



Jodi Ross,  
Town  
Manager

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978-692-5500

**Important:**

Please sign up to receive updates on the latest road construction in town.

[Subscribe to Notifications](#)



**Electronics & More Collection**  
Saturday, September 9  
Highway Garage,  
28 North Street  
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**Town Hall Trail Walk**  
Tuesday, September 12  
3 - 6 pm  
Starts at Band Stand

**Lucky Duck Regatta on**  
Sunday, September 17  
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Watch Meetings Online  
**westford** CAT  
community access television  
[www.westfordcat.org](http://www.westfordcat.org)

**Dear Westford residents,**

Bring your hiking shoes or sneakers to the Farmer's Market at the Town Common on Tuesday, September 12, from 3pm to 6pm, to join our town's Healthy Westford Committee and the Westford Conservation Trust for a walk along the Town Hall Trail. This trail is rated "easy" and takes about 15 minutes to complete, but is not meant for strollers or flip-flops. Walkers will be led from the bandstand every hour by a member of these groups starting at 3pm. A rain date is scheduled for September 19. This will be a fun opportunity to experience just one of the many trails in town, and get a little exercise and adventure during the week!

I feel certain you have heard about the fantastic growing and comradery that has been occurring at our town's Community Garden. The garden expanded this year and is filled with a wonderful assortment of vegetables reflecting our community's talent and hard-work. Be sure to drive by and visit at the Day Field, 41 Graniteville Road. This project is managed by our Agricultural Commission, and you may find more information, at the following link: [Community Garden](#).



*Aerial community garden photo taken via drone  
Courtesy of Joe Bosia*

Our Dog Park Task Force will be proposing potential locations to establish a dog park during a number of upcoming public meetings. There are currently three parcels being considered: 110 Farmer Way; a parcel behind the Graniteville ball fields off of River Street; and a parcel in the woods along Plain Road. The task force is seeking input from the School Committee on August 14 at 8:00pm in Conference Room B at the Millennium School, 23 Depot Street. After that meeting, they will again appear before the Board of Selectmen on August 22 at 7:45pm in the meeting room at Town Hall, located at 55 Main Street.

Our Council on Aging recently received the support of the Board of Selectmen to have our town designated as a Dementia Friendly Community. This initiative is just one of the many efforts by the Council, our director Jennifer Claro, and our dedicated staff at the Cameron Senior Center, to provide the most support and resources for our senior residents. Thank you for all they do for our community. Stay tuned for much more information which will be shared at an upcoming meeting of this group at 2pm on September 28<sup>th</sup>, at NETSCOUT Systems, Inc, located at 310 Littleton Road in Westford.

(Continued on next page)

At their meeting of August 8<sup>th</sup>, the the Board of Selectmen awarded the lease for the three town-owned buildings at 65 Main St, 73 Main St, 170 Plain Road to The Roudenbush Community Center, Inc.. Negotiations will begin shortly to determine the terms of the lease, and are expected to conclude by the end of August.

Earlier this month, members of the Board of Selectmen and I celebrated the groundbreaking of two new homes being constructed by Habitat for Humanity of Greater Lowell at the "Juniper Hill" site at 75 Graniteville Road.

We recently produced a report recapping this year's Strategic Planning Retreat, held at Kimball Farm on June 15<sup>th</sup>, which is available online here: [Strategic Planning Retreat](#). Thank you to Kimball Farm for sponsoring this event, and thank you to all our neighbors and families who attended.



*Our new Town Clerk,  
Patty Dubey*

I am delighted to announce that we have filled the vacancy for our Town Clerk position with Westford's own Patty Dubey. Many of you already know Patty as she has served as the Assistant Town Clerk for many years. She is busy continuing her office's excellent work managing a multitude of tasks, ranging from record keeping and marriage licenses, to town meeting administration and elections. Our Town Clerk position is an important, central position in our town, and I know Patty will perform in an outstanding manner.

There are several openings on other local boards and committees, including: the 12 North Main Street Task Force, Affordable Housing Committee, Agricultural Commission, Commission on Disability, Communications Advisory Committee, Cultural Council, Energy Committee, Historical Commission, Housing Authority, Master Plan Implementation Committee, Parkerville Schoolhouse Committee, Parks and Recreation Commission, Pedestrian Safety Committee, Permanent Town Building Committee, Public Works Initiative Committee, Town Center Parking and Traffic Study Committee, Westford Scholarship and Grant Committee, Zoning Board of Appeals, and others. I urge you to peruse our website for information about the work of these committees; and 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.

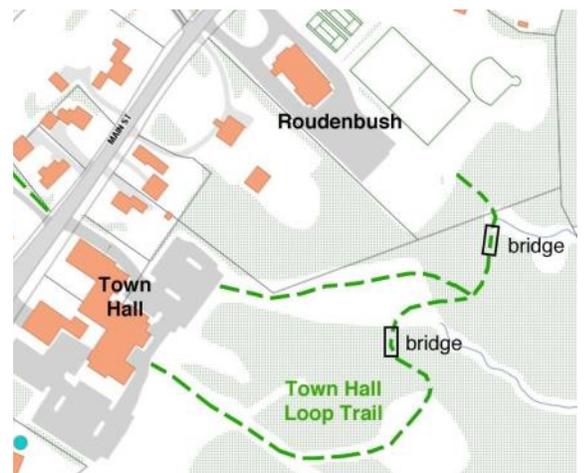
Would you like more detailed information on Board of Selectmen meetings? Click the following links to access: [Board of Selectmen Documents](#) & [Board of Selectmen Meeting Videos](#).

Enjoy these last very special weeks of summer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jodi Ross".

Jodi Ross  
Town Manager



## J.V. Fletcher Library

### WESTFORD - Waitlisted for Library Construction Grant

**Westford Library on MBLC Construction Grant List:** The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) voted to place the **J. V. Fletcher Library** on a waitlist for a Provisional Construction Grant. The grant is part of the state-funded Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program (MPLCP) which helps libraries across the state meet the growing demand for library services with expanded and improved library facilities. Thirty-three libraries completed the grant round process and through a rigorous review, 9 libraries were identified to receive grants and 24 were placed on a waitlist (Westford is number 15 of 24). Waitlisted libraries will receive construction grants as the funding becomes available either through the existing bond bill or a future bond authorization. This means Westford could be in line for *\$7.8 million* of matching funding and a community vote to approve funds and proceed with the library renovation/expansion in the **2021-2022** timeframe.

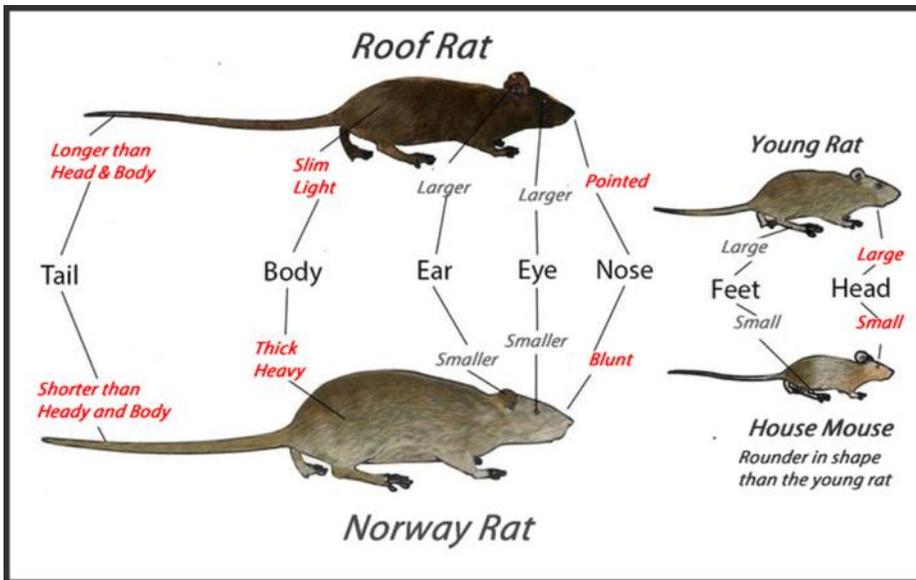


[WWW.WESTFORDLIBRARY.ORG](http://WWW.WESTFORDLIBRARY.ORG)

## Health Department

As summer marches on and the weather remains warm, rodents (particularly rats) become more of a problem in densely populated areas.

The most common rat is the Norway rat. Roof rats are not prevalent in New England. The figure below shows the relative size differences and identifying features of the Roof rat, Norway rat, young Norway rat, and house mouse.

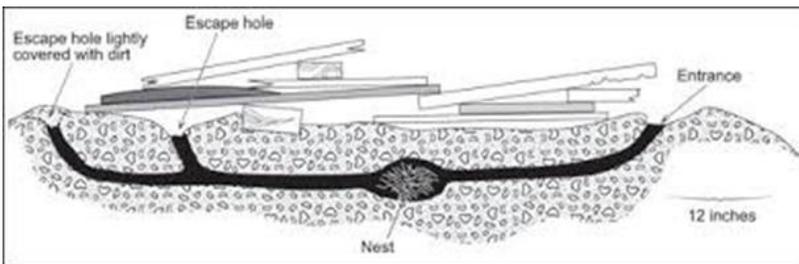


Rats are closely associated with people. In urban and suburban settings, they live in and around residences, in cellars, warehouses, stores, slaughterhouses, docks and sewers. On farms, rats inhabit silos, barns, livestock buildings, and kennels. The town of Westford has a unique blend of both urban and rural habitats.

Rats are looking for shelter, but they are more likely to seek shelter in areas that contain a reliable source of food and water. A full-grown Norway rat requires about a half ounce to one ounce of water per day and about one ounce of food per day to survive.

Rats live in burrows. Rats prefer to dig burrows in dry areas where the soil is relatively uncompact. Below is a schematic of a common rat burrow.

As the diagram shows, burrows have a main entrance and several escape holes. The image below shows the relative size of a burrow entrance (roughly 4"-6" in diameter).



Chipmunk burrows can be easily confused for rat burrows. The relative size of a chipmunk burrow is smaller (about 3" in diameter). One thing that distinguishes a rat burrow from a chipmunk burrow is the presence of sebum at the burrow entrance. Sebum is an oily secretion deposited by the rats in areas that they frequent. In the image below the rat burrow is in the upper right corner of the picture. The soil is saturated with sebum prior to the entrance giving the soil a caked appearance.



## Conservation Commission

### Discovery of Invasive Plant on the Stony Brook River

On July 4<sup>th</sup> Conservation Resource Planner Carol Gumbart, while enjoying a paddle on the Stony Brook River, discovered the invasive aquatic plant Eurasian Water Chestnut (*Trapa natans*) (see picture insert). She reported this to members of the Westford Stream Team Diane Duane and Kate Hollister.

For the past, several weekends Ms. Duane and her husband have been pulling the water chestnut plants, along with its seeds, out of the brook. Thanks to the assistance of the Water Department they have been able to access the River closer to where the plants were found. They were also allowed to compost the plants in an upland area on Water Department land. Both the Conservation Commission and Westford Conservation Trust recognize that this plant, if not harvested, will rapidly colonize forming dense



mats of floating vegetation in the Stony Brook. These mats will cause problems for recreational canoeing and kayaking on the river and negatively impact the aquatic ecosystem. Ms. Gumbart and Ms. Duane organized a volunteer pull on Monday August 7<sup>th</sup> (insert photo) and removed approximately 300 pounds of the invasive plant. This will be the last pull of this season as the nuts (or seeds) are starting to drop off from the plants and will not be as easily harvested as they are in the spring. We learned that manual harvesting is an effective tool but it is slow going and labor intensive. We will put together a plan for future harvesting and recruit others for next spring's pull.

For more information about this invasive species visit these links:

[www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dcr/watersupply/lakepond/factsheet/water-chestnut.pdf](http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dcr/watersupply/lakepond/factsheet/water-chestnut.pdf)

[www.oars3rivers.org/threats/invasive/water-chestnut](http://www.oars3rivers.org/threats/invasive/water-chestnut)



## Conservation Commission (continued)

### Eagle Scouts Help with Conservation Projects

Eagle Scouts have been helping to get conservation projects done for many years. Generally, these Scouts contact the Conservation Department for ideas of work that is needed on trails or on conservation land but sometimes they come to the Conservation Commission with projects that are close to their homes or places where they recreate. The Scouts go through a screening process with the Commission and their Troop leaders to make sure the project is beneficial and is feasible. If their project involves the construction of a bridge, boardwalk or kiosk they need to design the project to meet building codes. Any water dependent projects need to be permitted under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Westford Non-zoning Wetland Bylaw. The Scouts then need to raise the funds to complete their projects and gather workers to assist them.

We appreciate all their hard work and hope they all feel proud of their accomplishments. Next time you're out on the trails and cross a bridge or boardwalk please think of these dedicated Scouts and their hard work!



## Westford Parks & Recreation

### Summer Programs at Parks & Recreation

**SUMMER WEEKLY PROGRAMS:** It's been a beautiful summer for Parks & Recreation, between our new location at 22 Town Farm Road, and nine weeks of great programming!

**Destination Exploration**, for ages 8-14: Some might say D.E. has "Gone Fishing." This year there's been more fishing than ever before. Supported by DE's experienced staff, boys and girls caught and released numerous wide mouth bass, perch, and a few fighting weeds at East Boston Camp's Burgess Pond. And Jorge, the gigantic snapping turtle, was sighted by both participants and staff. Director Donna Burnham assumed Jorge was just another urban myth before she too, witnessed his notable proportions. Additional D.E. activities included a lot of crafting, football, and paddleboarding on the pond. **Kids Club**, for ages 4-13: Kids Club activities included "Carnival Days", with up to 126 children participating, some eating popcorn and cotton candy as they watched their counselors emerge soaking wet from nearby dunk tanks. Other adventures included exploring tidepools at Wingersheek Beach, Halloween in July, and a Snow Ball Masquerade during the program's last week. **Leadership**, for grades 9-11: Participants focused on concepts such as team building and creative thinking with activities like *Take a Stand*, where teenagers stood at different sides of the room dependent on their "stand" on various controversial issues. During the exercise, participants explained their stance working hard to be nonjudgmental as they strived to better understand the perspectives of their peers. Participating teenagers found connections with others in the program that they could never have imagined, as they made new friends, and deepened their leadership skills. Participants took CPR and First Aid Certification classes, and practiced public speaking. **ReadySetGo!**, for ages 4-6: RSG! children were busy both indoors and outdoors this summer. Children transformed the inside drama corner into a camping site complete with a tent and a waterfall; practiced yoga poses like cat, lizard, and airplane; and explored science and sensory play by making gak, slime, and playdough. In the sunshine, children played tennis with Nate; took swimming lessons with Parks & Recreation life guards at Forge Pond; and played in the sand with new friends. **Summer Beach Party at Edwards**, for ages 4-14: "Beach Party" offered three-weeks of programs, one week at the beginning of summer vacation, and two weeks at the end of summer vacation – is there a better way to start and finish a sun-filled summer in Westford? This year's enrollment numbers for the last weeks of August were the highest ever. **Venture Out**, for ages 11-14: This NEW program was especially tailored for Grades 6-8 or those who just graduated from middle school. Venture Out offered a series of adventures for this summer's participants that included Canobie Lake Park, Boston Paint Ball, and Boda Borg.

**ON THE WATERFRONT:** Parks & Recreation introduced new paddleboards for use at the beaches and at programs like Kids Club and Destination Exploration. Due to the rising popularity of this sport, the department will be purchasing more paddleboards for next summer! Additional highlights include **Swim Lessons at Edwards**, and crafting in the sand and sun during the **Fun at the Beach** days at Forge and Edwards.

**AT 22 TOWN FARM ROAD:** This summer, Parks & Recreation debuted two summer programs: **Chess Wizards** and **Play-Well LEGO®**. The programs were held in the department's new programming space at 22 Town Farm Road. Both programs were enjoyed by all and will be continued during the school year at the WPC After School Enrichment Program.



## Westford Parks & Recreation (continued)



### Westford Partnership for Children (WPC) After School Enrichment Program

**We've Got You Covered!** On August 9, Parks & Recreation sponsored a WPC After School Enrichment Program Early Registration Event for the 2017-2018 school year. Assistant Director, Michelle Collett, and WPC Site Directors answered parent's questions about registration process and program policies, as well as provided information about the unique activities each school program will offer for Session 1 (August 29-October 27, 2017). A sampling of those programs include: **Intro to STEM with LEGO ®, American Sign**

**Language, Empow: Video Game Design, Tennis with Marcus Lewis, No-Bake Cooking,** and more! For *Session 1 Registration Forms*, visit [westfordrec.com](http://westfordrec.com), or the Westford Parks & Recreation Department.

Westford Parks & Recreation After School Enrichment Program for K-8, provides a safe, stimulating, and fun environment Monday through Friday, from school dismissal until 5:45 p.m. WPC has proudly served eight Westford Public Schools for over ten years.

*Westford Partnership for Children (WPC) is a Parks & Recreation sponsored After School Enrichment Program in collaboration with Westford Public Schools.*

### Westford Community Rowing (WCR):

The WCR Junior and Masters Competitive Teams made great strides this summer advancing their rowing skills and techniques under the leadership of Coach Kasey Lumbard and Coach Mikey Sevick. WCR is now gearing up for the fall racing season with several programs that include **8th Grade Rowing, Junior Competitive Team, Adult Learn to Row, Masters Morning Competitive Team, and Masters Evening Competitive Team.** Westford Community Rowing (WCR) offers programming for middle school, high school, and adult athletes from all athletic backgrounds and experience levels. You can find the *2017 Fall Racing Schedule* in the new **2017-2018 Parks & Recreation Fall-Winter Brochure** at [westfordrec.com](http://westfordrec.com), starting with the

famous **Lucky Duck Regatta on September 17, 2017** in Westford. (Did you know that the Lucky Duck Regatta **Grand Prize** is *Dinner for two and a 2-night stay ANYWHERE in the world?*)

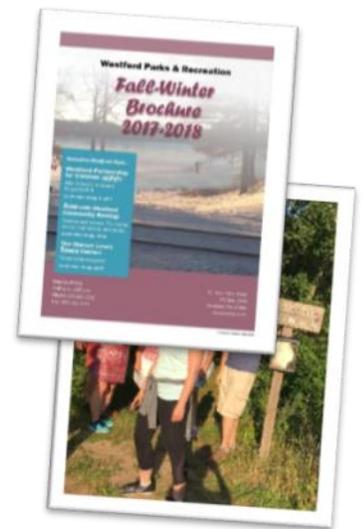
### NEW Seasons NEW Programs at Westford Parks & Recreation:

The **Westford Parks & Recreation Fall-Winter 2017-2018 Brochure** has arrived! Find the brochure online at [westfordrec.com](http://westfordrec.com), and in your mailbox later this month.

### Save The Date:

Sept 12 is **Town Hall Trail Day** at the Farmers Market. Come enjoy the **Town Hall Trail** (Rated EASY, 15 minutes, no strollers, no flip flops). To join in, gather at the bandstand on Westford Common every hour starting at 3:00, 4:00, 5:00, and 6:00 p.m. A member from one of the partnering organizations will lead the walk every hour. (Rain date: Tuesday, Sept 19.)

*In partnership with the Healthy Westford Committee and Westford Conservation Trust.*



## Recycling Commission

### Electronics & More Collection

Saturday, September 9, 2017 from 9 am – 1 pm  
Westford Highway Garage, 28 North Street

The Westford Recycling Commission hosts two Electronics Recycling events each year in Westford, one in the spring and one in the fall. The events are held from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Westford Highway Garage at 28 North Street, Westford, MA. Westford utilizes the services of Northeast Materials Handling of Haverhill, Massachusetts.

This is a fee-based collection OPEN TO ALL. **CASH OR CHECK ONLY**. Checks should be made out to **Northeast Materials Handling**. The Town of Westford receives no proceeds from this event.

#### EVENT PRICING:

The following are accepted **FREE OF CHARGE**:

- Appliances: Small, anything that plugs into an electrical socket (irons, hair dryers, toasters, electric toothbrushes, hand mixers, blenders – no glass, etc.)
- Refrigerators, washers, dryers, Air Conditioners / Dehumidifiers, Microwave Ovens, etc.
- Cell Phones and Telephones (Home & Office)
- Chargers, Batteries (NiCAD, Lithium and Rechargeable **ONLY**)
- Computers and towers (CPUs), Laptops, keyboards
- Flat Screen Computer Monitors – if recycled **WITH** a computer
- Fire extinguishers (empty)
- Propane tanks (empty)
- Grills
- Smoke/Carbon Monoxide detectors
- Game Consoles
- Home Electronics & Related Appliances (DVD, DVR, Stereos, etc.)
- Light Fixtures
- Printers, Copiers and fax machines
- Ink and Toner Cartridges
- Radios and Scanners
- Printed circuit boards
- Network equipment, modems, servers, switches and routers
- Wire, filing cabinets, metal desks
- Bicycles
- Battery operated tools and Power Tools
- Snow Blowers, Lawn Mowers -must be emptied of gas and oil



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

#### No plastic toys.

#### ITEMS ACCEPTED WITH FEES:

- Children's car seats - \$15
- All TVs (regardless of size) - \$30
- CRT Computer Monitors - \$15
- Flat screen monitors **WITHOUT** a computer- \$15
- Speakers \$10.00 (House Speakers with large wood or plastic housing)

[WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV/RECYCLING](http://WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV/RECYCLING)

## Recycling Commission

### STYROFOAM Collection

Saturday, October 14, 2017, 9 am – 2 pm  
Westford Highway Garage, 28 North Street  
LOWER PARKING LOT



Time: 9:00 am to 2:00 pm or until the truck is full.

A \$3 donation is requested to cover cost of transportation to Uxbridge, MA.

Styrofoam should be rinsed and free of food debris and delivered in a clear plastic bag. No spongy foam. Meat trays are accepted if stamped # 6. Packing peanuts are accepted if they snap in half. Styrofoam coolers and rigid Styrofoam are also accepted.

Sponsored by the Green Team, First Parish Church United, Westford, MA.



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

**[WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV/RECYCLING](http://WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV/RECYCLING)**



## Summer is in Full Swing at The Cameron

### **TAX RELIEF COFFEE HOURS**

The newly formed Tax Relief Committee for Seniors, Low Income and Disabled (SLIDTR) is hosting coffee hours Monday August 21st at 10:00 am at the Cameron Senior Center. This is an opportunity for all Westford homeowners to discuss current property tax exemptions, alternative ideas and for the committee to hear your concerns. Please register to attend at 978-692-5523. The committee also meets the first three Wednesdays of every month at 8:00 am in the Town Hall meeting room and the last Wednesday of the month at the Cameron Senior Center. You are welcome to attend. Any questions call Annette at 978-399-2326. JOIN US!

### **BOOK CLUB**

Do you love to read and would like to talk to others about a great book? Our next meeting is August 15 at 6 p.m., we will be reviewing "The Big House: A Century in the Life of an American Summer Home" by George Howe Colt. Hope to see you in our cozy library. Please call to sign up at 978-692-5523.

### **DID YOU KNOW....**

According to the National Institute on Aging, research indicates that seniors who are active, social and have a purpose in life significantly lower their risk of mortality from heart disease and diabetes by 60%! Come check out the Cameron and reap the health benefits! If you are one of those that says, "I'm not old enough to go there" please know that we have many youthful seniors who attend classes, volunteer and find purpose in connecting with their peers and larger community. Feel free to contact Annette, your Outreach Coordinator anytime at 978-399-2326.

### **RMV (REGISTRY OF MOTOR VEHICLES) ASSISTANCE**

If you need assistance with an online transaction with the RMV-license renewal, registration renewal, etc. we are happy to assist you. Not all renewals and transactions are eligible to be completed online, but we can let you know if we can help. Call Alison at 978-399-2325 or Annette at 978-399-2326.

### **DAY TRIPS - INVITING ALL THOSE AGE 50 AND OVER**

Wednesday, September 27 – "Evita"

Fox Tours begins your day with a delicious, full course luncheon at the Danversport Yacht Club. Then you'll travel to the North Shore Music Theater for one of Broadway's classic Musicals, "Evita". Your cost is \$111 p/p including driver gratuity. Your entrée choice is Baked Scrod or Baked Chicken.

Departure time from the Franco is 10 AM with arrival back home around 6 PM.

Sign up at 978-692-5523.



Westford Senior Center

Cameron Center Events (Continued)

**SANDWICH GENERATION SERIES- LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH FROM 6-7PM**  
August 29<sup>th</sup>- Stroke Prevention/Rehab

**REPRESENTATIVE ARCIERO'S COOK-OUT**

**Wednesday, August 16 at 11:30 am**

Representative Jim Arciero will again be hosting his well-received cookout at Cameron. This is a great opportunity to meet and share questions with him!

**FARM TO TABLE LUNCH- AUGUST 18<sup>TH</sup> AT 12:30**

Fresh, organic produce prepared by our very own cooks so enjoy some healthy and tasty offerings coordinated by Pat Repucci and her very talented culinary dream team.  
Cost- \$5

**SENATOR DONOGHUE LUNCH & DESSERT**

**Tuesday, August 22 at 11:30 am**

Senator Eileen Donoghue will be sponsoring a lite summer lunch and dessert.

Join us to hear what information the Senator has to share. She will be happy to answer your questions!



*COA Board members Mickey Crocker and Pat Holmes enjoying a "little" Kimball's ice cream*

To view the complete Council On Aging Newsletter please visit our website:

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



*Cameron staff, participants thanking our Kimball event hostesses for a fantastic Kimball's day*



*Kiwaniis members and volunteers readying 120 plus hot dogs and hamburgers for cookout*