



# WESTFORD NEWSLETTER

December 2020



Did you know that Westford residents used to cut ice out of the Brown's River during winter?

## Westford Town Office

1713 Vermont Route 128 - Westford, Vermont 05494

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

<https://westfordvt.us/>

## TOWN OFFICE NOTES

### Selectboard FY'22 Budget Workshops

The Selectboard began working on the FY'22 Budget in October. Upcoming workshops will be held on:

- 12/3
- 12/17

If needed, additional meetings will be held. The Board encourages residents to attend these meetings to provide feedback to assist the Board in developing a budget to be voted on in March 2021.

### Senior Luncheon

I hope all our seniors are doing well that Covid-19 is not affecting anyone in Westford. I'm going to postpone our luncheons indefinitely. As soon as I feel it's safe for you to leave your home and come out again, I'll let everyone know through Front Porch Forum and the monthly newsletter. If you need anything, please call me at 878-3090. Hopefully, we will be back together soon and please getting your flu shot. If you need a ride to do this, again call me and I will see that you get to a place that is providing them. *Carol Howrigan, President*

### Holiday Gift Cards

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

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

### Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the January Newsletter is 12:00 noon on Monday, December 21, 2020

## TOWN OFFICE HOURS

The Town Office is **CLOSED** to the public at this time due to the spread of Covid-19.

- Office staff are available to take phone calls 8:30am – 4:30pm Monday-Friday.
- We will try to accommodate you through email, phone or snail mail as much as we can!
- Zoning Administrator hours: Monday and Tuesday, 10am-3pm (by appointment only).

The Town Office is **CLOSED**:

- December 24 & 25 – Christmas
- January 1 – New Years



## ATTENTION DOG LOVERS



The Town of Westford is looking for someone who is interested in serving as **Dog Warden**. What is a Dog Warden you ask? A Dog Warden is a person who helps dog owners comply with the Westford Dog Ordinance. What qualifications are needed? A love for dogs, the ability to communicate effectively and a location to bring dogs until they can be reunited with their owner to name a few. You may think you need a kennel to be a Dog Warden. This is not the case. However, a stray dog does need to be kept in a healthy environment until it is reunited with its owner. A healthy environment includes shelter, food, water, and a suitable area for them to relieve themselves. The Dog Warden position receives an annual stipend of \$500 and there are funds available for training, supplies and mileage. The Town also has a doghouse that can be utilized. If you would like more information on helping your community by serving in this position, please contact the Town Office at 878-4587 or [townclerk@westfordvt.us](mailto:townclerk@westfordvt.us). Westford residency is preferred by not required.



## WINTER IS HERE!



What you need to know about winter road conditions

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

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

### Reminders:

- Each winter storm is different, roads may be icy and sand may be loose. Drive slow and know what your vehicle is capable of.
- Watch for walkers and wildlife. It will be more difficult to see pedestrians and recreational users of roads this time of year due to snowbanks. Walkers, bikers and other users can do their part by wearing bright, reflective clothing.
- Some VAST trails cross Westford Roads. Know where the trails are and watch for crossing snowmobiles. You can find a list of VAST trails here: <https://vtvast.org/trails.html>
- Several hunting seasons occur during early winter. Watch for vehicles parked on the side of roads for hunting access. Pedestrians & pets should wear orange/yellow reflective clothing during hunting seasons to help ensure they are seen. You can find a list of VT hunting seasons here: <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/hunt/hunting-and-trapping-seasons>

## From the Desk of the Fire Warden

I would like to take a moment to wish everyone a Happy Holiday and a safe and healthy New Year. We are approaching snow season and as most of you know Vermont state law says when the ground is covered with snow a burn permit is not needed. All other regulations such as what is legal to burn, distance from existing structures, making sure your fire is completely extinguished before retiring for the night, nonuse of flammable materials to start your fire, etc. will still remain in effect.

In addition, starting with the first snow and continuing ground coverings I will not be reporting daily on the weather until we approach spring when all snow is gone. The system will be closed so that I may communicate any severe weather changes. As always you are responsible for your burn and any damage that is caused as a result of your burn. If you have any questions or concerns pertaining to your fire please call me at 879-1231.

**Thank You**

Dennis L. Angiono, Westford Fire Warden





# TRASH, RECYCLING & FOOD SCRAPS IN WESTFORD

## Can I Recycle That?

Did you know that you are not supposed to put your recycling in plastic bags of any kind? The only exception to this is shredded office paper, which is accepted only if it's in a CLEAR BAG that's tightly closed.

Here are some other items that do NOT belong in your recycling bin:

- Dirty containers
- Plastic wrap
- Durable plastic (e.g. Tupperware, laundry bins, etc.)
- Styrofoam
- Motor oil or hazardous waste containers



For more information on the proper way to recycle, please visit <https://cswd.net/recycling/>. There is even an interesting video of a tour of the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) where your recycling goes to be sorted.

## Food Scraps *(Effective July 1, 2020, per Act 148, food scraps are banned from landfills.)*

### What are food scraps?

Food scraps are parts of food that are typically discarded rather than eaten: peels, rinds, cores, eggshells, seeds, pits, bones, shells, coffee grounds and filters, loose-leaf tea, and fats/oils/grease. Food scraps is also food that was eaten but not finished: "plate scraps" or leftovers that went bad. Any type of food can become food scraps including bread, pasta, soup, vegetables, fruit, sauces, meat, fish, dairy, sweets, etc.

### What should I do with meat and bones?

If you compost in your yard, the law allows you to put meat and bones in the trash so they don't attract animals to your composting bin. If you chose to bring food scraps to a drop-off center, you can include meat and bones with the rest of your food scraps.

CSWD has an abundance of information on their website including answers to questions, ways to reduce waste and how to compost to name a few. Please go to <https://cswd.net/scrapfoodwaste/> or call **872-8111** to get more information.

## SEASONAL COMPOSTING TIPS: WINTER

- Low humidity and winter winds can dry out your pile, water compost pile sparingly on a day when it won't immediately freeze.
- Turn your compost as frequently as possible, BUT do not attempt to turn when frozen,
- Add green scraps in large quantities. For compost to be fed properly it needs the nitrogen of green ingredients.

Don't want to trudge outside in the snow to compost? Here are some ways you can store compost inside longer before bringing it out to the pile or to a drop off center:

<https://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/wmp/SolidWaste/Documents/Universal-Recycling/Managing-food-scraps-in-the-kitchen.pdf>

## STAY UP TO DATE WITH OUR HAULER

Myers has now set up a Facebook page for Westford specific trash & recycling communications! You can find it here:

<https://www.facebook.com/Town-of-Westford-Waste-104918838111423>



## HOLDING HANDS ACROSS WESTFORD

We are so excited there is such a buzz around town already about the ***Holding Hands Across Westford*** project! As a reminder, these large plywood mittens are on stakes and primed, ready for you to decorate as you choose. You can place them in your front yard by the road or on the Westford Common Hall lawn "holding" hands with others. The Shopify site is now open for purchasing mittens! You will see a picture of what you are buying and there are a couple examples shown of some finished mittens. All proceeds will go to the revitalization of the Westford Common Hall.

<https://westford-common-hall.myshopify.com/>

We will notify you through email when to pick up your mittens at the Common Hall

**Thanks for your community spirit and support!**  
**The Capital Campaign Committee for the Westford Common Hall**

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY!

**The Selectboard is seeking town residents interested in serving as Westford's representative on the following:**

### **Chittenden County Regional Planning Commissioner Representative & Alternate Representative**

The Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission was founded in 1966 to promote the mutual cooperation of its 19 member municipalities and to facilitate the appropriate development and preservation of the physical and **human** resources in Chittenden County.

CCRPC is composed of 19 municipal commissioners and five at-large commissioners (representing Agriculture, Conservation/Environment, Socio-Economic/Housing, and Transportation). The legislative body of each of Chittenden County's municipalities selects its own commissioner and alternate commissioner. The Full Commission selects the five at-large representatives. Each commissioner has one vote.

CCRPC's regular monthly meeting is on the third Wednesday of the month at 6:00pm in the Main Conference Room. These meetings are open to the public.

For more information go to <https://www.ccrpcvt.org/about-us/commission/commissioners-alternates/>.

### **CCRPC Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC)**

The Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) oversees the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission activities and policy development regarding but not limited to, the Vermont Lake Champlain Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Plan and its related plans and programs. The Committee typically meets the first Tuesday of the month. To view minutes, agendas and other documents, please go to <https://www.ccrpcvt.org/about-us/committees/clean-water-advisory-committee/>. For more information contact Dan Albrecht, CCRPC Senior Planner, at [dalbrecht@ccrpcvt.org](mailto:dalbrecht@ccrpcvt.org) or 846-4490.

**Please contact the Town Office if you are interested in serving the community in any of these roles.**



# WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

<https://westfordpubliclibrary.org>

(802) 878-5639

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

1717 VERMONT ROUTE 128, WESTFORD VT 05494

**The Library will be CLOSED  
December 24 & 25 and December  
30 and January 1. There will be  
no curbside service those days.**



**In light of recent COVID numbers and with  
guidance from Vermont's governor:**

For the safety of the community, the Westford Public Library will temporarily return to our curbside only service model. With an increase in COVID cases in the area, we are doing our part to minimize interactions between community members.

We are increasing our curbside pickup days and times. The best way to order materials is still through our curbside order form, but we will be available by phone during these curbside hours to take orders, answer questions, or help with suggestions.

Our digital library, through the Libby app, is available 24/7.

We are adding printing services to these curbside hours. Call the library for more information if you need something printed.

Our popular digital story times will also return. There will be a new "episode" posted by Ms. Bree every Thursday. We look forward to reconnecting with our digital fans.

Despite the closure of the building, the Westford Public Library is still here for you. We care about our community and will continue to serve it in the safest manner possible.

We will revisit our service models, based on local COVID data, in mid-December.

## **Building is CLOSED to patrons**

### **Curbside pickup hours:**

Wednesday 3-6pm

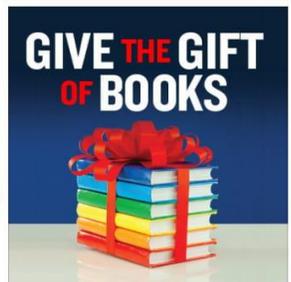
Thursday 10am-Noon

Friday 3-6pm

Saturday 10am-2pm

**In Phase 3 of our reopening plan**

**Adult Book  
Group  
Wednesday  
December 16  
7:00-8:00pm  
via Zoom  
Gift the gift of  
books!**



**This month  
we will share favorite reads, find  
new authors, and just talk for an  
hour about books! Come  
prepared to talk about three  
book suggestions for the group  
and you will walk away with a  
bulked up Winter reading list. I  
also challenge you to read a  
book, for this meeting, that you  
have wanted to and have been  
putting off. Anyone is welcome  
to attend, even if you just listen  
for good ideas.**

**You can order books to pickup  
curbside or find something using  
the Libby app.**

### ***Virtual Early Literacy Storytime - fun for all ages - posted every Thursday.***

12/3/20: Theme: Snow

12/10/20: Theme: Mice

12/17/20: Theme: Holidays

12/24/20: No Storytime - Merry Christmas!

12/31/20 - No Storytime - Happy New Year!

**Curbside Craft Kits will be available weekly - just order one with the rest of your curbside order.**

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](mailto:westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com)

### December Library Events

December 2 - Trustees Meeting 7-9pm via Zoom

December 16 - Adult Book Group 7pm via Zoom - "Give the Gift of a Book" discussing favorite books and bulking up our Winter reading lists. All are welcome.

December 18 - Winter Jammies Storytime via Zoom at 7pm - a live storytime with Ms. Bree. Listen from home in your PJS!

December 24&25 - CLOSED, no curbside pickup

December 31 & January 1 - CLOSED, no curbside pickup

**Curbside Pickup of Library Materials:**  
**Wednesdays 3-6pm**  
**Thursdays 10-Noon**  
**Fridays 3-6pm**  
**Saturdays 10am-2pm**

**Order form is on our website and Facebook page—you can also email or call.**

**Virtual Storytime posted every Thursday (YouTube, FPF, Facebook, website)**

### Winter Jammies Storytime Live on Zoom

Friday, December 18 at 7pm

Put on your favorite winter PJs and join Ms. Bree for some fun holiday stories. We'll be able to sing, read, and see each other on Zoom! I'll be reading *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* and *The Night Before Christmas*. Snuggle up with your family for a new sort of holiday tradition.



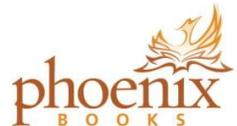
Zoom link will be sent out on FPF and Facebook.

### Book Giving Tree 2020



Help support the library by donating books from our Book Giving Tree. Due to COVID restrictions, we are moving our "trees" online. Phoenix Books is still offering a 20% discount on books purchased through them, or you may purchase books wherever you choose. Items purchased at Phoenix will be left there for the library to pick up later. Items purchased elsewhere may be dropped in the drop box. You can stick a note in if you would like the book dedicated to someone special. All books should be purchased and/or dropped off by January 16. Books can be found at this signup genius link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0449a9ad2ba1f49-book>



*Santa's elves are delivering a very special SANTA MAILBOX outside the Westford Public Library the day after Thanksgiving. Write Santa a letter and deliver it to the mailbox by December 18 and Santa will answer you before Christmas. Create your own letters, draw a picture, OR request special North Pole stationery from the library in your curbside order (starting 12/2). Thank you to the Westford Recreation Department for providing this!*

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*



*We're here for you*

## *Please support our Annual Fundraising Appeal*

Please consider donating to the Westford Public Library. Your support helps maintain the very best library for our community.

In light of COVID, this year's funds will go toward our digital collection. Digital items cost significantly more than their print counterparts. The pandemic has stressed the need for these types of resources.

With the help of last year's giving, we were able to purchase a sump pump for the basement, increase our lighting, replace damaged storm windows, and deep clean the library.

We realize this might not be the year to give, and we understand. The best way you can support the library is to use it and encourage others to do the same.

Please make checks payable to "Westford Public Library". You can mail them (PO Box 86, Westford, VT 05494) or drop them off in the dropbox.

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

DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

# WESTFORD RECREATION DEPARTEMENT

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### NOVEMBER

11/24 Gingerbread House Making \$25  
*Activity Kits delivered to your doorstep!*

11/27 Santa Mailbox FREE  
*located outside the Library until 12/18*

### DECEMBER

12/1 Recreation Committee Meeting  
*7pm via Zoom*

12/5 Rock Painting \$10  
*Activity Kits delivered to your doorstep!*

12/12 Cookie Decorating \$20  
*Activity Kits delivered to your doorstep!*

## Volunteer

*to help setup and maintain  
our town ICE RINK*

Contact the Recreation Department:

recreation@westfordvt.us

(802)324-7132



Dear Westford Kids,

Ho Ho Ho! I am so excited that Christmas is on it's way, and I am even more excited to hear from all of you. My elves are delivering a very special **SANTA MAILBOX** outside your TOWN LIBRARY the day after Thanksgiving. Write me a letter and deliver it to the mailbox by December 18<sup>th</sup>. Create your own letters, use the letter format on the next page, draw me a picture, OR request one from the library in your curbside order. I will write back to you before Christmas!

*Santa*

## SAFE RECREATION DURING COVID-19

All Fall Activities have been changed to ACTIVITY KITS! Since we cannot gather for in-person activities, we are packing all the FUN into boxes and delivering them to your doorstep! See our flyer on for more info! Sign up via email to VALYOU@GMAIL.COM

Go Outside! Enjoy the boundless opportunities on our community trails, and the Ice Rink.

Dear Santa,

This Christmas, I am \_\_\_\_\_ years old.

This year, I have been...  good all of the time  
 good some of the time  
 naughty (but nice!)

What I would like most this Christmas is...

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

And I promise to leave out \_\_\_\_\_ for you!



Merry Christmas, Santa!

Love, \_\_\_\_\_

My Address is: \_\_\_\_\_

## **FALL ACTIVITY KITS - DELIVERED TO YOUR DOORSTEP!**

Kits will arrive 10-11am | Kits include instructions | Submit your creations to win PRIZES



*SIGN UP via email to Meghan at [VALYOUM@GMAIL.COM](mailto:VALYOUM@GMAIL.COM)*  
THESE EVENTS ARE OFFERED BY THE WESTFORD RECREATION DEPARTMENT

## WESTFORD RECREATION DEPARTMENT – REGISTRATION FORM

Parent/Guardian Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Town \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address #1 \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address #2 \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

#	Name	Program	Grade	Fee
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
Are you interested in donating to the Scholarship Fund? If so, please list amount here:				
<b>Total:</b>				

**Scholarship Fund Available:** If your financial situation is preventing you from signing yourself or your child up for a program, please submit this form and in lieu of a fee, include a brief essay. The Recreation Department Committee will review eligibility for a scholarship.

Are you interested in being a **volunteer**? Coach  Parent Helper  Enthusiastic Fan

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

## WESTFORD RECREATION DEPARTMENT – REGISTRATION FORM

### COVID-19 Agreement:

To ensure the health and safety of all participants, volunteers, and their families, I agree to the following:

A personal health check will be completed within an hour BEFORE participating in any Westford Recreation Department program.

- Have you been in close contact with a person who has COVID-19?
- Has anyone in the household been out of the state of Vermont, to an area NOT in the 'green zone' in the past 14 days?
- Do you feel unwell with any symptoms consistent with COVID-19? For example, have you had a cough, high temperature, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell?
- Take temperatures prior to arrival. Does the temperature exceeds 100.4 F ?

If the answer to any of these questions are Yes, **DO NOT** attend the program.

A parent/guardian will be **required** to sign a document before each program session to confirm they have completed the personal health check.

Maintain social distancing, whenever possible. Face coverings are recommended when this is not possible.

No sharing of personal equipment, water bottles, clothing, etc.

"Arrive. Play. Leave." No gathering at the field or in the parking lot before/after programs.

Shared program equipment will be sanitized between sessions

Players are encouraged to bring hand sanitizer for use during programs and to wash your hands before and after programs.

Signature  Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Submit this Registration Form** via email ([recreation@westfordvt.us](mailto:recreation@westfordvt.us)), mail, or leave in the drop box at the Town Office:  
Town of Westford, 1713 VT Rt. 128 Westford VT 05494

**Submit Fee:** [Online](#), via mail, or leave in the drop box at the Town Office.

Make checks payable to: WESTFORD RECREATION DEPARTMENT, note the program in the memo line.

When paying online, write the name of the program in the reference number line.



## WESTFORD SCHOOL NEWS DECEMBER 2020

### Celebrations

Thank you parents for participating in virtual parent-teacher conferences this year. We greatly appreciate the opportunity to discuss student learning and progress this school year. Traditionally, Westford benefits from a very high percentage of parents who participate in conferences and this is the case this year as well.

We are learning so much as we navigate education this year and a few things stick out as positives. For example, virtual meetings allow parents to meet with teachers with less impact on their jobs and less travel time. The outdoor 8th-grade graduation was beautiful. And, our outdoor classrooms are thriving this year even with snow and colder weather.

We are teaching new safety and operating routines. Students have been incredibly compliant with wearing masks and arrive ready to learn each day. We implemented two models of instruction (hybrid model and full in-person) within the first month of school.

Insert pictures

### Connection

Resilience during a pandemic is less about individual capacities and more about how a community responds to adversity in a way that allows every member of the community to thrive. This year, more than ever, resilience means acknowledging and feeling our emotions, seeking connection, and then intentionally selecting healthy and effective coping strategies. This year has been filled with radical shifts in our lives that impact daily routines and create losses. Even changes that may seem insignificant on the surface, like the loss of field trips, can cause powerful emotions like grief and frustration. I'd like to acknowledge the wide range of feelings impacting our school community. I'd also like to share how students are feeling and the importance they place on connections. As you can see in the following two Word Clouds, students are expressing the importance of connection and healthy distraction like learning. In a Word Cloud, the larger the word appears the more times it was used by a student to describe what is going well at school this year.



