

Westminster Gazette



po box 147 westminster vt 05158

Our Community Newspaper @ www.westminstervt.org Vol 22 No 2 February 2026

MICHELLE ARON NAMED WESTMINSTER CARES DIRECTOR

The new director of Westminster Cares is a hometown girl: Michelle Aron grew up on the flats in Westminster Station and has many connections here.

After moving to Boston for college and staying in the city many years, Michelle is back in town with an important new position. She succeeds Donna Dawson, who is retiring after 13 years leading the nonprofit organization.

Michelle brings to her job a passion for community building and helping folks find useful resources. "I love being part of a community no matter where I am, in work and in extra-curricular activities, getting to know my neighbors, going to community events, volunteering. Even in Boston I knew all my neighbors."

She has always worked for nonprofit and human service organizations, often in management roles that supported adults with disabilities. A year and a half ago, she moved back to Westminster to be closer to family and began work with another human service agency.

"I wasn't necessarily searching for another job at this time, but then friends and family started emailing me about Westminster Cares." Michelle says, "I know Westminster Cares because my aunt and my grandmother were both volunteers, and various family



members have benefited from their help."

Another connection: Michelle's grandfather, Hollis Rhodes, was once a town constable, took care of Westminster cemeteries, and was caretaker for the Westminster Institute for some time.

She has a few challenges to tackle: recruiting new board members and expanding programs are at the top

of the list. And she hopes to get to know the community again after having been away for years.

She plans to spend her spare time outdoors hiking, swimming, camping, and being with her eight-year-old son, also an outdoors guy. "My son is a big part of the reason we moved back," Michelle says, "He's thriving in the Vermont air!"

"We're really excited that Michelle accepted the position," commented outgoing director Donna Dawson. "She brings with her a wealth of skills and expertise from various positions within the human services field; among them non-profit management, program administration, budgeting, grant writing, recruitment and training, event planning and direct client services. Her experience and her warm, welcoming demeanor combined with her knowledge of the community make her a natural fit to lead the organization."

Come and meet Michelle at a welcoming open house, 3-6 p.m. Friday, February 20.

Westminster Cares is a nonprofit organization, formed in 1988, helping seniors and disabled adults remain healthy and independent in the community.

In photo, Michelle Aron, new Director of Westminster Cares.

WINTER SPORTS PROGRAM AT WCS

As winter settles in, students at Westminster Center School are making the most of the season through the school's exciting winter sports program. From skiing or snowboarding at Okemo Mountain, swimming at the Edgar May Rec Center, ice skating at Vermont Academy, or staying at WCS for winter adventure, students are staying active while building confidence, teamwork, and perseverance.

The program offers students the opportunity to try new skills, challenge themselves, and enjoy the outdoors in a safe and supportive environment. For many, it's a chance to discover a new passion; for others, it's an opportunity to strengthen skills they already love.

Beyond physical fitness, the winter sports program emphasizes important life skills such as responsibility, cooperation, and resilience.

Teachers and staff have been impressed by students' enthusiasm and willingness to support one another as they learn and grow.

Westminster Center School's winter sports program continues to be a highlight of the season, helping students stay active, engaged, and connected during the colder months.



WHAT FUTURE FOR THE NORTH WESTMINSTER COMMUNITY HOUSE?

By John Ewald

Last year at Town Meeting, Article 18, "Shall the voters of the Town of Westminster allow the select board to offer for public sale, the property known as "North Westminster Community House" to be used exclusively as residential housing?", was on the warning.

When I made a motion to have this article tabled to town meeting 2026, the residents agreed and motion passed. As a result, this article will again be on the warning at Town Meeting on Saturday, Feb. 28, 2026 at the BFUHS.

My reasons for the motion to table are many:

There was no public hearing on the matter.

Most North Westminster residents were unaware of

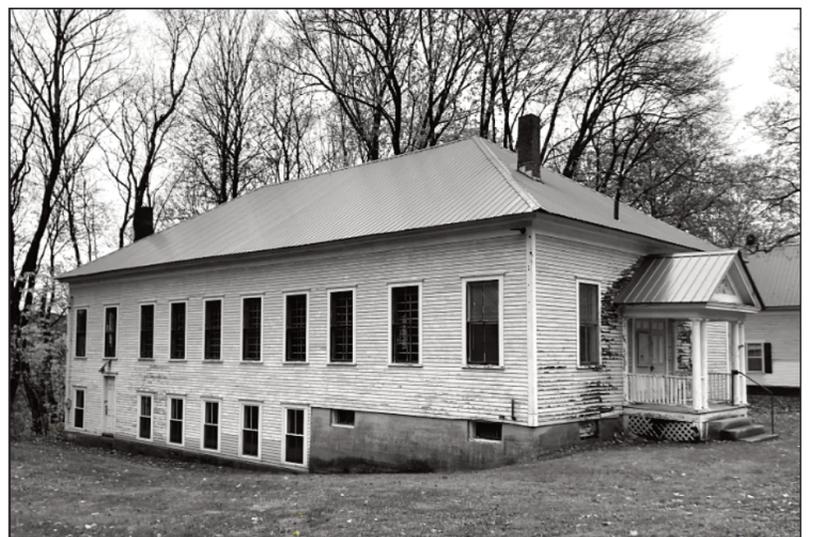
this action.

There is a group of volunteers that have worked with the Fire Marshall and made plans and drawings to get this historical building up and running.

This year, this group of volunteers, "The friends of the North Westminster Community House," attended a Selectboard meeting to communicate our goals. They gave us approval to come up with a plan for its use.

The Vermont Preservation Trust was contacted and we met with them at the Community House. Their response and advice was "this building is really a gem and one worthy of preservation and continued use." They offered assistance and support.

The neighborhood was surveyed to gauge interest in this project. Residents surrounding the Community House are all in favor of the renovation and believe that it is and should continue to be a valuable resource. Open houses were conducted numerous times through-



out the year to give residents an opportunity to view this beautiful historical structure and review our plans. Many shared their memories over the years. We would love to hear more!

Please visit our website at: savethecommunity-house.com to view our plan.

In photo, the North Westminster Community House.

WESTMINSTER TOWN MEETING 2026

FLOOR VOTE

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2026
AT BELLOWS FALLS UNION HIGH
SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - 10:00 AM**

AUSTRALIAN BALLOT

**TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026
AT THE WESTMINSTER INSTITUTE
3534 US ROUTE 5, WESTMINSTER
8:00 AM TO 7:00 PM**

MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2026

**LAST DAY TO FILE PETITIONS WITH
THE TOWN CLERK**

**SIGNED BY AT LEAST 5% OF THE
REGISTERED VOTERS (125) FOR
ARTICLES TO BE INCLUDED ON TOWN
MEETING WARNING**

MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2026 - 5:00PM

**LAST DAY TO FILE WITH THE TOWN
CLERK NOMINATING PETITIONS SIGNED
BY AT LEAST 1% OF THE REGISTERED
VOTERS (25) FOR TOWN OFFICES**

TO BE VOTED ON BY

**AUSTRALIAN BALLOT ON
TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026.**

**CONSENT OF CANDIDATE FORM MUST
ALSO BE SUBMITTED.**

Our Monthly Community Newspaper February 2026 Vol. 22 No.2

Westminster Gazette

Town of Westminster
PO Box 147
Westminster, VT
05158

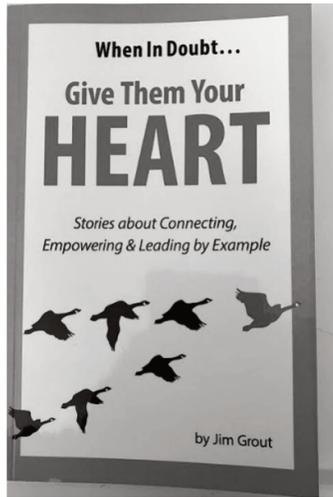
**DELIVER TO ADDRESSEE OR
CURRENT RESIDENT**

Pre-Sorted Standard
U.S. Postage

Paid

Westminster, VT
PERMIT NO. 3

NEWS FROM THE BUTTERFIELD LIBRARY



Here at the library we are celebrating the release of Jim Grout's new book, *When in Doubt... Give Them Your Heart: Stories about Connecting, Empowering & Leading By Example*.

Jim is not only the Institute board president and a member of the library committee,

but also the Founding Director of High 5 Adventure Learning Center in Brattleboro. Join Jim here at the Institute on Tuesday, Feb. 24 at 4:30 p.m. to learn more about his book and his leadership work involving young people, educators, professional sports teams, and audiences around the globe.

We are also thrilled to be sharing hosting duties of the SuperLocal film festival: head to the Westminster West Library on Sundays at 3 or the Institute on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 to see a really excellent lineup of films made in the area, about people in the area. The festival begins at WWL on Feb 8th and runs through the month.

If you've ever wanted to learn to knit or crochet, you're in luck! We will be hosting workshops for all ages and levels on Thursdays from 2-4 in February (pop in anytime), with all materials provided. Partic-

ipants will make small swatches, which they will be encouraged to donate back to the library for fashioning into warm accessories to donate to our friends 69a in Brattleboro. Folks who already have these skills are very welcome to join us and contribute to the collection for donation (or bring in swatches on your own time).

We are also launching a monthly drop-in craft in the children's room — this month, make bookmarks out of recycled catalog cards using stamp and inkpads! Materials will always be out and available.

And as always, our book club (come talk about whatever you've been reading lately) happens on the third Tuesday of the month, always at 5 p.m. It's a really great crew.

Thanks for reading! I hope to see you in the library soon.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER CARES

The Westminster Cares Board of Directors met Thursday January 8th at 4:30PM at the Westminster Institute with President Lori Larue presiding. The following board members attended: Vice President Pat Goodell, Treasurer Frannie Waldron, Secretary Doug Oftedahl, Don Dawson, Cindy Moses, out-going Director, Donna Dawson and in-coming Director, Michelle Aron.

The board welcomed, Michelle Aron as the recently hired Director. There will be a transition period during January and February with both Donna and Michelle working together.

Board members also discussed plans to move into a larger office space at the Institute.

OPEN HOUSE, WELCOME & FAREWELL: On Friday, February 20th, from 3pm-6pm there will be an Open House at the Institute. The community is invited to meet Michelle Aron, the new Director; say farewell to Donna Dawson as she retires; and see our new office space. We will be serving appetizers, desserts and refreshments ~ please join us!

SOUPS & SPEAKERS: Westminster Cares will host the 4th Wednesday of each month, from 12-2pm at the First Congregational Church's SOUPer Wednesday this winter. Our volunteers will make soups and desserts and provide a speaker on the following dates: 1/28, 2/25, 3/25 and 4/29 Anyone in the community is welcome to attend.

ELDER TECH: Do you have questions about a device? [laptop, cell phone, smart phone] The next Elder Tech session is scheduled for Saturday, February 21st from 9 a.m. to noon at the Westminster Institute. If

you'd like to make an appointment for a one-on-one session, please call the office at (802) 722-3607. (Open to Westminster residents, 60 and older.)

ANNUAL APPEAL UPDATE: We are truly appreciative of the support received so far from individuals, families and businesses in our community. Your contributions enable us to continue to provide programs and services to older adults in our community. Every gift counts!

The following list is for donations made in someone's honor or memory.

Donations Received through January 22nd, 2026

HONORARY:

In honor of all the Westminster Cares volunteers from Joyce Sullivan; Kathleen Pirruccello

In honor of Donna Dawson from Bonnie Anderson; Joyce Sullivan; Frances Harte; Amanda & Robert Cordano

In honor of Masako Mogi from Anne (Spring) Knower & Chris Bergman

In honor of Howard Reed from Richard Reed & Gerri Mansfield

In honor of Bill Smidutz from Jim Kamel

MEMORIALS:

In memory of Harold Angers from Barbara Angers

In memory of Mary Ellen Bayer from David Bayer

& Flo Magdalena

In memory of Judith Berkley from Anonymous

Donor

In memory of Regina Borden from Debi Borden-Miller

In memory of Joanna Crocker from Rachael Shaw

In memory of everyone who has passed away from Linda & Richard Todd

In memory of Mary Lou Fogg from Robert Fogg

In memory of Claudia Giese from Matt Conklin; & from Laurie & Scott Nystrom

In memory of Staci Jones-Maly; Joanne Duval; Caro Duval; & Genevieve Farnsworth

In memory of Shirley Kelton from Doreen Kelton

In memory of William R. LaCour from Alicia La-Cour

In memory of Larry Lanata from Reilly & Meredith Clark; from Laurie & Scott Nystrom

In memory of Bernie Lawrence from Doug Sherwin & Yvette Durell

In memory of Jamie Charles Latham from Alison Latham

In memory of Bernie Lawrence from Ila Mitchell

In memory of Winifred Luhrmann from Tanya Luhrmann

In memory of Lori Miller from Dick Miller

In memory of Lori Miller and Walt Allbee from Russell & Barb Hodgkins

In memory of Libby Mills from Laurie Alberts

In memory of Carolyn Muzzey from Karleen & Gary McKenney

In memory of Fred and Mary Robling from Joe Valaske; & from Fred & Deb Robling

In memory of Harold & Alice Shattuck from Barbara Greenough

In memory of Richard Taylor from Bobbi & John Kilburn

In memory of Marie Wright from Norman Wright



Maple Leaf Chimney Sweep

(802) 380-9890

Mapleleafchimney@gmail.com
www.mapleleafchimneysweep.com
Facebook.com/mapleleafchimneysweep



"Health care that cares enough to listen and treat the cause of the symptoms and not just the symptoms themselves. Also, a very pleasant staff."
Aaron, G. Springfield, VT

Our Bodies Are Ecosystems not Chemistry Sets™.
4923 US Route 5 • Westminster, VT
802-722-4023
www.sojourns.org

Insurance accepted for all billable services
gift certificates available

Primary Care
Holistic Medicine
Naturopathy
Acupuncture
Biological Medicine
Chiropractic
CranioSacral Therapy
Nutritional Counseling
Massage
Physical Therapy
Herbal Medicine
Immune Support
Apothecary

BRENNAN

BUILDING EXCAVATION SEPTIC SYSTEMS



802 869 2866

www.BrennanConstructionVT.com

BEST SEPTIC

www.bestsepticvt.net
bestseptic@gmail.com
Fax: (802)-463-1523

All Septic Needs,
Portable Toilets,
Jetting and Camera Service.



Jeff & Lisa Ruggiero
Owners

(802)-463-9444

BIG OR SMALL WE PUMP IT ALL!

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

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

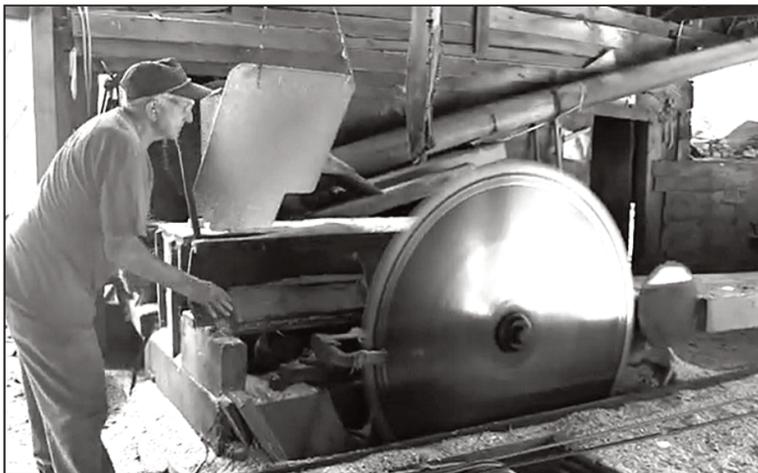
Underwriting Support is a donation of at least \$300 annually and does not include advertising. Underwriters are listed in the box on page 6 each month.

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.westminstervt.org

SUPERLOCAL FILM FESTIVAL AT OUR LIBRARIES

Westminster West Library in partnership with the Butterfield Library will present three programs of SuperLocal films in February. These are films very much about the Westminster and Windham County area, made by local film-makers and showing us how we lived until quite recently.



The schedule will be:
Bills Lumber
 The closing and demolition of an 86-year-old family-run lumber mill in Wardsboro
 Sunday, Feb. 8 - Westminster West Library at 3 p.m.; Bills family will attend to share memories
 Tuesday, Feb. 10 - Butterfield Library, The Institute at 6:30 p.m.
Claire's Classroom + Kurn Hattin: Realization of Happiness
 Education in Westminster: how many children do you remember from these local schools?
 Sunday, Feb. 15 - Westminster West Library at 3 p.m.
 Tuesday, Feb. 17 - Butterfield Library, The Institute at 6:30 p.m.
It's a Love of the Land + 36 Miles of Trouble:
 Now-vanished dairy farms in Brattleboro, and the historic West River Railroad

Sunday, Feb. 22 - Westminster West Library at 3 p.m.
 Tuesday, Feb. 24 - Butterfield Library, The Institute at 6:30 p.m.
 Some other local films were not quite ready yet, or hard to access for a showing, so please come along in February - with hopes for more in the future!
 Films are free, please make a donation for refreshments.
 For more information: WWL 802-387-4682 / Butterfield 802-722-4891 during opening hours.

In photo, a still from Bills Lumber.

Westminster Cares Open House: WELCOME & FAREWELL
On Friday, February 20th, from 3pm-6pm
 Westminster Cares will host an Open House at the Institute. The community is invited to meet Michelle Aron, the new Director; say farewell to Donna Dawson as she retires; and see our new office. Appetizers, desserts and refreshments will be served ~ please join us!

WESTMINSTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION SPONSORS WINTER TRACKING EVENT

You are invited to join the Westminster Conservation Commission for a winter tracking program on Saturday, Feb. 7, from 10:30 -12:30 p.m.
 Weather date is Sunday, Feb.8.
 We plan to explore a farm field adjacent to the Connecticut River and hope for good tracking conditions on this early February weekend.
 During last year's event in a Westminster upland forest, the group saw sign of porcupine, fox, deer, wild turkey and bobcat, among others.
 Please send an email to westminstervtconservation@gmail.com if you are potentially interested in attending this program.
 By registering, you will be informed of the location details, and kept updated on any weather related scheduling changes.
 For questions, call Rachael Shaw at 802-869-3184 or send an email to the address listed above.

WESTMINSTER WEST LIBRARY SEEKS NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The Board of Westminster West Library (WWL) welcomes applications to join the Library as a Trustee. We are a small non-profit public library that serves Westminster and its neighbors with books and interesting events.
 Any community member who is interested in helping WWL grow is eligible to make an application through these two steps:
 1. Please give your reasons for wanting to join the Board of WWL, your past experience as part of a non-profit organization, and some of the skills and ideas you would bring, by sending a sealed letter to WWL before 5 p.m., February 10.
 2. Please visit WWL to meet with representatives of the Board and the Librarian. Meetings can be scheduled on Fridays (4 - 6 p.m.), and on Saturdays (noon - 2 p.m.) until Feb.7 by telephoning the Library on 802-387-4682.
 All applications will be voted on by the Board of

WWL for inclusion on the Election Ballot which will be circulated to the Membership before the WWL Annual Meeting on March 15, 2026.
 Further information:
 - WWL Trustees meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7pm.
 - Each Trustee is expected to serve on at least one subcommittee and contribute time outside of meetings for tasks necessary to the running of the Library.
 - All skills are welcome, but WWL is especially searching for a Treasurer with experience in financial oversight (we already have a very good bookkeeper).
 - Please include your name, mailing address, email and/or phone number in your letter.

Vermont's Largest Farm Stand Garden Center & Nursery
Fresh pies and award winning cider donuts made daily!

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
Open Dec. 4 —mid-April
Open Thursdays until Jan. 31

9 a.m. -3 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays (until Jan. 31, then Friday and Saturday only)
Shop our fresh organic produce all winter!
Fresh greens, eggs, root crops, Orchard Hill bread, Smokin' Bowls baked goods, and more.
Harlow Farmstand
6365 U.S. Rte 5 Westminster VT

Give Your Home a Hug!

With a low cost **Green Mountain Home Repair** loan.

Maintaining your home matters, and now there's an affordable way to tackle those home improvement projects.

- Health & safety issues
- Structural problems
- Failing mechanical systems
- Energy efficiency upgrades
- Interior & exterior modifications for elderly or disabled

Let us help!

Windham & Windsor Housing Trust
 (802) 254-4604
 HomeMattersHere.org

Edward Jones > edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

Have questions about withdrawing funds, converting your account or generating income?

Ready to discover the best options that keep your money working for you? Contact me today.

Jessica Fuller, CFP®
 Financial Advisor
 P O Box 96
 57 Main street
 Walpole, NH 03608
 603-756-2513

IRT-4395I-A AECSPAD 2522524

Nature Notes - What Bird Made This Nest?

by Alma Beals, Vermont Master Gardener and Naturalist



Each species builds a nest that differs from those of almost all others. While some birds build their nests on the ground, many nest in trees.

"Bird nests are truly an amazing feat of engineering. Imagine building your home strong enough to weather

a storm, large enough to hold your entire family, insulated enough to shelter them from cold and heat, and waterproof enough to keep out rain. Now, build it without any blueprints or directions, and without the use of your hands or feet! Birds do!" This was quoted by Stan Tekiela, a naturalist, wildlife photographer, and writer in his book "Birds of New Hampshire and Vermont."

Birds build six different types of nests. They are ground nests, cavity nests, platform nests, cup nests, pendulous nests and burrow nests.

The ground nest is simply a shallow depression, scraped out on bare ground. They can be on river banks, lake shores, farmland, airports, mudflats, and gravel rooftops. Think of the killdeer. Killdeer are famous for

their broken-wing display used to distract predators away from their nest.

The cavity nest is excavated by woodpeckers in a tree branch or trunk. After being used by the woodpecker once, it is then used by many other birds like bluebirds or tree swallows.

The platform nest is constructed of twigs and branches. Think of bald eagles. They pick up the material and carry it back to the nest. The material is not woven or shaped but simply heaped on the elevated platform. The nests are often many feet deep and wide.

The cup nest is constructed by firmly attaching it to a branch and then constructing the sides with grass, bark, leaves, and sometimes mud. The inner cup is lined with feathers, animal fur or hair, and plant material. Have you ever had a titmouse pull a hair off a sleeping dog to line a nest? I have!

The pendulous nest is amazing. These nests are built on the end of the smallest branches and are inaccessible to predators. They are woven from plant fibers, hair, yarn, or string and lined with hair or pine needles. They are so sturdy, they often stay until the following year. Think of orioles.

The burrow nest is dug into a dirt bank, several feet long and lined with grass, feathers and leaves. Think of kingfishers.

In photos, from left, an Oriole nest, and Bald Eagle nest.

WESTMINSTER SAMPLER - FAMOUS WESTMINSTER ROMANCES

By Jessie Haas

Valentine's Day is a good time to look back at some famous Westminster romances. There are quite a few, so these will be the Readers' Digest condensed versions.

In 1784 Fanny Buchanan, stepdaughter of the hated Tory Crean Brush, was standing on a chair putting some china into a cupboard when she received a proposal of marriage from the great Vermont patriot Ethan Allen.

"If we are going to be married, now is the time, for I am on my way to Arlington." "Very well," she replied, "but give me time to put on my Joseph." (A Joseph was a riding habit.) The proposal—and the wedding, a few minutes later—took place in the old Stephen Rowe Bradley house, which many will remember standing across Rt. 5 from the big dairy farm on Westminster Flats. Fanny and Ethan lived happily together until his death six years later. Fanny came back to Westminster with their children, and married Joseph Penniman.

William Czar Bradley was 13, had been expelled from Yale for putting a donkey in the chaplain's pulpit, and was laboring away hauling manure for his father when he met Sally Richards, the 12-year-old daughter of Mark Richards. It was love at first sight, but William was in disgrace with his father for many years and went away to Massachusetts to study law.

He came of age in 1802, reconciled with his father, passed the Vermont bar and married Sally. And because life was as complicated then as it is now, the first thing the young couple did was adopt William's illegitimate daughter, Emily Penelope. They had two more children, raised two of their grandchildren, and lived the rest of their lives in the house on the corner of School Street.

Harriet Holton, Sally Bradley's niece, was raised by her grandparents in a big house at the corner of Grout Avenue in Westminster. In 1835, at age 27, she attended a lecture in Westminster West by the Putney Perfectionist minister John Humphrey Noyes, and fell for him like a ton of bricks. She could barely speak in his presence. She even liked that he wasn't handsome! But Noyes was courting another woman. The best Harriet could hope for was to make friends with his sisters. She became fervently religious, and funneled her grandfather's money into John Noyes's pockets. Noyes felt under an obligation to her, and began to value the stability that wealth could bring him.



In 1838 he proposed marriage something "which I will not call marriage until I have defined it." It would be free love. They would not limit each other's affections, yet they also intended to be loyal to each other, and Harriet saw herself as being in the service of his ideas.

They married the day Queen Victoria was crowned, but John and Harriet's life together was the opposite of everything we think of as Victorian. After several life-threatening pregnancies she and John pioneered what came to be called Free Love. They had multiple romantic partners and practised contraception, all in a religious context that can only be called a cult.

Forced to flee Putney, the group settled in Oneida, New York, founding a Free Love community there in which only the fittest—mostly John Humphrey Noyes—were allowed to procreate. The women cut their hair short and wore bloomers, also radical and scandalous for the time. Yet Harriet wrote letters to her cousin Helen that paint a picture of her life in Westminster at odds with what many historians have asserted about her. Flowers, preserves, fashion, and housekeeping seemed just as important to her as religion, up until that fateful night in Westminster West when she met Noyes. She never seems to have regretted her choice.

Joseph Willard grew up poor on a Piggery Road farm. Luckily his brother Henry, working on a Hudson River steamboat, attracted the attention of a rich patroness. She and her husband helped Henry buy a run-down Washington DC hotel, which became famous as Willard's Hotel. It is still in operation today.

Joseph, who became a co-owner of Willard's, joined the Union Army at the beginning of the Civil War and was stationed at Fairfax Station, where he became very popular with the ladies on both sides of the conflict.

Union officers were quartered at the family home of a young woman named Antonia Ford. She entered into a flirtation with General Edwin Stoughton of Bellows Falls, Vt, and reported on their conversations to Confederate general J.E.B. Stuart. He was so grateful he gave her an unofficial "commission." But after Confederates kidnapped Stoughton and several of his aides one night the Union Army became suspicious. They introduced a young woman spy into the Ford household. She befriended Antonia and was allowed to see the "commission." Soon after that Antonia was arrested and imprisoned. Her escort to the Old Capitol Prison was Major Joseph Willard.

Antonia was released for lack of evidence, but re-arrested seven days later by none other than Joseph Willard. Deeply smitten, he got himself transferred to Washington and spent much of his time with her in the prison. He worked for her release and they married.

Asked how she could bring herself to marry one of the enemy, Antonia said, "I knew I could not revenge myself on the nation, but was fully capable of tormenting one Yankee to death, so took the major." She would not renounce the Confederacy, but agreed to sign a loyalty oath. Joseph left the Army and they were married in March 1864. Antonia died seven years later, due to health effects of her year in prison.

One granddaughter married Theodore Roosevelt's son Kermit. The other married the fifth Earl of Carnarvon, one of the discoverers of King Tut's tomb. Antonia Ford's romance with Joseph Willard was the subject of a television movie in 2007. *Now and Forever Yours: Letters to an Old Soldier* starred Katie Tschida and Winston Shearin. The dialogue was drawn from letters written by Ford and Willard during their two-year courtship.

Happy Valentine's Day!

In photo, Joseph Willard.

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 is Tuesday, Feb. 3 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 February 15.

Number of calls in December: 41

Number of calls through January 23rd: 23

Number of calls calendar year to date: 23

Number of calls fiscal year, July 1st 268

Association Meeting: The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association met for their regular meeting January 6th with Vice President Ryan Struthers presiding. There were 28 members present and 4 members excused. Currently there are 48 members of the volunteer fire department.

Emergency responses: December turned out to be another busy month with 41 calls for the month. Here is the breakdown for the 41 calls: 23 rescue/medical calls; 1 appli-

ance fire, 6 motor vehicle accidents; 7 Mutual Aid, 1 to Grafton, 1 Charlestown, 1 to Athens, 2 to Putney, 1 to Brattleboro, 1 to Bellows Falls: 1 false call, 1 lifeline, 1 for staging and 1 legal burn.

2025 turned out to be busy also with 511 total calls: Here is the breakdown: 320 for rescue/medical; 45 mutual aid assisting other towns; 52 motor vehicle crashes/accidents and a variety making up the rest of the total of 511.

Driveways and Right of Ways: Please be sure that private roads and driveways leading to your home are plowed wide enough so a large fire truck can pass through easily. Also, be sure brush and any other obstacles are not hindering an emergency vehicle from getting to a scene where they may be needed.

Icy conditions: Back roads, especially dirt roads and driveways tend to be icy this time of year. Be careful walking and driving on them. Several cases of someone falling have been reported recently.

Chimneys and stove pipes: We are half way through the winter so it's time to take a look up your chimneys with a mirror and check your stove pipes for creosote buildup.

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 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.

The Westminster Fire & Rescue Association welcomes donations throughout the year from anyone wishing to remember or honor a loved one or a friend. All memorial donations go into our scholarship fund to be given out at graduation.

Send donation to:
Westminster Fire & Rescue Association
PO Box 111 Westminster, 05158

Donations received in January:

Bruce Mickle

Susan Lober [Bob]

Bradbury III and Susan Purinton

Elizabeth Deniord [Chard & Liz]

Anne Knower/ Christopher Bergman

As always, we would like to thank the members of the community for their continued support of the fire department.

Check us out on our web-site www.westminsterfireandrescue.org.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARNING

WARNING FOR ANNUAL MEETING SCHOOL DISTRICT, FIRE DISTRICT NUMBER 3, AND TOWN 2026

The legal voters of the Westminster Town School District, Westminster Town Fire District Number 3, and Westminster Town, are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Bellows Falls Union High School Auditorium in Westminster, Vermont on Saturday, February 28, 2026 at ten o'clock in the morning (10:00 AM) to take action on the Articles following Article 1.

The meeting will be recessed to the Westminster Institute, 3534 US Route 5, Westminster Vermont to meet at eight o'clock in the forenoon (8:00 A.M.) on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, for the consideration of Article 1, by Australian Ballot. The polls shall remain open until seven o'clock in the evening (7:00 P.M.)

Article 1: To choose all Town School District Officers, Town Fire District Number 3 Officers, and Town Officers by Australian Ballot, Tuesday, March 3, 2026 from eight o'clock in the forenoon (8:00 A.M.) until seven o'clock in the evening (7:00 P.M.)

Article 2: Shall the voters of the Town of Westminster demand the removal of Donald J. Trump, President and J.D. Vance, Vice-President for crimes against the United States Constitution? (Non-Binding Article)

Article 3: To hear the reports of the Westminster School District Officers.

Article 4: Shall the voters of the Westminster Town School District apply the sum of \$262,279 from the projected fiscal year 2025 surplus of \$262,279 to create a reserve fund to offset expenditures in future years?

Article 5: Shall the voters of the Westminster Town School District approve an annual compensation to each school Director in the amount of \$800 and an additional \$200 to the Director who serves as Board Chair?

Article 6: Shall the voters of the Westminster Town School District approve the school board to expend \$5,145,255.00 (five million, one hundred forty-five thousand, two hundred fifty-five dollars) which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? The Westminster Town School District estimates that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in per pupil education spending of \$15,317 which is 2% higher than per pupil education spending of the current year?

Article 7: To transact any other proper business to be brought before the Town School District meeting.

Article 8: To hear the reports of the Town Fire District Number 3 Officers.

Article 9: To see whether Town Fire District Number 3 shall authorize and instruct its Prudential Committee and Treasurer to borrow money, if necessary, to meet current expenses, on the credit of the district, in anticipation of the collection of taxes and/or the receipt of any State or Federal Funds.

Article 10: To see if the voters of the Town Fire District Number 3 will raise and appropriate the sum of \$371,800.00 to pay the indebtedness and other general expenses of the District for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027.

Article 11: To transact any other business proper to be brought before the Town Fire District Number 3 meeting.

Article 12: To hear the reports of the Town Officers.

Article 13: Shall the voters of the Town of Westminster authorize and instruct its Selectboard to borrow money, if necessary, on the credit of the town for its current expenses in anticipation of the collection of taxes and/or the receipt of any State or Federal funds?

Article 14: Shall the voters of the Town of Westminster authorize total General Fund expenditures for operating expenses of \$1,420,499, of which \$787,212.63 shall be raised by taxes, and \$633,286.37 by other estimated revenue for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027?

Article 15: Shall the voters of the Town of Westminster authorize total Highway Fund expenditures for operating expenses of \$1,769,600, of which \$1,497,600 shall be raised by taxes, and \$272,000 by other estimated revenue for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027?

Article 16: Shall the voters of the Town of Westminster vote pursuant to 32 V.S.A. Section 3832(7) to exempt from taxation for a period of five (5) years, the real estate of the Westminster Aqueduct Society and improvements thereon?

Article 17: Shall the voters of the Town of Westminster vote pursuant to 32 V.S.A. Section 3840, to exempt from taxation for a period of five (5) years, the real estate of the Westminster Fire District #3 and improvements thereon?

Article 18: Shall the voters of the Town of Westminster vote pursuant to 32 V.S.A. Section 3832(7) to ex-

empt from taxation for a period of five (5) years, the real estate of the Westminster Recreational Club, Inc. and improvements thereon?

Article 19: Shall the voters of the Town of Westminster vote pursuant to 32 V.S.A. Section 3832(6) to exempt from taxation for a period of five years, the real estate value of the clinic building and building lot, and the water and sewer improvements of Sojourns Community Health Clinic?

Article 20: Shall the voters of the Town of Westminster allow the Selectboard to offer for public sale, the property known as "North Westminster Community House" to be used exclusively as residential housing? (article tabled at previous Town Meeting)?

Article 21: Shall the voters of the Town of Westminster vote to continue their support for the Westminster Gazette in the annual amount of \$8,000.00 to partially defray costs associated with production and distribution?

Article 22: Shall the voters in the Town of Westminster increase the annual Town appropriation from \$7,500 to \$20,000 to support the cost of operation and maintenance of the Westminster Institute and Butterfield Library?

Article 23: Shall the Town of Westminster vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of \$8,000 annually, in addition to the sum included in the budget proposed by the Selectboard, to help support the rapidly rising costs of operation, maintenance and programming for the Westminster West Public Library?

Article 24: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of Two Thousand and 00/100 dollars (\$2,000) to the Bellows Falls Community Bike Project to help defray the operating expenses required to provide low cost bicycles and bicycle repair to the Greater Falls region?

Article 25: Shall the Town of Westminster vote to raise, appropriate, and expend the sum of \$5,000 to help support the food budget of the Putney Foodshelf, which provides services to residents of the Town of Westminster?

Article 26: Shall the voters of the Town of Westminster rescind the town manager form of governance in accordance with the provision of Chapter 37 of Title 24 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated?

Article 27: To transact any other proper business to be brought before the Town of Westminster Annual Meeting.

REMEMBRANCES FEBRUARY 2026

ELLEN ARON, 79
8/20/1946 – 1/9/2026
WESTMINSTER, VT

BARBARA FRAPPIEA, 94
9/6/1931 – 12/15/2025
BELLOWS FALLS, VT

DOLORES KATHAN, 97
1928 - 1/9/2026
BELLOWS FALLS, VT

HEATHER LACOMB, 43
12/7/1982 – 12/21/2025
BELLOWS FALLS, VT

SUSAN MACNEIL, 72
7/21/1953 – 1/10/2026
BELLOWS FALLS, VT

CAROLYN MUZZEY, 91
1935 - 1/3/2026
WESTMINSTER, VT

WESTMINSTER TOWN MEETING 2026
FLOOR VOTE
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2026
AT BELLOWS FALLS UNION HIGH
SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
10:00AM

AUSTRALIAN BALLOT TUESDAY,
MARCH 3, 2026
AT THE WESTMINSTER INSTITUTE
3534 US Route 5, WESTMINSTER
8:00AM TO 7:00PM

Article 15: Shall the voters of the Town of Westminster authorize total Highway Fund expenditures for operating expenses of \$1,769,600, of which \$1,497,600 shall be raised by taxes, and \$272,000 by other estimated revenue for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027?

Article 16: Shall the voters of the Town of Westminster vote pursuant to 32 V.S.A. Section 3832(7) to exempt from taxation for a period of five (5) years, the real estate of the Westminster Aqueduct Society and improvements thereon?

Article 17: Shall the voters of the Town of Westminster vote pursuant to 32 V.S.A. Section 3840, to exempt from taxation for a period of five (5) years, the real estate of the Westminster Fire District #3 and improvements thereon?

Article 18: Shall the voters of the Town of Westminster vote pursuant to 32 V.S.A. Section 3832(7) to ex-



Listen, Join and Support
Your Community Radio Station

WOOL 91.5 FM

www.blacksheepradio.org

Join The Team
Local Shows and Local DJ's Needed



Keep your money local.

We're proud to be the
Monadnock Region's truly
local bank, committed to
giving back to our community
and providing customers
with the best products
and services in town.

 **Savings
Bank of
Walpole**
since 1875

walpolebank.com | Member FDIC |  Photo by Scott DuChene

The savings bank of you.™

 **Temple
Chiropractic**

Dr. Taronté Venable
DC, DACNB
Dr. Vernon R. Temple
DC, DABCO

633 Route 121
Bellows Falls, VT 05101
802-463-9522

TheOffice@TempleChiropractic.org
www.TempleChiropractic.org

DAVE MURRAY RETIRES FROM WESTMINSTER INSTITUTE BOARD

Dave Murray spent nearly 40 years (even he can't remember exactly how long!) on the Board of Managers for the Westminster Institute and Butterfield Library.

To celebrate his retirement, the board and members of the community gathered January 13 to thank Dave for everything he accomplished over the years, many of them as president.

"For over 30 years as a board member, Dave has helped the Westminster Institute be a vital part of our community," says board president Jim Grout. "No task was ever too small or too big for him to take on. His efforts are greatly appreciated by all."

An antique clock, in keeping with the building's 100-plus year history, has been mounted on the archway in the Institute's foyer. A plaque reads "Dedicated to Dave Murray for His Timeless Contributions to the Westminster Institute 2025."

At right, after almost 40 years as a volunteer on the Board of Managers for the Westminster Institute, Dave Murray has retired.



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

Feb 1st. Service at 10:00 am

Feb 3rd. Women's Fellowship Lunch at Fathers Restaurant.

Feb 4th SOUPer Wednesday 12-2

Feb 4th. Bible Study 6:30 pm. Hall and Zoom

Feb 8th Service at 10:00 with Communion

Feb 11th SOUPer Wednesday 12-2

Feb 11th Bible Study 6:30 pm. Hall and Zoom

Feb 15th. Service at 10:00

Feb 16th Standing Committee 5:30 pm Hall and Zoom

Feb 18th. ASH WEDNESDAY 6:00 pm Service

Feb 22nd Service at 10:00. Lenten Season

Feb 25th. SOUPer Wednesday 12-2.

Feb 25th. Bible Study Lent Series 6:30 pm Hall and Zoom

The First Congregational Church of Westminster is located on Rt 5 in Westminster

The upper Church just went through a beautiful restoration and repainted. We are a growing congregation and we invite you to check us out and see all that we offer. Each week we have a children's message at the Sunday service. For the Lent Season we will offer a daily reading book and other materials to help make your Lent a spiritual season. Rev. Rich O'Donnell is pastor. Please join us!

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, Intergenera-

tional 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 and online for winter.

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 Seated Class Tues. 12:15-1:15 p.m.

New Beginner Class Tues. 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Intermediate Classes Tues. 10:30-12 p.m.

At the Westminster Institute

SOUPer Wednesdays

Homemade soups at Congregational Church Rt. 5 January through April 12-2 p.m.

For deliveries Tina 802-376-7330

The East Putney Contradance Comes to the Westminster West Church! Sat. January 31

Same great live music and dancing, no partner required. By donation.

6 pm - 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

To continue the fun, come to the February 31 Contra Dance back at Pierce's Hall.

East Putney Contradance at Pierce's Hall - 121 East

Putney Falls Road off Rt. 5 (look for the signs)

The November Contra Dance at Pierce's Hall will be on Saturday, Nov. 22

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

Family Dance is free; Contra Dance is by donation Stay in touch at eputneypierceshall@gmail.com

Due to the holidays, there will be no dance in December.

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

Editor: Robert F. Smith

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

Printed by Sentinel Printing, Keene, NH

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

THE GAZETTE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT OF ITS UNDERWRITERS:

Abigail Altabef
802 Credit Union
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 Administration Group
Savings Bank of Walpole
Sojourns Community Health Clinic

March Deadline

The deadline for the March 2026 Issue of the Westminster Gazette is Wednesday, Feb. 18 Publication Date is Wed. Feb. 25 To Contact the Westminster Gazette E-mail: westminsternews@gmail.com

RENTAL SPACE AT THE WESTMINSTER INSTITUTE

With the relocation of Westminster Cares to a larger space in the Institute, we are looking for a new tenant for their old space (approximately 200 square feet). The Institute currently provides permanent space for Westminster Cares and the Westminster Historical Society. The Board of Managers is looking for a compatible organization, non profit or

otherwise to rent the space. This helps us with operating costs and supports our community programs.

Please send inquiries to:
butterfieldlib.05158@gmail.com

Thank You from the Westminster Institute / Butterfield Library

GFRCC SEEKING CANDIDATES

As we step into 2026, the Great Falls Regional Chamber of Commerce is seeking candidates for:

- GFRCC Board - Treasurer, Secretary, Members At-Large
- Committee Chairs
- Committee Members

We invite each GFRCC member organization to nominate at least one person—a staff member, colleague, or emerging leader—who wants to shape the future of the Great Falls Region.

More information is available at this link at our website under What Does

Board Membership Look Like at GFRCC?

This is an opportunity to:
Develop leadership skills
Strengthen business and community partnerships
Influence regional strategy
Help design programs that drive local economic vitality

Nominate someone by sending them this registration link below, or sign up if you're ready to shape the future with us!
<https://forms.gle/MK0ohgAB3ot-GxLgN9>.

DOG LICENSES AND REQUIRED SHOTS INFORMATION

Licenses are available at the Westminster Town Clerk's Office
OFFICE HOURS: 8:30AM TO 4:00PM MON-FRI LICENSE FEES ARE:

**\$11.00 FOR SPAYED/NEUTERED
\$15.00 FOR NON-SPAYED/NEUTERED**

YOU WILL ALSO NEED CURRENT RABIES INFORMATION.

IF YOU WOULD PREFER TO RENEW BY MAIL, PLEASE CALL THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE AT 802-722-4091 FOR INFORMATION.

ALL DOGS MUST BE REGISTERED BY APRIL 1, 2026.

2026 Vaccine Clinics for Cats & Dogs

Hosted by WCSO Animal Control Officer Ashley Pinger & Dr. Kotas, DVM, of Free Range Veterinary Services.

Please: Dogs must be leashed, cats must be in carrier.

**Rabies* - \$26,
Distemper with Lepto - \$32,
Lyme - TBD**

***Bring prior vaccine record to qualify for 3-year rabies**

**Locations, dates, times:
Windham County Sheriff' Office
185 Old Ferry Rd, Brattleboro, VT
Jan. 17, Feb. 28, March 21
10 am - 1 pm**

**Newfane Town Offices
555 Vermont Route 30, Newfane, VT
Jan. 24
10 am - 1pm**

**Grafton Town Offices
117 Main Street, Grafton, VT
Jan. 31, March 7**

**10 am - 12 pm
Westminster Town Garage
67 Town Garage Rd, Westminster, VT
March 28
10 am - 12 pm**

Introducing the **Bright Futures 5K** fundraiser!

Bright Futures Start Here




**Kurn Hattin Campus
5K Run + 3K | 10 AM
MAY 2**

How it works:

- Register as an individual or create a fundraising team
- Invite friends, family, or coworkers to support your goal
- Run or walk together on race day to celebrate your impact

ALL ARE WELCOME:
Runners, walkers, families, strollers, and friends

ALL FOR A CAUSE:
Helping Kurn Hattin kids thrive

Register today and create a fundraising team:
Scan the QR code or text KHRUN to 71777



Questions?
Contact Erin Beaudry
ebeaudry@kurnhattin.org
802-721-6914



**409 Old Athens Rd Putney, VT 05346
617-413-4054**

S.B. & Company Antiques – Auctioneer

Having been in business for over 45 years, we apply an honest approach to purchasing of single items or entire estates, specializing in fine & costume jewelry, sterling silver, artwork, porcelain, pottery, furniture and more. We are a full service company.

We would appreciate the opportunity to view your items by calling and setting a time for us to take a look at [617-413-4054](tel:617-413-4054), or send us some photos to info@sbauctioneers.com and please leave a phone number for us to follow up with you.

We are now located in Putney Vermont. Thank you for your consideration.

Sharon Boccelli



**Lamb
Beef
Maple Syrup
Woolen Goods
Yarn, Sweaters,
Sheepskins, Fleece**

MORSE BROOK FARM

**Farmstand Open
Saturday and Sunday
10 am -1 pm
or by appointment
January - April**

**226 Kurkul Rd
Westminster
802-518-2155
farminfo@morsebrookfarm.com**

www.morsebrookfarm.com

FRED'S ROCK SHOP

Rocks · Minerals · Handmade Jewelry & Gifts

**1993 Pine Banks Rd,
Putney, Vermont 05346**

**Open Saturdays 10 AM - 4 PM
Appointments Available Anytime**

Call: (802) 376-7313

- Rare Rocks, Mineral Specimens & Crystals
- Jewelry & Gifts Made from Natural Stone
- Lapidary Services - Cutting, Drilling & More!

 **Mention this ad for 10% OFF your purchase!**

Come explore nature's treasures and discover beautiful, one-of-a-kind stone creations at Fred's!

SEASONAL, HANDMADE, RAW MILK CHEESE
PRESERVED SUNSHINE, IN A VARIETY OF STYLES



Unique, complex flavors start with healthy cows out on pasture under open skies.
Raw milk, creamery-made autochthonous starters, natural rennet, & sea salt from Maine.
Our cheese ages slowly, developing distinct flavors and textures that deliver the taste of this place.

Parish Hill Creamery

VISIT OUR FARMSTORE
873 PATCH ROAD
WWW.PARISHHILLCREAMERY.COM

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

JANUARY BUSINESS OF THE MONTH:
JUDD'S AUTO REPAIRS

JUDD'S AUTO REPAIRS
 6109 US ROUTE 5
 WESTMINSTER, VERMONT 05158
 802-722-4200
 David & Elaine Judd, owners
 Steve Godfrey, mechanic
 Automotive Repair Vermont State Inspection

Christopher Hinds Free telephone consultation
 LICSW, ACSW
PSYCHOTHERAPY 404-989-4320
 Adults, Adolescents 39 The Square,
 Couples Suite 201
 Bellows Falls, VT
 05101
 www.hindstherapy.com On: psychologytoday.com

Harlow Farmstand
 Rte. 5 Westminster VT
 802.722.3515



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

Edward Jones Member SIPC
 Jessica Fuller, CFP®
 Financial Advisor
 P O Box 96
 57 Main Street
 Walpole, NH 03608
 603-756-2513
 MKT-5894Q-A AECSPAD > edwardjones.com

As many of you know we suffered a devastating loss with the passing of David. We appreciate the continued support from our community. Steve and I will continue to be here to serve your automotive and U-Haul needs. Our business hours are Monday – Friday 7:30am – 5:00pm. Closed on weekends. All state inspections are done every day between 3pm-5pm. Stop by or give us a call. You can find us on Facebook too.

GRATITUDE FROM THE BIKE PROJECT

All of us at the BF Community Bike Project would like to extend our sincere thanks to all the individuals and businesses that have donated to our year end appeal so far.

You are making a big difference in the community, helping us to continue providing much needed services all year, including our work with at-risk youth and adults.

Our mission is to provide the Greater Falls community a space for all to access affordable bicycles, learn bike repair and safe riding skills. Our vision is a flourishing culture of bicycling, as a means of alternative transportation, self-sufficiency and overall wellness.

Thank you also to those who have donated bikes and parts over the years, as well as to our fantastic volunteers!

Donations may be mailed to BF Community Bike Project, PO Box 883 Bellows Falls, VT 05101.

To donate online: bfbike.org/annual-appeal/
 For questions or to volunteer, please call 802-460-0662 or email: bonnie@bfbike.org
 - Bonnie Anderson, Founding Director

Karen Vedus LMFT Emotionally Focused Couples Therapy
 Westminister, Vermont
 802-332-3007
 karenveduslmft@buildingbetterbonds.com
 www.buildingbetterbonds.com VT Lic #100.0110621



BALD HILL BEES
 Vermont, VT
HONEY
Raw, Local Honey
 Chip & Diane O'Brien
 802-579-6115
 566 Bald Hill
 Westminster VT 05158



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

Livewater Farm & Dairy
 Eggs • Milk • Butter
 Milk Fed Pork
 Grass Fed Beef
 Fresh Mozzarella
 Aged Tomme
 Maple Syrup • Hay
 Stop in and see us at the farm stand!
 Open 9-6 Thursday thru Sunday,
 1289 Westminster West RD, Putney, Vermont 05346
 www.livewaterfarm.net • 802-222-1525 • livewaterdairy@gmail.com



Berkley & Veller Greenwood Country Realtors
 Family-owned since 1965
 Heidi Bernier
 CBR, SRES, Realtor®
 Licensed VT & NH
 heidi.bernier@berkleyveller.com
 O: (802) 254-6400 X 135
 C: (802) 380-1585-Best
 119 Western Avenue • Brattleboro, VT 05301
 www.berkleyveller.com



WELCOMING NEWCOMERS



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

RUGGIERO
 TRASH REMOVAL
 802.869.2235
 Box 434, Saxtons River Vermont 05154 Joe 802.384.0397
 Jeff 603.209.4441



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

Village Square BOOKSELLERS
 BOOKS • TOYS • GIFTS
 Myles Mickie • Jon Midura
 32 The Square, PO 245
 Bellows Falls, VT 05101
 802-463-9404
 info@villagesquarebooks.com
 Books for all ages • Toys • Gifts • Journals
 Full Service Independent Bookstore Open 7 Days a Week
 www.villagesquarebooks.com
 Open 24/7 for Book, Audio & e-Book web orders

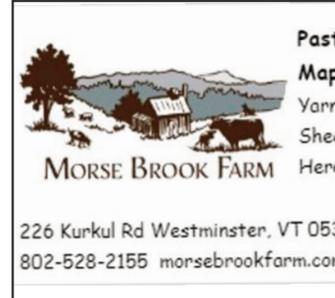
Cota & Cota HEATING OIL PROPANE GAS PLUMBING
 Your Local Heating & Cooling Experts
 Delivering Peace of Mind Since 1941
 WWW.COTAOL.COM (802) 463-0000



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



MORSE BROOK FARM
 Pasture Raised Lamb
 Maple Syrup
 Yarn, Woolen Blankets,
 Sheep Pelts
 Herding Demonstrations
 226 Kurkul Rd Westminster, VT 05346
 802-528-2155 marsebrookfarm.com



MILKWEED FARM
 Visit our Farm Store in West West!
 Open all year, full of fresh local goodness!
 www.milkweedfarmvt.com



INSTITUTE ANNUAL APPEAL

We are very excited to announce that our first ever Annual Appeal for the Westminster Institute & Butterfield Library was a huge success.

To date, we have raised \$8,340 with donations from over 70 donors. This has exceeded all of our expectations and provides an enormous boost to helping us fund programs and operational costs.

Thank you to all who contributed to make this first Annual Appeal so successful.

Jim Grout & Susan Harlow,
 President and Vice President, and the
 Board of Managers

JUDD'S AUTO REPAIRS
 6109 US ROUTE 5
 WESTMINSTER, VERMONT 05158
 802-722-4200
 David & Elaine Judd, owners
 Steve Godfrey, mechanic
 Automotive Repair Vermont State Inspection

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE! ASK US ABOUT IT.