donors fund the Library Beautification Project to cosmetically refurbish the existing library spaces
- ◆ **2013** - Annual Town Meeting funds **\$20,000** as a local match for a future Planning and Design Grant; to be supplemented by Trustee funds
- ◆ **2014** - in January the Library submitted a **Planning and Design Grant** to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, competing for **\$50,000** to conduct a Feasibility Assessment

Future Milestones:

- ◆ **2014** - Westford learns in June if the Library has been awarded a **Planning and Design Grant** to conduct a Feasibility Study
- ◆ **2014-2016** - the Westford Community advises, analyzes and assesses its position on a future library design
- ◆ **2016 or 2017** - Westford applies for a competitive **Public Library Construction Grant** with a potential 50% match for local communities from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners
- ◆ **2017-2020** - the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners pursues state funding for the **Public Library Construction Grant** round, with municipalities wait-listed for grant monies
- ◆ **2020-2023 - A 21st Century Library**



Emergency Management

Take a moment to visit the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency's website:



Ready. Massachusetts

Ready Massachusetts is an initiative of the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency designed to educate and empower residents of Massachusetts to prepare for and respond to emergencies including natural, technological and man-made disasters. *Ready Massachusetts* asks individuals to do four key things to prepare for emergencies:

- [Be Informed](#) – Know what emergencies may occur and stay informed
- [Make A Plan](#) – Plan for your family before an emergency
- [Build a Kit](#) – Assemble an emergency kit
- [Get Involved](#) – Volunteer opportunities in emergency preparedness and response

Ready Massachusetts serves as a one-stop shop for citizen preparedness information by also providing links to other relevant national, state and volunteer agencies. Individuals, communities, and other agencies are encouraged to print, share, link to, and distribute the Ready Massachusetts preparedness materials.

www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/ready-massachusetts/about-ready-massachusetts.html



Get MEMA Emergency Information on your cellphone via text alerts or through MEMA's smartphone app for iPhone and Android users.

There are now two primary methods that citizens in Massachusetts can get emergency information on their cellphones, Ping4alerts! and Wireless Emergency Alerts. Both of these methods will provide timely and important information about emergencies and hazards in your area and how you should respond to ensure your safety. Important messages may be delivered using both methods. Learn more about each of the two methods with the information provided below:

[Ping4alerts!](#)

[Wireless Emergency Alerts](#)

Health Department News

Westford's Hazardous Materials Storage Bylaw Amendments Proposed for Town Meeting

On March 22, 2014, at the Westford Town Meeting, the Westford Board of Health is proposing to amend Westford's current Hazardous Materials Storage Bylaw. By amending the bylaw, we can better protect Westford's groundwater, surface water, air quality, and the natural environment from possible contamination.

The new amendments to the bylaw will allow better documentation as to where the hazardous materials are stored in Westford. This will help the Health and the Fire Departments identify what hazardous materials are being generated, used, and stored in town. In an emergency situation, knowing what and the location of where Hazardous Materials are in town can be vital information. By adding an inspectional component to the bylaw, we can identify storage practices and help prevent injuries and emergencies.



Hazardous Material leaks and spills can be very costly to clean up. We can reduce the possible financial impacts to homeowners and business owners by proposing some changes to the town's current bylaw.

Those changes include....

- Identifying and assessing potentially harmful storage practices
- Identifying locations of underground fuel oil tanks
- Registering and permitting of tanks and containers greater than 50 gallons
- Inspecting commercial businesses that store, generate, and use hazardous materials for emergency plans, containment structures, storage, disposal manifests, and material data sheets
- Requiring owners to test underground fuel tanks after 15 years

Health Department News (Continued)

Choke Savers Class Offered to Food Establishments

The Health Department is offering a choke safe training class free of charge for food establishments that operate in the Town of Westford. The class will be held Wednesday February 19 2014 at 1:00 PM at the Millennium School 23 Depot Street. Choke safe is required for all food establishments that have 25 or more seats in the establishment. Members of the Upper Merrimack Valley Medical Reserve Corps, who are CPR trainers for American Heart Association, will provide the training. Please call the office to sign up for the training at 978-692-5509.

ServSafe Food Safety Training Course

The Health Department is again offering a two day Serve Safe food safety training course on Wednesday March 26 and Wednesday April 2, 2014 to members of community organizations and establishments that serve food. 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.

The course will be held on both nights from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Millennium School, 23 Depot Street in the All Purpose Meeting Room.



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 and is open to only one applicant per organization. All book fees must be received by the Health Department Office, located at Town Hall 55 Main Street, no later than February 28, 2014. Depending on space availability, the Health Department may open the course to more than one applicant per organization. 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 Health Department office at 978-692-5509.

Health Department News (Continued)

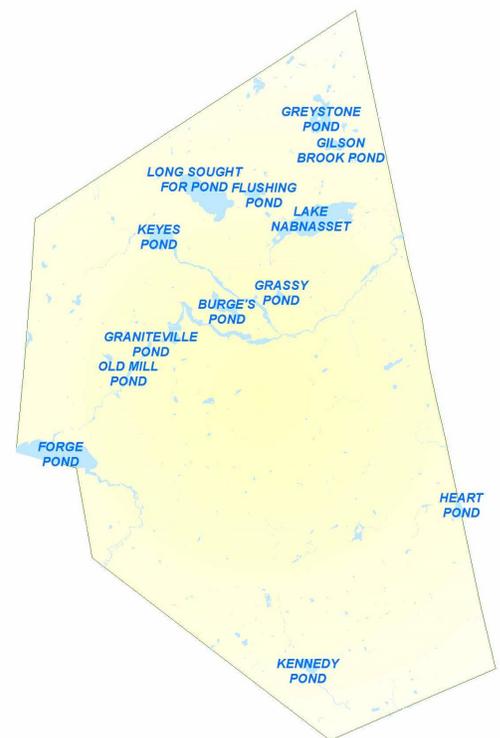
Healthy Lakes and Ponds Collaborative Receives Approval for CPC Grant

Westford's Healthy Lakes & Ponds Collaborative (HLPC) is very happy to announce that our recent application for funding to assist in ensuring the health and quality of many of Westford's recreational water bodies was unanimously approved by the Community Preservation Committee! This is incredibly good news as Westford has a number lakes and ponds that provide many valuable resources for residents and are a key component of its character. Our next step to obtain the funding is to have it approved at this spring's upcoming Town Meeting. The development of the town and population growth have added demands and stresses on these water bodies, and recent studies in several water bodies have identified a number of management challenges for their preservation and the valuable resources they provide.

The HLPC includes representatives from Westford's Town Departments (Conservation, Engineering, GIS, Health, Town Manager, Recreation, and Water) and various organizations that have a mission or charter to preserve water bodies for the benefit of their members and local residents. Joining together in a collaborative effort was the first step toward preserving the Town's water resources and reducing nutrient flow into the water bodies.

HLPC began meeting in August 2013 to look at Westford's Lakes and Ponds after experiencing reoccurring cyanobacteria or blue green algae blooms on Nabnasset Lake and its associated health concerns. Due to the bloom's severity in 2012, swimming and most other recreational activities were prohibited by the Health Department for a two month period. This bloom is part of a range of issues that have compromised not only Nabnasset Lake and Forge Pond, but other ponds in town.

The Healthy Lakes & Ponds Collaborative members have committed to working together for the long term, to determine the best course of action now and are continually making positive steps towards preserving Westford's water resources for the future!



Health Department News (Continued)

Lets Move Event

Westford Health Department, partnering with Circle Health, and the Upper Merrimack Valley Medical Reserve Corp, would like to invite the community to a special 'Let's Move Westford' event for families entitled, 'Hula Hoop Jam', on Wednesday, March 19 from 6:30 - 8:00 pm at the Stony Brook Middle School Gym in Westford.



Kat Suwalski, a certified Hoopnotica Master Trainer, and several other hooping instructors, will perform a hoop dance with LED hoops followed by a fun, interactive workshop teaching basic hooping moves, skills and games that increase eye-hand coordination, strength, balance and agility!

Hoops for the workshop will be provided to the first 100 registrants. Twenty additional, hand-made hoops (32-26") will be raffled off for kid's to take home!

Check out Kat and Hoopnotica wildkathoops.com.

This event is free, open to the public and appropriate for families with children in grades K-12.

Advance reservations are recommended, but not required.

For more info or to pre-register, call the Westford Health Dept. at 978-692-5509 or email intothewoods3@comcast.net

