



# WESTFORD NEWSLETTER

*February 2024*



The **Beef** industry in Vermont has had a lot of growth over the past few years with many farms switching from dairy production to meat. Vermont beef farms often specialize in specific breeds of cattle, like Wagyu.

## **Westford Town Office**

1713 Vermont Route 128 - Westford, Vermont 05494

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

<https://westfordvt.us/>

## **TOWN OFFICE NOTES**

### **Candidate Forum**

The Westford Library will be holding a Candidate Forum on February 15<sup>th</sup> at 6-8pm. Meet the candidates running on the 2024 Town Meeting Ballot and ask questions. See further article in this newsletter for more information.

Zoom link for the Forum: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85912977083>

### **Town Meeting Day & Presidential Primary**

The Selectboard recently voted to send mailed ballots to all active registered voters for the March 5, 2024 Town Meeting election. You will receive your ballot at the mailing address indicated in your voter registration. To check your voter registration and make any necessary changes you can visit: <https://mvp.vermont.gov/>

Presidential Primary ballots are now available! To receive a primary ballot by mail you must request one. You can find absentee ballot request forms in person and online. For online requests go here: <https://mvp.vermont.gov/>

For in person requests stop by the Westford Town Office. You can also email in your request to [townclerk@westfordvt.us](mailto:townclerk@westfordvt.us) or give us a call 802-578-8141.

### **Senior Luncheon**

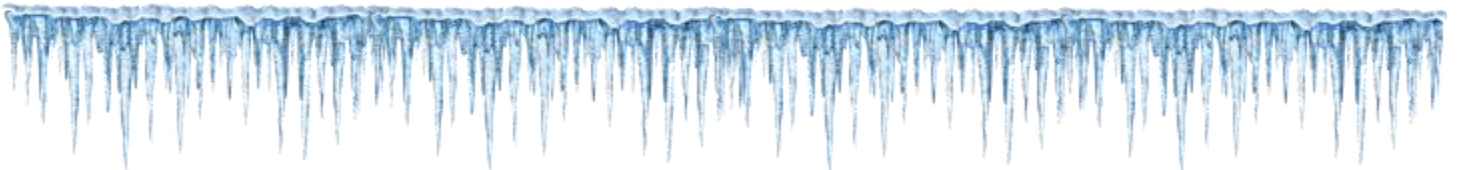
Thankfully, the weather held out for our January luncheon... let's hope the same holds true for February! Any current or past Westford resident 55+ is welcome to join us on Monday February 12 for our next gathering at the RBMH. Doors will open at 11:30 for socialization and the meal will begin around 12 noon. Bring your sweetheart, friend, or neighbor for a home cooked meal from our amazing volunteers! As always, feel free to reach out with any questions and if you are feeling poorly, please pass on lunch so we can avoid spreading any illness.

If any seniors are interested in a fitness program, here are two offerings in our area. If you would like to register for a program, please email - [livingwellprograms@mvphealthcare.com](mailto:livingwellprograms@mvphealthcare.com)

1) MVP Striders Walking Club . This meets Wednesdays from 9:30 -10:30am from January 17th March 20th at the University Mall in South Burlington.

2) Strength and Striders. Moving through a total body circuit workout, they will incorporate weights, balance, exercises, and low impact cardio walking at your own pace. This meets Thursdays from 9:30-10:30 AM from January 18th - March 21st at the St. Albans city Hall at 100 N. Main St., St. Albans.

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



### **Opportunities to Serve the Community – Appointed Positions on Boards & Committees**

The Town of Westford has several opportunities to serve the community! These appointments are for non-elected positions and are made by the new Selectboard after Town Meeting Day. To apply for one of the positions below, please submit an application ([APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT](#)) to [townadmin@westfordvt.us](mailto:townadmin@westfordvt.us) or mail/drop off at the town office.

#### **Development Review Board**

There are 2 terms coming up for re-appointment in 2024. Both seats are for 3-year terms. There are also 2 Alternate seats up for re-appointment for 1-year terms.

Members of this board review and makes decisions on:

- Appeals of Administrative Officer decisions
- Conditional Use, Site Plans
- Subdivisions & Planned Unit Development
- Variances & Waivers.

[Learn more on the website!](#)

#### **Planning Commission**

There is 1 term coming up for re-appointment in 2024. This seat serves for a 5-year term.

Members of this commission prepare the Town Plan, Land Use & Development Regulations and participate in other planning studies as necessary.

[Learn more on the website!](#)

#### **Conservation Commission**

There are 2 terms coming up for re-appointment in 2024. Both seats are for 4-year terms.

The Conservation Commission helps preserve the rural character of the town. [Learn more on the website!](#)

#### **Recreation Committee**

There are 2 terms coming up for re-appointment in 2024. Both seats are for 3-year terms.

Members of this Committee organize and runs programs for Westford residents of all ages including Futsal, basketball, annual Turkey Trot and more. [Learn more on the website!](#)

#### **Cemetery Commission**

There is 1 term coming up for re-appointment in 2024. This seat serves for a 3-year term.

The Cemetery Commission oversees the care and maintenance of the seven Town cemeteries. [Learn more on the website!](#)

**Please contact the Town Office at 878-4587 or [townadmin@westfordvt.us](mailto:townadmin@westfordvt.us) if you have questions about any of these positions.**

#### **Newsletter Deadline**

The deadline for the March Newsletter is 12:00 noon on Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **TOWN OFFICE HOURS**

The office is open:

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

The Office is **CLOSED:**

- March 5 – Town Meeting Day Election

On January 11th, 2024, the Selectboard directed the Planning Commission and consultant Ron Rodjenski to work together with clear communication and transparency to research and present alternative wastewater options for the Town.

In keeping with his directive, the Town has added a new page to the town website for post-bond-vote information. This page will contain meeting minutes, signed contracts, study results and other relevant information as it becomes available.

Check it out here (<https://westfordvt.us/wastewater-alternatives-study/>)



## 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>

## WESTFORD MUSIC SERIES

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

- February 25 – Will Patton Ensemble
- March 24 – Dale & Darcy Trio
- April 7 – Heliand
- May 5 – Howling Waters
- June 23 - FREVO



# MUNICIPAL JOB OPENINGS

## 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](mailto:selectboard@westfordvt.us) or call the Town Office at 802-878-4587. Westford residency is preferred but not required.

## WESTFORD MUSIC SERIES

PRESENTS

# WILL PATTON ENSEMBLE



### HIGH ENERGY JAZZ

*-free will donation-*

**4 - 5 PM: WESTFORD COMMON HALL  
SUNDAY: FEBRUARY 25, 2024**

Renowned jazz mandolinist, Will Patton, and his Ensemble will bring an hour of high energy improvisation and group interaction. A blend of musical genres along with a focus on fiery Brazilian sambas, folk waltzes, genre choros, hot gypsy jazz and a little bit of rock and roll attitude, this powerhouse bomb of artists will leave audiences in awe.

**A pie raffle is included for extra fun! Call 802-363-0930 for more information.**

## 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 CONSERVATION COMMISSION

### School Trails winter use:

In an effort to accommodate everyone, so we can all enjoy the trails, please follow these guidelines:

- The trails are for everyone. Please be respectful of all folks on the trails.
- **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.**
- Please keep dogs off the corduroy for the safety of other users.
- Be aware of other people on the trail. Skiers will be traveling much faster than snowshoers, so stay alert, stay safe.
- WCC Ski Report will be posted on FPF to inform people of the status of the groomed trails, so keep an eye out for it!

### Maple Shade Trails:

Once again, Evan Aiken is doing some forestry work according to the [Long-Term Management Plan](#) of the Maple Shade Town Forest. Please heed trail closure signs. **Come learn all about this micro-project with Chittenden County Forester Ethan Tapper at Westford’s Winterfest on Saturday, February 17!** Ethan’s walk will begin at 1:00 pm. Meet at the bonfire site and be prepared for the weather and terrain with slippery and uneven surfaces. Approximately 2 hours.

### Downed trees:

After the last high-wind storms, we've seen quite a few trees down or leaning, and lots of debris on our town trails. Could trail users do their part by flicking sticks and moving branches off the trail? Let us know of any larger trees down so we can clean up out there. Please be aware of any dangerously leaning trees (they're called widow-makers for a reason)!

If you're willing to help out with any larger trees, let us know so we can coordinate. Email [westfordcc@googlegroups.com](mailto:westfordcc@googlegroups.com)

### Next meeting:

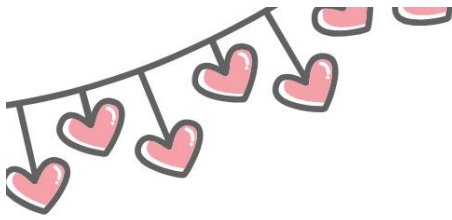
Our next meeting will be on February 21, 2024 at 6pm at the Westford Town Hall. Agenda will be posted in advance.

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

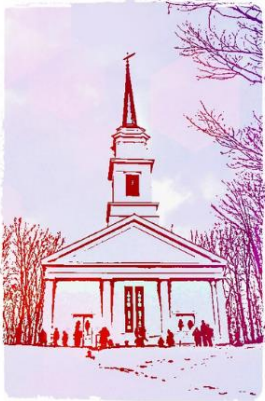
Westford Conservation Commission  
1713 Vermont Route 128  
Westford, VT 05494

## 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/>



WESTFORD  
COMMON  
HALL



**THE 3RD ANNUAL  
WESTFORD WINTER FESTIVAL  
IS**

**FEBRUARY 17TH, 2024  
11:30A.M. - 2:00P.M.?**

...and the Westford Common Hall will be holding our WinterFest Raffle, so be sure to stop by the WCH on the day of the festival to buy raffle tickets and try your hand at winning one of the fabulous prizes!



\*Are you a local business-owner, artist, or craftsperson and would like to get your name out there while helping to support the WCH? We are accepting donations of goods or services to include in our WinterFest Raffle. If interested in donating, please contact Amber Haller *before* February 9th at: [amber@westfordcommonhall.org](mailto:amber@westfordcommonhall.org)

**ARTIST RECEPTION & WINE DOWN**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 27TH, 2024 4:30PM - 6:30PM**

Come join us at the WCH to celebrate the closing night of this gorgeous photographic exhibition and our new ongoing community-building series called "Wine-Down"



The Westford Common Hall is Proud to Present a Selection of Photographer Orah Moore's Montana - Stewards of the Land - Montana Ranchers, Their Land and Livestock Photography Exhibit

OUR NEW COMMUNITY BUILDING SERIES, "WINE DOWN" WILL KICK OFF ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 27TH 4:30-6:30PM AT THE WESTFORD COMMON HALL. THESE EVENTS WILL FEATURE AN INVITATION TO FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS TO COME AND UNWIND, MINGLE AND CONNECT WITH ONE ANOTHER.

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED AND GUESTS ARE WELCOME TO BYOB.

SUGGESTED DONATION \$5 OR DONATE WHAT YOU CAN.

\*STAY TUNED TO FACEBOOK AND FRONT PORCH FORUM FOR THE DATE OF OUR FEBRUARY "WINE DOWN"!





WESTFORD  
COMMON  
HALL



WESTFORD MUSIC SERIES PRESENTS:

# Will Patton Ensemble

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 25, 2024

4:00 - 5:00 P.M.

AT THE WESTFORD COMMON HALL



February brings the renowned jazz mandolinist Will Patton and his Ensemble to the Westford Music Series at the Westford Common Hall. The concert promises to offer an hour of high energy improvisation and group interaction with the enormous talents of Dono Schabner, Steve Wienert, David Gusakov and Clyde Stats joining Will. The Ensemble brings a blend of many musical genres into a seamless whole focusing on fiery Brazilian sambas and folk waltzes, gentle choros, hot Gypsy jazz and a stir of a little rock & roll attitude with their bluegrass.



FREE WILL DONATION  
AND  
PIE RAFFLE



## Thinking of the WCH to host Civic Events?

The WCH was pleased to host the January 11th SelectBoard meeting as a comfortable, warm venue with plenty of space for the community discussion that ensued. As we move forward with plans to find funding for ADA compliant bathroom facilities and a suitable sound system, we hope to grow interest in hosting civic, cultural, and community events.



Thanks to WCH Board Member Andy, the WCH was able to sell our old oil tank and oil to the Snider Sugarshack in Richford, VT. They will be making a donation of their Maple Syrup for the WCH WinterFest Raffle!



## 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](mailto:info@westfordcommonhall.org)

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

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

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

We are a non-profit 501c3.





**COME ONE, COME ALL!**

# 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL WESTFORD WINTER FESTIVAL

**Saturday, Feb 17th, 11:30 - 4:00**

**Westford Village Common**

**LIVE MUSIC: Rockin' Ron the Friendly Pirate! &  
Les Dead Ringers**

**HORSE-DRAWN TROLLEY rides from parking at Westford School**

**Local Food & Drink • Live Music • Kids Activities  
Silent Raffle • Sledding • History Walk**

**For more information: [Westfordwinterfest@gmail.com](mailto:Westfordwinterfest@gmail.com) & [@WestfordEvents](https://www.instagram.com/WestfordEvents)**





## Westford Winter Festival

February 17, 2024  
11:30 - 4:00

**Come One, Come All,** to the Westford Village Common on Saturday, February 17th!

### Starting at 11:30:

**Horse-drawn trolley** rides from the Common to the school and back, all afternoon! Free!  
(Plenty of room to park at the School on Brookside Road)

**Kickback Brewery's** craft beer

The Westford **Chili Cook-off!**

**Gracie's Popcorn** and Cotton Candy

Free **Concerts** at the Westford Common Hall (aka: the White Church)

12:30 - Rockin' Ron the Friendly Pirate

2:00 - Les Dead Ringers

- > Visit the **Library** to begin a fun **Story Walk** that will take you around the Common!
- > **Passport** Adventure - Keep track of your fun adventures with a Westford Winter Festival Passport! Pick up your Passport at the Library, get it stamped at each event/ location you visit, and then turn it in for a drawing for \$50 or \$25 gift certificate to the Westford Store & Cafe!
- > 1:00 - **Walk/snowshoe Tour** of Maple Shade Forest with County Forester, Ethan Tapper
- > Skiing and snowshoeing in the Misty Meadows and Maple Shade Forests
- > **Sledding** across from the school on Brookside Road (Special thanks to Don & Dale Pouliot)
- > Warm up after snowy fun at the **Camp Fires** on the Common, and the **Bonfire** (on Brookside) tended by the Fire Department with **S'mores** and marshmallows from the PTO !
- > Drop by the Brick Meeting House to play **Mini Golf!** Free!
- > Get your **Westford Girl Scout cookies** at the Common Hall!
- > Tour the new **Westford Historical Society building** to catch up on their exciting progress and pick up a self-guided **Historical Tour of Westford Village** handout!
- > Stop by for **Hot Dogs, Pizza, coffee,** and more at the [Westford Store!](#)
- > **Wine tasting** at the Store!

**Silent Raffle** - Proceeds to benefit the Westford Common Hall

11:30 - 3:30pm ticket sales; drawings at 4pm, you don't need to be present at drawing to win!

Come to the **Westford Common Hall** to see the great assortment of items, activities, and services available for raffle, and put your tickets in the cups to win!

Watch Front Porch Forum and Events page for complete listing!

For more information: [Westfordwinterfest@gmail.com](mailto: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>).



# 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 - February 6 & 20

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.

## Tea Blending Class with Boheme Botanika

Wednesday, February 7  
7-9pm

Join local herbalist, Amber Kennedy of Boheme Botanika, for an evening of tea blending. Sip hot tea, learn the benefits of herbs, discover how to concoct a delicious and therapeutic cup of tea and make your own custom blend to take home along with recipes to create more!



Sign up early (email or call), space is limited.



## Meet the Candidates for Selectboard

Thursday, February 15

6-8pm via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85912977083>

See this newsletter for more information and how to ask questions. This is an informational meeting, not a debate.

*Blind Date With a Book!*

**All Month Long!**  
**Check out our display of "blind date" books - all you get is a very brief summary.**

**Will you find a new favorite author?**  
**Will you have a new reading experience?**  
**Spice up your reading by checking out a "blind date" book - take a chance on a new book!**

## OPEN HOURS:

Tuesdays 10am-7pm

Wednesdays 1-7pm

Thursdays 10am-7pm

Fridays 1-7pm

Saturdays 10am-2pm

## Adult Book Group

Wed., Feb. 21

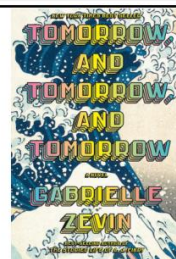
7:00-8:00 pm

**Tomorrow and**

**Tomorrow and**

**Tomorrow**

By: **Gabrielle Zevin**



Sam and Sadie—two friends, often in love, but never lovers—become creative partners in a dazzling and intricately imagined world of video game design, where success brings them fame, joy, tragedy, duplicity, and, ultimately, a kind of immortality. **It is a love story, but not one you have read before.**

These childhood friends borrow money, beg favors, and, before even graduating college, they have created their first blockbuster, Ichigo. Overnight, the world is theirs. Not even 25 years old, Sam and Sadie are brilliant, successful, and rich, but these qualities won't protect them from their own creative ambitions or the betrayals of their hearts.

Spanning thirty years, from Cambridge, Massachusetts, to Venice Beach, California, and lands in between and far beyond, Gabrielle Zevin's *Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow* examines the multifarious nature of identity, disability, failure, the redemptive possibilities in play, and above all, our need to connect: to be loved and to love.

**Print copies available at the library, ebook and audiobooks are available on Libby.**

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

2/1/24: Theme: Groundhogs

2/8/24: Theme: Valentine's Day

2/15/24: Theme: Birds

2/22/24: Theme: Teeth

2/29/24: Theme: LEAP year

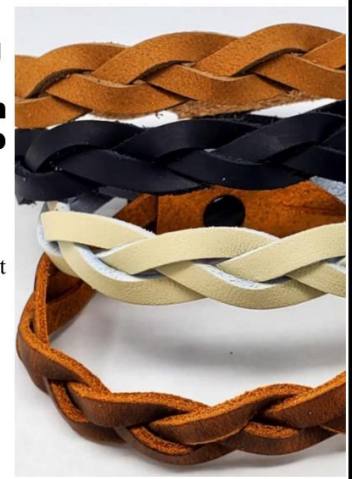
We sing songs, read stories, move and do crafts! No sign up needed, all ages are welcome.

## February Library Events

- February 1- Maker's Group 6:30-8pm  
 February 3 - National Take Your Child to the Library Day, balloons, stickers and more - 10am-2pm  
 February 6 - Coffee and Cards 10:30-Noon  
 February 7 - Tea Blending Class with Boheme Botanika - 7pm - sign up required, space is limited  
 February 8 - Leather Bracelets with Helen, Afterschool-5:30pm, sign up required  
 February 8 - Table Top Game Night 6:30-8pm  
 February 9 - Essex High School Art Opening 6-8pm, refreshments provided  
 February 14 - Trustees Meeting 7-9pm  
 February 15 - Library Closes early at 5pm  
 February 15 - Meet the Candidates for Westford's Selectboard 6-8pm via Zoom  
 February 17 - WinterFest - all kinds of fun from 11:30-4pm, library open late until 4pm  
 February 20 - Coffee and Cards 10:30-Noon  
 February 21 - Adult Book Group 7pm, discussing Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow by Gabrielle Zevin  
 February 22 - Table Top Game Night 6:30-8pm  
**Storytime Thursdays 11:30 in the Library**

## Leather Bracelets with Helen Sterling Thursday, Feb. 8 Afterschool-5:30pm Open to grades 3up

Local crafter, Helen Sterling, will be teaching a class on how to make a magic mystery braided bracelet. Each participant will go home with at least one bracelet.  
**Snack and all supplies will be provided. Attendees will ride the bus from school. Sign up (email or call) required, space is limited.**



## TABLE TOP GAME NIGHT - NEW GROUP! MEETS THE 2ND AND 4TH THURSDAY OF THE MONTH FROM 6:30-8PM

Meets this month on February 8 & 22.

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. Snacks provided.

## Sat. Feb. 3 is National Take Your Child to the Library Day!

From 10-2 we will have balloons (while supplies last), stickers, and bookmarks. Enjoy exploring the library with a child - it's the perfect day to do it! **It's also a great time to get a library card, if you've been putting it off!**



[www.takeyourchildtothelibrary.org](http://www.takeyourchildtothelibrary.org)

Westford WinterFest  
 Saturday, February 17  
 11:30-4pm  
 Library Extended Hours  
 10am-4pm

Enjoy lots of activities on and around the Common! The library is offering a story walk around the Common and the Winter Passport Program is back! Get your passport stamped and redeem for a chance at several gift cards to the Westford Store. Check out the library - materials, art, or get a library card!



COME ONE, COME ALL!  
**3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL WESTFORD WINTER FESTIVAL**  
 Saturday, Feb 17th, 11:30 - 4:00  
 Westford Village Common

LIVE MUSIC: Rockin' Ron the Friendly Pirate! & Les Dead Ringers

HORSE-DRAWN TROLLEY rides from parking at Westford School

Local Food & Drink • Live Music • Kids Activities  
 Silent Raffle • Sledding • History Walk

For more information: [Westfordwinterfest@gmail.com](mailto:Westfordwinterfest@gmail.com) & @WestfordEvents

## New Art at the Westford Public Library!

Essex High School Art 3, Art 4, and AP Art students selected pieces made with a variety of mediums, like oil, acrylic, watercolor, and digital; as well as pieces which explore a variety of themes from masculinity and childhood, to pets and outer space. Each piece is displayed with pride. As you explore the exhibition we hope that you take some time to really admire each piece.

Opening reception: February 9 from 6-8pm



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



## Meet the Candidates for Selectboard

Thursday, February 15

6-8pm via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85912977083>

The Westford Public Library is proud to impartially inform the community on its choices for local government.

**We invite you to attend the Meet the Selectboard Candidates Forum.**

**Thursday, February 15 from 6-8pm via Zoom**

**Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85912977083>**

**Moderated by Westford Public Library Director, Bree Drapa**

**The zoom audience will be muted, with cameras off, maximizing time for candidates to answer questions and minimizing distractions.**

**This event will be recorded by LCATV and will be available to watch later.**

Each candidate will have time to introduce themselves and speak about their priorities for the upcoming term. **This is not a debate**. It is an informational meeting that will help voters get to know each candidate better. Candidates will also answer pre-submitted questions.

Here is how you can ask questions:

1. For transparency sake - We are using a polling website called Slido. Slido offers an opportunity to ask questions or prioritize questions that others have submitted. So you can "vote" for questions even if you don't ask any. This helps get the most popular questions answered during our forum. To ask a question or see what others are asking, click on <https://app.sli.do/event/kBPjT8pPMjct4mDErAzmCS> (Questions will be accepted 2/6/24 through 2/13/24, candidates will be given questions ahead of time)

2. If that seems too challenging, please email [westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com](mailto:westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com) with your question or call us at 802-878-5639 and I will add it to Slido for others to see.

Question format:

Please enter the NAME of the candidate or ALL first before your question so I know who to ask. (ex. ALL - What is your favorite color? or BREE - What pets do you have?)

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

January 22, 2024

The Vermont Legislature gaveled back into session on January 3rd.

But thanks to summer floods, elected officials were also quite busy in the off session: fielding calls for assistance, meeting with committees, and drafting bills for recovery.

Certainly, other bills are being introduced. Several deal with such crises as homelessness, theft, and substance abuse. All told, House Reps have introduced 311 bills in 2024; Senators have presented 144 bills, as of January 20th.



I've had four bills drafted on behalf of constituents: S.206, S.232, S.237, S.283. A fifth bill (S.187) emerged from a summer stroll at Bombardier Park in Milton, during the annual public safety campaign known as National Night Out.

As I made my way from one booth to another on August 1st, I asked, "What laws do we need, or don't need? How can I help?"

"Child car seats" was the response from Lt. Allen Fortin of the Highway Safety Division and Sidney Bradley from the VT Health Department. Both men explained how existing statutes are NOT keeping our most vulnerable passengers safe.

Vermont's law isn't nearly as stringent as car seat manufacturers' stipulations.

Buckled-in babies are allowed to face forward too soon, I learned, leading to collision outcomes in which an entire family may walk away, except their infant or toddler dies or is seriously injured.

State Senator Ginny Lyons, who chairs Senate Health & Welfare, and I drafted a Child Safety Seat Bill that would increase the age at which a child can ride in a forward-facing seat, thus, catching Vermont up to other states.

We believe this bill, once passed, will prevent injuries and save young lives. We also believe such a law would reduce anguish and heartache among first responders and relatives, who would otherwise see worse outcomes from car accidents.

The Senate Transportation Committee invited me to introduce S.187 on January 16th. After discussion, members proposed adding this new child safety seat language to their large committee bill, rather than processing it separately.

I will continue to advocate for the provisions in S.187 and encourage my peers to pass new child safety seat regulations before the biennium ends in mid-May. I'll keep you posted! Meanwhile, please let me know what's on your mind: [iwrenner@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:iwrenner@leg.state.vt.us).

# 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](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 \(ccrpcvt.org\)](#). 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.



## 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 RECREATION DEPARTMENT

NEWSLETTER February 2024



## Westford Recreation Department Board Meetings

- Tuesday, February 6 7pm @ Town Office & via Zoom
- Tuesday, March, 5 also 7pm @ Town Office & via Zoom

## Start the New Year by Volunteering with the Westford Recreation Department!

- **Board members needed!** Spend 2 hours per month, generally the first Tuesday from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. meeting with the WRD Committee to discuss and plan programming. Occasional program involvement only as desired.
- **Ice Rink volunteers needed!** The boards are up, and the rink has been filled for the Broomball tournament, *but might not be available for other use* if we don't get some help. One or more days per week, check the conditions, post open or closed, ensure the ice is cleared in the evenings. Occasional help to shovel snow from the ice, help with resurfacing, and taking the boards down.

## Continuing PROGRAMS.

- ❖ **Pick up Adult Basketball** - Wednesday evenings at Westford School Gym
- ❖ **Women's Futsal** - Monday evenings at Westford School Gym

## Coming soon:



❖ **Broomball Tournament** is a go! To coincide with the Westford Winterfest, February 17 look for the registration soon on the town recreation web page!

❖ **Slow Flow Yoga** - Thursdays 5:30 to 6:30 at the RBMH starting, February 1 continuing through March 7. \$60 for all 6 sessions, or drop in for \$12 per week. Register at the Westford Recreation webpage.



## What we are working on for next month.

- ❖ **MS Girls basketball** - Tuesday evenings March to May
- ❖ **Babysitting course** - 1 or 2 Sunday afternoons in March

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

**WESTFORD RECREATION DEPARTMENT**  
**23RD ANNUAL ADULT BROOMBALL TOURNAMENT**



## NEW BEGINNINGS FOR BODY AND MIND

Discover the joy of New Beginnings through the transformative power of yoga. Release the clutter of everyday life, start fresh - both physically and mentally - and fill your life with purpose and vitality. Sounds good? Then join Doris for an hour of Slow Flow Yoga practice. This Vinyasa style class gently guides you into the practice with breathing exercises followed by a warm-up phase to lubricate the joints and prime the core area. While you slowly flow through a main sequence of poses, you can let go of any worries and surrender to your inner-most self. We finish the class with a cool-down and rest which will leave you physically and mentally refreshed and content.

**Thursday, 5:30pm - 6:30pm, Feb. 1st - Mar. 7th  
at the Red Brick Meeting House**

**\$60 for the whole block, or \$12 per class for walk-ins**

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



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

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

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

## Summer Archery

Hosted by Westford Recreation Department & Pelkey's Archery



**Mondays June 17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>**

**4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. at Westford Elementary School**

**Ages 5 and over      \$50 fee**

**Pre-Registration is REQUIRED by May 1, 2024.  
Sign Up on the Registration Form at**

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

# WESTFORD RECREATION DEPARTMENT 23RD ANNUAL ADULT BROOMBALL TOURNAMENT

**FEBRUARY 17, 2024**

**WESTFORD ICE RINK ON THE COMMON  
\$15 PER PLAYER (GRADES 9 AND UP)**

**22 TEAM SLOTS AVAILABLE \* FIRST COME FIRST SERVED**

Teams will battle it out in 20 minute broomball games played 4v4 plus goalies on the Westford outdoor ice rink in a double elimination tournament.

This is NOT ice hockey! No skates are needed - players wear boots (your own). We'll provide the equipment.

Teams can be coed. Adult teams are grade 9 and older and there is NO LIMIT to the number of players on a team.

All players (or a parent if under age of 18) MUST sign a waiver, or you WILL NOT PLAY....NO EXCEPTIONS.  
Additional waivers are available at Westford Town Offices.

Games will start on the half hour starting at 9:00am on Saturday, February 17th. Exact times and schedule to be determined by the number of teams registered. We will email all teams prior to the tournament with their first game time. Food and refreshments will be for sale in conjunction with the Westford Winterfest throughout the entire tournament.

Register at [Game On VT](https://westfordvt.us/recreation)