



WESTFORD NEWSLETTER

June 2020



Keep an eye out for **Wild Bergamot**, aka Bee-balm, a herbaceous woodland perennial which blooms from June – September.

Westford Town Office

1713 Vermont Route 128 - Westford, Vermont 05494

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

<https://westfordvt.us/>

TOWN OFFICE NOTES

Ballots for June 2nd EWSD Vote

The annual meeting for the Essex Westford School District (EWSD) is June 2nd. Ballots for the vote were mailed on March 18th to all active voters on the checklist. If you have not received a ballot and believe you should have, please contact the Town Office at 878-4587 or townclerk@westfordvt.us.

Ballots must be returned to the Town Office by June 1st or delivered to the polls on June 2nd. You can mail the ballot (return postage was included) or place it in the mail slot located to the left of the door. The polls will be open from 10am to 7pm at the Westford School in the gym. We encourage all voters to return their ballots by June 1st to minimize the number of people in the polling place.

Absentee Ballots for Future Elections

Please note that mailing of ballots to all active voters for the EWSD vote was based on an emergency amendment to the election laws and will not be applicable to future votes/elections unless otherwise notified. You will need to contact the Town Office to request an absentee ballot for future elections. Following are ways to request an absentee ballot for future elections:

1. Call the Town Office at 878-4587 and leave your name, phone number, address, mailing address (if different), and which election(s) you are requesting the ballots for (i.e., all local elections, August primary, November general); or
2. Email townclerk@westfordvt.us with the same information requested above; or
3. Request online through My Voter Page at <https://mvp.vermont.gov/>. Please contact the Town Office if you have problems accessing this system. This is usually because your date of birth and driver's license are missing, which we will need to enter before you will be allowed into the system.

The Town Clerk's Office will mail you your requested ballot as soon as it is ready for the upcoming elections.

Important: You will not receive ballots automatically; you must request them. Requests must be renewed each calendar year. You can submit a request now for all elections through December 31, 2020.

Senior Luncheon

There will be no picnic luncheon in June due to the Coronavirus. We take July and August off so our next luncheon will be on September 14th. I'm wishing everyone good health. Looking forward to seeing you in September.

Carol Howrigan, President

Maureen Estus, Vice President

Beth Menut, Secretary

Lorren Teer, Treasurer

Cereta Lamphere, Chaplain

Dogs Licenses

If you have not licensed your dog(s) please do so as soon as possible (**licenses were due April 1st**). Late fees were waived through June 1st. After June 1st, late fees will be assessed.

A current rabies certificate is required. If you are unsure if the current certificate is on file, please call or email the Town Office (878-4587 or townclerk@westfordvt.us). For your convenience, you may mail or drop off the fee and rabies certificate along with a self-addressed stamped envelope and we will mail the license to you. The fee after June 1st is \$17.00 unless your dog is spayed or neutered, in which case the fee is \$14.00.

TOWN OFFICE HOURS

The Town Office will be **closed**

- June 2nd for the EWSD vote.
- June 5th

The Town Office will re-open to the public beginning June 1st. The office will be open:

- Monday through Thursday: 8:30am to 4pm
- Friday: 8:30am to 12pm
- Zoning Administrator hours: Monday and Tuesday, 10am-3pm (by appointment only).

Access to the Town Office is conditional upon the following:

- Masks are required;
- Appointments are required for zoning and are strongly encouraged for other matters;
- Adhere to markings on the floor and any signage present;
- Access is limited to the front counter;
- Zoning matters are limited to the lower level (please use entrance located in the back of the building);
- You are not experiencing a fever, cough, shortness of breath, or any other symptom of a respiratory illness; and
- You have not had contact with a person who has tested COVID-19 positive.

We will continue to offer as many services as we can via email or phone.

We appreciate your cooperation and understanding as we navigate these unprecedented times.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the July Newsletter is 12:00 noon on Monday, June 29th.

Yard Clean Up

When cleaning up your yard, please keep the following in mind:

- Burn permits are required prior to any burning. Burn permits are available online at <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. You can compost yard waste or bring it to a participating CSWD drop off center. For a list of centers please visit www.cswd.net.
- See additional information in this newsletter from the Planning Commission for when working within Water Resource areas.

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
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

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. You should check this link periodically as the guidance may change. You may also follow the Vermont Department of Taxes on Facebook and Twitter.

A NOTE FROM THE LISTERS:

Although the VT Income Tax filing deadline has been extended to July 15th, we encourage homeowners to please file their HS122, Homestead Declaration Form no later than June 15th. This ensures that your property tax bill will reflect the residential rate. Homestead Declarations filed after June 15th 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/>.



SUMMER ROADS

What you need to know about summer road conditions

- **Road Projects:** many projects are being done on the roads at this time. Slow down and give crews space to work.
- **Dust:** roads can become dusty in dry weather and potholes can appear in heavily traveled areas. Going the speed limit can reduce dust and damage roads.
- **Roadside Mowing:** roadsides are mowed to increase visibility and keep invasive plants at bay. Mowing occurs twice a year: once in late spring/early summer and once later in the summer.
- **Traffic Speeds:** due to the hard-packed conditions of the roads this time of year, overall vehicle speeds can increase. Be aware of speed limits.

Reminders:

- Watch for increased pedestrian traffic including walkers, bikers, horseback riders etc. Please slow down and give other users of the road lots of room.





WESTFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Have you hiked every possible combination of the Westford school trails? Try one of Westford's other, more remote trails! Goodrich and Schultz trails are both off Machia Hill Road and are great walks that include beaver pond views, Mansfield views, and lots of good Westford air.

Turn your walk into science class by using a plant/tree identifier app, or play "Spring Walk Bingo" – I bet you can find "mud" pretty fast on some of our trails! Schultz trail is good for a greenway walk or bike ride that includes Old #11 Road, Covey Road, Covey Trail, Stoney Ridge Road, Osgood Hill Road, and back up Machia Hill to the Schultz Trail.

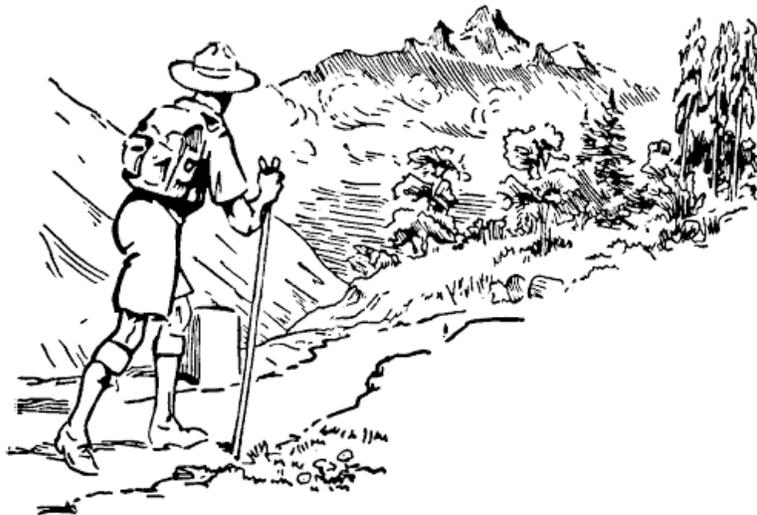
A map of the town trails can be found at <https://westfordvt.us/westford-town-lands/>

Please respect private landowners whose property trails may run through. All users and their animals must stay within trail right-of-way limits.

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! Email westfordcc@googlegroups.com

Enjoying the trails? Consider a donation to the Westford Conservation Commission to help our hard-working volunteers purchase equipment, hire professionals, and sponsor events.

Westford Conservation Commission
1713 Vermont Route 128
Westford, VT 05494



Spring Walk

BINGO

<p>Perching bird</p> 	 <p>Plant growing in the water</p>	 <p>Fiddleheads</p>	 <p>Walking bird</p>	<p>Moss on a log</p> 
<p>Soaring bird</p> 	 <p>Signs of a woodpecker</p>	 <p>Fish</p>	 <p>The sound of wind</p>	<p>Flowering tree</p> 
 <p>Spider web</p>	<p>Chipmunk</p> 	<p>Free Space</p> 	 <p>Mud</p>	<p>Animal tunnel or holes</p> 
<p>Calling Frog</p> 	<p>Trail marker</p> 	 <p>butterfly</p>	<p>Tree Sapling</p> 	 <p>Hiding bird</p>
<p>The smell of flowers</p> 	 <p>Swimming bird</p>	<p>Active nest</p> 	<p>Brand new leaves</p> 	<p>Squirrel food</p> 

www.massaudubon.org/EcoKids


Mass Audubon
Protecting the Nature of Massachusetts



We are excited to share - at a safe social distance - this momentous 50th Anniversary Green Up Day with you!

No one really expected the 50th anniversary of Green Up Day would include working around a pandemic, but we will accept our challenges and persevere to make this Green Up Day memorable.

We have some fun celebratory things planned for this year that will launch us into the next 50 years. Please keep reading for details.

We hope everyone will apply their excitement to get outside, to Green Up on May 30th. This act of community service and making our state shine is so good for our hearts, souls, and civic engagement - even at a distance. "Greening Up" is much more than the act of A DAY, it is a caring mindset that we teach our children, it is taking care of where we live for a healthy environment, and it is about connecting our communities with a goal for common greatness. ***Together, let's make it a safe and hugely successful 50th Green Up Day.***

Green Up Day Safety Tips:

- Wear rugged work gloves.
- Wear long pants and boots.
- Always check for ticks.
- Do not pick up sharp objects. Get an adult.
- Dispose of any sharps in a heavy plastic bottle with the lid screwed back on and marked "do not recycle."
- Wear bright colored clothing.
- Review safety rules with kids.
- Work facing oncoming traffic.
- Use sunscreen.

****Please note due to COVID-19, the students at the Westford School will NOT be doing their traditional Green Up activities this year. This means that all roads will need attention.****

JUNE 2020 NEWSLETTER

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

WESTFORD RECREATION DEPARTEMENT

June

**The June 22-26 Soccer Camp has been canceled.

**The July 13-17 Soccer Camp in pending.

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



Recreation suggestions with social distancing

During the current COVID19 Public health crisis, getting outside and connecting with nature is an excellent way to maintain mental and physical health. Hiking, backyard camping, biking, walks in nature, gardening or whatever you love help our well being. Whatever activity you choose please practice social distancing to continue to keep your family and our community safe.

<https://westfordconservationtrust.org/trails/>
<https://www.miltonvt.gov/Facilities/Facility/Details/Milton-Town-Forest-4>

Voltage Summer Soccer Camps

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

Registraiton Fee; \$125

The Recreation Department is unable to supply a port o let at the school due to district restrictions. Please plan accordingly when utilizing school trails.

WESTFORD RECREATION DEPARTMENT – REGISTRATION FORM

NAME (Parents) _____

ADDRESS _____ TOWN _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS (only to be used for WRD mailings) _____

HOME PHONE _____ CELL/WORK PHONE _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT _____ PHONE _____

DOCTOR'S NAME _____ PHONE _____

Please list **medical conditions**, physical limitations, allergies, or restrictions WRD should be aware of: _____

NAME	PROGRAM	GRADE	FEE
1. _____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____	_____
TOTAL:			_____
<p>Would you be interested in being a coach or be a parent helper? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>			

*****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/WAVIER 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**

CARING FOR YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM

Septic systems are very much like automobiles. They need periodic inspections and proper maintenance to continue working properly. Also, like automobiles, they must be operated properly and cannot be overtaxed without the owner suffering consequences such as repair or replacement bills.

WHAT TO DO

- **HAVE YOUR SEPTIC TANK PUMPED** every 2 to 5 years by a septage hauler. At the same time, the tank should be inspected for leaks or damage to baffles and pipes. Any leaks or damage should be repaired immediately. This is not a do-it-yourself job. You should, however, check the level of sewage scum and sludge in the tank yearly.
- Each spring, after the frost is out of the ground, check your leachfield for wet spots. You should also **INSPECT THE DISTRIBUTION BOX (AND PUMP OR SIPHON CHAMBER if you have one)** to make sure they are level. If these components are not level, the leachfield will not receive even distribution and the siphon or pump may not function properly. It may be necessary to call a designer or installer to reset and repair these components or any shifted or broken piping going in or out of them.
- Several times each year (set up a regular schedule) **INSPECT THE SIPHON OR PUMP** – if your system has one. Observe the operation of at least one cycle. Run water in the house until the chamber is filled and the siphon or pump activates. If the chamber does not fill or does not empty and fill to the specified levels, then servicing is required.

WHAT NOT TO DO

An absorption field generally does not require any maintenance. However, to protect and prolong the life of the absorption field, follow these simple rules:

- Plant only grass over and near your septic system. Roots from nearby trees or shrubs may clog and damage the absorption field.
- Do not drive or park over any part of your septic system. This can compact the soil and crush your system.
- Direct all wastewater from your home into the septic tank. This includes all sink, bath, shower, toilet, washing machine, and dishwasher wastewaters. Any of these wastewaters can contain disease-causing microorganisms or environmental pollutants.
- Keep roof drains, basement sump pump drains, and other rainwater or surface water drainage systems away from the absorption field. Flooding of the absorption field with excessive water will keep the soil from naturally cleansing the wastewater, which can lead to groundwater and/or nearby surface pollution.

SEPTIC SYSTEM HEALTH TIPS

- Conserve water to avoid overloading the septic system. Be sure to repair any leaky faucets or toilets. Use low-flow fixtures.
- Do not use caustic drain openers for a clogged drain. Instead, use boiling water or a drain snake to open clogs.
- Do not use septic tank additives, commercial septic tank cleansers, yeast, sugar, etc. These products are not necessary and some may be harmful to your system.
- Use commercial bathroom cleansers and laundry detergents in moderation. Many people prefer to clean their toilets, sinks, showers, and tubs with mild detergent or baking soda.
- Your septic system is not a trash can. Do not put disposable diapers, sanitary napkins, tampons, paper towels, facial tissues, plastics, cat litter, or cigarettes into your septic system. These items quickly fill your septic tank with solids, decrease the efficiency, and will require that you pump out the septic tank more frequently. They may also clog the sewer line to the septic system causing wastewater to back up into your home.
- Avoid dumping grease or fats down your kitchen drain. They solidify and the accumulation may contribute to blockages in your system.
- Keep latex paint, varnishes, thinners, waste oil, photographic solutions, pesticides, or other hazardous chemicals out of your system. Even in small amounts, these items can destroy the biological digestion taking place within your septic system.

If you would like more information or a copy of your septic system plans please contact Melissa Manka, Planning Coordinator, or Kate Lalley, Zoning Administrator, at the Town Office (878-4587).

CLEANING UP YOUR YARD? IMPORTANT REMINDERS WHEN WORKING WITHIN WATER RESOURCE AREAS:

Spring is the perfect time to be outdoors and enjoy working on your property. For those of us with project lists that include brush and tree removal please realize our Water Resource and Flood Hazard Overlay areas require special protection. With the exception of managed forestry and agricultural plans, most destructive disturbances such as brush and tree removal are prohibited in these overlay areas.

We all live in a watershed with some of us closer to our streams, natural ponds and rivers than others. Please be sure to identify the water resources on your property. Our official Water Resources Overlay and Flood Hazard Overlay map is available on our Town website www.westfordvt.us. Click Documents, then Land Use & Development Regulations where it is the last item in the menu.

When you have determined a Water Resource or Flood Hazard Overlay is located on your property it is important that you familiarize yourself with Town regulations for the appropriate Overlay District. These regulations can also be found at www.westfordvt.us under Documents in 2016 Land Use & Development Regulations chapters 270 and 280.

The purpose of the Town of Westford Water Resource Overlay District and Flood Hazard Overlay District is to:

1. ***Ensure the natural processes (geomorphology) of Westford's water-related resources are protected***
2. ***Preserve and conserve riparian ecosystems and biological diversity;***
3. ***Maintain Westford's rural character through the conservation of natural resources.***
4. ***Utilize natural resources for preservation, recreation, education, and human consumption.***
5. ***Protect public health, safety, and welfare by ensuring protections are established concerning: water quality, erosion control, storm water control, and minimizing flood losses and damage.***
6. ***Minimize the demands on public services and financial impact that result from flooding.***

Westford's streams, natural ponds and rivers are protected by 50' and 100' buffers. Our 100' buffers have been an integral part of Westford's water resource protection for over 40 years and have proven effective in the protection of water quality, wildlife habitat, wildlife corridors and flood prevention. Remember the critical hydrological properties and ecosystem of our waterways are a lot larger than the immediate body water. Recent heavy rain events have demonstrated both the need and effectiveness of large undisturbed absorption areas in flood prevention. Water quality is everyone's responsibility and Westford residents should take pride in our community's leadership role and enjoy the benefits of being a model for water quality protection in Vermont.

The Westford Planning Commission meets monthly, or more frequently as required downstairs at the Town offices at 6:30 pm. Our meetings are open to the public and your attendance is encouraged. Our public meeting schedule is available on our Town's website; www.westfordvt.us, or by contacting Melissa Manka at the Westford Town Office.

WESTFORD CEMETERY REMINDERS

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

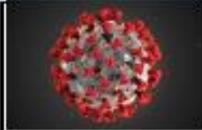
Thank you for your cooperation,
Westford Cemetery Commission

WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

<http://westfordpubliclibrary.org>
(802) 878-5639

westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com

1717 VERMONT ROUTE 128, WESTFORD VT 05494



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.

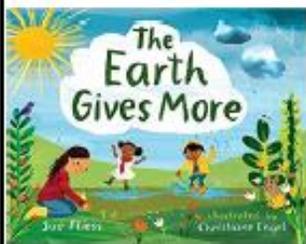
Curbside pickup of library materials is available Wednesday 3-5pm and Saturdays 10-Noon. Materials request form is on our website.

If you have not already, be sure to follow us on Facebook for up to date notifications and more enrichment activities.



The Library Board of Trustees would like to thank Beth Lane and Allison Hope for their service as trustees. The Board welcomes Leanne Saddlemire and Vicky Ross as their replacements.

The Annual Fourth of July Book Sale has been cancelled. We are unable to collect and sort books at this time. Thank you for your past support.



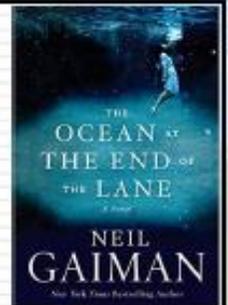
It's a great time for a Story Hike! A new story, *The Earth Gives More*, will be up all Summer long on the Maple Shade Trails. (across from the school - park in the lower parking lot and access by the kiosk) Thank you to the Westford Conservation Commission for installing it.

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
June 17
7:00-8:00pm
The Ocean at the End of the Lane
By: Neil Gaiman
Book group will be held via Zoom



Digital e and audiobooks available via Libby. Contact Bree if you would prefer a hard copy. A brilliantly imaginative and poignant fairy tale from the modern master of wonder and terror.

This bewitching and harrowing tale of mystery and survival, and memory and magic, makes the impossible all too real...A middle-aged man returns to his childhood home to attend a funeral. Although the house he lived in is long gone, he is drawn to the farm at the end of the road, where, when he was seven, he encountered a most remarkable girl, Lettie Hempstock, and her mother and grandmother. He hasn't thought of Lettie in decades, and yet as he sits by the pond (a pond that she'd claimed was an ocean) behind the ramshackle old farmhouse where she once lived, the unremembered past comes flooding back. And it is a past too strange, too frightening, too dangerous to have happened to anyone, let alone a small boy.

A groundbreaking work, *The Ocean at the End of the Lane* is told with a rare understanding of all that makes us human, and shows the power of stories to reveal and shelter us from the darkness inside and out. (from Amazon.com)

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, Front Porch Forum or our website.

When gatherings of 25 or more are allowed - we might try storytime on Thursdays at 11:00 outside on the Common - TBD.



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

June Library Events

- June 3 - Trustees Meeting
 - June 5 - PJ Storytime via Zoom with Ms. Bree - 7-8pm
 - June 10 - Town-wide Bingo Game via Zoom 7-8pm
 - June 17 - Adult Book Group via Zoom - 7-8pm - The Ocean at the End of the Lane by Neil Gaiman
 - * June 19 - Summer Reading Begins! "Kick-off" pick up reading logs, stickers, from 2-6pm in the library parking lot
 - * June 22 - Magic Monday! Magic tricks from magician Ed Popielarczyk posted on our Facebook page every Monday.
 - * June 22-27 - Curbside Craft: Puppets and Story telling
 - * June 26 - Puppet Show and Tell 4-5pm via Zoom - show Ms. Bree what you made and put on a show
 - * June 29 - Magic Monday!
 - * June 29-July 3 - Curbside Craft: Dream Catchers - Folktales and Legends
- Curbside Pickup of Library Materials:
Wednesdays 3-5pm
Saturdays 10-Noon
- Order form is on our website and Facebook page—order before 7pm the day before
- Storytime digitally every Thursday
- * indicates part of the SRP, more info in Summer Reading Program brochure

PJ Storytime with Ms. Bree Via Zoom

Friday, June 5 from 7-8pm

An interactive storytime with Ms. Bree - we'll read stories, sing songs, and share our favorite stuffed animals! Be sure to wear your PJs! Zoom link will be sent out via FPF soon, and will also be on our Facebook page. I can't wait to "see" all my storytime friends!



Town-wide Bingo Game via Zoom Wed. June 10 7-8pm

We had so much fun in May - we are doing it again in June! Use your own bingo cards, print some cards from online or make your own. We will also have cards available at our curbside pickup starting June 3. Bree will be calling BINGO via zoom. Just for fun! Zoom link will be posted on Front Porch Forum and our Facebook page as it gets closer.

It's time for Summer Reading! "Imagine your Story" June 19-August 7

It has been a real challenge to plan Summer Reading this year. I want to give the kids the best experience they can have, but at the same time, be safe and a good example of social distancing. We also do not know when library buildings will be allowed open and under what circumstances. More information on the SRP is available in the brochure in this newsletter. All events are subject to change. For up to date information, check out Facebook page.

Summer Reading "Kick-off"
Friday, June 19 from 2-6pm
Sign up online starting June 15, then come grab your stickers, logs, book marks and goodies from our parking lot. Packets will be made up for various age groups. More info in SRP brochure.



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 **Summer Reading Program 2020** **June 19-August 7**
www.westfordpubliclibrary.org **878-5639** **westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com**

A note from Library Director, Bree Drapa: Planning Summer Reading this year has been a challenge and bit of a heartbreak. As I write this, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the library building remains closed. Summer Reading is one of my favorite times of year, seeing all my library friends who have been in school, returning to the building and looking forward to what we have planned for the Summer. This year will, of course, be different. It is my goal to provide this community with a fun and engaging program, all the while being mindful of safety and governmental regulations. Some beloved SRP traditions are simply not possible, but others we can "imagine" in a new way. I wish all of you a Summer full of fun, wonderment, and adventures beyond compare!

*Online registration opens June 15. Registration link on our website. If you are unable to register online, please call 878-5639 and we will get you registered.

Summer Reading "Kick-off" - Friday, June 19 from 2-6pm - Come pick up your SRP materials (reading logs, stickers, book marks, goodies, etc.) in a socially safe manner from our parking lot (please park in town office lot or at the green). We will have packets for each age group below (not adults). If you would prefer, you can order a packet for curbside pickup this (or any) week, indicate ages of children. We will also have a station for online registration if you need it.



- Baby Bears - Ages 0-2 (babies and toddlers) - fun activities for families to do together
- Ages 3-8 (kids) - 10 books per raffle ticket
- Ages 9-12 (twens) - 3 books per raffle ticket
- Ages 13-18 (teens) - 1 book per raffle ticket
- Adults - 18+ (adults do not need to register) - 1 book per raffle ticket

Prizes are TBD as many of our traditional prizes are unavailable. We will do our best to provide safe and local prizes. Prizes will be awarded at the end of the program.

Summer Long Events:

Magic Mondays! Every Monday, we will post a new magic trick from magician, Ed Popielarczyk, on our Facebook page. Make sure to show the kids! **We will also be celebrating Harry Potter's birthday (the night before) with a Family Trivia Game using Kahoot! & Zoom - July 30 at 7pm**



Breakout EDU is a fun, problem solving platform - we will be hosting two days of digital games on Fridays in July. Using zoom and playing together, we will try solve fairy tale inspired puzzles. Good for 3th grade and up. More information as it gets closer.

Two Book Group Opportunities:

Teen Book Group - meets via Zoom every **Wednesday** in July from 4-5pm. We will be reading the Green Mountain Book Award Book, **The Devouring Gray**. Best for those entering grade 7-high school. Participants get a free copy of the book. Signup required.



Adult Book Group - meets the third Wednesday of the month (via zoom) 7-8pm - reading **The Ocean at the End of the Lane** (June 17), **Circe** (July 15), and **The Buried Giant** (August 19).

Summer Reading at a Glance

June 15 - Sign up online for SRP starts today, signup link on our website, FPF, and Facebook

June 19 - SRP "Kick-off" - Pick up materials anytime 2-6pm from the library parking lot

June 22 - First Magic Monday!

June 24-27 - Curbside Craft: Puppets

June 26 - Puppet Zoom! Show and Tell all about the puppets you made from 4-5pm

July 1-3 - Curbside Craft: Dreamcatchers

July 1 - Teen Book Group via Zoom 4-5pm - every Wed. in July, reading "The Devouring Gray"

July 3 - Breakout EDU via Zoom 4-5pm

July 8-11 - Curbside Craft: Paper Fans

July 10&11 - Fairy Tale Hike - Schultz Trail - TBD

July 15-18 - Curbside Craft: Baskets

July 15 - Adult Book Group 7-8pm

July 17 - Breakout EDU via Zoom 4-5pm

July 22-25 - Curbside Craft : Giant Gingerbreads

July 29-Aug. 1 - Curbside Crafts: Crowns

July 30 - Happy Potter Trivia Night 7pm

July 31 - VINS - Animals in Myth and Legend - on the Common from 4:30-5:30pm

August 7 - End of Summer Reading Program TBD

ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

All Zoom links will be on FPF and Facebook, or ask Bree to email them to you.

Storytime - Thursday 11am (outside if weather and laws allow) or released digitally

Curbside Pickup every Wednesday 3-5pm

Curbside Pickup every Saturday 10-Noon

Order forms are on our website and Facebook page.

Curbside Crafts and Storytime

Storytimes will be held Thursdays either digitally or outside on the Common (weather permitting and if gatherings of 25 or more are permitted.) If on the Common, they will be at 11am and social distancing rules will be each families' responsibility. We should know more by mid-June.

Each week we will have a craft/theme. The craft can be picked up as part of your curbside order (Wed/Sat. - request in your order form) or on Thursdays after storytime or TBD. These crafts are kits that you will do at home. Kits are suitable for all ages, may contain small parts. Pick up one craft per child.



June 24-27: The Magic of Stories - Felt Puppet making kits - be sure to join us for Puppet Zoom! June 26 from 4-5pm via zoom - a chance to show your puppets off and tell stories with them.

July 1-3: Folktales and Legends - Dreamcatcher making kits



July 8-11: Tales from Asia - Paper fans



July 15-18: Little Red Riding Hood - baskets

July 22-25: The Gingerbread Man - Giant Gingerbread figures

July 29-Aug 1: Prince/cess Stories - Crowns

Get outside and explore your kingdom!



Story Hike on the Maple Shade Trail (across from the school)

Fairyland/Whimsical Walk on the Schultz Trail - more info to follow

Fairy Tale Hike - July 10/11 - TBD



IMAGINE YOUR STORY

SCHOOL BOARD NOTES

FY 21 Budget Vote: At this point you should have received your Australian Ballot for the school budget vote. Please take time to fill it out, follow the instructions carefully and mail it back. While you can vote in person on June 2nd, we had ballots mailed in hopes of protecting poll workers during the pandemic.

There is a budget public information meeting on May 26th beginning at 6:30. The meeting will take place on Zoom. Here is the information for joining the meeting. You can also access this information by going to the district's web page at: ewsd.org

Zoom Link: <https://ewsd.zoom.us/j/96767183749>

Meeting ID: 967 6718 3749

Password: 314287

The webpage also has an abundance of information about the budget. You will see a red "button" when the page opens labeled "Budget". Probably the best information to read is the "slides" document from our February 18th meeting.

In addition to the regular budget and the budget for CTE (Center for Technology Essex) we also put the articles on the warning that would normally be voted on from the floor at the school district's annual meeting. That meeting was cancelled this year due to the pandemic. Three of those articles are for the election of a moderator, a clerk and a treasurer. The folks who submitted their names to run are the same people serving in those capacities at the present time. In addition, there is an article authorizing the school district to borrow money in anticipation of revenues. This is a standard article that is on the warning every year and is due to potential timing issues of when revenue from the state is received.

There is a new article on the warning this year related to COVID-19. Normally unspent money is the FY 20 budget would have to wait to be carried forward into the FY22 budget after the audit of the FY20 budget is complete. We expect there will be some areas of this year's budget that will be underspent, for example the line for substitutes. We are asking for authorization to spend that money in FY21 for unanticipated expenses related to the pandemic.

End of School Year: The last day of school for students has been set for June 12th. The teachers will be working all week the following week to begin preparations for the fall. These past months have been unusual and challenging. We are grateful for how teachers, staff, families and students have "stepped up" to make the most of a difficult situation.

Please contact us if you have questions or concerns.

Westford Members of the EWSD Board: **Martha Heath and Andre Roy**

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, CCPRC 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.

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.