



Wallingford Standard

FEBRUARY 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 will be closed on Monday, February 19th. The Transfer Station WILL be open.

✓ 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 Monday, 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

✓ Dog registrations have begun for 2024. 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.

NOTICE TO VOTERS

MRUUSD's Annual Meeting will be held on February 22nd at 7:00 p.m. in the MRUHS Library at 2321 Middle Road to elect officers; review the proposed budget, etc. You can review the warning at: drive.google.com/file/d/1MqIvLQmXrYewG0IodiRRMRimtL-BFQqP/view

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 between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. at the Wallingford Town Hall, 75 School Street.

You can request online that Absentee Ballots be mailed to you for the March 5th elections (see below) or by calling 802-446-2336, you can stop in to pick them up, or you can vote in the Town Clerk's Office. The town and school ballots will be available no later than February 14th. The Presidential Primary ballot is available now.

Voters can access specific information such as sample ballots and/or request absentee ballots on "My Voter Page" at: mvp.vermont.gov. If you aren't able to access it, check with us to make sure your voter record has your correct DOB and VT DL# or SSN last 4 digits.

ATTENTION! You must declare which ballot you want to vote in the Presidential Primary in March. Vermont law requires you to ask for a party ballot and for your choice to be recorded by the election official.



Put on your calendar the annual **Cabin Fever Fun Day** for Sunday, February 18 from 12-2 p.m. A great way to start school vacation with sledding on the big hill or smaller hills, snowshoeing or skiing at Stone Meadow on Waldo Lane. The Conservation Commission will provide hot dogs, hot chocolate, s'mores, and seating around a firepit. If the weather doesn't cooperate, the Fun Day will be on Sunday, February 25.



Ballroom Dance Classes are being 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. 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.

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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From: Cuttingsville: Just 2.1 miles up Town Hill Rd, right on Lincoln Hill Red Barn on right

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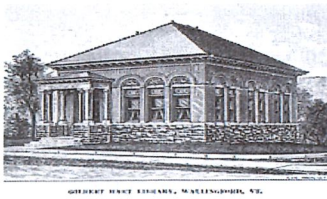
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GILBERT HART LIBRARY, WALLINGFORD, VT.

GILBERT HART LIBRARY by Wendy Savery

A merry band of folks has assembled and is diligently working on bringing a production of a new comedy, *Murder by the Book*, to Wallingford Town Hall Theatre in March as a library benefit. Stay tuned and plan to attend a performance, bring a friend or two, make a donation and support the GHL. The play was written by Laura Teasdale and support for productions by libraries throughout North America is underwritten by Louise Penny, a favorite author among Wallingford readers.

A paper survey about library hours is available in the library and a link to the online form asking the same questions may be found on our webpage and here: [Library Hours Survey](#). Thanks to all who have responded to the annual appeal letter and shown some love for your local library.

Hoping to see you in person soon for books, children's story time, to get a Come Alive Outside! Winter Passport, or to check out a pair of snowshoes....all the better for visiting the book path and seeing the Jan Brett books on display there!

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



Every eight years, the Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC) updates the Rutland Regional Plan, its visionary plan for the future of the region. RRPC is in the development phase for the 2026 Rutland Regional Plan and is seeking public input. The Rutland Regional Plan is a collaborative guide to shape a healthy, equitable and resilient region. The final document will outline policies and actions for achieving our collective goal as it relates to community economic development.

Over the next year and a half, RRPC staff will deploy several different outreach methods to engage with agencies and members of the public as they seek feedback on the priorities for the region. RRPC is asking residents to participate in the online survey. The survey will remain open through 3/31/24 and can be accessed through the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RutlandRegionPlan2026>.

Information collected will help inform a plan that features equitable policies to best serve the region's communities. The survey will be complemented by a number of public engagement activities, including community open houses and pop-up events. As these are scheduled, they will regularly be updated on the Rutland Regional Plan 2026 website.



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Presidential Primary Election 101

What many people like about Vermont is that voters do not have to register with a specific political party. In State and Federal Primaries, voters may vote for whatever party they choose. Unlike the State Primary in August when voters get all available party ballots but may only vote on one party's ballot (discarding unvoted ballots when checking out), at the Presidential Primary in March, voters are required, by State Statute, to choose the party's ballot they would like to vote on when they check in at the entrance checklist, receiving only that ballot. Statute 17 V.S.A. § 2704 reads, "A person voting at the Primary shall be required to ask for the ballot of the party in which the voter wishes to vote and an election official shall record the voter's choice of ballot by marking the entrance checklist with a letter code, as designated by the Secretary of State, to indicate the voter's party choice. The names of all candidates on the ballot shall be listed in alphabetical order. Each voter may vote for one candidate for the presidential nomination of one party, either by placing a mark opposite the printed name of a candidate as in other primaries, or by writing in the name of the candidate of the voter's choice. (Added 1979, No. 199 (Adj. Sess.), §1, eff. May 6, 1980; amended 1995, No. 38, §4; 2003, No. 59, §43.)" What many people do not like is ONLY being allowed to vote for one party at the Primaries. People like to mix 'n' match their candidate picks. Voters should be rest assured that they may mix 'n' match party selections at the November General Election when there is one ballot for all parties.

Christopher J. Book

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WALLINGFORD HISTORY This article is from the "Wallingford Perspectives", a quarterly newsletter published by the Wallingford Historical Society.

The Covered Bridges of Nicholas Powers

A. Nicholas Strom-Olsen, the great, great, great grandson of famous covered bridge builder, Nicholas Powers, walked the audience through the life and works of Powers.

Nicholas Powers was born on August 30, 1817 in Pittsford, VT. He lived in Ira for a period of time and spent his final days in Clarendon. As Strom-Olsen explained during his presentation, Powers, who was self-taught, built his first bridge when he was 19 years old. That bridge, the Pittsford Mills Bridge, traversed the Furnace Brook and was built in the year 1837. It was removed in 1931 for road widening.

The Gorham Bridge, also located in Pittsford, traverses the Otter Creek and still stands today. It is one of the four still-standing covered bridges built by Powers in Rutland County.

The other bridges that still remain standing today are the Cooley Bridge over the Furnace Brook in Pittsford, the Brown Bridge over the Cold River in Shrewsbury and one of the Twin Bridges in East Pittsford, which is now on dry land and no longer used as a bridge.

Powers is known for building covered bridges that had covered sides, which became one of Powers' trademarks. Powers built Wallingford's own covered bridge over the Otter Creek connecting the two sections of Route 140, which was then referred to as a "quaint side road". Powers built the Wallingford bridge in 1874 and a streamside ledge outcrop served as most of the western abutment of the bridge. Wallingford's bridge was burned in 1949 when the metal bridge was erected in its stead.

Powers also holds the record for building the longest single span wooden bridge in the world. The bridge, located over the Schoharie Creek in Blenheim, NY was built by Powers in 1855. It is 232 feet long. It is contained in the Guinness Book of World Records.

The bridge was referred to as Power's Folly because during its construction, nay-sayers believed that the bridge would fall, being unable to support that long of a suspension. It was reported that Powers stood on top of the bridge when it was opened and stated that if the bridge fell, he would fall with it. The bridge settled less than one inch and withstood over 200 years. It was destroyed by Hurricane Irene when the concrete buttresses went underwater. There no longer being anything to support the bridge, it collapsed. A true tragedy.

In addition, to covered bridge building, Powers was responsible for building the Kingsley Grist Mill in Clarendon. This is the only mill designed and built by Powers. Ironically, the Kingsley covered bridge located next to the mill was not built by Powers. He also built the Cheese Factory and Creamery in Clarendon which is the present home of the Clarendon Grange.



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Friday & Saturday 10:00-2:00

**Neighbors Helping
Neighbors**

**NO PROPERTY TRANSFERS OR ZONING
PERMITS THIS MONTH**

✓ **Road Concerns?** call the Town Garage at 802-446-2472.

✓ **Sidewalk Concerns?** call the Fire District #1 at 802-446-2964.

“NEW”

**Wallingford Senior
Celebrity Corner**

Our first "Senior Celebrity" for 2024 features Rita Brooks who recently won the Vermont State bowling tournament for her age group (75 years and over). This accomplishment allows her to participate in the national tournament in Cincinnati in July.

Rita bowls on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Rutland Bowlerama. Local teammates are Carl Machia, Frank Bicskei, Jim Ingalls and Gunner Morris.

Rita started bowling in the early 1960s. Her highest score is 247! Good luck Rita.

If you know of any accomplishments for those seniors over 70, please submit your article by the 23rd of the month.

Thank you to the Wallingford Rotary and Mill River Interact Clubs for holding a baby diaper drive in December. These diapers make a difference in the lives of families and infants as the cost for diapers for one baby can cost upwards of \$100 per month. Thank you to all who donated the gift of diapers! Free to Wallingford residents only.



Saturday, January 27 is Free Ice Fishing Day!

Vermont's annual Free Ice Fishing Day means anyone can fish with no license required. Introduce a newbie to this cherished pastime, or head over to VT Fish & Wildlife's Ice Fishing Festival in Wolcott where they'll provide all equipment and instruction. Visit: <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/free-ice-fishing-day>.

VT Foodbank distributes fresh food at the Diamond Run Mall, Route 7, Rutland, on the 4th Thursday of each month between 8:45 and 10 a.m. for those in need. No sign up necessary.
<https://www.vtfoodbank.org/share-food/veggievango>

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Selectboard Meeting Highlights

1/2. The Selectboard: 1) Heard an update on roadside mowing from the Road Commissioner; discussed Haven Hill Road trees and speed concerns, and river debris removal near Elm Street Ext.; 2) approved the Town Hall use requests for a play to benefit the library as well as a presentation for the elementary school; 3) discussed the FY25 draft budget for Administration, Insurance and Revenue as well as the new state-required childcare contribution from employee wages; 4) approved the Ewaste contract extension with NERC; 5) discussed batteries for the flashing radar signs; 6) reviewed the annual town report dedication; 7) approved using the Revenue Augmentation Trust funding to pay down the new grader loan; and 8) heard a request from K. Luzader that the Fire District plow and sand the sidewalks on snowing/icy mornings.

1/15. The Selectboard: 1) discussed the plowing of upper Mill Street; 2) made no changes to the Annual Certificate of Highway Mileage report; 3) approved the proposed FY25 budget; 4) approved the Town Meeting Warning; 5) reviewed the Selectboard's report for the Town Report; and 6) discussed miscellaneous issues.

1/22. The Selectboard held a special meeting to revise the Town Meeting Warning to include the recent school board member vacancy.

Voters at Town Meeting in March will be asked to approve two special articles to establish and fund a Wallingford Asset Fund in order to pay for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) projects, which were reviewed and recommended by the Town's ARPA Committee then 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 12/31/24 and spent by 12/31/26.

The Town intends to use these ARPA funds for projects like the School Street sidewalk replacement (currently in the engineering and permitting process) and to help purchase a fire truck and equipment for the East Wallingford Fire Department. However, those projects may extend beyond the 2026 federal spending deadline, posing a real risk of losing the money. Therefore, the Selectboard is following Vermont League of Cities and Town's (VLCT) two-step recommendation to preserve our ARPA Funds. First, the Selectboard was advised to transfer ARPA funds into the municipal general account creating a surplus in the current FY'24 budget year. The second step would be to create a Wallingford Asset Fund from the surplus, and that money would be used over the next few years for all of the ARPA projects 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 land records, and much more.

Transferring the funds allows the Town to report to the federal government in April that our ARPA funds have been spent, satisfying federal deadline requirements. The funds would no longer be at risk and the Town no longer has a deadline to spend the money, paying for the various projects.

The Selectboard took the first step and voted on December 4th to transfer \$466,789 in ARPA funds to the municipal general account to eliminate the risk of losing this money. Now they are seeking voter approval to establish and fund the Wallingford Asset Fund with the surplus, which would accomplish the second step. The Selectboard urges voters to approve 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 fund.



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From Maria French: At the end of the summer, the Wallingford Day team gathers one evening to review how the day went and offer suggestions for the future while it's fresh in our minds. Then we leave it until the beginning of the new year when we start preparing for the next summer. As January grows closer, I always start to think more about what events and opportunities it could hold, and also, honestly, what it will take to pull it off.

This winter, as the part about how much work it will take started to overwhelm me, I got a call from Governor Scott's office, inviting me to his State of the State address on January 4th in Montpelier. Midway through that morning, I handed my classes over to a substitute, drove up to the State House, and climbed the stairs to a seat at the edge of the balcony to watch the speech. In the second half of it, he shifted from talking about fiscal priorities to recognizing the power of Vermonters' community spirit and efforts to support each other, and our resistance to excluding people or groups on the basis of political divisions. He spotlighted a number of specific examples, including our town celebration!

"A few years ago, the residents of Wallingford were looking for a way to strengthen their town. Many of us might think that means new sidewalks or a business expanding. But in Wallingford, they kept coming back to the simple idea of just getting together. So, they brought back "Wallingford Day." A day to celebrate who they are, reconnect with neighbors with food trucks and fireworks, art shows and auctions, music and dancing. Most importantly, it's a day set aside to be together, a reminder that it takes effort to build community."

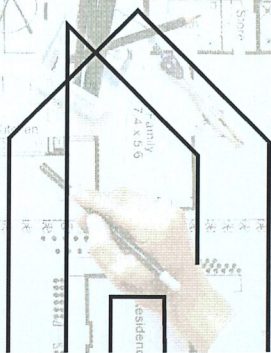
This, not just the WD mention but also being reminded of the generosity and community spirit across our state, was just the boost I needed to get excited about Wallingford Day 2024 and finally write this email to you all to invite you to our meetings. The next meeting is at 6:30 p.m. on 1/31. If you'd like to receive notices of our monthly meetings, please email me at wallingfordday@gmail.com. Thank you.

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Green Mountain Neighbors is an all-volunteer social network made up of people from the Vermont towns of Mount Holly, Shrewsbury, and Wallingford. Our goal is to provide community events and non-medical support services to help people enjoy their homes and communities while they age. Find out more about us and how you can become involved by visiting our website:

<https://greenmountainneighbors.org>



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**Monday, 2/12
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Klock Room
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**Monday, 2/26
Shrewsbury Library
98 Town Hill Road
Cuttingsville**