



Town of Westford Massachusetts

Town Manager's Newsletter

November 2024



Kristen Las
Town
Manager

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

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**Lowell Regional Transit
Authority Free Fare Pilot
Program Starts
December 1
(See page 4)**

**Town Services Holiday
Hours
(See page 2)**



Watch
westford CAT
community access television
www.westfordcat.org

Dear Westford residents,

November continues to be a month where I reflect on what I am grateful and thankful for. Reflecting on the past few weeks, and months, I would like to begin by thanking the Town Clerk, Laurie Shaw, her staff, and the many poll workers and volunteers of Westford for their dedication working the early voting and the recent elections. They have been working tirelessly since early August to prepare for and run early voting, associated with the Presidential Primary, run the September 3rd election, prepare for and run early voting for the Presidential Election and run the November 5th election today! Oh, and throw in mailing out ballots and some Special Town meetings as well...there have been lots of late nights and Saturday work!

I would also like to thank the 666 registered voters who participated in Special Town Meeting on October 21, 2024. They reviewed and voted on 10 articles. We are already starting to plan for Annual Town Meeting that will be held on March 22, 2025. In preparation for the Annual Town Meeting, the Select Board will receive my initial budget proposal on December 10, 2024, at their regularly scheduled meeting.

Additionally, I would like to thank Terry Stader, Veterans Service Officer, Heather Monahan, Veterans Department Senior Assistant and all that helped to arrange and those who participated in the November 11, 2024 Veterans Day ceremonies in the Town of Westford. We owe a great deal of gratitude to those who have served our country and the turn out for the ceremony is a true testament to that. During this month, I am also reflecting on the thanks and gratitude I have for the Select Board, Town staff and our residents.

Thank you to those residents who filled out the recently closed [Curbside Trash Fee Preferences Survey](#) and Climate Action and Sustainability Survey. We received a record response (almost 1,300 unique respondents) to the former, which were presented to the public and Select Board on November 12th, which will help guide the Board in deciding on any changes to the curbside collection program. Resident input from the latter is being used to inform a discussion between a working group of staff and representatives of the Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee and Select Board, the results of which will be incorporated into the Town-Wide Strategic Plan.

I would also like to thank and congratulate the students and staff at Westford Academy who put on an amazing show, Harry Potter and the Cursed Child. My family and I were able to attend the show on November 10th. The actors, stagehands, director and others did an amazing job with the show and they should be so proud.

We can also use this month to think of those who are in need. The Westford Food Pantry is in desperate need of donations. If you are able to donate, we would greatly appreciate that. Please click [here](#) to learn more.

The Lowell Regional Transit Authority (LRTA) has announced that the bus service will be fare free until at least October 2025. Please [click here](#) to see the flyer about the service. We hope residents and employees in Westford can take advantage of the free fares.

(Continued on next page)

Town and School staff have been working on almost a dozen major energy efficiency projects that are anticipated to take place over the winter. Using a combination of utility incentives, ARPA funds, on-bill 0% financing, and expedited procurement programs available under M.G.L., the Town anticipates being able to complete over \$800,000 in total work for under \$120,000 out-of-pocket costs and realize immediate positive cash flow. Staff moved rapidly to secure promotional incentives and anticipates these projects will go from concept to completion within six months.

There are several fun events coming up in advance of the holidays. On Wednesday, November 20, 2024, I will be speaking at the [League of Women Voters Civic Social](#) at WestfordCAT, 487 Groton Rd, Unit B.

On December 11, 2024, at 8:30AM the Select Board and I will be cooking breakfast at the Cameron Senior Center. Please RSVP by calling 978.692.5523. More information can be found in the Cameron Senior Center [newsletter](#) .

Finally, we would like to let residents know of the hours for Town operations around Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years and new Town Hall Hours starting January 6, 2025.

Wednesday, November 27th Close at noon
Thursday, November 28th Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
Friday, November 29th, Closed for the Day After Thanksgiving Holiday

Tuesday, December 24th Close at noon
Wednesday, December 25th Closed for Christmas Holiday
Tuesday, December 31st Close at noon
Wednesday, January 1st Closed for New Years Holiday

Over the course of the past eighteen (18) months, we have assessed how we can better serve the residents and others doing business with Westford. Therefore, we will be implementing a 6-month pilot program for the following **Town Hall** hours starting January 6, 2025.

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday – 8AM-4PM
Tuesday – 8AM-**6:30PM**
Friday – 8AM-**1PM**

The evening hours will allow residents and others to conduct business at Town Hall in the evening either in person or via phone. Staff will be able to conduct interviews of potential employee candidates in the evening. Closing at 1PM on Friday may help with potential recruitment and retention of employees as many other municipalities are either closed or open a half day on Fridays.

The hours of the J.V. Fletcher Library, Cameron Senior Center, DPW (including Water Department) and Recreation Department will remain unchanged at this time.

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

At their meeting on October 22, 2024, a continuation of ARPA funding requests for PFAS testing for 50 residential wells beginning in January 2025 in the amount of \$20,000 was approved 4-0.

Select Board Clerk Chris Barrett announced the Parks and Recreation Commission is looking for public feedback on beach fees. Residents are encouraged to attend the virtual meeting on November 4, 2024, at 7PM.

At their meeting on November 12, 2024, the Select Board acknowledged the Veterans Day Proclamation from Governor Healey. Select Board Chair Scott Hazelton thanked Veterans Service Officer Terry Stader for a well-executed Veterans Day Ceremony and also thanked the Parks Department for making the Town Common look beautiful for the event.

(Continued on next page)

Town Manager Kristen Las reminded residents to be cognizant of the elevated risk of brush fires and that there is a [Massachusetts Drought Alert](#) in place.

A continuation of ARPA funding requests for Town Hall Meeting Room hybrid meeting updates in the amount of \$87,692, Town Hall Building Weatherization match in the amount of \$50,000, Fire Department overtime in the amount of \$75,000, a Hybrid Cruiser for the Police Department in the amount of \$58,483 and Wi-Fi for Westford Academy Gymnasium to aid in Town Meeting in the amount of \$30,000 were approved 5-0.

The Principal Assessor held a [Tax Classification hearing](#) to set the FY 25 tax rate. A single tax rate of \$13.47 was approved 5-0. Tax bills will be mailed at the end of December 2024. Please remember that your bills from July 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 are estimates and the bills for January 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025 are actual amounts.

Select Board Clerk Chris Barrett announced that the Parks and Recreation Commission discussion on beach fees which was held November 4, 2024 will continue to a future meeting. He also announced the Parks and Recreation Commission is looking to replace the turf at Nutting Road Fields and would like public feedback. A future meeting will be scheduled.

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

Affordable Housing Trust

Bylaw Review Committee

Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee

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

Permanent Town Building Committee

Recycling Commission

Scholarship and Grant 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 (formerly the Citizen 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

The Lowell Regional Transit Authority

Announces

A Temporary Fare Free Pilot Program Commencing

December 1, 2024

And Continues Through September 30, 2025

(Fares may resume 10/1/2025 Subject to State Funding)



The LRTA wants to Thank
Governor Maura Healey and Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll,
as well as the Massachusetts State Legislature for funding this
Fare Free Transportation Pilot Program
that will greatly benefit our communities.



LRTA.com

Westford Public Schools

Family Links...an update! WPS 11-1-2024

November 1, 2024

This month the update includes some important links we want to make sure all of our families are able to access.

Last week, we participated in a statewide webinar with the Attorney General's Office focusing on Combatting Hate in Schools. Partnering with the Executive Office on Education (EOE) and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), they have updated the Guidance on Schools' Legal Obligations to Prevent and Address Hate and Bias Incidents. Westford Public Schools remains committed to establishing welcoming environments for all of our students and families within all of our schools. The following resource is a helpful guide outlining our students and families rights under the law as well as articulating our schools' responsibilities to protect those rights:

[Combatting Hate in our Schools- A Guide for Families and Students](https://shorturl.at/UQImR) (<https://shorturl.at/UQImR>)

In an effort to improve communication and collaboration, our WPS Department of Special Education and Social Emotional Learning (SESEL) is working to make documents and announcements more accessible online and through email communications. Previously, our annual distribution of the Parent's Notice of Procedural Safeguards has been sent to families via the US Postal Service. Now, we are working to make it available and accessible for everyone both online and through email communications. We hope this process proves to be a more efficient use of resources and conducive to increasing communication. Additionally, we have included a corresponding letter from Mr. Gerard Coughlin, our Director of SESEL, which provides more information about special education meetings and contact information for the special education leaders at each school:

[Annual Letter from Director of SESEL](https://shorturl.at/kTPqJ) (<https://shorturl.at/kTPqJ>)

[Parent's Notice of Procedural Safeguards](https://shorturl.at/9yQRP) (<https://shorturl.at/9yQRP>)

Next week, we will be holding another Tri-Board Efficiencies meeting on Thursday, November 7, 2024 at 7:00 pm in Conference Room B in the Millennium Building. These meetings are joint meetings between the WPS School Committee, Town of Westford Select Board, and the Town of Westford Finance Committee. They were developed as a recommendation from the TOW Budget Task Force. At this upcoming meeting, we anticipate sharing the work that our WPS Finance SubCommittee has been doing over the past year in developing a working guide supported by official policies to better inform how we utilize WPS revolving accounts. A hybrid option to join the meeting will also be available on the meeting agenda when it gets posted.

Finally, we will soon be holding the first meeting of the Robinson School Building Committee (RSBC) that was officially established this fall. Forming this committee is an important step during the Eligibility Period in which we are currently participating. The Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) has a very extensive process which consists of 9 different periods or phases. This Eligibility Period is only the first of these periods. As part of this period, we have created a page on our website to collect all of the various documents and procedures to help communicate progress and keep the community informed:

[MSBA Robinson School Study](https://www.westfordk12.us/district/news/msba-robinson-school-study) (<https://www.westfordk12.us/district/news/msba-robinson-school-study>)

Cheers,
Chris

Christopher Chew, Ed.D
Superintendent
Westford Public Schools



November / December 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 are still buzzing about Dan Souza's talk at the Friends Annual Meeting. Dan Souza is a native of Westford, a celebrity chef, and the Chief Content Officer of America's Test Kitchen. If you missed the talk, be sure to check out his latest cookbook collaboration, *America's Test Kitchen 25th Anniversary Cookbook*. There are also many other America's Test Kitchen cookbooks available in the collection and Cook's Illustrated magazine – also produced by America's Test Kitchen. The perfect titles to peruse as we head into the holiday season!

Holiday Closure: The Library will close at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 27 (Thanksgiving Eve) and we will be closed for Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 28 through Friday, November 29. The Library will re-open on Saturday, November 30 from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Virtual Job Search Help for 50 & Over – Interview Strategies: Wednesday, November 20, 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](#).**

Pre-School Concert with Steve Blunt: Monday, November 18 at 10:30 a.m. in the Meeting Room The big kids are back to school so that means the younger kids get a energetic show just right for preschoolers with dancing, singing, and playing along with Steve. Come join us for a rocking good time! No registration is required.

Night Sky Restoration: Thursday, November 21 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, whereby 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.



Westford LED Streetlight Map (Courtesy Westford GIS)

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 Dark Sky 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](#).

(Continued on next page)

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

"How Chamber Music Works" Demo-Concert: Tuesday, December 3 at 6:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room The Youth Services department and Westford Chamber Players (WCP) will be cohosting a demo-concert, performed by WCP professional musicians. The program will be highly interactive and entertaining, demonstrating how music instruments work and how the harmonious interplay of the instruments can tell a story and express feelings in a chamber setting. The demonstration part includes engaging audience participation, followed by a mini-concert. The musicians will be performing several pieces of classical and popular music, including Kikki's Delivery Service from Studio Ghibli, dances from Bach and Handel, excerpts from Mozart and Viotti, the famous Crisantemi from Puccini, and a few popular Christmas songs (e.g., Oh Christmas Tree and Jingle Bells Boogie). The event is completely free and geared towards children ages 5 – 18 as well as adults who are interested in chamber music. [Register here](#). Through the registration form, the WCP collect very brief information about the age ranges of our audience to better tailor the program.

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?](#)

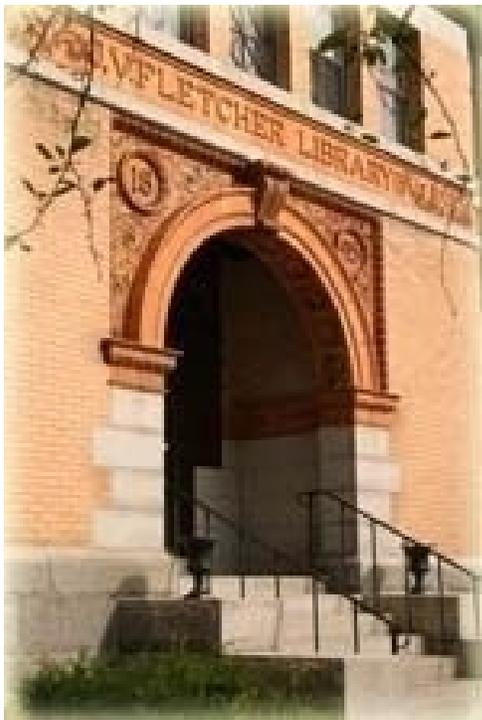
Quick Links to Our Most Popular Services!

[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

At the Cameron - Welcoming adults age 55+

BOOK CLUB

Tuesdays, Nov. 19 & December 17 at 2:00 pm

Are you a reader who likes to talk about books? Join us in November for discussion of the heartwarming novel, Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt. In December we will take a break from book discussion to have a holiday gathering with refreshments and book swap. We will also plan our reading list for 2025. You can get the November book from us at the senior center or try online i.e. Kindle, Hoopla, Libby. Happy Reading! Annette 978-399-2326

GROTON HILL

FREE COMMUNITY CONCERT

Wednesday, November 20 at noon

The Cameron is thrilled to be able to reserve thirty-five seats for the Sasser-Weinberg Experiment, featuring Josh Weinberg-drums and Beau Sasser-keyboards. Join us for an afternoon of unique, original arrangements of funk-jazz & boogaloo classics featuring tunes from Herbie Hancock, Sly and the Family Stone, Snarky Puppy, & more. RSVP to 978.692.5523. If you need transportation, please call Robert Rafferty at 978.399.2322

WESTFORD ACADEMY HOSTING

JIM GERAGHTY'S FAMILY AND FRIENDS 27 TH ANNUAL

THANKSGIVING DINNER

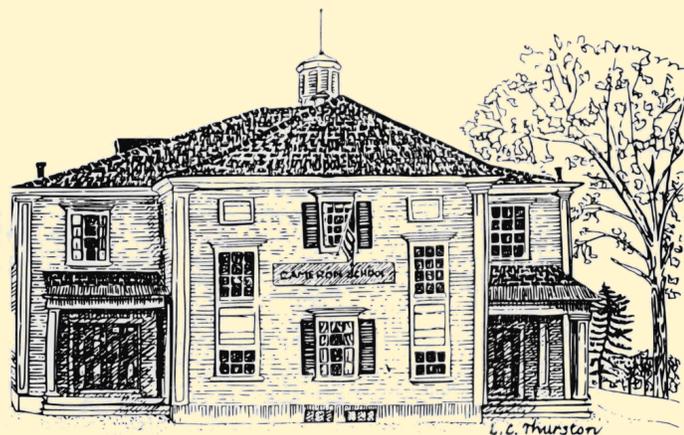
Sunday, November 24 at Westford Academy at 12 noon

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 at 978.399.2322.

**SPECIAL TOWN MANAGER AND
SELECT BOARD HOLIDAY BREAKFAST**

Wednesday, December 11 at 8:30 am

We are happy to have this annual breakfast at the holidays with our Town leadership preparing their traditional delicious breakfast menu which includes: blueberry pancakes, scrambled eggs, home fries, sausage fruit salad and pastries. To ensure this festive occasion we ask that you wear your favorite holiday attire, and the tables with the most festively dressed attendees will be selected to go first though our breakfast line. Special holiday helpers (surprise Town Dept. Heads and COA staff) will be available to assist those with any special needs/requests. Please RSVP at 978.692.5523. FREE



Westford Senior Center

(Continued on next page)

Cameron Senior Center (Continued)**HOLIDAY LUNCHEON AT THE WESTFORD REGENCY**

Friday, December 13 at 11:45 am

We are happy to share with you an opportunity to stroll through the Festival of Trees while enjoying the music of our very own 'Upbeats Band' playing many traditional holiday favorites starting at 10:30 am prior to lunch. You will see many beautifully and most creatively decorated Christmas trees and wreaths. Once again, we will enjoy the performance of the talented Westford Academy Honor's Chorus. Holiday menu: Salad, Chicken Marsala, starch and vegetable, Holiday dessert, tea, and coffee. Cost: Friends members \$17 and non-Friends members \$35. Limited Seating. Reservations are a must by December 3rd; call 978.692.5523. Transportation will be available, just call 978.399.2322 to reserve your van seat.

FOURTH ANNUAL HANUKKAH LUNCH

Friday, December 27 th at 12 noon

Come join Martha and Cindy again as they serve traditional Hanukkah latkes (potato pancakes), kugel (noodle pudding) and bagels with cream cheese. Come have a little nosh with your friends.

Cost is a \$5.00. RSVP to 978.692.5523

AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Police Amateur Radio Team (PART) of Westford meets at the Cameron Senior Center on the third Tues. of every month (except December) at 7:30 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend the meetings. Our meetings feature presentations on all aspects of amateur radio, as well as construction projects and on-the-air operating events. For more info, visit the club website at wb1gof.org or send an email to info@wb1gof.org.

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 a financial hardship. If you are interested in donating to the program, please contact Karen Heitkamp at kheitkamp@westfordma.gov

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](#).

Community Wellness

Do you struggle with having too much stuff?

Do you need help with decluttering, organizing your home or reducing your acquiring?

Buried in Treasures may be for you! Attend our informational session. You will learn about the free workshop and will be given the opportunity to ask questions and register for the workshop!



Please join Gail Johnson, Westford Public Health Nurse and Nicole Laviolette, Westford Community Wellness Coordinator for a brief informational session on the Buried in Treasures workshop.

Date: November 21, 2024

Time: 2:30pm - 3:30 pm

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

Questions and would like to register?

Email Nicole Laviolette at nlaviolette@westfordma.gov



NOVEMBER 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 There's Always Great Programming Ahead!

On November 5, Special Programs hosted a **Walking Tour of Westford**, with stops at the Historical Society, Police Station, and Town Hall, followed by pizza on the Common and a visit from Westford's fire trucks. It was a sunny and full day for all who participated! Special Programs offer full-day and full-week programming during school professional development days, parent conferences, certain holidays, and February and April school vacations. Look for great coverage this Lunar New Year, January 29! Enrollment is open to Westford as well as other surrounding communities. Visit *Special Programs* at westfordma.myrec.com.



1



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3



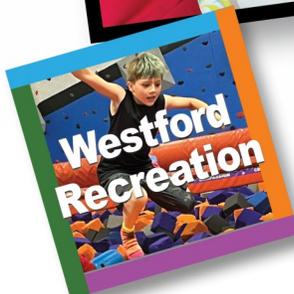
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5



6



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

- 1) It's the Pink Charger! (Special Program Walking Tour)
- 2) An intriguing display at the Historical Society. (Special Program Walking Tour)
- 3) Westford Center - then and now. (Special Program Walking Tour)
- 4) Pizza break at the Common. (Special Program Walking Tour)
- 5) Dragons! (WPC After School Program, Miller)
- 6) Table mural in process. (WPC After School Program, Miller)

THANK YOU to our great staff photographers, Tiffany Gintner and Ben Stanley!
SEASONAL PROGRAMS FOLLOW >>>



Fall!

"Not to Miss" Programming at Westford Recreation!



starting in **November**



FIRST AID AND CPR - MIKE VOTANO RN
YOUTH AND ADULTS: EXPERIENCED PARAMEDIC AND ER NURSE.
November 20 class!

ON THE MARK ARCHERY - FALL/WINTER
YOUTH AND ADULTS: EXPLORE THE WAY OF THE BOW - INDOORS.
Starts November 20.



coming this **WINTER**

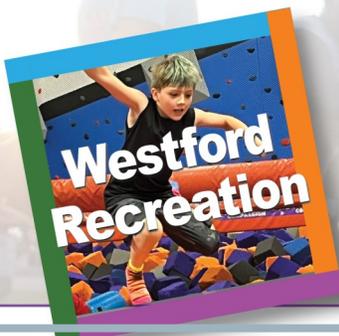
YOUTH CHESS - INT'L MASTER PRATHIBA Y
AGES 5-14: FUN. CREATIVE PROBLEM SOLVING.
Starts January 3.

WINTER NITEHAWKS TRACK AND FIELD - COACH ALEX IVANOV
GRADES K-8: EMPHASIS ON PERFORMANCE, TECHNIQUE, AND RACING –
ALL WHILE HAVING FUN!
Starts January 7.



NEW - FOR TEENS!
FIELD SPEED SPEED AND AGILITY - COACH D.J. BROCK
AGES 13-18: GAIN BREAKAWAY SPEED AND DOMINATE THE FIELD.
(MEANT FOR SOCCER, FOOTBALL, LACROSSE ATHLETES PREPPING FOR SPRING).
Starts January 6.

NEW!
GAMES GALORE SPEED AND AGILITY JR - COACH D.J. BROCK
AGES 9 -12: GET KIDS MOVING DURING THOSE COLD WINTER MONTHS – D.J. STYLE.
Starts January 8.



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

In Fiscal year 2024, the Westford Recycling Commission was quite busy and are enjoying the opportunity to serve.

Additional Accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2024

- In Fiscal Year 2024, we sold 84 64-gallon wheeled recycling totes, down 38 from Fiscal Year 2023 sales. As of July 1, 2024, residents can buy totes from E. L. Harvey. The Recycling Commission will sell its remaining inventory of 32 totes. Following the last sale, our long-time advocate and volunteer, Ellen Harde, will retire from this task after seventeen years, having distributed 3,762 totes to residents. She will continue as the WRC historian emeritus, consulting whenever we need her and providing her front yard for frequent composting demonstrations. The WRC and the Town salute Ellen for her dedication.
- Sold 82 Earth Machine composters, 42 less than Fiscal Year 2023.
- Continued our support for New England Clothes Recycling containers for both gently used and unusable textiles at locations throughout the town and received \$1,800 from the company.
- Promoted composting in the Town Manager's Newsletter, articles, Westford Patch and WestfordCAT as well as the provided composter demos.
- Maintained an active Facebook page to promote reduce, reuse and recycle options for residents: facebook.com/WestfordRecyclingCommission.
- Continued to promote the Recycle Smart website, recyclesmartma.org, as the ultimate source for what Waste Management, and all vendors in Massachusetts, accept as recyclables.
- Hosted an info table at the Strategic Retreat at Kimball Farm on September 7, 2023.
- Staged three composting sales/demonstrations at 39 Main Street over the summer months as well as an additional composting demonstration as part of Earth Month activities, all of which were well attended and received.
- Created the annual recycling guide, fully updated with contact information for the new vendor, E. L. Harvey, and policies/enforcement stemming from the new contract. The guide was mailed to all residents at the end of June.
- Negotiated with the Groton Transfer Station to restore Westford residents' access to their drop-off facility, recycling items only.
- Managed the website www.westfordma.gov/recycling, which continues to be a valuable resource for residents. The A-to-Z Guide: 'How to Recycle Most Everything', is posted on the web site and shows hundreds of ways items can be reused or recycled instead of going into the trash and was continually updated during the year. Residents can also submit questions about acceptable recycling materials which are answered by WRC commission members via email.
- Allocated from grant funds \$4,000 toward subsidizing residents' purchases of Earth Machine composters.
- Allocated \$5,700 from grant funds to help fund the town's Household Hazardous Waste collection in the spring of 2024.
- Invited the Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee in October '23 to have a liaison to the WRC attending and reporting at monthly meetings, to build synergy within the town for those working on environmental efforts.
- Offered Bootstrap Composting as a viable option for residents as an alternative to home composting with an Earth Machine. The choice made comes down to preference.
- Partnered with the Town to insert recycling information in the June tax bill mailing, including printing a "buck slip" which was included in the envelope. Allocated related cost from Grant funds.
- Applied for and received \$8,190 grant from MA DEP for recycling related activities accomplished by the Town and WRC.
- Recognizing Acme Waste and owner Richie Roketenetz for 35 years of service to the Town of Westford upon his retirement. The WRC also presented a gift to Richie at his home after his last day of service.

