



WESTMINSTER WEST COMMUNITY FAIR
SATURDAY, SEPT. 12

The 36th annual Westminster West Community Fair will be on Saturday, Sept. 12.

While it's too early for you to bake some brownies, it is not too early to think of what goody you have in your garage or attic that you can donate to the Silent Auction or Golden Elephant. And it is definitely not too late to join the fair committee or volunteer to help. To join in the fun of planning, email laladust@gmail.com

The Silent Auction will be both online and at the church. Online gives folks who can't be at the fair a chance to bid on the donated auction items. Most of the business donations will be online, but on Fair day there will be a lot of other auction items upstairs in the church for bidding.

Golden Elephant Tag Sale will be back again. If you want to be a volunteer to help call Laura at 802 387-2765 or email her at laladust@gmail.com. (Volunteers get to have first dibs on items by virtue of seeing them first.)

This year's Parade theme is "HONORING THOSE WHO STEPPED UP FOR RURAL SCHOOLS."

The Grand Marshal is Cheryl Charles, who has been totally committed to keeping our rural schools local. She is chair of the Westminster Town School District Board. Deputy Marshals (the other members of the school boards), as well as everyone connected with the school; students, bus drivers, administrators, teachers, paras, counselors, maintenance folks, school librarians, volunteers, sports coaches, cafeteria workers and of course parents - all are invited to march in the parade as we celebrate our rural schools

Our quirky parade is again at 10:30 a.m. and offers an opportunity to meet new neighbors, our local politi-



cians, young bike riders, drummers, accordion players and perennial favorites "Ladies against Women." And don't forget our Peace Dove.

There'll be the usual selection of entertainment and activities from races in the morning to the talent show in the afternoon. In between there is the fabulous chicken BBQ, the ever popular and exclusive "Whack a Corn Cob" and don't forget to view the work of local artists upstairs or the zany vegetable creations in the foyer of the church (let those zucchinis grow!)

This event is a wonderful opportunity to gather together as friends and neighbors, to honor the schools who teach our children, and have fun and share talents with each other. It also provides a significant financial contribution to the Church's annual budget for keeping

our village church and community gathering center in good repair and available for community use.

ONLINE AUCTION GUIDELINES

During July and August, folks need to let Cheryl Charles (cherylcharles01@gmail.com) know of possible donations to the silent auction. Please send a photo and description of the item, estimated value, and if there is a minimum bid. Our deadline is August 25th.

Ray Huessy, our website guru, will post them on the auction page at the church website (westminsterwest.org). The bidding kickoff will be announced via an email, but before Labor Day weekend. Sunday, Sept. 13 is the last day of bidding. Last bid updates will be posted on the auction website at 1, 2, 3, and 4pm. Bidding closes at 5pm. In the next week, we arrange transport of auction items to the winners.

DON'T FORGET THE GOLDEN RULE OF DONATING:

Only donate what you would want to add to your household clutter.

GOLDEN ELEPHANT GUIDELINES

If you have something for the Sale or Church Silent Auction, you can bring it by the week before the fair (5 to 8pm on Tue, Wed and Thur.) or make an appointment for drop off with, Tom Griffith 387-5694 or Laura Williams 387-2765.

Please remember, no furniture, broken toys or broken anything, books or clothes and do follow the Golden Rule for the sale: donate only what you yourself might want to buy that doesn't create more clutter.

In photo, last year's Grand Marshal Howie Prussack. Photo by Ira Wilner.

ROCKINGHAM OLD HOME DAYS WEEKEND RETURNS JULY 31–AUGUST 2
WITH A CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY, HISTORY, AND TRADITION



Rockingham Old Home Days Weekend returns Friday, July 31, through Sunday, Aug. 2, bringing together community organizations, local businesses, musicians, volunteers, and residents for a weekend celebrating the history, traditions, and community spirit of Rockingham.

This year's celebration features a full weekend of events across the community, blending longtime traditions with new experiences for visitors of all ages.

The festivities begin on Friday, July 31, with live music by Isaac Ian from 4: to 6 p.m. at 7 Balls Brewing in Bellows Falls. The evening continues with a Community Car Show hosted by the Hit or Mis Car Club from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the BDR Transport parking lot on Route 5, the new home of the Twin Falls Training Center. Visitors are invited to enjoy an evening of classic, custom, antique, and specialty vehicles while kicking off Old Home Days Weekend.

On Saturday, August 1, the Bellows Falls Fish Ladder will host a full day of special programming from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visitors can enjoy educational exhibits, interactive activities, and opportunities to learn more about the annual migration of fish along the Connecticut River.

Saturday evening's celebration continues at the Waypoint Center in Bellows Falls, where Rockingham Old Home Days will take place from 4 to 9 p.m. The festival will feature local vendors, community organizations, food trucks, family activities, live music, demonstrations, and entertainment throughout the evening.

Highlights include:

- Vermont Armored Combat live performance from 4: to 5 p.m., followed by an interactive experience until



5:30 p.m.

- Debbie and the Downers at 4 p.m.
- Intercept at 5:30 p.m.
- MV19 at 7 p.m.
- The 50th Annual Fireworks Display at 9:30 p.m.

by Lisai's Market, lighting up the sky over the Connecticut River.

The weekend concludes on Sunday, August 2, with the annual Pilgrimage to the Rockingham Meeting House, a tradition dating back more than a century. The Pilgrimage celebrates Rockingham's rich history through special programming, tours, music, and community fellowship at one of Vermont's most significant historic landmarks.

"Old Home Days is about celebrating what makes Rockingham and it's villages such a special place," said Casey Griffin, Executive Director of the Bellows Falls



Downtown Development Alliance. "It's a chance to celebrate our history, support local organizations and businesses, and spend time together as a community. We're excited to see so many partners coming together to make this year's weekend bigger than ever."

Residents and visitors are encouraged to make a weekend of it by enjoying Friday's live music and community car show, Saturday's Fish Ladder programming and Old Home Days festivities, and Sunday's Pilgrimage to the Rockingham Meeting House.

Additional event details and updates will be shared as they become available.

For the latest schedule, event details, and additional information, visit www.gfrcc.org/rohd2026, follow the Great Falls Regional Chamber of Commerce on Facebook, or @greatfallschambervt on Instagram.

Our Monthly Community Newspaper August 2026 Vol. 22 No.8

Westminster Gazette

Town of Westminster
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Westminster, VT
05158

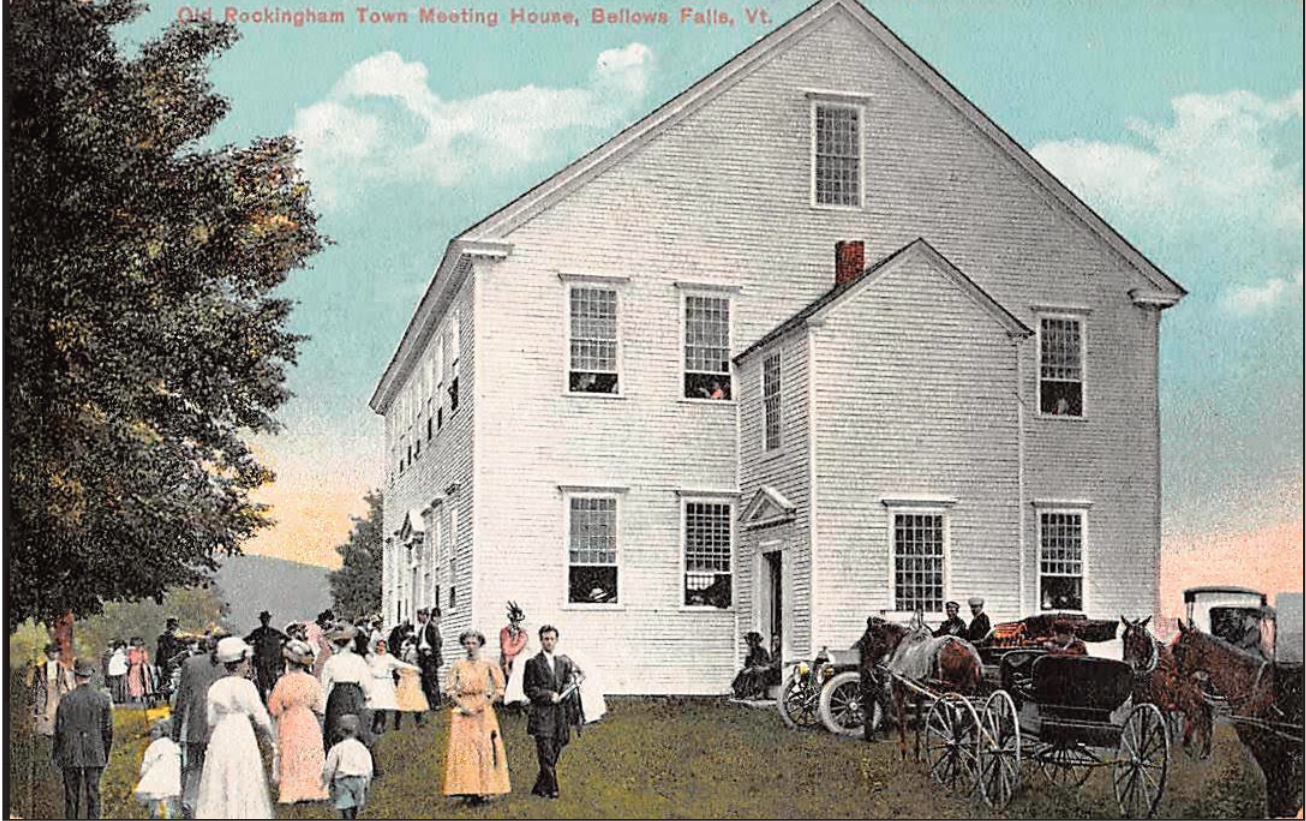
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ROCKINGHAM MEETING HOUSE PILGRIMAGE TO COMMEMORATE THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE



The Rockingham Meeting House Association invites the public to join in a special Annual Pilgrimage at the historic Rockingham Meeting House as the community continues to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. This year's Pilgrimage is especially meaningful because it takes place on August 2—the very day, 250 years ago, when members of the Continental Congress began signing the parchment copy of the Declaration of Independence. While July 4 marks the adoption of the Declaration's text, it was August 2, 1776, when most delegates gathered to place their signatures on the document. By signing, they publicly pledged "their Lives, their Fortunes and their sacred Honor" in support of American independence. The Rockingham Meeting House Pilgrimage will



commemorate this historic milestone through a program of remembrance, music, storytelling, and community fellowship set against the backdrop of one of Vermont's most important Revolutionary-era landmarks. The program begins with a fife and drum mustering visitors gather to the Meeting House cemetery. There, the community will honor Rockingham's Revolutionary War veterans, including local men who fought at the Battle of Bunker Hill, paying tribute to the courage and sacrifice of those who helped secure the nation's independence. Mustered into the Meeting House, Revolutionary-era music will set the tone for a public reading of the Declaration of Independence, allowing visitors to hear the words that inspired a revolution on the very anniversary of the document's signing. The program will also feature "A New American – The Tale of Deborah Sampson," a dramatic presentation celebrating the extraordinary life of the only woman to receive a military pension for 18 months of service in the Continental Army. Born into poverty and determined to make her own way in the world, Sampson became a teacher, a skilled weaver, and ultimately a soldier who disguised herself as a man to enlist in the Continental Army. After the war, she became one of America's earliest female pub-

lic lecturers, sharing her remarkable story at a time when women's voices were rarely heard from the public stage. The Pilgrimage concludes with a community sing-along of familiar patriotic songs celebrating freedom, unity, and the enduring ideals of the American Revolution. The Annual Pilgrimage has long been a cherished Rockingham tradition, bringing together residents and visitors to reflect on the nation's founding while celebrating the Meeting House's place in Vermont and American history. This year's observance, marking the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, offers a rare opportunity to commemorate a milestone that is often overshadowed by Independence Day itself. The event is free and open to everyone. Whether you are a lifelong resident, a student of history, or visiting the Rockingham Meeting House for the first time, all are warmly invited to participate in this memorable community celebration of the people, principles, and sacrifices that gave birth to the United States.

In photos, from left, Deborah Sampson, woman soldier of the Revolutionary War; the Rockingham Meeting House, early 1900s.



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New Sections Introductory Rates:
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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

BACK IN THE DAY: LYNN LAWRENCE REMEMBERS LAUNDRY AND CLOTHING

By Sherry Lawrence

My family and I recently marked one year since our Dad, Lynn Wallace Lawrence, died on 04/09/25. Just months before he died, The Gazette began publishing his “Back in the Day” articles in which he shared what it was like to live in a family with ten children in the 1940’s. He was surprised to see his stories in print and to have people wanting to discuss his memories or to clip the articles and keep them in scrapbooks. Like many people who feel they have lived ordinary lives, he didn’t realize how extraordinary his stories were. This story was one of the last he told my family and me. If anyone who knew my Dad or read his stories, or anyone who simply loves to read and write, would like to honor his memory, our family would appreciate donations in his name to The Butterfield Library, P.O. Box 123, Westminster, VT, 05158.



We didn’t have any special laundry day, my mother just washed clothes whenever she had time to do it. We had a gasoline powered Maytag washing machine. The gasoline engine was built into the bottom of the machine just like electric motors are today, and it kick-started just like a motorcycle. It had a hit-or-miss governor and only fired when it had to. The exhaust came out of a long, flexible hose that we put in the window, then stuffed a towel or something like that around it so the exhaust wouldn’t come back into the house. The used water was drained out of the machine through a pipe that went to a dry well. We used a metal can with a spout shaped like an oil can that was calibrated on the side. First we’d put in the right amount of oil, then gas, then put it in the engine. There weren’t too many brands of laundry detergent. My mother mostly used Tide or Duz. The box of Duz always came with a gift in it, like a cup or saucer. There was no such thing as fabric softener so when we put our clothes on it was like they were starched. We didn’t have a pump in our house until the 1950’s so until then we had to lug water from the well across the road. If we needed to use hot water, we’d heat it on the woodstove in the kitchen, which was all we had to cook on, so it was ready and hot all year, even in the summer.

Laundry would go in the machine, washed with an agitator just like those in electric washers, then put through our hand wringer and right into a galvanized tub of fresh water to be rinsed, then through the hand wringer again. Sometimes we used the hand wringer to shell beans, too. Everything was dried by sunshine. If we couldn’t hang things outside because of weather, the laundry would be hung all over the kitchen where it was warm and dry because of the woodstove. There were no electric irons. Irons were really made of iron, shaped like the electric irons of today and very heavy, black, and sometimes embossed with designs. We had a few of them on the back of the woodstove staying hot all the time but only one handle to take from one iron to another. They called them “sad irons.” Only some things needed to be ironed. My mother would get out her wooden ironing board, set it up in the kitchen and lay the clothes on it. She had a soda

bottle that she filled with water, then put on a top like a shower head held in place by a cork. She’d sprinkle the clothes with water before she ironed them. As a boy, I never understood why we had to get the clothes bone dry and then go and sprinkle water on them! With four brothers and five sisters, there weren’t a lot of clothes to spare. We only got brand new ones once in a while. When school started every year, we’d each get one pair of shoes or boots that were sturdy enough to do chores in and we called them “clodhoppers.” We got one new pair of jeans that we called “dungarees.” Once I got some new boots but I didn’t have them for very long. I outgrew them and passed them along to my younger brother, Dennis. I just don’t remember what we had for socks. We went barefoot all summer. There weren’t any signs in the stores saying you had to wear shirts and shoes to be served. Nobody had ever heard of such a thing! My mother and my sister, Dot, kept going barefoot even when they were all grown up. We each had two sets of clothes. One set was just for working. Sometimes we got work from other families. We worked at an orchard in Putney cutting down brush and hauling it away from under the apple trees during the summer, and then in the fall we’d work picking up apples that had dropped to the ground. Or we worked for farmers, helping them get in the hay and other chores. We had plenty of work at home, too. We always had a big garden and we had chickens all the time and goats and rabbits. We didn’t wash our work clothes every day, only when they got really dirty. You can see why our clothes had to be well-made and sturdy. The second set of clothes were for school and we wore them five days a week. We weren’t expected to get the school clothes dirty. But I remember sometimes having to wash out my school clothes in the sink by hand and hanging them up in the kitchen so I could wear them the next day. One day, not too long ago, my son’s girlfriend told me that I was wearing two different colored socks and they didn’t match. I told her they matched just fine, and I had another pair just like them!

In photo, Lynn Lawrence.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER CARES

The Westminster Cares Board of Directors is on pause and will resume in September 2026.

WESTMINSTER CARES GARDEN TOUR: The 23rd annual Westminster Cares Garden Tour was held on July 11th and 12th. Over the years this event has become the major fundraiser for Westminster Cares and this year was a great success! Thank you to all volunteers, and those who came out to support the event.

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 who are 60 and older. The following list is for donations made in someone’s honor or memory.

HONORARY:
In honor of Westminster Cares volunteers, from Bill Smidutz

MEMORIALS:
In memory of Sally Davis, from Howard Davis
In memory of Hollis Ryea, from Carolyn Marsh

AUGUST 2026 PRIMARY INFORMATION

The Vermont Voter Portal vote.vermont.gov, previously the My Voter Page is voters’ primary online resource for all election information unique to them. The site includes registration status, absentee ballot requests and statuses, participation history, polling places, sample ballots, candidate listings for upcoming elections and more.

Voters can log in anytime using their name, town, date of birth and either their driver’s license number or the last 4 digits of their Social Security Number (SSN).

Absentee ballots can be requested:
-In person, at the town clerk’s office,

-In writing using the absentee ballot request form found online at the Vermont Voter Portal (vote.vermont.gov),
-By phone to the town clerk, or
-Online via the Vermont Voter Portal (vote.vermont.gov)

The Westminster Institute, 3534 US Route 5, will be open 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. August 11, 2026 for Primary voting. For more information contact the Westminster town clerk at 802-722-4091 or clerk@westminstervt.org or asst-clerk@westminstervt.org.

In this issue, Westminster sample ballots on page 7.

TAI CHI CLASSES OFFERED

After a bicycle accident, Yang Yang had debilitating, residual pain that would not go away. His doctor suggested Tai Chi/Qigong to overcome the pain. So Yang Yang encouraged himself with Taoist scripture: “Thunder will not last the whole day,” meaning this crisis will go away. He also took to heart: “My body has the ability to heal.” After two years of Tai Chi practice, he was pain free. His profession now: helping others with chronic pain heal.

Nadia Linda Hole of Hawaii has healed and survived cancer via Tai Chi. Sharon Smith, founder of Immortal Sisters of the Tao, is 74 but looks and feels 60. She credits her 48 years of Tai Chi/Qigong.

Tai Chi anyone?

More healing than western exercise, Tai Chi builds “chi” or life energy. It is slow and gentle. Doctors recommend it. Two beginner Tai Chi classes begin in September at Westminster Institute taught by Leslie Lassetter of Oriental Healing Arts Assn. Time: Tuesdays at 10:30 and Thursdays at 5:30. Address: 3534 Route 5, Westminster VT. Cost: \$10-20 sliding scale. Open to new students in September. Class is ongoing. Recovering from surgery or cannot stand for an hour? Seated Tai Chi meets Tuesdays at 12:15. Join anytime for a gentle all body workout. Same location. \$10-20 sliding scale. For further info: Westminster-CaresVt@gmail.com or 802-722-3607. For a sample class: look up “Tai Chi with Leslie” on YouTube.

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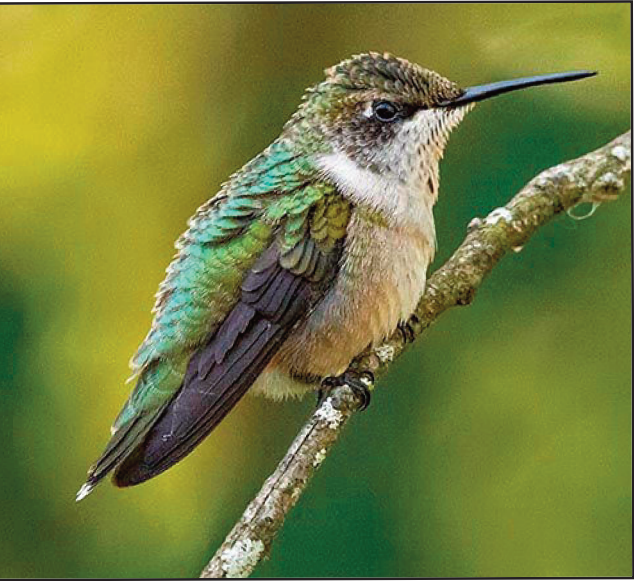
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Nature Notes - My Garage Is a Nursery This Year- Part II

by Alma Beals, Vermont Master Gardener and Naturalist



As I sit here in my gazebo, the first cool morning after the heat wave, enjoying the hummingbirds sipping from the bee balm and listening to the Carolina wren singing his happy song, I couldn’t imagine what could be greater than this!

Last month, I told you about the robins, Carolina wrens and mourning doves that nested in my garage. Since then, a Carolina wren landed on my deck railing and sat there quietly for several minutes. As all of you know, a Carolina wren does not sit quietly. They are a bundle of activity and constantly singing.

I wondered if he was sick. After a few minutes, two



more wrens peaked over the edge of the deck. Then it hit me, this was a baby. After a few minutes of chattering, all three left. The next day, all three visited again. I had to wonder if the parents were teaching the youngster that I had fed one of them peanut butter on the deck the previous winter and the baby was being taught this is where the peanut butter is.

A few days later, watching from my kitchen window, I saw a robin picking up and then dropping twigs until she had found the right one. She flew off with it in her beak, like a dog carries a bone. Then she flew over the roof, and out of my sight. I then spotted her on the other side of the garage. Was this the same robin who had nested in my garage and was she nesting there again?

The bee balm in my garden is in full flower with a



female hummingbird constantly there. A male hummingbird visited today when the female was missing. I expect a lot of fighting if they arrive at the same time.

I haven’t seen any hummingbird babies yet but how I enjoy watching them trying to decide what has nectar and what doesn’t.

I am spending most of my time in my own yard now that the marsh is quiet. But every time I say that, something new will come along.

In photos, left and center, hummingbirds, and at right a Carolina wren.

WESTMINSTER SAMPLER - CEMETERY STROLL CHALLENGE

This year the Historical Society is all about cemeteries. Following on our highly successful work bee in June, we created a new museum exhibit, Exploring Our Cemeteries, highlighting some notable stones and Westminster stories from the Old, New, and Westminster West cemeteries. This is open Saturdays 2-4 p.m. through Sept. 5, and will remain up through our annual meeting. This is set for Oct. 12, 6 p.m. at the Museum and will feature Jennifer Bartlau talking about the ancient symbols found on older gravestones.

On Sept. 12 we'll do a demonstration of gravestone cleaning and straightening in the Westminster West cemetery in the early afternoon as part of the annual church fair. We then plan a smaller work bee in that cemetery for a little later in the fall.

Meanwhile, you can take part in the Cemetery Stroll Challenge. Clip this article, cut out the form on page 7 of this paper, or print the challenge out from our website, www.westminstervthistory.org, and play along.

WESTMINSTER CEMETERY STROLL CHALLENGE

Three cemeteries, three beautiful places to stroll and reflect, 25 images or phrases to find. The first person to find them all receives a signed copy of WESTMINSTER VT, 1735-2000; TOWNSHIP NUMBER ONE. Other prizes will include commemorative pencils, cup plates, Westminster postcards, and some of our other



books.

How To Take the Cemetery Stroll Challenge

Take a quiet, respectful walk in the cemetery, bearing in mind that you are among veterans who served our country, and beloved friends and neighbors, some of whom passed only recently.

Find the phrase or image. Write down the name on the stone. Return the form to the Museum, mail to us—Post Office Box 2, Westminster VT, 05158—or photograph/scan your form and email it to kjh@sover.net.

Hints In the Old Cemetery most stones face east. In Westminster West most face west. In the New Cemetery they face in all directions, and some lie flat. The detail may be on any face of the stone. Unusual images are on more modern stones.

- OLD CEMETERY
- Rt. 5, top of Courthouse Hill
- Mention of the deceased's grandparents
- An open Bible
- The words Memento Mori, an urn with a face on it
- The words "Dutiful to Parents"
- The words "Perpetual Care"
- The words "In Kind As Well As In Quantity"
- Mention of King Henry 1 of France

- WESTMINSTER WEST CEMETERY
- Beside the church
- The words "Westminster Massacre"
- Two cats
- A fieldstone with a bronze plaque
- A collie and 2 dachshunds
- A dandelion puff
- A Star of David
- A wooden cross
- The words "Gone Fishing"
- While here take a look at the hearse house, newly restored using ARPA funds. A hearse built a few hundred yards away will be returning to its old home here.

- NEW CEMETERY
- Kurn Hattin Road
- A Police Officers Prayer
- The words "Real Good People"
- U.S. Navy ship USS Princeton
- A horse
- Crossed golf clubs
- A unicorn
- 2 black cats
- A blue pond with deer and birds
- A hawk in a tree
- 2 beer cans

Anyone wishing to take part in the Westminster Cemetery Stroll Challenge can cut out a fillable form with all of these clues on page 7 of this paper.

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, Aug. 4 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 meeting Aug. 16.

Number of calls in June: 42

Number of calls through July 23rd: 23

Number of calls calendar year to date: 234

Number of calls fiscal year from July 1st: 23

Association Meeting: The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association met for their regular meeting July 7th with President Eyvonne Martin presiding. There were 22 members present and 3 members excused. Currently there are 45 members of the volunteer fire department. The department voted to accept the application for membership from Marion McGowen under the 6 month probation guidelines. Marion will be a junior member until she turns 18. Welcome aboard Marion.

Emergency responses: June turned out to be another busy month with 42 calls for the month. Here is the breakdown for the 42 calls: 23 rescue/medical calls; 4 Mutual

Aid: 3 to Putney, 1 to Chester; 3 motor vehicle crashes/incidents; 1 smoke investigations; 3 false alarms; 1 service call; 3 for tree on wires/power line down; 2 electrical issues; 2 lift assists;

Bicycles: It seems there are more people riding bicycles this year and with the electric bikes becoming more popular the numbers are sure to increase. Some bikes have a flashing red light on the rear which helps to make them more visible, but many don’t. Unlike motorcycles, bicycles move a lot slower than traffic which makes them even more difficult to see. Some roads or streets are clearly marked with bicycle paths and others may say “Share the Road”.

However most have no warning or designated area for bikes. Either way, pay close attention to their presence so as to avoid a situation which could cause serious injury to the rider.

Filters fans and coils: It’s the time of year for cleaning filters on air conditioners, blowing out or vacuuming fans and cleaning the coils under or on the back of refrigerators and freezers. With the hot weather we have had lately they will work much better and more efficiently when clean. Also if you have rain gutters they may need cleaning.

Pavilion: The new pavilion is taking shape. The cement pad is complete. The next step will be the framing. Stop by the fire house on Grout Ave. and take a look anytime. There is usually someone there on Sunday mornings

to do a guided tour or answer any questions.

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

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS FOR SALE: Anyone want to buy a fire extinguisher? We have them for sale and there are 4 sizes available. See the Chief or stop by the fire station for more information if interested.

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 received in July:
From Bruce Mickle [twice]
Memorial Donations received in July:
From Ruth Grandy in memory of Pat Haas

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

Check us out on our web-site www.westminsterfire-andrescue.org.

SBW ANNOUNCES DIANE GALLION RETIREMENT

Savings Bank of Walpole has announced the retirement of Diane Gallion after 34 years of dedicated service to the Bank and the communities it serves.

Diane began her career at SBWs first Keene branch before later serving customers at the Village and North Meadow Plaza branches in Walpole. Over the course of more than three decades, she became known for her friendly demeanor, professionalism, and commitment to building lasting customer relationships.

A longtime member of the Walpole community, Diane embodied the spirit of community banking by taking the time to know her customers, their families, and their stories.

“Diane has been a trusted colleague, a valued member of our team, and a friendly, familiar face to generations of customers,” said Dominic Perkins, SVP, Senior Retail Banking Officer at Savings



Bank of Walpole. “Her commitment to serving others and her deep ties to the community have made a lasting impact on the Bank and everyone who had the pleasure of working with her. Savings Bank of Walpole thanks her for her many contributions and wishes her a happy and well-deserved retirement.”



4TH ANNUAL | JOHN A. HUBBARD MEMORIAL
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Build a
Brighter
Future.**

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SEPT. 17**

KEENE
COUNTRY CLUB

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Contact Heather Longe
rsvp@kurnhattin.org
802.721.6916
or scan the QR code.



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

Contact Erin Beaudry
ebeaudry@kurnhattin.org
802.721.6914

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL GARDEN TOUR RAISES FUNDS FOR WESTMINSTER CARES!

Westminster Cares held their 23rd Garden Tour on July 11 and 12. The sun was shining and the humidity dropped for both Saturday and Sunday, making for a perfect Vermont summer weekend.

The gardens on display offered shady spaces, warm breezes and an eye-ful of colorful blooms. People enjoyed strolling through the lovely gardens; taking photos; gathering ideas for their properties; listening to the strains of violin; having lunch at the garden café; and became immersed in the world of Fritzie’s Flea Circus.

Attendance was strong, many attendees were residents of Westminster and surrounding towns who support the event each year; many were garden club members and visitors from out of state, including all of New England and even Florida.

Westminster Cares’ board members and president, Lori Larue, wish to thank volunteers and community members. “The weather could not have been better and invited such a wonderful turnout. This fundraising event would not be possible without the help of those who support us: our garden hosts, sponsors, local businesses, advertisers, prize donors, volunteers, board members, committee members, previous directors, and our director, Michelle Aron. This small community has such a big heart. We are truly grateful to everyone who made this event successful and we thank you for supporting our mission.”

Sincere appreciation goes to Gordon and Mary Hayward for 23 years of support; without them this event would not be possible. We estimate that over the many years of Garden Tours, the event has raised over \$190,000 to support Westminster Cares’ programs and services.

Every year several community members open their private gardens to the public. In addition to the Haywards, special thanks go out to this year’s hosts, Cheryl Charles and Family (Hawksong East), Mandy Walsh (Westminster Center School), and Rodbard Payne-Meyer (Signal Pine).

Special thanks go to all the volunteers and board members who worked tirelessly throughout the weekend, served on the garden tour committee and donated their energy, time and effort in planning and executing this year’s Garden Tour.

Proceeds from the tour support the services and programs of Westminster Cares, a volunteer organization whose mission is to create opportunities for seniors and adults with disabilities to live with independence and dignity in the community.

(Continued with photo on page 6, more garden tour photos on page 8)

MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE IN WALPOLE

There will be a multi family yard sales in Walpole, NH on Saturday, Aug. 15 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Sand Hill Heights neighborhood, just off Valley Road. For more information call Sally at 603-445-2527

REMEMBRANCES AUGUST 2026

SHARON CHARUHAS, 76
3/30/1950 - 7/15/2026
WESTMINSTER, VT

KENNETH “DOC” GOYETTE, 80
12/6/1945 - 6/15/2026
SAXTONS RIVER, VT

CHARLES “CHUCK” SHAW, 80
10/5/1945 - 7/6/2026
WALPOLE, NH

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TheOffice@TempleChiropractic.org
www.TempleChiropractic.org

SUCCESSFUL GARDEN TOUR - CONTINUED

(Continued from page 5)

The following individuals and businesses contributed to the success of the event:

- Sponsors: Our sponsors provide key financial support so that all of the funds raised at the event can go directly to programs and services: Chroma Technology Corp., Silver Forest, 802 Credit Union, Allen Bros. Farms, Savings Bank of Walpole, Brattleboro Bowl, Mascoma Bank, Cota & Cota, and Bensonwood.
- Donations of equipment and services: Best Septic Services (portable toilet), Ruth Grandy (safety vests), Doug & Tina Smith (large tent), Bellows Falls Opera House (publicity), The Westminster Institute (tables and building use), the Congregational Church of Westminster West (chairs), Gary Cobb (ice).
- Printing and Graphic Design: Amie Walter of Amie Walter Design for designing all promotional materials; C & S Wholesale Grocers Print Shop and Howard Printing for printing all event materials.
- Music: Amy Cann, violin
- Entertainment: Shoshana Bass; Fritzie’s Flea Circus
- Photography: Ira Wilner and Lori Larue
- Plant Sales and Flower Arrangements: Morning Star Perennials (Laurie & Scott Bolotin); Judi Petry for flowers



and table arrangements.

- Ad Program: All the local individuals, businesses and organizations who purchased ads in the Garden Tour program.
- Raffle Prizes ~ Donations and Winners: Handmade floral quilt and matching pillows made by Ann Ashcroft ~ won by Maria Aleman of MA; Overnight

stay including breakfast for two donated by the historic Grafton Inn ~ won by Susan Jositus; Garden bench with matching pillows donated anonymously ~ won by Janice Berube; Japanese Maple tree donated by Matt Conklin in Claudia Giese’s memory ~ won by Kat Eldred; Ceramic flower pot filled with annuals ~ won by Mike Foster; Ceramic birdbath and Gift Certificate to Morningstar Perennials ~ won by Jason and Kylie; Genius Loci garden design consultation donated by Cyndy Fine ~ won by Ellen Clark-Lawrence; Stained glass terrarium with succulents donated by Maple Leaf Designs & River Artisans Cooperative gift certificate ~ won by Amanda Cordano; Harlow Farm Gift Certificate & Café Loco Key Lime pie ~ won by Debbie Bump; Miniature herb garden and Halladay’s gift certificate ~ won by Kat Fanning; 1/2 Gallon Maple Syrup donated by Collins Tree Farm and Hungry Giner Gift Certificate ~ won by Sophie Oftedahl; Gardeners Gift Basket and Johnson’s Nursery Gift Card ~ won by Robyn;

For more information and to see some photos from the event, please visit our website www.westminstercares.org and “Like” us on Facebook.

In photo, Fritzie’s Flea Circus, more photos on page 8.

WESTMINSTER HAPPENINGS

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

FAITH COMMUNITY

The First Congregational Church of Westminster
The First Congregational Church of Westminster Rt. 5 in Westminster welcomes you to join us for any service or event. We gather each Sunday at 10 a.m. There is a children's message and fellowship time that follows in the Hall.

Aug 2. Service at 10
Aug 4 Women's Fellowship meets 10:30 am
Aug 9 Service at 10. New members will be welcomed and Communicate Served.
Aug 9 After church we will meet to plan Welles Sunday for Sept
Aug 16, 23 & 30 Service at 10
Aug 26. Bible Study 6:30 pm in the Hall and Zoom
All normal meetings will resume in Sept.
Our congregation is growing and welcomes all to visit and see our active congregation.
Rev. Rich O'Donnell serves as Pastor.

The Congregational Church of Westminster West
Worships every Sunday at 10 a.m. We are using Facebook Live to stream our weekly services. We are an Open and Affirming Church and fully accessible.

On the first Sunday of every month we celebrate Holy Communion. For those watching on Facebook, please provide your own elements. On the second Sunday, the congregation collects a special offering for the food shelf at Our Place in Bellows Falls. Each dollar donated buys \$10 of food for Our Place from the Vermont Food Bank.

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

You can leave a message on the church number (802-387-1175) or you can contact a deacon directly.

For all questions of church building use, please contact Tom Griffith tgriffith@hilltopmontessori.org.

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

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

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

To learn more, call us at (802) 463-4323 or visit us. Also find us on Facebook. We’re always happy to meet new people and welcome them into our church family.

Putney Friends Meeting - Quakers
17 Bellows Falls Rd (Rt 5) just north of Putney Vil-

lage. Sunday worship at 8:30 and 10:30, Intergenerational Singing at 10. All are Welcome! Check www.putneyfriendsmeeting.org for 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 Beginner Tai Chi: Tuesdays at 10:30 and Thursdays at 5:30. Westminster Inst. \$10-20 sliding scale. Open to new students in September. Seated Tai Chi: Tuesdays at 12:15. Gentle all body workout. Westminster Institute. \$10-20 sliding scale. Join anytime.
Info: WestminsterCaresVt@gmail.com or 802-722-3607.

The East Putney Contradance at Pierce’s Hall – at 121 E. Putney Falls Road (look for the “Dance” signs). Circle and Contra Dances with David Millstone calling.

All dances are taught. No partner required. By free will donation. For details contact eputneypierceshall@gmail.com.

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

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

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

MEETINGS

Town Clerk - 802-722-4091

Selectboard 2nd and 4th Tuesdays 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall.

Planning Commission 2nd Monday at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall.

Conservation Commission meets every 4th Thursday at 7 p.m. alternating between Westminster West Library and the Westminster Institute.
To attend via Zoom,contact westminstervtconservation@gmail.com.

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

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

911 Committee as needed

Westminster Cares Board 802-722-3607
Second Thursday, 4:30 p.m., Westminster Institute. on-line & in person. No meetings in July and Aug.

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

Board of Directors:
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Michelle Aron

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Provided by the Community

westminsternews@gmail.com

September Deadline

The deadline for the Sept. 2026 Issue of the Westminster Gazette is Wednesday, Aug. 19 Publication Date Is Wed. Aug. 26 To Contact the Westminster Gazette E-mail: 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
American Wealth Administration Group
Savings Bank of Walpole
Sojourns Community Health Clinic

Who’s Running in the Aug. 11 Primaries?

The Progressive Party ballot has only two candidates, Zachary Hampl of Rutland Town running for State Treasurer and Rachel Shaw of Bennington running for Secretary of State. The full Republican and Democratic sample ballots are reproduced below.

258244
WESTMINSTER
WINDHAM-3

CAUTION: Vote in One Party Only Or Your Ballot Will Be Void
REPUBLICAN PARTY
OFFICIAL VERMONT PRIMARY ELECTION BALLOT
AUGUST 11, 2026

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

- Use BLACK Pen to fill in the oval, DO NOT USE PENCIL.
- To vote for a person whose name is printed on the ballot, fill in the oval to the right of the name of that person.
- To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the person's name in the blank space provided and fill in the oval to the right of the write-in line. Please use BLOCK letters and stay within the box provided for write-ins.
- Do not vote for more candidates than the "VOTE for NOT MORE THAN #" for an office.
- If you make a mistake, tear, or deface the ballot, return it to an election official and obtain another ballot. DO NOT ERASE.

FOR REPRESENTATIVE TO CONGRESS Vote for not more than ONE	FOR AUDITOR OF ACCOUNTS Vote for not more than ONE	FOR PROBATE JUDGE Vote for not more than ONE
MARK COESTER WESTMINSTER GERALD MALLOY WEATHERSFIELD (Write-in)	H. BROOKE PAIGE WASHINGTON (Write-in)	(Write-in)
FOR GOVERNOR Vote for not more than ONE	FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL Vote for not more than ONE	FOR ASSISTANT JUDGE Vote for not more than TWO
PHIL SCOTT BERLIN (Write-in)	H. BROOKE PAIGE WASHINGTON (Write-in)	(Write-in)
FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR Vote for not more than ONE	FOR STATE SENATOR Vote for not more than TWO	FOR STATE'S ATTORNEY Vote for not more than ONE
JOHN S. RODGERS BURNER (Write-in)	DALE L. GASSETT VERNON RUSTY E. SAGE BRATTLEBORO (Write-in)	(Write-in)
FOR STATE TREASURER Vote for not more than ONE	FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE Vote for not more than TWO	FOR SHERIFF Vote for not more than ONE
H. BROOKE PAIGE WASHINGTON (Write-in)	NICOLE AMANDA COTA ROCKINGHAM RYAN M. COYNE ROCKINGHAM PATRICK K. DEZAFRA ROCKINGHAM (Write-in)	(Write-in)
FOR SECRETARY OF STATE Vote for not more than ONE		FOR HIGH BAILIFF Vote for not more than ONE
H. BROOKE PAIGE WASHINGTON (Write-in)		(Write-in)

258244
WESTMINSTER
WINDHAM-3

CAUTION: Vote in One Party Only Or Your Ballot Will Be Void
DEMOCRATIC PARTY
OFFICIAL VERMONT PRIMARY ELECTION BALLOT
AUGUST 11, 2026

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

- Use BLACK Pen to fill in the oval, DO NOT USE PENCIL.
- To vote for a person whose name is printed on the ballot, fill in the oval to the right of the name of that person.
- To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the person's name in the blank space provided and fill in the oval to the right of the write-in line. Please use BLOCK letters and stay within the box provided for write-ins.
- Do not vote for more candidates than the "VOTE for NOT MORE THAN #" for an office.
- If you make a mistake, tear, or deface the ballot, return it to an election official and obtain another ballot. DO NOT ERASE.

FOR REPRESENTATIVE TO CONGRESS Vote for not more than ONE	FOR AUDITOR OF ACCOUNTS Vote for not more than ONE	FOR PROBATE JUDGE Vote for not more than ONE
BECCA BALINT BRATTLEBORO (Write-in)	TIM ASHE BURLINGTON NICHOLAS GRAETER WILKSTON DAN TOWLE HUNTINGTON (Write-in)	JODI P. FRENCH NEWFANE (Write-in)
FOR GOVERNOR Vote for not more than ONE	FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL Vote for not more than ONE	FOR ASSISTANT JUDGE Vote for not more than TWO
AMANDA JANOO BURLINGTON ALY RICHARDS MONTPELIER (Write-in)	CHARITY R. CLARK WILKSTON (Write-in)	LAMONT BARNETT ROCKINGHAM CAROLYN PARTRIDGE WINDHAM (Write-in)
FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR Vote for not more than ONE	FOR STATE SENATOR Vote for not more than TWO	FOR STATE'S ATTORNEY Vote for not more than ONE
ESTHER CHARLESTIN SOUTH BURLINGTON MOLLY GRAY BURLINGTON RYAN MCCLAREN EAST JUNCTION CITY (Write-in)	WENDY K. HARRISON BRATTLEBORO NADER HASHIM DUMMERSTON (Write-in)	STEVEN M. BROWN BRATTLEBORO (Write-in)
FOR STATE TREASURER Vote for not more than ONE	FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE Vote for not more than TWO	FOR SHERIFF Vote for not more than ONE
MIKE PIECIAK WINDOCK (Write-in)	MICHELLE BOS-LUN WESTMINSTER CHRIS LUNDBERG ROCKINGHAM STEPHEN MAJOR WESTMINSTER (Write-in)	MARK R. ANDERSON BRATTLEBORO (Write-in)
FOR SECRETARY OF STATE Vote for not more than ONE		FOR HIGH BAILIFF Vote for not more than ONE
SARAH COPELAND HANZAS BRADFORD (Write-in)		ANGELA LAWRENCE BRATTLEBORO (Write-in)

WESTMINSTER CEMETERY STROLL CHALLENGE FORM

OLD CEMETERY

Rt. 5, top of Courthouse Hill

Mention of the deceased's grandparents _____

An open Bible _____

The words Memento Mori, an urn with a face on it _____

The words "Dutiful to Parents" _____

The words "Perpetual Care" _____

The words "In Kind As Well As In Quantity" _____

Mention of King Henry 1 of France _____

WESTMINSTER WEST CEMETERY

Beside the church

The words "Westminster Massacre" _____

Two cats _____

A fieldstone with a bronze plaque _____

A collie and 2 dachshunds _____

A dandelion puff _____

A Star of David _____

A wooden cross _____

the words "Gone Fishing" _____

While here take a look at the hearse house, newly restored using ARPA funds. A hearse built a few hundred yards away will be returning to its old home here.

NEW CEMETERY

Kurn Hattin Road

A Police Officers Prayer _____

The words "Real Good People" _____

U.S. Navy ship USS Princeton _____

A horse _____

crossed golf clubs _____

a unicorn _____

2 black cats _____

A blue pond with deer and birds _____

A hawk in a tree _____

2 beer cans _____

CELEBRATION OF AGING ~ CALLING ALL 90+ YEAR OLDS!

On Saturday, Sept. 12, Westminster Cares will host the annual Celebration of Aging which honors our town’s eldest residents, 90 years and older.

If you live in Westminster and were born in 1936 or earlier, this party is for you!

Please help us locate 90+ residents. We want everyone to be a part of the celebration.

If you live in Westminster now or if you lived here for many years but moved away, let us know who you are.

If you know someone eligible to participate, let us know who they are.

For more information, contact Pete Harrison at 802-289-3776 or Michelle Aron at 802-722-3607.

A rain date is set for Sunday, Sept. 13.

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