

IT'S BACK TO SCHOOL TIME!

WCS WELCOMES NEW STAFF



After a summer of preparations and its Open House on August 24, Westminster Center School (WCS) opened its doors for students on Wednesday, Aug. 26. Principal Liz Harty and her team are excited to have all the kids back in (and outside of!) the building. The building, grounds, and garden look great!

There are several new hires at WCS and we hope that you had a chance to meet them at the Open House. Bringing a sweet mix of experience, competence, and enthusiasm are:

Hannah Gagnon; Second Grade Teacher
Kara Cote; Special Ed Case Manager
Ellen Strong; Librarian/Enrichment
Halle Dickerson; Second Grade Teacher

Here are some important dates for WCS Families:

Wednesday, 8/26; First Day of School
Monday, 8/31; First Day of our After School Program
Monday, 9/7; No School; Labor Day
Friday, 9/18; Half Day; 11:45 Dismissal
Monday, 9/28; Picture Day



This year, Librarian Mandy Walsh and Teacher Kelly Hallock are developing great plans for the school through the Rowland Grant, building on many strengths already in place at WCS, including strong roots in our Farm to School program and weekly outdoor education for K-2.

Having seen the benefits for younger students, they seek to focus on bringing more of this nature-based, sustainability approach to the upper grades. They will be tapping into local resources at Shelburne Farms, VEEP, Four Winds, and the Grafton Nature Museum as well as national and international resources. We can expect even more ties to nature, play, and place, including wonderful field trips and other opportunities for WCS to learn and serve even more effectively.

At its heart, this project is about hope, the belief that when students and teachers connect deeply with their place and purpose, we not only learn better, we live better. Westminster Center School is a great place to be!

In photos, clockwise from top left, Hannah Gagnon, Kara Cote, Ellen Strong, and Halle Dickerson.



HISTORIC SURVEY OF DOWNTOWN BELLOWS FALLS BEGINS



Residents and visitors may notice architectural historians and surveyors walking the streets of downtown Bellows Falls over the next several months. There's no need for concern—they're helping document the community's rich history.

The Rockingham Historic Preservation Commission has hired Hartgen Archaeology to update the National Register of Historic Places documentation for downtown Bellows Falls. The project will update historic surveys completed in 1982 and 1990 and prepare a new National Register nomination that combines today's Downtown and Island Historic Districts into one updated historic district.

As part of the project, surveyors will photograph historic buildings from public streets and sidewalks, record architectural features, and conduct historical research using public records and archives. This information will help create brief histories of the buildings included in the study area.

Survey staff will not ask to enter homes or businesses, and they will not enter private property without the owner's permission. Most of the work will take place from public rights-of-way and through historical research.

As the project moves forward, property owners within the study area will be contacted and kept in-

formed about the nomination process and opportunities to learn more about the project.

The updated National Register nomination will provide a more complete picture of Bellows Falls' architectural and cultural history while recognizing the changes that have taken place over the past four decades.

The project is made possible with support from the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation and the National Park Service through the Certified Local Government Program.

Anyone with questions about the project is encouraged to contact: clg@rockbf.org or call (802) 463-3964, ext. 1112

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DR. VERNON TEMPLE ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT - PASSES THE TORCH AT TEMPLE CHIROPRACTIC



After 48 wonderful years in active practice in the Bellows Falls, Vermont area, Dr. Vernon Temple has announced that he will retire from active patient care on October 1, capping a career that has shaped both a community and a profession.

Dr. Temple arrived in Bellows Falls in 1978, planning to practice for a year or two before returning to "the big city" to build his career. Life had other plans. "By the end of that two years, the community, the patients, and staff enveloped me and the practice, and made me realize that this was where I belonged," he says. "I never looked back!"

Alongside his Bellows Falls practice, Dr. Temple spent 16 years treating patients at the outpatient clinic of Grace Cottage Hospital in Townsend, Vermont.

His impact reached far beyond the treatment room. Appointed by Governor Tom Salmon to the Vermont Board of Chiropractic Examiners, Dr. Temple went on to spend 20 years in national licensing and regulatory leadership, ultimately serving as President of the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners — the body responsible for licensing chiropractic physicians across every U.S. state.

"The combination of patient care and national involvement in the profession made for an exciting career," he reflects. "The only sadness in retiring is that I

will miss all of the patients, the staff, and the community that have made these years so special."

Retirement will also mean more time for his first love: traveling with his wife, Shelley. Married 40 years, Shelley has also been the business manager of Temple Chiropractic for 38 of those years, making the practice very much a shared family endeavor. The couple is looking forward to exploring together, alongside Dr. Temple's other longtime passions — bike riding and building furniture.

Patients can look forward to continuity of care: Dr. Temple has recently partnered with Dr. Taronte Venable, who now owns Temple Chiropractic. Dr. Venable will ensure a smooth transition and is committed to providing every patient with the same dedicated care they've always received.

Dr. Temple closes with gratitude: "This has been a career I could never have imagined, but was lucky enough to be blessed with."

For any questions, patients are welcome to reach out to Temple Chiropractic at 633 Rte 121 / 102 Saxtons River Rd., Bellows Falls, VT 05101, or call (802) 463-9522.

In photo, Dr. Vernon Temple.

KURN HATTIN FALL FUNDRAISERS

Kurn Hattin Home and School for Children is gearing up for two fall fundraisers that offer some fun ways to support the children who live and learn on its Westminster campus.

The new Bid for Bright Futures Online Auction will launch in conjunction with the fourth annual John A. Hubbard Memorial Kurn Hattin Golf Classic on September 17 at Keene Country Club. Following the success of Kurn Hattin's first online auction last year, this year's auction will feature an assortment of experiences and items, including sporting event tickets, dining, destination stays, fine art, gift certificates, and more.

Bidding will remain open for several days, so participation is not limited to those attending the golf tournament.

Also returning is the Pete Johnson Memorial Helicopter Golf Ball Drop

Raffle. For entry, only 100 individually-numbered golf balls will be sold for \$50 each. At the conclusion of the tournament, the balls will be dropped from a helicopter over a designated target, with the ball landing closest to the pin winning half of the raffle proceeds.

The winner does not need to be present. To buy a ball visit kurnhattin.org.

Proceeds from both fundraisers benefit Kurn Hattin and its year-round residential and educational programs for children in grades 1–8.

Kurn Hattin is also still accepting donations for the online auction. Businesses and individuals interested in contributing an item or experience are encouraged to contact the school's Development Office: 802-721-6902 or mhaas@gmail.com.

For more information visit the school's website: kurnhattin.org.

Long River Tai Chi Circle

TAI CHI

JOIN OUR NEW BEGINNERS' CLASS!
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Registration for new students is open through October 27th
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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**

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Westminster Cares, Inc.

FALL PREPARATION TIPS FOR SENIORS: STAY SAFE, HEALTHY, AND COMFORTABLE THIS AUTUMN

Hard to fathom that we'll soon be thinking about the days growing shorter as the temperatures start to cool. That means autumn will soon be upon us and it's the perfect time for seniors to prepare their homes and routines for the upcoming season. A little planning now can help prevent accidents, improve comfort, and make the transition into winter much easier.

Colorful fall foliage is beautiful, but fallen leaves can quickly become slippery and hide uneven sidewalks or other tripping hazards. If raking leaves or performing other yard work has become physically demanding or more than you can manage, consider hiring a local lawn service or asking family, friends, or neighbors for assistance. It's a simple way to reduce the risk of falls, slips and injuries.

Autumn is also the ideal time to:

- Clean gutters and clear downspouts to help prevent ice dams and water damage later in the season.
- Test outdoor lighting and replace burned-out bulbs. Motion-sensor lights and well-lit walkways make it easier to navigate safely during longer evenings.
- Inspect steps, handrails, and walkways to ensure they're secure before winter weather arrives.

Make Health a Priority

Seasonal illnesses become more common in the fall, making preventive care especially important.

Talk with your healthcare provider about receiving:

- Your annual influenza vaccine.
- The latest COVID-19 booster, if recommended.
- Any other vaccines appropriate for your age and health.

As temperatures fluctuate, organize your fall wardrobe by bringing out warm layers and waterproof footwear with non-slip soles. Proper footwear provides better traction on wet leaves and the first frosty mornings.

It's also a good time to stock your pantry with nutritious, easy-to-prepare foods. Keep healthy, high-

protein options on hand to make meal preparation simple on days when the weather keeps you indoors.

Prepare Your Home for Cooler Weather

Before colder temperatures arrive, schedule a professional inspection of your furnace or boiler. Routine maintenance can improve efficiency, reduce energy costs, and help prevent unexpected breakdowns during the heating season.

Fire safety should also be part of every fall checklist:

- Replace batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors when daylight saving time ends.
- Test each detector to ensure it's working properly.
- Keep a fire extinguisher readily available, especially if you use a wood stove or fireplace.

Reduce Indoor Fall Risks

Falls remain one of the leading causes of injury among older adults, but many can be prevented with a few simple changes.

Take a walk through your home and:

- Remove or secure loose area rugs using non-slip pads.
- Keep pathways clear of clutter, cords, and small furniture.
- Make sure frequently used items are within easy reach to avoid unnecessary climbing.

- Consider installing grab bars in bathrooms and handrails where additional support is needed.

A Little Preparation Goes a Long Way

Preparing your home and health for autumn doesn't have to be overwhelming. By taking care of a few important tasks now, seniors can enjoy the beauty of the season with greater confidence, comfort, and peace of mind.

A safe home, a healthy routine, and a little planning today can help ensure a warm, enjoyable autumn—and a smoother transition into winter.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OPENS AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM IN WESTMINSTER

The Boys & Girls Club of Brattleboro opened a licensed after-school program in the Westminster Central School (WCS) for children ages 5-11, Monday to Friday from 3:15-5:30 p.m. throughout the school year.

A curriculum involving physical activity, nature, and crafts is adapted for both outdoor and indoor activities. Students use the multifaceted facility of Westminster Central School which includes playgrounds, fields, walking trails, gyms and classroom spaces. Snacks are provided.

WCS Principal Liz Harty explains, "The Boys & Girls Club after-school program has made a tremendous positive impact on our school community. It provides our students with a safe, supportive, and engaging place to learn, grow, and build relationships beyond the school day."

For more information contact Westminster Kids Club Director Kim Budzik at kim@bgcbrattleboro.org.

ROCKINGHAM SEEKING OLD HOUSE AWARD NOMINATIONS

The Rockingham Historic Preservation Commission invites residents to nominate properties for the 2026 Rockingham Old House Awards.

For nearly three decades, the Old House Awards have celebrated the people who help preserve the character and history of Rockingham through the care, restoration, and improvement of older buildings. Since the program began in 1997, more than 180 historic properties throughout the town have been recognized.

"Every restored porch, fresh coat of paint, repaired window, or carefully maintained storefront helps keep Rockingham's history alive," said John Leppman, Chair of the Commission. "We hope residents will help us discover the many projects—large and small—that deserve a shout-out this year."

Anyone may submit a nomination. You do not have to own the property to nominate it. Eligible properties must be at least 50 years old and located anywhere in the Town of Rockingham.

Awards are presented in several categories, including residential, commercial, and multi-family.

To nominate a property, send the property address—and, if known, the owner's name—to clg@rockbf.org.

Nominations will remain open through Labor Day, with award recipients announced in the fall.

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 Care and this year was a great success! Thank you to all volunteers, and those who came out to support the event.

CELEBRATION OF AGING:

On Saturday, September 12th, Westminster Cares will host the annual Celebration of Aging which honors our town's eldest residents, 90 years and older. Please help us locate 90+ residents. If you live in Westminster now or if you lived here for many years but moved away, let us know who you 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, September 13th.

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 next session will be held on August 29th.

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 Hollis Ryea, from Carolyn Marsh
- In memory of Harold and Alice Shattuck, from Barbara Greenough
- In memory of Barbara Kurkul, from Jane Kirkpatrick

CONSERVATION COMMISSION IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Westminster Conservation Commission (Jim Calchera, Kestrel Craig, Amy Moreland, Tatiana Schreiber and Rachael Shaw) is looking for a few volunteers to support upcoming projects and programs.

We are hoping that there are some individuals in town who take an interest in the natural world, and would be willing to lend a hand on an occasional basis to help us out.

If this sounds like you, please fill out the form below and email to westminstervtconservation@gmail.com. We thank you kindly!

Our mission statement is as follows: "The Westminster Conservation Commission was established in 2011 to build awareness, educate and provide guidance to the Town and its residents with regard to our appreciation and stewardship of Westminster's environment. The Commission works to highlight the aesthetics, recreational opportunities and ecological values of the natural world, as

well as its vulnerabilities."

Preferred Contact Info (Email/Phone)

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

1. Please tell us what aspects of conservation and stewardship of our natural resources are of most interest to you?
2. Please tell us if there are skills and abilities you could offer as a "Friend of the Westminster Conservation Commission."
- For example, trail design or maintenance; tree planting; assistance with kiosk or parking area construction in Town Forest; educational programs; writing articles; something else?
3. What is your availability?
Several times a year
Several hours a month
Other
Best days of the week:
4. Any other questions/comments for the Conservation Commission?

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Nature Notes - Enjoying the Hummingbirds in the Bee Balm

by Alma Beals, Vermont Master Gardener and Naturalist



This has been a great summer for colorful shrubs and flowers, beginning with the rhododendrons, and continuing through the hydrangeas. I mentioned last month that the hummingbirds were enjoying my bee balm.

I have never seen the bee balm as vivid as it has been this year. The hummingbirds and the bees are in it constantly. While I say bees, there are flies, wasps, moths and other insects.

One of the interesting moths is the hummingbird moth, also known as the common clearwing or sphinx moth. Most moths are out at night, but this one is out during the day. It is smaller than a hummingbird but larger than the usual insect and has a fuzzy, rust colored

body sporting clear wings as the scales wear off soon after it emerges.

While I have bee balm in all my gardens, the heaviest is in the garden right next to the gazebo where I can sit for hours watching the action. Right next to the garden is a pagoda dogwood shrub which is loaded with berries. Robins, catbirds, and other smaller birds are constantly in this tree, only taking breaks to visit the blueberries hidden in back of another garden. What fun to watch all the activity from the gazebo.

Those of you who know me, know that I don't waste any time with flowers or shrubs that need a lot of maintenance, so I laugh at myself growing this tree. I purchased it a few years ago at a plant sale without

any idea what it was. It turned out to have a reputation for being a high maintenance shrub, fussy for certain growing conditions and being subject to pests. Time will tell.

The male hummingbirds are aggressive and chase off the females and young. If you spot one flying back and forth in an arc, it is the male. Many of us who put out feeders, put out several because he can't patrol all of them and the female gets to sip the nectar without his interference. The males leave in August and the females and young leave in September.

In photos, right and left, hummingbirds, and in center, bee balm.

WESTMINSTER SAMPLER - HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

DISCUSSES MEANING OF OLD GRAVESTONE SYMBOLS



By Jessie Haas

The Historical Society has two events coming up this Fall. On Saturday, Sept. 12, in conjunction with the Westminster West Church Fair, we will be doing a workshop in the adjacent cemetery on cleaning grave-stones. The workshop starts at 1 p.m.

We use only the methods approved by the Vermont Old Cemeteries Association (VOCA)--that is, plastic or natural brushes and scrapers, water, D2, a nontoxic biocide, and water. D2 works over time to kill lichen and algae on the stones.

Expect them to turn a putrid orange at first. That goes away quickly as sun and rain do their work, and the original color of the stone is restored. We hope to follow up this event by spending a few hours a week in the Westminster West Cemetery cleaning, in a small group, and to hold a large event with VOCA next spring. Check our Facebook page, website, or Front Porch Forum for details.

On Monday, Oct. 12 we will hold our annual meet-ing, at the museum, starting at 6 p.m. Our speaker will be Jennifer Bartlau, who doesn't call herself an expert on gravestone iconography, but who knows more about the topic than anyone I've ever met.

She can often identify a gravestone carver just by a

glance at the style of his work.

Jennifer will tell us more about the symbols on some of our oldest gravestones. What looks like deco-ration often has mystic, folkloric, or religious meaning. We are all looking forward to learning more about the gravestones we've been restoring the past two years. Again, Monday, Oct. 12, 6 p.m., at the museum.

Work continues at the archives, and we've had in-teresting experiences lately with people reaching out to us for help. Humbling experiences. In three cases in the last couple of months, the person wanting to learn more about their Westminster ancestor has known a lot more than we did.

We've learned about the connection between the Averill family and Robert Rand, who was a member of Azariah Wright's militia. Including Rand, we can now count seven members of one interlinked family in that militia--brothers, brothers-in-law, and their brothers. There were also three Ides and three Crooks in this militia, which was completely separate from the normal town militia in which everyone was expected to serve.

Interesting tidbit--Azariah Wright was Ethan Allen's double third cousin, and founded his militia at least a year, maybe two or three years, before Allen founded the Green Mountain Boys. The Westminster group called themselves "the Liberty Boys."

We had a great visit from John Leach of upstate New York, who was spending a few weeks working on a Westminster farm to reconnect with his family home here. John is related to Greta Wood, whom many of us remember, and descended from the Leach family which farmed at the base of Courthouse Hill in the late 1800s. Back then that area of Westminster was called Leachville. John is the family historian, and he knew a lot more than we did.

And we'll shortly be having a visit from a descen-dant of Westminster's first minister, Jesse Goodell, who is known chiefly for having deserted his wife and being excommunicated.

His descendant has learned a lot more about Good-ell and the woman with whom he had an affair, and who became his second wife. One descendant, committed to doing a deep dive, can uncover a lot of information and contribute to our understanding of the times and the community.

We invite other descendants of Westminster folks to reach out for our 'help.' We can all contribute to the body of knowledge.

Hope to see you on Sept. 12, 1 p.m. at the Westmin-ster West Cemetery, and Oct. 12, 6 p.m. at the town hall. Watch www.westminstervthistory.org for any up-dates.

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, Sept 1 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 Pru-dential Committee meets on the 3rd Sunday of every month at the Fire House on Grout Ave at 10 a.m.

Next scheduled prudential meeting Sept. 20.

Number of calls in July: 43

Number of calls through August 20th : 31

Number of calls calendar year to date: 185

Number of calls fiscal year from July 1st: 74

Association Meeting: The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association met for their regular meeting Aug. 4 with Vice President J.T. Tabolt presiding. There were 24 members present and 5 members excused. Currently there are 45 members of the volunteer fire department. The meeting started late due to the fact we had an emergency call that did-n't end until after 8 PM

Emergency responses: July turned out to be another busy month with 43 calls for the month. Here is the break-down for the 43 calls: 25 rescue/medical calls; 4 Mutual Aid: 2 to Rockingham, 2 to Saxtons River; 2 motor vehicle crashes/ incidents; 1 false alarm; 4 for alarms sounding/ false

call; 1 service call; 2 for tree on wires/powerline down; 1 stove fire; 3 lift assists;

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 and answer any questions.

The following community members and companies have donated their time or money or both to the project. Thank you from all of the department members. Equipment and crews from the following: Josh Perry, Buck Adams, All Season Construction, Roger Farnsworth plus Luke and Diane Bazin. And we also remember Ira and Phylis Green who left the fire department money that was used for seed money for the project.

Fire wood: Be sure your firewood is well cured and not too green before using it. Green or uncured wood can create creosote and possibly cause a chimney fire. Also when cov-ering your wood pile, cover the top only and leave the sides exposed to the air and sunlight. Wood that is completely covered can rot instead of drying.

Back to School: Now that school has begun there will be a lot of students walking to and from school. There are no sidewalks in many areas forcing students to walk in the roadways. Walkers should remember to always walk on the left side of the road facing traffic and bike riders need to be riding with the flow of traffic on the right side.

As it is getting darker earlier each day, walkers and bikers

will need to wear light colored clothing and reflective vests when traveling in the dark or diminished light. And having a flashing light on both front and rear of your bike is a very good idea even during the daylight. Drivers should be extra cautious with more pedestrians and bikes on the roads.

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 requir-ing off road or 4 wheelers. Contact any member of the de-partment 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 re-member or honor a loved one or a friend. All memorial do-nations 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 August:

Memorial Donations received in August:

As always, we would like to thank the members of the community for their continued support of the fire depart-ment. Check us out on our web-site www.westminsterfire-andrescue.org.

FAIRY HOUSE FESTIVAL

SEPT. 26 & 27



Tickets for the 2026 Fairy House Festival on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 26 and 27 from 10-4 each day in Grafton, children are \$5, under 3 are free. Adults are \$18 online/\$20 at the gate.

Choose Saturday or Sunday admission

Parking is free. Parking and festival information will be in your confirmation email.

Follow a Vermont woodland path sprinkled with charming fairy houses for a magical experience of the natural world.

Each September, over 90 volunteers transform the woods around The Nature Museum into an enchanted village — tiny dwellings of bark, stone, and moss tucked among the trees, opening a portal to the living world all around us.

Walk the forested trail, build your own fairy house, and spend the day enjoying live music, bubbles, storytelling, crafts, food, local vendors, and community.

The Fairy House Festival is The Nature Museum's primary fundraiser and a beloved autumn tradition.

Schedule and Activities for Sept 26th and 27th

- The Longshanks: Stilt Walkers & Storytellers, with storytelling at 11am and 2pm each day at the Tulip Tree Garden Stage.
- Dan Frank, Traveling Musician and Hurdy Gurdy player extraordinaire
- Nature Quest: Can you complete the scavenger hunt and become a Knight of the Fairy Royal Court? Knighting ceremony at 1pm and 3pm each day at the Tulip Tree Garden Stage.
- Make-Your-Own Wand at the Craft Tent
- Fairy House Building in the Magic Forest Playscape
- Bubbles, Magic Tricks, Local Merchants, Food Vendors, and Ice Cream

Purchase tickets here: <https://tnm.regfox.com/fhf-tickets-26>.

SBW ANNOUNCES

RETIREMENT OF TONYA WATERS

Savings Bank of Walpole (SBW) announces the retirement of Tonya Waters, whose banking career has come full circle after nearly five decades in the industry.

Tonya first began her banking career in 1977 as an after-3 -p.m. teller at SBW's Walpole Village branch. After gaining experience at several other financial institutions, she returned to SBW in 2003. She has spent the past 24 years serving customers with a friendly, personal approach that embodies banking at SBW.

Appropriately, Tonya concludes her career in the very same Walpole Village branch where it all started.

Throughout her years at SBW, Tonya built strong relationships with customers and coworkers, particularly at the Walpole Village and North Meadow Plaza branches. Her warmth, professionalism, and dedication to serving others have made her a trusted presence in the community.

"Tonya has been a valued member of the SBW family for decades," said Mark



Bodin, President of SBW. "Her commitment to our customers and the connections she has built over the years reflect everything that community banking is about. We thank her for her many contributions and wish her all the best in retirement."

Savings Bank of Walpole extends its gratitude to Tonya for her years of service and wishes her a happy and well-earned retirement.



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32nd Annual Conference

AI's Impact on Children's Development

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Ying Xu, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
AI in Learning and Education
Harvard University

Featuring
Rotem Landesman, Ph.D.
Postdoctoral Researcher
Child-Centered AI Lab
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- Substance Abuse Counselors
- Marriage & Family Therapists
- MH Counselors



Register now: kurnhattin.org/fall-conference

REMEMBRANCES

SEPTEMBER 2026

CLAYTON "BUCK" EZEQUELLE III, 53
12/7/1972 - 8/13/2026
BELLOWS FALLS, VT

KAREN ANN STRATTON, 65
3/18/1961 - 7/26/2026
WESTMINSTER, VT

KATHERINE WOODBURY, 83
7/23/1943 - 6/12/2026
ATHENS, VT

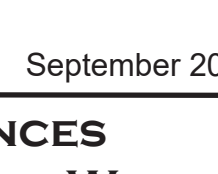
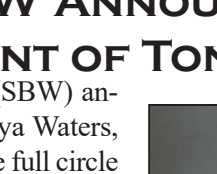
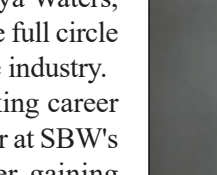
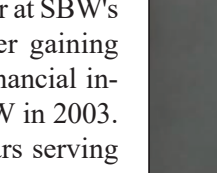
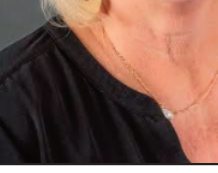
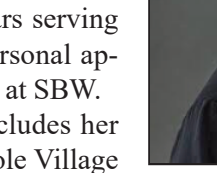
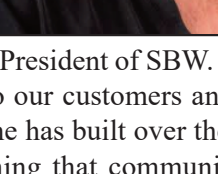
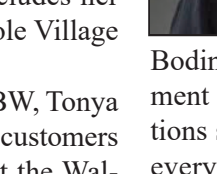
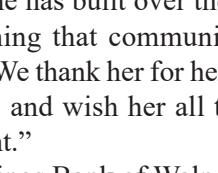
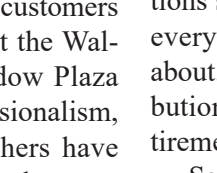
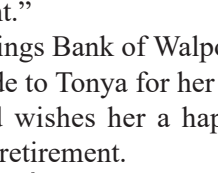
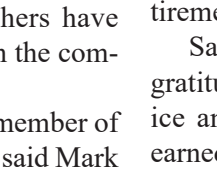
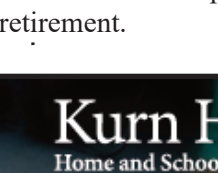
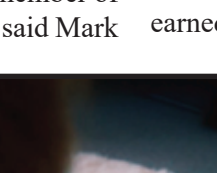
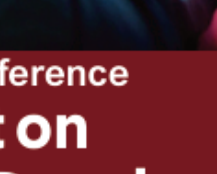
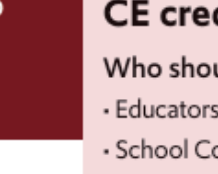
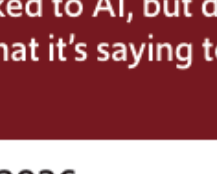
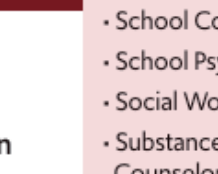
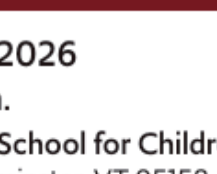
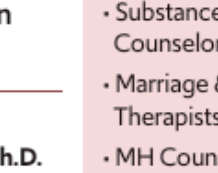
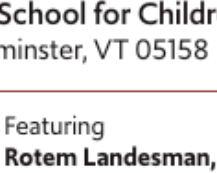
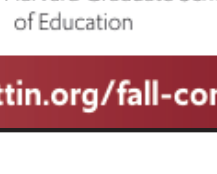
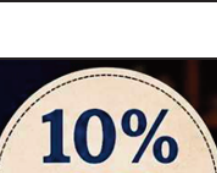
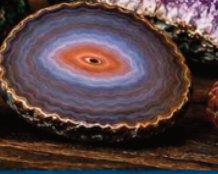
ARNOLD "ARNIE" GLIM, 83
1/30/1943 - 8/4/2026
WESTMINSTER WEST, VT

JUDITH PATTISON PRICE, 93
2/15/1933 - 7/2/26
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37TH ANNUAL WESTMINSTER WEST COMMUNITY FAIR - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH

FAIR DAY SCHEDULE
8:30am 5K Race Registration between Church and Town Hall Coffee and Bake Sale inside church
9:00am Adults 5K Road Race
Golden Elephant Sale opens in Old Town Hall
Local Art Exhibit Opens – upstairs in church
Small items Silent Auction opens upstairs
10:00am Parade Preparation at the School
Bicycle Decorations and Drumming Rehearsal
10:30am Parade begins- (See parade info below)
11am Kids Fun Run – registration in front of Church
11:30am Serving of B B Q and other menu items begins
Music by George Ainley & friends on Church lawn
Noon Deadline for Veggie contest entries
Noon-2pm Children’s activities
1pm Hist. Soc workshop on cemetery stone cleaning
2pm Variety Show begins
2:45pm During Variety Show - announcement of Veggie Contest winners
3:00pm Golden Elephant and on-site Silent Auction
REGISTRATION for the 5K begins at 8:30am and the race starts at 9am with a mass start. The course is over relatively flat, shady dirt roads, passing through scenic countryside and apple orchards.
There are 4 classes each for men and women. The

race fee - \$15.
Registration for the Kids Fun Run starts right after the parade (at about 10:50am) in front of the church, as the race starts at 11am. There will be 2 mass starts, one for older and one for younger runners. Kids race fee is a skidding scale \$3 to \$5.
THE PARADE will proceed in its usual, loveable and haphazard way from the West West School to the church at 10:30 am. Bike decorating starts at 10:00 (we will supply balloons and crepe paper) and we will congregate at 10:15 at the school to “organize” the procession.
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 join the parade.
As always, new neighbor and elected officials will be celebrated and of course Ladies Against Women.
We always need drummers and volunteers to carry banners – training or expertise necessary. The more the merrier! For info: Call Leslie and Tom at (802)387-5694 or email Leslie.Turpin@sit.edu
VEGETABLE CONTEST: There are 4 categories for adults and kids, longest zucchini, vegetable sculpture, weirdest shape and artistic flower arrangements.
Deadline for entries is noon day of Fair - bring to table in the foyer. Winners will be announced during Talent Show. Entries are on display in church foyer. If you win a prize, find Alison Latham to get it.
AUCTION is online again this year with one exception. Smaller items can be bid on the old-fashioned way, with paper and pencil at the church. For others higher price items and business gift certificates, go to the website https://www.32auctions.com/westwestcommunityfair, Bidding begins Satur-

day September 4th at noon and ends Sunday night, September 13th at 5pm. Good place for holiday shopping or just treat yourself to something you’ve always wanted.
CHILDRENS’ ACTIVITIES: Whack the Corn Cob game (1-2pm), Face painting (12-2), and games with Marion Major (1:30) Kids are also encouraged to decorate their bikes for the parade, run in the Fun Run and enter the Veggie Contest and Talent Show.
BARBEQUE DINNERS will be served at 11:30 until sold out. BBQ Chicken Dinner for \$15 with choice of leg or bone-in breast, Beyond Sausage Veggie Dinner for \$15, or Hot Dog Dinner for \$12. All dinners include vegetarian baked beans, cole slaw, corn on the cob and lemonade.
Ala carte items: hot dog - \$3.50, chicken - \$9.00, veggie sausage or corn on the cob - \$4.00, cole slaw or baked beans - \$2.00, ice cream available after lunch - \$4.00, and lemonade - \$1.50
VARIETY SHOW: Stu Fuchs is the Master of Ceremonies. If you have a talent, email him or sign up at the baked goods booth.
ART SHOW: Local artists and craftspeople are invited to exhibit their work in the sanctuary of the church.
GOLDEN ELEPHANT SALE: Please no clothes, broken items or junk. Remember the golden rule, donate unto others what you would want to take home with you.
DROP OFF TIMES: 5-8:30pm Sept 8th to the 10th. Please don’t just leave things in front of the church at odd hours. It is a challenge to dispose of left-overs.
RAFFLE: this year it’s a 50 – 50 cash raffle. Visit our website to participate.: David Mulholland@note-harvest@gmx.com
ENTERTAINMENT: Old Time Music by George Ainley and Friends on the Church lawn
BENEFIT: Proceeds help fund the community newsletter The West Parish Whistler, and help support the community use of the church building and the community suppers.
LOCATION and PARKING: The fair will be held at the Church on the Westminster West Road - half way between Putney and Saxtons River. People can park along the road or at a special parking area at the Westminster West school.

CONTACTS FOR INFO ABOUT THE FAIR:
Art Show Julia Jensen 802-380-5564
Bake Sale Betsy Williams 802-387-2765
Booth Rental Betsy Williams 802-387-2765
BBQ Food Lynn Twiss 802-380-1161
Golden Elephant Laura Williams 802-387-2765
Races Charlotte Gifford 802-387-4145
Parade Leslie Turpin 802-387-5694
Silent Auction Cheryl Charles 802-376-8093
Variety Show Stu Fuchs email info@stufuchs.com
Vegetable Contest Alison Latham 802-387-5711

CHURCH WEB SITE: www.westminsterwest.com
Church phone number: 802-387-1175



Photo by Jeffrey Newcomer

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SEPTEMBER BUSINESS OF THE MONTH:

TEMPLE CHIROPRACTIC

Dr. Vernon Temple leaves behind a legacy of compassion, dedication to community and exceptional patient care and it is an honor that he has entrusted Dr. Taronté Venable to carry on his values and traditions.

To accommodate the transition of Dr. Temple's patients, Dr. Venable will be adding Thursday afternoons to his schedule. Eventually, to maintain available services throughout the work week, Dr. Venable has expressed ambitions to bring an additional service to the office on Tuesdays, but that practitioner and/or alternative service has yet to be determined at this time.

Dr. Venable is a chiropractic physician with a post-graduate specialty diplomate in neurology. He is also a certified Dynamic Neuromuscular Stabilization practitioner with additional certified specialties in corrective exercise and performance enhancement.

Dr. Venable's approach to care is patient-centered and focuses on treating the root cause of each patient's condition and/or pain, whenever possible, by utilizing all the resources both within and outside of Temple Chiropractic. The hope is that each patient gains improvement through education and by engaging with their individualized care plan, so that follow-up visits are eventually performed at longer intervals. Services provided include chiropractic manipulation or gentle joint mobilization, evidence-based rehabilitative exercises, electric muscular stimulation, therapeutic-grade 3B red and near-infrared light therapy, functional neurology, vestibular rehabilitation, cervical traction, ultrasound and in-house x-rays. For more details visit www.TempleChiropractic.org.

Overall, Dr. Venable's initial goal is to use appropriate evidence-based treatment methods to reach a 4-week follow-up visit, with the patient experiencing little to no pain.

Dr. Venable is sincerely looking forward to continuing to provide exceptional chiropractic care here at Temple Chiropractic. He and the office staff are continuing to successfully improve the overall efficiency of the office operations as the community's ongoing support and referrals are immensely appreciated.

Part of my goal is to do my best to support the local community. So far, I'm doing this in the following ways: Patients are encouraged to post flyers of their upcoming events on the 'Community Cork Board' located inside the office.

Within the next week or so, I will be periodically hanging art from local artists that will be for sale. Through mutual agreement of this artist, the first piece's sale will be donated to a local charity in Bellows Falls.

If you are in need of care, please call Temple Chiropractic at (802)463-9522 to keep your body in motion.

In photo, Dr. Taronté Venable.

BF BOOK CRAWL RETURNS SAT. & SUN SEPT. 26–27

The second annual Bellows Falls Book Crawl returns Sept. 26–27, inviting readers, shoppers, and visitors to explore local businesses and enjoy a weekend of book-themed experiences throughout downtown Bellows Falls.

Building on the success of its first year, the Bellows Falls Book Crawl continues to grow as local businesses come together to celebrate books, creativity, and downtown Bellows Falls.

During the Book Crawl, participating businesses throughout downtown Bellows Falls each create their own book-themed experience. Visitors can explore at their own pace while discovering specialty drinks, themed displays, activities, shopping, and other literary-inspired offerings. The event is free to attend, with each participating business offering its own unique take on the weekend.

"The Book Crawl is a great opportunity to explore Bellows Falls in a new way," said Casey Griffin, Executive Director of the Bellows Falls Downtown Development Alliance. "Each participating business adds its own creative touch, so every stop offers something a little different."

A few early highlights have already been announced. Flat Iron Cooperative will feature a special Book Crawl drink and live music on Sunday. Ciao Popolo will be serving The Shining, a purple, shimmering cocktail created especially for the weekend. At Holistic Gateway, visitors can browse the shop's healing and astrology libraries, enjoy a cup of tea, and learn more about its colored light therapy offerings.

Christopher Hinds

LICSW, ACSW

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