

## **Town of Westford Ends Resident Waste Oil Drop-Off at Center Fire Station**



Effective May 5<sup>th</sup> the Town of Westford stopped the collection of motor and waste oil at the waste oil shed located at the Center Fire Station.

Since 1990, residents who change their own automobile oil have been able to pay a dollar a gallon to dispose of their waste oil at the Center Fire Station.

Fire Department personnel oversaw the oil recycling.

As calls to the Fire Department have increased, more and more frequently when residents stopped by with oil on a Saturday, there was no one from the Fire Department to unlock the waste oil storage shed. On a few occasions residents left the waste oil on the ground outside the shed.

Earlier this month signs of a small amount of oil seepage into the concrete in front of the shed became apparent. At that point Town Manager Jodi Ross consulted with Fire Chief Joe Targ and with the Recycling Commission and it was decided to end the program.

With the opening of the new Fletcher Fire Station on Boston Road in the fall of this year, the program would have ended anyway.

The decision not to build a waste oil collection shed at the new Fletcher Station was made by the Permanent Town Building Committee when cost estimates to comply with current licensing regulations were found to be outside the Town Meeting appropriation for the construction of the building.

“In the twenty-eight years since the Recycling Commission set up the waste oil recycling at the Center Fire Station, many other options have become available to residents to dispose of their waste oil,” notes Town Manager Ross. “And while the fire station collection was only open Saturdays, the others are open five to seven days a week.”

Among the nearby locations cited by the Town Manager where oil can be recycled are Whitney’s Service Station, 103 Main Street (fee); Westford Tire & Auto Center, 215 Groton Road; and Auto Zone, 63 Drum Hill Road, Chelmsford (no fee). The list also appears on the Recycling Commission’s website under “How To Recycle Most Everything.”

The Town Manager also expressed gratitude to both the Recycling Commission for instituting the program and to the Fire Department for keeping it going it Saturday after Saturday for over twenty-five years.

For questions please contact the Westford Recycling Commission, under “Contact Us”