



# WESTFORD NEWSLETTER

June 2026



The **Green Pug Moth** first appeared in New England in the 1990s and feed on buds, flowers, and sometimes developing leaves. They overwinter as eggs on apple trees.

## Westford Town Office

1713 Vermont Route 128 - Westford, Vermont 05494

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

<https://westfordvt.us/>

## TOWN OFFICE NOTES

### Property Taxes Due – Final Installment

The final property tax installment was due on Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Any taxes that are late will be subject to 1% interest and an 8% penalty.**

### Dog Licenses

Dog Licenses were due on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Please license your dog if you have not done so already. A letter went out to previously registered dogs who were not registered on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. In June, a list of unregistered dogs in Westford will be provided to the Selectboard and Dog Warden for review and action. Licensing your dog is required by state law. The fee for a spayed/neutered dog is \$13.00 and the fee for an intact dog is \$15.

### Senior Luncheon

Please join us on Monday June 8th for our last Senior luncheon before our summer hiatus. Any past or current residents 55 + are highly encouraged to join us for a tasty BBQ feast prepared by our fantastic volunteers! Doors of the Brick Meeting house open at 11:30 for socializing with meal service around 12noon. Come and meet some new neighbors or reconnect with old friends.... We always welcome new faces.

**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:**

- June 19th – Juneteenth

### Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the July Newsletter is 12:00 noon on Monday, June 22<sup>nd</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.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



## 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.

### **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.



**WES-UVM STREAM ECOLOGY FIELD TRIP** - In April, 4th and 5th grade Westford Elementary students went on a local field trip with four UVM students to learn all about aquatic organisms in the Browns River. WES students were taught how to sample the river bottom for benthic invertebrates, and how the presence of these species indicated the health of the aquatic environment. WCC has secured funding through Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's Watershed Grant Program to expand these types of collaborative learning opportunities for the community, with additional support for educational materials and equipment for the upcoming school year.

"We all learned that finding creatures like stonefly larvae and caddisflies is usually a sign that the Browns River is healthy. **These animals need clean, cold water with lots of oxygen to survive, so scientists use them as "indicator species" to help measure water quality. Finding them shows that the river likely has low pollution levels.** This means the river is supporting many different kinds of life well." - Oliver Collins, WES student.

**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.

**TICKS** - It's that time of year! Ticks are out and about with the spring weather. Take precautions by tucking pantlegs into socks, using tick repellent, and always performing tick-checks after outside activities. Don't forget to check your four-legged friends too!

**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](mailto: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, June 17, 2026 at 6:00 pm at the Town Office**

## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS – EMERALD ASH BORER ASSESSMENT IN WESTFORD

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), an invasive insect that feeds on and kills ash trees, has recently been confirmed in the Town of Westford. In response, the Town is organizing a Rapid Roadside Ash Assessment Survey to better understand the location and condition of ash trees along local roads.

We are looking for volunteers to assist with this important community effort. Volunteers will receive training on how to identify ash trees and collect basic assessment information. No prior forestry experience is required.

The assessment will help the Town:

- Understand the extent of ash tree populations in Westford
- Plan for public safety and future management efforts
- Prepare for the impacts of Emerald Ash Borer over time

Volunteer training is anticipated to take place in July, with specific dates and survey schedules to be announced at a later time.

If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, please contact Harmony Cism, Westford Administrative Officer, at [zoning\\_admin@westfordvt.us](mailto:zoning_admin@westfordvt.us) or (802) 878-4587.

Additional information on Emerald Ash Borer can be found at [VTinvasives.org](http://VTinvasives.org) and [VTcommunityforestry.org](http://VTcommunityforestry.org).

Thank you for helping Westford prepare for and respond to Emerald Ash Borer.

## 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.

## 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

**This year, George Lamphere's term on the Planning Commission expired and he decided not to run for reappointment. The Planning Commission and the Town thank George for his service over the years.**

On behalf of myself and other commissioners who have served with you, I would like to thank you and recognize your many years of service to the commission and to the Town of Westford.

Your service spanned periods of energetic development of the town plan and zoning regulations, complex development of community wastewater funding mechanisms, and vigorous, sometimes discordant, public debate. In addition, you assumed the leadership of the Commission through difficult periods of membership transition.

Throughout these challenges, your fellow commissioners have recognized your openness, fairness and professionalism. Your tenure is marked by dedication to the Town, transparency, and efforts to seek compromise and build consensus.

I, for one, will miss your thoughtful deliberations and guidance and thank you for your service to the Town and the Commission.

Max Tyler

Westford Planning Commission, Chair



## **NEWS FROM THE WESTFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY MARCH 2026**

As of this writing these are events that are planned for the 250<sup>th</sup> celebration in July. Final details will be in next month's newsletter:

Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup> IN OUT BUILDING at 10 Common Road:

- Theater curtain display during 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities.

Saturday, July 25<sup>th</sup> IN OUR BUILDING at 10 Common Road:

- See some examples of early American crafts such as decorative tray paintings, tatting, bead work, and samplers.
- Learn about some of the 14 Revolutionary War soldiers buried here in Westford.
- See a demonstration of the workings of the flintlocks used in the American Revolution and what was involved in their loading.
- See the separate article in this newsletter on Captain James Taylor, one soldier who ultimately came to Westford after fighting in the Revolutionary War and is buried here.

Saturday, July 25<sup>th</sup> ON THE COMMON:

- \*Fife and Drum music in the afternoon
- \*Hopefully an Encampment

Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup> AT THE BRICK MEETING HOUSE:

- \*A talk by Alexandra Garrett on Vermont's role in the American Revolution at 2:00p.m.
- \*This is a free event, open to all comers.

See the July Newsletter for specific times and further details for these events and more. For more information contact Caroline Brown, our President, at 802-878-8890. And, as always, we welcome new members. Join us at our meetings at 10 Common Road at 2:00 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month.



## WESTFORD CONCERTS ON THE COMMON

Westford summer concerts will be happening on Sunday evenings from 6:30 – 8:00 pm in July and August according to the schedule listed below. All concerts are free, but tips for the performers are appreciated. Concerts are BYO for chairs, blankets, picnics, bug repellent, etc., but be sure to check with Westford Provisions to see if they have a special going on that day. Also, the concerts will be starting shortly after the end of the Westford Farmers Market, which also will have music performers and various food options. You may want to do your market shopping, get a bite eat, then hang around for the start of the concert on the common.

### Westford Summer Concert Series Line-up:

- July 12- **Highway Clyde** – An ethereal, acid-jazz based sound track performance for your perfect summer evening.
- July 19 - **Jacob Green Band** – One man swamp blues artist brings his expanded band for a swamp fest.
- July 26 -**Soul Porpoise** – Burlington’s latest original soul and R n’ B supergroup makes a splash in Westford (wear your dancing shoes or sandals)
- August 2 - **Duncan MacCloud** – Tasty Americana and Classic Rock served up hot
- August 9 - **Amerikanablue** – Blues based classic rock and americana favs.
- August 16 - **Adam & the Orbits** – Back again to Westford with more rock-a-billie, Americana, and original offerings.



# CEMETERY COMMISSION

## Capt. James Taylor – Brookside Cemetery



James Taylor was born in Peekskill NY and was the son of Benjamin Taylor and his wife Jemima Foster. His father, Benjamin, was born at Yorktown and is reported to have served in some of the French & Indian Wars. The family later relocated to Franklin MA from Peekskill

In Rann's *History of Chittenden County* (p. 700), James is listed among Revolutionary War veterans.

At 16, James was apprenticed to be a Blacksmith and when he was 17 enlisted in the Continental Army -Reported to have been with Washington at Valley Forge [letter written by Augustus Taylor his son in 1886].

After the Revolutionary War, James and several friends journeyed on foot to Kentucky. During this period, he reportedly joined Capt. Lewis' surveying party, which was mapping new territories in Kentucky. After returning to Massachusetts from Kentucky, James married Salome Partridge on February 16, 1786, in Franklin, Norfolk Co., MA, according to Massachusetts Compiled Marriages, 1633-1850 (Ancestry.com). He worked as a blacksmith in Franklin for several years. Sometime after, James and Salome briefly relocated to Peekskill, NY, before moving north to settle in Westford VT in the early 1800s. There is a deed in the Westford Land records which lists him as James Taylor of Westchester Co. NY and in March 1807 he purchased 70 acres of land from Chloe Woodruff. It is possible that the couple arrived in Westford at the same time as the Partridge family, as Salome was the daughter of Amos Partridge and Meletiah Ellis. Both Amos and Meletiah Partridge are buried in Brookside Cemetery as well as some of the children of James & Salome Taylor. James Taylor and his wife had 14 known children (born in Massachusetts, New York & Westford VT)

Capt. James Taylor also raised a company of soldiers from Westford, Fairfax & Georgia during the War of 1812 and was appointed Capt. 30th Inf April 30, 1812 [Grave registration]. In 1814 – he volunteered to serve at the Battle of Plattsburgh.

Capt. James Taylor and his wife, Salome, are buried in Brookside Cemetery on Maple Tree Lane.

## 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



## FARMERS MARKET

*Join us on the Common every Sunday this Summer, June 7th - September 27th from 3-6pm.*

We're excited to welcome a variety of new and returning vendors offering fresh veggies, eggs, meats, sweet treats, sourdough, honey, handcrafts, pickles, jams, jewelry, maple syrup, and more!

We are proud to announce that we will be accepting SNAP / EBT benefits this year along with Crop Cash for eligible items.

Enjoy live music during the Market each week in the Gazebo.

Come celebrate community with us every Sunday this summer!

**Find us on Facebook and Instagram**

@westfordfarmersmarketvt



# WESTFORD FARMERS MARKET



•••••  
Music Every Week  
Fresh Veggies  
Baked Goods  
Crafts  
And More!!  
•••••



Sundays 3-6 on the Westford Common  
June - September



@westfordfarmersmarketvt



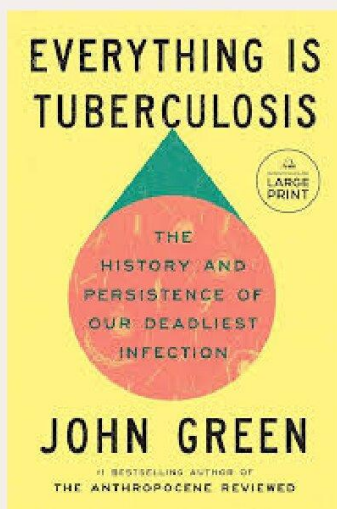
westfordfarmersmarketvt@gmail.com

**We accept SNAP benefits**



WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

# JUNE NEWSLETTER



Our Adult Book Group will be discussing *Everything Is Tuberculosis* by John Green on **Wednesday, June 17th from 7:00–8:00 p.m.**, and all are welcome to join us. Copies of the book are available at the library.

The book *Everything Is Tuberculosis* explores the world's deadliest curable disease. It blends history and social commentary, tracing TB from ancient times to its impact on culture. At its core, the story follows Henry Reider, a resilient young patient in Sierra Leone, whose journey underscores the global fight for health equity.

## Upcoming Events



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

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



**Family LEGO Time**  
**Tuesdays from 3:00-4:00**

Make a LEGO creation at our large wooden table. Families welcome, kids of all ages (small LEGO bricks will be used, not DUPLO) encouraged. Creations will be on display for one week.



**Princess Storytime**  
**Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup> from 11:00-12:00**

Belle will join us for a special "Princess Storytime." Children (and adults) are invited to wear their most royal outfits. Face painting will be offered after storytime!





## Upcoming Events



### **Storytime: Thursdays at 10:30**

Join us for an engaging storytime full of rhymes, songs, and stories. Storytime will be held on the green across from the library starting on June 18<sup>th</sup>.



### **Learn American Mah Jongg Thursdays from 1:00-3:00**

Please stop in or email to register:  
[westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com](mailto:westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com)



### **Maker's Group**

#### **Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:00**

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



### **Summer Reading Kick-Off!**

#### **Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup> (On-Going All Summer Break)**

Come to the library to sign up for summer reading! Look for the hidden stuffy and get a small prize!



### **Library Trustee Meeting**

#### **Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-9:00**



### **Shakespeare Group**

#### **Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM**

Join us to discuss King Lear. The group will be reading the first two acts aloud together at this event. All are welcome! Copies will be available at the library.



### **Deb Parente Bird Photography Talk**

#### **Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 PM**

Deb Parente will be giving a talk on birding and birding photography. Have questions about how to get started with nature/birding photography? Come learn about Deb's journey with birding photography and get inspired!

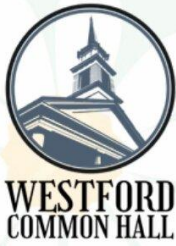


### **Peggy Rogers Art Reception**

#### **Wednesday, June 24<sup>th</sup> from 6-7 PM**

Watercolors by local artist Peggy Rogers are currently on display at the library. Please join us for a reception to meet and chat with the artist!





# June 2026

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



## Calendar of Events

**Bone Builders exercise class** is on Wednesdays and Fridays, 10 am-11:15.

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

**June 20, 12 - 1 pm, Bird Photography with Deborah Parente**

Learn photography techniques, composition tips, and great local spots to observe and capture birds. @The Westford Public Library

**July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebrations**

Once again the Westford Common Hall will be selling hot dogs, chips and drinks During Westford's July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration. Be sure to stop by our table!

**July 18, Westford Garden Tour**

**Save the Date: Oct 2 Honky Tonk Night**  
@the Westford Common Hall!



**Sunday, Nov. 1: Film Screening: Lost Nation**

**We're collaborating with the Westford Historical Society to bring Jay Craven's Lost Nation to the Common Hall on November 1, 4-7pm.** This Revolutionary War-era drama is set in the early Republic of Vermont, and it weaves together two Vermont stories: Ethan Allen and his Green Mountain Boys resisting New York's land claims, and African American poet Lucy Terry Prince as she fights for her family in early Vermont's courts.

**Director Jay Craven will introduce the film and provide a Q&A afterwards. The event is free, thanks to a grant secured by the Westford Historical Society to cover the costs related to screening the film.**



## A New Home for Our Antique Seats

If you've spent time at the Westford Common Hall, you've probably sat in our antique folding theater seats, the wooden ones with cast iron sides and those charming little perforated patterns on the backs.

Made by the Andrews Manufacturing Company, they're well over a hundred years old and genuinely beautiful. But fixed rows limit what we can do with the space, so we're looking for new homes for these special pieces and hoping some of you might want one.

Proceeds will go toward stackable chairs that give us more flexibility for different events, which means more ways for the community to use the hall. We'll entertain any offers from Westford residents! We're happy to send more photos. These seats have held a lot of Westford memories. We'd love for them to keep making more!

**Here's what's available:** two 5-seat rows, one 8-seat row, and an 11-seater we're exploring splitting into two 5-seaters.

**If you'd like to own a piece of Westford history (or just come take a look), email [info@westfordcommonhall.org](mailto:info@westfordcommonhall.org).**



Westford Common Hall | PO Box 53 | Westford, VT 05494  
[westfordcommonhall.org](http://westfordcommonhall.org)

# SPECIAL EVENTS



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

## Spring Birding Events in Westford!

**Thank you to Martha McClintock** for her engaging conversation in May on birding in Vermont and how to help advance research by collecting data on bird wildlife. **Thank you to Jason Crooks** for also sharing his knowledge of birds via a brief presentation and walk around the Westford Common Hall and Brookside road.

**And BIG Thank you to everyone who has attended and supported these events. We look forward to more Spring Birding Events in 2027!**

### COMING UP:

**June 20 from 12 – 1 pm, Bird Photography with Deborah Parente**

Learn photography techniques, composition tips, and great local spots to observe and capture birds.  
@The Westford Public Library



## Westford Honky Tonk Night!

**Oct. 2, 6pm - 9pm**

**We'll be turning the Common Hall into a Texas Honky Tonk for one night!**

We're excited to have longtime Vermont favorites Danny Coane (formerly with the Starline Rhythm Boys), Don Schabner, and Dave Rowell fill the hall from 7:00 to 9:00pm with their vintage country and western sounds!

We'll have a real dance floor and a beginners two-step lesson at 6pm. If dancing is not your thing, you can kick back and enjoy the music. Westford Provision will provide a cash bar and small bites, and we'll have a photo booth and silent auction to round out the fun.

**Note that we've moved the event from late September to Friday, October 2 - mark your calendar! It's a fundraiser, and every ticket helps keep the doors open and the calendar full. Tickets will go on sale later this month.**

# WEEKLY



**Bone Builders exercise class** is on Wednesdays and Fridays, 10am - 11:15.

Drop in any time. Please bring comfortable shoes and clothing and a water bottle for rehydrating. Donations are appreciated.

For more information, please contact by text or phone: Jocelyn Vrba-Chauvin, volunteer instructor - 802-999-6387



**RSVP Bone Builders** is an exercise program designed by Tufts University researchers to prevent the condition of osteoporosis in both men and women. It also is designed for keeping independence as we gracefully age and meet new challenges with our changing bodies. The classes are sponsored by the United Way and free to the community.

## Westford Buddhist meditation and study group

**Sundays, 10:30am - 12pm**

**What to expect:** 25 minute silent meditation, short readings from the book, and time for reflection and discussion. Ok to leave at the break around 11:30.

**Books we've read so far:** Thich Nhat Hanh Peace is Every Step; Pema Chodron Start Where You Are

**New to Buddhism and meditation, or just curious?** Join us and see what the group is all about! Free will donation basis to help cover operating expenses for WCH  
Questions? Email [eileen.nehme@gmail.com](mailto:eileen.nehme@gmail.com)



**WESTFORD  
COMMON HALL**

## 🌸🌿 Westford Garden Tour – Hosts Wanted! 🌿🌸

The Westford Common Hall is sponsoring another Garden Tour this summer on July 18, and we're looking for hosts! Help inspire others and celebrate the beauty of our local gardens!

Do you love to garden? 🌱 Would you like to share your garden with the community?

We're inviting local gardeners to showcase their spaces and be part of this beloved summer event. Email [deborah@westfordcommonhall.org](mailto:deborah@westfordcommonhall.org) to learn more.

### *WCH Summer Art Exhibit*

Thank you to all Artists that submitted their lovely work to the WCH Summer Art Exhibit which is a community Celebration of Art. This display will be available for viewing for 3 months starting mid-June.

## Get Involved with the Westford Common Hall!

Help create fun and educational events for the Westford community and surrounding areas! The Westford Common Hall is looking for volunteers to support their annual programs!

**Lend a hand at events or take a more active role, there's a place for you:**

- Volunteer at one or more events
- Help plan and organize community programs
- Join the Board of Directors

**Be part of bringing people together and making great things happen in our community!**

Reach out to learn more and get involved. Contact: [deborah@westfordcommonhall.org](mailto:deborah@westfordcommonhall.org)



WESTFORD  
COMMON HALL

# Westford Music Series 2026/2027 Season

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

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**The WCH music series is on a summer break.  
We'll be back up and running in September!**

**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!



**Westford  
Recreation**

**COMING  
SOON**

**July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade**

**Sign ups for Fall Sports**

**WE WANT  
YOU!**

**Coaches needed!  
Sign up today!**



# Recreation Survey



Scan the QR code and help us grow Westford's recreational offerings



# 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>.



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# Legislative Updates

## Senator Chris Mattos

The end of the session is in sight (hopefully)! As the temperatures rise, so does the heat to finish our work and adjourn. I am hopeful the legislature will adjourn this week. There will still be an opportunity for a veto session in mid-June if the Governor chooses to veto any bills and the legislature needs or wants to act on them.

The biggest piece of legislation still in limbo is the education transformation bill, H.955. Senate Education was unable to pass out their amendment due to a 3-3 failed vote. The bill then came to the Finance committee, for a only a few days, and we amended the bill to include the Senate Education amendment. It passed out of committee on a 5-2 vote and headed over to Senate Appropriations to be voted out 4-3. I was unable to support the bill out of committee due to the lack of substance. The bill would create a framework for cooperative educational service areas (CESA) and encourage districts to have conversations about margining. The CESA framework is not new, it is current law under a different name, board of cooperative educational services (BOCES). This passed about three years ago and there is currently only one operating in the State. Last years Act 73 would have had a map and merged districts envisioned with a foundation formula being implemented in the outyears. The foundation formula would still be implemented in H.955 along with various other tweaks to reappraisals, school construction and setting up the potential for a second homes tax. Like many aspects for the end of session work, there's a twist. There will be an amendment offered by four Senators to create merger committees, numerous reports from AOE and merger committee updates, CESA boundaries, merger grants and more. The amendment also makes some tweaks to the education opportunity payments (the foundation formula) and moves it up one year to 2030. It is yet to be seen how H.955 ends up this year as it will have to go back to the House after the Senate votes on it.

Another hotly debated topic this session is S.325, an act relating to regional planning and Act 250 Tier jurisdiction. This bill went to a committee of conference and will be voted on by the Senate this week. The biggest impacts are the changes to Act 181 with the repeal of the road rule and tier 3 which the legislature heard loud and clear from our rural communities on. I certainly give credit to all of those who reached out to legislators and expressed concerns, and I was happy to support these changes.

Many other bills are still needed to wrap up before the end of session including, the transportation bill, yield bill, miscellaneous tax, and the biggest of all, the budget. These are in committees of conference, and they all have to move together as each bill has some impact on at least one other. I am on the committee of conference for the miscellaneous tax bill, and we are mostly in agreement besides a couple items that are also involved with the transportation bill and the budget.

Lastly, I'm sure some have heard the news already, but I will not be seeking re-election. After nine years in the legislature, I have made the decision to step away after my term is up and focus on family and business. When I began my legislative career, I was in my 20's working a 9-5 with much more flexibility. Fast forward to today I am married with a one and a three-year-old while running a real estate and excavation business. The time commitments with everything that comes with being a legislator have made it unworkable for my family and I. It has truly been an honor to represent Westford for the past two years and it has been a pleasure meeting many of you.

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

**Chris Mattos**  
**State Senator**  
**Chittenden-North District**

## Representative Brenda Steady

Vermont lawmakers are heading into our second week of overtime, with the goal of concluding the session by Thursday. The primary reason for the delay is ongoing negotiations around **H.955 – An act relating to next steps in transforming Vermont’s education system**. Key players are working hard to reach an agreement that can be brought to the House floor for a vote.

### **Act 181 and Rural Vermont**

One major topic this session has been **Act 181**, one of the 2024 veto overrides passed by the supermajority. Act 181 significantly overhauls Vermont’s landmark environmental law, **Act 250**, and has had major implications for rural Vermonters.

The law introduced new natural resource protections and the controversial **“Road Rule,”** which triggers Act 250 permits for long driveways. This created strong pushback from rural landowners and farmers.

On **March 24, 2026**, Senator Russ Ingalls organized a rally on the Statehouse steps in Montpelier calling for Act 181 to be repealed. I attended the rally with several of my constituents, along with hundreds of rural Vermonters, farmers, and landowners.

While a full repeal did not occur, the Senate passed **S.325 – An act relating to regional planning and Act 250 Tier jurisdiction**. When the bill reached the House floor, Representative Greg Burt offered an amendment to support farmers by allowing them to construct improvements for recreational, educational, or social events **without triggering Act 250**, as long as the events feature the farm’s own agricultural products or practices.

The amendment passed **77–66**, with members of both parties voting in support of Vermont farmers. This is a meaningful win for farmers who are working hard to diversify income, and I am proud to say **I voted yes**.

### **The 2027 Budget**

Another major vote this week will be the **2027 state budget**, totaling **\$9.33 billion**. The budget has now gone to a **Conference Committee**, and I am hopeful the committee will make fiscally responsible adjustments.

I agree with Governor Phil Scott and do **not** support the current legislative version of the budget. My primary concern is the projected **average 7% increase in property taxes**, which will place additional strain on Vermonters.

I have also been asking questions at the Statehouse about the accountability requirements for nonprofits receiving hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars. I am still waiting for clear answers, and I will continue pressing for transparency.

### **Stay in Touch**

Please visit my website: [steadyforhousevt.org](https://steadyforhousevt.org)

You can reach me anytime at:  [bsteady@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:bsteady@leg.state.vt.us)  802-338-8374

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