



Town of Westford Massachusetts

Town Manager's Newsletter

January 2025



Kristen Las
Town
Manager

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

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New Town Hall Operating Hours

**Monday, Wednesday,
Thursday:**
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Tuesday:
8:00 AM - 6:30 PM

Friday: 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Massachusetts Specialized Energy Code Meeting

Thursday, February 6
7:00 PM
(See Page 11)



Dear Westford residents,

Happy New Year! I hope your year is off to a great start, and I look forward to all the opportunities 2025 holds for our community. As we kick off the year, I want to share some important updates and upcoming events that you won't want to miss.

First of all, I would like to congratulate Wayne Beauregard on his retirement after 45 years of service with the Water Department. I would also like to congratulate William Cashman who will be retiring from the Westford Fire Department 24

Starting on January 6, 2025, we began new Town Hall hours as part of a six-month pilot program designed to better serve residents and improve accessibility. These hours are:

- Monday, Wednesday, Thursday: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
- Tuesday: 8:00 AM – 6:30 PM
- Friday: 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

This new schedule aims to provide more flexible access to Town services, including evening hours for those unable to visit during the day, and is part of our ongoing efforts to improve customer service and enhance employee recruitment and retention.

Our [Budget Hearings](#) for the FY26 Budget are in full swing and will continue on January 23rd and 30th. These hearings are your chance to learn about and provide input on the proposed budget for the coming fiscal year. Your participation is key in helping us make decisions that reflect the needs of the entire community.

We will also be hosting Community Conversations #2 on February 5th at 6 PM at the Millenium School and on Zoom to discuss Facilities Assessment. This is an important opportunity for you to provide feedback on the current state of our public facilities and share ideas for improvements. Click [here](#) for more information about the project and for links to the meetings.

Our Town Meeting is scheduled for March 22nd at Westford Academy. Information about the meeting will be posted on the [website](#) and meetings with the Finance Committee and Select Board regarding the articles will be held in February and March. Please see the Town Meeting timeline [here](#).

There are also open seats on several elected boards and committees, including the Select Board, Planning Board, Housing Authority, Board of Library Trustees, and School Committee. If you're interested in serving our community in one of these roles, you can pull papers at the Town Clerk's office and return the signed documents by Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at 5:00 pm.

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

(Continued on next page)

At their meeting on January 14, 2025, the Select Board congratulated Wayne Beauregard on his retirement after 45 years of service with the Water Department.

Select Board Chair Scott Hazelton announced there are open seats on the Permanent Town Building Committee and Affordable Housing Trust Committee. Interested residents should complete a [Volunteer Activity Form](#).

The Select Board approved 5-0 the request to acquire by gift 2 vacant parcels of land off Howard Road and 1 vacant parcel of land on Kirsi Circle as authorized by the 2024 Special Town Meeting.

The Select Board held a joint meeting with the Economic Development Committee for an update from the town's Economic Development Consultant, Troast Advisory Services, who presented their final logo and slogan for outreach materials, which was approved 5-0. The presentation can be found [here](#).

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

- | | |
|--|--|
| Affordable Housing Trust | JV Fletcher Library Trustees |
| Bylaw Review Committee | Northern Middlesex Stormwater Collaborative |
| Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee | Pedestrian Safety Committee |
| Dog Park Task Force | Permanent Town Building Committee |
| Healthy Westford Committee | Recycling Commission |
| Historical 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.

I look forward to continuing to serve you in the year ahead.

Sincerely,



Kristen Las, Town Manager

Health Department



Request a FREE Safe Footing Kit... while they last!

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

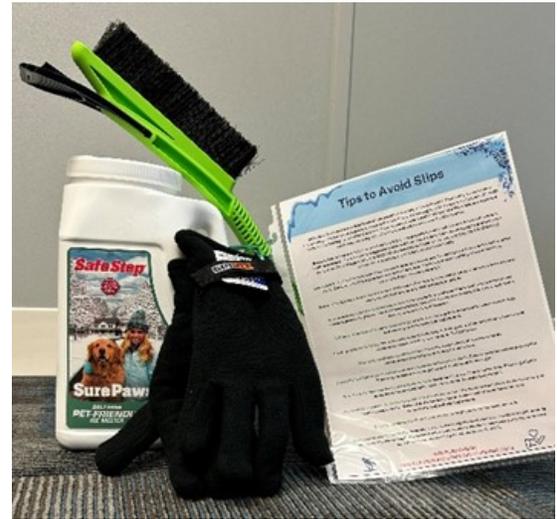
The Town of Westford cares *deeply* about the safety of its residents! Therefore, local agencies are collaborating to protect our most vulnerable citizens against the risk of falling on slick walkways this season. We are pleased to offer this year's 'Safe Winter Footing Kits' upon request.

Each kit comes with:

- An 8-pound bin of pet-friendly ice melt
- A flyer with local resources and

Tips to Avoid Slips

- A 23" Ice Hammer ergonomic scraper
- A pair of winter gloves



A recipient of last year's kits told us she loved it, and that the size of the ice melt dispenser was easily manageable with her disability.

Eligible recipients must be Westford residents aged 55 and older, who would be clearing their *own* porch and walkways from ice and snow. The kits are especially intended for those who have some type of disability (which you needn't identify). However, we encourage *any* senior in Westford who may be at risk of falling on slick outdoor surfaces to sign up.

To request one of the 100 kits available – maximum one per household – send an email to Nancy of the local MRC, nburns@westfordma.gov, by January 20. Include your name, phone number, and address where the kit should be dropped off by MRC volunteers. First come, first served!

This project is brought to you by the Town of Westford's Health Department, the Upper Merrimack Valley Medical Reserve Corps, Cameron Senior Center, The Don and Patti Mason Fund, and generous discounts from Ace Hardware.



Health Department



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) Private drinking water well Test Project

Westford homeowners that have a private drinking water well have a limited opportunity to apply for free PFAS private drinking water well testing. The Health Department strives to obtain representative PFAS samples of private drinking water wells throughout the community.

Per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), are a class of chemicals that are used to make products grease proof, waterproof, and stain resistant. The chemicals are considered “forever chemicals” that can cause many serious health problems. We can be exposed to PFAS through multiple sources including Food, Water, and Fabrics.

The Westford Select Board has approved American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for this project. There is a limit to the amount of testing available. This project is approved for 50 residential households.

Project Requirements:

- Applying for this project does not guarantee testing approval. This project is eligible for 50 Westford residential households only.
- All sample testing results and addresses will be considered public record and will be shared with the Westford Water Department.
- Residents will not be reimbursed for previous PFAS testing.
- The program is solely for private drinking water wells. Irrigation wells do not qualify.
- Approval will be determined by the Health Department based on the location of the applicant's well and the proximity to other applicants.
- If approved, homeowners will be notified by phone, email, and by letter. You will have only 7 calendar days to respond, otherwise we will need to move on to the next applicant. If not approved, homeowners will be notified by letter.
- Approved homeowners will receive notification that they can come pick up their chain of custody form, testing sample bottles, and sample directions from the Health Department. Residents will collect their samples and deliver their sample to the Nashoba analytical laboratory in Ayer, Ma., within 30 days of pickup.
- Any households that are found to have PFAS levels in their well will receive a remediation informational packet. Any exceedances of the maximum contaminant level (MCL) are not required to remediate, and it is the responsibility of the owner to remediate their well water system.

You can apply for this program by clicking on the link below. The Health Department will be receiving applications for this program until Friday February 7th, 2025. After this date, the department will begin reviewing all the applications.

[\(PFAS\) Private Drinking Water Well Test-Project Application](#)

Please send your application to the Health Department mailbox at health@westfordma.gov.

Please visit the Westford Health Department guidance website for more information on PFAS.

<https://westfordma.gov/1485/PFAS-Health-Guidance>

Please call the Westford Health Department regarding any questions at 978-692-5509.

Thank you,
Rae Dick BS., CP-FS Health Director

Health Department (PFAS - Continued)



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Upper Merrimack Valley MRC Director Westford Health Department
rdick@westfordma.gov

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) Private Drinking
Water Well Test-Project Application

Date:
Homeowner's Name:
Westford Address:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Well Location

(Attach a sketch of well location)

1. Type of well (check one)

Drilled

Dug

Shallow

Unsure

2. Have you read the sample procedure instructions? Yes or No?

3. This well is used for private drinking water, not irrigation. Yes or No?

*Please Note: Residents will not be reimbursed for previous PFAS testing. This
application does not guarantee testing approval. All testing results will be considered
public record and may be shared.

Health Department Use Only

Approved or Not Approved (circle one)

Signature Date:

Hello from the Tax Collector's Office!

Tax Bill Payment Information

New Town Hall hours start in January! Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8am to 4pm. Tuesday 8am – 6:30pm and Friday 8am to 1pm. Requests for calendar year tax information should be emailed to ccollins@westfordma.gov. Other tax questions, please feel free to email or call 978-692-5506.

3rd and 4th Quarter FY25 Real Estate tax bills were mailed on 12/31/24. The 3rd quarter is due on February 3rd and the 4th quarter is due on May 1st. For questions about payments, contact the Collector's Office. For questions about abatements, exemption programs or assessed value, please contact the Assessor's Office at 978-692-5504.

2025 Excise tax bills will be going out in early February and will be due in March. If you do not receive a bill for a car with an active registration in your name by Valentine's Day, please contact the Collector's office. Tax bills for leased cars are sent to the lease company. If you change cars or cancel a plate after January 1st, you may be entitled to an abatement. When you receive a bill for a car you no longer own, the Assessor's office can help you. They will need to see documentation to show what happened to the plate, and what happened to the car. Email documents to assessors@westfordma.gov.

Tax Payments Made Online by E-Check – No Fee

Want to pay your bill online but worried about being charged a fee? Use the E-Check option! E-Check payments are not charged a convenience fee. Payments by debit or credit card are charged a 3% fee. That fee is collected by the credit card processor, not the Town of Westford.

City Hall Systems is the Most Efficient Way to Pay

When you use the Town's online bill pay provider, City Hall Systems, it is the most efficient way to pay! When you pay through City Hall Systems, we receive notification and the funds within 24-48 hours. We can import the payment batch with a few steps, no manual entry is required, no opening mail, making up a deposit or going to the bank! When you use your own bank's online banking process, a physical check is cut and mailed with no back up. When we receive the check, we must look up your account and print out a copy of the bill to be posted. If you do not wish to use our online bill pay option, we would encourage you to send a personal check with our bill stub for quick and accurate handling. If you use your online banking option, please be sure that the reference information associated with the payment identifies the current bill number and the bill type you are paying. Parcel numbers may be used for Real Estate tax bill payments, but you will need to remember to change the reference if you pay excise tax bills this way at another time.

To pay online through City Hall Systems use the 'Bills and Fees' button on the homepage of the Town of Westford website www.westfordma.gov then follow the prompts to pay tax bills. You can also sign up to become an account user with City Hall Systems. Their direct website address is <https://epay.cityhallsystems.com> From their homepage on the top right select "Log In" and then "Sign Up". Becoming an account user provides you with access to more functions like E-Bills or E-Notices and reports. Using the E-Bill option saves the Town postage and printing costs.

E-Billing – Information Regarding Excise Tax Bills

If you have set up your bills for E-Billing with our online bill pay provider, City Hall Systems, you will receive an emailed bill for any bills that you have added to your E-Bill list. If you have put a car on the road with a new registration number, remember that you will need to wait for a bill to come out using that plate number and then go add it to your E-Bill list. Once added, you will not need to do it again. But it must be selected in that first year. If you are ever missing a bill that you expected to see, please call the Tax Collector's Office at 978-692-5506 or send an email to ccollins@westfordma.gov. I hope this is helpful to you!

Town Clerk's Corner



Laurie Shaw, Town Clerk
LShaw@westfordma.gov

Annual Town Meeting	Saturday, March 22, 2025 9:00 AM Westford Academy Gymnasium 30 Patten Road
Annual Election	Tuesday, May 6, 2025
Early Voting Hours	TBD

Voter Registration Deadline for March 22, Town Meeting is March 12, 2025

**Annual Town Election – May 6, 2025
Last Day to register to vote – April 25, 2025
Polling Hours: 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.**

Not registered as a voter in Westford yet?
It's easier than ever ... just go online!
www.sec.state.ma.us/OVR



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.

January at the J.V. Fletcher Library

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



Director's Corner: LIBRARY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

1. Label every piece of furniture in the Library.
2. Color code every piece of furniture for its destination.
3. Organize, pack, store and move 100,000 titles.
4. Have a giant Blow-out Friends Book Sale – Jan. 31 – Feb. 2!
5. Celebrate with a Ground-breaking Ceremony!
6. Apply the Master Moving List to our offsite Temporary Location.
7. Close temporarily – just to move across town!
8. Publicize townwide our temporary library space and services.
9. Welcome library patrons to our new temporary site!
10. Host Children's and Tween programs on the third floor of Roudenbush (thank you generous space-sharing Westford Recreation Department!).
11. Let us offer you hot bestsellers, Grab'n'Go collections, curbside pickup, interlibrary loans, e-collection help, and personal service — at our temporary and future library!

Friends of the Library Book Sale: Our 2025 Winter Book Sale will take place **January 31, February 1, and February 2.**

- Friday, January 31: Members-Only Sale, 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. (No scanners allowed)
- Saturday, February 1: Public Sale, 10:00 AM to 4:00 p.m.
- Sunday, February 2: \$10 Bag Sale, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

We appreciate your continued patronage, and are still [accepting donations](#) of gently used books, CDs, and DVDs.

Westford Academy Mid-Term Open Study: The Meeting Room will be open January 16, 21, & 22, 2:00—7:45 p.m. for study hours during WA midterms. Free pizza, snacks, and refreshments will be provided! Please e-mail Alexis at achrobak@westfordma.gov with any questions. Students should have a ride home promptly at closing time.

Mother Goose is Back!: Join Miss Jill on Wednesday, January 15 and 29 in the Meeting Room from 10:30-11:15 a.m. Enjoy songs, books, nursery rhymes and more! No registration required.

Monday Mystery Book Club: Monday, January 27 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 *Vera Wong's Unsolicited Advice for Murderers* by Jesse Sutanto. Print copies are available at Main Desk.

(Continued on next page)

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

Make Your Own Felted Boba Tea Patch: Tuesday, January 28 at 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the Meeting Room. For grades 5 -12. Registration is required. Spread some positivity-tea when you make your own bubble tea patch from wool. Use the finished piece as a patch on a jacket or frame it for a unique piece of art. Choose from a matcha or fruit flavored Boba. Add a cute smiling face or your own unique touches. Pop up Art School will show you the basics of needle felting. You'll leave the class with a completed piece and the tools and knowledge to needle felt on your own. [Register here.](#)

VIRTUAL: Cultural Perspectives in Chocolate with Cocoa Beantown: Tuesday, January 28, 7:00–8:00 p.m. Why do the Swiss love their chocolate so much? Why are the Japanese obsessed with Kit Kat bars? Why isn't American commercial chocolate as good as European? Learn about different perceptions of chocolate around the world while also picking up tips and tricks on how to learn more about a local food culture just by visiting a chocolate shop in this multi-cultural chocolate seminar [Register here.](#) This program is hosted by and presented in partnership with the Groton Public Library.

Top Ten Titles Circulated in 2024

- [The Women](#) by Kristin Hannah
- [The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store](#) by James McBride
- [Lessons in Chemistry: a novel](#) by Bonnie Garmus
- [Tom Lake: a novel](#) by Ann Patchett
- [Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow](#) by Gabrielle Zevin
- [Lady Tan's Circle of Women: a Novel](#) by Lisa See
- [The Berry Pickers](#) by Amanda Peters
- [The Frozen River](#) by Ariel Lawhon
- [First Lie Wins](#) by Ashley Elston
- [The Covenant of Water](#) by Abraham Verghese

Quick Links to Our Most Popular Services!

[Programs – Adults](#)

[Programs – Kids](#)

[Programs – Young Adults](#)

Follow us!

<https://www.instagram.com/westfordlibraryma/>

<https://X.com/westfordlibrary>

<https://www.facebook.com/J-V-Fletcher-Library-131093656901445/>

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?](#)

If you have questions or need assistance, please call us at 978-399-2300 or send us an email at westfordlibrary@westfordma.gov.

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

Winter Book Sale

FRIENDS OF THE JV FLETCHER LIBRARY • 50 MAIN ST • WESTFORD MA

Fri Jan 31
6:30 - 9

Members' Night

Join now or at the door!

Sat Feb 1
10 - 4

Public Sale

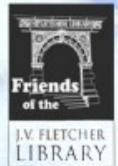
Most items \$1 or \$2

Sun Feb 2
2 - 4

Bag Sale

Buy a \$10 bag and fill it up!

Thousands of gently used books and AV materials
Your purchase supports our many innovative programs
Cash, checks, and credit cards accepted



Helping Your Library Do More

<https://www.westfordlibraryfriends.org/winter-book-sale>

Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee (CEASC)

Specialized Code Information Session To Be Held February 6

The Westford Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee (CEASC) is requesting that the Select Board co-sponsor a warrant article for Annual Town Meeting, scheduled for March 22, 2025, to consider adopting the Massachusetts Specialized Energy Code. The Specialized Code requires stronger building efficiency standards for new building construction (NOT renovations or additions). This code pushes development towards high-performance standards, incentivizing (but not requiring) all-electric heating and cooling systems to reduce carbon pollution. The town is sponsoring an information session on the Specialized Code on **Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 7:00 PM** at Millennium Conference Room B, 25 Depot Street. [Register here.](#)

A virtual attendance option is available via Zoom.

[Learn more about the Specialized Energy Code here.](#)

Cameron Senior Center

AT THE CAMERON - *A welcoming center for all to try new programs, services and be a part of our community.*

SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITIES FIELD TRIPS with Annette

Thursday, January 30 from 11AM- 1PM

We are excited to offer this new program of facility visits the last Thursday of the month. These visits will include a tour and sometime a complimentary lunch. These trips will allow you to explore housing options such as retirement communities and assisted living residences. We will be providing transportation for up to twelve but must meet at center. If you would like to meet at center and need transportation please call Bob Rafferty, Transportation Dispatcher at 978-399-2322 and if you have additional transportation need for this trip please share with him. Others may drive their own vehicle and meet Annette at our first location, Benchmark Senior Living at Robbins Brook, Acton. Please RSVP 20 spots- 978-692-5523.

TECHNOLOGY HELP

Tuesdays at 3PM

Westford Academy student, Kishan Prajeesh will be taking one on one appointments to assist with your varied technology needs from cell phones, email, Tablet, laptop, making files and so much more. Please just call and make an appointment at 978-692-5523 it's that easy and no more worries of pushing that wrong button and closing your eyes and hoping for best.

NEW QUARTERLY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Friday, January 31st at 1:30 pm

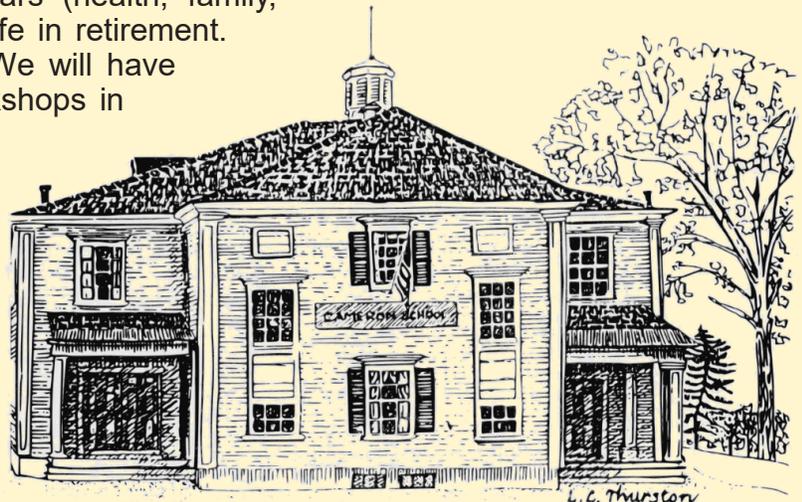
Join us for our New Quarterly Birthday Celebrations! This will be taking the place of the monthly Birthday lunches. We will be celebrating January, February, and March birthdays. January's Chocolate Themed Birthday Event! Birthday celebrants will be free and the cost for all other party attendees pay \$3.00 Thank you Rivercourt Residence for donating delicious chocolate brownies for our brownie sundaes. **Fun individual and team birthday games: get ready to laugh!**

NEW SERIES! FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION PRIOR AND/OR AFTER RETIREMENT

Tuesday, February 25th at 5PM

Topic: The Four Pillars of Retirement Health Marshall Tisdale, AAMS™, CEPA®, from Edward Jones will share insights from the Edward Jones/Age Wave research about how retirement is changing. Attendees will gain knowledge about the four essential pillars (health, family, purpose and finances) that can impact quality of life in retirement.

There will be an opportunity to share questions. We will have three additional topics that will be covered in workshops in the coming months. Please RSVP at 978-692-5523



Westford Senior Center

(Continued on next page)

Cameron Senior Center (Continued)

VALENTINE LUNCHEON with Vocalist, Alexandria Connolly

Wednesday, February 12th at Noon

First Parish Church, 48 Main St., Westford

Sponsors: *Friends of the Cameron, Westford Fund founder Patti Mason, RiverCourt Residences, Alcorn and Owens, Attorney At Law, Westford Rotary Club, Westford Garden Club, Girls Scout Troop #82694 (8th Grade Cadettes from Blanchard and Stony Brook Middle Schools)* Come, make this heartfelt luncheon complete with your special presence. Together we will enjoy uplifting and favorite songs by the talented vocalist, Alexandria, brought to us by our partners at RiverCourt Residences in Groton. Before you know it you will be singing and smiling! Our special Valentine menu will be prepared by our favorite Nashoba Tech culinary students. Menu: Winter pork loin with apple demi-glace, fingerling potatoes, green beans, rolls, salad and beverages. The featured dessert: Lemon iced cake provided by Rivercourt and special valentine treats will adorn each place setting thanks to the Westford Rotary Club and Alcorn & Owens. Cost: Friends Members \$12 and Non-Friends Members \$18. Registration begins Tuesday, January 2nd.

VISIT WITH CHIPS Wednesday February 19th at 10am

Chips is an 11 year old Yellow Lab who worked as a Therapy dog for 9 years at a psychiatric hospital with Sue Jones from Westford. He graduated from the NEADS program and is a nationally certified assistant dog. He provided support and healing for patients and staff. Chips loves people and loved his job! Chips and Sue will be here visiting the center once a month if you would like to spend some time visiting this very lovable dog.

FREE HEALTH SERIES Tuesdays, Jan. 21 and Feb. 18 at 4:30 pm

Join our monthly series with professional speakers from local medical sites the 3rd Tuesday of every month. In January we have *Occupational Therapist Kara Robinson, who will provide practical tips for improving home safety to prevent falls and enhance daily living.* Attendees will learn how to identify potential hazards in their homes and implement simple modifications to create a safer, more accessible living environment. In February, Jessica, a Registered Dietitian & Nutrition Counselor at Great Wave Acupuncture and Wellness in Westford, MA will be presenting. She has a master's degree in food and nutrition and has a passion for helping people to create a positive relationship with food. With over 15 years of counseling experience, she has worked with a diverse set of nutritional concerns. Please sign up at 978.692.5523 to participate in either program.

WOMEN'S LUNCH

Fridays at 12 pm, January 24 and February 7 January 24

Join Nina Oliver and John Kuhnle with Coldwell Banker for a Q&A session on which repair/renovation items and home additions can add value if you're considering selling in the future. Nina has a background in interior design and John's background is in construction.

A special thank you to the Friends of the Cameron for subsidizing this event.

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 and schedule a tour.

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

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

Community Wellness

Residents Invited to Provide Input on Westford's Use of Massachusetts Opioid Abatement Funds

Opportunity to be seen, heard and understood.

- The Town of Westford is interested in hearing your input on recovery, treatment and substance use prevention.
- Please take the survey by following the link : https://engage.zencity.io/westford-ma/en/engagements/b441d789-a35f-4dd4-bd31-f6403c4e191d?utm_medium=display
- Join the focus group on January 21st 5:00pm - 6:00pm @ the J.V. Fletcher Library
- Fill out a suggestion card, located at the J.V. Fletcher Library, Town Hall or Police Department.
- Press release: [Wellness Community Wellness](#)

Community Wellness Assistance

- Westford's Community Wellness Coordinator, Nicole Laviolette, will be available the **4th Tuesday of the month from 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM** at the **Town Hall, conference room A**. Get help with mental health referrals, substance use disorder referrals, parenting support resources, and linkages to other town and community resources.
- No appointment necessary. For questions, please email: nlaviolette@westfordma.gov or call 978- 399-2503

For more information or help connecting to resources:

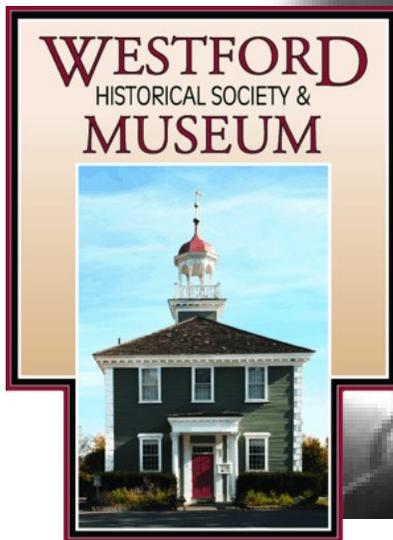
Community Wellness Coordinator, Nicole Laviolette

(978) 399-2503 nlaviolette@westfordma.gov

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

Westford Museum

The Westford Museum and Historical Society proudly presents a patriotic series of programs titled "Westford REV 250 (1775-2025)," celebrating the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution in 2025.



Westford 250 Revolution 1775-2025

In the Margins: Women Printers in the 18th Century

Thursday, January 30, 2025, 7 PM
Westford Museum, 2 Boston Rd, Westford

In this lecture, you will learn about the essential contributions of women in the printing industry leading up to the American Revolution.

"Bartering, Currency, and the American Economy in Colonial Times"

Sunday, February 9, 2025, 1:30 PM
Westford Museum, 2 Boston Rd, Westford

In this program, you will explore and understand the value of money in colonial America, including the types of currency used, how it was tracked and obtained, and what could be purchased.

For more Westford Rev 250 programming,
visit the Westford Museum website at www.museum.westford.org

Recycling Commission

Town of Westford Awarded by DEP

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) has awarded the Town of Westford Recycling Dividends Program funds under the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program. The Town of Westford has earned 9 points and will receive \$8,190.



The Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP) was created under 310 CMR 19.300-303 and the Green Communities Act, which directs a portion of the proceeds from the sale of Waste Energy Certificates to recycling programs approved by MassDEP. This year, they awarded more than \$4 million in SMRP funding to 285 municipalities and regional groups.

Recycling programs play a vital role in limiting our dependence on landfills and incinerators, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and supporting economic activity in the Commonwealth.

Recycling Dividend Program funds foster investment in local programs including recycling equipment, organics diversion, outreach and education, pilot programs, school recycling, toxics reduction, and more.

Many thanks go to Kristina Greene for faithfully completing the annual application for these important funds and to the numerous dedicated recycling volunteers who staff the many events that earn the grant such as the following events: Household Hazardous Waste, Electronics, Zero Waste Days, Composting Demos, Communications including event promotion, Recycling Workshops, the Westford Recycling Page and the Facebook Page, as well as involvement in all areas of recycling.

The Westford Recycling Commission educates residents on options to:

Re-think their buying and **R**educe what they take in.

Reuse, **R**epurpose or Donate what they no longer need.

Rot (compost).

After that, **R**ecycle curbside what is truly remaining and going out the door.

On the Recycling Commission, every commission member and regular volunteer performs their specific roles with great expertise and commitment. For example, our newest commission member, Clark Spyker, has taken on the task of reviewing the invoices from our recycling and solid waste vendor, as an important aid to our Town staff. He brings a solid perspective from his career in paper manufacturing and a user of post-consumer paper.

Clark has fully acquainted himself with the contract and gives valuable monthly analysis and feedback to the Assistant Town Manager. The focus is to assist in ensuring that all contract terms are correctly met. This has become a highly successful process, and we are grateful to him for doing this.

We do have a talented team and look forward to highlighting others in future issues.

For specific questions about what is recyclable, go to www.recyclesmartma.org.

Veterans Corner

Westford Veteran's Services Department, what is it? First of all, this office is NOT affiliated with the US Department of Veterans Affairs (the VA). We are a town department that is an advocate for you, the military veteran and your family, helping you navigate the federal and state benefits. Massachusetts offers one of the most comprehensive veterans benefit programs in the country. Between the VA and the state programs, there are numerous opportunities to provide medical and financial assistance. We are here to explain them to you and assist you in applying for the benefit. *How can we help you?*



Our office is located at 23 Depot Rd., behind Abbot School in the Millennium Building. We are also at the Cameron Senior Center *monthly on the 2nd Tuesday morning* for quick questions. Soon we will have evening hours at the Town Hall.

If you want to spend some time and talk about benefits in detail or a specific situation, call 978-392-1170 or email veterans@westfordma.gov to schedule an appointment. Check us out at the Town of Westford's website page <http://www.westfordma.gov/veterans>

The HERO Act of 2024

In August of 2024, [Governor Healey signed The HERO Act](#) to help further expand Veteran benefits and ensure greater inclusivity and modernization of veterans' services. Key provisions include expanding access to behavioral health treatment, increasing benefits for disabled veterans, supporting businesses that hire veterans, updating the definition of a veteran, expanding the Veterans Equality Review Board's scope, and codifying medical and dental benefits.

As part of this Act, **all Massachusetts residents who are disabled veterans may be eligible to receive the automobile excise tax exemption & receive various fee waivers for transactions at the RMV.** Veterans will qualify for these exemptions if the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) determines they have a 100% disability rating or deems them unemployable due to their service-connected disability. To qualify, you **must** present a letter from the VA to the Town of Westford with proof of eligibility (or to the City/Town where the veteran's vehicle is garaged). [You can download VA Benefit Letters online here \(www.va.gov/records/download-va-letters\)](http://www.va.gov/records/download-va-letters)

- [See more on the HERO Act here \(www.mass.gov/info-details/hero-act\)](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/hero-act)
- [See here for HERO Act Fact Sheet \(www.mass.gov/doc/fact-sheet-1192023/download\)](http://www.mass.gov/doc/fact-sheet-1192023/download)
- [See here for additional MA Military and Veteran RMV Information \(www.mass.gov/military-and-veteran-rmv-information\)](http://www.mass.gov/military-and-veteran-rmv-information)



Westford

Massachusetts

Tecton
ARCHITECTS

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

FACILITIES ASSESSMENT & MASTERPLAN



For project updates, events and more, we recommend:

Visiting our project website at www.westfordma.gov/facilitiesassessment
or emailing tmaa@westfordma.gov

Wed.
1/15
7 PM

Community Conversation #1

Topic: Establish Need, Bold Goals & Customer Experience

Location: Millennium Building, 23 Depot Street

Duration: 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Format: In-person/Hybrid + Virtual

Tools: Powerpoint, Mentimeter

Wed.
2/5
6 PM

Community Conversation #2

Topic: What Ifs & Asset Utilization

Location: Millennium Building, 23 Depot Street

Duration: 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Format: In-person/Hybrid + Virtual

Tools: Powerpoint, Mentimeter

Sat.
3/22

Master Plan Update - Informational

Materials Available @ Annual Town Meeting

Location: Westford Academy, 30 Patten Road

Sat.
4/5
10 AM

Community Conversation #3

Topic: Draft Masterplan Feedback

Location: Millennium Building, 23 Depot Street

Duration: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Format: In-person/Hybrid + Virtual

Tools: Powerpoint, Mentimeter