



# WESTFORD NEWSLETTER



*October 2023*

The **American Marten** is on Vermont's endangered species list. Its population was once low due to habitat loss and fur trapping. They live mostly in mixed forest and mountain regions and are omnivores, although usually eat small mammals.

## Westford Town Office

1713 Vermont Route 128 - Westford, Vermont 05494

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

<https://westfordvt.us/>

## TOWN OFFICE NOTES

### Selectboard FY'25 Budget Workshops

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

- 10/12
- 10/26
- 11/9
- 12/14

If needed, additional meetings will be held. The Board encourages residents to attend these meetings to provide feedback to assist the Board in developing a budget to be voted on in March 2024.

### Senior Luncheon

Does the cooler fall temperatures? Have you craving some home-cooked comfort food? If yes, then please join us for our October luncheon as we serve up breakfast for lunch! Any Westford residents 55+ (no you don't have to be a "senior") are welcome to join us on Monday 10/9 at the brick meeting House. Doors open at 11:30 AM for conversation & chitchat, with meal service beginning around 12 noon. Grab a friend/neighbor and give us a try! We had several new attendees last month and hope to see a few more this time around. It's always fun to meet new folks. . Please reach out if you have any questions or need a ride. We respectfully asked folks to pass on lunch if you're having any respiratory symptoms. Thank you!

**Co-presidents Mary Fay (802- 878-1215) & Cori Hill (802-238-1018)**

### Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the November Newsletter is 12:00 noon on Monday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## TOWN OFFICE HOURS

The office is open:

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

The office is **CLOSED**:

- November 7 – Wastewater Bond Vote

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



## FALL ROADS

What you need to know about fall road conditions

- **Tourists:** watch for tourists “leaf peeping”. They may be driving slowly or be in need of directions.
- **High Winds:** can damage trees which then may block roads. Come across a tree blocking the road? Give the town office a call!

### Reminders:

- Several hunting seasons occur during fall. Watch for vehicles parked on the side of roads. Pedestrians and pets should wear orange/yellow reflective clothing.

## WESTFORD COMMON USE POLICY

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

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY

The Town of Westford has several volunteer opportunities to serve the community. To apply for one of the positions below, please submit an application ([APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO westfordvt.us](https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Common-Use-Application-Policy.pdf)) to [townadmin@westfordvt.us](mailto:townadmin@westfordvt.us) or mail/drop off at the town office.

### The Clean Water Advisory Committee

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

### CCRPC Lamoille Basin Water Quality Council

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

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

Potential members should be:

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

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

# 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: John Roberts, 1713 VT Route 128, Westford, VT 05494.

For more information, contact John Roberts at [road\\_foreman@westfordvt.us](mailto:road_foreman@westfordvt.us) or 802-879-4306  
Position open until filled. Westford is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

## TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

The Town of Westford, Vermont is seeking its next Town Administrator for an immediate opening. The perfect candidate will be an energetic, organized, and personal professional who is committed to maintaining our traditions of community and transparent good governance, while also championing our efforts to bring more modern, more accessible, and more efficient services to our townspeople.

Under the direction of the Selectboard, the Town Administrator is responsible for effectively administering the functions of both town government and the town office. This role will frequently also include oversight and implementation of special projects intended to advance the town in meaningful and sustainable ways.

A successful applicant would ideally have significant relevant experience in municipal governance, or in comparable roles from business or industry. Our next Town Administrator will have a can-do spirit and a desire to contribute to our community through direct, grass roots public service, and will receive a competitive benefits package and an annual salary of \$70,000 or more, perhaps significantly more, depending on experience and demonstrated ability.

To learn more, please review the following:

[Town Website](#)

[Job Description](#)

[Town Annual Report](#)

[Monthly Town Newsletters](#)

Westford will consider any combination of education and experience that will lead to successful performance in this role. The Town's goal is to hire the candidate who is best able to fulfill the objectives of the position. We, therefore, encourage people with non-traditional, transferable skill sets to apply, even if the candidate believes they do not meet 100% of the qualifications listed in the job description.

If you would like to be considered for this opportunity, please email a cover letter and resume, in confidence to [selectboard@westfordvt.us](mailto:selectboard@westfordvt.us).

The Town of Westford is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



# **Westford Community Wastewater Project**

## **Upcoming Meetings**

Opportunities to come together to ask questions and learn about the project  
in advance of a **November 7, 2023 Bond Vote**.

### **Informational Meeting**

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

6:30-8:30pm

Westford School

### **Bond Vote Public Hearing**

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

7:00pm

Westford School

**Visit [www.WestfordsFuture.com](http://www.WestfordsFuture.com) for more information**

*Hybrid meeting/hearing options available, scan the QR code for more info.*



These are meetings of the Westford Planning Commission &  
Community Wastewater Outreach Advisory Committee  
Background Photo by: Orah Moore Photography

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE WASTEWATER BOND VOTE

The Wastewater Bond Vote will be held on  
**November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023** at the **Westford School** from **7am-7pm**.

The town will be sending ballots in the mail to **ALL ACTIVE VOTERS**. This was a decision made by the Selectboard during their August 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. Your mail-in ballot will come with return postage so you can easily send your ballot to the town. You may also drop your ballot off at the town office in the secure drop box outside of the office to the left of the front door OR in the drop box inside by the front counter. On polling day, please drop all ballots off at the polling location: the gym at the Westford School on Brookside Road.

If you want to vote physically at the polls you are always more than welcome to do so! Please bring your ballot with you if you can, but no worries if you forget, we always have ballots available. You are also welcome to come with your already filled out absentee ballot and put it through the tabulator yourself!

Not sure if you're registered to vote in Westford? Check your voter registration status here: <https://mvp.vermont.gov/>

If you have questions about the ballots and voting process? Feel free to give the Town Clerk's office a call: 802-878-4587 or email us: [townclerk@westfordvt.us](mailto:townclerk@westfordvt.us)

We will continue to post updates and new information in the months running up to the election both in the Newsletter and on Front Porch Forum.

Questions about the Community Wastewater Project in general? Visit: <https://www.westfordsfuture.com/>



### 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 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



Roughly 70 folks attended Howard Coffin's fascinating talk on the year in the early 1800s when there was no summer and many died. This was a real happening with no sun, no crops, no food and no warmth. Vermonters fared better than some other states and countries with neighbors helping neighbors but it was tough. Thanks for making it a successful event.

Next on our schedule of fall events is Christine Hadsel's presentation on painted theater curtains. This is a Vermont Humanities Council Program hosted by the Westford Historical Society. Between 1880 and the Second World War these theater curtains were artistic features in most New England villages. Westford was no exception.

Christine, director of "Curtains Without Borders," will provide a glimpse into the world of talented and often sophisticated artists who were part of the rural cultural scene. She will discuss the restoration process used to preserve Westford's theater curtain. And, you will be the first to view our newly restored Westford Town Hall curtain which will hang at the Westford Historical Society's building on Common Road. The talk takes place this Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 at the Brick Meeting House. The "viewing" will be at roughly 3:15 at the WHS building. As a reminder, both the Brick Meeting House and the WHS building are wheelchair accessible.

As always, these presentations are free and open to the public. Donations are always welcome as are new members since our core group is small and not getting any younger!! We hope you will mark your calendars and join us on Saturday.

**For more information please contact Caroline Brown at 802-878-8890 or Glenn Rogers at 802-878-4524.**



## **Proposed Community Wastewater Project – Updates & Events**

Thank you to everyone who attended the September 13<sup>th</sup> Community Wastewater Informational Meeting. Approximately 162 people attended in-person or via zoom. If you missed the informational meeting, you can now view it at <https://lcatv.org/westford-wastewater-information-2023-09-13> You can also view the informational slide show from the meeting at: [https://www.westfordsfuture.com/uploads/1/3/8/4/138498261/vermont\\_westford\\_community\\_presentation\\_9-13-23\\_3.pdf](https://www.westfordsfuture.com/uploads/1/3/8/4/138498261/vermont_westford_community_presentation_9-13-23_3.pdf)

The Westford Planning Commission & Wastewater Outreach Advisory Committee will hold *another informational meeting* on **Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at the Westford School and via Zoom**. This event will be similar to the September 13<sup>th</sup> Informational Meeting.

**Visit [www.WestfordsFuture.com](http://www.WestfordsFuture.com) for more information.**





## WESTFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

### **Westford Volunteer Trail Maintenance Day**

Do you enjoy hiking the beautiful trails Westford has to offer? Please consider signing up for our volunteer trail maintenance day. We will meet on October 14 at 9:30am at the kiosk in front of Westford Elementary School. Rain date October 15, 9:30am.

We will spend the morning clearing any debris on trails in the Misty Meadows Town Forest (behind the school) and Maple Shade Town Forest (across the street from the school). Please bring loppers, clippers, rakes, and helpful children! Don't forget to bring water, snacks, and necessary layers for dynamic VT weather. This is a great way to contribute to maintaining the trails we all love and enjoy!

To sign up, please email WCC [westfordcc@googlegroups.com](mailto:westfordcc@googlegroups.com).

### **New Equipment Shed**

WCC received grant funding from ARPA to build an equipment shed located behind the school, next to Westford's new pump track! The shed was recently finished and will store the cross-country grooming equipment and trail maintenance tools for Westford's trails. Special thanks to Joel Fay for leading the charge in the ARPA grant application and construction of the shed; Dale Rodgers, Elias Rosenblatt, Chris Cunningham, and Tom Lane for help with construction of the shed. The hard work of these folks made it possible! Thanks!

### **Pollinator Garden at WES**

Wondering what's going on behind Westford Elementary School? WCC is working with Bee the Change, a non-profit organization dedicated to establishing pollinator-friendly environments across Vermont. Here's an update from Bee the Change:

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS BEE?



MISSING

Perhaps you are thinking this is a honeybee - the colors are right. The rear portion, known as the metasoma, sports the classic black and yellow hues of a honeybee.

However, this is *Bombus fervidus*, one of 17 bumblebee species native to Vermont. This species has become increasingly rare in Vermont. It has nearly disappeared from New Hampshire, where it once thrived, and hasn't been spotted in Westford for quite some time. The last sighting occurred a few years ago in Richmond.

But here's the exciting part: by creating habitats abundant with native flowering plants, we can bring this bee back. This is the primary mission of Bee the Change, a non-profit organization dedicated to establishing pollinator-friendly environments across Vermont.

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In a pollinator habitat created within a fifty-acre solar field in Ferrisburgh, *Bombus fervidus* remained a rare sight for five years. However, today, it stands as the second most frequently observed bumblebee species.

Yes, it's making a comeback!

And that's precisely what we're doing at Westford School. We're creating a space filled with native wildflowers that will provide vital support for pollinators—those incredible creatures responsible for transferring pollen from one flower to another. These include flies, moths, butterflies, bees, and various other insect families—all available for close observation. This work will take some time. This fall, we are prepping the land by tilling and planting a cover crop. This will help reduce the abundance of grasses and weeds before planting wildflowers. Next spring, we'll ask for help from community members (including students!) in planting wildflowers in the designated pollinator habitat. We'll include an educational sign that describes the importance of this habitat for pollinators, so Westford is informed of this great work.

The pollinator habitat will thrive at the Westford School for years to come!

So, let's keep an eye out for *Bombus fervidus*!

### **Westford's Community Wastewater Project**

The Westford Conservation Commission is in support of Westford's Community Wastewater Project. The declining health of the wastewater systems serving the buildings around the common has reached a critical point and we feel it is in the town's best interest to not only provide a solution for the existing buildings, but establish a structure that can allow our town center to grow and flourish under Westford's form-based zoning code. It is our duty to conserve the existing natural resources of our town, including soil and water. A community system would remove the need for individual septic systems which have the potential to leach and contaminate ground and surface water.

It was with this wastewater project in mind that the Jackson Farm was purchased and the Maple Shade Town Forest (MSTF) was established. As stated in the Management Plan for the Westford Town Lands, *"The MSTF may also provide the opportunity for creating wastewater capacity for the Westford Common, in the area designated in the property's conservation easement."*

We encourage everyone to learn more about the project and its benefits at [www.westfordsfuture.com](http://www.westfordsfuture.com).

### **Active Hunting**

Hunting is a permitted activity in the Maple Shade Town Forest from October 1 - December 15, 2022. All hunting activity during these periods must follow state laws and season regulations.

Be aware that other trails in Westford run through or abut private property, where legal hunting may take place.

Take precautions: wear orange and leash dogs.

Visit <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/hunt/hunting-and-trapping-seasons> for more information.

### **And as always,**

Please let us know if you see downed trees or other required maintenance to any of the trails.

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

Our next meeting will be on October 18, 2023 at 6pm at the Westford Town Hall. Agenda will be posted in advance.

Enjoying the trails? **Consider a donation** to the Westford Conservation Commission to help our hard-working volunteers purchase equipment, hire professionals, and sponsor events.

**Westford Conservation Commission**

**1713 Vermont Route 128**

**Westford, VT 05494**





**WESTFORD  
COMMON  
HALL**



**Westford Common Hall Music Series** - The 2023- 2024 Music series starts up again on October 15th featuring The Twangtown Paramours – Note that due to the continued construction work at the WCH, this first concert will be held at the Brick Meeting House from 4pm-5pm.

**Grant Funding** - Congratulations to us! The WCH has received a \$5,000 Creative Futures Grant from The Vermont Arts Council. These funds may be used for any regular operating expenses so we can continue to bring fun and enriching events to Westford once our construction is completed. A big thank you to Andy Fulton for bringing about this success.

**We'll Be Back in Business Soon** - Progress continues on the energy efficiency and ADA compatibility renovations with the attic insulation and wall insulation completed, the heat pumps located and installed, and piping connected, the floor will be cleaned and the carpet reinstalled and the electrical hook up happening this week, the WCH will soon be back in business.

**Volunteers Needed!** Over the past year the WCH has provided many community spirit building events for our town. We have hosted the Music Series, concessions for the Turkey Trot, events for the February Winterfest, the Spring Adult Prom, the Collaborative ART SHOW with the Westford Elementary School, the Fourth of July Hot Dog Sale, Dinner and Show with Steve Hartmann, and the Natalie Padilla concert. The majority of the effort to host these events fell on the shoulders of the WCH Executive Director and Board Members. Would you be interested in helping us in the future? As the saying goes, "many hands make light work". If you are interested in helping and would like to be included on a list of volunteers, please contact WCH Board Member, Maura O'Brien, [secretary@westfordcommonhall.org](mailto:secretary@westfordcommonhall.org) with your Name, Phone number and Email address. From there, we can reach out as needs arise. Thank you!

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



21 Brookside Road, PO Box 53, Westford, VT 05494  
Email us at [info@westfordcommonhall.org](mailto:info@westfordcommonhall.org)

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

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

**Instagram:** westfordcommonhall We are a  
non-profit 501c3.

## *Vermont's Historic Theater Curtains*



Between 1880 and World War II, painted theater curtains were artistic features of most New England villages and towns. Westford's, as shown above, was no exception.

Join us on October 7th as Christine Hadsel of "Curtains without Borders" gives her presentation on the talented artists who produced these works of art and explains what is being done to preserve them. She will also discuss the restoration process used to preserve Westford's own Theater Curtain. After the presentation, attendees will be the FIRST to view the newly restored Westford's Town Hall Curtain.

Saturday, October 7, 2023 at 1:30 P.M  
Brick Meeting House on the Common  
1685 VT Rte. 128, Westford VT  
Free and Open to the Public

For more information, please contact Caroline Brown at (802) 878-8890 or email [carolinebrown802@myfairpoint.net](mailto:carolinebrown802@myfairpoint.net) or Glenn Rogers at (802) 878-4524 email – [glenn.rogers@uvm.edu](mailto:glenn.rogers@uvm.edu). A Vermont Humanities Council Program hosted by the Westford Historical Society.



# 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: FALL

- Leaves and grass clippings are valuable compost materials because they are carbon rich. Add them in small batches to avoid matting (too many leaves clump together and slow down the compost process)
- Cover your pile or use an enclosed composter to keep things moist but not sodden. This will also deter pests like bears, raccoons, and mice.
- Other items that can go in your compost this time of year include wood ash and the skeletons of annual flowers & plants. Break down large-bodied plants like tomatoes and broccoli before adding them to your pile.
- Store compost material like leaves & grass in a burlap sack near your pile for adding with food scraps.

How to make compost fast: <https://thisismygarden.com/2018/07/summer-compost-pile/>

## STAY UP TO DATE WITH OUR HAULER

Myers has now set up a Facebook page for Westford specific trash & recycling communications! You can find it here: <https://www.facebook.com/Town-of-Westford-Waste-104918838111423>.

## **Westford Music Series 2023/2024**

*Sundays: 4-5 pm at the Westford Common Hall*

*21 Brookside Road, Westford, VT*

October 15, 2023: Twangtown Paramours

November 12, 2023: Marsh Lights

December 17, 2023: Carol Ann Jones and Friends

January 21, 2024: FREVO

February 25, 2024: Will Patton Ensemble

March 24, 2024: Dale & Darcy Trio

April 7, 2024: Heliand

May 5, 2024: Howling Waters





# WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

<https://westfordpubliclibrary.org>

(802) 878-5639

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

1717 VERMONT ROUTE 128, WESTFORD VT



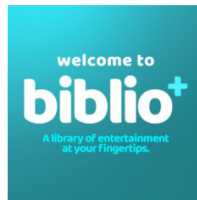
## Coffee and Cards 10:30am-Noon

**This month - October 10 & 24**

Cribbage, Euchre, Hearts, Rummy - whatever your game - we will play it. Meet 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, especially looking to connect with seniors.

## Have you tried Biblio+?

Sign up with your library card at [www.biblioplus.com](http://www.biblioplus.com) to start streaming their selection of films and TV series today! The biblio+ app is available for download on Apple devices (iPhone, iPad, Apple TV), Android phone and tablet, Amazon Fire TV, and Roku, or stream directly from [www.biblioplus.com](http://www.biblioplus.com).

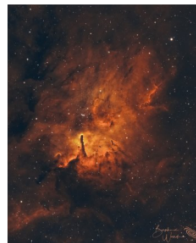


## Let's Get Excited About Space Series:

### Astrophotography - Wednesday, October 25 7-9pm, presented by Bernhard Wunder

Night Sky Photography is a fascinating genre and gaining popularity in the photography community and beyond. It is an exciting field where individuals can still distinguish themselves, but the equipment and techniques are a bit more tricky and involved than your typical landscape setup.

This presentation will give an overview of various photography subjects in our night sky and then dive into Deep Sky Astrophotography with telescopes.



**Seeking artists to display their work at the library. Art hangs for about three months. Contact Bree to learn more.**



## OPEN HOURS:

Tuesdays 10am-7pm

Wednesdays 1-7pm

Thursdays 10am-7pm

Fridays 1-7pm

Saturdays 10am-2pm

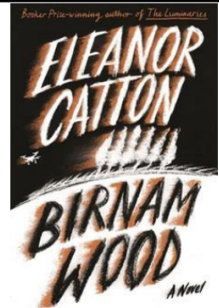
## Adult Book Group Wed., October 17 (note the date!)

7:00-8:00 pm

Birnam Wood

By: Eleanor Catton

A gripping thriller of high drama and kaleidoscopic insight into what drives us to survive.



A landslide has closed the Korowai Pass on New Zealand's South Island, cutting off the town of Thorndike and leaving a sizable farm abandoned. The disaster presents an opportunity for Birnam Wood, an undeclared, unregulated, sometimes-criminal, sometimes-philanthropic guerrilla gardening collective that plants crops wherever no one will notice. For years, the group has struggled to break even. To occupy the farm at Thorndike would mean a shot at solvency at last.

But the enigmatic American billionaire Robert Lemoine also has an interest in the place: he has snatched it up to build his end-times bunker, or so he tells Birnam's founder, Mira, when he catches her on the property. He's intrigued by Mira, and by Birnam Wood; although they're poles apart politically, it seems Lemoine and the group might have enemies in common. But can Birnam trust him? And, as their ideals and ideologies are tested, can they trust one another?

Birnam Wood is Shakespearean in its drama, Austenian in its wit, and, like both influences, fascinated by what makes us who we are. A brilliantly constructed study of intentions, actions, and consequences, it is a mesmerizing, unflinching consideration of the human impulse to ensure our own survival.

Print copies available at library, ebook available on Libby (might have to place a hold). No audiobook is available.

## Early Literacy Storytime - Thursdays at 11:30am inside the library.

10/5/23: Theme: Banned Books Week (picture books that have been banned or challenged in the past)

10/12/23: Theme: Farms

10/19/23: Theme: Pumpkins and Squash

10/26/23: Theme: Halloween (wear your costume)

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

## October Library Events

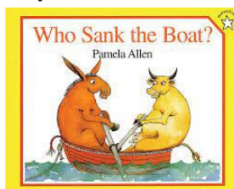
October 1-7 - Banned Books Week  
 October 3 - September Trails Passport Winner drawn  
 October 5-7 - Costume Shop Open  
 October 5 - Maker's Night 6:30-8pm  
 October 10 - Coffee and Cards 10:30-Noon  
 October 11 - Trustees Meeting 7-9pm  
 October 12-14 - Costume Shop Open  
 October 18 - Adult Book Group 7pm - discussing  
 Birnham Wood by Eleanor Catton  
 October 19 - Family Science Night 6:15-7:15 -  
 registration required.  
 October 21 - Finding Family: An introduction to  
 genealogy from the Vermont Genealogy  
 Library, 2:00-3:30pm, registration required.  
 October 24 - Coffee and Cards 10:30-Noon  
 October 25 - Astrophotography, 7pm  
 October 26 - Table Top Game Night 6:30-8pm  
 October 29 - Halloween Walk on the Common 1-3pm  
 October 31 - Trick of Treat all day at the Library

**Storytime Thursdays 11:15 in the Library**

**Family Science Night! Who Sank the Boat?**  
 Thursday, October 19 from 6:15-7:15pm  
 Sign up required.

Join Ms. Bree for a find night of  
 exploring science! In partner-  
 ship with ECHO, VT Agency of  
 Education and Vermont Public,  
 we will explore what things float  
 and create some of our best boat  
 designs.

Hands on learning, stories, and a FREE BOOK for all  
 families. Best suited for our PK-2nd grade friends,  
 but curious kiddos of all ages are welcome with at  
 least one adult. Please register by email or phone.



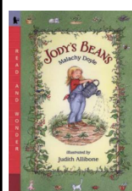
**Finding Family: Vermont Genealogy Library**  
 An Introduction for Families starting their Genealogy  
 Saturday, October 21 from 2:00-3:30pm  
 Sign up required via email or phone.

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 chil-  
 dren starting this process out. Recommended for any-  
 one third grade and up. This program will fill the needs of  
 those adults who are just starting out as well, but we  
 would like to see some kids come to this and the presen-  
 tation will be geared a bit younger.

Fall is a great time to explore Westford's Trails!

**Trails Passport - Get passports at the**  
**Library.** New locations, new stamps,  
 same fun! Prizes, too! Runs through  
 October.



**New Story Walk on the**  
**school trails**

Enjoy "Jody's Beans" on the school  
 trails. Story starts at the front paring  
 lot kiosk.



**First EVER**  
**Costume Shop!**  
 Come shop the  
 costumes  
 Oct. 5-7 and  
 Oct. 12-14

during regular library hours All sizes and  
 themes. You do not have to bring things to  
come get new to you costumes. Save the  
 environment and save some money!

**THEN...WEAR YOUR COSTUME TO:**

**HALLOWEEN WALK ON THE COMMON**  
**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29 from 1:00-3:00PM**

Trick-or-treat on the Westford Common! Stop by the  
 Library table for a chance to win a book and more!

- o Spooky Table Decoration Contest
- o Bring a non-perishable item for the Westford Food Shelf
- o Halloween fun and games at the gazebo

**TRICK OR TREAT AT THE LIBRARY! ALL DAY**  
**ON HALLOWEEN - 10am to 7pm**

We will be in costume and have  
 goodies to share. Stop by and  
 give us a good scare!



**TABLE TOP GAME**  
**NIGHT - NEW GROUP!**

**MEETS THE 2ND AND**  
**4TH THURSDAY OF**  
**THE MONTH FROM**  
**6:30-8PM**



Meets this month on Thursday, Oct. 26.  
 Hosted by avid table top gamers Bill & Martha  
 McClintock.

Bill and Martha will bring games from their  
 extensive home game collection to share with  
 those who come. This is a new group, so we  
 will see how it goes. Please come to make  
 things like this possible. Snacks provided.  
 Bring your own beverages.

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





## 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!



***Senator Irene Wrenner, Chittenden North***

September 25, 2023

As the daylight fades earlier each evening, I'm reminded that – in between the smoke, heat, rain, and mosquito attacks – this legislator had a productive summer.

After lodging in Montpelier for much of January through mid-May, I welcomed opportunities to connect with Chittenden North district dwellers: municipal meetings,

indoor / outdoor concerts, card games, memorial services, lectures, parades, exhibits, fairs, farms, dances, foot races, service projects, thrift stores, pot lucks, yard sales, a magic show, a museum, even karaoke.

Throughout the summer, I've heard from constituents via email and met others as I canvassed homes. While some may be surprised to see me at their door, knocking in an “off year” allows me to have extended conversations and meet people I didn't encounter last year.

Thank you to everyone who has shared concerns about local and statewide issues, however we connected. I will have plenty to work on when the session starts up again in January! For the record, I also ventured outside of our district to tour Camp Johnson in Colchester and the Vermont Foodbank in Barre. I traveled to Bakersfield to learn how a stream's ecosystem has begun to recover, two years after the removal of the Johnsons Mill Dam. (The state has more than 1,000 dams remaining, and we fund those who monitor them. The Conservation District sponsoring [this event](#) receives state funding, too.)

Summer legislative committees have met several times in Montpelier and will continue into the fall. I'm serving on the Joint Legislative Judicial Oversight, Government Accountability, and Joint Information Technology Oversight Committees.

If you don't see me on your road or at an event, reach out with your concerns, please, at [iwrenner@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:iwrenner@leg.state.vt.us).







## WESTFORD RECREATION DEPARTMENT

October, 2023

**Westford Recreation Department Board meeting** 10/3 starting at 7pm @ Town Office & via Zoom

WRD needs you! There is a board seat open. If you have 2 hours per month on the first Tuesday from 7 to 9 p.m. to help guide WRD programming, please e-mail with your interest.

What programs and equipment do you think Westford Recreation needs? Find the forms on the website and let us know! We want to hear what equipment you think Westford needs, and what programming you would like to see offered.



Remember, the WRD Committee doesn't do the programming, we just facilitate. The Board is made up of volunteers, and the Coordinator is just a 12 to 15 hour per week position. The other towns have paid staff to run programs, WRD does not. Please let us know if you would like to provide a program!

### New!!!

- ❖ **Adult Pick-up Basketball** @ Westford School – Wednesdays 7 to 9 p.m. when school is in session Ages 16+ October - January (fall session) & February - June (spring session) \$5 drop in, \$20 for fall session, \$25 for spring session, or \$40 for both sessions.



- ❖ **Westford Bike Park Grand Opening Celebration!** - Saturday, October 14 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. rain date, Sunday, October 15 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Check FPF & FB!

- ❖ **Halloween Walk - Potions & Pumpkins** - October 29 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

- ❖ **Westford Turkey Trot** - November 18 - Tot Trot, 3K, and 10K races. Register by November 1

and get a free race t-shirt. There will be raffles, prizes, and fun, fun, fun!



Links to registrations and more information available on the town website:  
<https://westfordvt.us/recreation/> **E-mail - recreation@westfordvt.us**

# WESTFORD TURKEY TROT

**3K 10K WESTFORD VT 2023**

**JOIN THE WESTFORD  
RECREATION DEPT. &  
BE A PART OF THIS  
HISTORIC TOWN EVENT!**

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR:**

- PHOTOGRAPHY
- RACE DAY SETUP
- RACE COURSE MARSHALS
- POST-RACE CLEAN UP
- RAFFLE DONATIONS
- WATER TABLES
- AND MORE...

**VOLUNTEER**

**INTERESTED?  
SEND US A  
MESSAGE...**

**EVENT COORDINATOR  
MEGHAN VALYOU ORISKO  
VALYOU@GMAIL.COM  
617-999-4772**

## **SCHEDULE**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH 2023**

**WESTFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 146 BROOKSIDE ROAD**

**8:30-9:30AM RACE DAY REGISTRATION & PACKET PICKUP  
SIGN IN & COLLECT YOUR BIBS & SHIRTS IN THE GYM**

**9:45AM TOT TROT**

**RUNNERS & SPECTATORS LINE THE DRIVEWAY TO CHEER  
ON THE TOTS**

**10AM 5K & 10K RACE START**

**RACERS LINE UP ON BROOKSIDE ROAD, JUST BEYOND THE  
SCHOOL DRIVE ENTRANCE**

**POST-RACE REFRESHMENTS IN THE GYM**

**PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE WESTFORD COMMON HALL**

**11:45AM WINNERS ANNOUNCED & RAFFLE IN THE GYM**

**AWARDS FOR: TOP 3 RUNNERS OVERALL & IN EACH AGE &  
GENDER CATEGORY**

## **RACES**

**TOT TROT 100 yd.**

**3K RACE 1.71mi.**

**10K RACE 6.1mi.**

## **RACE T-SHIRTS**

**FREE**

**IF YOU REGISTER ONLINE  
BY NOVEMBER 1ST**

**\$18 PRE-REGISTER ONLINE  
[RUNREG.COM/WESTFORD-TURKEY-TROT](https://runreg.com/westford-turkey-trot)  
\$20 RACE-DAY REGISTRATION**

**ALL RACERS ARE ENTERED INTO THE RAFFLE**

# **REGISTRATION**



Westford Halloween Walk organizers, in collaboration with Westford Recreation Department, present our newest Westford tradition which we've all made possible...

THE 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

# WESTFORD HALLOWEEN WALK IV: *POTIONS & PUMPKINS*

OCTOBER 29, 2023  
1:00PM - 3:00PM

ON THE WESTFORD COMMON

Come and park your broomsticks for a spooky **free trick-or-treat walk** for our Westford youngsters and young-at-heart folk, planned and (g)hosted by your friends and neighbors!

- 👁️ Fill up your candy pails on the Westford Common!
- 👁️ Show off those drop-dead gourd-eous costumes!
- 👁️ Vote in our Spooky Table Decoration Contest!
- 👁️ Carve or paint a pumpkin and win a prize
- 🍂 See Westford Recreation Department social media (FPF & Facebook) for more details
- 👁️ Even more to come! Stay tuned on Front Porch Forum

Bring a non-perishable item for the Westford Food Shelf if you can



Interested in hosting a table, or making a candy or pumpkin donation?  
Have questions? Email: [westfordhalloween@gmail.com](mailto:westfordhalloween@gmail.com)



# WESTFORD BIKE PARK GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION



Join the Westford Recreation Department to celebrate the opening of our new bike park!

**Saturday, October 14 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.**

- Fellowship of the Wheel trail builders
- Wheels on Wheels doing free bike safety inspections,
- PHAT and UVM Health Injury Prevention
- Helmets to purchase for just \$15.00
- Hand-outs from LocalMotion
- Prizes and Giveaways



**WESTFORD  
SCHOOL**  
GROWING HEARTS & MINDS FOR A BETTER TODAY & TOMORROW  
EVERY DAY, EVERY WAY, EVERY ONE



A warm welcome back to everyone and a big thank you to the Westford PTO for their work on the school's flower garden. It looks wonderful! The school year is off to a great start; for more news about Westford School, [check out our newsletter.](#)





WESTFORD MUSIC SERIES

PRESENTS

# TWANGTOWN PARAMOURS



## SOPHISTICATED AMERICANA

*-free will donation-*

**4 - 5 PM: RED BRICK MEETING HOUSE**

**SUNDAY: OCTOBER 15, 2023**

The angelic voices of this husband and wife duo is coming back to Westford. Their well-crafted award winning songs, top-notch lead singing and fine harmonies of their music can be described as a hybrid interpretation of the Nashville and Austin music scenes.

A pie raffle is included for extra fun!

Call 802-879-4028 for more information.

## SUBSCRIBE TO THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

If you would like to receive a copy of the Town Newsletter by email, send an email to [townclerk@westfordvt.us](mailto:townclerk@westfordvt.us) with your name (required), email address (required) and address (optional). To view current and past newsletters visit:

<https://westfordvt.us/documents/newsletters/>

