



# WESTFORD NEWSLETTER

May 2025



The **Brown Bullhead** is the most common catfish in Vermont. They are found in shallow lakes, ponds, and rivers, but can thrive in a diversity of habitats including those with muddy conditions and low oxygen.

## 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 Taxes Due – Final Installment

The final property tax installment is due Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. Payments postmarked (US postal, UPS, FedEx) by that date are considered timely as well as payments placed in the drop box **before** the office opens at 8:30 am Friday May 16<sup>th</sup>. The drop box is located to the left of the town office door.

**Please note** – If you pay your taxes using Bill Pay (generating a check online through your financial institution), please 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.

**Any taxes received after 8:30am May 16<sup>th</sup> or postmarked later than May 15<sup>th</sup> will be subject to 1% interest and an 8% penalty.**

### Dog Licenses

Dogs Licenses were due on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Please license your dog if you have not done so already. A late fee will be assessed for previously licensed dogs who are licensed after April 1<sup>st</sup>. In June, a list of unregistered dogs in Westford will be provided to the Selectboard and Dog Warden for review and action. Licensing your dog is required by state law. The fee for a spayed/neutered dog is \$13.00 (+\$3 if registered late) and the fee for an intact dog is \$15 (+\$4 if registered late). Brand new dogs will not incur a late fee.

### Senior Luncheon

Ciao! May is here and so is our Italian feast! Any current or past Westford resident 55 + is welcome to join us on Monday May 12th for a fabulous Italian meal cooked up by our wonderful volunteers. Doors of the BMH open at 11:30am for socializing with meal to follow around 12 noon. Dust off the winter blues and come on over!

Feel free to reach out with any questions.

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

## TOWN OFFICE HOURS

The office is open to the public:

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

**Closed:**

- 26 May – Memorial Day

### Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the June Newsletter is 12:00 noon on Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup>.

### **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



## **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.



## **UPCOMING CONSTRUCTION**

**There are two upcoming construction projects that will affect Westford:**

- First, the Vermont Agency of Transportation will be repaving VT Route 128 beginning in early May with construction expected to last throughout the summer. Please find alternate routes or plan additional time for travel. Please note this is NOT a town project, but one from the State.
- Second is the construction of the new accessibility ramp at the Westford Town Office. This is going to begin in May and should be done by the end of June. There will be one day that the town office will have to be closed to the public due to the front door not being accessible during construction. When we know a date for this closure it will be announced. Additionally, the town is working with the contractor to ensure that this construction does not affect the collection of the May 15<sup>th</sup> tax payment.



## SPRING IS IN THE AIR – AND SO ARE HOME PROJECTS!

As the days get longer, many of us are getting excited to tackle new projects. Whether you're building a shed, expanding a deck, or starting a home business, don't forget – you may need a zoning permit!

- ✓ Building something larger than 100 square feet?
- ✓ Moving more than 50 cubic yards of material?
- ✓ Changing how you use your property or structure?
- ✓ Adjusting or relocating a boundary between two parcels?

If you're unsure whether your project requires a permit, I am here to help! Give me a call at (802) 878-4587 or email [zoning\\_admin@westfordvt.us](mailto:zoning_admin@westfordvt.us) – let's chat about your plans!

**Happy building, Westford!**

## WESTFORD MUSIC SERIES

PRESENTS

# FREVO



### HIGH ENERGY

*-free will donation-*

**4 - 5 PM: WESTFORD COMMON HALL  
SUNDAY: MAY 18, 2025**

A popular crossover group from the Vermont Contemporary Music Ensemble, FREVO plays eclectic music for flute, clarinet, cello, and classic guitar in arrangements of Jazz, Latin, and Classical. Known for their high energy and love of playing music for all ages and genres, this Westford Music Series perennial favorite is appropriate for the whole family with variations of music from the Beatles, children's songs, and classical jazz pieces.

**Double pie raffle for extra fun! Call 802-734-8177 for questions.**

## 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.

# OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY

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

## The Clean Water Advisory Committee

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

## CCRPC Lamoille Basin Water Quality Council

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

- 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.
- 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.
- The BWQC shall participate in the basin planning process established in 10 V.S.A. § 1253(d).

Potential members should be:

- knowledgeable on clean water topics for the applicable basin
- Interested in prioritizing and selecting non-regulatory clean water projects for funding at quarterly BWQC meetings
- Interested in participating in the applicable Tactical Basin Planning process

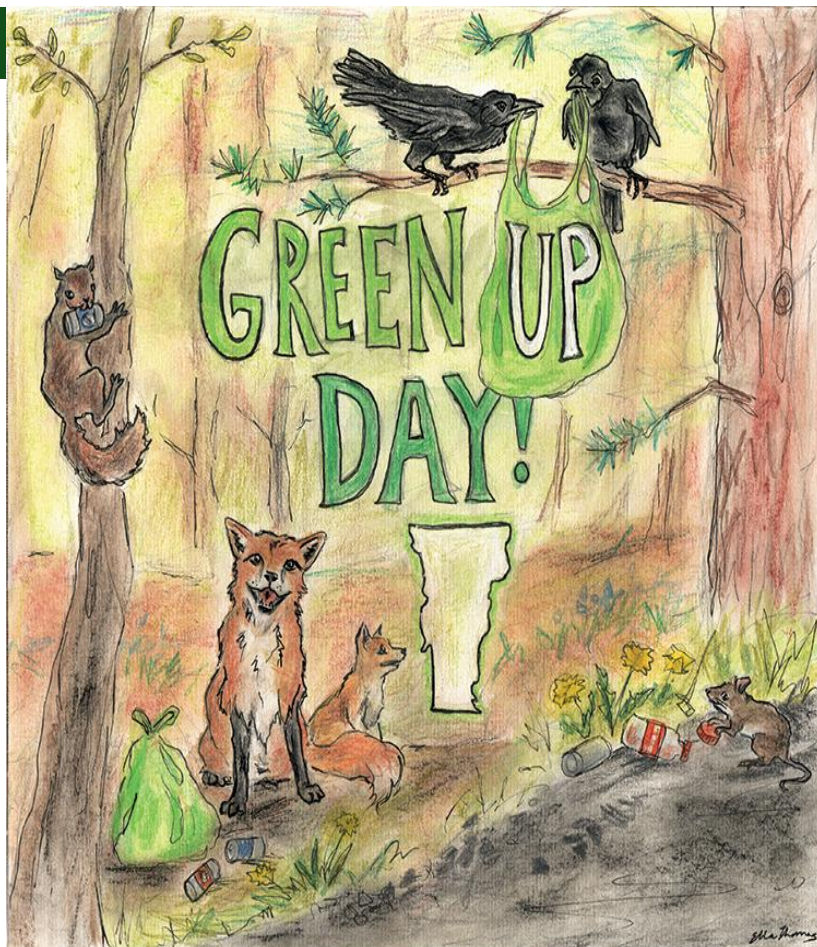
Please contact the Town Office at 878-4587 or [townadmin@westfordvt.us](mailto:townadmin@westfordvt.us) if you are interested in being appointed to one of these positions.

## GREEN UP DAY IS MAY 3

**Green Up Day is almost here!**

Pick up Green Up Day gags at the Town Office, outside the front door in a plastic bin, or at the library!

A Green Up Day dumpster will be at the Town Garage to drop off Green up Day bags.





## GET READY FOR SUNDAY FUNDAYS!

Join us on the Westford Town Common every Sunday from June 1st through September 28th, 3–6 PM.

We're excited to welcome a fantastic mix of new and returning vendors this season, offering fresh veggies, eggs, meats, herbal remedies, ice cream, cupcakes, flowers, gelato, sourdough, soaps, clothing, honey, handcrafts, pickles, jams, jewelry, maple syrup, and more!

Enjoy live music during the Market each week, followed by Concerts on the Common at certain dates throughout the summer.

Interested in joining us?

We are still accepting vendors, musicians, and sponsors!

Come celebrate community, music, and local goodness with us every Sunday this summer!

Contact us at [westfordfarmersmarketvt@gmail.com](mailto:westfordfarmersmarketvt@gmail.com) or follow us on Instagram and Facebook @westfordfarmersmarketvt

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## Westford Historical Society

Announcements: The Westford Historical Society is happy to announce our warm weather openings for the season. Starting May 10<sup>th</sup> we will be open from 10 until noon and then again on the 24<sup>th</sup>. These Saturday openings will continue for the summer. So, make a note of it! The second and fourth Saturdays of the month, 10 until noon. Then, when the evening summer concerts start we will have a volunteer in the building and it will be open to all comers during the concerts. Everyone is welcome. Look for our OPEN sign and come on in.

We were thoroughly entertained by a Westford resident who brought a number of ancient artifacts to our meeting last week. He is extremely proud of his land and is in the process of restoring the stone walls, woodland and old foundations. We hope to see him again.

Our time at the Arrowhead Center in Milton on April 12<sup>th</sup> was great fun as well as educational, meeting other members of area Historical Societies and seeing their displays. We are hoping they will make this an annual event.

In the meantime, we are pondering and planning for an exhibit to honor our State's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Your help and ideas are welcome. We hope you will come to one of our meetings on the third Monday of the month at 6:30 at our new building on the Common.

**For more information or to book a private showing please contact Caroline Brown at 802-878-8890.**

# MUNICIPAL JOB OPENINGS

For more information on job postings please visit our Careers page on the website: <https://westfordvt.us/careers/>

## DOG WARDEN

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

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

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

## 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](mailto:road_foreman@westfordvt.us) or 802-879-4306  
Position open until filled. Westford is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

## 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



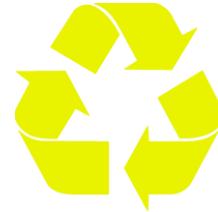
# TRASH, RECYCLING & FOOD SCRAPS IN WESTFORD

## 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](mailto:westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com)

1717 VERMONT ROUTE 128, WESTFORD VT

## Coffee and Cards

10:30am-Noon

Now meeting **EVERY** Tuesday!

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.



### Menopause "Monthlies"

May 21 from 7:00-8:30pm

Come one, come all to talk about (hush) menopause!

Just kidding - we are not

keeping quiet about this important topic!

This month we are zooming in with Dr. Maureen Slattery, OBGYN. Dr. Slattery will give us some menopause basics about the different stages and what to expect. We will have time for questions as well. She will be with us via zoom for an hour or so, then we will fill the rest with conversation, laughs, and planning our next sessions. If you cannot join in person, you are welcome to zoom in with us too (link below)

**Hoping to make this a monthly series- Bring a friend and come chat - no matter your stage of life!**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85224181650?pwd=4AFy4QrxxntBITgZkXLT8MeC6ueoT.1>

### What's up with the annual book sale?

Different Date...Same Great Sale

Sunday, July 20, 2025

Red Brick Meeting House from 12pm-4pm

We will be accepting donations for the sale only at certain days and times: June 7th: 9-11am, June 21st: 9-11am, and July 5th: 9-11am

Thank you to those hardworking volunteers that stepped in to help our trustees! Also, the Trustees will still be holding the annual basket raffle on the Common - another great way to support the library!



### Green Up Day is Saturday, May 3!

Bags are available to pickup now at the library and town office. There will be a special dumpster at the Town Garage for those bags. Let's make Westford even more beautiful! We will have a special

story time on 5/1 to clean up around the library and common. Participants will get free work gloves.



### OPEN HOURS:

Tuesdays 10am-7pm

Wednesdays 1-7pm

Thursdays 10am-7pm

Fridays 1-7pm

Saturdays 10am-2pm

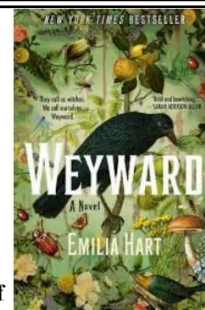
### Adult Book Group

Wed., May 28

7:00-8:00 pm

**Weyward**

By: **Emilia Hart**



Weaving together the stories of three women across five centuries, *Weyward* is an astonishing historical fiction debut, an enthralling novel of female resilience, with just a perfect dose of magical realism.

I am a Weyward, and wild inside.

**2019:** Under cover of darkness, Kate flees London for ramshackle Weyward Cottage, inherited from a great-aunt she barely remembers. With its tumbling ivy and overgrown garden, the cottage is worlds away from the abusive partner who tormented Kate.

**1619:** Altha is awaiting trial for the murder of a local farmer who was stampeded to death by his herd. When Altha was a girl, her mother taught her their magic, a kind not rooted in spell casting but in a deep knowledge of the natural world. But unusual women have always been deemed dangerous, and as the evidence of witchcraft is laid out against Altha, it will take all her powers to maintain her freedom.

**1942:** As World War II rages, Violet is trapped in her family's grand, crumbling estate. Straitjacketed by societal convention, she longs for the robust education her brother receives—and for her mother, long deceased, who was rumored to have gone mad before her death. The only traces Violet has of her are a locket bearing the initial W and the word

### Early Literacy Storytime - All ages welcome! Thursdays at **11:25am** in the Library

5/1/25: Theme: Green Up Day (we will be greening up - so dress accordingly)

5/8/25: Theme: Branches

5/15/25: Theme: Cookies

5/22/25: Theme: Mystery

5/29/25: Theme: Flowers

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



## May Library Events

**May 1 - Special Green Up Day Storytime 11:25 - greening up, so dress for outside**

**May 1 - Maker's Group meets 6:30-8pm**

**May 3 - Green Up Day - bags available now**

**May 3 - Saturday Storytime 10:30-11:30am**

**May 6 - Coffee and Cards 10:30-Noon**

**May 8 - LEGO Club 4-5pm, signup required**

**May 8 - Monthly Writing Group 6:30-8pm**

**May 10 - Welcome Baby Tea 10:30-Noon**

**May 13 - Coffee and Cards 10:30-Noon**

**May 14 - Trustees Meeting 7pm**

**May 15 - LEGO Club 4-5pm, signup required**

**May 20 - Coffee and Cards 10:30-Noon**

**May 21 - Menopause "Monthlies" 7-8:30pm**

**May 22 - LEGO Club 4-5pm, signup required**

**May 23 - Shakespeare Group 2-3pm**

**May 24 - French Storytime 10:30-11:30am**

**May 27 - Coffee and Cards, 10:30-Noon**

**May 28 - Adult Bookgroup 7pm, discussing Weyward by Emilia Hart**

**May 29 - LEGO Club 4-5pm, signup required**  
**Storytime Thursdays 11:25 in the Library**

### Get creative at the library!

**Maker's Group Meets at the library the First Thursday of the month from 6:30-8:00pm.** All types of crafters are welcome to attend. Bring projects to show off, share expertise, and enjoy each others' company.



**Writers' Group meets the Second Thursday of each month from 6:30-8pm.**

Facilitated by J Bruscini

My best intention for the group would open itself to writers in the area of any genre, style, and level of experience. I have been part of writing groups and workshops fairly frequently since college and have more than a handful of strategies and exercises to offer as a facilitator when needed. I would like to encourage experimenting with style and open time for feedback for anyone wanting it. Come if interested in any type of writing.



**Shakespeare Group - Hamlet**

**First meeting: April 25 from 2-3pm**

**Second Meeting: May 23 from 2-3pm**

This group will study a Shakespearean play for two months - **First meeting:** Read some of the play out loud, discuss, and maybe watch a portion of a classic performance. **Second meeting:** Discuss the entire play and pick the next play to discuss. All materials will be provided. To read or not to read?



Come join a new group that is interested in learning and enjoying the written word. No need to be a scholar - the Bard wrote for everyone!

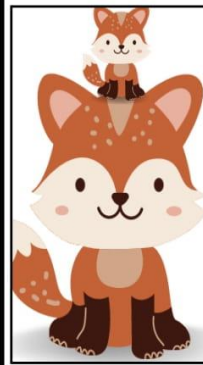
**Saturday Story Time!**  
**May 3 from 10:30-11:30!**  
**First Saturday of every month.**

There will also be elements of Spanish to the songs, stories and crafts. This month we will celebrate Cinco de Mayo!



**Another Saturday Storytime!**  
**May 24 from 10:30-11:30am!**

This time the stories will be in French! Join native French speaker, Jannick Vielleuse, for stories, songs, fun guessing games, and a craft. Jannick is hoping to impart a love of French in her own young children - and yours as well. All are welcome to attend. There will be three other sessions - 6/21, 7/26, and 8/23.



**Welcome Baby Tea**  
**Saturday, May 10**  
**10:30-Noon**

We are celebrating all children born from April 2024-March 2025. If your child was born in Westford, you should have received an invite in the mail. If you have moved into town or did not receive an invite in the mail, 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!

### LEGO Club!

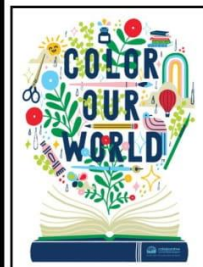
Thursdays from 4-5pm  
in May (not May 1)

Grades 1-4 - sign up required  
(call or email)

Kids will ride the bus with note from home. Snack included.

We will do a combination of free building, building challenges, and have lots of LEGO fun!

Space is limited, so plan to attend weekly and sign up early.



**Excited for Summer Reading?**  
**We are too!**

**Theme: Color Our World**  
**June 13 - August 8**

**More to follow in next month's newsletter!**



# May 2025 Newsletter



## Upcoming Events

Check out our upcoming community events and activities. If you or your group would like to host an event, drop us a line: [info@westfordcommonhall.org](mailto:info@westfordcommonhall.org)

### Westford Music Series Presents: FREVO

Sunday, May 18,  
2025, 4-5 pm



**FREVO, the well-known crossover contemporary music quartet is back** by popular demand to the Westford Common Hall on Sunday, May 18th at 4pm for an hour of eclectic music with flute, clarinet, cello and classical guitar in arrangements of Jazz, Latin and Classical.

**Bone Builders** exercise class continues  
**Wednesdays and Fridays**  
at 10:30 am throughout  
May.

**Drop in any time!**  
Participation is by donation.



**The Westford Food Shelf**  
will be open the third  
**Saturday in May- May 17th**  
at 8 am.

All community members are welcome without the need to fill out paperwork.



### **News from The Whispering Pines 4-H Club,**

The Whispering Pines 4-H Club, who meets at the Westford Common Hall, have been very busy this 4-H year. They have 30 members and meet monthly. In December, they had their annual "Cookies in a Jar" community service, donating about 30 decorated jars of cookie ingredients to the Food Shelf.

They also had three practices for quiz bowl - think Jeopardy with all horse questions. Many members placed either first or second (or both) in all divisions at the state contest. In the hippology contest (written test, stations, slides and judging of video classes), their members placed well again. One in each contest will be going to the national contest in Louisville, KY in November!

The 4-H Club is appreciative to the Westford Common Hall for letting them meet and plan all of these events and activities. And the Common Hall is grateful to Mary Fay for her years of leadership in 4-H.

### **Updates on our Historical 1840 Building**

**An unexpected repair surfaced this past summer when we noticed damage to one of the columns on the front portico. Investigation of the problem showed a serious internal deterioration to the column and additional rot starting on the northeast column. Fortunately because the columns are not weight bearing, the support for the roof is not in danger. We're working with an historic preservationist to assess and fix the column repair and have applied for a grant to help cover the cost.**

On a more upbeat note, the Town of Westford is entering into a net metering agreement with Colchester, which will provide the town, Common Hall, and Red Brick Meeting House with electricity at a much lower rate than we pay now. With our switch to heat pumps, our electric bills have been pretty high in the winter, so we're looking forward to the switch!



JUNE

**A Celebration of Pride!**



**Pink Pony Club**

**Dance Party**



**I'M GONNA KEEP ON DANCIN'**

**at the Westford Common Hall**

**Saturday, June 21st 7:00 - 9:30pm**

**This is an All Ages Welcome,  
alcohol-free event!**

**TICKETS ON SALE SOON: \$10 ADULTS, UNDER 18YRS FREE**





# FUNDRAISER

*Tickets on Sale soon!*



## Westford Garden

Tour July 16<sup>th</sup>

11am - 3pm



**Explore 6 gardens within the town of Westford...At your own pace.**

Gardeners will be on site to help inform you of their own garden layouts, designs and various species of plants that they grow.

**Several gardeners will also have items for sale like photographs, flowers, vegetables, etc.**

**Please support them and their businesses they are gracious enough to help support the Westford Common Hall!**

Tickets are \$25 pp. Days before the event you will receive a map of the six gardens, with host's names and addresses, which you can visit at your own pace during the 11am-3pm timeframe. This is a rain or shine event, so plan accordingly and wear your garden boots.



The Westford Common Hall is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit

## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATES**

### **Representative Brenda Steady**

Last week was relatively quiet on the House floor, with only one bill passed: S.27 – An Act Relating to Medical Debt Relief and Excluding Medical Debt from Credit Reports.

As a member of the Human Services Committee, I am currently working on the following bills:

- H.46 – Establishing a Rare Disease Advisory Council
- S.36 – Reforming the Medicaid Payment Model for Residential Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services
- H.120 – Studying and Designing a Long-Term Care Trust Fund
- H.248 – Expanding Supplemental Child Care Grants and Financial Assistance Programs
- H.13 – Adjusting Medicaid Payment Rates for Home- and Community-Based Service Providers



The State Budget (H.493)—commonly known as “The Big Bill”—will be returning to the House soon with proposed changes. My priority is to ensure minimal additional spending.

Many Westford residents are understandably interested in H.454 – An Act Relating to Transforming Vermont’s Education Governance, Quality, and Finance Systems. The bill is currently under review in the Senate, where significant changes to the House proposal are being discussed. The first draft of these revisions is available on the Senate committee website. Since the review process is still in its early stages, no final decisions have been made. It will be important to follow this bill closely as it continues through the legislative process.

Meanwhile, the House Education Committee is working on H.54 – An Act Relating to Cell Phone-Free Schools. The committee is currently reviewing testimony and refining the bill’s language. Most members appear to support advancing a version of the bill. My personal perspective is that schools should retain their ability to establish policies on cell phone usage rather than imposing a statewide mandate. I strongly support local control on this issue, as well as others that come before the House. Many schools have their own policies and procedures in place. I welcome community input on these topics and encourage residents to reach out with any questions, feedback, or suggestions.

You can contact me via email at [bsteady@state.leg.vt.us](mailto:bsteady@state.leg.vt.us).

**Respectfully submitted, Representative Steady**

### **State Senator Chris Mattos**

The weather has finally decided to feel like springtime! With this nicer weather, the end of the legislative session is nearing. In a typical year, we would adjourn around the middle of May. This year we’re being told it will be a little later, towards the end of May. We will be finishing up the “big bills” as they are referred to along with numerous others. The budget will be coming to the floor this week and work continues on the transformation of education bill.

For this newsletter, I would like to focus on where the education bill stands in the Senate. Full disclosure, this information provided is at a point in time in the process and can change frequently over the coming weeks. The House sent over H.454 – an act relating to transforming Vermont’s education governance, quality, and finance systems which currently is being worked on in the Senate Education committee. The House version is 160 pages and covers numerous areas of education including class size minimums, new districts, new funding formula and a revised statewide reappraisal schedule.

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The Senate is working on changes to amend H.454 and it still has a ways to go. The first few weeks the bill has been in the Education committee and by the end of this week, May 2, it is expected to be voted out and sent to the Finance committee where it will be for another couple of weeks.

In Finance, we have been taking testimony for the past few weeks about the House version of the bill. We've heard from stakeholders, listening to the Administration's thoughts and gaining a basic understanding of where we've been, where we are, and where we may go with education in Vermont.

Senate Education is working off the basis of creating a foundation formula funding system, a legislative working group to recommend school districts, and a statewide appraisal schedule.

A foundation formula is a funding system that would provide district funding based on the number of pupils and weighted for different categories of students as we do now. In the bill currently, there is a mechanism to spend over that foundation amount by up to 10% upon local voter approval. There is still much to discuss on this supplemental spending as it is referred to in the bill. The foundation formula would replace our current system of every district developing a budget in which the state then funds.

By creating larger districts, around 4,000 students is one recommendation, there is the ability to create efficiencies within our education system. This can be done by administrative efficiencies, sharing of services and expanding educational opportunities. The House version tasks an already developed working group of stakeholders to provide possible district maps while the Senate is looking at creating a legislative led group to develop these maps. This would be House and Senate members with support from the State to create three maps the legislature could choose from. I believe it is imperative that we have this effort led by legislators to complete this difficult work.

Lastly, reappraisals are a big undertaking by towns and cities across the state. By creating a statewide reappraisal system that more regularly updates our grand lists we can provide a more equitable property tax system by not having to rely so heavily on the common level of appraisal (CLA). The goal of this new system would be to align reappraisals with the future school district boundaries in order to have more equitable values between towns within a district. This would also add value to creating more equity between these new districts as the grand lists would be updated more regularly. Currently in Vermont we have some towns that have been over a decade since their last reappraisal.

A lot more to come in the following weeks in Montpelier! As always, please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions, comments, or concerns at [cmattos@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:cmattos@leg.state.vt.us).

**Chris Mattos**

**State Senator**

**Chittenden-North District**



## WESTFORD RECREATION DEPARTMENT



**May 13, 2025 Recreation Committee Meeting 7pm @ Town Office & via Zoom**

**Easter Egg Hunt was a success!**

### Continuing PROGRAMS:

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



### New:

- ❖ **Summer Soccer** registration coming soon.
- ❖ **Parent & Me** soccer & T-ball coming soon

**Coaches needed** for summer and fall soccer and Parent & Me

**4th of July** Programming is underway, let us know your ideas!

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

E-mail - [recreation@westfordvt.us](mailto:recreation@westfordvt.us)

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