



Town of Westford Massachusetts

Town Manager's Newsletter

March 2023

Dear Westford residents,

As I write this introduction to the Town Manager's newsletter, snow is falling quite heavily in what may be the last snow storm of the season. However, seeing that we are in New England, we never know. It is with mixed emotions that I write to tell you that Samantha Gray, Project/Procurement Specialist in the Town Manager's office has departed to take a position in the private sector. Her last day in the office was March 10, 2023 where staff and Boards and Committee's wished her well in her future endeavors. We look forward to filling the role in the next month to support the Town Manager's office.

We continue through the month of March with an eye towards Annual Town Meeting that will be held on Saturday, March 25, 2023 at 10AM at the Westford Academy Gymnasium, 30 Patten Road. The Town Boards, Committees and Staff have had their dress rehearsals over the course of the last three months and are now ready for the main event. All Town Meeting documents are available at the following link: [2023 Annual Town Meeting](#).

If you have any suggestions for added features in future newsletters, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Town Manager's office at (978)-692-5501 or email at klas@westfordma.gov.

The Select Board has recently switched to holding their regularly scheduled meetings in-person at the Town Hall Meeting Room but with hybrid capabilities so participants may have the ability to attend remotely via Zoom. Please see the beginning of each of their published meeting agendas for this meeting information. We are awaiting word from the State if they will extend the remote meeting law.

At the Select Board's meeting on February 28, 2023, the Police Chief, Mark Chambers and Director of Land Use Management, Jeff Morrissette presented a potential draft zoning bylaw to the Select Board to obtain feedback regarding firearms businesses in Westford. The Select Board asked that their feedback be incorporated into a presentation to the Planning Board and then brought back to them at a later date for comments and steps to move forward.

At that same meeting, the Board voted their recommendations on approximately half of the articles for the Annual Town Meeting warrant.

On March 6, 2023, the Select Board, Finance Committee and School Committee held a joint meeting and voted to recommend the FY24 operating budget. The budget to be presented to Town Meeting is a balanced budget.

On March 6, 2023, the Select Board reviewed a portion of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding requests and voted to appropriate ARPA funds in the amount of \$27,193 for FY24 Brightly Computerized Maintenance Management System (asset management software) and to recommend funding the Sustainability Coordinator salary in FY24 consisting of \$43,067 within the operating budget and an additional \$18,457 in ARPA funds. On March 14, 2023, the Select Board voted fund \$18,500 for the Public Health Nurse at 7.5 hours per week in FY24 as requested by the Health Department to bring that position to 37.5 hours per week.

(Continued on next page)



Kristen Las
Town
Manager

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

Sign up to
receive latest town
updates:

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Notifications:



Saturday, March 25, 10AM
Annual Town Meeting
Westford Academy

Earth Day Festival
Town Common
Saturday, April 22, 2-5 PM
(See page 9)

Town Election
May 2
Polls open 7 AM to 8 PM



Watch
westford CAT
community access television
www.westfordcat.org

The Select Board most recently recognized Alan Quan, a Westford Student, for winning first place in the New England Regional Braille Challenge hosted by the Carrol Center for the Blind on February 11, 2023.

On March 14, 2023, PTBC Member Chris Karpinsky and Facilities Director Jeff Goodwin informed the Select Board that the town received no bids for the Cameron Senior Center HVAC project, and they requested authorization to restructure the bid to readvertised which the Board approved. Mr. Karpinsky and Mr. Goodwin additionally requested approval to expend \$300,000 in state ARPA funds to address code compliance and other non-HVAC related issues at the Cameron Senior Center before July 1, 2023 which the Board approved as well.

The Board also met jointly with the Board of Water Commissioners and the Finance Committee to discuss the Water Commissioners intention to raise water rates to fund operating of the public water system and maintain a healthy reserve balance. Water rates have not been increased since 2008 and with the aging system and upcoming required upgrades, there is a need to raise the rates to allow for planned system improvements replenish the reserve fund for unforeseen repairs in the future.

Don't forget to sign up for Rave/Smart911 Emergency Notifications to receive alerts regarding school/town office closings and delays, trash/recycling collection delays, and more directly to your phone or email. If a child is missing, a hurricane or tornado is approaching, a break-in occurs, or general message needs to be sent to the community, this is the most efficient way the town can send quick and accurate information to residents. To find out more information and to sign up for this notification, you may visit the following link: [Smart911](#).

I would like to remind town residents and visitors of the Winter Parking Ban in accordance with c. 199 §23 of the Westford Town Code, there is no on-street parking longer than one hour between 1:00 AM and 8:00 AM from November 1st to April 1st. There is to be no on-street parking of any kind during a snowstorm or following a storm while cleanup is taking place. The Public Works Department's heavy equipment operators and we greatly appreciate your efforts in keeping your property safe, and allowing our drivers to more easily be able to maneuver our large sanders and plows down our narrow roads.

Free sand for snow and ice treatment is available to Westford residents and may be picked up at the entrance of the old Highway Garage located at 30 Beacon Street. There is a five-gallon limit and you must bring a bucket and shovel. If you are elderly or disabled and cannot pick up yourself, you may call our Cameron Senior Center at (978) 692-5523 to coordinate a delivery from our Police Department.

There are several openings on our local boards and committees, including: 35 Town Farm Road Task Force, Affordable Housing Trust, Agricultural Commission, Bylaw Review Committee, Capital Planning Committee, Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee, Commission on Disability, Cultural Council, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, Dog Park Task Force, Economic Development Committee, Election Officer, Healthy Westford Committee, Housing Authority, Permanent Town Building Committee, Scholarship and Grant Committee, Senior Low Income Disabled Tax Relief Committee, and Tax Possession Sale Committee. 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](#).

Sincerely,



Kristen Las

From The Moderator



Please join me for our Annual Town Meeting on March 25 at the Westford Academy gymnasium starting at 10:00 am. Your attendance is important as we vote on some very significant issues. You can check out the Town Moderator's page at the Town of Westford website for more details about the Articles we'll be voting on. There is plenty of parking and an alternative seating area across the hall if you would like to have a little more space.

Why you should come:

Town Meeting is the legislative branch of Westford's government, and all registered Westford voters may attend, speak, and vote at our open Town Meeting. Town Meeting has two primary responsibilities: to approve an annual budget by voting on how we spend our tax dollars and to vote on the Town's local statutes, called bylaws.

If you are a registered voter in Westford you can, and should, participate in Town Meeting. Renters as well as property owners, if registered to vote, may participate. You must attend in person, however; no absentee voting is allowed. If you are not a registered voter, you are welcome to attend Town Meeting as an observer.

Free Transportation:

Free transportation to Town Meeting is available to all Town residents. Please call the Cameron Senior Center at (978) 399-2322 by Wednesday, March 22 to reserve your spot or sign up here: <https://www.westfordma.gov/FormCenter/Senior-Center-19/Transportation-Request-for-Town-Meeting-74>

Free Child Care

Free onsite child care will be provided by the Westford Recreation Department for all residents attending the meeting. You must register by March 22 to reserve your spot and you can do so by either calling the Rec Department at (978) 692-5532 or you can sign up here: https://westfordma.myrec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=29324

Food Truck:

This year, the Say Cheese food truck will be providing artisan lunch sandwiches during our midday break! Please visit <https://westfordma.gov/1479/Town-Meeting-Food-Truck> to see their special menu for Westford's Annual Town Meeting.

Adjourned Meeting:

If the meeting does not finish on Saturday, the adjourned session will be on Monday, March 27, 2023, starting at 7:00 pm at the Westford Academy gymnasium.

Special arrangements or needs:

If you require special accommodations to participate in the meeting, please contact the Town Manager's Office at (978) 692-5500 at least 24 hours in advance.

(Continued on next page)

From The Moderator (continued)

Basic Town Meeting Rules:

Free copies of the Simplified Rules of Parliamentary Procedure will be available at the Town Meeting. "Town Meeting Time: A Handbook of Parliamentary Law" can be borrowed from the library. On line copies of the Warrant Articles and Motions can be found here: <https://westfordma.gov/DocumentCenter/Index/1415>. For general information about the conduct of Town Meeting, including informational videos, please visit the Town Moderator's page at <https://westfordma.gov/891/Town-Moderator>. If you have a question about process during the meeting, and don't want to ask it at the microphone, you may approach any of the "Meeting Mentors" seated on the sidelines. These are volunteers who are knowledgeable about Town Meeting and they are eager to assist and informally answer any questions you may have.

Every item on the Warrant is of importance to how we live here in Westford, none of these items are decided in advance and none can be decided without the voters. We need YOU to participate in our legislative process!

Want to know more about Town Meeting? Here are some resources:

[What is Town Meeting?](#)

[League of Women Voters Guide to Town Meeting](#)

[Town Meeting Explained](#)

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/cis/cistwn/twnidx.htm>



SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Q. Do I have to attend the entire meeting?

A. It would be great if every voter could attend the entire meeting but sometimes life gets in the way. You may attend as much or as little of the meeting as you are able, the Town will benefit from whatever amount of time you can spare.

Q. I don't know anything about the issues, how can I vote on these matters?

A. If you want to educate yourself in advance keep you can find lots of information on the Town website's "Town Meeting" page, but even if you aren't able to do that you can vote soundly just by listening to and considering the presentations of each article at Town Meeting.

Q. I don't like to speak in public, if I attend will I be required to speak?

A. Absolutely not! You are not required to speak at all, only if you want to. And you can vote on each issue – or not – as you see fit.

DEMOCRACY WORKS BEST WHEN THE GREATEST NUMBER OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATE

Please attend and play a part in governing our community!

Westford Public Schools

Rather than sending out the March update on the 1st, I couldn't resist the opportunity to post it on the 2nd and enjoy the numerical palindrome, 3/2/23. Of course, the full palindrome will be Monday the 20th. The second was just a teaser. Between March 4th, Pie Day, and now the two palindromes in one month, March 2023 is a great month for calendar fun.

This month Westford Public Schools participated in [Neurodiversity Celebration Week](#) from March 13-19. As a community, the celebration was intended to build awareness and appreciation of neurodiverse individuals. Each of our schools conducted age appropriate events and or activities such as exploring specific literature or read-alouds, introducing learners to famous neurodiverse individuals, and or sharing fun facts and information through special announcements and events. Many of our classrooms already include curriculum throughout the year that helps to highlight the importance of building this awareness and we were excited as a community to bring this dedicated focus to everyone's attention during a unified week of celebration.

Finally, we held our WPS Master Plan Feasibility Study Community Discussion and Feedback Session on Thursday, March 9 at 7:00pm. There were two different ways to participate and provide input; some people joined us in person at the Stony Brook Auditorium or while a larger group accessed remotely through a Zoom Webinar.

During the session, representatives from the design firm SMMA facilitated a feedback session designed to gather input and feedback as to the grade configurations and geographic assignments of students at our elementary schools as well as the transitions between schools within our district. They used a specific platform that allowed both those in person and those accessing remotely to provide feedback throughout the event. During the [January 30th School Committee meeting](#), the project team leaders from SMMA gave an update presentation to provide examples as to what types of data and information will be included in their final study report towards the end of the year which will identify facility and educational needs for the next ten years. They presented a brief overview of how they assess the buildings and gave the School Committee an example of some of the information that will be included in their final report. The current collection of data from all of the completed building tours is nearly 500 pages long.

Cheers,

Chris

Christopher Chew, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools
Westford, MA



Special Spring Deliveries Sustainability



- **Electric Vehicles are here** – Westford has accepted delivery of our first two fully electric municipal vehicles! You may see staff from the Assessor's office in your neighborhood driving their new Chevy Bolt, or the school mail courier dropping off supplies using the Ford E Transit Van. Both departments are enjoying the comforts of these carbon free vehicles, from instant heat to a quiet ride, in addition to their environmental and driving performance. **Look for them around town!**
- **Westford Climate Roadmap Version 2.0 has been released**– After two years of work and over a year of presentations to the community, a community survey, and lots of one on one and committee learning, the Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee and I delivered version 2.0 of the Westford Climate Roadmap to the Select Board on February 28th. The Select Board is scheduled to discuss this planning and goal setting document at their March 28th meeting. **Attend to learn more or read version 2 [here](#).**
- **Sustainability Coordinator Position has been funded for FY 2024** – On Monday, March 6th the Select Board voted to fund the Sustainability Coordinator through fiscal year 2024 using a blend of funds from ARPA and the operating budget. **Thank you! Let's get to work!**
- **Clean Energy and a Clean Environment are on the warrant at Annual Town Meeting, March 25th** Two more electric vehicles, one for Facilities and a second for the Water Department, as well as our very first Net Zero building at 51 Main Street are on the warrant this spring. The Blanchard Roof Replacement also includes structural support so that solar might be added in the future. Additional articles and motions address land and water use issues, which are important because our natural environment mitigates the effects of extreme weather events and pollution on human health and safety. **Attend and Vote: March 25th at 10:00 AM, Westford Academy Gym.**
- **New Mattress Recycling/Disposal Resource** – Residents can now schedule a home pick up of a mattress or box spring with [Tough Stuff Recycling](#). Residents may also choose to schedule a drop off for a lower fee, or drop off without an appointment during Tough Stuff Recycling's regularly scheduled hours. **Check out the Westford Recycling Commission's document [How To Recycle Most Everything](#).**
- **Apple** is [delivering off peak charging](#) to a device near you.
- **Massachusetts can have it all, if it chooses to protect it all**, in terms of carbon, clean water and the environment. A [new study](#) may help change forestry incentives to help us do just that.
- **The UN gave us a gift this month.**
- **Boston builds one of the largest [passive house certified buildings](#)**
- **The Healy administration boosts the budget of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs 24% [to move the Commonwealth to netzero](#).**

Best wishes for joyous and sustainable spring holiday celebrations!

March at the J.V. Fletcher Library

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



Director's Corner: All Town expenditures, including the Library Budget will be approved at the **Annual Town Meeting, Saturday March 25 at 10:00 a.m. at the Westford Academy Gym.** Your Vote at Annual Town Meeting Creates our Community! The Library Department comprises 1.4% of the Town Budget, OR \$.21 cents on the tax rate.

VIRTUAL JOB SEARCH HELP FOR 50 & OVER – JOB SEARCH HELP FOR 50 & OVER – Developing a Resume –Part 2 – Experience/STARS: Wed., March 22, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.. The Massachusetts Library Collaborative 50+ Job Seekers Group meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., via Zoom. If you are unemployed and actively looking, underemployed, seeking a new career direction, re-entering the job market after a long employment gap, or recently retired and looking for your "Encore Career", this networking group program is perfect for you! [Register here.](#)

Pajama Story Time: Mon., March 27 at 6:30 p.m. Pajama Time meets once a month on a Monday evening in the Meeting Room for children ages 3 to 7. Get into those pajamas and grab a favorite stuffed animal or blanket and come on in!

YAAB Meeting: Saturday, March 18 from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room. Members of the Young Adult Advisory Board (YAAB) will serve the library as representatives of teen library users. They will work together with the YA Librarian to make improvements to the YA space, suggest additions to the collection, plan events, and provide service to the community. The YAAB meets once a month. If you couldn't make our initial meeting in February, you can still register for this one. E-mail jdymment@westfordma.gov with any questions. [Register here.](#)

YA Crafternoon: Monday, March 20 from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. Tweens & Teens: Join Jess for an afternoon of crafting and creating. You can make whatever you want! Bring something from home that you've been working on, or use our supplies and let your creativity lead the way. Please e-mail jdymment@westfordma.gov if you have any questions. [Register here.](#)

Monday Mystery Book Club: Monday, March 27 at 2:00 p.m. We'll meet in the Mary Atwood Room to discuss *The Bone Code* by Kathy Reichs. Print copies are available at Main Desk. No registration required. Please contact [Justin Liberti](#) with any questions.

Teen Tiny Art Show: Submissions due by March 29th. Calling all teen artists: The Tiny Art Show is open to art in any medium, *as long as it is smaller than your hand.* Registrants can receive a kit with a tiny canvas, or they can use any of their own supplies. Stop by the Childrens' Room to pick up a tiny canvas. Submissions must be turned in on or before Wednesday, March 29 to be displayed. An all-ages, in-person reception for the artists, their guests, and any Tiny Art aficionados will be held on the evening of Thursday, March 30th at 6:30 p.m. in the Meeting Room. [Register here.](#)

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

Mother Goose: Mondays and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. Mother Goose is an early literacy interactive story time. Children and their caregivers join us in the Meeting Room for this drop in program.

SMALL GROUP STORY TIME PROGRAMS:

ABC and Me, Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. is an early literacy story time for preschoolers aged 2 to 4 years old. Kids attend with their adults.

ABC and Me, Tuesdays at 1:15 p.m. is an early literacy story time for older preschoolers ages 3 to 5. Younger kids attend with their adults; you decide for older kids.

Wiggle Words, Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. is an early literacy story time for preschoolers aged 2 to 4 years old. Kids attend with their adults.

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.](#)

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?](#)

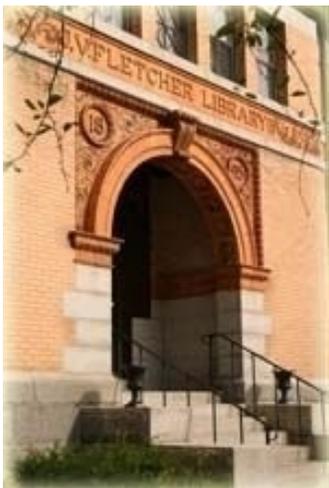
Quick Links to Our Most Popular Services!

[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.**



Westford Climate Action



Westford Climate Action is holding the second annual Earth Month in April 2023. There will be events at the library, nature walks every Saturday, and a family-friendly Earth Day Festival on **Saturday, April 22**, from **2 to 5 pm** on the **Westford Town Common**. The rain date is April 23. Music will be provided by Oh Contraire, Momentum Rocks, Estella Cui, and Malvika Bhardwaj. Please visit: [Earth Month - Westford Climate Action](#).

On April 22, the Animal Craze Traveling Zoo will allow children to feed, brush and hold a lamb, baby goat, piglet, chicks, ducklings, and baby bunnies. Children will also be able to make Earth Day posters. Experts on alternative energy, sustainability, recycling, solar energy, and Mass Save rebates will be there to answer questions. The Westford Museum will be displaying Native American artifacts from its collection.

Organizations partnering with Westford Climate Action include: Westford Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee, Westford Recycling Commission, First Parish Church United, J.V. Fletcher Library, League of Women Voters of Westford, Mass Heat Smart Alliance, Mass Save, Sustainable Westford, Westford Conservation Trust, Westford Museum, MA Cultural Council, Westford Police Department Community Team, and the Westford Boy Scouts.

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. For more information, please visit: westfordclimateaction.org



Cameron Senior Center

Join us at the Cameron for diverse and enriching programs for adults age 55+

Join Best of Times for a World's Tribute #1 Bee Gees Tribute Band

Wednesday, May 24th

Travel to Lake Pearl in Wrentham, MA for this live concert band Stayin' Alive, considered the World's #1 Bee Gees Tribute band. Enjoy the chart busting hits such as: More than a Woman, Islands in the Stream, Lonely Days, and many more at this concert. The cost of the trip is \$124 per person which includes transportation, driver's gratuity, plated luncheon of Baked Stuffed Chicken or Vegetarian Lasagna, lunch gratuity, and a show ticket.



Fuel Assistance Season!

If you are struggling financial and have concerns about heating your house this winter, please call Alison 978-399-2325 or Annette/Jen 978-399-2326 and ask about eligibility and applying for LIHEAP-Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. The ARPA Additional Household Assistance Program could also be helpful with heat/utility bills if you qualify. We also have the Friends of Cameron Emergency Fund and other local charities who may be able to assist. Please inquire with social services if you are struggling with increased cost by calling the Cameron 978-692-5523.

New Massachusetts Behavioral Health Help Line (BHHL)

The Behavioral Health Help Line (BHHL) is available 24/7, 365 days per year and is available for all residents of Massachusetts. Call or text 833-773-2445. Visit the website to chat online at masshelpline.com. This is a new program for Massachusetts, so please let us know if you use it and are comfortable giving feedback.

What is the Behavioral Health Help Line? The Behavioral Health Help Line (BHHL) connects individuals and families to the full range of treatment services for mental health and substance use offered in Massachusetts, including outpatient, urgent, and immediate crisis care. [Call](#) for real-time support, initial clinical assessment, and connection to the right evaluation and treatment.

When I contact the BHHL, who answers? The BHHL is staffed by trained clinicians and certified peer specialists to support every caller's needs. Every conversation includes follow up by trained clinicians, and staff will remain on the line with you until you are connected to the help you need.

Who can use the BHHL? Everyone!

If I do not speak English, can I call? The BHHL is available in more than 200 languages. Individuals who are Deaf or hard of hearing can also use the BHHL by contacting [MassRelay at 711](#).

How much does it cost, and do I need to have health insurance? The BHHL is free and available to all Massachusetts residents, even if you do not have insurance.

Will I be able to access services or treatment in my own community? Yes. The BHHL connects people to treatment in their community, including one of the new [Community Behavioral Health Centers \(CBHCs\)](#) across the state. The BHHL uses a comprehensive directory of mental health and substance use treatment providers.

(Continued on next page)

Cameron Senior Center (continued)

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

Friday, April 14, 1pm

We are honored to celebrate our volunteers! The Cameron wouldn't be nearly as successful without the generous gift of time so many of you give. We are so grateful for your time, your good humor, and your dedication. Please join us for a lunch and an Illusionist show in your honor. We hope to see you all there! Sign up at 978-692-5523 and don't forget to tell the front desk how you have helped us this year. **Special thanks to the Friends of the Cameron Senior Center and the Executive Office of Elder Affairs for helping sponsor this very important celebratory event.**

Epoch of Westford and Emerson Hospital Sponsored Health Series Programs

Tuesdays, April 11th and May 9th at 4:30pm

We are pleased to announce offer this FREE monthly series with professional speakers from local medical sites. These sessions are held at the Cameron on the second Tuesday of every month at 4:30.

April 11th Discussion on the signs & symptoms of dementia from the staff at Bridges by Epoch in Westford. Also, Bridges will provide dinner for 2 to go. Please sign up at 978-692-5523 to participate in either outreach program.

May 9th. Would you like to know more about joint replacements? Emerson Hospital has a new Orthopedic surgeon at Emerson Hospital, Dr. Rishi Dave, who is fellowship trained/specialized in hip and knee Joint replacement/Arthroplasty. He will be reviewing joint health, preventative care, joint replacements, robotics and answering your questions.

Restaurant Review

Join a fun spirited group of men and woman for lunch at Princeton Station located at 147 Princeton Street, Chelmsford on Wed., Mar. 29th at 11:30. On April 26th we will be back in Westford at Paul's Diner for a wide selection of tasty diner food and excellent service. Please RSVP to 978-692-5523 so we can make the reservations.

It's back and will fill quickly! Elegant Chef Lunch

Wednesday, April 5th at 12:00PM

Enjoy a three-course meal with Nashoba Tech's culinary students serving you each course with their own personality. Menu: Choice of Chicken Parmesan or Seafood Casserole
Please RSVP by three business days to 978-692-5523.

To learn more about the Cameron Senior Center programs and services please visit:

www.westfordma.gov/coa,

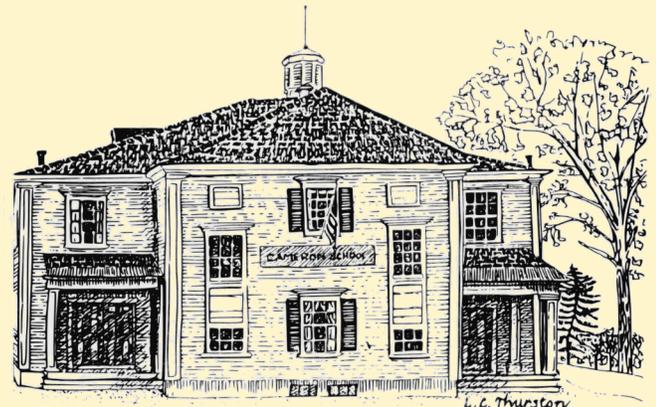
[www.facebook.com/Cameron Senior Center/](https://www.facebook.com/Cameron-Senior-Center/)

www.youtube.com/channel/

[UCaNgAZb3tw8EYYQ5bEe7XXg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaNgAZb3tw8EYYQ5bEe7XXg) or call 978-692-5523

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

www.westfordma.gov/coa and click on **Newsletters**.



Westford Senior Center

Community Wellness

Town of Westford Community Wellness Department presents

Super Sparkly Everything

Featuring:

Maria Milagros

Join us to learn the 7 principles that can help move every area of your life from struggle to sparkle.

This workshop/talk teaches an overview of each principle, with relatable storytelling, relevant coaching and practical tips and techniques. It's a powerful talk that leaves attendees feeling empowered and hopeful about their lives.



Thursday, March 30th

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Westford Fire Department ~ 65 Boston Rd

Refreshments will be available

Please register by emailing Nicole Laviolette
nlaviolette@westfordma.gov

Health Department

Massachusetts currently has an active failed septic and lead abatement tax credit program

Failed Title V- The credit is 40% of the costs (not to exceed \$15,000). The total amount of the credit cannot exceed \$6,000.

When calculating the credit, subtract any interest subsidies you received from Massachusetts. You can claim the credit for the year the repair or replacement work is completed.

If the credit is greater than the tax you owe, you can carry forward the excess credit for up to the next 5 tax years.

Lead Paint Abatement- You can get a tax credit if you own residential property in Massachusetts and paid for de-leading (removing or covering lead paint):

- Fully comply with the Massachusetts Lead Law, or by bringing it into interim control (pending full compliance) according to Section 197b. Nonresidents and part-year residents only qualify for this credit if the property is residential and located in Massachusetts. It does not need to be a principal residence in Massachusetts.
- If you fully complied with the Massachusetts Lead Law, the credit you're allowed per de-leaded residential unit is the smaller of: The cost of removing or covering any paint, plaster, or other structural accessible materials that have dangerous levels of lead, or \$1,500.

For more information please visit <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/view-residential-property-tax-credits>

State proposed....

Governor Healey and Lieutenant Governor Driscoll Unveil \$750 Million Tax Relief Package for Fiscal Year 2024

Two new tax reforms regarding Public Health have been proposed:

- Title V – Double the maximum credit to \$12,000 (40 percent of \$30,000) for expenses incurred at a primary residence for repair or replacement of failed cesspool or septic systems.
- Lead Paint Abatement – Double the allowable deductions to \$3,000 for full lead paint abatement and \$1,000 for partial abatement.

Health Department (continued)

*National
Public Health Week*
April 3rd-9th 2023

**Did you know that National Public Health week
this year is on April 3rd-9th?**

**For National Public Health week
the Westford Health Department will be offering
a variety of programs/education**

**Please make sure to follow the Westford Health Departments
Facebook page to be updated on the newest
events/programs/clinics provided to the community**

**Follow us at: <https://www.facebook.com/westfordhealth>
for any questions you may call us at (978)692-5509**

Health Department (continued)

JOIN US FOR THE UPCOMING FREE

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING

MIDDLESEX COUNTY

WHAT IS YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID?

The Youth Mental Health First Aid training teaches adults how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among children and adolescents from ages 12-18



HOW IS THIS TRAINING BENEFICIAL?

1. Informs adults about common mental health concerns among youth
2. Helps reduce stigma
3. Helps adults recognize common signs and symptoms of mental health and substance misuse challenges beyond "typical" teen behavior
4. Provides guidance with a simple 5-step action plan (ALGEE) how to properly and safely respond to these challenges



WHO SHOULD KNOW AND BE INVOLVED?

- Parents
- Educators
- All community members

WHEN & WHERE?

Date & Time: April 3, 2023 from 9am-4pm
Location: Westford Fire Department
 65 Boston Road
 Westford, MA 01886

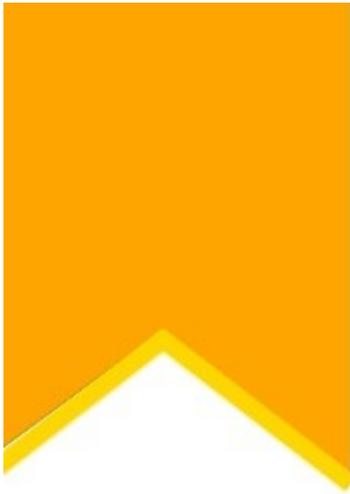


Interested in attending?
 Please contact Brittany Nash for registration

 bnash@westfordma.gov



Health Department (continued)



Please join us Virtually on
Tuesday April 4th, 2023 from 2-3PM

The Northeast Tobacco-Free Community Partnership will be presenting on Tobacco/Vaping Health Effects, Resources To Quit, General Education/Awareness and Information

This presentation is great for any parent/caregiver or adult

To register for this virtual meeting
please email Brittany Nash at bnash@westfordma.gov



Health Department (continued)

Mind and Every Body Practice

Come join:
Regional Community Health and
Wellness Coordinator Brittany Nash
for a free Mind and Every Body
Practice

Practice includes:
setting intentions, light stretching,
relaxation, meditation

April 7th, 2023
10AM-11AM
Location TBD

Register by emailing:
bnash@westfordma.gov



Westford Historical Museum

A Patriot's Day Candlelight Tribute at Westlawn Cemetery

Hosted by the Westford Museum and Historical Society

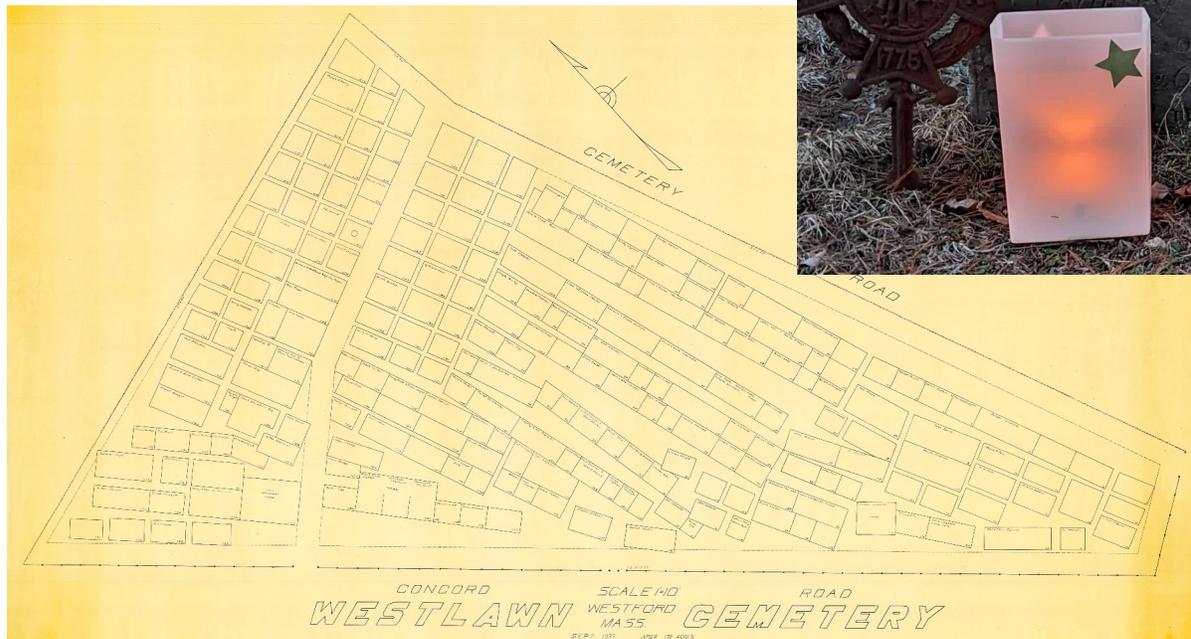
Wednesday, April 19, 2023

7:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Westlawn Cemetery

(The triangular burial place at the fork of Concord and Country roads)

Join us while the sun sets for a candlelight tribute at Westlawn Cemetery. In this unique self guided tour, you can access the bios and service records of Westford's Revolutionary War Patriots on your phone or tablet. There will be colonial interpreters to answer your questions stationed throughout the beautifully illuminated cemetery. For more information see the Westford Museum website at: www.museum.westford.org



Westford Recycling Commission

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



Special Collection events are held at the Westford Highway Garage, 28 North Street.

For details on these spring 2023 events, please visit: www.westfordma.gov/recycling

APRIL 15 Household Hazardous Waste. 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

APRIL 22 Brush Chipping. 10:30 a.m – 4:30 p.m. \$10/load.

APRIL 29 Electronics & More. 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Many items are free.

SPECIAL EARTH MONTH AND EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

The Westford Recycling Commission is one of the town co-sponsors in the month-long family-friendly event being organized by Westford Climate Action for the second year. During April, there will be several activities such as nature trail walks and library talks, workshops on mushroom growing and a poster making contest.

The celebration will culminate in an EARTH DAY event April 22nd from 2-5 p.m. on the Westford town common. The rain date is April 23rd. Music will be provided by Oh Contraire and Momentum Rocks.

You could be a winner! On April 22nd, at the Westford Recycling Commission table you can enter the drawing for a free Earth Machine backyard composter.

Click here for Earth Month information and the calendar <https://westfordclimateaction.org/earth-month/>

Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose, and Recycle!

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

WESTFORD RECREATION

Westford Partnership for Children Recreation's After School Program

The WPC program provides a safe and engaging environment for school children grades K-5.

WPC program offers:

- Safe and easy transition from classroom to program.
- Choice of activities and flexible schedules.
- Experienced, caring Site Directors and staff.

WPC runs Monday-Friday, school dismissal to 5:45 p.m., with locations at Abbot, Crisafulli, Day, Miller, Nabnasset, and Robinson.

Register for any session, at any time.

Learn more at About WPC - westfordrec.com.

Rec's Special Programs

APRIL BREAK! April 18-21, for Grades K-8

Enjoy full-day and full-week programming that is educational, inspiring, and fun. *Details to come.*

Learn more at Special Programs - westfordrec.com.

Spring-Summer Highlights

Stay Tuned for Program Updates

For Youth: Nitehawks Track & Field, Fast Skills Football, Flag Football, Knucklebones Ninjas and Lil' Ninjas, Speed & Agility, Marcus Lewis Tennis and more. Plus CPR and a **NEW BollyX Dance** class for adults.

Learn more at Programs - westfordrec.com.

Rec's Summer Weekly Programs

Full-day, Full-Week, Early Arrival, Extended Day

Experience it: flexible schedules *and* happy children!

SUMMER BEACH PARTY AT D.E.

Summer program coverage just when you need it – from August 14-18. Ages 4-13.

KIDS CLUB at Nabnasset School

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

Seven weeks of programming. Ages 4-13.

DESTINATION EXPLORATION at East Boston Camps

Classic summertime activities in a classic summertime setting.

Seven weeks of programming. Ages 7-13

Learn more at Summer Weekly Programs - westfordrec.com.



From Top to Bottom:

Pic 1: Cool crafting – WPC.

Pic 2: Designing planes for lift-off – WPC

Pic 3: December Special Program at XtremeCraze.

Background: Beach Ball Volley Ball at Destination Exploration, Summer '22

Westford Recreation | 65 Main Street, 3rd floor | 978-692-5532 | westfordrec.com

Speed Limit Changes in Westford



The Westford Select Board approved a request from the Pedestrian Safety Committee at their January 24, 2023 meeting to establish 25 mile per hour statutory speed limits on three streets in Westford. The new limits apply to the following sections of streets (click links below):

- [33 Main Street to 117 Main Street](#)
- [30 West Prescott Street to 25 Pleasant Street](#)
- [Patten Road \(entire length\)](#)

The Public Works Department expects to install the signs before March 10, 2023, weather permitting. The new speed limits are in accordance with Massachusetts General Law (MGL) Chapter 90 Section 17C and were approved at the March, 2022 Annual Town Meeting. For more information regarding MGL c. 90 § 17C please visit:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/speed-limits-in-thickly-settled-or-business-districts>

