



Kristen Las
Town
Manager

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October is
Breast Cancer
Awareness
Month



Learn Septic System Care
and Maintenance
Wednesday, November 1
10:00-11:00 AM for Realtors
6:00-7:00 PM for Residents
See Page 11

Veterans Day Observation
Saturday, November 11
11 AM on Town Common
(In case of rain, Old Center
Fire Station, 51 Main St.)
See Page 18



Watch Meetings
Online



www.westfordcat.org

Dear Westford residents,

On Monday evening, October 16, the Town of Westford held a Special Town Meeting to consider 9 warrant articles. Our goal for Town Meeting in Westford is to provide broad accessibility to all voters and to include all voices in town. Clearly, we fell well short of this on Monday and are painfully aware of the challenges and obstacles residents and other interested parties faced while trying to participate. Some of these obstacles included lack of parking, backed up roadways leading to Westford Academy, longer than expected check in lines, voters being located in two rooms due to occupancy limits without adequate systems in place to allow for discussion and the exchange of ideas, an insufficient number of clickers for the voters present and having the meeting run too late into the evening.

The Select Board, Town Moderator and Town Staff will meet and address what happened and what we learned at the Select Board's next meeting on October 24th and commit to providing better access and participation in future meetings. We invite you to attend the October 24th meeting in person or via zoom with your suggestions or comments or write to the Select Board in advance.

We thank you for your patience, comments, concerns and participation in local government. The Town has issued a Frequently Asked Questions document related to Special Town Meeting that can be found [here](#).

The MBTA Communities Multi-Family Housing Advisory Committee (MCMAC) will be hosting a workshop on October 26, 2023 at 6:30PM at Stony Brook Middle School. Please see the flyer on the following pages with more information on this event. For more information visit [MBTA Communities website](#).

On October 18, 2023, [The Budget Task Force](#) held a joint meeting with the Select Board, Finance Committee, and School Committee to release their [final report](#) to evaluate upcoming budget challenges and to investigate potential solutions for revenue and efficiency.

Municipal Departments are currently reviewing their Fiscal Year 2025 budget with myself and the Finance team. The Capital Planning Committee is currently reviewing capital budget requests for FY2025 through 2029.

At their meeting on September 26th Select Board member Barrett encouraged residents to attend Special Town Meeting on October 16, 2023 at Westford Academy at 7pm and spoke about the various ways the town is notifying residents about the meeting. Beth Perkins of the Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee announced 2 events for the Westford Climate Action Committee: ISO New England Webinar on September 27 at 8:30pm and Heat Pumps 101 on September 28 at 7:00pm.

The Select Board approved two American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allocations of an additional \$10,000 towards the Westford Mobile Clinician Services and record digitalization for the Assessor's Department for \$13,650. More information can be found by visiting the [ARPA website](#).

(Continued on next page)

The Select Board reviewed and acted to close the Special Town Meeting warrant, sign the warrant, finalize motions and take positions on warrant articles.

Resident Ellen Harde proposed plans to redevelop the former Coldwell Banker property at 70 Boston Road, considering the anticipated appropriation of community preservation funds, which was considered at the October 16th Special Town Meeting and passed.

At their meeting on October 10th the Select Board received an update from the Communications Advisory Committee on current finances for Westford Cable Access Television (CAT) and the future arrangements to be made for a public hearing to renew cable television contracts.

The Select Board was presented with a review comparison of solid waste and recycling proposals received by Waste Management and E.L. Harvey for FY25-FY29 and the discussion is to be continued at their October 24th meeting.

An update was given on Ameresco's revised Preliminary Energy Audit dated September 14, 2023 and the Select Board approved the "Good" option plus electrification of the Westford Museum.

The Select Board also approved to sign a letter in support of the proposed changes to the State laws pertaining to municipal electrical aggregation programs.

There are several openings on our local boards and committees, including:

- | | |
|--|--|
| Affordable Housing Trust | Dog Park Task Force |
| Agricultural Commission | Economic Development Committee, |
| Board of Assessors | Healthy Westford Committee, |
| Bylaw Review Committee | Housing Authority, |
| Capital Planning Committee | MBTA Communities Multi-Family Housing |
| Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee | Northern Middlesex Stormwater Collaborative |
| Commission on Disability | Parks and Recreation Commission |
| Community Behavioral and Mental Health Committee | Permanent Town Building Committee, |
| Council on Aging | Scholarship and Grant Committee, |
| Cultural Council | Selectmen Policies & Procedures Sub Committee, |
| Diversity Equity and Inclusion | Tax Possession Disposition 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](#).

If you have any suggestions for articles or 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.

Sincerely,



Kristen Las, Town Manager

Cameron Center Happenings

Just a flavor of our many early Fall offerings at the Cameron for adults age 55+ :

WESTFORD'S "A SPA FOR YOU" HERE AT THE CAMERON

October 30th from 10am -2pm For \$15.00, A Spa for you will perform one of following services: 15 Minute Chair Massage, 15 Minute Express Facial, 15 Minute Pedicure, or 15 Minute Manicure. All Services provided by Licensed Tech. Payment in cash due at time of the service. Any questions call Eleanor at A Spa for You at 978.486.8900. Sign up for an appt at the front desk 978.692.5523.

HALLOWEEN PARTY AT THE CAMERON

Tuesday, October 31st at 5:30 pm
Sign up for one spooky night as we turn the Cameron into a haunted house. Costumes are a must! Enjoy a mystery dinner and ghost stories by the spooky queen, Katie Russell. Cost will be \$3.00. Sign up at 978.692.5523.



HAM & BEAN SUPPER

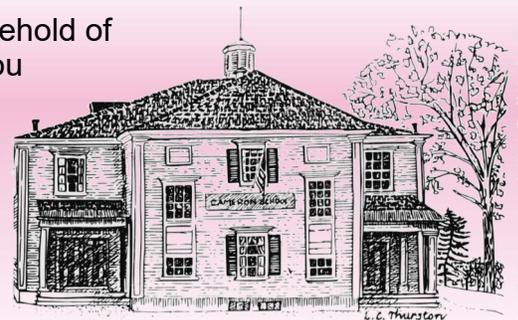
Saturday, November 18, at 5:30 pm
The Annual Ham and Bean Supper, sponsored by the Westford Firefighters Association, American Legion Post 159 and the Franco American Club, will be held at the Franco-American Club. There is no charge for dinner, but we encourage you to bring an item for the Westford Food Pantry. Please register at 978.692.5523 or sign up online.

**JIM GERAGHTY'S FAMILY AND FRIENDS
26TH ANNUAL THANKSGIVING DINNER
FOR WESTFORD SENIORS**

Sunday, November 19, at Westford Academy
A traditional Thanksgiving dinner will be prepared at Westford Academy, and it will be available as a sit-down dinner. The menu includes turkey and dressing, gravy, sweet potatoes, corn, pies, and more. BINGO will be played from 10 am- 12 noon, with dinner served at 12:00. To reserve, call The Cameron at 978.692.5523 or sign up online.

SNAP – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Do you need help buying groceries? If your monthly income (household of 1) is less than \$2,265 or (household of 2) is less than \$3,052, you may be eligible for a monthly benefit toward groceries. For more information, call Annette at 978.399.2326 or go to <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program>



Westford Senior Center

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



October / November at the J.V. Fletcher

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



Friends' Annual Meeting and Featured Speaker-Marcella Pixley: Thursday, November 2 at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Pixley will discuss her latest book, *Trowbridge Road*. This young adult novel was a Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection and was longlisted for the 2020 National Book award and the Massachusetts Book Award. It was also named a best book of 2020 by Shelf Awareness, Reading Group Choices, and Mighty Girls, and was nominated for a Golden Dome Award. A Westford resident, Ms. Pixley teaches eighth grade Language Arts in the Carlisle Public Schools. Marcella Pixley's talk, starting at **7:30**, is free and open to all. There will be a short business meeting preceding the program. No registration required.

Sweet Reads Book Club: Tuesday, October 24th at 6:30 p.m. in the Meeting Room Come for the desserts, stay for the discussion. This month we will read *Small Spaces* by Katherine Arden and enjoy some apple cider donuts. Registration is appreciated, but drop-ins are welcome. Copies of the book are available at the Main Desk. For Grade 6 and up.

VIRTUAL JOB SEARCH HELP FOR 50 & OVER – JOB SEARCH HELP FOR 50 & OVER – Resumes: Beyond The Basics: Wed., Oct.25, 6:00 -8:00 p.m. The Massachusetts Library Collaborative's 50+ Job Seekers Group meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month from 6:00 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](#)

Tricks and Treats with Robert Rivest (and a Library Spooky Walk), Wednesday, October 25 at 6:00 p.m. In this fun and interactive program, comic mime Robert Rivest performs a series of spooky, yet silly, Halloween stories where you will learn how to do mime tricks to create funny illusions and hilarious Halloween characters. Bring some ideas and suggestions because we will create a spooky story as a group with Robert. Come in costume - Robert might even help you to move and act like your costume characters to include them in the spooky stories. After the show (or before the show if you prefer), head outside and enjoy a silly spooky walk around the library. If it rains, we will plan to set something up inside. This program is for kids in grades K and up and is generously funded by the KDK Foundation in honor of Kurt Kelly. Online Registration for this program opens on October 9.

Stamps Road Show Event: Thursday, October 26, 5:00-8:30 p.m. in the Meeting Room Stamp collecting is a fun and enriching hobby that explores history, geography, art, and politics. As collectible objects, stamps offer variety, rarity, scholarly interest, aesthetic appeal, investment returns and have been admired by collectors for their aesthetic qualities and as miniature works of art and masterpieces of engraving. Join us for Stamps Roadshow on Thursday October 26th from 5-8:30 pm at the JV Fletcher Library. Bring your childhood, inherited, family or acquired stamp collection and meet with experts from the Chelmsford Stamp Club for a free appraisal. [Register here.](#)

(Continued on next page)

October - November at the J.V. Fletcher Library (Continued)

Pajama Story Time: Monday, October 30 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. Wear your pajamas and bring a favorite stuffed animal or blanket! No registration required.

Story times are held in the **Meeting Room**. To accommodate a wider variety of participants there will be no registrations or reservations. All Story Times are Drop-In and scheduled Monday – Thursday. There are no story times on the Thanksgiving holiday (11/23-23).

- **Mother Goose – Mondays 10:30 to 11:00 a.m.** – for babies up and kids up to age 5, now through December 4.
- **ABC and Me – Tuesdays 10:30 to 11:00 a.m.** – for kids ages 2 to 5, now through November 28.
- **Book Bunch – Tuesdays 1:15-1:45 p.m.** – for kids ages 3 to 5, now through November 28.
- **Wiggle Words – Wednesdays 10:30 to 11:00 a.m.** – for kids ages 2 to 4, now through November 29.
- **Stay and Play – Thursdays 10:30-11:30** – for babies and kids up to age 5, now through December 7.

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.

Town Clerk's Corner**Westford, Massachusetts
Special Town Meeting Results
October 16, 2023**

Article	Title	Result
1	Approve Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Adjustments	Passed by majority
2	Appropriate Opioid Settlement Funds	Passed by majority
3	Approve Capital Appropriations First Motion Second Motion	Passed by majority as amended Passed by 2/3 majority
4	Reduce Amount Raised by Taxes in Fiscal Year 2024	Dismissed by majority
5	Rescind Authorized and Unissued Debt	Passed by majority
6	Approve Community Preservation Committee Recommendations	Passed by majority 627-yes, 406-no
7	Authorization for the Select Board to Petition the General Court for Special Legislation to Amend the Town's Means Tested Senior Citizen Property Tax Exemption Act	Passed by majority
8	Authorize the School Bus Transportation Contract for up to Five Years	Passed by majority
9	Amend Zoning Bylaw to Define and Regulate Firearm Businesses and Related Terms	Failed for lack of 2/3 majority 590-yes, 477-no

More information on Town Meeting can be found at:

<https://westfordma.gov/393/Town-Meeting>



Communications Advisory Committee

One of the principal duties of the Communications Advisory Committee is to oversee the periodic renegotiation of the Cable TV license for Westford. In order for a carrier, like Verizon or Comcast, to offer Cable TV services within the Town they must have a license.



Although the law does not give us much scope for negotiation on content and pricing, one of the factors we can influence is the amount of money that the contract generates for the local cable access operator, WestfordCAT.

The law prescribes a maximum of 5% surcharge on Cable TV services for local cable access, and we are already at that limit. As Cable TV subscriptions decline in favor of streaming services, over-the-air (with an antenna), or possibly other future technologies, the amount of money that is available to WestfordCAT is also declining.

We need to hear from the residents of Westford about their experience of the Cable TV services that exist now, and also how important they think that continuity of local access broadcasting is.

We would like all residents of Westford to give us their views by taking our online survey at <https://westfordma.gov/cabletvsurvey> or use this QR code.



Health Department

OCTOBER - NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Westford Coalition for Non-Violence (WCNV) and J.V. Fletcher Library are working in collaboration to raise awareness of domestic violence for the month of October. For many years the J.V. Fletcher library has put out books for children on bullying and books for adults on domestic violence. This partnership continues to provide education for our community members and beyond. We feel it is so important to educate on what a healthy relationship looks like and what the warning signs of an unhealthy relationship look like.



Domestic violence continues to be at the forefront of many news articles and stories every day. Thirteen years ago, in our own Westford community, two domestic violence events resulted in the death of two of our residents. In response to these tragedies, the Westford Coalition for Non-Violence, WCNV was formed. The members that make up this coalition, include town employees, residents, victims/survivors, and other community partners. The Westford Coalition for Non-Violence's mission statement is to ***"Promote healthy relationships and foster a culture of non-violence for all members of our community."***

We are committed to our mission and are grateful for the hard work of our coalition members, as they continue to spread this very important message. We have updated our educational handbook on domestic violence, which can be found in several places throughout town, including the Westford Town Hall, J.V. Fletcher Library, the Police Station, and the Cameron Senior Center. This book is a free resource. There is help, hope, and support. We have resources listed on our WCNV website and in our handbook. <https://westfordma.gov/1364/Coalition-for-Non-Violence>

WCNV will be presenting ***"Healthy Relationships, Understanding Abuse, Setting Boundaries, and Identifying Warning Signs"*** on **Monday, October 23, 2023 at 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm, followed by 10 minutes of guided meditation**, at the J.V. Fletcher Library, in the main meeting room. Please email Mandy Vozzo Willis mvozzowillis@westfordma.gov to register.

For the month of October the gazebo at the town common will be lit up in **purple lights**, to signify domestic violence awareness month.

If interested in being a part of the Westford Coalition for Non-Violence, please contact Chair of WCNV, Gail Johnson, BSN, RN Public Health Nurse gjohnson@westfordma.gov



Community Wellness



ADULT MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING

MIDDLESEX COUNTY

WHAT IS ADULT MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID?

The Adult Mental Health First Aid training teaches adults how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among adults



WHO SHOULD KNOW AND BE INVOLVED?

- Community members
- Employers
- Police officers
- Hospital staff
- First responders
- Caring individuals

1.5-2 HRS OF PRE WORK

HOW IS THIS TRAINING BENEFICIAL?

1. Informs Adults on common signs and symptoms of mental health and substance use challenges
2. Helps reduce stigma
3. Teaches you how to interact with a person in crisis and how to connect a person with help
4. Provides guidance with a simple 5-step action plan (ALGEE) how to properly and safely respond to these challenges

WHEN & WHERE?

Date & Time: November 9th & 16th
9:00AM-12:00PM

Location: Council on Aging,
20 Pleasant Street, Westford, MA 01886

Register by November 3rd

Interested in attending?

Please contact Nicole Laviolette

NLaviolette@westfordma.gov



Community Wellness

Town of Westford Change of Mental Health Referral Service for Residents

AS OF DECEMBER 1, 2023 THE TOWN WILL NO LONGER HAVE ACCESS TO THE WILLIAM JAMES INTERFACE REFERRAL SERVICE

As an alternative to Interface please see the below resources:

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.

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 services.

The BHHL is staffed by trained clinicians and certified peer specialists to support every caller's needs.

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. The BHHL is free and available to all Massachusetts residents.



- Westford Mobile Clinician provides short term services while you or a family member is on a waitlist for ongoing therapy. For more information - contact Community Wellness Coordinator, Nicole Laviolette
- Community Behavioral Health Center (VINFEN) - 866-388-2242
- Suicide & Crisis Lifeline - call or text 988

Contact now with questions:

Community Wellness Coordinator
Nicole Laviolette 978-399-2503



Health Department

SEPTIC SYSTEM AND WELL INFORMATION SESSION

Please join us for an information session followed by Q&A regarding on-site septic systems and private drinking water wells.

Topics will include:

- **Septic system care and maintenance.**
- **Westford's well testing requirements and what it means for you.**
- **PFAS Information for Private Drinking Wells.**
- **Property transfer requirements for wells and Title V.**
- **Two sessions, one for realtors and one for residents.**

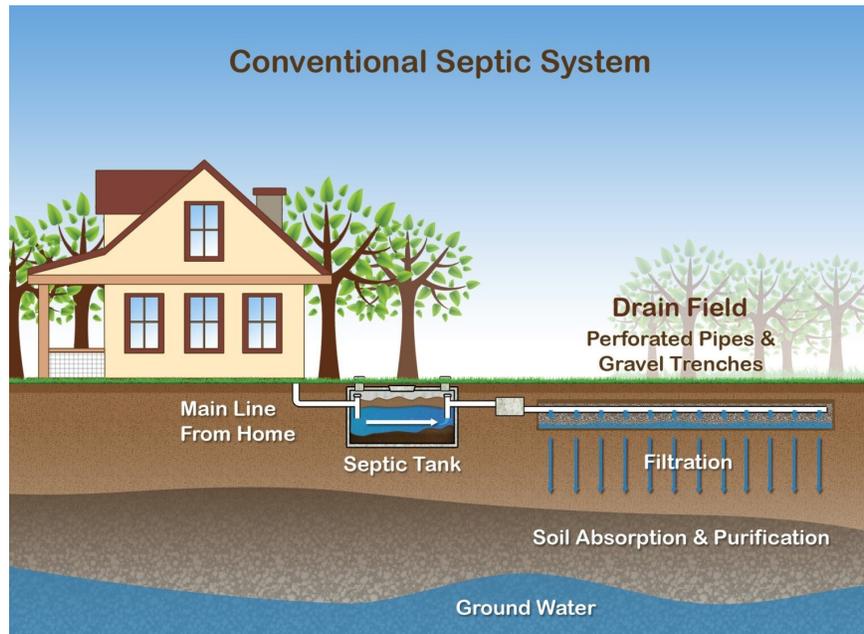
Date: Wednesday November 1, 2023

Time: 10:00-11:00 AM (Realtors) 6:00-7:00 PM (Residents)

Location: Town Hall, second floor meeting room, 35 seats available

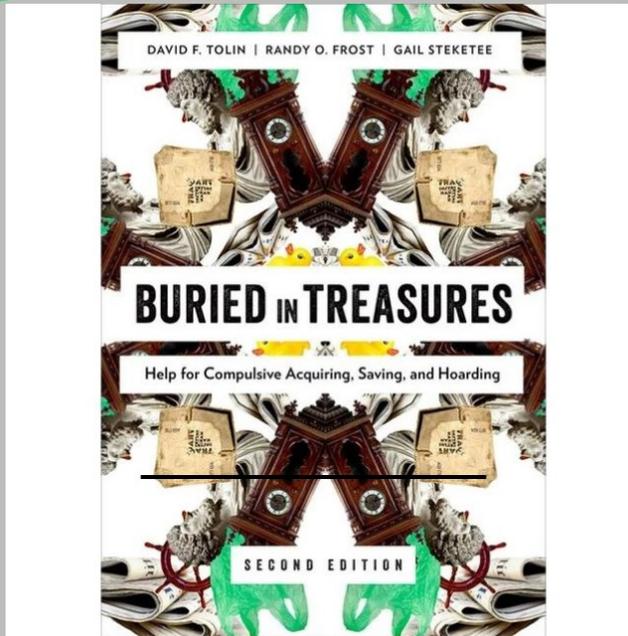
Please RSVP by emailing:

Mandy @ mvozzowillis@westfordma.gov



Health Department

Buried In Treasures (BIT) Information Session



Please join the Westford Health Department & Community Wellness Department for a brief information session on Buried in Treasures:

Date: November 2nd, 2023

Time: 12-12:30PM

Location: Westford Council on Aging
20 Pleasant St, Westford, MA 01886

Registration strongly encouraged
Email: bnash@westfordma.gov

Official Workshop starts: Jan 11th, 2024
Workshops will be held once a week
on Thursdays (for 15 weeks)



Health Department

FUNDED BY THE GLHA OF CHNA 10 GRANT

BURIED IN TREASURES WORKSHOPS

GOT TOO MUCH STUFF?
NEED TO DOWNSIZE?



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Westford Health
Department**



- Are there stacks of paper in nearly every corner of your house?**
- Are your closets, cupboards and other storage areas overflowing with stuff?**
- Is it difficult to use your kitchen or bathroom utility areas?**
- Do you struggle with letting things go?**
- Do more items come into the home than go out?**
- Does it take a long time to find a particular item or important document in your house?**
- Are you embarrassed to have someone come into your home? Do you want to declutter but are overwhelmed on where to begin?**

If you can answer 'yes' to one or more of these questions, then our 15-week (in-person) Buried in Treasures (BIT) Workshop may be for you. This is a relaxed, non-judgmental program that teaches you how to build insight, skills and strategies to help declutter, get organized and reduce acquiring. The program addresses all clutter levels from just a few messy areas, to excessive collecting, to hoarding tendencies/disorder.

Workshop starts: Jan 11th, 2024

**Workshop will be held once a week
on Thursdays (for 15 weeks)**

Time: 1PM-3PM

Where: Westford Council on Aging

Cost: Class & workbook are FREE

Open to Westford MA residents



PLEASE EMAIL BRITTANY NASH, BNASH@WESTFORDMA.GOV WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR TO REGISTER (THIS WILL BE A CLOSED GROUP; YOU MUST REGISTER IN ADVANCE). SPONSORED BY THE WESTFORD HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND COMMUNITY WELLNESS DEPARTMENT HOSTED AT THE WESTFORD COUNCIL ON AGING.

Health Department



**ENDING THE SILENCE FOR
FAMILIES PRESENTED BY THE
NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL
ILLNESS (NAMI)**



**THIS EVENT IS HOSTED BY
THE NORTH WEST PUBLIC HEALTH COALITION**

DATE: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2023

TIME: 7:00 PM-8:15 PM

**LOCATION: J.V. FLETCHER LIBRARY,
MAIN MEETING ROOM,
50 MAIN STREET, WESTFORD MA, 01886**

**PLEASE REGISTER BY EMAILING
BRITTANY NASH, BNASH@WESTFORDMA.GOV**

THIS PRESENTATION IS DESIGNED FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND FAMILY MEMBERS OF K-12 STUDENTS. THIS PRESENTATION INCLUDES TWO LEADERS: ONE WHO SHARES AN INFORMATIVE PRESENTATION AND A YOUNG ADULT WITH A MENTAL HEALTH CONDITION WHO SHARES THEIR JOURNEY OF RECOVERY. AUDIENCE MEMBERS CAN ASK QUESTIONS AND GAIN AN UNDERSTANDING OF AN OFTEN-MISUNDERSTOOD TOPIC. THROUGH DIALOGUE, WE CAN HELP GROW THE MOVEMENT TO END STIGMA.

Westford Recreation

Westford Partnership for Children (WPC), grades K-5

Recreation's WPC After School Program offers:

- A safe and easy transition from classroom to program.
- Your choice of activities and flexible schedules.
- An experienced, caring Site Director 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](#) on westfordma.myrec.com.

Recreation Special Programs

Next on the docket: December Vacation, details to come - stay tuned!

Rec's Special Programs offer full-day and full-week programming during school professional development days, parent conferences, certain holidays, and December, February, and April school vacations. Enrollment is open to Westford as well as other surrounding communities.

Register now at [Special Programs](#) - westfordma.myrec.com.

Fall Seasonal Programs

Now in Action:

Imprint Sprints Academy with *DJ Brock*, ages 9 and up; Nitehawks Cross Country with *Alex Ivanov*, for grades K-8; and LEGO Club with Licensed Applied Behavior Analyst, *Amanda Russell*.

and Coming Soon:

REGISTER NOW-STARTS SOON: Youth Chess Club – session 2 with US Open Women's Champion, *Master Prathiba Y*, ages 5-14.

BollyX Dance with *Rachana Agrawal*, currently training for Kathak. Ages 18 and up.

CPR/First Aid (9 and up) with experienced EMT and ER Nurse, *Mike Votano*. Ages 9 and up.

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



From Top to Bottom: *Recreation Special Program, September 25, school closure (Yom Kippur Observed). Apples, pumpkins, and one large scarecrow, at Brookdale Farm in NH. Later kids enjoyed a campfire and smores at East Boston Camps.*

Land Use Management Department

Public Workshop
MBTA Communities Act
Compliance Planning

Learn About the MBTA
Communities Act and Help
Shape Westford's Housing Future

Westford is rezoning for multifamily housing to comply with the MBTA Communities Act, address the need for more diverse housing types, and revitalize underutilized properties.

This interactive Public Workshop will include background information about the MBTA Communities Act, share work on the project to date, and explore options for multi-family zoning in Westford. Much of the meeting time will be dedicated to hands-on design stations.

Whether you an expert, or know nothing about the MBTA Communities Act, we would love for you to join us.

Thursday
October 26,
6:30 PM
Stony Brook School
Auditorium
9 Farmer Way,
Westford, MA



Scan here to learn more



https://westfordma.gov/1490/MBTA-Communities-Requirement-for-Multi-F

Sponsored by: The Town of Westford
Facilitated by: Dodson & Flinker, Inc.

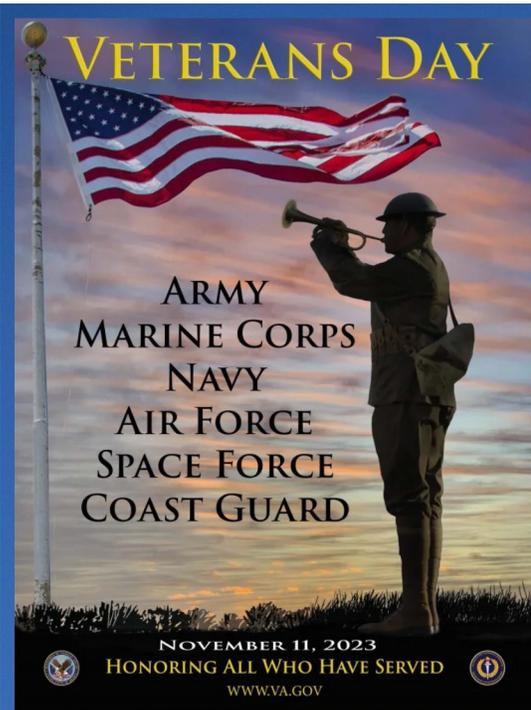
DODSON & FLINKER

Landscape Architecture and Planning

For more information, please contact planningboardstaff@westfordma.gov or call 978-692-5524



Veterans Day 2023



For more information call or email Ryan Cobleigh@978-392-1170 or Rcobleigh@westfordma.gov



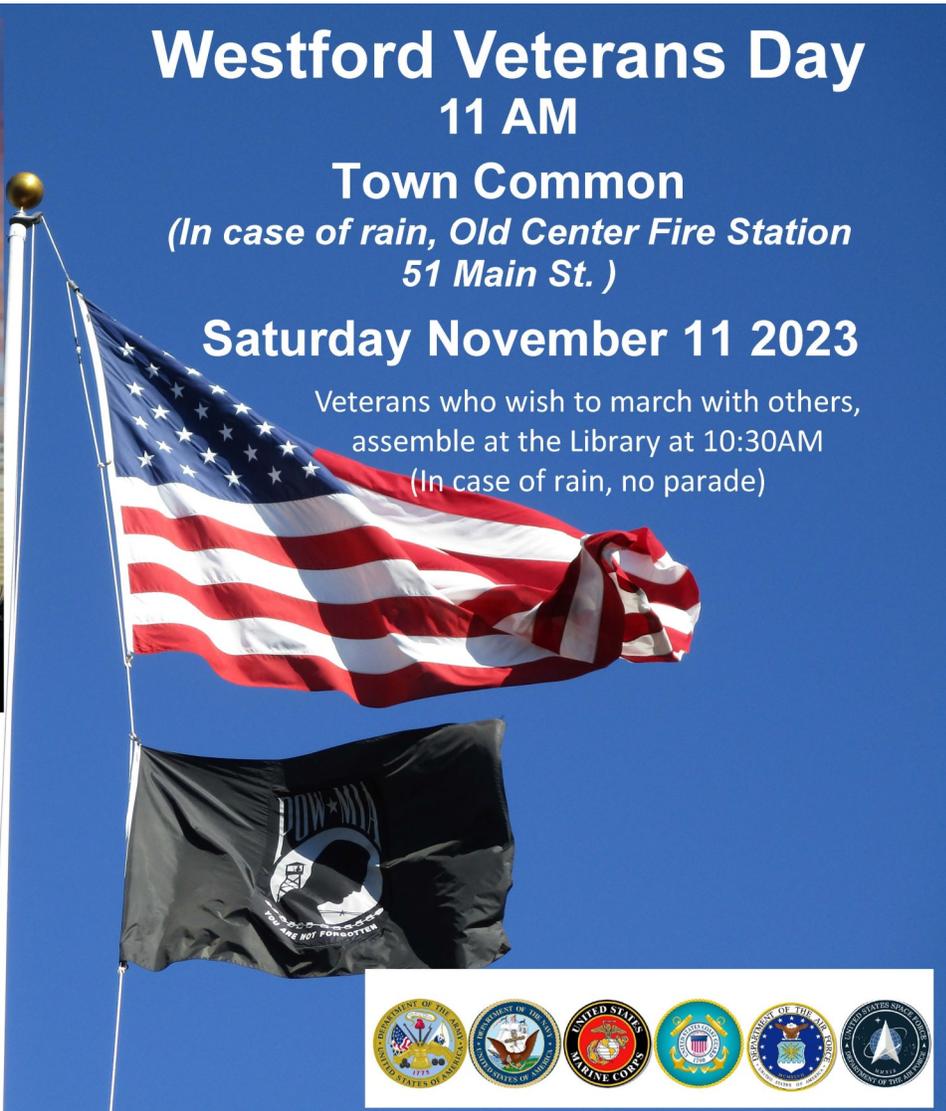
Westford Veterans Day 11 AM

Town Common

*(In case of rain, Old Center Fire Station
51 Main St.)*

Saturday November 11 2023

Veterans who wish to march with others, assemble at the Library at 10:30AM
(In case of rain, no parade)



Westford Public Schools

As we embark on our first year of the Strategic District Improvement Plan, I will do my best to include information in each monthly update to help communicate progress within the various priority areas.

Last week, our WPS DEI Team met to begin organizing how we might approach supporting our action item of conducting an equity audit throughout the district this year (WPS SDIP 1.1). A subgroup of our team is going to collaborate in reviewing the various proposals submitted to us from outside organizations and make a recommendation as to which might be the best fit with our needs. Stay tuned for more information as we will be looking for various stakeholder input and feedback as part of the actual audit process itself.

During our last School Committee meeting, a Later School Start Time Subcommittee was established (SDIP 2.3). The goal of this committee is to review all of the prior committee's data and research along with current bus ridership and route information in order to consider any feasible short-term options. They are planning to present any findings and recommendations to the full School Committee by this coming December.

Later this month, we anticipate presenting the final Feasibility Report prepared for us by SMMA. The draft report was shared earlier and provided significant insight as to how we might begin to develop our long range master plan. Now that the final report is completed, the 736 page document will be made public for anyone interested in the light reading. The next step in this process is for us to assess the recommendations included in the report so that we might prioritize what we believe should be included in our 10 year Master Plan for the district (SDIP 2.2).

Finally, our Director of Special Education and Social Emotional Learning, Gerard Coughlin, has asked me to share the following update with all of you:

- **Weekly Office Hours with Director of Special Education and Social Emotional Learning Gerard Coughlin are now available.** Every Thursday throughout the school year, parents are invited to sign up for an individual twenty-minute session with Gerard to discuss issues related to special education and social emotional learning. If you are interested in taking advantage of this opportunity, **you can view available times by clicking on the blue link located on the department's website.** Gerard will have a rotating morning and afternoon session each week to accommodate the schedules of members of the community. A big thank you goes out to SEPAC members for bringing this suggestion to Gerard's attention.
- **Secondly,** The Office of Special Education and Social Emotional Learning invited all members of the community to "Caring for Your Mental Health", a presentation for members of the community to learn about the signs of mental health challenges; where to go for help; and the role of schools and the community in supporting students of all ages with their mental health. This presentation and **informational session was held on Wednesday, October 11th at 7:00pm in the Mezzanine at St. Catherine's Church.** Presenters for the evening were Nicole Laviolette, Coordinator of Community Wellness for Westford; Sue Hanley, member of Westford's Community Behavioral and Mental Health Committee; and Gerard Coughlin, Director of Special Education and Social Emotional Learning for Westford Public Schools. All members of the community were welcome. At the conclusion of the presentation, there was time for questions and answers. **The department would like to give a special thanks to community member Joanne Wall for coordinating the evening.**

Cheers!

Chris

Christopher Chew, Ed. D
Superintendent
Westford Public Schools



Stormwater Management

YARD WASTE: PROPER DISPOSAL IS IMPORTANT

Rake up your leaves to reduce water pollution and prevent flooding!

Fallen leaves are loaded with natural fertilizer, which can cause water pollution that harms people and animals. Leaves that are left near the side of the road can also cause flooding when they block storm drains and waterways.

Keep the ponds and waterways in our community clean and healthy this fall with a few simple steps.

- Never dump leaves in wetlands or waterways (it's harmful and illegal)
- Bag leaves in paper bags for disposal or compost at home in an area away from wetlands and storm drains
- Keep paved areas and storm drains clear of leaves
- Make sure your lawn service is properly disposing of your yard waste
- Mow your leaves with a mulching mower and let them stay on the lawn as a natural fertilizer

Leaves as Water Pollution? Really?

What could be more natural than leaves in the fall? The problem isn't the leaves. It's what people do with their leaves and the way our stormwater infrastructure works.

Freshly fallen leaves contain a natural fertilizer called phosphorous. When phosphorous gets added to streams, ponds and wetlands, it serves as an especially powerful fertilizer in the water. It encourages lush growth of pond weeds and algae in the spring that can interfere with swimming, reduce the amount of oxygen in the water needed to sustain fish and aquatic life, and in severe cases, can contribute to the growth of cyanobacteria "blooms" that can be toxic to people and animals.

When leaves fall in the autumn, they quickly begin to decompose, and rain washes the natural fertilizers out of them. When leaves fall in a forest or on your lawn, these fertilizers get recycled into the soil and become trapped there, helping plants grow in the spring.

But when leaves, grass clippings or other organic materials, get dumped into wetlands, waterways or ponds, those natural fertilizers go right into our water and cause problems.

Similarly, when leaves or other yard waste are left on paved areas, rain washes those natural fertilizers into storm drains in your neighborhood that lead directly to our waterways without first going to a treatment plant.





WESTFORD REMEMBERS

Edgar Allan Poe

Poe Readings

OCTOBER 29

Poe Sculpture Unveiling

2PM-4PM

PARISH CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Sustainability Update

Information for Westford POP Electricity Customers and Prospective Customers (all residents and small businesses)

Look for a letter in the US mail regarding the renewal of the Westford Power Options Program (POP).

The Town's Electric Aggregation Program (Westford POP) has been renewed through November of 2025. If you are a member of the POP Silver or POP Gold programs, you will need to select a new program or be automatically put back in National Grid Basic Service. If you are currently in the POP Basic or POP Green options, you do not need to do anything to remain in the program you have chosen.

Westford POP Gold is now the only option that provides the ability to buy additional clean energy, supplementing the state mandated minimum with additional Class I SREC purchases. We encourage all customers to consider this option if they can afford to do so. The 50% option in POP Silver has been made obsolete by the mandated increase in renewables in the power supply during the new upcoming contract period.

To confirm if you are part of the Westford POP Program, check your bill. The letter you receive will tell you what option you have selected. If you are not in the program, you can sign up here or call Constellation at (833) 461-0813.

The Supply portion of your Bill should look like this: **Supply Services**

SUPPLIER CONSTELLATION
NEWENERGY (WESTFORD
POP)
1310 POINTE ST.
BALTIMORE, MD 21231



As of your December bill date, prices will be as follows:

			
Westford POP Standard (default, formerly POP Green)	Westford POP Basic	Westford POP Gold (formerly POP Gold 100%)	National Grid Basic Service
16.178 ¢/kWh All Rate Classes	15.784 ¢/kWh All Rate Classes	17.282 ¢/kWh All Rate Classes	18.213 ¢/kWh Residential
Adds 10% voluntary renewable energy (MA Class I RECs)	No additional renewable energy	Adds voluntary renewable energy (MA Class I RECs) to total 100%	No additional renewable energy
December 2023 through November 2025	December 2023 through November 2025	December 2023 through November 2025	November 2023 through July 2024

***Savings cannot be guaranteed** compared to the utility's Basic Service rate which changes every six months for residential and commercial customers, and every three months for industrial customers. The aggregation program seeks to provide price stability and average savings over the full term of the program, but because future basic service rates are not known, there is no guarantee of savings.

While the rates for all options are higher than the previous three years, they are lower than other electricity supply rates we are aware of in the marketplace. You may leave Westford Pop at any time without penalty should you find lower rates and better terms, however, be aware of the fine print. Many offers that look better initially are not under close examination.

Questions about the changes? Join a virtual info session on Oct 26, 2023 at 6 PM or Nov 9, 2023 at 2 PM
The links are available on the program site: [MassCEA.com/Westford](https://www.masscea.com/Westford)

If you have additional questions, you may call the Sustainability Coordinator at 978-399-2798.



Sustainability Update (Continued)

Electrification Events:

[LexElectrify Energy Fair](#) is October 28th at the Lexington High School.

The video of the first Westford Neighbor to Neighbor event: Heat Pumps 101, may be viewed [here](#)

Make Fall a Sustainable Season

Adopt a zero waste mind set. According to the EPA, the definition of Zero Waste follows: [Peer-Reviewed, International Definition of Zero Waste](#): "The conservation of all resources by means of responsible production, consumption, reuse, and recovery of products, packaging, and materials without burning and with no discharges to land, water, or air that threaten the environment or human health." This ambitious but achievable undertaking is a very important piece of the climate solution. Many communities are taking on the challenge. Lexington, MA, for example, began with a [Zero Waste Resolution](#) at Annual Town Meeting and now has a non-profit dedicated to this effort: [Lex Zero Waste Collaborative](#). The popularity of Facebook Buy Nothing sites and the like are evidence of the growing shift in our culture toward building new communities and connections through reuse.

Don't be afraid of the Dark!

- Limit your lights. Enjoy the ambiance of warm lighting directed only where you need it, indoors and out. Use your blinds and curtains. This will keep your energy bills low as well.
- Buy Dark Sky lighting for the outdoors
- Join Westford Climate Action for Stargazing, rescheduled to Sunday, November 19th at 7:30 PM
- Invest in a light box or day light bulbs for seasonal affective disorder if this impacts you indoors

Keep the tricks out of your treats: Avoid products containing palm oil. The palm oil industry has a huge impact on deforestation worldwide. It is a relatively new ingredient in food manufacturing. Buy Rainforest certified chocolate (and coffee) and opt for other treats. *Agricultural side note: climate change is already forcing the relocation of key agricultural products like chocolate, coffee, hops and grapes to other places. Orchards here in New England have experienced impacts as well, with both peach and apple crops experiencing late spring killing frosts this year.*

Leave the leaves! And the stems in your garden. Skip the fall clean up this year. Save your back, your hearing, your lungs and heart, your time and your money. At least for portions of your yard where you would enjoy habitat. You will discover that a spring clean up is easier as mother nature will have done much of the work for you. A bare lawn is a dead and sterile one. Insects rely on leaves and stems for winter habitat, and loss of this habitat, along with the use of poisons, is putting holes in the food chain that supports not just our food, but entire ecosystems. Soil health is dependent on the natural compost provided by leaves, as are the trees who shed them. Mulch your leaves and grass where you do want lawn, but do it early and let the rest go so the insects have time to put themselves to bed and the birds and small mammals can find this natural food.

Electrify! If you must mow and blow, save your hearing and preserve your clean air. Use electric lawn equipment or a local service that uses them.

(Continued on next page)



Sustainability Update (continued)

Organize your space for disposal and reuse. Fall brings the inevitable need to reassess your wardrobe and garage space (forecasters predict more snow this winter with warmer oceans), as well as to consider your indoor space with holiday guests in mind. Kudos to all of you already hard at work organizing costume swaps and giveaways of all kinds! You enrich our community and our environment. Designate a place for each type of item that needs to leave your possession.

Use the [Westford Recycling Commission's A-Z Guide on how to Recycle Most Anything to donate and recycle](#).

In the garage or similar:

- Textiles to be recycled – ripped, torn, stained, singles – take to a yellow New England Textile Recycling bin
- Electronics recycling
- Hazardous waste
- Metals – 24/7 access at Westford Metals on Broadway

In the basement or spare room, closet or entryway:

- Gifts: new items for hostesses, thank yous, Toys for Tots Drive, other charities, samples, extras
- Reusable items that no longer bring joy or utility: clothing, household items, toys
- Items to be repurposed – boxes, wrapping, ribbon, “should be useful”
- Books for the library

In the kitchen and yard or garage:

- Compost
- Recycling
- Trash

Happy October!

- Sue Thomas, [Sustainability Coordinator](#)

