

Town Manager's Newsletter

July 2025



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Town Manager's Newsletter

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Dear Westford Residents,

With the arrival of summer, the rhythm of our community is shifting — school is out, the days are longer, and families are enjoying all that Westford has to offer during this vibrant season.

On June 12, the Select Board, School Committee, and Finance Committee held a Tri-Board Meeting to review long-term financial planning and capital needs. If you were unable to attend, you can view the presentation here: [Tri-Board Meeting Presentation](#)

Thank you to the members of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee for planning a meaningful Juneteenth Freedom Day celebration on the Town Common on June 19 and for those in the community who attended.

Our beaches opened for the season on June 23, and they will be fully staffed through the summer months. We hope you'll take time to enjoy our beautiful recreational spaces.

As of July 1, we have officially begun Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26), ushering in a new year of municipal planning, budgeting, and initiatives to support the continued growth and well-being of our town. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the budget process and helped us prepare for the year ahead.

Please note that Town Offices will be closed on Friday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day. We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday.

We also continue to make progress on important infrastructure and facility projects. Updates are available online for two key initiatives:

Boston Road Construction Project: westfordma.gov/1740

Library Building Project: westfordlibrary.org/library-building-project

In exciting news for our school community, the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) has approved Westford's Feasibility Study Agreement for the Col. John Robinson School. This is a significant step forward in exploring potential improvements and ensuring our schools meet the needs of future generations. More information about the [Robinson School MSBA Feasibility Study](#) can be found on Westford Public Schools' website.

Finally, I encourage residents to consider serving our town through one of our many local boards and committees. Several openings are available, including a newly established Open Space and Recreation Committee and 300th Anniversary Celebration Committee, which will play vital roles in shaping our community over the next several years.

As always, thank you for staying informed and engaged.
I hope you enjoy a safe, sunny, and relaxing summer in Westford.



Kristen D. Las

Kristen Las,
Town Manager

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978-692-5501




Department of the Month Spotlight Westford Fire

Chief Michael Denehy



Honoring Firefighter Richard St. Onge

On June 1, a permanent memorial honoring Westford Firefighter Richard St. Onge was unveiled at Sunny Meadow Farm in Chelmsford. Firefighters from Westford and Chelmsford joined the St. Onge family to remember his sacrifice. Firefighter St. Onge lost his life on December 5, 1970, while providing mutual aid during a barn fire. He was 29. Thank you to all who helped make this tribute possible.



Flag Day Ceremony

On June 14, Westford and Tyngsboro firefighters took part in the American Legion Nabnasset Post #437 Flag Day ceremony. Ladder trucks displayed the American flag overhead, while the Westford Firefighters Honor Guard joined veterans to retire worn flags with respect.



Mock Crash Demonstration

On June 3, Westford firefighters joined Westford Police at Westford Academy's annual mock crash demonstration for the Class of 2025. The event raises awareness about the dangers of impaired and distracted driving through a realistic reenactment.



Welcoming Westford's Newest Firefighters

We recently welcomed seven new firefighters: Vasilios (Billy) Krikoris, Chris Hillman, Jake Pelletier, Nathan Bernier, James Alvino, Jeff Lyons and Anastasia Nash. Each has completed or is in the process of completing a one-week orientation program. We are incredibly excited to watch our department grow, and we wish them the very best in their new careers here in Westford.



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From the Select Board

Upcoming Select Board Meetings:

Tuesday, July 8, 2025

Tuesday, July 22, 2025



June 10, 2025 - Select Board Meeting Highlights:

The Board honored Terry Stader for his service as Interim Veterans Officer. Budget transfers were approved to support departmental expenses. National Grid's pole relocation and Burton's Grill's manager change were granted. Capital Strategic Solutions presented a communications update. The Board approved the Plain Road sidewalk takings. The Board approved the extension of Town Hall hours of M, W, Th 8-4, T 8-6:30 and F 8-1, through September. Multiple appointments and committee updates passed unanimously. The Town Manager's report included over \$700K in software, tech, and facilities contracts. Residents were reminded of upcoming events, including Juneteenth and the Strawberry Festival, and were asked to participate in a [regional bike and pedestrian safety survey](#).

June 24, 2025 - Select Board Meeting Highlights:

The Board recognized Holly Sheridan-Pritchard for 25 years of library service and thanked Joe Targ for serving as interim Emergency Management Director. Residents were reminded of Phase III water restrictions. The Board approved Town Common events, 2025 board and committee reappointments, and appointments to the Commission on Disability. A presentation was given on local voting rights for lawful permanent residents and NMCOC's "At Home in Greater Lowell" draft strategies. The Board supported NMCOC's economic development application and signed an agreement with the Lowell Regional Transit Authority. Purchase orders and contracts, including GIS software and lake management services, were approved unanimously.

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

For resources and more info on Town Meeting in general, see the Town Moderator's page: westfordma.gov/891/Town-Moderator

Angela Harkness,
Town Moderator



Special Town Meeting - Monday, October 27, 2025, at 7 p.m.

Please mark your calendar for the upcoming Special Town Meeting at Westford Academy. Additional details, including meeting procedures and warrant information, will be posted on the Town Moderator's webpage. A full Special Town Meeting timeline will be released soon!

Annual Town Meeting - Saturday, March 28, 2026, at 9 a.m.

Please plan ahead to attend and participate in this important aspect of local government.





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Westford Police Department

For more information on upcoming programs, events, and registration details, visit: www.westfordma.gov/304



Mock Accident Held for WA Senior Class of 2025

Det. Bernadin, Ofc. Silton, and Ofc. Fitzgerald in partnership with the Westford Fire Department and Students Against Destructive Decisions (S.A.D.D.) held the mock accident at Westford Academy ahead of their graduation weekend.

Third Annual Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety Rodeo

The Department hosted the third annual Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety Rodeo. The Rodeo was a great success thanks to the many partners that helped plan it and take part in it. We hope that this event was not only fun but informative for all.

Torch Run for Special Olympics

Det. Bernadin & the pink cruiser took part in the annual MA Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics convoy to the Special Olympics Summer Games at Harvard University. While at the event, Det. Bernadin met Westford resident, Meggie Norton, who placed fourth in the powerlifting competition.



Police Youth Academy Set for July 28–August 1

The 4th Annual Westford Police Youth Academy will run from July 28 to August 1. The Department looks forward to welcoming this year's group of cadets.



Westford Community Wellness

For more information and helpful resources: contact Community Wellness Coordinator Nicole Laviolette at nlaviolette@westfordma.gov or visit westfordma.gov/community-wellness

Bebe Moore Campbell National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month

July is recognized as Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) Mental Health Awareness Month, a time dedicated to highlighting the unique mental health challenges and needs of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities. [Learn more here.](#)





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J.V. Fletcher Library

Summer Fun at the Library! - Events held at the Nab School (99 Plain Road). Visit www.westfordlibrary.org for more information.



"Just for Giggles" Concert with Steve Blunt | Tuesday, July 8 | 2 p.m.

Just for giggles is an energetic show just right for preschoolers with dancing, singing, and playing along with Steve. No registration required.

YA Summer Reading: Animal Adventures | Friday, July 11 | 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Come meet the animals from Animal Adventures at the Nab School! The zookeepers will be introducing us to and teaching us about some of their favorite animals. This program is limited to participants in grades 5-12. [Registration required.](#)

Mike Bent's Game-On Magic Show | Tuesday, July 15 | 2 p.m.

Our favorite magician, Mike Bent presents his famous Magic/Game show. For children, this book-themed extravaganza with hilarious comedy, amazing magic, and sound effects.

VIRTUAL: The Riddle of Thoreau's Religion | Thursday, July 24 | 6:30 p.m.

Richard Higgins will discuss his new book Thoreau's God, which explores Thoreau's spirituality, his perception of God in nature and his sense of the sacred in the ordinary.



Westford Council on Aging

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



Mother's Day Celebration Luncheon

This year our multi-purpose room was filled with many special mothers who enjoyed a nice meal, bright and cheerful decorations wonderful fellowship and left with an uplifting gift. A grateful thank you to Patti Mason, Mary Alcorn and Amsi Morales who orchestrate and fund this much appreciated luncheon. Also, we would like to thank Linda Greene, Westford Museum Director for her program.



Free Weekly Organic Produce Distribution | Every Thursday | 65 Tadmuck Road, Housing Authority Parking Lot | Arrive at 12:45 p.m.

Gaining Grounds of Concord is once again offering their fantastic organic produce weekly to all Westford residents that meet fuel assistance income guidelines. Gross income criteria: household of one \$49,196, household of two \$64,333 and \$94,608 for a family of four.

To participate one must sign an income attestation on the day of produce pick up, document presentation not required. This distribution is held at the Westford Housing Authority in the community center parking lot. The freshly picked and packaged produce will be prebagged and distributed at 1 p.m. Any questions call Annette or Jen at 978-399-2326.





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Westford Recycling Commission

For more information and resources visit: www.westfordma.gov/408 or Follow on Facebook! facebook.com/WestfordRecyclingCommission



Westford Composting Open Houses: Come learn to compost this summer – it's easy!

Two upcoming summer Saturdays - July 19 and August 16 | 9 – 11 a.m. | 39 Main Street
Volunteer members of the Westford Recycling Commission will show residents how to compost organic material. Composting diverts food wastes 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 for only \$25 each, discounted due to a state grant. Checks should be made out to the Town of Westford.

At the July 19 event, there will be a raffle hosted by the Jill & Donna Team of Keller Williams in Westford for a free composter!

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



Purchase your Earth Machine backyard composter for just \$25!

Westford Recreation

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



Summer Shenanigans 2025

Check Out Westford Recreations 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!

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.





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Economic Development Committee

Discover Westford is set to roll out new business tools this summer! Coming soon - new website and business toolkit to support business development and vitality.



Discover Westford will soon launch a series of new tools and activities designed to stimulate business development, enhance economic vitality, and promote Westford as a destination for thriving enterprise. The program is set to roll out a comprehensive suite of business tools in the coming months to support the development, recruitment, growth, and retention of businesses and employees.

Key components of the initiative include a dynamic new website, an all-in-one business toolkit, a series of industry-focused programs, and broader business networking events. These resources are strategically crafted to meet the needs of both existing businesses and prospective companies considering Westford as their next location.

The initiative also aims to broaden Westford's economic reach by scaling the town's brand into new markets across Massachusetts and beyond. Through targeted outreach and regional promotion, Discover Westford will spotlight the town's strengths, including its highly educated workforce, strategic location, and quality of life.

With the launch of Discover Westford, the town is setting the stage for long-term economic resilience and a vibrant, connected business community. Businesses and stakeholders are encouraged to stay tuned for updates and participation opportunities.

Photos below were taken at the Economic Development Committee Breakfast in March 2025.





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

Friday, July 4 for
Independence Day

**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
- Board of Assessors
- Board of Cemetery Commissioners
- Bylaw Review Committee
- Conservation Commission
- Cultural Council
- Commission on Disability Diversity Equity and Inclusion
- Dog Park Task Force
- Historical Commission
- Northern Middlesex Stormwater Collaborative
- Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee
- Parkerville Schoolhouse
- Pedestrian Safety Committee
- Tax Possession Disposition Committee

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](#)