

WESTFORD NEWSLETTER

October 2014

Westford Town Office

1713 Vermont Route 128, Westford, Vermont 05494 Phone (802)878-4587 • Fax (802)879-6503 www.westfordvt.us

Absentee Ballots for November General Election

The General Election is on Tuesday, November 4th. If you want to vote by absentee (early) ballot you may request one now by calling the Town Office (878-4587) or sending an email (townclerk@westfordvt.us). Absentee ballots may be requested until 5:00 p.m. November 3rd.

November General Election

- Voter Registration Deadline, October 29th (Wednesday) 5:00 p.m. deadline to submit an application for addition to the voter 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 Election day, November 4th. Applications are available at the Town Office or on the Secretary of State's website (https://www.sec.state.vt.us/elections/voters/registration.aspx).
- Absentee Ballot Deadline, November 3rd (Monday) 5:00 p.m. deadline. Last day a voter, or an authorized person on behalf of a voter, may request an absentee ballot.
- November 4th (Tuesday) Election day at the Westford School in the gym. Polls will be open 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

If you have any questions concerning the General Election, please contact the town office at 878-4587 or townclerk@westfordvt.us.

Selectboard FY'16 Budget Workshops

The Selectboard will begin working on the FY'16 budget in October. Workshops will be held on:

- October 2nd & 23rd
- November 13th
- December 11th
- If needed, additional meetings will be held.

The Board encourages residents to attend these meetings to provide feedback to assist the Board in developing a budget to be voted on in March 2015. A joint informational meeting with the School Board will be held in January to present the proposed town and school budgets before finalizing them for the vote in March.

Senior Luncheon

The October Senior Luncheon will be held on Monday, the 13th, at 12:00 noon in the Brick Meeting House. All 55+ are welcome to join us for a hot meal prepared and served by volunteers from Westford. It is a fun and welcoming gathering. There is no need to call ahead. If you have any questions or need a ride, please call me at 878-3090. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone. Carol Howrigan, President

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the November Newsletter is 12:00 noon on Monday, October 27th.

HEAR IT FIRST ON THE 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!

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

2015 WESTFORD CALENDAR!

It's that time of year again! We are now accepting photographs for the 2015 Westford Calendar!

First, I would like to thank all who have participated in our annual calendar sale over the last five years. Our community efforts have resulted in a great new swing set for the Common.

The rules are as follows: Send us your most beautiful, interesting and/or down home photographs of Westford's people, places, natural areas, weather events and/or community celebrations from seasons and years past.

The Town will do the rest by designing a calendar using YOUR PHOTOGRAPHS (you'll be famous) and selling them during the holiday season.

You may drop off or mail your photo to the Town Office (1713 VT Rte 128, Westford, VT 05494) or email a digital copy to Melissa Manka, Planning Coordinator (planner@westfordvt.us).

All proceeds to benefit the **Town Common Playground Fund**. Our **GOAL** is to add a **SLIDE** to the play area on the Common! Your participation, creativity and support is greatly appreciated!

WESTFORD SCHOOL BOARD NOTES

Our last school board meeting occurred in August. We were informed by our principal that the school was ready for our students for the upcoming year. The summer was a busy summer for the school in which several projects were completed or will be in the fall.

One of the most important projects undertaking was to enhance the chip bunker by improving on the chip delivery system that feeds the chip to the bunker. Our head of maintenance, Jerry Shepard working in conjunction with Chip Tek designed a much better delivery system for the chips from the bunker. The new design included replacing the floor of the bunker and also the chip feed system. It is anticipated that the new design will serve the school well for the upcoming heating season which is not too far off.

In addition, the board acted on a recommendation for the hiring of the reading specialist position. Due to not being able to find a suitable candidate, the board accepted the recommendation for the temporary staffing of this position to be shared by two individuals. Sandy Bochanski will work this position part time in addition to her present duties, the other individual who will also work in this position will be an individual who we are familiar with; Cindy Friel. She will be working in this position part time as well. This is just for the current year and we will continue to advertise for this position for the purpose of staffing this position in a more permanent setting.

With the event of watching the leaves turn and the nights becoming cooler, we are on the verge of starting the work for another budget for the following year. It is hard to believe that we are once again on the verge of preparing for another budget given that school has been in a session for a little more than a month. The budget work will begin in December and we encourage everyone to try to attend these meetings as they are very important to all of us.

Respectfully submitted Andre' Roy

FY 2016 Westford School Board Budget Schedule

Monday, October 6 - Regular School Board meeting

6:30pm at Westford School, see agenda for topic times

- FY'14 end of year budget status A report from our financial officer on the close of the FY'14 budget year and how well we executed to the budgeted amount.
- FY'16 Budget guidance A presentation from our financial officer on the anticipated state and local budget starting conditions which will be in place for the FY'16 Westford School budget.

Monday, December 1 - Regular School Board meeting with budget focus

6:30pm at Westford School, see agenda for topic times

• FY'16 Budget recommendations - Budget presentation from our administration and financial officer with recommendations for budgeting decisions. This will take into account known Special Education requirements, staffing, site and maintenance, and technology needs.

Thursday, December 11 - Budget Worksession #1

6:30pm at Westford School

• Board discussion with opportunity for community input. Goals include defining Board broad direction on budget, provide feedback to administration and financial officer on requested budget changes.

Thursday, December 18 - Budget Worksession #2

6:30pm at Westford School

 Continued board discussion with opportunity for community input. Review of requested budget changes and their impact and update on any state guidance on tax rate, common level of appraisal, etc.

Tuesday, December 30 - Budget Worksession #3

6:30pm at Westford School

Final review of proposed FY'16 budget with opportunity for community input. Prepare budget numbers,
 vote warning, and presentation materials in advance of the Joint Meeting

Wednesday, January 7 - Joint Meeting with Select Board

7:00pm at Westford School

• Presentation of the proposed FY'16 budget. Final proposed budget accepted by Board for public warning in anticipation of vote at Town Meeting Day

Monday, March 2 - Budget Informational Meeting

7:00pm at Westford School

• Town Meeting review of proposed FY'16 budget

Tuesday, March 3 - Budget vote

7:00am to 7:00pm at Westford School

Up to date meeting agendas, minutes, and materials can be found on http://www.ccsuvt.org/westford at the "School Board" quick link. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

http://westfordpubliclibrary.org (802)878-5639

westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com

1717 VERMONT ROUTE 128, WESTFORD VT 05494

New Hour added - Now open Thursdays until 7pm

We hope this makes our evening hours more consistent - open until 7pm Wednesdays - Fridays.

We will be closing at 6pm on Thursday, Oct 23 for a training class.



Trick or Treat at the Library
Halloween - all day
Stop by in your costume for a
sweet treat and a prize!

A Place at the Table: Film Screening and Discussion

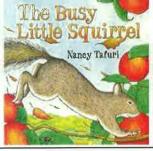
Wednesday, October 22 7-9pm
Join us for a screening of this important film about hunger, an issue that so many Vermonter struggle with. This film is a "riveting journey that will change the way you think about the hungry". Derrick Lambert from Hunger Free VT will lead a discussion, along with Lauren Curry from the Westford Food Shelf.





Please bring an item for the food shelf.

The Westford Public Library and the Westford Conservation Commission present: The Busy Little Squirrel: a story walk on Riverside trail at the Westford Elementary School.



Great for a fall family hike - exercise your mind and body!

NEW - Library Hours!

Wednesday: 1-7pm
Thursday: 10am-7pm
Friday: 1-7pm
Saturday: 10am-2pm

Book Group Discussion:



Wednesday, October 15
6:30-7:00pm (Book)
7:00-8:30pm (Movie)
Book discussion of Bram
Stoker's <u>Dracula</u> will be
followed by the original
Bela Lugosi film.
Extra copies of the book
are available at the
Library. You do not need
to read the book to come
to the movie.

PJ Storytime

Wednesday, October 29 6:30-7:30pm Theme: Bats

Stories and craft - Wear either your PJs or costume!



<u>Early Literacy Storytime</u>: Birth to Pre-School <u>Every Thursday at 11am</u> No registration required!

10/2/14: Theme: ABCs 10/16/14: Theme: Pumpkins 10/23/14: Theme: Spiders 10/30/14: Halloween (wear your costume!)

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

October Library Events

Oct 1 - Trustees Meeting 7-9pm

Oct 2 - New Hours - open Thurs. until 7pm

Oct 6 - Playgroup begins Mondays 9:30-11am

Oct 10 - Light up Pumpkins anytime 6-8pm

Oct 15 - Book Discussion and Screening: Dracula 6:30-8:30pm

Oct 22 - A Place at the Table: Screening and Discussion on Hunger in America with Hunger Free VT 7-9pm.

Oct 23 - Closing at 6pm - VELI Child Care
Training at the Milton Library 7-9pm

Oct 25 - Mask Making and Halloween Parade with the Rec Dept. 10:30-Noon

Oct 29 - PJ Storytime - Bats 6:30-7:30pm

Oct 31 - Trick or Treat at the Library - all day!

Tai Chi every Monday and Wednesday from 11:15 to Noon

Storytime every Thursday 11am

Building Bright Futures Playgroup is Back!

Mondays 9:30-11:00am

Westford Public Library

Children 0-6 are encouraged to attend!

Contact Janice for more info (janice@tfish.net)

FLDER FDUCATION FNRICHMENT

New Pass Available: Elder Enrichment Education

Pass admits two adults to one lecture each semester. (\$10

savings). For more info go to: www.eeevermont.org

Other Passes Still Available:

Shelburne Farms
ECHO

Shelburne Museum Birds of VT Museum

American Precision Museum

Vermont State Parks

Vermont State Historic Sites



Light Up Pumpkins! Friday, October 10 Anytime from 6-8pm

Make a pumpkin out of cardstock with light up LED light eyes. We will use copper adhesive

tape, LEDS, coin cell batteries and our imaginations! This is a fun project for young and old. We will have all supplies set up and ready to create. It should take about 30 minutes to complete.

Mask Making and Halloween

Parade

Saturday, Oct 25 10:30-Noon

Wear your costume and have a ghoulish good time!

and then a parade around the Common at 11:30am.
All participants get a goodie bag!

Mask making at the Library

Co-sponsored by the Rec.

Attention Day Care Providers!

Westford Public Library and Milton Public Library are teaming up to provide a childcare provider training on Early Math Literacy. This training includes FREE books and math toys, as

well as two credit hours.

October 23 7-9pm at the Milton Public Library.

Contact Milton Library at 893-4644 to reserve a spot (space is limited!)



WE ARE NO LONGER ACCEPTING DONATIONS OF USED BOOKS - The Library will begin accepting donations of books, audiobooks, and DVDs again in January of next year. We always accept donations of current hardcover best-sellers, audiobooks and DVDs. Thank you for your generosity.

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

October 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-

In collaboration with our Westford Elementary School, we are now offering after school programs starting in October and running until Thanksgiving break, for our 3rd through 5th graders. If this is a success, we will open it up again and hopefully expand to other grades. SIGN YOUR KIDS UP TODAY! We are looking for winter basketball coaches, so if you have interest, or coached last year and want to come back, send me a quick email. It's hard to believe we are starting to get ready for basketball!

If you have any other programs you would like to see, please contact us. I would love to bring in a program for our more senior adult population, but need to know what you would like to see offered in town. Discussion groups, cooking classes, nature programs, group exercise? Please email or call me with your ideas!

If you have any Rec questions/suggestions, please contact me at (c) 338-8235 or WestfordVTRec@gmail.com.

Yours in Recreation~ Heather Armata



Our Next Committee Meeting is October 21st. Please let us know if you would like to at-

tend, and we will put you on the agenda! Thanks!

"Like" us on Facebook!!!!

The Westford Rec Department has a new Page!
LIKE 'Westford Recreation
Department'!! When we
get to 200 LIKES, we'll
choose one Friend to re-

ceive \$25 off their next Rec registration!!!



THANK YOU!!

After MANY years of service on the Recreation Committee, two members, George Lamphere and Randy Aiken are stepping down. We greatly appreciate their dedication to the Westford Rec Department and the members of our community through the years of coaching and volunteer work. If you see them in town, please extend your gratitude for the time they have spent teaching our youth and making our town the wonderful place we all call home. Thank you George and Randy!

ACTION JACKSON The Art of Movement & Fun!

Who: Kids in Grades K-2nd

When: Friday, October 17th from 9am—12pm Where: Westford Elem School—drop off program Fee: \$10/child (15 slots available, due by 10/10)

What: M.C. Baker (Westford resident and Art Teacher) and Danielle Vierling (Westford resident and P.E. teacher) have teamed up to offer your child a morning of art, movement



and discovery! The instructors will take your child through a variety of activities combining art and exercise. Snack provided. Sign up TODAY!!!! Westford Lacrosse....
Fall Ball in the Gym!



When: Wednesdays, October 22nd through November 12th

Where: Westford Elementary School Gym

(wear sneakers please)

Time: 6:00–7:00pm, unless otherwise noted What: Open gym time to practice skills and learn new skills with one on one instruction from Coach Brent Carpenter and Coach Mike Rhone

Who: Kids in grades 2nd through 6th...kids from all towns welcomed!

Fee: FREE!!!!

Recreation Department Committee Members

Heather Armata, Coordinator338-8235Danielle Vierling871-9404Maureen Carpenter893-5096Noel Boutin878-3632Martha Bennett878-9269Meredith Irish373-9980

Or Email us at: WestfordVTRec@gmail.com

KEEPING YOUR ACTIVITIES LOCAL AND AFFORDABLE!!!



Integral YOGA w/Tiffany @ RBMH

Every <u>WEDNESDAY</u> 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.
Watch Front Porch Forum for updates/
cancellations.

Pick-up Adult Volleyball is Back!!!

When: Monday evenings, starting 9/8

Where: The Westford Elementary School Gym

Time: 8:00-10:00pm

Fee: \$2 donation per player suggested

Contact: Tammy Brown , jontamb@yahoo.com or 872-8333



We are LOOKING for MORE players! All abilities welcome and we REALLY need to have more players to continue. Fun exercise and a great way to meet your neighbors!!!!

ZUMBA FITNESS!

NEW INSTRUCTOR and TIME!!

<u>Tuesdays</u> at the RBMH from <u>5:30-6:30</u>pm Fee: \$5/Class and your First class is FREE!

Heather Sanders is our new Zumba fitness instructor and



her energy and smile will get you moving! Zumba is the Latin inspired dance fitness class that has taken the world by storm. No fitness or dance experience required and Heather will take you through great music & fun moves that

will get your heart moving. Modifications available for all fitness levels. Drop-in class...no pre-registration required! Heather offers a 5-class punch card for \$20, giving you one class free and a 10-class punch card for \$40, giving you 2 classes free. All previous punch cards WILL BE honored, so come on back to the Red Brick Meeting House, or give it is try if you haven't yet.....you'll be glad you did!

SAVE THE DATES.....

December 13th — HOLIDAY BAZAAR
January 17th & 18th — ANNUAL BROOMBALL
TOURNAMENT!!



*Prizes:

October 25th.....DIY Mask Making and Costume Parade at the Westford Public Library— 10:30 Mask Making and 11:00 Parade around the Common. All ages welcomed and every participant gets a goodie bag!! Come in costume if you want!

The 3rd Annual Great Pumpkin 5K Run/Walk & 1K Fun Run

*When: Sunday, October 26, 2014

*Time: Fun Run Starts at 9:30am, registration opens at 9:00am. 5K

Run starts at 10:00am and registration opens 9:30am

*Where: Westford Town Common

*Fee: \$10/Adults

\$3/Children up to age 17, OR bring two non-perishable items to donate to the Westford Food Shelf and your registration is Free!

Vou can drop off or mail your registration aboad of time to the

*Registration: You can drop off, or mail your registration ahead of time to the Town Office. You can also register the morning of the event.

Awarded for the Top 3 Male, Female and Under 18 Runners, as

well as Top 3 Walkers.

*Volunteers are needed for timers, food table, results board; please email WestfordVTRec@gmail.com or call 338-8235. Thanks and see you there!

Westford Recreation Department

Presents

After School Programs!!!

3rd & 4th Grade Chorus

With Rebecca Novak

Does your child love to sing? Chorus is a great way to give students the confidence to perform as singers, which has many other benefits that translate to success in academics. The benefits of choral singing translate to good presentation skills: projecting your voice, crisp diction, and staying calm in front of an audience. Students will sing and rehearse a variety of repertoire and are expected to perform in the concert.

Who: Students in 3rd & 4th Grade

When: Thursdays, October 9th through November 20th

Where: Westford School Music Room

Time: 3:00-4:15pm

Minimum; 10 Students Maximum, None

Fee per child: \$55 (Families should note that I am offering chorus all year, but the \$55 covers only the first 7 weeks. If their child wishes to continue chorus, then the fee must be paid again each trimester).

KID'S YOGA

With Kim Horton

Kids practice yoga through creative game playing, stories, music, and creative animal poses. Students are having fun as well as learning new skills focused on keeping their bodies healthy and building positive selfesteem.

Who: Students in 3rd through 5th grades

When: Tuesdays, October 7th through No-

vember 18th

Time: 3pm-4:15pm

Where: Westford School Music Room

Minimum; 5 Kids, Maximum 10 kids

Fee; \$12/Child

Cool Clay Creations!

With Amanda Feller

In this class, students will and explore the exciting world of clay through a wide range of projects and building techniques to create wonderful handbuild pottery. Imaginations will go wild as we make everything from animals to cups and bowls!

Who: Students in 3rd through 5th Grades

When: Wednesdays, October8th through Novem-

ber 19th

Where: Westford School Art Room

Time: 3:00-4:15pm

Minimum; 8 Kids, Maximum 15 Kids

Fee: \$65/Child

To Register, Fill out Westford Rec Dept. registration form and drop at town office, along w/payment.

WESTFORD RECREATION DEPARTMENT – REGISTRATION FORM					
NAME (Parents)					
ADDRESS	TOW	/N	ZIP		
E-MAIL ADDRESS (o	nly to be used for WRD mailings)				
HOME PHONE	CELL/WORK	PHONE			
EMERGENCY CONT	ACT	PHONE			
DOCTOR'S NAME		PHONE			
Please list medical aware of:	conditions, physical limitations,	allergies, or rest	rictions WRD shou	ıld be	
NAME	PROGRAM	GRADE	T-SHIRT SIZE	FEE	
3					
			TOTAL:		
How did you hear abo	out this program? Please circle:	Front Porch F	orum Town I	Newsletter	
Parent/Neighbor Wes	stford Elementary School VTGrand	lpa.com Rec Dep	t. Member Other		
***Please contact a from signing	Recreation Department member : yourself, or your child, up for a pr	if your financial rogram. Scholars	situation is preven ships are available.	ting you	
hold harmless the Town of W all liability from any injury, c participation in said program(authorize the attending physic	nt risk, and give my consent for the above name estford, Westford School, their employees, electaim, costs or loss of services which may be income. Permission is hereby granted for me or us, or ian to administer any needed medical attention. Initations to my/our participation except in writing.	ted officials, and/or any urred by me, or us, or o r my child(ren) to receiv Furthermore, I certify t	volunteers or instructors for ur minor children on accounce we emergency treatment if no hat I, or we, or my child(re	rom any and int of needed and I en) are in good	

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

Signature_

Date_

Art and Apple Festival







Brick Meeting House On the Westford Common Sunday, October 26th - 11 am to 3 pm

Home Made Apple Pies

Purchase a whole pie or a slice, with hot coffee or fresh cider. View works by local artists and artisans; some available for purchase.

Good Art, Good Food, Good Company!

Westford Historical Society will exhibit historic Westford photos.
For More Information Call: 872-9683

"The Busy Little Squirrel" Storywalk

Sponsored by the Conservation Commission & Westford Library

The Westford Conservation Commission and the Westford Public Library have installed a "Storywalk" on one of the trails behind the Westford Elementary School. Take a fun trail walk on the Riverside Trail and read **The Busy Little Squirrel** by Nancy Tafuri. The pages of the book are spaced along the trail so as to provide for an easy adventure (the storywalk only goes as far as about the first quarter of the trail). At the end of the book you can keep exploring the school trails, or head back up. We invite you to exercise your heart and head! Have fun! Link to trail map here.

UNITED CHURCH OF WESTFORD OCTOBER SCHEDULE

October 5, 8:30am: Traditional Service with Rev. Katherine Arthaud officiating

October 12, 8:30am: Annual Pet Blessing. Bring your pet or a picture of your pet to this fun, spirited event!



WESTFORD MUSIC SERIES

Presents

Modern Grass Quintet

Sunday, October 19th
4-5pm
UCW White Church

The opening offering for the Westford Fall/Winter Music Series will feature the **Modern Grass Quintet**, a high-energy, risk-taking contemporary bluegrass band based in Northern Vermont. The group formed in 2009 and comprises current and former members of Breakaway, the Bluegrass Gospel Project and Possum Haw. The MGQ has performed in concert throughout the region at the Champlain Valley Folk Festival, the Valley Stage Music Festival the Schroon Lake (NY) Arts Council, First Night Burlington and other regional venues.

The Quintet features artist Adam Buchwald on banjo, mandolin and lute, Todd Sagar jazz and swing fiddle and dobro, Andy Greene vocals, guitar, and multi-instruments, Stephen Waud mandolin and Kirk Lord bass. The group brings a broad representation of musical talent and variety of acoustical sound. This promises to be an exciting start of the Music Series in Westford at 4pm on Sunday October 19th at the UCW white church. Concerts are free followed with refreshments. Call Marjorie Hamrell at 879-4028 for more information.