



February 2018



Jodi Ross,  
Town  
Manager

[jross@westfordma.gov](mailto:jross@westfordma.gov)  
[www.westfordma.gov/tm](http://www.westfordma.gov/tm)  
978-692-5500

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

[Subscribe to  
Notifications](#)



All Trash and Recycling  
pickups will be one day  
later than usual on week  
of February 19

Annual Town Meeting  
Saturday, March 24th  
Abbot School Gym

Please, be sure to fill out  
and return your Town  
Census form



Watch  
Meetings Online  
**westford**   
community access television  
[www.westfordcat.org](http://www.westfordcat.org)

**Dear Westford residents,**

Our Annual Town Meeting is swiftly approaching and will be held at 10:00 a.m. on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018 in the Abbot School gymnasium. Please visit the following link for more information: [Annual Town Meeting](#). This link includes the most current drafts of the Town Meeting's Warrant and Motions, as well as links to budgets, the Annual Town Report for Fiscal Year 2017, and information about warrant articles.

Nomination papers for our Annual Town Election are available in the Town Clerk's Office in Town Hall, 55 Main Street. The deadline for submissions is March 13, 2018. Our Annual Town Election is on May 1, 2018. You may view what positions are available at this link: [listing of open positions](#).

Work on the historic rehabilitation of the Roudenbush Community Center building at 65 Main Street continues through the winter, and we are pleased with the project's progression. You may view the most recent field report from the construction site by visiting the following link: [Roudenbush project](#).

The new fire station headquarters' construction on Boston Road is moving right along, with crews completing as much work as possible between adverse weather periods. Our Fire Department and Permanent Town Building Committee requested the Selectmen sponsor an article for the upcoming Annual Town Meeting that proposes to name the station "Westford Fire Department, Fletcher Station 1", in honor of the many Fletcher family members who have contributed decades of public service in our fire department. For more information about the fire department construction, check out: [Fire Department project](#).



*Selectmen Scott Hazelton, Elizabeth Almeida,  
and Mark Kost tour the new station  
under construction.*

Our Permanent Town Building Committee presented preliminary plans for a new center building that would replace the fire station next to Town Hall when the new headquarters is complete on Boston Road. The committee, in partnership with the architecture firm that is contracted to provide a Feasibility Study for the site, provided an initial report with concept drawings to our Board of Selectmen in January. You may view the presentation at: [New Center building](#).

(Continued on next page)

At their January 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting, the Board of Selectmen approved a charge for a working group to study the possibility of establishing a split tax rate for funding possible new tax exemptions for senior and low-income residents. They are seeking residents interested in joining this new group.

At their February 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Board of Selectmen approved the Economic Development Committee's work plan for 2018. The board thanked the committee for all of its efforts and felt the work plan coincided with the board's interests. The board also approved the application for the second round of Complete Streets funding, asked the Pedestrian Safety Committee to update their prioritization of their projects, approved the Safe Routes to Schools Walking Assessment site selection, and supported conducting a survey of the abutters to the Plain Road sidewalk that we have been providing snow removal on. They did request a cost analysis of this snow removal to consider future requests.

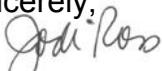
It is with great pleasure that I announce we hired Jim Duane to be our new Parks, Grounds and Recreation Director effective February 26th. Jim is the former Assistant Town Manager from Framingham. Prior to that role, Jim was Framingham's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Division Operations Manager from 2006 to 2013, when he was promoted to Deputy Director of the same department from 2013 - 2014, and then promoted again to Division Director of the same department from 2014 to 2015. In October 2015 he was promoted to Assistant Town Manager. Jim is interested in returning to the Parks, Grounds and Recreation field as that is where his municipal passion lies. Jim holds a Master of Arts in Public Administration degree from Framingham State University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Geography from the same institution, and he is earning a Certificate in Local Government and Leadership from the MMA/Suffolk University. Please join me in welcoming Jim to Westford. I think he is going to be a fantastic addition to our team.

I am also excited to welcome Rebecca Cheney to our team as our town's new Assistant Planner. Rebecca holds a Bachelors Degree in Latin America studies from the University of New Mexico and a Masters Degree in Planning from the University of Michigan. We are continuing our search for a new Town Planner to fill Jeff Morrisette's prior position following his promotion to Director of Land Use Management.

There are several openings on our local boards and committees, including: 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, Permanent Town Building 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](#).

Sincerely,



Jodi Ross  
Town Manager

## J.V. Fletcher Library

### **Looking for Your Book and Media Donations:**

The Friends of the Library will gladly take your unwanted books, audio and video materials for the direct benefit of the library and the community of Westford. These materials can be dropped off at the left-hand door just inside the library's rear entrance. If the library is closed, drop your donations in the collection box that is located near the back door of the library. Tax deduction forms are available at the library's main desk. The Friends of the J.V. Fletcher Library appreciate your support.

### **Teen and Tween Big Games: Tues., Feb. 20 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.**

Teens and tweens in grades 5 to 12 come play our "BIG" Indoor Games. Snacks will be served. **Registration required for this free program. Teens and tweens can register online, by phone, or in person.**

### **Cookbook Book Club: Tues., Feb. 20 at 7 p.m.**

The Cookbook Book Club is dedicated to exploring cookbooks and sampling new recipes. Copies of this month's choice, Jerusalem a Cookbook, by Yotam Ottolenghi are available for check out at the Main Desk. If you would like to bring a dish from the cookbook (not required to participate), please contact Sarah Regan in the Information Services Department at 978-399-2309. The Cookbook Book Club is funded by the Friends of the Library. No registration required

### **On Silent Wings: The Magic of the Snowy Owl: Thurs., Feb. 22 at 7 p.m.**

Wildlife Photographer Peter Christoph shares his rare and intimate photographs of the snowy owls taken in their winter habitat. Several of his snowy owl photos have earned national and international awards. No registration required. Open to all ages.

**J.V. Fletcher Digital Archive:** The Library now has digital copies of **The Jubb Brothers Civil War Letters and The Rustic** (A newspaper that included local news from Westford and surrounding towns for the year 1885.) We will also be digitizing our microfilm collection of The Westford Eagle. Currently we have digitized copies of The Westford Eagle from 1970-1973. For issues of The Westford Eagle from 2005 to the present, please refer to the Databases page. Links to the digital archives are on our web page. [www.westfordlibrary.org](http://www.westfordlibrary.org)

### **English Conversation Circle - Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.**

Practice your English conversation skills and meet new friends in a relaxed and friendly environment. This program meets every Tuesday morning from 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the Mary Atwood room. The group is led by Carol Morse. Registration is not required for this program. If you have any questions, please call Kristina Leedberg at 978-399-2309.



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

Town Clerk's Corner

**2018 ANNUAL TOWN CENSUS**

This year's Annual Town Census was mailed out. Please check it over, make any changes, date and sign it, and return to us ASAP and **DO NOT send tax payments in with it.**

**REMEMBER: You may NOT register to vote or change your party affiliation on the Census. You may do so online or in person.**



**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING - Saturday, March 24, 2018**

Voter registration deadline for the Annual Town Meeting is Friday, March 2, 2018 at 8:00PM at Town Hall.

**OPEN POSITIONS FOR LOCAL OFFICE IN 2018**

The table below lists open seats for the May 1, 2018 Town Election. Nomination papers are now available at the Town Clerk's Office for those who are interested in running for office. **The deadline to file nomination papers bearing the signatures of at least 50 Westford voters is Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm.**

Office	# positions	Terms expiring for:	Length of term
Selectmen	1	Mark D. Kost	3 years
Board of Health	1	Joanne Belanger	3 years
Housing Authority	1	Corinne Ryan	5 years
Library Trustees	2	Marianne Fleckner Susan Flint	3 years
Planning Board	1	Darrin Wizst	5 years
School Committee	3	Avery Adam Terence Ryan Christopher Sanders	3 years
School Committee	1	Alicia D. Mallon	1 year



Town Clerk's Corner (continued)

# 2018 RABIES CLINIC

SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 2018

9:00AM - 11:00AM

CENTER FIRE STATION

51 MAIN STREET

COST: \$15.00 PER PET

CATS AND DOGS ARE BOTH WELCOME!

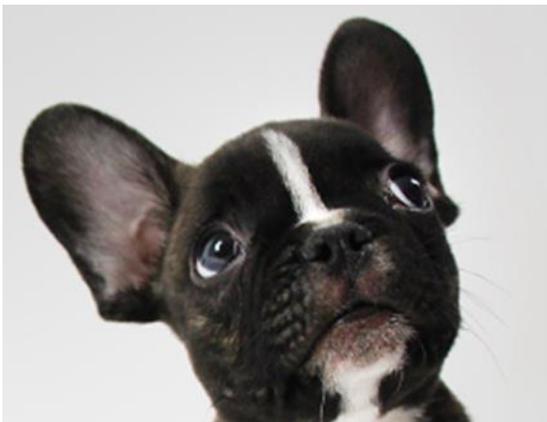


***BRING YOUR CURRENT RABIES CERTIFICATE WITH YOU!***

SHOTS ADMINISTERED BY NASHOBA VALLEY VETERINARY HOSPITAL  
(checks payable to NVVH)

**THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE TO  
LICENSE DOGS!**

**\$15.00 FOR ALTERED  
\$20.00 FOR UN-ALTERED  
CHECKS PAYABLE TO "TOWN OF WESTFORD"**



PLEASE NOTE - THE LAST DAY THE  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE IS OPEN TO  
LICENSE YOUR DOG(S)  
**BEFORE FINES APPLY** IS  
FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 2018

## Health Department

The Westford Health Department applied and received a grant from the Greater Lowell Community Foundation to help reduce the number of overdoses within Westford. The grant allows the town to hire a Certified Drug Counselor. The counselor will contact the person or the family of the person who overdosed and ask them if they would like the counselor to come to the house or another location and counsel them on how to cope with the problem. This would be done at no charge to them.

The grant also allows the town to purchase Deterra Drug Deactivation Pouches. These pouches will be available at the Westford Health Department free of charge. If you have unused opioids, liquids or patches, you can place them in the pouch, add a little water, wait 30 seconds and then seal up the pouch and place it in the trash. The drugs are neutralized and along with the pouches become biodegradable and are not harmful to the environment.

With the help of the senior center, these pouches will be available at the Westford Senior Center and delivered to Westford Seniors along with the Meals on Wheels program. Any Westford residents can attain a pouch by stopping at the health department 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Westford Town Hall 55 Main Street,



## Healthy Lakes & Ponds Collaborative

Your invited....

### How to Keep your **Lawn Green** and your **Lake Blue**

“Regulation of Plant Nutrients and What You Should Know”

Please join the Westford Healthy Lakes & Ponds Collaborative on Tuesday evening February 20th, 2018 from 7-9 PM at the Nabnasset Lake Country Club (47 Oak Hill Road, Westford) for an informative session focusing on how to keep our lakes & ponds healthy through education, prevention, and action. Bring your questions. Light Refreshments provided.

#### Speakers

**Jamie Magaldi**, a professional civil engineer and Ma. Certified Arborist who has a passion for agronomy and turf management. He will be discussing the new fertilizer application regulations that apply to both commercial and residential homes in Massachusetts.

**Matt Ladewig**, from the ESS Environmental Consulting Group. He will be presenting the 2017 Westford Lake and Pond inspection report.

Registration information (name, telephone number, and email address) is required and may be provided to the Westford Health Department by either of the following methods:

- Email Laurie Lessard, Health Department's Administrative Assistant: [LLESSARD@WESTFORDMA.GOV](mailto:LLESSARD@WESTFORDMA.GOV)
- Telephone the Health Department directly at (978) 692-5509

Additional information on the Healthy Lakes & Ponds Collaborative and other ways you can be part of the solution to deteriorating water quality conditions can be found on these helpful websites:

Westford's Healthy Lakes & Ponds Collaborative: [www.westfordma.gov/hlpc](http://www.westfordma.gov/hlpc)

DCR's Lakes & Ponds Site: [www.mass.gov/lakesandponds](http://www.mass.gov/lakesandponds)

DPH's Algae & Cyanobacteria Page: [www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dph/programs/environmental-health/exposure-topics/beaches-algae/algae-information.html](http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dph/programs/environmental-health/exposure-topics/beaches-algae/algae-information.html)

**By being proactive and monitoring your lake or pond you are taking a key role in ensuring the protection of your water body and its associated water resources for the future!**

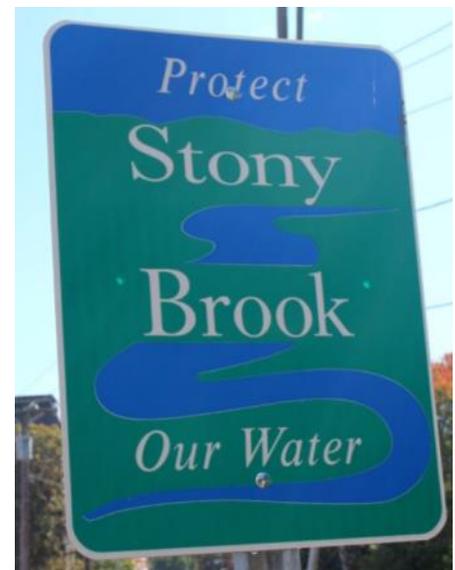
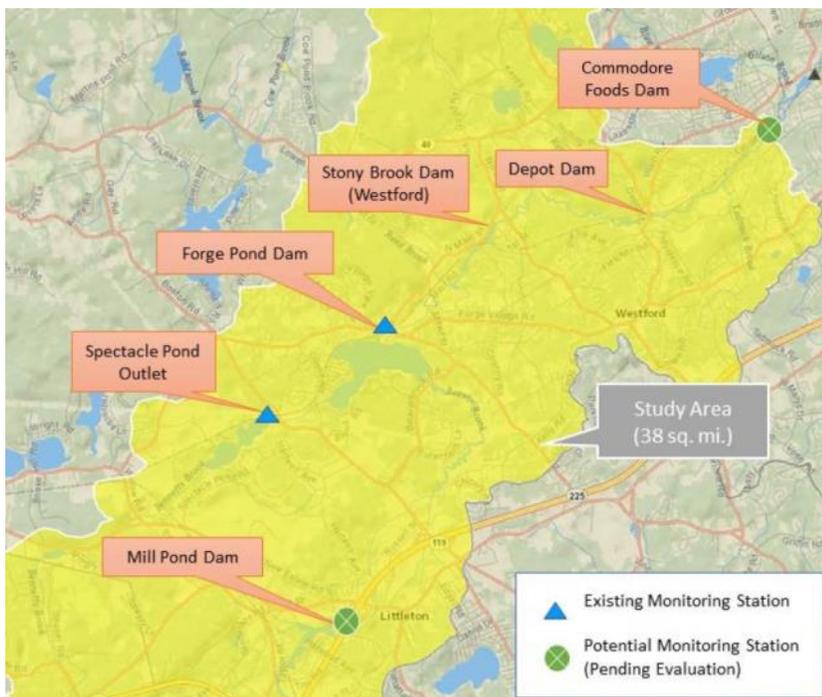


## Water Department

### State Grant Received for Stony Brook Flow Restoration Project

The Westford Water Department is pleased to hear of Westford/Littleton's recent award of the Water Management Act Grant. The goal of our proposal - the Stony Brook Flow Restoration Project - is to assess opportunities for improvement of streamflow in the Stony Brook watershed through development of a coordinated Streamflow Restoration Plan. The State has identified the Westford Water Department (WWD) and Littleton Water Department (LWD) drinking water supply source sub-basins in the Merrimack River basin as highly impacted by groundwater withdrawals. Consequently, Westford and Littleton will need to find ways to minimize the impact of groundwater withdrawals to streams such as Stony Brook. Through collaboration between the Westford and Littleton Water Departments, local environmental groups, and stakeholders we hope to improve streamflow, water quality, and aquatic habitat of Stony Brook as well as optimize the efficiency of water withdrawals, coordinate management of shared water resources within the Stony Brook watershed, and meet the requirements of our Water Management Act (WMA) permits in a cost-effective manner.

The grant award was for \$101,611 with a 20% in-kind contribution from the Westford and Littleton Water Department.



## Fire Department



*Ice rescue training at Forge Beach*

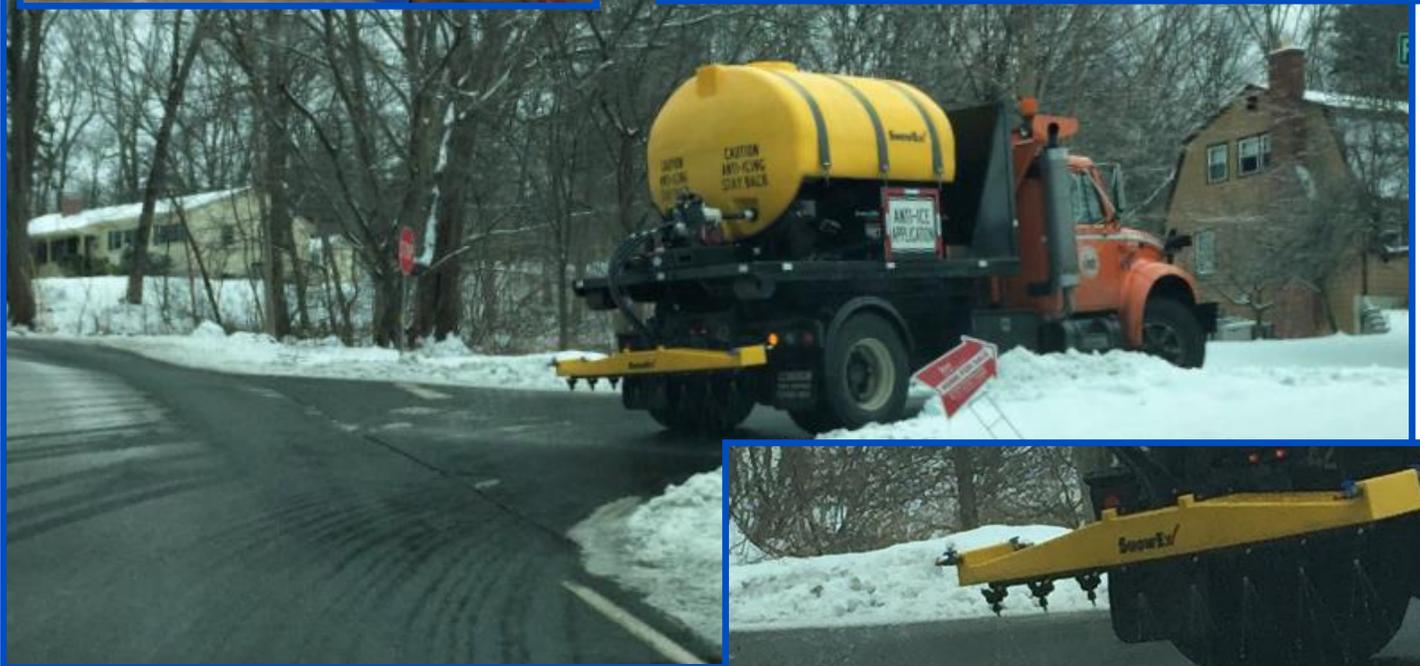


*Westford Fire Department's new Engine 4 under construction at the E-One plant in Hamburg, NY.*

## Highway Department



A new anti-ice treatment is being utilized on town roads. The new mixer produces a brine with saline levels that are ideal road application. The brine is sprayed onto the roads before ice and snow accumulates, in order to prevent ice bonding to the street. This reduces overall salt usage.



## Recycling Commission

Notice: All Trash and Recycling pickups will be one day later than usual on the week of February 19 due to Presidents' Day.

### An Alert from the Westford Recycling Commission

Plastic bags of any kind are NOT acceptable in recycling bins and toters.

Any and all recycling taken in plastic bags will be discarded as trash and will incur additional trash costs for the town.

### MINI Household Hazardous Waste Days in Lowell

There are five MINI Household Hazardous Waste Days in Lowell in 2018. Open to non-residents who pre-register. Registration opens a month before the event. Check online for dates, acceptable items, and fees (cash only). Note that non-residents will have additional costs for some items.

<https://www.lowellma.gov/1073/miniHHWD>.

## UPDATE ON WHAT YOU CAN AND CAN'T RECYCLE

**Recycle metal bottle caps but please remove them from the bottles.**

Recycle ALL clean aseptic boxes, such as juice boxes and broth boxes, even if they have foil linings; and any and all milk and juice cartons. Recycle clean frozen vegetable boxes and frozen meal and pizza boxes. Cut off the clean covers of takeout pizza boxes to recycle and put the soiled bottoms in the trash.

Recycle ALL clean plastic bottles with a recycling symbol (#1- #5 and #7), such as soda, water, milk, juice, condiment, shampoo, and personal care bottles.

Recycle ALL clean cans: aluminum, steel, clean aluminum foil, foil caps on yogurt, etc.

Recycle ALL clean paper: unwanted mail, old bills and envelopes, magazines, catalogs, brochures, flyers, newspapers, school work and notes, clothing tags, sticky notes, ads, and greeting cards.

Recycle ALL clean cardboard: outer boxes from packaged food, cosmetics, and drug store items; toilet paper and paper towel rolls; toy and game packaging; gift boxes, packing boxes, posters and signs.

Please do NOT recycle: cardboard drink cups with slippery linings. Some retail coffee shops have replaced Styrofoam cups with cups that have a cardboard exterior and a rough interior (marked #5). They are NOT recyclable.

Please do NOT put metal items, such as coat hangers, in the recycling bin or toter.

Styrofoam cannot be recycled at curbside.

Visit [www.westfordma.gov/recycling](http://www.westfordma.gov/recycling) for answers to your recycling and trash disposal questions.



## Cameron Center Events

**THRIVE 7 with Susanne Duato, and Jim Geraghty of Crossfit 110**

### 7 WEEK HEALTH & WELLNESS

**Program Outline:** The Thrive7 program is a health challenge designed to prepare, educate and execute healthy lifestyle changes that ensure results. Priming the mind for change, proper goal setting, preparation tactics and ultimately execution of our program for long term results. Our small group offers accountability with the full support from a nutrition professional to keep you motivated and ensure safe, effective results. Members will receive daily support via email, as well as direct 1:1 access to a nutritional coach weekly. Scheduled weekly small group meetings with a nutrition coach will have a weekly theme and designed to cultivate community, inspire and troubleshoot.

**WEEK 1: Program overview**

**WEEK 5: Inflammation and Food as Medicine**

**WEEK 2: Goal Setting & Preparation**

**WEEK 6: Re-Introduction**

**WEEK 3: Shopping and Meal Planning**

**WEEK 7: Thrive7 Completion Celebration!**

**WEEK 4: Our Relationship with Food**

Susan Duato credentials: • B.S. Human Nutrition; University of Massachusetts, Amherst 1996, • Certified Personal Trainer ISSA, • Whole30 Coach • Over 20 years as nutrition consultant and personal trainer/health coach.

Please treat yourself to this wonderful opportunity by signing up at 978-692-5523.

Class will be limited to the first 15 sign ups and cost: \$30.

### **NEW - Strength & Movement Matter, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6-7:30 pm**

Lowell General presents this complimentary class. Learn simple exercises you can do every day to help your body move the way it was supposed to. Find relief from aches and pains through easy strength building stretches and exercises. Presented in partnership with SLS Fitness. Registration: Call 1-877-LGH-WELL (1-877-544-9355) or visit [www.lowellgeneral.org/health](http://www.lowellgeneral.org/health) or see Annette.

### **TOWN MEETING**

**Please attend Westford's Annual Town Meeting, Saturday, March 24, at 10 a.m., at Abbot School, to vote on several important articles.** If you need a [free ride to Town Meeting](#), please call the Cameron at 978-399-2322. Also, the **COA will provide coupons for residents age 60+ for 50% off lunch options served at Town Meeting** which include: boxed lunch with sandwich options including: roast beef, ham & cheese, turkey, vegetarian(hummus), tuna or chicken salad or garden salad also w/ chips, bottled water, homemade cookie and bread as well. Regular lunch cost is \$7 so reserve a coupon, call the Cameron. Coupons can be picked up starting at 9:30 a.m., in the cafeteria at Town Meeting.

The following meetings are for available for your attendance:

#### **Informational Luncheon on Proposed Tax Relief Articles**

Presentation by: The Senior, Low Income, Disabled, Tax Relief (SLIDTR) committee

Date: Friday, March 9, at 11:30 a.m.

Location: The Cameron

RSVP to 978-692-5523, Westford residents only.

#### **League of Women Voters Warrant Review**

Finance Committee and warrant sponsors discuss the pros and cons.

Date: Thursday, March 15, at 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Location: Millennium School, Conference Room B.



## Cameron Center Events Continued

### Enchanted Music of Ireland

March 7, 2018 We will enjoy the Music of Ireland Tour as Andy Cooney gathers the finest musicians, dancers and performers to ignite the audience in the Irish traditions. Join Best of Times for this trip to Venus De Milo (Swansea MA.) Lunch options are A choice of Corned beef and cabbage or Haddock. Trip cost- \$97 PP and gratuities are ALL included. RSVP by calling 978-692-5523.



### Resorts Atlantic City Trip with Fox Tours

April 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>

On the first day, we will travel to Atlantic City's first casino resort. There you will receive \$25 casino slot cash and \$60 food credits and casino show ticket! The next day, we will walk the Boardwalk and enjoy the Atlantic Ocean's surf and salt air in America's only oceanfront casino resort and the following day we will depart at noon. Cost- \$229 PP Double, \$219 PP Triple or \$309 single. RSVP by calling 978-692-5523

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](#).



Westford Senior Center