



WESTFORD NEWSLETTER

May 2024



The **Morgan Horse** is the Vermont State Animal. A versatile working animal, the Morgan was used for plowing, carting, calvary, and more. Still bred at the UVM Morgan Horse Farm, they are popular as sport and companion animals.

Westford Town Office

1713 Vermont Route 128 - Westford, Vermont 05494

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

<https://westfordvt.us/>

TOWN OFFICE NOTES

EWSD (School) Election Ballots

Since the budget article failed for the EWSD Vote, there will be a revote on May 7th. The EWSD School Board chose to NOT send ballots to all registered voters. If you want a ballot mailed to you, you will need to request one, otherwise you may come to the polls on May 7th which are open from 7am-7pm.

Dog Licenses

Dog Licenses were Due on April 1st. If you have not yet licensed your dog, please do so as soon as possible. Dogs are legally required to be vaccinated for rabies and licensed in Vermont if they are over the age of four months. New dogs will not incur any late fees for registration, but those that have been licensed in the past will now be \$14.00 for a spayed/neutered dog and \$17.00 for an intact dog.

Senior Luncheon

Happy Spring! The roads are drying up, the daffodils are blooming, and your Westford Senior volunteers are ready to cook up an Italian feast for you! Any current or past Westford resident 55+ is encouraged to join us on Monday May 13th at the RBMH for our next luncheon. Doors open at 11:30am for socializing and the meal will be served around 12 noon.

Following the meal, we have a speaker lined up to give us a fraud watch presentation. This is information we can all benefit from! As always, feel free to reach out if you have any questions and if you're feeling poorly, please pass on lunch so we can avoid spreading any illness.

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

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the June Newsletter is 12:00 noon on Monday, May 28th.

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/>

TOWN OFFICE HOURS

The office is open:

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

The Office is **CLOSED**:

- May 7 – School Budget Election Revote
- May 28 – Memorial Day

~ That's WAC! ~

The Wastewater Alternatives Committee (WAC) was established by the Selectboard to research potential wastewater sites other than the Maple Shade property. The committee has 8 members and is moderated by Ron Rodjenski, Westford's contracted Projects Manager. The committee began meeting on February 20th and meets weekly on Tuesday afternoons. The meetings can be accessed via Zoom and are recorded.

The WAC's work has proceeded along two tracks:

- One is to identify properties that might be suitable for wastewater disposal that would serve:
 - a) just the municipal buildings (Town Office and Library)
 - or b) the municipal buildings and the civic buildings (Westford Common Hall and the Red Brick Meeting House)
 - or c) those two groups plus some of the residences around the Common.
- The second track is to develop and fill in a matrix that describes what "attributes" each property has; soil capacity, ownership, cost to build a system and so on.

A web page has been created where you can find a list of possible sites generated by the committee and by soliciting ideas from the community. You can also find the "matrix" materials the committee continues to work on. In addition, you will find all the materials the committee has used and created including agendas, recordings, and minutes for all the meetings. The webpage can be accessed here: <https://westfordvt.us/wastewater-alternatives-study/>

To date the committee has prioritized 3 potential sites or types of sites and has been seeking permission to explore the sites further.

- WAC received permission to explore soil capacity on the site of 1705 VT Route 128 ("Pigeon Property"), but work was not completed before the property went under contract.
- WAC has secured preliminary permission to investigate soil capacity at the property of the Westford Common Hall.
- WAC is seeking property owners in the Village Center vicinity who believe they have septic capacity on their land that they would be willing to investigate.

The Selectboard now needs to decide what legal agreement(s) it would like to make for investigation of properties not owned by the town. While this is happening, the committee will continue to refine the "matrix" documents and will work to further define the needed septic capacity for various buildings in the Town Center.



MUD SEASON!

What you need to know about spring road conditions.

- **Mud:** appears on gravel roads as snow thaws. Reduce your driving speeds to ensure safety and to preserve road conditions.
- **Snow:** a mix of precipitation can occur. Snow on top of muddy roads will become more slippery.
- **Potholes:** WILL appear on gravel roads. They cannot be fixed in freezing temperatures. Do your part to help reduce potholes by driving slowly and avoiding areas in poor condition if you can.
- **Heavy Loads:** do damage to thawing roads. Traveling on roads with heavy equipment may be prohibited at any time.
- **Repairs:** roads are repaired as weather allows. Know that this takes time, it might take the road crew some time to get to your road. Highly traveled roads in poor condition are given priority.

Reminders:

- Watch for increased activity by wildlife including bears coming out of hibernation, wild turkey and young animals navigating roads for the first time.
- Pedestrian & recreational use of roads will increase starting at this time of the year, slow and allow room for all road users.
- Please keep pets and other animals under leash or vocal control when on or near roadways.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY

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

The Clean Water Advisory Committee

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

CCRPC Lamoille Basin Water Quality Council

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

- (a) The purpose of a BWQC is to establish policy and make decisions for the CWSP regarding the most significant water 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

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.

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: Sean Cushing, 1713 VT Route 128, Westford, VT 05494.

For more information, contact Sean Cushing at road_foreman@westfordvt.us or 802-879-4306
Position open until filled. Westford is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

WESTFORD MUSIC SERIES

PRESENTS

HOWLING WATERS



BLUEGRASS

-free will donation-

4 - 5 PM: WESTFORD COMMON HALL

SUNDAY: APRIL 7, 2024

You will not want to miss this lively, entertaining, fun trio! They liberally play and interpret songs from the blues/folk/rock traditions of the 1920's to the 1970s. Their broad variety of styles and outstanding musicianship combined with dynamic performances will reward audiences as they have come to expect.

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



Volunteer Opportunity



DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD ALTERNATE MEMBERS

The Town of Westford has 2 volunteer opportunities available in the field of land use planning, design and permitting. There are two vacant spots for ALTERNATE MEMBERS on the DRB. Alternate members will temporarily serve as Board members in the event of a recusal or absence of three or more members. Members of the Development Review Board evaluate local land use and development applications using the Westford Land Use & Development Regulations.

Benefits include:

- Increasing opportunity and a sense of community in Westford.
 - Gaining experience in and knowledge of land use law.
- Boosting your knowledge and understanding of natural resource planning, neighborhood design, context sensitive design and form-based code.
 - Gaining experience communicating directly with municipal officials and the public.
 - Understanding how to participate in project and board meetings.
 - Learning how to read surveys and site plans.
 - Growing your career experience working with a dynamic team of individuals.

The Development Review Board meets on the second and fourth Monday of the month on an as-needed basis.

For more information and/or to apply please contact:

Harmony Cism, Administrative Officer & Planning Assistant, at 878-4587 or zoning_admin@westfordvt.us

Applications can also be obtained from the Town Website at:

<http://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/APPLICATION-FOR-APPOINTMENT.pdf>

WESTFORD MUSIC SERIES

Free Concerts at the Westford Common Hall

21 Brookside Road, Westford, VT

4pm – 5pm

- May 5 – Howling Waters
- June 2 – Play in Every Town VT; David Fuerzig @ the Red Brick Meeting House
- June 23 - FREVO





WESTFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

ACTIVE HUNTING: Hunting is a permitted activity in the Maple Shade Town Forest from May 1 - May 31, 2024, and from October 1 - December 15, 2024. All hunting activity during these periods must follow state laws and season regulations. Take precautions by wearing orange and leashing dogs.

TRAIL USE: MUD SEASON is upon us! Please stay off the trails during this time of extreme muck and mud. The trails become damaged when used, and this problem perpetuates for years. We assume the trails will be fit for use again at the end of May. We will update again in the next newsletter.

GREEN UP DAY: Mark your calendars for Green Up Day: May 4, 2024 and help keep Westford beautiful.

TRAIL CLEANUP DAY: Spring Trail Cleanup Day will be held on June 1, 2024 at 9:30AM with a rain date of June 2. We have had wonderful volunteers for these events in the past, but attendance has dwindled in recent years. We hope that more people help out for cleanup day this year. If you use the trails and appreciate them, please consider participating! **Meet at the Westford Elementary School parking lot Saturday, June 1, 9:30AM.** Rakes, snippers are recommended tools. Most of the trails need "stick-flicking" and light raking to clean up storm debris. Bring shovels if you're motivated to dig some trenches to re-direct water.

Next meeting Wednesday May 15, 2024, Westford Town Office or Gazebo on the common if weather permitting!

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

COMMON USE POLICY

The Westford Common Committee wants to remind residents that any major use of the Common or gazebo requires an application. This does not apply to small gatherings like friends meeting for coffee or a couple of folks having a picnic. This policy has been implemented to avoid conflicts since the Common and gazebo are being utilized more. We ask all town organizations to also follow this procedure so the calendar will reflect all activities.

Here is a link to the application:

<https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Common-Use-Application-August-2023.pdf>

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



WESTFORD
COMMON
HALL



Welcome!

WCH WELCOMES A NEW PROGRAM MANAGER



The Westford Common Hall is delighted to welcome **Gail Patrice Deuso** as our new Program Manager! Gail's 20 years of experience as an accomplished site/stage manager and coordinator of events will serve the WCH mission well. This expertise includes her role as the Development Associate for the Vermont Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. In addition, as the Vermont Coordinator for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, she was able to strengthen their volunteer base and increase participation and revenue from various fundraising campaigns. We look forward to working with Gail and are excited for all of you to meet her!

WITH GRATITUDE

The Westford Common Hall is incredibly grateful for the generous donations we've received throughout 2023 and now into the beginning of 2024. While we do send out personal thank you notes, we want to publicly thank the much appreciated generosity of the annual contribution from the Town of Westford, the organizations who continually use our space, and the individual donors who help us to keep the doors open!

Thank you ALL!



WCH Building News

Interesting fact: Did you know that the panel doors between the WCH building's parlor and main hall actually open by recessing UP into the wall?

We have been working on getting the cantilever weights reattached so that they are fully-functioning. Stay tuned for a demonstration!

And, speaking of doors...The two exterior doors that lead from the parlor to the outside will be fixed to open and close with ease as soon as the Spring weather allows. In addition, the two doors that connect the parlor to the main hall and the shim hinges have been fixed so that they can be shut properly with door latches.

Big thanks to Board Member **Glenn Minor** for keeping on top of these building repairs and improvements!



WESTFORD
COMMON
HALL



Westford Music Series Presents: 

HOWLING WATERS

SUNDAY MAY 5TH, 2024

4:00 - 5:00 P.M.

AT THE WESTFORD COMMON HALL

If **Bluegrass** is your thing, you will not want to miss this lively, entertaining and fun band - **HOWLING WATERS** - brought to you by the Westford Music Series. The trio consists of Michael Kirick (aka Harpo) on hamonica, washboard, and vocals; Christopher Francklyn on guitars and keyboards; and Jim Street on bass. Well-know around the Burlington Blues Jam scene, they liberally play and interpret songs from the Blues/Folk/Rock tracdions of the 1920's to the 1970's.



FREE WILL DONATION AND PIE RAFFLE



Thank you

The Westford Music Series has had some pretty terrific events with the Dale and Darcy Trio in March and the HELIAND chamber players in April. Deep gratitude to Marge Hamrell and All of the Music Series Committee members. We look forward to to more great music to come!



World Laughter Day was established in 1998 and the first celebration was on 10 May 1998, in Mumbai, India, arranged by Dr. Madan Kataria, founder of the worldwide Laughter Yoga movement. The day is now celebrated on first Sunday of May worldwide. The celebration of World Laughter Day is a positive manifestation for WORLD PEACE and is intended to build up a global consciousness of sisterhood, brotherhood and friendship through laughter.

Wondering how to find out about what's going on at the WCH?



In addition to our website, you can find us on Facebook and Instagram!

Website:

www.westfordcommonhall.org

Facebook:

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

Instagram:

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

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 Historical Society

Winter has been fairly quiet for the Westford Historical Society but that doesn't mean nothing is happening. We have a new storage building, a new vacuum, and a new lawnmower—all designed to help organize and spruce up our new building and grounds!

We actually came out of hibernation on Saturday, April 13th when 37 folks attended the presentation, billed as a “Birthday Tea Party” for the late Irene Allen. Irene, a long time Westford librarian as well as a historian, genealogist, author and newspaper reporter was born in 1904 and died in 1986. She left a treasure trove of paperwork and pictures which is housed in special collections at the University of Vermont. Trish Indoe and Chris O'Donnell received grant monies from the Friends of the Westford Library and from the Chittenden County Historical Society and read through much of the collection and have begun the cataloging process. As a result of this preliminary work they were able to present some of her history. Interested citizens and relatives of long time Westford residents had pictures and tidbits to offer which made for a lively afternoon. Some even stayed for an informal tour of the new Historical Society building. If you missed this presentation it is available through Lake Champlain Access TV at <https://lcatv.org/westford-historical-society-2024-41-23>.

Thanks to Trish and Chris and all who attended, and to the Friends of the Library, the Chittenden County Historical Society and Lake Champlain Access TV.

Three members of our Society attended a “round table” session sponsored by the Milton Historical Society in their lovely renovated building on April 10th. We exchanged ideas about issues we all face but we all have the issue of recruiting new members!! Anyone interested in joining our group is asked to contact our President, Caroline Brown, at 802-878-8890.

We plan to have our building open during the July and August concerts as well as for the July Fourth celebration at which time we will have Westford's beautiful theater curtain on display for all to see. Stay tuned for dates and times.

And, in September we will be showing the Vermont made movie, Farm Boy, at the Brick Meeting House. This promises to be an interesting show, created by George Woodard in his own home! Mark your calendars for September 21 (evening showing) and 22nd (matinee). Details to follow.

The Westford Historical Society meets the 3rd Monday of each month. Our summer meeting time will start at 7 in the building at 10 Common. New members are welcome and appreciated!

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.



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: Spring

- Scavenge for compostable material during your spring clean! This is an easy way to recycle cardboard boxes, just remember to take off any tape!
- When adding new material to your compost pile, breaking down that material into smaller pieces will help it compost faster.
- Did you know you can add ash? Just do so sparingly. Coffee and coffee filters make great composting material as does citrus, just be aware that citrus takes a long time to break down.

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

1717 VERMONT ROUTE 128, WESTFORD VT

Coffee and Cards

10:30am-Noon

This month - May 14 & May 28

Meetup with folks at the library for coffee, conversation, and cards - a great opportunity to socialize and keep those card playing skills sharp. Open to anyone, but especially looking to connect with seniors.



Mango Languages

Visit our Resource Tab on our Website or download the App.

To sign up - create an account with your email, library card number (starts with 2vsr5), and a password of your choosing. Mango for libraries offers over 70 world language courses expertly designed to adapt to a diverse range of learning needs, styles, and backgrounds.



MANGO

The Westford Public Library is accepting donations for our Fourth of July Book Sale

Please, stick to these times only.

They are: 5/4, 6/1, 6/15 and 6/29.

From 9-11am.

Limit TWO boxes per person.

We WILL NOT BE ACCEPTING: VHS, Cassettes, Music CDs, textbooks, encyclopedias, magazines, and moldy or damaged books. *Ask yourself "Would I lend this to a friend?" If the answer is no, then keep it out of the book sale.* We WILL BE ACCEPTING: books, DVDs, and audiobooks in good condition. **DO NOT USE THE BOOK DROP FOR DONATIONS - IT DAMAGES THE LIBRARY BOOKS.**



Two Special Storytimes this Month (both outside):

May 2 - Green Up Day - we will be greening up and participants get to keep an adult and child set of work gloves.

May 29 9:30-10:30am- Four Winds - A Summer inspired hands-on Storytime with our WES Kindergarten.



FOUR WINDS
NATURE INSTITUTE

OPEN HOURS:

Tuesdays 10am-7pm

Wednesdays 1-7pm

Thursdays 10am-7pm

Fridays 1-7pm

Saturdays 10am-2pm

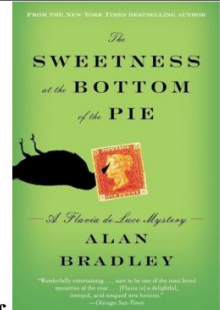
Adult Book Group

Wed., May 22

7:00-8:00 pm

The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie

By: Alan Bradley



“Wonderfully entertaining . . . sure to be one of the most loved mysteries of the year . . . [Flavia is] a delightful, intrepid, acid-tongued new heroine.”—Chicago Sun-Times

It is the summer of 1950 – and at the once-grand mansion of Buckshaw, young Flavia de Luce, an aspiring chemist with a passion for poison, is intrigued by a series of inexplicable events: A dead bird is found on the doorstep, a postage stamp bizarrely pinned to its beak. Then, hours later, Flavia finds a man lying in the cucumber patch and watches him as he takes his dying breath.

For Flavia, who is both appalled and delighted, life begins in earnest when murder comes to Buckshaw. “I wish I could say I was afraid, but I wasn’t. Quite the contrary. This was by far the most interesting thing that had ever happened to me in my entire life.”

We are reading book 1 in this series, so you can have a new mystery series to get you through the Summer!

Print and audiobook copies available at library and on Libby.

Early Literacy Storytime - Birth to Pre-School Thursdays at 11:30am in the Library.

5/2/24: Theme: Green Up Day - we will be going outside and greening up around the library and Common.

5/9/24: Theme: Mother’s Day

5/16/24: Theme: Pizza

5/29/24: Special FWNI Summer Storytime 9:30-10:30 (outside)

5/23/24: Theme: Turtles

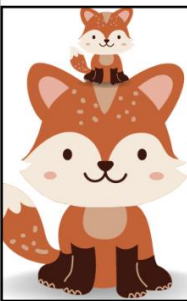
5/30/24: Theme: Beach

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

May Library Events

May 2 - Special Green Up Storytime - 11:30
- come dressed for greening up!
May 2 - Maker's Group 6:30-8pm
May 4 - Book Sale Donation Collection -
9-11am only, 2 box limit
May 4 - Green Up Day - all day
May 8 - Trustees Meeting 7-9pm
May 9 - Table Top Game Night 6:30-8pm
May 14 - Coffee and Cards 10:30-Noon
May 15 - Travel Talk: Kenya - 7pm on Zoom
May 18 - Coffee, Donuts and Conversation
about Library Improvements 9-10am
May 22 - Adult Book Group 7pm, reading
The Sweetness at the Bottom of the
Pie by Alan Bradley
May 23 - Table Top Game Night 6:30-8pm
May 28 - Coffee and Cards 10:30-Noon
May 29 - Special FWNI Summer Storytime
Storytime Thursdays 11:30 in the Library

Welcome Baby Tea Invites have been mailed out!
Save the date: Saturday, June 8, 10:30-Noon.



We are celebrating all children born from March 2023-March 2024

If your child was born in Westford, you should receive an invite in the mail. If you have moved into town and your child fits into that age category - you are invited too! Please contact the library with your child's info. We can't wait to celebrate our littlest patrons!

Travel Talk Returns!

Destination: Kenya

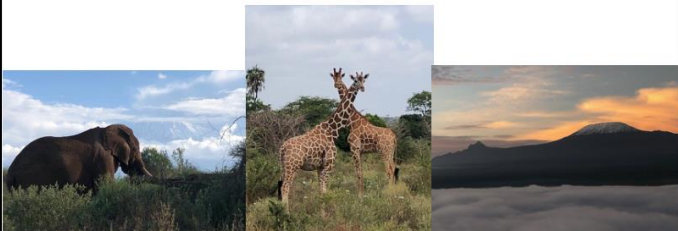
Wednesday, May 15 at 7pm - via Zoom

Presented by: Jason and Michaela Crooks

Return to Kenya-25 Years After Peace Corps
25 years ago, a chance meeting on a Kenyan matatu began a life long friendship between David and Jason. Now, Jason and his wife Michaela return to Kenya - where they also met each other - to celebrate David's daughter's graduation from High School and plan the next adventure...

Zoom link provided on our website events page, FPF and Facebook.

We are looking for people to present their travels, either in person or via Zoom. Contact Bree if you would like to share.



Green Up Day is May 4!

On Saturday, May 4 we will have coffee, water and snacks to sustain your Green Up Day efforts! Bags can be picked up at the library or town office anytime - take as many as you need to keep your corner of Vermont beautiful.

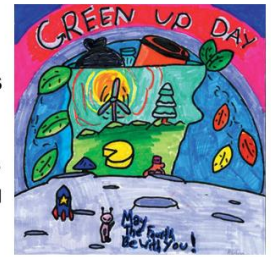


TABLE TOP GAME NIGHT
May 9 & 23 from 6:30-8pm

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.

Over Time - Multimedia Exhibition - up through the end of June.

Westford resident Janet Jaffe will display her quilts and other art inspired by her world travels.



Conversation about possible Library Capital Improvements - Saturday, May 18 from 9-10am

DONUTS!!! - Now that I have your attention - we just want to keep this conversation going. We find out about this grant in June - but it is always good for people to hear what we are planning. We will have coffee and donuts and show the proposed plans and improvements.

The Westford Public Library has applied for a grant through the U.S. Treasury Capital Projects Fund for Libraries. We hope to use this grant to make significant improvements to the interior space of the library and make the building fully ADA compliant. We have worked with Black River Designs architects to come up with conceptual plans in order to apply for this once in a lifetime grant opportunity. **This is a conceptual "show and tell" with donuts!**

Excited for Summer Reading? We are too!
Summer Reading begins June 14 - more details available next month.



Senator Irene Wrenner, Chittenden North

April 22, 2024

All four towns in our district have voted down proposed school budgets. Frustration levels are high among voters.

Increases in wages and benefits, including a 16% hike in health insurance costs, and general inflation have raised school budgets.



A new pupil weighting framework – which passed the legislature in 2022, before I arrived – compounds our tax burden. I’ve heard protestations that “enough is enough!” I don’t serve on the Senate Education or Finance Committee, so I’m working on other fronts to address wasteful spending and unfunded mandates (see page two).

Legislative Committees have spent several months taking testimony on bills referred to them. April always brings a new sense of urgency as our mid-May adjournment looms. Bills on which we gathered information for weeks, without altering their content, suddenly change overnight – and then change overnight again.

Such was the case with H.706, the (bee) bill which would ban neonicotinoid-coated seeds. Our committee chair decided last Thursday that Vermont should watch what happens in New York, whose pesticide ban starts in 2029, before banning that poison here. He proposed moving our effective date out to 2031, which lost my vote for the bill.

Don't get me wrong. I'm personally excited to think that we could phase out the use of one very toxic and persistent family of pesticides: “Today’s DDT,” one witness called it.

Most beekeepers testified to our committee that they're losing their hives, year over year, at an alarming rate. Some have lost 30%; others have lost 85% of last year's hives. I believe we've already waited too long to address colony collapse, and that the effective date should be earlier, while there are still bees left to save!

Providing a two-year buffer instead of a seven-year delay, for example, would still give seed companies plenty of time to produce seeds that are not coated in poison and bring them to market.

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“What are you doing to save us money?” constituents ask. I voted NO on S.310 at the end of March. In floor remarks, I called out this disaster preparedness bill for being an unfunded mandate. I alone voted No on it. I also voted to sustain the governor’s veto of H.158 (successful), which proposed a new beverage container redemption system estimated in 2018 to cost \$12M more per year to operate than the current one.

On the lighter side of things, H.664, an act to designate a state mushroom, came to Senate Ag early in April. After some initial skepticism, members were won over by elementary school students who demonstrated their passion for this project that taught them about mushrooms and civics – and included forays into the forest to forage for specimens. Here’s a link to testimony from two seven-year-olds, which reveals their recommendation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t2pIP049ONg&t=162s>

Speaking of kids, Ag Committee members spoke remotely with Congressional staff about efforts to modify the Farm Bill to include whole milk as a federally reimbursable element of school meals. Skim milk isn’t popular and chocolate milk, which is, contains added sugar. The naturally occurring fat in whole milk can be part of a child’s healthy diet, but most schools cannot afford to provide it without a subsidy.

Also on the food front, H.603, a bill I nicknamed “parting is such sweet slaughter”, has passed the Senate unanimously since last month’s update. Farmers who do not operate inspected facilities will be allowed under state law to sell chicken parts, in addition to whole chickens, directly to customers at farmers markets once the governor signs this legislation. Federal law already allowed this practice, but Vermont law interfered.

Catch me at the Westford Senior Luncheon and Sunday Concert Series; the Maple Festival Parade at noon on Sun., April 28^h in St. Albans, and the Democratic State Convention in Burlington on May 18th. I participate in PoliTalk in Essex each week. Schedule at www.facebook.com/EssexPoliTalk.

Send email to iwrenner@leg.state.vt.us. I post highlights from the Senate Floor and our district at www.facebook.com/SenatorIreneWrenner. Thank you!

WESTFORD RECREATION DEPARTMENT

May 2024



Recreation Board Meeting May 7, 2024 7pm @ Town Office
& via Zoom

Continuing PROGRAMS:

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

New PROGRAMS:

- ❖ **Yogalates** @ Brick Meeting House - Wednesdays and Saturdays, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.
- ❖ **Beginner Reformer** @ Barn School, 217 Brookside Rd. - by appointment

Youth LOGO design contest closes Tuesday, April 30. Win swag and have your logo be THE logo for Westford Recreation!

Last chance to sign up for **Archery** with Pelkey's Registration due May 1 - Mondays June 17 & 24 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. @ Westford School - Ages 5 and over - \$50 fee - equipment provided.

Coaches needed for summer Parent & Me T-ball and soccer for various ages

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

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

E-mail - recreation@westfordvt.us

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