



# Town of Westford Massachusetts

## Town Manager's Newsletter

July 2024



**Kristen Las**  
Town  
Manager

[klas@westfordma.gov](mailto:klas@westfordma.gov)  
[www.westfordma.gov/tm](http://www.westfordma.gov/tm)  
978-692-5500

Sign up to  
receive latest town  
updates:

[Subscribe to  
Notifications](#)



Sign up for



**Smart911™**

**Boston 25 ZipTrip  
Town Common  
Saturday, August 2  
6 - 10 AM**

**Composer Demo and Sale  
39 Main Street  
Saturday, August 10  
9 - 11 AM**

**FAQs on New Trash and  
Recycling Pick-up  
See pages 14 - 15**



Watch  
**westford** CAT  
community access television  
[www.westfordcat.org](http://www.westfordcat.org)

### Dear Westford residents,

I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to the family of Zayan Mayanja. This six-year-old young resident tragically drowned in Nabnasset Lake in late June. I would also like to thank the public safety departments in Westford and beyond who responded to the call that Zayan was missing. The Westford Police Department and the Town of Westford would like to thank Westford Remembers, Inc. for the extremely generous donation in Zayan Mayanja's memory of Apple AirTags and associated AirTag holders to assist with the Department's Cognitive Alert Registration program. "Westford Remembers, Inc. has purchased Apple AirTags and various AirTag holders to be provided to families of Autistic and Alzheimer's family members to assist in locating those at risk of wandering. The AirTag devices are to be managed and distributed via the Westford Police Department and Westford's Council on Aging Outreach and Social Services program." – Westford Remembers

The Westford Police Department will begin to contact current members of their Cognitive Alert Registration Program to inquire if they are interested in obtaining an AirTag for their loved one, and if their loved one qualifies for an AirTag, as part of the program. The Westford Police Department continues to encourage anyone with a family member with a cognitive condition to sign up for the [Cognitive Alert Registration Program](#) and note on the form if an AirTag is requested or if they believe an AirTag would benefit their family member.

As I noted in my June newsletter, beginning on July 1st, 2024, the Town's curbside collection contract moved from Acme (trash) and Waste Management (recycling) to E.L. Harvey. There are several important changes to keep in mind. Please visit [www.westfordma.gov/recycling-trash](http://www.westfordma.gov/recycling-trash) for more information. We appreciate everyone's patience while E.L. Harvey continues to learn the Westford routes.

The Town is actively engaged in the preparation of our Strategic Plan. We are seeking public feedback on the vision and the framework of the Strategic Plan before it is finalized in September. There will be opportunities for online and in person participation. We strive to receive feedback from all residents. To do so, we ask that you fill out this [online survey](#) and [discussion board](#). We will also be attending various events and meetings through the summer including the farmers' market, church groups, HOAs, parent groups, youth organizations and others. If you have an idea for an event or meeting we should attend to gather feedback, please email [tmaa@westfordma.gov](mailto:tmaa@westfordma.gov) and we are happy to schedule it.

There are many private and public construction projects going on in Westford this summer. We appreciate everyone's patience with detours and road closures. Some of the town projects include the Carlisle Road sidewalk, the Groton Road sidewalk near Farmer Way, and the Blue Brook culvert project.

(Continued on next page)

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

In light of our FY25 budgetary challenges and anticipated FY26 budgetary challenges, the Select Board, School Committee and Finance Committee have committed to holding quarterly efficiency meetings. The first meeting was held on June 27<sup>th</sup> in person and via Zoom. I presented several efficiencies that we are working on, including centralized fleet fueling, solid waste and recycling reduction and potential changes, employee health insurance, town building leases, and shared services agreements. We also discussed other potential efficiencies. Our next meeting will be held in mid to late August and we encourage residents to participate in the process.

On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, Westford will welcome the Fox 25 Zip Trip to the Town Common. Fox 25 will broadcast from 6AM to 10AM. We invite members of the public to join us on the common or view from their televisions. Various areas and businesses in town will be showcased.

Please see below for matters that were discussed or acted upon by the Select Board in the past month.

At their meeting on June 25, 2024, the Select Board thanked Acme Waste for their 30+ years of service to the Town of Westford. Select Board Chair Scott Hazelton announced the Lowell Regional Transit Authority is offering free bus transportation for the entire month of July 2024. For more information visit the [LRTA website](#). Select Board Chair Scott Hazelton also offered his condolences to the family and friends of Zayan Mayanja who tragically drowned in Nabnasset Lake on June 24, 2024.

Select Board Member Andrea Peraner-Sweet recapped the most recent DEI Committee events which included the Acton-Westford Pride Day on June 15, 2024 at NARA Park in Acton and the Juneteenth Flag Raising and Ceremony on Westford Town Common on June 19, 2024.

Select Board Vice Chair Tom Clay announced Westford CAT's annual meeting would be held on Thursday June 27, 2024, at 6PM at 487 Groton Road. He also announced the Budget Efficiencies Meeting on Thursday June 27, 2024, at the Millennium Building with the Select Board, School Committee and Finance Committee.

Town Manager Kristen Las announced work would begin at 12 N Main Street related to the Brownfields cleanup. She also announced the Town Wide Strategic Plan Survey is available for residents to participate.

Mark O'Lalor, Chair of the Agricultural Commission, asked to meet with the Select Board regarding an update on 66-68 Boston Road. Resident Ellen Harde also asked for status on Drew Gardens and would like to have the discussion as soon as possible. She also thanked Richie from Acme Waste for his years of service to the Town.

At their meeting on July 16, 2024, Select Board Chair Scott Hazelton thanked Westford Remembers for donating funds on behalf of Zayan Mayanja, to the Police Department and Town Social Worker to purchase Apple AirTags to be used to track children with Autism and residents living with Dementia.



(Continued on next page)

Assistant Town Manager of Land Use and Economic Development Jeff Morrissette led a discussion on a potential hybrid meeting policy for Land Use Boards. The discussion was continued to a Select Board meeting in August. There was also a discussion on creating a policy for Board and Committee appointments. The Town Manager's Office will continue taking the lead on Citizen Activity Forms and will work on increasing communication with residents who apply for positions, as a formal policy is developed. The request to open the Special Town Meeting Warrant was approved 5-0. Special Town Meeting will be held on Monday, October 21, 2024, at 7PM in Westford Academy. If a second night is needed, the meeting will be continued to Monday, October 28, 2024, at 7PM in Westford Academy.

Select Board Clerk Chris Barrett announced there would be a rate increase for the 2024/2025 After School Program block fee and Early Release daily rate.

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

**Affordable Housing Trust**

**Bylaw Review Committee**

**Capital Planning Committee**

**Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee**

**Cultural Council**

**Diversity Equity and Inclusion**

**Dog Park Task Force**

**Economic Development Committee**

**Healthy Westford Committee**

**Historical Commission**

**Northern Middlesex Stormwater Collaborative**

**Parks and Recreation Commission**

**Pedestrian Safety Committee**

**Permanent Town Building Committee**

**Recycling Commission**

**Scholarship and Grant Committee**

**Selectmen Policies & Procedures Sub Committee**

**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](mailto:klas@westfordma.gov).

Sincerely,



Kristen Las, Town Manager

# Strategic Planning Community Survey



**The Town of Westford is developing its first Strategic Plan, and we want to hear from residents!**

[westfordma.gov/strategic-plan](https://westfordma.gov/strategic-plan)

On June 6, the Select Board and Town staff worked to develop the proposed Strategic Outcome Areas for our Strategic Plan. Please take a few minutes to review this information and share your feedback. All responses are confidential. **Scan the QR code or enter the URL above to learn more and take the confidential, online survey to provide your input!** The survey will be available until August 12th.

## Proposed Strategic Outcome Areas



Responsive and Responsible Town Government



Caring and Engaged Community



Intentional and Appropriate Economic Growth



Quality Educational Opportunities



Diverse and Attainable Housing Options



Commitment to Environmental Sustainability and Preservation

Phone: 978-692-5501 | Fax: 978-399-2557  
Email: [tmaa@westfordma.gov](mailto:tmaa@westfordma.gov)

Town of Westford, 55 Main Street,  
Westford, MA 01886

## July / August at the J.V. Fletcher Library



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

**Director's Corner:** It's not too late! Our Summer Reading Programs run throughout the summer. Read for fun and prizes! Register now for the [Kids](#) (up to grade 4), [Young Adult](#) (grade 5 and up), and [Adult](#) Summer Reading Programs.

**Drawing with Rick Stromoski: Tuesday, July 23 at 4:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room** Open to grades 5 and up. Calling all artists! Award-winning cartoonist Rick Stromoski will teach you to draw cartoons with a focus on OCEAN ANIMALS! [Register here.](#)

**Family Concert with the BenAnna Band: Thursday, July 25 at 10:30 a.m. in the Meeting Room** This nationally touring children's duo focuses on music and inclusion for kiddos of all ages, abilities, and identities. The BenAnna Band wants to see you singing, playing, and dancing with them so there will be plenty of opportunities to follow the lyrics for group dancing, playing, and singing along with spotlight moments for everyone to rock out in their own way! No registration required.

**Toddlerbilly Concert with Matt Heaton: Tuesday, July 30 at 10:30 am** Toddlerbilly artist Matt Heaton delivers a fun and upbeat show for all ages. Matt says call it children's music, family music, kindie, or toddlerbilly but no matter what, it's sure to please listeners of all ages. No registration required.

**Mother Goose Time: Tuesdays – 10:30-11:15 a.m.:** Mother Goose story time OUTSIDE for the summer on Tuesday mornings in July and August. This is a great early literacy program for you and your littlest ones. Get them started with reading fundamentals like rhymes, finger plays, and stories. We will move inside if it rains. No registration required.

**Harry Potter's Birthday: Wednesday, July 31 at 2:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room** The Children's Librarians will host our annual magical Harry Potter birthday party including games, crafts, and other surprises. Dress as your favorite character or wear your house colors.

**Adult Nonfiction Book Club: Tuesday, August 6 at 6:30 p.m. –** We'll meet in the downstairs Meeting Room to discuss *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee: An Indian History of the American West* by Dee Brown. Copies are available at Main Desk. No registration required. Email [Charles Schweppe](#) for more information.

**Party Band Concert: Thursday, August 8 at 6:00 p.m.- Library Back Lawn** The Party Band is an original brass band embodying homegrown, unadulterated, unplugged fun. Their mission is to bring people together, celebrate the gift of being alive, and make the world a better place through the joys of quality live music in a way that is accessible to everyone. Originating in Lowell, MA, The Party Band has traveled the country blasting brass for fun, festivals, community events, schools, weddings, protests, and nightclub shows since their inception in 2013. The band has recorded three albums of original brass music inspired by the sounds of New Orleans and folk music from across Planet Earth. The Party Band believes it is important to be a force for good in the world, and to celebrate every day like the party that it is. No registration required. This concert is a collaboration with the adult and young adult summer reading programs and generously funded by the Friends of the Library.

(Continued on next page)

## Friends of The J.V. Fletcher Library (Continued)

### **We have added more titles to Hoopla Flex!:**

Our Hoopla digital collection is growing! In addition to the **10 hoopla Instant borrows** you receive each month with your Library card, Westford residents now will have **5 hoopla Flex borrows** to use on bestselling titles specially marked hoopla Flex eBooks and Audiobooks.

With Hoopla Flex titles you will find new and popular e-books and audiobooks that you can borrow now or place on hold to read later. This collection is just for Westford card holders, so the wait time for new titles should be significantly less than other digital collections shared with the consortium. This collection will grow over time.

Not familiar with Hoopla? With Hoopla, patrons can read, watch, and listen to thousands of eBooks, digital audiobooks, comics, movies, or TV shows that are available to stream or download. Patrons can sign up for Hoopla for free with a Westford Library card at [hoopladigital.com](http://hoopladigital.com) or download the Hoopla app from their favorite app store.

**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](mailto:westfordlibrary@westfordma.gov)**



Cameron Senior Center

Good Times at The Cameron Join Us for Cool Summer Activities and Events

**RED SOX VS YANKEES Baseball Program**

Tuesday, August 6 at 1:30 pm FREE

Join Marty Gitlin, a respected sportswriter and baseball expert, as he takes you through a century of unforgettable moments in the fiercest rivalry in American sports. From the Babe Ruth trade that sparked the Yankees' dominance to epic showdowns like DiMaggio vs. Williams and the infamous brawl of '67.

You'll experience it all! Dive into the gripping saga from Bucky Dent's legendary home run to the Red Sox historic 2004 comeback. An exciting journey through sports history is guaranteed. *Ballpark refreshments will be served.*

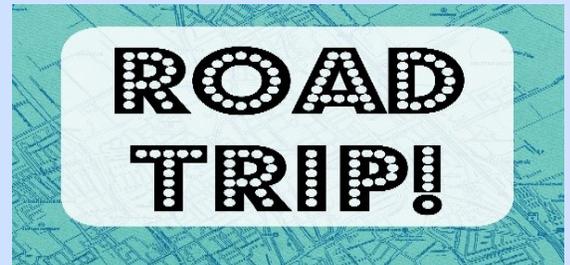
**NEW for Music Lovers! Enjoy MET Summer ENCORE 2024 Operas!**

Sponsored by: Westford Fund/Patti Mason

Location: O'Neil Cinemas, The Point, 1200 Constitution Ave., Littleton

Wednesday, July 24th at 1:00PM - La Boheme Opera

Wednesday, August 7th at 1:00PM- Turandot Opera



**LOBSTER ROLL CRUISE - Wednesday, August 14, 2024**

We will travel to Cape Cod for a truly exceptional day! We will depart via motor coach from the Franco-American Club at 9:45 am. We begin our day on the Cape in Dennis as we enjoy a 90 minute cruise offering the most spectacular views from the decks of the "Lobster Roll", a custom-built dinner cruise boat. Glide through the calm waters of Sesuit Harbor and into the serene beauty of Cape Cod Bay with its incredible picturesque coastline. While on board, you will enjoy a choice of Lobster Roll, Roast Beef Roll Up or a Vegetarian Roll Up. Before heading home, we will enjoy some free time in downtown Hyannis and enjoy a small cone at Katie's Ice Cream Shop. We will return to Westford at approximately 6:45 pm. Full Payment and meal choice is due upon reservation. No Refunds. Prices: \$132 per person.

**ESSEX STEAM TRAIN & RIVERBOAT - Friday, September 27, 2024**

Join us for a special Rail & Sail in Essex, CT. We will depart via motor coach from the Franco-American Club at 8:30 am. Upon arrival, we will board at the Essex Station and enjoy lunch on board while you as you pass by a beautiful countryside of meadows and farms. Choice of Braised Beef, Mushroom Asiago Chicken or Baked Ziti. The train travels along the Connecticut River to Deep River. Upon arrival at Deep "River Station, you will board the Riverboat for a relaxing ride along the Connecticut River. We will return to Westford at approximately 5:30 pm. Full Payment and meal choice is due upon reservation. No Refunds. Prices: \$157 per person.



Westford Senior Center

(Continued on next page)

## Cameron Senior Center (Continued)

### Fun at Good Pickin' Farms

Friday, August 30<sup>th</sup> from 10AM-2PM

Thanks to the LeClair Foundation a fund of the Greater Lowell Community Foundation for funding this event. Come enjoy a simple, fun day at the farm with many fun and optional activities planned which include the following: Hayride Camp games (may include water) and cornhole tournament, Goat hike, Arts and Crafts animals, Decorate a pony, lunch and more. Activities can be modified for those with mobility or other physical challenges. Transportation is available please call Robert Rafferty at 978-399-2322 but remember we need a 48-hour notice. Please RSVP by calling 978-692-5523.

### Representative Jim Arciero and Senator John Cronin's Annual Cookout



Wednesday, August 7, 2024, at noon

We are pleased to have Rep. Jim Arciero and Sen. John Cronin and their volunteers with us and hosting a crowd pleaser indoor cookout. You will enjoy freshly grilled hot dogs and hamburger lunch topped off with our annual birthday cake and ice cream celebrating everyone. This event will fill quickly so RSVP to 978-692-5523.

### Kimballs Under the Stars End of Summer Party

Tuesday, August 27<sup>th</sup> from 4-9PM

*\*Please note the Cameron Center will be closed due to off-site program.*

Sponsors: Friends of the Cameron and Westford Fund/Patti Mason and Kimballs

Join us for an early evening with music, dinner, ice cream bar, and activities which include the following: 18-hole mini golf, two bumper boats rides, one-zipline ride, one bucket of golf balls for driving range, and batting cage (ask staff for tokens).

Dinner will be served at 5:45PM: Please share your menu choice when RSVP: Burger/Cheeseburger, 1/4LB. beef hot dog or veggie burger with chips and drink. Ice cream Bar to follow. RSVP-978-692-5523 Transportation will be provided please call Robert Rafferty at 978-3992322. Please note we must have a 48-hour notice prior to event. Cost:\$20 (No rain date or refund one week prior to event)

### Kiwanis Annual Cookout at the CAM



Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6PM

We are always excited to host the Kiwanis cookout so please RSVP early because this is a popular hamburger and hot dog time for fellowship and a scrumptious hamburger/cheeseburger and or hot dog dinner. We appreciate our Kiwanis volunteers and their varied support to the Cameron.

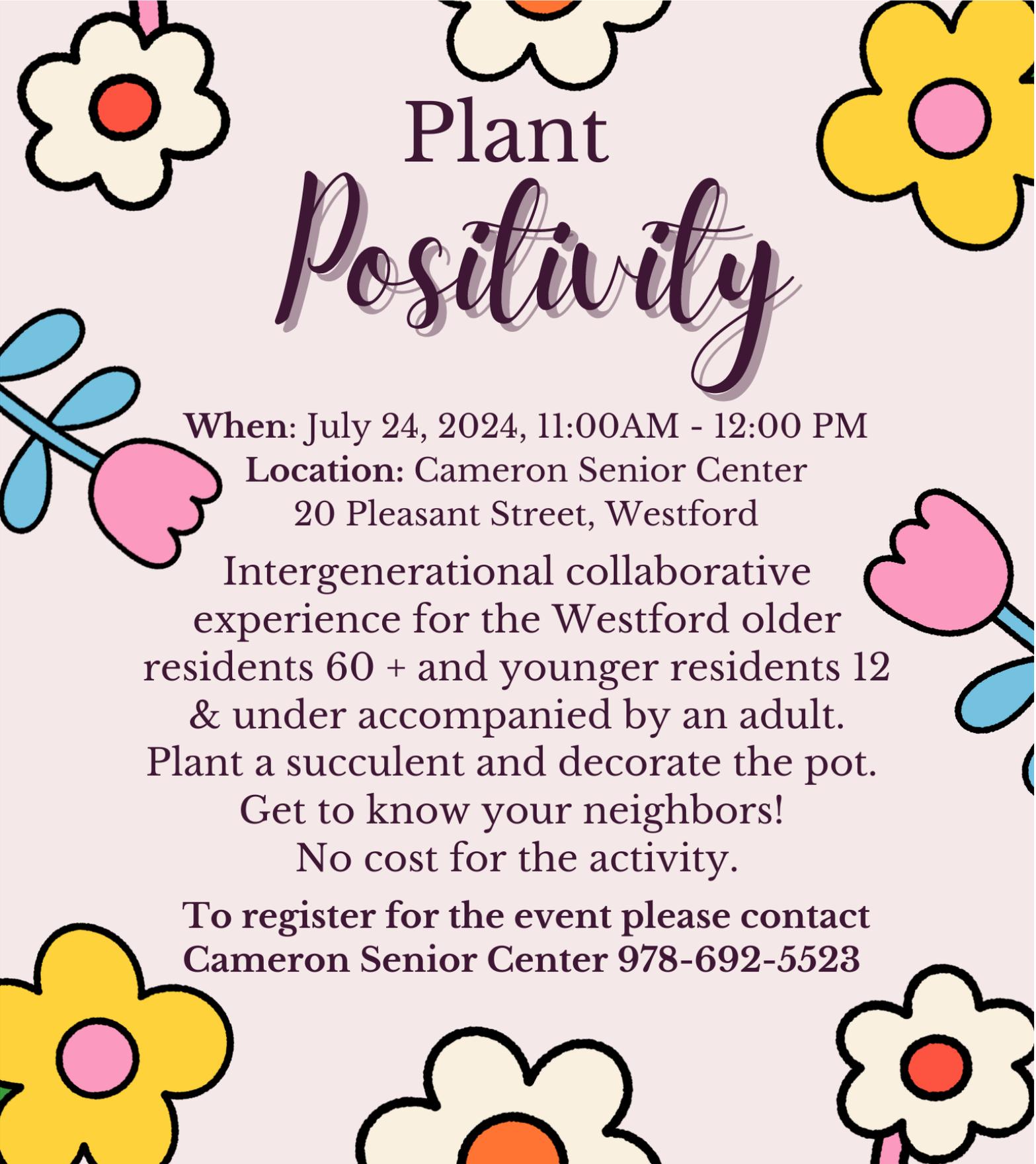
To learn more about the Cameron Senior Center programs and services please visit:

[www.westfordma.gov/coa](http://www.westfordma.gov/coa),  
[www.facebook.com/CameronSeniorCenter/](https://www.facebook.com/CameronSeniorCenter/)  
 Or please feel free to call us at 978-692-5523.

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

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

Community Wellness



# Plant Positivity

When: July 24, 2024, 11:00AM - 12:00 PM

Location: Cameron Senior Center  
20 Pleasant Street, Westford

Intergenerational collaborative  
experience for the Westford older  
residents 60 + and younger residents 12  
& under accompanied by an adult.  
Plant a succulent and decorate the pot.

Get to know your neighbors!  
No cost for the activity.

To register for the event please contact  
Cameron Senior Center 978-692-5523

Community Wellness (Continued)

TRAINING FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION PRESENTED  
BY WESTFORD COMMUNITY WELLENSS

**QPR:  
QUESTION  
PERSUADE  
REFER**

ONLINE EVENT | ONLINE EVENT | ONLINE EVENT | ONLINE EVENT | ONLINE EVENT

**TRAINER:**

**Jon Mattleman  
Clinical Director  
New England Office  
Minding Your Minds**

*QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) Gatekeeper Training provides instruction on these three simple steps that anyone can learn to help save a life from suicide. The goal of QPR Gatekeeper Training is to reduce suicidal behaviors and save lives by providing innovative, practical, and proven suicide prevention training. The signs of crisis are all around us. QPR Gatekeeper Training reinforces that quality education empowers all people, regardless of their background, to make a positive difference in the life of someone they know.*

THE LINK AND QR CODE FOR THIS 1 HOUR RECORDING.

[HTTPS://VIMEO.COM/MYMONLINE/WESTFORDQPR?SHARE=COPY](https://vimeo.com/mymonline/westfordqpr?share=copy)



Town Clerk's Corner



<p><b>State Primary</b> Early voting at Town Clerks Office</p>	<p><b>Tuesday, Sept 3, 2024</b> Saturday, Aug 24<sup>th</sup> 9am-3pm</p> <p>Monday -Friday Aug 26-30<sup>th</sup> 8am-4pm</p>
<p><b>Special Town Meeting</b></p>	<p><b>Monday, October 21, 2024</b> 7PM- Westford Academy</p>
<p><b>Presidential Election</b>  Early Voting for Presidential Election TBD</p>	<p><b>Tuesday, November 5, 2024</b></p>

Tuesday, September 3, 2024 - Massachusetts State Primary			
<p><b>Voter Registration Deadline</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Postmarked by Sat Aug 24, 2024</li> <li>• In-Person Request by Sat Aug 24, 2024 5:00PM</li> <li>• Online by Sat Aug 24, 2024 11:59PM</li> </ul>	<p><b>Absentee Ballot Request Deadline</b></p> <p>Request to Receive Blank Ballot by Mail by Mon Aug 26, 2024</p>	<p><b>Absentee Ballot Return Deadline</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tue Sep 3, 2024 8:00PM</li> <li>• Postmarked On or Before Election Day and Received by Fri Sep 6, 2024</li> </ul>	<p><b>Early Voting Available</b></p> <p><b>Early Voting</b> From Sat Aug 24, 2024 to Fri Aug 30, 2024</p>

**Vote By Mail Information:**

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/elections/voting-information/vote-by-mail.htm>

**Not registered as a voter in Westford yet?**

It's easier than ever ... just go online! [www.sec.state.ma.us/](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/)



**When you register to vote, you may**

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



If you do not enroll in a party (i.e., choose unenrolled or a political designation), you may still vote in state and presidential primaries by choosing a party ballot and will remain unenrolled. If you enroll in one of the parties listed above, you may vote only in that party's primary. In a general election, all voters receive the same ballot regardless of party enrollment.



# Rec's Westford Partnership for Children (WPC)

## After School Program **OPEN HOUSE** & Registration Night

Wednesday, July 31  
5:30-7 p.m.  
65 Main, 3rd Floor



AFTER SCHOOL AT ABBOT: **RELAXED & ENGAGED!**

### **JOIN US AT:**

65 Main Street, 3rd floor, Westford, MA 01886  
978-692-5532, westfordma.myrec.com



For **Grades K-5**, Monday through Friday, from school dismissal to 6:00 p.m.

**On-site locations** at Abbot, Crisafulli, Day, Miller, Nabnasset, and Robinson.

#### AFTER SCHOOL WITH REC MEANS:

- A **safe and easy transition** from the classroom to the WPC program.
- A **choice of activities** led by experienced, caring Site Directors and staff.
- An **affordable** program with **flexible schedules**.

PLUS Rec's **Special Programs** during parent conferences, professional development days, and December, February and April school vacations!



CRISAFULLI WPC STAFF: **DEDICATED & FUN!**

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

# REC UPDATE 7-19-24 Summer. Fall.

## "Not to Miss"

offered in **JULY**

### **BRAZILIAN YOUTH SOCCER SUMMER CLINICS**

AGES 7-14: THE BASICS WITH PASSION, CONFIDENCE, MOTIVATION.

### **FAST SKILLS FOOTBALL - PAT GENDRON**

AGES 8-13: NON CONTACT, PLAY FAST, HAVE FUN.

### **SPEED AND AGILITY, JR AND PRIME - D.J. BROCK**

AGES 12-21: IMPROVE ATHLETICISM, COMPETITIVE, SUPPORTIVE.

### **PICKLEBALL - DONALD VAN DYNE**

AGES 18 AND UP: ALL LEVELS, GREAT EXERCISE.

offered in **AUGUST**

### **BRAZILIAN YOUTH SOCCER SUMMER CLINICS**

### **FAST SKILLS FOOTBALL - PAT GENDRON**

### **ON THE MARK ARCHERY**

### **SPEED AND AGILITY, JR AND PRIME - D.J. BROCK**

### **PICKLEBALL - DONALD VAN DYNE**

### **ALL SUMMER - MARCUS LEWIS TENNIS, STONY BROOK COURTS**

EXPERTS IN TENNIS: YOUTH, ADULTS, AND PEE WEE SUMMER MINI CLINICS.

### **PLUS MORE SUMMER WEEKLY PROGRAMS!**

KIDS CLUB AND D.E. - FLEX SCHEDULES, EARLY ARRIVAL, EXTENDED DAY.

coming this **FALL**

### **NEW! INCLUSION SPORTS**

AGES 2-4, 5-7: INCLUSIVE. ACCESSIBLE. EVERYONE BELONGS!

### **IMPACT SPRINT ACADEMY, TRACK - D.J. BROCK**

GRADE 9-COLLEGE AGE: SPRINTING CLINIC - MOVE FORWARD, FAST.

### **NITEHAWKS FALL CROSS COUNTRY - ALEX IVANOV (USATF)**

GRADES K-2 AND 3-8: STRENGTH, ENDURANCE, FUN.

### **SOCCER SHOTS**

AGES 2-5: THE BASICS, HIGH ENERGY, POSITIVE, FUN.

### **AND MORE OF! PICKLEBALL WITH DONALD VAN DYNE**

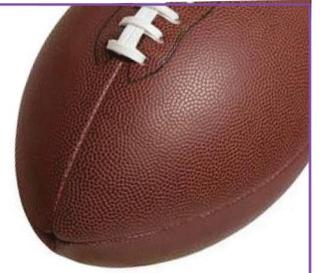
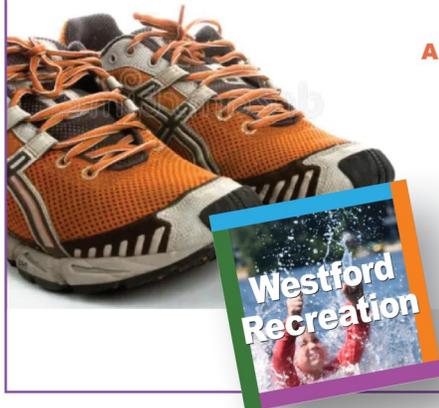
### **BOLLYWOOD WITH RACHANA**

### **CHESS FOR YOUTH WITH MASTER PRATHIBAY**

Experienced Instructors! Great Coaches!

**REGISTER at [westfordma.myrec.com](http://westfordma.myrec.com)**

Westford Recreation | 65 Main Street, 3rd flr, Westford, MA | 978-692-5532



Marcus Lewis Tennis Center

### **SUMMER SWIM LESSONS**

available for Rec's KIDS CLUB and DESTINATION EXPLORATION program participants. CHECK IT OUT!

## Recycling Commission

Save  
the  
Date

### Mark your Calendar Now! Upcoming events by the Westford Recycling Commission



- **Composting Demo and Composter Sale – August 10 at 39 Main St., 9-11 am**  
Stop by and purchase a \$25.00 Earth Machine Composter. *(This is only a 5-15 minute time commitment. We have numerous residents coming in during this time frame in each session and all seem to enjoy it with plenty of time for other Saturday errands. Join the many households who are keeping an average of 10 pounds of food waste out of their trash every week – 520 pounds a year.)*
- **Electronics and More (Town Garage) – September 7, 9 am – 1 pm**
- **Zero Waste Day (Blanchard Parking Lot) – September 7, 9 am – 1 pm**  
*The final list of sites, vendors, and accepted materials will be widely publicized well in advance of September 7.*  
Visit [www.westfordma.gov/recycling](http://www.westfordma.gov/recycling) for details as we approach the collection day.



- **Also, on September 7 on Zero Waste Day (and Everyday) please visit the A to Z Guide: How to Recycle Most Anything to see what else you can divert from the waste stream.**  
[How-to-Recycle-Most-Everything-PDF \(westfordma.gov\)](#)

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) On Curbside Recycling & Trash Collection Changes as of July 1, 2024

Beginning July 1, the Town of Westford will change contractors for the collection of recycling and trash at curbside for residents. While the program will remain largely the same, there are some differences of which residents should be aware. Here are some answers to frequently asked questions.

### ***Is my regular collection day changing?***

No, your day won't change, but the time of collection might change. All items will need to be curbside by 7:00 A.M.

### ***Is curbside recycling changing?***

No. There are no changes to your curbside program other than who will be collecting it. Recycling will continue to be unlimited and residents are reminded that recycling is mandatory. Please visit [www.westfordma.gov/recycling](http://www.westfordma.gov/recycling) for more information on what items are acceptable and other guidance on how to divert waste from the trash stream and reduce costs for taxpayers.

### ***What are the limits on trash?***

There is a household limit of 96-gallons by volume per week. Containers designed for automated collection (rigid plastic, wheeled with hinged lids like Town recycling carts) may be up to 96-gallons. Containers not designed for automated collection (everything else, including heavy duty "contractor" style trash bags) may not exceed 50lbs. when loaded and must be in good repair. There is a limit of three (3) containers per household, provided both the TOTAL 96-gallon limit per household, per week, and the 50lb. limit per each manual collection container are observed.

(Continued on next page)

## Recycling Commission (Continued)

### ***Why do we have new limits on trash?***

The new limits combine and clarify both existing Select Board policy of three (3) containers per household, per week, and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) worker safety/heavy lifting guidelines. To reduce costs for taxpayers, the new hauler uses trucks equipped for automated, single-operator collection. The previous hauler used a driver and 1-2 laborers per truck. At this time, automated collection containers are not required. Each truck will combine automated and manual collection.

### ***What are the requirements for trash and recycling container types?***

Containers designed for automated collection are limited to 96 gallons in size. These containers are rigid plastic (hard sided), wheeled and with lids and have a metal catch bar... comparable construction to the current recycling totes. These are acceptable for both trash and recycling provided they are clearly marked.

All other containers are considered manual collection containers. These containers must be 50lbs or less when loaded, in good condition (no broken handles, sharp edges, or cracks/breaks). There is no specific container requirement or standard otherwise.

**For TRASH ONLY, bags are acceptable, but must be heavy duty (contractor-style bags), not overloaded, not torn/ripped, and tied. Must be under 50lbs.**

### ***Do I need to buy new containers for trash?***

It depends, but most likely not. See the guidance above.

### ***Can I still use the recycling toter I purchased from the Westford Recycling Commission?***

Yes. Both the yellow/black and green containers will still be collected. The smaller bins are also acceptable.

### ***Does my cardboard have to be in a container?***

No. You may continue to bundle and tie cardboard with twine or consolidate flattened cardboard into another recyclable cardboard box. Cardboard must be cut or folded into 3' X 3' sections. You may also use a bin or other container.

### ***What if I have more trash than will fit in my 96-gallon weekly household limit?***

Additional household waste (bagged or in a container and under 50lbs.), or burnable bulk items under 50 lbs. that are able to be loaded by a single individual, may be disposed of with a YELLOW bulk sticker. These may be purchased from the Town Clerk or participating area vendors. You can find a listing of area vendors on the Westford Recycling Commission website at [www.westfordma.gov/recycling](http://www.westfordma.gov/recycling).

### ***My trash was rejected by the contractor. Why?***

If your trash was rejected, the contractor will place a rejection sticker on your container or the trash itself. The sticker will note why it was rejected. Some common reasons include:

- Recyclable materials mixed in with your trash.
- No recycling container at curbside along with your trash. Recycling is mandatory, and Select Board policy state that trash will not be collected unless a recycling container is also placed curbside.
- Unacceptable waste included in trash, including materials subject to Massachusetts waste bans.
- Trash container over weight limit of 50lbs, total household volume over 96-gallons (without a bulk sticker), or more than three (3) trash containers.
- Automated containers placed too close or under an obstruction
- Bulk item or white good that requires special collection
- Yard waste in trash

### ***My recycling was rejected by the contractor. Why?***

If your recycling was rejected, it is most likely due to banned materials (like plastic bags) being included in your container. A rejection sticker will be placed on any rejected recycling with specific reasons. If you have questions on what can and cannot be recycled, please visit the Recycling Commission's [www.westfordma.gov/recycling](http://www.westfordma.gov/recycling).

### ***Where can I get a new recycling toter?***

E.L. Harvey sells and delivers 95-gallon automated totes.

Please contact E.L. Harvey to order directly at **1-800-321-3002**.

# Stormwater Management

## Do Your Part, Be SepticSmart: The Do's and Don'ts of Your Septic System

Learn these simple steps to protect your home, health, environment and property value:



### Protect It and Inspect It:

**Do:**

- Have your system inspected (in general) every three years by a licensed contractor and have the tank pumped, when necessary, generally every three to five years.

### Think at the Sink:

**Don't:**

- Pour cooking grease or oil down the sink or toilet.
- Rinse coffee grounds into the sink.
- Pour household chemicals down the sink or flush them.

**Do:**

- Eliminate or limit the use of a garbage disposal.
- Properly dispose of coffee grounds & food.
- Put grease in a container to harden before discarding in the trash.

### Don't Overload the Commode:

**Don't:**

- Flush non-degradable products or chemicals, such as feminine hygiene products, condoms, dental floss, diapers, cigarette butts, cat litter, paper towels, pharmaceuticals.

**Do:**

- Dispose of these items in the trash can!

### Shield Your Field:

**Don't:**

- Park or drive on your drainfield. The weight can damage the drain lines.
- Plant trees or shrubs too close to your drainfield, roots can grow into your system and clog it.

**Do:**

- Consult a septic service professional to advise you of the proper distance for planting trees and shrubs, depending on your septic tank location.

### Don't Strain Your Drain:

**Don't**

- Concentrate your water use by using your dishwasher, shower, washing machine, and toilet at the same time. All that extra water can really strain your septic system.

**Do:**

- Stagger the use of water-generating appliances. This can be helpful especially if your system has not been pumped in a long time.
- Become more [water efficient](#) by fixing plumbing leaks and consider installing bathroom and kitchen faucet aerators and water-efficient products.

For more SepticSmart tips, visit: [WWW.EPA.GOV/SEPTICSMART](http://WWW.EPA.GOV/SEPTICSMART)