



Town of Westford Massachusetts

Town Manager's Newsletter

September 2020



Jodi Ross,
Town
Manager

[jross@westfordma.gov](mailto:ross@westfordma.gov)
www.westfordma.gov/tm

Important:

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

[Subscribe to Notifications](#)



Sign up for Westford's new Emergency Notification service: [Smart 911](#)

Electronics Collection Highway Building
28 North Street
Saturday, September 19
See Page 14

Westford Health Dept.
Flu Clinics
See Page 9

Town Meeting
Saturday, Oct. 17, 10AM at
Westford Academy Field



Watch Meetings Online



www.westfordcat.org

Dear Westford residents,

As a reminder, our Special Town Meeting is quickly approaching. Please mark your calendars for Saturday, October 17th, at 10:00 AM. In the event of inclement weather, the meeting will be continued to Sunday, October 18th at 12:00 PM. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this town meeting will once again be held outside on the turf field at the Westford Academy Trustees Field located at 30 Patten Road. Seating will be spaced out to ensure social distancing measures and face coverings will be required. This year for safety reasons, we will not be providing lunch. We will allow a 1 hour and 15 minute lunch break so residents may return home for lunch and to refresh. The timeline, motions, and warrant are all available on our website at the following link: [2020 Special Town Meeting](#). Below is a summary of the motions in the warrant:

Article 1 is a placeholder article to pay any unpaid bills from a previous Fiscal Year. It is our intention to request town meeting to dismiss this article as we have no unpaid bills.

Article 2 will consider supplementing or reducing Fiscal Year 2021 Operating Budgets.

Article 3 is a placeholder article for Fiscal Year 2021 Budget transfers. It will be requested at town meeting to dismiss this article.

Article 4 will make appropriations from Free Cash in the sum of \$55,000 for the purpose of providing funds to address issues regarding perchlorate DEP requirements.

Article 5 will seek capital appropriations for Fiscal Year 2021 mitigation (Capital Planning Committee, Select Board, Finance Committee, and School committee are still meeting to discuss).

Article 6 will appropriate funding for the purpose of designing and constructing a new municipal building located at 51 Main Street, including the costs of demolishing the existing building, relocating departments and existing equipment and infrastructure including, but not limited to Westford Academy located at 30 Patten Road, the Rogers Fire Station located at 39 Town Farm Road, the Technology Center located at 1 East Prescott Street, and purchasing equipment and furnishings and all other costs incidental and related thereto, in the sum of \$8,700,000.

Article 7 will transfer available funds to reduce the net amount to be raised by taxes for Fiscal Year 2021.

Article 8 seeks to approve recommendations from the Community Preservation Committee.

Article 9 authorizes the Select Board to accept easements on Oak Hill Road, Plain Road, and Moore Road for public way purposes, including, but not limited to, the construction, alteration, maintenance, improvement, repair and/or replacement of sidewalks, and for drainage, utility, and slope work, traffic improvements, driveway reconstruction and grading, tree protection and landscaping.

Article 10 authorizes the Select Board to accept easements on Carlisle Road for public way purposes, including, but not limited to, the construction, alteration, maintenance, improvement, repair and/or replacement of sidewalks, and for drainage, utility and slope work, traffic improvements, driveway reconstruction and grading, tree protection and landscaping.

Article 11 (a) authorizes the Select Board to acquire easements by gift, purchase and/or eminent domain in parcels of land abutting and/or near Beaver Brook Road and Webber Road for the reconstruction, installation, inspection, maintenance, improvement, repair, replacement and/or relocation of a bridge, rights of way, sidewalks, drainage, utilities, driveways, retaining walls, guardrails, slopes, grading, rounding and landscaping and other structures and/or appurtenances to enable the Town to undertake the Beaver Brook Road Bridge Reconstruction Project and for any and all purposes and uses incidental or related thereto; (b) appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$75,000 to fund the foregoing and any and all costs related thereto.

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WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV

Article 12 is a citizen's petitions asking that Indigenous Peoples' Day be observed by the people, with appropriate exercises in the schools and otherwise, to the end that the culture, history and diversity of Native American Peoples be celebrated and perpetuated.

Article 13 is a citizen's petition that authorizes the Select Board to petition the General Court for one additional all alcohol on premises license to be exercised by Veled, Inc. or a related entity located at 478 Groton Road.

Article 14 is a citizen's petition that clarifies the Memorandum of Understanding between the town of Westford and Westford Community Access TV.

Article 15 is a citizen's petition that provides a resolution to promote clean energy and reduce fossil fuel use to achieve the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' limit of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

Article 16 would amend Chapter 51, Section 51.1A to give authority to the Select Board to shorten the polling hours for local elections.

Article 17 is a placeholder which would move the Annual Town Meeting to May on the Saturday following the Annual Town Election.

Article 18 is a placeholder to regulate blasting through Chapter 148 s. 9.

Article 19 will amend the town's General and Zoning Bylaws to reflect inclusive language amendments to the Town Charter pending before the General Court.

Article 20 will amend the Zoning Bylaw to clarify minimum lot frontage requirements.

Article 21 will amend the Zoning Bylaw to extend the time for lapse of Special Permits from two years to three years.

Article 22 will amend the Zoning Bylaw to clarify area standards for accessory dwelling units.

Article 23 will amend the Zoning Bylaw to regulate Massage Establishments in certain zoning districts.

Article 24 will amend the Zoning Bylaw to delete Section 6.3: Growth Management (and related subsections) which expired on May 11, 2009 and is no longer in full effect.

Article 25 will amend the Zoning Bylaw to define and regulate Short-Term Rentals, and to establish a Summer Village Short-Term Rental Overlay District which Short-Term Rentals will be allowed by right.

Article 26 will amend the Zoning Bylaw to define Short-Term Rentals, and to establish a Summer Village Short-Term Rental Overlay District to allow Short-Term Rentals by right.

Article 27 will amend the Zoning bylaw to allow Restaurant Drive-Through Facilities in certain zoning districts by Special Permit from the Planning Board.

Article 28 is a citizen's petition which authorizes the Select Board to convey all or a portion of the property at 63 Main Street which was purchased by a vote of Town Meeting October 15, 2018, and further that the conveyance include both the house and the carriage house to be used as a single family residents with an historic restriction to preserve the view of the buildings from Main Street; and that a portion of the property contiguous to the Town Hall parking lot be retained to accommodate not more than thirty-two parking spaces.

Article 29 will authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court for special legislation permitting the town to disburse funds it currently holds pursuant to an Agreement for Judgment in the matter of DeMauro v. Demauro, which funds were intended for use in completing certain improvements to the subdivision roadway known as Rome Drive Extension, such funds to be disbursed to the owners of the lots located along Rome Drive Extension, who have completed such improvements at their expense.



- Photo by Joyce Pellino Crane

Town officials, staff, and community leaders attended our annual September 11th memorial service at the Public Safety Courtyard in remembrance of the lives lost during the tragic events which occurred 19 years ago. I am thankful for all who attended, for Veterans Service Officer Ryan Cobleigh who organized the event and introduced our speakers, U.S. Congresswoman Lori Trahan, State Representative Jim Arciero, Select Board Chair Andrea Peraner-Sweet, Police Chief Tom McEnaney, retired Firefighter James Klecak and member of the Council on Aging Nancy Cook. Thank you to everyone who participated in and attended this meaningful event.

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At the Select Board's August 25th meeting, the board approved a charge for the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee. They also discussed the makeup of the committee's membership and general criteria and questions to consider when appointing members. Appointments will be made jointly with the School Committee at an upcoming meeting. To find out more information relative to this new committee, you may visit the following link: [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee](#).

At the Select Board's most meeting on September 8th, Police Chief Tom McEnaney and Deputy Police Chief Mark Chambers presented an update on our Police Department's activities and procedures. The Select Board members made statements of support and commended the department for all of their accomplishments. If you missed the update, please visit the following link to view their presentation: [Westford Police Department Activities and Procedures Update](#).

At that same meeting, the board considered the Recreation Department's Westford Partnership for Children (WPC) After-School Enrichment Program for the 2020-2021 school year, based upon the School Committee's decisions regarding their reopening plans and availability of space within the school buildings to conduct the programs. The modified program consists of a half day remote learning, serving students in grades 1-8 in five separate classrooms at the Millennium Building. The program will be aligned with current health and safety protocols being implemented in our schools, including social distancing and face covering requirements, mask breaks, and cleaning/sanitizing. The board voted to support the implementation of the modified WPC After-School Enrichment Program.

The first stormwater utility bills will be issued on October 1, 2020 and are due on November 2, 2020. This fee is based on impervious surface area in a parcel – roofs, driveways, patios, decks, walkways, etc. Property owners will have the option of paying the bill in total or in two installments; half due November 2nd and half due May 1st. For more information please visit www.westfordma.gov/stormwater or you may call Tax Collector-Treasurer, Christine Collins at (978) 399-2900.

On September 1st we received notice that the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) Green Communities Division approved our application and has awarded Westford \$95,000 for the projects listed in our application:

- 54,252, Westford Academy – direct digital controls on ventilation units in the gymnasium
- \$30,933, Westford Academy – LED lighting
- \$9,815, Blanchard School – LED lighting

Thank you to our Assistant Town Manager Eric Heideman and Facilities Director Paul Fox for their efforts on this.

A new Flag Display Policy and a revised Town Common and Bandstand Usage policy were approved by the Select Board on August 25, 2020. To review these policies you may click the following link: [Select Board Policies](#).

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

There are several openings on our local boards and committees, including: 12 North Main Street Task Force, 35 Town Farm Road Task Force, Affordable Housing Committee, Agricultural Commission, Board of Assessors, Commission on Disability, Communications Advisory Committee, Cultural Council, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, Dog Park Task Force, Election Officer, Energy Committee, Historical Commission, Nashoba Valley Technical High School District Committee, Parkerville Schoolhouse Committee, Parks, Grounds and Recreation Commission, Pedestrian Safety Committee, Permanent Town Building 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](#).

I hope to see you at the Special Town Meeting on October 17th!

Sincerely,



Jodi Ross

September at the J.V. Fletcher Library

Our programs are generously funded by the Friends of the J.V. Fletcher Library, Inc.



Pre-school Storytimes: Continuing through the fall session, we have gone virtual with our story times! We are planning to use Google Meets for live story times and book club meetings – links to these events will be sent to registered users. Please send a request to join the private **J.V. Fletcher Library Youth Services Department** Facebook page to see all kinds of other fun posts and news from your friends in Youth Services.

Drop-In Storytimes: Mother Goose will be an in-person, weekly, drop-in story time for babies and pre-schoolers. This means that **if the weather permits (no snow, no rain, no gale force winds)**, we will be OUTDOORS and SOCIALLY-DISTANCED on the grass between the library and the church. We will set out markers to socially distance families – since the ground may be damp from dew, please bring a blanket or portable chairs.

Youth Services staff will be masked and performing for you live on the lawn. Masks are required for all who attend except for children age two and under. Please help your children maintain social distance from other families.

- **September: Tuesdays** 9/22 and 9/29 at 10:30am
- **October: Thursdays** 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 10/22, and 10/29 at 10:30am
- **November: Tuesdays** 11/3 and 11/10 at 10:30am

School Age Book Clubs: Book clubs will meet virtually this fall in October, November, and December. On and after September 14 at 6:30pm, [click this text to jump to registration](#). Coming this fall, we will once again offer several books clubs for children in grades Kindergarten through grade five. The book selections for each grade, as well as the materials for any activities, will be available for Curbside Pickup prior to the club meeting. Kids can read the book themselves or have someone read it to them. At the meeting we have a fun discussion, play games, and maybe create crafts.

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

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

ADHD in the Family: Thu., Oct. 1 at 7 p.m. A one-hour virtual presentation that helps people understand more about ADHD, including its effects on both children and adults. Certified ADHD coach Linda King, PCC, ACCG, presents current research, effective treatments, and concrete suggestions for family members who either have or are affected by ADHD. Email sregan@westfordma.gov to get the Zoom link!

LIVE IN PERSON Flying High Dogs: Wed., Oct. 14 at 3:30pm. Mike Piazza and four of the most athletic Border Collies on the planet will perform a variety of Frisbee and other amazing tricks on the Town Common. Mike is a multiple world finalist and world record holder in K-9 Frisbee and the current #1 Professional K-9 Frisbee performer in the world. This free event is generously sponsored by the Friends of the J.V. Fletcher Library. [Please sign up online to reserve a spot at this outdoor, socially distanced program starting Mon. Sept. 28.](#) This program is for all ages and again, takes place on the Town Common. Rain date Friday, October 15.

Fake News with Kyle Moody: Thu., Oct. 15 at 7pm. Feeling overwhelmed with the surplus of conflicting information from multiple news outlets? Meet Kyle Moody, Fitchburg State University Assistant Professor in Communications Media. His program will show you how to determine what is trustworthy news and how knowing the difference can make you a more educated consumer.

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

In-house Browsing Appointments: The J. V. Fletcher Library is open to the public on a limited basis. In addition to [CURBSIDE PICKUP](#), [BOOK THE BROWSE TENT](#), [LAPTOP ON THE LAWN](#), and reference phone assistance, a portion of the Library is open Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. The 11 a.m. hour is reserved for seniors and our high risk population. Each reservation is for one person. Only the middle floor of the Library is open, with displays throughout for browsing – please “JUDGE A BOOK BY ITS COVER!” as items handled but not checked out must be placed in quarantine. At this time, patrons under the age of 18 will be referred to the Browsing Tent for an outside appointment. Only 10 patrons at a time will be in the library, with patrons exiting and new appointments entering on the hour; [click here](#) and select a date under “Limited Browsing” to make your appointment [for contact tracing purposes only] via our Events Calendar. For more details and a list of available services, please visit our [website](#) or call us at 978-399-2300.

[Curbside During Covid:](#) Please place your selections on hold through the online catalog. You will be notified when your order is ready and you may come any time during our pick up hours. Inter-library delivery is now available, please expect longer delays than usual. Items received from other libraries will be quarantined for one week. Curbside Pickup is available Monday-Saturday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Monday – Thursday 6:30-8:30 p.m. Please do not come until you receive a notification that your order is ready. When you arrive, please call 978-399-2300 (due to heavy call usage, we have updated the number to one that rings at multiple desks) and a masked staff member will place your order under the rear portico. Please wear a mask to pick up your items. **If you have questions or need assistance placing your holds, please call us at 978-399-2300 or send us an email at westfordlibrary@westfordma.gov.**

[“Book the Browsing Tent”:](#) Are you looking for new titles for you and/or your family? Do you miss browsing the stacks of the Library? Look for the form on our website and submit it to schedule a time to come and browse the selections personally picked for you by our staff. The form will inquire about your reading tastes or you can simply have us “surprise you” with some staff recommendations. We will also offer “Book Bundles” for children and adults. Choose a category and we will supply with a “bundle” of books. One of our Library staff will meet you in the tent with personally curated titles just for you! Check the website for the form, submit it, and then a staff member will reach out to schedule your appointed time. Fifteen minute appointments will be available for individuals and thirty minute appointments for families. To comply with Covid-19 safety re-opening guidelines, only one individual or one family will be scheduled at a time in the tent. This service is available Monday – Friday from 10-4.

[“Laptop Loan on the Lawn:](#) Need to check your email or do some research? Perhaps you just want to spend some time catching up with friends and family on social media. You are now able to book up to thirty minutes on a laptop under a tent on our back lawn. Simply fill out the form on our website and a member of our Information Services staff will contact you to schedule a time. This service is available Monday – Friday from 10-4.

Beautiful Dollhouse Donation: Be sure to look closely when coming down our driveway and passing the Meeting Room. Gail Flannery (with some electrical assistance from her husband Danny) built and donated the stunning and detailed doll house that now adorns one of our windows. Gail says it was a “labor of love” and she spent “100’s of hours on it, making as much as I could like punch needle rugs, the bedding and all the paintings, perfume bottles, hat boxes, food for the table, a million little books for the library, the wedding gown in the sewing room, some furniture and cabinets and much-much more. Every room was carefully curated for furniture, wallpaper and trims. I had a list for every room to keep everything in line. My husband Danny was the electrician and installed and reinstalled all the pesky lights.” We are grateful for this beautiful donation and we know that it will be treasured by children and adults for years to come!

New Career Database! : Thanks to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, our patrons now have access to the Gale Presents: Peterson's Career Prep. Utilize this database to learn about different careers, receive personalized career recommendations, create resumes and cover letters, search for jobs, explore schools and training programs, and get advice to help find a job or advance your career. Log on through our website and follow the link for [Databases](#) under the Research heading. If you have any questions, please contact the Information Desk at 978-399-2304.

CLICK! CALL! CHAT! CONNECT!

- CLICK on ebooks, audiobooks, music, streaming video, and more at www.westfordlibrary.org
- CALL us at 978-399-2300
- CHAT with Reference at 978-399-2304
- CONNECT with us on [FACEBOOK](#), [TWITTER](#), [INSTAGRAM](#) and sign up for the Friends [eNewsletter](#) for updates!
- EMAIL us at westfordlibrary@westfordma.gov

Cameron Senior Center

Cameron Happenings:

Welcoming all residents ages 55 and over

GIFT CARD PROGRAM – Starts This Fall! Please Help support the Friends of The Cameron in this fundraising effort

Now you can purchase gift cards for popular stores, restaurants, gas stations and more right at the Cameron, through the Friends of Cameron's Gift Card Program. Use the cards for everyday shopping or give them as gifts to friends and family, making gift giving easier. Cards are available for Home Goods, Kohl's, L.L. Bean, Old Navy, Walmart, Panera, Applebee's, and much, much more.



Order Forms are available at the Cameron – or just click here: [Gift Card Order Form](#)

Orders are due: **October 28** (for November delivery) and **November 23** (for December delivery), just in time for the holidays!

NEW SOCIAL SUPPORT AND OTHER BENEFIT PROGRAMS:

INTRODUCING WRAP (WESTFORD RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM) TO THE WESTFORD COMMUNITY

WRAP is a 3-year rental assistance program, scheduled to start December 1st 2020. The goal of the program is to assist **5 households** who are renting or plan to rent qualifying housing units in **Westford**. Qualifying households must be at or below 50% of the Area Median Income (AMI) for the Greater Lowell area (1person-\$37,800, 2person-\$43,200, 3person-\$48,600, 4person-\$54,000, 5person-\$58,350), have less than \$25,000 in assets, and must be currently spending more than 30% of gross household monthly income on rental housing costs (including eligible utilities). The program is not available to households already receiving government-funded rental assistance-such as Section 8 or MRVP or state or federally subsidized housing. WRAP aims to assist the most cost burdened renters in Westford by offering a housing subsidy paid directly to their landlord, who must agree to accept WRAP payments directly. The program can subsidize **up to \$500** of the household's rent payment monthly, with the expectation that the household will not pay more than 30% of their income toward rent. Households must complete



a lottery application the first year of the program.

Information requests and questions should be directed to Westford Housing Authority by calling 978-692-6011. Applications will be available through the Westford Council on Aging at 978-399-2325, Westford Housing Authority by calling 978-692-6011, both departments web pages, and are printable from the Town of Westford website. **Applications are due no later than Friday, October 30th to Westford Housing Authority, 65 Tadmuck Rd., Westford, MA 01886.** Application assistance, accommodation for disabilities, and assistance for applicants with limited English proficiency is available as needed through Alison Christopher. **Lottery: Wednesday, November 11th at 4:10 PM** (if needed due to number of tied qualifying applicants after preferences are verified) at COA Board Meeting-Cameron Senior Center. All are welcome to attend.

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Cameron Senior Center (continued)

WESTFORD COVID-19 RELIEF FUND

As we move into the Fall, many families may be struggling with loss of income due to Covid-19. Questions remain about the future of eviction and foreclosure moratoriums. The weekly supplement to unemployment benefits has been reduced. In addition, Westford schools will be providing alternating weeks of in-person school and remote-based home weeks. We recognize that this schedule will create significant childcare expenses for many families in town. We expect that some families will not be able to meet their most critical expenses as a result of these changes in income and expenses. These families need your help! Please consider supporting Westford families during the Covid-19 crisis. Any amount will help. You can make a donation by sending a check to **Cameron Senior Center, Note: COVID Relief Fund in the Memo line, PO Box 2223, Westford**. Donations can also be made electronically by going to the **Westford Council on Aging website and clicking on Donate to Covid-19 Relief. Please be sure to note COVID Relief Fund in the memo box.** To inquire about or apply for assistance, families and individuals of any age with a demonstrated financial hardship related to Covid-19 can contact Alison Christopher, LICSW-Town Social Worker at achristopher@westfordma.gov or 978-399-2325. Alison can explain the criteria and application process for the program and can also assist with connections to other appropriate benefit programs as needed.

Holiday Baskets Program - Neighbors helping neighbors have a memorable holiday

Once again, Cameron Senior Center will be partnering with The Saint Vincent de Paul Society of St. Catherine's Church and the Westford Food Pantry to provide holiday assistance through the **Westford Holiday Basket Program**. This program serves Westford families and individuals who are facing a financial hardship and would like to cook a Thanksgiving or Christmas meal and/or provide gifts to their children age 18 and under. **In previous years**, the program required applicants to provide proof of participation in one of the following benefit programs: Free and Reduced Lunch Program, SNAP, LIHEAP, Subsidized Housing, Masshealth, etc. These individuals and families will still automatically be approved. However, we recognize that **this year** may be challenging for more families as a result of Covid-19 related loss of income. We would like to extend the program application process to financially challenged families, who may not qualify for the above benefit programs. If your family has been financially impacted by COVID-19, and you would like to see if you are eligible for holiday assistance, please call Alison Christopher, LICSW at 978-399-2325 to learn about the application process and discuss your situation by October 5th.



The deadline for completion of applications is October 16th for both holidays. In past years, the tremendous generosity of our community has made it possible for the Westford Holiday Basket Program to provide food and gift assistance to our neighbors experiencing difficulty. We are anticipating greater than usual need for holiday assistance this year. If you are interested in **donating** to the Westford Holiday Basket Program, please contact Katie Russell at 978-399-2330.

AGING MASTERY PROGRAM RETURNS: Every Monday & Wednesday

October 5th–November 4th from 12:00-2:00

The Aging Mastery Program returns to Cameron at a reduced rate thanks to funding from the Emerson Hospital Community Awards Program.

The Aging Mastery Program® (AMP) is a national program that uses evidenced based materials, expert speakers, group discussion and peer support to improve the physical, financial, and emotional wellness of older adults. This 5-week program (2x/week for 10 sessions) aims to empower participants to make and maintain small, impactful changes to their behaviors to live healthier, happier, and more secure lives. This series will be offered either in the building and/or via an online computer teleconferencing site. The cost per person is \$15 for the materials and speaker series (actual value is \$60/person). Any questions please contact Annette, 978-399-2326. Please provide an email address when you register for virtual learning. Deadline to sign up is by Sept. 9th so that supplies may be ordered

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Cameron Senior Center (continued)

MEET THE REALTOR IS BACK!

Pandemic! Recession! My house! Oh My!

The current situation surrounding the pandemic has impacted the real estate market and the way business is conducted.

Kathy Cunningham from Coldwell Banker will be here to discuss how you can still sell and capture the equity in your home with health and safety in mind. Best of all, *she is participating in a program that allows any home seller to get many home repairs and updates made without paying until the sale is completed—and even includes hauling junk away.*

Come and join us on Thursday, September 17 at 1pm in the tent for this valuable information. RSVP at 978-692-5523.



Great Bingo offering at the FRANCO Pavilion

Each Monday from 1pm-3pm. All residents are welcome \$3 per pack of ten and daubers are available for \$1. Please RSVP to 978-692-5523. Transportation is available for those 55 and older and/or who have a transportation hardship. Transportation must be scheduled 48 hours in advance by calling 978-399-2322

COME CONNECT and CHAT

with Alison and Anette on how your coping during these challenging times

Mental health struggles are estimated to affect as much as 47% of the population sheltering in place during the Covid-19 pandemic. We know that this virus disproportionately impacts older adults (who are at higher risk of serious illness and negative impacts of isolation). We have heard about the stress that some Westford seniors are feeling while being unable to connect as much with others. If this sounds like you, consider joining Annette and Alison for a group discussion/connection/education/support group related to coping with these challenges. Members can drop in or join weekly by computer or phone. If you are interested, call 978-399-2325 and give Alison an email address. We can then invite you to the first session of this twice monthly group



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

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



Westford Senior Center

Westford Health Department

The following programs are provided by the Westford Health Department through the Board of Health and are available to all residents. Most services require appointments, and pre-payments may be necessary. For additional information on any health service, please contact Jeff Stephens, Director of Health Care Services, at the Westford Health Department office located in the Town Hall, at 978 692-5509. Office Hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Information on all services can also be obtained by viewing the Health Care Services and Environmental Services pages of The Westford Board of Health, at www.westfordma.gov/boh

Flu Clinic Schedule Westford Residents Only

(More Information here: www.westfordma.gov/235/Flu-Clinics)

The Westford Health Department will sponsor flu clinics on the dates, times and locations listed below. No appointments are necessary. ** Please note ** Due to COVID-19 our clinics may look a little different, as to adhere to the social distancing guidelines and maintaining all safety precautions. **Masks are to be worn at all times. NOTE CHANGES IN TIME!!!**

All insurance forms **MUST** be filled out in full and signed prior to arriving at the clinics
If possible, please make sure to have a copy of your insurance card(s) and attach to the insurance form.

This year our request is to:

- Have your insurance form filled out and signed along with a copy of your insurance card(s) prior to your arrival. Example a copy of your Medicare card and if you have a supplemental insurance a copy of that too. DO NOT COPY YOUR LICENSE.
- Once you are at the Franco, **please stay in your car** and a volunteer will come to get you and bring you inside the building to have your influenza vaccine administered by one of our nurses.
- **Please come prepared with a short sleeve shirt**
- The hours are slightly different this year, please come to the clinic at your allotted time, by last name, as we are trying to space out the times to allow for cleaning in between groups.

Senior Dose for 65 and Older:

Thursday, October 8th, 2020: 11:30 -3:30 pm

Location: Franco American Club. (Walk-In)

Time(s): 11:30-12:30 pm: A-H
1:00-2:00 pm: I-Q
2:30-3:30 pm: R-Z

Regular FLU Clinics:

Thursday, Oct 15: 4:00-7:00 p.m. LOCATION TBD. Insurance form required.

Thursday, Oct 22: 4:00-7:00 p.m. LOCATION TBD. Insurance form required.

Homebound individuals, who require a home visit, should contact the Health Department at 978-692-5509 to schedule an appointment.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the high-dose flu vaccine called Fluzone for seniors 65 years and older. The committee recommended that the **trivalent** formulation influenza vaccines for the U.S. **2020-2021** influenza season contain the following:

- U.S. egg-based influenza vaccines (i.e., vaccines other than cclIV4 and RIV4) will contain HA derived from:
- An influenza A/Guangdong-Maonan/SWL1536/2019 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus.
- An influenza A/Hong Kong/2671/2019 (H3N2)-like virus.
- An influenza B/Washington/02/2019 (Victoria lineage)- like virus.
- For **Quadrivalent** vaccines only, an influenza B/ Phuket/3073/2013 (Yamagata lineage)-like virus.

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Westford Health Department (Continued)

These vaccines will not prevent illness caused by other viruses. It takes up to 2 weeks or more for protection to develop after the vaccine. Protection lasts about a year. Anyone with an allergy to egg cannot receive this vaccine at one of our public clinics.

Annual influenza vaccine is recommended for **everyone 6 months of age and older**. Everyone, regardless of prior vaccination, will need to be revaccinated to be protected this year.

People at Increased Risk for Influenza-Related Complications:

- All children 6 months through 4 years of age.
- All persons \geq 50 years of age.
- People 6 months - 18 years of age who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy.
- Women who will be pregnant during influenza season and postpartum women.
- People \geq 6 months of age who have:
 - Chronic pulmonary (including asthma), cardiovascular (except hyper-tension), renal, hepatic, neurological, hematologic, or metabolic disorders, including diabetes;
 - Immunosuppression (including immunosuppression caused by medications or HIV);
 - Any condition (e.g., cognitive dysfunction, spinal cord injuries, seizure disorders, or other neuromuscular disorders) that can compromise respiratory function or the handling of respiratory secretions or that can increase the risk of aspiration.
- Residents of nursing homes and other chronic-care facilities.
- American Indians/Alaska Natives
- People who are morbidly obese (BMI \geq 40)

To get up to date information during the flu season, visit the Health Department website at www.westfordma.gov/boh or sign up for our Health Department listserv at www.westfordma.gov/subscriber .

SCHOOL BASED CLINICS ARE CURRENTLY BEING DESIGNED
BASED OFF OF SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Westford Health Department

Do Your Part. Be SepticSmart!



Shield Your Field
Divert rain and surface water away and avoid parking vehicles and planting trees on your drainfield.



Don't Overload the Commode
Don't flush diapers, wipes or other items meant for a trashcan down the toilet.



Think at the Sink
Limit use of your garbage disposal and avoid pouring fats, grease, solids and harsh chemicals down the drain.



Don't Strain Your Drain
Use water efficiently and stagger use of water-based appliances, such as your washing machine or dishwasher.



Protect It and Inspect It
A typical septic system should be serviced every one to three years by a septic service professional.

Pump Your Tank
Ensure your septic tank is pumped at regular intervals as recommended by a professional.

Keep It Clean
If you are on a well, test your drinking water regularly to ensure it remains clean and free of contamination.

Drainfield
Groundwater Recharge

Septic Tank

Aquifer

Well



Westford Health Department

COVID-19 Preparedness

Building Resilience and Reducing Exposure



There are many **easy steps** you can take to ensure your household is prepared to quarantine at home in the instance someone contracts or is exposed to COVID-19. Do an **inventory check** to determine which supplies you have on hand, and then **gradually** build an **emergency kit** over time as you shop.

What could I include in my kit?

1. **Non-perishable foods** like pasta, rice, soups, beans, or canned fruits and vegetables.
2. **Hygiene products**, such as soap, feminine care supplies, diapers, tissues, and toilet paper
3. **First aid materials**, including a thermometer, fever reducers (ibuprofen or acetaminophen), and any medications you've been prescribed.
4. **Cleaning supplies** and disinfectants, from things like laundry and dish detergent to paper towels and garbage bags



Shopping tips to remember:

- Avoid **panic buying** by simply adding one or two extra items to your cart each time you're at the store
- **Refill** any prescriptions you may need before they run out
- If you have **pets**, consider purchasing food for them as well!

Source: Canada, P. H. A. of. (2020, May 25). Be prepared for COVID-19 (infographic). <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/diseases-conditions/covid-19-be-prepared-infographic.html>

Westford Veterans Services

Seasonal Flu Vaccination

Veterans who are enrolled in VA health care can receive the seasonal flu vaccination at more than 60,000 locations through the Community Care Network in-network retail pharmacies and urgent care partners. The VA will pay for standard-dose and high-dose flu shots.

For more information on eligibility and to find locations to get a no-cost flu shot please visit:

www.va.gov/communitycare/flushot.asp

For help with eligibility and general questions, call 844-MyVA311 (844-698-2311), select option 1, and then select option 1 again.

Bedford VA Medical Center is offering flu shots by appointment only! Call 781-687-3275 or use the Secure Message Portal to schedule an appointment with your VA primary care doctor.



Westford Veterans Services Department

Phone: 978-392-1170

Our website: www.westfordma.gov/veterans

General benefit info at: www.massvetsadvisor.org

Stormwater

New Stormwater Bill Coming October 1, 2020

The first stormwater utility bills will be issued on October 1, 2020 and will be due on November 2, 2020.

- Fee is based on impervious surface area in a parcel – roofs, driveways, patios, decks, walkways, etc.
- Single Family Residential (SFR) Bills will range from \$37.50 to \$150 annually
- Non Single-Family Residential Bills will be calculated based on an Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) - \$75 multiplier. The number of ERUs in a property will determine the total of the bill.
- Stormwater utility fees for most condominiums will be billed to the Association.
- Property owners will have the option of paying the bill in total or paying the bill in two installments; One half due November 2nd and the second half due on May 1st.

Want more information? Go to www.westfordma.gov/stormwater.

Questions? Call Tax Collector-Treasurer, Christine Collins at 978-399-2900

Recycling Commission

Recycle Your Cardboard Correctly, and Donate your Books

Many of us have stepped up our online ordering, and we have lots of cardboard to recycle. Please follow these guidelines when putting your cardboard out for pick-up:

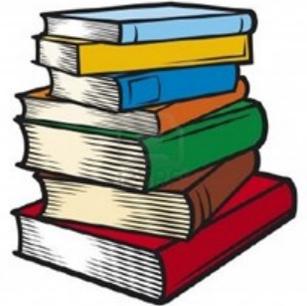
- a. No cardboard larger than 3'x3' or it will not fit in the truck
- b. Large amounts must be bundled, either with tape or with string
- c. Not too heavy; the driver must be able to pick up the bundle and put it into the truck
- d. Cardboard may go in your toter (but it takes up a lot of space), in a separate box or bin, or leaned against your toter if the cardboard has been taped or tied with string

And there is a new used book collection option:

The Discover Books book collection trailer at the Water Department on Forge Village Road now has two ways to recycle residents' old books.

- 1) For loose books there are very large Gaylord boxes inside the trailer. Just dump the books in.
- 2) If books are brought in cardboard boxes, please walk the boxes all the way to the rear of the trailer rather than blocking the path by leaving them inside the doorway.

No books in plastic bags please. And thank you for recycling!



Electronics & More Collection

September 19, 2020 from 9am –1pm

Westford Highway Garage, 28 North Street

For More information: [westfordma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/9184/ECEFall2020](https://www.westfordma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/9184/ECEFall2020)

The pandemic has changed our lives in so many ways – but despite it all, please continue your good recycling habits. Return, re-use, and donate!

www.westfordma.gov/recycling



India Day Flag Hoisting

India Day was celebrated on the Westford Common and in 36 cities and towns across New England on a beautiful weekend last August . The event was organized by India Association of Greater Boston, known as IAGB.

Temporary flag poles gifted by resident Nancy Cook were erected for the day.

The event was part of a two-day long ceremony that included a virtual celebration that an estimated 22,000 people watched the live across the globe.



*Indian Flag Hoisting at Westford Commons - August 15, 2020
(Photo credit Mr. David Christiana)*

