



WESTFORD NEWSLETTER



December 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:

- December 5th
- December 12th
- December 19th if needed

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.

Senior Luncheon

The Senior Luncheon will be on December 9th at 11:30 at the Red Brick Meeting House on the Common. All seniors are welcome. Please join us for our Holiday get-together, a home cooked meal and good conversation. If you need a ride, please call me at 878-3090 or Beth Menut at 893-2263. We had a wonderful turn out last month with 51 in attendance. If you have a neighbor that isn't coming, please contact them and see if they would like to join us as we celebrate the Holidays. Hope to see you there. **Carol Howrigan, President**

Holiday Gift Cards

The Town is collecting monetary donations to purchase Hannaford gift cards for Westford residents in need. The gift cards provide recipients with the ability to purchase food and household items as needed and according to their personal preferences.

Monetary donations will be accepted through Wednesday, December 18th. If you prefer, you can purchase the gift cards (ones that prohibit tobacco and alcohol purchases) yourself. Please mail or deliver your donation to the Town Office. The gift cards will be mailed on December 19th to Westford residents only.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the January Newsletter is 12 noon on Monday, December 30th.

Town Office Hours & Closings

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

The Office will be CLOSED:

- December 17th – Closing @ 1:30 pm
- December 24th & 25th for Christmas
- January 1st for New Years



FROM THE DESK OF THE FIRE WARDEN

I would like to take a moment to wish all my friends and neighbors a very happy holidays and a safe and healthy new year.

For your information: I will not be monitoring weather reports throughout the winter season while there is snow on the ground. The burn system will remain open until warmer weather re-appears and at that time we will go back to normal procedures.

Until then, it will be your decision whether to burn. Keep in mind what you can burn does not change. If you have any questions about burning or about what you can burn, feel free to call me at **879-1231**

Respectfully,
Dennis L. Angiono
Westford Fire Warden



TRASH & RECYCLING – CHANGE IN SCHEDULE FOR WEDNESDAY PICKUP

This year Christmas falls on a Wednesday. All residences that normally have their trash and recycling picked up on Wednesday will have their pickup on **Saturday December 28th** instead. Please follow the same guidelines, such as having your materials out by 6:00 am. Trash and recycling will be picked up as scheduled on New Years Day, January 1st.

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**

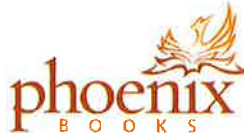
Wed., December 25 & Thurs., December 26 for Christmas and Wed., Jan. 1 for New Year's Day



Book Giving Trees Are Up

What better gift to give the Library than a book?

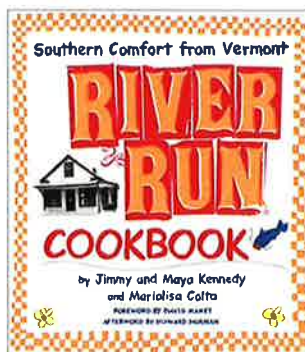
Choose a star from one of our book giving trees. Each star contains the name of a book that the Library would like to have. Books can be dedicated to a special person or family. Purchase the book anywhere or our partner, Phoenix Books (any location), will give patrons 20% off the book if you bring in the star. **Books will be collected at Phoenix if purchased there.** (A change from previous years - dedications can be left on the back of the stars) Purchase books by January 19. Thank you!



CookBook Club - River Run Cookbook

Friday, Dec. 13 from 7-8:30pm

The first was such a success - join us for the next one 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! CookBook Club is held every other month - come in, find a recipe, copy it, then cook it! Everyone will bring in their food and we will have a feast! We'll talk about the food and the recipes. The library will provide paper goods and utensils.



Library Hours

Wednesday: 1-7pm
Thursday: 10am-7pm
Friday: 1-7pm
Saturday: 10am-2pm
Library is CLOSED Dec. 25 & 26 and Jan. 1

Adult Book Group

Wed. December 18

7:00-8:00pm

The Hate U Give

by: Angie Thomas

We are reading the VT Reads 2020 selection by the VT Humanities Council. Sixteen-year-old

Starr moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Soon afterward, his death is a national headline. Some are calling him a thug, maybe even a drug dealer and a gangbanger. Protesters are taking to the streets in Khalil's name. What everyone wants to know is: what *really* went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr. But what Starr does—or does not—say could upend her community.

"I've seen it happen over and over again: a black person gets killed for just being black, and all hell breaks loose. I've tweeted RIP hashtags, reblogged pictures on Tumblr, and signed every petition out there. I always said that if I saw it happen to somebody, I would have the loudest voice, making sure the world knew what went down. Now I am that person, and I'm too afraid to speak."

Angie Thomas



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

12/5/19: Theme: Snow

12/12/19: Theme: Giving and Sharing

12/19/19: Theme: Holidays

12/26/19: No Storytime - Happy Holidays!

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

December Library Events

December 4 - Trustees Meeting 7-9pm

December 12 - Last Crazy 8's for Grades 3-4, afterschool - 5pm

December 13 - Last Crazy 8's for Grades 1-2, afterschool - 5pm

December 13 - CookBook Club 7-8:30pm, cooking from The River Run cookbook - come in to get a recipe ahead of time

December 14 - Scrunchies! Taught by Jenny Cady and Lise-Anne Cooledge 10:30-12:30 - Learn to sew your own scrunchies - sign up required, ages 10-adults, space is limited

December 18 - Adult Book Group - 7-8pm
The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas

December 25&26 - LIBRARY CLOSED

January 1 - LIBRARY CLOSED

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



Bedtime Math's Crazy 8's Math Club wraps up!
Grades 3-4 - Last class Thursday 12/12
Grades 1-2 - Last class Friday 12/13

Make Your Own Scrunchies!

Saturday, December 14
10:30am-12:30pm

Presented by Jenny Cady
and Lise-Anne Cooledge

Ages: 10-adult

Space is Limited - Sign up
required!

Scrunchies are back and cooler than ever! These colorful accessories can be worn in your hair or on your wrist to complete any outfit! You will learn how to make scrunchies using a sewing machine. Once you learn the basics, you'll be making scrunchies for your kids or friends in their favorite fabrics. Come with a good attitude and a willingness to learn (and some patience as we share sewing machines). Anyone over age 10 is welcome to sign up.



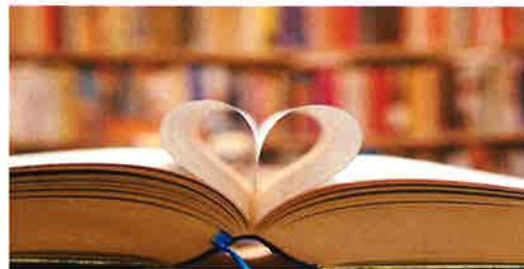
It's been a wonderful year at the Westford Public Library. I feel so blessed to be able to work in and serve such a special community. From smiles on kids' faces, to gasps of "It's in!" or "That was exactly what I wanted to read", I am reminded daily of the power of reading, connections, and libraries in general. Thank you for your continued community support.

Bree Drapa, Library Director

Library Usage this Year:

- 120% increase in e-book downloads
- 22% increase in material circulation over 2018
- 36% increase in juvenile / teen / graphic novels
- 10,000 recorded visits
- 2,700 people attended Library programs
- 500 volunteer hours

Most Checked out item: The ECHO Center Pass

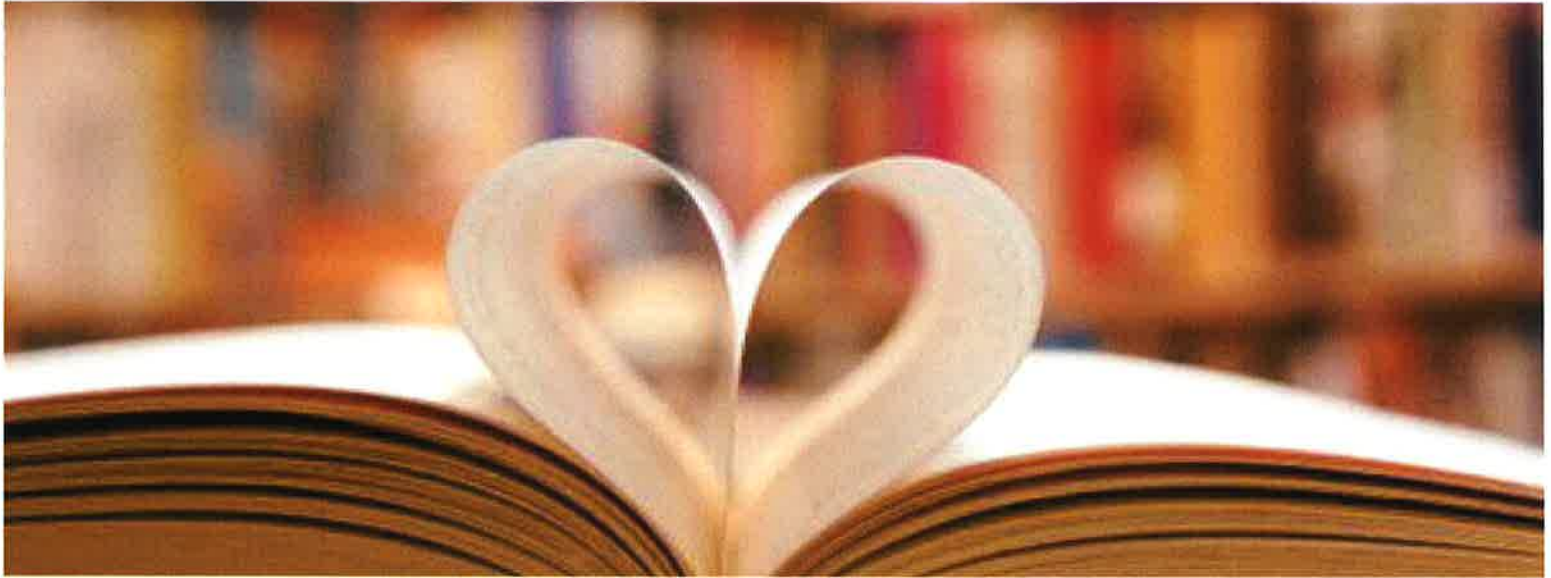


The Library is **no longer accepting donations** of books, audiobooks, and DVDs **at this time** for our annual Fourth of July Book Sale. We will begin accepting donations in the spring of 2020. Thank you to community for supporting our annual Fourth of July Book Sale.

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 Public Library Annual Fundraising Appeal

A well used library could use a little love.



There's been some impressive usage this year:

120% increase in digital downloads of ebooks and audiobooks

22% increase in overall checkouts - over 16,000 items

Over 10,000 visits and over 2,700 people attended our programs

Over 500 hours of donated volunteer time

Please consider making a donation to the Westford Public Library in support of our efforts to maintain the very best library for our community. More than just books, the library is a community gathering spot. We want this spot to be comfortable and accessible to all. We have made many improvements this year - maybe you noticed our new chimney, ramp and front porch?

We are also working on some larger projects that could use your support. Lighting, landscaping, and wetness and humidity issues are a few of the things the library is hoping to tackle in the coming year.

Donations in any amount would be appreciated. Please make checks payable to "Westford Public Library". You can mail them (PO Box 86, Westford, VT 05494) or drop them off in person.

With appreciation of the community's support of your public library,

The Library Board of Trustees and Bree Drapa, your Library Director



What's Happening at the **White Church on the Common?**

Events:

- **Yoga Classes:** Wednesdays & Fridays @8:40. Join a yoga class with Erin Menut and enjoy her serene manner and the peaceful setting of the White Church!
- **Holiday Concert:** Join us for a holiday concert featuring Heliand Consort. Heliand Consort plays classical music from the baroque through 20th century and contemporary repertoires. Note the special evening time for this concert: **Sunday December 15th at 7pm.** Part of the Westford Music Series
- **Holiday Tree Fundraiser:** This season, thanks to Glenn Rodgers, \$4 for every tree he sells from his Westford lot will be donated to the White Church. The donation also includes a tree for the church. A volunteer is needed to pick out and transport the donated tree. Please contact John Doane.
- **Festivals, Music & Weddings:** This year we had two weddings and a recommitment ceremony. This May promises to be a busy month with a Town-wide Spring Fest planned for early May, a visit by Paul Asbell to the Music Series and two weddings!
- **The May Day Fest – May 2nd:** An exciting new family May Day event with food, drinks, music and games is planned. We are hosting this event to spotlight the transition of the White Church to a community events center and unite Westford committees and groups of common interest.
- **School Concert:** In November we are pleased to host the elementary school concert organized and conducted by Rebecca Nowak

Upgrades to the building and grounds!

With the help of our newly hired buildings and grounds person, Rich Staab, we are making progress on improving this historic structure and making it more user friendly. The new paint on the church and spire enhances its beautiful and stately appearance. The concrete stairs have been newly surfaced with handrails also installed. A better handicap accessible ramp is now being built along with new stonework to support it. The septic pipe has been replaced and better insulated to prevent freezing in winter. Trees have been removed and the furnace has been cleaned and repaired. With funds supplemented by generous donors, the driveway has been upgraded and extended along with anew sign and bulletin board.

Volunteers and supporters are needed and welcome!

Our Mission and Vision statements have been drafted. We are seeking help to write a business plan and develop a website with a calendar. We are seeking a person to join the Board as a treasurer as this position is opening soon. We need a graphic designer to help develop a brochure for the White Church and upcoming events. Volunteers are needed for grant writing. Contacts have been made to help us begin work on conceptualizing an art gallery space as well as a Co-op working space. We are interested in ideas for space to be used for presentations, conferences, meetings and community celebrations. **Please send your name, address, email and phone number to whitechurchonthecommon@gmail.com if you are interested in joining our efforts.**

Thank you!





WINTER IS HERE!

What you need to know about winter 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>



Westford Tree Lighting & Caroling

Saturday, December 7th at 5pm

Westford Common

Girl Scout Troop #51841 invites you to attend their tree lighting and caroling event in the gazebo on the Town Common.

Bring your flashlights and your singing voices for a holiday sing-a-long and the annual lighting of the tree!

The tree is being donated courtesy of Mil-West Tree Farm in Westford



DEC 2019 NEWSLETTER

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

WESTFORD RECREATION DEPARTEMENT

UPCOMING EVENTS

 December

The recreation department would like to wish all o Westford residents a wonderful holiday season!

 Registrations

1/2 BASKETBALL	\$25
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ONGOING EVENTS and NEWS

PAINT AND SIP

TBD in Feburary

COED BASKETBALL

Westford School Gym, 8pm-930pm

Wednesday evenings,

\$10

1/2 coed basketball

Details; Westford School Gym,
Saturday mornings, starting Feb 1, 2020

Regisration Fee	\$25
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WESTFORD TOWN ICE RINK

Hello Westford Residents,

The recreation committee would like to thank everyone who donated their time and energy to get the ice rink set up.

We look forward to seeing you on the ice this year!

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



THIS MONTH IN MUSIC

WESTFORD MUSIC SERIES PRESENTS HELIAND CONSORT



Compelling Classical

-free will donation-

7-8 PM: WHITE CHURCH ON THE COMMON

SUNDAY: DECEMBER 15, 2019

This quartet performs an engaging repertoire of classical music from the baroque through 20th century contemporary genre.

Heliand Consort will offer a fresh new program for the Holiday Season demonstrating their well-known dynamic and creative sensibilities. An eclectic mix of the most compelling music of our time, this exciting concert is like nothing you've experienced. Heliand Consort finds a wide appeal to audiences who love music.

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



Westford Brick Meeting House

Hartmann

Singer-songwriter Steve Hartmann

1685 VT 128, VT

Saturday December 14th

Doors at 6pm

Show at 6:30pm

BYOB

Admission by donation



MIL-WEST TREE FARM FUNDRAISER

Raise Money for the Community!

Mil-west Tree Farm (Search for us on Facebook) has a lot of excellent Cut your own Christmas trees this year. They range in size from 7' - 10' and even a couple of 12'. They are Balsam, Frasier, and a few Balsam-Frasier cross.

We love Westford and we want to do something to enhance the viability of the churches at the ends of the common. Thus we are donating \$4.00 from every Christmas tree sold this year to The White Church on the Common and the Red Brick Meeting House for their care and repair.

Mil-West Tree Farm, Located at 19 Rogers Road, Westford, VT will be open from 10am - 4 pm on the weekends of: Nov. 30- Dec. 1, Dec. 7 and Dec. 8. Depending on the quality, how many trees are left, and the weather, we hope to stay open for Dec. 14- Dec. 15.

We have a new all season road thru the field, a sliding hill for the kids available, as well as 1.5 acres of Christmas trees to pick from for your favorite tree so don't let the snowy weather slow you down.

Prices begin at \$45.00.

Glenn & Martha Rogers & family



WESTFORD MUSIC SERIES

2019-2020

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

- **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



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.

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 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.