



# WESTFORD NEWSLETTER

January 2014

Town Office Notes

*Happy New Year!*

## Joint Selectboard and School Board Budget Meeting

The Selectboard and School Board will hold an informational meeting **Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 7pm** at the Westford School to present the proposed town and school budgets. This is an excellent opportunity for residents to provide feedback prior to finalization of the budgets before being voted on in March 2014.

## Town Charter Public Hearings

The Selectboard will hold two public hearing for the Town Charter. The first public hearing is warned for **Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>**, 7pm, at the Town Office. The second public hearing is warned for **Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>**, 7pm, at the Brick Meeting House. Major elements included in the proposed Charter include changing some elected positions to appointed positions, and creating a voter recall provision for all elected provisions. The Selectboard feels these are necessary changes that will address accountability and improve the Town's ability to fill important positions.

## Petitions for Local Offices and Town Meeting Articles

**Petitions for articles** to be considered for inclusion in the warning for Town Meeting are due by 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Petitions must be signed by at least 5% of the registered voters (a minimum of 72). Please be sure that the person signing the petition is a registered voter and that their name is legible.

**Petitions for local offices** (e.g. Selectboard, School Board, etc.) can be picked up at the Town Office and must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup>. Petitions must be signed by a minimum of 15 registered voters. Please contact the Town Office for a list of offices with terms expiring in March 2014.

## Time Table to Town Meeting

- **January 8<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)** – Selectboard and School Board joint budget informational meeting 7pm at the Westford School in the common area.
- **January 23<sup>rd</sup> (Wednesday)** – Last day to file petitions signed by at least 5% of the registered voters (a minimum of 72) with the Town Clerk for articles to be considered for inclusion in the warning for Town Meeting. Be sure that the person who signs the petition is a registered voter and signs their name as it appears on the checklist and is legible. It could mean the difference of a petition brought in at the last minute not being acceptable.
- **January 27<sup>th</sup> (Monday)** – Deadline for filing with the Town Clerk nominating petitions for local offices to be filled by Australian ballot. Please make sure to fill in the office you are running for (including length of term) before circulating your petition. Please call the Town Office for information regarding available offices.
- **February 26<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)** – 5:00 p.m. deadline to submit an application for addition to the checklist, or to file a written notice of intent to apply for those who are not eligible to register to vote but will be by Town Meeting.
- **March 3<sup>rd</sup> (Monday)** – Town Meeting and public hearing for Australian ballot questions (including town and school budgets), time TBD, at the Westford School in the gym.
- **March 4<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday)** – Voting day for Australian ballot articles. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Westford School gym.

If you have any questions concerning Town Meeting, please call the Town Office.

### **Westford Town Office**

1713 Vermont Route 128, Westford, Vermont 05494

Phone (802)878-4587 • Fax (802)879-6503 • [www.westfordvt.us](http://www.westfordvt.us)

### **Senior Luncheon**

Attention Seniors: Our senior luncheons will resume on March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Anyone 55+ are welcome to join us. We have been having a wonderful attendance and hope this continues in March. Hope to see you there. If you have questions or comments, please call Carol Howrigan, President, at 878-3090.

### **Holiday Food Baskets**

The Town was able to help 25 Westford families during the holiday due to the overwhelming generosity of townspeople. Thank you to everyone who made a donation to make this possible!

### **Sign Up to Receive Your Newsletter by Email**

If you would like to receive your newsletter via email, please go to [http://www.westfordvt.us/newsletter\\_sub.php](http://www.westfordvt.us/newsletter_sub.php) to subscribe. Subscribers have the benefit of receiving their copy of the newsletter at least two days sooner than those who receive theirs by mail.

### **Winter Reminders**

- Plowing snow from your driveway across town roads is prohibited. This could cause damage to the town road equipment and also poses a hazard to vehicles traveling on the road.
- Please do not park vehicles on the road. This makes it very difficult for the road crew to plow and sand. Vehicles parked on the road may be towed at the owner's expense.
- Snowmobile travel on roads is prohibited unless the Selectboard has granted permission for a specific area.

### **Newsletter Deadline**

The deadline for the February Newsletter is 12:00 noon on Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup>.

### **\*\*\*UPCOMING PLANNING COMMISSION WORKSHOP\*\*\***

With the rough weather we've had this winter, it's easy to look forward to the warmer weather we know is right around the corner. But what will our town look like by the summer of 2015 or 2017?

The Planning Commission invites you to an interactive public workshop to be held in the library at 7:15pm on Wednesday, February 19th to help shape the future look of development in both our town center and the main roads that lead into town. Refreshments will be served.

For more information contact Melissa Manka, Planning Coordinator or go to <http://www.placesense.com/westford>

### **WESTFORD FRONT PORCH FORUM**

If you have not joined the Westford Front Porch Forum, please consider doing so. Everyone is invited to participate and it's free! This is a great way to connect with neighbors and the community.

Check it out at [www.FrontPorchForum.com](http://www.FrontPorchForum.com)!

*This community service is brought to you by Burlington residents Michael and Valerie Wood-Lewis.*

# WHY DO WE NEED A CHARTER?

In Vermont, towns are run by state statute. A charter allows us to make changes to the statute to better suit our needs. Only the items spelled out in the charter would change.

There are 3 changes provided for in our proposed charter: Appointing Officers, Removal of Elected Officers, and insuring No Conflict of Interest on the part of officers. There are 88 charters in Vermont now. Below are some of the reasons why we feel that these changes would better serve the town.

To see the entire charter in its current draft form, go to [www.westfordvt.us](http://www.westfordvt.us) and click on "Click here to view the charter proposal." If anyone has questions or concerns, please call me at 777-3995 or email [Selectboard@westfordvt.us](mailto:Selectboard@westfordvt.us).

Thank you,  
Alex Weinhausen, Westford Selectboard Member

## **1. Change One: Changing from electing to appointing certain officers.**

By Vermont Statute, all elected officers must a) reside in town and b) have no supervisor. We want to change the way some offices are filled, including the Treasurer and Delinquent Tax Collector. Instead of being elected positions, they would now be appointed. Many towns including Essex Junction, Hyde Park, Jamaica and Jericho have charters that changed their Treasurer and/or Delinquent Tax Collector to appointed positions.

The office of Treasurer affects almost every aspect of town government, and all the taxpayers. As the town has grown, so has our budget. The treasurer now must manage about 7 million tax dollars, for the town and school. For this reason, we need the flexibility to seek the best candidate for the job, which may mean going beyond the borders of Westford if no one in town has the skills required. It has also become clear over the past several years that oversight is needed to be sure our tax dollars are managed well. Having oversight helps insure that the job will get done correctly, or that steps can be taken to help correct problems that may arise. It is important to note that all other town employees who are appointed go through a thorough hiring process, including posting the position, reviewing resumes, checking references, interviews and in some cases background checks. It seems prudent that one of the most important positions in the town should go through the same process, and by appointing them they will. (See the charter for the entire hiring process which includes a committee made up of 1 selectman, 2 justices of the peace and 2 townspeople.)

**Here are just some of the treasurer's responsibilities, and how they affect the taxpayers:**

### **Budget Development -- critical for running the town.**

Each year, the selectboard creates a budget. To do this, they must know if all the money in last year's budget was used - whether we have money left over (a carryover) or whether more money was used than was budgeted (a deficit). There could be a carryover, for example, if money was allocated for road salt, and there wasn't much snow. Or, if there was more snow than expected, and more salt was used, there could be a deficit. Knowing what monies have been used is critical to planning the new budget, and whether or not taxes must be raised. In the past, and to this day, accurate accounts are not available and so we do not know where we stand.

### **Financial Pages in the Town Report enable the Selectboard and Voters to make Informed Decisions**

Each year, town finances must be presented in the town Report for Town Meeting. This enables voters to see the financial health of the town. Last year, some of these pages were blank because up-to-date records were not provided on time.

### **Getting Grants and FEMA money instead of using tax dollars.**

Many grants are available, especially for "disasters", like flooding. When grants are awarded the money is provided after the work is finished. To collect the money, an accurate spending report along with back-up invoices must be provided to the grantor within a specified time frame. If the information is not provided or is late the grant money is denied.

- Rebuilding the 2011 wash-out on Machia Hill cost about \$49,000. This was not budgeted for, of course, since it was a natural disaster. A grant covered it except that we were not able to find invoices for about \$1,200 in stone and a culvert, which now has to be paid by the taxpayers.

- Spring 2013 flooding caused about \$600,000 - \$700,000 damage, including the Seymour Road bridge. There are 8 projects associated with this flooding, and FEMA and the State will cover most of the costs, only if there is backup documentation. Otherwise, taxpayers must cover it (or the work doesn't get done).

### **Paying Bills Accurately and on Time Saves Money**

When timely payments are made a discount is available from some vendors, saving the town money. Conversely, if payments are late, a late fee may be applied. For two years in a row, the school funding which was sent to the Central Office was overpaid by \$100,000. This was not known until year end, when the school accounting office found out. Meanwhile, the town did not have this cash on hand for our needs. This led to a shortage of funds in the beginning of the current Fiscal Year (07/01/13-06/30/14) and meant having to postpone paying invoices or using funds from other accounts to cover bills.

### **Applying for Loans to Tide us through Shortages and Fund Projects.**

The town uses loans for capital expenses such as new equipment or construction expenses. Short-term loans are used to help with cash flow, such as when property taxes are due (Loans in Anticipation of Tax Revenues). In June when we had a shortfall prior to the receipt of property taxes, we could have used this loan. Accurate accounting records are needed to apply for loans.

### **Monies Allocated to Various Departments Fund Programs and Projects.**

Each year, the voters allocate funds to the Library, Rec Department, Road Department, etc. The department heads rely on the treasurer's accurate accounting to know what they have spent, and what remains. Reliable numbers have not always been available, which can mean dropping programs or repairs, because they don't know if the money is available.

**Employee Pay and Benefits** (paying town employees on time, funding 401k plans, tracking sick/vacation time, paying health insurance bills). Failing to fund the 401k (retirement) plans on time meant that employees may have missed out on possible earnings both on their contribution amount and on the matching portion that the town pays. Not tracking sick/vacation days was a problem for some employees who needed to know how much time they could take for maternity or family-care leave.

### **Cleaning up the Accounts in order to Move Forward**

The town has had to hire a bookkeeper who was a forensic accountant, to go through piles of invoices and papers, to try and determine the town's financial status. This started in January 2013, and is still ongoing with the assistance of others in the town office, and a software consultant for the financial software we use. This has cost approximately \$16,000 to date, and is projected to cost an additional \$3,000 by the time it is finished. This also is an unbudgeted expense, and will come out of tax dollars. It is doubtful that a complete understanding will be attainable therefore the Town may need to best determine funds on hand as of a certain date and move forward. The town has already taken some of these steps by creating a new account for the current Fiscal Year in order to keep prior financial records separate.

## **2. Change Two: Removal of Elected Officials**

Under Vermont Statute, voters cannot remove an elected official. They have to wait till the officer's term ends, and then vote in someone else. The charter provides a process by which voters can recall an elected official. Many towns, such as Colchester, Middlebury, and Woodford have created charters with a recall option. This is particularly beneficial where a term is 3 years (like selectboard members) – a long time to wait to remove someone.

## **3. Change Three: Conflict of Interest**

The charter details a process for insuring that town officers are not voting on issues in which they have a conflict of interest. If residents have a concern about an upcoming issue and an officer's interest in it, they may bring it forward and request that the officer remove himself or be removed from the voting process. The charter creates a specific process and steps to take to insure no conflict exists when boards or committees are dealing with issues that come before it.

## SCHOOL BOARD NOTES

With the Winter Solstice having just passed we are very cognizant of darkness turning to light. As holidays at this time of year serve to bring people out of the darkness and into the light of gatherings for conversation, many wonderful activities have recently occurred at our Westford Elementary School that provide "light" for the community. The Very Merry Theatre partnered with our Music Department to provide an entertaining night of seasonal music and cheer. Our Girls and Boys Basketball Teams have begun their seasons at well attended "road" games with home openers quickly approaching. Finally, recent School Board Budget Meetings have enjoyed relevant and enriching discussion that have provided "light" regarding budget construction and elements that influence the tax rate.

The next Westford Elementary School FY 2015 Draft Budget Work Session is scheduled for Thursday January 2, 2014 at 6:30 in the School Common area. The last meeting was very well attended and the conversation engaging. The most recent budget presentation can be found at the following link, <http://www.ccsuvt.org/ccsu/wp-content/uploads/2009/08/FY15-Draft-Budget-v.3.pdf>. This budget document can also be found by clicking the School Board tab under Quick Links on the left hand side of the Westford Elementary School web page. On the Westford School Board page clicking on the "Learn about the budget tab" will take the viewer to version three of the FY '15 Draft Budget. It could be assumed that salaries, building improvements, and Special Education costs, among many other topics will be discussed at the Work Session on the 2nd.

A consistent topic throughout all the Budget discussions has been Vermont's existing educational funding system. Specifically, the common level of appraisal, equalized pupil count, and base education amount and their influence on the tax rate spawns quite a bit of good verbal exchange. An interesting exercise used to gain further insight regarding the education funding system is to compare the increase, or decrease, in the tax rate each taxpayer personally experiences compared to school budget increase, or decrease, over time. An initial attempt at understanding the funding system can be daunting, but it has been reported that the Budget Work Sessions have been effective at demystifying and providing clarification with regards to this complicated system. The Westford School Board welcomes all members of the community to come to the next Budget Work Session gathering on January 2 at 6:30, contribute to the conversation, and shed "light" on important budget decisions.

Respectfully,

Mark Drapa, Andre Roy, Martha Heath, Glenn Dukes, Scott Cooledge



# WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

<http://westfordpubliclibrary.org>

(802) 878-5639

[westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com](mailto:westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com)

1717 VERMONT ROUTE 128, WESTFORD VT 05494

**We will be closed January 1 for New Year's Day. Make a resolution to read more in 2014!**



\*Attention Book Lovers: We are looking for more people to join our adult book group\* We meet the second Wednesday of every month from 6-7pm. We are a diverse group and read almost every genre of literature. Come check us out!

**Weekly Meditation at the Westford Public Library  
Thursdays, 7:00pm**

**Meditation - It's not what you think!**

**Meditation is very simple, but it is not easy! Fortunately we do not have to be good at it to benefit from it; we only have to practice it! Contact Michael Hechmer (878-3725)**

**Did you get a new E-reader for Christmas? Want to put FREE books on it? Still don't know how to download FREE ebooks to your iPad or Kindle from ListenUp VT? We can help! New Device Training - Wed., January 29 Drop in anytime from 6-7:30pm**

Be sure to bring your device passwords, Apple ID, etc.

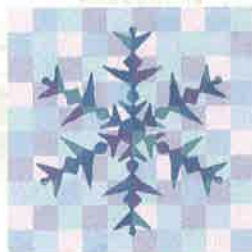


**Pajama Storytime**

**Wednesday, January 22 - 6-7pm**

**Theme: Snow!**

**Come dressed in your PJs for a good time! We'll read stories and do a craft based on the theme.**

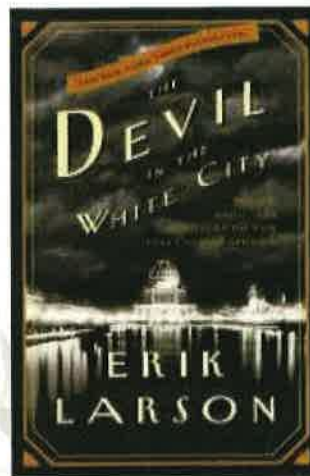


## Library Hours

|                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Wednesday:</b> | <b>1-7pm</b>    |
| <b>Thursday:</b>  | <b>10am-6pm</b> |
| <b>Friday:</b>    | <b>1-7pm</b>    |
| <b>Saturday:</b>  | <b>10am-2pm</b> |

## Book Group Discussion

**Wednesday  
January 8, 6pm**



Erik Larson intertwines the true tale of the 1893 World's Fair and the cunning serial killer who used the fair to lure his victims to their death. Combining meticulous research with nail-biting storytelling, Erik Larson has crafted a narrative with all the wonder of newly

discovered history and the thrills of the best fiction. (amazon.com)

The book is set in [Chicago](#), circa 1893, intertwining the true tales of [Daniel H. Burnham](#), the architect behind the [1893 World's Fair](#), and [Dr. H. H. Holmes](#), the serial killer who lured his victims to their deaths in his elaborately constructed "Murder Castle." (Wikipedia)

**Extra Copies Available at the Librarian's Desk.  
Next month: Grace Metalious's [Peyton Place](#)**

**Early Literacy Storytime : Birth to Pre-School Every Thursday at 11am No registration required!**

**1/2/14: Theme: Interactive Stories**

**1/9/14: Theme: Mittens**

**1/16/14: Theme: Math**

**1/23/14: Theme: Music**

**1/30/14: Theme: Chinese New Year**

Storytime consists of several stories around a theme, as well as a theme-based craft. All ages and levels of attention are encouraged to come. Don't worry if they fidget - they are still getting a lot out of it!

The WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY provides access to materials, technology, reference services and programs to meet the informational, educational, and recreational needs of the Westford community.

# WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

<http://westfordpubliclibrary.org>

(802) 878-5639 ♦ [westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com](mailto:westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com)

## January Library Events

**January 1 - Closed - New Year's Day**

**January 8 - Book Group Discussion 6-7**  
**Devil in the White City**

**January 8 - Trustees Meeting 7-9pm**

**January 15 - Homeopathy: Raising Baby**  
**with Patricia Hechmer 7-8:30pm**

**January 22 - PJ Storytime 6-7pm Theme:**  
**Snow - Wear your PJs!**

**January 25 - Family Movie Night 6:30-**  
**8:30pm - Popcorn and drinks**  
**provided (Drop off 9+ ok)**

**January 29 - New Device Training 6-**  
**7:30pm - How do I get FREE**  
**ebooks on my new device?**

**Storytime - Every Thursday at 11am**

**Upcoming: Mother Goose/VELI event**

**Thurs. Feb 6 and 20 from 6-7:30pm**

### Last Session -

### Introduction to Homeopathy

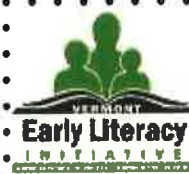
Looking for natural, time tested remedies for relieving common ailments? Millions of people worldwide use homeopathy. Come learn what it is and how to use it at home. Patricia Hechmer is a Westford resident and nationally certified homeopath practicing in Essex. She will give an intro to homeopathy in each talk and send you home with a few practical tips on getting started.

January 15, 7-8:30 pm - Raising baby - natural relief for teething, colic, earache

The Westford Public Library is now accepting **donations** of books, audiobooks, and DVDs for our annual Fourth of July Book Sale. Please make sure your items are in **GOOD** condition. **Ask yourself - would I loan this to a friend?**

We do not accept textbooks, encyclopedias, magazines of any kind, VHS or cassette tapes, music CDs, or old travel guides. Books should be clean and free of mold.

We now have a Shelburne Museum Family Pass! It is now open year round. Check it out for a three day loan.



Sign up for this exciting math & literacy opportunity for young children!

Focused on the new Kindergarten Common Core Math Curriculum.

The Westford Public Library is teaming up with Westford Elementary preschool teacher, Kendra Dibble, for a two night event for parents with children age 3 to 5 (or close to that).

Thurs. February 6 - 6-7:30 at the school

Thurs. February 20 - 6-7:30 at the library

Kids are encouraged to come - snacks provided. This will be **AWESOME!**

3 FREE books and 3 FREE math toys!

**SIGN UP IS REQUIRED! (only 10 spots)**

**ATTENDANCE AT BOTH SESSIONS IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED!**

Sign up with Bree (878-5639) or at [westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com](mailto:westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com)

**Family Movie Night - Saturday, Jan. 29**  
**6:30-8:30pm**



Gru and the crew are back at it again, in this funny, animated sequel. (Because of our movie license we can't name the film)

Rated PG

We'll provide drinks and popcorn!

Kids 9 and over may be dropped off - younger children must bring a parent. The earlier time is to accommodate a younger audience.

The WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY provides access to materials, technology, reference services and programs to meet the informational, educational, and recreational needs of the Westford community.



## MISSION STATEMENT

January 2014

The Westford Recreation Department was created to provide recreational, educational, athletic, cultural, and entertainment activities to all Westford residents and neighbors. We strive to offer programs for a wide variety of ages, abilities and interests. We depend on community input, support and volunteers to make these programs successful.

### Coordinator's Corner-

Happy New Year!

Thank you to all the parents and students who have given their time this year to coach, volunteer, and help make the existing, and new programs we've offered, a great success!!

Thank you to the kids who came out to craft at our 2nd Annual Holiday Bazaar and Children's Crafting Center as well as all the vendors who came to sell their wares. We have some talented people in Westford and surrounding towns and it was great to buy locally!

Basketball is in full swing, Nordic Skiing and Broomball are just around the corner as well as Open Gym and Baseball Clinic.

Watch Front Porch Forum and our Facebook page for updates.

As always, you can contact me at (c) 338-8235 or

WestfordVTRec@gmail.com.

*Yours in Recreation~ Heather Armata*



Our Next Committee Meeting is January 6th. Please let us know if you would like to attend, and we'll put you on the agenda! Thanks!

### Westford Ice Rink Info:

Thanks to many volunteers and the Westford Volunteer Fire Dept., the rink is open! The rink is free to use to anyone, but in return, we ask that you follow the rink rules and only use the ice if it is open. There is a sign on the Common Road side: Green is OPEN, red is CLOSED. Rink master Dave Adams is who determines if the rink is usable and he has set up an email address for inquiring minds: WestfordRink@gmail.com or on the new Twitter account, @Westford Rink.



### OPEN GYM is BACK!!!!!!

When: January 26th, Feb. 2, 9 & 16th

Where: Westford Elem. School

Time: 10:30am-12:00pm

Ages: Birth to 4th Grade

Come shoot hoops, hula hoop or jump loop-d-loops!

Whatever you do, get your energy out on those cold winter days! Bring your own trikes, scooters, or bikes (no marking tires, please).

Questions? Email WestfordVTRec@gmail.com

**LACROSSE:** Do you have a child interested in playing lacrosse? If so, email Heather at WestfordVTRec@gmail.com. We have **LOW NUMBERS** and are not sure that we will be able to field teams this year, unless we hear from you! Email by January 17th, please and pass along the word to players from other towns too!

### Time to Sign up for NORDIC SKIING!!!!

When: January 10, 2013 to March 14, 2013

Time: Fridays from 3:00pm until 4:45pm

Where: Westford Elementary School Trails

Who: **Kindergarten to 8th Grade**

Fee: K-2: \$15/Child \$25/Family

3-8: \$40/Child \$70/Family

Details: 3rd-8th Graders can use the schools equipment or bring your own. Fee includes your rental of school equipment. Kindergarten-Grade 2 must bring your own equipment and be accompanied by an adult (no fee for adult). Kids will be grouped by ability and age. All groups will learn new skills through games, instruction, and touring. This is a great time to **TRY SOMETHING NEW** and scholarships are available! The Rec Dept., School, Westford Ski Club and the PTO all put monies this year towards brand new equipment. Come enjoy the new technology! Contact Coach Rosemary Shea-Cobb @ shearv@aol.com or call 343-3347. Or email WestfordVTRec@gmail.com for Registration forms.



### Recreation Department Committee Members

Heather Armata, Coordinator 338-8235

Maureen Carpenter 893-5096

Noel Boutin 878-3632

George Lamphere

Randy Aiken

879-6488

872-0841

Or Email us at: [WestfordVTRec@gmail.com](mailto:WestfordVTRec@gmail.com)



## KEEPING YOUR ACTIVITIES LOCAL AND AFFORDABLE!!!

**Integral YOGA w/Tiffany @ RBMH**

Every **WEDNESDAY** evening, now from 6:30-8pm at the Red Brick Meeting House. \$13 drop-in fee; \$100 for 10-class punch card.

Contact Tiffany at [tiffshannon@gmail.com](mailto:tiffshannon@gmail.com). Watch Front Porch Forum for updates/cancellations.

**Pick-up Adult Volleyball is BACK!!!**

When? Monday evenings ,  
Starting September 9th  
Where? The Westford Elementary School  
Time? 8:00-10:00pm  
Fee? \$2 donation per player suggested  
Contact? Tammy Brown 872-8333

**YOGA with****Cat Earisman @ RBMH**

Cat Earisman, E-RYT will be coming to the RBMH on **THURSDAY** evenings to teach Flow Yoga! Breathe, stretch, strengthen and laugh in this athletic style of yoga---all abilities welcome, because everyone is encouraged to work at their own level. Class will be held from 6:15-7:30, and you can prepay for the month for \$40, or drop in for \$12.

**2nd Annual Baseball/Softball Clinic—Pre-Spring Training!!!**

Want to get ready for baseball tryouts this Spring and to prepare for the 2014 season? We have EXACTLY what you need!! The goal of this 2-week clinic is to have players ready for the spring tryouts coming up, so they can advance to the next level.

Who: Kids ages 8-12 years old (Coach's pitch to Majors)

When: March 9th and 16th Time: 10:00am to 12:00pm

Where: Westford Elementary School Gym Fee: \$20/player

Coach Pete Armata is excited to get you ready! All you need to bring is your own glove and indoor sneakers. If you are a catcher, feel free to bring your own gear if you have it. Soft baseballs and softballs are provided, along with batting equipment. Email Heather for reg. form at [WestfordVTRec@gmail.com](mailto:WestfordVTRec@gmail.com) or call 802-338-8235. Scholarships available.

## WESTFORD RECREATION DEPARTMENT'S 15<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL BROOMBALL TOURNAMENT

January 17th Youth (Championship Game on Sunday 1/19) & January 18th & 19th(Adult)

WESTFORD ICE RINK ON THE COMMON

\$12 per Adult player, \$5 per youth player

**Registration EXTENDED to January 10th**

*(Youth Tourney has 4 slots for Grades 1-4 and 4 slots for Grades 5-8 , Adult Tourney has 13 slots open)*

**First Come First Served!!!**

This is NOT ice hockey! No skates are needed - players wear boots (your own). We'll provide the equipment. Teams can be coed. Exact times and schedules to be determined by the number of teams registered. Food and refreshments for sale at the Brick Meeting House throughout the entire tournament. Adult teams are grade 9 and older. Adult Competitive bracket begins Saturday, January 18th. Youth teams are grade 8 and younger, with two divisions: grades 1-4 and 5-8. Youth games begin Friday, January 17th, with the championship games on Sunday at noon. We will email all teams prior to the tournament with their first game time. Players (or a parent if under age 18) **MUST** sign a waiver, (see reverse side) or the children WILL NOT PLAY....NO EXCEPTIONS. Additional waivers are available at Westford Town Offices. For more info, call Heather Armata at 338-8235 or email [WestfordVTREC@gmail.com](mailto:WestfordVTREC@gmail.com). **SCHOLARSHIPS FOR YOUTH ARE READILY AVAILABLE!!!!!!**

# WESTFORD RECREATION DEPARTMENT'S 15<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL

## BROOMBALL TOURNAMENT

**January 17<sup>th</sup> Youth & January 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Adult**

**WESTFORD ICE RINK ON THE COMMON**

**\$12 per Adult player, \$5 per youth player**

***Registration EXTENDED to January 10, 2014***

*(Adult Tournament has 22 slots available and Youth Grades 1-4 has 4 slots and Grades 5-8 has 4 slots)*

### ***First Come First Served!!!***

This is NOT ice hockey! No skates are needed - players wear boots (your own). We'll provide the equipment. Teams can be coed. Exact times and schedules to be determined by the number of teams registered. Food and refreshments will be for sale at the Red Brick Meeting House throughout the entire tournament. Adult teams are grade 9 and older. Adult Competitive bracket begins Saturday, January 18th. Youth teams are grade 8 and younger, with two divisions: grades 1-4 and 5-8. Youth Tournament will begin Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, with the championship game at noon on Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>. We will email all teams prior to the tournament with their first game time. Players (or a parent if under age 18) **MUST** sign a waiver, (see reverse side) or the children WILL NOT PLAY....NO EXCEPTIONS. Additional waivers are available at Westford Town Offices. For more info, call Heather Armata at 338-8235 or email [WestfordVTREC@gmail.com](mailto:WestfordVTREC@gmail.com). **SCHOLARSHIPS FOR YOUTH ARE READILY AVAILABLE!!!!!!**

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### **W.R.D.'s 15<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL BROOMBALL TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION**

TEAM NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Adult Competitive      \_\_\_\_ Youth Grade 1-4      \_\_\_\_ Youth Grade 5-8

Contact Name (Team Captain) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Team members: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_  
5. \_\_\_\_\_ 6. \_\_\_\_\_  
7. \_\_\_\_\_ 8. \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to W.R.D. Send completed registration and payment to: Westford Rec Dept, 1713 VT Rt.128, Westford, VT, 05494. Deadline: January 1, 2014. Proceeds benefit RBMH restoration and the Westford Recreation Departments programs, equipment purchases and scholarships fund.

(Minimum of 5 players required for a team)

# WESTFORD RECREATION DEPARTMENT – REGISTRATION FORM

NAME (Parents) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS (only to be used for WRD mailings) \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ CELL/WORK PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY CONTACT \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCTOR'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Please list **medical conditions**, physical limitations, allergies, or restrictions WRD should be aware of:

| NAME          | PROGRAM | GRADE | T-SHIRT SIZE | FEE   |
|---------------|---------|-------|--------------|-------|
| 1. _____      | _____   | _____ | _____        | _____ |
| 2. _____      | _____   | _____ | _____        | _____ |
| 3. _____      | _____   | _____ | _____        | _____ |
| 4. _____      | _____   | _____ | _____        | _____ |
| 5. _____      | _____   | _____ | _____        | _____ |
| <b>TOTAL:</b> |         |       |              | _____ |

**How did you hear about this program? Please circle:**      Front Porch Forum      Town Newsletter

Parent/Neighbor    Westford Elementary School    VTGrandpa.com    Rec Dept. Member    Other \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\*Please contact a Recreation Department member if your financial situation is preventing you from signing yourself, or your child, up for a program. Scholarships are available.\*\*\***

**RELEASE/WAVIER AGREEMENT:**

I am fully aware of the inherent risk, and give my consent for the above named applicant(s) to participate in the program(s) listed above. I hold harmless the Town of Westford, Westford School, their employees, elected officials, and/or any volunteers or instructors from any and all liability from any injury, claim, costs or loss of services which may be incurred by me, or us, or our minor children on account of participation in said program(s). Permission is hereby granted for me or us, or my child(ren) to receive emergency treatment if needed and I authorize the attending physician to administer any needed medical attention. Furthermore, I certify that I, or we, or my child(ren) are in good health and that there are no limitations to my/our participation except in writing above. I have read this document carefully and sign it voluntarily with full knowledge of its significance.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Send registration with check payable to:  
WESTFORD RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
Town of Westford, 1713 VT Rt.128, Westford, VT 05494**

## FIRE WARDEN NOTES

To all my friends and neighbors in Westford please accept my warmest wishes for a happy, healthy and safe New Year. I would also like to thank all of you who continue to apply for Burn Permits. Although it is not required while there is snow on the ground, it is a help to the Fire Department to know of burning on a particular property.

Please remember that all burn regulations remain in effect at all times.

If anyone is interested, I came across a website called Fire Adapted Communities ([www.fireadapted.org](http://www.fireadapted.org)). It contains lots of information including how to protect your home against wildfires.

As always, if you have any questions on what is legal to burn, where to burn and types of suppression tools to have on hand while you are burning, please call me at 879-1231.

Thank you.  
Dennis Angiono

### **United Church of Westford January Schedule**

**January 5** – Traditional Worship Service with  
**8:30am** Rev. Katherine Arthaud

**January 12** – Dr. Krista Reincke, PsyD, will  
**8:30am** speak on Spirituality and Healing  
in her work as a Therapist.

### **UCW (White Church) on the Green Westford Music Series**

*Presenting*

### **MICHAEL FARMER AND ANDY FULTON**

**Date of Event:** Sunday January 19, 2014

**Time:** 4-5pm

**Contact:** Marge Hamrell 879-4028 or [mhamrell@comcast.net](mailto:mhamrell@comcast.net)

Popular local musicians known for their wealth of talent and appeal, Andy Fulton and Michael Farmer will offer an afternoon of fiddle tunes, folk and bluegrass music with special classical pieces by young Michael.

They will offer a repertoire from old and new country and folk songs, blue grass and a variety of classical genres. A mix of instrumentation including guitar, banjo and mandolin will bring a beautiful hour of relaxing and inspiring music for the audience.

Concert will be held on Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at the UCW White Church. Free admission. Refreshments. Call 879-4028 for more information.