



FAIR WHISTLER 2024

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

POINTS TO PONDER

William Jennings Byram (1860-1925)

“I have observed the power of the watermelon seed. It has the power of drawing from the ground and through itself 200,000 times its weight. When you can tell me how it takes this material and out of it colors an outside surface beyond the imitation of art, and then forms inside of it a white rind and within that again a red heart, thickly inlaid with black seeds, each one of which in turn is capable of drawing through itself 200,000 times its weight – when you can explain to me the mystery of a watermelon, you can ask me to explain the mystery of God.”

35TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY FAIR NOTES

THE GRAND MARSALLS at this year’s parade are the children of our community (near and wide) with children being self-defined. All Grand Marshalls shall receive a baseball cap in the color of their choice.

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 trying something different: A 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 8th 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. Go to the link at westminsterwest.org, or this link <https://go.eventgroovefundraising.com/2024-west-west-fairaffle/Campaign/Details>

FAIRY HOUSES: Sam McGonigle, environmental educator at The Nature Museum in Grafton, will be at the West West Community Fair. She will provide an introduction to the magic of fairy house building beginning at 12:30pm on September 7. Come at the beginning of the activity to hear tips from Sam about the kinds of places fairies like to live. She will provide some hands-on materials for children to build their own fabulous tiny homes to entice fairies to the neighborhood! Overall, the activity will take place from 12:30 to 1:30 on the lawn near the church under the trees. Parents, this is a great opportunity to take your child or children for a walk in the woods looking for fairy house material. Bring it with you to the fair.

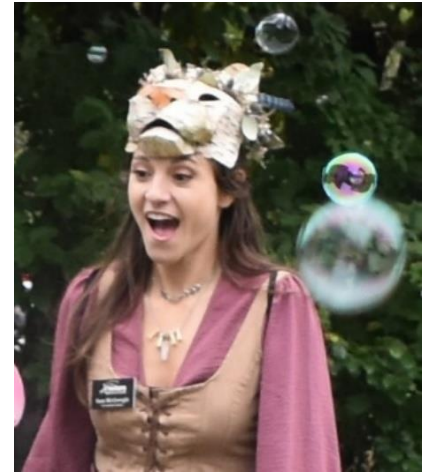


Photo of Sam McGonigle

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.

HOW THE SILENT AUCTION WORKS: To bid, go to the church website www.westminster.west.org or the auction website www.32auctions.com/westwestcommunityfair. If you click on an item that looks interesting you will get more information and the name of the donor. Bidding begins at noon on Sun. Sept 1st and ends at 5 pm on Sunday night, Sept 8th. 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.

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.

“It really boils down to this: that all life is interrelated. We are all caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied into a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one destiny, affects all indirectly.”

Martin Luther King Jr.

REFLECTIONS

“CREATED FOR FREEDOM”

Rev Susie Webster-Tolono

Congregational Church of Westminster West, UCC

Greetings, beloved community!

I'm writing to you having been back in the saddle, so to speak, for two weeks. Prior to that, I was fortunate to spend five full weeks on silent retreat, participating in the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius, the founder of the Jesuits. In my 35 days at Eastern Point Retreat House in Gloucester, Mass, I had 32 daily meetings with my Spiritual Director, 150 hour-long prayer periods (five per day, scheduled at the time and place of my choice, focusing on scripture passages assigned by my Director), and attended 33 Roman Catholic eucharistic liturgies. Outside of that, my days were free to do whatever was meaningful to me, provided it was silent.

That, my friends, is a lot of time with oneself and God. It was rigorous, to say the least, and I chuckled during one off-premises walk where my music app set on random piped the Bonnie Raitt song “Tangled and Dark” into my ears:

*Gonna get into it, babe,
Down where it's tangled and dark.
Way on into it, baby,
Down where your fears are parked.
Gonna tell the truth about it, babe.
Honey, that's the hardest part.
When we get through it, baby,
You're gonna give up your heart.*

Mmmmm hmmmm ... “you're gonna give up your heart” – that was about the size of it! One whole segment of the retreat is focused on deepening the intimacy of one's relationship with God, Jesus, and Spirit, and as I wrote to a couple of my clergy friends via postcard, if the Holy Spirit wanted to communicate something directly to me, why *wouldn't* She choose to use Bonnie Raitt's voice?

And what did we “get into”? Oh, my goodness, so much! In my retreat experience, the graces that poured forth from God to me were astonishing in their abundance and variety, and there's no way I can encapsulate them all in one brief piece of writing. That said, a few themes did emerge, and I'm beginning to understand that they all relate to God's deep desire to bring *all* of God's beloveds to

freedom. That means you and me individually, our faith communities and civic institutions, the people we adore and those we find challenging or even abhorrent, indeed all of Creation! In the New Testament epistle we know as Galatians, Paul writes, “It is for freedom that Christ has set you free,” and as I prayed through those 5 weeks of retreat, again and again the Spirit showed me ways I have become stuck – *unfree* – in old ways of thinking and knowing and living. Again and again, steady as a heart-beat, the Spirit invited me into newness, and I believe that that message is not just meant for me, but for all of us. What do you suppose that would look like – a world in which we were all truly free to be the people we were created to be? It's pretty nuanced, actually, because sometimes someone else's freedom requires me to know limits and boundaries, right? And given the commandment that we are to love our neighbors as we love ourselves, the freedom we seek must be available to all. I would say that for me, freedom has a particular feel to it: an ease of breathing deeply, a sense that even difficult seasons are survivable, a hope for the future. It is the deep spring of living water, and it's for every single one of us.

I wonder – what could we as a church and wider community do to nurture vibrant, holy freedom in ourselves and others? How can we build on our deep connections with one another, foster hospitality and connection, and minimize the isolation and fear that can be so much a part of modern life? I believe that anything that brings us together in joy (or sorrow), to appreciate beauty, learn from each other, and work together to overcome the barriers of discrimination and fear will lead us all into new freedom. I'm so glad we're in this together!

I suspect it will take some time for me to truly process the whole retreat experience, which seems like a good thing to me. I am now fully back among you, but I did take it a bit easy that first week back tip-toeing in rather than rushing. The Jesuits advice on re-entry after the Long Retreat is “Beware the ‘spiritual bends’,” which has proven to be a useful metaphor. It's possible to resurface too quickly!

And despite my true appreciation of the gifts of retreat time, I am delighted to be back in your company. In my first two Sundays back, we completed our series of “alternative” worship services, enjoying Breakfast Church as our way of communing together, and then appreciating a contemplatively oriented service the following week. I think that those of us who participated found these services to be richly nourishing, spiritually lively, and fun – and freeing! Several folks have asked if we might consider returning to these styles of worship from time to time, which sounds like a good idea to me. Next up: the Community Fair, where I look forward to connecting with so many of you and celebrating our wonderful community together.

See you soon.

Yours in faith, gratitude, and freedom, Susie

THE WHISTLE BLOWER

Westminster West welcomes **Isabeall Logan and John MacArthur** who are living in Crescent Dragonwagon's former home. Their new business is a nursery called Shin Leaf Native Plants that specializes in flowering perennial plants that are native to the northeast region. The nursery is open Fridays and Sundays from 9am to 5pm through October at 110 Arnof Way in Westminster. They also plan to be at the Brattleboro Farmers Market most Saturday 9am to 2pm. Below is a Flat-Topped Aster, just starting to bloom in Shin-leaf's meadow and towering above the ferns and grasses. Their website is shinleaf-nativeplants.com



WHY DO NATIVE PLANTS MATTER?

Having co-evolved with them over millennia, many native insects can eat only native plants. Without this food source the insects, including pollinators, can't survive. Non-native plants also may not meet the pollen and nectar needs of native pollinators. 95% of terrestrial birds in North America feed their young insects. Without the base of its native plants, an ecosystem is disrupted all the way up the food chain.

Native plants can trap and sequester carbon back into the soil where it belongs. Also, with their deep, extensive roots they do this infinitely better than turf grass or ornamentals. Native plants also help to prevent soil erosion and maintain the balance of the ecosystem.

LEARNING ABOUT LEARNING: The Abenaki root word for learning is "agaki-". It can be interpreted this way: the ag- means to uncover (reveal what is hidden) and the -aki means earth (Mother Earth). **Rich Holschuh** was saying as the word is broken down into its parts, it seems as though the meaning is that all knowledge comes from the Mother (Earth), and that learning is a process of being shown the knowledge that she reveals. Learning and teaching are aspects of the same exchange (reciprocity).

No news is good news.

A FEW NOSTALGIC MEMORIES

THAT NEED NO EXPLANATION FOR OLDER FOLKS

It took three minutes for the TV to warm up.

Nobody owned a purebred dog.

When a quarter was a decent allowance,
and made with real silver!!!

You'd reach into a muddy gutter for a penny.

Your Mom wore nylons that came in two pieces.

People went steady and WAR was a card game.

Catching fireflies could happily occupy you all evening.

'Oly-oly-oxen-free' made perfect sense.

I remember that, do you?

SUNDAY NIGHT MOVIES RETURNS

This fall the Westminster West church will host a film series commemorating the coming 80th anniversary of the end of WWII in Europe, Sunday nights at 6:30. Ray Huessy will host a series of documentary films that focus not on the great events of the war and attempted genocide, but on the testimony of the people who survived or set themselves against it, with voices from Britain, France, the US, and Germany itself. Two of the films were made by children of survivors; several feature extraordinary interviews with those who resisted; and one is an explosive German TV documentary about the memories of what happened in a small town that once was home to more Jewish than "Aryan" families. (Film titles may change, subject to availability.)

WILD GOOSE PLAYERS PRESENTS:

The Wild Goose Players has a lot going on in the near future: They open a new show, and a new space, September 13th with "Year One", a gripping original drama by writer/director Erik Gernand who has joined us from Chicago. The show will be performed Sept 13 - 22nd, with evening shows at 7:30 Fri and Sat of both weekends and 2:00 matinees Saturday and Sunday. These performances will take place at the Wild Goose space in downtown Bellows Falls, at 7 Westminster Street, a new intimate black box venue. To purchase tickets, go to their website: <https://www.wildgooseplayers.com/tickets>

Then, on November 1st, they open "Merrily We Roll Along", the Stephen Sondheim musical that just had such an amazing run on Broadway! Shows will be held at Next Stage in Putney., Nov 1-Nov 10. To purchase tickets, go to: <https://www.nextstagearts.org/the-stage.html>

WESTMINSTER WEST 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.

Sunday, Sept. 1, the Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno, Holy Communion

Sunday, Sept. 8, the Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno, Post-Fair Hymn Sing and Manna Collection

Sunday, Sept. 15, David Mulholland

Sunday, Sept. 22, the Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno

MANNA SUNDAY

"If we feed the hungry from God's plenty and satisfy the needs of the wretched, then our light shall rise like dawn out of darkness and our dusk be like noonday. We shall be like a well-watered garden; like a spring whose waters never fail." *Isaiah 58:10-11*

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 the website. Click on the DONATE button, and be sure to use "add a note" to show the purpose of the donation. (i.e., Manna Offering)

FALL EQUINOX LABYRINTH WALK SUNDAY, 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!

WEEKLY MID-DAY PRAYER SERVICE

Pastor Susie continues to set time aside for prayers for the community, usually on Thursday afternoons between 1:30 & 2:00 via live stream on our church's Facebook page. Join her at that time (or later, as it remains available online) to light a candle and raise the joys and concerns of our community in prayer.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Our pastor, Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno, welcomes visits and calls, and is also happy to visit YOU in your home, workplace, hospital room or wherever. Susie's generally in on Thursday afternoons, and can be reached at the church any time at 802-387-1175 if it's not an emergency, but the fastest ways to reach her are email susiewt@gmail.com or via cell 802-579-8356.

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
Gpaynevt@gmail.com

WEB SITE: www.westminsterwest.org

FACEBOOK: [Congregational Church of Westminster West](#)

A prayer from the New Zealand Prayer Book, which is based on the Anglican/Episcopal Book of Common Prayer, but reflective of the New Zealand iteration of that tradition:

Lord,
it is night.

The night is for stillness.

Let us be still in the presence of God.

It is night after a long day.

What has been done has been done;
what has not been done has not been done;
let it be.

The night is dark.

Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our
own lives
rest in you.

The night is quiet.

Let the quietness of your peace enfold us,
all dear to us,
and all who have no peace.

The night heralds the dawn.

Let us look expectantly to a new day,
new joys,
new possibilities.

In your name we pray.

Amen.

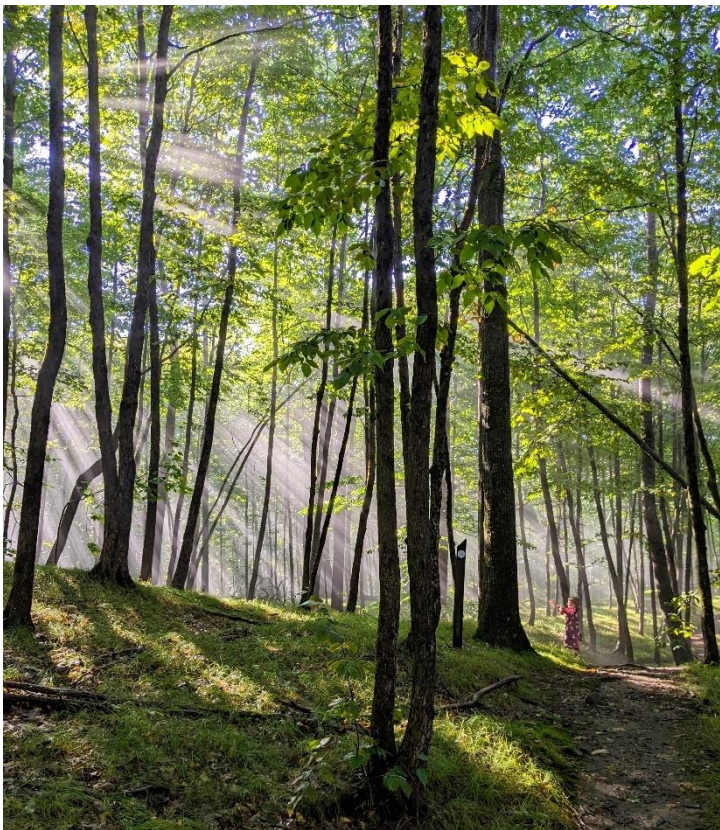
SATURDAY AT THE WEST WEST LIBRARY

The library continues their popular Saturday 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. The coffee and snacks are by donation.



ENTER THE PINNACLE'S 2024 PHOTO CONTEST

The 2024 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 2024. 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, 2024. Please include a photo credit with your submission. We look forward to seeing your photos! Below is Corey McAlevey's winning photo in last year's competition.



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.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD, SOMEWHAT

The Pinnacle board welcomes 2 new members, Nathaniel Scull and John Ralson. We thank retiring board member Noah Hirschl for his service. Continuing board officers are Jennifer Latham, chair, Bob Gay, treasurer, and Molly Wilson, secretary. Paul Wilson replaces retiring Vice Chair Camilla Roberts.

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 7th at the Westminster West Community Fair AND Sunday, Oct 6th: Putney School's Harvest Festival: Visit WHPA's table where you can view maps etc. and purchase T-shirts, paraphernalia, and books in exchange for donations

The following events do not have dates yet, so check the website at www.windmillhillpinnacle.org.

ACCESSIBILITY DAY: in October. 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. Hikers do not need to pre-register. Bring water, bag lunch, and dress for chilly weather. Meet at the Old Athens Road turnaround by 11:00am. For information and to register call Tony Coven 802-387-6650.

BALD HILL HIKE: in late October or early November. 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. RSVP to Vanesa Stern by calling 803-463-4948 or email davidandvanessa@gmail.com. Please wear good hiking footwear and bring water

LILLY POND HIGHLANDS HIKE: in November.

RADFORD TRAIL WALK: Coming soon.

The Pinnacle trails are open for visitors, with the Pinnacle cabin open for day visitors and overnight reservations. Please respect our requirement that dogs be leashed. To reserve the cabin email Valerie Barry at ste-valsvt@gmail.com. Check our website for updates on our hikes and other programs this fall at www.windmillhillpinnacle.org

WESTMINSTER CARES CELEBRATION OF AGING 2024

On Sat, Sept 21st Westminster Cares will host the annual Celebration of Aging which honors our town's 90+ year olds. The event will take place outdoors, on the back lawn of the Westminster Institute from 12:00 - 2:30pm. A light lunch will be served for all attendees. This event is for the whole community to celebrate the lives of Westminster's oldest residents. If you live in Westminster and were born in 1934 or earlier, this party is for you! If you know someone who may be eligible to participate, please let us know. For more information contact Donna Dawson at 802-722-3607 or Pete Harrison at 802-289-3776. Family members and friends of those being honored are encouraged to attend. (Rain date is Sunday, Sept 22nd.)

WESTMINSTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

The Sons of the American Revolution will hold ceremonies in Westminster on October 12 to mark the graves of Revolutionary War veterans. Graves will be marked in the Old Cemetery at the top of Courthouse Hill, and the Gilson Cemetery on Sauve Road. The public is invited to attend the ceremony and the open house afterward at the Historical Society museum. Details are being firmed up now, so watch our website, www.westminstervthis-tory.org, or our Facebook page, for times. We will post the names of the veterans to be honored; you may be descended from one or more of them, so watch for that!

The Historical Society annual meeting will be held on October 17th at the firehouse, 7:00 p.m. Chris Harlow, life-long Westminster resident and descendent of the Eleazer Harlow family which settled here in 1760 will speak about his experiences growing up in the village.

YOU ARE INVITED TO A WESTMINSTER GHOST TOWN

Rediscovering Crook's Mills
An archeological discovery in the
West Parish of Westminster

WESTMINSTER WEST PUBLIC LIBRARY
Saturday September 7
During the Westminster West Community Fair
9am – 3 pm



WHAT AND WHO AND WHY IS LEAG?

Living Earth Action Group (LEAG) is neighbors, friends, and guests who explore ways of knowing and acting that will bring us into healthy harmony with ourselves, our fellow human beings, all other living beings, and with planet Earth Herself. We have met Fridays since February 2017 in a small planning circle or to conduct special topic community-wide circles, over 200 to date. Our goal is always to provide positive information that will inspire people to take personal action that will benefit our community, the Earth, and all our relations. INFO: email Caitlin Adair at pcadair@sover.net



BOOK SALE EXTRAVAGANZA

It is another HUGE BOOK SALE to benefit the Westminster West Library. We have books in all categories for you to peruse. So many fantastic, engaging, educational, and entertaining titles to choose from. Please stock up on the books *you want on your shelf, and READ. We have books for artists, teachers, homeschoolers, readers of all genres, and research materials for all interests. Everything from how to massage your cat, great big coffee table books, classics, books about music, and a thousand other topics. This year we also have a large assortment of children's books and young adult novels, both in fiction and non-fiction. Believe me, the selection is HUGE. All books are sold 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.*

TOMATO BACON JAM RECIPE

From Jesse Haas

- 3 slices thick-cut bacon, chopped
- one yellow onion, chopped
- garlic to taste, chopped
- 2 lbs tomatoes, chopped
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 1/2 C brown sugar
- 1/4 C apple cider vinegar
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 1/2 teaspoon mustard powder
- 1 teaspoon yellow mustard seeds

Cook bacon, remove from pan, put in all other ingredients and bring to a boil. Add bacon back in and cook over medium heat, stirring frequently, until the jam is glossy and a wooden spoon leaves a wide trail across the bottom of the pan. This can be frozen, but you'll probably eat up a batch pretty darned quickly! Can also be made with canned tomatoes. Wonderful on crackers or a toasted cheese sandwich.

SUGGESTED ANNUAL DONATION FOR THE WHISTLER

Basic \$25 Neighborly \$50 Angelic \$100
CCWW, 44 Church Street, Westminster West VT 05346

YES - THERE IS NEWS FOR
THE WHISTLE BLOWER

Abbie Axtell and Evan Blake welcomed their second child to their family in Jay, VT on June 17. Joining big brother Hugo is Marceline (Marcie) Gifford Blake. Marcie arrived a bit early, but mother and baby are doing great. Charlotte Gifford and Dan Axtell are proud grandparents, and are becoming very familiar with the drive up I-91 to the Northeast Kingdom!



NATURE MUSEUM'S FAIRY HOUSE FESTIVAL

Be in Grafton, Vermont on either September 28 or 29 from 10am to 4pm for The Nature Museum's Annual Fairy House Festival! 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 this year's very special guest Troy Wunderle of Wunderle's Big Top Adventures will engage children of all ages in various imaginative and fun activities. 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.

The Fairy House Festival is The Nature Museum's annual fundraiser and draws visitors from far and wide to Grafton each September. Volunteers create a fairyland of small structures built out of natural materials, opening a portal to the incredible world around us through deep observation of nature's gifts. The funds raised at the Fairy House Festival go to support the Nature Museum's natural science programs in schools and libraries, wilderness days for tweens, wild foods workshops, summer camps for kids, mushroom talks, birding walks, and so much more. Tickets are available at <https://www.nature-museum.org/fairyhousefestival>. Tickets are \$5 for children, \$15 for adults, and children under two are free.

WESTMINSTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NEWS

By Cheryl Charles, Chair, Westminster School Board

Excitement and anticipation are in the air! School started for the children of Westminster on Wednesday, August 28! The children and teachers returned to some exciting changes at the Westminster school buildings, and some major projects underway as well.

At the Westminster Center School, the new front entry is complete, with the reconfigured reception area, principal's and nurse's offices. These changes provide additional security, and were paid for through federal funds. We have a new roof on the gym, replacing the nearly 20-year-old original roof, and the solar array on the gym roof is installed and complete! Plans are moving along for a ground mount solar array way in the back southeast corner of the school grounds in a place where they won't interfere with the children's physical and outdoor learning activities. The solar installations are being paid for by the surplus funds approved for use by the Westminster voters at Town Meeting. When complete and running, they will cover more than 100% of our current electrical usage at both the Center and West West school buildings. That's more than a \$35,000 per year annual savings.

The new nature-based outdoor learning pavilion is under construction at the Center School. The outdoor play environment at the West West school building has been enhanced with new outdoor equipment, also paid for through surplus funds approved by the voters. And a new pollinator garden with native Vermont plants is being donated at the West West school building by new local West West nursery Shinleaf Native Plants! <https://www.shinleafnativeplants.com/>

Originally planted by the school's kindergarteners, the sunflowers in the school's garden at the Center School are tall and beautiful. All the garden has been tended carefully through the summer along with the school's flock of chickens. Everything is growing and healthy, ready to welcome eager learners and dedicated staff back



for another busy school year. Please reach out to find out ways you can support and volunteer at the Westminster Community Schools by emailing Liz Harty at elizabeth.harty@wnesu.com. Questions for the school board, email Cheryl Charles cheryl.charles@wnesu.com.

35th Annual COMMUNITY FAIR

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 7th

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 Old Town Hall
Local Art Exhibit Opens - upstairs in church
Small items Silent Auction opens upstairs
- 10:00am Parade Preparation at the School
Bicycle Decorations and Drumming Rehearsal
- 10:30am Parade begins - Grand Marshalls - HONORING OUR COMMUNITIES' CHILDREN
- 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
- 2pm Talent Show begins
- 2:45pm During Talent Show - Drawing of Raffle winners and announcement of Veggie Contest winners
- 3:00pm Golden Elephant Sale ends
Small items silent Auction ends

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 \$3 for the Fun Run.

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 will supply balloons and crepe paper) and we will congregate at 10:15 at the school to "organize" the procession. ALL ARE INVITED TO MARCH and/or make floats. This year's theme is **HONORING OUR COMMUNITIES' CHILDREN**. All children are invited to come and be our Grand Marshalls (on bikes or marching).

Grand Marshall hats will be distributed to all children. As always, new neighbor and elected officials will be celebrated and we've heard that Strong Living and Ladies Against Women and, perhaps, a beaver will be there too. We always need drummers and volunteers to carry banners -no training or expertise necessary. The more the merrier! For info: Call Leslie and Tom at (802)387-5694 or email Leslie.Turpin@sit.edu

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

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 <https://www.32auctions.com/westwestcommunityfair>, Bidding begins Saturday September 1st at noon and ends Sunday night, September 8th at 5pm. Good place for holiday shopping or just treat yourself to something you've always wanted.

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

BARBEQUE DINNERS will be served after the parade until sold out. **BBQ Chicken Dinner for \$15** with a choice of breast or leg quarters, **Beyond Sausage Veggie Dinner for \$15, or Hot Dog Dinner for \$12.** All dinners include baked beans, coleslaw, corn on the cob and a drink. Ala carte items: hot dog; corn on the cob and a drink—\$3.50. Ice cream available after lunch for \$4.00.

TALENT SHOW: Nick Keil is this year's Master of Ceremonies. If you have a talent, contact Nick to see if he can fit you in the schedule.

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

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

DROP OFF TIMES: 5-8:30pm Sept 3rd - 5th. 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. (address below)

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

BENEFIT: Proceeds help fund the community newsletter *The West Parish Whistler*, and help support the community use of the church building and the community suppers.

LOCATION: 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.

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	Nick Keil	802-387-5104
Vegetable Contest	Alison Latham	802-387-5711

CHURCH WEB SITE: www.westminsterwest.org
Church (NEW) phone number: 802-387-1175



The Westminster Community Festival is coming! Saturday, Sept. 14, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (rain date: Sept. 15) on the grounds of the Westminster Institute, 3534 US-5, Westminster, Vt., and First Congregational Church of Westminster. **Free admission!** We'll have plenty of stuff to do, eat, and see as we:

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

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

View the Creative Community Collage featuring the work of more than 25 local artists, quilt makers, writers, and others is on display in the Westminster Institute's Big Hall.

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

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

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

Showcase our history. Do you know: *Where was the first mill constructed in Westminster? Who built it? There were 2 ferry crossings in Westminster, where were they located? and more...* The Westminster Trivia Game, by the Westminster Historical Society will test your child's knowledge of our storied history! Win prizes! History displays by the Westminster West Library and Westminster Historical Society.

See more of Westminster's fascinating history upstairs in the Town Hall & at the Willam C. Bradley Law Office.

Showcase our town. More than 30 vendors and exhibitors of local products and services will be on hand.

Find out more at www.westminsterfestival.org or contact us at westminsterfestival@gmail.com.

SPRING BULB PRE-ORDER OR PURCHASE at Chester's Fall Festival

On September 21 and 22 Chester Townscape will sell spring-flowering bulbs at Chester's Fall Festival on the Green near the Hearse House and the Information Booth. All bulbs are top quality, hardy, easy care, and expected to return year after year when grown in full or part sun in a well-drained location. Shipped straight from Holland, this year's bulbs include two kinds of daffodils, Purple Sensation Allium, and a red tulip tinged with sun-catching yellow. Five bulbs cost \$5, either by cash and carry at the Festival or by pre-order. Download the descriptive 2024 Bulb Order Form at www.chestertvt.gov/chester-townscape.

Pre-ordered bulb pick-up and Festival purchases will run from 9 AM–5 PM on Saturday September 21 and from 9 AM–4 PM on Sunday September 22, rain or shine. To pre-order, mail the completed form and check made out to CCA (with CT Bulbs in the memo line) to Chester Townscape, PO Box 561, Chester, VT 05143, well before September 14 to receive email confirmation to bring at pick-up time. For additional information or for those who must make alternative pick-up arrangements, contact Polly Montgomery at 802-875-5446 or montgomery-polly@yahoo.com.



At the Festival, Townscape will also raffle an attractive wooden planter created by woodworker Stu Stocker and offer maps of Chester by well-known local artist Lew Watters. The maps are ready for framing and would make excellent gifts at \$20 each. Also available will be CT's free brochures for the Main Street and the Stone Village - Depot walking tours. All sales support Chester

Townscape's seasonal floral displays at public places around town. Chester Townscape is a tax-exempt volunteer organization.

Photo from Shin Leaf is of tall yellow Sneezeweed with Great Blue Lobelia in front.

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



We pray for an end of all wars, in Gaza, Ukraine & elsewhere

FAIR 2024 NEWSLETTER

FALL 2024 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 Donna Dawson 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-

Tuesday's at the Westminster Institute from 11:00-12:00pm; led by Leslie Lassetter. Contact the Westminster Cares office if interested @ (802) 722-3607.

WESTMINSTER WEST LIBRARY

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

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.wordpress.com/>

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 – 2,248/month

Household of 2 – 3,040/month

Household of 3 – 3,980/month

Household of 4 – 4,810/month

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.

WESTMINSTER CARES PROGRAMS

Exercise Programs: see info for yoga, Strong Living and Tai Chi on the left under fall weekly events.

Meals on Wheels – available 5 days a week for eligible seniors 60 years old or older and adults with disabilities.

For information or transportation, or to volunteer to deliver meals or give rides to seniors, contact Donna Dawson at Westminster Cares at 802 722-3607 or wecares@sover.net

A SAMPLING OF SILENT AUCTION OFFERINGS



A pair of mittens from Rachael Shaw



Kerosene heater



Kerosene gas can



**Fire Light Hydrangea from Allen Brothers
It starts out white and turns pink**

MASSAGE THERAPIST

John Kurtz, specializing in myofascial release, has joined Sojourns!

John has been doing massage for over 40 years! The cost for an hour long massage is \$100.

You can use this gift card to see him on Mondays, valid through 12/31/2025

Give us a call to schedule 802-722-4023

From Sojourns

A gift card for a massage therapist. The card features a background image of a massage table with a white sheet and a purple flower. The text on the card is white and black.

