



Jodi Ross,
Town
Manager

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October is
Breast Cancer
Awareness
Month



Town Brush Chipping
Saturday, Oct. 15th
10:30AM to 4:30PM

Harvest Fair
Saturday
Oct. 29th
Page 4

Trick or Treating Held
October 31st
6 – 8 pm



Watch Meetings
Online



www.westfordcat.org

Dear Westford residents,

A Special Town Meeting will be held on October 17th at 7:30 p.m. in the Abbot School gymnasium. The Timeline and Warrant are available through the following link: [STM 2016](#). Below is a summary of the motions in the warrant:

Article 1: Citizen's Petition: to petition the state legislature for one additional all alcohol license for a development company proposing a restaurant at 66-68 Boston Road. The proponent has indicated he will request town meeting dismiss this article.

Article 2: To appropriate \$2,231 to pay for an unpaid utility bill from last fiscal year incurred by the Water Department.

Article 3: To adjust this fiscal year's budget to appropriate the following sums from the corresponding sources:

General Fund

210 Police Personal Services \$62,853 for Superior Officers settled contract

432 Recycling Expenses \$46,000 for increased contract charges

Free Cash

215 Public Safety Communications \$60,000 for funding needed to provide training and back up for combined dispatch

220 Fire Personal Services \$47,000 to offset wages due to medical leaves

294 Tree Warden Expenses \$8,000 for forestry expenses

Water Enterprise Retained Earnings

Water Enterprise Personal Services \$18,823 for contract settlements

Ambulance Enterprise Retained Earnings

Ambulance Enterprise Personal Services \$23,500 to offset wages due to medical leaves

Article 4: To transfer \$30,000 within this fiscal year's budget from the Wastewater Management Capital Appropriation to cover a change in our plans to comply with DEP requirements at the Westford Academy's Wastewater Treatment Plant

Article 5: To make capital appropriations for this fiscal year from Free Cash with \$30,000 for the appraisal of easements for the Oak Hill and Groton Roads intersection improvements, and \$50,000 for the design of the Complete Streets Prioritization Projects.

Article 6: To authorize revolving funds in this fiscal year's budget for Town Forest Management using revenue from the sale of timber to maintain our town forests.

Article 7: To amend the Pay Classification Plan to create a new non-union position called Assistant Town Accountant/Finance & Budget Analyst (basically promoting the current Assistant Town Accountant from a union position to a new non union position.)

(continued on next page)

Article 8: To enter into a lease agreement for the Parks, Grounds, Recreation and Cemetery Departments to move into the former Courier complex at 22 Town Farm Road, with an initial term of 5 years and the option to extend for another 5 years. Additionally, to appropriate \$46,235 for the first year's lease, as well as move-in and furnishings costs.

Article 9: To transfer \$29,907 from a debt exclusion reduction fund in order to reduce the net amount to be raised by taxes for this fiscal year.

Article 10: To accept the schematic architectural design for the J.V. Fletcher Library and allow state grants to be applied for and used towards the construction project.

Article 11: To approve recommendations from the Community Preservation Committee for the use of [Community Preservation Funds](#) towards a recreation feasibility study in the amount of \$125,000 and the installation of a deep well and pump at the Community Garden in the amount of \$50,000. We have received an opinion from town counsel that the recreation feasibility study may not be paid for from CPA funds. The BoS will reconsider this article prior to town meeting.

Article 12: To accept Clare Circle as a town public way.

The week of October 9-15th was proclaimed as Westford Substance Abuse Prevention Week by the Board of Selectmen, and you may have noticed that buildings around town center were lit in purple light the first week this month as an effort known as "Light Up The Night" to raise awareness of domestic violence.

The Board of Selectmen and Planning Board held a joint meeting on Wednesday, October 12th, to discuss the settlement agreement with Newport Materials, LLC and 540 Groton Road, LLC regarding the proposed asphalt plant on Groton Road. The Boards want residents to understand their position and answer any questions. This meeting was stopped early in the meeting due to an overflow of attendees. The meeting has been rescheduled for 7pm on October 25th at Westford Academy. Documents related to the settlement are available on the Planning Board page of the Town website: [2016 October Settlement Documents](#)

Although not directly involved, Westford residents and businesses should be aware of MassDOT's decision to transition to an All Electronic tolling (AET) system for the Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90) as well as all of the Boston tunnels and the Tobin Memorial Bridge. At the end of this month, the toll plazas on I-90 will cease to be manned and tolling will occur at "gantries" along I-90. Transponders will be charged by the AETs and those vehicles without transponders will have licenses photographed and will be billed by MassDOT. More information can be found here: [All Electronic Tolling](#)

Please mark your calendars for the Presidential Election Day on November 8th. You may also vote early at Town Hall beginning October 24th through November 4th. Please contact the Town Clerk's office for information at (978) 692-5515. In light of the election and Thanksgiving, the Board of Selectmen have rescheduled the month's meetings to November 1st and November 15th.

Town staff are delighted each year to dress up in costumes and pass out treats to pre-schoolers for Halloween as the children tour Town Hall, the Police and Fire Stations. It is hard to discern who has more fun: our kids or our staff!

(continued on next page)

We are working diligently on a brand new website for our town which we plan to launch in November. The new site will have a modern look, have more up-to-date tools for interaction with residents, and very importantly, will be mobile-friendly. All existing content is being converted on to the new site, although it has been reorganized, so you may need to explore our new menus to find what you are looking for. **It is important to note, we are unable to migrate the subscription lists from the old site, so if currently receive email notifications, when the new site goes live you, will receive an email inviting you to subscribe on the new site where you may choose email and/or SMS notifications.**

There are several openings on other local boards and committees, including the Affordable Housing Committee, Communications Advisory Committee, Cultural Council, Historical Commission, and others, and I urge you to peruse our website for information about the work of these committees. 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](#).

I hope to see you at town meeting.

Sincerely,



Jodi Ross



Westford Fire Fighters support Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Council On Aging - Coming Events

HARVEST FAIR

The annual Harvest Fair, sponsored by Friends of the Cameron Senior Center, will be held **Saturday, October 29, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**, at Cameron Senior Center, 20 Pleasant St., Westford.

The building is handicapped-accessible, and admission and parking are free.

This year's event features a variety of vendors plus: handmade crafts, quilted and knitted items, vintage dolls, jewelry, plants, raffles, gift baskets, baked goods, a silent auction, snack bar and refreshments. A new addition is our "home goods" section, with gently-used small appliances, household linens, games, puzzles, fabrics and more.

Trudy's Boutique, the Cameron's thrift shop, will also be open concurrently, where buyers can purchase clothing, decorative furnishings and household decor.

All proceeds from the fair support the programs, activities and outreach support services of the Cameron Senior Center.

There's still room for vendors to rent a table -- just \$15!

Donations of themed raffle baskets or items for the silent auction are also welcomed. For info, call 978-692-5523.

CHECK SMOKE & CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

Cameron Senior Center and Westford Fire Department are partnering to assist seniors who need help changing smoke & carbon monoxide detector batteries.

If you require assistance, call the Cameron at 978-692-5523.

You will be notified when the Fire Department is available.

Please do not call the Fire Department.

If you live in a condo, your condo association should take care of this for you.

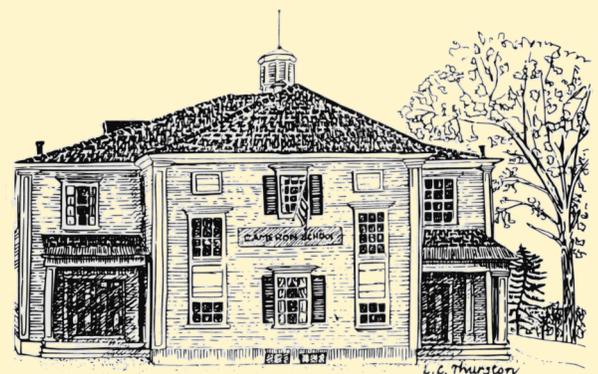
Please note that smoke detectors should be replaced every 10 years.



To view the complete
Council On Aging Newsletter

please visit our website at:

www.westfordma.gov/coa and click on
[Newsletters.](#)



Westford Senior Center

J. V. Fletcher Library News

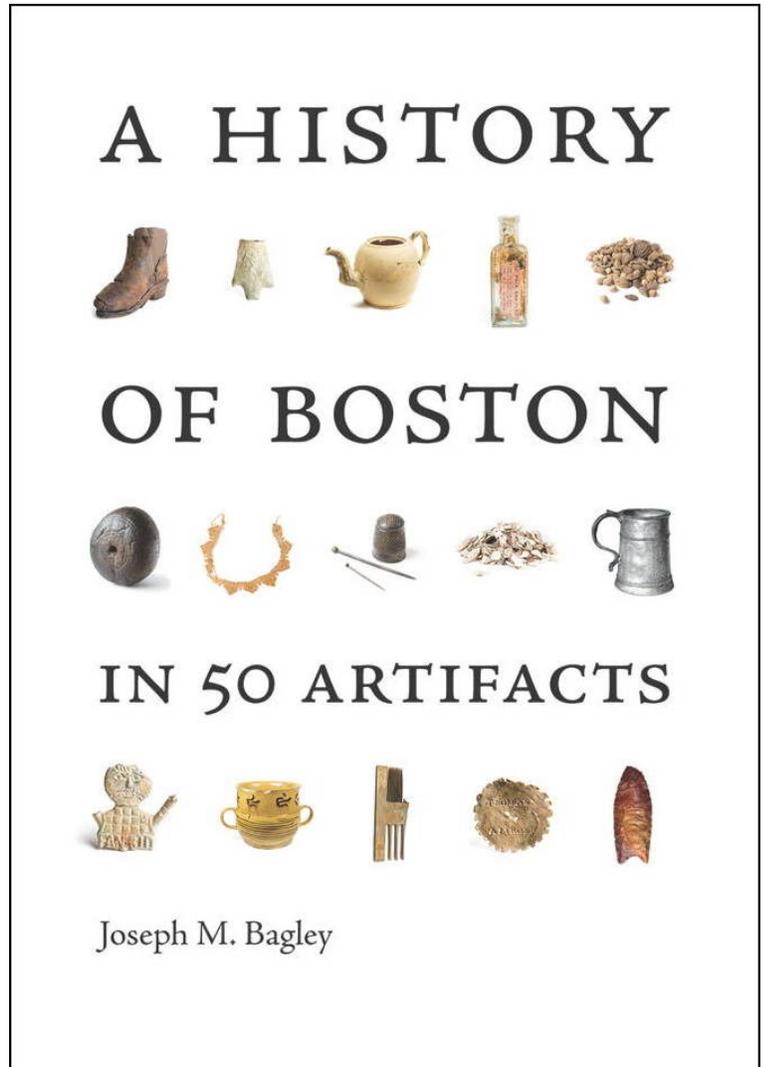
An Author and Archaeologist to speak at the Library

On November 3rd 2016, Joseph M. Bagley, Boston City Archaeologist and Author, will be the Friends' chosen Featured Speaker at 7:30 PM (after their Annual Meeting at 7:00 PM) in the ground floor Meeting Room of the Library.

Joe Bagley joined the City Archaeology Program in 2011 as Boston's fourth City Archaeologist. Bagley curates a growing repository of archaeological collections, acts as the review and compliance agent for below-ground cultural resources in the city, educates the public in archaeology through a number of city programs, manages Rainsford Island, and manages the Archaeology Programs social media platforms. He is also the author of [A History of Boston in 50 Artifacts](#) published by the University Press of New England in April 2016.

Every Archaeologist knows that "history" is right under our feet; we just need to dig to find it. Though not the most popular construction project, Boston's *Big Dig* contributed more to our understanding and appreciation of the city's archaeological history than any other recent event. In his book Bagley shows us how 50 "Big Dig" artifacts depict a fascinating hodgepodge of history from ancient fishing grounds to Jazz Age red-light districts. Each artifact

is shown in full color and accompanied by a description of its significance to its site location and the larger history of the city. From cannonballs to drinking cups and from ancient spears to chinaware, [A History of Boston in 50 Artifacts](#) offers a unique and accessible introduction to Boston's history and physical culture while revealing the ways artifacts offer a tantalizing entree into our past.



Town Treasurer / Collector Office

Help the Town of Westford **GO GREEN!** Sign up for E-Billing Today!

Go to <https://epay.cityhallsystems.com>

Click on Sign Up in the My Account block on the left.

Follow the prompts to set up your User Account.

Once set up, you will have the option to select E-Billing.



Benefits of signing up for E-Billing:

- Provides you with an easily retrievable copy of your tax bill
- E-billed notices go out each quarter (mailings are only twice a year)
- E-Billing helps to reduce the town's postage budget.
- **Secure.**

Thank you for taking advantage of our E-Billing option!

Questions? Call Tax Collector-Treasurer, Christine Collins at 978-399-2526

Town Clerk's Corner

Presidential Election Day is Tuesday, November 8, 2016

Polls will be open from 7:00am until 8:00pm

[Sample Ballot](#)

[Ballot Question Booklet](#)

The Deadline to [register to vote](#) is Wednesday, October 19th at 8:00pm.

This deadline also applies to 17 year olds who will be 18 on or before November 8th.

[ABSENTEE BALLOTS](#) are now available for this election from the Town Clerk's Office
The deadline to apply to vote absentee is 12:00 noon on Monday, November 7th.

[EARLY VOTING](#) will begin at 8:00am on Monday, October 24th and continue until Friday, November 4th at 4pm. The deadline to apply for an early voting ballot to be mailed is 12 noon on Friday, November 4th.

Early Voting Location: Town Hall, 55 Main Street,
Westford, MA

Early Voting Hours: Normal business hours (8:00am -
4:00pm)

Additional hours for early voting:

Tuesday October 25th: 8:00am - 8:00pm

Saturday October 29th: 10:00am - 2:00pm

Tuesday November 1st: 8:00am - 8:00pm

Friday November 4th: 6:00am - 4:00pm



Early Voting By mail:

An [Early voting application](#) is required if you plan to vote early by mail. Early Voter ballots will not be mailed until the beginning of the early voting period.

Transportation for residents 60 years of age or older, or disabled is available on Election Day and between the hours of 8:00am and 2:30pm during the early voting period. Please call the transportation program at the Cameron Senior Center 48 hours in advance to schedule a ride at (978) 399-2322. Donations appreciated.

Absentee and Early Voted ballots must be returned to the Town Clerk's Office by 8:00pm on November 8th (overseas ballots must be postmarked by November 8th and received within 10 days later) in order to be counted.

Questions? Please contact us!

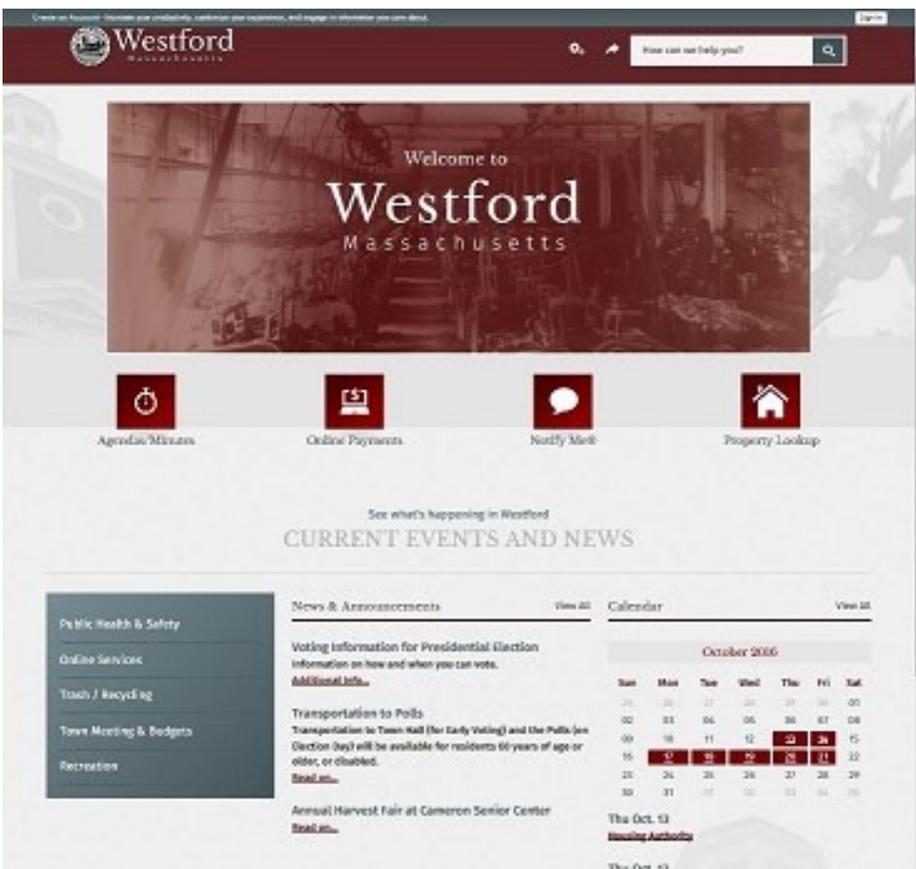
Town Clerk's Office - 55 Main Street - Town Hall

Tel: 978-692-5515 - general office email: townclerk@westfordma.gov

Westford Technology Department

New Town Website

We are working hard on a brand new website for the town which we plan to launch in November. The new site will have a modern look, have more up-to-date tools for interaction with residents, and very importantly will be mobile friendly. All the existing content is being converted on to the new site although it has been reorganized so you may have to explore the new menus to find some things. We are unable to migrate the subscription lists from the old site so if you are currently receiving email notifications then when the new site goes live you will receive an email inviting you to subscribe on the new site where you can choose email and/or SMS notifications.



Desktop / Full Size Browser



Mobile Device Browser

Health Department News



LIGHT UP THE NIGHT REMEMBERING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Westford Coalition for Non-Violence, in partnership with the Live for Liv Foundation, hosted its annual domestic violence program in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month on October 5, 2016 at the Parish Center for the Arts (PCA). Thanks to a generous contribution from John Hooper of Tri - Circle Lighting of Billerica, the Westford Town Common, PCA, Westford Library, Town Hall, and the Police Station were aglow in purple light to highlight awareness of Domestic Violence.

Bill Olsen, Superintendent of schools, moderated the evening and Maria Crooker, Sr. Director of Outreach & Supportive Services from the Alternative House in Lowell, gave an inspirational speech on domestic violence. The main event featured live performances by WA theatre arts students under the artistic direction of Mike Towers, and music by Westford Academy Honors Choir, directed by Karen St. George. The students' moving and powerful performance left the audience speechless. All performers and participants should be commended for their hard work and dedication toward addressing domestic violence.

At the conclusion of the performance, all in attendance held a candlelight vigil on the common. To honor those who have died, Jody Marchand, survivor and parent of a DV victim, founder of the Live for Liv Foundation, and a member of Westford Coalition for Non-Violence, read the names of the 13 MA victims of domestic violence during 2016. To close the evening, the Honors Choir presented a deeply emotional performance on the gazebo, which was bathed in purple light.



Health Department News (continued)

FLU Clinic Schedule Westford Residents Only

Regular Flu Clinics:

- October 28: 10:00am-12:00pm Library
- November 4: 10:00am-12:00pm Library
- November 8: 6:00 pm-8:00 pm Millennium
- November 16: 6:00 pm-8:00 pm Millennium



Homebound individuals, who require a home visit, should contact the Health Department at 978-692-5509 to schedule an appointment.

This year's vaccine is formulated to contain higher hemagglutinin (HA) of each of the following three influenza strains recommended for the 2016-2017 influenza season: NCalifornia/07/2009 X-179A (H1N1), A/Hong Kong/4801/2014 X-263-B(H3N2) , and B/Brisbane/60/2008(B Victoria Lineage) Quadrivalent vaccines include flu B virus called B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus (B/Yamagata lineage).

THIS YEAR WE WILL ONLY BE PROVIDING FLU SHOTS AND NOT THE FLU MIST at the Middle Schools (6-8 grades) and Westford Academy.

Please register on the Westford Health Dept. website under flu clinics and follow the prompts. Please bring the completed insurance form to the Health Department at the Town Hall or mail it in by October 26.

- November 1, 2016 Blanchard Middle School at 7:35am
- November 2, 2016 Stony Brook Middle School at 7:35am
- November 3, 2016 Westford Academy starting at 7:00am

Drugs and Sharps Take Back Day

Turn in your unused or expired medications for safe disposal.

Date: Saturday Oct. 22nd

Time: 10am to 2pm

Place: Westford Police Station, 53 Main Street

For more information, please call:
Westford Health Dept 978-692-5509
Westford Police Dept 978-692-2161



Health Department News (continued)

UMV MRC Volunteers Honored for Their Service

The Upper Merrimack Valley Medical Reserve Corps recognized National Preparedness Month by hosting its annual appreciation dinner for members who had participated in activities throughout the year. Sixty-three participants joined us as we celebrated their many accomplishments. Volunteers had screened hundreds of area residents for hypertension; staffed clinics across the region that vaccinated thousands against influenza, pneumonia and shingles; widely promoted the 'Let's Move!' initiative that encourages family fitness; and raised awareness of public health campaigns at numerous wellness events. Members also certified in CPR and first aid, attended a range of classes, and continually upgraded their skills for disaster response. We'd like to thank all of our members who take the time to train, participate in events, and remain on standby in case they are called upon to promote a public health initiative, or to help their community in time of need.



Health Department News (continued)

Recently, there have been several confirmed cases of MRSA in the Westford School System. MRSA is very common and treatable, and there are some steps that we can all take to help avoid infection. Here is some guidelines provided by the CDC.



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC general information about Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, MRSA:

MRSA is methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, a type of staph bacteria that is resistant to several antibiotics. In the general community, MRSA most often causes skin infections. In some cases, it causes pneumonia (lung infection) and other issues. If left untreated, MRSA infections can become severe and cause sepsis - a life-threatening reaction to severe infection in the body.

Who Is At Risk, and How Is MRSA Spread In The Community?

Anyone can get MRSA on their body from contact with an infected wound or by sharing personal items, such as towels or razors, that have touched infected skin. MRSA infection risk can be increased when a person is in activities or places that involve crowding, skin-to-skin contact, and shared equipment or supplies. People including athletes, daycare and school students, military personnel in barracks, and those who recently received inpatient medical care are at higher risk.

How Common Is MRSA?

Studies show that about one in three people carry staph in their nose, usually without any illness. Two in 100 people carry MRSA. There are not data showing the total number of people who get MRSA skin infections in the community.

Can I Prevent MRSA? How?

There are the steps you can take to reduce your risk of MRSA infection:

- Maintain good hand and body hygiene. Wash hands often, and clean your body regularly, especially after exercise.
- Keep cuts, scrapes and wounds clean and covered until healed.
- Avoid sharing personal items such as towels and razors.

What are MRSA Symptoms?

Sometimes, people with MRSA skin infections first think they have a spider bite. However, unless a spider is actually seen, the irritation is likely not a spider bite. Most staph skin infections, including MRSA, appear as a bump or infected area on the skin that might be:

- Red
- Swollen
- Painful
- Warm to the touch
- Full of pus or other drainage
- Accompanied by a fever

Get care early if you think you might have an infection

(MRSA Continued on next page)

Health Department News (continued)

What Should I do if I Think I Have a Skin Infection?

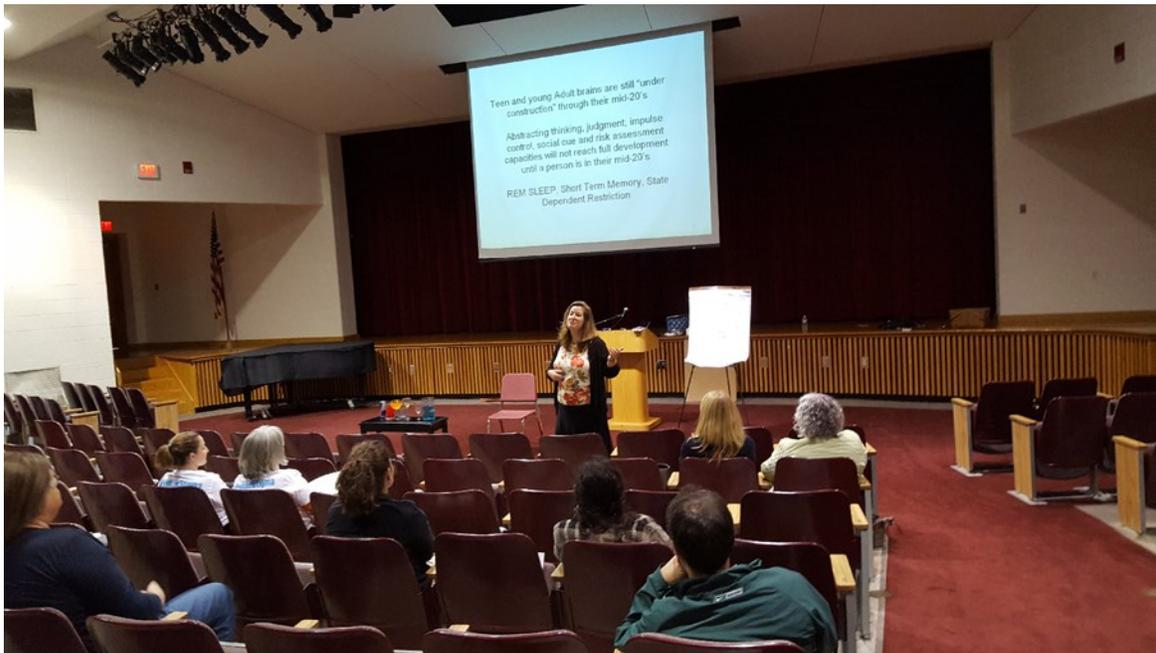


- You can't tell by looking at the skin if it is a staph infection (including MRSA).
- Contact your doctor if you think you have an infection. Finding infections early and getting care make it less likely that the infection will become severe.
- Do not try to treat the infection yourself by picking or popping the sore.
- Cover possible infections with clean, dry bandages until you can be seen by a doctor, nurse, or other health care provider.

How To Prevent Spreading MRSA

- Cover your wounds. Keep wounds covered with clean, dry bandages until healed. Follow your doctor's instructions about proper care of the wound. Pus from infected wounds can contain MRSA so keeping the infection covered will help prevent the spread to others. Bandages and tape can be thrown away with the regular trash. Do not try to treat the infection yourself by picking or popping the sore.
- Clean your hands often. You, your family, and others in close contact should wash their hands often with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand rub, especially after changing the bandage or touching the infected wound.
- Do not share personal items. Personal items include towels, washcloths, razors and clothing, including uniforms.
- Wash used sheets, towels, and clothes with water and laundry detergent. Use a dryer to dry them completely.
- Wash clothes according to manufacturer's instructions on the label. Clean your hands after touching dirty clothes

Health Department News (continued)



The Westford Health Department presented a program titled **Youth Substance Use: Why it Matters, How it has Changed & What you can do About it**. Lee Anne Dodge, an Education Specialist on Tobacco and Substance Use Prevention Team at the Maine Center for Disease Control, provided a fun and educational evening about the Teen Brain and how it develops and functions.

On November 1st 7 PM at the Stony Brook Middle School, State Senator Jason Lewis will do a presentation about the fact finding trip to Colorado he led with the State Senators. Senator Lewis will speak on the impacts of Medical Marijuana and legalization. Best practice to prevent the diversion of marijuana to youth and new evidence from Colorado on legalization.

Recycling Commission - Fall Dates

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Saturday, November 5, 2016

9:00 AM to 1 PM

Westford Highway Garage, 28 North Street

Fee: \$20 per car with new payment policy - checks preferred

Westford typically holds a Household Hazardous Waste Collection every two years for Westford residents only.

Proof of residency is required (driver's license, phone bill, etc.). Fee: \$20/car. New payment policy - CHECKS PREFERRED.

Residents are encouraged to work with neighbors to consolidate volume.

Note: Latex paint will not be accepted.

For HHW event flyer and more details, please visit www.westfordma.gov/recycling.

Leaf Collections

Saturday, November 5, 2016

Saturday, December 3, 2016

Acme Waste Systems will be collecting leaves. The cost is \$1.25 per bag with a minimum charge of \$20.00 per pick up. Call the Town Clerk's office at 978-692-5515 to register.

Place your leaves, grass clippings and pine needles into paper leaf bags and have them at the curb by 7 AM on the collection day. Leaves will not be picked up if they are not in paper leaf bags.

YOU PAY ACME DIRECTLY BY ATTACHING A CHECK PAYABLE TO ACME WASTE SYSTEMS TO ONE OF YOUR LEAF BAGS ON COLLECTION DAY.

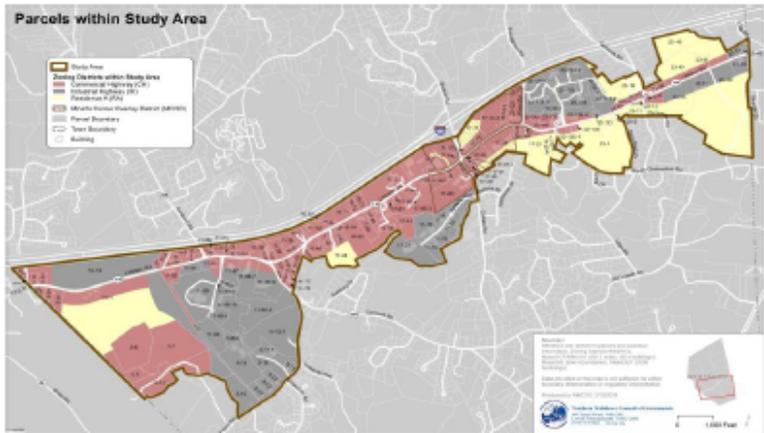
There must be a minimum of 50 resident requests to insure the yard waste collection is held. Please Tell your neighbors!



REDUCE, REUSE, AND RECYCLE



SAVE THE DATE



NOVEMBER 3, 2016
MULTI-FAMILY
ZONING ALONG
ROUTE 110
STONY BROOK
SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
7:00 P.M.



PROVIDE YOUR INPUT
ABOUT WHETHER THE
TOWN SHOULD RE-
ZONE AREAS NEAR
ROUTE 110 TO ALLOW
MULTI-FAMILY
HOUSING

SPONSORED BY THE
AFFORDABLE HOUSING
COMMITTEE

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
PAUL TEIXEIRA
978-692-6011

pteixeira@westfordma.gov

TOWN OF WESTFORD
 55 Main Street
 Westford MA
 978-692-5524
www.westfordma.gov

