

VERMONT HONORS OUR VETERANS



Kurn Hattin Homes held its annual Veterans Day celebration program and luncheon on Nov. 11.

The hour long presentation included the Presentation of Colors, A Call to Colors, Moment of Silence, Taps, Pledge of Allegiance, Star Spangled Banner, Welcome from Executive Director, Stephen Harrison; Introductory remarks from Social Studies Teacher & Curriculum Coordinator, Deborah Velto; selections from students' Patriot Pen Essay contest entries, candle lighting to the reading of In Flanders Field, Veterans Tribute video, address from Veteran, Phillip Sherrick, Jr., class of 1981; Kurn Hattin Concert Band selections, Retirement of Colors, and Retreat.

Velto said, "In Social Studies, we learned about veterans this year through listening to their stories. We learned that veterans come from different backgrounds,

have different reasons for serving, and have a variety of different jobs and experiences during their service. Many of these experiences are positive and others might be painful. Some served during wartime others during peacetime. Some veterans have remained in active duty most of their lives, while others served for a few years. We watched many videos of veterans telling their stories, interviewed some local veterans, and read stories about the experiences veterans have had before and after service. We learn a lot from the stories."

She went on to share that Kurn Hattin Homes' middle school students participate in the annual patriot's Pen essay contest through the VFW. This year's theme was, "My Pledge to the Veterans." The students reflected on the different military experiences, and some of the issues facing veterans today.

Alumnus, Phillip Sherrick, Jr. who has served in all four branches of the military, spoke of his experiences. An article he wrote titled, "Human Connection, Character, and Honor Matter" was recently published in the local media.

Following the moving ceremony, guests were treated to a delicious lunch and a tour of the school classrooms and a residential cottage.

If you are a Westminster area veteran and would like to attend next year's program, contact Heather at (802) 721-6916 or hlonge@kurnhattin.org.

In photos, Kurn Hattin Homes' students at their recent annual Veterans Day Celebration admiring a veteran's honor medals. left, and enjoying lunch with a veteran friend.

VERMONTERS HAVE ANSWERED THE CALL FOR 247 YEARS



by Kevin Hughes

During this Veteran's day holiday I was contemplating the deep appreciation for all of our Veteran's and men and women in service. Thank you all and your families for all you do and have done for the nation today and throughout our 247 year history.

On May 10th 1775, a small group of Americans, captured the British Fort at Ticonderoga, New York. A relatively small event militarily at first, but in time, it became a moment in history, in which the American Revolution against Tyranny began to turn. It is also the

formal introduction of Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain boys into American Revolutionary War and launched Allen and the Green Mountain Boys into legendary status.

Over the last 247 years since that night, Vermonters have answered the call for service, following a tradition set in a very high bar. No wonder, unless your watching closely, nearly 247 years to the day on May 2, 2022, 200 Vermont men and women along with eight F-35's from Vermont's Air National Guard's 134th's expeditionary Fighter Squadron, arrived at Spangdahlem Air Base in Germany to relieve the F-35's from the 34th at Hill air base in Utah. The 134th is a part of the Vermont 158th Fighter Wing

The brave men and women of the Vermont 134th, flew 450 sorties and spent nearly 2000 flight hours on mission and training exercises over Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Bulgaria and North Macedonia that we know of. This was part of the response to shore up NATO's (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) Eastern Flank after Russia's military action in the Ukraine.

The 134th integrated with our NATO allies and others to provide air policing and shielding missions, in a very important mission.

Lt. Col. John MacRae, commander of the 134th said "We are here because they needed us... We gave up our summer in Vermont to generate and fly sorties to defend NATO's Eastern flank... the Green Mountain Boys

successfully accomplished our deployment to USAFE and I am proud to be a part of such a talented team."

On Veteran's day 2022, the actions of our brothers and sisters of the 158th highlight a fundamental purpose they have given every measure to for 247 years.

When the F-35 was first deployed to Vermont, our communities and state had, and continue to have meaningful discourse over its presence. The F-35 is deployed to our largest Vermont city, it is very loud and there is and can be meaningful environmental and safety impact. As a Republic, we are free to and obligated to have civil discourse and debate this. This is what it's all about.

Vermont is my adoptive home. I revel in the richness of its history and its motto "Freedom and Unity."

Like Ethan Allen 247 years ago, I like to think that those trying to stop freedom in the Ukraine inherently knew that the men and women of the 134th were flying those F-35's and thought it best not to test that resolve. There are 247 years of stout service and commitment, and a lions heart, now in its third century, of defending "Freedom and Unity" for all.

Welcome home, thank you for your service and happy holidays to everyone and their families.

In photo, a Kurn Hattin student lights candles to the reading of In Flanders' Field at the recent annual Veterans Day Celebration.

HUBBARD FAMILY HONORED FOR LEGACY OF PHILANTHROPY

At the Association of Fundraising Professionals—Northern New England Chapter's recent National Philanthropy Day celebration at the Doubletree Hotel in Manchester, NH, Walpole, NH's John A. Hubbard and The Hubbard Family were bestowed the honor of the National Philanthropy Day, 2022 Outstanding Philanthropists award.

The award honors an individual or family with a proven record of exceptional generosity who, through direct financial support, demonstrates outstanding civic and charitable responsibility and whose generosity encourages others to take philanthropic leadership roles on a community, national, and/or international level.

The Hubbard name is well known as generations of the Hubbard family have shown selfless concern for the welfare of others and endeavored to alleviate their struggles. Over the decades, the family has assumed numerous leadership roles at dozens of charitable organizations throughout Northern New England.

John A. Hubbard's leadership and philanthropy transformed organizations such as the University of New Hampshire Foundation, where he was a Founding Member; the Monadnock Conservancy, Cedarcrest Center for Children with Disabilities, Crotched Mountain School, Harris Center for Conservation Education, New Hampshire Charitable Foundation-Monadnock Region, Spaulding Youth Center, and New England Kurn Hattin Homes for Children.

This kind, quiet, and thoughtful family continue to strengthen the communities they care deeply about, constantly striving to create a better life for children, learners of all ages, and the environment.

Their philanthropy has opened doors for those in need and has inspired others to give back, in whatever way they can. Accepting the award were John Hubbard's daughter and son in-law, Susan and Peter Johnson.

Pictured from left are Pat Crotty, Heidi Crotty (Hubbard), Susan Johnson (Hubbard), Rachel Johnson, and Peter Johnson.



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Westminster Gazette

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BUTTERFIELD LIBRARY 2022 REPORT

Butterfield Library, located in the Westminster Institute (right), had a good year. In February we began opening on Saturday mornings from 10:30 until 12:30 as well as being open on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 1 until 6 p.m.

Last Spring we upgraded the computer capacity with two new Apple computers, one for the office and one for public use, both funded by an ARPA grant from the Vermont State Library.

In June we had a good turnout for a talk 'Designer's Way-Creating Gardens and Lives of Beauty' by Julie Moir Messervy.

We had our annual Book sale in September, after which we sent a box of paperbacks to the VA hospital in White River and four boxes of picture books to the child-care centers in Westminster and Bellows Falls.

All the books in the Butterfield Library—over 9,600 at present—have been bar-coded and you can check the entire catalog on our Website (Butterfieldlibrarywestminster.wordpress.com). While going through the last of the children's books we rediscovered what wonderful books there are for the kids in our children's library room.

As a reminder, there are two WIFI open points. Out front of the building and inside, the one named "Butterfield" works best. Out back is "Westminster Hotspot", which is accessible in the parking lot, in the gazebo, at a picnic table, etc.

Please come in and get your new free library card. With it you can have access to "Libby", a free app where you can download from thousands of e-books and audiobooks for free. "Libby" also provides access and "Universal Class" where you can find over 500 classes online, also for free. Thank you for your support.

Linda Fawcett, Librarian



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The deadline for the Gazette is the next to the last Wednesday of the month. We send out a deadline reminder earlier in that week.

If you want to be on the deadline reminder list, please send a request and your email address to westminsternews@gmail.com and we will add you.

OUT OF TOWN SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

Anyone who receives the Gazette and lives out of town are reminded that we ask for a \$10 annual donation to help cover mailing costs.

Thank you!

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Annual Rates:

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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

RVTC STUDENTS & WCD PLANT FOR WATER QUALITY



The Windham Conservation District and the River Valley Technical Center partnered with local landowners and the Vermont Land Trust to plant native trees and shrubs along a tributary of Sacketts Brook in Westminster on Oct. 27.

Students under the direction of John Harmer spent the morning learning about riparian planting practices while helping the district plant 260 native shrubs and trees.

“The students did a terrific job on this project. We couldn’t have done it without them,” said district manager Cory Ross.

Riparian plantings such as this one help prevent soil erosion, protect water quality and provide valuable food and habitat for wildlife, including migratory birds. Windham NRCD works with local landowners to identify priority sites for restoration and leverages state funding and local volunteers to plan and implement these plant-



ings through the Trees for Stream Program.

This planting was funded by a grant from the Vermont Natural Resources Conservation Council using Clean Water Funding from the State of Vermont. Additional support was provided by the Vermont Land Trust and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Landowners interested in district support for a planting should contact the district at windhamcountynrcd@gmail.com or by phone at 802-689-3024.

To learn more about programs at the River Valley Technical Center, visit rvtc.org or call us at 802-885-8300.

From left photo, Pieter van Loon, Lead Forester for the Vermont Land Trust, teaches students how to plant a tree. Jennifer Garret from the Vermont Land Trust supervises a group of students planting along the stream.

IT’S LUMINARY TIME - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Westminster Luminaries will be lighting up town this year. Let us know if you want to volunteer by contacting sjharlow@myfairpoint.net.

Photo courtesy of Yvette Hendler.



NEWS FROM THE TOWN GARAGE - ENTRY LEVEL POSITION OPEN

Hello Neighbors,

I was down at the Putney Diner a couple weeks ago for lunch and there was a line of foliage admirers all the way out door. As I sat there on a stool at the counter eating my Rueben and listening to the laughter behind me as the line slowly progressed to the dining area.

I overheard a young woman over my left shoulder who was giddy with excitement, profess to the gentleman sporting the man bun with her, how happy she was that their first born was going to be a Vermonter and the decision to move here for such an occasion was epic. At that point this old boy wearing a green plaid shirt and red wool hat to my right, swivels around on his stool and leans back to be able to draw a bead on them and announces “Missy, just cause the cat has kittens in the oven don’t mean you call ‘em cupcakes.” He swiveled back around, went right back to eating and the young couple stood in line for another

ten minutes wondering what the riddle meant and most of the folks at the counter just smiled as they finished their meals.

On another note the new bridge deck on east Putney Brook Rd. is in and should last us for a generation. We will continue to clean ditches and even grade as long as the weather cooperates. We will also be cutting dead trees and brush along roadsides as well as trees leaning into the road. Also gravel and stone is being hauled in for next summer in anticipation that things will not be getting cheaper. Truck #1 is out of warranty so we will be putting in front axle u joints ourselves and doing a brake job while we have it apart.

Please do not park anything in the town right of way that you do not want to pay to get back, or anything else for that matter! It is not a hoax, winter is really here so please put your snow tires on before it is an issue, be safe for everyone’s sake.

We still have an entry level position for an energetic individual that is willing to learn.

Have a safe and Happy Holiday Season.

*Thank you for all your support!
Chuck and Crew*

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER CARES

The Westminster Cares Board of Directors held their Annual Meeting on Nov. 2 in person and via WebEx with Vice President Pete Harrison presiding. The following board members attended in person: Pete Harrison, Pat Goodell, Doug Ofstedahl, Cindy Moses and director Donna Dawson. Those attending via WebEx were Miriam Lanata, Kathy Elliot, Regina Borden and Don Dawson.

Lori Larue was unable to attend.

Board members voted to approve the slate of officers for the next year: Lori Larue, President; Pete Harrison, Vice President; Cindy Moses, Vice President; and Regina Borden, Secretary. Miriam Lanata will be stepping down as Treasurer after many years. The search for another Treasurer is ongoing.

Two board members terms expired. The board voted to approve Kathy Elliott, Pete Harrison and Lori Larue for new terms.

The board also reviewed and approved the proposed budget for 2023.

Programs & Services Provided in OCTOBER

Meals-on-Wheels: Two residents stopped receiving meals in October. There were 23 people registered for Meals-on-Wheels at the end of October. Those in need of weekend meals received two frozen meals each Friday.

Transportation Program: Currently giving rides on a “case by case” basis. Three prescriptions were picked up at the BF Walgreens and delivered to residents.

Healthy Aging Programs: Both of our Strong Living exercise classes, (Karen W. and Ronnie F.; instructors), are happening two times per week on Zoom. Gentle Yoga and Tai Chi classes are also being offered online as well.

Friendly Visiting: Friendly phone check-ins are happening via the Director and our Community Nurse.

Medical Equipment – In October we loaned out 1 piece of equipment and accepted 3 returns. Families donated eight pieces of equipment to us.

Community Nurse Program – In October our Nurse made one in-person home visit and was in contact with eight additional clients with 14 contacts by phone.

Memorial and Honorary Donations Received through November:

In honor of Lee MacDuffie’s birthday from:

Nancy Dalzell
Karen Davidson
Judy and Pete Harrison
Susan Kershaw

In memory of my Mom Evelyn Aubuchont from Judy Harrison
In memory of Laura Leonard from Nancy Dalzell
In memory of Jim Grandy from Ruth Grandy

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Merry Christmas

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Bears Denning for Winter

by Alma Beals, Vermont Master Gardener and Naturalist

Recently I found a large circle of barf in my driveway and by the size, I knew this was not from my cat with an upset stomach. I was reasonably sure it was from a bear.

I fired up my computer and googled, “bears overeating and barfing.” That showed a picture, in vivid yellow, of a pile just like in my driveway. The explanation was that when bears overeat in a cornfield, this is the result. Because I am surrounded by cornfields, this made sense.

A few days later an adult bear showed up in my yard. The bears that usually visit me are the 18-month-old cubs that are a little shy. This one was not shy and paid no attention to my yelling and banging things. I like bears and am not afraid but they are wild and I respect them.

That started me thinking of them denning up for the winter. How do they decide when is time and where to go? It is thought that they check out denning sites as they travel around throughout the year. Bears den up when the food runs out, not when they are cold.

We see pictures of bears in caves but often they can’t find a cave. They use hollow trees, a hole under a tree stump, beneath brush piles, or a rock den at the bottom of a ledge. Sometimes the den is little more than a small depression with some protection from the snow.

Pregnant females are the first to den up, usually in early October. Females with cubs are next. The males are the last to go and will stay out as long as they can find food.

Female bears make a nest of leaves, grass, moss, ferns, and softwood boughs inside their dens. The cubs are born in January or February, weighing half a pound and tiny as a chipmunk. The cubs stay with the mother for the first year and a half of their lives. Some cubs are weaned dur-



Black bear photos by Don Clark.



ing the first summer but some continue to nurse well into the second year. Shortly before she mates, she will drive them away. Female black bears mate every two years.

The most dominate drive in a bear’s life is the drive to eat. Bears eat to store fat which they need to hibernate, reproduce, grow and endure food shortages. A male bear needs to increase his body weight by about 30% to survive the winter. The pregnant female needs to increase her body weight at least 50% to give birth, nurse, survive the winter, and feed her cubs into the early spring.

Both corn and black oil sunflower seeds can supply the calories bears require to bulk up for the winter. Bears

must consume 15,000 to 20,000 calories a day. A typical bird feeder contains roughly 12,000 calories. Bird seed is high in protein and fat. It takes less effort to obtain calories from a bird feeder than to forage for natural food.

A WESTMINSTER SAMPLER: SILKWORMS AND MULBERRY LEAVES

by Jesse Haas

In the fall of 2022, after a gap of many years, a crop of wrapper tobacco was harvested in Westminster, for the first time since the 1950s. Charles Holton was the last tobacco grower in Windham County; Seth Holton is the first of the 21st century.

Once the northernmost point of Cigar Valley, (Hartford, Connecticut, to Westminster), this town has been no stranger to innovative agricultural crops. Senator Bradley sent home cotton seeds from Washington around 1800, instructing his son William to plant them in the garden. (No report on how that experiment went.)

The first sheeps' milk dairy in Vermont is still going strong. At least one farmer is growing CBD hemp. The alpaca craze of the 1990s had several Westminster folks raising these South American camelids for their soft, warm fleece, and some still do.

One of the most exotic agricultural products raised in Westminster was silk. Silk was a get-rich-quick scheme in New England in the mid 1830s, preceded by a race to grow the silkworm's only food source, mulberry leaves. Silk had been produced in Connecticut starting in 1732. However, mulberry cultivation took off in New England when a new variety was imported from the Philippines in 1824. Mulberry rootstock was briefly a profitable crop, more valuable than the silk raised from it.

In Westminster it was the larger farmers who got in on this craze. Seth Shaler Arnold (who lived at the site of present-day Sojourns) planted 100 trees in 1835, and more in 1839. William Czar Bradley, the retired Con-

gressman, plunged deep, planting three thousand mulberries in 1836. Other farmers planted them as well.

How much was needed? According to experts, the prunings and foliage of a three-year-old tree would feed one worm. (Most mulberry trees did not grow large in this climate, and were approximately the size of high-bush blueberries.) An acre could support five thousand mulberry trees, and the harvest from that acre would feed forty thousand silkworms.

A quarter of worms died before reaching maturity, but the survivors would produce about 13 bushels of cocoons, each bushel containing about 4.5 million feet of silk filament, enough to produce one pound of raw silk (a pound of silk per acre.) These estimates were for optimal production; local silkgrowers were always out scrounging for more leaves from neighboring growers.

Local farmers kept silkworm eggs cold in a root cellar until the mulberry leaves were ready. Once they were taken from storage, they began to hatch in ten days, then fed for about a month. They were kept in a dedicated room in the house, on racks lined with paper, and were fed twice a day, often by children or elderly family members. The sound of a room full of munching silkworms was like rain pattering on leaves.

After a month, the worms stopped feeding, raised their heads, and began to wind their silken threads around themselves in a figure-eight motion, until they were entirely cocooned. At this point most cocoons were dropped into hot water and steamed to kill the developing moth. If the moth was allowed to mature, it would cut its way out of the cocoon, damaging the filament and

drastically reducing its value.

The state was paying a bounty on silk production, so farmers took their cocoons in bushel baskets to a scale to be weighed and certified. Now the silk could be unwound in a long thread, 300 to 700 yards long. It was unwound on a flax wheel or silk reel, a job for women and girls. Arnold's diaries note using his skeins of silk to pay for goods from area stores, at a rate of two dollars per hundred skeins. Meantime he was buying silkworm eggs at \$2/ounce; said eggs hatched and died; he started more; he paid Mr. Chapin to hoe his mulberries, and Catharine, his hired woman, to take care of the worms at \$1.50/week "if they do well."

Caring for his mulberries and worms, processing the product, and making trades for goods he could actually use, kept Arnold on the hop from April to September, and doesn't seem to have been spectacularly profitable. Nonetheless he kept up the business until 1845. We have no record of how long William Czar Bradley remained in the business. Mulberries are not well-adapted to northern climates, and there was an extremely cold winter in 1839-40, with the thermometer standing at 20 below zero on Jan. 23.

A few old mulberry trees are rumored to remain in Westminster from that time, but the reels of silk have long-since disappeared. The great silk and mulberry boom didn't build fortunes and mansions, the way the Merino sheep craze had. It simply faded into history. When we see a bushel basket these days we think of beans or potatoes, not locally-grown caterpillar cocoons.

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 Dec. 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 October: 38

Number of calls through November 24th: 27

Number of calls calendar year to date: 434

Number of calls fiscal year to date: 204

Association Meeting: The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association met for their regular meeting November 1st with President Eyvonne Martin presiding. There were 27 members present and 7 members excused. Currently there are 48 members of the volunteer fire department.

The department welcomed Justin Ruggiero as a full member having successfully completed the six month probation requirements.

Coin drop: The fire department wishes to thank all those who donated money during our coin drop in the village Saturday the 22nd.of October. We appreciate all the support.

Emergency responses: We had another almost

record month in October with 38 total incident calls for the month. Right now we are averaging over 40 calls a month for 2022, and over 400 so far for the calendar year.

The breakdown goes like this for October : 25 rescue /medical calls; 3 motor vehicle accident; 2 CO Detector issues;1 false call; 1 assault incident; 2 untimely calls; 2 for psych emergencies; 1 illegal burn and 1 hazmat issue for a chemical spill. Also there were a couple of training classes during the month.

Halloween Open House: The fire house was open Halloween Monday the 31st to hand out candy, cider and pop corn from 5 until around 7:30. The weather was perfect for the annual event with well over 100 kids and adults in a variety of interesting and creative costumes.

Walking in the dark: Now that standard time has arrived, several people will be out walking after dark. If you are a walker or a biker be sure to be wearing bright colors including a reflective vest or piece of clothing. Even carrying a flashlight is a good idea. We see so many people out there wearing dark clothing. And of course always walk on the left side of the road facing traffic and bike on the right side with the flow of traffic. When crossing the road or street, even in a crosswalk, don’t

assume the driver of the on-coming vehicle can see you. You are in charge of your own safety.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS FOR SALE: Anyone want to buy a fire extinguisher? We have them for sale and there are 4 sizes available. See the Chief or stop by the fire station for more information if interested.The Westminster Fire & Rescue Association welcomes donations throughout the year from anyone wishing to remember a loved one or a friend

Donations received in November: Katherine Miller

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

KAREN WALTER WINS SUCCESSFUL AGING AWARD

By Mark Boutwell for the Senior Solutions, Inc. Newsletter

In previous columns, I have focused on the broad ways in which Senior Solutions responds to the needs of our growing senior population in Vermont.

This month, I would like to highlight how just one person can make a powerful impact. On Oct. 26, Karen Walter received our 25th annual Successful Aging Award at our Annual Meeting.

Thirty-five years ago, Karen helped to found Westminster Cares. In those early days, Karen arranged rides to medical appointments and shopping trips for many older Vermonters and ensured that healthy aging cooking classes and exercise classes were offered to older Vermonters. Eventually she started Westminster's Meals on Wheels program—all as an unpaid volunteer.

Currently, Karen is a board member emerita and participates on the Programs & Services Committee. Over the years she created a walking group and trained to become a Living Strong Facilitator. She still teaches one of our Living Strong exercise classes. Karen has served on several town committees and represented the Town of Westminster on the Senior Solutions Advisory Council. In 2019, she was voted Westminster's Citizen of the Year for her contributions to the community.

Health and wellness have always been an important aspect of Karen's life. She embodies these values and stays active by spending time outdoors, hiking, biking, walking and doing Tai Chi. She takes time to visit many friends and enjoys going to plays, movies, music per-



formances and travelling. Karen continues to give rides to friends and church members who are no longer able to drive.

Karen takes her spirituality seriously and has been a member and volunteer for the Walpole Unitarian Church in Walpole, NH for years. She has a curious mind with a love of learning and a strong sense of social justice. And she has spent many hours advocating and volunteering for environmental issues, senior housing, immigrant rights and women's equality.

We are proud of Karen, and all of our seniors who contribute so critically to our Vermont communities.

In photo, Mark Boutwell, Executive Directive of Senior Solutions presenting Karen Walter with her Successful Aging award.

FALL FESTIVAL FUN IN WESTMINSTER



Staff and students enjoyed the activities of Kurn Hattin's Fall Festival this year.

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Schedule a walkthrough today, even if you plan to make energy updates further down the road.

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3/25/1954 TO 11/12/2022

TERRI McALLISTER
WESTMINSTER
10/1/1965 TO 11/4/2022

WILLIAM SCHULTZ, 61
WESTMINSTER WEST
9/19/1961 TO 10/24/2022

ELSIE WEISER, 92
CANTERBURY NH
FORMERLY OF WESTMINSTER
10/3/1930 TO 10/27/2022

MARJORIE MADORE/CARLSON, 90
SEPT. 24, 1932 - NOV. 16, 2022
FORMERLY OF WESTMINSTER

ELKS HOOP SHOOT

Open to both "Boys & Girls", in their separate divisions, ages 8-9, 10-11 and 12-13. Kids from; the Bellows Falls / Fall Mt. region. Basketball 'Hoop Shoot' (25 Free Throws / Foul Shots).

Trophies will be handed out for the 1st & 2nd finishers of each division.

What you should wear; Gym Shoes, appropriate t-shirt, gym shorts or team uniform.

DATE: Saturday, Dec. 3, 9:30 a.m. - Noon.

LOCATION: Bellows Falls Middle School, 15 School Street.

DOORS: Open 9:30 a.m. for registration and practicing, with the event starting (Free Throws) at 10 (youngest division first).

SPONSORED By: Bellows Falls ELKS Lodge #1619, Chairman Smokey Aumand.

Local event 1st place shooters will move on up to the "District" level, Sun. Jan. 8, 2023 in Windsor. From there, the 1st place shooters will move as follows; to the Vermont State Championships, Jan. 28, 2023, Newport Center. Then to the Regionals, Portland, ME, March 10-12, 2023. Then the 1st place winners go on to the Nationals in Chicago, Ill, April 21-23, 2023 with all reasonable expenses paid. Elks will coordinate and cover transportation / housing / food for players and parents.

All 1st Place National winners will get their name digitally displayed at the NAI-Smith Memorial Hall of Fame in Springfield, MA.

HOLIDAY FOOD BAGS

In partnership with several local organizations, volunteers for Westminster Cares will make and distribute Holiday Bags this season.

The bags will be filled with shelf-stable foods and will be delivered to Meals on Wheels recipients and others in need in our community.

If you or someone you know are in need of a bag this holiday season, please give us a call 722-3607 to put your name on our list.

The number of bags are limited and only senior residents of Westminster, or adult residents with a disability are eligible.

LOCAL HOLIDAY SHOPPING

The Bellows Falls Downtown Development Alliance presents the 2022 Shop Local Holiday Shopping card program.

On Thursday, Dec. 1 Sip, Dine, Shop & Enjoy your way from Allen Brothers to Leslie's and everything in between including 7 Balls Brewing at 33 Bridge.

Ladies Night Friday, Dec. 9 from 4-8 p.m., Parade of Lights on Saturday, Dec. 10 at 5 p.m. and on Sunday, Dec. 11 the Bellows Falls Rotary sponsored movie at 1 p.m.

On Friday, Dec. 16 it's "not just for" Men's Night and BF3F, the Bellows Falls Third Friday with Canal Street events, open studios, Meet the Artist, and live music.

Visit us on Facebook and www.bellowsfallsvt.org for more information. Here's to a healthy and happy Holiday Season!



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 Westminster
Please join us at the First Congregational Church of Westminster, 3470 US Route 5, Westminster for worship on Sunday mornings at 11 and via Zoom.
Worship, December 4th at 10 a.m. (Second Sunday of Advent).
Band Concert, December 4th from 4 to 5 p.m. (Westmoreland Town Band) Everyone is invited. Santa will be there.
Refreshments will be provided, and you can meet the band members after the concert
Worship, Sunday December 11th at 10:00 a.m. (Third Sunday of Advent).
Worship, Sunday December 18th at 10:00 a.m. (Fourth Sunday of Advent).
Worship, Christmas Eve Service, Sunday December 24th at 5:30 p.m..
No service on December 25th, Christmas Day. Enjoy your time with family and friends.

The Congregational Church of Westminster West
The Congregational Church of Westminster 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 Westminster West. 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 Westminster Institute. Interested community members are encouraged to attend.

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
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 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
Westminster Cares
Westminster Fire and Rescue Association
Burtco Inc.
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STUDENTS HELP WITH EMPTY BOWL DINNER



Kurn Hattin Homes’ 8th grade girls helped serve the Bellows Fall Our Place Drop-In Center’s 25th Annual Empty Bowls Dinner that was held at Alyson’s Orchard in Walpole, NH.

Our Place Drop-in Center offers free community meals, a food pantry, and social service resources. Kurn Hattin Homes’ also made soup for this fundraiser dinner. The Kurn Hattin Homes’ children have lent a hand in this event for many years.

“The Kurn Hattin girls were awesome. They are hard-working, and we couldn’t have done this without them,” praised Our Place Executive Director, David Billings. The event this year raised over \$19,000 in support of Our Place.

Please Note:

The EARLY Deadline for the Jan. 2023 Issue of the Westminster Gazette is Wednesday, Dec. 14

Publication Date is Wednesday, Dec. 19

To Contact the Westminster Gazette

E-mail:

westminsternews@gmail.com

“Catch My Drift, Kurn Hattin Homes for Children” is proudly displayed on



What fun, and way to go Kurn Hattin Homes!

More information is available at www.sevca.org,
<https://www.facebook.com/SEVCAorg/>, or by calling 800-464-9951.

Thank you for supporting SEVCA by stopping by our Good Buy Stores this Holiday Season!

Read the full prize details and submit your entry online here: <https://vermontwritersprize.submittable.com/submit>.

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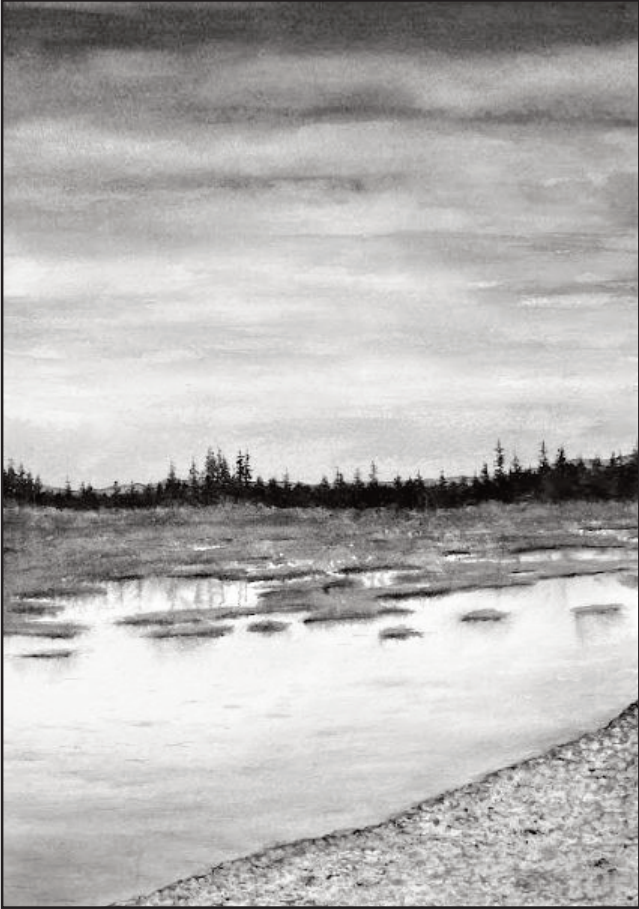


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THE MOMENT AFTER
RECENT WATERCOLORS
BY FINN CAMPMAN



The Moment After, a series of recent landscape watercolors by Finn Campman is on exhibit at The Putney Public Library thru Feb. 25, 2023.

Campman shows us detailed, intimate, and luminous watercolors of landscapes in Putney and surrounding areas. In these one sees again and again, a certain personal attention to light and time, in which the land is rendered somehow timeless.

Campman says, “There are certain cherished moments when I am offered the possibility of simply letting the world “settle” on my senses. Discernment is unnecessary, for only in the state of simple openness can this “settling” manifest. The moment is complete.”

These paintings are reflective - misty and watery - deeply rooted in the sense of place.

Campman has been a puppeteer, photographer, watercolorist and teacher - teaching at Hilltop Montessori School, Brattleboro, for 21 years.

He attended The Putney School and Sarah Lawrence College, NY. In 1991 he joined Sandglass Theatre in Putney where he founded Company of Strangers. He was an Artist in Residence for four years at The Hall Farm Center for Arts and Education in Reading.

Most recently he has been focusing on painting and electronic music with his band Brothers Chorizo. Finn lives in Westminster West with his wife, children, one cat and a free ranging parakeet. fcampman@gmail.com

Putney Public Library is located at 55 Main St. in Putney. The Putney Public Library's Expanded Open Hours are:

Mondays 10:30 a.m.- 6 p.m.
Wednesdays 10:30 a.m.- 6 p.m.
Fridays 10:30 a.m.- 6 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

NEW GMP REBATES

Since Oct. 1, Green Mountain Power (GMP) customers can save \$200 when they switch from fossil fuel for cooking and install a new electric induction cooktop or range.

Induction technology heats up and cools down faster than fossil fuel and provides great temperature control, all without carbon emissions and indoor air pollution.

The new induction rebate adds to GMP's growing list of incentives to help customers save money when reducing their own carbon footprints.

“We’re so glad to offer this new \$200 rebate. It is a great new way we’re serving customers – helping them make the switch away from fossil fuel to clean electricity during their daily lives. GMP’s energy supply is 100% carbon free, so cooking with induction technology helps fight climate change efficiently at home while helping to lower per unit power costs for all customers,” said Tiana Smith, GMP’s head of electrification.

The new rebate is available for installed induction cooktops or ranges (not portable) and is valid on purchases made October 1, 2022 through December 31, 2023. Customers can apply for the induction rebate and see all the details on GMP’s website.

GMP’s residential customers can also save up to \$2,500 on electric vehicles, up to \$1,000 on heat pumps, \$500 on electric motorcycles and \$100 on electric lawn tractors among other rebates and incentives. GMP business customers can save on EVs, heating and cooling equipment, plus custom electrification projects for their operations through GMP’s business innovation programs.

“All of these programs combined with our energy storage initiatives are having a big impact. Last year, all together, customers helped offset more than 210,000 metric tons of carbon through GMP programs. That’s like taking about 45,000 fossil fueled cars of the road. It is amazing what we can do together,” Smith said.

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