



FAIR WHISTLER 2026

WHISTLER: Alison Latham 387-5711 aliemae1@outlook.com

"I've learned that people will forget what you said,
people will forget what you did, but people will
never forget how you made them feel."

Maya Angelou

HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

The Historical Society will do a demonstration of gravestone cleaning and straightening during the church fair, starting at 1 o'clock in the Westminster West Cemetery right next to the church. Next year the Vermont Old Cemeteries Association (VOCA) will hold one of their large events IN WESTMINSTER WEST! Come see what it's all about and get an early start. The hearse house repairs are complete, and a hearse built next door to the church will be moved in there, hopefully by Fair Day. It has been in Ed Dodd's barn, the Haas barn, and Ruth Grandy's garage, and now it's coming home.

The Historical Society Annual Meeting will be held October 12 at 6 pm AT THE MUSEUM. Jennifer Bartlau, our speaker, is from Cambridge, Vt, and is extremely knowledgeable about colonial gravestones. She'll talk about the symbolism of the decorations, and about some of the people who carved our Westminster stones. She can usually identify the carver at a glance and has been taking photos in the Old Cemetery to illustrate her talk. At both these events the Westminster Old Cemeteries book will be available at the discounted price of \$10.



Photo: Westminster Gazette

REFLECTIONS

"CHANGING WITH THE SEASONS"

Guy Payne, Chair of the Trustee of the
Congregational Church of Westminster West, UCC

Already, up in the mountains, the leaves are slowly beginning their transformation to their autumn splendor. Perhaps you're wanting to soak up every moment of late summer and early fall – you're willing them to slow down and to make the transition between seasons slow and steady.

Of course, we can't control such transitions, but we can choose to be present and attentive to them, whether they are going the way we want them to, or not. And we can welcome late August's gentle lessons of accepting change.

We hope you'll join us this fall for several events that call on our attentiveness and presence, draw upon the strength of community for empowered transformations, help us to discern ways of weathering change with resilience, and invite us to find hope and joy in every season.

In our desire to live our covenant with God to build a healthier relationship with the natural world, we, as a church, have decided to take some bold actions and do our part to confront the climate crisis, promote resilience, and increase our capacity to be a resource to our community. To remove our church building from its dependence on oil, we plan to invest in rooftop solar, heat pumps, a high efficiency propane boiler as a backup, and attic air sealing and insulation. Doing so will reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and save our long-term financial resources. All of this will be financed by our savings from our annual appeal to the community and a capital fund raising campaign planned for this fall. We hope you share our care for the natural world and support our efforts,

These needed infrastructure improvements will help our church building be sustainable for future generations and ensure our viability as an ongoing community resource. We are changing with the seasons, and yet we believe our direction is consistent with the culture of our community in which we value environmental conservation.

DOES YOUR HOME FEEL COLD IN THE WINTER?

If it does, **WindowDressers** can help by providing low-cost inside storm windows, which can be free if you qualify as low income. They will both make you more comfortable and save energy. Volunteers with the Rockingham Energy Committee are making appointments now to measure windows in the Rockingham area, and the inserts will be assembled by volunteers at a community workshop near Saxtons River in early November (6-11). All windows must be measured by Oct. 9 to allow time to cut the wood for the frames. Contact Peter Bergstrom at [802-289-3271](tel:802-289-3271) (voice or text) or at rockinghamvtenergy@gmail.com

THE WHISTLE BLOWER

From Dean Lynch: When I, a flat-lander, came to Vermont to help out (uncle) Arthur. When he passed. Jessie, Mike, Pat and Bob were very supportive and I became close to them. I had a story to tell at Pat's Celebration of life but... things were running long so I kept it to myself. I would have said how much I felt supported by and enjoyed talking with Bob and Pat who brought me to the conclusion "If the whole country was Vermont, it would be a better place." I was going to close with Bob would bush-hog for me in the fall and one day I called him over to show him some bear scat. Bob said: "Dean you don't know horse shit." Too often I knew Bob was correct.

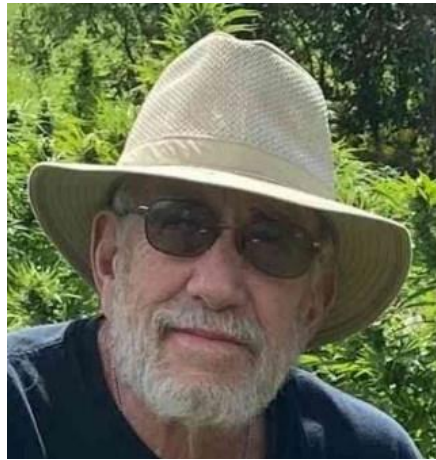


Paula Borochoff, a beloved 2nd grade teacher at the Westminster Center School, was named Vermont Teacher of the year - right after she announced her retirement. Throughout her 25 years as a teacher, she was an inspiring, grounded, professional, and a highly competent teacher.

From Jenny Holan: I returned mid-August from an overdue visit to Italy to the one branch of my family that is actually growing and continuing--my cousin's youngest child gave birth during that time, though I didn't get to where they were. We older folks reconnected at their home near Rome and played music together. In between time with them I spent a week singing Renaissance motets in Assisi with an international group of about 20, while volunteers from the town happened to be hosting a festival of medieval music as part of the observance of the 800th anniversary of the death of St. Francis. My cousins visited Vermont (once as kids and once as new parents) many years ago: I'm hoping some of the family will come to Westminster West before long.



Hearse build next door to the church will soon be returned to the recently restored hearse shed.



Our condolences to the family of **Arnie Glim** who died at the age of 83 on August 4th while riding his bike. He and his wife Diane ran a B & B, The Ranney-Crawford House, for 22 years. He taught physics at B.U.H.S. for 10 years and was head of their science department. He was

an avid cyclist, who led rides from the B & B and rode often with the Putney Cycle Club and other cycling groups.

THE WHISTLER NEEDS NEW READERS

Do you know someone who is new to Westminster West who doesn't get the Whistler yet? Get their names and email address to Alison Latham and she will add them to the mail chimp email list.

From Caitlin Adair: Visit the Sanctuary Garden every Sunday in September, 11am to 3pm. Your donations are welcome 50/50 toward the Congregational Church of Westminster West and the upkeep of the garden. Garden rooms dedicated to the 5 primary elements. Peter Adair's annual firewood sculpture. Fifty-two-year-old homegrown avocado

tree. Dahlias. Hand built pond with stream and waterfall. Vegetables, fruit, perennials, annuals, flowering trees, all integrated into a harmonious nourishing living whole. 40 Gregg Road, West West. For more information,

email Caitlin at pcadair@sover.net.



Westminster property taxes are due September 10th.

W CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday worship begins at 10am

come as you are (masks are optional)

We are an Open and Affirming Church, fully accessible

We are using Facebook Live to stream our weekly services, but you do NOT have to have a Facebook account to join us virtually. Just go on Facebook to the church's page, Congregational Church of Westminster West.

August 30 – Jenny Holan and Eric Robinson

Sept. 6 – Holy Communion: Sharon Easterling and Eric Robinson

Sept. 13 – Post-Fair Hymn Sing! Charlotte Gifford and Eric Robinson

Sept. 20 – Adrienne Major and Eric Robinson

Sept. 27 – Karen Blanchard & Fred Gray

Oct. 4 – Holy Communion: David Mulholland and Seth Phoenix, followed by the Blessing of the Animals.

Oct. 11 – TBA

Oct. 18 – Ray Huessy and Fred Gray

CHURCH CONTACTS

As we seek a settled pastor through our search and call process, we will not be able to offer office hours as usual, but the Deacons (Karen Blanchard, Charlotte Gifford, Ray Huessy, Adrienne Major, and Sue Venman) are available to support the congregation. You can leave a message on the church telephone number 802 387 1175 or contact a deacon directly. In case of a pastoral emergency, a deacon will call on Rev. Shawn Bracebridge (pastor of the Dummerston UCC Congregational Church) and help a person in need to get in contact with him.

BUILDING USE: Tom Griffith 802-387-5694
tgriffith@hilltopmontessori.org

DEACONS: Charlotte Gifford 802-387-4145
gifford@languagehead.com

TRUSTEES: Guy Payne 802 869-2600
Guy@buildingscience.org

WEB SITE: www.westminsterwest.org

FACEBOOK: Congregational Church
of Westminster West

MANNA SUNDAY: We take up a special offering on the second Sunday of each month. Named for the biblical story of manna falling from heaven, this collection is made in support of Our Place in Bellows Falls, for our neighbors in need. It is a freewill offering; a suggested guideline is to give the cost of a meal for one's own household. For those not attending in-person worship, donations can be made online through our website. Click on the DONATE button, and be sure to use "add a note" to show the purpose of the donation.

FALL EQUINOX LABYRINTH WALK

TUESDAY, SEPT 22nd

The church is fortunate to own a gorgeous labyrinth, based on the ancient design in the cathedral of Chartres, France. It is a beautiful pattern, painted purple on canvas, and it rolls out to fill our sanctuary. Traditionally, we have opened the labyrinth each solstice and equinox, to observe the cycles of the natural world, as well as on Ash Wednesday, to open the season of Lent. All are welcome. Beyond the peaceful presence of the labyrinth, there is no particular program. It's very easy to walk the labyrinth: simply come with clean socks and follow the path at your own pace. We encourage you to try this contemplative practice for yourself. You are welcome to stop by between 7 and 8 pm. Please come!

BLESSING OF ANIMALS CELEBRATION

SUNDAY OCTOBER 4TH AT 11:30 AM

You and your cherished companions are warmly invited to the 2nd Blessing of Animals Event at the Congregational Church of Westminster West. Members of the public, including church members and anyone who loves their critters are encouraged to bring their pets and animals—large or small, furry, feathered, scaled, or hooved. Whether by car, truck, trailer, or on foot or horseback, every creature is invited to share in the joy and reverence of this special gathering.



Upon arrival, attendees and their animals will be greeted individually at their vehicles. So, line up early! Animals who enjoy socializing may walk the church grounds and gather for group prayer and

blessings. We will provide treats for some animal types and fresh water; feel free to bring your own supplies for your companions' comfort. Photo of St Francis from Catholic Handbook.

Let's come together as a community to celebrate the bonds we share with our animals, honor their presence in our lives, and invoke blessings for their health and happiness. The grounds of the historic Congregational Church will be alive with four-legged, winged, and finned friends and the spirit of gratitude. Service animals are especially welcome. Whether you walk, ride, or roll, we hope to see you—and your animal companions

For additional information or special requests, please contact the Congregational Church of Westminster West. See us on Facebook for more information. This is a free event—donations to support our community and animal outreach are always appreciated.

CELEBRATION OF AGING

~ Please Join Us ~

On Saturday, September 12th from 12 to 2pm Westminster Cares will host the annual Celebration of Aging which honors our town's eldest residents, 90 years and older. It will take place outdoors on the back lawn of the Westminster Institute. Refreshments and a light lunch and dessert will be served. Rain date: Sunday Sept, 13th.

It's not too late! If you live in Westminster now or if you lived here for many years but moved away, let us know who you are ~ and if you know someone who may be eligible to participate, let us know who they are. For more information, contact Pete Harrison at 802-289-3776 or Michelle Aron at 802-722-3607.



WESTMINSTER CARES PROGRAMS

Info on all programs 802 722-3607

COMMUNITY NURSE PROGRAM: Our community nurse, Kathy Shluster, is available for wellness checks and care coordination. To receive a phone call or schedule an initial home visit with Kathy, please call the office.

ELDER TECH: Do you have questions about a device (laptop, cell or smart phone)? Elder Tech sessions are held at the Westminster Institute. If you would like to make an appointment for a session, please call the office. Open to town residents who are 60 and older,

Gentle **YOGA** and **LIVING STRONG CLASSES**. See WEEKLY EVENTS in this Whistler for details;

Beginners **TAI CHI** beginning in September. Tues. at 10:30am & Thurs. at 5:30pm, sign up with Michelle Aron.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LOANS.

MEALS ON WHEELS - available 5 days a week for eligible seniors 60 years old or older and adults with disabilities.

TRANSPORTATION to medical appointments.

VOLUNTEERS are always appreciated to deliver meals on wheels or give rides to seniors. To join this group of caring people, contact Michelle Aron.

NATURE MUSEUM'S FAIRY HOUSE FESTIVAL

The Nature Museum's Annual Fairy House Festival will be in Grafton September 26 & 27 from 10am to 4pm. This fabulous family-friendly event includes visits to the beautiful fairy houses you can find tucked into the woods and along paths, and much more! Hands-on crafts, stilt walkers, story tellers and more. Food, live music, face painting, and wares from locals will all be available. And most of all, you will follow a Vermont woodland path sprinkled with charming fairy houses for a magical experience of the natural world. Tickets are available at <https://www.nature-museum.org/fairyhousefestival>.



CONSERVATION COMMISSION IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Westminster Conservation Commission is looking for a few volunteers to support upcoming projects and programs. Their hope is that there are some individuals in town who take an interest in the natural world, and would be willing to lend a hand on an occasional basis to help them out. If this sounds like you, get an application by emailing westminstervtconservation@gmail.com Current members are Jim Calchera, Kestrel Craig, Amy Moreland, Tatiana Schreiber and Rachael Shaw.

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



ENTER THE PINNACLE'S 2026 PHOTO CONTEST

The 2026 Pinnacle photo contest is now open! Prizes will include Pinnacle T-shirts and other swag. Photo entries must have been taken on Pinnacle lands anytime during the year 2026. No more than (5) photos per entrant. Please email larger file sizes (ideally 1 MB or more), horizontal/landscape orientation preferred, to WHPAphotos@gmail.com by Dec. 31, 2026. Please include a photo credit with your submission. We look forward to seeing your photos! By entering this contest, you grant the WHPA the right to use the photos in its publications, website, or social media platforms in perpetuity. The photographer retains all other rights to their photos.

FALL EVENTS AND WALKS

Join us this fall for one of our upcoming events. With cooler temperatures and changing foliage, it's a perfect time to enjoy the trails

Saturday Sept 12th at the Westminster West Community Fair AND Sunday, Oct 11th: Putney School's Harvest Festival: Visit WHPA's table where you can view maps etc. and purchase T-shirts, paraphernalia, books and memberships. Our new caps are in stock, colors Navy, Forest Green and Ecru!

ACCESSIBILITY DAY: TBA. This is an opportunity for adults who have difficulty walking to get a vehicle ride to a beautiful site on the ridgeline for lunch. This free program's popularity and need for 4-wheel drive type vehicles makes advance registration a must for riders. Bring water, bag lunch, and dress for chilly weather. ***

BALD HILL HIKE: November 8th, 10am Vanesa Stern, a former WHPA board member, will lead an autumn walk on Bald Hill along the gorgeous Saxtons River. The 55-acre Bald Hill Reserve (conserved by WHPA) and the adjacent Bellows Falls Union High School Forest and Basin Farm trails total over 300 acres. Please wear good hiking footwear and bring water. RSVP at coordinator@windmillhillpinnacle.org

*** Info on Accessibility Day and a hike on **Athens Dome on November 1st led by Paul Wilson** can be found on our website windmillhillpinnacle.org. Reservations are required for overnight stays in the Pinnacle cabin and Athens Dome shelter. Check <https://windmillhillpinnacle.org/cabin-shelter-reservations>, then email reservations@windmillhillpinnacle.org. Lastly, please keep your dog on a leash.

NORTHERN EXPANSION

This fall the Pinnacle has an amazing opportunity to conserve two critical parcels in Athens and Brookline totaling 475 acres. They will enhance an important wildlife corridor, including lands within the viewshed of the Pinnacle Summit. They also protect the habitats of black bears, pileated wood peckers and eastern whip-poor-wills.



The first parcel, which lies off Ledge Road near the Athens–Grafton border, is 130 acres, connecting with other conserved land in the Athens Dome area including the Turner Wildlife Management Area. It provides a haven for many species, including black bears. Photo of nocturnal whip-poor-will - Frode Jacobsen

The second parcel, 345 acres just south of the Lily Pond Highlands in Brookline, will dramatically expand the protected landscape visible from the Pinnacle summit. From the summit, this forested ridgeline stretches across the horizon, forming one of the defining views that draws people to the Pinnacle, year after year.

Protecting these lands will take the support of many people who care about the future of this landscape. Visit our website windmillhillpinnacle.org to see how you can help.

BOOK SALE EXTRAVAGANZA

It is another HUGE BOOK SALE to benefit the Westminster West Library. So many fantastic, engaging, educational, and entertaining titles to choose from. Please stock up on the books *you want on your shelf, and READ*. This year we also have a large assortment of children's books and young adult novels, both in fiction and non-fiction. All purchases are by donation, cash, check, and credit cards are all accepted; pay what you will, all proceeds will go directly to support the Westminster West Public Library. If you have any questions, you can call the library at 802-387-4682. Huge gratitude to our community for sending lots of beautiful books our way and thanks for supporting our little blue library.



37th ANNUAL WESTMINSTER WEST COMMUNITY FAIR

FAIR DAY SCHEDULE

8:30am Race Registration between Church and Town Hall
Coffee and Bake Sale inside church
9:00am Adults 5K Road Race
Golden Elephant Sale opens in Town Hall
Local Art Exhibit - upstairs in church
Small items Silent Auction - upstairs in church
10:00am Parade Preparation at the School
Bicycle Decorations and Drumming Rehearsal
10:30am Parade begins - (See parade info below)
11am Kids Fun Run - registration in front of Church
11:30am Serving of B B Q and other menu items begins
Music by George Ainley & friends on Church lawn
Noon Deadline for Veggie contest entries
Noon-2pm Children's activities
1pm Hist. Soc. workshop on cemetery stone cleaning
2pm Variety Talent Show begins
2:45pm Veggie Contest winners announced
3:00pm Golden Elephant and onsite Silent Auction END

RACES: 5K ROAD RACE: There are 4 classes for men and women in the 5K Road Race: Youth (13-17), Open (18-39), Masters (40-59) and Seniors (60 and older). THE KIDS FUN RUN is for ages 12 and under, with age-based classes for boys and girls. Entry fees: 5K race - \$15 adults, \$10 for youth, and Kids Fun Run is a sliding scale \$3 - \$5.

REGISTRATION for the 5K begins at 8:30am and the race starts at 9am with a mass start. The course is over relatively flat, shady dirt roads, passing through scenic countryside and apple orchards. Registration for the Kids Fun Run starts right after the parade (at about 10:50am) in front of the church, as the race starts at 11am. There will be 2 mass starts, one for older and one for younger runners.

THE PARADE will proceed in its usual, loveable and haphazard way from the West West School to the church at 10:30 am. Bike decorating starts at 10:00 (we supply balloons and crepe paper) and we congregate at 10:15 at the school to "organize" the procession. This year's parade theme is "HONORING THOSE WHO STEPPED UP FOR RURAL SCHOOLS." Our Grand Marshal is Cheryl Charles who has been totally committed to keeping our rural schools local. Deputy Marshals (the other members of the school boards), as well as everyone connected with the school; students, bus drivers, administrators, teachers, paras, counselors, maintenance folks, school librarians, volunteers, sports coaches, cafeteria workers and of course parents – ALL are invited to join the parade. As always, new neighbors and elected officials will be celebrated. Ladies Against Women will sing a satirical song and Line Dancers for Democracy led by Rachel Shaw will be there snapping their fans. We always need drummers and volunteers to carry banners – no training or expertise required. For info: call Leslie or Tom 802 387-5694 or email: Leslie.Turpin@sit.edu.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES: Whack the Corn Cob game (1-2pm), Face painting (12-2), and games with Marion Major (1:30) Kids are also encouraged to decorate their bikes for the parade, run in the Fun Run and enter the Veggie Contest and Variety Talent Show.

VEGETABLE CONTEST: There are 4 categories for adults and kids, longest zucchini, vegetable sculpture, weirdest shape and artistic flower arrangements. Deadline for entries is noon day of Fair - bring to table in the foyer. Winners will be announced during Variety Talent Show. Entries are on display in church foyer. If you win a prize, find Alison Latham to get it.

SILENT AUCTION is online again this year with one exception. Smaller items can be bid on the old-fashioned way, with paper and pencil at the church. For others higher price items and business gift certificates, go to the website www.32auctions.com/westfair2026, Bidding begins Sunday September 6th at 9am and ends Sunday night, September 13th, at 5pm. Good place for holiday shopping or just treat yourself to something you've always wanted.

BARBEQUE DINNERS will be served at 11:30 until sold out. **BBQ Chicken Dinner for \$15** with a choice of leg or bone-in breast, **Beyond Sausage Veggie Dinner for \$15**, or **Hot Dog Dinner for \$12**. All dinners include vegetarian baked beans, coleslaw, corn on the cob and lemonade. Ala carte items: hot dog \$3.50, chicken \$9.00, veggie sausage or corn on the cob \$4.00. Coleslaw or baked beans \$2.00, Ice cream available after lunch for \$4.00, and Lemonade - \$1.50

VARIETY TALENT SHOW: Stu Fuchs is the Master of Ceremonies. If you have a talent, email him info@stufuchs.com or sign up at the baked goods table.

ART SHOW: Local artists and craftspeople are invited to exhibit their work in the sanctuary of the church.

GOLDEN ELEPHANT SALE: Please no clothes, broken items or junk. Remember the golden rule, donate unto others what you would want to take home with you.

DROP OFF TIMES: 5-8:30pm TUE – THUR Sept 8th - 10th. Please don't just leave things in front of the church at odd hours. It is a challenge to dispose of left-overs.

RAFFLE: this year it's a 50 – 50 cash raffle. Visit our website to participate.: David Mlulholland@noteharvest@gmx.com

ENTERTAINMENT: Old Time Music by George Ainley and Friends on the Church lawn

BENEFIT: Proceeds help fund the community newsletter *The West Parish Whistler*, and help support the community use of the church building. Non-profit groups pay no fees.

LOCATION and PARKING: The fair will be held at the Church on the Westminster West Road - half way between Putney and Saxtons River. People can park along the road or at a special parking area at the Westminster West school.

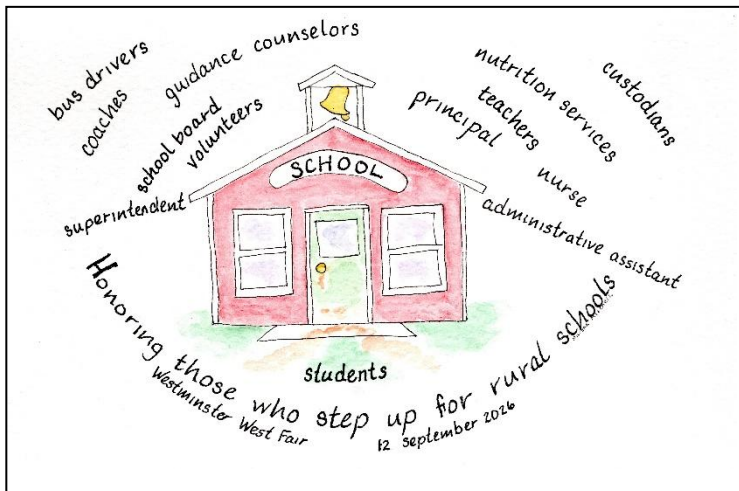
CONTACTS FOR INFO ABOUT THE FAIR:

Art Show	Julia Jensen	802-380-5564
Bake Sale	Karen Blanchard	802-380-4540
Booth Rental	Betsy Williams	802-387-2765
BBQ Food	Lynn Twiss	802-380-1161
Golden Elephant	Laura Williams	802-387-2765
Races	Charlotte Gifford	802-387-4145
Parade	Leslie Turpin	802-387-5694
Silent Auction	Cheryl Charles	802-376-8093
Talent Show	Stu Fuchs email info@stufuchs.com	
Vegetable Contest	Alison Latham	802-387-5711

ANNUAL COMMUNITY FAIR NOTES

CHURCH WEB SITE: www.westminsterwest.org

Church phone number: 802-387-1175



Thank you card by Martha Mitchell

CHERYL CHARLES - PARADE GRAND MARSHAL

Here's a little more background about Cheryl. She began her career as a teacher of American government and American history in Phoenix's inner-city high school. She quickly rose to national and international attention when she was named founding director of two acclaimed K-12 interdisciplinary environmental education programs, Project Learning Tree and Project WILD. They remain widely available. She has served as founding CEO of non-profit organizations focused on children, community and the environment from local to global. She is in her 11th year serving Westminster on our elementary school board and also chairs the Windham Northeast Supervisory Union Board. Eighteen months ago, Cheryl and a handful of others in Vermont's rural communities created the Vermont Rural School Community Alliance. The Alliance has grown to more than 100 towns and villages in Vermont, and has been successful in preventing the forced consolidation of Vermont's rural town school districts into large, multi-town school districts without evidence of cost-savings or improved educational outcomes.

Cheryl will be riding in a VW convertible driven by David Schoales with a banner for the Rural School Community Alliance (RSCA.) David, who is from Brattleboro, is on the RSCA Steering Committee with Cheryl.

DEPUTY PARADE MARSHALS are the other current members of Westminster's Town School District: Tine Biolsi, Vice Chair; Karen Blanchard, Ron Bos-Lun and Margie Kearns Ferry. AND Westminster's members of the Bellows Falls Union High School Board: Emily Bragonier, Jamie Storrow, and June Streeter.

TWO SILENT AUCTIONS: One is online and the other is upstairs at the church on Fair day.

HOW THE SMALL ITEM SILENT AUCTION WORKS AT THE CHURCH ON FAIR DAY: First of all, it is upstairs in the church. Each item on display has a bid sheet and a pencil. You write your name, contact info and your bid amount. Bids must be whole dollars, no cents allowed. You can bid as many times as your pocketbook will allow. Questions: Adrienne Major or Jennifer Latham.

HOW THE ON LINE SILENT AUCTION WORKS: To bid, go to the church website www.westminsterwest.org or the auction website www.32auctions.com/west-fair2026. If you click on an item that looks interesting you will get more information and the name of the donor. Bidding begins at 9am on Sun Sept 6th and ends at 5 pm on Sun night, Sept 13th. Online auction items include arts & crafts, furniture, gourmet foods, services, lessons, collectible items, and gift certificates or merchandise from local businesses. Payment can be made by either check or online. Delivery of winning bids will be arranged in the most expedient way. 32Auction will notify you of your bid and if someone out bids you. You may bid whatever amount you want, as high as you want.

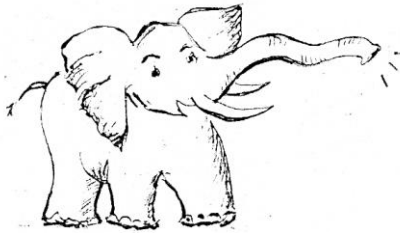
As always, thank you for helping to support our community church which serves as a gathering place, a welcoming presence, and calm voice during challenging times

LINE DANCERS FOR DEMOCRACY are a group of local line dancing enthusiasts who occasionally perform at parades and events to bring joyful movement to the Pro-Democracy movement. Led by Rachael Shaw, a local dance teacher, the group has performed at a No Kings event in March 2026, and helped the Greater Falls Indivisible group win first prize in the Saxtons River 2026 Fourth of July Parade. Our third stop on our Southern Vermont tour is the Westminster West Community Fair Parade. We dance to wonderful R&B music, and add rhythm to our dances with colorful percussive fans. All are welcome to join us. Contact Rachael Shaw 802-869-3184 for more information and to stay updated on practices, classes and events. Rachael teaches Introduction to Soul Line Dance Classes at Main Street Arts in Saxtons River and the Putney Community Center in downtown Putney.



Here we are pictured with Senator Becca Balint in the Saxtons River Fourth of July Parade Line Up.

A NEW TWIST ON THE ANNUAL RAFFLE! In recent years, the Westminster West Annual Community Fair has raffled generous prizes from your fellow community members. This year we are repeating the 50-50 CASH raffle! The event is being conducted for us by a third party online fundraising site, Eventgroove.com, which specializes in helping non-profit organizations to raise funds for a very nominal fee. So, the prize will be 50% of net proceeds, with the Fair and the winner sharing those net funds. We are aiming high for at least a \$1,000 grand prize! It has already started and ends Sunday Sept 13th at 9pm. Tickets are in bundles of \$10. The website will tell you what the cash prize is at the present moment. Share the fun and keep the cash. There will be a winner for each \$1,000.00 raised. The prize pot will restart each time we raise \$1,000.00. If the prize pot is less than \$1,000.00 when the game ends a winner will be selected for 1/2 of any residual amount when the game ends, and to be awarded no less than \$20.00. You can purchase tickets in person at the fair. It is expected to be live online soon, to check on when you can do this, go to the church's website westminsterwest.org.



**DON'T FORGET
THE GOLDEN RULE
OF DONATING:**

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

I COME BEFORE YOU

(a Lakota Prayer)

Sioux Chief Yellow Lark, 1877

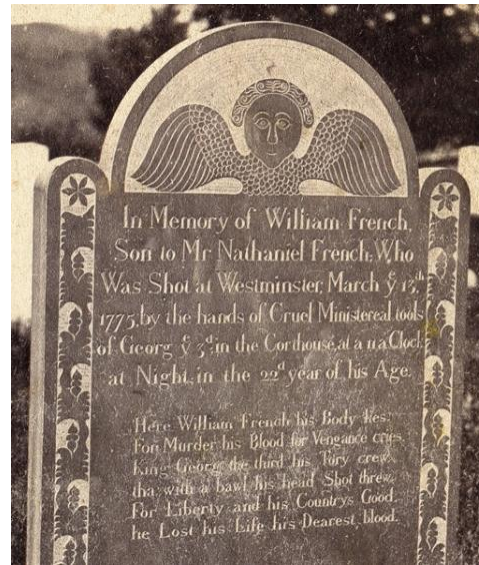
Great Spirit, whose voice I hear in the winds and whose breath gives life to the world: as I come before You, one



of Your many children. I am small and weak; I need Your strength and wisdom. May I walk in beauty; may my eyes behold the red and purple sunset; may my hands respect what You have made; may my ears be sharp to hear Your voice.

Make me wise, so I may know what You teach in every leaf and rock. Make me strong, so I may be able to fight my greatest enemy, myself. May I ever be ready to come to You with clean hands and straight eyes, so that when life fades like a sunset, I may come to You without shame.

WILLIAM FRENCH'S HEAD STONE



William was killed in the Westminster Massacre. The angel with wings says that he has gone to heaven.

The inscription; In Memory of William French. Son to Mr. Nathaniel French, who was Shot at Westminster, March ye 13th 1775, by the hands of Cruel

Ministereal tools of George ye 3rd in the courthouse at 11 a clock at night in the 22nd year of his Age.

Epitaph on William French's headstone:

Here William French his Body Lies
For Murder his Blood for Vengeance cries.
King George the third his Tory crew
Tha with a brawl his head Shot threw
For Liberty and his Country Good,
He Lost his Life his Dearest blood.

RIVER SINGERS FALL SESSION

The River Singers Community Choir led by Mary Cay Brass will start their fall session on Tuesday, September 22, 6:30-8pm at the Westminster West Church. The choir, in their 36th year, is a unique multi-generational community choir dedicated to singing an eclectic mix of soulful, thrilling music from many lands.

This season's music will present songs of joy, love and peace from many Eastern European countries - Croatia, the Republic of Georgia, songs from the New England shape note tradition and much more.

Guest musician Dr. Kathy Bullock - performer, arranger and scholar of African American traditions and Professor Emerita from Berea College as well as guest professor at Bennington College - will join us for a workshop of South African and African American songs.

Choir member, Andy Davis, will share songs from the English pub carol tradition well known in our area from the group Nowell Sing We Clear.

The River Singers is a lively, welcoming group of curious, enthusiastic singers. If that sounds like fun to you, come join us! The cost for a 12-week session is \$150. Interested in joining? Contact mcbrass@vermontel.net and www.marycaybrass.com

BACK TO SCHOOL

Liz Harty, Principal

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

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

Right: Hannah Gagnon;
Second Grade Teacher



Left: Kara Cote;
Special Ed Case Manager



Right: Ellen Strong;
Librarian/Enrichment



Left: Halle Dickerson;
Second Grade
Teacher



Here are some important dates for WCS Families:

Monday, 8/24; Welcome Back Open House 5:30-6:30
Wednesday, 8/26; First Day of School
Monday, 8/31; First Day of our After School Program
Monday, 9/7; No School; Labor Day
Friday, 9/18; Half Day; 11:45 Dismissal
Monday, 9/28; Picture Day

This year, Librarian Mandy Walsh and Teacher Kelly Hallock are developing great plans for the school through the Rowland Grant, building on many strengths already in place at WCS, including strong roots in our Farm to School program and weekly outdoor education for K-2. Having seen the benefits for younger students, they seek to focus on bringing more of this nature-based,

sustainability approach to the upper grades. They will be tapping into local resources at Shelburne Farms, VEEP, Four Winds, and the Grafton Nature Museum as well as national and international resources. We can expect even more ties to nature, play, and place, including wonderful field trips and other opportunities for WCS to learn and serve even more effectively. At its heart, this project is about hope, the belief that when students and teachers connect deeply with their place and purpose, we not only learn better, we live better. Westminster Center School is a great place to be!

THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF BRATTLEBORO has opened a new licensed after-school program, in the WCS for children ages 5-11, Monday through Friday from 3:15 to 5:30pm throughout the school year. A curriculum involving physical activity, nature, and crafts is adapted for both outdoor and indoor activities. Students use the multifaceted facility of WCS which includes playgrounds, fields, walking trails, gyms and classroom spaces. Snacks are provided.

WCS Principal Liz Harty explains, "The Boys & Girls Club after-school program has made a tremendous positive impact on our school community. It provides our students with a safe, supportive, and engaging place to learn, grow, and build relationships beyond the school day." For more info contact Westminster Kids Club Director Kim Budzik, kim@bgcbrattleboro.org.



Students pick flowers at the Boys & Girls Club Summer Camp at the Westminster Central School.

SATURDAY AT THE WEST WEST LIBRARY

The library continues their popular Saturday Z coffee hours from 10am-2pm. Come in and connect with friends and neighbors. Bring your own mug and enjoy freshly brewed coffee and great company. Coffee and snacks are by donation.

SHINLEAF NATIVE PLANTS NEWS

The nursery will be open through the first week of October this year, closing on October 4. Every month we choose an endangered native plant to sell at 30% off for that month. For the final 5 weeks of this season, we are discounting two endangered species:

1. Downy Wood mint (*Blephilia ciliata*) is considered "critically imperiled" in Vermont, New York, and Massachusetts. It requires well-drained soil but otherwise does well in most soil types. It attracts bees, butterflies, and birds and is deer resistant.
2. Broad Leaved Mountain Mint (*Pycnanthemum muticum*) is considered "critically imperiled" in Vermont and "imperiled" in New York. It is an exceptional pollinator plant, attracting an unusually high volume and diverse range of beneficial insects. It has beautiful silvery green leaves and blooms from July through September.



Photo: Wild Senna (yellow) blooming in front of Joe Pye Weed (pink). We have sold out of Pye Weed but we have lots of Wild Senna left

Fall is a great time to plant native perennials! The cool air temperature and warm soil create ideal conditions for root growth. With strong, established roots, fall-planted perennials wake up early in the spring and burst into growth.



A Talk about how the legal system failed to sustain the America Dream bringing the country to where it is today.

LIES

...the biggest EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER LAW



VENDOME MEMORIAL

The greatest homage we can pay to truth is to use it.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

A Historical Novel by I.N. Hale

The author will discuss the issue and how it relates to his new novel.

I.N. Hale is the pseudonym used by Dean Lynch.

Westminster West Library-September 30 @ 7 PM

&

Butterfield Library-October 6 @ 7 PM

BOOKBINDING AND RESTORATION

IN EUROPE FROM VICTORIAN TIMES TIL TODAY

On Tuesday September 15, 2:00-3:30 PM, in St. Luke's Willard Hall, behind and below the gray church at 313 Main Street, Chester, VT, Malcolm Summers, professional bookbinder for 25 years from the Chester Bookworm, will explain the bookbinding and restoration process and its tools. He'll show samples of different kinds of binding materials, and pass around old tools still in use, as well as various books and mementoes that have been preserved, sometimes most ingeniously. He has interesting stories to tell about the preservation of both new and ancient treasures and will answer questions after the presentation.

Congregational Church of Westminster West
THE WEST PARISH WHISTLER
44 Church Street Putney, VT 05346



War is such a waste of young lives, who wins?
. Keep praying for peace.

FALL 2026 CALENDAR

WEEKLY EVENTS:

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH of WEST WEST

Church Service – Sunday 10am

HEALTH AND FITNESS:

For new comers to exercise classes, Westminster Cares needs to determine if the person is appropriate for that class first so they need to call Michelle Aron at Westminster Cares 802 722- 3607

STRONG LIVING is happening by ZOOM

Karen Walter and Ronnie Friedman lead online weight classes 9:30 to 10:30am on Mondays and Thursdays. There is room for more folks and a donation to Westminster Cares is appreciated. To get on Karen and Ronnies' list email them Karensww7@gmail.com veronicafriedman24@gmail.com

YOGA is happening by ZOOM

Lisa Nigro leads a class Monday mornings 10 to 11:15. Email Lisa at lisa.nigro.yoga@gmail.com

TAI CHI

Beginners' classes beginning in Sept. Tues. at 10:30am & Thurs. at 5:30pm, sign up with Michelle Aron.

WESTMINSTER WEST LIBRARY

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 1-6pm,
Saturday 10am to 2pm

Questions: LiseHCavanaugh@aol.com

BUTTERFIELD LIBRARY

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 1-6pm,
Saturday 10:30 – 12:30

The Institute & Library share a website
And a Facebook page.

website: <https://butterfieldlibraryvt.org/>

RECYCLING

Recycling Center on Rte 5 - Wed & Sat - 9am - 1pm

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP ORGANIZES

The Westminster West Library book club will be starting up again. The group meets monthly to discuss a book selected by the group and provided to all participants through inter-library loan. We meet to select the books for the year in September. There is no hard commitment for all to attend every single meeting, so if you are just feeling curious about us, the process, or the books we choose, feel free to join us. Communication is through email, so if you want to be alerted to the activities of this group send your email to the librarian, Lise Cavanaugh at liscavanaugh@aol.com

FUEL ASSISTANCE FOR SENIORS

September is here – which means it is time to sign up for Vermont's Seasonal Heating Fuel Assistance Program, which can offset winter heating costs by anywhere from a few hundred to even a few thousand dollars. Senior Solutions can help you apply for assistance through Vermont's LIHEAP program, which could help lower your bills if you heat with oil, kerosene, propane, electric, coal, wood pellets, or wood.

Half of Vermont seniors who are eligible never even apply with the simple, 1-page application, leaving money on the table. Many others wait until the middle of winter, when the temperature, fuel level in the tank, and bank accounts are all running low. But by waiting until after November, even those found eligible receive only a portion of what they would otherwise be awarded. This program is income and household-size based. If your income is at or below these levels, you qualify:

Household of 1 – \$2,461 monthly income

Household of 2 – \$3,336 monthly income

Household of 3 – \$4,212 monthly income

Household of 4 – \$5,088 monthly income

Benefits are sent directly to your fuel company on your behalf, giving you a credit for the season. In the case of wood, it will either appear on an EBT card containing a cash amount, or could be directly deposited into your bank account. There are many misconceptions about this program: It doesn't matter if you own your home, or rent, as long as you are incurring a heating cost. It doesn't have an "asset test," so the value of your vehicles, property, and bank accounts are immaterial. There are other programs also available. For information call 800-479-6151 or 800-775-0516. Goggle LIHEAP

SUGGESTED ANNUAL DONATION FOR THE WHISTLER

Basic \$25 Neighborly \$50 Angelic \$100

CCWW, 44 Church Street, Westminster West VT 05346

ONLINE AUCTION ITEMS

to see more visit www.westminsterwest.org

The online auction runs from Sunday, September 6th 9am until 5pm Sunday, September 13.

Also visit the church for onsite auction items upstairs on fair day September 12th



8"x12" cutting board made by Dwayne Johnson from Guilford. The wood he used are white oak on the outsides, mahogany stripes with maple stripes on the inside.



Stained Glass from Cindy Moses.



Dehumidifier.



Robert Burch Blown Glass Vase



Baby Back Pack Carrier.



Two skeins of Cozy Cotton 2 ply worsted weight from The Green Mtn Spinnery. One is Mulberry and one is Pacific. They come in a small tote bag.

