



# WESTFORD NEWSLETTER

November 2021



The **Snow Goose** is a goose that breeds in arctic. They form long-term pair bonds, leaving their nesting areas and migrating for winter. They are seen in Vermont on their way south, usually peaking in November.

## Westford Town Office

1713 Vermont Route 128 - Westford, Vermont 05494

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

<https://westfordvt.us/>

## TOWN OFFICE NOTES

### Selectboard FY'23 Budget Workshops

The Selectboard began working on the FY'23 Budget in October, Upcoming workshops will be held on:

- 11/3
- 11/11
- 12/9

If needed, additional meetings will be held. The Board encourages residents to attend these meetings to provide feedback to assist the Board in developing a budget to be voted on in March 2022.

### Property Tax Payment

Property taxes are due Monday November 15<sup>th</sup>. Payments will be considered timely if they are received by this date, have a November 15<sup>th</sup> postmark (postal, FedEx or UPS), or are in the drop box located to the left of the town office door before the office opens at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Please note** – if you pay your taxes using Bill Pay (generating a check online through your financial institution), 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.

### Senior Luncheon

Hello Seniors,

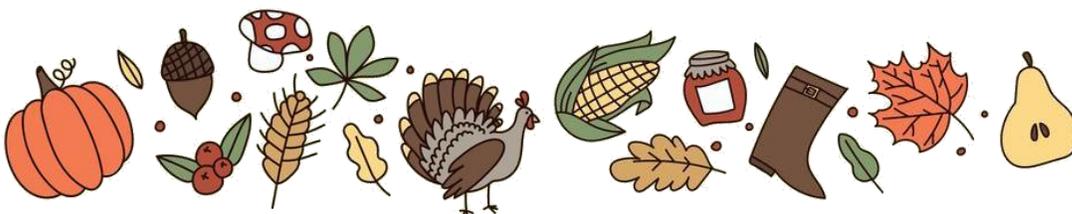
Again, our October luncheon was successful. Our November luncheon will be November 8<sup>th</sup>. We had about 21-25 seniors that enjoyed their roast pork with scalloped potatoes. We will, again, wear our masks until we eat. The setting up crew did a great job separating the tables into small groups. The Planning Commission Sub-Committee did a presentation about the Wastewater being proposed for a vote.

It's turkey month, so this will be more delightful. We did see a new couple that is joining, and I hope for more. Our attendance has dropped since 2019 and I'm hoping with more people getting their vaccinations, everyone will feel safe.

Carol Howrigan 878-3090 or carolfrank2@comcast.net

### Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the December Newsletter is 12:00 noon on Monday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>.



## TOWN OFFICE HOURS

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

- Monday-Thursday, 8:30am-4pm
- Friday, 8:30am-1pm

The Town Office is **CLOSED**:

- November 25 & 26 – Thanksgiving

**Masks are required for unvaccinated people.**



## WINTER ROADS

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>

## APPLICATION FOR USE OF THE COMMON

The Town of Westford has a new, streamlined application for use of the Common. Here is a link to the form and Policies: <https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Common-Use-Application-October-2021.pdf>

This is only needed if you or your organization is planning a large gathering or wants to reserve the Gazebo. The town office is now keeping a calendar of events so hopefully there will not be a conflict. The previous process involved multiple emails, the requirement for approval from the Common Committee and then to wait for an opening in the Selectboard schedule for them to hear your request. Now you simply fill in the application, send it to Nanette who forwards to the Common Committee.

If the Committee and town office approve the application (90% of them) there is no need to involve the Selectboard.

## RESIGNATION ANNOUNCEMENT

It is with mixed emotions that I announce my decision to resign as Town Clerk and Town Administrator. I have done some soul searching and decided that I need a better work-life balance. I have been in office for almost 21 years. This is not a 9-5, Monday through Friday position. While I was aware that helping people after hours came with the position(s), I've reached a point in my life where I want a simpler schedule and to spend more time with family.

Serving the Westford community has been an honor and a rewarding experience. I value the trust you put in me. I have learned a lot, made friends, and enjoyed many conversations. Elections are my favorite responsibility. It's exciting to see people participate in the democratic process. I take my role very seriously in conducting fair and transparent elections and protecting voters' privacy. It is one of the things I will miss the most.

I will be here through Town Meeting and probably a couple of weeks beyond to help with the transition. I will do whatever I can to help make it as smooth as possible.

Take care and see you around the Common!

Nanette

## TOWN CLERK VS TOWN ADMINISTRATOR – DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that I serve the community in two different roles? One role is elected and the other is appointed by the Selectboard.

Both these roles are critical to the efficient operation of the town office. Petitions to run as Town Clerk are due in January. The Selectboard will be advertising the Town Administrator position in the near future. If you want more information on either of these positions, please contact the town office.

### **TOWN CLERK (must be a Westford resident)**

The Town Clerk is an elected position for a term of 3 years and plays a central role in the operation of local government, with duties that bring them into regular contact with the public. Some of the Clerk's statutory duties include recording documents in the Land Records (deeds, liens, surveys, etc.), preserving and certifying public documents (including vital records), administering oaths of office, complying with public records requests, processing voter registrations, fulfilling absentee ballot requests, conducting fair and transparent elections, taking minutes of Town Meeting, and issuing dog and marriage licenses. The Town Clerk also serves as a voting member of the Board of Civil Authority and the Board of Abatement and is responsible for warning the meetings and taking minutes. In Westford the Clerk has been a team player and helped with the collection of property taxes and other tasks. This has worked well for long before my initial election in 2001.

### **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR (ideally would be a Westford resident)**

The Town Administrator position is filled by appointment by the Selectboard. The Town Administrator is responsible for a wide range of responsibilities for the Selectboard including overseeing the day to day operations of the town office, building maintenance, office supplies, contracted services and office equipment, interacting frequently with local, state and federal organizations, administering state or federal grants, drafting policies, ordinances and requests for proposals, preparing preliminary, and assisting with finalizing the annual budget, monitoring expenses during the years, researching laws, regulations, procedures and various topics and providing the findings to the Selectboard, putting together the Annual Town Report, fulfilling a variety of human resource tasks including recruitment, interviews, random drug tests for CDL drivers, ordering pre-employment requisites and maintaining personnel files, and assisting with payroll. This is a general overview of the primary responsibilities.



## 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.

Orange vests have been provided at the entrance to the forest. Please return them after your walk.

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. Hunting and Trapping Season Schedule can be found here: <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/hunt/hunting-and-trapping-seasons>

**DOGS ON TRAILS:** Please take the time to be responsible for your dog, including picking up after him/hers. Your dog is not under voice control if s/he “usually” comes when called. Squirrels often override any obedience training.

**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](mailto: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/](https://www.instagram.com/westford_cc/)



## NOW OPEN! WESTFORD FREE FOOD PANTRY

**FREE FOOD:** Check out the free food pantry on the porch of the Westford Country Store and Café right next to the ice machine. Take what you need or leave something for a neighbor. Open 24/7!





# 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-10491883811423>

# **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT MEETING**

## **Envisioning the Future Redevelopment of the 1705 VT Route 128 Property**



All Westford residents are invited to join us on  
**Tuesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Westford School**

**Masks are required and social distancing, when possible, for in-person participation. Please attend virtually if you are sick or have been in close contact with someone experiencing COVID-like symptoms. Help keep Westford safe and healthy!**

**Virtual attendance available.**

To click zoom meeting click:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84154917971?pwd=ZHRyTS8rYVlTanBiSW0wU1VldFdtZ09>

Or dial:

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 841 5491 7971

Passcode: 1109

Or visit <https://lcatv.org/live-stream-6> to live stream the event.

Scan for virtual event link:



For more information: <https://westfordvt.us/town-center-revitalization-projects/>



## PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATE

Fifty years ago, the Town of Westford created and adopted a Town Plan. Periodically, about every eight years, the town is required by state statute to review and amend the Town Plan. The process of receiving public comment and review is done through a series of public meetings and is then adopted by the Selectboard after a public hearing and comment period. The Westford Town Plan is the principal policy statement for the Town of Westford presenting a snapshot of existing conditions and a vision for the future. Specifically addressed in this plan are the following subjects: demographic trends, housing, economic development, natural resources, energy, facilities, utilities and services, education, transportation, historic resources, future land use, flood resiliency and implementation strategy. The most recent Town Plan was amended in 2021 and can be found here: [https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/2021-Town-Plan\\_Adopted.pdf](https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/2021-Town-Plan_Adopted.pdf).

The Planning Commission continues to gather inputs and advance two projects that support the Town Plan; final design of a community wastewater system to serve the Town Center Area and exploring development opportunities for the 1705 RT 128 property. To help the town communicate information and facilitate discussion the Planning Commission has created the following committees:

**Community Wastewater Public Engagement Working Group** - Members include; Heather Armata, Eric Ford, Gordon Gebauer, Pat Haller, Seth Jensen, Melissa Manka, and Consultant: J.B. Hinds, Birchline Planning LLC. This committee is leading public outreach and engagement efforts and will be closely following final design efforts as part of our Step II phase of the project. Look for updates from this committee included in the newsletter and in future communications.

**1705 Rt 128 Steering Committee** - Members and project partners include; George Lamphere, Mark Letorney, Melissa Manka, Taylor Newton of Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission, Steve Libby of Vermont River Conservancy, Robert Leuch of Champlain Housing Trust, David Mullin of Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity, and Consultants: Tom Hand and Mark Kane of SE Group. This steering committee is ramping up its efforts and will hold their first public engagement meeting at the Westford School on November 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. Look for more information on this meeting and other steering committee updates in the newsletter and other communications. More information about the project can be found here: <https://westfordvt.us/town-center-revitalization-projects/>

### **Community Wastewater Public Engagement Working Group Update**

In September 2021, the Town of Westford was awarded a \$466,194 grant by the Northern Borders Regional Commission (NBRC) and Economic Development Administration to support the Community Wastewater Project. These are competitive grants, and the NBRC grant is particularly competitive as it includes applications from Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York. This grant is one piece of a funding stack being developed by the town in order to affordably move the community wastewater project to construction, if approved by the voters.

The town was also granted a Step 2 State Clean Water Revolving Fund loan for \$250,351 with \$125,000 forgiven upon issuance. The remaining \$125,351 will not be spent until such time as additional funds become available, such as state or local ARPA funds, or a bond vote occurs. These funds will be used for final design and permitting, which will make Westford the only town in the state with a shovel-ready proposal to develop a new community wastewater system in a village setting.

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We owe a lot of gratitude to all those that worked on the grant applications, and especially Liz Curry, our Grant Writer. Great work, Liz! Additional grants are being pursued and we will share information as it becomes available.

On the evening of Tuesday, October 19, 2021, an informational meeting was held at the Westford School. Thanks to all who were able to attend the informational meeting on Tuesday evening either in person or via zoom - 100 people attended in total. Thank you to Westford School for setup and tech support, as well as Lake Champlain Access Television for helping us have our very first large public hybrid meeting in town!

A recording of the meeting here: <https://lcatv.org/westford-wastewater-2021-10-19>.

In early September, the outreach group sent a questionnaire to 31 households and potential system users and received responses. We are still in the process of receiving responses and, so far, have received responses from half of the potential users. Here are the results of the questionnaire thus far:

- 34 properties are in the proposed sewer service area (PSSA).
- 31 property owners own structures in the PSSA .
- 51.61% of the property owners in the PSSA responded to the survey.
- 62.5% of respondents said they are interested in connecting to the system during construction.
- 18.75% of respondents said they may be interested in connecting to the system during construction.
- 18.75% of respondents said they are not interested in connecting to the system during construction.

Based on received responses, over 80% of respondents are interested or possibly interested in connecting to the proposed community wastewater system.

In November, the Planning Commission will be working with our Consultant, J.B. Hinds, regarding potential bond vote language and to review example sewer ordinances. The goal will be to provide very preliminary bond vote language to share with the Selectboard and the Town's attorney, as well as beginning to frame the principles and policies around the governance of a community wastewater system. Also in November, the Step 2 work described above will ramp up and is expected to continue through the winter and early spring.

Finally, the Community Wastewater Public Engagement Working Group will be coordinating a field trip for all interested residents to at least one existing community wastewater system that is similar to the proposed system for Westford. Please stay tuned for more information on when and where!

Please visit <https://www.westfordsfuture.com/> for information regarding the community wastewater project.



## COMMUNITY NOTICE REFERENCE ARPA FUNDS

Westford has a once in a lifetime opportunity to make significant investments that will help our community recover from the pandemic and improve it for generations to come. As part of the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) passed by Congress, Westford will receive approximately \$632,605 in pandemic relief funding. Each Vermont community is charged with allocating and spending these funds.

Westford's Selectboard has decided to form a committee to review possible uses of these funds. This committee will develop a submission process for collecting and vetting ideas submitted by community groups or individuals. The committee will make recommendations to the Selectboard who, ultimately, will make the final decisions.

The Westford ARPA Committee is developing the next steps of the process. In order to accomplish this monumental task, we must be informed by the voices of the residents of Westford. In the very near future, the committee will release a survey. We need your input! No idea is too big or too small. This survey wants to capture your "dream big" and transformative ideas. We very much look forward to hearing your ideas and suggestions. Once the committee has reviewed the survey results, a process for submitting specific proposals will be rolled out.

### *The Westford ARPA Committee*

WESTFORD MUSIC SERIES PRESENTS

## FREVO



### CONTEMPORARY MUSIC ENSEMBLE

*-free will donation-*

**4 PM: WESTFORD COMMON HALL**

**SUNDAY: NOVEMBER 14, 2021**

FREVO, the well-known and popular cross over group is back! The Vermont Contemporary Music Ensemble will present a unique offering at the Westford Common Hall (aka White Church) on Sunday afternoon, November 14<sup>th</sup> from 4-5 p.m.

Steven & Bonnie Klimowski and Peter & Wendy Matthews present an eclectic sampling of music for flute, clarinet, cello and classical guitar including original pieces and arrangements from jazz, Latin, classical and the newly composed.

**Concert open to the public. Masks Required. Call Mike Kirick, 802-363-0930, for more information**

## WESTFORD MUSIC SERIES

### Fall Program

**Free Concerts at the Westford Common Hall**

**4pm – 5pm**

- **November 14** – FREVO
- **December 19** – Carol Ann Jones & Will Patton



# Westford Historical Society

## The Irish Family/ Another Legacy Family

Although our history with the town of Westford goes back to the early 1800's I will start with our Great Grandmother, Mary Parker. Mary Parker married Philo Irish in 1883 in the farmhouse on what is now Rollin Irish Road. They were both from Westford. They had two children, Rollin and Marcia. Rollin was interested in farming and as he got older his mother agreed to sell him the farm-then about 300 acres-for a set amount, payable annually. He and his wife, Mabel Melavin made their home there and made a living milking cows and raising sheep. His mother moved to Essex Junction and lived her life out on Lincoln Street until her death at 95.

Rollin and Mabel had 4 sons, Parker Melavin, Robert Francis, Richard Rollin and James Philo.

When the boys were old enough to go to high school they lived with their grandmother in Essex during the week because it was too difficult to travel back and forth to Westford every day. Their eldest son, Parker, our father, married Pauline Paige when he was home on leave. She was the daughter of Carl and Helen Paige. (The Westford school was dedicated to Carl who was a long time advocate of Westford having a school of its own. Helen was a legislator for a number of years.) Together they had six children. Parker was an insurance agent and part time realtor and Pauline was a homemaker who was active in community and church. They lived in Essex Junction for many years (in the home of Parker's grandmother) and then returned to their roots in a home they built on the farm, just off Rollin Irish Road. Parker died at 72 but Pauline lived to be 99.

As children we spent many happy hours visiting both sets of grandparents, sledding in winter, hunting and hiking in the fields and fishing in the brook behind the farm; helping our mother and grandmother pick currants behind the Paige house on the common and making currant jelly.

After Rollin and Mabel's death the farm was rented out for a number of years. Following Parker's death Beth and Art Menut were able to purchase a portion of the farm and the rest was gifted to our brothers. All six of us, Rollin and Mabel's only grandchildren, have been drawn to the farm and to Westford all of our lives. We recognize how strong our Vermont roots are and feel strongly about keeping local history alive. To that end we wholeheartedly support the Westford Historical Society and hope that you will, too.

Please give generously by sending donations to the Westford Historical Society at P.O. Box 21, Westford, VT 05494.

Sincerely,

Mary Irish Tuure (Mary)

Elizabeth Irish Menut (Beth)

Stephen Parker Irish (Steve)

Colleen Irish Carruthers (Colleen)

William Robert Irish (Bill)

Patricia Irish Westerfield (Pat)

P.S. We plan to have our fuller history and the history of other Westford residents on display in the The Historical Society building now being built on the Common.

# WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

<https://westfordpubliclibrary.org>

(802) 878-5639

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

1717 VERMONT ROUTE 128, WESTFORD VT 05494



**The Library will be CLOSED  
November 25 & 26 for Thanksgiving.  
We are thankful for our patrons!**

## Seeking Artists to Display at the Library!

You don't need to be a professional artist to share your talent with the community. Contact Bree about displaying works at the library. Photography, fiber arts, painting, drawing, and more. Don't have enough for a solo show? Pair up with a fellow artist! Displays usually stay up for 3 months.



**The Library is now open  
Tuesdays 10am-7pm.**

**We are looking for adult  
programming wants, needs  
and ideas for that time.  
What do you want on Tuesdays?**

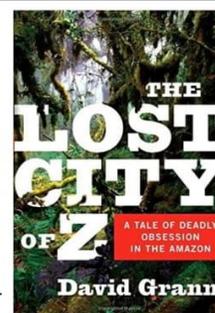
**Afterschool programming  
with kids has been a big hit,  
but we are looking for daytime adult programming ideas.  
Do you like any of these? Would you come?  
Let me know!**

- ◆ Brown bag lunch lecture series
- ◆ Senior book group
- ◆ Miss the office? Coffee break with other at home workers
- ◆ Watch and discuss short films (maybe VTPBS?)
  - ◆ Adult coloring/crafting opportunities
  - ◆ Language immersion meet-up
  - ◆ Computer/Technical Skills workshops

## **Building is OPEN to patrons:**

**Tuesdays 10am-7pm  
Wednesdays 1-7pm  
Thursdays 10am-7pm  
Fridays 1-7pm  
Saturdays 10am-2pm**

**Adult Book Group  
Wed., Nov. 24  
7:00-8:00pm,  
Via Zoom  
The Lost City of Z  
By: David Grann  
Zoom link on FPF,  
sent via email, and  
on Facebook.**



A mystery reaching back centuries. A sensational disappearance that made headlines around the world. A quest for truth that leads to death, madness or disappearance for those who seek to solve it. *The Lost City of Z* is a blockbuster adventure narrative about what lies beneath the impenetrable jungle canopy of the Amazon.

After stumbling upon a hidden trove of diaries, David Grann set out to solve "the greatest exploration mystery of the twentieth century." What happened to the British explorer Percy Fawcett and his quest for the Lost City of Z? In 1925 Fawcett ventured into the Amazon to find an ancient civilization, hoping to make one of the most important discoveries in history. For centuries Europeans believed the world's largest jungle concealed the glittering kingdom of El Dorado. Captivating the imagination of millions around the globe, Fawcett embarked with his twenty-one-year-old son, determined to prove that this ancient civilization--which he dubbed "Z"--existed. Then he and his expedition vanished. (Amazon.com) **Print copies available at the library. Audiobook and eBook available on Libby.**

## **Early Literacy Storytime - Birth to Pre-School - Every Thursday at 11:15am INSIDE the Library**

**11/4/21: Theme: New Books**

**11/11/21: Theme: The Letter "T"**

**11/18/21: Theme: Turkeys**

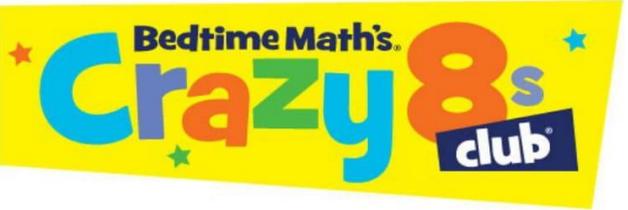
**11/25/21: NO STORYTIME - CLOSED for Thanksgiving**

**We are moving back inside for the colder weather months. We require that all participants wear a mask (regardless of vaccination status). Children under two are exempt from this requirement. We will do our best to social distance. Crafts will be a blend of takeaways and in-person.**

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.

### November Library Events

- November 2 - 12 - We are collecting puzzles for the puzzle swap later this month - see newsletter for more details
  - November 2 - Paper Folding Club - afterschool - sign up required
  - November 4 - Storytime moves inside 11:15am
  - November 5 - Crazy 8's afterschool - 5pm
  - November 9 - Paper Folding Club - afterschool - sign up required
  - November 10 - Trustees Meeting 7-9pm
  - November 12 - Crazy8's afterschool - 5pm
  - November 13 - Puzzle Swap - 10:30am-2pm - Come grab some puzzles to do over the winter - FREE - as many as you will do!
  - November 16 - Puzzle Swap continues - 10am-7pm - Come grab some puzzles to do over the winter - FREE - as many as you will do!
  - November 16 - Paper Folding Club - afterschool - sign up required
  - November 19 - Crazy 8's afterschool - 5pm
  - November 20 - Winter Wear Share at the Westford Common Hall 8:00-9:00am - Grab some needed winter gear!
  - November 24 - Adult Book Group 7pm via Zoom - discussing The Lost City of Z by David Grann
  - November 25 - CLOSED for Thanksgiving
  - November 26- CLOSED for Thanksgiving
  - November 30 - Paper Folding Club - afterschool - sign up required.
- Storytime every Thursday 11:15 inside the library - masks required for all, regardless of vaccination status.**
- Fiber Arts Group meets every Thursday IN PERSON at the library at 6:30pm.**



**Bedtime Math's Crazy 8's Math Club!!!**  
 Meets for 8 sessions  
 Fridays, October 14 - December 17  
 Grades K-2  
**THIS CLASS IS FULL!**  
**(No class November 26)**  
 Bus transport provided from school (Bus #3), pickup at Library between 4:30-5:00pm  
Masks are required for all participants.

### Paper Folding Club!

Tuesdays afterschool in November! (except 11/23)  
 Great for grades 3-5!  
 Kids can ride Bus #3, with note from home.  
 Pickup is between 4:30 and 5pm.  
 Snack provided.  
Sign up required, masks are required.  
 Folding paper can be relaxing and fun. We will make a variety of projects from fortune tellers, and tiny boxes, to turkeys and hedgehogs, and small books, envelopes and notes. Perfect for kids with focus and stamina for projects.




**Saturday, November 13 (10am-2pm) & Tuesday, November 16 (10am-7pm)**  
 Do you need some new puzzles to get you through the winter? Drop off complete (must have all pieces) puzzles at the library during open hours 11/2-11/12. Bins will be available to sort at drop off. Then come back for the swap! Come early for best selection. Masks/distancing required. This is completely FREE - take what you will do. Kids & adult puzzles accepted. So popular last year, we've made it an annual event!

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.

NOVEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

# WESTFORD RECREATION DEPARTMENT

## UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

11/2 Recreation Board Meeting  
7pm @ Town Office & via Zoom

11/20 Turkey Trot BY DONATION  
10am @ Westford School

11/21 Parent & Me Soccer FREE  
9am @ Westford School



**WESTFORD TURKEY TROT**  
**10:00AM 11.20.2021**

YES! There WILL be a Turkey Trot this year in a modified form! Come celebrate Westford's annual 30 year tradition of running or walking the lovely roads of Westford in the annual Turkey Trot - Pandemic Style!



The **SANTA MAILBOX** will be back again this year! The Elves will deliver it on Saturday November 20th at the Library. Drop in a letter to Santa - with a return address if you'd like Santa to write back!

## 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)
- FREE Parent & Me Soccer Ages under 4 @ Westford School 11/21
- 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
- \$25 Sugar Cookie Decorating Kit Delivered to your doorstep on 12/27, the first Monday of School Winter Vacation Week



# SOCCER SEASON WRAP UP



**BOYS 3/4 TEAM**  
**2021 SEASON RECORD 3-3**



**GIRLS 3/4 TEAM**  
**2021 SEASON RECORD 6-1-1**

## CONGRATS & THANKS

The Westford Recreation Department would like congratulate all soccer players, coaches, and parents as the season comes to a close. Thanks to those that volunteered to coach and referee during fall soccer this year - your dedication is greatly appreciated. Thank you, parents for your support on the sidelines. To all the soccer players, it was a pleasure seeing you smile on the field. We hope to see you return next year!



If you're interested in being a volunteer coach please email [recreation@westfordvt.us](mailto:recreation@westfordvt.us).

2021 FUN RUN CELEBRATION 2021 FUN RUN CELEBRATION 2021

2021 FUN RUN CELEBRATION 2021 FUN RUN CELEBRATION 2021

2021 FUN RUN CELEBRATION 2021 FUN RUN CELEBRATION 2021



**WESTFORD TURKEY TROT**  
**10:00AM 11.20.2021**

**WHEN** NOVEMBER 20TH, 2021  
 SIGN-IN STARTS AT 9am, RACES START AT 10am

**WHERE** WESTFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
 This event is ENTIRELY OUTSIDE

**RACES** 100 yd Tot Trot 3K 10K  
 WALK or RUN & races are self-timed

**FREE ENTRY**  
 DONATIONS WELCOMED

**SIGN UP** VIA ONLINE  
 REGISTRATION FORM  
[westfordvt.us/recreation](http://westfordvt.us/recreation)

**YUM** CIDER & DONUTS  
 AT THE FINISH LINE

**HOSTED BY** WESTFORD RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
 & COMMITTEE FOR WESTFORD CHILDREN & FAMILIES

**SWAG** VINTAGE TURKEY  
 TROT SWAG WILL BE ON SALE



# GINGERBREAD HOUSE KITS

DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR STEP ON NOVEMBER 22ND 2021

[REGISTRATION FORM HERE](#)

FROSTING

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

SIGN UP TODAY! LIMITED QUANTITIES



# SUGAR COOKIE DECORATING KIT

DELIVERED TO YOUR DOORSTEP ON DECEMBER 27TH 2021

KIT INCLUDES:  
HOMEMADE SUGAR COOKIES  
FROSTING  
SPRINKLES  
& MORE SPRINKLES

SIGN UP TODAY! LIMITED QUANTITIES AVAILABLE



# 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

***SIGN UP TODAY!***

**EVERY THIRD SUNDAY THIS FALL**

9/19 10/17 11/21

# WOMEN'S FUTSAL

Contact the Westford Recreation Department with any questions.  
[recreation@westfordvt.us](mailto:recreation@westfordvt.us)

Futsal is FIFA's official indoor soccer game which is, essentially, a scaled down version of outdoor soccer played indoors. It is a small sided game (5v5) played on a smaller field (roughly basketball court sized) with a smaller ball.

Session 1 Thursdays November 4- January 27

Session 2 Thursdays, February 3- April 14

\$45.00 per session, each session is 10 weeks, no play during school breaks.

Masks are required.

WHERE: WESTFORD SCHOOL GYM

WHEN: 730-9PM THURSDAYS

Register online

<https://forms.gle/1nPDEvP6FeoCxKGD6>

Link also available on the town website;

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

## WANT TO HELP WESTFORD MANAGE EMERGENCIES?

The Westford Selectboard is seeking individuals to fill the following positions:

### **Interim Emergency Management Director Coordinator**

This person is the key person if a disaster occurs in town (flood, severe storms, etc.). They will be responsible for implementing the Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP) along with the other people identified in the Plan. This is an interim position until April or May 2022.

### **Regional Emergency Management Committee Member**

This Committee is part of the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC). The Committee was recently created to coordinate and support regional all-hazards emergency planning and preparedness activities to improve each region's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from all disasters. Westford's Emergency Management Director Coordinator will also serve on this Committee. The REMC is expected to meet quarterly.

If you are interested in serving in either of these roles, please contact the Town Office.



**WESTFORD RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
NEW REGISTRATION FORM**

**ONLINE!**

**[REGISTRATION FORM HERE](#)**

**This link also available on the town website:**

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



Thank you for helping us save trees with less paper waste!





## WESTFORD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

### Classroom Spot Light: Art

Interested in seeing the amazing art work of Westford students? [Check out this video](#), which features projects from each classroom and every student.

If you've ever wondered how we create such productive and creative writing workshops, check out our 3rd and 4th grade students. In this short [video](#) taken during walk through classroom visits, you can see the voice of students and the work they are putting into creating a constructive environment for writing .

### Health & Safety

How we continue to persist during this pandemic together matters to the long term outcomes for our students and our community. We are dedicated to meeting the academic and the social and emotional needs of our students. Ultimately, we want to keep students safe from COVID, maximize their ability to attend school, remain open for in person learning, and appropriately staff our building. This school year remains challenging for all and we continue to be grateful for our strong and supportive community. Currently, we have two glaring staffing needs. Please encourage appropriate candidates to apply for our building based substitute position on School Spring ([job ID 3704742](#)) and to reach out to Jamie Smith, Transportation Director, to fill our after school mini van driver position. Jamie can be reached by email at [jsmith2@ewsd.org](mailto:jsmith2@ewsd.org) or by phone at (802) 857-7037

Vermont has seen a 40% rise in the number of positive COVID-19 cases, according to [VT Digger](#), in the first few weeks of October. We will continue to implement several mitigation measures to avoid the spread, including mask wearing indoors. This month we intend to implement response testing. You can find more about response testing, including the test to stay, in-school PCR testing, and take-home PCR testing on the [Agency of Education website](#). Feel free to call the Westford School Health Office for information as well. Parents may wish to refer to the previously shared [powerpoint](#) outlining what families can expect if there is a positive case of COVID-19 in our school community, as it has been updated.

In addition to health related safety measures, we also practice emergency drills monthly. Here is a two minute [EWSD video](#) explaining what parents can expect if we need to evacuate students and then reunify.

### Curriculum & Instruction

We know that quality family-school communication is key to each child's learning and we have set up a series of opportunities to provide ongoing communication with parents about their student's experiences throughout the year. Below is a timeline of some of the key dates for the 2021/22 school year.

- September                      Fall assessment window
- October                              Parent conferences
- January                              Winter assessment window and progress reports
- March                                Parent conferences
- May                                    Spring assessment window
- June                                    Final report cards and spring assessment reports sent home
- July                                    State assessment results sent home grades 3-8.

*(Continued on next page...)*

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## Equity Focus

Last year, EWSD families identified some specific practices that are negatively impacting their children. These are practices we are examining this year and areas where we could make changes as actionable items tied to our equity policy. Here are a few examples that families shared: Fees for field trips; Book fairs; Fundraising activities; Cost for school supplies; Competitive canned food drives; and Class trip contributions. These comments were not specific to Westford School. However, the information is still powerful and we are making changes. For example, when we looked at how to make the book fair accessible and equitable for all, we identified one possible solution; give every student some money to spend on books and eliminate the toys and trinkets. That allows all students access and maintains the option for families who wish to choose to spend more money. Everyone begins with an equal amount / ability to purchase a book so that everyone has the ability to access the book fair. We are using this model for our art program. In some cases, it may not make sense to continue with a fundraiser or to ask families to donate items or money (school supplies or field trip costs) and instead we will reassign current school funds to meet our students' needs. I'm confident there will be tough decisions ahead as we think more deeply about traditions and established practices, and that any necessary changes will be worth it when the result is a more inclusive and equitable outcome for students.

## 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](mailto:dalbrecht@ccrpcvt.org) or 846-4490.

Please contact the Town Office at 878-4587 or [townclerk@westfordvt.us](mailto: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](mailto:townclerk@westfordvt.us) with your name (required), email address (required) and address (optional). To view current and past newsletters visit: <https://westfordvt.us/documents/newsletters/>. If you do not have access to the Internet or have a computer, you can call the Town Office at 878-4587 to request being added to the mailing list.