

Town Manager's Newsletter

June 2025



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Town Manager's Newsletter

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Dear Westford Residents,

As we step into June and the start of summer, I want to extend my sincere gratitude to everyone who helped make our Memorial Day celebration so meaningful. Thank you to all who coordinated, volunteered, participated, and attended—your efforts and presence helped us properly honor the brave men and women who gave their lives in service to our nation.

I would also like to take a moment to recognize Terry Stader, our Interim Veterans Service Officer, who has served our community with dedication both professionally and as an active volunteer, but especially over the past 10 months as he came out of retirement to fill a critical void in our services. We are grateful for his work in supporting our veterans and their families, and we wish him the very best in retirement. Please join me in welcoming Colin Bode, our new Veterans Service Officer. Colin brings fresh energy and a strong commitment to serving those who have served our country, and we look forward to working with him. He will be out and about in the community, so please do not hesitate to say hello when you see him.

Congratulations to the graduates of Westford Academy and Nashoba Valley Technical High School! Your hard work and perseverance have brought you to this exciting milestone. We are proud of your achievements and wish you all the best as you take your next steps. I also want to thank the Capstone students who recently completed projects in partnership with our Town Departments. Your creativity, energy, and fresh perspectives are always a welcome addition to our efforts, and we're grateful for your contributions to our community.

Last week, Assistant Town Manager Mike Edwards and I had the opportunity to attend the Massachusetts Municipal Managers Association (MMMA) Spring Conference on Cape Cod. The sessions focused on critical topics such as mental health in the workplace, effective team leadership, and how to be the best leader I can be for this community. I also learned about the MMA's strategic plan and received valuable updates on state and federal legislation. These experiences help strengthen our local leadership and ensure we stay informed and engaged on the issues that matter most. I look forward to sharing what I learned with the staff, board and committee members and the residents of Westford.

Looking ahead, a Tri-Board Efficiencies Meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 12, 2025, at the Millenium Building and via Zoom, bringing together the Select Board, School Committee, and Finance Committee to discuss the progress on the efficiencies that came out of the Budget Task Force Report and others we have realized over time. Please watch for the formal agenda to be posted with more details about the meeting.

Please note that Town offices will be closed on Thursday, June 19, in observance of Juneteenth, a day to reflect on the end of slavery in the United States and to honor the ongoing work toward equality and justice. We invite the community to join us for the Juneteenth Flag Raising Ceremony at 10AM on the Town Common to take time to recognize and celebrate the importance of this day.

Thank you, as always, for your support and engagement.

Kristen D. Las

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Town Manager

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Department of the Month Spotlight Westford Police



Chief Mark Chambers



National Safety Month - June

This month, we're highlighting the importance of staying safe at work, at home, and throughout the community. As summer approaches and schools let out, the Westford Police Department reminds all drivers to slow down and stay alert—especially at crosswalks. With more children and teens out enjoying the season, extra caution behind the wheel can help keep everyone safe.

Rewarding Safe Habits

Westford Police Department is proud to partner with Girl Scout Troops 70541 & 67541 to promote bicycle and pedestrian safety through the Road Scholar Program. Patrol officers will be on the lookout for youth demonstrating safe habits, such as using crosswalks and wearing helmets—and will reward them with a safety certificate and a gift card for a local treat.

Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety Rodeo

The Westford Police Department, in collaboration with town departments and local businesses, is hosting a Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Rodeo on Monday, June 3, at Robinson School (Concord Road) from 4–6 p.m. [3rd Annual Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Rodeo Flyer](#)

Boston Road Reconstruction Detours

Starting June 2, Boston Road will be detoured weekdays from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. WPD will have increased patrols in the area to help ensure safe travel. Learn more about the project: [Boston Road Reconstruction Project](#)

Welcoming New Officers

Recruit Officers Danielle Mendoca and Ray Terrazas are expected to graduate from the Boylston Police Academy on June 20. We look forward to welcoming them to the team!

Officers Complete Bike Training

Recently Officers Collin Breault and Max Sears completed a three-day Police Mountain Bike Training course. WPD will be deploying the Bike Unit throughout the town's conservation lands and walking trails in the upcoming months.

Partnering with Westford Academy

In May, the WPD welcomed four senior capstone students and three juniors for a hands-on job shadow experience. Students toured the department, joined officers on patrol, observed K9 training, and gained insight into the day-to-day responsibilities of law enforcement. We wish them all the best in their future endeavors and hope the experience sparked an interest in a career in public safety.





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From the Select Board

Upcoming Select Board Meetings:
Tuesday, June 10, 2025
Tuesday, June 24, 2025



May 13, 2025 - Select Board Meeting Highlights:

The Select Board welcomed new members Sean Kelly and Noelle Donovan and reorganized leadership, appointing Tom Clay as Chair. A National Grid pole relocation petition on Concord Road was approved. The Board signed the Colonel John Robinson Elementary School MSBA Feasibility Agreement. A \$50,000 grant from the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EEA) of MA was accepted regarding the Open Space and Recreation Plan. The Public Works Week Proclamation was issued, and an October 27 Special Town Meeting date was set. Updates were provided on Boston Road reconstruction and 12 North Main Street redevelopment. Additionally, a \$1,000 donation to Animal Control was accepted, and liaison assignments for union negotiations were made.

May 27, 2025 - Select Board Meeting Highlights:

The Select Board approved consent agenda items including a Juneteenth celebration and orchestra performances. A new liquor license was granted 4-1 for Nab One Stop. Public Works presented a stormwater update and secured approval for safety upgrades at Forge Village intersections. Several FY26 initiatives were discussed, including a 300th Anniversary Committee and a Code of Conduct policy. Contracts totaling over \$2 million were approved for LED lighting, energy efficiency, and a Route 40 study. Grants and donations, including for public safety and recreation, were accepted. The Board congratulated local achievements and acknowledged Memorial Day participants.

Would you like more detailed information on the Select Board's meetings? Click the following links to access: [Select Board Meeting Agendas](#) & [Select Board Meeting Videos](#).

From the Moderator

Town Meeting Dates Set -
Mark Your Calendars Now!

Angela Harkness,
Town Moderator



Special Town Meeting —

Monday, October 27, 2025, at 7 p.m.

Annual Town Meeting —

Saturday, March 28, 2026, at 9 a.m.

For more information on how these dates were selected and Town Meeting in general, see the Town Moderator's page:

westfordma.gov/891/Town-Moderator





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Westford Health Department

Stay up to date—learn more about upcoming events and helpful resources here: www.westfordma.gov/215



WCNV & Live for Liv Support Women in Shelters for Mother's Day

For Mental Health Awareness Month, the Westford Coalition for Non-Violence (WCNV) and Live for Liv Organization collected donations of self-care items for women staying in domestic violence shelters. This annual effort aims to bring comfort and recognition to these women on Mother's Day, even during challenging times.

WCNV extends thanks to the staff of Alternative House for their continued partnership, as well as to Jen McGonigle, owner of Joy Street Life & Home in West Concord, for her generous contributions. Support from community members and coalition volunteers made this outreach possible.

WCNV also organizes holiday season drives to provide toys and clothing for children in shelters. WCNV welcomes monetary donations year-round to continue these efforts and ensure vital information and support remain accessible to those in need.



J.V. Fletcher Library

Visit www.westfordlibrary.org for more information. Sign-up for the [Friends of the Library Weekly E-Newsletter](#)



Summer Fun at the Library

Check out our summer reading programs for all ages!

[Children's Summer Reading Program](#) – "Mad About Reading!"

[Young Adult Summer Reading Program](#) – "Down the Rabbit Hole!"

[Adult Summer Reading Program](#) – "Through the Looking Glass!"



Virtual: Explore Unexpected Twists and Turns with Bestselling Author Lisa Jewell

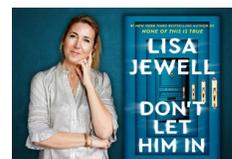
Tuesday, June 10 | 2–3 p.m. | Zoom | [Register Here](#)

You're invited to an exclusive virtual preview event with New York Times bestselling author Lisa Jewell as she introduces readers to her forthcoming title *Don't Let Him In*.

Virtual: Creating A Tech-Healthy Family with Andrea Davis of Better Screen Time

Tuesday, June 17 | 7 p.m. | Zoom | [Register Here](#)

For parents of elementary & middle school children: Wondering how to help your kids thrive in a digital world? Let us give you the confidence and tools you need to tackle tech head-on with our Tech-Healthy Family Formula. This Zoom program is hosted by and presented in partnership with the Groton Public Library.





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Westford Council on Aging

Read the Cameron Senior Center May & June Newsletter online for more information or to sign-up for events: www.westfordma.gov/593



Capstone Interns Leave Their Touch on the Cameron

Westford Academy Capstone Interns Het SagParia and Ashab Fernando assisted with many projects at the Cameron, including telephone calls, flier preparation, visiting with center participants, yard clean up, food distribution and more. Wishing Ashab and HET continued success!



"Ain't No Stopping Us Now": The Promises and Pitfalls of Aging Sexually

Wednesday, June 11 and June 18 at 2 p.m.

Two-part session taught by Dr. Jane Fleishman, AASECT-certified sexuality educator. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Westford Cultural Council.

Tech Pals - Wednesday, June 11 at 2:30 p.m.

Technology help workshop done by nonprofit "Tech Pals" and led by high school volunteers to empower seniors to navigate today's tech-driven world with confidence and joy.



Financial Considerations - Tuesday, June 24 at 5 p.m.

Retirement: Making your Money Last Marshall Tisdale, AAMSTM, CEPA®, from Edward Jones

Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee

To learn more about the Westford Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee (CEASC) and its initiatives, visit: www.westfordma.gov/299



Strategic Plan in Action!

Town Staff highlight numerous activities under Sustainability Strategic Outcome Area

At the Select Board meeting May 27, Town Manager Kristen Las highlighted numerous staff activities in line with the Strategic Plan and specifically the Town's Commitment to Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action, which is one of the seven Strategic Outcome Areas. The [Strategic Plan Implementation Workbook](#) listed the four Sustainability strategies, in the areas of solar, buildings, vehicles, and solid waste, identified in collaboration with CEASC.

Under each strategy, multiple action items were documented. Solar-related activities include advancing the Town's second municipal solar system, planned for the Blanchard Middle School roof, which will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and electricity costs. Actions in municipal buildings include getting creative with funding mechanisms for energy efficiency projects, which reduce energy use and cost. In addition to taking advantage of state grant programs and utility rebates, Article 4 was passed by Annual Town Meeting and creates an account that can be funded from utility cost savings, used to pay for building upgrades, and then replenished from additional savings.

Activities on the municipal fleet include enhancing vehicle inventory and fuel management to improve efficiency and lower fuel consumption. Actions around solid waste management include gathering data and managing contracts to reduce residential collection volume and save money.



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Westford Recycling Commission

For more information and resources visit: www.westfordma.gov/408



The Annual Recycling Guide is Coming!

The Recycling Commission is busily producing the 2025-26 Recycling Guide which all residents will receive in the mail before July 1, 2025. This guide will give you a tremendous amount of information on what can be recycled, upcoming scheduled collection days and all of the special events including:

Composting Demonstrations - scheduled for July 19 and August 16 from 8-11 a.m. at 39 Main Street. These demos are always very busy and lead to more home composters!

Electronics and More Collections - scheduled for September 13 and April 25, 2026, at the Department of Public Works. We have two events a year and consistently have a great turnout with 500 or more residents participating.

Zero Waste Day - Also held twice a year on the same day as Electronics and More. We had 200 residents participate in the most recent event!

Household Hazardous Waste - 2026 date to be determined (also held at the DPW).

Keep your guide in a convenient, easy-to-reach spot so you'll always have the information you need right at your fingertips. Prefer a digital version? You can quickly access it on our website by scanning the QR code!



Veterans Services

Veteran or surviving spouse? Have questions about your benefits? Contact Veterans Services at 978-392-1170 or veterans@westfordma.gov.



Westford Memorial Day Event Highlights

Westford held its annual Memorial Day ceremony on May 25, honoring over 1,100 veterans. Led by Interim VSO Terry Stader and Commander Bill Vullo, the event featured local officials, veterans, scouts, musicians, and speakers, including Rep. Jim Arciero and guest speaker Daniel Lacroix, who honored Revolutionary War heroes.

Welcome New Veterans Service Officer Colin Bode

At the May 25 Memorial Day ceremony, Interim VSO Terry Stader introduced Westford's new Veterans Services Officer, Colin Bode—an Army veteran and former Clear Path coordinator. We thank Terry for his years of service and warmly welcome Colin to the community.



(Photos taken by Heather Monahan)



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Westford Recreation

For more information on upcoming programs, events, and registration details, visit: [Westford Recreation](#).
View: [June, July & August Program Flyer](#)



Summer Shenanigans 2025

Check Out Westford Receptions Summer Happenings!
Start Thinking Summer with Recreation's "Not to Miss" Programming Starting in June! Offering "summery" activities coached by amazing instructors, including:

Nitehawks Track & Field; Soccer Shots; Impact Speed and Agility with D.J. Brock; Flag Football with Scott Brown; Beginner Golf, Field Hockey Clinic, and Mini Hawk programs with Skyhawks; On the Mark Archery; Youth Chess Week with Master Prathiba; Brazilian Youth Soccer and more!

Summertime Westford Style with Kids Club and Destination Exploration - Starts June 23

Enjoy eight full weeks at our Summer Weekly Programs. Be prepared for fun with arts & crafts, sports & games, swimming, s'mores, and more – plus field trips to Wingersheek Beach, Woo Sox, and Canobie Lake Park! Choose as many weeks as you like, with flexible day schedules, and early arrival and extended day options.

Summer Weekly Programs run from June 23 to August 15.



Westford Public Schools



Learn More About What's Happening in Westford Public Schools

Stay informed about the latest updates and key initiatives across the district.

Get the latest information and updates on the MSBA Feasibility Study for Robinson School. [Robinson School Building Updates](#) & [Town of Westford Robinson Committee Page](#)

Westford Public Schools Weekly Billboard: Check out this week's news, announcements, and upcoming events - [Billboard – May 28, 2025 \(PDF\)](#)

Superintendent's Update – June 2025:
Read Dr. Chew's reflections and district-wide updates:
[Transitions: An Update from WPS – June 1, 2025](#)



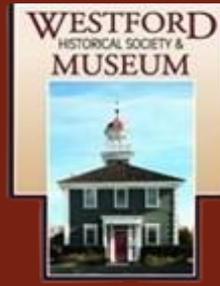


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Westford Museum

Visit museum.westford.org to learn more about upcoming events, tours and museum news.



Fun for the Entire Family - 2025 Train Exhibit

The Trains are Comin' ... The Trains are Comin'!

Sundays in June from 1-3 p.m.

Strawberry n' Arts Festival - Saturday, June 14 | 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Westford Museum, 2 Boston Road

Join the model train engineers of the Middlesex Central Model Railroad Club

- Explore the fascinating history of railroads in Westford.
- Enjoy the sights and sounds of model trains zooming by
- Family-fun activities for train enthusiasts of all ages!



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee

Learn more about the DEI Committee, upcoming initiatives, events and helpful resources: www.westfordma.gov/1338

Westford's 2nd Annual Juneteenth Freedom Day Celebration -

Thursday, June 19 | 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., Westford Town Common
The event begins at the Westford Town Common with a flag raising and speakers, followed by an educational discussion at the Parish Center for the Arts. Hosted by the Westford DEI Committee. [Register Here](#).



Westford's 2nd Annual LGBTQ+ Pride Flag Raising -

Saturday, June 21 | 10 a.m. | Westford Town Common Bandstand, Lincoln Street
Join us for the Town of Westford's 2nd Annual LGBTQ+ Pride Flag Raising. This year's theme, The Fabric of Freedom, honors the strength, resilience, and unity of the LGBTQ+ community and its allies. Hosted by Westford LGBTQ+, Friends & Allies, and the Westford DEI Committee.

Acton-Westford Pride Festival 2025 -

Saturday, June 21 | 12-3 p.m. | NARA's Amphitheater, 71 Quarry Road, Acton, MA
Join us for the 2025 Acton-Westford PRIDE Festival. This free, family-friendly event features music by The Femmes, food, vendors, and fun activities for all ages. Let's come together to stand for equality and celebrate love in all its forms!





Town of Westford

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Town Hall Operating Hours

Monday/Wednesday/Thursday:
8 a.m.- 4 p.m.
Tuesday: 8 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Friday: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**Town Offices - Closed
Thursday, June 19 for
Juneteenth Observances**

**Work Where You Live –
Apply for a Town Position Today!**



Employment Opportunities:

- Treasurer - Collector
- Operations Manager - Highway Department
- Council on Aging Part-time Van Driver (multiple open positions)
- Part-time Food Safety Inspector
- Public Safety Telecommunicator (multiple open positions)

Learn about Westford Job Opportunities: www.westfordma.gov/jobs

VISION

Westford strives to be a welcoming and inclusive community that honors its history and traditions. We are driven towards innovation and progress, balancing growth with preservation and a commitment to creating a sustainable future.

MISSION

We are a team of dedicated professionals that take pride in fostering a vibrant community by delivering excellent public service.

VALUES

Professionalism | Dedication | Collaboration | Accountability | Service-Oriented

TOWN OF WESTFORD

978-692-5500

www.westfordma.gov

55 Main Street,
Westford, MA 01886

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Get Involved in Your Community!

Boards & Committees Seeking Volunteers:

- 300th Anniversary Celebration Committee
- Affordable Housing Trust
- Agricultural Commission
- Clean Energy and Sustainability
- Conservation Commission
- Commission on Disability
- Diversity Equity and Inclusion
- Dog Park Task Force
- Historical Commission
- Northern Middlesex Stormwater Collaborative

Learn more about the important work of our boards and committees:

www.westfordma.gov

Consider lending your time and talents by filling out a [Volunteer Activity Form](#)