

WESTFORD NEWSLETTER February 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

Town Meeting - Important Dates

- January 30th (Monday) 5pm 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 and to fill in the office you are running for (including length of term) before circulating your petition.
- March 6th (Monday) 5pm deadline to request an absentee ballot.
- March 6th (Monday) 7pm, Town Meeting and public hearing for Australian ballot questions (including town budget), at the Westford School in the gym.
- March 7th (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.

Petition Deadline for Elected Offices

Petitions for elected offices (e.g. Selectboard, etc.) can be picked up at the Town Office and must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, January 30th. Petitions must be signed by a minimum of 17 registered voters. Please contact the Town Office for a complete list of offices with terms expiring in March 2017.

Voter Registration

The State of Vermont implemented same day voter registration effective January 1, 2017. This means that eligible persons may register to vote on any day up to and including the day of the election. Registration is available at the Town Office during normal business hours on days leading up to the election and during polling hours on Election Day. If you are not already on the Westford Voter Checklist and you want to vote at Town Meeting March 6th, please consider registering before Election Day. This will save you time when you come to vote at the polls. If you are unable to come to the Town Office, you can register to vote online at: https://olvr.sec.state.vt.us/

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. 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 1st is \$13.00, or \$11.00 if your dog is 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 Luncheon

The Senior Luncheon will be on February 13th at noon at the 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. Hope to see you there! Carol Howrigan, President

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the March Newsletter is 12:00 noon on Monday, February 27th.

Town Office Closed

The Town Office will be closed Tuesday, March 7th for voting.

PLANNING COMMISSION

As 2017 begins, the planning commissions of the towns of Vermont have been handed a challenge from our state legislators to get involved with energy planning or lose out on having a say of the siting of large commercial renewable energy facilities.

In 2011 the State of Vermont set a goal of reducing fossil fuel consumption 30% and generating 90% of our energy with renewables by 2050. To meet this goal Act 174 was passed to help site large commercial renewable energy generating facilities. This means that energy planning will determine some land use planning. The land use planning for renewable energy sites will be done at the regional and state level. If towns and municipalities want to have input on the siting of energy generation facilities (think solar, wind, or biomass) and are worthy of "substantial deference" (Act 174 verbiage for "input") we must develop an "enhanced energy plan". An Enhanced Energy Plan includes the following:

- 1) Survey energy use in Westford
- 2) Consider energy used for buildings and transportation
- 3) Analyze current and future energy use
- 4) Plan carefully with state energy policy for the land use needs of energy generation

The Planning Commission is starting to organize to meet this challenge so that we can direct the future of our energy needs, how we generate energy for Westford and the region, and how our land is used. We will need your support!

- We will be sending out a survey that will inform us on energy use in Westford. Be on the lookout for it and help us by completing and returning.
- The Selectboard is reinstating the Energy Committee to help guide and steward this process. If you have skills or knowledge around the area of renewable energy, please contact Melissa Manka at the Town Office. 878-4587 or planner@westfordvt.us.

The Planning Commission meets the 3rd Monday of the month at 6:30. All are welcome!

SEEKING RESIDENTS TO SERVE ON ENERGY COMMITTEE

The Westford Selectboard is seeking town residents interested in serving on an Energy Committee. The Energy Committee will be working with the Planning Commission. For more information, please refer to the Planning Commission's note above.

ROAD CREW UPDATE

Mark Brito, one of the Westford Road Crew members, was critically injured during an incident on January 2nd on Georgia Mountain Road. Mark was hired in July 2016. In this short amount of time, he became well-liked and respected by fellow employees (town office and highway).

Several people have contacted the Town Office to find out how they can help Mark. A Go Fund Me Account has been set up for Mark by friends and family and can be found at https://www.gofundme.com/mark-brito-recovery-fund.

Due to Mark's injuries, the Road Crew is down an employee. The Town is looking at options in hiring someone on a temporary basis, as well as the possibility of seeking aid from neighboring towns.

SEEKING DOG WARDEN

The Town of Westford is seeking someone to serve as Dog Warden. The Dog Warden is an appointed position and is responsible for enforcing the Westford Dog Ordinance. The Dog Ordinance can be found on the Town's website (https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Dog-Ordinance1.pdf).

Please contact the Town Office at 878-4587 or townclerk@westfordvt.us if you are interested in serving in this capacity. Compensation is an annual stipend. The position will remain open until filled.

TOWN OF WESTFORD - WINTER ROAD POLICY

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 ¾" 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



We Love Our Patrons: Free coffee and chocolate all month long!

Also, a big thank you and fond farewell to Beth Kirkpatrick, a member of the Board of Library Trustees. We welcome Meghan Fyrberg as her replacement.

What's Your Library Worth to You? Contest

Go to http://www.ilovelibraries.org/what-libraries-do/calculator and calculate how much your library saves you each month, then post your amount on our Facebook page or on Front Porch Forum. Don't be shy - my family saved \$453 last month! Your public post automatically enters you into a drawing for a \$15 Essex Cinemas Gift Card. One entry per person.

ilovelibrariesSupporting one of our nation's most important resources

Travel Talk- 7-8:30pm - Wednesday, February 15

Destination: Antarctica
Presented by: Thomas Vogelsang
"The region around Antarctica is
one of the last truly remote places
on Earth. My journey allowed me
to see the amazing landscapes
and wildlife and learn about the
history and present of the area.
My route touched important
points of Sir Ernest Shackleton's
legendary expedition hundred



years ago, both on South Georgia and Elephant Island. I will be sharing my photographs and my experiences." This presentation is not to be missed - a once in a lifetime travel experience! Refreshments served.

Library Hours

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

Adult Book Group February 22 7:00-8:00pm Pick up your books at the front desk!

The Language of Flowers

by: Vanessa Diffenbaugh
This book beautifully weaves past

and present, creating a portrait of an unforgettable woman whose gift for flowers helps her change the lives of others even as she struggles to overcome her own troubled past.

LANGUAGE

FLOWERS

The Victorian language of flowers was used to convey romantic expressions: honeysuckle for devotion, asters for patience, and red roses for love. But for Victoria Jones, it's been more useful in communicating grief, mistrust, and solitude. After a childhood spent in the foster-care system, she is unable to get close to anybody, and her only connection to the world is through flowers and their meanings. Now 18 and emancipated from the system, Victoria has nowhere to go and sleeps in a public park, where she plants a small garden of her own. Soon a local florist discovers her talents, and Victoria realizes she has a gift for helping others through the flowers she chooses for them. But a vendor at the flower market has her questioning what's been missing in her life, and when she's forced to confront a painful secret from her past, she must decide whether it's worth risking everything for a second chance at happiness. (from Amazon.com)

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

2/2/17: Theme: Groundhogs 2/9/17: Theme: Valentine's Day 2/16/17: Theme: African America Authors and Illustrators 2/23/17: Theme: Dr. Seuss

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

February Library Events

Month-long Events:

→We Love our Patrons: Free coffee and Chocolates

→What's Your Library Worth to You? Contest

February 1 - Trustees Meeting 7-9pm

February 4 - Take Your Child to the Library Day - 10am-2pm -Balloons, raffle, prizes, more!

February 11 - DIY Valentines (co-sponsored by the Rec. Dept.) 10:30-11:30am. Make something special for someone special goodies too!

February 15 - Travel Talk: Antarctica 7-8:30pm, presented by Thomas Vogelsang, refreshments served.

February 17 - Community Film Screening:

Paperclips 7-9pm, film and discussion.
Ideal for older kids, parents, and adults.
Not a drop off event.

February 22 - Adult Book Group - <u>The Language</u> of Flowers 7-8pm, refreshments served.

Crazy 8's Club 2-5 Wednesdays 3-5pm Crazy 8's Club K-1 Thursdays 3-5pm Storytime every Thursday 11am

Got Bored Kids over February/March vacation? Here's a preview of our activities:



Thurs. 3/2 - Science Story time 11am

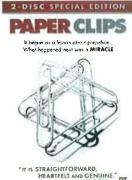
Fri. 3/3 Lunch and a Movie Noon-2pm - Bring your lunch and we'll watch an animated new release. We'll provide popcorn.

Kids can always come and get books!

Community Film Screening: Paper Clips PAPER CLIPS

Friday, Feb. 17 from 7-9pm

A small town sets out to teach diversity, tolerance, and standing up for what is right to its children; what happens next is simply transformative. This important film feels timely and could lead to important family and community discussion. "When the principal of Whitwell Middle School sought a program that would teach diversity



to a predominantly white, Protestant student body, the notion of focusing on the Holocaust--specifically Hitler's extermination of six million Jews--seemed like an obvious way to go. But understanding what "six million" looks like became a challenge. Thus was born the idea of collecting that number of paper clips at Whitwell as a visual reference. The dimensions of the project, the lessons about prejudice and intolerance, are stunning to watch grow beyond anyone's wildest expectations. This is a great film for families and class-rooms to watch together." (from Amazon.com)

This event is open to older children with their parents and other community members. Not a drop off event.

Take Your Child to the Library Day! Saturday, February 4

Bring your child to the library and share in your love of reading! We will have balloons for kids. Also, enter for a chance to win kid-sized library t-shirts. Happening all day, 10am-2pm.





DIY Valentines (w/ Rec. Dept.)

Saturday, February 11
10:30-11:30am
Come make a special something for that special someone. We'll have all the supplies to make the perfect Valentines.
Crafts, goodies and fun!

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.

Essex Westford School District Early Education Options

The Essex Westford School District (EWUUSD) is committed to providing quality early education options to the residents of Essex Junction, Essex Town, and Westford.

Westford Residents

School-Based Preschools

Westford School

OR

Community-Based Preschools

Universal Pre-K/Act 166 available for 3, 4 and 5 year olds who attend state approved/ qualified programs

The deadline to apply for EWUUSD school-based programs is

Friday February 24, 2017

Application for Pre-K Act 166 slots can be made at any time.

Please complete the online form at www.ccsuvt.org or on the Westford Elementary School web page to enter your child in the preschool lottery and to learn more about EWUUSD's early education options.

Questions?
Please contact:

Johanna Simmons johanna.simmons@ewsd.org (802) 878-8168 58 Founders Road

Westford Recreation Department

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.

Adult Pick Up Basketball



Wednesdays November 16th - May 31st 8:00pm - 9:30pm WES Gym

Adult Yoga

Gentle Yoga Flow with Kim Horton, RYT

Wednesdays January 18th - February 22nd 8:45am - 9:45am All levels welcome!

Red Brick Meeting House 6 weeks: \$60 for series or \$12 drop-in

Practice a gentle, but dynamic flow sequence to open and strengthen the body. Focus on linking breath to movement, increasing energy and calming

You can expect a friendly and supportive class environment. Contact Kim with any questions~ Kim@annecy.us



Power Flow Yoga

Thursdays January 5th - February 9th 6:15pm - 7:30pm All levels welcome! Red Brick Meeting House 6 weeks: \$72 for series or \$13 drop-in



Recreation Department Committee Members

662-1042 Bekah Gwozdz, Coordinator

Danielle Vierling Jeff LaBossiere

893-5096

Greg Baker

878-9269 Martha Bennett

324-5537

871-9404

Nancy Volkers

Maureen Carpenter

Email: WestfordVTRec@gmail.com

Afterschool Programs

WES Chorus

Tuesdays February 7th - March 28th 3:00pm - 4:30pm

Grades 3 - 5

WES Music Room

6 Weeks: \$40/participant

Minimum: 10
Final Performance:
March 19th 7pm



Homeschool/Preschool Programs

Young Yogis with Kim Horton



Mondays Jan 16th - Feb 6th 9:00am - 10:00am 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.

Community Programs

DIY Valentines

Feb 11th 10:30 - 11:30am Westford Public Library

Join us at the library to make Valentines Snack and Goodie Bag Provided



Lacrosse Sign Ups

In order to determine whether or not we have the numbers to field teams this year, we have decided to hold to registration nights.

If you'd like to join us for lacrosse this year, please stop by one of our registration nights

Feb 7th 3pm - 4pm at WES Common Room

Feb 9th 6:30pm - 7:30pm at the Westford Town Offices

If you are not able to make a registration time, please drop your registration form off at the Town Offices before Feb 9th.

Westford Lacrosse

Stop by one of our registration nights
Feb 7th 3pm - 4pm at WES Common Room
Feb 9th 6:30pm - 7:30pm at the Westford Town Offices

Tiny Cats K–2

Mid April to Early June Mondays 6pm - 7pm

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

The fees are still \$30.00 per player.

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.

Scholarships are available.



3/4 Coed

Early April to Mid June
Tuesdays and Thursdays 6pm - 7pm
Saturdays 10am - 11:30am
Games begin Saturdays in May

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.

Registration fees are \$45.00 per player.

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.

We are open to any players wishing to join our team! Same rate all towns!

If you have any questions, or wish to request a scholarship Email Bekah at WestfordVTRec@gmail.com.

If you have questions about the game of lacrosse, or wish to speak to the coach Contact Brent Carpenter at brent.carpenter29@gmail.com.

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, phy	rsical limitations, allergies, or re	estrictions WRD should be aware of:	
Name	Grade	Program	Fee
1			
2			e)
3	* *		
4	4 #		
5	<u> </u>		
			Total Fee:
Would you be willing to coach or	be a parent helper?Ye	esNo	
☐ I agree that Westford Reexample such purposes as publici		of registrants with or without their name and fo Web content.	or any lawful purpose, including for
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.			
т	om signing yoursell, or your chil	iu, up ioi a piogianii odilolaisilips ale avaliable	•
Westford School, their employees, elected curred by me, or us, or our minor children if needed and Lauthorize the attending of	f officials, and/or any volunteers or ins on account of participation in said pro ovsician to administer any needed med	applicant(s) to participate in the program(s) listed above, structors from any and all liability from any injury, claim, or gram(s). Permission is hereby granted for me or us, or m dical attention. Furthermore, I certify that I, or we, or my or document carefully and sign it voluntarily with full knowns	osts or loss of services which may be in- y child(ren) to receive emergency treatment hild(ren) are in good health and that there
Signature		D	ate

Send registration with check payable to:
WESTFORD RECREATION DEPARTMENT
Town of Westford, 1713 VT Rt.128, Westford, VT 05494



WESTFORD MUSIC SERIES presents

PossumHaw

Event:

Music Concert

Date: Sunday, February 12th 4-5 pm **Location:** UCW white church, Westford

PossumHaw, a 5 member band, has been called "the shooting star of Bluegrass music" by the Vermont press. Members originate from Burlington and have evolved into an award-wining evocative songwriting and singing group with top notch bluegrass instrumentation. They will be making an appearance in Westford on Sunday, February 12th from 4-5pm as their parting concert as a band. A couple members of this fabulous group are moving out West and they are sad but delighted to be completing their band partnership at the Westford Music Series.

The PossumHaw quintet is rooted in the bluegrass and folk tradition which features the stellar vocals and songwriting of Colby Crehan (lead singer for the Bluegrass Gospel Project and named as a Vermont Vocalist of the Year). Other members include Stephen Waud (mandolin, vocals), Ryan Crehan (banjo, vocals, and harmonica), Charley Eiseman (lead guitar, vocals) and Mitch Barron (upright bass). PossumHaw is what the Northeast folks and bluegrass music scene is all about - excellent original acoustic live music delivered with skill, sincerity, and personality.

Free will donation and refreshments.

For more information, call Marge Hamrell@ 879-4028 or mhamrell@comcast.net

United Church of Westford February Schedule

February 5 & 12, 8:30am - Worship services with Rev. Katherine Arthaud.

All are welcome!

VERMONT INCOME TAX FORMS

- 3 Easy ways to get your Vermont Income Tax forms from the Vermont Department of Taxes
- 1. Download, complete and print fillable PDF forms from the web: www.bit.ly/vttaxforms
- 2. Order forms by email: tax.formsrequest@vermont.gov
- 3. Order forms by phone: call toll-free in the U.S. at (855) 297-5600