

Town Manager's Newsletter

September 2025



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Dear Westford Residents,

September is always a time of new beginnings in Westford. With school back in session and new start times, our roads are busier in the mornings and afternoons—please take extra care as you travel around town and be mindful of the changing traffic patterns to help keep our students and families safe.

I invite you to join me for *"Tea with the Town Manager"*, a new informal opportunity to connect, ask questions, and share ideas about Westford's future. These gatherings are a wonderful way for me to hear directly from you. The first Tea with the Town Manager will be held on Thursday September 25, 2025, at 8:30 a.m., at the Roudenbush Community Center, Room 202, 65 Main St. Tea and coffee will be provided.

Several of our Town departments are participating in Emergency Preparedness training throughout August and September. These efforts help ensure that staff are ready to respond effectively in the event of an emergency, keeping our community safe and resilient.

September is also Suicide Awareness Month. To show our collective support and raise awareness, Town employees will be wearing teal shirts during the month on Fridays. We encourage all residents to join us in recognizing the importance of mental health and supporting one another.

The Robinson School Building Committee, School Committee, and Select Board issued the Owner's Project Manager Request for Services. Responses are expected to be reviewed in mid-September as we take the next step in planning for the feasibility study for the Robinson School.

Construction on the J.V. Fletcher Library Addition and Renovation Project continues on schedule. The contractor has largely completed initial site work, interior demolition, and demolition of the rear portion of the building. Work is now underway on the foundations for the new addition. For updates on this exciting project, please visit: [Library Building Project](#).

We'd like to kindly remind you that [Westford's water restrictions](#) remain in effect. Thank you for continuing to do your part in conserving water—together we can help protect our community's resources for everyone.

Please mark your calendars for October 27, 2025, for our Special Town Meeting to be held at 7 p.m. at Westford Academy. The Select Board will be reviewing and signing the warrant on September 23, 2025.

As September brings new routines, it's the perfect time to get more involved in your community. Serving on a board or committee is a great way to share your voice, connect with neighbors and make a lasting impact on the future of Westford. We currently have several openings, including the newly established Open Space and Recreation Committee, the 300th Anniversary Celebration Committee, the Resident Voting Study Committee, and the Pedestrian Improvement Plan for MCMOD Advisory Committee. I encourage all residents to consider joining—even a few hours of your time can make a real difference!

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.

As always, thank you for staying informed and engaged.

Kristen D. Las

Kristen Las,
Town Manager

Kristen Las, Town Manager
klas@westfordma.gov
www.westfordma.gov/325
978-692-5501





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Department of the Month Spotlight Treasurer/Collector's Office

Welcome Hannah Moller! Westford's New Treasurer/Collector

Hannah started in her new role on August 11, 2025. She brings more than 13 years of municipal finance experience to Westford. Hannah most recently served as Treasurer/Collector for the Town of Groton. She is a certified Massachusetts Municipal Treasurer and Collector with eight years of specialized professional education in municipal treasury and collections. In her new role, Hannah is excited to expand her knowledge within the fields of municipal finance and government and contribute new ideas to Westford's finance team and administration.

"Her extensive experience in municipal treasury and collections, coupled with her proven leadership in Groton, will make her a tremendous asset to our community. I am confident she will serve Westford with professionalism and dedication." — Kristen Las, Town Manager



Hannah Moller
Treasurer/Collector
hmoller@westfordma.gov
978-692-5506

Did You Know?

Real Estate & Personal Property Taxes:

- **Due Dates:** August 1, November 3, February 2, May 1
- **Bills mailed twice per year:**
 - **August/November** bills sent in **June**
 - **February/May** bills sent in **December**

Motor Vehicle Excise Tax:

- Typically mailed in **February** and due in **March**
- Any change in your registration will generate a new bill, issued throughout the year
- Issued by the Registry of Motor Vehicles, collected by Westford

- ✓ Keep your records of Real Estate and Personal Property payments for your income taxes.
- ✓ When submitting payments, please include some identifying information detailing where you would like your payment applied. Whether you prefer to pay with your bank's online bill pay system or with a physical check, it is very important to include a Bill Number, Parcel Number, or Plate Number.

Help Us GO GREEN - Sign Up for E-Billing Today!

- Go to <https://epay.cityhallsystems.com/>
- Click on Login at the top right
- Follow the prompts to set up your User Account
- Once set up, you will have the option to select E-Billing or E-Notices

E-Billing gives you quick, convenient access to your bills anytime, with notices sent each quarter instead of just twice a year by mail. It also helps reduce postage costs while supporting our community's **sustainability efforts**, as you will no longer receive a paper bill. If you would prefer to receive both a paper bill and emailed reminders, consider the **E-Notices** option.

Abatements & Tax Relief Programs

The Town of Westford offers a range of abatement and tax relief options for eligible residents:

- **Abatements:** If you believe your property is over-assessed, you may apply for an abatement through the Assessors' Office. Approved adjustments are reflected in future tax bills.
- **Tax Relief Programs:**
 - Available to seniors, veterans, and income-eligible residents
 - May include exemptions, deferrals, and tax work-off credits
 - For details, visit the Assessors' Office website or contact the [Treasurer/Collector's Office](#)



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Westford Select Board

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



August 12, 2025 - Select Board Meeting Highlights:

The Select Board recognized the retirement of Treasurer/Collector Christine Collins, honoring her 14 years of dedicated service. Town Manager Kristen Las reported that West Nile Virus had been detected in local mosquitoes and encouraged residents to direct questions to the Health Dept. She also highlighted volunteer opportunities on several committees, including the 300th Anniversary Committee and Route 40 Corridor Study. The Board approved a variety of community events, from the Tour de Cure bike race to Witch's Woods. In partnership with the School Committee, members approved the OPM PFS for the Robinson School Building project.

August 26, 2025 - Select Board Meeting Highlights:

The Select Board meeting covered public health updates, community events, and key approvals. Town Manager Kristen Las reported West Nile Virus detection, with mosquito spraying scheduled, and announced Labor Day office closures. The Select Board announced that Westfest will be held on September 20. Board members thanked police for youth outreach and encouraged residents to volunteer for open committee seats. The Board approved the Live for Liv Run/Ride, a liquor license transfer for Westford Wine and Spirits, and conservation restrictions on open space parcels. Appointments were made to the Affordable Housing Trust, DEI Committee, and the 300th Anniversary Committee. Grants, contracts, and energy efficiency projects were also authorized.

From the Moderator

Special Town Meeting Coming Soon – Monday, October 27 | 7 p.m. | Westford Academy

How can I find out what's going to be decided at Town Meeting?

The Select Board, Planning Board, and Finance Committee will discuss warrant articles at their public meetings in September and October, all are open to the public and viewable live or recorded on Westford CAT. The Select Board finalizes the warrant on Sept. 23, and the Finance Committee reviews it on Sept. 25. The League of Women Voters will also host a Warrant Review on Oct. 16., offering a clear overview of each article

To vote at Special Town Meeting, you must be registered by 5 p.m. on October 17.



Questions? Contact Moderator Angela Harkness at aharkness@westfordma.gov.

More information: www.westfordma.gov/891, www.westfordma.gov/255, www.westfordma.gov/393

Westford Planning Board

Open Space and Recreation Plan Update — Westford Parks Plan Launching Soon

Westford is updating its Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP), a state-approved guide for protecting open space and enhancing recreational opportunities. Community input is key—outreach events will begin in September. Share your ideas to help shape parks, trails, and recreational facilities. Watch for event details in the coming weeks.



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Westford Police Department

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



4th Annual Westford Police Youth Academy Graduation

On August 1st the fourth annual Westford Police Youth Academy graduated. Over the course of the week the cadets visited the Massachusetts State Police Marine Unit in Boston Harbor, got a demonstration by Boston MedFlight, received life-saving training from the Westford Fire Department and got a behind the scenes look at what a police officer does every day here in the Town of Westford.

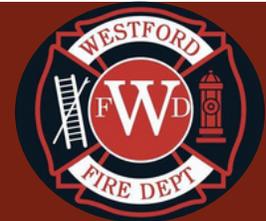


Back to School Safety

August 26 & 27 marked the first days back to school for Westford Public Schools! The Westford Police Department would like to remind residents that the entire length of Patten Road is a 25 MPH speed limit and to be cautious as they drive through all of the school zones throughout town. Please also be mindful of the increased bus traffic throughout town and ensure that you are always stopping for a school bus when the flashing lights are operating.

Westford Fire Department

For more information on upcoming programs, events, and registration details, visit: www.westfordma.gov/195



In August, we said goodbye to Firefighter Joe Wilson, who accepted a position with the Reading Fire Department. Joe joined Westford in October 2022. He completed the MA Firefighting Academy program and went on to earn certifications as a car seat technician, HazMat technician, regional communications unit operator, Fire Instructor, and Fire Officer. Joe also served as a dedicated preceptor, mentoring new firefighters. He will be deeply missed, and we wish him every success in his next chapter.



On July 31, Westford Fire welcomed cadets from the Westford Police Department's Youth Police Academy. During their visit to Fire HQ, cadets learned how the department serves the community and supports public safety. They toured the station, participated in hands-on activities with fire and EMS equipment, and observed key firefighting techniques, including aerial ladder operations and forcible entry.



Training also continues for our newest firefighters. All seven probationary members have completed the initial phase of orientation and are now working one-on-one with assigned preceptors. These preceptors, recognized as emerging leaders within the department, voluntarily mentor and guide new hires throughout their first year, helping them build a strong foundation of skills and knowledge to serve Westford effectively.





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Westford Council on Aging

Read the [Cameron Senior Center Newsletter](#) online for more information or visit: www.westfordma.gov/593

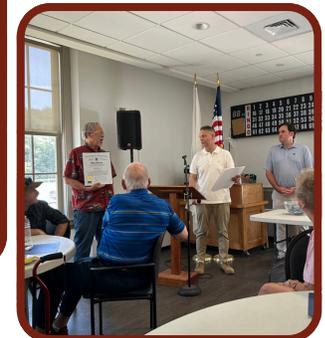


Community Gathers for Annual Cookout with Rep. Arciero & Sen. Cronin Lunch, Legislative Updates & Honoring Veterans' Advocate Terry Stader

On Friday, August 8, the parking lot filled with community members eager to share a friendly afternoon with our legislators. Over lunch served by legislative interns and staff, Senator Cronin and Representative Arciero addressed the crowd before presenting a special citation to Terry Stader, honoring his dedicated service to veterans. The celebration wrapped up with cake and conversation, leaving everyone with warm memories of the day.

Join the Cameron: Heroes of Hunger Help Fill the Van for the Westford Food Pantry! Tuesday, Sept. 9 | 8:30 a.m. - 7 p.m. | 20 Pleasant St.

The Westford Food Pantry shelves are running low and are in need of our support! In May alone, the pantry served 157 households, including 85 older adults aged 65+. Let's come together to help our neighbors by donating nonperishable foods you enjoy eating. Personal hygiene and household items are also greatly appreciated. To volunteer for a 2-hour shift to assist with accepting donations, call 978-692-5523. Help spread the word—this town-wide food drive needs your support!



J.V. Fletcher Library

Fall Fun with the Library!
Visit www.westfordlibrary.org for more information.



[Vacations Can Be Murder with True Crime New England Author Dawn M. Barclay](#) Wednesday, Sept. 17 | 7 p.m. | Virtual

For the true crime lover—finally, a travel guide from an award-winning travel journalist and suspense author that gives you the down and dirty on exactly where the major crimes occurred, and where the bodies are buried. Suggested itineraries bring all the pieces together to help you traverse New England's criminal landscape in an organized and entertaining way. Up for a true crime road trip?

[Books with Bunnies Storytime - Registration Required](#) Thursday, Sept. 18 | 1 - 2:20 p.m. | 5 Gould Road

Love books? Love bunnies? Great! We welcome you to join us at Good Pickin' Farm while we cuddle the cutest little bunnies and listen to an interactive story time with one of the friendly farmers!

[Winnie the Pooh Storytime - Registration Required](#) Tuesday, Sept. 23 | 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. | 39 Main St.

Join us for a story time based on the original A.A. Milne Winnie the Pooh story!

[Friends of the Library Fall Book Sale](#) Sept. 12 - 14 | First Parish Church United, 48 Main St.



Fall Book Sale

FRIENDS OF THE J.V. FLETCHER LIBRARY





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Westford Health Department

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



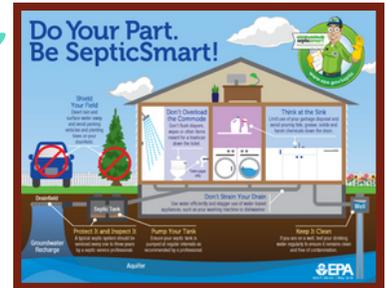
Upcoming Fall Flu Clinics for Westford Residents

Flu Clinic for ages 65 + *Only* — [Register](#)
Sept. 18 | 12 - 4 p.m. | Millennium School, 23 Depot St.

Community Flu Clinics ages 3+ — [Register](#)
Oct. 16 & 23 | 4 - 8 p.m. | Westford Academy Cafeteria, 30 Patten Road

For more information, contact the Westford Health Department at 978-692-5509 or email Gail Johnson at gjohnson@westfordma.gov.

Do Your Part. Be Septic Smart! Learn how to care for your septic system. View the [EPA SepticSmart Flyer](#) for helpful tips.



Upper Merrimack Valley Medical Reserve Corps



Still Active Through the Dog Days of Summer!

Bone Health Day Highlights

The Upper Merrimack Valley Medical Reserve Corps – UMV MRC – has been based at the Westford Health Department since 2004 and has remained active even through the dog days of summer! In July, our local unit of the national MRC program (with nearly 800 units across the country) teamed up with the Cameron Senior Center to proclaim July 22 as Bone Health Day. Westford seniors started the morning with a group walk and attended a series of educational sessions throughout the day about keeping their bones strong.



Caring for Pets in a Disaster

On August 11, two of the MRC's volunteer instructors certified nine of their fellow members in Basic Life Support. The BLS class is the advanced version of CPR/AED usage for medical professionals. On August 13, nearly 30 Westford residents and MRC members enjoyed a 90-minute session about caring for pets in a disaster.





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Westford Recycling Commission

Recycle Your Used Items at Westford's September Zero Waste Day!
www.westfordma.gov/408 & facebook.com/WestfordRecyclingCommission



Saturday, Sept. 13 | 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. | Several Locations - Used Electronics, Household Goods & More

Zero Waste Day Collection

[View list of items & more information.](#)

Electronics and More Collection | DPW, 28 North St.

Computers, monitors, and most other electronic devices and equipment, appliances of all sizes, & scrap metal – most free, some fees may apply.

Additional Collections | Abbot School, 25 Depot St.

The following vendors will be on hand to take your donations:



Household Goods:

- Usable Furniture without stains or tears: No glass-topped tables
- Usable Mattresses without stains, rips or tears: Twin, Full, Double & Queen sizes accepted, No King sizes
- Small Working Appliances
- Household Goods & Décor

The Great Exchange:

- Office supplies
- School supplies
- Craft items

Musical Instruments:

- Hand-held instruments
- Music books and Sheet music

New England Clothes Recycling:

- Wearable Clothing
- Textiles for Recycling – worn out, torn, stained, outdated: bedding, fabric window treatments, shoes, single socks, pillows, & stuffed animals
- Toys, Games, Puzzles
- Housewares & household décor
- Not Accepted: car seats, cribs, strollers, baby gates
- No Moldy or Mildewed Items
- ONLY Clean Containers

Drop off Container | Open 24/7 | Old Water Department, Forge Village Road

Donate used books and media, VHS tapes, cassette tapes, textbooks, encyclopedias, in usable condition.

Westford Public Works

Stormwater Billing Alert!

Single Annual Bill vs. Twice-a-Year Schedule



Beginning with the current fiscal year 2026 which started on July 1, 2025, stormwater billing will change from a twice-a-year schedule to an annual billing cycle. This change will streamline the billing for customers and simplify the town collections, making the overall process more efficient.

Your total annual stormwater bill amount will remain the same – just billed in one installment instead of two. Stormwater bills for this fiscal year will be sent out at the end of October 2025. To help with the transition to single billing, for the first year, all customers will have 90 days from the bill date to make the payment, giving an extra 60-day grace period.

For more information visit: www.westfordma.gov/1351 or www.westfordma.gov/183

Contact the Department of Public Works at 978-399-2900 or email stormwater@westfordma.gov.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation.



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Westford Recreation

For more information on upcoming programs, events, and registration details, visit: www.westfordma.gov/268



Recreation's WPC After School Enrichment Program for Grades K-5

Safe, engaging, and fun! WPC and its experienced staff are here for you, with flexible hours, and a variety of activities to choose from. Located at Abbot, Crisafulli, Day, Miller, Nabnasset, and Robinson Schools. M-F, school dismissal to 6 p.m. – [register anytime!](#)

Recreation's Special Programs for Grades K-8

From Boston Aquarium and Museum of Science to APEX and Stone Zoo, Recreation offers programs that educate and entertain. Special programs cover parent conferences, professional days, school holidays and breaks, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with early arrival and extended day options.

Check out Recreation's "Not to Miss" Programs

Yoga With Kelly | Impact Sprints Academy | Chess with Master Prathiba | Nitehawks Cross Country | CPR & First Aid | Brazilian United Soccer | On The Mark Archery | Pickleball | Marcus Lewis Tennis and more.

What a Great Summer for Kids Club and Destination Exploration

Even with the heat, the kids had a blast at Recreation's Summer Weekly Programs. The final week closed with field trips to the Woo Sox, Canobie Lake, and Wingersheek Beach.



Community Wellness

For more information on upcoming programs, events, and registration details, visit: www.westfordma.gov/1487



September is Suicide Prevention Month, to learn about resources and support visit:

www.westfordma.gov/1607. The J.V. Fletcher Library will have a book display supporting Suicide Prevention month.

Adult Mental Health First Aid Training | Sept. 24 | 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. | Town Hall Meeting Rm, 55 Main St. To register, contact Community Wellness Coordinator, nlaviolette@westfordma.gov.

Parent Support Group | 3rd Tuesday of the month | 6:30 - 8 p.m. | 3rd floor, Roudenbush, 65 Main St. If you're parenting a child experiencing mental health challenges, we invite you to join our support group.

Holiday Assistance Program - Joint initiative of the Cameron Senior Center, St. Catherine St. Vincent de Paul Society, and the Westford Food Pantry to provide qualified families with gift cards during the holiday season. Contact Nicole Laviolette at 978-399-2503 or Social Worker Alison Christopher at 978-399-2325 for an application or if you have any questions.

Application deadline Oct. 20, 2025.



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Economic Development Committee



Become a Westford Business Success Story

Feature your business on DiscoverWestford.org

Every 6-8 weeks, Discover Westford will highlight local businesses as part of the Westford Success Stories series. If you would like to participate, send a brief description of your company, including your expertise, location, and a cover photo. Please note that Discover Westford does not endorse, advertise, or promote any company, product, or service. We strive to provide a comprehensive and inclusive directory of all businesses located in Westford. Contact CherylSerpe@DiscoverWestford.org.

Discover Westford Launching New Resources for Businesses in Westford

Learn how Westford can be your hub for business success.

The Economic Development Committee is preparing two special guides to assist business owners who are interested in locating in Westford. The Guide contains regional and demographic information about Westford, helpful partnership information, business assistance resources, testimonials, maps, and more, all developed to help businesses choose Westford as home for growth. The Discover Westford Small Business Toolkit is designed specifically for small business owners to help streamline finding answers to questions about permitting, signage, networking opportunities, and other issues facing new small business owners. These handy guides will be available to download on DiscoverWestford.org this fall.



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee

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

Celebrating Heritage and History

This October we honor the cultural contributions of Indigenous and Italian-American communities.

The Westford DEI Committee is honored to once again highlight two significant cultural observances this October, reinforcing our ongoing commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 18, 2025, when we will host our 2nd Annual Indigenous Peoples' Day Observation at a central Westford location (details to follow). This observance will honor the history of the Nipmuc people and feature Larry Spotted Crow Mann, a member of the Nipmuc Tribe and award-winning author. His presentation will meaningful insights into the preservation of Indigenous traditions and the importance of understanding Indigenous history.

In addition, Westford is proud to join the nation in recognizing National Italian-American Heritage Month, celebrating the enduring contributions of Italian-Americans to the fabric of our country. While the town's programming is still being finalized, we will spotlight important events and flag-raising ceremonies in neighboring communities such as Lowell, Springfield, Boston, and Natick. These observances provide an opportunity to reflect on the lasting impact of the Italian-American community on our shared history.

We invite you to join us in these important celebrations as we continue to honor and learn from the diverse cultures that have shaped and enriched our nation.



Town of Westford

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Westford Participated in the Middlesex County 4-H Fair!



Town Hall Operating Hours

Mon/Wed/Thurs: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Tuesday: 8 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Friday: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

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

Employment Opportunities:

- Director of Technology
- Firefighter/Paramedic
- 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

TOWN OF WESTFORD	<u>978-692-5500</u>
www.westfordma.gov	55 Main Street, Westford, MA 01886

Subscribe for Town Email Notifications

Sign up for Smart911



Follow the Town on social media



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 Committee
- Historical Commission
- Northern Middlesex Stormwater Collaborative
- Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee
- Parkerville Schoolhouse
- Pedestrian Improvement Plan for MCMOD Advisory Committee
- Pedestrian Safety Committee
- Resident Voting Study Committee
- Tax Possession Disposition Committee
- Zoning Board of Appeals

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](#)