

# Westminster Gazette



po box 147 westminster vt 05158

Our Community Newspaper @ www.westminstervt.org

Vol. 10, No.8 August 2014

## Thanks for a Successful Garden Tour!



Westminster Garden Tour attendees enjoying the gardens of Caitlin and Peter Adair in Westminster West. See article, page 7. Photo by Lori Larue.

### LETTER TO GAZETTE FROM THE SELECTBOARD

On Aug. 12, 2014 the Selectboard will be having the second "Public Hearing" on a proposal to amend our Town Charter. The Charter amendment will be asking the Town of Westminster's residents to vote on three separate items during the State of Vermont's Primary elections on August 26th, 2014. Voting will take place by Australian ballot between the hours of 8:00 am and 7:00 pm at the Westminster Institute.

The three separate questions are in the accompanying article.

The Selectboard is taking this opportunity to keep the Town of Westminster's residents informed about changes being discussed across the State. Many Towns in Vermont are looking into their own Charters as well, and each Town will have to decide what works for them. In no way is this being done behind closed doors in Westminster. We have posted this notice and the previous one in five places, and a legal notice was, and will be, published in the Town's official newspaper of record, the Brattleboro Reformer. Fact-TV has been recording the Selectboard meetings and the recording is available to the public online, not more than 48 hours after the meeting. As the recordings and minutes of the meetings reflect, this item of Charter Amendments, started being discussed in April of this year.

Please attend this Public Hearing and ask questions about what it will mean to change the Charter. An informed voter is a great thing.

## Babe Ruth Champs



On Aug. 1, Westminster beat Chester 2:1 at Walpole, NH in a game that ended under the lights, to win the Fall Mountain Babe Ruth Championships. The boys were coached by Shawn Burke and Chris Hackett.

### WARNING FOR SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

The legal voters of the Town of Westminster are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Westminster Institute, East Parish, Westminster, Vermont on Tuesday, August 26, 2014 to take action on Articles 1, 2, and 3. The polls will remain open between the hours of eight o'clock in the forenoon (8:00 AM) until seven o'clock in the evening (7:00 PM).

#### ARTICLE 1:

To consider whether the Town of Westminster shall amend its Town Charter to provide for the appointment by the Selectboard of the Town Clerk (rather than the election of the Town Clerk).

#### Section 2: Officers

"The Town of Westminster shall have the officers as provided for towns by the general laws, except that: A) the Selectboard shall appoint a Town Clerk who shall have all of the duties and rights of a Town Clerk under Vermont law."

#### ARTICLE 2:

To consider whether the Town of Westminster shall amend its Town Charter to provide for the appointment by the Selectboard of the Town Treasurer (rather than the election of the Town Treasurer).

#### Section 2: Officers

"The Town of Westminster shall have the officers as provided for towns by the general laws, except that: B) the Selectboard shall appoint a Town Treasurer who shall have all of the duties and rights of a Town Treasurer under Vermont law."

#### ARTICLE 3:

To consider whether the Town of Westminster shall amend its Town Charter to provide for the Office of Assessment.

Taxable property within the Town may be reappraised from time to time as may be deemed expedient by the Selectboard, or by the voters at an annual Town Meeting pursuant to a duly warned Article.

A. There shall be an Office of Assessment headed by a professionally qualified assessor or equivalent hereafter known as the Town Assessor, who shall be appointed by the Town Manager.

B. Except for the duties set forth in this Charter, the Town Assessor shall have the authority and shall exercise all the powers and shall be responsible to fulfill all duties assigned to the Listers in the Vermont Statutes and case law, including, but not limited to, appraisal of all real and business property for the purpose of establishing the Grand List, as set forth in Title 32, Section 3431. The Town Assessor shall make determinations of tax exempt status of properties. Appraisals shall be reviewed periodically and kept up to date.

C. Neither the Town Assessor, nor any employee of the Department of Assessment staff, any independent contractor directly or indirectly providing services for the tax assessing function of the Town, may simultaneously serve as a Lister for this Town.

D. The Board of Listers, elected at large, having no appraisal power, shall function as a Board of Appeals with the authority to hear and adjudicate all appeals by citizens disputing Office of Assessment appraisals, and perform other advisory and educational functions for the Office of Assessment.

TOWN OF WESTMINSTER SELECTBOARD

Signed by: Nathan Stoddard, Chair

Craig Allen

Paul Banik

Toby Young, Clerk

# YANKEE MALE CHORUS RETURNS



The highly renowned men's singing group, the "Yankee Male Chorus", returns for their 61st tour. The four concerts they give each year consist of 40+ 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 August evening concerts.

The wonderful sound this year will be heard first on Wednesday, August 6th at the First Congregational Church of West Brattleboro, 880 Western Ave, Brattleboro.; Thursday the 7th Charlestown Congregational Church, 71 Main St. Charlestown, N.H.; Friday the 8th the Walpole First Congregational Church, 15 Washington Square, Walpole, N.H.; and Saturday night the 9th, 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.

The Yankee Chorus is a delight to those listening and a joy to those performing.

So come enjoy the wonderful sound of this 61st tour.

For additional information call Pete Harrison at 802-722-3080, 802-289-3776 [cell], or e-mail [studebaker99@comcast.net](mailto:studebaker99@comcast.net).

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# THE TOWN HALL GETS A FACE LIFT



The Westminster Town Hall is getting some new paint, and thanks to Babs Lynde, here is the view of the lift, and from the lift, 85 feet or so in the air.

## COMMISSION PLANNING FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

by John Medeiros, Chair, Westminster Planning Commission

The Westminster Planning Commission is considering recommending a Municipal Water and Sewer Project for a designated economic "growth center" in Westminster. The location contemplated is in the vicinity of I-91 Exit 5: the Town Garage, Westminster Meats, Westminster Business Park and Green Mountain Power – and proposed State of Vermont Public Safety Building. Other areas nearby might be included in the same or a separate "growth center."

The designation of "growth center" is suggested by the State and means parcels of land that have not been developed for commercial or industrial uses in the past, or may include some properties that call for re-development due to abandonment or changes in the economy.

The Westminster Planning Commission has taken several steps in pursuit of information that will enable the Town, if approved by the residents, to obtain an engineering study, also called a "feasibility study," regarding the best technical plan and the estimated cost of municipal water and sewer utilities. Such a project would not be implemented unless there were established support from both the Selectboard and the residents.

The sewer system would be available for commercial and industrial uses only in the designated economic growth center and would not be available for residential connections in any other section of the town.

In October 2013 members of the Planning Commission attended an informational meeting in South Londonderry, prepared by the Windham Regional Commission and facilitated by Lynette Whitney, Pollution Control Design Chief for the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR), to obtain information about funding sources for such a feasibility study.

PC member Matt Conklin exercised initiative and took the lead in encouraging PC members to seek out this information. All of the PC members have participated in the ongoing effort to obtain the best information on how to get the feasibility study done and how to pay for it.

In December 2013 State officials from the Agency of Natural Resources attended a meeting of the Westminster Planning Commission and provided information about the avenues available to apply for state aid for: A) municipal supply of safe drinking water, or B) municipal sewage disposal services. State officials participating included Winslow Ladue, Financial Management Program Manager, Facilities Engineering Division, Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), and Lynette Whitney, ANR Pollution Control Design Chief.

This meeting was also attended by representatives from Marquise and Morano, LLC, who participated as members of the audience as well as professionals who provided information from their own experience and perspectives as contractors.

The next step in this information-gathering process will occur at the regular Planning Commission meeting of August 11, 2014 (7:00 pm at the Town Hall). Robert "Red" Dufresne of Dufresne and Associates, has agreed to attend and provide further information about how funding may be obtained to pay for complete feasibility studies for either a municipal water supply or municipal sewage disposal.

All the possible designs contemplated include access to the excess sewage treatment capacity at the Rockingham Sewage Treatment Plant and possibly established pipelines in Westminster Station. A water resource with a sufficient flow rate may be identified in the vicinity of Westminster Heights Road or a spring close to Route 5.

## NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER CARES

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 Donna Dawson at 722-3607 or by e-mail at [wecares@sover.net](mailto:wecares@sover.net). Check us out on the web at [www.westminstercares.org](http://www.westminstercares.org) and like us on Facebook.

### Services Provided:

**Meals on Wheels** – In July, 27 different WC volunteers delivered meals one day a month to 18 different people who are now on meals. In addition, two frozen entrees were delivered to nine people on Fridays for weekend meals. (18 total) We have one new driver who will help fill in over the summer.

**Transportation** – During the month of July, 26 rides were provided by eight different volunteers who drove 15 different Westminster residents to medical appointments, shopping or programs for a total of 628 miles.

**Nursing Program:** During June, our community nurse saw seven seniors in 12 visits that covered diabetes management, medication management, foot care, and vitals check-in. The nurse also attended Senior Lunch to do blood pressure checks.

**Meetings:** Attended by staff in July included: bookkeeper, Gazette, graphic designer, grant writer, Senior Lunch, and Committees.

**Programs in July:** two Secrets of Healthy Aging sessions and a trip to the Tasha Tudor Museum in Brattleboro, four Yoga classes, 20 Strength Training classes, and four Artist in Each of Us classes.

**Assistance and Referrals:** Assistance provided to several Westminster residents and their families, and several motel residents, collaborating with social service agencies, Senior Solutions, the VA, Friends of Veterans, SEVCA, VCIL, Adult Protective Services and the Visiting Nurses.

**Friendly Visiting:** Four volunteers making friendly visits to five seniors.

**Medical Equipment:** Eight pieces of medical equipment were lent out and we received several returned and donated pieces of equipment.

**Next Meeting:** September, 3rd, 2014

There are no meetings in July or August.

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

**Memorials for July 2014** In memory of Barbara Keil from Erin Hennessey In memory of Melanie (Mel) Anderson DeLonge from: Phyllis Anderson, Don Anderson, Gerry Harty, Connie Sanderson, Chris Morrill, Louise Luring. In memory of Mary Potter from: Myra Ashcroft, Judy and Pete Harrison, Ruth Grandy.

## 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. 5 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.

Next Prudential meetings: 11th and 25th

Number of calls through July 30th: 48

Number of calls calendar year to Date: 224

Number of calls fiscal year to date: 48

**Association Meeting:** The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association met for their regular meeting July 1st with President Paul Millman presiding. There were members 21 present and 6 members excused. Currently there are 40 members of the volunteer fire department. Plans for the 4th of July parade in Saxtons River, the annual community picnic July 26th and the truck show August 2nd were discussed. 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.

**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 in 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 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. Memorial and Honorary donations received in May: In memory of Harold and Alice Shattuck from Barbara Greenough. In honor of Barb and Peter Bazin from Westminster Cares.

Donations received in May: The Cobb family, Beverly and David Decamp, Holly Waryas, Tom and Brenda Lawrence.

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 Westminster West.

There is a Fire House, an engine and a rescue vehicle located in Westminster West and more help is always welcome to utilize that equipment during calls.

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

Check us out at [www.westminsterfireandrescue.org](http://www.westminsterfireandrescue.org)

## FROM YOUR LISTERS - KEEPING YOU IN THE KNOW

*By Westminster Board of Listers:*

*Babs Lynde, Mike Fawcett and Harley Rounds*

Every August, when the tax bills go out, the Listers office gets a whole lot of phone calls and visits from our taxpayers, mostly wanting to know why their taxes went up. Please know that Town Listers do NOT change the town tax rates. Listers value property at fair market or what your property would sell for if available.

Tax rates are produced from other factors including what the voters of our Town approve for spending for the schools, fire department and town activities, such as road maintenance. Westminster has an annual town meeting each year which usually falls on the last Saturday in February or the first Saturday in March, followed by vote day on the first Tuesday in March. It is extremely important that you vote to determine your town/school/fire budgets and spend-

ing. The result of these votes are used by our selectboard to help decide the tax rate which will be set in July for the tax bills that go out in August for September and February payments.

Your Listers are always happy to sit down with you and discuss your property to ensure that we have it correctly assessed on the Grand List. We are charged by the State of Vermont to determine what the market will bring on our properties and assess all properties at 100 % of that value.

The only time your assessed value changes is when you have made a change on your property, such as building an addition onto the house or tearing down a barn, or if we are in the process of a reappraisal which generally affects the entire town.

If you have any questions or concerns, our office hours in the Westminster Town Hall are from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Friday, and we may be reached at 722-9516 or email us at [blynde@westminstervt.org](mailto:blynde@westminstervt.org)

## The Unfriendly Giant - Hogweed

by Babs Lynde, a Vermont Master Gardener

*by Babs Lynde, Vermont Master Gardener*

Giant hogweed is certainly impressive. Being a member of the carrot and parsley family, it is similar in appearance to the delicate Queen Anne's lace and the garden-friendly cow parsnip, with one exception – these mature plants can be as much as 15 feet high!

It produces spectacular white umbrella-shaped flowers that can measure up to 36 inches across with leaves almost 5 feet wide. Its majestic and commanding performance has made it an awesome addition to many old Eurasian gardens. Sadly, although it is not an aggressive invasive, it is a poisonous, and sometimes even deadly, plant.

The giant hogweed made its debut in North America in the early 1900's, most likely as an ornamental plant from someone's garden. Originally from Central Asia, it has had the remarkable ability of adapting to several different climates and now grows throughout the United Kingdom, Australia, Europe, parts of Canada and the United States.

Although it can be spread by wind, water, birds and some small mammals, it is thought that the worst offenders have been the small garden club members that unwittingly passed its toxic seeds from one person to another a few generations ago.

Touching the leaves and stem can produce allergic reactions that range from hives to burning blisters which sometimes turn into scars, depending on the susceptibility of the person. A drop of its watery sap can cause temporary or permanent blindness, and accidental consumption of the plant can result in death in as little as 15 minutes. It is little wonder why this plant is on the U S Department of Agriculture's National Noxious Weed list, and should not, for any reason, be distributed or otherwise encouraged to grow.

Hogweed can show up anywhere but is commonly found growing along roadsides, streams and unused portions of fields or pastures. It can be perennial or biennial (an individual plant can take 1 or 2 years to mature), and depending on the climate, a single plant can live and produce hundreds of seeds.

This plant sprouts from roots or seeds and generally blooms from mid-May into early August, and then it will produce seeds. Before it matures, it can be very difficult to distinguish from its usually harmless cousin, the cow parsnip, except that hogweed has tiny, stiff hairs that grow on the underside of the it's leaves. In the fall the 2 – 4 inch hollow stem will show dark purple streaks and/or splotches.

If you must go near this plant, be sure to wear gloves, long pants, a long-sleeved shirt and eye protection. It is also a good idea to take with you some pre-moistened antibacterial cloths that can be found in any grocery or department store.

If you come in contact with the plant or its sap, immediately wash the affected area, and in some cases, you may want to seek medical help. If you think you might have hogweed on your property, contact professional help in identifying this plant, especially if you intend to permanently eradicate it, by calling the Vermont Agency of Agriculture at 802-828-1246 or visit their Website at [www.vermontagriculture.com](http://www.vermontagriculture.com) for pictures and acceptable control methods. Remember, this is not a friendly giant.

Would you like more information concerning giant hogweed and other poisonous plants in our area? 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](mailto:master.gardener@uvm.edu) or visit their Website at [www.uvm.edu/mastergardener/](http://www.uvm.edu/mastergardener/) for extensive information.

# Aged in Vermont

Westminster Cares, Inc.

## KEEPING YOURSELF WELL-WATERED THIS SUMMER

By Isabelle Abramson, RN

During the hot summer months we're quick to offer a wilting flower a drink from the watering can or set out a sprinkler over a crispy lawn, but we're not always as careful to give our bodies the same consideration.

Your body's demands for water increase significantly when the weather is warm as you lose water from evaporating perspiration throughout the day. Headaches, irritability, dry mouth, fatigue, dizziness, and constipation are all tell-tale signs that you are not providing adequate hydration to the cells in your body, which require water for their every function.

So how much is enough? While the standard advice offered by medical professionals is that you should drink 8 cups of water each day, every person will have slightly different requirements to stay hydrated. Changes in the environment, activity level, types of foods eaten, medications, and body weight will all effect how much water you personally require.

The Mayo clinic suggests that on average men should drink about 3 liters (about 13 cups), and women should drink about 2.2 liters (about 9 cups) of total beverages each day.

These recommendations can seem like a lot, but it helps to remember that a "cup" of water is different from a "glass" of water. As an example, standard sized mason jars (that I've noticed people frequently use as drinking glasses) hold two cups of water, so if you were using these jars at home the recommendation would be for women to drink four and a half jars, and six and a half for men.

You may want to take a minute and measure how many cups of water are in your own drinking glasses when you fill them normally, so you'll know how many "glasses" not "cups" you should try to drink each day.

If you think you might not be drinking enough water (do you have just a bit of a headache right now?) try setting out the recommended amount of water in jars or a pitcher at the beginning of the day. If you're having trouble drinking the recommended amount try making herbal tea or warming the water (when I drink plain water at home I usually fill the glass with half cold and half hot water from the kettle, because warm water feels easier to drink).

Also, if you suffer from urinary frequency in the evening you may want to try to consume more of the water in the earlier part of the day. If you still feel symptoms of dehydration while following these recommendations try to increase your water consumption slightly for the following day until you feel that you are consuming enough water to stay well hydrated.

Eating foods that are high in water content, like cucumbers or watermelon, can also help you stay hydrated, as will avoiding foods and beverages that cause water loss such as excessive consumption of caffeine or alcohol. On very hot days it is well worth planning your schedule so that you will have the least exertion and exposure to heat during the hottest part of the day.

While these recommendations will help most people stay adequately hydrated and support their overall health and wellness during the summer months, please be aware that certain medical conditions require carefully monitored, and sometimes restricted, fluid intake.

So if you suffer from a medical issue such as kidney problems, heart failure, or any other condition for which your doctor has advised you to follow a specific protocol for fluid intake please follow his or her recommendations over the ones mentioned in this article.

Be well and stay well-watered!

## COMMUNITY FUN IS ON THE WAY

This year the Westminster West Community Fair is on Saturday Sept. 6, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., in and around the church in Westminster West.

The theme this year is "Local and Global Peacemakers" to pay tribute to those in our community who help with peacemaking close to home and far beyond our borders.

The Grand Marshals will be Fletcher Proctor and Patti Whalen, to recognize their significant contributions to peacemaking here and abroad.

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 running race for adults, a silent auction, a talent show, a delicious chicken barbeque, a fortune teller and face painting, various crafts and booths and a Golden elephant sale. See the full schedule at [www.westminsterwest.org](http://www.westminsterwest.org).

It's fun for the whole family and the biggest fundraiser of the year for the little village church in Westminster West – a wonderful resource that serves our whole community. Come on out and see your neighbors, share a laugh or a talent, enjoy a delicious meal or pick up a treasure that you never before knew you needed!

And, as you clean out your attic, basement, or garage please keep the fair in mind. Set aside treasures to donate for both the silent auction and the tag sale. Please no computers, TVs (they cost money to get rid of), clothes, or books (the Westminster West Library takes these for their book sale the same day). We also appreciate donations of baked goods for the bake sale or contributions from your garden for the delicious meal (too many tomatoes, zucchini or basil? We can help!)

If you want to make a donation, volunteer to help or you just have other questions call Nick Keil at 387-4555 or Laura Williams at 387-2765.

## WESTMINSTER MYSTERY PHOTO



**WHERE DID THIS DISASTROUS FIRE HIT IN WESTMINSTER, AND WHAT YEAR DID IT HAPPEN?**

**E-mail your answer to [westminsternews@gmail.com](mailto:westminsternews@gmail.com) or [blynde@westminstervt.org](mailto:blynde@westminstervt.org), 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.**

## We Need Mystery Photos!

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

## REMEMBERING A VALUED COMMUNITY MEMBER



In remembrance of Mary Farnum Potter, 1925 – 2014.

## Historical Society Meeting Change

The August Westminster Historical Society meeting has been changed from Tuesday the 12th to Thursday the 14th at 7 p.m. at the Institute.

## KIRKPATRICK GRADUATES

Rachael Kirkpatrick of Westminster graduated on May 17 from Castleton State College with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology.

She was inducted into the college's Honor Society, Phi Eta Sigma, her freshman year. While at CSC, Rachael joined the Student Support Network and was trained to support and provide resources for students in crisis.

Rachael is a 2010 graduate of Bellows Falls Union High School and is the daughter of Robert and Jane Kirkpatrick.

## PUTNEY TRAILS PROJECT SUPPORTERS

By Hannah Pick

The map of Places to Walk, Hike, Bike and X-C Ski in Putney has now been printed and will be available around town for all to enjoy. Look for it at the Cop, the General Store, the laundromat, library, town hall and more.

You can find the project on Facebook, where there are photos from some of the walking routes, space for giving feedback, and an opportunity to share your own experiences adventuring in Putney. Please join the conversation at: [Facebook.com/PutneyTrailsProject](https://www.facebook.com/PutneyTrailsProject)

Special thanks to Susan Kochinskas, of Flocksholm Design, Putney. She generously gave her time to this project, pulling together the document into a coherent, well-designed finished product. I can't thank her enough.

Also Jeff Nugent of Windham Regional Commission was invaluable to this project. He created the very map itself. Thank you Jeff!

Thanks also to the Brattleboro Area Prevention Coalition who received the grant and supported this project from start to finish. And last but not least the Vermont Department of Health provided the grant, which made this all possible.

To all of you who pick up the map, I hope you find new and inspiring places to explore in Putney.

# 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 and Thursdays: at the First Congregational Church in Westminster from 9-10 a.m.; at the Westminster West Church from 6-7 p.m.; or at Greater Rock Fitness in Bellows Falls from 11-12. 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. Suggested minimum donation.

Please call 376-5397 or e-mail paulinebob@hotmail.com to register or for more information.

### Westminster West Public Library Trustees

The Westminster West Public Library Trustees meet on the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the library. They welcome visits from the public, but it would be best to check times with Bev Major at 387-5737 before coming.

### Bellows Falls Farmers' Market

Stop by the Train Station in Bellows Falls every Friday from 4 to 7 p.m., for our Farmers Market. For details visit [www.bffarmersmarket.com](http://www.bffarmersmarket.com) or call 463-2018.

**Walking:** Meet at the Westminster Heights Park and Ride on Wednesday mornings at 9am and carpool to walking site. Most times the walk takes one hour and we are back by 10:30. Bring water, hat, walking stick, (if desired), sun screen and wear good sturdy shoes. We can walk at different speeds depending on the group. Call the Westminster Cares Office to find out more: 722-3607 or email [wecares@sover.net](mailto:wecares@sover.net)."

## 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

The Congregational Church of Westminster West 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](mailto: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.gbf4hisglory.com/](http://www.gbf4hisglory.com/).

## Meetings

**Selectboard** 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall.

**Planning 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 - No Summer Meetings** 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, Aug. 25 at 4:30 p.m. at the Town Hall

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

## WESTMINSTER SCHOOLS WELCOME TO SCHOOL PICNIC

The Westminster Schools will be hosting the Annual Welcome to School Picnic on Monday, August 25 at the Center School. Classrooms in both schools will be open to visitors starting at 5 p.m. and the picnic will begin at 5:30. We provide the hotdogs and hamburgers - please bring a salad, desert, or casserole to share.

## GAZETTE BOARD SEEKS SECRETARY

The Westminster Gazette Board is seeking a new board member to serve as Secretary. There is only one meeting per month, usually the last Monday at 4:30 p.m. at the Town Hall, and limited to about an hour.

Anyone interested can contact the Gazette at [westminsternews@gmail.com](mailto:westminsternews@gmail.com).

**The Deadline for the September 2014 Issue of the Westminster Gazette is Wednesday, Aug 27. Publish Date is Tuesday, Sept. 2. To Contact the Westminster Gazette E-mail: [westminsternews@gmail.com](mailto:westminsternews@gmail.com)**



**THE GAZETTE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT OF ITS UNDERWRITERS:**  
Kurn Hattin Homes  
Westminster School District  
Town of Westminster  
Westminster Activities Commission  
Sojourns Community Health Clinic  
Westminster Cares  
Westminster Fire & Rescue Association

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**Board of Directors:**  
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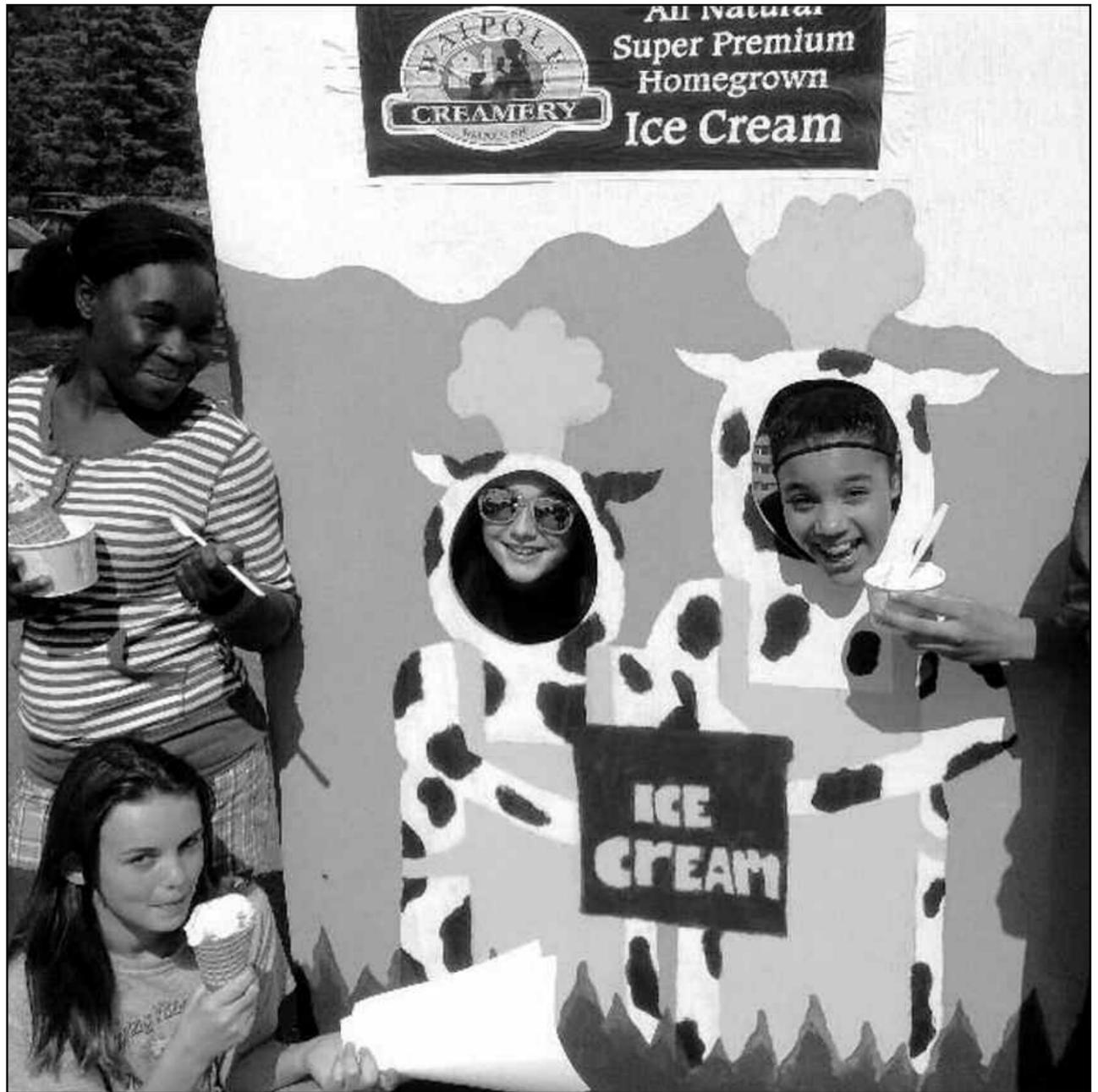
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# SHOULD ICE CREAM DAY BE A NEW NATIONAL HOLIDAY?

On a recent Sunday, the Kurn Hattin students celebrated National Ice Cream Day in sweet style at the Walpole Creamery.



## “THANK YOU” FOR ANOTHER WONDERFUL GARDEN TOUR, WESTMINSTER CARES SAYS

Thanks to everyone who made Westminster Cares’ 2014 Garden Tour, held June 28-29, a wonderful success.

Donna Dawson, 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.”

We are especially grateful to the generous hosts who opened their private gardens to the public: Gordon and Mary Hayward, Lucy and Jim Matteau, Caitlyn and Peter Adair, and Barbara Sherrod and Mark Steinhardt.

These contributors also 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: Halladay’s Harvest Barn Inn, Laura Zindel, Morning Star Perennials, Raine Kane/Rainey Day Leaves, Basketville, Joy Wah Restaurant, Isabelle Croteau and Jackie & John Connors.

- Food and beverages: Harlow Farmstand, Brattleboro Co-op, Walker Farm, Putney Co-op, BJ’s Wholesale Club, 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, and Kurn Hattin Homes.

- 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 and Daron Tansley.

- Table Arrangements: Judy Petry.

Special acknowledgement goes to the volunteers and board members who served on the garden tour committees and donated energy, time and effort during the Tour weekend. The support Westminster Cares receives from the community, for the tour and throughout the year, is truly appreciated.

The winners of the Garden Tour Raffle were as follows:

1st Prize: Rosslyn Bradley of Westborough, MA.

2nd Prize: Sue Cota of Saxtons River

3rd Prize: Wendy Schoeneman of New Jersey

4th Prize: Susan Clifford of Putney

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, go to [www.westminster-cares.org](http://www.westminster-cares.org). E-mail us at [wecares@sover.net](mailto:wecares@sover.net) or call 802-722-3607. Like us on Facebook.

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## August Business of the Month: Heidi Bernier, Realtor

As a lifelong native of Vermont, with nearly 20 years experience as a Real Estate Agent, licensed in both Vermont and New Hampshire, I offer my customers and clients a keen familiarity of the area and the local real estate market. I take pride in providing personalized service, catering to the individual requirements of my clients and customers, along with a creative marketing approach. Trained in representation of homebuyers, as well as sellers, I earned my CBR designation (certified buyer representative) in 1996.

Many people and services are required to bring a transaction to a successful closing, including: Mortgage Brokers, Engineers, Building Inspectors, Insurance Agents, Attorney's and Title Companies.

My years of working full-time in the field of Real Estate have gained me the contacts and experience needed to guide my clients and customers through the process.

If you are considering selling or buying property, I would welcome the opportunity to be of assistance. (c) 802-380-1585 (w) 802-254-6400 ext.135 or e-mail heidi.bernier@berkleyveller.com

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## BELLOWS FALLS ROTARY AWARDS BFUHS SCHOLARSHIPS

On July 10, the Bellows Falls Rotary Club President, Keith Clark, along with fellow Rotarians in Rotary District 7870 and Rotary District Governor, Dr. Richard Berryman, presented three Bellows Falls Union High School Seniors with their scholarships.

The three scholarship recipients, chosen by the Bellows Falls Rotary Club Scholarship Committee, were each presented with \$2000 scholarships.

Emily Dufault will be pursuing her education in nursing at Husson University in Bangor, ME, Chapin Reis will be pursuing her education in Hospitality at Endicott College in Beverly, MA and Kaitlyn Burns will be pursuing her education in Psychology & Sociology at Community College of Vermont.

Not pictured, is our \$500.00 cash award & Rotary Medal winner, Taylor Pinsonault. Taylor was chosen by the faculty at Bellows Falls Union High School in recognition of her dedication and commitment to her education.

We wish these young ladies the best of luck and hope that they may someday become future leaders in our world and Rotary clubs.

At this time, we would also like to thank the community and local business



for their support which help make our fundraisers a success. This is one of the ways the Bellows Falls Rotary Club gives back to the community!

From left, Keith Clark, Emily DuFault, Chapin Reis, Kaitlyn Burns and District Governor, Dr. Richard Berryman.

Our Monthly Community Newspaper August 2014 Vol. 10, No. 8

# Westminster Gazette

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