

HONORING SIX DECADES OF SERVICE TO CHILDREN

On June 4th, The Fuqua Family, was belatedly honored with the 2021 Charles Albert Dickinson (CAD) award at Kurn Hattin Homes for Children's graduation ceremony.

The CAD Award, established in 2013, is given annually in recognition of an organization or individuals whose philanthropic commitment embodies the mission of New England Kurn Hattin Homes for Children. Named for founder Reverend Charles Albert Dickinson, the award recognizes those who make a significant contribution to the field of child welfare and help to transform the lives of children and families forever.

A beautiful cast crystal relief sculpture, which features an image of Reverend Dickinson, was presented to the Fuquas. The sculpture was designed and created by Vermont artist, Robert DuGrenier who has worked in collaboration with architects and designers to create custom glass sculptural installations in locations around the world. He has created custom awards for a variety of high-profile clients including Harry Winston, Inc. and Tiffany & Company.

"We are thrilled to present the 2021 CAD award to The Fuqua Family for their unwavering commitment to child welfare in general, and to Kurn Hattin in particular," said Stephen Harrison, Executive Director.

Over the last 6 decades, three generations of the Fuqua Family have placed the needs of Kurn Hattin Homes' children at the highest level. In the 1970s and 1980s, Victor and Ruth Morse became staunch enthusiasts of the Homes though their regular visits to attend concerts and volunteer with the children. In 2004, the Victor and Ruth Music Center was named to honor

their impressive legacy to Kurn Hattin.

In the 1990s, Mary Fuqua, Victor and Ruth Morse's daughter, and her husband Charles began taking on the family tradition of supporting Kurn Hattin. Charles and Mary quickly became active volunteers and supporters. Charles and Mary made regular trips to Kurn Hattin from their home in Williamstown, MA to tutor the children in various subjects and attend special events.

Receiving the award were Andrew and Gillian Fuqua, Charles and Mary's children. Andrew, a health care executive in Massachusetts and Gillian, an elementary school principal in Vermont have continued their family's impressive commitment to supporting children and families.

Last year, the family's generous grant through the Fuqua Family Fund at the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation played a critical role in helping Kurn Hattin Homes, along with numerous other charitable organizations, navigate the tremendous challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and provided foundational resources to support children and families in Vermont and Western Massachusetts.



Upon accepting the award on behalf of his family, Andrew congratulated the graduates and praised the Kurn Hattin faculty, staff, and volunteers for being so dedicated to children on a daily basis. He added, "Kurn Hattin is a wonderful opportunity for children and children are blessed to have the chance to attend."

Pictured are Gillian and Andrew Fuqua accepting the Charles Albert Dickinson Award from Executive Director, Stephen Harrison (Photo by Kristie Lisai);

RECORD TURNOUT FOR GARDEN TOUR



After a pandemic-induced hiatus of nearly three years, Westminster Cares held their 19th Garden Tour on July 9th and 10th, 2022. The weather was spectacular, and attendees were encouraged to take their time strolling through the lovely gardens; taking photos of plants and flowers; having lunch at the garden café and enjoying the demonstrations offered throughout the weekend.

We set an attendance record with about 400 people coming through the gardens over the weekend. Many attendees were residents of Westminster and surrounding towns who support the event each year; many were visitors and garden club members from out of state including NH, MA, CT, and ME.

Westminster Cares' board members and president Lori Larue wish to thank everyone who came out and attended the event. "We spent the last two years planning only to cancel events due to safety concerns. The Garden Tour Committee spent much of this year planning this fundraising event, never sure what the turnout would be. We are thrilled to have such a wonderful turnout. It is not possible to pull it off without the help of those who support us; our garden hosts, sponsors, local businesses, prize donors, volunteers, board members, committee members, and our director, Donna Dawson. This small community has such a big heart. We are truly grateful to everyone who made this event successful and we thank you for supporting our mission."

Sincere appreciation goes to Gordon and Mary Hayward for their many years of support and without whom this event would not be possible. Every year several additional community members open their private gardens to the public.

In addition to the Haywards, this year's hosts were Cheryl Charles & Family; Obe & Lonnie Lisai; Kathy Leo & Tom Goldschmid; and Garden Coordinator, Mandy Walsh and Emily Lisai of the Westminster Center School's garden. Mark Ragonese, furniture maker, artist and sculptor gave a talk and demonstration titled, "Saplings: Sculpting, Bending and Weaving" and master gardener, Peg Solon gave, a talk and demonstration on, "Container Gardening for Pollinators". This event would not be possible without their design talents, expertise and generosity to Westminster Cares.

The following contributors helped make the tour a success:

Sponsors: Our sponsors provide key financial support to defray costs so that all of the funds raised at the event can go directly to programs and services: Silver Forest, 802 Credit Union, Faith's Toyota/Ford, Savings Bank of Walpole, Cota & Cota and C& S Wholesale Grocers.

Raffle prize donations and winners: Ann Ashcroft for creating and donating the coneflowers and greenhouses quilt-won by Sally Ryea; Plow & Hearth solar art glass bell chime-won by Sue; Dried floral cone arrangement donated by Wilma Skovinski-won by Michell Bos-Lun; Locally crafted wooden garden bench by Jared Atkins-won by Cindy Anderson; Garden consultation donated by Cyndy Fine of Genius Loci-won by Arlene Scully; Gift certificate for an overnight stay, dinner and breakfast for two at the Grafton Inn-won by Dick Doyle; Gift certificate for two key lime pies donated by



Michael Lenox of Café Loco-won by Don Anderson; Original pansies oil-on-board painting by local artist Lori Larue-won by Dee Morse; Maple Leaf Designs stained glass art-won by Judy Anderson; Morning Star Perennials gift certificate-won by Margaret Vanderburg; Halladay's Flowers & Gifts gift certificate-won by Patty Stickney; Ceramic basket donated by Virginia Wyoming-won by Amanda Cordano; Village Square Booksellers gift certificate won by Guy Payne; Outdoor Garden Leaf imprints made by Raine Kane-won by Cheryl Wilfong; Plow & Hearth recycled glass hummingbird feeder donated anonymously-won by Wendy Schoeneman; Plow & Hearth fully enclosed fire pit donated anonymously-won by Kirk Vaughn.

Ad Program: All the local individuals, businesses and organizations who purchased ads in the Garden Tour program.

Food and beverages: MKT Grafton.

Donations of equipment and services: Best Septic Service, Walpole Rent-A-Center, Ruth Grandy, Doug & Tina Smith, Bellows Falls Opera House, The Westminster Institute, The First Congregational Church in Westminster; The Congregational Church of Westminster West.

Printing and graphics: C & S Wholesale Grocers for printing all garden tour materials; and Amie Walter of Amie Walter Design for design of all promotional materials.

Music: Amy Cann, violinist and Daron Tansley, penny whistler extraordinaire.

Photographers: Anne Collins and Ira Wilner.

Plant Sales and Flower Arrangements: Morning Star Perennials; Judi Petry and Melinda Underwood for flowers and table arrangements.

Special thanks go to all the volunteers and board members, who worked tirelessly throughout the weekend, served on the garden tour committee and donated their energy, time and effort in planning and executing this year's Garden Tour.

Proceeds from the tour support the services and programs of Westminster Cares, a volunteer organization whose mission is to create opportunities for seniors and adults with disabilities to live with independence and dignity in the community.

For more information, please visit our website www.westminstercares.org and "Like" us on Facebook.

Our Monthly Community Newspaper August 2022 Vol. 18 No. 8

Westminster Gazette

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OPEN AUDITIONS IN WALPOLE

The Walpole, NH Players will hold open auditions in August for the classic Grimm's Fairy Tale, "Hansel and Gretel" to be directed by Mike Wright.

Based on the story first published by the Brothers Grimm in 1812.

Auditions will be held Sunday, Aug. 28th from 4-5 p.m. and on Tuesday, Aug. 30th from 6-7 p.m. at the Helen Miller Theater upstairs at the Walpole Town Hall.

Come and try out for a part in this dramatic and exciting retelling of the classic Grimm's Fairy Tale. Performances will be the last two weekends in October.

We are also always looking for volunteers who love theater and community events but don't want to appear on stage. There are lots of opportunities to get involved- set construction, props, costumes, production assistants, advertising, and more! Remember, you can't have Community Theater without the "Community"!

For more information visit www.thewalpoleplayers.org or email WalpolePlayers@gmail.com

Open Auditions : Children & Adults

The Walpole Players
WalpolePlayers@gmail.com



Hansel and Gretel

Sunday, Aug. 28th
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Tuesday, Aug. 30th
6:00-7:00
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Walpole, NH



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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.westministervt.org

FREE OR LOW COST INSULATING WINDOW INSERTS

Cold leaky windows in your house or apartment? Insulating window Inserts that go inside your windows are a simple, effective way to weatherize your home, save money, and increase comfort. The Window Dressers program is returning to Rockingham/Bellows Falls for the second year—we built 188 inserts for 22 households in Rockingham and Westminster last fall.

Inserts are available for a reasonable price, about \$40-70 per window. We keep the costs low by assembling the inserts in a local community workshop. Both owners and renters are eligible for this program and Efficiency Vermont offers a \$100 rebate if you pay your electric bill and pay for at least 3 inserts. We can also provide up to 10 reduced price or free window inserts per eligible household, for households eligible for LI-HEAP or other public assistance programs.

We are making appointments soon to have two vaccinated volunteers come into your home (masked) to measure your windows and collect payment. Inserts must be measured and paid for by late September. Contact Peter Bergstrom at 802-444- 1860 or rockinghamvtenergy@gmail.com to schedule an appointment.

Workshop details:
When: October 14-19, 2022
AM; PM workshops each day at St. Charles Parish Hall/Social Center, 25 Cherry Hill St., Bellows Fall (the former WNESU offices. Online at <https://windowdressers.org/community-workshops/>.



VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY CONTESTS

This year’s VFW Voice of Democracy theme is; “Why Is The Veteran Important,” Students in grades 9-12 may enter and should record their reading of their written essay to a flash drive. The recording can be no shorter than 3 minutes and no longer than 5 minutes (plus or minus 5 seconds).

The entry deadline is no later than 10/31/22 delivered to VFW Post 771, phone number 802-885-6008, located at 191 River Street, Springfield, Vermont by 6 p.m.

Each year, more than 80,000 high school students from across the country enter to win a share of the \$2 million in educational scholarships and incentives awarded through the VFW’s Voice of Democracy audio-essay competition.

All local students who enter at Post level compete for a cash prize of \$100. Post 771 winners then advance to District 1 VFW level and compete against the winners of all Posts in Southern Vermont for a total of \$200 in cash prizes plus certificates.

The District 1 winner then advances to State competition and competes against his or her peers from the other two Districts of Vermont for \$1000 in total cash prizes at VT State VFW level.

The State winner wins a free trip to Washington D.C. representing Vermont and competes against 51 of their peers from all States and territories for the Grand prize of \$30,000 scholarship and other scholarships ranging from \$1000 to \$16,000.

Please contact Robert L. Johnson VFW Post 771,

VOD Chair Steve Leach at post number 802-885-6008 or email at sarge1@vermontel.net and we will get you an entry form and rules right away or simply go to www.vfw.org/VOD/ and download an application.

The VFW Patriots Pen Scholarship essay contest Voice of Democracy theme is; “My Pledge To Our Veterans,” and students in grades 6-8 grade may enter. All essays should be typed with no color or graphics. 300-400 words in length (=or- 5 words.)

Please contact Robert L. Johnson VFW Post 771, VOD Chair Steve Leach at phone number 802-885-6008 or email at sarge1@vermontel.net and we will get you an entry form and rules right away or simply go to [www.vfw.org/Patriots Pen/](http://www.vfw.org/Patriots%20Pen/) and download an application.

HUBBARD CREATES LASTING FARM TO SCHOOL IMPACT ON REGION

Hubbard Breeders, located in Walpole, NH, is Food Connects' top corporate donor for its Farm to School program the 2021-2022 school year!

Since 1921, Hubbard has been a worldwide reference for broiler breeding stock. While not a producer for the Food Connects Food Hub, their commitment to animal welfare aligns with the organization’s values. Hubbard is CODE EFABAR certified, which “addresses the issues of food safety and public health, product quality, genetic diversity, efficiency, environmental impact, animal health, animal welfare, and breeding and reproduction technologies.”

“With our focus on breeding sustainably, Hubbard shares mutual values with Food Connects for Healthy Families, Thriving Farms, and Connected Communities,” says Anne Hill, Hubbard Breeders Human Resource Manager, “We feel compelled to promote them in their efforts of supporting educators, food service directors, farms, and community members in cultivating healthy farm and food connections in classrooms, cafeterias, and communities across the region.”

The partnership between the two organizations began in late 2021 and goes beyond a donor and recipient transaction. Food Connects and Hubbard took time

to connect their teams and figure out how to make a meaningful partnership that would benefit not only the organizations but the community as well. Ideas abounded when the two organizations met including:

- Ways that they could impact Farm to School in the region:
- Supporting school horticulture programs
- Helping grow community and school gardens by providing supplies and resources
- Presenting in classrooms and job readiness programs to teach more students about the possibilities of agricultural job employment

NEWS FROM THE TOWN GARAGE: UPDATES ON ROADS & BRIDGES

Hello Neighbors,

As most of you know by now the bridge in North Westminster over the Saxtons River has been delayed due to the fact that it is in worse shape than was originally thought and we had to stop and regroup. We should know more in the next few weeks once the state lets us know.

The Town of Westminster has 70 miles of road, 50 of which is dirt, 5 road crew workers and one working foreman. We get around fixing up roads, repairing guard rail, cutting trees, grading, cleaning ditches, repairing asphalt as fast as we can but unfortunately we are forced to prioritize and not everyone can be first or what might seem like a big deal to some one is really not in the grand scheme of things. So please be patient as we work on getting things in shape. Don’t hesitate to call with concerns or questions.

The last few weeks have been dry and dusty and

we have been out watering and putting out dust control when we can. The problem is if you put out material and it rains shortly after it is all for nothing and at \$1.00 per gallon with a recommended spread rate of ½ gallon per sq. yard is roughly 4,694 gals. Per mile. So as you see I am not trying to be stingy, just responsible on how and when we use our resources.

Bump Road is underway with our grant project which entails cutting down shoulders, stone line ditches and removal of a couple trees.

So far the town of Westminster is one of the only ones to that have met the goals of the State in Windham County for the Act 64 (Clean Water Act) criteria.

Thanks to my guys for

all their hard work and pride that goes into their job.

*Thank you for your support,
Chuck & Crew*

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER CARES

The Westminster Cares Board of Directors does not meet in July or August. Sub-committees of the board will continue to meet throughout the summer.

Good news! Earlier this year Senior Solutions, the Council on Aging for South-eastern Vermont, was allocated pandemic relief funds from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA).

Community organizations could submit projects that support aging services in their towns. Westminster Cares applied for and has just received one of these grants.

The funds will be used to purchase several high-quality air purifiers with HEPA filter certification. The air purifiers will be used when exercise classes re-start indoors; they will also be available for meetings, and rooms without ventilation systems. In addition to masks and distancing, the air purifiers will bring an added layer of protection and serve to further reduce the risk of covid transmission.

Memorial and Honorary Donations Received through July 21st:
In memory of Laura Leonard from Nancy Dalzell
In memory of Buster Newcomb from Verna Newcomb
In memory of Richard and Ruth Morse from Diane & John O’Brien
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MARKET CROAK: A DAY AFTER CROAK

Cottontail Rabbits in my Yard

by Alma Beals, Vermont Master Gardener and Naturalist

I saw a fox in my yard for the first time in the 20 years I have lived here. Sure, I live in the country, so I expect to see mice, chipmunks, squirrels, skunks, woodchucks, bobcats, opossums, deer, raccoons, bears and rabbits.

But..wait.. rabbits? Last year I saw two cottontail rabbits in my yard for the first time. This year I have one large rabbit, two medium-size and one small. I'm hearing reports of many rabbits, not only in my town, but in the immediate area. Where have they all

come from? Have they come from brushy fencerows, field edges, overgrown pastures and sapling stands? I turned to the computer and the answer is they are cyclical, and the reason given is environmental conditions.

When conditions are right, we can experience a “Boom and Bust” rabbit population controlled by available food. One reason given is that the pandemic has caused more people to stay home to garden, plant and landscape their yards creating plenty of food for rabbits.

Our winters have not been severe for the last few years which could be another reason for the increase in rabbits. Their winter quarters are thick bushes and around evergreen trees, hollowed out stumps and brush piles.

They are herbivores and can damage garden crops, shrubs, and trees. They eat bark, twigs, and buds of ornamental shrubs and fruit trees during the winter when everything else is covered with snow. In the spring and summer they switch to flowers, field crops, vegetables and many other green plants.

If you aren’t sure whether it is a deer or a rabbit damaging your trees and shrubs, look closely at the toothmarks. Rabbits attack smooth bark and gnaw in patches. Their tooth marks are about an inch wide and the cuts are close to a 45



degree-angle. Deer, not having upper incisors, leave a ragged edge.

Rabbits are known to “well, breed like rabbits.” The “doe” rabbit can have up to 6 litters a season with anywhere from 2 to 8 babies a litter with 5 being the average. She usually will find a hole to give birth for privacy and security. The does can breed again as soon as they have given birth. They find holes in the ground to sleep and rest. In the wild rabbits only live a year or two, but it takes only a little arithmetic to see that they can easily overbreed.

Remember how a few years ago we put out food at night to draw in raccoons because we enjoyed watching them eat? Then we discovered that brought in more and more of them, creating a nuisance.



Cottontail rabbit photos by Don Clark

Let’s not make the same mistake with rabbits and encourage too many of them to stay in our yards. We need to enjoy them, take pictures and watch them nibble on clover on our lawns.

A WESTMINSTER SAMPLER: NORTH WESTMINSTER

By Jessie Haas

Westminster encompasses six square miles, with three villages and three zip codes. It's easy for people in one section to feel disconnected from another. North Westminster in particular often slips out of mind for many residents. It seems like part of Bellows Falls; indeed, North Westminster tried to bolt to Rockingham in 1926, and again in the 1950s.

Did the first people who lived here make such artificial distinctions between places? Hard to say. N'dakinna, which means 'Our Land' in the Abenaki language, was first inhabited 13,000 years ago, and we have very few windows into that stretch of time. But some of our earliest evidence of human habitation does come from sites in North Westminster, near the mouth of the Saxton's River.

In that time it was probably all of a piece with Kitchee Pontegu, the Great Falls, a spiritual and fishing center from ancient times.

The European history of this area occupies only 262 years since Benjamin Burt camped near Sand Hill Road with his cousins Azariah and Medad Wright while taking provisions to Fort Number Four. He returned to settle near Gageville, building a sawmill, tannery, and gristmill near the mouth of the Saxton's River. Burt was a Loyalist early in the conflict with Great Britain but later became pro-independence.

He was one of the three men appointed to superintend the building of the Courthouse. He was also instrumental in building the first bridge across the

Saxton's River in 1786. It washed out in 1797 and voters refused to replace it since the stream could be forded in summer and crossed on the ice in winter. It wasn't replaced until 1801.

The bridge currently causing headaches, farther up the Saxton's River, was first built in 1802. It washed out in 1819, and again in 1828. A third bridge, built by John Farnsworth, served until 1840.

It washed out again, and became the subject of intense litigation after the Windham County Court ordered it reopened. Though Rt. 121 mainly served to link Saxton's River and Bellows Falls, it veered a few crucial rods into Westminster, which was ordered to build it. Westminster petitioned to charge part of the costs of Rockingham, Grafton, and Athens. Ultimately Rockingham and Grafton did pay a minority of the costs. The bridge was always expensive to maintain, and replacing it is proving expensive today.

Charles Church, an innkeeper from Westmoreland, NH, moved to North Westminster in 1807 at the age of 50. He bought 700 heavily wooded acres close to Bellows Falls, built the first dam at the Forest, cut most timbers for ships, and produced charcoal.

He also built three sawmills on the Saxton's River, and rafted his products down the Connecticut to sell. He built a large house near the Big Red Barn, and was the father of 20 children; 12 of his sons and sons-in-law were part of his lumber company.

Church blurred the lines between towns, being active in Bellows Falls, Walpole, and Westminster. He put on enormous feasts at Thanksgiving and Christmas for poor people in the area. Church Avenue in

Gageville is named for him, not for a house of worship.

Church occupied the north end barge traffic up the Connecticut River. Later, trucking became the way goods were moved, and North Westminster was part of that.

Gay's Express was founded during World War I by Randolph, VT, veterinarian A.B. Gay. His son Bob Gay took over the business in 1920, and following the '27 Flood, secured the Vermont contract from A & P in Springfield, MA.

He moved Gay's to Westminster, a more central location, and operated out of the former car barn of the Saxtons River Railway, which once linked Bellows Falls, North Westminster, and Saxtons River by trolley. The company, later Holmes Transportation, built a new terminal near the bridge in 1958. Its telephone switchboard was state-of-the-art, the first of its kind in Vermont.

There have been dozens of mills, manufacturers, trucking companies, and other notable enterprises in this area, but one of the most important is Bellows Falls Union High School, located in Westminster.

When the 'new' building was opened in 1971, the Bellows Falls Alumni Association requested that the district name it for Bellows Falls, to allow continuity for sports teams. Confusion for everyone else, but we all know that sports rule!

Learn more at our website, www.westminster-vthistory.org, and visit the museum Saturdays, 2-4 through Labor Day.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE

The Westminster Fire and Rescue Department 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 is Aug. 2 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 June: 28
- Number of calls through July 20th: 32
- Number of calls calendar year to date: 262
- Number of calls fiscal year to date: 32

Association Meeting: The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association met for their regular meeting July 5th with President Eyvonne Martin presiding. There were 31 members present and 9 members excused. Currently there are 48 members of the volunteer fire department.

Mike White was welcomed as a full member having successfully completed the 6 month probation period. Greg Holton was given a round of applause for serving 15 years as president of the association and Eyvonne Martin was welcomed as the new president.

Kevin: The department was saddened last month to hear of the death of Kevin Ticino, a fire fighter and 25 year member of the fire department. A parade of fire trucks and a celebration of life was held on July 10th at the fire house on Grout Avenue.

Emergency responses: We are on target for another record month in July with 31 total calls of the 19th of the month. Also a very busy year with 460 total calls for the fiscal year ending June 30th and 262 calls so far for the calendar year

The breakdown goes like this for the 32 July calls: 14 rescue /medical calls; 6 motor vehicle accident; 2 Mutual aid calls: 1 to Walpole 1 to Springfield; 2 with alarms sounding; 4 tree on wires/ power line down; 2 smoke/ odor investigation; 1 LP gas leak; and 1 structure fire.

Also there were a couple of training classes during the month of July including a live burn training day where they actually intentionally burnt a building for training purposes.

Gas Grill Safety: Keep your gas grill clean and in good condition. There is a vent at the back of the grill that releases head smoke and at times, flames. There have been cases where vinyl siding has melted because the grill is positioned too close to a wall.

Many grills will have a label listing clearance recommendations. If not, 24 inches is a good standard. Propane cylinders can also be dangerous. Be sure they are not stored indoors, but outside in a well ventilated area. And for extra safety, when cooking has been completed, turn off the gas at the cylinder as well as the burners.

Storing and disposing of batteries: There was a fire recently that might have been caused by a 9

volt battery igniting items being stored in a drawer. Batteries are hazardous and should be stored and disposed of properly.

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

Memorial Donations in July:

BFUHS Class 1997 in memory of Kevin Ticino
In memory of my dad, Ralph Aubuchont, on our birthdays from Judy Harrison

Donations in July:

Tom’s Electric LLC, Russ and Barbara Hodgkins, Tracy Adams, Barb Greenough, a beautiful painting of the tower truck displaying the huge flag in front of the town hall.

As always, we would like to thank the members of the community for their continued support of the fire department. Check us out on our web-site www.westminsterfireandrescue.org

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.

Aged in Vermont

Westminster Cares, Inc.

GRANT MONEY FOR SENIORS WITH PETS

Senior Solutions was recently awarded a \$20,000 grant from Meals on Wheels America and PetSmart Charities to expand their existing Foxy Fund for veterinary care and pet food and supplies for Meals on Wheels recipients. Senior Solutions was one of only 27 grants awarded nationally, and the only one in the northeast.

Millions of Americans think of pets as family members. Pets may not only stave off loneliness but also can reduce blood pressure, provide mental health benefits, and offer unconditional love and acceptance.

Vermonters have the highest pet-ownership rate in the country at 71%. Studies have shown that pets positively impact both the physical and emotional health of seniors in significant ways, especially those at risk of social isolation.

Unfortunately, many people on fixed incomes have difficulty keeping up with the rising costs of owning a pet. As pet food, supplies and veterinary costs have risen, older Vermonters find it increasingly difficult to afford to care for a pet.

"We are incredibly excited about this opportunity," said Outreach Specialist Thom Simmons. "In April and May we will be working out the logistics in a test pilot with the Springfield Meals Center. Once it is operating smoothly, we will offer to expand it to other towns across



our service area by working with the other meals centers. This will greatly transform our existing Foxy Fund program and help many of our clients keep and care for their pets."

Westminster Cares is excited to announce that this program will be expanded to recipients of Westminster's Meals on Wheels program in August.

Pet food will be delivered by Meals Volunteers. Funds may be available in the near future for all low-income senior residents of our community to receive assistance for pet costs.

If you are not currently receiving Meals on Wheels and are finding it difficult to pay for pet food and supplies, you can call the office to be placed on a list for future assistance. Call Donna Dawson at (802) 722-3607.

SUMMER SWIMMING LESSONS AT KURN HATTIN

The Kurn Hattin Homes' children have swim lessons twice a week in the summer. They are attempting to be Level 5 swimmers according to the Red Cross guidelines.

Some of our younger children are still learning how to swim. We have an outdoor swimming pool, and our goal is to teach the children to be strong swimmers so that they can have fun and enjoy swimming safely. The children love the water, and pool time is always much anticipated.

However, each summer all the children need to pass the deep-end test before being considered a "deep-end swimmer." This includes:

Swimming free-style in the shallow end, flipping over onto one's back into a back float, and continuing to swim free-style the width of the pool, then swimming an elementary back stroke for the width of the pool.

Two minutes of treading water in the deep end.

Swimming free-style from the buoys to the end of



the deep end, and then back stroke back. Demonstrating back float in the deep end. Pictured is fourth grader, Jazmine, who worked diligently to improve her swimming. She passed her deep-end test and was very proud! So were we! Follow their journey: www.kurnhattin.org

Photo by Kim Fine

GRANT FROM NH CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Kurn Hattin Homes for Children recently received a \$10,500 grant from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation's Ira S. and Gertrude S. Hubbard Memorial Fund.

The grant will further Kurn Hattin's mission of providing children a safe home and quality education in a nurturing environment. Kurn Hattin Homes transforms the lives of children and their families forever. Follow their journey: www.kurnhattin.org

Kurn Hattin Homes is thankful to the Hubbard family and the many supporters who choose Kurn Hattin as the recipient of their Donor Advised Funds through

the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation.

The New Hampshire Charitable Foundation manages a growing collection of more than 2,000 funds created by generous individuals, families, and businesses and awards more than \$50 million in grants and scholarships every year.

The Foundation works with generous and visionary citizens to maximize the power of their giving, to support great work happening in our communities, and to lead and collaborate on high-impact initiatives. www.nhcf.org

REMEMBRANCES

JAMES C. CASSELL, 86
1935 – 3/14/2022
WESTMINSTER, VT

STEPHEN (STEVE-O) CHEENEY
D. 7/10/2022
WESTMINSTER, VT

ELVIN PARKER, 66
5/5/1956 - 6/9/2022
WESTMINSTER, VT

ST. LUKE'S PIG ROAST

Celebrate summer with an outdoor southern-style Pig Roast and accompanying favorite picnic foods on the lawn of St. Luke's Church, 313 Main Street, Chester, VT, on Saturday August 20, 4-7 PM.

Barbecue-pit master Jessie Pixley will smoke the beast on location, and picnic specialties will be prepared by seasoned cooks.

Favorite homemade side dishes include potato salad, coleslaw, baked beans, and cookies for dessert. Plus rolls, hot and cold drinks, and several different sauces created by grill master Jessie.

Enjoy delicious food at tables on the back lawn of the church while playing lawn games or do take-out for the gang to enjoy at home. With summer heat and picnic pests in mind, as well as health precautions, side dishes will be packaged so distribution will be fast, clean, and perfect for transporting to a table or back to your house.

Reserve early to guarantee a spot. Ages 5 and under are free. Early Bird reservations made and paid by Monday August 15 receive a discount: adults @ \$13; youths 6-12 years @ \$7; and family of 5 @ \$40.

After August 15, the prices are adults @ \$15; youths 6-12 @ \$8; and family of 5 @ \$45.

For information or to make a reservation: contact Janet Hunter at 802-886-2304. Make checks out to St. Luke's Church, write PIG in the memo line, and mail check in advance to Janet Hunter, 10 Pine Brook Lane E9, North Springfield, VT 05150.

AN AFTERNOON WITH POLLINATORS

Come join the Westminster Conservation Commission for an afternoon session of observing our fascinating local pollinator population such as bumblebees, honeybees, butterflies, native bees, and more.

We will also be learning how to create good nesting sites for bees. The event will be held on Sunday, August 14th from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., on Westminster Heights Road in Westminster.

Please bring a notebook or sketchpad, writing implement, a device with a camera (optional), an insect guide (optional), tick smart clothing and/or bug repellent, a water bottle, and your observational skills.

Limited to 15 participants, children welcome. Snacks will be provided.

To register or for more information, please send an email to westminstervtconservation@gmail.com, or call Rachael Shaw at 802-869-3184.

BOOK SALE AT RFPL



From Aug. 15 – Sept. 10, the Rockingham Library is hosting a book sale in its top floor meeting room. All the books have been recently published and are in good condition.

As a bonus, the Friends of the Library is offering a special book sale for Friends members only on Thursday, August 11 from 4-7 pm, Friday, August 12 from 4-7pm and on Saturday, September 10 from 10am-1pm.

Become a member of the Friends of the Library for \$10 and get first dibs on all the books!

COVID-19 ANTIGEN TESTS AND N95 MASKS ARE AVAILABLE TO OLDER ADULTS IN OUR COMMUNITY. PLEASE CONTACT DONNA IN THE WESTMINSTER CARES OFFICE @ (802) 722-3607.

Who needs to request a mail ballot?

For the August 9 Primary Election - If you want to vote by mail, you must request a ballot.

For the November 8 General Election - All voters will automatically receive a ballot at the mailing address on their voter registration. If you will be out of town, you must request a ballot to your out of town address.

Return all 3 Primary ballots

When you vote by mail in the Primary Election, you will receive 3 ballots, 1 for each major party. You will only vote 1 ballot. Then, you must return all 3 ballots for your vote to count.

Want to vote in person instead?

Go to your polling location on Election Day—Tuesday, August 9. Find your polling location at mvp.vermont.gov.

If you believe you received this card in error, please contact your Town Clerk. Find their contact information at tinyurl.com/vtclerks.

Requesting a ballot is easy

You have options:



Online:
mvp.vermont.gov



Paper form:
tinyurl.com/vtballotrequest



In-person, by email, or by phone from your Town Clerk. Find their contact information at tinyurl.com/vtclerks.

Submit your request as soon as possible!

WESTMINSTER HAPPENINGS

Activities

WE NEED HELP FROM OUR READERS AND CONTRIBUTORS TO UPDATE THIS PAGE.

WHILE SOME ACTIVITIES ARE RESUMING, WE RECOGNIZE THAT MANY WILL NOT BE RETURNING.

IF YOU HAVE ACTIVITIES THAT YOU WOULD LIKE LISTED ON THIS PAGE, PLEASE CONTACT US WITH THAT INFORMATION.

IF THERE ARE ACTIVITIES THAT WE HAVE LISTED THAT WILL NOT BE RESUMING, PLEASE ADVISE US AND WE’LL REMOVE THEM.

Faith Community

The First Congregational Church of Westminster
Please join us at the First Congregational Church of Westminster, 3470 US Route 5, Westminster, VT on Sunday, July 31st, for a potluck meal at 11:30 am in honor of Pastor Sami McRae. She will be retiring very soon and we want to have a potluck celebration that Sunday after church. All are invited to come and bring a dish to share. Coffee, tea, or cold beverage will be provided.
August Events are as follows. All events are held in the First Congregational Church, 3as well as available over Zoom. Write to westminstercongoline@gmail.com for more information on links.
Women's Fellowship, August 2nd at 11:00 am in the Fellowship hall of the church.
Sunday, August 7th, Worship and Communion, 10:00 am/
Sunday, August 14th, Sunday August 21st, and Sunday August 28th, Worship, 10:00 am

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. www.walpoleunitarian.org.
First Sunday of each month is Circle Sunday with visiting presenters.

THANK YOU!

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.

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

Westminster Gazette Meeting 3rd Monday of the month at the Institute.

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 Administration Group

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Please Note:
The Deadline for the Aug. 2022 Issue of the Westminster Gazette is Wednesday, Aug. 24

Publication Date is Wednesday, Aug. 31

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

Compass School Welcomes 3 New Staff

The Compass School is excited to welcome 3 new members to their faculty/staff for the 2022-23 school year.

Ann Croxson joins the school as a full time humanities and writing teacher and class advisor. Ann comes to Compass after 20 years as a teacher and administrator at the Crefeld School in Philadelphia.

She has masters degrees in English and in Secondary Education, and in addition to many years of high school English teaching experience, she has served as Dean of Faculty, as well as work as an adjunct college professor and teacher training mentor.

She has additional training and experience in restorative practices, diversity and equity education, trauma-informed education, and a variety of pedagogical approaches. Compass School is thrilled to bring a teacher of her caliber and experience into the school team.

Nicole Maresca will be the new full-time school-based therapist and clinician at Compass. Nicole is a state-licensed mental health counselor who joins the school after 5 years employed by HCRS as a school based clinician for Windsor, VT District Schools, providing therapy to children, adolescents, and their families.

She previously worked for a number of agencies and organizations in the region as an outpatient clinician, a residential specialist and counselor, and a therapeutic mentor. Compass School is excited to welcome Nicole, and to have secured the funding to make the position full time, allowing the work of mental health and wellness to be further integrated throughout the school program.

Francisco Puciarello joins the school as a part-time Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Coordinator. Francisco has a masters degree in Conflict Resolution and Negotiation from Colombia University, and he comes to our region after serving as the Education and Innovation Specialist at the Harlem Children’s Zone in New York. He previously served as the Program Director for Brooklyn Community Services, and has been involved in numerous other initiatives as an anti-racism strategist, content creator, and facilitator. Compass School is pleased to add this new position to facilitate and foster equity work throughout the school.

Botanical Portraits Show in Putney

Botanical Portraits, watercolor and colored pencil paintings by Linda Rubinstein is on exhibit at The Putney Public Library through September 30.

Botanical Portraits are brightly colored, joyfully sensitive renderings of Linda's familiar house and garden plants. She says, "... a plant is not a person. What drew me to paint these portraits? I watched the begonia sitting in my sunny window. As spring progressed, so did the unfolding of her leaves, turning this way and that to expose the deep red underside, contrasting sharply with the glossy dark green tops. one morning she had sprouted a dozen slender pink stalks, garlanded with delicate frothy flowers. I could resist no longer. It was as if the plant was saying "look at me!" I put pencil to paper and began her portrait."

Included in the exhibition is one painting of all the plants in her garden. There is another exquisitely detailed, colored map of Miller Road in Dummerston with highlights around her neighborhood and home.

Linda has been involved in the Vermont arts community since 1968. She was the Education Curator of Brattleboro Museum and Art Center, as well as a founding partner in Arts Bridge LLC, an arts consulting firm. She is a past Co-Chair of the Vermont Arts Council.

She has exhibited widely throughout Vermont and has been included in national exhibitions in NY, RI, DC. Most recently her drawings were published in Daybook V Change of Season, by Toni Ortner and Some Wonderful, by Heidi Watts.

Linda grew up in New York City where she studied at Hunter College (B.F.A. 1967); at the Art Students League; and the New School for Social Research.

She and her architect husband live in East Dummerston, Vermont, with an abundance of flower gardens and houseplants.

There will be an artists reception for Linda’s work



on Tuesday, August 16th starting at 6pm. This event also celebrates Linda’s partnership with Toni Ortner on her new book of poems, Daybook V, published by Ardent Writer Press. Toni will read her poetry at 7pm.

Putney Public Library is located at 55 Main St. in Putney.

The Putney Public Library's Expanded Open Hours are:

- Mondays 10:30am-6pm
- Wednesdays 10:30am-6pm
- Fridays 10:30am-6pm
- Saturday 10am-1pm

Sign up for our newsletter to receive all the latest announcements: <https://putneylibrary.org/sign-up-for-our-email-newsletter/>

Westminster West Fair Saturday, Sept. 10th

Plans are being made for the 32nd annual Community Fair, which will be on Saturday September 10th. Due to Covid we recommend that masks be worn when in a building.

While it’s too early for you to bake some brownies, it is not too early to think of what goody you have in your garage or attic that you can donate to the Silent Auction.

We have decided to have a virtual online Silent Auction again this year. It gives folks who can’t be at the fair a chance to bid on the donated auction items. This frees up the community room for people to gather in, especially if it rains. See Auction guidelines at the end of this article.

We hope to have the Golden Elephant Tag Sale this year if Covid is still in recession. The Fair Committee doesn’t want to see this labor intensive but popular event canceled so we are looking for new volunteers to help.

If you want to be a volunteer who saves this event call Laura at 387-2765 or email her at laladust@gmail.com. See guidelines for Golden Elephant Sale at the end of this article.

This year the theme of our parade is “ALWAYS THERE WHEN NEEDED” honoring Tony Coven, the ultimate volunteer. There’ll be the usual selection of entertainment and activities from races in the morning to the talent show in the afternoon.

In between there is the fabulous chicken BBQ, the ever popular and exclusive “Whack a Corn Cob” and don’t forget to view the work of local artists up stairs or the whacky vegetable creations in the foyer of the church.

The raffle will be held again this year. The prizes are a hand-made queen size quilt by Susan Talbot (value: priceless), a painting by Collin Leech (value \$500) and an African drum from the Shaouls (value \$500).

Tickets are \$10 each or 6 for \$50, You pick which prize you wish to win. Photos of prizes are posted on church website (westminsterwest.org) To purchase tickets contact Alison Latham at aliamael@outlook.com.

This event is a wonderful opportunity to gather together as friends and neighbors, to honor a member of the community, and have fun and share talents with each other. It also provides a significant financial contribution to the annual budget for keeping our village church and community gathering center in good repair and available for community use.

there is a minimum bid. Our deadline is August 29th. Ray Huessy, our website guru, will post them on the auction page at the church website (westminsterwest.org).

The bidding kickoff will be announced via an email, but before Labor Day weekend. Sunday, September 11th is the last day of bidding. Last bid updates will be posted on the auction website at 1, 2, 3, and 4 p.m. Bidding closes at 5 p.m.

In the next week, volunteers will arrange transport of auction items to the winners.

GOLDEN ELEPHANT GUIDELINES

If you have something for the Sale, you can bring it by the week before the fair (5 to 8 p.m. on Tue, Wed and Thur.) or make an appointment for drop off with, Tom Griffith 387-5694 or Laura Williams 387-2765.

Please remember, no electronics, furniture, broken toys or broken anything, books or clothes and do follow the Golden Rule for the sale: donate only what you yourself might want to buy that doesn’t create more clutter.

DON’T FORGET THE GOLDEN RULE OF DONATING:

Only donate what you would want to keep if you had the room or if you had grandchildren or if you suddenly lost your job.

ARPA Committee Meetings

The ARPA committee meets the 3rd Wednesday each month at the Institute at 6 p.m. The public is welcome, masks are optional.

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AUG. BUSINESS OF THE MONTH:

JESSICA FULLER

FINANCIAL ADVISOR

EDWARD JONES, WALPOLE, NH



As an Edward Jones Financial Advisor, I partner with individual investors and families in Walpole and neighboring towns to offer tailored investment solutions designed to help them reach their long-term goals.

Growing up in Northfield, MA I attended Northfield Mount Hermon before earning a Bachelor’s degree from the Stern School of Business at New York University. From there, I became an investment banker in New York City before returning to New England to be closer to family.

Upon my return, I opened, operated and brought to market a fast casual restaurant that prided itself on sourcing locally grown food and promoting the arts by serving as a venue for local musicians.

As a financial advisor, I thoroughly enjoy being able to leverage my experience in finance and my firm’ss abundant resources to help families and individuals reach their financial goals while striving to provide them with the exceptional, personalized service that they deserve.

I am committed to knowing our clients and their families, and understanding what they want, need and value. I accomplish this with the support of my branch office administrator, Jennifer Skrocki. She is able to draw upon her years of experience in the insurance industry to provide exceptional client service in a professional, personal and friendly manner.

Please contact us at (603) 756-2513 for a complimentary investment portfolio review.

Edward Jones. Member SIPC.

RASPBERRY RAPTURE:

BERRY PICKING MEMORIES



by Helen Neswald

It's happened again! On a perfect summer morning, under a newly risen sun, accompanied by the intermittent songs of birds, I stepped away from the tangle of shadowy domestic concerns with a small basket on my arm to pick berries.

This time it was raspberries, though the blueberries had already begun showing their colors, and it followed on a season of mysterious horticultural failures -- a first-time strawberry scarcity, a year our two peach trees, though of different species, both decided to take a sabbatical -- perhaps because they had overreached their capacity last year -- but nonetheless less a source of early morning delight that only grew with the mounting level of fruit filling my just barely big enough basket..

There's an instinct that kicks in here, eyes scouring the thickness of shrubbery for a glint of red, abetted by a tolerance for scratches, hair entanglement and possible failure should the prize prove still unripe upon closer examination, that has an existential value in whatever we mortals attempt.

Though ripeness is all, the willingness to seek it out and the gratitude for its discovery can help us through countless winters of our discontent. At such times a warm waves permeates my being and casts all petty concerns aside.

So, thankful for my long-lived stamina and persistence of eyes searching out the prize, I cherish the moment and share my pleasure with anyone inclined to receive it. In paraphrase of the words of Robert Frost, referring to his childhood swinging on birch branches: "One could do worse than be a picker of berries!"

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