



Jodi Ross,
Town
Manager

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**Strawberries 'N Arts
Festival**
Saturday, June 18
10am - 3pm
On the Town Common

Farmers Market
"Run by Roudenbush"
Held on Tuesdays
2:30pm - 6:30pm
June 21 to August 30
Roudenbush Center

Strategic Planning Retreat
Thursday, September 8
5pm - 8pm
Kimball Farm

WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS
50 BEST
PLACES
TO LIVE
IN AMERICA

MONEY MAGAZINE - 2021

46th

Watch
westford CAT
community access television
www.westfordcat.org

Dear Westford residents,

Thank you to all who prepared for, conducted, and attended our Annual Town Meeting on Saturday June 11th. If you were unable to attend, you may view the meeting results at the following link: westfordma.gov/atm2022. This year's State of the Town presentation is available on our website at the following link: [Fiscal Year 2023 State of the Town Presentation](#).

After a two-year hiatus due to Covid-19, this year our Strategic Planning Retreat will return and be held at Kimball Farm on Thursday, September 8th from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Please stay tuned for more information relative to discussion topics and registration.

At the Select Board's meeting on June 14th, the board met jointly with the Board of Water Commissioners to discuss their request to hire Attorney Hank Naughton of Napoli Shkolnik, PLLC to pursue Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Multi District Litigation, on behalf of the town of Westford. The Select Board approved pursuing litigation on behalf of the town's water enterprise fund, and continued the discussion to their next meeting on June 28th to evaluate whether to enter another agreement to litigate on behalf of private well owners.

The Select Board continued their review of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding requests to determine allocations, and were presented updates on projects approved and funding available to date. The Select Board approved requests at this meeting in the amount of \$233,780 for the following projects:

- \$6,280 for the Strategic Planning Retreat
- \$50,000 for supplementing gasoline/diesel fuel budgets for all town fleet, and will reevaluate these budgets quarterly
- approved the Police Department purchasing a hybrid vehicle as the electric vehicles have been recalled
- \$177,500 for the Blanchard Middle School wastewater treatment plant tank rehabilitation as construction bids came in over the allocated appropriation

ARPA summaries are available to view at the following link: [ARPA Funding](#).

On May 24th, the Select Board met jointly with the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee. They discussed how to best provide opportunities for seeking and receiving community input regarding the recommendation of the DEI committee to consider renaming Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day in our town. The DEI committee will be holding a community listening session in July and a ballot question will be added to the Election Warrant on November 8th.

At that same meeting, the board also discussed Town Hall parking lot expansion options with Town Engineer, Paul Starratt. The discussion was continued to allow town staff to further evaluate the best options. Abutters will be kept notified of the process.

The Department of Land Use Management is creating a Tree and Invasive Species Management Plan to help care for our public trees. They have created a Community Survey and are seeking residents' input to help guide this effort. The survey should take about 10 minutes to complete and is available at the following link: [Westford Tree and Invasive Species Management Plan Community Survey](#).

(Continued on next page)

Please join me in welcoming two of our new Department Heads, Jeff Goodwin, who was promoted from Assistant Facilities Director to Facilities Director and Nicole Laviolette, our new Community Wellness Coordinator.

The Select Board and I recognized the following employees as they have announced their departure and/or retirement from our town:

- Peter Mahler for over 22 years of service on the Conservation Commission as he is not seeking reappointment as of June 30, 2022
- Library Associate Deborah Santoro for over 23 years of service at the J.V. Fletcher Library in light of her resignation effective June 8, 2022
- Crew Supervisor Dave Hall for over 25 years of service in the Public Works Department in light of his resignation effective June 10, 2022
- Cemetery Supervisor Richard "Dick" Nawoichik for over 28 years of service in the Public Works Department in light of his retirement effective June 30, 2022

Thank you all for all of your contributions through the years for Westford!

The board also recognized the passing of retired K-9 Beny who was a 9-year veteran of the Westford Police Department and partner of K-9 Officer Corey Peladeau.

Congratulations to Westford Academy and Nashoba Valley Technical High School's senior class of 2022!

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, Dog Park Task Force, Economic Development Committee, Election Officer, Healthy Westford Committee, Parks, Grounds and Recreation Commission, Pedestrian Safety Committee, Permanent Town Building Committee, Scholarship and Grant Committee, Senior Low Income Disabled Tax Relief Committee, Tax Possession Sale Committee, and Zoning Board of Appeals.



K-9 Officer Beny

I urge you to peruse our website for information about the work of these committees; and if you have interest, please complete and submit 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](#).

Sincerely,

Jodi Ross
Town Manager

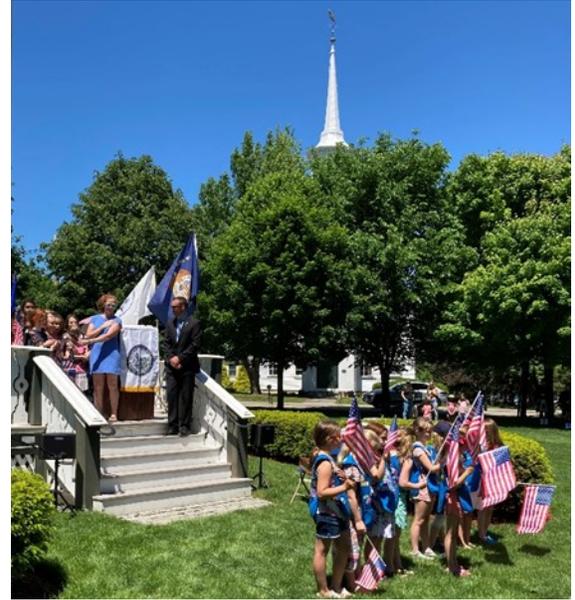


Memorial Day 2022

Westford Observes Memorial Day



The Town honored its past service members the last week of May by placing flags on its deceased veterans gravesites throughout our cemeteries. Tributes were paid at each of the village's war memorials and the Honor Roll was read on the Town Common. A Main Street parade from the Roudenbush to the Bandstand followed by a moving service on the Common followed.



Highlights of the service were speakers Donna Martin & Jessica Anderson who paid tribute to their WWII loved ones Harry Flanders, George Crook, and Lenwood Heighes, interred at the Russian Brotherhood Cemetery. Also honoring our veterans were State Representative Jim Arciero and



Andrea Peraner-Sweet representing our Select Board as well as Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops and the Westford Academy Band. Westford Police and Fire Department Honor Guards with Westford & District Pipes and Drums providing their honors of the Memorial Day recognition.



Photos Courtesy of Terry Stader and Heather Monahan, Veterans Services

June at the J.V. Fletcher Library

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



Library Building Project: To learn more about the Library Building Project, please watch this [WestfordCat discussion](#) with Ellen Rainville, Library Director, and Alisha Hillam, Chair of the Board of Library Trustees.

Summer Reading Programs for All Ages! : This summer we have exciting programs and prizes lined up for children, young adults, and adults. The majority of our program offerings will take place outside on the back lawn. Check out the [Children's Summer Reading page](#) , [Teens Summer Reading page](#) and the [Adult Summer Reading Page](#) for more information. Please call or email us with any questions on these exciting summer-long programs.

Adventure is Out There Magic Show with Mike Bent: Wed., June 22 at 1:00 p.m. on the Back Lawn The Summer reading program kicks off with our favorite magician Mike Bent. This is Mike's 11th summer reading show with us! This book themed show uses hilarious comedy, amazing magic, music, sound effects, AND storytelling to motivate kids to get reading. [Register here.](#)

Young Adult Writers' Club: Tuesday, June 21 at 2:00 p.m. A chance to meet up with fellow writers to discuss your latest projects, read your work aloud if you want to, and write in a relaxing and encouraging space. YA Librarian Jess will be present at each meeting with writing prompts, brain exercises, and snacks! [Register here.](#)

Teen and Tween Crafting Circle: Wed., June 22 at 2:00 p.m. Bring your creativity and join us in a meeting of crafty minds. We'll focus on a different crafting skill each meeting, and provide the materials to get you started! All skill levels welcome. [Register here.](#)

Teen and Tween Acting & Improv with Little Spark Theater: Friday, June 24 at 2:00 p.m. Ali from Little Spark Theater will lead participants in an exploration of the basics of acting and improvisation through games. Get ready for some antics, shenanigans, and a ridiculously fun time! [Register here.](#)

Middle Grade Book Club: Monday, June 27 at 2:00 p.m. For kids entering grades 5-8. Join YA Librarian Jess in the Meeting Room for a discussion of *Too Bright to See* by Kyle Lukoff. Copies of the book can be picked up at the Main Circulation desk. Snacks provided! [Register here.](#)

Monday Mystery Book Club: Mon., Jun. 27 at 2:00 p.m. We'll meet on the library's back lawn! Please bring your own lawn chair. If it rains, we'll meet on Zoom, and members will receive an email with the link that morning. We'll be discussing *The Survivors* by Jane Harper. Print copies are available at Main Desk, and the ebook and digital audiobook are on Overdrive, and the audiobook is on Hoopla. Email Kristina at kleedberg@westfordma.gov for details.

Jazzin' the Blues with The Paul Speidel Band: Tue., Jun. 28 at 6:30 p.m. Bring your lawn chair or blanket and get ready to rock out to some jazzy beats! The Paul Speidel Band has been playing in the Boston area for over 20 years. They have played with many greats including Jay Geils, Shirley Lewis, and John Lee Hooker, Jr. This concert will take place outside on the library's back lawn. If the weather does not cooperate, the concert will be in our downstairs Meeting Room. No registration required. Questions? Email kleedberg@westfordma.gov.

(Continued on next page)

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

YA Book Club: Thursday, June 30 at 2:00 p.m. For teens entering grades 8-12. Join YA Librarian Jess for a discussion of *The Girls I've Been* by Tess Sharpe. Copies of the book are available at the Main Desk. Snacks provided! [Register here](#).

Family Concert with the Rolie Polie Guacamole Band Thursday, June 30 at 6:30 p.m. - Winner of the prestigious Parents' Choice® and NAPPA Awards, Rolie Polie Guacamole offers a seriously rocking show of original tunes and classic covers. Please mark your calendar - you won't be disappointed. [Register here](#).

Adult Nonfiction Book Club: Tue., July 5 at 7:00 p.m. We'll meet in the downstairs Meeting Room. We'll discuss *In the Garden of Beasts* by Erik Larson. Copies are available at Main Desk, and the ebook and audiobook are on Overdrive. Email Charles Schweppe at cschweppe@westfordma.gov for details!

Virtual Visiting Our National Parks: Thu., July 7 at 7:00 p.m. Join John Bunker to learn about his experiences visiting over 25 National Parks in the last two decades. While serving as the Associate Dean, UNH College of Health and Human Services, John originally developed this presentation for an undergrad class, detailing his adventures and misadventures in some of his favorite national parks: Badlands, Bryce, Canyonlands, Glacier, Grand Tetons, Yellowstone (pictured), and Zion. You'll receive a copy of John's handout, Top Ten Lessons Learned. [Register here](#) to receive the Zoom link. Questions? Email kleadberg@westfordma.gov.

Friends of the Library e-newsletter: The best way to learn about our upcoming programs and new services is through the FOL weekly e-newsletter. [Sign up 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?](#)

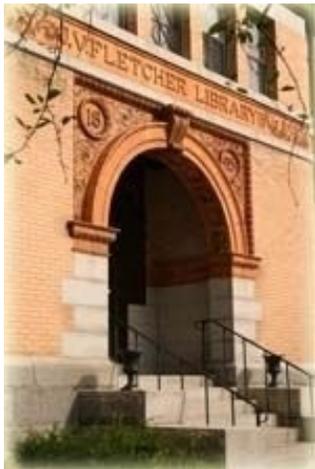
Quick Links to Our Most Popular Services!

[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

ORGANIC VEGETABLE DISTRIBUTION

Every Thursday

Numbers distributed at 1pm

Food distribution at 1:30pm

We are grateful that Gaining Grounds of Concord will once again be offering their organic produce weekly to all Westford residents who meet income guidelines (fuel assistance criteria). To participate, please sign an income attestation on the day of produce pick up.

Distribution will be held at the Westford Housing Authority at 65 Tadmuck Rd in the community center parking lot. We will pass out disposable numbers starting at 1pm. The freshly picked and packaged vegetables will be pre-bagged and distributed at 1:30pm. Any questions call Annette at 978.399.2326.



Blue Cross Blue Shield Information Table

Monday, August 8, 12:30 -2:00pm

Drop in to meet with Heather Hurd, representative from Blue Cross, to ask her questions about your insurance plan, options, Medicare and more. She will have a table setup in our lobby during this time.

REPRESENTATIVE ARCIERO'S ANNUAL COOKOUT

Wednesday, August 17 at 12pm

Representative Jim Arciero will again be hosting his well-received cookout at the Cameron. This is a great opportunity to meet and share concerns with him! Please RSVP to 978.692.5523.



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP IS HERE FOR YOU

Please Come join us!

For Westford residents 55+

While grief can impact individuals in different ways, connecting with others to share stories, experiences, and receive/offer support can help with the grieving process. Please join us if you have suffered a loss and are seeking a safe place to express your feelings, to feel heard, to learn about the grieving process and to obtain helpful coping materials and resources. These "drop in" groups will be offered on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month at 4:00 here at the Cameron, however please call to speak with Annette prior to your first visit. There is no fee and no required attendance. Call Annette at 978-692-5523.



To view the complete Council On Aging Newsletter please visit [Newsletters](#) on our web page.

Westford Public Schools

Celebrate, Good Times...update!

Congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2022!

We wish all of our new alumni and their families an enjoyable celebration season.

Congratulations to all of our students who will be transitioning to another one of our fantastic WPS schools next year. Hopefully, you will be taking fond memories with you as you grow into a new environment.

Finally, congratulations to ALL of our students and staff on successfully completing another school year in general. It was certainly not as typical as we had hoped, but there were less disruptions and more time for meaningful face to face relationship building. We continue to remain focused on developing a strong sense of belonging and it all begins with positive relationships.

June is filled with year-end celebrations and activities. It is a very exciting and exhausting time as we stretch to the finish line. Hopefully, everyone will have opportunities for rest and relaxation in order to successfully rejuvenate very soon.

As we look forward to the next school year...if you are ready to start looking forward to the next school year...we are looking for participation in an Advisory Group for our next Strategic District Improvement Plan (SDIP). This group will meet during the summer a few times to help provide feedback for potential focus areas for the district leadership team to consider when developing the plan to present to the School Committee for approval. This plan will be the guiding document for Westford Public Schools for the following three years. Similar to the individual School Improvement Plans that have been used for a while now, this district plan will have actionable goals. We are hoping to assemble an Advisory Group of approximately 15-18 people representing a wide variety of stakeholders in the district to help complicate and expand our thinking. The initial plan is to hold two-three brainstorming sessions between July 18th and August 19th to help articulate priorities and focus areas for the leadership team to explore as they develop the specific goals and action items in the plan. If you would like to participate, please fill out the SDIP Advisory Group form which is available at <https://forms.gle/HDJt3EhVLq1bHXdu6> This will allow us to best determine the number of people interested as we try to establish a representative group from across the district.

As we begin closing out this school year, make sure to sign-up now for the Principal's weekly emails for the schools your family will be connected with next year as they send out important information and communications during the summer.

Cheers!

Chris Chew, School Superintendent



Recycling Commission

Academy Capstone Students Intern with the Recycling Commission

The WRC was proud to participate in the Westford Academy Senior Capstone Program. This program gives seniors a chance to work as interns at local companies, volunteer with a local organization, or write a research paper or project on a topic of their choosing.

Our 4 volunteers, Julia Cunniffe, Samantha Greene, Anushka Patil and Tanya Vasireddy, worked for 5 weeks on several projects helping the Recycling Commission to educate residents on various topics. The Capstone interns started with creating 2 educational videos. One on the importance of recycling textiles and the second on what to do and what not to do with plastic bags. Both of these will be available on Westford CAT and our website.



The interns also verified and updated our [“How to Recycle Most Everything”](#) document, which is a wealth of information on recycling items that cannot go into the curbside recycling bin. To help with our social media posting, the interns created several graphics with helpful tips – shown below. Their creativity and knowledge of the web tool, Canva, used to create the graphics was amazing!

The interns also helped direct residents at our Spring Electronics and More Collection. Three of our interns are seen above at the Capstone exhibition at Westford Academy. The interns took “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle” to heart in their presentation by using an old box as their poster board. We couldn’t be more proud of them!

Recycling Tip



Milk cartons belong in the TRASH

This includes all aseptic containers!



Recycling Tip



Do not recycle plastic bags & wrappers curbside, even with a recycling symbol.

They can be recycled at Market Basket and Whole Foods.



For more information visit the WRC website.

Recycling Tip



Purchase Compost Bins!

Place kitchen scraps, yard clippings, and leaves into Earth Machines.



When used for soil, composting benefits the environment.

Purchase for \$25 by emailing nfeliciano@westfordma.gov or calling 978-692-5520

Recycling Commission (Continued)

Results of the Spring, 2022 Collection Events

Household Hazardous Waste Collection that was held in May

The Westford Recycling Commission (WRC) ran a pilot last month to hold a Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection event in what, for Westford, would be an "off year." Historically, Westford has held HHW events every other year while most other towns in our region hold HHW collections every year (if not twice a year).

The pilot was held to see how many households would participate in an "annual" event and to try out approaches that made it possible to fund a collection this year (without an appropriation at last year's Town Meeting) and that would make it affordable to switch permanently to an annual schedule.

Just over 150 Westford households participated in the May 2022 HHW Collection event. For comparison, 300 households on average have participated in Westford's HHW Collection events held every other year.

The level of participation confirms there is sufficient participation to justify an annual HHW Collection schedule, and with the changes tested out, the town will be able to afford to hold these events every year. The next HHW Collection will be in the Spring of 2023.

Bonus: There's another benefit to Westford holding annual HHW Collection events. Through a reciprocal program sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Westford residents can take part in the HHW Collections held by other participating regional communities in the same calendar year. The schedule for this year's reciprocal HHW Collection events is posted to the Westford Recycling Commission's web site: <https://westfordma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/9884/HHW-Reciprocity-Schedule-NE3-ver-6-9-2021>

Electronics and More Collection that was held in April

Thanks to our vendor Northeast Material Handling and the many residents who brought in used electronics and lots of other items.

We collected:

- 14,340 lbs. of Metal
- 15,045 lbs. of Electronics, including 103 Monitors and 189 TVs
- 91 lbs. of Alkaline Batteries
- 113 Sets of Speakers
- 32 Vacuums
- and 49 Light bulbs

Total Weight: 29,385 lbs.

This was historically one of our biggest collections so thank you for properly recycling and keeping your items out of the trash.



Westford Recreation

Seasonal Programs for Youth and Adults

Check out Recreation's upcoming seasonal programs, to include Flag Football, Golf, Nitehawks Track & Field, Impact Speed & Agility, Swimming Instruction, and the Marcus Lewis Tennis Extension Program, offering classes for all levels and age groups, at Stony Brook tennis courts.

Learn more at [Programs on westfordrec.com](http://Programs.onwestfordrec.com).

Summer Weekly Programs

At Recreation's **Summer Weekly Programs**, kids will enjoy activities that relax and engage, like arts & crafts at the Nab, or swimming and s'mores at East Boston Camps. Our Site Directors and counselors focus on safety and positivity, supporting each child as they enjoy new experiences.

NINE WEEKS OF SUMMER FUN!

Summer Beach Party at D.E.

Summer program coverage just when you need it – on June 22-24 and August 15-19

For ages 4-13, Monday-Friday.
Directors: Recreation Staff Site Directors
Two-week program with full-day, full-week or partial week, early arrival, and extended day options.

Kids Club

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

For ages 4-13, Monday-Friday, specific times to be announced.
Directors: Recreation Staff Site Directors.
Seven-week program with full-day, full-week or partial week, early arrival, extended day, and swim lesson options.

Destination Exploration at EBC

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

For ages 7-13, Monday-Friday.
Directors: Recreation Staff Site Directors
Seven-week program with full-day, full-week or partial week, early arrival, and extended day options.

Learn more at [Summer Weekly Programs on westfordrec.com](http://SummerWeeklyPrograms.onwestfordrec.com).



Top to Bottom:
Moving Fast with Impact Speed & Agility
Photo Break at Kids Club
Winner of Best Facemask at Edwards Beach

Department of Public Works

Drainage and paving improvements have been made at the Intersection of Greenwood Road and the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail.

Before



After

Westford Cemeteries

Members of Westford's Colonel John Robinson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the DAR State Regent, and friends gathered at Wright Cemetery on May 14 to honor their founding regent, Bernice Gould Picking. They commemorated the 75th anniversary of the Chapter's founding, officially begun on January 22, 1947, and read the names of the fifteen original members. A reception followed at Good Pickin' Farm, where Bernice had lived her entire life.



Upcoming Happenings

Strawberries N Arts Festival

<https://firstparishwestford.org/strawberry-festival/>

Saturday, June 18th, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Town Common

Juneteenth (observed) – Town Offices Closed

Monday, May 20th

Farmers Market “Run by Roudenbush”

<https://www.roudenbush.org/farmers-market>

Tuesdays, June 21st – August 30th, 2:30 PM to 6:30 PM

Roudenbush Community Center, 65 Main Street

Strategic Planning Retreat

Thursday, September 8th, 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Kimball Farm, 400 Littleton Road