



WESTFORD NEWSLETTER

April 2019

Westford Town Office

1713 Vermont Route 128, Westford, Vermont 05494

Phone (802)878-4587 • Fax (802)879-6503

<https://westfordvt.us/>

Town Office Notes

Essex-Westford Unified Union School District Annual Meeting

The annual meeting for the Unified Union School District will be held on Monday, April 8th with Australian ballot voting taking place on April 9th. The warning and sample ballot can be viewed at <https://westfordvt.us/essex-westford-unified-union-school-district/>. Budget information can be found at <https://www.ewsd.org/budget>.

- **April 8th (Monday)** – 5pm deadline to request an absentee ballot.
- **April 8th (Monday)** – Annual meeting and public hearing for Australian ballot questions, 7pm, at the Essex High School in the auditorium.
- **April 9th (Tuesday)** – Voting day for Australian ballot articles. Polls will be open from 7am to 7pm in the Westford School gym.

If you have any questions concerning voting, 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, 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 unless your dog is spayed or neutered then the fee is \$11.00. Dog licenses obtained **after April 1st are subject to a late fee.**

Homestead Declaration

If you are a Vermont resident and own and occupy a homestead as your domicile as of April 1st, **you must file a Homestead Declaration by April 15th**. For more information on filing the Homestead Declaration, please go to <http://tax.vermont.gov/property-owners/homestead-declaration>.

Spring Yard Clean Up

According to the calendar, Spring has arrived! When cleaning up your yard, please keep the following in mind:

- Burn permits are required prior to any burning. Burn permits are available online (<https://westfordvt.us/administration/fire-warden/>), from the Fire Warden (Dennis Angiono, 879-1231) or from the Town Office during regular office hours.
- Yard waste, such as leaves, brush and topsoil are not considered household garbage, therefore Myers will not collect these materials when picking up your garbage. You can compost yard waste or bring it to a participating CSWD drop off center. For a list of centers please visit <http://www.cswd.net/>.

Senior Luncheon

The Senior Luncheon will be on April 8th at 11:30 at the Red Brick Meeting House on the common. All seniors (55+) are welcome. Please join us for a home cooked meal and get caught up with people you may not have seen for a while. If you need a ride, please call me at 878-3090 or Beth Menut at 893-2263. Not sure what we're having, but I usually post it on Front Porch Forum a few days ahead of that Monday. Hope to see you there! Carol Howrigan, President

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the May Newsletter is 12:00 noon on Monday, April 22nd.

WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

<http://westfordpubliclibrary.org>

(802) 878-5639

westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com

1717 VERMONT ROUTE 128, WESTFORD VT 05494

Travel Talk

Wednesday, April 10 from 7-8:30pm

Destination: India

Presenter: Janet Jaffe

"Namaste, India: Two Unforgettable Weeks in North India"



Library Hours

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

Adult Book Group

Wed., April 17

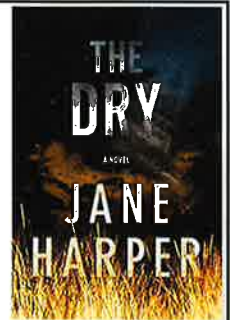
7:00-8:00pm

Pick up your books
at the front desk!

The Dry

by: Jane Harper

A small town hides big secrets in *The Dry*, an atmospheric, page-turning debut mystery by award-winning author Jane Harper.



Easter Crafts at the Library after the
Egg Hunt on the Common -
Saturday, April 20

Egg Hunt on the Common - 10am
(this event is put on by the Rec. Dept.)
Join us after the Egg Hunt for fun
Easter-themed crafts. Crafts will be
set up from 10am-Noon



The Westford Public Library is accepting donations for our Annual Fourth of July Book Sale.

We will be accepting donations on certain Saturdays in April, May and June
from 10am-Noon. Please, stick to these times only.

They are: 4/27, 5/4, 5/11, 6/1, and 6/8. We are also
limiting drop off of donations to **TWO BOXES PER
PERSON**. We WILL NOT BE ACCEPTING: VHS
tapes, Cassettes, Music CDs, textbooks, encyclopedi-
as, magazines, and moldy or damaged books. Ask
yourself "Would I lend this to a friend?" If the
answer is no, then keep it out of the book sale. We
WILL BE ACCEPTING: books in good condition, hard
covers, paperbacks, kids books, DVDs, and audio-
books. **DO NOT USE THE BOOK DROP FOR DONATIONS -
IT DAMAGES THE LIBRARY BOOKS AND MAKES A BIG MESS.**



After getting a note demanding his
presence, Federal Agent Aaron Falk arrives in his
hometown for the first time in decades to attend the
funeral of his best friend, Luke. Twenty years ago
when Falk was accused of murder, Luke was his
alibi. Falk and his father fled under a cloud of
suspicion, saved from prosecution only because of
Luke's steadfast claim that the boys had been
together at the time of the crime. But now more
than one person knows they didn't tell the truth
back then, and Luke is dead.

Amid the worst drought in a century, Falk
and the local detective question what really
happened to Luke. As Falk reluctantly investigates
to see if there's more to Luke's death than there
seems to be, long-buried mysteries resurface, as do
the lies that have haunted them. And Falk will find
that small towns have *always* hidden big secrets.
(from Amazon.com)

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

4/4/19: Theme: Spring

4/18/19: Theme: Easter

4/11/19: Theme: Poetry

4/25/19: Theme: Flowers

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

April Library Events

April 3 - Library Trustees Meeting 7-9pm

April 10 - Travel Talk 7-8:30pm, Destination: India, presented by Janet Jaffe

April 11 - Drop Everything and Read! Celebration 3-5pm, Treat yourself to 2 hours of reading! Refreshments served.

April 12 - Family Movie Night: Mary Poppins Returns - 7-9pm, co-hosted by the Rec. Dept. Pizza, popcorn and drinks provided, drop off ok for kids 9+

April 17 - Adult Book Group 7-8pm, discussing The Dry by Jane Harper

April 18 - Art with Janet - afterschool - 5pm, sign up required.

April 20 - Easter Crafts 10:30-Noon, following the 10am Easter Egg Hunt on the Common

April 26 - No Crazy 8's Math Club

April 27 - Book Donation Drop Off 10-Noon ONLY, limited to two boxes per person

Storytime every Thursday at 11am

Crazy 8's Grades K-2 Fridays afterschool - 5pm

Knitting Group meets Thursdays 6:30-8pm

Art with Janet - God's Eyes - Thurs., April 18 afterschool - 5pm

Space is limited. Sign up required. Ages 7+

With two sticks and a little bit of yarn, students learn weaving and wrapping techniques as we create colorful ornaments originally made by the Huichol Indians of Mexico hundreds of years ago.



Family Movie Night Dinner and a Movie!

Friday, April 12 7-9pm

Co-Hosted by the Westford Rec. Dept.

Pizza, popcorn and drinks provided. Drop off ok for 9+



Come join us for a "magical night" watching a highly anticipated "return". This movie is rated PG and runs 130 minutes. If you have any questions about the title (which we cannot reveal due to our movie license), please contact the library.

"The magic returns in Disney's reimagined classic as Mary Poppins (Emily Blunt) helps the Banks family remember the joy of what it's like to be a child. Together with her friend Jack the lamplighter (Lin-Manuel Miranda), fun is brought back to the streets of London in celebration that everything is possible...even the impossible!"



Babies: Plan Ahead!

Welcome Baby Tea - Saturday, May 18 10:30-Noon

Families of babies born March 2018-March 2019 will get an invite in the mail soon!

If you have not gotten one, let Bree at the library know and we will include you!



The Library is accepting donations of books, audiobooks, and DVDs on select Saturdays starting in April. See this newsletter for more details. Thank you 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 Recreation Department

- We currently have an opening for a volunteer to join the Recreation Board. Are you interested in helping to shape our town's recreation programs and giving back to your community? We meet monthly at the town offices the first Tuesday of every month at 7pm. Join us for a meeting or email for more information. Recreation@westfordvt.us

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Dinner and a Movie!!** Join Miss Bree at the Library for a viewing of a very special RETURN on April 12 at 7pm. Pizza, popcorn and drinks will be provided. All kids under 9 years old must be accompanied by an adult. Any guesses on what might be showing? Visit us on our Facebook page, [Westford Recreation Department](#), for more hints.



- **EASTER EGG HUNT.** Bring the family to the Common on April 20th at 10am for an Easter egg hunt, goodie bags for all participants. After the hunt continue the festivities at the Library for Easter themed Arts and Crafts.

LACROSS REGISTRATION IS STILL OPEN



- **TINY CATS** will run mid-April to early June with practices on Thursdays from 6-7pm. Players will need to have their own sticks. Registration is \$30.00
- **3-4 and 5-6 coed** will run early April to mid-June with one practice day and one optional scrimmage day from 530-7pm. Games on Saturdays starting in May. Registration is \$50 and \$70 respectively with an additional \$25.00 US Lacrosse Association registration fee.
- ******SCHOLORSHIPS AVAILABLE******

SUMMER CAMPS

- **SUMMER SOCCER CAMP.** Hosted by VERMONT VOLTAGE PRO SOCCER ACADEMY. A half day soccer camp will be offered June 24th-June 28th, 9am-12pm. Sharpen your soccer skills before the fall season starts with this professionally run camp. The registration cost of this offering is \$115.



- ARTS AND CRAFTS SUMMER CAMP. To be held at the Red Brick Meeting house July 22nd-July 26th, 9am-5pm. Unleash your child's imagination! Several forms of visual arts and crafts. Open to all children entering 2nd grade and older. The cost of the offering is \$275. Our very own Westford resident of 23 years, Janet Jaffee, will be instructing.



- Please be on the lookout for school flyers with more detailed information on summer camps and programs available. Also postings on FB and FPF.

Future offerings and events, more information to come....

- Paint and sip will return this summer. Adult and kids classes.
- Summer T-ball and Soccer for PREK-FIRST GRADE.

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

SCHOOL BOARD NOTES

Annual Meeting and Budget Information Session: The annual meeting for the Essex Westford School District (EWSD) will take place on Monday, April 8th beginning at 7pm in the Auditorium at Essex High School. The meeting will be followed by a budget information session. We urge community members to attend.

Budget Vote: The budgets for the EWSD and for the Center for Technology Essex will be voted on by Australian ballot on Tuesday, April 9th from 7am to 7pm at the Westford School. You may also vote by Absentee Ballot. (Please see the requirements for doing so at the beginning of this newsletter.) Westford does not have any school board members up for election this year. Please take a few minutes out of your busy schedules to perform your civic duty and VOTE.

Budget Information: You should have received a postcard in the mail with some basic information about the school budget. In case you have misplaced it, you can see all the budget details and materials from the board's budget workshops by going to ewsd.org and using the red budget "button" on the left hand side of the page. Printed copies of the district's annual report will be available at the Town Office and the Town Library.

Transportation: The EWSD board has spent a great deal of time this year on the subject of student transportation. Our plan to expand transportation to the students who live in the Village of Essex Junction has not been able to be implemented due to a lack of bus drivers. We are in continued discussions about what will happen next year. Parents, especially, should take time to be informed about potential changes for next year. These will be discussed at board meetings starting soon.

Access to Information about Board Meetings: There is a wealth of information about the work of the EWSD board available at ewsd.org. By using the school board drop down menu, you can find links to the video tapes of the meetings, the meeting minutes, and the meeting "takeaways". Information is also regularly posted on Front Porch Forum.

Please don't hesitate to contact either of us if you have questions or concerns. We can be reached by email at martha.heath@board.ewsd.org and andre.roy@board.ewsd.org

Martha Heath and Andre Roy

Westford School News

Preschool & Kindergarten 2019/20 School year

Do you have a child who is entering PreK or K next year? Please contact the school directly if you have not yet registered your child for Kindergarten & Pre-School.

Thinking about getting your child an iPhone or other personal device?

Westford School will continue to offer educational opportunities for both students and families related to the safe use of technology. Please call the guidance office for information if you missed the Halligan Presentation and are looking for support in setting house rules and limits on your child's tech use or for information regarding what age is too young for a personal device. We encourage all parents to 1) regularly check the devices your child has access to, 2) know the social media platforms and accounts your child uses and pay attention to age restrictions, 3) have your child share their passwords, and 4) have a designated time that your child disconnects at night and turns over all personal devices before bedtime.

Foul Weather Routes

Foul weather routes are designed as a way to keep school open and run buses when some road or stops are unsafe or impassable by bus and would otherwise cause a school cancellation. In response to a pattern of school cancellations due to weather conditions and in anticipation of spring mud conditions, we are designing foul weather routes where certain bus stops and perhaps specific roads will not be honored, impacting only a few families. Should we need to operate these foul weather routes, the same communication system used for school cancellations will notify impacted families early in the morning or 1.5 hours prior to school dismissal.

Student-Led Conferences

Student-led conferences allow students to share their learning and reflect on their goals and experiences. Thank you to all families who participated in this Westford tradition.

Critical Incident Training

Many leaders in the Essex Westford School District, as well as Howard Center program leaders and emergency responders, have been engaged in trainings concerning safety procedures. This on-going work includes studying recommendations for improved practices and expectations in critical incidents. The Essex Police Department and the VT State Police will hold community awareness events explaining the rationale behind recommendations to increase school safety drill practices to include responses to active shooters. I'm confident that EWSD will consider community voice in any future decisions involving changes. Westford School will highlight this topic each month during PTO meetings and monthly Tea with the Principal for the remainder of the school year to provide face-to-face dialogue with this very sensitive topic long before any new policy or procedure is adopted.

Featured Programs & Activities

Summer School

Integrated summer school is an opportunity for students to avoid the summer slide and maintain reading and math skills. Please contact your child's teacher if you think your child will benefit. We have limited space in 2 classrooms. Summer school take place at Westford School from July 8th - August 1st (four weeks), Monday through Thursday from 8:30-12:00. Transportation is not provided.

Drama Production- Cinderella

In partnership with Very Merry Theater, Westford School and PTO will be presenting a production of Cinderella. Please join us for the evening show on April 1st.

Spring Activities

As spring approaches, we have many exciting events. Please be sure to check school event's calendar for:

- Spring band concert
- Fine arts and craft night
- Science Fair
- Field trips such as the 1/2 camp out and the 8th grade trip to DC

Curriculum & Instruction

Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium - SBAC

- **Math and English/Language Arts Assessment:** All students in grades 3-8 (and now grade 9 rather than grade 11) are required to take the state test each spring 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.

Science Assessment

- **Vermont Science Assessment:** All students in grades 5, 8 and 11 will take a state science assessment. Like SBAC, this science assessment is a computer-adaptive assessment measuring each student's performance against the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

Fitness Assessment

- Vermont Fitness Assessment uses 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. This has been part of the Westford PE program for many years and isn't new for our students.



*The 8th Grade Class
of Westford Elementary School
invites you to attend an*



ITALIAN DINNER!!!

April 5, 2019

5:00-6:00pm Senior Appreciation Hour (daylight hours, quieter dining environment, more available parking, \$1 off your dinner).

5:00-6:30pm Curbside Pickup (Can't make the dinner? Order and pay online, drive up through our special curb-side pickup line, and your order will be brought out to your car! **Order Here:** <https://westfordpto.myshopify.com>

6:00-8:00pm General Public Dinner Hours (Seating is on a first-come first-served basis!)

Cost:

\$7 per person w/Max Family price of \$30

\$1 off per meal during Senior Appreciation Hour

Raffle Tickets will be sold during event for all the amazing prizes we have gathered! You do not need to be in attendance to win.

Raffle Tickets \$1 each/ 6 for \$5 / Arm's Length for \$10

Red Sox Box Seats Special Raffle! Only 50 tickets sold.... buy your chance here for only \$20 per ticket: <https://westfordpto.myshopify.com>

Menu

Each Dinner includes the following:

Drink (milk, water, lemonade or coffee), Bread & Butter, Salad with Italian or Ranch Dressing, Main Course (choice of Meat or Veggie Lasagna, Ziti w/Butter, Sauce, and/or Meatballs) and Dessert of Ice Cream & a Cookie (Gluten Free Pasta, Bread & Cookie Available)



ALL proceeds from the dinner and raffle will go towards paying for the 16 students in the WES 8th Grade Class to travel to Washington D.C. May 7-10th. Thank you for your support!!

Questions? Call Heather Armata at 802-338-8235



THE WESTFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT TAG SALE

To benefit the Westford Volunteer Fire Department

Drop Off Dates:



- * Saturday, April 27, 9-11am
- * Monday, April 29, 7-9pm
- * Friday, May 3, 4-6pm

Declutter your attic or garage and bring items for donation to the Westford Town Garage on Cambridge Rd. NO CLOTHING, BOOKS, COMPUTERS, TV's, OR EXERCISE EQUIPMENT, PLEASE. For more information, please call Susan Schmidt (878-7573).

Tag Sale Date:

Saturday, May 4; Green Up Day; 9 AM – 2 PM

Westford Town Garage, Cambridge Road, Westford

Come find bargains and support your local volunteer fire department.



FIRE WARDEN NEWS

Hello, I was going to start this newsletter by welcoming in the long awaited spring season. However, with the recent snow that was foisted upon us I have my doubts as to when this will happen. In any respect it won't be long until the snow melts and the warm weather will start drying out ground fuels causing the possibility of forest fires. Also, most folks will want to clean up any broken branches, leaves, small stumps and any other things that grow on our lawns. This also will cause the possibility of fires due to very dry conditions. As Fire Warden I monitor weather conditions daily and do the best I can to determine whether it's safe or not to burn on a given day. That's why it is very important to acquire a burn permit before starting a controlled burn. That being said The Town of Westford Select Board in collaboration with the Town Fire Warden has made some important changes to the Westford Burn Regulations. These changes can be found on the Town website (<https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Outdoor-Fire-Safety-Ordinance.pdf>) or you can call me at 879-1231 for additional information. As always as I like to say if it grows on your lawn it's more than likely safe to burn.

I would like to thank all of you for your continued cooperation in this matter knowing that adhering to these regulations will insure a happy and safe summer for all of us.

Dennis L. Angiono
Westford Fire Warden



WESTFORD MUSIC SERIES

presents

THE OLEO ROMEOS

Event Date: Sunday, April 28th
Time: 4pm-5pm
Where: The White Church on the Common, Route 128, Westford
Contact: Marjorie Hamrell; 802-879-4028 or mhamrell@comcast.net

The next Westford Music Series performance will feature the fun and delightful Oleo Romeos. Purveyors of quirky and often hilarious material, the group is known for teasing the most dubious aspects of the human psyche. Challenging the borders of good taste, they have been delighting audiences for 20 years, bringing their whack-doodle sensibilities to modern Americana roots music. The Oleos slither through the genres of folk, blues, country, rock and swing music with amiable assurance.

The Sunday afternoon performance will feature Oleo anchors Tyrone Shaw and Jerry Bowers, joined by raconteur and Telecaster master George Lewis.

The concert will provide great appeal to audiences who love Americana roots and a variety of musical styles. Free will donations. Refreshments. Sunday April 28th @ 4 pm.

VERMONT INCOME TAX FORMS

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: <https://tax.vermont.gov/form-request>
3. Order forms by phone: call toll-free in the U.S. at (855) 297-5600



Because Ideas Matter
vermonthumanities.org

A Vermont Humanities Council
Speakers Bureau event hosted by
Westford Historical Society

Bill Mares

Bees Besieged:

A History of Beekeeping



Monday, April 15
7:00pm

Red Brick Meeting House
Westford Common, VT Route 128

"The bees are the color; everything else is black and white." Kirk Webster, Bridport beekeeper. Beekeeping goes back 10,000 years, but bees have been much in the news recently as a multi-pronged scourge has devastated many of the nation's 2.5 million colonies. Meanwhile, hobby beekeeping has grown exponentially in the country. Bill Mares, write, and a beekeeper for 45 years, will tell of the origins and evolution of beekeeping, sometimes referred to as "farming for intellectuals," with a particular emphasis on his research in Vermont.

This even is free, open to the public, and accessible to those with disabilities. For more information, contact the Westford Historical Society at (802)878-8890 or mhamrell@comcast.net.

Under grant from the National Endowment for the humanities (NEH). Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the NEH or the Vermont Humanities Council.