



Wallingford Standard

JANUARY 2024

TOWN CLERK & TREASURER'S OFFICE NEWS

Town Clerk & Treasurer's Office

802-446-2336

townclerk@wallingfordvt.com

Monday-Thursday 8:00 am-4:30 pm

www.wallingfordvt.com

The Town Offices and Transfer Station will be closed on Monday, January 1st. The Town Offices will be closed on Monday, January 15th.

✓ A **Public Hearing** is scheduled for Tuesday, January 30, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at Wallingford Town Hall, 75 School Street to hear public comments concerning the draft Zoning Regulations. Interested parties are requested to sign the attendance register at the Hearing or have submitted written testimony by close of business at 4:30 p.m. on January 29, 2024 to the Zoning Office.

A copy of the proposed Zoning Regulations is available for review at the Town Hall or on the Town website. Any written correspondence may be directed to Planning Commission, 75 School Street, Wallingford, VT 05773 or via email to Zoning@wallingfordvt.com.

Homestead Declaration

✓ If you are a Vermont resident, don't forget to file your annual Homestead Declaration form with the Vermont Department of Taxes, even if you do not have to file a state income tax return.

Dog Registrations

✓ All dogs, six months of age or older, must be registered annually at the Town Clerk's Office by April 1st. A valid rabies certificate must be submitted, and we're happy to issue licenses by mail. Fees are \$10 spayed/neutered; otherwise, it's \$14.

We will be holding our annual dog/cat rabies clinic in March. Watch for further details.

Want to Run for Office?

Thinking about serving your community? If so, you must submit a petition, signed by at least 1% of registered voters (16), and a candidate consent form to the Town Clerk by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, January 29th. Forms are available at the Town Clerk's Office, under Documents on the Town website, or on the VT Secretary of State's website (sos.vermont.gov).

Petitioned Articles (public questions) for the Town Meeting ballot, signed by at least 5% of registered voters (80), are due in the Town Clerk's Office by 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 18th.

2024 Officers to be Elected

Town Moderator—1-year term
2-Selectboard—2 & 3-year term
Auditor—3-year term
Trustee of Public Funds—3-year term
2-MRUSD Directors—3-year term

The informational meeting to review the proposed FY'25 budget and Town Meeting Warning articles will be held at the Wallingford Elementary School, 126 School Street, on Monday, March 4th at 7:00 p.m.

All articles will be voted by Australian Ballot on Tuesday, March 5th from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Wallingford Town Hall, 75 School Street.



Ballroom Dance Classes will be offered by the Recreation Committee in conjunction with the New York Dancesport Centre. Classes will be on Tuesdays at Town Hall on the following dates: Jan. 9, 16, 23 and 30; Feb. 6, 13, 20 and 27; Mar. 12, 19, and 26 with kids/youth fox trot and rumba at 5 p.m.; Adults waltz at 6 p.m.; Adults E.C. Swing at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Patti Panebianco at 516-909-1686 or email pattipdance@gmail.com.

Please call the Town
Garage at 802-446-2472
for road concerns.

NOTICE

Cut off date for submissions is the 23rd of each month. Send articles to:
Julie Sharon at
townclerk@wallingfordvt.com.

The Standard's mission is to provide information on Town news and to be pro active for local business and events. We hereby reserve the right to refuse articles that express opinions of political nature in order to give our readership a format of information without prejudice.

REGULAR MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Conservation Commission	4th Monday of every month	4:30 p.m. Town Hall
Planning Commission	2nd Tuesday of every month	7:00 p.m. Town Hall
Prudential Committee	1st & 3rd Wednesday	6:00 p.m. Town Hall
Selectboard	1st & 3rd Monday	6:30 p.m. Town Hall
Energy Committee	1st Tuesday of each month	5:30 p.m. Town Hall
Development Review Board	3rd Wednesday of each month	7:00 p.m. Town Hall
Recreation Committee	2nd Thursday of every month	5:30 p.m. Town Hall
Mill River Unified School District	1st Wednesday	7:00 p.m. MRUHS
Wallingford Rotary	Every Monday except holidays	7:00 a.m. Rotary
Bone Builders	Every Tuesday & Thursday	9:00 a.m. Library
Wallingford Vol Fire Dept. Training	Every Tuesday	6:30 p.m. Wallingford Fire Station
Wallingford Food Shelf	Every Tuesday & Thursday	9:00 a.m.-Noon Town Hall
EW Vol Fire Dept. Training	First Monday of every month	8:00 p.m. EW Fire Station
Library Board	2nd Tuesday of every month	7:00 p.m. Gilbert Hart Library
Friends Meeting	2nd Thursday of every month	10:00 a.m. Gilbert Hart Library
Library Story Hour	Every Wednesday	10:30 a.m. Gilbert Hart Library
Legion Breakfast Meeting	1st Tuesday	8:00 a.m. Wallingford Cong. Church
Community Acupuncture	4th Tuesday of most months	6:30 p.m. RSVP Thrive Ctr 802-446-2499



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GILBERT HART LIBRARY by Wendy Savery

"In Murder by the Book, the town of Two Spruce is about to lose their beloved library. A team of volunteer actors come to its rescue by staging a murder mystery play. But on opening night, a real murder most foul threatens to thwart their fundraiser. The community theatre troupe tries to save the local library and solve the crime before the curtain rises and the library is lost forever... with deadly (and hilarious) results." Gilbert Hart Library is pleased to be partnering with local director Saskia Hagen Groom to bring a production of this play to Wallingford! Auditions and rehearsals will be held at the library, schedule TBD, with the goal of staging the play on the Wallingford Town Hall Stage as a library benefit in early March. There are roles for 5 women and 3 men, ages 20-80. Auditions for Murder by the Book: A Comedy, written by Laura Teasdale, are slated for Sunday, January 7, 4-6 p.m. and Monday, January 8 from 6 - 8 p.m. For more information, reach out to director Saskia Hagen Groom at 802-558-4177.

In other news, Wednesday Children Story Times at 10:30 a.m. will continue in the New Year. Also in 2024, the library will stay open until 4 p.m. each weekday. A paper survey at the library asks for community input about more extended hours in the future. The GHL will be closed January 15 is observance of Martin Luther King Jr Day, and as we learned last month, school closures will also close the library so if the weather outside is frightful, better to wait until the next open day to venture out!

Hours: Monday & Thursday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Wednesday & Friday 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; and Saturday 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 802-446-2685



Dear Library Enthusiasts,

Greetings from the Gilbert Hart Library! We hope this letter finds you well and filled with the same joy for our beloved library that we have. **We are incredibly grateful for your ongoing support, since it is your dedication that allows us to continue serving our community with a wide range of programs and resources.** Without further ado, let's catch you up on the exciting happenings at the Gilbert Hart Library.

First and foremost, we're thrilled to share that we've had several thought-provoking and engaging book discussions this past year. We delved into the pages of the 2022 VT READS title *The Most Costly Journey*, then met to discuss *High Tide in Tucson* by Barbara Kingsolver, explored the complexities of *The Sense of an Ending* by Julian Barnes, and embarked on exhilarating journeys with both *Project Hail Mary* by Andy Weir and *West with Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge. These meetups sparked intellectual conversations, broadened perspectives, and created a sense of camaraderie among our avid readers. **We are proud to provide a platform for such literary exploration and are grateful to all who participated.**

In addition to the book discussions, we're excited to announce increased numbers and participation in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program. The Dolly Parton Imagination Library supplies age-appropriate books to children under five years old, fostering a love of reading from an early age. **We're dedicated to nurturing literacy skills and promoting the power of creativity among our youngest library patrons, and the Dolly Parton Imagination Library has been instrumental in helping with this goal.**

New this year, the library has become part of a statewide initiative called THE PALACE PROJECT, **adding even more audio and ebooks for**

patrons to access free of charge using their library card. Other new statewide opportunities that can be leveraged through your library card include Universal Class and Gale databases for periodicals.

Your tax-deductible donations enhance our collections, expand programs, and maintain our town's cherished historical facility. **We extend our deepest gratitude to past, current, and future supporters, united in ensuring the Gilbert Hart Library remains a community treasure, enriching lives for generations to come. To make a gift, please mail or drop off a check to the Library at 14 South Main Street.**

Gratefully yours, Michael R. Luzader, Chair, Board of Trustees



JEREMY MICHAEL

LICENSED DESIGNER

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Selectboard Meeting Highlights

12/4. The Selectboard: 1) heard an update from Road Commissioner Baker on town garage flood repairs, repairing property damage on Homer Stone Road, getting the mulcher connected to the excavator to get started on roadside mowing of East Street, and applying for a Better Roads grant; 2) discussed the FY'25 Public Safety, Town Government and Capital budgets; 3) approved a Town Hall use for dance classes; 4) reviewed upcoming tax sales; 5) approved the ARPA allocation resolution; and 6) discussed a new telephone system for Town Hall and copier.

12/18. The Selectboard: 1) discussed the School Street Sidewalk project; 2) discussed the FY'25 Highway, Appropriations and Recreation budgets; 3) approved the Town Meeting articles for ARPA fund allocation; 4) set the Transfer Station hourly salary for substitute help; 5) accepted the Conservation Commission registration; 6) approved the Flashing Radar Sign purchases; 7) signed the VEM house buyout; 8) approved holiday gift cards for employees; 9) rescheduled the first January Board meeting; 10) discussed the Town Hall key/code and telephone systems.

*Cheers to health, happiness,
and prosperity in 2024!*



Tammy Ann Heffernan Esq.

Wills – Estate Planning – Probate – Guardianship
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PROPERTY TRANSFERS

Sellers: Andrew & Peggy Rogstad; Buyers: Steven & Catherine Duchac; 191 Cross Road; Purchase Price \$559,000; Assessed Value: \$356,200.

ZONING PERMITS

Erika J. Berner dba The Lodge-2015, LLC; 30 South Main Street; private B&B/short-term rental.

Global Montello Group Corp; 263A VT Route 103; concrete pad and fence.

Milton & Nancy Moore; 106 Olde Pine Lane; shed.

Brian Bronzino; 259 Mooney Road; barn.

Jeff Cairns; 96 Hawkins Road; enclosed porch.

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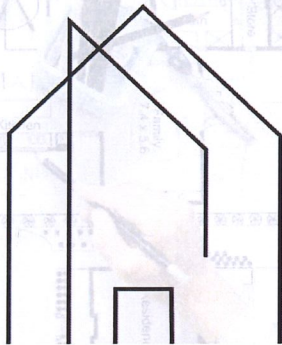
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Wallingford Memorial Rotary's Annual Roast Pork Dinner

Wallingford Rotary will hold its annual winter fundraising dinner on Saturday, January 20th from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the Wallingford Memorial Rotary Club, 96 North Main Street, Wallingford.

Dinner includes roast pork, mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetables, salad, homemade rolls and assorted desserts. The cost is \$15 per person and \$8 for children age 6 and under. Proceeds will benefit our annual community events, including Bike Safety Day and our Fishing Clinic and Derby. Dinner will be available for in-person dining as well as take-out.

Reservations may be made online at the Wallingford Rotary website, <https://wallingfordvtrotary.com>, or by calling Nan Dubin at 802-259-3490, beginning January 1st.

Thank you for supporting the Wallingford Rotary Club. You are helping us to help others.

Drew Elwood, President, Wallingford Memorial Rotary Club

Rutland Regional Medical Center Survey

Every three years, Rutland Regional Medical Center is tasked with assessing the greatest health needs within our broad community. They are currently gathering input from residents in Rutland County and want to hear from as many voices as they possibly can.

The survey will help them determine the health priority areas for the next three years and help our community work towards becoming a better place to grow, learn, work, age, and play. This information is used to help develop the Community Health Needs Assessment – a roadmap for getting funding to areas that need it most.

Tell them what is important to you at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CHNA2024>

Jamie A. Bentley, MPH, Community Impact Coordinator, (802) 282-9585

Annual Town Meeting

Voters at Town Meeting in March will be asked to approve two special articles to establish and fund the Wallingford Asset Fund in order to pay for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) projects recommended by the Town's ARPA Committee and approved by the Selectboard. ARPA funds were distributed nationwide to every municipality to offset impacts from the pandemic. But the funds came with specific deadline requirements – the money must be obligated by December 31, 2024 and spent by December 31, 2026.

Town of Wallingford infrastructure projects like the School Street sidewalks and the purchase of a fire truck for the East Wallingford Fire Department may extend beyond the 2026 federal spending deadline for these ARPA funds and this posed a risk of the Town losing the money. Therefore, the Selectboard followed Vermont League of Cities and Town's (VLCT) recommendation to transfer ARPA funds into the municipal general account in order to meet the deadline. VLCT's Katie Buckley explained transferring ARPA funds to the general account would create a surplus in the current budget year. This surplus would then go into the Wallingford Asset Fund and be used in the next few years for all of the ARPA projects approved by the Selectboard. Transferring the funds enables the Town to report to the federal government in April of 2024 that ARPA funds have been spent, thus satisfying their deadline requirements.

The Selectboard voted on December 4, 2023 to transfer \$466,789 in ARPA funds to the municipal general account to eliminate the risk of losing this money. As a result of these one-time, unanticipated funds, they are seeking voter approval at Town Meeting to establish and fund the Wallingford Asset Fund that will pay for an array of projects thoroughly reviewed by the ARPA Committee and approved by the Selectboard. Those projects include repairs to community water systems, flashing radar signs to be installed on Main Street and Route 140W, rehabilitation of School Street sidewalks, weatherization of Town Hall, digitization of Town Hall records, and much more. The Selectboard urges voters to approve Town Meeting Warning Article V asking voters to establish the Wallingford Asset Fund and Article VI asking voters to fund it with the Fiscal Year 2024 surplus resulting from this one-time influx of ARPA money into the general funds.



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Wishing you a happy married life.

11/03. Thomas Hough & Amanda Bucci
11/11. Ashley Stewart & Jordan LaCroix
11/19. Christine Palmer & Kristjan Jonsson



Congratulations to Ned Ullrich and Mariah Ford on the birth of their son, Hugo Carl, on 11/29.

Recycle Your Holiday Tree

The Wallingford Conservation Committee has made arrangements with Chad and Cassie's Goat Farm on the Creek Road to accept your CLEAN holiday tree – let the goats compost your tree for you!

VERY IMPORTANT: This option is **ONLY** for trees without tinsel, ornaments, spray snow or any other non-compostable material. The goats absolutely cannot eat anything other than **CLEAN TREES!**

You can drop off your clean tree on the trailer at the bottom of Chad and Cassie's driveway (201 Creek Road) any day between 12/26 through 1/1. Please abide by the rules so that our neighbors will continue this practice in the future. Let's keep holiday trees out of the landfill and put them to good use this year!



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Did you know that the Gilbert Hart Library has snowshoes to borrow for one week rental, with the following sizes: 2 Adult Men, 2 Adult Women, and 6 Children.

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