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Flag Day Ceremony
Thursday, June 14, 6 PM
See Page 4.

Strategic Planning
Retreat at Kimball Farm
June 20, 5:30-8:45 PM

Affordable Housing
Abbot Mill
Information Session
Wednesday,
June 20, 7 PM

"To Stay or not to Stay"
Real estate program for
Seniors
Tuesday, June 26
See Page 7.

Watch Meetings Online



www.westfordcat.org

Dear Westford Residents,

May was a special month for us in Westford with the Apple Blossom festival and parade, the East Boston Camps Family Fun Day, and the special Memorial Day events which were held throughout our town. These events typify what makes Westford the very special place we are fortunate enough to call home. I would like to recognize, and say a special thank you to all volunteers and town staff who were involved in the successful planning, setup, and operation of all of these events.

Our town will hold an auction to assign and transfer a tax title lien it holds on the property known as "Westford Anodizing," which is located at 12 North Main Street. The lien on the property, plus land court and legal fees make up the minimum bid amount of \$34,427.59. The auction will be held at 11:00 a.m. on June 21, 2012 at the Westford Town Hall, 55 Main Street. Please stay tuned to our website for more information.

Our second annual Strategic Planning Retreat is scheduled for June 20 at Kimball Farm from 5:30p.m. to 8:45p.m. The first session of the retreat will include a brief presentation, followed by an open discussion, of the fiscal condition of our town, including:

Fiscal Year 2014 and Beyond – we will provide a 4-year financial forecast

- what we have done to reduce/control expenses
- the cost of providing adequate services
- the cost of maintaining our existing assets
- choices that may be required regarding reduction of service levels
- the potential loss of contributions by volunteers
- new revenue generating ideas
- a possible override request in March 2013

The second half of the retreat will offer four sessions which you may attend:

Economic and Planned Development along Route 110

This session will highlight current and planned developments along Route 110, anticipated revenues and basic information about related transportation improvements. Attend to get more information about the work you see underway and other changes not yet under construction. Town staff will answer questions about the development approvals and past planning efforts for Route 110.

Education – Mandates, Budget, and other issues

As we continue to experience challenging fiscal conditions, we will value an exchange of ideas with community members on the following issues:

- Offering competitive salaries to attract and retain highly qualified staff
- Continuously reviewing and improving our curriculum
- Applying the latest technologies to the instructional process
- Providing full-day kindergarten
- Providing accelerated learning opportunities for all students
- Accomplishing important capital improvements to our facilities
- Analyzing future residential developments and school enrollments

(Continued on next page)

Examining Municipal Property, Capital Needs, Possible New Revenue from Cell Facilities, etc.

This session will examine and discuss:

- How we may coordinate and fund capital improvements for long term sustainability of our resources and infrastructure - specifically 1.1 million square feet of public buildings and 3,200+ acres of public lands. Our Capital Committee is currently evaluating our town's 5 year critical capital needs in order to bundle into one large bonding to take advantage of low interest rates.
- Ways to better utilize existing facilities, including the advantages and disadvantages of disposing of facilities as recently recommended by the Permanent Town Building Committee.
- What opportunities exist to utilize municipal property to generate new revenue from leases, cell facilities, and/or solar power generation facilities?
- How the current activities of the Capital Planning Committee, Permanent Town Building Committee, and the Public Works Initiative Committee align with the current policy priorities and needs identified in the Comprehensive Master Plan.

Underage Drug and Alcohol Usage Awareness and Prevention

This session will address the issue of underage drinking and illegal usage of controlled substances in our community, which was highlighted in a Youth Risk Behavior Survey conducted in the schools, and at a recently held town-wide meeting on drug awareness. Participants will be able to become part of the solution by identifying preventive steps which could be implemented in Westford. A handout showing key statistics and current prevention efforts will also be shared.

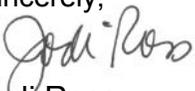
In addition to the program sessions, a standing exhibit will be available for review regarding our 2009 Westford Comprehensive Master Plan, and the status of implementation of the Action Items included in the plan. This exhibit will provide attendees a great deal of information, and will provide participants the opportunity to give input on how the town can best prioritize its efforts to continue progress toward Master Plan implementation.

Please join us if you can for what promises to be an informative, interactive event. More information may be found at: [Strategic Planning Retreat](#).

It was with great pleasure that Selectman Kelly Ross and I, on behalf of our town, accepted the keys to a brand new Lowell Regional Transit Authority van to be used for our senior transportation program. Pictures of this van may be found on page 6. Thank you to Joanne Sheehan, the Council on Aging, and the staff at the Cameron Senior Center for all of their efforts to secure this van, and for providing such a great transportation alternative for our seniors.

It is with mixed emotions that I announce the retirement of Judith Ramirez after 11 years as our Social Worker at the Cameron Senior Center. Judy brought so much energy, compassion, and commitment to our town – and not just to our senior population. Her accomplishments are great, and she informs us that she may look to volunteer on a town board or two once her retirement is official. I wish Judy the best of luck in the coming years, and thank her for her many years of service to our town.

Sincerely,



Jodi Ross

Water Department News

Graniteville Road Water Main Extension Project Update

Construction for the Graniteville Water Main extension project began on May 21, and work has been proceeding on schedule. Over 1,000 feet of new 12-inch water main has been installed, and the connection at the intersection of Cold Spring Road is expected to be completed during the week of June 11. Once this connection is completed and the new water main tested and disinfected, all houses along this section of Graniteville Road will be connected to the new water main.

Construction on Bridge Street and River Street – as well as service replacements on West Street — will begin over the next month. The water main extension project is expected to be completed by late August.

Visit the Water Department website www.westfordma.gov/water for important project updates.

We appreciate your patience during the project.



Large boulder being removed to make way for the new 12-inch water main. (left)

Completed trench. (below)



Photos by Police Officer Mike Perciballi

Veterans News



Flag Day/Flag Week - On June 14, 1777 the Second Continental Congress created the American Flag. Therefore, the week of **June 14** is designated as "National Flag Week" in the United States. Thursday, June 14 is Flag Day.

Here in Westford, on June 14, you are invited to "retire" your worn out US/American flags at the American Legion Post 437 located at 114 Dunstable Rd. on the annual Flag Day Ceremony starting at 6 p.m. on the grounds of the post meeting facility. If you cannot make the ceremony, you can find flag

drop-off boxes in the neighborhood Post Offices or in the entry way of the Post 437 American Legion building during regular business hours.

Please make sure that you replace your worn out flags this month.



MassVetsAdvisor.org – a cutting-edge web portal that offers enhanced access to services and support for veterans living in the Commonwealth. The new site will help veterans and their family members access more than 200 state and federal benefits in one location, including programs for education, counseling, employment, health care and other services. Use this portal to learn about some of the benefits to you, the veteran, and your family. If you have any questions on how to tap in to these resources, please call Terry Stader, your community's Veterans Services Officer at 978-392-1170.

Our website: www.westfordma.gov/veterans

Our blog: www.westfordma.gov/veterans/blog

Follow us on Twitter at: www.twitter.com/WestfordMAVets

We are on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/WestfordDVS

Council on Aging News

The Council on Aging along with the staff, volunteers and the entire community that retiring social worker Judy Ramirez has served over the past 11 plus years wishes her all the best as she moves onto the next phase of her life. Though we are sad to see her leave and will miss her greatly, we are also very happy for her and her family as they plan for exciting times ahead. Judy has been a tremendous asset for the Town as she has grown her area of expertise to serve all ages with compassion. We invite you to drop in at the Cameron Senior Center on Friday, June 22 from 2 – 4:30 PM to congratulate her. She has touched many lives of seniors and their families so please take this opportunity to wish her well! Please call ahead with a reservation so we can plan accordingly to 978-692-5523.

On May 16 Judy Ramirez was honored at the Statehouse as the 2012 Westford Unsung Heroine by the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women. Judy was nominated by State Rep. Jim Arciero for her work as the Council on Aging Social Worker, her involvement in Alzheimer's related causes, and as the first female chair of the Westford Recreation Commission; she is also active in her church. Judy serves as a mentor to young women aspiring to careers in social work. This honor is well deserved.



Rep. James Arciero and Judith E. Ramirez

Lowell Regional Transit Authority Administrator, James Scanlan presented Town Manager Jodi Ross the keys to a 2011 new 20 passenger van for use by the Council on Aging to meet the needs of elders and the disabled. Along with the 2011 van valued at \$58,000, Westford received two 2007 smaller vans that replaced our 2002 vans which had more than 150,000 miles on them. The vans take seniors and disabled to medical and hair appointments, shopping, the Cameron, and other locations. For a ride, call our transportation desk at 978-399-2322.

Westford Council on Aging (continued)



New Lowell Regional Transit Authority (LRTA) Council on Aging Van



From left are Selectman Kelly Ross, Westford Council on Aging board Chair Helena Crocker, COA member Eugene Jungbluth (rear), LRTA Administrator James Scanlan, Town Manager Jodi Ross, dispatcher and lead LRTA van driver Laura Mathis, and Director of Elder Services Joanne Sheehan

Council on Aging News (concluded)

Wednesday, June 13 at 12:15 PM **"Eating for a Healthier Heart"** at Cameron. *

Saturday, June 16 **Indoor Yard Sale** at Cameron from 8 AM - Noon.
If you would like to rent a table for \$15, please call 978-692-5523.

Grill Night at Cameron Thursday, June 21 and July 12 from 4 - 6:30 PM. Fee \$2.
Bring a salad or dish to share. *

Friday, June 22 **"Thank You Judy!"** at Cameron, drop in 2 - 4:30 to wish Judy Ramirez, L.I.C.S.W. well on her retirement. *

Tuesday, June 26 at Cameron 8:30 AM **"To Stay or Not to Stay"** presented by Coldwell Banker Real Estate and other local professionals. Continental breakfast will be served. *

July 1 starts our **fitness class reimbursement** from your health insurance carrier. Fifty free classes when you take out a membership. Ask your instructor for more information.

Independence Cookout, Tuesday, July 3 at Cameron 11:30 AM.
Free, but bring a salad or dessert to share. *

Food Pantry located at Cameron for the community has expanded their hours for distribution of groceries to the first and third week of the month with the following hours. Monday 1 - 3 PM, Wed. 8:30 - 11:30 AM, Thurs. 8:30 - 11:30 AM and 6 - 8 PM and Fri. 8:30 - 11:30 AM. We are closed holidays.

* Please reserve your spot by calling the Cameron Desk at 978-692-5523, thank you!

Transportation is available weekdays for people aged 60 and over and the disabled.
Please call 978-399-2322.



Thank you Judy!



Westford Senior Center

Westford Housing Authority News

Affordable Rental Opportunities are available at the recently renovated Abbot Mill Complex located at 1 Pleasant Street.

Household Income Limits for 50% of the area median income are as follows:

1 person	2 people	3 people	4 people
\$32,550	\$37,200	\$41,850	\$46,450

A limited number of units have been set aside for applicants who earn less than 50% of median income. The rents for these units are currently set at:

1 BR: \$818 plus utilities, 2BR: \$976 plus utilities.

Household Income Limits for 80% of the area median income are as follows:

1 person	2 people	3 people	4 people
\$45,500	\$52,000	\$58,500	\$65,000

A limited number of units have been set aside for applicants who earn less than 80% of median income. The rents for these units are currently set at:

1 BR: \$978 plus utilities, 2BR: \$1,255 plus utilities.

Preference will be given to Westford residents, relatives of Westford residents, town employees and/or graduates of Westford Academy or Nashoba Valley Technical High School who resided in the town of Westford at the time of their graduation.

An Information Session will be held on Wednesday, June 20, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. at the offices of the Westford Housing Authority, Elder Housing Community Room, 65 Tadmuck Road, Westford.

Applications are available at the Westford Housing Authority website: www.westfordma.gov, or in person at Abbot Mill, and the Westford Public Library.

The deadline for submitting completed applications is June 30, 2012, at 4:00 p.m.

If you have any questions about this opportunity, you may contact Heather Kohan at 978-692-6000 or genmgr@abbotmill.com. Website: www.abbotmill.com



****Selection by lottery****



Parks and Recreation News

Crew Program

The Westford Littleton Community Crew has had a successful competitive spring season. The High School team comprised of 53 members and Adult Masters with 20 members began the Regatta season with the Second Annual Forge Cup here in Westford. The Men's Novice 8+ and Men's Lightweight 4+ placed first. Teams traveled to compete in the 15th Annual Saratoga Invitational, Merrimack River Invitational, Lowell Invitational Regatta, Lake Quinsigamond Invitational, MPSRA State Championships Regatta, and finished the season with a scrimmage at Forge Pond against Dublin School (NH). At the conclusion of the scrimmage the recently purchased Resolute 4+ was dedicated to the former Coach Ken Gifford. Ken was instrumental in establishing the crew program in Westford, and it's tradition of naming new boats. The boat was purchased in part by funds raised by the athletes and coaches during the 1st Annual Erg-a-thon, Westford Friends of Recreation. Crew helped with additional fundraising and support. A new Middle School program saw 15 eager individuals begin to learn the techniques for competitive rowing. The Middle School program will continue this summer.

RED SOX tickets

There are still some tickets available for upcoming games. The change in manager and addition of new players has created quite a stir here in New England.

Game 1: Red Sox vs. Atlanta Braves. Date: Sunday, June 24, 1:35 p.m.

Game 2: Red Sox vs. Toronto Blue Jays. Date: Friday, July 20, 7:10 p.m.

Game 3: Red Sox vs. Kansas City Royals. Date: Saturday, August 25, 7:10 p.m.

All seats are located in the Outfield Grandstand Section. Fee: \$35/ticket. Max: 4 tickets/person.

LOWELL SPINNERS tickets

Want to see a game locally then check out the Lowell Spinners. There are tickets available for the following games:

Lowell Spinners vs. Staten Island Yankees (NY Yankees). Sunday, July 15, 5:00 p.m.

Lowell Spinners vs. Hudson Valley Renegades (Tampa Bay Rays). Sunday, August 19, 1:00 p.m.

Fee: \$9.50/ticket. Max: 4 tickets/person.

Concerts on the Common

Bring your lawn chairs, blankets, and even your picnic baskets to the common and enjoy some local musicians. We have scheduled four concerts this summer, free of charge Sundays, 4 to 6 p.m.

July 8 - Bare Hill Band - www.barehillband.com

July 22 - Dixie Land Band

August 5 - Nice Suit

August 19, Nashoba Valley Concert Band - nvcb.webs.com

If you or someone you know would like to perform, bring a demo tape to the Recreation Department at 35 Town Farm Road.

Cemetery Commission News

The Cemetery Commission is pleased to announce the installation of a columbarium at the Pine Grove Cemetery, Forge Village Road. The columbarium provides space called niches for burials of cremated remains. The granite structure was installed by Jeff Hardy of the Hardy Doric company. A dedication ceremony is being planned.



The recently installed columbarium

Animal Control - Bear Notice

It's springtime here in Westford, and the woods, fields, and streams are buzzing with wildlife including black bears. We have had several sightings in town. In order to coexist safely, we suggest that you remove bird feeders (especially suet and sunflower seeds) and treat compost piles and trash can areas with rags soaked in ammonia to help keep down the smell of food. If you see a bear, please leave it alone and do not chase or follow it. Their first response is usually to flee back into the woods, so chasing may cause the bear to run into traffic or into a populated area. Please make sure all dogs are under control. If you have a problem bear you can call Environmental Police at 1-800-632-8075 24 Hours per day or your local Mass Wildlife office on weekdays.

More information about black bears and animal control information is available on the Westford Animal Control Department web page.

Thank you,
Westford Animal Control



A black bear was spotted near Groton Road in Westford on May 20. Photo taken by Police Officer Mike Perciballi

Apple Blossom Parade



Westford Fire Department Honor Guard march in the Apple Blossom Parade. Photo by W. Wolfberg.



Roudenbush float. Photo by W. Wolfberg.



*Westford Fire Fighters Pipes and Drums
Photo by W. Wolfberg.*



Photo by W. Wolfberg.