



Westminster Gazette



po box 147 westminster vt 05158

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

Vol. 8, No.4 April 2012

THE BEST THINGS ABOUT SCIENCE!



By LIZ BOURNE

"Science is...
 ...discovering." (Audrey)
 ...being a good explorer." (Ryan)
 ...a thing you test before you know what you're going to make."
 (Jackson)
 ...magic that we haven't learned yet, but not magician magic. It's amazing how much more we have to learn about." (Syon)
 "The best thing about science is getting dirty!" (Owen)
 These second graders - and the rest of their Westminster schoolmates -

had a chance to show and share their knowledge at the Center School on Science Night, Wednesday, March 21.

The evening began in a packed dining room with pizza and an introduction by Meredith Wade, who described "What is Science Inquiry?" Meredith is an experience elementary educator and teacher of teachers from Synergy Learning in Brattleboro. She's been working with Westminster staff and students to enhance and enliven science learning in our schools.

Visitors received Science Passports listing hands-on activities in every classroom. Students guided families through experiments in their own classrooms, then explored other cool stuff, ranging from straw kazoos in the music room to maple syrup making in the third grade.

- IN MEMORY OF PEGGY PORTER - THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DID

It is with great sadness that we write that Peggy Porter, our editor for many years, passed away last month. Peggy was a sweet and caring person and will be missed by many.

When the Gazette was in need of an editor, Peggy decided she would take on this great task. She learned the program, dealt with the publisher, made deadlines and joined us for our monthly board meetings (Ok she "dealt" with us also). Peggy would say "Just tell me what you want me to do."

Peggy's strengths included organization, professionalism, persistence, and thoughtfulness for the town, its members, and the community as a whole. Her earnest efforts built a strong foundation for our community paper. Time and again she went "above and beyond" to work with

contributors, advertisers, and to meet deadlines, even when she wasn't feeling well. Her husband Mark was so helpful in technical support as needed.

It was at the monthly meetings that we might hear of her camping trip out West with her husband, or how Taylor was doing at school. The grand kids. (Grandparents, need I say more). Peggy loved spending time with her family. Our thoughts are with them.

Whether cleaning the church, helping out at a function, or attending a Gazette meeting, Peggy never complained about herself. She was always there for someone else. We remember Peggy Porter with respect and appreciation.

Ginger Cook and Elizabeth Harlow, on behalf of the Westminster Gazette

- WESTMINSTER RECREATION NEWS -

IMPROVING THE WESTMINSTER POOL RECREATION AREA

Westminster Recreation board members have been working on improvements to the area known as the Westminster Pool on Morse Brook Road, to make this beautiful area more family friendly.

First, we would like to thank the voters for approving our request for funds at Town Meeting.

We'd also like to extend our thanks to Buck Adams and Hodgkins & Sons for providing boulders. These were needed as we thought that vehicles should not be driven in areas other than the parking area - except for the Fire Dept. trucks as they occasionally need access to the pool for a water supply, thus, we installed a gate. We've received a lot of positive feedback for what we've accomplished so far, and are glad for those who

have joined in the effort.

The next things we want to accomplish are fixing the outlet valve and replacing the picnic tables. We're also looking in to offering swimming lessons again (like there were in the 70's - does anyone remember?). Anyone certified that would be interested?

While we do not have a specific meeting schedule, our next meeting is set for Wednesday, April 25 at 7 p.m. at the Fire Station if you're interested in attending.

Feel free to call any of these board members for information - Walt and Cilla Allbee at 722-3932; Andy and Alisa Daigneault at 722-4036; Eric Anderson and Beth James at 722-3249.

WEST. CARES SEEKS ASST. DIR.

There is an opening for Assistant Director for Westminster Cares. The position is part-time. Responsibilities include working to further the programs and services of WC, fund-raising, event-planning, etc.

Experience in social service programs and fund-raising is desired. Please send a letter of interest and resume to Westminster Cares, PO Box 312, Westminster, VT 05158 or e-mail wecares@sover.net.

**AT THE REQUEST OF
 THE SELECTBOARD,
 THE TOWN OFFICES
 WILL BE CLOSED
 ALL DAY ON
 THURSDAY,
 APRIL 5, 2012.
 WE APOLOGIZE
 FOR ANY
 INCONVENIENCE.**



HELP SAVE THE WESTMINSTER POOL FISHING DERBY

We are saving the Westminster pool fishing derby. We thank Fran Spaulding and family for all their years of dedication to this event. We need to raise \$1500 to keep the derby going. We are asking the community for cash or check donations. Please help us save the derby! Call Brenda at 376-7599 for more information or to donate for this event, which will be happening in May of 2012. We also need donations of prizes, like fishing poles or bags, etc. And on Derby Day we will need volunteers to help make the derby run smoothly. Thank you for your support.

AQUEDUCT SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

The Westminster Aqueduct Society Annual Meeting is on Monday, May 7 at 7 p.m. at the Westminster Institute.

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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

Bellows Falls to Brattleboro											Brattleboro to Bellows Falls													
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21				
5:45	6:00	6:02	—	6:07	6:09	6:12	6:25	6:27	6:37	W	6:44	7:00	7:00	7:02	7:12	7:17	7:26	7:28	7:40	7:44	7:47	7:50	8:00	—
—	8:00	8:02	—	8:07	8:09	8:12	8:25	8:27	8:37	W	8:44	9:00	9:00	9:02	9:12	9:17	9:26	9:28	9:40	9:44	9:47	9:50	10:00	10:15
1:55	2:10	2:12	2:15	2:17	2:19	2:22	2:35	2:37	2:47	2:51	2:54	3:10	3:10	—	3:22	3:27	3:36	3:38	3:50	3:54	3:57	W	4:10	—
—	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	5:12	5:22	5:27	5:36	5:38	5:50	5:54	5:57	W	6:05	6:20

W - Wave down stops (See page 4-5) — Bus does not stop at this time T - Effective March 30, 2009

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BELLOWS FALLS

March Mystery Photo



Last month's mystery picture in the Westminster Gazette was Artie Aiken and his home-grown pumpkin - one he grew without milk or any of the other procedures used today for large pumpkins! Artie said it was on display at the Harlow Farmstand for a couple of months. Artie's going to be 99 years old this year!

Correct guesses came from Bill O'Connor and Maggie and Don Nowers.

SPAGHETTI FUNDRAISING DINNER

Compass School Class of 2013 is hosting a Spaghetti Dinner at the Moose Lodge on Westminster Street in Bellows Falls on Saturday, April 14 at 5:30 p.m. Dinner will cost \$8, with a maximum \$30 for a family. All proceeds benefit the Compass School junior class trip to the Dominican Republic in May.

Compass School opened its doors in 1999, serving up to 100 students in grades seven to 12. Compass offers a purposeful and focused learning environment with opportunity for hands-on and community-based learning. Compass School aims to help each student develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes to succeed in college, enter the work force or pursue their dreams.

Compass has shown the ability to provide engaging and personalized learning experiences to help a diverse population of students find success in school and beyond (with a 100 percent graduation rate and near 100 percent college attendance rate).

The "GlobalConnections Travel Program" aims to improve international understanding for our students, creating engaged citizens with global understanding. Compass is dedicated to ensuring every student participates in the junior trip, regardless of financial ability to pay. Join the junior class for the spaghetti dinner to learn more and to support this important opportunity for local students.

Contact Betsy Jaffe, Director of Admissions and Development, for further information, driving directions, or to arrange a visit at 463-2517.

HERRICKS COVE WILDLIFE FEST MAY 6

Celebrate spring and wildlife at Herricks Cove on the Connecticut River on Sunday, May 6 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This festival includes nature presentations, activities and programs featuring live animals, guided nature walks, food, workshops, a wildlife parade and crafts for children, birding and much more.

Presenters are Granite State Zoo, Vermont Institute of Natural Science, Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, Southern Vermont Natural History Museum, The International Wolf Center and many more.

For more information please contact Alma Beals at madalma13@yahoo.com or call 722-3355.

LOCAL STUDENT SINGERS SHINE AT CHORAL INVITATIONAL



On March 21, seven local middle and high schools wowed the standing room only audience at Kurn Hattin Homes' 20th Annual Choral Invitational. The schools - Bellows Falls Middle School, Walpole Middle School, Fall Mountain Regional High School Madrigal Singers, St. Joseph School, Leland & Gray Middle School, Leland & Gray A Capella Group, and Kurn Hattin School all performed three selections each. Some of the songs were instrumentally accompanied by both staff and students.

Special guests that evening were professional performers Tim Janis and Moonlight Davis. Both volunteer their time with the children at the Homes. Moonlight Davis joined the Kurn Hattin students on "I'll Fly Away" and Tim Janis recorded the entire show. Canned goods and cash donations were collected by the student council for the food shelf at Our Place in Bellows Falls. It was a remarkable evening showcasing the music being made in our schools.

Pictured is eighth grader Tessa LaFoe soloing on the spiritual, "I'll Fly Away."

**Send Your News To:
westminsternews@gmail.com
or check us out on the Town's Web site**

- News from Westminster Cares -

The Westminster Cares, Inc. Board of Directors met March 7 at the Westminster Fire House at 4 p.m. Westminster Cares creates opportunities for seniors and disabled adults to live with independence and dignity in the community. Your support to this care-giving organization is a way for all of us to take care of our friends.

Services provided: Meals on Wheels -14 people are now on meals.

Advocacy: visited adult day care center in Brattleboro with Westminster residents, accompanied an individual to two different social services appointments and visited a residential care home in Ascutney with Westminster residents.

Transportation - During the month of February, nine different volunteers provided 16 rides for seven different people for a total of 460 miles.

Nursing program: During February our nurse made 13 visits to four different homes in Westminster for a total of 10 hours.

Equipment loan - several pieces of equipment loaned out in February. We currently need wheel chairs in good condition and walkers with wheels, seats and brakes.

Meetings attended in February: bookkeeper, Gazette, Development Director.

Web site, garden tour and search committee.

Programs in February: Two Secrets of Healthy Aging session, four Yoga classes, 24 Strength Training classes held and five Artist in Each of Us classes with visiting artist Marlene Kramer

Anyone interested in learning more about Westminster Cares, volunteering to deliver meals on wheels or driving neighbors to doctor appointments, working on a committee, making a contribution or attending a workshop may contact Ronnie Friedman at 722-3607 or by e-mail at wecares@sover.net.

Equipment available: Walkers, hospital bed, commodes, shower chairs.

In memory of Peggy Porter from Pete and Judy Harrison

In memory of Peggy Porter from Annette Spaulding and Patrick Madden

In memory of Peggy Porter from Judith and Kenneth Bernard

In memory of Peggy Porter from Jackie Fox

In memory of Peggy Porter from Sharron and Richard Mirke, Jr.

Westminster Cares welcomes donations throughout the year from anyone wishing to memorialize or honor a loved one or a friend. Send to:

Westminster Cares, PO Box 312, Westminster, VT 05158.

NEWS FROM THE WESTMINSTER VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE

The Westminster Fire & Rescue Department holds their monthly meetings at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every month and a combined drill on the third Tuesday of every month. Rescue training is the second Tuesday of the month.

Next association meeting April 3 at 7 p.m.

The Prudential Committee meets twice a month on the first and third Monday after the first Tuesday at 7 p.m.

April meetings: April 9 and 23

Number of calls in February: 40

Number of calls through March 27: 43

Number of calls calendar year to date: 101

Number of calls fiscal year to date: 313

Association Meeting: The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association met for their regular meeting March 6 with 30 members present and five members excused. Currently there are 41 members of the volunteer fire department. Matt Daskal and Matt Cook were welcomed as full members after having successfully completed their six month probation period. Matt Daskal is the town manager for the town of Westminster and Matt Cook is a former member of the department having served from 2005 to 2008.

The current members of the Westminster Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department are as follows:

Chief Cole Streeter

Deputy Chief Mark Lund

Deputy Chief Real Bazin

Captain Tim Wilder

Captain and Safety Officer Jeff Ruggiero

Lieutenant Gary Cobb

Rescue Captain Wanda West

Rescue Lieutenant Jon Parker

Christina Aguire

Paul Banik

Matt Cook

Paul Cote

Tony Coven

Matt Daskal

Lenny Derby

Mike Fawcett [association 1st trustee]

Justin Fuller

Mike Ghia

Steve Goodell

Dan Green

Pat Haas, Fire Warden

Pete Harrison [association secretary/treasurer]

Greg Holton [association president]

George James

Heather Kampfer [association vice president]

Beth Lynde

David Lynde

Bob Lynde

Alana Mammone [association 3rd trustee]

Paul Millman

Pat Moran

Bill Muzzey

Ernie Norman over 46 years of devoted and dedicated service

Billy Nowers

Josh Perry

Glenn Rogers

Kevin Shrader

Jason Smith

Ally Talbot

Jon Taylor [association 2nd trustee]

Kevin Ticino

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 backup.

Cell Phone and 911: Be aware if you call 911 from your cell phone, you will be connected first to the New Hampshire State Police. They will ask you a series of questions just in case they lose your call. They will then transfer you to the Vt. 911 where you will be asked a series of questions, probably the same ones. Vt. 911 will then transfer you to our dispatch center, the Southwestern New Hampshire Mutual Aid who needs to get the call to tone our department and an ambulance. This all takes time. Our suggestion is, if you have to call 911 using a cell phone, call Mutual Aid directly at 1-603-352-1100. This number works better and quicker from a regular phone also.

Have that number in your cell phone memory. It could save a life.

Recent Donations received:

Alice and Garry Caggiano

Matt Daskal

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

We are always looking for new members: 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, 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, Inc. operates independently from Westminster Fire District #3.

Watch for the Spotted Fruit Fly

by Babs Lynde, a Vermont Master Gardener

Part of my job as a Vermont Master Gardener is to warn the general public when there is a danger or potential danger or nuisance to our native flora, growing crops or our integrated home horticulture. Red flags are up this year for a particularly voracious fruit fly that could substantially cripple our fruit trees and/or berry crops.

This spotted fruit fly, also known as the spotted wing *Drosophila*, is part of a large family of fruit flies that are sometimes referred to as vinegar flies. Most vinegar flies wait until fruit is dying or decaying before ravaging (thus the name "vinegar"), but this spotted fruit fly doesn't wait like the rest. In fact, it prefers its fruit before it begins to rot which makes it a real danger to our crops. It loves most of our fruit trees including some varieties of apple, cherry, plum and nectarine, but it seems most aggressive towards the grape, strawberry, blackberry, blueberry and raspberry.

The spotted wing *Drosophila* is very tiny, only 2 to 3 mm (1 inch = 25.4 mm), but its ability to lay hundreds of eggs in one season, being winter hardy to our area and able to decimate fruit in short order makes it especially treacherous. In fact, this fly is capable of having 10 to 13 generations within a single season if the area temperatures are supporting of its type.

Being pale brown in color with large reddish eyes, the males' most distinguishing features are the two black spots, one on each wing, towards the tip end. The female fly, which does not display these black spots, will lay a small number of eggs just within the skin of the ripening fruits, and will continue to lay eggs over and over again in many different areas. The young larvae, or maggots, hatch within days and their feeding creates brown, soft, sunken areas in the fruit. Not only does this lessen marketability for our fruit crops, but it also compromises the health of the fruit and allows other insects and fungal and bacterial disease pathogens a foothold to further damaging or destroying the fruit and its supporting tree or bush.

Thought to be originally from Asia, this fruit fly has traveled across the United States from Oregon and Washington where the battle is still being fought to control its overwhelming numbers. The best pest management has been early detection and early removal of ripe or over-ripening fruits and cleaning up debris and other wastes around the crop areas.

Adult spotted wing fruit flies begin to emerge during late May and early June, and if you suspect that you may have seen this particular fly on your fruit this upcoming year, you can contact the Master Gardeners of Vermont, or University of Vermont Extension pest expert Vern Grubinger at vernon.grubinger@uvm.edu or call him at 257-7967 ext 303. You can also read his article concerning this pest and many others at www.uvm.edu/vtvegand-berry.

You can also make your own traps if you want to catch a few samples for reporting purposes. Simply fill a few small lids or shallow tea plates with apple cider vinegar and a couple drops of dishwashing liquid (the dishwashing liquid ensures that your fly samples will drown) and hang or prop your traps in as close proximity of the fruit as possible.

The traps must be set before the fruit has ripened. Gently pluck the drowned flies out of the traps with a pair of tweezers or drain the fluid from the caps, allow them to dry either in the caps or on a paper towel or napkin, and place them in a zip-lock plastic bag for easy identification.

Would you like more information about the spotted fruit fly? The Master Gardeners of Vermont are trained to help you with all your gardening needs. Call their Helpline toll-free at 1-800-639-2230, send questions by email to master.gardener@uvm.edu or visit their Web site at www.uvm.edu/mastergardener/ for extensive information.

Aged in Vermont

Westminster Cares, Inc.



MEET TRUDY BYINGTON, YOUR COMMUNITY NURSE

It was a name tag worn by a friend that got Trudy Byington, Westminster's community nurse, into nursing. Trudy had been working in a factory for 13 years, and she and her husband had a three-year-old son and a set of twins on the way, when she saw the name tag that read "G.N." She was curious.

It turned out that the friend had earned her licensed practical nurse degree, and then attended New Hampshire Technical College for a year to become a registered nurse.

"I said 'I can't do four years, but I can do two years,'" Trudy says. So she took two years of evening classes while still working, then, as she says, "we took the plunge and said we'll suffer through." She quit her job in 1989 and went to school full-time at New Hampshire Technical College. "My mother [Henriette Swarts, a Westminster resident since 2009] was my biggest support, along with my husband [Rob]."

After graduating in 1991 and getting her R.N. license, Trudy worked at Cheshire Medical Center in Keene and then the Visiting Nurses Association, where she stayed for more than 17 years. "I got a lot of experience, and met a lot of people in the community," she says.

When Ronnie Friedman, Westminster Cares' executive director, was looking for a community nurse in 2010, Trudy was ready to turn to more direct dealing with patients, and took the job. She also works part-time in some of the Windham Northeast Supervisory Union schools.

Trudy was born Trijntje Swarts in the Netherlands, and then immigrated to Canada with her family when she was a year old. They moved to the U.S. when Trudy was four, and two years later to Bellows Falls.

As the community nurse, Trudy is referred by Westminster Cares to elderly and adults with disabilities who may not be eligible for home-based services from other agencies and organizations. Her care is free. She does nonemergency care, such as foot care and wound care, help with medication, blood pressure checks and lots of assessments.

Many of her calls are to people who are unsure what they need. Are they ill enough to call a doctor? What should they do? Their health is starting to fail; what are their options?

"It's a lot of education," Trudy says. "Often it's reinstruction of things people have already learned, like how to administer insulin. Sometimes they just need somebody to talk to and to tell them what resources are out there and refer them to the appropriate services. And it's often connecting people back with their families. A lot of it is reassurance – is what I have normal or not?"

"I still like home care best, especially dealing with the elderly," she says.

If you think you or a loved one could use Trudy's services, call Westminster Cares at 722-3607.

"Aged in Vermont" is a monthly article on aging issues, organized by Westminster Cares. We're asking local professionals and residents with an interest in these issues to write them.

The articles are not just reading material for the "aged." Young, old and middle-aged readers – anyone with an elderly parent, relative or friend, or who just wants to learn about these important issues that affect us all – is invited to take a look. Remember: "It's not how old you are; it's how you are old."

We address such topics as losing a pet, sleeping problems, supplements, advanced directives and creativity. We explore questions such as should I move to town? and decision making: whose life is this anyway?

Ideas for future columns? Would you like to write one? E-mail Ronnie Friedman at wecares@sover.net.

**Send Your News To:
westminsternews@gmail.com
or check us out on the Town's Web site**

WESTMINSTER MYSTERY PHOTO



Where was this covered bridge located and when was it replaced?

You may e-mail your answer to westminsternews@gmail.com or wminster@comcast.net or phone Babs Lynde at 722-9516. The answer and the winners will be announced in the next issue.

March Answer: On Page 3.

If you have pictures you think would make a great mystery photo stop by the town office and see Babs Lynde.

We are looking for more mystery pictures. Have any?

COMPASS COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES & UPCOMING FILM FESTIVAL



A still from "Bowling for Love," one of the films in last year's Compass School Film Festival.

Once again this year, Compass School has a very impressive list of colleges recognizing our seniors with acceptances as well as significant merit-based leadership awards.

The list of colleges offering acceptances to Compass 12th graders include (among others): Bard, Bennington, California College of the Arts, Carleton, Clark, Eckhard, Gettysburg, Green Mountain, Ithaca, Juniata, Kalamazoo, Lesley, Lewis and Clark, Macalaster, Prescott, Savannah College of Art and Design, SUNY-Purchase, UVM Honors College, UNH, Ursinus and Wheaton. Merit based scholarship offers for this year's class is nearly half a million dollars over four years!

At Compass, we are thoughtful and deliberate about how the diverse experiences in our program develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for students to succeed in college and the world beyond high school. Even something seemingly as fun orientated as Spring Carnival is designed to get students to strive for quality and excellence, even if engaged in somewhat silly games.

Upcoming Public Events at Compass include:

April 12: Open House for Prospective Students (6 to 8 p.m.)

April 14: Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser for the Junior Class Service Immersion Trip to the Dominican Republic at the Moose Lodge in BF (5:30 to 7 p.m.)

April 19: 8th Annual Compass Student Film Festival (7 p.m.)

WESTMINSTER HAPPENINGS

Activities

Scottish Country Dance Classes

Every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. 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 beginner's workshop is taught at 8 p.m., and the regular dance goes from 8:30 to 11. A donation at the door will benefit the Pierce's Hall Building Fund. For more information call 387-5985.

Senior Lunch

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

Bellows Falls GalleryWalk

Downtown at 5:30 p.m. every 3rd Friday of the month.

Secrets of Healthy Aging

A facilitated discussion group and pot-luck. The 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at the Westminster Fire Station from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Call Westminster Cares at 722-3607 for more information

Contra Dance

Every 3rd Saturday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall in Walpole, N.H.

Gentle Yoga

Every Monday at 10 a.m. at the Westminster Institute. Call Westminster Cares at 722-3607 for more information.

Living Strong Classes

Mondays & Thursdays at the First Congregational Church in Westminster from 9 to 10 a.m. or at the Westminster West Church from 6 to 7 p.m. Call Westminster Cares for more information at 722-3607.

Knitting Together

Join us every Wednesday, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Village Square Booksellers, downtown Bellows Falls. Bring your knitting needles, we have the yarn and casual instruction if needed to knit hats, mittens and sweaters for area kids. All our yarn is from community donation and we distribute our completed work to all area schools and Parks Place. More knitters at all skill levels are wanted and we can promise you an enjoyable experience. For details or to donate yarn contact Caroline at 463-4653.

Faith Community

The First Congregational Church of Westminster United Church of Christ

The Rev. Sami Jones McRae, Pastor. Main Street, Route 5, P.O. Box 122, Westminster, 722-4148. Sunday worship at 10 a.m. Communion is the first Sunday of each month. Sunday School is held at 10 a.m. from September 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.

The First Congregational Church of Westminster

The Congregational Church of Westminster West (UCC Church)

Sunday Worship is at 10 a.m. Holy Communion service is held on the first Sunday of every month. Prayer service is held on Thursdays, 12:30 to 12:50 p.m. Child care and Sunday School are available during worship hour. Choir meets most Sundays at 9 a.m. Fully wheelchair accessible. Open and affirming. Susie Webster-Toleno, minister.

New Church Office Hours: Webster-Toleno will be at the church Monday from 1 to 4 p.m. 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 e-mail at ccww@sover.net.

Meetings

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

Planning and Development

Commission 2nd Monday at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall.

Westminster Activities Commission

2nd Monday of the Month at 6 p.m. at the Westminster Institute.

Westminster School Board

1st and 3rd Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Westminster Center School Library.

Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association

3rd Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Westminster West Congregational Church

Westminster West Public Library Board

2nd Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Westminster West Public Library

Development Review Board

1st Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall

Community Improvement Program Committee

meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

Westminster Cares Board

1st Wednesday of every month, at the Westminster Fire Station at 4 p.m.

911 Committee as needed.

The Westminster Fire & Rescue Dept.

holds their monthly meetings on the 1st Tuesday of every month, at 7 p.m. and a combined drill on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at the Westminster Fire Station.

Westminster Historical Society

2nd Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Westminster Institute.

Westminster Gazette Meeting

Thursday, April 19 at 7:30 a.m.

Westminster Recycling Committee

Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Westminster Fire Station



KURN HATTIN TO HOST REGIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL JAZZ INVITATIONAL

On Wednesday, April 11 at 7 p.m., jazz bands from seven local schools and the Keene Jazz Orchestra will participate in the Annual Kurn Hattin Jazz Invitational. The event will be held in the Higbie Auditorium in the Mayo Memorial Center at Kurn Hattin Homes.

The schools participating are Brattleboro Area Middle School, Bellows Falls Middle School, Bellows Falls Union Middle School, Claremont Middle School, Vermont Academy, Weathersfield Middle School and the Kurn Hattin School.

Special guests are the Keene Jazz Orchestra. Tenor saxophonist, Scott Mullett, who is an alumnus of many world-class touring bands, including Woody Herman and Artie Shaw, leads the Keene Jazz Orchestra. Scott teaches privately, plays throughout New England, and is adjunct faculty member at Keene State College. Master of ceremonies is Eugene Uman, founder of the Vermont Jazz Center.

Admission to the concert is free, with canned goods being collected by the Kurn Hattin Student Council for donation to the food shelf at Our Place in Bellows Falls.

For more information, contact Lisa Bianconi at 721-6931.

THE GAZETTE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT OF ITS UNDERWRITERS:

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westminsternews@gmail.com

The Deadline for The May 2012 Issue of the Westminster Gazette is Wednesday, April 25th by 5 p.m. Publish Date is Tuesday, May 1st

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BFUHS DRAMA CLUB DINER THEATER FUNDRAISER

The Bellows Falls Union High School Drama Club presents their annual dinner theater featuring an Italian dinner and the production of, "The Ghost of Jeb Taylor." on Friday, April 13 at 6 p.m. in the BFUHS cafeteria.

One hundred and fifty years ago no one mourned the passing of miser Jeb Taylor...no one, except the Sheriff, who never solved his murder. So now the law-maker has returned, along with the ghosts of those who were near the scene of the crime at Jeb's Inn. This is always a night of fun-filled adventure.

Dinner includes salad, garlic bread, chicken parmesan, sparkling lemonade and desert.

All proceeds go to support the Dramatic Performance's spring field trip to New York City.

Tickets can be purchased now through April 6 at BFUHS for \$16 each by calling the high school at 463-3944 ext. 248.

WHY CELEBRATE "LET THEM EAT CAKE?"

This is a wonderful annual event, the proceeds of which go entirely towards providing arts experiences for Westminster elementary students. Bakers, artists, eaters and chefs gather at the school for a cake extravaganza! The cakes are always amazing to see. Money raised at the event funds artist residencies, visiting performing groups and arts-related field trips.

This year, Let Them Eat Cake will be on Wednesday, April 18th. We encourage students, classrooms, families and community members to submit their most creative cakes! This year's theme is Vermont Strong. Other categories include: Funniest, Most Original; Healthiest; Biggest; Fanciest; Scariest; Smallest; Most Realistic; and Least Likely to Be a Cake. A panel of judges awards prizes, with winners receiving a beautiful hand-painted plate designed by Vanessa Schoonover.

Next comes the cake auction; participants bid until the last cake is sold. And if that's not enough, Gallery Walk is also a part of the evening's festivities. Families may roam the halls to see beautiful exhibits of student artwork from every grade. You may even come across a few "street musicians" as you stroll by.

- 5:00 – 5:30: Cake drop off and pizza & salad in the dining room.
- 5:30 – 6:30: Gallery walk
- 6:30 till the last cake is gone!: Cake auction

SEVCA ANNOUNCES FREE FINANCIAL FITNESS CLASSES

Southeastern Vermont Community Action has announced that it has space available in the free, upcoming financial fitness workshop. This eight part workshop series will help 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.

Other topics covered include; saving, spending, credit, paying for college, purchasing a home, purchasing a car, insurance and retirement. Your credit report can be reviewed with you and recommendations provided to take steps to build healthy credit or resolve credit issues. This financial coaching will help you and your family develop strong financial habits.

The 8-part workshop will begin on Wednesday, April 11 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., and continue each Wednesday night thru June 6 (No workshop on May 16). The workshop will be held at SEVCA at 91 Buck Drive in Westminster,. Pre-registration is required.

Call to register at 722-4575, ext. 151, or e-mail kperlberg@sevca.org

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WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE WESTMINSTER WEST LIBRARY

While you're planning spring activities for the kids and the whole family, don't forget the ongoing groups at the Westminster West Public Library. For adults, librarian Bev Major offers an ongoing Book Group, currently reading historical fiction and non-fiction. They meet the second Thursday of each month through May, 7-9 p.m. For children and adults,

Collin Leech has organized a Knitting Group on Tuesday afternoons, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

You can learn to knit, improve your knitting skills, or even learn how to make your own. Collin also runs the Family Flicks Program, which shows a short film and a feature film appropriate for all family members. Family Flicks happens the third Friday of the month, approximately every other month. The next film will be April 20. The short film begins at 6:30 p.m., and the feature film begins at 7. Finally, when school is in session, the library offers an Afterschool Program every Wednesday from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Activities include story time, snacks, and outdoor play.

In addition, the library hosts local writers who read from their work and chat about work habits, favorite books, and all things interesting to readers and other writers.

In April, we turn the tables and invite the Westminster community to be the stars. On Sunday, April 15 from 2 to 4 p.m., join us for the Grand Community Poetry Reading. Bring your favorite poem (or poems—no more than 5 minutes worth) and read them out loud to fellow language lovers. We promise to provide a rapt audience and good things to eat and drink.

For more information about any of our events and groups, call us at 387-4682.

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April Business of the Month: Hodgkins & Sons

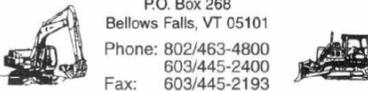
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OLDER & YOUNGER STUDENTS WORK TOGETHER ON SCIENCE PROJECT



The Kurn Hattin students are learning about Robotics in their science class. The robots they're creating are made from kits purchased with a grant from the UVM Extension in Brattleboro. There are three robotic projects. The Robogator, the Colorsorter and the Humanoid - a human-like robot that walks and talks.

To continue Kurn Hattin's commitment to community service, science teacher, Tom Fontaine, invited Marge Ladd's third grade class from the Westminster Center School to visit and participate in this science unit on Robotics. The visiting students worked with the Kurn Hattin 7th and 8th graders. Pictured is Westminster Center School third grader Jack Burke working with Kurn Hattin 8th grader, Scarlet Stanhope.

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