



WESTFORD NEWSLETTER

September 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

Westford Senior Luncheon

Hope everyone has had a wonderful summer. It didn't want to come, but finally after the 4th of July, it was summer. Hot and dry, but better than rainy and cold. Luncheons will start back up this month with it being on September 9th. It's always at the Red Brick Meeting House and at 11:30, giving everyone a chance to visit before the meal is served. We are having roast chicken, compliments of our Westford Turkey Farm and Dave Adams who graciously donates to us every year. Thanks Dave! As usual, new faces are welcome and if you haven't ever come, please attend and enjoy visiting with your friends and neighbors. Hope to see you there! *Carol Howrigan, President 878-3090*

Reminder - Placing Bulky Items Out for Trash Pickup

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

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the October Newsletter is 12 noon on Monday, September 23rd.

Town Office Hours

The Town Office is open Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm.

- Friday, August 30th – Closing at 1:00pm (last Friday of Summer hours)
- Monday, September 2nd – Closed for Labor Day

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that you are not supposed to put your recycling in plastic bags of any kind? The only exception to this is shredded office paper, which is accepted only if it's in a CLEAR BAG that's tightly closed.

Here are some other items that do NOT belong in your recycling bin:

- Dirty containers
- Plastic wrap
- Durable plastic (e.g. Tupperware, laundry bins, etc.)
- Styrofoam
- Motor oil or hazardous waste containers

For more information on the proper way to recycle, please visit <https://cswd.net/recycling/>. There is even an interesting video of a tour of the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) where your recycling goes to be sorted.

Westford's Future



Community Forums to set direction for the future

Join your friends and neighbors to share your ideas for Westford! This is the first step in a process of building priorities and addressing critical community challenges.

SEPT 19, 2019 / 5:30-8pm

@ Westford School, 146 Brookside Rd, Westford

5:30 ~ COMMUNITY POTLUCK (Please bring a dish to share if you are able)

6:30 ~ FORUMS to share your ideas (attend one):

- ▶ Village Revitalization and Economic Development
- ▶ Gathering Spaces, Communications, and Events

ALL ARE WELCOME!

*Childcare during forums provided by The Barn School



The Westford Future process is produced and facilitated by the Vermont Council on Rural Development in partnership with the Vermont Community Foundation to bring together residents, set common goals in a neutral and facilitated structure, and connect to resources.

Learn more at vtrural.org or contact Jenna at 802-225-6091 or jenna@vtrural.org.

AUGUST 2019 NEWSLETTER

Please contact Tonya Calley with any question at recreation@westfordvt.us or 802.324.7132

WESTFORD RECREATION DEPARTEMENT

UPCOMING EVENTS

September

Adult Paint & Sip \$35
Date to be determined

Kids Paint & Sip \$20
Date to be determined

October

Annual Pumpkin Run \$10/\$15 with Tshirt
10/19 details to come!



ONGOING EVENTS

COED PICKUP BASKETBALL
8-930pm @ Westford School

Wednesdays 8/28-6/17
\$10



FALL SOCCER *COACHES NEEDED*

The recreation board is seeking coaches for the PreK-K and 3-4 girls fall Soccer teams.

The recreation programs depend on volunteer coaches to continue these programs. If you are intrested in volunteering please contact us at recreation@westfordvt.us or call Tonya at 802.324.7132.

NEW CROSSWALK ON THE COMMON



SOMETHING NEW!

When driving through the Westford Common you may notice something new! Westford recently installed its first crosswalk.

Located from the Town Office to the Westford Common, we hope this crosswalk will slow traffic and increase safety for those crossing between the Common and the Town Office & Library.

FRIENDLY REMINDERS

- **Burn permits** are available online (www.westfordvt.us), from the Fire Warden (Dennis Angiono, 879-1231) or from the Town Office during office hours. If you have any questions regarding burn permit please contact the Fire Warden.
- Property owners who plan on **replacing driveway culverts** must obtain an Access Permit from the Town before starting the work. Please contact the Town Office for an application.
- **Yard waste**, such as leaves, brush and topsoil are not considered household garbage. You can compost yard waste or bring it to a participating Chittenden Solid Waste drop off center. For a list of centers please visit www.cswd.net.
- **Metal items** only can be put in the metal dumpster located at the town garage. Non-metal items, such as tires and couches/furniture to name a few. Surveillance cameras are present and will be used to identify people who drop off items prohibited from the dumpster. The State Police will be contacted and provided the information.
- **Hazardous waste materials** must be brought to a participating CSWD drop off center or the Rover.



Laurent Lavallee's 100th Birthday Celebration Open House

Brick Meeting House
1685 VT Route 128, Westford
September 15, 2019
2pm – 4pm

Cards welcomed. No gifts, please.

Cards can be mailed to
Laurent Lavallee
c/o Lucy Page
310A Westford Milton Road
Westford, VT 05494



Westford Historical Society
&
Vermont Humanities Council

Present

Linda Radtke
The Vermont Civil War Songbook

Event Date: Sunday, September 15, 2019
Time: 4 pm
Where: The White Church on the Common
21 Brookside Road, Westford

Singer and researcher Linda Radtke, dressed in period costume and joined by pianist Arthur Zorn, shares songs popular in Vermont during the Civil War as well as letters from Vermonters from the era. From sentimental songs about the girl back home to satirical ballads, Ms. Radtke traces the evolution of tone in Vermont song, from patriotic to elegiac as the war continued.

Free, open to the public, and accessible to those with disabilities. For more information, contact Margorie Hamrell at (802)879-4028 or mhamrell@comcast.net.

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

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.

WESTFORD CEMETERY REMINDERS

Artificial flowers, glass containers and items with wire are NOT allowed in any of the Westford cemeteries. They will be removed by cemetery officials. Also, **the planting of trees and shrubs is NOT permitted**. There are signs posted in each cemetery.

Thank you for your cooperation,
Westford Cemetery Commission & Pleasant View Cemetery Association

What zoning district am I in? Do I need a permit for my project? Where do I begin?

Visit our new **Planning & Zoning FAQs** webpage at
<https://westfordvt.us/administration/planning-zoning/>

Or

Contact Kate Lalley, Administrative Officer, or Melissa Manka, Planning Coordinator, at
zoning_admin@westfordvt.us, planner@westfordvt.us or (802) 878-4587

WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

<http://westfordpubliclibrary.org>

(802) 878-5639

westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com

1717 VERMONT ROUTE 128, WESTFORD VT 05494

WANTED: Artists and Travelers

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



Thank you, Westford, for an amazing Summer Reading Program - it was a blast!

Here's some pretty impressive numbers:

133 kids signed up for Summer Reading (20 adults, too!)

38 Summer programs were held with 708 attendees

2685 books were read

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

THANK YOU to the following for your support:

City Market

Sweet Clover Market

Phoenix Books

Greg Bemis

Ben and Jerry's

Essex Cinemas

Turner Toy and Hobby

The Vermont Department of Libraries

Beth Lane and Liesel the Reading Dog

The Westford Library Board of Trustees

J. Huthcins, Inc.

Spare Time

M.C. Baker

The Periodic Pandas

NASA StarNet

Library Hours

Wednesday: 1-7pm
Thursday: 10am-7pm
Friday: 1-7pm
Saturday: 10am-2pm
CLOSING EARLY 9/19 at 5pm

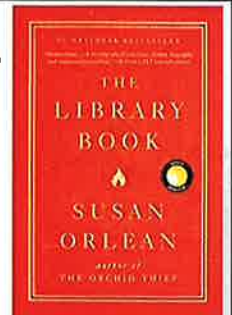
Adult Book Group
Wed. September 18
7:00-8:00pm

The Library Book
by: Susan Orlean

A dazzling love letter to a beloved institution—and an investigation into one of its greatest mysteries—from the bestselling author hailed as a “national treasure” by *The Washington Post*.

On the morning of April 29, 1986, a fire alarm sounded in the Los Angeles Public Library. As the moments passed, the patrons and staff who had been cleared out of the building realized this was not the usual fire alarm. As one fireman recounted, “Once that first stack got going, it was ‘Goodbye, Charlie.’” The fire was disastrous: it reached 2000 degrees and burned for more than seven hours. By the time it was extinguished, it had consumed four hundred thousand books and damaged seven hundred thousand more. Investigators descended on the scene, but more than thirty years later, the mystery remains: Did someone purposefully set fire to the library—and if so, who?

Weaving her lifelong love of books and reading into an investigation of the fire, award-winning *New Yorker* reporter and *New York Times* bestselling author Susan Orlean delivers a mesmerizing and uniquely compelling book that manages to tell the broader story of libraries and librarians in a way that has never been done before. (from Amazon.com)



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

9/5/19: Theme: Gardens and Veggies

9/12/19: Theme: Bees and Honey

9/19/19: Theme: Pirates

9/26/19: Theme: Fall

Storytime consists of several stories around a theme, as well as a theme-based craft. All ages and levels of attention are encouraged to come. Don't worry if they fidget - they are still getting a lot out of it!

The WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY provides access to materials, technology, reference services and programs to meet the informational, educational, and recreational needs of the Westford community.

WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

<http://westfordpubliclibrary.org>

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

September Library Events

September 11- Trustees Meeting 7-9pm

September 18 - Adult Book Group: The Library
Book by Susan Orleans 7-8pm

September 19 - Library Closes at 5pm for the
community forum: Westford's Future 5:30-
8pm at the Westford School

September 22-September 28 - Banned Books
Week - "Censorship Leaves Us in the Dark"

September 25 - Compost Alive! Program with
master composter Laurie DiCesare 7-9pm

September 27 - Banned Books Week Read-in -
drop in anytime 1-7pm to read a banned
book. Snacks provided.

Storytime every Thursday 11am
Fiber Arts Group every Thursday 6:30-8pm



September 19th from 5:30-8:00pm at the Westford School
Westford's Future:

Community Forums to Share Your Ideas
You are invited to join your friends and to discuss assets,
challenges, and ideas for the future of Westford! Forums
will be facilitated by the VT Council on Rural Development.
Potluck 5:30, Forums 6:30

The Library will close at 5pm to attend the forum.



Compost Alive!

Wed., Sept. 25 from 7-9pm

Master composter Laurie DiCesare will teach us how
to mix up a batch of "Black Gold". Learn what to
include/exclude, mix in,
accelerators, and what to do
with it once you make it.

Participants should plan for hands on activities
and bring scraps to add. Sign up appreciated.



Coming in October!

Crazy 8's Math Club
Thursdays (grades 3-4)
Fridays (K-2)

Kids ride Bus 3, pickup by 5pm
See the October Library Newsletter for more.

Fiber Arts Group meets from 6:30-8pm
every Thursday.



Knit, Crochet, & Stitch
with a vibrant group. All
levels welcome, help
given to beginners. If
you have questions,
contact Marianne at
mfishcar@together.net

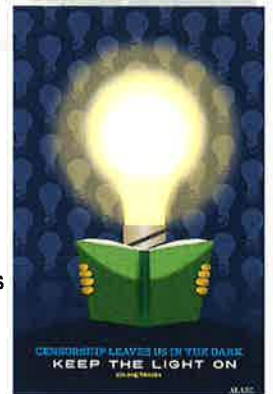
Celebrate Banned Books Week: 9/22-9/28
Censorship Leaves Us in the Dark: Keep the
Light On!

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

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

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

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



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 2020. 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 SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

EWSD K-8 Teacher of the Year:

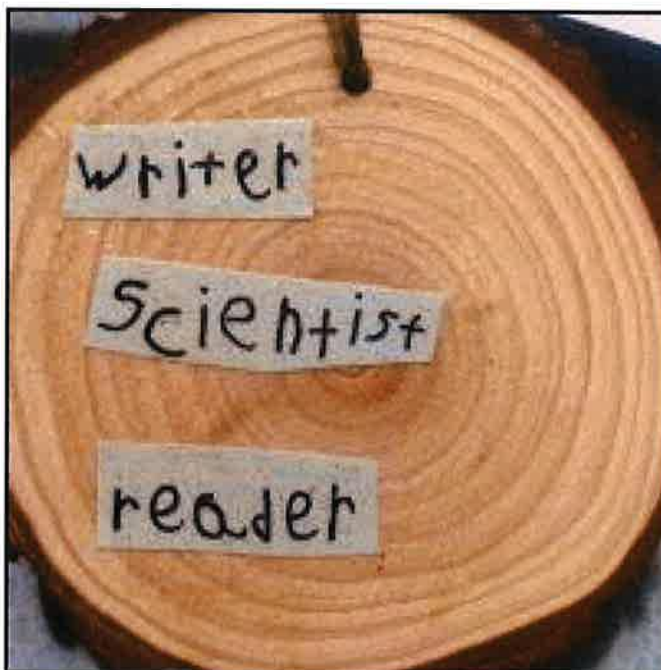
I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge when a teacher has a mastery year; when they grow and model a growth mindset for students and colleagues; when all students are engaged and inspired learners; when a teacher meets their professional goals and the evidence of this work is undeniable; when students learn and master both academic and social and emotional standards; and when all means all.

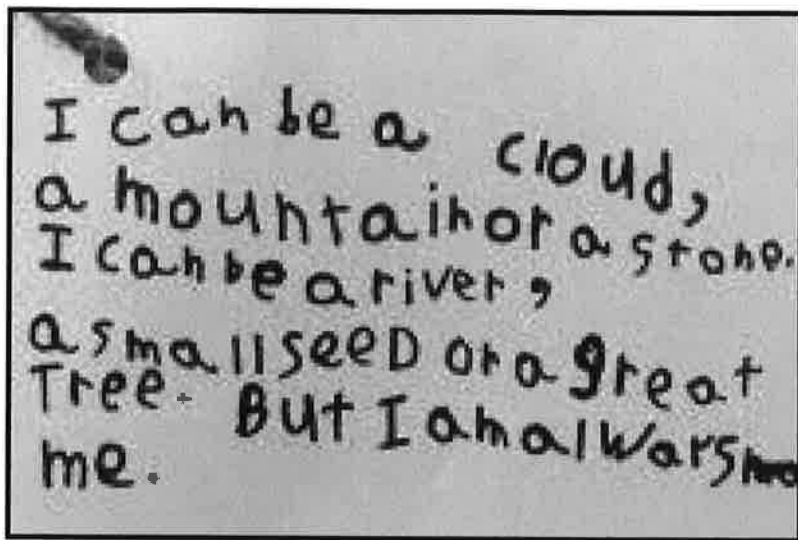
The EWSD K-8 Teacher of the Year is Ms. Cassidy Shumway. She has also been nominated as the UMV Teacher of the Year.

Here is an example specific of her work with students in literacy and one of the many reasons why her colleagues nominated her. Ms. Cassidy describes her students as a community of collectors based on their passions and interests and wove that into her teaching. For example, alongside her students they collected things in the woods and on the playground, she used these collections from nature and their environment in the classroom. They sorted and counted their collections, describe them, wrote about them and shared their thinking all the while practicing language skills and building community and strengthening relationships.

By the end of the year children talked about how they collected feelings of happiness and peace in their classroom. Their teacher taught them to be word collectors as well. They collected sight words, powerful words, new words, old words, short and long words. They used their phonological skills to write and read these words. They talked about how you can use words to make the world better. During read-aloud of the book, [The Word Collector](#) students were invited to think of three powerful words to describe themselves. They planned their words, shared their words, and wrote their words multiple times checking for all of the sounds.

They cut out their words to attach to the back of a wood slice; their canvas for their poetry portrait.





Students connected their collection of self-describing words to the poem they learned during their avid poetry readers unit.

The words in their shared poem depict the many feelings, emotions, and parts of ourselves. They connected these feelings to the natural world. Students searched for blends and digraphs in the poem and added sight words and explored movement and yoga to go with their poem. This work was

connected and linked to previous learning. For example, students created self-portraits at the beginning of the year and reading portraits inspired by Oliver Jeffers in the middle of the year. They worked through and learned from challenges and grew into brave and kind community members. All students were included. All students express their sense of belonging. Their poetry portrait served as another opportunity to celebrate their unique selves within their classroom community.

Ms. Cassidy's classroom celebrates the beauty of each child and who they are individually and their role in their classroom community and is well-deserving of this honor.



Westford School & EWSD Central Office: New Faculty & Staff

Please help welcome the professionals supporting students this year.

Jackie Ramsay-Tolman has been named the Interim Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment for the Essex Westford School District (EWSD). She brings a depth of educational experience to the EWSD, having served as a classroom teacher, special educator, dean of students, principal, and curriculum director during her career.

She joins the EWSD after spending the previous two years as the Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment in the Barre Supervisory Union. She also served her former district as the Assistant Principal, and later as Principal, of the Barre City Elementary and Middle School. Prior to her time in Barre, Ramsay-Tolman worked in the Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union for 12 years. After spending five years as an early essential education coordinator, she became a special educator at the district level and then was named the Dean of Students at Hazen Union School.

Claire Ryan will be our 5-8 French teacher this school year. She grew up in Chicago and has spent the last four years teaching middle and high school French in Saint Louis, Missouri. She is a graduate of Washington University in Saint Louis, where she studied French, Education, and English. Outside of the classroom, she is an avid reader, an occasional baker, and an enthusiastic camper. Claire will also be teaching French at EHS.

Kelly Forbes will be our social-emotional learning and behavior coach after working at Northwestern Counseling and Support Services for the past 3 years. While working at NCSS, Kelly focused her time on supporting students in developing social and emotional regulation skills, providing behavioral consultation, and developing individualized behavior plans for students with behavioral challenges. Kelly has worked in the mental health field, and providing support to schools since 2011. Kelly graduated from Johnson State College in 2014 with an MA in Education and is a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst. Outside of work, Kelly enjoys crafting, camping, going on adventures, and spending time with her family and dog, Barkley.

Marissa McGrath joins Westford as our speech and language pathologist. She is a graduate of the University of Montana. Her school experience includes kindergarten through high school students. She also has experience in a community medical center and at the University of Montana DeWit RiteCare Speech, Language, and Hearing Clinic. Her experience as an autism interventionist informs her approach to the generalization of social communicative skills learned through speech-language services. Outside of school, Marissa is an avid skier and enjoys time with her family and is a resident of Westford.

Barb Chapin, while not new to the Westford faculty, will have an expanded role this year. Barb will teach Algebra in addition to providing supportive math services. We welcome Barb in this expanded role.

School Calendar & Upcoming Dates

The first student day of the 2019/20 school year is Wednesday, August 28th. The school calendar is available online and easily accessible on the school webpage @

https://www.ewsd.org/cms/lib/VT02217845/Centricity/Domain/4/EWSD_201920_SchoolCalendar_042419.pdf.

PreK – 8 th grade Orientation to the classroom	Friday, August 23rd – by appointment
First student day	Wednesday, August 28
No School	Labor Day
*Open House	Thursday, September 12th 6:00-7:00pm Food Services will provide dinner for families starting at 5pm.
Picture Day	Monday, Sept. 16th, retakes Wednesday, Oct. 23rd

*Please join us for dinner during Open House on Sept 12 to learn more about EWSD food services and to provide input into menu items that would influence your child's participation in eating school breakfast and lunch. Instead of a family picnic prior to open house, we will serve families dinner at a minimal fee. We want your feedback on the school menu in order to increase student participation, positively impact food services' effectiveness, and increase its opportunities for change. We ask that families please consider utilizing the school breakfast and lunch program and are setting a participation goal in hopes of setting an example for the district of what is possible. Our goal is to feed 40% or more students breakfast each day and 60% or more of students

Opportunities to Serve Your Community!

The Selectboard is seeking town residents interested in serving as Westford's representative on the following:

Chittenden County Regional Planning Commissioner Representative & Alternate Representative

The Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission was founded in 1966 to promote the mutual cooperation of its 19 member municipalities and to facilitate the appropriate development and preservation of the physical and human resources in Chittenden County.

CCRPC is composed of 19 municipal commissioners and five at-large commissioners (representing Agriculture, Conservation/Environment, Socio-Economic/Housing, and Transportation). The legislative body of each of Chittenden County's municipalities selects its own commissioner and alternate commissioner. The Full Commission selects the five at-large representatives. Each commissioner has one vote.

CCRPC's regular monthly meeting is on the third Wednesday of the month at 6:00pm in the Main Conference Room. These meetings are open to the public.

For more information go to <https://www.ccrpcvt.org/about-us/commission/commissioners-alternates/>.

CCRPC Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC)

The Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) oversees the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission activities and policy development regarding but not limited to, the Vermont Lake Champlain Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Plan and its related plans and programs. The Committee typically meets the first Tuesday of the month. To view minutes, agendas and other documents, please go to <https://www.ccrpcvt.org/about-us/committees/clean-water-advisory-committee/>. For more information contact Dan Albrecht, CCRPC Senior Planner, at dalbrecht@ccrpcvt.org or 846-4490.

Please contact the Town Office at 878-4587 or townclerk@westfordvt.us if you are interested in being appointed to one of these positions.

SCHOOL BOARD NOTES

Education Taxes: We have all recently received our property tax bills. I thought this would be an opportune time to review some education tax history for our town.

Our final education taxes are directly determined by two factors: the budget that is voted for the relevant fiscal year and the Common Level of Appraisal assigned by the state to our town. (This is the percentage of fair market value the state determines properties in our town are assessed at.) The following table shows our education tax rates from two years before merger and for the years since merger happened. The first year we operated as a merged district was in FY18.

	Equalized Tax Rate (without CLA)	Final Tax Rate (with CLA)	CLA
FY16	\$1.551	\$1.527	101.57%
FY17	1.550	1.535	100.95%
FY18	1.501	1.493	100.52%
FY19	1.468	1.494	98.25%
FY20	1.449	1.508	96.04%

As you can see from this chart our tax rate based on the approved budget has continued to decline since the merger happened in FY18 even though the merger tax incentive has decreased by 2 cents each year. The factor that is driving the final rate up, very slightly, is the CLA. (The final tax rate is determined by dividing the equalized rate by the CLA.)

Many of us pay some or all of our education taxes based on our income. This is known as income sensitivity. It the rate that is applied to your household income, if you qualify, based on the approved budget. We don't have the income sensitivity rates from before merger but here they are for the merged district years.

FY18 2.74%
FY19 2.56%
FY20 2.46%

These rates too have declined each year since the merger happened.

Future of the Westford School:

Both in conversations and in reading the results of the Planning Commission survey, we find that there are still folks in town who think that the Westford School is going to close as a result of our merged school district. This is simply NOT true. There were some who worried this might happen if the merger was approved, but in fact it was never on the table for discussion and still isn't. While the Westford School is smaller than other schools in the Essex Westford School District it is still larger than MANY schools across the state. When policy makers discuss closing small schools, they are generally talking about schools with less than 100 students. Westford's school enrollment has been pretty stable at about 170-180 students for the past few years. We wanted to make certain that folks understand that there are no plans to close the Westford School.

Please contact us if you have questions or comments. We hope you will take time to visit the school district's website at ewsd.org. You can find a wealth of information on the site including the video tapes of our school board meetings. *Martha Heath and Andre Roy*

SUBSCRIBE TO THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

If you would like to receive a copy of the Town Newsletter by email, send an email to townclerk@westfordvt.us with your name (required), email address (required) and address (optional). To view current and past newsletters go to <https://westfordvt.us/documents/newsletters/>. If you do not have access to the Internet or have a computer, you can call the Town Office at 878-4587 to request being added to the mailing list.