



Town of Westford Massachusetts

Town Manager's Newsletter

September 2024



Kristen Las
Town
Manager

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

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updates:

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Free Film Showing:
"Kiss The Ground"
Saturday, September 28,
1:30 PM at The Parish
Center for the Arts
(See Page 12)

Special Town Meeting
Monday, October 21
7 PM in the Westford
Academy Gymnasium



Watch
westford CAT
community access television
www.westfordcat.org

Dear Westford residents,

As we enter the first week of fall, I can say with confidence that we have been spoiled with great weather during the final weeks of summer in September. However, due to an extended period of dry weather and consequent increased demand, the Westford Water Department is upgrading outdoor water use restrictions to Stage III (Emergency): All outdoor non-essential water use is prohibited. [Click here to view the Outdoor Water Use Restrictions](#) to get more information on essential and non-essential water uses. These restrictions will be in force until further notice.

The September State Primary Election went well and we are already gearing up for the November Presidential Election. The Clerk's office will be offering early voting at the Millennium Building, 23 Depot St. Westford from Saturday, October 19th through Friday, November 1st. For more information, on early voting and the election, click [here](#) to visit the Town Clerk's website.

The Board of Health and Health Department would like to educate residents on the uptick in positive cases of EEE and WNV. The Health Department has been working with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and Central Mass Mosquito Project. A consensus was made to spray the school fields and parks to reduce residents' risk of contracting a mosquito-borne illness on Thursday, September 12, 2024.

The Economic Development Committee is interested in hearing from our Westford businesses. Calling all Businesses in Westford. Through an online survey, they are seeking feedback from businesses in town to better understand your needs and how we can improve our service. Please take our [survey](#) if you are a business owner or represent a business.

As private and public construction projects continue around town, we are proud that the Carlisle Road sidewalk project has been completed. The Groton Road sidewalk near Farmer Way is nearly complete and the Plain Road sidewalk expansion is underway.

We will hold the Special Town Meeting on October 21, 2024. Documents for the meeting will continue to be uploaded to the following [website](#). The Select Board will be making recommendations on the warrant articles at their meetings on September 24th and October 8th. Town staff will be presenting at the League of Women Voters Town Meeting preview the evening of October 17th. All are welcome to attend to learn more about the articles.

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

At their meeting on August 27, 2024, the Select Board congratulated Captain Darren Lanier, Lieutenant Benjamin Simmons, and acting Lieutenant Michael Hanley-McCarthy on their promotions within the Fire Department.

Select Board Chair, Scott Hazelton announced that the Economic Development [survey](#) for Westford businesses is open and encouraged local businesses to participate to help guide the future of Westford.

(Continued on next page)

WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV

The Director of Project Development, Jeff Brunelle with the Nobis Group, gave an update on the EPA cleanup project at 12 N Main Street, the former anodizing site. Site surveys, investigations, and project planning have been completed to date and the next steps include soil sampling, incinerator demolition, and remedial action, which should be complete by December 2024.

The Department of Energy Resources gave a presentation on the Municipal Opt-In Specialized Stretch Energy Code and what the requirements would be for Westford if we decide to move in that direction. The presentation can be found in the [meeting packet](#). The Select Board will discuss at their meeting on September 24, 2024 if the new code will be on the October 21, 2024 Town Meeting warrant.

A continuation of ARPA funding requests for a Polaris ATV in the amount of \$18,896 of which \$13,796 would be funded by ARPA and October 2024 Special Town Meeting expenses not to exceed \$28,000 were both approved 4-0.

The Select Board reviewed the progress of the Board and Committee appointment policy and also designated board members to participate in upcoming collective bargaining negotiations with Police, Police Superiors, WPWA, CWA, and OPEIU.

At their meeting on September 10, 2024, SB Vice Chair Clay announced the September 11, 2024 services would be held at 10AM in the public safety courtyard. The ceremony was led by Veterans' Services Officer Terry Stader and was a beautiful tribute to those who sacrificed their life on September 11, 2001.

Select Board Member Andrea Peraner-Sweet thanked the Westford Recycling Committee for their Zero Waste Day, which had a terrific turnout.

Town Manager Kristen Las thanked Westford Remembers and Kimball Farm for their donations to the Employee Appreciation Cookout.

The Select Board and Board of Health are looking for interested residents to complete a Citizen Activity Form to fill an open seat on the Board of Health until a permanent member can be elected.

Moderator Angela Harkness announced the Westford Historic House tour will be held on September 28th at 10AM. More information can be found on the [Westford Museum website](#).

The Select Board held a Public Hearing to refer street acceptances for Clover Leaf Lane and Diane Lane to the Planning Board. The Select Board approved the layout of Cloverleaf Lane 4-0 and the layout of Diane Lane would be continued to the September 24, 2024 meeting at 7:10PM.

The Select Board approved 4-0 the [vision and mission statement](#) of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee and approved 4-0 to endorse the current health insurance plan for town employees until more information can be collected on other options.

The Select Board also received a presentation from the Health Insurance Trust on options regarding Health Insurance for the November 1st renewal and beyond. The Board concurred with the Health Insurance Trust that at this time, there should not be any plan design changes and the rate of increase beginning November 1st should be below 10.3%. The Health Insurance Trust is committed to continue to review health insurance options that are in the best interest of the Town and the employees. On September 12th, the Health Insurance Trust voted to increase the employee and the Town contributions into the Health Insurance Trust by 8.3%.

(Continued on next page)

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

Affordable Housing Trust

Agricultural Commission

Board of Health

Bylaw Review Committee

Capital Planning Committee

Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee

Cultural Council

Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee

Dog Park Task Force

Healthy Westford Committee

Historical Commission

Northern Middlesex Stormwater Collaborative

Parks and Recreation Commission

Pedestrian Safety Committee

Recycling Commission

Scholarship and Grant Committee

Selectmen Policies & Procedures Subcommittee

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 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

From The Moderator



Angela Harkness,
Town Moderator

Hello Westford voters! I'd like to remind you of our upcoming Special Town Meeting on October 21, starting at 7 pm in the Westford Academy gymnasium. All Westford voters can attend and participate as long as you are registered to vote by October 11, 2024.

Need to register? Click here: [Voter Registration](#).

The voters at Town Meeting constitute the legislative body of our Town, deciding on budgets, by-laws and Citizen's Petitions. For more information check out the Town Moderator's page: [Moderator](#) and the Town Meeting page: [Town Meeting](#) on the Town website.

Here are some additional links to resources if you'd like more information about the Town Meeting process:

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

[Town Meeting Explained](#)

There will be parking at Westford Academy, Robinson, Crisafulli and Abbot schools on the evening of the meeting with shuttle buses to the WA Meeting site and back from the remote locations. Please car pool if you can! There will also be free transportation – sign up here: [Town Meeting Transportation](#). Free childcare is available on site, provided by the Westford Recreation Department, but you must sign up in advance. We are focused on efficiency and I hope to wrap up as early as possible however, if necessary, the continuation date will be October 28 again at Westford Academy at 7:00 pm.

This is your opportunity to render opinions, ask questions and vote on important issues affecting our community. You may come for all or part of the Meeting.

Town Meeting allows you to be directly engaged in the governance of our Town. I hope to see you there, because democracy works best when everyone participates.



Westford Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee



Inclusive Conversations

podcast series

Listen and subscribe to podcasts featuring DEI co-chairs Joe Diamond and Anjali Rajput as your hosts for **Inclusive Conversations** as they engage with committee members, school leaders, legislative leaders and diverse members of our community to talk about issues of diversity that impact us all.

Meet Your DEI Committee Members

DEI in Action: Westford Public Schools

Voices from the Statehouse on DEI

Neurodiversity Week: Unique Minds

Confronting Antisemitism

Honoring LGBTQ+ Pride & Juneteenth

Meet Chelmsford DEI

...many more to come

Available on Westford CAT and YouTube



[DEI Committee Podcast on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

Town Clerk's Corner



Laurie Shaw, Town Clerk
LShaw@westfordma.gov

Special Town Meeting	Monday, October 21, 2024, 7pm Westford Academy
Presidential Election	November 5, 2024
<u>Early Voting hours:</u>	
At the Millennium Building 23 Depot St (Behind Abbot School)	Saturday, Oct 19, 9am - 3pm
	Saturday, Oct 26, 9am - 3pm
	Monday, Oct 21 - Fri, Oct 25, 8am - 4pm
	Monday, Oct 28 - Fri, Nov 1, 8am - 4pm

Voter Registration Deadline: October 26, 2024
Vote by Mail Application Deadline: October 29, 2024
Polling Hours: 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Vote by Mail Information: [Click Here](#)

Not registered as a voter in Westford yet?
 It's easier than ever ... just go online! 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.

You can find a large print version of the Massachusetts Information For Voters here:
https://www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/elections/download/research-and-statistics/IFV_2024_Large.pdf



Massachusetts Information For Voters
2024 Ballot Questions Large Type Edition
 State Election
 Tuesday, November 5, 2024

Massachusetts Register to Vote Online: VoteInMA.com
 Vote by Mail Information Enclosed!
 Published by
 William Francis Galvin
 Secretary of the Commonwealth

Westford Public Schools

And away we go...update! WPS 9-1-24

First couple of days are in the books!

Monday and Tuesday were filled with professional development, mandated annual trainings along with some relay races and other team building activities sprinkled into the schedules. Everything kicked off with another fantastic performance by the Westford Academy Marching Band and Color Guard to open up the district wide staff meeting Monday morning. Tuesday also included the voluntary orientations for students in grades 6 at the middle schools and grade 9 at Westford Academy. Wednesday required a whole new level of energy and engagement as the rest of the students in grades 1-12 joined in on all of the fun. Kindergarten and Preschool will begin classes next week and we look forward to welcoming all of them, as well.

In the excitement of the beginning of the school year, it is very important to share our appreciation for all of the work that our custodial and maintenance staff were able to complete during the summer preparing the buildings and all of the spaces for everyone's return. A great deal of pride and care is clearly exhibited in how everything is maintained. I am always astonished how amazing the floors can look as they welcome thousands of shoes and rolling wheels to put them to the test.

Of course, there is a wide range of ages to our buildings and some have greater needs than others. As we discussed last year, Westford Public Schools has been invited into the Eligibility Phase by the Massachusetts School Building Association (MSBA) for consideration of a building project for the Robinson Elementary school. One of the possible outcomes could be consolidating the Robinson and Abbot schools into a larger new elementary school. This process takes many years and districts work closely with the MSBA through various phases to present to the town voters options to consider. The Eligibility Phase is the first of nine different phases. One of the expectations within this first phase is to establish a building project committee. In August, the Westford Selectboard voted to establish the official Robinson School Building Committee (RSBC). The charge was as follows:

The RSBC established as the School Building Committee for the Colonel John Robinson Elementary School Project to study the feasibility, renovation, expansion and or replacement of the Robinson Elementary School and then carry out such project if deemed necessary and appropriate by the town and MSBA.

This 11 person committee will include 2 residents at large to join as voting members. These individuals from the community should have knowledge of the educational mission of the facility and/or experience with architecture or engineering and/or construction experience. If you would like to be considered for one of those positions, please fill out the citizen action form located on the Town Website in order to express your interest: [Town of Westford Boards & Committees System](https://data.westfordma.gov/bc/newcaf.php) (<https://data.westfordma.gov/bc/newcaf.php>)

Cheers,
Chris

Christopher Chew, Ed.D
Superintendent
Westford Public Schools



September / October at the J.V. Fletcher Library



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

Director's Corner: To Westford's Wonderful Summer Reading Program Participants and Families - Congratulations, Readers of All Ages, on your unprecedented participation and support of the Fletcher Library's 2024 Summer Reading Program! This summer:

- **768 children were "WILD ABOUT READING!"**
– and registered for this program where the rumpus truly began!
- **335 Young Adults joined the YA Summer Reading Program**
- **544 Adult registrants read under the "Let's Go Wild" Theme**

We thank the Friends of the J. V. Fletcher Library, Inc. for supporting and funding all aspects of our three Summer Reading Programs, as well as the KDK Foundation which generously funded both the "Whalemobile" and "Yo-Yo Man." Westford consistently hosts one of the highest-attendance Summer Reading Programs in the Commonwealth and it has been so gratifying and rewarding to encourage so many enthusiastic readers of all ages!

Drop-in Storytimes!

Wiggle Words will be returning on the 24th of September and run every Tuesday until November 12 from 10:30-11:00 a.m. This weekly drop-in story time is for kids ages 2 to 4 and their caregivers. Join us as we share music, movement, and really FUN books for the younger kids in this program.

Mother Goose will be returning on the 25th of September and run every Wednesday until November 13 from 10:30-11:15 a.m. Mother Goose is an interactive story time for children ages 0 and up with their caregivers. We include books, songs, a field trip, fun movements, and of course, dancing! Hang out for a few minutes afterwards and make some new friends or migrate up to the children's room for more play.

Book Bunch will be returning on the 26th of September and run every Wednesday until November 14 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. This weekly drop-in story time is for kids ages 2 to 4 and their caregivers. Join us as we share music, movement, and really FUN books for the younger kids in this program.

Celebrate Library Card Sign-up Month this September with the J.V. Fletcher Library! We invite everyone to discover the incredible resources and opportunities available by visiting in person or signing up online at www.westfordlibrary.org. At the J.V. Fletcher Library you'll find electronic collections, diverse programs, job search assistance, book clubs, youth programming, and more. Whether you're looking to enhance your skills, find valuable information, or connect with fellow avid readers, a library card unlocks a world of possibilities. Getting a library card is easy! For more information please call (978) 399-2301.

Young Adult Advisory Board (YAAB): Wednesday, September 25, 6:00-7:00 p.m. 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. Registration is appreciated but not required. [Register here.](#)

Adult Nonfiction Book Club: Tuesday, October 1 at 6:30 p.m. – We'll meet in the downstairs Meeting Room to discuss *Democracy Awakening* by Heather Cox Richardson. Copies are available at Main Desk. No registration required. Email [Charles Schwepe](mailto:Charles.Schwepe@westfordlibrary.org) for more information.

(Continued on next page)

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

Virtual Job Search Help for 50 & Over –Cover Letters and AI in Your Job Search: Wednesday, October 2, 9:30 -11:30 a.m. The Massachusetts Library Collaborative's 50+ Job Seekers Group meets on biweekly the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month. 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.](#)

Animanga Club: Wednesday, October 2 at 6:00 p.m. Come to the meeting room to watch anime, draw characters, browse new manga and eat fun snacks. Open to anyone in Grade 6 and up. No registration required.

Adult Book Discussion Club: Thursday, October 10 at 6:30 p.m. Join us in the Mary Atwood Room to discuss *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride. No registration required. Copies are available at the Main Desk and there are downloadable copies (audio and e-copies) available from Overdrive/Libby and Hoopla Flex. Check out our [Reading List for 2024.](#)

Art Book Club for Kids in Grades 3-4: Thursday, October 3 at 4:00 p.m. Art Book Club is a time to discuss different artists, what they create, and to practice that form of art. October's artist will be Wayne Thiebaud. He is most famous for painting still life filled with baked goods. Participants will practice painting still life with watercolors. [Register here.](#) You can pick up the October book in the Children's Room.

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**

Cameron Senior Center

Sharing Fall Together at the Cameron- Welcoming adults age 55+

LUNCH AND LEARN SEPTEMBER Cyber Scams and How to Protect Yourself

Friday, September 27th at 12:00 pm

Learn about the Cyber Scams and Ann Westerheim from Ekaru will teach us about cyber scams and how to protect yourself from them. Lunch provided by The Residence at Bedford. Sign up at 978.692.5523

PARTY IN THE PASTURE - WHAT FUN!

Wednesday, October 2nd from 11 am - 2 pm
Come for lunch and so much more! Bring your family, friends and neighbors for an exciting afternoon in a pastoral setting filled with great music by Westford's very own Mickey Lorden. A great lunch of hamburgers, hotdogs, fruit, dessert & drinks, hayrides, lawn games and dancing! It will be a day for all to enjoy with something for everyone. The Cameron Transportation Program will offer a "party shuttle" from the senior center to Good Pickin' Farm beginning at 11:30 am and additional shuttles will occur every thirty minutes, with last shuttle leaving Good Pickin' Farm at 1:30 pm. A \$5 donation will help on this fun event! Please call 978.692.5523 to be included in this unique afternoon happily presented by the Cameron Senior Center.



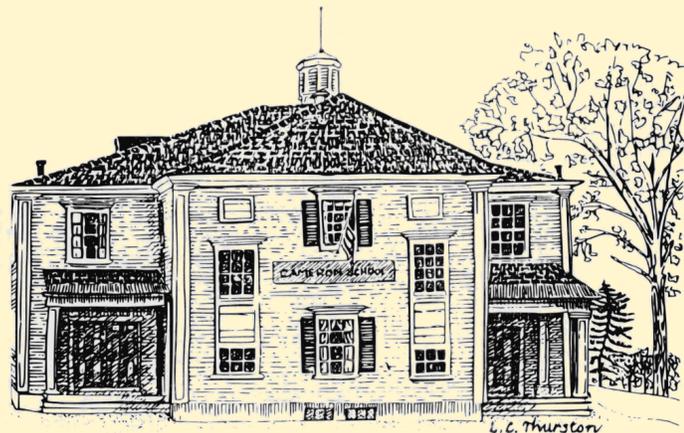
AGING ALONE: A SEXUAL WELLNESS PERSPECTIVE

Wednesday, October 9th at 2pm
Loneliness and isolation, as described by Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, are in need of the same investments we have made in addressing fitness and other public health crises. But why has this not been the case to date? Aging alone can be a daunting and complex state, yet we can do something about it. This lively and joyful workshop will include the multidimensionality of social isolation, the biopsychosocial impacts, and recommendations and resources. Join Dr. Jane Fleishman, a sexuality educator focusing on the sexual wellbeing of older adults as we delve into this important topic. Call the front desk to sign up at 978.692.5523

DON'T MISS THE FRIENDS OF THE CAMERON ANNUAL HARVEST FAIR!

Wednesday, October 23, 2024 – 10AM

Plan a full day with friends and family and support our outside vendors, crafters, artwork, and our own Trudy's boutique. Enjoy a cup of coffee or cider with our tasty baked goods while you browse. Treat yourself or start your holiday shopping. Transportation available please call 978.399.2322. **Save the date!**



Westford Senior Center

(Continued on next page)

Cameron Senior Center (Continued)

TRAVEL PRESENTATION - Help us plan overnight and intl. trips

Thursday, October 3rd at 10:30am

Join Collete Travel as they discuss future tours for 2025 and 2026.

Thursday, October 3rd at 10:30am

We are excited to learn more about our trip to Costa Rica, Spotlighting Northern Italy, and California Dreamin'. Please sign up at 978.692.5523.

COLETTE TOURS TO TROPICAL COSTA RICA

Discount Available until September 8th!

TROPICAL COSTA RICA March 7-15, 2025 Join Collette Tours on a 9-day trip to Costa Rica. 14 Meals included. Explore San Jose, a Coffee Plantation, the Arenal Volcano, a Cano Negro guided river boat tour viewing 20,000 acres of indigenous wildlife, a family-owned farm or a classroom without borders, Lake Arenal, the world's largest butterfly garden, the Hanning Bridges or the longest canopy zip line tours, Guanacaste, the breath-taking fine sand beaches and Samara, one of the top sunset spots in Costa Rica. For info email Katie at krussell@westfordma.gov

NEED ASSISTANCE WITH UNDERSTANDING MEDICARE?

Monday, October 21st and 28th by appointment.

SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) can help! Medicare health and drug plans can make changes each year: Things like cost, coverage, and what providers and pharmacies are in their networks. The SHINE (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) Program can help you determine the best plan for you through individual meetings with a trained SHINE Counselor. To schedule an appointment with Fred Baumert, our SHINE Counselor (Westford resident) contact the Cameron Front Desk at 978.692.5523. Appointments are typically 45 minutes.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP?

SHARE THE WARMTH

Share the Warmth is a charitable project offering scarves, cowls, mittens, gloves, fingerless mitts, and socks to those in need. These will be distributed in late Fall. Any donation of store bought or handmade items from the above list would be gratefully appreciated. There will be a collection box at the Cameron Center, starting in September if you wish to contribute. Thank you for your consideration. Thanks to Cameron Knitting Group and Friends of the Cameron Senior Center for their support.

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

www.westfordma.gov/coa,

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 and click on [Newsletters](#).

Cameron Senior Center (Continued)

Can YOU Qualify for Savings in FY 2025?
PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR QUALIFIED WESTFORD PROPERTY OWNERS
 Consider applying for all programs close to your income and asset range.

PROGRAM	INCOME LIMIT	ASSET LIMIT	BENEFIT	REQUIREMENTS	CONTACT
AGE 70+					
ELDERLY, SURVIVING SPOUSE OR MINOR Clause 17D	None	\$80,500	\$700	Birth Certificate (1 st Year) Death Cert. (1 st year) Proof of Assets	Assessors' Office: Town Hall 978-692-5504 Oct. 1 – Apr. 1, yearly
ELDERLY or DISABLED 69 or younger Clause 41C	Single: \$37,000 Married: \$50,800	Single: \$67,100 Married: \$92,300	\$2,000	Birth Certificate (1 st Year) MA resident for 10+ years Federal Income Tax Return Proof of Assets, Proof of SS Disability	Assessors' Office: Town Hall 978-692-5504 Oct. 1 – Apr. 1, yearly
AGE 65+					
TREAD: Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled	None*	None*	Varies* (Est. \$500 - \$1,000)	Demonstrated Need	Cameron Senior Center 978-692-5523 May 1 – Aug. 1, yearly
			*TREAD Committee determines awards in December based on need and available funds donated.		
REAL ESTATE TAX DEFERRAL Clause 41A (if approved, a 0% interest lien is recorded)	Single: \$64,000 Married: \$96,000	None	Defer partial or total taxes until death or property sale	MA resident for 10+ years Limit: Up to 50% of assessed value Birth Certificate (1 st year) Federal Income Tax Return Mortgage Information, as they need to give Permission for deferral	Assessors' Office: Town Hall 978-692-5504 Oct. 1 – Apr. 1, yearly
<u>MA - SENIOR CIRCUIT BREAKER TAX CREDIT</u>	Single: \$ 69,000 Head of H: 86,000 Joint: \$103,000	Max home assessed value: \$1,025,000	Credit Up to \$2,590	MA Tax Return, Schedule CB	Search for Circuit Breaker on: www.mass.gov/dor/
MEANS TESTED New 3-year pilot	Single: \$50,700 Joint: \$76,200	Single: \$129,800 Married: \$178,500	Varies	Birth Certificate MA/Fed tax return Proof of Circuit Breaker Credit	Assessors' Office: Town Hall 978-692-5504 Oct. 1 – Apr. 1, yearly
AGE 60+					
TAX WORK PROGRAM (Senior or Veteran)	None	None	Up to \$1,500 (less deductions)	Up to 105 Hours worked in town dept. from July thru March. Hrly pay is at min. wage.	Cameron Senior Center 978-692-5523/Alison Applications avail. all year Lottery for slots in May 2022
CPA: Community Preservation Act	HS 1: \$93,000 HS 2: \$106,500 HS = household size	None	Varies (up to full CPA amount billed)	Must own and occupy domicile as of Jan. 1 st Birth certificate 1 st year Federal Income Tax Return	Assessors' Office: Town Hall 978-692-5504 Oct. 1 – Apr. 1, yearly
VETERANS – ANY AGE					
VETERAN Clause 22	None	None	Varies \$800. Min.	Min. 10% SERVICE-connected disability; Current MA resident with at least 6 mos. prior to service. Dept. of Veterans Rating Decision Letter	Assessors' Office: Town Hall 978-692-5504 or Veterans Agent 978-399-2328 Oct. 1 – Apr. 1, yearly
DISABLED – ANY AGE					
BLIND Clause 37A	None	None	\$1,000	Must be owner of record on July 1. Blind Certificate from Commission yearly.	Assessors' Office: Town Hall 978-692-5504 Oct. 1 – Apr. 1, yearly
DISABLED Clause 41C	Single: \$37,000 Married: \$50,800	Single: \$67,100 Married: \$92,300	\$2,000	Birth Certificate (1 st Year) MA resident for 10+ years Federal Income Tax Return 1040 ALL PGS Proof of Assets & State Disability (SSDI)	Assessors' Office: Town Hall 978-692-5504 Oct. 1 – Apr. 1, yearly
TREAD: Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled	None*	None*	Varies* (Est. \$500 - \$1,000)	Disabled: must have a MA recognized disability certificate.	Cameron Senior Center 978-692-5523 May 1 – Aug. 1, yearly
			*TREAD Committee determines awards in December based on need and available funds donated.		
LOW INCOME – UNDER 60					
CPA: Community Preservation Act	HS 1: \$74,500 HS 2: \$85,100 HS = household size .	None	Varies (up to full CPA amount billed)	Must own and occupy domicile as of Jan. 1. Birth certificate Federal Income Tax Returns	Assessors' Office: Town Hall 978-692-5504 Oct. 1 – Apr. 1, yearly
LOW INCOME – ANY AGE					
HARDSHIP Clause 18 Temporary Tax Deferral Clause 18A	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Up to total Property Tax bill	18: Hardship due to age and/or poverty. 18A: Change to active military status, unemployment, illness or other reason. Defer for up to 3 years max. Must pay deferred amount back with interest.	Assessors' Office: Town Hall 978-692-5504 Oct. 1 – Apr. 1, yearly

Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee

Kiss the Ground free film showing Saturday, September 28, 1:30 pm

This film showing is sponsored by [Sustainable Westford](#), [Westford Climate Action](#), [Westford Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee](#), and Westford Community Compost.

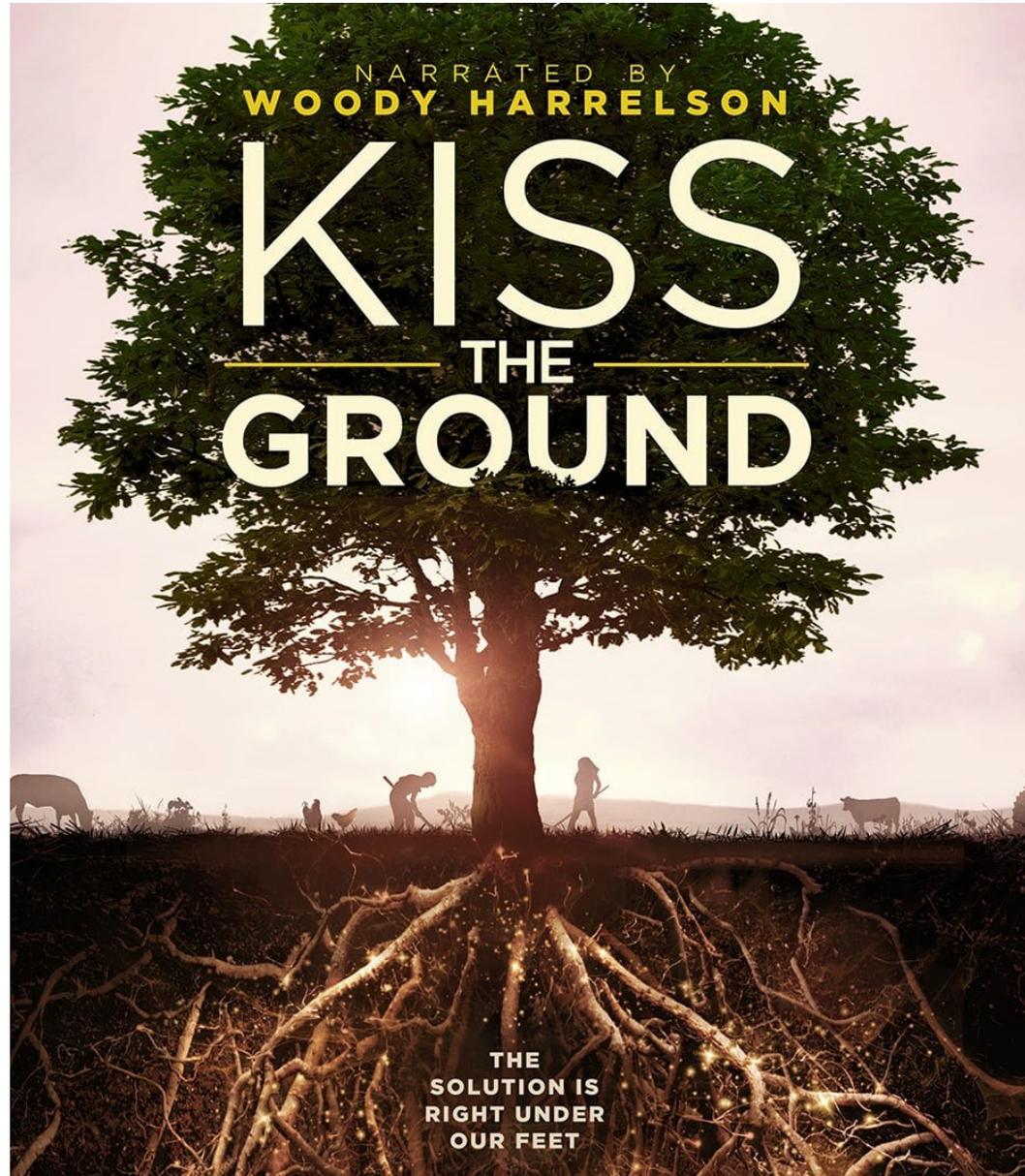
Sustainable Westford presents the award-winning film **Kiss the Ground**, a free, in-person event on **Saturday September 28, 1:30 pm**, at the **Parish Center for the Arts, 10 Lincoln Street, Westford, MA**.

Narrated by and featuring Woody Harrelson, **Kiss the Ground** is a groundbreaking documentary that reveals that regenerating the world's soils can stabilize Earth's climate, restore lost ecosystems, and create abundant food supplies. *The New York Times* describes the film as "elevated by stirring imagery," inspiring "a rare feeling of hope."

The afternoon will also include a moderated panel discussion. Local soil experts from Bootstrap Compost and Weston Nurseries will be available to answer questions. Light refreshments will be served.

Topics covered will include composting and its relationship to soil health, the soil carbon sponge, and more.

All attendees will be eligible to win a great gift – one year of bi-weekly food waste curbside pick-up service from Bootstrap Compost. A \$170.00 value.



Community Wellness

September is Suicide Prevention Month. The month brings awareness to the information and resources available to discuss suicide prevention and acquire help.

Suicide and Crisis Lifeline - call or text 988

The 988 Lifeline provides 24/7/365, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals in the United States. The lifeline's toll – free number, 988, connects you to a certified crisis center near where the call is placed. For more information:

<https://988lifeline.org/>



Samaritans – call or text 988

- At Samaritans, they aim to reduce the incidence of suicide, educate the public about suicide prevention, help those who have lost a loved one to suicide, and reduce the stigma.
- They provide a 24/7 Helpline, peer support for people who are grieving a loss to suicide, and suicide prevention workshops.
- The services are free and confidential. **Call or text 988**
- Chat feature available by going to: <https://samaritanshope.org/>

The Trevor Project - call 866-488-7386 or text start to 678-678

- The Trevor Project provides information & support to LGBTQ + young people 24/7/365
- Call, text, or chat with them anytime you need support.
- <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/get-help/>

CDC Suicide Prevention Information - <https://www.cdc.gov/suicide/index.html>

Suicide Prevention Resources - <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/suicide-prevention-resources>

For more information or help connecting to resources:

Community Wellness Coordinator, Nicole Laviolette

(978) 399-2503

nlaviolette@westfordma.gov

<https://www.westfordma.gov/wellness>

Health Department



*Gail Johnson, Westford's Public Health Nurse
Joanne Derr, Coalition Member*

The Westford Coalition for Non-Violence (WCNV) had a table at the Community Farmer's Market on Tuesday, August 20th. We had children visit our table to paint communication boxes. Communication boxes allow parents and their children to express their feelings without using words. This takes pressure off each person when sharing something personal. The pictures below show some of the children who stopped at our table and wanted to show off their project.

The WCNV mission is *to promote healthy relationships and foster a culture of non-violence for all members of our community*. This coalition began 13 years ago, and we continue to offer domestic violence awareness throughout the year. We light up the Westford Town Gazebo with purple lights to acknowledge domestic violence awareness throughout the month of October.

Please feel free to pick up a domestic violence handbook for resources at the Westford Health Department, J.V. Fletcher Library, and Police Station, or you can access the booklet online at <https://westfordma.gov/1364/Coalition-for-Non-Violence>

For more information on how to get involved, please contact Gail Johnson, Public Health Nurse, Chair of the Westford Coalition for Non-Violence, gjohnosn@westfordma.gov
We all deserve to be healthy and safe!



THE
Westford Coalition
for Non-Violence



OCTOBER NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Westford Coalition for Non-Violence (WCNV) is partnering with the J.V. Fletcher Library to raise awareness of domestic violence for the month of October. We have been partnering with the library for many years now, and each year they put books out for children on bullying, and books for adults on domestic violence. We feel it is so important to educate our community and beyond, on the warning signs of domestic violence.

Domestic violence continues to be the forefront of many news articles, and stories every day, and we need to work together to raise awareness. WCNV has a resource handbook that can be picked up for free, at the Westford Health Department, Police Station, Cameron Senior Center, and J.V. Fletcher Library. This resource booklet provides resources and information that may help those in need. This booklet is for information only.

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

This will be our second year using BIG TOP PARTY RENTAL "CHRISTMAS LIGHT PEOPLE" to put purple lights up on our town's gazebo, for the whole month of October. The purple lights represent domestic violence awareness.



WCNV is in the process of updating our website at: [Westford Coalition for Non-Violence | Westford, MA \(westfordma.gov\)](http://WestfordCoalitionforNon-Violence|Westford,MA(westfordma.gov)), there you will find access to the online handbook.

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

YOU ARE NOT ALONE, THERE IS HELP AVAILABLE!
24-HOTLINE: 1-888-291-6228 ALTERNATIVE HOUSE

SEPTEMBER 2024

Westford Recreation

Rec's WPC After School Enrichment Program for Grades K-5. Register at Any Time!

WPC is safety focused, with flexible schedules, and cool activities like no other program (including homework time!). Conveniently located at Abbot, Crisafulli, Day, Miller, Nabnasset, and Robinson schools. Runs Monday-Friday, from school dismissal to 6:00 p.m. Visit *About WPC* at westfordma.myrec.com.

Rec's Special Programs, Grades K-8 Look out – Great Programming Ahead!

Need coverage for parent conferences, professional development days, and December, February, and April school vacations? Rec's Special Programs run from 9am-3pm, with early arrival and extended day options. Enrollment is open to surrounding communities. Visit *Special Programs* at westfordma.myrec.com.

Something Fun. Something New! PUZZLE CLASH, September 24 at 7pm.

WESTFORD VS LITTLETON: Come join us for this Free Event for ages 10 and up. Bring friends, bring family, for a fun 500 piece race to the finish with our recreation pals from Littleton.



1



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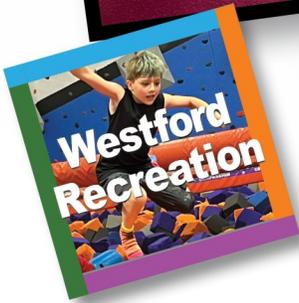
4



5



6



REGISTER at westfordma.myrec.com
Westford Recreation
65 Main Street, 3rd flr, | 978-692-5532
FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

- 1) Dancing with shadows, *Miller WPC After School program.*
- 2) Leaning into books, *Robinson WPC After School program.*
- 3) Contact! A *Special Program* visit to the N.E. Aquarium in Boston.
- 4) S'mores! *Destination Exploration, Summer Weekly program '24.*
- 5) Site Director Tiff Gintner and Site Leader Tommy McDonough at the Fisher Cats game with *Kids Club, Summer Weekly program '24.*
- 6) Slidin'! *Destination Exploration, Summer Weekly program '24*

SEASONAL PROGRAMS FOLLOW >>>

THANKS to our great staff photographers Tiffany Gintner, Ben Miller, and Steven Doung!

Fall!

"Not to Miss" Programming at Westford Recreation!



this SEPTEMBER

SOCCER SHOTS

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

YOUTH CHESS - INT'L MASTER PRATHIBA Y

AGES 5-14: FUN. CREATIVE PROBLEM SOLVING.



FIRST AID AND CPR - MIKE VOTANO

YOUTH AND ADULTS: EXPERIENCED. RN AND PARAMEDIC.



Marcus Lewis Tennis Center

SPRINT ACADEMY SPEED AND AGILITY - D.J. BROCK

GRADES 9 - COLLEGE: D.J.'S SPECIAL CLINIC - FASTER, STRONGER, PREPARED.

NITEHAWKS TRACK AND FIELD - CROSS COUNTRY

GRADES K-8: SKILLS, TECHNIQUES, AND FUN MINI MEETS.

MARCUS LEWIS TENNIS AT STONYBROOK

YOUTH AND ADULTS: TENNIS IS FOR EVERYONE!

FALL PICKLEBALL SESSIONS - DONALD VAN DYNE

AGES 18 AND UP: ALL LEVELS. GREAT EXERCISE.

NEW! PUZZLE CLASH - LITTLETON VS. WESTFORD

AGES 10 - ADULT: BRING YOURSELF. BRING THE FAMILY. FUN 500 PIECE RACE TO THE FINISH.

starting in OCTOBER

ON THE MARK ARCHERY - FALL

YOUTH AND ADULTS: EXPLORE THE WAY OF THE BOW.

PLUS GREECE TRIP FOR GRADES 6-8

AN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL EXPERIENCE!

INFO MEETINGS 7-8PM

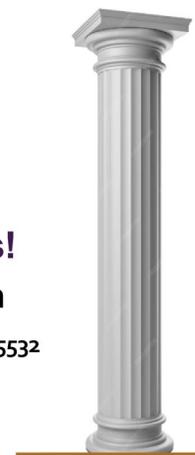
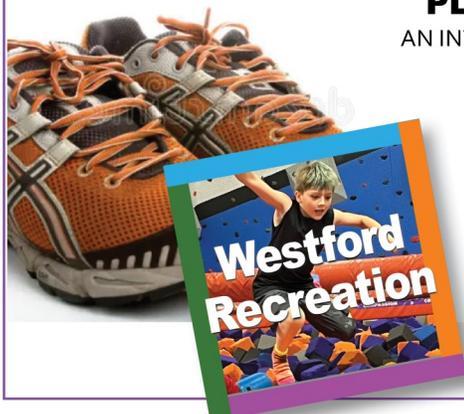
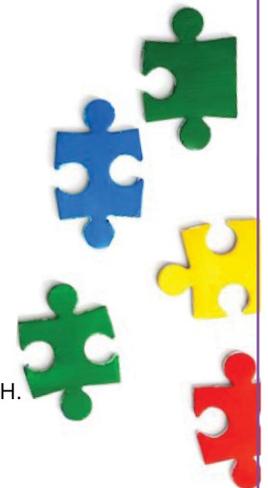
OCTOBER 8, 2024

Experienced Instructors! Great Coaches!

REGISTER at westfordma.myrec.com

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

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK



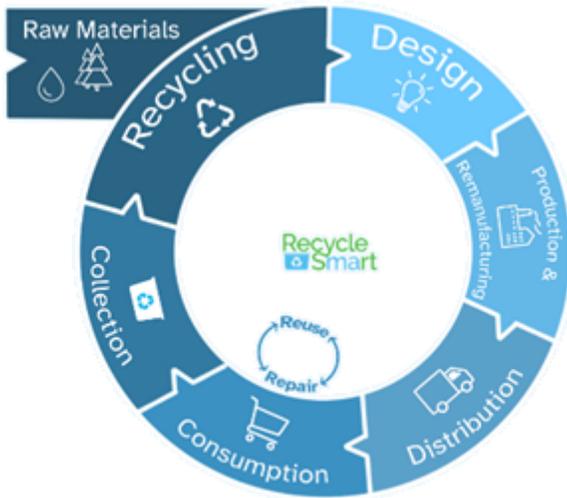
Recycling Commission



What is a Circular Economy?

A circular economy (also called circularity) means keeping materials that already exist out of the trash and in use for as long as possible.

You can help close the loop. We all make choices, and collectively those choices add up to a big impact. Here are some ways to get into the circular economy spirit!



- Consider buying products made with recycled materials. These products create a market for our recyclables by showing manufacturers we want recycled material in new things.
- When buying something, consider the container or packaging it is in. Can you skip single-use packaging or replace it with your own reusable container?
- Reuse and repair as many times as you can. Reuse is becoming easier, with local swap shops, social media groups, and secondhand stores offering affordable, pre-loved items. Likewise, the internet is full of repair guides and videos for all sort of things.
- Explore upcycled items. There is a wide world of businesses and artists out there turning trash into treasure. From earrings made of bike tires to backpacks woven from plastic bottles, there are many upcycled goods to choose from.
- Know before you throw. Putting waste in the right bin means good materials are more likely to find their way back into the economy. You can always check the Recyclopeda when in doubt!

The Circular Economy

- This information is from the Recycle Smart Newsletter, August 21, 2024: Recyclesmartma.org

Autumn Junk in the Trunk

Saturday, November 2, 2024, 9:30-11 a.m.
Abbot School, 25 Depot St, Westford, MA

Junk in the Trunk is a FREE community gifting event. This open-air exchange allows residents to declutter their homes, discover hidden gems, connect with fellow residents, and contribute to a more sustainable lifestyle.

- 9:30 am: Set out unwanted household items. Please do not arrive earlier than 9:30 to keep the parking lot organized.
- 10:00 am: Mingle, freely give away goods, and choose items gifted from others.
- 11:00 am: Load items for donation on the New England Clothing Recycling truck.

This is not a drop off event, you must remain on site until items are gifted or donated. For questions, contact lauragranato15@gmail.com. Sponsored by the Westford Rotary. Supported by the Westford Recycling Commission.

Fact: Despite gloomy headlines, recycling is real and happening in Massachusetts. In fact, 90% of recyclable materials sent to Municipal Recycling Facilities (MRFs) are captured, baled, and sold to recyclers.

Refuse – Reduce – Reuse – Repurpose – Rot (compost) – Recycle
www.westfordma.gov/recycling