



February 2017



Jodi Ross,
Town
Manager

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

Important:
Our new website notification system requires users to renew subscriptions to all notifications. Please take the time now to [renew notifications](#)



Deadline for Nomination Papers
Tuesday, March 14

Community Gardens Plot Registration Closes
Wednesday, March 15

Annual Town Meeting
Saturday, March 25

Tune in to 1630 AM
For Westford's Local
Emergency Information



Watch Meetings Online
westford CAT
community access television
www.westfordcat.org

Dear Westford residents,

On February 6th our town conducted a Special Town Meeting after receiving a citizen's petition to consider an administrative bylaw change. The town voted to amend the language in Bylaw 33.2 *Authority to settle certain claims*. This amended language will now be sent to the Attorney General's office for consideration. Further information is available at this link: [2017 Special Town Meeting](#)

The Board of Selectmen closed the warrant for our Annual Town Meeting on January 24th. They are in the process of making recommendations on articles at their February and early March meetings. The School Committee asked the Selectmen to consider placing an article in the Warrant, and on the ballot, for an operational override in the amount of \$1.6 million to allow them to adjust teacher salaries to market basket levels. The Selectmen agreed to add a placeholder article to the Warrant while they continue to review the data and discuss in upcoming meetings. More information on our Annual Town Meeting may be found here: [2017 Annual Town Meeting](#).

Our Parks, Recreation and Cemetery departments have been relocated into the former Courier building, located at 22 Town Farm Road, which was recently purchased by Yule Development Company, Inc. Please stop by and visit these departments in their new home.

Are you interested in running for a Westford public office? Nomination papers are currently available in the Town Clerk's Office for the upcoming local elections to be held May 2, 2017; nomination papers are due back March 14, 2017. Here is a link to positions with openings: [2017 Candidate Information](#).

By now you should have received our Annual Town Census forms which you should fill out and return to the Town Clerk's office as soon as possible. We included other pertinent information which we hope you will review.

For all you gardeners out there, the Agricultural Commission has opened the registration for a plot in our Westford Community Garden. Registration is open through March 15. These are the options for plots this year: 15' x 15' for \$25; 15' x 30' for \$50; 30' x 30' for \$100, available as an annual (tilled) plot or perennial (untilled) plot. Our community garden is located at the Day Field, 41 Graniteville Road. If you have questions, please contact Elizabeth Almeida, Chair of the Agricultural Commission at ealmeida@westfordma.gov. Plot applications are available online at www.westfordma.gov/communitygardens.



available online at

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As a reminder, the corporate management of the town's community electricity aggregation program is changing from ConEdison Solutions to Constellation NewEnergy, Inc. There will not be any breaks in service or change in rates. Expect to see the new supply provider on your electricity bill around April 2017. You may visit the [CEA website](#) to learn more about the program, or contact the town manager's office with questions via email or at 978-692-5501.

I would like to congratulate Michelle Collett for her promotion to be the new Assistant Parks, Grounds and Recreation Director for our town. Michelle has worked for our town for many years in our After School Program. We wish her the best in her new position.

There are several openings on other local boards and committees, including the Affordable Housing Committee, Agricultural Commission, By-Law Review Committee, Energy Committee, Historical Commission, Public Works Initiative Committee, Parks and Recreation Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, and others, and I urge you to peruse our website for information about the work of these committees. If you have interest, please complete a Citizen's Activity form at this link: [Citizen Activity Form](#) or stop by and fill out a form in the Town Manager's office.

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

I hope to see you at our Annual Town Meeting.

Sincerely,



Jodi Ross
Town Manager



Wright & Fletcher Store - 40 Main Street - Photo Courtesy of the [Westford Museum](#)

J.V. Fletcher Library

“The Library’s Solution to the Winter Blues”

It’s that time of year when the Nature’s monochromatic seemingly endless days of grey can challenge even the cheeriest soul. Please don’t hibernate, visit the Library and have some fun!!

This week all of our Children’s Storytimes and Clubs are beginning again. Mother Goose drop-in Storytimes have already begun. Teens and Tweens can come to the Library every Monday, after school, and participate in creative activities. Adults can drop in to the bi-monthly knitting club, indulge at an evening coloring party (it’s the latest trend in relaxation) or cook up a dish, or just sample them, and discuss cookbooks at the monthly, evening Cookbook Club. Both our Library Book Discussion Group and the Monday Mystery Book Club are drop-ins as well; copies of the monthly selections are always available at Main Desk.

If you don’t have plans to get away over February vacation, plan to spend some of your “staycation” at the Library. We’ve organized a week of exciting happenings. Preschoolers are invited to “Sing Laugh, Jump and Clap;” Children will be amazed at Nappy’s Puppet Show; Teens and Tweens can design and vote at the Project Runway Program, or learn to play the Ukulele and Adults can escape winter by planning a spring garden with Jodie Gilson.



For dates and times for all of these programs, go to the Library’s homepage: click on [Meeting Room Calendar](#) in the horizontal menu and then scan the week of Feb. 20th for all the programs that interest you! We hope to see you soon!



WWW.WESTFORDLIBRARY.ORG

Health Department



Snow Shoveling Safety Tips

- Give yourself plenty of time to shovel and don't rush yourself.
- Use a couple layers of clothes to keep your muscles warm and flexible.
- Do warm-up stretching of the arms, shoulders, legs, and back beforehand.
- When you shovel, push the snow straight ahead and walk it to the snowbank. Don't throw it.
- Avoid sudden twisting and turning motions.
- Bend your knees to lift when shoveling. Let the muscles of your legs and arms do the work, not your back.
- Take regular rest breaks to alleviate the strain off your muscles.

Town Clerk's Corner

Census

Annual census forms were mailed to Westford residents a few weeks ago. Please complete and return them, even if there aren't any changes. Didn't get your census? Please let us know and we will send you a blank census form. You may also find a blank form [online](#).

Nomination Papers

The deadline to return nomination papers for local office is Tuesday, March 14, 2017 at 5:00pm. At least 50 signatures of Westford voters need to be certified in order for the candidate's name to appear on the ballot.

See [nomination paper activity](#) (as of 2/10/2017)

Annual Town Meeting

Saturday, March 25th at 10:00am at the Abbot School gymnasium
Voter registration deadline is Friday, March 3rd at 8:00pm



Annual Town Election

Tuesday, May 2nd from 7:00am – 8:00pm

- Voter registration deadline is Wednesday, April 12th at 8:00pm
- Interested in working at the polls? Please complete an [Election Officer Profile](#) and submit it to the Town Clerk's Office.

Rabies Clinic 2017

Saturday, March 18 from 9:00am – 11:00am at the Center Fire Station (51 Main St)
Cost: \$15 per pet. The Town Clerk's Office will be in attendance to license dogs.

Dog Licensing Deadline

According to Town Bylaw, all dogs ages 6 months and older must be vaccinated against rabies and licensed by March 31st. Beginning April 1st a \$25 late fee applies. Proof of current rabies vaccination required (may be on file for renewals)



Recycling Commission



Upcycle It!

You can recycle even more using **Sustainable Westford's Upcycle It!** program. It builds on Westford's curbside recycling program and allows you to recycle items you would normally throw away in your trash. Upcycle It! generates funds that benefit Westford schools. As of October 2016, Upcycle It! earned **\$12,527.52** for the schools and kept **7,357 pounds** of trash out of the waste stream from 734,611 pieces collected from residents.

You can find Upcycle It! collection containers at three convenient locations: J.V. Fletcher Library (basement near elevator), Starbucks at 174 Littleton Rd., and Roudenbush Community Center on Main Street (basement). Upcycle It! also collects items at the summer/fall Farmers' Markets.

Visit www.sustainablewestford.org/upcycle-it for November 2016 updated information on what can and cannot be collected, plus Frequently Asked Questions.

Please note that writing instruments are no longer accepted.

Upcycle It! accepts -

- Foil Drink Pouches and their straws (i.e. Capri Sun, Kool Aid, Honest Kids etc.).
- Energy or Granola Bars (ANY brand energy, granola, cereal, or protein bar).
- Chip Bags (ANY chip bag small or large).
- Oral Care Products (toothbrushes, plastic toothpaste tubes) No electric toothbrush heads.

New items -

- Beauty Item Packaging – ANY brand makeup/personal care packaging (mascara, lipstick/lip balm, eye shadow, deodorant, lotion tubes) **Please do not include items that can be curbside recycled such as most shampoo or conditioner containers.**
- Brita and Pur brand water filters and accessories – Brita and Pur brands ONLY.
- Baby and Toddler food pouches – ANY brand baby or toddler food pouches and their screw caps.
- Cereal Bags – ANY brand cereal bag including clear liners inside a cereal box.

**WESTFORD THANKS YOU FOR RECYCLING, REDUCING,
REUSING, AND REPURPOSING.**

www.westfordma.gov/recycling

New Town News Subscription Manager



The town's new website uses a different method to notify people of new items. Users who have subscribed on the old website need to register on the new site to continue receiving notices.

Please visit www.westfordma.gov/list.aspx and follow the simple instructions to sign up for the various feeds available. You will receive email from us to confirm each thing you sign up for, and you need to click the link in each of those emails before it will start working. This confirmation process provided security ensuring that only you can change your notification settings.

While visiting the new website consider setting up a profile account. This allows you to gather feeds from the website into a custom portal and as we implement some of the new features of the site you will be able to save data and track the progress of your interactions with the town.



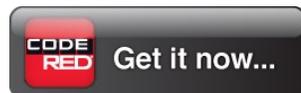
Register Additional Phone Numbers with Reverse 911

CodeRED is a Community Messaging System, used to notify residences of emergency, and general information through an automated telephone dialing system.

Most residents will not need to take action in order to receive notification of events on their home telephone. However, if you have recently moved into Westford, changed your home phone number, or have an unlisted phone number you will need to register your phone number

[Click here](#) to register additional phone numbers or email addresses.

Download the CodeRED Mobile Alert App for your smartphone [Here](#):



Be Prepared and Informed Incase of an Emergency

Set Your Radio Preset to Westford Emergency Management's 1630 AM

In an emergency tune in to Westford's 1630 AM for local information.



Cameron Center Events

DOWNSIZING WINDOWS OF OPPORTUNITY

with Cathy Cunningham of Coldwell Bankers - Tuesday, February 28th at 6PM

Downsizing is a daunting task. If you have family members or if you are looking at downsizing this is a good time to get helpful information as Cathy shares her own personal story as well as her professional experience in assisting many families with this task. Join us at the Cameron and please RSVP to 978-692-5523.

SPECIAL PROGRAM OFFERING: HEALTHY EATING ON A BUDGET

Join us on Jan.19th from 10AM-12 for this seven week course. These classes are open to all levels of watercolor skill. Only three spots left and cost is \$35. Material list will be given to you once you register by calling 978-692-5523.



ICELAND: LAND OF FIRE & ICE

Join us on Tuesday, March 7th at 3pm for an informational session with Collete about our trip to Iceland: Land of Fire & Ice on September 24th – October 2nd 2017.

Please Call to sign up for the information session at 978 692 5523



PARKER'S SUGAR MAPLE BARN LUNCHEON

Fox Trip Tour date: Tuesday, March 21, 2017

9:15AM Depart from the Franco American Club, West Prescott Street

Enjoy a visit to Bolton Orchards Farm Store, you'll travel to Mason, New Hampshire, and Parker's Maple Barn for an authentic Parker's Maple Sugar Feast. Your feast will include two scrambled eggs & bacon, sausage and a slice of maple ham accompanied with pancakes & original maple syrup. Enjoy beverage choice options which inc. coffee/tea) & orange juice. After this delicious meal, you'll travel to nearby Winchendon, Massachusetts for a fun visit to Smith's Country Cheese shop for a tour and cheese tasting. You'll return home at 4:30PM-Cost \$72 per person. Please RSVP to 978 692 5523.

HOLI Celebration

Wednesday, March 15th at 11am

Come Celebrate Holi the Hindu Spring Festival in India and Nepal, also known as the **Festival of Colors** or the **Festival of Sharing Love**.

Enjoy lunch which will include: Chicken Tikka Masala, Rice, Kidney Beans, Nan and Samosa

After lunch we will make a special craft reflective of this celebration of letting go and laughing, smiling, dancing a little bit more..

Where a bright color or two, three - no limits on your personal expression

Cost-\$6 and RSVP by calling 978 692 5523

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Cameron Center Events (Continued)

BOSTON FLOWER SHOW

The Boston Flower & Garden Show will return to the Seaport World Trade Center in Boston on Friday, March 24th with the theme "Superheroes of the Garden". Meet the van at the Cameron Senior Center at 9a.m. return around 2:30p.m. Cost is \$30 p/p does not include lunch. Seats are limited please sign up by Wednesday March 17 at 978 692 5523



LOWELL GENERAL EDUCATIONAL SERIES

We are pleased to announce a FREE monthly series with speakers from Lowell General Hospital. Classes here at the Cameron. Mark your calendars and register with Lowell General at 1-877-544-9355.

March 14th, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., Stress Management with Self Hypnosis

Learn how to cope with stress and explore techniques of relaxation, breathing, meditation, affirming and visualization.

April 14th – 6:00-7:00 p.m., Diabetes Survival Skills

Learn the basics of food shopping and meal planning for better blood sugar control.

***NEW BOOK CLUB ***

Do you love to read and would like to talk to others about a great book? Then this is the program for you. Starting March 21st we will have a book club in our library from 6-7:30. We will host this activity the 3rd Tuesday of every month. For March the book to discuss is "A Dog's Purpose" by Bruce Cameron. As a group you all will decide the next book to review. Hope to see you in our cozy library by the fireplace.

MOVIE NIGHT

Our first movie night was such a hit with 24 people attending to watch the "Bucket List" we are going to try it monthly on the 3rd Thursday of every month from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. The movie on March 16th will be the comedy "The Intern" starring Robert DeNiro. Please call to sign up at 978-692-5523 by 3/14. Please share your movie recommendations.

SANDWICH GENERATION SERIES

We are offering a series of informational sessions on a monthly basis on the last Tuesday of every month from **6:00-7:00 p.m.** These sessions are open to folks of all ages.

March 28th is "Making the Most of Your Retirement" with Mike Peterson of NY Life. **April 25th is "Honoring Choices – important documents that state your wishes"**

with Janice Hickey, LSW. Please call 978-692-5523 to register.

55+ EARLY EVENING PROGRAMS:

Open Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:00-8:00 PM

To view the complete Council On Aging Newsletter please visit our website:

www.westfordma.gov/coa and click on [Newsletters](#).



Westford Senior Center