



WESTFORD NEWSLETTER

January 2019

Town Office Notes

Happy New Year!

FY'20 Town Budget Workshop & Informational Meeting

The Selectboard began working on the FY'20 town budget in October. A workshop will be held on December 27th. An informational meeting will be held **Thursday, January 10th at 7pm** at the Town Office to present the draft town budget. The workshop and information meeting are excellent opportunities for residents to provide feedback prior to finalization of the budget and before being voted on in March 2019.

Petition Deadlines

Petitions for articles to be considered for inclusion in the warning for Town Meeting are due by 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 16th. 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. Petitions must be signed by at least 5% of the registered voters (a minimum of 84). Please be sure that the person signing the petition is a registered voter and that their name is legible.

Petitions for elected offices (e.g. Selectboard, etc.) can be picked up at the Town Office and must be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m. on Monday, January 28th. Petitions must be signed by a minimum of 16 registered voters. Please contact the Town Office for a complete list of offices with terms expiring in March 2019.

Important Dates - Town Meeting

- **January 10th (Thursday)** – Town budget informational meeting, 7pm at the Westford Town Office
- **January 16th (Thursday)** – 5pm deadline to file petitions with the Town Clerk for Town Meeting articles
- **January 28th (Monday)** – 5pm deadline to file petitions and consent forms with the Town Clerk for local offices
- **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.

Senior Luncheon

Our next luncheon will be held on January 14th at the Red Brick Meeting House on the Common at 11:30 to give you a chance to converse before the lunch at noon. 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 January. Please spread the word to others that may not read their newsletter. We want to get the word out. As always, we like to see new faces. Hope to see you there! Carol Howrigan, President, 878-3090

Holiday Giving - Hannaford Gift Cards

Thank you so much to those who delivered gift cards or made a donation to purchase gift cards for those in need this holiday season. The Town was able to help twenty-five Westford families due to the generosity of townspeople.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the February Newsletter is 12:00 noon on Monday, January 28th.

Westford Town Office

1713 Vermont Route 128, Westford, Vermont 05494

Phone (802)878-4587 Fax (802)879-6503 <https://westfordvt.us/>

ROAD CREW UPDATE

The Town of Westford has yet to hire a third road crew member. Westford, along with many other municipalities and the Vermont Agency of Transportation are having difficulty filling vacant positions on road crews. John and Sean have set the plow/sanding routes based on two people performing this work instead of three. As we make our way through the winter season, we ask for residents to keep in mind the current status of the road crew and to exercise patience and caution. They are monitoring roads and are aware of conditions.

If you have any questions, please contact the Town garage at 879-4306 or a member of the Selectboard. Thank you.

HOLIDAY PICKUP SCHEDULE FOR TRASH & RECYCLING

Trash and recycling **WILL NOT** be picked up on **December 25th**. For those residents whose trash and recycling are picked up on Tuesday, your pickup will be **Saturday, December 23rd**.

Trash and recycling **WILL BE** picked up on **January 1st**. Although New Year's Day is a holiday for some, Myers will be picking up the Tuesday route as scheduled.

Please make sure you have your trash and recycling out by 6am for pick up.

Thank you!

RECYCLE RIGHT! WORKSHOP

January 9, 2019

7pm at the Westford Library

CSWD (Chittenden Solid Waste District) is hosting a Recycle Right! Workshop at the Westford Library. Lauren Layn, Community Outreach Coordinator for CSWD, will review what is and what isn't recyclable. Other topics covered are how bottles and cans are sorted and sold to make new products.

Residents are encouraged to attend this workshop to learn more about recycling. Myers is looking more closely at what is put out for recycling to avoid loads being rejected. When a load is rejected it is then considered trash and the cost for disposal is high. Myers has advised that this cost will be shifted to the Town when this occurs.

If you cannot attend the workshop, please visit CSWD's website (<https://cswd.net/recycling/>) to review what is and what isn't recyclable.

VERMONT INCOME TAX FORMS

3 Easy ways to get your Vermont Income Tax forms from the Vermont Department of Taxes

Download, complete and print fillable PDF forms from the web: www.bit.ly/vttaxforms

Order forms by email: tax.formsrequest@vermont.gov

Order forms by phone: call toll-free in the U.S. at (855) 297-5600

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

January Library Events

- January 2 - Trustees Meeting 7-9pm
- January 9 - Art with Janet: Painted Bird Houses - afterschool - 5pm, sign up required
- January 9 - CSWD "Recycle Right" Workshop 7-8pm, sign up preferred
- January 11 - Introduction to Mah Jong 7-9pm
- January 16 - Flextangle Making afterschool- 4:30pm
- January 16 - Travel Talk 7-8:30pm, Destination: Franken, Germany, Presented by Doris Bittruf and Bernhard Wunder
- January 18 - Drop in to learn how to download ebooks and audiobooks 4-7pm
- January 19 - Drop in to learn how to download ebooks and audiobooks 10am-noon
- January 23 - E-origami Class - afterschool-5pm, signup required
- January 23 - Adult Book Group 7-8pm, discussing Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine

Storytime every Thursday 11am
Knitting Group meets Thursdays 6:30-8pm

January is FULL of great afterschool opportunities!

Art with Janet: Painted Mini-Bird Houses



Wednesday, January 9 afterschool - 5pm
Class size limited to 6, sign up required.

Ages 7 and up.

Flextangle Making

Wednesday January 16, afterschool - 4:30pm

Part origami, part art - flextangles, also known as kaleidocycles, are super

KALEIDOCYCLES



cool! Involving precision paper folding, this is best suited to 3rd grade and up. Sign up appreciated.

E-origami Class

Wednesday, January 23, afterschool - 5pm

E-origami combines paper circuits and origami. Great for the spatial thinker, precision folder, and budding designer or engineer. We will attempt to make two different designs. Best suited to 3rd grade and up. Sign up required, class size is limited.



Introduction to Mah Jongg Friday, January 11 from 7-9pm

Mah Jongg can be a very complex game...which can be daunting to some beginners. I let potential players know that even kids can enjoy my simpler version of the game. This game teaches

immediacy, choice-making, goal orientation and, with some practice, checking out what hands their opponents are playing. It's a very social game. If people enjoy playing cards and are able to play UNO, rummy or Canasta, they can easily learn to play Mah Jongg.

In this one-evening "Intro. to Mah Jongg", game enthusiast Laurie DiCesare will spread out the tiles and demonstrate a few easy hands made up of numbers, flowers, dragons and winds. There's nothing to memorize but being aware, focused and flexible will help. If you can play UNO, you can play this basic version Laurie's favorite game that can be played by 2, 3 or 4 people. Laurie's Rule #1 is "Mah Jongg is for fun!" Come give this fascinating tile game a try.

Thank you to everyone who donated books from our Holiday Book Giving Tree. Books are due back to the library by January 17.

There's still time to pick out a book - a few stars are left or you may make a monetary donation.

Please make checks payable to Westford Public Library.



Thank You!

**Thank you for your support!
It is very appreciated.**

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 late spring of 2019. 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.

WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

http://westfordpubliclibrary.org

(802) 878-5639

westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com

1717 VERMONT ROUTE 128, WESTFORD VT 05494

Travel Talk- 7-8:30pm - Wednesday, January 16

Destination: "A Journey through Franken, Germany"

Presented by: Doris Bittruf and Bernhard Wunder

Franken occupies the northern part of Bavaria. Although it belongs to the state politically, the people and culture and even dialect are quite different. It is also the area where we grew up and went to school. In our talk, we will visit our favorite towns, talk about food, wine and beer, and share tips for travelers.



Library Hours

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

Adult Book Group Wed., January 23 (note the 4th week)

7:00-8:00pm

Pick up your books
at the front desk!

We will be reading
Eleanor Oliphant Is

Completely Fine

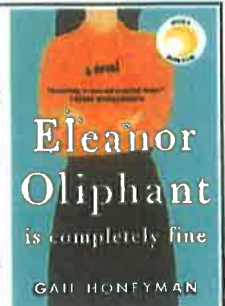
by: Gail Honeyman

No one's ever told Eleanor that life should be better than fine.

Meet Eleanor Oliphant: She struggles with appropriate social skills and tends to say exactly what she's thinking. Nothing is missing in her carefully timetabled life of avoiding social interactions, where weekends are punctuated by frozen pizza, vodka, and phone chats with Mummy.

But everything changes when Eleanor meets Raymond, the bumbling and deeply unhygienic IT guy from her office. When she and Raymond together save Sammy, an elderly gentleman who has fallen on the sidewalk, the three become the kinds of friends who rescue one another from the lives of isolation they have each been living. And it is Raymond's big heart that will ultimately help Eleanor find the way to repair her own profoundly damaged one.

Eleanor is a smart, warm, and uplifting story of an out-of-the-ordinary heroine whose deadpan weirdness and unconscious wit make for an irresistible journey. (from Amazon.com)



Did you get a new E-reader or Tablet for the Holidays?

Want to put FREE books on it? Have you tried the new Libby app? It's so much faster than Overdrive! Still don't know how to download FREE eBooks and audiobooks to your iPad, Kindle, phone or tablet from ListenUp VT?

We can help!

Stop by - it won't take long!
Friday, January 18 - 4:00 - 7:00pm
Or Saturday, Jan. 19 - 10:00am-Noon

Be sure to bring your charged device, passwords, Apple ID, etc.



"Recycle Right!" Workshop with CSWD

When: Wednesday, January 9th, 2019

Where: Westford Public Library

When: 7:00-8:00pm

Do you need a refresher on what is—and what isn't—recyclable in your curbside bin? Ever wonder how your empty bottles & cans get sorted and sold to make new products? Learn the answers to those questions and much more in a workshop led by Lauren Layn, Community Outreach Coordinator for CSWD.



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

1/3/19: Theme: Mittens

1/10/19: Theme: Mo Willems

1/17/19: Theme: Birthdays

1/24/19: Theme: Penguins

1/31/18: Theme: Groundhogs

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.



Adult Pickup Basketball | Wednesdays at 8:00pm

Westford School Gymnasium

If interested, lace 'em up and join us for some hoops



Grades 3/4 Boys Basketball Open Gym | Tues & Thurs 6:30-7:30pm | Jan 8th – Feb 21st

Westford School Gymnasium

If interested, please REGISTER: submit a recreation form & \$20 registration fee

- Open Gym will be mildly structured: skills, drills, scrimmage, shoot around, and most important... fun!
- Parents/Guardians, please accompany your child; this is not a drop off program.



Kids Basketball Open Gym | coming soon...

Check our flyer in the February Newsletter for more info



Broomball 20th Anniversary Tournament

Keep on the lookout for more info coming soon...

Westford Recreation Department | recreation@westfordvt.us

Coordinator (TBH), Committee Members: Greg Baker, Maureen Carpenter, Kristi Griffin, Danielle Vierling, Charles Medick, Ben McElvany, Meghan Orisko

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/WAIVER 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

Westford Recreation

20th Annual

BROOMBALL

Tournament

Jan 19th and 20th

Westford Ice Rink on the Common

\$15/Player (Grade 9 and Up)

Minimum 5 players required per team

Team registration Due by Jan 12th

(Only 22 Slots Available!)

First Come - First Served!!

(\$20/player for tournament day additions to roster)

This is NOT ice hockey!

No Skates are needed - players wear their own boots.

We'll provide broomsticks and balls.

Teams may be co-ed.

All players (or parent if under age 18) MUST sign our participation waiver. NO EXCEPTIONS!

Exact times and schedules determined by the number of teams and will be emailed to the team leaders one week prior to the tournament.

Make checks payable to Westford Rec

Send completed registration form to:

Westford Rec; 1713 VT Rte 128; Westford, VT
05494

**The Entire Tournament
will be outside this year!
Dress Warmly and Bring
a Tent! Portable
Bathroom provided.**

Registration Form

Team Name: _____

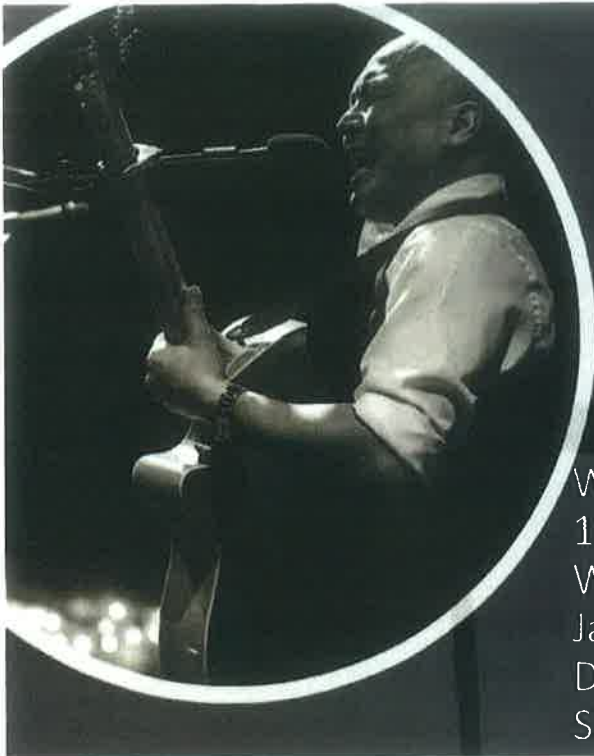
Team Captain: _____

Captain's Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Team Members:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____



Singer-songwriter Steve Hartmann
Westford Brick Meeting House
1685 Vt-128
Westford, VT
January 19th BYOB, Admission by Donation
Doors at 6pm
Show at 6:30pm



**WESTFORD MUSIC SERIES
&
YOUNG TRADITION VERMONT**

present

Pete's Posse

Event Date: Sunday, January 6th, 4-5 pm
Where: UCW White Church, Westford common
Contact: Marjorie Hamrell 879-4028; mhamrell@comcast.net

The talented trio, Pete's Posse, known as the Vermont band that embodies all the beauty of American roots music will be the featured artists for the January Westford Music Series in collaboration with Young Tradition Vermont.

"Pete's Posse is a well-oiled machine: a three-man operation that makes music fit for a 10-piece band. They represent what's best about Vermont - reverence for the old, respect for the new and the ability to find a balance," according to a recent critic review. They are known for their wide range of musical heritage coupled with a freedom to reflect the depths of outright invention and creation.

The powerful trio features the acclaimed musician Pete Sutherland, his talented protégé Oliver Scanlon and the uber-dynamic Tristan Henderson. They never fail to surprise and excite. With their twin fiddles, high powered guitar, foot percussion with mandolin, clawhammer banjo, jaw harp, rocking keyboards and soaring vocal harmonies.

The concert is free will donation admission followed by refreshments and opportunity to meet the performers. For more information call Marge Hamrell at 802-879-4028