

WELCOME BACK! AREA SCHOOLS REOPEN

Kurn Hattin Homes' program is year round. The week before the academic year begins, the staff participate in Training Week, including kitchen staff, and it is the only time that there is a break in our full, year-round services.

We congratulated Houseparent, Robert Anderson, who received the Above & Beyond Award. The Award is given in recognition for outstanding service, productivity, and dedicated service to the Homes.

However, this week isn't only about orientating, training, organizing, and reviewing. We also eat very well. Kurn Hattin Homes is known for its delicious meals. Because all of the staff are involved in the



year, we had Kurn Hattin Homes' alumnus Rocky Beliveau, Class of 2009, and owner of Rocky's Taqueria in Claremont, NH feed us one day. Rocky makes a variety of delicious gourmet street tacos. We were excited to have Rocky return to the Homes to cater this event. We also had delicious breakfasts, and snacks throughout the day.

Preparation for the year ahead, and all the delicious food provided, are always excitedly anticipated and appreciated as we prepare to greet and welcome our children for the new academic year. Everything we do is so that we are able to give the children the best experience possible.

At left, House Parent Robert Anderson received Kurn Hattin's Above & Beyond Award for outstanding service, and at right, Kurn Hattin Homes' alumnus Rocky Beliveau, helped feed the training staff.

training, including the kitchen crew, we order take-out and bring in a specialized caterer for a couple of the full days of training. This

WESTMINSTER CENTER SCHOOL WELCOMES STUDENTS BACK AUG. 31ST.

From Charlie Hutchison (Westminster School Board), Liz Harty (WCS Principal)

Won't it be good to have an in-person, family and community-oriented beginning of school this year! The first in such a long time, it seems. The Welcome Back Open House for families is on Aug. 29 at 5:30 p.m. at the school. All new and returning parents are welcome to visit their child's new classrooms and meet their teachers and other staff. Community members are welcome too. Classrooms will be open from 5:30-6:30.

Students will ease back into the routines gently: The first week runs from Wednesday August 31st to Friday, September 2nd. The second week will be four days, since Monday Sept 5th is a holiday, and then we'll be in full-on mode from there on. The school day begins at 8:00 but students can arrive as early as 7:45. Dismissal will begin at 3:10. Check the Supervisory Union website (wnesu.org) for information on bus routes!

This year we are thrilled to welcome 30 new students into our Kindergarten class, bringing the total expected enrollment to 160, which is an increase of student enrollment from last year. Most of our wonderful teachers and staff are returning -- led again this year by Principal Liz Harty -- but there will be several new faces working at the Westminster Center School (WCS), and some familiar faces working in new roles.

Whenever you have the opportunity, please join us in welcoming and congratulating each of these new WCS community members in their new positions:

Corina Stack: Kindergarten Teacher
Zoey Luopa: First Grade Teacher
Fallon Vancor: Second Grade Teacher

Madden Beard Sullivan: Sixth Grade teacher
Claire Westphal: School Counselor
Judy Verespy: Restorative Practices Teacher
Jeff Potter: Head of Maintenance

As always, we welcome interest and support for our school from all community members. Now that Covid restrictions have been removed and relaxed, please consider visiting on open days or volunteering any special skill you may think will be useful to the children. Contact Bridget Goodall at the front office if you'd like to become involved.

School Board Update: On July 1st, 2022, the forced merger between Westminster, Athens and Grafton schools came to an end, returning governance and budgeting of the Westminster School District to the voters of this town. Athens and Grafton continue their joint elementary school as the Windham Northeast Union Elementary School District, without Westminster.

Westminster remains a member of the Windham Northeast Supervisory Union (WNEU) along with Rockingham (Bellows Falls, Saxtons River), Athens and Grafton. The Union provides educational, food and transportation and administrative services for all schools Pre-K-12, including the regional Bellows Falls Union High School.

Our newly independent district will set its own budget from now on and is governed by a five-person board which meets at 5:30 pm on the third Thursday of each month at the Westminster Center School. The public is invited to attend all meetings, either in person or online. You can find the agenda and zoom link for each meeting at the WNEU website. The current membership of the board is: Cheryl Charles (Chair), Charles Hutchison (Vice-chair), Karen Blanchard, Tine Biolsi and Margie Kearns Ferry.

BF'S CENTRAL ELEMENTARY FOCUSES ON FOOD EDUCATION

Central Elementary School recently closed out a phenomenal year of Farm to School programming, wrapping up 12 months of work dedicated to advancing food education at the Bellows Falls area school.

Selected as a participant school for the 2021-2022 Shelburne Farms Northeast Farm to School Institute, CES won a \$5000 grant to jumpstart their FTS programming. While the school already had a garden and dedicated food service staff, the funding and coaching provided by the Institute helped to formalize the FTS program and integrate it more fully into the school culture and environment.

A thriving Farm to School program usually involves three key components: the classroom, the cafeteria, and the community. Often, it takes years for a school to be active in these areas, but Central's team has grown its program from the beginning and has a comprehensive program that reaches into each of these areas.

In the classroom, Farm to School came alive in the 2nd-grade classrooms. Teachers Kate Kane and Judy Verespy worked closely with librarian Jody Hauser to devise monthly programming that included everything from art projects and read-alouds to food preparation and tastings.

In October, students harvested carrots from the garden, painted carrots with watercolors, and made informational posters about carrots before teaching other classrooms what they'd learned. Food Service Director/Garden Coordinator Erica Frank baked delicious carrot muffins for the entire school. In January, students painted with beet juice and made beet hummus in the classroom. Erica, again tying in the cafeteria, made nutritious and delicious beet brownies for the school food program.

The third "C" of successful FTS programs is community, and Central Elementary was able to connect with its community in impressive and innovative ways. In

March, when the Harvest of the Month was maple syrup, the students visited a neighborhood home that ran a sugaring operation! They also tasted some "sugar on snow" made by a local (teacher's!) family.

In the spring, local farmers John and Teresa Janiszyn of Pete's Farm Stand in Walpole, NH, visited the classroom. The farmers taught students about soil and composting, and students planted cucumber seeds. Weeks later, they transplanted these same cucumbers into the fields at Pete's! What an amazing circular connection between students and the farmers in their communities.

It has been a mutually beneficial relationship between the community and Central Elementary this school year, with each gaining and giving benefits to the other. The Rotary Club of Bellows Falls came to help with a Garden Volunteer Day and donated garden supplies. Students received gift cards to buy something at Pete's, funded by the FTS budget.

Central's story is one of success, but it's only the beginning of their journey, and it has been possible through many dedicated staff members and community support. The Institute helped the team shape an action plan for their program.

Principal Kerry Kenedy has supported FTS from the beginning and plans to integrate the program more deeply into the school culture over the years. One step in this process is that next year, the third grade will join the second grade in receiving monthly programming. Physical Education teacher Peter Lawry was integral in planning, building, and maintaining the garden. And Erica Frank has worked to connect the summer school program to the FTS activities throughout the summer.

If you're curious about all the amazing things Central has been up to, please check out the inspiring book Librarian Jody Hauser made with the students.

FLAG COMMITTEE SEEKS HELP



The Westminster Flag Committee is asking for your assistance in keeping the flags throughout our town looking their best. If you notice any damage to a flag or flagpole, or notice that a flag is missing, contact Greg Holton at 376-3334 or Pete Harrison at 289-3776.

The Committee would like to repair or replace the flag as soon as possible. In addition, if you notice anyone tampering with a flag or flagpole, please let us know. Thanks to the community for your assistance.

Our Monthly Community Newspaper September 2022 Vol. 18 No. 9

Westminster Gazette

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Come and enjoy 1990s videos of yourself, friends, neighbors (and even your parents!) at the Westminster West Library during the Westminster West Community Fair on Sept. 10.

The Westminster West 4H Club organised many children’s drama productions in those years led by Elena Dodd and others. Come see excerpts of The Little Prince, Heidi, the Full Moon Circus and the pageant History of Westminster. Video will run continuously during the day (9 a.m. - 3 p.m.) at the Library.

Also on view will be pages from the unique Children’s Almanac from the Westminster West School, displays of children’s photos from the WESTORY collection, and history from the Congregational Church archive. There will be a special activity for young people, the Village Research Game - find out the answers to 10 questions and win a prize!

All welcome to drop in anytime during the day, and feel young again at the Westminster West Library!

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New Sections Introductory Rates:

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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

MEET WITH REP. GOLDMAN

Drop by the library to chat with Windham-3 Representative Leslie Goldman on Saturday, Sept. 3 between 10:30 and 11:30 p.m.

Goldman says,” Please come for an informal conversation about current issues and bring your questions. I look forward to seeing you and thank you to the library for sponsoring!”

A table in a quiet corner of the fiction room will be reserved for these conversations on the first Saturday of each month from now through November 5.



ROCKINGHAM OLD HOUSE AWARDS SILVER JUBILEE

Kicking off with the August 6th and 7th Old Home Days and the Meeting House Pilgrimage weekend, nominations are open for Rockingham Old House Awards 2022.

“During our Awards Silver Jubilee year we want to celebrate with property owners their on-going restoration and renewal of historic homes and commercial buildings,” said John Leppman, Rockingham Historic Preservation Commission chair. The awards program is sponsored by the commission

There are multiple award categories with multiple awardees. Categories include awards for best private residence, commercial building, and apartment building.

“Since the first Old Home Awards program organized by the Our Town group in 1997 owners of over 160 homes and commercial buildings have been honored for conservation of their properties,” noted RHPC coordinator Walter Wallace.

Eligible properties are older homes that have been renovated, painted, or otherwise enhanced on the exterior usually in the past five years. Properties must be located within the Town of Rockingham, including the Villages of Bellows Falls and Saxtons River, the hamlets of Bartonville, Cambridgeport, Brockways Mills, and the town’s rural areas. To qualify, properties must be at least 50 years old and may be residential or commercial.

Nominations may be made by calling the Rockingham Development Office (463-3964, extension 1112),



sending an email to clg@rockbf.org, or writing to Rockingham Historic Preservation Commission Coordinator, Town of Rockingham, PO Box 370, Bellows Falls, VT 05101. All nominations should include the property’s address and, if possible, the owner’s name.

Deadline for nominations will close over the Labor Day weekend, Monday at 5:00 pm. The Awards will be announced September 30th with a presentation ceremony on Saturday, October 15th at the Meeting House in Old Rockingham Village during the Southern Vermont Flannel Festival.

The Old House Awards program is supported in part through funding from the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation and the National Park Service through the Certified Local Government program.

PLANNING COMMISSION OPENING

The Westminster Town Planning Commission is looking for a new member. Our primary task is to update and complete the town plan.

We meet monthly, usually on zoom, and work with shared google docs on each of the chapters of the town plan. Our meetings take place on the second monday of the month at 6:30 or 7 p.m., depending upon the time of year.

This is a great opportunity to have input on the direction of the town. If you are interested please contact the commission chair, Bari Shamas, at westminstervt.planningcom@gmail.com.

GOLEC TO SPEAK AT HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

The Historic Society Annual Meeting will be held October 19, 7 o’clock pm, at the firehouse. After a short business meeting, archaeologist Gail Golec will give a talk titled, ‘Interpreting Historical Landscapes’ which will give us a view of a far deeper than we are used to thinking about.

Lying between Kchi Pontegok (the Great Falls) and Wantastigok (Brattleboro,) Westminster occupies land that was inhabited for over 10,000 years before Europeans ever saw it. Golec is an expert on reading this landscape and understanding history as the entirety of interactions between people and their environment.

She’s currently working on projects in both Bellows Falls and Brattleboro, and will help us understand the history hidden within this part of the Connecticut Valley, now called Vermont and New Hampshire, but

known to the Abenaki people as N’dakinna; Our Land.

Gail was born and raised in the Upper Connecticut River Valley and has been a professional archaeologist in the area for over 20 years, working on sites primarily in New Hampshire and Vermont. Over the years, she has undertaken a number of research projects focusing on local history and with that research, Gail gives public presentations, teaches history classes and also hosts, writes and produces a history podcast about cemeteries called "The Secret Life of Death Podcast".

Most recently, she was named co-manager of the "Kchi Pontegok Project", a National Park Service grant awarded to the Town of Rockingham in partnership with the Atowi Project.

For more information go to our website, www.westminstervthistory.org, or call 802-490-4281.

NEWS FROM THE TOWN GARAGE: UPDATES ON ROADS & BRIDGES

Hello neighbors,

Bump Road grants in aid project is coming to a close as the boys put a few more finishing touches on it.

I have put a stop to grading due to the fact that everything is so dry. Without moisture the road surfaces will not compact and hold its shape, therefore will become dustier than it already is. We normally get water out of brooks and ponds to assist in the compaction and grading process. With the water level being down so far there is not enough to take without screwing up the fish. Also without screwing up dry hydrants eliminating potential fire suppression. With fall rains grading will resume.

The plan is to continue patching and skimming asphalt in the next few weeks. With Westminster Heights Rd, Grout Ave, Kurn Hattin Road, and Westminster West Road on the list. When this patching is done we will go around and fix shoulders where they have washed.

The intersection of Heights Rd and School St. is

going to be under construction starting September 5th with a new culvert, head wall and slope reconstruction which will leave Heights Road closed for the better part of two weeks. School St. will remain open with short delays.

I am waiting on quotes for a new bridge deck on South Valley road so that I can secure funding and come up with a schedule. The plan is to do the prep work with the existing bridge in place and close it for just one day while the contractor swings a precast concrete deck in place and reattaches guardrails. I will let folks know as soon as I have all the logistics worked out.

The culvert on Windmill So, has been on order for a while now, as soon as it gets here I will schedule to get it installed and inform all that will be affected by the delays.

We have been slowly putting money in a fund to remove the underground fuel tanks from the town garage and install above ground tanks that are self contained. Which means they are double walled with a build in pump. So there is no plumbing In the

ground that could potentially leak. The heating oil tank has been installed and the old one is scheduled for removal this fall, and the gas and fuel tanks have been paid for and are currently being built.

At the end of a few culverts in town, there are sediment pools that collect the silt that is washed off the dirt roads and keep it from washing into fields and yards. It also is a way to slow down the water exiting a culvert to help control erosion.

The water may stay in these pools for days at a time until it slowly leeches in the ground or evaporates. There is no need to be alarmed as we are aware that some spots drain quicker than others depending on the make up of the soil.

I would like to thank the Goodell boys at Westminster Farms for the use of their bucket truck that enabled us to safely complete some of our hard to reach projects, Thanks guys we wouldn’t have gotten it done otherwise.

*Thank you all for your support,
Chuck & Crew*

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER CARES JOIN THE CELEBRATION OF AGING

Everyone in the community is invited to attend Westminster Cares’ Annual Celebration of Aging on Saturday, September 17th, from 12 to 3 p.m.

This year’s event will take place outdoors, on the back lawn of the Westminster Institute. Family, friends, neighbors and community members are all encouraged to attend to honor and celebrate residents of our community who are 90 years and older. Light refreshments will be served.

It’s not too late! If you or someone you know was born in 1932 or earlier we’d like you to be a guest of honor. Please call Pete Harrison @ 289-3776 to let us know.

For more information about the event, call Donna Dawson in the office at 722-3607. A Rain Date has been set for Sunday the 18th; same place and time.

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.

Memorial and Honorary Donations Received through August 26th:

In honor of Barbara Angers from Irene Michaud

In honor of Pat Goodell from Nancy Dalzell

In honor of our Uncle Bill (Smidutz) from Margaret O’Connor & Jim Hipkiss; and from Cathy Baldarelli

In honor of Marlene and Bill O’Connor’s 67th wedding anniversary from an anonymous donor

In honor of what would have been Joan and Bill Smidutz’s 68th anniversary from Bill Smidutz

In memory of Dorothy Allen from Lynda and Doug Smith

In memory of Phyllis Anderson from Lucille Donovan



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Excitement at the Great Blue Heron Nest

by Alma Beals, Vermont Master Gardener and Naturalist

Many of you will remember our excitement four years ago when a great blue heron pair built a nest in a tree at our local marsh. After raising two that year and three the next year, how disappointed we were that they didn't use that nest last year. This year they returned to the nest and fledged three.

The herons arrived in mid-March and started repairing the nest by the end of March. The male scoured the area, picked up branches and twigs and returned to the nest with them. The female usually accepted them and wove them into the platform nest which appeared to us to be pretty small for the size of the herons. Once the sticks satisfied her, she lined the saucer shaped nest cup with pine needles, more reeds, dry grass and small twigs. Herons don't always choose the same mate or return to the same nest.

Eventually the eggs were laid and were incubated for about a month. Herons lay 3 to 5 eggs and have only one brood. The eggs are laid 2 days apart, so there can be quite a difference in the size of the young. When the eggs hatched, 2 of the young were much bigger than the third. Often when there is such a size difference, the larger herons get most of the food and the little one doesn't survive, either getting pushed out of the nest by the larger ones or starving. Herons are grayish blue with a white head and a black stripe over the eye. Immatures look similar except they have a black head that gradually changes to white. The immatures keep their same plumage for 2 years. I spent many happy hours trying to tell them apart. The males are slightly larger at 54 inches high than the females which are about 38 inches high. The males have longer beaks and may have puffy plumage



on the back of their heads. They don't weigh very much, only 5 or 6 pounds because they have light, hollow bones. They live about 15 years.

Heron usually fish in early morning and dusk when the fishing is best. While small fish are the primary food, they also eat a wide range of shrimp, crabs, aquatic insects, amphibians, reptiles and occasionally small mammals.

While they do breed in groups, called rookeries, and will sleep with other herons, they are solitary and prefer to fish alone. They are shy of humans and only exhibit aggressive behavior when cornered. Occasionally I've seen a heron standing quietly in a sheltered spot with feathers all fluffed up and the neck folded, looking like a lump on the water. I only recently learned that is how they sleep during the day. At night, they sleep in trees to be off the ground where land dwelling predators might harm them.



Great Blue Herons

However, the adults aren't often preyed upon due to their large size and the lack of predators. Raccoons, hawks, and eagles may prey on the chicks, while racoons and crows may eat the eggs. We observed that one of the adults was always on the nest protecting them.

As I'm writing this toward the end of August, the five herons can be seen daily in the water near a great egret or two. The water is very low because we are so dry. We just hope there is enough for them to eat.

A WESTMINSTER SAMPLER: SWEET SMELL OF SEPTEMBER

By Jessie Haas

At peak sweet corn season, it seems timely to remember one of Westminster's lost agricultural industries, the Baxter Corn Cannery.

H.C. Baxter & Brothers was founded in Brunswick, Maine, in 1887. In March of 1892, Baxter put out feelers in Westminster, looking to build a cannery. It was to employ 200 hands during the season, and 20 hands year round. Excited by the prospect, the select board voted to exempt manufacturing plants, including existing ones, from taxes for five years.

Several prominent Westminster citizens formed a land company to purchase a site for the Cannery, which it would lease to Baxter free of charge, provided it used it for the factory. The company bought land south of Mr. Butterfield's pail factory and grist mill. Building started immediately on the 200 x 35 foot factory, which was ready in time for packing season, late August into September.

Farmers were also ready. The company was vertically integrated, with Baxter supplying seed to farmers who grew it under contract. They were paid in the fall, and some farmers were initially disappointed. Pay averaged \$43/acre; farmers thought they should have realized not less than \$50/acre, and there was briefly talk of a planting strike. It did not materialize.

Nor did the promised number of jobs. Instead of 200 seasonal employees, the Westminster factory employed half that number at its peak, and far fewer than projected year round. However, the jobs were stable and predictable.

In May, the company ordered and made cans; they were manufactured in Westminster for several years, until

Baxter moved the can shop to Brattleboro. Also in May, the foreman distributed corn for planting. Through the summer he contracted for firewood; the cooking and canning processes used many cords. Corn ripened in August and September. Farmers picked it and drove it by horse and wagon to the cannery. Route 5 was then a dusty, rutted dirt road, and the drive could be a cold one by the end of the season.

The corn was dumped into a husker, which dropped the husks into a bin along with stripped cobs. These were returned to farmers for animal fodder. Farmers living close to the plant would fill their wagons with cobs and husks, which were chopped and put in silos for feed.

For about six weeks, 100 hands worked cooking and canning the corn. The air in Westminster Station was heavy with the smell, and buzzing with flies. But there were plenty of upsides. Factory work provided farmers with cash to pay their taxes, and many women and young people got a chance to earn wages for a few months.

The account book for 1927, kept by Mrs. Edwin Nowers, notes a payroll of 149 people, many with Polish surnames; Bellows Falls and Westminster had recently seen an influx of Polish farmers. The 48 women were paid \$2.50/day, the 101 men, \$4/day. Most men only worked a few days, while the women worked for several weeks, as labeling, packing, and shipping extended the work season.

Industrial accidents were not infrequent. In 1904 Harry Hall was badly pounded by a husker. In 1912 an iron retort used in cooking corn blew up, badly burning a man. That same year a woman soldering cans at the factory became crazed by the fumes and threw herself onto the railroad tracks; she was dragged off just in time.

Route 5 was paved in 1929, making the early morning

trips to the cannery with a wagonload of corn much more pleasant. But in late September of 1931, the cannery burned to the ground. A fire was discovered in the office around 8 in the morning. By 10 o'clock nothing was left but rubble.

The corn had all been harvested and canned, and 15 workers were on site labeling and packing. They fought the fire until the Walpole Fire Department arrived. Meanwhile townspeople formed a human chain from the storage building to a nearby field, and removed 6,000 cases of corn before the fire became too hot. Cans of corn began exploding inside. Meanwhile, someone rolled the gasoline drums down the bank, preventing a worse explosion.

The Bellows Falls Fire Department brought its heavy-duty pump and laid 1,200 feet of hose from the river, but for all their efforts, were only able to save part of a shed wall.

The final thrill of the day came when a barrel of roofing paint blew up, sending flames several hundred feet in the air. Nearby buildings, including the Community Feed Store building, began to smolder, and several freight cars on the nearby siding were damaged. Luckily the north-bound freight train, with a carload of turpentine and a carload of cattle, had not reached Westminster Station; train traffic was held up for several hours.

Despite the heroism of volunteers, 35,000 cases of corn were lost, as was the machinery, new that year. Baxter did not rebuild. The loss of seasonal employment and reliable income for farmers helped make the Depression worse in this area.

Learn more in *Westminster, Vermont, 1735-2000*, available from the Historical Society, Village Square Books, and in local libraries. www.westminstervthistory.org.

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 Sept. 6 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 July: 50

Number of calls through August 25th: 33

Number of calls calendar year to date: 313

Number of calls fiscal year to date: 83

Association Meeting: The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association met for their regular meeting August 2nd with President Eyvonne Martin presiding. There were 26 members present and 11 members excused. Currently there are 47 members of the volunteer fire department. Plans for catering the upcoming truck show were started along with other business.

Emergency responses: We had another almost record month in July with 50 total incident calls for the month. Also a very busy year with total calls for the fiscal year ending June 30th 435 and 313 calls so far for the calendar year

The breakdown goes like this for the 50 July calls: 21 rescue /medical calls; 8 motor vehicle accidents; 4 Mutual Aid calls: 1 to Walpole, 1 to Springfield, 2 to Putney; 3 with alarms sounding; 7 tree on wires/ power line down; 1 smoke/ odor investigation; 1 help with transport; 1 LP gas leak; 1

odor investigation; 2 unfounded calls and 1 structure fire.

Also there were a couple of training classes during the month

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.

Fire wood: Be sure your fire wood is well cured and not too green before using it. Green or uncured wood can create creosote and possibly cause a chimney fire.

Back to School: Now that school is about to begin there will be a lot of students walking to and from school and to and from their busses. There are no sidewalks in many areas forcing students to walk in the roadways. Walkers should remember to always walk on the left side of the road facing traffic and bike riders need to be riding with the flow of traffic on the right side.

As it is getting darker earlier each day, walkers and bikers will need to wear light colored clothing and reflective vests when traveling in the dark or diminished light. And having a flashing light on both front and rear of your bike is a very good idea even during the daylight. Drivers should be extra cautious with more pedestrians and bikes on the roads.

Cell Phone and 911: Be aware if you call 911 from your cell phone, you will be connected first to the New Hampshire State Police. They will ask you

a series of questions just in case they lose your call. They will then transfer you to the Vt. 911 where you will be asked a series of questions, probably the same ones. Vt. 911 will then transfer you to our dispatch center, the Southwestern New Hampshire Mutual Aid who needs to get the call to tone our department and an ambulance. This all takes time.

Our suggestion is, if you have to call 911 using a cell phone, call Mutual Aid directly at 1-603-352-1100. Have that number in your cell phone memory. It could save a life.

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

Memorial Donations in August: In memory of Justin Beebe from Mildred Barry

Donation in August: Mary Lou Fogg

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

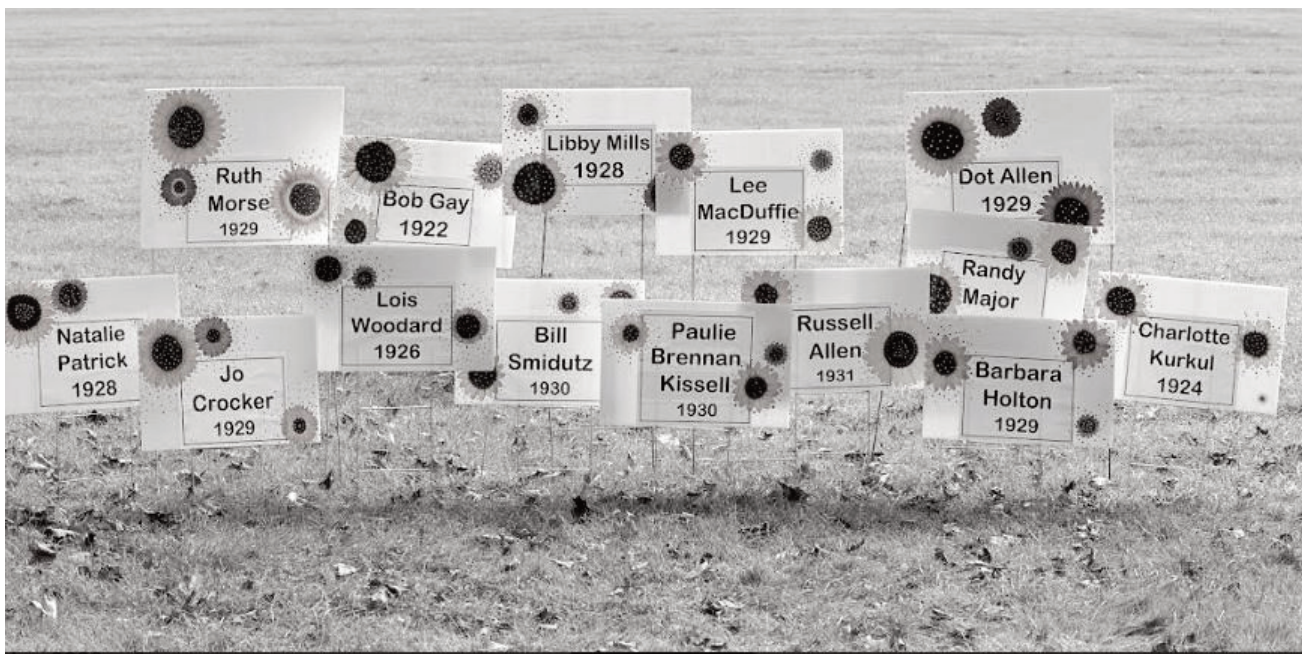
We are always looking for new members: Anyone interested in volunteering their time to help the community in a time of need, please contact Chief Cole Streeter at 722-3178 or stop by the firehouse any Sunday morning and pick up an application.

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.

CELEBRATING LIVES WELL LIVED



by Susan J. Harlow

Come say hello to some of the town's 90-plus-year-olds during Westminster Cares' annual Celebration of Aging on Saturday, September 17th.

Bill Smidutz will be there: on Sept. 22, he'll be 92. Bill has five kids, 10 grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren, and all but one live within 10 miles. "So I'm blessed. They're taking good care of me," Bill says.

Born in Ohio, Bill was stationed in Rhode Island with the Navy, when he asked his best friend, who lived in Worcester, Mass., to get him a date. "That's how I met Joan, and I fell in love with her that first night," he says. They married in 1954. With no jobs, no place to live, and \$65, they moved to Burlington near where Joan had often visited an aunt and uncle.

Joan worked as a nurse while Bill worked in lumber, plumbing and heating, sheet metal, construction, and concrete. Finally he answered an ad for the Vermont State Police. He was one of 11 selected out of 150.

Bill was with the State Police for 28 years. He and Joan moved to Westminster after he was transferred to Rockingham for last his 11 years with the police. They bought their Grout Avenue house in 1978.

After Bill retired from the State Police, he didn't slow down. For 10 years, he was the attendance officer at Bellows Falls Union High School, and helped start the Youth Diversion program. He started the BFUHS Booster Club and coached with the Swim Club.

Bill also spent 20 years with the Westminster Volunteer Fire Department and on its Prudential Committee, and was an assistant Boy Scout leader. He and Joan began an YMCA Youth Center at the Westminster Institute on Saturdays, running a basketball program for kids.

He and Joan also delivered Meals on Wheels for Westminster Cares. "It was always Joan and me; we were partners in everything we did," Bill says. (Joan died six years ago).

Charlotte Kurkul, 98, plans to be at the celebration, too. She was born in Westminster, at the LeFevre house, where her mother was the housekeeper. One of eight brothers and sisters, she grew up on Back Westminster Road. They walked to Gageville School, where Charlotte was a member of its first and only kindergarten class, in 1929. When she got home from school, she filled the kerosene lamps, trimmed the wicks and cleaned the glass, then brought the cows in for milking.

After graduation from BFHS, with honors, she worked as a bookkeeper at the newly opened Bellows Falls Creamery, calculating the twice-monthly milk checks and earning \$13 for a 5 ½ day week. She married Walter Kurkul Sr. in 1945. "He was a joy because we went dancing everywhere – to dance halls in Saxtons River, Westminster, Walpole, with live bands," she says.

"He was a good, good dancer, especially at the polka, and we won a few dance contests."

They moved to a hunting camp on the Kurkul Farm, with an outdoor toilet and no running water. They lived there until they built their house, and raised three children. Walt farmed and Charlotte eventually worked as a bookkeeper for Royal Motors, Walker Insurance, and Bowen Insurance.

She still lives on the Kurkul Farm, and has eight grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. Her advice for longevity: "Find the joy in it and smile a lot."

Ninety-three-year-old **Jo Crocker** is still proud of the work her father did on their house in Westminster West, where Jo still lives. She points out the butternut cabinets her father made and talks about the trees he planted and the home improvements he made.

"The first time I saw this house I was 11 years old," she says. Jo's parents and aunt and uncle, who had been visiting the area for years, bought the property from a dairy farmer. The family spent summers there; her father arriving for weekends by train from their Fitchburg, Mass., home to Bellows Falls. Jo, who had two brothers, remembers many happy times in the house, which had no electricity and an eight-party phone line. "It was really rural here," she said. "There was grass growing in the middle of the road." Finally they moved to West West for good.

It was in that very house that Jo met her husband, Weyman Crocker Jr., after she ended up sitting beside him on the woodbox at a New Year's party. "In three months we were engaged and in seven months we were married," she says. He was an engineer and a teacher; she was 19. They moved often, following his work, living in Burlington, New York State, Connecticut, the Boston area and Springfield, VT. When her mother went into a nursing home and her father was living in the Westminster West house alone, Jo and her family moved in with him, in 1979. "I've been here ever since."

"Change is inevitable," she says, but she misses the post office in Westminster West and the store, where she used to ride her bike.

Jo's husband has died, but their five children all live in southern Vermont, three of them in town. She has 11 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

To hear more stories and honor the lives of our oldest residents, please join us on the back lawn of the Institute Saturday, Sept. 17 from 12 to 3 p.m. Food and refreshments will be served. (Rain date is Sunday, Sept. 18th.)

In photo, The Celebration of Aging had to be cancelled last year due to safety concerns, but we are excited to see everyone in-person, outdoors on September 17th.

REMEMBRANCES

GEORGIANA CHENEY, 89
7/18/1933 – 7/16/2022
WALPOLE, NH

MARLO JEAN DEVARNEY, 56
10/27/1966 – 7/30/2022
BELLOWS FALL, VT

GEORGE PETER MORRILL, 74
4/9/1947 - 1/13/2022
MOODUS, CT. &
WESTMINSTER, VT

RICHARD NASH, 86
5/3/1936 - 6/9/2022
WESTMINSTER, VT

ROLAND E. SCOTT
1935 - 2022

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SPRING BULB SWAP AT FALL FESTIVAL

On September 17 and 18 Chester Townscape volunteers will again be selling spring-flowering bulbs at Chester's Fall Festival at a location between the Hearse House and the Information Booth. Bulbs will be sold Cash and Carry from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Bulbs may also be ordered in advance by September 12 for pick-up at the Fall Festival by making a check out to CCA with CT Bulbs in the memo line and sending the completed order form and check to Chester Townscape, PO Box 561, Chester, VT 05143.

For additional information or for those who must make alternative pick-up arrangements, contact Polly Montgomery at 802-875-5446 or montgomerypolly@yahoo.com.

BOOK SALE AT RFPL

Through 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 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!

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 aliemael@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.

ONLINE AUCTION GUIDELINES

During July and August, folks need to let Cheryl Charles (cherylcharles01@gmail.com) know of possible donations to the silent auction. Please send a photo and description of the item, estimated value, and if

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.

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.

THANK YOU!

Faith Community

The First Congregational Church of Westminister
The First Congregational Church of Westminister, Vermont is having in church worship services, as well as on Zoom. Pastor Sami will be continuing to preach through September and October. Events for the month of September are:
Regular worship services on September 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th at 10:00
Communion service on September 4th at 10:00
Bible Study every Wednesday at 10:00, being the 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th.
Music in the Meadow is back after a long pause due to the pandemic. This will happen on September 10th, at the Motel in the Meadow, Chester, VT. We also are looking forward to an outdoor cookout/salad supper combo on October 8th.

The Congregational Church of Westminister West
The Congregational Church of Westminister West worships every Sunday at 10 a.m. We are using Facebook Live to stream our weekly services, but you do NOT have to have a Facebook account to join us virtually. Just go on Facebook to the church's page, Congregational Church of Westminister West. Come as you are, but if you are with us in person we ask you to wear a mask when conditions warrant it. (Masks are available at the church.) We are an Open and Affirming Church and fully accessible.
On the first Sunday of every month we celebrate Holy Communion. For those watching on Facebook, please provide your own elements for Holy Communion. On the second Sunday, the congregation collects a special offering for the food shelf at Our Place in Bellows Falls. Each dollar donated buys \$10 of food for Our Place from the Vermont Food Bank.
Our Pastor is Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno. She keeps office hours (either in the office itself or by visiting parishioners) on Thursday afternoons and is available by appointment at other times. She keeps Mondays as her Sabbath observation. Susie can be reached via email at susiewt@gmail.com com or by phone at (802) 579-8356.

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.

The A.R.P.A. Committee is scheduled to meet on the third Wednesday of each month, provided there is content to discuss. The meetings will start at 6 PM at the Westminister Institute. Interested community members are encouraged to attend.

Scottish Country Dance Classes
Every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Westminister 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 Westminister 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 Westminister Fire Station from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Call Westminister 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 Westminister Institute. Call Westminister Cares at 722-3607 for more information.

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

Living Strong Classes
Mondays and Thursdays: at the First Congregational Church in Westminister from 9-10 a.m.; at the Westminister West Church from 6-7 p.m.; or at Greater Rock Fitness in Bellows Falls from 11-12. Call Westminister 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.

Westminister West Book Group
The Westminister 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
Wednesdays 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 Westminister 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

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

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

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

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

911 Committee as needed.

The Westminister 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 Westminister Fire Station.

Westminister Historical Society 3rd Tuesday at 7 p.m. on the second floor of the Westminister Town Hall

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

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

THE GAZETTE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES
THE SUPPORT OF ITS UNDERWRITERS:

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Please Note:
The Deadline for the Oct. 2022 Issue of the Westminister Gazette is Wednesday, Sept. 21

Publication Date is Wednesday, Sept. 28

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

TAX PREP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The IRS-sponsored Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) has been providing community service to millions since 1969 by helping taxpayers prepare their tax returns for free! VITA/TCE provides measurable results with a positive economic impact. As a volunteer, you will help people that need it most: low-to-moderate income, senior citizens, and people with disabilities as well as others that fall within the income guidelines.

SEVCA is now recruiting volunteers to help as many families as possible claim the tax credits and refunds available to them.

Don't know that much about taxes? Don't worry — you'll receive specialized training from a certified VITA instructor plus IRS online courses. We are looking for individuals who are willing and able to commit 3 to 30 hours per week from the last week in January – April tax filing deadline. Although prior tax preparation experience is not necessary, a commitment to in class room training and certification is required that takes place in Mid-October through January several hours a week.

Who can volunteer? Anyone can with the desire to help people, if you are willing to complete the IRS training program. No prior experience is required. As a VITA volunteer, you may choose from several roles and responsibilities depending on what you would like to do. There is a role for you, Greeter, Screener, IRS-certified tax preparer, Quality reviewer, Volunteer recruiter and more.

Training sessions will be held via zoom links and/or at a specific designated training site mid-October through January and at your convenience using online IRS self-study training materials provided. Continuing on-site training and supervision is provided during the tax preparation season.

To learn how you can make a difference in your community by becoming a VITA volunteer contact Leslie Wood at lwood@sevca.org or (802) 722-4575, ext. 1603.

POLLINATOR PROGRAM ENJOYED BY ALL

by Rachael Shaw

On a dry sunny Sunday afternoon in mid August, 15 pollinator enthusiasts met for a hands-on educational event at the home of Alma Beals in Westminster. The Westminster Conservation Commission sponsored this event to raise awareness about the importance of supporting our local pollinator population.

We began with Westminster resident and agroecology professor Tatiana Schreiber presenting some background information on pollinators: bees, wasps, flies, butterflies and moths, and even hummingbirds are all included in this category. The Sustainability Review reports that insect populations have declined by 45% in the last four decades, which has had a marked effect on pollination. Pollinators are vital for both food production and in supporting the biodiversity of the Earth.

We moved on to a 20 minute observational activity in Alma's extensive flower gardens. We took notes on the different species we saw as well as their activities and behaviors. Circling back, we had time to report our observations to the group. Consulting several insect and butterfly guidebooks, we were able to identify some of the approximately 20 species we had seen.

Westminster resident Ashlyn Stephens led our last activity, which involved creating small bee houses (places for native bees to lay their eggs) out of hollow, dried, tubular, plant stalks. Sunflower, valerian, day lily, curly dock and Japanese knotweed stalks work well. These were cut to 5-7 inch lengths, wrapped in soaked birchbark and tied in a circle with biodegradable string. They will be hung in a sheltered warm place, about 5 feet off the ground, and away from wind and rain, in hopes that native bees will be able to make use of them to lay their eggs.

Want to do more? Make an effort to mow less often,



giving wildflowers a chance to bloom, and grow more flowers, especially native flowering plants! Try to grow a diverse selection of native plants so that all of our native pollinator species can find the flowers and habitat that they like best. Goldenrod is a great favorite of native pollinators, and did you know that there are over 25 species of goldenrod in the Northeast?

For more information, check out these resources: The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation at <http://xerces.org>

To report your nature sightings, go to <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/vermont-atlas-of-life>. This is a project of the Vermont Center for EcoStudies, and is fascinating to explore. See also their "Wild Bee Survey." Everywhere we live holds the potential for citizen science discoveries! The Westminster Conservation Commission would love to hear about your pollinator observations. Write to us at westminsterstconservation@gmail.com. Thank you to all presenters and attendees who made this program a great success!

In photo, participants learn how to make bee houses out of natural materials.

PROGRAM ON MEXICAN MIGRANT WORKERS ON VERMONT DAIRY FARMS

View photos and listen to audio stories of "The Gilded Cage: Mexican Migrant Workers on Vermont Dairy Farms" on display now at the Rockingham Free Public Library until Sept. 22.

It has been nearly a decade since migrant Mexican farm workers began arriving on Vermont dairy farms where they continue to work today. Through intimate photographs and interviews, this project strives to create a revealing portrait of dairy farmers and their Mexican employees and a glimpse into their interdependent lives – exploring who they are and what they hope for. "The Gilded Cage", made possible through Vermont Folklife Center's funding and support showcases the healing power of sharing one's experience and the deep impact of making visible the personal journeys of a population often hidden from view.

Conceived by former Migrant Education tutor Chris Urban, whose work brought him to farms around Addison County, this project pairs photographs by Caleb Kenna and text excerpts from interviews conducted by Chris Urban.

The dairy farmers and workers who are featured elected to participate in the project but have chosen to remain anonymous. This project was made possible

through Vermont Folklife Center's funding and support.

This exhibit is being presented in conjunction with Vermont Reads, a program of Vermont Humanities Council. The 2022 title, "The Most Costly Journey (El Viaje Más Caro)", tells the stories of 19 migrant workers in their own words.

Illustrated by New England cartoonists in a variety of styles, each short chapter describes aspects of life as an immigrant farm worker in Vermont: crossing the southern border, struggling with English, adapting to winter, growing gardens, raising children, dealing with health crises, and working long hours. Free copies of the book will be available at the Library soon.



For more information, contact the Library at 802-463-4270, programming@rockinghamlibrary.org, rockinghamlibrary.org, or stop by the Library at 65 Westminster St in Bellows Falls, VT.

SEVCA SEEKS PROPANE SERVICE TECHS & MORE

Southeastern Vermont Community Action is the designated non-profit Community Service Action Agency that serves low-income clients in Windsor and Windham Counties of Vermont.

SEVCA is seeking to create partnerships with independent contractor Propane Service Technicians in Windsor and Windham counties, to help us provide emergency propane boiler service to our low-income clients who experience heating emergencies. These independent contractors would be called out by SEVCA to respond to client homes, and would be paid by SEVCA under the terms of grant agreements that SEVCA administers for emergency heating needs.

SEVCA is asking residents in Windsor or Windham Counties are asked to consider joining our Board of Directors. You will attend one board meeting per month and one or two committee meetings monthly or bi-monthly. Meetings are conducted primarily via Zoom.

More information a at www.SEVCA.org., sevca@sevca.org or 800-464-9951.

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HEIDI BERNIER
REAL ESTATE AGENT



As a lifelong native of Vermont, with over 25 years' experience as a Real Estate Agent, licensed in both Vermont and New Hampshire, I offer my customers and clients a keen familiarity of the area and the local real estate market.

I take pride in providing personalized service, catering to the individual requirements of my clients and customers, along with a creative marketing approach. Trained in representation of homebuyers, as well as sellers, I earned my CBR designation (certified buyer representative) in 1996. In 2022 I earned my Senior Real Estate Specialist Designation in order to better assist the needs of buyers and sellers aged 55+.

Many people and services are required to bring a transaction to a successful closing, including: Mortgage Brokers, Engineers, Building Inspectors, Insurance Agents, Attorney's and Title Companies. My years of working full-time in the field of Real Estate have gained me the contacts and experience needed to guide my clients and customers through the process.

If you are considering selling or buying property, I would welcome the opportunity to be of assistance. (c) 802-380-1585; (w) 802-254-6400 x135 or email: heidi.bernier@berkleyveller.com

SEPT. BUSINESS OF THE MONTH
FRED ROCKS
ROCK SHOP



Fred Rocks Rock Shop opened up November 14th 2020. What started as a hobby has evolved into a business. I tumble all my own material and buy rough rock from all around the world to process in my work shop.

I have both rotary and vibratory tumblers. The largest tumbler is a 40 pounder and does the main shaping and grinding.

The smaller rotary tumblers are for step 2 and the pre polish and polish steps are done in the vibratory tumblers. I also do other lapidary work with slab and trim saws, a 6" Cabking and a 16" vibrating lap. I also have a variety of diamond core drills for different drilling applications.

I make and sell pendants, key chains, and refrigerator magnets with some of the tumbled stones. The retail shop has other gifts including crystals, specimens, free forms, tea lite holders, crystal kits and much more. Gift certificates are available and make a great gift for the rock lover in your family.

The Rock Shop is open Saturdays 10-4pm and by appointment anytime. Just call to set up a time that works for you: 802.376.7313.

Follow Fred Rocks Rock Shop on Facebook and Instagram for updates. I have a website fredrocksrockshop.com. Email fredrocksrockshop@gmail.com.

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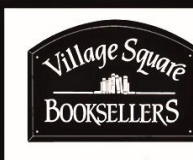
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