



WESTFORD NEWSLETTER

September 2014



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

Westford Senior Luncheon

Gosh, it doesn't seem possible that we're into September already. Our luncheons will resume on Monday, September 8th at noon at the Brick Meeting House. Let's kick off the new season with lots of new faces. 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

November General Election

It is not too early to begin thinking about the November General Election. If you know you will need an absentee ballot, you can submit your request now as long as you know the address to which you want it mailed. If you are an overseas voter (civilian or military), we can mail or email the ballot to you. College students should submit their request (parents can do this on their behalf) early to allow sufficient time for mailing. If you are unsure whether or not you are a registered voter in Westford, please contact the town office (878-4587 or townclerk@westfordvt.us). The voter registration deadline for the General Election is 5pm, Wednesday, October 29th.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the October Newsletter is 12:00 noon on Monday, September 22nd.

Town Office Hours

The Town Office will be closed the following days:

- Monday, September 2nd for Labor Day.
- Wednesday, September 10th to allow personnel to attend a training seminar.

Regular hours resume after Labor Day. The office will be open 8:30am – 4:30pm Monday through Friday.

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!

CORRIDORS OF WESTFORD

RTE 128, RTE 15 & WESTFORD-MILTON RD

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

Incorporating Business into the Rural Landscape



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH, 2014

7:00 P.M.

AT

WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF DISCUSSION & REFRESHMENTS!

Please contact Melissa Manka, Planning Coordinator, at 878-4587 OR planner@westfordvt.us with questions.

The Westford Planning Commission is pleased to announce our fourth community workshop which will be held **Wednesday, September 17th, 2014 at 7 p.m. at the Westford Public Library.**

Once again, Planning Consultant, Brandy Saxton of Place Sense will lead our workshop. This workshop tackles the question of how to incorporate new business into a rural landscape. Specifically, it will focus on methods of encouraging local and economic development within the Agricultural, Forestry, Residential 2 Zoning District (VT Route 128, VT Route 15 and Westford Milton Road) in such a way that maintains Westford's cultural and historical character.

Please join us to discuss differing concepts and designs in an informative hands-on environment. The key topics will be site design, visibility and landscaping associated with new business. Come express your ideas, thoughts and concerns regarding this planning approach.

Your participation will shape the future!

For more information go to: <http://www.placesense.com/westford>

Planning Commission meetings are open to the public and are usually held the 1st Monday and 3rd Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. in the downstairs floor of the Westford Town Office. However, due to increased workload this schedule has become more frequent. So please visit the Town Website (www.westfordvt.us) for the most up-to-date Planning Commission meeting agenda. We strongly encourage public participation and invite all to attend.

P.S. THANK YOU! We would like to thank everyone who took the time to share their definition of "rural character". Residents' responses will assist the Planning Commission in their efforts to amend the Town Plan and Zoning Regulations. Please know that your participation is always greatly appreciated.

And...Our lucky WINNER of the \$25 gift certificate to the *Westford Farmer's Market* is

STEVE KOSLOWSKI!

CONGRATS & ENJOY THE LOCAL PRODUCE, MEAT & GOODS!

WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

http://westfordpubliclibrary.org

(802) 878-5639

westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com

1717 VERMONT ROUTE 128, WESTFORD VT 05494



Thank you for a wonderful Summer Reading Program! We had:

95 kids sign up

2115 books were read

We offered 34 programs

765 people attended our programs!

This would not have been possible without the support of:

Sweet Clover Market, Hannaford's Supermarkets,

Nancy McKee and Rainbow, Essex Cinema's,

University Mall, the Vermont Dept. of Libraries,

J. Hutchins, Inc., Perry Bland and Janet Franz

Library Hours

Wednesday:	1-7pm
Thursday:	10am-6pm
Friday:	1-7pm
Saturday:	10am-2pm

Book Group Discussion:



Is back (but different!)
October 15
Book discussion of Bram Stoker's Dracula will be from 6:30-7pm followed by the original Bela Lugosi film at 7pm. Extra copies of the book are available at the Library. You do not need to read the book to come to the movie.

Tai Chi is back at the Westford Public Library starting in September - Sign up now!

Mondays and Wednesdays 11:15-Noon, 9/15-11/5.

Class is limited to 12 participants.

Co-teachers Suzan Juskiewicz and Georgette Huffman



Tai Chi for Arthritis is a joint safe activity - proven to reduce pain while you improve balance, agility and strength. Can be done seated or standing. Classes are sponsored by CVAA and are offered at no charge to adults age 50+. **Building on skills learned in each class, regular attendance is encouraged, especially the first few sessions.**

Sign up with Bree at 893-2689 or westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com

PJ Storytime is Back!

Wednesday,
September 24
6:30-7:30pm

Theme: Fall Leaves
Stories, craft, and
PJs - what could be
more fun!
(Note the change in
time change)



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

9/4/14: Theme: Grandparents

9/11/14: Theme: Butterflies

9/18/14: Theme: Fall

9/25/14: Theme: Apples

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

September Library Events

- September 19 - Art Opening: Longina Smolinski 6-7pm.** Light refreshments served
- September 20 - Curious George Day at the Library!** Co-sponsored by VTPBS. 10:30-2:00. Videos, crafts, snacks, and FUN! (see write-up for more details)
- September 24 - PJ storytime - Theme: Fall leaves 6:30-7:30pm.** Wear your PJs!
- September 25 - Local Motion Bike Commuting Program 6-7pm.** Prize drawing and refreshments served.
- September 26 - E-textiles: Light up Arm Cuffs 7-9pm** (for ages 9+, pre-registration required)
- Tai Chi every Monday and Wednesday from 11:15 to Noon starting 9/15**
- Storytime every Thursday 11am**


**Art Opening: Longina Smolinski
Friday, Sept. 19 6-7pm**

Come view the art of this diverse Westford artist. Refreshments served.

BIKE COMMUTING WORKSHOP: Getting into Bicycling
Presented by Local Motion

Thursday, September 25 6-7pm
Have you been wanting to bike more? Ready to take the next step, but not quite sure where to start? Local Motion can help!



- +What gear you need
- +How to make sure your bike is in shape for commuting
- +How to map out a route that fits with your available time and comfort level
- +How to "read" the street and ride safe under a range of conditions

Best of all, if there are 10 or more workshop participants, we'll hold an on-site raffle for a waterproof bicycle bag!



Vermont PBS
Presents a FREE Film Screening & Craft

Curious George Day

Make a fun craft and screen the following Curious George episodes:
"George Goes for 100"
"Big Bad Hummer"
"Red Barrel Monkey"

We will show videos every XX:30 and then do a related craft.

Sept. 20, 10:30 a.m. - 2 pm

Westford Library
Westford, VT
Contact: Bree (802) 878-5639

Another Maker Class - E-textiles: Arm Cuff
Friday, September 26 7-9pm
Ages 9+ (drop off ok)

Combining engineering and artistry - we will design and complete a light-up arm cuff using felt, LEDs, batteries and conductive thread.

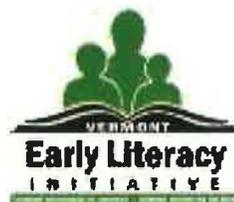
Pre-registration required!!


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

September 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-

THANK YOU to our awesome summer soccer coaches for Pre-K to Grade 2...Heidi Rabtoy, Lesha and Joel Gates, Kim and Mark Horton and Avery Wischart.....you were all amazing and did such a great job with our huge group!!!!

We are excited to have our Fall soccer program starting up and hope that you can come cheer on our players. Our DIY Mask Making and Parade in conjunction with the library will be back on October 25th and our 3rd Annual Pumpkin Run is coming back on October 26th. See you there!

If there are any programs you are looking for, please send me a message and we'll do whatever we can to provide them to you. We won't know that there is an interest or a need, unless we hear from you....our community!

As always, you can contact me at (c) 338-8235 or WestfordVTRec@gmail.com.



Our Next Committee Meeting is September 16th at 7:00pm at the Westford Town Office. Please let us know if you would like to attend, and we'll put you on the agenda! Thanks!

FALL SOCCER SIGN UP!!!!



Pre-K/K group— Thank you to Greg Baker for volunteering to coach our pre-k/k group of kiddos! Practice starts September 6th and runs until October 11th and is from 9-10am at the Westford Elementary School. Fee is \$25/player and includes a t-shirt. Registration due by September 5th.

Grades 1/2 Co-ed Soccer— Coach Heidi Rabtoy is excited to coach this group during the fall! We are going to work on scheduling a few games with other towns, something new for the Rec Dept., so get excited for this year! Practices and games will still fall on Saturday mornings, between 9-10am (game times TBD) and start September 6th and run until October 11th.. Registration fee is \$25/player, which includes a t-shirt and is due by August 25th.

Grade 3/4 Co-ed Soccer- WE HAVE A TEAM! Practice has already started, but if your child would like to join, they still have time! Practices are Tuesdays and Fridays from 5:30-7:00pm and games are TBD, but will most likely fall on Saturday mornings, with two Jamborees during the season.

Fees: \$35/player.

Maximum family cost of \$80 for Fall Soccer. Scholarships available. Contact Heather at 338-8235 or email WestfordVTRec@gmail.com.

facebook

Want to stay up to date on Rec Happenings? Like our Rec Dept. page on Facebook or sign up for Front Porch Forum. You will be in the know!!

front porch forum™
HELPING NEIGHBORS CONNECT

Recreation Department Committee Members

Heather Armata, Coordinator	338-8235	George Lamphere	879-6488
Maureen Carpenter	893-5096	Randy Aiken	872-0841
Noel Boutin	878-3632	Meredith Irish	373-9980
Martha Bennett	878-9269	Danielle Vierling	871-9404

Or Email us at: 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. 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!!

Tuesdays at the RBMH from 5:30-6:30pm
 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 a try if you haven't yet.....you'll be glad you did!

COME VISIT US!!! We will have a table at the Westford Elementary School **Open House on September 15th from 5:30-7:00pm.** Learn about our programs, sign up and meet some members of our committee. **NEW PROGRAMS will be ANNOUNCED during the open house!!!**



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!
- *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.
- *Prizes: 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 – 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. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____

TOTAL: _____

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**

SCHOOL BOARD NOTES

With the start of the 14-15 school year students, families, and school staff will experience excitement, anticipation, and a sense of newfound opportunity. This year the Westford School Board (<http://www.ccsuvt.org/school-board?refid=4>) is particularly interested and enthusiastic regarding outcomes that will be generated by two fresh Westford community based experiences. The Sustainability Committee (response to the advisory floor vote from the Annual Meeting) and the Appreciative Inquiry (AI) Summit scheduled for January 31, 2015 will provide much needed and relevant information that will be used to shape future educational planning in Westford.

Future newsletters will share communication associated with the Sustainability Committee. At this time we would like to share news regarding the Appreciate Inquiry Summit. The School Board highly values the prospect of moving ahead with our whole community to co-create the vision for our school. The Summit will be using the Appreciative Inquiry model to positively frame our strategic planning process. Mary Jane Shelley from TriFocal Consulting will facilitate the planning process. Mary Jane has been bringing Appreciative Inquiry to other areas of our CSSU, including schools, administrative teams, and school boards, where they are also using AI to frame their strategic planning process. The working title for Westford's AI Summit is "Westford Past, Present, and Future: Coming Together to Ensure Continued Student Success". A diverse group of community members and school staff (called the Core Planning Team) will devote considerable time and effort between now and January designing a whole-community visioning event, the AI Summit, scheduled for January 31, 2015. The Core Planning Team's work will be directed towards ensuring that the summit is tailored to meet the needs and culture of the Westford School. Forthcoming newsletters, as well as Board meetings, will be used to provide updates regarding the work focused on planning for the AI Summit.

As always the Westford School Board looks forward to engaging with community members at our board meetings (<http://www.ccsuvt.org/westford/events-calendar/>). News related to School Board business can also be found at the link provided in the first paragraph of this document.

Respectfully,

Scott Cooledge
Mark Drapa
Martha Heath
Andre Roy
Kim Phinney

UNITED CHURCH OF WESTFORD RESUMES IN SEPTEMBER!!!

Sunday Services resume September 7th at 8:30 am.

We are an Open and Affirming community church where ALL are welcome!

Note: We are continuing our schedule of 2 services per month, the 1st and 2nd Sundays at 8:30am.

Rev. Katherine Arthaud is available for phone calls, visits, weddings, baptisms, funerals etc. Call 802-233-8639 if you would like to speak with her for any reason. (email: karthaud@aol.com)

What's Under the Dress???

(aka the Civil War underwear presentation)



Have you ever wondered how the ladies of the 1860's achieved that famous silhouette? Come see a fun and educational live demonstration of the daily routine women endured to achieve the era's socially accepted look and learn about women's fashion of the day.

Friday - September 26th - 7:00 pm
at the Brick Meeting House
Hosted by the Westford Historical Society

Rent-A-Player to Help with Your Chores!

Need a hand with yard work, stacking wood, or need some helping hands to finish those last bales of hay? If your project is big or small, let BFA Fairfax High School Baseball Players help you while you help them raise money to travel to Florida for Spring Training in April 2015. For only \$15/hr. your mundane chores will be done and you will have helped offset the cost of this trip. Your tax deductible contribution will be greatly appreciated!

Contact Gigi Chapman: 802-999-5489 or email gigi.chapman@ge.com to reserve a Bullet Baseball player today!

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.