



# WESTFORD NEWSLETTER

*April 2020*



Keep an eye out for the **Painted Trillium** (shown left), an easily identifiable wildflower that blooms April – June.

## Westford Town Office

1713 Vermont Route 128 - Westford, Vermont 05494

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

<https://westfordvt.us/>

## TOWN OFFICE NOTES

### EWSD Annual Meeting/Budget Vote Postponed

Please be informed that the Essex Westford School District Annual Meeting (scheduled for April 13, 2020) and District budget vote (scheduled for April 14, 2020) have been postponed for the time being due to the effects of COVID-19 and guidance from Governor Scott's "stay home, stay safe" order.

Once new dates for each have been established, we will communicate that with our communities.

If you have any questions about the proposed EWSD budget, please visit: [www.ewsd.org/budget](http://www.ewsd.org/budget)

You can also view all communications from the EWSD to families concerning COVID-19 by visiting: [www.ewsd.org/covid](http://www.ewsd.org/covid)

### Dog Licenses

Dog Licenses are due April 1<sup>st</sup>. A current rabies certificate is required. If you are unsure if the current certificate is on file, please call the Town Office. **If you no longer have your dog, please let us know!** Due to COVID-19, the town office is closed to the public. Please may mail or drop off (slot located to the left of the town office front door) the fee and rabies certificate along with a self-addressed stamped envelope and your license will be mailed to you. The fee is \$13.00 unless your dog is spayed or neutered then the fee is \$11.00. Please note, the late fee normally assessed after April 1<sup>st</sup> has been extended to May 1<sup>st</sup>. This is due to the cancellation of rabies clinics and difficulty accessing veterinarian offices due to COVID-19. This is subject to change.

### Spring Yard Clean Up

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

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

### Senior Luncheon

Due to the Corona Virus outbreak, we are cancelling the April and May Luncheons. If things get better, we will try to have the June picnic. I sincerely hope the worst will be over by that time, but we will just have to wait until the date is closer to move ahead.

If you have questions, please call me at 878-3090. I hope you are all healthy and we have a list of volunteers that will run errands for you. Please don't hesitate to call. We are waiting to hear from you and will be thankful we can do this for you. What a wonderful community we live in. *Carol Howrigan, President*

### Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the May Newsletter is 12:00 noon on Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup>.

## IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 (Coronavirus) PANDEMIC

### THE WESTFORD TOWN OFFICE IS BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

The Town Office staff will be available Monday-Friday 8:30am-4:30pm to assist you. We are prepared to do as much business as possible over the phone, email, and snail mail as possible.

To reach the Westford Town staff call **(802) 878-4587** or email [townclerk@westfordvt.us](mailto:townclerk@westfordvt.us)

- **The following Town business can be done via mail:** tax payments, dog licenses, single document requests, land postings, Green Mountain Passports etc. Please call or email with specific details.
- Payments can be dropped at the drop box to the left of the Town Office entrance door, mailed in or paid online. If you have a question about a payment, please call and we will be happy to assist.
- Dog Licenses will be issued through May 1<sup>st</sup> without a late penalty assessed.
- For Board and Committee Meetings, please contact the Chair of that group for the status of upcoming meetings.

*If you have any questions, please give us a call*

**We apologize for the inconvenience this may cause, but we are attempting to be proactive for your sake and ours! Be safe and take care of each other!**

*We recommend you follow the CDC and US/VT Department of Health Hand Washing and Social Distancing Recommendations.*

**CDC COVID-19 Information:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

**2-1-1 COVID-19 Information:** <http://www.211.org/services/covid19>

## Vermont Department of Taxes Issues 2020 Tax Season Guidance in Response to COVID-19 Emergency

The Vermont Department of Taxes continues to carefully monitor the evolving situation related to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The Department is working closely with the office of Governor Phil Scott and the Vermont legislature, following changes at the federal level, and adhering to guidance from the Vermont Department Health. Please see the Department's information on relief for Vermont taxpayers at [tax.vermont.gov/coronavirus](https://tax.vermont.gov/coronavirus). You should check this link periodically as the guidance may change. You may also follow the Vermont Department of Taxes on Facebook and Twitter.

## VERMONT INCOME TAX FORMS

Ways to get your Vermont Income Tax forms from the Vermont Department of Taxes

1. Download, complete and print fillable PDF forms from the web: [www.bit.ly/vttaxforms](https://www.bit.ly/vttaxforms)
2. Order forms by email: <https://tax.vermont.gov/form-request>
3. Order forms by phone: call toll-free in the U.S. at (855) 297-5600

## ROADSIDE BRUSH CUTTING

The road crew will be cutting roadside brush within the town right of way over the next couple of weeks. Many roads are in dire need as this particular job takes a lot of staff time and effort and has been neglected for a very long time. While we're in the midst of the work, it will be very noticeable and even unsightly for a short period of time until the new spring growth comes in. We'll be doing our best to chip the larger brush and keep everything safely out of the road way as we work.

This roadside brush cutting is necessary to open up the roads to allow them to dry quicker. It also opens up the ditches so the water can flow and cuts down on the amount of trees that hang low in a heavy snowstorm. We plan to keep up with it in the future so the mess will be minimized (and it will take less road crew time in future years). We appreciate your patience and understanding!

The brush cutting we're doing now is separate from the roadside mowing we do in the warmer months. This year, we'll have an outside contractor mow the sides of roads twice (instead of the usual one time) to ensure better sight lines at intersections and better management of wild parsnip.



## 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.



## A NOTE FROM THE LISTERS:

Although the VT Income Tax filing deadline has been extended to July 15<sup>th</sup>, we encourage homeowners to please file their HS122, Homestead Declaration Form no later than June 15<sup>th</sup>. This ensures that your property tax bill will reflect the residential rate. Homestead Declarations filed after June 15<sup>th</sup> will require the Town to mail revised tax bills for those properties. Revised tax bills can cause confusion for taxpayers and escrow companies, as well as adding extra work to town staff for processing.

You can file your Homestead Declaration form online at: <https://myvtax.vermont.gov/>.

## 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](mailto:lister@westfordvt.us).

## 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](mailto:dalbrecht@ccrpcvt.org) or 846-4490.

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

# WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

<http://westfordpubliclibrary.org>

(802) 878-5639

[westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com](mailto:westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com)

1717 VERMONT ROUTE 128, WESTFORD VT 05494



During our closure due to COVID-19, the building may be closed, but you have access to a wealth of resources. There is a comprehensive and up to date list on our website.

Our WiFi is available 24/7 from our parking lot.

How long will we be closed? We don't know. During these trying times, please find some comfort in books and each other. Be well, Bree



The Welcome Baby Tea, usually scheduled for early May, will have to wait. For the safety and health of our littlest patrons, we will be postponing this year's event and combining it with next year's tea. Two times the fun!

Have extra time on your hands? Fill out your Census!

**BECAUSE LIBRARIANS  
BELIEVE THAT  
EVERYONE COUNTS.**

LIBRARIES  
TRANSFORM<sup>™</sup>  
#LibrariesTransform

LIBRARIES TRANSFORM<sup>™</sup>

Go to  
[my2020census.gov](http://my2020census.gov)

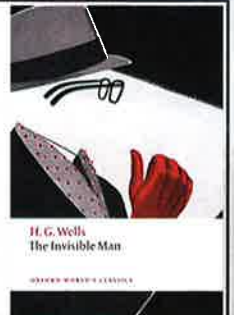
The census helps  
our community,  
including the  
library, to be  
properly federally  
funded.  
It takes 10 minutes!

## Library Hours

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

The library will remain closed indefinitely. See website for updates.

**Virtual  
Adult Book Group  
April 15  
7:00-8:00pm  
The Invisible Man  
by: H. G. Wells  
Book group will be  
held digitally via  
google hangouts.**



How do I get a book?

This title is available as an eBook or audiobook from Project Gutenberg ([www.gutenberg.org](http://www.gutenberg.org)) or as an eBook in Libby. See the resources page on our website for more information. If you would like a physical book, we have one copy—contact Bree at the library.

In this pioneering novella, subtitled 'A Grotesque Romance', Wells combines comedy, both farcical and satirical, and tragedy - to superbly unsettling effect. Since its publication in 1897, *The Invisible Man* has haunted not only popular culture (in particular cinema) but also the greatest and most experimental novels of the twentieth century. (from Amazon.com)

Invites to the virtual group will be sent a week before the meeting, contact Bree if you wish to join.

## Virtual Early Literacy Storytime: Kids of all ages!

New Storytime released every Thursday during our closure.

Story times can be found on our Facebook page, links on Front Porch Forum or archived on our website under the Storytime Tab

Ms. Bree misses all her Storytime friends!



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.

## APRIL 2020 NEWSLETTER

Please contact Tonya Calley with any question at [recreation@westfordvt.us](mailto:recreation@westfordvt.us) or 802.324.7132

### WESTFORD RECREATION DEPARTEMENT

#### UPCOMING Events and Programs

 April

All recreation programs are canceled until further notice. Any programs that you may have already sent registrations for that have been canceled will be fully refunded.

The Recreation Board has an open seat. This is a volunteer position. If you are interested in helping to shape the communities recreation programs please email Tonya for more information at [recreation@westfordvt.us](mailto:recreation@westfordvt.us)



#### Recreation suggestions with social distancing

Utilize town trails. Hike, ride bikes, go for walks, take a run, practice yoga. Play baseball, lacrosse, soccer or whatever you love. Get a jump on your gardens. Hunt for lizards and frogs, go fishing. Try a new recipe with the kids.

Take time to enjoy the beauty that surrounds us.

Stay healthy, safe and enjoy this time with family.

<https://cookingwithkids.org/recipes/>

<https://westfordconservationtrust.org/trails/>

#### Voltage Summer Soccer Camps

This year two sessions will be offered.

June 22-26, 5pm-8pm, 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders

July 13-17, 9am-12pm, 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders.

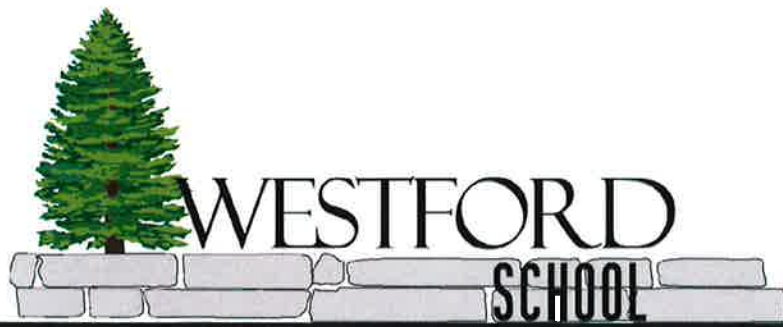
Registration Fee; \$125

#### SPRING LACROSSE

\*\*\*The Lacrosse season is currently PENDING due to Covid19 restrictions

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.

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



## WESTFORD SCHOOL NEWS

Dear Westford Families,

It is most difficult to submit a typical newsletter during an unprecedented school closure and knowing the difficulties that we all face during a pandemic. First and foremost, I hope you are safe and well and remain so for the duration.

I know that so many of us are also balancing new expectations for work, home, and how we move in our community and interact with others. A balanced life is often a challenge under the best of circumstances, so I am recommending to students, families, teachers, and community members to go easy on yourself and take a break from those things that bring you stress so you can take care of yourselves and those you love.

My commitment as your principal to our kids has never been stronger. You can count on me and our staff to redesign distance learning and to solicit your feedback so we can continue to get this right. You can also expect that we will continue to redefine our priorities as new information and data are made available.

Sincerely and with great gratitude,  
**Marcie Lewis**

### Priorities at this time:

1. Health and Safety
  - a. Creating a meal delivery plan that feeds children and protects the community
  - b. Establishing Childcare for healthcare workers and other Vermonters essential to the COVID-19 response
  - c. Maintaining a safe school and properly handling and distributing materials
2. Creating meaningful learning plans through April 6 and the allocation of resources
3. Preparing for delivering new learning should school dismissal extend beyond April 10

### Health & Safety

#### **Essential Worker Childcare**

The Essex Westford School District is providing childcare for healthcare workers and other Vermonters essential to the COVID-19 response. For these select families, there will be no cost for this care. This service is in response to our current crisis and is not open to the general public. If one or more of your child's primary guardians meet the criteria of these definitions, care may be available to your family. [Please fill out this request for registration survey to determine eligibility.](https://forms.gle/DUG39ZNA9jQWbUG6) <https://forms.gle/DUG39ZNA9jQWbUG6>

An EJP staff member will contact you to confirm. If you can not complete an online registration form you may contact EJP directly at 735-6701 for assistance.

#### **Social Distancing**

It is imperative that we practice and model social distancing for our students.

- **Health News from NPR**
- <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/03/17/817251610/its-time-to-get-serious-about-social-distancing-here-s-how>

## Cleaning & Handwashing

Note that the playground is closed as we can't disinfect it.

### CDC Recommendation for cleaning and disinfecting surfaces

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/cleaning-disinfection.html>

Help keep our community safe by washing your hands. It sounds simple, but you need to follow the CDC guideline to get the full benefit.

- CDC Recommendations for when and how to wash hands
- <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html>

## Meals

Food Services will be preparing bagged meals (breakfast and lunch) out of the production kitchen at Essex High School, where our professional staff will prepare meals in a safe and sanitary environment. To exercise the recommended social distancing, we will provide meals initially using a drive-thru pick-up style of service.

Meals are free to all children ages 18 and under, no application or prior approval is needed. This meal service began Thursday, March 19. Menus will follow our basic 'summer meals' offerings and will soon include vegetarian and gluten-free options, please check our website for updates.

The current plan is to serve meals Monday through Friday, rain or shine, at the below pick-up locations. Families may pick up at any location. Students do not need to be present at pick up, and if transportation is a challenge, families may pick up more than one day at a time or pick up for other families.

- Maple Street Park, 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m.
- Essex Elementary School, 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.
- Westford School, 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

## Communication

For more information and the latest updates from the District around COVID-19, please visit: [www.ewsd.org/covid](http://www.ewsd.org/covid)

### Westford Family Information

The Westford School March 18 Letter to Middle School Families found at [https://docs.google.com/document/d/14\\_bDk7RRyeYROgDNBE5gBhka814HCruQokyivPEpDvY/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/14_bDk7RRyeYROgDNBE5gBhka814HCruQokyivPEpDvY/edit?usp=sharing) provides information about the first two weeks of school closure. Additionally, classroom teachers have communicated with families to gather information about their needs at this time including the plan for picking up materials on Monday, March 23rd.

Families can expect regular communication from EWSD, Westford School, and teachers.

## Learning Plans

Teachers are sharing Maintenance of Learning Plans that contain learning activities through April 10. Please reach out directly to your child's homeroom teacher or case manager with any questions about the materials or learning activities. Activities do not include new learning at this time and are designed to support core academics, health, and the arts.

Beginning on April 13, teachers will provide distance learning that is focused on a continuation of learning. This means that the expectation will be that learning continues with new activities and material, and will no longer be the maintenance of previously learned ideas. In many ways, Westford School teachers are already meeting these standards. Please continue to provide feedback directly to your child's teacher and through the surveys we are sending so that we can adjust our planning.

### Public Service Announcement

Parents: What we are being asked to do is not humanly possible. There is a reason we are either a working parent, a stay-at-home parent, or a part-time working parent.

Working, parenting, and teaching are three different jobs that cannot be done at the same time.

It's not hard because you are doing it wrong. It's hard because it's too much. Do the best you can.

When you have to pick, because at some point you will, choose connection. Pick playing a game over arguing about an academic assignment. Pick teaching your child to do laundry rather than feeling frustrated that they aren't helping. Pick laughing, and snuggling, and reminding them that they are safe.

If you are stressed, lower your expectations where you can and virtually reach out for social connection. We are in this together to stay well. That means mentally well, too.

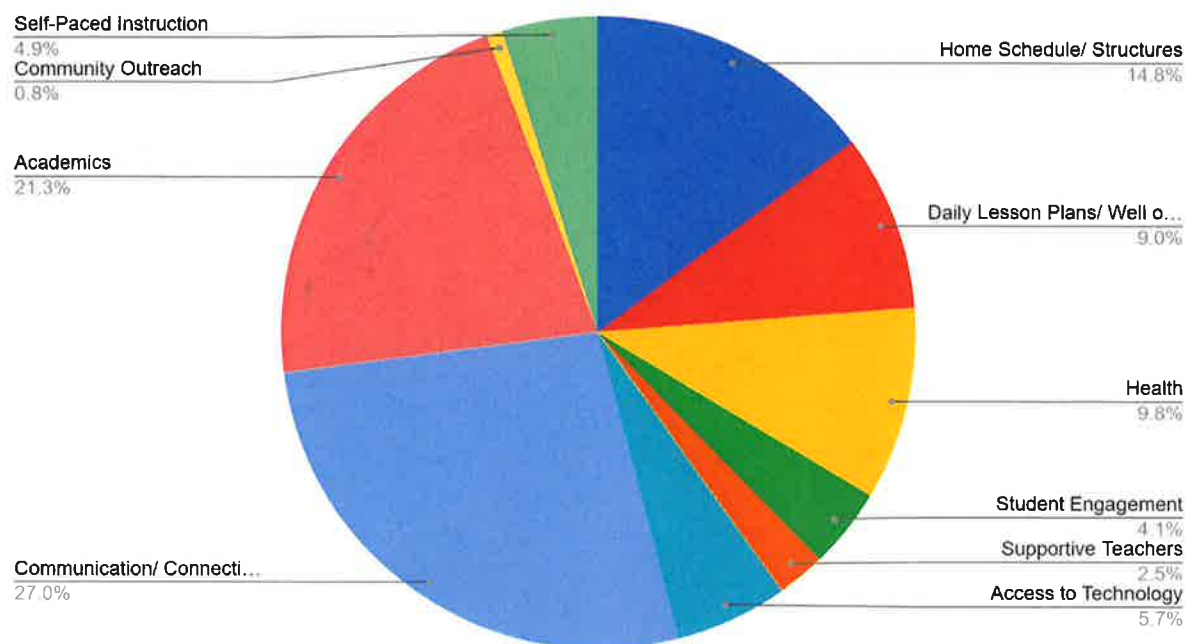
Emily W. King, Ph.D.

### Student & Family Supports

- Teachers have communicated their office hours with students and families. They are also available via email outside of office hours. This includes academic support, building community, providing distance learning social opportunities, taking feedback on the quantity of learning activities and other student and family needs.
- Our student support team, including our school counselor, is available during typical school hours as well and is frequently communicating with students about their emotional wellbeing.

- We are taking feedback directly and via surveys. For example, we know that some things, even under these circumstances, are going well for families.

### What has gone well for your family and child (or children)?



### Internet Access

Families are now able to access the school's public internet in the parking lot to support those with unreliable home access. You are welcome at any time. The password is wifi@EWSD

We ask only that you follow the CDC's recommendations for social distancing, currently maintaining 6 feet from others.

### Materials & Physical Resources

We designed a schedule and process for families to pick up learning materials that met the CDC social distancing guidelines. We deployed Chromebooks beyond middle school to all students who need this tool for the learning activities designed by their teachers. We were able to do this because many of our middle school students did not need their Chromebooks because they have access to a computer in their home. Thank you to parents for picking up these materials.

We are currently determining how to address material needs for Phase 2, safely and based on health recommendations. Stay tuned....

### Zoom video conferencing

- Teachers are using Zoom video conferencing to collaborate and many will use this tool to communicate with students and to hold meetings with parents when appropriate. I recommend checking it out.

### Assessment

Trimester 2 progress reports will be sent electronically to middle school families on April 3rd and will reflect student progress prior to the dismissal of school.

### Spring assessments are canceled

The Agency of Education announced the waiver for SBAC testing was approved. Thus, spring assessments will not occur. This includes local literacy and math assessments Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium - SBAC; Vermont Science Assessment; and Fitness Assessment.

## All School Programs & Activities Are Postponed

All activities, events, and in-person meetings are canceled. This includes, but is not limited to, the Parent Conferences, Spring Conference, Italian Dinner, Science Fair, Very Merry Production, Green Up Day. Please note the playground is closed.

Teachers & staff have not had access to the school building. It is unlikely that nonessential items will be available to families in the near future. That means your favorite hoodie will remain safely in your locker for some time.

## SCHOOL BOARD NOTES

The Essex Westford School District Board meet every Tuesday during the month of January and most of February to complete its work on a proposed budget for FY21. Unlike most other school districts in Vermont, our budget vote traditionally takes place in April. Most districts in Vermont passed their school budgets on Town Meeting Day prior to the pandemic taking off in Vermont. Our district still hasn't voted.

At our meeting on March 24th, the board decided to cancel its Annual Meeting and next day Australian ballot vote on the budget. By law, we cannot reschedule until the day after the meeting was supposed to have taken place. In our case that was April 13th. The board will meet on April 14th to set a new date. We have been working with the Village of Essex Junction because they also will cancel their Annual Meeting and Australian ballot voting scheduled for earlier in April. Our plan at the moment is to reschedule the Annual Meeting and Budget Information session to May 18th and schedule the Australian ballot voting for May 19th. We know we will have to remain flexible due to the many unknowns associated with the spread of coronavirus. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we navigate these uncharted waters.

In the meantime, if you wish to learn more about the proposed budget and to read the Annual Report, please visit the district's webpage at [ewsd.org](http://ewsd.org). We will provide more information about the budget in the May newsletter (assuming the vote is still planned for May). And please don't hesitate to contact us if you have questions.

We want to take this opportunity to commend the school district for its response during these unsettling times. Beth Cobb, our superintendent, and Brian Donahue, our chief operating officer, have provided outstanding leadership. We particularly appreciate the frequent communication that has been provided and the creative and swift solutions to the many challenges that have been put before them. We also owe a debt of gratitude to our administrators, teachers and staff who have been called on to provide for our students in ways no one could have predicted. We appreciate all that they are doing.

The board is meeting via video conferencing and our meetings are being live streamed on Facebook by RETN. As you can imagine a large portion of our agendas are devoted to updates on how learning and other needs are being addressed during the COVID-19 epidemic. The public is welcome to join our video conferences or to watch the meetings online either through the live feed or by accessing the link to the tape on our website.

Please let us know if you have questions or comments about the budget or about how the district is responding to CoViD-19. We always appreciate hearing from you.

**Martha Heath and Andre Roy**

*Westford's members of the EWSD Board*



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

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### **EVENTS & CLASSES:**

#### **Westford Music Series Cancelled for the Season**

The Music Series has cancelled the final two months of concerns due to the concerns for the public health and safety of our community.

#### **May Day Festival Postponed**

The May Day Festival previously scheduled for May 2, 2020 will be postponed until a later date when it is safe to meet in public. The Festival Committee thanks all involved for the hard work that has gone into planning the event and assures all that the efforts are just on hold until a new date can be scheduled. Watch this newsletter, the Westford Community Events Facebook Page, and Front Porch Forum for more news and a new date.

#### **Yoga Classes Canceled**

Yoga classes at the WCC, both by Lori Johnson and Erin Menut, are on hold until further notice. Erin Menut is hosting an Online Gentle Yoga Class Tuesday mornings at 10:30am. Contact her at: [Erinmenut@gmail.com](mailto:Erinmenut@gmail.com)

#### **Music Series Concert**

***Allison and Cameron Steinmetz: Valentine Love Songs. Sunday February 9<sup>th</sup> 4:00pm – 5:00pm***

Newlyweds Cameron and Allison Steinmetz employ their vocal artistry as they bring their repertoire of Valentine love songs to the February Westford Music Series. Cameron, a tenor, is a member of Vermont's most prestigious opera companies and choruses throughout the state. Allison has been described as "feisty and funny" onstage with "brilliant nuances and a lyrically expressive soprano voice". Accompanying on piano will be Alison Bruce Cerutti. Free will donation. Refreshments following the concert.

**For more information call 802-879-4028**

### **FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

#### **Seeking New Board Members**

The White Church on the Common is seeking a well-connected, energetic person who is passionate about the WCC vision and mission to join the Board of Directors. The vision is to be a landmark assembly space in Westford committed to growing community spirit and a mission to offer a gathering space for diverse communities to connect, share and celebrate will be the guide as we move forward.

We are a community project and this person would be one who can leverage their networks and resources in support of the efforts to realize the vision. The ideal board candidate would be willing to prepare for board meetings, bring ideas for the board to consider, be eager to participate at every meeting, serve on committees

and help with grant writing and the Capital Campaign. The candidate would be willing to express their own ideas and opinions and would listen and add to other board member's opinions.

If you are interested in putting your name in nomination for this position, please send a brief message with a description of your interest and abilities to: The Board of Directors, White Church on the Common, [whitechurchonthecommon@gmail.com](mailto:whitechurchonthecommon@gmail.com)

### **Internet and Cell Service**

The Board is working on bringing internet to the White Church on the Common and investigating the possibility of installing a cellular tower. Thank you to Mark Drapa for meeting with us and helping us with this effort.

### **Progress on the Church Transition**

The Board continues to work on the legal transfer of the assets of the United Church of Westford (UCW) to the newly formed White Church on the Common (WCC). We are also in the process of launching a much needed Capital Campaign.

Furniture and other items in the Sanctuary have been removed. The needlework piece will be transferred to the relatives of the Bixby family. The organs and the large piano have been removed. The former organist for the UCW has agreed to take them as he is interested in restoring them. Some of the older hymnals have names of Westford families in them. If relatives are interested in taking these hymnals, please contact us. Building updates and maintenance continues with planned work on exterior outlets and lighting. The handicap accessible ramp is to be paved when the weather permits. Agreement is that we should keep the two side chairs. Consensus is that the large center chair can go. Contact us if you are interested:

[whitechurchonthecommon@gmail.com](mailto:whitechurchonthecommon@gmail.com)

**Best wishes to all to stay healthy during this challenging time.  
#StayHome It could save lives!**

*Thank you!*

*Mission: To offer a gathering space for diverse communities to connect, share and celebrate.  
Vision: To be a landmark assembly space in Westford committed to growing community spirit.*

**P.O. Box 53, 21 Brookside Road Westford, VT 05494  
[whitechurchonthecommon@gmail.com](mailto:whitechurchonthecommon@gmail.com)**

## 2020 Census -SHAPE YOUR FUTURE.

It starts with each of us doing our part. And how we do this is by completing the 2020 Census questionnaire. You can complete it online or by phone. It is easy, safe and takes around 10 minutes to complete.

Completing the questionnaire allows you to influence the amount of money that comes to Vermont for many of our essential programs...programs that benefit our health and safety, that pay for our roads, for local government, for schools, for hospitals, and for so much more...

All households should receive an invitation with a 12 digit Census ID to go online and complete the questionnaire. But, you can complete the questionnaire at any time without the census ID by going to the official Census website, [my2020Census.gov](https://my2020Census.gov). When you get there you will see a link: "If you don't have a Census ID, click here". It will ask you for your physical address and from there you can complete the questionnaire.

If you prefer not to use the internet, this is the first time we can complete the questionnaire by phone! You can call: [844-330-2020](tel:844-330-2020) to get help in English. There are an additional 13 other language options for completing the questionnaire as well.

If you have questions, or need help, please call the 2020 Census office in Burlington at 802-557-6707 (we are teleworking to be safe and will respond to your calls), or you can email me at [lucy.c.gluck@2020census.gov](mailto:lucy.c.gluck@2020census.gov) and I'll get back to you with an answer.

***Many thanks and take care!***

### 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](mailto: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.