



WESTFORD NEWSLETTER

October 2008

Town Office Notes



November General Election

Following are some important dates to remember leading up to the General Election:

- **Saturday, October 18th:** The Town Office will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for the purpose of voter registration and absentee ballot voting.
- **Wednesday, October 29th:** Last day, until 5:00 p.m., for residents to submit an application to be added to the checklist. Last day for people who are not eligible to register to vote by this day but will be by Election Day to file a written notice of intent to apply with the Town Clerk and to apply for an absentee ballot.
- **Monday, November 3rd:** Last day, until 5:00 p.m., for a voter, or an authorized person on behalf of the voter, may request an absentee ballot.
- **Tuesday, November 4th:** General Election. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Senior Luncheons in Westford

The October Senior Luncheon will be held on Monday, October 13th (Columbus Day) at 12:00 noon in the Red Brick Meeting House. Join your friends and neighbors for lunch, laughs and lively conversation. Mark your calendars to join us on November 10th and December 8th (always the second Monday of the month). Call 879-7382 for information, if needing a ride, or if you'd like a meal delivered to your house that day.

Thank you Arlitha!

As many of you already know, Arlitha recently retired from her position as Assistant Town Clerk. I want to take a moment to recognize her dedicated service to the town since being appointed in 2001. Arlitha performed her duties with professionalism and efficiency. The person who will replace her has big shoes to fill, although Arlitha has tiny feet (a comment recently made by a co-worker here in the office). Even though we will see Arlitha once in a while, we will miss her presence in the office. Thanks for everything Arlitha!

Results of Special Town & School District Meeting

On Thursday, September 11th a Special Town and School District Meeting was held based on petitions filed with the Selectboard and School Board.

The first article - whether to reconsider the affirmative vote held in June to vote future town and school budgets by Australian Ballot – was defeated. Until otherwise voted on and changed, all future town and school budgets will be voted on by Australian Ballot.

The second article – to vote changing the voting method for public questions that can be decided by Australian Ballot – was voted in the affirmative. This means that Australian Ballot voting will be used to vote whether to change a question from the floor to Australian Ballot or vice versa.

Westford Town Office

1713 Vermont Route 128 ● Westford, Vermont 05494

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

www.westfordvt.us

Newsletter Deadline

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

Nanette Rogers
Town Clerk

DRAFT NOISE ORDINANCE Selectboard Public Hearing

The Selectboard will hold a public hearing to discuss and, potentially, adopt a draft noise ordinance controlling the non-emergency use of truck compression brakes within the town center. This ordinance will reduce nuisance noise associated with large trucks and will reduce truck speeds in advance of entering the village.

The hearing will be held **Thursday, October 9th, 2008 at 7pm at the Town Office**. A copy of the Ordinance is available at the Town Office.

YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU!

The Selectboard is currently accepting applications for the following town positions:

- **Lister** – Primary responsibility involves assessing property for the Grand List and holding grievance hearings. Flexible hours with more hours required from October through May.
- **Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) Alternate Representative** – the Commission meets the 4th Monday of each month. Work includes planning for economic development, energy supply, transportation, environmental protection and affordable housing.
- **Road Committee Chair** – The Road Committee is responsible for updating the Road Plan created by the 2003 Road Committee. The Committee members work with the Road Foreman to help identify and prioritize work that should be planned for the next 5 years. The Chair is responsible for overseeing the committee.

Interested residents should contact a board member or the town office for more information.

RECYCLING COLLECTION

Gauthier Trucking has furnished the Town with collection of recycling as follows:

July: 22.20 tons
August: 19.83 tons

If you have any questions about recycling, stop in the Town Office for a brochure or email Chittenden Solid Waste at info@cswd.net or visit their website at www.cswd.net.

WESTFORD FRONT PORCH FORUM

If you have not joined the Westford Front Porch Forum, please consider doing so. Everyone is invited to participate. This is a great way to connect with neighbors and the community.

Check it out at FrontPorchForum.com!

*This community service is brought to you by Burlington residents, Michael and Valerie Wood-Lewis
Reach us at www.FrontPorchForum.com.*

Oct 2008

WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

802-878-5639 * WWW.WESTFORD.LIB.VT.US

EMAIL: WESTFORD_PL@VALS.STATE.VT.US

WEDNESDAY 1 TO 7 PM; THURSDAY 10 TO 6 PM

FRIDAY NOON TO 6 PM; SATURDAY 10 TO 2 PM



Just a Sampling of New Items

Adult Fiction: 19th Wife (Ebershoff), Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society (Shaffer), Guide to the Birds of East Africa (Drayson), The Lace Reader (Barry), Moscow Rules (Silva), Pandemonium (Gregory), Fourth Watcher (Hallinan), The Story of Edgar Sawtelle (Wroblewski).

Adult Nonfiction: Traffic: Why We Drive the Way We Do (Vanderbilt), What I Talk About When I Talk About Running (Murakami), Hot, Flat and Crowded (Friedman), Forward from Here: Leaving Middle Age (Lindbergh), Reconciliation: Islam, Democracy and the West (Bhutto).

Juv Fiction: Early Readers - Abracadabra: Magic with Mouse and Mole (Yee), At Home in a New Land (Sandin), The Duckling and the Swan (Omerod), Little Rat Makes Music (Bang-Campbell), Pip Squeak (Weeks), One Saturday Evening (Baker). For Middle School Readers- Mysterious Benedict Society and the Perilous Journey (Stewart), Brsinger (Paolini).

Watch the website for new additions throughout the month.

Seeking Volunteers

After-school Program Coordination

Automation Assistance

Macromedia Dreamweaver Assistance

Many other options for students needing community service hours and interested community members!

Contact Victoria.

Westford Public Library Receives Grant from the Children's Literacy Foundation

The Children's Literacy Foundation (CLiF), a nonprofit serving children in rural areas, has awarded a Rural Public Library Grant to the Westford Public Library. As part of this grant, approximately \$2000 in new children's books will be added to the library. These books were chosen by the librarian and will enhance the collection in several areas including board books, picture books, early readers, nonfiction and graphic novels.

In addition, on November 10, Duncan McDougall, CLiF's Executive Director and resident storyteller, will speak with the children at Westford Elementary School about the joys of reading and writing, perform inspiring storytelling, and read aloud from some of the library's newly delivered books as part of a fun literacy presentation and book delivery event.

EVENTS @ YOUR LIBRARY!

FOR MORE INFO: WWW.WESTFORD.LIB.VT.US OR CALL VICTORIA AT 878-5639



Friday, 10/31, 4-6pm

Trick or Treat
At the Library!

Come in Costume and Get a Treat!

PRESCHOOL STORYTIME

THURSDAYS 11AM
10/2: LLAMAS
10/9: BIRTHDAYS
10/16: MANNERS
10/23: VOTING
10/30: HALLOWEEN
COSTUME PARTY!

**Strategy &
Board Games
for Ages 12 &
Up**

Wed, 10/7, 6pm
Hosted by Matt
Taylor

Women's Game Night

Sat, 10/11, 6:30pm

Join this fun and welcoming group for games, food and laughter! Contact Kara Bolton 879-2513.

PJ Storytime

Wednesday, 10/15, 6:30-7pm

Theme: Fall

Get cozy in your PJs and come to the library for stories, activities and crafts led by Lynn Finn.

**Music at the Farmer's Market!
Kids— Sing, Dance & Play with
local resident Christina Norland**

Friday, 10/3, 3:45-4:30pm

Co-sponsored by the Library and the Farmers' Market. Made possible by a grant from the Winnie Bell Learned Fund.

Book Discussion

Wednesday, 10/22, 6-7pm

Dracula by Bram Stoker

Count Dracula has inspired countless movies, books, and plays. But few, if any, have been fully faithful to Bram Stoker's original, best-selling novel of mystery and horror, love and death, sin and redemption. Dracula chronicles the vampire's journey from

Transylvania to the nighttime streets of London. There, he searches for the blood of strong men and beautiful women while his enemies plot to rid the world of his frightful power.

(Amazon.com).

Westford Knitters Group

Friday, 10/3, 6-8:30pm

All needle-crafters are welcome. Contact Julie Nelson, at 343-0165 or julie@coolmoonyoga.com.

Volunteer Tea

Sat, 10/18, 11am-12:30

Are you one of the fifty-two special people who volunteered at the library within the past year? If so, check your mail for an invitation to this Volunteer "Thank You" Tea. Come enjoy light refreshments, meet other volunteers and bask in the appreciation of the librarian and trustees! RSVP at 878-5639 by 10/8.

WESTFORD RECREATION

Fall is here, and basketball season will soon be upon us!! Please consider how you would like to help out this season – at the K-2 level and both girls teams (3/4 and 5/6). Coaches for the K-2 group will be needed on Saturday mornings – to have fun and play skill building games. No great basketball skill is needed – just the basics, and a desire to have fun working with kids!

For all who signed up for the tiny tennis camp this summer – I have decided that we need to cancel this. Sorry for the inconvenience. You may call the town office for a refund on the camp, or call Tammy for a credit on future offerings. Again, sorry that this did not work out.

Our next meeting will be October 15th at 7:00pm. Please call for a location if you are planning on attending. Thanks!

Tammy Brown	872-8333	Rich Staab	879-4745
Randy Aiken	872-0841	George Lamphere	879-6488
Maureen Carpenter	893-5096		

Adult Coed Indoor Volleyball

Mondays 8:00 – 10:00

Fun, casual volleyball. \$2 at the door in the Westford School Gym. Please contact Jon or Tammy Brown for more information at 872-8333.

Basketball Open gym

Basketball season is coming! Take the time to improve your skills, and spend some time in the gym. Rich Staab is running an open gym for those interested in getting back into the basketball season. The gym is open starting October 14th on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:00PM-6:30PM and Sat 10:30AM-12:00 noon. It will continue until Jr High practice begins. Call Rich Staab or another Recreation committee member with any questions. \$1 donation at the door.

Outdoor Fitness Boot Camp*

Never boring and always an adventure, classes include resistance training and cardiovascular exercise such as running (short distances), push-ups, sprints, lunges, jumping jacks, jump roping, kickboxing, stretching, cone drills, obstacle courses, and whatever else it takes to distract participants from the fact that they're getting a great workout.

Boot Camp Information:

- Designed for both men and women who want something different and want **RESULTS**. BFA-Fairfax School, Fairfax: Year round, Mondays and Thursdays from 6:30 - 7:30 pm. Meet at the playground parking lot (or Middle School gym if raining).
 - Price per class is \$7.00 a person. Please pay and sign up when you show up at the class, **not at the Westford Town Office.**
 - Participants need to bring plenty of water and a towel (or yoga mat). It is recommended to wear comfortable clothing and sturdy running shoes that are not too worn.
 - Contact: Lisa Durocher at 849-6621
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Young Rembrandts Drawing Classes

Back by Popular Demand!

Wednesdays, October 1 – November 19– 3:00 – 4:00 in the common area
\$65/child

Join us this fall as we learn fundamental drawing skills that will help us in other subjects. Our art techniques will become increasingly sophisticated as we draw different subject matter throughout the session. We will start with a tree house complete with a ladder. We will then move on to a patterned graphic highlighting the sun and moon simultaneously. We will complete the month with a lesson about Louis Comfort Tiffany who is famous for beautiful stained glass objects. As we move into October we will begin with a still life so that we can practice realistic drawings and color pencil technique. We will also draw a spooky – but detailed – spider, complete with a large web to catch its next meal. Join us and learn skills that will help you express your creativity for a lifetime!

Please sign up soon – there is a minimum of 6 children for this class to run...at present I only have 3 signed up. This really is a great class – all of my children have done it and loved it!!

YOGA

Tiffany Pfeiffer is new to Westford and would love to share her yoga teaching with the community. She teaches in the style of Integral Yoga Institute, a worldwide Yoga organization dedicated to the principles of peace, healthful and balanced living, and selfless service. Class will be a one-hour flow of warm-ups and yoga postures, and half-hour of deep relaxation, breathing, and a short meditation. No prior yoga experience is necessary/all levels welcome. Please bring a yoga mat and a small blanket or towel that may be folded and used as a sitting cushion. Wear comfortable, movable clothing and try not to eat for two hours before class. Be prepared to feel easeful, relaxed, and rejuvenated! **Any questions, call Tiffany at 872.0603.**

Starting on October 21 every
Tuesday from 6:30-8 at the Red Brick Meeting House
\$10/class at the door

WESTFORD RECREATION DEPARTMENT – REGISTRATION FORM

NAME (Parents) _____

ADDRESS _____ TOWN _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS (only to be used for WRD mailings) _____

HOME PHONE _____ WORK PHONE _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT _____ PHONE _____

DOCTOR'S NAME _____ PHONE _____

Please list **medical conditions**, physical limitations, allergies, or restrictions WRD should be aware of:

PROGRAM _____ CHILD'S NAME _____ Grade _____ FEE _____

PROGRAM _____ CHILD'S NAME _____ Grade _____ FEE _____

PROGRAM _____ CHILD'S NAME _____ Grade _____ FEE _____

PROGRAM _____ CHILD'S NAME _____ Grade _____ FEE _____

GRAND TOTAL _____

RELEASE/WAVIER AGREEMENT:

I am fully aware of the risk inherent and give my consent for the above named applicant(s) to participate in the program(s) above and to hold harmless the Town of Westford, Westford School, their employees, elected officials, or any volunteers or instructors from any and all liability from any injury, claim, costs or loss of services which may be incurred by me or us or our minor children on account of participation in said program(s). Permission is hereby granted for me or us or my child(ren) to receive emergency treatment if needed and I authorize the attending physician to administer any needed medical attention. Furthermore, I certify that I or we or my child(ren) are in good health and that there are no limitations to my/our participation except in writing above. I have read this document carefully and sign it voluntarily with full knowledge of its significance.

Signature _____ Date _____

Send registration with check payable to:
WESTFORD RECREATION DEPARTMENT
Town of Westford, 1713 VT Rt.128, Westford, VT 05494.

TOWN CENTER COMMITTEE (TCC) PROJECT UPDATE!

The TCC would like to update the community on the status of the seven town center projects the Committee has been working on this past year.

Project 1: "T" Intersection at the corner of Common Road and Route 128

The 2008 – 2009 Town budget included funds to convert the "Y" intersection to a "T". This project will increase safety and traffic flow at this intersection as well as increase the size of the Common. Thus far, Fairpoint and CVPS have installed new utility poles, CVPS has transferred their wires to the new poles and Fairpoint is working on transferring their wires. In the Fall of 2008 or early Spring 2009, the Town Highway Department will convert the intersection into a "T".

Project 2: Town Common Parking

The 2008 – 2009 Town budget included funds to upgrade the Town Common parking lots. In the Fall of 2008 or early Spring 2009, the Town Highway Department will re-grade the parking areas, delineate the areas using the split rail fence removed from the Common this summer and add drainage infrastructure to the eastern parking area. The Town is awaiting word on a Park and Ride grant application that would pay for these upgrades as well as pay for the potential paving of the eastern parking lot. Paving this area would be a permanent solution to the current drainage problems seen at this parking area.

Project 3: Sidewalks & Curbing

This Summer the consulting firm Resource Systems Group Inc. completed a Sidewalk Feasibility Analysis for a sidewalk connecting the Library to the Brick Meeting House. The TCC is working on finalizing those plans. Once complete, the finalized plans will be sent to potentially effected property owners and the plans will be presented to the Selectboard for review and the course of action will be discussed.

Project 4: Library Parking Lot

The TCC has reduced the proposed parking lot from 16 spaces to approximately 8 spaces in an effort to reduce the amount of impact to the adjacent wetland. Currently, the Committee is working on delineating the wetland boundaries and developing construction plans and cost estimates to present to the Selectboard. We hope to apply for the necessary State permits and possibly request funding in the next fiscal year.

Project 5: Upgrades to the Town Office Parking Lot

Upgrades to the Town Office parking lot will occur after a decision is made on the sidewalk and curbing project. Access to the proposed parking area will potentially be accomplished by the installation of the sidewalk and curbing. If the Selectboard decides not to pursue the sidewalk and curbing project or complete the parking lot upgrades prior to the sidewalk and curbing project, re-design will need to occur.

Project 6: Landscaping of Town Common Area

This portion of the project will be pursued once all other Selectboard approved projects are complete.

Project 7: Common Playground

We would like to thank Leo Gauthier for restoring the playground on the Common. This should give us a few more years of use out of the aging structure. As this structure is getting old and becoming unsafe, we have received many comments from residents that we should make it a priority to replace the playground. Therefore, we have decided to begin fundraising with the hopes that in a few years we will have the funds needed to purchase a safe, aesthetically pleasing, and lasting playground for the Common. Any donations or fundraising ideas are welcome. Volunteers to help with the fundraising are greatly needed.

Stay posted for more information on the progress of these projects.

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact Melissa Manka, Planning Coordinator, at the Town Office (878-4587) or by email planner@westfordvt.us

FIRE WARDEN NOTES

Burn permits are now available online!
www.westfordvt.us/burnpermit2.php

Over the last month or so I've received calls from several residents of Osgood Hill road. The concern is about someone burning materials other than what is approved by Vermont State Law. The odor from this burning has been described as toxic. Even though I have been in the area several times and have detected the same toxic odor, I have been unable to find where it is coming from. It has been suggested that maybe someone is burning trash in their fireplace. I hope this is not the case because not only are you putting yourself and your family's health at risk and causing your neighbors discomfort, you also run the risk of damaging your home due to possible flare-ups. Please be aware it is against the law to burn anything that is not on the approved list whether you burn it inside or outside your house. Burning illegal substance can result in receiving a summons and having to appear in municipal court and paying a fine.

If you have questions as to what you are allowed to burn, please call me at 879-1231.

Thank you,
Dennis Angiono
Westford Fire Warden

Farmer's Market



Print by Mary Azarian

Westford Farmer's Market

Every Friday
3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
on the Westford Green
Rain or shine

Our last Farmers' Market of the Season
will be
Friday, October 17th



A Vermont Home Energy Savings Campaign

MARK YOUR CALENDARS BECAUSE WINTER IS COMING & WE HAVE IDEAS TO SAVE YOU MONEY!

Button Up Vermont is working in partnership with the Town of Westford to host a **free** home energy saving workshop MONDAY, OCTOBER 20TH AT 7 PM AT THE BRICK MEETING HOUSE.

During this two-hour workshop, residents will learn about the fundamentals of:

- how buildings lose energy
- do-it-yourself opportunities for saving energy
- no-cost measures for reducing energy use and
- health and safety concerns related to reducing air infiltration.

(Attached is a sample agenda)

Workshop participants will receive educational materials on measures they can undertake themselves, contact information for energy audit services, lending institutions that offer low-interest loans for energy retrofits, and other information.

This could make a direct impact on your heating and/or electric bills this winter, not to mention the other economic and environmental benefits that come from reducing energy consumption. ***So please join us for an evening of food, friends and truly useful information.***

ALTHOUGH REGISTRATION IS NOT REQUIRED, WE ASK THAT INDIVIDUALS SIGN UP FOR THE WORKSHOP IN ADVANCE SO WE CAN ESTIMATE HOW MANY INDIVIDUALS TO EXPECT - Thank you!

To sign up, for more information or if transportation accommodations are required please contact Melissa Manka, Planning Coordinator, at 878-4587 or by email at planner@westfordvt.us

ALL ARE WELCOME! - TELL YOUR FRIENDS & FAMILY!

AGENDA FOR BUTTON UP VERMONT WORKSHOP BUTTON UP VERMONT -- HOME ENERGY SAVING WORKSHOP

Workshop Goals

The goals of the Button Up workshop are to improve residents' understanding of:

- How your home loses energy
- Some of the most cost-effective solutions for saving energy
- An understanding of what you can do yourself and when you need a professional
- Some basic weatherization and energy conservation tips
- Health and safety issues associated with improving efficiency
- Technical and financial resources available

Proposed Agenda

- 6:30 Refreshments & Registration**
- 7:00 Welcome and Agenda Overview** (*local organizers*)
- Welcome participants
 - Review agenda for the evening
 - Acknowledge elected officials, other folks
 - Introduce workshop presenter
- 7:10 Workshop Overview** (*workshop presenter*)
- Brief introduction by workshop presenter
 - Workshop goals; key workshop components
- 7:20 Efficiency and Conservation** (*workshop presenter*)
- No-cost actions: no-cost actions you can take to save energy
 - Low-cost actions: relatively low-cost actions you can take to save energy
 - Questions and answers
- 7:50 Buttoning Up Your Home** (*workshop presenter*)
- Principles of building heat loss – how buildings lose energy
 - Understanding the thermal envelope: thermal and air barriers
 - Finding and fixing the leaks: areas of the house with the biggest energy savings
 - Thermal barrier: where insulation is needed
 - Questions and answers
- 8:30 Health and Safety Issues Associated with Buttoning Up** (*workshop presenter*)
- Addressing moisture, volatile organic chemicals, carbon monoxide, back drafts, and asbestos
 - Ensuring adequate ventilation
 - Questions and answers
- 8:40 Professional Services and Assistance** (*workshop presenter*)
- Home Performance Assessment and Retrofit: what it involves and where to go
 - Financial incentives and low-interest loans
 - Other assistance
 - Questions and answers
- 8:50 Wrap Up/Other Comments** (*local organizer*)
- 9:00 Adjourn**

FAIRFAX COMMUNITY THEATRE COMPANY

Presents

“The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon”

The Fairfax Community Theatre Company presents its 45th production “The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon”. Written by Don Zolidis. An extremely talented group of actors attempts to portray all 209 original Brothers Grimm fairy tales into one giant story. Throughout this comedic event, you will encounter familiar characters such as Little Red Riding Hood, Rapunzel, and the Frog Prince. With the help of two narrators, three actors and some audience participation, you will embark on a fairy tale journey like you’ve never seen before. Show is recommended for ages 10+.

Show Dates/Times: October 9th, 10th & 11th at 7:30 p.m.
October 12th at 2:00 p.m.

Location: Westford Red Brick Meeting House

Cost: \$10.00 for Adults
\$8.00 for Seniors and children 12 and under

For tickets and more information contact Jennifer at (802)879-2867

RAISING THE ROOF AT THE WHITE CHURCH

A preservation campaign committee has been formed to raise funds for the repair and maintenance of our historic White Church that anchors the western end of the common. Number one on our priority list is a new roof. In addition to raising funds, we want to raise awareness of the history and mysteries of this 1840 building. For our first mystery, consider this excerpt the next time you stroll across the green or drive through town. This was recorded by the late Irene Allen, our town’s historian for many years:

“The 1840 church building has pleasant mysteries. They say, ‘They lined it up with the North Star.’ The steeple base is a replica of the one on the Congregational Church in Castleton, designed and built by Thomas Dake in the late 1830’s. How did the design get here?”

Look for more mysteries and church history in the next town newsletter. And mark your calendar now for one of our future fundraisers:

The 2nd Annual Holiday Auction
Saturday, December 6
Following the Lighting of the Town Tree
At the White Church

Come and buy quality baskets full of items, food from Sweet Clover, handmade quilts, wines, ornaments and decorations, basket full of goodies for pets or birds, and help raise the new roof. You may also contribute a basket. If you are someone that appreciates the church, but don’t make it through the doors very often, please consider contributing or supporting this holiday auction.