

Town Manager's Newsletter

March 2026



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Town Manager's Newsletter

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A Monthly Update from the Town of Westford

Dear Westford Residents,

As we look toward spring, I would like to thank our public safety, DPW, and facilities teams for their outstanding work during the February 23rd blizzard. Their coordinated efforts ensured roads were cleared, buildings were safe, and essential services continued uninterrupted. I am also grateful to our residents for their patience and cooperation.

We received a few questions regarding reported leaks in the new roof at Blanchard Middle School. During the blizzard, significant snow drifted around certain roof vents, which led to minor dripping from portions of the ventilation system as the snow melted. Contractors promptly cleared the affected areas, and the roof itself has performed well through substantial rain since installation. As the project nears completion, adjustments will be made to the vent heights to help prevent this in the future.

Congratulations to Chief Michael Denehy on graduating from the Massachusetts Chief Fire Officer Management Training Program. This four-month program, sponsored by the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy and UMass Boston's Collins Center for Public Management, reflects a strong commitment to executive leadership and professional development that benefits our department and community. You can read more in this month's Westford Fire Department section on page 5.

As a member of the [Robinson School Building Committee](#), I am pleased to share that Lavalée Brensinger has been selected as the Town's project designer. This milestone moves the project into the design phase, with public forums beginning in April.

On February 24th, the Select Board adopted the [Town's Board and Committee Handbook](#), strengthening governance through greater consistency, transparency, and clear expectations across Town boards and committees. Select Board documents and meeting videos are available online, making it easy to stay informed at your convenience.

This July, Westford will transition to a hybrid [Pay-As-You-Throw \(PAYT\) trash program](#). PAYT aligns costs with actual usage, helping the Town manage rising disposal expenses while maintaining current service levels. The hybrid model preserves basic household trash service and supports sustainability goals by encouraging waste reduction and recycling. A public forum is being scheduled for mid-March, and we will continue sharing updates as implementation approaches. Residents are encouraged to visit the [PAYT webpage](#) for additional information.

As we move into a busy spring season, I look forward to continuing to serve our community and working together on the initiatives ahead.

Kristen D. Las
Kristen Las,
Town Manager



Kristen Las

Westford Town Manager

-  klas@westfordma.gov
-  www.westfordma.gov/325
-  978-692-5501

Important Announcements

Tea with the Town Manager March 12 | 8:30 AM Roudenbush

Join me for an informal opportunity to ask questions, share ideas, and connect in conversation about our community.

Town Meeting Preview (Virtual) March 19 | 7:00 PM

The League of Women Voters will host a [virtual preview](#) to help residents better understand the articles and topics ahead of Annual Town Meeting

Annual Town Meeting March 28 | Westford Academy

Town Meeting is one of the most important ways residents directly shape our community's future. Warrant information and the meeting timeline are available on the [Town's website](#).



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Department of the Month Spotlight Animal Control Department

Many think Animal Control only responds to loose dogs, the role in Westford is far broader and grounded in both public safety and compassion.

Led by **Kirsten Hirschler**, who has served the Town since 2018, the department also welcomed **Stacey Bruce**, whose dedication and experience have strengthened the team. Together, they respond to calls involving domestic animals, wildlife concerns, injured animals, and animal welfare investigations, often working alongside Police, Fire, Health, and other external animal welfare partners.



Kirsten Hirschler
Animal Control
Officer/Inspector



Stacey Bruce
Animal Control
Officer/Inspector

For assistance, call 978-692-4574

Save The Date, Rabies Clinic | Saturday, April 25 | 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Westford Animal Control, in partnership with the [Westford Health Department](#), will host its upcoming Rabies Clinic on April 25. More details, including location, will be shared in coming weeks.



How Residents Can Help

Residents often ask how they can support Animal Control's work. The Westford Animal Control Gift Fund provides supplies, specialty food, and medical care for animals in the department's care. The fund also supports emergent needs for ill or elderly residents during difficult times. Checks may be made payable to Westford Animal Control Gift Fund.



Dog Licensing Reminder

All dogs 6 months and older must be licensed annually. Licenses renew each January, and a **\$25 late fee applies after March 31**. The fee is \$15 for spayed or neutered dogs and \$20 for non-altered dogs. Residents age 70+ do not pay the license fee (late fee still applies). Licenses are available through the [Town Clerk's Office](#), by mail, or [online](#). Call 978-692-5515 with questions.



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Westford Select Board

Want more details? View [Meeting Agendas](#) & [Videos](#) online

February 10, 2026 – Meeting Highlights

- Approved FY26–FY28 Police Superiors contract
- Signed the March 28 Annual Town Meeting warrant
- Appointed Animal Control Officers Hirschler & Bruce
- Accepted Select Board resignation; vacancy to be filled May 5 election
- Authorized peer review for 219 Littleton Road project



Select Board Members

February 24, 2026 – Meeting Highlights

- Announced excise tax Lock Box now active
- MSBA selected Robinson School project designer
- Congratulated 35 Town Farm Road project on State grant
- Voted Town Meeting article recommendations, including FY27 budget
- Thanked staff for February 23 blizzard response

Upcoming Select Board Meetings

- Tuesday, March 10, 2026 | 7:00 PM
Town Hall Meeting Room
- Tuesday, March 24, 2026 | 7:00 PM
Town Hall Meeting Room

Westford Town Moderator

Learn more about Westford's [2026 Annual Town Meeting](#)

Annual Town Meeting | Saturday, March 28 | 9:00 AM | Westford Academy

This year marks Westford's 297th Annual Town Meeting, held during the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. Town Meeting remains a place where neighbors come together to debate and decide the future of our community.

Prepare in Advance

- Review warrant articles and materials on the [Town Meeting page](#)
- Finance Committee Book available online and at Town locations
- League of Women Voters [Virtual Warrant Review](#) – March 19th, 7 PM
- ["Ask the Moderator"](#) – March 17th (4–6 PM) & March 20th (10 AM–Noon)



Angela Harkness
Town Moderator

Attending Annual Town Meeting?

Please let us know!

Fill out our Annual Town Meeting Survey!



[Take the survey now!](#)



What to Know

- Check-in begins at 8:00 AM. [Free childcare](#) and [transportation](#) are available with registration. Accessibility accommodations are available upon request. accessibility@westfordma.gov
- The more residents who attend, the stronger our decisions will be!



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Westford Town Clerk

[Annual Town Election](#) & [Annual Town Meeting](#) Information

Westford Annual Town Election | Tuesday, May 5

Polls Open: 7:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Precincts 1, 3, 4 & 7

Westford Academy | 30 Patten Road

Precincts 2, 5 & 6

Stony Brook School | 3 Farmer Way

Register to Vote

Deadline: April 24, 2026, at 5:00 PM

Register [online](#) or in person at the Town Clerk's Office

Vote by Mail

[Online application to vote by mail](#)

See Who's Running for Local Office!

[Online Open Positions and Candidates Annual Town Election](#)

Westford Annual Town Meeting | Saturday, March 28

9:00 AM | Westford Academy | 30 Patten Road

Deadline to register to vote is Wednesday, March 18, 2026, by 5:00 PM

Register online or at the Town Clerk's Office

[View Annual Town Meeting warrant articles and materials.](#)

In Person Early Voting

Town Hall Clerk's Office

Monday, April 27	8:30 AM - 3:30 PM
Tuesday, April 28	8:30 AM - 6:30 PM
Wednesday, April 29	8:30 AM - 3:30 PM
Thursday, April 30	8:30 AM - 3:30 PM
Friday, May 1	8:30 AM - 12:30 PM



Laurie Shaw
Town Clerk

Westford Council on Aging

Cameron Senior Center

"Emily Dickinson in Song"

Join us on April 24 at 1:00 p.m. at the Cameron Senior Center for a special concert celebrating National Poetry Month.

The Skylarks, Jeanne Masterman and Laurie Oliver of Westford, and Deborah Moscoso of Woburn, accompanied by Rachel Muller of Westford, will perform Emily Dickinson poems set to music by Aaron Copland, John Duke, Ricky Ian Gordon, William Roy, and Vincent Persichetti.

Spend an afternoon with the words of one of Massachusetts' most celebrated poets, beautifully interpreted through song. **Cost: \$2**

Registration required: Call the Front Desk at 978-692-5523

To learn more about upcoming programs, please check out the [Cameron Senior Center's newsletters](#).





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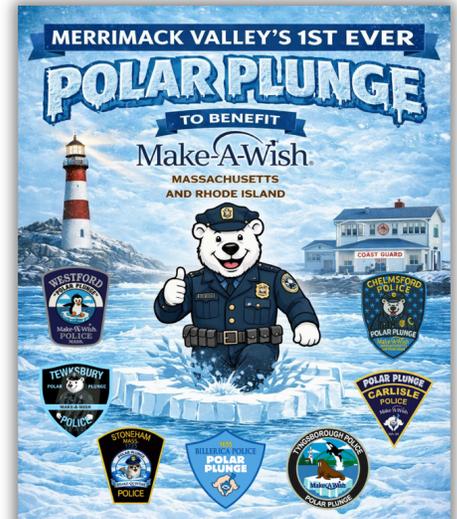
Westford Police Department

Community Engagement and Service Highlights



Senior Center Valentine's Luncheon

Officers Bella, Howard, and Short helped serve residents at the Cameron Senior Center's annual Valentine's events on February 13th.



Charity Hockey Game

Westford Police and Fire faced off against Westford Academy's varsity hockey teams in a charity matchup supporting the WA hockey program.



The Ghosts earned a 7–4 victory over the first responders in a spirited game that showcased teamwork, school pride, and community support.

Polar Plunge | March 22nd

Members of the department will take the Polar Plunge at Nahant's Short Beach to raise funds for Make-A-Wish MA & RI. Commemorative patches available for \$20 to support.

Westford Fire Department

Leadership & Professional Development



Congratulations, Chief Denehy

On February 10, Chief Michael Denehy graduated from the Massachusetts Chief Fire Officer Management Training Program alongside 42 fire chiefs from across the Commonwealth.

The four-month executive leadership program, sponsored by the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy and the Edward J. Collins Jr. Center for Public Management at UMass Boston, strengthens expertise in strategic planning, fiscal management, and organizational development.

This achievement reflects Chief Denehy's commitment to professional excellence and continued service to the Westford community.



Chief Michael Denehy at the MA Chief Fire Officer Management Training Program graduation ceremony.



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Westford J.V. Fletcher Library

Subscribe to the Friends of the Library [e-newsletter](#) or visit our [website](#).

March Programs & Events Registration Information



Historical Fiction Book Recs.

with Bestselling Author, Jane Healey

March 10 | 6:30 PM | Virtual | [Registration](#)

Young Adult Advisory Board | [Registration](#)

March 11 | 6:30 PM | 515 Groton Rd. | Grades 5-12.

Stuffie Sleepover bring your stuffies overnight!

March 12 | 515 Groton Rd. | Drop-off 2 – 4:30 PM

John Singer Sargent, A Masterful Stroke of Genius

March 12 | 2 PM | Virtual | [Registration](#)

Dungeons & Dragons | [Registration](#)

March 12 | 4 PM | 515 Groton Rd. | Grades 5-12

Strega Mama Story Frog & Toad | [Registration](#)

March 17 | 10:30 AM | Roudenbush Rm. 105 | Ages 3-7

Job Search Help for 50+ – Using AI

March 18 | 9:30 AM | Virtual | [Registration](#)

Mystery Recs. with Bestselling Author, Hank Phillippi Ryan

March 19 | 6:30 PM | [Registration](#)

Craftersnoon | Grades 5-12 | [Registration](#)

March 24 | 4 PM | Roudenbush 3rd Fl.

Read with Ponies | March 25 | 3:30 PM

Good Pickin' Farm | Ages 6-9

15 min. sessions | [Registration](#)

Three & Up Storytime | Every Tuesday

10:30 AM | Roudenbush 3rd Fl. | [Registration](#)

Time for Tots Storytime | Every Wednesday

10:30 AM | Roudenbush | Ages 15 months to 3 years | [Registration](#)

Baby Lapsit | Every Thursday | [Registration](#)

10:30 AM | Roudenbush 3rd Fl. | Infants - Walking

Adult Book Clubs

[Learn More](#)



Westford Recreation Department

65 Main Street, Third Floor, Westford, MA 01886

After School Enrichment Program, Grades K-5 | Register Anytime

Abbot, Crisafulli, Day, Miller, Nabnasset, and Robinson schools. M-F, school dismissal until 6 PM. featuring enrichment activities from science experiments to diamond art.

March 20, EID-AD-FITR Observed, Grades K-8 | Register

Program begins with SNL Sports Academy, followed by a field trip to Lowell's Boot Cotton Mill and the Morgan Cultural Center. 9 AM-3PM with early drop-off/extended day options.

What's Coming This Spring

View programs starting in March, April, and May! Including yoga, archery, pickleball, soccer shots, spring track and field, CPR/First Aid/AED, Brazilian soccer, spring golf & more to come!

Register for March 28 Annual Town Meeting Free Childcare

Registration closes March 20





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Westford Recycling Commission

Westford Recycling Commission Aims to Educate Residents

Re-think their buying and **R**educe what they take in
Reuse, **R**epurpose, or Donate what they no longer need.
Rot (compost food waste).
Recycle curbside what is truly remaining and going out the door.

Upcoming April Events

Junk in the Trunk | Saturday, April 18 | 10 AM - 11 AM | Stony Brook School

Set up begins at 9:30 AM. Bring items to give away & "re-home" treasures for free.

ZERO Waste Day | Saturday, April 25 | 9 AM - 1 PM

Collections will be held at various locations around Town.

Electronics & More | Saturday, April 25 | 9 AM - 1 PM

Westford Highway Garage at 28 North Street, Westford, MA 01886

For more information, please see the Westford Recycling Pages at

[Westford Recycling Commission \(WRC\) | Westford, MA](#)

While there, please see the many other items of useful information.



Westford Community Gardens

2026 Westford Community Gardens Seasonal Registration

Spring is coming! Come join us for the upcoming WCG Season. Garden Plots are filling up. Registration is now open through March 15th on westfordcommunitygardens.org

Westford Community Gardens has cultivated community as much as it has vegetables. Now in our 12th Season, Westford Community Gardens not only offer residents and neighbors space to get their hands dirty and retreat to the outdoors, but they also host regular community garden events and team working days. Whether you're a long-time gardener or just starting out, a family or an individual, [Westford Community Gardens](#) is for you!





Westford Commission on Disability

Improving Access and Inclusion in Westford

The [Commission on Disability \(CoD\)](#) continues to strengthen accessibility and inclusion across the community. The Commission has increased coordination with the [Open Space & Recreation Plan](#) process to help ensure accessibility is thoughtfully integrated early in planning efforts.



CoD is also supporting accessibility preparations for the March 28 [Annual Town Meeting](#) and providing consultation on accessibility elements within the [J.V. Fletcher Library renovation project](#). Ongoing coordination includes the [Linked & Livable Neighborhoods initiative](#), [PAYT Program](#) information sessions, and [Route 40 Corridor](#) community workshops.

Additionally, the Commission has formally endorsed Westford's ADA Transition Plan accessibility audit as a guiding roadmap for continued improvements and is monitoring state-level developments, including Wayland's home-rule bill (H.2272) regarding remote [Town Meeting](#) participation.

Westford Diversity Equity Inclusion (DEI) Committee

Building Community Through Engagement

The Westford DEI Committee continues advancing community engagement through several upcoming initiatives. These include recognizing March 30 as Transgender Day of Visibility, participating in the Acton-Westford Pride Festival on June 27, and preparing for its third annual Juneteenth flag raising.

On June 19, the Committee, in partnership with the Westford Museum, will host Westford's first public reading of Frederick Douglass' "What to the Slave Is the Fourth of July?" at First Parish Church.

The Committee is also collaborating with the Select Board and School Committee to broaden resident engagement and continues conversations regarding DEI involvement in Town hiring processes. Members maintain cross-committee representation to strengthen coordination across boards.

Additional work includes advancing a Transgender Day of Visibility proclamation and releasing a [podcast episode on generational diversity and cultural awareness](#). Upcoming episodes will highlight Holi and Irish-American history in March.

Residents can explore upcoming observances via the [DEI Multicultural Calendar](#)



Town of Westford

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Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) Trash Program

Westford will transition to a hybrid Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) curbside trash program in July 2026, following a Select Board vote on November 25, 2025. Learn more, including FAQs, the timeline, and materials on the [Town's PAYT webpage](#), which is frequently updated as new information becomes available.



Lockbox Payment Service is Now Available (Free Service)

The Town now uses a Lockbox Payment Service through Leader Bank for mailed tax payments at no cost to residents.

Other payment options still available at Town Hall, via the drop box, or [online](#).

Questions? 978-692-5506



Town Hall Operating Hours

Mon, Wed, Thurs: 8 AM - 4 PM

Tuesday: 8 AM - 6:30 PM

Friday: 8 AM - 1 PM

Work Where You Live - Apply for a Town Position Today!

Employment Opportunities:

- Council on Aging Part-time Van Driver (multiple open positions)
- Licensed Well Specialist - Water Department (Department of Public Works)
- Substitute Library Associates/Circulation Control (multiple open positions)

Learn about Westford Job Opportunities: www.westfordma.gov/jobs

TOWN OF WESTFORD	978-692-5500
www.westfordma.gov	55 Main Street, Westford, MA 01886

Boards & Committees Seeking Volunteers

- 300th Anniversary Committee
- Affordable Housing Trust
- Agricultural Commission
- Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee
- Commission on Disability
- Communications Advisory Committee
- Community Preservation Committee
- Cultural Council
- Election Officer
- Healthy Westford Committee
- Monuments and Memorials Committee
- Nashoba Valley Tech HS Committee
- Norther Middlesex Stormwater Collaborative
- Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee
- Parkerville Schoolhouse Committee
- Parks and Recreation Commission
- Pedestrian Improvement Plan for MCMOD Advisory Committee
- Permanent Town Building Committee
- Recycling Commission
- Route 40 Corridor Study Advisory Committee
- Zoning Board of Appeals

Learn more www.westfordma.gov

Consider lending your time and talents by filling out a [Volunteer Activity Form](#)

[Subscribe for Town Email Notifications](#)

Sign up for Smart911



Follow the Town on social media

