



Town of Westford Massachusetts

Town Manager's Newsletter

November 2016



Jodi Ross,
Town
Manager

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www.westfordma.gov/tm
978-692-5500

Important:
Our new website notification system requires users to renew subscriptions to all notifications. Please take the time now to [renew notifications](#)



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Watch
Meetings Online
westford CAT
community access television
www.westfordcat.org

Dear Westford residents,

As they do annually, the Board of Selectmen voted to re-organize at their November 1st meeting, assigning Andrea Peraner-Sweet as Chair, Scott Hazelton as Vice-Chair, and Mark Kost as Clerk.

Commendations are in order to recognize the hard work of all the folks who helped support the recent election, especially our Town Clerk's office, our Election Officers, and many other staff and volunteers who helped meet the challenge of making early voting available for our residents. Over 30% of our residents voted early, and it was nice to see the daily crowds in the town hall. I would also note the commitment of our residents, as we can boast an over 80% voter turnout!

Our town is so proud of our resident military veterans. As we do annually, we honored them on November 11th and thanked them for their service to our country. Thank you to all who attended, and also to our special guest speakers, including State Senator Eileen Donoghue, State Representative Jim Arciero, Board of Selectmen Chair, Andrea Peraner-Sweet, and especially to the day's host, Terry Stader, US Navy (retired), our town's Veterans' Service Officer. Selectman Peraner-Sweet recognized Terry for all of his contributions, not only to our country, but to our veteran residents in his role as Veterans' Agent.



Beginning November 14th, our town's official website has a new look. One important reason for the update is to make our website more smart phone compatible. We hope our new website will help users get valuable information and find answers to everyday questions. If you would like to receive email notifications of public notices or public meetings, or if you previously signed up to receive email notifications on the old site, you will need to sign up again for notifications through the new site. You may do so at the following link: [Alert/Notification registration page](#).

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WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV

I am pleased to announce Standard and Poor's recently reaffirmed our AAA rating. Standard and Poor's published their rationale for maintaining our rating citing: a very strong economy, strong management, and strong budgetary performance, among other things. The rating informs investors that Westford is a fiscally sound community and that our bonds carry very little risk. The excellent rating makes our bonds more desirable than a lower rated issuer's bonds, therefore the interest rate we pay is lower. Lower interest rates on bonds means less money has to be budgeted for long term interest payments. The savings are substantial over the course of a 20 year loan. Thank you to our department heads, financial team, and our town boards and officials for helping us keep this prestigious designation.

Thank you to all who prepared for, conducted, and especially attended the Special Town Meeting on October 17th in the Abbot School gymnasium. Please see a recap of the action below. Town Meeting documents are available on the town website at the following link: [STM 2016](#).

Article	Title	Result
Article 1	Authorization for the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for one (1) additional all alcohol on premises license to be exercised by Westford Gateway, LLC located at 66-68 Boston Road, Westford.	Dismissed unanimously
Resolution 1	Whereas the Town of Westford intends to protect our investments in our Agricultural Preservation Restricted (APR) lands, to maintain affordable agricultural use of this land, prevent commercial encroachment into restricted and residential areas, and protect our natural resources in perpetuity. Resolve that the Town Meeting advises the Board of Selectman and town government to discontinue use of any further resources for any purpose that would serve to undermine the integrity of the Agricultural Preservation Restrictions or other protected lands in the Town of Westford, including, but not limited to, discontinuance of any support for the construction of a restaurant on protected land. Further, the Board should direct resources as needed to enforce the APRs and their intended purposes, and use the full extent of their authority to have the property cleaned up.	<i>(initially deemed passed by majority but then a counted vote was requested after Article 2 had been voted)</i> Failed by a counted vote of 103 in favor to 114 opposed.
Article 2	Approve Unpaid Bills from Previous Fiscal Year(s)	Passed Unanimously
Article 3	Approve Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Adjustments	Passed Unanimously
Resolution 2	WHEREAS, when the Town of Westford purchased the 3 APRs for the 66-68 Boston Road Drew Farms property in 1996, a 2/3 vote was required of that town meeting. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectman bring any decision concerning the 3 APRs for 66-68 Boston Road to town meeting for a 2/3 vote for approval.	Failed by a counted vote of 58 in favor to 119 opposed.
Article 4	Approve Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Transfers	Passed Unanimously
Article 5	Approve Fiscal Year 2017 Capital Appropriations	Passed by Majority
Article 6	Authorize Revolving Funds	Passed Unanimously
Article 7	Amend the Wage and Classification Plan	Passed by Majority
Article 8	Authorize the Selectmen to Enter a Lease for the Office and Programming Space for the Parks, Recreation, and Cemetery Departments in Building 18 of the former Courier/RR Donnelley Printing Facility at 22 Town Farm Road and Appropriate Funds for the First Year of the Lease and Appropriate Funds for the First Year of the Lease	Passed by 2/3 declared majority
Article 9	Reduce Amount Raised by Taxes in Fiscal Year 2017	Passed Unanimously
Article 10	Acceptance of Schematic Design for the J.V. Fletcher Library	Passed Unanimously
Article 11	Approve Community Preservation Committee Recommendations: Motion 1: \$125 for recreation feasibility study; and Motion 2: \$50,000 for the installation of a deep well and pump shed at the W. Otis & Alice V. Day Westford Community Garden and any other related costs.	Main motion was divided into two motions. Motion 1: Dismissed unanimously; Motion 2: Passed by Majority
Article 12	Accept Clare Circle as a Public Way	Passed Unanimously

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Our town officials are discussing a number of capital projects to help meet the needs of our residents and our aging infrastructure. The Board of Selectmen recently discussed the prioritization of these projects, including: the Boston Road Fire Station; the Combined Dispatch Center; the rehabilitation of the Roudenbush Community Center; a possible expansion of the J.V. Fletcher Library; a Recreation Survey/Feasibility Study; and a new town center building to replace the fire station. For more information on these projects you may check out the websites of the [Capital Planning Committee](#) and the [Permanent Town Building Committee](#).

As in years past, I was thrilled to have Trick-or-Treating pre-schoolers come to town hall on Halloween to receive candy and adoration from town staff, many of whom also dressed up for the occasion. The police department, fire station and library also participated, and it is very special for us to have some of our youngest residents visit us in town hall.

I would like to thank Emily Teller, of the Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT), along with all other "BFRT friends", and many others who helped create new amenities along the rail trail. Specifically, new granite benches and an informational/educational kiosk with information about the trail have been unveiled near the Route 27/225 intersection. The new four benches are made of granite from our own Fletcher Quarry (now Granites of America). Two benches were placed on either



side of the kiosk, and two more are near the crossing of the BFRT and Route 27 further north. Each bench is engraved with text, so bike or walk on the BFRT soon to read them. Earlier this spring, updated safe-crossing equipment at the BFRT/Route 27 crossing was made possible by a very generous donation to the Friends of the BFRT by the O'Donnell-Weiselquist family of Westford. Cars have the right of way at this street crossing, and the sign both thanks this supportive family and reminds trail users that they must stop and wait for vehicles to either pass or to yield them the right of way. Over 40 people were instrumental in Westford's kiosk and benches, including Circle Health/Lowell General Hospital, Selectmen and other committees and boards; MassDOT; Garside Granite; Harvard Pilgrim Health Care via a resident's grant application; our legislators; a Westford parent who envisioned a memorial to her son; a resident consultant; resident highway-sign maker; Fletcher Quarry administrators and workers; generous abutters; the Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, Inc, and town staff. These amenities welcome trail users to Westford, and encourage them to pause, relax and learn more about the history and details of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail and other rail trails in the region. For more information and photos, please visit brucefreemanrailtrail.org

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Thank you to Sandra Habe, Assistant Recreation Director, who is leaving the town's employ. We are grateful for your 18 years of dedication, innovation, and extraordinary effort, and we wish you well in your new life's chapter.

There are several openings on other local boards and committees, including the Affordable Housing Committee, Energy Committee, Historical Commission, Public Works Initiative Committee, Parks and Recreation 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](#).

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,



Jodi Ross
Town Manager



Gargoyles of Roudenbush

J.V. Fletcher Library

Widening Westford's World



Thanks to the generosity of the Friends of the J. V. Fletcher Library, Inc. the Library is pleased to announce that we now own, and are circulating, a second Orion Starblast 4.5" Astro Reflector Telescope. Both Telescopes are maintained by the Aldrich Astronomical Society who developed the highly successful "adopt-a-library telescope program" in Massachusetts.

Westfordians have thoroughly embraced the idea of checking out a Telescope along with their books, DVD's and Audiobooks. Their popularity is due in part to their being the perfect family-friendly scope for entry-level and intermediate enthusiasts. And of course the library is thrilled to offer a service that fosters scientific literacy, stimulates an interest in Astronomy and gives residents the chance to experience the excitement that comes with exploring and discovering the night sky.

A Fletcher Library telescope was in a family's home on August 27, 2016 when Venus and Jupiter appeared to touch as they passed one another like two ships in the twilight sky. And now two telescopes will be in Westford homes in January 2017 when the Quadrantids Meteor Showers arrive. The Quadrantids are an above average shower with up to 40 meteors in the sky per hour at its peak. It is thought to be produced by dust grains left behind by an extinct comet known as 2003EH1, which was discovered in 2003.



While the waiting lists are long (now cut in half) but don't miss out on the excitement of getting to see astronomical events or even ever-present wonders like the rings around Saturn or our moon.



Research, learn and discover.
WWW.WESTFORDLIBRARY.ORG



Recreation Department

Good Luck to Sandra Habe

Sandra Habe, Westford Parks & Recreation Assistant Director, has taken a new position with Yule Development. During the past 18 years, Sandra has dedicated herself to growing and strengthening programs for Westford residents. These programs include, the *Westford Partnership for Children After School Enrichment Program*, (WPC), now active at seven Westford Schools; and *Westford Area Rowing*, a community crew program for ages 12 to adult that fosters team work and perseverance.

Thanks to Sandra, there are numerous programs offered by the Parks & Recreation Department that tap into the area's natural resources, including summer youth programs, *Destination Exploration* and *Leadership*, and *Biking with Sandra*, unique New England day trips lead by Sandra for both beginner and experienced cyclists. The Parks & Recreation Department, and the town of Westford, have benefited immensely from Sandra's passion, energy, and expertise in the area of counseling, program development, and recreation operations. In her new role, Sandra will continue to support Westford residents through the development of amenities and programming that is designed for the community.



On November 3, the Parks & Recreation department sponsored a farewell party for Sandra at Westford's Evviva Cucina. Amidst toasts and accolades, Town Manager, Jody Ross, reminded all of us of some of the great programs Sandra has dedicated herself to during her tenure. In particular, she mentioned Kids Club, one of the departments most popular summer programs. Initially a small group of children, Kids Club has grown through the years with over 530 session enrollments during this past summer. The Town, the Parks & Recreation Commission, and the Department will miss Sandra, and wish her well in her new endeavor.

Westford Partnership for Children (WPC) News

WPC is offering a Special Full-day Program on Tuesday, November 22. The morning will start off with bowling at Lefty Lanes in Milford NH – pizza included! After bowling, the children will head to Merrimack, NH for a movie at the Cinemagic Theatre. For details, call 978-692-5532. To access a registration form, go to “additional forms and files” on the school pages of myrec.com.

WPC, the Parks & Recreation After School Enrichment Program, is pleased to welcome two new Site Directors: Kim Petalas, the new Site Director at Stony Brook Middle School, and Sara Waterman, the new Site Director at Nabnasset School. Sara is replacing Geri Simons, who is retiring from the program after eight dedicated years. Congratulations to Geri!

WPC would like to thank Farmer Dave, from Hill Orchard Farm Stand in Westford, for donating eight bushels of apples to the WPC After School Program. Farmer Dave offers vegetables and fruits at more than a dozen Farmers' Markets in eastern Massachusetts.

WPC provides a safe, stimulating, and fun environment Monday through Friday, from school dismissal until 5:45 p.m. The program encompasses a range of activities, from homework help and science exploration, to math, technology, storytelling, visual arts, and sports and games. The WPC program runs five sessions during the school year, each with unique activities and flexible hours that support the needs of the town's children and their families.

Coming Soon—Relocation for Parks & Recreation

This winter, Westford Parks & Recreation will be moving to 22 Town Farm Road, just moments away from our office. With 4500 square feet, the new location will provide more office space, and programming space, allowing Parks & Recreation to further enhance and expand their current offerings. More to come – stay tuned.

Health Department

SAFE TURKEY PREPARATION FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The holiday season is just about upon us again and the Westford Health Department and the Partnership for Food Safety Education wants everybody to celebrate and enjoy Thanksgiving safely! While preparing your family feasts, we want to remind everybody to keep food safety in mind. Here are a few tips and thoughts.

CLEAN: Wash hands and surfaces often.

SEPARATE: Separate raw meats from other foods.

COOK: Cook to the right temperature (Turkey to 165 degrees)

CHILL: Refrigerate food promptly



Additionally, The Westford Health Department and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission would like to issue some safety tips for preventing fires and burns when using turkey fryers. Turkey fryers have become very popular in the past few years, due to the ability to cook a turkey quickly, but there is some risk in using them. The majority of reported incidents occurred while the oil was being heated, prior to adding the turkey. For this reason, it is very important consumers monitor the temperature of the oil closely. If **any smoke at all** is noticed coming from a heating pot of oil, the burner should be turned off immediately because the oil is overheated.

There is a risk of injury resulting from splashing due to the cooking of partially frozen meats. Thoroughly thaw and dry ALL meats before cooking in hot oil. One reported burn incident occurred when partially frozen chicken wings were added to hot oil in a turkey fryer.

- Keep fryer in FULL VIEW while burner is on.
- Place fryer in an open area AWAY from all walls, fences, or other structures.
- Never use IN, ON, or UNDER a garage, breezeway, carport, porch, or any structure that can catch fire.
- Raise and lower food SLOWLY to reduce splatter and avoid burns.
- COVER bare skin when adding or removing food.
- Check the oil temperature frequently.
- If oil begins to smoke, immediately turn gas supply OFF.
- **If a fire occurs, immediately call 911. DO NOT attempt to extinguish fire with water.**
- Make sure there is at least 2 feet of space between the liquid propane tank and fryer burner.
- Place the liquid propane gas tank and fryer so that any wind blows the heat of the fryer away from the gas tank.
- Center the pot over the burner on the cooker.
- Completely thaw (USDA says 24 hours for every 4 to 5 pounds) and dry turkey before cooking. Partially frozen and/or wet turkeys can produce excessive hot oil splatter when added to the oil.



Follow the manufacturer's instructions to determine the proper amount of oil to add. If those are not available:

- Place turkey in pot
- Fill with water until the turkey is covered by about 1/2 inch of water
- Remove and dry turkey
- Mark water level. Dump water, dry the pot, and fill with oil to the marked level.

Health Department (continued)

CELEBRATE WITH CARE 2016

As we enter a busy holiday season, the Westford Health Department, once again encourages residents of Westford to make the most of holiday celebrations, **Celebrate with Care**. One of the most dangerous times of the year on our nation's roadways is between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day. The holidays are supposed to be a joyful time, but for families of drunk driving victims, the season can be a painful reminder of a loved one's absence.

In our society, consumption of alcohol and celebrations traditionally go hand in hand. Anyone can experience problems when drinking alcohol. Alcohol is a depressant. Use may affect cognitive ability, coordination and physical health. During a season when energy levels need to be high, stress levels tend to rise and social opportunities abound, we need to keep in mind the importance of **Celebrating with Care**.

As a parent, remember that you cannot give alcohol to your teen's friends under the age of 21, under any circumstance, even in your own home, even with their parent's permission. You cannot knowingly allow a person under 21, other than your own child, to remain in your home or on your property while consuming or possessing alcohol.

The following are some tips to make hosting or attending a holiday party a healthy, safe and fun celebration.

As a host of a party, make the most of your celebration:

- Provide attractive, appetizing non-alcoholic beverages
- Create a relaxed atmosphere
- Never insist someone drink alcoholic beverages
- Plan activities to keep guests entertained
- Serve plenty of food and limit any salty, thirst provoking items
- REMEMBER: Serving any person under the age of 21 is ILLEGAL

When attending a holiday party:

- Make healthy decisions about drinking alcohol
- Prior to attending any party or social event, think about yourself first
- Take your own non-alcoholic beverage of choice to the party
- It is not necessary to explain why you have chosen not to drink
- If going with a friend, make a pact that you will not abandon each other
- Adopt the attitude that drinking does not need to be the focus of the party
- Ask yourself how drinking affects your health, others, and control

For more information, call Ray Peachey, Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator at the Westford Board of Health, 978-399-2528, or rpeachey@westfordma.gov.

Health Department (continued)

CELEBRATE WITH CARE 2016

Below are some non-alcoholic drinks:

Almost Like Orange Julius recipe

- 3 oz. frozen orange juice concentrate
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 tsp vanilla
- 6 ice cubes



Combine orange juice concentrate, milk, water, sugar, vanilla and ice cubes in blender container. Cover and blend until smooth, about 30 seconds. Serve immediately.

Banana Colada

- 3 medium banana chunked
- 1 cup skim milk
- 8 oz crushed pineapple in juice
- 6 tbsp. cream of coconuts
- 2 tbsp. sugar
- 1 1/2 tbsp. ground allspice
- 2 cups crushed ice



In a blender, combine the bananas, skim milk, pineapple and its juice, cream of coconut, sugar, rum extract and allspice. Blend mixture into a puree. Add the ice and blend again until smooth.

Virgin Pina Colada

- 7 oz. pineapple juice
- 2 oz. coconut cream
- 1 cup crushed ice

Add the pineapple juice, coconut cream and crushed ice to a blender; blend at high speed. Pour into a collins glass. Garnish with a maraschino cherry, a pineapple wedge, and serve.



Home HEATING SAFETY

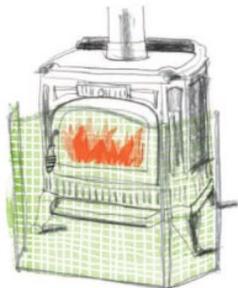
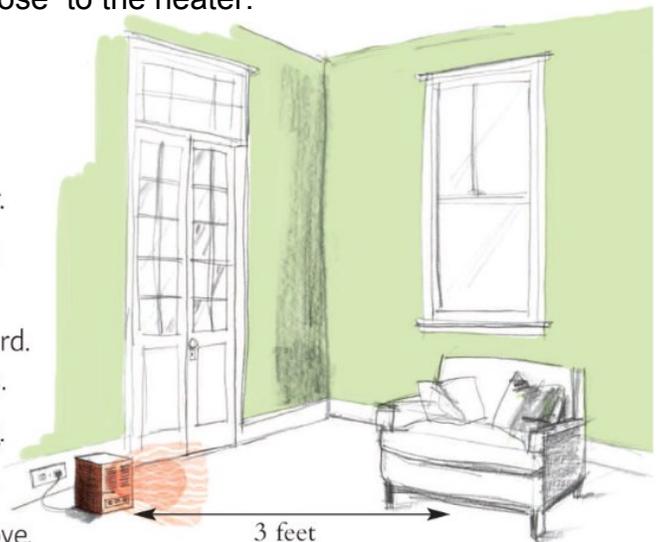
Space heaters and wood or coal stoves can give you extra warmth during the cold winter months if you **use them safely!**

BUT if the heaters are in the wrong place, they can cause serious fires, injuries and deaths.

One hundred and twenty five (125) space heater fires were reported to the Office of the State Fire Marshal between 2005 and 2014. **While these fires are not frequent, they are deadly.** One of every 16 space heater fires causes a fatality. These fires caused 23 civilian injuries, 27 fire service injuries, and an estimated dollar loss of \$7 million. The average dollar loss for a space heater fire is \$55,982. Twenty-five percent (25%) of these fires were caused when combustible materials such as bedding, magazines, newspapers, clothing or furniture were too close to the heater, and another 3% were caused when rugs, carpets or mats were under or too close to the heater.

Follow these safety practices with your space heaters and wood or coal stoves:

- The heater or stove should be stable, so that it doesn't tip over.
- It should be at least **3 feet** from things that can catch fire, like curtains, small rugs, papers, and furniture.
- If you must use an extension cord, make sure it is a heavy-duty cord. Heavy-duty extension cords are thicker and have three prongs.
- Turn off space heaters while you are out of the room or sleeping.
- Have the inside of your chimney cleaned before winter arrives.
- Put a screen or other barrier around the heater or wood or coal stove.



Remember:

- Keep your children away from the heater or stove.
- Don't use kerosene heaters inside your house. It's illegal in Massachusetts.
- Don't use your gas oven for heat. Don't use grilling charcoal for heat. Their fumes can poison you and your family, especially while you sleep.
- Make sure you install a carbon monoxide detector in your home to warn you about poisonous fumes.
- There are fuel assistance programs in Massachusetts to help families pay their heating bills. Call your city/town hall to find out about these programs.

New Town News Subscription Manager



The town's new website uses a different method to notify people of new items. Users who have subscribed on the old website need to register on the new site to continue receiving notices.

Please visit www.westfordma.gov/list.aspx and follow the simple instructions to sign up for the various feeds available. You will receive email from us to confirm each thing you sign up for, and you need to click the link in each of those emails before it will start working. This confirmation process provided security ensuring that only you can change your notification settings.

While visiting the new website consider setting up a profile account. This allows you to gather feeds from the website into a custom portal and as we implement some of the new features of the site you will be able to save data and track the progress of your interactions with the town.



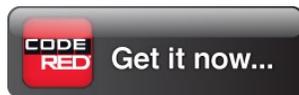
Register Additional Phone Numbers with Reverse 911

CodeRED is a Community Messaging System, used to notify residences of emergency, and general information through an automated telephone dialing system.

Most residents will not need to take action in order to receive notification of events on their home telephone. However, if you have recently moved into Westford, changed your home phone number, or have an unlisted phone number you will need to register your phone number

[Click here](#) to register additional phone numbers or email addresses.

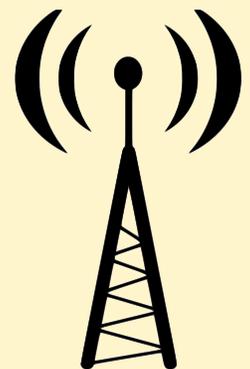
Download the CodeRED Mobile Alert App for your smartphone [Here](#):



Be Prepared And Informed Incase of and Emergency

Set Your Radio Preset to Westford Emergency Management's 1630 AM

In an emergency tune in to Westford's 1630 AM for local information.



Council On Aging Events



HOLIDAY BREAKFAST WITH BOARD OF SELECTMEN AND JODI ROSS

Our annual combined Women's and Men's Breakfast will take place on **Wednesday, December 14th at 8 a.m.**

Join in this fun occasion by mingling and catching up with friends and enjoy a delicious breakfast prepared by our supportive Town Selectman and Town Manager, Jodi Ross. Sign up now at 978-692-5523.

CHRISTMAS/HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE – NOVEMBER 28TH THROUGH DECEMBER 3RD

Come one, come all to the ~ **First - Ever Christmas/Holiday Boutique at the Cameron!** ~

Open to the public **Monday-Saturday, Nov. 28 - Dec. 3, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**, the Friends of Cameron have been collecting unusual and hard-to-find Christmas items for months in preparation for this week-long special event! They have assembled a spectacular collection of new and vintage holiday décor and gifts for home, family and friends, plus Fitz and Floyd, Lenox, Royal Copenhagen, Wedgwood, Aynsley, and more. All proceeds raised support the programs, activities and outreach services of the Cameron Senior Center. Trudy's Boutique, the Cameron thrift shop, will be open concurrently. For more info, call 978-692-5523.

LUNCH AND LEARN WITH MIDDLESEX DISTRICT ATTORNEY MARIAN RYAN

Friday, December 9th at 12:15 p.m.

We are glad to present "Staying Safe" a program sponsored by Middlesex County District Attorney Marian Ryan to help better educate ourselves about protecting our identity and assets from the proliferating numbers of scam artist eager to part victims from their money and identities. Joining presenter Diane MacDonald for this enlightening program will also be **Family Services Detective, Nirisa Nicoletti from the WPD and Denise Kemmitt, Assistant Branch Manager from Worker's Credit Union.** Lunch will be provided by **RiverCourt Residences.**

Please don't forget to RSVP to 978-692-5523.

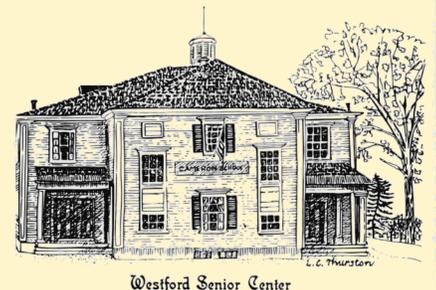
BRUNCH AND BEADS IS BACK!

On December 7, 2016 at 10:30 AM

Diana Baranowski Seremet will be back at the Cameron Senior Center to teach us how to make a beautiful piece of jewelry, during this highly popular program. You will have your choice of making a piece of jewelry using Christmas character beads or another stylish selection of beads. We would like to thank Kathy Cunningham of Coldwell Banker for the holiday refreshments.

Fee: \$5.00 please pay directly to the instructor. RSVP to 978 692 5523.

To view the complete Council On Aging
Newsletter please visit our
website: www.westfordma.gov/coa
and click on [Newsletters](#).



Westford Senior Center

Cameron Center News

COLDWELL BANKER DONATES TO FUEL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

With the winter months approaching Coldwell Banker recently presented Jennifer Claro with a check for \$2118.00 to assist older adults in financial hardship with their fuel needs. Claro, states, " We are most fortunate to have Coldwell Banker as such a strong supporter of our center in many ways through-out the year."

Pictured is Jackie Cunningham, Kathy Cunningham, Leslie Thomas and Janet Morano of Coldwell Banker and Jen Claro, Cameron Director



- The Town Manager recently appointed **Sandy Collins** to the **Council on Aging Board**. Welcome!
- **The Friends of the Cameron** just installed two new board members and they are **Chris Kuntz** and **Jean Lemieux**. Congratulations!
- **NEW time for Friday Ping Pong** which now starts at **9:45AM** on Friday mornings, yeah!
- **NEW Offering** for those that would like to join us for lunches and/or dinners at the center or Franco we will be offering a **Gluten and Vegetarian option** however you must register at least 48 hours in advance and request chosen option with our registrar.
- A special thank you to **Russ Badessa, Westford's Representative** to the **Lowell Rural Transportation Authority** for helping us get our additional eight passenger handicap accessible van.
- **Don't forget** if you have a vehicle you would like to donate the Friends of the Cameron will gladly take it, just call 978-692-5523.



HOLIDAY BASKETS

The holidays are just around the corner and there are still families experiencing hardship at this time please spread the cheer of this holiday season by giving to this community effort. If you are able to make a donation of food, gift cards, or monetary support please contact Katie Russell for more information at krussell@westfordma.gov or call 978.399.2330.

****Also, we are looking for extra volunteer hands and caring hearts.**

Recycling Commission

Leaf Collection

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!



No Plastic Bags in Your Curbside Recycling Bin

The Westford Recycling Commission would like to remind residents that plastic bags are not allowed in curbside recycle bins. Your recycling should be loose in the bin, not bagged.

Throughout the month of November, our recycling vendor, Republic Services, will begin leaving bright green warning tags for residents with recycling in plastic bags. On December 5, 2016 Republic will stop collecting recycling in plastic bags.

According to Republic Services, plastic bags get tangled in the sorting mechanism. The sorting facilities do not want to subject their employees to opening plastic bags nor do they want to slow down the processing. Therefore, items contained in plastic bags are discarded as trash which increases processing fees for the town.



Winner of Free Recycling Toter Announced

On October 4, at the Westford Farmers' Market's Recycling Commission booth, 24 residents answered a short quiz about recycling and entered a drawing for a free 64-gallon recycling toter. The winner is Westford resident, James Kelleher.

Jim picked up his free toter in his Prius on Sunday, November 13. He said winning the toter was good news since he "certainly wasn't looking forward to recycling this winter using my tote and making several cold morning trips to the street."

To purchase your own 64-gallon wheeled recycling toter, mail a check for \$50 payable to the "Westford Recycling Commission" to the Westford Recycling Commission, 55 Main Street, Westford, MA 01886. You may also take your check to the Town Clerk's office at the Westford Town Hall. Please include your name, address and phone number. Toters are in stock. When your check is received, you will receive a call about when and where to pick up your toter(s). **Note: this is an elective alternative and no resident is under any obligation to purchase a toter.**



The Westford Recycling Commission thanks you for reducing, reusing, repurposing, and recycling!

Highway Department

Westford's Snow Removal Strategy

When the Snow Begins

When a snowstorm begins, the Department responds by treating all roads with deicing chemicals. Treating the road surfaces serves two purposes — preventing snow and ice from bonding to the surface and to keep traffic flowing. Treating the roads takes approximately 2 1/2 – 3 hours. Please remember that our crews must travel on snow covered, slippery untreated roads to get here at any hour of the day or night. Please be patient as the crews will be out as soon as possible to begin snow removal operations.



During the Storm

Plowing operations begin when there is an accumulation of **2 to 4 inches of snow** on road surfaces. Depending upon the severity of the storm, town forces are assisted by hired contractors to expedite the process of snow removal. Each vehicle is assigned to a predetermined route and will remain there until the storm subsides unless an emergency occurs that requires reassignment of equipment from one location to another. The main objective is to keep all roads passable during the storm. Unfortunately, it is not possible to keep the roads free of snow without filling in many driveways; therefore, when you clean the end of your driveway, deposit the excess snow to the downstream side of your driveway. This will minimize the redeposit of snow into the cleared opening when the plow makes its next pass.

Please comply with the WINTER PARKING BAN (now in effect)

No on-street parking longer than one-hour between 1AM and 8AM from November 1st to March 31st. Vehicles that are illegally parked will be ticketed and may be towed at the owner's expense if they interfere with snow removal operations. Throwing, dumping or leaving snow in the roadway is forbidden and can result in a \$50.00 fine.

Following the Storm

After plowing is completed, roads are given a final treatment of deicing chemical. In the days following a storm, scraping and treating of roads continues depending upon weather forecasts. If colder weather is forecasted streets must be scraped of snow and slush to prevent icing of the surface when the temperature drops and also to widen the road edge so that drainage structures are exposed if the temperatures rise and melting occurs. As time allows, snow is removed from intersections where sight distance is a concern.

Keeping the Town Right-of-Way Clear for Snow Removal

The town generally owns the land from the edge of roadway up to 15 feet back depending on the particular road. Snow is pushed back into this area after large snow fall events to make room for future snow fall.

For more information: www.westfordma.gov/highway

Veteran's Day 2016

