



Town of Westford Massachusetts

Town Manager's Newsletter

April 2021



Jodi Ross,
Town
Manager

jross@westfordma.gov
www.westfordma.gov/tm

Important:
Please sign up to
receive updates on the
latest road construction
in town.

[Subscribe to
Notifications](#)



**Brush Chipping
Saturday, April 24
10:30 AM to 4:30 PM
Westford Highway
28 North St**

**Annual Town Election
Tuesday, May 4**

**Annual Town Meeting
Saturday, June 12
Westford Academy
Trustees Field**



Watch
Meetings Online



www.westfordcat.org

Dear Westford residents,

The Select Board recently released a statement to the community in response to the recent incidents of violence against the Asian-American and Pacific Islander Community. Their statement may be found at the following link: [Statement from the Westford Select Board](#).

Our Annual Town Election is on May 4th. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, we are again encouraging residents to take advantage of early mail-in voting. If you would like to request a mail-in ballot, you may obtain an early ballot application at this link: [Early Ballot Application](#) and return the completed application to the Town Clerk's Office via email townclerk@westfordma.gov, via fax (978) 399-555, or via mail addressed to: Town Clerk's Office, 55 Main Street, Westford, MA 01886. Ballots will be mailed to you soon after your request is received. Once you have completed your ballot, you may mail it back to us at the address listed above or return it to the drop-box behind Town Hall. You may view who is running for which positions at this link: [Open Positions and Candidates](#).

Our Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, June 12th (continuing to Sunday, June 13th as a rain date or if needed) at the Westford Academy Trustees Field, 30 Patten Road. The Select Board set the order of the warrant and will begin reviewing warrant articles and taking positions at their meeting on May 11th. All Town Meeting documents are available at the following link: [2021 Annual Town Meeting](#).

Health Director Jeff Stephens recently updated the board on a potential intermunicipal agreement between Acton, Bedford, Carlisle, Concord, Lincoln, Maynard, Wayland, and Westford to establish a large-scale regional COVID-19 vaccination clinic. As of now, the state has not yet approved the request for a regional vaccination site, however Jeff will notify us if the proposal is accepted.

Our Cameron Senior Center is offering transportation to Westford residents to Lowell General Hospital's Covid-19 vaccination site. Appointments are required and are scheduled on a first come first served basis. To schedule, please call (978) 692-5523.

For important information on COVID-19, including resident services, the latest town department information, CDC guidance, testing sites in Massachusetts, daily updates, and more, please visit our town's website at westfordma.gov/COVID-19.

Veterans Services Officer Ryan Cobleigh appeared before the board to discuss holding a virtual Memorial Day ceremony in light of the pandemic. The Select Board discussed various options and decided in addition to a virtual service, we hold a service on the Town Common with WestfordCAT live streaming the event.

On April 13th, the Select Board voted to officially disband the Affordable Housing Committee and increase the membership of the Affordable Housing Trust Committee (AHTC) to 11 members. These changes essentially merge the two groups into one committee and includes the charge assigned to the Affordable Housing Committee when it was created. We will record an Amended Declaration of Trust for the AHTC to reflect the new membership and additional authority of the Trust.

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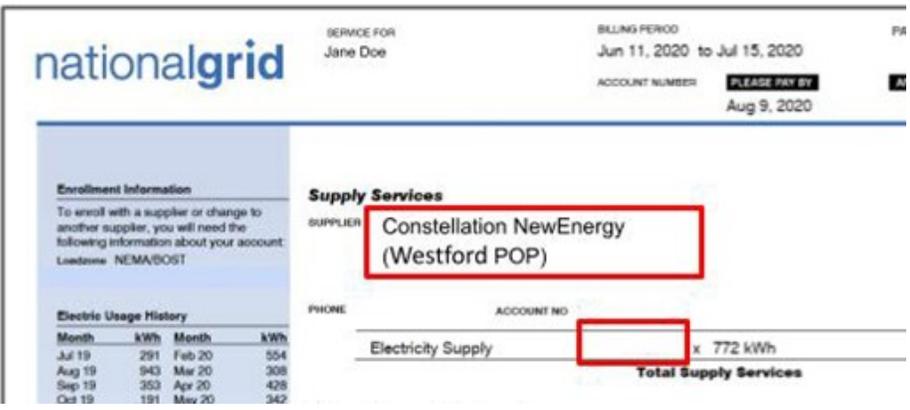
WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV

Emily Teller, member of the Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail and Chris Barrett, member of the Parks and Recreation Commission presented a slideshow to the Select Board which discussed placing six displays of outdoor art along the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail from May to November. The Select Board continued this discussion to their April 27th meeting to allow the Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail and the Parks and Recreation Commission time to meet with abutters to the trail. To review their plans please visit the following link: [Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Outdoor Art Presentation](#).

At the board's most recent meeting, the Select Board thanked the members of the Westford Over 30 Slow-Pitch Softball League for assisting with the annual spring clean-up of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Fields. We wish them a safe and fun-filled season.

I am pleased to announce the Select Board has approved the Roudenbush Community Center's request to host the Westford Summer Farmer's Market on our Town Common. As always, the market will be held on Tuesdays from 2:30 PM to 6:30 PM. This year the season has been extended and will run from June 15th through October 5th. For more information or to apply as a vendor, you may visit the Roudenbush website at the following link: [Westford Summer Farmer's Market](#).

Westford POP (Power Options Program), our town's electricity supply program, added more options this year - including two choices with more renewable energy than required by law. If you signed up for one of these options, but have not seen the change reflected on your National Grid bill, please contact our program supplier, Constellation, at (833) 461-0813 or vst@constellation.com. How to tell if you're signed up for Westford POP? For POP participants, the Supplier on your bill will be Constellation New Energy - Westford POP, and the rate is \$0.10793/kWh for those in Pop Green, \$0.12083/kWh for those in POP Silver, \$0.13695/kWh for POP Gold, and \$0.10470/kWh for POP Basic. More information about the program, including ways to sign up for different options, can be found on the program website masscea.com/westford.



On March 26, 2021, Governor Charles Baker signed the Next Generation Roadmap for MA Climate Policy. This new law sets the state on a course for net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and aligns with the Climate Action resolution which was recently passed at Special Town Meeting in October. Westford Climate Action will be working with town boards, residents, and businesses to take steps locally to reduce our carbon footprint and meet the roadmap goals.

After almost 22 years of service to our town, Principal Assessor Paul Plouffe retires on April 30th. I thank Paul for all his assistance and hard work through the years and extend my best wishes to him and his family for a long, healthy, happy retirement!

Our Communications Advisory Committee is in need of additional members as it currently has four vacant seats. This committee represents the interests of the Select Board in their role as franchise authority for cable television and with regard to other services provided by Westford's cable operators. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please click the link below to complete and submit a Citizen Activity Form.

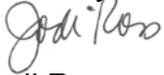
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There are several openings on our local boards and committees, including: 35 Town Farm Road Task Force, Affordable Housing Trust Committee, Agricultural Commission, Commission on Disability, Communications Advisory Committee, Council on Aging, Cultural Council, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, Dog Park Task Force, Economic Development Committee, Election Officer, Healthy Westford Committee, Historical Commission, Nashoba Valley Technical High School District Committee, Parkerville Schoolhouse Committee, Parks, Grounds and Recreation Commission, Pedestrian Safety Committee, Westford Scholarship and Grant Committee, and Zoning Board of Appeals. I urge you to peruse our website for information about the work of these committees; and if you have interest, please complete a Citizen's Activity form at this link: [Citizen Activity Form](#).

Would you like more detailed information on the Board of Selectmen's meetings? Click the following links to access: [Board of Selectmen Documents](#) & [Board of Selectmen Meeting Videos](#).

Please don't forget to vote in our Annual Town Election on May 4th!

Sincerely,



Jodi Ross
Town Manager

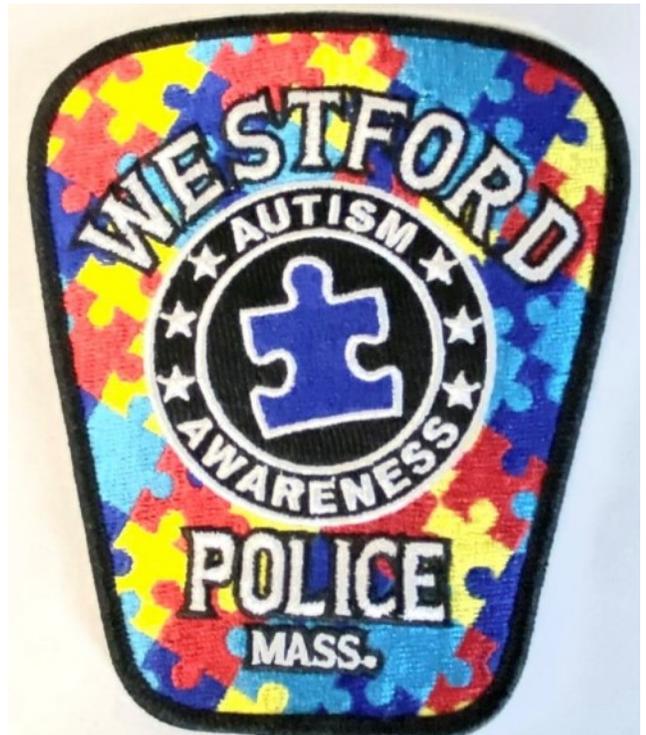
April is Autism Awareness Month

The Westford Police Department will be participating in the Autism Police Patch Program for the month of April. The Department is excited to promote autism awareness and acceptance within the community and beyond by making our custom autism patches available for a donation to the cause. All proceeds will be donated to the Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism, a wonderful organization whose mission is to help people and families affected by autism live life to the fullest by assisting them in leading productive lives where they are included, respected, and actively engaged in their communities.

Patches can be obtained by sending a check or money order in the amount of \$11.00, payable to the Westford Police Association, to the following:

Westford Police Department
Attn: Autism Patch Program
53 Main Street
Westford, MA 01886

If you prefer to pay via Venmo you can make payment to westfordpolice-association and please be sure to include your name and mailing address. Patches will be available for \$10.00 at the Westford Police Department, Records Department, Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 4:00pm. Thank you all for your continued support and remember when visiting the Police Department please exercise safe social distancing practices. Any questions or concerns regarding the patch program can be directed to westfordpoliceassociation01886@gmail.com.



Westford Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee

To the Westford Community

"A crime against any community is a crime against us all." Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms.

The violent and tragic events that occurred in Atlanta on March 16, 2021 may be geographically far away from Westford, but for some in our community they are a very personal and traumatic reminder of how precarious life can be for people in historically marginalized groups, in particular women of Asian ancestry.

This horrific event unfolded against the backdrop of the surging anti-Asian racism that has taken place recently in different parts of the country.

Such acts, as Mayor Bottoms so eloquently points out, are crimes against us all. They shake us to the core, and in this instance they bring profound worry to Asian-Americans, and in particular Asian-American women, about their own safety.

We must remain steadfast in our existential priority of moving from racism to antiracism, to a place where people of color; people from other countries; and people of different faiths, gender identities, sexual orientations, economic statuses, or abilities, are embraced and able to enjoy a deep sense of belonging.

The Select Board created the DEI Committee to address racism and prejudice affecting our community, and to give the diverse members of our community a place to turn to air their concerns. Please reach out to the DEI Committee at any time via email at DEI@westfordma.gov to express your hopes, concerns, fears, insights and visions for Westford.

We weep for the victims and for their families and friends. We stand in unity with all our fellow Westford residents, especially those who at this time feel particularly vulnerable, and we draw upon our increased devotion to our commitment here in Westford to foster diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Westford Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee

www.westfordma.gov/1338/Diversity-Equity-and-Inclusion-Committee

Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee

Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee Begins Work on Climate Road Map

The newly re-organized Clean Energy and Sustainability (CEAS) Committee has begun work on Westford's Road Map to Net Zero Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions. This task was assigned to the CEAS Committee by the Select Board following the near unanimous passage of the Climate Action Resolution, sponsored by Westford Climate Action, at Special Town Meeting in October 2020.

Reaching net zero GHG pollution means that Westford will reduce our GHG emissions as much as possible and remove or offset any remaining pollution by 2050 (with intermediate goals). This will require a major shift in the way we heat and cool our homes, how we get around, and where our energy comes from. It also presents a huge opportunity to change our community for the better. By achieving net zero GHG pollution, we will also have cleaner air, healthier people, and a more equitable and prosperous community. The Net Zero GHG goal aligns with the state's, and the CEAS Committee will be aligning its road map plans with the recently passed state legislation, "An Act Creating a Next-Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy."

The development of the Road Map will be a community effort and a Community Engagement Plan is under development. Town boards, residents, employees and businesses will all be invited to participate in the development of the plan. The CEAS Committee will first report progress on the roadmap to the Select Board in October of this year.

Stayed tuned for more information soon!

www.westfordma.gov/299/Clean-Energy-and-Sustainability-Committee



WESTFORD TOWN ELECTION
TUESDAY, MAY 4TH
POLLS OPEN 7 AM - 8 PM ★ OR ★ VOTE EARLY BY MAIL!

April 14 at 8 p.m. is the deadline to register to vote for this election.
 Register to vote at the Town Clerk's office or online [here](#)
 or download a voter registration form [here](#) and mail or bring it to the
 Town Clerk's office at Town Hall, 55 Main Street.

Vote by Mail applications will not be sent automatically for this election.
 Download a Vote by Mail Early Ballot application [here](#), or email a request to
 townclerk@westfordma.gov, mail request to 55 Main St, or call 978-692-5515.
 Ballots must be received by the Town Clerk's office by 8 p.m. on May 4th.

CANDIDATES ON THE BALLOT

Board of Health	Housing Authority	Library Trustees
3-year term Vote for 1 Joanne Belanger (i)	5-year term Vote for 1 Carol Engel (i)	3-year terms Vote for 2 Marianne Fleckner (i) Alisha Hillam (i)
Planning Board	School Committee	Select Board
5-year term Vote for 1 Katherine Hollister (i)	3-year terms Vote for 3 Avery Rockwell Adam (i) Kathryn Clear Meghan O'Connell Christopher Sanders (i) Steven Wilkins Mingquan Zheng (i)	3-year terms Vote for 1 Eric Barber-Mingo John Cunningham
(i) incumbent		

BALLOT QUESTION

Shall this town accept the provisions of sections one through ten of chapter three hundred and fourteen of the acts of 2020... ?

If passed, this would create a small fund to provide extra property tax help to the most financially vulnerable seniors who qualify for other means-tested exemptions, and are still paying over 10% of their income for property tax.

For more information, go to lwv.westford.org



TOWN BALLOT: NEW PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION - VOTE MAY 4TH

In the fall of 2018 the Senior, Low Income, Disabled Tax Relief Committee (SLIDTR) and Select Board proposed a new property tax exemption for seniors 65+ which passed at town meeting. The proposal was then filed with the state legislature with help from Representative Arciero and Senator Kennedy and was recently signed by Governor Baker. There now remains one more step before the adoption of this measure by the Town; it must be approved at an upcoming election, the ballots on May 4th. Be sure to VOTE!

This proposed means tested exemption is intended to help seniors with low income and assets pay no more than 10% of their income to property taxes. The exemption for each applicant is capped at 50% of total property tax bill. Criteria to apply will include: applicants must be residents of Westford who are 65 years of age or older, occupy the property as their primary residence, have lived in town for at least 10 years and meet income limits. Applicants must have also applied for and received the state Circuit Breaker Tax Credit to be eligible. An applicant's home value may not exceed 80% of the median single-family residence. Currently the average assessed FY21 single family residential value is $\$565,732 \times 80\% = \$452,585$

The money to pay for this benefit as proposed, will be taken out of the Town's Overlay Account. Overlay is an amount of money raised each year within the levy limit that is used to provide for property tax abatements and exemptions. This method of funding does not require a tax shift or tax increase of any kind. The legislation is written to allow a trial period of 3 years for this exemption. This will permit us to evaluate the success of the program and make adjustments if necessary.

The Westford Board of Assessors will administer the program if accepted by the town, as it does for other real estate tax abatement programs under Chapter 59 of the general laws of the Commonwealth.

Any questions feel free to call Annette, Outreach Coordinator at 978-399-2326 or Christine Collins, Tax Collector's Office at 978-399-2526.

If you would like to see this Means Tested Senior Exemption passed in Westford, please be sure to come to the polls on May 4th.



Westford Parks & Recreation

WELCOME SPRING! WELCOME WPC!

This spring, Parks & Rec's Westford Partnership for Children After School Enrichment Program (WPC), will run from April 26 - June 18, Monday - Friday, from school dismissal to 5:45 p.m.

The program is available to *all of Westford's K-5 students* and will operate at the following schools: Crisafulli, Robinson, and Nabnasset. Miller School children may attend either the Nabnasset or Robinson Schools. Abbot and Day children may attend the Crisafulli School. Families of children attending Miller, Abbot, and Day schools will be responsible for arranging transportation to the after school program. Learn more or register at [About WPC](#) on westfordrec.com.



Striking the right note at the Robinson School

CHOOSE SUMMER WITH PARKS & REC

Our Summer Weekly Program activities are designed for each program's mission and age group. Led by the WPC Site Directors, these lively, full-week programs are staffed with energetic counselors – high school and college aged – who are First Aid and CPR certified. Choose up to ten weeks of full day and full week programming with early arrival, and extended day options:

Summer Beach Party at Destination Exploration, EBC

This program runs at East Boston Camps during the first and last two weeks of summer. For ages 4-13.

Kids Club at the Nabnasset School

Fast-paced, fun-filled activities in a perfect summer setting, both inside and outside. Swim lesson options! For ages 4-13.

Destination Exploration (D.E.)

Classic summertime activities in a classic summertime setting at East Boston Camps (EBC). For ages 7-13.

Learn more or register at [About Summer Weekly Programs](#) on westfordrec.com.



Lots of excitement at Kids Club, Nabnasset School



Enjoying a new friend at Destination Exploration, EBC

HEADING YOUR WAY

Parks & Recreation programming for squirts, youth, and adults will be running throughout the spring and summer, including:

Golf with Seth Dichard, for Squirts, Juniors, and Adults

Spring sessions starting in April and May.

Nitehawks Spring Track and Field, grades 2-3, and grades 4-8

Spring sessions starting in April.

Marcus Lewis Tennis Extension Programs (MLTEP), for all levels

Sessions starting in April and May.

Learn more about Westford Parks & Recreation at westfordma.gov.

For recreation programming, visit westfordrec.com

Westford Parks & Recreation, 65 Main Street, Westford, MA 01886 | 978-692-5532



Check out our summer programs too, like Swimming Lessons and Flag Football.

April at the J.V. Fletcher Library



Unless otherwise noted, the following programs are made possible by the Friends of the Library.

April school vacation is just around the corner! Check out our fun and engaging line up of programs!

Virtual Self-paced SCIENCE FUN during April vacation week (April 17-23) for grades K-4: Using a special video made by Dr. Sandra Pearl and Dr. Elizabeth Bless from SEED (Science and Education and Development Inc) and a kit of materials that includes every item needed for active experimentation, kids (with parents if under grade 3) will experiment with weather, secret codes, sound, light, and circuits. Register for this event through the [Library Events Calendar](#) (ONE kit per household please). Complete kits are available for curbside pickup the week before vacation. When you register, we will send you a link to the private YouTube video that will instruct you how to do the experiments. Do them at your own pace and send us some exciting pictures. This program is for Westford residents only and requires a library card for registration. This library program is made possible by COVID funding secured by Senator Edward J. Kennedy, First Middlesex District.

Virtual Self-paced Chemistry during April vacation week (April 17-23) for grades 5 and up. Using a special video made by Dr. Sandra Pearl and Dr. Elizabeth Bless from SEED (Science and Education and Development Inc.) and a kit of materials that includes every item needed for active experimentation, teens and tweens will experiment with chemistry. Register for this event through the [Library Events Calendar](#) (ONE kit per household please). Complete kits are available for curbside pickup the week before vacation. When you register, we will send you a link to the YouTube video that will instruct you how to do the experiments. Do them at your own pace and send us some exciting pictures. This program is for Westford residents only and requires a library card for registration. This library program is made possible by COVID funding secured by Senator Edward J. Kennedy, First Middlesex District.

Virtual Paint a Dolphin Canvas Tue., April 20 at either 11 a.m. or 12:30 p.m. (sign up for one program only). During April vacation week kids in grades 3 and 4 are invited to sign up to paint a colorful dolphin on canvas. Pop-Up Art school will step you through the entire process. Kits with all the necessary materials will be available to registrants for curbside pickup. Register for this event through the [Library Events Calendar](#), select ONE of the two time options. Registrants need to come to the library to pick up the supply kit before the program (you can do that using our curbside service). This program is made possible by COVID funding secured by Senator Edward Kennedy, First Middlesex District.

Virtual Needle Felted Hedgehog on Wed., April 21 at 1 or 2:30 p.m. This program is for teens and tweens in grades 5 and up. Pop Up Art School will teach you how to use a barbed needle and merino wool roving to create a cute, felted hedgehog. Learn how to sculpt basic shapes and attach them together in this beginner's class. Register for this event through the [Library Events Calendar](#), select ONE of the two time options. Registrants need to come to the library to pick up the supply kit before the program (you can do that using our curbside service). This program is made possible by COVID funding secured by Senator Edward Kennedy, First Middlesex District.

Virtual Mad Science: Marvels of Motion Thu., April 22 at 11 a.m. For families during April vacation week (April 17-23), this interactive event is all about the fundamentals of moving science with Newton's Laws of Motion. Discover the science of gravity and balance, kinetic beads, and watch Mad Scientist Jonathan remove a tablecloth without clearing the table! All of these experiments are done with household objects and YOU get to follow along and do your own experiments at home. We will email registrants the supply list and the zoom link for the program. Register for this event through the [Library Events Calendar](#).

Virtual Mother Goose: Every Thu. at 10:30 a.m. For kids of all ages! Zoom in and join us for rhymes, songs, and signs. [Register for this program each week through our Library Events Calendar.](#)

Virtual Mr. Vinny's "Looking for the Sun", Fri. April 23 at 1 p.m. Mr. Vinny presents a fun fantasy story with a King, a Cat, and a Cosmic character. This is an original tale told with puppets, pictures, fruit, and bad music played by a very, very silly man. The Zoom program is 30 minutes long and is best for kiddos age 3 - 9. Register for this event through the [Library Events Calendar](#).

Virtual Cartooning Class: Mon., Apr. 26 at 4:30 p.m. For kids in grades 3 and 4, this month award winning cartoonist and humorous illustrator Rick Stromoski will show you how to draw creatures, goblins, and ghouls in this fun, interactive program. Register for this event through the [Library Events Calendar](#). This library program is made possible by COVID funding secured by Senator Edward J. Kennedy, First Middlesex District. **(Continued on next page)**

April at the J.V. Fletcher Library (Continued)

Virtual Author Talk: History of the Merrimack River with Dyke Hendrickson: Wed., Apr. 21 at 7 p.m. Local author and journalist Dyke Hendrickson will discuss his new book, Merrimack: The Resilient River, An Illustrated Narrative of the Most Historic River in New England. Register for this event through the [Library Events Calendar](#). This program is hosted and presented in partnership with the Tewksbury Public Library and is made available to Westford residents.

Virtual Alaskan National Parks: Thu., Apr. 22 at 7 p.m. Adventurer Steve Farrar will combine a visual smorgasbord of images with insights into the geology, wildlife, history, and climate of the region while showing us each of the great Alaskan parks. Register for this program through the [Library Events Calendar](#). Questions? Email Sarah Regan at sregan@westfordma.gov.

Virtual Financial Aid 101 for Juniors, Sophomores and Freshmen: What To Do Now?: Thu., Apr. 29 at 6:30 p.m. College will be here sooner than you think. Learn the basics of financial aid – what counts, what doesn't count, when it counts – and what you can do about it to get more aid. We'll discuss the terms, rules, and strategies. We'll also review how to tell how generous a college is with aid. And how an effective search with the right questions can help you get more aid later. This workshop will include things that are not included in the high school session. Register for this event through the [Library Events Calendar](#). Questions? Email Sarah Regan at sregan@westfordma.gov.

Virtual Beans, Books, & Bestsellers - Coffee with Your Favorite Librarians!: Fri., May 14 at 2:00 p.m. Drink in the aroma, the anticipation of new and old reads perfect for winter nights, and spend time with your favorite librarians talking upcoming books, series releases, new genres and movies! Register on the Adult Programs page or sign up on the Events Calendar. A Zoom invite will be sent to all registrants. Grab a cup of coffee or tea and join us on Zoom! [Register here](#).

Check out our [Museum Passes page](#) or call the Library for reservations. Unless otherwise noted, our museum passes are generously funded by the Friends of the Library. [Have you joined the Friends yet?](#)

Virtual Westford Job Seekers: The J. V. Fletcher Library's "Westford Job Seekers Network" meets weekly on Wednesdays from 3- 4:30pm. Attracting people of diverse work backgrounds and age groups, this group helps you expand your network of business contacts, discover new job opportunities and connect with others who are in job transition and can become part of your support group. Meetings include guest speakers who are experts in the job search process or in career development. Contact Dina Kanabar, dkanabar@westfordma.gov for more information.

Virtual Monday Mystery, Adult Non Fiction, Thursday Night Book Club: All of our adult book clubs continue to meet virtually. Please visit westfordlibrary.org/events/adult-book-clubs/ for more information and upcoming meeting dates!

Virtual English Conversation Circle: every Tue., at 3:30 p.m. Conversation Circles are back, this time on Zoom! Practice your English conversation skills and meet new friends in a relaxed and friendly environment! This program meets every Tuesday afternoon from 3:30. to 4:30 p.m. and is led by Carol Morse. [Register through our Events Calendar. Registration is required.](#) After you register, you'll receive the Zoom link via email. Each Zoom link is unique, so you must register for each session you wish to attend. If you don't receive the emails, please check your spam folders.

In-House Browsing Appointments: Appointments are for 45 minutes and are available on the hour Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. and Wednesday evening at 7 and 8 p.m. Each reservation is for one person, with a limit of 10 per hour and disinfection occurring prior to the next appointment. Select areas of the middle floor of the Library are open, with displays throughout for browsing – please "JUDGE A BOOK BY ITS COVER!" as items handled but not checked out must be placed in quarantine. At this time, patrons under the age of 18 will be referred to the [Browsing Tent](#) for an outside appointment. [Make an appointment](#) via our Events Calendar (select a date and sign up under "Main Floor browsing") or call the Information Desk at 978-399-2304.



Quick Links to Our Most Popular Services!

[Book Bundles for Kids, Teens, and Adults](#)

[Book the Browsing Tent](#)

[Curbside Pickup Service](#)

[Programs – Adults](#)

[Programs – Kids](#)

[Programs – Young Adults](#)

[Virtual Device Advice](#)

If you have questions or need assistance, please call us at 978-399-2300 or send us an email at westfordlibrary@westfordma.gov.

Cameron Senior Center



Happenings from the Cameron-

A place you will find older adults age 55+ enjoying one's free time.



Due to current COVID-19 precautions, all Cameron offerings require one to call and schedule their time before coming into the center. To schedule your time slots simply call 978-692-5523 and we can assist time requests.

“SO GOOD! THE NEIL DIAMOND EXPERIENCE” and BOXED SANDWICH LUNCH

Friday, April 23rd at 1PM- FRANCO Pavilion

This is a tribute to one of the greatest recording artists in history. Broadway, television, motion picture actor Robert Neary creates an incredible tribute show. To enjoy this performance please let us know your preferred boxed lunch preference which includes the following: Pastrami and Swiss Cheese, Roast beef or Veggie Sandwich with chips, drink and dessert. Call the front desk to register at 978-692-5523. **This program has been funded by the Greater Lowell Community Foundation.**



PATTI MASO, MARY ALCORN and ANGELA HARKNESS SPONSOR A MOTHER'S DAY MUSICAL LUNCHEON AT THE FRANCO
Friday, May 7th at noon

Enjoy a relaxing, cheerful and beautiful decorated setting with friends under the FRANCO Pavilion. Enjoying a sandwich luncheon and while being entertained by a special virtual Boston Pops Concert honoring mothers. Gift bags will be donated by Eastern Bank. If you would prefer a vegetarian meal option, please specify when you register by calling 978-692-5523. Also, if you're not a mother and wish to attend please do so however there is \$5 cost.



Tuesdays: 1:00 May 18th & June 15th – New readers are welcome anytime Join us for great discussions each month. In May we will be reviewing the first mystery of a series, “Still Life” by Louise Penny. Chief Inspector Armand Gamache and his team of investigators are called to the scene of a suspicious death in a rural village south of Montreal. In June we will be discussing “My Sister’s Keeper” by Jodi Piccoult. It tells the story of thirteen-year-old Anna Fitzgerald, who sues her parents for medical emancipation

when she discovers she is supposed to donate a kidney. Just call me if you would like a book otherwise you may find them electronic versions on Libby or Hoopla. **Happy Reading! Annette 978-399-2326**

LIHEAP- Fuel Assistance– The application deadline was extended this year until May 28th. If you have had difficulty paying your heating bills this winter, there is still time to apply and have your benefit paid to your heating vendor for any costs incurred after November 1, 2020. If you need more information, call Alison or Annette at 978-399-2325.

(Continued on next page)

Cameron Senior Center

WELL-BEING GROUP CONDITIONING CLASS

Tuesdays and Thursdays- Eight-week session

This class will take place at the **Well being Fitness Gym at Cornerstone Plaza**. Full body conditioning focusing on core stability, pliability, strength training, plyometrics and cardiovascular fitness. Tap into a host of health benefits from full body workout around a cardio format while increasing one's strength and stamina. Class size is limited- FEE: Westford residents- \$50 and Non-Westford- \$65

This class is being subsidized through a grant from Elder Services of Merrimack Valley.

FILE OF LIFE - A Great Safety document all should have in their household

With one's health being the primary concern this past year please make it a point to fill out a **File of Life** magnetized card that goes on your fridge. If EMT's have to go to your home they will look for this file that has your pertinent information on it i.e. emergency contacts, MD, hospital preference and allergies. If you would like a File of Life just call Annette 978-399-2326.



A CAREGIVING SERIES FULL OF COMMRADERY

Join Annette and Alison the last Wednesday of the month from 1-4PM to watch a movie about the caregiver role in various circumstances and health conditions. After the movie, we will host a brief discussion of the movie's themes and participant impressions and experiences. We plan to host this series for 6 months and we will try to choose a variety of situations to explore through cinematic art! Here are the first two movies in the series:

May 26 - **Still Alice** (2014) - *Caring for a spouse/parent with early-onset Alzheimer's*

When renowned linguistics professor Alice Howland starts to forget her beloved words, her world quickly spins with the harsh reality: early-onset Alzheimer's. An adaptation of Lisa Genova's acclaimed 2007 novel, the movie transparently chronicles Alice's battle to hide her neurological disease and find coping strategies. Julianne Moore's award-winning performance in the movie demonstrates the cognitive decline Alzheimer's patients experience and the challenges family caregivers must tackle daily.

June 30 - **The Theory of Everything** (2014) - *Caring for an adult with a physical disability*

After Cambridge University astrophysics student Stephen Hawking (Eddie Redmayne) is diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, he turns reclusive. But literature student Jane Wilde (Felicity Jones) falls in love with him and decides to marry him when she finds out Stephen only has two years to live. Jane eventually delays her own goals to become a full-time caregiver for Stephen. Felicity Jones' role shows the emotional side of caregiving. Managing caregiver guilt, stress and exhaustion can be difficult, but it's important for caregivers to replenish before taking care of others.

HOUSING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE-The government has expanded financial assistance for folks who have rental or mortgage arrears or are facing eviction, loss of utilities, or other housing emergencies. New benefit amounts have been applied for RAFT(residential assistance for families in transition) and ERMA (Emergency Rental and Mortgage Assistance Program). A new Federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) has been started for rental arrears and overdue utilities specifically impacted by Covid-19. All of these programs can be applied for through ONE APPLICATION on the Community Teamwork website or by calling Community Teamwork at 978-654-5607 or emailing CovidResponseCTI@commteam.org.

We also have our Town Covid-19 Relief fund for individuals/families facing financial challenges related to Covid-19 illness, job loss, or increased expenses.

The CDC has extended the eviction moratorium for 3 months for those who qualify and complete the paperwork for their landlords. There are also many legal and mediation resources for those who receive a Notice to Quit from their landlord. Do not assume that you need to leave your apartment! Please reach out for assistance.

For questions about any housing-related assistance, call Alison at 978-399-2325.

For more information about programs and services please visit www.westfordma.gov/coa and/or www.facebook.com/Cameron Senior Center.

Agricultural Commission Community Garden Report

THE COMMUNITY GARDEN IS FULL!!

Westford's first and only Community Garden is a cornucopia of excitement and growth and it hasn't even opened yet!!

Westford's Gardeners first broke ground in 2015 on $\frac{3}{4}$ of an Acre at the Day Field site on Graniteville Road. Interest soon spread like a pumpkin vine and the Community Garden was expanded to $1\frac{3}{4}$ Acres in 2017. Here we are 4 years later and we have completely filled all of our 250 plots. Despite Covid 19 precautions we had a very successful 2020 and this year with everyone accustomed to the health routines we expect another great year.

The Community Garden would not be half as successful if it were not for the help from Westford's Town staff. We have been assisted with everything from compost mixing to legal language on our membership documents. We appreciate the town staff immensely.

Also, an important fact to remember is that the Community Garden is completely managed by volunteers. The amount of work and patience that it takes to help 200 plus people successfully grow everything from Artichokes to Zucchini with laughter and joy –while admitting there is dirt under their nails- is a gargantuan task. Our Co Gardeners: Head Sprouts: Lizzie Edwards and Darren Teyssedou deserve our deepest thanks! Between Town Staff and Committed Community Members our garden is cool even during the hottest months. Thank you!!



This interest in Community Gardening suggests that there is greater untapped interest in gardening. If you would like to start a Community Garden in your part of Westford please talk amongst your friends and neighbors and gather a committed group of people to help organize it. We at the Agricultural Commission would love to help start another Community Garden. Our experience is that there really needs to be a core of committed people who will see the project through to completion. Realistically it takes two years to find a site, canvass the community to ensure we can get the gardeners to join and then carefully nurture, feed and water the idea until- like the Day Field site- it blossoms into one of the most beloved institutions in Westford.

Please consider this message a seed. Please nurture it and we will help you create the next great Westford Community Garden.

**Sincerely,
Westford Agricultural Commission**

www.westfordma.gov/481/Agricultural-Commission

Recycling Commission



Spring Recycling Events

Spring is the time to get out, clean out, and be productive. Here are several upcoming events that the Recycling Commission wants to remind you about. Get out there and participate!



Bags to Benches Challenge – Now until October 10th

This Recycling Challenge is hosted by the Rotary Club, and supported by the Recycling Commission. TREX Outdoor Furniture will turn collected plastic bags and wraps into a bench that will be placed at the Roudenbush Community Center playground. The six month collection goal is a minimum of 500 pounds of plastic bags and wraps from April 10th to October 10th – help them reach it!

There are currently four Rotary/TREX collection sites for plastic bags and wraps around Westford:

Roudenbush Community Center – side door towards the Common
Brookside Convenience Store
Cameron Senior Center
Dollar Tree Store

Brush Chipping – Saturday, April 24th, 10:30am – 4:30pm Westford Highway Garage, 28 North Street

Accepted - Brush and branches up to 3 inches in diameter and 10 feet in length. Must be average residential brush categories and reasonable amounts: A load ranges from a trunk to pickup truck ----- volume, includes tow behind a full trailer.

Not accepted - Building materials (e.g., fences, boards), land clearing materials and debris (e.g., roots, bushes, anything mixed with poison ivy), grass, and leaves.

Cost: \$10 per load, checks only, payable to the Town of Westford, deposited in the marked container. Proof of Westford residency required. Masks must be worn and social distancing is required.

Electronics and MORE – Saturday, May 1st, 9am - 1pm Westford Highway Garage, 28 North Street

Westford Residents are invited to bring their used electronics to this spring collection – details can be found on the flyer at: westfordma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/9885/Electronics-More-Collection-2021-Westford-MA

Household Hazardous Waste Collection – Saturday, May 8th, 9am - 2pm Westford Highway Garage, 28 North Street

The collection is only for households (no businesses). To help manage the high volume of participation and minimize wait times, online PRE-REGISTRATION by May 1st is required. There is a fee of \$30 or \$50 per car (depending on volume) for taking hazardous waste to the collection. Checks preferred. Residents are encouraged to consolidate HHW with friends and neighbors to save time and money. Details are in the bright yellow HHW flyer mailed to residents in mid-March and on the Westford Recycling Commission web site at: westfordma.gov/1216/Westford-Hazardous-Waste-Collection

Please visit www.westfordma.gov/recycling
 for your recycling and trash questions.
Reduce! Reuse! Repurpose! Recycle!