

Westminster Gazette



po box 147 westminster vt 05158

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

Vol. 7, No.12 December 2011

KURN HATTIN HOMES HONORS AN OLD FRIEND

THE LATE THELMA FREDERICK SERVED AT KURN HATTIN FROM 1941-1984

Thelma Frederick saw a lot of change in her 43 years as Kurn Hattin Homes' bookkeeper. From 1941-1984, she worked with three directors of the Homes - W.I. Mayo, John Watson and David Maysilles. Her career spanned a period when Kurn Hattin experienced much growth in its physical plant, its services and its resources.

Accounting principles changed, office equipment evolved but Thelma's grasp of figures and names held steadfast. However, she almost didn't make it to the job interview at the Homes back in the fall of 1941. When she told her father about the job opening, he was concerned about the difficulty of her getting to and from work over the dirt road in Westminster, and he tried to discourage her. Thelma understood his concern, but having already scheduled an interview, she felt obligated to keep it. As fate would have it, on the day of her interview, a road crew was paving the road she would have to travel. With that one obstacle out of the way, she presented her credentials to W.I. Mayo, and her Kurn Hattin career began.

In her resignation letter to W. I. Mayo on July 31, 1984, Thelma wrote, "It has been an interesting life's work being a part of the team helping so many children to have a better life." At her retirement celebration on Sept. 23, 1984, Executive Director, David Maysilles commented that "Miss Frederick's depth of experience and long association with Kurn Hattin made it extremely easy for me to assume the financial responsibilities of my position."

Wentworth Hubbard, president of the board of trustees, described her as "most unique in the annals of Kurn Hattin." She was presented the distinguished service scroll which contained the words, "Her fidelity, diligence and devotion to Kurn Hattin deserve special recognition and are most worthy of emulation."

For 27 years, she also served as clerk of the corporation for Kurn Hattin and was reelected as clerk the year of her retirement. Thelma's interest in Kurn Hattin continued for her entire life as did Kurn Hattin's gratitude to her.

Thelma Frederick passed away on Oct. 24, 2011. She will remain in our hearts always, a loved member of the Kurn Hattin family. Kurn Hattin Homes is a residential, year-round, charitable home and school for in-need and at-risk children, ages 6-15, from throughout the Northeast.



Pictured is Thelma Frederick at Kurn Hattin Homes' in the early 1940s.

WESTMINSTER CHRISTMAS LUMINARIES

* DEC 23RD WE WILL MEET AT THE WESTMINSTER FIRE STATION TO ASSEMBLE THE BAGS AND CANDLES AT 6 PM

* DEC 24TH MEET AT THE WESTMINSTER FIRE STATION TO SET OUT BAGS AT 9 AM

* DEC 25TH MEET AT THE WESTMINSTER FIRE STATION AT 7 AM TO PICK UP THE BAGS

ONCE AGAIN WE ARE LOOKING FOR DONATIONS TO HELP COVER THE COST AS WELL AS VOLINTEERS TO HELP MAKE THIS A SUCCESS.

GIVE DIANE BAZIN A CALL WITH ANY QUESTIONS AT 722-4295.

DONATIONS CAN BE MADE TO DIANE BAZIN AND MAILED TO: PO BOX 12 WESTMINSTER VT 05158

WISHING EVERYONE A WARM AND JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON!

DIANE BAZIN AND CHRIS HACKETT

An Important Reminder to all the fine tax paying, dog owning and gift giving citizens of Westminster:

The final installment of 2011-2012 property taxes are due on February 10, 2012.

Also, 2012 Dog Licenses will be available in the Town Clerk's Office beginning December 15, 2011.

And finally, looking for an unusual and useful gift idea? The Town Clerk's office has gift certificates for hunting and fishing licenses and dog registrations!

COMPASS SCHOOL RECEIVES AWARD

Compass is a proud recipient of \$500 award from Exxon Mobil's Educational Alliance Program. Recommended by our local distributor, Allen Brothers in Westminster, Compass can use the generous grant award for math and science programs for our students, grades 7-12.

ART & MUSIC NIGHT AT BFUHS DEC. 8

Come experience Music, Art, Photography, and Woodworking on Thursday, Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. in the Bellows Falls Union High School Auditorium.

The BFUHS Music Department will present their annual winter concert, featuring a holiday sing-a-long. The Concert Choir, led by Mary Westbrook, will join the Concert Band and Jazz Band under the direction of Nick Pelton. Friends of Music will have festive refreshments for sale to help raise funds for the Music Department trip next June to the Festivals in the Park music competition at Six Flag New England.

Before and after the concert and during intermission, attendees can walk through the Gallery of Art, which will display students' works from introductory through advanced art classes. There will also be a special display of works from the Digital Photography and Woodworking classes.

SEVCA OFFERING FURNITURE, CLOTHING AND HOUSEWARES FOR IRENE RELIEF

Thanks to the generosity of Chroma Technology and many donors and volunteers, SEVCA has established a warehouse location to receive, and distribute donations of furniture, clothing, linens, and household goods for those impacted by Irene.

The site will be available for receiving donations of goods and for distributing donated items, on Tuesdays from 8 a.m. until noon, as well as 4:45 to 6 p.m.; and on Thursday afternoons from 2:00 until 6:00 p.m. Other times may be possible by special arrangement, if needed. and receive directions to the site. Call 722-4575 or (800) 464-9951 to donate or if in need. Website: www.sevca.org.

News from Westminster Cares

The Westminster Cares, Inc. Board of Directors met on November 6th for our Annual Meeting at the Westminster Fire House. 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.

During the month of November, 11 people received meals on wheels five days a week. Twenty rides were provided to four different people by nine different volunteers for a total of 536 miles; Nursing Program – 3.5 hours- four visits to two different homes and a blood pressure check at Senior Lunch. Programs in November included four yoga classes, two Secrets of Healthy Aging discussions and pot-luck, Senior Lunch, five Artist in Each of Us classes and 24 weight training classes.

Anyone interested in learning more about Westminster Cares, volunteering to deliver meals on wheels or driving neighbors to appointments or shopping, working on a committee, making a contribution or attending a workshop or class may contact Ronnie Friedman at

722-3607 or e-mail wecares@sover.net.

Memorial donations for November:

In memory of Millie Ward from the Walpole Savings Bank

In memory of Millie Ward from William and Shirley Ward

In memory of Millie Ward from the families of Milan Cook, Kenneth Cook and Melody Cassista

In memory of Millie Ward from Lindley Squires

In memory of Bridget Reynolds from the Office of the Public Defender, Viera, Florida

In memory of Millie Ward from Paul & Lillian Chaffee

In memory of Millie Ward from Pat and Bob Haas

In memory of Millie Ward from Mildred D. Simpson

In memory of Mille Ward from Marjorie Simpson

Send to: Westminster Cares, PO Box 312, Westminster, VT 05158

Westminster Elementary Schools Celebrate Together



At our annual Community Feast on Tuesday, Nov. 22, hundreds of dads, grandparents, moms, siblings, alumnae and staff and students, preschool through sixth grade, gathered at the Center School.

The youngest joined families in the school dining room, left photo, while first through sixth graders and guests filled up our giant gym. Sixth graders helped maintenance staff get the room ready, while many classrooms and parents helped T.E.A.M. members prepare food. They extended the school kitchen by cooking much of the feast at the Westminster Firehouse.

This year a new tradition was born. The students and families who didn't head home after feasting

activities joined staff on a hike, right photo, through Evans Woods behind the school. We loved the new bridge; a fine time was had by all!

December Calendar Highlights from the Westminster Elementary Schools

Dec. 8: Math Night. 5:30 to 7 p.m. Center School dining room.

Join math educator Mahesh Sharma to learn games and strategies for supporting your math student. Dinner and childcare provided.

Dec. 23: Early release for students. Vacation begins.

Dec.26 - Jan.2: Winter Break. School starts Tuesday, Jan.3

Jan. 25: Winter Concert



A REMINDER:
THE
DEADLINE
FOR
THE JANUARY
2012 ISSUE
IS
MONDAY,
DECEMBER 26.

**THIS IS EARLIER THAN
NORMAL, AND FOR
DECEMBER ONLY!
THANK YOU!**

COMPASS SCHOOL CONTINUES GROWTH WITH GRANT AWARDS

By Rick Gordon

Compass School continues its ever-expanding focus on its goal of providing diverse educational experiences that help every student be prepared for success in the dynamic world of the 21st century. Three recent grants are helping make these experiences accessible to all students regardless of family income.

We are pleased to announce three recent grants to Compass. A major gift from the Wolf Kahn and Emily Mason Foundation will help us extend our arts programming by supporting an arts coordinator and providing resources to bring in visiting artists to teach in the intensive program. This funding helps us lay the ground work for other enhancements in the arts that we hope to pursue.

We plan to work with Vermont Council on the Arts on evaluating and extending the way we integrate art throughout the curriculum here. We are also exploring the possibility of building a dedicated art building that will give us space to create and display art at Compass.

We were also awarded a \$2,000 grant from the Vermont Principal's Association Service Learning and Leadership Project. Our proposal focuses on expanding our outdoor adventure offerings in the intensive program to connect more to the larger community and provide more service-oriented activities. Working with Adventure Trek USA out of Bellows Falls, we hope this can lead to more community wide programming for youth from all the schools in the region. We know that our students benefit greatly from these outdoor experiences—we think opening this up to more youth in the area can be a welcome addition to the community.

Through a nomination from Allen Brothers, we received \$500 from Exxon/Mobil's Educational Alliance Program to be used in the areas of math and science. We will be using these funds to enhance supplies in science for the many projects undertaken by students.

This outside support is immensely important to keep the Compass educational program accessible to every child. We want to assure every student has an access to every part of the school



program. We can't thank these organizations enough for their generous support.

To further enhance our school wide learning community, eight Compass teachers and five students traveled to Providence, R.I. for the annual Coalition of Essential Schools Fall Forum. The theme of this year's forum was A Conversation Among Friends. For both teachers and students, this was a wonderful opportunity to connect with other schools and share the many thoughtful approaches to learning through the country. One product of the conference was reviving collaborations with Parker School and Four Rivers Charter School for professional development and for school quality review. We think these partnerships will benefit all of our schools.

All this work is reflected in a typically atypical day at Compass: The Spanish classes meet with a Guatemalan activist elder; at all school meeting, we pick names for Giving Day and think about how to personally honor each individual; in middle school science, students launch rockets to test chemistry principles; ninth and tenth graders share their movie and Web sites with Antioch New England graduate students who test each student on their science understanding. We had visitors all day who commented on how good spirited everyone was and what a positive feel there was in the school overall. Nice day of learning together.

A Little Help for Our Tender Ones

by Babs Lynde, a Vermont Master Gardener

Tender plants that must remain outside has been a challenge in our area for several generations.

We know that our winters in New England can be harsh and unforgiving especially on young plants, but many of us also have a habit of purchasing shrubs or small trees that might not be completely hardy to this area. I know I'm guilty of that myself, but I'm also a softie for bright and colorful plants!

Westminster is currently located in Zone 5-a according to the United States Department of Agriculture Hardiness Zone Map as generated by the Meteorological Evaluation Services of Amityville, N.Y. The zone map we use today is from data gathered during 1974 to 1986, but due to constant changing temperatures, we may find ourselves closer to Zone 4-b when the new map is produced in the near future. These zones are used as a guide to help farmers, horticulturists, and home gardeners to know what types of plants will thrive in temperatures indicative to the area where they are planted. You can view the Plant Hardiness Zone map of Vermont at www.uvm.edu/pss/ppp/pubs/oh53.htm.

Zone 5-a means our lowest temperatures should drop between -15° to -20°, but again, we know that our temperatures are apt to drop even lower than -20° so these numbers should only be used as a guideline. When you shop for plants, shrubs or trees, don't bother with anything that is slated for Zone 6 or higher unless you plan on replacing them every year. However, even plants that claim to survive in Zone 5 may need a little help once in a while.

Often you will see people covering their broadleaf evergreen shrubs such as azaleas, camellias and rhododendrons and other plants including the butterfly bush, hibiscus, and roses with staked canvases in the late fall or early winter months. The canvas does not keep out the cold temperatures, but it does help plants from freezing and thawing out rapidly on those days where it was below freezing at night, and then the sun warms the air to above freez-

ing later in the afternoon. It's the rapid temperature change that does the majority of damage to the plants' trunks, stems or young branches that haven't had the chance to age and harden. Heavy snow that weighs down and breaks branches can also be avoided by using stakes that are taller than the plant, made from sturdy wood or metal, and placed several inches into the soil.

If you don't have canvas or want to do something a little different, find some old white sheets, have your kids or grandkids paint faces on the sheets with water-proof markers, and cut off the top of the sheets once you've covered the plants to keep the snow from accumulating on top of the plant. Cotton sheets still allow the air to circulate, just like canvas, plus you can wash them in the spring and re-use the sheets another year. Use old holiday garland or twine around the "waist" of the sheet to keep it in place, and then decorate your plants to look like Santa, Frosty, a Christmas tree or any other winter character!

For smaller plants that are closer to the ground and need a little extra help with freezing temperatures, first take away all the fallen leaves in the area where insects have probably already started gathering for the winter, and then clip off any dead or dying leaves. Cover your plants with either freshly fallen leaves or several inches of good straw. Straw is easier to remove in the spring and doesn't mold like hay does. When you are cleaning up next spring and removing either the straw or leaves, just add them to your compost pile.

I wish you all a serene and cheerful holiday season!

Would you like more information about winterizing tender plants? 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 mastergardener@uvm.edu or visit their website at www.uvm.edu/mastergardener/ for extensive information.

Aged in Vermont

Westminster Cares, Inc.

STEPPING UP FOR YOUR TOWN:
LUCILLE DONOVAN



Volunteers are the people who make our town run smoothly. You may not know them, but volunteers are the people who serve on town committees and as town officials. They pick up trash along the roadway in the spring. They light the luminaries along the village streets at Christmas.

Volunteers are often why your neighbor's yard is shoveled after a snowstorm or the elderly woman down the street can remain safely in her home instead of moving to a nursing home fifty miles away from friends and relatives.

Lucille Donovan is one of those volunteers. She drives those who no longer drive, to church, to senior lunch, to medical appointments. She helped care for Pearl Keefe; now she does house and garden work for Ina Beck.

Lucille is active in the Westminster Congregational Church, where she participates in women's fellowships, organizes the sale of bulbs to raise money and has sung in the choir since she came to Westminster in 2000.

In fact, she was singing in the choir before she even lived in a real house here. She and her husband bought land on Route 5 in town and moved a seven-foot by eleven-foot camper onto it. They lived there — with a cat and a Great Dane named Sammy — for nearly three months, until their house was finished.

Since then, Lucille has been a valuable and welcome volunteer for Westminster. Thank you!

Westminster Cares offers many opportunities to volunteer. You can deliver Meals on Wheels, take an elderly neighbor to the doctor or shopping, visit someone who lives alone, take a walk with a neighbor or serve on one of our committees. To find out how you can volunteer, call Westminster Cares at 722-3607 or e-mail wecares@sover.net

"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.

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



1. Where was this farm located?
2. What happened to it?

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.

October Answer: On Page (2)

October Winners: Taryn Darrell, age 8, grade 3 at Westminster Central Elementary and Norm Wright

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?

NEWS FROM THE WESTMINSTER VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE

The Westminster Fire & Rescue Department holds their monthly meetings at 7:00 PM on the 1st Tuesday of every month and a combined drill on the 3rd Tuesday of every month. Rescue training is the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

Next association meeting December 6th at 7:00 PM

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

December meetings: December 12th & 26th

Number of calls in October: 40

Number of man hours spent: 15,315

Number of calls through November 27th : 22

Number of man hours spent: 2,768

Number of calls calendar year to Date: 276

Number of calls fiscal year to date: 189

Association Meeting: The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association met for their regular meeting November 1st with 30 members present and 4 members excused. Currently there are 43 members of the volunteer fire department.

Snow on Roofs: When shoveling or raking snow off your roofs, before you begin, be sure you have an escape route in mind if the snow starts sliding when you are up there on it or under it. There have been some close calls this season with people getting trapped under a pile off the roof. It is a good idea to do these projects only when there is someone else around.

Exit Doors: Frequently when snow comes off a roof and lands in front of a door that is not needed as an exit or an entrance for the winter months, it seems easier to leave it, thus eliminating a way to enter or leave the building. In case of a fire or an ambulance emergency, it is good to have all options available for the emergency personnel. Smoke or fire could make it impossible to reach what would seem to be the door normally used and the availability of the door not shoveled out may be the only way in or out of the building.

Vehicle kits: During the cold weather it makes sense to carry some items in your vehicle in case of an emergency. A blanket, a small shovel, jumper cables, a flashlight, and small amount of sand are a few examples. Always keep your fuel tank at least half full to avoid condensation.

Snow Removal: With the snow season upon us, we all need to keep our driveways and walkways plowed and sanded to accommodate emergency vehicles. Keep in mind that fire trucks are wider than the ordinary vehicle and need wider pathways and ambulances are usually not 4-wheel drive nor do they carry chains. Extra effort should be used when removing snow and ice. Emergencies are seldom planned.

Extension cord safety: Extension cords are meant for temporary use only. Overloading an extension cord or leaving one connected for too long could cause them to overheat and start a fire.

Christmas Trees: Be sure to keep your Christmas tree watered so it won't become dry and be a fire hazard. Always keep the tree away from open fires and heating appliances.

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.

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 7 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, Dec. 22 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

**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS
FROM
THE GAZETTE!**

DEAR RESIDENTS OF WESTMINSTER: NOMINATE A CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Many Westminster citizens contribute their time, skills, and effort to make this a great community. The Selectboard would like to recognize one of these outstanding citizens as "Westminster's Citizen of the Year" at our next Town Meeting.

Is there someone you would like to nominate for this award? If you know someone who has worked to make Westminster a better community, please let us know.

Simply send us a letter letting us know who you would like to nominate along with a brief statement as to why you feel they should be Westminster's Citizen of the Year.

Please send your nomination in a sealed envelope to:

Citizen of the Year Nomination
Westminster Town Hall
P.O. Box 147
Westminster, VT 05158

Nominations must be received by December 30, 2011. All nominations will be held in the strictest confidence. The honoree will be announced during Town Meeting at BFUHS on March 3, 2012.

Thank you.

Westminster Selectboard

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

**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
Westminster Cares
Westminster Fire & Rescue
Association
The Current operated by the
Connecticut River Transit
Brattleboro Subaru

WESTMINSTER GAZETTE

Editor: Robert Smith

Board of Directors:

Elizabeth Harlow - Chairwoman

Ronnie Friedman

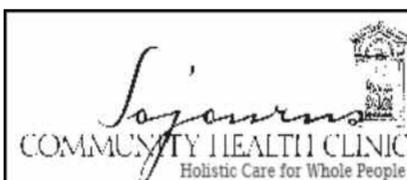
Toby Young

Cynthia Stoddard

Pictures and Articles

Provided by the Community

westminsternews@gmail.com



*Have the Holidays got you Harried?
Sojourns offers a full range of Immune Support
(just in case Santa doesn't get sick days)*

Give us a call to explore how we can help you stay healthy this winter

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**The Deadline for
The January 2012
Issue of the
Westminster Gazette is
Monday, December 26th
by 5 p.m.
Publish Date Tuesday
January 3rd**

*** Please note the
deadline date is the last
Monday of the Month, not
Wednesday, just for the
January Issue.**

**Volunteers Needed
to deliver the
Westminster Gazette
to local designated
drop off locations.
Must have your
own transportation.
&
Qualifies for
Community Service Hours**

WESTMINSTER CARES HONORS THE 90-PLUS



Westminster Cares honored its 90-year-old-plus residents at its annual meeting on Nov. 6. The town has 17 people who are over 90 years of age, and nine of them came to the meeting to talk with townspeople and watch a slideshow celebrating their lives: Arlene Bates, Ralph Buck, Barbara Keil, Artie Aiken, Ralph Atkins, Amelia Zezima, Dick Morse, Everett Reed, Arlene Reed and Evelyn Aubuchon.

Westminster Cares also elected new board members for 2012. They are Connie Sanderson, president; Susan Clifford, vice president; and Pete Harrison, treasurer. Barbara Carey, Miriam Lanata, Heidi Anderson and Sally Ryea were appointed new board members.

Westminster Cares is a nonprofit organization that creates opportunities for seniors and disabled adults to live with independence and dignity in the community. For more information, call Westminster Cares at 722-3607, e-mail wecares@sover.net or go to www.westminstercares.org.

BEST ENERGY SAVING TECHNOLOGIES A Division of SEVCA Weatherization

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NEWS FROM THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WESTMINSTER UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The First Congregational Church of Westminster, United Church of Christ with The Rev. Sami Jones McRae, Pastor is located on Main Street, Route 5 in Westminster.

Sunday worship is 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.

Important December Dates

- Dec. 6 - Women's Fellowship 6 p.m. potluck secret pal dinner
- Dec. 10 - Family Christmas Movie 1:30
- Dec. 11 - Worship and Sunday School 10 a.m.
- Dec. 18 - Worship and Sunday School 10 a.m. (Deacons meet after coffee hour)
- Dec. 19 - Standing Committee Meeting 7 p.m.
- Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve service 5:30
- Dec. 25 - NO SUNDAY Worship - Merry Christmas
- Jan. 1 - Worship 10 a.m. NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

SOUP WEDNESDAY RETURNS

Starting Nov. 30th and running every Wednesday till March the community is invited for Soup and Bread from 12-2pm. Donations and help setting up or breaking down gladly accepted. Please join us for a warm meal and fellowship.

FAMILY MOVIE

On Saturday, Dec. 10 please join us for a free family movie at 1:30 p.m. The Muppet Christmas Carol will be playing on the big screen in the fellowship hall. Popcorn and drinks will be available for a small donation.

This past summer the Westminster First Congregational Church held a barbecue and pie sale. Laura made her famous chili and also her great sauerkraut. Yum!

We would like to thank the community for their support and also Allen Brothers and Citgo/T-Bird for their donations toward our gas card raffle. Our winners were; Don Anderson - \$50 Mobile Card, Karen Walters - \$50 Citgo Card and Julia Stetson - \$25 Mobile Card.

Congratulations to all the winners!

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Harlow Farm sends out a warm Thank You to the whole community for your support this year, and every year.

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Jeff Ruggiero
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bestseptic@gmail.com

December Business of the Month Best Septic Service

Best Septic Service is a family run business that has been in the waste business for over 25 years. Best Septic covers all of your septic service and portable toilet needs. We locate tanks, make system repairs, pump tanks, add filters, clean filters, snake clogged pipes, maintain grease traps, rent hand wash stations and portable toilets. Best Septic takes pride in being a one stop shop for all of your septic and portable toilet needs.

As a local, small family oriented business we try to be involved in and help out our community in any way we can. We were happy to donate 11 portable toilets to help in the hurricane fundraiser "Bandaid Vermont," to help raise money for those families in need from the flooding. We have donated several toilets and gave discounts to schools and the elderly and are always looking for ways to help those in need and the kids in the community, so if your having an event that is non-profit or for helping the less fortunate in our community, we may be able to help.

Best Septic has expanded our Portable Toilet and handwash station dept. We offer oversized, clean, good looking portable toilets complete with lights and handwash stations to make your portable toilet renting experience the best you've ever had.

Are you selling your home or buying a new one? If so, Best Septic can inspect your septic system and give you an inspection letter for your mortgage company.

Best Septic members and employees will be attending the 2012 pumper show to take continuing education classes and gathering as much information as we can to better and more effectively and efficiently serve you. We are proud to announce that our own Jeff Ruggiero and Brenda Barbour received their Presby environmental septic course design, installation and inspection certifications this past year.

We are now offering a septic system maintenance and budget plan for home and business owners to keep their systems running efficiently and to avoid unexpected costs from surprise repairs. Give us a call to set you up!

As much as most of us dread winter we would like to give you a few pointers on winterizing your septic system! If you stop mowing your grass over the leach or drain field, this will cause the grass to grow stronger and trap more snow over it, providing insulation to keep your system from freezing.

Also, do at least one HOT load of laundry a day. Don't let water run during really cold days, it can cause it to freeze. As usual, keep all vehicles, snowmobiles etc. off the septic system!

All of us at Best Septic Services would like to wish all of you Happy Holidays and we look forward to helping you with all of your septic needs in the new year!

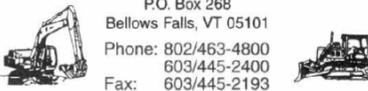
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