



# Town of Westford Massachusetts

Town Manager's Newsletter

December 2018



Jodi Ross,  
Town  
Manager

[jross@westfordma.gov](mailto:ross@westfordma.gov)  
[www.westfordma.gov/tm](http://www.westfordma.gov/tm)  
978-692-5500

### Important:

Please sign up to receive updates on the latest road construction in town.

[Subscribe to Notifications](#)



**Holiday Trash Pick-up and Recycling Schedule**  
See Page 6

**Family Movie "COCO"**  
Tuesday, January 22, an Intergenerational offering From Roudenbush Community Center - Held at the Cameron Senior Center



Watch Meetings Online



[www.westfordcat.org](http://www.westfordcat.org)

### Dear Westford residents,

Our firefighters and paramedics are settling into their new home at the Fletcher Fire Station 1, located at 65 Boston Road. An open house was held on Saturday, December 15th with an official welcome from state and local officials, and town staff. Our Firefighters provided guided tours and the event was very well attended.



*Fletcher Station 1 Open House, photo courtesy of [Westford CAT](#)*

At their November 27<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Board of Selectmen heard from Town Engineer Paul Starratt on the progress of the design plans for the [Boston Road Reconstruction Project](#). Paul has been working diligently with a design team which includes our Water and Highway Departments, the design firm TEC, Inc., and others. Abutters were invited to the team's meeting with the Pedestrian Safety Committee (PSC) on November 14<sup>th</sup> to solicit comments and feedback. The meeting was helpful and productive, with over 30 people in attendance. The board viewed renderings and project plans that include traffic calming alternatives to create safer conditions at intersections, and also provide our town with a more aesthetically pleasing entrance to our Town Center. The Selectmen approved Paul to move forward from 15% to 25% design of this project.

The Town Engineer also updated the board on the Storm Water Utility Task Force's progress in identifying the financial impacts of establishing a Storm Water Utility in Westford, which will be brought to our Annual Town Meeting in March. Paul and a consultant from Raftelis discussed the various rate structures that could be considered in order to offset the costs of EPA-mandated MS4 Storm Water Management. Stay tuned to future Board of Selectmen and other public meetings for more information.

(Continued on next page)

[WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV](http://WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV)

Chris Barrett, Pedestrian Safety Committee Chair, reported back to the Selectmen on the results of the [sidewalk snow clearing pilot program](#) which, in collaboration with the Highway Department and the Commission on Disability, began back in November 2015. Feedback obtained through outreach efforts indicated residents were pleased with the results, and the board authorized to expand the sidewalk clearing program to include clearing snow from sidewalks in the center of town. Thank you to Chris Barrett and Highway Superintendent Chip Barrett for their research and efforts to date.

On November 27<sup>th</sup>, I presented my budget message for Fiscal Year 2020 to the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee. Budget materials are uploaded on our town's website, where you may view the [budget message here](#). If you want more information about our town's budget, you may visit [FY2020 Budget](#).

The 63 Main Street Task Force has begun its important work of exploring potential future uses for this historic property located in our Town Center. After the task's force first meeting on November 29<sup>th</sup>, at the task force's suggestion, the Selectmen asked the Permanent Town Building Committee to undertake an evaluation and analysis of a future location for school administration offices. The board advised the PTBC to consider all options, including space within existing schools, and all other town owned properties. The task force's work will be a very inclusive process and residents are encouraged to offer their input by attending their meetings.

I am pleased to announce that the Farmers' Market will return to Westford this summer. Dan Hurd, our Animal Control Officer, has enthusiastically agreed to be the new market manager. The Agricultural Commission is seeking residents interested in being part of this effort. Please email Elizabeth Almeida at [ealmeida@westfordma.gov](mailto:ealmeida@westfordma.gov) if you wish to assist with this process.

The Franco American Club has generously agreed to let visitors to our Cameron Senior Center use their lot for overflow parking during inclement weather. This will provide center participants with safe and proximate parking during special events. The Highway Department will plow additional spaces at the rear of the club as needed. Thank you to the Franco American Club for being a good neighbor to our town.

On December 11<sup>th</sup>, the Board of Selectmen signed a purchase & sales agreement with the Adams family for 50 plus acres of property, containing woodlands and trails, located on Lowell Road. Our town approved the acquisition under Article 13 at the March 24, 2018 Annual Town Meeting using a combination of borrowing, CPA funds, and hopefully a grant (of which we are waiting to hear). This exceptional parcel, which connects the Cider Mills conservation land and the Laughton Farm open space, will be maintained as open space under the care and custody of the Conservation Commission. The closing is expected to occur in late March 2019.

Once again during this holiday season, our town staff are busy decorating their departments' doors throughout the town hall and at several offsite locations. Please stop by our departments and enjoy our festive displays.

The Board of Selectmen, Town Manager's office staff, and our Town Clerk cooked and served breakfast for our seniors at the Cameron Senior Center on December 5<sup>th</sup>. We cooked a breakfast of scrambled eggs, French toast, sausage, home fries, fruit and assorted pastries, and then served and shared with our friends and neighbors at the senior center. It is a fun holiday tradition enjoyed by all...especially the Selectmen and our town staff!

(Continued on next page)

Our Board of Selectmen's regular meeting dates have been scheduled for 2019. They generally meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month. You may view [Selectmen's meeting dates](#) online. All agenda items are due to the Town Manager's Office ten days prior to the board's meeting. If requests are emailed, please send them to [ggetzen@westfordma.gov](mailto:ggetzen@westfordma.gov).

There are several openings on our local boards and committees, including: 12 North Main Task Force, Affordable Housing Committee, Agricultural Commission, Board of Water Commissioners, Communications Advisory Committee, Community Center/Mill Works/Recreation Department Task Force, Cultural Council, Healthy Westford Committee, Historical Commission, Parkerville Schoolhouse Committee, Pedestrian Safety Committee, Permanent Town Building Committee, Westford Scholarship and Grant Committee, Zoning Board of Appeals, and others. I urge you to peruse our website for information about the work of these committees; and if you have interest, please complete a Citizen's Activity form at this link: [Citizen Activity Form](#) or stop by and fill out a form in the Town Manager's office.

Would you like more detailed information on Board of Selectmen meetings? Click the following links to access: [Board of Selectmen Documents](#) & [Board of Selectmen Meeting Videos](#).

Happy holidays, and I wish you all a very happy and healthy New Year in 2019!

Sincerely,



Jodi Ross  
Town Manager



*Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, volunteers carry out a mission to Remember, Honor and Teach by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as at more than 1,400 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad, including Westford's cemeteries.*

*Westford Highway Crews helped to unload and distribute approximately 720 wreaths to volunteers who placed them on veteran's graves in Westford Cemeteries.*

## December at the J.V. Fletcher Library

Our programs are generously funded by the Friends of the J.V. Fletcher Library, Inc.

**Festival of the Trees:** Please stop by the Westford Regency and cast a vote for the Library's amazing Star Wars trees as your pick for favorite trees! Our creative Youth Services Librarians worked very hard on these merry masterpieces!

**Holiday Hours:** The Library will be open on Monday, Dec. 24 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We will be closed on Tuesday, Dec. 25 and will reopen at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 26. The Library will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 31. We will be closed on Tuesday, Jan. 1 and will reopen on Wednesday, Jan. 2 at 10:00 a.m.

**Monday Mystery Book Club: Monday, Dec. 17 at 10:30 a.m.** Wake up your week with a stimulating book discussion! We meet on the fourth Monday morning of each month @ 10:30 a.m. in the Mary Atwood Room. Our December selection is *The Couple Next Door* by Shari Lapena. **Please**

**note that we are meeting a week earlier than usual due to the Christmas holiday.** Copies of the current selection are available for check-out at the Main Desk. New members are always welcome. No registration required. This meeting is also our annual title-picking party! Bring your book suggestions for 2019.

**Annual holiday fun for everyone with Steve Blunt, Wednesday, Dec. 19 at 10:30 a.m.** Celebrate the season with musician Steve Blunt – we'll be ringing jingle bells, dancing, and singing along. Tickets (\$2.00) for children and adults are available in the Youth Services Department. This program is for all ages.

**Cookbook Club: Thursday, Dec. 20 at 7:00 p.m.** The Cookbook Club is dedicated to exploring cookbooks and sampling new recipes. We meet on the third Thursday of the month. Our December pick is *Baking with Less Sugar* by Joanne Chang. Copies are available for check out at the Main Desk. If you would like to bring a dish from the cookbook (not required to participate), please contact Sarah Regan in Information Services at 978-399-2309. No registration required. This meeting is also our annual title-picking party! Bring your cookbook suggestions for 2019.

**Ukulele Strum Along: Saturday, Dec. 22 from 2 to 3 p.m.** Learn to play by playing! Focusing on 2 and 3 chord songs, this program is for the beginner ukulele player who wants to practice and play music with others. Ukuleles available to borrow, songs are projected onto a screen so no music stands or books necessary. This program is open to adults and teens. Register online or in the Information Services Department to borrow a ukulele, or just drop in with your own.

**4th Annual 9-Hole Mini Golf in the Library: Thursday, Dec. 28 from 11 to 3 p.m.** We will have a nine hole (and a bonus hole) mini-golf course all over the Library. Here is something to do with the whole family during the holiday break. This free drop-in program is generously funded by the KDK Memorial Foundation (in honor of Kurt Kelly).

**Sunday Hours:** Resume on Sunday, Jan. 6, 2019 thru Sun., April 28. On Sundays the Library is open from 2 to 5 p.m.

**Save the Date! Children's Story Time and Book Club Online Registration: Mon., Jan. 14 at 6:30 p.m.** Although you can always stop by and register in person, online registration for these popular programs starts Monday, Jan 14 at 6:30 p.m. On Tues., Jan. 15 at 10 a.m. you are welcome to register by telephone (978-399-2302). Book clubs are open to Westford residents and non-resident Friends of the J.V. Fletcher Library.



## Cameron Senior Center

### Happenings at the Cameron

#### **COMMON MYTHS ABOUT MEDICAID – 1/8, 6:00 PM**

Do you know the difference between Medicaid and Medicare? Do you know the basic rules of eligibility for Medicaid? There are many misconceptions and misunderstandings about the Medicaid Program. Before taking advice from friends, family, neighbors or the nursing home, find out the basics of the Medicaid program and why starting with an Elder Law Attorney is the best first step. Please sign up for this free presentation by Madge & Johnson Law Office at 978-692-5523.

#### **VESTIBULAR SYSTEM Presentation and Information - 1/22, 5:00 PM**

Feeling Dizzy? Experiencing Vertigo? - Jenna Enrico PT, DPT with Nashoba Nursing Service & Hospice present on the subject matter of the Vestibular System. Information will include what and where the Vestibular System is (anatomy and physiology), why it's important, possible problems that may occur (diagnoses), potential treatments and who to seek out for care and/or treatment. The presentation will also include why the Vestibular System isn't always to blame if you're dizzy. Please sign up for this free seminar by Wed. 1/16 at 978-692-5523. Light refreshments will be served.

#### **FAMILY MOVIE \*COCO\* - 1/22, 4:30 PM**

In an exciting partnership with Roudenbush Community Center we are offering an intergenerational opportunity for folks of all ages to enjoy an early evening out together. Come lift your spirits during these winter months to watch the family movie, *Coco*. Despite his family's baffling generations-old ban on music, Miguel dreams of becoming an accomplished musician like his idol, Ernesto de la Cruz. Desperate to prove his talent, Miguel finds himself in the stunning and colorful Land of the Dead following a mysterious chain of events. Light refreshments will be served. Please sign up by January 18<sup>th</sup> at 978-692-5523.

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

[www.westfordma.gov/coa](http://www.westfordma.gov/coa)

and click on  
[Newsletters](#).



Westford Senior Center

## Recycling Commission

NOTICE #1: There is no trash or recycling pickup on December 25, 2018, or January 1, 2019. Pickups following the holidays will be one day later than usual.

NOTICE #2: January 21, 2019, is NOT a holiday (Martin Luther King, Jr., Day) for trash and recycling pickups. Pickups will be made according to the regular blue weekly schedule.

### Alerts from the Westford Recycling Commission

**PLASTIC BAGS**, empty or filled, are NOT acceptable in recycling bins and toters.

**TANGLERS** - cords, coat hangers, light strings, plastic 6-pack rings, garden hoses, wires, strings, ribbons, and chains - are prohibited from recycling bins and toters.

## Empty. Clean. Dry.

### The new way to recycle.

**EMPTY** - remove food or product residue.

**CLEAN** - rinse or wash empty containers.

**DRY** - let containers dry before placing in your recycling bin or toter.

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NEW! Major recycling haulers in the state have agreed on a standard list of recyclables.

For the **Recyclopedia**:

**Can I recycle this?** visit <https://recyclesmartma.org/>. Bookmark this page!

### Plastic Bag Reduction Program

Westford's new bylaw to reduce plastic bag usage goes into effect on January 1, 2019.

Everyone is encouraged to B.Y.O.B. (Bring Your Own Bag) when shopping. For more information, call the Westford Board of Health 978-692-5509. Please visit [www.westfordma.gov/recycling](http://www.westfordma.gov/recycling) for your recycling and trash questions.

**Westford thanks you for recycling,  
reducing, repurposing, and reusing!**



## Recycling Commission (Continued)

### HOLIDAY RECYCLING REMINDERS

Massachusetts state environmental regulations ban recyclables from the trash. Holiday season activities generate a large amount of recyclable material.

Recycle your unwaxed cardboard gift boxes, garment boxes, toy and game cardboard packaging, clean food boxes, and shipping boxes. Cardboard must be flattened and no larger than 3 x 3 feet.

Recycle your clean gift wrap paper and cards (with NO metallic inks, foil, wire, or glitter), and paper tags, bags (no string handles), and envelopes. Recycle your newspapers, ads, magazines, and catalogs. Do not recycle tissue paper, paper napkins, paper plates, or paper towels.

Recycle your clean clear and colored bottles, jars, aluminum and steel cans and lids, clean aluminum foil and containers, and plastic tubs and bottles (affix plastic caps). Do not recycle plastic drink cups. Do not recycle Styrofoam.

On your recycling day, put recyclables in your bins, boxes, or totes at the curb by 7 a.m. and separate them a few feet from your trash containers. All recyclables can be mixed together.

"Recyclables" stickers to affix to receptacles can be picked up at the Town Clerk's office.

To purchase your own 64-gallon wheeled recycling toter, mail a check for \$50 payable to the Westford Recycling Commission, 55 Main Street, Westford, MA 01886, or take your check to the Town Clerk's office. Please include your name, address and phone number. When your check is received, you will receive a call to pick up your toter.

Please visit [www.westfordma.gov/recycling](http://www.westfordma.gov/recycling) for your recycling and trash questions.

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