po box 147 westminster vt 05158

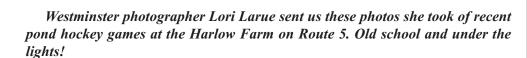
Bur Community Rewspaper @ www.westminstervt.org Vol 18 No 2 February 2022

## It's Old School Pond Hockey at Harlow's











## **COMPASS SCHOOL CELEBRATES GIVING DAY**

Recently Compass school carried on their tradition of "Giving Day", a special day to celebrate every in

dividual in the community. The focus of the day is having every student and staff member stand in front of the school gathering and give a handmade, personalized gift to another member of the community whose name was picked randomly before Thanksgiving break.

Some of the big life-long learning from Giving Day is exercising creativity and caring, speaking from the heart, valuing the specialness of another individual, and showing appreciation for each other and the community.

The challenging part is thinking of and creating a gift that is meaningful to the receiver (and not purchased)—and then having to get up in front of the school and share this. Everyone rises to the occasion and the spirit in the school is wonderful. Every person is valued and seen.

Ninth grade student Keith has been at Compass for three years. "I love how we took the whole day to give back to our community, and to take the time to really get to know another person."

Keith made a wired speaker stand for another student, and he received a modified "souped up" red wagon from a teacher that connected with his interests in mechanics.

Tenth grade student Ilsa said, "I like how the day brings us together, even across ages and grades. And it's cool to see all the crafting and creative handmade things that people come up with."

Ilsa made a crochet ball for another student, and she received a mirror framed with stones and shells.

Eighth grader Braeden said, "It was great to really focus on appreciating other people. It was a bit nerve-



wracking presenting in front of the whole school, but that was a really good experience too."

Braeden made a stained glass suncatcher, and he received a sculpture made out of bottles.

Assistant Director Louise Hodson remarked, "I love how everyone gets most excited about giving their gift. The spirit it creates at school really brings us together, and teaches the kids about the value of giving to others. This day is a great tradition for us, fitting into our overall emphasis on social and emotional learning as a crucial part of an effective school. And it's so much fun!"

In photo, students dance and help teacher Ron Bos-Lun present a song in honor of another student for Giving Day at Compass School

The Annual Town Meeting will be on Tuesday, March 1, 2022; 10 a.m. at the Westminster Town Hall to elect town officers by Austrailian Ballot. To be recessed to April 30, 2022 for the in-person Town Meeting on the Westminster Institute lawn, Saturday, April 30, 2022 at 10 a.m.

Rain location will be in the bays of the Westminster Fire District # 3 on Grout Avenue.

u o <mark>recerencence e cerence e c</mark> Our Monthly Community Newspaper February 2022 Vol. 18 No. 2

## Westminster Gazette

Town of Westminster PO Box 147 Westminster, VT 05158

DELIVER TO ADDRESSEE OR CURRENT RESIDENT

Pre-Sorted Standard U.S. Postage

**Paid** 

Westminster, VT PERMIT NO. 3

#### WESTMINSTER CARES ANNUAL APPEAL GRATITUDE

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.

Westminster Cares wishes to express heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for the generous outpouring of support we have received to date for our 2021-2022 Annual Appeal fundraising drive. Funds from this Appeal enable us to continue serving the community as we adapt to these uncertain times. Thank you to all the individuals, families and businesses who have contributed so far and to the entire community for your incredible support this year!

For a second year, individuals, families, businesses and non-profit organizations alike have faced extraordinary challenges. We've all been faced with difficult choices and more demands on our resources. To protect the safety of the community, Westminster Cares cancelled all of our event-based fundraisers, including the 2021 Garden Tour, our major fundraising event.

Throughout the pandemic, we've been humbled by the outpouring of community support – offers to volunteer; donations of masks, gloves and supplies; contributions made by individuals and businesses; and grants received. We hope you'll be able to contribute to this year's Appeal and help raise funds so Westminster Cares can adapt to the challenges we face in the coming months.

Gifts made in someone's honor or memory will be printed in an upcoming Gazette. Donations to the Annual Appeal can be made throughout the winter by check and mailed to: P.O. Box 312 Westminster, VT 05158); or online via PayPal on our website: www.westminstercares.org. No gift is too small and every single gift is appreciated.

#### FIRST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES

The First Congregational Church of Westminster has been holding hybrid services every Sunday at 10 a.m. Those who choose can attend church, following safety precautions by wearing a mask.

Others can attend church services via Zoom. Others may enjoy the recorded service on the church Facebook Page.

Women's Fellowship will meet at the church on Tuesday, February 1st at 11 a.m. Those attending should wear a mask.

Bible study is still taking place via Zoom on Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m. If you would like to participate in our digital services for February, please contact Pastor Sami McRae or Deacon Christina Smith via email at westminstercongoline@gmail.com for more information. Watch the Brattleboro Reformer, the Vermont Journal and Shopper, or notices posted on the church for up-to-date information.

#### RABIES CLINIC MAR. 26

There will be a Rabies Clinic on Saturday, Mar. 26 from 10 a.m. til noon at the Westminster Town Garage.

This will be held by the Rockingham Veterinary Clinic with Dr. Vincent DiBernardo.

The cost is \$15 per vaccine.

# ABCDEFGHI



bestseptic@gmail.com Fax: (802)-463-1523 All Septic Needs,

w.bestsepticvt.net

Portable Toilets. Jetting and Camera Service.

leff & Lisa Ruggiero Owners

(802)-463-9444 BIG OR SMALL WE PUMP IT ALL!



Seroya Pauline Crouch ND

## Welcoming New Patients!

Primary care, chronic illness & integrative mental health

Covered by most insurance!

Call 802-387-0124 www.onemedicine.org 126 Main St. Level 2 in Putney

## The Grammar School

Putney, Vermont



Nurturing a culture of kindness

- Preschool through 8th grade
- Academics, arts, sports, enrichment
- 60 acre campus & outdoor classrooms
  - Bus service & financial aid available

Now in session in-person, 5 days per week!

www.thegrammarschool.org



Paul Lawrence Travis Lawrence PO Box 174 Westminster, VT 05158

Lawn Maintenance Landscaping Plowing General Labor/Odd Jobs

TAKE YOUR WEEKEND OFF!

LEARNING COMMUNITY DEMOCRACY DIRECTION



A vibrant learning community for grades 7-12 in Westminster, Vermont

Come see what school can be

**Generous Scholarships and** Financial Aid Available

····· www.compass-school.org





## K. BEEBE, INC

CABLE TOOL WELL DRILLING PUMP SERVICE Plumbing and Heating

Established 1946

**FULLY INSURED \* ESTIMATES GIVEN** CALL 463-3725 51 SAXTONS RIVER ROAD **BELLOWS FALLS** 

BRENNAN

BUILDING

EXCAVATION

SEPTIC SYSTEMS

## ONE MEDICINE INTEGRATIVE HEALTH



# **ADVERTISE IN THE GAZETTE!**

802 869 2866

www.BrennanConstructionVT.com

### **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

## WESTMINSTER ENERGY GROUP

A Division of

WESTMINSTER FARMS

Top Soil Compost Dried Manure



Made in Vermont By Vermont Farmers And Vermont Cows

PO Box 24 4187 US Rt 5 Westminster Sta., VT 05159 Phone/Fax: 802 722 4017 Email: westfarms1@myfairpoint.net

#### News From the Town Garage - Mud Season: The Sequel

Hey Neighbor,

Over the course of the winter I have been asked about salt usage in the town of Westminster. Salt is used on just the 20 miles of asphalt at a rate of 250 lbs. per mile and 1 gallon of chloride to activate it when the mercury drops down to about 25° F.

At 30° F 1 lb. of salt will melt about 46 lbs. of ice, but at 20° F 1 lb. of salt can melt only about 9 lbs. of ice. So when activated with chloride which produces its own heat it drastically changes the efficiency of the salt enabling us to do more with less.

To put it in perspective, a walkway that is 4' wide and 10' long is 40 Sq. feet, which most folks salt with a 1 lb. coffee can. One mile of road 24' wide is 126,720 sf. This boils down to 3,168 lbs. of salt per mile if we used coffee cans instead of calibrated trucks to apply salt at 250 lbs. per mile.

Potentially Record Breaking Mud Season Incoming! Just a heads up! Mud season the sequel is coming to a neighborhood near you in late February and is playing until middle to late March and possibly into April. We will do all we can to keep roads passable for vehicles with



good tires and proper ground clearance. If winter was a problem you might want to rethink your transportation before mud season. That little bit we had in December was

If folks could get oil and propane deliveries by the second week in February while the roads are frozen and last through the spring it would make a huge difference on the amount of stone, gravel and fuel that we throw at it, also online impulse shopping has significantly increased traffic on our roads with UPS, FedEx and Amazon to name a few. While I get it, it is convenient until your road has big ruts in it and your car gets cross threaded.

I talked to the town manager about trash during this time of the year and we are going to try something different. We are asking that when the time comes, folks bring their trash to the end of side roads to the main arteries. Old Athens down to the West Road, Cross Road to either end, Daigel down to Pine Banks, etc. This should be no more than two or three weeks.

The less ruts, the faster things can dry out and less wear and tear on your vehicle and roads. When the roads start to break up we will have information on the town website and the highway Facebook as well as flyers distributed on your trash can by Ruggiero. Thank you for your help and support!

> Stay Safe and healthy, Chuck & Crew

In photo, this phenomenon of mud season is nothing new, it's been around for a very long time.

#### **News From Westminster Cares**

The Westminster Cares Board of Directors met January 12 via WebEx with President Lori Larue presiding. The following board members attended: Lori Larue, Regina Borden, Miriam Lanata, Pete Harrison, Pat Goodell, Don Dawson, Cindy Moses, Doug Oftedahl, Kathy Elliot and Donna Dawson, Director.

#### **Programs & Services Provided in DECEMBER:**

Meals-on-Wheels: WC volunteers delivered meals five days a week to 24 different people. Two frozen entrees were delivered each Friday to 15 people for weekend meals.

A collaboration between the Town's Public Fund, the Women's Fellowship of the First Congregational Church of Westminster, and Westminster Cares enabled Holiday Bags chock full of shelf stable food items to be delivered to all Mealson-Wheels clients plus other residents in town. We're grateful to the Town's Public Fund Trustees for donating money to FCCW so that food items could be purchased. We're also grateful for the Women's Fellowship volunteers for shopping for and assembling the bags. Thanks also to Pete and Judy Harrison for delivering the bags Christmas week.

Transportation Program: In December, one resident was transported to/from a medical appointment.

Healthy Aging Programs: The Secrets of Healthy Aging Group has been on hold temporarily. No sessions were held in December, however check-in calls were made to all participants. Both of our Strong Living exercise classes, are happening two times per week on Zoom. Our Gentle Yoga and Tai Chi classes are being offered online.

Assistance and Referrals: Volunteers picked up and delivered pharmacy prescriptions on three occasions for residents.

Medical Equipment – In December we loaned out 5 pieces of equipment and we accepted returns of 3 pieces of equipment.

Community Nurse Program – In December our Nurse continued to consult with clients by phone.

#### Annual Appeal Donations Received From Dec. 13th, 2021 – Jan. 20th, 2022 In Honor Of:

In honor of Russ Allen from Nancy & Jim McAuliffe

In honor of Alma Beals from Allison & David Deen

In honor of Susan Clifford from Patrick Clark

In honor of Gail Coburn from the Rev. Sami McRae In honor of Donna Dawson from Cynthia Moore

In honor of Eleanor Friedman from Kevin & Sarah Brennan

In honor of Pete Harrison from Jim & Nancy McAuliffe

In honor of Pete Harrison and Donna Dawson from Libby Mills

In honor of Lori Miller from Marlene and Bill O'Connor

In honor of Lori and Dick Miller from Heidi Anderson & Lee Trapeni

In honor of Karen Walter from Wendell Harty

In honor of the work Westminster Cares does in the community from Allen

Bros.; Greater Falls Ins.; Kathleen Pirruccello; and Katie Hunt & Peter Shumlin In honor of the Westminster Cares Board and Donna Dawson from Beth

In honor of Westminster Fire & Rescue from Real & Carol Bazin In Memory Of:

In memory of Artie Aiken from Kim Grall & Jeff Greene

In memory of Phyllis Anderson from Jim & Colleen Grout; and from Terry & John Anderson

In memory of Hank and Phyllis Anderson from Jennifer Anderson; Wendy Schoenemann; Sue Gioulis; and Steve Anderson & Jacquie Walker

In memory of Harold Angers from Barbara Angers

In memory of Bob & Jean Ashcroft from Ann Ashcroft

In memory of my grandmother, Evelyn Aubuchont, from Lisa DiBernardo

In memory of Peter Barrett from Doug Sherwin & Yvette Durell In memory of Kenneth and Kathryn Beebe from Sheldon & Betsy Beebe

In memory of Audrey Boerum from Sharon Boccelli & Ingrid Sell Boccelli

In memory of Doris Bowen from Dan & Mary Davis

In memory of Alice Cobb from Gary Cobb

In memory of Joanne S. Cordano and Helen Cordano from Donald Cordano and from Kerin Mills

#### **CES EMBRACES FARM TO SCHOOL**

Central Elementary School in Bellows Falls is excited to be able to expand their Farm to School (FTS) programming by joining the Northeast Farm to School Institute this year!

In October, second graders took on a leadership role as they taught their peers about carrots. The students were wrapping up an ongoing project in which they harvested, researched, and painted carrots, and then presented what they learned to students in grades kindergarten through fourth! At the end of the week, Food Service Professional Erica Frank cooked up a carrot cake breakfast cookie as a special breakfast item highlighting carrots grown in the school garden.

This deep dive into project-based learning and authentic teaching is one example of the exemplary Farm to School programming at Central Elementary School. With support from Food Connects, a Brattleboro-based organization that supports Farm to School programming in schools, this Bellows Falls area school is the latest in Windham County to join the Northeast Farm to School Institute.

The Institute, which runs from summer 2021 through summer 2022, is a yearlong professional development opportunity Vermont FEED offers. It gives school teams the time and guidance to form a Farm to School Action Plan and decide how to implement Farm to School in their community. The Institute also provides schools with a grant and coaching to get their programs off the ground.

In memory of Rosalie Coven from Tony & Judy Coven

In memory of Bob Davis from John Benzaia

In memory of Don and Muriel Devoe from Judy Haggerty

In memory of Charlie Edson from Richard Michelman; and from Cyndy Fine

In memory of Richard Friedman from Noro (Neil) Metrick

In memory of Kendall Gifford from Robert Feinberg In memory of Bob and Jim Haas from Pat Haas

In memory of Jay and Larry Hammond from Marty Hammond

In memory of Rod Hewitt from Marilyn Hewitt

In memory of Ilse and Frank Holan from Jenny Holan

In memory of George P. James, Jr. from Kandace & George James

In memory of Walt & Pat Jennison from Betty Miller and Cheryl Jennison

In memory of Mary King from the Sigibelle Boccelli Fund In memory of Marilyn Kissell from Darwin & Dianne Quinn

In memory of Larry Lanata from Patrick Clark; from Anonymous; and from the Sigibelle Boccelli Fund

In memory of Jamie Latham from Alison Latham

In memory of Linda Lowe from Frank & Shirley Aiken

In memory of Beverly Bruhn Major from Adrienne & Stephen Major

In memory of Staci Jones Maly, Joanne Duval, Caro Duval and Genevieve Farnsworth from Tonia & Lester White

In memory of our good neighbor, Jeff Michaud from Barbara Angers & Family

In memory of Richard (Dick) Morse from Ruth Morse; and from John and Diane O'Brien

In memory of Edith and Leo Nauceder from Michele Lingley

In memory of Buster Newcomb from Diane Brown; and from the Sigibelle Boccelli Fund

In memory of Ernie and Phyllis Norman from Scott & Wanda West

In memory of Marion Nowers from Burt & Lisa Nowers

In memory of Margret Palmer from Carleton Palmer, II

In memory of Germaine Palmer from Leonard & Nancy Farrar In memory of Dorothy Palumbo from Michael & Susan Colby

In memory of our parents from Richard and Linda Todd

In memory of Harland Rounds from Cheryl Rounds

In memory of Brad Ryea from Hollis & Sally Ryea

In memory of Jim Scully from Arlene Scully

In memory of Alice and Harold Shattuck from Barb Greenough

In memory of George Shuster from Kathy Shuster

In memory of Joan Smidutz from Bill Smidutz and from Marlene & Bill O'-

In memory of Sam and Fran Streeter from Phil & Jane Savoy

In memory of Richard Taylor from John and Bobbi Kilburn In memory of Fred Tipton and Russell Lasarek from Woody Fuller & Fran

In memory of my Uncle Ralph and Aunt Dot from Lori Larue In memory of Marie Wright from Norm Wright and Claudia Richardson



## IRA? Don't wait to contribute.



Jessica Fuller Financial Advisor 57 Main Street Walpole, NH 03608 603-756-2513

## The Ways Ruffed Grouse, Chickadees & Woodpeckers Survive Winter

by Alma Beals, Vermont Master Gardener and Naturalist

As we all know, winter in Vermont is challenging even for the most cold-hardy birds. Most birds migrate to a warmer climate where food is plentiful, and the cold is not extreme. But the birds that stay here need an adequate source of food, refuge from predators and protection from the elments. For this article I'm going to use the survival tactics of the Black-capped Chickadee, three of our woodpeckers and the Ruffed Grouse.

The chickadees lower their body temperature at night and can go into torpor in extreme cold. They retain heat in their body core by fluffing out their feathers and shivering. I read that their brains expand by about 30% every winter which helps them to remember where they cache food. They roost together with other chickadees in cozy cavities, the same as nuthatches and titmice do. They travel in groups with other small birds exploring for food, such as various seeds, spiders, spider eggs and frozen caterpillars.

Woodpeckers excavate roosting cavities in rotting snags which are about 6 feet from the ground. This differs from nesting cavities that are excavated in solid wood and about three times higher. Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers have the ability to cling to trees and find wood-boring insect larva with their drill-bit bills while Pileated Woodpeckers find hibernating carpenter ants in the wood. Woodpeckers use the same roost hole every night and may use it all winter long.

During the spring, summer and fall, the Ruffed Grouse eats many kinds of leafy vegetation, mostly on the ground. When the ground is covered by snow, they change their diet to buds and bits of twigs from aspen, birch, alder, willow, poplar and hophornbeam trees.

The three physical changes in grouse that take place in the fall are to the legs, feet and beak. The feathers on the legs grow thicker to give them more insulation while the feathers near the beak expand downward to cover their nostrils, slowing the cold air as they breath. Small fringe-like projections,





called pectinations, develop along the sides of the toes so that the grouse can walk on top of fluffy snow. The toe projections also give the grouse a better grip on icy branches while eating buds and twigs.

When there is at least 10 inches of snow and no crust, grouse will tuck their wings up and fly full-speed into a snow bank to retain their body heat and to be hidden from predators. When they exit their "snow cave" the next morning, they explode out of the snow, startling anyone who happens to be there. Sometimes a crust will form on the top of the



Clockwise from top left, chickadee, grouse and woodpecker photos by Don Clark

snow overnight, sealing the grouse into its snow cave.

Some of the ways we can help the birds through the winter is to plant native fruit trees. Fruit pulp is rich in carbohydrates and vitamins with the inside seeds a source of fat and protein. Each winter a few Eastern Bluebirds and American Robins stay here for the winter instead of migrating. They are able to switch their diet from insects in the summer to berries in the winter.

Other ways we can help is to leave snags for the woodpeckers and to make brush piles for protection from predators for birds, as well as animals. Leave bird houses out in the winter for roosting cavities for small birds. Keep the woodpeckers and small birds in your yard supplied with suet. And keep your feeders filled with protein-rich sunflower seeds.

## A WESTMINSTER SAMPLER: WHEN SKIERS CAME TO WESTMINSTER BY THE BUSLOAD

by Dan Axtell

The accompanying photo comes from the Bellows Falls Times 75 years ago this month. The little ski area was called the Bellows Falls Ski Bowl, but only the base area was in the town of Rockingham. If the woman in the photo can hold on to the rope tow for ten seconds more, she'll be in Westminster.

All that's left of the area today is the road name "Ski Bowl Road," a mile east of Saxtons River on Route 121. Half a mile up that road, the name changes to "Thayer Road" Westminster. The rope tow was down in the ravine and Thayer Road was one of the ski trails.

The heyday was 1938 until World War II, when

"busloads" of skiers came from the cities, according to Dick Hogarth, who lived in the farmhouse then. The New York Times ski reports in 1939 had only seven Vermont ski areas—and Bellows Falls was one of them, alongside Pico Peak, Bromley, and Stowe.

After the war, a different family ran the tow for a few years. In 1951, Bellows Falls bought the rope tow and tow house. It was moved and became the Bellows Falls Community Ski Tow at the Bellows Falls Recreation Area. The original equipment was replaced long ago, but the Community Ski Tow ran as recently as

BELLOWS FALLS, VT., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1947 FUN AT THE SKI BOWL era, is Manager Jim Howard. The Ski Bowl will operate Friday, Saturday and week-end and also on Wednesday next week when Kurn Hattin and local student adults, will be welcomed.—Staff Photo.

2020.

If you are one of the many people who confuse the Ski Bowl with the Bellows Falls Ski Tow, the Westminster Historical Society is here to help. Historical documentation is currently scattered. There are only a few first-person recollections written down. We're hoping that readers will help. Please share your Ski Bowl memories through our website, www.westminstervthistory.org, or on our Facebook page.

The Historical Society welcomes its newest trustee, Lonnie Lisai, who also knows every inch of the woods

#### VERMONT

Bellows Falls (Ski Bowl)-Nine inches, three new powder on hard base; skiing good; 5 above.

Brattleboro-Twelve inches, three new powder; somewhat drifted on exposed slopes; skiing excellent; temperature zero.

Rutland (Pico Peak)-Eighteen powder on Pico Peak open slope; forty-two base, six powder at midpoint of Sunset Schuss; skiing good; 14 above.

Manchester (Bromley Mountain) -Upper Bromley Trail (3,000 feet): Twenty-seven inches, three settled powder. Long Trail Entrance (2,000 feet): Sixteen inches, two settled powder. Valley: Spotty snow cover, two inches windblown powder, open slopes windblown; 14 above.

Brandon - Six inches new snow on six frozen base on trails; five inches new snow on open slopes; skiing good; 30 above.

Peru-Four inches powder over fifteen base; good skiing; 6 above. Stowe (Mount Mansfield)-Thirty-four inches in Smugglers' Notch increasing to sixty-five near summit; six to eight inches over un-breakable crust; windblown in ex-posed places; 4 above.

MAINE

that once was the Ski Bowl. With his help and yours, you will eventually see Part II of the Ski Bowl story in this space.

Above left, photo and cutline from the Feb. 20, **Bellows Falls Times** about Westminster/Rockingham Ski Bowl, and above, the NY Times ski report from Feb. 24, 1939. In February 1939, the Ski Bowl was one of only seven ski areas in Vermont, according to the Times.

## NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE

The Westminster Fire and Rescue Department Alstead, 1 to Walpole and 2 to Langdon; 3 vehicles, holds its 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: Jan. 4th at 7 p.m.

The Prudential Committee normally meets once or twice a month. A warning will be posted 48 hours prior to each meeting.

Number of calls in December: 42 Number of calls through January 20th: 35 Number of calls calendar year to Date: 35 Number of calls fiscal year to date: 265

**Association Meeting:** The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association met for their regular meeting January 4th with President Greg Holton presiding. There were 39 members present and 6 members excused. Currently there are 47 members of the volunteer fire department.

The department welcomed 4 new members: Michael White under the 6 month probation guidelines and 3 junior members, Josh Streeter, Josh Martin and John Adams. The 3 will be junior members until each one turns 18.

**Emergency responses:** We had another very busy month in December with 42 total calls and we are on track for an even busier January with 35 calls by the 20th.

The breakdown for December goes like this: 16 rescue /medical calls; 7 motor vehicle accidents; 9 mutual aid calls: 3 to Putney, 2 to Brattleboro, 1 to

1 CO detector issue; 4 tree on wires or tree down in roadway and 1 off road search and rescue.

Out of the 35 calls so far in January, 10 of them were mutual aid to other towns Also there were a couple of training classes during the month of December.

Driveways and Right of Ways: Please be sure that private roads leading to your home are plowed wide enough so a large fire truck can pass through easily. Also, be sure brush and any other obstacles are not hindering an emergency vehicle from getting to a scene where they may be needed.

**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

**Skating rink:** The ice skating rink at the Center School on School St. is up and running and open to the public.

Space Heater Safety: Several house fires each year are caused by space heaters. Here are a few tips: Use the 3 foot rule and never run a heater less than 3 feet from another object like curtains, furniture, etc. Position heater on the floor only, no stools, benches or bureaus. Plug directly into an outlet, no extension cords or shared power strips. Never leave heater unattended. And keep heater away from water.

Wood stove and chimneys: Time to check both. 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 inter-

The Westminster Fire & Rescue Association welcomes donations throughout the year from anyone wishing to remember a loved one or a friend. Memo-

Donations received in January: Barbara Greenough in memory of Almon Flagg

Leonard and Nancy Farrar in memory of Germaine Palmer.

Open Donations received in January:

The Vermont Country Store

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 firehouse, 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 their continued support.

# Aged in Vermont Westminster Cares, Inc.

## PUTTING A CAP ON SCAMS

General's Consumer Assistance Program (CAP) summarized scams throughout the state in 2021. Reports totaled 5,154 in 2021, up just slightly from the previous year's

Two variations of the Computer Tech Support scam and the Online Listing scam claimed the number one, three, and seven spots respectively on CAP's list of top ten scams in 2021, covering nearly a quarter of the total reports filed by Vermonters.

Businesses were also targeted by internet-based scams in 2021. The Business Imposter Email Scam, where scammers represent themselves as business personnel to extort funds, had 62 reports filed—a figure that did not make the top ten but notably jumped nearly 50% from the previous year.

"The prevalence of internet-based scams in 2021 sends a clear message about the importance of staying safe online in our social and work lives," said Attorney General T.J. Donovan. "If you receive a suspicious contact, whether it's made by email, online message, or phone, know that CAP is here to help."

Impersonation scams remain of concern, with an adapted law enforcement and lawyer imposter scam at the number four spot in 2021, threatening arrest and lawsuits on unsuspecting call recipients.

The Family Emergency/Imposter scam, which includes the Grandchild Imposter also known as the "Grandparent scam" where needy friends and relatives ask for funds, made the top ten list again in 2021. A similar scam, which fabricates a romantic relationship or

A recent announcement from the Vermont Attorney friendship of confidence, the Romance Imposter scam, saw a 36% increase in reports.

> As imposter scams are of ongoing concern in Vermont, CAP recently distributed a video imposter scam prevention project, highlighting three concerning imposter scams with high dollar loss: the Romance Imposter scam, the Family Emergency/Imposter Scam, and the Business Imposter Email Scam.

> As highlighted in the prevention project, taking steps to verify can help individuals avoid scams. A simple verification process to follow for all scams is the SLOW

> S - SLOW DOWN - Scammers pressure you to act urgently. Don't!

> L-LOG THE CONTACT Write down the info of the contact and disengage.

> O – ONE CALL Make one call to a primary contact and discuss the incident.

> W - WHO CARES? Call CAP to identify and report scams at 1-800-649-2424.

> CAP reminds Vermonters to never give out personal information or make payments to parties you cannot verify. Scammers will ask for payment in all forms, including wire transfer, cryptocurrency, cash, peer-to-peer payment, money order, check, credit/debit card, and gift cards.

> If you have sent money to a scammer, follow recovery steps now. Vermonters can help stop scams by sharing information with community members and by reporting scams to CAP to support educational outreach. To report scams, complete CAP's online scam reporting form or call 1-800-649-2424.

#### **TOWN JOB OPENING IN WESTMINSTER**

The Westminster Town Planning Commission is sult of any votes taken; and a record of individual votes looking for a Recording Clerk to take minutes for our monthly meetings. Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month from 6:30-8:30 p.m. via Zoom until further notice, and then in person at the Town Hall. When the 2nd Monday is a holiday we meet the following day (Tuesday).

Minutes must give a "true indication of the business of the meeting" - which may require supplementing the following statutorily-required elements: members present; active participants at the meeting; motions, proposals, and resolutions made, offered, and considered and what disposition is made of the same; the reif a roll call is taken. 1 V.S.A. § 312(b)(1). Meeting minutes do not have to be a transcript of the meeting. Meeting minutes must be formatted and submitted to the Town Office within 5 days of the meeting.

Attendance: Candidate must attend all meetings or give advance notice to the Commission Chair for planned absences.

Pay: Stipend is \$70/meeting (estimated 3 hours per month)

Please respond westminstvt.planningcom@gmail.com with qualifications and personal contact details.

#### LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS OFFER FUEL AND EMERGENCY **ASSISTANCE DURING THE WINTER**

With temperatures dropping and heat prices rising, 2240 or email wcheatfund@comcast.net to apply. many residents may struggle to afford heat and other expenses this winter. Several local organizations offer assist residents of Westminster, (over the age of 60), assistance with heat, utility and other bills. Each program has different age, residence and sometimes income requirements.

Southeastern Vermont Community Action, (SEVCA), offers eligible Windham and Windsor County residents assistance with their heat and utilities. The first step for receiving seasonal fuel assistance is to fill out an application @ dcf.vermont.gov/mybenefits. You can also call to request an application. It's best to do this now, as benefits are already being is-

If you are behind on your electric, water or wastewater bills and concerned about disconnection, SEVCA may be able to help. For heat, utility, and other assistance, call 800-464-9951, and connect to the Westminster office.

The Windham County Heat Fund was started by Richard Davis and Daryl Pillsbury in 2005. The Heat Fund is a one-time band-aid, usually consisting of a minimum fuel delivery for residents of Windham County only. The Heat Fund tries to make sure people have explored all other avenues of assistance first. Fundraising has been possible by having two to three public events each year and by generating publicity to solicit individual and business donations. Call 254-

Westminster Cares has a small emergency fund to with fuel or assistance with an unexpected expense. This is typically a one-time per year assist for those who have used up their fuel assistance allotment through the state, or have nowhere else to turn. Requests are assessed by the Executive Committee on a case-by-case basis.

Westminster Cares sometimes partners with Senior Solutions, SEVCA, or the Campbell Fund to share costs so that more requests can be fulfilled. To make a request, contact Donna Dawson, Director for more in-802-722-3607 formation at wecares@sover.net.

The Town of Westminster also has a public fund called The Campbell Fund which is designated for emergency use and typically one-time assistance with an unexpected bill, repair, or fuel need. To apply, individuals or families must be residents of Westminster and other avenues for assistance should be explored first. The Trustees make decisions on a case-by-case basis. To be connected to a Trustee, call the Westminster Cares office at 802-722-3607.

For help finding information on other important needs this winter such as food assistance, emergency shelter, health insurance, or applying for various benefits, contact Westminster Cares for referral information.

## LIBRARY HOSTS WRITERS SALON

Putney Public Library Writers Salon will run the published in 2021 by Glass Lyre Press. first Thursday evening of each month from November through March from 7-8 p.m. and will feature writers of fiction and poetry from Vermont and other parts of the United States. You can access the link by emailing: emily@putneylibrary.org

The host for the series is Toni Ortner who lives in Putney, Vermont. She has had 26 books published by small presses. Most recent are Daybooks I and II by Deerbrook Editions and Daybooks III by Ardent Writer Press. Blue Lyrics will be published by Adelaide Books next year.

Toni is Vice President of Write Action which is a nonprofit group that supports writers in Southern Vermont, specifically the Brattleboro area.

February's writers are Diane Frank and Castle

Diane Frank is the author of eight books of poems, three novels, and a photo memoir of her 400 mile trek in the Nepal Himalayas. White Listening to the Enigma Variations, New and Selected Poems was

She is editor of two bestselling anthologies: Fog and Light: San Francisco through the Eyes of Poets Who Live Here and Pandemic: Puzzle Poems. Diane lives in San Francisco where she dances, plays cello in the Golden Gate Symphony, and creates her life as an art form. Blackberries in the Dream House, her first novel, won the Chelson Award for Fiction and was nominated for the Pulitzer.

Castle Freeman Jr. is a well-known Vermont writer. He was born in Texas, raised and educated in Chicago, New York, and Philadelphia.

He came to southeastern Vermont with his wife, Alice on a whim and is still here 45 years later. He is the author of seven novels, eighty short stories, two story collections, and more than 100 essays, historical articles, op-ed matter journalism, nature writing, and other nonfiction, most of it related in one way or another to the life of Vermont and its people.

You can access the link by emailing: emily@put-

neylibrary.org

## REMEMBRANCES

THOMAS "TIM" COWLES, 74 9/17/1947-1/04/2022 **WESTMINSTER WEST** 

GERALDINE "GERRY" HARTY, 103 11/21/1918-1/06/2022 **BELLOWS FALLS** 

CAROL MCGUINNESS, 79 9/28/1942-12/08/2021 SAXTONS RIVER

MARION "HANNAH" WILDER, 87 5/29/1923 - 12/23/2021 FORMERLY OF WESTMINSTER

#### WINTER TRACKING EVENT

Join the Westminster Conservation Commission for a winter tracking activity on Sunday, Feb. 6 from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Meet at the Westminster West School. For more information, contact Rachael Shaw at 802-869-3184.

#### SEVCA SEEKING TAX **PREP VOLUNTEERS**

Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) is now recruiting volunteers to provide tax preparation services for the 2021 tax filing season through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.

This program assists families to claim the tax credits and refunds available to them. Don't know that much about taxes? Don't worry — you'll receive training from an instructor plus IRS online courses.

We are looking for individuals who are willing and able to commit at least three and up to as many hours as you want per week from December through - April 15, 2022.

Although prior tax preparation experience is not required, a desire to assist neighbors in need is essential. Various volunteer roles will be available to suit different skills and interests.

If you'd like to help provide this free, essential service to community members most in need, or if you have questions about volunteering, please contact Leslie Wood, SEVCA's VITA Program Coordinator: lwood@sevca.org or 800-464-9951.

Additional information on SEVCA and the no-cost services and programs we provide to Windham and Windsor County residents is available on our website: sevca.org.

#### COMMUNITY BIKE PROJECT **THANKS DONORS**

The BF Community Bike Project would like to thank the many individuals and businesses who donated so generously to our 2021 Year End Appeal.

Your gifts help us to continue working year round to keep people riding!

It's never too late to contribute - donations may be sent to BF Community Bike Project, PO Box 883, Bellows Falls, VT 05101 or made online at www.bfbike.org

## **EMBRACE WELLNESS**

Now that the holidays are over, reconnect with Certified Wellness Coach Carol Jones from the comfort of home. Explore ways to embrace and maintain wellness beginning January 29 and continuing every other Friday through March 25 from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. (via Zoom or phone).

Carol Jean Jones is a graduate of the Wellness Coach Training Program at the Mayo Clinic. She has been coaching clients around multiple aspects of their health since 2014. She collaborates with individuals in transforming their values and desires into action and lasting change over time. She lives in Bellows Falls VT.

To sign up for a zoom invitation, contact programming@rockinghamlibrary.org or call the Library (802) 463-4270. These discussions are sponsored by the Rockingham Library.



## WESTMINSTER HAPPENINGS

## **Activities**

WHILE WE ARE LEAVING THESE ACTIVITIES. MEETINGS AND SERVICES LISTED ON THIS PAGE, OUR READERS SHOULD ASSUME THAT MANY PUBLIC EVENTS ARE CANCELLED UNTIL **FURTHER NOTICE.** 

WE HAVE ALL BECOME AWARE OF HOW VITAL SOCIAL DISTANCING IS AT THIS TIME AND FOR THE WEEKS AND PERHAPS MONTHS TO COME. WE THANK EVERYONE FOR COOPERATING, AND IT IS OUR SINCERE HOPE THAT, IF EACH ONE OF US DOES OUR PART, WE CAN MITIGATE THE IMPACT OF THE CORONAVIRUS AS MUCH AS HUMANLY POSSIBLE.

PLEASE NOTE THE ARTICLES IN OUR ISSUES PRO-VIDING OFFICIAL DIRECTIONS AND CHANGES AS VERMONT CONTINUES OPENING UP.

OUR BEST WISHES TO EVERYONE, AND PLEASE TAKE CARE OF ONE ANOTHER.

#### **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.

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.

## **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.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been worshiping online. Many of us enjoy getting together virtually Sunday at 10 a.m. and some of us enjoy a recorded service. If you would like to participate in our digital services, which include a fellowship meeting

the first Tuesday of the month and Bible study on Wednesday mornings, please contact Pastor Sami McRae or Deacon Christina Smith via email at westminstercongoline@gmail.com for more information.

See our Facebook page for our recorded services. Watch the Brattleboro Reformer, the Vermont Journal and Shopper or notices posted on the church door for up-to-date information. Activities at the church building will not happen until further notice. Thank you for your support of the First Congregational Church.

#### The Congregational Church of Westminster West

The Congregational Church of Westminster West worships online by ZOOM every Sunday at 10 am, and church musicians record music to be played at all services. On the first Sunday of every month, everyone provides their own elements for Holy Communion at home, and on the second Sunday, the congregation still collects a special offering for the food shelf at Our Place in Bellows Falls

The congregation is Open and Affirming, and the Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno is the pastor. Monday is Susie's day off, and she holds telephone office hours on Thursday afternoons; she can be reached at 579-8356 or by email at susiewt@gmail.com. The church building is closed for the duration of the pandemic, but it remains wheelchair-accessible: an elevator provides direct access to the sanctuary on the upper floor.

If you wish to get a zoom invitation, check our website where the zoom link is found under CCWWHOME or email Pastor Susie.

#### 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.

#### Walpole Unitarian Church

The corner of Union and Main Streets, Walpole, NH

Services begin at 10:am with Rev. Elaine Bomford. wwwwalpoleunitarian.org. First Sunday of each month is Circle Sunday with visiting presenters.

## **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

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 3rd Tuesday at 7 p.m. on the second floor of the Westminster Town Hall

Westminster Gazette Meeting 3rd Monday of the month online, for the time being.

Westminster Institute Board will meet on Tuesday, at

7 p.m. in the Institute.

THE GAZETTE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT OF ITS UNDERWRITERS: **Kurn Hattin Homes** 

Town of Westminster Sojourns Community Health Clinic Westminster Cares

Westminster Fire and Rescue Association Burtco Inc.

The Dascomb Trust K Beebe Inc.

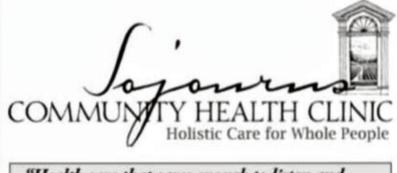
American Wealth Adminstration Group

#### WESTMINSTER **GAZETTE**

Editor: Robert Smith Board of Directors: Charmion Handy -Chairwoman Donna Dawson Alma Beals - Treas. Joyce Sullivan - Sec. Jennifer Skrocki

Printed by Sentinel Printing, Keene, NH

Pictures and Articles Provided by the Community westminsternews @gmail.com



"Health care that cares enough to listen and treat the cause of the symptoms and not just the symptoms themselves. Also, a very pleasant staff." Aaron. G, Springfield, VT

Our Bodies Are Ecosystems not Chemistry Sets™.

4923 US Route 5 • Westminster, VT

802-722-4023

www.sojourns.org

Insurance accepted for all billable services gift certificates available

Primary Care Holistic Medicine Naturopathy Acupuncture Biological Medicine Chiropractic CranioSacral Therapy Nutritional Counseling Massage Physical Therapy Herbal Medicine Immune Support Apothecary

**Please Note:** The Deadline for the Mar. 2022 Issue of the **Westminster Gazette is** Wednesday, Feb. 16

> **Publication Date is** Wednesday, Feb. 23

To Contact the **Westminster Gazette** E-mail: westminsternews @gmail.com

#### ILLINGWORTH NAMED BFUHS STUDENT OF THE MONTH

It is a pleasure to announce that Keigan Illingworth has been named the December Elks Student of the Month for Bellows Falls Union High School. Keigan, a senior, is the daughter of Randy and Stacie Illingworth of Westminster.

A hard-working, thoughtful and conscientious student, Keigan puts a strong emphasis on learning and understanding all the material put in front of her. She puts a vast amount of effort into learning and understanding her course work.

She is a talented writer and offers original and persuasive thoughts, in areas where students tend to struggle with much difficulty. She is extremely thorough and perceptive in her writing.

Although she can be reserved at times, Keigan has a "take-charge" personality. Students gravitate toward this courteous and respected young woman.

She is a well-grounded person and possesses an unusual sense of humility. She accepts praise for her



accomplishments with an utmost sense of modesty.

As an active member of the school's Student Council, she brings creativity to the group, an abundance of unique ideas and the willingness participate in all fundraisers and community-based activities. Keigan is always one of the first to volunteer for events and has no problem encouraging others to do so as well.

Keigan rides horses in equestrian competitions and is a talented dancer. She also teaches dance to younger children in the area, where she serves as a fantastic mentor and role model for them.

Clearly deserving of recognition, BFUHS and the Elks are proud to have Keigan represent us as the December Student of the Month.

In photo, Keigan Illingworth

## FOOD CONNECTS WELCOMES FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM MANAGER



Food Connects is excited to welcome Sadie Hunter to its team as the new Farm to School (FTS) Program Manager. Sadie will lead the Farm to School team into a new phase of growth while supporting schools across Windham County. She also serves on the Food Connects Leadership Team, ensuring the sustainability and longevity of the organization as a whole.

Sadie joined the Food Connects team in early November. She came to the team with various experiences developing robust and engaging programs and directly teaching youth in her community back in Maryland. Sadie has a strong passion for farm-based education and Farm to School work and sees the direct impact of FTS education on students.

"In my experience," says Sadie, "learning about food systems is very intuitive for children, and I think that this kind of learning really empowers kids to continue asking questions and learning about the world around them."

In her new role, Sadie will directly oversee the future and growth of the Farm to School program. From traditional classroom settings and afterschool programs to garden-based STEM curriculum and farming, Sadie's experiences provide her with a unique perspective that will be critical when Food Connects seeks to strengthen its community relationships. And Food Connects is excited to see her vision and where those relationships will take the program.

"I would love to see our Farm to School program continue to expand—I see opportunities for us to provide support in Bennington, VT and the Monadnock Region of New Hampshire," says Sadie. "The more kids who get the opportunity to play in the dirt (and learn about and grow food in the process) at school, the better! I am also passionate about supporting BIPOC farmers and educators and I am really looking forward to seeing what new ways we can continue to incorporate considerations of equity and food justice into our daily work."

Sadie's interests aren't limited to Food Connects's Farm to School work. The organization's mission is to create Healthy Families, Thriving Farms, and Connected communities. Sadie is keenly aware of how important it is that all community members have access to and the ability to participate in our local food system. "It is becoming more and more important for us to get serious about consuming locally grown, ideally in season, foods as we continue to see the impacts of climate change," says Sadie.

"It is not only better for the environment for us to eat local, but it also creates stronger local economies and allows people to be more invested in the places in which they live. Additionally, it is important to acknowledge that many people and communities are often left out of this narrative. I believe that making local food movements more financially, physically, and culturally accessible for everyone is a crucial step in addressing inequity in our food system and in our country overall."

And the Food Connects team is grateful to have Sadie's vision and determination to create a more robust and inclusive Farm to School program. "Sadie brings a natural curiosity and thoughtfulness to her work that I appreciate very much," says

## PLAYGROUND SNOWMAN



Sheila Humphreys, longtime Food Connects Farm to School Coach. "She offers a fresh perspective and is both willing to take risks and lead our team in new directions while also willing to be humble and ask for help as she learns her new position. She is a wonderful addition to our team, and I am delighted to work with her!"

Food Connects is an entrepreneurial non-profit that delivers locally produced food as well as educational and consulting services aimed at transforming local food systems. The Food Hub aggregates and delivers from over 115 local farms and food producers to over 225 buyers in southeast Vermont, southwest New Hampshire, and western Massachusetts.

# TERMS EXPIRING FOR ELECTED CANDIDATES

ANNUAL TOWN & FIRE & SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING - TBD

VOTING BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT- MARCH 1, 2022

ELECTED OFFICIALS WITH TERMS EXPIRING MARCH 1, 2022

POSITION	LENGTH OF TERM		PRESENTLY HELD BY
MODERATOR (Town, Fire)		1 Year	David Major
SCHOOL MODERATOR		1 Year	Vacant
SELECTBOARD		3 Years	Susan Harlow
SELECTBOARD		2 Years	Kevin Hughes
LISTER		3 Years	Rachael Cohen
COMMISSIONER,	CAMPBELL FUND		Karen Walter
	CAMPBELL FUND		Nancy Dalzell
COMMISSIONER,	CAMPBELL FUND	1 Year	Vacant
TRUSTEE, CAMP	PBELL FUND	3 Years	Peter Harrison
TRUSTEE OF PU	BLIC PUNDS	3 Voors	Peter Harrison
UHSD#27 DIRECTOR		3 Years 1 Year 3 Years	Molly Banik
UHSD#27 DIRECTOR remaining		1 Year	Ian Sbardellati
TOWN SCHOOL DIRECTOR		3 Years	David Major
TOWN SCHOOL DIRECTOR		2 Years	Vacant
TOWN SCHOOL DIRECTOR		1 Year	Vacant
WNUESD	term ending	6/30/2022	Melissa Carlstrom
WNUESD (	term ending	6/30/2022	Elise Manning Sterling
FIRE DISTRICT #3 PRUDENTIAL		3 Years	Daniel Green

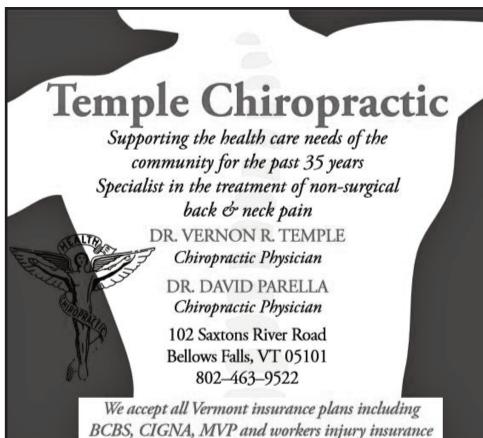
Nomination Petitions are ready for those who wish to run for town office. They may be picked up at the Town Clerk's office any weekday between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:00pm, and must be returned to the Town Clerk's office by 5:00pm on Monday, January 24, 2022 and contain at least 27 valid signatures. Anyone whose name does not appear on the voter checklist should register at the Town Clerk's office.



NEED HELP?
WANT TO HELP?
TAKE THE SURVEY - ONLINE OR BY PHONE

Up-to-date information for Rockingham during Covid19 rockinghamlibrary.org Weekdays 9am - 5pm: (802) 463-4270

Weekdays 9am - 5pm: (802) 463-4270 Evenings & Weekends: (802) 365-1324



#### JACKLYN ATWOOD **REAL ESTATE**

JACKIE ATWOOD 616 NEWCOMB ROAD

WESTMINSTER, VT 05346

VT & NH BROKER OFFICE/FAX 802-722-9296 CELL 802-236-1164



jackieatwoodrealestate@gmail.com



S.B. and Company Auctioneers, Antiques



Buying entire estates or single items. Probate appraisals 46 Canal St. Bellows Falls Vt 802-460-1190

## Streeter L.L.C. Licensed Electrician

PO Box 206, Westminster, VT 05158 (Building, Remodeling and Repairs)

Cole Streeter (802)722-3178

Box 103 Westminster, VT 05158



Home • Auto • Farm • Business • Motorcyle • Recreational Vehicles

7190 US Route 5 • Westminster, Vermont 05158 802-463-1900 • www.greaterfallsinsurance.com

## **FIREWOOD**

Frederick McKenny

**Quality Hardwood** 1993 Pine Banks Rd Putney, VT 05346

TEL | 802-376-7313 EMAIL | joatmon.fred@gmail.com



Jessica Fuller inancial Advisor

57 Main Street P.O. Box 96 Walpole, NH 03608 Bus. 603-756-2513 Fax 888-215-1621 jessica.fuller@edwardjones.com www.edwardjones.com/jessica-fuller

> Edward Jones MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



#### FEBRUARY BUSINESS OF THE MONTH: STREETER LLC



From what I can recall, Sam Streeter starting building houses, doing carpentry and electrical repairs in the 1960's. Many years later Streeter LLC was formed and has been a family business ever since.

I, Cole Streeter, starting working for the company in the 80's, my father Sam, retired in 1996, and I took the reins.

Tim Wilder starting working for the company in the mid 90's, Nate Fairbrother started in May of 2019. One of my sons, Jacob started working with us in May 2020 and Jack Burke joined our team in September of 2021.

We are general contractors and electricians. We are also licensed and certified to install mini split heat pumps. Our customers are part of our family, and we will do whatever it takes at any time to get the job done. We hope to help and serve the community for many

years to come. Thank you to all of our customers, past, present & future.

We wish all of you health and happiness in the coming year.

In photo, from left, Nate Fairbrother, Jacob Streeter, Tim Wilder, Cole Streeter and Jack Burke.

#### THE CHIMNEY DOCTOR

Chimney & Stove Care Sweeping • Repair • Installation & Relining Pellet Stove & Dryer Vent Service Internal Video Inspection Ian Conway – Master Sweep

still sweepin' since 1987

273 Earthbridge Rd. Westminster, VT 05346 (802) 387-6037 chimneydocvt@gmail.com

CCP Master Sweep www.chimneydocvt.com

#### VT EVERYONE EATS **CELEBRATES 2 MILLION**

**MEALS - EXTENDED TO APRIL** Southeastern Vermont Community Action

(SEVCA), VT Everyone Eats (VEE), and the many partners and participants who make this program possible, are celebrating serving two million meals!

The innovative COVID-19 response program provides meal assistance to Vermonters, while supporting local restaurants, farmers, and food producers. The program recently received an extension to continue until April 1, 2022, thanks to a contract extension with the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development, with SEVCA serving as the program administrator. The program is currently operated by 11 community hubs throughout the state, including a statewide online mobile phone app.

Since July 2020, over 260 Vermont restaurants have prepared these two million meals for Vermonters impacted by the COVID-19 crisis, using ingredients purchased from over 300 Vermont farmers and food producers. Those two million meals have generated \$20 million in supplemental revenue for local restaurants, \$2 million paid to local farmers and food producers, and thousands of new relationships formed between farmers, restaurant workers, grassroots and community leaders, volunteers, meal participants, and lawmakers.

"Everyday I receive messages from people around Vermont who have benefitted from VT Everyone Eats. The benefits they describe include help they've received in feeding their families, supplemental income that has helped keep their businesses afloat, and feelings of pride and a lift to their spirits as they watch so many Vermonters come together to help one another. I have tremendous gratitude for everyone who has helped achieve this milestone," said the program's statewide coordinator, Jean Hamilton.

SEVCA thanks the many stakeholders who have ensured that everyone eats, especially Hamilton.

"Jean's innovative thinking helped lead to the development in April 2020 of the Skinny Pancake's Shiftmeals program, one of the earliest, if not the state's first, restaurant-driven initiatives to get healthy, locally sourced meals into the hands of Vermonters impacted by COVID 19," said Carolyn Sweet, SEVCA's Director of Planning & Development. "She inspired our SEVCA team from the onset to get involved in supporting a vision for the development of a similar statewide initiative. Jean's leadership was further demonstrated as decision-makers and collaborative partnerships around the state circled around her stated goal that collective action, collaboratively developed, would enable organizations throughout Vermont to utilize their own regional strengths to meet needs in their communities. The purposeful grounding of those partnerships in an understanding of local community economies is truly a cornerstone of strength for this program."

More info available at vteveryoneeats.org/2-million-meals.

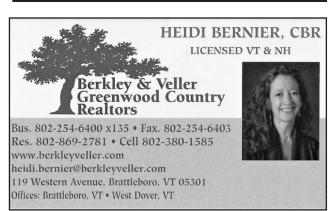
## R.A.M.P

Since 1996 believing that art makes a difference!

www.ramp-vt.org 802-463-3252

Committed to integrating the arts in the long-term sustainability of the community by creating effective partnerships that initiate and support:

Accessibility • Affordable Housing • Artist Town Meetings Public Art Initiatives
 Policy Making







WESTMINSTER ANIMAL HOSPITAL PO BOX 90 **WESTMINSTER STATION, VT 05159** (802)722-4196

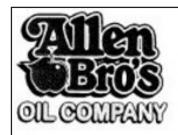
Megan Peddigree, VMD Andrea Neiley, DVM

Kristin Anderson, DVM Susan Oswald, DVM



15 Barker St. Bellows Falls, Vt 05101

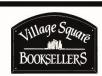
Tel: 802-460-3479 800-559-3479 Fax: 802-460-3480



6023 U.S. Route 5 Westminster, VT 05158 allenbrosoil.com

802-722-3331 Toll Free: 877-722-3331 802-722-987

info@allenbrosoil.com



32 The Square, Bellows Falls, Vermont Open 7 days a week 802-463-9404

Books, Toys & Gifts for All Ages Independent bookstore with a friendly & knowledgeable staff villagesquarebooks.com - Books, Audio & e-Books Order Online- PickUp & Pay in Store

\$5 Bella Bucks on \$25 Purchase with this ad



## Tim E. Lillis - Builder

**Comprehensive Carpentry Services** for both small and large jobs

New Construction - Renovations - Tile -Restorations - Structural Repair -Kitchens - Baths - Outbuildings - Decks

Westminster, VT (802) 376-5709 TimLillis70@gmail.com