

# Westminster Gazette



po box 147 westminster vt 05158

Our Community Newspaper @ [www.westminstervt.org](http://www.westminstervt.org) Vol 20 No 10 October 2024

## WESTMINSTER'S FALL FESTIVALS FUN

September was the month that the villages of Westminster celebrated themselves, with a Fair in Westminster West on Sept. 7 and a Community Festival celebration in Westminster on Sept. 14.

In photos taken at both events, clockwise from top, Floyd Lawrence (right) and his band Intercept shared the stage for a song with his three granddaughters; We-Cares Strong Living exercise class marching in the Westminster West parade; a dog shepherding exhibition with shepherd Liz Shaw of Morse Brook Farm and her dogs, photos courtesy of Ira Wilner; and Howard Reed enjoys the festivities in the shade of a John Deere tractor.



### WESTMINSTER CARES' ELDER TECH ASSISTANCE:

**THE NEXT ELDER TECH SESSION IS SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, OCT. 26TH AT THE WESTMINSTER INSTITUTE. CALL DONNA AT (802) 722-3607 TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT BETWEEN 9-12 PM.**

Our Monthly Community Newspaper October 2024 Vol. 20 No. 10

### Westminster Gazette

Town of Westminster  
PO Box 147  
Westminster, VT  
05158

**DELIVER TO ADDRESSEE OR CURRENT RESIDENT**

Pre-Sorted Standard  
U.S. Postage  
**Paid**  
Westminster, VT  
PERMIT NO. 3

# OUR WORKING LANDSCAPE - THE BEST WOOD IS YOUR WOOD

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 Scherbatsky

Well, maybe not always the best, but it's great to have the choice!

Vermont has a busy network of small-scale timber processing, from loggers to truckers to firewood to sawmills, working together to make best use of the state's abundant forests, and Jon Williams is a part of it. His sawmill, Best Wood Custom Sawing on Westminster West Road by the Putney line, works with loggers, landowners and builders to convert trees into houses, barns and other projects made of wood.

The mill produces a range of custom lumber and timbers for individuals and small businesses. The green logs are rough-sawn on the big bandsaw, and then sold green or stacked to dry. Jon also has a separate shop to do specialty millwork for clapboards, flooring, decking and more.

A niche product is black locust planking used by trail-builders for board walks across wetlands, and locust offcuts are dandy for fence posts. You know what they say... 'the life of a locust post is one year less than the life of a stone post'.

Jon works with Kurt Weisman, and they are busy every day, currently milling orders from 700 to 15,000 board feet. The mill buys logs from landowners and loggers, and custom-cuts it for builders and furniture makers who want to use local timber.

Getting the logs is heavy work and depends on the weather - during mud season nothing can move, and then a surprise like the wet summer of 2023 can affect plans and supply. Jon has to stay in touch with loggers and truckers all over Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts to get the logs he needs.



Horse loggers are in great demand by landowners, but hard to find. Another skill in demand is sharpening: Best Wood has to send the band saw blades by UPS to Pennsylvania to get them resharpened and set.

Jon was living in Connecticut when in 2005 he stopped off in Brattleboro to buy some McNeill's beer

for a friend - and the rest is history. Hugh Davis was just setting up Best Wood; Jon went to work for him, and bought the mill in 2017. A very local story boosts the local product network!

Above, Jon Williams at Best Wood.

## CHILI FEST & COOKOFF IN SAXTONS RIVER SATURDAY, SEPT. 28

Mark your calendars for a fantastic day of flavor and fun at the Chili Fest! This exciting event will take place at 24 Main Street in the Community Building, in Saxtons River on Saturday, Sept. 28 from noon to 4:30 p.m.

Come at noon, and bring your friends and family. Do you think your chili has what it takes to win? Enter the competition by emailing serenberta@gmail.com for your chance to showcase your culinary skills!

Enjoy an array of activities including our Chili Cook-Off, Fun Fair, Mini Golf, Silent Auction, Quilt

# Chili Fest!!




Raffle, and 50/50 Raffle. Dance the day away with music provided by WOOL91.5 Blacksheep Radio and join us in the Assembly Hall at 2:30 p.m. for Pleasant Valley Cabaret, a variety show of local acts.

Chili Cook-Off tickets are affordably priced at just \$10 for adults or \$5 for children 12 and under. Bring the whole family for a special rate of only \$30!

Everyone is invited to join in on the fun and your Chili Cook-Off ticket automatically sets you up to participate as a judge! This is an event you won't want to miss!

## COMPASS SCHOOL


LEARNING COMMUNITY DEMOCRACY DIRECTION



A vibrant learning community for grades 7-12 in Westminster, Vermont

Come see what school can be

Generous Scholarships and Financial Aid Available .....



..... www.compass-school.org


# BRENNAN



## BUILDING EXCAVATION SEPTIC SYSTEMS

# 802 869 2866

www.BrennanConstructionVT.com



## K. BEEBE, INC

PUMP SERVICE  
Plumbing and Heating

*Established 1946*

**FULLY INSURED \* ESTIMATES GIVEN**

**CALL 463-3725**

51 SAXTONS RIVER ROAD  
BELLOWS FALLS

## BEST SEPTIC

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

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



**Jeff & Lisa Ruggiero**  
Owners

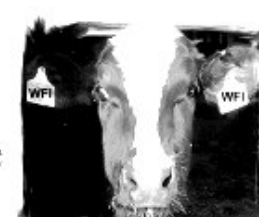
# (802)-463-9444

**BIG OR SMALL WE PUMP IT ALL!**

## WESTMINSTER ENERGY GROUP

A Division of  
**WESTMINSTER FARMS**

Top Soil  
Compost  
Dried Manure



Made in Vermont  
By  
Vermont Farmers  
And  
Vermont Cows

PO Box 24 4187 US Rt 5 Westminster Sta., VT 05159  
Phone/Fax: 802 722 4017 Email: westfarms1@myfairpoint.net

## ADVERTISE IN THE GAZETTE!

Annual Rates:

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

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

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

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

On-line at: [www.westminstervt.org](http://www.westminstervt.org)

# NOTES FROM WESTMINSTER SCHOOLS SEPT. 2024

By Elizabeth Harty (School Principal, WCS)  
Charlie Hutchison (Westminster School Board)

School is back in session, and the excitement is in the air! With mostly a returning staff, WCS was able to pick right back up where we left off. Students and staff use the first six weeks of school to introduce and practice the school wide agreement of being safe, being kind, and being a community.

These shared agreements are posted throughout the school and celebrated throughout the year as well. This is also the time of year we conduct brief base-line testing of student learning so that we can monitor progress throughout the year.

Many community members may have noticed that

our new entrance construction is now complete. This will allow additional security with a double locked entry system. Staff and students are getting familiar with the new space and relieved that the interior construction is complete.

WCS continues to make progress on a variety of exterior capital projects. Our solar project is still in the works. The roof panels have been installed and are ready to be hooked up to the grid as soon as the ground mounted panels are complete by the end of the fall.

The moment the switch is thrown on the new system, we will start realizing the cost-saving benefits to our energy bill promised by this investment. Meanwhile, in an effort to correct the storm drain backup in the back parking lot, the drainage system there has been

updated. This will hopefully resolve the large pond that forms there after any rain. And the slab for the new pavilion behind the school was poured in early summer. We expect the structure to be completely installed by early November.

Members of the WCS community were present at the Westminster Festival earlier this month. The WCS Parent/Teacher organization was selling key hooks that were made from the old gym floor (the parts of the gym floor that were recovered from last winter's water damage). WCS also had a table displaying a variety of artifacts from the Westminster Center School.

Visitors of all ages enjoyed looking through old pictures and newspaper clippings that told a bit of the history of WCS. Lots of fun!

## FALL FUN AT BUTTERFIELD LIBRARY

By Alison Baitz, Librarian

I can't tell you how wonderful it was meeting so many community members at the Westminster Community Festival. A huge thank you to those who visited the library, grabbed a new library card, purchased books from our sale, and/or shared helpful feedback about how Butterfield can better serve its patrons!

October is the perfect time to stop by Butterfield: get a new card or make sure yours is up to date; cozy up with your latest read (or favorite electronic device!) in the Dascomb Room. Starting this month is the first of several planned Butterfield book clubs.

Chat about the last thing you read at the Bring Your Own Book Club (Oct. 15 at 5 p.m.) — participants will have the chance to share and to learn about what others have been reading. Also this month: learn about how to access ebooks and audiobooks with Libby (Oct. 3 at 2 p.m.)!

After many hours, our fiction/non-fiction reorganization project is complete! All adult fiction now lives in the main library room. New fiction is staying in its familiar alcove, while new non-fiction will also be displayed upstairs. Older non-fiction books are now downstairs. If you need help finding something, don't hesitate to ask!

Lastly! We are opening up our home delivery service of library materials to anyone who is homebound or otherwise unable to get to the library, thanks to our partnership with the wonderful Westminster Cares. Please give the library a call during

open hours or send over an email to learn more and get started with this new service.

If you've visited the library at some point within the last few weeks, you may have noticed things are looking a bit different. Please do not fret! It's all a part of the process, and won't look like this for long! (AKA: Please pardon my dust!)

With the cooperation and approval of the Westminster Institute board, I'm in the middle of a substantial "weeding" project — meaning, I'm removing from the library's shelves books and other items that have been shown to be no longer interesting or relevant to the Butterfield community.

For the most part, this means removing items that haven't been checked out by Butterfield patrons since about 2017, though a majority haven't been borrowed since well before then. Not all books that fall under this criterion will be removed — books of Vermont/New England interest are staying, as are knitting books. This weeding project is not a judgment call on the merit of works at all, but more of a response to the current needs and interests of the community. Weeding is a critical aspect of library work, and it is an industry standard to weed books that haven't been checked out in a certain amount of time. This ensures a collection that is always of current interest to Butterfield patrons, and it makes room for new additions!

If you have questions or concerns, please talk to me! The library is open 1 to 6 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, and 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday.

## THANK YOU!

A GRATEFUL THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED MAKE THE WESTMINSTER COMMUNITY FESTIVAL A WONDERFUL SUCCESS!

OUR VENDORS AND EXHIBITORS, VOLUNTEERS, FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, WESTMINSTER FIRE AND RESCUE.

THE MUSICIANS — INTERCEPT, MILKHOUSE HEATERS AND INLAWSKI BROTHERS.

AND OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS:  
ADVANTAGE TRUCK GROUP, ALLEN BROTHERS, AMERICAN WEALTH MANAGEMENT, BEST SEPTIC SERVICE, BRATTLEBORO SUBARU, 802 CREDIT UNION, CATAMOUNTTRUCK AND TRAILER REPAIR, COMMUNITY FEED STORE, HARLOW FARM AND FARMSTAND, GREATER FALLS INSURANCE, GREAT RIVER HYDRO LLC, JOHNSON'S GREENHOUSE, JUDD'S AUTO REPAIR, PERRY FAMILY MAPLEWORKS, RIVERSIDE AUTO REPAIR, RUGGIERO TRASH & RECYCLING, SOJOURNS COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINIC, TRUST COMPANY OF VERMONT, WESTMINSTER AUTO, WESTMINSTER ANIMAL HOSPITAL, DAVID MURRAY, JIM GROUT, SUSAN HARLOW, TIM HARTY, JIM MATTEAU, AND JENNIE PERRY.

THANK YOU!

BOARD OF MANAGERS, WESTMINSTER INSTITUTE AND BUTTERFIELD LIBRARY

## NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER CARES

The Westminster Cares Board of Directors met in person on Wednesday, Sept. 4 at 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, Kathy Elliot and director Donna Dawson. Miriam Lanata was unable to attend.

The board reviewed financials and regular business from the summer and discussed upcoming events for the fall. Donations received through September 20th, 2024

### MEMORIALS:

In loving memory of Richard Damon, our "Uncle Steve," and with thanks for the care provided to his family from Mark, Diana and Nicole Damon.

In loving memory of my wife Sally Davis, and

with thanks to Westminster Cares and the Meals on Wheels volunteers from Howard Davis.

In memory of Jane French from:

- Alma Beals
- George Cook
- Pat and Alan Fowler
- Linda Wilson

In memory of Laura Leonard from Nancy Dalzell.

In memory of Howie Rice from Bill Smidutz.

In memory of Joan Smidutz from Bill Smidutz.

In memory of Fred Yates from Bill Smidutz.

## Give Your Home a Hug!

With a low cost Green Mountain Home Repair loan.

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

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



GREEN MOUNTAIN Home Repair



(802) 254-4604  
HomeMattersHere.org

## Nature Notes -Canada Lynx or Bobcat?

by Alma Beals, Vermont Master Gardener and Naturalist

Recently a story appeared in our local papers of a Canada lynx video taken in Rutland County. A Vermont Fish and Wildlife biologist confirmed it was of a Canada lynx and not a bobcat. Biologists often get calls on bobcats being mistaken for Canada lynx.

What was interesting about this sighting was that the lynx was in the southernmost edge of its range. Most confirmed sightings are from the Northeast Kingdom which has the best climate, habitat, and snowshoe hares for food in Vermont. Another interesting thing was the lynx was casually walking along the side of the road during the day. The biologist thought this was a young lynx looking for a new territory which is called dispersing.

Both bobcats and Canada lynx belong to the same lynx genus. Bobcats are the smallest cats in the species with stubby tails. Lynx are larger with tufts of dark hair on the tips of their ears. Bobcat coats vary from light gray to yellowish brown, buff to reddish brown with more spots and streaks while the lynx coat is relatively bland.

Lynx have longer legs and bigger paws with light colored heels while bobcat heels are black. Can you imagine getting close enough to look at the heels?



Canada Lynx

Lynx can leap higher than any other mammal and have been recorded making a vertical jump of over 20 feet from a stationary position. They also can jump up to 25 feet horizontally.

They are excellent hunters with strong hind legs that help them jump on their prey. They hunt on the ground and are good climbers. They need to eat one or two snowshoe hares a day but occasionally will eat other small mammals and birds.

Bobcats have shown up in my yard several times in the last few years. Each time I really look at them to make sure they are not Canada lynx. Last year for several early mornings, a bobcat stopped to check out the gray squirrels and caught one. He tried the next



morning but missed. The squirrel went up the tree and chattered at him. The bobcat apparently decided the squirrel wasn't worth bothering with and went on his way.

The neatest time was when three kits came bouncing through the yard while the bobcat mother hung back in the edge of the woods and watched. I probably will never see anything as exciting as this again.

## WESTMINSTER SAMPLER: FALL EVENTS

By Jessie Haas

For 249 years William French and Daniel Houghton, the patriots killed at the Westminster Massacre, have lain in the Old Cemetery at the top of Courthouse Hill.

The surrounding log cabins gave way to frame houses. The courthouse was torn down and recycled into many of those houses. Otherwise, not much has changed in that spot, except that it has become more populated with gravestones.

At least 50 Revolutionary War veterans are buried there, and in other graveyards around Westminster. Several more of them will be honored this October with SAR (Sons of the American Revolution) markers. In the Old Cemetery: Jesse Burk - Capt. VT, Joshua Cone - Pvt. VT Joel Holton - Soldier VT Peter Lovejoy - Pvt. NH John Morse - Pvt. VT and Street Richards - Ensign CT. In the Gilson Cemetery: Hezekiah Saunderson - Cpl. MA and Ephraim Spencer - Pvt. VT.

The event at the Gilson Cemetery starts at 10 (be sure to check our Facebook page closer to the date for any changes). Parking is limited, and the terrain is rough.

If mobility is an issue, the ceremony at the Old Cemetery, which starts at 1, will be easier for you to attend. As was done last year, a descendant of each veteran will speak about his service, an SAR marker will be placed, and a musket salute will be fired at the end of the event.

Afterward all are invited to the Historical Society museum upstairs at the Town Hall for a reception. If you haven't already seen it, this is a good time to take in our exhibit on the Westminster Massacre.

The SAR ceremony last year was well-attended and moving. It's a good reminder that the descendants of people who lived through those difficult times remain among us—they ARE us. Life went on. Americans created a form of government that had never



been seen before. It has survived for almost 250 years, through thick and thin. We are the heirs to that courage and creativity, and there's no reason to believe our abilities are any less than those of our ancestors. It's our task to keep the experiment going, and to make any tweaks and adjustments that may be needed after two and a half centuries.

In doing so, it's helpful to be able to look back at the people and events that came before, to see them as accurately as possible, and to be guided by that knowledge going forward. That's part of the service a historical society provides. We preserve the past so it's there to look back on when needed.

One of the important lessons of Westminster's history is tolerance. The musket salute will be fired over the graves of Tories too; John Norton, who ran the Tory Tavern, and was a well-loved community member and town father; Margaret Wall, who was the widow of the hated Tory Crean Brush, and who returned to Westminster with her second husband to live out her life in the town where the revolution started.

Those folks quarreled bitterly about important matters, but when the war was over they settled down together, their kids married each other, and the old hostilities faded.

How exactly that happened, we don't know; probably over cider down at the tavern, or during the

break between the morning and afternoon church services when donuts, recipes, and stock-keeping tips were shared. Very ordinary interactions that didn't seem all that important—but suddenly the war was a long time ago, and everybody began to be proud of the stirring events, no matter which side their parents might have taken.

On Oct. 17, the Historical Society will hold its Annual Meeting, at the firehouse at 7 p.m. Chris Harlow, former Selectboard member, current Fire Department Prudential Board member, and a member of the Historical Society board, will reminisce about his childhood in the village and the surrounding woods and fields during the 1960s and 70s.

The Harlows have been in Westminster since 1758. Chris brings that family history, as well as the perspective of a hunter, outdoorsman, and former kid to the topic. Like the talk by Westminster girl Barbara Greenough last year, this is sure to bring up many memories for folks, and there will be plenty of time for questions and comments.

We'll have maps and photos to look at as well, and there will be an opportunity to renew your membership, or become a member for the first time. Check our Facebook page (Westminster Vermont History) and website ([www.westminstervthistory.org](http://www.westminstervthistory.org)) for further details on either event.

We hope to see you there.

## 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, Oct. 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.

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 August: 39

Number of calls through September 21st : 30

Number of calls calendar year to date: 362

Number of calls fiscal year to date: 97

**Association Meeting:** The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association met for their regular meeting September 3rd with President Nancy Deitz presiding. There were 31 members present and 5 members ex-

cused. Currently there are 45 members of the volunteer fire department.

**Emergency responses:** August turned out to be another busy month with 39 calls for the month. Here is the breakdown for the 39 calls: 17 rescue/medical calls; 5 motor vehicle accidents; 2 box alarm/false alarm; 1 smoke investigation; 8 for tree on wires, powerline down; 1 Mutual Aid, Bellows Falls, 1 car fire, 1 untimely, 2 psych emergencies.

**Westminster Festival:** Food was served by the fire department by donation only and a huge thanks to those who gave generously for their meal. We appreciate all the support. Also, Lisai's Market and the Dascomb Fund donated all the food supplies for which we are sincerely grateful.

**Chimney:** Before you fire up your wood stove or furnace, take a look up your chimney or hire a professional to see if it needs cleaning or something has built a nest in it and plugged it up. Every year it seems a home is damaged or completely destroyed due to an

avoidable chimney fire.

**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 August/ September:** Beverly & Brad Dunbar

The following in memory of Howie Rice: Alice Caggiano, Jim & Colleen Grout.

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](http://www.westminsterfireandrescue.org).

## DASCOMB ROOM DEDICATED AT INSTITUTE

During the recent Westminister Community Festival, Nick Lisai, representing the Dascomb Fund, received a plaque dedicating the former North Room in the Institute as the Dascomb Room from Jim Grout of the Westminister Institute Board of Managers. Nick is a great-grand-son of George Dascomb, who funded most of the construction of the Institute 100 years ago.



## KIM FINE EARNS CRFE RECERTIFICATION

Kurn Hattin Homes is proud to announce that Director of Annual Fund & Special Projects, Kim Fine, has once again earned recertification as a Certified Fund Raising Executive through CFRE International.

Fine has held this prestigious credential since 2006, placing her among an elite group of more than 7,700 professionals worldwide who have achieved this designation.

The CFRE credential is a mark of excellence in the fundraising field, representing a dedication to upholding the highest standards to professional practices. To earn this certification, individuals must meet stringent CFRE International criteria, which includes a history of professional experience, education achievements, and proven fundraising success. Additionally, recipients must pass a rigorous exam that tests their knowledge and skills, and they must agree to adhere to strict guidelines set in the Accountability Standards and the Donor Bill of Rights.

“Attaining and maintaining the CFRE credential signifies my competence and commitment to fundraising standards and ethics,” says Fine. “This commitment is especially important since 95% of Kurn Hattin Homes funding comes from the generosity of individuals.”

Demonstrating high professional integrity is essential to sustaining our mission to provide children with a safe, caring environment where they can live, learn, and thrive.”

Fine’s dedication to professional development is



crucial in fostering trust among supporters and plays a vital role in securing resources necessary to sustain Kurn Hattin Homes.

*In photo, Kurn Hattin’s Kim Fine.*

## HOMESTEAD DECLARATION, PROPERTY TAX CREDIT CLAIM, AND RENTER CREDIT CLAIM ARE DUE OCT. 15

If you are a Vermont homeowner, you can receive a reduction in your property taxes by filing a Homestead Declaration, but you need to act fast to ensure you meet the October 15 deadline. Once filed, your tax rate is discounted based on your income.

Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) offers free assistance with filing out the Homestead Declaration. If you are a Vermont homeowner, you are required to file a Homestead Declaration every year to receive the homestead property tax rate.

Many individuals can lower their property tax bill by filing a Property Tax Credit Claim. The final deadline for these claims is October 15, 2024.

This assistance is part of our Volunteer Tax Assistance (VITA) program. Every year we help scores of people file their taxes via VITA.

We also assist Vermont residents with filing their

Homestead Declaration, Property Tax Credit Claim, and Renter Rebate Claim. If you are interested in having your taxes prepared, or need assistance with your Homestead Declaration, Property Tax Credit Claim, or Renter Credit, go to [www.sevca.org/tax-services](http://www.sevca.org/tax-services) or call/text our direct line to the VITA program at 802-428-3032.

As the region’s designated Community Action Agency (CAA), SEVCA (Southeastern Vermont Community Action) works to create opportunities for all people to thrive, build strong, resilient communities, and work toward a more equitable society.

SEVCA was founded in May 1965 and has been meeting needs and changing lives in southeastern Vermont for 58 years.

More information is available at [www.sevca.org](http://www.sevca.org), or by calling 800-464-9951.

## TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT: WHERE DID SUMMER GO?

The big question for October: Where did the summer go? It seems like we were just talking about making plans for the 4th of July and here we are contemplating our Halloween costumes!

With the school year underway, please be extra careful while on the road. The early morning hours have been quite foggy, so please slow down and pay attention to pedestrians as well as the vehicle in front of you.

New radar speed signs have been delivered and will be installed by the time you’re reading this. We all know that it’s easy to be comfortable driving at certain (faster) speeds in familiar places. The radar signs are proven to make drivers aware of their speed, primarily in areas where complacency can be a problem. The natural reaction is to take your foot off the accelerator and slow down.

I’d like to say thanks and congratulations to everyone who worked so hard and invested a lot of their time to make the two festivals in September so successful. The annual Westminister West event took place on Saturday September 7th and the Community Festival took place on the 14th. Both events showcased Westminister’s great community spirit and were opportunities to show that spirit to the many visitors that attended.

The new Town Hall hours have been a success. We have been seeing a steady increase in both foot traffic and telephone requests between 7 a.m. and our previous opening time of 8:30 a.m. As a reminder, the Town Hall offices are now open Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. On Selectboard meeting

nights, the office is open until 6 p.m. The Town Clerk’s office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Planning Commission and Conservation Commission both attended a Selectboard meeting on August 27th to discuss a variety of projects. Tatiana Schreiber, Chair of the Conservation Commission detailed some recent planting activity that created a natural stabilization and beautification to an area near the Westminister West Cemetery. She added that they would like to participate in drafting the “Natural Resources” section of the upcoming Town Plan.

Speaking of the Town Plan, Lachlan Francis, Chair of the Planning Commission, spoke to the Board regarding updates to the current version of the Town Plan. He mentioned a recent Planning Commission meeting that was attended by Mike McConnell and Anand Fedele from Windham Regional, as well as myself to chart a course to building out the new Town Plan. The Plan is a vital document to towns in Vermont in that it defines a vision for a town, but also opens up grant opportunities that are useful in implementation of many aspects of the Plan.

Both commissions are staffed with enthusiastic members that are constantly looking at ways to improve the quality of life here in Westminister. The Town is grateful for the participation of so many who are so dedicated to life in Westminister.

*Lou Bordeaux,  
Town Manager*

## REMEMBRANCES

OCTOBER 2024:

**GEORGE CARON, 60**  
8/9/1963 - 8/4/2024  
WESTMINSTER, VT

**RICHARD DAMON, 90**  
3/25/1934 - 8/20/2024  
WESTMINSTER, VT

**JANE FRENCH, 89**  
4/4/1935 – 8/31/2024  
WESTMINSTER, BELLOWS FALLS  
AND CHARLESTOWN, NH

**KAY LONG, 89**  
1/9/1935 – 8/29/2024  
WESTMORELAND, NH,  
BELLOWS FALLS, VT

**BRENDA MATHEWS, 82**  
8/23/1941 - 8/19/2024  
WESTMINSTER, VT

**SHARALEE MORRISON, 79**  
11/12/1944 - 8/25/2024  
BRIDGTON, ME  
BELLOWS FALLS, VT

**KEVIN THOMAS, 74**  
1/21/1950 - 9/1/2024  
BRATTLEBORO, VT  
WESTMINSTER WEST, VT

**LUANN WARD, 85**  
11/1/1938 - 8/17/2024  
LUDLOW, VT BELLOWS FALLS, VT

**FRED YATES, 88**  
4/17/1936 – 9/5/2024  
WESTMINSTER, VT

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



Visit Westminister 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](mailto: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](http://www.vermontcrafts.com).

**ARE YOU A  
WESTMINSTER RESIDENT  
AND NOT GETTING THE  
GAZETTE IN THE MAIL,  
BUT WOULD LIKE TO?  
EMAIL US AT  
WESTMINSTERNEWS@GMAIL.COM  
WITH YOUR ADDRESS  
AND WE’LL ADD YOU TO  
OUR MAILING LIST.  
THANK YOU!**

# MYSTERY PHOTO ID'D



Last month's Mystery Photo of the Westminister West church and parsonage was identified by Tatianna Schriber. She wrote: "I believe that would be the house of my neighbor across the street, Charlie Hutchison's now, and the other houses heading south to the church in Westminister West. I don't know when the photo was taken, so am not sure what the buildings were used for at the time the picture was taken, but it could be Chapman's store was in operation, probably the parsonage was active, and I'm not sure about the library... could be the library was operating then too."

## FORAGING FOR THE NEW VT STATE MUSHROOM

This year Vermont became the sixth state to designate a State Mushroom. Bear's Head Tooth is a late summer, early fall mushroom and naturalist Christopher Denette, a forager and mushroom cultivator with Representative Michelle Bos-Lun, who introduced the State Mushroom bill, will celebrate the designation with a guided Fall forage walk.

The State Mushroom Celebration walk will occur at the Bald Hill Reserve in Westminister. To join the walk meet at the entrance to Bald Hill Reserve, off of Covered Bridge Road at 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 5.

Vermont students from the Compass School and Windham Elementary School selected Bear's Head Tooth mushroom (*Hericum americanum*) to become official Vermont symbol, joining the state tree: sugar maple, state reptile: painted turtle and 23 others.

Students from second through eighth grade testified in

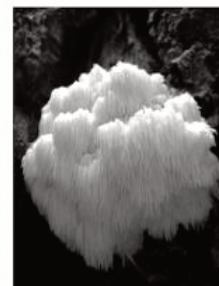
### Vermont has a State Mushroom!

Celebrate with two foraging walks at Westminister's Bald Hill Reserve.

(Meet@ entrance gate off of Covered Bridge/Henwood Hill Road)

Led by: Naturalist & foraging guide Christopher Denette with Rep. Michelle Bos-Lun & other mushroom enthusiasts. Free!  
All are welcome. Rain or Shine

*Hericum americanum:*  
Bear's Head Tooth  
Vermont's State Mushroom



May 20th 1 pm: Morel Quest: seek morels & dryad's saddle

October 5th 1 pm: Fall Forage: seek our state mushroom Bear's Head Tooth & other choice edible mushrooms

the Vermont Statehouse about their choice along with numerous experts, including Denette. After review by both the House and Senate in the Vermont Legislature and approval by the governor, Bear's Head Tooth become Vermont's State mushroom in May 2024.

Denette, a certified wild mushroom expert, will guide walkers through Bald Hill Reserve, seeking Bear's Head Tooth and other fall mushrooms and educating participants about wild mushrooms.

Denette offers guided mushroom walks throughout New England in the summer and fall. The State Mushroom celebration walks will be offered at no cost.

For more information contact Bos-Lun at michelleforvt@gmail.com or text/ call (802) 289- 2495. Wear comfortable walking shoes and if the weather is rainy, bring rain gear. Contact Bos-Lun in the event of severe weather, but the plan is for the walk to happen rain or shine.

# 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 Westminister

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.

- Oct 1 Women's Fellowship 11 a.m. in Church Hall
  - Oct 2 Bible Study 6:30 p.m. on Zoom and in person at the Church Hall
  - Oct 6 10 a.m. Service
  - Oct 9 Bible study 6:30 p.m. Zoom and in person
  - Oct 12 Blessing of Animals at 2 p.m. outside of the church. Bring your pets or a picture of your pet.
  - Oct 13 Church Service with Communion at 10 a.m.
  - Oct 16 Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Zoom or in person
  - Oct 20 Church Service at 10 a.m.
  - Oct 21st. Standing Committee 5:30 p.m. on Zoom
  - Oct 27 Church Service at 10:00
  - Oct 30 Bible Study at 6:30 p.m. Zoom and in person
- We are looking for children to be in the Christmas Pageant. Any child is welcome. Contact Betty Leno at bet4hersh@gmail.com.

**The Congregational Church of Westminister 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.

**Westminister 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. 9:45 a.m.-10:45 a.m.  
Class Tues. 11 a.m.-noon Class Thursday 6-7 p.m.  
Westminister 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  
Westminister West Library, Saturdays from 10 to 2. All welcome, please drop in!

**Zumba Fitness at Westminister 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 Westminister 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

Westminister Cares Board 802-722-3607  
1st Wed., 4:30 p.m., Westminister Institute  
on-line & in person

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

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

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

Westminister 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. Westminister 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 Westminister Fire Station.

## WESTMINSTER GAZETTE

Editor: Robert F. Smith

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

Printed by Sentinel Printing, Keene, NH

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

THE GAZETTE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES  
THE SUPPORT OF ITS UNDERWRITERS:

802 Credit Union  
The Cottage by the Brook  
Stacey & Tim Allen  
Kurn Hattin Homes  
Town of Westminister  
Westminister Cares  
Westminister Fire and Rescue Association  
Burtco Inc.  
The Dascomb Trust  
K Beebe Inc.  
American Wealth Administration Group

## Oct. Deadline

The deadline for  
the Nov. 2024 Issue of the  
Westminister Gazette is  
Wednesday, Oct. 23  
Publication Date is  
Wednesday, Oct. 30  
To Contact the  
Westminister Gazette  
E-mail:  
westminsternews@gmail.com

## KH TEACHERS, HOUSEPARENTS, AND STAFF WELL PREPARED FOR A BRIGHT YEAR



As summer winds down to its finish and the new academic year ramps up, the atmosphere at Kurn Hattin Homes is filled with high expectations, optimism, and hope for the children who live and learn on its campus.

Before the children returned to begin a new academic year, a lot had to happen. For example, each Kurn Hattin staff member was tasked with successfully completing a three-hour safety and awareness Mandated Reporter Training program created by KidSafe Collaborative and administered through the Vermont Agency of Human Services.

A great deal of staff preparation took place on campus during Training Week 2024, an entire week dedicated to the training and re-training of new and returning Kurn Hattin Homes staff. Teachers, counselors, residential staff, administrators, dining services members, health services members, maintenance and grounds crew members, and other personnel reviewed policies and procedures in challenging topics such as self-harm and bullying to daily processes surrounding vehicle protocol, updated technologies, to a reinvigorated communica-



tions initiative, and a review of the PBIIS program.

PBIIS, or Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, is a learning framework that utilizes an acknowledgment system to reinforce positive behavior as it happens and helps children understand how their behavior impacts others.

Training Week is also a special opportunity for staff members to come together from all areas of the campus, get to know each other better, share thoughts and ideas, and learn more about the roles and responsibilities of their colleagues.

Mark Bodin, president of the Kurn Hattin Homes Board of Trustees and president of the Savings Bank of Walpole, addressed the group at the launch of Training Week and asked, "What makes today the greatest day?" Bodin explained, "During Training Week, anything is possible. It's a time to ask ourselves how we can be exceptional and do amazing things for the kids. It's a time to be reminded that we should never stop striving to achieve our best. It's a time to think about our goals for the coming year and about the children who will have a new beginning when they make Kurn Hattin their home."

Bodin concluded his remarks with one more question, "How many people do you know who can go to work every day and know they can change someone's life?"

As Kurn Hattin Homes Executive Director Steve Harrison brought Training Week to a successful conclusion, he shared an important message. He said, "We are responsible for upholding high standards and consistent patterns of good behavior, civility, and respect in a nurturing fashion. Let's model it so that the children can understand it and repeat it."

Since 1894, Kurn Hattin Homes for Children, located in Westminster, VT, has helped thousands of children and their families by offering a safe home and quality education in a nurturing environment. To learn more, please visit [www.kurnhattin.org](http://www.kurnhattin.org).

*In photos, while Training Week included a review and refresh of policies and protocol, it also included an all hands on deck effort to spruce up the campus inside and out. In this KHH version of a class field trip, staff ventured out to the gardens and the orchard to harvest fruits and vegetables for all to share.*

## ROCKINGHAM AWARDED \$750,000 FOR MEETING HOUSE PRESERVATION

Rockingham has received a \$750,000 grant from the National Park Service to help on-going efforts to restore and conserve its meeting house. Built in 1787 it is the most intact 18th-century public building remaining in Vermont.

"The town is thrilled!" said John Leppman, Rockingham Historic Preservation Commission Chair. "We knew from the start in 2022 we were faced with many challenges to make sure that future generations can experience the simple yet elegant majesty of our first town hall. With this funding in place we are poised to move forward."

Rehabilitation of the Rockingham Meeting House is being supported in part by a Semiquincentennial grant from the Historic Preservation Fund administered by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. The program is an initiative commemorating the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States.

Other support includes town capital reserve funds, philanthropy, and a National Park Service Save America's Treasures grant.

Created by Congress in 2020 and funded through the Historic Preservation Fund, Semiquincentennial Grants fund projects that restore and preserve sites and structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places that commemorate the founding of the nation. Grants from the program's 3rd year will support 19 historic preservation projects across 9 states.

"National Park Service support recognizes our place in the history of the founding of our country," said Walter Wallace, Historic Preservation Commission coordinator. "Other projects supported in this funding round include Boston's Old North Church, George Washington's headquarters in Newburg, New York, and Fort Ticonderoga. We are in good



company. This grant will help our region and state to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence."

HPF grant programs managed by NPS fund preservation of America's premier cultural resources and historic places in underrepresented communities, rural areas, and at historically black colleges and universities, as well as sites key to the representation of Tribal heritage, African American civil rights, the history of equal rights in America, and the nation's founding.

Questions and comments about the Semiquincentennial grant, the Rockingham Meeting House preservation project, and fundraising may be directed to the Rockingham Historic Preservation Commission, Rockingham Town Hall, P.O. Box 370, Bellows Falls, VT 05101, or by email at [clg@rockbf.org](mailto:clg@rockbf.org). Project

updates can be found at [rockinghamvt.org/rmh](http://rockinghamvt.org/rmh).

*Photos, left, by Rockingham Historic Preservation Commission; and by Elijah Zimmer.*



**Listen, Join and Support**  
Your Community Radio Station

**WOOL 91.5 FM**

[www.blacksheepradio.org](http://www.blacksheepradio.org)

*Join The Team*  
*Local Shows and Local DJ's Needed*



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



Unique, complex flavors start with healthy cows out on pasture under open skies.

Raw milk, creamery-made autochthonous starters, natural rennet, & sea salt from Maine.

Our cheese ages slowly, developing distinct flavors and textures that deliver the taste of this place.




VISIT OUR FARMSTORE  
**873 PATCH ROAD**  
[WWW.PARISHHILLCREAMERY.COM](http://WWW.PARISHHILLCREAMERY.COM)

**Temple Chiropractic**

*Supporting the health care needs of the community for the past 35 years*

*Specialist in the treatment of non-surgical back & neck pain*



**Dr. Vernon R. Temple**  
*Chiropractic Physician*

**Dr. Tarontè Venable**  
*Chiropractic Physician*

102 Saxtons River Road  
Bellows Falls, VT 05101  
802-463-9522

*We accept all Vermont insurance plans including BCBS, CIGNA, MVP and workers injury insurance*

S.B. and Company Auctioneers, Antiques

# SHARON BOCCELLI & COMPANY

Buying entire estates or single items.  
Probate appraisals  
46 Canal St. Bellows Falls Vt 802-460-1190

## Streeter L.L.C.

### Licensed Electrician

PO Box 206, Westminster, VT 05158  
(Building, Remodeling and Repairs)

Cole Streeter Box 103  
(802)722-3178 Westminster, VT 05158

## GREATER FALLS INSURANCE

celebrating 20 years

Home • Auto • Farm • Business • Motorcycle • Recreational Vehicles

7190 US Route 5 • Westminster, Vermont 05158  
802-463-1900 • www.greaterfallsinsurance.com



**Jessica Fuller**  
Financial Advisor

57 Main Street  
P.O. Box 96  
Walpole, NH 03608  
Bus. 603-756-2513 Fax 888-215-1621  
jessica.fuller@edwardjones.com  
www.edwardjones.com/jessica-fuller

**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

### JUDD'S AUTO REPAIRS

6109 US ROUTE 5  
WESTMINSTER, VERMONT 05158  
802-722-4200

David & Elaine Judd, owners  
Steve Godfrey, mechanic

Automotive Repair Vermont State Inspection



## Maple Leaf Chimney Sweep

(802) 380-9890


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

Frederick McKenny  
1993 Pine Banks Rd  
Putney, VT 05346  
802 376 7313

fredrockrockshop.com  
fredrockrockshop@gmail.com

Open Saturdays  
10:00am - 4:00pm

Or for an appointment to browse or any questions please call or email.



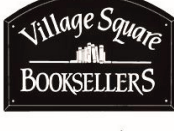
FRED ROCK'S ROCK SHOP

# RUGGIERO

## TRASH REMOVAL

802.869.2235


Box 434, Saxtons River Vermont 05154 Joe 802.384.0397  
Jeff 603.209.4441



32 The Square,  
Bellows Falls, Vermont  
Open 7 days a week  
802-463-9404

Books, Toys & Gifts for All Ages  
Independent bookstore with a friendly & knowledgeable staff  
villagesquarebooks.com - Books, Audio & e-Books  
Order Online- Pickup & Pay in Store

\$5 Bella Bucks on \$25 Purchase with this ad



### OCT. BUSINESS OF THE MONTH: RUGGIERO TRASH & RECYCLING



Ruggiero Trash & Recycling comes from a family with more than 40 years in the trash hauling and recycling services.

Three generations of Ruggiero's worked together to meet the recycling and trash needs of Southern Vermont and New Hampshire for both commercial and residential customers. As long-term members of the community, they are invested in providing quality services.

Area Waste Services was one of the first trash companies opened by the Ruggiero's in VT back in 1983, where four brothers and their parents started their journey in the twin states. Since then, All Waste Services and Twin State Trash have been run by the Ruggiero brothers.

In 2001, Twin State Trash was run with four employees who consistently satisfied hundreds of customers and town contracts. In 2008, Ruggiero Trash & Recycling was created with three brothers and a son and has grown tremendously ever since.

With tight connections within the community and friendly local services, Ruggiero Trash & Recycling has expanded to thousands of customers and multiple town contracts. Ruggiero Processing Facility opened in 2014 and has been growing over the last few years. This facility allows for the safe and proper handling and recycling of a wide variety of trash.

Remember there is no job too big or too small for Ruggiero Trash Removal. Call (802) 869-2235 to talk to one of our friendly and courteous staff members. We would like to thank all our loyal customers and the community for their support.

We extend our best wishes to you and yours as the holiday season approaches.

### OCT. BUSINESS OF THE MONTH: S.B. & COMPANY ANTIQUES & AUCTIONEERS

Auctioneer Sharon Boccelli of S.B. & Company – Antiques & Auctioneers is a fully licensed and bonded auctioneer in both Vermont and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This year S.B. and Company celebrated their 44th year in business.


Sharon graduated from the International Auction School, which provides an intensive course of study in auction methodology and psychology. This training combined with Boccelli's sense of integrity has resulted in S. B. & Company Auctioneers becoming one of the best organized and most successful auction houses in New England.

S. B. & Company Auctioneers was chosen as one of the five auction houses to be featured in The Journal of Antiques and Collectibles "Women in Auctioneering".

S.B. and Company specializes in purchases of single items or entire estates as well as probate appraisals. Clean out services are also available.

The company applies an honest approach to antiques and auctioning. We are praised by both buyers and sellers for our above-board practices, our accurate researching, and comprehensive representation of the goods being appraised and sold. We stand behind our word, which engenders trust with our new and returning buyers who learn to trust the quality and characterization of the merchandise being sold and appraised.

Feel free to contact Sharon directly with further questions at sbauctioneers.com, 46 Canal St. in Bellows Falls, VT, or call 802-460-1190.



Pasture Raised Lamb  
Maple Syrup  
Yarn, Woolen Blankets,  
Sheep Pelts  
Hending Demonstrations

MORSE BROOK FARM

226 Kurkul Rd Westminster, VT 05346  
802-528-2155 morsebrookfarm.com



Emily Hartz & Jonah Mossberg

Earth Bridge Rd,  
Westminster West

Join our vegetable CSA!

www.milkweedfarmvt.com



## STILL LOCAL AFTER ALL THESE YEARS

Switch to Savings Bank of Walpole's TRULY FREE local checking.

To open an account online visit [walpolebank.com](http://walpolebank.com), or call (603) 352-1822.

**Christopher Hinds**  
LICSW, ACSW

Free telephone consultation

**PSYCHOTHERAPY** 404-989-4320

Adults, Adolescents  
Couples

39 The Square,  
Suite 201  
Bellows Falls, VT  
05101

www.hindstherapy.com On: psychologytoday.com



Harlow Farmstand  
Rte. 5 Westminster VT  
802.722.3515

**JACKLYN ATWOOD**  
REAL ESTATE

JACKIE ATWOOD 616 NEWCOMB ROAD WESTMINSTER, VT 05346

VT & NH BROKER OFFICE/FAX 802-722-9296 CELL 802-236-1164

jackieatwoodrealestate@gmail.com

*Karen Vedus LMFT*  
Emotionally Focused Couples Therapy



Westminster, Vermont  
802-332-3007  
karenveduslmft@buildingbetterbonds.com  
www.buildingbetterbonds.com

## R.A.M.P.

Rockingham Arts & Museum Project

Since 1996 believing that art makes a difference!

www.ramp-vt.org  
802-463-3252

Committed to integrating the arts in the long-term sustainability of the community by creating effective partnerships that initiate and support:

- Accessibility • Affordable Housing • Artist Town Meetings
- Public Art Initiatives • Policy Making



**Berkley & Veller**  
Greenwood Country Realtors  
Family-owned since 1965



**Heidi Bernier**  
CBR, SRES, Realtor®  
Licensed VT & NH  
heidi.bernier@berkleyveller.com

O: (802) 254-6400 X 135  
C: (802) 380-1585-Best

119 Western Avenue • Brattleboro, VT 05301  
www.berkleyveller.com



VISIT OUR FARMSTORE BETWEEN WESTMINSTER + PUTNEY:  
281 Patch Farm Road

SHOP ONLINE:  
vermontshepherd.com

## Sheep's milk cheese, gelato, yogurt, maple syrup, honey

### WESTMINSTER ANIMAL HOSPITAL

PO BOX 90  
WESTMINSTER STATION, VT 05159  
(802)722-4196

Andrea Neiley, DVM Megan Peddigree, VMD  
Kristin Anderson, DVM Susan Oswald, DVM

## LAWRENCE & LOBER

### ELECTRIC

www.llelectricservices.com  
info@llelectricservices.com

15 Barker St.  
Bellows Falls, Vt 05101

Tel: 802-460-3479  
800-559-3479  
Fax: 802-460-3480



**Cota & Cota**

Your Local Heating & Cooling Experts

4 Green Street  
Bellows Falls VT

PROPANE GAS • BIO-BLEND HEATING OIL

WWW.COTAOL.COM (802) 463-0000