



WESTFORD NEWSLETTER



July 2024

Lumber is an important part of Vermont's economy. The forest based industry contributes around \$861 million in sales each year and provides direct employment for almost 7,000 people.

Westford Town Office

1713 Vermont Route 128 - Westford, Vermont 05494

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

<https://westfordvt.us/>

TOWN OFFICE NOTES

Property Tax Bills

You should receive your 2024 property tax bill no later than July 15th. Please contact the town office if you do not receive your tax bill by this date.

The first of four installments is due Tuesday, August 15th. Payments will be considered timely if they are received by this date, have an August 15th postmark (postal, FedEx, or UPS), or are in the drop box located to the left of the Town Office door before the office opens at 8:30am on Friday August 16th. **If your taxes are escrowed, it is your responsibility to forward a copy of your tax bill to your mortgage company in a timely manner while retaining a copy for your records.**

Please note – If you pay your taxes using Bill Pay (generating a check online through your financial institution), make sure you allow sufficient time for mailing. These envelopes do not bear a postmark therefore will be acknowledged by the date received at the Town Office not by the date on the check.

In July, the State will send notifications to homeowners explaining the Education Tax Credit. If you are receiving a school tax adjustment it will be reflected on your tax bill. You should compare the letter with your tax bill.

State Primary Election

Ballots for the State Primary Election will be available starting on June 29th.

YOU WILL NEED TO REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT TO RECEIVE ONE.

You can view information related to the 2024 State Primary here: <https://westfordvt.us/state-primary-election/>

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.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the August Newsletter is 12:00 noon on Monday, July 22nd.

TOWN OFFICE HOURS

The office is open:

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

The office is **CLOSED**:

- July 4 & 5 – Fourth of July



SUMMER ROADS

What you need to know about summer road conditions

- **Road Projects:** many projects are being done on the roads at this time. Slow down and give crews space to work.
- **Dust:** roads can become dusty in dry weather and potholes can appear in heavily traveled areas. Going the speed limit can reduce dusty and damaged roads.
- **Roadside Mowing:** roadsides are mowed to increase visibility and keep invasive plants at bay. Mowing occurs twice a year: once in late spring/early summer and once later in summer.
- **Traffic Speeds:** due to the hard-packed conditions of the roads this time of year, overall vehicle speeds can increase. Be aware of speed limits.
- **Repairs:** roads are repaired as weather allows. Know that this takes time, especially if conditions are poor, so it may take the road crew some time to get to your road. Highly traveled roads are prioritized.
- **Dangerous Driving:** We've reached the unofficial start of summer, which means beautiful days for recreating on town roads. This is also a time of year where the Selectboard hears concerns from residents about cars speeding or driving dangerously along our roads. The Selectboard urges citizens to reach out directly to our contracted Deputy Sheriff, Brian Welch, at 802-863-7507 to report traffic incidents or routinely speeding vehicles. The more details you can share, the better! Where was the speeder? What were they driving? What time of day was it? Do you notice a pattern of behavior from a particular driver? Deputy Welch is glad to assist, but if you cannot reach Brian directly, please alert the Town Office and share details that can be passed along.

Happy Summer!

Reminders:

Watch for increased pedestrian traffic including walkers, bikers, horseback riders etc. Please slow down and give other road users lots of room as you pass.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Developmental Review Board Alternative Members

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.

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 CONSERVATION COMMISSION

All trails are open: We ask that you continue to be cautious if any trails remain saturated. We know there are perpetual wet spots, and we're trying to remediate as many as we can. Please let us know of any large areas of standing water in a trail, or other trouble spots, including downed trees or other required maintenance. Email westfordcc@googlegroups.com

Dog reminders:

- Please keep dogs leashed that are not under voice control.
- Be courteous to other trail users. Some folks do not want dogs running up to them.
- Clean up your doggy doo. Bags are provided at kiosks at the Westford School.
- Keep dogs off private property. Our town trails abut and intersect private property.

Tick awareness: Ticks are always around. Be sure to check your skin and clothing after spending time in the forest and fields of our trails.

Porcupine awareness: Be aware that porcupines have been sited and dogs have been quilled on Riverside North Trail in Misty Meadows Town Forest.

Maple Shade Town Forest trail improvements:

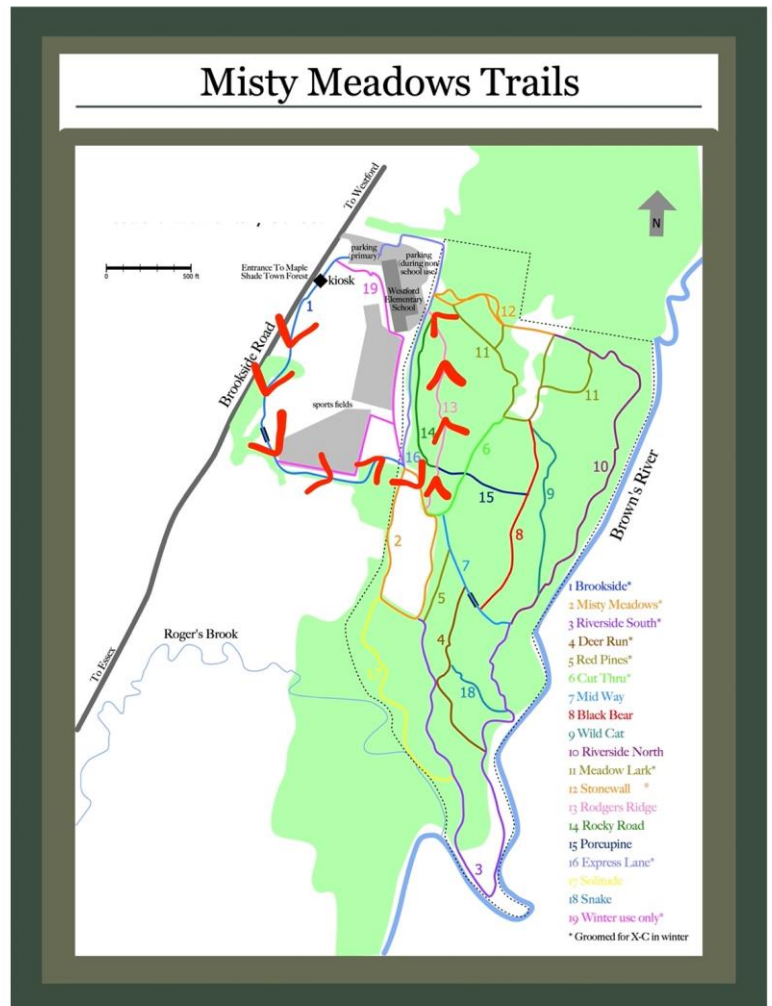
Forestry and Trail improvement projects are now completed at MSTF. We would like to thank our forester Evan Aiken and WCC member Joel Fay for the fantastic work done to remediate the trails. We highly recommend taking a walk on the **Boundary Line Trail** (green on the map).

We've partnered with the **Westford Public Library** again this summer to bring you more fun activities on the trails this summer! See below for details!

Story walk: We just installed the new story, "Hike", up at the Westford School. Start at the kiosk by Brookside Road and follow the pages. This almost wordless story is full of adventure and time together - you can make up your own words! See the red arrows on the map above to find your way through the story. Enjoy!

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



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.

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



AMENDMENTS TO LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS

There have been amendments to Westford's Land Use & Development Regulations. Specifically, there have been changes to Section 326 – Signs, which are effective immediately.

You can view the regulations here: <https://westfordvt.us/documents/planning-zoning/>. A paper copy is also available at the town office.

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.

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 SUMMER CONCERTS LINE UP 2024

This year there will be one run of five concert Sundays in a row, with a reserve rain date at the end of the season, if needed for a rescheduled show. We are having a slightly later start this season due to my being away for the first couple weekends in July. I am also still looking for sponsors to help with any future concert series funding, so if anyone would like to support any of the following acts (or suggest your own for next year), please contact me and you can get credit for helping out with this series. I will be making some poster designs for the series sometime soon. If anyone would like either a hard copy or a digital PDF file for your own use and distribution, please contact me at mpk802vt@gmail.com. All shows run from 6:30-9 pm. We will have Girls That Grow taco truck here for all concert events, in addition to Deb Nevil our Kingdom Ice Cream vendor. Hoping to get Gracie's Popcorn stand for one or two of the shows as well. Here's what we've got on tap for 2024:

July 21 – The Eames Brothers Band:

This band is self-described as “Mountain Blues” and is one of my favorite Vermont original bands. Seth Eames as lead singer/songwriter and guitarist and brother Ralph on Bass present a formidable front for lyrical and thoughtful tunes all based in infectious grooves. Phil Carr will round out the brothers on drums. If you haven't heard these boys before, you are in for a treat.

July 28 – The Tenderbellies:

Hinesburg based Tenderbellies is a string band that goes where no string band has gone before. Mixing Americana with bluegrass, new grass, jazz and rock elements, they serve up a tasty amalgam of newly written tunes with old favorites baked in a way you've never tasted before. I love that they have a bluegrass harp player.

August 4 – Shellhouse:

A return of local favorites Shellhouse, playing classic and varied rock standards for your listening pleasure. Bob Teer and company will also be rolling out some newly written tunes, soon to be recorded, so be sure to be the first to hear some of these at our summer show.

August 11 – Skip Gorman:

Skip Gorman is a national treasure that has devoted much of his musical career to the rediscovery of original American folk string music. He has contributed to a number of Ken Burns' documentaries, the most recent being American Buffalo. He was our guest artist last winter for our Common Hall show of December 17, and had more tunes to play that we had time for him to play. We are fortunate to have him return to our concert series to share his love of deeply historical string music, and associated instruments.

August 18 – Steph Pappas Experience:

Steph Pappas was one of Burlington's original girl punk rockers, forming the all-girl Burlington based band, Miss Bliss. Now recording under the self-managed and owned Guitar Girl label and known for fronting an evolving and eclectic band of merry-makers that can steer self-directed-in-the-moment creations that veer from folk to jug band to hard core to audience participation and back to country flavored offerings in a delightfully dizzying array. Truly an experience not to miss bliss.

August 25 – RAIN DATE if needed.



RED BRICK COFFEE HOUSE UPDATE

The Westford Red Brick Coffee House will be teaming up with the new Westford Country Store for Friday evening music during the summer months. For the last few years, the coffee house has been taken to the Common gazebo as the preferred place to hold the Coffee House during warm summer weather. With the Country Store also looking to have live music outside on their back porch on Fridays as well, I didn't want to have two different outdoor events going on within earshot of each other, so we have agreed to merge our events together. So, for June 7 and August 2 we will move our Coffee House to the store. July Coffee House will be postponed due to my being away. The store will have music set for that date. We will have to see how September pans out.

For the Country Store dates there will be a set up for vocal mics and a small personal amp for instruments. Participants should plan to bring whatever support equipment they need for their presentation. All forms of presentations are welcome for the Coffee House (stand up, single or duo or full band time slots, storytelling, juggling, fire dancing, magic acts, etc.). If you want to schedule a time block for a personal segment, please let me know so we can arrange for that. Power is available at the store porch where we play from. Again, all ages are welcome, and the store will have food and beverages for purchase. Some chairs and tables are in the store's yard, but you may want to bring your own chairs and picnic blankets to be sure you have a sit-down space for yourself. Any questions please call the store for info or me directly at 802-363-0930.





Westford Historical Society

First to clarify, the WHS will be celebrating along with the town on Thursday, July 4th (not the 6th as indicated in our last article!). We plan to be open from 10 until 2 with the Theater Curtain on full display for all to enjoy along with a listing of names of some of the original town actors who signed the back of the curtain.

Also, our building on the Common will be staffed during band concerts on Sundays in July and August so wander over and see our newest exhibits. And, we plan to be open on Saturday, July 13th and Saturday, July 27th from 10 until noon.

Next, we are fortunate to have Amanda Gustin from the Vermont Historical Society coming to the Brick Meeting House on August 4th at 2p.m. Her talk, titled Justin Morgan's Horse: Making an American Myth, is sponsored by the Vt. Humanities Counsel and promises to be exceptional. Amanda will explore the history of this stallion named Figure owned by singing teacher Justin Morgan in the late 1700s. All Morgan horses today trace their lineage back to him.

And, to go along with the presentation and weather permitting, Westford's own Anne Brown will bring one of her prize winning Morgans to the lawn and be available for questions from roughly 2:30 until 3:30. Anne has been involved with the Morgan Horse Association and the Morgan Horse Heritage Foundation for many years and is known as a leading promoter of Morgans in Vermont and beyond. This promises to be a very interesting and educational event so mark your calendars. The Meeting House is handicapped accessible and the talk is free and open to the public.

Then, as a reminder, in September we are excited to be showing the movie, The Farm Boy, produced by Vermont's own George Woodard, and shown on the 21st and the 22nd also at the BMH. Details will follow in the August and September Newsletters.

Know that new members are always welcome to join the WHS. For further details contact Caroline Brown at 802-878-8890 or Beth Menut at 802-893-2263.

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: Summer

- Break up material (both food scraps and browns) into small pieces. This allows for decomposition to happen quickly, meaning you'll have usable compost faster!
- Water your compost! If compost is dry it stops generating heat. Keeping compost moist will help things decompose quickly.
- Dry grass and egg shells make great additions to your pile. For best decomposition your pile should be 1/4th browns and 3/4th other items such as food scraps, coffee grounds and green lawn clippings.
- How to make compost fast: <https://thisismygarden.com/2018/07/summer-compost-pile/>

STAY UP TO DATE WITH OUR HAULER

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



WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

<https://westfordpubliclibrary.org>

(802) 878-5639

westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com

1717 VERMONT ROUTE 128, WESTFORD VT



Fourth of July Book Sale - 9am-1pm
\$5 per bag of books - Bring your own bag!
We will also have a fabulous raffle!
The library is CLOSED July 3 & 4 for the
book sale and setup.

Seeking volunteers for the Fourth of July Book Sale - Setup and Teardown.
 Contact Bree if you can help:



7/3 - AM Book Lugging (strong helpers are especially needed) PM Book organizers (less heavy lifting)
 7/4 - Sale helpers needed 9-1, teardown helpers (strong helpers) needed 1pm until done.

Coffee and Cards
10:30am-Noon

This month - June 11 & June 25

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.



Adventures in Baseball
Vermont Lake Monsters Game!
Tuesday, July 9 - 6:30pm
vs. the Road Warriors

The library has purchased 20 kids tickets (12 and under) and reserved a block of seats. Call the box office to reserve your kids tickets (no max - so bring a friend!) & order reduced price tickets (\$7/\$5) in our very own "Westford" block. It's also 25cent hotdog night! Gates open at 5:30.

Pardon all of our exciting new construction! Our adjacent parking lot may be unavailable some days. We are installing gutters (thank you, ARPA!) We also just installed a new walkway and solar charger thanks to a sustainability grant from the Manton Foundation.

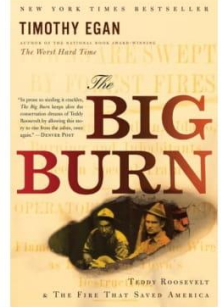


OPEN HOURS:

Tuesdays 10am-7pm
 Wednesdays 1-7pm
 Thursdays 10am-7pm
 Fridays 1-7pm
 Saturdays 10am-2pm

CLOSED July 3 & 4

Adult Book Group
Wed., July 24
7:00-8:00 pm
The Big Burn:
Teddy Roosevelt
and the Fire that
Saved America
By: Timothy Egan



A dramatic account of the worst forest fire in American history.

On the afternoon of August 20, 1910, a battering ram of wind moved through the drought-stricken national forest of Washington, Idaho, and Montana, whipping the hundreds of small blazes burning across the forest floor into a roaring inferno. Forest rangers had assembled nearly ten thousand men—college boys, day workers, immigrants from mining camps—to fight the fire. But no living person had seen anything like those flames, and neither the rangers nor anyone else knew how to subdue them.

Timothy Egan narrates the struggles of the over-matched rangers against the implacable fire with un-stoppable dramatic force. Equally dramatic is the larger story he tells of outsize president Teddy Roosevelt and his chief forester, Gifford Pinchot. Pioneering the notion of conservation, Roosevelt and Pinchot did nothing less than create the idea of public land as our national treasure, owned by and preserved for every citizen.

Print copies are available at library and ebook and audiobook are on Libby.

Outside Early Literacy Storytime - Birth to Pre-School Thursdays at 11:30am on the Common.

*7/4/24: NO STORYTIME

*7/11/24: Theme: Adventures in Imagination

*7/18/24: Theme: Adventures Close to Home

*7/25/24: Theme: Water Adventures

We will sing songs, read stories, move and sometimes have take-home crafts! No sign up needed, all ages are welcome. Storytime moves outside rain (gazebo) or shine. Bring a blanket! Storytimes with an (*) are part of our Summer Reading Program



July Library Events

- July 2 - Float Building 3:30-5:30 on the Common, July 2 is the last day to sign up to ride the float in the Fourth of July parade, for kids entering first grade and older**
- July 3 - LIBRARY CLOSED**
- July 4 - LIBRARY CLOSED**
- July 4 - Library Book Sale and Raffle - 9am-1pm - \$5 per bag**
- July 9 - Coffee and Cards 10:30-Noon**
- July 9 - Adventures in Baseball at the Lake Monsters Game - 6:30pm**
- July 10 - Visit the Library at the Westford Farmer's Market 3:30-6:30pm**
- July 11 - Adventures in Robotics - 5-7pm**
- July 12 - Souvenir Baskets 4-6pm**
- July 12 - Star Party (Common) 9-10pm**
- July 16 - Cookies and Cards 10:30-Noon**
- July 16 - Animal Hike with Carol Winfield - 4:00-5:30pm (approx.) Meet at the school parking lot and be prompt.**
- July 17 - Early Literacy w/ Ms. Holly 2-3pm**
- *July 17 - Teeny-Tiny Terrariums - 4-6pm - Sign up required.**
- July 19 - Early Literacy w/ Ms. Holly 2-3pm**
- July 19 - Peaceful Adventures - 4-6pm**
- July 23 - Coffee and Cards 10:30-Noon**
- July 23 - Peaceful Adventures - 4-6pm**
- July 24 - Early Literacy w/ Ms. Holly 2-3pm**
- July 24 - Adult Book Group 7-8pm, discussing The Big Burn (Egan)**
- July 25 - Souvenir Baskets 4-6pm**
- July 26 - Early Literacy w/ Ms. Holly 2-3pm**
- July 26 - Paracord Bracelets - 4-6pm**
- *July 31 - Bob, the Reading Tortoise 5:30-6:30pm - sign up required**

Storytime Thursdays 11:30 on the Common
Program details can be found in the Summer Reading Program brochure.
Programs with a (*) require sign up.

FREE/DISCOUNTED SUMMER FUN!

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

- Vermont State Parks (FREE family day use)
- Vermont Historic Sites (FREE family pass)
- Shelburne Farms (FREE family pass)
- Shelburne Museum (1/2 price family entrance)
- ECHO Center (\$7/person)
- Birds of Vermont Museum (BOGO)
- American Precision Museum (Windsor, VT) (FREE family pass)
- Vermont History Museum (FREE family pass)
- VINS (\$5 per person up to 4 people)

Summer Time Star Parties on the Common

9-10pm - July 12 & August 2

Join amateur astronomer, Molly Drapa, on a tour of the night skies. We will have several telescopes set up for viewing, but feel free to bring your own. (leave your flashlights at home) All levels of star lovers are welcome. Weather dependent.



Early Literacy with Ms. Holly

All sessions are from 2-3pm

Keep literacy skills sharp through fun activities and practice. Age groups are suggestions, but you can come to whatever works.

7/17 - PK-K, 7/19 - Grades 1-2

7/24 - PK-K, 7/26 - Grades 1-2

8/7 - Grades 1-2, 8/9 - PK-K

8/14 - Grades 1-2, 8/16 - PK-K



Starting in August:

The library will have FREE fair tickets for kids in grades K-8 who have read at least three books this Summer. They are good any day of the fair: August 23 - Sept. 1



StoryHike "Hike" - look for the signs in the kiosk at the school trails. Enjoy this almost wordless outdoor adventure themed story. You get to make up your own!

Thank you to the WCC for their continued partnership.

Excited for Summer Reading?
 We are too! See our brochure in this newsletter for more details.





Westford Public Library Summer Reading Program 2024 June 14-August 9
www.westfordpubliclibrary.org 878-5639 westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com

*Online registration opens June 14. Registration link on our website, Facebook page, and Front Porch Forum. You can also register in person. Reading logs, stickers, etc. are available starting June 14 at noon. All registrants get a FREE creamer coupon to the Westford Country Store and Café.

Age Levels, Reading Goals, and Prizes

Ages 0-2 (babies and toddlers) - fun activities for families to do together, stuffed animal prize at the end

Ages 3-8 (kids) - 10 books/150 minutes read per raffle ticket, one sticker per book or 15 minutes read

Ages 9-12 (twens) - 3 books/240 minutes read per raffle ticket

Ages 13-18 (teens) - 1 book read per raffle ticket



Raffle tickets will be made by Ms. Bree when reading logs are turned in - logs are due August 8. Raffle tickets will also be given for coming to programs. Prizes consist of gift certificates to Essex Cinemas, Phoenix Books, & more! Prizes will be awarded at the end of the SRP Ice Cream Party on August 9.




Every time you come to the library you can work on our sticker mosaic! What will it be this year? Get a strip of stickers every time you visit. It's an adventure just coming to the library!



Every time you visit, find the hidden polar bear in the library and get a prize! New this year - library charms! New charms each week to put on a special bracelet, neck chain, or key ring. Collect them all! All ages welcome to participate in "each visit to the library" activities.

Adventures in Baseball - Vermont Lake Monsters Game!
Tuesday, July 9 - 6:30pm vs. the Road Warriors

The library has purchased 20 kids tickets (12 and under) and reserved a block of seats. Call the box office to reserve your kids tickets (no max - so bring a friend!) & order reduced price tickets (\$7/\$5) in our very own "Westford" block. It's also 25cent hotdog night! Gates open at 5:30. Champ is coming to visit the library on Saturday, June 15 from Noon-1pm on the Common!



ABC Early Literacy with Ms. Holly
 All sessions are from 2-3pm


Keep literacy skills sharp through fun activities and practice. Age groups are suggestions, but you can come to whatever works.

7/17 - PK-K, 7/19 - Grades 1-2
 7/24 - PK-K, 7/26 - Grades 1-2
 8/7 - Grades 1-2, 8/9 - PK-K
 8/14 - Grades 1-2, 8/16 - PK-K

Adventures in Storytime - On the Common - Thursdays at 11:30am
 Bring your lunch, a blanket and be ready for fun! Rain location is the gazebo. Every week we will read stories, sing and move too! Take home crafts will be available for some storytimes. 6/20 -Travel Adventures, 6/27 - Special FWNI Summer Storytime, 7/11 - Adventures in Imagination, 7/18 - Close to Home Adventures, 7/25 - Water Play, 8/1 - Adventures with I Spy, 8/8 - Adventures with Friends



CHAMPLAIN VALLEY FAIR The library will have FREE fair tickets for kids in grades K-8 who have read at least three books this Summer. Tickets will be available in August. They are good any day of the fair - August 23 - Sept. 1



Summer Reading Program Events Schedule and Details

Events with a (*) require pre-registration.



June 14- Sign up online for SRP starts today, signup link on our website, FPF, and Facebook - We are opening early at Noon! Stop the library after school lets out to sign up and pick up SRP material (Logs, stickers, etc.) 12:00-7:00pm, if you can't make it then, you can pick up anytime at the library.

June 15 - Champ Visits the Common Noon-1pm- Champ LOVES reading in the Summer! Come get your picture taken with Champ and grab your Summer Reading logs. We'll have some outdoor fun too.

June 18 - Cookies and Cards 10:30-Noon - Why let the seniors have all the fun? Let's meet up to play Uno, War, Go Fish, or other games the group wants to play. Please arrive on time at 10:30 so we can get started. Adults are encouraged to stay and play too!

June 18 - Paracord Bracelets - 4-6pm - Drop in to make a bracelet that is both cool and might save your life one day! Project takes about an hour and can be finished at home if not completed at the library. Repeated this summer - catch one or come to all.

***June 19 & 20 - Bob, the Reading Tortoise 5:30-6:30pm** - Readers entering 1-5 grades can sign up for a 15 minute reading slot

June 21 - Guided Forest Hike with the Westford Conservation Commission 4:00-5:30pm (approx.) Meet at the school parking lot and be prompt. Join a few of our WCC members to learn more about the forests we hike in - plants, ecosystems, etc. Great for any level hiker. Proper footwear and bug spray are best. Hikers get a special item for participating.

June 25 - Adventures with Snakes 4:30-5:30pm - Join nature enthusiast Carol Winfield to learn about snakes at the library - live snakes will be in attendance and participants will get to take home a wooden snake of their own.

June 26- Paracord Bracelets - 4-6pm - Drop in to make a bracelet that is both cool and might save your life one day!

June 27 - Special Four Winds Nature Institute Storytime 11:30-12:30 on the Common - FWNI will be here with a story and lots of hands on materials to play with - this will be an adventure and lots of fun!

June 27 - Souvenir Baskets 4-6pm - Using yarn and a plastic form, weave your very own souvenir or keepsake basket. Perfect for all the treasures you collect on your adventures. Project takes about an hour - requires no knot tying, but does require grit and persistence. Can be taken home and finished. Repeated multiple times this summer.

June 28 - Orienteering Hike with the Westford Conservation Commission 4:00-5:30pm (approx.) Meet at the school parking lot and be prompt. Learn to use a compass and a few basic forest survival skills from some members of WCC. Good for all levels. Participants get to keep a compass. Proper footwear and bug spray are good ideas.

June 28 - Star Party on the Common 9-10pm - Take an adventure to the stars! Join astronomer Molly Drapa for viewing and a tour of the night sky. Telescopes will be set up on the Common, or bring your own. All astronomers welcome! Weather dependent. Repeated.

July 2 - Float Building 3:30-5:30 on the Common, also July 2 is the last day to sign up to ride the float in the Fourth of July parade, limited to kids entering first grade and older.

July 4 - Library Book Sale and Raffle - 9am-1pm - \$5 per bag - bring your own bag. *Parade 11am (riders meet 10:30 at Town Garage)

July 9 - Adventures in Baseball at the Lake Monsters Game - 6:30pm - see front for details

July 11 - Adventures in Robotics - 5-7pm - Members and mentors of Westford Robotics various teams will be present - come check out the robots, do some hands on robotics, and see what robotics is all about. All ages are welcome! See FPF for more details

July 12 - Souvenir Baskets 4-6pm - See description above



July 12 - Star Party on the Common 9-10pm - see description above

July 16 - Cookies and Cards 10:30-Noon - see description above

July 16 - Animal Hike with Carol Winfield - 4:00-5:30pm (approx.) Meet at the school parking lot and be prompt. Geared toward our younger hikers, learn what animals live in the forest and where we might find them. We might even find a few along the way!

***July 17 - Teeny-Tiny Terrariums - 4-6pm** - Sign up to make your very own small planter with a real live plant. All ages welcome.

July 19 - Peaceful Adventures - 4-6pm - Mandalas are a great way to relax and unwind - come color some lovely designs

July 23 - Peaceful Adventures - 4-6pm - Mandalas are a great way to relax and unwind - come color some lovely designs (repeated)

July 25 - Souvenir Baskets 4-6pm - See description above

July 26- Paracord Bracelets - 4-6pm - Drop in to make a bracelet that is both cool and might save your life one day!

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

August 2 - VINS 4:30-5:30pm on the Common - Learn about the vital role raptors play in our ecosystem from REAL raptors.

August 2 - Star Party on the Common - 9-10pm - see description above



August 6 - Cookies and Cards 10:30-Noon - see description above

August 6 - Special Storytime/Concert and Family Picnic with The Busy Morning Duo 5:30-6:30pm - Bring a picnic and enjoy a story and plenty of music and movement from this creative duo. Geared toward the toddler and younger kid set, but all are welcome to attend.

August 8 - Reading Logs are due by 5pm - Turn in at the library or online via google form.

August 9- End of Summer Ice Cream Party and Raffle - 4-6pm on the Common - Celebrate the end of Summer Reading with "All you Should Eat" Ice cream! We will announce the winners of our Summer Reading Prize Drawing as well! You do not need to be present to win. Prizes can be picked up anytime at the library. **Volunteer scoopers needed.**

Senator Irene Wrenner, Chittenden North

June 24, 2024

After our 2024 session ended in May, legislators returned to the capital on June 17th for a veto override session. Governor Phil Scott vetoed a significant number of bills this year.



Six were overridden. I will cover the headline makers below; a seventh, the veto on **H.121, the Data Privacy bill**, was not overridden. Consumer data is under constant threat, as is the well-being of children who use the internet. The bill addressed some of the addictive properties of children's apps. I voted to override, but the Senate fell six votes shy of doing so.

I wrote about **H.687, the Land Use bill**, last month. I don't favor bills too complex to explain to constituents. No one's quite sure where all these new houses will be built, as every area has its constraints. One big constraint for certain towns is the handling of sewage, which is frequently and illegally dumped into our rivers and lakes. I believe we need to shore up this infrastructure before adding residents. Keep our waterways clean and our landscapes in production.

H.887, the Yield bill sets the Homestead Tax Rate. It must be sufficient to meet the total amount voters approved in every town to fund their schools. The legislature, by law, must set a rate.

I've been asked why I didn't vote No on the override. Please keep in mind that the only way that several legislators can vote No on the Yield Bill is when a majority can be counted on to vote Yes, a politically fraught position because of the lack of understanding of what this bill does. I've spent the past week in conversation with residents who believe a No vote would've saved them money.

In fact, the veto of the yield bill itself appears to have been a risky political maneuver. The implications of not enacting the yield bill are serious: Vermonters would face property tax increases of up to 30% and there would be an \$82 million deficit in the Education Fund, putting Vermonters and Vermont's public education system in an extremely tenuous position.

One important note: If you're on a fixed income or otherwise qualify for a discount on your taxes, you may be entitled to receive a homestead rebate. Up to

70% of Vermont property owners receive that discount, so not everyone would face the predicted 13.8% increase.

H.289, the Renewable Energy Standard bill would add an estimated 2% - 7% to the cost of electricity in Vermont. (The total cost of this RES was estimated to be as high as \$1 billion over ten years.) I believe this is an unaffordable means to an industrial end. Rather than levy a tax to accelerate the move to renewable sources of energy – not all of which are available when demand is highest – let's renew our focus on conserving resources and reducing consumption.

I recently learned that just 2% of greenhouse gas emissions in VT come from the generation of electricity. Maybe we should focus our efforts on reducing other, larger sources of carbon and methane emissions instead?

This article describes the underlying issue that I've come to see as the problem with bills such as last year's S.5 (Clean Heat Standard) and this year's H.289, which were drafted by parties who stood to benefit:

<https://robertbryce.substack.com/p/environmentalism-in-america-is-dead>.

Please know that I served for 15 years on the Essex Energy Committee. I am all about saving the planet through conservation, not consumerism.

H.72, Overdose Prevention Center bill would provide a temporary, safe injection site in Burlington, at which people could use illegal drugs in a supervised environment and receive immediate attention if they overdose or get help to stop using if they so choose.

An OPC should free up first responders who were hired to fight fires and enforce the law, among other duties, but have been regularly called to deal with overdoses happening throughout the city.

I believe in local control. All the top officials in Burlington have begged for this pilot program. I voted to give them permission to try this, since they're low on options. Funding for this pilot comes from a drug company settlement, not taxes.

If we don't encourage substance users to remove themselves and their waste from Church Street, for example, I foresee the state losing tourist dollars. Vermonters could then be asked to make up the deficit via taxes that no one is eager to pay.

Please send feedback to iwrenner@leg.state.vt.us. I post highlights from the State Senate and our district at www.facebook.com/SenatorIreneWrenner. Thank you!

WESTFORD'S
4TH OF JULY
CELEBRATION

THURSDAY, AT THE TOWN
JULY 4TH COMMON

10:00AM - 1:00PM

F-35 FLYOVER!

Featuring:

PARADE | LIVE MUSIC | FARMERS MARKET | LAWN GAMES
FACE PAINTING | GAMES FOR KIDS | DUCK RACE & MORE!

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

WESTFORD RECREATION DEPT



Book Sale starts at 9:00AM @ The Westford Public Library

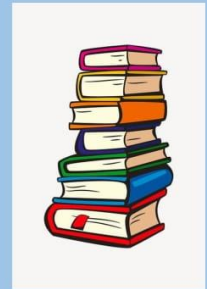


Westford 4th of July Celebration

Timeline of events:

Library Book Sale and Gift Raffle 9 am - 1 pm

- Books are \$5/bag
- Raffle gifts include 2 handmade quilts and 4 Gift Baskets
- Tickets \$1 each or less, the more you buy.



Westford Historical Society 10 am - 2 pm

- Restored Town Hall Curtain and other Displays

Face Paint, Cotton Candy, Games 10 am - 2 pm

Food & Drink Westford Common Hall on the Common
10 am - 2 pm

Parade 11 am



Rubber Ducky Race 1 pm

ANG F35 Flyover time TBD mid-celebration

Summer Soccer 2024

July 8 through August 23 @ Westford School fields
Come when you can, attendance is not mandatory!

Grades 1 - 2 - Thursdays 5:30 - 6:30

Grades 3 - 4 - Thursdays 5:30 - 6:30 coach
directed scrimmage

Grades 5 - 8 Thursdays 6:30 - 8:00 Pick-up with
coaches



Age 16 & over Drop-in Pick-up Wednesday 6:30 - 8:30
(must still pre-register but only once)

Shin guards required for all under age 18.

Cleats strongly suggested for all, required for grades 5-8.

All programs \$25 (Pick-up drop-in \$5 per day)

Westford Recreation Department <https://westfordvt.us/recreation/>



Westford Recreation Parent & Me

Must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

T-Ball

Focus on the fundamentals of
baseball and softball

Dates - Fridays, July 12 through August 16

Time - 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Ages 3 - 6 at time of program

Fee - for 6 to 8 sessions - \$25



Soccer

Focus on the fundamentals

Dates - Tuesdays July 9 through August
13, 2024

Time - 6:00 to 6:45 p.m.

Ages - 1 to 6 at time of program

Fee - \$25

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



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