

WESTFORD NEWSLETTER



November 2025

Northern Pike thrive in many of Vermont's lakes, ponds, and rivers. They have wide-ranging diets and are most successfully targeted by anglers when bait is moved around shallow vegetation.

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

The second of four installments is due Saturday, November 15th. Payments will be considered timely if they are received by this date, have an November 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 Monday November 17th. The town accepts check, cash, card, and e-check payments. If you want to pay online there is an additional fee of 3% of the payment amount. You can pay online here:

 $\frac{https://payments.municipay.com/e2691fd0a00a11ea9b89410d8c3cf774/search/d758c93f7df128852252bfb8ce521fafae}{5ba7c9}$

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.

Senior Luncheon

Boy do we have a good deal for you... Turkey dinner w/all the fixings without the fuss of cooking and cleanup! Sounds perfect, right? Let our group of amazing volunteers serve you up a Thanksgiving meal amongst friends and neighbors. Any current and past Westford residents 55+ are welcome to join us on Monday, November 10 at the BRH. Doors will open at 11:30am with lunch service beginning around 12 noon. Please reach out if you have any questions or need a ride. We respectfully ask folks to pass on lunch if you are feeling ill.

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

TOWN OFFICE HOURS

The office is open to the public:

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

Closed:

November 27 & 28 - Thanksgiving

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the December Newsletter is 12:00 noon on Monday, November 24th.



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 TRAILS GOING THROUGH PRIVATE LAND CLOSED UNTIL DECEMBER 15

To the residents and guests of Westford's Trail Systems, the Selectboard voted on October 9th, 2025, that public trails that cross through private property be closed to public use from October 9th, 2025, through December 15th, 2025. Exceptions to the trail closure notice are for those residents that utilize trails as a form of egress, have legal right of way documentation, or have permission from the landowner to cross via the trails. These exceptions remain in effect indefinitely regardless of any closures or openings. If there are any questions as to the closures or any of the exceptions, please contact the Town Office. Trails that are on Misty Meadows and Maple Shade networks will remain open.



FALL ROADS

What you need to know about fall road conditions

- **Tourists:** watch for tourists "leaf peeping". They may be driving slowly or be in need of directions.
- **High Winds:** can damage trees which then may block roads. Come across a tree blocking the road? Give the town office a call!

Reminders:

• Several hunting seasons occur during fall. Watch for vehicles parked on the side of roads. Pedestrians and pets should wear orange/yellow reflective clothing.



UPCOMING CONSTRUCTION

BROWNS RIVER COVERED BRIDGE REPAIRS

Westford's beautiful, covered bridge, originally built in 1838, repaired in 1976, and fully restored in 2001, will be getting some needed maintenance to keep it enjoyable for years to come, thanks in part to a grant from Vermont Historic Preservation. Water damage due to faulty flashing has caused the wood to rot at the four corners where the bridge sits on its concrete abutments.

The Selectboard has chosen Miles Jenness from Vermont Heavy Timber (https://www.vermontheavytimber.com/) to do the repairs which will begin this summer and wrap up in the fall. The bridge will be lifted from the abutments, new wood timbers will be installed, and superior flashing will be applied to keep rot from forming again in the future. During this work, there will be times when traffic may be limited to one lane on Cambridge Road. Any disruption will be minimized as much as possible. Thank you for being patient while we fix up this wonderful, historic landmark in the heart of Westford!

WESTFORD MUSIC SERIES PRESENTS

RUPERT WATES



ACOUSTIC ART FOLK

-free will donation-

4-5 PM: WESTFORD COMMON HALL

SUNDAY: NOVEMBER 9, 2025

Award-winning songwriter Rupert Wates is a London-born, NYC based artist who has released eleven acclaimed full-length albums with air play across the US, Canada, Europe, and Australia. Wates has inspired over fifty songwriting awards and performs an average of 120 shows a year. He continues to captivate audiences with his haunting, melodic brand of acoustic art-folk.

A pie raffle is included for extra fun! Call 802-734-8177 for more information.



Coming in February, 2026!

Come and be a volunteer!

Be a part of this wonderful event, that has for four years brought us so much fun!

Winter Farmers Market!

Chili Cook-off!

Horse drawn Trolley rides!

Food and drink!

And so much more!

Sign-up sheets are now out at the Library, Town Office, and at Westford Provisions store!

What say you?

Let's make the Fifth Annual Westford Winter Festival bigger and better than ever! I can't do it alone, I need you!

C'mon Westfordians!

Westfordwinterfest@gmail.com



NEWS FROM THE WESTFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

We at the WHS are humbled and honored that so many people – 66 as a matter of fact—came to hear John Porter's talk on the History of Agriculture through Barns last Saturday. Who knew there would be so much interest?? And, as he stated, his lecture generally focuses only on barns in his native New Hampshire but he chose to show pictures and ask for information about some of our Westford barns which really brought it home for many. Also, the photos that Barb Peck took of Westford barns, had mounted and displayed were wonderful. She was able to capture the beauty in these iconic structures. Thank you, Barb, for your generosity.

Thanks also to all who came and asked questions and enjoyed the refreshments as well as the talk We really appreciate the support.

It has been a busy summer and fall for our small but dedicated group with this presentation and the Walk the Common tour. For now we plan to work on organizing the bounty in our building. If there is a Winter Carnival event we will plan to be open and will very much be a part of the festivities. In the meantime, we are brainstorming ways to celebrate our State's 250th Birthday and are lining up activities. Once these events are firmed up we will start advertising so stay tuned.

On another matter, we have chosen to change our meeting time for the winter months. Instead of our usual 6:30 meeting time we will now meet at 2:00 in our building on the Common on the 3rd Monday of the month with our next meeting being November 17th. We welcome anyone interested in our town's history to join us. For questions or to schedule a time for a private viewing or to make donations feel free to contact Caroline Brown at 802-878-8890.

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 (<u>APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO (westfordvt.us)</u> to <u>townadmin@westfordvt.us</u> 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, CCPRC Senior Planner, at dalbrecht@ccrpcvt.org or 846-4490.

CCRPC Lamoille Basin Water Quality Council

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

- (a) The purpose of a BWQC is to establish policy and make decisions for the CWSP regarding the most significant water d-quality impairments that exist in the basin and prioritizing the clean water projects that will address those impairments based on the basin plan.
- (b) When prioritizing clean water projects and prioritizing the most significant water quality impairments in the basin, the BWQC shall consult with the basin plan and CWSP and utilize the Agency's project selection protocols.
- (c) The BWQC shall participate in the basin planning process established in 10 V.S.A. § 1253(d). Potential members should be:
- knowledgeable on clean water topics for the applicable basin
- Interested in prioritizing and selecting non-regulatory clean water projects for funding at quarterly BWQC meetings
- Interested in participating in the applicable Tactical Basin Planning process

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

MUNICIPAL JOB OPENINGS

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 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/.

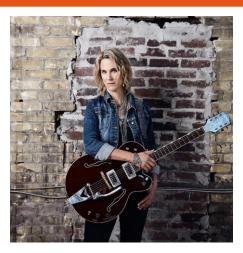
For consideration, please submit resume, references, and employment application (found at https://westfordvt.us/administration/highway-department/) to: Town of Westford, Attn: Sean Cushing, 1713 VT Route 128, Westford, VT 05494.

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

WESTFORD MUSIC SERIES

PRESENTS

LYNN HANSON



CANADIAN FOLK MUSIC

-free will donation-

7-8 PM: WESTFORD COMMON HALL

FRIDAY: NOVEMBER 21, 2025

Nicknamed "Canada's Queen of Americana", Lynn's deep, bluesy croon, gorgeous roots guitar picking, and keyboard lively performances set her apart among other artists. Known for her high energy and authenticity she generates a disarming connection with her audience.

A pie raffle is included for extra fun! Call 802-734-8177 for more information.



November 2025 Newsletter **



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

CELEBRATE

FALL FOLK AMERICANA FESTIVITIES!

This month, the Westford Music Series will be offering two programs!







Lynne Hanson Sunday, Nov. 21st

Rupert Wates is a London-born, NYC based artist who has released eleven acclaimed full-length albums and captivate audiences with his haunting, melodic brand of acoustic art-folk.

"Canada's Queen of Americana" Lynne Hanson's deep, bluesy croon and gorgeous roots guitar picking and keyboard lively performances set her apart among other artists.

> (For a complete listing of concerts for the 2025/2026 season, check out page 3 .)





NEW Buddhist Meditation & Study Group

Join a welcoming community gathering every Sunday from 10:30-11:45 a.m.

Each session includes:

- a 20-minute silent meditation
- a short reading from Peace in Every Step by Thich Nhat Hanh (used copies available for
- Time for open reflection and discussion Whether you're new to meditation or a longtime practitioner, all are welcome to participate. Donations are appreciated and help cover operating expenses for WCH

Bone Builders exercise class is back starting Sept. 4! Wednesdays and Fridays, 10am-11:15. Drop in any time! Donations are appreciated.

November 22: Westford Turkey Trot

Once again we'll be slinging homemade soup, baked good and beverages in Westford Elementary's gym during this annual race. All funds raised go towards our annual community programming.

Westford Common Hall | PO Box 53 | Westford, VT 05494



Cook for the Westford Turkey Trot! Saturday, November 22nd

The runners of Westford and beyond are preparing to lace up their sneakers to participate in the Westford Turkey Trot, Saturday, November 22nd!

We all know that running works up an appetite, so the Westford Common Hall is once again providing concessions at the Westford Elementary School and we're asking our valued cooks and bakers around town to help out! And, if you don't cook or bake but would like to contribute, we have other slots for donations of supplies.

Scan the QR code below to bake or cook for the Turkey Trot







All proceeds from concessions will go to help fund the WCH's continuing programs, events, and building improvements and upkeep.



December Movie Night!

We're planning a cozy community movie night in December. Details coming soon! Mark your calendar and watch for more information in next month's newsletter.

Westford Common Hall | PO Box 53 | Westford, VT 05494



Westford Music Series 2025/2026 Season

Sundays: 4-5 pm, Westford Common Hall 21 Brookside Road, Westford VT

November 9, 2025: Rupert Wates

November 21, 2025: *Special Friday 7PM Concert: Lynn Hanson

December 12, 2025: *HOLIDAY CONCERT 7pm: Fairfax, Fletcher, Westford

Band

December 21, 2025: Social Band

January 11, 2026: Vermont Mandolin Trio

February 15, 2026: Bob Hill

March 22, 2026: Paul Asbell

April 10, 2026: Special Friday night concert!! Minor Gold

April 19, 2026: Lewis Franco band

May 17 th , 2026: FREVO

June 7 th, 2026: John McBride's Big Easy; All that jazz (To be confirmed)

September 2026: Missisquoi River Band

October 2026: Twangtown Paramours (To be confirmed)

November 2026: Marsh Lights





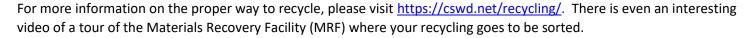
TRASH, RECYCLING & FOOD SCRAPS IN WESTFORD

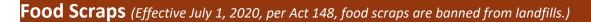
Can I Recycle That?

Did you know that you are not supposed to put your recycling in plastic bags of any kind? The <u>only</u> 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





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: Fall

- Leaves and grass clippings are valuable compost materials because they are carbon rich. Add them in small batches to avoid matting (too many leaves clump together and slow down the compost process)
- Cover your pile or use an enclosed composter to keep things moist but not sodden. This will also deter pests like bears, raccoons, and mice.
- Other items that can go in your compost this time of year include wood ash and the skeletons of annual flowers & plants. Break down large-bodied plants like tomatoes and broccoli before adding them to your pile.
- Store compost material like leaves & grass in a burlap sack near your pile for adding with food scraps.

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 CONSERVATION COMMISSION

<u>ACTIVE HUNTING</u> – HUNTING IS A PERMITTED ACTIVITY IN THE MAPLE SHADE TOWN FOREST. <u>LEGAL HUNTING OF ANY SPECIES IS PERMITTED DURING DEER AND TURKEY SEASONS</u>. Orange vests have been provided at the entrance to the forest. Please return them after your walk.

Hunting and Trapping Season Schedule can be found here: https://vtfishandwildlife.com/hunt/hunting-and-trapping-seasons

<u>GROOMED TRAILS</u> – It's not too early to start thinking about snow! The WCC and volunteers will be grooming trails at the Elementary School. The trails are open to all, but to maximize everyone's enjoyment, please maintain "lanes" on the groomed trails. The set track is for cross country skiers; the corduroy is to be shared by snowshoers and skate skiers.

<u>DONATIONS!</u>: The WCC is funded in part by donations. If you appreciate our efforts, and would like to help fund our work, please send a donation to: Westford Conservation Commission, 1713 Vt. Rte. 128, Westford, VT 05494. Thank you!

The WCC's next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 6:00 pm at the Town Office. Requests to attend the meeting virtually can be emailed to westfordcc@googlegroups.com.

See Something on the Trails?

Let us know! If you come across a downed tree, trail erosion, or other maintenance issues, please email westfordcc@googlegroups.com.

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

WESTFORD CEMETERY REMINDERS

Artificial flowers, glass containers and items with wire are <u>NOT</u> allowed in any of the Westford cemeteries. They will be subject to removal by cemetery officials. Also, the planting of trees and shrubs is <u>NOT</u> permitted. There are signs posted in each cemetery.

Thank you for your cooperation, Westford Cemetery Commission

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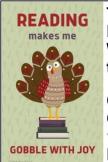


WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

https://westfordpubliclibrary.org (802)878-5639

westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com

1717 VERMONT ROUTE 128, WESTFORD VT



The Library will be CLOSED on November 27 & 28 for Thanksgiving. We are so thankful for all our patrons!

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.



Knitting for Neighbors

As the weather turns chilly, join us at the library to create and share some warmth! Would you enjoy knitting for neighbors while chatting over tea or coffee (regular or decaf)? Come meet fellow fiber arts enthusiasts on Wednesday evenings from 5:30–6:45 PM.

Our group's focus is on making cozy items—mittens, scarves, hats, and blankets—for anyone who could use them. When your projects are finished, you can:

- · Keep them for yourself,
- Gift them to someone in need, or
- Leave them at the library to be shared freely in the community

Our new library director, Maggie, will also connect with local organizations to distribute donations where they're most needed.

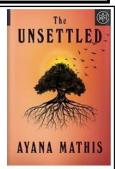
Yarn will be available at the library, but feel free to bring your own to use, share, or donate.

Come knit, sip, and spread a little warmth this season!

OPEN HOURS:

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

Adult Book Group Wed., Nov. 20 7:00-8:00 pm <u>The Unsettled</u> By: Ayana Mathis



"The Unsettled" by Ayana Mathis is a

novel about three generations of a family—grandmother Dutchess, her estranged daughter Ava, and grandson Toussaint—whose lives are shaped by the struggle to preserve their Black homeland in Bonaparte, Alabama, against outside pressures. The story contrasts Dutchess's fight to protect the ancestral land with Ava's search for a new life in 1980s Philadelphia, where she becomes entangled with radical groups. It explores themes of family, identity, and the high cost of resistance and survival.

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



Early Literacy Storytime - All ages welcome!

Thursdays at <u>11:00</u> in the Library

11/27/25: NO STORYTIME- LIBRARY CLOSED

November Library Events

Nov. 1 - Saturday Storytime 10:30-11:30

Nov. 4 - Coffee and Cards 10:30-Noon

Nov. 5 - Knitting for Neighbors 5:30-6:45

Nov. 6 - Storytime 11:00

Nov. 7 - Shakespeare Group 2-3pm

Nov. 11 - Coffee and Cards 10:30-Noon Dec. 9

Nov. 12 - Knitting for Neighbors 5:30-6:45

Nov. 12 - Trustees Meeting 7-9pm

Nov. 13 - Storytime 11:00

Nov. 18 - Coffee and Cards 10:30-Noon

Nov. 19 - Knitting for Neighbors 5:30-6:45

Nov. 19 - Adult Book Group 7-8pm

Nov. 20 - Storytime 11:00

Nov. 21 - Dec. 9 - Collecting Puzzles for

the Puzzle Swap

Nov. 25 - Coffee and Cards 10:30-Noon

Nov. 26 - Knitting for Neighbors

Nov. 27 & 28 - CLOSED for

Thanksgiving

Message from the new Library Director,

Maggie Kabbeko

Hello, Westford community! I'm delighted to join the Westford Public Library as your new Library Director. My career has centered on creating spac-



es where people of all ages feel welcome to learn, connect, and imagine. With a background in education and public librarianship, I've had the joy of designing literacy programs, supporting lifelong learners, and building partnerships that strengthen community life. I'm thrilled to bring that same spirit to Westford—a place already known for its vibrant civic heart and love of books.

In the months ahead, I look forward to meeting you at storytimes, book discussions, and town events, and to hearing your ideas for how the library can best serve you. Whether you come for a quiet corner to read, technology help, or simply a friendly conversation, I want the library to feel like your space. Together, we can honor its long history while imagining new ways it can grow with our town.

Puzzle Swap is back!

Collecting: Nov. 21 -Dec. 9

Swapping: Dec. 10-16



During regular library hours.

Do you need some new puzzles to get you through the winter?

Drop off complete (must have all pieces) puzzles during open hours 11/19-12/9. Bins will be available to sort at drop off. Then come back for the swap on Dec. 10-16 during regular library hours - come early for best selection. This is completely FREE - take what you will do. Kids & adult puzzles accepted. You do not have to drop off a puzzle to take a new one.

Shakespeare Group – November 7, 2–3 PM

To read or not to read—that is the question! Join us for an informal gathering as we explore The Tempest to-



gether. Whether you're discovering Shakespeare for the first time or revisiting his work after many years (perhaps since *Romeo & Juliet* in school), all are welcome. Come as you are and help us ensure this new adventure becomes a comedy, not a tragedy—*As You Like It*, right here in our fair Hamlet of Westford.



TOT TROT 3K 10K

Saturday, November 22nd Westford School @ 10am

Top Finisher Medals • Raffle Prizes • Concessions



RunReg.com/WestfordTT

WESTFORD SCHOOL Parent Teacher Organization

THE WESTFORD SCHOOL PTO'S MISSION IS TO ENRICH OUR CHILDREN'S LIVES WITH EDUCATIONAL AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.

Here is a link to our website: https://www.westfordvtpto.org

Upcoming Events:

We are looking for businesses interested in being part of the Buy Local Fundraiser this year! Contact westfordytpto@gmail.com to sign up.

The Holiday Craft Fair hosted by the Westford School PTO will be Saturday, December 6th. We are accepting vendor applications at westfordytpto@gmail.com

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.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

If you would like to receive the Town Newsletter in your email inbox, send an email to townclerk@westfordvt.us with your name and email address. To view current and past newsletters visit: https://westfordvt.us/documents/newsletters/

