



March 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](#)



**Annual Town Meeting**  
Saturday, March 24th  
Abbot School Gym

**Brush Chipping**  
April 21  
10:30 am – 4:30 pm  
Westford Highway  
Garage, 28 North Street  
See page 8



Watch  
Meetings Online  
**westford**   
community access television  
[www.westfordcat.org](http://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 24, 2018, starting at 10:00AM in the Abbot School gymnasium, 25 Depot Street. Please review the meeting's articles featured in the warrant for our Town Meeting (listed below, [and found online](#)):

- Article 1** Accept Annual Town Reports for Fiscal Year 2017.
- Article 2** Approve Unpaid Bills from Previous Fiscal Year – \$5,308 from Free Cash to pay a FY17 bill of the Westford Housing Authority for affordable housing consulting services.
- Article 3** Approve Fiscal Year 2018 Supplemental Appropriations – \$20,000 for public safety communications personal services, \$350,000 for snow and ice response, \$40,000 for recycling expenses, \$20,000 for solid waste expenses, \$135,472 for other post-employment benefits (OPEB) stabilization fund, and \$25,000 for ambulance enterprise personal services.
- Article 4** Approve Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Transfers – \$5,300 from Planning Board personal services for permitting expenses to allow for reconfiguration of the permitting offices.
- Article 5** Appropriate to the Health Insurance Stabilization Fund – to deposit \$100,000 into this Fund from Free Cash to help offset health insurance increased costs if needed.
- Article 6** Establish Special Education Reserve Fund – to pay for unanticipated or unbudgeted costs for special education, out-of-district tuition or transportation.
- Article 7** Appropriate for Perchlorate Expenses – to provide \$99,537 from Free Cash to address associated issues regarding perchlorate contamination remediation.
- Article 8** Approve Capital Appropriations – [a list is available online \(page 48 of the Finance Committee report\)](#).
- Article 9** Citizens' Petition - Approve Capital Appropriations: Ornamental Traffic Signal at the Intersection of Boston Road and Main Street – to be included in the Boston Road Reconstruction Project.
- Article 10** Approve Capital Appropriations: MSBA Abbot Roof - \$3,016,442 for a new roof on the school.
- Article 11** Accept Statutory Authorization for Water Betterments – to allow for a betterment from property owners for water mains, pipes and lines.
- Article 12** Authorize Vine Brook Water System Improvements - \$1,820,000 to be assessed to property owners in Vine Brook Estates to replace their water system with a town system.
- Article 13** Approve Community Preservation Committee Recommendations – [a list is available online \(page 40 of the Finance Committee report\)](#).
- Article 14** Amend the Wage and Classification Plan – to create a new Facilities Director position and upgrade the current Director of Parks, Grounds and Recreation to include Cemeteries.
- Article 15** Authorize Revolving Funds – setting expenditure limits on the revolving funds.
- Article 16** Approve Fiscal Year 2019 Operating Budget – [the budget is available online](#).
- Article 17** Appropriate Chapter 90 Local Transportation Funds for Roadway Maintenance.
- Article 18** Appropriate Funds from Water Enterprise Other Post Employment Benefits Stabilization Fund – to pay the actual costs of FY19 water department retiree health and life insurance benefits.

(Continued on next page)

- Article 19** Authorization for the Board of Selectmen to Petition the General Court for special legislation authorizing the Town of Westford to establish a Real Property Exemption for Disabled Persons - \$2,000 exemption for eligible persons - [a description is available online \(page 45 of the Finance Committee report\)](#).
- Article 20** 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 - [a description is available online \(page 45 of the Finance Committee report\)](#).
- Article 21** Payment in Lieu of Tax Agreement – Westford Solar Holdings LLC, and Westford Solar Holdings II LLC, located at 10 Commerce Way – to be negotiated by the Board of Selectmen and Board of Assessors for a solar farm at this location.
- Article 22** Authorize Board of Selectmen to Accept Easements - we vote this every year for utilities, etc.
- Article 23** Authorize Board of Selectmen to Acquire Easements for the Groton Road and Dunstable Road Intersection Improvement Project – More information about this project is available at [the Engineering Department's webpage](#).
- Article 24** Town Bylaw Amendment: Section 51.2 (A): Date and Time of Special Town Meetings – to start special town meetings at 7:00 P.M. instead of 7:30 P.M.
- Article 25** Citizens' Petition - Adopt a Bylaw to Regulate the Retail Use of Single-use Plastic Checkout Bags – [the proposed bylaw be found online here](#).
- Article 26** Town Bylaw Amendment: Section 123.2: Annual List of Delinquent Parties – permits the Treasurer/Collector to periodically furnish a list of tax delinquent parties to licensing authorities, instead of annually, to withhold the issuance of permits until taxes are paid.
- Article 27** Name the Boston Road Fire Station the “Fletcher Station 1” – in recognition of the contributions of the Fletcher family to the community.
- Article 28** Rename the Norman E. Day Elementary School Gymnasium in Recognition of Kevin Regan – for his service to the community as teacher and longtime school principal.

More information on the [2018 Annual Town Meeting](#) may also be found at [this link](#).

There was a “Plastic Bag Regulation Working Group” appointed by the Board of Selectmen to work with the Citizens' Petition proponent to modify the language provided in the plastic bag regulation article to attempt to obtain Board of Health and Board of Selectmen support in preparation for Town Meeting.

The Annual Town Report for Fiscal Year 2017 is now published and available at the Town Hall and the Cameron Senior Center, as well as [online here](#). The books will be available at the Town Meeting on March 24, 2018.

Our annual Town Election is on May 1, 2018. You may view what positions are open at this link: [listing of open positions](#).

We have just completed an application for 2018 Green Communities Grants. These funds have enabled us to complete many energy efficiency projects over the past couple of years.

I want to thank town staff who worked efficiently in response to emergency calls received during the recent snowstorms. Our police, fire, highway, health, building and other town departments were particularly active in assisting homeowners with their needs.

We strive to maintain a strong partnership between our municipal government and our community businesses, and as such, are grateful to accept a donation of furniture from Juniper Networks to be used in our town's former dispatch room. These donations not only save us money, but provide quality resources for our public safety team members.

(Continued on next page)

In response to a notice of intent to sell the property known as “Merrill Quarry,” the Board of Selectmen formed a task force to provide recommendations in anticipation of receiving a bona fide offer. The board is scheduled to make appointments at their meeting on March 20, 2018. Stay tuned for information about future meeting dates with this task force and other information as it develops.

The Board of Selectmen appointed a Road Safety Zones Committee to look for areas throughout town that may potentially be designated as “safety zones.” These zones would allow regulatory 20-mile per hour speed limit signs in areas where vulnerable road users are likely to be present, such as parks and playgrounds, senior citizen housing and centers, and day care facilities, in accordance [with state law](#).

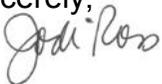
A FY19 Tax Classification Research Group was formed by the Board of Selectmen to collect information and testimony from residents, local businesses and other communities to determine the potential economic impact of splitting the residential and commercial tax rate in Westford to fund tax exemptions for our senior and/or low-income residents (article 20 on the warrant).

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, Parkerville Schoolhouse Committee, Parks and Recreation Commission, Pedestrian Safety Committee, Permanent Town Building Committee, Senior Low-Income Disabled Tax Relief (SLIDTR) 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](#).

**See you at Town Meeting, March 24<sup>th</sup>!**

Sincerely,



Jodi Ross  
Town Manager



*Police vehicle damaged by a falling tree in the March storm event.*

## J.V. Fletcher Library

### MARCH AT THE LIBRARY

**Bimonthly Knitting Group: Mon., March 26 at 6:30 p.m.** Do you enjoy knitting? Drop in to our informal knitting group. The group meets the second Monday of the month from 3-5 p.m. and the fourth Monday of the month from 6:30-8:30 p.m. This is a drop-in program that is open to all ages. Bring your latest project and share advice and socialize with other knitters. If you have any questions, please call Kristina Leedberg at 978-399-2309.

**Cookbook Book Club: Tues., March 20 at 7 p.m.** The Cookbook Book Club is dedicated to exploring cookbooks and sampling new recipes. Copies of this month's choice, **Barefoot Contessa: How Easy is That?**, by Ina Garten 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.

**Teen and Tween Money Savvy Teens: Sat. March 24 at 12:00 p.m.** Teens and tweens in grades 5 to 12 will learn how to budget their money, identify wants vs. needs, and much more with Jorge Flores from Trilogy Financial. This free program is designed for teens (and parents may attend as well). **Registration required. Teens and tweens in grades 5 to 12 can register online, by phone, or in person.**

**Ukulele Strum-Along: You Learn to Play by Playing: Sat., March 24 at 2 p.m.** Focusing on 2 and 3 chord songs, this program is for the beginner ukulele player who wants to practice and play music with others. Singing is encouraged. Ukuleles available to borrow, songs projected onto a screen so no music stands or books necessary. This new program will meet on a monthly basis. Open to adults and teens.

**Murder Mystery Book Club: Mon., March 26 at 10:30 a.m.** Wake up your week with a stimulating book discussion! We meet once a month on Monday morning @ 10:30 a.m. in the Mary Atwood Room. Our March selection is **The Cater Street Hangman** by Anne Perry. Copies of the current selection are available for check-out at the Main Desk. New Members are always welcome. No registration required.

**Touring a New England Cemetery with Marilyn Day: Thurs., March 29 at 7 p.m.** Observe several different views of the cemetery – how it can be viewed as a garden cemetery, or as an outdoor art gallery, as well as a place rich in history. Together we will look at the artistry and symbols carved on the stones. We will also examine how attitudes toward death have changed over the years. No registration required

**J.V. Fletcher Library Participating in MBLC and Bruins PJ Drive:** The J.V. Fletcher Library has teamed up with the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and the Boston Bruins to participate in their annual pajama drive to benefit DCF Kids and Cradles to Crayons. The PJ Drive's goal is to collect 15,000 pairs of new pajamas for children and teens in need. The PJ Drive runs from February 1 through March 15, 2018. The library will be collecting new pairs of pajamas for babies, children and teens. The drop off bin is located across from the Main Desk.

**Planning for April School Vacation?** Remember that the Friends of the J.V. Fletcher Library graciously provide residents with the ability to reserve museum passes to 23 venues. So book early to get discount or free admission to great, kid friendly sites. Many seasonal venues will be open and special programs are provided during school vacation week. Reservations are now being accepted and may be secured by visiting our website at [www.westfordlibrary.org](http://www.westfordlibrary.org), museum passes or calling the Fine Arts department at 978-399-2303.



## Parks and Recreation

### Westford Partnership for Children (WPC) After School Enrichment for Grades K-8: Session 4 Begins

**WPC Session 4, March 5-April 27**, offers activities such as Mixed Media Art, American Sign Language, Marcus Lewis Tennis, No-Bake Cooking, Floor Hockey, Meditation and Mindfulness, and more. Homework blocks are always included in the daily curriculum and are supported by each school's site director and staff. Enroll for WPC programs at any point during the session. *Registration Forms* can be found at 22 Town Farm Road, or visit [About WPC](#) at westfordrec.com

For additional support, WPC provides **special full-day and full-week programs** during school professional development days, conferences, and Winter and Spring Break. This February Vacation participating children enjoyed skating at Patriot Place, snow tubing at McIntyre Ski Area, and visiting SEE Science center and Bonkers Fun House. **Save the Date!** During the **March 22 conference day for grades K-5**, WPC is offering a full-day special program that includes maple sugaring at Moose Hill Wildlife Sanctuary in Sharon, MA and bowling/arcade games at Ryan's Family Amusements in Millis, MA. To learn more, visit [WPC Special Programs](#) at westfordrec.com.

#### Additional dates to remember:

March 15, Professional Development Day (early release, half-day coverage.)

March 30, Early Release Day due to Good Friday (no WPC program on that day.)

April 4, Professional Development Day (early release, half-day coverage.)

April 17-20, Spring Break (no school, Tuesday-Friday, full-day coverage, activities to be announced.)

*Westford Partnership for Children (WPC) is a Parks & Recreation sponsored After School Enrichment Program in collaboration with Westford Public Schools. The WPC program for students K-8 provides a safe, stimulating, and fun environment Monday through Friday, from school dismissal until 5:45 p.m.*

### New Seasons, New Programs, at Westford Parks & Recreation

The Westford Parks & Recreation **Spring Summer 2018 Brochure** has arrived. Find the brochure online at westfordrec.com. Start planning! The new brochure provides **Summer Weekly Program Registration Forms** for children ages 4-16 with detailed program descriptions for **Summer Beach Party; Destination Exploration; Kids Club; Ready, Set, Go!; Leadership; and Venture Out**. To learn more, visit [About Summer Weekly Programs](#) at westfordrec.com.

#### Additional programs include:

**For Adults:** Aikido; Archery; Badminton; Cardio and Fitness Fun; CPR, AED, and First Aid; Essentrics®; Qigong and Tai Chi on the Beach; and Volleyball.

**For Youth:** Archery for Children; Capture the Flag; Chess Wizards; Flag Football; Nitehawks; and Speed & Agility with D.J. Brock.

**For Squirts:** No-Bake Cooking; Tiny-Tots Soccer; Pre-K/Kindergarten Soccer; and Intro to STEAM.

PLUS Rowing for Youth and Adults with Westford Community Rowing (WCR); Marcus Lewis Tennis for Adults, Youth, and Squirts serving all levels at Stony Brook Middle School Courts; and Art at the Beach and Swimming Instruction at Edwards Beach and Forge Pond.

#### Parks and Recreation Commission Seeks New Member

The Parks and Recreation Commission acts as the policy setting board for Parks & Recreation. Commission members are appointed by the Town Manager for three-year terms. To apply for the member position that is currently vacant, please submit a [Citizen Activity Form](#) through the town's [Boards and Committees Database](#). Learn more about the [Parks and Recreation Commission](#) at westfordma.gov.

Visit us: 22 Town Farm Road, Westford MA. Call us: 978-692-5532. Or learn more at [westfordrec.com](#).

Town Clerk's Corner

# 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!

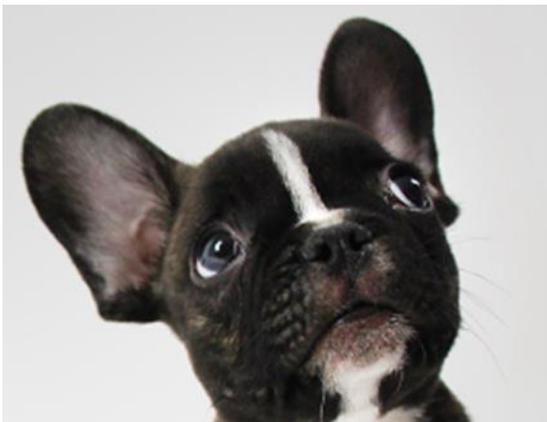


***BRING YOUR CURRENT RABIES CERTIFICATE WITH YOU!***

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

## Recycling Commission

### 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. Contamination is costly.



### Five MINI Household Hazardous Waste Days in Lowell

Saturdays, March 10, May 12, July 14, September 8, and November 17 are MINI Household Hazardous Waste Days in Lowell in 2018. Open to non-residents who pre-register. Required 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>.

### BRUSH CHIPPING

**Saturday, April 21, 2018, 10:30 am – 4:30 pm**

**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.

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

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

Please do NOT put non-recyclables like basketballs, garden hoses, and children's plastic toys in the recycling bin/toter.

Styrofoam CANNOT be recycled at curbside.

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.

**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.

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





## Spring In with us at the Cameron!

### Vine To Wine Delight!

Join us on a luxury Silver Fox coach to the Honora Vineyards for a day of touring, wine tasting and feasting at the vineyard restaurant where your choice of entrée can be fresh baked haddock or Vermont roast turkey. After lunch you will than travel to Putney Mountain Winery for your enjoyment as well as a stop at the Basketville Store. Enjoy your travels along the Mohawk Train as this trip leaves from the Franco at 8:15 AM and arrival home at 6:30PM. Cost-\$89 PP (Inc. all gratuities) Trip available to ages 55 and over to RSVP call 978-692-5523.

### SENIOR TAX WORK

Tax Work applications are available at the Cameron Senior Center. Please apply if you are interested in participating in this program to work in a Town department in exchange for \$1,000.00 (minus federally mandated deductions) reduction in your FY 2019 real estate tax bill. You must submit a NEW application if you are interested in being placed this year, even if you have participated in the past. We will be placing first time applicants first, and using a lottery to place repeat applicants if necessary. Applicants must be 60+ years old, own and occupy the property for which Westford taxes are paid. **Only one member of a household is eligible. Applications must be submitted to the Senior Center by May 4<sup>th</sup>.** The lottery will take place May 18<sup>th</sup> at 11AM at Cameron. You do not need to be present at the lottery, but are welcome if you'd like to attend. If you have questions about the program, please call Alison Christopher at 978-399-2325.

### Westford Family FunFEST Spring Festival 2018

If Westford residents age 60 and over would like to participate in a workshop on behalf of the Cameron we will subsidize the cost by 50% for the first eight sign-ups. Please register at the front desk for this fun opportunity. Also, your invited to the Opening Reception of the Westford Family FunFest Spring Festival on March 16<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm. Enjoy complimentary light refreshments, music, viewing and voting on the wreaths, gingerbread creations, fairy gardens/gnome houses. "Special Senior and Friends only lunch" to be offered at the Spring Festival on the following dates from 11AM-2PM: Monday March 19<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> and Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. The Cameron will offer free transportation and 50% off lunch to the first 12 sign-ups on Mon., Mar. 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> but you must RSVP to the Cameron at 978-692-5523. To learn more about Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and other festival offerings please visit [www.westford.org/funfest](http://www.westford.org/funfest).

(Continued on next page)

## Cameron Center Events Continued

### Please attend Town meeting and share your voice!

The Cameron is providing free transportation to Town meeting and a special discount lunch coupon for our wonderful residents age 60 and over. All you need to do is call us at 978-692-5523 and reserve a seat on the van and/or sign up for lunch coupon which includes your sandwich choice of roast beef, ham and cheese, turkey, vegetarian, tuna or chicken salad with chips, water, cookie and an apple.



### Veterans Luncheon



Hosted by Legion Post#159 and our favorite Veteran Agent Terry Stader on Thursday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 12:30. A tasty lunch will be catered by the Elegant Chef and entertainment to follow. Spouses are welcome please RSVP to 978-692-5523.

### The Cameron Senior Center Proudly Presents!

**\*\*NEW ~ INVITING ALL THOSE AGE 50 AND OVER\*\***

**Foxwoods/Mohegan Casino Trip**

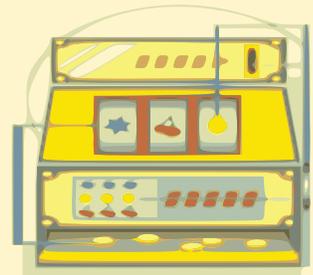
**Tuesday, April 3, 2018**

**Motor Coach departs Franco American at 7:30 AM**

Please arrive at Franco American Parking Lot by 7:15 AM

**Please park at the rear of parking lot**

Cost \$36 per person due at Sign Up



We would like to thank the sponsors and volunteers for making our Sweetheart Luncheon such an enjoyable occasion: Council on Aging Board, The Friends of the Cameron, Girl Scout Troop 60560 and Troop Leader Lauri Oliver for the incredibly cute centerpieces, Westford Rotary Club, First Parish Church United, Rivercourt Residences, Westford Cultural Council an agency of the MA Cultural Council and Art Nunes, photographer.

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

