



WESTFORD NEWSLETTER

December 2022



The Balsam Fir is a popular Christmas tree, but is also used for its resin, antiseptic gum, and pleasant scent. The Balsam Fir is a valuable species to the Indigenous people in the North East who use it for a variety of medicinal purposes.

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'24 Budget Workshops

The Selectboard began working on the FY'24 Budget in October, Upcoming workshops will be held on:

- 12/8

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 2023

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the January Newsletter is 12:00 noon on Tuesday, December 27th.

TOWN OFFICE HOURS

The office is open:

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

The office is **CLOSED**:

- December 26 – Closed for Holiday

Mask wearing is not required but can be worn by choice based on your personal circumstances. Thank You!

Senior Luncheon

Westford Seniors, what a fabulous turnout and feast we had for our Thanksgiving Senior Luncheon! We welcomed many familiar faces and even a few new ones.

Please join us for our Holiday Luncheon on Monday 12/12 at the Red Brick Meeting House. Doors open at 11:30am for visiting and the meal service begins around 12 noon. Bring your singing voices as we will have a holiday sing along with Linda Martin. If you need a ride, just reach out. See you soon!

Mary Fay (802-878-1215) & Cori Hill (802-878-7415), Co-Presidents.





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>



'Tis the Season for Giving

The Town is collecting monetary donations to purchase Hannaford gift cards for Westford residents in need. The gift cards provide recipients with the ability to purchase food and household items as needed and according to their personal preferences.

Monetary donations will be accepted through Friday, December 16th. If you prefer, you can purchase the gift cards (ones that prohibit tobacco and alcohol purchases) yourself. Please mail or deliver your donation to the Town Office. The gift cards will be mailed on December 17th to Westford residents only.



WESTFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

ACTIVE HUNTING

HUNTING IS A PERMITTED ACTIVITY IN THE MAPLE SHADE TOWN FOREST. HUNTING OF ANY SPECIES IS PERMITTED DURING DEER AND TURKEY SEASONS, WHICH ARE IN EFFECT NOW THROUGH SPRING 2023.

TAKE PRECAUTIONS: WEAR ORANGE, LEASH DOGS

SCHOOL TRAILS WINTER USE: In an effort to accommodate everyone, so we can all enjoy the trails, please consider the following:

- These are public trails. They are for everyone.
- Walkers/Snowshoers – Please walk on the groomed trail on the opposite side of the ski track (the indented tracks that look like skis fit in them) set for cross-country skiers.
- Everyone needs to be aware of other people on the trail. Let's stay safe!

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!

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!

WESTFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Email westfordcc@googlegroups.com



FROM THE DESK OF THE FIRE WARDEN

The winter and snow season are upon us. As anyone who uses the burn system knows you are not required to have a burn permit by the State of Vermont as long as there is a snow covering on the ground where you are burning. As you also know for the past several years I have requested that you continue to acquire a permit even if there is a snow covering because this helps our Fire Department determine whether there is a controlled burn or an actual fire in a particular area. A fire persons job is difficult and dangerous as it is and any help we can give them would be greatly appreciated. Once we get a good ground covering I will keep the system open so that you can get a permit when you want. Please remember that everything else stays the same. What you can burn, where you can burn, what you can use to start a fire and precautions that must be used does not change due to a ground covering of snow. If you have any questions pertaining to your burn please call me at 802-879-1231 and I will be glad to discuss them with you. At this time I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Holiday and a safe and Happy New Year.

Respectfully,

Dennis Angiono

Westford Fire Warden

FOREST MANAGEMENT AT THE WESTFORD TOWN LANDS

Hi all,

This fall and winter, we will be continuing the forest management of both the Maple Shade Town Forest (MSTF, AKA “Jackson Farm”) and the Misty Meadows Trails and Forest (MMTF, AKA “School Forest”), the parcels that we collectively call the Westford Town Lands. Here’s some more information about these projects.

FOREST MANAGEMENT AT THE MAPLE SHADE TOWN FOREST:

Last winter we were able to get some great work done at MSTF, as well as to do some excellent education and outreach and to generate some revenue which was used in part to fund trail improvements and trail resilience. As with last year, this winter (beginning when the ground freezes in December or January) we will continue working with Evan Aiken to continue to improve the health, resilience and wildlife habitat of the MSTF while demonstrating responsible forest management in an open, transparent and inclusive way. Most trails at the MSTF will remain open, but please follow trail closure signage and be aware that heavy equipment will be using the main entrance to the Maple Shade Town Forest, so use caution when entering.

To learn more about the work at the MSTF or to stay apprised of what’s going on this winter you can watch videos on the Westford Town Lands playlist on the Chittenden County Forester’s YouTube page, here:

<https://tinyurl.com/yhdw7xdm>

or stay tuned for public walks and other educational opportunities by signing up for the Chittenden County Forester’s email list, here: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8bcet7>

PRE-COMMERCIAL FOREST MANAGEMENT AT THE MISTY MEADOWS TRAILS & FOREST

I was able to acquire some funding from the Vermont Dept. of Fish and Wildlife’s Habitat Stamp program to continue the pre-commercial forest management at the MMTF with the forestry program at the Center for Technology at Essex High School – this work will probably happen in spring 2023. Like last year, this work will consist of felling small and unhealthy trees to improve the growth of the healthiest trees in the area behind the Westford School. An additional goal for this project was to add dead wood to the forest floor to promote improved habitat, hydrology, and carbon storage and to create a “messier,” more complex forest. As at Maple Shade, please obey trail closure signage!

You can find a video about this project on the Chittenden County Forester’s YouTube page, here:

<https://youtu.be/LUVXQ0EOzvM>

All this forest management work is exciting but can also be confusing and jarring. Understanding the role that forest management plays in our world is extremely nuanced and complex. As a result I’ve been working with Westford and with other Town Forests to provide tons of educational opportunities and resources for folks to learn more – you can visit my YouTube Channel, read an archive of my monthly columns and learn more about some of the other projects that I’ve been working on, all at my LinkTree: <https://linktr.ee/ChittendenCountyForester>

I hope to see you all at the Westford Town Lands this winter!!

Best,

Ethan Tapper, Chittenden County Forester

Ethan.Tapper@Vermont.gov





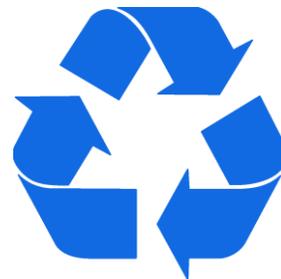
TRASH, RECYCLING & FOOD SCRAPS IN WESTFORD

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

- 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>).

MUNICIPAL JOB OPENINGS

FULL TIME ROAD CREW MEMBER

The Town of Westford is seeking qualified applicants for a full time Road Crew position with benefits. This position involves skilled and unskilled labor tasks and the knowledge and operation of highway equipment for maintenance and repair of town roads.

Requirements: valid Vermont CDL Class B license; good driving record; experience operating various highway equipment; willingness to work long hours, especially during winter months; ability to maintain logs; participate in random drug/alcohol testing; possess physical strength, agility, endurance, and mental ability to concentrate, mechanical abilities and good communication skills. Must pass pre-employment physical exam and drug test. A full job description can be viewed at <https://westfordvt.us/administration/highway-department/>.

For consideration, please submit resume, references and employment application (found at <https://westfordvt.us/administration/highway-department/>) to: Town of Westford, Attn: Nanette Rogers, 1713 VT Route 128, Westford, VT 05494.

For more information, contact Nanette Rogers (Town Administrator) at 802-878-4587 or townadmin@westfordvt.us. Position open until filled. Westford is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

LIBRARY TRUSTEE

A big THANK YOU to Peggy Rodgers, who has served as a trustee for the past 10 years.

The Library is looking for a new trustee to fill Peggy's place. Trustees must be Westford residents and at least 18 years old.

Trustees have four main tasks:

ADVOCACY: They are a voice for the library in the community. They can answer questions, talk about services, and spread library love throughout the community.

FUNDRAISING: Trustees review and shape library policies to keep them relevant to the times and the community.

SUPPORT: They work closely with the Library Director on any other tasks that need addressing.

Trustees meet monthly on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7pm. Current trustees are: Patty Pittala, Pat Hechmer, Vicky Ross, and Leanne Saddlemire. Joining the board allows you to help plan and shape the library for the future of Westford. We are looking for board members who use the library in diverse ways – especially digital users and people whose children use the library. Trustees must be willing to step into a variety of roles. It is the trustees' practice to rotate its officers and committee members each year.

Westford Public Library enjoys a great reputation in town and the Vermont library community. Help support our library and our wonderful Director and staff by becoming a library trustee. Commitment and enthusiasm required.

Interested in applying to be a trustee? Send a brief letter of intent to the Board of Trustees c/o Bree Drapa, our Library Director, at westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com or drop it off at the library. Tell us something about yourself and why you are interested in becoming a library trustee.

Letters must be received by December 9th. Candidates will be interviewed before a final appointment recommendation is made to the Selectboard whose approval is required. Appointments made before 1/30/22 will also need to run March 2022 Town Ballot (don't worry, we can explain the process).



WESTFORD COMMON HALL



Last Call for Mittens & SnowPals!!!

Our winter fundraiser is one that you don't want to miss! Purchase a Mitten or SnowPal cutout, which come primed and ready for you to decorate. Then display at your home or the WCH front lawn!

Order by December 6th for 12/17 pickup.

Cost is \$25/one or \$45/two

Order here; <https://westford-common-hall-2307.myshopify.com>



#GIVINGTUESDAY

Please consider donating to the Westford Common Hall on the day of giving, November 29th. We are a non-profit 501c3 and your donation is tax deductible!

We have a wonderful group of people who are working hard to keep the doors open and provide a space for all to gather. The WCH was built in 1840 and needs constant maintenance, repairs and upgrades, and any amount is appreciated!

There are multiple ways to donate:

Mail a check to: Westford Common Hall
PO Box 53
Westford, VT 05494

or
Venmo: @WCH-org (put #GivingTuesday in the notes)

or
Credit/Debit/PayPal through our online store: <https://westford-common-hall-2307.myshopify.com>

With Gratitude

We would like to thank the Westford Public Library for partnering with us for the Halloween Walk, as well as Harper Valley Orchard for donating the donuts and the Rivas Family for donating the apple cider.

We also wish to thank everyone who visited the concession table at the Turkey Trot, as well as all the people who donated soups, chili, quiche and baked goods.

We live in an amazing community!



WESTFORD COMMON HALL



Westford Music Series 2022/2023



Sundays: 4-5 pm @ The Westford Common Hall

December 18th: Heliand Consort
January 8th: Young Tradition Vermont
February 5th: Green Mountain Chorus

All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Free will donation and Pie Raffle



NOW ACCEPTING RENTALS FOR 2023!

Getting married and need a venue?

Looking to host a baby shower?

Searching for a place to hold a celebration of life?

Want to host a family reunion or birthday party?

Consider renting the Westford Common Hall for your next gathering. Reach out to Heather to schedule a time to tour our building and discuss options. We have very reasonable rates and your rentals will allow us to continue to make additions to the building that will enhance gatherings for years to come!

Email Heather@westfordcommonhall.org.

Our mission is to create a gathering space for diverse communities to connect, share and celebrate.

21 Brookside Road, PO Box 53, Westford, VT 05494

Email us at info@westfordcommonhall.org

Website: www.westfordcommonhall.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/westfordcommonhall>

Instagram: [westfordcommonhall](https://www.instagram.com/westfordcommonhall)

We are a non-profit 501c3.



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

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY

The Town of Westford has several volunteer opportunities to serve the community. To apply for one of the positions below, please submit an application ([APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO \(westfordvt.us\)](#) to townadmin@westfordvt.us or mail/drop off at the town office.

The Clean Water Advisory Committee

The 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 [Clean Water Advisory Committee - CCRPC \(ccrpcvt.org\)](#). For more information contact Dan Albrecht, CCRPC Senior Planner, at dalbrecht@ccrpcvt.org or 846-4490.

CCRPC Lamoille Basin Water Quality Council

The responsibilities of a BWQC as outlined § 39-502 of the CWSP Rule are:

- (a) The purpose of a BWQC is to establish policy and make decisions for the CWSP regarding the most significant water quality impairments that exist in the basin and prioritizing the clean water projects that will address those impairments based on the basin plan.
- (b) When prioritizing clean water projects and prioritizing the most significant water quality impairments in the basin, the BWQC shall consult with the basin plan and CWSP and utilize the Agency's project selection protocols.
- (c) The BWQC shall participate in the basin planning process established in 10 V.S.A. § 1253(d).

Potential members should be:

- knowledgeable on clean water topics for the applicable basin
- Interested in prioritizing and selecting non-regulatory clean water projects for funding at quarterly BWQC meetings
- Interested in participating in the applicable Tactical Basin Planning process

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

WESTFORD MUSIC SERIES

Free Concerts at the
Westford Common Hall
21 Brookside Road, Westford, VT
4pm – 5pm

- December 18 – Heliand Consort
- February 5 – Green Mountain Chorus
- March 12 – Missisquoi River Band
- April 16 – Buck Hollers
- May 21 – Lewis Franco



WINTER WEAR SHARE



December 17 from 8:00 to 9:00

Westford Common Hall
(the White Church above the Common)



Free and Open to All!

Donations of coats, hats, gloves, mittens, boots for all ages in clean, serviceable condition to share with our neighbors, can be dropped off at the following locations:

- Westford Town Office – bin on porch outside front door
- Westford Library – during regular business hours
- For pick up call 802-878-4449 and leave message, or Carol@vtwildlife.com

Please note this event will be the same day as the Westford Food Shelf but is not affiliated with the Food Shelf as they cannot accept clothing. This is a one-time only annual event. Thank you for your support!

WESTFORD MUSIC SERIES

PRESENTS

HELIAND



WOODWIND CHAMBER MUSIC

-free will donation-

**4 - 5 PM: WESTFORD COMMON HALL
SUNDAY: DECEMBER 18TH, 2022**

With a fresh new program called HELIAND WINDS for the holiday season, Heliand offers an engaging repertoire of classical music from baroque through 20th century contemporary genres. This exciting, hour long concert features a variety of instruments to fill out a program of high caliber songs.

Concert open to the public.

Call Mike Kirick, 802-363-0930, for more Information



What Will Next Year Bring?

Since 2020 we have included a fun fact at the top of the Westford Newsletter. So far we have done Vermont Plants, Vermont Birds, and this past year's theme was Vermont Trees. What can you expect to learn about in 2023?

VERMONT MAMMALS!

Join us each month for a fun fact about the furry friends native to our back yards and their importance to Vermont's ecosystem.



Community Wastewater Project Update

It's been quite a while since we've delivered an update on the Community Wastewater Project. Several months ago, we told you about the closure of Green Mountain Engineering, and the Town's need to secure a new engineering team to carry the project forward. We are happy to report that we have a commitment from Stone Environmental, Inc. of Montpelier to lead the engineering work and continue their other critical work on the project. Stone's Engineering Services Agreement (ESA) is not yet fully executed, but the Town is working to achieve that goal by January of 2023.

Here are some updates on where the project stands and the new timeline that is in place.

Finding of No Significant Impact:

As part of the October 17th Planning Commission meeting, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (VT DEC) held a public hearing on the Notice of Intent to Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (NOI-FONSI) for the Westford wastewater system. This positive and crucial environmental review step, which is required for all projects that use Clean Water State Revolving Funds, means that the state has determined that the planned project has minimal impact on the natural environment in the proposed project/service area. Here's an excerpt from the first page of the FONSI:

"The project has positive environmental impacts including the decommissioning of individual onsite residential septic systems in proximity to private and public drinking water wells in the Westford Village area, some of which have historically failed, or are currently failing, or are past useful life.

This project will create a new discharge to groundwater. Appropriate design, construction, and operation of the community wastewater indirect discharge disposal system will mitigate potential impacts to groundwater. The proposed disposal system will be subject to the Indirect Discharge Rules in effect at the time an application for an indirect discharge permit is submitted."

To read the full report, click this link:

http://www.westfordsfuture.com/uploads/1/3/8/4/138498261/ww_environmental_report_2022_10_05.pdf

Next Steps:

VT DEC will respond to comments received on the FONSI; make a final determination; and issue the finalized FONSI formally no earlier than the end of the 30 day public comment period (which ended on November 13). Once the FONSI is formally issued, VT DEC will combine the Environmental Information Document (EID) and Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) and issue a Facility Plan Approval. This will officially close the Step I project phase and allow the Town to be reimbursed by the state for all eligible costs incurred to date.

Once these crucial phases are complete, and the State and Selectboard approve and execute the ESA, Stone Environmental, Inc. can begin Step II engineering and design. Step II design will provide the detailed engineering and cost estimates needed for the wastewater system, along with allied services including property owner outreach, detailed bedrock depth evaluations, and development of a wastewater ordinance to govern a system if and when it is constructed. To put it simply, Step II design is how we get closer to understanding project components, costs, the specific layout of the system, situations for individual property owners, and town policies. This information will inform the language of the bond vote to be presented to taxpayers and voters in 2023.

A Bond Vote:

A bond vote is anticipated in the fall of 2023 at the earliest. We understand that this is quite a ways away, and that this project has taken much longer than anticipated to get to this point. But in order to properly estimate the costs and understand the system's details, we needed to get over many hurdles including pandemic delays, our original engineering team closing up shop, and backlogs with the State. Additionally, under Vermont law, there is a period of a minimum 10 weeks from the Selectboard's first receipt of the proposed amount of the bond vote until the actual vote occurs, during which there are several public meetings and hearings. It's vital that we understand the costs and implications before bringing to a vote - the town needs the facts and details in order to make an informed decision together.

As always, the best way to get up to date information and project details is to visit the Wastewater project website www.westfordsfuture.com. The Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page has just been updated with the latest info about the project: <http://www.westfordsfuture.com/faq.html>



WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

<https://westfordpubliclibrary.org>

(802)878-5639

westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com

1717 VERMONT ROUTE 128, WESTFORD VT

Book Giving Trees

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. There is also an online list on our Facebook page and on PPF if you cannot make it in to the library. Books can be dedicated to a special person or family. Purchase the book anywhere, or Phoenix Books (any location) will give patrons 20% off the book if you bring in the star. **Books purchased at Phoenix will stay there.** Purchase/deliver books by Jan. 17.



OPEN HOURS:

Tuesdays 10am-7pm
 Wednesdays 1-7pm
 Thursdays 10am-7pm
 Fridays 1-7pm
 Saturdays 10am-2pm
CLOSED DEC 24 & 31



Puzzle Swap - Nov. 30 1-7pm & Saturday, Dec. 3 10am-2pm

Do you need some new puzzles to get you through the winter? Come early for best selection. This is completely FREE - take what you will do, even if you did not donate any puzzles. Lots of great kids & adult puzzles to choose from!

New Daytime Program: Coffee and Cards 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month - 10:30am-Noon Dec. 6 & 20 - this month



Cribbage, Euchre, Hearts, Rummy - whatever your game - we will play it. Meetup with folks at the library for coffee, conversation, and cards - a great opportunity to socialize and keep those card playing skills sharp. Open to anyone, but especially looking to connect with seniors.

We have a new website! www.westfordpubliclibrary.org

Check it out! If you are not seeing something new, make sure to clear your cache. If you bookmarked the old one, make sure to delete that and bookmark the new one.



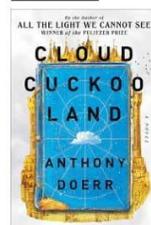
Adult Book Group Wed., Dec. 21 7:00-8:00pm Give the Gift of Books!



This month we will share favorite reads, find new authors, and just talk for an hour about books!

Come prepared to talk about three book suggestions for the group and you will walk away with a bulked up Winter Reading List. I also challenge you to read a book, for this meeting, that you have wanted to and have been putting off. Anyone is welcome to attend, even if you just listen for good ideas. We will share the list with the community.

The January Book Group selection is **Anthony Doerr's Cloud Cuckoo Land**. This is a long book, so if you want to get started, we have print copies available. It is also available on Libby. Our meeting is Wed., January 25 at 7pm.



Early Literacy Storytime - Birth to Pre-School Thursdays at 11:15am in the Library.

12/1/22: Theme: Mittens
 12/15/22: Theme: Cookies
 12/29/22: Theme: Winter

12/8/22: Theme: Winter Holidays
 12/22/22: Theme: Christmas

We will sing songs, read stories, move and do crafts! No sign up needed, all ages are welcome.

December Library Events

- December 3 - Puzzle Swap 10am-2pm**
December 6 - Coffee & Cards - 10:30-Noon
December 6 - Crazy 8's K-1 - Last One - afterschool - 5pm
December 7 - Meghan Fyrberg "A Way to the Moon" author visit - 6-7pm
December 8 - Crazy 8's 2-4 - Last One - afterschool - 5pm
December 14 - Trustees Meeting 7-9pm
December 20 - Coffee & Cards - 10:30-Noon
December 21 - Adult Book Group meets 7pm, "Gift of Books"
December 23 - Hang Out Day 1-5pm, LEGOS, Kevs, crafts (no school this day)
December 24 - CLOSED
December 31 - CLOSED

Storytime Thursdays 11:15 in the Library
The Fiber Arts Group is back on Thursdays from 6:30-8pm - now called the Maker group - open to all kinds of projects!



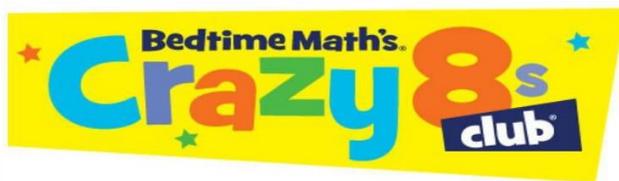
The Palace Project

The Westford Public Library is part of the Palace Project! Made possible by the VT Department of Libraries, the Palace Project App offers access to eBooks and audiobooks for all ages

and in multiple languages.

Library cardholders: To get started, download the Palace Project App on your smartphone or tablet. Select 'Westford Public Library' as your home library followed by your library card number and password. Your password is your last name with the first letter capitalized.

***Please note that this is a relatively new, evolving product. At present, Palace does not support browser use on desktop/laptop computers. Palace is not currently available for Kindle.



Bedtime Math's Crazy 8's Math Club

THIS - CLASS IS FULL

Weekly October 11/13 - December 6/8

Grades K-1 - Last one 12/6 (makeup 12/13)

Grades 2-4 - Last one 12/8 (makeup 12/15)

(Bus transport provided from Westford School, families pickup at Library between 4:30-5:00pm)



**Meghan Fyrberg
Author Visit
Wednesday, Dec. 7
6-7pm**

Newly published, Westford author, Meghan Fyrberg, will be visiting the library and reading her recently published picture book, A Way To The Moon. She will be sharing her inspiration and the process for publishing this adventure story.

Meghan will have books for purchase and she will be signing her book as well. This event is an all ages event - children and adults alike will be delighted by this story and the author.

**Hang-out and Play Day
Friday, Dec. 23 1-5pm**

There's no school, so why not make a plan to hang out at the library?

We will have LEGOS, Keva planks and crafts set up to entertain. Kids

9 and up are welcome to get dropped off, others should plan to come with an adult. Stay part of the time or all day! Families encouraged to come together.



New Art up at the Library (December 9 - end of February)

Title of showcase: Creative Minds

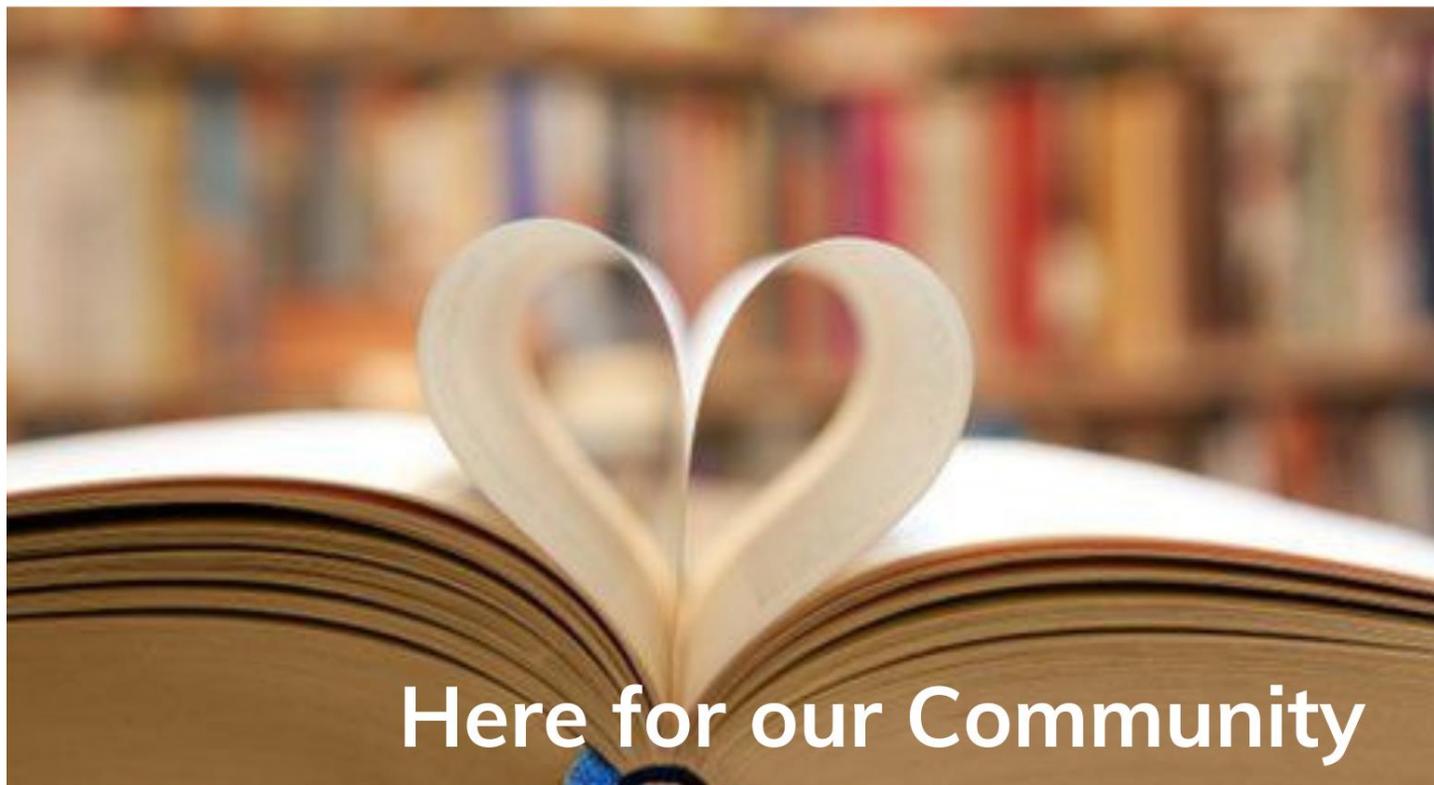
Description of showcase: Creative Minds is a collection of artwork created by Essex High School AP art and Art 4 students. In this collection, the observer will embark on a journey through the minds of teenagers and experience the diversity of the concepts they've explored.

Meet the Artists - Art Opening - Friday, January 6 from 6-8pm



The WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY provides access to materials, technology, reference services and programs to meet the informational, educational, and recreational needs of the Westford community.

Westford Public Library



Here for our Community

Annual Fundraising Appeal

Please consider donating to the Westford Public Library. Your support helps maintain the very best library & programming for our community.

We realize this might not be the year to give, and we understand. The best way you can support the library is to use it and encourage others to do the same.

If you wish to make a donation, please make checks payable to “Westford Public Library”. You can mail them (PO Box 86, Westford, VT 05494), bring them in to the library, or drop them off in the bookdrop.

**With gratitude,
The Library Board of Trustees
Bree Drapa, Library Director
Niquette Bergeron, Library Assistant**

WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

FY22 IN REVIEW



7,216

VISITS TO THE LIBRARY



12,361

TIMES
WIFI WAS
ACCESSED

163

AVG
DAILY
WIFI
USERS

167
PROGRAMS
OFFERED



2,129
PROGRAM
ATTENDANCE



17,206

ITEMS WERE CHECKED OUT



326
PUBLIC
COMPUTER
SESSIONS



641
FACEBOOK
FOLLOWERS



3,231
DIGITAL
CHECK OUTS

704

ACTIVE
BORROWERS

99

NEW CARDS
THIS YEAR



379

VOLUNTEER
HOURS



397

NON-LIBRARY
MEETING
ATTENDEES

822

BOOKS, DVDs,
AUDIOBOOKS, &
OTHER ITEMS
ADDED TO OUR
COLLECTION



WESTFORD RECREATION DEPARTMENT

NEWSLETTER December 2022



UPCOMING RECREATION DATES:

DECEMBER

- 12/6 Recreation Board Meeting 7pm @ Town Office & via Zoom

JANUARY, 2022!

- 1/3 Recreation Board Meeting 7pm @ Town Office & via Zoom

FEBRUARY

- 2/18 Broomball Tournament in conjunction with the Winterfest @ Town Common Ice Rink



SANTA'S MAILBOX is back again at the Library. Drop in a letter to Santa - with a return address - if you'd like Santa to write back! The elves will pick up the mailbox and take it back to the North Pole on 12/17.

WINTER PROGRAMS:

- ❖ **Women's Futsal @ Westford School Gym** Tuesdays 7:30 to 9pm when school is in session. Two sessions: Nov-Jan & Feb-April \$30 fee per session, \$50 for both sessions, or \$5 drop in.
- ❖ **Adult Pickup Basketball @ Westford School Gym** Wednesdays 7-9pm excluding weeks the school is closed Remaining full session Jan-June \$25 and \$5 drop in.
- ❖ **Basketball grades 1-4 @ Westford School Gym** Saturday mornings, December 10 & 17 & January 7, 21, 28 Registration will open 12/7 on the Westford Recreation webpage. \$TBD

Links to register and more information available on the town website:

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



What do 200 participants waiting for the Westford Turkey Trot to begin look like? We don't know either – they don't fit all in one photo! Thanks to [Love Wins Photography](#) for the photos. Over \$2000 was raised this year to benefit the Westford Community Fund! THANK YOU all!



WESTFORD TURKEY TROT

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2022 RACE WINNERS

10K Race

10K Overall Finishers: 1st: Jeff Weston, 2nd: Gage Joel Magnuson, 3rd: Binney Mitchell

10K Females: 1st: Kristen Kindred, 2nd: Kimberly Lord, 3rd: Kassie Reid

10K Teens: 1st: Gage Joel Magnuson, 2nd: Jacoby Soter, 3rd: Ryan Thatcher,

10K 20s: 1st: Sebastian McCabe, 2nd: Ethan Boutin, 3rd: Evan Slayton

10K 30s: 1st Jeff Weston, 2nd: Kristen Kindred, 3rd: Thomas Hoodiman

10K 40s: 1st: Tim Richmond, 2nd: Kimberly Lord, 3rd: Jason Baer

10K 50s: 1st: Binney Mitchell, 2nd: Noreen Sila 3rd: Scott Nichols

10K 60s: 1st: Charles Windisch, 2nd: Pascal Cheng, 3rd: Ann Laramee

3K Race

3K Overall Finishers: 1st: Wyeth Haddock, 2nd: Jacob Antonovich, 3rd: Garrett Soter

3K Females: 1st: Abby Bergeron, 2nd: Adowyn Bryne, 3rd: Isabel Dunkley

3K 12&Under: 1st: Garrett Soter, 2nd: Finn Henry, 3rd: Dylan Henry

3K Teens: 1st: Wyeth Haddock, 2nd: Jacob Antonovich, 3rd: Abby Bergeron

3K 20s: 1st: Marty Gillies, 2nd: Aidan Mejia, 3rd: Isabel Dunkley

3K 30s: 1st: Christina Bradford , 2nd: Ariana Wammer, 3rd: Katie Bagnall

3K 40s: 1st: Mathew Byrne, 2nd: Jason Dolan, 3rd: Karen Dolan

3K 50s: 1st: Julia Andrews, 2nd: Carol Kane, 3rd: Debra Patinka

3K 60s: 1st: Lynn Bursell, 2nd: Richard Golden, 3rd: Pam Fitzgerald

3K 70+: 1st: Cindy Wahl, 2nd: Peter Bonaccorsi

**Westford Recreation would like to thank the Runners, Volunteers, Donors,
Walkers & Trotters that made this year's race possible & successful**

Save the Date: Westford Turkey Trot 2023 is 11/18/23

Race Info, Full Results, Photos: westfordturkeytrot.wordpress.com



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2022

Communications

You may be interested in a guide outlining the variety of methods used for school-home communication. Please check out [Westford School Communication 411](#), which outlines a variety of communication tools and purposes such as the Town Newsletter, Weekly Westford School email, School Website, PTO meetings, and District Communications including bus cancelations.

Featured Programs & Activities

Robotics is well underway and our teams continue to practice and hone their skills. Our afterschool program attracts a diverse group of students. Students often talk about their learning and accomplishments during the school day with peers, and often share out during morning meetings. They take both confidence in problem-solving and a love of experimentation into the classroom- skills fostered in robotics at Westford. By 8th grade, students who have been in the program for several years are connecting the math curriculum with their robotics experiences. Students are reflecting on percent error, solutions being used to solve the next problem, and the idea of initiating a process without knowing the final solution. Students who have worked in robotics appear comfortable with the idea that the work started may need to be discarded to get to a solution. Like a robot does while following directions along a path, these students check internally if the current process is on its way to a workable solution.

Winter Sports

Basketball begins this week. Practice and [game schedules](#) can be found on the [Westford Athletics page](#).

Preschool Registration Information

- School-based preschool program: The window for requesting a 2023/24 pre-K slot will open in January
- Community-based preschools: Parents contact the provider directly and can apply for Universal PreK (Act 166) funds for 3, 4, and 5-year-olds who attend state-approved/qualified programs

Curriculum & Instruction

Social & Emotional Learning: Self Management is an essential competency

Students are learning healthy strategies to cope with stress and hard feelings. We are also structuring classroom expectations and routines to support organization and focus. We are asking students to set goals and to work through challenges with support and despite changes in their environments. You can check out developmentally appropriate essential social-emotional learning standards specific to self-management here ([k-5](#); [6-8](#)).

January Assessments

Students and teachers will begin common winter assessments in January. This mid-year check provides us with information concerning student progress in literacy, math, and social learning.

Progress Reports

All EWSD schools are using PowerSchool to record student progress. In previous years, grades 5-8 at Westford and grades 6-8 at ADL and EMS have used JumpRope for this purpose. Moving the middle schools to PowerSchool will align with the reporting platform for our K-5 students as well as our 9-12 students. Westford teachers will continue to report standards-based grades each semester on the essential academic and social standards. The grading scales for all academic content areas are 1-4 and the same as they have been in the past. The grading scale for social and emotional standards is 1-3. Progress reports will be available to families on Friday, January 27th.

REMINDERS FOR DOG OWNERS

Winter can be a difficult time for dogs to go missing, to help ensure your furry companions are safe this winter you can do the following:

- Clear snow from against fencing to avoid over the fence escapes (as snow piles up it can be easier for your dog to go over).
- When your dog is let outside make sure they are wearing reflective and/or high visibility orange/yellow.
- Always make sure your dog is wearing a name tag with a phone number! If you find that dangling tags get lost easily look for "slide" style tags.
- If you use an invisible fence ensure your batteries are still in working order.
- Keep cable runs well lubricated to ensure they are working properly. Cable runs and tie-outs may require more moisture this time of year.
- Train and Maintain a reliable recall. Teaching your dog to come when called reliably is one of the best tools for keeping your dog safe this winter. Practice in a safe area before letting your dog loose. Please make sure that when in public your dog can reliably come when called even if distracted by: wildlife, people, children, livestock, and other dogs.

Loose Dog? Lost Dog? Contact one of our wonderful dog wardens Elisabeth Smith and Matt Bartholomew:

<https://westfordvt.us/administration/dog-warden/>

See You Next Year!



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/>