



Town of Westford Massachusetts

Town Manager's Newsletter

October 2019



Jodi Ross,
Town
Manager

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

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October is
Breast Cancer
Awareness
Month



Brush Chipping
Saturday, October 19
10:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Special Town Meeting
Monday, October 28
7:00 PM
At Abbot School Gym

Leaf Collection
Saturday, November 9 &
Saturday, December 7
Call the Town Clerks
office to register



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

Dear Westford residents,

Special Town Meeting will be held on Monday, October 28, 2019 at 7:00PM in the Abbot Elementary School gymnasium, 25 Depot Street. The Board of Selectmen has signed the warrant, taken positions on most warrant articles, and finalized motions. The Special Town Meeting Timeline and Warrant are available at the link here: [Special Town Meeting 2019](#). 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 will be requested at town meeting to dismiss this article as we have no unpaid bills.

Article 2 will raise and appropriate a sum of money to supplement Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budgets:

| | |
|---------------------|----------|
| Permitting Expenses | \$4,107 |
| Recycling Expenses | \$98,584 |

Article 3 would have approved Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Transfers. It will be requested at town meeting to dismiss this article.

Article 4 will make capital appropriations for Fiscal Year 2020 from Free Cash in the sum of \$625,450:

| | | |
|---|-----------|--|
| Board of Selectmen/ School Committee | \$108,000 | Communication equipment for various schools, including all costs incidental thereto (TSSTF Request) |
| Board of Selectmen/ School Committee | \$245,000 | First responder radio communication upgrade in various schools, including costs incidental thereto (TSSTF Request) |
| Public Buildings | \$164,000 | Relocation of Center Fire Station Antenna located at 51 Main Street, including all costs incidental thereto |
| School Department | \$33,450 | Design to replace exhaust unit at the Abbot School, including costs incidental thereto |
| Stormwater Management | \$75,000 | Town-wide culvert study assessment |

And further, to appropriate for Water Enterprise Retained Earnings in the sum of \$170,000:

| | | |
|------------------|-----------|---|
| Water Enterprise | \$170,000 | Engineering design for the Kirsi Circle and Douglas Road water main replacement project, including all costs incidental thereto |
|------------------|-----------|---|

Article 5 will authorize the transfer of \$15,640.19 from a debt exclusion reduction fund in order to reduce the net amount to be raised by taxation for Fiscal Year 2020.

Article 6 will authorize the purchase of software for Stormwater Fee Billing and upgrade for Water Billing related thereto:

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------|---|
| Technology Department | \$42,522 | UBCIS Software for stormwater utility billing, including costs incidental and related thereto |
| Water Enterprise | \$32,078 | UBCIS Software for water billing, including costs incidental and related thereto |

And further to create a Stormwater Utility Enterprise Fund for the fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2020.

(continued on next page)

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And further to create a Stormwater Utility Enterprise Fund for the fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2020.

Article 7 will defer Stormwater Utility Fees assessed under G.L. c. 83, §16 for low income seniors.

Article 8 will amend the General Bylaws to accept the provisions of G.L., c.44, §53E½ to establish a Revolving Fund for the Farmers Market.

Article 9 will authorize revolving funds in the amount of \$10,000 in this fiscal year's budget for the Farmers Market.

Article 10 will approve recommendations from the Community Preservation Committee to appropriate a sum of money not exceeding 5% of the Fiscal Year 2020 estimated annual revenues to meet expenses; and further to reserve future appropriation a sum of money from the Community Preservation Fund for open space, historic resources, community housing purposes, and outdoor recreation, and further to appropriate a sum of money for projects or purposes, including acquisition of interests in land.

Article 11 will authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for two additional all alcohol on premises licenses to be exercised by Westford Valley Marketplace located at 160-174 Littleton Road.

Article 12 will authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for special legislation to amend the Charter to reflect inclusive language including renaming the Board of Selectmen to Select Board.

Article 13 will approve the Board of Cemetery Commissioners updated regulations for municipal cemeteries.

We will be using electronic voting as approved by a resolution at the last Annual Town Meeting (sample of the handheld voting device, pictured on right).



On September 24, 2019 the board approved the Stormwater Management Utility Fee and Credit Policy. On October 15, 2019 the board further discussed Stormwater Management billing decisions; including frequency of bills and how to assess multifamily residential properties and private roads. The board supported two bills per year in one mailing. They also approved to accept Raftelis' recommendation regarding multifamily residential properties and private roads. For more information please visit the: [Stormwater website](#).

The selectmen will proceed with bringing the proposed new Town Center Building at 51 Main Street to the 2020 Annual Town Meeting, along with an article for a feasibility study for school administration offices. The board will continue discussions relative to the potential future use of 63 Main Street.

At their last meeting, the selectmen discussed the driving and safety conditions of Forrest Road, south of route 40, and approved to install a winding road sign and a 25PMH advisory sign. Once construction declines for the year the Engineering and Highway Departments will complete a traffic study.

The board also discussed AirBnBs and other short-term rentals in town. It was approved that town staff may exercise the will of the board to prohibit short term rental activity in town, if an avenue becomes apparent after advisement from counsel. The board may meet again if there is a need to have additional discussion in the interim.

The selectmen supported the Healthy Westford Committee's new Westford Walks Initiative. The Committee is working with the Pedestrian Safety Committee to promote walking as a health activity and an alternate to driving to destinations.

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The selectmen and I thanked Peter Ewing for nine years of service to the town of Westford as a member of the Pedestrian Safety Committee. Peter's involvement began while he served as a member of the 2009 Master Plan Committee, whereas one of the recommendations from the Master Plan was to start a committee focused on improving pedestrian safety in town. After the Pedestrian Safety Committee was established in 2010, Peter served as the committee's inaugural chair for over three years. During Peter's involvement, the committee worked closely with town staff to produce a town-wide map inventory of existing sidewalks, crosswalks, and pedestrian accident data which was then used to prioritize future sidewalk construction projects. Peter's leadership set the groundwork for several successful pedestrian safety projects such as the construction of sidewalks on Concord and Plain roads.



Westford Firefighters/Paramedics Local #3126 International Association of Firefighters AFL-CIO (Shift A in picture, with Town Manager Jodi Ross) support October being Breast Cancer Awareness month by wearing pink Westford Fire Department t-shirts!

Veteran's Day is a special date set aside to honor all veterans and those currently serving in the military. On Monday, November 11, 2019 there will be a Veterans Day Ceremony to honor all those who have served our country. The ceremony will begin at 11:00AM on the Town Common. To find out more information, you may click the following link: [2019 Veteran's Day Ceremony](#)

The Parks and Recreation Commission will be hosting a public meeting to gather ideas as they begin developing concept plans for potential future improvements on the Graniteville American Legion Fields on November 5, 2019 at 6:30PM at the Roudenbush Community Center Avis Lounge (1st floor). For more information, please click this link here: [Graniteville American Legion Fields Concept Planning](#)

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There are several openings on our local boards and committees, including: 12 North Main Task Force, Affordable Housing Committee, Agricultural Commission, Communications Advisory Committee, Cultural Council, Election Officer, Energy Committee, Fence Viewer, Healthy Westford Committee, Historical Commission, Northern Middlesex Council of Government, Parkerville Schoolhouse Committee, Parks and Recreation Commission, Pedestrian Safety Committee, Permanent Town Building Committee, Tax Possession Sale 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](#) 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 the Special Town Meeting.

Sincerely,



Jodi Ross



Westford Police Department's Pink Cruiser in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Funds raised as part of this effort will be donated directly to the cause, and was made possible by employees of the Westford Police Department who want to make a difference and give back. The 2012 Dodge Charger was brought to Colonial Municipal Group of Acton where graphics designer Bill Camillucci wrapped it in a special pink vinyl. No taxpayer money was spent on the project, as the police association is covering the \$700 cost of materials and Mr. Camillucci donated his time.

Much Good At The Cameron

So Come experience that goodness with us welcoming ages 55+

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage donates \$1,900 to assist vulnerable older adults with heat and other basic needs this winter.

Claro states, "These funds will be held in the Friends of the Cameron's Emergency Fund to allow our social services staff the needed financial resources to assist residents in financial crisis and/or emergency situations this winter. We are very appreciative of the financial generosity the Coldwell Banker team gives to the Cameron each year."



Pictured L to R- Cheryl Major, Janet Morano, Branch Manager, Leslie Thomas, Kathy Cunningham, Jennifer Claro, Cameron Senior Center Director, Marie Doctor, Selina Richall, Maura Fitzgerald Pique.

LEARN ABOUT FIVE PILLARS OF BRAIN HEALTH presented by Lowell General and AARP
October 29th, 6:00-7:30pm

Join us in learning the five pillars of brain healthy behaviors, which research tells us if we undertake starting today, regardless of our age, will help reduce the risk of age-related diseases and optimize our chances of maintaining our cognitive abilities. Sign up by Oct. 25th. By calling 978-692-5523.

MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT PRESENTATION

November 7th at 5:30 PM

Are you approaching 65 and wondering what your options are for Medicare? Or maybe you have Medicare and want to know what's changed or just a reality check to see if your coverage is still good for you? Come to our Open Enrollment presentation to get the answers from a certified SHINE (serving the health insurance needs of everyone) counselor. Open Enrollment is from Oct. 15 to Dec. 7th. This is the only time during the year you can change your Medicare Advantage plan or your Part D plan drug coverage for the upcoming year. Don't miss it! Sign up by 10/31 at 978-692-5523.

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



Westford Senior Center
L. G. Thurston

Cameron Happenings Continued...**EB Enterprise Bank** Presents ...*Abigail by Gail : A Colonial Experience**Abigail Brings Plymouth and the Puritans to You!* © **Friday, November 8th at 12:30 p.m.**

Sit back and relax as you learn all about the sites of Plymouth without leaving your seat! Learn about the Native Americans and the early settlers, including their reasons for coming to a New World. Explore the importance of landmarks such as Plymouth Rock, Coles Hill, and more. Discover what passengers experienced during the original voyage of the Mayflower and what it took to survive! **Copyright © Abigail by Gail: A Colonial Experience. All rights reserved. For information about all Colonial Programs and Tours visit our website: www.abigailbygail.com** This lovely Program have been brought to you by our sponsor **Enterprise Bank**. We ask for \$3.00 for lunch. Please sign up at 978-692-5523.

HAM & BEAN SUPPER**Saturday, November 16, at 5:30pm**

The Annual Ham and Bean Supper, sponsored by **the Westford Firefighters Association, American Legion Post 159 and the Franco American Club**, will be held at the Franco American Club. There is no charge for the dinner, but we encourage you to bring an item for the Community Food Pantry. Please pre-register at 978-692-5523.

**21st ANNUAL JIM GERAGHTY, FAMILY and Friends THANKSGIVING DINNER**
Sunday, November 24th, at Westford Academy

For the 21st year, Jim Geraghty, family, and friends, are graciously hosting a turkey dinner for center participants age 60 and over. **Bingo will be from 10 a.m. - noon, with lunch afterward.** Volunteers will serve this full-course homemade dinner to you. Seating is limited. Reservations are necessary, so please call 978-692-5523.

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON AT THE WESTFORD REGENCY**Friday, December 13th at 12:00 noon**

We are happy to share with you an opportunity to stroll through the Festival of Trees while enjoying the music of our very own '**Upbeats Band**' playing many traditional holiday favorites starting at 10:30 a.m. prior to lunch. You will see many beautifully and most creatively decorated Christmas trees, wreaths and gingerbread houses. Once again, we will enjoy the performance of the talented **Westford Academy Honor's Chorus**. Holiday menu: Salad, Chicken Piccata, starch and vegetable, Holiday dessert, tea and coffee. Cost: Friends members \$12 and Non - Friends members \$24. **Reservations are a must by December 3**; call 978-692-5523. Transportation will be provided just call 978-399-2322 to reserve your van seat.

PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS – Are you eligible?

The town of Westford has several property tax exemptions for residents: the low income, blind, disabled, veterans and more. You may be eligible for a tax break and if you are interested in learning more about your options call Annette for an appointment to review them at 978-399-2326.

J. V. Fletcher Library News

October at the J.V. Fletcher Library

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

Mark Your Calendars! Friends of the J. V. Fletcher Library, Inc. October Book Sale: Fri., Oct. 18, Sat., Oct. 19 and Sun., Oct. 20. A Friends Members Only Sale will be held on Friday evening from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. A Friends membership (which may be purchased at the door) is necessary for attending this sale. The entire public is invited Saturday for an all-day sale, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and for the half price extravaganza sale on Sunday, from 2:00– 4:00 p.m. Find great bargains for the whole family at the Friends of the J. V. Fletcher Library's October Book Sale! Thousands of gently used hardcovers and paperbacks, audiobooks, vinyl, DVDs, & CDs are for sale at incredibly low prices.

Tween Make and Take Mondays: Mon., Oct. 21 and Oct. 28 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Make fun, seasonal crafts and explore STEAM activities. Open to grades 5 to 12. No registration required. All materials are provided.

Halloween Library Style! Thu., Oct. 24 from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. The Youth Services librarians are at it again – we have brewed up a variety of games, crafts, and of course, costumes. Wear your best Halloween look and join us for some (not so) scary fun. Tickets (\$2) for kids and their caregivers are available in the Youth Services department. Best for school age kids but siblings can join in with their caregivers.

Being Mortal Book Discussion: Thu., Oct. 24 at 7:00 p.m. Join us for a discussion of *Being Mortal* by Dr. Atul Gawande, a sensitive, intelligent and heartfelt examination of the processes of aging and dying. Social worker Kathy Benson and clinical nurse Joanne McCole will lead the discussion as we examine Dr. Gawande's question, "We all die, so why don't we die well?" This program highlights portions of the relevant *Frontline* episode to introduce the book, so attendees are not required to read it in advance. FREE! [Register here](#) or call 978-399-2304.

Ukulele Strum Along: Sat., Oct. 26 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Learn to play by playing! Focusing on 2 and 3 chord songs, this program is for the beginner ukulele player who wants to practice and play music with others. Ukuleles available are available to borrow, and songs are projected onto a screen so no music stands or books necessary. This program is open to adults and teens. [Register here](#) or in Information Services to borrow a ukulele, or just drop in with your own.

Monday Mystery Book Club: Mon., Oct. 28 at 10:30 a.m. Wake up your week with a stimulating book discussion! We meet on the fourth Monday morning of each month @ 10:30 a.m. in the Mary Atwood Room. Our October selection is *The Reckoning* by John Grisham. Copies of the current title are available for check-out at the Main Desk. New members are always welcome. No registration required.

Booktalk with Mayleen and Kristina: Fri., Nov. 1 at 1:30 p.m. Are you looking for some new reading recommendations? Growing tired of the same authors? Join Mayleen and Kristina for an informal "Booktalk". During this hour we will talk about books both old and new. No registration required.

Friends of the J.V. Fletcher Library Annual Meeting with Featured Speaker Marianne Leone: Thurs., Nov. 7 at 7:00 p.m. Come vote at the annual meeting at 7:00 PM and stay for the speaker at 7:30 PM. This year, the Friends are pleased to welcome Marianne Leone, author of "Jesse: A Mother's Story" and "Ma Speaks Up". Light refreshments will be served. Open to all!

Link to Literacy: Link to Literacy is a non-profit, volunteer run organization devoted to enabling adults who have joined us from other cultures to read, write, and speak American English more effectively. Training and materials are provided to tutors. Tutors work with their students at the Library. To pick up a tutor or student application or for more information, stop by or contact the Information Services department at 978-399-2304.

Parks & Recreation

Graniteville American Legion Fields Concept Planning Public Input Meeting

In 2018, Annual Town Meeting authorized use of Community Preservation Act funds to undertake a design effort to update and expand the Graniteville American Legion Fields Complex.

On November 5, the Westford Parks & Recreation Commission will hold a public meeting to gather input and ideas as we begin developing concept plans for potential future improvements at the Graniteville American Legion Fields Complex. The meeting will be facilitated by our design professionals from Weston & Sampson and is scheduled to last approximately one hour.

Date: November 5, 2019
Time: 6:30 P.M.
Location: Parks and Recreation Administrative Office
65 Main Street (Roudenbush Building)
Avis' Lounge, 1st Floor

For additional information, please contact Parks and Recreation at (978) 692-5532.

Westford Partnership for Children (WPC) Session 2 Starting Soon

Westford Partnership for Children (WPC), our Parks & Rec After School Enrichment Program, offers grades K-8 a wide variety of activities to choose from in a safe and stimulating environment. Along with WPC's flexible scheduling options, are the Special Programs covering professional development days, parent conferences, and school vacations. WPC programs are located at your child's school.

WPC Session 2 runs from October 28 through December 20 and is offering activities such as Martial Arts, Sports Mixer, Holiday Goodies, Puzzler/Brain Games, Lego@Mania, as well as Homework Time.

Sign-up at any time. Program hours are Monday through Friday, from school dismissal until 5:45 p.m. Visit *About WPC* at westfordrec.com for more information.



*Hogwarts Science at WPC Robinson:
"It's a non-newtonian liquid!"*

Upcoming Parks & Rec Programs

The Westford Parks & Recreation youth and adult programs starting soon will include Speed & Agility with Dylan Brock, Seth Dichard Indoor Golf, Qigong with Dave Crocker, Volley Ball with Marie Henderson (grades 6-8), and Drop-in Volley Ball and Badminton.

To learn more, visit us at westfordrec.com, call (978) 692-5532,
or come see us at 65 Main Street, 3rd floor.

Stormwater

How to Properly Get Rid of Fallen Leaves & Yard Waste

Leaves and yard waste **CLOG** storm drains which can cause **FLOODING** and can also be a significant source of stormwater **POLLUTION**.

Leaves, grass clippings, and other debris from your lawn that end up in our **STREETS, SIDEWALKS, and STORM DRAINS** will eventually make their way into local **STREAMS, PONDS, and LAKES** which can cause serious water quality issues like **ALGAE BLOOMS**.

Properly dispose of yard waste by:

- *Mulching into lawns with your mower*
- *Bag for curbside pick-up*
- *Use in compost piles*

Never:

- *Blow into the street*
- *Dump into wetlands or waterbodies*
- *Rake into drainage ditches*
- *Put into regular trash containers*
- *Burn*



However you get rid of leaves and yard waste, make sure you **KEEP THEM OUT OF THE STORM DRAIN**.

For more information on Yard Waste Collection visit the Westford Recycling Commission webpage at: westfordma.gov/recycling

Highway Department

Streetlights are now being managed by the Westford Highway Department. We have completed the replacement of more than 1,100 fixtures. The new LED lights are International Dark Sky Compliant creating less light pollution.

Lights were replaced using a grant opportunity offered by the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources, managed by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC).

Please contact us at the Highway Department, 978-692-5520, if you have questions or would like to report a streetlight problem.



Stormwater Management for Businesses & Commercial Facilities



Parking Lots

Many things can be done to reduce polluted runoff from parking lots. Sweep paved surfaces of leaves, trash, and sediment on a regular basis. Inspect storm drains & drainage systems frequently and clean as needed. Consider retrofitting the facility with vegetated filter strips, rain gardens, or infiltration practices to capture pollutants and reduce stormwater runoff.



Fleet Care

Many institutions maintain fleets of trucks, buses, and other vehicles on site. Do this carefully to keep gasoline, oil, and soap suds out of storm drains and waterways. Vehicle maintenance should be done indoors, using drop cloths and drip pans. If there is a spill, clean it up promptly using absorbent sand and kitty litter.



Snow and Ice Removal

When road salt and deicers are used, melting snow carries those chemicals into waterways. These chemicals should be stored carefully and applied at an appropriate rate. When purchasing, read the labels on deicing products and choose those that are not toxic to animals and plants.



Outdoor Cleaning

Grounds crews should sweep sidewalks, loading docks, and parking lots and dispose of the trash and debris in a dumpster, rather than washing these areas with a hose. If outdoor washing is necessary, look for environmentally friendly, water-based cleaning products. Maintenance crews should rinse paint cans, brushes, buckets, or other cleaning materials in an indoor sink.



Landscaping & Lawn Care

Groundskeepers should test soil and read the label before applying fertilizer. If they use too much fertilizer, the excess will just wash away in the next rain, polluting our waterways. Use fertilizers sparingly and sweep up driveways, sidewalks, and walkways. Put sprinklers on timers so they water early in the morning and point them so that they don't water the sidewalk or driveways.



Waste and Material Storage

If rain falls into your dumpsters or on your raw materials, then it's carrying some of that stuff with it as it drains away. A simple cover can take care of that problem. Property managers should inspect dumpster regularly and only store chemicals outside with tight-fitting lids.



Healthy Westford and Pedestrian Safety Committees

Introducing Westford Walks

Westford is a great town with much to offer, including many pleasant residential neighborhoods, interesting conservation areas, popular recreation areas, historic locations, and thriving businesses. It would be beneficial for members of the Westford community to be able to walk more safely from their home or place of business to desirable destinations – or just for the enjoyment of walking in the fresh air of the New England countryside.

In order to achieve this goal, the Healthy Westford Committee and the Pedestrian Safety Committee are working together on a new visionary plan to develop and improve our walkways. We are calling this new plan Westford Walks.

Through Westford Walks, we hope to develop an expanded network of transportation walkways that will connect residents and businesses together and promote and encourage a healthier walking community in Westford. The plan for the walkway network is to use new trails, sidewalks, and roadside paths to connect neighborhoods and link to existing sidewalks, trails, and relatively lightly-trafficked streets. We expect that some of the new trails will be located on town-owned land and others on residential properties - with appropriate permissions and/or easements.

Going forward, we intend to work with residents, solicit input and suggestions for new walkways, evaluate potential walkway routes, select and, in coordination with town officials, begin work on individual walkway projects. As the network is developed, a Westford Walks map will be created and continually updated.

You can participate in the Westford Walks initiative. If you know of a location where a new trail or sidewalk might be created that would help residents to walk more safely beyond their local neighborhood, please contact the chairs of either the Healthy Westford Committee or the Pedestrian Safety Committee.

<https://westfordma.gov/708/Healthy-Westford-Committee>
<https://westfordma.gov/554/Pedestrian-Safety-Committee>



Town Clerk's Corner

The Special Town Meeting is Monday, October 28, 2019. If you are not already a registered voter in Westford, the deadline to do so is Friday, October 18, 2019 at 8 pm.



Not registered as a voter in Westford yet?

It's easier than ever ... just go online!

<http://www.sec.state.ma.us/>

When you register to vote, you may

- Register in a POLITICAL PARTY by selecting one of the listed parties (currently Democratic, Republican, Libertarian, Green-Rainbow OR
- Register in a political designation, OR
- Register with no party affiliation by selecting "NO PARTY (unenrolled)," which is commonly referred to as "independent" meaning that you do not have a party designation



Online Voter Registration

If you do not enroll in a party (i.e., choose unenrolled or a political designation), you may still vote in state and presidential primaries by choosing a party ballot and will remain unenrolled.

If you enroll in one of the three parties listed above, you may vote only in that party's primary. In a general election, all voters receive the same ballot regardless of party enrollment.

Become an Election Worker!

The Town Clerk's Office is looking for enthusiastic individuals who can work at the upcoming elections. If you are interested in this civic opportunity, please complete an [Election Officer Profile](#) and submit it to the Town Clerk's Office.

Upcoming Town Meetings and Elections

There are no elections in Westford this Fall. The next Election is the Presidential Primary on Tuesday, March 3, 2020.

WESTFORDMA.GOV/CLERK



WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV

Recycling Commission - Fall Dates

NOTICE: Monday, November 11, 2019 (Veterans Day), is NOT a holiday for trash and recycling. Pickups will be made on the usual days that week.

Since July 1, residential and municipal recycling in Westford has been picked up by Waste Management. We appreciate your patience during this transition. Should you encounter an issue, please call Waste Management at 1-800-972-4545. If your question is not answered in 24 hours, please call the Town Manager's office at 978-692-5501.

STYROFOAM COLLECTION

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2019, 9 A.M. TO 2 P.M.
WESTFORD HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT, 28 NORTH STREET

This collection is open to ANYONE or ANY business.

ACCEPTED:

- Bulk, pre-formed packing and coolers, must display #6 symbol. White only.
- Insulation board, aka Owens Foamar (pink) or Dow Styrofoam (blue board), will display #6 symbol.
- Spongy foam, white or clear only. Will display # 4 symbol.

NOT ACCEPTED:

- Styrofoam food containers, including cups, meat trays, and packing peanuts.

Sponsored by First Parish Church United, Westford, MA. Green Action Team.

Donations accepted to defray cost for transportation.

If you miss the Westford collection date, you have another opportunity the following Saturday (Oct. 26) at the Ayer Recycling Event, 9am-2pm. They accept just about everything but check their webpage recycleyourreusables.files.wordpress.com/2019/08/poster.pdf and note the drop off address is Bemis Associates in Shirley.

Empty.Clean.Dry. The best way to recycle.

EMPTY - remove food or product residue.

CLEAN - rinse or wash empty containers.

DRY - let containers dry before placing in your recycling bin or toter.

For answers on what is and what is not recyclable, go to the **Recyclopedia:** recyclesmartma.org. Bookmark this page!



Recycling Commission - Fall Dates

BRUSH CHIPPING

Saturday, October 19, 2019, 10:30 am – 4:30 pm

Westford Highway Garage, 28 North Street

Proof of Westford residency required.

Accepted: Brush and branches up to 3 inches in diameter and 10 feet in length. Must be average residential brush categories and reasonable amounts: A load ranges from a trunk to pickup truck volume, includes tow behind a full trailer.

Not accepted: Building materials (e.g. fences, boards), land clearing materials and debris (e.g., roots, bushes, anything mixed with poison ivy), grass, and leaves.

Cost: \$10 per load, checks preferred, payable to the Town of Westford.

Alerts from the Westford Recycling Commission

PLASTIC BAGS, empty or filled, are NOT acceptable in recycling bins and totes.

TANGLERS - Cords, coat hangers, light strings, plastic 6-pack rings, garden hoses, wires, strings, ribbons, and chains - are prohibited from recycling bins and totes.

CAPS and LIDS – Replace caps and lids on clean bottles, jars, and cans or toss lids in the trash. Do not discard them separately in recycling.

PLASTIC YOGURT CUPS – Toss cups in recycle bin. Put aluminum lids in the trash.

BLACK PLASTIC TAKE-OUT CONTAINERS - Put this item in your trash. Clear plastic lids can be rinsed and recycled.

HOME COMPOSTING with an EARTH MACHINE

Since food waste is heavy, not putting it in the trash but composting it instead reduces Westford's trash collection costs. The compost produced can also benefit the environment.

Westford residents can purchase an Earth Machine back yard composter at a discounted price of \$25 by contacting Denise Seyffert at 978-692-6986. It comes with composting instructions. The regular price of an Earth Machine at a home improvement store is \$99.

Placing fruit and vegetable kitchen scraps, coffee grounds, eggshells, tea bags, shredded paper, grass clippings, sawdust, pine needles, and leaves in your Earth Machine will produce useable compost called "black gold," a rich soil conditioner.

In 1993, Massachusetts banned yard waste from the trash in an effort to reduce garbage, save money, utilize valuable organic waste, and provide nutrient rich compost for home lawns and gardens. Using compost on the soil adds essential nutrients, improves root growth, and helps retain moisture, which can help lower water bills.

Please visit www.westfordma.gov/recycling
for your recycling and trash questions.
Reduce! Reuse! Repurpose! Recycle!



LEAF COLLECTION

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH
AND
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH, 2019**

Acme Waste Systems will be collecting leaves. The cost is \$1.25 per bag with a minimum charge of \$20.00 per pick up.

Call the Town Clerk's office at 978-692-5515 to register.

Place your leaves, grass clippings and pine needles into paper leaf bags and have them at the curb by 7 AM on the collection day. Leaves will not be picked up if they are not in paper leaf bags.

YOU PAY ACME DIRECTLY BY ATTACHING A CHECK PAYABLE TO ACME WASTE SYSTEMS TO ONE OF YOUR LEAF BAGS ON COLLECTION DAY.



Westford Fire and Nashua Fire Department's Dive team conducted three combined training exercises at Merrills Quarry on 9/7, 9/19 and 10/4.

Photos by Deputy Fire Chief, Dan Britko.

