



WESTFORD NEWSLETTER

February 2019

Westford Town Office
1713 Vermont Route 128
Westford, Vermont 05494
Phone (802)878-4587- Fax (802)879-6503
www.westfordvt.us



Town Office Notes

Important Dates - Town Meeting

- **March 4th (Monday)** – 5pm deadline to request an absentee ballot
- **March 4th (Monday)** – 7pm Town Meeting (floor votes) and public hearing for Australian ballot questions (including town budget), at the Westford School in the gym
- **March 5th (Tuesday)** – Voting day by Australian ballot. Polls will be open from 7am - 7pm in the Westford School gym

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

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 passed away, 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.**

Senior Luncheon

Our next luncheon will be held on February 11th at the Red Brick Meeting House on the Common at 11:30. If we do get a major snow storm or it's extremely cold, we will cancel. We have everyone's telephone number and will give you a call that morning or the night before if we know that far ahead. Please put the date on your calendar and try to come. It will brighten your winter. Please spread the word to others that may not read their newsletter. As always, we like to see new faces and are always happy to see familiar faces as well. It's pot luck again. Hope to see you there! Carol Howrigan, President, 878-3090

Newsletter Deadline

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

Town Office Closings

- Closed Tuesday, March 5th for voting at the Westford School.

Lister Visits

Property owners who received a building permit for this past year, or have one from a prior year, can expect a visit from the Listers. This inspection is separate from the Zoning Administrator.

We will schedule inspections on new homes and additions prior to coming.

Smaller projects, such as decks and sheds, will not be scheduled but we will leave a note that we were there.

Notices of Reappraisal will be sent in May.

If you have any questions, please contact us at lister@westfordvt.us.

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.

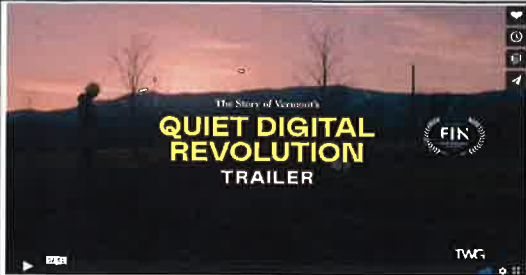
WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

<http://westfordpubliclibrary.org>

(802) 878-5639

westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com

1717 VERMONT ROUTE 128, WESTFORD VT 05494



Library Hours

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

The Story of Vermont's Quiet Digital Revolution
Film Screening of the FPF Movie
Friday, February 8 starting at 7pm

FPF is the focus of a new independent documentary from Canadian filmmaker, Peter Strauss. The film (23 minutes, not rated) follows the stories of several FPF members, each from different walks of life. How does participation on their local forums transform them and their communities? Learn more as our library hosts a screening and discussion with FPF staff following. Don't miss this opportunity to see this award winning film and discuss FPF's impact on our community.

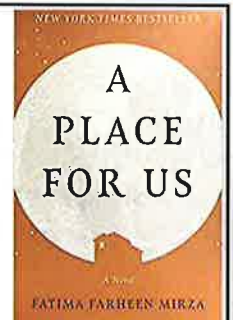
Travel Talk- 7-8:30pm - Wednesday, February 13
Destination: Uganda

Presented by: Thomas Vogelsand

"I visited Uganda in the summer of 2018. The main objectives of the trip were the National Parks in the West and especially the mountain gorillas in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. Uganda is a country with many more natural attractions but also in most areas densely populated. Its history is entangled with the end of colonial regimes and the following struggles with establishing a society independent from European rulers. During my trip I had the opportunity to learn about some of these topics and I will share these experiences together with the fantastic nature I was able to photograph." **Not to be missed, full of incredible photography!**



Adult Book Group
February 20
7:00-8:00pm
Pick up your books
at the front desk!
A Place for Us
by: Fatima Fahreen
Mizra



A Place for Us is a deeply moving and resonant story of love, identity, and belonging.

As an Indian wedding gathers a family back together, Rafiq and Layla must reckon with the choices their children have made. Hadia: their headstrong, eldest daughter, whose marriage is a match of love and not tradition. Huda, the middle child, determined to follow in her sister's footsteps. And lastly, their son, Amar, who returns to the family fold for the first time in three years to take his place as brother of the bride. What secrets and betrayals have caused this close-knit family to fracture? Can Amar find his way back to the people who know and love him best?

We discover the beginning of this family's life: from the bonds that bring them together, to the differences that pull them apart. All the joy and struggle of family life is here, from Rafiq and Layla's own arrival in America from India, to the years in which their children tread between two cultures, seeking to find their place in the world, as well as a path home.

An astonishingly tender-hearted novel of identity and belonging, and a resonant portrait of what it means to be an American family today. (from Amazon.com)

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

2/7/19: Theme: Teeth

2/14/19: Theme: Valentine's Day

2/21/19: Theme: Kindness

2/28/17: 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, hot chocolate and chocolates

→What's Your Library Worth to You?

February 2 - National Take Your Child to the Library Day! Balloons and fun all day!

February 6 - Trustees Meeting 7-9pm

February 8 - FPF Movie and discussion 7-9pm

February 9 - Valentine Crafts and Goodies 10:30am-Noon

February 13 - Travel Talk 7-8:30pm, Destination: Uganda, presented by Thomas Vogelsand

February 20 - Adult Book Group 7-8pm - A Place for Us by Fatima Farheen Mirza

Open Normal Hours during February School Vacation - come in and Check us Out!

Storytime every Thursday at 11am
Knitting Groups every Thursday 6:30-8:00pm



FOR GRADES K-2 ONLY THIS SESSION

We are hosting another session (different activities) of Bedtime Math's fun, hands-on math club. Space is limited. Contact the library if interested. Good behavior is key to making this fun for everyone!

8 Fridays - March 8 through May 10 (not 3/22, 4/26)
Bus #3 from Westford School - permission and more info for those who sign up.
Class ends 4:30pm, pick up as late as 5pm.



We Love Our Patrons:

Free coffee, hot chocolate and chocolates all month!
Thank you to everyone who donated to the library.

Share your Library Love:

What's Your Library Worth to You?

Go to <http://www.ilovelibraries.org/what-libraries-do/calculator> and calculate how much your library saves you and/or your family each month, then post your amount on our Facebook page or on Front Porch Forum. Don't be shy - it's nice to see how much the community uses the library - after all, it's your tax dollars at work!



National Take Your Child to the Library Day! Saturday, February 2

Bring your child to the library and share in your love of reading! We will have balloons, stickers and "Read" water bottles for kids.
Happening all day, 10am-2pm.



Valentines and Bead Jewelry Saturday, February 9 10:30am-Noon

Come make a special something for that special someone. We'll have all the supplies to make the perfect Valentines and bead jewelry. Crafts, goodies and fun! Cookies and milk too!



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 for supporting our annual Fourth of July Book Sale.

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Westford School News

Integrated Field Review

On February 7, the EWSD will host an Integrated Field Review (IFR). IFRs are a new process designed and facilitated by the Vermont Agency of Education (VTAOE) whereby a team of staff members from various school districts visit other school districts in a collaborative approach to school improvement. On February 7, thirty visitors will be spread out among our schools and district offices participating in school tours and observations, and interviewing students, staff, and parents. The day culminates with the visitors convening together and writing a short report identifying pieces of evidence they see or hear during their visit related to the five domains of the Vermont Education Quality Standards: (1) Academic Proficiency, (2) Personalization, (3) Safe Healthy Schools, (4) High Quality Staffing, and (5) Investment Priorities.

One important part of this process includes interviews with families, teachers, and students. If you would like to participate in parent interviews, please contact the main office.

Reporting

We know that quality family-school communication is key to each child's learning and we have set up a series of opportunities to provide ongoing communication with parents about their student's experiences throughout the year. Below is a timeline of some of the key dates for this school year. Please note that mid-year process reports were recently sent home and that the winter assessment report will go home this month.

- August/September School open houses and curriculum night
- Sept 1 - 30 Fall assessment window
- Week of Oct 18 Parent conferences and fall assessment report sent home
 - Grades 1-5
- Jan 2-Jan 31 Winter assessment window
- Jan 25 progress report sent home
- Feb 15 Winter assessment report sent home
 - Grades K-5
- Week of March 22 Parent conferences
- May 12-June 7 Spring assessment window
- Last day of school progress report and spring assessment report sent home
- By July 1 State assessment results sent home (grades 3-9).
 - Exact dates are dependent on state release

A priority in our mid-year progress report this year has been high-quality comments. Families and students will notice that teachers have made both subject and class-specific comments on the content of learning in addition to individual student comments. As a district, we have also focused on reporting on EWSD proficiencies. EWSD proficiencies can be found at <https://www.ewsd.org/Page/899>

2019-2020 Prekindergarten Registration Information

Information is now available to request that your child is entered into the EWSD school-based prekindergarten lottery for the 2019-2020 school year. Eligible students reside in Essex Junction, Essex Town, or Westford and are at least three years old on 9/1/19. **The deadline for entering next year's prekindergarten lottery is March, 1, 2019.** Registrations for Act 166 for the 2019-2020 school year are also being taken (there is no deadline for Act 166 registration). A flyer with information about both the EWSD prekindergarten lottery and Act 166 registration is included in this newsletter. More information and links to the forms can also be found on either the EWSD or Westford School websites. Questions regarding all EWSD preK programs can be directed to Clara Moreno, Administrative Assistant at cmoreno@ewsd.org or (802) 857-2013.

Tea with the Principal

Please join Principal Marcie Lewis the third Thursday of each month, 8:05-8:35, in the Westford School library for tea. This is an opportunity to connect with the principal and to extend options for families beyond monthly nighttime PTO meetings, social media, and other forms of written communication. It is an informal meeting time to celebrate school successes and learn more about featured programs and events. The next Tea with the Principal is February 21 and will feature our school assessments and progress reports.

Curriculum & Instruction

Assessments

Students and teachers are completing our common winter assessments. This mid-year check provides us with information concerning student progress in literacy and math. It allows us to adjust both individual student plans and school-wide action steps.

District Winter Assessments

Comprehensive Assessment Plan can be found at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1feUGfjp-X2IlnDJCFoL2gEKEJFjpEkAz/view>

- Highlights for winter include the Star Reading & Math for grades 6-8 and our school-based writing assessment.

National Assessment

NAEP

- The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) assesses various subjects across the nation for 4th and 8th grade students. NAEP is a congressionally mandated project administered by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) within the U.S. Department of Education and the Institute of Education Sciences (IES). NAEP is given to a representative sample of students across the country.

State Assessments

SBAC

- **Math and English/Language Arts Assessment:** All students in grades 3-8 (and now grade 9 rather than grade 11) are required each spring to take the state test called the **Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC)**. SBAC is a computer-adaptive assessment measuring each student's performance against the Common Core State Standards in Mathematics and English/Language Arts.

Fitness Assessment

- Vermont is in year two of a new Fitness assessment using the Fitnessgram tool. The state requires that we test our students in four areas: aerobic capacity, muscular strength, muscular endurance, and flexibility. Body composition will not be measured or reported. Westford has been administering this assessment for several years through the PE program.

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

Essex Westford School District

Early Education Options

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

Westford Residents

School-Based Preschool

Westford School

OR

Community-Based Preschools

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

The deadline to apply for EWSD school-based programs is

Friday March 1, 2019

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

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

**Questions?
Please contact:**

Clara Moreno
cmoreno@ewsd.org
(802) 857-2013
58 Founders Road



Sign up this spring for **Westford Elementary Chorus**

Does your child love to sing?
Here is their chance!

Children in Elementary Chorus have a chance to sing in a group- this gives children **confidence to perform in a comfortable setting**, which can then be applied in other performance situations as they grow up such as presentations, speeches, interviews, and more!

Children will sing a variety of genres including folk, pop, Broadway, and classical, while learning good singing technique. They will be able to sing in parts, harmonies, and rounds, while also learning how to produce beautiful sound even when singing in unison or alone. Expressive interpretation of text and some basic verbal understanding of rhythm are taught to students participating in this ensemble.

**Students will perform in a concert on
Thursday, March 28th at 6:00pm.**



Dates: Wednesdays 2/6, 2/13, 2/20, 3/6, 3/13, 3/20, 3/27, & Thursday 3/28 6pm concert

Times: 3pm-4:30pm

Grades: 2-4

Fee: \$50 (check made to Westford Rec)

Rehearsal Location: Westford School

Minimum Enrollment: 10

Maximum Enrollment: no max! come one, come all!

Instructor: Rebecca Nowak

Contact: rnowak@ewsd.org or
recreation@westfordvt.us



Turn in Registrations by Friday, February 1!



Westford Recreation Department—Registration Form

NAME (Parents) _____

ADDRESS _____ TOWN _____ ZIP _____

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

HOME PHONE _____ ALT PHONE _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT _____ PHONE _____

DOCTOR'S NAME _____ PHONE _____

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

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

Total Fee: _____

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

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

Please contact a Recreation Department member if your financial situation is preventing you from signing yourself, or your child, up for a program. Scholarships are available.

RELEASE/WAVIER AGREEMENT:

I am fully aware of the inherent risk, and give my consent for the above named applicant(s) to participate in the program(s) listed above. I hold harmless the Town of Westford, Westford School, their employees, elected officials, and/or any volunteers or instructors from any and all liability from any injury, claim, costs or loss of services which may be incurred by me, or us, or our minor children on account of participation in said program(s). Permission is hereby granted for me or us, or my child(ren) to receive emergency treatment if needed and I authorize the attending physician to administer any needed medical attention. Furthermore, I certify that I, or we, or my child(ren) are in good health and that there are no limitations to my/our participation except in writing above. I have read this document carefully and sign it voluntarily with full knowledge of its significance.

Signature _____ Date _____

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

WHAT & HOW TO RECYCLE

Do you know where your recycling goes?

Everything you put in your recycling bin or cart goes to the Chittenden Solid Waste District's sorting facility in Williston. This is the blue-collar workhorse that sorts mixed loads of recycling using mechanical systems alongside dozens of human workers. They have one job: To sort and bale your cardboard, paper, and containers into giant cubes of marketable materials. When you put the wrong things in your recycling, it makes their job harder, more expensive, and even dangerous!

Is THIS recyclable?

People often ask: Is this _____ recyclable? Many items are, but not everything recyclable goes in your blue bin. The simple answer is often yes, *somewhere*, but NOT in your blue bin!

Many items can be *recycled* – that is, processed into scrap material that can be manufactured into a new, and usually completely different, thing. But only specific things belong *in the recycling bin, cart or dumpster*: paper, cardboard and clean, dry containers. Those containers must be rigid (**no bags or filmy plastic**) and meant for one-time use. They must never have contained any hazardous materials. Mostly, we're talking about food and drink containers such as cans, bottles, jugs, and dairy "tubs."

What's "Special" Recycling?

When it comes to recycling, we have "blue-bin" and "special recycling" versions. Blue-bin recycling is simple: paper, cardboard, and clean, dry containers such as cans, bottles, jugs and dairy "tubs". Special recycling includes many items that by law must not be put in the trash, but also cannot be put in your blue bin, cart or dumpster. These items include: batteries of all kinds, clothing and other textiles, propane tanks, paint and hazardous materials, appliances, scrap metal items of all kinds (coat hangers, hardware, pots and pans, etc.), wood, electronics, and much more!

Recycle like you live here: put only paper, cardboard, and clean containers in the bin.

Learn more at www.cswd.net/recycling or call the CSWD hotline at (802) 872-8111.



Westford Music Series

presents

The Buck Hollers

Sunday, February 10th 4-5 pm
UCW White Church on the Westford
Common

The popular Franklin County Band, THE BUCK HOLLERS, will perform their favorite repertoire of roots-based Americana, Bluegrass, Country and Irish styles of music for the February offering of the Westford Music Series. Blending guitar, banjo, bass, harmonica and rich vocal harmonies with a tight rhythmic sound, the multi-talented quartet will feature Matt Parisi on bass, Dave Vallett on acoustic guitar and banjo, Tim Wills on acoustic guitar and Steve White on harmonica and acoustic mini guitars. Delving into their eclectic selection of classic country ballads, gospel, R & B, and witty originals this group is well suited to the warm acoustics of the Westford White Church. Labeled as one of the top 14 bands in Vermont there are known for their "boots-a-tappin" style and bring high energy and appeal with their performances.

The concert will find wide appeal to audiences who love traditional country, bluegrass, Irish and Americana popular music. Free will donations. Refreshments following. Call 802-879-4028 for more information.