



WESTFORD NEWSLETTER

November 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

Selectboard FY'21 Budget Workshops

The Selectboard began working on the FY'21 Budget in October. Upcoming workshops will be held on:

- November 14
- December 12

If needed, additional meetings will be held. The Board encourages residents to attend these meetings to provide feedback to assist the Board in developing a budget to be voted on in March 2020.

Property Tax Installment

Property taxes are due Friday, November 15th. Payments will be considered timely if they are received by this date, have a November 15th postmark, or are in the drop box located to the left of the town office door before the office opens at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, November 18th.

Senior Luncheon

The Senior Luncheon will be on November 11th at 11:30 at the Red Brick Meeting House. All seniors are welcome. Please join us for a home cooked meal and good conversation! If you need a ride, please call me at 878-3090 or Beth Menut at 893-02263. If you have a neighbor, friend, or elderly person that isn't coming please contact them and see if they would like to join us as we celebrate Thanksgiving. Hope to see you there. **Carol Howrigan, President**

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 December Newsletter is 12 noon on Monday, November 25th.

Town Office Hours & Closings

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

The Office will be CLOSED:

- November 28th & 29th for Thanksgiving
- December 25th for Christmas
- January 1st for New Years



WESTFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Active Hunting:

Hunting is a permitted activity in the Maple Shade Town Forest. Hunting of any species is permitted during deer and turkey seasons which are in effect now through spring 2020.

Take Precautions: WEAR ORANGE, LEASH DOGS, MAKE NOISE

Access for Hunting: The Conservation Commission is working on providing public access that is not within the "Gun Free School Zone". Currently, hunter access to the forest must be with permission across private land. Please refer to the "Gun Free Zone" map link listed at the end of the Long-Term Management Plan posted on the town's website for location of the gun free zone.

Trails:

Please let us know if you see downed trees or other required maintenance to any of the trails. We're happy to go out and clean things up!

Donations:

The WCC is funded in part by donations. If you appreciate our efforts and would like to help fund our mission to preserve Westford's rural character, please send a donation to:

Westford Conservation Commission
1713 VT Route 128
Westford, VT 05494.

Thank you!

CAN I RECYCLE THAT?

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 PUBLIC LIBRARY

<http://westfordpubliclibrary.org>

(802) 878-5639

westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com

1717 VERMONT ROUTE 128, WESTFORD VT 05494

The Library will be CLOSED
Thursday, November 28 & Friday, November 29
for Thanksgiving.



Travel Talk is Back!
Wednesday, Nov. 13
7:00-8:30pm

Destination: The Azores

Presented by: Doris Bittruf

The Azores are an archipelago of 9 islands in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. Thanks to its mild climate, it offers a wealth of outdoor and adventure tourism options. It is also noted for its biodiversity and cultural heritage. I had the chance to explore 4 of the islands on foot, by bike, scooter, bus, car and boat and would like to share my experiences, some photos and stories.



Jin Shin Jyutsu for Better Sleep
Friday, November 15 at 7pm
Presented by: Erin Menut

Jin Shin Jyutsu (JSJ) is a gentle form of energy work - a way to move and release blocked energy (chi, ki, prana) in the body and restore original vitality. Learn the basics of this harmonizing art and how to use JSJ to relieve stress and enjoy better sleep.

Erin Menut, MA, has been a practitioner of Jin Shin Jyutsu since 2010. For more information, visit radiantenergyforlife.com.



Our new CookBook Club was a big hit!
See the next page for a few photos and next month's cookbook selection!

Library Hours

Wednesday: 1-7pm
Thursday: 10am-7pm
Friday: 1-7pm
Saturday: 10am-2pm
Library is CLOSED Nov. 28 & 29

Adult Book Group
Wed. November 20
7:00-8:00pm
The Seeking
by: Will Thomas
Extra copies available
This month's book has a
very special Westford
connection!



Novelist Will Thomas had been a logger in Maine, a crew member on a fishing boat in Alaska, a prizefighter on the West Coast, a script writer in Los Angeles, and a journalist in Kansas City, Chicago, and New York. In 1946 he, his wife, and three children abandoned a plan to move to Haiti to escape racial prejudice in the United States. Instead, they made the improbable decision to purchase a home in tiny **Westford, Vermont**, twenty miles northeast of Burlington. At the time, the Thomases were the only non-white members of the community. *The Seeking* is the grim account of the Thomases' lives before Vermont, their decision to give living in America one last chance, and the moving, heartfelt, uplifting story of their time among the people of **Westford**—a life, writes Thomas, “not based on race, but on what we and they [were] like as human beings.” *The Seeking* is an important work of 20th century African American literature. *The Seeking* is both a story of one remarkable African-American family and a story of New England race relations in the first half of the twentieth century.

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

11/7/19: Theme: Pizza

11/14/19: Theme: Turkeys

11/21/19: Theme: Thanksgiving

11/28/19: No Storytime - Happy Thanksgiving!

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

November Library Events

November 6 - Trustees Meeting 7-9pm

**November 13 - Art with Janet -Sewing -
afterschool-5pm, sign up required**

**November 13 - Travel Talk: The Azures
7-8:30pm, presented by Doris Bittruf**

**November 15 - Jin Shin Jyutsu for Better
Sleep with Erin Menut 7pm**

**November 20 - Adult Book Group - The
Seeking by Will Thomas, 7-8pm**

November 28 - LIBRARY CLOSED

November 29 - LIBRARY CLOSED

Storytime every Thursday 11:30am

Crazy 8's Grades 3-4 - Thursdays

Crazy 8's Grades 1-2 - Fridays

Fiber Arts group every Thursday 6:30-8pm



Bedtime Math's Crazy 8's Math Club!!!
Weekly October 10/11 - December 12/13
Grades 3-4 - Thursdays (began 10/10)
Grades 1-2 - Fridays (began 10/11)
No Crazy 8's on 11/28 or 11/29.



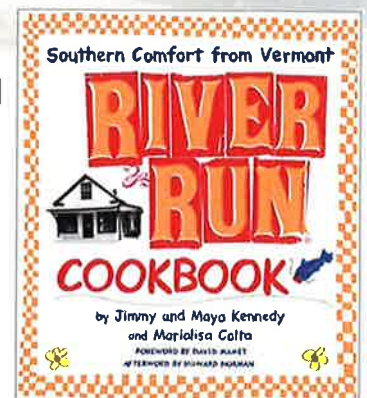
**Art w/ Janet: Sewing
Wednesday, Nov. 13
afterschool - 5pm**
LET'S SEW! Students will
learn how to sew a simple
running straight stitch and
have a chance to complete a
small pouch with a
button closure. The perfect
place to stash your small
treasures.

Class size limited to 6 children - ages 7 and up.
Registration required.
Students may ride Bus #3 from Westford School.

Our new CookBook Club whipped up a fun and yummy evening! Good food and good company made for a delightful program. Join us for the next one - Friday (note the different weekday), December 13 from 7-8:30pm as



we resurrect a Vermont favorite. The iconic Plainfield establishment may be gone, but its delicious southern comfort food with a VT spin lives on. From breakfasts & gumbo, desserts, to pulled pork - there's something for everyone in this one!



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.



THIS MONTH IN MUSIC

WESTFORD MUSIC SERIES PRESENTS **FREVO**



ECLECTIC CONTEMPORARY

-free will donation-

4 PM: WHITE CHURCH ON THE COMMON

SUNDAY: NOVEMBER 10, 2019

High energy and a love for playing music of all genres defines FREVO, an accomplished and popular cross over quartet.

This cross over group from the Vermont Contemporary Music Ensemble plays an eclectic sampling of chamber music for flute, clarinet, cello, and classical guitar including original arrangements and music from jazz, Latin, classical and newly composed. Appropriate for the entire family with variations of music from the Beatles and children's songs to classical jazz.

Concert open to the public. Refreshments will be served. Call 802-879-4028 for more information

WESTFORD MUSIC SERIES

2019-2020

**Sundays at the White Church on the Common
4pm-5pm**

- **November 10, 2019 - FREVO**
- **December 15, 2019 – Heliand Consort**
- **January 5, 2020 – Spintuition (*Young Tradition Vermont*)**
- **February 9, 2020 – Allison & Cameron Steinmetz**
- **March 15, 2020 – Christine Malcolm**
- **April 5, 2020 - Patrick Fitzsimmons**
- **May 3, 2020 – Paul Asbell**



WESTFORD TURKEY TROT



Saturday, November 16, 2019

Registration: 8:30 a.m. Race Start: 10 a.m.

Snow, Rain or Shine

Westford School

Brookside Road, Westford, VT

10k run ★ 3k walk/run ★ 100 yd Tot Trot (6 & under)

\$12, pre-register online by Nov 15

\$15, day of race

Random Drawing for Prizes!

Homemade treats & chili for sale!

Proceeds benefit The Committee for Westford Children and Families

www.westfordturkeytrot.wordpress.com

NOV 2019 NEWSLETTER

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

WESTFORD RECREATION DEPARTEMENT

UPCOMING EVENTS

November

11/10 Westford Music Series Free
4-5pm @ UCW White Church

11/15 Adult Paint and Sip \$35
7-9pm @ Red Brick Meeting House

11/17 Kids Paint and Sip \$20
10-12@ Red Brick Meeting House

Registrations Due

Womans Futsal

Where; Westford School Gym, Monday nights 730pm-830pm. November 4-February 3

Regisration Fee \$50

Any last minute registration will be accepted up to the Friday 11/1.



ONGOING EVENTS and NEWS

MEN'S PICKUP BASKETBALL* Wednesdays until 6/12
8pm-9:30pm @ Westford School Gym \$10

PUMPKING RUN RESULTS

Adult Race

1st Andy Coddinton 32:13, 2nd Steve Hadaway 33:38, Elias Rosenblatt 35:17, 4th place tie Liz Hadaway and Kirsten Tyle 40:41

Kids Race

1st Ziva Baker 8:47, 2nd Oliver Tyler 9:14, 3rd Inez Medick 9:20, 4th Avery Ratnam 9:47, 5th David McElvany 10:24



WESTFORD TOWN ICE RINK

Hello Westford Residents, The future of the Ice Rink at the Westford Common depends on community feedback and volunteers. Please take a moment to complete this BRIEF survey. Your input and involvement is highly valued and appreciated. Click on this link to access the survey:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QHZJQTP>

Note: the survey is completely anonymous. You do not need to supply your information if you chose not to.

We look forward to seeing you on the ice this coming season!

Westford Recreation Department invites you to...

PAINT & SIP

At the Westford Red Brick Meeting House



\$35

ADULTS

Friday November 15th

7-9pm

BYOB

\$20

KIDS

Sunday November 17th

10am-Noon

Juice Boxes Provided



Email recreation@westfordvt.us to claim your seat!



WINTER IS COMING!



What you need to know about the coming road conditions

- **Plowing:** begins when the snow has accumulated 2-3 inches. Each plow route takes the road crew about 4 hours to complete.
- **Sand:** applied to all gravel roads. Some particles may be large enough to cause windshield damage. Use caution and avoid following other vehicles closely.
- **Mailboxes:** Westford does NOT repair or replace mailboxes damaged by the plow.
- **Plowing Across Town Roads:** plowing snow from driveways across town roads is prohibited.

Read the full Winter Road Policy here: <https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Winter-Road-Policy.pdf>

Reminders:

- Each winter storm is different, roads may be icy and sand may be loose. Drive slow and know what your vehicle is capable of.
- Watch for walkers and wildlife. It will be more difficult to see pedestrians and recreational users of roads this time of year due to snowbanks. Walkers, bikers and other users can do their part by wearing bright, reflective clothing.
- Some VAST trails cross Westford Roads. Know where the trails are and watch for crossing snowmobiles. You can find a list of VAST trails here: <https://vtvast.org/trails.html>

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.



WESTFORD'S FUTURE: PRIORITIES & ACTIONS



More than 80 individuals attended the second Westford's Future meeting to discuss the ideas and opportunities identified at the September 19th forums and through online submission. The community reviewed and prioritized fourteen ideas by assigning points to each– some of which were merged:

- #1 Boost Local Business and Economic Development & Improve Broadband and Cell Connectivity - 94 Points**
- #2 Improve Traffic Safety, Walkability, and Bike-ability - 92 Points**
- #3 Advance Community Events and Celebrations & Improve Community and Town Communications & Advance the Arts in Westford - 86 Points**
 - **Build a Community Playground on the Common - 44 Points**
 - **Develop and Improve Housing - 42 Points**
 - **Market and Share Westford's Assets - 22 Points**
 - **Create Education and Skill Sharing Opportunities & Start a Tool and Gear Sharing Program - 16 Points**
 - **Create a co- Working Space in the White Church - 7 Points**
 - **Improve Shared Transportation Options - 3 Points**
 - **Build Community Wastewater Infrastructure - *Planning Commission Currently Leading Project.***

While the community can move any of the above projects forward, the group broke out into three groups to discuss the **top three priorities**, organize task forces and develop action plans. Vermont Housing on Rural Development will share a final report in the next few weeks that captures the process – all of the inputs, the visiting resource team, action ideas, and the final action plans.

We are working now to identify chairs for each of the task forces that will help to coordinate and lead the work forward. Chairs will receive the action plans and list of task force signups and will be in touch with task forces to coordinate next meetings and the work ahead.

If you are interested in joining any one or more of these task forces, please use this link to sign up or simply email Jenna Koloski at jenna@vtrural.org and let her know which one you would like to join. If you attended the meeting but did not check the box next to your name to sign on, please let Jenna know and she will add you to the list.

Thanks so much for your leadership and for stepping up for the future of our community!



WESTFORD SCHOOL NEWS

School Safety Update

The Essex Westford School District is updating safety protocols to include procedures for an active threat. Building upon the success of our existing emergency procedures, we will expand responses that reflect a more situationally driven approach which recognizes that no single response fits every potential scenario. The belief is that having more options will keep our students, staff, and community safer. Over time, starting with staff at our high school and technical center campus, EWSD will be rolling out the US Department of Homeland Security's recommended protocol - *Run, Hide, Fight*. This work will not replace any of the current safety protocols or regular drills - each of those will remain and be actively reinforced across the District and throughout the school year. What is new, is the building of greater situational awareness around responding to an active threat. An "active threat" is defined as any incident which by its deliberate nature creates an immediate threat to life or presents an imminent danger such as an active shooter. Bill Laware, EWSD Director of Safety & Security can be reached at 857-7500 with questions regarding the timeline for implementation. You can also find more information on this topic at <https://www.ewsd.org/Page/7543>

Emergency Communication:

In the event of an emergency, our top priority is working with first responders for the safety of all students. You can expect that once students are safe and with the approval of the proper authorities we will communicate directly with families using the contact information on file. It is important that families keep contact information up to date. For safety reasons, we will communicate verified, accurate information that doesn't compromise the safety of students or impede a law enforcement investigation.

Featured Activities

In October, Westford students presented at the annual Rowland Foundation Conference. They shared their stories, lessons learned, and next steps in their efforts to promote awareness in matters of social justice and equity. In the past two years, students have initiated the raising of the Black Lives Matters Flag and the Pride Flag, as well successfully advocated for a change in the language of the dress code in which they identified areas of inequity and bias.

Curriculum & Instruction

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 the 2019/20 school year.

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| ● September | Open house and fall assessment window |
| ● October | Parent conferences |
| ● January | Winter assessment window and progress reports |
| ● March | Parent conferences |
| ● May | Spring assessment window |
| ● June | Final report cards and spring assessment reports sent home |
| ● July | State assessment results sent home grades 3-8. |

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

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



MAKE A PLAN



BUILD A KIT



BE INFORMED

Did you know the Town website has an Emergency page addressing
emergency preparedness, response and recovery?

<https://westfordvt.us/emergency/>

We encourage residents to explore to the information provided, print a paper copy for your refrigerator, sign up
for Vermont Emergency Management alerts and take necessary steps to be prepared.

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.

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