



# WESTFORD NEWSLETTER



*March 2023*

The **North American Porcupine** is a large, quilled rodent. They possess antibiotics in their skin and a strong odor likened to goats. Indigenous people use the quills for decoration and the porcupine's meat is an important food source.

## Westford Town Office

1713 Vermont Route 128 - Westford, Vermont 05494

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

<https://westfordvt.us/>

## TOWN OFFICE NOTES

### Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the April Newsletter is 12:00 noon on Monday, March 27<sup>th</sup>.

## TOWN OFFICE HOURS

The office is open:

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

The office is **CLOSED**:

- March 7 – Closed for Town Meeting Election
- April 11 – Closed for School Budget Election

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

### Senior Luncheon

March is here which means sugarin', muddy vehicles and St. Patrick's Day! A home cooked meal, friendly conversation and fun is just what we all need!

Any current or past Westford resident 55+ is welcome to join us on Monday March 13th at the RBMH. Doors open at 11:30am and lunch will be served around 12 noon. Reach out to your friends & neighbors and invite them to join us. "There are no strangers here, only friends we haven't yet met!"

Reminder...if school is canceled because of snow, so is the luncheon. Any questions, please reach out:

**Co-Presidents Mary Fay (802-878-1215) and Cori Hill (802-878-7415)**

## WESTFORD MUSIC SERIES

**Free Concerts at the Westford Common Hall**

**21 Brookside Road, Westford, VT**

**4pm – 5pm**

- April 16 – Buck Hollers
- May 21 – Lewis Franco



# 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 slowly 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>

# 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](mailto:townadmin@westfordvt.us). Position open until filled. Westford is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



# Town Meeting Public Hearing March 2

The required Town Meeting Public Hearing for articles to be voted on March 7 is being held on Thursday, March 2. The meeting will begin at 6pm.

Below are links for information that the Selectboard's presentation will cover. The Zoom link to attend the meeting is also posted below.

Town Meeting Warning: <https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/2023-Town-Meeting-Warning.pdf>

Town Meeting Public Hearing Notice: <https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/2023-Town-Meeting-Public-Hearing-Notice.pdf>

FY'24 Proposed Budget: <https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/2023-2024-Draft-Town-Budget.pdf>

FY'24 Anticipated Revenue: <https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/2023-2024-Draft-Town-Anticipated-Revenue.pdf>

PowerPoint presentation: <https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/FY2024-Budget-March-2-Presentation.pdf>

All of these documents with the exception of the presentation can also be found in the 2022 Annual Town Report.

Zoom info:

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83759748471?pwd=MVFCY2xPR0V5SUc5bDIWdlQ4YnA5dz09>

Meeting ID: 837 5974 8471

Passcode: 03vXnV

OR dial +1 646 558 8656

Passcode: 476452



## LOCAL THEATRE AUDITIONS!

The Fairfax Community Theatre Company is excited to announce auditions for our Spring production of "Steel Magnolias" by Robert Harling.

March 15 and 16, 2023 starting at 6:30 pm at the Red Brick Meeting House in Westford, Vermont.

Production dates are May 18 - 21, 2023 at the Red Brick Meeting House.

The cast consists of 6 women between the ages of 20 to late 60s. Auditions will be readings from the play.

Director: Margie Cain

Stage Manager: Catie Smith

Props Mistress: Karen Stinehour

Producer: Tim Stetson

Sound Design: Buddy Meilleur

A description of the play from Dramatist Play Service: "The action is set in Truvy's beauty salon in Chinquapin, Louisiana, where all the ladies who are "anybody" come to have their hair done. Helped by her eager new assistant, Annelle (who is not sure whether or not she is still married), the outspoken, wise-cracking Truvy dispenses shampoos and free advice to the town's rich curmudgeon, Ouiser, ("I'm not crazy, I've just been in a bad mood for forty years"); an eccentric millionaire, Miss Clairee, who has a raging sweet tooth; and the local social leader, M'Lynn, whose daughter, Shelby (the prettiest girl in town), is about to marry a "good ole boy." Filled with hilarious repartee and not a few acerbic but humorously revealing verbal collisions, the play moves toward tragedy when, in the second act, the spunky Shelby (who is a diabetic) risks pregnancy and forfeits her life. The sudden realization of their mortality affects the others, but also draws on the underlying strength—and love—which give the play, and its characters, the special quality to make them truly touching, funny and marvelously amiable company in good times and bad."

For more information, please go to our Facebook page, or email us at [info@fctcv.org](mailto:info@fctcv.org)



## 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. If there are no x-country tracks set, walkers please try to stay to one side of the groomed trail so the other side can be set for x-country tracks.
- Everyone needs to be aware of other people on the trail. Let's stay safe!

**ALL TRAILS – SPRING USE** – Seems like we've seen more mud than snow, so if the trend continues, please stay off trails that are too muddy/wet for passage. If you can't walk on the trail and need to go around to the side, it probably means you shouldn't be on the trail. There may be trail closures due to conditions.

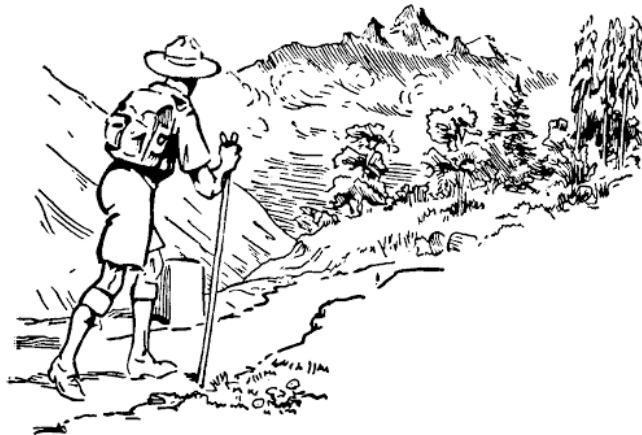
**TRAILS:** Please let us know if you see downed trees or other required maintenance to any of the trails. We're happy to go out and clean things up!

**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!

**The WCC's next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 6:00 pm at the Town Office.**

WESTFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Email [westfordcc@googlegroups.com](mailto:westfordcc@googlegroups.com)





# 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>.





# WESTFORD COMMON HALL

Happy  
St. Patrick's  
Day

## Improv for Introverts: A six-week workshop

Would you like to:

Feel less anxious at social gatherings? Improve your public speaking skills?  
Try something new in a safe environment? And most of all....laugh?

Join us for a six-week improvisational theatre workshop. You'll learn basic improv techniques through games and scene-building exercises. Sessions will be held on Wednesdays starting March 15, 7 pm - 8:15 pm, at the Westford Common Hall. Cost is \$75.

To register, email your name and contact information to [nvwrites@gmail.com](mailto:nvwrites@gmail.com). Sign-ups close March 8th and the workshop is limited to 15 adults (with a minimum of 8 participants required to run program..18+).

Nancy Volkers will be the workshop coach. She was introduced to improv theatre more than 30 years ago, and has experience coaching and teaching in a variety of settings.

Questions? Email: [nvwrites@gmail.com](mailto:nvwrites@gmail.com) or Text: 802-829-1620



## CD Release Concert "Montana Wildflower" by artist Natalie Padilla w/Quinn Bachand

April 8, 2023 at 7:00pm (doors open at 6:30)

Check out Natalie's website;  
<https://www.nataliepadillamusic.com>

Tickets on sale online at; <https://westford-common-hall-2307.myshopify.com>

\$20 presale, \$25 at door, kids 12 and under free!

Steeped in the traditions of Old-Time, Bluegrass, and Texas-Style Fiddle music, Natalie also has deep roots in classical violin.



# WESTFORD COMMON HALL



## WESTFORD MUSIC SERIES

SUNDAYS: 4-5 PM @ THE WESTFORD  
COMMON HALL



MARCH 12TH: MISSISQUOI RIVER BAND

APRIL 16TH: BUCK HOLLERS

MAY 21ST: LEWIS FRANCO

**ALL WELCOME & BRING A FRIEND!**

FREE WILL DONATION FOR ARTISTS AND  
PIE RAFFLE FOR THE WCH!

## *With Gratitude*

We want to thank EVERYONE who donated to our raffle, came and bought tickets, and in general, supported us during WinterFest....we were fundraising for electrical and plaster repairs and are thrilled to let you know that we raised just under \$3000! We appreciate everyone who worked so hard that day and love this supportive community.

## Adult PromTheme; Fool's Ball!

**April 1st from 7:30-10:30pm at the WCH!**

**\$25/person**

**DJ Adam Bristol will be spinning sweet tunes  
& Arrowhead Lodge will provide bar service  
w/beer, wine, cider, non-alcoholic drinks  
and snacks.**

**Pre-ordered charcutiere boards also  
available for purchase! Time to DANCE!!**

**Online tickets: <https://westford-common-hall-2307.myshopify.com>**



*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](mailto:info@westfordcommonhall.org)

**Website:** [www.westfordcommonhall.org](http://www.westfordcommonhall.org)

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

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

*We are a non-profit 501c3.*





# 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 \(westfordvt.us\)](https://westfordvt.us/application-for-appointment) to [townadmin@westfordvt.us](mailto: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 \(ccrpcvt.org\)](https://ccrpcvt.org/clean-water-advisory-committee). For more information contact Dan Albrecht, CCRPC Senior Planner, at [dalbrecht@ccrpcvt.org](mailto: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](mailto:townadmin@westfordvt.us) if you are interested in being appointed to one of these positions.



## FROM THE ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

The Town website now has online, fillable forms for Planning and Zoning applications! It isn't always easy to get to the Town Office to drop off paperwork, so now you can electronically file a Zoning Permit application, Certificate of Occupancy application, or Development Review application. All Planning and Zoning forms can be found at <https://westfordvt.us/documents/forms/>.

As spring approaches, many town residents are starting to plan projects. Please remember that you need a zoning permit for any development on your property. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Constructing or structurally altering any structure with a footprint of more than 100 square feet;
- Mining, excavating, filling, or grading land that involves moving more than 50 cubic yards of material;
- Changing the use of land or a structure;
- Operating a business from your home;
- Adjusting or relocating the boundary between two parcels; or
- Dividing a parcel into two or more lots.

Not sure if your project will require a zoning permit? Call me at the Town Office at (802) 878-4587 or send me an email at [zoning\\_admin@westfordvt.us](mailto:zoning_admin@westfordvt.us) to discuss your project!



## *Update from the Senate's Chittenden-North District*

As your sole Chittenden-North Senator, I've spent eight weeks getting up to speed and embracing my new role, representing Westford, Fairfax, Milton, and Essex (part).

I'm in good company as a freshman legislator. Fully one-third of the General Assembly (60 of 180) members are new this year, including House Rep. Julia Andrews who represents Westford and part of Milton (Chittenden-25 district).

Senators serve on two five-member committees. I was appointed to Agriculture, which works on a variety of farm, environmental, food, and consumer protection issues. And to Institutions, the committee that determines how the Capital Budget of \$203M gets spent on hundreds of state buildings, including correctional facilities.

I've also joined the Rural Caucus, in which dozens of legislators come together each week to discuss issues and propose legislation affecting small villages and rural areas.

The bill getting the most attention this month is the Affordable Heat Act, S.5. It's a complex scheme to reduce greenhouse gases by tapping fuel dealers to sell heat-pumps, alternative fuels, etc. within an energy-credit trading model. Bottom-line: dealers expect to charge their customers an AHA fee to cover the costs of their mandated participation in this scenario, should this bill pass.

I'm hearing pushback from hundreds of customers who can't stomach higher prices and from small fuel dealers who bristle at the prospect of more red tape. I wish this bill would instead incentivize customers to buy heat pumps, and dealers to offer cleaner blends of propane, as other states have.

Rep. Andrews and I met with the Selectboard and several Town Staff on February 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss pressing concerns, including the ongoing need for cell service and a community wastewater system.

Please join me at a Community Conversation hosted by the Westford & Essex House Reps on Sunday, March 19th, 3 pm, at the Westford Common Hall.

I post occasional updates on Front Porch Forum and more frequently here: [Facebook.com/SenatorIreneWrenner](https://www.facebook.com/SenatorIreneWrenner).

Please feel free to contact me anytime with your issues or concerns.

Senator Irene Wrenner  
iwrenner@leg.state.vt.us  
802 338 2247 (c)





# WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

<https://westfordpubliclibrary.org>

(802) 878-5639

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

1717 VERMONT ROUTE 128, WESTFORD VT

## Coffee and Cards

10:30am-Noon

March 14 & 28 - 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.



## MANGO LANGUAGES

### New Digital Service - Mango Languages!

Visit our Resource Tab on our Website or go to:

<https://connect.mangolanguages.com/westfordpubliclibrary/start>

To sign up - create an account with your email, library card number (starts with 2vsr5), and a password of your choosing. Mango for libraries offers over 70 world language courses expertly designed to adapt to a diverse range of learning needs, styles, and backgrounds. Give your community the benefits of lifelong learning and the confidence needed to communicate in a new language.

## Still using the OverDrive app?



**Switch to Libby!**  
Same great titles & new features you'll love.

## OPEN HOURS:

Tuesdays 10am-7pm

Wednesdays 1-7pm

Thursdays 10am-7pm

Fridays 1-7pm

Saturdays 10am-2pm

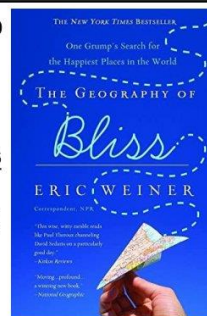
## Adult Book Group

Wed., March 22

7:00-8:00 pm

**The Geography of Bliss: One Grump's Search for the Happiest Places in the World**

**By: Eric Weiner**



Part travel memoir, part humor, and part twisted self-help guide, *The Geography of Bliss* takes the reader across the globe to investigate not what happiness is, but WHERE it is.

Are people in Switzerland happier because it is the most democratic country in the world? Do citizens of Qatar, awash in petrodollars, find joy in all that cash? Is the King of Bhutan a visionary for his initiative to calculate Gross National Happiness? Why is Asheville, North Carolina so damn happy?

In a unique mix of travel, psychology, science and humor, Eric Weiner answers those questions and many others, offering travelers of all moods some interesting new ideas for sunnier destinations and dispositions.

Print copies available at library, ebook & audiobook copies available on Libby, but you might have to put it on hold. Please return Libby copies as soon as you are done.

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

3/2/23: Theme: Chickens

3/16/23: Theme: Green

3/30/23: Theme: Drawing/Pencils

3/9/23: NO STORYTIME

3/23/23: Theme: Puppies

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



## March Library Events

March 9 - NO STORYTIME  
 March 9 - FWNI - Nurturing a Child's Sense of Wonder 6:30-8pm  
 March 9 - NO MAKER'S GROUP  
 March 10 - Art Opening NVAA - 6-8pm  
 March 14 - Coffee and Cards 10:30-Noon  
 March 14 - Chess Club 5:30-6:30pm  
 March 15 - Trustees Meeting 7-9pm  
 March 16 - FWNI - Nurturing a Child's Sense of Wonder 6:30-8pm  
 March 16 - NO MAKER'S GROUP  
 March 18 - FWNI - Nurturing a Child's Sense of Wonder - 10:30-Noon  
 March 21 - Chess Club 5:30-6:30pm  
 March 22 - Adult Book Group 7pm - discussing The Geography of Bliss by Eric Weiner  
 March 28 - Coffee and Cards 10:30-Noon  
 March 28 - Chess Club 5:30-6:30pm

**Storytime Thursdays 11:15 in the Library**  
**Crazy 8's Grades K-1 - Tuesday until 5:00**  
**Crazy 8's grades 2-3 - Thursdays until 5:00**

**Maker Group meets Thursdays from 6:30-8pm (not 3/9 or 3/16)**



### Bedtime Math's Crazy 8's Math Club

Weekly March 14-May 9 (No classes April 25/27)  
 Grades K-1 - Tuesdays (begins March 14)  
 Grades 2-3 - Thursdays (begins March 16)  
 Bus transport provided from Westford School, pickup at Library between 4:30-5:00pm  
 This is a FUN, exciting enrichment opportunity. Clubs will be led by Ms. Bree and fantastic moderators and follow an action packed curriculum. More information will be given to those who sign up. Best behavior expected. Permission slips and more information emailed home to families who sign up. SPACE IS LIMITED!



### Chess Club - trying it out!

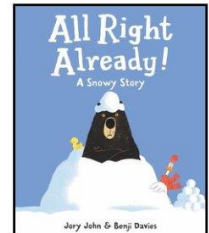
Three Tuesdays in March:  
 3/14, 3/21, 3/28 from 5:30-6:30pm  
 Instructor: Erik Wammer  
 Parents/guardians with some chess knowledge are encouraged to stay and help support the group. We need

at least one other adult to stay.

Attendees should be in third grade and up and have at least some basic knowledge of how to play chess.

Chess boards are provided. Space is limited, so sign up by calling or emailing the library.

**New Winter StoryWalk going up at the school - look for signs. Thank you to the Westford Conservation Commission for helping with this project.**



### Nurturing a Child's Sense of Wonder Family/Parent Discussion Series



Get ready for spring outdoor play! Join this free discussion series to explore topics and best practices in supporting nature-based play and adventure while nurturing a sense of wonder, place, and well-being.



Using ideas from the book, *Adventure, Play, Peace* by Nancy MacPhee Bower

Please register and join us:

Thursday, March 9, 6:30-8:00 pm Westford Public Library  
 Thursday, March 16, 6:30-8:00 pm Westford Public Library  
 Saturday, March 18, 10:30-12:00 pm Westford Public Library  
 (kids encouraged to join the third session)

Register at: [westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com](mailto:westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com) or at the Westford Public Library

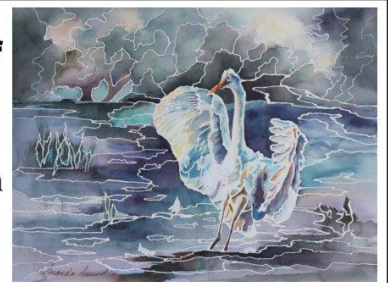
Facilitated by  FOUR WINDS NATURE INSTITUTE in partnership with Westford Public Library

This project was made possible by generous support from the Canaday Family Charitable Trust.



**Northern Vermont Artist's Association will display art from March 4 through the end of May. Their opening is Friday, March 10 from 6-8pm, refreshments served.**

NVAA is a non-profit that is dedicated to the promotion of professional and amateur artists from all over northern Vermont. Founded in 1931, the NVAA is the oldest such organization in Vermont.



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.



## FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION

### Community Wastewater Project Update

The next phase of the community wastewater project is about to begin! The Selectboard has approved the contracts with Stone Environmental, Inc., and Birchline Planning, LLC. Outreach to property owners in the service territory for potential connection will begin early this Spring. This next phase is to conduct further analysis, refine and update the cost estimate, and develop final designs. This will enable the Town to answer specific questions such as:

- What are the anticipated costs;
- How will ledge along Brookside Road be handled;
- What will the final design look like;
- How does drip dispersal work?

The Town will also be able to begin developing a sewer ordinance that would be adopted by the Select Board after a successful bond vote. The ordinance will establish how capacity is allocated, how connection and user fees are calculated, and the process for property owners in the service territory to connect to the system.

The Wastewater Outreach Advisory Committee will be working in March with the Town's Consultants and the Planning Commission on a Communication Plan to provide timely information and further promote community engagement and discussion, with the goal of having a well-informed electorate. Information about the project can be found at <https://www.westfordsfuture.com>. An anticipated bond vote will occur no sooner than November of 2023.

The consultants of Stone Environmental, Inc., and Birchline Planning LLC have been working with the Town for many years, exploring solutions for our highly constrained soils in the center of Town and we're very fortunate to have such expertise and guidance. We're pleased to introduce our consulting team members:

**Amy Macrellis and Peter Lazorchak of Stone Environmental, Inc.** Stone Environmental is a 100% employee-owned environmental science, engineering, and field services firm located in Montpelier, Vermont. Stone's capabilities include environmental assessment and remediation, water resources management, natural resources engineering and design, environmental modeling, agrochemical fate and exposure, data quality assessments, and geospatial analysis, data visualization, and application development.

**Amy** is a Senior Water Quality Specialist at Stone Environmental, where she has over two decades of experience with wastewater and stormwater management projects, policy development, community wastewater needs assessments and feasibility studies, and applied water quality research projects. She "grew up" on decentralized wastewater feasibility and demonstration projects and remains committed to providing safe, sanitary wastewater treatment for Vermont's unsewered villages. In addition to managing wastewater needs and feasibility studies, Amy provides permitting and regulatory compliance support for villages both devoted and lucky enough to have soil-based wastewater treatment systems in operation. Since the early 2000s, she has led or supported hydrogeologic investigations for the design, permitting, and construction of a wide variety of soil-based treatment practices for stormwater and wastewater systems. Amy has been working with the Westford Planning Commission, residents, and a variety of consultants on various wastewater treatment-related efforts for our Town Center since 2007.

**Peter** is the leader of Stone's Water Resources Management Group, and a civil and environmental engineer with over 20 years' experience in the consulting industry. His areas of expertise include wastewater treatment and disposal, stormwater management, land use planning, and navigating local, state, and federal permitting processes. Peter has designed hundreds of soil-based wastewater systems, ranging from single-family systems to large community and commercial systems. Through innovative thinking, perseverance, and solid interpersonal skills, he has a track record of advancing challenging projects. He recently served on the Indirect Discharge Technical Advisory Committee assisting the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation with their regulation update. Peter is a licensed Professional Engineer in Vermont, a Vermont Class B Licensed Designer, and a LEED Accredited Professional.

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**Juli Beth (JB) Hinds of Birchline Planning LLC.** JB is the principal of Birchline Planning LLC, a sole proprietorship based in one of her two hometowns, Waterbury, VT. She has been around Vermont her whole life, growing up partly in Waterbury and partly in Glen Ellyn, Illinois. How long, you ask? Well, she remembers well when Sears first opened on Shelburne Road. JB is a planner by training with a bachelor's in Economics from Hollins College, Virginia's first chartered college for women, and a Master of City and Regional Planning from Rutgers University. JB was the Executive Director of the Mad River Valley Planning District from 1997 through 2000. In January 2001 she became Director of Planning and Zoning for the City of South Burlington, Vermont, where her responsibilities also included developing and managing Vermont's first storm water utility. Birchline Planning LLC was founded in 2012 to support "Great Waters and Great Communities." JB is proud to work with cities and towns throughout Vermont on wastewater, stormwater, land use, zoning, and strategic planning. She has notably supported the Valley towns and Sugarbush as a consultant, working for many years with the Stone Environmental team on the successful construction of wastewater systems to serve Warren Village and Irasville (that's where Lawson's Finest Liquids Brewery is). JB is honored to be working on Westford's Future, supporting the team on the financial projections, grants management, ordinance development, and public communications tasks.

## WESTFORD MUSIC SERIES

PRESENTS

# MISSISQUOI RIVER BAND



## BLUEGRASS & COUNTRY

*-free will donation-*

**4 - 5 PM: WESTFORD COMMON HALL**

**SUNDAY: MARCH 12, 2023**

Beloved in Northern Vermont, Missisquoi River Band brings their original songwriting in their bluegrass and country folk style with their unique three part harmony arrangements to Westford! They will be joined by Will Patton on the mandolin and dobro.

**A pie raffle is included for extra fun!**

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

## 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/>

## 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



# Vermont EMS First Responder



**Instructor:** Director, Fairfax Rescue Squad, Kathy Jochim

**Course Dates: START DATE:** Sunday, March 12, 2023

**Course Location:** Fairfax Rescue Squad, Fairfax, Vermont

**Course Meeting Days and Times:** Sundays 12:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

**Course Fees:** Covered by Town of Westford American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds

## Enroll Today to Become a Vermont EMS First Responder!

Have you thought about helping **your town** and local rescue squad but don't know where to begin or what requirements are needed? **This class is for you!** The Vermont EMS First Responder course is for high school students (seniors, juniors, and sophomores).

This is a 8-10 week class that will prepare you to provide lifesaving care and to assist in the pre-hospital care for patients of all ages with a variety of medical conditions or traumatic injuries. Students who successfully pass this course will qualify for their VEFR licensure.

**Contact Benjamin Bornstein for more information and to register for the course:**

**Email:** [westfordrescuetrain@gmail.com](mailto:westfordrescuetrain@gmail.com)

**Phone:** 240-595-9365







## WESTFORD RECREATION DEPARTMENT

NEWSLETTER March 2023

### UPCOMING RECREATION DATES:

- March 7, 2023 Recreation Board Meeting 7pm  
@ Town Office & via Zoom
- March 11, 2023 reschedule Slime workshop @  
RBMH 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

### Broomball Happened!

Mother Nature helped just enough! Between the overnight cold temperatures and the enthusiasm of the players, the 22nd annual Westford Broomball Tournament was a success!



The Lego Minecraft Night was well attended by 16 youth who obviously had a LOT of fun! There was cotton candy, afterall!



### Continuing PROGRAMS:

- ❖ **Women's Futsal** @ Westford School Gym Tuesdays 7:30 to 9pm when school is in session (not April 11). Feb-April \$30 fee for the session, or \$5 drop in.
- ❖ **Adult Pickup Basketball** @ Westford School Gym Wednesdays 7-9pm excluding weeks the school is closed. Remaining session Jan-June \$25 or \$5 drop in.

### New PROGRAMS:

- ❖ **Slime Workshop** rescheduled for March 11 @ Red Brick Meeting House – 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. \$10.00 for ages 5 and over, drop off or stick around for an oozing good time!
- ❖ **Easter Egg Hunt** April 8 @ Westford Common – look for details mid-March!

Links to registrations and more information available on the town website:  
<https://westfordvt.us/recreation/> or e-mail - [recreation@westfordvt.us](mailto:recreation@westfordvt.us)





## Westford Recreation needs you!

The Westford Recreation Department was created by the Selectboard years ago with the mission “to provide recreational, educational, cultural and community activities to all Westford residents and neighbors.” The department is run by a Committee of 7 volunteer members (with a quorum of 4 – meetings must have 4 members present to vote) assisted by the paid part-time Recreation Coordinator.

The Committee generally meets the first Tuesday of each month from 7:00 p.m. until not later than 9:00 p.m. That is really the basic requirement, just lend your voice and ideas to the meetings!

The current Committee members, and their specialties are:

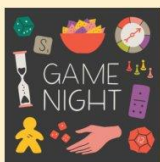
- ★ Ben McElvany - Treasurer as well as adult pick up basketball and soccer programs
- ★ Chuck Medick - Vice Chair and Ice Rink installer/take down specialist (but Chuck has other life commitments and needs to step down).
- ★ Deanna Norton - member as of November 2022, Turkey Trot and kids programs
- ★ George Elliott, “Professor Squelch” - Chair and kids programs
- ★ Lori Miller - Secretary and Futsal lead, Santa letters, rink daily check-in with shoveling
- ★ Maria Olson - newest member and rink shoveling crew member extraordinaire!

As you can see, there are only six Committee members – soon to be five, so your help is needed on the committee!

However, the Committee is made up of volunteers whose purpose is to direct and guide the Westford Recreation Department offerings, not provide all programming! We really need help. Volunteer leads/instructors/guides are needed for everything offered. Essex Parks & Rec has at least 6 full-time staff members, even Fairfax has 2 paid positions, WRD truly relies on the wonderful community!

Through the anonymous **Suggest an activity** link on the website, we’ve had some great suggestions already. However, we need help implementing them. The activities suggested so far are:

- Adult drop-in craft group - we’ve got a space we can use, we just need someone to take lead.
- Pre-K open gym - activities for that have been suggested as well, need a volunteer lead.



- Paint & Sips - for adults and/or youth, an instructor is needed
- Adult game nights - again need one person as lead.
- Elementary fun dance lessons - we don’t need a competition team, just a high school student or adult who would teach youth some organized dance moves.

→ Finally moonlight nature walks - the suggestion had lots of ideas modeled after something the participant got to enjoy in another town, sounds like fun with an organizer to make it happen.

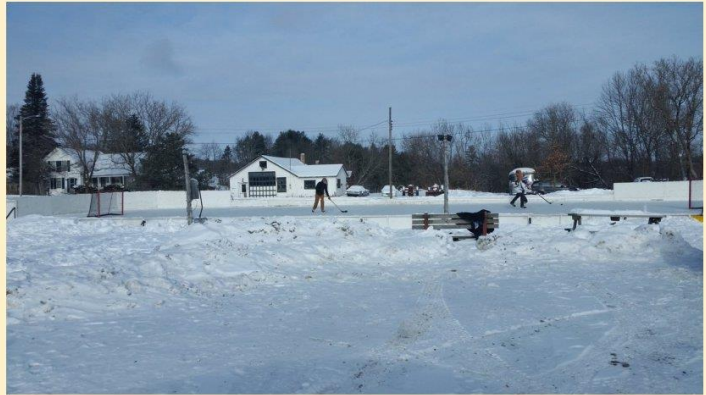






Then there are the summer programs the community wants to see offered. Past summer programs have included: archery, basketball, camps of all types, conditioning, 4th of July, kickball, Pre-K developmental sports, volleyball, soccer, teen adventure series, just to name a few!

Finally, the Community Ice Rink that the Committee was invited to take over requires regular help. A Rink Master (to make decisions and organize) and physical helpers to set up, maintain (shovel & snow-blow), and take down are really vital to keeping this community resource functioning. Without dedicated volunteers in place, the rink might not be available in the future.



Volunteering is pretty easy – the committee tries to make it as painless as possible. All volunteers must pass a background check. Rosters are completed, materials as voted on by the Committee are provided, and as much support as is possible is offered.

For those who have a program idea they would like to offer, we've got a form for that on the Westford Recreation page as well! Just click the **[New Program Proposal](#)** link from the website to let us know!