



February 2013



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Town
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Annual Town Meeting
Saturday, March 23,
10 AM at the Abbott
School

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Rescheduled
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Massachusetts

Municipal

Association

2013 Website

Award Winner



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westford
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www.westfordcat.org

Dear Westford Residents,

I am pleased to announce that our annual town reports are completed and available in hard copy at the town hall, or online at this link: [Annual Town Report](#). Our annual town meeting is swiftly approaching, and your presence is needed to help the town conduct its business for both the current fiscal year, and fiscal year 2014. The meeting will be held in the Abbot School Gymnasium on Saturday, March 23rd, beginning at 10:00 a.m. There are 28 articles on the warrant, which was signed and posted last week. Below is a brief description of many of the articles.

Article 3 is seeking supplemental appropriations to the Finance Committee reserve fund and to Veteran's Services to cover benefits for our veterans.

Article 5 is seeking to transfer \$250,000 from perchlorate stabilization to perchlorate remediation to fund costs associated with the DEP requirements for the perchlorate contamination.

Article 6 is seeking funding to address safety issues with the former Westford Anodizing building at 12 North Main Street.

Article 7 is seeking to use insurance reimbursement monies to repair damage following a recent storm, including repairs to the Frost School roof, replacement of damaged Recreation Department crew equipment, and replacement of damaged trees in Hill Orchard.

Article 8 is seeking to spend 2013 Capital Stabilization funds for engineering costs at Minot's Corner, to use Ambulance Enterprise funds to rehabilitate a town ambulance and purchase emergency medical service equipment, and to use Water Enterprise funds to make water system improvements on Edwards Ave, Hadley Rd, and Williams Ave, and to purchase a Water Department 4 wheel drive pickup and a utility van.

Article 9 is seeking support for the Community Preservation Committee's recommendations to spend \$1,230,100 of Community Preservation Act funds.

Article 10 is seeking approval of amending the Wage and Classification plan by upgrading the Water Department Business Manager from a Band 4 to a Band 5, and changing the title of the Water Treatment Manager to Water Operations Manager.

Article 11 will establish the fiscal year 2014 budget for the operation and maintenance of all town departments, including capital improvements.

Article 12 is seeking re-authorization of existing revolving funds, with three new fund requests – one for the Senior Center to collect program fees to pay for activities, the second for the Board of Health for fees for immunizations and clinical, and the third to establish a stormwater fund to collect and expend fees from permit applicants.

(continued on next page)

Article 13 is seeking approval to use Chapter 90 funds to repair, construct, maintain and preserve town roads and bridges.

Article 14 is seeking acceptance of MGL Chp 59, s 5, cl 56 to allow personal property tax abatements up to 100% for members of the MA National Guard and reservists on active duty in foreign countries during the fiscal year they performed such service.

Article 15 is seeking acceptance of MGL Chp 73, s 4 or acts of 1986, as amended to provide additional property tax exemptions for qualified residents who may be blind, elderly, surviving spouses or minors, or disabled veterans.

Article 16 is seeking appropriation for capital projects as recommended by the Capital Planning Committee. Some of the larger projects include a town-wide municipal facility study, intersection improvements at Route 40 and Oak Hill Road, and Route 40 and Dunstable Road, creating a masterplan for the town's drainage system, new bleachers at Westford Academy, a new fire rescue truck and a 10 wheel plow/sander/dump truck for highway.

Article 17 is seeking the authority to enter a lease for a radio telecommunications facility at the highway department.

Article 18 is an annual article requesting authorization for the selectmen to take easements for sidewalks, drainage or utilities.

Article 19 is seeking to allow a moratorium on the new medical marijuana bylaw to allow us time to establish regulations.

Article 20 is seeking to amend the town's existing sign bylaw.

Article 21 would allow developers to "gift" the town funds to create sidewalks.

Article 22 is seeking to amend our Flood Plain Overlay District.

Article 23 is seeking to amend our principal use regulations to allow drive-through restaurants with a special permit from the Planning Board.

Article 24 would accept Misty Lane and Rolling Meadows Lane as public ways.

Article 25 would authorize the selectmen to accept a parcel of land on Acton Road commonly referred to as the Crest Haven parcel.

Article 26 would allow for the transfer care, custody and control of four Tax Possession Sale Committee parcels to the Conservation Commission.

Article 27 would authorize the transfer of a portion of the Jack Walsh field in exchange for two parcels on Farmer Way to allow for the construction of a satellite unmanned fire station in Parker Village.

Article 28 is a citizen petition that would create a new bylaw to rename East Boston Camps and the Stepinski parcel to Westford Woods.

If town meeting is not completed on Saturday, it will continue on Wednesday, March 27th in evening starting at 7:00PM.

(continued on next page)

Westford was recently awarded two Community Innovation Challenge grants for our efforts to work regionally with other municipalities. One of the grants was for \$60,000 to enable us to establish a Transportation Management Association (TMA), which would be a non-profit public/private partnership with equal representation by each member. This TMA would coordinate the development and implementation of transportation routes to satisfy daily trip requirements for our respective residents. This service could be used for pretty much any purpose, including shopping, doctor appointments, commuting to work and back, and would offer alternatives to driving cars for all participating towns or entities. The second grant was for \$98,000 to NMCOG to help us establish a stormwater management collaborative. This regional collaborative will help the participating towns effectively manage stormwater issues by creating stormwater management plans that meet EPA requirements. These funds will also assist us with public education, procurement, and administrative and other tasks necessary for accomplishing this goal.

One of the Selectmen/ Town Manager goals for 2013, is to work with state and federal agencies in an attempt to compel Pan Am to be more responsive to our requests to reduce train idling and the sounding of train whistles in residential areas of our town. Earlier this month, Assistant Town Manager John Mangiaratti, Environmental Service Director Darren MacCaughey, and I met with representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, and Pan Am Railways to discuss this issue. Pan Am informed us at the meeting the steps they have taken to reduce idling in Westford, and they committed to working with us to improve the situation for our community.

I am pleased to report that Chris Kluchman, previously our Town Planner, has accepted the position of Director of Land Use Management effective February 25th. I know you join me in congratulating Chris on this promotion, and wishing her the best in her new position.

Thank you to our public safety, highway, health, IT, senior center, and other staff for their preparedness and response during our recent storms. Our roads are always in great shape, and these employees ensure we are prepared to assist our residents as needed during and after these recurrent storms.

I look forward to seeing you at town meeting.

Sincerely,



Jodi Ross



Water Department News

Keeping Fire Hydrants Clear of Snow

The Water Department would like to express our sincere gratitude to all of the people of Westford who cleared their local fire hydrants during the Blizzard of 2013. We were very pleased with the amount of help we received during this last storm. This was critical due to the significant amount of snow we received. Our crews were busy clearing the snow around the hydrants as soon as the storm ended, but without your help we would've had a hard time getting all of them cleared in a timely fashion.

A house fire in Hingham a couple days after the storm highlights the importance of quickly clearing out your hydrant. The nearest fire hydrant to the burning house was buried under snow, and valuable seconds were lost digging it out. Following this incident the State Fire Marshal, Stephen D. Coan, expressed his frustration with people not getting the message to dig out their hydrants.

It's clear that people in Westford have taken that message to heart. With over 1,000 hydrants in town we continue to need your help.

Thank you for the outstanding job Westford!



**IF WE CAN'T FIND EM'
WE CAN'T FIGHT EM'**

**AFTER A SNOW STORM PLEASE BE SURE TO SHOVEL
OUT THE FIRE HYDRANT NEAREST YOUR HOME.**

A PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE FROM THE PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS OF MASSACHUSETTS

J.V. Fletcher Library News

Book Sale Rescheduled and Savoring Sunday Hours at the Library

Due to the February blizzard the Friends of the J. V. Fletcher Library, Inc. canceled their Family Book Sale weekend at the Fletcher Library. Luckily the Library can offer them another full weekend (same dates even, though a different month.) The Rescheduled Book Sale will take place on Friday, March 8 through Sunday, March 10.

Friday, March 8 from 6:30-9:00PM is the Friends Members Only Sale (memberships may be purchased at the door.) Saturday, March 9 the entire public is invited to attend the Sale for the whole time that the Library is open, from 10:00AM to 5:00PM. And Sunday, March 10 is the special half price extravaganza from 2:00-4:00PM.

And speaking of Sunday hours, the Library is now open on Sundays from 2:00-5:00PM (January through April.) Even without a Book Sale event, we find that families flock to the Library on Sundays because it is a safe, warm haven with so many FREE things to do that interest everyone in the family (reading magazines, checking out DVD's or books on tape or playaways, playing games on the Internet or doing research on them for homework assignments, a playroom in the Youth Services area that is set up for putting on plays with a puppet theatre, playing with an uber train station or the Legos table and oh yes, BOOKS GALORE to read and to take out.) Further, Aesop's Tables in Fine Arts offers flavorful coffees and teas and hot cocoa.

**We look forward to seeing you at the
March Family BOOK SALE and on Sundays at the Library!**



Friends of the J. V. Fletcher Library QR Code:



www.westfordlibraryfriends.org

Cameron Senior Center News

Upcoming Events

St. Patrick's Day Luncheon

Wear your green and come join us for our annual St. Patrick's Day Luncheon on Tuesday, March 12, 11 AM - 2 PM at the Franco American Club.

You need to be seated for lunch by 11:30 AM. We will be having corned beef and cabbage dinner provided by The Inn at Robbins Brook and served around Noon.

Reserve your seat by March 6th at 978-692-6623; the \$7 fee is due at the time of registration.

Non-resident fee is \$15. You will not be registered until payment is received.

"To Stay or Not to Stay"

HERE ARE THE QUESTIONS - Coldwell Banker's ongoing series resumes this spring on March 19th at 2 PM at Cameron. The process of determining market value of a property will be discussed. The professionals from Coldwell Banker will be here to explain and answer questions. Refreshments and Door prizes will be available. Please register by calling 978-692-5523.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Weekday Lunches

The Merrimack Valley Nutrition Program provides anyone age 60 and over with low cost nutritional meals at Cameron, Monday – Friday at 11:30 AM. Call 978-692-5523 a minimum of two days in advance between 8:00 - 10:00 AM to make your reservation. The donation is \$2.00. If spouse/partner is under the age of 60, the meal cost is \$4.50.

Introduction to Computers Class

If you are interested in learning basic computer skills call 978-692-5523 to sign up. You will be called by our instructor Mary Eve to set up a time for your instruction.

We have wireless internet access (WiFi) .

Day Trips

Tuesday, March 5th, **Mohegan Sun** - Buckingham Motor Coach departs from the Franco American Club at 7:15 AM. The fee is \$29, includes driver gratuity and is due at time of sign-up. Receive bonus and food coupon. Call 978-692-5523 to register.

Wednesday, March 13th, [The Spectacular Boston Flower and Garden Show](#). Enjoy all the changes of seasons, lunch at [Maggiano's](#), and tour "new" Boston featuring the Rose Kennedy Greenway. The cost of this all inclusive trip is \$75 per person and will depart from the Franco at 8:30 AM. Call 978-692-5523 to register.

To see the entire COA newsletter please visit our web-site at www.westfordma.gov/coa, and click on [COA Newsletters](#).

Health Department News

Are you interested in receiving Health Department Notices that affect our community? How about Food and Drug recalls that affect the state of Massachusetts???

The Town of Westford has a "Subscribe to Notices" email program that can send you all the Health Department Notices that our department posts and the Food and Drug recalls that affect Massachusetts residents by email. It can be helpful to know what food and drug recalls are in effect for products that have been provided to Massachusetts retail stores and food establishments. It is a free service for all residents and business owners.

If you are interested in subscribing to receive Health Department notices (via email) go to www.westfordma.gov and on the main Town of Westford page.

1. Click on 'Subscribe to Notices' under the "Quick Links" heading located on the lower left side of the Town of Westford main page.
2. Fill in your email address and then check the list and agenda boxes you wish to receive email notices for and then click on the "Send my Request" button and you are finished.



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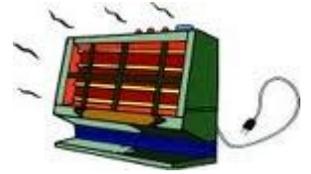
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<input type="checkbox"/> News for Westford Businesses	<input type="checkbox"/> J. V. Fletcher Library News

Fire Department News

Space Heater Fire Safety Tips



If you must use a space heater for heat, use it as safely as possible. When buying a heater, look for one that has been tested and labeled by a nationally recognized testing company, such as Underwriter's Laboratories (UL).

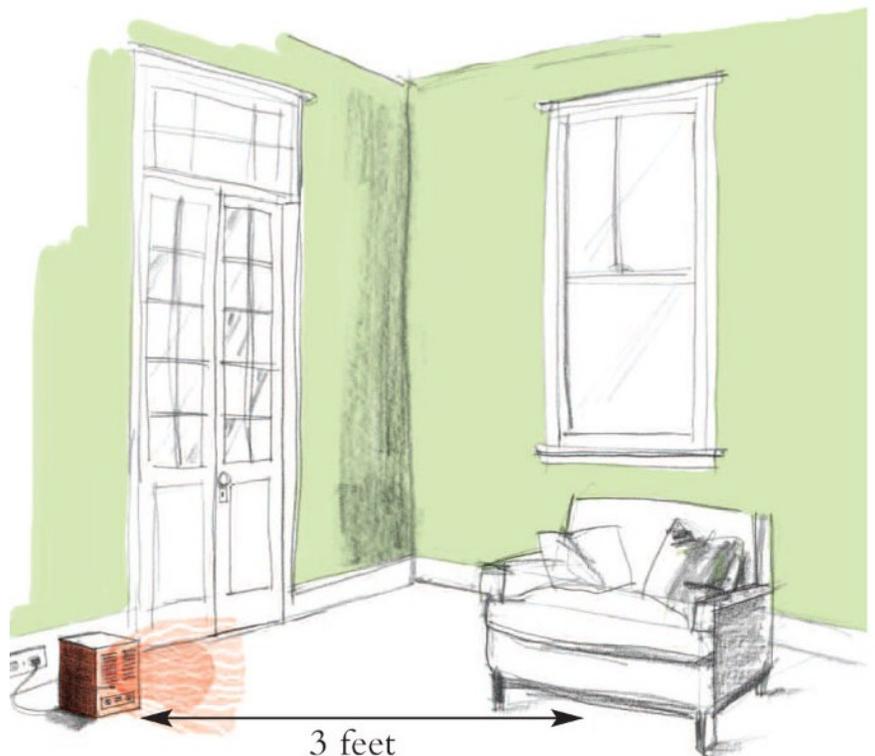
Keep the heater 3-feet away from drapes, furniture or other flammable materials. Place the heater on a level surface away from areas where someone might bump into it and knock it over.

Avoid using extension cords. If you must use an extension cord, make sure it is a heavy duty cord marked with a power rating at least as high as that on the label of the heater itself.

Never leave a space heater unattended or running while you sleep. Supervise children and pets when a space heater is in use.

Keep electric heaters away from water. Never use them near a sink or in the bathroom.

The sale and use of unvented kerosene heaters is illegal in Massachusetts.

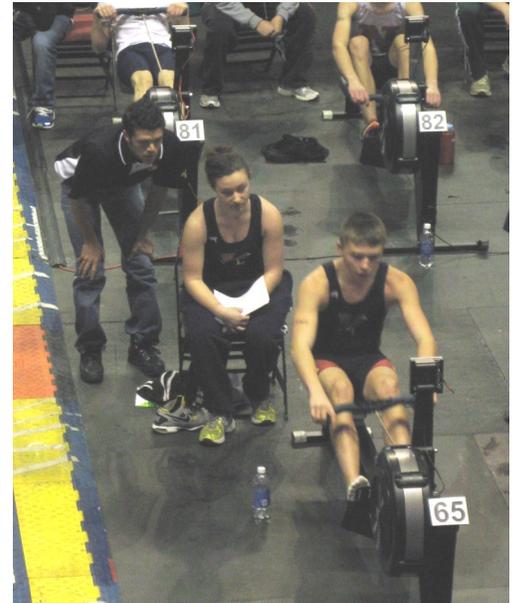


Recreation Department News



**Westford - Littleton Community Crew
Competes in 2013
World Indoor Rowing Championships**

[Westford-Littleton Community Crew](#) (WLCC) competed on February 17th, 2013 in the [C.R.A.S.H.-B.](#) Sprints: World Indoor Rowing Championships. It is held at Boston University's Agganis Arena every year. Thousands of competitors from all over the country, and many from around the world, come to participate in what has become one of the largest erg competitions on the planet. WLCC is fortunate to have the competition held so close to home. It allows the master rowers as well as the high school rowers the chance to participate in such a prestigious event.



Pictured: from front to back; Devin Quinn, Amelia Stein, and Coach B. of WLCC.

Congratulations for the great performance by WLCC at the 2013 CRASH B's!

CATEGORY	FINISH	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	TIME	# OF COMPETITORS
Lightweight Open Men	35	Cormier	David	06:42.4	95
Lightweight Junior Men	60	Davis	Benjamin	06:57.7	194
Lightweight Junior Men	97	Desrochers	Allan	07:08.9	194
Lightweight Junior Men	141	Quinn	Devin	07:22.6	194
Junior Women	30	Shein	Amelia	07:38.6	230
Senior Men (40-49)	40	Freud	Paul	07:00.9	81
Senior Men (40-49)	58	Bickford	Gus	07:12.4	81
Veteran Men (50-54)	13	Barnshaw	Bob	06:50.4	39
Veteran Men (50-54)	32	Orford	Peter	07:19.9	39
Veteran Women (50-54)	6	Tang	Nancy	08:21.5	16
Veteran Women (50-54)	10	Habe	Sandra	08:32.7	16
Veteran Men (55-59)	14	LaBossiere	Dale	07:25.4	22
Veteran Men (55-59)	18	Alinskas	Linas	07:38.6	22

www.westfordlittletoncrew.org