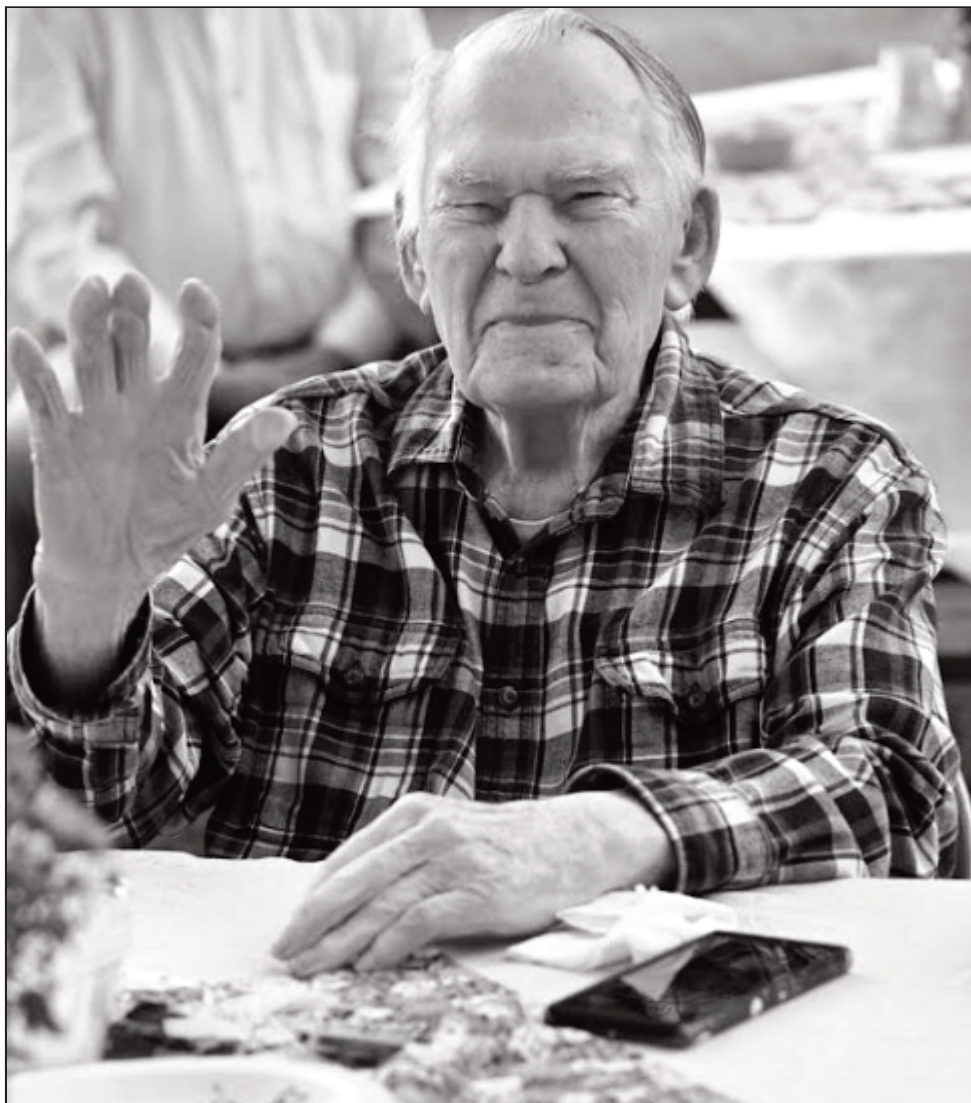


WESTMINSTER CELEBRATES AGING & COMMUNITY



On Sept. 13, Westminster Cares and town residents recognized Westminster’s 90+ year-old citizens during the annual Celebration of Aging.

The weekend before on Sept. 6, Westminster West held its 35th Annual Community Fair with the theme of Homegrown: Celebrating and Protecting Local Farms, Farmers and Farm Workers.

We’re including photos from both events.

The Celebration of Aging was held outdoors, on the back lawn of the Institute with nearly 80 people in attendance including guests of honor, their families, volunteers, board members and members of the community.

The weather cooperated for a beautiful, sunny day to honor our oldest community residents with a presentation and lunch.

The highlight of the event was the presentation by Pete Harrison, vice president, addressing each of the honored guests. The lively presentation included interesting family history; places lived; companies worked for; and stories about their lives in the community.

Westminster currently has (at least) 13 residents who are 90 years of age or older: Bill Smidutz, Alma Beals, Randy Major, Don Nowers, Lucille Donovan, Keith Gallup, Betty Kennedy, Carolyn Muzzey, David Rohn, Gay Jesup and “newcomers” Warren Muzzey,

Marlene O’Connor, and Shirley Frost. This year, 10 residents were able to attend the event. The group’s ages are as follows: three are 90, four are 91, one is 92, one is 93, one is 94, two are 95 and one is 98.

Many attendees and family members had not seen one another in several years and in some cases their friendships go back as far as grade school. They enjoyed reminiscing and catching up on their lives. It was wonderful to witness the strong connections that our community inspires.

Westminster Cares board and committee members decorated tables with mums, gourds and mini-pumpkins. A lunch of corn chowder soup, beef stew and cheese biscuits made using a recipe from Jessie Haas’ new book, “Dearest Blood” was served. For dessert, almond-apple cakes were served with maple whipped cream. (Thank you to Sarah James and Smokin’ Bowls catering for the delicious soup and stew.) Honorees were thanked for their contributions to the community

and given a gift bag with Vermont products to take home.

Next fall we will include anyone born in 1936 or earlier - if that’s you or someone you know, please give a call @ 722-3607 to let us know.

In photos, clockwise from top left, Guest of Honor Keith Gallup with friends at the Celebration of Aging, the BBQ Crew at Westminster West’s Community Fair; Bill Smidutz, one of the town’s 90+ residents; and volunteers at the Community Fair.

Photos courtesy of Ira Wilner and Donna Dawson.

INSTITUTE AND LIBRARY ANNOUNCE FIRST EVER ANNUAL APPEAL

Our first annual appeal for the Westminster Institute and Butterfield Library is underway, and you may receive a request in the mail. Why is your gift so important?

The Westminster Institute and Butterfield Library, built in 1924, has always been an essential gathering place for all town residents. You’ve held many school dances and weddings, birthday parties, classes, community dinners, and meetings here.

It also serves as your town voting space and a designated FEMA Disaster Recovery Center. It’s the home of Westminster Cares and the Westminster Historical Society’s archives. It has an acre of open land for outdoor recreation for community use, including a children’s playground and a gazebo.

The Butterfield Library is the cornerstone of activity at the building, bringing people together. Along with books, your library hosts programs, talks, book groups, a children’s story hour and more. The public computer, wi-fi and printer are well-used.

Now we’re headed into the next 100 years, charting a new future with big plans. And we’re asking you to help us. The cost of upkeep of our historic Colonial-style building has grown over the years.

The building is not owned by the town but operates on an endowment established by George Dascomb along with rental income, continued generous donations from the Dascomb Fund, some town of Westminster funding, and generous individual donations.

Our goal is to assure that the Institute and Library can continue to serve the community for the next 100 years. That’s where you come in. This first annual appeal will



help us maintain our continued financial stability. Any donation, in any amount, helps the Institute become more sustainable and helps support a lively, thriving community center, where everyone is welcome!

If you would like to help support this important public resource, please consider a donation.

All gifts are tax-deductible. Donations may be sent to Westminster East Parish, P.O. Box 93, Westminster, VT 05158. Checks should be made out to Westminster East Parish.

Your donation to the Westminster Institute and Butterfield Library is tax deductible. The parent organization for both the Institute and the Butterfield Library is the Westminster East Parish. Our tax ID number is 03-0185852.

*With great appreciation –
The Institute Board of Directors*

Our Monthly Community Newspaper October 2025 Vol. 21 No. 10

Westminster Gazette

Town of Westminster
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“WE ARE HERE TO SELL COWS” PART II LEVI CHICKERING REMEMBERS WESTMINSTER’S CHICKERING FARM

Part II. The Hands

There were seven auction farmhands who worked to assist in the operation: Fred, Rob, Joe, Harold, Clarence, Ralph, and old John.

Fred was the foreman, a wiry chain smoker who could drive a truck like it was an extension of himself. He also had a legendary knack for "borrowing" tools that somehow never made it back to the toolbox. If tools were ever needed, Fred was the Man. Despite that, Father trusted Fred more than most. If trouble was brewing, Fred could sniff it out.

Rob, who was known for his one-finger hand, worked hard checking on the livestock. He noted existing Tag numbers, and then tagged each animal with a number to keep the ownership records straight for the auction sale. Accounting, always working hard, trying to get the job done. And, if there was a record mix-up, Father would always say, Where's Rob? He was a good guy, I liked him just fine.

Joe was a good man with machinery, running farm



equipment like a professional. He was an all around man when it came to farming. But when the weekend rolled around, Joe was only a five day work week man—but come Monday morning he was always ready to go again.

Harold took care of milking fresh cows and feeding cows, he was also a great fitter of cows for the sale. Though he followed Joe's example too closely when it

came to the weekend. He too was a five day a week man.

Clarence and Ralph were brothers both well into their forties and fifties, and had been working the farm for over 20 years. They lived together in the small Cape house with their housekeeper, ole Millie, a past sister-in-law of Fred. They always spoke and acted like they were part owners of the Farm. They continued until 1968 when they eventually retired to a home across the river in New Hampshire.

Old John, already in his fifties, lived with Rob in a small apartment above the milk house. John was the farm's quiet guardian, keeping an eye on everything and everyone. During Sale Days, he'd help feed the cows in the main barn and brush and clean the main hundred heads that would pass through the auction ring. He supplemented his \$10-a-week salary by selling canes—the "cowman's badge of livelihood," as we like to say. All in all, they were the loyal and ready crew you'd find wherever livestock and hard living went hand in hand.

‘MAN WITH NO COUNTRY’ PAINTING EXHIBIT AT PUTNEY LIBRARY

Man With No Country an exhibition of paintings by Saad Hindal opened Sept. 8th at The Putney Public Library. It will be on exhibit through Nov. 29.

Hindal is an Iraqi-American artist who has 40 years of experience in mixed media including ceramics, murals, architectural design and acrylic painting on canvas and wood.

Saad graduated from the Department of Interior Design at the Institute of Fine Arts in Baghdad, Iraq in 1984. He worked in cinema and theatre, executing many sets in both Iraq and Egypt.

After seeking asylum in the US in the aftermath of Saddam Hussein’s regime, Saad and his young family moved to Concord, NH. He is well known in the Concord area for his community art programs, gallery shows, and street murals.

He has painted many colorful images of Concord, its people and the community. Here are some articles about his work in the area (<https://saadhindalart.com/saad-hindal-murals>)



Saad painted large murals in Aswan and Alexandria, Egypt, where he spent his winters and two full years during the COVID pandemic.

In 2023 he painted a mural at the Bank of America Stage in Concord and is currently planning a mural for the Parks & Recreation Department in Concord, NH.

Saad has worked as an independent artist for many years. As an immigrant and artist, he has struggled to make a living for himself and his family. Since he must create, he has found ways to repurpose or re-paint canvases, frames, furniture and walls.

He scours second-hand stores and yard sales for old paintings that he turns into fresh art. Saad is dedicated to creating colorful and inspiring art to remind people about the beauty of life.

The library is open Monday-Friday 10:30am-6pm and Saturdays from 10am-1pm (November-March Saturday hours are 10am-3pm).



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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

EDS-5422-A AECSPAD 26298214

Nature Notes - Kingfishers

by Alma Beals, Vermont Master Gardener and Naturalist

I was sitting this morning at my favorite swamp, looking around to see what I could see when I heard that familiar clattering rattle. Glancing around I found a kingfisher on the top of a small tree. His prominent perches are on tops of small trees overlooking water or on tops of beaver lodges.

Belted kingfishers are the only kingfishers found in Vermont. A few overwinter here to hold onto choice territories but most return to much of the lower 48 states or to Mexico and Central America by November and return here by early April or May. They don't mate for life but form a pair bond for one breeding season.

Kingfishers have a blue/gray back and shaggy head and white underparts. The males have a blue colored breast band while the females have a rust and a blue band. The babies look similar except they have white spotting on wings and tails.



Kingfisher photos by Don Clark

They fish in the early morning on minnows, aquatic insects, freshwater shrimp, and tadpoles. Other than terns, they are the only small bird that dives headfirst from the air into the water after hovering. When he gets a fish, he holds the very wiggly fish crosswise in his bill, bangs it hard against a branch to stop it from



wiggling, then throws it in the air, catching it by the head and swallowing it headfirst. I have never been near enough to see this happen but can imagine it.

Kingfishers nest in early May in burrows which are long tunnels with a big space at the end, built three to six feet into a sandy bank and one to three feet from the top of the bank. The burrow may be up to a mile away from water. The sites are free of vegetation and have a dead tree nearby so the kingfishers can watch the nest. Both male and female dig the nest using their bills and pulling the dirt back out with their feet when

they change shifts. The six eggs are laid, and the young are raised in the dark not seeing daylight until they fledge.

The next time you go to a marsh, listen for that clattering rattle to enjoy a kingfisher like I do.

WESTMINSTER SAMPLER - ANNUAL MEETING, BLACK HISTORY



The Historical Society will hold its annual meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 15, at the Westminster West church. We'll start at 7 p.m. with a brief business meeting. Following that, local historian and archaeologist Gail Golec will present a talk, Recovering Black History in Westminster, VT: Remembering the Brooks and Reed Families.

Human history in New England goes back well over 12,000 years. However, familiar historical narratives of our towns are uneven and selective, usually covering only the last 400 years and centered around the white Anglo-American settlers. Missing from our local histories are the life-stories and contributions of Black People who are also part of these communities.

Reconstructing their narratives is difficult but there are clues spread throughout documents and stories, highlighting Indigenous and Black People as neighbors, friends, church members, land owners, veterans, farmers, musicians, trades people and thus integral to small-town New England life.

Westminster has a uniquely rich Black history for the region because of the Brooks/Reed's; a large ex-

tended family whose presence in Westminster spans some 100+ years, beginning with the town's early Colonial settlement and extending into the early 20th century. Two members of the Brooks family, James and William, are among the Westminster men who served in the Union army during the Civil War. Both suffered for their service, with wounds and illness, and both were honored, being members of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) in Bellows Falls.

The GAR was a fraternal organization founded in 1866. Veterans of the United States Army, Navy, and Marines joined to form what Stuart McConnell, author of *Glorious Contentment: The Grand Army of the Republic, 1865-1900*, has called "the most powerful single-issue political lobby of the late nineteenth century, securing massive pensions for veterans and helping to elect five postwar presidents from its own membership.

To its members, it was also a secret fraternal order, a source of local charity, a provider of entertainment in small municipalities, and a patriotic organization." There were thousands of "posts," (local groups) across the North and West. The GAR was the first organized



advocacy group in the history of American politics.

A particular focus was gaining voting rights and military pensions for Black veterans. They also pushed for military pensions generally, helped elect five Republican presidents, and were instrumental in making Memorial Day a national holiday. The GAR did not disband until 1956, with the death of its last member.

The talk will be held upstairs at the Westminster West church. In the cemetery there, across the road from the church, is the grave of another Black Westminster resident, Asenath Dolby, who died in 1857, aged 97. Her tombstone reads, "A slave by birth, a useful free woman in adult life."

Follow our Facebook page, Westminster Vt Historical Society, for any updates on this event. We'll have our books for sale, and you can join or renew your membership. Many thanks to the church for hosting us. We've had such great support from the western half of town over the past few years that we wanted to acknowledge it by bringing our annual meeting over the hill.

Left photo, workers at the Henry Wood Mill in Westminster Station around 1895, including workers from local Black families; right photo, Gail Golec.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE

The Westminster Fire & Rescue Department holds their monthly meetings at 7 p.m. on the 1st Tuesday of the month and a combined drill on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Rescue training is the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

Next association meeting Tuesday, Oct. 7 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.

Unless otherwise called for a special meeting, the Prudential Committee meets on the 3rd Sunday of every month at the Fire House on Grout Ave at 10 a.m.

Next prudential meeting Oct. 19.
Number of calls in August: 36
Number of calls through September 25th: 33
Number of calls calendar year to date: 386
Number of calls fiscal year, July 1st to date: 119

Association Meeting: The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association met for their regular meeting Tuesday September 2, 2025, with President J.T. Tabolt presiding. There were 25 members present and 3 excused. Currently there are 48 members of the volunteer fire department.

No Burn Alert: The state of Vermont has issued no burn order for the state of Vermont until further notice.

Chimney: Before you fire up your wood stove or furnace, take a look up your chimney or hire a professional to see if it needs cleaning or something has built a nest in it and plugged it up .Every year it seems a home is damaged or completely destroyed due to an avoidable chimney fire.

Emergency off- road: The 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 are willing and able to 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.

Emergency responses: August turned out to be another very busy month with 36 calls for the month. Here is the breakdown. 26 rescue/medical calls; 1 motor vehicle accident; 1 lift assist; 2 false alarm/ alarm sounding; 5 mutual aid calls, 2 Dummerston, 1 to Walpole, 2 to

Keene.

Fire prevention week: There will be an open house at the fire house on Grout Ave Friday October 10th for fire prevention week from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

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

Unless otherwise designated, all memorial and honorary donations go into our scholarship fund to be given out at graduation.

Open donations are also appreciated: Send donation to:

Westminster Fire & Rescue Association
PO Box 111 Westminster, VT 05158
Donations received in September:
Mary E. Stanton
Mark Steinhart and Barbara Sherrod
Bruce Mickle

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.

SMALL TOWN MAGIC

by Don Dawson

I was raised in a small town where you knew everyone who lived within twenty blocks of your house. You played on the same baseball teams. You rode the same school bus. You attended the same schools, the same churches and you shopped at the same stores. When someone new moved into the neighborhood, it became a neighborhood event.

One block over from where we lived, there was a gregarious old soul named Mr. Kaufman. He exists on the very fringe of my memory as I was only 7 or 8 at the time. But I remember him well for a number of reasons.

He was one of the happiest spirits you'd ever want to meet. He was a short-ish man with thick glasses, rail thin and a laugh that would make you smile or join him in his laughter, without even knowing what the joke might have been.

He had become a grandfather to many kids that never knew elders could be such wonderful beings.

My grandparents were cut from the "children are to be seen and not heard" cloth. Fear was one of the first emotions I remember experiencing when I was informed that "Pop" was coming for a visit.

Although, my fraternal grandmother was a treasure, just not in the traditional warm and fuzzy model.

While playing in the street one day, Mr. Kaufman came out to get his mail and the all the neighborhood kids came a running. Cheers, hellos, shouts of "do a magic trick" came from the gaggle of sweaty boys and girls gathering.

Quickly calming the small crowd, Mr. Kaufman reached into his pocket and pulled out a quarter. He said, "I need a volunteer" and I quickly stepped forward. He held the quarter aloft as if he had just unearthed Excalibur. He asked everyone if they saw the quarter and everyone softly said that they could. He brought the quarter close to my face and said, "Do you see it?" I exclaimed, "Yes I did." And with a masterfully deceptive hand, he lifted the quarter, grasped it his other hand, asked me to recite the magic words (always a mystifying trick for a 7 year old) and then dramatically unfurled his fingers to reveal that the quarter had disappeared.

Squeals of delight rippled through his captivated

audience. Of course, the obvious question was "Where did it go?" but Mr. Kaufman was a most accomplished performer. He just shrugged his shoulders and started to turn to go inside. Curiosity slowly began to wane and a few of the kids started to wander off. He suddenly stopped and looked at me. He grabbed me by the shoulder and said, "What's that behind your ear?"

Stunned as if he had pulled Mickey Mantle from my ear, there was the quarter. He presented me with the quarter and walked back into his house. I'm sure I stood there, awestruck, for days (most likely only a few minutes, however, I was mesmerized). What kind of wizard had just extracted currency from my person?

I then started to visit Mr. Kaufman regularly. Obviously, the first thing I asked him was, "Could he teach me that quarter trick." But as any good magician would, he demurred. He did, however, inform me that he played clarinet. He had heard through the grapevine, which was our small neighborhood, that I was taking guitar lessons.

He took out his clarinet and I quickly became enchanted by his musicality. Clearly cut from another time, this renaissance man, entranced my youthful heart and along with the Beatles, made me want to make music for all my days.

Looking back on the few moments this kind old soul shared in my life, it struck me how important that time was for me. So much has changed since then. Elders today often do not have the same standing in the family tree - and that is an immeasurable loss. But all of us, regardless of our age and relationship, can be that "grandparent" to a younger person.

Many of you certainly already are.....to a whole generation. And many of you are probably a great-grandparent (yes that is a double-entendre) and that's wonderful all on its own. I like to think that I carry a little Mr. Kaufman in my spirit. In these truly unique times, we need all the Mr. Kaufmans that time will allow.

Share your laugh. Help where you can and smile! It can be contagious.

One final note - before Mr. Kaufman moved, which was only a few short months after I recall meeting him, he taught me the quarter trick. I can still do it, horribly as I'm sure many grandfathers and uncles can.

WALPOLE CROP HUNGER WALK

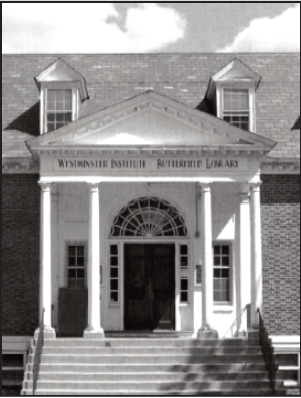
The Walpole CROP Hunger Walk will take place on Saturday, Oct.11 on the Walpole Common starting at 9:15 a.m.

Join us on the 5K walk and make a donation online at crophungerwalk.org/walpolenh. Ask your friends and family to donate to CROP Walk too! Be part of this fundraising drive to help end hunger one step at a time.

These walks began over 50 years ago to support the mission of Church World Service, a faith based organization transforming communities around the world and in the US through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster.

One-quarter of the money raised by the Walpole CROP Walk will go to the Fall Mountain Food Shelf.

OCTOBER AT THE BUTTERFIELD LIBRARY



Happy October, Westminster!

While I know it's a scientific process (and a bit of an art), composting seems to me like a kind of magic. Luckily for me (and you, if you're also compost-curious) Alex Lacy, Outreach Coordinator with the Windham Solid Waste Management District, will demystify the process of composting at home - on October 21 at 6pm at the library. Learn about what to put in (and what to leave out of) your compost, and also about the difference between backyard composting and the way the pros do it. Bring your questions, you know I'll bring all mine!

This event is intended to launch in earnest the Butterfield Library seed library: a resource for gardeners,

budding and expert alike, to pick up (or drop off) free seeds. We're currently in collecting mode, so if you'd like to contribute to this effort, feel free to bring leftover seeds from this past growing season anytime the library is open (or at the composting event!) We would also gladly take any seeds that you've been able to save from your successful plants this season. Stop by or call for more information.

Last month, each grade from the Westminster Center School walked over to the library for a quick field trip. It was a delight to meet so many of Westminster's youngest and hear their impressions of the space (many appreciated the gorgeous woodwork!) Each child was sent home with a blank library card - families, stop back by the library to fully sign up your child (and you) for a free library account! If the card has been lost in the shuffle, I'll be very happy to give you a replacement. Thank you so much to Jennie Perry and Mandy Walsh for making this happen!

Hope to see you in the library soon!

REMEMBRANCES

SEPTEMBER 2025:

PEARSON HILL "RED" DAWKINS JR., 90
6/17/1935 - 9/19/2025
RECENTLY SPRINGFIELD, FORMERLY WESTMINSTER, VT

RICHARD GAY, 91
6/10/1934 - AUGUST 2025
WESTMINSTER AND BELLOWS FALLS, VT

JAMES "JIMMY" GORDON, 65
3/3/1960 - 8/1/2025
BELLOWS FALLS, VT

MONICA MAE MORRIS (HUTCHINS), 75
1/30/1950 - 8/17/2025

HENRIETTE VAN OORD SWARTZ, 94, 9/22/1930 - 9/11/2025
WESTMORELAND, NH
FORMERLY WESTMINSTER, VT

MARTHA "MARTY" VANOOT, 73
11/13/1951 - 8/17/2025
ORLEANS, MA
FORMERLY WESTMINSTER, VT

WCC BIRDING EVENT OCTOBER 3RD

The Westminster Conservation Commission, Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA), and the Windham County Natural Resources Conservation District invite everyone to join them for a birding event on Friday, Oct. 3 from 8 to 10 a.m. at SEVCA, 91 Buck Drive, in Westminster.

This event celebrates a collaborative project between the three groups to protect and restore water quality in the adjacent Henwood Hill Marsh.

Windham NRCD will be working with SEVCA to complete initial site assessment and analysis activities in order to identify a set of potential practices which may include planting native vegetation, restoring wetland areas through plantings and earthwork and installing green stormwater infrastructure such as permeable pavers at the SEVCA site. The final set of practices will be developed in consultation with SEVCA and the results of engineering studies.

The area is well known as a haven for both resident and migrating birds. Helping to identify birds in the area will be WCNRCDC Executive Director Cory Ross, and SEVCA Weatherization Director Victor Baisley. Ross spent 11 years teaching band and choir in Michigan, before his growing passion for the environment and conservation issues led him to return to school.

He has worked on a variety of research projects, including banding migrating birds in Northern Ontario, helping to study the impacts of climate change and sea level rise on the declining saltmarsh sparrow in Connecticut and studying the fire ecology of the black-backed woodpecker in Oregon. He has worked for the WCNRCDC since 2019 and is also a board member for the Southeastern Vermont Audubon Society.

Vic Baisley earned a degree in zoology from the University of Maine and has built a career that bridges field biology and building science.

His experience includes conducting bat surveys along the Maine coast, researching the links between small mammals and water quality in the Catskills, and managing a research field station in the Maya Mountains of Belize.

He joined SEVCA in 2012 and now directs its weatherization program, which focuses on reducing home energy consumption and costs, and improving health and safety. Outside of work, he enjoys traveling, playing hockey, and watching birds.

Please bring binoculars, and wear waterproof shoes or boots. Poison ivy and ticks are possible so wear long pants as well!

Participants MUST register for this event by emailing the Westminster Conservation Commission at westministervtconservation@gmail.com.


The event is rain or shine, but heavy rain may cancel. Registrants will be contacted in case of cancellation.

WC SEEKS NEW DIRECTOR

Westminster Cares, a community-based non-profit providing services for seniors and adults with disabilities, is seeking a part-time Director.

Responsibilities include oversight of programs and services including meals on wheels, rides, healthy aging programs, volunteer coordination, and community engagement. The Director oversees fundraising activities including events, the Annual Appeal and local grants. They also help to ensure operational efficiency and financial sustainability in collaboration with the Board.

For more information contact westminstercaresvt@gmail.com.



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CORRECTION ON LAST MONTH’S CVO ARTICLE



There was a factual error in the Orchard Master article in the September edition of the Westminster Gazette. The error is the first sentence in the second paragraph which reads as follows: “The Allen Family founded the Connecticut Valley Orchard 113 years ago.”

In fact, George Dascomb, a highly regarded and respected member of the Westminster community, founded the Connecticut Valley Orchard 113 years ago.

Dascomb died on Sept. 3, 1934. Following his death, the Dascomb Trust took over management of the orchard until it ceased operation in the early 1960’s. The property was broken up and sold off mainly as residential properties.

The large cold storage building was bought by an out of state fruit company who used it as storage for a few years. To learn more about this and other pieces of West-

minster history, please read “History of Westminster” by M. Elizabeth Minard, copyright 1941. It includes a biography of George Dascomb and three pages on the Connecticut Valley Orchard.

Thanks to Cliff Wood and Kathy Lisai for providing the clarification on this topic, and sharing these historic photos of the CV Orchard.

WESTMINSTER HAPPENINGS

WE’RE ALWAYS UPDATING THE HAPPENINGS ENTRIES. PLEASE LET US KNOW WHEN THINGS CHANGE OR WHEN SOMETHING SHOULD BE ADDED OR REMOVED. THANK YOU!

FAITH COMMUNITY

The First Congregational Church of Westminster

The First Congregational Church of Westminster on Rt 5 in Westminster welcomes you to join us

Oct 1st. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. in the hall and Zoom

Oct 5th Sunday worship at 10 a.m.

Oct 7th women's Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Hall and Zoom

Oct 8th Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Hall and Zoom

Oct 12th Sunday Worship with Communion at 10

Oct 12th Special Congregation Meeting regarding approval of project after Church in Hall

Oct 19th Sunday Worship at 10 a.m.

Oct 20th Standing Committee 5:30 p.m. Hall and Zoom

Oct 22nd Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Hall and Zoom

Oct 26th Sunday Service 10 a.m.

Oct 31st Trunk or Treat in Church Parking lot. Set up at 5. Start at 5:30 p.m.

Each Sunday we have a interactive Children's message and a fellowship hour in the hall following the service. We are a growing congregation and would invite you to join us! Rev. Rich O'Donnell serves as Pastor.

The Congregational Church of Westminster West

Worships every Sunday at 10 a.m. We are using Facebook Live to stream our weekly services. 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.

As we seek a settled pastor through our search and call process, we will not be able to offer office hours as usual, but the Deacons (Karen Blanchard, Charlotte Gifford, Ray Huessy, Adrienne Major and Sue Venman) are available to support the congregation.

You can leave a message on the church number (802-387-1175) or you can contact a deacon directly. For all questions of church building use, please contact Tom Griffith (tgriffith@hilltopmontessori.org)

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.

Putney Friends Meeting - Quakers

17 Bellows Falls Rd (Rt 5) just north of Putney Village. Sunday worship at 8:30 and 10:30, Intergenerational Singing at 10. All are Welcome! Check www.putneyfriendsmeeting.org for more information.

ACTIVITIES

Butterfield Library hours are Mon. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Tues. 3-8 p.m. and Thur. 1-6 p.m. Sat. 10:30 a.m. - 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 Monday's 10:30-11:45 a.m. at the Westminster Institute

This is an all levels class with a focus on building strength, increasing range of motion and flexibility, and improving balance. All poses can be modified to be either more accessible or more challenging.

Radiance Yoga: A slow Yoga fusion class with focus on immune and nervous systems, balance, ways of breathing, deep relaxation for over all health. At Westminster West Congregational Church, 44 Church St. Thursdays, 9:30-10:45 a.m. \$15 per class or \$54 for 4 classes (paid for month). Instructor is Elizabeth Bunker, shimmerez@gmail.com. Call for further info : 603 835-2900, text 978 793-2256.

Living Strong Classes with Ronnie Friedman, Karen Walter Online - Mondays & Thursdays 722-3607

Tai Chi Class Tues. 9:45 a.m.-10:45 a.m. Class Tues. 11 a.m.-noon Class Thursday 6-7 p.m. Westminster Institute

Souper Wednesdays

Homemade soups at Congregational Church Rt. 5 January through April 12-2 p.m. For deliveries Tina 802-376-7330

East Putney Contradance at Pierce's Hall - 121 East Putney Falls Road off Rt. 5 (look for the signs) Sept. 27 kicks off a new season of dancing at Pierce's Hall on the last Saturday of every month!

6 p.m. - Family Hour with Dancing for all ages -- followed by a half-hour break with snacks

7:30 - Contra Dance (starting with instructions for beginners) 9:30 - Last Waltz

Stay in touch at eputneypierceshall@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. 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 Tuesdays 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 7 p.m. alternating between Westminster West Library and the Westminster Institute. To attend via Zoom,contact westminstervtconservation@gmail.com.

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

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

Second Thursday, 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. In-person or Zoom

Contact: coordinator@windmillhillpinnacle.org

The Living Earth Action Group most Fridays at 5 p.m. Westminster West Congregational Church

Contact: Caitlin Adair pcadair@sover.net

WVFD Prudential Committee meets on the 3rd Sunday of the month, at 10 a.m. at the Westminster Fire Station.



WESTMINSTER GAZETTE

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Alma Beals - Treas.

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Mary Scherbatkoy

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westminsternews@gmail.com

November Deadline

The deadline for the Nov. 2025 Issue of the Westminster Gazette is Wednesday, Oct. 22

Publication Date Is Wed. Oct. 29

To Contact the Westminster Gazette

E-mail: westminsternews@gmail.com

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WESTMINSTER’S OWEN SCHUH ON VISUAL RESEARCH OF MATHEMATICS

On Thursday, Oct. 9 at 6:30 p.m. visual artist Owen Schuh of Westminster will discuss his work collaborating directly with mathematician Prof. Satyan Devadoss (University of San Diego, CA) for more than a decade.

Schuh is a painter who specializes in visual research of mathematics. His paintings are structured with mathematical functions, data sets and iterations. Schuh works in intricate notebooks, and accomplishes his work by hand, using pencils, paint, a compass, and

the occasional aid of a pocket calculator.

He earned his BA from Haverford College in Philadelphia, PA (’04) and his MFA from The Tyler School of Art (’07). He has exhibited throughout the United States and Europe. His work is included in the collections of the Kupferstichkabinett in Berlin, and the Flaten Art Museum in Northfield, MN.

Since 2014, Schuh has been collaborating directly with Dr. Devadoss, which has significantly shifted the artist’s studio focus in recent years. Their 2015 project

entitled ‘Cartography of Tree-space’ culminated in an international exhibition (Berlin & Pasadena, CA) and an article published in the journal *Leonardo*.

Schuh’s writing and painting have also appeared in the Journal of Mathematics and the Arts. He was the recipient of a 2024 Creation Grant from the Vermont Arts Council, with which he produced a serigraph edition as part of his most recent collaboration.

He currently resides in Westminster with his wife, Candace Jensen. Together in 2021, they founded and continue to run the nonprofit arts residency and eco-cultural catalyst, In Situ Polyculture Commons.

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



**OCTOBER
DIAPER DRIVE**



HELP US SUPPORT LOCAL FAMILIES

Drop off diapers all month long at:

Parks Place

Westminster Fit Body Boot Camp

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Savings Bank of Walpole

Rockingham Free Public Library

MORE WAYS TO DONATE

RAKE IN THE DIAPERS

October 9 | 12:00 - 6:00pm

Dari-Joy parking lot



MOVIE THEATER BONUS

Bring diapers during any regular showing & get 4 FREE tickets to Classic Movie Night!



ALL SIZES NEEDED
(MOST NEEDED: 5, 6, 7 & PULL-UPS)
WIPES TOO!

GRANGE HALLOWEEN PARTY



The Fire Department in Westminster welcomes trick or treaters and, this year Westminster West is reviving the annual Halloween party at the Grange.

Everyone is invited to bring a carved pumpkin to display.

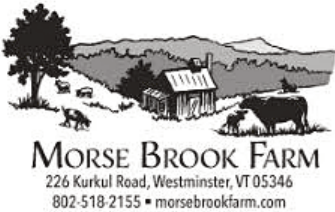
The fun will begin at 4:30 p.m. with a "costume runway" at 5 as a chance to celebrate all ages and costumes. Pizza, popcorn, butternut soup and macaroni and cheese will be there along with cider, butter beer (think Harry Potter) and hot chocolate will offer some warmth and energy for trick or treating.

Everyone is welcome!



Open Farm Saturday October 11, 2025 Noon to 4 pm

Meet the Fall Lambs!
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OCTOBER BUSINESS OF THE
MONTH: VILLAGE SQUARE
BOOKSELLERS



Village Square Booksellers in downtown Bellows Falls continues to grow and offer new wonders for children and adults. The downstairs level is fully open again for the first time in decades and stocked out with toys and games. You must see it to believe it. Owners Myles and Jon wanted to create the kind of toy store they would have loved to have growing up, and it shows.

With the expanded toy and game offerings moved downstairs there is a lot more room upstairs. The store continues to operate as a full-service bookstore – taking orders every day if it is not currently on shelf - and the book departments have been reorganized to make browsing simpler and more comfortable. All the books, stationery, journals and many unique gifts remain upstairs along with everything for babies and young toddlers, so the carriage doesn't have to go downstairs! Accessibility is important to the store and staff will help explain, picture and even bring merchandise upstairs to the customer whenever possible.

You can reach out to the store via phone or their website, www.villagesquarebooks.com for more information such as events and suggestions. The staff is ready to help you find what you're looking for. Did we mention the store still offers free gift-wrapping year round? Village Square Booksellers looks forward to another 30 years of reading and play with you all! Village Square Booksellers has been proud to have been a part of this community for so long and we plan on being here for the next 30 years.

PARKS PLACE HOSTS COM-
MUNITY HALLOWEEN EVENT



Parks Place at 44 School Street Extension in Bel-
lows Falls is hosting a Trunk or Treat on Thursday, Oct.
30 starting at 4:30 p.m. Local businesses and organizations are being asked to host a decorated trunk or table where they can hand out candy and information about themselves and what they do. Wearing costumes is encouraged. Local groups can sign up for the event by emailing director@parksplacevermont.com.



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