



Town of Westford Massachusetts

Town Manager's Newsletter

November 2017



Jodi Ross,
Town
Manager

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

Important:
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latest road construction
in town.

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**CAMERON SENIOR
CENTER CHRISTMAS/
HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE!**
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Meetings Online
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Dear Westford residents,

As they do annually, the Board of Selectmen voted to re-organize at their October 24th meeting, assigning Scott Hazelton as Chair, Andrea Peraner-Sweet as Vice-Chair, and Mark Kost as Clerk.

Our town is so proud of our resident military veterans, and we honored them on November 11th at a special Veteran's Day service where we were able to thank many veterans for their service to our country. Thank you to all who attended, including our guest speakers, State Representative Jim Arciero and Selectman Scott Hazelton. Once again, our Veterans' Service Officer Terry Stader, US Navy (retired), hosted a heartfelt event. In addition to being grateful for military service members, Selectman Hazelton recognized the spouses and families of veterans for their sacrifices as well.

Thank you to all who prepared for, conducted, and especially attended the Special Town Meeting on October 16th in the Abbot School gymnasium. Please see a recap of our actions below. Town Meeting documents are available on the town website at the following link:
[Special Town Meeting reports – October 2017.](#)

Article	Title	Result
1	Approve Unpaid Bills from Previous Year(s)	Passed unanimously
2	Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Adjustments	Passed by a majority
3	Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Transfers	Passed by a majority
4	Fiscal Year 2018 Capital Appropriations	Passed unanimously
5	Amend the Wage and Classification Plan	Passed by majority
6	Amend Revolving Bylaw – Chapter 138.1	Passed unanimously
7	Reduce Amount Raised by Taxes in Fiscal Year 2018	Passed unanimously
8	Accept Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5(41C) to Increase the Property Tax Exemption Amount for Qualified Residents	Passed by majority
9	Accept Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 33, Section 59, Effect of Military Service on Salary, Seniority and Leave Allowances for Public Employees	Passed unanimously
10	Amend Chapter 124 to Change the Title from "Public Consumption of Marijuana" to "Marijuana" and add a section to prohibit the Sale of Recreational Marijuana	Passed by majority
11	Add a new Section 8.7 of the Town's Bylaw to prohibit the sale of Recreational Marijuana, amend Section 10.2 General Definitions, and Amend Appendix A Table of Principal Use Regulations	Passed by secret ballot 300-62 2/3 majority vote

(Continued on next page)

Article	Title	Result
12	Add a new Section 8.7 of the Town's Zoning Bylaw to Create a Temporary Moratorium on Recreational marijuana establishments and amend Section 10.2 General Definitions	Dismissed unanimously
13	Amend Section 9.4 Site Plan Review, Section 10.2 General Definitions and Appendix A to include a Limited Site Plan Review for Solar Fields/Large Solar Facilities	Passed by 2/3 vote
14	Amend Section 3.1 to allow for Multiple Principal Uses on a Single Lot and amend Section 10.2 Definitions	Passed by 2/3 vote
15	Transfer Custody of a Parcel on Acton Road from the Tax Possession Sale Committee to the Conservation Commission	Passed unanimously

The Board of Selectmen approved the sale of Town Farm to Yule Development Co., Inc. at their meeting on October 24th. Located at 35 Town Farm Road, this property is across the street from the old Courier Building, which Chris Yule also recently acquired privately. The sale of Town Farm was contingent upon preserving certain historical aspects of the building and working with our town's Fire Department, as the Rogers Fire Station is next door.

To help guide our town staff and management, the 2018 goals of the Board of Selectmen and Town Manager were approved at the board's meeting on October 24th. While most of the goals are for the annual time period, there are some multi-year goals as well. You can read all twelve goals in the document on the Town Manager's webpage list as the [2018 Board of Selectmen and Town Manager Goals](#).

The Board of Selectmen also provides their guidance regarding budgetary priorities every year. You can find the recently approved [FY2019 Budget Direction](#) on the [2018 Annual Town Meeting webpage](#), as it relates to annual appropriations for the town.

Finance Director Dan O'Donnell and Selectman Elizabeth Almeida hosted "Show Me The Money" during which they explained Westford's finances to the public. The show was sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Westford and aired on Westford Cable Access Television. You may see the ["Show Me The Money" presentation](#) on [the Town Manager's webpage](#).

Congratulations and thank you to Chris Kluchman, former Director of Land Use Management (DLUM), who departed Westford after 7 years of service. She accepted a new position as the Housing Choice Program Director at the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development. I have appointed Jeff Morrisette as acting DLUM while we advertise and interview for a new director.

(Continued on next page)

State Representative Jim Arciero and members of our town's Senior, Low Income, Disabled Tax Relief (SLIDTR) Committee recently met with state Revenue Committee Chairman Jay Kaufman and the legislature's Joint Committee on Revenue regarding real estate tax relief for Westford residents. The committee was formed following the 2017 Annual Town Meeting to review potential tax relief for residents facing challenges with real estate taxes. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss pending tax relief legislation, as well as efforts put forth by other municipalities across the state to address this issue through special legislation. Following the conclusion of their meetings, the SLIDTR Committee will make a recommendation for consideration at the spring 2018 Annual Town Meeting. For more information, please visit [the SLIDTR Committee webpage](#).



Thank you to our Westford children who participated in this year's Trick-Or-Treating at Town Hall, the Police and Fire Stations, and the J.V. Fletcher Library. It seemed we had more kids than ever this year, both big and small. Our town staff also enjoy wearing costumes to participate in the fun Halloween event!



I would like to say a special thank you to all town staff and our residents who worked to help meet the needs of our residents after the October 30th wind and rain storm. Thank you to our Police Department for manning downed lines and helping us keep us safe, our Fire Department staff for their responsiveness; our Highway Department for clearing trees and debris, our Senior Center and Health Department staff for providing shelter for warmth, power, and pizza; and for paying extra special attention to seniors. Additionally our Water Department offered bottled water and our J.V. Fletcher Library offered warmth and recharging power supply. I am proud of our town staff for their hard work on behalf of our residents and families. National Grid will be meeting with the Board of Selectmen at their November 14th meeting to explain why restoration efforts took so many days.

(Continued on next page)

Construction on our new Fire Station on Boston Road is really moving now, and we were able to celebrate a Ground Breaking at the construction site on October 27th. Tom Mahanna, Chair of the Permanent Town Building Committee, Selectman Scott Hazelton, and Fire Chief Joe Targ all remarked on the importance of the project and the work of the town's staff and committees to help get to this project accepted, and continued to this point. We are still on schedule and expect our new station to open next fall. Thank you to everyone who supported this project, the PTBC for their continued efforts, and all who attended our celebration.



The Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT) Phase 2A construction is moving along well in Westford. There is equipment in place to create a rail-trail-user crossing phase at the intersection of Routes 225 and 27 near the Carlisle town border. The Friends of the BFRT's Annual Meeting is Sunday, November 19th at 1:00 pm at Pedal Power, 176 Great Road, Acton. Please come and learn more about this regional rail trail & recreational resource, and how Westford residents can find parking to enjoy it both northward to Lowell and southward to Acton. The Phase 2A ribbon-cutting ceremony is expected to take place in April or May in Acton to open this next section which will add 4.8 miles to the northward 6.8 miles of Phase 1, and extend the BFRT almost to the Route 2 Rotary in Acton/Concord. Eventually the BFRT will go just beyond the Mass Pike in Framingham. Please visit [the BFRT website](#) for more information, maps and photos.

There are several openings on our local boards and committees, including: the Affordable Housing Committee, Agricultural Commission, Commission on Disability, Communications Advisory Committee, Conservation Commission, Cultural Council, Energy Committee, Historical Commission, Housing Authority, Master Plan Implementation Committee, Parkerville Schoolhouse Committee, Parks and Recreation Commission, Pedestrian Safety Committee, Westford Scholarship and Grant Committee, and others. 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](#) 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](#).

Happy Thanksgiving,

Sincerely,

Jodi Ross
Town Manager

J.V. Fletcher Library

NOVEMBER AT THE LIBRARY

November Holiday Hours: The Library will be open on Wednesday, Nov. 22 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and closed Thursday 11/23 and Friday 11/24. The Library will reopen on Saturday, Nov. 25 at 10 a.m.

Adult Coloring Party: Thursday, November 16 at 7:00 p.m. Are you looking for a relaxing way to spend the evening? Explore the latest trend in relaxation; adult coloring books. Specially designed adult coloring pages and colored pencils will be provided. Light refreshments will be served. Free! Drop in.

India Through Literature Series with Professor Bruce Browne: Monday, November 20 at 1:00 p.m. Books provide an interesting and direct way to experience a culture; our fall book series on India presents a variety of perspectives on a complex country. All book discussions will be augmented with music and film clips that touch on themes of the text. **Monday, Nov. 20, 1-2:30 p.m.** "Sideways on a Scooter" by Miranda Kennedy, **Monday, Dec. 18, 1-2:30 p.m.** "Indian Summer: the Secret History of the End of an Empire" by Alex von Tunzelmann. ***Copies of the current selection are available for checkout at the Main Desk. No registration required.***

Teen and Tween Make & Take Mondays: November 20 from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Imagine, create, and participate! Each Monday teens will participate in a variety of hands-on activities that will include making fun, seasonal crafts, exploring STEAM activities, and/or creating one-of-a-kind masterpieces. All materials will be provided at the program in the Library's Meeting Room. This Week: Leaf Painting. **This is a Free, drop-in event.**

Cookbook Book Club: Tuesday, November 21 at 7:00 p.m. The Cookbook Book Club is dedicated to exploring cookbooks and sampling new recipes. Copies of this month's choice, Perfect Recipes for Having People Over, by Pam Anderson are available for check out at the Main Desk. If you would like to bring a dish from the cookbook (not required to participate), please contact Sarah Regan in the Information Services Department at 978-399-2309. The Cookbook Book Club is funded by the Friends of the Library. No registration required.

Monday Mystery Book Club: Monday, November 27 at 10:30 a.m. Wake up your week with a stimulating book discussion! We meet once a month on Monday morning @ 10:30 a.m. in the Mary Atwood Room. Our November selection is "Her Fearful Symmetry" by Audrey Niffenegger. Copies of the current selection are available for check-out at the Main Desk. New Members are always welcome! Free! Drop in. **Reading List for 2017**

The Basics: Memory Loss, Dementia, and Alzheimer's Disease: Thursday, November 30 at 7:00 p.m. If you or someone you know is affected by Alzheimer's Disease, it's important to know the facts. This program provides information about the disease and related dementias, the benefits of early detection, causes and risk factors, treatment, and support. This program is hosted by the MA/NH Alzheimer's Association and dedicated in memory of Robert W. and Mary A. Joyce. **Click here** to sign up or call the Information Services Department at 978-399-2304.

WWW.WESTFORDLIBRARY.ORG

WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV

Community Preservation Committee

The Community Preservation Committee's (CPC) Annual Needs Assessment Hearing has been scheduled for:

Tuesday, December 05, 2017 at 7:00 PM
Millennium School, Conference Room B
23 Depot Street Westford, MA 01886

The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) invites all Town Boards, Committees, and Residents to participate in this open forum to discuss what their priorities are regarding Community Preservation Funds in the following areas: **Open Space, Historic Preservation, Recreation, or Affordable Housing.**

This annual hearing is a great chance to let the CPC know of any potential project ideas you may have, as well as get your questions answered regarding the application process and Annual Town Meeting Timeline.

Everyone is welcome and no confirmation is necessary, however priority will be given to presenters who have scheduled ahead of time.

For additional information or to let us know you will be attending, please contact Jesse Beyer, CPC Administrator at (978) 399-2905 or jbeyer@westfordma.gov

Town Clerk's Corner

2018 DOG LICENSING BEGINS DECEMBER 1, 2017

Fees: \$15.00 for Spayed/Neutered Dogs
\$20.00 for Non-altered Dogs
(Need current rabies certificate)

*RESIDENTS AGE 70 AND OVER DO NOT HAVE TO PAY TO LICENSE YOUR DOG,
HOWEVER, THE LATE FEE STILL APPLIES!*

THE GRACE PERIOD FOR LICENSING YOUR DOG ENDS ON MARCH 31, 2018

A LATE FEE OF \$25.00 PER FAMILY WILL APPLY BEGINNING APRIL 1, 2018



**QUESTIONS: CALL THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
978-692-5515**

Health Department

CELEBRATE WITH CARE 2017

As we enter a busy holiday season, the Westford Health Department, encourages everyone to make the most of holiday celebrations. Celebrate With Care!

The holiday season is a paradoxical period of overwhelming responsibilities, bustling activity, increased stress and magical moments of joy, anticipation and wonder.

In our society, consumption of alcohol and celebrations traditionally go hand in hand. Anyone can experience problems when drinking alcohol. We all make choices about how much and how often we consume. Alcohol is a depressant. Use may affect cognitive ability, coordination and physical health. During a season when energy levels need to be high, stress levels tend to rise and social opportunities abound, we need to keep in mind the importance of celebrating with care.



The following are some tips to make hosting or attending a holiday party a healthy, safe and fun celebration.

As a host of a party, make the most of your celebration:

- . Provide attractive, appetizing non-alcoholic beverages.
- . Create a relaxed atmosphere.
- . Never insist someone drink alcoholic beverages.
- . Plan activities to keep guests entertained.
- . Serve plenty of food and limit any salty, thirst provoking items.
- . REMEMBER: Serving any person under the age of 21 is ILLEGAL!!

When attending a holiday party:

- . Make healthy decisions about drinking alcohol.
- . Prior to attending any party or social event, think about yourself first.
- . Take your own non-alcoholic beverage of choice to the party.
- . It is not necessary to explain why you have chosen not to drink.
- . If going with a friend, make a pact that you will not abandon each other.
- . Adopt the attitude that drinking does not need to be the focus of the party.
- . Ask yourself how drinking affects your health, others, and control.

Health Department (continued)



The Westford Health Department and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission would like to issue some safety tips for preventing fires and burns when using turkey fryers. Turkey fryers have become very popular in the past few years, due to the ability to cook a turkey quickly, but there is some risk in using them. The majority of reported incidents occurred while the oil was being heated, prior to adding the turkey. For this reason, it is very important consumers monitor the temperature of the oil closely. If **any smoke at all** is noticed coming from a heating pot of oil, the burner should be turned off immediately because the oil is overheated.

There is a risk of injury resulting from splashing due to the cooking of partially frozen meats. Thoroughly thaw and dry ALL meats before cooking in hot oil. One reported burn incident occurred when partially frozen chicken wings were added to hot oil in a turkey fryer.

- Keep fryer in FULL VIEW while burner is on.
- Place fryer in an open area AWAY from all walls, fences, or other structures.
- Never use IN, ON, or UNDER a garage, breezeway, carport, porch, or any structure that can catch fire.
- Raise and lower food SLOWLY to reduce splatter and avoid burns.
- COVER bare skin when adding or removing food.
- Check the oil temperature frequently.
- If oil begins to smoke, immediately turn gas supply OFF.
- If a fire occurs, immediately call 911. DO NOT attempt to extinguish fire with water.
- Make sure there is at least 2 feet of space between the liquid propane tank and fryer burner.
- Place the liquid propane gas tank and fryer so that any wind blows the heat of the fryer away from the gas tank.
- Center the pot over the burner on the cooker.
- Completely thaw (USDA says 24 hours for every 4 to 5 pounds) and dry turkey before cooking. Partially frozen and/or wet turkeys can produce excessive hot oil splatter when added to the oil.

Follow the manufacturer's instructions to determine the proper amount of oil to add. If those are not available:

- Place turkey in pot
- Fill with water until the turkey is covered by about 1/2 inch of water
- Remove and dry turkey
- Mark water level. Dump water, dry the pot, and fill with oil to the marked level.

Recycling Commission

Winner of Free Recycling Toter Announced

On September 19, at the Westford Farmers' Market's Recycling Commission education table, residents answered a short quiz about recycling and entered a drawing for a free 64-gallon recycling toter. The winner is Westford resident, Julie Brandsgaard. Julie was thrilled to have a new toter to replace her recycling bins.

To purchase your own 64-gallon wheeled recycling toter, mail a check for \$50 payable to the "Westford Recycling Commission" to the Westford Recycling Commission, 55 Main Street, Westford, MA 01886, or take your check to the Town Clerk's office at the Westford Town Hall. Please include your name, address and phone number. Toters are in stock. When your check is received, you will receive a call about when and where to pick up your toter(s). **Note: this is an elective alternative and no resident is under any obligation to purchase a toter.**



Leaf Collections

Friday, November 10, 2017

Saturday, December 2, 2017

Acme Waste Systems will be collecting leaves. The cost is \$1.25 per bag with a minimum charge of \$20.00 per pick up and a minimum of 50 people must sign up. Call the Town Clerk's office at 978-692-5515 to register.

Place your leaves, grass clippings and pine needles only into paper leaf bags and have them at the curb by 7 AM on the collection day with the check attached to one of the bags.

REMEMBER - Leaves will not be picked up if they are not in PAPER LEAF BAGS.

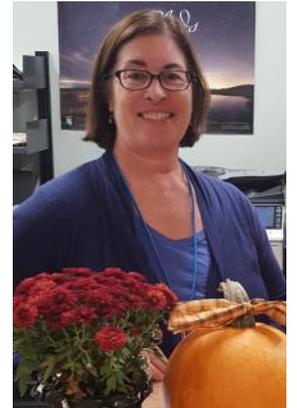
There must be a minimum of 50 resident requests to insure the yard waste collection is held. Please tell your neighbors!

Lowell Mini Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Westford residents may pre-register to participate in the Lowell, MA, Mini-Household Hazardous Waste collection at the Lowell DPW, 1365 Middlesex Street, on December 9 from 8-12. Registration is mandatory.

For details on pre-registration and costs associated with hazardous waste materials for Westford visitors, go to www.westfordma.gov/recycling.

A Thank You from the Community Garden



With the end of the summer and autumn's first frost, we can't help but think about one we have lost. He's no longer here, but his spirit's alive in the young and the old tending gardens that thrive. So to honor George Fletcher, this pumpkin we grew, and, as a thank you, we give it to you.



You built us a fence, you helped us with tilling, you brought us our water, you handled the billing. You volunteered time and effort and toil so each of our gardeners could dig in the soil and grow healthy foods to bring home to their family and share their abundance with Westford's food pantry.

Now we have realized our long-standing vision to carry on Westford's old farming tradition. So while George is gone, we all know he's still living in each one of us who is growing and giving.

-by Kelly Ross

Holiday festivities offered at the Cameron Come Join Us...

ANNUAL HAM & BEAN DINNER

Sponsored by the Westford Firefighters Association, American Legion Post 159, and the Franco Club
Saturday, November 18th at 6PM
There is no charge for the dinner but we ask you to bring an item for the Westford Food Pantry. Please RSVP to 978-692-5523. Door prizes for many and ham bones too...



IS IT SIMPLE MEMORY LOSS OR ALZHEIMERS

Tuesday, November 23rd at 6PM the director of Nashoba Life Care's Memory Unit will present on this topic. A great insightful program and please RSVP-978-692-5523

THANKSGIVING DINNER SPONSORED BY JIM GERAGHTY, FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Sunday, November 19th at Noon
Westford residents age 60 and over are invited to Westford Academy for a complimentary turkey dinner with the traditional trimming favorites and a variety of dessert selections. **Don't forget to come for some pre-BINGO starting at 10AM.. RSVP to 978-692-5523.*



SANDWICH GENERATION SERIES: "DOWNSIZING: HOW DO I GET RID OF ALL THIS STUFF?"

Tuesday, November 28th at 6PM
Join Kathy Cunningham from Coldwell Banker and her invited guest Marie LeBlanc, from Transitions Liquidation Services. Together they will help you develop a plan to disperse your excess personal property. This will help you assess the worth of your belongings, where items may be sold as well as organizations you may wish to make donations. RSVP-978-692-5523

BRUNCH AND BEADS

Wednesday, November 29th at 10AM
Kathy Cunningham of Coldwell Banker in Westford and Diana Serement Barnowski of Beadles in Chelmsford will be back with you for this popular jewelry workshop just in times for the holidays. Cost is \$5 and please pay to the instructor. Wear home your festive jewelry piece. RSVP-978-692-5523



Cameron is recruiting Billiard players both women and men for their own Travel Team. If you enjoy playing pool and meeting new billiard players within a twenty mile radius please give Mike Priest a call at 978-692-3870.

Cameron Center Events (Continued)

QUICK HIGHLIGHTS:

November's showing of "Calendar Girls" on Thursday, November 16th at 4:30 please sign up by calling 978-692-5523. Light dinner munchies included. Donations welcomed.

Wrentham Village Shopping Trip
Friday, November 17th leaving the Cameron at 9AM- Cost-\$10



ELEGANT CHEF LUNCHEON

Monday, November 20th at 11:30- three course meal menu selections: Pot Roast or Broiled Salmon Cost-\$10 please RSVP-978-692-5523

MEET THE MUSIC MAKERS:

Enjoy a seasonal choral concert under the direction of Tom Boyer as well as play the infamous "Name that Tune." A light lunch will be served and please RSVP-978-692-5523. Mondays at 1PM except on Monday, Nov. 20th it will be held at 1:30 & Thursdays at 7:30 PM. Remember first Thursday of the month, hot dogs, chips and drink for a donation of \$1.

CHRISTMAS/HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE!

Monday-Saturday, Nov. 27 – Dec. 2
Come one, come all! The Friends of Cameron have been collecting unusual and hard-to-find Christmas items for months in preparation for this special, week-long event at the Cameron and have assembled a fabulous collection of holiday décor and delightful gifts for home, family and friends. Open daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., shoppers will find a myriad of unique and enchanting items, holiday decorations, china, table linens, supplies for entertaining & serving guests, jewelry and bling, including: Waterford, Lenox, Belleek, Kincaid, Fitz & Floyd, Irish crystal, Wedgwood, Longaberger, and more. Trudy's Boutique, the Cameron's thrift shop, will also be open concurrently. All proceeds support the Cameron Senior Center programs, activities and outreach services for elders in the community. Admission and parking are free. For more information, call 978-692-5523.

CAMERON SENIOR CENTER TRAVEL GROUP

will be going to the Currier Museum of Art and the Zimmerman House in Manchester, NH Wednesday, December 13, 2017
Cost: \$35 for Self-Guided Tour Museum with map, Guided Tour of Zimmerman House and Transportation to and from Museum. Lunch will be on your own you may enjoy The light-filled Café a perfect spot to stop for lunch or feel free to bring your lunch. Menu selections include fresh salads, seasonal soups and sandwiches and fresh baked pastries



Please remember that we provide transportation to all these programs/events so just give us at 978-399-2322 with a 48 hour notice.

To view the complete Council On Aging Newsletter please visit our website: www.westfordma.gov/coa and click on [Newsletters](#).



Westford Senior Center

Veterans Day Observance - 2017



PHOTO BY JOYCE PELLINO CRANE



PHOTO BY JOYCE PELLINO CRANE