



WESTFORD NEWSLETTER

May 2021



Happy Memorial Day!

The **Baltimore oriole** is one of Vermont's early May arrivals. They like large leafy trees and have a loud flutey whistle. They eat mostly insects, but also like nectar so you may see them at your hummingbird feeder!

Westford Town Office

1713 Vermont Route 128 - Westford, Vermont 05494

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

<https://westfordvt.us/>

TOWN OFFICE NOTES

Property Taxes Due – Final Installment

The final property tax installment is due Monday, May 17th. Payments postmarked (US postal, UPS, FedEx) by the 17th are considered timely as well as payments placed in the drop box before the office opens at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 18th. The drop box is located to the left of the town office door.

Please note - If you pay your taxes using Bill Pay (generating a check online through your financial institution), please make sure you allow sufficient time for mailing. These envelopes do not bear a postmark therefore will be acknowledged by the date received at the Town Office not by the date on the check.

Any taxes received or postmarked later than May 17th will be subject to 1% interest and an 8% penalty.

Senior Luncheon

Once again we will not be having our May luncheon. I'm still hoping that September is a safe date, but only time will tell. Everyone is in our thoughts and prayers that you are healthy and able to get outside once in a while. Has everyone gotten their vaccination shots. Please call me if you aren't able to get a ride or can't maneuver the computer or telephone in making that appointment. I will be giving you monthly updates. Have a great spring and enjoy your vegetable and flower gardens.

Carol Howrigan, President • Maureen Estus, Vice President • Beth Menut, Secretary • Lorren Teer, Treasurer
878-3090 • carolfrank2@comcast.net

Dogs Licenses

If you have not licensed your dog(s) please do so as soon as possible (**licenses were due April 1st**).

A current rabies certificate is required. If you are unsure if the current certificate is on file, please call or email the Town Office (878-4587 or townclerk@westfordvt.us). For your convenience, you may mail or drop off the fee and rabies certificate along with a self-addressed stamped envelope and we will mail the license to you. The fee is \$13.00 unless your dog is spayed or neutered, in which case the fee is \$11.00.

TOWN OFFICE HOURS

The Town Office will be **Closed** Monday May 31st in observance of Memorial Day

The Town Office is **CLOSED TO WALK-IN SERVICE** at this time. However, we are working on a plan to re-open and will send out a notice when that happens. Until then:

- Office staff are available to take phone calls 8:30am – 4:00pm 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).

TOWN OFFICE NOTES (continued)

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the June Newsletter is 12:00 noon on Monday, May 24th.

Spring Yard Clean Up

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

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

Homestead Declaration & Income Tax Filing Deadline

By Vermont law, property owners whose homes meet the definition of a Vermont homestead (<https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/32/135/05401>) must file a Homestead Declaration (HS-122) annually. This year, the deadline to file a Homestead Declaration is May 17th. Failure to file the form by the deadline will result in a penalty being assessed.

For more information and to file your form online go to <https://tax.vermont.gov/property-owners/homestead-declaration>. You will need a copy of your tax bill to complete the HS-122. If you do not have a copy, please contact the town office.

The deadline to file your state and federal income tax returns is also May 17th.

VERMONT INCOME TAX FORMS

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

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

WESTFORD CEMETERY REMINDERS

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

Thank you for your cooperation,
Westford Cemetery Commission



MUD SEASON!

What you need to know about early spring road conditions

- **Mud:** appears on gravel roads as snow thaws. Reduce your driving speeds to ensure safety and to preserve road conditions
- **Snow:** a mix of precipitation can occur. Snow on top of muddy roads will become more slippery
- **Potholes:** WILL appear on gravel roads. They cannot be fixed in freezing temperatures. Do your part to help reduce potholes by driving slowly and avoiding areas in poor condition if you can.
- **Heavy Loads:** do damage to thawing roads. Traveling roads with heavy equipment may be prohibited at any time.
- **Repairs:** roads are repaired as weather allows. Know that this takes time, it might take the road crew some time to get to your road. Highly traveled roads in poor condition are given priority.

Reminders:

- Watch for increased activity by wildlife including bears coming out of hibernation, wild turkey and young animals navigating roads for the first time.
- Pedestrian & recreational use of roads will increase starting at this time of the year.
- It's spring Turkey Season! Pets and people should wear orange to alert hunters to your presence.



ARSL Outfielder
2021-22 Cohort
www.arsl.org

Congratulations to Bree Drapa, Westford Library director, chosen by the Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) to participate in ARSL's *Outstanding in Their Field* Leadership Institute. Beginning in August of 2021, this group of 30 library professionals from around the country will engage in residential, online, and conference experiences spanning 18 months to deepen their understanding of and commitment to professional values while they gain practical managerial skills.

Join the Trustees of Westford Library in congratulating Bree on this honor.

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.



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: SPRING

- Snow melt can make some piles wet, be conscious to add "browns" like dried leaves or straw to keep things working smoothly.
- Natural yard waste from spring cleanup can make a great addition to any compost pile.
- As things thaw it will be easier to turn your compost! Turning compost frequently will help keep odors down and pests away.

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>



EXTRA FOOD SHELF OPENINGS!

The Food Shelf will be open an Extra Day for the next few months!

The first Wednesday of each month from 4:30 to 5:30. (This is in addition to the regular third Saturday).

All are welcome, no questions asked.

So mark your calendars:

- **March 5, 4:30 - 5:30**
- **March 15, 8:00 - 9:00**

Now is a good time to make Donations so we have full shelves to offer our neighbors!

MOST NEEDED THIS MONTH:

- Canned tuna, chicken, ham
- Laundry and household cleaners
- Cheese and butter
- Pet food
- Fresh fruits and vegetables

Non-perishable items may be dropped off at the Westford Market, or at the town office during regular hours (please call ahead, as the office is not open to the public due to COVID). Perishable items may be brought to the Common Hall (aka White Church) at 4:00 on Wednesday, or 7:30 on Saturday. Or contact me for pick-up: carol@vtwildlife.com



WE ARE BACK!

RED BRICK MEETING HOUSE REOPENING

Re-opening May 1! The Red Brick Meeting House (RBMH), a Westford Community Center, is re-opening for rentals and use by member organizations.

Need a place to have a birthday, retirement, family gathering? Does your business need a meeting place? The RBMH has a small kitchen available as well as a large open area with tables and chairs available.

To schedule use, contact Caroline at (802) 878-8890 .

Please bear in mind, as per Vermont state requirements due to Covid, there are several additional considerations from May 1 to July 4, subject to change as the state changes requirements. These include masks still required, 6 foot distancing, sign in required, extra good hygiene, stay home if sick, 1 unvaccinated person/100 sq ft (or 11 people in the RBMH) plus any vaccinated people. If vaccination status is unknown, people are assumed to be unvaccinated.



PLANNING COMMISSION NEWS

The Planning Commission continues to move forward on many fronts. On February 25, 2021, after a public hearing, the Westford Selectboard approved the newest version of the Town Plan. It can be found at this link: [2021-Town-Plan_Adopted.pdf \(westfordvt.us\)](#).

On April 19, 2021, the Planning Commission held a public hearing on its latest round of amendments to the Westford Land Use and Development Regulations (WLUDR). The Selectboard will soon schedule a public hearing on those same amended WLUDR, hopefully by the end of May. The amendments can be found at this link: [Proposed-Westford-Land-Use-Development-Regulations.pdf \(westfordvt.us\)](#).

Community Revitalization Projects: 1705 Rt 128. In November 2020, the Town was awarded a \$60,000 planning grant from the Vermont Community Development Program. The grant's purpose is to assist the Town research and analyze the 1705 Rt. 128 property and develop a site plan to identify and address many site-specific issues. As part of this process, the Town solicited bids (Requests for Quotes) from local engineering firms. The Town received 5 bids and, after discussing those submissions at a meeting on April 19th, the Planning Commission chose 2 firms to interview at its May 3rd meeting. The firm ultimately selected will begin its work immediately with the goal of having the site plan completed by January 2022. We anticipate having public engagement meetings as this work progresses.

Wastewater: As we reported previously, in order to be considered for State and Federal funding sources, the Town needed to complete a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) and have that report accepted by the State. The PER was approved by the Selectboard at its December 10, 2020 meeting. The State approved the PER without comment last month. A summary of the PER will be posted to the Town's website shortly.

The Planning Commission reviewed a draft STEP II Engineering Services Agreement at its April 19th meeting. This is an agreement with our engineering consultants that governs the next phase of investigation and research. The services outlined in this agreement will bring the Town through preparation of an Indirect Discharge permit application. The STEP II Engineering Services Agreement has not yet been approved by the Selectboard, which will review it at a yet to be scheduled meeting, hopefully by the end of May.

As a result of the federal government's recent stimulus programs for recovery and reinvestment, the funding possibilities for our wastewater project are changing rapidly, for the better. The federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 will contribute \$35,000,000.00 to Vermont for village water, wastewater and pre-treatment systems. This investment will have a profound impact on the ability of rural communities to develop critical infrastructure necessary to revitalize village centers. Also, the additional infrastructure legislation currently being debated in Congress, if passed, will contribute additional funds for village infrastructure projects, like our community wastewater. The possibility exists for the Town to be awarded significantly more funding than what was available just a few months ago. This is a quickly moving target and all of the details have not yet been finalized. However, the Town has been in regular communication with State and federal representatives about these potential funding opportunities and has moved aggressively to secure its place in the queue for a portion of the State's \$35,000,000.00 allocation, as well as any additional funding from the federal government. We will provide updates when available.

As always, we appreciate and welcome your comments and questions. Please direct any questions you may have to Melissa Manka: planner@westfordvt.us.



WESTFORD SUMMER CONCERTS - 2021

We are happy to announce our Westford Summer Concerts series line up for 2021! We have a great season coming up. All shows are scheduled for July and August and are all on Sunday evenings starting from 7 – 8 pm for the main musical performance. We have also been able to confirm that food trucks will also be setting up starting at 6 pm so your evening can be extended to include dinner on the Common as well. So come early, stay late, and bring the family for a real summertime outdoorsy treat.

We were extremely lucky last year in that we did not get any rain cancellations. In a usual year, if rain seems pending we would just move the show inside the Red Brick Meeting House; however, Covid restrictions have made that option unavailable, and we have to assume that the same conditions may apply this season as well.

With that in mind, (2) rain dates have been built into the schedule. If a headline band gets rained out, they will perform at one of the remaining rain dates. If the rain dates do not need to be exercised for the headliners, then local fill-in bands are willing to take those dates at short notice, but we don't know who that will be ahead of time. So we will have concerts **every** Sunday night in July and August (except July 4th) unless it rains on a Sunday evening.

As like last year, we are asking all participants to adhere to Covid protocols that are in effect for each date. We would assume that would entail social distancing practices for all attendees that are not from the same household and wearing of masks whenever not able to maintain proper social distances from others. BYO chairs, blankets, picnic baskets, beverages, etc. for those not purchasing from vendors.

We ask everyone to clean up any trash and use the standard hiker's policy of "carry in, carry out". There are (2 sets of trash cans and recycle barrels at the Common, so please seek them out and use them. No cars should be parked on the Common directly, but cars can be parked on the side of the roads that ring the Common, preferably on the south side dirt road, or use the designated parking areas at east and west ends of the Common. Please be courteous and leave spaces available at the west end area so that patrons of the Westford Country Store that are not attending the concert can get in and out for store purchases.

So with that overview, the following dates and bands have been lined up:

July 11 – Christine Malcolm & the Dirty Blonde String Band

July 18 – Blues For Breakfast

July 25 – Red Hot Juba

August 1 – RAIN DATE

August 8 – Mr. Chris and Friends

August 15 – Vermont Bluegrass Pioneers

August 22 – Erin Harpe Country Blues Duo

August 29 – RAIN DATE

Every one of the listed bands will put on a stellar show and I will give a better background of each as the dates approach for those of you that are unfamiliar with each band.

WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

<https://westfordpubliclibrary.org>

(802) 878-5639

westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com

1717 VERMONT ROUTE 128, WESTFORD VT 05494

The Library reopens for in-person visits May 1!

The building will be open:

Wednesdays (1-7pm)

Saturdays (10am-2pm)

No appointments are necessary.

We will be providing curbside service ONLY:

Thursdays (10am-Noon)

Fridays (3-6pm)

Based on Governor Scott's Vermont Forward plan for Group B establishments, the library board feels it is safe to open the library under Universal Guidance:

- Masks, social distancing and hand hygiene are required
- The library will allow patrons inside at 50% capacity
- High touch surfaces will be cleaned regularly

We also ask:

- Patrons limit visits to 30 minutes unless using the computers or internet
- All in-person programming will be outside (In-person storytime returns to the Common on May 6!)
- Patrons of all ages are welcome, children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

We are entering phase 5 of our reopening plan. See our website for more details.

We will monitor and re-evaluate our opening plans monthly based on state & local health data.

Westford Public Library COVID Response Services

(Phases are subject to change based on local, state and national data. Phases may be moved forward or back.)



The community's safety is our top priority - we can't wait to see you!

Building is OPEN to patrons:

Wednesdays 1-7pm

Saturdays 10am-2pm

Curbside pickup hours:

Thursday 10am-Noon

Friday 3-6pm

In Phase 5 of our reopening plan

Adult Book Group

Wednesday

May 19

7:00-8:00pm

via Zoom

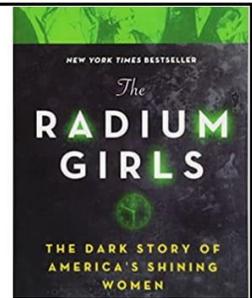
The Radium Girls:

The Dark Story of

America's Shining

Women

By: Kate Moore



The incredible true story of the women who fought America's Undark danger.

The Curies' newly discovered element of radium makes gleaming headlines across the nation as the fresh face of beauty, and wonder drug of the medical community. From body lotion to tonic water, the popular new element shines bright in the otherwise dark years of the First World War.

Meanwhile, hundreds of girls toil amidst the glowing dust of the radium-dial factories. The glittering chemical covers their bodies from head to toe; they light up the night like industrious fireflies. With such a coveted job, these "shining girls" are the luckiest alive — until they begin to fall mysteriously ill. But the factories that once offered golden opportunities are now ignoring all claims of the gruesome side effects, and the women's cries of corruption. (from Amazon.com)

Print copies of this book are available at the library. Available as an ebook or audiobook on Libby.

IN PERSON STARTING MAY 6 - Outside Early Literacy Storytime - Birth to Pre-School

Every Thursday at 11:30am on the Common

5/6/21: Theme: Mother's Day

5/13/21: Theme: Flowers

5/20/21: Theme: Rainbows

5/27/21: Theme: Ms. Bree's Choice

Bring a blanket and your masks and talk to your kids about social distancing ahead of time. Snacks or a lunch are a good idea too. We will sing songs, read stories, move and have fun! If weather is bad, storytime will be sent out digitally. Curbside crafts can be picked up as well.

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

May Library Events

May 1 - Library Opens! For more details see first page of this newsletter.

May 1 - Green Up Day - get your green bags at the library and make your corner of Vermont beautiful!

May 5 - Trustees Meeting via Zoom - 7-9pm

May 19 - Adult Book Group via zoom - 7-8pm, discussing *The Radium Girls* by Kate Moore

Library Building open starting May 1
Wednesdays from 1-7pm
Saturdays 10am-2pm

Curbside Pickup of Library Materials:
Thursdays 10-Noon
Fridays 3-6pm

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

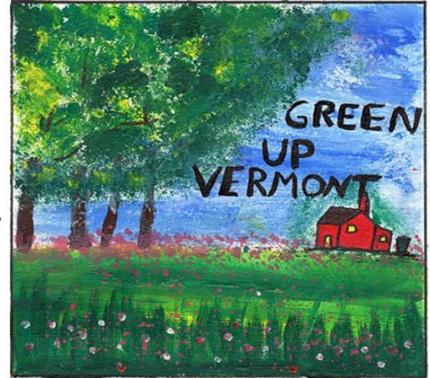
Storytime every Thursday 11:30 on the Common, digitally if weather is bad

Fiber Arts Group meets every Thursday via Zoom at 6:30pm (email library for the link)

FREE yoga with Doris on Sundays 10:00-11:15am, sign up at recreation@westfordvt.us

Green Up Day bags are available at the library.

Swing by on our first open day, May 1 and grab your bags and say hello! We will be open 10am-2pm on May 1.



Yoga with Doris is back via Zoom!

Sundays May 2-23 from 10:00-11:15am. This class is FREE!

Sign up at recreation@westfordvt.us You will be emailed the zoom link.



Looking forward to Summer Reading? We are too!

Summer Reading runs June 12 - August 13. The theme is "Tails and Tales" - it's all about animals! Ms. Bree is planning a summer of outdoor programming, performers, arts & crafts, and LOTS of animals!



Starting May 1, curbside service will be phasing out.

We will providing the service ONLY:
Thursdays 10-Noon
Fridays 3-6pm

As we transition to being more open throughout the summer, we will be doing away with this service. If you feel you really need this, for whatever reason, feel free to contact the library and we can work it out.

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.

MAY 2021 NEWSLETTER

WESTFORD RECREATION DEPARTEMENT

UPCOMING EVENTS

 MAY

5/2 Yoga Classes begin again
10am via Zoom

5/4 Recreation Committee Meeting
7pm via Zoom



Summer is coming...

SUMMER PROGRAM

SIGN UP IS OPEN!

Basketball Camp

Info coming soon!

Contact Us:

recreation@westfordvt.us

SPRING PROGRAMS

- Lacrosse – *TINY CATS (Grades 1-2) Volunteer Coach Needed!*
- FREE Yoga Sundays 10am 75mins for 4 weeks

SUMMER PROGRAMS

- \$20 PRE-K SOCCER Tuesdays 4-430pm
- \$20 K – 1st Grade SOCCER Tuesdays 4:45-5:30pm
- \$20 2nd-4th Grade SOCCER Tuesdays 5:45-6:45pm & Sat. 9-10am
- \$25 T-BALL (Ages 3-6) Saturdays 9-10am
- \$20 ADULT PICKUP SOCCER Thursdays 6-7pm
- \$20 5th 8th Grade PICKUP SOCCER Thursdays 6-7pm

THANK YOU, WESTFORD RESIDENTS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.

THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT IS ABLE TO OFFER PROGRAMS TO OUR COMMUNITY
THANKS TO VOLUNTEERS, DONATIONS, AND INVOLVEMENT IN OUR PROGRAMS.

*****EVERY PROGRAM HAS SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE*****

SUNDAY MORNING YOGA WITH DORIS
CONTINUES! MAY 2-MAY 23.



Combat the stress created by the global pandemic and start your week with a Yoga asana practice. After some breathing exercises to quiet our minds and a warm-up, we will go through a number of standing poses to improve strength, flexibility, and balance. We will conclude the class with gentle stretches and take time to absorb the benefits of the practice in a final resting pose.

This event is open for every adult. However, due to the class being online, pre-existing experience with Yoga is encouraged to avoid any kind of injury. Aside from a mat, props like a strap (or something similar like a belt or scarf), blanket, cushion or bolster and blocks will come in handy.

Sunday, 10am, 75mins, for 4 weeks
May 2nd-23rd
FREE ZOOM CLASSES
Please send registrations to recreation@westfordvt.us

Doris came to the US from Germany in 1997 on a long-term assignment in the semiconductor business. She and her partner quickly fell in love with Vermont and decided to build a home here in 2001. They lived in Burlington and Williston and moved to Westford in 2014. After retiring from her career as an Application Engineer at the end of 2020, she decided to build on her 15+ years of practicing yoga and become a teacher. She is now a certified 200Hrs Yoga instructor. She is continuing her training to become a 500Hrs Yoga teacher while expanding her portfolio to include meditation.

This program is brought to you as a collaboration of the Westford Recreation Department and the Westford Public Library. We hope you enjoy!

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.

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WESTFORD SCHOOL NEWS

News

A special welcome back to our 7th and 8th grade students who begin 4 days a week of in-person learning on May 3rd, and to all K-6 students at Westford School who transition to in-person learning five days the week of April 26th. Having had the experience of K-5 and then 6th grade back has been helpful in the logistical planning necessary to make this work for 7th and 8th grade students and thus opening our building to all of our students for in person learning.

It's important to acknowledge the recent uptick in cases within our community over the past few weeks and the possibility that we face a higher risk of going fully remote for a period of time with the changes now in place. Additionally, we want to recognize and prepare for the expected things we may notice as we move through this pandemic, especially as things begin to open up. For example, our students have not had the typical exposure to the noise and social interactions of a full classroom day after day. We will take care to notice the sensory and cognitive demands these changes bring. We are all adjusting and the feelings and experiences that come with this adjustment are normal. The key will be gradual exposure to discomfort to increase tolerance and stamina. As you can see, we are engaged in planning beyond meeting health and safety guidelines. I am thankful that families were able to inform our planning efforts by sharing their thoughts via a recent survey.

Curriculum & Instruction

Students shared their learning and personalized learning plans during recent student-led conferences. Student-led conferences provide students the time to talk about their learning, their goals, and their growth with trusted and caring adults. It is a Westford tradition that continued this year using video conferencing. I am hopeful we will be able to link a few examples on our webpage.

An authentic audience and interesting content support student engagement, and student engagement has a huge impact on learning and culture. The use of humor to increase engagement is a tool you can see in full force at Westford School, from the joke picked by students and read during morning announcements, read-alouds with funny books, and in Writing Workshop. Jokes are filled with opportunities for studying language. Our 5th and 6th grade students are exploring memes, pairing an image (usually exaggerated) with text to make someone laugh. Here are two examples from students who may have a future in comedy.



Infusing Writing Workshop with strategies that harness students' desire to write in an entertaining way increases their engagement. Next month, we will highlight the great student work specific to persuasive essays, another area where student interest and voice are harnessed that results in high engagement and high quality writing.

Assessment

- The **Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC)** in Mathematics and English/Language Arts, as well as the Vermont Science Assessment, are scheduled.
 - Students in grades 3 & 4 will take the SBAC the week of May 3rd.
 - Students in grades 5-/8 will take the SBAC between May 10-May 21.
 - All 5th and 8th grade students will also take the state science assessment between April 26-April 30

Featured Programs & Activities

Co-Ed volleyball and Girls on the Run bring spring opportunities for healthy and active after school activities.

Planning for an outdoor 8th grade graduation ceremony is underway. Thank you to parents for participating in the planning of an outdoor ceremony on Friday, June 11th with a Monday rain date similar to last year's experience. It is such an exciting time of the school year and taking a moment to plan how to honor our amazing 8th grade class is a welcome change of pace.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY!

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

Chittenden County Regional Planning Commissioner Alternate Representative

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

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

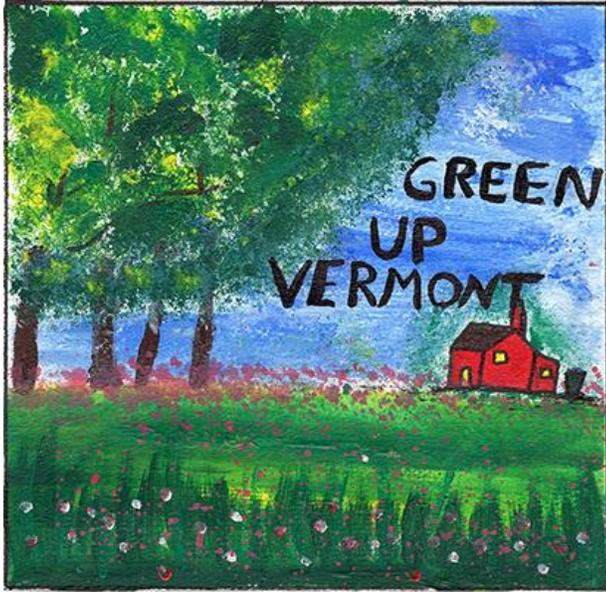
CCRPC's regular monthly meeting is on the third Wednesday of the month at 6:00pm in the Main Conference Room. These meetings are open to the public.

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

CCRPC Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC)

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

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



Artwork by Jiya S., 3rd Grade

GREEN UP DAY

Saturday, May 1

Bags are available at the town office and library.

A dumpster will be at the town garage (35 Cambridge Road) to bring your Green Up Day bags to. Please do not leave bags on the side of the road as there is no pickup available. All bags must be delivered and deposited in the dumpster no later than May 2nd.

Be safe on Green Up Day:

- Tie your trash bag closed when full – keep your good work in the bag!
- Wear long pants and boots and always check your body for ticks.
- If you see a needle or sharp material – find an adult and do not put it in your bag with other trash. Put it in a thick plastic container clearly marked “DO NOT RECYCLE” and duct tape the lid on, then put it into the regular trash. Visit www.healthvermont.gov for more information.
- Road caution – always work facing oncoming traffic.
- Follow State COVID-19 guidelines. Wear gloves.
- Use sunscreen.

For more information on Green Up Day go to <https://greenupvermont.org/> or contact the Town’s Green Up Day Coordinator, Mark Peloquin, at 233-6417 or mark_peloquin@yahoo.com.

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

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