



Westminster Gazette



po box 147 westminster vt 05158

Our Community Newspaper @ www.westminstervt.org

Vol. 9, No.8 July 2013

Westminster's Beautiful Gardens Westminster Cares Says 'Thank You' For a Successful Garden Tour



Above left, the gardens of Lili Walsh, and at right, the gardens of Gordon and Mary Hayward. For more photos see page 7.

Westminster Cares' 2013 Westminster Garden Tour, held June 29 and 30, was a great way to celebrate the organization's 25th anniversary. Rain threatened, but the weather held out, and many people came to walk through the beautiful gardens.

Ronnie Friedman, executive director of Westminster Cares, thanks the many volunteers and sponsors who helped out. "Fundraising events are comprised of many behind-the-scenes individuals and businesses whose contributions big and small are essential," she says. "Your continued support of this event allows Westminster Cares to continue creating opportunities for seniors and adults with disabilities to live with dignity and independence in the community."

Deep appreciation goes to the hosts who opened their private gardens to the public: Gordon and Mary Hayward, Cyndy Fine, Lili Walsh, and Judy and Bennett Petry. This event would not be possible without their generosity.

The following contributors made the tour a success:

Sponsors: Chroma Technology Corporation, People's United Bank, The Vermont Country Store, C & S Wholesale Grocers and Durand Toyota-Ford.

Raffle prizes: Verde for Garden and Home, Vermont Botanical, Sarah Waldo, Raine Kane/Rainey Day Leaves, Connie Sanderson and Jackie & John Connors.

Food and beverages: Old Athens Farm, Harlow Farmstand, Brattleboro Coop, Walker Farm, Putney Coop, BJ's Wholesale Club, Hannaford's, Miriam and Larry

Lanata, and Erin and Neomi Hennessey, Caterers.

Donations of equipment and services: Walpole Rent-A-Center, Best Septic, Westminster Fire and Rescue, Kurn Hattin Homes, and Yankee Sign.

Printing and graphics: C & S Wholesale Grocers for printing garden tour materials, the local businesses who purchased ads in the program, and Amie Walter of Amie Walter Design for program layout and design of all promotional materials.

Music: Martha Mitchell.

Flowers: Melinda Underwood.

Special thanks go to the volunteers and board members who served on the garden tour committees and donated their energy, time and effort in planning and executing the garden tour. "You are the spokes that make this wheel turn!" Friedman says. "A special shout-out to Carol Bazin and the Kurn Hattin crew: thank you for your energy and excellent customer service."

Proceeds from the tour support the services and programs of Westminster Cares, a volunteer organization whose purpose is to create opportunities for seniors and disabled adults to live with independence and dignity in the community.

For more information on Westminster Cares and the events scheduled for its 25th anniversary, go to www.westminstercares.org, e-mail us at wecares@sover.net or call 722-3607.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING!

Notice of a public meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 20 at 7 p.m.

The Vermont Agency of Transportation has scheduled the paving of Route 5, from Putney north to Exit 5, in 2014.

Our Village Trustees and town Selectboard would like to hear from Westminster residents about their concerns regarding pedestrian safety and traffic concerns.

Please join us and representatives from the Windham Regional Commission and VTrans to discuss possible improvements to Route 5 within the Village as the paving is being done.

Possible improvements include a reduced speed limit and a slightly narrower motor vehicle lane and wider pedestrian shoulder.

Please bring your suggestions and questions to the meeting.

YANKEE MALE CHORUS 2013 CONCERT TOUR



The renowned men's singing group, the "Yankee Male Chorus", returns for their 60th tour.

The four concerts they give each year consist of from 50 to 60+ men singing in four-part-harmony songs from the sacred, popular, spiritual, Broadway, and novelty areas of music. All men are volunteers from choirs and choral groups throughout the New England region, New York State and other areas. Several local men are members of the chorus.

The chorus gets together on Wednesday afternoon for their only rehearsal and goes public that night for four consecutive evening concerts.

They will perform this year first on Wednesday, Aug. 7 at the First Baptist Church Main St. Chester; Thursday the 8th at Saint James Episcopal Church at 44 West Street in Keene, N.H.; Friday the 9th at Kurn Hattin Homes on Kurn Hattin Road in Westminster; and Saturday the 10th, the finale, as always, at the White Church in Grafton.

All concerts begin at 7:30 p.m.

There are no tickets to be purchased. A free will offering may be taken at intermission at each location.

All four locations are handicap accessible.

For additional information contact Pete Harrison at 722-3080, 802-289-3776 or studebaker99@comcast.net.



Last Month's Mystery Photo



Last month's Mystery Photo was taken on Westminster West and West Roads in Westminster West and it's the Westminster West church in the background. The picture was identified correctly by David Wright, Marty Collins, Norman Wright, Ginger Cook and Donald Gregg.

Do you have old photos of Westmisnter that might make good mystery photos? Feel free to contact the Gazette at westminsternews@gmail.com.

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LONG-TIME SCHOOL EMPLOYEES RETIRE

Most of the community knows that teachers Barb Whitehead and Marge Ladd retired at the end of the 2012-13 school year. We celebrated the years of service they provided the community throughout the spring. What most people haven't heard is that two other longtime staff members also retired. Joan Holton and Sally Ryea, each with over 20 years of service to the schools and community, quietly submitted retirement letters to the school.

Marjorie "Sally" Ryea was employed by the Westminster Schools and WNESU for 42 years as a bus driver and custodian. She traveled the roads transporting children to and from school safely each day. Her service is appreciated and she will be missed.

Joan Holton worked as a paraprofessional for 23 years at the Center School. Joan took care of children of all ages, supporting them in reading and math, making sure the recess games were fair and that children got on the bus home safely. Her support of learning and helping to create a safe school will be missed.

We wish Joan and Sally the best in retirement! Thank you both for the many years of service to the Westminster community.

In photo, Joan Holton loads Sally Ryea's bus for the last time – on June 14, 2013.



WESTMINSTER WEST COMMUNITY FAIR ON SEPT. 7

This year the Westminster West Community Fair is on Saturday, Sept. 7 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in and around the church.

The theme this year is "Wild Wild Westminster West" to pay tribute to those in our community who help keep us connected to our environment. The Grand Marshal will be naturalist Martha Mitchell, who has made a significant contribution to our community in this area.

Other events include: A bake sale, a parade through the village, music on the lawn by the Grafton Cornet Band, a veggie chop-o-matic, a fun run for kids and a 5K race for adults, a silent auction, a talent show, a chicken barbeque, a fortune teller, face painting, various crafts and booths and a Golden elephant sale.

See the full schedule for the day at www.westminsterwest.org.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. Section 4444, notice is hereby given by the Westminster Selectboard of a public hearing at the Westminster Town Hall on Sept. 10, 2013 at 7 p.m. to receive comment regarding reorganization of the Westminster Zoning Ordinance regulations to reorganize and update the Zoning Bylaw, adding the Subdivision Regulation and to improve clarity for residents, development applicants and the Development Review Board.

Articles I, II, and III, there is a major reorganization of the material. These reorganized elements are presented as though they are a completely new text, but the text in the recommendation does not include any significant changes in the actual provisions. Some minor changes in the text are recommended only to improve clarity.

- 1) I. Legal Framework
- 2) II. Administration and Enforcement
- 3) III. Development Review

For Articles IV, V, VI, VII, VIII the content of Articles IV, V, and VI is preserved essentially intact at this time, with minor changes.

- 4) IV. Zoning Districts
- 5) V. General Regulations
- 6) VI. Special Regulations

Articles VII, VIII, IX -XI, XII, XIII, XIV are each revised to comply with a similar format intended to add clarity:

- A. Purpose.
- B. Applicability for review.
- C. Application requirements for review. D. Review criteria.
- E. Possible conditions that may be imposed.

Articles VII and VIII have been given their own section. The changes do not involve major changes to what is permitted or prohibited, but include major changes in the text that make a distinction between a minor Planned Unit Development and a Major Planned Unit Development and the requirements for each application. Also, the Subdivision Regulations make a stronger distinction between a minor subdivision and a major subdivision, and the requirements for each type of application.

- 7) VII. Planned Unit Development
- 8) VIII. Subdivisions of Land

Articles IX through XIV include recommended revisions of two kinds. First, each overlay district begins with a specific citation of the statutory authority for establishing the type of overlay district. Second, some changes are recommended in order to update the ordinance to be in compliance with new legislation.

- 9) IX. Historic Preservation Overlay District
- 10) X. Agricultural Land Overlay District (Sections 10 from 6)
- 11) XI. Flood Hazard Areas Overlay District (Sections 11 from 7)
- 12) XII. Water Supply Source Protection (Sections 12 from 8)
- 13) XIII. Telecommunications Facilities (Sections 13 from 9)
- 14) XIV. Ridgeline Protection Overlay District (Sections 14 from 10)

(Sections 9 from 5, with some revision of the application process) Definitions are amended or updated with intent to add clarity and a common understanding of the terms used.

- 15) XV. Definitions ((previously Article XI)

The full text of the proposed amendment can be examined at the Town Hall, at 3651 US Route 5, Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ALERT FOR ARTIST PLEIN AIR EVENT

The Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association asks professional and budding artists to save the date and alert their friends and associates to a special Plein Air Event to be held along beautiful Ledge Road Brook in Grafton on Sunday, Sept. 8 at 1 p.m.

Ledge Road Brook and its surrounding terrain offer abundant intriguing possibilities for the artist's eye: tumbling small waterfalls, ferns, emerald moss-covered boulders, deep dark pools, and stately trees. To make it easy for artists to get their supplies to their chosen site, the Pinnacle Association will provide a rugged vehicle and driver to transport the supplies.

Approximately two hours later, the supplies will be transported back to the

parking area, and artists will be encouraged to view each other's works at the trailhead.

The Ledge Brook area is part of the Pinnacle Association's newest long section in its trail system and runs from Athens to Grafton. That and other sections can be viewed on downloadable maps at www.windmillhillpinnacle.org.

Because of the transportation component, pre-registration is required. To register or to learn more about the event, please contact Camilla Roberts at 869-1388 or camil@vermontel.net.

Upon registration, detailed directions to the Ledge Road parking area will be provided.

THANK YOU FROM THE BOARD OF LISTERS

This letter is a great big thank you to the taxpayers of Westminster for their wonderful cooperation and phenomenal support during our town-wide reappraisal.

This is a very trying time for everyone, especially those of us who are counting every penny in our household. Unfortunately, our State needs to know what the fair market value is for all taxable properties, and every Vermont town should have those same values in the Grand Lists which are applied to tax rates. The taxes finance and/or maintenance our school, municipal and fire department systems, and until a newer or better way is devised, we will be performing reappraisals as long as the sales in our town are higher than the values on our Grand Lists.

It's also becoming increasingly harder for Listers to do their jobs because so many more people are not available during working hours and allowing us the opportunity to do a thorough inside and outside inspection of all parts of the property, but we were very encouraged by the amount of people who tried to make themselves and their properties open to us for any information required.

Town wide reappraisals are never fun or pleasant for anyone, but people were understanding, helpful, and supportive to ensure that all property values were assessed appropriately.

We were also impressed by the amount of people who stopped by the office to check the information on their property cards. Listers try to make sure that every aspect is done accurately, but ultimately, it is the responsibility of the taxpayer to keep a constant watch on their property assessments.

Again, we would like to thank everyone who made this tedious journey go as smoothly as it did. Let's keep our fingers crossed and hope we don't have to go through another reappraisal any time soon!

Your Board of Listers:

*Babetta (Babs) Lynde
Michael Fawcett
Harland Rounds*

NEWS FROM 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 is Aug 6 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.

August Prudential meetings: 12th and 26th

Number of calls in June: 24

Number of calls through July 30th: 30

Number of calls calendar year to Date: 152

Number of calls fiscal year to date: 30

Association Meeting: The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association met for their regular meeting July 2nd with President Greg Holton presiding. There were 26 members present and 3 members excused. Currently there are 41 members of the volunteer fire department. Preparations for the 4th of July parade in Saxton River, the community picnic July 20th and the Truck Show August 3rd were the main topics of discussion.

Community Picnic: Once again the fire department provided the food and beverages for the annual picnic. Hotdogs, hamburgers, water, soda and popcorn were enjoyed by many all at no charge. Thanks to the Harlow Farm Stand for donating the organic popcorn.

Raffle: Isabelle Croteau made and donated a quilt and baby blanket to the fire department to be raffled off as a fund raiser. The plan is to have the quilt and blanket on display and raffle tickets for sale at the August 3rd truck show behind the high school. Tickets will be \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. Tickets are available anytime by contacting one of the members of the fire department. The quilt and blanket are on display at the fire house on Grout Ave.

Tips for sunscreen and insect repellent: [Because the mosquito season is at its peak, we thought it made sense to repeat these tips] Apply sunscreen 30 minutes before going outside

reapply every 2 hours

unprotected skin starts turning red in 20 minutes

insect repellent is handy to have and apply before going into buggy areas

- also bugs and mosquitoes like dusk so just sitting outside can make you a target

always read and adhere to label directions and warnings to use products safely

be aware of ticks and do a body check for ticks each night if you

have been a possible tick infested area

Firewood: It's not too soon to be thinking about the next heating season. If you burn wood, be sure the wood is properly cured. Unseasoned wood can cause creosote which is very apt to plug up the chimney and cause a chimney fire. And the chimney fire can lead to a partition fire and the home could be lost or severely damaged. Have the chimney cleaned before starting a wood fire in the stove or furnace and have it checked regularly throughout the heating season.

Motorcycles: [We decided to run this again this month because one of our own had a serious accident last week riding his motorcycle] We have all noticed that there are more and more motorcycles on the road each summer due in part to the price of gas and that it has become a very enjoyable pastime for many. Motorcycles can be difficult to see as a part of oncoming traffic, and their distance is often difficult to judge. Give at least a double look and even an exclusive look for the possibility of an oncoming motorcycle when pulling out into traffic.

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

Donation received in July:

George Dascomb Trust

Bellows Falls Central School

Kay and Bruce Miller

Connie Sanderson

Kathy Lockerby

Donations given in July:

Gift Certificate to a former member

Gift certificate to a current member who retired from the workplace

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

BELLOWS FALLS FARMERS' MARKET FEATURES PETTING ZOO

The Bellows Falls Farmers' Market will feature a petting zoo and children's fun on Friday, Aug. 9 from 4 to 7 p.m.

United States Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack has proclaimed August 4-10, 2013 as National Farmers Market Week. In celebration, the Bellows Falls Farmers Market is holding a petting zoo. Come and visit goat kids, ducklings, chickens, rabbits and more! We will also have a variety of children's craft and activities, as well as live music.

This year marks the 13th annual National Farmers Market Week. Since 2000, the number of farmers markets has grown 150 percent, from 2,863 markets to 7,175 in 2011. These numbers continue to rise as farmers markets become fresh

food mainstays for shoppers across all socio-economic, political, and ethnic ranges. Farmers markets bolster local economies, improve community health, and bring diverse groups of people together through a shared social space. The Bellows Falls Farmers Market began in 2004, and currently has 18 farmers selling a wide variety of products, including fresh organic vegetables, beef, pork, chicken, cheese, fresh breads, maple syrup, canned goodies, prepared foods, crafts and more.

We accept EBT/Debit, Farm to Family and Harvest Health Coupons. For additional information about the Bellows Falls Farmer's Market, contact market manager Rachel Ware at bellowsfallsmarket@gmail.com or 463-2018.

Suffering From Identity Crisis

by Babs Lynde, a Vermont Master Gardener

Most of us have seen them, especially if you have a veggie garden. They cluster by the dozens sometimes, and if you accidentally brush a cabbage leaf or bean pole, they scatter like tiny snowflakes in front of your eyes. They are known as whiteflies.

Whiteflies are not flies at all, and in fact look more like miniature moths, but they are actually closely related to the aphids. Like aphids, they are difficult to control for several reasons - they flutter and dart quickly at the most delicate touch, they tend to hide under leaves, and they are very prolific. Their massive numbers mature and lay eggs in as few as 16 days if the summers are warm enough to support them. Once the barely visible eggs hatch, tiny little nymph crawlers emerge, called "instars," and the feasting begins immediately.

The instars are so small they are nearly colorless and so blend quite easily on their host plant. It isn't until they reach their adult stage that they grow wings and then are able to fly from plant to plant to continue eating and laying more eggs. If you ever visit a greenhouse to purchase plants, and find these tiny white moth-looking critters, turn around and find another nursery that doesn't have the infestation because once you bring them home, you might not ever be able to rid of them.

Definitely a pest to our veggies and fruits, these little monsters cause damage to our plants in two ways. First, they suck the juices from the stems and leaves, and if there are enough of them, this can kill off the leaves, causing them to yellow and drop off which will eventually cause the plant itself to suffer. The second way is that whiteflies excrete a sweet, sticky substance from their mouthparts which attract other pests as well as deadly virus/bacteria and fungus that will germinate and grow in the substance to eventually sicken and weaken the plant that can also

lead to death. One particular fungus is called "sooty mold" that makes leaves look soot covered or blackened.

Eliminating whiteflies can be difficult but not impossible if you can eradicate them before they become massive in numbers. Inspection of plants and the undersides of the leaves are the first places you should look. If you spot anything suspicious, there are a few chemicals available at your local nurseries or lawn & garden stores, but you can also spray the leaves, both top and bottom with a basic mixture of water and garlic juice. You can use minced garlic in the water, but you will need to strain the bits and pieces of garlic from the mixture because they will clog your sprayer.

Spraying fast jets of water will also remove the instars, but young or delicate plants might suffer more damage from the force of the spray. Spiders, lacewings, ladybugs and parasitic wasps are many of the natural enemies of whiteflies and other pests. Also keep plenty of space between plants as air and light will prevent or slow down many types of fungus and viruses from growing.

There are sticky traps and other types of alternative controls as well, but be aware that these methods may trap any insect that comes near or falls in so it might also kill off the beneficial insects that you want to keep around. Look for traps or aluminum mulches that specifically eliminate whiteflies or other pests before your purchase.

Would you like more information about whiteflies? 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 e-mail to master.gardener@uvm.edu or visit www.uvm.edu/master-gardener/ for extensive information.

Aged in Vermont

Westminster Cares, Inc.

RAISING YOUR KIDS'S KIDS: SUPPORT FOR FOSTER KIN

By Chad Simmons

Parenting is a life-long endeavor; full of great beauty, intense struggle and plenty of surprises. There are times when we are not expecting to parent, but life has other plans.

In Vermont, 2,400 grandparents report they are responsible for raising their grandchildren. That number is nearly 2.5 million nationally. This means that over 5,500 children within the state of Vermont and 5.8 million children nationally are being raised in grandparent-headed households, also called "Grand Families," according to AARP. Generally speaking, this is called kinship or adoptive care.

"Kinship care is when an adult relative cares for a child under the age of 18, either on a temporary or permanent basis. The relative is most often a grandparent," but can also be another relative or a family friend (Vermont Resource Guide for Relatives Caring for Children).

The situations leading to kinship care are many and may include: substance abuse, economic hardship, divorce, domestic violence, incarceration, a sudden death in the family, mental health issues, military service or the parent is unable to provide safe, appropriate care for his or her children. There are times when many of these situations overlap, causing great stress and uncertainty within the family.

While kinship can be joyous and exceptionally gratifying, it can also be overwhelming; emotionally, legally and financially. In some situations, "You're trying to parent two people; an infant child and adult child," said Betty Holton, a grandparent, during an interview on WCAX television. Fortunately, there are resources and peer support for grandparents navigating the complexities of kinship care, including a local group called "Circle of Support for Kinship Caregivers."

Below is a list of resources and support tailored for foster/kinship families.

- Vermont 2-1-1. Dial 2-1-1 from your phone or go to www.vermont211.org to find resources, support, legal or financial services.
- Vermont Resources Guide for Relatives Caring for Children. Resource guide including financial and legal information as well as a directory of local and state organizations. <http://bit.ly/141gqxw>
- Local support of kinship caregivers. Circle of Support for Kinship Caregivers. Meets every other Thursday from 10-11:30 at Parks Place in Bellows Falls. For more information, contact Deb Witkus at 463-9927 ext. 212 or gipc4parents@gmail.com
- Statewide education and support group for relatives raising children. www.vermontkinasparents.org
- <http://voicesatthetable.wordpress.com/>. This bi-weekly blog is a forum for kinship, foster, and adoptive families to share with one another. Created by the Child Welfare Training Partnership. The partnership also offers trainings and resources for adoptive/kinship families.
- Promotes public policy that enhances the lives of children and youth in Vermont. www.voicesforvtrkids.org

Chad Simmons is the media coordinator for the Greater Falls Prevention Coalition. It is the vision of the Greater Falls Prevention Coalition to build a healthy, nurturing and supportive community. Our mission is to connect the community of Windham Northeast by inspiring and empowering people through education and collaboration to promote wellness and prevent the abuse of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.

"Old age ain't no place for sissies," Bette Davis said. Well, sissies or not, we're all headed for that place. And the better we know the geography, the easier it will be to navigate.

"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. Would you like to write one? We'd like to hear from you. E-mail Ronnie Friedman at wecares@sover.net.

GAZETTE SEEKS NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The Westminster Gazette is seeking individuals in the community who might be interested in serving on our Board of Directors.

Retirements and other factors have opened up some positions on the board. Membership on the board only requires one meeting per month and some other responsibilities. Individuals with marketing and fundraising skills would be especially useful.

Send a letter of interest to westminsternews@gmail.com.

WESTMINSTER SCHOOLS

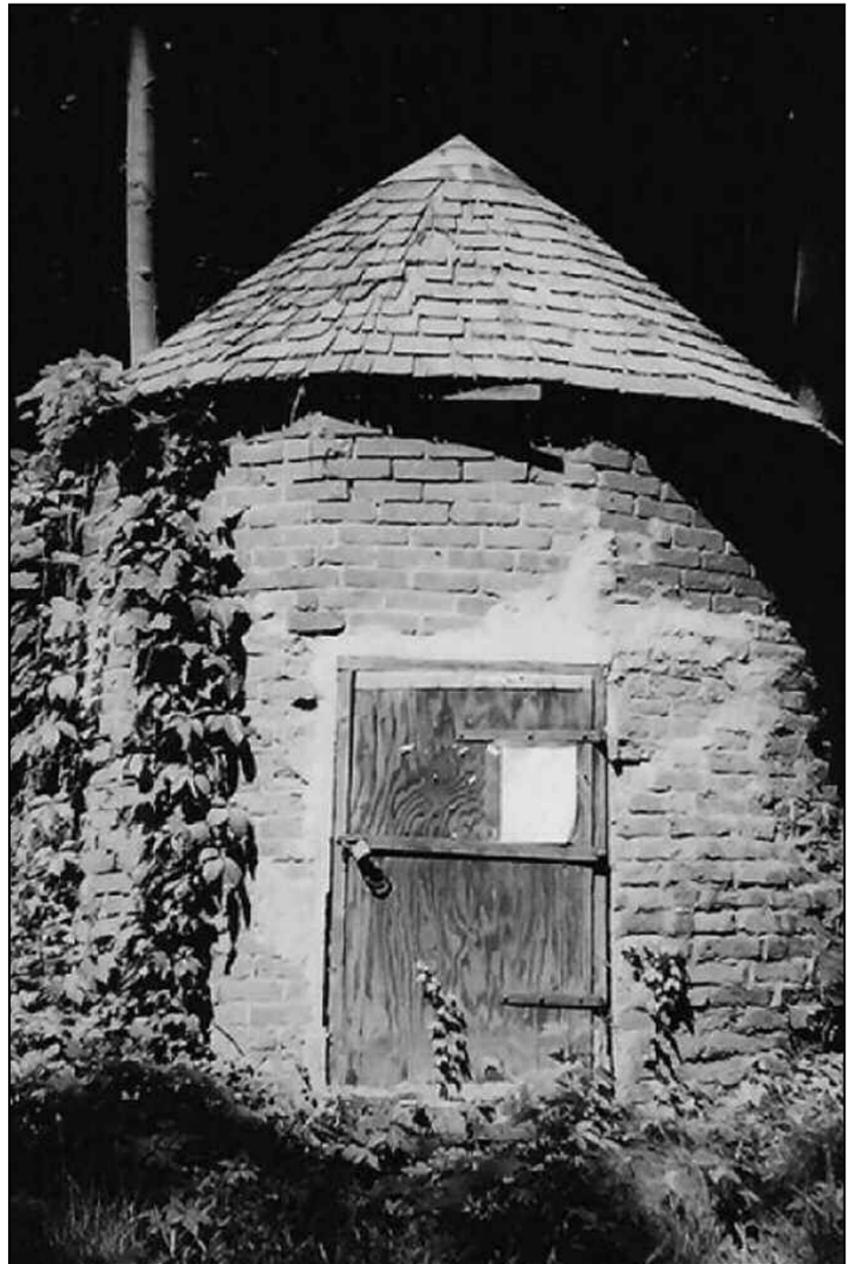
"WELCOME TO SCHOOL" PICNIC

Plan to attend this year's "Back to School Picnic" on Monday, Aug. 26 at the Westminster Center School.

Be sure to arrive in time to tour the school, visit the garden, and catch up with friends. All classrooms will be open at 5 p.m. for children to visit and meet their teachers before the picnic begins.

This is a potluck event – please bring a salad, casserole or desert to share. Hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks will be provided. The serving lines will be open starting at 5:30.

WESTMINSTER MYSTERY PHOTO



What was the purpose of this structure and where was it located?

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.

Last Month's 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?

WESTMINSTER WELCOMES NEW STAFF

When the 2013-14 school year opens, we will be welcoming two new teachers to our staff. Russell Williams and Amy DeCarolis were hired this summer to fill vacancies left by retirements this past spring.

Adam Hallock has joined the school staff as the new Director.

Williams is a community member who previously taught in Greenfield, Mass., Bellows Falls, and Brattleboro. He will be teaching fifth grade for Westminster and brings some great experiences to us. Russell is known for his integrated approaches to learning that get his students enthused about their community and provides rich experiences that last.

DeCarolis recently completed her Masters Degree program in Special Education at Keene State College. She was an intern working with us last year and proved herself to be a valuable asset to the community. She is a beginning teacher with lots of enthusiasm, passion and commitment. This year she will be working with our first grade team supporting all children as they learn to read, write, do math, and become good citizens.

Hallock is a resident of Westminster and has children entering the school this year. He hit the ground running this summer with all the cleaning, maintenance and repairs that occur in the summer. Adam is well-known around town, and has many connections in the industry that will serve our school well. He previously served as the custodian for St. Mikes in Brattleboro, as well as managing his own business.

We are excited to introduce them to you and hope you will welcome them when you are at the school or if you happen upon them around town.

HAND BELL CLASSES IN SAXTONS RIVER

Want to learn how to play hand bells?

The Saxtons River Ringers are starting a beginner Choir under the direction of Mary Jane Bosworth. She has been directing hand bells for over 20 years.

No previous hand bell ringing experience required. You only need a basic knowledge of music in order to join.

Please contact Bosworth at 869-2984.

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 Potluck Lunch

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

Bellows Falls Gallery Walk

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.

Zumba Class - Basic Level 1 (B1)

Every Sunday from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Westminster Institute, beginning April 7. Suggested minimum donation. Please call 376-5397 or e-mail paulinebob@hotmail.com to register or for more information.

Faith Community

The First Congregational Church of Westminster

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 Congregational Church of Westminster West (UCC Church)

The Congregational Church of Westminster West (United Church of Christ) worships every Sunday at 10 a.m. The pick-up choir meets most Sundays at 9 to rehearse for that morning's anthem; newcomers to choir are always welcome!

Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of every month, and on the Second Sunday the church collects a special offering that goes to Our Place in Bellows Falls to help fund their food shelf.

The church building is fully wheelchair accessible, and the congregation is Open and Affirming. Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno is the pastor, and musicians are Jennifer Hed and Margit Lilly.

Rev. Webster-Toleno currently holds office hours on Monday and Thursday afternoons, and people are welcome to drop by. However, since "office hours" sometimes means she's out visiting people in their homes, it's a good idea to make an appointment if you really want to catch her.

She can be reached at the church on those days at 387-2334, via cell phone at 579-8356 or e-mail susiewt@gmail.com.

Grace Bible Fellowship Services

The Grace Bible Fellowship holds its Sunday Worship Service at 9:15 a.m. at 38 Elm Street in Walpole, NH.

Find out more about the church at its Web site, www.gbff4hisglory.com/.

GOT ANY INTERESTING STORIES ABOUT WESTMINSTER AND THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE HERE? WANT TO SHARE SOME LOCAL HISTORY, OR REMINISCE ABOUT SOME OF OUR TOWN'S PEOPLE? THE GAZETTE IS LOOKING FOR CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OUR READERS, AND IF YOU HAD PHOTOS TO GO WITH THE STORY, ALL THE BETTER. CONTACT US BY E-MAIL AT WESTMINSTERNEWS@GMAIL.COM.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

On Friday, Oct. 25 from 8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Dr. Terry M. Levy and Michael Orlans present: Treating Trauma and Attachment Issues in Children and Families, at Kurn Hattin Homes for Children's Annual Professional Development Conference. The seminar is intended for mental health, child welfare, school, medical and legal system professionals, and therapeutic parents.

Levy and Orlans are co-directors of the Evergreen Psychotherapy Center Attachment Treatment and Training Institute, in Evergreen, Colo., and have coauthored two best sellers: *Attachment, Trauma & Healing*, and *Healing Parents: Helping Wounded Children to Trust and Love*.

Continuing Education Credits:

*Educators VT, NH, & MA - 5 Professional Development Points or 5 Credit Hours

*Marriage and Family Therapists, Mental Health Counselors, School Counselors, School Psychologists, Social Workers, Substance Abuse Counselors - 5 Credit Hours *Nurses - 6 Contact Hours

\$125 registration fee includes lunch - register prior to Sept. 25 for discounted rate.

Meetings

Selectboard 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7:00 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

Monday, July 26 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.

THE GAZETTE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT OF ITS UNDERWRITERS:

Kurn Hattin Homes
Westminster School District
Town of Westminster
Durand Automotive Group
Westminster Activities Commission
Sojourns Community Health Clinic
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The Deadline for The September 2013 Issue of the Westminster Gazette is Wednesday, August 28 by 5 p.m. Publish Date is Tuesday, September 3.

To Contact the Westminster Gazette E-mail:

westminsternews@gmail.com

KURN HATTIN TRAVELS TO D.C. FOR YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

—Kurn Hattin Home provides children opportunities they would not have otherwise. Being able to travel to our nation’s capital and participate in a Youth Leadership Summit is certainly one of those opportunities and one that remains in a child’s memory for life.

From June 21 to 23, six children and their principal and houseparent boarded the blue Kurn Hattin bus and traveled to Washington D.C. to participate in the second annual National Fellowship of Child Care Executives (NFCCE) Youth Leadership Summit.

Fourteen children from four children’s homes throughout the country participated in the leadership workshops and historic and cultural sightseeing. They saw for themselves what that they had only seen and read about in their school books and on the Internet. They were challenged to think about their own lives and their desired outcomes.

The Kurn Hattin children know well that if life is tough you need to pick yourselves up, dust yourselves off and keep going. This experience further reiterated that and encouraged them to never lose their vision and goals; to be leaders and to do the right thing.

Seventh grader, Susanna Compare reflected after her return, “Our trip to Washington DC was fabulous. I was especially inspired by the great monuments that represent our history. This was an extremely life changing experience, one that I would not give up for anything”

Thank you to everyone who supports Kurn Hattin and field trips such as this one.

A place of hope since 1894, Kurn Hattin Homes for Children provides a safe home and quality education for boys and girls, ages 6-15, whose families are experiencing a time of personal or financial need. Kurn Hattin Homes is entirely funded by private donations.

For more information, visit www.kurnhattin.org.



Pictured with their houseparent in front of the Iwo Jima Monument in Washington D.C. are six Kurn Hattin children who participated in the 2013 NFCCE Youth Leadership Summit.

COMPASS SCHOOL READIES FOR NEW SCHOOL YEAR

We are excited about the upcoming school year! We are building off a terrific year where attention to clarity and consistency resulted in strong academics along with tremendous success with the many “special” Compass School elements such as Community Service Winter Term, the 11th grade Global Connections trip, all school spring trips, Senior Projects, and Project Week.

Compass succeeds with a purposeful balance of more traditional, teacher directed, structured learning experiences and more open ended, student centered, “real world” activities. We know both are essential to helping every child develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to succeed in school and beyond.

Youth need structure to gain core content and develop study skills, as well as to learn how to work within constraints that are often demanded in life. At the same time, students need more independent experiences that allow students the chance to follow their own interests, set goals, and develop the self-direction

one needs to excel.

We have been busy this summer building on this strong foundation—literally! We have begun phase one of the major infrastructure improvements that will continue this year. We look forward to a new art lab, science lab, and Spanish classrooms, along with many energy and aesthetic improvements to be completed by mid-year. The improvements in the building will allow us to further enhance student learning opportunities as well as make the school available for community use.

We are thrilled to be welcoming many new families to Compass and look forward to our highest enrollment in years. There are still a few spaces available in middle and high school—come visit or check the new Compass School website at www.compass-school.org to see if Compass could be the right fit for you to find success in school and beyond.

MORE OF WESTMINSTER’S FINEST GARDENS FROM THE TOUR - CYNDY FINE’S GARDEN, LEFT, AND THE GARDENS OF JUDY & BENNETT PETRY



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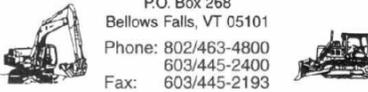
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August Business of the Month: Serene Touch

My name is Diane Bazin. I am certified in Zero Balancing and am a Reiki Master. I work out of my home located in the village of Westminister with flexible hours.

Zero Balancing is amazing body work and has so many benefits along with the energy of Reiki. With this ad you can receive a 15 percent discount on a session.

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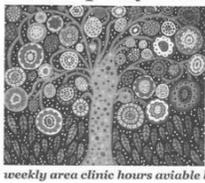
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SEVCA SEEKS VENDORS FOR FLEA MARKET, RAFFLE & SILENT AUCTION

Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) will be holding its 15th Annual Flea Market, Silent Auction and Raffle Drawing on Saturday, Sept. 28, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Westminister.

This is an annual community and fundraising event that helps SEVCA to provide an array of comprehensive anti-poverty services to low-income residents of Windham and Windsor counties.

Flea market vendors, including crafters, antique dealers, and yard salers are welcome and encouraged to reserve a space, which costs \$25 or \$30, depending on location. Non-profits' spaces are free for info-only booths. Breakfast foods and coffee will be available for sale in the morning.

Raffle tickets can be purchased now at SEVCA's office at 91 Buck Drive in Westminister, at any of SEVCA's "Good Buy" Stores, other SEVCA offices and program sites throughout Windham and Windsor Counties (including SEVCA's Family Services office in Brattleboro at the Marlboro Technical Center), or at

the Flea Market on the day of the event.

The top prizes this year are: 2 Round-Trip Tickets – Boston to Any Nonstop City- Donated by JetBlue; \$500 CASH- Donated by J & W Auto & others; a 21" Electric Start Snowblower – Donated by Biben's Ace Hardware; an iPad Mini- Donated by Walmart; and an Outdoor Storage Shed– Donated by LaValley Building Supply. Many other exciting raffle prizes and/or Silent Auction items will be raffled off or bid on, and the silent auction items will soon be posted on the SEVCA Web site; bidders will be able to view them at www.sevca.org and make an offer, or bid on-site at the event.

Prize and silent auction items are needed at this stage, and any businesses and individuals wishing to help by making a donation of new items or gift certificates are encouraged to contact the number listed below.

To reserve a space or for more information about this event, call 722-4575, ext. 105.

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Westminister Gazette

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