



# Town of Westford Massachusetts

## Town Manager's Newsletter

May 2021



**Jodi Ross,**  
Town  
Manager

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

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

[Subscribe to Notifications](#)



**Memorial Day  
Observance**  
Sunday, May 30th  
With honor roll  
beginning at 10:30 AM  
followed by a  
Ceremony at Noon.  
Held on Town Common  
or watch Live via  
Verizon Channel 35 /  
Comcast Channel 8

**Annual Town Meeting**  
Saturday, June 12  
Westford Academy  
Trustees Field



Watch Meetings Online



[www.westfordcat.org](http://www.westfordcat.org)

### Dear Westford residents,

On Sunday, May 30th, we will be honoring our service men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Please join us at noon on the Westford Town Common, or remotely on WestfordCAT live stream, for a remembrance ceremony including speakers, as there will be no parade this year. In the event inclement weather ceremonies will be held in the Old Center Fire Station at 51 Main Street.

Our Annual Town Meeting is less than a month away and will be held at 9:00 AM on Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup> (continuing to Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup> as a rain date or if needed), outside on the turf field at the Westford Academy Trustees Field, 30 Patten Road. We encourage all attendees to arrive by 8:30 AM to allow time for check-in. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the town is taking precautionary measures to reduce the spread of the virus. All residents should wear face coverings. Seating will be spaced to allow social distancing. We highly recommend bringing water, sunscreen, and a hat or umbrella to provide shade from the sun. This year, we will break at approximately noon for lunch and we hope to be hosting a variety of food trucks for lunch break! We ask all residents ordering from the food trucks to comply with social distancing guidelines and return to their seats before removing their mask to eat. The meeting will resume at 1:15 PM. The following is a summary of the 23 articles to be voted on. The full text of the Warrant and Motions, along with a plan of the field are available online at the following link: [2021 Annual Town Meeting](#).

**Article 1** accepts the 2020 Annual Town Reports.

**Article 2** appropriates \$144,202 from Free Cash to supplement the Snow & Ice budget.

**Article 3** appropriates \$102,000 from Free Cash for the purpose of providing funds to address issues regarding perchlorate DEP requirements.

**Article 4** considers the following Fiscal Year 2021 capital appropriations:

- Appropriates \$1,062,594 in Free Cash for the following capital projects:

DEPARTMENT	AMOUNT	PURPOSE
Technology	\$35,500	Town computer replacements
Technology	\$208,558	School computer replacements
Technology	\$200,000	Town-wide VOIP phone system replacement, including costs incidental and related thereto
Technology	\$250,000	Network upgrades
Town Clerk	\$36,600	Electronic vote tabulators, including costs incidental and related thereto
Public Buildings	\$50,000	Town and School Safety Task Force (TSSTF) recommended safety upgrades
Fire Department	\$17,436	Transmitter, including costs incidental and related thereto
Schools	\$14,500	Fire alarm panel replacement at Westford Academy, including costs incidental and related thereto
Schools	\$70,000	Student information system, including costs incidental and related thereto
Schools	\$35,000	Compressor replacement at Westford Academy, including costs incidental and related thereto
Schools	\$35,000	Public address system at the Norman E. Day schools, including costs incidental and related thereto
Schools	\$50,000	Heat pump replacement at the Norman E. Day schools, including costs incidental and related thereto

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[WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV](http://WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV)

- Appropriates \$46,263.48 in Free Cash and reauthorizes and transfers \$123,736.52 from the Main Street Reconstruction capital project appropriation which received Annual Town Meeting Vote by Article 7, April 2, 2016 to provide for the following capital request:

<i>DEPARTMENT</i>	<i>AMOUNT</i>	<i>PURPOSE</i>
Wastewater Management	\$170,000	Westford Academy wastewater treatment plant tank replacement, including costs incidental and related thereto

- Appropriates \$45,000 from the Water Enterprise Retained Earnings to purchase a vehicle and equipment,
- Appropriates \$389,000 from the Ambulance Enterprise Retained Earnings to purchase an ambulance and equipment,
- Appropriates \$777,423 to purchase and equip a fire truck and would authorize the town to borrow the funding required for this purchase **(2/3 majority vote)**,
- Appropriates \$500,000 for the design, engineering, and construction costs for the replacement of the Pond Brook culvert on Old Lowell Road approximately 250 feet south of South Chelmsford Road, and the Blue Brook Culvert located on Groton Road, approximately 100 feet east of Flushing Pond Road and would authorize the town to borrow the funding required for this project **(2/3 majority vote)**,
- Appropriates \$40,000 in Free Cash to transfer said amount to the Capital Stabilization Fund.

**Article 5** appropriates \$157,000 from the Sale of Cemetery Lots Receipts Reserved for the care, improvements and embellishments, or the enlargement of the Pine Grove Cemetery and appropriates \$128,000 for improvements and embellishments, or the enlargement of the Pine Grove Cemetery and would authorize the town to borrow the funding required for this project **(2/3 majority vote)**.

**Article 6** appropriates \$1,212,504 from available Community Preservation fund balances for the following purposes:

\$266,210	From Undesignated Fund Balance to the Community Housing Reserve. This allocation more than funds the required 10% for Community Housing	Community Housing Reserve
\$190,000	From Undesignated Fund Balance for the Conservation Trust Fund for future open space land purchases and any other related costs	Westford Conservation Commission
\$20,000	From Undesignated Fund Balance for the Forge Pond channel improvements project and any other related costs	Westford Healthy Lakes and Ponds Collaborative
\$37,294	From Undesignated Fund Balance for the O'Brien Farm public footbridge and any other related costs	Westford Conservation Commission
\$594,000	From Undesignated Fund Balance for the design, construction, and installation of a playground at the Colonel John Robinson School and any other related costs	Westford Public Schools
\$105,000	From Historic Resources Fund Balance for the Westford Museum window restoration project located at 4 Boston Road and any other related costs	Westford Historical Commission

and authorizes the town to appropriate the sum of \$2,000,000 from the Community Preservation fund for the planning, design, development, and construction of a 35-unit mixed income senior residential affordable housing project located at 35 Town Farm Road.

**Article 7** amends the Wage and Classification Plan to adjust the Highway Superintendent Pay Band from Band 7 to Band 6.

**Article 8** establishes the annual limitations on expenditures from all town and school revolving accounts.

**Article 9** establishes the Fiscal Year 2022 operating budget in the amount of \$122,823,671.

**Article 10** considers the following Fiscal Year 2022 capital appropriation:

<i>DEPARTMENT</i>	<i>AMOUNT</i>	<i>PURPOSE</i>
Stormwater Enterprise	\$45,000	Vehicle, purchase and equip

**(Continued on next page)**

**Article 11** appropriates the proceeds due to the town through M.G.L. Chapter 90.

**Article 12** authorizes the transfer of \$29,511 from the Water Enterprise Other Post Employment Stabilization Fund to the Water Enterprise Expenses to pay for Fiscal Year 2022 retiree benefits.

**Article 13** authorizes the Select Board to accept easements for sidewalk, drainage, or other utility purposes.

**Article 14** amends the town's vote under Article 16 of the 2020 Annual Town Meeting by adding three alternate members to the Affordable Housing Trust.

**Article 15** is a citizens' petition which calls upon the United States Congress to pass and send to the States for ratification an amendment to the Constitution of the United States that would firmly establish two principles: 1) Only human beings, not artificial entities such as corporations, are entitled to the rights and privileges guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States, and 2) election spending is not free speech guaranteed by the First Amendment, and is therefore subject to regulation by federal and state governments.

**Article 16** is a citizens' petition which authorizes the Select Board to petition the General Court for one additional Alcohol Beverages Retail License to be exercised by Feng You, Inc., 175 Littleton Road.

**Article 17** is a citizens' petition which restricts motorboats on Keyes Pond.

**Article 18** amends the General and Zoning Bylaws to reflect inclusive language **(2/3 majority vote)**.

**Article 19** establishes a municipal charges lien pursuant to General Laws Chapter 40, Section 58 for unpaid stormwater utility fees assessed by the Town pursuant to Chapter 94 of the Town of Westford General Bylaws.

**Article 20** amends the Zoning Bylaw to permit Home Occupations by right in the Residence A and B Zoning Districts.

**Article 21** amends Zoning Bylaw Section 10.2, Appendix A and B to allow restaurant drive-through facilities in certain zoning districts by Special Permit from the Planning Board. The Planning Board is seeking feedback from residents relative to this article. You may complete the survey by visiting the following link: [Drive-Through Restaurant Survey](#).

**Article 22** amends Zoning Bylaw Section 9.5.1 to not allow a proposed Zoning Bylaw change to return to Town Meeting for two years after an unfavorable vote **(2/3 majority vote)**.

**Article 23** amends Zoning Bylaw to expand the Board of Assessors' Zoning Overlay District Map for Senior Residential Multifamily Overlay Districts.

At the board's meeting on May 11<sup>th</sup>, the Select Board approved releasing a RFP for the disposition of 63 Main Street with the condition the residence must remain as a single-family residence with an Historic Preservation Restriction. The HPR will protect the façade and the appearance of the entire exterior of the building. The property was subdivided from a larger lot and an approval not required (ANR) lot was created. The rear section of the lot will be retained by the town with possible future plans to provide overflow parking for Town Hall. The board set a minimum purchase price requirement of \$322,400. The RFP was released on May 12, 2021, a pre-proposal meeting will be held on May 26, 2021, and proposals are due on June 11, 2021 at 11:00 AM. Proposal documents may be viewed online by visiting the following link: [Bid Postings](#).

The Select Board approved supporting the Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail's request to add outdoor art to the trail in accordance with the plans approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission. Midway through the time period of the art display, the Select Board will review the display, hear any abutter concerns and discuss a process for abutters to be notified of future changes related to the trail. To review the plans, please visit the following link: [Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Outdoor Art Presentation](#).

Resident Mark Minnucci has requested to appear before the Select Board to share his 2021 Westford Anti-Litter Challenge, which since its creation, 64 volunteers have collected 4,100 pieces of litter using a phone app called Litterati. Stay tuned to hear more at an upcoming Select Board meeting.

**(Continued on next page)**

I am pleased to announce that we were recently awarded the following grants:

- Public Health Excellence for Shared Services Grant for additional resources to strengthen the local public health system to align with the recommendations of the Special Commission on Local and Regional Public Health in an annualized amount of \$295,872
- FY 2021 Regional Pilot Project Grant Program to promote regional recovery from the economic impacts of COVID-19 in the amount of \$150,000
- Massachusetts Electric Vehicle Incentive Public Access Charging Program for 12 vehicle charging stations in the amount of \$91,335
- National Grid EV Charging Infrastructure Program for 12 electric vehicle charging stations at the Abbot Elementary School, Westford Academy, Police Station and Town Hall in the amount of \$144,000
- Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant Program funding in the amount of \$15,000
- FEMA Public Assistance Grant Program for supplies purchased and services provided in response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Our Cameron Senior Center is offering transportation for Westford residents to Lowell General Hospital's Covid-19 vaccination site. Appointments are required and are scheduled on a first come first served basis. To schedule, please call (978) 692-5523.

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](https://www.westfordma.gov/COVID-19).

Thank you to the Town Clerk's Office for holding a successful Town Election on May 4<sup>th</sup> and congratulations to the newly elected and re-elected officials. To view the official election results, you may click the following link: [Annual Town Election Official Results](#).

The Select Board and I thanked Mark Kost for his 14 years of service to the town on various boards and committees at his last meeting serving on the Select Board on April 27<sup>th</sup>.

I am happy to welcome our newest town employees, Principal Assessor Will Naser, Assistant Town Planner Sierra Pelletier, and Heavy Equipment Operator Richard Savary!

There are several openings on our local boards and committees, including: 35 Town Farm Road Task Force, Agricultural Commission, Commission on Disability, Communications Advisory Committee, Council on Aging, Cultural Council, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, Dog Park Task Force, Economic Development Committee, Election Officer, Finance Committee, Healthy Westford Committee, Historical Commission, Nashoba Valley Technical High School District Committee, Parkerville Schoolhouse Committee, Parks, Grounds and Recreation Commission, Pedestrian Safety 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 Board of Selectmen's meetings? Click the following links to access: [Board of Selectmen Documents](#) & [Board of Selectmen Meeting Videos](#).

I hope to see you at Town Meeting!

Sincerely,



Jodi Ross  
Town Manager

## Stormwater Management



Organic

VS

Synthetic

- Packaged ingredients clearly visible.
- Made of coarse materials, does not run off easily.
- Increases soil porosity, allowing rainwater to percolate into the soil.
- Works to build healthy soils, full of microbes, which feed plants and loosen soil.
- Composed of materials found in nature – decomposed matter, plant extracts, minerals.

- Packaged ingredients rarely divulged.
- Highly water soluble, easily washed away.
- Increases soil compaction, because fewer microbes are available to loosen the soil.
- No microbes in soil to feed plants.
- Composed in part by man-made chemicals, often including known toxins and carcinogens.

### Get your lawn off drugs!

#### Organic is the healthy way to go!

Commercial fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides are like fast food - they fill you up and taste good, but hurt your health. That's the same with synthetic lawn care products, which rob the soil of vital nutrients and microbes, requiring more and more applications of fertilizers and chemicals to compensate.

#### Going organic how to:

- 1. Go cold turkey** - Don't make a slow transition. Organic is about creating healthy soil to nurture plant growth - synthetic is about stimulating plant growth above ground. They are not compatible.
- 2. Get your soil tested** - This is imperative, because you must know your soil's deficiencies, including pH levels to provide the right soil conditions for healthy root growth. Go to <http://www.umass.edu/plsoils/soiltest/> to get information about the UMass Extension's soil test, which is comprehensive and very inexpensive!

**3. Add the soil amendments** that the test results suggest.

**4. Top dress with compost** - Put 1/2" of compost on your lawn. Compost provides organic matter, teeming with microbes that will make the soil more porous and nutri-ent-rich.

**5. Overseed** in the spring and the fall. Mowing does not let grasses form the seed heads necessary for them to self-sow, which is why overseeding is important. When overseeding, use a blend of fescues, which grow deep roots and are very drought tolerant.

**6. Spray compost tea** on your lawn once a month during the growing season. You can make your own or you can buy liquid or dehydrated compost tea at many nurseries.

**7. Apply organic fertilizer** in the fall. Organic fertilizer is much coarser and less soluble than synthetic fertilizer, so it tends to stay put.

The end result - a beautiful, healthy yard

## Westford Climate Action

**Free Solar Energy Webinar to be held Saturday, May 22, 3 p.m.**

Westford Climate Action is offering a free solar energy webinar via Zoom. Join this free webinar and find out how cheap, easy and fast solar installation can be!



**WESTFORD  
CLIMATE  
ACTION**

Plus: How to lower your energy bill. What rebates and no-interest loans are available. How to get paid for excess generated power with the SMART Program. Hear 3 Westford residents share their experiences of different ways to take advantage of solar power. We will review these and other solar options and have a Q&A afterwards with local solar installers and businesses. **Register at [WestfordClimateAction.org/Events](https://www.westfordclimateaction.org/events)**



## Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee Conducting Greenhouse Gas Inventory

The Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee (CEAS) continues the development of the Road Map to Net Zero Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions. The Road Map starts with a GHG Inventory which is an important part of developing a data-informed climate action plan. The inventory will help identify the major sources of greenhouse gas emissions within Westford and will allow us to prioritize policies and programs for reducing emissions. By consistently updating and analyzing our GHG inventory, we can measure our progress and emissions reductions over time. Gathering this necessary information is an important step in the net zero planning process.

All GHG emissions that contribute to Westford's carbon footprint will be categorized into three sectors: Stationary Energy, Transportation, and Waste. The inventory will include Westford's emissions from homes, businesses, and industries; municipal operations; large energy production facilities; passenger and commercial vehicles; public transportation; natural gas leaks; electricity line losses; municipal solid waste; and wastewater.



The GHG Inventory will allow CEAS to prioritize actions in our Road Map to Net Zero. We will be presenting the data to the community as it is available. [Learn more about Westford's Road Map here.](#)

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## Department of Public Works

### Street Sweeping Assist

Millennium Maintenance & Power Sweeping will be in Westford for the next several weeks to assist the town with sweeping all 152 miles of town owned streets. Street sweeping is just one of the many requirements of the town's MS4 stormwater permit issued by the EPA. Sweeping not only makes streets look cleaner but also helps protect the environment by preventing litter, sediment, and other harmful pollutants from entering our local waterbodies and ultimately our drinking water supply. The street sweeping work is being funded using recently adopted stormwater management utility fees.



## Westford Parks & Recreation

### After School with Westford Partnership for Children

Parks & Rec's Westford Partnership for Children After School Enrichment Program (WPC), will be running through June 18, Monday - Friday, from school dismissal to 5:45 p.m.

The program is available to *all of Westford's K-5 students* and will operate at the following schools: Crisafulli, Robinson, and Nabnasset. Miller School children may attend either the Nabnasset or Robinson Schools. Abbot and Day children may attend the Crisafulli School. Families of children attending Miller, Abbot, and Day schools will be responsible for arranging transportation to the after school program.

Learn more or register at [About WPC](#) on [westfordrec.com](#).



Focusing on colors at the Robinson School

### Summer All Week, Every Week, with Parks & Recreation

Our **Summer Weekly Program** activities are designed for each program's mission and age group. Led by the WPC Site Directors, these lively, full-week programs are staffed with energetic counselors – high school and college aged – who are First Aid and CPR certified.

Choose up to ten weeks of full day and full week programming with early arrival, and extended day options:

#### Summer Beach Party at Destination Exploration, EBC

This program runs at East Boston Camps during the first and last two weeks of summer – just when you need it! For ages 4-13.

#### Kids Club at the Nabnasset School

Fast-paced, fun-filled activities in a perfect summer setting, both inside and outside. Swim lesson options! For ages 4-13.

#### Destination Exploration (D.E.)

Classic summertime activities in a classic summertime setting at East Boston Camps (EBC). For ages 7-13.

Learn more or register at [About Summer Weekly Programs](#) on [westfordrec.com](#).



Lots of excitement at Kids Club, Nabnasset School



Enjoying a new friend at Destination Exploration, EBC

### Heading your Way

Parks & Recreation programming for squirts, youth, and adults will be running throughout the spring and summer, including:

#### NEW Beach Yoga at Forge Pond

*Starting this June.*

#### Golf with Seth Dichard, for Squirts, Juniors, and Adults

*New sessions starting in June.*

#### Marcus Lewis Tennis Extension Programs (MLTEP), for all levels

*New sessions starting in June.*

#### Swimming Instruction at Edwards Beach, for all levels

*Starting this June.*

Learn more or register at [Programs](#) on [westfordrec.com](#).



Check out Parks & Rec programs starting in July, like Speed & Agility with DJ Brock, Flag Football, GG Leagues Egaming, Stand Up Paddleboard Yoga and Nitehawks Summer Track and Field.

Learn more about Westford Parks & Recreation at [westfordma.gov](#). For recreation programming, visit [westfordrec.com](#). Westford Parks & Recreation, 65 Main Street, Westford, MA 01886 | 978-692-5532

## May at the J.V. Fletcher Library

Unless otherwise noted, the following programs are made possible by the Friends of the Library.



**Tales and Tales Summer Reading Program for all ages!** : This summer we have exciting programs and prizes lined up for children, young adults, and adults! We are offering some virtual programming but the majority of our offerings will take place outside, socially distanced, and in-person! Stay tuned and check out our website for updates as we put the finishing touches on Summer Reading 2021!! **Registration for all three programs opens on June 7!**

**In-House Browsing Appointments – The Stacks are open for browsing!** : Appointments are for 45 minutes and are available on the hour Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. and Wednesday evening at 7 and 8 p.m. Each reservation is for one person, with a limit of 10 per hour and disinfection occurring prior to the next appointment. **All collections are open to adults for browsing.** At this time, patrons under the age of 18 will be referred to the [Browsing Tent](#) for an outside appointment. [Make an appointment](#) via our Events Calendar (select a date and sign up under “Main Floor browsing”) or call the Information Desk at 978-399-2304.



**Mother Goose** is held **OUTSIDE every Thursday at 10:30 a.m.** If the weather looks sketchy, we will meet on Zoom so that you can watch from home. We ask that you register for each session through the [Library Events Calendar](#) so that we can send you the Zoom link – hopefully the night before – if we need to move inside. We also ask that you register so that we know how many are coming. Can't wait to see you all in person!

**Virtual Story Time Ballet Sleeping Beauty with the Dream Ballet School: Tue, May 18 at 10:30 a.m.** In this interactive program, Emily Gilstrap of the Dream Ballet School presents a virtual adventure that brings the story of Sleeping Beauty to life through music and dance. Register for this program through the [Library Events Calendar](#). Your registration confirmation includes the Zoom invitation link and passcode.

**Virtual Sheet Pan Meals with Liz Barbour: Thu., May 20 at 7 p.m.** Cooking on a large pan makes your meal crispy, colorful, and intensely flavorful. Chef Liz Barbour will demonstrate two recipes and give you ideas for many more. Register for this program through the [Library Events Calendar](#) to get the Zoom link. Questions? Email Sarah Regan at [sregan@westfordma.gov](mailto:sregan@westfordma.gov).

**Virtual Where Do We Go From Here? Why We Need Reparations for Black Americans: Thu., May 25 at 7:00 p.m.** Join Dr. Brandon Crowley as he speaks about the economic injustices that have persisted since slavery and how these injustices have led to a wealth gap between white and Black Americans. How can we as a nation go about righting these wrongs? What role would reparations play and how would eligibility be determined? Register for this program through the [Library Events Calendar](#). This program will also be live streamed to Facebook where registration is not required. Hosted and presented in partnership with the Burlington Public Library and made available to Westford residents.

## April at the J.V. Fletcher Library (Continued)

Check out our [Museum Passes page](#) or call the Library for reservations. Unless otherwise noted, our museum passes are generously funded by the Friends of the Library. [Have you joined the Friends yet?](#)

**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](mailto:dkanabar@westfordma.gov) for more information.

**Virtual Monday Mystery, Adult Non Fiction, Thursday Night Book Club:** All of our adult book clubs continue to meet virtually. Please visit [westfordlibrary.org/events/adult-book-clubs/](http://westfordlibrary.org/events/adult-book-clubs/) for more information and upcoming meeting dates!

**Virtual English Conversation Circle: every Tue., at 3:30 p.m.** Conversation Circles are back, this time on Zoom! Practice your English conversation skills and meet new friends in a relaxed and friendly environment! This program meets every Tuesday afternoon from 3:30. to 4:30 p.m. and is led by Carol Morse. [Register through our Events Calendar. Registration is required.](#) After you register, you'll receive the Zoom link via email. Each Zoom link is unique, so you must register for each session you wish to attend. If you don't receive the emails, please check your spam folders.

### Quick Links to Our Most Popular Services!

[Book an In-House Browsing Appointment](#)

[Book Bundles for Kids, Teens, and Adults](#)

[Book the Browsing Tent](#)

[Curbside Pickup Service](#)

[Programs – Adults](#)

[Programs – Kids](#)

[Programs – Young Adults](#)

[Virtual Device Advice](#)

If you have questions or need assistance, please call us at 978-399-2300 or send us an email at [westfordlibrary@westfordma.gov](mailto:westfordlibrary@westfordma.gov).

## Cameron Senior Center

### The Cameron is glad to be open and seeing faces of our adult community ages 55+

(Although we are open and adding programs back into our center walls, we still require individuals to make a scheduled appointment to participate in exercise classes, programming, fitness center and more- just give us a call at 978-692-5523)

### Jodi Ross, Town Manager and Nancy Cook, COA Board Chair recently recognized Helena "Mickey" Crocker for 51 years of service as a COA Board Member

Jodi Ross shared sentiments that reflected the COA's deep appreciation of Mickey's over five decades of outstanding leadership in forming the Westford Council on Aging, advocating for a senior center known as the Cameron Senior Center located in the former Cameron School.

Ross, concluded that Mickey's sincere work will be remembered from her beginning efforts with forming the Golden Age Club to present enriching programs, critical support services and friendships that have improved the quality of life of older adults in town.



(L to R) Nancy Cook, "Mickey" Crocker, and Jodi Ross, Town Manager

### Join DJ Dogs Tailgate at the Cameron

On Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at noon come join us for a rockin' lunch with DJ Rob who will play Oldies Music and enjoy a hot dog lunch (hot dog, bags of chips, drink and a bag of cookies) in our parking lot.



Join us for a fun afternoon with music, friends and more. Cost-\$4 Please RSVP to 978-692-5523.

We would like to thank the **Greater Lowell Community Foundation** for subsidizing this event from a recent grant.

### Tuesday Golf at Quail Ridge Golf Club- 354 Great Road, Acton

Now through October the Cameron is glad to offer tee time at 7:30AM for nine holes of play. One must be a Westford resident and state at check-in to receive discounted rate as mentioned. Cost: \$20 walking or \$30 with cart. Call Quail Ridge at 978-264-0399 to schedule your tee time and for information about cart use under COVID-19 guidelines.



### A Potpourri of Poems- A virtual concert presented by Cantabile

This concert performance is provided by Westford's Jeanne Masterman, pianist/ musician, Laurie Oliver, soprano, and Rachel Muller, pianist which will turn poetry into music. An example of the collection is *A Girls Garden* by Robert Frost, *The Grass* by Emily Dickinson and *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud* by William Wordsworth.

To receive your YouTube link to watch these timeless poems put to song call 978-692-5523.

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## Cameron Senior Center

### Ken Clough's TRIVIA Night is Back and Fun Fridays...

Many will be marking their calendar for **Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup> from 10AM - noon**

Are you excited our Trivia King is back? We are because it feels like almost old times again. Come start your late AM off challenging your brain and favorite

Cameron Trivia challengers over some breakfast pastries and coffee. We will meet under the tent and like always a real fun time and perhaps a little competitive. Prizes and perhaps you can get our Trivia King's autograph.

Space is limited please RSVP to 978-692-5523



### Father's Day Tailgate with Eastern Bank



In honors of many of our fathers throughout the Cameron community our COA is glad to have Westford's very own **Brian Ryder** prepare a scrumptious BBQ plate with pulled pork sandwiches, cole slaw, chips, ice cream and beverage. Special gifts will be provided by Eastern Bank. Fathers are FREE and guests are welcome as well with a minimal cost of \$5. Bring a lawn chair and don't forget to

RSVP 978-692-5523.

### Social Services and Outreach offers:

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. The last year of the Covid-19 Pandemic has taken a toll on many folks' mental health. We know that there has been a significant increase in depression and anxiety in the US during the pandemic. Covid-19 stress and isolation has also contributed to worsening substance abuse and substance use disorder relapses for many who have been in remission. There are some important resources listed on the Town home page to know about if you or someone you care about needs help. You may also call Alison Christopher, LICSW-Town Social Worker at 978-399-2325 for support, assistance, and referrals.

### Caregiver Movie Series

Join *Annette* and *Alison* the last Wednesday of the month from 1-4PM to watch a movie about the caregiver role in various circumstances and health conditions. After the movie, we will host a brief discussion of the movie's themes and participant impressions and experiences. We plan to host this series for 6 months and we will try to choose a variety of situations to explore through cinematic art! Here are the first two movies in the series:

May 26 - ***Still Alice*** (2014) *Caring for a spouse/parent with early-onset Alzheimer's*

When renowned linguistics professor Alice Howland starts to forget her beloved words, her world quickly spins with the harsh reality: early-onset Alzheimer's. An adaptation of Lisa Genova's acclaimed 2007 novel, the movie transparently chronicles Alice's battle to hide her neurological disease and find coping strategies. Julianne Moore's award-winning performance in the movie demonstrates the cognitive decline Alzheimer's patients experience and the challenges family caregivers must tackle daily.

### LIHEAP- Fuel Assistance extended this year until May 28<sup>th</sup>

If you have had difficulty paying your heating bills this winter, there is still time to apply and have your benefit paid to your heating vendor for costs incurred after November 1, 2020. For more information call Alison or Annette at 978-399-2325.

## Cameron Senior Center



### **Vegetable Distribution every Thursday, start date, June 3rd**

We are excited to continue our relationship with Gaining Grounds of Concord, as they once again offer their organic produce weekly to all Westford residents who meet income guidelines (fuel assistance criteria). To participate, sign an income attestation on the day of produce pick up. Please bring your own pen for sanitary purposes. This distribution will be held at the Westford Housing Authority, 65 Tadmuck Rd, in the community center parking lot. People are encouraged to wait in their cars or apartments and not in groups nor in the community center hallway. Because this program is so desirable people often arrive early so, we will pass out disposable numbers starting at 1:00. The freshly picked and packaged vegetables will be pre-bagged and distributed at 1:30. Any questions call Annette at 978-399-2326.

### **Home repairs and/or Maintenance Needs Sign up for help by Friday, June 4<sup>th</sup>**

The United Methodist Church in Westford and West Chelmsford have a group of youth, young adults and their adult mentors who will be **offering help the week of July 11<sup>th</sup>**. The volunteers will be working together to complete jobs for those who are unable to pay and/or physically not able to do the work. Jobs are selected and completed on greatest need. Ex. of repairs that can be done include installing railings, finishing steps, removing wood rot, painting and yard work. You will be required to sign a release that volunteers can be on your property and do requested work. For more information call Annette at 978-399-2326.

Dave Crocker over the winter grows tomato plant. Recently he shared ten healthy plantings for members of our center to take home and try their green thumb at growing fresh tomatoes.



**Coming Up: Annual Cornhole Double Elimination Tournament, Friday, June 29th so mark your calendar.**

Please check our newsletter for more program and service offering at [www.westfordma.gov/coa](http://www.westfordma.gov/coa), [www.facebook.com/CameronSeniorCenter/](https://www.facebook.com/CameronSeniorCenter/), calling 978-692-5523 or stopping by at 20 Pleasant Street.



Westford Senior Center

## Westford Coalition for Non-Violence

Westford Coaliton for Non-Violence, WCNV, Westford Health Dept and Westford Police Association have come together to collect personal care items for the women staying locally, in domestic violence shelters. These donated gifts are to be presented to these women for Mother's Day. The items include: Market Basket gift cards, shampoos, toothpaste/tooth brushes, soaps, deodorant, razors, nail files, nail polish, bath sponges, detergent/dryer sheets, scrunchies for their hair, and many other personal care items, along with laundry baskets to put all the gifts into. The Alternative House will disseminate the baskets to the women staying in shelters. Our hope is that this small gesture can bring a smile to their faces, even though they are going through a very difficult time.



If you, or someone you know, is being abused call the national domestic violence hotline for help **1-800-799-7233** or 24-hour crisis hotline: **1-888-291-6228** or local line: **1-978-454-1436**. There is **NO EXCUSE FOR ABUSE!**



## Health Department Education Programming 2021

### Westford Realtor Webinar

The Westford Health Department hosted a realtor webinar on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Over 25 realtors attended the webinar. The webinar provided an opportunity for local realtors to learn and gather information on the towns fire inspection requirements for home sales, well and septic information, water testing, educational handouts, and to ask all their questions. A special thank you to the Westford Fire, Water, and Building departments for presenting and being available for questions.

### National Public Health week was April 6<sup>th</sup> thru the 12<sup>th</sup>

The Westford Health Department honored National Public Health Week by offering daily events and education on array of public health topics for the community. A weeklong Hopscotch challenge and family Zumba class were just some of the activities offered for trophies and prizes.



Congratulations to the Eaton Family for winning the “Best Hopscotch Design” trophy and the “Best Neighborhood Design” Trophy!!!! See their video here....

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nA0-b9amv8k>

Congratulations to the Teninbaum-Brandsgaard Family for winning the “Best Hopscotcher” trophy.

Watch for additional programming from the Health Department this year!



## Recycling Commission



### ELECTRONICS & MORE Collection 2021 Recap

Our new traffic flow (developed by the Highway Department with the cooperation of the vendor, Northeast Materials Handling, in adding a third collection line and bring traffic around the facility) once again worked perfectly and our residents had a very positive experience with reasonable wait times (10-20 minutes) in the first hour and just minutes thereafter. The Highway Department was outstanding in their support of the event as usual.

Results for the Electronics collection are still being tabulated by Northeast Materials Recycling but the light iron measure was definitely substantial:

Light Iron – 14,340 lbs.

In any case, this is an incredible diversion from our waste stream!!

### HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE Collection Recap

On Saturday May 8, 2021, the Westford Recycling Commission held a successful Household Hazardous Waste collection at the Westford Highway Department.

Over 400 residents pre-registered for the event, and 312 attended. Typical turnout is 300 residents. Nearly 22,000 pounds of liquid and solid waste was collected and will be safely disposed of by [Clean Harbors](http://www.cleanharbors.com/location/braintree-facility) ([www.cleanharbors.com/location/braintree-facility](http://www.cleanharbors.com/location/braintree-facility)).

Once the event was underway, wait times rarely exceed 15 minutes (far below the typical 30-60 minute wait time). The reduced wait times were a result of improved traffic flow (thank you to the Highway Department and Geographic Information Systems Department) and a pre-registration process that ensured residents arrival was distributed throughout the duration of the event.

If you missed the Hazardous Waste Collection event, please refer to this Westford Recycling Commission [web page \(westfordma.gov/1216/Westford-Hazardous-Waste-Collection\)](http://westfordma.gov/1216/Westford-Hazardous-Waste-Collection).

### Congratulations to our residents!

**Future events will be published in the Recycling Guide sent to all residents this summer.**

**Please visit [www.westfordma.gov/recycling](http://www.westfordma.gov/recycling)  
for your recycling and trash questions.  
Reduce! Reuse! Repurpose! Recycle!**

## Engineering Department

The Oak Hill Road, Plain Road, and Moore Road Water, Stormwater, & Transportation Improvement Project broke ground this month. The \$6.6 million construction contract was awarded to C.C. Construction, Inc. and is being funded by the Water Enterprise Fund, Stormwater Enterprise Fund, and the General Fund.

In total, the project will involve installing more than 7,300 feet of new water main, 7,800 feet of new drainage pipe, 130 new drainage structures, 5,600 feet of new sidewalk, the reconstruction of 3,600 feet of existing sidewalk, and approximately 1.75 miles of road paving.

The project will be completed in multiple phases. The focus of the 2021 construction season will be to replace and upgrade both the water distribution & drainage systems on Oak Hill Road and install new granite curbing to support the new sidewalk. The Oak Hill Road phase of the project is scheduled to be completed in the spring of 2022 with the installation of the new sidewalk and final roadway paving. The Plain Road and Moore Road phases are scheduled to begin in the spring of 2022 once Oak Hill Road is completed.



*Asphalt Zipper® pulverizing pavement prior to water main trench excavation*



*Water main trench excavation*



*New ductile iron water main & valve*



*Water main installation*