



# WESTFORD NEWSLETTER

January 2022



The **American Beech** is often found alongside Sugar Maples and its nuts are an important food source for lots of Vermont's wildlife. The nuts are sweet in flavor and are also edible for humans. They can be roasted and ground into a coffee substitute.

## Westford Town Office

1713 Vermont Route 128 - Westford, Vermont 05494

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

<https://westfordvt.us/>

## TOWN OFFICE NOTES

### FY'23 Budget Informational Meeting

The Selectboard will hold an informational meeting Thursday January 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in person and via Zoom to present the draft FY'23 town budget. This is an excellent opportunity for residents to provide feedback prior to finalization of the budget before being voted on in March 2022.

### Petition Deadlines

**Petitions for articles** to be considered for inclusion in the warning for Town Meeting are due by 4:30pm Thursday, January 13<sup>th</sup>. Petitions must be signed by at least 5% of the registered voters (a minimum of 87). Please be sure that the person signing the petition is a registered voter and that their name is legible.

**Elected offices** (Selectboard, etc.) – Candidates are required to file a petition signed by at least 18 registered voters and a Consent of Candidate form to run for an office. The deadline to submit the petition and consent form is 4:30 pm on Monday January 24<sup>th</sup>. The forms can be picked up at the Town Office. Please contact the Town Office for a list of offices with terms expiring in March 2022.

### Important Dates – Town Meeting

- **January 13<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)** – Selectboard FY'23 budget informational meeting. This meeting begins at 7pm and will be held in person and via Zoom.
- **January 13<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)** – 4:30pm deadline to file petitions signed by at least 5% of the registered voters (a minimum of 87) with the Town Clerk for articles to be considered for inclusion in the warning for Town Meeting. Be sure the person who signs the petition is a registered voter and signs their name as it appears on the checklist.
- **January 24<sup>th</sup> (Monday)** – 4:30pm deadline for filing with the Town Clerk a Consent of Candidate form to run for an elected office. Please fill in the office you are running for and the term length.
- **February 9<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)** – absentee ballots for Town Meeting will be available.
- **February 28<sup>th</sup> (Monday)** – 7:00pm, town Meeting and Public Hearing for Australian ballot questions. The meeting will be held at the Westford Elementary School and via Zoom.
- **February 28<sup>th</sup> (Monday)** – 4:30pm deadline to request an absentee ballot for Town Meeting.
- **March 1<sup>st</sup> (Tuesday)** – Voting day for Australian ballot articles. Polls will be open from 7:00am to 7:00pm at the Westford School in the gym.

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

*(Town Office notes continued on next page)*

## TOWN OFFICE NOTES (cont.)

### Absentee Ballots

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

### Holiday Giving - Hannaford Gift Cards

Westford residents and businesses, you are amazing! Thank you for supporting our community! Your donations helped make some families holidays brighter!

### Senior Luncheon

The Senior Luncheon will be on January 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 at the Red Brick Meeting House on the Common. All seniors are welcome and that ranges from 55 upwards. It also includes anyone that used to live in Westford and share where you are living now. It sure would be wonderful to see you. It's a time to get together and have a home cooked meal and good conversation. If you need a ride, please call me at 802-878-3090 or Beth Menut at 802-893-2263. If you have a neighbor that isn't coming, please contact them and see if they would like to join us. Hope to see you there. Please bring your mask as we are requiring this. Of course, you can take it off when you are eating.

Carol Howrigan, President 878-3090 or [carolfrank2@comcast.net](mailto:carolfrank2@comcast.net)

### Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the February Newsletter is 12:00 noon on Monday, January 24<sup>th</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

**Masks are required for unvaccinated people**

## ATTENTION DOG LOVERS

The Town of Westford is looking for someone who is interested in serving as **Dog Warden**. What is a Dog Warden? A Dog Warden is a person who helps dog owners comply with the Westford Dog Ordinance.

Qualifications: A love for dogs, the ability to communicate effectively and a location to bring dogs until they can be reunited with their owner to name a few. You may think you need a kennel to be a Dog Warden. This is not the case. However, a stray dog does need to be kept in a healthy environment until it is reunited with its owner. A healthy environment includes shelter, food, water, and a suitable area for them to relieve themselves.

The Dog Warden position receives an annual stipend of \$500 and there are funds available for training, supplies and mileage. The Town also has a doghouse that can be utilized. If you would like more information on helping your community by serving in this position, please contact the Town Office at 878-4587 or [townclerk@westfordvt.us](mailto:townclerk@westfordvt.us). Westford residency is preferred by not required.





## PLANNING COMMISSION NEWS

### 1705 RTE 128 PROJECT UPDATES

The Planning Commission would like to comment on several recent front porch forum posts regarding the 1705 VT Route 128 property and the avenues the Planning Commission is exploring to leverage that property for the benefit of the Town. Over the course of the next several weeks and months the Planning Commission will provide additional information to the community about the process and progress of our efforts. There will be ample opportunity for public comments and critique as the process slowly moves forward. To be clear, the project is only in its concept phase at this time. Refinements and changes based on public input will occur before any particular plan moves forward.

At this time, it may be helpful to take a step back from the misunderstanding a few people in the community have about this project and identify and describe the other organizations the Town is working with and how they can help create a space that benefits the Town and the Common and is something the community has a say in helping to create.

The Town is currently working with three organizations whose work is focused on helping communities find and build community spaces and housing. The three organizations are the Vermont River Conservancy (VRC); Champlain Housing Trust (CHT); and Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity (GMHfH). We are working with these particular organizations because they can help secure funding for housing, recreational, and civic uses without the Town having to use taxpayer money.

The Vermont River Conservancy was founded in 1995 with the initial goal of protecting public access to Vermont swimming holes. Over the past 25 years the scope of VRC's work has expanded to address climate change impacts by conserving and restoring critical floodplains and conserving "river corridors" through conservation easements with willing landowners to allow rivers to freely meander and reduce sedimentation. VRC also works closely with partnering organizations to remove "deadbeat" dams that no longer serve an economic function but impede fish passage and fragment aquatic habitat. VRC works closely with members of the communities where its conservation projects are located to best restore the connections between ourselves and our rivers.

The Vermont River Conservancy has been fully supportive of the Town's community effort to enhance the Westford Common by considering options for public access to the Browns River and appropriately scaled affordable housing. This project fits well with VRC's mission to conserve important lands along Vermont's rivers.

VRC is in discussions with the landowner to purchase the property. Those discussions have not yet resulted in a purchase agreement. If those discussions result in a sale of the property, VRC will establish permanent public river access to the Brown's River and then deed a parcel of the property to Champlain Housing Trust (CHT) for \$1.00 and a parcel to the Town for \$1.00. The Town can use its parcel for civic purposes such as a new Town Office. CHT will use its parcel to create affordable housing units that will be sold to individuals and families. VRC obtains its funding for such projects from a number of organizations, including the Vermont Housing & Conservation District.

Champlain Housing Trust is a community land trust that supports the people of Northwest Vermont and strengthens their communities through the development and stewardship of permanently affordable homes. Founded in 1984, it is the largest community land trust in the country. CHT owns and manages approximately 2,500 permanently affordable apartments, stewards 640 shared equity homes (which have served over 1,100 families), operates a revolving loan fund that provides affordable home repair loans and project management to low-income Vermonters, and runs a statewide manufactured home replacement program.

CHT also offers homebuyer education, pre-home purchase counseling, financial literacy education and mentoring, foreclosure and delinquency intervention services, and an eviction prevention program. Its 130 staff members serve the communities of Chittenden, Franklin and Grand Isle counties in Vermont.

Champlain Housing Trust is looking forward to partnering with the Town of Westford, Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity, The Vermont River Conservancy and others in the Town on the proposed project to provide public access to the Browns River and to create size appropriate affordable housing in Westford.

Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity (GMHfH) has been building safe and perpetually affordable homes for local working families in Chittenden County since 1984. The homes they build, made possible by financial donors and volunteers, are purchased by families for the cost to build the homes.

There has been a lot of discussion about the need for "affordable housing", but people may wonder what that means. Affordable housing is generally defined as housing for which the occupant is paying no more than 30 percent of gross

income for housing costs. GMHfH builds homes for ownership, where the family buys the home and begins to build equity. Currently, GMHfH built homes cost about \$160,000 to build but appraise for \$225,000 to \$300,000, and typically have a \$900 monthly payment for mortgage, homeowners' insurance and property taxes.

Homes built by GMHfH are guaranteed to be permanently affordable through its partnership with the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board. The requirement for permanent affordability is written in the deed and remains with each home each time it is sold.

More information about Vermont River Conservancy can be found at:

[www.vermontriverconservancy.org](http://www.vermontriverconservancy.org)

More information about Champlain Housing Trust can be found at:

[www.getahome.org](http://www.getahome.org)

More information about Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity can be found at:

[www.vermonthabitat.org](http://www.vermonthabitat.org)

## UPDATE ON THE COMMUNITY WASTEWATER PROJECT

November and December have been busy months for the community wastewater project. Project information is always available at [www.westfordsfuture.com](http://www.westfordsfuture.com). Here are some updates on specific aspects of the project:

**Funding Commitments:** The Town is still waiting to receive word from the State of Vermont on American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to be allocated to the Westford Community Wastewater Project. Things are looking very positive, but the pandemic and other factors have delayed hearing about a finalized award. As soon as we learn more, we will update residents on the results.

**Engineering Progress:** You may have seen the engineering team from Green Mountain Engineering (Alan Huizenga, Brad Washburn, and Alex Huizenga) visiting property owners in and around the Town Common. They have verified building plumbing and exits, which is essential information for final design engineering for those properties who would choose—voluntarily—to connect to a community system. Based on responses to the service area property owner survey and meetings with the engineering team, 19 of the 34 eligible parcels in the service area plan to connect to the system, and another 7 are considering whether to connect.

**Maple Shade Town Forest Leach Field Evaluation:** You also may have seen a drill rig on the Jackson Farm property during the week of November 7th. As a normal and required part of the engineering design process, a drill rig took soil borings and conducted large-scale hydraulic tests of the proposed leach field (wastewater disposal) area on the Maple Shade Town Forest property. This involves taking soil borings to establish the depth to clay layers and bedrock underneath the disposal field, pumping water into the ground, and taking readings at a monitoring well to assess how much wastewater can be applied safely. The testing found that the leach field area has very deep, well-drained soils, with 34' depth to bedrock and no groundwater. This is excellent news for the effectiveness, and safety of the site's use as a wastewater disposal site. It means that the area can safely manage projected system effluent in a way that is protective of groundwater, and protective of nearby properties and wells and will have superior resiliency and longevity. It further establishes that securing the property of the Maple Shade Forest in which this site is located provides for many long-term benefits to the Town and its residents. Additional engineering evaluation and design will now be prepared and reviewed with State regulators to determine a final capacity number and site layout.

### Upcoming Meetings:

A public informational meeting on the community wastewater system is scheduled for Tuesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30-8:30pm at Westford School. Hybrid attendance options will be available. Full information about this event can be found at <https://www.westfordsfuture.com/events.html>.

## Community Wastewater Project Informational Meeting

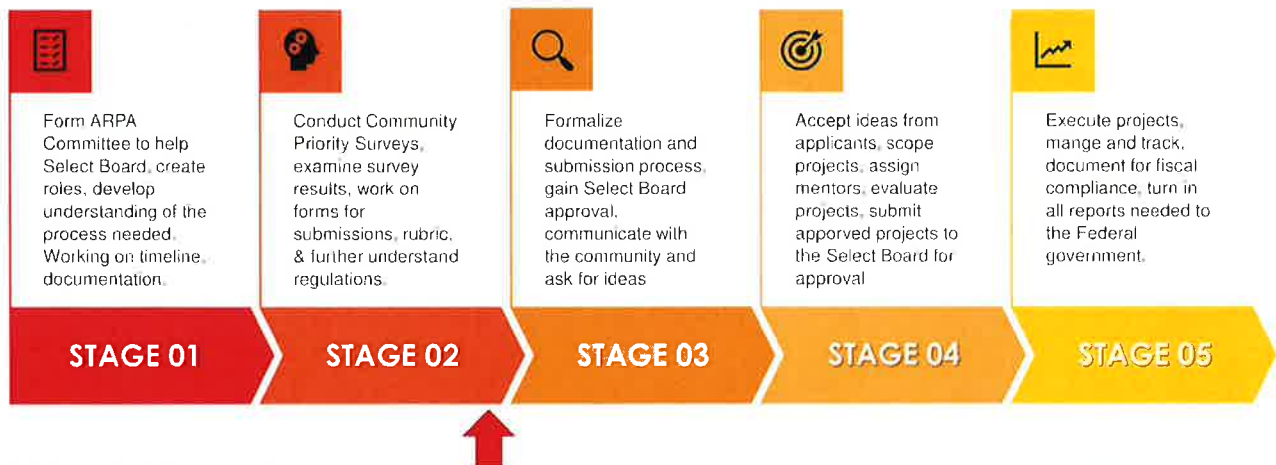
Tuesday, February 8th, 2022  
6:30-8:30pm at Westford School  
(virtual attendance available)

All Westford Residents are invited to attend.  
Hear project and funding updates and ask questions  
in advance of Town Meeting in March.

More information: [www.WestfordsFuture.com](http://www.WestfordsFuture.com)

## ARPA COMMITTEE

### Project Timeline Westford's ARPA Committee Process



The ARPA Committee is currently in between stages 2 and 3 of this process. We wanted to keep the community up to date. We look forward to a community meeting sometime in February.



## WESTFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION NEWS & REMINDERS

### **SCHOOL TRAILS:** Winter trail etiquette for all users:

- Do not use the trails when conditions are too soft.
- The trails are multidirectional. Be aware of oncoming trail users.
- Do not ride, ski, snowshoe, or walk on/over the classic cross-country skiing tracks.
- Walkers and snowshoers please walk on the corduroy-groomed side of the trail (with no classic tracks), for your safety and the safety of other users.
- Keep dogs off cross-country skiing tracks and always under control.

### **Look forward to more events this winter:**

- Moonlight snowshoe
- Winter forest ecology walk
- Cross-country ski lessons at Misty Meadows



### **MAPLE SHADE TOWN FOREST TRAILS:** Please be aware of active forest management while enjoying Maple Shade Town Forest this winter!

It is a stated goal of the Westford Town Lands (2019) to maintain a diverse and healthy forest, in addition to promoting the health of wetlands, meadows, and natural communities present. The management strategies employed for Maple Shade Town Forest shall seek to promote the health of complete forest ecosystems and the myriad services they provide, especially emphasizing the maintenance of vibrant, abundant habitat for wildlife.

Active forest management through the harvesting of trees will occur in Maple Shade Town Forest this winter in accordance with the forest management plan written by County Forester Ethan Tapper which was adopted by the Westford Select Board and approved by the Vermont Land Trust. Forest management in the Maple Shade Town Forest will seek to actively encourage the growth of healthy, high-quality trees and diverse wildlife habitat conditions.

**TRAILS:** Please let us know if you see downed trees or other required maintenance to any of the trails. Email us at [westfordcc@googlegroups.com](mailto:westfordcc@googlegroups.com)

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

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

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

*Thank you!*



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



[https://www.instagram.com/westford\\_cc/](https://www.instagram.com/westford_cc/)

# WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

<https://westfordpubliclibrary.org>

(802) 878-5639

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

1717 VERMONT ROUTE 128, WESTFORD VT 05494

## Brown Bag Lunch Series Tues. Jan. 11 at Noon Via Zoom



Link sent out on FPF,  
Facebook, and upon request via email.

### Reduce your Waste-line with CSWD

Join CSWD for an informative and interactive session on what to do with food scraps, recyclables, and other things that can't go in your trash. We'll review recycling requirements, confront composting challenges, settle solid waste squabbles, and address additional inquiries so you'll leave confident that you know what goes where! Bring your questionable items, family disputes (trash-related only, please!), and solutions you've already discovered.

Still don't know how to download FREE eBooks and audiobooks to your iPad, Kindle, phone or tablet?



Did you get a new device for the Holidays?

The Library can help with that!  
Make an appointment with Bree.  
Call, email or stop by to schedule a time to work one on one.

Be sure to bring your charged device, passwords, Apple ID, etc.

## Winter Wear Share Saturday, January 8 from 10am-1pm

Stop by the Library to grab some "new to you" winter wear.

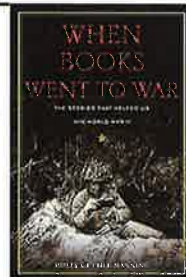
Adult and kids sizes, some almost like new - all of this is free and you did not have to donate something to take something. Keep warm and keep clothes out of the landfill.



## Building is OPEN to patrons:

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

## Adult Book Group Wed. January 26 7:00-8:00pm on Zoom When Books Went to War By: Molly Guptill Manning



When America entered World War II in 1941, we faced an enemy that had banned and burned over 100 million books and caused fearful citizens to hide or destroy many more. Outraged librarians launched a campaign to send free books to American troops and gathered 20 million hardcover donations. In 1943, the War Department and the publishing industry stepped in with an extraordinary program: 120 million small, lightweight paperbacks, for troops to carry in their pockets and their rucksacks, in every theater of war. Comprising 1,200 different titles, these paperbacks were beloved by the troops and are still fondly remembered today. Soldiers read them while waiting to land at Normandy; in hellish trenches in the midst of battles in the Pacific; in field hospitals; and on long bombing flights. They wrote to the authors, many of whom responded to every letter. They helped rescue *The Great Gatsby* from obscurity. They made Betty Smith, author of *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, into a national icon. *When Books Went to War* is an inspiring story for history buffs and book lovers alike. **Print copies at Library, digital copies on Libby. Zoom link will be posted on FPF, Facebook, and sent to regular book club members.**

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

1/6/22: Theme: Winter

1/13/22: Theme: Animals in the Snow

1/20/22: Theme: Mittens

1/27/22: Theme: Opposites

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.

## **January Library Events**

January - all month events:

Winter Story Hike "The Big Snow"

Book Giving Trees - Books due Jan. 18

New Device Tech Help - Make an appt.

January 1 - CLOSED

January 8 - Winter Wear Share 10am-1pm

January 11 - Virtual Brown Bag Lunch Series:

"Reducing your Waist-line with CSWD"

Noon - via Zoom

January 12 - Trustees Meeting 7-9pm

January 18 - My Tasha Tudor - art installation - will be up through the end of March

January 18 - Giving Tree books are due this day

January 18 - Learn to Knit for Kids - 3-5pm - this is a four week class - sign up required, space is limited.

January 25 - Learn to Knit for Kids - 3-5pm - this is a four week class - sign up required, space is limited.

January 26 - 7pm via Zoom - Adult Book Group - When Books Went to War by Molly Guptill Manning

**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.**

**New Art is going up at the Library!**

**The Art of Tasha Tudor**

**A personal collection by Peggy Rodgers**

**Installation will be up by January 18 and stay up through the end of March.**

Peggy Rodgers grew up living next door to famed author, illustrator, and eccentric Tasha Tudor. She has many pieces that Tudor created for her and her family. We are hoping to have a Tasha Tudor Tea in March to celebrate this wonderful exhibit. Stop by any-time we are open to check out this display.



## **Book Giving Trees - There's still time and books!**

Choose a star from one of our book giving trees. Each star contains the name of a book that the Library would like to have. Books can be dedicated to a special person or family. Purchase the book anywhere, or Phoenix Books will give patrons 20% off the book if you bring in the star.



**Books will stay at Phoenix if purchased there.** Purchase/deliver books by January 18. Thank you!

## **Learn to Knit for Kids grade 3 and up!**

**Tuesdays - 1/18, 1/25, 2/1, 2/8**

**Must be able to attend all 4 weeks**

**Signup required, limited to five kids**

**Kids will ride Bus #3 to the library with a note from home. Snack provided.**

**Taught by: Marianne Bassford, one of our Westford Fiber Arts Group founders**

Due to the small number of students who can be taught by one person, please make sure your child is genuinely wanting to learn to knit. This will take persistence and grit on their part, so make sure they are ready.

**All materials are provided.**

**Students may be able to keep some supplies.**



## **The Winter Trail Hike is up!**

Enjoy this charming story about anticipating the first "big snow" of the season. Park in the front school parking lot and follow the signs from the kiosk. Enjoy a walk to and around the Misty Meadows trail. Please do not walk on groomed ski tracks.



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  
**RECREATION**  
DEPARTEMENT

 Upcoming events and programs

**Recreation Board Meeting**  
January 4th 7pm

**Annual Broomball Tournament**  
January 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>

**Ice Skating Lessons**  
January 19<sup>th</sup>-February 9th

**Girls 3/4 basketball**

**Tuesdays January 25<sup>th</sup>-March 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Womens Futsal Session 2 February 3-April 21**

**Family Valentines Skate February 13th**



The Westford Rink is looking good and is almost ready!

Please obey the closed sign and stay off the ice when posted. If we skate too early it will only take one skate or foot through the ice and liner to end the skating for the rest of the season.

Rink Rules

Share the ice

RINK CLOSSES AT 10PM, NO EXEPTIONS

All activities are non-contact

Enter and Exit throught the rink door only



 All programs are available via Scholarships.

If you or your child would like to participate in a proram, but are financially unable, select Scholarship proram in the payment selection on the online registrations form.

Happy New Year from the Westford Recreation Department. May 2022 be filled with new adventures, health and laughter.

# GIRLS 3/4 BASKETBALL

Come have fun learning and improving the game of basketball with Coach Jay Morgan.

60 minutes training sessions Tuesdays at the Westford School gym.

Please make sure you have a water bottle and proper footwear.

Tuesdays January 25th-March 8th

Westford Elementary School Gym

7pm-8pm

Registration Fee \$50.00

Registrations deadline January 18th, 2022

3rd and 4th grade Girls

## REGISTRATIONS

Secure your spot today!

Register online at <https://westfordvt.us/recreation/>

Pay online at <https://westfordvt.us/payments/>

Scholarships available, email

[recreation@westfordvt.us](mailto:recreation@westfordvt.us)

**Westford Recreation Department Presents  
Valentines Family Skate  
Sunday February 13th  
2pm-4pm**

Free event for all  
Westford Residents

Refreshments  
Provided

*Date Night With the Family*



The Recreation department is offering learn to skate lessons on our town ice rink. Lead by a professional ice skating Instructor, Jennifer Lupia. Limited Availability.

Wednesdays January 19th-February 9th

6 YEARS OLD AND UNDER 215-245

7 YEARS AND OLDER 230 warm up, 245-315



HELMETS REQUIRED

Must have own skates

Secure your spot today, register online!

Registration Fee \$55.00

[https://  
docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSeJog47fBV  
aT4.../viewform](https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSeJog47fBVaT4.../viewform)

## WESTFORD ANNUAL BROOMBALL TOURNAMENT

Hosted by Game on VT

JANUARY 15TH-16TH



Join us for the 21st annual Westford Broomball Tournament on the Town Common in Westford, VT.

Teams will battle it out in 20 minute broomball games played 4v4 plus goalies on the Westford outdoor ice rink in a double elimination tournament.

Registration is open for high school students and adults of all ages. There is no limit to the number of players on a team but all players must register in advance. Space is available for up to 22 teams and will be awarded first come first serve.

Games will start on the half hour starting at 9:00am on Saturday, January 14th. Exact times and schedule to be determined by the number of teams registered.

Concessions will be available at the Red Brick Meeting House and on the Green throughout the tournament.

Time: 9:00am - 8:00pm

\$15 per player

[5 Common Rd, Westford, VT](#)

Register Here: <https://gameonvt.com/event.php?id=28>



# Registration

## **WESTFORD RECREATION DEPARTMENT NEW REGISTRATION FORM**

[REGISTRATION FORM HERE](https://westfordvt.us/recreation/)  
<https://westfordvt.us/recreation/>



## 2021 COMMUNITY REPORT

2021 has continued to present challenges to all of us as the pandemic wears on. At the Westford Common Hall, we've used that time to get systems and procedures into place to help take us into the future. We are excited to now be available to the community as a space where people can gather for life celebrations, music, and events.

The Westford Common Hall (WCH) in its landmark site at the top of the Common has been settling into its new role in our community. Built as a church in 1840, this historical building is transitioning from a place of worship to a multi-use community asset dedicated to inclusively serve the community of Westford.

The Westford Common Hall, as an independent non-profit organization, states the following: **Our mission is to offer a gathering space for diverse communities to connect, share, and celebrate; with a vision to be a landmark assembly space committed to growing the spirit and economy of the community.** To this end we are home to the Westford Food Shelf, the Annual Clothes Drive, the Fall through Spring Music Series, Pop-up artist events, art installations, and many life celebration services such as weddings and memorials. As we emerge from this health crisis, the building can be reserved for community events, art exhibits, music, book talks, educational classes, social gatherings, and appropriate private functions.

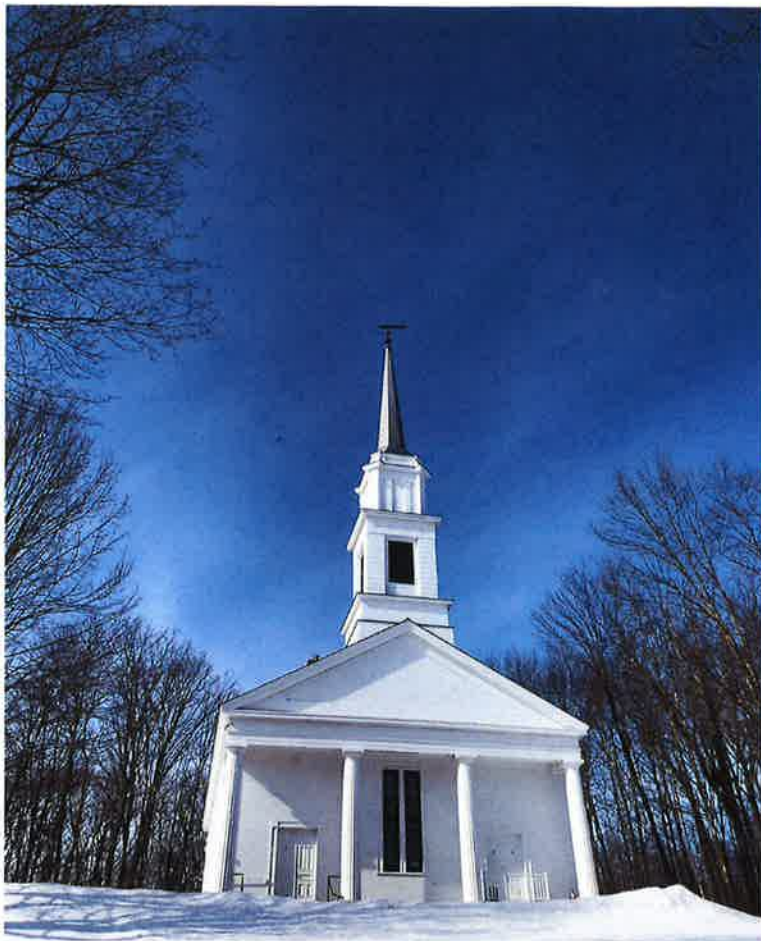
We are coming out of the pandemic energized to continue pursuing many grant opportunities to move this 19th Century structure into the 21st Century. We used the quiet times that the pandemic forced on us all and worked on internal reorganization like consolidating finances and administrative to become a non-profit, the Westford Common Hall. We have been able to install internet and public WIFI with some of the funds from a budgeted line item from The Town. The connection is good at the parking lot and folks are welcome to use that connection!

Our biggest challenges are upgrading the heating system and becoming ADA compliant. The current furnace is being used on borrowed time. A heat pump paired with solar panels installed on the south sloping roof is the plan for a new heating system. According to a Certified Solar Installer and Building Analyst it has the potential to produce "around 21,000 KWH a year and could be a part of a group metered system. Clearly oversized for the building; it could be a great opportunity for people in town to buy in." Charging stations could also be implemented. This intersects with many of the Town Plan Goals and VT State goals for reaching its carbon emission reduction goal.

There are many grants that we are tracking down and pursuing to help with our goals of moving the building into the 21st Century. In January 2021, the WCH received a Preservation Trust of Vermont /Robert Sincerbeaux Fund matching grant. This funded a certified consultant to prepare a general assessment of the building, a necessary first step for application to any VT grant funder. Future grant opportunities to meet our goals require matching grants. Our fundraising efforts in 2022 and likely beyond will be toward creating funds for those matching grants. The WCH Board appreciates and supports the thoughtful work the Town Planners are doing to protect our community while preparing for the revitalization of the infrastructure the Town needs.

To contact the Westford Common Hall please email us at [Info@westfordcommonhall.org](mailto:Info@westfordcommonhall.org).





**Celebrate Winter in  
Westford Village!**

**Saturday, Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>**

**12 - 4 pm**



# **WESTFORD WINTER FESTIVAL & CONCERT**

**LIVE MUSIC: Cookie's Hot Club jazz/blues &  
Rockin Ron the Friendly Pirate**

**Saturday, Feb 12<sup>th</sup> 12 - 4 pm**

Local Food & Drink • Live Music • Kids Activities  
Artisan Raffle • Skating • Sledding • History Walk

For more information: [Westfordwinterfest@gmail.com](mailto:Westfordwinterfest@gmail.com) & [@WestfordEvents](https://www.facebook.com/WestfordEvents)





# WESTFORD WINTER FESTIVAL & CONCERT!

February 12, 12pm – 4pm  
Something for the whole family!

- \* Food and drink at the Westford Country Store and the Common Hall
- \* Sledding on the hill behind 123 Brookside Road by gracious permission from Don Pouliot
- \* Skiing and snowshoeing in the Misty Meadows and Maple Shade Forests
- \* Drop by the Brick Meeting House to play Mini Golf! Or get your face painted or try out a fun craft! Presented by our Westford Girl Scouts!
- \* Tour the new Westford Historical Society building to catch up on their exciting progress and pick up a self-guided Historical Tour of Westford village handout!
- \* Stop over at the Library to begin a fun Story Walk that will take you around the Common!
- \* Silent Pie Auction at the Westford Common Hall
- \* Ethan Tapper, our Chittenden County Forester, will take you on a guided walk/snowshoe/ski of Maple Shade Town Forest trails! (time TBA)

## Westford Winter Festival Passport

Keep track of your fun adventures with a Westford Winter Festival Passport!  
Pick up your passport at the store, get it stamped at each event/ location you visit, and then turn it in for a drawing for a store gift card!

## Silent Raffle

**12pm - 3:30pm**, drawing at 4pm, you don't need to be present to win

Come to the Westford Common Hall to see the great assortment of items activities, and services! (List will be available online soon, as well!)

Tickets will be available for purchase in advance; watch for details!

Over two dozen items so far to put your tickets in for!

Locally made beautifully crafted items, Smugglers Notch Bash Badge, tickets to Cochran's Ski Area and Bolton, helicopter lesson, farrier visit, restaurant gift cards, pet supply gift cards, apples, yoga, chocolate, and lots more!

Watch Front Porch Forum and Westford events page for complete listing!

## Rockin' Ron the Friendly Pirate

**12:30pm** - This show will delight the grade school kiddos with an interactive mix of fun and games, aargh-riginal pirate songs to sing along with, and some general visual mayhem for all the stowaways and land lubbers alike. BYO eye patch and parrot for your shoulder. Check out [rockinronthefriendlypirate.com](http://rockinronthefriendlypirate.com) website to listen to tunes ahead of time or see some video uploads.

## Cookie's Hot Club

**2pm** – Cookie's Hot club is a five-piece string and harmonica juggernaut of culturally harnessed, acoustically driven frenzy, exploring classic gypsy-jazz, swing, jazz-grass, and blues americana tunes. Always tastefully served up for your listening pleasure. Stop in for a little warmth on a winter's afternoon, you may even catch a kazoo solo!

**More details to come! Keep watching!**

**For any questions or more info: [westfordwinterfest@gmail.com](mailto:westfordwinterfest@gmail.com)**

SLOW



# WINTER IS HERE!



What you need to know about winter road conditions

- **Plowing:** begins when the snow has accumulated 2-3 inches. Each plow route takes the road crew about 4 hours to complete.
- **Sand:** applied to all gravel roads. Some particles may be large enough to cause windshield damage. Use caution and avoid following other vehicles closely.
- **Mailboxes:** Westford does NOT repair or replace mailboxes damaged by the plow.
- **Plowing Across Town Roads:** plowing snow from driveways across town roads is prohibited.

Read the full Winter Road Policy here: <https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Winter-Road-Policy.pdf>

## Reminders:

- Each winter storm is different, roads may be icy and sand may be loose. Drive slow and know what your vehicle is capable of.
- Watch for walkers and wildlife. It will be more difficult to see pedestrians and recreational users of roads this time of year due to snowbanks. Walkers, bikers and other users can do their part by wearing bright, reflective clothing.
- Some VAST trails cross Westford Roads. Know where the trails are and watch for crossing snowmobiles. You can find a list of VAST trails here: <https://vtvast.org/trails.html>
- Several hunting seasons occur during early winter. Watch for vehicles parked on the side of roads for hunting access. Pedestrians & pets should wear orange/yellow reflective clothing during hunting seasons to help ensure they are seen. You can find a list of VT hunting seasons here: <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/hunt/hunting-and-trapping-seasons>

## WESTFORD MUSIC SERIES & YOUNG TRADITION VERMONT

PRESENTS

# THE YOUTH COMMISSION



## TRADITIONAL STYLE

*-free will donation-*

**4 PM: WESTFORD COMMON HALL  
SUNDAY: JANUARY 9, 2022**

A featured artist from the Young Tradition Vermont Program, The Youth Commission is a group of high school age musicians who play and sing in traditional style. Don't miss this rare chance to see budding new talent!

Each teen is selected during an annual competitive youth festival. The winner goes on to create a small ensemble of four or five members who arrange a program of original compositions with a mentor/master artist of their choosing and then performing together for a year.

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

## Donate Your Used Eyeglasses and Hearing Aids for Recycling

The Jericho-Underhill Lions Club have placed collection boxes in the Westford Library & Westford Town Clerk's Office. The Collection Boxes are there for anyone that has used eyeglasses and used hearing aids that wishes to donate them for recycling. All you need to do is deposit them in the boxes and the Jericho-Underhill Lion's Club will take care of it from there.



# TRASH, RECYCLING & FOOD SCRAPS IN WESTFORD

## Can I Recycle That?

Did you know that you are not supposed to put your recycling in plastic bags of any kind? The only exception to this is shredded office paper, which is accepted only if it's in a CLEAR BAG that's tightly closed.

Here are some other items that do NOT belong in your recycling bin:

- Dirty containers
- Plastic wrap
- Durable plastic (e.g., Tupperware, laundry bins, etc.)
- Styrofoam
- Motor oil or hazardous waste containers



For more information on the proper way to recycle, please visit <https://cswd.net/recycling/>. There is even an interesting video of a tour of the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) where your recycling goes to be sorted.

## Food Scraps *(Effective July 1, 2020, per Act 148, food scraps are banned from landfills.)*

### What are food scraps?

Food scraps are parts of food that are typically discarded rather than eaten: peels, rinds, cores, eggshells, seeds, pits, bones, shells, coffee grounds and filters, loose-leaf tea, and fats/oils/grease. Food scraps is also food that was eaten but not finished: "plate scraps" or leftovers that went bad. Any type of food can become food scraps including bread, pasta, soup, vegetables, fruit, sauces, meat, fish, dairy, sweets, etc.

### What should I do with meat and bones?

If you compost in your yard, the law allows you to put meat and bones in the trash, so they don't attract animals to your composting bin. If you chose to bring food scraps to a drop-off center, you can include meat and bones with the rest of your food scraps.

CSWD has an abundance of information on their website including answers to questions, ways to reduce waste and how to compost to name a few. Please go to <https://cswd.net/scrapfoodwaste/> or call **872-8111** to get more information.

## SEASONAL COMPOSTING TIPS: WINTER

- Low humidity and winter winds can dry out your pile, water compost pile sparingly on a day when it won't immediately freeze.
- Turn your compost as frequently as possible, BUT do not attempt to turn when frozen,
- Add green scraps in large quantities. For compost to be fed properly it needs the nitrogen of green ingredients.

Don't want to trudge outside in the snow to compost? Here are some ways you can store compost inside longer before bringing it out to the pile or to a drop off center:

<https://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/wmp/SolidWaste/Documents/Universal-Recycling/Managing-food-scraps-in-the-kitchen.pdf>

## STAY UP TO DATE WITH OUR HAULER

Myers has now set up a Facebook page for Westford specific trash & recycling communications! You can find it here:

<https://www.facebook.com/Town-of-Westford-Waste-104918838111423>

## 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.