



WESTFORD NEWSLETTER



October 2021

The **Dark-eyed Junco** is a year-round resident of Vermont and easy to recognize. They feed and nest on the forest floor. Listen for their trilling call and look for their attractive plumage on your October walks!

Westford Town Office

1713 Vermont Route 128 - Westford, Vermont 05494

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

<https://westfordvt.us/>

TOWN OFFICE NOTES

Senior Luncheon

Hello Seniors,

Our September luncheon was successful. We had about 21-25 seniors that enjoyed their potluck lunch. Officers have stayed the same. Vice President is Maureen Estus, Secretary is Beth Menut, Treasurer is Loreen Teer. I will continue being your President for one more year and then I'm retiring. If anyone is thinking about doing the President position, please contact one of our officers.

Our next luncheon is October 11th. Not sure what is on the menu this time, but I'm sure Caroline will choose something yummy. We will, again, wear our masks until we eat. The setting up crew did a great job separating the tables into small groups. Hope to see you October 11th.

Carol Howrigan 878-3090 or carolfrank2@comcast.net



Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the November Newsletter is 12:00 noon on Monday, October 25th.

TOWN OFFICE HOURS

The Town Office is open to the public! The office is open:

Monday-Thursday, 8:30am-4pm

Friday, 8:30am-1pm

Masks are required for unvaccinated people.

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



FALL ROADS

What you need to know about fall road conditions

- **Tourists:** watch for tourists “leaf peeping”. They may be driving slowly or be in need of directions.
- **High Wind:** can damage trees that may block roads. Come across a tree blocking a road? Give the town office a call!

Reminders:

- Several hunting seasons occur during fall. Watch for vehicles parked on the side of roads. Pedestrians & pets should wear orange/yellow reflective clothing.



WESTFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION NEWS & REMINDERS

ACTIVE HUNTING – HUNTING IS A PERMITTED ACTIVITY IN THE MAPLE SHADE TOWN FOREST. **HUNTING OF ANY SPECIES** IS PERMITTED DURING DEER AND TURKEY SEASONS.

Hunting, whatever and whenever permitted, also takes place on private lands. All trails in Westford either pass through or abut private lands. Therefore, please take precautions when traveling on trails during hunting seasons.

DOGS ON TRAILS: Recently, the Town of Williston **banned** dogs from a popular trail system. As reported in the Williston Observer: “We’ve asked people nicely to follow the rules and keep their dogs leashed, and still people are disregarding the rules and letting their dogs off leash and leaving their dog doo bags behind,” Williston Conservation Planner Melinda Scott said, “At this point, it’s really become untenable.”

Please take the time to be responsible for your dog, including picking up after him/her

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 at westfordcc@googlegroups.com

DONATIONS: The WCC is funded in part by donations. If you appreciate our efforts, and would like to help fund our work, please send a donation to: Westford Conservation Commission, 1713 Vt. Rte. 128, Westford, VT 05494. Thank you!



<https://m.facebook.com/WestfordCC/>



https://www.instagram.com/westford_cc/



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: FALL

- Leaves and grass clippings are valuable compost materials because they are carbon rich. Add them in small batches to avoid matting (too many leaves clump together and slow down the compost process)
- Cover your pile or use an enclosed composter to keep things moist but not sodden. This will also deter pests like bears, raccoons, and mice.
- Other items that can go in your compost this time of year include wood ash and the skeletons of annual flowers & plants. Break down large-bodied plants like tomatoes and broccoli before adding them to your pile.
- Store compost material like leaves & grass in a burlap sack near your pile for adding with food scraps.

How to make compost fast: <https://thisismygarden.com/2018/07/summer-compost-pile/>

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>



An Update from the Westford Planning Commission

As you may know, the Planning Commission has been working on studies, plans, projects and funding sources since 2007 to support the vitality of the Town Center and the future potential of the common area. One of the foundational ways to support Westford's future is to create a modern and functional wastewater system that allows continued use and thoughtful development within the Town Center. A lot of forward movement has happened this year on the project, and we want to make sure everyone is up to date on the Community Wastewater Project. Here's what we've been up to:

-We formed a public engagement working group this summer, composed of Westford residents who are committed to help get the word out about the project. Those group members include Pat Haller, Heather Armata and Eric Ford, in addition to Gordon Gebauer and Seth Jensen from the Planning Commission, Melissa Manka, the Town Planner, and project consultant Juli Beth Hinds, Principal of Birchline Planning LLC, a planner specializing in water infrastructure, financing & community engagement, and Amy Macrellis, Senior Water Quality Specialist, with Stone Environmental, who has been involved in the technical studies, project development, and outreach for the project since 2007.

-In addition to the Planning Commission's work identifying soils, engineering designs and applying for state/federal grants to support this project, work has been focused on creating an outreach plan to the community, beginning with the potential wastewater system users in the common area. To that end, the task force hosted an informational meeting at the Westford Common Hall on August 17th to hear questions and concerns from residents. Paper surveys have also been distributed to potential users to get more feedback and help understand questions about the project.

-A website has been created to support information and communication about the project - www.westfordsfuture.com - Here you will find all the basic project information, regularly updated questions and answers about the project, as well as supporting documents, blog posts and events related to the project. If you are on Facebook, make sure to like and follow Westford's Future for info and updates.

-The task force hosted a site visit with potential system users and designers on September 26th on the common in order to help visualize the potential system's layout and components, and to answer questions. The task force will also join the Westford senior lunch planned for October to introduce the project to attendees and enjoy some dessert together.

-We are very excited to announce the first town-wide public meeting about the Community Wastewater Project, scheduled for Tuesday, October 19th from 6:30-8:30pm at Westford School. This meeting will be the first opportunity to present the project to the town as a whole, and we look forward to sharing details and hearing your questions and concerns. This will be a hybrid virtual/in-person meeting, with more details to come for those that wish to participate remotely. All Covid-safe precautions will be made for those who want to attend in person.

As always, please feel free to reach out to Melissa Manka, Town Planner with questions and concerns - and don't forget to visit www.westfordsfuture.com to learn about the Community Wastewater Project.

Westford Town Planner, Melissa Manka: planner@westfordvt.us, (802) 878-4587

Westford Planning Commission: planningcommission@westfordvt.us

Planning Commissioners: Koi Boynton (Vice-Chair), George Lamphere (Chair), Gordon Gebauer, Seth Jensen, Mark Letorney

Community Wastewater Public Engagement Working Group: Heather Armata, Eric Ford, Gordon Gebauer, Pat Haller, Seth Jensen

Wastewater Consultants: Brad Washburn (Project Engineer) , Green Mountain Engineering, Juli Beth Hinds, Principal, Birchline Planning LLC & Amy Macrellis (Senior Water Quality Specialist), Stone Environmental.

Community Wastewater Project Informational Meeting

**Tuesday, October 19th
6:30-8:30 at Westford School
(virtual attendance available)**

**All Westford Residents are invited to attend
Hear from Planning Commission members and project engineers
about this exciting opportunity!**

More information: www.WestfordsFuture.com

www.WestfordsFuture.com

For Community Wastewater Project updates and info



A MESSAGE TO DOG OWNERS

It has come to the Town's attention that there has been an increase in off-leash dog related incidents on Town Trails. We would like to remind all residents that how your dog behaves is your responsibility. When you are walking on town trails always have your dog under your control. **If your dog cannot be called off chasing after wildlife or livestock, entering private property, or going up to other walkers and dogs the first time you call, please keep your dog on a leash.**

Proper trail etiquette: call your dog back to you when you see others approaching and hold or leash them until others have passed, do not let your dog out of your line of sight. Do not assume that because your dog is friendly that other dogs want to be approached. Do not let your dog wander on to private property, clean up after your pet (dog waste bags and disposal bins provided at some trail heads).

Understand that the town trails are not a dog park but a public space for everybody to feel safe and comfortable. The ability to let our dogs run off leash on town property is a privilege, not a right, and if further incidents occur the town may have to revoke that privilege. Let's keep our town trails a welcoming, safe place to enjoy the outdoors for everybody!

FUNDRAISING CHAIR SALE

The fundraising chair sale continues at the Westford Brick Meeting House. You can own a piece of history by purchasing one (or more!) of these retired chairs.

These chairs date back to the earlier part of the previous century and are looking for new homes. Single chairs sell for \$40 each, with a limited number of triple chairs going for \$100. Proceeds from the sale going towards the renovation of the BMH main hall floor.

Chairs will be available for sale at the Coffee House music program on Friday, October 1st on the Town Common starting at 6:30pm, as well as at the BMH building on Saturday October 9th from 10:00am to 1:00pm



WHAT'S BEING BUILT ON COMMON ROAD?



The Westford Historical Society had the opportunity to buy this quarter acre. We're building a "new home" to display donated items of former residents who lived here 50 to 250 years ago.





NOW OPEN! WESTFORD FREE FOOD PANTRY

Stop by the Westford Country Store & Café and check out the new food pantry on the porch. Take what you need for yourself or a neighbor or leave something for someone else. Open 24/7 to everyone.

This project was completed by Westford Mutual Aid. Special thanks to Fivos and Alex Kalimeris for letting us use their space and to Bob Schipper for generously donating and refurbishing the cupboard.



FOOD SHELF COLLECTION

Hello, we are students from the middle school at Westford Elementary and we want to start collecting and donating food to our local Westford food shelf. The food shelf is located in the Westford Common Hall and serves anyone from Westford. If you have the time and resources, bring in items here to school to donate. We will be delivering the donations to the food shelf once a month throughout the year. If you can donate, please place items in the box next to the lost and found bench in the hallway.

You can donate the following items:

- Cereal
- Coffee, Tea
- Canned Pastas (Beefaroni)
- Chili
- Catsup, mustard, relish, salt and pepper
- Crackers (Cheese, Saltines, Ritz)
- Dish Detergent
- Dry Beans
- Flour & Sugar
- Juice
- Laundry Detergent
- Peanut Butter, Jam
- Snacks (Granola Bars, etc.)
- Toilet Paper & Paper Towels
- Toothpaste & Toothbrushes
- Tuna/Hamburger Helper
- White Bread



Thank you so much for your help. Please let us know if you have any questions.
Sam, Colton, Erin and Katie

WESTFORD MUSIC SERIES *PRESENTS* THE TWANGTOWN PARAMOURS



SOPHISTICATED AMERICANA

-free will donation-

4 PM: WESTFORD COMMON HALL

SUNDAY: OCTOBER 10, 2021

A blend of provoking lyrics and songs guaranteed to bring joy and fun to audiences.

The Westford Music Series will bring the angelic voices of the award-winning husband and wife musician duo, The Twangtown Paramours, back in Vermont for a fall tour for the October offering. Known for their well-crafted award-winning songs, top-notch lead singing and fine harmonies their music is a hybrid interpretation of the Nashville and Austin Music scenes. Although known throughout the U.S. at nationally recognized venues, their occasional trips to Vermont have brought great excitement.

Concert open to the public. Masks Required. Call 802-363-0930 for more Information



WESTFORD MUSIC SERIES

Fall Program

Free Concerts at the Westford Common Hall

4pm – 5pm

- **October 10** – Twangtown Paramours
- **November 14** – FREVO
- **December 19** – Carol Ann Jones & Will Patton



WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

<https://westfordpubliclibrary.org>

(802) 878-5639

westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com

1717 VERNONT ROUTE 128, WESTFORD VT 05494

We have some exciting news at the library!

Starting in October, we will be **expanding our open hours to include Tuesdays from 10am-7pm**. This gives the community **9 more hours** to enjoy the Westford Public Library. Our hope is that by providing more morning, afterschool, and evening hours you will find hours that fit your life. It will allow us to host more programs for all ages and have more daytime hours for those of you who do not like to drive at night.

We are also **welcoming a new part-time staff member**. This addition allows for collaboration and innovation with our library director.

This is **progress** – progress that would not have been possible without our forward-thinking board of trustees and library director. It is also a testament to our community that uses their public library with such gusto! **Thank you to all who were involved in making this happen.**

We will be celebrating our new hours with a **Grand Opening celebration on Tuesday, October 5 from 10:30am to Noon. We will have coffee and goodies from the Westford Country Store and Café.** Stop by and celebrate with us.

Welcome, Niquette, our new library assistant! Niquette will be working evenings and Saturdays. She will also be taking over Inter-Library Loans. Niquette has resided in Essex, Vermont on and off for 28 years and brings with her over 17 years of customer service experience. She has substituted for the Westford Public Library as needed for the past several years and enjoys reading with the evening book group. In addition to reading, Niquette enjoys attending live performances and spending time with her family and pets.



Outside Early Literacy Storytime - Birth to Pre-School - Every Thursday at 11:15am on the Common

10/7/21: Theme: Pumpkins

10/14/21: Theme: Fire Safety Storytime - with a real

10/21/21: Theme: NO STORYTIME

firetruck and firefighters

10/28/21: Theme: Halloween - Wear Your Costume if you want



Bring a blanket and your lunch. We will sing songs, read stories, move and have fun! If weather is bad, storytime will be cancelled. 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.

October Library Events

October 5 - Now Open on Tuesdays! Open 10am-7pm
October 5 - Grand Opening - Coffee and Goodies to celebrate from 10:30 am to Noon.
October 5 - Coloring Club 3-5pm, sign up required
October 12 - Coloring Club 3-5pm, sign up required
October 13 - Trustees Meeting 7-9pm
October 14 - Fire Safety Storytime with Westford Fire Chief Steve Willard and a firetruck!
October 15 - Crazy 8's Math Club for grades K-2, 3-5pm, sign up required
October 19 - Coloring Club 3-5pm, sign up required
October 21 - NO STORYTIME
October 22 - NO CRAZY 8'S
October 26 - Coloring Club 3-5pm, sign up required
October 27 - Adult Book Group discussing Still Lives at 7pm, via Zoom with author Maria Hummel
October 29 - Crazy 8's Math Club for grades K-2, 3-5pm, sign up required
October 30 - Trick or Treat at the Library all day

Storytime every Thursday 11:15 on the Common, cancelled if weather is bad

Fiber Arts Group meets every Thursday IN PERSON at the library at 6:30pm.

Trick or Treat at the Library all day!

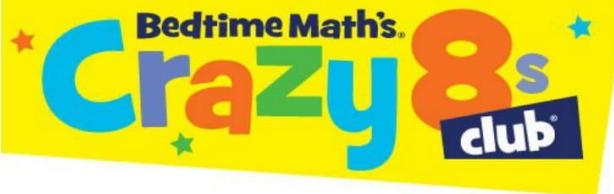
**Saturday, October 30
10am-2pm**

Come by the library in costume and get a treat.



October is the LAST month for the Westford Trails Passport!

Hike the trails, find stamps, redeem your passport for a Westford canvas bag and a chance to win local gift cards. Passports can be picked up at the Library and Town Office. Get out and explore beautiful Westford!



Bedtime Math's Crazy 8's Math Club!!!

Meets for 8 sessions

**Fridays, October 14 - December 17
Grades K-2**

SPACE IS LIMITED! Call or email to sign up.

(No classes October 22 and November 26)

Bus transport provided from school (Bus #3), pickup at Library between 4:30-5:00pm

Crazy 8's is an afterschool Math Club sponsored by Bedtime Math. This FUN, exciting enrichment opportunity is available for kids K-2 grade. Hands on activities help reinforce math skills. Clubs will be led by fantastic moderators and follow an action packed curriculum. More information will be given to those who sign up. Your child should plan to attend all classes - best behavior expected.

Class ends at 4:30pm, but pickup as late as 5pm. Permission slips and more information emailed home to families who sign up.

Masks are required for all participants.



Coloring Club!

Tuesdays afterschool in October!

Great for grades 3-5!

Kids can ride Bus #3, with note from home.

Meets afterschool until 5pm.

Snack included.

Sign up required, masks are required.

Coloring is relaxing and fun - we will work on a variety of projects using a variety of mediums.

Perfect for kids focused on coloring, art, and crafts.

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Westford Trails Passport Program 2021



The Westford Public Library, in partnership with the Westford Conservation Commission brings you a New, Fun and Exciting way to enjoy our town trails this summer and fall.
And a bonus --- there are prizes!

IT'S EASY

Pick up your Passport at the Library, Town Office, or Country Market. Hike any of the 14 featured trails collecting stamps as you go. With 8 or more stamps, you can redeem your Passport at the library and receive a Westford themed canvas bag as your prize! You can also keep your Passport as a souvenir of your adventures on the Westford Trails.

MONTHLY RAFFLE FOR A GIFT CARD PRIZE

Depending on the month when you redeem your Passport, you will also be entered in a drawing for a \$50 gift card to a local business. The more stamps you collect, the more chances you will earn in the raffle drawings.
(See the Passport for additional details.)

July Redeem by 7/31 for chances to win a \$50 gift card to the Westford Country Market & Café

August Redeem by 9/7 for chances to win a \$50 gift card to Steeple Market

September Redeem by 10/2 for chances to win a \$50 gift card to Sweet Clover Market

Lots of folks have already started the challenge.

Several people have already redeemed their Passports with all 14 stamps!

But it's not too late for you, your friends & family to join in.

You can start anytime all summer and into the fall.

This is open to everyone, kids and adults, the whole family is welcome to participate.

Check out the library's Facebook page for more information and updates.

LET'S GET HIKING!



OCTOBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

WESTFORD RECREATION DEPARTMENT

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER

10/5 Recreation Board Meeting

7pm @ Town Office & via Zoom

10/17 Parent & Me Soccer

9am @ Westford School

FREE



THANKS, Westford!

We had a wonderful turn out for the Pizza & Ice Cream Party in September – Thank you all that came out to celebrate the end of summer by making some pies, and indulging in one OR TWO ice cream cones.



MORE Programs are here! Use our new online registration form to **SIGN UP!**

PARENT & ME SOCCER

Every Third Sunday @ 9am in Sept. Oct. & Nov.

- FREE Parent & Me Soccer (Ages 4&under) @ Westford School

FALL & WINTER PROGRAMS

- \$45 Women's Futsal @ Westford School Gym (dates/times TBD)
Two sessions: Nov-Jan & Feb-April (fee per session)
- \$10 Adult Pickup Basketball @ Westford School Gym
Weds. 7:30-9pm STARTS 9/29/21 until end of school year, excluding weeks the school is closed (fee for entire season)
- Annual Broomball Tournament *more info coming soon... MLK weekend 2022*

DOOR DROP ACTIVITY KITS

- \$25 Gingerbread House Kit *Delivered to your doorstep on 11/22, the first Monday of School Thanksgiving Vacation Week*



PARENT & ME



Soccer



9AM

SUNDAYS

WHO: KIDS UNDER 4 & THEIR PARENT(S)

WHERE: WESTFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

WHAT: PLAY SOCCER! JOIN US FOR FUN
GAMES AND DRILLS HOSTED BY THE
WESTFORD RECREATION DEPARTMENT

EVERY THIRD SUNDAY THIS FALL

9/19 10/17 11/21

SIGN UP TODAY!



WESTFORD RECREATION DEPARTMENT NEW REGISTRATION FORM

ONLINE!

REGISTRATION FORM HERE

This link also available on the town website:

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

Tree icon on the left | Thank you for helping us save trees with less paper waste! | Tree icon on the right

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY!

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

Chittenden County Regional Planning Commissioner Alternate Representative

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

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

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

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

CCRPC Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC)

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

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

Subscribe to the Town Newsletter

If you would like to receive a copy of the Town Newsletter by email, send an email to townclerk@westfordvt.us with your name (required), email address (required) and address (optional). To view current and past newsletters visit: <https://westfordvt.us/documents/newsletters/>. If you do not have access to the Internet or have a computer, you can call the Town Office at 878-4587 to request being added to the mailing list.