



WESTFORD NEWSLETTER

August 2024



There are more than 20 varieties of **Sweet Corn**. A dietary staple in North America prior to colonization, sweet corn remains a large part of our diet, being the most popular vegetable in the United States.

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

Property Tax Bills were mailed out on July 10th. If you did not receive your tax bill, please contact the town office.

Please keep a copy of your tax bill for your Vermont Tax Return.

Escrowed Taxes – If you escrow your property taxes with your mortgage payment, please forward a copy of your tax bill to your mortgage holder.

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.**

You can pay your property taxes on the town website either by Credit Card or E-Check! Remember that a 3% fee will be added to credit card payments, and a \$1.50 flat fee is added to E-Check payments. You can make an online payment here:

<https://payments.municipipay.com/e2691fd0a00a11ea9b89410d8c3cf774/search/d758c93f7df128852252bfb8ce521fafa55ba7c9>

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.

State Primary Election

The State Primary Election will be held 7am-7pm in the gymnasium at the Westford School.

Absentee Ballots are available through 5pm, Monday August 12, 2024. **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/>

Senior Luncheon

We hope everyone is having a fun and safe summer with family, friends, and neighbors! As of right now, our monthly luncheons will resume on September 9th. Due to some improvements being done at the RBMH, we will need to push our October lunch out a week. PLEASE MARK THE NEW DATE: October 21st. Looking forward to seeing everyone in September.

Co-Presidents Mary Fay (802-878-1215) and Cori Hill (802-238-1018)

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the September Newsletter is 12:00 noon on Monday, August 26th.

TOWN OFFICE HOURS

The office is open to the public:

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

The office is closed to the public with the exception of email/phone:

- Monday – 8:30am-4:30pm)

Special Hours:

- August 12 – Open to the public for pre-election procedures such as absentee ballot drop off.
- August 13 – Closed due to the State Primary Election



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>

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



Join us at the Town Common for the Westford Farmers Market! Markets are held every Wednesday from 3:30-6:30pm. We have a great lineup of vendors, food trucks, activities, and music! Come support your local farmers, bakers, crafters, and makers!

The Market will be participating in DigInVT's Farm Week on Wednesday, August 7th. In addition to market vendors, food truck, participants, and music, we will have more kids' activities and educational experiences! Bring the whole family!

We'd like to thank our sponsors for this season. We could not have done it without them! Thanks to Rover's North, Applied Solutions Consulting LLC, Cornerstone Realty, and Vermont Federal Credit Union.

See you at the Market!
Kirsten and Kristin, market managers



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
COMMON
HALL

Summer APPEAL:



If you enjoy the programming offered at the Westford Common Hall such as the ever-popular Music Series, the Food Shelf, the new Bone Builders series, or if you have attended a WinterFest Raffle, the Fool's Ball Adult Prom, or any of the private parties and celebrations at the hall, please consider a donation to the WCH this summer to help keep the space open to programs and events serving our community.

Help us keep the WCH's mission of 'creating a space for diverse communities to connect, share and celebrate' alive!

Find out how to donate here: <https://westfordcommonhall.org/donations-1>



DONATE NOW AND ENTER TO WIN!



ANY DONATION TO THE WESTFORD COMMON HALL OF \$50 OR MORE THAT IS RECEIVED BY AUGUST 15TH WILL AUTOMATICALLY ENTER YOU IN A DRAWING TO WIN TWO TICKETS TO THE É.T.É CONCERT BEING HELD AT THE WCH ON AUGUST 31ST, 2024!



THE WORD ÉTÉ IN FRENCH MEANS SUMMER – A FITTING TRIBUTE TO HOW THIS TRIO'S ORIGINAL, LIVELY TAKE ON QUÉBEC TRADITIONAL MUSIC IS INFUSED WITH A NEW VITALITY. WITH LOVELY VOCAL HARMONIES, DEEP GROOVE, AND RICH INSTRUMENTATION, É.T.É ARE AN EXPLOSIVE TRIO ON STAGE. DON'T MISS THEIR TOUR OF VERMONT WHEN IT STOPS IN WESTFORD!

BUY TICKETS!



ALL TICKETS ARE GENERAL
ADMISSION BUY IN ADVANCE: \$15
DAY OF, IF AVAILABLE: \$20

<https://sevendaystickets.com>





**WESTFORD
COMMON
HALL**



Join RSVP
Bone Builders
at the
Westford Common Hall!



FREE classes are held every **Wednesday and Friday** from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the **Westford Common Hall.**

Remember to wear comfortable clothing and bring water!

Join us to: **GET FIT!**

*reduce risk of falling!
maintain independence!*

HAVE FUN!



The RSVP Bone Builders Program focuses on balance and light weight training to protect against fractures caused by osteoporosis. Based on studies conducted by Tufts University and published in the New England Journal of Medicine, those who participated in this program just twice a week gained muscular strength, balance and increased bone density.



Contact Jocelyn Chauvin at 802-999-6387 for more information

Westford Food Shelf



The Westford Common Hall is proud to be able to host the Westford Food shelf, held the third Saturday of every month from 8:00a.m. - 9:00a.m.



The Gratitude Corner

Thanks to everyone who stopped by the WCH hot dog stand on the 4th of July! We had good sales and a good time serving you all!



A shout-out of THANKS to Ross Hughes, who volunteered his time and labor to help with WCH renovations!

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 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.

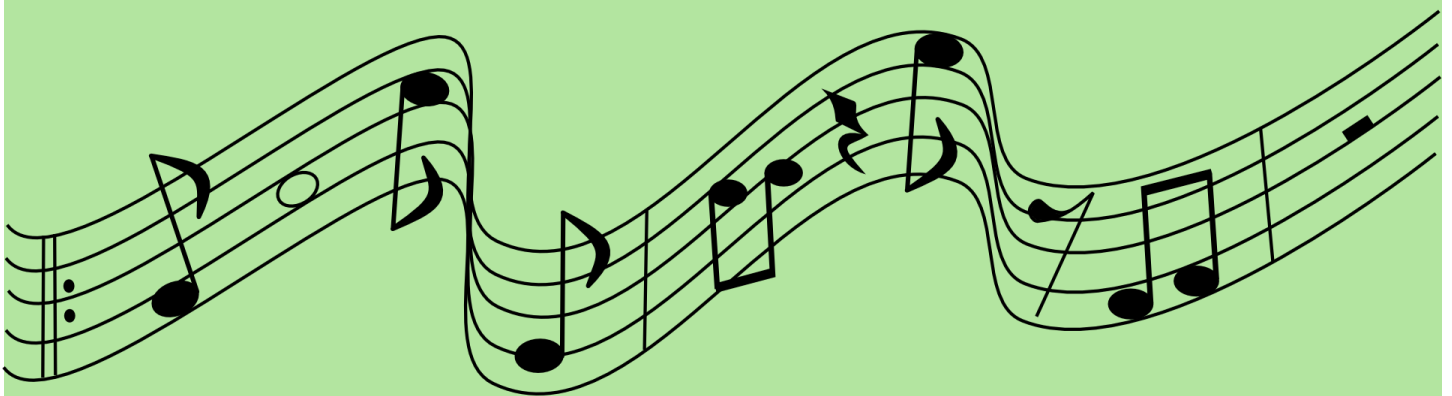
August 25 – RAIN DATE if needed.



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

The Historical Society building will be staffed during band concerts on Sundays in July and August so wander over and see our newest exhibits.

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

Coffee and Cards

10:30am-Noon

This month - August 13 & 27

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.

Cards will be weekly on Tuesdays starting in September!



OPEN HOURS:

Tuesdays 10am-7pm

Wednesdays 1-7pm

Thursdays 10am-7pm

Fridays 1-7pm

Saturdays 10am-2pm



Summer Reading is Coming to an End!
Be sure to turn in your

reading logs* (via email or web form with the # of books read, or in person) by August 8 at 5pm to be eligible for the prize drawing! *if you lost your log - I just need the # of books you read over the summer. You can also turn in your log later, but won't be included in the raffle.

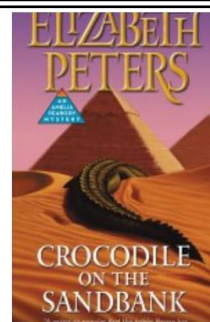
End of Summer Reading Ice Cream Party and Prize Drawing is Friday, August 9 from 4:00-6:00pm on the Common. Celebrate your summer reading success by picking up your reading certificate and enjoying "All you Should Eat" ice cream and toppings. Raffle winners will also be announced at this time, but you do not need to be present to win. Volunteer scoopers needed - especially teen/older tweens.

Read and Win at the Fair! (FREE TICKETS!)

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. We will be handing them out in August.



Adult Book Group
Wed., August 28
7:00-8:00 pm
Crocodile on the Sandbank
By: Elizabeth Peters



The first book in the 20+ book series - great for fans of Agatha Christie!

A Victorian-era thriller featuring Egyptologist Amelia Peabody, a self-proclaimed spinster and heiress who's unrattled by anyone—including mummies.

The unshakeable Amelia Peabody embarks on an Egyptian adventure armed with self-confidence, a journal to record her thoughts, and, of course—a sturdy umbrella. On her way to Cairo, Amelia rescues young Evelyn Barton-Forbes, who has been abandoned by her scoundrel lover. Together the two women sail up the Nile to an archeological site run a pair of handsome brothers.

Strange visitations, suspicious accidents, and a botched kidnapping convince Amelia that there is a plot afoot to harm Evelyn. Now Amelia finds herself up against an unknown enemy—and perilous forces that threaten to make her first Egyptian trip also her last...

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

Our September selection is *Universe of Two* by Vermont author, Stephen Kiernan. We have a "field trip" planned to see him speak in October!

Outside Early Literacy Storytime - All ages welcome! Thursdays at 11:30am on the Common.

*8/1/24: Theme: I Spy Adventures

*8/8/24: Theme: Adventures with Friends

8/15/24: Theme: Back to School

8/22/24: NO STORYTIME

We will sing songs, read stories, move and sometimes have take-home crafts! Bring a blanket! Storytimes with an (*) are part of our Summer Reading Program

8/29/24 - Storytime moves back inside - this will be a transition week!



August Library Events

August 1 - Read to Bob - 5:30-6:30, sign up required

August 2 - VINS: Raptor Road Trip 4:30-5:30 on the Common

August 2 - Star Party on Common 9-10pm

August 6 - Cookies and Cards 10:30-Noon

August 6 - Special Picnic Concert and Evening Storytime with the Busy Morning Duo 5:30-6:30pm on the Common

August 7 - Early Literacy w/Holly 2-3pm

August 7 - The Library will be at the Westford Farmer's Market 3:30-6:30

August 8 - Reading Logs due by 5pm

August 9 - Early Literacy w/Holly 2-3pm

August 9 - End of Summer Ice Cream Party and Prize Drawing on the Common 4-6pm

August 13 - Coffee and Cards 10:30-Noon

August 14 - Early Literacy w/Holly 2-3pm

August 14 - Trustees Meeting 7-9pm

August 15 - Last Outdoor Storytime 11:30

August 16 - Early Literacy w/Holly 2-3pm

August 22 - NO STORYTIME

August 26 - First Day of School

August 27 - Coffee and Cards 10:30-Noon

August 28 - Adult Book Group 7pm, discussing Crocodile on the Sandbank

August 29 - First Storytime back inside 11:30am (time might change based on preschool schedule)

Storytime Thursdays 11:30 on the Common
Program details can be found in the Summer Reading Program brochure.



**Busy Morning Duo
Picnic Concert and
Storytime
Tuesday, August 6
5:30-6:30pm
On the Common**

Grab the kiddos and your picnic basket for

a rocking good time. The Busy Morning Duo are top notch musicians for kids and grown ups alike. They will be promoting their new book and reading, swinging, dancing and jumping along to the story of imagination and love of nature.

This is perfect for families who miss out on our daytime storytimes and lovers of music and fun! Don't forget a blanket!

Rain or shine - rain location: inside the library.



Summer Time Star Party on the Common

9-10pm - 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.

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

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

ABC



VINS: Raptor Road Trip

Friday, August 2

4:30-5:30 on the Common

Birds of prey are found all over the world, in all kinds of environments. Join us on an imagined journey across the United States, and encounter some resident raptors in their ecosystems. We'll learn about the habitat needs of each species, as well as their range and behavior in the wild. Who knows whooooo we'll encounter?

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)



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.

PETE OSWALD
#1 New York Times Best-Selling Illustrator



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.**

Westford Public Library

1717 VT Route 128 Westford, VT 05494

802-878-5639

westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com

www.westfordpubliclibrary.com



Is Your Library Card Expired?

Library cards expire every two years and need to be renewed.

To renew, email (westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com), stop by, or call the library (802-878-5639). It is a very simple process. If you would like your actual paper card updated (they are now orange), we need to do that in person at the library.

If you are unsure if your card is expired, you can call or email about that too. Don't forget to check your kids' cards too! I look forward to a bunch of renewal emails!

We will be doing a large purge of our patron list in the middle of August. Anyone whose card has been expired for more than two years will be removed. If you get removed but still want a card, all you have to do is fill out another application. It's very simple, but paperwork is paperwork and renewing your card is easier

Why do library cards expire?

Simply, it's about **money**. We are charged for our "card catalog" and other library services by the number of patrons we have. The more patrons, the higher the cost. In order to save money and spend your tax dollars wisely, we like to keep our patron list as accurate as possible.

It's also about **privacy**. Libraries house a great deal of personal information. We don't like to keep more on hand if we can help it. By keeping a tidy patron list, we can eliminate excess data.

Speaking of privacy – a new law, Act 150, went into effect July 1, 2024 extending a bit more privacy to our patrons 12 and up. A notable part of Act 150 lowers confidentiality for library accounts from age 16 to age 12 and we're updating our records to comply with the new law. **Patrons aged 12-17 will be asked to fill out a new paper application on their next visit to the library.**

These changes give our 12-17-year-old patrons additional privacy, independence and responsibility surrounding their usage of the library. We will be talking to teens about their new rights, explaining the new law, and asking them to update their contact information on file to ensure that we share information only with the people, if any, that teens want to access their accounts.

This is a great time to remind everyone that public libraries are here to protect your privacy and librarians are not only upholding an ethical tenet of our profession but also Vermont statute. These changes are also new to us, so please be patient with library staff as we learn to navigate these new regulations.

Thank you,
Westford Public Library Staff

RECREATION



Fall Soccer coming soon!

Check the recreation website
for sign-up information on
August 12. Registrations will
be due very soon after that!

HELP WANTED 2025



Coordinator



Stipend

recreation@westfordvt.us
for more information

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/>

Ice Rink

suspended

2024-2025



Come to the **August 6** Westford
Recreation Committee meeting
at 8:00 p.m. (by Zoom or
downstairs at the town office) to
help plan the rink's future!

Discussion items:

- Weather implications
- Rink Master with stipend

Find the agenda with the Zoom link on the website

New Yoga Program with Samantha Fontaine!

Brick Meeting House
Thursdays 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.



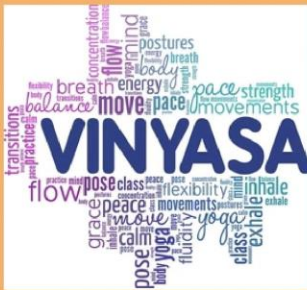
August 15 - September 19

All levels, ages 16 and over.

\$75 for all 6 sessions or \$15 each drop-in.

Mats available to borrow.

Check the WRC website for more information and registration form soon!



This is a medium-paced vinyasa flow class focused on posture foundations. The class combines mobility, strength, and alignment postures to enhance any practitioner interested in developing more awareness of breath and movement. No prior yoga experience required!



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/>

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/>

If you do not have access to the Internet or have a computer, you can call the Town Office at 878-4587 to request being added to the mailing list.