



WESTFORD NEWSLETTER

March 2015

Westford Town Office

1713 Vermont Route 128, Westford, Vermont 05494

Phone (802)878-4587 Fax (802)879-6503

www.westfordvt.us

Town Office Notes

Property Tax Installment

The third property tax installment is due Monday, March 16th. Payments will be considered timely if they are received by this date, have a March 16th postmark (postal, FedEx and 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, March 17th.

Town Meeting

- **March 2nd (Monday)** – Town Meeting (voting on non-Australian ballot questions) and public hearing for Australian ballot questions (including town and school budgets), 7pm, at the Westford School in the gym.
- **March 3rd (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 or deadlines leading up to Town Meeting, please call the town office at 878-4587.

Dog Licenses

Dog Licenses are due by April 1st. A current rabies certificate is required. If you are unsure if the current certificate is on file, please call the Town Office. For your convenience, you may mail or drop off the fee and rabies certificate along with a S.A.S.E. and your license will be mailed to you. The fee until April 1st is \$10.00 for spayed or neutered dogs and \$12.00 for dogs that are not spayed or neutered. Dog licenses obtained **after April 1st are subject to a late fee.** We encourage all dog owners to register their dogs before April 1st.

Senior Luncheons

We sure have had an old fashioned winter. I certainly hope you have all been healthy. Our luncheons will start back up this month. The date is March 9th. Again, this is the perfect place to come and visit with friends and neighbors for a couple of hours AND A HOME COOKED MEAL!

Mark March 9th on your calendar and you will be getting the magnetic card for your refrigerator. Stay safe and healthy. Questions? Please call Carol Howrigan at 878-3090.

Income Tax Forms

The Vermont Tax Department is no longer sending income tax booklets to the town office. There are 3 ways you can get your state income tax forms:

- Print forms from the Vermont Tax website (www.tax.vermont.gov). Click on the "Individual Income Tax Resource Area" tab to access forms.
- Order forms by email (taxforms@state.vt.us)
- Order forms by phone (802-828-2515)

You can also access the Federal forms online at <http://www.irs.gov/Forms-&-Pubs>.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the April Newsletter is 12:00 noon, Monday, March 23rd.

Town Office Closed

The Town office will be closed Tuesday, March 3rd and Friday, March 6th.

Zoning FAQs: I didn't know I needed a Certificate of Occupancy for my woodshed!

Yes, it's true. Under Westford Zoning regulations a Certificate of Occupancy is required for **every permit issued**. Common oversights include accessory structures (fences, pools, sheds, etc.), and exterior alterations and conversions (deck to a porch, unfinished basement to additional living area, etc.).

The real estate market is rebounding and borrowing rates are very competitive. If you plan to sell or refinance your property be aware that most banks, title attorneys and mortgage brokers now require borrowers to verify their property is in zoning compliance. Discovering your property is not compliant can be an unpleasant (and sometimes costly) surprise and can impact the timing of your property closing.

Before you refinance or sell please check on your zoning status with Westford Zoning Administrator Kate Lalley. She can help you resolve any outstanding zoning requirements that may exist before you close. You can reach Kate at zoning_admin@westfordvt.us or 878-4587.

Getting into zoning compliance takes time! Depending on the situation, it can take 30 days or longer to achieve zoning compliance. Only afterwards can the ZA certify the full zoning compliance most purchasers and lenders now expect. Plan ahead!



United Church of Westford Music Series Featuring

Maple Jam

Sunday, March 15th, 4-5pm at the UCW White Church

Expect an afternoon of exquisite music with Vermont's premier a cappella singing group, Maple Jam. The talented a cappella jazz octet specializes in close-harmony vocal arrangements of sweet love songs and swinging big band favorites. With their trademark rich blend of voices and smooth jazz harmonies, their repertoire ranges from classic jazz, bebop, and swing to sultry tangos and love songs to warm a winter's night.

Formed in 2004 by members of the Vermont Symphony Orchestra Chorus, the group has delighted audiences at numerous venues around Vermont, Quebec and Ontario. Over the years, they have condensed their sound to produce the purest Grade A Fancy harmonies possible. Often playing to standing room only crowds Maple Jam has become a top favorite of the Westford Music Series from past performances. We welcome back this highly popular a cappella ensemble for a concert of sweet sounds during sugaring season.

Free concert. Refreshments. Call 879-4028 for more information.

United Church of Westford March Schedule

March 1, 8:30am – Worship Service with retired chaplain Michael Hechmer

March 8, 8:30am – Worship Service with Rev. Katherine Arthaud

SCHOOL BOARD NOTES

Town Meeting Day and the school budget vote are just around the corner. It is the goal of our board to present our budget information to residents by several straightforward, accessible means.

Residents may view budget related presentations and materials by...

- Visiting our board website. From <https://www.ccsuvt.org/school-board?refid=4>, click on “Budget Discussions” to view the Joint Meeting/Town Meeting presentation.
- Watching video of the Joint Meeting budget presentation at <http://lcatv.org/node/170036#>. The school budget starts at ~52 minutes.
- Reading the Westford Annual Report (page 85)
- Following frequently asked questions on the Westford School Board blog, <http://westfordboard.blogspot.com>
- Contacting any school board member

The proposed budget is a change of -1.3% (-\$67,000) from FY’15, including a \$50,000 capital fund article. Although the state base tax rate has yet to be finalized, using the provided conservative recommendations, the projected homestead tax rate change is +4.9% (\$72 per \$100k of assessed value) and the projected income sensitivity tax rate change is +9.35% (\$26 per \$10k of income).

Please remember to vote on March 3.

“A Visioning Summit: Westford Community and School Partnerships” update

On January 31, 2015 over 70 Westford community members gathered for the day in the gym of the Westford School to participate in an Appreciative Inquiry Summit.

In attendance were parents, community members, alumni, teachers, school staff, administration, board members and a student. The summit was focused on two topics that were identified as important by a multi-stakeholder Core Planning Team. The first topic was *Creating Vibrant Partnerships between the Westford Community and School* and the second was *Enhancing Student Learning Opportunities*.

The four phases of the Appreciative Inquiry framework are Discovery, Dream, Design, and Delivery. The tasks for the Summit focused on the first two phases, with the next two phases to be completed following the Summit with the board and interested members of the Core Planning Team.

A full summary report of the Summit will be made available to the town shortly. Next steps will take shape as we work on the “Design and Delivery” phases of visioning.

Huge thanks go out to all those who gave their time to plan and participate in the start of this process. It was a very warm, cooperative day that once again displayed the strengths of our wonderful town.

FY’14 Westford School Financial Audit

By law, we are required to undergo a financial audit annually. Results from FY’14 have been released and once again show no significant findings. Closing the previous fiscal year with a strongly positive report provides confidence in our financial systems and budgeting process.

Respectfully,

Westford School Board

Mark Drapa, Scott Cooledge, Martha Heath, Kim Phinney, Andre Roy

WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

<http://westfordpubliclibrary.org>

(802) 878-5639

westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com

1717 VERMONT ROUTE 128, WESTFORD VT 05494

Most Westford Public Library cards expired in February. If you have not renewed your card, please do so by calling or emailing the library. We will start deleting expired accounts in April/May. We are charged for services per patron, so it saves us \$ to have up to date records.



Library Hours

Wednesday: 1-7pm
 Thursday: 10am-7pm
 Friday: 1-7pm
 Saturday: 10am-2pm
 Closing at 6pm on March 12



www.takeyourchildtothelibrary.org

Take Your Child to the Library Day!
 Saturday, March 7
 Special Storytime 11am

This national initiative supports literacy and the vital role that libraries play in young readers' lives. We will be celebrating with a special Saturday storytime at 11am (Theme: Libraries, of course!)

Library and Rec. Dept. Events - What a Great Combination!

Shake Your Shamrock!
 Saturday, March 14
 10:30-11:30am



Get your Irish on with a mini-Zumba class and lots of healthy green snacks! Zumba instructor, Heather Sanders will lead a 15-20 minute class. Wear comfortable clothes (green!). Open to all ages, but it would be great to see kids of all ages doing this!

Save the Date - Westford Welcome Baby Tea

Saturday, May 2 10:00-11:00am

If you have a child born March 2014-March 2015, you are invited. Please contact Bree at the Library with your child's info. You will get an invite in the mail. There will be prizes!



Pajama Storytime

Wednesday, March 25- 6:30-7:30pm

Theme: Money

We'll learn how to Spend, Save and Give with several stories about money. Come dressed in your PJs for a good time! We'll read stories and do a craft, we'll even make our own money!



Adult Night Out in Westford!!!
 Friday, March 20 from 7:00-9:00pm
 Enjoy the casual setting of the Westford Public Library with live music and light appetizers (provide your own drinks ;) , after your kids have been dropped off at the Westford School Gym (ages Kindergarten and up!), for two hours of free babysitting!
 You do not need to have kids to participate in this fun, social event!

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

3/5/15: Theme: Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss

3/19/15: Theme: Mud!

3/12/15: Theme: Green/St. Patrick's Day

3/26/15: Theme: Spring

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

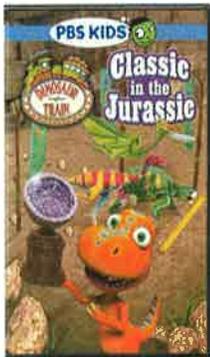
<http://westfordpubliclibrary.org>

(802) 878-5639 ♦ westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com

March Library Events

- March 1 - Trustees Meeting - 7-9pm
 March 7 - Take Your Child to the Library Day - all day, Storytime 11am Theme: Libraries!
 March 12 - VELI Social/Emotional Childcare Training at the Milton Public Library 7-9pm. Library closing early at 6pm.
 March 13 - Anne Cummings Closing Art Show 6-8pm, refreshments served.
 March 14 - Shake Your Shamrock! Zumba and Healthy Green Snacks. Co-sponsored by the Rec. Dept. 10:30-11:30am
 March 18 - VELI Social/Emotional Parent Workshop (signup required) 6:30-8:00pm
 March 20 - Adult Night Out at the Library - drop kids off at the school gym and come to the Library for appetizers and a good time 7-9pm (Co-sponsored by the Rec Dept).
 March 25 - PJ Storytime 6:30-7:30pm Theme: Money - wear your PJs!
 March 28 - Dinosaur Train Day with VTPBS - 10:30-Noon. Video, crafts, and snacks.

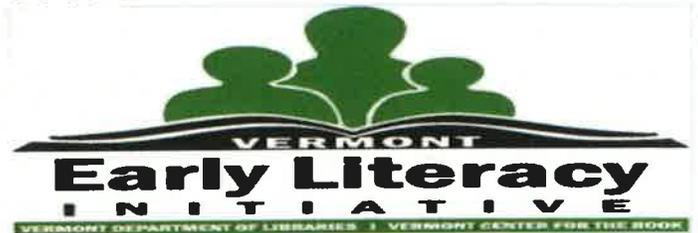
Storytime every Thursday 11am
 Tai Chi 2 every Mon and Wed 11:15-Noon



Join us for another fun-filled day with VTPBS!
Dinosaur Train
"Classic in the Jurassic"
 Saturday, March 26
 10:30-Noon.

We will show the entire hour long Dinosaur Train movie, then do dinosaur crafts and have a dinosaur themed snack.

The video will begin around 10:30. There will only be one showing of the video. Roaring good times are sure to be had!!



More Than Feelings: Social-Emotional Development in Young Children

The next VELI ("Mother Goose") program will deal with encouraging social and emotional development through the use of picture books for children in preschool and kindergarten. If you have a child this age, you know this can be a tough age. If your child needs a little more encouragement in these areas, please sign up for our parent session (only 10 spaces available). This is a one night session - children are welcome to attend. Parents will go home with two FREE books and lots of ideas and games to encourage self-awareness. There is also a childcare provider class offered at the Milton Public Library that is open to Westford childcare providers (sign up is required at MPL 893-4644, 2 hours of credit will be given through Northern Lights).

Parent Session: Wednesday, March 18 from 6:30-8:00pm at the Library - children welcome and snack will be served.

Childcare Provider Session: Thursday, March 12 from 7-9pm at the Milton Public Library.

Anne Cummings - ECOArtist - Closing Show
 Friday, 6-8pm - Refreshments served.
 Come meet the artist and view her work before it comes down at the end of the month.

The Westford Public Library is now accepting **donations** of books, audiobooks, and DVDs for our annual Fourth of July Book Sale. Please make sure items are in GOOD condition - clean and free of mold. **Ask yourself - would I loan this to a friend?** We do not accept textbooks, encyclopedias, magazines, VHS or cassette tapes, music CDs, or old travel guides.

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

March 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-

Will the cold ever end?

It's a good thing we have lots of fun activities to keep you warm all winter long!

We enjoyed Open Gym on Sunday mornings from 10:30-12:00 during January and February, thanks to our Rec Committee Volunteers; Meredith Irish, Danielle Vierling and Greg Baker. We have more programs coming up in collaboration with the Westford Public Library, so be sure to check them out!

You can also visit us on Facebook and like our Page; Westford Recreation Department. Or.... **OUR REC WEBSITE IS LIVE!** Please go to : <http://westfordvt.us/recreation> and check us out! A downloadable PDF registration form is available (online coming soon!) and **ONLINE PAYMENT** is open! We are excited to have the page live and are looking forward to expanding it in the future.

Finally, if you are looking to volunteer, we always need extra hands. Email or call us and thank you for your time!

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 March 18th.

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

Westford Ice Rink Info:

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.

Email Dave at: WestfordRink@gmail.com or follow on Twitter @WestfordRink.

What a great time celebrating Valentine's Day at the Library with DIY Crafts! 26 Kids and 21 Adults showed up to design cards and bracelets for their Valentine's!



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

WHY WOULD YOU GO ANYWHERE ELSE FOR FITNESS??

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!

Tuesdays at the RBMH from 5:30-6:30pm
 Fee: \$5/Class and your **First class is FREE!**
 Heather Sanders 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!

ALOHA Vinyasa Yoga w/Anne
FREE Series!
RBMH, Tuesday Nights
7-8:00pm
 March 3rd- Restorative/ Yin Yoga
 March 10th- Meditation and Chanting
 March 17th- Handstands & Headstands, Invert
 March 24th- Aloha Flow Vinyasa

YOGA with Cat

 Cat Earisman, E-RYT is at the RBMH on **THURSDAY** evenings to teach Flow Yoga! Breathe, stretch, strengthen and laugh in this athletic style of yoga---all abilities welcome. Time; 6:15-7:30. Prepay fee is \$66/6 classes and drop in will be \$12. **FIRST CLASS FREE (for new students)!** Please call Cat directly at 324-8363 or email cearisman@gmail.com.

A new focus each week to explore the different styles and practices within Hatha Yoga. Aloha means Love and Vinyasa means Moving with Breath. Classes will be a moving meditation during which the breath will seamlessly and lovingly link all experiences. Join me in this relaxed, joyful and vibrant adventure. Bring a yoga mat and dress in moveable clothing. Contact Anne Whitney 598-6299 for more info



Pick up Co-Ed Adult Basketball is HERE!
 Wednesday evenings, resuming January 7th, from 8:00 to 9:30pm at the Westford Elementary School Gym. This is a free activity but if you would like to make a donation to the Rec dept. we certainly appreciate it. Open to everyone 18+...Bring a friend or two!



Shake your Shamrock.....Zumba Style!!!!
 How are you going to celebrate St. Patrick's Day? Why don't you come to the Library on March 14th from 10:30-11:30 and shake your Shamrock with our very own Zumba teacher, Heather Sanders! She'll teach the kids (and adults) some basic Zumba moves, and then all can enjoy some yummy green fruits and vegetables! Try some new exercise moves and foods! A fun, healthy time for all ages! Wear green to show your spirit!



SAVE THE DATE!!!

4/4– Egg Hunt on the Westford Common! Bring a basket, collect eggs and turn them in for a goodie bag! 10:00am...rain, snow or sunshine!! All ages!
4/11– Family Movie Night at the Westford Public Library! This is getting POPULAR!! Don't miss out! Pizza provided by the Rec Dept., Popcorn and Drinks provided by the Library. FREE! All ages 6:00-8:00pm
5/2– Welcome Baby Tea for all babies born in the last year. BBF Sponsored.

March 20th = Date Night in Westford!!!
 Enjoy the casual setting of the Westford Public Library with music and light appetizers. And if you need to, drop your kids off at the Westford School Gym (ages Kindergarten and up!), for **two hours of free babysitting!** 7:00-9:00pm . RSVP (for childcare) appreciated, but not necessary, to WestfordVTRec@gmail.com.



LACROSSE NEWS!!

IF YOUR CHILDREN WANT TO PLAY WESTFORD LACROSSE, REGISTRATION IS DUE BY MARCH 1, 2015!!! We are taking PRE-REGISTRATION NOW!

No payment needed, just sign your kids up if they are going to play Westford Lacrosse.....Grades K-6!

We NEED to know the numbers to plan our season and confirm our coaches, so go to: <http://www.westfordvtlacrosse.com>. **NUMBERS ARE LOW...SO SIGN UP NOW!!**

Our program information is below, with discounts for registering early. Exact start dates are to be determined;

Kindergarten to Grade 2! This program typically runs for an hour in the evening (6-7pm) starting the end of April until the beginning of June (usually 6 weeks). Players need their own sticks and t-shirts are included in the registration fee. \$35/player or \$25 if received by 3/1/15. Scholarships are available.

3/4 Co-ed Team: This program runs from about mid-April to mid-June. Players begin to build on skills and basic game play. Practice is 1 to 2 times a week and kids play about 6-8 games with area teams. Fun sense of team play is the main highlight. Registration fees are \$50/player or \$35 if received by 3/1/15. Scholarships are available. Players need their own sticks and padding, but a limited number of helmets are available to rent from the Rec Dept. for \$15/season. First come first served. Please fill in on the regular registration form, and indicate that you need to rent a helmet, so we can set one aside.



Let your friends, co-workers, and family from other towns know, as we are open to any player wishing to join our team!! The more the merrier!

5/6 Co-ed Team; Program runs from the first week of April to mid-June. Players build deeper individual skills and more advanced game play. This team practices 2 times a week, plays games and possible Jamborees against area teams.

Registration fees are \$50/player or \$35 if received by 3/1/15. Scholarships are available. Players need their own sticks and padding, but a limited number of helmets are available to rent from the Rec Dept. for \$15/season. First come first served. Please fill in on the regular registration form, and indicate that you need to rent a helmet, so we can set one aside.

If you have any Rec Dept. questions, or wish to request a scholarship, email Heather at WestfordVTRec@gmail.com or call 802-338-8235. If you have questions about the game of lacrosse, or wish to speak to a coach, contact Mike Rhone at michael.rohne@gmail.com or info@westfordvtlacrosse.com.





Westford Summer Camp

@ The Westford Elementary School

Theme: Nature w/Outdoor Activities, Art and Journaling

Each week features different curriculum....so sign your kids up for both weeks!

JUNE 22-26, 2015

AND

JULY 6-10, 2015

Daily 8:30-4:30pm

Ages: 5-12

\$165/5 Days & 10% sibling discount per each additional child

minimum 6 kids each week to run program

[registration due by June 1st](#)

Tentative Daily Schedule:

8:30-9:00 Welcome Time

9:00-10:00 Daily meeting to explore themes

10-10:30 Healthy Snack (provided)

10:30-12:00 Outside exploration

12-12:30 Lunch

12:30- 1:00 Reading of Themed materials

1:00-3:00 Outdoor games & free play

3:00-3:30 Healthy Snack (provided)

3:30-4:30 Craft & Free Choice

Policies:

* Healthy snacks include carrots and hummus, crackers and cheese, homemade muffins, nuts and berries, juice and water

*** \$25 non-refundable deposit due at time of registration and is applied toward your full week tuition**

* Registration is on a first come, first served basis

* Full registration is due by June 8th, or your space will be forfeited and given to the next person on the waitlist

* If enrollment is less than minimum amount allowed, and the camp is cancelled, you will be reimbursed your deposit and any monies paid toward tuition.

About your Instructor:

Naturalist and educator Sarah Stein M.Ed. creates experiences that allow your children to use their senses within nature, developing a relationship with their local environment. Nature serves as a tool, to achieve passionate enjoyment, creativity and engagement, which are a springboard for life.



Mail your registration form to; Westford Recreation Dept., 1173 VT Route 128, Westford, VT 05494 with checks made payable to the Westford Recreation Dept. Questions?? Call Heather at 338-8235 or email WestfordVTRec@gmail.com

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**