



WESTFORD NEWSLETTER

April 2026



The **Luna Moth** is one of the most visually stunning members of nocturnal night life in Vermont. They are strong fliers and attracted to lights. They are usually found in deciduous forests.

Westford Town Office

1713 Vermont Route 128 - Westford, Vermont 05494

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

<https://westfordvt.us/>

TOWN OFFICE NOTES

EWSD (School) Budget Vote

If you requested an absentee ballot for the school vote those went out as soon as ballots were available. Voters can return their ballots at the town office drop box, inside the town office, or at the polls during polling day, April 14th 7am-7pm at the Westford School.

Dog Licenses

Dogs in Westford are required to be vaccinated against rabies and licensed with the town by April 1st. This is required legally by the State of Vermont. The fee for spayed/neutered dogs is \$13.00 and the fee for intact dogs is \$15.00. After April 1st late fees will begin being assessed.

Senior Luncheon

April is here and the weather is improving! Any current or past Westford residents are highly encouraged to join us on Monday April 13th for our "Spring Surprise!" Doors of the Brick Meeting House open at 11:30am for socializing with lunch, prepared by our amazing volunteers, to follow around 12noon. We are always happy to meet new folks! Please reach out if you have 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:

- April 14-15 – School Budget Election
- May 25 – Memorial Day

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the May Newsletter is 12:00 noon on Monday, April 27th.



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



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.



TRAIL CLOSURES: During mud season, various trails will be closed to prevent erosion from pedestrian traffic. Please adhere to trail closures while we wait for things to dry out. We may not have enough signs to close all affected trails, so please use your best judgment; if you need to go off the trail to walk the trail, you should not be on the trail. In other words, if conditions are so muddy or deteriorated that you need to go well off the traveled way in order to go forward, it's time to turn back. It may be possible to walk on parts of a trail, but not all the way through.

"Trails that are oversaturated are vulnerable to damage from soil compaction and erosion with every footstep. Soil compaction degrades the quality of the trail by reducing its ability to absorb water, causing increased flooding later and making it harder for vegetation to grow. Erosion then carries the soil away, leaving rocks and roots exposed." – Green Mountain Club

FLICK A STICK – Please let us know if you see downed trees or other required maintenance to any of the trails. We're happy to go out and clean things up! Feel free to flick winter sticks and other small obstacles as you enjoy the trails. All debris must be kept within the trail right of way on trails that run through private land, so debris should be just off to the side of the traveled path. **We will soon be scheduling a Spring Clean-Up Day, so stay tuned.**

\$5,000.00! - The Westford Conservation Commission was awarded a \$5,000.00 grant from Vermont Fish & Wildlife for watershed education. The project will aim to use the town-owned property at 1705 Rte. 128 for education and outreach to improve community understanding of watershed processes, flood risk, and resilience-based learning activities. The project will increase awareness, land use for floods, river dynamics, and Vermont's Flood Safety Act (Act 121). We seek to emphasize preparedness, informed decision-making, and community engagement while supporting long-term watershed stewardship. The work is done in collaboration with UVM professor Dr. Kyle Buck and his students who are collecting data as part of their senior capstone project. They will use the information to develop place-based educational materials, community outreach resources, and documentation that can support future town planning that can be replicated by other Vermont communities.

EXCLUSIVE - Be one of the very few to own an authentic Westford hoodie. Proceeds benefit the Conservation Commission. Locally printed on a high-quality Gildan garment by New Duds in Colchester. **NEW COLORS!** Available in **red , navy , sport grey, ash;** L or XL. \$50 each. Contact westfordcc@googlegroups.com for ordering.

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, April 15, 2026 at 6:00 pm at the Town Office**

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

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/2025/12/Common-Use-Application-FILLABLE.pdf>

If you have any questions, please call the Town Office for assistance: 802-878-4587.

WESTFORD MUSIC SERIES

PRESENTS

MINOR GOLD BAND



FOLK

-free will donation-

**7 - 8 PM: WESTFORD COMMON HALL
FRIDAY: APRIL 10, 2026**

Aussie couple Tracy McNeil and Dan Parsons have been making music professionally and in a life partnership for several years. Known for their folk, country, and soft rock albums with breezy understated lustrous music. UK's UNCUT magazine highlights "the way their voices curl around each other."

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.

WESTFORD MUSIC SERIES

PRESENTS

LEWIS FRANCO AND THE MISSING CATS



ACOUSTIC JAZZ COMBO

-free will donation-

4 - 5 PM: WESTFORD COMMON HALL

SUNDAY: APRIL 19, 2026

Lewis Franco as band leader and songwriter has kept the jump and jive alive in the Green Mountains with his guiling vocals crooning along with his ace band of Missing cats, artist Will Patton (mandolin) and Dona Schabner (Guitar) and Susannah Blachy's Appalachian funk blues (violin). Expect originals as well as swing tunes from the 1930s and 1940s.

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

Westford Historical Society

NEWS FROM THE WESTFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY MARCH 2026

We at the Westford Historical Society are busy making plans for our country's 250th Birthday celebration and have already booked some activities for this summer.

On Saturday, July 25th we will be hosting a Fife and Drum group on the Common. There may be more activities in conjunction with them but plans are not finalized as of this writing.

Then, on Sunday, July 26th we are proud to present Alexandra Garrett, a history professor from St. Michael's College who is part of Governor Scott's Commission for Vermont's celebrations. She will be at the Brick Meeting House at 2:00 for a free event talking about the history of the American Revolution and Vermont's role. We hope you will join us for this educational event. Please mark your calendars for these events and stay tuned as more details emerge.

Our spring and summer openings are slated for the second and fourth Saturdays from 11 to 1 starting this April. We hope you will drop in on April 11 or the 25th, May 9th and 23rd, June 13 and 27th and so on through October. We also plan to be open during the summer concerts which will be taking place on the Common.

For more information on these events or to schedule a private viewing of our building please contact Caroline Brown at 802-878-8890. We continue to meet at 2:00 on the 3rd Monday of the month at 10 Common Road and welcome new members.

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.



SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATE IN THE 2026 WESTFORD FARMERS MARKET!!

The Westford Farmers Market is now planning for the 2026 season and is seeking both community sponsors and vendors. Our goal is to foster connections between community members and producers by creating a market for folks to find fresh, local food and unique, hand-crafted products from their neighbors. As we look ahead to 2026, we are working to strengthen the market's financial stability and expand vendor participation.

Sponsors:

Local businesses and community partners are invited to support the market through our sponsorship program. Sponsorship funds help offset operational costs, marketing, and community programming. Please reach out to us at westfordfarmersmarketvt@gmail.com to learn more about sponsorship options.

Vendors:

Looking for local farmers, food producers, and artisans to join us for the 2026 Summer season. The Market will be held on Sundays from 3-6pm, June 7th-September 27th, on the Westford Town Common.

High demand for fresh produce, preserved/prepared foods, eggs, meats and cheese but all types of farmers and artisans from the surrounding communities are welcome to apply. Easy sign up process and flexible scheduling options.

If you are interested in applying as a vendor, please fill out the application here:

<https://forms.gle/vGi5ZSkSgjfCmj4A9>

Reach out to learn more about requirements and availability. Please contact market managers, Kirsten and Kristin at westfordfarmersmarketvt@gmail.com

Find us on Facebook and Instagram

@westfordfarmersmarketvt



April 2026 Newsletter

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



Minor Gold Band
Fri., April 10, 7-8 pm

The Westford Music Series celebrates spring, featuring the award-winning Aussie couple, **Minor Gold**, as they begin their April 2026 American tour. Tracy McNeil and Dan Parsons are well-known in the US for their folk, country, and soft rock albums with their breezy, understated, lustrous music.



LEWIS FRANCO & the MISSING CATS
Sunday, April. 19, 4-5 pm

Don't miss Lewis Franco and the Missing Cats at Westford Common Hall on **April 19 at 4pm**, bringing their irresistible blend of jump, jive, and acoustic jazz to the stage. Featuring standout musicians like Will Patton, Dono Schabner, and Susannah Blachly, this lively performance promises toe-tapping rhythms, rich harmonies, and a fun-loving nod to 1930s and '40s swing.

Westford's Buddhist meditation and study group meets at WCH every Sunday morning from 10:30 am-12 pm.

Come join neighbors for a 25-minute silent meditation, short readings from our current book--Start Where You Are by Pema Chodron--and some time for sharing and discussion. All are welcome, no matter your level of experience or if you have 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 on Wednesdays and Fridays, 10 am-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

Bird Walk with Jason Crooks

Explore nature. Discover birds. Learn together.

Come see who you can find in your backyard this spring! Join Westford resident and birder Jason Crooks for a short presentation followed by a walk to look for and give thanks to our feathered neighbors.

Date/time: Saturday, May 23, 2026, 8:00am - 10:00am

Location start: Westford Common Hall,
21 Brookside Dr., Westford

Cost: Free will donation appreciated

Register Today!



SCAN HERE

Space is limited



*Sponsored by the Westford
Common Hall and the Westford
Library*

Thank you!!

Our Pi Day celebration on March 14 brought out about 40 community members of all ages for an evening of delicious food, bingo thrills, a few decent jokes, and lots of laughs. The potluck spread was impressive. No one left hungry! Bingo was a hit, with kids helping call numbers. Big thanks to Poor House Pies for the gift certificate for our final prize!

It was fun to see people catching up and enjoying the evening together. The hall felt warm and lively, which is exactly what we're aiming for.

Thank you to everyone who brought food, helped set up and clean up, and showed up to make it a true community event. This is exactly what the Common Hall is for, and we look forward to the next gathering!

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

April 10, 2026 *Special Friday Concert 7pm: Minor Gold band

April 19, 2026: Lewis Franco band

May 17 th , 2026: FREVO quartet

June 7 th , 2026: John McBride's Big Easy; ALL THAT JAZZ

September 13, 2026: Missisquoi River Band

October 18, 2026: Marsh Lights

November 15, 2026: Twangtown Paramours

December 11, 2026: HOLIDAY CONCERT at 7:00 pm Fairfax Westford Band

December 20, 2026: Carol Ann Jones

January 10, 2027: The Vermont Mandolin Trio

February 7, 2027: Dave Roberts & Chicky Stolz

March 7, 2027: Spenser Lewis

April 4, 2027: The Buck Hollars

May 16, 2027: FREVO

See <https://westfordcommonhall.org/westford-music-series> for more info!



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

APRIL NEWSLETTER

This month's Adult
Book Group: Choose
Your Own Biography/
Memoir!



Join us on on April 15th at 7:00 PM for
our Adult Book Group. There is not a
particular book chosen for this month!

Instead, we invite you to read the
biography/memoir of your choice and
share it with us. We will take turns
sharing the highlights of the biography/
memoir that we chose to read this
month. Tea, coffee, and good company!
All are welcome - we love newcomers!

Upcoming Events



Coffee and Cards
Tuesdays from 10:30-12:00

Join us weekly for card games and good
conversation. All levels welcome!



Homeschool Meet Up Group
Tuesdays from 1:30-2:30 *Note New Day/Time*

All families interested in homeschooling are
invited! This space is intended to help
homeschooling families connect.



Knitting with Neighbors + Board Games
Wednesdays from 4:30-6:00 *Note New Time*

Come and knit or crochet at the library! Enjoy
the company of other fiber artists and share
tips and tricks. We will have board games
available for all ages.





Upcoming Events



Early Literacy Storytime: Thursdays at 10:30

Our storytime has changed to 10:30. Join us for a gentle, engaging storytime full of rhymes, songs, stories, and parachute play. Playtime follows storytime!



Learn American Mah Jongg

TO RESUME IN APRIL: Thursdays from 1:00-3:00

Please stop in or email to register:
westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com



Maker's Group

Thursday, April 2nd from 6:30-8:00

Bring anything you are currently working on and spend time with other makers in a relaxed, creative space.



Songs with Linda Bassick

Saturday, April 4th from 10:30-12:00

Come to the library for a special children's event - songs, rhymes, play, and stories with Linda Bassick!



Library Trustee Meeting

Wednesday, April 8th from 7:00-9:00



Shakespeare Group

Friday in April (date TBD by group) at 2:00 PM

Join us to discuss the play, "Romeo and Juliet." All are welcome! Copies available at the library.



Legislative Updates

Senator Chris Mattos

Crossover week has come and gone for the Legislature. We're still finishing up some bills on the Senate floor, but all committees have passed out their work for consideration. Now the process starts all over by working on the bills from the House.

In my morning committee, Judiciary, we passed out S.193 – establishing a forensic facility for certain justice-involved individuals. This bill is to address a gap in our judicial system for individuals who've committed serious crimes but cannot stand trial due to mental incapacity. S.193 provides a framework to create a secure facility for individuals who are charged for offenses with life sentences who are found not guilty for reason of insanity or incompetent to stand trial. These secure facilities would provide competency restoration services and mental health services. This bill will be taken up this week by the full Senate. We also worked on election worker protections, child protection in court proceedings, and sexual exploitation and privacy. The Senate also passed Proposal 4, the constitutional amendment, and now heads to the House.

In Finance, we spent much of our time reviewing bills from other committees that affect the revenues of the state. We have reviewed bills from the Transportation, Agriculture, Health & Welfare, Commerce & Economic Development and Government Operations. S.220 came out of Finance designed to be a short-term education spending control measure by lowering the excess spending threshold from 118% to 112%. For districts that trigger this threshold, the amount is double taxed at the local level. If this bill was applied to FY27 spending, it would have impacted about \$20million in spending. We also passed S.206, a bill that would authorize the Office of Professional Regulation to license early childhood educators. I had concerns initially with the limitations placed on family childcare providers, but those concerns were alleviated by an amendment by Sen. Bongartz to offer a longer runway for providers to attain the necessary education to be licensed.

We now head into April focusing on the work sent over from the House to set up the final month of May. I hope everyone can enjoy some fresh maple syrup while we await the true arrival of spring.

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions, comments, or concerns at cmattos@leg.state.vt.us.

Chris Mattos
State Senator
Chittenden-North District

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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/>