



BREAKFAST, BOOKS & SUMMER BREAK



By Elizabeth Harty, Principal

As the school year comes to a close, students and staff at Westminster Center School are celebrating a year filled with learning, growth, and memorable experiences!

Classrooms have invited families in for a celebration of learning through Breakfast & Books (photos). This is a time when families can come into the classroom, have breakfast, and see the latest learning happening in the classroom.

As we wrap up our school year, WCS is celebrating as a school community!

- We will hold our annual Field Day. This is a time when all students participate in a variety of outdoor fun from musical chairs and face painting to kickball and bubbles. We also are so grateful that the Westminster Fire Department is able to keep the tradition going with the fire hose! Families and community members join students in celebrating milestones big and small, from kindergarten achievements to fifth-grade moving up activities. The excitement and pride shared across the

school community make the final weeks of school especially meaningful.

- We invite families on June 4th for our Spring Family Event. This is a time when families can come to our playground, listen to our 4th, 5th, and 6th grade band, and enjoy storytelling from our very own school board member Ron Bos-Lun .

This event will run from 5:30-6:30

- Thanks to the WCS PTO, we will welcome Troy Wunderle for circus residency. All students will have an opportunity to learn and practice a variety of circus arts. We will culminate this experience with a performance for our parents on Friday, June 5th at 2:00.

We are grateful to our students, families, staff, and volunteers for making this school year such a success and wish everyone a fun, safe, and relaxing summer break!

WCS TEACHERS AWARDED FELLOWSHIP



By Andrew Haas, Superintendent

Kellie Hallock and Mandy Walsh, Westminster Center School teachers, have been awarded a 2026 Rowland Fellowship. The focus of their work will be on integrating sustainability and outdoor education into curriculum, school-wide events, and initiatives, all while building community partnerships.

This means that next year they will be researching outside of their classrooms, meeting with collaborative work groups, and visiting model schools.

The Rowland Foundation's mission is to invest in

Vermont teachers to positively change the culture and climate of schools. Each year, the Rowland Foundation awards up to six Rowland Fellowships to Vermont middle-grade and secondary school teachers. Predicated on shared leadership, the Two-Year Cohort Cycle provides training, structures, and support to help Fellows make lasting, systemic changes in their schools.

"True school transformation happens when we empower our teachers to lead. Through this fellowship, Kellie and Mandy will spend the next year building the community partnerships and curricular frameworks necessary to make outdoor education a pillar of our students' experience."

Our Monthly Community Newspaper June 2026 Vol. 22 No.6

Westminster Gazette

Town of Westminster
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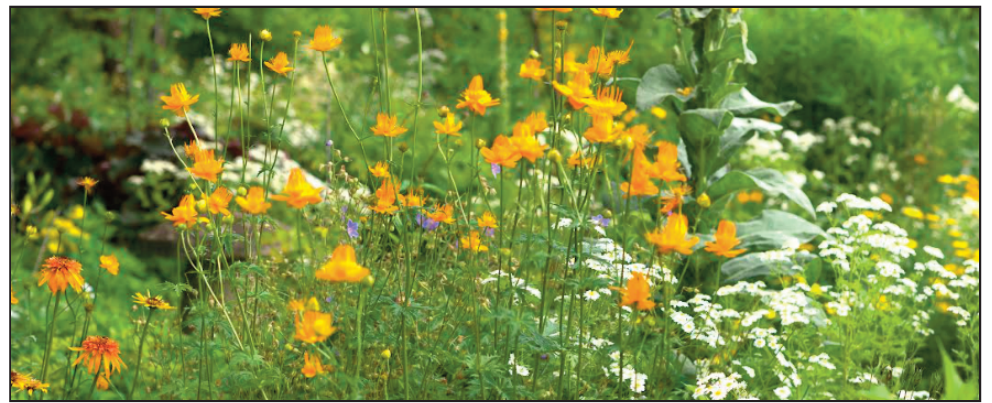


Folks of all ages are invited to stop by Putney Public Library on Thursday, May 21, 2-4 p.m. to enjoy a pop-up Pigments Picnic. Demonstrations, conversations and investigations of local color through earths, mushrooms, plants and more will be on offer, along with light snacks.

Bring your own local color or pigments material to share and show, or ask questions of the pigments picnickers. This event will be held outdoors.

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

WESTMINSTER CARES ANNUAL GARDEN TOUR JULY 11-12



The 23rd annual Westminster Cares Garden Tour will be held on July 11th and 12th. Over the years this event has become the major fundraiser for Westminster Cares. Find more information at www.westminstercares.org.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER CARES

The Westminster Cares Board of Directors met Thursday May 14th at 4:30PM at the Westminster Institute with President Lori Larue presiding. The following board members attended: Treasurer Frannie Waldron, Don Dawson, Cindy Moses and Director, Michelle Aron. The board discussed the upcoming Garden Tour on July 11th and 12th.

WESTMINSTER CARES GARDEN TOUR: The 23rd annual Westminster Cares Garden Tour will be held on July 11th and 12th. Over the years this event has become the major fundraiser for Westminster Cares. Find more information at www.westminstercares.org.

COMMUNITY NURSE PROGRAM: Our Community Nurse, Kathy Shuster, is available for wellness checks

and care coordination. To receive a phone call or schedule an initial home visit with the nurse, please call the office at 802-722-3607.

ELDER TECH: Do you have questions about a device? [laptop, cell phone, smart phone]

Elder Tech sessions are held at the Westminster Institute. If you would like to make an appointment for a session, please call the office @ (802) 722-3607. (Open to Westminster residents, 60 and older.)

ANNUAL APPEAL UPDATE: We truly appreciate the support received from individuals, families and businesses in our community. Your contributions allow us to continue to provide programs and services to older adults in our community. Whether from Annual Appeal, memo-

rial gifts, or contributions in honor of our cherished volunteers, every gift counts!

The following list is for donations made in someone's honor or memory. Donations Received through May 12th, 2026.

HONORARY:

In honor of Donna Dawson, from Ellen Jones

In honor of Chris Harlow and Bettina Berg, from Howard Reed

In honor of Donna Dawson, from Jennifer Holan

In honor of Westminster Cares volunteers, from Bill Smidutz

MEMORIALS:

In memory of Hollis Ryea, from Pricilla Allbee



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Pages 4-7 - approx. 4.7"x6.8" \$600 a year - \$100 for one month
Page 8 - approx. 2.5"x3.25" - \$230 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

TREASURE HUNTING AT KURN HATTIN



Kurn Hattin Home and School for Children recently welcomed approximately 65 metal detecting enthusiasts from across the country for the 33rd annual Best Of the NorthEast (BONE) event, held April 22–25 on the school’s fields and forests.

Organized by George Streeter and the Professional Treasure Hunter’s Historical Society (PTHHS), the gathering attracted participants from throughout the Northeast, as well as from Washington State, South Dakota, Indiana, Wisconsin, and North Carolina.

Detectorists uncovered artifacts spanning more than 200 years of history, including early U.S. large

cents, military buttons dating from 1812 to 1865, colonial-era axe heads, toy cap pistols (right photo), and an intact colonial shoe buckle (left photo) believed to date to before 1750, which was named “Best Find” of the event.

Beyond the discoveries, organizers emphasized the importance of ethical metal detecting practices, including respecting the land, carefully filling holes, and removing trash from the property.

One of the highlights came when two Kurn Hattin students learned to use metal detectors donated by George Streeter and Streeter’s Metal Detecting in Marlborough, New Hampshire. Streeter is also a relative of Malcolm “Sam” Streeter, who served as principal of Kurn Hattin for more than 30 years.

Participants expressed appreciation to Kurn Hattin for hosting the event and for the opportunity to explore and preserve a small piece of local history.

GREEN UP DAY VOLUNTEERS



Kurn Hattin kids were among the many who participated in Green Up Day both on campus (above) and in Bellows Falls (at right).

THE 23RD ANNUAL WESTMINSTER CARES GARDEN TOUR WILL BE HELD ON JULY 11TH AND 12TH.

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Nature Notes - Returning to the Marsh This Spring

by Alma Beals, Vermont Master Gardener and Naturalist

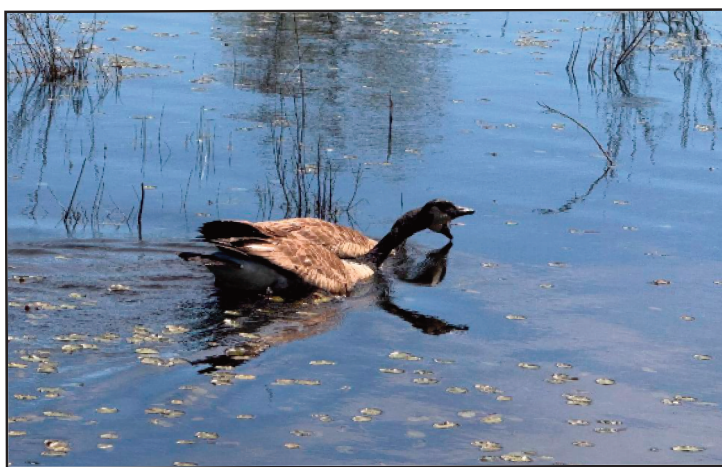
One cold morning a few days ago. I was watching a swirling mass of tree and barn swallows low over the water in the pond and began wondering why they were darting about so low above the water while the day before they had been high above the water.

As I thought about it, I realized swallows forage at different heights over ponds because they are following insects which move based on air temperature, humidity, and rising thermals. Sometimes a hatch of insects emerges from the pond and the swallows take advantage of the hatch. They will fly higher in warmer weather because warm air carries the insects higher.

It is easy to tell the swallows apart. The tree swallows are short and chunky with metallic green/blue backs and white underparts while the barn swallows have dark blue backs and tan underparts with sharp tails and wings.

One of my favorite memories of barn swallows is that I grew up where their nests were plastered on top of the hand-hewn beams of the barn. There was always a lot of chattering going on. I don't remember the tree swallows, probably because they were in the woods rather than the open fields.

While I was watching the swallows, a flock of about



photos by Robert F. Smith

15 shorebirds whirled across the pond and landed on the edge of the road in front of me. After walking around for a while, they all flew off except one who stayed there and let me check him out. He had yellow legs, a long black bill and eye, brown back, and a slightly striped chest. I identified him as a Yellowlegs. There are both Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs, but the difference between them is size.

Then I heard a loud, rattling call. A kingfisher had flown in, hovering, then diving straight down to catch a



fish. My books say that he flies to a convenient perch and raps the fish against a limb to stun the fish, so that it is head-first for easier swallowing. But I have never seen this!

I was ready to leave when a pair of Canada geese arrived with five goslings, the first babies of the spring, looking like brown and yellow puff balls.

Each day I expect to see more.

WESTMINSTER SAMPLER - CEMETERY TREASURE



By Jessie Haas

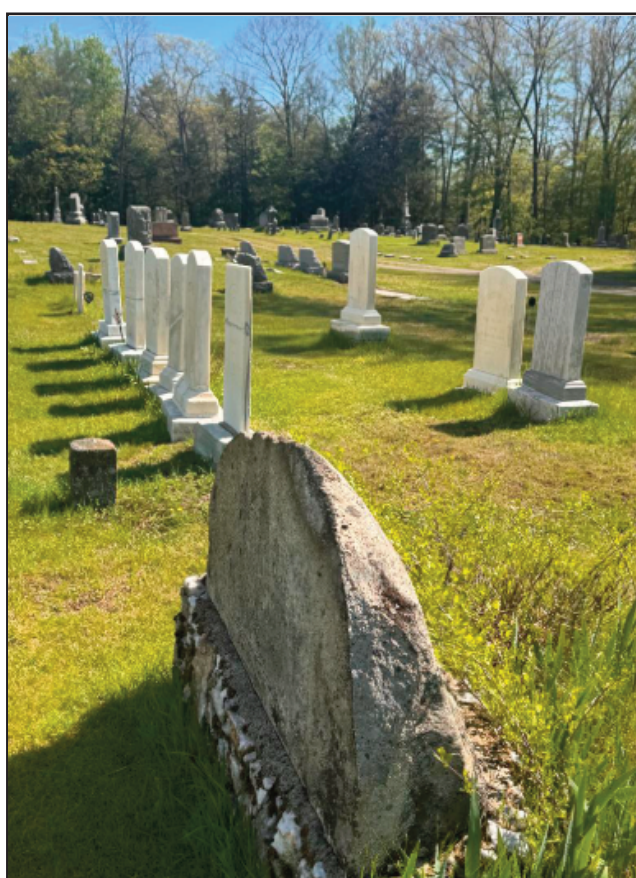
The Westminster Historical Society is planning our new exhibit to open on July 11, 2-4, featuring a range of interesting gravestones from Westminster Cemeteries.

The choice is wide. We have a U.S. Senator, two Congressmen, a bank robber, a dog, a mysterious sea captain, former slaves, war heroes, victims of tragedy, infants and centenarians. Those big, complex lives have been reduced to whatever they or their families chose to put on their gravestones, and also defined by what they chose not to mention. We have to read between the lines to glimpse long-ago people who lived where we live now. Photographs and biographical details explain some things, and in some cases increase the mystery about who our forebears actually were.

Beyond the museum exhibit, we're putting together a self-guided treasure hunt to introduce more of the fascinating stones and stories in the Old Cemetery, the New Cemetery, and the Westminster West Cemetery. (We have several other small cemeteries in town, each with its own treasures, but we don't want to send people all around Robin Hood's barn and get them lost. Maybe next year!)

Preparing hunt categories has been eye-opening to say the least. Images on gravestones include winged skulls, hands pointing toward heaven, angels, willows, crosses, and lambs—familiar religious symbols. There are also more personal and individual decorations, including woodland scenes, deer, portraits of the dead, beer cans, and a unicorn.

To find the treasure, you get to walk in the beautiful spaces Westminster has set aside for our loved-ones who have died. You are going to see tragedy written on



the stones, some of the worst being times of epidemic when several children of one family died in the same year, often within the same week. Then there are the families who brought one child after another into the world, only to lose them one by one at a young age. The brave young men who signed up to fight in the Civil War, only to die of illness in camp. The brave young women who signed up to nurse during the World Wars, who died in field hospitals.

How is this not going to be a tremendous downer? It's odd, but though we find sobering stories in the cemeteries, and evidence of old sorrow, they are also places of peace and creativity, where what people loved in life comes through in their memorials. The quest will keep you walking, and there will be stones that make you smile. Many of us will find people we remember well, or names we heard our parents speak of. There's a lot of artistry on the old stones, many of which are readable again thanks to ongoing cleaning efforts.

That can be a little alarming at first. Those stones have been covered with lichen all our lives. Are you supposed to be able to read gravestones? Well, yes. That was the intention of the people who put them up. They wanted the person they loved to be remembered forever, or as long as a stone will last. If you can't read that stone, the whole purpose is defeated.

That's why on June 13 the Vermont Old Cemeteries Association (VOCA) will return to the Old Cemetery to help the Historical Society finish straightening and cleaning headstones. These VOCA people get up early.



The event is scheduled to start around 8, with coffee, donuts, and instructions about how to do the job. Last year's event was pleasant, sociable, and highly efficient. You can now read headstones in the south half of the Old Cemetery without even getting out of your car!

Please join us for this work bee. All are welcome, and you don't have to stay the whole morning if it doesn't suit your schedule. If you can, bring a plastic scrub brush and a spray bottle. Wear work clothes, because you will get spattered with lichen. You'll also have fun, do lasting work to preserve the headstones, and go away knowing the correct technique to clean family headstones on your own. This is an ongoing project of the Historical Society. Once we have restored the stones in the Old Cemetery, we plan to move operations to Westminster West, and there's tremendous need in the New Cemetery as well. As you drive by, a few lovely white marble stones stand out now. That's the work of dedicated VOCA and WHS member Gretchen Nicholl, a daughter of Westminster. When you see how beautiful the stones can be, the uncleaned ones cry out for attention.

Later in the year we hope to put on a cemetery tour with actors in costume playing the roles of some of our forebears. This is in the early stages of planning. We hope we can pull it off. Please get in touch if you'd like to help, through our website, www.westminstervthistory.org.

Westminster cemetery photos by Robert F. Smith

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, June 2 at 7 p.m.

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

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 scheduled Prudential Committee meeting June 21.

Number of calls in April: 40

Number of calls through May 14th: 15

Number of calls calendar year to date: 151

Number of calls fiscal year from July 1st: 396

Association Meeting: The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association met for their regular meeting May 5th with President J.T. Tabolt presiding. There were 24 members present and 3 members excused. Currently there are 43 members of the volunteer fire department. Having successfully completed the required 6-month probation guidelines, Tim Jeffrey was voted in

as a full member of the fire department.

Emergency responses: April turned out to be another busy month with 40 calls. Here is the breakdown for the 40 calls: 18 rescue/medical calls; 2 Mutual Aid one to Springfield and 1 to Battleboro; 3 motor vehicle crashes/ incidents; 2 Brush Fires; 2 smoke investigations; 4 list assists; 4 for tree on wires/power line down; 1 untimely; 4 med/ box alarms

Storing and disposing of batteries: There was a fire recently that might have been caused by a 9 volt battery igniting items being stored in a drawer. Batteries are hazardous and should be stored and disposed of properly.

Motorcycles: We have all noticed that there are more and more motorcycles on the road each summer and that it has become a very enjoyable pastime for many. Motorcycles can be difficult to see as a part of oncoming traffic and their distance is often difficult to judge. Give at least a double look and even an exclusive look for the possibility of an oncoming motorcycle when pulling out into traffic.

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 from Bellows Falls Union High School. Send donation to:

Westminster Fire & Rescue Association

PO Box 111 Westminster, 05158

Donations in May:

In honor of Mike Fawcett and Pat Haas for years of Fire Warden for Pat and years of various positions for the care and safety of our neighbors for Mike. From Karen Walter.

Memorial Donations in May:

In memory of Norm Wright from the BFUHS class of 1956

Celebration of life for Pat Haas to be held at the Westminster Fire Station on Grout Ave June 27 at 1 p.m. Bring a dish or a memory to share, or both. Questions? Martha Haas, 802-722-9097 or marthaas@gmail.com

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

Check us out at www.westminsterfireandrescue.org.

Aged in Vermont

Westminster Cares, Inc.

WANT TO GIVE BACK TO YOUR COMMUNITY? HERE ARE SOME OPPORTUNITIES

"When you embrace the place where you live, it can bring the most amazing adventures into your life." Those words are from Karen Walter, who founded Westminster Cares and has volunteered unstintingly all of the thirty years she's lived in Westminster.



Our town, like most in Vermont, depends greatly on volunteers to help our neighbors and to stay vibrant and strong. Most of our community services wouldn't survive without their volunteers.

If you have a few hours to engage with your community, it can change your life – and certainly the life of our town. Like the idea of volunteering? Here are some suggestions:

The **Friends of the Institute and Butterfield Library** is looking for volunteers to join the group. The Friends provides help to the Institute and the library with day-to-day tasks, help at events, assistance with fundraising efforts, and more. We can tailor your volunteering schedule/output to your interests, time, and skills.

For more information, contact librarian Alison Baitz at butterfieldlib.05158@gmail.com or call 802-722-4891, or contact Jennie Perry at jennie.perry@wnesu.com.

Westminster Cares, which helps seniors and adults with disabilities to live with independence and dignity in the community, needs volunteers for:

Friendly visits to folks in Westminster who have asked for periodic check ins.

Transportation to appointments or errands.

Garden Tour: Various opportunities for the annual Garden Tour.

Chore helper: Helping neighbors with yardwork, repairs, etc.

For more information, contact Michelle Aron, director of Westminster Cares, at westminstercaresvt@gmail.com or call 802-722-3607.

The town of Westminster frequently has openings for volunteers. Currently they need people for these positions:

Listers (two) and selectboard (one). These are appointed positions until the next election in March, when candidates need to run for election.

Community Improvement Loan Fund Committee (three)

These are appointed positions. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, contact Kelley Thayer at atassistant@westminstervt.org.

The **Westminster Inclusion Committee** is seeking members. Contact Lise Sparrow at lisesparrow@gmail.com.

Interested in local history? The **Westminster Historical Society** could use volunteers to help clean cemetery stones and to be docents for the Bradley Law Office and Town Hall Museum on Saturday afternoons this summer. Also volunteers comfortable with data entry can help with a backlog of cataloging. Contact Jessie Haas at kjh@sover.net.

The **Westminster West Community Fair**, held Sept. 12, is looking for these volunteers:

Help on the planning committee

Road race helpers

Corn huskers

Tag sale helpers

Food prep the week of the fair, kitchen helpers and clean-up crew

Set up and cleanup crew

Parade help

Bake sale helpers

Grillers, Ice cream scoopers

Contact Lynn Twiss at 09mstwiss@gmail.com or Betsy Williams at edw1956@icloud.com

Westminster Volunteer Fire and Rescue is always looking for firefighters, EMTs and medical volunteers, and they'll train the right person. Pick up an application at the firehouse on Grout Ave. on Sunday mornings or call Cole or June Streeter at 802-722-3178.

Westminster Center School is looking for reading buddies, lunch mentors, and volunteers to help with its winter sports program, Studio Y, and the after-school program. Get in touch with principal Liz Harty at elizabeth.harty@wnesu.com.

Embrace the place where you live! Volunteer!

REMEMBRANCES JUNE 2026

LINDA J. PARZYCH (DONAIS), 77
1/31/1949 - 4/10/2026
WESTMINSTER, VT

VIRGINIA (WEIS) BOURNE, 95
4/1930 - 4/2026
CASTINE, ME

JOHN CONNORS,
WESTMINSTER, VT

WALDA "SUE" RICHMOND, 83
4/29/1943 - 4/29/2026
BELLOWS FALLS, VT

SOJOURNS EXPANDS PRIMARY CARE TEAM

Sojourns Community Health Clinic, known for its holistic and collaborative approach to whole-person care, is pleased to announce the addition of two Nurse Practitioners to its growing primary care team.

Brianna Smith, NP, joined Sojourns in May 2026 as a Family Nurse Practitioner and is now accepting primary care patients of all ages — from newborns to seniors. Brianna brings five years of ICU travel nursing experience and holds a Master of Science in Nursing with a focus on Family Nurse Practice. Her clinical interests include primary care and caring for children and families of all ages.

Tracy Hawse, NP, joined the clinic in March 2026 and is accepting primary care patients ages 18 and older. Tracy is a certified Adult Nurse Practitioner with nearly seven years of NP experience and almost 28 years as a Registered Nurse. She integrates lifestyle medicine, trauma-informed care, and holistic modalities — a natural fit for Sojourns' collaborative, whole-person philosophy.

Both providers are credentialed with multiple insurance plans. To schedule an appointment with either provider, call 802-722-4023.

BDCC ANNOUNCES SUMMER FUNDING FUNDAMENTALS SERIES FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

The Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation (BDCC) is pleased to announce the next sessions of its Funding Fundamentals program, a series of free educational offerings designed to help small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs better understand and access capital.

The series begins with an in-person workshop, Funding Fundamentals: Lenders and Finance 101, on Wednesday, June 3 from 5 to 8 p.m. at 76 Cotton Mill Hill Brattleboro, VT 05301. This session will provide participants with a foundational introduction to business finance, including common lending terminology, an overview of financing options, and guidance on how to prepare for meeting with lenders. Attendees will also have the opportunity to connect directly with local and statewide commercial lenders and resource partners.

"Accessing loans and funding remains one of the most significant barriers for small businesses, particularly for those who are just getting started or have not done it before," said Dani Delaini, Assistant Director and Head of Business Acceleration at the BDCC. "Funding Fundamentals is designed to break down that process and create a more approachable pathway to understand when and if pursuing a business loan is the right next step."

The Vermont Economic Development Authority is participating in Funding Fundamentals to share their commercial lending expertise and help businesses find a path forward.

The series continues with a virtual workshop on Wednesday, June 10 at 5 p.m. titled Understanding Business Credit, presented by Stephen Robert, CEO of

Bedrock Credit America. This session will focus specifically on how business owners can build, interpret, and improve their credit profiles, and how credit impacts access to financing. Drawing on Bedrock Credit America's educational approach, the workshop will provide practical guidance on credit structure, common pitfalls, and strategies for strengthening credit over time.

The final offering in the series is a focused mini session on Wednesday, June 17 from 4 to 4:30 p.m., Not All Capital is Equal: How to Avoid Financing Traps. This ses-

sion will walk through an example case study of an existing business and examine the true cost of various financing options, including processor advance loans commonly offered through platforms such as Square.

Pre-registration is encouraged.

For more information or to register, visit <https://brattleborodevelopment.com/event/funding-fundamentals-spring/> or contact BDCC's Business Services team.



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KATHY HANKS RETIRES FROM SAVINGS BANK OF WALPOLE

Savings Bank of Walpole (SBW) announces the retirement of Kathy Hanks, Branch Manager of the North Meadow Plaza and Village branches in Walpole. Her retirement, effective May 1, concludes a remarkable 46-year banking career, including 21 years of leadership at SBW.

Kathy's career is defined by a deep commitment to service, leadership, and community. She began her banking career in 1980 at Chase Manhattan Bank in New York City, where she quickly gained experience in a fast-paced financial environment.

Her path took her from Alaska to New England, building expertise in consumer lending, cash management, and customer relationship banking.

In 2005, Kathy joined Savings Bank of Walpole as Branch Manager of the North Meadow Plaza and Village branches. She has been a steady and trusted presence in the

Walpole community, guiding her teams through change while maintaining the personal service and local connection that define SBW.

"Kathy has been a dedicated leader and a familiar, trusted presence for both her staff and the customers she has served," said Dominic Perkins, Senior Vice President of Retail Administration. "Her commitment to supporting her team, building relationships, and representing the values of Savings Bank of Walpole has been evident throughout her career."

Throughout her time at SBW, Kathy has taken great



pride in mentoring her teams and fostering a culture built on trust, collaboration, and care for customers. Her leadership has helped strengthen the Bank's connection to the Walpole community and contributed to the continued success of its branch network.

"Kathy's impact goes far beyond her years of service," said Mark Bodin, President of Savings Bank of Walpole. "She has helped shape the experience our customers expect and the culture our employees value. Her dedication to this community reflects what it means to be here for good."

As she retires, Kathy reflects on SBW as a "precious gem" and a cornerstone of the community, sentiments that speak to the lasting relationships she has built over her career.

In photo, Kathy Hanks.

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

First Congregational Church of Westminster on Rt 5 in Westminster. We welcome you to join us for the following.

May 24 Service at 10 with a special focus on Memorial day with remembrances given to all in attendance. Veterans welcome and encouraged to attend. This is Pentecost Sunday. Please wear red.

May 30. Spring Sale 9-2. Church property, lots of various items and food to choose from.

May 27. Lucky Lunch 12-2

May 27. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Hall and Zoom

May 31. Service at 10:00 a.m.

June 2. Women's Fellowship 10:30. Hall and Zoom

June 3 Lucky Lunch 12-2

June 7. Service at 10:00

June 10. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Hall and Zoom

June 14 Service at 10:00 with Communion

June 15. Standing Committee 5:30 p.m. Hall and Zoom

June 17. Lucky Lunch 12-2

June 17 Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Hall and Zoom

June 21. Service at 9:00 to accommodate the Alumni Parade and events. Fathers Day all Fathers will be honored and gift given to those in attendance.

June 28 Service at 10:00

We are a growing faith community and welcome you to join us. We have a children's message at each service and fellowship follows in the Hall. Rev. Rich O'Donnell serves as Pastor. We hope to see you !!

The Congregational Church of Westminster West Worships every Sunday at 10 a.m. We are using Facebook Live to stream our weekly services. 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 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 Class Tues. 10:30-12 p.m.

At the Westminster Institute

SOUPer Wednesdays

Resumes January 2027
January through April 12-2 p.m.
For deliveries Tina 802-376-7330

The East Putney Contradance at Pierce's Hall - Saturday, May 30 at 121 E. Putney Falls Road (look for the "Dance" signs). Circle and Contra Dances with David Millstone calling.

6 pm - Family Hour with Dancing for all ages

7:00 - Snacks

7:30-Contradance

9:30--Last waltz

All dances are taught. No partner required. By free will donation. Stay in touch at: eputneypierceshall@gmail.com

East Putney Contradance at Pierce's Hall - 121 East Putney Falls Road off Rt. 5 (look for the signs) Saturday, April 25

Circle and Contra Dances. Great live music!

6 pm - Family Hour with Dancing for all ages

7:00 - Snacks

7:30--Contradance (starting with instructions for beginners)

9:30--Last waltz

All dances are taught. No partner required. By free will donation. Stay in touch at: eputneypierceshall@gmail.com

Knitting Together

THE GAZETTE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT OF ITS UNDERWRITERS:

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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- Meets 2nd Tues. at 6 p.m., Westminster Institute. Contact is Jim Grout at jgrout@high5adventure.org.

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

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Provided by the Community

westminsternews@gmail.com

July Deadline

The deadline for the July 2026 Issue of the Westminster Gazette is Wednesday, June 24
Publication Date Is Wed. July 1
To Contact the Westminster Gazette
E-mail: westminsternews@gmail.com

YOUTH TURKEY WEEKEND SUCCESS

Youth turkey hunting weekend was April 25th and 26th for kids under 15 years old who can hunt with a licensed mentor for one adult bearded turkey.

Isaac Corliss got this 19 pound turkey while hunting off Morse Brook Road at the family camp.

To participate in youth weekend kids have to take both an online hunter education course with testing, as well as attend an all-day hands-on class and have a mentor.

His mentor was Grant Lawrence. This was Isaac's first turkey. He is the son of Russell and Maria Corliss.



In photo, Isaac Corliss 12, with first turkey.

KH GETS CSA GRANT

Kurn Hattin Home and School for Children has been awarded a competitive \$24,495 Farm to School and Early Childhood Grant from the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets.

The grant, awarded following an October 2025 application process, will support the launch of a student-led garden and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program on the Kurn Hattin campus.

The initiative reflects Kurn Hattin's longstanding connection to Vermont's agricultural heritage while introducing a modern, scaled approach to hands-on learning. While Kurn Hattin once operated a full working farm, this new program reimagines agricultural engagement in ways that align with today's educational model and student experience.

Beginning this winter, students from select cottages will start seeds indoors before transplanting them into newly designed garden spaces in the spring. Children will help design the gardens, select crops, and take part in planting, harvesting, and packaging produce. Over time, additional cottages will rotate into the program.

A central feature of the initiative will be the creation of mini-CSA baskets filled with student-grown vegetables, fruits, herbs, and tested recipes. These baskets will be shared within cottages and sent home to families. Students will also visit local farms, and deepen their understanding of how food is grown, harvested, and prepared.

"This grant allows us to honor our history while moving thoughtfully into



the future," said Executive Director Sue Kessler. "Agriculture has always been part of Kurn Hattin's story. Now, our children will once again experience the pride that comes from planting a seed, nurturing it, and sharing the harvest. It's hands-on learning that builds confidence, responsibility, and connection to the land, to their community, and to one another."

The program aligns with Vermont's Farm to School priorities by enriching educational experiences, promoting health and wellness, and strengthening connections between schools and local communities.

Four local farms are already partnering with Kurn Hattin to provide guidance and host student visits.

Community involvement will be an important part of the program's success. Kurn Hattin welcomes volunteers interested in helping in the garden and invites additional farms and agricultural partners to get involved.

"This is about more than growing vegetables," Kessler added. "It's about growing skills, curiosity, and opportunity. It's another way we help children discover what's possible."

For more information or to inquire about volunteering, please visit www.kurnhattin.org or contact the Development Office at 802-721-6916.

NYSTROM STUDENT OF MONTH

Bellows Falls Union High School, in partnership with the Bellows Falls Elks Lodge #19, is proud to recognize Abby Nystrom as the Elks Student of the Month for April. Abby is a junior and the daughter of Eric and Tammy Nystrom of Saxtons River.

This recognition, determined through nominations and voting by faculty and staff, is based on Abby's outstanding attitude, attendance, academic effort, and her meaningful contributions to both school and community life.

Abby is an exceptional student who consistently demonstrates a high level of academic effort.

She is an intelligent and hardworking young woman who takes pride in her learning and puts forth her best effort in all of her classes. When she encounters something challenging, she respectfully and appropriately asks for clarification, demonstrating maturity and a strong commitment to her education.

Abby's positive attitude stands out each day. She brings a positive energy to the school community each day and is known for encouraging others. She is a natural leader who sets a great example both in and out of the classroom and consistently offers a friendly smile to everyone she encounters.

Abby is a major contributor to school life, particularly through her athletic and leadership involvement. She is a dedicated multi-sport athlete who has made a significant impact on both the soccer and basketball programs. She was recognized as Athlete of the Month for Girls



Varsity Basketball and has earned honors from the Southern Vermont League and the Vermont Basketball Coaches Association. She has also been recognized by the Southern Vermont League for her contributions to the soccer program.

In addition to athletics, Abby is an active member of the Student Council and the Athletic Council. Through these roles, she participates in a wide range of school and community-based activities, including food drives, working with elementary students, organizing and supporting events such as Winter Carnival, contributing to bulletin boards, assisting with Terrier Day of Service, helping to build school spirit, and organizing holiday gifts for students at Kurn Hattin.

Beyond school, Abby is deeply involved in her community. She has volunteered her time to support summer basketball camps, the Elks Hoop Shoot, Rockingham Recreation road races, local track meets, Main Street Arts, and various activities at Bellows Falls Union High School.

Abby truly represents the qualities this award celebrates, and BFUHS and the Bellows Falls Elks Lodge are proud to recognize her as the April Student of the Month.

BEEKEEPING WORKSHOPS

I am Charles Andros, former NH/VT Apiary Inspector. I put on four Beekeeping Workshops per season at \$40 each, children under 18 free if accompanied by parent.

Saturday, May 16. Topics of discussion: finding queens, requeening colonies, pollen collection, swarm control, supering, and bee venom therapy."

Saturday, July 18. The topics of discussion will be taking off and extracting honey, wax processing, queen assessment and requeening, treatment of mites and foulbrood, and making propolis tincture."

Saturday, Sept. 19. Topics of discus-

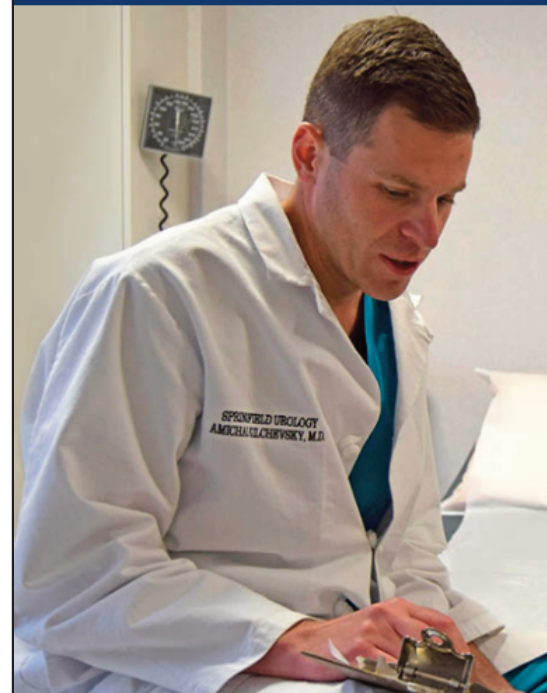
sion will include treatment of nosema and mites (including using oxalic acid), winter preparations, winter protein and carbohydrate supplements, and making beeswax hand creams.

All held at my home from 1-4 p.m. First on right off Walpole Valley Road, 18 MacLean Road, Alstead, NH.

Bring a veil, if you have one, as we shall be opening some colonies. Water and sunscreen are also a plus. We'll be inside if it is a rainy day.

Registration required. Email: linde-ndamel@gmail.com or call 603-756-9056.

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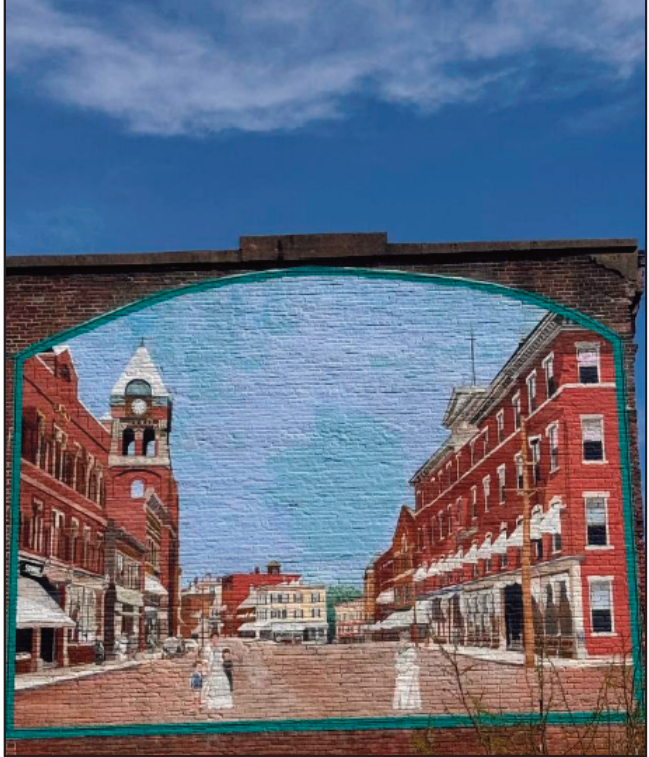
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JUNE BUSINESS OF THE MONTH: ROCKINGHAM ARTS & MUSEUM PROJECT




Since 1995, The Rockingham Arts and Museum Project's (RAMP) mission has evolved: integrating artists and the arts into the long-term sustainability of the community by creating effective partnerships that support a creative economy and develop programs that encourage cultural and physical accessibility.

Some of RAMP's projects include affordable housing, artists' town meetings, cable access programs, public art projects, and participating on boards of directors. RAMP's mantra: Art Makes a Difference!

Coming up at RAMP

May 23, 24, 10-5 Robert McBride painter and director of RAMP will host an open studio at 17 Rockingham St (2nd fl). Artwork can be viewed at: robertamcbride.com and sales will be donated to RAMP.

June 16-July 24, RAMP is collaborating with the Rockingham Free Public Library to host Spark! Places of Innovation is a Smithsonian traveling exhibition exploring how rural communities foster creativity, invention, and innovation.

August 15, November 7, mark your calendars for Miss Bellows Falls Diner dinners hosted at the Moose Lodge: missbellowsfalls.com.

Mural photos by Robert F. Smith

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