

Westminster Gazette



po box 147 westminster vt 05158

Our Community Newspaper @ <http://westminster.govoffice.com>

Vol. 6, No.4 April 2010

Kurn Hattin Students Having Good Maple Sugaring Season by



Kurn Hattin students, Aliyah Olmo-Gilmore and Camille Spafford collecting sap and recording amounts, sugar content and temperature conditions.

"It's going to be a great season. We've collected a lot of sap already and we've only been at it for a week, say, Camille Spafford a 7th grader. "This is so much fun," she adds. Maple sugaring has been an annual activity at Kurn Hattin since its founding in 1894. Science teacher, Tom Fontaine has his class fully engaged with the process. So far, the students have numbered the trees and labeled the buckets on the trees. They are responsible for measuring and collecting the sap into barrels as well as recording weather conditions and temperature on a daily basis. The larger trees with good sunlight are producing 12 or more inches of sap daily. All these measurements are graphed and studied from the science room Smart Board. "We learn so much from doing this-things we'd never learn otherwise," 8th grader, Aliyah Olmo-Gilmore states proudly. Using all the knowledge they've learned, the students are hoping to guess which tree will produce the most. Weather permitting; there will be many weeks of sap collection before they'll start the boiling process. Of course, when they're done, they'll enjoy the sweet reward of their efforts on pancakes. Kurn Hattin Homes is a charitable, year-round home and school for in-need and at-risk children, ages 6-15, from throughout the Northeast.

You are hereby notified that the Annual Meeting of the Village of Westminster, Vermont will be held at the Westminster Institute on Tuesday, April 6, 2010, at 7:15 in the evening.
Linda B. Fawcett, Clerk

WARNING FOR SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

TOWN OF WESTMINSTER, VERMONT

The legal voters of the Town of Westminster, Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Bellows Falls Union High School auditorium in Westminster, Vermont, on Tuesday, May 4, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. to take action on the following Articles:

ARTICLE I To see if the voters of the Town of Westminster will raise and appropriate money to pay the indebtedness of the Town, repair highways and other general expenses of the Town, beginning July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011, and if so, how much?

ARTICLE II To transact any other business which may be properly brought before said meeting.

30th day of March, 2010, in the Town of Westminster, County of te of Vermont.

TOWN OF WESTMINSTER SELECTBOARD

Toby Young, Craig Allen, Peter Barrett,
Paul Harlow, and Jeff Ruggiero

Special Town Meeting Set for May 4th

A special town meeting for May 4, warned by the Westminster Selectboard at its March 30 meeting, will address the pay-as-you-throw (PAYT) trash disposal plan approved in the 2010-2011 budget at Town Meeting.

On May 4, residents will be able to vote again on whether or not to approve the budget.

The selectboard expects to move to approve the budget as approved at Town Meeting. That will allow motions to amend the budget, and a motion is expected to be made to address the PAYT option.

Some residents are concerned that the PAYT issue was not adequately explained or debated. "The warning on the first Town Meeting didn't clearly state that people would be voting on pay-as-you-throw at Town Meeting," said resident Cynthia Stoddard. And even though the warning for the special town meeting on May 4 does not mention the trash issue, that is what they will be voting on, she said. "That's why it's important that people come to the meeting."

Residents should also contact town officials with their questions before the meeting, and also be sure to attend the meeting.

Why a special town meeting? After the approval of the budget with the pay-as-you-throw option at Town Meeting Feb. 27, a petition to reconsider the budget was presented to the selectboard March 23. The petition, signed by 229 residents, asks for a revote on the budget.

The selectboard accepted the petition and warned the special town meeting, which must take place at least 30 days but no more than 45 days after the warning.

What does PAYT mean?

According to the selectboard's report:

- Garbage pickup will cost taxpayers \$113,000 with or without PAYT.
- With pay-as-you-throw, after July 1 the town would provide curbside pickup of recycling every two weeks.
- Current weekly trash pickup would continue, but residents would have to purchase trash bags, at a cost of

.75 and \$1.50, in which to put their trash. Residents would still take their recycling and/or trash to the Bellows Falls transfer station, if they wish.

- Curbside recycling would cost town taxpayers \$71,280 in FY 2011.

- The cost of disposing of trash would be \$73,865 with PAYT, which is estimated to be less in tipping fees than the town would pay without curbside recycling.

Without PAYT?

Without PAYT, taxpayers would pay \$113,000 in pickup costs and \$86,900 in tipping fees. Weekly curbside garbage pickup would continue as is. Residents would have to bring their recycling to the transfer station.

Background

In 2009, voters asked the selectboard to report to the town in 2010 on the PAYT option. The report, which included the revenue and expenditures above, was presented at the 2010 Town Meeting and recommended by the selectboard.

Then selectboard chairman Paul Harlow said he would include PAYT in the budget, to be voted on later in the meeting, if the "tenor" of the discussion favored the proposal. After discussion, Harlow said comments were in favor of PAYT and he moved to include it in the budget. However, the petition signers contend that voters were not clear on what they were voting.

During about an hour of discussion on the PAYT article, during later debate on the budget, a motion to remove the \$71,000 for recycling but keep the requirement for trash bags was defeated. Voters then approved the total budget, including the PAYT option.

The special town meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 4, at the Bellows Falls Union High School. The Selectboard asks that questions about PAYT be submitted on the town website: westminster.govoffice.com by April 16 so that answers will be available at town meeting.

Reporter Susan Harlow

I would like to thank all voters that came out on such a beautiful day to cast your votes on March 2nd. I appreciated all your comments and concerns and taking your time to view them all with me. I will try to do my best as your selectmen and you can call or drop me a e-mail at jeffaruggiero@mail.com with the Good the Bad or the Ugly.

Thankyou again Jeff Ruggiero

"Let Them Eat Cake" - article on page (7)



Fire District #5

Annual Meeting will be Monday evening May 10TH @ 7pm at

The Community House in North Westminster

**THE GAZETTE GRATEFULLY
ACKNOWLEDGES
THE SUPPORT
OF IT'S UNDERWRITERS:**
Kurn Hattin Homes
Westminister School District
Town of Westminister
Durand Automotive Group
Westminister Activities Commission
Sojourns Community Health Clinic
Westminister Cares
The Current operated by the
Connecticut River Transit

**Monday April 12, 2010
5:30 – 8:00 PM**

at
Westminister Center School
5:30 - Family dinner
6:00 to 6:30- Students share classroom learning
6:30 to 8:00 - Mahesh Sharma Presentation

Professor Sharma is internationally known for his ground-breaking work in mathematics education and has a passion for helping students to learn and enjoy mathematics. Prof. Sharma has been working with teachers and students in the school system. He has provided us with opportunities to observe his teaching as he differentiates for different levels and styles of mathematical learning and integrating it with our curriculum.



- Prof. Sharma will address the following topics:
- How children learn mathematics
 - Prerequisite skills and mathematics learning
 - Children's difficulties in learning mathematics?
 - How can parents help children learn math?

Please contact Jen Cravinho at the Center School by April 9, 2010 at - 802-722-3241

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Why change the look?
In a rural region, many residents don't know public transit exists! The goal of **The Current's** look is to make it difficult NOT to notice us. The more people notice public transit, the more they are likely to get out of their cars and onto a bus!
When you leave your car behind and ride **The Current**, you decrease your energy consumption, improve environmental quality, and save commuting costs. If you are unable to drive or don't have transportation, you can benefit by riding on our Dial-a-Ride and volunteer network.
We Provide the Ride... so please tell us how we can improve to make that happen for you. Thank you for riding Connecticut River Transit last year and **The Current** this year.

Bellows Falls – Brattleboro Commuter Schedule

Time	1/21 Bellows Falls	2/12 Brattleboro	3/13 Brattleboro	4/14 Brattleboro	5/15 Brattleboro	6/16 Brattleboro	7/17 Brattleboro	8/18 Brattleboro	9/19 Brattleboro	10/20 Brattleboro	11/21 Brattleboro	12/22 Brattleboro
5:45	6:00	6:02	6:07	6:09	6:12	6:25	6:27	6:37	6:44	7:00	7:00	7:00
8:00	8:02	8:07	8:09	8:12	8:25	8:27	8:37	8:44	9:00	9:00	9:00	9:00
1:05	2:10	2:12	2:15	2:17	2:19	2:22	2:35	2:37	2:47	2:51	2:54	3:10
4:10	4:12	4:15	4:17	4:19	4:22	4:35	4:37	4:47	4:51	4:54	5:10	5:10

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Who: All children age 5-up
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Ecological Agriculture Course Offered Tatiana Schreiber

Sowing Peace Farm in Westminster West village is a tiny "pocket farm" with a larger mission: to create in this neighborhood an example of ways to enhance biodiversity and support healthy ecosystems while also producing lots of very good food. To that end, I am offering a course this season entitled, "Ecological Agriculture: The Art and Science of Gardening with Nature in Mind" from April 20th – Aug 24th . A full season of 10 classes is offered, with a beginner/intermediate class every other Tuesday 9:30 – Noon; and an advanced class every other Wednesday 9:30 – Noon.

So what is ecological agriculture? This approach, which includes elements of permaculture, forest gardening, and organic gardening methods, attempts to mimic natural ecosystems in the garden, while at the same time recognizing that gardening is inherently a human-ordered activity. We can only scratch the surface of understanding nature's processes and we must accept our limitations as gardeners and farmers. Yet, we can strive to create in our gardens and surrounding landscape conditions which favor the healthy interaction and interdependence of the multitude of soil organisms, insect and plant species that exist in any garden environment.

Topics to be addressed include: design and planning of vegetable gardens; seed starting, potting on, and planting out a wide diversity of vegetables and herbs; crop rotation, companion planting and interplanting to minimize disease and "pest" problems; soil health and soil building; monitoring and resolving "pest" and disease problems; the microbiology of compost; weedless garden or "the miracle of mulch"; intensive raised bed, minimum till systems; green manures and cover cropping; enhancing biodiversity in and around gardens and orchards; agroecological systems in Mexico, Central America, and; and the social and political dimensions of ecological agriculture.

For information and details on the fee and what is included, please contact me at (802) 387-2781, or tatianas@sover.net

Westminster Afterschool Program updates

Cooking for Life Join us for 6 free classes for adults and learn to make easy, low-cost meals that taste great. Each week you get free ingredients to try the new recipe at home with your family. Classes meet on Thursdays from 5:00-6:30 at the Westminster Center School and begin on April 29. Dinner and childcare provided.

Wednesday Clubs are a big hit. We are halfway through this session of Clubs and kids are enjoying themselves and developing skills. Clubs currently offered include: cooking, game time (outdoors or in the gym), pottery and guitar. We will start a new session of clubs after April vacation. If you have a skill or hobby that you are willing to share with a small group of students we would love to have you join us.

The Spring FUN RUN will be held on Friday, April 30 right after school. Registration forms will be available at school next week. Take advantage of the beautiful spring weather and get your lungs, heart and legs in shape now!

Contact Elaine at 722-3241 or egordon@wnesu.net for more info or to register for any programs.

The Old Athens Farm CSA is currently accepting new members!

The Old Athens Farm is a small family run NOFA certified organic farm in Westminster, Vermont. Since 1989 Michael Collins has been dedicated to growing the highest quality produce for local markets. His produce can currently be found at many local stores and farm stands, as well as at the Brattleboro Area Farmer's Market and the Londonderry Farmer's Market. The specialty of the Old Athens Farm has long been early season greenhouse crops, but they also produce a wide array of fresh seasonal produce throughout the year.

CSA stands for community supported agriculture. In a CSA the subscribers commit early in the year to buy their vegetables from a local farmer. In return for this commitment the customer is guaranteed a good price for produce whose freshness and quality far exceeds that found in any store. This early commitment gives the farmers some financial stability and allows them to better plan their growing year.

The Old Athens Farm CSA is accepting new members now for the up coming season. Pick-ups will begin in May and run through mid November. For a weekly fee members will receive produce 25 out of 27 weeks. Find more information at oldathensfarm.com, or call Mike and Rebecca at 722-9047.



Kurn Hattin Homes' Donna Aldrich and Karen Grenier, Acts of Kindness coordinators, with students (l-r) Destiny Sparks (3rd grade), Jenitza Fernandez (5th grade), Richie Waite (4th grade) and Susanna Compare (4th grade). Missing from photo is Aaliyah Olmo-Gilmore (8th grade). These students were given additional affirmation for going above and beyond in acts of kindness.

Kurn Hattin Students Practice Acts of Kindness by Kim Fine

As part of a year-long campaign on anti-bullying, the Kurn Hattin children spent a couple of weeks learning and practicing acts of kindness. They're learning that when they're kind to themselves and others, they're expressing the best of humanity.

Every day the entire Kurn Hattin community passed through signs saying, "Entering Kindness Zone." The week started with the goal of collecting 100 acts of kindness in the form of "Kindness Coupons" from each class. There were also additional activities held in the children's cottages, during their social skills classes and an essay contest. Each day there was a specific focus: self, others, campus and community. Teachers handed in all outstanding actions and those behaviors and students were rewarded. Good examples were shared daily in morning assembly. Everyone wore stretch band bracelets which read, Acts of kindness bring peace, and the many kindness statements placed throughout the school and cottages were gentle reminders. A favorite was, Treat everyone with politeness, even those who are rude to you-not because they are nice but because you are. The children were thinking about kindness everyday and it showed in their smiles, words and actions. They worked on being able to say "I'm sorry" and learned to never be a bystander when something happening is obviously not right. Long term expectations are the children demonstrating improved school environment and academics as well as being happier, more helpful and supportive of others. Kurn Hattin Homes is a charitable, year-round home and school for in-need and at-risk children, ages 6-15, from throughout the Northeast.

WINDMILL HILL PINNACLE'S 19th ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING & PICNIC – MAY 1ST

The WHPA will hold its 19th Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 1st, at the Westminster West Church, beginning at 9:30 for donuts and coffee, meeting to begin at 10am. Following a short business meeting, guest speaker Barbara Burns, Vermont state entomologist, will speak on forest insects. If it isn't raining or muddy, a picnic follows the meeting on May 1st. We try to be at the top by 1pm. Meet at the church at noon to facilitate car pooling.

To make a reservation for overnight camping at the Cabin, call Rebecca Nixon at 722-9047. For the preservation of the trails, we ask that you not hike, bike, or ride a horse on the trails when they are muddy. Visit the new WHPA website at www.windmillhillpinnacle.org



Brattleboro, VT-Michele Turner pictured here with two of her 3rd grade students from the **Green Valley School in Westminster West, VT**. Their artwork is being displayed at the Hooker-Dunham Youth Gallery all thru March and April. The Green Valley School would like to thank The Brattleboro Art Walk and the Hooker-Dunham gallery and theatre for this rare and special opportunity. The Green Valley School best known for its innovative work with the very young child, is expanding into a 5-day nature based 1st-5th Waldorf-inspired Grades program for the 2010-11 school year. For more information please call Emily Tate at 802.387.2298.

News and Upcoming Events From Compass school by Rick Gordon

Student Film Festival: The 6th Annual Compass Student Film Festival will be held April 14 at 7:00 at the school. Come see short films created by students in Eric and Julia's Humanities-Science elective. These have been super in the past and the professional judges have praised their high quality in the past. Not to be missed!

Garden Lecture Series Hosted by Compass: In the first of a series of fundraising lectures and workshops on Gardening and Landscaping, award winning author and landscape designer Julia Moir Messervy will speak on "Home Outside: Creating the Landscape You Love." April 13, 7:00 PM, Greenhoe Theater, Landmark College, Putney, VT.

Ecuador Global Connections Program: There will be presentations on the Ecuador Program scheduled for the community. If you know a place this group should present about Ecuador, student travel, or the complex issues of globalization, please contact Beth White. A descriptive article is available at www.compass-school.org.

Open House: There is an Open House planned for April 28th at 7:00 for prospective students and families. Please pass on the word about Compass to anyone who might want to learn more about Compass.

Compass Middle Schoolers to Youth for Justice Summit: The entire middle school will be attending the Youth for Justice Summit hosted by the Vermont Principals Association on Friday, April 9. This is a wonderful opportunity that parallels our study of social activism in Humanities perfectly! Students will be working with students from other middle schools around the state in one of three tracks: Diversity and Leadership, Cooperation and Understanding, Equality and Fairness. They will engage in leadership and team-building activities and create action plans around issues. It should be a great day!

Water Study: For two weeks, the Middle School examined issues around water, preparing to take action around these issues during World Water Day (March 22, 2010). One group utilized social media to raise awareness. Please join over 170 members on their Facebook Group: IM WATER, <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=107207369304142>. You can also follow their blogs: <http://imwater.wetpaint.com> and <http://www.waterhelpers.blogspot.com>.

Rotary Happenings



Receiving his pin:

Renaissance man Roger Riccio is welcomed as a new member of the Bellows Falls Rotary Club by fellow Rotarian Raynie LaWare.



Giving back to the community:

Steve Durand, owner of Durand Ford Toyota in Rockingham, is inducted into the esteemed Paul Harris Fellowship by Rotarian David Maysilles. The fellowship is named for Paul Harris, who founded the Rotary with three business associates in Chicago in 1905. The fellowship was established in his honor in 1957, to express appreciation for a contribution of \$1,000 to the humanitarian and educational programs of the international Rotary Foundation. The programs include an array of projects that save and invigorate the lives of people around the world, and enhance international friendship and understanding. These provide educational opportunities, food, potable water, health care, immunizations, and shelter for millions of individuals.



WINTER SPORTS AWARDS AT KURN HATTIN by Kim Fine

Kurn Hattin Homes in Westminster, Vermont held its Annual Winter Sports Award Banquet on March 11. The children received medals and certificates for their participation and sportsmanship in the basketball, dance, ski, snow boarding and equestrian programs. The many volunteers who help with these programs were also recognized. Kurn Hattin is a year-round, non-profit, residential home and school for in-need and at-risk children, ages 6-15, from throughout the Northeast.

WESTMINSTER GAZETTE

Editor: Peggy Porter

Board of Directors:

Elizabeth Harlow - Chairwoman

Ronnie Friedman

Toby Young

Cynthia Stoddard

Pictures and Articles

Provided by the Community
westminsternews@gmail.com

Planning Westminster: Step One

The Westminster Planning Commission is taking the first step toward revising the Town Plan. This project has to be completed by March of 2012. Before we act hastily, let us consult William Shakespeare: "To plan or not to plan, that is to question, or to suffer the stinks and regrets of outrageous developments." And John Lennon: "Life is what happens when we are making other plans." We also have our own Vermonter on development, John McLaughry, who once argued that when the federal government builds an interstate highway, which changes the location of commercially useful land, the landowners whose land was devalued should be compensated by the government. Roads play a major role in where stores and factories are located. However, John McLaughry did not argue the other side of the coin, that those whose land values increased should compensate the government. What do you think? Where do you live? Are you close to the highway, or off the beaten path?

What if Westminster could have a factory in town, providing two-hundred good paying jobs? Where should it be located? How do we decide whether a convenience store should be permitted in the Historic District? In the past, the local grocery or "general" store was usually located within walking distance of a village center. What happened to those villages where people walked to school, to work, to church to do their shopping? Did your grandparents have to go on a long trip to a hardware store? Did the household have one motor vehicle, or two, three, or four?

The first step, according to Commission members Melinda Bussino, Steve Durand, Rose Fowler, John Medeiros and Fran Renaud, is deciding the best way to implement the wishes and protect the interests of Westminster residents. How should we do that? Will residents respond to a written survey? Should it be only on paper or also on the Town website? Should we make a special effort to consult with our youth in high school, to see what they want in their town when they are adults. Or will they still be living here? Why not?

What about outdoor recreation? New York City has Central Park. But Westminster is itself like Central Park. We have woods and fields and wildlife habitat everywhere, wetlands, mountains (called "hills" in other parts) to climb, and deer to hunt and skunks to scare out from under our porches. But do we have enough places for people to walk around and enjoy the natural beauty of our town? Will bears, deer and coyotes move into our backyards if we deprive them of sufficient "corridor" space between houses? Do the people of Westminster want more hiking trails? More industry? More stores? Do we really believe that Westminster is going to grow in population? Why would people move to Westminster? To flee the grime and crime of the city? If Westminster does grow, do we need to prepare for grime and crime to come with the growth? Do we have sufficient police protection? Sufficient water resources? These types of questions need to be addressed in the planning process. And how far ahead are we planning?

What is a "walkable" village? This concept is currently promoted by state governments and municipalities in many parts of the nation. The fads of the neon strip and sprawling malls may be over. Our next story about the planning process will address this question. What do you think it means to live in a "walkable" village? Is that what you want? Why? And how would we do that? How would we plan for a village where people walk instead of drive?

Visit the Town website or call 802-722-4524 for the next Planning Commission meeting, usually at 7:00 pm, second Monday of the month.
(by John Medeiros, 722-4308, jmedeiros1234@comcast.net)

DAFFADOWNDILLY by Babs Lynde, a Vermont Master Gardener

Since the 16th century, daffadowndilly is the playful name for a very familiar springtime flower that is better known as the narcissus, jonquil or daffodil. Bursting from piles of fallen leaves and left over bits of snow, their brilliant yellow heads and tall emerald green stalks are unmistakable, and they are often labeled as the true heralds of spring.

The official botanical name for daffodils is actually *Narcissus* for the whole genus. Do you remember the Greek myth about *Narcissus*? He was said to be a very handsome youth who stole the heart of a wood nymph named Echo. Refusing to return her love, she cried herself to nothing more than a voice, and the goddess, Nemesis, avenged the poor nymph by luring the unsuspecting *Narcissus* to a gleaming lake where the boy fell in love with his own reflection. Some say he eventually fell into the lake while others claim he stayed transfixed until he faded away, but soon after, a single yellow daffodil flower emerged and forever marked the fateful spot.

The Chinese have a different lore about the flower they often referred to as "the fairy of the water." It was about a very poor but good man who stumbled upon the narcissus that poured liquid gold from its blossom which he shared with all his relatives and neighbors, thus giving good fortune to all he knew. It has since become the symbol of the Chinese New Year and highly regarded as a sign of good luck.

Daffodils originally came from Spain and Portugal but are celebrated flowers in all parts of the world today. In Hawaii, the Chinese Chamber of Commerce sponsors the *Narcissus* Festival, while the national flower for the country of Wales is also the *Narcissus*. The Canadian Cancer Society was the first to institute Daffodil Days in Toronto in 1957 and giving away a daffodil for every donation to

2010 KURN HATTIN SUMMER SPORTS CAMP

Westminster, VT—The Kurn Hattin Summer Sports Camp provides your child with a variety of learning experiences and places an emphasis on high quality individual and small group instruction. Our philosophy is learning by doing. Trained instructors from a variety of backgrounds will instruct in all facets of basic skills and strategies. Staff evaluation through observation and constructive feedback will aid the campers in development of the target skills. The camp schedule is as follows.

Girls Softball Camp—Ages 11-14

Camp Director: Sara Frantz June 28-July 2 9:00-noon
Cost: \$70

Girls Basketball Camp—Ages 11-14

Camp Director: Tom Fahner July 12-16 9:00-noon
Cost \$70

COED Basketball Camp—Ages 8-10

Camp Director: Sara Frantz July 19-23 9:00-noon
Cost: \$70

Boys Basketball Camp—Ages 11-14

Swimming and lunch included. July 26-30 9:00-3:30 p.m.
Camp Director: Dave Brodeur Cost: \$125

COED Soccer Camp—Ages 11-14

Camp Director: Dean Kinville August 9-13 9:00-noon
Cost: \$70

For additional information, a camp brochure or to register, contact Tom At (802) 721-6918.

Cabin Fever Supper

A bit late this year, just in time for Mud Season

5th Annual Fundraising Dinner
Westminster West Congregational Church

Saturday, April 17 at 6 PM

At the church

Know a good story about life in this neck of the woods?

Over a hearty meal provided by Tristan Toleno, owner/chef of the Riverview Café, join your neighbors in celebrating our little patch of the planet. Bring a strong appetite and be prepared to share or enjoy a short tales highlighting the quirky country life of our village and its environs.

Menu: Red Hen Bakery Bread, Green Salad, Wild Rice and Leek Cakes (Gluten-free and vegan), Irish Lamb Stew with Irish Soda Bread, Ranney Farm Turkey Pot Pie, Cheddar Mashed Potatoes, Butternut Squash, Maple Mousse and Caramelized Apple Upside-Down Cake. Wow!

"wine will be available for purchase"

Call 387-5694 or watch the Reformer for further details.

\$10 adults \$6 for kids (under 4 free) family max \$30

The Westminster Energy Committee is seeking residents interested in participating in a planning process for the Clean Energy Assessment District (CEAD) approved at Town Meeting.

Approving a CEAD allows the Town to move forward with setting the criteria for a program that allows homeowners and businesses to access loans for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. The loan is paid back through a special assessment on the borrower's property tax bill. The Town has one year to set the parameters of the program and bring it to Town Meeting in 2011. If you are interested in participating in the planning process send your contact information to the Town Manager, Sonia Alexander, at 722-4255 or westmin@sover.net.

The Energy Committee is an appointed committee of the Town and meetings are open to the public. If you are interested in joining the committee or attending meetings send your contact information to Sonia Alexander as noted above. The committee will be focusing its efforts on the planning process mentioned above but is also working on other projects to reduce energy use in Westminster and to provide educational information to residents and businesses in the town.

the cure for cancer. In the Ukraine is a famous tourist spot referred to as the Valley of the *Narcissus* where nearly 650 acres are covered each spring with wild daffodils!

Although yellow is the favorite color by far, daffodils come in a variety of other shades including orange, green, pin, and cream to a pure white. Many of them sport more than one or two colors as well. However, as strikingly beautiful as they may be, all varieties of *Narcissus* contain a sap called lycorine which is an alkaloid poison that can cause skin irritation to the sensitive individual or violent illness if accidentally ingested.

The bulb of the daffodil has been known to live for many years and will grow in USDA zones from 3 to 8. Most woodland critters such as deer, mice and squirrels will not disturb or eat the bulbs because of their poisonous liquid, although an occasional chipmunk may be brave enough to push them up out of the ground if they are in the way of their winter burrows.

Best of all, daffodils are among the easiest to grow. All you really need to do is dig a hole during the late fall season that is two to four times deeper than the length of the bulb (read the accompanying instructions as each variety may be a little different from another.) Make the hole wide enough to hold three to five bulbs and cover them firmly but gently with any soil type. Most flowers of the *Narcissus* family prefer partial shade, but many of them do quite well in direct sunlight.

Would you like more information about daffodils? The Master Gardeners of Vermont are trained to help you with all your needs. Call their Helpline toll-free at 1-800-639-2230, send questions by email to master.gardener@uvm.edu or visit their website at <http://www.uvm.edu/mastergardener/> for extensive information.

Aged in Vermont

Westminster Cares, Inc.



Megan Banik hands over an Easter pie, part of a meal she won in a raffle, to Pete Harrison, president of Westminster Cares, who will distribute the meal. Thank you, Megan!

Megan Banik, 8, a third-grade student at Westminster Center School, got lucky and won the sixth-grade raffle. Her prize: an Easter dinner for six. But a Westminster family will be even luckier. Megan donated the meal – which includes ham, vegetables, rolls and two pies – to a family that will be chosen by Westminster Cares.

Megan is the daughter of Paul and Molly Banik of Westminster.

Westminster Cares Nursing Program

Westminster Cares continues to provide programs to better serve the community and increase our value to the residents of Westminster. Starting in April, we will begin a Nursing program for non-emergency care such as blood pressure checks, foot care, etc.

Trudy Byington, a resident of Westminster Village, has agreed to work in conjunction with Westminster Cares to provide basic nursing services to area residents.

The RN will be available to Westminster residence, free of charge, who may not be eligible for home based services from other agencies and organizations.

The nurse will be able to provide cardiopulmonary assessment such as blood pressure, oxygen levels and lungs function checks; medication instruction, set up and occasional administration, i.e. shots; instruction in disease process, self care and prevention; uncomplicated wound care, assessment for infection and healing; and foot care.

The nurse can also assess the patient need for and assist in the referral to appropriate services.

This is not intended as an emergency service, nor to provide long-term care or replace home based nursing care.

Anyone wishing to take advantage of any of the services offered under this program, please call Westminster Cares at 722-3607 to set up an appointment. This service is for the convenience of local people and in no way takes the place of the visiting nurses program or any other professional service.

SPRINGTIME AND THE TOWN LISTERS

By Westminster Listers Babs Lynde, Mike Fawcett & Harley Rounds

It's that time of year when the Town Listers are out in full force to make sure that properties are properly assessed in Westminster's Grand List book. We normally visit about twenty percent of the town, including any properties that have acquired zoning permits during the past year. We will have the file folders associated with each of the properties that we visit, write down any changes we find, plus take photos to ensure the correctness of the data. If the changes are within the house or building or if we have additional questions, we will leave you a business card to let you know we were at your property with a note on the back of the card that shows the day and time we were there. Please give us a call as soon as possible so we can set up an appointment with you. If you have any questions, you can call us at 722-9516 or email us at wminster@comcast.net Thank you in advance for your patience!

**SEND US YOUR
NEWS !!!**

WESTMINSTERNEWS@GMAIL.COM

WESTMINSTER MYSTERY PHOTO



Where was this building located until the 1980's and what was it's primary function?

(Hint: it has something to do with the horses.)

You may email your answer to the wminsternews@gmail.com or wminster@comcast.net Phone: Babs Lynde at 802-722-9516

The answer and the winner/s will be announced in the Next Issue.

March Answer: The house was used as a stagecoach drop-off and pick-up point as well as a tavern (including rooms), and it is located on the Pine Banks Road.

March Winner: Marion Kissell was the only correct guesser, but that's because she recognized her own home.

If you have picture's you think would make a great mystery photo please stop by the town office and see Bab Lyndes. **We are in search of Pictures..**

News from Westminster Volunteer Fire and Rescue

The Westminster Fire & Rescue Department holds their monthly meetings at 7:00 PM on the 1st Tuesday of every month and a combined drill on the 3rd Tuesday of every month.

Next association meeting April 6th

The Prudential Committee meets twice a month on the first and third Monday after the first Tuesday at 7:00 PM

April meetings: 12th & 26th

Number of calls in February: 37

Number of man hours spent: 11,425

Number of calls through March 30th: 14

Number of man hours spent: 1276

Number of calls calendar year to Date: 83

Number of calls fiscal year to date: 251

Burn Permit Alert:

Anyone wishing to do an outside burn must get verbal permission from one of the fire wardens before starting a fire. You must speak with one of the wardens. Leaving an answering machine message will not count as a permit. Repeat: You must speak with one of the wardens. When calling for your permit, be sure to ask what materials are acceptable and which ones are unacceptable to burn. If the Fire Department is called to respond and the fire ends out being an illegal burn, the fire will be extinguished and a fine may be imposed. In case there is a complaint from someone about the fire, the fire department is available to investigate and extinguish the fire if necessary. All burn piles should be a least 100 feet from any building. Some of the items not allowed are: Trash, building material, anything with paint on it, cardboard,

The wardens are:

Warden :	Cole Streeter	722-3178
Deputy Warden:	Mark Lund	463-9355
Deputy Warden:	Pat Haas	387-5778
Key Person:	Jeff Ruggiero	463-3282

Window, Screens & Rain Gutters: With the warm weather approaching, windows tend to be open more often. Be sure to watch children around open windows especially those above ground level. Make sure screens are secure and in good condition. Every year there seems to be avoidable accidents where a child gets seriously or fatally injured from a fall from a window. Also, rain gutters tend to be plugged up with leaves and debris and should be cleaned out so they will drain properly and not cause a back-up.

Flooding: Because of the excessive amounts of rain this winter and spring, dangers of high water and flooded cellars becomes an issue. Residents should check the workability of sump pumps and drains. Be sure to keep watch of the cellar for incoming water. Water in the cellar can be very dangerous, especially if it comes in contact with anything electrical. The Fire Department does not have the equipment to pump water that is less than 4 inches deep. Avoid driving through puddles on the road. Their depth could be deceiving. Watch the children around potentially deep water. And don't forget the pets.

Mud Season: Although mud season is probably behind us it is always a good idea to limit travel on muddy roads, giving them a chance to dry out. Emergency equipment could have difficulty on muddy roads because of their extra weight.

Association Meeting: The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association met for their regular meeting March 2nd with 26 members present and 6 members excused. Two new members were introduced and accepted under the 6 month probation rules. The department welcomes Dan Green and Dan Bibeau as new volunteers for the department. The officers serving Chief Cole Streeter are required to have their applications in as of this meeting and will be voted on at the May 4th meeting. After traveling south during part of February, Pete Harrison brought in some patches he was able to swap with other fire departments. Some amusing and interesting stories were shared along with patches from several departments from Florida, Georgia and South Carolina.

Shelter:

The Fire Station will be open for shelter in case an event occurs where shelter is needed. Contact the Chief or any member of the department in case of any emergency needs.

The Westminster Fire & Rescue Association welcomes donations throughout the year from anyone wishing to remember a loved one or a friend.

We are looking for help. Anyone interested in volunteering their time to help the community in a time of need, please contact Chief Cole Streeter at 722-3178 or stop by the Firehouse any Sunday morning and pick up an application. We would like to have additional volunteers from the Westminster West area. There is a Fire House and an engine and a rescue vehicle located in Westminster West and more help is needed to utilize that equipment during calls.

As always, we would like to thank the community for its continued support of the fire department.

The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association operates independently from Westminster Fire District #3

WESTMINSTER HAPPENINGS

Activities

Faith Community

Meetings

ScottishCountryDance

Classes

Every Wednesday @ 7:30 in the Westminster Center School Gym. Bernard McGrath, instructor. All skill levels welcome. Contact Michael Daley for more information at 387-2601. No charge.

Putney Contra Dance

Last Saturday of every month at Pierce Hall on East Putney Falls Road, off Rt. 5 in East Putney. A beginners' workshop is taught at 8 pm, and the regular dance goes from 8:30 to 11:00 pm. A donation at the door will benefit the Pierce's Hall Building Fund. For more information, call (802) 387-5985.

Senior Lunch

Every 2nd Thursday of the month. All Westminster seniors are invited to attend. Join us at the First Congregational Church on Route 5

Bellows Falls Gallery

Downtown @ 5:30 every 3rd Friday of the Month.

Secrets of Health Aging – a facilitated discussion group and potluck. The 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of

each month at the Westminster Fire Station. Call Westminster Cares at 722-3607 for more information

Contra Dance

Every 3rd Saturday of month at 7:30 @ The Town Hall in Walpole, NH

Gentle Yoga

Every Monday at 10:00am @ The Westminster Institute: Call Westminster Cares @722-3607 for more information.

Living StrongClasses

Mondays & Thursdays @The First Congregational Church in Westminster 9:00am to 10:00am

@The Westminster West Church 6:00pm to 7:00pm

Call Westminster Cares

for more information:

722-3607

Yoga Class with Lisa Nigro-15

weejs

begins September 9 and ends December 23.

Wednesdays 7 - 8:30 p.m. at the Westminster Institute. All levels welcomed. Drop ins welcomed.

Call 722-4249 for more information.

Computer Courses offered at SEVCA Inc.

Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) is offering computer classes for those who want to enter the job market with upgraded skills, help their own business grow, or contribute in a more productive manner on the job. Computer literacy in this day and age is expected as attested to in a recent business survey in Windham County.

Toward this end the following courses are scheduled at SEVCA's main office in Westminster.

Bookkeeping / QuickBooks Technology: For those who need greater skills with QuickBooks or those aspiring for an office position as Accounts Receivable/Payable, Office Managers/Assistants. 96 hours beginning April 12.

Basic Computers: For those in need of the fundamentals and learning the language. April 6 and 8; 1:00 – 4:00 PM

Word for Beginners: Learn how to create, format, set up margins and fonts, and save documents. April 13; 1:00 – 4:00 PM

Social Networking and Your Business: For those who want to learn the social networking strategies to assist with the growth of your business. April 15; 1:00 – 4:00 PM

Introduction to Excel: Designed for the beginner user (or someone who wants to learn a few more tricks). Learn to navigate the basic spreadsheet, formatting cells and columns, and creating formulas. April 20; 1:00 – 4:00 PM

Advanced Excel: Continues where the Introduction class leaves off. Topics include creating workbooks, using functions for complicated computations and more. April 22; 1:00 – 4:00 PM

Creating Marketing Materials with Publisher: Learn to create your own business cards and design your own marketing materials like fliers and brochures. April 27; 1:00 – 4:00 PM

Pre-registration and pre-payment are required. For further information or to receive registration materials, please contact Guy Payne, Training Coordinator, 802-722-4575 x 154 or email gpayne@sevca.org. All classes will be held at 91 Buck Drive, Westminster, VT.

The First Congregational Church of Westminster

United Church of Christ

The Rev. Sami Jones McRae, Pastor

samimcrae@gmail.com

Main Street, Route 5, P.O. Box 122, Westminster, Vermont 05158, 802-722-4148

Westminstercongoline@yahoo.com

Sunday worship at 10:00 AM

Communion is the first Sunday of each month. Sunday School is held at 10:00 am from Sept to May. The church has a ramp and lift for wheelchair access as well as a handicapped bathroom. Westminster First Congregational is an Open and Affirming church, all are welcome.

Important Dates

April 6 - Women's Fellowship - 12:00 noon

April 18 - Deacons meeting after coffee hour

April 17 - Trustees - 9:00 am

April 19 - Standing committee - 7:00 pm

April 18 & 25 - Sunday School only these two weeks in April

Souper Wed will continue until the end of April. Come join us for soup and fellowship from 12-2. Donations welcomed.

Women's Fellowship will be having a summer bulb sale toward the end of April. There will be packages in the Fellowship Hall. \$4.00 a pkg. Come check them out.

The Fellowship will also be having a gas card Raffle. We have a \$100 Mobil card and a \$50 Citgo card. The drawing will be held at our last Souper Wednesday, April 28th. They are \$1.00 or 6 for \$5.00.

The Congregational Church of Westminster West (UCC Church)

Sunday Worship is at 10:00am. Holy Communion service is held on the first Sunday of every month. Prayer service is held on Thursdays, 12:30 to 12:50pm. Child care and Sunday School are available during worship hour. Choir meets most Sundays at 9:00am. Fully Wheelchair accessible.

Open and Affirming Susie Webster-Toleno, Minister

New Church Office Hours:

Susie Webster-Toleno will be at the church Monday 1-4pm and Thursday and Friday mornings until 12:30. Feel free to drop by, but it's a good idea to call if you really want to catch her, as she sometimes steps out to visit people in their homes or the hospital. She can be reached at the Church during her office hours at 387-2334, or a message may be left for her at home 254-4142 or by email ccww@sover.net

"Charles Andros, former NH/VT Apiary Inspector, will hold a **Beekeeping Workshop from 1-3:30 PM on Saturday, April 24, at 18 MacLean Road, Alstead, NH 03602.** Look for the "BEE" sign on the south side of Walpole Valley Road. Topics of discussion will be early spring management: locating apiaries, equipment, handling bees, feeding syrup and supplements, making nuclei, reversing, and requeening. Bring a veil, if you have one, as we shall be opening some colonies. We'll be inside if it is a rainy day. Registration required. email: lindena@sover.net or call 603-756-9056."

Selectboard meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7PM in the Town Hall.

Planning and Development

Commission meets the 2nd Monday at 7:00 in the Town Hall.

Westminster Activitie

Commission

Second Monday of the Month at 6:00pm at the Westminster Institute.

Westminster School Board

1st and 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 at the Westminster Center School Library.

Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association

3rd Thursday at 7:00 at the Westminster West Congregational Church

Westminster West Public Library Board 2nd Mondays at 7:00 at the Westminster West Public Library

Development Review Board meets the 1st Monday of each month at 7:00PM. at the Town Hall

Community Improvement Program Committee meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:00PM.

Westminster Cares Board meets the 1st Wednesday of every month at the Westminster Fire Station.

Westminster Institute Board meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Institute.

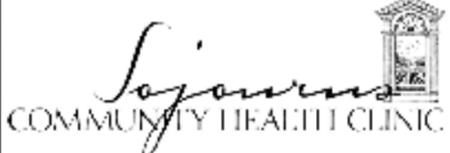
911 Committee meets as needed.

The Westminster Fire & Rescue Dept holds their monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of every month and a combined drill on the 3rd Tuesday of every month.

Westminster Historical Society meets the third Tuesday, monthly, at 7:00 pm at the Westminster Institute.

North Westminster fire district # 5 meeting, always 2nd Monday of the month 7pm 463 9530 for more info

Westminster Gazette Meeting, 7:30am at Westminster Cares on Thursday, April 22nd.



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HERRICKS COVE WILDLIFE FESTIVAL

The 11th annual Herricks Cove Wildlife Festival in Rockingham will be held on Sunday, May 2 from 10 to 4. There will be live hawks and owls, reptiles, wild animals from many continents as well as the Lawrence's alpacas.

Henry Homeyer will have a workshop on "Wildlife plantings for birds". There will be many exhibits and things for the kids to do.

Brian "Fox" Ellis will again be part of the Festival. To kick off the weekend, a buffet will be held at the Masonic Temple in Bellows Falls on Friday, April 30 at 6 pm with the program at 7 pm.

For more information, contact Alma Beals @ 722-3355.

Volunteer/s Needed to Distribute the Westminster Gazette to Local Establishments.

Usually, the 1st Tuesday of the Month

The Deadline for The April 2010 Issue of the Westminster Gazette is.

Thursday April 29th, by 5:00pm



It is a pleasure to announce that Rachel Greenberg has been chosen the January Elk's Student of the Month for Bellows Falls Union High School. Rachel, a sophomore, is the daughter of Donna Chickering of Saxtons River.

Rachel is a dedicated student who takes her education seriously. She is a pleasure to work with both in and out of the classroom and she is always willing to help others. She puts forth a tremendous amount of effort in her classes and willingly accepts responsibility.

Always friendly and smiling, Rachel's positive attitude is infectious. She has a bubbly personality and a smile that can light up a room. She is well liked by her peers and the staff at BFUHS. Always dedicated, she is always on task and leads by example with her maturity and empathy when reading or discussing sensitive issues in class. She enjoys learning and is always willing to talk about what she has learned with others. She is a true leader in the classroom and someone that people can count on.

Rachel thrives in the Drama Club and has taken part in many of the school productions, this year in Charley's Aunt and Oklahoma. Rachel is also the sophomore class president, and works hard at organizing fundraising activities and being a leader to her entire class. As a member of the BFUHS Student Council she has worked to better the school and community, offered good ideas and has shown up ready to work on the Council's projects.

Congratulations, Rachel. BFUHS is proud to have you represent us with this award.

Westminster Schools 2009 NECAP Results

The NECAP Test assesses students yearly in reading and mathematics in grades 3-8. The chart below follows the percentage of students who are proficient or above at each grade level.

Cohorts of students progress up one grade per year. To follow a cohort, read down and to the right.

Reading					
Teaching Year					
Grade	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Second	58%	58%	64%	53%	58%
Third	52%	55%	53%	57%	58%
Fourth	65%	54%	61%	54%	70%
Fifth	35%	69%	68%	69%	75%
Sixth	50%	42%	72%	60%	71%

Mathematics					
Teaching Year					
Grade	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Second	58%	61%	60%	52%	56%
Third	56%	69%	50%	57%	54%
Fourth	71%	58%	72%	50%	70%
Fifth	71%	60%	59%	72%	61%
Sixth	48%	61%	66%	40%	71%

SEVCA Announces Free Financial Literacy Classes

SEVCA – Southeastern Vermont Community Action – announces that it has space available in their upcoming financial literacy workshops. This eight part series helps participants discover how to use the money they have and take steps towards prosperity. Participants will learn to improve their relationship with money, increase cash flow and experience financial security. Topics covered include; saving, spending, credit, paying for college, purchasing a home, insurance and retirement. Class discussions will include how to take steps to build healthy credit or resolve credit issues. This financial coaching will help participants develop strong financial habits.

The workshop is free and open to the public. The 8-part workshop will begin on Wednesday, April 7 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, and continue each Wednesday night (except May 19th) thru June 2. The workshop will be held at SEVCA, 91 Buck Drive, Westminster, VT. Please call to register at 802-722-4575, ext. 151, or email kperlberg@sevca.org

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Westminster School News by Liz Bourne

On March 17th We ate Cake!

The special category for this year's Let Them Eat Cake event featured the Winter Olympics. Cakes competed as: funniest, BIGGEST, smallest, most original, most colorful, most realistic, least likely to be a cake, scariest, healthiest and fanciest.

Westminster Schools' Winter Sports Program Wraps Up its 2010 Season

Thanks to the enthusiasm of our students, the participation of many parent volunteers and the efforts of all staff, we had a great Winter Sports Program this year! All kids at both Center and West Schools enjoyed outdoor winter activities for five Mondays in February and March.

Older kids had great instruction and practice on the downhill and snowboarding slopes of Okemo. Thanks to midwinter snowfalls, younger skiers and other cross country enthusiasts made the most of trails at Grafton Ponds, while another group traveled the snowshoe trails. A school site based Outdoor Adventure program offered a variety of activities like animal tracking and building snow structures. Kindergartners skated each Monday afternoon at the Vermont Academy rink.

Special appreciation goes to June Streeter, for her assistance with the Okemo program and her past years as a parent coordinator, and also to Mandy Walsh, program coordinator for 2010, who orchestrated many new aspects to Westminster's winter traditions.

Author Visits Westminster Schools on April 5th

Sy Montgomery author, researcher, adventurer and scientist, will visit Westminster Center School, celebrating another successful March Reading Challenge. This year, students checked more books out of the school library during our annual March reading intensive than ever! Acknowledging all that reading effort, Ms Montgomery will entertain and amaze the students with details of her travels around the world and her life as a writer. She will be at the school most of the day, starting with an All School Assembly at 9:30, followed by classroom visits.

Selectboard Seek Volunteers

The Westminster Selectboard seek volunteers for the following positions. Terms are shown in brackets:

- Position (Term)
- Trustee of Public Funds (*1 year)
- Trustee of Campbell Fund (*1 year)
- Planning Commission (4 years)
- Development Review Board (3 years)
- Alternate to Dev. Review Board (1 year)
- Friends of Westminster West Town Hall (1 year)
- CRVC Wantastiquet Region River Subcommittee (1 year)
- Town Health Officer (1)
- Town Service Officer (1)

Interested persons are encouraged to call Sonia Alexander at 722-4255 or to write to the Westminster Selectboard, P.O. Box 147, Westminster, VT 05158.

*1: These positions are for three years terms and are voted by Australian Ballot. The positions will be on the 2011 ballot for 2 year terms.

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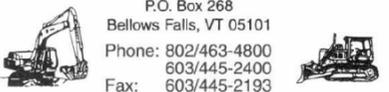
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It is a pleasure to announce that **Tyler Terrell** has been chosen Student of the month by **Hodgkins & Sons, Inc.**

Tyler, a senior at Bellows Falls Union High School, is the son of Peter and Patti Terrell of Westminister.

While at Bellows Falls, Tyler has been involved in a variety of activities. He is a member of the Math Team, the Scholar's Bowl, and the New Era. He has been a part of the drama club for four years, apprenticing and becoming lighting director for the fall dramas and spring musicals.

Ty ran indoor track for the school his junior and senior year and was inducted into the Jesse A Judd chapter of the National Honor Society last spring.

One of his teachers refers to Tyler as "a bright, mature, responsible, and motivated young man with great potential and a desire for learning."

Tyler plans to continue his education next fall at Champlain College, majoring in Game Programming.

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5TH ANNUAL SPRING FLING
Featuring. . .

5K Road Race	9:00 a.m.
T-Bone – Tom Stankus – The Pied Piper of Children	12:30 p.m.
Early Times Band – Country & Rock Band	1:30-3:30p.m.
Renaissance Farm Vaulting Demo	2:00 p.m.

Come and enjoy. . .

Entertainment & live music throughout the day	Craft Shack
Baseball & Softball Tournaments	Inflatable Ride
Health Fair presented by Springfield Hospital	Youth Choirs
Face Painting	4H Horse Demonstration
Concession Stand – serving breakfast and lunch	Westminster Fire Dept. Display
	Capital District VIP Corvette Club
	VT Kids Against Tobacco Booth

Where and When:
Kurn Hattin Homes
Westminster, Vermont
I-91, Exit 5
- Follow the signs
Saturday, May 1, 2010
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



*A Free Will Offering will be graciously accepted to benefit Kurn Hattin's H'Olympics Program.
For more information, call Tom Fahner at (802) 721-6918*

Ronnie Friedman, director of Westminster Cares since 2001, was named Westminster Citizen of the Year by the selectboard at Westminster's Town Meeting.

"We greatly appreciate the many years of dedicated service that Ronnie has given to Westminster Cares and to the senior citizens in town," said Paul Harlow, chairman of the selectboard.

Before Friedman began working for Westminster Cares, she was nutrition director at the Council on Aging for Southeastern Vermont for more than 25 years. In 1974, she moved from New York City to Westminster West, where she lives with her family. "The award is actually for all the volunteers who spend lots of hours working for Westminster Cares – they are the ones who really make me look good," Friedman said.

This is the fourth year that the Citizen of the Year Award has been given out. Previous honorees were Sam Streeter, Hank Anderson and Walt Jennison.

The selectboard asks for nominees for the award in the fall. Award winners receive a plaque, a clock and their names are engraved on a large plaque in the town hall. Westminster Cares is a local organization that creates opportunities for seniors and disabled adults to live with independence and dignity in the community. Some of its programs are Meals on Wheels, Strong Living classes and visiting elderly and shut-in residents. Volunteers are always welcome. Contact Friedman 722-3607 or by email at wecares@sover.net.

School Board Blog

In an effort to increase transparency and communication with the public about the school board, Westminster Board member Rick Gordon has been keeping a blog <http://www.rick-westboard.blogspot.com/>. Please keep track of this site for information and reflections on the workings of the school board.

Westminster Gazette

TOWN OF WESTMINSTER
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