



Westford Newsletter

**December 2017
Town Office Notes**

Season's Greetings!

Selectboard FY'19 Budget Workshops

The Selectboard began working on the FY'19 budget in October. Upcoming workshops will be held on December 14th and December 28th. If needed, additional meetings will be held. The Board encourages residents to attend these meetings to provide feedback to assist the Board in developing a budget to be voted on in March 2018.

Senior Luncheon

The Senior Luncheon will be on December 11th at noon at the Red Brick Meeting House on the common. All seniors are welcome. Please join us for our Christmas get-together, a home cooked meal and good conversation. If you need a ride, please call me at 878-3090 or Beth Menut at 893-2263. We had a wonderful turn out last month with 51 in attendance. If you have a neighbor that isn't coming, please contact them and see if they would like to join us as we celebrate Christmas. Hope to see you there. Carol Howrigan, President

Holiday Gift Cards

For the past several years, the Town has collected monetary donations to purchase Hannaford gift cards for Westford residents in need. The gift cards provide recipients with the ability to purchase food and household items as needed and according to their personal preferences.

Monetary donations will be accepted November 27th through December 18th. If you prefer, you can purchase the gift cards (ones that prohibit tobacco and alcohol purchases) yourself. Please mail or deliver your donation to the Town Office. The gift cards will be mailed on December 19th to Westford residents only.

2018 Health Insurance Open Enrollment

Open Enrollment for Vermont Health Connect runs from November 1st through December 15th.

If you would like to enroll or make a change to an existing plan, please call (855)899-9600, visit and in-person assister, or go to <https://portal.healthconnect.vermont.gov/VTHBELand/welcome.action>. Plans need to be confirmed before December 15th.

Town Office Hours

- December 18th – Closing at 2pm
- December 25th - 26th - Closed
- January 1st - Closed

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the January Newsletter is 12:00 noon on Monday, December 18th.



Westford Town Office
1713 Vermont Route 128, Westford, Vermont 05494
Phone (802)878-4587 • Fax (802)879-6503
<https://westfordvt.us/>



TOWN OF WESTFORD - WINTER ROAD POLICY

Adopted by the Selectboard on December 13, 2012

The Westford Highway Department has the responsibility of maintaining 39.4 miles of town roads, of which 36.9 miles are gravel and 2.5 miles are paved. This policy is based on the goal of obtaining safe highway travel surfaces during winter months. It is our goal to achieve this at the earliest practical time and in the most cost efficient manner during and after a storm event. Providing bare, dry travel surfaces during a winter storm event is not practical and therefore not expected.

Each winter storm event is unique. It is impractical to develop specific rules on winter maintenance operations. Therefore, the judgment of the Road Foreman often governs the quantities and type of applications used to control snow and ice.

Snow Plowing

The Town of Westford begins plowing when snow has accumulated 2 to 3 inches. Plowing may begin as early as 4:00 a.m. and stops when the storm has ended or 10:00 p.m., whichever comes sooner.

Sand

Sand will be applied to all gravel roads. With the use of sand in winter maintenance material, some particles may be as large as $\frac{3}{4}$ " in size and may cause windshield damage. Travelers should use caution and avoid following other vehicles or town trucks too closely. The Town will not pay for any vehicle repairs, such as the replacement of windshields. When ice is present under the sand, instant stops are impossible.

Plow Routes

Each plow route takes approximately 4 hours to complete, sometimes longer depending on the storm. This means if plowing started when there was 2 inches of snow on the road, by the time the truck finishes the route there is the potential for up to 6 inches or more of snow on the road again. Therefore, during a heavy snowstorm, at times there will be snow on the roads. There shall be no riders in the town trucks other than the operator of the truck and authorized town officials. All town trucks shall be pulled to the side of the road when the operator is using a cell phone.

Freezing Rain

It is important to note that salt or sand is less effective if applied before the rain stops. There is little the Westford Highway Department can do during a freezing rainstorm. Salt and sand will be applied to the roads sparingly during the event and more aggressively as needed once the storm is over.

Bare Roads

The Town of Westford does not have a bare road policy. Travelers who use Town roads should exercise due care and reasonable caution while driving during the winter months.

Mailboxes

The Town will not repair or replace mailboxes damaged by snow or ice clearing operations. Heavy snow coming off the plow blade will often knock over and damage mailboxes/posts that have not been adequately mounted and maintained or braced, or those mailboxes with doors left open. Also mailboxes/posts may be damaged by private contractors or homeowners during driveway clearing operations.

Trash Placement

Trash and trash receptacles should be placed in a manner that will not interfere with winter road maintenance. The Town will not be responsible for damage to trash receptacles or trash clean up as a result of its obstruction of snow removal.

Parked Vehicles

No vehicle shall be parked on the Town's right-of-way from the start of precipitation until 48 hours after the storm ends. The Town reserves the right to tow parked vehicles at the owner's expense. The Town is not liable for damages incurred to vehicles parked in the Town's right-of-way.

Plowing Across Town Roads

The practice of plowing snow from driveways across Town roads is prohibited. Residual snow creates a dangerous obstruction (piles, ridges, etc.). Snow shoveling into the roadway will cause similar problems. Once frozen, the piles/ridges can cause vehicles to lose control and can also cause damage to vehicles and town trucks and equipment. Generally, the Town will warn the responsible resident for a first occurrence. Subsequent violations may result in further action, which may include but is not limited to fines.

WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

<http://westfordpubliclibrary.org>

(802) 878-5639

westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com

1717 VERMONT ROUTE 128, WESTFORD VT 05494

The Library will NOT have any extra closures over the Holidays.

Book Giving Trees

What better gift to give the Library than a book?

Please choose a star from one of our book giving trees. Each star contains the name of a book that the Library would like to have. Phoenix Books will give patrons 20% off the book if



you have the star. No need to wrap it! Books can be dedicated at the time we receive them. Please deliver books by January 17. Thank you!

**New Program for all ages!
Westford Wildlife Access Experience (WWACX)
part of the Westford Rec. Dept.
Presents: Bears!**

**Thursday, December 7 at 7pm
at the Westford Public Library**



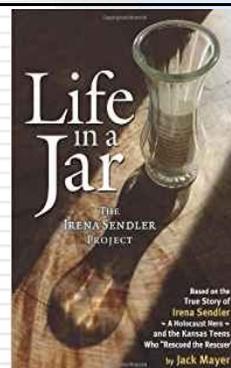
The North Eastern United States (Maine, NH, VT, MA, CT, NJ, NY) is currently home to more black bears (*Ursus Americanus*) than ever in recorded. This population boom is due to the USA being almost entirely re-forest.

Understanding that neither black bears or trees are endangered is a good lesson to learn. Get ready for recipes, wild food tips, water, fish, furs, fungi, forestry and more. **Presented by Rec. Dept. coordinator Tom Schmidt**

Library Hours

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

**Adult Book Group
December 20
7:00-8:00pm
Pick up your books
at the front desk!
We will be reading
Life in a Jar: The
Irena Sendler
Project
by: Jack Mayer**



Vermont author, Jack Mayer weaves together a fictional account of two stories - one of Irena Sendler and another of the high school students who rediscovered her. During World War II, Irena Sendler, a Polish Catholic social worker, organized a rescue network of fellow social workers to save 2,500 Jewish children from certain death in the Warsaw ghetto. After the war, her heroism, was suppressed by the post-war government and remained virtually unknown for 60 years. Until three high schoolers from southeast Kansas stumbled upon a tantalizing reference to Sendler's rescues, which they fashioned into a history project, a play they called *Life in a Jar*. Their drama was first seen in Kansas, then the Midwest, New York, Los Angeles, Montreal, and finally Poland, where it elevated Irena Sendler to a national hero, championing her legacy of tolerance and respect for all people. It is the inspirational story of students from Kansas rediscovering a woman who knocked on Jewish doors in the Warsaw ghetto and, "tried to talk the mothers out of their children."

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

12/7/17: Theme: Tigers!
12/21/17: Theme: Snow

12/14/17: Theme: Holidays
12/28/17: Theme: Winter

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.

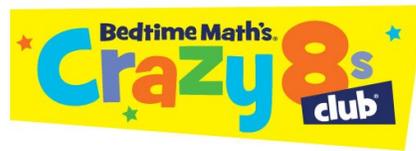
WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

<http://westfordpubliclibrary.org>

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

December Library Events

- December 6 - Trustees Meeting 7-9pm
 - December 7 - TWWAX - Bear Talk with the Rec. Dept. 7pm
 - December 8 - How the Grinch Stole Christmas Movie and Cookie Swap 7-8pm
 - December 13 - High Tech Ornaments 3-5pm (students can ride Bus #3 with a note from home)
 - December 16 - Drop in Ornaments anytime from 10:30-Noon
 - December 20 - Adult Book Group - 7-8pm - Life in a Jar: The Irena Sendler Project
 - December 21 - Last Day of Grades 3-5 Crazy 8's Club
 - December 22 - Last Day of Grades K-2 Crazy8's Club
 - December 23 - Drop In Ornaments
 - December 29 - Lunch and a Movie - Noon-2pm, LEGO Ninjago Movie (bring a lunch and drink, we'll have popcorn)
- Storytime every Thursday 11am**
Crazy 8's Grades 3-5 - Thursdays
Crazy8's Grades K-2 - Fridays



Still going....until:
 Grades 3-5 12/21
 &
 Grades K-2 12/22
 afterschool-5pm

High Tech Light Up Ornaments
 Wednesday, December 13, 3-5pm
 Drop in afterschool (ages 9+) or bring an adult
 We'll be making light up ornaments using our favorite maker supplies - LEDs, copper tape, and coin cell batteries. Learn how fun and beautiful circuits can be! Great as gifts! Fun for all ages - each project takes approx. 30 minutes.
 Kids may ride Bus#3 from school with a note.



Lunch and a Movie - Dec. 30 from Noon-2pm

Bring a bagged lunch and a drink and we'll watch The LEGO Ninjago Movie (rated PG, 101 mins.). Popcorn provided.
 OK to drop off ages 9+.



How the Grinch Stole Christmas Movie and Cookie Swap!

Friday, December 8 from 7-8pm

Bring some cookies to share, and watch the classic, animated film (30 minutes) and then stay for cookies, hot chocolate and a cookie swap.



We will need some bakers to drop off cookies at the library (12/7 & 12/8) so that families can take home at least a dozen cookies.

This is not a drop off event.

Drop in and Create an Ornament Saturdays!



Stop by the library anytime from 10:30am-Noon on 12/16 and 12/23 to make an ornament. Each week will be different, so come to both!

The Library is **no longer accepting donations** of books, audiobooks, and DVDs **at this time** for our annual Fourth of July Book Sale. We will begin accepting donations in the spring of 2017. Thank you to community for supporting our annual Fourth of July Book Sale.

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Westford Recreation Department

www.westfordvt.us/recreation

Mission Statement: 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.



VERY SPECIAL THANKS

to parents, players, coaches, clerks,
the Westford Community
and Westford School.

To all, a trophy
for Winning Spirit!
Best all Fall!!!



WESTFORD SNOWBALL BIATHALON

Saturday, February 17, 10:00 AM

If you like throwing snowballs and can either snowshoe or x country ski, you'll love the Westford Snowball Biathlon.

It includes a timed course on our Wintery Westford trail system, with fun snowball targets as chances for points and a timed score.



For Adults \$15.00
For Kid's \$5.00 or Free

with a Westford FOOD SHELF DONATION

COMING SOON: T.W.W.A.X.

December 7 • 7:00 PM

"Our Bears, part one" at the Westford Library



©TOM SEARS

Tom Schmidt, Recreation Department Coordinator: 802-858-6211 or WestfordVTRec@gmail.com
Committee members: Danielle Vierling, Greg Baker, Nancy Volkers, Maureen Carpenter, Jeff LaBossiere

Westford Recreation Department—Registration Form

NAME (Parents) _____

ADDRESS _____ TOWN _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS (only to be used for WRD mailings) _____

HOME PHONE _____ ALT PHONE _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT _____ PHONE _____

DOCTOR'S NAME _____ PHONE _____

Please list medical conditions, physical limitations, allergies, or restrictions WRD should be aware of: _____

Name	Grade	Program	Fee
1. _____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____	_____
Total Fee:			_____

Would you be willing to coach or be a parent helper? Yes No

I agree that Westford Recreation may use photographs of registrants with or without their name and for any lawful purpose, including for example such purposes as publicity, illustration, advertising, and Web content.

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 Recreation
19th Annual
BROOMBALL
Tournament

January 13th and 14th
Westford Ice Rink on the Common

\$15/Player (Grade 9 and Up)

Minimum 5 players required per team

(No Maximum number of players per team)

Registration Due Jan 8th!

Only 22 Slots Available!

First Come - First Served!

(\$20/player for tournament day additions to roster)

For more information contact:

WestfordBroomBall@gmail.com

<https://westfordvt.us/recreation/>



Westford Recreation
19th Annual
BROOMBALL
Tournament
Jan 13th and 14th
Westford Ice Rink on the Common

\$15/Player (Grade 9 and Up)

Minimum 5 players required per team

Team registration Due by Jan 8th

(Only 22 Slots Available!)

First Come - First Served!!

(\$20/player for tournament day additions to roster)

<p style="text-align: center;">This is NOT ice hockey!</p> <p>No Skates are needed - players wear their own boots.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">We'll provide broomsticks and balls.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Teams may be co-ed.</p> <p>All players (or parent if under age 18) MUST sign our participation waiver. NO EXCEPTIONS!</p> <p>Exact times and schedules determined by the number of teams and will be emailed to the team leaders one week prior to the tournament.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Make checks payable to Westford Rec</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Send completed registration form to:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Westford Rec; 1713 VT Rte 128; Westford, VT 05494</p> <p>Food and refreshments will be for sale at the Red Brick Meeting House throughout the tournament.</p> <p>Proceeds benefit RBMH Restoration and Westford Recreation programs and equipment purchases.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Registration Form</p> <p>Team Name: _____</p> <p>Team Captain: _____</p> <p>Captain's Phone Number: _____</p> <p>Email: _____</p> <p>Team Members:</p> <p>1. _____</p> <p>2. _____</p> <p>3. _____</p> <p>4. _____</p> <p>5. _____</p> <p>6. _____</p> <p>7. _____</p> <p>8. _____</p> <p>9. _____</p> <p>10. _____</p>
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Westford PTO News

December
2017

The Westford PTO mission is to enrich our children's lives with educational and extracurricular activities.

News & Opportunities

Holiday Craft Bazaar — Sunday, December 3

The PTO hosts our 2nd annual **Holiday Craft Bazaar** at the Red Brick Meeting House on Sunday, December 3th from 9am-2pm. Vendors tables are **SOLD OUT!** Join us for this fun community event and support our amazing local artists and crafters!

Tea with the Principal — Tuesday, December, 21

Join Principal Marcie Lewis on the third Thursday of each month, 8:05-8:35, in the Westford School library for tea. It is an informal meeting to celebrate school successes and learn more about featured programs and events. The next Tea with the Principal is December 21st and will feature the middle school schedule.

Westford Broomball Tournament — January 13-14

The Westford School PTO will once again run the Broomball Tournament concession at the Red Brick Meeting House. Watch for a donation signup e-mail, and please come out Saturday and Sunday to play or support the teams during this great Westford tradition! Look for more information in the Westford Town Newsletter.

The Great Kindness Challenge — January 22-26

Westford School will participate in "The Great Kindness Challenge"—a nationwide proactive, positive, bullying-prevention initiative that improves school climate and increases student engagement and awareness. "The Great Kindness Challenge" is one week devoted to performing as many acts of kindness as possible on campus. Using the provided checklist of 50 kind acts, students accept the challenge and show the world that KINDNESS MATTERS! www.thegreatkindnesschallenge.com

Reminder: Child Care Survey — due by January 24

Please go to <https://goo.gl/forms/oXzyFVhS2AwfHbwB3> to provide your input on the Before School & After School Child Care Needs Assessment Google form. The survey will close January 24th.

PTO Calendar

Sunday, December 3,
9am-2pm

Holiday Craft Bazaar
Red Brick Meeting House

Tuesday, December 5, 7pm

PTO meeting
off-site Buy Local preparation
(for details, contact
westfordvtpo@gmail.com)

Wednesday, Dec. 6, 6-7pm

Discover Girl Scouts
Information Session
Westford School

Monday, Dec. 11, 3-6pm

Buy Local Voucher Pick-Up
Westford School

Thursday, December 14

Family Holiday Luncheon
Westford School

Tuesday, Dec. 21, 8:05am

Tea with the Principal
Westford School

December 25-January 1

Holiday break
Westford School closed

Tuesday, January 9, 7pm

PTO meeting
Westford Town Library

Monday, January 15

MLK, Jr. Day observed
Westford School closed

Tuesday, Jan. 18, 8:05am

Tea with the Principal
Westford School

January 22-26

The Great Kindness Challenge
Westford School

2017-2018 Westford School PTO officers:

President: Rachael Parker;

Vice President: Heather Armata;

Treasurer: Meredith Irish; Secretary: Deb Hazel.

Contact the PTO with your questions, comments, and ideas:

E-mail: westfordvtpo@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/westfordvtpo>

Website: <https://www.ewsd.org/Page/2679>



Westford Community Holiday Gathering & Tree Lighting

Saturday, December 2nd
6:30pm on the
Westford Common

Bring your flashlights and your singing voices for a holiday sing-a-long and the annual lighting of the tree in the gazebo!



Westford Music Series & Young Tradition Vermont

present

ANDREA BEATON

with **ERIC WRIGHT**

Event Date: Sunday, January 7th, 4-5 pm
Where: UCW white Church, Westford common
Contact: Marjorie Hamrell 879-4028; mhamrell@comcast.net

The January 2018 Westford Music Series collaborating with Young Tradition Vermont, will feature Andrea Beaton, award-winning fiddler, tune composer and recording artist from Ireland. Andrea comes from a long line of Irish musicians, composers and dancers and is known for her powerful bow and driving style. She tours and teaches internationally and is in great demand. She has released 6 solo albums and recorded an album with her family, "The Beaton Family of Mabou" in 2007, for the Smithsonian Institute. Andrea travels the globe, sharing her culture, music, dance and comical stories sure to delight any audience

Accompanying Andrea on this tour will be Eric Wright a cello player and member of the popular Canadian band, "The Fretless", who's new approach to folk music is quickly gaining high acclaim around the world. The band has won numerous awards, including Instrumental Album of the Year at the Western Canadian Music Awards and at the Canadian Folk Music Awards.

Free admission. Refreshments following the concert.