

WESTGATE WIRE

December 2011

Happy Holidays!

A Letter from WTA President, Suzanne Wachter

Happy Holidays!!!

It seems so crazy to think that we are in the busiest time of year for most of us. Today as I walked at lunch in the 60 degree day, I was thinking it cannot possibly be almost December! Snow for Halloween and Indian Summer for Christmas, that is New England for you!

December is certainly a very busy time for the WTA board. We have the Annual Kids Christmas party fast approaching and lots of events surrounding that. Be sure to check out the calendar to see what we have going on at the Community Center! There will be a tree to decorate one weekend and a visit from Santa all in the same month. Lots of fun activities planned.

Be sure to sign up your child, 12 and under for the Annual Christmas Party. We will have yummy snacks, fun crafts and a visit from the Big Guy, you don't want to miss it!

As always, the WTA meets the first Thursday of every month. We welcome anyone and everyone to come in and voice any concerns, positive or negative, so we can create a better community. We want to hear from you!!

Have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season and a Miraculous New Year.

Suzanne Wachter
WTA President

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Vacation Lunch Program

Hot meals for only 25 Cents!!

December 26th to 30th

12pm to 1pm in the Community Center



The Westgate Community will be serving home-cooked hot lunches from noon to 1pm. Meals are served in the community center and cost only 25 cents, or you can enjoy a few minutes helping set up, cook or clean and the meal will be free.

Look for a menu delivered to your doorstep!

Volunteers are always welcome and needed: call 257-2430 to help out.

The Vacation Lunch Program is made possible by the Brattleboro Sunrise Rotary Club

Letter from the Community Services Coordinator

Hello Westgate!

It seems a lot easier to welcome back the winter months when the temperatures rarely drop below fifty during the day! Was the late October snow storm just to scare us, or is another real Vermont winter on its way?

Despite the fall-like weather, Westgate is gearing up for another fantastic holiday season. To kick things off, there will be a holiday decorating party in the community center on December 9th. The decorating starts at 6pm, so come on by and lend a hand. Then, on December 14th at 6pm, the WHI and WTA boards will host a community dinner. This is a great time to come meet your neighbors and the people making the decisions for Westgate. Food and drinks will be provided by the two boards, so there's no reason not to come eat a free meal! Finally, on December 17th the WTA will host their annual Holiday Party at 1pm in the community center. The event will include food and drinks, games and crafts and maybe even a special visitor from the North Pole, if he can fit us into his busy schedule. Kids 12 and under can receive a free gift at the party, but only if they are registered with the WTA. There is a registration form on page 10 of this month's Wire, so fill it out and hand it in by December 9th.

Amidst all this excitement we will also say goodbye to our beloved Interim Teen Coordinator: Claire Taleff. For the past three months, Claire has volunteered to run the Teen Program. She dedicated countless hours to organize new and exciting activities to engage the teens. With her cheerful smile and calm sensibilities, Claire inspired and motivated many teens at Westgate. It has been a delight to work with Claire as part of the community and her insight will help guide our choices for future teen programs. As it currently stands, Westgate is financially unable to hire a Teen Coordinator to run teen programs. However, this holdup does not mean the end of teen programming; in fact, it means a variety of new beginnings. I am currently looking into several ways that we can continue to offer teen programming. Although teen programming will look different next year than it has in the past, it will no doubt continue and, with some hope and hard work, the program may be restored to its fulltime capacity. In the new year, please expect to receive a full explanation regarding the future of teen programming. I welcome all ideas for funding and running a teen program. Your input is necessary for our programs to continue successfully.

Thank you and Happy Holidays!

Marie Boisvert

257-2430 or westgatehousing@comcast.net



December 2011

S U N M O N T U E W E D T H U F R I S A T

Westgate
Teen
Club
Events
Calendar



Thank you Claire for your dedication to Westgate and the Teen Club! The past three months have been memorable and exciting for the teens, and we all wish you could stay with us longer! Thank you for your service!

2
3
"Friday
Night
Rainbow
Lights"

*Are YOU 12-18
years old?
Come by!!*

4 5 6 7 8 9 10

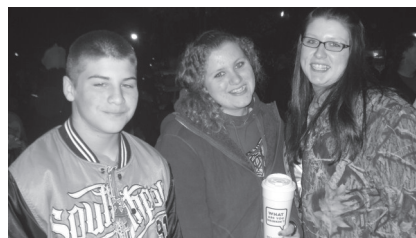
Ice Skating 7-9pm Black and White Photo 6-8pm Library 4:30-7pm Teen Club Closed Library 4:30-7pm

11 12 13 14 15 16 17

Claire's Goodbye Dinner. RSVP to Claire! 5-7pm Black and White Photo Claire's Last Day Claire goes to Oregon until January 11th!

18 19 20 21 22 23 24

25 26 27 28 29 30 31



Teen Club

- Check bulletin board in CC for recent changes to schedule
- Other activities you'd like to see happening? Tell Claire!

50 Westgate Drive, Suite 102
Brattleboro, VT 05301

Phone: 257-2430

Cell: (541) 981-3650

Questions or concerns?
Please contact Claire or
Marie directly at the CC

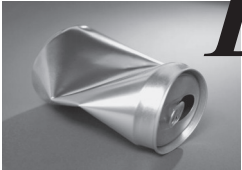
BGC Page

Like to Shop at BJ's?

Westgate tenants can use the WTA card to periodically shop at BJ's. WTA does not pay for purchases, but the card allows tenants to shop at BJ's without buying a personal membership. To use the card, call Marie at 257-2430 at least 1 day before you need the card, or by Thursday if you want to use the card over the weekend. When you shop with the WTA card, you can pay with EBT, credit card or cash (no checks).



Bottle and Can Drive



Last Friday of every month

Donate CLEAN and BAGGED returnable bottles and cans to a good cause!

Drop off returnable bottles and cans between 8am and 11:30am at the Community Center. All proceeds directly support our WTA youth programming like the Halloween and Holiday parties.

For more information, contact Marie at 257-2430.

If you want to donate but cannot drop off between 8am and 11:30am, contact Marie to arrange pickup.

Thank you for your support!

Volunteers Needed!

The Vacation Lunch Program will need volunteers to help with the December program, which runs from December 26th to 30th. Have fun with your neighbors and help serve your community!

Volunteers can help in a variety of ways: plan meals, shop for food, prepare or cook meals, serve meals or clean up after meals. Come join us at the Community Center.

If you would like to help, please call Marie at 257-2430, or come by the community center. All volunteers eat for free!

Community Events

Bread Day

Every Wednesday in the Community Center
Come pick up free bread, pastries & sandwiches

Westgate Tenants Association Meeting

Thursday, December 1st, 6pm in the Community Center

Every Westgate Tenant is a member so come to *your* meeting! Children are always welcomed at WTA meetings.

Holiday Decorating

Friday, December 9th, 6pm in the Community Center
Come help decorate the Community Center for the holidays!

Senior Club Holiday Gathering

Monday, December 12th @ 6pm in the Community Center

The Senior Club is celebrating the holidays with good cheer and a present exchange. Food provided. Contact Ingrid for more info at 257-7889

Westgate Housing Inc. Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 13th, 6pm in the Community Center

Meetings are open to all and include time for community input (and food!). This month: Finding new board members

WTA & WHI Joint Gathering: Community Meal

Wednesday, December 14th @ 6pm in the Community Center

WTA & WHI are hosting a community gathering! Please come eat a delicious home-cooked meal (provided by the boards) and meet the board members.

WTA's Annual Holiday Party

Saturday, December 17th @ 1pm in the Community Center

Everybody welcome! Register kids 12 and under to receive a gift. Bring some food if you can!

Potluck and BINGO Night

Monday, December 26th @ 6pm in the Community Center

Open to all adults. Come have a meal and play some BINGO. Potluck starts at 6pm, followed by BINGO at 7pm.

Vacation Lunch Program

Every weekday, December 26th to December 30th, 12-1 pm in the Community Center

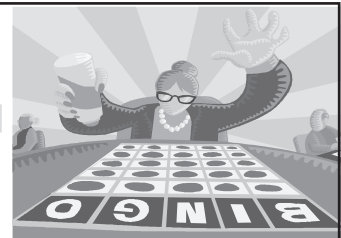
Come get a hot meal at the Community Center for only 25 cents! See page 11 for details

Bottle and Can (Returnables) Collection

Last Friday of every month, 9-11:30 in the Community Center

Deliver your rinsed and bagged returnable cans and bottles to the community center. Funds from your donation support community programs and events.

A Message From the Senior Club...



Hi everybody,

I hope you all had a Happy Thanksgiving. This month we didn't meet as often, we let the Teens have the Community Center for 2 Wednesday's in a row. We had our Potluck on Monday, which went well. We are still looking for new members, just come and join us. We meet every Wednesday at 6:00PM and the last Monday of the month at 6:00PM, on that day we also have a potluck and Bingo. If you would like some information about it, please call Marie at 257-2430 or Ingrid at 257-7889.

Thank you, Ingrid Gordon



Join the Senior Corner!

When:

- Every Wednesday, 6 pm: Games, movies, stories, fun!
- The last Monday of every month: 6pm Potluck and 7pm Bingo

Where: Westgate Community Center

Westgate Birthdays

Please wish these fine folks a happy birthday!

| | |
|------------------------|-------|
| Frank Adams | 12/2 |
| Jazmine Frost | 12/4 |
| Aiden Fox | 12/9 |
| Sandy Wyckoff | 12/9 |
| Colin Farina | 12/18 |
| Mia Ava Rachel Riccard | 12/24 |
| Phillip Gilbert, Jr. | 12/26 |

*Don't see your birthday? That's because we don't know about it!
Call 257-2430 to give us a clue.*

The WTA Holiday Party

Is December 17th

At 1 pm in the Community Center

All Are Welcome

Kids under 12 receive gifts, but you
must register**

By Friday December 9th!

There will be no exceptions!

**See the next page for registration information

Turn your registration forms into Marie at the Community Center,
or drop them in the rent box before the 9th. See you there!

Holiday Party Present Registration Form

Please use this form to register all children **12 and under** who wish to receive a gift for the WTA Holiday Party. Write three different gifts that each child would like to receive. Please only write gifts that can be purchased for \$15 or less. Registration forms **must be received by December 9th**. Late registration forms will not be accepted, no exceptions. Return completed forms to Marie in the Community Center, or drop in the rent box before December 9th. We look forward to seeing you at this years' celebration!

Adults Name: _____

Apartment #: _____

Phone Number: _____

Childs Name and Age: _____

Choice 1: _____

Choice 2: _____

Choice 3: _____

Childs Name and Age: _____

Choice 1: _____

Choice 2: _____

Choice 3: _____

Childs Name and Age: _____

Choice 1: _____

Choice 2: _____

Choice 3: _____

Childs Name and Age: _____

Choice 1: _____

Choice 2: _____

Choice 3: _____

Hello Westgate Community,

It feels like it was just yesterday that I wrote a letter introducing myself as the Teen Program Coordinator in September. Sadly, this time my letter is to say goodbye, since my time at Westgate will be ending shortly.

December 14th is officially my last day as the Teen Program Coordinator. I'll be getting on a flight home (to Oregon) on the 15th for the holidays before returning to Brattleboro in early January. Although you won't see my face around for a while, the teen club and all those who have supported us will be with me in spirit. And since it is such a special community full of amazing people, I plan to stay involved as much as I am able to in the future. My time with the teens is not ending completely, although the frequency of time spent with them will certainly be missed.

The teens are busy making plans for what the future will look like for their club and finding ways to network, fundraise, and plan with the help and support of myself and Marie. The need for people in the community to get involved has never been more important for the club, since there will be no paid staff-member to assist them any longer. If you have any interest whatsoever, or even if you don't for that matter, I really encourage those of you who are able to help out. Whether it's offering a ride, being a chaperone, help with fundraising ideas, or even just saying "How can I help support you?" this is a time when the extension of your hand will go a long way.

Even if we don't see the direct impact of what our teens provide to our community, it certainly exists. All too often teenagers are perceived as a group that is ungrateful or disrespectful. My experience here has been quite the opposite- I've seen friendships form and a great amount of inclusion and diversity within the group in the short amount of time I've been here. I've witnessed a strong desire to take part in events that benefit the children and other community members, and the hard work and dedication it takes to follow through.

For example, the Teen Dinner has certainly been an issue with strong emotions attached. With the stresses of school, work, family responsibilities, and the social life of a teen, it is not easy to put together a restaurant that serves large numbers paying customers. A lot of planning is necessary, and it's essential to learn from the past- which is exactly why the night of the dinner has been postponed until a later date. The teens made the decision that the follow-through would be more comprehensive and the dinner guests would be better served if there was more time to plan. When you really think about it- a whole lot of effort is needed to pull such a thing off! That being said, I hope to see more people getting involved and helping out as these young people do positive things in our community that benefit us all. There have been people who have already shown support by offering their time as well as people who purchased tickets. Although the date of the dinner at this point is not known, the fact that the event will happen is certain and in my opinion, the teens pulling off a wonderful event that is enjoyable for all those involved is just as certain!

Thank you to all of you for welcoming me and supporting me and the Teen Program over the last few months. I wish you all a very restful, safe, and happy holiday season!

With Love,

Claire Taleff



December 2011

Sun

Mon








Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | | | | I WTA Meeting 6pm  | 2 New England Housing Network Conference | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 Bread Day Senior Corner 6pm | 8  | 9 Holiday Decorating: 6pm in the CC | 10 |
| 11 | 12 Senior Club Holiday Party 6pm in the C.C. | 13 WHI Meeting 6pm in the C.C. All are welcome! | 14 WTA & WHI Joint Gathering and Community Meal Bread Day | 15   | 16 | 17 WTA Holiday Party 1pm |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 Bread Day Senior Corner 6pm Hanukkah Begins | 22  Winter Begins | 23 | 24 Christmas Eve |
| 25 Christmas | 26 Senior Club Potluck 6pm BINGO 7 pm | 27 | 28 Bread Day Senior Corner 6pm | 29   | 30 Bottles & Cans Collection 8-11:30 | 31 New Year's Eve |

Vacation Lunch Program: Hot meals served weekdays 12pm-1pm in the CC