



October 2008



Jodi Ross  
Town Manager  
978-692-5500

Special Town Meeting will be held on Monday, October 20, 2008, 7:30 PM at the Abbot Elementary School, 25 Depot Street, Westford, MA 01886.

#### Town Offices Update



The Assessors' Office has moved from the Water Department to the Millennium School at 23 Depot Street.

They will soon be joined by the Town Manager's Office (Currently at the Police Department), the Finance and HR Departments (Both currently at the Rogers Fire Station).

Permitting Departments continue to be at the new Highway Garage.

A complete listing of all departments is available online at [westfordma.gov](http://westfordma.gov).

## Dear Westford Residents

Summer is a distant memory. Autumn is here and with it comes crisp air, colorful leaves, Halloween and the Westford Farmer's Market 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Apple Pie Bake-Off! This year I will be a judge, and by the time you read this, I will be on the treadmill trying to reverse the damage! Fall also brings our [Special Town Meeting](#), which is scheduled for Monday, October 20, at 7:30 p.m. at the Abbot School. I hope to see you all there as we have some very important business to attend to.

We have articles to supplement the FY09 budget, create a Capital Stabilization Fund (something we have been trying to start for awhile), renovate and construct an addition for the senior center, develop a replacement well at Country Road, install a water main to assist some of the residents affected by the perchlorate contamination, and seek funding to design a renovation and/or addition to the Town Hall. With several large capital projects on the warrant, this promises to be a lively night. Please come and exercise your civic duty and be an active participant in shaping Westford's future!

In addition to the town meeting, we are busily preparing budgets for next year. I plan to present my Fiscal Year 2010 budget message to the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee on October 14, 2008. As we all know, considerable fiscal restraint is necessary in order to continue to deliver the level of services our residents have come to expect yet remain within the confines of Proposition 2 ½. I can promise you we take our task very seriously and will be examining each department budget looking for ways to create efficiencies, streamline operations and generate revenue where appropriate as we move through the process.

Most of our town departments will complete their transition to the Millennium School during the month of October. Please drop by towards the end of the month and check out our new location. See you at town meeting!

Sincerely,  
Jodi Ross  
[jross@westfordma.gov](mailto:jross@westfordma.gov)  
[www.westfordma.gov/tm](http://www.westfordma.gov/tm)



## Town Clerk Notices

The [Town Clerk](#) is now at 23 Depot Street (behind Abbot School)

The mailing address remains 55 Main Street, Westford, MA 01886.



- [Verify your voter status.](#)
- [Find your voting precinct.](#)
- [Voting Precinct Map.](#)

It's a busy fall for voters with many important decisions to be made on all fronts: local, state and federal. Use your power as legislators and constituents and vote!

A Special Town Meeting has been scheduled for October 20 at the Abbot School gymnasium at 7:30pm.

The Presidential Election is on November 4. Polls will be open from 7:00am until 8:00pm.

### Registering to Vote

#### Who?

- New residents
- New citizens\*
- 17\*\* & 18 year olds
- Residents who have moved within Westford after returning your census

If you are unsure as to your voter registration status, you may now check it online.

\*If you become a citizen after October 15th, then you may register to vote until 4:00pm on November 3rd. Please bring your Naturalization paper.

\*\*If you are now 17 but will be 18 years old on or before November 4, 2008, then you may register to vote while you are still 17. The October 15th deadline applies to you.

#### Deadlines?

- Friday, Oct. 10th at 8:00pm (for October 20th Special Town Meeting)

- Wednesday, Oct. 15th at 8:00pm (for November 4th Presidential Election)

The Town Clerk's Office will be open until 8:00pm on those days.

#### How?

In person (at ANY city or town clerk's office in the Commonwealth)

By using a mail-in voter registration form (must be post marked on or before the deadline in order to qualify).

#### Absentee Voting

##### Who?

You may vote by absentee ballot if you:

- will be absent from your city or town on election day, and/or
- have a physical disability that prevents your voting at the polling place, and/or
- cannot vote at the polls due to religious beliefs.

##### Deadlines?

The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot is 12 noon the day before the election (November 3, 2008).

##### How

Apply in writing to the Town Clerk's Office and include your:

- name
- address as registered
- address where you wish the absentee ballot sent
- your signature

There is an application form available at the Town Clerk's Office or by [downloading this application](#). You may also make application by letter or note. Whichever method you choose, the application must be made in writing and signed.

**Note:** A family member of a person qualified to vote by absentee ballot may [apply](#) in the same manner for you.

If you vote by mail, make certain the application arrives at the Town Clerk's Office early. Remember, the ballot will be mailed to you. You may mail or hand-deliver it back to the election office but must arrive before the close of the polls on Election Day (8:00 p.m. for state elections). Overseas ballots must be post marked by November 4, 2008 and received at the Town Clerk's Office by 5:00pm on November 14, 2008.

If you cast your ballot at the clerk's office before Election Day, plan to visit the office two or three weeks before the election. You can make your application and cast your vote in one visit. Call the clerk's office to make certain that the absentee ballots are available. Absentee ballots should be available three weeks before an election.

#### OVERSEAS VOTERS

If your last domicile in the US was Westford, MA, then you qualify to participate in elections in Westford by [absentee ballot](#).



## Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Public Hearing

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassHighway to discuss the proposed Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT), Phase 2A project, in the Towns of Acton, Carlisle and Westford, Massachusetts.

### WHERE:

Acton Town Hall, Room 204  
472 Main Street  
Acton, MA 01720

### WHEN:

**Wednesday, October 29,  
2008 @ 7:00 PM**

### PURPOSE:

The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed BFRT Phase 2A project. All views and comments made at the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

### PROPOSAL:

The proposed project will extend from the end of the BFRT Phase 1 (Westford-Lowell Phase) and continue south through Westford, Carlisle and Acton for a total length of approximately 4.88 miles. The construction will include: a new variable width

(ranges from 10 to 12 feet) paved asphalt multi-use rail trail with 2-foot stabilized shoulders, an adjacent 6 foot stone dust trail (provided where feasible), trail pavement markings and signing, passively actuated flashing beacons at trail/roadway crossings, new roadway pavement markings and signing at trail crossings, construction of a pre-fabricated pedestrian bridge structure over Route 2A/119, rehabilitating six existing railroad bridges along the trail, constructing culverts, earthwork, landscaping and other items incidental to the construction of the rail trail.



[For more information on the BFRT Public Hearing, click here.](#)

## Westford Public Library: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle

Look to the library to help you embrace the new “**Three R’s**” – **reduce, reuse and recycle!**

### Downsizing?

Donate your used books to the Friends of the J. V. Fletcher Library, Inc. for a tax deduction and know your treasures will be recycled to a new owner. Look to our collection on pointers for de-cluttering, downsizing, and disposing.

### Cutting back?

Reduce your magazine subscriptions and book purchases and instead borrow the holdings of public libraries statewide!

### Planning a “staycation”?

Enjoy eighteen area museums, and explore the beaches and parks of the *Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation* with the library’s complimentary passes (compliments of the Friends, that is!).

### Attempting to “do it yourself?”

Borrow books on deck-building, landscaping, painting, upholstery, and small business start-ups.

### Looking for the best value?

See our consumer holdings for advice on your next big purchase. Public libraries are

all about economy of scale, regionalization and resource recycling – the library itself has cut back via a new energy management system, new cost-saving lighting and new efficient boilers. July set a record for the highest library circulation ever – with almost 37,000 items going out – come see what the excitement and the cost savings are all about.

Ellen Rainville,  
Library Director



The J.V. Fletcher Library’s new website launches on October 17. Visit [www.westfordlibrary.org](http://www.westfordlibrary.org) for updates.



### Council on Aging: New Home for Adult Day Program



For more information on this program, contact Katherine Pouliopoulos, RCC Executive Director at 978 692-5511 or Norma Antonetti at 978 692-0803.

[You can also go online here.](#)

The Council on Aging (COA) has offered an Adult Supportive Day Program for the past seven (7) years. The purpose of the program was to provide elders with a social program in a safe "home away from home" environment. The Town allowed us to start this new initiative with a promise to make this program self-supporting. While this program benefited many, it was unable to reach its goal of becoming self sustaining.

With difficult financial times facing the Town, we were asked to dissolve the program. Because of our belief in the positive benefits such a program provides to our community, we sought an agency that could offer the same type of programming and which would meet the needs of our elders.

We are pleased to tell you that on September 2, the Roudenbush Community Center (RCC) opened a new

Adult Supportive Day Program referred to as "Roudenbush Adult Social Day Program." The Program Goals are:

- To provide members with interesting and fulfilling activities that promote dignity, self worth, confidence, socialization, and stimulation.
- To enrich the lives of those elders sharing their days with us by creating a special place where the environment is warm and inviting.
- To promote a comfortable atmosphere for elders to maintain independence, make new friends, and remain active.

The social day participant may be an isolated, frail, or homebound elder who may live alone, with family, or a

spouse. The clients enjoy socialization and the supportive environment. Families may need some supervision or assistance for their family member while they work outside the home. The Social Day Program can assist caregivers or their loved one in staying at home as long as possible, but with support.

They are located at the Westford Housing Authority, Felix Perrault Community Room, 65 Tadmuck Rd., and they are open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m... You may enroll for two to five days per week. Door to door transportation is provided.

For more information on this program, contact Katherine Pouliopoulos, RCC Executive Director at 978 692-5511 or Norma Antonetti at 978 692-0803.

### Westford Police: Scam Warning



We encourage people to call the Westford Police at 978-692-2161 if they are suspicious of someone trying to gain access to their home through a potential scam.

The Westford Police Department would like to warn residents that there are several different scams and unlicensed contractors out there. These include pavers, roofers, painters, and people who pose as Town Workers to gain access to homes.

We encourage people to call the Westford Police at 978-692-2161 if they are suspicious of someone trying to gain access to their home through a potential scam.

We also want to remind people that Town Departments generally call

before sending employees who will be working inside your home.

These employees will always have some kind of official identification and may also wear a uniform and drive a town vehicle.