



WESTFORD NEWSLETTER

March 2020



Keep an eye out for the **Sharp-Lobed Hepatica** (shown left), one of the first wildflowers we see in spring!

Westford Town Office

1713 Vermont Route 128 - Westford, Vermont 05494

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

<https://westfordvt.us/>

TOWN OFFICE NOTES

Property Tax Installment

The third property tax installment is due Monday March 16th. Payments will be considered timely if they are received by this date, have a March 16th postmark (postal, FedEx and UPS), or are in the drop box located to the left of the Town Office door before the office opens at 8:30 am on Tuesday March 17th.

Please note – If you pay your taxes using Bill Pay (generating a check online through your financial institution), please make sure you allow sufficient time for mailing. These envelopes do not bear a postmark therefore will be acknowledged by the date received at the town office not by the date on the check.

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 or your dog has passed away, 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 for intact dogs and \$11.00 if your dog is spayed or neutered. **Dog licenses obtained after April 1st are subject to a late fee.**

Important Dates - Town Meeting & Presidential Primary Election

- **March 2nd (Monday)** – 5pm deadline to request an absentee ballot for Town Meeting and the Presidential Primary. Please note: we are required to ask which ballot, Democrat or Republican, you want. When requesting an absentee ballot for the Presidential Primary, please indicate which ballot you would like.
- **March 2nd (Monday)** – 7pm, Town Meeting and public hearing for Australian ballot questions (including town budget), at the Westford School in the gym.
- **March 3rd (Tuesday)** – Voting day for Australian ballot articles. Polls will be open from 7am - 7pm at the Westford School in the library. The entrance to the library is located to the right of the main entrance.

If you have any questions regarding Town Meeting or the Presidential Primary, please call or email the town office.

Annual Essex-Westford School District (EWSD) Meeting

The annual meeting for EWSD will be held on April 13th with Australian ballot voting taking place on April 14th. The warning and sample ballot will be posted when available.

- **April 13th (Monday)** – 5pm deadline to request an absentee ballot
- **April 13th (Monday)** – Annual meeting and public hearing for Australian ballot questions at Essex High School.
- **April 14th (Tuesday)** – Voting day for Australian ballot articles. Polls will be open from 7am to 7pm in the Westford Library.

If you have any questions concerning the EWSD Annual Meeting, please call or email the Town Office.

(more Town Office Notes continued on next page)

Town Office Notes (con.)

Senior Luncheon

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY! Our next luncheon will be held on March 9th at the Red Brick Meeting House on the Common at 11:30. We didn't have as many people come previously as some months so I'm hoping for a bigger turnout for March 9th. Keeping with the tradition for St. Patrick's Day, it will be corned beef and cabbage.

If we do get a major snowstorm or it's extremely cold, we will cancel. We have everyone's telephone numbers and will give you a call that morning or the night before if we know that far ahead. Please put the date on your calendar and try to come. It will brighten your winter. Please spread the word to other 55+ residents that may not know about us. As always, we like to see new faces. Hope to see you there! **Carol Howrigan, President 878-3090**

Newsletter Deadline

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

Town Office Closings & Hours

The Town Office is Open Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm

- Closed Tuesday March 3rd for voting at the Westford School
- Closed Tuesday April 14th for voting at the Westford School



MUD SEASON!

What you need to know about early spring road conditions

- **Mud:** appears on gravel roads as snow thaws. Reduce your driving speeds to ensure safety and to preserve road conditions
- **Snow:** a mix of precipitation can occur. Snow on top of muddy roads will become more slippery
- **Potholes:** WILL appear on gravel roads. They cannot be fixed in freezing temperatures. Do your part to help reduce potholes by driving slowly and avoiding areas in poor condition if you can.
- **Heavy Loads:** do damage to thawing roads. Traveling roads with heavy equipment may be prohibited at any time.
- **Repairs:** roads are repaired as weather allows. Know that this takes time, it might take the road crew some time to get to your road. Highly traveled roads in poor condition are given priority.

Reminders:

- Watch for increased activity by wildlife including bears coming out of hibernation, wild turkey and young animals navigating roads for the first time.
- Pedestrian & recreational use of roads will increase starting at this time of the year.

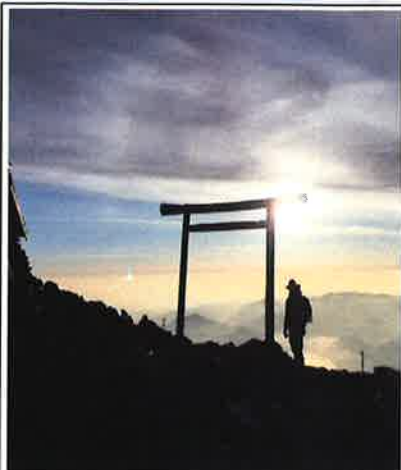
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<http://westfordpubliclibrary.org>

(802) 878-5639

westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com

1717 VERMONT ROUTE 128, WESTFORD VT 05494

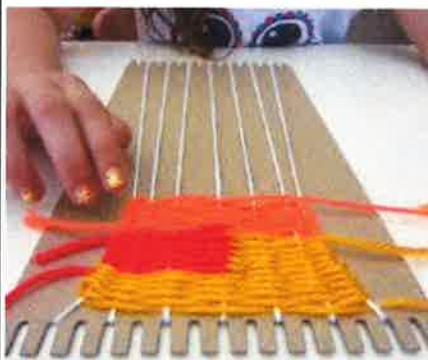


Travel Talk
Wednesday, March 18
7-8:30pm

Destination: Japan
Presenters: Jason and
Michaela Crooks

A two week tour really isn't long enough, but when our 21 year old son got accepted into a 2019 summer study abroad program, we couldn't let him go without us! Join us for a photographic tour of Tokyo, Mt Fuji, Koyasan, Nara, Kyoto, Magome, and Yunohama.

Celtic Coloring (1st grade & up)
Friday, March 13 afterschool-5pm
Kids can ride Bus #3 (w/note from home) to the library and enjoy detailed Celtic drawings to color, listen to Irish music and have some Irish goodies. Get ready for St. Patrick's Day by exploring a bit of Ireland!



Art with Janet is Back!
Friday, March 27
Afterschool - 5pm

Kids can take bus #3 with a note from home.

We will be weaving on a cardboard loom. This activity is for ages 7 and up. Space is limited - Sign up required.

Library Hours

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

Adult Book Group
March 25
7:00-8:00pm

Pick up your books
at the front desk!
The Lake House

by: Kate Morton

"Morton's moody, suspenseful latest is the perfect page-turner for a chilly night."



An intricately plotted, spellbinding new novel of heart stopping suspense and uncovered secrets.

One midsummer's eve, after a beautiful party drawing hundreds of guests to the estate has ended, the Edeyans discover that their youngest child, 11 month-old Theo, has vanished without a trace. What follows is a tragedy that tears the family apart in ways they never imagined.

Decades later, Alice Edeyans is living in London, having enjoyed a successful career as an author. Theo's case has never been solved, though Alice still harbors a suspicion as to the culprit. Miles away, Sadie Sparrow, a young detective in the London police force, is staying at her grandfather's house in Cornwall. While out walking one day, she stumbles upon the old estate—now crumbling and covered with vines, clearly abandoned long ago. Her curiosity is sparked, setting off a series of events that will bring her and Alice together and reveal shocking truths about a past long gone...yet more present than ever.

A lush, atmospheric tale of intertwined destinies, this latest novel from a masterful storyteller is an enthralling, satisfying read. (Amazon.com)

Early Literacy Storytime :Birth to Pre-School Every Thursday at 11:30am No registration required!

3/5/20: Theme: Owls

3/12/20: Theme: Green

3/19/20: Theme: Maple

3/26/20: Theme: Spring

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

March Library Events

- March 4 - Trustees Meeting 7-9pm
March 5 - Crazy 8's Math Club begins!
March 13 - Celtic Coloring afterschool - 5pm
March 14 - Census Saturday 10-Noon
March 18 - Travel Talk 7-8:30pm: Destination:
Japan Presented by Jason and Michaela
Crooks
March 20 - Stuffed Animal Sleepover - drop off
animals by 7pm
March 21 - Breakfast with your Animal after the
Stuffed Animal Sleepover, 9-10am. All
animals must be picked up by 2pm.
March 25 - Adult Book Group 7-8pm - discussing
The Lake House by Kate Morton
March 27 - Art with Janet - Weaving - sign up
required - afterschool-5pm
March 28 - Census Saturday 10-Noon
- Storytime every Thursday at 11:30am
Crazy 8's grades K-2 Thursdays 3-5pm
Fiber Arts Group meets Thursdays 6:30-8pm



Begins March 5 and runs through April 30
Thursdays: Grades K-2 (no class on 4/23)
Bus #3 from Westford School
Class ends 4:30pm, pick up as late as 5pm
This class is FULL, but there is a waitlist if
interested. Contact Bree for more info.

Stuffed Animal Sleepover and Breakfast with the Animals!

Sleepover: Drop off by 7pm March 20
Breakfast: March 21 from 9:00-10:00am

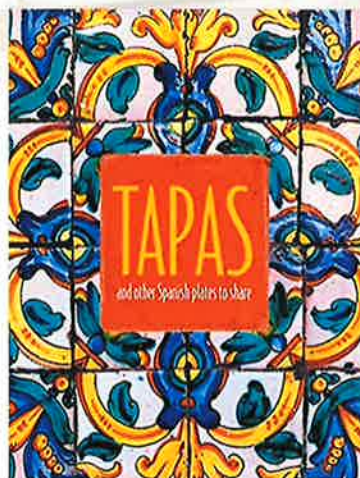
We're having a stuffed animal sleep over at the
Library! Drop off one of your furry friends
anytime the week of 3/18-3/20 and the animals
will have a fun sleepover at the Library the night
of March 20.

Bree will treat them to a good time and then you
can pick them up and have breakfast with your
animal at the Library! Breakfast will be from
9:00-10:00am - all animals should be picked up
on Saturday by 2pm.

Bree will have a slideshow ready of all the fun
things they did at the library that night. Will
they get into trouble? Be well behaved? We'll
have to see!



Have you been to CookBook Club yet?



Our next club will meet
Wednesday, April 8
from 7-8:30pm. We will
be cooking from
"Tapas and other
Spanish plates to
Share".
Bring an authentic taste of
Spain to your table with this
collection of more than 60
mouth-watering recipes for
small plates to share. Come
in to get a recipe, cook it
and bring it with you. The
library will take care of the
dishes!

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 for supporting our annual Fourth of July Book Sale.

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**The Westford Public Library is hosting Census Saturdays:
March 14, March 28 and April 4 from 10am to Noon
The library is here to help you navigate your online census
taking - from available computers, help reading forms, and
help filling out forms online. We'll also have coffee and
doughnuts!**



Every town is an important part of the American story.

Make sure your town's story is told by responding to the 2020 Census—the count of everyone living in the United States. When you do, you'll also help your town get the most out of the American dream.

Responding Is Important for Your Community

Census responses provide data that can attract new businesses and the jobs that come with them. The data also informs where over \$675 billion in federal funding is spent each year in states and communities. That includes money for things like:

- Medicare Part B
- Special education
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- Cooperative Extension Service
- Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant
- Water and waste disposal systems for rural communities

Responding Is Safe

Your personal information is kept confidential by law.

Responding Is Easy

To complete the census, answer a handful of questions online, by phone, or by mail. Choose the option that works best for you.

Every Person Counts

Whether it's funding in communities across your state or helping determine the number of seats your state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives—every count makes an equal impact.

For more information, visit:

2020CENSUS.GOV

D-OP-RU-EN-037

**Shape
your future
START HERE >**

**United States[®]
Census
2020**



Friday, April 3, 5-8pm
Westford Elementary School
\$7 per person / \$30 max per family

LIVE MUSIC • GREAT FOOD
RAFFLE PRIZES • LOTS OF FUN!

5-6pm: Senior Hour: \$1 off per person

5-6:30pm: Curbside Pickup - order online, get your meal to go!

ORDER HERE: westfordpto.myshopify.com

6-8pm: General Public Dinner Hours

DINNER INCLUDES: Drink, Salad, Bread,
Choice of Pasta/Lasagna/Meatballs & Dessert

All proceeds benefit the Westford 8th Grade class trip to Washington, D.C.



THIS MONTH IN MUSIC

WESTFORD MUSIC SERIES PRESENTS CHRISTINE MALCOM



Heartwarming Country Style

-free will donation-

**4-5 PM: WHITE CHURCH ON THE COMMON
SUNDAY: MARCH 15, 2020**

Winner of the Tammy Award for Best Country Record 2019

Singer songwriter Christine Malcom is described as a huge talent with a gorgeous voice. Her performance offers heartwarming country style music including songs from her album "Crickets, Coyotes and the Big Yellow Moon." Appealing to a wide audience and known as one of Vermont's treasures, Christine is ready to bring a quiet, peaceful atmosphere to your evening.

Concert open to the public.

Refreshments will be served. Call 802-879

WESTFORD MUSIC SERIES 2019-2020

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

- **March 15, 2020** – Christine Malcolm
- **April 5, 2020** - Patrick Fitzsimmons
- **May 3, 2020** – Paul Asbell



MARCH 2020 NEWSLETTER

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

WESTFORD RECREATION DEPARTEMENT

UPCOMING Events and Programs

March

3/3 CO ED Futsal \$50
Tuesdays, 730-830pm

3/04 Lacrosse Clinic \$25

April

4/11 Easter Egg Hunt on the Common free
10am sharp

Mini and Junior Milers

Registrations is open for Mini and Junior Milers.
Runvermont.org to register and more info.

Mini Milers/Juniors pratices Tuesdays starting
March 30th at 6/630pm.

Junior Milers may have an additonal practice on
Saturdays.



ONGOING EVENTS and NEWS

Congradulations to Vicotrious Secret (first place) and DAFC
fan club (second place) in the Annual Broomball Tournament.

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

2/26 Kids Paint and Sip
RBM house \$25

WESTFORD TOWN COMMON ICE RINK RULES

Do not go on ice if rink is closed. Quiet hours are 10pm-8am

No food or drink of any kind on ice

All activities are NON CONTACT

Enter the rink through the entrance door only

Helmets strongly encouraged

Voltage Summer Soccer Camps

This year two sessions will be offered.

June 22-26, 5pm-8pm, 6th-8th graders

July 13-17, 9am-12pm, 3rd-5th graders.

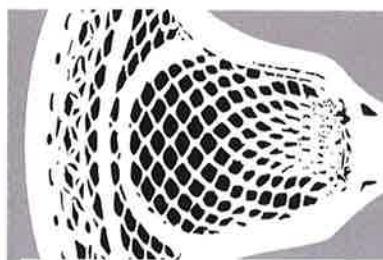
Registraiton Fee; \$125

LACROSSE REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Mid-April to Early June. Games on Saturday in May. In
the beginning of the season practice three times a week
until games begin for 3-8 teams.

See attached flyer for more information.

1/2 Tiny Cats \$35.00. 3/4 \$55.00. 5/6 \$75.00. 7/8 \$85.00



WESTFORD

LACROSSE

REGISTER BY February 28th, 2020

Tiny Cats K—2

3/4, 5/6 & 7/8 Coed

Mid April to Early June

Early April to Mid June

Thursdays 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Monday-Thursday Practices dependent on team.

Players need to have their own sticks. Westford Tiny Cats t-shirts are included in the registration fee. Registration \$35.00 per player.

5:30 - 7:00 PM Saturday Games

Games begin Saturdays in May. In the beginning of the season, we will practice three times a week until we start playing games in May.

We are hoping to play one or two jamborees against St. Albans and Milton. Players will need to have their



**We are open to any players wishing to join our team!
Same rate for all towns!**

Players will begin to build on skills and basic game play. In the beginning of the season, practices are three times a week until we start playing games in May. The team will play around ten games during the season. We are part of the Northern Vermont Youth Lacrosse League.

Players need their own sticks, padding and helmets. A limited number of helmets and pads are available from the Rec. Department use on a first come first served basis. Please put a note on the registration form if you need loaner equipment

Registration fees: 3/4 \$55.00 per player 5/6 \$75 per player 7/8 \$85 per player

Scholarships available. Please email recreation@westfordvt.us

Players will need to register with US Lacrosse also.

Previous season cost was an additional \$30.00

If you have questions about the game of lacrosse, or wish to speak to the coach

Contact Brent Carpenter at brent.carpenter29@gmail.com.

Tonya Calley, Recreation Department Coordinator: 802-324.7132 or recreation@westfordvt.us

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

LISTER VISITS

Property owners who received a building permit for this past year, or have one from a prior year, can expect a visit from the Listers. This inspection is separate from the Zoning Administrator.

We will schedule inspections on new homes and additions prior to coming.

Smaller projects, such as decks and sheds, will not be scheduled but we will leave a note that we were there.

Notices of Change of Appraisal will be sent in May.

If you have any questions, please contact us at lister@westfordvt.us.

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.)
- 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.

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 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 CONSERVATION COMMISSION

TRAIL USE:

Clarification on groomed trail use: snowshoers and walkers may use the groomed trails as Westford Elementary, but please try to avoid the cross-country ski tracks that have been set. Stay on the corduroy to the side.

LEARN TO CROSS-COUNTRY SKI

March 12th 3:30-5:00pm @ Westford Elementary School

Meet behind the school at the gazebo. BYO skis & gear and have a lesson with Dale Rodgers. Some equipment may be available, email westfordcc@googlegroups.com and we'll see if we can match you up with what we have.

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!



PLANNING COMMISSION NEWS

Several posts have appeared recently on Front Porch Forum regarding the Town's efforts to develop a community wastewater system to serve the Town Center and assist economic development in and around the Town Common. The Westford Planning Commission has been working for over 10 years on a community wastewater solution for existing and future structures in our Town Center. The steps we have taken and the estimated total project construction costs can be found on the Town's website at: <https://westfordvt.us/documents/reports-studies/>.

We are now at the point where we are completing our preliminary engineering to become eligible for grant funding, we are advocating for Westford at the state and federal level and we are investigating multiple funding sources to pay for construction. Our goal is to find as much outside funding as possible in order to lower (or possibly eliminate) the amount that would need to be raised at the municipal level. We already have a very good chance of obtaining 100% of the final design and permitting costs and 50% of the construction costs through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. We continue to seek other funding sources, as well. Please understand that we are in the early days of this stage of the project and voter approval will be required in order to construct a community wastewater system to serve the Town Center. Prior to any vote, we will be providing voters with more information about the specifics of the proposal and there will be public hearings and meetings where residents can ask questions and obtain information in order to make an informed decision.

The Town is also investigating how and to what extent it might be able to spark economic development in the Town Center which can help pay for construction and reduce user fees of the community wastewater system. It is also investigating how to provide additional space and resources for our Town Office that is rapidly outgrowing its current space. As some of you may know the Planning Commission established a subcommittee to investigate how the Town might become involved with the 1705 VT Route 128 Property in the hope that the property might spark economic revitalization in our Town, provide diverse housing options and potentially provide the Town with the opportunity to build a new municipal office and additional local services. Like the community wastewater system, the Planning Commission will be seeking funding from outside sources for costs involved with this property and will be providing more information to the voters as that information develops and becomes available.

The Town has been working with the 1705 Route 128 property owner to complete a Brownfield Program - Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment and is currently working to conduct a Brownfield Program - Phase 2 Environmental Site Assessment. The Phase 2 Environmental Site Assessment will determine whether any site remediation is required due to the property's historic use as a gas station and transportation facility. This study will be completed by the spring of this year. The full cost of these assessments has been paid for through the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission's Brownfield Program. The results of the assessment will determine if and how the Town might be able to work with the property owner as the Town can access resources for remediation that are not available to private parties.

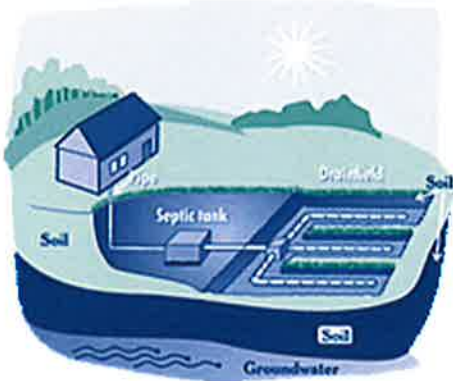
Since 2007 the Planning Commission has pursued wastewater solutions and associated economic development initiatives in our Town Center area using grants and other state programs in order to provide essential community improvements at minimum cost to taxpayers.

One of the best places to find current information about the Town's efforts to develop community wastewater and spark economic development is the Town's website. As information becomes available (and a path forward becomes clearer) the website will be updated with the latest information. Residents can also contact the Town's Planning Coordinator, Melissa Manka, with any questions or attend a Planning Commission meeting, all of which are open to the public.

Thank you.

Westford Planning Commission

What is a septic system?



Septic systems are wastewater treatment systems that collect, treat, and disperse wastewater generated by a home or business. The wastewater is treated and discharged to the soils rather than collected and transported to a wastewater treatment plant. The typical septic system consists of a septic tank and some kind of leachfield to disperse the wastewater into the ground.

The first point of treatment of a septic system is the SEPTIC TANK that is a buried, watertight container usually made of concrete, fiberglass or polyethylene. Its job is to hold the wastewater long enough for solids to settle to the bottom (forming sludge) and for the oil and grease to float to the top (as scum). The tank should have an EFFLUENT FILTER at the outlet to keep solids

from leaving the tank and clogging the leachfield.

Many systems include a DISTRIBUTION BOX that splits the flows from the septic tank into multiple leach lines in the dispersal system.

The dispersal system or LEACHFIELD can be completely below the natural grade and consist of an absorption bed or trenches, be placed at-grade, or be a mound. Further treatment of the wastewater occurs as it flows into and through the soils.

If the leachfield is uphill of the septic tank, or if an at-grade or mound system is constructed, there typically will be a PUMP TANK to dose or pressurize the dispersal system.

There may be an advanced treatment system included with your system. They are called [INNOVATIVE/ALTERNATIVE \(I/A\) systems](#) and typically follow or replace the septic tank. These systems can treat the wastewater that allows for a smaller leachfield and reduced separations to groundwater tables and bedrock.

How Should You Maintain Your Septic System?

All of the components of a septic system should be maintained on a regular basis. Septic tanks should be checked and pumped when the solids or scum reach a certain volume of the tank. Septic tank effluent filters should be checked and cleaned on a regular basis (either once or twice a year for most households and filters). Distribution boxes should be checked and adjusted to maintain equal distribution. Pump tanks should be checked for solids build-up and control panel operation (including checking the alarm). I/A systems typically require that a Maintenance Contract be in place between the homeowner and service provider. Depending on the I/A system, specific maintenance activities must be completed by the service provider.

How Should You Operate Your System?

- Use water efficiently – All of the water a household sends down its pipes winds up in its septic system. This means that the more water a household conserves, the less water enters the system. Efficient water use can improve the operation of a septic system and reduce the risk of failure.
 - High-efficiency toilets – high efficiency toilets use 1.28 gallons of water or less per flush. Replace older models as a quick way to reduce flows.
 - Faucet aerators and high-efficiency showerheads – these both reduce the amount of water flowing through the piping thus reducing flows.
 - Washing machines – Select the proper load size, run only full loads of laundry, stagger loads over the week
 - Consider purchasing [ENERGY STAR](#) appliances or [WaterSense](#) labeled fixtures.

- Take care at the drain – Toilets and kitchen sinks aren't trash cans!
 - Toilets - An easy rule of thumb is don't flush anything besides human waste and toilet paper. Never flush - feminine hygiene products, diapers, cigarette butts, coffee grounds, cat litter, household chemicals, pharmaceuticals.
 - Sinks – Avoid chemical drain openers for clogged drains. Instead use boiling water or a drain snake. Never pour paints (including Latex), solvents, or large volumes of toxic cleaners down the drain. Eliminate or limit the use of a garbage disposal, which will significantly reduce the amount of solids entering the tank.
- Maintain your leachfield – Here are a few things you should do:
 - Never park or drive on your leachfield.
 - Plant trees the appropriate distance from your leachfield to keep roots from growing into your septic system
 - Keep roof drains, sump pumps, and other rainwater drainage systems away from your leachfield.

Failure Symptoms and Causes

- Failure Symptoms - Call a septic professional if you notice any of the following:
 - Wastewater backing up into household drains.
 - Bright green, spongy grass on the leachfield, even during dry weather.
 - Pooling water or muddy soil around your septic system or in your basement.
 - A strong odor around the septic tank and leachfield. (Sometimes odors can be detected from the plumbing vents. This may be a nuisance, but not always a sign of a malfunctioning system.)
- Failure Causes – Septic system failures may be caused by a number of activities including: pouring chemicals down sinks or toilets; excessive water use; failure to provide proper maintenance; emptying into the system hot tubs and spas; use of garbage disposals; and improper design or installation of the system. The leachfield may clog over time, so it may also be at the end of its useful life.

If you would like more information or a copy of your septic system plans please contact Melissa Manka, Planning Coordinator, or Kate Lalley, Administrative Officer, at the Town Office (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 the information provided, print a paper copy for your refrigerator, sign up for Vermont Emergency Management alerts and take necessary steps to be prepared.



Bring Us Your Food (Truck)!

With the warm weather around the corner, we would like to remind everyone that food vendors are WELCOME in the common area. For more information visit:

<https://westfordvt.us/documents/ordinances-policies/>



The Wonderful World of Maps!

Westford Map Viewer is a planning tool used by property owners and the town to guide decision-making. This map identifies property tax map lines, parcel ids, zoning districts, topography, septic suitability, floodplains, waterways, and significant natural resources throughout town. Users can measure, mark-up, query map features, and print PDF maps.

<http://map.ccrpcvt.org/westfordmapviewer/>

ANR Atlas provides geographic information about environmental features and sites that the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources manages, monitors, permits, or regulates. In addition to standard map navigation tools, this site allows you to link from sites to documents where available, generate reports, export search results, import data, search, measure, mark-up, query map features, and print PDF maps.

<https://anrmaps.vermont.gov/websites/anra5/>

BioFinder is a database and mapping tool for identifying Vermont's lands and waters that support important ecosystems, natural communities, habitats, and species. It features [Vermont Conservation Design](#) and was developed by the Agency of Natural Resources and partners to support stewardship and conservation. BioFinder highlights networks of forests, streams and other features that together create the heart and backbone of Vermont's landscape.

<http://anrmaps.vermont.gov/websites/BioFinder/>



State of Vermont

Village Center & Neighborhood Development Area Designation

Back in 2010, the Town of Westford received Village Center Designation. This program provides significant tax credits for the restoration of historic structures for multifamily and/or commercial use. For more information on this program and its benefits visit: <https://westfordvt.us/designated-village-center-tax-credits-for-rentalcommercial-properties/>

On April 22, 2019, the Town of Westford received Neighborhood Development Area Designation for a portion of the village. This program provides state permitting, land gains tax and appeal benefits to developers and grants the town priority when competing for grants. For more information on this program and its benefits visit: <https://westfordvt.us/designated-neighborhood-development-area-state-permitting-land-gains-tax-court-appeal-benefits/>

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's Future

In the Fall of 2019, the Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) conducted a Community Visit. The result of which was the Westford's Future Report and three citizen task forces.

The Westford's Future Report (<https://westfordvt.us/westfords-future/>) includes the input and thinking each step of the way as community members chose priorities for action and the work plan that each newly created citizen task force built at their first meeting. The report is also a wonderful compilation of assets and ideas from a large number of residents. Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) hopes it will be a useful tool to the task forces as they continue their work and serve as a rallying point for other initiatives that will drive community and economic revitalization over time.

VCRD has stepped back as the community begins the exciting process of turning the ideas into action. Local task force chairs are good contacts for information about getting involved and/or updates. Task force chairs can be reached by email.

- **Improve Traffic Safety, Walk-ability, and Bike-ability Task Force** – Pat Haller (phaller@veic.org)
- **Boost Local Business and Economic Development and Improve Broadband and Cell Connectivity Task Force** – Mark Drapa (markdrapa@yahoo.com)
- **Advance the Arts, Community Events, and Communications Task Force** – Eric Ford (efordvt@gmail.com), Julia Andrews (Julia.andrews@westfordvt.us), Tara Pereira (sweetssciencevt@gmail.com)

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 visit:

<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.