



Town of Westford Massachusetts

Town Manager's Newsletter

March 2025



Kristen Las
Town
Manager

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

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Annual Town Meeting
Saturday, March 22
Starting at 9:00 AM
Westford Academy
30 Patten Road

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



Watch
westford 
community access television
www.westfordcat.org

Dear Westford residents,

We are approaching the Spring Equinox on March 20th and are already seeing an increase in daylight. Soon, the beautiful flowers and greenery around Westford will be in bloom. Hopefully you and your family can enjoy those special places in Westford that show us for us in the springtime.

On March 13th the Healey-Driscoll Administration awarded \$8.7 million in [MBTA Community Catalyst Funds](#) to 10 fully compliant MBTA communities in FY25. Westford received \$300,000 to conduct pre-development activities for critical transportation connectivity in its MBTA district to leverage new development. The Planning Board will begin reviewing the first MBTA housing project located at 37 Powers Road this month. Please visit the [Planning Board webpage](#) for more information.

The Economic Development Committee hosted a business forum on Pi Day, March 14th. Over 50 business owners, state leaders and town staff met at Netscout to discuss Economic Development in Westford. A full press release on the event will be forthcoming.

On March 6th, I was fortunate to attend the Massachusetts Municipal Association's Women Leading Government Conference with over 200 women municipal employees. The conference focused on the importance of self-advocacy in the workplace, experiences with using Artificial Intelligence (AI) platforms and the potential for AI applications in the future, and how to give and receive constructive feedback. I look forward to sharing these tools with our staff in our ongoing effort of recruitment, retention, and our commitment to responsible and responsive town government.

We have several job opportunities available for several different departments including the Council on Aging, Public Works Department, Fire Department, Health Department, Police Department, Technology Department and the Clerk's Office. For more information visit the [Human Resources webpage](#) or call (978) 399-2915.

Excise Tax Bills were due March 14, 2025. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Treasure/Collectors office. If you no longer have the vehicle for which you have an excise tax bill, do not ignore the bill. You can contact the Assessor's office via email: assessors@westfordma.gov, or call 978-692-5504, they can help you with an abatement.

The Recreation Department is hard at work preparing for their upcoming spring programs and registration for Summer Weekly Programs is in full swing. Sign up through the [Recreation website](#). Summer weekly offerings include Kids Club located at the Nabnasset School, and Destination Exploration and Summer Beach Party located at East Boston Camps (EBC). These programs serve children ages 4-12 from Westford and surrounding communities and have flexible options for extended day, early arrival and swim lessons.

(Continued on next page)

WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV

Residents and those visiting may have noticed that Boston Road is under construction. You can find more information on the project by visiting this [link](#).

Facilities Assessment Community Conversations #3: On April 5th we will be holding our third community conversation regarding the Facilities Assessment. It will be another wonderful opportunity for residents to share their thoughts and ideas as we work to evaluate and improve our town's facilities. Thank you to everyone who participated in the Community Conversations #1 & #2. Your feedback is invaluable, and we look forward to continuing the conversation as we make decisions that will benefit our town for years to come. To learn more about the project, please visit the dedicated [Facilities Assessment Project website](#).

Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for March 22nd at Westford Academy. The meeting will begin at 9AM and registration begins at 8AM. Please park at Westford Academy first. If needed transportation will be provided to and from overflow lots at the Crisafulli and Robinson Elementary Schools. If you would like free transportation to and from Town Meeting from your home, please sign up with the [Cameron Senior Center](#). The wifi at Westford Academy is limited, so please plan on downloading any documents you would like to use. There will be sandwiches for sale in the cafeteria so please bring cash. Voters will be deciding on 24 Articles which can be found on the [Town Meeting webpage](#).

There will be 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. The Town election will occur on May 6, 2025 from 7AM-8PM.

Please see below for matters that were discussed or acted upon by the Select Board in late February and the beginning of March.

At their meeting on February 25, 2025, the Select Board recognized resident Ryan O'Neill who assisted the Westford Police Department in rescuing a driver who was involved in a car accident on January 31, 2025.

Select Board Chair Scott Hazelton also recognized the Public Works and Facilities staff for their work during the long duration storm from February 15, 2025 to February 17, 2025.

Resident Wendy Gloyd reminded residents that "Westford LGBTQ+" is hosting a support group from 7-9AM on Fridays at the First Parish Church in relation to the executive orders from the incoming presidential administration.

Select Board Member Andrea Peraner-Sweet read a [statement on behalf of the Select Board](#) regarding the presidential executive orders.

The Select Board approved 5-0 to endorse Westford as a co-sponsor with the Town of Acton for the Pride Festival set to take place on June 21, 2025 at NARA Park.

At their meeting on March 11, 2025, the Select Board reviewed the Annual Town Meeting warrant articles and took positions on Articles 6, 16, 19, 20 and 24.

Select Board Member John Cunningham and Town Manager Kristen Las updated the Board on the [Robinson School Feasibility Study](#) informational sessions. A tour of the Robinson School is scheduled for Saturday, March 15, 2025 between 10:30AM and 1:00PM.

Select Board Chair Scott Hazelton updated the Board on the Commission on Disabilities event on March 21, 2025 from 3-6PM to celebrate Neurodiversity Week at the First Parish Church United.

(Continued on next page)

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| Affordable Housing Trust | Northern Middlesex Stormwater Collaborative |
| Bylaw Review Committee | Pedestrian Safety Committee |
| Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee | Permanent Town Building Committee |
| Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee | Recycling Commission |
| Dog Park Task Force | Scholarship and Grant Committee |
| Healthy Westford Committee | Tax Possession Disposition Committee |
| Historical Commission | |

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



Westford Tree Warden 2nd Annual Tree Seedling Giveaway

Westford's Tree Warden is giving away tree seedlings to help make our town a greener and healthier place!

Pick up your seedlings at the Highway Facility, 28 North Street
April 22-25 | 7:30 A.M. - 4 P.M.

Four Varieties Available:

- White Oak
- Choke Cherry
- Balsam Fir
- Paw Paw

Call to reserve yours today: 978-692-5520

*Each tree planted helps combat climate change, provides a habitat for wildlife, and improves air quality.
Don't miss this chance to make a positive impact on our planet!*

Town Clerk's Corner



Laurie Shaw, Town Clerk
LShaw@westfordma.gov

Table with election dates and times: Annual Town Meeting (March 22, 2025), Annual Election (May 6, 2025), and Early Voting Hours (April 28-30, 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
• Register in a political designation, OR
• Register with no party affiliation by selecting "NO PARTY (unenrolled),"

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.

From the Moderator



**Annual Town Meeting will be held on
March 22, starting at 9 am at Westford Academy
- continuation date (if needed) March 24**

NEW THIS YEAR – ASK THE MODERATOR – TWO INFORMAL SESSIONS BEFORE THE MEETING WHERE VOTERS CAN MAKE SUGGESTIONS, ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT ANY TOWN MEETING TOPIC OR JUST COME BY TO INTRODUCE THEMSELVES! Tuesday, March 18 from 4PM to 6PM and Thursday March 20 from 10AM to Noon in the Town Hall second floor meeting rooms.

- Check in for Town Meeting will begin at 8 am, an hour before the meeting starts, so arrive early!
- Parking will be at WA, with overflow parking at Crisafulli and Robinson ONLY IF NEEDED. Please carpool if you can. There will be spaces reserved for those with accessibility needs.
- Advocates will have specific areas at which to hold signs, collect signatures and distribute leaflets.
- Except children under the age of 12 seated with their voting parents, non-voters must remain in the non-voting room to insure the accuracy of the vote. Under our Town bylaws non-voters may not address the meeting unless a motion is made requesting that a specific non-voter be allowed to speak and is then passed by a 2/3 majority of the meeting.

Free child care: [TM Childcare Signup](#) and free transportation: [TM Transportation Signup](#) will be available, be sure to sign up in advance. If you require a special accommodation due to a disability please email accessibility@westfordma.gov. Coffee will be sold in the cafeteria from 8 am to 10 am, cash only. You can bring a bag lunch or purchase lunch during the break, also in the cafeteria.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE ARTICLES TO BE DISCUSSED SEE THE [TOWN MEETING](#) AND [TOWN MODERATOR](#) PAGES ON THE TOWN'S WEBSITE

I look forward to seeing you on March 22 - feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions. The more people who attend, the better our decisions will be. Democracy works best when everyone participates.

See you soon!

Angela Harkness

Westford Town Moderator

aharkness@westfordma.gov

March / April at the J.V. Fletcher Library

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



J.V. FLETCHER LIBRARY

Widening Westford's World

We will be Moving

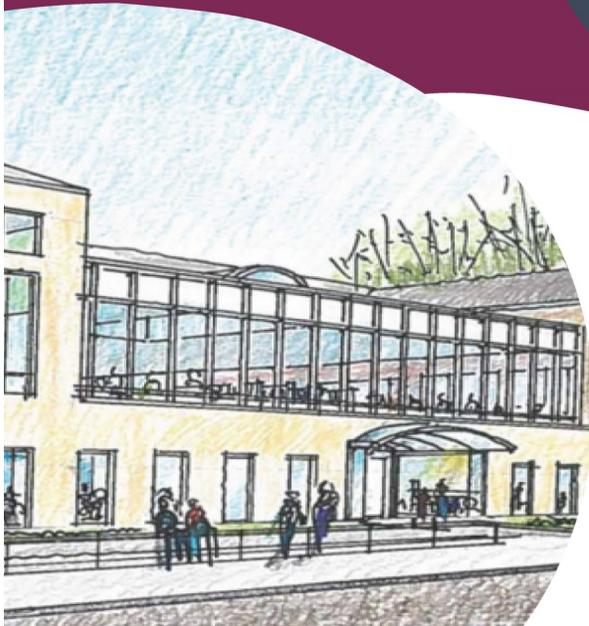
to a temporary Location in
late March/early April

In the temporary location, we will have browsing library services on the second level and closed stacks on the basement level

OUR TEMPORARY LOCATION WILL BE



515 Groton Road
Westford, MA



The Library will be closed with services on hiatus from Monday March 31 through Monday April 21, for moving and training at the temporary site.

Remember to change your holds pickup location while we are temporarily closed, 3/31-4/21.

Director's Corner: We're moving!

The Library will be closed with services on hiatus from Monday March 31 through Monday April 21, for moving and training at the temporary site.

(Continued on next page)

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

Our temporary location will be at 515 Groton Road in Westford, with browsing library services on the second level and closed stacks on the basement level.

We anticipate that we will be in our temporary location for 18-22 months as the Library undergoes an [expansion and renovation project](#).

Please read our [MOVING FAQ](#) for more information about the move and our temporary closure. More detailed information about our temporary location will be released soon! Stay updated via the [Friends e-newsletter](#), social media, a Town-wide mailing and the [Library](#) website!

From 3/31/25-4/21/25 - Change Holds Pickup Location: Please select another MVLC library as your holds pickup location during our temporary closure. If you have any questions, please contact the Main Desk.

Go to <https://westfordlibrary.org>.

Select Account (right hand corner, over search box)

Enter your Library card number and PIN number (the last 4 numbers of your phone number)

Select the "Holds" tab

Select the item(s) you want to reroute.

Select "Edit Pick Up Location," at the top of the page.

Select a Library other than Westford from the drop-down menu

Select "Change"

Virtual Storytimes!: Join Miss Jill on Zoom every Tuesday morning, 10:30 – 11:00 a.m. and Thursday evening, 6:30 – 7:00 p.m. of March as she reads some fun and engaging picture books! Registration for the first week's storytimes is open now! [Register here.](#)

Virtual Job Search Help for 50 & Over – "Resumes (A Pocket Full Of Stars)": **Wednesday, March 19 from 9:30-11:30 a.m.** The Massachusetts Library Collaborative's 50+ Job Seekers Group meets biweekly on 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! Take advantage of these *free*, weekly skill-building and networking group meetings. A new topic will be covered at each meeting. [Register here.](#)

Virtual: Bestselling Author Curtis Sittenfeld with Gabrielle Zevin: Wednesday, March 19 at 7:00 p.m. Bestselling author Curtis Sittenfeld will discuss her beloved novel, *Prep*, in celebration of its 20th anniversary, as well as her new short stories collection, *Show Don't Tell*, in conversation with bestselling author Gabrielle Zevin, in this installment of "Author Hour in Massachusetts." [Register here.](#) This program is presented in partnership with the Tewksbury Library.

Monday Mystery Book Club: Monday, March 24 at 2:00 p.m. Wake up your week with a stimulating book discussion! We'll meet upstairs in the Mary Atwood Room to discuss *The Poacher's Son* by Paul Doiron. Copies of the current selection are available at Main Desk. The e-book and audiobook are both available to download from Libby. Email [Linda Ernack](#) for details! No registration required.

(Continued on next page)

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

Virtual [Adult Nonfiction Book Club](#) :Tuesday, April 1 at 6:30 p.m. We'll meet virtually to discuss *The Revolutionary: Samuel Adams* by Stacy Schiff. Copies are available at Main Desk until March 28th. The e-book and audiobook are both available to download from Libby. Email [Charles Schweppe](#) for the Zoom link!

Virtual: Grim(m) Fairy Tales with Bill Thierfelder Tuesday, April 22 at 7:00 p.m. For over two hundred years, the remarkable stories of the Brothers Grimm have fascinated and terrified us. Between 1812 and 1857, seven editions of their often dark-hued folk tales—200 stories and 11 legends—found their way into the western consciousness. This presentation first defines what a folk tale is and then explores the meticulous research that Jacob and Wilhelm undertook to accomplish their goal of collecting significant stories from around Europe. Their accomplishments have created the great archetypes for much modern literature, sociology, and psychology. This program is presented in partnership with the Groton Public Library. [Register here.](#)

Tax Forms: The library has a variety of tax forms available. If you need any supplementary forms, we'll print them on demand. Ask at the Information Services desk!

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 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](#)

Follow us!

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

<https://X.com/westfordlibrary>

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



MARCH 2025

Westford Recreation

WPC After School Enrichment Program, Grades K-5. Register at Any Time.

Recreation's WPC program is safety focused, with flexible schedules, and cool activities, which includes homework time! Conveniently located at Abbot, Crisafulli, Day, Miller, Nabnasset, and Robinson schools. Runs Monday-Friday, from school dismissal to 6:00 p.m.

Recreation Special Programs, Grades K-8, during Eid al-Fitr, March 31: N.E. Aquarium

Join us for a fantastic visit "down below" at the New England Aquarium! Program runs from 9am-3pm, with early arrival and extended day options. Recreation provides full-day and full-week programs during parent conferences, professional days, and school vacations. All communities are welcome.

Kids Club and Destination Exploration – Recreation's Summer Weekly Programs – REGISTER NOW!

Be prepared for fun! Enjoy eight full weeks of our Summer Weekly Programs. Choose as many weeks as you like, with flexible day schedules, and early arrival and extended day options. Runs from June 23 to August 15.



SUMMER FUN
Registration 2025 OPEN
for Summer Weekly Programs
Kids Club, Destination
Exploration and Beach Party!

- 1) A four way hug, Miller After School Program, March '25.
- 2) Pals, Miller After School Program, March '25.
- 3 & 4) Recreation's Special Program visit to the N.E. Aquarium last year: Touching a Ray, Touching a Sea Turtle (behind the glass).
- 5) Kids Club at Eds Beach, summer '24 .

MORE INFO | REGISTER ONLINE AT WESTFORDMA.MYREC.COM | SEASONAL PROGRAMS FOLLOW >>>

65 Main Street, 3rd Floor, Westford MA, 978-692-5532 | Photos: Recreation Staff.

Spring "Not to Miss"

happening this **March**

YOUTH CHESS - INT'L MASTER PRATHIBA Y
AGES 5-14: FUN. CREATIVE PROBLEM SOLVING.
Started March 7.

INTRO TO TRAVELING TRAINER
AGES 18+: DELIVERING THE RESULTS RIGHT TO YOU.
Starts March 18.

ON THE MARK ARCHERY - OUTDOORS
GRADES 4-8 & AGES 14+: FUN. RELAXING. RECURVE ARCHERY!
Starts March 26.

RECREATION SPECIAL PROGRAMS EID AL-FITR OBSERVED
NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM | GRADES K-8 | 9AM-3PM
EARLY ARRIVAL (7:30AM) AND EXTENDED DAY (6:00PM)
March 31

starting in **APRIL**

SOCCER SHOTS
AGES 2-5: KIDS LEARNING FUN-DAMENTALS WITH JOY.
Starts April 6.

NEW SKYHAWKS PROGRAM: MULTI SportTots
AGES 2-5: THREE SPORTS PACKED WITH FUN, LEARNING, AND TEAMWORK.
Starts April 28.

NEW SKYHAWKS PROGRAM: BEGINNER GOLF
AGES 5-6: ACING A CURRICULUM THAT'S PERFECT FOR BEGINNERS.
Starts April 30.

PUZZLECLASH WITH LITTLETON RECREATION
AGES 10-ADULT: EXCITING PUZZLE-BUILDING COMPETITION!
Date - TBD.

and **RECREATION'S SUMMER WEEKLY PROGRAMS**

PREPARE YOUR SELF FOR **SUMMER FUN**

Kids Club, Destination Exploration and Beach Party at D.E.!
Runs June 23 - August 15. **REGISTER NOW!**

Experienced Instructors! Great Coaches!

REGISTER at westfordma.myrec.com

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

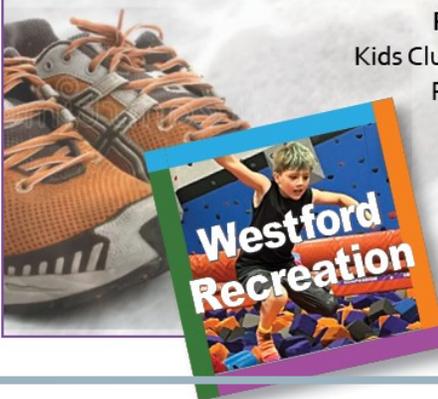


**"&"
MARCUS
LEWIS
TENNIS**

Spring at
STONY BROOK
COURTS

Summer at
the newly built
ROBINSON
TENNIS COURTS

starting in
APRIL



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Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee (CEASC)

Adopting the Specialized Energy Code is coming to Annual Town Meeting - Article 20

CEASC is supporting the adoption of the Massachusetts Specialized Energy Code at Annual Town Meeting, Article 20.

Three reasons to adopt the Specialized Energy Code:

- Increases energy efficiency and provides consumer protection for NEW Construction
- Grid friendly – reduces electrical load
- Enables Westford to pursue the Massachusetts Climate Leader program, \$60 million in funding this year

Three things the Specialized Energy Code will NOT impact:

- No impact to additions and renovations of any size
- No impact to new all-electric single family homes and commercial buildings
- No impact to the J.V. Fletcher Library Project, or other current municipal projects

What about cost?

- ~2% increase in construction cost observed
- Up-front costs offset by incentives and energy savings
- Reduces costs for future electrification

48 Massachusetts communities have already adopted the Specialized Energy Code, including Chelmsford, Acton, and Carlisle.

See <https://westfordma.gov/1675/Specialized-Energy-Code> for more information.

CEASC is offering an informational webinar on the Specialized Energy Code, which will be held via Zoom on Tuesday, March 18 at 7:00 PM.

All are welcome to attend. A brief presentation will be followed by a Q&A session, to provide information in advance of Annual Town Meeting.

Register Here: <https://westfordma.gov/SECwebinar>

Award-winning documentary presented in Westford on Friday, April 4

On Friday evening, April 4 at 7:30, Westford Climate Action will present a free showing of the award-winning documentary *Inundation District*, by filmmaker and *Boston Globe* journalist David Abel and Ted Blanco. Their film predicts that if the City of Boston ignores warnings of climate change, sea-level rise will cause significant flooding in the Seaport district with disastrous consequences for residents, businesses and taxpayers. For more information, please visit InundationDistrict.com

Global warming is affecting the entire world faster and more intensely than even scientists estimated. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Climate Program, "The cost of the 173 largest extreme weather disasters between 2014 and 2023 was over \$1 trillion."

Flooding caused by climate change is not just a coastal problem. In 2023, Leominster experienced 11 inches of rain in less than five hours resulting in unprecedented flooding, tearing out roads, bridges, and railroad tracks. Last July, Vermont experienced three devastating flooding events, washing out roads, destroying homes and businesses and requiring the help of FEMA. And last September, Asheville and the entire Western North Carolina region experienced catastrophic flooding, which contaminated drinking water, left millions without power and displaced thousands.

The documentary screening, on Friday, April 4 at 7:30 pm at the First Parish Church United, 48 Main Street, Westford, will be followed by a Q&A with David Abel. This event is free, generously co-sponsored by the J.V. Fletcher Library, First Parish Church United, Sustainable Westford, League of Women Voters of Westford and Westford's Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee. Refreshments will be served. Donations will be welcome. WestfordClimateAction.org

Cameron Senior Center

March and April Offerings

At The Cameron -

Thanks to our sponsors for a nice Valentine luncheon hosted at First Parish Church

Sponsors: Friends of the Cameron, Westford Fund- Founder Patti Mason, RiverCourt Residences, Alcorn and Owens, Attorney at Law, Westford Garden Club, Westford Rotary Club, Girl Scout Troop #82694



FY'26 PROPERTY TAX WORK OFF PROGRAM

Many folks are concerned about the increase in property taxes in our area. **This is the perfect opportunity to consider reducing your expenditure.** Property Tax Work Off allows work in a Town Department in exchange for a reduction in your property taxes. The **program is for seniors aged 60+ and Veterans age 18+ who own and occupy their homes and pay taxes** to the town. The **maximum benefit is \$1500 minus** a few federally mandated deductions. This equates to about 100 hours of work anytime between July 1st 2025 and March 15th of 2026. If you are interested, pick up an application and information packet at the Senior Center front desk and submit to Jennifer Beale **by May 23rd**. If there are more applicants than slots in the program, we will hold a lottery in June with new participants given priority. You will be notified in June if you are able to participate.

ARE YOUR HOME ADDRESS NUMBERS VISIBLE?

We want to be sure your home can be found quickly in the event of an emergency. We have heard from our town emergency services and health dept that there are homes in town without visible numbers! If they are looking for an unmarked home precious minutes can be lost to help you and your loved ones. We've been informed by the fire dept that home numbers should meet the following criteria: they should be of contrasting color to your home (i.e. black on white), permanently fixed, visible from the street and at least 3 inches tall or greater. Numbering your mailbox is also suggested. If your home is not well marked or your numbers cannot



be seen from the street and you would like some assistance, please contact Outreach at 978-399-2326. We have volunteer handymen that can secure numbers to your home and mailbox. Please call, don't wait for an emergency.

FREE HEALTH SERIES

March 18th & April 15th –at 4:30

Join our monthly series with local medical professional speakers on the 3rd Tuesday of every month.

In March we will learn how to **Discover Lifestyle Medicine with Dr. Stephan Goupil, DO, PhD**. Chronic diseases are at an all-time high, with 90% of the nation's \$4.1 trillion annual healthcare costs attributed to these conditions. Lifestyle Medicine offers a solution. Rooted in evidence-based strategies, it addresses six key health domains: nutrition, physical activity, restorative sleep, stress management, social connection, and avoiding risky substances. Join **Dr. Goupil**, a Lifestyle and Longevity Medicine Physician, in learning how personalized, science-driven care can help prevent, treat, and even reverse chronic illnesses.

In April we will learn about the importance of having **health care documents** in place to honor your medical wishes. Our very own, **LICSW, Alison Christopher**, will discuss the health care proxy, advanced directives and the 5 Wishes. She will have documents for you to take home. There will be time for questions and answers also. Please sign up in advance for either of these health programs. 978-692-5523.

(Continued on next page)

Cameron Senior Center (Continued)

“**HOLI**” Festival of Colors on Wednesday, March 19 at 11:30 am This vibrant event will feature cultural activities and a FREE lunch for all attendees. Please RSVP on website www.thefisco.org



BOILED DINNER

Friday, March 21 at 12:00 pm

Enjoy a Saint Patrick's Day boiled dinner prepared by students of Nashoba Tech Culinary Arts Program. Don't forget to wear green! Cost:\$15. Call 978.692.5523 to sign up

SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY FIELDTRIP –

Location: RiverCourt Residences Senior Living Community, Groton

March 27th, 11:00-1:00 (approx.)

We are excited to offer this program of facility visits the last Thursday of every other month. These trips will allow you to explore housing options such as retirement communities and assisted living residences. In March we will be going to Groton for an 11:00 tour of their assisted living, independent living and their new recreational space, The Haven, which has a movie theater, spa and more. We will then get to experience their dining at noon. You may drive there and meet us at 11:00 sharp or take the River Court van leaving our senior center at 10:30. Their van can hold up to 12 folks. Whether you are driving or taking the van please sign up with us by calling 978-692-5523. We need to give River Court a count by 3/20.

*If there are facilities you would like to tour please let Annette know and she will try and arrange a visit.

SPRING AHEAD / ENCORE CASINO TRIP!

Tuesday, March 25th

As we look forward to warmer weather, we will be traveling to Encore Casino in Everett for a fun day! We are inviting all those ages 50 and over to join us on TUESDAY, MARCH 25th. MBT Worldwide Coach will be driving us with departure from the FrancoAmerican Club at 9:00 AM. Please arrive by 8:45 AM and park at the rear of the lot. Departure from Encore at 3:30 PM. The fee for this trip will be \$45, which includes driver's gratuity and is due at sign-up as there will be limited seating. Encore does give a \$20 bonus which you will receive upon arrival at the Casino. If you already have an Encore Card, please bring it with you. If you have any questions, please call and ask for Claire. Please call 978.692.5523 to sign up for this fun day at Encore!

LUNCH AND LEARN

Friday March 28 at 12 pm

Join a representative of the Massachusetts Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) Program and participate in a discussion on how Medicare beneficiaries are instrumental in preventing, detecting, and reporting Medicare Fraud. Thank you to **The Residence at Freeman Lake** for sponsoring this complimentary Lunch. Sign up at 978.692.5523 .



QUARTERLY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION GAME SHOW EDITION

Friday, April 4 at 1:30 pm

We will be celebrating April, May, and June birthdays. Get ready for some friendly competition by joining **Kevin Richman for Family Feud and Concentration** while also enjoying cupcakes and ice cream. Birthday celebrants are free, and all other attendees pay \$5.00

(Continued on next page)

Cameron Senior Center (Continued)

ALL THINGS MUSHROOMS

Tuesday, April 8th at 2:00 pm

With **Special Guest Elizabeth Almeida, Fat Moon Farm Founder and Owner** Join us for this special program welcoming Farmer Elizabeth Almeida as she shares an informative slide presentation on her world of mushrooms. Learn about their uniqueness, ecological benefits and nutrition. Fat Moon Farm delivers mushrooms to restaurants throughout the greater Boston area. Elizabeth will share cooking tips and how you can grow your own fascinating fungi at home! Whether you are a foodie, a gardener, a passionate micophile or just looking for a fun afternoon, you will enjoy getting up close with the beauty of mushrooms. This free program is sponsored by the Westford Women's Club. Door prizes and refreshments will add to the fun! Call the Cameron 978.692.5523 to sign up.



★ If you want to learn more about the Cameron and our many opportunities from volunteering, social services and support offerings, wellness and enrichment programs please consider scheduling a tour by calling our front desk and sharing your time availability at 978-692-5523 or check out our newsletter online by typing bit.ly/CameronNews.



Kathy Wilson and Diane Daly volunteer to ensure our Cameron Library is well organized and provides special book features and other special touches. So, if you are looking for a book stop by the library on the second floor (elevator is available at front entrance) and check out a book using our successful honor system. Thank you, Kathy and Diane!

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 [COA Newsletters](#).



Westford Senior Center

Community Wellness

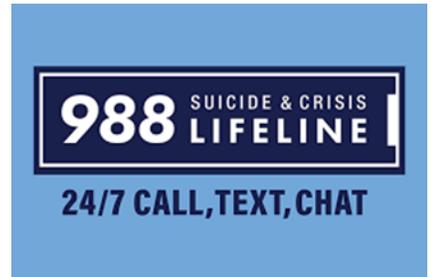
Opioid Settlement Funds

We are hoping to hear from residents who have personal experience with the opioid crisis and those with substance use lived experience. We want to hear your ideas and strategies for the utilization of funds to strengthen resources for substance use disorder prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery. Connect with Nicole Laviolette at 978-399-2503 or nlaviolette@westfordma.gov to share your suggestions.

Support Lines for mental health and substance use disorder:

988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline:

The 988 Lifeline is a 24/7 toll-free lifeline for individuals experiencing emotional distress or crises. Call 988 to talk to a trained listener.



Veterans Crisis Line - 988 (Then Press 1) or Text 838255

Crisis Text Line: Text MHA 741-741

Crisis Text Line provides free, confidential text message support for individuals experiencing emotional distress or crises. It is available 24/7. Text "MHA" to 741-741 for support.

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

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

The Massachusetts Substance Use Helpline: Call 800-327-5050 or text HOPE to 800327

Whether you are ready for treatment, worried about a loved one, or simply want to know what your options are, there is help to take the first step. <https://helplinema.org/>

Behavioral Health Helpline – 833-773-2445 (call or text)

Massachusetts Behavioral Health Helpline 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.

For more information or help connecting to resources:

Community Wellness Coordinator, Nicole Laviolette

(978) 399-2503 nlaviolette@westfordma.gov

<https://www.westfordma.gov/1487/Community-Wellness>

Health Department

LEARN TO
SAVE A
LIFE

WESTFORD HEALTH
DEPARTMENT INVITES
YOU TO LEARN
HANDS ONLY CPR

AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION
2 STEPS: CALL 911 AND START CHEST
COMPRESSIONS.

DATE: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9
TIME: 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
LOCATION: WESTFORD TOWN HALL, SECOND
FLOOR 55 MAIN ST



Health Department

The Upper Merrimack Valley Medical Reserved Corps (MRC), based at the Westford Health Department, updates

TILI – From Feb. 14 to 16, four UMV MRC members attended the kickoff training weekend for the cutting-edge Training and Innovation Leadership Institute (TILI) in West Warwick, RI. Through a collaborative grant, our unit proposed a series of training sessions for as many volunteers as possible in Clinical and Leadership Skills. So far, 18 members have signed up to attend the weekend-long sessions.



MRC OPEN HOUSE – Held on Feb. 27, 31 participants gathered for the MRC's debut Open House at Millennium School. Members enjoyed a slide show that presented unit activities and plans, updated their ID badges, and shared their excitement about MRC operations.



STATEWIDE AND LOCAL TRAINING – Twelve of our members signed up for the annual MRC Training Day on Mar. 4, which was sponsored by MDPH. The MRC Coordinator and a volunteer were panelists for a session on deployments. Volunteer instructors also supported the town nurse in providing Heartsaver CPR classes on Feb. 13 and Mar. 5.



Westford Public Works

Navigating New ELDT Rules: How Westford Public Works Met the Challenge

When Westford Public Works faced a growing backlog of vacancies due to new Commercial Driver's License (CDL) training rules, we knew we needed to adapt — and fast. The new Entry-Level Driver Training (ELDT) regulations, introduced by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) in early 2022, significantly changed the process for obtaining a CDL. While designed to improve road safety, these new requirements also created unexpected staffing challenges for many public works departments, including ours.

The Challenge: Staffing Shortages

The ELDT rules require CDL applicants to complete both theory and behind-the-wheel training from an FMCSA-approved provider before taking their CDL skills test. This extended the certification timeline, adding strain to our already limited workforce. With several vacancies emerging, the timeline for new hires to become CDL-certified increased.

The time and cost of ELDT training created a new barrier for hiring. Gone were the days when we could bring on a new employee, provide some in-house training, and send them off to the RMV for the test. As a result, the pool of available applicants for our vacancies declined.

The Solution: Becoming a Training Provider

To address this challenge, Westford Public Works made the decision to become a registered training provider for our employees. The process to register on the FMCSA Training Provider Registry (TPR) was relatively straightforward. We chose to become a private training provider, dedicated to training only our own employees, to better manage liability concerns and ensure trainer availability.

Next, we developed a curriculum to meet the ELDT requirements. Rather than creating our own from scratch, we adopted a comprehensive software platform designed to meet ELDT standards. This innovative software provided:

- Theory-based coursework that employees could complete at their own pace
- Interactive lessons and quizzes to reinforce learning
- Progress tracking, allowing trainers to monitor development and critique progress in real-time

We also identified trainers who met ELDT requirements and worked with the Westford Public Works Association to establish proper compensation for their efforts. With these steps complete, we were ready to bring new employees on board and guide them through the CDL certification process.

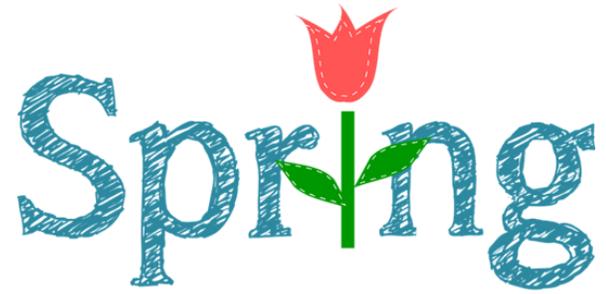
Results: A Fully Staffed and Well-Prepared Team

The results have been impressive. By streamlining the training process, Westford Public Works reduced the time required for new hires to become CDL-certified while maintaining compliance with ELDT standards. This proactive approach helped us return to full staffing levels faster than anticipated, ensuring our team was prepared to operate commercial vehicles safely and confidently.

As public works departments across the country face workforce challenges, Westford's experience shows how leveraging technology and innovation can turn regulatory obstacles into opportunities for growth and improvement. By embracing this new approach, we strengthened our team and improved service delivery for the community.

Recycling Commission

Mark your calendar now for these upcoming Recycling events!



Composting Open House

Saturday, April 5th, 9 am – 11 am

39 Main Street, Westford (across from Muffins on Main)

Volunteer members of the Westford Recycling Commission will show Westford residents how to compost organic material. Composting diverts food waste from the trash and reduces the high cost of Westford's trash collection. Organic material can represent up to 20% of the weight of our trash.

Earth Machine composters will be available to Westford residents at the demonstrations for only \$25 at a discount from a state grant. Checks should be made out to the Town of Westford.

At any time, Westford residents can purchase Earth Machine backyard composters for \$25 by contacting Nicole Feliciano at the Westford Highway Department at 978-692-5520 or by email: nfeliciano@westfordma.gov.

Zero Waste Day - Spring 2025

Several collections/several locations...for information, visit www.westfordma.gov/recycling



Electronics & More

April 26th, 9 am - 1 pm at the Highway Garage, 28 North Street.

Scrap metal and nearly everything with a power cord! Computers, monitors, and most other electronic devices and equipment, appliances of all sizes. Some fees may apply.

Document Shredding

April 26th, 9 am - 1 pm at the Abbot School, 25 Depot St. Free via E.L. Harvey. Limited to Westford residents. (This service is part of the town's municipal contract). Large volumes will be restricted if others are waiting. Shredded paper (shredded at home) is also accepted but must be purely paper, no shredded data disks/plastics, etc.

Zero Waste Collection

April 26th, 9 am - 1 pm at the Abbot School, 25 Depot St.

Accepting donations of usable furniture (including clean twin/full/queen mattresses - no stains, rips or tears), small working appliances, household goods and decor, toys and games, clothing, office, school and craft supplies, small musical instruments, and textiles for recycling (worn out, torn, stained, outdated). NO MOLDY OR MILDEWED ITEMS / ONLY CLEAN CONTAINERS.

Books and Media Drop off Container

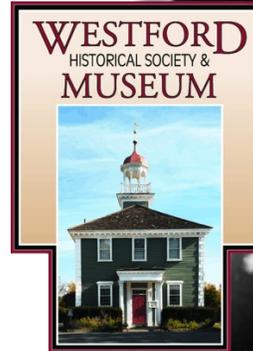
At the old Water Department on Forge Village Rd., Westford. For donating books and media, VHS tapes, cassette tapes, older textbooks, full sets of encyclopedias, and any book in fair but still usable condition that cannot be donated to the library. Note that this book container is available 24/7. NO MOLDY OR MILDEWED ITEMS / ONLY CLEAN CONTAINERS.

For more information, visit www.westfordma.gov/recycling. And follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/WestfordRecyclingCommission

Westford Museum

Westford REV 250 (1775-2025) Spring Programming Series at the Westford Museum

Join us at the Westford Museum and Historical Society for "Westford REV 250 (1775-2025)" as we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution.



**Westford
250
Revolution
1775-2025**

For the Defense and Safety of the Province: Massachusetts Prepares for War

Thursday, April 3 from 7-9 pm

Westford Museum, 2 Boston Rd, Westford, MA

Join Alexander Cain as he discusses the colony's response to the British threat of war and examines the Massachusetts militia and minuteman system on the eve of Lexington and Concord.

"...before we had gone half a mile we were fired on from all sides"

The Battles of Lexington & Concord, April 18-19, 1775. The Start of a Revolution

Thursday, April 10, 7-9 pm

Westford Museum, 2 Boston Rd, Westford, MA

The Battles of Lexington and Concord began on April 19, 1775, as the Massachusetts militia faced British forces. Prompted by the Midnight Rides and the Lexington Alarm, the local populace prepared for the British advance. Tensions escalated when British soldiers fired on the Lexington militia, igniting the American Revolutionary War and initiating the struggle for independence.

The Westford Girl Scout presents A Day for Doughnuts, April 19, 1775, A one-act Play

Sunday, April 13, 1-2 pm

Westford Museum, 2 Boston Rd, Westford, MA

Before leaving the morning of April 19, Colonel Robinson's last words were, "Have the girls prepare dough knots and send them to the men for lunch." Olive Prescott, his great-granddaughter, recalls the events of April 19, 1775, highlighting her ancestor's pivotal role. She blends family memories, town records, and local historians' reports to describe how Huldah, Robinson's wife, and their three daughters made doughnuts for over 100 men from Westford heading to fight in Concord in this fun one-act play.

Patriot's Day Candlelight Tour at Westlawn Cemetery

with Col. Johnson Robinson Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution

Saturday, April 19, at 6:30 PM

Westlawn Cemetery - Located at Country and Concord Rd, Westford, MA

The local chapter of the Col. John Robinson Daughters of the American Revolution will commemorate the contributions of our townspeople to the Revolution and honor the chapter's namesake, Colonel John Robinson, who fought at the North Bridge in Concord.

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

Westford Public Schools

Marching on...update! WPS 3-1-25

There are a number of events and meetings for you to consider this month to learn more about the work that the Robinson School Building Committee (RSBC) has been doing and the request for funding to conduct a Feasibility Study with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA). Upcoming informational presentations, an open forum, short guided tours, and FAQs can be accessed in the following ways:

- March 3, 2025- A presentation will be made during the regular School Committee meeting
- March 11, 2025- The RSBC will be presenting at the Cameron Senior Center @ 2:00pm
- March 12, 2025- An Open Forum will be held at the Robinson School at 7:30PM with the opportunity to take short guided tours between 6:30-7:30
- March 15, 2025- Additional drop-in guided tours will be offered from 10:30AM -1:00PM
- March 22, 2025- A short presentation will be given during the Annual Town Meeting starting at 9:00AM @ Westford Academy
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) are available and can be found on the website: <https://www.westfordk12.us/district/news/robinsonmsba>

March madness would not be complete without the beginning of the MCAS season. Now, I understand there may still be some confusion as to why MCAS exams would still be taking place this spring in light of last fall's ballot question that removed the MCAS exams as the primary avenue for students to earn their required Competency Determination for their diploma. Well, although it is no longer a graduation requirement, it is necessary for all districts in Massachusetts to participate to ensure we meet the requirements for both Federal and State accountability.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) is the federal law requiring states to administer standardized assessments to measure student progress. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) continues to use MCAS results to determine school and district accountability status. For now, MCAS is still the process necessary for us to meet those obligations and remain compliant with the law. While they no longer meet that CD requirement, all of these assessments typically taken in grades 3-10 contribute to our overall accountability as a public school district. As we have done previously, we will continue to provide supportive, stress-reducing testing environments for our students. The vast majority of our students work diligently and enthusiastically throughout the year. The MCAS exams are just a stop along the way and provide one set of data for us to consider as we reflect on our practices to help students achieve their academic goals. But yes, in short, they are still taking place and students should still exhibit their best efforts as they still have a potential impact on our schools and our district as a whole.

In terms of the Competency Determination (CD) moving forward, we will be sharing our recommendations for the School Committee to consider during their March 17th meeting. The result of the ballot question now leaves local districts responsible certifying specific coursework that must be completed by the student which shows "mastery of the skills, competencies, and knowledge contained in the state academic standards and curriculum frameworks in the areas measured by the MCAS high school tests (...) administered in 2023." In other words, we need to articulate which specific courses students need to pass in order to earn their CD. So, our recommendation will detail which math, ELA, and science courses address the curriculum standards assessed on 2023 MCAS exams.

Not that all of the above mentioned events aren't loads of fun already, I thought it would be nice to end this update with a truly joyful, fun upcoming opportunity for everyone to be aware of in case they wanted to participate or support. On Tuesday, March 11, 2025 the Mobile Polar Plunge for Special Olympics will be taking place at Westford Academy in the afternoon. All of the information is available on this flyer: [Westford Academy Polar Plunge for Special Olympics Flyer \(3\) \(1\).pdf](#)

Cheers!

Chris

Christopher Chew, Ed.D
Superintendent of Schools

