



# WESTFORD NEWSLETTER

August 2015

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)



## Property Tax Bills

The first installment for property taxes is due Monday, August 17<sup>th</sup>. Payments will be considered timely if they are received by this date, have an August 17<sup>th</sup> postmark (postal, FedEx, or UPS), or are in the drop box located to the left of the town office door before the office opens at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, August 18<sup>th</sup>. If your taxes are escrowed, please forward a copy of the tax bill to your mortgage company if you have not already done so.

## Act 148 Mandatory Recycling & Trash Disposal

Please read the information sheet in this newsletter to see how this law will affect Westford residents.

## Friendly Reminders

- **Garbage and recycling** need to be put out for pickup before 8:00am on Wednesday mornings, and placed curbside at the end of your driveway (or road in some cases) where it can be seen by the driver. If you put garbage out the night before, or early in the morning, please put it in a can with a lid or other appropriate receptacle to prevent animals from getting into it.
- Free **recycling bins** are available at the Town Office (one size only).
- Property owners who plan on **replacing driveway culverts** must get an Access Permit from the Town Office before starting the work. There is no charge for the replacement if the culvert is the same size.
- **Burn permits** are needed prior to any burning. Burn permits are available online ([www.westfordvt.us](http://www.westfordvt.us)), from the Fire Warden (Dennis Angiono, 879-1231) or from the Town Office during regular office hours.
- **Yard waste**, such as leaves, brush and topsoil are not considered household garbage, therefore Gauthier Trucking will not collect these materials when picking up your trash. You can compost yard waste or bring it to a participating Chittenden Solid Waste drop off center. For a list of centers please visit [www.cswd.net](http://www.cswd.net).
- **Metal items** can be put in the metal dumpster located at the town garage.
- **Hazardous waste materials** must be brought to a participating CSWD drop off center.

## Town Office Summer Hours

The Town Office is open Monday–Thursday, 8:30am – 4:30pm and Friday, 8:30am – 1:00pm.

\*\*The Town Office will open at 11:00am Thursday, July 30<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*The Town Office will be closed Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup> for Labor Day.

## **TIMELY TAX PAYMENT CLARIFICATION**

**\*\*\*IMPORTANT POLICY CHANGE\*\*\***

### **Please Read**

The Town of Westford currently accepts postmarks (USPS, UPS & FedEx) for tax payments. Given the electronic age we are in, the Town occasionally receives checks directly from financial institutions after a taxpayer initiates the payment. This type of payment may be known as Bill Pay.

These payments are mailed to the Town directly from the financial institution however the envelope does not bear a postmark. **Effective July 1, 2015 the Town of Westford will acknowledge this type of payment based on the date the payment is received at the Town Office.**

The Town highly recommends that if you remit payment using this method, you contact your financial institution to determine the appropriate lead time to ensure your tax payment is timely.

## Talking Trash...Implementing Act 148

Act 148 is Vermont's law designed to increase recycling and to reduce disposal of waste in landfills. Under Act 148, recycling is mandatory and to incentivize recycling, the law requires unit-based pricing for trash disposal. This means that you may recycle an unlimited amount of recyclable materials during twice per month recycling pickup. You will, however, be charged extra for exceeding the maximum amount of trash that may be put out each week. Now the details...

**What materials are subject to the extra fee?** Under Act 148, trash (e.g., waste that you put in plastic bags for disposal) is subject to the extra fee.

**What is NOT subject to the extra fee?** Under Act 148, neither recyclable materials nor large/bulky items (e.g., furniture, rugs/carpet, ski poles, etc.) are subject to the extra fee.

**What is the weekly maximum amount of trash that may be disposed without incurring an extra fee?** One 64-gal. garbage cart (24" wide, 32" deep, 42" high) or equivalent...a common large garbage bag size is 32 gallons, so two, 32-gallon bags.

**What is the fee for extra trash?** \$3.00 per 32-gallon bag. So, you may dispose 64 gallons each week without additional charge, then for each 32-gallons you will be charged \$3.00. Remember, there is no charge for unlimited recycling or disposal of large/bulky items.

**Who will send me a bill and when will I be billed?** During weekly waste pickups, Gauthier Trucking, Westford's contracted waste and recycling hauler, will record trash in excess of 64 gallons per week and direct bill each home with overages. Gauthier intends to send out bills on a quarterly basis.

**When will the new system be implemented?** September 2, 2015

### **Will I need to put stickers on trash bags or cans?**

If you live in a multi-family unit or on a road with aggregated trash from multiple homes at the end of the road, the Town will provide stickers to residents on these roads. These stickers will identify the customer or address, so Gauthier Trucking can identify which trash bags/cans belong to which customer. A sticker should be placed on your trash cans. If your trash fits into your trash cans, then you do NOT need to put stickers on the trash bags in the cans. If your trash does not fit into your trash cans or if you're not using trash cans, then you should put stickers ONLY on the bags that are not in the cans.

If you're required to use stickers, then you will be receiving stickers and additional information in the mail during August. A grant from Chittenden Solid Waste District's Community Cleanup Fund is paying for the stickers, informational materials, and associated postage.

You will NOT receive stickers and you do NOT need to put stickers on trash bags or cans if your trash is the only trash at the end of your driveway. Gauthier Trucking will direct-bill you for trash overages.

The Selectboard would like to thank Westford residents for your cooperation in implementing Act 148. The law is well intentioned...to increase recycling and reduce the rate at which landfills are filled. While we're sure there will be hurdles to overcome, let's work together. Please let us know if you have questions by contacting the Town office or feel free to ask questions directly to Selectboard members. ([selectboard@westfordvt.us](mailto:selectboard@westfordvt.us))

Dave Adams  
Westford Selectboard Member  
802-233-5701

# WESTFORD SCHOOL NEWS

Westford School has been busy this summer maintaining and updating the facilities (most notably the roofing project), orienting new teachers and staff, providing summer learning, and in general, preparing for another successful school year. The first student day of the 2015/16 school year is Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>. The school calendar is available on line and easily accessible on the school webpage @ <http://westford.ccsvt.org/calendar/>

## **Facilities & Operations**

Gerald Shepard, Facilities and Operations, has overseen and contributed to the successful completion of the new roofing system over the K-2 wing of the school. This project was supported by the community through the budget process and March vote and has remained on track and under budget. This, along with the necessary repairs to the chip bunker last year, are points of pride in our community school building.

## **New Faculty & Staff**

Please help welcome the new faces supporting students this year. You will notice that after 40 years of impeccable service, Pauline Perry has retired. Terri Martin will serve our students, faculty, and community as the Office Manager. Vanessa Habedank will serve as the Social Support Coordinator in the planning room. Additionally, Sera Ayers joins the 1/2 teaching team this year, while Callie Lumbra will teach 3/4 and specialize in literacy. Kasey McCuin will serve as the K-8 literacy specialist. Stephanie Jones will serve K-8 students as the Westford School counselor, and Elizabeth Shelley complements the outstanding Westford teaching team as the Westford School librarian.

## **Curriculum & Instruction**

Westford teachers have been immersed in implementing common learning standards. This includes great efforts in evaluating and selecting high quality instructional materials. For example, seven teachers attended a week long summer course specific to teaching reading utilizing a workshop model that included teaching strategies, as well connecting previous and ongoing professional development specific to teaching writing. Additionally, Westford teachers have taken course work specific to mathematics at the primary grades, and Next Generation Science Standards. Ongoing professional development in mathematics supports the transition to new standards and the utilization of a new mathematics program. Teachers spent the last two work days unpacking the newly purchased math program, and will begin the school year focused on implementing math workshop using these high quality instructional materials.

## **Student Registration**

Please call Terri Martin, Office Manager, for support in registering a new student. She will walk you through the school registration paperwork. New student registration paperwork is also available on line @ <http://www.ccsvt.org/registration>

## **Pre School**

Westford School offers preschool to 16 families within the Westford School setting. This is a four day, ten hour per week program that is accredited by the National Association of the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The program runs a morning and afternoon session, Tuesday through Thursday, during the weeks school is in session. The deadline for enrollment in the lottery for these slots has passed. Please contact the Westford PreSchool Teacher, Kendra Dibble, to be placed on the waiting list.

Additionally, Westford is an early adopter of Act 166 and provides 10 hour per week slots to approved private preschools. A link listing all Pre-qualified private preschools to access Act 166 funds is available on the Westford School webpage.

The Westford School District provides the financial support for private slots, but does **not** manage enrollment at private preschools. Parents are responsible for securing space at an approved private preschool. Children must be 3 by September 1, 2015 to be eligible for Act 166 preschool slots.

To get an Act 166 slot at a private preschool, contact the preschool of interest to investigate availability at the approved program of your choice and complete the preschool request form. The Childcare Resource Center (CRC) and CCSU have a collaborative partnership where they support the management of Act 166 slots on behalf of our school districts. This means that the primary contact for parents for Act 166 slots is Megan Flanders, CRC (802) 863-3367 extension 140.

# WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

<http://westfordpubliclibrary.org>

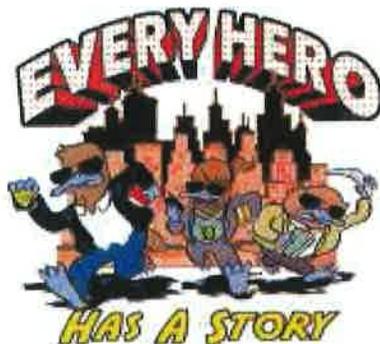
(802) 878-5639

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

1717 VERMONT ROUTE 128, WESTFORD VT 05494

## Summer Reading Logs are due August 6!

You can turn them into Bree at the library or phone/email in the number of books read by your child this summer. Raffle tickets will be given based on the number of books read. There are many FABULOUS prizes! Raffle will be held at the Ice Cream Party (you do not need to be present to win!).



End of Summer Reading Ice Cream Party on the Common! Friday, August 7 -- 5-6pm  
Who doesn't love ice cream? And prizes? Help yourself to a sundae feast! We will pass out certificates and do all drawings (kids, tween, teen, and adult). You do not need to be present to win. (Ice Cream provided by City Market - thank you!)

## Our First Ever KinderNight! Monday, Aug. 24 6:30-7:30pm

Open to incoming Westford Kindergarteners and families - come for a special storytime and craft - just for you! More information will be coming in a letter from Mrs. P soon! Refreshments provided by Building Bright Futures! RSVP to the Library by 8/22.



## Library Hours

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

## Read and Win at the Fair!

Do you want a FREE ticket to the Champlain Valley Fair? Are you:

- \* Entering grades K-8
- \* Read at least 3 books this summer

If YES! Then stop by the Library for your READ AND WIN AT THE FAIR RIBBON good for:

- \* FREE Admission to the Fair ONLY 8/31
- \* FREE Ice Cream
- \* FREE Ride
- \* FREE Book

Available all August at the Library - requires parent/guardian signature! This FREE ticket is ONLY good Monday, August 31 (yes, the kids are in school!)



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

\*8/6/15: Theme: Animal Heroes

8/13/15: Theme: The Beach

8/20/15: Theme: Back to School

8/27/15: Theme: New Friends

Storytimes marked with a (\*) are considered part of the Summer Reading Program

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

## August Library Events

**August 1 - Super Groovy Washer Necklaces - Drop in anytime 10:30-Noon**

**August 5 - Trustees Meeting 7-9pm**

**August 6 - Reading Logs due by this Date**

**August 7 - End of the Summer Reading Program Ice Cream Party 5-6pm on the Common**

**August 9 - Concert on the Common: Mad Mountain Scramblers 7-8pm**

**August 24 - KinderNight 6:30-7:30pm**

**August 26 - First Day of School!**

**August 31 - Read and Win Day at the Champlain Valley Fair**

**Storytime every Thursday 11am**

**Be on the lookout for playgroup notices!**

The Westford Conservation Commission and the Westford Public Library present a Summer Story Walk set up (July-August) on the town trails behind the school. Fun for all ages! Great exercise for your body and mind!



**Super Groovy Washer Necklaces - Drop in anytime Saturday, Aug 1 10:30-Noon**

Be a super friend and make a necklace for you and one for a friend using ribbon, washers, and nail polish.



Looking forward to Fall:

We have a lot of things in the works for Fall. One that I am very excited about is an after-school Math Club sponsored by Bedtime Math called Crazy 8s! There will be two



clubs: grades K-2 and 3-5. The club will meet afterschool for 8 weeks and there will be a limit of ten kids in each club.

More to follow in our September newsletter.

### FREE SUMMER FUN!

- Passes are available for a 3 day check out
- Passes may not be reserved
- Vermont State Parks - day use (2 passes)
- Vermont Historic Sites
- Shelburne Farms (2 passes)
- Shelburne Museum
- ECHO Center (2 passes) (\$4/person)
- Birds of Vermont Museum
- American Precision Museum (Windsor, VT)

The Building Bright Futures Playgroup does not meet at the library during the summer. For summer info, contact Janice Hunt at [Janice@tfish.net](mailto:Janice@tfish.net)

There is also no CVAA Tai Chi at the Library during the summer. The class will hopefully return in the Fall.

The Library is **not accepting donations** of books, audiobooks, and DVDs **at this time** for our annual Fourth of July Book Sale. We will begin accepting donations again in the late winter/early spring. Thank you to community for all your wonderful support!

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**

August 2015

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** for the wonderful support during our 4th of July Events! We had the best year yet, at our concession stand!  
Calling all coaches! We need fall Soccer Coaches for Pre-K/K and Grade 1/2 group, which meets on Saturday mornings from Sept.-mid-October. No previous coaching required or soccer knowledge...just a desire to help our kids have fun!!

Please contact me at 338-8235 or WestfordVTRec@gmail.com if interested.

*Yours in Recreation~ Heather Armata*



Our Next Committee Meeting is August 18h.

Please let us know if you would like to attend, and we will put you on the agenda!

**Week Long Summer Soccer Camp...August 3rd-7th!!** The camp is located at the Westford Elementary School, runs for 5 days, from 8:30 until 11:30am, and is for Boys and Girls entering grades 3-6 in the fall. You have a new coach this year, Westford Alumni Joe Aiken!! He is excited to be home for the summer and coaching your kids! They will improve their skills through drills, condition and scrimmages. Registration fee is \$55 for the week. Start sending in your registration forms now to secure your child's spot!!! Drop off at town office or scan and email it to WestfordVTRec@gmail.com!! You can call Heather at 338-8235 with any questions.



**Integral YOGA w/Tiffany** Start off your new year with yoga!



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.



**ZUMBA FITNESS update!**

The class will be off for the remainder of the summer, but will return in the fall. See you soon!!!

**DISCOUNT TICKETS TO NEW ENGLAND ADVENTURE PARKS!!!!**

The following are available for purchase at the Westford Town Offices (878-4587), during normal business hours:

**Great Escape Adult (over 48 inches) Tickets: \$40/ticket**  
(normally \$56.99 at gate)

**Great Escape Parking Passes: \$16** (normally \$20.00)

**Bromley Adventure Park: \$35/ticket** (normally \$45.00 each)

**Six Flags New England Adult (over 54 inches): \$45/ticket**  
(normally \$59.99 at gate)

**NEW THIS YEAR!! ARBORTREK CANOPY ADVENTURES in JEFFERSONVILLE!!**

**TREE TOP & CLIMBING: \$49/ticket** (normally \$60 each)

**CLIMBING ONLY: \$15** (normally \$20 each)

**Sangha Yoga with Anne**

**Tuesday evenings from 7-8:00pm** join Anne Whitney at the Red Brick Meeting House for some restorative and/or flow yoga. \$10/class or by donation.



Call 802-598-6299 or email aeorella-

na@yahoo.com with any questions. All ages and abilities welcome!!

**Recreation Department Committee Members**

Heather Armata, Coordinator 338-8235  
 Maureen Carpenter 893-5096  
 Martha Bennett 878-9269  
 Greg Baker 324-5537

Danielle Vierling 871-9404  
 Noel Boutin 878-3632  
 Meredith Irish 373-9980  
 Email: WestfordVTRec@gmail.com

Fall Sport are HERE!!!! Keep your kids moving!!

## FALL SOCCER SIGN UP!!!!

We are looking for a coach for our Pre-K/K group. Practices are held on Saturday mornings, usually between 9-10am, but we can work with your schedule! No coaching experience necessary and we can provide you with ideas for activities that the kids will love.



This is a 6– 8 week commitment and SO rewarding!

Coaches kids play for free!!

Fee is \$25/player and includes a t-shirt. Registration due by September 1st.

Grades 1/2 Co-ed Soccer– We are looking for a coach for Grade 1/2 Soccer! We are going to work on scheduling a few games with other towns, something we tried last year, so get excited for this year! Practices and games will still fall on Saturday mornings, between 9-10am (game times TBD).

Coaches kids play for free!!

Registration fee is \$30/player, which includes a t-shirt and is due by August 25th.

Grade 3/4 Co-ed Soccer- Registrations MUST be in by August 15th, since we need to know if we have enough players for a team. Practices will most likely be two nights a week, from 5:30-7:00pm and Saturday games. We are about to secure a coach, so more details will follow, but we NEED to know if your child will be playing, so get those registrations in! If we cannot form a team, refunds will be issued!

Registration Fee is \$35/player.

Maximum family cost of \$80 for Fall Soccer. Scholarships available.

Contact Heather at 338-8235 or email [WestfordVTRec@gmail.com](mailto: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

# 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**

## SENIOR LUNCHEON

Luncheons are on hold until September 14<sup>th</sup>.  
Have a wonderful summer and stay healthy.  
Carol Howrigan, President.

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the September Newsletter is 12:00  
noon on Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup>.

## UNITED CHURCH OF WESTFORD SUMMER SCHEDULE

No Sunday services for the months of July and August. Sunday Services will resume the Sunday after Labor Day weekend, September 13<sup>th</sup>.

The church **will remain open** all summer for weddings, funerals, food shelf and community functions as needed. 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](mailto:karthaud@aol.com))

During our suspension of Sunday Services, we ask for continued financial support of the church's operating expenses. Send checks to: UCW, PO Box 53, Westford, VT 05494. Thank you.

Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>  
20<sup>th</sup> Annual

# ICE CREAM SOCIAL & BAND CONCERT

~on the common~

- Ice Cream served at 6:30pm
- Westford Fairfax, Fletcher Band Concert at 7pm

*Proceeds benefit the  
Brick Meeting House*



In the event of rain, the concert will be held in the BMH  
For information:  
Call Alex Weinhagen at 777-3995 or 878-5804



## 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](http://www.FrontPorchForum.com)!

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

# WESTFORD SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

*On the Common*



**August 17 BILL STAINES @6PM**

***“A modern day Stephen Foster. His music will be around a hundred years from now” (composer David Amram). One of the most durable and beloved singers on the folk music scene today, Bill has been writing songs, touring, and recording for four decades.***

**Free Sunday concerts. Bring a blanket or lawn chair. Rain location is the Red Brick Meeting House. Co-sponsored by the Westford Library, Westford Recreation Dept., and the Westford Parenting/Education Committee.**

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Schultz Trail has been cleaned up thanks to the hard work of Dale Rodgers. We encourage you to take a walk through the woods and appreciate our town's beauty and biodiversity. Park at the trailhead on Machia Hill or Old #11.

Dale Rodgers has also been busy installing “Mutt Mitts” at the school trails. For the health and safety of everyone at the school and all who use the trails, please pick up after your pooch.

Storywalk is up on the school trails! This year's walk is a smaller loop to accommodate those with smaller legs. Enter at the Betty Fay entrance to the school trails and exercise your body and brain!