



## WESTMINSTER CELEBRATES ELDER RESIDENTS

Westminster Cares and town residents celebrated Westminster's 90-plus-year-old citizens during Westminster Cares' 31st Annual Meeting November 3rd at the Westminster Fire House.

Westminster has 14 residents who are 90 years of age or older. Thirteen still live independently in the area and 10 attended the event: Dot Perry, Bob Gay, Phyllis Anderson, Charlotte Kurkul, Judith Berkley, Libby Mills, Dot Allen, Joanne Crocker, Ben Hutchins and Lee MacDuffie. Ruth Morse and Frank Cuomo could not attend and Barbara Holton lives in Florida. Of the 14, six are 90, one 91, one 93, one 94, two 95, one 96, one 97 and one 98.

Pete Harrison, vice president, and Don Dawson, board member, gave a video presentation featuring our honored guests. The presentation included information and stories about their lives and photos of wedding days, houses, family members, college years, baby pictures and several older photos of the area from the historical society.

Westminster Cares welcomed Kathy Elliot back as a board member and said good bye to Sally Ryea who is leaving the board following eight years of faithful service. Sally was presented with a gift certificate; a bouquet of flowers and a big thank you for her many years volunteering. The following slate of officers was elected for the coming year: President Lori Larue, Vice President Pete Harrison, Secretary Regina Borden and Treasurer Miriam Lanata. Other board members are



Heidi Anderson, Doug Oftedahl, Pat Goodell, Don Dawson and Kathy Elliot. Donna Dawson is the Director.

Westminster Cares next board meeting is at 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, December 4th at the Westminster Institute. Everyone is invited to attend. Consider volunteering for this local organization, a nonprofit organization that works with seniors and disabled adults in Westminster, to help them remain healthy and independent in the community. Thanks to our honored guests for attending; to the many family members who accompanied them and the community members who

turned out in support of this event.

Westminster Cares is a nonprofit organization, formed in 1988, that works with seniors and disabled adults in Westminster, to create opportunities to live with dignity and independence in the community.

Call us at 722-3607 or visit our website at [westminstercares.org](http://westminstercares.org).

*In photo, from left, Judith Berkley; Dot Perry; Joanne Crocker; Lee MacDuffie; Phyllis Anderson; Ben Hutchins; Libby Mills; Dot Allen; Charlotte Kurkul; and Bob Gay.*

## SAMI HODGKINS RUNS CHICAGO MARATHON

Samantha "Sami" Hodgkins grew up in Westminster with her parents Russ and Barb, attending Westminster Center School and Bellows Falls Middle and Union High schools, where she was an accomplished athlete.

At Simmons College she continued to be an outstanding athlete, playing college softball and eventually, in the summer league USA softball program in Italy.

Sami now lives in South Boston where she works for UBS as a financial advisor and stock broker. She has been a Beach Body fitness instructor for three years, and recently ran in the Chicago Marathon along with 48,000 other runners, to raise funds and awareness for the Alzheimers Association.

Sami raised over \$3500 to help find a cure for this dreadful disease which took her grandfather and aunt. She ran the 26.2 mile race in 4 hours 26 minutes, finishing in the top half.

This was her first marathon, and she said that she attributes her finish to having her sister and best friend on the course cheering her on and to a perfectly timed call from her parents just when she'd reached a mental wall around the 20-mile marker.

"This journey has taught me just how strong we are, both mentally and physically," Sami said. "Challenging yes, but nothing is impossible."



## LUMINARIES - ASSEMBLING, LIGHTING, SETTING OUT & CLEAN UP SCHEDULE

\* DECEMBER 23RD AT THE WESTMINSTER FIRE STATION ASSEMBLING THE BAGS WITH SAND AND CANDLES AT 6 PM

\* DECEMBER 24TH MEET AT THE WESTMINSTER FIRE STATION AT 9 AM TO SET THE LUMINARIES OUT

\* LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES WILL START AT 3:30 PM. PLEASE JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORS TO LIGHT THE CANDLES.

\* DECEMBER 25TH MEET AT THE WESTMINSTER FIRE STATION AT 7 AM TO PICK UP THE BAGS

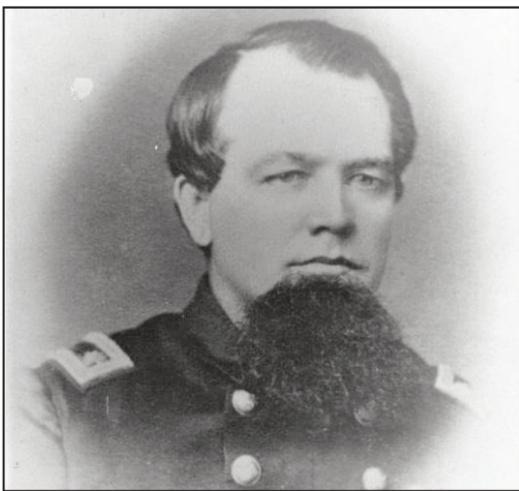
Contributions are greatly appreciated and can be dropped off at the Westminster Town Hall, or given to Doreen on the 23rd at the Westminster Fire station

For more information contact Diane Bazin at 413-530-5696.

## TOM FONTAINE'S THIRD CIVIL WAR NOVEL RELEASED

A new historical novel for children, *Grafton's Medical Men*, has just been published by the Grafton (Vermont) Historical Society and is on sale.

This is the third book in author Thomas Fontaine's series on Grafton's volunteers in the Civil War. Fontaine is a middle school teacher at Kurn Hattin Homes in Westminster. This novel focuses on two young men, actual residents of Grafton, who faced the challenge of treating the wounded Union



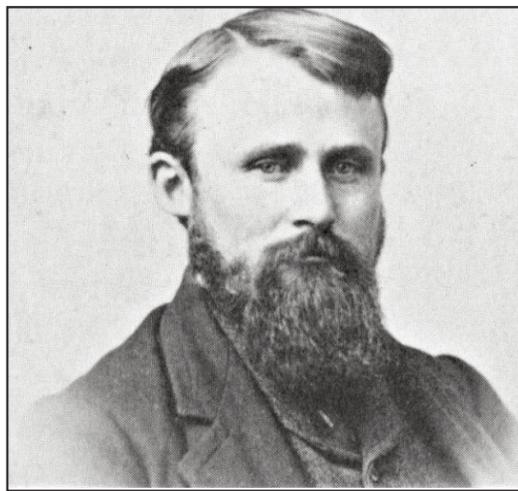
Army soldiers and the drama of the ugly side of war. It describes how limited the medical knowledge was at that time and how the men needed to improvise to help the needy.

Dr. Castanus Park, already a doctor in the village, was called by the Vermont governor to help form the medical unit of Vermont's 16th regiment in Brattleboro in 1862. He enlisted the help of 22-year old Edward Pettengill of Grafton to aid him in this task. The book follows the formation of the 16th regiment through events that led it to the Battle of Gettysburg and Pickett's charge.

Grafton had over 100 men volunteer for the war effort in the earlier years. Many from Grafton served in 16th regiment and are mentioned in the book.

The 26-year old Park had a only a few years of experience as a doctor in Iowa but returned home to Grafton when hints of a war escalated. Pettengill was still in college when he was asked to assist in the medical corp.

After his service with the 16th regiment, Park was asked to re-enlist to serve as a surgeon with the Vermont 11th regiment. When the war was over, Park resigned from the medical profession never to return to it. Pettengill, however, went on to study to be a doctor and served the nearby community of Saxtons River as its doctor until his death.



Other key young doctors in the book, Dr. Nathaniel Brooks and Dr. George Spafford went on to be doctors in Charlestown, NH., and Cavendish, VT, respectively.

Like his other historical novels, Fontaine's book was written for children at the sixth grade reading level to help them understand the history of the Civil War through the lives of actual Grafton citizens and the historical events they experienced. He drew much of his information from diaries and histories written by local residents, and photographs from local organizations.

Fontaine has been an educator for 30 years. His first book, *The Messenger Boy of Grafton* was about Henry Spring a young Grafton farm boy who enlisted at age 14.

His second book, *The Grafton Cavaliers*, told of the adventures of two young Grafton college boys, Sam Pettengill and Wilbur Burnap, who rode and fought with the Rhode Island Cavalry unit at Harpers Ferry.

The Grafton Historical Society has sponsored the publishing of his series of books. This latest book along with his other two books *The Messenger Boy of Grafton* and *The Grafton Cavaliers*, is available for sale at the Society's museum on Main Street for \$14.95 and at local book stores. Contact [grafhist@vermontel.net](mailto:grafhist@vermontel.net) or call 843-2584.

*In photos, Dr. Castanus Park, left, and Edward Pettengill.*

Our Monthly Community Newspaper December 2019 Vol. 15 No. 12

## Westminster Gazette

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## ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT & REGIONAL EVENTS

### CAPTAIN RICHARD PHILLIPS AN EXCEPTIONAL EVENING OF COURAGE TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE

SPECIAL EVENT TO SUPPORT KURN HATTIN HOMES for CHILDREN'S TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES/STEAM LAB

**JOIN CAPTAIN RICHARD PHILLIPS**  
FOR AN EXCEPTIONAL EVENING OF COURAGE

For five days in April 2009, Captain Richard Phillips became the center of an extraordinary international drama when he was captured by Somali pirates who attacked and boarded his ship. To protect his crew, Captain Phillips made a conscious decision to put himself directly in harm's way, knowing full well that he might pay the ultimate price for his decision. Amid the standoff, he offered himself as a hostage to get them off his ship. This dramatic story was also made into a motion picture by Columbia Pictures starring Tom Hanks.

**MAY 1, 5:30-8:30PM AT KURN HATTIN HOMES for CHILDREN**  
Kurn Hattin Road, Westminster, VT • Mayo Memorial Center

**\$75 TICKET INCLUDES:**

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**THE COOL, SMOOTH SOUNDS OF THE DON BALDINI TRIO**  
Don Baldini's credits include "The Little Mermaid," "St. Elsewhere," "Charlie's Angels," and "Jaws 2." He frequently performed on "The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson." He's also worked with Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, Nancy Wilson, Peggy Lee, and Johnny Mathis

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  Other sponsorship opportunities available. Contact for more information.

## NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER CARES

The Westminster Cares, Inc. Board of Directors met November 3rd at the fire house on Grout Avenue for their 31st annual meeting and 12th celebration of the 90+ year olds in Westminster.

A separate press release for the annual meeting appears in another section of this issue of the Gazette.

Anyone interested in learning more about Westminster Cares, volunteering to deliver meals on wheels or driving neighbors to doctor appointments, working on a committee, making a contribution or attending a workshop may contact Donna Dawson at 722-3607 or by e-mail at [wecares@sover.net](mailto:wecares@sover.net). Check us out on the web at [www.westminstercares.org](http://www.westminstercares.org) and like us on Facebook.

Donations in November 2019:

In memory of Charlotte Minich from her son, Kurt Minich

In memory of Almon Flagg from Ken Flagg  
In memory of Alice and Harold Shattuck from Barbara Greenough

In memory of Artie Aiken from Frank and Shirley Aiken

In memory of Bruce Miller from Joyce Miller  
In memory of Gerri Palmer from Nancy and Leonard Farrar

In memory of Irene Miller from Lori and Dick Miller

In memory of Bob Haas from Marlene and Bill O'Connor

### FINANCIAL FOCUS:

#### INVEST IN YOUR FAMILY & COMMUNITY

Why do you invest? For many people, here's the answer: "I invest because I want to enjoy a comfortable retirement." And that's certainly a great reason, because all of us should regularly put money away for when we're retired. But you can also benefit by investing in your family and your community.

Let's start with your family members, particularly the younger ones. How can you invest in their future? One of the best ways is to help send them to college. A college degree is still a pretty good investment: The average lifetime earnings of a college graduate are nearly \$1 million higher than those of someone with a high school degree, according to a study by the U.S. Census Bureau.

To help your children or grandchildren pay for any college, university, vocational school or other postsecondary education, you may want to open a 529 savings plan. With this account, withdrawals are federally tax free, as long as the money is used for qualified higher education expenses, including those from trade and vocational schools. (However, if you withdraw some of the earnings on your account, and you don't use the money for qualified expenses, it will be taxable and can also incur a 10% federal tax penalty.) Plus, you retain control of the funds until it's time for them to be used for school, so if your original beneficiary chooses not to pursue some type of higher education, you can name a different eligible beneficiary.

Another way to invest in your family is to help your adult children avoid feeling obligated to provide financial assistance to you. For example, if you ever required some type of long-term care, such as an extended stay in a nursing home, could you afford it? The average cost for a private room in a nursing home is more than \$100,000 per year, according to a study by Genworth, an insurance company. And Medicare typically pays very few of these expenses. So, to avoid burdening your adult children – while also preserving your own financial independence – you may want to consider some type of long-term care insurance. A financial advisor

can help you determine what coverage may be appropriate.

Moving beyond your family, you may want to invest in the social fabric of your community by contributing to local charitable, civic, educational or cultural groups. Of course, now that we're in the holiday season, it's the perfect time for such gifts.

Furthermore, your gift will be more appreciated than in years past because one of the chief incentives for charitable giving – a tax deduction – was lost for many people due to tax law changes, which raised the standard deduction so significantly that far fewer people chose to itemize deductions. However, you might still be able to gain some tax benefits from your charitable gifts. To name one possibility, you could donate financial assets, such as stocks that have risen in value, freeing you of potential capital gains taxes. In any case, contact your tax advisor if you're considering sizable charitable gifts.

Saving for your retirement will always be important. But don't forget about investing in your family and your community – because these investments can provide satisfying returns.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.

## "WHAT'S UP AT THE TOWN HALL"

**LAND FOR SALE:** The Town has 19.1 acres of land for sale off Pine Banks Road. If you are interested, please contact the Town Hall or Buffum Reality. This is a great opportunity at a great price.

**ZONING IN OUR TOWN:** Please remember that any exterior home improvements in the Historic Village needs a permit such as window replacement, removing trees, sheds, etc. The other Zoning Districts require a permit for any out building or addition equal to or greater than 150 sq. ft., which includes swimming pools and the deck. If you have questions please feel free to call us. We are here to help not hinder your home improvement requests.

**WANTED:** The Selectboard is requesting your help. We are trying to form a committee to research the feasibility of Senior Housing/Assisted Living in Westminster. The Board recognizes that research has been done before but new incentives have been issued by the State for such endeavors. If you are interested in joining this committee, please call the Town Manager at the Town Hall and get your name on the list. Thank you in advance for your help. The Board is trying to get meeting started next month so again please contact the Town Hall as soon as possible.

**CITIZEN OF THE YEAR:** Believe it or not, it's time to get your nominations to the Selectboard for "Citizen of the Year." Your nomination letter should be addressed to the Selectboard in a sealed envelope clearly stating "Citizen of the Year." Your letter should be a brief note explaining why your candidate is worthy of this honor with examples. If chosen, the Selectboard will want your help to expand on the person's accomplishments and history. We will need all of these letters/nominations by December 11th to vote on at the regular Selectboard meeting in Executive Session.

**COMMUNITY HOME IMPROVEMENT FUND:** Westminster residents are able to apply for moderately low interest loans through the Town. Money is available for home repairs, such as energy efficiency improvements, water/sewer repairs, and weather related damage repairs. This program is income based for availability and comes with a lien against your home for security of the monies. To apply or receive more information, please contact the Town Manager.

**HOLIDAY HOURS FOR THE TOWN HALL:** The Town Hall will be closed at noon on Christmas Eve, Christmas day, and the day after (26th). The Town Manager will be in on Friday the 27, but the rest of the office will be closed. For New Years, the office will close on December 31 at noon, New Year's Day, and the Town Clerk will be out for the 2nd. Appointments for the Clerk can be made in advance for the 27th of December (Friday).

**After Hour Appointments:** Please feel free, if you have the need to make an appointment for either the Town Manager, Zoning Administer, or the Town Clerk after or before normal business hours. Both Alison Bigwood and Russell Hodgkins are willing to make these arrangements with you if needed. Please feel free to call us and we will set up your meeting.

As always, please feel free to call the Town Manager's Office regarding concerns, issues or comments.

**HARLOW FARM WINTER MARKET**



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Annual Rates:

Pages 2-3 - approx. 4"x5" \$275 a year - \$30 for one month  
Pages 4-7 - approx. 4.7"x6.8" \$525 a year - \$80 for one month  
Page 8 - approx. 2.5"x3.25" - \$175 a year

**New Sections Introductory Rates:**  
**A&E Events Section \$50 a month**

**New & Seasonal Businesses Section \$200 for 3 months**

Underwriting Support is a donation of at least \$300 annually and does not include advertising. Underwriters are listed in the box on page 6 each month.

We also welcome article submissions that would be of interest to the community. We ask for a maximum size limit of 500 words, and reserve the right to edit for content and length. Thank you!

On-line at: [www.westminstervt.org](http://www.westminstervt.org)

# The Big Birds

by Alma Beals, Vermont Master Gardener and Naturalist

Photos by Don Clark

Recently Ascutney Mountain Audubon Society sponsored a live bird presentation by Mike Clough from the Southern Vermont Natural History Museum in Marlboro. He was scheduled to bring Molly Stark, a live bald eagle, and a red-tailed hawk to compare how much larger the bald eagle is to a red-tailed hawk. Molly Stark wasn't feeling well, so he didn't bring her which didn't upset us. We all understand that the top priority of anyone bringing a live animal to a presentation is the animal's health. Instead Mike brought three hawks, a red-tailed, a merlin and a broad-winged. He also brought two owls, a screech and a barred.

The screech owl is very small, about eight and a half inches long and not seen too often in our area. The plumage can be rusty brown or gray which this one was. Either color can blend in with the bark of a tree and the owl not be seen. The primary song sounds like a horse whinnying. They can benefit your garden by eating large insects and small rodents.

The barred owl which is about 21 inches long is the one we see and hear the most. Last winter was tough on them and many starved. They could hear small rodents under the ice but couldn't break through the ice to reach them. One died at my house and another that I took to the vet had to be euthanized. A neighbor called me that he had a chicken stretched out sun bathing on the roof of a car and the owl picked it up and carried it to a tree in his yard. But it was too large for him to eat. Their hooting sounds like "who cooks for you, who cooks for you all." They also make barking, cackling and gurgling sounds.

As many times as I have seen Mike's live presentations, I cannot get enough of them. He is as good with adults as he is with kids. He takes the birds, one by one, out of their boxes and with a glove on one hand carries them around for people to see. He told us that soon southern Vermont will have only the Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS) where we can take injured birds. For years, veterinarian Ron Svec of Dummerston and rehabilitator Fred Homer have taken in injured birds but both are retiring.

Of all the large birds, ospreys are my favorite and are called the "alma" bird on Putney Mountain hawk-watches. They are large at 23 inches long with a wingspan of 63 inches. They are sometimes confused with red-tailed hawks due to their similar sizes but they look so different in flight.

For many years, Ascutney Mountain Audubon Society member Don Clark has dreamed of an osprey nest platform at Herricks Cove. Don, with the help of Matt Cole from Great River Hydro and Dave Ward from Green Mountain Power has accomplished this. Matt obtained permission to set the pole on Great River Hydro's land and have their crew clear the area of trees and brush.

Dave's crew from Green Mountain Power furnished the pole and the materials for the platform, built the platform and took the time from their busy schedule to set it all in place. Let's hope for more platforms along the



Connecticut River through efforts like this.

I can't talk about hawks without mentioning hawk watching on Putney Mountain. The hawk watch wound down on November 10 when deer season started because we don't want to be in the woods with the hunters.

This fall the count was 8091 which is a little below average. Two years ago was an excellent year with 14863 and last year was unbelievable with 15971. Weather makes such a difference especially during the broad-winged count. If we get super numbers of broad-wings, then we end up with good counts.

While looking skyward for hawks, we count blue jays, butterflies and anything interesting to keep us amused and our eyes sharp. This year we counted 3728 monarch butterflies, a record number. We aren't sure why so many came through but we all were thrilled and thankful to see them.

To quote John Anderson, the leader of our hawk watches, "We went to the mountain, counted raptors and monarch butterflies, peacefully co-existed with at least six robust colonies of bald-faced hornets, saw a lone horned lark pose atop an exposed ledge and two snow buntings peck through the weeds, had a brief visit from a rather timid black bear, observed a praying mantis and a northern walking stick and enjoyed -among other treats-hot cider, warm cookies, apple pie, and lots of watermelon! The 2019 Putney Mt. experience lacked only raptors of any species in numbers robust enough to give us bragging rights. But we did have our all-time monarch butterfly and bald-faced hornet counts. Who would have guessed?"



## 2019 OLD HOUSE AWARD WINNERS RECOGNIZED

The Rockingham Historic Preservation Commission handed out plaques for seven properties in town during a reception Oct. 24 to honor the winners of the 2019 Old House Awards. The winners received bronze plaques. **The 2019 winners are:**

53 Green St., Bellows Falls, owned by Rich and Debbie Demuzio. Built circa 1910, this vernacular Queen Anne was constructed between 1906 and 1912.

24 Old Terrace, Bellows Falls, owned by Stephen L. Moore. Built circa 1870, the barn on top of Old Terrace is a commercial storage building with three residential units overlooking the Basin Farm. It still has its original slate roof and features two original sliding barn

door entryways.

5 Hadley St., Bellows Falls, the Walter and Elvira Taylor House, owned by Jonathan Wright. Built circa 1850, this Greek Revival was moved to its present location around 1902. It originally stood one lot away facing north at the corner of Hadley and School streets.

3 Green St., Bellows Falls, the former J.T. Rudden House, owned by Anita and Tom Weiss. Built in 1901, this is a rare example of the Dutch Colonial Revival style in town.

6 Hapgood St., Bellows Falls, the former Holland M. Church House, owned by Nancy Barbee. This 2½-story house is of "stick style" architecture, an unusual

style within the village.

4 Pleasant St., Saxtons River, owned by Meg Lucas and Barbi Schreiber. This simple Greek Revival built in 1844 was constructed to serve as Baptist parsonage and was used until the 1930s when Baptist and Congregational parishes were federated.

104 Atkinson St., Bellows Falls, owned by the Gary and Mike Lisai Co. This building has been used for many purposes over the years, including a hack and livery stable in the 1870s, then as an ice storage facility in the 1920s and a casket company in the 1960s. In the 1980s, the building and attached barn became the headquarters for LeFevre Ambulance Co.

## NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE

The Westminster Fire and Rescue Department holds their monthly meetings at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every month and a combined drill on the third Tuesday of every month. Rescue training is the second Tuesday of the month.

Next association meeting December 3rd at 7 p.m. The Prudential Committee normally meets twice a month. A warning will be posted 48 hours prior to each meeting.

Number of calls in October: 41

Number of calls through November 29th: 44

Number of calls calendar year to Date: 397

Number of calls fiscal year to date: 199

**Association Meeting:** The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association met for their regular meeting November 5th with President Greg Holton presiding. There were 22 members present and five members excused.

**Extension cord safety:** Extension cords are meant for temporary use only. Overloading an extension cord or leaving one connected for too long could cause them to overheat and start a fire. Be sure the cords have three prongs.

**Christmas Trees:** Be sure to keep your Christmas tree watered so it won't become dry and be a fire hazard. Always keep the tree away from open fires and heating appliances.

**Lifeline:** The holidays are upon us and it is a time when many people travel. If you have a Lifeline or a Lifeline type system in your home, it is a good idea to contact the provider to let them know if you are going to be away from home. There should be a telephone number listed for contacting them. If there is an accidental trip of the alarm, the provider will know if the residence is unoccupied or not. This will save the responding agencies from going

out for a false alarm.

**Luminaries:** The Fire House will be made available again this year for the annual Christmas Eve luminary display preparations. Many local volunteers gather at the Fire House to put the sand and candles in bags. The afternoon of December 24th volunteers will set them out in the village on Rt. 5, Grout Ave. and School St.

Hopefully the weather will cooperate this year. The display attracts the attention of many people both locally and out of town. A huge thanks in advance goes out those who are involved with the set up and clean up. This is a very special occasion for Westminster that many look forward to.

**Stacking wood:** When stacking wood outside, covering the top of the pile is a good thing to do, but never cover the sides. The wood may go bad before it gets dry from lack of air.

**Bob Haas memorial:** Sunday, Nov. 24 close to 200 people gathered at the fire house to honor the memory of Bob Haas, a past member of the fire department and a 19 year member of the Prudential Committee. Several friends and family members of Bob's shared their stories and experiences.

Many thanks to the pouring out of fire department volunteers, friends, neighbors and family members who brought in food and helped with the preparation and set up and participated in the memorial.

**Emergency responses:** We have had another busy month in November with 44 total calls by the 29th. The breakdown goes like this: 17 rescue /medical calls; six motor vehicle accidents; three alarm activations; six trees on wires; five mutual aid call; one to Walpole, three to Putney, one to Athens; one standby; one service call for

cat stuck in tree; one for a domestic situation; one to check out a legal burn; one structure fire where we had help from Walpole, Saxtons River, Putney and Rockingham. two responses to a rekindle from the structure fire.

**FIRE EXTINGUISHERS FOR SALE:** Anyone want to buy a fire extinguisher? We have them for sale and there are 4 sizes available. See the Chief or stop by the fire station for more information if interested.

The Westminster Fire & Rescue Association welcomes donations throughout the year from anyone wishing to remember a loved one or a friend. Donations received in November: Alice Caggiano, Elizabeth Denoid, Peter Lefcort and family. Donation in memory of Bob Haas: Peter and Judy Harrison, Mary Mitchell, Barbara Greenough, Ken Flagg, Jim and Colleen Grout, Patricia McGrady, Anne [Spring] Knower and Christopher Bergman. From Leonard and Nancy Farrar in memory of Gerri Palmer.

We are always looking for new members: Anyone interested in volunteering their time to help the community in a time of need, please contact Chief Cole Streeter at 722-3178 or stop by the Firehouse any Sunday morning and pick up an application.

We would like to have additional volunteers from the Westminster West area. There is a Fire House, an engine and a rescue vehicle located in Westminster West and more help is always welcome to utilize that equipment during calls.

As always, we would like to thank the members of the community for its continued support of the fire department. Check us out on our web-site at [www.westminster-fireandrescue.org](http://www.westminster-fireandrescue.org).

The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association, Inc. operates independently from Westminster Fire District #3.

# Aged in Vermont

Westminster Cares, Inc.

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: LORI LARUE - WESTMINSTER CARES' BOARD PRESIDENT

As Lori Larue begins a new year as Westminster Cares' president, she's thinking about what she would like the organization to accomplish. Lori was voted into the president position in June of 2019.

Most important is to strengthen the Meals on Wheels program. "We're at the cusp of the number of people we can support, and we want to be prepared so that if we need to serve more people, we can accommodate them," she says.

Lori also plans to work with schools such as the Compass School and Bellows Falls Union High School, asking students to undertake their community service with Westminster Cares. "I don't know how many younger people are cognizant of Westminster Cares and what we do,"

Lori said. Writing press releases or articles, and volunteering at fundraisers could encourage youth, especially Westminster residents, to get involved.

Westminster Cares is finishing a successful year, she says. Despite very hot and steamy weather, the Garden Tour drew a relatively good turnout. The annual over-90 celebration brought in almost 80 people and 10 over-90 honorees. This year's celebration of volunteers also saw a good turnout. "People are volunteering, from those with 25 or more years of service to those in their first year," Lori said.

Lori grew up in Westminster and, during high



school, worked as a dispatcher for the local ambulance service. She graduated from Keene State College in 1988 with a degree in business. She moved back to Westminster and went to work for PC Connection (now Connection), where she is now a senior systems engineer. In her spare time, she loves photography and painting.

"Our family is older, and it feels important to recognize and support the older folks in our community," she says. "I have friends who live in other areas without this kind of organization and I'm seeing how hard it is for them to get the support they need. We're a small community but a big organization and we have great community support."

Lori hopes everyone will continue that support

in this year's annual appeal. "People have been so generous in the past, and we know they will continue to be. While the Garden Tour, our major fundraiser, was successful despite the weather, the heat stopped some people from coming out, so we hope the appeal can help fill that gap."

Annual appeal cards will show up in your mailbox soon. Meanwhile, if you'd like to join Westminster Cares' dedicated group of volunteers, contact Donna Dawson, director, at 722-3607 or wecares@sover.net. There are all kinds of fun and useful opportunities to help the older and disabled adults in your town.

### REMEMBRANCES

JO-ANN GOLDEN SEPT. 11, 1948 - OCT. 28, 2019  
ROBERT J. HAAS MAR. 24, 1930 - NOV. 3, 2019  
RUTH P. STEVENS OCT. 20, 1919 - NOV. 19, 2019

## NEWS FROM THE TOWN GARAGE



Hello Neighbors,

The ice has started on the pond and the frost is setting in. As we await the first snow of the season we will be getting some of our building and equipment maintenance done that was put off this summer.

The boys will be out cutting brush and trees, ditching and routine maintenance. It's hard to imagine but we will also be getting materials hauled in and equipment ready for mud season, all this in between snow storms and winter road maintenance.

I would like to remind everyone that as of November 1st and through April 10th, there is NO PARKING on any street or town road from midnight until 8 AM as well as during and 24 hours after any storm. Violators will be towed at the owners expense, per order of the Town of Westminster Select Board.

With that being said we would like to wish all of you Happy Holidays and a New Year better than the last.

*Thanks for a great year,  
Chuck and Crew*

### WESTMINSTER CARES

#### LAUNCHES ANNUAL APPEAL

Through the generosity of community members, the Town of Westminster, local businesses, and fundraising events and grants, Westminster Cares raises money each year to meet our budget requirements and pay for the programs and services we provide to seniors and adults with disabilities in our community.

All of us are faced with rising costs and more demands on our resources each year, but Westminster Cares still depends on private donations for much of their budget.

Funds generated from the appeal will support our Community Nurse program; monthly Senior Lunches; the Healthy Aging Group; healthy aging exercise programs and our services such as Meals-On-Wheels; equipment loans; rides to appointments; resource and referrals; and educational presentations and workshops.

We hope you're able to contribute to this year's appeal and help us meet our challenge goal. No gift is too small and every gift is appreciated.

#### MEETING HOUSE ASSOCIATION OFFERS 'CHALLENGE GRANT'

The Rockingham Meeting House Association has issued a challenge to area residents: Donate to the town's Meeting House Capital Reserve Fund in the coming months and the organization will match every dollar, up to \$7,500.

The association's board of directors voted to donate \$7,500 from past fundraising efforts to help the town continue to preserve and restore the Rockingham Meeting House, a National Historic Landmark built between 1787 and 1801. But the board would like to double the impact of its donation by offering to match all gifts made to the fund through June 30, 2020, the end of the town's fiscal year, to bring the total amount to \$15,000.

During 2020, the town will begin addressing the meeting house's most pressing need, restoration of the plaster, nearly all of which is original. After more than 230 years, the plaster is showing signs of deterioration, evidenced by large cracks and missing chunks on the ceiling and walls. The Rockingham Historic Preservation Commission succeeded in winning \$21,000 in grant funds to help tackle this ambitious project. However, the grant will finance only a portion of the costs.

Tax-deductible donations should be made to the Rockingham Meeting House Capital Reserve Fund. Supporters of the meeting house can drop off their donations in person at town hall in Bellows Falls or by mailing gifts to the Town of Rockingham, P.O. Box 370, Bellows Falls, Vt., 05101.

The capital reserve fund is a restricted account that can be used only for the meeting house, and is not part of the town's general fund.

#### GAZETTE BOARD SEEKS LEGAL ASSISTANCE

The Executive Board and Editor of the Westminster Gazette have been working diligently throughout 2019 to improve both the look of the paper and the financial outlook for the Gazette's future.

We've been very happy with the paper's new look and size, which has brought in several new advertisers, and have enjoyed working with our new printers at the Keene (NH) Sentinel. We've also come to realize that we need to take a few more steps in solidifying the Gazette's future by becoming a legal non-profit.

We have no money in our budget to pay for legal help in doing the paperwork required, so we would appreciate anyone with a legal background that might be able to help us, pro bono, with this. Please contact the paper if you can help. We'll do as much of the legwork as we can, and we're nice people to work with as well!

## ROCKINGHAM LIBRARY COMMUNITY HOLIDAY PARTY DEC. 7

The Friends of the Rockingham Library are hosting the Library's Community Holiday Party on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The public is invited to this free family-friendly event. Join the festivities! Light refreshments will be served.

The Stringfield Springers will be performing live. Children of all ages and their families are invited to decorate a gingerbread person in the Library's Youth Department between 11 a.m. and noon. The Friends' Holiday Raffle and Silent Auction will conclude at the Library at 12:30 p.m.

Stop by the library anytime to see all the prizes on display, to make a bid on the silent auction items or to buy some raffle tickets \$1 each, 6 for \$5.

Silent Auction items include felted wool landscapes by Maeve Sabine, an Anne of Green Gables basket with doll, a book and tea party set (created by Eileen Charbonneau), Debbi Wetzel's miniature paintings of the four seasons, Saxton Distillery's Sapling Maple Liqueur, a basket of bears plus Brown Bear, Brown Bear board book (donated by Village Square Booksellers) a trio of books by local author Elayne Clift and

### CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

This year, our Community Candlelight Service falls on Sunday, Dec. 22, one day after the Winter Solstice and longest night of the year.

This year's service will focus on the tradition of the fourth Sunday in Advent, whose theme is love. We will hear the readings from the prophets and the gospels, sing carols to prepare our hearts for Christmas, and receive musical offerings from the choir. The service, led by Pastor Susie Webster-Tolono will end with the candle lighting ceremony, accompanied by the singing of "Silent Night, Holy Night."

Following the service, there will be hot cocoa and goodies in the fellowship hall and caroling in the village. We welcome one and all to celebrate with us in this joyous time. The church is handicapped accessible.

On Christmas Eve our traditional service will begin at 11 p.m. and end at midnight. This service, led by Pastor Susie Webster-Tolono, will be quiet in tone, with special music and candlelight. Folks who attend this service regularly remark that it brings special meaning and an island of time for reflection in the midst of an otherwise high-energy holiday.

### USING DNA TESTING IN GENEALOGY PROGRAM AT RFPL

On Saturday, Dec. 14 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., join genealogy enthusiast Wayne Blanchard for a presentation on Using DNA Testing in Genealogy at the Rockingham Library.

Millions of people have now taken home DNA tests. This means there are many more chances of finding genetic cousins. For those who are researching their family history, this means that there are more ways to expand the family tree. DNA testing doesn't replace traditional genealogy, but it is another tool to be used along with other sources. There will be a discussion of the available tests and how the results can be used in genealogy.

one dozen muffins each month for a year baked by John Bohannon.

Raffle items include gift certificates to many area shops, a fleece throw, a seashell collection, children's books, a bath set and small sketch book with colored pencils. All proceeds from the silent auction and raffle will benefit the Friends of the Rockingham Free Public Library.

In addition, families are invited to call the library and ask for the Youth Librarian Sam Maskell 463-4270 or e-mail her at youths@rockinghamlibrary.org to reserve a free 10 minute family portrait session with local professional photographer Kristie Lisai at the Rockingham Library from 2 to 4 p.m. on the same day as the Community Holiday Party.

Each participating family will receive at least five free digital images. Update your family portraits and make a lasting memory. Be sure to make a reservation with Sam before Dec. 7. Sessions are reserved on a first call basis. Sessions spots are limited with no walk-ins allowed. Update your family portraits and make a lasting memory.

During the weeks leading up to Christmas, our church choir enjoys choosing and singing a mix of new music and old favorites. We will be singing each Sunday between now and Christmas, and always welcome new voices. Our "pick-up choir" rehearses before church on Sundays from 9 to 10 a.m. each week, learning a song for that very morning.

In December, we will also have one Thursday rehearsal on Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. and one Saturday rehearsal after church on Dec. 21 at 10 a.m., specifically to prepare for the Candlelight Service. The day of the Candlelight Service on the 22nd, we'll gather to run through music at 5 p.m. for the service at 7 p.m. We'd love to have you join us, once or for the whole season! For more information, call Charlotte Gifford (387-4145) or e-mail gifford@languagehead.com.

In turbulent times, a little centering calm can go a long way. You are welcome to join us for 30 minutes of silent meditation at the church each Sunday afternoon. There is no prescribed practice, just the simple act of sitting in silence from 5:30 to 6:00 pm. It is a great way to end your week. Or to start it. Or both!

For those thinking about taking a DNA test, we can discuss the benefits and drawbacks. Those who have already taken a test should bring the results with them, and we can explore ways to use them. If you have a laptop or tablet, bring it along. The library's wi-fi can be accessed for further research.

Registration with contact information is recommended (in case of the need to cancel due to inclement weather.) The library is located at 65 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls and is wheelchair accessible. To register or for more information, call 463-4270, e-mail programming@rockinghamlibrary.org or stop by the Library.

# WESTMINSTER HAPPENINGS

## Activities

### Scottish Country Dance Classes

Every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Westminster Center School Gym. All skill levels welcome. Contact Michael Daley for more information at 387-2601. No charge.

### Putney Contra Dance

Last Saturday of every month at Pierce Hall on East Putney Falls Road, off Rt. 5 in East Putney. A beginner's workshop is taught at 8 p.m., and the regular dance goes from 8:30 to 11. A donation at the door will benefit the Pierce's Hall Building Fund. For more information call 387-5985.

### Senior Potluck Lunch

Every 2nd Thursday of the month at noon. All Westminster seniors are invited to attend a potluck lunch at the First Congregational Church on Route 5.

### Secrets of Healthy Aging

A facilitated discussion group and pot-luck. The 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at the Westminster Fire Station from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Call Westminster Cares at 722-3607 for more information.

### Contra Dance

Every 3rd Saturday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall in Walpole, N.H.

### Gentle Yoga

Every Monday at 10 a.m. at the Westminster Institute. Call Westminster Cares at 722-3607 for more information.

### Chair Yoga

Every Friday from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at the First Congregational Church in Westminster. Call Westminster Cares at 722-3607 for more information.

### Living Strong Classes

Mondays and Thursdays: at the First Congregational Church in Westminster from 9-10 a.m.; at the Westminster West Church from 6-7 p.m.; or at Greater Rock Fitness in Bellows Falls from 11-12. Call Westminster Cares for more information at 722-3607.

### Knitting Together

Join us every Wednesday, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Village Square Booksellers, downtown Bellows Falls. Bring your knitting needles, we have the yarn and casual instruction if needed to knit hats, mittens and sweaters for area kids.

All our yarn is from community donation and we distribute our completed work to all area schools and Parks Place. More knitters at all skill levels are wanted and we can promise you an enjoyable experience. For details or to donate yarn contact Caroline at 463-4653.

### Westminster West Book Group

The Westminster West Library has a book group meeting every third Monday from 7-9. Call the library if you are interested in getting a list of the books we are reading. Contact Lise Cavanaugh at 387-4682.

### Tai Chi Classes

Wednesday's at the Institute Beginner Class 9:45-10:45 a.m. Intermediate Class 11 a.m. - noon

The Living Earth Action Group meets most Fridays at 5 p.m. at the Westminster West Congregational Church. For actual schedule e-mail Caitlin Adair at [pcadair@sover.net](mailto:pcadair@sover.net).

## CONCERT, CHRISTMAS SERVICE, SOUPER WEDNESDAY RETURNS

On Sunday Dec. 1, the Westmoreland Town Band will present their usual Christmas concert at 4 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, with a visit from Santa Claus. Come and listen.

On Tuesday, Dec. 24, we will celebrate Christmas at our Christmas Eve Service at 5:30 p.m. Come and join us. The service will include great music, carols and of course the Christmas story. Weather permitting we will end the service outside in front of the church with a candle-lit carol sing.

For January, Souper Wednesday returns on Jan. 8 from 12 to 2 p.m. More information coming in the January Gazette.

## KURN HATTIN LAUDED AS A VERMONT PBIS SCHOOL OF MERIT

Every year the VTPBIS State Team acknowledges PBIS schools for their achievements. PBIS (Positive Behavioral interventions and Support) is a nationally recognized method of addressing behavior, conduct, and problem solving, where students, faculty, and staff work together to promote a positive, predictable, and a safe environment for everyone in all school settings.

Kurn Hattin is entering its 3rd year as a formally recognized PBIS School, and is proud to be recognized this year as a VTPBIS School of Merit. To receive a VTPBIS School of Merit Ribbon, schools must show evidence of: implementing Universal PBIS by at least 80% of staff (95% at Kurn Hattin), use behavior data within a problem-solving framework to improve student outcomes, and complete an annual Self-Assessment Survey (SAS) to help plan/revise implementation.

The highest achievement is a VTPBIS Exemplar School, which requires a sustained level of PBIS merit criteria. "We should easily qualify for Exemplar School status next year. Great work everyone!!" said Sergio Simunovic, School Principal.

Since 1894, Kurn Hattin Homes for Children has helped thousands of children and their families by offering a safe home and quality education in a nurturing environment. Its mission: Kurn Hattin transforms the lives of children and their families forever. Follow their journey: [kurnhattin.org](http://kurnhattin.org).

## Faith Community

### The First Congregational Church of Westminster

Rev. Sami Jones McRae, Pastor. 3470 Route 5, Westminster, 722-4148. The church is handicapped accessible. Sunday School is available; call to register your children. We are an Open and Affirming church; all welcome.  
Sun., Dec. 1, Worship and Communion (1st Sunday of Advent) 4 p.m., Band Concert  
Tues., Dec. 3, 11 a.m. – Women's Fellowship. Bring a sandwich.  
Sun., Dec. 8, 10 a.m., Worship (2nd Sunday of Advent)  
Sun., Dec. 15, 10 a.m., Worship (3rd Sunday of Advent)  
Sun., Dec. 22, 10 a.m., Worship (4th Sunday of Advent)  
Tues., Dec. 24, 5:30 p.m, Christmas Eve Worship.  
.Sun., Dec. 30, 10 a.m., Worship  
Wed., Jan. 8, Souper Wednesday begins, noon to 2 p.m.

### The Congregational Church of Westminster West

The Congregational Church of Westminster West worships every Sunday at 10 a.m. The pick-up choir meets most Sundays at 9 to rehearse. Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of every month, and on the Second Sunday the church collects a special offering that goes to Our Place in Bellows Falls to help fund their food shelf.

The church building is wheelchair accessible, and the congregation is Open and Affirming. Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno is the pastor. She currently holds office hours on Monday and Thursday afternoons, and people are welcome to drop by. She can be reached at 387-2334, via cell phone at 579-8356 or e-mail [susiewt@gmail.com](mailto:susiewt@gmail.com).

### Walpole Bible Church

The Grace Bible Fellowship holds its Sunday Worship Service at 9:15 a.m. at 38 Elm Street in Walpole, NH. More information at [www.walpolebiblechurch.org](http://www.walpolebiblechurch.org).

### Walpole Unitarian Church

The corner of Union and Main Streets, Walpole, NH  
Services begin at 10:am with Rev. Elaine Bomford.  
First Sunday of each month is Circle Sunday with visiting presenters.  
[www.walpoleunitarian.org](http://www.walpoleunitarian.org).

## Meetings

**Selectboard** 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall.

**Planning Commission** 2nd Monday at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall.

**Conservation Commission** meets every 4th Thursday at Town Hall at 7:15

**Westminster Activities Commission**  
2nd Monday of the Month at 6 p.m. at the Westminster Institute.

**Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association**  
3rd Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Westminster West Congregational Church.

**Westminster West Public Library Board** 2nd Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Westminster West Public Library.

**Development Review Board** 1st Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.

**Community Improvement Program Committee** meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

**Westminster Cares Board** - 1st Wednesday of every month, at the Westminster Institute at 4:30 p.m.

**911 Committee** as needed.

**The Westminster Fire and Rescue Dept.** holds their monthly meetings on the 1st Tuesday of every month, at 7 p.m. and a combined drill on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at the Westminster Fire Station.

**Westminster Historical Society** 2nd Tuesday at 7 p.m. on the second floor of the Westminster Town Hall..

**Westminster Gazette Meeting** Monday Dec. 23 at 5 p.m. at the Rockingham Library.

**Westminster Institute Board** will meet on Tuesday, at 7 p.m. in the Institute.

## WESTMINSTER GAZETTE

*Editor: Robert Smith*  
**Board of Directors:**  
Charmion Handy -  
Chairwoman  
Donna Dawson  
Alma Beals  
Joyce Sullivan

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Town of Westminster  
Westminster Activities Commission  
Sojourns Community Health Clinic  
Westminster Cares  
Westminster Fire and Rescue Association  
Burtco Inc.  
The Dascomb Trust  
K Beebe Inc.

**Please Note:  
Due to the late Thanksgiving  
Holiday this year, the  
Deadline for  
the December Issue of the  
Westminster Gazette is  
Wednesday, Dec. 25.**

**Publication Date is  
Wednesday, Jan.1.**

**To Contact the  
Westminster Gazette  
E-mail:  
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Immune Support  
Apothecary

## WALPOLE PLAYERS PRESENT HOLIDAY DINNER THEATER BENEFIT & A MYSTERY DINNER

Travel back in time when The Walpole Players present John Carter's *In Bethlehem Inn* at the Walpole Town Hall on Saturday, Dec. 14. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and the fun begins at 7.

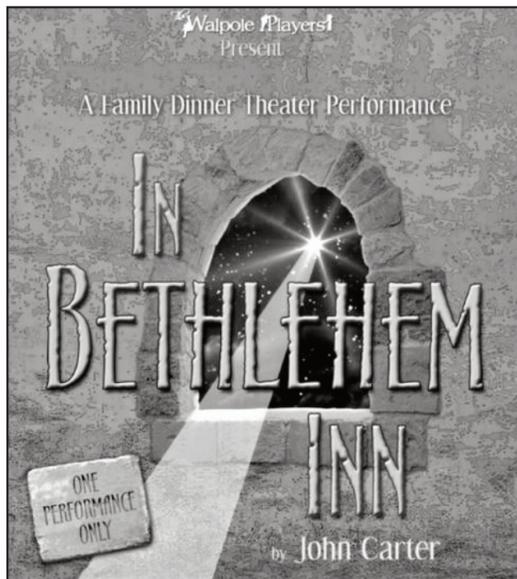
You are invited to be a guest at the Bethlehem Inn and enjoy a light supper reminiscent of the era as the players and you celebrate the holiday season by reenacting the events of the night when two weary travelers arrived in Bethlehem to pay their taxes. Guests may bring a beverage of their choice.

Inn guests will enjoy a humorous performance by the Players while helping to support the Fall Mountain Food Shelf and Our Place in Bellows Falls.

Tickets are available at Joanie Jones' Eatery at 14 Westminster Street in Walpole. The cost is \$15 each or two for \$25.

The Walpole Players are also presenting a mystery dinner for the benefit of St. John's Episcopal Church.

They will present an original mystery dinner, "Murder on the Vine," in the newly renovated hall of St.



John's Episcopal Church across from the Town Hall in Walpole on Feb. 7 and 8 with Feb. 21 and 22 as inclement weather dates. Doors open at 6 p.m. with appetizers starting at 6:30 and dinner served at 7. Proceeds will go to the Church's fundraising campaign for roof repairs.

An entertaining cast of over a dozen actors will present a mystery set in an Italian winery over the course of an Italian themed dinner.

There will be a vegetarian option. Non alcoholic beverages will be provided, and guests are invited to bring their own wine. Guests will be invited to help in solving the mystery, and coming in 1950s attire is encouraged as part of the fun.

The production has been written by Jeanie Levesque, who will direct, with help from members of the Walpole Players, and of the cast themselves.

Tickets for the dinner and entertainment are \$35 and are available through the Church. Seating is limited. For reservations and further information call 603-756-2535.

## THE GREEN AMENDMENT - WHAT IS IT?

Dan Young, Anneke von Rossum and Maya von Rossum (author of the Green Amendment) would like to come to speak to The Living Earth Action Group and our community here in southeastern Vermont.

Dan is a physicist who is very concerned that the science on Climate Restoration is missing some important variables (e.g. the complexity and synergy of living things).

Maya has had considerable environmental success using the Green Amendment that her home state of Pennsylvania put in place in the 1970s. She has written a wonderful book about that and is actively promoting the Green Amendment in Maine (with Michelle Henkin's help) and now in Vermont.

Maya's daughter Anneke van Rossum is at Vermont Law School in Royalton. Michelle's daughter Noa Bader is at the Putney School and is on the Sustainability Committee there. The when and where haven't been determined yet so stay tuned.

Maya writes: "I am happy to come speak about the power and importance of Green Amendments and how students can become part of our Vermont Green Amendment movement - i.e. our movement to advance

passage of a Green Amendment in the state that will give constitutional recognition and protection of the rights of present and future generations to pure water, clean air, a stable climate and healthy environments.

"Anneke is already heading up an effort in the state and one of her commitments is to help identify and advance speaking engagements in communities and at organizations where there is interest. She also is working on strategy on the ground with student colleagues and professors at the Vermont Law School.

"Dan Young has great knowledge on the ramifications of climate change and how people can and should be getting active on that impact. What a wonderful offer you have made to share your knowledge."

Here in the U.S. people have rights to free speech and religion, the right to bear arms and to freely assemble, but they do not have the right to clean water and air, a stable climate and healthy environments. Because environmental rights are not recognized across the U.S., government decisionmakers are often free to disregard them in favor of other political or economic priorities.

Green Amendments For The Generations is working

to transform this legal paradigm by seeking the passage of Green Amendments, i.e. constitutional amendments added to the bill of rights section of every state constitution which recognize and protect the inalienable right of all people to clean water and air, a stable climate and healthy environments.

Only Pennsylvania and Montana have Green Amendments today, but since 2013 Maya van Rossum and her Green Amendment movement have inspired Green Amendment proposals in New Jersey, New York, West Virginia and Maryland, with growing movements taking place in even more states including New Mexico, Maine, Delaware, Connecticut and now the great state of Vermont.

You can learn more about the Green Amendment For The Generations movement at [www.ForTheGenerations.org](http://www.ForTheGenerations.org)

The Living Earth Action Group has been meeting in Westminster West since Feb. 2017 to inspire people to do what they can to heal our Earth. LEAG will have a website soon!

Meantime, to be on the mailing list for newsletters, contact [pcadair@sover.net](mailto:pcadair@sover.net).

## EMILY BAZIN NAMED BFULHS STUDENT OF MONTH



It is a pleasure to announce that Emily Bazin has been named the October Elks Student of the Month for Bellows Falls Union High School. Emily, a senior, is the daughter of Peter and Dawn Bazin of Westminster.

Emily is an extremely talented student; academics and a strong work ethic are among her greatest strengths. Conscientious and dedicated to her studies, she takes challenging classes and works hard to develop her skills. Always looking to improve herself, Emily is never afraid to ask questions.

Her personal qualities parallel her academic characteristics. She is well grounded with a strong family foundation. A trustworthy student, Emily is someone who can be relied on to produce original and creative work. Perhaps one of her greatest personal qualities is the unusual sense of humility that she possesses. Emily accepts praise for all of her accomplishments with an utmost sense of modesty.

A leader in the true essence of the word, Emily has a "take-charge" personality. As this year's president of the BFULHS Student Council, she brings creativity, an abundance of ideas and a willingness to participate in all fundraisers and community-based activities to the group. She works hard to involve all Council members in discussions and activities.

The Elks and BFULHS are proud to have Emily represent us this month with this award.

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