

WESTMINSTER CELEBRATES

“MASSACRE’S” 250TH ANNIVERSARY

By Jessie Haas

On Feb. 26, 1775, a Sunday, Lt-Col. Alexander Leslie led the 64th British Regiment of the Line to Marblehead, Massachusetts, with the intention of crossing to Salem and seizing the gunpowder stored there. Learning of his intentions, colonists destroyed the bridge over the South River, raised the drawbridge on the North River, and scuttled their own flatboats, halting Leslie long enough for the guns and powder to be removed.

After a standoff, the bridge was lowered. As he had agreed, Leslie marched his troops a few rods into Salem and then turned around. The action has been called the Salem Gunpowder Raid or Leslie’s Retreat. It followed the December attacks on lightly guarded Fort William and Mary in Portsmouth, NH, in which colonists removed guns and gunpowder, which were later used at the Battle of Bunker Hill.

These actions in nearby Massachusetts and New Hampshire were part of the drumbeat to war. A little over two weeks later the patriots in what’s now southeast Vermont suffered the first fatalities of the struggle at the Westminster Massacre.

Area historical societies will celebrate the 250th anniversary of that event on March 13-15. On March 13 we will gather at Greg Gay’s farm at the corner of Sand Hill Road at 3:30 and, weather permitting, march to the Courthouse marker, carrying sticks of firewood.

This is the first time I know of that any part of a reenactment has taken place on what was then the homestead of Capt. Azariah Wright. Readings will include a proclamation of the Vermont legislature, the report written by Dr. Jones of what led up to the Massacre, and the Riot Act.

March 14 the museum’s Massacre exhibit will open at 3; there will also be refreshments. We will gather at 4 at the Courthouse marker to celebrate the nonviolent retaking of the building. Ray Boas of Walpole Historical

O! Horrid Scene!

- Ira Allen

Westminster Massacre

- Considered the First Bloodshed of the American Revolution by Many -

250th Anniversary Commemoration

→ March 13-15, 2025 ←

On the King’s Highway

Westminster, Vermont



cal Society will deliver remarks about Col. Benjamin Bellows, who with his militia prevented further bloodshed after William French’s murder.

The Vermont 250th committee chair will also speak

at one of these events, and we may have other special guests.

March 15 the museum will open at 6. We’ll hear from Rep. Michelle Bos-Lun and others, and there will be more refreshments. Around dusk we’ll walk over to the French/Houghton monument in the Old Cemetery for a candle-light vigil.

This will coincide with the 250th anniversary of William French’s burial, which also took place around dusk. Singing and readings will conclude the tribute to two young men who died standing up for their rights. As it says on French’s tombstone:

“Here William French his body lies.
For murder his blood for justice cries.
King George the Third his Tory crew
Tha with a bawl his head shot threw.
For liberty and his country’s good,
He lost his life, his dearest blood.”

On the 13th-15th, if you see us out there on the King’s Highway, join us. Everyone is welcome. If you are planning to attend, please remember that these are outdoor events in March, in Vermont. Changes may be needed, so check our Facebook page, Westminster, VT Historical Society, or our website, www.westministervthistory.org.

Also, be sure to pick up a copy of our newsletter, which will be available at Town Meeting, at the Town Hall, and at the Institute. This is a primer on all things Massacre, and we hope will be something many Westminster people will want to keep. When house guests in the future ask you, “What was the Westminster Massacre?” you can sit them down with our newsletter and a refreshing beverage, and keep them out of your hair for awhile.

In photo, “Here William French His Body Lies” - the grave of William French.

CAREER AWARENESS PROGRAM WELCOMES A SOUND ROLE MODEL FOR KURN HATTIN KIDS

Pete Keppler never dreamed his career path would lead to an Emmy Award, but in 2021 it became a reality.

As part of Kurn Hattin’s Career Awareness Program (CAP), nationally renowned audio engineer and music producer Pete Keppler visited the campus to share his story of personal and professional experiences that led to a star-studded career in the music industry, spanning 44 years and still counting.

Set up on stage in Kurn Hattin’s Higbie Auditorium, Pete began his inspirational presentation with unabashed honesty about struggles early on in his life. He told the students that his father died from the effects of alcoholism at the age of 46, when Pete was just seven years old.

“The secrets in my life really shaped my personality,” Pete said. “I felt ashamed. I wasn’t able to relate to kids my own age and I eventually went down some of the same paths as my dad. I started getting into trouble in middle school, partly because I didn’t have an adult I felt I could trust.”

Pete quickly turned the focus back to Kurn Hattin and said, “This place is incredible... You have trusting adults you can talk to about anything. I wish I’d had that when I was your age.”

When Pete was in his teens, his sights were set on being a drummer in a rock and roll band. He had some musical talent, but later learned that his true talent is in producing, recording, and mixing music.



So, what steps did Pete take to start the journey to such a successful career? He took any job he could and learned something from each one along the way. He made connections in the music industry and never said no to opportunity. His connections led to years on the road and in recording studios with musical giants such as David Bowie, Bonnie Raitt, Katy Perry, and many others. In 2020, Pete was asked to become the music mixer on American Utopia, a concert film directed and produced by Spike Lee, developed from a rock and roll world tour-turned-Broadway theater show by David Byrne of the Talking Heads. That gig ultimately led to an Emmy Award for Creative Arts in mixing.

Most impressive to the students, however, was Pete’s role as sound engineer for the Super Bowl XLIX halftime show in 2015 featuring pop star Katy Perry. Knowing her music, and now knowing Pete, made some of the kids feel excited about being close to fame. “Fame,” Pete cautioned, “in itself is not a natural state and it can be quite empty. It’s seems exciting to be famous, but it’s not something I would encourage you to aspire to in life.”

Years on the road have given Pete a tremendous resume, deep insight, and a wealth of wisdom.

While his touring days are essentially behind him, Pete is still on the road making music. This time it’s on his own terms, in a mobile recording studio he recently finished building himself.

Pete is very happy to be where he is today. He says, “I feel grateful to share my life with people who have their whole lives ahead of them. I want them to know that it’s possible to come from almost anywhere and succeed in life.”

ELECTION AND TOWN MEETING INFORMATION ON PAGES 2, 3 AND 5

COPIES OF THE BALLOT ARE FOUND ON PAGE 6.

IMPORTANT PET OWNER INFORMATION ON PAGE 5

Our Monthly Community Newspaper

Westminster Gazette

Town of Westminster
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Westminster, VT
05158

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March 2025 Vol. 21 No. 3

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DATABASE OF WESTMINSTER LAND RECORDS NOW IN LIBRARIES

By Mary Scherbatskoy

The complete Database of Westminster Land Records summarizing the years 1744 - 1960 is now in our Libraries! Both the Butterfield and the Westminster West have Ruth Grandy's Database available for research into the history of local homes and farms, including sellers, buyers, date, location, and a note about the transaction.

Ruth's word-by-word copies of the original records are also being scanned, with those up to 1872 cur-

rently available. So if you are interested in finding out more about your land, the Libraries now make it easier!

Ruth gave two talks about her work on the Database during Westminster Land Week (January) with a slide presentation by Mary Norton.

Mary also gave a talk on the background of the original Westminster West village at Crook's Mills, linking the well-known Grist Mill swimming hole at the foot of Patch Road to the less-known Grist / Woolen mill located below the modern dam.

The talks were lively and popular, with nearly 70 people attending altogether. The West Parish exhibitions were also on display in the Westminster West Congregational Church.

Below is a sample from Ruth's Database. Look for the record you want, note its Book and number, then find it in the Book files to learn the details. The Database contains a lot of information, and our Libraries invite you to visit and find out more about Westminster history.

GRANTOR	GRANTEE	LOCATION.	RECORD.	Date trans	Date rec.	GRANTEE.	NOTES.
Bradley	Stephen R	1 1 100 Acres	A	94 00-00-0000	05-12-1785	Fuller	Thomas
Bradley	Stephen R	1 1 100 Acres	A	10 05-11-1780	05-11-1780	Hall	David
Bradley	Stephen R	58 House	A	10 05-11-1780	05-11-1780	Hall	David
Bullen	Joseph	Ministers	A	93 00-00-0000	10-28-1785	Welch	Samson
Bullen	Daniel	3 2 100 Acres	A	5 05-17-1781	05-17-1781	Putnam	Ebenezer
Bullen	Joseph	13 8 80 Acres	A	86 06-23-1784	06-23-1784	Coulton	Charles
Bullen	Joseph	5 3 80 Acres	A	66 12-05-1775	05-07-1783	Goold	Nathaniel
Bullen	Joseph	6 3 80 Acres	A	66 12-05-1775	05-07-1783	Goold	Nathaniel

LISTER RESPONDS TO ASSESSOR VS. LISTERS ARTICLE

(Editor's Note: Last month's Town Manager's Report presented information regarding the upcoming Town Meeting Article on eliminating the Board of Listers. As this is an important decision for voters, we're including a respectful response from Lister John Ewald regarding the Article.)

By John Ewald

The Town Manager's article in last month's Gazette begins by stating, "An interesting article on the Town Meeting warning is one to ask the voters.....to eliminate the elected Board of Listers."

As a Lister, I feel that the Select Board and Town Manager do not appear to have completed a thorough investigation of the cost and benefits of this proposed elimination, both financial and practical.

Even if they have performed some research behind the scenes, the fact that no one has asked the Listers specifically to attend a meeting to describe our jobs and

answer questions indicates to me that whatever research they have performed is incomplete.

As a Lister, I find it interesting that our actual 2024 budget, which was \$21,219, was increased by an additional \$21,000 in 2025 to fund a new Lister's clerk position, which from the Listers' point of view, was unnecessary.

Then, when the Town Manager was asked to remove this extra \$21K from the Lister's budget, an article was placed on the Town Meeting warning to totally eliminate the Lister's office.

The Listers provide an independent assessment of property values as well as serve as a local source of knowledge of the issues that affect our taxpayers.

A summary of Lister duties, though not exhaustive, follows:

1. Possess a keen knowledge of the real estate market
2. Process property transfers and changes as of April first
3. Schedule visits with property owners

4. Conduct site inspections and data collection
5. Enter data into Grand List
6. Enter data in CAMA and attach photos
7. Maintain list of tax map changes
8. Issue change of appraisal notices
9. Review exemptions and special properties
10. Maintain homestead declarations
11. Send to state Listers' response to questionable filings
12. Prepare annual homestead non-filers
13. Process errors and omissions for approval
14. Research and compile sales and evidence for appeal to the Board of Civil Authority
15. Participate as a voting member of the Board of Abatement
16. Attend training and conferences
17. Review annual results of equalization study
18. Communicating with taxpayers regarding complaints about tax bills and other issues
19. Return phone calls promptly

GARDENING ROUNDTABLE AT ROCKINGHAM LIBRARY

With over 110 years of gardening experience between them, Laurel Green and Wendy Regier will share their knowledge and discuss attendees' gardening challenges at the Gardening Roundtable on Thursday, March 6 at 5:30 p.m. at the Rockingham Library.

People with all levels of gardening experience, including no previous experience, are welcome. Attendees are welcome to share their gardening knowledge

and experiences.

Green's special expertise is in transforming a standard lawn into a thriving garden. She loves growing her own lettuce seeds. Her favorite thing about gardening is that "there's always more to learn and try."


Regier enjoys growing anything she likes to eat and "perennials and shrubs, peonies and hydrangeas."

Designing flower and vegetable gardens is her special expertise.

For more information, contact programming@rockinghamlibrary.org, call (802) 463-4270 or stop by the Rockingham Library at 65 Westminster St. in Bellows Falls.

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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.westministervt.org**

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER CARES -

The Westminster Cares Board of Directors met Wednesday, Feb. 12 at the Westminster Institute with President Lori Larue presiding. The following board members attended in person: Vice President Pat Goodell, Vice President Pete Harrison, Treasurer Frannie Waldron, Secretary Doug Oftedahl, Director Donna Dawson, Nancy Dalzell, Kathy Elliott, Cindy Moses. Attending via web-ex: Don Dawson.

~Westminster Cares will be serving hot beverages, baked goods and lunch at Town Meeting on Saturday, March 1st .

Westminster Cares volunteers will provide soups; our Community Nurse will hold a Blood Pressure Clinic; and information from Vermont Emergency Management will be distributed about “Storm Preparation and Safety”.

~If you are a Westminster resident, 60 years or older and would like to have a phone consultation or home visit with our Community Nurse, please call the office to schedule an appointment: (802) 722-3607

~ANNUAL APPEAL UPDATE: Thank You Westminster! We have been humbled by the support received from individuals, families and businesses in our community. Your contributions enable us to continue to provide programs and services to older adults in our community.

The list below is for donations made in someone’s honor or memory:

Donations Received through February 20th

In Honor of:

In honor of all the dedicated Westminster Cares volunteers, board members and Donna Dawson from the Sigibelle Boccelli Trust

In Memory of:

In memory of Henry and Phyllis Anderson from Sue Anderson Gioulis

In memory of Peggy Jager from Lee Trapeni and Heidi Anderson Trapeni

In memory of Dirk and Peggy Jager from Pete Harrison

FROM THE TOWN MANAGER : TOWN MEETING INFORMATION

*By Lou Bordeaux
Town Manager*

The Westminster Town Meeting will take place on Saturday, March 1, 2025, starting at 10 AM in the Bellows Falls Union High School Auditorium. Australian Ballot voting will be held at the Westminster Institute on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, from 8 AM to 7 PM.

About the Budget

Each year, the town budget is a projection of expected expenses and revenue. Right now, we are facing a temporary freeze on some federal funding, which adds uncertainty to our financial outlook. Despite this, the budget still reflects the Selectboard’s ongoing efforts to improve the town’s infrastructure and operations.

This year’s budget shows an overall increase for FY2026. Some key factors driving the increase include:

- Road retreatment
- Insurance costs
- A new curbside trash collection contract
- Improvements to the Planning Commission

The Selectboard worked hard to get the best value for the town, revising the budget multiple times over the course of three months to ensure we’re getting the most service for the lowest cost.

Other Articles on the Warning

There are several other articles related to funding that will be discussed:

- One article requests funding to complete repairs on the historic Hearse Shed in Westminster West.

- Other articles seek funding for the Westminster Institute, Putney Food Shelf, Bellows Falls Community Bike Project, Westminster Gazette, and the Westminster West Library.

Proposed Changes

- Article 16 asks if voters want to eliminate the elected Board of Listers and replace it with an appointed assessor.
- Article 18 asks if the voters would consider selling the North Westminster Community House (NWCH) , with the stipulation that the building be used for residential housing.
- Article 19 proposes using \$200,000 from the FY2024 surplus to help reduce taxes.

We look forward to seeing you at Town Meeting!

BUTTERFIELD LIBRARY OFFERS PUBLIC MEETING SPACE FOR CITIZENS

Lately I’ve heard a desire — on social media and in podcasts, for instance — for more “third places” in our country. Third places are public places in addition to home and work where people can gather: community hubs.

I encourage you to think of the Butterfield Library as a reliable third space here in Westminster. Ray Oldenburg, an American sociologist, developed the term and concept in his 1989 book The Great Good Place. Third places, argues Oldenburg, are important for so many reasons, not least of which because they help bolster civic engagement and democracy, and they foster a sense of place and belonging.

Traditionally, a library has been thought of as a place for borrowing books. Butterfield has a lot of

books, of course, good ones. They’re always free to check out. We have somewhat lenient borrowing policies and never charge overdue fines. But during those quiet times in the library when it’s just me and the books, it’s clear that something is missing in that moment — the patrons who, by simply being there, transform the library into a third place.

Butterfield is a place where members of our community gather — to sit and chat with me (which I love!), to come across folks they haven’t seen in ages, to participate in events like the recent wonderful talk by Jessie Haas on the Three Westminsters. In my role as director, I’ll keep updating the collection, putting on events, and welcoming you into the space when you arrive.

I hope to see you here soon, whether it’s to attend an event, to borrow a book, or just to say hi. You are all welcome at Butterfield — in fact, you’re the piece that makes the library whole. Your participation in the library makes its third placeness, cements its status as community hub.

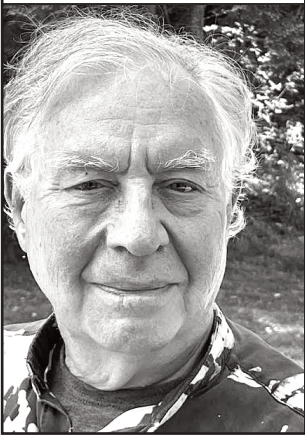
Visiting in person isn’t the only way to contribute to Butterfield’s third place feeling. We maintain a regularly updated Facebook Page. And, if you are unable to come to the library, please reach out to me via phone (802-722-4891) or email (butterfieldlib.05158@gmail.com).

I’ll get you on our list for home delivery service and/or get you set up with Libby for e-book and audio-book access!

POET CHARD DE NIORD READS AT PUTNEY LIBRARY

Join local poet, Chard deNiord for a reading of his two most recent books, One As Other and In My Unknowing at Putney Public Library on Tuesday, March 11 at 6:30 p.m.

Chard deNiord is the author of eight books of poetry, most recently Westminster West (forthcoming in May, 15 2025), One As Other (Green Writers Press, 2024), and In My Unknowing (University of Pittsburgh Press 2020). He is also the author of two books of interviews with American poets titled Sad Friends, Drowned Lovers, Stapled Songs, Conversations and Reflections on 20th



Century Poetry (Marick Press, 2011) and I Would Lie To You If I Could (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2018).

His poems have appeared in numerous poetry anthologies and literary Journals, including The Paris Review, Poetry, APR, The Kenyon Review and others.

He is Professor Emeritus of English and Creative Writing at Providence College where he taught for 22 years. He serves as the essay editor for Plume Poetry. From 2015 to 2019 he served as Poet Laureate of Vermont. He lives in West-

minster West with his wife, Liz.

The Putney Library is located at 55 Main Street in Putney.

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Nature Notes - What is an Owl Pellet?

by Alma Beals, Vermont Master Gardener and Naturalist

An owl pellet is a ball or packet of undigested food that an owl regurgitates and is made up of parts of the owl’s prey that it can’t digest like bones, fur, teeth, and nails. These hard, sharp fragments are wrapped inside the fur in the ball.

An owl swallows its prey whole or in large pieces. The owl’s gizzard separates the indigestive parts from the rest of the food, with the pellet depending on the diet. The indigestive teeth, bones, nails, skulls, and feathers are too dangerous to pass through the rest of the digestive tract.

The pellets break down with time leaving only tiny bones. They are black when fresh and gradually dry to grey. Because owls mate for life and maintain the same nests and territory for many years, pellets can be found under trees, usually evergreens, in their territory. Sometimes, a whole skull of a small prey can be found in pristine condition.

Owls aren’t the only birds that regurgitate pellets. I knew that raptors do, but I was surprised to read that crows, gulls, shorebirds, and kingfishers do, too. Imagine inspecting a kingfisher nesting cavity and finding a layer of regurgitated pellets. Many years ago, I volunteered for both VINS (Vermont Institute of Natural Science) and AMAS (Ascutney Mountain Audubon) and



Barred Owls photographed by Don Clark

led many workshops for kids, usually in the third and fourth grades. One thing we did was to take owl pellets apart using tweezers. Led by my enthusiasm, this group found it fascinating. How exciting when they recognized a toenail, tooth, or leg bone.

There are 11 owls to be found in New England with most people being familiar with the calls of the Barred owl which can be most vocal in February and March. Sometimes, they perform a dueling duet with the lower pitched male and higher pitched female. They also



cackle, hoot, caw and gurgle during their courtship. I have heard from several neighbors in the last two weeks who have seen them or heard their calls, so now is the time to watch and listen.

OLIVIA ROUNDS STUDENT OF MONTH

It is a pleasure to announce that Olivia Rounds has been named the December Elks Student of the Month for Bellows Falls Union High School. Olivia, a senior, is the daughter of Owen and Amy Rounds of Westminster.

Olivia is a dedicated and hardworking student who thrives on learning new things and takes great pride in achieving her goals. She consistently gives her all to any task she undertakes, demonstrating a strong commitment to both her education and personal growth.

In addition to excelling in her classes, Olivia is an active participant in the Community Work-Based Learning program, where she gains valuable experience working at various local businesses throughout the week. Her involvement in the program reflects her drive to contribute-meaningfully to the community while developing new skills.

Olivia’s positivity and bright smile are contagious, uplifting everyone around her. She fosters a supportive and encouraging environment among her classmates and peers. Her cheerful greetings and great attitude make her a joy to be around and a pleasure to work with.

Olivia is also a dependable and engaged student. She arrives at school each day ready to participate and rarely misses a day, only being absent when absolutely necessary due to illness or appointments.

A good role model, Olivia is always eager to lend a helping hand, whether in her class, her workplace, or the broader community. Her determination and enthusiasm inspire others, proving that with dedication and effort, anything is



possible.

Beyond school, Olivia is actively involved in her community. She participates in a local bowling league and numerous events in the Bellows Falls and Westminster areas. She has volunteered her time at the Rockingham Library, Community Closet Thrift Store, and Good Buy Store, where she has helped sort and organize donations. Additionally, Olivia has been a proud participant in the Special Olympics for many years, showcasing her determination and spirit.

Olivia is truly an exceptional individual whose positive attitude, hard work, and community involvement make her a valued member of every group she’s part of.

She sets an outstanding example for others and BFUHS and the Elks are proud to have her represent us as a Student of the Month.

KURN HATTIN STUDENT COUNCIL CONCLUDES A SUCCESSFUL FOOD DRIVE



Kurn Hattin Homes Student Council recently concluded a successful food drive with a personal delivery of 109 non-perishable food items to Our Place Drop-In Center in Bellows Falls.

Welcoming the group and accepting the donation were Executive Director David Billings and Operations Manager Amanda Reed who welcomed the students and shared insight about the center’s vital community services.

Billings explained that Our Place collects more than 170,000 pounds of food annually, serves more than 30,000 meals annually, and offers free food, personal items, and warm clothing to those in need. In addition to being a food pantry, it serves as a warming station, providing a haven for those seeking warmth and nourishment.

During their visit to Our Place, the students delivered the donations, learned

about its mission, and connected with community members benefitting from the center’s programs.

Social Studies and Civics teacher Deborah Velto, who serves as the mentor for Student Council, says that the goal is to develop leadership skills by organizing school activities, service projects, and events that help improve the school and the surrounding community.

“This experience was eye-opening for our students,” said Velto. “They realized the importance of community and how essential it is to ensure no one goes hungry and how their efforts can make a difference.”

In photo, Kurn Hattin Student Council members and staff deliver donated food items to Our Place Drop In Center’s David Billings.

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, Mar. 4 at 7 p.m.

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

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 January: 51
Number of calls through February 23rd : 31
Number of calls calendar year to date: 82
Number of calls fiscal year, July 1st to date: 335

Association Meeting: The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association met for their regular meeting February 4th with Trustee Jon Taylor presiding. There were 28 members present and 6 members excused. Currently there are 47 members of the volunteer fire department.

Emergency responses: January turned out to be another very busy month with 51 calls for the month.

And February is turning out to be another busy month with 28 calls by the 23rd of the month. Here is the breakdown for the 51 calls: 27 rescue/medical calls; 7 motor vehicle accidents; 4 box alarm/false alarm; 6 Mutual Aid, 1 to Chester, 2 to Dummerston; 1 to North Walpole; 1 to Walpole; 1 to North Walpole; 2 for tree on wires/power line down; 3 service calls; 1 for landing zone set up; 1 chimney fire

Roofs and icicles: Due to the large amount of snowfall recently, roofs can be at risk for too much weight and a buildup of icicles causing water backing up into the house. Plus snow and ice sliding off the roof can be dangerous as well as causing damage to roofing material such as slate. Shoveling the snow off the roof may be the best option for preventing unnecessary damage.

Sump pumps: If there is an issue with water coming into the cellar when the snow starts to melt, check the sump pumps to be sure they are operating properly before the melting begins.

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 willing and able to make available.

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

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

Westminster Fire & Rescue Association
PO Box 111 Westminster, 05158
Donations received in January/ February:
ATG Truck Group
Bruce Mickle
Vermont Country Store
Bellows Falls Woman’s Club

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.westminster-fireandrescue.org.

SCHOOL DIRECTORS RESPOND TO FAQs

Westminster Town School District Proposed FY26 (2025 – 2026) Budget and Related Articles and responses of Westminster School Directors to frequently asked questions from Westminster Voters for Town Meeting on March 1, 2025

1. How does the proposed budget compare to prior years?

The proposed budget for FY26 (2025-2026) is \$5,308,124. The FY25 budget was \$5,366,000 so this is a reduction of 1.08% or \$57,876. Westminster voters approved spending \$100,000 of a prior year budget surplus to offset the proposed FY26 budget which will bring the total funding needed for FY26 \$5,208,124.

The Westminster School Board estimates that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in per pupil education spending of \$15,015.49, which is 12.67% higher than per pupil education spending of the current year. While this is an increase, due to the reduction in number of students in the town school district (see question 7), per pupil costs do not exceed the state’s excess spending threshold.

2. What are the implications for tax rates?

Education tax rates throughout the state of Vermont remain uncertain at the time of this writing. There is a statewide effort to prevent the kinds of tax increases seen by some towns last year.

Westminster and the other towns within the WNESU did not see significant homestead property tax increases last year, in contrast with other communities within the state. Last year’s state average increase is reported to have been 13.9%. Many towns reported double digit increases in their tax rates, and approximately one-third of school budgets failed when initially proposed.

Interestingly, particularly in light of the Governor’s current proposal to transform education in Vermont which includes dissolving local school boards and creating five-mega-districts in the state, on Town Meeting Day 2024, 83% of budgets passed in single town or city school districts that operate within supervisory unions, whereas only 38% passed in merged districts.

In 2024, the state of Vermont Commissioner of Taxes projected a possible 18.5% increase in education property taxes in his December 1 letter to the legislature. This year’s projected increase is 5.9%. Westminster’s homestead tax rate was down slightly this year, down by less than 1%.

3. What are the primary sources of the reductions and the increased costs within the Westminster School District FY26 budget?

Reductions: The major source of the overall reduction in this year’s proposed budget is due to the removal of two full-time teaching positions. That is due to a reduction in our student population. See question 7 about a drop in our student numbers in 2024-25.

Increased Costs: The primary sources of increased costs are health insurance benefits, WNESU assessments and teacher compensation. The WNESU assessment covers Westminster’s proportion of costs for consolidated services including transportation, nutrition

(school meals), administration, early childhood, technology and special education.

4. What is the status of the use of prior year surplus funds?

As we have reported in the past, beginning in the 2021 and 2022 fiscal years, the WNESU business office overestimated the cost of health insurance and other benefits for all employees. At the same time, there was not accurate billing for Westminster students who were attending local area schools for seventh and eighth grade. Those were the primary sources of the budget surpluses in 2021 (\$1,062,546) and 2022 (\$608,375).

The Westminster voters at the 2023 Town Meeting approved uses of those surplus funds as follows: \$300,000 to offset costs of the FY24 budget; \$150,000 to offset costs of the FY25 budget; \$200,000 for a Seventh and Eighth Grade Tuition Reserve Fund; \$245,000 for a reserve fund to enhance indoor and outdoor learning environments; and \$770,000 for a reserve fund for repairs or improvements, including enhanced security and energy efficiencies.

At 2024 Town Meeting, voters approved use of 2023 surplus funds as follows: \$100,000 of a \$265,168 surplus from the town school district budget to offset the FY26 school budget; and \$165,168 from the remainder of the school budget surplus to be put in reserve for repairs or improvements, and an additional \$282,552 from Westminster’s portion of a 2023 WNESU surplus also to be allocated for repairs or improvements.

5. How have the surplus funds been used to date?

Specific to the solar project, the roof array is complete and beginning to generate energy. The ground array is due to be completed. Once final permits are obtained, the entire system will be fully functioning. The 30% federal rebate is in process. Were that not made available, reserve funds would fully cover the expense. Annual savings once all expenses have been paid are estimated to be a minimum of \$36,000 annually.

6. What is the status of the long-term debt for the 2006 Gymnasium addition at the Westminster Center School?

The 20-year bond will be completely paid off in 2026, reducing the annual budget by about \$100,000 annually. The board explored whether there was financial benefit to an early pay-off, and there is not.

7. What is the current student population in kindergarten through 8 th grade in Westminster’s Community Schools?

Over the summer a total of 19 children moved out of the Westminster Town School District.

This is a significant drop in the student population, after holding steady in recent years. The greatest number of children moved because their families no longer had access to affordable housing in Westminster.

This decline changed the number of children in grades K – 6 at the school this year from 144 to 125, although it has recently increased to 128. Next year’s student count is projected to be around the same number of about 125.

REMEMBRANCES

MARCH 2025:

SAMANTHA AMIDON, 49
12/21/1975 - 1/25/2025
BELLOWS FALLS, VT

RONALD “PEANUT” MORRIS, 76
11/9/1948 - 2/15/2025
WESTMINSTER, VT

ROBERT PALMER, 65
10/9/1959 - 1/7/2025
WESTMINSTER, VT

(LINDA) CARLENE RAPER, 70
1955 - 1/26/2025
WESTMINSTER WEST, VT

“T.J.” WILLIAM SMITH, 67
6/18/1957 - 1/8/2025

18TH ANNUAL CABIN FEVER SUPPER IN WESTMINSTER WEST

We are all in need of connections. Come join your friends for a fun evening of friendship, stories of past years, and the importance of simply gathering together as neighbors at the Congregational Church of Westminster West on Saturday, March 8 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. for our 18th Anniversary of Maple and Mud Cabin Fever Supper.



As always this will be a family style meal with food provided by Sharon Boccelli, formerly of Boccelli’s on the Canal in Bellows Falls.

Dinner will be Minestrone soup (vegetarian), antipasto of local and imported cheese and olives, chicken braciolitini, pasta with slow home cooked Italian red sauce, both vegetarian and meatballs available; gluten free pasta option, Italian bread, and Italian cookies.

Cost is a sliding scale of \$25-35 (your option) with children under 4 free and children under 12 at \$15.

This will be a BYO wine.

WESTMINSTER WEST LIBRARY MARCH READS

Westminster West Public Library March Reads - enjoy these book recommendations from our Library Board!

There are Rivers in the Sky by Elif Shafak

This is an epic historical novel that goes back and forth across time with four storylines set in ancient Sumeria, Victorian England, present-day Turkey and London, all connected by a drop of water. The writing is beautiful, characters are engaging, and history comes to life. If you liked Cloud Cuckoo Land by Anthony Doerr, then this new book by British Turkish author Elif Shafak is for you! – Laura Schall-Leckrone

In the Kingdom of Ice: The Grand and Terrible Polar Voyage of the USS Jeannette by Hampton Sides

I am a huge fan of Hampton Sides and would recommend any of his historical narratives. He combines engaging prose with diligent research and discussion of point of view, bias, and context. In the Kingdom of Ice is a gripping read that speaks to the limits of human endurance. Best enjoyed by a warm fire! – Preston Miller

Long Haul by Frank Figliuzzi

I have been a fan of Frank Figliuzzi as a MSNBC contributor on all matters FBI. This gripping non-fiction let's you see the problem of serial killer long haul truck drivers thru the perspective of law enforcement, potential victims and real honest truckers. Makes you think the next time you pass a semi! – Craig Hawkins

ATG DONATES MEALS



On December 23, employees from Advantage Truck Group (ATG) in Westminster delivered hundreds of non-perishable meals to Our Place Drop-In Center food pantry. This is the fourth donation that ATG Westminster employees have made to the Bellows Falls food pantry in 2024.

The donation was made through Haulin’ 4 Hunger, ATG’s charitable initiative.

ELECTION DAY INFORMATION

Election Day Information

MARCH 4, 2025

Polls Open 8:00 am to 7 pm

Westminster Institute

Sample Ballots - 2

Town Election (1 side)

BFUHS & RVTC (1 side)

Absentee ballots will be issued until NOON on Monday, March 3, when the Town Clerk's office will close to prepare for Town Meeting Day elections.

Voters requesting absentee ballots must drop them off at the Westminster Town Hall or put postage on the return envelope to mail them.

Ballots received after 7 pm on Election Day (March 4, 2025) cannot, by law, be counted.

Posted February 13, 2025 – Millie Barry, Town Clerk

DOG LICENSE & RABIES CLINIC INFORMATION

WESTMINSTER RESIDENTS CAN LICENSE THEIR DOG(S) by mailing information to: Westminster Town Clerk, PO Box 147, Westminster, VT 05158 - \$11.00 for neutered/\$15.00 non-neutered. **LATE FEES APPLY AFTER APRIL 1, 2025.** An updated rabies certificate is required if a current certificate is not on file in the town clerk's office. For more information email: clerk@westminstervt.org or call, 802-722-4091.

RABIES CLINIC INFORMATION: SATURDAY MARCH 8, 2025 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, \$25.00 fee. & MARCH 29, 2025 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, \$15.00 fee. Past rabies certificate required or on file to receive three-year vaccination. Clinics will be held at the Westminster Highway Garage.

CROCKPOT BUFFET AT BF UNITED CHURCH

There will be a crockpot buffet to benefit the Bellows Falls Area Senior Center on Saturday, March 8 from 5 to 7 p.m.

There will be a variety of home made dishes, salad bar, rolls, dessert and beverage.

Sponsored by the United Church of Bellows Falls

at 8 School Street.

Costs are adults \$14, children age 6-12 \$6, under age 6 eat free.

The snow date is March 22.

Parking on the street or at the municipal lot.

For more information call Helen at 551-486-9451

LOCAL AUTHOR HAAS ON WESTMINSTER HISTORY

Local author Jessie Haas drew over 65 people to the Butterfield Institute to hear about the waves of history that have created the three Westminster parishes: Westminster, Westminster West and North Westminster, commonly known as Gageville.

From families whose numbers grew to the point of needing to move to the hills, to Indian raids, the influx of peoples from Massachusetts and the hippie encampments of the sixties, the hills of Westminster were populated. Gageville was an industrial center with paper mills which burned down and were rebuilt repeatedly. If you'd like to watch a recording of the event you can find it on the FACT TV website at <https://www.fact8.com/>.

The event itself brought brought over 65 interested people from all three parishes to The Butterfield Institute to share cider and donuts provided by the West-



minster Inclusion Committee as part of their One Wonderful Westminster campaign. The libraries of Westminster and Westminster West cosponsored the event.

The next One Wonderful Westminster event, coming at the end of April, will be co-sponsored by VPR as part of Story Corps. Vermont Public is one of just seven stations selected nationally to host One Small Step in 2024, and Westminster has been selected to host



an evening of training for conversations based on the belief that human stories reflect the vast range of American experiences, engender empathy and connection, and remind us how much more we have in common than what divides us.

Check the April Gazette for the date and more information.

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

Please join us for Church Services or any program we offer. Every Sunday service starts at 10 a.m. and there is a children's message. Fellowship hour follows every service. We are located at 3470 Rt. 5 in Westminster. Rev. Rich O'Donnell serves as pastor.

March 2nd. Worship at 10:00

March 4th Women's Fellowship 10:30 in Fellowship Hall

March 5th. SOUPer Wednesday 12-2

March 5th. Ash Wednesday Service 6:00 pm

Service with distribution of Ashes

March 9th. Worship at 10:00 with Communion

March 12th SOUPer Wednesday 12-2

March 12th. Bible Study 6:30 pm Lenten Series in Fellowship Hall and Zoom

March 15th. St Patrick's Day Dinner 4:30-6:30 pm in Church Hall. Traditional Irish dinner with delicious deserts

March 16th. Worship at 10:00 am

March 19th SOUPer Wednesday 12-2

March 19th. Bible Study Lenten Series 6:30 pm Fellowship hall and on Zoom

March 23rd Worship at 10:00 am

March 24th Standing Committee 5:30 pm on Zoom

March 26th SOUPer Wednesday 12-2

March 26th Bible Study Lenten Series 6:30 pm in Fellowship hall and Zoom

March 30th. Worship at 10:00 am

We have many Lent resources available including daily devotional readings, Lent Calender.

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 refreshments where you can get to know other members of our community. We offer many other services throughout the week, so there's something for everyone.

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

ACTIVITIES

Butterfield Library hours are Mon. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Tues. 3-8 p.m. and Thur. 1-6 p.m. Sat. 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

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

Gentle Yoga with Lisa Nigro Monday's 10:30-11:45 a.m. at the Westminster Institute

This is an all levels class with a focus on building strength, increasing range of motion and flexibility, and improving balance. All poses can be modified to be either more accessible or more challenging.

Radiance Yoga: A slow Yoga fusion class with focus on immune and nervous systems, balance, ways of breathing, deep relaxation for over all health. At Westminster West Congregational Church, 44 Church St. Thursdays, 9:30-10:45 a.m. \$15 per class or \$54 for 4 classes (paid for month). Instructor is Elizabeth Bunker, shimmerez@gmail.com. Call for further info : 603 835-2900, text 978 793-2256.

Living Strong Classes with Ronnie Friedman, Karen Walter Online - Mondays & Thursdays 722-3607

Tai Chi Class Tues. 9:45 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 choreography. Hybrid Classes: Tuesdays & Thursdays at 4:30 p.m Pre-registration and status review is required; contact: ZIN Certified Instructor: Pauline Blake O'Brien, 802-376-5397, paulineblakeob@outlook.com.

MEETINGS

Town Clerk - 802-722-4091

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

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

Conservation Commission meets every 4th Thursday at 7 p.m. alternating between Westminster West Library and the Westminster Institute. Every meeting by Zoom.

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

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

911 Committee as needed

Westminster Cares Board 802-722-3607 Second Thursday, 4:30 p.m., Westminster Institute on-line & in person

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

Westminster Institute Board 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

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

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westminsternews@gmail.com

April Deadline

The deadline for the April 2025 Issue of the Westminster Gazette is Wednesday, Mar. 23
Publication Date Is Wed. Mar. 26
To Contact the Westminster Gazette
E-mail: westminsternews@gmail.com

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BALLOT FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MARCH 4

OFFICIAL BALLOT

ANNUAL TOWN AND TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
AND TOWN FIRE DISTRICT #3
WESTMINSTER, VERMONT
MARCH 4, 2025

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

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

<div>FOR MODERATOR OF THE TOWN</div> <div>1 Year Term</div> <div>Vote for not more than one</div> <div>DAVID MAJOR</div> <div>(Write-in)</div>	<div>FOR LISTER</div> <div>3 Year Term</div> <div>Vote for not more than one</div> <div>(Write-in)</div> <div>FOR COMMISSIONER OF CAMPBELL FUND</div> <div>1 Year Term</div> <div>Vote for not more than three</div> <div>KAREN WALTER</div> <div>(Write-in)</div> <div>(Write-in)</div> <div>(Write-in)</div>	<div>FOR UHSD#27 DIRECTOR</div> <div>3 Year Term</div> <div>Vote for not more than one</div> <div>EMILY BRAGONIER</div> <div>STEPHEN MAJOR</div> <div>(Write-in)</div> <div>FOR TOWN SCHOOL DIRECTOR</div> <div>3 Year Term</div> <div>Vote for not more than one</div> <div>CHRISTINE "TINE" BIOLSI</div> <div>(Write-in)</div>
<div>FOR MODERATOR OF THE TOWN FIRE DISTRICT #3</div> <div>1 Year Term</div> <div>Vote for not more than one</div> <div>DAVID MAJOR</div> <div>(Write-in)</div>	<div>FOR TRUSTEE CAMPBELL FUND</div> <div>3 Year Term</div> <div>Vote for not more than one</div> <div>PETE HARRISON</div> <div>(Write-in)</div>	<div>FOR TOWN SCHOOL DIRECTOR</div> <div>2 Year Term</div> <div>Vote for not more than one</div> <div>MARGIE KEARNS FERRY</div> <div>(Write-in)</div>
<div>FOR MODERATOR OF THE TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT</div> <div>1 Year Term</div> <div>Vote for not more than one</div> <div>DAVID MAJOR</div> <div>(Write-in)</div>	<div>FOR TRUSTEE OF PUBLIC FUNDS</div> <div>3 Year Term</div> <div>Vote for not more than one</div> <div>PETE HARRISON</div> <div>(Write-in)</div>	<div>FOR FIRE DISTRICT #3 PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE</div> <div>3 Year Term</div> <div>Vote for not more than one</div> <div>DANIEL GREEN</div> <div>(Write-in)</div>
<div>FOR SELECTBOARD</div> <div>3 Year Term</div> <div>Vote for not more than one</div> <div>CRAIG ALLEN</div> <div>PAUL BANIK</div> <div>(Write-in)</div>	<div>FOR SELECTBOARD</div> <div>2 Year Term</div> <div>Vote for not more than one</div> <div>DANIEL CROCKER</div> <div>CHARLES "CHUCKY" LAWRENCE</div>	

ARTICLES

Article 1: Shall the voters of the Bellows Falls Union High School District authorize the school board to expend \$8,536,844.00, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? The Bellows Falls Union High School District estimates that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in per pupil education spending of \$13,022.48, which is 18.44% higher than per-pupil education spending of the current year.

YES

NO

Article 2: Shall the voters of the River Valley Technical Center School District approve the sum of three million, four hundred eighty thousand, one hundred twenty-nine dollars (\$3,480,129) to defray current expenses for the ensuing fiscal year and to pay outstanding orders and obligations?

YES

NO

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2025

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DELANEY STOODLEY
ELKS STUDENT OF MONTH

Bellows Falls Union High School (BFUHS) is pleased to announce that Delaney Stoodley has been named the January Elks Student of the Month. Delaney, a sophomore, is the daughter of Ryan and Karen Stoodley of Westminster.

A dedicated and engaged student, Delaney consistently goes above and beyond in her academic pursuits. She actively seeks feedback to improve her work, participates thoughtfully in class discussions, and is always prepared to contribute. Her willingness to assist classmates and her commitment to learning set her apart as a leader among her peers.

Beyond the classroom, Delaney brings a positive, team-oriented attitude to every group and activity she joins. She exemplifies strong critical thinking skills, tackling challenges independently before offering assistance to others. Known for her kindness, she is often the first to lend a helping hand, share words of encouragement, or offer a supportive smile.

Delaney has served as a dedicated class officer for the Class of 2027 for two years as well as on the BFUHS Student Council, bringing enthusiasm and fresh ideas to student government. She is also an active participant in athletics, demonstrating teamwork and perseverance on and off the field.

Her dedication extends beyond BFUHS into the community, where she serves as a role model and mentor. She has volunteered as a coach for the community youth field hockey program, assisted at the Rockingham Recreational Center summer camp, and contributed to the Pee Wee football program.

BFUHS and the Elks are proud to recognize Delaney for her outstanding contributions to both her school and community. She is truly deserving of this honor, and we congratulate her on being named the January Elks Student of the Month.



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- The elegant Dascomb Room
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For information, go to bit.ly/RentTheInstitute, email butterfieldlib.05158@gmail.com or call 802-722-4891 during library hours.

Page 7 of 7

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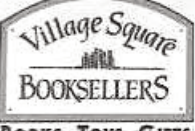
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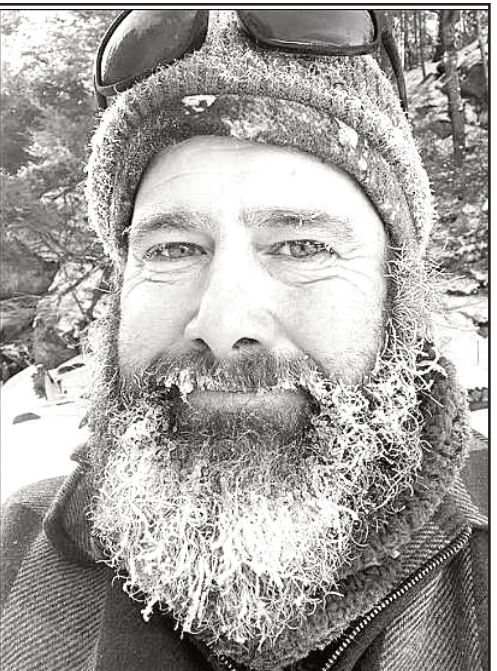
Lawrence & Lober Electric, Inc.'s number one policy is "the customer comes first". It is our customers who keep us in business and it is them we need to be thankful for.

If it were not for our customers, Lawrence & Lober Electric, Inc. would not be in business now for over 19 years. We pride ourselves on our quality of work, our competitive rates and our qualified electricians. There are no substitutes when it comes to quality!

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GETTING TO KNOW OUR
WILD NEIGHBORS



Join Bob Etzweiler for a free program, Getting to Know our Wild Neighbors: Learning about the world around us through wildlife tracking, on Monday, March 10 at 6:30 p.m. at Putney Public Library.

Bob will share stories and photos of local wildlife tracking adventures, and give participants pointers on identifying tracks for themselves.

He'll also bring plaster track casts, skulls, bones, and other related items for folks to interact with. Species touched on will include white-tailed deer, coyotes, moose, bobcats, beavers, red and gray foxes, river otters, humans, black bears, domestic dogs, and more.

Etzweiler is a longtime teacher at the Vermont Wilderness School, leading both youth and adult programs. He runs our Lynx Tracking Expedition, Hunting Apprenticeship and Summer Tracking Intensive.

Bob has over a decade of experience in Wildlife Tracking, has been hired on wildlife track surveys, and is CyberTracker Specialist certified. He's a skilled and passionate tracker and teacher.

Putney Library is located at 55 Main Street.



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