



# WESTFORD NEWSLETTER



*January 2026*

The **Abbot's Sphinx Moth** is a large moth that feeds at dusk. They reside in woodlands, mainly feeding on grapes as caterpillars and nectar from honeysuckle and lilac as adults.

## Westford Town Office

1713 Vermont Route 128 - Westford, Vermont 05494

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

<https://westfordvt.us/>

## TOWN OFFICE NOTES

### Selectboard FY'27 Budget Workshops & Public Hearing

The Selectboard began working on the FY'27 Budget in October. Stay tuned on Front Porch Forum and the website for budget workshop dates.

The Board encourages residents to attend these meetings to provide feedback to assist the Board in developing a budget to be voted on in March 2026.

### Petition Deadlines

Petitions for articles to be considered for inclusion in the warning for Town Meeting are due by 4:30pm Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup>. Petitions must be signed by at least 5% of the registered voters (a minimum of 89). Please be sure that the person signing the petition is a registered voter and that their name is legible.

Elected offices (Selectboard, etc.) – Candidates are required to file a petition signed by at least 18 registered voters and a Consent of Candidate Form to run for an office. The deadline to submit the petition and consent form is 4:30pm on Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup>. The forms can be picked up at the town office or printed off the town website. Please contact the Town Office for a list of offices with terms expiring in March 2026.

### Senior Luncheon

Happy New Year! There will be no lunch this month due to a painting project at the BMH. See you in February!

**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:**

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

### Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the February Newsletter is 12:00 noon on Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup>.



## 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

# THE VERMONT MANDOLIN TRIO



### ECLECTIC

*-free will donation-*

**4-5 PM: WESTFORD COMMON HALL**

**SUNDAY: JANUARY 11, 2026**

Will Patton, Jamie Masefield, and Matt Flinner make up three of Vermont's finest mandolinists for a rare afternoon of eclectic music in the unique setting of three mandolins. Joined by journeyman bassist Pat Melvin, the group performs music ranging from Bill Monroe to Benny Goodman and Philip Glass to Norman Blake, along with plenty of original music.

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

## 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.



## 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.

# 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.

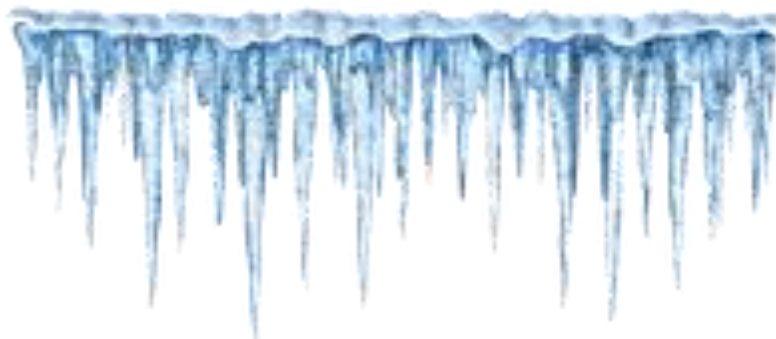
## FULL TIME ROAD CREW MEMBER

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







# January 2026

## Newsletter

### The Westford Music Series



#### Vermont Mandolin Trio

Sunday, January 11, 2026, 4-5pm

January brings the renowned jazz mandolinist, Will Patton, Jamie Masefield, and Matt Flinner together, making up three of Vermont's finest mandolinists, for a rare afternoon of eclectic music in the unique setting of three mandolins.

Joined by journeyman bassist Pat Melvin, the group performs music ranging from Bill Monroe to Benny Goodman and Philip Glass to Norman Blake, along with plenty of their own original music.



#### News & Events

Don't miss our "Meet the Artist Reception" for our **Earth and Sky: A Photography Exhibition**. Stop by on Sat. January 18<sup>th</sup>, 4 - 6 PM. Enjoy refreshments and conversation with the photographer

We can't wait for **Westford WinterFest on Jan. 31st!** Among the many Winterfest activities that day, be sure to plan a stop at the Westford Common Hall! **Rockin' Ron the Friendly Pirate is a back.** **New Orleans-based jazz with Jon McBride's Back Porch Revival will rev up the party!** Join in our **Mardi Gras parade and then enjoy a slice of genuine New Orleans King Cake!** Throughout the day, enjoy face painting, hot cider and hot chocolate, s'mores by the fire pit, and a Winterfest-sized pie raffle!

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

**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](mailto:eileen.nehme@gmail.com).



# Earth and Sky: A Photography Exhibition

Westford Common Hall is pleased to present "Earth and Sky," a photography exhibition featuring the work of four local artists:

- Amber O. Haller
- Ian MacDonald
- Deborah Parente
- Rene Renteria

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.

## Exhibition runs Dec.12 - Feb.28

Viewing hours are on the following dates:



- December 14, 12 - 4 PM
- December 17, 12 - 4 PM
- January 18, 4 - 6 PM
- January 25, 12 - 4 PM
- February 8, 12 - 4 PM
- February 22, 12 - 4 PM

### MEET THE ARTIST RECEPTION

Sat. January 18<sup>th</sup>, 4 - 6 PM

Enjoy refreshments and conversation with the photographers.

For more information, visit [westfordcommonhall.org](http://westfordcommonhall.org).



# Westford's Winterfest

Jan. 31, 11:30 am - 4 pm



## Westford Common Hall Activities

### 12:15pm: Rockin' Ron the Friendly Pirate

Kick off the day with some high-energy pirate tunes!

### 1:30pm: Jon McBride's Back Porch Revival -

Get into the Mardi Gras spirit with a jazz performance straight from New Orleans!

### 2:30 pm Mardi Gras Parade

Join the parade and show off your festive spirit!

### King Cake & Beads

Enjoy a slice of delicious New Orleans King Cake, and catch some beads for extra fun!

### Throughout the Day:

- Hot Cider & Hot Chocolate
- Face Painting for all ages
- S'mores by the Fire Pit
- Winterfest-Sized Pie Raffle (don't miss your chance to win!)

*These are just some of the many activities at Winterfest, be sure to check out all the other awesome activities going on around town!*







WESTFORD  
COMMON HALL

# Westford Music Series 2025/2026 Season

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

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**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 Winter Festival

**January 31, 2026**

**11:30 - 4:00**

**Come One, Come All,** to the Westford Village Common on Saturday, January 31 !!

- > **Horse-drawn trolley** - Free rides from the School to the Common!
- > Plenty of room to **Park** at the School on Brookside Road!
- > **Groennfell Meadery** - Mead! New this year!
- > **Foam Brewery** - Beer! New this year!
- > **Chili Cook-off** on the Common! 12:00-2:00
- > **Mardi Gras - King Cake** parade 2:30 at the Common Hall - New this year!
- > **Children's Games** on the Common!
- > **Winter Farmers' Market!** At the **Red Brick Meeting House**,  
With Burgers, Hot Dogs, Bake Sale!
- > **Westford Provisions** - free Hot Chocolate and kiddie Ice Cream Cones all day!
- > Free **Concerts** at the Westford Common Hall (aka: the White Church)
  - 12:15 - **Rockin' Ron** the Friendly Pirate
  - 1:30 - music by Jon McBride's **The Front Porch Revival band**
- > Visit the **Library** to begin your **Passport** Adventure - Keep track of your fun with a Westford Winter Festival Passport!
- > X-C Skiing and snowshoeing **Lesson** by Dale Rogers by the Westford school at 1:00
- > Skiing and snowshoeing on the Misty Meadows and Maple Shade town forest trails!
- > **Sledding** across from the school on Brookside Road!
- > Warm up at the **Camp Fires on the Common** with marshmallows to toast, or at the **Bonfire** on Brookside Rd!
- > Tour the **Westford Historical Society** and take self-guided **Historical Tour of Westford Village!**

More exciting details to come!

Watch Front Porch Forum and Events page for more details!

For more information: [Westfordwinterfest@gmail.com](mailto:Westfordwinterfest@gmail.com)

## **Westford Public Library Update**

The Westford Public Library remains temporarily closed while building remediation is underway. This work is an important step toward ensuring a safe, healthy space for staff and patrons, and it is actively moving forward with the guidance of town officials and health and safety professionals.

While the building is closed, library services continue in several ways. Patrons may request interlibrary loan items, which will be delivered to the Town Office for pickup. In addition, Westford library cards may be used at any Homecard library throughout Vermont. We encourage anyone looking for materials in the coming weeks to visit a nearby Homecard library while we work toward reopening.

As we look ahead, the library plans to resume regular programs such as Coffee and Cards, Storytime, the Shakespeare Group, and Knitting for Neighbors once the building reopens. Program timing will depend on reopening status, and patrons are encouraged to check the library website and online channels for the most up-to-date information.

Community members interested in supporting the library through book donations can visit the library's gift trees, which are currently located at Phoenix Books in Essex Junction. Visitors are welcome to choose a star from the tree, each featuring a book title selected for the library's collection. Books may be purchased in person at Phoenix Books or ordered online through any preferred vendor.

Thank you to the Westford community for your patience, kindness, and support during this unusual season. Updates will continue to be shared on the library website, Front Porch Forum, and Facebook.

For your convenience, below is a list of Homecard libraries in Vermont where you may use your Westford Public Library card while the building is closed. Homecard is a cooperative lending program among public libraries in northwestern Vermont. Items borrowed must be returned to the library from which they were checked out, and each library's borrowing policies apply.

### **Homecard Libraries:**

#### **Addison County**

Bixby Memorial Free Library  
Ilsley Public Library  
Lawrence Memorial Library  
Lincoln Library  
New Haven Community Library  
Orwell Free Library  
Russell Memorial Library  
Starksboro Public Library



**Chittenden County**

Brownell Library (Essex Junction)  
Burnham Memorial Library (Colchester)  
Carpenter-Carse Library (Hinesburg)  
Charlotte Public Library  
Deborah Rawson Memorial Library (Jericho)  
Dorothy Alling Memorial Library (Williston)  
Essex Free Library  
Huntington Public Library  
Jericho Town Library  
Milton Public Library  
Pierson Library (Shelburne)  
Richmond Free Library  
South Burlington Community Library  
Winooski Memorial Library

**Franklin County**

Fairfax Community Library  
Georgia Public Library

**Grand Isle County**

Grand Isle Free Library  
North Hero Public Library  
Worthen Library (South Hero)

**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](mailto:townclerk@westfordvt.us) with your name and email address. To view current and past newsletters visit:

<https://westfordvt.us/documents/newsletters/>