



October 2024



**Kristen
Las
Town
Manager**

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978-692-5500

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October is
Breast Cancer
Awareness
Month



Special Town Meeting
Monday, October 21, 7 PM
Westford Academy
30 Patten Road

Food Drive - In Support of
Westford Food Pantry
Saturday, October 26
9AM - 2 PM
Market Basket
6 Cornerstone Square



Watch Meetings
Online



www.westfordcat.org

Dear Westford residents,

The seasonality of fall is setting in. Many residents are taking advantage of cooler temperatures to walk/bike/hike on our wonderful trails and visit vistas to marvel in the trees changing colors. Employees are gearing up for our Special Town Meeting on October, 21st, the Presidential election on November 5th, fall cleanup of our many Town properties and the preparation of the FY26 budget.

We will hold the Special Town Meeting on October 21, 2024. Documents for the meeting are uploaded to the Town Meeting [website](#). All are welcome to attend. Voters will be seated in the Westford Academy gymnasium, performing arts center, cafeteria and auxiliary gym. Non-voters will be seated in classrooms with video and audio feed of the meeting.

The Clerk's office will be offering early voting at the Millennium Building, 23 Depot St. from Saturday, October 19th through Friday, November 1st. Voting in person will occur at Westford Academy and Stony Brook Middle School (be sure to check your precinct) on November 5th from 7AM-8PM. For more information on early voting and the election, click [here](#) to visit the Town Clerk's website.

We are proud to have received several grants over the past few months for various projects and initiatives in Westford. One of the grants is for \$40,000 from the Greater Lowell Health Alliance Grant for Mobile Clinician Services. We also received the Municipal Road Safety (MRS) Grant, funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), in the amount of \$18,656, which will be allocated to three main initiatives: community education, the distribution of pedestrian and bicycle safety equipment for school-aged community members, and enhanced traffic enforcement focused on high-risk issues such as speeding and distracted driving.

On October 1st, the Town of Westford received notice of compliance with the MBTA Communities program from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities. I appreciate all of the hard work and dedication of the residents, the MBTA Communities Multi-Family Housing Advisory Committee (MCMAC), the Planning Board, and Town staff to create and adopt the MBTA Multi-Family Housing Zoning Bylaw.

Surveys

[Climate Action and Sustainability Priorities](#)

[Pay-As-You-Throw \(PAYT\)](#)

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

At their meeting on September 24, 2024 the Select Board recognized Captain/ EMT Shawn Girard who is retiring from the Fire Department after 34 years of service. The Select Board also recognized Public Safety Communications Manager Tim Whitcomb who is retiring after 36 years of service.

(Continued on next page)

Select Board Chair Scott Hazelton announced the Friends of the Poor Walk for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul would be held on November 11, 2024 from 8:30AM to 11:30AM beginning and ending at St. Catherine of Alexandria Church. He also announced the public flu shot clinic dates and registration can be found on the Town [website](#) .

Town Manager Kristen Las announced that September 24, 2024, was Ellen Rainville's 40th year as the Director of the JV Fletcher Library. She also announced the Town Hall Holiday hours which are: Thanksgiving - Closing at 12PM Wednesday, November 27, 2024, and closed November 28 and 29, 2024, Christmas – Closing at 12PM, Tuesday, December 24, 2024, closed December 25, 2024, and New Years – Closing at 12PM Tuesday, December 31, closed January 1, 2025.

Select Board member Chris Barrett announced the Town celebrated its 295th birthday on September 23, 2024.

A continuation of ARPA funding requests for Microsoft subscriptions for FY25, FY26, and FY27 in the amount of \$177,000, and repairs to the municipal fiber network in the amount of \$20,000 were approved 5-0.

The Special Town Meeting Warrant was closed and the Select Board took positions on Articles 5, 6, 7, and 8 (based on final article order as published). The signed Warrant can be found on the Town Meeting [webpage](#) .

The Select Board appointed the members to the Robinson School Building Committee, including 3 Resident-At-Large positions.

At their meeting on October 8, 2024, Select Board Member John Cunningham announced that Marilyn Frank was retiring from the Clerk's Office on October 9, 2024, after serving the Town for 16 years.

Select Board Member Andrea Peraner-Sweet announced the First Annual Indigenous People's Day Celebration would be held on the Town Common on Monday, October 14, 2024, hosted by the DEI Committee beginning at 10AM.

The Select Board took positions on Special Town Meeting Articles 1, 2, 3, 4 and 9. They did not take a position on Article 10. The Presidential Election Warrant was also approved.

Select Board Member Chis Barrett announced the Recreation Department is considering implementing a fee for residents to use Town beaches and is looking for public input.

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| Affordable Housing Trust | Historical Commission |
| Board of Health | Northern Middlesex Stormwater Collaborative |
| Bylaw Review Committee | Pedestrian Safety Committee |
| Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee | Recycling Commission |
| Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee | Scholarship and Grant Committee |
| Dog Park Task Force | Selectmen Policies & Procedures Sub Committee |
| Healthy Westford 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 Volunteer Activity Form at this link: [Volunteer 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

WESTFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT FOOD DRIVE

IN SUPPORT OF THE
WESTFORD FOOD PANTRY

MARKET BASKET
6 CORNERSTONE SQUARE
WESTFORD, MA 01886



SATURDAY
OCTOBER 26, 2024
9:00AM - 2:00PM

PLEASE CONSIDER
DONATING AND HELP MAKE
A DIFFERENCE THIS
HOLIDAY SEASON



WESTFORD FOOD PANTRY
CAMERON SENIOR CENTER
20 PLEASANT STREET
WESTFORD, MA 01886
WESTFORDFOODPANTRY.ORG

Cameron Center Happenings



Fall and Seasonal Activities at the Cameron



A Party in The Pasture was a beautiful day at Good Pickin' Farms' crafts, hayrides, lawn games cook-out and music by Mickey Lorden.

FRIENDS of the Cameron Annual Harvest Fair

Wednesday, October 23rd from 10AM-3PM Plan a fun day with friends, family and support our outside vendors, crafters, artwork, bake sale and browse our own Trudy's boutique. Enjoy a cup of coffee or hot apple cider with us. Treat yourself or start your holiday shopping. Transportation available *Find us on Facebook: Friends of the Cameron Senior Center* please call 978-399-2322.

FISCO & DIWALI LUNCH

Wednesday, November 6 at 11:30 AM

The Cameron has partnered with FISCO (Friends of Indian Senior Citizens Org.), a social work organization that aims to provide companionship, connections and compassion to Indian seniors. Starting in November, FISCO will organize a weekly program (Wednesday 11:30 am - 2 pm) for Indian seniors, providing a friendly environment for social interaction along with meditation and educational sessions; followed by a hot Indian vegetarian meal (suggested donation \$2) We would like to invite you to join us for the grand launch along with a Diwali celebration on November 6th from 11:30 - 2 pm. A free lunch will be served to all attending. Please sign up at 978.692.5523 before October 31.



VETERANS BREAKFAST

Wednesday, November 6 at 8:00 am at The Forge Village Breakfast Restaurant

In honor of Veterans Day, Westford Veterans and their spouses are invited for a complimentary buffet breakfast. We would like to thank our wonderful sponsors, The American Legion Post 159, VFW Mattawanakee Post 6539, and the Friends of the Cameron for helping to make this wonderful event possible. Please Sign up at 978.692.5523 or online.

LUNCH AND LEARN NOVEMBER

Friday, November 8 at 12:00 pm

Learn about the Do's and Don'ts for Recycling with *Ken Teal*. Lunch provided by Brightview Senior Living Concord River. Sign up at 978.692.5523.



BILLIARDS

The Billiards room is open every day that the Cameron is open. Come enjoy a game of pool and feel free to bring a friend(s). Thursdays from noon-3PM we host billiard tournaments through our participation in the Senior Division Billiards League and tables won't be available for free play.



Westford Senior Center



Cameron Center Happenings (Continued)

HOLIDAY FOOD ASSISTANCE

The Cameron Senior Center is partnering with the Westford Food Pantry & St. Catherine St. Vincent de Paul Society for the Westford Holiday Assistance Program. This program serves Westford families and individuals who would like to cook a Thanksgiving or Christmas meal and are facing financial hardship. **If you are interested in donating to the program, please contact Karen Heitkamp at kheitkamp@westfordma.gov**

LATIN DANCE CLASS

Mondays at 10am Instructor: Martha Tonkovic

If you feel passion for Latin Dance, come and learn easy steps of: Cumbia, Salsa, and Merengue. This class will take place September – November and each month you will learn a new dance. The cost is \$5 per class. Pay directly to the instructor. Class size is limited. Sign up at 978.692.5523.

FREE HEALTH SERIES - TUESDAY Nov. 19 at 4:30 pm

Join our monthly series with professional speakers from local medical and wellness sites. Don't miss this valuable information for you and your loved ones. In November we will have Dr. Tilson, a practicing Gastroenterologist in Chelmsford, to speak about GI Health and Wellness. He will address gut health, bowel issues and what can be done to improve symptoms. We will not have a presentation in December. Be sure to sign up at 978-692- 5523.

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT - October 15 – December 7

SHINE Mondays, Nov. 4, 18, 25, and Dec. 2 by appointment.

Your health insurance costs are an important part of your budget, and Medicare Open Enrollment is your opportunity to review your Medicare plans with a SHINE counselor to see what you can expect with your current plan in 2025, or to learn about all options that may be most cost effective for you. Medicare plans can change annually, and changes are expected for 2025. This can affect your health care and drug costs. SHINE = **S**erving the **H**ealth **I**nsurance **N**eeds of **E**veryone on or eligible for Medicare. If you need assistance with understanding Medicare, call to schedule an appointment with our certified SHINE counselor, Westford resident, **Fred Baumert**. Fred is available all year, and offers free, unbiased confidential counseling on all aspects of Medicare health insurance. Call the Cameron Front Desk at 978.692.5523. Appointments are typically 45 minutes. SHINE can also assist by mail by calling: 978.946.1374.

BURIED IN TREASURE (BIT) Intro session - Thursday, November 21st 2:30- 3:30

BIT workshop introduction is an opportunity to learn about the series that will be beginning in January. The series is a relaxed, nonjudgmental 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. **Register with Nicole Laviolette, nlaviolette@westfordma.gov** or 978.399.2503.

PING PONG

Mondays and Tuesdays at 2 pm, Fridays at 9:30 am Beginner / Intermediate Ping Pong Wednesdays at 1pm

Come join our group of avid ping pong players, varying in skill from beginners to advanced. It is a fun group of people who really enjoy ping pong and one another. If you would like to play, RSVP by calling 978.692.5523 so we know how many tables to set up.

WESTFORD ACADEMY HOSTING

JIM GERAGHTY'S FAMILY AND FRIENDS 27th ANNUAL THANKSGIVING DINNER Sunday, November 24 at

Westford Academy at 12 noon Our COA Board, and Cameron participants are very grateful for **Jim Geraghty, Westford Academy and many thoughtful volunteers** who orchestrate this much anticipated festive luncheon for

more than two hundred Westford older adults **at no cost**. It is a lovely day with BINGO being offered from **10 am - 11:45 am** and many generous prizes. At **noon** a plentiful Thanksgiving spread is prepared by the talented WA Cafeteria Staff. The meal includes the traditional holiday favorites: turkey, dressing & gravy, sweet potatoes, vegetables, salad, rolls, beverages & an array of pie choices served by wonderful community volunteers. RSVP at 978.692.5523. If you need our COA van service, call Bob Rafferty on 978.399.2322.

To learn more about participating in the Cameron please visit our website at www.westfordma.gov/coa, [Facebook.com/CameronSeniorCenter](https://www.facebook.com/CameronSeniorCenter) or call us and we will be glad to schedule a tour for you and share much about this wonderful, friendly center.



October / November at the J.V. Fletcher Library

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



Director's Corner: 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 more than 950,000 eBooks, digital audiobooks, comics, movies, or TV shows that are available to stream or download. Sign up for Hoopla for free with a Westford Library card at hoopladigital.com or download the Hoopla app from your favorite app store.

Take and Go Owl Craft : Beginning this month, the children's room will be putting out a take and go craft. The first one will be an owl craft for children 3 and up. Stop by the children's room and pick up an adorable owl craft with all the materials and instructions to complete at home.

Mandala Drawing: Tuesday, October 22 at 4:00 p.m. Join us to learn the meditative art of mandala drawing! This program is for 6-12 graders. All materials will be provided. [Registration is required.](#)

Night Sky Restoration: Thursday, October 24 at 6:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room – Presented by Tim Brothers, Observatory Manager at MIT's Wallace Astrophysical Observatory (Westford, MA) Our night sky is in crisis as the fastest growing environmental problem, light pollution, turns night into day. Tim will be speaking to us about a path forward in restoring darkness to our nighttime environment. He recently completed a case study of an LED streetlight retrofit in Pepperell, MA, where by following dark-sky lighting best practices, he measured what effect, if any, there was on the night sky. The results have significant implications for how we approach future lighting installations as the Westford area develops.

Tim Brothers is the Observatory Manager at MIT's Wallace Astrophysical Observatory (Westford, MA) and a Technical Instructor in the Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences. He also co-founded the Massachusetts chapter of DarkSky International, where he is primarily focused on outdoor lighting policy in the region. Tim was recently awarded a minor planet designation, asteroid (28992) , for his work on asteroid detection. [Register Here.](#)

Monday Mystery Club: Monday, October 28 at 2:00 p.m. in the Mary Atwood Room Wake up your week with a stimulating book club discussion! We'll meet in the Mary Atwood Room to discuss *Calico* by Lee Goldberg. Print copies are available at Main Desk.

Spooky Walk: Tuesday October 29th from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

You will travel from the children's room around the outside of the library collecting clues to solve riddles on your answer sheet. Once you have solved the riddles make your way back to the Children's room to turn in your answers and collect prize bag. Activity starts in Children's room where you will pick up a pencil, flashlight and answer sheet. No registration required. Drop -in anytime between 5:30-7:30 to participate.

(Continued on next page)



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

Adult Nonfiction Book Club: Tuesday, November 5 at 6:30 p.m. – We'll meet in the downstairs Meeting Room to discuss *UFO: The Inside Story of the U.S. Government's Search for Alien Life Here and Out There* by Garret M. Graff. Copies are available at Main Desk. Email Charles Schweppe at cschweppe@westfordma.gov for details!

Virtual Job Search Help for 50 & Over – Networking: Wednesday, November 6, 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, from 9:30- 11:30 a.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](#)**

Animanga Club: Wednesday, November 6 at 6:00 p.m. Come to the meeting room to watch anime, draw characters, browse new manga and eat fun snacks. Open to kids in grade 6 and up. Drop-ins welcome.

Drop-in Storytimes!

Wiggle Words: Every Tuesday in the Meeting Room 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: Every Wednesday in the Meeting Room 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: Every Wednesday in the Meeting Room 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.

Annual Magazine Giveaway Signup: Each fall we discard our oldest issues of magazines to make room for the incoming year, and we offer these discarded titles first to our patrons before we recycle them. We continue this tradition this year and are currently taking orders for our 2023 issues. If you would like any particular titles, contact Charles Schweppe. Call Information Services at 978-399-2304 or email him at cschweppe@westfordma.gov. This is a "first come, first serve" service. Titles will be ready in November (a bit early this year), and you will be notified when your titles are ready, when you can retrieve them through at the Reference Desk.



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

From The Moderator



Angela Harkness,
Town Moderator

Special Town Meeting is coming up on October 21, starting at 7 pm at Westford Academy. All Westford voters can attend and participate as long as you were registered to vote by October 11, 2024.

We will be discussing ten articles at the October 21 Meeting including a zoning bylaw to provide for regulation of firearm sales in Westford and a Citizen's Petition relative to possible future voting on Town Meeting articles without requiring the voters' physical presence at the Meeting.

We expect a large crowd at this Meeting and four rooms will be in use at Westford Academy: the main gym, the Performing Arts Center, the cafeteria and the auxiliary gym. Check in will begin at 5:30 and each voter will be given a clicker for the room to which they are assigned. Clickers will only work in the room you are assigned to, so you must be in that room to register your vote.

Our agenda for the night consists of the articles briefly described below, with more detail available on the Town Meeting webpage: [Town Meeting](#)

Article 1 proposes to define and regulate firearm businesses in Westford.

Article 2 proposes to update regulations for certain uses including Contractor's Yards, General Services Establishments, Business or Professional Offices, Medical Offices, Brew Pubs, Breweries, Distilleries, Wineries, Restaurants and Massage Establishments.

Article 3 proposes to amend parking requirements for uses listed in Article 2.

Article 4 proposes to amend our existing Zoning Bylaw as it relates to the use of temporary trailers to conform with state law.

Article 5 proposes to amend our General Bylaw relative to reconsideration of votes at Town Meeting to require a 2/3 majority to pass in all instances.

Article 6 proposes eliminating the requirement that Bylaw Amendments be published in local newspapers.

Article 7 proposes a rescission of Chapter 157 of the General Bylaw relating to transient merchants to conform with the new transient merchant Bylaw passed at the last Town Meeting.

Article 8 proposes accepting Cloverleaf Lane as a public way.

Article 9 authorizes the Select Board to acquire by gift two vacant parcels of land on Howard Road and Kirsi Circle.

Article 10 is a Citizen's Petition relative to allowing future voting on Town Meeting Articles without requiring attendance at the Meeting.

It is my intention to propose a Consent Agenda at the beginning of the meeting consisting of articles 6, 7, 8 and 9. These articles are routing and/or technical in nature. If all voters agree, then they will be voted on together and without discussion, in an effort to make the best use of everyone's valuable time.

(Continued on next page)

From The Moderator (Continued)

In order to protect the integrity of the vote, voters must hand in their clickers when they leave their room (even temporarily), and new clickers will be issued upon their return.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOU MAY NOT GIVE YOUR CLICKER TO ANYONE ELSE TO CAST A VOTE FOR YOU, OR HAND IT TO ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL IF YOU DEPART THE MEETING AND YOU MAY NOT VOTE WITH A CLICKER GIVEN TO YOU BY ANOTHER VOTER.

There will be parking for Westford voters at Westford Academy, Robinson, Crisafulli and Abbot schools on the evening of the meeting with shuttle buses to and from the WA Meeting site from the remote parking locations. Please car pool if you can! There will also be free transportation – sign up here: [Town Meeting Transportation](#) and free childcare on site - sign up here: [Town Meeting Child Care](#). Advance sign up is required for both services.

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.

Voters at Town Meeting constitute the legislative body of our Town, deciding on budgets, by-laws and Citizen's Petitions. Your participation in this process is essential to good government. For more information about the upcoming Meeting and the Town Meeting process in general check out the Town Moderator's page: [Moderator](#) and the Town Meeting page: [Town Meeting](#) on the Town of Westford website. This is your opportunity to render opinions, ask questions and vote on important issues affecting our community. Feel free to come for all or part of the Meeting, but please do attend.

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.



Community Wellness

October is Substance Use Prevention Month. The month brings awareness to the resources available to support the prevention of substance misuse and use.

Massachusetts Substance Use Helpline

The Helpline is the only statewide, public resource for finding substance use treatment, recovery, and problem gambling services. Helpline services are free and confidential. The Helpline has trained Specialists who will help you understand the treatment system and your options.

Hope Is Here - call 800-327-5050 or visit <https://helplinema.org/>

Middlesex Valley Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Guide

Resource guide with SUD information on hotlines, education & prevention, harm reduction, treatment, mental health services, and recovery and support services. Click the link to gain access to the resource: <https://westfordma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/13995>

Behavioral Health Helpline

The Massachusetts Behavioral Health Help Line (BHHL) is here to connect you directly to clinical help, when and where you need it. Even if you're not sure what kind of help or treatment you may need, they can help guide you.

It's free, confidential, and no health insurance is required. You can call or text 833-773-2445.

To use the chat feature of the Behavioral Health Helpline please visit the website -

<https://www.masshelpline.com/>

Real-time interpretation in 200+ languages.

Deaf or hard of hearing? Contact MassRelay at 711 or use your video relay or caption provider of choice.

Community Input

The Town of Westford receives Opioid Settlement Funds and we are hoping to hear from residents about their ideas and strategies for utilization of the funds. The Town will be launching a feedback survey by the end of the month. The survey will be accessible through the Town website.

If you have ideas and strategies you'd like to share before the survey is available, please call or email Nicole Laviolette at 978-399-2503 or nlaviolette@westfordma.gov

If you need assistance navigating the resources please contact :

Community Wellness Coordinator, Nicole Laviolette

(978) 399- 2503 nlaviolette@westfordma.gov

www.westfordma.gov/wellness



Health Department

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING



BLOOD PRESSURES ARE BEING OFFERED AT THE WESTFORD HEALTH DEPT FROM 2:00 PM TO 3:00 PM EVERY THIRD FRIDAY ON THE FOLLOWING DATES: 9/20/24, 10/18/24, 11/15/24, & 12/20/24. CALL GAIL JOHNSON, RN, IF AN ADDITIONAL DAY IS NEEDED

**WESTFORD TOWN HALL, 55 MAIN STREET
SECOND FLOOR
978-399-2548
RSVP PREFERRED, WALK-IN'S WELCOME**



Health Department

THE WESTFORD HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Questions about your septic system or well?

Private Well and Septic System Informational Seminar

When: October 30th at 5:30 pm
Where: 2nd Floor Meeting Room
Town Hall, 55 Main Street, Westford

Please register by October 23rd by calling
978-692-5509.

Include your address to have your property
file available at the seminar.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Westford Health
Department



Health Department



THE WESTFORD HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S 2024 FLU CLINIC

FOR AGES 4 YEARS OLD AND OLDER

**OCT
24**



SCAN HERE TO REGISTER

**LOCATION: WESTFORD ACADEMY CAFETERIA
30 PATTEN ROAD (STATE SUPPLIED PEDIATRIC
(4-18 YEARS OLD), REGULAR FLU VACCINE 19
AND OLDER, AND HIGH DOSE 65 AND OLDER,
WILL BE AVAILABLE, UNTIL DEPLETED)
TIME:4-8PM**

**PRE-REGISTRATION IS PREFERRED
OR CALL THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT (978) 692-5509**



Health Department

UMV MRC Update

The Westford Health Department has been the host agent for the region's Medical Reserve Corps since 2004. This unit of 675 volunteers has been honoring September as National Preparedness Month. Members have staffed health exhibits and provided event support at Dracut Old Home Day (9/7), Live for Liv (9/15), the Tyngsboro Wellness Fair (9/21), Chelmsford's Fall Festival and Tewksbury's Public Health Museum's 30th anniversary (9/28). Eleven medical volunteers were certified in Healthcare Providers CPR (9/19).

MRC volunteers are also staffing regional and local health department flu clinics throughout the season.



Recycling Commission

Past Events



Zero Waste Day – Saturday, September 7th

Our thanks to everyone who participated in our first ever Westford Zero Waste Day – it was a huge success! Our two main vendors, Household Goods of Acton and New England Clothes Recycling of

Chelmsford, both filled their box trucks and had to go get a second truck to complete the event! Mr. Mick Pare of Ayer also went home with a car stuffed with musical instruments to refurbish and distribute to students in need. “There was only enough room for me to sit and drive home,” he said.

The Recycling Commission will consider another collection in 2025 – stay tuned!

Electronics and More Collection – also held Saturday, September 7th

Another successful collection! Our vendor reports they took in the following:

- 14,660 lbs. of metal
- 38,996 lbs. of electronics - including 67 TV's, 88 monitors, 22 refrigerators, 34 AC's/ dehumidifiers
- 11 car seats, 27 radios, 15 light bulbs, 24 vacuums, 76 speakers
- 593 lbs. of lead acid batteries, 47 lbs. of NiCad batteries, 85 lbs. of alkaline batteries
- 160 lbs. of cardboard

Thank you to all for recycling these items and keeping them out of the trash!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Autumn Junk in the Trunk

Saturday, November 2nd, 9:30-11 a.m.

Abbot School, 25 Depot St, Westford, MA

Junk in the Trunk is a grass-roots exchange event sponsored by the Rotary Club. Please bring usable items to be offered to other residents, and feel free to take things home. Setup starts at 9:30 am, gifting and receiving continues until 11 a.m., and then unwanted items are loaded onto a New England Textile Recycling truck – they don't go home with you!

Questions? Email LauraGranato15@gmail.com

And a final reminder...

BOOTSTRAP COMPOST

Bootstrap Composting has partnered with the Town of Westford to offer premium curbside service at a new low rate!

Anyone that calls Westford home will be entitled to a 45 percent reduction in the fee for composting with Bootstrap — from \$11.50 per visit down to \$6 per visit for weekly customers (\$24 every 4 weeks)

and from \$16 per visit down to \$8 per visit for biweekly customers (\$16 every 4 weeks). To redeem this discount, simply sign up as usual [through our signup page](#), and when you enter a Westford home address the discount will be automatically applied!



Westford Public Schools

Fruitful harvest...update! WPS 10-1-24

A month into school and already we see the fruits of our extraordinary staff members' labors in the joy and enthusiasm that the vast majority of our students exhibit each year when we return to school. This year has been no different and for that we are very fortunate. I am happy to say that most students do not seem to feel the impact of our recent challenging budget cycle. My concern at present is that the staff certainly does. It reminds me of a sign that I have seen a number of times in shops and restaurants, "The whole world is short staffed. Please be kind to the people who showed up!"

In that vein, while it is difficult to share only a few, I wanted to highlight some examples of how our wonderful WPS educators are taking great care of their students with fewer hands to help.

We had five Reading Interventionists resign just before the school year started and our FY25 budget included the reduction of three of our Literacy Specialists for this year. While we have been able to fill the five RI openings, this made universal screening with DIBELS very challenging to accomplish. The literacy teams in the schools teamed up and helped each other complete the testing. All data was collected on time to start data team meetings and intervention services.

With increased class sizes in many content areas at Westford Academy, while students might not notice having an extra group or a few more students in a section, the teachers have needed to be creative in organizing both the space and activities in some rooms. Science teachers have done a great job running engaging labs while navigating a more crowded room all while maintaining lab safety practices. Teachers across departments are working hard to meet the demand of providing all students with timely effective feedback to best support student progress and ensure opportunities for student participation.

Those are just some examples and there are plenty more districtwide.

It is also at this time of year that we recognize the efforts and commitment our building administrators have exhibited in helping to make sure school gets off to a great start. October is National Principal Appreciation month, so please join me in thanking all of our Principals, Assistant Principals and Deans for their tremendous dedication and the support they provide to all of our students and staff.

We continue to move forward in the Eligibility Phase with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) in terms of exploring a potential future project at the Col. J Robinson Elementary School. Just recently, the Town of Westford Select Board approved the establishment of the Robinson School Building Committee (RSBC) and selected the members to participate. As more and more information becomes available throughout this process, we have created a dedicated webpage to simplify access to the resources and information for all of our residents: <https://www.westfordk12.us/district/news/msba-robinson-school-study>

Finally, Westford is collecting data to ensure there is adequate space for our residents to attend the upcoming Special Town Meeting on October 21, 2024. We are asking residents to take a survey regarding their potential attendance. Please consider completing the survey linked below:

<https://westford-ma.civilspace.io/en/projects/all-other-surveys/engagements/attendance-at-special-town-meeting-monday-october-21-2024>

Cheers!

Chris

Christopher Chew, Ed. D
Superintendent
Westford Public Schools



Leaves & Yard Waste



Did You Know?

Leaves, grass clippings, and other yard wastes can become stormwater pollutants if not properly managed. Yard wastes that get washed into storm drains introduce fertilizers and excess nutrients, like nitrogen and phosphorus, into our streams, ponds, and lakes which can be harmful.

This FALL please do the following to protect our waters:

- ✓ Rake or blow your leaves away from roads, sidewalks, and driveways
- ✓ Bag leaves and grass clippings for curbside pick-up and disposal
- ✓ Compost yard wastes and mulch leaves into your lawn for natural fertilizer
- ✓ Keep storm drains clear of leaves to prevent flooding



Introducing S.T.A.G.E. Crew

(Supporting Theater Arts in General Education)

S.T.A.G.E. Crew is a newly formed 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to supporting student theater at Westford Academy.

We need YOUR HELP to produce [Harry Potter and the Cursed Child](#) (High School Edition) and all the incredible shows of the WA Theater Arts' [2024-25 season](#).



Staging a show of this scale, with 70 cast and crew members plus spellbinding special effects, requires significant funding and community support to make the dream a reality.

Please consider a tax-deductible donation to help offset production expenses: [Donate HERE](#).

Want to get involved with ST.A.G.E. Crew? Join our [mailing list HERE](#) to receive updates on events, volunteer opportunities, and more. Or check out our [website](#), like us on [Facebook](#), and follow us on [Instagram](#).

Send Flowers:

Pre-order an opening/closing night flower bouquet for your favorite actor or technician!

Can't make the show but want to send some love? Don't have time to pick up a bouquet on the way to the show? Let us make the flower bouquet for you: [Order HERE](#).



All flower sales proceeds will support S.T.A.G.E. Crew and the magic of "Harry Potter."

Still don't have your tickets to see the magic of "Harry Potter"? **Good seats are selling fast!**

Opening night is Halloween, with evenings and matinees through mid-November.

Read the plot summary, choose your dates, and buy your [tickets HERE](#).

Contact WATAboxoffice@gmail.com for group ticket sales.

