



Jodi Ross,  
Town  
Manager

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

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

**Dear Westford Residents,**

On June 14<sup>th</sup> the Nabnasset American Legion Post 437 held their annual Flag Day Celebration and Old Glory Flag Retirement Ceremony. Many were in attendance at this important event, and pictures are included in our newsletter along with pictures from our Memorial Day events, which were held on May 27<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to all who coordinated and participated in these ceremonies.

Our second annual Strategic Planning Retreat was held on June 20<sup>th</sup> and included discussions regarding:

- Fiscal Year 2014 and beyond
- Economic and Planned Development along Route 110
- Education – Mandates, Budget, Full-Day Kindergarten, and other issues
- Examining Municipal Property, Capital Needs, Possible New Revenue from Cell Facilities
- Underage Drug and Alcohol Usage Awareness

Although the temperature hovered around 95 degrees, 107 residents attended our event which was held at Kimball Farm. A summary is currently being prepared, and will be presented at a future Selectmen's meeting. A special thank you to all who assisted in coordinating this retreat, and also to those who joined us for an evening of information sharing, questions, and constructive input from our residents. More information may be found online at: [Strategic Planning Retreat](#).



We recently went out to bid for our general insurance, worker's compensation, and fire and police accident policies. I am pleased to report we secured \$40,000 in savings by bidding these insurances, and we were also successful in securing a 3% rate hold for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015. Thank you to John Mangiaratti, Assistant Town Manager, for his exceptional work on this project.

Selectmen Andrea-Peraner Sweet and Val Wormell joined Congresswoman Tsongas, Senator Donoghue, Representative Arciero, Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Greg Bialecki at the June 18th Red Hat groundbreaking for their 100,000 square foot expansion. This project is the result of a partnership between Westford, the state, and Red Hat which is expected to create over 180 new high level computer jobs over the next couple of years. As an added bonus to our town, Red Hat officials presented us with a \$25,000 check to be used for the Westford Community Fields project on Nutting Road. **(Continued on next page)**

On June 21<sup>st</sup>, Christine Collins, our Tax Collector/Treasurer held an auction to assign and transfer the tax title lien for the “Westford Anodizing” building, located at 12 North Main Street. The auction produced no bidders, so we are reevaluating our recommendations to the Board of Selectmen on how to proceed with the property.

On June 26th, the Selectmen formed an Economic Development Committee whose membership consists of five residents with two alternates, and also includes Andrea Peraner-Sweet, Chair of the Selectmen, a Planning Board member, Angus Jennings, Director of Land Use Management, and me as Town Manager. The committee is being charged to advise the Board of Selectmen and other town boards on issues concerning bylaws, policies, regulations, and zoning that foster commercial growth, strengthen the local economy, and are consistent with maintaining the character of our community. We will be establishing a web page where you may review this important committee's work.

At their meeting of July 10<sup>th</sup>, the Board of Selectmen voted to move forward with the project of constructing a new fire sub-station on a section of the Jack Walsh field in the Parker Village section of our town. The construction of this fire station is being funded by the developer of the Cornerstone Square “mixed use” project at the corner of Boston Road and Littleton Road. There are many steps to this process, as the land that we have proposed for the fire station is currently restricted under National Park Service Land and Water Conservation Fund. A land swap is currently being discussed by the Recreation Commission and the Board of Selectmen.

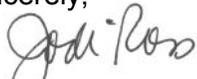
The Abbot Mill conversion into loft-style apartments celebrated its grand opening and ribbon cutting on July 12th, complete with a slide show of the 10 year project by developer Chris Yule. Lifelong resident and former Abbot Mill employee, Mickey Crocker, was present to cut the ribbon. She stated she did so on behalf of all of the former employees of the mill. It was a wonderful celebration of an amazing renovation and reconstruction of one of Westford's most treasured buildings.

Please join me in welcoming Alison Christopher as our new Social Worker at the Cameron Senior Center. Alison comes to us with much experience - her most recent position was Senior Social Worker at Lawrence Memorial Hospital in Medford.

We continue to get many reports of sightings of black bears in several sections of our town. If you do see a bear, remain at a safe distance away or go indoors if possible. If the bear is a nuisance, please call Animal Control at 978-692-4574. As a precaution, we suggest you take down your bird feeders and keep your trash inside until just prior to pick up and removal. More information is available on our town's website [Animal Control](#) or the state's website [http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/wildlife/living/living\\_with\\_bears.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/wildlife/living/living_with_bears.htm).

I hope you are able to get out and enjoy this glorious summer.

Sincerely,

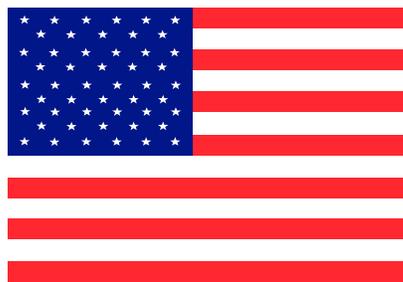


Jodi Ross



*A black bear was spotted near Groton Road in Westford on May 20. Photo taken by Police Officer Mike Perciballi*

# Flag Day Ceremonies 2012



# Memorial Day Parade 2012



*George and Phyllis Seddon*



*Westford Firefighters Pipe and Drums*



*Town Manager, Jodi Ross; Selectmen, Andrea Peraner-Sweet, Kelly Ross, and Valerie Wormell*



*Miss Middlesex County, Stephanie Vegliante*



*State Representative, Jim Arciero and State Senator Eileen Donoghue*



## Water Department News

### Graniteville Road Water Main Extension Project Update

Work on the Graniteville Water Main Improvements Project is proceeding along on schedule. The contractor has now completed installation of the new 12-inch water main on Graniteville Road from Cold Spring Road to Bridge Street. Over the next several weeks, residents in this section of the project will be connected to the new water main.

The contractor also completed the installation of the new 8-inch water main on Bridge Street. This new main connected two dead ends that were separated by 300 feet and a brook crossing. Elimination of dead ends helps to improve flow and water quality. The contractor successfully installed the new water main under Boutwell Brook and a stone culvert by horizontal directional drilling. This work was completed in one day and only required a small excavation on either side of the brook. The new water main was installed by a special process of welding lengths of 8" polyethylene pipe together and pulling the joined lengths back under the brook through the horizontal borehole.

Horizontal directional drilling was used on Bridge Street to reduce the environmental impact of connecting the water main under Boutwell Brook. Since only two small excavations were required on either side of the brook - as opposed to the more traditional method of excavating a trench the entire length of the main installation - no disruption of the brook and wetlands was necessary.



*Directional Drilling on Bridge Street (under Boutwell Brook)*

Water main installation is also proceeding along River Street. The new 12-inch water main has been installed from the railroad bridge to the bridge over Stony Brook, and from North Main Street to Stony Brook.

During the next several weeks the water main will be installed over Stony Brook as an attachment to the side of the bridge. Also, a new 12-inch water main will be installed down Beacon Street. The project is on schedule and expected to be completed by end of August.

We appreciate your patience during the project.

Visit the Water Department website ([www.westfordma.gov/water](http://www.westfordma.gov/water)) for important project updates.

Water Department News (Continued)

Graniteville Road Water Main Extension Project Update



*Directional Drilling on Bridge Street (under Boutwell Brook)*



*Polyethylene water main pipe welding equipment*

## Highway Department News



*Westford Highway Department busy paving various streets in town.*



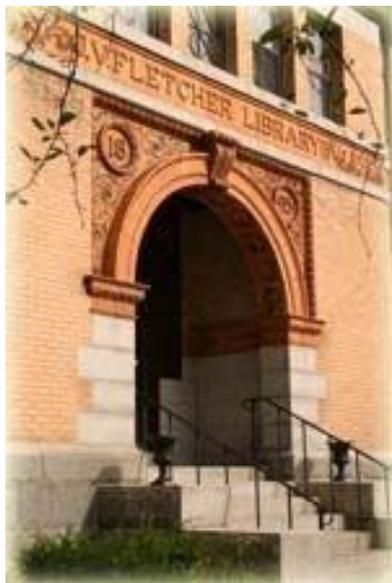
## J.V. Fletcher Library News

### THE LIBRARY AS A "STAYCATION" DESTINATION

So far, over two thousand residents, off all ages, have joined and are thoroughly enjoying the J. V. Fletcher Library's three Summer Reading Programs (Childrens, Teens and 'Tweens and Adult.)

There's been no need to book fares to Zimbabwe when in the heart of darkness of the Meeting Room families are encountering slithering snakes, hissing cockroaches and snapping turtles. While paying for creative art workshops in New Mexico might entice a select few, Westfordians at large are opting for free, drop-in programs where they can design marvelous mosaic Sun Catchers, sculpt clay monster masks and astound their friends with realistic-looking roses that they've made from industrial duct tape. Adult readers are looking forward to winning Kimball's ice cream cones, revamping their closets, meeting David Brody (author of the recent, controversial novel "Thief on the Cross") and are all-a-buzz about the Beekeeping program.

Throughout, READING, is of course, encouraged, recommended and rewarded -- and we've heard--- is ALMOST as fun as the daily, frantically wild search for Scooby Doo's hiding place in the Children's Room.



<b>Various programs in July that kids might enjoy</b>	
<p><b>Lego® Club</b> Come create something fun with Library Legos®. All creations will be displayed in the library until the next time we meet.</p>	<p>Saturday, July 21 2 - 3 p.m. Free drop-in for ages 6 and up.</p>
<p><b>Mike the Boston Bubble Guy</b> This promises to be a dazzling bubble display of large, larger, and even ginormous sized bubbles.</p>	<p>Monday, July 23 11 a.m. Tickets (\$2.00) for children and adults are available by phone or in person. This program is for ages 5 and up.</p>
<p><b>Drop-in Craft</b> Stop by and make a fabulous hand critter, adapted from the book Hand Critters by designer Dyango Chavez Cutiño.</p>	<p>Wednesday, July 25 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Free drop-in craft for all ages.</p>
<p><b>Kids, Tweens, and Teens Book Sale</b> Open to the public</p>	<p>Friday, July 27 6:30-9 p.m. Sat., July 28 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. Sun., July 29 2-4 p.m. Half price sale!</p>

**Council on Aging News**



My name is Alison, and I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself to the town and to the seniors. On July 9th, I started my position as the new social worker for the Council on Aging. I have spent the past sixteen years since receiving my master's degree working with seniors in a variety of health care settings. I love working with this population and am so excited to be joining such an amazing team at the Cameron Senior Center. I will be working closely with Joanne and Annette to learn about all of the ways that we can help folks in this very resourceful community. I know that many of the seniors have worked closely with Judy over the years, and that it is not always easy to transition to a new social worker. However, I hope that I will earn your trust and that I can offer you support in the coming weeks and months. I can be reached by calling 978-399-2325 or by stopping by my office at the Cameron Senior Center. I look forward to meeting you all.

-Alison Christopher, MSW, LICSW

**Upcoming Events at The Cameron Center**

<b>Board of Health Clinic Hearing &amp; Hearing Aid Test</b>	Monday July 16, 9:30 to 11:30 AM Location: Cameron Tests are Free. Call for Reservation.
<b>Blood pressure check, weight check, and medication review. Drop-ins welcome</b>	July 25, 8:00 to 10 AM Second Floor of the Cameron Center
<b>Senator and Representative Cookout</b> Hosted by Senator Donoghue and Representative Arciero	August 9th at 11:30 AM Location: Cameron. Please register early.
<b>Kiwanis Cookout for the Seniors</b>	Tuesday, August 14th at 5:30 PM Indoors. Call for reservation.
<b>Residence Inn by Marriott Hawaiian Lunch Luau and Hotel Tour</b>	August 2 at Noon. Call for Reservation Location: 7 Lan Dr. (off of RT 110)
<b>Community Food Pantry</b> Open for food distribution	Monday, July 16, 1:00 to 3:00 PM Wednesday July 18, 8:30 to 11:30 AM Thursday, July 19, 8:30 to 11:30, 6:00 to 8:00 PM

**Salad Bar** available a Cameron every Thursday and Friday at 11:30. Price \$2.00.

**Heat Stress:** The Cameron Senior Center will be open for extended hours during heat waves. Please call ahead at 978-692-5523.



## Town Clerk News

### How are we doing?

Are you finding the documents you need online?

Please take a moment to complete a short survey to help us further enhance the Town's Document Management System (DMS).

Survey at Survey Monkey: <http://westfordma.gov/DMSsurvey>



### Elections and Voter Registration

The State Election season swings into gear a little earlier this year with the State Primary scheduled for Thursday, September 6th. New voters to Westford need to register by Friday, August 17th in order to vote in the State Primary. This deadline also applies for party enrollment change and 17 year olds who will be 18 on or before September 6th.

Absentee ballots for the State Primary will be available in the next few weeks.

College Students, let us know if your address has changed since spring semester so that your absentee ballot reaches you in plenty of time.



### Board and Committee Vacancies

The Board of Selectmen are seeking applications for the following boards and or committees:

- Affordable Housing Trust Committee
- Agricultural Commission
- Bylaw Review Committee
- Community Preservation Committee
- Cultural Council
- Election Officers
- Energy Committee
- Fence Viewer
- Finance Committee
- Parks and Recreation Commission
- Pedestrian Safety Committee
- Personnel Advisory Committee

Interested residents are encouraged to complete a Citizen's Activity application form available online at: <http://data.westfordma.gov/bc>

If you have any questions please contact Tina Landry in the Town Manager's office at 978-692-5501.

## Recreation Department

### Community Fields Project receives \$25,000 donation from Red Hat

Red Hat, a globally recognized Information & Technologies Solutions and Consulting Company is expanding its Engineering Headquarters here in Westford. At a groundbreaking ceremony for the new 100,000 square foot building, the company generously donated \$25,000 toward the Westford Community Fields project at Nutting Road. Parks and Recreation Commission Chair Kevin "Kacy" Caviston and Fundraising Chair Ken Hanly stated, "This is a significant contribution that helps us reach the final stages of our fundraising efforts." Caviston recognized John Flanagan, Red Hat Director for Westford Corporate Citizenship for his help in securing this donation. The parking lot is the final phase of the project at Nutting Road and should be completed by the fall.

Paul Cormier, President of Red Hat's Products & Technologies Unit recognized Town Manager Jodi Ross and Board of Selectmen Chair Andrea Peraner-Sweet for the Town's efforts in working with Red Hat on this expansion. Both Ross and Peraner-Sweet along with Representative James Arciero, State Senator Eileen Donoghue, and Congresswoman Nikki Tsongas spoke at the ceremony and raised a shovelful of dirt in recognition of the new building. Cormier stated the company's growth will mean 180 new jobs at the Westford Location.

### USTA Scholarship awarded to Tennis Director Donna Holmes

Donna Holmes, Director of Westford Parks & Recreation Tennis program has been selected as one of four recipient from 80 applicants nationwide to receive the US Tennis Association (USTA) 2012 Junior Team Tennis Scholarship Award for the Tennis Teacher Conference (TTC). The TTC is held in New York City during the US Open August 24-27. The TTC is the premier education event for tennis coaches and instructors worldwide. The award for up to \$1,000 is for cost to cover registration, transportation and lodging. Donna stated she is thrilled to be recognized to represent New England and the Westford Recreation Department tennis program. She attended the TTC six years ago and eager to advance her teaching skills and speak with other professionals on ideas to improve tennis programs. Donna is a certified Tennis Teaching Professional.

### Concerts on the Common Sundays 4-6PM -

July 22 Dixie Land Band, August 5 Nice Suit, August 19 Nashoba Valley Concert Band

### Red Sox and Lowell Spinners Tickets Available

#### Red Sox

Friday, July 20 Toronto Blue Jays @ 7PM

Saturday, August 25 Kansas City Royals @ 7:10PM

#### Lowell Spinners

Sunday, August 19 Hudson Valley Renegades (Tampa Bay Rays) @1PM

Contact the Recreation Department at 978-692-5532 if interested.

## Director of Land Use Management Update

### Westford Attendance at Recent Planning Conference

Westford's Town Planner Chris Kluchman and Director of Land Use Management Angus Jennings attended the 2012 Massachusetts Association of Planning Directors [Annual Conference](#) in Springfield in June, attending sessions regarding ethics, public finance, innovative zoning, recent case law, and others. One member each from the Westford Historical Commission and the Westford Recycling Commission, David Gutbrod and Kathleen Canavan, respectively, also attended conference sessions regarding local historical preservation planning and recycling and composting.

### Red Hat Groundbreaking

Westford town officials joined Congresswoman Tsongas, Senator Donoghue, Representative Arciero, Massachusetts Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Greg Bialecki and many others at the June 18 groundbreaking for the 100,000 SF expansion of Red Hat. This project, which will be the Fortune 500 Company's third expansion in Westford since it first opened its doors more than a decade ago, is expected to create over 180 new jobs in the coming years. The expansion, in Westford Tech Park West, was made possible in part by Town Meeting approval of a Tax Increment Financing agreement in October 2011. At the groundbreaking, Red Hat presented a \$25,000 check to the Recreation Commission in support of the turf fields project.



*(Red Hat photos credit Chris Hayes, Permitting Department)*

**(Land Use News continued on next page)**

## Director of Land Use Management Update (Continued)

### **Abbot Mill Grand Opening**

Westford town officials and staff, members of the Forge Village Improvement Association, and many others attended the July 12 grand opening of the Abbot Mill project, a 129-unit residential mill conversion which received both State and Federal Historic Tax Credits. Although work on the project still proceeds, some of the completed units are already occupied, and this project is expected to bring great vitality to the Forge Village neighborhood.



*(Abbot Mill photos credit Angus Jennings, Permitting Department)*

### **Sign Bylaw Work Ongoing**

The Town Planner is leading a working group comprised of local residents, businesses and town officials to consider potential changes to the town's Sign Bylaw. Following a June meeting, the next meeting is expected in September, at which point a draft of recommendations is expected to be ready for discussion. Zoning amendments may be brought forward for the 2013 Annual Town Meeting.

For more information review the [project website](#), or contact Chris Kluchman [ckluchman@westfordma.gov](mailto:ckluchman@westfordma.gov).

## Health Department News

### Play it Smart This Summer

#### **Sun Safety**

Skin cancer is on the rise in the United States; the American Cancer Society estimates that one American dies every hour from skin cancer. In 2012 alone, the American Cancer Society estimates there will be more than 76,250 new cases of malignant melanoma, the most serious form of skin cancer. Tanning and sunburns leaves permanent changes to your skin that increases your risk of skin cancer. Keep your skin looking good and reduce your risk of skin cancer by following these simple steps:

**Reduce Time in the Sun:** It's important to limit sun exposure between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., when the sun's rays are strongest. Even on an overcast day, up to 80 percent of the sun's UV rays can get through the clouds. Sit under an umbrella or play in the shade as much as possible throughout the day. Do not use tanning booths. There is no such thing as a "good" base! Damage is still being done to your skin!

**Slip** on a shirt or rash guard to cover as much skin as possible. For extra protection, UVA and UVA protective clothing are now available.

**Slap** on a wide brim hat or a baseball cap at a minimum. Protect the face, ears, neck and top of your head – frequent skin cancer locations.

**Slop** on sunscreen with a "sun protection factor" (SPF) of 15 or more, provides "broad spectrum" protection—sunscreen that protects against all types of skin damage caused by sunlight and water resistant.

#### **Tips for Applying Sunscreen**

- Apply the recommended amount evenly to all uncovered skin, especially your lips, nose, ears, neck, hands, and feet.
- Apply sunscreen 15 minutes before going out in the sun.
- If you don't have much hair, apply sunscreen to the top of your head, or wear a hat.
- Reapply at least every two hours.
- Give babies and children extra care in the sun. Ask a health care professional before applying sunscreen to children under 6 months old.
- Apply sunscreen to children older than 6 months every time they go out.

**Wrap** on a pair of sunglasses. Sunlight reflecting off snow, sand, or water further increases exposure to UV radiation and increases your risk of developing eye problems.

- When buying sunglasses, look for a label that specifically offers 99 to 100 percent UV protection. Pricier sunglasses don't ensure greater UV protection.
- Ask an eye care professional to test your sunglasses if you don't know their level of UV protection.
- People who wear contact lenses that offer UV protection should still wear sunglasses.
- Wraparound sunglasses offer the most protection.
- Children should wear real sunglasses (not toy sunglasses!) that indicate the UV protection level.

For more information on resources available visit [www.skincancerprevention.org](http://www.skincancerprevention.org)

## Health Department News (Continued)

### EEE and West Nile Virus

Recently it has been reported in the news that mosquitoes infected with **Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE)** have been found in other communities in MA. Although currently Westford has had no mosquitoes that have tested positive, we are concerned about preventing mosquito-borne illnesses such as **EEE** and **West Nile Virus (WNV)**. You can help protect your family by:

- Avoiding outdoor activity when mosquitoes are most active (between dusk and dawn).
- Use a repellent that contains DEET following manufacturer's precautions and wear protective clothing
- Install or repair screens.
- Eliminating pools of standing water and cleaning clogged roof gutters.



### Rabies

Please assist us by reinforcing with your family the importance of avoiding any wild stray or dead animals. Report any bat exposures immediately to your medical provider. This includes discovering a bat in your bedroom upon waking even if you are unsure of the exposure.

### 2012 Licensed Recreational Camps In Westford

In accordance with the state sanitary code, all recreational camps in Massachusetts, meeting certain criteria must be inspected and licensed by the department. This inspection provides an additional assurance that health and safety standards have been met. The 2012 list of Licensed Recreational Camps for Children in Westford are as follows:

- Westford Swim and Tennis Kid's Camp
- One Stop Fun
- The Camp at Nashoba Valley
- "Guard Up" at the East Boston Camp (Boy's Site)

No additional Children's camps are currently licensed in town.



## Health Department News (Continued)

### Outdoor Eating and Proper Food Storage

Warm weather events present opportunities for foodborne bacteria to thrive. As food heats up in summer temperatures, bacteria multiply rapidly. To protect yourself, your family, and friends from foodborne illness during warm-weather months, safe food handling when eating outdoors is critical. Read on for simple food safety guidelines for transporting your food to the picnic site, and preparing and serving it safely once you've arrived. Pack and transport food safely by following the guidelines provided by the FDA:

**Keep cold food cold.** Place cold food in a cooler with ice or frozen gel packs. Cold food should be stored at 40 °F or below to prevent bacterial growth. Meat, poultry, and seafood may be packed while still frozen so that they stay colder longer.

**Organize cooler contents.** Consider packing beverages in one cooler and perishable foods in another. That way, as picnickers open and reopen the beverage cooler to replenish their drinks, the perishable foods won't be exposed to warm outdoor air temperatures.

**Keep coolers closed.** Once at the picnic site, limit the number of times the cooler is opened as much as you can. This helps to keep the contents cold longer.

**Don't cross-contaminate.** Be sure to keep raw meat, poultry, and seafood securely wrapped. This keeps their juices from contaminating prepared/cooked foods or foods that will be eaten raw, such as fruits and vegetables.

**Clean your produce.** Rinse fresh fruits and vegetables under running tap water before packing them in the cooler — including those with skins and rinds that are not eaten. Rub firm-skinned fruits and vegetables under running tap water or scrub with a clean vegetable brush while rinsing with running tap water. Dry all fruits and vegetables with a clean cloth towel or paper towel. — Packaged fruits and vegetables that are labeled "ready-to-eat," "washed," or "triple washed" need not be washed.

### Serving Picnic Food: Keep it COLD/HOT

Keeping food at proper temperatures — indoors and out — is critical in preventing the growth of foodborne bacteria. Follow these simple rules for keeping cold foods cold and hot foods hot.

**Cold foods:** Cold perishable food should be kept in the cooler at **40 °F** or below until serving time.

- Once you've served it, it should not sit out for longer than 2 hours, or 1 hour if the outdoor temperature is above 90 °F. If it does not meet the criteria — discard it.
- Foods like chicken salad and desserts in individual serving dishes can be placed **directly on ice**, or in a shallow container set in a deep pan filled with ice. Drain off water as ice melts and replace ice frequently.

**Hot foods:** Hot food should be kept hot, at or above **140 °F**.

- Wrap it well and place it in an **insulated container** until serving.
- Just as with cold food — these foods should not sit out for more than 2 hours, or 1 hour in temperatures above 90 °F. If food is left out longer, throw it away to be safe.

## Health Department News (Continued)

### Follow Safe Grilling Tips

Grilling and picnicking often go hand-in-hand. And just as with cooking indoors, there are important guidelines that should be followed to ensure that your grilled food reaches the table safely.

- Marinate safely. Marinate foods in the refrigerator — never on the kitchen counter or outdoors. In addition, if you plan to use some of the marinade as a sauce on the cooked food, reserve a portion separately before adding the raw meat, poultry, or seafood. Don't reuse marinade.

- Cook immediately after “partial cooking.” If you partially cook food to reduce grilling time, do so immediately before the food goes on the hot grill.

- Cook food thoroughly. When it's time to cook the food, have your food thermometer ready. Always use it to be sure your food is cooked thoroughly. (See Safe Food Temperature Chart below.)

- Keep “ready” food hot. Grilled food can be kept hot until served by moving it to the side of the grill rack, just away from the coals. This keeps it hot but prevents overcooking.

<u>Food</u>	<u>Temperature</u>
Steaks and roasts	145°F
Fish	145°F
Pork	160°F
Ground beef	160°F
Egg dishes	160°F
Chicken breasts	165°F
Whole poultry	165°F
Shrimp, lobster, and crabs	cook until pearly and opaque
Clams, oysters, and mussels	cook until the shells are open

- Don't reuse platters or utensils. Using the same platter or utensils that previously held raw meat, poultry, or seafood allows bacteria from the raw food's juices to spread to the cooked food. Instead, have a clean platter and utensils ready at grill-side to serve your food.

- Check for foreign objects in food. If you clean your grill using a bristle brush, check to make sure that no detached bristles have made their way into grilled food.

- Prevent “Cross-Contamination” when serving. Never reuse a plate or utensils that previously held raw meat, poultry, or seafood for serving — unless they've been washed first in hot, soapy water. Otherwise, you can spread bacteria from the raw juices to your cooked or ready-to-eat food. This is particularly important to remember when serving cooked foods from the grill.

