



WESTFORD NEWSLETTER

September 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

Westford Senior Luncheon

Golly, it's September already! The senior meals will start back on the second Monday each month with this one being on September 11th. We have had a wonderful gathering this year with about 30-50 joining us each month. We keep it simple. The meeting after the lunch is very brief. Mostly it's for you to be able to chat with others. Bring a friend or neighbor. It's a home cooked meal all prepared by our many volunteers. Remember, it's Sept. 11th at noon at the Red Brick Meeting House. Would you like to be a volunteer? There are many different jobs to fill. If interested, please call me at 878-3090. Carol Howrigan, President

Reminder - Placing Bulky Items Out for Trash Pickup

The contract between the Town of Westford and Myers for collection of trash and recycling includes the following statement: "Items such as couches, chairs, bedding, shall be considered trash but do not count toward the 64 gallon threshold." Myers will collect bulky items; however, they will charge for the pickup. Some residents have found it costs less to bring their bulky items to a Chittenden Solid Waste District drop off center rather than have Myers pick them up. Please call a drop off center or go to <http://cswd.net/chittenden-county-solid-waste-facilities/drop-off-centers/> to determine the best course of disposal.

Newsletter Deadline

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

Town Office Hours

The Town Office is open Monday – Thursday, 8:30am – 4:30pm and Friday, 8:30am – 1:00pm.

The Town Office will be closed:

- Monday, September 4th for Labor Day
- Monday, September 18th for employees to attend a training seminar

Regular hours resume after Labor Day (8:30am – 4:30pm Monday through Friday).

*****REMINDER*****

As of June 1 RECYCLING IS BEING PICKED UP ON A WEEKLY BASIS.
You may put your recycling out with your garbage every week.

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.

TOWN OF WESTFORD SEEKING FULL-TIME ROAD CREW MEMBER

The Town of Westford is seeking qualified applicants for a full time Road Crew position with benefits. This position involves skilled and unskilled labor tasks and the knowledge and operation of highway equipment for maintenance and repair of town roads.

Requirements: valid Vermont CDL Class B license; good driving record; experience operating various highway equipment; willingness to work long hours, especially during winter months; ability to maintain logs; participate in random drug/alcohol testing; possess physical strength, agility, endurance and mental ability to concentrate, mechanical abilities and good communication skills. Must pass pre-employment physical exam and drug test. A full job description can be viewed at <https://westfordvt.us/administration/highway-department/>.

For consideration, please submit resume, references and employment application (found at <https://westfordvt.us/administration/highway-department/>) to: Town of Westford, Attn: Nanette Rogers, 1713 VT Route 128, Westford, VT 05494.

For more information, contact Nanette Rogers (Town Administrator) at 878-4587 or townclerk@westfordvt.us or Brent Meacham (Road Foreman) at 879-4306. Position open until filled. Westford is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

ATTENTION DOG LOVERS

The Town of Westford is looking for someone who is interested in serving as Dog Warden. What is a Dog Warden? A Dog Warden is a person who helps dog owners comply with the Westford Dog Ordinance. What qualifications do you need in order to be considered for the Dog Warden position? A love for dogs, the ability to communicate effectively, and a location to bring dogs until they can be reunited with their owner, to name a few. Some people think they need a kennel in order to be a Dog Warden. This is not the case. However, a stray dog does need to be placed in a healthy environment until it is reunited with its owner. A healthy environment includes shelter, food, water and a suitable area for them to relieve themselves.

The Dog Warden position receives an annual stipend of \$500. The Town budget also includes funds for training, supplies and mileage. If you would like more information on helping the community by serving in this position, please contact the Town Office at 878-4587 or townclerk@westfordvt.us. You do not need to be a Westford resident to apply for this position.

SEEKING RESIDENT TO SERVE ON CLEAN WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Selectboard is seeking town residents interested in serving as Westford's representative and alternate representative on the Chittenden Regional Planning Commission Clean Water Advisory Committee.

The Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) oversees the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission activities and policy development regarding but not limited to, the Vermont Lake Champlain Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Plan and its related plans and programs. The CWAC will meet at the call of the Chair. The typical meeting time will be the first Tuesday of the month at 11:00am. Full agendas and minutes for Clean Water Advisory Committee meetings can be found at <http://www.ccrpcvt.org/about-us/committees/clean-water-advisory-committee/>.

Please contact the Town Office at 878-4587 or townclerk@westfordvt.us if you are interested in representing Westford on this committee.



Think Globally, Act Locally.

The Town of Westford currently has two volunteer opportunities in the fields of land use planning, community building and development review.

The first position is **Planning Commissioner**. Planning Commissioners receive an annual stipend and meet the third Monday of the month with the 1st Monday of the month reserved if necessary. The main priorities of Planning Commissioners are creating the Westford Town Plan and Westford Land Use & Development Regulations, developing and implementing the Town Center Master Plan, enhancing public infrastructure and services, ensuring local resiliency, understanding biological & ecological systems to preserve natural resources, and increasing affordable housing and economic development opportunities.

Benefits of serving the community:

- Participate in project and Commission meetings.
- Gain experience communicating directly with municipal officials and the public.
- Gain experience and knowledge of municipal land use laws, as well as the latest planning techniques and tools.
- Enhance your knowledge and understanding of conservation and natural resources planning, energy planning, neighborhood design, town center revitalization, historic preservation, transportation planning, etc.
- Learn to create compelling community engagement content for various audiences.
- Learn how data and information is used in different aspects of the planning field.
- Gain career experience working in a dynamic team of motivated individuals.
- Expand “soft skills” critical to advancement in today’s job market.
- Enhance community and opportunity in Westford.

The second position is **Development Review Board Member**. Members receive an annual stipend and meet the second and fourth Monday of the month as needed based on the number of applications submitted in a given month. Board Members review local land use and development applications including subdivisions, commercial developments, etc. using our *new* regulations which include the latest land use planning and design techniques.

Benefits of serving the community:

- Participate in project and Board meetings.
- Gain experience communicating directly with municipal officials and the public.
- Gain experience and knowledge of municipal land use laws.
- Enhance your knowledge and understanding of natural resources planning, neighborhood design, context sensitive design, and form based design.
- Learn how to read surveys and site plans.
- Gain career experience working in a dynamic team of fun individuals.
- Expand “soft skills” critical to advancement in today’s job market.
- Enhance community and opportunity in Westford.

EWSD SCHOOL BOARD NOTES

The Essex Westford School District (EWSD) officially began operation on July 1st. We are thrilled to welcome Beth Cobb, our new superintendent, to the district. We appreciate the enthusiasm and dedication she is bringing to the work.

We also welcome our new Chief Operating Officer, Brian Donahue. Brian worked for Chittenden Central under Roger Derby and then as the CFO. He left to work for Vermont Public Radio for a number of years. We are pleased that he has rejoined our district and look forward to a year when this position is filled.

The school board has completed its work on mandatory policies for the district. You can read these policies by visiting the School Board section of the website for the district at <https://www.ewsd.org/>. The procedures used to implement the policies are developed by the administration. Many of them can be found on the website in the Student Handbook.

Two of the major pieces of work the board will address in the coming year will be to develop the vision for the new district and to establish a student outcomes policy. We expect to use extensive community engagement as we undertake these tasks. Indeed, you may have participated in the first step of the visioning process at one of Westford's public events (concerts, etc.) this summer. Please visit the district website often to keep up to date on engagement opportunities.

As you may have already learned, the district will not be able to implement busing in Essex Junction this year because the contractor was not able to find bus drivers. This appears to be a problem across the state. High School transportation for Westford WILL start this year. The administration is in the process of determining who will use this service in order to create the most effective and efficient system possible. We ask for your patience in this first year as the district and the provider work out the details. It is the board's intent to refrain from spending the money allocated for EJ transportation. If we are successful, the dollars will appear as fund balance revenue in the FY20 budget.

Negotiations between the board's Negotiating Council and the EWSD Teacher's Association have been collaborative and productive. Combining teacher contracts from two different operating districts was challenging but there are tentative agreements on all items except salary and health insurance. Talks stalled when the governor and the legislature passed a law requiring school districts to "give back" money to the state based on estimated healthcare savings. We have only recently learned what this number is for our district. Unfortunately, the state's numbers are based on spending for FY17 so our district will get no credit for having fewer employees. Furthermore, the district has known for many months that the new plans would be cheaper and responsibly budgeted for savings in this area. The state gave districts no credit for already budgeted savings. The board and the association declared impasse this summer because the details of the new law were not known. If the differences can be resolved without using the services of a mediator/factfinder, we will move forward to agreeing on a contract.

There are many ways to follow the work of the school board. On the <https://www.ewsd.org/> website there is a School Board section. In that section you can find agendas, minutes, and video recordings of all of our regular meetings. We meet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month and visitors are most welcome at our meetings. You can now follow the school district on Facebook as well. We urge you to take advantage of these resources.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy and productive school year to all of our students, parents, and teachers, administrators and staff.

Martha Heath and Andre Roy (Westford's reps on the EWSD School Board)

WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

http://westfordpubliclibrary.org

(802) 878-5639

westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com

1717 VERMONT ROUTE 128, WESTFORD VT 05494

WANTED: Artists and Travelers

We are seeking artists to display their art at the library as well as people willing to talk about their travels (abroad or domestic) for our Travel Talk Series.



Thank you, Westford, for an amazing Summer Reading Program - we certainly did Build a Better World!

Here's some pretty impressive numbers:

97 kids signed up for Summer Reading (15 adults, too!)

34 Summer programs were held with 768 attendees

2621 books were read

397 Raffle tickets were made

A big THANK YOU to all the parents, grandparents, and teachers who do so much to support their children's love of reading.

THANK YOU to the following for your support:

City Market

Sweet Clover Market

Phoenix Books

M.C. Baker

Craig Helfrich

Barry Genzlinger

The Vermont Department of Libraries

Beth Lane and Liesel the Reading Dog

The Westford Library Board of Trustees

J. Huthcins, Inc.

Spare Time

Jake Cady

Danielle Vierling

Ben and Jerry's

Library Hours

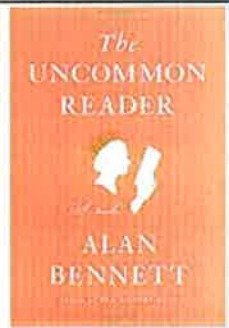
Wednesday:	1-7pm
Thursday:	10am-7pm
Friday:	1-7pm
Saturday:	10am-2pm
CLOSING THURSDAY 9/28 at 6pm	

**Adult Book Group
Wed. September 20
7:00-8:00pm**

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

**We will be reading
The Uncommon
Reader**

**by: Alan Bennett
Extra copies available**



From one of England's most celebrated writers, a funny and superbly observed novella about the Queen of England and the subversive power of reading.

When her corgis stray into a mobile library parked near Buckingham Palace, the Queen feels duty-bound to borrow a book. Discovering the joy of reading widely and intelligently, she finds that her view of the world changes dramatically. Abetted in her newfound obsession by Norman, a man from the royal kitchens, the Queen comes to question the prescribed order of the world and loses patience with the routines of her role as monarch. Her new passion for reading initially alarms the palace staff and soon leads to surprising and very funny consequences for the country at large. With the poignant and mischievous wit of *The History Boys*, the author revels in the power of literature to change even the most uncommon reader's life. (from Amazon.com)

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

9/7/17: Theme: Dogs

9/14/17: Theme: Butterflies

9/21/17: Theme: Fall

9/28/17: Theme: Apples

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

September Library Events

- September 6- Trustees Meeting 7-9pm
- September 15 - STEM Buddies 3-5pm
- September 20 - Adult Book Group: The Uncommon Reader 7-8pm, refreshments provided
- September 22 - STEM Buddies 3-5pm
- September 24-September 30 - Banned Books Week - "Words Have Power"
- September 27 - Banned Books Week Read-in - drop in anytime 1-7pm to read a banned book. Snacks provided.
- September 28 - Library CLOSERS EARLY at 6pm
- September 28 - VELI-STEM Childcare Provider Training at the Milton Library 7-9pm
- September 29 - STEM Buddies 3-5pm

Storytime every Thursday 11am



VELI-STEM and the Westford Public Library present:
STEM Buddies - Year Two!
 STEM Buddies is a fun, inquiry-based introduction to the concepts of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math for kids in grades K-1.

Children will explore Building and Engineering with plenty of hands on games, using a variety of tools and materials, and reflection on our group learning. We will have middle school "buddies" helping us out. More info will be given to interested parents. Space is limited, please contact the library to secure a spot. Your child must commit to all **FOUR** classes and the family night:

All classes are Fridays afterschool-5pm
 Sept. 15, Sept. 22, Sept. 29, Oct. 6
 Family Night: Friday, Oct. 13

Transportation will be provided via Bus #3 from Westford School. Class ends at 4:30pm, but parents can pick up as late as 5pm.

Westford is proud to be one of only 25 libraries in the country to participate in this federally sponsored program.

VELI-STEM Childcare Provider Training
 Thursday, September 28 from 7-9pm
 The Milton Public Library
 2 hours for credit through Northern Lights
 Cost: Free!



Librarians from Milton and Westford provide childcare providers with hands on training and free materials. The focus of this session is Building and Engineering skills for kids aged 3-7 years old.

Contact The Milton Public Library to register - 893-4644

Celebrate Banned Books Week: 9/24-9/30 Words Have Power

Banned Books Week highlights the benefits of free and open access while drawing attention to the harms of censorship by spotlighting actual or attempted banning of books from across the United States.

Read Banned Books Read-In
 Wed. Sept. 27 from 1-7pm

Drop by to check out a banned book, read one for a while, learn which books were banned, where & why, and savor your freedom to read.

We'll have snacks all day long. Kids can come afterschool on Bus #3 - there are plenty of banned children's books on this year's Top Ten List.

Advocate your Right to Read!



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 2018. 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.

Sept 2017

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.

Autumn Yoga

8 Weeks Thurs 9.28-11.16
with/CAT EARISMAN
802 343 8363
cearisman@yahoo.com



Still Accepting
Registrations for Fall
Soccer
westfordvtrec@gmail.com
802 858 6211

**This October 21, 9am.....An Even Greater!!!! 6.5K GREAT
PUMPKIN RUN!!!!????????????????????!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!?**



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 _____ 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	FEE
1. _____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____	_____
TOTAL:			_____
<p>Would you be interested in being a coach or be a parent helper? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>			

*****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**