



WESTFORD NEWSLETTER



HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!



February 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.

Important Dates - Town Meeting

- **February 10th ((Wednesday)** – absentee ballots for Town Meeting will be available.
- **March 1st (Monday)** – 7:00pm, Public Hearing for Australian ballot questions. This meeting will be held via Zoom.
- **March 1st (Monday)** – 5:00pm deadline to request an absentee ballot for Town Meeting.
- **March 2nd (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.

Absentee Ballots

You can request absentee ballots for Town Meeting by calling the town office (878-4587), emailing 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!

Dog Licenses

Dog Licenses are due by April 1st. A current rabies certificate is required. If you are unsure if the current certificate is on file, please call the Town Office. **If you no longer have your dog or your dog has passed away, please let us know.** For your convenience you may mail or drop off the fee and rabies certificate along with a self-addressed stamped envelope and your license will be mailed to you.

The fee until April 1st is \$13.00 for intact dogs and \$11.00 if your dog is spayed or neutered. **Dog licenses obtained after April 1st are subject to a late fee.**

Senior Luncheon

Senior Luncheon: Once again we are on hold because of the Covid virus. We miss you and want to get them going again, but not to the expense of someone getting the virus. We are told to stay home and that's the best advice that I can give. Wear a mask when going out and if you don't believe this virus is real, please still wear your mask to protect all that go near you. Please know that you're in my thoughts and want everyone to stay safe and healthy. If you need something, please feel free to call me and I will do my best to do it for you or at least will find someone to help you.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY! It's hard to believe that we've had this virus for almost a year.

.....
Carol Howrigan, President • 878-3090 • carolfrank2@comcast.net

TOWN OFFICE NOTES (cont.)

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the March Newsletter is 12 noon on Monday, February 22nd.

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!
- Call to make an appointment for a service that cannot be provide by mail or electronically, such as notary services.
- Zoning Administrator hours: Monday and Tuesday, 10am-3pm (by appointment only).



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) 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 31, 2021
February 28, 2021
March 28, 2021

Shelburne
3708 Shelburne Road
802-985-4092
1:00pm – 2:30pm
January 30, 2021
February 27, 2021
March 27, 2021

St. Albans
2636 Highgate Road
802-524-0705
4:00pm – 5:30pm
January 30, 2021
February 27, 2021
March 27, 2021

LISTER VISITS

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

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

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

Notices of Change of Appraisal will be sent in May.

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

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.

A presentation of the proposed budget has been posted on the town website explaining the various factors of the budget (<https://westfordvt.us/boards/selectboard/>).

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. You may also contact the Selectboard at selectboard@westfordvt.us.

**TOWN OF WESTFORD
SELECTBOARD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021
7:00PM**

This is a Zoom Meeting. When accessing the meeting, please identify yourself by typing in your name NOT an email address or phone number. This info is needed for the minutes.

To join the Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85980592903?pwd=cmRJSzJBMFhhNEovT0tGYmRUL3Azd09>

Meeting ID: 859 8059 2903 - Passcode: Q0zMmU

OR

Dial 1-646-558-8656

Meeting ID: 859 8059 2903 - Passcode: 004399

Notice is hereby given to the residents of the Town of Westford, Vermont that the Westford Selectboard will hold a hearing **Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.** via 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 or calling (802) 878-4587.





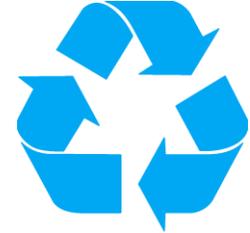
TRASH, RECYCLING & FOOD SCRAPS IN WESTFORD

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 CONSERVATION COMMISSION

ACTIVE HUNTING

Hunting is a permitted activity in the Maple Shade Town Forest.

TAKE PRECAUTIONS: Wear Orange, Leash Dogs, Make Noise

SCHOOL TRAILS: The WCC, with help from the Westford Recreation Department, was able to purchase a new groomer to create cross-country skiing trails. It grooms the trail with “corduroy” and also lays down a deeper track for cross-country skis. Walkers and snowshoers – **PLEASE** try to stay off all groomed portions of the trails including the corduroy. Please try to stay to the side as much as possible. Many of the trails back in the woods are not groomed, so there are plenty of opportunities for all winter activities. We have lots of other trails in town that are wonderful to walk in winter! These include Maple Shade Trails across the street, as well as Schultz, Goodrich, Seymour, and Covey Trails!

You can find the Westford Trail Guide on our town page at: <https://westfordvt.us/boards/conservation-commission/>

We understand that the trails are for everyone, and so this is a friendly request; it’s more important that people get out and enjoy the trails however they can.

TRAILS: Please let us know if you see downed trees or other required maintenance to any of the trails. We’re happy to go out and clean things up! Email us at westfordcc@googlegroups.com or get in touch on Facebook @WestfordCC

DONATIONS: The WCC is funded in part by donations. We have tried to do our best with the trails during the past year, since getting outside for a walk was often the only thing anyone could do! If you appreciate our efforts and would like to help fund our work, please send a donation to:

Westford Conservation Commission
1713 VT RT. 128
Westford, VT 05494

Thank you!



(Right: Goodrich Trail, January 2021)



PLANNING COMMISSION NEWS

HAPPY NEW YEAR to all Westford residents. Now that snow and winter have finally arrived, we hope many of you have the opportunity to use and explore the plethora of well-maintained town trails we are fortunate to have. Many thanks to the Conservation Commission for its efforts to make these gems accessible and available to everyone.

While it is exciting to be able to play in the snow, we are writing for a different reason. As many of you already know, the Westford Planning Commission has been working for over 12 years to find a community wastewater solution for existing and future buildings in our Town Center.

During the past 24 months the Planning Commission has also been investigating whether there is a viable opportunity for the Town to be involved with the potential subdivision and development of the property located at 1705 VT Route 128 (Pigeon property).

Information regarding both of these initiatives has been available for months on the Town's website, but not all in one location. Rather, the various studies, reports and summaries were scattered in different locations and it took some investigative work to find all the relevant material.

No More! The Planning Commission has created a webpage that now contains all relevant information and links regarding the community wastewater project and the 1705 VT Route 128 project. That new webpage can be accessed by using this link: <https://westfordvt.us/town-center-revitalization-projects/>

It can also be found on the home page of the Town's website under the heading **TOWN RESOURCES** and then under **Town Center Revitalization Projects**. If you have not yet had an opportunity to find out what these town projects are about, we encourage you to check out the new webpage.

We will be updating information and reports on the webpage as we move forward and additional information becomes available.

PLEASE BE AWARE THERE IS NO VOTE ON THESE ISSUES AT TOWN MEETING. We are simply alerting the residents to the existence of the new website and inviting everyone to learn more about these projects now that all the information is in one location. As always, we appreciate and welcome your comments and questions. Please direct any questions you may have to Melissa Manka: planner@westfordvt.us

Thank you!

Westford Planning Commission

WARM AND FUZZY MITTENS

We keep seeing more mittens crop up around town since sales ended for the Holdings Hands Across Westford project! The board and capital campaign committee for the Westford Common Hall feel deep appreciation and gratitude that so many residents in Westford took part in cheering up our community in a very trying year. The creativity that has emerged along the roadways has been heartwarming. We certainly look forward to gathering in person as a community again, but it does feel now that we are truly holding hands around our great town this winter!

For a viewing of the majority of the mittens around town, peruse the new photo album. Please send us more photos if you have them:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/Net3JPnT268kNfJx5>

You can join and connect with Westford Common Hall on Facebook, and you can find out more information about the revitalization of the Hall and donate to the improvements here: <https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/westford-common-hall-fund>

And in case you blinked and missed it, your mittens made the news!!

<https://www.wcax.com/2021/01/17/group-sells-oversized-mittens-for-westford-common-hall-revitalization/>



Thank you for all the warm fuzzies!
The Westford Common Hall



FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

WESTFORD RECREATION DEPARTEMENT

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

2/2 Recreation Committee Meeting
7pm via Zoom

2/13-2/15 Snow Sculpting Contest \$5
The Common

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

**SIGN UP BY
FEBRUARY 15TH!**



THE WESTFORD TOWN COMMON ICE RINK IS OPEN!

Please enjoy & adhere to all posted rules

**GET YOUR ORDERS IN BY
FEBRUARY 8TH!**

VOLUNTEER

to help maintain our
town ICE RINK

Sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0a4fabae28a1f49-rink>

ICE RINK HOURS

- 8am-10pm
- Closed during Rec Programs:
 - Tuesdays 3-5:30pm | Ice Skating Lessons
 - Wednesdays 8-9:30pm | Pickup Broomball

REC PROGRAMS

- Pickup Broomball. Starting 1/27 Wednesdays 8-930pm. \$45 Registration Fee + Registration Form.
- Lacrosse Kindergarten – 8th grade. See attached flyer for more info.

**THANK YOU TO THOSE OF YOU WHO
HAVE SIGNED UP TO HELP!**



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



Valentine's Dinner for Two | Order Form | *Return to recreation@westfordvt.us*

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____ Delivery Date Choice Sat. Feb 13th or Sun. Feb. 14th

Address to Deliver to: _____

Special Delivery Directions (ie: garage side door) _____

I will pay by the Delivery Date selected above: Check*/Cash in an envelope taped to the door

Check*/Cash delivered or mailed to the Town Office: Town of Westford, 1713 VT Rt. 128 Westford VT 05494

Online westfordvt.us/payments Reference Number = Valentine's Dinner

**Make Checks out to "WESTFORD RECREATION DEPARTMENT", MEMO 'VALENTINES DINNER'*

Dinner for Two \$50

Entree Choices (Select Two):

- Winter Squash Risotto
- Duck Ragu
- Cheddar Apple Stuffed Chicken Roulade

**Order also includes: Green Salad, Dessert, Candle, & Flower*

Dinner for Two \$50

Entree Choices (Select Two):

- Winter Squash Risotto
- Duck Ragu
- Cheddar Apple Stuffed Chicken Roulade

**Order also includes: Green Salad, Dessert, Candle, & Flower*

Kids Meal (crudite, pasta with red sauce, meatball, cookie) \$10 each

Meals will be cooked and packaged, delivered from 3-5pm on the date you chose. There will be directions included to reheat your meal so you can enjoy it at your convenience. All deliveries will be contactless: left at your doorstep with a knock or doorbell ring.

Proceeds will benefit the Westford Recreation Department. Thank you for your order!

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 complete
your masterpiece. Build a snowman, 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 **February 18th-21st**

Judging **February 21st**

Entrance Fee **\$5.00**

Registration due **February 15th**

In the event weather conditions are not
conducive 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)

PICK UP BROOMBALL



Wednesdays at the Westford Ice Rink

8pm-930pm

Every Wednesday, Ice permitting, January 27th-??

Registration Fee \$45.00

Helmets recommended. Sticks available.

<https://westfordvt.us/recreation/>

Please email with any questions, recreation@westfordvt.us

Westford Lacrosse



Tiny Cats K-2

Mid April to Early June

Practices to be determined

Players need to have their own sticks.

We are hoping to play one or two Jamborees

Against St. Albans and Milton

3/4, 5/6, 7/8 Co-ED

Early April to Mid June

Practices to be determined

Saturday Games

Games begin in May. In the beginning of

the season, practices will be 3x a week

until games begin.

<https://westfordvt.us/recreation/>

Players will begin to build on skills and basic game play. In the beginning of the season, practices are three times a week until the start of games in May. The team will play around 10 games during the season. We are part of the Northern Youth Lacrosse League.

Players need their own sticks, padding and helmets. A limited number of helmets and padding are available through the Recreation Department as a loan on a first come first served basis. Please note on your registration form if you need any item.

Registration Fees; Tiny Cats \$45, 3/4 \$50, 5/6 \$75, 7/8 \$85

Registrations Due Feb 12th, late registrations add \$5.00

Players will also need to register with US lacrosse, pervious season cost was \$25

If you have any questions about the game of Lacrosse, or wish to speak to the coach, contact Brent Carpenter at brent.carpenter29@gmail.com

Tonya Calley, Recreation Department Coordinator; 802.324.7132 or recreation@westfordvt.us

WESTFORD RECREATION DEPARTMENT – REGISTRATION FORM

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:				
Total:				

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), 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 PUBLIC LIBRARY

<https://westfordpubliclibrary.org>

(802) 878-5639

westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com

1717 VERMONT ROUTE 128, WESTFORD VT 05494



While our building is closed, we are taking the opportunity to make some infrastructure improvements. Thanks to a generous grant from the UVM Office of Engagement, we were able to upgrade our air filtration from standard filters to HEPA filters. We also had a UV duct light installed to help with bacteria, viruses, mold, dust, and other allergens. These upgrades allow us to provide a safer environment for our patrons now, and for the future.

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

iovelibraries

Supporting one of our nation's most important resources

What's Your Library Worth to You?

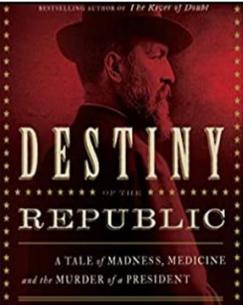
Go to <http://www.ilovelibraries.org/what-libraries-do/calculator> and calculate **how much** your library saves you and/or your family monthly. It's nice to see how much the community saves the library - after all, it's your tax dollars at work!

I Love to Read Photo Challenge! All Month Long! Email the library a picture showing that you love to read!



Maybe it's your favorite book, your bedside stack, your kids discovering a new book, or something else! Get creative and send it to me in an email. I'll post and make a slideshow. I have ten "I LOVE Books" bags for those who send a photo in. Can't wait!

Adult Book Group
Wednesday
February 17
7:00-8:00pm
via Zoom
Destiny of the Republic: A Tale of Madness, Medicine and the Murder of a President
By Candice Millard



James Abram Garfield was one of the most extraordinary men ever elected president. Born into abject poverty, he rose to become a wunderkind scholar, a Civil War hero, a renowned congressman, and a reluctant presidential candidate who took on the nation's corrupt political establishment. But four months after Garfield's inauguration in 1881, he was shot in the back by a deranged office-seeker named Charles Guiteau. Garfield survived the attack, but become the object of bitter, behind-the-scenes struggles for power—over his administration, over the nation's future, and, hauntingly, over his medical care. Meticulously researched, epic in scope, and pulsating with an intimate human focus and high-velocity narrative drive, *The Destiny of the Republic* brings alive a forgotten chapter of U.S. history. (amazon.com)

Print copies of this book are available for curbside pickup. Available as an ebook or audiobook on Libby.

Virtual Early Literacy Storytime - fun for all ages - posted every Thursday - FPF, Facebook, YouTube and our website under the storytime tab.

2/4/21: Theme: Moon (50th anniv. of Apollo 14)
2/18/21: Theme: Presidents

2/11/21: Theme: Mo Willems
2/25/21: Theme: Birds

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

February Library Events

February 3 - Trustees Meeting 7-9pm via Zoom

February 5-13 - Pick up your Valentine's Craft Project from curbside pickup

February 17 - Adult Book Group 7pm via Zoom - *Destiny of the Republic: A Tale of Madness, Medicine, and the Murder of a President* by Candace Millard

February 19-27 - Pickup up your Family Science Kits from curbside pickup

All month long: What's Your Library Worth to You? Library calculator

I Love Reading Photo Challenge - send me a picture showing that you love to read!

StoryHike on the School Trails - "Big Snow"

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)

The Westford Public Library & Westford Conservation Commission have a Winter Story Hike up on the school trails. It starts from the back parking lot - look for the signs.

Please do not walk on any of the groomed cross country ski tracks.



Curbside Valentine's Day Craft!

Pick up all the supplies you need to make a "heart-warming" Valentine's Day collage. These kits were put together by a local crafter - so you know they will have a lot of great materials.

Kits will be available curbside 2/5-2/13, no need to order, just stop by and pick up. One kit for each crafter. Great for all ages! Next month: "Mark my Place" bookmark project!



Curbside Family Science Kits Pickup 2/19-2/27

Want something fun and enriching to do with your kids over February Vacation? The library has you covered! Using resources from Nasa@myLibrary, I've made kits to help families explore science together. Pick up a kit with four activities and some of the needed supplies. Kits also include instructions and further Nasa links and resources. Projects include: making a clinometer, mapmaking, Cloud in a Jar, and building a mosquito larvae trap. No need to order, just stop by and pick up. One per family.

NASA@ My Library

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WESTFORD SCHOOL NEWS

Dear Westford,

As a reminder, March 2nd is the annual Westford Town Meeting voting day. We are happy to open our doors to the community for this important civic duty. We have always enjoyed the beauty of a day where the Westford Town Community merges with the Westford School Community. It's important that our students know our community supports the democratic process of voting and that our community members feel welcome and safe at our school. This year is like no other in so many ways. In order to provide the Westford community access to the school for Town Meeting voting while maintaining the highest safety standards for both our school community and the larger Westford community, we are choosing to offer remote learning instead of in-person learning on Tuesday, March 2nd. The good news is that we have experience in remote learning now and by going remote on March 2nd, we can safely open the building to our community, meet all safety standards, and provide high-quality instruction to our students. We appreciate the flexibility of families in their efforts to support remote learning days and also recognize this is not an easy task.

Our school community has also come together to best support a new 3/4 multi-age classroom. Based on current social distancing guidelines from the Department of Health and the Agency of Education, and in light of an increase in school wide enrollment particularly impacting the already large number of 3rd and 4th grade students, we are hiring a new multi age 3/4 teacher. The decision to create a new classroom means that we can continue to meet distancing guidelines from the Agency of Education and the Department of Health, continue with in person learning for all current students, support new enrollments and students who may wish to return from the Remote Academy, and reduce class size in the existing 3rd and 4th grade classrooms. While we examined many creative ways to address these challenges and our students' needs, the decision to hire a teacher was deemed the most desirable in meeting the needs of all students. As you can imagine, setting this classroom up for success in the middle of a pandemic required a team effort. Again, our teachers, parents, and staff have gone the extra mile to create a learning environment mid-year that meets the high expectations of Westford. I'm proud to be part of an organization that can demonstrate such high standards and flexibility when faced with an unexpected challenge. A huge thank you to all involved in the advertising and recruitment process, the hiring process, the placement of students, the setup of the physical space, and the ongoing instructional support. And a special thank you and appreciation to current 3rd and 4th grade families for your comments and flexibility. In response to the placement of current students into a new classroom, we received feedback such as "place our child wherever you need. We have trust in our teachers and administration and want to make this as easy as possible for a difficult transition. We LOVE his current teacher, and we understand others have needs and we want them in the front of the line. Also, thank you for making this decision so all students have a place at school and a SAFE one during this pandemic." The mutual trust and confidence shared between home and school is a cherished gift especially during such a challenging time for all.

Assessments

A student's learning requires ongoing instruction and assessment as well as solid communication among team members. We have set up a series of opportunities to provide ongoing communication with parents about their student's learning experiences throughout the year. Please note that mid-year process reports were sent home Friday, January 22nd, and winter assessments are underway. Parent conferences are scheduled for March 19th.

Local Assessments

Our winter assessments serve as a mid-year check providing information concerning student progress in literacy and math. It allows us to adjust both individual student plans and school-wide action steps. The EWSD Comprehensive Assessment Plan can be found at <https://sites.google.com/a/ewsd.org/ewsd-comprehensive-assessment-plan-2019-2020/>

National Assessment:

- **NAEP**, which assesses various subjects across the nation for 4th and 8th grade students, **is postponed and will take place in 2022**

State Assessments

- **SBAC will take place this year on in-person learning days only.** The assessment window is March 16- June 11, 2021. Once our teams determine grade specific days for testing, we will communicate this to families.
 - **Math and English/Language Arts Assessment:** All students in grades 3-8 are required each spring to take the state test called the *Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC)*. SBAC is a computer-adaptive assessment measuring each student's performance against the Common Core State Standards in Mathematics and English/Language Arts.
- **Fitness Assessment is not a state requirement**
 - Vermont is in year two of a new Fitness assessment using the Fitnessgram tool. Westford has been administering this assessment for several years through the PE program and will continue to use pieces of this when appropriate.

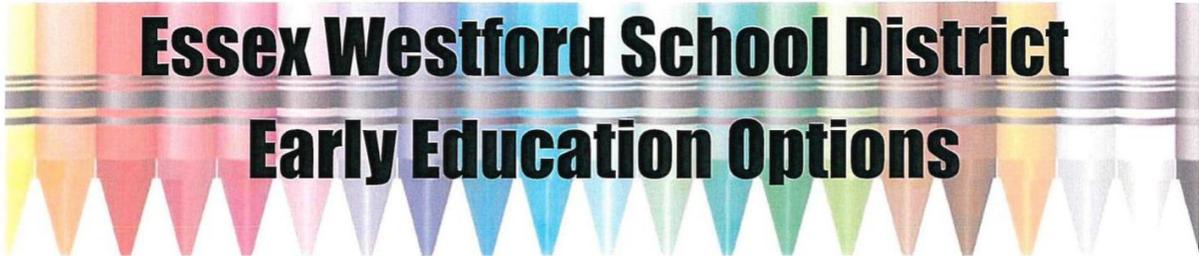
Prekindergarten Registration Information

Information is now available to request that your child is entered into the EWSD school-based prekindergarten lottery for the 2021-22 school year. Eligible students reside in Essex Junction, Essex Town, or Westford and are at least three years old on 9/1/21. ***The deadline for entering next year's prekindergarten lottery is Friday, February 26, 2021.*** Registrations for Act 166 for the 2021/22 school year are also being taken (there is no deadline for Act 166 registration). A flyer with information about both the EWSD prekindergarten lottery and Act 166 registration is included in this newsletter. More information and links to the forms can also be found on either the [EWSD](#) or [Westford School](#) websites. Questions regarding all EWSD preK programs can be directed to Johanna Simmons in the Office of Student Support Services at jsimmons@ewsd.org

Budget

Please join the Westford PTO on Monday, February 1st 7:00-7:30pm via zoom at <https://ewsd.zoom.us/j/8025826046> for a budget update provided by [Brian Donahue](#) Chief Operating Officer.





Essex Westford School District

Early Education Options

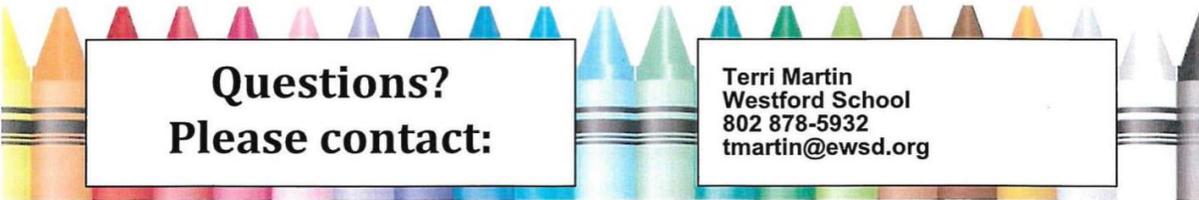
Registration for 2021-2022 Prekindergarten Lottery is now open

The Essex Westford School District offers school-based prekindergarten programs at the Essex Elementary School, Hiawatha Elementary School, Summit Street School, and Westford School. Space is limited in our school-based programs, and placement is determined by a lottery draw each year. More information about the preschool program, the lottery, and also about Act 166 registration can be found on the [EWSD prekindergarten page](#).

EWSD is now collecting requests for the 2021-2022 pre-K lottery. We are using a Google Form again this year, and the form will be posted throughout the district webpages.

- The window is now open for submitting registration requests for the 2021-2022 school year! Please click on the "[Pre-K Lottery Form](#)" link to request that your child's name be included in the lottery.
- **All requests must be submitted by Friday February 26, 2021**
- A lottery drawing will be held in March 2021 to determine placement
- The district will respond to all requests in April 2021; the district will not respond to any requests prior to April 2021
- Eligible students are at least 3 years old on September 1st 2021.

If you wish to register your child in preschool next year, please submit the 2021-2022 [PreK lottery form](#) by Friday, February 26, 2021. For a hard copy of the registration form, please contact Terri Martin at the Westford School at 802 878-5932 or by email at tmartin@ewsd.org



**Questions?
Please contact:**

Terri Martin
Westford School
802 878-5932
tmartin@ewsd.org

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 or 846-4490.

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

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.