



WESTFORD NEWSLETTER

December 2023



The **Short Tailed Weasel** is native to both the northern reaches of North America and Eurasia. They have a diet of small rodents and lagomorphs. They do not dig their own burrows, rather nest in the chambers of those it kills.

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:

- 12/14
- 12/28

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.

New Selectboard Positions

On November 1st, the townspeople came together in a Special Town Meeting and voted to add two new selectboard positions to the board, raising the number of members from 3 to 5. In the March 2024 Town Meeting there will be 4 Selectboard positions available. They are as follows: 3 Year Term, 3 Year Term (2 Years Remaining), 2 Year Term, and 1 Year Term. When filling out your petitions please indicate which term you would like. For a full list of available positions, not just selectboard, please contact the Town Office.

Petition Deadlines

Petitions for articles to be considered for inclusion in the warning for Town Meeting are due by 4:30pm Thursday, January 18th. Petitions must be signed by at least 5% of the registered voters (a minimum of 87). Please be sure that the person signing the petition is a registered voter and that their name is legible.

Elected offices (Selectboard, etc.) – Candidates are required to file a petition signed by at least 18 registered voters and a Consent of Candidate form to run for an office. The deadline to submit the petition and consent form is 4:30 pm on Monday January 22nd. The forms can be picked up at the Town Office or printed off the town website. Please contact the Town Office for a list of offices with terms expiring in March 2024.

Senior Luncheon

Any current or past Westford resident is welcome to join us on Monday, 12/11 for our holiday lunch. The doors of the Red Brick Meeting House will be open at 11:30 with lunch service beginning around 12 noon. We will have a 50/50 raffle, door prizes and a holiday themed true/false game. We will have lyrics on hand in the event someone wants to lead a holiday sing-a-long. It definitely won't be Mary or Cori as we might clear the room if we attempt to lead with song!! Please reach out if you have any questions or are in need of a ride. Reminder, if school is closed due to weather, lunch is cancelled. We would like to keep folks healthy, so we respectfully ask you pass on lunch if you are feeling ill. Thank you!

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

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the January Newsletter is 12:00 noon on Tuesday, December 26th.

TOWN OFFICE HOURS

The office is open:

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

The office is **CLOSED**:

- December 25 – Closed for Holiday
- January 1 – Closed for New Years

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



WINTER ROADS

What you need to know about winter road conditions.

- **Plowing:** begins when the snow has accumulated 2-3 inches. Each plow route takes the road crew about 4 hours to complete.
- **Sand:** applied to all gravel roads. Some particles may be large enough to cause windshield damage. Use caution and avoid following other vehicles closely.
- **Mailboxes:** Westford does NOT repair or replace mailboxes damaged by the plow.
- **Plowing Across Town Roads:** plowing snow from driveways across town roads is prohibited.

Read the full Winter Road Policy here: <https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Winter-Road-Policy.pdf>

Reminders:

- Each winter storm is different, roads may be icy and sand may be loose. Drive slow and know what your vehicle is capable of.
- Watch for walkers and wildlife. It will be more difficult to see pedestrians and recreational users of roads this time of year due to snowbanks. Walkers, bikers and other users can do their part by wearing bright, reflective clothing.
- Some VAST trails cross Westford Roads. Know where the trails are and watch for crossing snowmobiles. You can find a list of VAST trails here: <https://vtvast.org/trails.html>
- Several hunting seasons occur during early winter. Watch for vehicles parked on the side of roads for hunting access. Pedestrians & pets should wear orange/yellow reflective clothing during hunting seasons to help ensure they are seen. You can find a list of VT hunting seasons here: <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/hunt/hunting-and-trapping-seasons>





'Tis the Season for Giving

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

Monetary donations will be accepted through Friday, December 15th. If you prefer, you can purchase the gift cards (ones that prohibit tobacco and alcohol purchases) yourself. Please mail or deliver your donation to the Town Office. The gift cards will be mailed on December 19th to Westford residents only.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY

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

The Clean Water Advisory Committee

The CWAC oversees the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission activities and policy development regarding but not limited to, the Vermont Lake Champlain Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Plan and its related plans and programs. The Committee typically meets the first Tuesday of the month. To view minutes, agendas, and other documents, please go to [Clean Water Advisory Committee - CCRPC \(ccrpcvt.org\)](https://ccrpcvt.org/clean-water-advisory-committee). For more information contact Dan Albrecht, CCRPC Senior Planner, at dalbrecht@ccrpcvt.org 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 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 or 802-879-4306
Position open until filled. Westford is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

DOG WARDEN

The Town of Westford is looking for someone who is interested in serving as Dog Warden. What is a Dog Warden? A Dog Warden is a person who helps dog owners comply with the Westford Dog Ordinance.

Qualifications: A love for dogs, the ability to communicate effectively and a location to bring dogs until they can be reunited with their owner to name a few. You may think you need a kennel to be a Dog Warden. This is not the case. However, a stray dog does need to be kept in a healthy environment until it is reunited with the owner. A healthy environment includes shelter, food, water, and a suitable area for them to relieve themselves.

The Dog Warden position receives an annual stipend of \$500 and there are funds available for training, supplies and mileage. The Town also has supplies, including a dog house, that can be utilized. If you would like more information on helping your community by serving in this position, please contact the Selectboard at selectboard@westfordvt.us or call the Town Office at 802-878-4587. Westford residency is preferred but not required.

WESTFORD MUSIC SERIES

PRESENTS

SKIP GORMAN



TRADITIONAL COWBOY SONGS

-free will donation-

4 - 5 PM: WESTFORD COMMON HALL

SUNDAY: DECEMBER 17, 2023

For over half a century, Skip Gorman has enjoyed singing and performing an impressive and varied palette of traditional American and Celtic folk music. Filmmaker Ken Burns has used Skip's original music on five of his documentaries and Skip has appeared on "A Prairie Home Companion."

A pie raffle is included for extra fun!

Call Mike 802-363-0930 for more information.



WESTFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

ACTIVE HUNTING

HUNTING IS A PERMITTED ACTIVITY IN THE MAPLE SHADE TOWN FOREST. HUNTING OF ANY SPECIES IS PERMITTED DURING DEER AND TURKEY SEASONS. Orange vests have been provided at the entrance of the forest. Please return them after your walk.

Hunting, whatever and whenever permitted, also takes place on private lands. All trails in Westford either pass through or abut private lands. Therefore, please take precautions when traveling on trails during hunting season. Hunting and Trapping Season Schedule can be found here: <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/hunt/hunting-and-trapping-seasons>.

GROOMED TRAILS

It's not too early to start thinking about snow! The WCC and volunteers will be grooming trails at the Elementary School. The trails are open to all, but to maximize everyone's enjoyment, please maintain "lanes" on the groomed trails. The set track is for cross country skiers, the corduroy is to be shared by snowshoers and skate skiers. We will endeavor to install signs to provide guidance.

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 Route 128, Westford, VT 05494. Thank you!

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

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



WESTFORD
COMMON
HALL



#GIVING TUESDAY



Please consider donating to the Westford Common Hall on the day of giving **November 28th**. We are a non-profit 501c3 and your donation is tax deductible!

Many dedicated people are working hard to keep the doors open and to provide programming designed for everyone in our community. Built in 1840, this iconic Hall continues to need ongoing attention to repairs and upgrades, as well as support for new programming. Any amount would be greatly appreciated!

There are multiple ways for you to donate:

Mail a check to:

Westford Common Hall
PO Box 53
Westford, VT 05494

or

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

or

Credit/Debit/Paypal through our online store:

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

*With
Gratitude*



We would like to thank the Westford Halloween Team: Kathleen Porter, Rebecca DaVanon, George Elliott and Kelly Morrill for collaborating with the WCH in making it possible to host Sindy Skinless and the Decomposers for Halloween this year! Thanks to everyone who attended and thanks to Bob Robertson for putting on a great show!

We also wish to thank everyone who visited the concession tables at this year's Turkey Trot, and especially all of the folks who generously donated soups, chilis, quiche, baked goods, and all the other supplies to make it a success. The fabulous food was enjoyed by all and the WCH appreciates your support! We live in an amazing community!

NEW HIRE - SEEKING WCH PROGRAM MANAGER

The WCH is currently seeking a Program Manager to support program development and the logistics for event planning for the organization. This is a highly flexible, part-time, contracted position at \$20/hour for approximately 10/hours per week with a maximum 40 hours per month. The new Program Manager will work closely with and take direction from the Board of Directors.

To learn more about the role and see the full job description, please go to the WCH website:

<https://westfordcommonhall.org/news/the-wch-is-hiring>

or you may Email Amber Haller at amber@westfordcommonhall.org

LIGHT,
HAPPINESS,
& PEACE
JOY



WESTFORD
COMMON
HALL



Westford Music Series Presents:

Skip Gorman

NATIONAL MASTERFUL COWBOY SINGER,
MANDOLINIST, FIDDLER

- Free Will Donation -

Sunday December 17, 2023

4:00 p.m.

at the Westford Common Hall



<https://skipgorman.com/>



The Westford Music Series also Presents
a Special Holiday Concert

The Fairfax Westford Band

Friday, December 22nd.

7:00 p.m.

at the Westford Common Hall



OUR COMMITMENT

We strive to make the Westford Common Hall accessible, welcoming, and open to everyone. Our goal is to promote inclusion, diversity, equity, and access throughout the organization with policies and practices that foster transformative change.

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.



WESTFORD WINTER FESTIVAL



Come one, come all!

FEBRUARY 17, 2024

11:30 - 4:00

Westford Village Common

All the fun from last year!

Food, music, games, horse drawn trolley, camp fires,
bon fire, and more!

Would you like to volunteer?



Any questions?

Westfordwinterfest@gmail.com



TRASH, RECYCLING & FOOD SCRAPS IN WESTFORD

Can I Recycle That?

Did you know that you are not supposed to put your recycling in plastic bags of any kind? The only exception to this is shredded office paper, which is accepted only if it's in a CLEAR BAG that's tightly closed.

Here are some other items that do NOT belong in your recycling bin:

- Dirty containers
- Plastic wrap
- Durable plastic (e.g., Tupperware, laundry bins, etc.)
- Styrofoam
- Motor oil or hazardous waste containers



For more information on the proper way to recycle, please visit <https://cswd.net/recycling/>. There is even an interesting video of a tour of the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) where your recycling goes to be sorted.

Food Scraps *(Effective July 1, 2020, per Act 148, food scraps are banned from landfills.)*

What are food scraps?

Food scraps are parts of food that are typically discarded rather than eaten: peels, rinds, cores, eggshells, seeds, pits, bones, shells, coffee grounds and filters, loose-leaf tea, and fats/oils/grease. Food scraps is also food that was eaten but not finished: "plate scraps" or leftovers that went bad. Any type of food can become food scraps including bread, pasta, soup, vegetables, fruit, sauces, meat, fish, dairy, sweets, etc.

What should I do with meat and bones?

If you compost in your yard, the law allows you to put meat and bones in the trash, so they don't attract animals to your composting bin. If you chose to bring food scraps to a drop-off center, you can include meat and bones with the rest of your food scraps.

CSWD has an abundance of information on their website including answers to questions, ways to reduce waste and how to compost to name a few. Please go to <https://cswd.net/scrapfoodwaste/> or call **872-8111** to get more information.

SEASONAL COMPOSTING TIPS: WINTER

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

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

STAY UP TO DATE WITH OUR HAULER

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



TRI-COUNTY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Over a hundred years ago, people around the U.S. started counting birds in mid-winter. This survey, which became known as the Audubon Christmas Bird Count, now involves traveling birders and folks who watch their backyard feeders, all over North America and in more than a dozen other countries.

Tens of thousands of volunteers drive, walk, sit, snowshoe, ski, canoe and even bicycle, while looking for and counting birds. The yearly "bird census" provides scientists with invaluable information about avian populations and locations. This year, during the 124th Audubon CBC, a local group of bird-lovers will be doing a Tri-County census in parts of Chittenden, Franklin, and Lamoille counties. On Saturday December 16, people might see slow-moving cars and/or folks with binoculars in the Cambridge, Westford, Milton, Fairfax, Fletcher, Underhill, Jericho, and Jeffersonville area.

The group invites everyone in those areas to flag us down and tell us about interesting birds they've been seeing in towns and fields, forests, and backyards, or on rivers and lakes. All the sightings and reports will be compiled and sent to Audubon, and then it will be made available to everyone on the web. The Tri-County group will also send a summary to local newspapers so that everyone can read about the rich bird life in our area, even in the winter. If you're looking to participate in this year's count, there are two ways 1) travel and count birds along a predefined route in our circle or 2) count birds on your feeder at home. If you're interested in our routes, please email Judy at grgis@ymail.com and if you're interested in a feeder count, please email Jason at mwongera@hotmail.com



WESTFORD MUSIC SERIES

PRESENTS

THE FAIRFAX WESTFORD BAND



HOLIDAY MUSIC

-free will donation-

7-8 PM: WESTFORD COMMON HALL

FRIDAY: DECEMBER 22, 2023

These talented local musicians from Fairfax, Fletcher, and Westford will perform a variety of popular, traditional holiday music for a special concert that will create a joyous tone for the upcoming holidays. The band is led by Aaron Doane as music Director along with community band members of all ages.

Call 802-879-4028 for more information.



WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

<https://westfordpubliclibrary.org>

(802) 878-5639

westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com

1717 VERMONT ROUTE 128, WESTFORD VT

The Library will be CLOSED December 26.



**Puzzle Swap - Nov. 30
thru Dec. 2 during
regular library hours.**

Do you need some new
puzzles to get you through the
winter? This is completely
FREE - take what you will do.
Kids & adult puzzles available.

You do not have to drop off a puzzle to take a new one.



Coffee and Cards 10:30am-Noon

This month - December 5 & 19

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. Please be prompt so we can include all in play.

Book Giving Trees

Choose a star from one of our book giving
trees. Each star contains the name of a
book that the Library would like to have.
There is also an online list on our Facebook
page and on FPF if you cannot make it in to
the library. Books can be dedicated to a
special person or family. Purchase the book
anywhere, or Phoenix Books (Essex location)
will give patrons 20% off the book if you bring
in the star. **Books purchased at Phoenix will stay there.**
Purchase/deliver books by Jan. 17.



We have some amazing new art going up in Decem-
ber. The Kindergartners at Westford School created
an animal alphabet based on the art style of Ver-
monter Chris Gluck. This is a great time to bring your
kindergartner into the library to see their art and
check out some "just right" books while you are here!

OPEN HOURS:

Tuesdays 10am-7pm

Wednesdays 1-7pm

Thursdays 10am-7pm

Fridays 1-7pm

Saturdays 10am-2pm

**Adult Book Group
Wed., Dec. 20
7:00-8:00 pm**

**Give the Gift of
Books!**

**GIVE THE GIFT
OF BOOKS**



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

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

**Anyone like to bake? Maybe
folks could bring some cookies
to share.**

**We will share the list with the
community.**

**Don't forget to get those letters
in by
Dec. 17!**



Thanks to the
elves at the
Rec. Dept.

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

12/7/23: Theme: Cookies

12/14/23: Theme: Holidays

12/21/23: Theme: The Sun (Solstice)

12/28/23: Theme: New Books

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

December Library Events

December 1 - Puzzle Swap 1-7pm
 December 2 - Puzzle Swap 10am-2pm
 December 5 - Coffee and Cards 10:30-Noon
 December 7 - Maker's Group Meets 6:30-8pm
 December 13 - Trustees Meeting 7-9pm
 December 14 - Tabletop Game Night 6:30-8pm
 December 15 - Leather Bookmarks - afterschool until 5pm - sign up required.
 December 16 - Sunny Saturday 10:30-11:30 (weather dependent)
 December 19 - Coffee and Cards 10:30-Noon
 December 20 - Adult Book Group - Give the Gift of Books - discussing our favorite reads of the year 7-8pm
 December 26 - CLOSED
 December 27 - Drop in Legos from 3-5pm
 December 27 - Get Excited about Space Series - All About Eclipses and Star Viewing 7:00-9:00pm
 December 28 - Tabletop Game Night 6:30-8pm
 December 29 - Drop in Blocks from 3-5pm
 December 30 - Sunny Saturday 10:30-11:30 (weather dependent)

Storytime Thursdays 11:30 in the Library

Leather Bookmarks with Helen Sterling
 Friday, December 15 - Afterschool - 5pm
 Kids ride the bus from school w/ note from home.
 Snack and all supplies included
Grades 3 & up, Space is limited
Sign up required (call or email to sign up)
 Local crafter, Helen Sterling, will teach us how she makes her cool leather bookmarks - and we will get to make one and take it home. Perfect introduction to working with leather, die cutting, and more.



Drop in Fun over School Vacation - 3-5pm
 Need to get out of the house? Want a break from screens? Drop in to the library for some fun! We will have two days of drop in fun - plan to meet up with a friend or two and play. This is not a drop off event. Families are encouraged to play together. There will be a younger kid area set up in the kids area and an older kid area set up in the main area.

12/27 - Drop in Legos from 3-5pm
12/29 - Drop in Kevas, blocks, and other building sets from 3-5pm

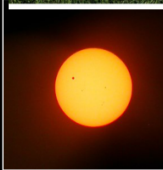


Get Excited about Space Series: All about Eclipses and Star Gazing (cloud dependent)
Wed., December 27, 7-9pm

Solar eclipse ambassador and avid space enthusiast, Molly Drapa, will explain all about eclipses - her presentation will cover what they are, why they occur, and teach you all about this upcoming, one-in-a-lifetime event. Great for all levels of learners - older kids to experts. The presentation will last about an hour. Then, if the weather cooperates, we will head outside for a tour of the night sky. Be sure to dress warmly for night sky viewing.



Sunny Saturdays - Dec. 16 & 30
10:30-11:30 on the Common
(weather dependent)



Swing by for a look at the sun! We will have a solar telescope set up to safely view the sun. We will also have several pairs of sunoculars and a sunspotter. Thanks to S.E.A.L and VTLIB for this opportunity.

(participants at both these events can sign up for guaranteed eclipse glasses to be distributed in April)



TABLE TOP GAME NIGHT - NEW GROUP!

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



Meets this month on December 14 and 28.

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 Public Library Fundraising Appeal



Providing a community hub for everyone to explore, engage, and enjoy.

Please consider donating to the Westford Public Library. Your support helps enrich our programming, adds more park and museum passes, and bolsters our digital collection. We are also able to pilot new services like Mango Languages and the Biblio+ streaming service.

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

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

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

WESTFORD RECREATION DEPARTMENT

December 2023

December 5, 2023 **Recreation Board Meeting**
7pm @ Town Office & via Zoom



Continuing PROGRAMS:

- ❖ **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
- ❖ **Women's Futsal** @ Westford School – Mondays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. when school is in session Session 1 - Nov. 13, 2023 through Jan. 29, 2024 - \$30.00 Session 2 - Feb. 5, through April 29, 2024 - \$30.00 Both Sessions - \$50.00 Drop in - \$5.00 per night

Santa's Mailbox is back again at the library!



Pop in to the library, pick up a letter form for your youth to fill out, or your youth may write their own letter. Be sure there is a return address listed so the elves can write back! The Santa Mailbox will be at the library until December 17.

Youth Basketball @ Westford School – for youth in grades 1-4 Thank you Scott and Mark for coaching AGAIN this year. 2023 - 2024 dates: 12/9, 16; 1/6, 13, 20, 27; 2/3, 10, 17 (make-up date) Overall program time 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. tentatively scheduled 9 to 10 a.m. for grades 1-2; 10 to 11 a.m. for grades 3-4, subject to change based on participant numbers. \$25.00 for 5 to 8 sessions.

Coaches Helpers Needed! We need a 2nd background checked adult for both basketball groups. You don't have to know basketball, you just need to fill out our form and stay for the session. We can use multiple volunteers for this, it is just in case the coach has to handle an emergency, someone else needs to be available to keep the rest of the participants safe.

WRD needs you! There is a board seat open. If you have 2 hours on the first Tuesday each month 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!



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

Rink Master Needed! If we don't find someone willing to organize the rink volunteers, there will not be a Westford Community Rink this winter. E-mail to offer help!



Westford Turkey Trot 2023 was a HUGE success!

Over 260 runners raised over \$2,900 for Westford family and recreation programming!

Thank you to Meghan for your many hours of volunteer organizing work and all the sponsors and prize donors! Congratulations to everyone who ran, and those who ran fast to earn a hand-made medal!



Do you like the Westford Community Ice Rink?

Do you want to see this long-standing tradition continue?

Please help! We can't do this without you!

We need a Rink Master! Someone who will organize the snow removal crew, identify when it needs resurfacing, share when the conditions are not good for use, be sure all pucks and goals have been pulled off in the evenings, etc. Someone who will ensure the board pieces are ready to set up, and call out the volunteers when it's time to take down.



E-mail recreation@westfordvt.us to offer help



What Will Next Year Bring?

Since 2020 we have included a fun fact at the top of the Westford Newsletter. So far we have done Vermont Plants, Vermont Birds, Vermont Trees, and this past year's theme was Vermont Wildlife.

What can you expect to learn about in 2024?

VERMONT AGRICULTURE

Join us each month for a fun fact about the food, fibers, and other items produced in the Vermont countryside!



REMINDERS FOR DOG OWNERS

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

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

Loose Dog? Lost Dog? Contact one of our dog warden:

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

WESTFORD MUSIC SERIES

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

- December 17 – Skip Gorman
- **December 22 @ 7 pm – HOLIDAY CONCERT with Fairfax Westford Band**
- January 21 – FREVO
- February 25 – Will Patton Ensemble
- March 24 – Dale & Darcy Trio
- April 7 – Heliand
- May 5 – Howling Waters

See You Next Year!



SUBSCRIBE TO THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

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

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