



March 2017



Jodi Ross,
Town
Manager

jross@westfordma.gov
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](#)



Deadline for Nomination Papers
Tuesday, March 14

Community Gardens Plot Registration Closes
Wednesday, March 15

Annual Town Meeting
Saturday, March 25

Tune in to 1630 AM
For Westford's Local
Emergency Information



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

Dear Westford residents,

I hope you have all marked your calendars and plan to attend our Annual Town Meeting on Saturday, March 25, 2017, starting at 10:00AM in the Abbot School gymnasium, 23 Depot Street. On Thursday March 16th at 7:00 p.m. the League of Women Voters will be hosting an Annual Town Meeting warrant review in the Millennium School, behind the Abbot School, in Conference Room B. Please join us to ask any questions you may have regarding the articles featured in the warrant (listed below, [and found online](#)):

- Article 1** Accept Town Reports for Fiscal Year 2016.
- Article 2** Approve Unpaid Bills from Previous Fiscal Year - will be dismissed as there are currently no unpaid bills from prior fiscal years.
- Article 3** Approve Fiscal Year 2017 Supplemental Appropriations - \$35,000 to the Finance Committee Reserve Fund, \$45,600 for legal services, \$50,000 for Fire Department personal services, \$400,000 for snow and ice, \$257,947 for other post-employment benefits (OPEB) stabilization fund, and \$15,000 to the Ambulance Enterprise personal services.
- Article 4** Approve Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Transfers – may be dismissed as there are currently no transfers necessary.
- Article 5** Appropriate to the Stabilization Fund – to deposit \$500,000 into this Fund from Free Cash.
- Article 6** Appropriate for Perchlorate Expenses – to provide \$104,090 from Free Cash to address associated issues regarding perchlorate contamination remediation.
- Article 7** Approve Capital Appropriations – [a list is available online](#).
- Article 8** Approve Community Preservation Committee Recommendations - [a list is available online](#).
- Article 9** Authorization of Debt for the Rehabilitation, Preservation, and Accessibility Improvements for the Roudenbush Building Located at 65 Main Street - this is a request to bond for this project at an estimated cost of \$7,012,612, to be shared by Community Preservation funds and town funds.
- Article 10** Amend the General Bylaws to Accept the Provisions of Massachusetts General Laws c.44, §53E1/2 to Establish Various Revolving Funds – collected from multiple sources, some of which include lease-payments received, programming fees, recycling bins sales, community garden plots, and town forest timber sales (new requirement by Mass General Laws).
- Article 11** Authorize Revolving Funds – setting expenditure limits on the revolving funds.
- Article 12** Approve Fiscal Year 2018 Operating Budget – [the budget is available online](#).

(Continued on next page)

- Article 13** Request for Proposition 2 ½ Override for Westford Public School Operations – this is a request to increase teacher salaries to market basket levels at a cost of \$1,600,000, which will be added to the School Operating Budget over the next 3 years. If approved this will also require a ballot question on May 2nd for approval.
- Article 14** Appropriate Chapter 90 Local Transportation Funds for Roadway Maintenance.
- Article 15** Appropriate Funds from Water Enterprise Other Post Employment Benefits Stabilization Fund – to supplement the normal costs in FY18 retiree health and life insurance benefits.
- Article 16** Citizens' Petition - Authorization for the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for special legislation authorizing the town of Westford to establish a means tested senior citizen property tax exemption – The Selectmen recommended to dismiss and suggest a resolution to establish a committee to examine the exemption and present recommendations at next year's Annual Town Meeting.
- Article 17** Accept Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 73, Section 4 of the Acts of 1986, as Amended by Chapter 126 of the Acts of 1988 Related to Property Tax Exemption Increase by 100% for the Blind, Elderly and Disabled Veterans.
- Article 18** Rescind Authorized and Unissued Debt – Unissued debt authorizations that were not needed will be taken off the books.
- Article 19** Citizens' Petition - Amend Agricultural Preservation Restriction on 66-68 Boston Road parcel – This request is to allow the owner of the APR parcels to build a restaurant on one of the three APR parcels on the site. [Much more information is online.](#)
- Article 20** Citizens' Petition - 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 – to be issued for the proposed restaurant referenced in Article 19.
- Article 21** Citizens' Petition - Authorization for the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for one (1) additional all alcohol on premises license to be exercised by Yule Development Co., Inc. located at 22 Town Farm Road – for the development of a restaurant at the old Courier Building, now known as Mill Works.
- Article 22** Citizens' Petition - Authorization for the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for one (1) additional all alcohol on premises license to be exercised by Fox River, LLC located adjacent to 210 Littleton Road – for a new commercial development on Route 110 at the Veryfine site.
- Article 23** Authorize Board of Selectmen to Accept Easements - we vote this every year for utilities, etc.
- Article 24** Authorize Board of Selectmen to Acquire Easements for the Groton Road and Oak Hill Road Intersection Improvement Project – More information on this and Articles 25 and 26 can be found [online.](#)
- Article 25** Authorize Board of Selectmen to Acquire Easements for the Plain Road Sidewalk Project.
- Article 26** Authorize Board of Selectmen to Acquire Easements for the Concord Road Sidewalk Project.
- Article 27** Transfer Custody of Parcels on Acton Road, Tyngsboro Road and Cowdry Hill Road from the Tax Possession Sales Committee to the Conservation Commission – for general conservation purposes.

More information on the [2017 Annual Town Meeting](#) may also be found at [this link.](#)

A Request for Proposals has been released for 12 North Main Street. If you are interested please [visit this link for more information.](#)

We have just completed an application for 2017 Green Communities Grants. These funds have enabled us to complete many energy efficiency projects over the past couple of years.

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If you are interested in running for public office, the deadline to submit nomination papers is March 14, 2017. You may drop them off at the Town Clerk's Office, and/or ask any questions you may have about the upcoming town election.

The Annual Town Report for Fiscal Year 2016 is now published and [available online](#) and at a number of locations around town. The books will be available at the Town Meeting on March 25, 2017.

Members of the Dog Park Task Force presented their recommendations to find a suitable location for a dog park at the February 28th Board of Selectmen meeting. The task force will work with my office and other town departments to determine the feasibility of their recommendations, and assist them with finding suitable space.

Congratulations to the Westford Academy's Girls' Swim and Dive Team for their victory as the MIAA Division 1 State Champions!

I want to thank town staff who worked quickly and efficiently in response to emergency calls received during the strong windstorm that swept through town on March 2, 2017. Our police, fire, highway, and building department were particularly active in assisting homeowners who experienced trees falling on their homes. We are so fortunate to have such professional, courteous staff members assist not only our residents, but those in surrounding towns too.

I am happy to welcome Seth Lajoie as our town's new Environmental Services Manager, following Jeff Stephens' promotion to director of the Health Department. In addition to providing the town with his expertise in environmental concerns, you may ask Seth about his hand-made fishing rods and for his opinion on the best spots to drop a lure.

There are several openings on other local boards and committees, including the 12 North Main Street Task Force, Affordable Housing Committee, Agricultural Commission, Board of Cemetery Commissioners, Communications Advisory Committee, Council on Aging, Cultural Council, Economic Development Committee, Energy Committee, Historical Commission, Master Plan Implementation Committee, Public Works Initiative Committee, Parks and Recreation Commission, Permanent Town Building Committee, Tax Possession Sale Committee, Town Center Parking and Traffic Study Committee, Board of Appeals, 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
Town Manager

As part of a Highway Technology Conference, Westford Highway's Lewis Tarbox discusses the innovative uses of the zero turn excavator with State Secretary of Transportation Stephanie Pollack and Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito.



J.V. Fletcher Library

The Library's *Westford Job Seeker's Network*

The Library hosted its first Westford Job Seeker's Network (WJSN) meeting in July 2009; eight years later we continue to offer free space, on a weekly basis (Wednesdays from 2 to 4 PM,) to people in job transition. These drop-in meetings offer approximately 35 attendees the ability to: expand their network of business contacts; discover new job opportunities and to connect with others who are similarly seeking new possibilities and employment. Meetings also include (non-compensated) Guest Speakers who are experts in the job search process or in the field of career development. Before and after the meetings attendees often utilize the Library's many state-funded databases and electronic resources to aid them with their job searches. Over the next few weeks the Library - in collaboration with the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA) - is hosting a special "Start Your Own Business" series of workshops. Pre-registration is required for the series at: <https://www.sba.gov/offices/district/ma/boston>. The schedule of dates and times is as follows:

- **March 15: "Starting and Growing a Business – The SBA Advantage" presented by SBA**
- **March 22: "Women's History Month" – we'll celebrate the accomplishments of women and their many contributions to our communities**
- **March 29: "Opening Doors to Government Contracting" presented in collaboration with Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC)**
- **April 5: "Your Business Plan: Soup to Nuts" in collaboration with Salem State Small Business Development Center (SBDC)**

For more information visit our website at www.westfordlibrary.org, or contact Dina Kanabar at 978-399-2308, dkanabar@westfordma.gov.



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Recreation Department

WPC NEWS

Westford Partnership for Children (WPC) Session 4

Session 4 began at the close of February vacation and runs from **February 27- April 13, 2017**. WPC programs are refreshed every session. This session our offerings include Tennis, Creation Station: 3D Printing, Money in the Bank, Lego Mania, Flag Football, No-Bake Cooking, and more.

We've got you covered with our WPC Special Full-Day Program for K-5

On **Thursday, March 30**, WPC is offering a special full-day program open to K-5 students to accommodate school conferences. Join us as we explore the **Museum of Science** in Boston. Your child does not need to be a WPC participant to enjoy this special program.

Looking ahead:

WPC April Vacation Special Programs for grades K-8 will be here before you know it. Running from **April 18-21**, this affordable program is guided by our experienced and dedicated staff. Outdoor and indoor activities will include a Fenway Park tour, the zoo, a visit to the USS Constitution, and other historical trips, such as Plimoth Plantation, or Sturbridge Village. Kimball Farm is in the mix as well, of course.

Westford Parks & Recreation Summer Program Registration Fair will be held on Wednesday, **May 10, 6:00-8:00 p.m.**, at the Parks & Recreation Department, 22 Town Farm Road. Come meet the staff from Kids Club, Destination Exploration, Ready, Set, Go!, Leadership Program, Tennis, Archery, Rowing (excludes H.S. Crew Team), Swim Lessons, and more. They will be available to answer any questions you may have about our summer programs.

Register for a Westford Recreation spring/summer program on Wednesday, May 10, between 6:00 and 8:00 p.m., and receive \$10 off one spring/summer program with a value of \$50 or more. Valid only on May 10, 2017.

Westford Partnership for Children (WPC), the Parks & Recreation After School Enrichment Program, 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.

You can enroll for WPC programs at any point during the session. For additional information, call 978-692-5532. For WPC 2017 registration forms, visit westfordrec.com, or the Westford Parks & Recreation office at 22 Town Farm Road.

Recreation Department (Continued)

RECREATION SOUND BITES

Welcome Michelle Collett

Westford Parks & Recreation would like to congratulate Michelle Collett, the department's new Assistant Director. Michelle has been with the department since 2005, developing and directing some of our most popular and sought after programs, including WPC at Crisafulli, and Kids Club, one of Parks & Recreation's weekly summer programs. Welcome Michelle!

The Spring-Summer Brochure has landed

Check out the new Parks & Recreation brochure in your mailbox, and online, at westfordrec.com under the "Dept Info" tab. Offered are a variety of spring and summer programs for all ages.

CHILDREN, such as: Kickball for Squirts; Tiny Tots Soccer; Pre-K/Kindergarten Soccer; Rowing; Tennis with Marcus Lewis; NITEHAWKS Track and Field; Archery; Junior Golf, and more.

ADULTS, such as: Adult Archery; Adult and Child Archery; Aikido; Completely Cardio; CPR, AED, and First Aid to include a special FAMILY NIGHT class on April 26th; Adult Rowing; and Tennis.

Settling in at 22 Town Farm Road

We've arrived! The department is settling in to our new location at 22 Town Farm Road. The staff and customers are especially pleased with how "welcoming" our new office and programming space is. Stay tuned, we are having an Open House this spring.

And as a reminder... SIGN UP for Parks & Recreation Notifications at westfordma.gov

Do not miss out on important Parks & Recreation news, from weather cancelations, and WPC Program announcements, to park pass info, and summer beach updates. Using "Notify Me" at westfordma.gov means receiving news about things that matter to you and your family, including year-round youth and adult programs that are only offered by Parks & Recreation.

It's Easy to Subscribe

- Go to westfordma.gov.
- Click the "Notify Me®" icon on the home page.
- Using "Notify Me®", type your email address in the box and select "Sign In".
- Scroll down to "News Flash" and click the email icon next to "Recreation News".

Health Department

MILD WINTER WILL RESULT IN MORE CASES OF LYME DISEASE

The mild winters that New Englanders have been experiencing over the past couple of years will result in more cases of Lyme disease.

During mild winters ticks, (deer ticks, in particular) become active earlier in the season. People become active earlier in the season too, spending more time outdoors walking pets, hiking on trails through the woods, etc. Ticks lie in wait for an animal to walk by and brush up against them. The tick then grabs on to the animal and searches for a suitable spot to attach itself and feed.

Deer ticks are the transmitters of Lyme disease. To understand the transmission and prevention of this disease, we must first have an understanding of the life cycle of the deer tick. There are four life stages of the deer tick: egg, nymph, larval, and adult. The illustration below demonstrates the relative size of deer ticks. From left to right, we see a larva, nymph, adult male, and adult female.

Deer ticks need a variety of hosts to complete their life cycle. They need a blood meal at every life stage and change hosts when they molt. As larva and nymphs, the preferred host for deer ticks is the white-footed mouse. It is at the larval and nymph life stages that the bacteria which transmits Lyme disease is passed from the mouse to the tick. Lyme disease transmission is most prevalent in the spring and summer months as this is the time of year when the nymphs are most active.



Health Department Welcomes New Environmental Service Manager

The Town of Westford would like to welcome Seth Lajoie as the new Environmental Services Manager in the Westford Health Department. Seth is a Registered Sanitarian, and a 1996 Graduate of the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. His degree is in Plan and Soil Sciences. He is a former employee of Ross Associates and Andrews Survey and Engineering but most recently, Seth brings his 11 years of experience running his own septic design company located in Charlton, MA. He is also a former Health Agent for the Towns of Brimfield, MA and Hopedale, MA. Seth's skill set will certainly allow him to make and immediate positive impact in the Town and we look forward to his contributions on the team.

Health Department (Continued)

Are you 50? Time to get tested and prevent colorectal cancer

When she was 55 years old, Valerie B.

made a promise to a total stranger. It may have saved her life.

"I was sitting in the doctor's office for a

mammogram," the Atlanta woman says. "A lady there said she recently learned she had colon cancer. I knew nothing about it; nobody had ever told me to go get a colon test done. That woman in the doctor's office urged me to get tested. I promised her I would. And I did." She made an appointment right away. During the test, Valerie's doctor found and removed six polyps (abnormal growths) in her colon. Three were precancerous, meaning there was a good chance they could have turned into cancer if they had not been removed. "The doctor was really glad I was there," she says. "He said 'Why did you wait so long?'"

Screening is recommended for men and women beginning at age 50 and continuing until age 75. Among men and women combined, colorectal cancer is the second leading cancer killer in the United States. But it doesn't have to be. Screening helps prevent the disease by finding polyps, so they can be removed before they turn into cancer. Polyps don't always cause symptoms, so you may not know you have them. That is why getting a screening test is so important.

For 52-year-old Randy Talley, the path to screening was different, but the results were similar. His doctor strongly recommended that he get checked for colorectal cancer when he was 50. Polyps ran in his family—his mother had them—



and both Randy and his mother had irritable bowel syndrome, a condition that can raise a person's [risk of getting colorectal cancer](#). Plus, he was at the age when screening is recommended.

It turned out that Randy had five polyps, all in an early, noncancerous stage. They were removed. "This testing is recommended for a good reason," the Washington, DC, resident says.

"You either experience a little discomfort with

the test now, or you could face something a lot worse later in life, if you get colon cancer. So if you're 50 or older, my advice is to get screened now. I am completely glad I got screened."

There are several [screening tests](#): colonoscopy, high-sensitivity fecal occult blood testing, and sigmoidoscopy. If you're 50 or older, talk to your doctor about which is right for you. Valerie, now 60, is a cheerleader for getting screened. "After my colonoscopy, all I did that year was talk to people and tell my story. I found that five family members over 50 weren't tested. I begged them to go, and they all went."

Most insurance plans and Medicare cover screening without a deductible or co-pay. To learn more about colorectal cancer and screening, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) Web site for *Screen for Life: National Colorectal Cancer Action Campaign* at www.cdc.gov/ScreenForLife.



Recycling Commission

**Brush Chipping 10:30 am – 4:30 pm
Saturday, April 22, 2017,
Westford Highway Garage, 28 North Street**

- Proof of Westford residency required.
- **Accepted:** Brush and branches up to 3 inches in diameter and 10 feet in length. Must be average residential brush categories and reasonable amounts: A load ranges from a trunk to pickup truck volume, includes tow behind a full trailer.
- **Not accepted:** Building materials (e.g. fences, boards), land clearing materials and debris (e.g., roots, bushes, anything mixed with poison ivy), grass, and leaves.
- **Cost:** \$10 per load, checks preferred, payable to the Town of Westford.

**WESTFORD THANKS YOU FOR RECYCLING, REDUCING,
REUSING, AND REPURPOSING.**

www.westfordma.gov/recycling



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

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



**Be Prepared and Informed
Incase of an Emergency**

Cameron Center Events

MOVIE NIGHT

Our first movie night was such a hit with 24 people attending to watch the "Bucket List" we are going to try it monthly on the 3rd Thursday of every month from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. The movie on March 16th will be the comedy "The Intern" starring Robert DeNiro. Please call to sign up at 978-692-5523 by 3/14. Please share your movie recommendations.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY 2017

Join us here at Cameron on Friday, March 17 from 10:30 am ~ 12:30 pm as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day with some finger foods and dessert.



NEW BOOK CLUB

Do you love to read and would like to talk to others about a great book? Then this is the program for you. Starting March 21st we will have a book club in our library from 6-7:30. We will host this activity the 3rd Tuesday of every month. For March the book to discuss is "A Dog's Purpose" by Bruce Cameron. As a group you all will decide the next book to review. Hope to see you in our cozy library by the fireplace.

THURSDAY'S ~ EARLY EVENING EVENT & LIGHT DINNER!

March 30 from 5 - 6:30 pm join us for a travel slideshow; photos and history of Ireland and England. The presenter will be Pat Reppucci who will be sharing her travel experiences. Please call 978-692-5523 to sign up.

CAMERON MUSIC MAKERS

Come to a special get together with the Music Makers on Friday, March 31 at 12:30 pm. Enjoy some refreshments, relax, visit and hear some nice music!

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM MEDICARE FRAUD!

A free informational Medicare workshop Friday, March 31, 10 am at Cameron This program is supported by Elder Services of Merrimack Valley and their partnership between community based organization and mainstream agencies. Their objective is to educate Medicare/Medicaid beneficiaries on protecting themselves from healthcare fraud. Limited Seating. RSVP by calling 978-692-5523 to register.

55+ EARLY EVENING PROGRAMS:
Open Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:00-8:00 PM

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



Westford Senior Center

Engineering Department

Roadway Construction - April Thru October 2017

The Engineering Department recommends that Westford commuters register to receive email notifications for traffic and construction updates. Stay informed about road closures, detours and other travel disruptions by selecting **Latest Road Construction News** at www.westfordma.gov/subscriber.



The 2017 construction season begins in April and several projects are scheduled through October. Some of the projects include:

- The Main Street Transportation and Water Distribution Improvement Project, from Tadmuck Road to Depot Road.
- The Complete Streets Project, consisting of pedestrian improvements at three locations; Town Center, Robinson School, Howard Road and the Norman E. Day School.
- The Plain Road Sidewalk Project, from the Nab School to Nutting Road
- The Tadmuck Road & Littleton Road intersection Improvement Project

More information about each of the projects is available online at:

www.westfordma.gov/engineering or by contacting the Town Engineer at:

Paul Starratt, P.E.
Town Engineer
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28 North Street
Westford, MA 01886
Ph: 978-399-2716
Fx: 978-399-2739

