



WESTFORD NEWSLETTER

December 2025



Yellow Perch are common in Vermont waters and a popular fish to eat. Perch have a variety of habitats but can also be found hanging around man-made structures. They are aggressive feeders, and live bait is popular with anglers.

Westford Town Office

1713 Vermont Route 128 - Westford, Vermont 05494

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

<https://westfordvt.us/>

TOWN OFFICE NOTES

Senior Luncheon

What a fabulous turnout and feast we had for our Thanksgiving meal! We welcomed many familiar faces and some new ones. How about a few more new folks this month?!

Any current or past Westford residents 55+ are encouraged to join us on Monday 12/8 for our holiday luncheon at the Brick Meeting House. Doors open at 11:30am with lunch to follow around 12 noon. Bring along your singing voices as we will have lyrics on hand for a holiday sing along with Westford's talented Linda Martin. Reminder, if school is canceled due to weather, so is the luncheon. We would like to keep everyone healthy for the holidays, so we respectfully ask you to pass on lunch if you are feeling ill. Feel free to call with any questions.

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
- December 24-26 – Christmas
- January 1 – New Years

Newsletter Deadline

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

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.



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.vermonthheavytimber.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!



WINTER ROADS

What you need to know about winter road conditions.

- **Plowing:** begins when the snow has accumulated 2-3 inches. Each plow route takes the road crew about 4 hours to complete.
- **Sand:** applied to all gravel roads. Some particles may be large enough to cause windshield damage. Use caution and avoid following other vehicles closely.
- **Mailboxes:** Westford does NOT repair or replace mailboxes damaged by the plow.
- **Plowing Across Town Roads:** plowing snow from driveways across town roads is prohibited.

Read the full Winter Road Policy here: <https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Winter-Road-Policy.pdf>

Reminders:

- Each winter storm is different, roads may be icy and sand may be loose. Drive slow and know what your vehicle is capable of.
- Watch for walkers and wildlife. It will be more difficult to see pedestrians and recreational users of roads this time of year due to snowbanks. Walkers, bikers and other users can do their part by wearing bright, reflective clothing.
- Some VAST trails cross Westford Roads. Know where the trails are and watch for crossing snowmobiles. You can find a list of VAST trails here: <https://vtvast.org/trails.html>
- Several hunting seasons occur during early winter. Watch for vehicles parked on the side of roads for hunting access. Pedestrians & pets should wear orange/yellow reflective clothing during hunting seasons to help ensure they are seen. You can find a list of VT hunting seasons here: <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/hunt/hunting-and-trapping-seasons>

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

WESTFORD MUSIC SERIES

PRESENTS

FAIRFAX/FLETCHER/WESTFORD BAND



HOLIDAY

-free will donation-

7 PM: WESTFORD COMMON HALL

FRIDAY: DECEMBER 12, 2025

Continuing an annual tradition, the Westford Common Hall is hosting a special concert on December 12 with the Fairfax Fletcher Westford band. The program, under the baton of Aaron Doane, will bring a fun, hour-long concert featuring a variety of instruments including traditional Christmas classics and the newly composed, something for everyone!

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

WESTFORD WINTER FESTIVAL



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

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 Historical Society

NEWS FROM THE WESTFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Great things are happening in Vermont in the area of Historic Preservation. The Vermont Advisory Council of Historic Places has named our very own 1838 Covered Bridge as being listed on the State's Registry. No details are available beyond this as of this date but we will keep you informed.

The WHS is planning our opening for this coming "Winterfest" which is to be held on the 31st of January, 2026. As of this article the plan is to show all comers how early Westford folks entertained themselves before the advent of electricity. We hope to demonstrate some early board games, musical instruments, and have invited a local fiddle player for part of the open hours. We hope you will drop in to our building on the Common on Saturday the 31st of January. Stay tuned for further details in the January Newsletter.

We are always interested in old area photos and will gladly scan them and return the originals. Also, we are interested in new members. Please contact Caroline Brown, our President, at 802-878-8890 with questions or to schedule a tour of the building. And come join our regularly scheduled meeting starting at 2:00 on the third Monday of the month. Our next meeting will be held January 19, 2026.



ACT 250 TIER 3 RULE MAKING

The Land Use Review Board, established under Act 181, is in the process of rulemaking regarding Act 250 Tier 3 designations. Tier 3 designations are intended to cover Vermont's 'critical natural resources.' Development of Tier 3 lands will trigger the Act 250 permitting process. It applies to both public and private lands.

The Land Use Review Board is in the process of identifying these lands. This process is not complete, and the rulemaking is still ongoing and not finalized. Information on Tier 3 rulemaking is available at <https://act250.vermont.gov/act250/tier-3-rulemaking-and-report#Materials>. This page also contains a link to the preliminary Tier 3 map viewer. Westford has land areas mapped as Tier 3. Interested parties should review the map available at: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/6ec0a9c1daa84f2893859d94403b0a1b>. Questions and comments relative to Tier 3 designations should be directed to the Land Use Review Board.

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 MUSIC SERIES

PRESENTS

SOCIAL BAND & CHAMPLAIN CONSORT



A CAPELLAL CHORAL

-free will donation-

4 - 5:30 PM: WESTFORD COMMON HALL

SUNDAY: DECEMBER 21, 2025

Winding down the festive holiday season, Social Band, in collaboration with Champlain Consort will bring music and carols inspired by the wintry season. The powerful 25-member a cappella choral group offer a selection of enlivening songs and tunes of midwinter from medieval, renaissance, and Elizabethan traditions. The program is titled "Winter's Heart".

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

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 road_foreman@westfordvt.us or 802-879-4306
Position open until filled. Westford is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

A Season of Giving

The Town is collecting monetary donations to purchase Hannaford gift cards for Westford residents in need. The gift cards provide recipients with the ability to purchase food and household items as needed and according to their personal preferences.

Monetary donations will be accepted through Friday, December 12th. If you prefer, you can purchase the gift cards (ones that prohibit tobacco and alcohol purchases) yourself. Please mail or deliver your donation to the Town Office. The gift cards will be mailed on December 17th to Westford residents only.



December 2025

Newsletter



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



Annual Holiday Concert **Fri., Dec. 12th, 7-8 pm**

The Westford Common Hall will host its annual holiday concert on Dec. 12th, featuring the Fairfax Fletcher Westford band conducted by Aaron Doane. The hour-long program will include traditional Christmas classics and new compositions, offering something for everyone.



Social Band, **Sunday, Dec. 21st, 4-5 pm**

The Westford Music Series will conclude the holiday season with Social Band and the Champlain Consort, presenting winter-inspired music and carols. This 25-member a cappella group from Vermont will perform a mix of midwinter instrumental and vocal traditions, including Medieval, Renaissance, and folk songs.



Westford's new Buddhist meditation and study group meets at WCH every Sunday morning from 10:30-11:45am. Come join neighbors for a 20 minute silent meditation, short readings from our current book--Peace in Every Step by Thich Nhat Hanh--and some time for sharing and discussion.

All are welcome, no matter your level of experience or if you read the book!
Free will donation basis - all donations help cover operating expenses for WCH
Questions? Email eileen.nehme@gmail.com.

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



If you or your group would like to host an event, drop us a line:
info@westfordcommonhall.org

Earth and Sky: A Photography Exhibition

Dec. 12 through Feb. 28

Westford Common Hall is pleased to present "Earth and Sky," a photography exhibition featuring the work of four local artists. The show explores the natural world through diverse photographic perspectives, capturing the beauty and wonder of our surroundings from the ground beneath our feet to the stars overhead.

Join us for a "Meet the Artist" reception, tentatively scheduled for Jan. 18 from 4-6pm,

Enjoy refreshments and conversation with the photographers about their work and creative process.

Gallery hours on the following dates:

- Dec. 14, (12 - 4 pm)
- Dec. 17, (12 - 2 pm)
- Dec. 21, (12 - 4 pm)
- Jan. 11 & 25th, (12-4pm).

For additional information and updates,
visit westfordcommonhall.org



WESTFORD
COMMON HALL

Westford Music Series 2025/2026 Season

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

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 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: WINTER

- 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.

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 CONSERVATION COMMISSION



HOLIDAY TREE ON THE COMMON! Thanks to Kamala Symula, Valerie Smith, the Girl Scouts, and Glenn Rogers for many years of providing a holiday tree and celebration for Westford. Glenn Rogers has generously donated a tree for this year, and **The Westford Conservation Commission will continue the tradition with a Holiday Tree Lighting party at the Gazebo Saturday, December 6 at 6:00 PM. Hot chocolate in exchange for a good singing voice.**

ACTIVE HUNTING – HUNTING IS A PERMITTED ACTIVITY IN THE MAPLE SHADE TOWN FOREST. HUNTING OF ANY SPECIES IS PERMITTED DURING DEER AND TURKEY SEASONS. Orange vests have been provided at the entrance to the forest. Please return them after your walk. Trails that run through private lands have been closed until December 15, 2025.

GROOMED TRAILS – 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.

DONATIONS!: 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, December 17, 2025 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 PUBLIC LIBRARY

<https://westfordpubliclibrary.org>

(802)878-5639

westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com

1717 VERMONT ROUTE 128, WESTFORD VT

Westford Public Library Temporary Closure

The library is undergoing unexpected maintenance and remediation and will be temporarily closed. Information regarding services and reopening will be posted on our website, Front Porch Forum, and our Facebook page as it is available. Thank you for your understanding and support.

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/>

See You Next Year!

