



WESTFORD NEWSLETTER

August 2023



The **Eastern Cottontail** was introduced to Vermont in the 1800s. They live in valley farmlands and eat a variety of plants such as clover, grasses, and plant buds. They live in the same area their entire lives and have territories of about ten acres.

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 have received your 2023 property tax bill no later than July 15th. Please contact the town office if you did 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 before 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 received at the Town Office not by the date on the check.

In July, the State sent 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!

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 September Newsletter is 12:00 noon on Monday, August 28th.

TOWN OFFICE HOURS

The office is open:

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

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

SLOW

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 Closed July 31, 2023



Phelps Road will be closed July 31 from 8am to 4pm for tree cutting.

This is the initial phase of a larger project which will be done sometime in August. The road will be closed again during that time. Advanced notice of the closure will be provided with signage and postings on Front Porch Forum.

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

Westford Public Library - Openings for Two Library Trustees

Be part of a dynamic team helping plan and shape the library for the future of Westford. Trustees review 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. Trustees must be Westford residents and at least 18 years off age.

Interested in becoming a trustee? Send a brief letter of intent before August 8 to the Board of Trustees % Bree Drapa, westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com or drop off at the library. All candidates will be interviewed after that date.

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

www.WestfordsFuture.com

For Community Wastewater Project info and updates

photo by Orah Moore



Scan QR code to visit website





WESTFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

BEE THE CHANGE – 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!



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: 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>).



WESTFORD COMMON HALL



WITH GRATITUDE

"All Together Now" Adult Karaoke 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. Non-alcoholic drinks and snacks will be sold. Come sing, or just laugh and listen!

DUE TO CONSTRUCTION, BREE & HEATHER ARE POSTPONING THIS FUN EVENT UNTIL LATER IN THE FALL!!

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE;

W want to thank the Vermont Preservation Trust for the matching funds grant that we recieved for the Storm Windows, which are now installed. They will protect our stained glass windows for years to come and will protect against heat loss in the winter.

Our building is in full construction mode with the ADA compliant ramp, rear exit door, insulation in the walls and attic and a new heating system being installed. We will be closed for programming this month, and possibly into September, but can't wait to get everyone back in the building this fall, so stay tuned to our Facebook and website for updates. Thank you for your support!!!

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

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

Email us at info@westfordcommonhall.org

Website: www.westfordcommonhall.org

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

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

We are a non-profit 501c3.

Thank you to everyone who attended one of our July events; 4th of July Hot Dog sales were a hit and we sold all 120 by noon! Many thanks to the Westford Country Store for connecting us with McKenzie who donated the hot dogs & Reinhart who donated the buns. We are also thankful to Union Bank for sponsoring us!!

Natalie Padilla and Quinn Bachand put on a wonderful show at the Brick Meeting House on July 12th and we appreciate everyone who turned out on a hot Wednesday evening to support these two artists!

A special thanks to Orah Moore for spearheading the planning of the first ever Westford Garden Tour held on July 16th! It was a huge success with 92 tickets sold and participants smiling, even in the rain!

We are deeply grateful for the six gardeners who displayed their gardens and properites for this fundraiser; Orah Moore, Amber Haller, Marge Hamrell, Rosemary Shea-Cobb, Peter Jenkins & Debra Kiel. Please support these gardeners and artists throughout the year!!





WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

<https://westfordpubliclibrary.org>

(802) 878-5639

westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com

1717 VERMONT ROUTE 128, WESTFORD VT



Summer Reading is Coming to an End!

Be sure to turn in your reading logs* (via email or web form with the # of books read, or in person) by **August 10 at 7pm** to be eligible for the prize drawing! *if you lost your log - I just need the # of books you read over the summer. You can also turn in your log later, but won't be included in the raffle.

End of Summer Reading Ice Cream Party and Prize Drawing is Friday, August 10 from 4:30-6:00pm on the Common. Celebrate your summer reading success by picking up your reading certificate and enjoying "All you Should Eat" ice cream and toppings. Raffle winners will also be announced at this time, but you do not need to be present to win. Volunteer scoopers needed - especially teen/older tweens.

Read and Win at the Fair! (FREE TICKETS!)

Do you want a FREE ticket to the Champlain Valley Fair?
Are you: Entering grades K-8?
Have you: Read at least 3 books this summer?
If YES! Then stop by the Library for your FREE Admission to the Fair good ANY DAY 8/25-9/3!

Also good for: FREE Ice Cream, FREE Ride, and FREE Book. Available all August at the Library - needs a parent/guardian signature! This FREE ticket is good ANY DAY 8/25-9/3.

**CHAMPLAIN
VALLEY FAIR**

PRESENTED BY NORTH COUNTRY
Your community credit union



OPEN HOURS:

Tuesdays 10am-7pm

Wednesdays 1-7pm

Thursdays 10am-7pm

Fridays 1-7pm

Saturdays 10am-2pm

Adult Book Group

Wed., August 23

7:00-8:00 pm

Americanah

By: Chimamanda
Ngozi Adichie

A modern classic about star-crossed lovers that explores questions of race and being Black in America—and the search for what it means to call a place home.



As teenagers in Lagos, Ifemelu and Obinze fall in love. Their Nigeria is under military dictatorship, and people are fleeing the country if they can. The self-assured Ifemelu departs for America. There she suffers defeats and triumphs, finds and loses relationships, all the while feeling the weight of something she never thought of back home: race. Obinze had hoped to join her, but post-9/11 America will not let him in, and he plunges into a dangerous, undocumented life in London. Thirteen years later, Obinze is a wealthy man in a newly democratic Nigeria, while Ifemelu has achieved success as a blogger. But after so long apart and so many changes, will they find the courage to meet again, face to face?

Fearless, gripping, spanning three continents and numerous lives, the National Book Critics Circle Award-winning *Americanah* is a richly told story of love and expectation set in today's globalized world. (from Amazon.com)

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

Storytime - Thursdays at 11:15am on the Town Common until 8/31.

*8/3/23: Theme: Hugs or Not

*8/10/23: Theme: Expand your World

8/17/23: NO STORYTIME

8/24/23: NO STORYTIME

8/31/23: Theme: Back to School (and back inside)

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. Back inside 8/31.



August Library Events

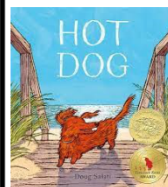
- *August 1 - Cookies and Cards - 10:30 - Noon
- *August 1 - "Stone Salad" Community Dinner on the Common 6-7:30pm
- August 2 - Early Literacy Fun with Ms. Holly - 2-3pm
- **August 2 - Bob, the Reading Tortoise 5:30-6:30pm - Readers entering 1-5 grades can sign up for a 15 minute reading slot - This is FULL
- August 4 - Early Literacy Fun with Ms. Holly - 2-3pm
- *August 4 - VINS 4:30-5:30pm on the Common - Learn about the vital role raptors play in our ecosystem from REAL raptors.
- August 5 - Visit the Library Table at the Westford Farmer's Market 11am-2pm. Get fair tickets, sign up for a library card and more!
- August 8 - Coffee and Cards - 10:30-Noon
- August 9 - Trustees Meeting 7pm
- August 10 - Reading Logs are due by 7pm - Turn in at the library or online via google form.
- August 10 - Last Drop in Chess
- *August 11 - End of Summer Ice Cream Party and Raffle - 4:30-6:00pm on the Common - Celebrate the end of Summer with "All you Should Eat" Ice cream! We will announce the winners of our Summer Reading Prize Drawing as well!
- August 17 - NO STORYTIME
- August 23 - Adult Book Group 7pm - discussing Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
- August 24 - NO STORYTIME
- August 29 - Coffee and Cards 10:30-Noon
- August 30 - First Day of School!
- August 31 - Storytime moves back inside - 11:15am
- 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, see newsletter for more information**
- **Sign up required**

FREE/DISCOUNTED SUMMER FUN!

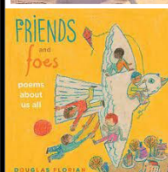
Passes are available for a 3 day check out
Passes may not be reserved - passes are on a first come first served basis.

- 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)
- 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
- **Start at the Brookside Rd. kiosk. Enjoy this year's Caldecott Medal winner- Hot Dog, a beautifully illustrated, if sparsely worded "tail" of friendship.**



Poetry Walk Start at the rear kiosk on the school trails and follow the path down to the river - you can contemplate poems of friends and foes.



Trails Passport - Kicks off July 25 - get passports at the Library. Runs Late July-October. See the newsletter for more details.

Thank you to the Westford Conservation Commission for their continued partnership.

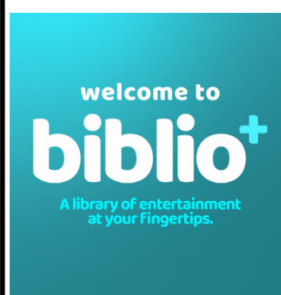
Coffee and Cards 10:30am-Noon



This month - August 8 & 29

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.

Video Streaming Service FREE with your library card - starting September 1!



Biblio+ is a free streaming service offered with your library card - not limits, watch as much or as little as you like. Great content - especially a lot of British/ BBC shows. More in Sept.



For Summer Reading info - see brochure in this newsletter.

WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY: Providing a community hub for everyone to explore, engage, and enjoy.



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 (teens) - 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!

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 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-

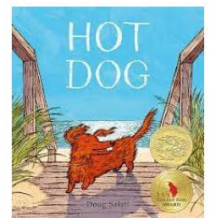


Westford's hiking trails and storywalks!

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.

Westford Trail Passport - This exciting program is 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 FWN! 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!

July 8 - Champ Visit on the Common! 10:30-11:30am - The Lake Monsters lovable mascot will stop by for fun and photo ops! This is a great time to get excited about our Westford Night at the Lake Monsters Game July 18!

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

***July 12 - Bob, the Reading Tortoise 5:30-6:30pm** - Readers entering 1-5 grades can sign up for a 15 minute reading slot

July 14 - Friendship Bracelets 4-6pm

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. **POSTPONED**

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:

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!

Prizes:

Two \$25 gift cards to J&L Hardware

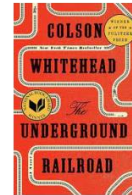
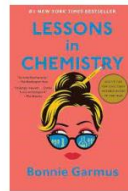
Reoccurring events:

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 (split 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. **POSTPONED**

"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 Passport Program 2023



***** THE PASSPORT PROGRAM IS BACK FOR ANOTHER SEASON *****

Sorry for the Later Start this Year – Passports are available starting 7/25

Trail Stamps will be Ready Soon

**The Westford Public Library, in partnership with The Westford Conservation Commission
are bringing back a Fun and Exciting way to enjoy
our town trails this summer and fall. And a BONUS --- there are prizes!**

IT'S EASY

Pick up your Passport at the Library, or the Town Office.

Watch for notices on Front Porch Forum or the Library Facebook Page announcing which trails are ready with stamps. Then collect stamps by hiking one of the 14 trails or visiting the 1 town landmark. With 9 or more stamps, you can redeem your Passport at the library and receive a Westford themed canvas bag, or a handmade tote bag, as your prize (your choice).

You can also keep your Passport as a souvenir of your adventures in Westford!

SPECIAL NOTES for 2023

We have new metal or plastic weatherproof boxes to hold the stamps.

These will sit on the ground chained to a tree.

Look for the WESTFORD PASSPORT markings in YELLOW PAINT.

---SCHULTZ TRAIL BOX & STAMP WILL ONLY BE AVAILABLE LATE JULY & AUGUST---

MONTHLY RAFFLE FOR A GIFT CARD PRIZE

When you redeem your Passport, you will also be entered in a drawing for a \$50 gift card to a local business - Westford Country Store, Butcher Barn, Steeple Market & Sweet Clover Market.

The more stamps you collect, the more chances you will earn in the raffle drawings.

(See the Passport for additional details.)

August Redeem by 8/26 for chances to win one of two \$50 gift cards.

September Redeem by 9/30 for chances to win a \$50 gift card.

October Redeem by 10/28 for chances to win the last \$50 gift.

You can start anytime all summer and into the fall.

This is open to everyone, kids and adults, the whole family is welcome to participate.

Check out the library's facebook page for more information and updates.

LET'S GET HIKING!





Westford Historical Society

News from the Westford Historical Society August 2023

The casual observer may not have noticed the changes taking place around the Historical Society building on the Common, but things are happening. For starters, we have a newly installed Security System. We have a newly finished retaining wall behind the building and flower boxes grace the walkway. Plans are in the works to complete and install our WHS sign that will be affixed to the front of the building so the whole town (the whole world, actually) will know what the building houses.

Efforts are being made to clean the building now that the major work on the second level is complete. Once the cleaning is done we will start moving the remainder of our historical items from storage and work on displays.

In the meantime, events are being scheduled. As mentioned in the July Newsletter the talk/historical dig by Kurt Sherman takes place on Saturday, August 5th at the Brick Meeting House at 1:30 until about 3:00. Be sure to check out the flier in this Newsletter for further details.

And don't forget the Howard Coffin Talk entitled "1800 and Froze to Death" on September 9th at 1:30. Very soon you will be seeing posters with further details around town.

Then Christine Hadsel will present a program on painted theater curtains and highlight Westford's own curtain on Saturday, October 7th. All three of these presentations are free and open to the public although donations are gladly accepted and appreciated. All take place at the Brick Meeting House which is handicapped accessible.

Be sure to mark your calendars and come and learn more about Westford's history. For further information please contact Caroline Brown at 802-878-8890 or Glenn Rogers at 802-878-4524.

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.

Exploring the Westford Common Area with Kurt Sherman

Presented by the Westford Historical Society

Saturday August 5th, 2023

1:30 PM

Brick Meeting House

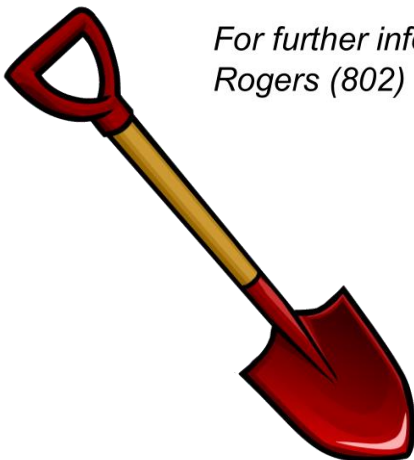
(1685 VT Rte. 128 on the Westford Common)



The Westford Historical Society will be presenting an exploration of Westford with Kurt Sherman (a long-time science teacher at Westford Elementary School).

He will do an actual “dig” at or near the Brick Meeting House (1685 VT Rte. 128) starting at 1:30 PM. 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. We are sure to hear about some of the items they have unearthed over 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 the presentation will take place outside. The rest will be inside the Meeting House itself.

For further information contact Caroline Brown – (802) 878-8890 or Glenn Rogers (802) 878-4524.





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:

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 NOT allowed in any of the Westford cemeteries. They will be subject to removal by cemetery officials. Also, **the planting of trees and shrubs is NOT 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 ([APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO \(westfordvt.us\)](#) to townadmin@westfordvt.us or mail/drop off at the town office.

The Clean Water Advisory Committee

The CWAC oversees the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission activities and policy development regarding but not limited to, the Vermont Lake Champlain Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Plan and its related plans and programs. The Committee typically meets the first Tuesday of the month. To view minutes, agendas, and other documents, please go to [Clean Water Advisory Committee - CCRPC \(ccrpcvt.org\)](#). For more information contact Dan Albrecht, CCRPC Senior Planner, at dalbrecht@ccrpcvt.org or 846-4490.

CCRPC Lamoille Basin Water Quality Council

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

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

Potential members should be:

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

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

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.

Senator Irene Wrenner, Chittenden North

July 24, 2023

I've been fielding calls about flood issues in recent weeks. Hundreds of FEMA personnel have conducted 3,500 property inspections statewide.

The four towns in our senate district were largely spared, but a number of homes and businesses, including two farms, suffered losses after July's heavy rainfall.



If you — or someone you know — experienced ANY flood damage, please dial 2-1-1. The state will log losses into a central database. Even if you “fixed it myself” or “the damage wasn’t that bad,” it’s important for the state and federal government to understand the extent of physical damage and adverse economic impact we’re facing.

FEMA hasn’t yet made a disaster declaration for Franklin County, so let’s encourage our neighbors in Fairfax to dial 2-1-1, take photos of damage, save receipts, and submit reports to insurance carriers. Fingers crossed, FEMA will come through as they are in Chittenden and seven other counties.

Find helpful information on coping, helping, or donating here:

<https://www.vermont.gov/flood>. The Attorney General’s office reminds us that natural disasters provide opportunities for scammers, so please donate through the link given above, or another trustworthy entity.

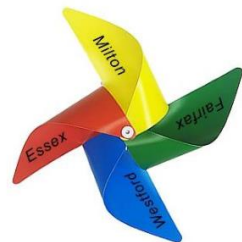
From the Tax Department: VT taxpayers donating to charitable organizations, including those working on flood relief, may be eligible for the VT Charitable Tax Credit: a 5% personal income tax credit for eligible charitable contributions up to \$20,000, available to all VT income tax filers, regardless of whether you itemize deductions.

<https://tax.vermont.gov/individuals/personal-income-tax/tax-credits>

Governor Phil Scott canceled his roving cabinet meeting for July, due to the impending flood. On his agenda was the availability of ARPA funds for broadband, among other planned projects. Westford town staff and state legislators (myself included) had planned to attend and raise awareness about the ongoing need for cell service here.

I will continue to remind state and federal officials that “Westford needs cell service!” until this infrastructure is installed and paid for.

Glorious weather on July 4th made the three parades in our district especially fun for participants. If you or your family member didn’t get a colorful “Chittenden North” pinwheel at the Westford Parade and would like one, please let me know: iwrenner@leg.state.vt.us.



WESTFORD RECREATION DEPARTMENT

NEWSLETTER August 2023

UPCOMING MEETING DATE

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



Continuing PROGRAMS:

- ❖ **Summer Soccer @ Westford school** – skills development programs for grades 1 through 6, and pick up for grades 5 through adult! Check out the Recreation page of the town website for the details! A HUGE thanks to the coaches of these programs who volunteer.
- ❖ **Parent & Me T-ball and Soccer** - programs are full and going well! Many thanks to the volunteer coaches who are making this happen

New PROGRAMS:

- ❖ **New Client Reformer Pilates Special** with Erin Menut– Would you like to improve your posture, stand taller, and feel more energized - all while having fun and getting a great work out? Then you might want to check out Pilates reformer. (This practice was designed to help people rehab from injuries, similar to PT.) Enjoy a one-on-one introductory session in August or September. Look for details on the Recreation page of the town website after the WRD meeting.
- ❖ **Slow Flow Yoga** with Doris Bittruf - another 6 class block starting soon probably Thursday evenings again. Again, look for the info on the website after the WRD meeting!



The **Westford 4th of July Celebration** was another success thanks to the many volunteers and participants!





Sign up now to be on next year's Independence Day planning committee! E-mail if you are interested in helping this community event continue.

Help direct WRD purchases by making suggestions for items you think would benefit the community. Look for the suggestion form on the website.

Want to offer a program, there's a form for that on the website too!

How about a suggestion for an activity? Find that link on the website!!!

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

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

E-mail - recreation@westfordvt.us

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://westfordvt.us/recreation/>



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/>





School Hours 2023/24

8:15-3:15 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

8:15-2:15 (Early Release Wednesdays)

- Please note that we will provide supervision from 3:15-3:45 for all bus riders (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday) as the buses will arrive from EHS at 3:45 with high school students and transport all students K-12 from Westford at 3:45. All car riders must be picked up at 3:15 as we cannot safely manage additional dismissals such as a car rider being picked up at 3:45. The bus will arrive at 2:15 for early dismissal Wednesdays and all students will be dismissed at 2:15 on Wednesdays.

Busing Update

Mountain Transit will provide transportation for all K-12 grade students in the Essex Westford School District again this year. We will run three K-12 bus routes. Students will load the bus in the afternoons at 3:45 PM in the front circle and unload in the mornings at 8:10 AM in the back parking lot to help with traffic.

To run bus routes as efficiently as possible, adjust to staffing challenges, keep the length of routes reasonable, and provide consistent transportation for K-12 students, several changes needed to take place, including changes to both the start and end times of the school day and the grade span of students (K-12 not K-8) on the bus routes.

Buses will arrive at 8:10 just before the beginning of the school day. The length and times of routes will be determined by the number of stops. The transportation office will send out routes and stop times in mid-August once they have all the family signup information and all possible drivers hired. I cannot stress enough how important it is that you fill out the transportation survey so we can accurately plan routes. The EWSD Transportation Department will be sending out information about signing up for bus transportation at the end of July.

After School Activities

EJRP will continue to offer after-school care for students in grades K-5, and we have adjusted the school schedule and extended or adjusted the work day for some of our employees to provide appropriate supervision of bus riders from 3:15-3:45 as we anticipate roughly 100 students with an extended school day. If your child does not need to ride the bus, please pick your child up at the front circle and do not plan to arrive before 3:15. After speaking with the State Police, we are not allowed to back up traffic on Brookside Road waiting for school dismissal and traffic is allowed to pass any parked car. This isn't safe, so I highly recommend that you arrive no earlier than 3:10. We can run car dismissal in 10 minutes and we cannot get all students out until 3:15 so arriving early doesn't speed up dismissal time and there is no incentive to get in line early as it backs up traffic.

Afterschool activities for middle school students in the fall include robotics, soccer, and band. The soccer season will begin Aug 30 and run until Nov. 1 and basketball will begin November 27th. Robotics will begin in September and end Mid-January. Your child may sign up for athletics on the webpage ([Westford Interscholastic & Intramural Athletics](#)) and can sign up for robotics by contacting [Mark Drapa](#). It is unlikely that we will be able to provide transportation to away games this year due to bussing challenges. However, we continue to work on van transportation options for students who wish to participate in co-op sports at Essex Middle School. You can expect more specific information concerning game schedules and practice schedules in late August from Rich Staab, Athletic Director, and Mark Drapa Robotics Coach.

Kindergarten Registration and Placement

Please contact the main office if you need to register a child for kindergarten at Westford School for the 2023/24 year. Ms. Cassidy has reached out to all families of registered students and provided specific information such as a sample schedule, examples of student work, and important dates such as Kindergarten Orientation on Monday, August 28th when students will visit their new classroom.

We will have one K classroom, one 1st grade classroom, one 2nd grade classroom, and one multi-age 1/2 classroom to best serve our students. We hired Sarah Lothrop as our 1/2 teacher. Cassidy Shumway, Mariah Burke, and Emily Burgess return as our K-2 teachers.

School Calendar & Upcoming Events

The first student day of the 2023/24 school year is Wednesday, August 30, and we are inviting families to classrooms to support smooth student transitions on Monday, August 28th. The school calendar is available online and easily accessible on the school webpage @ [EWSD Calendar 2023-2024 - Family Version \(Printable PDF\)](#)

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/>

From community partner My Healthy Vermont!

MY HEALTHY VERMONT

Have you heard about My Healthy Vermont?

Well, if you haven't I'm glad you're reading this, I'd like to invite you to check out our FREE evidence based workshops. We offer mostly virtual workshops that are live, and interactive, but never recorded. Our workshops are facilitated by Vermonters who are trained to engage the group in thoughtful discussion, provide reliable up to date information and guide participants in creating sustainable lifelong habits that align with their values.

You may benefit from participating in a workshop if your answer is yes to any of the following:

- You are living with one or more chronic conditions
- At risk for Type 2 Diabetes
- Interested in focusing on ways you can feel your best
- You would like to be part of a supportive group atmosphere

If you want to learn more, visit <https://www.MyHealthyVT.org> and click "Get Started" to take the next step. We currently have five workshops to fit the various interest of Vermonters including:

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| - Diabetes Prevention Program | - Diabetes Self-Management Program |
| - Hypertension Control Program | - Tobacco/Vape Cessation Workshop |
| - Chronic Pain Self-Management Program | * Some programs starting soon! * |

Contact:

Amy Rainville Selfmanagement@uvmhealth.org
802-497-7822