

WESTFORD NEWSLETTER



July 2023

The **Little Brown Bat** lives in colonies and has few natural predators. Disease is their biggest killer with rabies and White Nose Syndrome accounting for 90% population lost in the East. When healthy they have been known to live until 34.

Westford Town Office

1713 Vermont Route 128 - Westford, Vermont 05494 **Phone:** (802)878-4587 **Fax:** (802)879-6503

https://westfordvt.us/

TOWN OFFICE NOTES

Property Tax Bills

You should receive your 2023 property tax bill no later than July 15th. Please contact the town office if you do not receive your tax bill by this date.

The first of four installments is due Tuesday, August 15th. Payments will be considered timely if they are received by this date, have an August 15th postmark (postal, FedEX, or UPS), or are in the drop box located to the left of the Town Office door <u>before</u> the office opens at 8:30am on Wednesday, August 16th. If your taxes are escrowed, it is your responsibility to forward a copy of your tax bill to your mortgage company in a timely manner while retaining a copy for your records.

Please note - If you pay your taxes using Bill Pay (generating a check online through your financial institution), make sure you allow sufficient time for mailing. These envelopes do not bear a postmark therefore will be acknowledged by the date <u>received</u> at the Town Office <u>not</u> by the date on the check.

In July, the State will send notification to homeowners explaining the Education Tax Credit. If you are receiving a school tax adjustment, it will be reflected on your tax bill. You should compare the letter with your tax bill.

Dog Licenses

Dog Licenses were due on April 1st. If you have not yet licensed your dog, please do so as soon as possible (Dog licenses obtained after April 1st are subject to a late fee). **Licensing your dog is Vermont Law** AND helps the town be able to return your dog more quickly to you if they ever get out or lost.

A current rabies certificate is required. If you are unsure if the current certificate is on file, please call the Town Office. If you no longer have your dog or your dog has passed away, please let us know. For your convenience you may mail or drop off the fee and rabies certificate along with a self-addressed stamped envelope and your license will be mailed to you.

Senior Luncheon

Summer has arrived which means a 2 month hiatus from Senior Luncheon. We meet the 2nd Monday of the month starting back up on September 11th. We have scheduled a representative from Age Well who will come and inform us on all of the offerings they provide. It is a great resource!

Our June "picnic" was a hit which served many folks and ended with entertainment by Westford's own card wizard, Christopher McBride. Thank you Christopher!

We would like to thank our long list of volunteers who make Senior Luncheon possible. They organize meals, set up & take down tables/chairs, cook, decorate, entertain, wash dishes and remove the garbage. We cannot thank you enough! Have a great summer and we'll see you in September!

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

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the August Newsletter is 12:00 noon on Monday, July 24th.

TOWN OFFICE HOURS

The office is open:

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

The office is **CLOSED**:

• July 3 & 4 – Fourth of July

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



SUMMER ROADS

What you need to know about summer road conditions

- Road Projects: many projects are being done on the roads at this time. Slow down and give crews space to work.
- **Dust:** roads can become dusty in dry weather and potholes can appear in heavily traveled areas. Going the speed limit can reduce dusty and damaged roads.
- **Roadside Mowing:** roadsides are mowed to increase visibility and keep invasive plants at bay. Mowing occurs twice a year: once in late spring/early summer and once later in summer.
- **Traffic Speeds:** due to the hard-packed conditions of the roads this time of year, overall vehicle speeds can increase. Be aware of speed limits.
- **Repairs:** roads are repaired as weather allows. Know that this takes time, especially if conditions are poor so it may take the road crew some time to get to your road. Highly traveled roads are prioritized.

Reminders:

• Watch for increased pedestrian traffic including walkers, bikers, horseback riders etc. Please slow down and give other road users lots of room as you pass.

Phelps Road Closure Notice



The road crew will be performing work on Phelps Road that requires the road to be closed. The work involves tree cutting, ditching and stone lining, and adding gravel. The work will be done in the latter half of July.

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 TRUSTEES

The library is looking to fill two trustee openings. Joining the board allows you to help plan and shape the library for the future of Westford. Trustees review and shape library policies to keep them relevant to the times and the community, are a voice for the library in the community, create an annual budget, and work closely with the Director to create and implement a strategic plan.

Westford Public Library enjoys a great reputation in Westford and the Vermont library community. Help support our library and our wonderful director and staff by becoming a library trustee. Commitment and enthusiasm required. Trustees must be Westford residents and at least 18 years of age.

Interested in becoming a trustee? Send a brief letter of intent to the Board of Trustees % Bree Drapa, westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com or drop it off at the library. Letters must be received by August 8, 2023. Candidates will be interviewed before a final appointment recommendation is made to the Selectboard.

WESTFORD COMMON USE POLICY

With spring upon us and summer not far behind, the Westford Common Committee wants to remind residents that any major use of the Common requires a written request. This does not apply to small gatherings like parents and kids having a picnic. This policy has been implemented to avoid conflicts since there is more use of the Common. An application is especially necessary if you plan to use the Gazebo and will guarantee you the exclusive use of the Gazebo. We ask all town organizations to also follow this procedure so the calendar will reflect all plans.

Here is a link to the application: https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Common-Use-Application-Policy.pdf

If you have any questions, please call the Town Office for assistance: 802-878-4587



Ledge Probing

Ledge probing was successfully conducted the week of June 19th and the engineering team at Stone Environmental will be analyzing the data to refine the layout and path of the underground piping in the proposed service area as it leads from the Common area to the in-ground drip dispersal field in the North East Corner of Maple Shade Town Forest (see Google Earth Image below, showing the general area of the disposal field, indicated by arrow pointing to the mowed outline in the field). This information is key to estimating the cost to construct and long-term operation and maintenance cost estimates. Due to Statutory requirements, to enable a November 7, 2023 vote; time for formulating bond language and providing the required time of Public Warning and public meetings and hearings will require this information by mid-August. The Planning Commission and the Selectboard will be monitoring progress through July, aiming to achieve the goal.



Next Steps

Stone Environmental Inc will begin processing the information collected in May and June with ongoing follow-up with potential users.

The Planning Commission and the Selectboard are working collaboratively on creating language for a proposed bond, creating language for a proposed ordinance, and refining cost and funding estimates, all with the hope of being able to have a bond vote in November. Additional information will be forthcoming in the next couple of months as it develops. The Wastewater Outreach Committee has proposed a communication schedule for a number of public engagement opportunities that align with the time-frame of the anticipated design and cost information taking shape in Mid-August and holding a vote in November. More information to come.

Where can I get more information?

For information regarding the Community Wastewater Project, please refer to the FAQs at https://www.westfordsfuture.com/. This website has answers to commonly asked questions about the Community Wastewater Project and is updated as information becomes available. Residents may submit questions by attending a Planning Commission meeting, Selectboard meeting or emailing the Commission at planningcommission@westfordvt.us. You may also contact Melissa Manka, Town Planner, at planner@westfordvt.us or (802) 878.4587 for accurate information on what is happening, when, and how questions will be addressed.



WESTFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

<u>BEE THE CHANGE</u> – A pollinator garden space will be installed at the Westford school to create habitat for vital pollinators like bees and birds and butterflies. Students will be engaged in the installation and maintenance of the space and will be educated on species at risk and the crucial role pollinators play in our lives. Consider dedicating some of your own space as a pollinator habitat. Learn more at www.beethechange.earth

FUNDING FOR LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION IN WESTFORD

The headwaters of the Browns River have been identified by Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as a source watershed protection area. The Winooski Natural Resource Conservation District (WNRCD) is interested in facilitating technical and financial assistance to farmers and forest landowners in these areas to implement best management practices on the land.

Best management practices include those that promote soil health, reduce soil erosion and reduce nutrient runoff. These practices can be applied on any size land parcel, whether it be a working farm, working forest, or simply private property.

Furthermore, if you are a landowner within the headwaters of the Browns River watershed you may be eligible to receive increased funding to implement conservation practices on your land!

The Westford Conservation Commission has had some great conversations with the WNRCD and would be happy to assist in any way we can. This program will benefit the Browns River Watershed ecosystems and your drinking water!

Please contact us, the WCC at westfordcc@googlegroups.com if you have questions about this program. You can also contact the WNRCD at info@winooskinrcd.org for more information on the full list of what practices are covered under this initiative and determine if you would be a good fit for this program.

We hope you will consider getting involved!

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, June 21, 2023 at 6:00 pm at the Town Office (gazebo if weather-permitting).



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 <u>only</u> 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: SUMMER

- Break up material (both food scraps and browns) into small pieces. This allows for decomposition to happen quickly, meaning you'll have usable compost faster!
- Water your compost! If compost is dry it stops generating heat. Keeping compost moist will help things decompose quickly.
- Dry grass and egg shells make great additions to your pile. For best decomposition your pile should be 1/4th browns and 3/4th other items such as food scraps, coffee grounds and green lawn clippings.

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).









"All Together Now" Adult araoke in collaboration with the Westford PUblic Library Friday, July 28th at 7pm Inspired by the Beatle's song "All Together Now", the Library at WCH are teaming up to provide a fun night of karaoke! This is a 21+ BYOB event and ask that you provide a goodwill doantion at the doro that will be split between both entities. Nonalcholic drinks and snacks will be sold. Come sing, or just laugh and listen! Bree and Heather quarantee a fun night!! (If construction is still going on, this event will be moved to the BMH)

On July 4th, please visit us down near the Monument, where we will be selling grilled hotdogs (we were not able to secure the donations needed for strawberry shortcake this year). The WCH is currently under construction, so we won't be open with our annual art display, but keep an eye out for this coming fall!!!

Hotdogs & buns have been donated by McKenzie & Reinhart, suppliers of the Westford Country Store, and we are grateful for their involvement securing this awesome donation! \$3/hotdog & it includes toppings of onions, sauerkraut, or coleslaw, and of course ketchup, mustard and relish! The WCH takes cash, credit or Venmo, so come hungry!!



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

(Rescheduled from April 8th)

July 12th at 7:00pm

Due to construction, this concert will be held outside the WCH, so bring a folding chair and BYOB. If weather looks rainy, concert will be held at the Brick Meeting House.

FREE WILL DONATION.....grab a friend and come join us! Small concession stand offering non-alcoholic drinks and snacks will be open.

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

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

We are a non-profit 501c3.



Westford Garden Tour

fundraiser to benefit the Westford Common Hall



July 16th 11-3:00pm



The Westford Common Hall's summer fundraiser is moving you around town, as you visit 6 amazing gardensat your own pace!

Gardeners will be on site to help inform you of their own garden layouts, designs and various species of plants that they grow. Several gardeners will also have items for sale like photographs, flowers, vegetables, etc., so please consider supporting them and their businesses, as they are gracious enough to help support the Westford Common Hall!

Tickets are \$25/person and days before the event you will receive a map of the six gardens, with host names and addresses.

This is a rain or shine event, so plan accordingly with your attire, wear your garden boots and keep an umbrella in your car!





https://westfordpubliclibrary.org (802)878-5639

westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com

1717 VERMONT ROUTE 128, WESTFORD VT



Fourth of July Book Sale - 9am-1pm \$5 per bag of books - <u>Bring your own bag!</u> We will also have a raffle and homemade bags to sell. Besides the book sale - <u>the library is</u> CLOSED for regular business.

Coffee and Cards 10:30am-Noon This month - July 11 & July 25

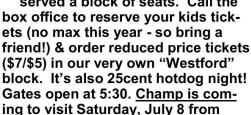
Cribbage, Euchre, Hearts, Rummy - whatever your game - we will play it. Meetup with folks at the library for coffee, conversation, and cards - a great opportunity to socialize and keep those card playing skills sharp. Open to

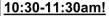
anyone, but especially looking to connect with seniors.



All Together Now at the Lake Monsters Game! Tuesday, July 18 - 6:35pm vs. New Britain Bees

The library has purchased 20 kids tickets (12 and under) and reserved a block of seats. Call the





"All Together Now" Adult Karaoke with the Westford Common Hall Friday, July 28 at 7pm

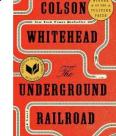
Inspired by the Beatle's song "All Together Now" - The Library and Common Hall are team-

ing up to provide a fun night of karaoke! This 21+ BYOB event will ask for a goodwill donation at the door (spilt between the library and WCH) and non-alcoholic drinks and snacks will be sold. Come to sing or just to laugh and listen. We guarantee a fun night! More details to come. Get practicing!

OPEN HOURS:

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

Adult Book Group Wed., July 26 7:00-8:00 pm <u>Underground</u> <u>Railroad</u> By: Colson Whitehead



Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award Winner A magnificent tour de force chronicling a young slave's

adventures as she makes a desperate bid for freedom in the antebellum South.

Cora is a slave on a plantation in Georgia. Life is hell for all the slaves, but especially bad for Cora; an outcast and coming into womanhood—where even greater pain awaits. Another slave tells her about the Underground Railroad, they decide to take a terrifying risk and escape.

In Whitehead's ingenious conception, the Underground Railroad is no mere metaphor—engineers and conductors operate a secret network of tracks and tunnels beneath the Southern soil. Cora encounters different worlds at each stage of her journey—hers is an odyssey through time as well as space. As Whitehead brilliantly re-creates the unique terrors for black people in the pre–Civil War era, his narrative seamlessly weaves the saga of America from the brutal importation of Africans to the unfulfilled promises of the present day.

The Underground Railroad is an adventure tale of one woman's ferocious will to escape the horrors of bondage and a shattering, powerful meditation on the history we all share. (from Amazon.com)

Print copies available at library, ebook & audiobook copies available on Libby.

Storytime - Thursdays at 11:15am on the Town Common.

*7/6/23: Theme: Food and Friends

*7/13/23: Theme: Excited

*7/20/23: Theme: Classic Friends *7/27/23: Theme: Same/Different

We will sing songs, read stories, move and do crafts! No sign up needed, all ages are welcome. *outside and part of the Summer Reading program.

Storytime moves outside rain (gazebo) or shine for the Summer.



July Library Events

- July 1 Last day to sign up to ride the float in the Fourth of July parade, limited to kids entering first grade and older.
- July 4 Library Book Sale 9am-1pm \$5 per bag bring your own bag.
- *July 4 Parade 11am (riders meet 10:30 at Town Garage)
- *July 6 Puzzle Pieces are Due for "All Together Now" Community art Project
- *July 7 Friendship Bracelet Series 4-6pm
- *July 8 Champ Visit on the Common! 10:30-11:30am The Lake Monsters lovable mascot will stop by for fun and photo ops!
- *July 11 Coffee and Cards 10:30-Noon
- *July 11 Community Rocks! 4-6pm on the Common We will paint rocks that spread positive vibes throughout the Westford.
- **July 11 Bob, the Reading Tortoise 5:30-6:30pm Readers entering 1-5 grades can sign up for a 15 minute reading slot FULL
- **July 12 Bob, the Reading Tortoise 5:30-6:30pm Readers entering 1-5 grades can sign up for a 15 minute reading slot - FULL
- *July 14 Friendship Bracelets 4-6pm
- *July 18 Cookies and Cards 10:30-Noon
- *July 18 "All Together Now" at the Lake Monsters Game -6:35pm
- **July 19 Finding Family 7pm Vermont Genealogy Library Program for Families looking to start their Genealogy.
- *July 21 Friendship Bracelets 4-6pm
- *July 22 Scribblebots with Green Mountain Robotics 10:30
 -Noon Chittenden county's FIRST Robotics
 Competition Team will be here to help kids make scribblebots.
- *July 25 Coffee and Cards 10:30-Noon
- *July 26 Adult Book Group discussing Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead 7-8pm
- *July 28 Friendship Bracelets 4-6pm
- *July 28 "All Together Now" Adult Karaoke at WCH 7-9pm

Storytime Thursdays 11:15 on the Common

Drop in Chess - for all ages - Every Thursday 6-7pm from June 22-August 10 *part of the Summer Reading Program **Sign up required

FREE/DISCOUNTED SUMMER FUN!

Passes are available for a 3 day check out
Passes may not be reserved - passes are on a first come
first served basis.

Vermont State Parks (FREE family day use)
Vermont Historic Sites (FREE family pass)
Shelburne Farms (FREE family pass)
Shelburne Museum (1/2 price entrance)
ECHO Center (\$7/person)
Birds of Vermont Museum (BOGO)
American Precision Museum (Windsor, VT)
(FREE family pass)

Vermont History Museum (FREE family pass) NEW! VINS (\$5 per person up to 4 people)

Drop in Chess Thursdays from 6-7pm June 22-August 10 Open to all ages!





StoryHike at the school trails. Enjoy this year's Caldecott Medal winner- Hot Dog, a beautifully illustrated, if sparsely worded "tail" of friendship. Thank you to the

Westford Conservation Commission for their continued partnership.

<u>Trails Passport</u> - Kicks off July 4 - get passports at the Library Book Sale or anytime at the library. New

locations, new stamps, same fun! Prizes, too!



Runs July-October.

July 19 - Finding Family 7pm - Vermont Genealogy Library Program for Families looking to start their Genealogy. Have you ever wondered about your family tree? Do you want to learn how to interview your older relatives? Need tips on what sources to use? Ideal for adults or families just starting out with genealogy. This presentation will be geared toward adults and children starting this process out. Recommended for third grade and up.

July 22 - Scribblebots with Green Mountain Robotics 10:30-Noon - Chittenden county's FIRST Robotics Competition Team will be here to help kids make scribblebots. What's a scribblebot? It combines learning about basic circuitry and

art - just like FRC's new season "Crescendo" combining robotics and the arts. If you are too old to make a scribblebot (gasp!), you can still come learn about what competition robotics looks like at the high school level and meet the team.





Westford Public Library Summer Reading Program 2023 June 20-August 11 www.westfordpubliclibrary.org 878-5639 westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com

*Online registration opens June 20. Registration link on our website, Facebook page, and Front Porch Forum. You can also register in person on June 20 during our kickoff event at the library or anytime later.

Age Levels, Reading Goals, and Prizes

Ages 0-2 (babies and toddlers) - fun activities for families to do together, stuffed animal prize at the end

Ages 3-8 (kids) - 10 books/150 minutes read per raffle ticket, one sticker per book or 15 minutes read

Ages 9-12 (tweens) - 3 books/240 minutes read per raffle ticket

Ages 13-18 (teens) - 1 book read per raffle ticket

Raffle tickets will be made by Ms. Bree when reading logs are turned in - logs are due August 10. Raffle tickets will also be given for coming to programs. Prizes consist of gift certificates to Essex Cinemas, Phoenix Books, & more! Prizes will be awarded at the end of the SRP Ice Cream Party on August 11.



Every time you come to the library you can work on our sticker mosaic! Last year it was an underwater scene, what will it be this year? Get a strip of stickers to place every visit. Together is better!

Every time you visit, find the hidden smiley stuffy in the library and get a prize! All ages welcome to participate each visit to the library.

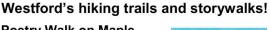


All Together Now at the Lake Monsters Game!

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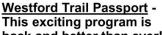
The library has purchased 20 kids tickets (12 and under) and reserved a block of seats. Call the box office to reserve your kids tickets (no max this year - so bring a friend!) & order reduced price tickets

(\$7/\$5) in our very own "Westford" block. It's also 25cent hotdog night! Gates open at 5:30. Champ is coming to visit Saturday, July 8 from 10:30-



Poetry Walk on Maple Shade Trails

Story Walk - Enjoy "Hot Dog" on the school trails starting in June. See the kiosk for the exact trail.





back and better than ever! Kicks off July 4!

All Together Now Storytime - On the Common - Thursdays at 11:15am

Bring your lunch, a blanket and be ready for fun! Rain location is the gazebo. Every week we will read stories, sing and move too! Take home crafts will be available for some storytimes. 6/22 -Kindness, 6/29 - Special FWNI Summer Storytime, 7/6- Food and Friends, 7/13 - Excited!, 7/20 - Classic Friends in books, 7/27 - Same/Different, 8/3 - Hugs or Not, 8/10 - Expand Your World







Splash of Math - "QuickDips" of math added each Monday to our Facebook page. Activities include a pdf and video. Brought to you by Bedtime Math.



Summer Reading Program Events Schedule and Details Events with a (*) require pre-registration.

- June 20 Sign up online for SRP starts today, signup link on our website, FPF, and Facebook Stop the library after school lets out to pick up SRP material (Logs, stickers, etc.) 12:00-7:00pm, if you can't make it then, you can pick up anytime later at the library.
- **June 21 Drop in Book Hedgehogs 4-6pm -** Using a recycled book, make a new forest creature to delight a friend or sit on your bookshelf. Folding and patience are musts!
- June 22 Walk in the Westford Woods with Will Dunkley 4:30pm Meet at the Westford School Parking lot. Westford resident and naturalist, Will Dunkley, will lead families on a nature walk in the Westford woods a new perspective on familiar places. Rain date is June 23 at 4:30. Great for hikers of all ages.
- June 23 Drop in Book Hedgehogs 2-4pm- Using a recycled book, make a new forest creature to delight a friend or sit on your bookshelf. Folding and patience are musts!
- June 27 Cookies and Cards 10:30-Noon Why let the seniors have all the fun? Let's meet up to play Uno, War, Go Fish, or other games the group wants to play. Please arrive on time at 10:30 so we can get started. Adults are encouraged to stay and play too!
- June 27 Giant Lawn Games on the Common 4-6pm Giant Jenga, Huge Connect Four, Lawn Bowling, and more -we will have BIG fun with these BIG games thank you to the Fletcher Free Library for lending us these!
- *June 27 Bob, the Reading Tortoise 5:30-6:30pm Readers entering 1-5 grades can sign up for a 15 minute reading slot
- *June 28 Tini-Tiny Terrarium 4-6pm Make two little terrariums, one for you and one for a friend, includes an air plant
- June 30 Float Building 4:00-6:00, also July 1 is the last day to sign up to ride the float in the Fourth of July parade, limited to kids entering first grade and older.
- July 4 Library Book Sale 9am-1pm \$5 per bag bring your own bag. Parade 11am (riders meet 10:30 at Town Garage)
- July 6 Puzzle Pieces are Due for "All Together Now" Community art Project see newsletter for more details
- July 7 Friendship Bracelet Series 4-6pm We will make Friendship Bracelets every Friday in July from 4-6pm. Different weeks, different styles, and you can always make one for a friend!
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- July 18 Cookies and Cards 10:30-Noon Why let the seniors have all the fun? Let's meet up to play Uno, War, Go Fish, or other games the group wants to play. Please arrive on time at 10:30 so we can get started. Adults are encouraged to stay and play too!
- July 18 "All Together Now" at the Lake Monsters Game 6:35pm see front for details
- *July 19 Finding Family 7pm Vermont Genealogy Library Program for Families looking to start their Genealogy. Have you ever wondered about your family tree? Do you want to learn how to interview your older relatives? Need tips on what sources to use? Ideal for adults or families just starting out with genealogy. This presentation will be geared toward adults and children starting this process out. Recommended for third grade and up.
- July 21 Friendship Bracelets 4-6pm
- July 22 Scribblebots with Green Mountain Robotics 10:30-Noon Chittenden county's FIRST Robotics Competition Team will be here to help kids make scribblebots. What's a scribblebot? It combines learning about basic circuitry and art just like FRC's new season "Crescendo" combining robotics and the arts. If you are too old to make a scribblebot (gasp!), you can still come learn about what competition robotics looks like at the high school level and meet the team.
- July 28 Friendship Bracelets 4-6pm
- August 1 Cookies and Cards Why let the seniors have all the fun? Let's meet up to play Uno, War, Go Fish, or other games the group wants to play. Please arrive on time at 10:30 so we can get started. Adults are encouraged to stay and play too!
- August 1 "Stone Salad" Community Dinner 6-7:30pm see August newsletter for more details.
- *August 2 Bob, the Reading Tortoise 5:30-6:30pm Readers entering 1-5 grades can sign up for a 15 minute reading slot
- August 4 VINS 4:30-5:30pm on the Common Learn about the vital role raptors play in our ecosystem from REAL raptors.
- August 10 Reading Logs are due by 5pm Turn in at the library or online via google form.
- August 11 End of Summer Ice Cream Party and Raffle 4:30-6:30pm on the Common Celebrate the end of Summer Reading with "All you Should Eat" Ice cream! We will announce the winners of our Summer Reading Prize Drawing as well! You do not need to be present to win. Prizes can be picked up anytime at the library. Volunteer scoopers needed.

Adult Summer Reading 2023

June 20-August 11

No need to sign up for anything - you even make your own raffle tickets!

Why should kids have all the fun - adults can benefit from additional reading, relaxing, and socializing opportunities over the summer.

Reading:

Prizes:

Adults (18+) receive one raffle ticket for each book read - just ask for one at the library Programs:

Attend an Adult Summer Program (not one for your kids!) and earn a raffle ticket too!

Two \$25 gift cards to J&L Hardware

Reoccurring events:

Adult Bookgroup -Wednesdays from 7-8pm

June 28 - Lessons in Chemistry

July 26 - The Underground Railroad

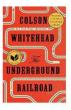
August 23 - Americanah

See monthly newsletter for more information about each book and how to get them.

Coffee and Cards - Tuesday from 10:30-Noon

June 6 and 20, July 11 and 25, and August 8 and 29









Special Events:

"All Together Now" Adult Karaoke with the Westford Common Hall - Friday, July 28 at 7pm Inspired by the Beatle's song "All Together Now" - The Library and Common Hall are teaming up to provide a fun night of karaoke! This 21+ BYOB event will ask for a goodwill donation at the door (spilt between the library and WCH) and non-alcoholic drinks and snacks will be sold. Come to sing or just to laugh and listen. We guarantee a fun night! More details to come.

"Stone Salad" Community Dinner - August 1 from 6:00-7:30pm on the Common Inspired by the classic tale "Stone Soup" the library will host a community dinner where everyone brings a little something to make the meal. A sign up genius will go out closer to the event, but mark the date on your calendars. Local foods, homemade goodies and garden bounties will be shared.



Westford Historical Society

We want to thank the community for the support given to our second successful Antiques Appraisal event that was held on Sunday, June 11th. If nothing more, we at least learned something about our treasures and had fun. It may not become an annual event, but another will likely be held at some point in the future.

Our next event is coming up on Saturday, August 5th. This promises to be an adventure as Kurt Sherman (long time science teacher at Westford Elementary School) will do an actual "dig" on or near the grounds of the Brick Meeting House starting at 1:30. Kurt has been doing these archaeological digs with his students for many years and the students have discovered much about our town's history via these digs. I'm sure we will hear about some of the items they have unearthed through the years. This is an opportunity for all to participate in a "hands on" learning experience. Plan on 90 minutes and dress for the weather as some of it will take place outside. The rest will be inside the Meeting House itself.



Two other talks have been scheduled with more details coming out closer to the events. Mark your calendars for the ever-popular talk by Vermont's own Howard Coffin, who will speak on "1800 and Froze to Death" on September 9th. Then, on October 7th, we will hear about an see Westford's painted theater curtain that will be restored and ultimately displayed on special occasions at the Historical Society's new building on the Common.

All are welcome at these events which are open to the public. The Brick Meeting House has a ramp for easy access. We hope to see you this summer and fall for these fun and interesting presentations.

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.





WESTFORD SUMMER CONCERT LINE UP 2023

This year there will be two sets of three concert Sundays in a row, with a break of one week between them. I am still looking for sponsors to help with funding, so if anyone would like to support any of the following acts, please contact me and you can get credit for helping out with this series. I will be making some poster designs for the series sometime soon. If anyone would like either a hard copy or a digital PDF file for your own use and distribution, please contact me at mpk802vt@gmail.com. All shows run from 6:30-9 pm. I am still hoping to line up food and or beverage vendors, too. Please forward contact info for anyone that may be able to provide this service. Here's what we've got on tap for 2023:

July 9 – The Dimmer Triplets:

This is a brand new band with local favorites Mr. Charlie of Blues For Breakfast fame and Al Lemery of the (now retired) Starline Rhythm Boys. With Gary Wade as added support.

July 16 – The Marinara Brothers:

Local Westford musician Tom Schmidt's second outing for the concert series sharing both original material and covers. Expect some saucy rock-n-roll.

July 23 – The Hokum Brothers:

These brothers share a love of vaudeville-tinged tunes and attitudes and have played at various festivals and burlesque shows in and around Burlington for many years now.

July 30 - No show tonight, go camping...

August 6 - Paul Asbell:

Paul is well known around Vermont and has been a local A lister in the Burlington music scene for years. He will be doing a solo show of roots, Americana, and jazz treats. We are fortunate to have him contribute.

August 13 – Mango Jam:

Back again from last year, we will be in for a treat of New Orleans inspired rhythm and mayhem for a summer evening of foot shaking frenzy.

August 20 – Les Dead Ringers:

Another newly formed band by D. Davis, of Red Hot Juba, Larkspurs, and Cookies Hot Club renown.

WESTFORD CEMETERY REMINDERS

Artificial flowers, glass containers and items with wire are <u>NOT</u> allowed in any of the Westford cemeteries. They will be subject to removal by cemetery officials. Also, the planting of trees and shrubs is <u>NOT</u> permitted. There are signs posted in each cemetery.

Thank you for your cooperation, Westford Cemetery Commission

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 (<u>APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO (westfordvt.us)</u> to <u>townadmin@westfordvt.us</u> 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 <u>Clean Water Advisory Committee - CCRPC (ccrpcvt.org)</u>. For more information contact Dan Albrecht, CCPRC Senior Planner, at <u>dalbrecht@ccrpcvt.org</u> 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 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR OPENING

The Town of Westford is accepting letters of interest for the Emergency Management Director (EMD). This role is a non-paid volunteer position with no defined hours. Training is offered through the Vermont Emergency Management website.

Who is the EMD? They are an appointed individual in each town or city who has direct responsibility for the organization, administration, and coordination of the local organization for emergency management, subject to the direction and control of the executive officer or legislative branch. Generally, the EMD manages the local emergency management organization, including the identification of the resources and organizations that would be used to support incident command; manages the creation and maintenance of the Local Emergency Operations Plan; manages the maintenance of the Local Emergency Operations Center; facilitates Emergency Management meetings with municipal stakeholders to discuss current emergency management plans, organization, equipment, training, and exercises; coordinates citizen preparedness initiatives; coordinates volunteer recruitment; participates in the creation of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan; participates in the Emergency Manager Certification program offered by Vermont Emergency Management; and, if determined necessary, appoints an Emergency Management Coordinator to assist in executing any of these responsibilities.

For more information on the EMD role, please go to Emergency Management Director (EMD) & Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) | Vermont Emergency Management.

Familiarity with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the Incident Command System (ICS) is preferred.

If interested, please submit a letter of interest to townadmin@westfordvt.us.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BEING WESTFORD'S DELEGATE?

In February, the Town of Westford joined the Chittenden County Communications Union District (CCCUD) and is looking for a town resident to serve as Westford's delegate on the Governing Board.

A CUD is a municipal organization made up of two or more towns for the purpose of building, or causing to be built, communication infrastructure together. The main function of the CUD would be to deliver public funds to the providers to build the network and to provide public oversight to ensure broadband services is provided to underserved locations in accordance with Act 71. By working together, municipalities are more likely to attract a provider and leverage financial resources. For more information, please visit https://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/broadband/.

Currently, the CCCUD Governing Board meets two times per month (2nd and 4th Wednesdays) at 3pm. The meetings are approximately an hour long.

If you have a background or general knowledge of broadband and would like to represent Westford in this capacity, please submit a letter of interest to Nanette Rogers, Town Administrator, at townadmin@westfordvt.us. If you have any questions, please email townadmin@westfordvt.us or call 802-878-4587. Compensation: \$400 annual stipend.

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/



Senator Irene Wrenner, Chittenden North

June 26, 2023

The State House welcomed 60 new legislators in 2023. Since January a total of 684 bills were introduced by the House or Senate.

Five bills that made headlines but have not yet become law:

- Statewide Ranked Choice Voting
- Bottle Bill Expansion
- Statewide Property Appraisals
- Ban on Flavored Tobacco
- Pay Raise for Legislators



Lawmakers returned to Montpelier on June 20th for a veto session. Both chambers voted to override five of Governor Phil Scott's vetoes and passed the following six bills into law:

H.494 – FY24 Budget

Totaling \$8.5 billion, the Budget bill creates 159 new positions to help implement programs and policies that aim to meet the needs and wants of Vermonters and includes:

- \$74.2 million for workforce, higher education, economic and agricultural development.

 This includes scholarships, tuition assistance, loan forgiveness and technical assistance for critical workforce education such as nursing, renewable energy workers, advanced technology, and emergency medical services.
- \$9.3 million in substance abuse prevention and recovery.
- \$29 million for a slate of human services programs.
- \$99.7 million in human services provider rate increases to better support healthcare needs for low- and moderate-income Vermonters.
- \$220 million for housing assistance and support programs; development of affordable housing units.

H.171 – Emergency Motel Program

As federal COVID funding no longer covers the cost to shelter the unhoused, 800 people were evicted from motel rooms earlier this month. This companion to the budget bill was worked out between the executive and legislative branches. It doesn't address the plight of those initial 800 people, who were deemed less vulnerable, nor any newly unhoused residents. But it does provide temporary housing – through April 1, 2024 – for 2,000 vulnerable adults and children until alternative placements are found.

H.217 - Child Care

Among other provisions, this comprehensive bill would boost the wages of child care providers and provide financial assistance to parents (up to a certain income level). This bill recognizes that businesses need to attract more workers amidst a lack of available child care keeping parents out of the job market. Therefore, the state chose to fund it with a payroll tax, 75% of which is shouldered by employers.

H.386 – Brattleboro Charter Change

16- and 17-year-olds may vote in local Brattleboro elections as well as run for local offices – not regional, statewide, or federal elections, however.

H.509 – Burlington Charter Change

All legal city residents may vote in local Burlington elections – of officers and public questions – regardless of citizenship status.

H.305 – Office of Professional Regulation

Technical changes, as well as adjustments to licensing fees (to account for inflation), for professions regulated by the OPR within the Secretary of State's office.

The Governor allowed the following bills to become law without his signature:

H.126 – Community Resilience and Biodiversity Protection (30 x 30 bill)

This bill aims to conserve biological diversity and improve resilience to climate change via a mix of management approaches, including ecological reserves and working lands. Specifically, the state's goals are to conserve 30% of Vermont's land by 2030, and then 50% by 2050.

H.165 – Universal School Meals

Providing breakfast and lunch to all, via federal COVID funds, has led to more alert / healthier students, fewer behavioral problems, and elimination of the stigma around low-income recipients. Schools have seen reduced costs and less paperwork. Just as all students are eligible for free textbooks and instructional materials, they will continue to be able to receive meals at no direct cost to themselves or their parents.

H.270 – Miscellaneous Adult Use and Medical Cannabis Amendments

The following bills were vetoed by the Governor and didn't garner the votes needed to override. Bills have been returned to their committees of jurisdiction for review.

S.6 – Law Enforcement Interrogation Policies

This bill would have prevented law enforcement personnel from lying to, or using deceptive practices on, people under the age of 23 during interrogations.

S.39 – Legislative Compensation

Many everyday Vermonters cannot afford to serve; therefore, the legislature is not representative of a wide range of perspectives. This bill would have increased compensation and benefits.

Legislators serve constituents year-round – attending meetings, drafting legislation, and answering constituent inquiries – but are paid only while in session. This bill would have acknowledged that workload and provided a single day's remuneration per week "off session", which I support.

All bills may be viewed here: https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/search/2024
My voting record here: https://legislature.vermont.gov/people/single/2024/37415#voting-record

To get on my calendar or to send feedback, reach me at iwrenner@leg.state.vt.us or 802 338 2247 (c). I post occasional updates on Front Porch Forum and https://Facebook.com/SenatorIreneWrenner.





WESTFORD RECREATION DEPARTMENT

NEWSLETTER July 2023

RECREATION Department Meeting:

➤ 7/11 Recreation Board Meeting 7pm @ Town Office or maybe the Common!

Continuing PROGRAMS:

- ❖ Parent & Me T-ball @ Westford School Tuesdays program is full
- ❖ Parent & Me Soccer @ Westford School Wednesdays program is full
- ❖ Slow Flow Yoga @ RBMH Thursdays, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. through July 27, \$12 drop in or register for all!

New PROGRAMS:

- New Moon Bat Nature Walk Saturday, July 22 8:30 p.m. bring a flashlight! No charge, but please register
- ❖ Summer Soccer @ Westford School grades 1 and over, broken up into 5 different programs! <u>JUST ADDED older kids Pick-Up on Thursdays with coaches!</u> See the flyer in this newsletter.

4th of July Celebration!!!

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Gus the donkey will be back along with fire trucks, tractors, ambulances, and more for the parade.

Then there will be the games on the Common and vendors of produce, arts & crafts, building and launching rockets, jewelry, wool products & demonstrations, and sooooo much more!!!



Food will be available to purchase and fun will be had by all!

There is still time to register to be in the parade or have a table!

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

https://westfordvt.us/recreation/ E-mail - recreation@westfordvt.us

RECREATION PROGRAMS

SLOW FLOW YOGA

Are you looking for a fun and effective way to release stress, calm down and unwind after a busy day? Then join Doris for an hour of Slow Flow Yoga. This Vinyasa style class gently guides you into the practice with breathing exercises followed by a warm-up phase to lubricate the joints and prime the core area. While you slowly flow through a main sequence of poses, you can let go of any worries and surrender to your inner-most self. We finish the class with a cooldown and rest which will leave you feeling refreshed and content.

Thursday, 5:30pm - 6:30pm, June 22nd-July 27th (6 weeks) at the Red Brick Meeting House \$60 for the whole block, or \$12 per class for walk-ins

Please register with the Westford Recreation Department https://westfordvt.us/recreation/



The classes are open for adults 18 and over. No previous yoga experience is required but a certain degree of mobility is suggested. All classes will be different and options will be provided to make the practice accessible to every body.

If you are still unsure whether this class is for you or if you have any yoga related questions, please reach out to Doris via email at info@happycat.yoga

Please, bring your own mat and a blanket or towel; props like blocks or thick books and straps or a belt may also come in handy.

Doris moved to Westford in 2014. After retiring from her career as an Application Engineer, she decided to build on her 15+ years of practicing yoga and become a teacher. She is now a certified Yoga instructor (RYT-500). Doris is currently expanding her training to the field of yoga therapy, with a special interest in how yoga can improve the quality of life for people with cancer. She is also an avid reader and you may see her once in a while helping out at the Westford Public Library.

Parent & Me

For Pre-K youth.

Must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Head Coach - Meghan Valyou Orisko

T-Ball

Focus on the fundamentals of baseball and softball

Dates - Tuesdays - June 20, 27; July 11, 25; August 1, 8, 15, 22 Time - 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Ages 3 - 6 at time of program
Fee - for 6 to 8 sessions - TBD





Soccer

Focus on the fundamentals

Dates - Wednesdays - June 21, 28; July 12, 26; August 2, 9, 16, 23 Time - 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Ages - 1 to 6 at time of program Fee for 6 to 8 sessions - TBD

Register mid-April at https://westfordvt.us/recreation/

Summer Soccer 2023

Starting the week of July 2, 2023 @ Westford School fields

Grades 1-2 - Tuesdays & Thursdays 5:30 - 6:30

Grades 3-4 - Tu/Th 5:30 - 6:30

Grades 5-6 - Tues - skills - 6:30 - 7:30 INCLUDES

Grades 5 to age 15 Thursday Pick-up

Grade 5 to age 15 - Pick-up with coaches - Thursdays 6:30 - 8:30



Age 16 & over Pick-up Weds 6:30 - 8:30 or drop-in (minimum of 10 sessions)

Shin guards required for all under age 18, cleats strongly suggested for all.

All programs \$25 (Pick-up drop-in \$5)

Westford Recreation Department https://westfordyt.us/recreation/



WESTFORD TOWN COMMON JULY 4, 2023 • 10AM – 1PM

Westford Recreation invites you to join the celebration and enjoy the festivities

Parade, Live Music, Market Vendors, Face Painting and other activities for kids, Lawn Games, and so much more!