



# WESTFORD NEWSLETTER

March 2017

## 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 Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. Payments will be considered timely if they are received by this date, have a March 15<sup>th</sup> 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 Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Please note** - If you pay your taxes using Bill Pay (generating a check online through your financial institution), please make sure you allow sufficient time for mailing. These envelopes do not bear a postmark therefore will be acknowledged by the date received at the Town Office not by the date on the check.

### Annual Town Meeting

- **March 6<sup>th</sup> (Monday)** – 5pm deadline to request an absentee ballot.
- **March 6<sup>th</sup> (Monday)** – 7pm, Town Meeting and public hearing for Australian ballot questions (including town budget), at the Westford School in the gym.
- **March 7<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday)** – Voting day for Australian ballot articles. Polls will be open from 7am to 7pm in the Westford School gym.

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

### Annual Essex-Westford Unified Union School District Meeting

The annual meeting for the Unified Union School District will be held on April 10<sup>th</sup> with Australian ballot voting taking place on April 11<sup>th</sup>. The warning and sample ballot will be posted when available.

- **April 10<sup>th</sup> (Monday)** – 5pm deadline to request an absentee ballot.
- **April 10<sup>th</sup> (Monday)** – Annual meeting and public hearing for Australian ballot questions at the Essex High School.
- **April 11<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday)** – Voting day for Australian ballot articles. Polls will be open from 7am to 7pm in the Westford School gym.

If you have any questions concerning the Unified Union School District Annual Meeting, please call or email the Town Office.

### Dog Licenses

Dog Licenses are due by April 1<sup>st</sup>. A current rabies certificate is required. If you are unsure if the current certificate is on file, please call the Town Office. **If you no longer have your dog or your dog has died, please let us know!** For your convenience, you may mail or drop off the fee and rabies certificate along with a self-addressed stamped envelope and your license will be mailed to you. The fee until April 1<sup>st</sup> is \$11.00 for spayed or neutered dogs and \$13.00 for dogs that are not spayed or neutered. Dog licenses obtained **after April 1<sup>st</sup> are subject to a late fee.** We encourage all dog owners to register their dogs before April 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the April Newsletter is 12:00 noon, Monday, March 27<sup>th</sup>.

### Town Office Closed

The Town Office will be closed Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>.

## PLANNING COMMISSION NEWS

The Planning Commission is in need of your assistance. We are asking you to complete a survey, the link to which is at the end of this article. The reason we need your assistance is as follows:

In 2016, the Vermont Legislature passed Act 174 which established a new set of municipal and regional energy planning standards. If a municipality meets these new standards, its Town Plan and zoning regulations will carry greater “weight” in the Public Service Board siting process for commercial energy generation facilities. By offering municipalities the opportunity to have a greater say in the siting of commercial energy generating facilities, Act 174 encourages all municipalities to incorporate energy planning into their local Town Plans. Act 174 addresses large energy generation facilities such as commercial solar, wind and biomass. It does not specifically address smaller, point of use type energy generation, such rooftop solar.

The siting of commercial generating facilities will become a significant issue in the near future because the Vermont Department of Public Service has established the goals of: 1) obtaining 90% of the State’s energy from renewable sources by 2050 and 2) reducing the State’s energy consumption by more than 1/3 by 2050. In order to accomplish these goals, there will need to be a large increase in the number of commercial energy generating facilities throughout Vermont.

Act 174’s primary purpose is to identify sites where large energy generating facilities might be located. However, the Act also encourages municipalities to survey how much and what types of energy the residents of the municipality use. The majority of Vermont’s energy use is devoted to heat and transportation, not electrical use. While the energy plan Westford eventually creates will have to consider siting criteria for commercial energy generation facilities, it should also address current and future heat and transportation needs within the Town.

The Planning Commission has revived the Energy Committee in order to provide assistance to the Planning Commission in the re-writing of the Town’s Energy Plan. The Planning Commission, in cooperation with the Energy Committee, has prepared a survey seeking information about the energy usage by Westford residents. We hope the responses will give us a good understanding of current energy use in the Town. Unlike other surveys, this one is not designed to be answered by each resident. **Rather, we are seeking only one submission per household. The survey will end on March 31, 2017.**

Link to the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/westfordenergysurvey>

Paper copies of the survey are available at the Town Offices.

Thank you.

Westford Planning Commission:

Gordon Gebauer (Chair), Wendy Doane, Jeremy Berger, Seth Jensen, Mark Letorney

## JACKSON FARM & FOREST PROJECT UPDATE

It is hard to believe that we are down to raising the last \$5,000 that Westford needs in order to protect the Jackson Farm and Forest!

With several important grants and generous Westford residents and friends, we are well underway toward meeting our \$50,000 private fundraising goal that is part of the total of \$630,000 to make this happen.

It is not too late for you to make a difference by making a gift and being a part of this legacy that will always be part of our community. Visit <https://www.vlt.org/initiatives/jackson-farm-forest-project> and make a gift today. Thank you!

## ESSEX WESTFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD NOTES

The School Board of the Essex Westford Educational Community Unified Union School District (EWSD) approved a Fiscal Year 2018 budget proposal of \$75.2 million at its February 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. This is the first consolidated budget for the new unified district and will allow nearly 4,000 students to enjoy seamless continuity in the district's highly regarded educational programs, while improving student equity and expanding access. Tax rates in all three municipalities are projected to decrease as a result of the tax incentives built into Act 46.

The budget planning process was a major effort lasting for months. After controlling for the complexities involved in the financial structures of the Chittenden Central Supervisory Union, its three constituent districts, and the Essex Town School District, the combined budgets for FY17 came to \$73,513,807. The FY18 budget of \$75,287,014 represents a 2.41% increase from the FY17 budgets of the districts, and can be expressed as an expenditure of \$15,961.19 per equalized pupil. The Board plans to provide community members with specific budget details ahead of the Annual Meeting to show where savings have occurred as a result of unification, and where the Board has approved one-time expenditures that are best made during the five-year, graduated tax incentive period.

Voters at the Annual Meeting of the Unified Union School District will be asked to approve the budget as well as three additional articles. One establishes a capital reserve to fund major projects such as school roof replacements. The next article asks voters to approve appropriating \$1.209 million to the capital reserve fund. Doing so brings the per pupil spending to \$16,284.12. After applying the 10-cent Act 46 incentive and using the published yields, passing **both** the budget and the capital plan would result in a projected district-wide Homestead Tax Rate of \$1.516. This rate is then adjusted by each town's Common Level of Appraisal (CLA), with the result that taxpayers in Westford would see a projected tax rate of \$1.508, a 2.7-cent decrease from the current year. Those in Essex Town would have a projected tax rate of \$1.556, a 1.1-cent decrease from current year, while Essex Junction taxpayers' projected rate is \$1.555, or 3 cents less than in the current year. The projected rate for those who pay some or all of their education taxes based on their household income is 2.57%, down from 2.81% in Essex Junction and 2.77% in Essex Town and Westford. The final article asks voters to approve a budget of \$8,238,762 for the Center for Technology, Essex. This budget has no direct effect on local taxes, since the CTE budget is paid for by tuition from feeder districts. (Note: tax rates are projections only and the final numbers will not be determined until the legislature sets the final yield rates.)

Residents of Essex Junction, Essex Town and Westford will have the opportunity to learn more about the budget at an informational meeting to be held at Essex High School on Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. The Annual Meeting will occur at the high school on Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m., with voting by Australian ballot on the budget to occur on Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at polling places in the three municipalities. Andre and Martha will hold an informational meeting in Westford prior to the 4/11 vote. Watch the Front Porch Forum for details.

Two items will be of particular interest to Westford residents. The budget will pay for transportation of Westford's high school students to and from school. Also, the capital budget plan reflects the intention to deal with Westford's driveway issues in FY19.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us if you have questions or concerns.

Martha Heath and Andre Roy

# WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

http://westfordpubliclibrary.org

(802) 878-5639

westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com

1717 VERMONT ROUTE 128, WESTFORD VT 05494



**Spring Wreath Craft Project**  
Thursday, March 9 7:00-8:30pm  
Instructor: Marianne Bassford

Spruce up your space for Spring! Join us to complete an easy and fun spring wreath incorporating a few wrapped fabric techniques. No experience needed. All materials provided. FREE. Pre-register for a spot. 10 person limit.

**Travel Talk- 7-8:30pm - Wednesday, March 15**

Topic: Trip planning techniques and technology

Presented by: Mark Drapa

Planning a trip can be easier than you think! Mark will explain some tips he uses to save time and money, show some good websites, GPS apps, technology and other things you might want to know about while traveling.

Come with questions and your own tips to share.



### Got Book Donations?

The Library will SOON (not now!) be accepting donations for our annual Fourth of July Book Sale. Watch Front Porch Forum and Facebook for more details. Collection dates will fall on certain Saturdays April-June.



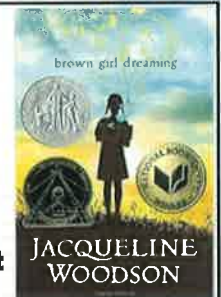
### Library Hours

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

**Adult Book Group**  
Wed., March 22  
7:00-8:00pm

**Pick up your books at the front desk!**

**Brown Girl Dreaming**  
by: **Jacqueline Woodson**  
Extra copies available at the front desk.



**This book is the Vermont Humanities Council's Big READ for 2017. Every Vermonter should read this book this year!**

"Ms. Woodson writes with a sure understanding of the thoughts of young people, offering a poetic, eloquent narrative that is not simply a story . . . but a mature exploration of grown-up issues and self-discovery." *New York Times Book Review*  
Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. Touching and powerful, each poem is both accessible and emotionally charged, each line a glimpse into a child's soul as she searches for her place in the world. Woodson's poetry also reflects the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, despite the fact that she struggled with reading as a child. Her love of stories inspired her and stayed with her, creating the first sparks of the gifted writer she was to become. (from Amazon.com)

### All March Storytimes will be Science Storytimes! Part of VELI-STEM!

**Birth to Pre-School Every Thursday at 11am No registration required!**

3/2/17: Theme: Science!

3/9/17: Theme: Science!

3/16/17: Theme: Science!

3/23/17: Theme: Science!

3/30/17: Theme: Science!

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](mailto:westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com)

## March Library Events

**March 1 - Drop in Squishy Circuits 3-6pm**

**March 1 - Trustees Meeting 7-9pm**

**March 2 - Dorothy's List Art Contest work time - 5:30-7pm**

**March 3 - Lunch and a Movie (Trolls) -Noon-2pm, bring your lunch and we'll provide popcorn. Drop off ok 9+**

**March 9 - Spring Wreath Project 7-8:30pm, pre-register at the library, FREE, all materials provided, limited to 10**

**March 15 - Dorothy's List Book Group Celebration afterschool-5pm**

**March 15 - Travel Talk 7:00-8:30pm**

**March 17 - Celtic Coloring afterschool-5pm**

**March 18 - Shamrock Storytime 10:30-11:30am**

**March 22 - Adult Book Group discussion of Brown Girl Dreaming 7-8pm**

**Storytime every Thursday 11am - all March Storytimes will be Science Storytimes**

Got Bored Kids over school vacation?

Wed. 3/1 - Drop-in Squishy Circuits 3-6pm  
Fun with conductive playdoh and electricity!  
Great for any age.



Thurs. 3/2 - Science Story time 11am

Thurs. 3/2 - Dorothy's List Art Contest 5:30-7pm (see below)



Fri. 3/3 Lunch & a Movie Noon-2pm  
Bring your lunch and a drink and we'll watch Trolls. Rated PG, 92 minutes. We'll provide the popcorn.

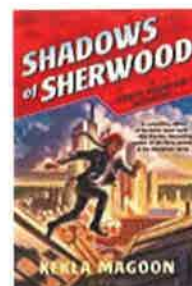
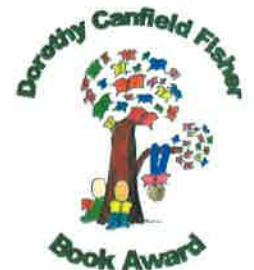
Kids can always come and get books & movies!

Celtic Coloring (2nd grade & up)  
Friday, March 17 afterschool-5pm  
Kids can ride Bus #3 (w/note from parents) to the library and enjoy detailed Celtic drawings to color, listen to Irish music and have some Irish goodies.



**Shamrock Storytime**  
Sat., March 18 10:30-11:30  
Come in for a "lucky" storytime. Stories, a craft, some Irish goodies and maybe a leprechaun even left something behind!

Dorothy's List is turning 60!  
Thurs., March 2 5:30-7pm  
Bree and Ms. Shelley will have supplies, computers and time to help those who want to work on their art contest submissions. Remember the prize is a signed book by a famous author! Snacks provided.



**Dorothy's List Book Group End of Book Celebration**  
Wed., March 15 afterschool until 5pm.  
Students ride Bus #3 with a permission slip from school. We'll wrap up our reading of Shadows of Sherwood.

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.

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.

## Senior Luncheons

The Senior Luncheon will be on March 13<sup>th</sup> at noon at the Red Brick Meeting House on the common. All seniors (55+) are welcome. Please join us for a home cooked meal and good conversation. If you need a ride, please call me at 878-3090 or Beth Menut at 893-2263. Cross your fingers that the weather cooperates this month.

Hope to see you there!  
Carol Howrigan, President

## Selling or refinancing? Zoning FAQs

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](mailto:zoning_admin@westfordvt.us) or 878-4587.

Getting into zoning compliance can take 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 March Schedule

March 5 & 12, 8:30am – Worship Services with Rev. Katherine Arthaud

We are an Open & Affirming Christian Church. All are welcome!

## 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.bit.ly/vttaxforms](http://www.bit.ly/vttaxforms)).
- Order forms by email ([tax.formsrequest@vermont.gov](mailto:tax.formsrequest@vermont.gov))
- Order forms by phone (855-297-5600)

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

# Westford 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.

## Youth Programs

### Young Yogis with Kim Horton



Mondays Mar 20th - Apr 17th 9:00am - 10:00am

(No class Apr 10th)

PK and up

RBMH \* \$40/participant

This class is designed for pre-school, home-schooled and/or parents and children who just want a time to have fun practicing yoga together!

Class will begin with some kid friendly breathing exercises and a short yoga story. After children will explore fun poses inspired by animals and nature beside you, with you and through activities with other young yogis.

Class will end with children using breathing buddies (little stuffed animals) placed on their bellies for final relaxation. You and your young yogi will walk away feeling lighthearted and free.

### Art Club

Thursdays April 6th - May 18th

(No class during April Break)

3:00pm - 4:30pm

Grades 3 - 5

WES Art Room

6 Weeks: \$85/participant

Minimum: 6 \* Maximum 15(ish)



Come explore a variety of art mediums!



#### Recreation Department Committee Members

Bekah Gwozdz, Coordinator  
Maureen Carpenter  
Martha Bennett  
Nancy Volkers

662-1042  
893-5096  
878-9269

Danielle Vierling 871-9404  
Jeff LaBossiere  
Greg Baker 324-5537

Email: [WestfordVTRec@gmail.com](mailto:WestfordVTRec@gmail.com)

## Adult Programs

### Gentle Yoga Flow with Kim Horton, RYT

Wednesdays March 1st – April 5th

8:45am - 9:45am

All levels welcome!

Red Brick Meeting House

6 weeks: \$60 for series or \$12 drop-in



### Power Flow Yoga

Thursdays February 16th - March 16th

6:15pm - 7:30pm

All levels welcome!

Red Brick Meeting House

5 weeks: \$60 for series or \$13 drop-in

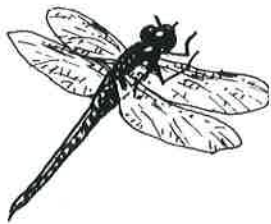
### Amazing Dragons and Damsels!

Monday April 3rd \* 6pm - 9pm

Includes Optional 2 hr+ field trip (Date and Time to TBD by participants)

Red Brick Meeting House

\$12/participant \* Minimum 10 participants



Three hour presentation includes folklore, biology, life cycles, hands-on show-and-tell (field guides, nymph cases to view with 10x lens, photos), and hand-outs.

Field trip date and site will be coordinated with interested participants. Field trip will include use of net, catch-and-release identification, photos, and a printed species list sent to participants.

### Mah Jongg

#### Introduction to Mah Jongg

Saturday April 1st 1pm - 4pm

RBMH \* \$10/participant \* Minimum 6 participants

#### Mah Jongg for Fun and Flexibility

Tuesdays April 4th - April 25 6pm - 9pm

RBMH \* \$35/participant \* Minimum 6 participants





# Sports Programs

## Lacrosse

### Tiny Cats (K-2)

Mid April to Early June Mondays 6pm - 7pm

\$30/player

Players need to have their own sticks. Westford Tiny Cats t-shirts are included in the registration fee.

Last year our program was able to play a set of games against Milton.

This year, we are hoping to play one or two jamborees against St. Albans and Milton.



## 3/4 Coed

Early April to Mid June

Tuesdays and Thursdays 6pm - 7pm \* Saturdays 10am - 11:30am

Games begin Saturdays in May

\$45/player

Players will begin to build on skills and basic game play. In the beginning of the season, we will practice three times a week until we start playing games in May.

Then we practice twice a week with Jamborees on Saturdays. The team will play around ten games during the season. We are part of the Northern Vermont Youth Lacrosse League.

Players need their own sticks, padding and helmets. A limited number of helmets are available from the Recreation Department use (with deposit) on a first come first served basis. Please put a note on the registration form if you need a helmet so one can be set aside.

Players will need to have a US Lacrosse membership. This year membership is an additional \$25.00.

Scholarships are available.

## 1/2 Basketball

Saturdays March 4th - April 1st

9:00am - 10:00am

WES Gym

\$25/participant



## Adult Pick Up Basketball

Wednesdays November 16th - May 31st

8:00pm - 9:30pm

WES Gym



# 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. _____	_____	_____	_____
<b>Total Fee:</b>			_____

**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

## Howard Coffin: Vermont and the Civil War



Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>  
7pm  
Westford Brick Meeting House  
1685 Route 128

From Cedar Creek to Gettysburg, Vermonters were central to the Union cause. Vermont author and Civil War historian Howard Coffin addresses the Vermont contribution to the Civil War.

This event is free, open to the public, and accessible to those with disabilities. Contact Caroline Brown at [carolinebrown802@myfairpoint.net](mailto:carolinebrown802@myfairpoint.net) or (802)878-8890 for more information.

A Vermont Humanities Council event hosted by Westford Historical Society.

*Under grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the NEH or the Vermont Humanities Council.*

Vermont Humanities, 11 Loomis Street, Montpelier, VT 05602  
802.262.2626 or [vermonthumanities.org](http://vermonthumanities.org)

## CRAFT SHOW & SILENT AUCTION TO BENEFIT MARK BRITO WESTFORD ROAD CREW MEMBER

Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup>  
10am – 3pm  
St. Albans City Hall



Come shop 45 various crafters and vendors, a silent auction, bake sale, and Chinese auction all for a great cause. Hot dogs, soda, water and coffee available to purchase for lunch. A donation jar will also be set up.

For the silent auction there are over 100 items ranging in value from \$10 to \$150 with 2 more expensive items. One is a 6-month membership to Branon's pools valued at \$430. The other is a boat with the starting bid being \$1,500.

The proceeds will be given to the family of Mark to help with medical costs due to injuries sustained in the Georgia shooting on January 2<sup>nd</sup>.





# Westford Music Series & Young Tradition Vermont

presents

## OWEN MARSHALL & BARON COLLINS-HILL

**Date:** Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup>  
**Time:** 4-5pm  
**Where:** UCW white church on village commons, Westford VT  
**Contact:** Marjorie Hamrell; 802-879-4028

The Westford Music Series in collaboration with Young Tradition Vermont bring two young rising stars within the Vermont music scene for a concert at the UCW church March 5<sup>th</sup> in Westford. Owen Marshall has been called by Vogue magazine as “a guitar/mandolin/banjo player rivaled in character only by the occasional three-pronged carrot.” Owen has performed and recorded with many of traditional music’s top performers and in his own Irish trio “The Press Gang.” His music has appeared on NPR’s “Thistle and Shamrock,” BBC television, and in demand at music camps throughout New England.

Baron Collins-Hill grew up playing the mandolin in Maine and is versed in traditional fiddle music, bluegrass, jazz and is known for his rhythmic experimentation and unique harmonic sense on both mandolin and tenor guitar. Both musicians are known for their Irish American roots and authentic instrumentation.

The Westford Music Series supports the performers with free will donations and has been serving the community of Westford and surrounding areas for the past 9 years.

Call 879-4028 for information. Free will donation. Refreshments.