

WCS’S ALEXA BUSH ATTENDS LEADERSHIP FORUM

For many students, the first trip to New York City is a memorable experience, but for Westminster Center School sixth grader Alexa Bush, it was not just a visit to the bustling city; it was an immersion into the world of STEM at the National Youth Leadership Forum in July of this year.

A New York Adventure

Nominated by her teacher Amanda Mayo and selected to attend, Alexa found herself at St. John's University, participating in the National Youth Leadership Forum: Pathways to STEM [Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math] with students from across the Northeast. Mrs. Mayo's recognition of Alexa's strengths in math and science and her encouragement played a pivotal role, paving the way for Alexa to explore and thrive in the STEM environment. This unique opportunity allowed her to delve into her passion for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, while giving her a taste of that science camp life!

According to her mother Taya Prior, this experience contributed to a sense of independence; Alexa had no qualms about traveling four hours away from home and staying overnight on the St. John's campus, an experience that has allowed her to already envision her future academic pursuits.

STEM Adventures and Discoveries

One of the highlights of Alexa's STEM adventure was the opportunity to engage in hands-on activities, including dissecting a calf heart, which allowed her to explore the medical field and her interest in becoming a veterinarian, finding the activity both 'gross and cool!' The camp's activities extended beyond traditional classroom learning, incorporating group projects that included engineering challenges like creating an amusement park ride, and technology challenges like beginning robotics programming.

Building Connections

Alexa's STEM journey wasn't just about academic exploration; it was also about building connections. Through these group projects and collaborative activities, she had the opportunity to meet and work with like-minded students from all over the Northeast, sharing fun experiences that extended beyond science experiments and included magic shows, movies, and variety shows and Alexa continues to stay in touch with some of the students. As her teacher noted, "I was so glad to be able to encourage Alexa in this direction and am excited about sharing her experience to encourage other students in STEM activities!"

In photo, Alexa Bush.



KURN HATTIN RECEIVES RITE AID GRANT

Kurn Hattin Homes for Children has received a \$10,000 neighborhood grant from Rite Aid Healthy Futures to continue advancing its important mission focused on providing children in our care a safe, caring place where they can learn, play, grow, and experience the joy of childhood.

Part of its overall Empowering Children signature initiative for Rite Aid Healthy Futures, the Neighborhood Grants help nonprofits address the toughest health and wellness challenges facing kids today.

Kurn Hattin Homes, one of only two Vermont charitable entities chosen, joins 370 other organizations across 17 states that have each received a \$10,000 grant for general operations. The funds will help them continue to deliver critical services as inflation, food insecurity, troubling mental health trends, and other converging factors impact children.

"We are so appreciative to receive grant money that can be applied to our general operations budget because it means we have the flexibility to direct the resources to our most pressing needs," said Adam Hallock, the Homes' director of maintenance. "We plan to use the Neighborhood Grant for building improvements across the campus, including weatherization of our residential cottages and new flooring in our Mayo Building academic wing."

The grants are funded through the KidCents customer fundraising program, which allows Rite Aid customers to round up their purchases in-store and online to support children's health and wellness.



By rounding up their nickels, dimes and quarters, millions of Rite Aid customers contribute to local charities restoring hope, resiliency, and self-esteem in children.

"Children today face acute and converging crises across a range of fields that adversely impact their quality of life," said Matt DeCamara, executive director of Rite Aid Healthy Futures. "Thanks to the generosity of Rite Aid customers, these hyperlocal organizations can continue to provide much needed programs and services steadying the course for children today and guiding them toward promising tomorrows."

Rite Aid Healthy Futures is a public charity that improves the lives and futures of kids in Rite Aid communities through partnerships that help build healthier, more equitable neighborhoods. Launched by Rite Aid in 2001, Healthy Futures supports causes, initiatives and organizations that help kids live long, happy and healthy lives. Grants are made possible through the generous donations of customers who round-up their purchases at Rite Aid through the KidCents program. Visit RiteAidHealthyFutures.org to learn more.

In photo, Kurn Hattin kids enjoying the outdoors.

IT’S LUMINARY TIME! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



Luminary time has the following schedule, and volunteers will be needed.	Lighting of luminaries will be at 3 p.m. on Sunday the 24th.
Saturday, Dec. 23 at 3 p.m. filling bags at the Westminster fire station.	Monday, Dec 25, 7 a.m. bag pick up. Please share with family and friends.
Sunday, Dec. 24 at 10 a.m. meet at the fire station to put the bags out along Route 5, School Street and Grout Ave.	All are welcome and encouraged to participate if possible.

TOWN SEEKS CLERK & TREASURER CANDIDATES

Are you a civic-minded citizen and registered voter of Westminster, and have experience with, or the desire to become part of, our municipal government team?

Do you enjoy assisting the public, participating in committee work, and would look forward to being a member of Vermont's statewide group of municipal professionals?

Can you appreciate the importance of timely and accurate maintenance of the Town's historic records and legal documents?

Would you commit to holding all local, state, and national elections with the highest degree of honesty and integrity, and adhere to Vermont statutes and regulations as they pertain to your position?

The Town of Westminster seeks ideal candidates to fill our Town Clerk (full-time) and/or Town Treasurer (part-time) positions, both of which require substantial levels of commitment and motivation.

These are elected positions (3-year term), and the successful candidate will be elected on Primary Election Day on March 5, 2024.

Our current Town Clerk and Treasurer is retiring and will not seek re-election at that time.

All candidates must submit their signed petition(s) to the Town Clerk's office no later than 5 p.m. on January 29, 2024, to be placed on the March 2024 ballot.

Interested candidates should contact the Town Clerk's office for additional details and requirements: 802-722-4091, clerk@westministervt.org, 3651 US Route 5, Westminster, VT 05158.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Our Monthly Community Newspaper January 2024 Vol. 20 No. 1

Westminster Gazette

Town of Westminster
PO Box 147
Westminster, VT
05158

DELIVER TO ADDRESSEE OR
CURRENT RESIDENT

Pre-Sorted Standard
U.S. Postage
Paid
Westminster, VT
PERMIT NO. 3

LONG VIEW FORESTS - PG 2
NEW TOWN MANAGER - PG 3
FINCH IRRUPTION? - PG. 4
WINTER SAFETY - PG. 5
VOTING INFO - PG. 7
HAPPY RETIREMENT IAN! - PG. 8

OUR WORKING LANDSCAPE: TAKING THE LONG VIEW

Westminster has many farms and businesses which work the land to create products and jobs, while making the landscape that we see today. The *Gazette* will be highlighting this part of our economy with short articles and letters which explain and recognize the importance of our working landscape.

By Mary Scherbatskoy

Forestry is an important part of our working landscape, providing many jobs, services and products. A network of businesses stretches across Vermont, New England and even internationally, with jobs from logging to trucking to manufacturing to woodland management. Our own Long View Forest Inc. is based in Westminster and Hartland, and is employee-owned. It was founded in 1999 and has grown to 35 employees, 15 of them co-owners. Long View manages over 60,000 acres of forest land for private landowners in the greater Connecticut River valley, and harvests nine million board feet of timber per year. Long View’s work includes forest management advice, logging and timber sales, and woodland services such as developing trails and controlling invasives. Dan Healey, Forest Management, says that they believe in taking a careful look at the best use of each piece of woodland, whether for timber or recreation.

Dan said that the forestry business used to be much more local, including firewood, nearby mills and Vermont manufacturing, but that now the whole network is much larger, and a lot of hardwood goes to Quebec and beyond.

Rod Lampe, Log Yard Manager, gave the example that much of Long View’s ash used to be sold to TrueTemper in Wallingford for tool handles. But then TrueTemper was bought by a multi-national corpora-



tion, and now the ash logs are shipped to China where the tool handles are made, then shipped back to the US to be attached to the hand tools. (Carbon footprint, anyone?) Long View’s headquarters are in Hartland, but Picz Road includes the logging division and crews, the log yard, the machinery shop and woodland services. Mechanics John, Wyatt, and Allen are in charge of repairs and maintenance for LongView’s big machinery such

as forwarders, skidders, and their four modern harvesters. Mike King is Contracting Manager. Long View is also the US distributor for the Swedish logging equipment company Rottne. Our Westminster company Long View Forest Inc. takes the long view of the forestry economy, and aims to keep our woodlands sustainable and productive.

In photo, the Long View team, summer, 2023.

NEW BEGINNER

A new Beginner Tai Chi Class is forming, cohosted by Westminster Cares and Oriental Healing Arts Assn. (OHAA). There’s a free intro class on Tuesday, Jan. 9 at 9:45 a.m. at the Westminster Institute, Westminster Town Center The teacher: is Leslie Lassetter, OHAA Senior Instructor. Masks are optional. COVID vaccines are encouraged. Wear loose, comfortable clothing and nongripping shoes. To reserve your spot contact Donna

Dawson, ofWestminster Cares at 802-722-3607 or wecares@sover.net . The cost on Jan. 9 is free; thereafter \$10 per class. Scholarships are available. The class will take place on Tuesday’s from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. If cost is an issue, pay what you can. Westminster Cares has set aside some funds so that everyone who wants can participate. Enrollment will be open for one month or until we reach the class size limit.

COMPASS SCHOOL

LEARNINGCOMMUNITYDEMOCRACYDIRECTION

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

Come see what school can be

Generous Scholarships and Financial Aid Available

www.compass-school.org

20

YEARS

ONE MEDICINE INTEGRATIVE HEALTH

802-387-0124

www.onemedicine.org

26 Main St. Putney

Dr. Seroya Crouch

Specializing In

MENTAL HEALTH

Depression

Anxiety

ADHD

Autistic Spectrum Disorders

Poor Response to Medication

Post Partum Depression

Alzheimers

NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE

Individualized Nutrition

Lyme & Co-infections

Chronic Disease

Post Concussion Syndrome

Post Covid-19 Syndrome

Insomnia

Hormone Balancing

Serving Southern Vermont and New Hampshire

WESTMINSTER ENERGY GROUP

A Division of

WESTMINSTER FARMS

Top Soil

Compost

Dried Manure

Made in Vermont

By

Vermont Farmers

And

Vermont Cows

PO Box 24 4187 US Rt 5 Westminster Sta., VT 05159

Phone/Fax: 802 722 4017 Email: westfarms1@myfairpoint.net

K. BEEBE, INC

PUMP SERVICE

Plumbing and Heating

Established 1946

FULLY INSURED * ESTIMATES GIVEN

CALL 463-3725

51 SAXTONS RIVER ROAD

BELLOWS FALLS

BRENNAN

BUILDING

EXCAVATION

SEPTIC SYSTEMS

802 869 2866

www.BrennanConstructionVT.com

BEST SEPTIC

www.bestsepticvt.net

bestseptic@gmail.com

Fax: (802)-463-1523

It's Tough to Beat the BEST

Jeff & Lisa Ruggiero

Owners

(802)-463-9444

BIG OR SMALL WE PUMP IT ALL!

ADVERTISE IN THE GAZETTE!

Annual Rates:

Pages 2-3 - approx. 4"x5" \$300 a year - \$30 for one month

Pages 4-7 - approx. 4.7"x6.8" \$525 a year - \$80 for one month

Page 8 - approx. 2.5"x3.25" - \$200 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

News From Town Hall - Meet the New Manager

by Lou Bordeaux, Town Manager

Welcome to my first column here in the Westminster Gazette! Prior to starting my role as Town Manager, I’ve read as many of the past issues of the Gazette as possible. Reading and learning about the passion and history in this wonderful community made it clear to me that this was the place that I wanted to be.

I’d like to express my gratitude to Susan Harlow for putting together a wonderful “Meet the Manager” event on December 5th at the Westminster Institute. Thanks also to the dozens of my new friends who took the time to attend and say hello. Time is a valuable asset and one that cannot be replaced. That so many of you chose to take the time to meet me truly meant a lot.

Thanks to the remarkable talents of our Town Hall team, I was able to hit the ground running and have been very busy in and around town. I’ve met with some of my colleagues from around the state, the Sheriff and



our legislative contingent. One of my current projects has been working on the town budget for FY25, which

starts on July 1st. Municipal budgeting is like walking a tightrope, having to balance ever increasing expenses, while being mindful of those increases and how they affect your taxes.

Speaking of the budget, mark your calendars for our Annual Town Meeting which will be held at the Bel-lows Falls Union High School Auditorium on Saturday March 2nd, starting at 10am. The Australian Ballot vote will follow on Tuesday March 5th from 8am to 7pm at the Westminster Fire Station. Contact the Town Clerk for more information.

It’s been a fast moving first month and a half for me. In the months to come, I look forward to keeping you informed on a variety of topics. Thank you for reading and I wish you all a healthy and happy holiday season.

In photo, new Town Manager Lou Bordeaux talks with Cheryl Charles.

News From the Town Garage - Stop Dumping Tires in our Streams!

Hello neighbors,

Here it is the second week of December and I was beginning to have concerns of a mud shortage when at the last minute mother nature pulled through again with just enough to keep the dust down.

We have started to outfit some of the plows we use on dirt with rubber cutting edges to help keep the gravel in the roads and out of the ditches, as well as maintain a

crown to help shed water.

There has been an influx of the dumping of tires throughout town. These tires have been cut with a saws-all, which gives me the impression that someone in the scrapping profession may have an idea how they got dumped on Henwood Hill and Morse Brook. Both places they were dumped in the stream. Please keep an eye out for anything that looks suspicious and let us know. It’s starting to get expensive for all of us.

We have been out with the grader smoothing up some of the rough spots around town. This should help with drainage and keep them smooth until the next round of mud.

I hope you all have a great holiday season and your resolutions work out.

*Thanks for your support,
Chuck and Crew*

News From Westminster Cares

The Westminster Cares Board of Directors met Dec. 6 in person and via WebEx with President Lori Larue presiding. The following attended in person: Pete Harrison, Lori Larue, Pat Goodell, Cindy Moses, Nancy Dalzell, Frannie Waldron, Doug Oftedahl and director Donna Dawson. Those attending via WebEx were Miriam Lanata and Don Dawson. Kathy Elliott was unable to attend.

At the Annual Meeting in November a slate of officers were elected for 2024: Lori Larue, President; Pat Goodell, Vice President; Pete Harrison, Vice President; Doug Oftedahl, Secretary and Frannie Waldron, Treasurer. Nancy Dalzell and Frannie Waldron were elected to the board in 2023.

Westminster Cares wishes to express heartfelt gratitude for the generous support we have received to date for our 2023-2024 Annual Appeal fundraising drive. Funds from this Appeal enable us to continue serving the community. Thank you to all the individuals, families and businesses who have contributed so far!

Our Annual Appeal will continue throughout the

winter.

Memorial & Honor Donations Received from mid-November to Dec. 8.

HONOR OF:

For all those who are hungry and homeless from Richard and Linda Todd

In honor of all the Meals on Wheels volunteers from Karen Walter

In honor of Pete Harrison from Nancy and Jim McAuliffe.

In honor of everyone at Westminster Cares for all your efforts helping the community from Jennifer Anderson; Alicia LaCour.

In honor of all Westminster Cares does for the people of Westminster from Charlotte Kurkul.

In honor of Nikolaus Rudy from Dale Good .

In honor of Bill Smidutz from Jim Kamel.

IN MEMORY OF:

In memory of Walt Allbee from Priscilla Allbee

In memory of Steve Anderson from Bonnie Anderson and John and Teresa Anderson

In memory of Phyllis and Hank Anderson from Jill Kimber

In memory of friends, classmates and departed loved ones from Pete and Judy Harrison

In memory of Claudia Giese from Matt Conklin; Lindy and Karen Larson

In memory of Jay and Larry Hammond from Marty Hammond and family

In memory of Connie Harlow form Susan Harlow

In memory of Albert Hunker from Marcia Hunker

In memory of Joanne, “Little Nana” from Don Cordano

In memory of Larry Lanata from Miriam Lanata

In memory of Laura Leonard from Nancy Dalzell

In memory of Arthur Lettieri from Anonymous

In memory of Bill Luring from Louise Luring

In memory of Jeffrey Michaud from Irene Michaud

In memory of Libby Mills from Toby Young; Carrie Gelfan; Marcia and Tom Wessels; Laurie Alberts and Tom O’Neil

In memory of Peter R., Catherine G. and Glenn P. Murray from Bruce Murray

In memory of Edith and Leo Nauceder from Michele Lingley

In memory of Buster Newcomb from Verna Newcomb

In memory of Mary Sharkey from Bob and Virginia Onorato

In memory of Harold and Alice Shattuck from Barbara Greenough

In memory of Joan Smidutz from Bill and Marlene O’Connor

In memory of David L. Williams from Elizabeth Kolber Williams

In memory of my deceased relatives: Percy and Eunice Muzzey, William and Marguerite Muzzey, Walter and Anne Muzzey, Gerald and Constance Kelton, and Wellman and Shirley Muzzey from Charlotte Kurkul

Vermont's Largest Farm Stand

Garden Center & Nursery

Fresh pies and award winning cider donuts made daily!

Allen Brothers Farms

Westminster, VT

Visit us: Exit 5 off I-91

Route 5 South, Westminster, Vermont

802-722-3395 • allenbrothersfarms.com

Open 7 days a week: Mon-Sat 6 a.m.-8 p.m. • Sun 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

Harlow Farm Winter Market

We are open Dec. 15—mid-April

9-3, Fridays and Saturdays

Shop our fresh organic produce all winter!

Fresh greens, meat, eggs, root crops, Orchard Hill bread, Smokin’ Bowl baked goods, and more.

Harlow Farmstand

6365 U.S. Rte 5 Westminster VT

Purchase a Winter Market card on-line at:

harlowfarm.com/order-form/

Or just stop in.

Edward Jones

> edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

Cheers to a New Year!

As the calendar turns the page, we wish you the very best in the year ahead.

Jessica Fuller, CFP®

Financial Advisor

P O Box 96

57 Main Street

Walpole, NH 03608

603-756-2513

MKT-9811D-A AECSPAD.20779002

Nature Notes - Will This Be a Winter Finch Irruption Year?

by Alma Beals, Vermont Master Gardener and Naturalist

Almost every fall we see flocks of snow buntings, Lapland longspurs and horned larks around Walpole where the snow has been blown off the ground leaving bare spots. We don’t look for these birds in shrubs and trees. They will be in flocks on the ground. When they move, they will all move together, circle around, and often come back to the same spot.

But we are always wondering if this will be an “irruption” year when we will see redpolls, crossbills, pine grosbeaks, pine siskins and evening grosbeaks. They will not come south from Canada because of the cold, but because of the lack of seeds and cones.

Different tree species produce bumper crops at different times. Eastern white pine will produce a bumper crop every three to five years but rarely two good years in a row, while eastern hemlock will produce a good crop every couple years. The birds are forced to fly thousands of miles to keep up with the boom-and-bust cycles.

Common redpolls eat birch catkins. Each catkin contains hundreds of tiny-winged seeds. Pine siskins eat white spruce cones. Common redpolls, pine siskins, and goldfinches are all about the same size and color with goldfinches having plain undersides while pine siskins and common redpolls are heavily streaked.

Pine grosbeaks eat mountain ash fruits and seeds. White-winged crossbills eat spruce and tamarack cones, while red crossbills eat pine, spruce, Douglas fir, and hemlock cones. Evening grosbeaks and purple finches eat various seeds and various cones. Both of these can be seen here at other times of the year. While you can expect to spot both of these at your feeders, do not expect to see pine grosbeaks or crossbills.

Of all the winter birds we may see, the ones I find most fascinating are the red crossbills and the white winged crossbills.They are raspberry color with black wings and tail. The difference between the two is the bold white wing bars on the white-winged crossbills.



photos by Don Clark

Yes, their bills are actually crossed to pull out the seeds from the cones. The odd shape helps to get into the tightly closed cone and push the scale up to expose the seed inside. Another interesting thing, along with the common redpolls, is that they have a pouch in their throats that enables them to store food so that if it is cold, they can quickly collect seeds.

If you should spot a bird at your feeder that is sparrow size and has a more uniformly raspberry color than the other finches, you are probably seeing a male purple finch which can also be seen at other times of the year. The females are heavily streaked like sparrows.

Don’t expect to find pine grosbeaks or crossbills at your feeder. Pine grosbeaks are larger than purple finches with the males having considerable reddish-pink and white wing bars over a dark background. The females are gray with olive on their heads and rumps. If you have a mountain ash tree, that is where you will find them. Many years ago, I saw a tree in Springfield loaded



with them when I was on a Christmas bird count. Every time I go by that tree, I expect to see them. Doesn’t happen!

Evening grosbeaks have been missing from the eastern part of our country for many years but have started showing up again. According to Mary Holland in *Naturally Curious*, “evening grosbeaks have declined 92% in the past 50 years, the steepest decline of any land bird in the United States and Canada.” Many of us can remember when these big yellow, black, and white birds showed up at our feeders and devoured our offering of sunflower seeds.

Will this be an “irruption” year? We hope so.

A WESTMINSTER SAMPLER: THE HISTORY NERDS

By Jessie Haas

Are you a history nerd? We are often hidden in plain sight, and a few of us gathered around a dining room table in the village recently to make decisions on acquiring some paper ephemera donated to the Historical Society by Richard Michelman and Alice.

We wanted all of it. The business card and an envelope from a local railroad employee wowed us by the beauty of the handwriting, and the strange paper the envelope was made of.

If you were making a period movie that involved some piece of information arriving in a letter, you'd want to have a look at that envelope, made of some kind of thin, shiny paper that I had never seen before. It looks fragile, but it had already survived for nearly 200 years.

There were programs from the annual horse show, held only twice in the early 1930s. Competitors listed included the classic Morgan stallion Sealect, (**in photo**) from over in Townshend. I don't know how he would have gotten here in 1932, but horses from that farm were frequently ridden over the back roads and trails up to Woodstock to compete in shows and in the 100 Mile Trail Ride, so he was probably just ridden over the hills the way we used to with our ponies back in the 70s.

One treasure was a town meeting hand-out regarding the building of the Center School, with architectural drawings and a couple of short paragraphs making the case for the new school. The outlines of the building were recognizable, though there have been many additions over the years. Two of us around the table attended that school in childhood; the parents of one of us probably voted on the building.

It was built on an apple orchard owned by Dr. Ralph Buck, the orthodontist who lived across the road. He continued to grow potatoes on the remnant of the field, and exercised his Standardbred trotters on a track around the outside of it, to the gratified distraction of the kids in grades 1-4.



Other bits and bobs included materials from Kurn Hattin, and from the Congregational Church. There were bound copies of certain sermons delivered in Westminster, including the sermon on 'National Joy' preached by the Reverend Alfred Stevens of Westminster West right after Lee surrendered at Appomatox—and right before Lincoln's assassination, but nobody knew that at the time it was written. It adds a strange, suspenseful feeling to look at something like this in hindsight. National Joy was terribly short-lived.

Items like this straddle a line between object and document. We value them for what the words say, and also for the materials they are made of, the kind of use they received, and what their mere existence tells us—that someone valued the sermons of these

local preachers enough to have them put between covers.

We can learn from the advertising taken out in publications like the horse show program, which seems to have featured mostly Bellows Falls businesses.

And then there's just the feeling. In 1838, or 1932, or 1953, somebody wrote this. Somebody printed it up, in the case of the program or the town meeting handout—and where did they get that done?

And then somebody held it, the show or the town meeting, and then put it in a pile, probably considered throwing it away a few years later and decided instead to hang onto it—and then maybe the heirs finally said, "I don't know, maybe somebody will find it interesting," and sent it to auction, where it was aquired by the ever-alert Richard, and made its way across the road to Alice Caggiano's dining room table, and the gathering of the history nerds—and now, has migrated to its new home, the archive room at the Westminster Institute, where it's available for other history nerds to look at.

(A couple of corrections from the previous articles: The donor of the supposed William French horse equipment was named Alice Smith, not French. And we have photocopies of the Harriet Holton letters; the originals have been donated to Syracuse University.)

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 Jan. 2 at 7 p.m..

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

Number of calls in November: 42

Number of calls through December 15th: 21

Number of calls calendar year to date: 487

Number of calls fiscal year to date: 276

Association Meeting: The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association met for their regular meeting December 5th with President J.T. Tabolt presiding. There were 29 members present and 8 members excused. Currently there are 49 members of the volunteer fire department.

Emergency responses: November turned out to be another busy month with 42 calls for the month. Here is the breakdown for the 42 calls. 4 mutual aid, 1 to Rockingham, 1 to Walpole, 1 to Putney and 1 to Brattleboro; 24 rescue/medical calls; 4 motor vehicle accidents; 1 car fire; 5 lift assists; 3 box alarm;1 false alarm.

Luminaries: The Fire House will be made available

again this year for the annual Christmas Eve luminary display preparations. Many local volunteers gather at the Fire House to put the sand and candles in bags on Saturday, Dec. 23 at 3 p.m. Sunday the volunteers will meet at 10 a.m. to put the bags out along Route 5, Grout Ave. and School St. On the afternoon of Dec. 24 volunteers meet at 3 p.m. to light the candles. Monday the 25th volunteers meet and 7 a.m. to pick up the bags.

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

Wood stoves and portable heaters: Make sure wood stoves and portable heaters are at least 3 feet away from anything that can catch fire. Check electrical cords for fraying, cracks and exposed/ bare wires. Turn off space heaters before leaving home or going to bed.

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

Ashes from wood burning stoves or furnaces: When cleaning out your ashes, put them in a closed metal container outside. If they are going to be dumped be sure

to wet them down or cover them with snow. Never put them on a wooden deck or porch floor even in a metal container.

Off Road: The fire department is looking for names of anyone who has an off-road vehicle that they would be willing to operate in case of an emergency requiring off-road or 4 wheelers. Contact any member of the department if this is something you can make available.

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 or honor a loved one or a friend. Send donation to: Westminster Fire & Rescue Association PO Box 111 Westminster, 05158.

Donations in December: Alma Beals, Heather Kampfer Hunter and David Hunter, Alpha Chapter #53 Order of Eastern Star, Mary Mitchell in memory of Frank Mitchell.

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.westminsterfire-andrescue.org.

Aged in Vermont

Westminster Cares, Inc.

SEVEN WINTER SAFETY TIPS FOR OLDER ADULTS



During the winter months, ice, snow, and cold temperatures can make life challenging for anyone. Slippery sidewalks and cold weather can cause a wide range of injuries and illnesses, especially for older people.

1. Avoid slipping on ice

Icy, snowy roads and sidewalks make it easy to slip and fall. Often these falls cause major injuries such as hip and wrist fractures, head trauma and major lacerations. Younger people often recover relatively quickly from such injuries, older adults face complications, which can be a leading cause of death from injury in men and women over the age of 65. For that reason, older adults should wear shoes with good traction and non-skid soles and stay inside until the roads are clear. Replacing a worn cane tip can make walking easier, and older people are advised to take their shoes off as soon as they return indoors, because often snow and ice attach to the soles and, once melted, can lead to slippery conditions inside.

2. Dress for warmth

Cold temperatures can lead to frostbite and hypothermia, a condition in which the body temperature dips too low. According to the Centers for Disease Control, death rates attributed to excessive cold or hypothermia in 2019 increased steadily with age among those in both metropolitan and rural areas. That's why older adults are advised to wear warm socks, a heavy coat, a warm hat, gloves and a scarf if heading outdoors. In very cold temperatures, cover all exposed skin and use a scarf to cover your mouth.

3. Fight wintertime depression

Because it can be difficult and dangerous to get around, many older adults have less contact with others during cold months. This can breed feelings of loneliness and isolation. To help avoid these issues, we urge family members to check in on seniors as often as possible; a short, daily phone call can also make a big difference. Seniors can also arrange a check-in system with neighbors and friends, where each person looks in on one or two others daily.

4. Keep the car tuned up

Driving during the winter can be hazardous for anyone. But it is especially dangerous for older people, who may not drive as often anymore or whose reflexes may not be as quick as they once were. Make sure to have cars serviced before wintertime hits. Checking the oil, tires, battery, and wipers can make a big difference on winter roads. Also make sure your older loved one's roadside assistance plan is up to date in case of emergencies.

5. Prepare for power outages

Winter storms can lead to power outages. Make sure you or your older loved one has easy access to flashlights and a battery-powered radio in case the power goes out. Stockpile warm blankets. Longer power outages can spoil the food in your refrigerator and freezer so keep a supply of non-perishable foods that can be eaten cold on hand. If the power goes out, older adults should wear several layers of clothing, including a hat and gloves.

6. Eat a varied diet

Because people spend more time indoors and may eat a smaller variety of foods, nutritional deficits, especially vitamin D deficiency (which has been associated with health concerns like cognitive decline, depression and osteoporosis, among others) can be a problem. Consuming foods that are fortified with Vitamin D, such as milk, grains and seafood options like tuna and salmon are wonderful sources.

7. Prevent carbon monoxide poisoning

Using a fireplace, gas heater or lanterns can lead to carbon monoxide poisoning. Ensure your loved one's safety by checking the batteries on carbon monoxide detectors or purchasing a new one if needed. The most important tip to keep in mind during the colder months is to encourage older people to ask for help. Whether they need to clear their property of snow and ice, or stock up on groceries, they should feel free to ask a family member or neighbor or contact an agency for support.

Wintertime certainly poses challenges for older adults, but with a bit of planning and awareness, you can stay healthy and experience the joys of springtime soon enough.

REMEMBRANCES

JANUARY 2024:

MARYLOU BRITTON, 81
1/21/1942 - 11/30/2023
WALPOLE, NH

MARLENE KRAMER, 89
12/2/1933 - 11/1/2023
WESTMINSTER, VT

JERRY MCGREER, 86
6/28/1937 - 11/10/2023
BIRMINGHAM, ALA
FORMERLY WALPOLE, NH

DORIS RICE, 101
3/20/1922 - 11/29/2023
SAXTONS RIVER, VT

DEBORAH SWISHER, 75
1/28/1950 - 11/24/2023
ROCKINGHAM, VT

DANTE JOHN PAPALE
1929 - 12/3/2023.

KEVIN HUGHES LEAVING SELECTBOARD, THANKS COMMUNITY

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank our community for the opportunity to have served on the Westminster Select Board for three terms. On March 10th of 2023 I announced that I would not seek another term.

It has been a incredible experience serving in representative government. A lot has been accomplished over the last six years and much always remains to be done. Ironically, I am the longest serving member on the current board. Three terms is too long for any elected person, and it is time for another citizen to have their turn. That is our country's great tradition.

I am always humbled that I have the good fortune to live in this historic place, in this peaceful town with people who really care about their community.

I want to thank all those I have had the privilege to serve with on the selectboard both now and when I started six years ago. I also want to thank all of our employees and towns officials it has been my good fortune to work alongside with over that time.

I also want to thank all of my fellow citizens who work on other boards, our private contractors and business partners who work tirelessly behind the scene to keep our children taught and safe, our roads safe and clear, our buildings and infrastructure safe and secure and our town business at town hall running smoothly.

I would be remiss if I did not thank our Volunteer Fire Department, our Fire Chief and all those who volunteer to protect and serve our community.

Lastly, I would encourage everyone who is thinking of running for office at any level to do so.

Wishing everyone and your families the very best of everything this holiday season.

Kevin Hughes

MEET YOUR LEGISLATORS

On Saturday, Jan. 20, at 10:30 a.m. come to the top floor meeting room of the Rockingham Free Public Library in Bellows Falls to chat with your Windham County Senators Nader Hashim and Wendy Harrison and your Windham-3 (Brookline, Rockingham and Westminster) House Representatives Michelle Bos-Lun and Leslie Goldman.

This session will provide an opportunity for community members to ask questions about issues that will be addressed in this Legislative session in Montpelier. Legislators will also give updates about expected Legislative priorities and pending bills.

This meeting at the library will help your Senators and Representatives understand what is important to our Brookline, Rockingham and Westminster constituents and take these concerns to Montpelier in January.

Subsequent community conversations are planned for the third Saturday of each month at 10:30 a.m. during the legislative session through May.

Come for a conversation about current issues and bring your questions!

DOG LICENSES

THE 2024 DOG LICENSES ARE READY AT THE
WESTMINSTER TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE.

THE FEES ARE:

SPAYED/NEUTERED \$9.00

NON-SPAYED/NEUTERED \$13.00

PROOF OF CURRENT RABIES VACCINATION IS
REQUIRED TO LICENSE DOGS.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE
CONTACT THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE AT

802-722-4091

ABENAKI RELATIONSHIPS DISCUSSION

Living Earth Action Group will be hosting a presentation by Brattleboro/Wantastegok resident and Atowi Project Co-Director Rich Holschuh (with other possible guests), on Sunday Jan. 21, at 6:30 p.m. at the Congregational Church of Westminster West.

We will discuss the dynamics at work among the Abenaki First Nations Grand Council in Quebec, Canada, representing the Odanak and Wôlinak Reserves, and the four Vermont state-recognized Abenaki bands.

Recently UVM, Vermont Public, and VT Digger

have provided platforms for the First Nations Abenaki to question the standing of the Vermont Abenaki. To those unfamiliar with place-based Abenaki histories and cultures, and Native-Settler politics through the present-day, this apparent dispute may appear puzzling or confusing.

We will examine some of the questions that arise: What is being said and by whom? What is the context? What might be the point? Are there root causes of these differences and how might they be engaged? Join the discussion!

CLIMATE CATALYST INNOVATION FUND SUPPORTS 25 VERMONT PROJECTS

The Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) announces the awardees for the third competitive round of the Climate Catalyst Innovation Fund.

The funding supports projects that make a meaningful, community-scale impact. VCRD received more than \$99,000 in requests and was able to fund 25 projects totaling \$82,500 to support local climate solutions in Vermont.

In collaboration with generous funders including VLITE, VSECU, the Sunflower Fund, the Vermont Community Foundation Flood Recovery Fund, the Ruth H. Brown Foundation, and the Ben & Jerry's Foundation, VCRD is supporting local innovators in developing solutions that move Vermont closer to its climate and energy goals.

Projects are practical and creative efforts that expand community resilience, reduce energy use, and create new approaches to challenging problems. Projects funded this year include a floodplain public food forest, developing frontline emergency preparedness kits, climate economy workforce training, and many more.

This year, the Climate Catalyst Innovation Fund grew to \$82,500 following the successful first two rounds. An interactive map is available to showcase recipients, location and project descriptions. Project out-

comes and photos from the first round are available in the Climate Catalysts Innovation Fund 2021-2022 Report.

"To date, this fund has awarded 68 local innovators with over \$200,000 in collective support of community-led climate and energy projects," said Laura Cavin Bailey, the Climate Economy Program Manager of VCRD. "This provides exciting opportunities to launch ideas into action at the community level."

Climate Catalyst Innovation Fund award amounts range from \$500 - \$4,000, are selected by an outside panel of experts, and are based on demonstrating a mix of innovation, equity, replicability, collaboration, resilience, leverage, and meeting climate and energy goals. VCRD anticipates opening a new round of applications in the fall of 2024.

"ACORN is grateful for the opportunity to continue to develop a Farmer Climate Network in the Champlain Valley," said ACORN's Executive Director Lindsey Berk.

"Thanks to VCRD's Climate Catalyst funding, we will be hosting on-farm winter working bees to build a resilient farmer network that is better prepared to mitigate the risks and adapt to the opportunities that a changing climate brings."

WESTMINSTER COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

In September 2024, the Westminster Institute will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the Westminster Institute. In conjunction with the ceremony, a committee is planning the first Westminster Community Festival for Sept. 14 - 15.


An informal committee has been formed to plan the event. Our plan is to have a day-long event celebrating not only the Westminster Institute, but our great local artists, crafts people, farmers, vendors, schools and local non-profit community organizations.

We are hoping to have the Westminster Historical Society, First Congregational Church and the Westminster Fire Dept. participate with events coinciding with the festival. Essentially a town wide festival celebrating not only the Westminster Institute, but Westminster's long history of agriculture, cottage industry and sense of community that makes Westminster great!

We are looking for volunteers for all aspects of the event, and we are seeking interested local vendors, crafts people, farmers, businesses and local non-profits that would be interested in participating. We are looking for individual and corporate sponsors to help cover things like, trash disposal, bathrooms and other expenses.

Contact the following committee members for info: Jason Perry at jmptruckx2@comcast.net., or Susan Harlow at sjharlow@myfairpoint.net.

MYSTERY PHOTO



Barb Greenough had this to say about last month's photo: "I want to guess that the picture of Court House Hill (on Rt. 5) was taken about 1945. I can see the gravel bank on the right, with all the beautiful quartz stones in it that I used to play in as a child, and the horse trough we climbed as kids down there on the right. Chickering's little house is out front of the barn, and the barn is light colored instead of red, so its the one after the red barn burned. I am trying to remember what that sign on the left is."

This month's mystery photos is not a mystery, but the two men in it are. Nancy Shepard Kovaleff sent a photo from her family archives of two local men, probably carpenters involved in adding a room to her grandparents' house at 392 Shepard Lane in Saxtons River in the 1940s. Does anyone recognize either man?

WESTMINSTER HAPPENINGS

WE'VE UPDATED ALL THE HAPPENINGS ENTRIES. PLEASE LET US KNOW WHEN THINGS CHANGE OR WHEN SOMETHING SHOULD BE ADDED. THANK YOU!

FAITH COMMUNITY

The First Congregational Church of Westminster
All are most welcome to join us for worship at 10 a.m each Sunday, on Route 5. Handicap accessible. Coffee hour after each Sunday Service.
Dec. 23rd 10 a.m. 4th Sunday of Advent observed.
Dec. 24th Christmas Eve Service at 5:30 p.m. Candlelight, Carols and a Joy Filled message. Please note no Morning service on Dec. 24th
Dec. 31st Worship at 10 a.m.
Jan. 7th Worship with Communion at 10 a.m. followed by Coram Deo. Soup and Presentation on: "Feeding of the Five Thousand" in the fellowship hall.
Jan. 14th Worship
Jan. 21st Worship
Jan. 28th Worship
Please join u,s we would love to see you!

The Congregational Church of Westminster West
Worships every Sunday at 10 a.m. We are using Facebook Live to stream our weekly services. Just go on Facebook to the church's page. 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. 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.

Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno 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. She can be reached at susiewt@gmail.com com or (802)579-8356.

Walpole Unitarian Church
The corner of Union and Main Streets, Walpole, NH. Services begin at 10 a.m. with Rev. Elaine Bomford. www.walpoleunitarian.org. First Sunday of each month is Circle Sunday with visiting presenters.

United Church of Bellows Falls
Worship service is at 10 a.m. every Sunday at 8 School Street. ALL are welcome to attend.

Following the service, we host a time of refreshments where you can get to know other members of our community. We offer many other services throughout the week, so there's something for everyone.

To learn more, call us at (802) 463-4323 or visit us. Also find us on Facebook. We're always happy to

meet new people and welcome them into our church family.

ACTIVITIES

Butterfield Library hours are Mon., Tues. and Thur. 1 - 6 p.m. and Sat 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Westminster West Library Hours Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 1- 6 p.m., Saturday 10 - 2 p.m.

Gentle Yoga with Lisa Nigro
Call Westminster Cares 722-3607

Accessible Yoga Class with Lisa Nigro
Monday's 10-11:15 a.m. Westminster Institute

Living Strong with Ronnie Friedman, Karen Walter
On line - Mondays & Thursdays 722-3607

Tai Chi new beginners' class forming
Tuesday 11 a.m. - noon at Westminster Institute
Call Westminster Cares 802-722-3607

Souper Wednesdays
Homemade soups at Congregational Church Rt. 5
Noon - 2 p.m. By donation
For deliveries Tina 802-376-7330

Putney Contradance
Last Sunday of month at 3 p.m.
Pierce's Hall, 121 East Putney Falls Road
Vaccinations, boosters & K95 masks
contradanceputney@gmail.com

Knitting Together
An Enjoyable Experience! Wednesdays 1- 3 p.m.
Village Square Booksellers, Bellows Falls
Bring your needles, we have yarn and casual instruction - all products donated locally.
Contact: Caroline 802-463-4653

Coffee Mornings - Coffee, Community, Conversation
Westminster West Library, Saturdays from 10 to 2. All welcome, please drop in!

Zumba Fitness at Westminster Institute: Latin and world rhythm music, set to easy-to-follow choreography, with a focus on cardiovascular and muscular conditioning, flexibility, and balance. Hybrid Classes: Tuesdays & Thursdays at 4:30 p.m Pre-registration and status review is required; contact: ZIN Certified Instructor: Pauline Blake O'Brien, 802-376-5397, paulineblakeob@outlook.com.

MEETINGS

Town Clerk - 802-722-4091

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

Conservation Commission meets by ZOOM every 4th Thursday at 7:15 p.m.

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

The American Rescue Plan Act Committee is scheduled to meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Westminster Institute, provided there is content to discuss. Interested community members are encouraged to attend.
Contact pebanik@comcast.net.

The Westminster Fire and Rescue meet on the 1st Tuesday every month, at 7 p.m. and a combined drill on the 3rd Tuesday at the Fire Station. 802-722-3178

911 Committee as needed

Westminster Cares Board 802-722-3607
1st Wed., 4:30 p.m., Westminster Institute on-line & in person

Westminster Historical Society Board
3rd Tuesday, 7 p.m. Town Hall 2nd floor

Westminster Institute Board
2nd Tues. 6:30 p.m., Westminster Institute jimmatteau@gmail.com

Westminster Gazette westminsternews@gmail.com
3rd Monday, 5 p.m., Westminster Institute

Westminster West Library Board 802-387-4682
2nd Wed. 7 p.m. at the WW Library

Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association
3rd Thurs. 7 p.m., Main St. Arts, Saxtons River whpatrails@gmail.com

The Living Earth Action Group
most Fridays at 5 p.m.
Westminster West Congregational Church
Contact: Caitlin Adair pcadair@sover.net

Deadline:

The Deadline for the Feb. 2024 Issue of the Westminster Gazette is Wednesday, Jan. 24 Publication Date is Wednesday, Jan. 31 To Contact the Westminster Gazette E-mail: westminsternews@gmail.com

THE GAZETTE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT OF ITS UNDERWRITERS:

The Cottage by the Brook
Stacey & Tim Allen
Kurn Hattin Homes
Town of Westminster
Westminster Cares
Westminster Fire and Rescue Association
Burtco Inc.
The Dascomb Trust
K Beebe Inc.
American Wealth Adminstration Group

WESTMINSTER GAZETTE

Editor: Robert F. Smith

Board of Directors:
Charmion Handy - Chairwoman
Donna Dawson
Alma Beals - Treas.
Joyce Sullivan - Sec.
Mary Scherbatskoy

Printed by Sentinel Printing, Keene, NH

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

WILLIAM CZAR BRADLEY, GEORGE WASHINGTON, AND OUR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

By Kevin Hughes

We often take for granted that we are the custodians of the oldest Democratic Republic on this planet and with it, the oldest Constitution that goes with that form of government.

On July 4, 1799, William Czar Bradley wrote:

“Let me lead you to consider the situation of our ancestors. They ever were the enemies of tyranny and persecution; and when to shun the devouring jaws of those monsters left their native-country, they sought an asylum in the forests of America.”

We often celebrate July 4, 1776 as the birthday of our Republic, and William Czar Bradley was no stranger to that struggle during his time. I am certain he was also aware of the significance of the year 1783 and the actions taken by then General George Washington of the Continental Army on both March 15, 1783, and Dec. 23, 1783.

This year many American veterans, historians and citizens celebrate one of the most important events that saved our constitutional republic, nearly eight years before the ratification of the American Bill of Rights on Dec. 15, 1791.

On Dec. 23rd of this year, all over this country millions of Americans will remember and celebrate George Washington’s selfless, ethical and tireless service to the country he helped found.

At 555’ tall, the Washington Monument towers over our nation’s capital, and the world’s most powerful instrument of economic interaction, at least as of today, the U.S. dollar, has his picture on it.

We celebrate George Washington for many things and today, no modern politician can remotely close in on what he accomplished. I mean, how many lifetimes would they need?

The Treaty of Paris, that actually ended the American Revolutionary War, was not signed until Sept. 3, 1783, officially bringing King George III, the tyrant king of the 18th Century’s global super power, to heel.

This effort, as any American knows, could not have succeeded without the courageous and dedicated leadership of Washington.

It’s on March 15, 1783, six months before the Treaty of Paris, that we celebrate Washington’s heroic action. This time however, his opponent was not Hessian Mer-

cenaries, British Troops, traitors like Bennedict Arnold, or even the mighty British Navy. No, the threat came from his own officer corps who had not been paid and were still being courted by the likes of Arnold, now a Brigadier General in the British Army.

On March 15, 1783 General Washington’s Officer Corps met him at Newburgh, NY. They had attempted to meet earlier, but Washington asked them for their official audience.

Known as “The Newburgh Conspiracy,” his officers had decided to challenge the authority of the Congress of the American Confederation Government, because they had not been paid, and anger and frustration were mounting over the reckless mismanagement of the young country’s finances.

The officers had already decided to attempt a coup, yet Washington asked for their time.

He gave, arguably, one of the most eloquent speeches any American has ever given. He appealed to their sense of loyalty and the unbelievable hardships they had shared together. When he finished, his officers were not moved at all. The fate of the future United States was in clear jeopardy.

Major John Armstrong, aide to legendary American hero Horatio Gates, wrote the coup letter saying “This is a Country (The American Congress) that tramples upon your rights, disdains your cries and insults your Distress” arguing for a coup to take over the government. He was talking about our own government, not King George.

Ironically, as a formality of protocol, Washington began reading the letter from the Congress to the military, making their excuses for their failure. It is in this very small historical moment that fate or happenstance took over.

Washington’s army had taken many losses, yet he never commanded more than 13,000 troops at one major battle, yet his officer and his soldiers stuck by him.

Finding it difficult to read, the aging leader, in a humble manner struggled to pull his spectacles from his pocket. All of his officers had no idea he had glasses, (Because he never wore them in public before) this shook them to see him in a moment of human frailty.

Washington said plainly: “Gentlemen, you must pardon me. I have grown gray in your service and now find myself also growing blind.”

This simple act completely reversed the mutiny,

many of the officers were so ashamed they openly wept and were all shaken to the core.

Washington finished reading the letter and left, not saying another word. The officers reversed and unanimously voted to submit to the civilian congressional authority, avoiding a military dictatorship.

It takes an amazing amount of earned respect to have achieved such a reversal of fortune.

Washington was not finished, with the army back in his control, he now had one more nearly unprecedented historical moment to save our republic.

King George III, the tyrannical Lord of the planet, was told by American artist Benjamin West that George Washington was going to relinquish control of the American Army to the Civilian Congress, and he apparently said: “If George Washington does that he will be the greatest man in the world.”

On Dec. 23, 1783, a date still celebrated by millions of Americans, George Washington met with Congress, in Annapolis, Maryland and gave the army back to the civilian control of elected representatives.

This moment is captured by Painter John Trumball and hangs in the Capitol Rotunda in Washington D.C.

It also the essence of who we are as a republic, and it connotes a difference in character that has been at the heart of the struggle to preserve the Republic since 1783.

George Washington’s actions in government, remain a constant even today. Washington would also go on to be the country’s first President, not a king, emperor or tyrant, and set an unwritten rule of serving only two terms in elective government, a great example.

Today, both George Washington and William Czar Bradley, are criticized for many reasons. They were greatly criticized in their time as well. So it’s nothing new.

As our first President to ever win the Nobel Prize, Theodore Roosevelt said: “Critics don’t count...they are cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat...and they matter not to the person who is actually in the ring striving for great things even if they come up short.”

Confronting the petty tyrant, and the unsavory vanity and greed of the traitors in government is a standard he set.

Two hundred and fifty years later, I still believe in the bounty of representative government and never shrink from firmly, but always peacefully and with civil persuasion, without exception confront tyrants and thieves at every level of government.

ELECTION AND VOTING INFORMATION

ANNUAL TOWN & FIRE & SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING – MARCH 2, 2024

VOTING BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT– MARCH 5, 2024

ELECTED OFFICIALS WITH TERMS EXPIRING MARCH 5, 2024

POSITION	LENGTH OF TERM	PRESENTLY HELD BY
MODERATOR (Town, Fire)	1 Year	David Major
SCHOOL MODERATOR	1 Year	David Major
SELECTBOARD	3 Years	Jason Perry
SELECTBOARD	2 Years	Kevin Hughes
LISTER	3 Years	Jacklyn Atwood
COMMISSIONER, CAMPBELL FUND	1 Year	Karen Walter
COMMISSIONER, CAMPBELL FUND	1 Year	Nancy Dalzell
COMMISSIONER, CAMPBELL FUND	1 Year	Vacant
TOWN CLERK	3 Years	Pauline O'Brien
TOWN TREASURER	3 Years	Pauline O'Brien
TRUSTEE, CAMPBELL FUND	3 Years	Michael Fawcett
TRUSTEE OF PUBLIC FUNDS	3 Years	Michael Fawcett
UHSD#27 DIRECTOR	3 Years	David Clark
UHSD#27 DIRECTOR - remaining	1 Year	Jamie Storrow
TOWN SCHOOL DIRECTOR	3 Years	Cheryl Charles
TOWN SCHOOL DIRECTOR	2 Years	Karen Blanchard
FIRE DISTRICT #3 PRUDENTIAL	3 Years	Katie Dearborn

Nomination Petitions are ready for those who wish to run for town office. They may be picked up at the Town Clerk's office any weekday between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:00pm.,and must be returned to the Town Clerk's office by 5:00pm on Monday, January 29, 2024 and contain at least 26 valid signatures. Anyone whose name does not appear on the voter checklist should register at the Town Clerk's office.

Why will you be asked which party ballot you would like to vote on this year’s Town Meeting Day?

On Town meeting day, when you go to the polls, you will be voting for local officers as well as for Presidential candidates. Voters do not register their party preference in Vermont, but in the Presidential Primaries, they are asked for their choice of party ballot. Vermont’s Director of Elections and Campaign Finance explains that in 1980 the law was enacted when the Republican and Democratic national parties determined that they were not going to allow states that did not have party registration (open primaries) to participate in the Presidential nomination process. As a compromise, Vermont proposed recording the voter’s choice on the Entrance Checklist. What the parties really are looking for is a way to try to gauge party affiliation. After the Presidential Primary, both parties may request copies of the Entrance Checklist from each town so that they can update their voter files with updated party affiliation data.

In Westminster, this information is not used for any other purpose, or carried forward on the Checklist from year to year. The Entrance Checklist is stored with other election materials for that year, and destroyed after a period of five years from the date of the election, pursuant to Vermont State Archives and Records Administration’ Retention Schedule. For more information, please contact the Town Clerk’s Office (802-722-4091) or Vermont’s Office of the Secretary of State (802-828-2363).

SPRINGFIELD SUPPORTED HOUSING PROGRAMS

YOUR DONATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE.

BE THE CHANGE,
HELP CHANGE A LIFE.

2024 Homelessness Awareness Day: A Day of Action on January 18th 2023, in which we as shelter and service providers, various stakeholders, and community members work to raise community awareness of the homelessness and housing issues facing the people of our state.

Using flags to display the number of persons experiencing homelessness in their region. These flag displays can be further broken down by color to show # of elders, # of adults, and # of children. SSHP will display our display for Windham and Windsor Counties at the Springfield Town Library.

DISTRIBUTION PURPOSE

For individuals and families in our community transitioning into a new home! Your donation helps relieve some of the stress and costs of purchasing new and essential items. Gas and gift cards help with transportation costs and individual needs.

DONATION IDEAS

CASH OR GAS CARDS

We accept cash, regardless of the minimal sum you are able to contribute, to be given to those in need.

ITEMS

Twin Bed in a bag

Twin Mattress Covers

Twin bed frames

Gift Cards

Shower curtains

Bathroom Rug Sets

Silverware sets

Dish Sets


Cook wear set


Potholders


Utensil Kits

Knife set

Paypal Donations








CONTACT TO DONATE: Courtney Campbell 802-885-3034 ex 112 Vista@SSHPVT.org

56 Main Street #208 B Springfield VT -Website: <https://www.sshpvt.org/>

Temple Chiropractic

Supporting the health care needs of the community for the past 35 years

Specialist in the treatment of non-surgical back & neck pain



DR. VERNON R. TEMPLE

Chiropractic Physician

DR. DAVID PARELLA

Chiropractic Physician

102 Saxtons River Road

Bellows Falls, VT 05101

802-463-9522

We accept all Vermont insurance plans including BCBS, CIGNA, MVP and workers injury insurance

S.B. and Company Auctioneers, Antiques

SHARON

BOCCELLI

& COMPANY

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

Streeter L.L.C.
Licensed Electrician
PO Box 206, Westminster, VT 05158
(Building, Remodeling and Repairs)

Cole Streeter **Box 103**
(802)722-3178 **Westminster, VT 05158**

GREATER FALLS INSURANCE
serving VT and NH since 1996

celebrating

20

years

Home • Auto • Farm • Business • Motorcycle • Recreational Vehicles

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




Jessica Fuller
Financial Advisor

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

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

JUDD'S
POWER EQUIPMENT
AND AUTO REPAIRS
802-722-4200



THE CHIMNEY DOCTOR
Chimney & Stove Care
Sweeping • Repair • Installation & Relining
Pellet Stove & Dryer Vent Service
Internal Video Inspection
Ian Conway – Master Sweep
still sweepin' since 1987

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


CCP Master Sweep
www.chimneydoctor.com

Frederick McKenny
1993 Pine Banks Rd
Putney, VT 05346
802 376 7313

fredrockrockshop.com
fredrockrockshop@gmail.com

Open Saturdays
10:00am - 4:00pm

Or for an appointment to
browse or any questions
please call or email.



FRED ROCK'S
Rock Shop

RUGGIERO
TRASH REMOVAL

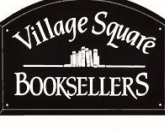
802.869.2235

Box 434, Saxtons River Vermont 05154 Joe 802.384.0397
Jeff 603.209.4441


Village Square BOOKSELLERS

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

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

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

**JANUARY BUSINESS OF THE MONTH:
THE CHIMNEY DOCTOR SAYS GOODBYE!
HAPPY RETIREMENT IAN!**



THE CHIMNEY DOCTOR
Chimney & Stove Care
Sweeping • Repair • Installation & Relining
Pellet Stove & Dryer Vent Service
Internal Video Inspection
Ian Conway – Master Sweep
still sweepin' since 1987

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

CCP Master Sweep
www.chimneydoctor.com

The Chimney Doctor Retires

After 37 years I am hanging up my brushes. It has been a long and enjoyable ride, filled with soot, sweat and smiles.

I've been witness to some of the greatest rooftop views in all of New England.

I will miss all of my wonderful customers, the many cups of coffee and all the wisdom imparted to me. It is time to let younger hands prevail.

I am delighted to be turning over my customer list to the capable skills of Mike Dixon owner of Maple Leaf Chimney Sweep at 802-380-9890 or online at Maple-leafchimney.com.

Thanks to all and...
Sweeps Luck -
Ian

**CALL FOR CLIMATE ECONOMY
RESILIENT COMMUNITIES**

The Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) announces the call for Climate Economy Resilient Communities participants for 2024. Community leaders and volunteers submit a simple online application that will be reviewed on a rolling basis until Jan. 12.

Through the program, VCRD supports three to five communities each year working on local climate action solutions that help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, lower energy use, increase climate resilience, and/or strengthen the local climate economy. Services are adaptable based on the community's needs and can include support with community engagement processes, strategic planning, technical assistance, and project implementation.

"Vermont communities are seeking to become more resilient and thrive in a changing climate. VCRD's Resilient Communities program provides assistance where it is needed the most to move community-defined climate projects to fruition," says Climate Economy Program Manager, Laura Cavin Bailey. "Our services are modified to fit each community to enable action steps and implementation toward their energy reduction and climate resiliency goals."

Resilient Community projects should result in significant carbon reduction, address the needs of low-income household community members, and engage partners willing to assist with implementation. Priority will be given to communities that show a mix of strong collaboration and equitable engagement across diverse stakeholders; increase human, built, and natural resilience; reduce greenhouse gas emissions; strengthen the local climate economy, and can be models for other communities across Vermont.

Projects must have a place-based community as their focus (an individual or group of town(s), village(s), or other municipal entity). Eligible entities include, but are not limited to Town Energy Committees, Energy Coordinators, other municipal leadership, or Climate Catalysts (<https://www.vtrural.org/climate-economy/climate-catalysts-leadership-program/>) leading in their community.

"We were very fortunate to work with VCRD in our town. They gave us the tools we needed to gather a significant portion of our community to discuss issues that are important to us in our town" stated Ryan Haac, the co-chair of the Sharon Connects process. "The feedback from my neighbors was that they felt included, heard, and supported by the professional meeting facilitation and leadership provided by VCRD. Three task groups have been formed and are diligently working toward goals that were deemed important in our community."

For more details and an application visit <http://vtrural.org/climate-economy/climate-economy-resilient-communities/>. Requests to apply must be made no later than Jan. 12, and applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. For questions contact Laura Cavin Bailey, Climate Economy Program Manager, at laura@vtrural.org or (802) 234-1646.



Emily Hartz &
Jonah Mossberg

Earth Bridge Rd,
Westminster West

**Join our
vegetable CSA!**

www.milkweedfarmvt.com

**STILL LOCAL
AFTER ALL THESE YEARS**

Switch to Savings Bank of Walpole's
TRULY FREE local checking.
To open an account online visit
walpolebank.com, or call (603) 352-1822.





Christopher Hinds
LICSW, ACSW

**Free telephone
consultation**

PSYCHOTHERAPY **404-989-4320**
39 The Square,
Suite 201
Bellows Falls, VT
05101

**Adults, Adolescents
Couples**

www.hindstherapy.com On: psychologytoday.com

Harlow Farmstand
Rte. 5 Westminster VT
802.722.3515



**JACKLYN ATWOOD
REAL ESTATE**

JACKIE ATWOOD
616 NEWCOMB ROAD
WESTMINSTER, VT 05346

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

jackieatwoodrealestate@gmail.com

Karen Vedus LMFT
Emotionally Focused Couples Therapy

Westminster, Vermont
802-332-3007
karenveduslmft@buildingbetterbonds.com
www.buildingbetterbonds.com

VT Lic #190.0110621

R . A . M . P .
Rockingham Arts & Museum Project

Since 1996 believing that art makes a difference!

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

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

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

HEIDI BERNIER, CBR
LICENSED VT & NH

**Berkley & Veller
Greenwood Country
Realtors**

Bus. 802-254-6400 x135 • Fax. 802-254-6403
Res. 802-869-2781 • Cell 802-380-1585
www.berkleyveller.com
heidi.bernier@berkleyveller.com
119 Western Avenue, Brattleboro, VT 05301
Offices: Brattleboro, VT • West Dover, VT

Vermont Shepherd Cheese

VISIT OUR FARMSTORE
BETWEEN WESTMINSTER + PUTNEY:
281 Patch Farm Road

SHOP ONLINE:
vermontshepherd.com

**Sheep's milk cheese,
gelato, yogurt,
maple syrup, honey**

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

Andrea Neiley, DVM **Megan Peddigree, VMD**

Kristin Anderson, DVM **Susan Oswald, DVM**

**LAWRENCE & LOBER
ELECTRIC**

www.llelectricservices.com
info@llelectricservices.com

15 Barker St.
Bellows Falls, Vt 05101

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

Cota & Cota

**Your Local Heating
& Cooling Experts**

4 Green Street
Bellows Falls VT

PROPANE GAS • BIO-BLEND HEATING OIL

WWW.COTAOIL.COM (802) 463-0000