



Town of Westford Massachusetts

Town Manager's Newsletter

February 2022



Jodi Ross,
Town
Manager

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

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**Deadline to Submit
Nomination Papers for
Election to
Town Offices is
March 15 at 5:00PM**

**Annual Town Meeting
June 11, 2022
(June 12 rain date)
Westford Academy
Field**



Watch
Meetings Online



www.westfordcat.org

Dear Westford residents,

At the Select Board's meeting on February 8th, the board Chair Peraner-Sweet read the following statement on behalf of the entire Select Board in response to a recent incident at Westford Academy:

"On January 28th, a racial incident occurred at the Westford Academy girls' basketball team. While that investigation is ongoing, we join Dr. Chew and Principal Antonelli in condemning the racist hurtful and hateful language used and heard. Such behavior cannot be tolerated, and the SB wants to apologize to the victim of that incident. Clearly there's work to be done here in Westford. More than a year ago, the Select Board established the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. Part of the charge to that committee was to identify needs around fostering acceptance and valuing diversity, and to discourage prejudice and discrimination against any person or group on account of their race, creed, color, income, religion, national origin, ancestry, gender, sexual orientation, veteran status, age, or disability. Tonight, the Select Board affirmatively and strongly restates its charge to the DEI Committee and its commitment to that committee's long-term work throughout the town and schools to foster, encourage, and embrace diversity in our town".

It is with deep sadness that I report the unexpected passing of retired Fire Captain Jim Barrett on February 6th. Jim was hired by the Fire Department in 1981 as a Call Firefighter and progressed to the rank of Captain in 2009. He retired in January 2020 after serving 38 years on our Fire Department. Jim's contributions to the department and town went well beyond usual duties of a firefighter. He was a friendly, affable man, who loved to chat. On behalf of our town, I extend my deepest sympathies for his family. He will be dearly missed.

At the same meeting, we presented the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Message to the Select Board, School Committee, and Finance Committee. Budget hearings begin on Thursday, March 3rd. You may visit the town's online calendar to view a schedule of the joint Select Board, School Committee and Finance Committee meetings at the following link: [Boards and Committees Meeting Calendar](#). The Fiscal Year 2023 budget documents are also available on our website at the following link: [Fiscal Year 2023 Budget](#).

The Select Board met jointly with the Permanent Town Building Committee to discuss sustainability options for the New Center Building at 51 Main Street. The Select Board request the Committee present them with options and what costs are associated with each. They would like an option to reflect building the facility as planned, another option to reflect building to net zero standards, and all options in between. The Permanent Town Building Committee will work together with the Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee in a working group of 5-7 members to return to the Select Board with a consensus on a solution and recommendation.

The Select Board continued their review of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding requests, projects approved, funding spent and funding available to date. They reviewed the remaining Phase 1 Covid-19 related requests, and approved several more funding requests. The total of funding approved to date is \$2,353,236. The total amount of unspent funds remaining is \$1,355,749.72.

(Continued on next page)

WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV

Assistant Town Manager Heideman updated the board on the 12 North Main Street property and discussed next steps on its future. The Select Board stated they would like to preserve part of the building and clean up the property through a phased approach, and they are interested in applying for Community Preservation Funds. The Town Manager's Office will continue to proactively seek state and federal grant opportunities to lessen the financial impact for our residents.

The board has voted to open the 2022 Annual Town Meeting Warrant which meeting is scheduled to take place on Saturday, June 11th, 2022. To review the timeline, please visit the following link: [2022 Annual Town Meeting Timeline](#).

On January 25th, the Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee (CESC) updated the board on Westford's Climate Roadmap, Community Survey, and status of the Sustainability Coordinator. The Select Board thanked the Committee for their efforts and inquired what other towns like Chelmsford and Acton's Sustainability Coordinator accomplishments are. The Select Board suggested they hold a community forum to receive input from residents, answer any questions, and develop a list of priorities.

At the same meeting the Select Board approved the 35 Town Farm Task Force's request to allocate \$237,000 from ARPA funding and approved supporting an Article for Annual Town Meeting seeking \$580,000 for the engineering and construction of the new Fire Training Facility, including \$75,000 to support terms in the Memorandum of Agreement between the Westford Fire Department and Westford Board of Water Commissioners. This facility is proposed to be built at 60 Forge Village Road.

Jeff Morrissette, Director of Land Use Management, appeared before the Select Board to request submission of an MBTA Community Information Form to the Department of Housing and Community Development. The Select Board approved his request and supported his recommended next steps. For more information on the multi-family housing requirements for MBTA Communities and to view the recommended steps, please visit the following link to view the online meeting packet, and see document items 09.02: [MBTA Community Form](#).

The Select Board also approved a request from our Town Clerk Patty Dubey to consolidate polling precincts from five polling locations to two located at Westford Academy and the Stony Brook Middle School.

The Access to Town Meeting (ATM) Committee has created a short survey for residents to share their experiences with Westford's Annual and Special Town Meetings. The survey is available online at the following link: [Thoughts on Town Meeting](#).

A team called the Gummy Bears, comprised of Westford sixth and seventh grade students, presented their Innovation Project "Aerial Package Delivery for Cluster Communities" to the Select Board. The team received a Champions Award at the First Lego League's State Tournament and will move onto the world tournament in April. To view their presentation, please visit the following link: [Aerial Package Delivery for Cluster Communities](#).

The Select Board and I recently recognized Police Captain Victor Neal for over 33 years on the Westford Police Department in light of his retirement effective January 29, 2022. Please join me in sending a sincere thank you to Vic, and our best wishes for a long, happy, healthy retirement.

Following Captain Neal's retirement, I am delighted to announce promotions and reassignments of the following employees within the Police Department effective January 30, 2022:

Detective Lieutenant Jim Peloquin promoted to Captain (Administrative)

Lieutenant Christopher Ricard assigned to Detective Lieutenant

Sergeant Brandon Holmes promoted to Lieutenant (Patrol)

Detective Tim Hughes promoted to Sergeant (Patrol)

Officer Justin Belinsky assigned to Detective

Congratulations to all!

(Continued on Next Page)

The Select Board and I thanked Eagle Scout Candidate Gautham Anoop for his generosity in donating gift funds to future Eagle Scout projects which are performed under review and approval of the Conservation Commission.

As a reminder, free sand for snow treatment is available to Westford residents and may be picked up at the entrance of the old Highway Garage located at 30 Beacon Street. There is a five-gallon limit and you must bring a bucket and shovel. If you have any questions, please call our Department of Public Works at (978) 692-5520.

As of March 31, 2022 there will be a vacancy on the Nashoba Valley Technical High School District Committee of an alternate seat with next term to expire March 31, 2025.

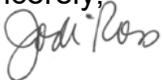
There are several openings on our local boards and committees, including: 35 Town Farm Road Task Force, Access to Town Meeting Committee, Affordable Housing Trust, Agricultural Commission, Board of Cemetery Commissioners, Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee, Commission on Disability, Communications Advisory Committee, Council on Aging, Cultural Council, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, Dog Park Task Force, Economic Development Committee, Election Officer, Healthy Westford Committee, Parks, Grounds and Recreation Commission, Pedestrian Safety Committee, Permanent Town Building Committee, Recycling Commission, Senior Low Income Disabled Tax Relief 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 Select Board's meetings? Click the following links to access: [Select Board Documents](#) & [Select Board Meeting Videos](#).

Please stay warm and safe! Spring is coming!

Sincerely,



Jodi Ross
Town Manager

February at the J.V. Fletcher Library

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



Wifi Hotspots: Now, You Can Borrow the Internet! The J.V. Public Library now has mobile hotspots available for checkout! The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC), using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), has created a public library hotspot lending program to provide the Internet to everyone free of charge. Patrons over the age of 18 may check out a hotspot for one week. Hotspots may be reserved just like a book through the [Library catalog](#) or by calling the Information Services Desk at 978-399-2304.

Virtual Story Times: Please register each week through the [Library Events Calendar](#).

Mother Goose, Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. is a weekly, drop-in story time for babies and preschoolers with their parents.

Mini Mother Goose, Mondays at 1:15 p.m. is a weekly registration story time babies and their caregivers.

Book Bunch, Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. is an early literacy registration story time for preschoolers aged 2 to 4 years old.

Book Worms, Tuesdays at 1:15 p.m. is an early literacy registration story time for older preschoolers ages 4 and 5.

Tales and Tunes, Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. is a weekly, musical story time for children ages 1 1/2 to 3.

Virtual Indian Cuisine Made Easy: Thu., Feb. 10 at 7:00 p.m.: Want to learn how to cook popular Indian dishes? Let Sandhya Jain from Sandhya's Kitchen teach you! She'll teach you how to make both saag paneer and a rice pilaf infused with aromatic spices. Please register through the [Library Events Calendar](#). Questions? Email Sarah Regan at sregan@westfordma.gov.

Virtual Make and Take Crafternoon for Teens and Tweens: Mon., Feb. 14 at 3:30 p.m.: Join Jess to make your own stickers! Please register through the [Library Events Calendar](#) to reserve a supply kit and to receive the Zoom invitation.

Painting with Pop-Up Art School: Wednesday, Feb 23, 2:00-3:00 p.m.: Paint along with the amazing artists from Pop Up Art School! Registered attendees will receive a kit with all the supplies needed to create your own painting. Hosted virtually on Zoom for ages 11+, please register through the [Library Events Calendar](#).

Virtual Visit with Elsa: Tuesday, Feb. 22 at 2:00 p.m.: Join Queen Elsa as she takes you on a Frozen journey to Arendelle for winter stories, songs, and dancing. Please feel free to dress up in your favorite costume. This program is for all ages. Please register through the [Library Events Calendar](#).

Virtual Concert with the Rockabye Beats: Wed., Feb. 23 at 1:00 p.m.: Get a little crazy with the Rockabye Beats; Marcos and Shon deliver hands on learning through music, bouncing, and all kinds of shenanigans. They will inspire your niños (and you!) to sing, dance, and move. We think this live virtual program is good for all ages, but the little ones will really love it. Please register through the [Library Events Calendar](#) for the Zoom link to this program.

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

Let's Draw Impossible Animals: Virtual Cartooning Class, Thurs., Feb. 24 at 2:00 p.m.: For school age kids, award winning cartoonist and humorous illustrator Rick Stromoski will teach you how to draw some impossible animals like a platypussy cat and a bengalbunny. You supply the paper, pencil, and maybe an eraser. Rick supplies the expertise and fun. Sign up for this Zoom event through the [Library Events Calendar](#).

Friends of the J.V. Fletcher Library Book Sale: Sunday, March 6 from 12:00-4:00 p.m.: The Friends are planning a socially distanced book sale with tables and books of different genres, DVDs, and audiobooks spread out on tables throughout the library. Customers will purchase a bag for \$10 and fill it with their selections. The Friends fund programs and performers, provide new equipment and furnishings, and supplement the multi-media collections. Stay tuned for more details as we get closer to the date! Snow date – Sunday, March 13, 12:00-4:00 p.m.

Tax Forms: The library has copies of the 2021 tax year 1040 & 1040-SR forms and instructions. We also have the Mass. tax booklets, both resident & nonresident editions. If you need any supplementary forms, we'll print them on demand. Ask at the Information Services desk!

Virtual Monday Mystery, Adult Non Fiction, Thursday Night Book Club: All of our adult book clubs welcome new members. Please visit westfordlibrary.org/events/adult-book-clubs/ for more information, reading lists, and upcoming meeting dates!

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?](#)

Quick Links to Our Most Popular Services!

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

[Programs – Adults](#)

[Programs – Kids](#)

[Programs – Young Adults](#)

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

welcome!

The Cameron Senior Center is a place you will find adults age 55+ taking part in wellness activities, enrichment and educational programs and various support services.

MOVIE SHOWING

February 17th at 4:30 Join us 1/20 for *Minari*, a tender, award winner movie about a South Korean family that moves to America and on 2/17 for the classic *Little Women* set post-Civil war days. Just \$4.00 for a movie, popcorn, refreshments and light meal. Please call to sign up 3 days prior at 978-692-5523. Thank you to the Friends of the Cameron for subsidizing costs.



TAI CHI

Mondays at 1pm eight weeks starting Monday, March 7
Join Lesley Mathews for a Tai Chi class at the Cameron.

[Cost for Westford residents is \\$24 per session and non-residents is \\$5 per class. RSVP to 978.692.5523.](#)



Ask the Lawyer

One on one appointments Tuesdays, March 8 and June 7 beginning at 9:30 AM
Free legal service provided by the office of **Attorney Karen Johnson** is available to all Westford seniors age 60 and over, by appointment. Appointments are 30mins each. Please call 978.692.5523 to reserve a timeslot.

Need Help with Understanding Medicare?

SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) CAN HELP! Monday, March 14th and April 11th by appointment. Medicare health and drug plans can make changes each year: Things like cost, coverage, and what providers and pharmacies are in their networks. The SHINE (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) Program can help you determine the best plan for you through individual meetings with a trained SHINE Counselor. To schedule an appointment with **Fred Baumert, our SHINE Counselor (and Westford resident)** contact the Cameron Senior Center Front Desk at 978.692.5523. Appointments are typically 45 minutes.



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Cameron Senior Center

MARKEL REALTY GROUP Offering Community Support



The Friends of the Cameron Senior Center received a check for \$1000 to help replenish their Emergency Assistance Fund which helps older adults in financial hardship with such basic needs as rent, mortgage and utility assistance and more...

Pictured L-R - Jill Haines, Fred Baumert, Anne Turcott, Frances Markel, Donna DiGiovine, Kevin McGuire, Alison Christopher.

Vinyassa Pilates

Tuesdays at 4 p.m. for 8 weeks beginning March 8th
Instructor: Katheryn Roper

NEW

Vinyassa Pilates is a mind/body mat class that helps to realign physical & mental body systems. Using rhythmic breathing paired with strengthening, mindful movements, participants report feeling better resilience, joy, & strength for the activities of daily living, as a result of the metabolic effect. Please bring water, a small towel & a yoga mat. Cost: \$5 per class and please pay directly to instructor and don't forget to sign up at 978.692.5523.

Sewing and Quilting Clubs

Mondays 10am – 1pm and/or Tuesdays 9am – 11am

Please come in and enjoy working on your quilting and sewing projects with other friendly and like-minded crafters. It's fun to see the different projects that people are working on. Pick-up or share some helpful project tips and just enjoy some creative fellowship!



Strengthen Your Immune System with Mindful Movement

NEW

Tuesdays, March 8th through April 26th, from 9:00-10:00AM

This on-going pandemic has rattled all of us to varying degrees. We have been moved out of our comfort zone which is unsettling to body, mind and spirit. The resulting stress and anxiety is an unhealthy by-product of the situation we find ourselves in. Mindful Movement offers gentle physical activity to help move blood and oxygen around the body, nourishing the organs and tissues, promoting healing and strengthening the immune system. In addition, due to the in-the-moment connection of the mind to the breath and physical movements, Mindful Movement helps to calm the mind, relieving emotional stress and mental anxiety. The instructor for this 8-week series is Ray Caisse from Cultivating Qi in Westford, MA. Ray has over 25 years' experience in the Mindful Movements of qigong and tai chi. He has taught numerous classes at hospitals, senior centers, retirement communities, assisted living communities and wellness centers in Northeastern Massachusetts and Southern New Hampshire. Cost for Westford residents is \$24 per session, and non-residents is \$5 per class. Sign up at 978.692.5523.

To learn more about the Cameron Senior Center programs and services please visit:

www.westfordma.gov/coa, www.facebook.com/CameronSeniorCenter/

www.youtube.com/channel/UCaNgAZb3tw8EYYQ5bEe7XXg

or simply call 978-692-5523.



Westford Senior Center

Recycling Commission

You have Recycling Questions - We have answers!

We all know that milk jugs, metal cans, and cardboard egg cartons get tossed into our recycling bin. But what about those items we're not sure about? Or items that are reusable, and don't need to be trashed? Where do we take them? Sometimes we just get stumped!

Well, you have recycling questions - We have answers!

On the Recycling Commission website there is a very useful document called:

[How-to-Recycle-Most-Everything-PDF \(westfordma.gov\)](http://www.westfordma.gov/Recycling/How-to-Recycle-Most-Everything-PDF).

Go to this list for those items that you're not sure about – for example:



Aerosol Cans • Place empty cans in your trash barrel.

Printer Cartridges (Laser) • Staples - www.staples.com. Call first, not all locations accept laser and ink jet printer cartridges. Cartridges provide StaplesReward benefits! • Best Buy - www.bestbuy.com. Drop-off boxes at the store entrances.

Styrofoam • You can put Styrofoam cups, trays, egg cartons, block, etc. in your trash. Do not put Styrofoam in your recycling bin. • Store for Styrofoam collections conducted by First Parish Church United, Green Team. Collections are announced on the Westford Web Recycling webpage, Action Unlimited weekly, Town Managers Newsletter, Westford Eagle, and Westford Recycling Commission Facebook page.

The "Recycle Most Everything" document has 34 pages of everything from Bridal Gowns to Umbrellas. Our thanks to volunteer Gerry DiBello for keeping this list current!

For all things recycling in Westford, go to <https://westfordma.gov/recycling> and follow us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/WestfordRecyclingCommission

Another useful look-up resource from the Mass DEP is the "Recyclopedia"



Can I recycle this?

To see if items can go in your curbside Recycling bin, check the Recyclopedia website. One of our fellow residents, Susanne Eaton, has shared her great tip for making this an easy process. Suzanne created a QR code and attached it to her recycling bin. When in doubt, Suzanne scans the code with her phone and is brought directly to Recyclopedia, where she then searches on the item and finds out if it can go in curbside recycling.

If you'd like, you can print the image and attach it to your bin to give your family the same easy access to this helpful resource.

<https://recyclesmartma.org/>

Health Department

The Westford Health Department will be seeking accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB).

Westford, MA - The four communities in the NorthWest Public Health Coalition (Westford, Lowell, Acton, and Dracut) were awarded a grant by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health as part of the Public Health Excellence Grant Program for Shared Services. This grant will support the communities of Westford and Lowell, and their respective health departments, in beginning the multi-year PHAB accreditation process. Thus far, only three local health departments in Massachusetts have achieved PHAB accreditation. In taking steps forward to join this prestigious group, the Westford Health Department demonstrates their commitment to enhancing the health and wellness of all residents. This is a clear indication that Westford continues to be a leading and innovative health department in the state.

Rae Dick, Westford's Health Director, is eager to begin the PHAB accreditation process. She says, "The prospect of launching this process amid the pandemic was a bit daunting. Yet, now more than ever, we are aware that the health of the community is critical to the health of society. We decided it is critical to take this ambitious leap to continue down a path focused on improving the health of the Westford community."

The national accreditation program, supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, sets standards against which health departments can continuously improve the quality of their services and performance. A health department must undergo a rigorous, multi-faceted, peer-reviewed assessment process to certify it meets or exceeds a set of quality standards and measures to receive accreditation. As of November 2021, a total of 289 local health departments nationally have achieved five-year accreditation through PHAB.

The goal of accreditation is to improve and protect the health of the public by advancing the quality and performance of public health departments. Furthermore, accreditation benefits include quality and performance improvement, increased capacity to respond to public health threats and emergencies, and strengthened relationships with key partners to better serve the community.

While led by the health department, the accreditation process is multi-disciplinary and requires the engagement of the entire community. Westford's Board of Health Chair, Stephanie Granger and the Westford Town Manager, Jodi Ross both stated, "I am in full support of the Westford Health Department beginning the PHAB accreditation process".

For more information about accreditation, please visit the PHAB website at www.phaboard.org.



Community Health Needs Assessment

Every 3 years the Greater Lowell Health Alliance, Lowell General Hospital, and UMASS Lowell conduct a Community Health Needs Assessment.

The communities included are Westford, Billerica, Chelmsford, Dracut, Dunstable, Lowell, Tewksbury, and Tyngsborough.

As a community member of Westford please take the time to fill out the Community Health Needs Assessment to better serve you and your family via the link below:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/GLCHNA2022

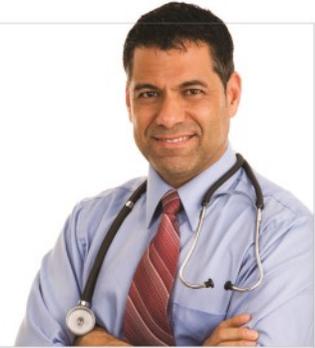
Health Department

February is American Heart Awareness Month

Nearly 1 in 2 adults have hypertension, yet only about 1 in 4 have their blood pressure under control. Explore CDC's [Public Health Resources for Hypertension Control](#) page, which provides trusted, evidence-based tools about hypertension control for public health professionals to share with their partners. Visit www.cdc.gov/heartmonth to learn more about the resources in CDC's hypertension toolkits.

KNOW THE FACTS ABOUT

Heart Disease



What is heart disease?

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States. More than 600,000 Americans die of heart disease each year. That's one in every four deaths in this country.¹

The term "heart disease" refers to several types of heart conditions. The most common type is coronary artery disease, which can cause heart attack. Other kinds of heart disease may involve the valves in the heart, or the heart may not pump well and cause heart failure. Some people are born with heart disease.

Are you at risk?

Anyone, including children, can develop heart disease. It occurs when a substance called plaque builds up in your arteries. When this happens, your arteries can narrow over time, reducing blood flow to the heart.

Smoking, eating an unhealthy diet, and not getting enough exercise all increase your risk for having heart disease.

Having high cholesterol, high blood pressure, or diabetes also can increase your risk for heart disease. Ask your doctor about preventing or treating these medical conditions.

What are the signs and symptoms?

The symptoms vary depending on the type of heart disease. For many people, chest discomfort or a heart attack is the first sign.

Someone having a heart attack may experience several symptoms, including:

- Chest pain or discomfort that doesn't go away after a few minutes.
- Pain or discomfort in the jaw, neck, or back.
- Weakness, light-headedness, nausea (feeling sick to your stomach), or a cold sweat.
- Pain or discomfort in the arms or shoulder.
- Shortness of breath.

If you think that you or someone you know is having a heart attack, call 9-1-1 immediately.



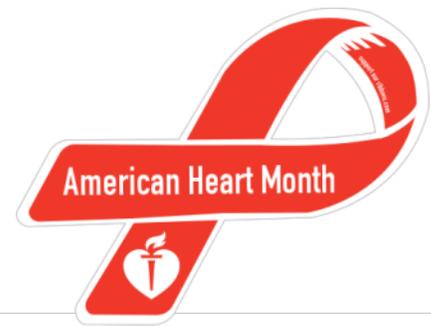
¹ CDC: Deaths: Final Data for 2009. www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr60/nvsr60_03.pdf

Health Department

KNOW THE FACTS ABOUT

Heart Disease

February is American Heart Month



How is heart disease diagnosed?

Your doctor can perform several tests to diagnose heart disease, including chest X-rays, coronary angiograms, electrocardiograms (ECG or EKG), and exercise stress tests. Ask your doctor about what tests may be right for you.

Can it be prevented?

You can take several steps to reduce your risk for heart disease:

- Don't smoke. CDC's Office on Smoking and Health Web site has information on quitting smoking.

www.cdc.gov/tobacco

- Maintain a healthy weight. CDC's Healthy Weight Web site includes information and tools to help you lose weight.

www.cdc.gov/healthyweight/index.html

- Eat a healthy diet. Tips on reducing saturated fat in your diet are available on the Web site for CDC's Division for Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity.

www.cdc.gov/cholesterol/myths_facts.htm

- Exercise regularly. Visit CDC's Physical Activity Web site for more information on being active.

www.cdc.gov/physicalactivity/index.html



- Prevent or treat your other health conditions, especially high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and diabetes.

How is it treated?

If you have heart disease, lifestyle changes, like those just listed, can help lower your risk for complications. Your doctor also may prescribe medication to treat the disease. Talk with your doctor about the best ways to reduce your heart disease risk.

For More Information:

Learn more at the following Web sites.

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention:

www.cdc.gov/dhdsp/index.htm

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center on Birth Defects & Developmental Disabilities:

www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/birthdefects

- American Heart Association:

www.americanheart.org

- National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute:

www.nhlbi.nih.gov

Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee

Learn about Westford Climate Roadmap and Give Us Your Feedback!

The Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee is providing the public with opportunities to learn about **Westford Climate Roadmap: A plan to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions to zero by 2050**. The initial version of this Roadmap serves as a baseline to be reviewed by the community and will be expanded and revised based on feedback from Town management, boards, residents, and businesses. Find out more about the Roadmap and the schedule of presentations [at this link](#). We will be updating the schedule during the month of February. Please contact [Beth Perkins](#) or [Mike Berlinski](#) with any questions or to schedule an additional presentation.

New Mass Save Incentives!

The Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee is working hard to get the word out to everyone about major changes to the Mass Save program. Massachusetts announced a major overhaul of the program this month. The three-year plan, which runs from 2022 through the end of 2024, is full of rebates, interest-free loans, free efficiency upgrades, and other incentives aimed at making homes across the state more efficient and resilient.



Included are:

- Programs for Residents, Business' and Municipal Buildings
- Energy efficiency discounts up to 100% for low-income residents
- Renters can qualify for up to 100% of weatherization upgrades
- Incentives for electric home heating and water heating equipment, central air conditioning, insulation, and efficient appliances
- Large incentives for electric heat pumps, now available to gas customers and 100% funding for low- and moderate-income residents

To find out more and take advantage of these incentives, call 1-866-527-SAVE or visit the [Mass Save website](#)

League of Women Voters of Westford



Support Local Candidates at a Drive-Through Signature Gathering Event

Feb 26 (Rain date Feb 27)

The League of Women Voters of Westford will once again be holding a Signature Gathering Event to allow candidates for elected office in Westford to get the requisite 50 signatures on their nomination papers in a safe, socially-distant manner. Voters are invited to drive through the Abbot School driveway on Saturday, Feb 26 between 1pm and 3pm in order to sign nomination papers for our local candidates from the safety of their own cars. A masked volunteer or a masked candidate will present each driver with a single clipboard that holds nomination papers for all participating candidates. The volunteers will then step back while the papers are signed.

Please note that these signatures simply allow the candidate to get on the May 3rd town election ballot, and signing the nomination papers in no way obligates a voter to support any candidate. All candidates are able to join in the event, and the League provides no preferential support to any candidate.

Please mark Saturday, Feb 26 (rain date Sunday, Feb 27) on your calendars. The event will be held from 1-3pm in the U-shaped driveway in front of the Abbot School. We hope to see you there!

Westford Remembers

Westford Remembers is hosting a Dine for a cause at Evviva on Friday, March 4th. If you dine at Evviva that evening, please mention Westford Remembers to have part of your dinner purchase support us! Raffles will be on display at Evviva beginning early next week.

We are working to raise funds to support families in town. Any donation is appreciated and tax deductible, please keep our foundation in mind.

www.westfordremembers.org

Venmo@westford-remembers

PO Box 869 Westford, MA 01886

Check out our Facebook page for more information www.facebook.com/westfordremembers01886



Westford Parks & Recreation

After School with Parks & Rec's Westford Partnership for Children (WPC)

Westford Partnership for Children provides a safe, stimulating, and fun environment for school children, grades K-8, during the afterschool hours. The WPC program offers:

- A choice of enrichment activities
- Flexible schedules that support each family's need
- A safe and easy transition from classroom to program
- Experienced Site Directors and staff

WPC runs Monday-Friday, from school dismissal to 5:45 p.m., with locations at the following Westford Public Schools: Abbot, Crisafulli, Day, Miller, Nabnasset, Robinson, and Stony Brook Middle School.

* WPC provides bus transportation from Blanchard to Stony Brook.

Register for any session, at any time! Session 4 starts on February 28.

Learn more at [About WPC](#) at [westfordrec.com](#)

Parks & Rec Special Programs FEBRUARY VACATION!

Parks & Recreation provides support for parents and children with special full day and full week programs during school professional development days, parent conferences, and February and April school vacations.

REGISTER NOW! February Vacation for grades K-8, February 22-25.

Enjoy Altitude Trampoline Park, Tyngsboro Sports Center, Tubing at McIntyre, Chunkys, Roller Kingdom, and more. *Choose any or all days – it's up to you.*

Learn more and Register at [Special Programs](#) on [westfordrec.com](#).

Parks & Rec Summer Weekly Programs

At Parks & Recreation Summer Weekly Programs, kids enjoy activities that relax and engage, like arts & crafts at the Nabnasset, or swimming and s'mores at East Boston Camps. Programs offer flexible full week schedules, early arrival, extended day, and swim lesson options.

Enjoy nine weeks of SUMMER FUN:

Summer Beach Party at Destination Exploration: Summer program coverage just when you need it – the last week in June and in mid August.

Kids Club: Fast-paced, fun-filled activities for children at all levels.

Destination Exploration at East Boston Camps: Classic summertime activities in a classic summertime setting.

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



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

Top: Pizza smile at WPC Crisafulli, early release day. **Middle:** Tubing at McIntyre with Special Programs. **Bottom:** Jumping in at Burge's Pond, East Boston Camps.