



Westford Newsletter

December 2018
Town Office Notes

Season's Greetings!

Selectboard FY'20 Budget Workshops

The Selectboard began working on the FY'20 budget in October. Upcoming workshops will be held on December 6th and December 13th. 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 2019.

Senior Luncheon

The Senior Luncheon will be on December 10th at noon (doors are open at 11:30 for more chatting) at the Red Brick Meeting House on the common. All seniors are welcome. Please join us for our Christmas get-together and 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 turnout last month with 47 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

The Town is collecting 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 through Friday, December 14th. 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 18th 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 an 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 10th – Closing at 1:30pm
- December 24th & 25th - Closed
- January 1st - Closed

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the January Newsletter is 12:00 noon on Monday, December 17th.



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



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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.

For consideration of the Road Crew position, 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. Position remains open until filled. Westford is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Assistant Town Clerk

The Town of Westford is seeking qualified applicants for a part-time Assistant Town Clerk position (approximately 24 hours per week). This position involves clerical work in connection with maintaining municipal records, issuing various licenses and documents, voter registration and elections, assisting the public and town departments, and all other work as assigned.

Requirements: strong organizational, communication and computer skills, ability to perform light lifting, repetitive motions and moderate physical labor, be self-motivated and able to work independently. A full job description can be found at <https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Asst-Town-Clerk-Job-Description-2018.pdf>.

For consideration, please submit resume and references to townclerk@westfordvt.us or Town of Westford, Attn: Nanette Rogers, 1713 VT Route 128, Westford, VT 05494.

For more information, contact Nanette Rogers (Town Clerk) at 878-4587 or townclerk@westfordvt.us. Westford is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE WARDEN

It seems we have snow early this year. As you know controlled burns are allowed without a burn permit as long as the ground is covered with snow. As in past years I will monitor the weather daily to help you determine whether it is advisable to burn on a particular day. Please keep in mind that what can be burned does not change because there is snow on the ground. Only brush, leaves, branches, small stumps and untreated wood may be burned. If you have any questions please call me at 879-1231.

At this time, I would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year.

Dennis Angiono
Westford Fire Warden

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 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

The Library will be CLOSED Wed., December 26.



Travel Talk
Wed., December 12 from 7-8:30pm
Destination: Mont Blanc
Presented by: Phyl Newbeck and Bryan Harrington

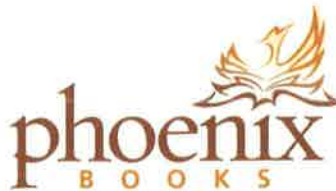
In June, Phyl Newbeck and Bryan Harrington completed the Tour de Mont Blanc. The eight-day hike covered roughly 85 miles across three countries: France, Switzerland and Italy.
Refreshments served.

Our Book Giving Trees Are Up!

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. We have all kinds of requests - adult, teen, and kids books. Our partner, Phoenix Books (any location), will give patrons 20% off the book if you bring in the star.

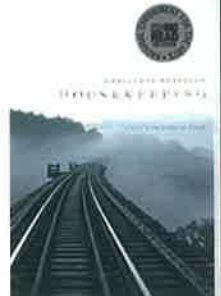
No need to wrap it! Books can be dedicated to a special person or family at the time we receive them. Please deliver books by January 17.
Thank you!



Library Hours

Wednesday: 1-7pm
Thursday: 10am-7pm
Friday: 1-7pm
Saturday: 10am-2pm
Library is CLOSED Dec. 26

Adult Book Group
Wed. December 19
7:00-8:00pm
Pick up your books at the front desk!
We will be reading
Housekeeping
by: Marilynne Robinson



A modern classic.

Housekeeping is the story of Ruth and her younger sister, Lucille, who grow up haphazardly, first under the care of their competent grandmother, then of two comically bumbling great-aunts, and finally of Sylvie, their eccentric and remote aunt. The family house is in the small Far West town of Fingerbone set on a glacial lake, the same lake where their grandfather died in a spectacular train wreck, and their mother drove off a cliff to her death. It is a town "chastened by an outsized landscape and extravagant weather, and chastened again by an awareness that the whole of human history had occurred elsewhere." Ruth and Lucille's struggle toward adulthood beautifully illuminates the price of loss and survival, and the dangerous and deep undertow of transience. (from Amazon.com)

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

12/6/18: Theme: Snow

12/13/18: Theme: Mice

12/20/18: Theme: Holidays

12/27/18: 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

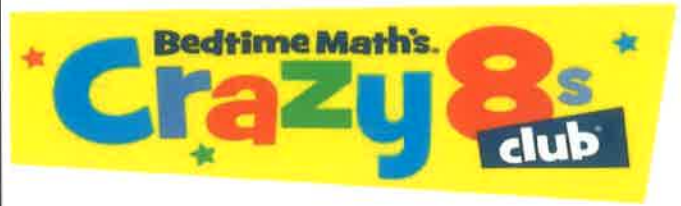
<http://westfordpubliclibrary.org>

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

December Library Events

- December 5 - Trustees Meeting 7-9pm
- December 12 - Art with Janet - Ornament Making - afterschool-5pm, space is limited, sign up required
- December 12 - Travel Talk 7-8:30pm, Destination: Mont Blanc, presented by Phyl Newbeck and Bryan Harrington
- December 19 - Adult Book Group 7-8pm, discussing Housekeeping by Marilynne Robinson
- December 20 - Crazy 8's Math Club Grades 3-5 - LAST ONE!
- December 21 - Crazy 8's Math Club Grades K-2 - LAST ONE!
- December 26 - CLOSED

Storytime every Thursday 11am
Crazy 8's Grades 3-5 - Thursdays
Crazy 8's Grades K-2 - Fridays
Knitting Group every Thursday 6:30-8pm



Bedtime Math's Crazy 8's Math Club!!!
Weekly October 25/26 - December 20/21
Grades 3-5 - Thursdays (begins 10/25)
Grades K-2 - Fridays (begins 10/26)



Art w/ Janet
Ornament Making
Wednesday, Dec. 12
afterschool - 5pm
 Janet has something up for her sleeve for a crafty holiday decoration. Kids who love to craft will love this class. Make a fun ornament (or two) to take home.

Class size limited to 8 children - ages 7 and up.
Registration required.
 Students may ride Bus #3 from Westford School.

Enter to Win a pair of tickets to Magic School Bus: Gets Lost in Space at the Flynn Main Stage on Thursday, January 10, 2019 at 6pm



"Using the strength of live theater to support the story rather than relying on special effects." —*New York Times*

The planetarium is closed and the field trip is ruined ... or is it? To save the day, the ever-imaginative Ms. Frizzle blasts the Magic School Bus off into outer space to explore the solar system. But when Ms. Frizzle gets separated from the group, her class travels through the stars to rescue her. Hop on the Magic School Bus for a ride in this new live-action musical adaptation based on the original book series, underscoring the fun in learning about science, the cosmos, and beyond.

This performance will be one hour and will not have an intermission.

Recommended for ages 3+.

This performance will be ASL Interpreted.

This performance is presented in a sensory-friendly format.

Enter every time you visit the library - drawing held December 27!

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 2019. Thank you to community for supporting our annual Fourth of July Book Sale.

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WESTFORD SCHOOL NEWS

School Safety: Front Door Update:

- The safety team has been reviewing information from safety assessments, various walkthroughs and other sources of relevant information in order to determine if a change in procedure at Westford School is necessary.
- Starting Monday, December 3, 2018, the front entrance of the school will be locked during school hours. Visitors are welcome and will be expected to ring the bell and identify themselves along with their purpose before entering the building.
 - Please note that both the front door and K-4 entrance will be unlocked briefly at 8:00 am as students enter for the start of the day.

Communications Update

In a collaborative effort with PTO officers last year, Westford School developed a Westford Communications 411 reference guide outlining the variety of methods used for school-home communication. Please check out [Westford School Communication 411](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1cAS5nQMIldO0nJMsrfsut_6RyxJXA2qsOpKbWIZaU4/edit?usp=sharing) at https://docs.google.com/document/d/1cAS5nQMIldO0nJMsrfsut_6RyxJXA2qsOpKbWIZaU4/edit?usp=sharing, which outlines:

Town Newsletter: “Go to” for what’s happening in the community. Monthly communication about general news (upcoming events, changes, programming). Includes Principal and PTO newsletters. Town residents sign up to receive this via the town office by emailing Nanette Rogers, Westford Town Clerk, townclerk@westfordvt.us

Weekly Westford School email: Weekly reminders sent to parent email accounts about upcoming events and deadlines that will be occurring in the next 1-2 weeks.

School Website: Westford School Home Page at <https://www.ewsd.org/Page/23>: Holding site for general school information including school calendar, sporting events, student handbook, links to EWSD board meeting agendas and notes, lunch menu, and other planned events.

School Twitter Account: [@wsdvtschool](https://twitter.com/wsdvtschool)

Principal Twitter Account: [@westfordwonders](https://twitter.com/westfordwonders): Updates and pictures of events and day-to-day activities posted from time to time

Principal’s Blog: Found on webpage at <https://www.ewsd.org/domain/649>: Updates sharing general information posted periodically

Principal’s Tea: Face time with the principal on the third Thursday of every month. The next Tea with the Principal is December 20th and will feature the parent night and student experience with John Halligan’s anti bullying education.

PTO Newsletter and PTO Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/westfordvtpto/>

Information about what the PTO is working on, including scheduled events and fundraisers.

PTO Meetings: Scheduled the second Tuesday of each month (September through May). Includes face time with the principal with scheduled topics at 7pm.

District Communications: Look for emails from Ben Dickie and check the EWSD Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/essexwestford/>

Featured Programs & Activities

John Halligan - Anti-Bullying Education

John Halligan, a national speaker, will address all 7th and 8th grade students in the Essex Westford School District. You may have seen John on TV or heard of his son, Ryan. You can read Ryan's Story and see a clip of the presentation at www.ryansstory.org. John will speak with parents 7:00-8:30pm on Monday, December 10th in the Essex High School Auditorium. I ask that at least one adult from every household attend this important presentation and that we send the same message to all students about the importance of kindness and a positive school culture of acceptance.

Preschool Registration Information

- School based preschool program: The window for requesting a 2019-2020 pre-K slot will open in January 2019.
- Community based preschools: Parents contact the provider directly and can apply for Universal PreK (Act 166) funds for 3, 4, and 5 year olds who attend state approved/qualified programs
- For information about either the Essex Westford School District in-school preschool program or Universal PreK (Act 166) contact:
 - Clara Moreno, Administrative Assistant
 - (802) 857-2013
 - cmoreno@ewsd.org

Curriculum & Instruction

Students and teachers will begin common winter assessments in January. This mid-year check provides us with information concerning student progress in literacy and math. We will also prepare a mid-year progress report which will be sent to parents on January 25, 2019. As the year progresses, so do our Professional Learning Communities. We thank families for their flexibility in adjusting to the change in school schedule (i.e. dismissal of students at 2:00pm on Tuesdays) to accommodate this professional learning time, in order to improve learning outcomes for all students.

White Church on the Common Survey Results Completed

Thanks to all who have responded to the Westford White Church Survey on the Front Porch Forum. There were 63 responses to the survey (not including the United Church of Westford Board). Some respondents needed clarity around the relationship of UCW buildings to the town. Consider the following:

The United Church of Westford owns three properties including the 'White Church', the Westford Brick Meeting house (WBMH) and additional land at the top of the Green. These buildings and land are separate from the Town of Westford.

The UCW Board is meeting every month to pursue the idea of a transition of the White Church and its properties to a new self-sustaining organizational structure.

The survey showed that Westford would like to keep the church available to the community and public for multiple uses (87%). These include having it available as a performance space (83%), having it available to be rented out to other groups (67%) having it available for spiritual use (49%). The respondents also voiced that it is **least** desirable to sell it for private enterprise (58%).

Using the results of the survey, the UCW Board is developing mission and vision statements. We are excited about working together with the community for all of these possibilities for the future of the White Church on the Common. Many thanks to those that responded!.

WESTFORD MUSIC SERIES

PRESENTS THE

MICHELE FAY BAND



TRADITIONAL BLUEGRASS , FOLK AND SWING MUSIC

Event Date: Sunday, December 16th, 4-5 pm
Where: UCW white Church in the Westford village
Contact: Marjorie Hamrell 879-4028; mhamrell@comcast.net

The Westford Music Series will feature the compelling and captivating Michele Fay Band featuring original and Americana music with Michele's heartfelt lyrics woven seamlessly together as she delivers songs with a crystal clear, authentic voice.

Her "crack backing band" is a perfect match for Michele's talent as a singer-songwriter. Their repertoire provides an energetic and unpretentious appeal to a wide range of audiences. Kalev Freeman on fiddle, Michael Santosusso on upright bass and Tim Price on mandolin and guitar provide tenor harmonies and drive a dynamic beat to Michele's smooth and entrancing voice.

Free admission. Refreshments following concert.