



Town of Westford Massachusetts

Town Manager's Newsletter

April 2022



Jodi Ross,
Town
Manager

jross@westfordma.gov
www.westfordma.gov/tm

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**Deadline to register to
vote in local election
Wednesday, April 13 at
8 PM**

**Invasive Species
Inventory and
Management Plan with
Tree Planting Plan
Thursday, April 14 at 7 PM**

**Annual Town Meeting
June 11, 2022
(June 12 rain date)
Westford Academy Field**

WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS
**50 BEST
PLACES
TO LIVE
IN AMERICA**

MONEY MAGAZINE - 2021

46th

Watch



www.westfordcat.org

Dear Westford residents,

On Monday, April 18th (Patriots' Day), the town will be having upgrades performed on our municipal office phone lines. 9-1-1 will continue to work for emergencies. Comcast estimates it will take approximately 6 hours to complete the required upgrades, during which our office phone numbers will be out of service. If you need to reach any town department on April 18th, please call (978) 727-8888 and your call will be redirected to the desired department. Please note that this number will only be operational on April 18th.

The League of Women Voters is holding a Candidates Night for all those running for local elections. It is being held virtually on Wednesday, April 13th from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Here is a link to the meeting: [LWV Westford Candidates' Night](#).

The deadline to register to vote in our local election is 8pm on Wednesday, April 13th. New polling locations will go into effect starting with this upcoming election on Tuesday, May 3rd, 2022. For more information, please visit the following link: [2022 Election Information](#).

In July 2021 we received an [MVP Action Grant](#) from the state to complete a "Westford Tree and Invasive Species Inventory and Management Plan". A virtual public forum will be held to discuss the topic on Thursday, April 14th, from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. For more information, please visit the following link: [Westford Tree and Invasive Species Inventory Management Plan](#).

April is Earth Month and on Friday, April 22nd, from 3:00 PM to 5:30 PM, an Earth Day Festival will be held on our Town Common. To find out more information about this event and other Earth Month activities, please visit the following link: [Westford Earth Month April 2022](#).

Members of the Men's Over 30 Softball League conducted their second annual Spring Field Cleanup at the Forge Softball Fields. Members worked diligently to clear all the debris from the field. Thank you to all who participated in this charitable action. (Pictured right)



At the Select Board's meeting on March 22nd, Select Board Member Hazelton announced the Fire Training Facility Project was reviewed by the Planning Board and was approved. The Town Manager's Office is currently working to develop a request for proposals to identify a qualified vendor to provide the proposed fire training equipment. Concurrently, the Engineering Department is developing a separate invitation for bids for the required site work at the new training site located at 60 Forge Village Road.

(Continued on next page)

WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV

At that same meeting, the board considered a recommendation from the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee to rename Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day in our town. After discussion, the Select Board voted to bring their recommendation forward as a ballot question at the September 6th election and will continue discussion to determine how to best provide opportunities for community input.

The Select Board approved a request from the Hanover Company to enter into a development agreement supporting an affordable housing project at 250 Littleton Road through the Local Initiative Program. The Select Board authorized Planning Department staff and Town Counsel to prepare a draft development agreement.

On Tuesday, April 12th, the Select Board continued their review of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding requests to determine allocations. They were presented with a recap of projects approved and funding available to date. The Select Board approved requests at this meeting in the amount of \$149,625 for the following projects:

- \$65,000 to provide WiFi connectivity for internet service at our low-income housing communities including: Tadmuck Senior Housing, Church and Cross Street Senior Housing, and Westford Housing Authority Family Housing
- \$12,865 for electronic vote tabulators for Town Meeting (if supported by our voters)
- \$45,460 for a Computerized Maintenance Management System to provide a work order system for our Facilities and Department of Public Works departments
- \$26,300 for a Bridge to Success 5-week supplemental academic summer intervention program

The remaining requests will be continued to the Select Board meeting on April 26th.

The board met jointly with the Permanent Town Building Committee and the Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee to discuss sustainability upgrades to the design of the 51 Main Street Building Project. After consideration, the board voted to support Context's revised proposal for an additional \$92,000. Possible funding mechanisms will be discussed at their next meeting.

Chris Barrett, Chair of the Pedestrian Safety Committee, appeared before the board on behalf of the Committee to request support for an Article for Town Meeting to consider adopting M.G.L. c.90 §17C which would allow the Select Board to establish 25 mph speed limits on certain eligible roads in town. The Select Board support the request.

The Select Board formed a Monuments and Memorials Committee and appointed 7 full members. To view their charge, find out further information, or follow their meetings, you may visit their site here: [Monuments and Memorials Committee](#).

The Board of Cemetery Commissioners unanimously approved Green Burials in Westford which offers an option for "green" or natural burials in a designated section at our Pine Grove Cemetery. To find out general information on this new offering and to review general guidelines, please visit the following link: [Green Burials in Westford](#).

It is with great pleasure we announce Westford has been awarded a \$94,902 grant through the Community Compact Cabinet's Efficiency and Regionalization grant program. This funding will be used to cover salary and benefit costs associated with a new Regional Sustainability Coordinator position, which will be shared with the town of Carlisle.

(Continued on next page)

The Select Board and I would like to thank the following personnel for their gift donations:

- Cummings Properties for a donation of \$2,000 to be used for the area of greatest need by our Police and Fire Departments
- Kurt Kelly Memorial Foundation for a donation of \$1,500 to be used to enhance access to after school and summer enrichment programs for those with limited financial resources
- Friends of the Cameron for a donation of \$6,500 for the senior dental program and shingles vaccination program
- See a New Sun Foundation in the amount of \$10,5000 to fund a one-year subscription of the Cordico Health and Wellness app for public safety departments

The Select Board recently congratulated Westford Academy's Ghost Robotics Team 3565 on qualifying to compete in the FIRST Robotics Massachusetts State Championship. They also congratulated Westford Academy's Theater Arts' production of *Weird Sister: The Tragedy of Macbeth* for being named Regional Finals Winner at the Massachusetts Educational Theater Guild's Regional Round.

There are several openings on our local boards and committees, including: 35 Town Farm Road Task Force, Access to Town Meeting Committee, Affordable Housing Trust, Agricultural Commission, Board of Cemetery Commissioners, 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, Healthy Westford Committee, Parks, Grounds and Recreation Commission, Pedestrian Safety Committee, Permanent Town Building Committee, Senior Low Income Disabled Tax Relief 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 and submit a Citizen's Activity form at this link: [Citizen Activity Form](#).

Would you like more detailed information on the Select Board's meetings? Click the following links to access: [Select Board Documents](#) & [Select Board Meeting Videos](#).

Please do not forget to vote in our Annual Town Election on Tuesday, May 3rd!

Sincerely,



Jodi Ross
Town Manager



Westford Public Schools

One might think that I enjoy April Fool's Day...I can certainly present like someone who does not take himself seriously and some might say is eager to make a fool of himself. That would not be untrue. I have shared with many that my wife has repeatedly needed to remind me that although I was regularly working with adolescents, I myself was no longer one. But in truth, I typically do not care much for April Fool's Day at all.

As I shared in my video update this week, it was rather foolish for me to think that I could read a book called "Interrupting Chicken" to a class of first graders without being interrupted. We had a great deal of fun bringing David Ezra Stein's characters to life over at the Miller School in Mrs. Brache's class. As I mentioned in the video, it is a wonderful book, but I wouldn't recommend it for bedtime reading.

Something that was fun, sometimes silly, but not at all foolish was the STEM fairs that took place at JAC, Abbot & Day schools this past week. While I wasn't able to make rounds to the exhibitions at all three schools, I did enjoy the wide variety of prototypes and experiments that were set up in the Abbot cafeteria.

On a much more serious note, the Wayland Diversity Town Hall event took place earlier this week. I was able to attend along with members of our School Committee, members of the Select Board, and other leaders and community members from Westford. The ability to connect with our counterparts from Wayland and some other communities, as well, was very helpful in increasing awareness and strengthening resources for us all in our efforts to confront racism and build communities that are welcoming and eager to celebrate differences.

Earlier in the month we held our first round of Restorative Community Circles and we are scheduling more very soon. We want to provide another opportunity for anyone not able to participate initially and provide another round for anyone wishing to extend the conversations. Additionally, we are planning a culminating event similar to our initial webinar to help bring some closure to the specific work being done right now, share feedback from the Community Circles, and discuss plans for continuing to prioritize dismantling bias and developing coherent anti-racist strategies.

During the February vacation, I reached out to our school community about a racist comment posted on a personal social media account of a WPS faculty member. It was extremely upsetting, insensitive and disrespectful to many members of our community. The individual responsible has separated from Westford Public Schools and is no longer an employee of the district. I greatly appreciate the efforts of staff members who have been able to provide support to students impacted throughout this process.

As we turn our focus towards the future, Westford Climate Action is inviting everyone to celebrate Earth Day throughout April: [3:31 WCA Earth Month Press Release.docx](#) A number of our students are participating in events leading up to the event. It is often challenging that Earth Day takes place during the school vacation week making it difficult for some students and families to participate in activities.

Finally, I have received a few concerns about people not actually utilizing the at-home rapid tests in the manner in which it is expected but in turn are storing the tests or sharing the tests with others. If you signed up to participate in the at-home rapid testing, please remember that the intent of the distribution is that students and staff will be regularly testing to monitor any potential exposure.

So, while we have covered a rather interesting range of topics in this update, even though April Fool's is not really my thing, I am always happy to hear a good rendition of *Send in the Clowns*.

Isn't it rich?

Cheers!

Chris

Dr. Christopher Chew
Superintendent
Westford Public Schools



April at the J.V. Fletcher Library

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



Friends of the Library e-newsletter: The best way to learn about our upcoming programs and new services is through the FOL weekly e-newsletter. [Sign up here.](#)

Registration is now open for April School Vacation programs!

WBZ-TV Meteorologist Sarah Wroblewski: Tues., April 19 at 11:00 a.m. Sarah will be Zooming in with us to tell us about her career as a meteorologist. She will tell us how she got there, show us the studio where she works, and learn how meteorologists make a forecast. She will tell us all about weather and the difference between weather and climate, clouds, and extreme weather. There will be a Q&A at the end if time allows – she will be on air at noon! This program is geared toward school aged kids in grades K and up. Special thanks to Westford Climate Action (<https://westfordclimateaction.org/>) for working with us to bring this program to the library. Please [register](#) through the Library Events Calendar to receive the Zoom invitation.

Turn Pizza Boxes into Pizza with Fat Moon Mushrooms: Tues., April 19 at 2:00 p.m. For kids in grades K and up: Mushrooms are for more than eating! Explore the curious world of fungi with Farmer Elizabeth Almeida from Fat Moon Mushrooms. As we learn about the lifecycle of mushrooms, we'll see how they can solve our waste problem by turning pizza boxes back into pizza. Kids will take home their very own mycelium starter to begin decomposing pizza (and amazon!) boxes. Please note that this program takes place outside and in-person so dress for the spring weather! Space is limited so please register children only (grades K and up) - adults of course can stay to watch and help your child. Please [register](#) through the Library Events Calendar.

Library Garden Installation with Fresh Start Food Gardens: Wed., April 20 at 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 12:00 p.m. Please sign up for ONE time slot. This program is for children ages 4 to 10 accompanied by an adult caregiver. The library is getting a garden and YOU get to help us! Our local friend Christine Berthold from Fresh Start Food Gardens will be installing 10 large portable grow bags on the south side of the library. Kids are invited to come mix the soil, fill the bags, and plant some seeds while learning all about fun organic gardening practices. Once installed, Christine will be back for more garden maintenance programs May through August. In the meantime, kids can come to the children's desk to get a task to help us take care of what we hope will become a library community garden. Please [register](#) for this program. Special thanks to Westford Climate Action (<https://westfordclimateaction.org/>) for working with us to bring these Earth Day week programs to the library.

Teen & Tween Upcycled Book Art: Wed., April 20 at 2:00 p.m. Join YA Librarian, Jess for a celebration of Earth Day! Jess will provide inspiration and assistance, but this will be an open crafting space where you can create any style of art or craft you feel like creating. Recycled books and art supplies will be provided, but feel free to bring your own materials to supplement (upcycle your old art projects or school work!) Please [register](#) for this program.

Terrific Turbines with Katharine Hinkle, Two sessions: Tue., April 21 at 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. A major threat to the health of the Earth is greenhouse gas pollution. Did you know that the town of Westford is working towards reducing our greenhouse gas pollution to zero by the year 2050? One of the many ways that we can do this is by getting the electricity that we use every day from renewable sources that produce no greenhouse gasses. Wind power is an important part of that plan. Kids ages 8 to 12 are invited to learn about wind power with Katharine Hinkle, a member of the Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee. In this make and take event, you will learn about how wind turbines generate electricity and you will make your own working turbine that will power an LED light. Please [register](#) for one session only.

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

Teen & Tween Blackout Poetry: Thu., April 21 at 2:00 p.m. Create your own unique and artistic poems using just a sharpie and an old book or newspaper! Snacks will be provided - email jdymment@westfordma.gov if you have any food allergies or dietary restrictions. Please [register](#) for this program.

Bollywood Funk Dance Class: Fri., April 22 at 1:00 p.m. Learn Bollywood Funk! Instructor Chavi Bansal will develop your foundation by teaching Bollywood rhythm, coordination and strength in a fun, interactive way. Learn basic footwork, grooves, rhythm patterns and hand gestures. Held on the library's back lawn. Rain date is Saturday, April 23rd at 1:00 p.m. Ages ten and up. Wear casual clothing and comfortable shoes. [Register here](#). **Limited to 30 people.** If you are an adult chaperoning a participating child, but you are not participating yourself, you only need to register your child. If you are registering more than one participant, you must register each one separately. Questions? Email sregan@westfordma.gov.

Animal Craze Traveling Farm on the Common: Fri., April 22 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. As part of the Westford Earth Day Celebration hosted by Westford Climate Action and the town Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee, the J.V. Fletcher Library is excited to host Animal Craze petting zoo as our contribution to the event. The traveling farm features a lamb, baby goats, a piglet, chicks, ducklings, AND baby bunnies. A knowledgeable farmer will introduce kids to the animals and help them to feed, brush, and hold them. They are also there to answer questions and make sure everyone including the animals are having fun. No registration necessary. This event will take place on the Westford Common.

JVF Teen Lounge: Fri., April 29 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Meet up in the library Meeting Room for a Friday afternoon lounge. Come prepared to do anything you want: bring your sketchbook, favorite card game, whatever you're reading right now - or just bring yourself! We'll have a build-your-own boba bar and plenty of things to do. Hope to see you there! No registration required.

Join us for the following Adult Programs!

Virtual Financial Literacy Workshops for Young Adults: Wed. Apr. 20, all at 7:00 p.m. Four-part series from the Babson Literacy Financial Project for young adults (**17 to 30-year-olds**). Hosted & sponsored by the Tewksbury Public Library & made available to Westford residents. Visit our [Adult Programs page](#) to learn more about this series.

Virtual Discover India Series: Mon., May 2 & 9, all at 7:00 p.m. Hosted by the India Association of Greater Boston, this series of four virtual programs explores some of India's exciting facts, places, people, and architecture. For middle schoolers, teens, and adults. Register through the [Library Events Calendar](#) to receive a single Zoom link for all four programs.

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?](#)

Quick Links to Our Most Popular Services!

[Programs - Adults](#)

[Programs - Kids](#)

[Programs - Young Adults](#)

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

Cameron Senior Center

Offering diverse spring activities for all to *Enjoy!*

CHINESE CULTURAL LUNCHEON

Wednesday, April 20, at 1pm

We will be celebrating with Chinese food, decorations, and crafts to learn about different cultures and traditions within our community. Don't forget to wear lucky colors (green, yellow, red and blue) to this event! Cost \$5. RSVP at 978.692.5523 Special thanks to the Friends of the Cameron for their financial sponsorship of this event.

MEET & GREET

Tuesday, April 26 at 5:30pm

Do you have the COVID Blues? Feel lonely sometimes? Would you enjoy some companionship/ meet need friends? Join hosts Katie and Annette for fun icebreaking activities. Enjoy the company of people in our community and make some new connections, friendships, and who knows, maybe a new love interest! Light appetizers and finger foods will be served. Please sign up at the front desk at 978.692.5523.

Special thanks to the Friends of the Cameron for their financial sponsorship of this event.

Cameron Center Transportation Department

Serving Westford's Senior Residents aged 55 and up and disabled of all ages. We Provide Local Van Trips for Medical Appointments, Shopping, and Social events.

Rides to Emerson Hospital, Nashoba Valley Medical Center, Lowell General Hospital, and other local medical offices, shops, Town Meetings, activities, and events within our operating area of:

Westford, Chelmsford, Littleton, Groton, Carlisle, Ayer, Acton, Concord, and Lowell.

Weekly trips to Market Basket on Tuesdays. Weekly Bingo Rides on Monday and Friday.

Suggested Donation for round trip fares:

- Westford: \$3
- Chelmsford, Acton, Groton, Littleton, and Carlisle: \$6
- Ayer, Concord, and Lowell: \$8

Need transportation within our operating area? Give us a call at (978) 399-2322

Monday - Friday First ride at 8:00 AM – Last ride at 3:30 PM.

Medical rides take precedence. 48 business hours notice required.



Westford Senior Center

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

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

Recycling Commission

The Recycling Commission will be hosting these diversion events coming up soon to keep your items from the trash –



Brush Chipping

Saturday, April 23rd, 10:30 am - 4:30 pm
Westford Highway Garage, 28 North Street

Please unload your brush as directed by the Highway Department personnel. Deposit your \$10 check, payable to the Town of Westford, in the marked container.

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 only, payable to the Town of Westford, deposited in the marked container.

Electronics & More Collection

Saturday, April 30th, 9 am - 1pm
Westford Highway Garage, 28 North Street

This is a fee-based collection FOR WESTFORD RESIDENTS ONLY. Westford utilizes the services of Northeast Materials Handling of Ayer, Massachusetts. CASH OR CHECK ONLY (checks must be made out to "Northeast Material Handling, Inc.") The Town of Westford receives no proceeds from this event.

For traffic safety reasons, entry to the access road off of North Street will not be allowed until 8:45 AM. Residents arriving prior to 8:45 will be turned away.

The Northeast Materials' staff will take the items from your vehicle and collect fees from the driver's side window.

***** WE DO NOT ACCEPT TOY PLASTICS, AT ALL *****

For a list of acceptable Items: some free and some chargeable, visit

www.westfordma.gov/recycling. If you have any questions about what is

acceptable, please feel free to call 978-772-4545 or email: Francine@liquidatedstuff.com

(Continued on next page)

Reduce! Reuse! Repurpose! Recycle!

Recycling Commission (Continued)

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Saturday, May 14th, 9 am - 1pm

Westford Highway Garage, 28 North Street

The Westford Recycling Commission (WRC) is running a pilot to hold a Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection event this Spring, on May 14th, on what, for Westford, would be an "off year." Typically, Westford holds HHW events every other year. Our schedule is less frequent than most other area towns, which hold HHW collections every year, if not twice a year.

In holding this pilot, the WRC aims to:

1. Evaluate whether the number of participating households changes with an annual schedule. (Average participation for Westford HHW events taking place every other year is 300 households.)
2. Implement new strategies designed to reduce the cost to Westford to hold HHW events, making an annual schedule more viable. For example, this year, the HHW "Flyer" was incorporated into the annual Recycling Guide and not sent as a separate piece (which costs \$2500 for printing and mailing).
3. Make it possible for Westford residents to access some other area town's HHW Collection events (held throughout 2022), through a reciprocal agreement sponsored by the state's Department of Environmental Protection. (This reciprocity is possible only in years where Westford holds an HHW Collection event and grants a manageable amount of access to other participating towns.)



Funding for this pilot will come from a Mass State DEP Grant and fees from participating residents. No funding was appropriated at Town Meeting for this year's collection.

Westford HHW Collection Event Announcement

On Saturday, May 14, from 9am-1pm, the Westford Recycling Commission will hold a Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection at the Westford Highway Department (28 North Street). The collection is only for Westford households (no businesses). To help minimize wait times, online PRE-REGISTRATION by May 7th will be required.

Please note there is a fee:

- \$30 for up to 10 pounds and/or gallons of waste. (For example, a 5-pound bag of fertilizer, a 1/2 gallon of oil-based paint, and a pint of solvent.)
- \$50 for up to 25 pounds and/or gallons of waste. (For example, a 20-pound bag of pesticide and 5 gallons of various toxic liquids.)
- Important: Volumes exceeding a combined 25 pounds and/or gallons of waste will be subject to additional fees to cover the added costs.

Online Pre-registration will open on April 23rd: <https://forms.gle/WJ2M2rGfFaqBML3M9>

Note that some types of hazardous waste such as motor oil, batteries (including automotive/tractor lead acid batteries, button batteries, and rechargeable batteries), and fluorescent tubes and lightbulbs can be recycled locally, year-round, and for no fee. For details, refer to the Westford Recycling Commission's "[How to Recycle Most Everything](#)" document.

For more information on Westford's Hazardous Waste Collection, refer to the Westford Recycling Commission web site: www.westfordma.gov/recycling. **(Continued on next page)**

Recycling Commission (Continued)



The Recycling Commission will Sponsor a drawing on Earth Day!

Earth Machine Drawing at Earth Day Festival April 22nd

You could be the winner of a free Earth Machine! Enter the drawing for a free Earth Machine at the Westford Recycling Commission table at the Earth Day Festival on April 22nd from 3-5:30 on the Westford Town Common (rain date April 23rd). We will have a demonstration of the Earth Machine for backyard composting and general recycling information.

At the Earth Day Festival there will be music, speakers, and several education tables with experts to answer questions on alternative energy, sustainability, recycling, solar, heat pumps for heating and cooling, and MASS SAVE. A poster drawing station/contest will be available for kids. A petting zoo will be there. Native Americans' objects will be on display from the Westford Museum.

The Westford Recycling Commission is a co-sponsor in a month-long family-friendly event being organized by Westford Climate Action. During April, there will be several activities such as litter clean ups, nature trail walks, library talks, and workshops.



Click here for Earth Month information and calendar westfordclimateaction.org/events/

MA resource for "What is Recyclable?" www.RecycleSmartMA.org.

Reduce! Reuse! Repurpose! Recycle!

Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee

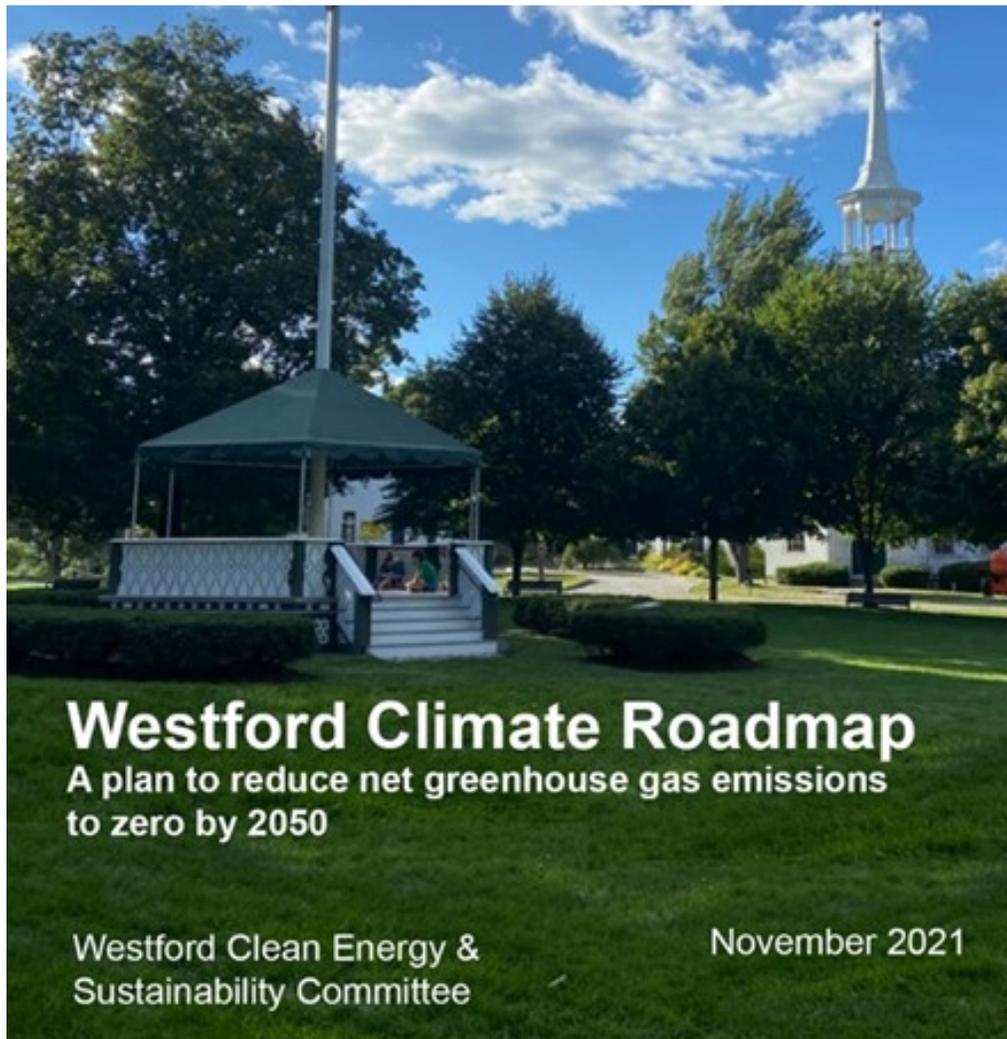
Join Us For The Westford Climate Roadmap Community Forum!

Webinar is Wednesday, April 27 at 7:30 PM

Westford has a plan to fight climate change! Register for this webinar to find out about the specific steps residents, businesses and municipal leaders can take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve sustainability. The Roadmap was developed by Westford's Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee (CEASC).

All are welcome to attend the presentation, ask questions and provide feedback. This event is sponsored by the CEASC and Westford Climate Action.

[REGISTER FOR WEBINAR NOW!](#)



Visit our webpage at: [Clean-Energy-and-Sustainability-Committee](#)

Westford Climate Action

Mark your calendars! Westford Climate Action (WCA) invites everyone to come to the Earth Day Festival on April 22 from 3-5:30 on the Westford Town Common (rain date April 23).

This family-friendly Festival offers something for everyone! Kids can visit the Animal Craze Petting Zoo to learn how to feed, brush, and hold a variety of baby animals. They will also be able to make Earth Day posters and enter their names in a free raffle for prizes.

There will be live music, too, and education tables with experts to answer questions on alternative energy, sustainability, recycling, solar installations, heat pumps for heating and cooling, and Mass Save. The Westford Museum will be displaying Native Americans' objects from its collection. State and local speakers will update us on climate action in their areas.

Two free drawings will be held, one for a rain barrel donated by the Water Department and one for an Earth Machine home composter donated by the Recycling Commission.

Westford Climate Action has also organized several family-friendly Earth Month events to take place throughout April including litter clean ups, nature trail walks, library talks and workshops for both children and adults. Attend one or many events and learn how to reduce our carbon footprint and help preserve our planet. Please click here for Earth Month information and calendar westfordclimateaction.org/events/

Registration for the library talks and workshops can be found at westfordlibrary.org/events/

Saturday trail walks on **April 16 and April 23 at 9 am** are sponsored by the Westford Conservation Trust. Maps and write-ups of the two areas can be found on the Westford Conservation Trust website westfordconservationtrust.org/

The Healthy Westford Committee (HWC) would like residents and workers to do a small task to help the earth, and our lovely town, to recover from the accumulated litter formerly hidden by snow. HWC is encouraging folks to walk around their neighborhoods or business grounds anytime in April/Earth Month and pick up litter. Please recycle all appropriate items and put the rest in your trash. Thank you.

Organizations co-sponsoring Earth Month with WCA include: Westford's Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee, Recycling Commission, First Parish Church United, J.V. Fletcher Library, Indivisible Westford, League of Women Voters of Westford, Mass HeatSmart Alliance, Mass Save, Sustainable Westford, Westford Conservation Trust, Westford Museum and the Westford Boy Scouts. The Earth Day Festival is being partially funded by a Massachusetts Cultural Council grant to Sustainable Westford in collaboration with Westford Climate Action.

Westford Climate Action is a grassroots organization of town residents who are concerned about the climate crisis. Our mission is to drive climate action. We promote sustainability and advocate on a local level for actions that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and safeguard the health of our community for future generations.



Westford Earth Month April 2022



**FAMILY FRIENDLY & EARTH FRIENDLY EVENTS
ALL MONTH LONG**

EARTH DAY FESTIVAL

**APRIL 22, 2022
3:00 to 5:30 PM
WESTFORD COMMON
Rain Date April 23**

Join us at 2:30 for Poster Making!
Live Music, Petting Zoo, Arts & Crafts
Learn About Clean Energy,
Sustainability, Recycling,
Rebates & Incentives

**STATE & LOCAL SPEAKERS ON
WESTFORD'S CLIMATE GOALS**

EARTH MONTH ACTIVITIES

**NATURE WALKS
EVERY SATURDAY**

**J.V. FLETCHER LIBRARY
KIDS' EVENTS:**

**Weather & Climate
Mushrooms
Upcycling Art for Teens**

ADULT EVENTS:

**Climate Resiliency Virtual
Presentation
Westford Climate Roadmap Forum**



**FIND OUT MORE AT
WESTFORDCLIMATEACTION.ORG**

CO-SPONSORS: Mass Cultural Council, First Parish Church United, Westford Clean Energy & Sustainability Committee, League of Women Voters of Westford, Westford Conservation Trust, Sustainable Westford, Indivisible Westford, J.V. Fletcher Library, Recycling Commission, HeatSmart Alliance, Mass Save, Westford Museum



Westford Recreation

Westford Partnership for Children

Recreation's WPC program provides a safe, stimulating, and fun environment for school children, grades K-8, during the afterschool hours. The WPC program offers:

- Choice of activities
- Flexible schedules
- Safe and easy transition from classroom to program
- Experienced Site Directors and staff

WPC runs Monday-Friday, school dismissal to 5:45 p.m., with locations at Abbot, Crisafulli, Day, Miller, Nabnasset, Robinson, and Stony Brook Middle School. WPC provides bus transportation from Blanchard to Stony Brook.

Register for any session, at any time. *Learn more at [About WPC](#) at [westfordrec.com](#)*

Special Programs

Westford Recreation provides support for parents and children with full day and full week special programs during school professional development days, parent conferences, and February and April vacations.

April Vacation, K-8, April 19-22

Altitude Trampoline Park, EcoTarium, Stone Zoo, and Kimball Farm!

Town Voting and Professional Development Day, K-8, May 3

Mel's Funway Park!

Choose any or all days – Register Now.

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

Summer Weekly Programs

At Recreation Summer Weekly Programs, kids enjoy activities that relax and engage, like arts & crafts at the Nab, or swimming and s'mores at East Boston Camps. Programs offer flexible full week schedules, early arrival, extended day, and swim lesson options. Enjoy nine weeks of summer fun:

Summer Beach Party at D.E.: Summer program coverage just when you need it – the last week in June and in mid-August.

Kids Club: Fast-paced, fun-filled activities for children at all levels.

Destination Exploration at East Boston Camps:

Classic summertime activities in a classic summertime setting.

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

Seasonal Programs for Youth and Adults

Learn more about Recreation's upcoming seasonal programs, to include

Pre-Tee Ball, Speed & Agility, CPR and First Aid, Flag Football, Nitehawks Track & Field, and the Marcus Lewis Tennis Extension Program,

offering a broad selection of classes, for all levels and age groups, at Robinson and Stony Brook tennis courts in Westford

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

For more about Westford Recreation, visit [westfordma.gov](#).

For recreation programming and registration, visit [westfordrec.com](#).

Westford Recreation, 65 Main Street, Westford, MA 01886 | 978-692-5532



Top to Bottom:
After School Musical with Mr. Ben, WPC; Drumming!, WPC; Hop Scotch, WPC; Where does that maple syrup come from..., March Special Program at Moose Hill; Cooling out with Magic, at Kids Club Summer Weekly Program at Nabnasset.

Town Clerk's Corner

WESTFORD VOTERS



IMPORTANT INFORMATION
THERE ARE THREE ELECTIONS IN 2022

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/voterregistrationsearch/myvoterregstatus.aspx>

WHERE ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

**Are you new to Town? Have you moved within the Town?
Have you responded to your census? Do we have your updated information?**

- If you are a U.S. Citizen and born on or before May 2, 2004 you are eligible to vote in the Town Election as long as you are a registered voter in Westford by April 13, 2022.
- There are seven precincts and two voting locations in Westford. This is a change from the last election.
- Knowing your **Precinct** and **voting status** ahead of time will save you time on Election Day
- Use the **QR code** above to obtain your voting status and precinct information or call the Town Clerk's Office at **978-692-5515**

SAVE TIME. AVOID AGGRAVATION. KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

- Precinct 1: Westford Academy, 30 Patten Road
- Precinct 2: Stony Brook Middle School, 9 Farmer Way
- Precinct 3: Westford Academy, 30 Patten Road
- Precinct 4: Westford Academy, 30 Patten Road
- Precinct 5: Stony Brook Middle School, 9 Farmer Way
- Precinct 6: Stony Brook Middle School, 9 Farmer Way
- Precinct 7: Westford Academy, 30 Patten Road

2022 Election Dates

Tuesday, May 3, 2022
Tuesday, September 6, 2022
Tuesday, November 8, 2022

Election Type

Local Town Election
State Primaries
State Election

Last Day to Register (8:00pm)

Wednesday, April 13, 2022
Wednesday, August 17, 2022
Wednesday, October 19, 2022

Westford League of Women Voters

Westford LWV Voters' Guide Available Now *Candidates' Night Scheduled For Wednesday, April 13*

Election Day – **Tuesday, May 3** – is fast approaching. Each year, the League of Women Voters of Westford sponsors a Voters' Guide for the Town election. Candidates running for local office are asked to provide background information on themselves and to respond to questions pertaining to their candidacy.

This year, elections are being held for Board of Health, Housing Authority, Library Trustees, Planning Board, School Committee, and Select Board. Only two of these races – Board of Health and School Committee – are contested. The LWV Voters' Guide enables residents to learn more about those running for public office before going to the polls.

The LWV of Westford Voters' Guide can be found on the League's website, lwv.westford.org.

In addition, the League's virtual Candidates' Night will be broadcast live on **Wednesday, April 13**, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. All candidates – even those running unopposed – have been invited to participate. Go to lwv.westford.org to register. Candidates' Night will also be recorded and made available on the League's website and Westford CAT's streaming video service and YouTube channel.

The League welcomes and strongly encourages questions from the public. Questions can be submitted both during the broadcast and in advance online until Friday, April 8. Due to time constraints, not all submitted questions may be asked and the League may combine or edit questions for brevity and clarity. The link to submit questions can be found on lwv.westford.org.

Jo-Ann Berry of the League of Women Voters of the Acton Area will be the event moderator.

Westford has changed its voting precincts to reflect the population changes as calculated by the most recent Federal Census. These changes include the addition of a seventh precinct and consolidation of polling locations. Precincts 1, 3, 4, and 7 will vote at Westford Academy. Precincts 2, 5, and 6 will vote at Stony Brook Middle School. Not sure of your precinct? Check the postcard you recently received from the Town Clerk's office or go to wheredoivotema.com.

No-excuse vote by mail and early voting will not be available for this election. Those who can't make it to the polls can vote absentee. Information about who can vote absentee and instructions for requesting an absentee ballot can be found at mailmyballotma.com or contact the Town Clerk's office at townclerk@westfordma.gov or 978-692-5515.

The League of Women Voters of Westford is a nonpartisan political organization of women and men that encourages informed and active participation in government. The League does not support or oppose any candidate or political party. For more information, go to lwv.westford.org.

