

Westminster Gazette



po box 147 westminster vt 05158

Our Community Newspaper @ www.westminstervt.org Vol 20 No 9 September 2024

CELEBRATE WESTMINSTER - SEPT. 14!

The Westminster Community Festival is almost here! Saturday, Sept. 14, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (rain date: Sept. 15) on the grounds of the Westminster Institute, 3534 US-5, and First Congregational Church of Westminster. Free admission!

We'll have plenty of stuff to do, eat, and see as we:

Celebrate the 100th year of the Westminster Institute by dedicating the North Room as the Dascomb Room.

Showcase the Westminster Congregational Church, just down the street from the Institute. Find out about the newly restored stained glass windows and some history of the structure that was completed in 1835 and raised in 1902-03. Get a guided tour of the building, and listen to music from its historic pipe organ. And food!

Display our creativity. The Creative Community Collage features the work of more than 25 local artists, quilt makers, writers, and others in the Westminster Institute's Big Hall.

Cater to your stomach with a barbeque by Westminster Fire and Rescue; bike-powered smoothies by the BF Community Bike Project; chili, baked potatoes, and sausage at the church; and caramel apples from the Bellows Falls High School Class of 2026.

Delight your ears. Music by the Inlawski Brothers, the Milkhouse Heaters, and Westminster's own Intercept.

Celebrate our agricultural legacy. Farmers of Westminster, a tent featuring information on local farmers and farm products, and farmers to answer your questions. Sweet corn to munch on. Live sheepherding demonstration and hayrides.

Showcase our history. Do you know: Where was the first mill constructed in Westminster? Who built it? There were 2 ferry crossings in Westminster; where were they located?

The Westminster Trivia Game, by the Westminster Historical Society will test your child's knowledge of our storied history! Win prizes! History displays by the Westminster West Library and Westminster Historical Society. See more of Westminster's fascinating history upstairs in the Town Hall and at the Willam C. Bradley Law Office.

Showcase our town. More than two dozen vendors and exhibitors of local products and services will be on hand.

Admission is free! Find out more at www.westminster-festival.org or contact us at westminsterfestival@gmail.com.



WESTMINSTER'S MARION MAJOR NAMED "EMERGING LEADER"

Westminster resident Marion Major, outreach coordinator at Windham & Windsor Housing Trust, has been named a 2024 Southern Vermont Emerging Leader, along with 23 other young people from across the Bennington and Windham regions.

Individuals were nominated based on their work as community leaders and volunteers, and for their professional accomplishments and commitment to serving the region, and were presented with awards in May at the Southern Vermont Economy Summit in Dover.

Each year since 2018, the Southern Vermont Young Professionals (a program of Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation) and the Shires Young Professionals have sought to highlight and honor young adults in their roles as leaders and change-makers in the Southern Vermont economy and community through the Emerging

Leaders awards.

Over 100 local leaders have been given an Emerging Leaders award since the beginning of the program, and 35 of those have subsequently been recognized statewide through Vermont Business Magazine's Rising Stars awards as well.

Marion's nominator shared, "Marion brings so much joy to everything and everyone she works with. She works tirelessly towards the goal of ending homelessness in VT. As a mom of two gorgeous girls, she balances home and work with grace, while also pursuing her creativity through dance. She is beloved in her community and we would be lost without her."

"I've had significant learning in each career or job I've held – sheep farmer, barista, regional planner, and outreach with WWHT. The through-lines are that people appreciate being heard, and Vermont is beautiful," Marion reflected. "Having an open heart, a curious approach, a passion for equity, and a love for the people in my communities has guided me throughout."

Read more of Marion's reflections and learn about the other awardees at www.sovermontzone.com/emerging-leaders. Nominations for the 2025 cohort will open in January.

In photo, Marion Major.



CELEBRATION OF AGING 2024

Celebration of Aging 2024 will be held on Saturday, Sept. 21, 12 to 2:30 p.m.

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 1934 or earlier, this party is for you ~ let us know who you are!

The event will take place outdoors, on the back lawn of the Westminster Institute.

Lunch and refreshments will be served. Family members, friends and neighbors are all invited to attend.

Please join us ~ this event is for the whole community.

For more information or to confirm your attendance, contact Donna Dawson at 802-722-3607 or Pete Harrison at 802-289-3776.

The rain date is Sunday, Sept. 22.

Guests do not need to R.S.V.P.

Our Monthly Community Newspaper September 2024 Vol. 20 No. 9

Westminster Gazette

Town of Westminster
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OUR WORKING LANDSCAPE - WESTMINSTER GHOST TOWN

Westminster has many farms and businesses which work the land to create products and jobs, while making the landscape that we see today. The *Gazette* will be highlighting this part of our economy with short articles and letters which explain and recognize the importance of our working landscape. By Mary Scherbatskoy

Westminster's working landscape was very different in the early 19th century. In addition to farms and fields, people's needs were met through many kinds of light industry.

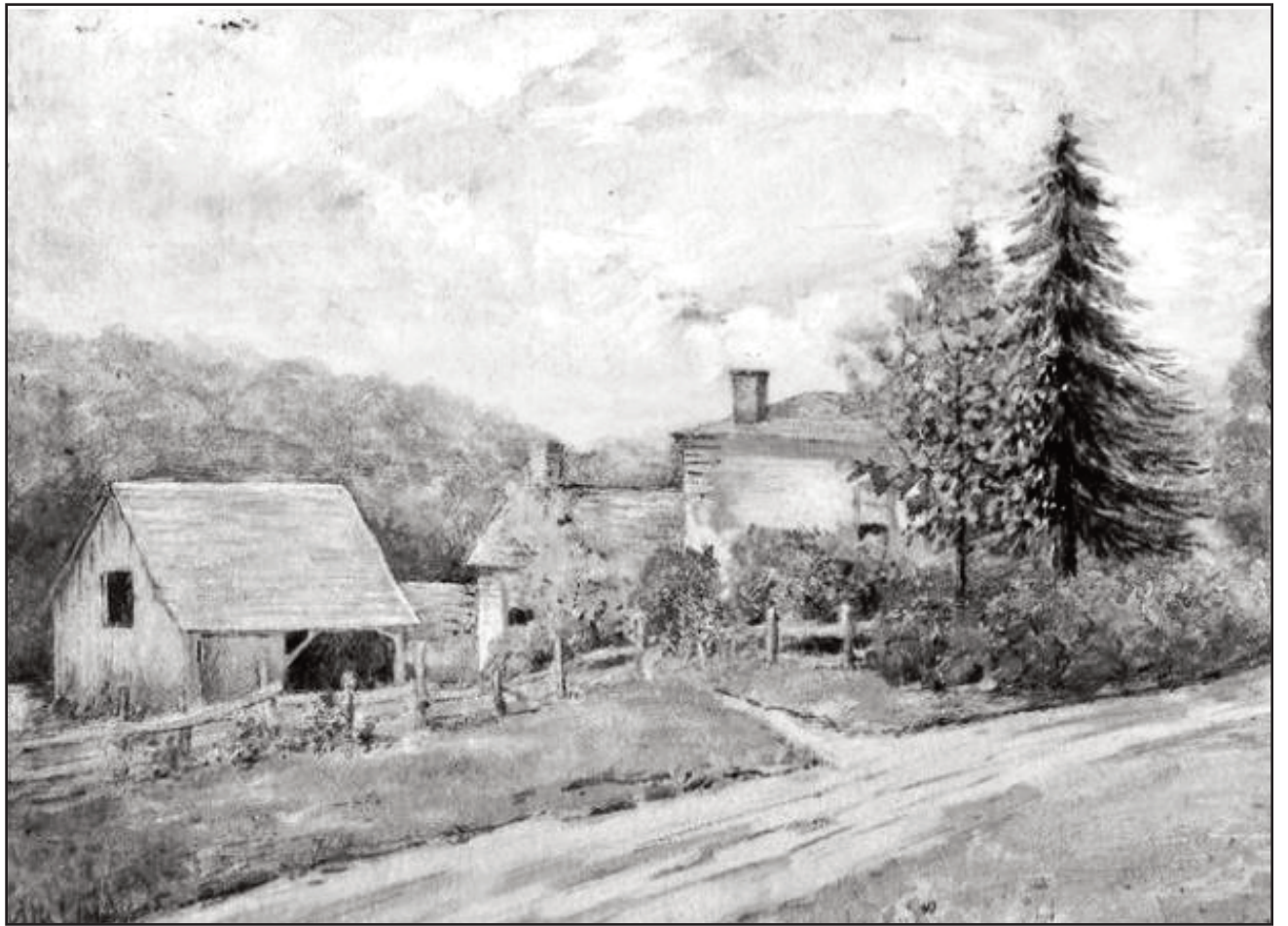
Did you ever hear of Crook's Mills? Where was it? What happened to it? Robert Crook established a mill on East Putney Brook, and Crook's Mills became a village and small industrial center with two grist mills, a 'woolen factory', a tavern and a store, as well as homes and farms. It was a real crossroads of the West Parish about 1800.

But the Crook's Mills village didn't last. The Congregational Church was built a mile upstream, and new houses and businesses followed, creating today's Westminster West Village. The final blow came in 1935, when the Town of Westminster held a Special Town Meeting to decide if a modern bridge should be built over East Putney Brook - the vote was 99 in favor, 22 against!

The new bridge (now known as the Butler's Pantry Bridge) needed high embankments and a new road layout. It created the modern junction of Patch and Westminster West Roads, but broke up the historic landscape. Brush and woods covered the ruins; the village was forgotten and became a 'Ghost Town.'

After hiding in plain sight for 100 years, this Ghost Town has been rediscovered by local historians and scientists. Bob Haas and Randy Major were expert explorers of the woods who charted cellar holes and foundations throughout Westminster with the help of local archeologist Chris Bergman.

There was other evidence as well. Edwin Gorham, the landowner of today's Patch Farm, painted some of the buildings in 1880, and collected 22 photo albums from Westminster West families dating from the Civil



War. These are on display in Westminster West Library and include many of the farmers and landowners of the Crook's Mills area such as the Ranney, Holden, Goodhue, Braley and Campbell families.

The new exhibition Westminster Ghost Town shows what the old village was like, and how it disappeared. Come visit the display at:

- Westminster West Library during the Westminster West Community Fair, September 7
- Butterfield Library during the Westminster Community Festival on September 14!

In photo, the Goodhue Tavern at Crook's Mills, as painted by Edwin Gorham about 1880.

BANDWAGON SUMMER CONCERT IN BF FEATURES LA SONORA MAZURÉN

The Bandwagon Summer Concert will be held on Sunday, Sept. 15 at 5 p.m. featuring the Columbian seven piece band La Sonora Mazurén.

This will be the first such concert held at 21 Island St. in Bellows Falls, the site of the former Robertson Paper Company.

La Sonora Mazuren is the latest of the rich indie-tropical scene out of Bogotá, Colombia. Deeply rooted in the popular sounds and rhythms of South America, the group draws from cumbia, chicha, guaracha, champeta and other South American styles.

La Sonora Mazuren combines synthesizers and electric guitars with accordion and percussion to create a futuristic style indebted to early pioneers such as Polibio Mayorga or Bogota's own Eblis Alvarez, of Meridian Brothers fame, producers of their debut album. The result is a psychedelic feast reminiscent of Tropicalia.

The Bandwagon Summer Series is a family-friendly outdoor cultural performance series hosted by Next Stage through mid-October. They bring a diverse group of musical styles, circus arts, dance, and theater to Windham County.

Bellows Falls is excited to host this show outside on the lawn- alcohol and food served onsite.

Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the gate. Children under 12 free. Parking is available at Hetty Green Park and TD lot, Bridge St Lot or the Waypoint Center and Island Street.

Advance ticketing closes two hours prior. A dedicated play area is available. Bring a picnic/ blanket For more details visit <https://tockify.com/next.stage.arts/detail/86/172643400000>.

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Annual Rates:
Pages 2-3 - approx. 4"x5" \$300 a year - \$30 for one month
Pages 4-7 - approx. 4.7"x6.8" \$525 a year - \$80 for one month
Page 8 - approx. 2.5"x3.25" - \$200 a year

New Sections Introductory Rates:
A&E Events Section \$50 a month
New & Seasonal Businesses Section \$200 for 3 months

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

We also welcome article submissions that would be of interest to the community. We ask for a maximum size limit of 500 words, and reserve the right to edit for content and length. Thank you!

On-line at: www.westminstervt.org

EXCITING TIMES AHEAD: WELCOMING A NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

By Liz Harty, Principal, Westminster Community Schools and Cheryl Charles, Chair, Westminster School Board

As summer winds down and the excitement of a new school year approaches, the Westminster Center School (WCS) campus is buzzing with anticipation. This year promises to be full of opportunities for growth, learning, and connection.

New Faces

We welcome a new third grade teacher, Jen Durham. Jen joins the WCS staff with 17 years of classroom experience. We are confident her skillset will be an asset to our school community.

Tiara Schofield will join the WCS staff while Corina Stack welcomes her first baby. Tiara will begin the year teaching kindergarten through the fall. She joins the WCS staff with four years of experience in early education.

Ray Smith has joined the WCS staff as our Head of Maintenance. We believe Ray's vast knowledge of building maintenance along with his carpentry experience will allow our building to continue to shine!

Innovative Learning and Engaging Activities

This year, we're introducing a new reading program, Expeditionary Learning (EL). EL is a high quality curriculum that provides students opportunities to read authentic texts that relate to real world ideas. We are excited to pair this learning with the direct phonics instruction. Our goal is to foster a love of learning that extends beyond the classroom walls.

Fresh Starts

Indoors and outdoors, all will be fresh and inviting for the start of a great school year! Floors are clean and shiny, the new entry is complete, and classrooms are sparkling. The sunflowers planted by last year's kindergartners are tall and beautiful! Tended carefully through the summer, along with the school's flock of chickens, everything is growing and healthy, ready to welcome eager learners and dedicated staff back for another busy school year.

Community and Spirit

At the heart of our school is a strong sense of community. Please reach out to our school to find out ways you can support and volunteer at WCS by emailing Liz Harty at elizabeth.harty@wnesu.com

In photo, the WCS Garden and sign.



WESTMINSTER CARES PIZZA NIGHT FUNDRAISER



Due to the generosity of Orchard Hill Breadworks in Alstead, NH, Westminster Cares was selected to participate in a Pizza Night Fundraiser on Aug. 13. On 12 Tuesdays throughout the summer, Orchard Hill Breadworks hosts these outdoor events with amazing wood-fired pizzas, salads, desserts and live music in a beautiful East Alstead setting.



Every week, proceeds from the event support a different local, non-profit organization.

Thank you to Noah Elbers and the staff of Orchard Hill Breadworks, our dedicated volunteers, and all the community members from many towns who came out in support of this event.

SEATED TAI CHI CLASS

Heard about all the health benefits of Tai Chi? Want to join a class but cannot stand for an hour?

Westminster Cares is co-sponsoring an ongoing seated Tai Chi class starting at the Westminster Institute after Labor Day. Tuesdays at 9:45 am.

Led by senior instructor Leslie Lassetter, this class is suitable for those with challenges due to surgery, arthritis, injury or other physical problems. Class size is small for individual attention. An Oriental Healing Arts Association instructor, Leslie also has a background in movement therapy and English country dance.

Often called meditation in motion, benefits of tai chi can include better heart health, lowered blood pressure, better stamina and a general sense of well-being. Also decreased instance of falling due to mindful movement. Leslie's students report acquiring quiet stillness, better posture and improved movement. One says, "I ride my horse differently. I feel better and my horse does too." Another, "I move around my kitchen differently, more mindfully."

Wear loose, easy to move in clothes and indoor shoes that glide easily.

At the Westminster Institute, 3534 Route 5. The cost is \$20 (or \$10-20 sliding scale)

Contact Donna Dawson at Westminster Cares, 802-722-3607 or WeCares@sover.net

A new, regular beginner Tai Chi class will begin in October. Stay tuned for more details and call Westminster Cares to be put on the interested list

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER CARES

The Westminster Cares Board of Directors met in person on Wednesday, Aug. 7th in the Westminster Institute. The following board members attended: President Lori Larue, Vice President Pat Goodell, Vice President Pete Harrison, Treasurer Frannie Waldron, Secretary Doug Oftedahl, Don Dawson, Nancy Dalzell, Cindy Moses and director Donna Dawson. Kathy Elliott and Miriam Lanata were unable to attend.

The board reviewed regular business and upcoming events during the first part of the meeting. John Couleur, a S.C.O.R.E. volunteer and facilitator, was invited as a guest for the second part of the meeting during which he gave a presentation.

John will be working with the board as they begin a strategic planning process which will guide the organization in the upcoming 3-5 years. The next board meeting is Sept. 4th.

Elder Tech: The next Elder Tech Session is scheduled for Saturday, September 28 at the West-

minster Institute.

Call Donna in the office at (802) 722-3607 to schedule an appointment between 9-12 p.m..

Donations received through August 2024

MEMORIALS:

In memory of Joanne Burke from Ellen Jones

In memory of Bruce

Miller from Kay Miller

In memory of Dick &

Ruth Morse (Mom &

Dad) from Diane and John

O'Brien

In memory of Eshagh

(Isaac) Shaoul from Ellen

Jones

In memory of Joan

(Mom) Smidutz from San-

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Nature Notes -Purple Loosestrife

by Alma Beals, Vermont Master Gardener and Naturalist

Have you noticed those pretty lavender flowers growing along our roads and in our swamps during July and August? They were introduced as great landscape plants many years ago. They are good pollinators for bees, butterflies and even hummingbirds.

Sound good to add to your garden? No-No-No. It is purple loosestrife and is very invasive, a non-native, having arrived from Eurasia in the early to mid-1800's as an ornamental plant, by ship ballasts or transported by raw wool and sheep.

Just one purple loosestrife plant can produce 2.7 million seeds annually and may remain dormant in the soil for many years until conditions are right for germination. The seeds can travel by water, wind, animal fur, bird feathers, footwear, boats and trailers, and car tires. The plants also can resprout from broken stems, underground roots and plant pieces.

Both agriculture and wildlife are negatively affected by purple loosestrife. Birds, mammals and waterfowl do not like to eat it affecting wildlife food, nesting and shelter. Agriculture is affected by blocking irrigation ditches and drainage flow. Recreation such as boating, fishing, and hunting are affected.

Chemical control can be used in dry areas, such as Roundup, which I am very much against. A much better control is biological by releasing predators which can also have its problems if a new predator is introduced that affects something else.

Two of the beetles used in the biological control that eat leaf and new shoot growth are *Galerucella pusilla* and *Galerucella cismariensis*. A root boring weevil that deposits eggs in the lower leaves is *hylobius transversovittatusella* as being part of the name of the beetles



Purple Loosestrife photos by Don Clark

Several years ago, the state of Vermont set up a volunteer program to release beetles into areas affected by purple loosestrife. Several of us in this area took part. We were given a soda-bottle of beetles in May.

We set up tomato cages with netting, added the beetles and loosestrife plants. Every few days we added more loosestrife plants as they ate up the previous ones. I remember the name *Galerucella* as part of the name of our beetles.

In July, we released the beetles with what remained of the plants. I released mine in the local swamp. The beetles did a good job of keeping the loosestrife down



for several years. The program was never meant to eradicate loosestrife, only keep it under control. What I found out a long time afterward was that another volunteer also released her beetles in the same swamp, giving the swamp extra coverage.

Now many years later, the swamp is back to seeing stands of purple loosestrife, gorgeous yes, but bad for the wildlife and agriculture.

WESTMINSTER SAMPLER: WESTMINSTER FAME

By Jessie Haas

What is Westminster famous for?

The Westminster Massacre, of course, first bloodshed of the American Revolution. Being the home of a U.S. Senator and two Congressmen in the late 1700s and early 1800s—all from the same family. But what else? Or who else?

Westminster West was the home of the famous Merino sheep Old Grimes, whose offspring received the prizes for first and second-best rams and ewes at the World's Fair in Hamburg, Germany in 1863—the Olympics of livestock shows.

Westminster was considered the Celery Capitol of the eastern U.S., and was also well-known for its excellent onions. D.P. Wright installed Vermont's first overhead irrigation system at the south end of the village in 1914 to water his onions. Westminster was also home to the first onion-topping machine used in Vermont.

Westminster was the northernmost tobacco-growing region in Tobacco Valley, aka the Connecticut River Valley, and produced outstanding leaves for cigar wrappers and binders. In the early 1900s Vermont ranked number one out of all states in tobacco yield per acre, and for a time in the 1920s Westminster was Vermont's largest tobacco producer.

The Gage Basket Factory in North Westminster (aka Gageville) was at one time the largest manufacturer of hand-made baskets in the United States.

The Northeast Organic Farming Association was founded in Westminster West in 1971. Its major organizer, Samuel Kayman, went on to found Stonyfield Farm, the organic yogurt maker.

Harriet Holton, granddaughter of Congressman Mark Richards and niece of Congressman William Czar Bradley, married John Humphrey Noyes, the founder of the Perfectionist movement. Together they scandalized Putney by pioneering Free Love, and after fleeing to New York state, founded the Oneida Colony. Harriet also pioneered wearing bloomers and cutting



her hair short, radical departures from Victorian norms.

Vermont's first printing press was brought to Westminster in 1780 and operated by Timothy Green and Judah Paddock Spooner, on the lot just south of the present church. In April 1781 Spooner and Green printed Vermont's first paper currency, and in June of that year two printers' assistants became Vermont's first counterfeiter, forging the official signatures on several notes.

Ethan Allen married his second wife, Fanny, in Westminster. She returned to raise his children here after his death, and it was in Westminster that their daughter, also named Fanny Allen, encountered a mysterious 'monster' on the banks of the Connecticut.

Paralysed, unable to flee, she was rescued by a man in a brown cloak who spoke to her and broke her trance. She fled, and when she turned to look back, the man had vanished. She converted to Catholicism after a similar mystical experience in a Montreal church, and later in a painting of the Holy Family, recognized in Saint Joseph the image of the man who had saved her years before. (No-one else to our knowledge has ever seen the river monster.)

There have been other Westminster firsts, famous folk, and some who were/are almost famous. Melissa

Leo, the Oscar-winning actress; Chris Whitley, beloved guitarist once known for riding a unicycle on the hilly roads of Westminster West; former Vermont governor Peter Shumlin; James Beard Award-winning cookbook author Deborah Krasner; highly regarded garden designers and writers Julia Moir-Meservy and Gordon Hayward; Jack Keil, creator of MacGruff the Crime Dog—all have lived in Westminster.

In 1988 David and Cindy Major started Vermont's first sheep dairy in Westminster, kicking off an explosion in premium cheesemaking in the state.

Revenge, a son of the legendary horse Justin Morgan, founder of the Morgan breed, stood at stud in Westminster West.

The founder of Willard's Hotel in Washington, D.C., was a Westminster boy. Willard's hosted Abraham Lincoln before his inauguration, and several of Donald Trump's associates met there on January 5th, 2021, before the attempt to disrupt the certification of the 2020 election.

We have also contributed to Lady Bird Johnson's national effort to beautify the interstate highways using native wildflowers. Among the flowers Johnson chose was a Black-Eyed Susan found growing in Westminster. With its large flower and weather and disease resistance, it has gladdened the eye and nourished native pollinators for decades.

What firsts and favorites have we missed in this grab-bag? Contact us through our website, www.westminstervthistory.org. Please check us out, and join! It's your chance to help pass on Westminster's story to the next generation. And visit us in the North Room during the celebration of the Institute's century of service to Westminster. Take the History Trivia Quiz, and get a commemorative pencil. See you there!

In photos, guitarist and singer/songwriter Chris Whitley, left, and actor Melissa Leo, two artists who grew up in Westminster and went on to exceptional careers in music and film.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE

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

Next association meeting Tuesday, Sept. 3 at 7 p.m.

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

The Prudential Committee meets on the 3rd Sunday of every month at the Fire House on Grout Ave. at 10 a.m.

Number of calls in July: 29

Number of calls through August 21st : 32

Number of calls calendar year to date: 320

Number of calls fiscal year to date: 60

Association Meeting: The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association met for their regular meeting August 6th with President Nancy Deitz presiding. There were 21 members present and 6 members excused. Currently there are 47 members of the volunteer fire department.

Emergency responses: July turned out to be another busy month with 29 calls for the month. Here is the breakdown for the 29 calls: 16 rescue/medical calls; 4 motor vehicle accidents; 4 box alarm/false alarm; 1 smoke investigation; 1 for tree on wires, powerline down; 3 Mutual Aid, 2 to Putney 1 to Chester.

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

Fire wood: Be sure your fire wood 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 covering your wood pile, cover the top only and leave the sides to be exposed to the air and sunlight. Wood that is completely covered can actually 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.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS FOR SALE: Anyone

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

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

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

Donations received in July/ August: Bruce Mickle, Allison and David Deen.

The following in memory of Howie Rice: Ethel and Don Pike, Claudia and Dave Allbee, Nicholas Grimaldi, Zack Hooker, Bobby Cooper, Spencer Morris and the Falmouth Fire & EMS, Amy Lamontagne, Mary Stanton, Sheldon Scott, Falmouth Professional Fire Fighters, Joan & Greg Holton, Chris & Sara Oot, The Walt Allbee family, Cilla, Jason [Andrea], Alisa [Andy], Whitney Blake Co., Town of Falmouth, Susan Lober, Cathy Jacobs in memory of Howie and Terri Lowe, Kay Miller in memory of Jeff Miller.

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

Aged in Vermont

Westminster Cares, Inc.

WHO ARE SCAM VICTIMS?

By Elliott Greenblatt

Summer is beginning to fade away. Sadly, daylight hours are in decline, but scam activity continues to grow.

We tend to believe that intelligence can protect us from harm. A commonly heard statement is "I'm too smart to be scammed!" The reality is that being "smart" is not a protection against fraud, regardless of one's knowledge, education, or area of expertise.

Just read about these well-known celebrities from a variety of fields who joined the victims list: Sandy Koufax, John Malkovich, Steven Spielberg, Ben Stiller. What do they have in common? They're well-educated, highly successful, and trusted the wrong people with their finances.

In fact, being well-educated can be seen as why some people become scam targets; higher education often translates into higher income.

A second myth: "I have nothing of value for a scammer." Wealth, while certainly attractive to criminals, is not the key to victimization. The end goal is financial gain through theft and use of assets or personal information.

For example, a younger person can be an attractive target for identity theft where data is used to impersonate and create new credit or bank accounts.

Finally, there is a sense that "fraud" is something that happens to old people." Yes, that is true. The elderly are victimized, but so are the new-born and everyone in between. Con artists are truly nondiscriminatory.

Victim age, gender, personal health, sexual orientation, race, religion, national origin, marital status, assets, or physical location really do not matter. To paraphrase a marketing slogan, "There's a scam for that!"

The Federal Trade Commission regularly compiles statistics on scams and fraud, noting that there is a higher likelihood of victimization between the ages of 25-45 than for senior citizens.

Seniors, who typically have more assets, see higher dollar losses, but successfully scamming younger people can have a high long-term payoff. The likelihood of a scam victim being scammed again is higher than those who have not been victimized.

Common sense may say, "Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me." The reality is that most of those who are scammed do not truly learn from the episode.

Consider this as you might consider New Year's Resolutions. On Jan. 1, we resolve to lose 10 pounds by Valentine's Day. By the third week of January we have abandoned the cause. It's not a matter of forgetting the resolution; it is a matter of changing behavior. Similarly, suffering losses a second time is not the result of a lack of education or abandonment, it is a failure to change root behaviors that led to the first loss.

Fraud self-defense, whether in dismissing the myths or by increasing awareness requires a commitment to behavior change; recognizing risky behavior on the phone, online, or in person.

AARP Fraud Watch focuses on public education and awareness of the fraud environment and ecosystem through distribution of literature, public media, special events, and seminars.

Elliott Greenblatt is a retired educator and coordinator of the AARP Vermont Fraud Watch Network. This past spring, Westminster Cares hosted Mr. Greenblatt to speak at a SOUPer Wednesday luncheon. Plans are in the works to have Elliott back for another speaking event this winter.

REMEMBRANCES

SEPTEMBER 2024:

HUGH CLAYTON HAGGERTY, 87
6/13/1937 - 8/12/2024

SANDRA LEE "SANDI" MILLER, 85
2/12/1939 - 7/23/2024
WALPOLE, NH

RUSSELL "RUSS" PICKERING, 84
12/24/1939 - 7/17/2024
DREWSVILLE, N.H.

HOWARD "HOWIE" RICE, 82
5/28/1942 - 7/29/2024
WESTMINSTER, VT

DAVID SAVOY, 96
4/15/1928 - 7/28/2024
LEBANON, NH

13TH ANNUAL VERMONT FALL OPEN STUDIO WEEKEND OCT. 5 & 6



Visit Westminster assemblage artist Kathy Kemp at her home studio at 406 River Road during the 13th Annual Vermont Open Studio Weekend, Oct. 5 and 6, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Kathy is one of 120 artists featured on this year's tour. Kathy transforms found wood, metal, and organic objects into evocative pieces that ignite the imagination. She weaves seemingly random elements into cohesive compositions that tell stories filled with nostalgia and curiosity.

Don't miss the chance to meet Kathy, see her work, and observe her creative process. Explore her eclectic collection of found objects and be inspired by her unique vision.

To learn more and preview Kathy's work, visit <https://kathykemp.onfabrik.com> or contact her at kkemp367@gmail.com, and enjoy a stunning river view.

Discover all the artists participating statewide by visiting <https://www.vermontcrafts.com/visit-open-studio/>.

There, you'll find glassblowers, potters, metalworkers, jewelers, weavers, painters, photographers, book artists, printmakers, and more! The journey through Vermont's beautiful landscape to visit these studios is part of the adventure. Find maps, artist profiles, and images of their work at www.vermontcrafts.com.

SR SUNDAY CONCERTS

The Sunday music series at the Saxtons River Park continues Sunday, Sept. 15 at 4 p.m. with the group Swing Low, who describe their style as "jazz standards and pop classics with mesmerizing vocals and swinging grooves."

The four-member group includes Nick Scalero on saxophone, Ashok on bass, Maryann McArdle on keyboard and vocalist Ajlan Beer. Rain date is Sept. 22.

The series rounds out Sept. 29 at 3 p.m. with the Main Street Arts String Band under the direction of Jill Newton, offering traditional French Canadian, Celtic, Scandinavian and American fiddle tunes. In case of rain, the concert will move across the street to Main Street Arts.

The String Band meets at MSA every Wednesday from 5 to 6:30 p.m. and welcomes players to sit in on their sessions.

The Saxtons River Park Committee is sponsoring the series, which is open to all.

Notice of cancellation and rescheduling will be posted on the Saxtons River and Saxtons River Park Facebook pages.

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Community Build**

Oct. 10th - Oct. 16th 2024

St. Charles Parish Hall/Social Center
25 Cherry St., Bellows Falls, VT

Warming Homes - Helping the Environment - Building Community



encouraged to help at the workshops also—it's fun to build things with your neighbors.

If you're interested, call or text 802-444-1860, or email to rockinghamvtenergy@gmail.com, and we can set up a measuring visit. Two volunteers will come to your home to measure your window frames with a laser measuring tool so the inserts can be custom made for your windows.

All measuring must be done by Sept. 9. Typical windows cost \$50-60 per insert, but special pricing is available for low income residents.

For more information see <https://windowdressers.org/insulating-inserts/>.

KURN HATTIN HOMES AWARDED 4-STAR RATING

Kurn Hattin Homes is proud to announce it has been awarded a 4-star rating, for the fifth consecutive year by Charity Navigator, the nation's largest independent charity evaluator.

"This is our highest possible rating," says Michael Thatcher, President and CEO of Charity Navigator, "and indicates that the organization adheres to sector best practices and executes its mission in a financially efficient way."

"Kurn Hattin's streak of five consecutive 4-star ratings is tangible proof that it outperforms most other charities in America. This exceptional designation from Charity Navigator sets Kurn Hattin Homes apart from its peers and demonstrates to the public its trustworthiness."

Kurn Hattin's Executive Director, Stephen Harrison, says the organization was extremely pleased and

honored to hear the news of another outstanding rating.

"Our mission to positively transform the lives of children and their families is deeply dependent on the generosity of our donors," Harrison said. "This can only be accomplished if our supporters trust that we are using their contributions wisely and effectively. This Charity Navigator 4-Star rating validates our practices and will reinforce donors' faith in the integrity of our efforts on behalf of the children we serve."

Since 1894, Kurn Hattin Homes for Children has helped thousands of children and their families by offering children in difficult circumstances a safe haven, a quality education, a stronger sense of self, and a brighter future.

Please visit www.kurnhattin.org to learn more about Kurn Hattin Homes.

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THANK YOU!**

MYSTERY PHOTO



Where were these buildings located and what were they known as and used for when this photo was taken?

MUSIC IN THE MEADOW

The 20th Music in the Meadow fundraising concert to benefit the Susan G. Komen will be held on Saturday, Sept 7th at the Motel in the Meadow, Rte. 11 West, Chester, VT. from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

This year's amazing entertainment is performed by local musicians who donate their time and talent. Here is our lineup: James Joel, Better Days Band, John Sullivan, The Illusion, Bear Mountain Boys, Mark Shelton, and Intercept.

Back for 2024 will be the very popular, silent auction with donations from many local businesses and residents. Hot food and cold drinks will be available.

This year we are planning to have a cornhole tournament, family games area to keep your kids busy with our skee ball station, frisbee golf, and several other games. Raffle tickets will also be on sale for the Grand Prize Queen Quilt. The drawing will be at 7 p.m.

The past 19 concerts have raised over \$115,000 in support of Komen's mission to "Save lives by meeting the most critical needs in our communities and investing in breakthrough research to prevent and cure breast cancer." All proceeds collected go to the 2024 Komen Vermont MORE THAN PINK WALK which will be held in Manchester, VT on Oct. 5.

For more information call 802-875-2626 or find us on Facebook, Music in the Meadow.

Bring a blanket, or your lawn chair or join us under the tents in the meadow for a great day!

WESTMINSTER HAPPENINGS

WE'RE ALWAYS UPDATING THE HAPPENINGS ENTRIES. IT IS YOUR GROUP'S RESPONSIBILITY TO LET US KNOW WHEN THINGS CHANGE OR WHEN SOMETHING SHOULD BE ADDED OR REMOVED. THANK YOU!

FAITH COMMUNITY

The First Congregational Church of Westminster

We welcome you to join us each Sunday at 10 a.m. There is a children's message at each service and fellowship after. We are located on Rt. 5 and now have AC. Rev Richard O'Donnell is the Pastor.

Sept 1 Worship at 10. Outside weather permitting
Sept 3 Women's Fellowship 11 a.m. Fellowship Hall

Sept 4 Bible Study All at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall and on Zoom

Sept 8 Worship with Communion

Sept 11 Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Sept 14. Westminster Festival. Food and various activities at the church

Sept 15 Worship

Sept 16 Standing Committee 5:30 p.m. on Zoom

Sept 22 Combined Church Service at Rockingham Meeting House 10 a.m.

Sept 25 Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Sept 29 Worship at 10 a.m. New Members will be welcomed at this Service

The Congregational Church of Westminster West

Worships every Sunday at 10 a.m. We are using Facebook Live to stream our weekly services. Just go on Facebook to the church's page. If you are with us in person, we ask you to wear a mask when conditions warrant it. Masks are available at the church. 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.

Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno keeps office hours either in the office itself or by visiting parishioners on Thursday afternoons and is available by appointment at other times. She keeps Mondays as her Sabbath observation. She can be reached at susiewt@gmail.com or (802) 579-8356.

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 refresh-

ments 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.

ACTIVITIES

Butterfield Library hours are Mon., Tues. and Thur. 1 - 6 p.m. and Sat 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Westminster West Library Hours Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 1- 6 p.m., Saturday 10 - 2 p.m.

Accessible Gentle Yoga with Lisa Nigro
New classes starting in August.

Gentle Yoga with Lisa Nigro Aug.19-Oct. 21 - 10 weeks \$130, \$15 drop in (if space is available)
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.

Living Strong with Ronnie Friedman, Karen Walter
On line - Mondays & Thursdays 722-3607

Tai Chi Class Tues. 9:4 a.m.-10:45 a.m.
Class Tues. 11 a.m.-noon Class Thursday 6-7 p.m.
Westminster Institute

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

Putney Contradance
Last Sunday of month at 3 p.m.
Pierce's Hall, 121 East Putney Falls Road
Vaccinations, boosters & K95 masks
contradanceputney@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 choreog-

raphy, with a focus on cardiovascular and muscular conditioning, flexibility, and balance. 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 by ZOOM every 4th Thursday at 7:15 p.m.

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
1st Wed., 4:30 p.m., Westminster Institute
on-line & in person

Westminster Historical Society Board
3rd Tuesday, 7 p.m. Town Hall 2nd floor

Westminster Institute Board 2nd Tues. 6:30 p.m.,
Westminster Institute jimmatteau@gmail.com

Westminster Gazette westminsternews@gmail.com
3rd Monday, 5 p.m., Westminster Institute

Westminster West Library Board 802-387-4682
2nd Wed. 7 p.m. at the WW Library

Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association
3rd Thurs. 7 p.m. In-person or Zoom
Contact: coordinator@windmillhillpinnacle.org

The Living Earth Action Group most Fridays at 5 p.m. Westminster West Congregational Church
Contact: Caitlin Adair pcadair@sover.net

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

WESTMINSTER GAZETTE

Editor: Robert F. Smith

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Oct. Deadline
The deadline for the Oct. 2024 Issue of the Westminster Gazette is Wednesday, Sept. 18
Publication Date is Wednesday, Sept. 25
To Contact the Westminster Gazette
E-mail: westminsternews@gmail.com

WESTMINSTER WEST COMMUNITY FAIR SATURDAY, SEPT. 7

The Westminster West Community Fair will be held on Saturday, Sept. 7, and includes the popular adults 5K road race, a grilled chicken lunch, an on-line silent auction, and Golden Elephant sale.

Race registration starts at 8:30 a.m., with the race starting at 9 a.m., which is also when the Golden Elephant sale opens.

There will also be a parade, starting at 10:30 a.m., with the theme "Our Community's Children." Children will be the grand marshals for the parade, with special hats being made for the occasion.

"Westminster West is a small but supportive, welcoming community, and the fair showcases our many strengths," says Betsy Williams, one of the longtime fair organizers. "We are delighted to honor our community's children as the grand marshals, because they are at the heart of so much that brings us together."

Other activities include live music, a kids road race with prizes after the parade, a corn cob chopping contest, talent show, gardening contest, the on-line silent auction, and a 50-50 cash raffle.

SAVE THE DATE
Sat. 9/7/24
9am - 3 pm

You're Invited!

To Volunteer:
 Email Laura or Betsy:
 laladust@gmail.com

Great Family Fun

EVENTS:
 5K Race (9am Start)
 Parade (10:30am)
 Kids Fun Run (11am)
 Fairy Houses (12:30pm)
 Talent Show (2pm)
 BBQ Chicken & Vegan Lunches
 2 Silent Auctions (Online & Onsite)
 Veggie Contest
 Art Exhibit
 Kids Activities
 Live Music
 Baked Goods / Refreshments
 Nature-based Activities

Spacious Outdoor Dining!
***Golden Elephant Sale**

44 Church St., Westminster West, VT 05246

The chicken lunch, a vegetarian option, and hot dogs will be available for purchase.

The fair, which started in 1988, is a popular community event and fundraiser for the Congregational Church of Westminster West.

Other community partners include the Westminster West Public Library, which is holding its annual book sale on fair day; the Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association, which will have an information table and caps and T-shirts for sale; the The Nature Museum, which will run a fairy house booth; Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center and Living Earth Action Group sponsoring Patti Smith's Beaver Project Exhibition; and the, Rev. Lise Sparrow's booth on Westminster's Declaration of Inclusion.

See the fair website at www.westminsterwest.org/2024-westminster-west-community-fair/ for more information on food prices, the online auction, and the cash raffle.

The fair itself, which runs until 3 p.m., is free to attend.

VCRD WELCOMES 15 PARTICIPANTS TO THE 2024 CLIMATE CATALYSTS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) has welcomed 15 participants to the 2024 Climate Catalysts Leadership Program from a strong pool of applicants.

The 2024 participants from across the state will focus their time on the implementation of a local climate or energy project such as bringing community members together to determine the best use for a historic town hall, expanding wetlands for flood mitigation and ecosystem health, improving walking and biking options in a rural town, and more.

The Climate Catalysts Leadership Program allows participants to take their transformative, community-scale climate economy related projects to the next level by developing their concepts into reality while building peer connections, strengthening leadership skills, and receiving project development support.

The fifth class of the Climate Catalysts Leadership Program includes the following local individuals and project locations:

Georgina Carley of Brattleboro, and David Deen in the Connecticut River Watershed.

"The Climate Catalyst program continues to adapt to fit the needs that are present in local climate efforts. This year's cohort will focus on coming together in person to connect across project types, and ignite common threads needed to develop equitable climate actions," said Laura Cavin Bailey, the Climate Economy Program Manager.

Additional participant information and project descriptions can be found at <https://www.vtrural.org/wp-content/uploads/2024CohortBios-Class5.pdf>.

WESTMINSTER INSTITUTE NEWS - ELEVATOR NEARLY DONE

Great news! The long-awaited lift in the Westminster Institute is nearing completion and will be operational soon.

After a final inspection, it will be ready to use, making all three levels of the Institute completely and easily accessible for all visitors. GPI Construction of Brattleboro was the general contractor and JA Saccoccio Architectural Workshop of Brattleboro did design and permitting.

The final cost of the lift is, as estimated, \$139,000. We have raised \$111,050, which includes generous donations

from the Dascomb Fund, the Town of Westminster, Together We Can charities, and local residents.

To help us reach our final goal, we're still gratefully accepting donations (tax-deductible). Donations can be made to the Westminster East Parish, PO Box 93 Westminster Vt. 05158.

The roof of the Institute also got some badly needed repairs. Long's Roofing of Alstead, N.H., replaced 234 pieces of slate on the 100-year-old building, repaired valleys, and installed a new shed roof over the utility entrance. The work was paid for, in part, by a Vermont Historic Preservation grant.

The Board of Managers thanks everyone for their patience – patrons of the Institute and Butterfield Library, Westminster Cares, and the Westminster Historical Society. Although the interruptions were short-lived we realize they were inconvenient. Stop in and see what's new!

*Board of Managers,
Westminster Institute*



CULTURAL PROFICIENCY:
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30th Annual Conference
 with **Dr. Kalise Wornum**
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2024
9AM - 3:15PM WESTMINSTER, VT
 — Lunch is included —

Please direct all inquiries for the conference to Mariah Bischofberger at (802) 721-6925, or email mbischofberger@kurnhattin.org.

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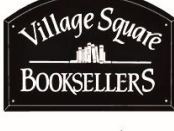
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SEPT. BUSINESS OF THE MONTH: JESSICA FULLER, FINANCIAL ADVISOR, EDWARD JONES, WALPOLE, NH

As an Edward Jones Financial Advisor, I partner with individual investors and families in Walpole and neighboring towns to offer tailored investment solutions designed to help them reach their long-term goals.



Growing up in Northfield, MA I attended Northfield Mount Hermon before earning a bachelor's degree from the Stern School of Business at New York University.

From there, I became an investment banker in New York City before returning to New England to be closer to family. Upon my return, I opened, operated and brought to market a fast casual restaurant that prided itself on sourcing locally grown food and promoting the arts by serving as a venue for local musicians.

Our mission at Edward Jones is to consistently provide artisanal service, compassionate support and tailored financial guidance so our clients can confidently make the optimal financial decisions that will help them reach their goals.

Our discovery process begins by understanding where you are today and where you want to be. Then we can determine if your goals are achievable and provide guidance on how you can best reach them. Where we deliver the most value is with our lifelong relationship with you and our partnership with your professional team. All along the way you will benefit from the support of Senior Branch Office Administrator, Jennifer Skrocki, as well as myself.

Please contact us at (603) 756-2513 for a complimentary investment portfolio review.

SEPT. BUSINESS OF THE MONTH: WOOL 91.5 COMMUNITY RADIO




WOOL-FM 91.5 Your local Community Radio, supporting community organizations like the Westminster Gazette to expand our growing audience and reach.

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We are entirely supported by memberships, contributions, and underwriting — we're volunteer run and member supported. We air no advertising, and are 100% propelled by the good will of our community.

WOOL is managed by the coordinated effort of its board and committees. Our governing structure relies heavily on the activity of the board of directors and of ad hoc committees arising in response to the ongoing needs of the station.



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- Public Art Initiatives • Policy Making



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