



# WESTFORD NEWSLETTER



January 2021

## Westford Town Office

1713 Vermont Route 128 - Westford, Vermont 05494

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

<https://westfordvt.us/>

## TOWN OFFICE NOTES

### 2021 Town Meeting Changes

Please see insert in this newsletter for detailed information.

#### FY'22 Budget Informational Meeting

The Selectboard will hold an informational meeting Thursday January 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm via Zoom to present the draft FY'22 town budget. This is an excellent opportunity for residents to provide feedback prior to finalization of the budget before being voted on in March 2021.

#### Petition Deadlines

**Petitions for articles** to be considered for inclusion in the warning for Town Meeting are due by 5:00pm Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup>. Petitions must be signed by at least 5% of the registered voters (a minimum of 85). Please be sure that the person signing the petition is a registered voter and that their name is legible.

**Elected offices** (Selectboard, etc.) – The legislature enacted a temporary change to the Election Laws for 2021 that removed the requirement to collect signatures to run as a candidate for Town Meeting. However, candidates are still required to file a Consent of Candidate form to run for an office. All fields are required to be completed with the exception of the Party. The deadline to submit the consent form is 5:00pm on Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. The form can be picked up at the Town Office or can be found online at <https://sos.vermont.gov/media/e3pkphur/local-candidate-consent-pdf.pdf>. Please contact the town office for a list of offices with terms expiring in March 2021.

#### Important Dates - Town Meeting

- **January 14<sup>h</sup> (Thursday)** – Selectboard FY'22 budget informational meeting. This meeting begins at 7pm and will be held via Zoom.
- **January 14<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)** – 5:00pm deadline to file petitions signed by at least 5% of the registered voters (a minimum of 85) with the Town Clerk for articles to be considered for inclusion in the warning for Town Meeting. Be sure that the person who signs the petition is a registered voter and signs their name as it appears on the checklist.
- **January 25<sup>th</sup> (Monday)** – 5:00pm deadline for filing with the Town Clerk a Consent of Candidate form to run for an elected office. Please fill in the office you are running for and the term length.
- **February 10<sup>th</sup> ((Wednesday)** – absentee ballots for Town Meeting will be available.
- **March 1<sup>st</sup> (Monday)** – 7:00pm, Public Hearing for Australian ballot questions. This meeting will be held via Zoom.
- **March 1<sup>st</sup> (Monday)** – 5:00pm deadline to request an absentee ballot for Town Meeting.
- **March 2<sup>nd</sup> (Tuesday)** – Voting day for Australian ballot articles. Polls will be open from 7am to 7pm at the Westford School in the gym.

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

## TOWN OFFICE NOTES (cont.)

### Absentee Ballots

You can request absentee ballots for Town Meeting by calling the town office (878-4587), emailing [townclerk@westfordvt.us](mailto:townclerk@westfordvt.us) or through the Secretary of State's My Voter Page (<https://mvp.sec.state.vt.us/>). Please allow sufficient time for mailing and returning the ballots to ensure your vote counts!

### Holiday Giving - Hannaford Gift Cards

Westford residents, you are amazing! The donations collected to purchase Hannaford gift cards for Westford families during the holiday season surpassed last year's donations. This is incredible because last year's donations were a record high! This year's donations broke that record! A huge thank you to everyone who supported our community!

### 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*

### Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the February Newsletter is 12 noon on Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup>.

## 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).



## 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.

## 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.



# 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>

## RABIES CLINICS



The town office received notification of rabies clinics that will be held at Tractor Supply Stores around the state in 2021. In general, a rabies vaccination costs less at clinics than a veterinarian's office. This is a **GREAT** opportunity to get your dog(s) vaccinated before April 1 when licenses are due.

Below are dates and times for (somewhat) nearby stores. Please call the store to confirm information and to get pricing.

If you are unsure if your dog(s) needs a vaccination in order to be licensed in 2021, please call (878-4587) or email ([townclerk@westfordvt.us](mailto:townclerk@westfordvt.us)) the town office and we will be happy to look up what we have on file.

### Morrisville

88 Center Road

802-888-2010

1:00pm -2:30pm

January 3, 2021

January 31, 2021

February 28, 2021

March 28, 2021

### Shelburne

3708 Shelburne Road

802-985-4092

1:00pm – 2:30pm

January 2, 2021

January 30, 2021

February 27, 2021

March 27, 2021

### St. Albans

2636 Highgate Road

802-524-0705

4:00pm – 5:30pm

January 2, 2021

January 30, 2021

February 27, 2021

March 27, 2021

# 2021 Town Meeting

The Legislature passed a bill in October 2020 making several changes to the Election Laws for local elections in being held in 2021. One of those changes authorizes governing bodies (selectboards, city councils, etc.) to vote all town meeting questions by Australian (absentee) ballot.

The Westford Selectboard has made the difficult decision to **NOT** hold an in person town meeting. At the time of their decision, COVID cases in Vermont were increasing. Although a vaccine has been approved and is being administered, there was no way of knowing what March 2021 will look like. So, under an abundance of caution and with the health and safety of Westford residents in mind, the Selectboard voted to vote all town meeting questions by Australian ballot.

## What will 2021 Town Meeting look like?

Voting will occur March 2, 2021. There will be in person voting however voters are encouraged to vote by absentee (Australian) ballot.

On January 14, 2021, the Selectboard will hold an informational meeting via Zoom on the draft proposed budget. Voters will have an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments at this meeting. Zoom meetings can be joined by video conference or via phone.

After the budget is finalized, a presentation will be posted on the town website explaining the various factors of the budget.

The Selectboard will distribute information periodically leading up to March 2, 2021 via Front Porch Forum, town newsletters, blast emails, etc.

Ballots will be available by February 10, 2021.

Ballots will **NOT** be automatically mailed to voters. You **MUST** request a ballot from the Town Clerk's office. Voters are encouraged to request ballots as soon as possible due to the short turn around time between the date ballots are available and the vote on March 2, 2021.

A public hearing will be held on March 1, 2020 via Zoom. The hearing will cover the questions being voted on March 2, 2021.

The Selectboard realizes this is a big change from what town meeting has been but firmly believes the change for 2021 is in the best interest of the safety of our community.

Please look for information regarding town meeting that will be distributed over the coming months.

If you have any questions, please contact the town office at 878-4587 or [townclerk@westfordvt.us](mailto:townclerk@westfordvt.us). You may also contact the Selectboard at [selectboard@westfordvt.us](mailto:selectboard@westfordvt.us).

**TOWN OF WESTFORD  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 2021  
6:30PM**

To join the Zoom Meeting click:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88104863301?pwd=TTIUUkZRQis1WjRodDcrMHNIR1owZz09>

Or dial:

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 881 0486 3301

Passcode: 0118

Notice is hereby given to the residents of the Town of Westford, Vermont that the Westford Planning Commission will hold a hearing Monday, January 18, at 6:30 PM on Zoom to receive public comment on the Westford, Vermont 2021 Town Plan pursuant to Chapter 117 of Title 24, Section 4387 and 4384, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

By state statute, municipalities must prepare and update their town plan every eight years; the current Westford Town Plan is set to expire 90 days after the end of the COVID-19 State of Emergency per Act 92 (the plan would have otherwise expired on May 14, 2020). The plan update affects the entire geographic area of town and focuses on the following: to add an enhanced energy plan to conform to the standards in 24 V.S.A. §4352, to pursue additional designations, programs and services to support town center area revitalization, to improve multimodal transportation options and safety, to update data and information in the plan to be as current as possible, to create an implementation strategy, and to incorporate goals and policies that will make Westford a more flood resilient community.

The Westford, Vermont 2021 Town Plan contains 10 chapters, which include: Introduction; Historic Features; Population, Housing & Existing Land Use; Facilities, Utilities & Services; Economic Development; Transportation, Public Land & Trails; Energy; Natural Resources & Features; Future Land Use; Implementation Plan. This plan is intended to be consistent with the goals established in Title 24, Section 4302.

The Westford, VT 2021 Town Plan can be viewed at <https://westfordvt.us/town-plan/> or by requesting a copy by emailing [townclerk@westfordvt.us](mailto:townclerk@westfordvt.us) or calling (802) 878-4587.



# 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>



## Westford Common Policy

**The Westford Common is a beautiful, historical area much used by townspeople and visitors. As such, it is important to protect and nurture this area so everyone can enjoy it.**

The following are the rules of agreement for your use of the Common:

1. There is no exclusive use of the Common or the Gazebo. People scheduling an event must realize that they cannot ask others to leave the area. This is a public piece of property that is used by the general public.
2. No vehicles are allowed on the Common at any time including loading/unloading, except for emergencies.
3. There is no parking on the Route 128 side of the Common.
4. Parking is only allowed along Common road, but never on the grass.
5. All events must be over by dark, except for Westford town sponsored activities.
6. Noise must be kept to a minimum. Please respect the neighboring residents.
7. All trash must be picked up and placed in trash barrels.
8. If there is any damage to any part of the Common or Gazebo, the user group is responsible for repairing the issue, with possible financial consequences.
9. Picnic tables, chairs and other items, if moved, must be returned to where they were originally.
10. Fires, heaters, or grills are strictly prohibited in or near the Gazebo.
11. Exercise care around any trees or plantings.
12. Adult supervision if required for all activities.
13. If you bring an animal to the common, you are responsible for cleaning up after them.
14. Commercial activity requires Selectboard approval.
15. Large gatherings need to be scheduled with the Town Clerk's office to avoid conflict.
16. Political signs are not allowed on the common.
17. Signs for events, such as concerts, must be taken down within 5 days of the event.



JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

# WESTFORD RECREATION DEPARTEMENT

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### JANUARY

1/5 Recreation Committee Meeting  
7pm via Zoom

1/14-1/17 Snow Sculpting Contest \$5  
The Common

### FEBRUARY

2/2 Recreation Committee Meeting 7pm  
via Zoom

2/13 & 14 Valentines Dinner for Two \$50/\$10  
3-course meals delivered to your doorstep!

## Volunteer

to help maintain our  
town **ICE RINK**

Contact the Recreation  
Department:

recreation@westfordvt.us

(802)324-7132



## ICE RINK

The Westford Common Ice Rink is up! When the ice is ready for skaters, we will notify town residents via Front Porch Forum and Facebook. All rink users must abide by the ice rink rules...

### WESTFORD TOWN COMMON ICE RINK RULES

- DO NOT go on the ice if the rink is closed.
- The rink is open 8am-10pm. No exceptions.
- No food or drink of any kind on the ice.
- All activities are NON CONTACT.
- Enter/Exit the rink through the entrance door only.
- Helmets strongly encouraged.
- Masks & social distancing are required.
- No more than 15 people are permitted on the ice at a time.
- Family Skate Hours: Fri 6-8pm, Sat 10am-12pm, Sun 2-4pm



# SNOWSCULPTING CONTEST ON THE COMMON.



Let your creativity flow at the Westford  
Common

Westford Girls Scout Troop 51841 and the  
Westford Recreation Department sponsored  
event.

You will have a roped off area to com-  
plete your masterpiece. Build a snow-  
man, sculpt a dragon, sky is the limit.

Rally your family, grab some snow  
sculpting tools along with your spirit of  
fun, adventure and creativity.

RULES; No media other than snow, ice, and  
water may be used; colorants may be added.  
No power tools are permitted. Sculptors must  
provide their own tools, at their own risk.

Sculpting dates January 14-17, 2020

Judging January 18, 2020

Entrance Fee \$5.00

Registration due January 11, 2020

In the event weather conditions are not con-  
ducive to snow sculpting, the event may be  
postponed to Presidents Weekend or it may  
be canceled.

Sign up online;

[https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/  
uploads/2020/07/WESTFORD-RECREATION-  
DEPARTMENT-REGISTRATION-FORM-July-  
2020.pdf](https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/WESTFORD-RECREATION-DEPARTMENT-REGISTRATION-FORM-July-2020.pdf)



# Valentines Dinner for Two

## MENU



### GREEN SALAD

mixed greens, watermelon radishes, english cucumbers, red onion with maple balsamic



### ENTRÉE

#### Winter Squash Risotto

sage, goat cheese, pepitas, ginger

#### Duck Ragu

Braised duck, roasted root vegetables over gnocchi

#### Cheddar Apple Stuffed Chicken Roulade

apple cider jus, glazed carrots, whipped potato



### DESSERT

chocolate flourless cake



### KIDS MEAL

Crudité

Entrée: Pasta, red sauce, meatball

Cookie

DINNER FOR TWO \$50

three course dinner includes 2 entrées, salad, dessert, candle & flower

ADD A KIDS MEAL \$10

### PLACE YOUR ORDER

by Saturday February 8th

order via email to:

recreation@westfordvt.us

### DELIVERY

orders will be delivered to your door  
choice of two dates

Saturday February 13th 3-5pm

Sunday February 14th 3-5pm

### CHEF SHAWN CALLEY



2015 Chef of the Year


2012 Top Chef Vermont Winner

3x Culinary Cup Chef Choice Winner

2x Culinary Cup People's Choice Award

### THANK YOU...

proceeds benefit 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 Mutual Aid*

We are a group of volunteers committed to the wellbeing of all in our community. We offer what we can and care for each other. To contact us, reach out to Will: call or text: 802-324-7112, Email: wdunkley65@gmail.com

You may also return this form by mail. Fill out the section below, fold this paper into thirds (this side in), place a stamp on the outside, and return.

Name:

Phone number:

Mailing address:

Email address:

Skills or materials I would like to share with other Westford residents:

Skills or materials I would like to receive from other Westford residents:

## **Are you interested in the following options (circle yes or no)?**

- Opening the Westford Food Shelf an extra day and different time each month. YES NO

- Having groceries delivered? YES NO

- Help stacking firewood or shoveling your walk? YES NO

- A home cooked meal at times? YES NO

- A free vegetable farm share in summer? YES NO

- Transportation to an appointment? YES NO

- Is there other support you need? \_\_\_\_\_

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Place Stamp Here

Westford Mutual Aid  
1560 Old Stage Road  
Westford, VT 05494

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# 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 30 and January 1. There will be no curbside service those days.



**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**

**Vermont Trivia Challenge with prizes!!!**

**Wednesday, January 13**

**7pm via Zoom/Kahoot**

**Do you know your VT**

**trivia? We'll find out. Play as a team or as individuals - all ages welcome. Fabulous VT themed prizes for the winner of each round and the overall winner. Will a native VTer win? A flatlander? Questions created by the Vermont Historical Society. Link to join and more info on FPF and Facebook.**



**Adult Book Group**

**Wednesday**

**January 20**

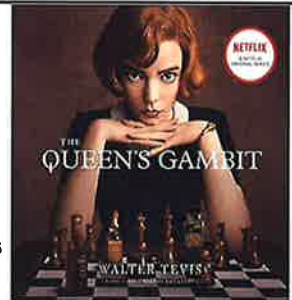
**7:00-8:00pm**

**via Zoom**

**The Queen's Gambit**

**By Walter Tevis**

Engaging and fast-paced, this gripping coming-of-age novel of chess, feminism, and addiction speeds to a conclusion as elegant and satisfying as a mate in four. Now an acclaimed Netflix series.



Eight year-old orphan Beth Harmon is quiet, sullen, and by all appearances unremarkable. That is, until she plays her first game of chess. Her senses grow sharper, her thinking clearer, and for the first time in her life she feels herself fully in control. By the age of sixteen, she's competing for the U.S. Open championship. But as Beth hones her skills on the professional circuit, the stakes get higher, her isolation grows more frightening, and the thought of escape becomes all the more tempting. (Amazon.com)

**Ebook and audiobook copies are available via Libby. A very limited amount of physical copies are available for curbside pickup.**

**Puzzle Swap - Saturday, January 30 10am-2pm**

Do you need some new puzzles to get you through the winter? Drop off complete (must have all pieces) puzzles

at any of our curbside pickup times 1/23-1/29. Bins will be available. Then come back for the swap on Jan. 30 from 10-2 - come early for best selection. Masks/distancing required. This is completely FREE - take what you will do.



Kids & adult puzzles accepted.

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

1/7/21: Theme: Snow

1/21/21: Theme: New Books

1/14/21: Theme: Birthdays

1/28/21: Penguins

**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)

### January Library Events

January 1 - CLOSED, no curbside pickup

January 6 - Trustees Meeting 7-9pm via Zoom

January 13 - VT Trivia Challenge 7pm via Zoom/  
Kahoot with prizes!

January 20 - Adult Book Group 7pm via Zoom -  
The Queen's Gambit by Walter Tevis,  
books available on Libby

January 23-January 29 - drop off puzzles during  
curbside pickup times

January 30 - Puzzle Swap 10am-2pm - come get  
some new to you puzzles to do all winter  
long. FREE! Take what you will do - come  
early for better selection.

#### 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)

Thank you to everyone who donated to the library  
this year. Whether through financial support,  
donations of books, or through your time and hard



work - we appreciate it very much. The library is a  
community resource. It is wonderful to be supported  
by such a generous community.



### Book Giving Tree - there's still time to give!

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 sign-up genius  
link:

[https://  
www.signupgenius.com/  
go/60b0449a9ad2ba1f49-  
book](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0449a9ad2ba1f49-book)



The Westford Public Library and  
Westford Conservation Commission  
will be posting a Winter Story Hike in  
January. The hike will be on the  
school trails. It will start from the  
back parking lot - look for the signs.  
Please do not walk on any of the  
groomed cross country ski tracks.

Big Snow by  
Jonathan Bean is a  
sweet story all winter  
nature lovers can  
relate to. An excited  
and frustrated boy  
watches hopefully as  
wintry weather  
develops slowly into  
a "big snow."  
Enjoyable for kids or  
kids at heart.



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 SCHOOL NEWS JANUARY 2021

### Communications

We understand that communication is critical for a strong school-family partnership and it is especially important this school year. Here are a few key places you can find information.

[Middle-Level Team Newsletter](#) ([Link to December News](#))

[Town Newsletter](#): "Go to" for what's happening in the community.

- Monthly communication about general news (upcoming events, changes, programming). Includes Principal letters and PTO newsletter.
  - Town residents sign up to receive this via the town office by emailing Nanette Rogers, Westford Town Clerk [townclerk@westfordvt.us](mailto:townclerk@westfordvt.us)

[Weekly Westford School email](#):

- Weekly reminders about school operations and deadlines that will be occurring in the next 1-2 weeks.
- Middle-Level Family Letter ([Link](#)):
  - The contingency plan should we need to go from hybrid to fully remote

[District Communications: From Beth Cobb and Ben Dickie](#)

- EWSD information as well as specific 20/21 COVID News (<https://www.ewsd.org/2020-2021>)
  - [COVID News](#) is intended to keep the Essex Westford community informed and engaged as we navigate COVID-19 and the 2020-21 school year. The updates listed on this page are a compilation of the District emails that families have received since the end of the 2019-2020 school year. We will continue to add to this as more information becomes available.

[School Website: Westford School Home Page](#)

- Holding site for general school information including the school calendar, sporting events, student handbook, links to EWSD board meeting agendas and notes, lunch menu, and other planned events.
- Classroom Blogs can also be accessed from the School Webpage

[School Twitter Account: Tweets by @wsdvtschool](#)

- Updates and pictures of events and day to day activities posted from time to time

[PTO Newsletter, Facebook & Meetings](#):

- Information about what the PTO is working on, including scheduled events and fundraisers.
- Scheduled the first Tuesday of each month at 7 pm (Sept through May)
  - Virtual meetings this year via Zoom

## Budget Development

EWSD is working to prepare a school budget for 2021/22. All budget work sessions are open to the public, and materials will be posted on the EWSD website following each meeting. Budget Work Session dates are:

- January 26, 2021
- February 9, 2021
- February 16, 2021 (Board finalizes budget)

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for:

- April 12, 2021

Voting will occur on:

- April 13, 2021

I anticipate that the focus will be on identifying the investments necessary to improve equity and to align with the highest possible student outcomes. Staffing and personnel are constantly aligned with state and district standards and look to be stable for the upcoming school year.

## Progress Reports & Upcoming Assessments

Mid-year progress reports are quickly approaching. This is a chance to report out on student mastery of academic standards and work habits. The semester ends January 15th, and families can expect a mid-year progress report to go home via email on January 22nd. Additionally, students and teachers will begin common winter assessments as a mid-year check specific to student progress in literacy and math. Please reach out with any questions or for student-specific information.

## 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.**