



WESTFORD NEWSLETTER



August 2026

The **Chickweed Geometer** is a cheerfully colored daytime moth that can be identified by its feather antennae. They are named for the plant their caterpillars grow on, Chickweed.

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 Tax Bills

The first Property Tax Payment is due on Saturday, August 15. The other three payments are November 15, March 15, and May 15.

Payments will be considered timely if they are received by this date, have an August 15th postmark (postal, FedEx, or UPS), or are in the drop box located to the left of the Town Office door before the office opens at 8:30am on Monday August 17th. If your taxes are escrowed, it is your responsibility to forward a copy of your tax bill to your mortgage company in a timely manner while retaining a copy for your records.

Please Note:

- If the due date falls on a Monday-Thursday, the office will be open as usual until 4:30pm to collect taxes as timely.
- If the due date falls on a Friday, the office will extend the regular office hours from 1pm to 4:30pm.
- If the due date falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the office will still close at its regular time of 1pm on Friday but tax bills will be accepted as timely if they are in the white drop box outside the office door BEFORE 8:30am Monday morning giving you the whole weekend to get them in.

If you pay your taxes using Bill Pay (generating a check online through your financial institution), make sure you allow sufficient time for mailing. These envelopes do not bear a postmark therefore will be acknowledged by the date received at the Town Office not by the date on the check.

Primary Election

The State Primary Election is on 8/11. Absentee Ballots will be available upon request at the Town Office 4:30pm on 8/10. The polls will be open at 7:00am-7:00pm on 8/11 at the Westford School (147 Brookside Road).

TOWN OFFICE HOURS

The office is open to the public:

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

Closed:

- August 11 – State Primary

Newsletter Deadline

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

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.



CURRENT CONSTRUCTION

- **BROWNS RIVER COVERED BRIDGE REPAIRS**

Vermont Heavy Timber has begun repair work on the Browns River Covered Bridge. There may be times where traffic could 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.



SUMMER ROADS

What you need to know about summer road conditions

- **Road Projects:** many projects are being done on the roads at this time. Slow down and give crews space to work.
- **Dust:** roads can become dusty in dry weather and potholes can appear in heavily traveled areas. Going the speed limit can reduce dusty and damaged roads.
- **Roadside Mowing:** roadsides are mowed to increase visibility and keep invasive plants at bay. Mowing occurs twice a year: once in late spring/early summer and once later in summer.
- **Traffic Speeds:** due to the hard-packed conditions of the roads this time of year, overall vehicle speeds can increase. Be aware of speed limits.
- **Repairs:** roads are repaired as weather allows. Know that this takes time, especially if conditions are poor, so it may take the road crew some time to get to your road. Highly traveled roads are prioritized.
- **Dangerous Driving:** We've reached the unofficial start of summer, which means beautiful days for recreating on town roads. This is also a time of year where the Selectboard hears concerns from residents about cars speeding or driving dangerously along our roads. The Selectboard urges citizens to reach out directly to our contracted Deputy Sheriff, Brian Welch, at 802-863-7507 to report traffic incidents or routinely speeding vehicles. The more details you can share, the better! Where was the speeder? What were they driving? What time of day was it? Do you notice a pattern of behavior from a particular driver? Deputy Welch is glad to assist, but if you cannot reach Brian directly, please alert the Town Office and share details that can be passed along.

Happy Summer!

Reminders:

Watch for increased pedestrian traffic including walkers, bikers, horseback riders etc. Please slow down and give other road users lots of room as you pass.



BIG THANK YOU TO WCC MEMBER JOEL FAY - If you've been enjoying the Misty Meadow or Maple Shade Town Forest trail networks this season, you've likely noticed the incredible work WCC member Joel Fay has been doing. From mowing and clearing fallen trees to repairing bridges and improving muddy sections, Joel has worked tirelessly to keep these trails in outstanding condition. Thanks to his dedication, the trails are looking better than ever and are finally dry—so be sure to get out and enjoy them this summer! Thank you, Joel!

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.

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, August 19, 2026 at 6:00 pm at the Town Office

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

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 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:

- 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.

Westford Historical Society

NEWS FROM THE WESTFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

July was a busy month at the Westford Historical Society. We want to thank all who attended our 250th celebration on the weekend of July 25th and 26th. We owe a special thanks to the Daughters of the American Revolution for their part in making our cemetery service memorable. Sandy Gamsby, Regent of the Green Mountain chapter was a big help in planning; we thank Paula Sargent, state Chaplain, for offering her blessing and to Matt Van Wagner from Taps for Veterans for playing Taps to conclude our ceremony.



We also want to thank Maplehurst Greenhouse in Essex for the beautiful wreaths which we placed on the headstones of the 3 Revolutionary War soldiers we honored on Saturday. And, thanks to the Vermont Humanities Council for partially funding the events. The Hanaford Fife and Drum Corps was amazing, playing a number of pieces from our country's past and presenting a history to go along with the tunes. Thank you all. It was very entertaining and well received.



Paul Roberge graciously stepped up and gave a demonstration of early American firearms, focusing on that was involved with the loading and firing of these weapons—all one of a kind/no mass production! Thank you, Paul for this informative talk and for answering our questions. Many folks enjoyed seeing our building and the early American crafts on display as well as the refreshments.

Sunday's talk by Alexandra Garrett was exceptional. She spoke about the Revolutionary War in Vermont and shared lesser known facts. It is no wonder that Governor Phil Scott named her as part of the country's 250th. She is booked for other speaking engagements so if you missed Sunday's talk and have a chance to hear her speak, you won't be disappointed.

Upcoming events: The Citizens Concert Band is playing on the Common this Wednesday, July 29th from 7 to 8. They will play music from our history and works by late 20th and 21st century composers.

As always, we welcome new members. Contact Caroline Brown at 802-878-8890 with questions about donations, visitation, or making a bequest.

CEMETERY COMMISSION

Sgt. George Thrasher – Osgood Hill Cemetery January 12, 1754 - Unknown



Sgt. George Thrasher - Rev. War
Osgood Hill Cemetery

George Thrasher was born January 12, 1754, in Middl__ MA. He was living in New Braintree, Massachusetts, when he enlisted during the Revolutionary War; his parents are not currently known.

Thrasher entered service on September 5, 1776, serving two months as a “common soldier” in Captain Timothy Page’s company. He served 13 months as a soldier and five months as a sergeant. After the Revolution, Thrasher lived in New Braintree for about six years, then in Ware, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, before moving to Vermont. He lived in Wilmington and Milton and moved to Westford in 1822 (settled in the Osgood Hill area).

On August 17, 1832, Thrasher petitioned for his pension at the Chittenden County courthouse. He recounted service at Horse Neck, Dobbs Ferry, Bennington, Manchester, Stillwater, White Plains, Peekskill, and Fredericksburg, suggesting he likely participated in the Battle of Bennington.

His death date is unknown, but he appeared on the 1835 pension roll. He is buried in Osgood Hill Cemetery, where his gravestone identifies him as Sgt. George Thrasher of Sheldon’s Dragoons, Revolutionary War.

Sheldon’s Dragoons

The 2nd Continental Light Dragoons, or Sheldon’s Horse, was commissioned December 12, 1776, and mustered at Wethersfield, Connecticut, in March 1777. The regiment included troops from Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New Jersey, plus two light infantry companies

Note: Colonel Elisha Sheldon later settled in Hungerford, Vermont, later renamed Sheldon. He died in 1805 and is buried in Sheldon Cemetery.

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 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



August Newsletter

2026

Calendar of Events

Bone Builders exercise class on Wednesdays and Fridays, 9-10:15 am (summer hours).

Pop-up Yoga classes throughout the summer - most Sundays 8:30-9:30 am. Announced on Mondays via FPF and social media!

Westford's Buddhist meditation and study group meets at WCH every Sunday morning from 10:30 am-12:00 pm.

Summer Art Exhibit - June 15-Sept 15
9 Westford Artists display their creativity. See showing dates in details below.

Save the Date: *Lost Nation* Film Screening

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 set in the early Republic of Vermont 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 fighting for her family in 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.

Volunteer & Connect

Love the Garden Tour and the community events that bring people together?

Whether you volunteer at events, help plan programming, or join the Board, you'll connect with your neighbors and see your ideas come to life.

There's a place for everyone:

- Volunteer at one of our events
- Help plan and organize community programming
- Join the Board of Directors

Reach out to learn more: deborah@westfordcommonhall.org

WESTFORD GARDEN TOUR 2026

Thank You

The Westford Common Hall truly appreciates everyone who helped make this year's Garden Tour such a memorable event.

A heartfelt thank you to all of our Garden Tour Hosts for opening your gardens, sharing your creativity, and dedicating so much time, hard work, and expense to make this event so special.

2026 Garden Tour Hosts

- Kirsten & Elias, Rocky Hill Farm
- Amy Riley and Family
- Orah Moore and Michael Kirick
- Matt Bartholomew, Spring Fed Farm
- Janet Jaffe
- Amber O. Haller
- Kathleen Porter
- Lauren & Dave Curry
- Diana Kyser
- Amber Joy Kennedy, Boheme Botanika

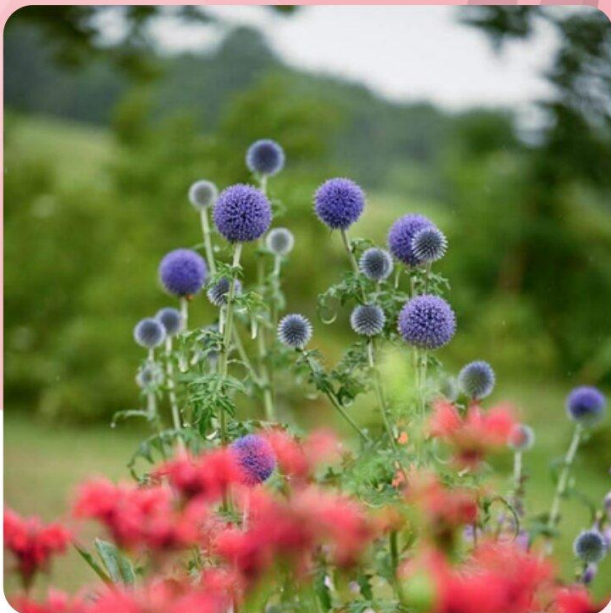
Thank you as well to everyone who joined the tour, especially braving the rain on Saturday! Your enthusiasm and support made the weekend a wonderful success.

A special thank you to **Kim Harris and her team at Westford Provisions** for sponsoring the event and hosting such a fun (and delicious!) Garden Party.

We're incredibly grateful to the volunteers who helped organize and promote the Garden Tour. A special shout-out to **Orah Moore**, who logged countless miles posting flyers throughout the community. Your dedication did not go unnoticed!

We can't wait to do this again next year. Thanks for being part of what makes Westford special.

WESTFORD GARDEN TOUR 2026



WCH Summer Art Exhibit - Westford Creates!

June 15 - September 15

Our new exhibition features the work of nine talented Westford artists whose creations span a wide range of media, techniques, and subjects. Each artist offers a unique perspective that reflects the character, creativity, and inspiration of our town.

Thank you for sharing your art with the Westford Community: Ella Dwyer, Jesse Holbrook, Kathleen A. Manley, Sonja Molyneux, Robert Rivas, Robert Richling, Rosemary Shea-Cobb, India Tresselt, Bernhard Wunder.

For more information about the artists go to <https://westfordcommonhall.org/art-gallery2026>.

Viewing hours, 3-6pm:

August 9, 23

September 6, 13



**Westford
Honky Tonk Night!**

Friday Oct. 2, 6:30pm - 10pm

Honky Tonk Fundraiser — Friday, October 2 - Tickets now available!
We'll be turning the Common Hall into a Texas honky tonk for one night! Join us at the Westford Common Hall for an authentic Honky Tonk experience featuring live music, a dance floor, and a cash bar.

A two-step lesson kicks off the evening at 6:30, band starts at 7:30. Local favorites Coane, Rowell & Schabner will be joined by the great Nick Aloï of Burlington on drums. If dancing is not your thing, kick back and enjoy the music and the good company of neighbors!

Westford Provisions will provide the cash bar plus small bites, and we'll have a photo booth and silent auction to round out the fun. It's a fundraiser, and every ticket helps keep the doors open and the calendar full.

We want to see YOU there!

To purchase tickets, visit: <https://sevendaystickets.com/e/westford-honky-tonk-night> or follow the qr code.

To buy tickets





**WESTFORD
COMMON HALL**

Westford Music Series 2026/2027 Season

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

**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 DEPARTMENT

OUR COMMUNITY. OUR PROGRAMS. Our Future.

WE NEED
YOUR HELP
TO KEEP
THEM GOING!



Our recreation programs bring people together, build connections, and create lasting memories. **But they can't continue without YOU!**



WE HAVE IMMEDIATE NEEDS. PLEASE CONSIDER STEPPING UP!

VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE MEMBERS



We need 2 community members to join our Recreation Committee!

Help guide the future of recreation in Westford.

PAID COORDINATOR POSITIONS



TURKEY TROT



FOURTH OF JULY



ICE RINK

*Lead the planning.
Make an impact.
See your ideas come to life!*

FALL SOCCER COACHES



We need friendly volunteers to help support our players, encourage teamwork, and have fun!

*All who are willing.
to help are welcome!*

IDEAS & PROGRAMS WELCOME!



Do you have an idea for a program you'd love to see in Westford?

We want to hear it!
Let's bring great ideas to life—together.

WHY IT MATTERS RIGHT NOW

If we don't fill these positions, our programs may not run.

The future of recreation in Westford is in our hands.

Let's keep it strong—together.



JOIN THE CONVERSATION!



Attend a Recreation Committee meeting to learn more, share ideas, and be a part of the solution.

*Everyone is welcome!
Your voice matters.*



INTERESTED? HAVE QUESTIONS? WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

recreation@westfordvt.us

Thank you for supporting a strong, active, and connected Westford!





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: Summer

- Break up material (both food scraps and browns) into small pieces. This allows for decomposition to happen quickly, meaning you'll have usable compost faster!
- Water your compost! If compost is dry it stops generating heat. Keeping compost moist will help things decompose quickly.
- Dry grass and egg shells make great additions to your pile. For best decomposition your pile should be 1/4th browns and 3/4th other items such as food scraps, coffee grounds and green lawn clippings.
- 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>.

Legislative Update from Rep. Brenda Steady

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer. I continue to receive emails at bsteady@state.leg.vt.us and I check them often.

Over the past several weeks, I have been focused on learning more about how taxpayer dollars are used to support nonprofit organizations. This work began when I discovered that one nonprofit was receiving \$200,000 in public funds without providing an audit, financial records, or an IRS Form 990. Despite several direct requests I personally made to the organization's director this last legislative session, I have not received any of their financial documentation.

This raised a larger question for me: **How many nonprofits receive taxpayer dollars without clear, consistent accountability?** As someone who values fiscal responsibility and transparency, I believe Vermonters deserve to know how public funds are being used and what requirements nonprofits must meet to receive them.

I recently met via Zoom with the State Fiscal Office to better understand the process. They shared helpful information, including the fact that the Department for Children and Families (DCF) receives funding requests from nonprofits and distributes the money. However, the Fiscal Office could not provide a total dollar amount for how much is paid out statewide to nonprofits.

I have reached out to the Deputy Commissioner of DCF to ask for clarification on the process and the requirements nonprofits must meet before they receive taxpayer dollars. I hope to have more information to share in the next newsletter.

On **Friday, July 31st**, I will be attending the **5th Annual Coming Together Substance Use Addiction Summit**. Legislators and Senators have been invited to be available from noon to 4:00 p.m. to connect with attendees, community organizations, and others working to address substance-use issues.

Please never hesitate to reach out. My website, steadyforvthouse.org, it is continually updated and it includes past Legislative Updates. I will be at **B's Café, 2 River Street in Milton**, on **Monday, August 10th from 9:00–11:00 am** to speak with constituents. Please stop by — I'd be happy to buy you a cup of coffee.

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/>