



WESTFORD NEWSLETTER

January 2016

Town Office Notes

Happy New Year!

Joint Selectboard & School Board Budget Meeting

The Selectboard and School Board will hold an informational meeting **Wednesday, January 6th at 7pm** at the Westford School in the Common Area to present the proposed town and school budgets. This is an excellent opportunity for residents to provide feedback prior to finalization of the budgets before being voted on in March 2016.

Petitions for Local Offices and Town Meeting Articles

Petitions for articles to be considered for inclusion in the warning for Town Meeting are due by 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 13th. Petitions must be signed by at least 5% of the registered voters (a minimum of 75). Please be sure that the person signing the petition is a registered voter and that their name is legible.

Petitions for local offices (e.g. Selectboard, School Board, etc.) can be picked up at the Town Office and must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, January 18th. Petitions must be signed by a minimum of 15 registered voters. Please contact the Town Office for a complete list of offices with terms expiring in March 2016.

Important Dates - Town Meeting

- **January 6th (Wednesday)** – Selectboard and School Board joint budget informational meeting 7pm at the Westford School in the common area.
- **January 13th (Wednesday)** – 5:00 p.m. deadline to file petitions signed by at least 5% of the registered voters (a minimum of 75) with the Town Clerk for articles to be considered for inclusion in the warning for Town Meeting. Be sure that the person who signs the petition is a registered voter and signs their name as it appears on the checklist and is legible. It could mean the difference of a petition brought in at the last minute not being acceptable.
- **January 18th (Monday)** – 5:00 p.m. deadline for filing with the Town Clerk nominating petitions and consent forms for local offices to be filled by Australian ballot. Please make sure your name is as it appears on the voter checklist (new requirement) and to fill in the office you are running for (including length of term) before circulating your petition. Please call the Town Office for information regarding available offices.
- **February 24th (Wednesday)** – 5:00 p.m. deadline to submit an application for addition to the checklist, or to file a written notice of intent to apply for those who are not eligible to register to vote but will be by Town Meeting.
- **February 29th (Monday)** – Town Meeting and public hearing for Australian ballot questions (including town and school budgets), 7:00 p.m., at the Westford School in the gym.
- **March 1st (Tuesday)** – Voting day for Australian ballot articles. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Westford School gym.

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

Westford Town Office

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

Senior Luncheon

The Senior Luncheons are on a winter break. They will start up again in March and that date is the 14th. Hope you have a healthy winter and let's hope this nice weather continues. Carol Howrigan, President 878-3090

Holiday Food Baskets

The Town was able to help 24 Westford families during the holidays due to the overwhelming generosity of townspeople. Thank you to everyone who made a donation to make this possible!

Winter Reminders

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

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the February Newsletter is 12:00 noon on Monday, January 25th.

EXTRA RECYCLING DAY - DECEMBER 30

There will be an extra recycling day for ALL residents on Wednesday, December 30th. This is the fifth Wednesday of the month, however, given the holidays, Gauthier Trucking is encouraging ALL residents to put out recycling with their garbage on December 30th.

PRESCHOOL INFORMATION NEEDED

Dear Westford Families,

Westford School is requesting information on pre-school aged children living in the Westford community. If you have a child that was born in 2011, 2012, or 2013 we are asking you to complete this form (link below) so we have information that will assist with our planning of appropriate pre-school and kindergarten programming.

This information may be submitted to Terri Martin at the Westford School through this form, by phone at 802-878-5932, or by email at tmartin@ccsuvt.org. Thank you.

Requested Information:

- a.) Child's first, middle, last name
- b.) Birth date
- c.) Parent Names
- d.) Mailing address
- e.) Phone number

Link to Google form: <http://tinyurl.com/2015-Westford-Preschool>

WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

<http://westfordpubliclibrary.org>

(802) 878-5639

westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com

1717 VERMONT ROUTE 128, WESTFORD VT 05494



**The Library will be
CLOSED January 1**



New Adult Program Series: Travel Talks - Jan. 13 7-8:30pm

This Month's Destinations are:

Mt. Kilimanjaro and a Safari in Tanzania

Presented by Anne and Kim Maloney

They will share how they prepared for the high altitude climb, medications required for Tanzania, and share pictures from their African safari.



Share a fun evening with fellow travel enthusiasts. Refreshments served.

**Did you get a new E-reader for Christmas?
Want to put FREE books on it? Still don't know how to
download FREE eBooks to your iPad or Kindle from
ListenUp VT? We can help!**



**New Device Training -
Friday, January 8 - Sign up for a
slot from 4:30 - 7:00pm
Or on
Saturday, January 9 - sign up for a
slot from 10:00am - Noon**

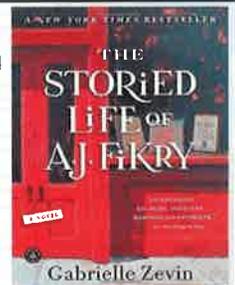
Be sure to bring your charged device,
passwords, Apple ID, etc.

Library Hours

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

Closed January 1

**Adult Book Group
Wed. Jan. 20 7-8pm
Pick up your books
at the front desk!
We will be reading
The Storied Life of
A. J. Fikry,
by Gabrielle Zevin.**



"Funny, tender, and moving, *The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry* reminds us all exactly why we read and why we love."

A. J. Fikry's life is not at all what he expected it to be. He lives alone, his bookstore is experiencing the worst sales in its history, and now his prized possession, a rare collection of Poe poems, has been stolen. But when a mysterious package appears at the bookstore, its unexpected arrival gives Fikry the chance to make his life over--and see everything anew. (from Amazon.com)

**PJ STORYTIME
January 27 6:30-7:30pm
Theme: Stars and Space**



**Come listen to
stories and do a
craft based on
the theme - IN
YOUR PJs!**

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

1/7/16: Theme: I Love the Letter "J"

1/14/16: Theme: MLK (Tolerance)

1/21/16: Theme: Mac Barnett Stories

1/28/16: Stars and Space

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

January Library Events

January 1 - CLOSED

January 6 - Trustees Meeting 7-9pm

January 8 - What Do I Do with This Thing? 4:30-7:00pm - Sign up for a time slot

January 9 - What Do I Do with This Thing? 10:00-Noon - Sign up for a time slot

January 10 - Red Cross Babysitting Course (THIS COURSE IS FULL) 9am-4pm

January 13 - Travel Talk: Kiliminjaro Presented by Kim and Anne Maloney 7:00-8:30pm. Refreshment served.

January 20 - Book Group: The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry 7-8pm, refreshments served.

January 22 - Stuffed Animal Sleepover Drop Off - drop off animals by 7:00pm

January 23 - Stuffed Animal Pickup and Breakfast 9:00-10:00am. Come have breakfast and pick up your stuffed animals.

January 27 - PJ Storytime 6:30-7:30pm. Theme: Stars and Space - Wear your PJs!

Playgroup every Monday 9:30am
Storytime every Thursday 11am

Stuffed Animal Sleepover and Breakfast with the Animals!

Sleepover: Drop off by 7pm Jan. 22
Breakfast: Jan. 23 9:00-10:00am

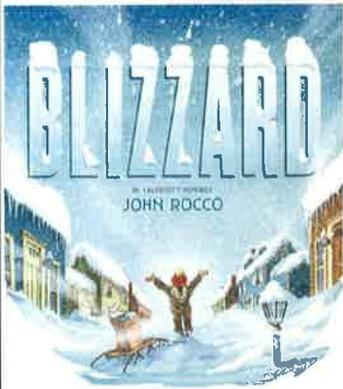
We're having a stuffed animal sleep over at the Library! Drop off one of your furry friends anytime the week of 1/20-1/22 and the animals will have a fun sleepover at the Library the night of January 22.

Bree will treat them to a good time and then you can pick them up and have breakfast with your animal at the Library! Breakfast will be from 9:00-10:00am - all animals should be picked up on Saturday by 2pm.

Bree will have a slideshow ready of all the fun things they did at the library that night. Will they get into trouble? Be well behaved? We'll have to see!



Fun Contest - Guess How Much Snow!



How much snow we will get in Westford this winter? Closest guess (in inches) gets a copy of John Rocco's book **Blizzard** about the blizzard of 1978 where they got over 40 inches of snow in two days!

(One entry per person - enter at the library - snow total tally at www.westfordweather.net)

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Holiday fundraiser and who donated books from our book tree.



You can still send a donation to the Library - please make checks to Westford Public Library. Thank you for your support!

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.

SCHOOL BOARD NOTES

Essex Westford Educational Community Unified Union School District:

In November, members of the community voted in favor of the Westford School District joining the Essex Junction and Essex Town School Districts to form a unified school district known as the Essex Westford Educational Community Unified Union School District. The new district will be in operation beginning July 1st, 2017.

The first meeting of the new Unified School District will be held on Tuesday, January 26th, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in the Essex High School auditorium. Community members are encouraged to attend. The full meeting warning is included in this newsletter and can also be viewed here <http://www.ccsuvt.org/school-board?refid=4>.

School Land Transfers:

The School Board has appointed Mark Drapa to serve as the liaison to work cooperatively on this issue with the Town Selectboard and Planning Commission. Mark has provided the following update:

Many citizens have reached out with their thoughts and concerns on school land transfers prior to our transition to the new unified school district. I wanted to provide some information about our planning and timeline.

We understand this is a high priority and we want the process to be transparent, inclusive, and collaborative. To that end, both the town and school have appointed a liaison to work cooperatively on this task (Dave Adams and Mark Drapa). We have met with the Planning Commission to share an overview of the parcels and identify initial questions.

Our next task will be to understand the parameters of the transaction (mostly bound by legal requirements and deed restrictions) and identify all potential options for the town. We'd then like to present that research to our citizens and provide opportunity for feedback on which options hold the most promise. Your guidance will help determine our direction. Ultimately, the proposal would need to be formalized and presented to the town for voter approval.

We have already begun the research phase of this task and expect to have a better idea of schedule soon. Both the town and school budgets are in progress currently, so we expect to focus on this topic after the first week of January. A forum on our initial research is anticipated prior to Town Meeting 2016. Our goal is to present an article to voters on Election Day 2016 and/or Town Meeting 2017. Again, we feel it is up to the citizens of Westford to provide guidance. No decisions will be made without ample opportunity for input and conversation. It is in our best interests to do this once and do it right.

In the meantime, we are beginning our collaboration by moving forward on the sale of a jointly owned parcel (50% town, 50% school). This ~19 acre property is at the corner of Milton-Westford Road and Old Stage Road. Expect to see more information and an article for voter approval for Town Meeting 2016.

Feel free to contact us via phone or email with any questions!

School Budget Process:

At the final budget workshop meeting on December 22nd, 2015, the Board made small tweaks to the previous budget drafts. The Board remains committed to meeting the allowable growth cap while delivering a favorable budget that meets the needs of students. As a result, education spending per equalized pupil comes in just under the Allowable Growth Target. In addition, as of now, the budget is decreasing by 0.8% and education spending is decreasing by 1.9%.

Detailed information regarding the budget can be found at [http://content.ccsuvt.org/ccsu/2014/01/FY17_Westford_Budget_Brief - Dec 22, 20151.pdf](http://content.ccsuvt.org/ccsu/2014/01/FY17_Westford_Budget_Brief_-_Dec_22,_20151.pdf) as well as at the Westford School Board Blog <http://westfordboard.blogspot.com/>. We encourage community members to review this information.

The School Board and Selectboard will hold a joint informational meeting on Wednesday, January 6th, 2016 at 7 p.m. at the Westford School to present their budgets. All community members are strongly encouraged to attend and ask questions.

Open Seats:

Lastly, the school board has two open seats up for election. One two year term and one three year term will be voted on in March. If you are interested in running for one of these school board seats contact the Town Office to complete a petition to place your name on the ballot in March. For more details regarding what is involved in being a school board member please contact Mark Drapa at madrapa@ccsuvt.org.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Phinney, Martha Heath, Andre Roy, Mark Drapa, Christian Frenette

WESTFORD FRONT PORCH FORUM

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

Check it out at www.FrontPorchForum.com!

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

RARE OFFER TO SUPPORT THE STEEPLE!

Peter Miller, renowned Westford oil painter, has offered to sell paintings at cost from his studio collection to support the United Church of Westford Steeple Fund. Since Peter uses the landscape of Westford and vicinity as his subject, there will be many familiar views and scenes of the area. The buyer will be able to choose from dozens of pieces of work at Peter's studio. This is a rare offer that will help restore and preserve our landmark building and grace your home with a painting of real value. Call Peter for more information: 879-6093.

United Church of Westford January Schedule

January 3 & 10, 8:30am - Worship Services with Rev. Katherine Arthaud
January 17, 4-5pm - Free concert, see additional information in this newsletter.

We are an Open and Affirming Christian church. All are welcome!

WARNING

ESSEX WESTFORD EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

Tuesday, January 26, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

The legal voters of the Essex Westford Educational Community Unified Union School District (Unified Union District) comprising the voters of Essex Junction, Essex Town and the Town of Westford are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Essex Community Education Center, on Education Drive, in the auditorium of said school, at 6:30 p.m. and to take action upon the following articles:

Article 1: To elect a temporary presiding officer and clerk from among the qualified voters.

Article 2: To adopt Robert's Rules of Order or other rules of order to govern the parliamentary procedures of this and subsequent meetings of the Unified Union District.

Article 3: To elect the following officers:

- Moderator for one year
- Clerk for one year
- Treasurer for one year

Article 4: To determine and approve compensation, if any, to be paid Unified Union District officers.

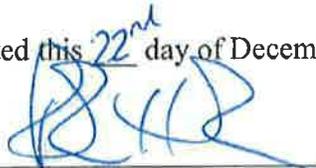
Article 5: To establish a date of the annual meeting.

Article 6: To establish provisions for the payment of any expense incurred by the Unified Union District.

Article 7: To authorize the Unified Union District to borrow money pending receipt of payments from the State Education Fund by the issuance of its notes or orders payable not later than one year from date: provided, however, that the newly formed Unified Union District is authorized by Vermont Statutes to borrow sufficient funds to meet pending obligations.

Article 8: To transact any other school business thought proper when met.

Dated this 22nd day of December, 2015.



Rebecca Holcombe
Secretary of Education

WESTFORD RECREATION

MISSION STATEMENT

January 2016

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

Greetings and Salutations!

I am very excited to be writing my very first entry of Coordinator's Corner. As the recreation department prepares to bid farewell to Heather Armata in the next couple of weeks, I am becoming more and more aware of what huge shoes I will have to fill in the coming new year.

Words could not express how grateful I am for the opportunity to bring together programs for the community to learn and recreate together.. I know I still have a lot to learn and there are mistakes (hopefully not too big) to be made, but I look forward to it all in a quest to bring you the many exciting programs we have instore for you in 2016.

I hope you all had a happy holiday and wish you health, love, and recreation in the new year.

~Bekah



We have an open Recreation Committee seat! If you are interested in joining us, please email WestfordVTRec@gmail.com. Our next Committee Meeting is Jan 19th 7pm at the Town Offices

ZUMBA!! Tuesdays @ RBMH
5:30-6:30pm Fee: \$5/Class **First class 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! Try something New!!



Starting in January!
Yoga with Cat! Thursdays @ RBMH
Min 10 people 6:15-7:30pm
Fee: \$12/Class or 6 weeks for \$66
Contact Cat if you are interested
cearisman@yahoo.com

Integral YOGA w/Tiffany
Every **WEDNESDAY** evening, 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.



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. \$12/class. Call 802-598-6299 or email aeorelana@yahoo.com with any questions. All ages and abilities welcome!!



Recreation Department Committee Members

Bekah Gwozdz, Coordinator	662-1042	Danielle Vierling	871-9404
Maureen Carpenter	893-5096	Noel Boutin	878-3632
Martha Bennett	878-9269	Meredith Irish	373-9980
Greg Baker	324-5537	Email: WestfordVTRec@gmail.com	



NORDIC SKIING! Sign Up Today!
 Fridays Jan 8– Mar 11 3:00-4:15pm Grades 1-8
 \$20 own equipment / \$40 with equipment rental
 Grades 1-2 must be accompanied by an adult.
 If you are interested, please contact Bekah (802)662-1042
 or by email at WestfordVTRec@gmail.com

Westford's 17th Annual Broomball Tournament

With the lack of cold weather, it's hard to know if we will have ice. However, if you are interested in fielding a team and are waiting to see what happens before you sign up, please email me and let me know so we can make the best decision possible. The recreation committee will be making a decision between Christmas and New Years about whether we will cancel, postpone, or otherwise.

Currently, the details are as follows:
 Jan 16-17: Ice Rink on the Common
 First Game starts at 9:00am on Saturday, January 16th.
 \$12 per Adult player (Grade 9 and older)
 Only 22 Slots Available! First Come First Served!!!

For more informant email WestfordVTRec@gmail.com.

Valentine's Day Happenings!

DIY Valentine's at the Library
 Feb 13th * 1030am-1130am

Family Valentine's Skate Party
 Ice Rink on the Common
 Feb 14th * 2pm-4pm

Open Gym is Back!
 Sundays
 Jan and Feb
 1030am-1200pm

Afterschool Offerings!
 Grades 2 - 5

Art Club
 Tuesdays beginning Feb 2nd
 (No Class 2/23 or 3/1)
 3:00pm - 4:45pm
 \$75/Student for 6wks
 8 minimum * 15 maximum

Create a variety of projects using different materials from clay to painting, drawing and more!

Chorus
 Thursdays
 2/4, 2/11, 2/18, 3/3, 3/17, 3/24
 3:00pm - 4:45pm
 \$40/Student
 10 minimum

This ensemble is for students who want to sing. Learn to sing in parts, harmonies, and rounds, while producing beautiful sound whether singing in unison or alone through a variety of genres including folk, pop, Broadway, and classical. Expressive interpretation of text and some basic verbal understanding of rhythm are taught to students participating in this ensemble. Students will perform together in a concert



Basketball!
Grades 1-2
 Saturdays
 9:00am - 10:00am
 Feb 13 - Mar 26
 Coach: Jeff Labossiere
 \$25/Player

Ancient Egypt February Vacation Camp

Grades 1 - 4
 Feb 22 - 26 * 8:30am - 430pm
 Min 5 * Max 10
 \$175/Child
 \$35 non refundable deposit due at registration

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**

Westford Music Series

Presents

The Front Porch Foursome

**Sunday January 17th
4pm @ Westford White Church (UCW)**



The start of the New Year for the Westford Music Series will bring the captivating group, Front Porch Foursome, to the UCW white church. The talented quartet is represented by Kathy Mulligan, Charlotte Reed, Britni Bigelow, and Nancy Geise who deliver tight harmony with beautiful vocals and a variety of instrumentation.

Front Porch Foursome is a local Vermont band featuring contemporary folk music ranging from covers of Brandi Carlile, The Wailin Jenny's, Nickel Creek, Bob Dylan and John Prine. Feel good music with energetic sound makes this one of the most popular groups on the local and Vermont scene.

The concert has free admission followed by refreshments and opportunity to meet the performers. For more information call Marge Hamrell@ 802-879-4028.