

Westminster Gazette



po box 147 westminster vt 05158

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

Vol. 6, No. 12 December 2010

WESTMINSTER CARES CELEBRATED ITS RESIDENTS WHO ARE 90 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER

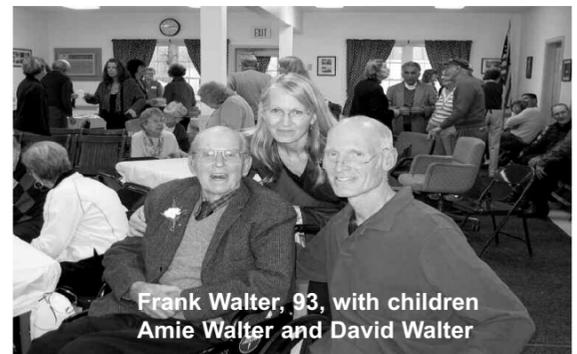
by Susan Harlow



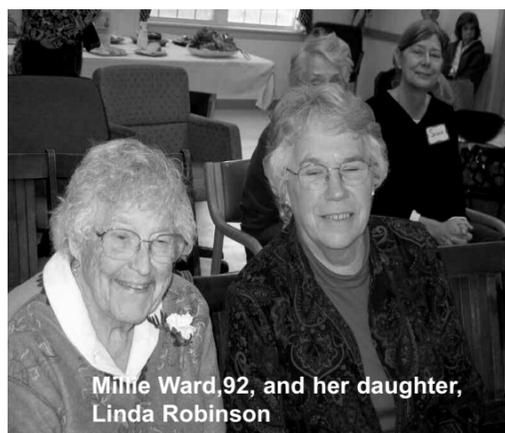
Outgoing Westminster Cares president Pete Harrison chats with Dr. Ralph Buck



Louise Morse, 96, enjoyed the party



Frank Walter, 93, with children Amie Walter and David Walter



Mimie Ward, 92, and her daughter, Linda Robinson

Westminster Cares celebrated its residents who are 90 years of age and older, at the organization's annual meeting held Sunday, Nov. 14. Of the 15 90-plus-year-olds in town, eight attended. The public was invited for the social gathering.

Pete Harrison, outgoing president of Westminster Cares, presented a slide show with photos of each 90-plus senior. He talked about their lives, beginning with the eldest, Richard Morse, 97, who has lived in Westminster since 1920.

The rest of the celebrants are Louise Morse, Artie Aiken, Everett and Arlene Reed, Doris Ferguson, Everett Garland, Dorrit Merton, Frank Walter, Helen Aiken, Rose Stoodley, Mildred Ward, Ralph Atkins and Evelyn Rhoades. Harrison dedicated the annual meeting to Marie Wright, long-time member of the Westminster Cares board of directors, who died last summer.

These new officers were elected: president, Connie Sanderson; vice president, Susan Clifford; treasurer, Pete Harrison; and secretary, Regina Borden. New board members are Milly Barry and Nan Blanchard.

Pete thanked outgoing board members Elise Manning-Sterling and Nancy Dalzel and Neil Metrick. He also thanked executive director Ronnie Friedman, who, he said, "makes us all proud to be volunteers. As outgoing president who served for six years, Pete was given a lunchbox filled with humorous items he can use as he makes his rounds delivering Meals on Wheels.

NOMINATE WESTMINSTER'S CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Dear Residents of Westminster:

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 8, 2010. All nominations will be held in the strictest confidence. The honoree will be announced during Town Meeting at BFUHS on February, 26, 2011.

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:

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

Bellows Falls - Brattleboro Commuter Schedule											
Bellows Falls to Brattleboro						Brattleboro to Bellows Falls					
AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
5:45	6:00	6:02	6:07	6:09	6:12	6:25	6:27	6:37	W	6:44	7:00
8:00	8:02	8:07	8:09	8:12	8:25	8:27	8:37	W	8:44	9:00	
1:05	2:30	2:32	2:35	2:37	2:39	2:22	2:35	2:37	2:47	2:51	3:10
4:30	4:32	4:35	4:37	4:39	4:42	4:35	4:37	4:47	4:51	4:54	5:10

W = Week days (except 4-1) --- = Bus does not stop at this time * = Effective March 30, 2010

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BELLOWS FALLS





Veterans of Foreign Wars Patriots Pen essay contest winners (l-r) Courtney Bussino, Dylan Conklin, Erica Tirado-Cuebas, with their Kurn Hattin social studies teacher, Richard Long

KURN HATTIN CHILDREN WIN VFW WRITING CONTEST

by Kim Fine

Westminster, Vermont – Three children at Kurn Hattin Homes won both the Brattleboro and District Veterans of Foreign Wars Patriots Pen Essay Contests. Eighth graders, Erica Tirado-Cuebas won first place, Courtney Bussino, won second place and Dylan Conklin, won third place for their essays on, Does Patriotism Still Matter in the Brattleboro contest. Erica and Dylan won first and second place in the District contest. Courtney Bussino received Honorable Mention at the District level. Each winner was given a certificate and a cash gift at the Awards Banquet this month.

Half a million essays were submitted by junior high students throughout the country. Social Studies teacher, Richard Long has his 6th-8th grade classes submit their essays annually and every year several are finalists. Erica Tirado-Cuebas is one of five students vying for top honors at the State competition; The winner will be announced at a recognition banquet in Barre, Vermont on January 8th. Erica and her teacher will be in attendance at the celebration. The students received certificates and cash prizes. The children said they plan to use their prize gifts for Christmas presents and high school.

Kurn Hattin is a charitable, year-round, residential home and school in Westminster, Vermont for at-risk and in-need boys and girls, ages 6 through 15, from throughout the northeast.

Haitian Orphanage Thanks Kurn Hattin Children

by Kim Fine

Westminster, VT – The disaster in Haiti directed the Kurn Hattin student council to make raising money for the victims in Haiti a high priority by committing to long-term partnerships with two organizations there. God's Littlest Angels, one of the Haitian orphanages who benefited from the children's fundraising efforts, sent a warm and heartfelt thank you for the \$739.09 they received to help the orphaned children in their care. They wrote, It is said that it takes a whole village to raise a child and that is true about the children of Haiti also. Many people together are seeing that these children are loved, fed and well cared for. Your donations make all this possible. Thank you so very much. The Kurn Hattin children raised the funds in many ways. They held a raffle and a Change War (a collection of loose change). Half of the proceeds collected at a Rotary spaghetti dinner, where the 7th & 8th graders were servers, were designated for this project. And at the Annual Choral and Jazz Band Invitationals, donations were collected. Since the inception of this and other charitable projects this year, the Kurn Hattin students have given more to charities than they have spent on themselves. They are very generous. Kurn Hattin Homes is a charitable, year-round home and school for in-need and at-risk children, ages 6-15, from throughout the northeast.

Ralph Nading Hill Writing Contest Deadline Extended. Contest Sponsored by Green Mountain Power and Vermont Life

The deadline for submissions for the prestigious Ralph Nading Hill writing contest has been extended until January 14, 2011.

The contest was established to memorialize the literary contributions of Ralph Nading Hill, Jr., one of Vermont's best known writers and historians, who died at the age of 70 in December 1987. The contest is sponsored by Green Mountain Power and Vermont Life magazine. Mr. Hill was a long time member of GMP's Board of Directors and the Vermont Life Editorial Board.

The Ralph Nading Hill, Jr., Literary Prize is now considered by Vermont writers to be one of the state's premier literary prizes. Entry for the prize, as in past years, may be an essay, short story, play or poetry. The focus of the literary work must be "Vermont - Its People, the Place, Its History or Its Values". It must be unpublished. The maximum length is 1,500 words. The winner will be selected on the basis of literary merit and suitability for publication in Vermont Life.

A \$1,500 cash prize is awarded annually to the winner, and the winning work will be published in a future issue of Vermont Life. The most recent winner was "Heart Sounds," by Jane C. Graiko of Essex Junction, Vermont.

The Ralph Nading Hill, Jr., Literary Prize Board of Judges consists of Mary Hegarty Nowlan, editor of Vermont Life; Tom Slayton, past editor of Vermont Life; Tony Marro, retired executive editor of Newsday; Alison Freeland, a 1994 winner of the Ralph Nading Hill, Jr., award for her story, "Shadbush"; Brian Vachon, retired vice president of communications at National Life of Vermont and a former Vermont Life editor; and Steve Terry, retired Green Mountain Power senior executive.

The contest is open to all residents of Vermont, including students enrolled in Vermont colleges and seasonal residents. Entrants may be professional writers as well as amateurs. Green Mountain Power employees and their immediate families are not eligible, nor is the immediate family of any member of Green Mountain Power's Board of Directors. Past winners are not eligible. Please send two copies of your entry to the Corporate Relations Department at Green Mountain Power, 163 Acorn Lane, Colchester, VT 05446. **Please provide entrant's name, address and phone on a separate sheet of paper. Do not mention the entrant's name on the entry itself.**



The Bellows Falls Middle School Life Skills Program

The Bellows Falls Middle School Life Skills Program, led by Margaret Fix and Jane Mitchell, put on a Thanksgiving Feast as part of their curriculum. The students planned the menu, picked the appropriate recipes, and made the food. Things that were made included turkey, stuffing, baked potatoes, green bean casserole, apple crisp, and pumpkin pie. Principal Cheryl McDanielThomas brought in squash for the feast. Other donations were received from Mr. G's, Brenda Forrest, Discount Food Warehouse, and parent Anne St. John.

Students pictured from left to right are JoAnn, Becky, Stella, Jordan, Katrina, Brittany, Lisa, and Hunter. Missing from the photo are Kari, Jonah, and Autumn.



KURN HATTIN TEACHER RECEIVES NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD

by Kim Fine

Westminster, VT – Kurn Hattin Homes' Social Studies teacher, Richard Long received the 2009-2010 National Citizenship Education Teacher Award from the Vermont State Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). Richard was nominated by Kurn Hattin Homes, Director of Educational and Residential Services, Thomas Fahner. On the certificate he was presented it states, Teachers change our society one day, one class lesson, one student at a time. There's no more important job. And there's no one who does the role better. Thank you. Kurn Hattin is proud of Richard Long for receiving this distinguished honor and educating the children for over 29 years. Kurn Hattin Homes is a charitable, year-round home and school for in-need and at-risk children, ages 6-15, from throughout the Northeast. Pictured is Kurn Hattin Homes, Social Studies teacher, Richard Long.

SEVCA KICKING OFF 4th ANNUAL "SHARE THE WARMTH" CAMPAIGN

Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) and WCFR radio is kicking off the 4th annual "Share the Warmth" Campaign to raise funds to assist households in need with emergency fuel deliveries.

The "Share the Warmth" Fund has been used to help households who can't be served by the federally-funded fuel assistance program. Many of those served by the fund are working households who may earn just too much to receive assistance, but cannot afford a fuel delivery. Last winter, several generous donors came through to truly "Share the Warmth" as the local businesses, churches, organizations, and individuals of Windham and Windsor Counties stepped forward to address the need and raise over \$22,000 to help local residents keep their homes heated. SEVCA reports that over the last year, many more local households have been touched by the economic crisis. "We are seeing so many new faces in our offices, people who thought that they would never need help", lamented SEVCA Executive Director Stephen Geller.

The Vermont State Fuel office reported that statewide it received 39,428 applications seeking state Seasonal Fuel Assistance, but only 27,837 of those households were eligible. The Share the Warmth fund helps to fill the gap in this region. "With these funds, we are able to assist people in need that were out of the loop such as seniors and the working poor," explained Geller "There are many low-wage workers who need this kind of assistance, especially parents who have to make those awful 'heat or eat' decisions."

The idea for the "Share the Warmth" campaign was originally born in October 2007, when WCFR's new Station Manager Ray Kimball and members of Southeastern Vermont Community Action's management team first met to discuss the impending heating fuel crisis. "Ray has been such a great supporter. He's been behind us all the way, getting the word out there," noted SEVCA Development Director Lisa Jane Clarke, "we're hoping to partner with local businesses with some new promotions this year to raise money for the fund." The organization hopes to double the amount raised last year. Connecticut Valley Yellow Pages has donated an ad to help out the cause, as well.

Anyone wishing to donate to SEVCA to help keep people from "falling through the cracks" may drop their donation off at the "Good Buy" stores in Springfield, White River Junction or Bellows Falls during the "Share the Warmth" Campaign, or send a check to SEVCA, 91 Buck Drive, Westminster, VT 05158, or call (802) 722-4575 to charge their gift to their credit card or to get more information. You can pay by credit card via PayPal by going to www.sevca.org. All contributions to SEVCA are 100% tax deductible.

WESTMINSTER GAZETTE

Editor: Peggy Porter

Board of Directors:

Elizabeth Harlow - Chairwoman

Ronnie Friedman

Toby Young

Cynthia Stoddard

Pictures and Articles

Provided by the Community

westminsternews@gmail.com

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Squash Festival a Success!

by Tatiana Schreiber

The first Westminster West Festival of Squashes, a fundraiser for the Westminster West Public Library, was held Oct 16th and was a great success. Festival-goers enjoyed a wide range of dishes at the squash café, including squash-and apple soups, squash-bean stews, a squash lasagna with goat cheese, and many more offerings contributed by local chefs and friends and neighbors of the library. There was a bake sale featuring squash breads, tarts and cookies; specialty coffees completed the meal. The squash identification treasure hunt introduced children and adults to the diversity of squash that can be grown in our region, and children also got to exercise their creativity in designing intriguing squash sculptures. Alison Taylor worked with the children at the Westminster West School prior to the event to create these playful squash creatures. Neil Taylor provided festival-goers and organizers with much needed chair massages. Long-time Westminster farmer Howard Prussack presented a slide show detailing his experience growing squash over 39 years to an appreciative audience with many questions about timing of planting and harvesting and management of pests and disease. Howard and Lisa Prussack also created a most impressive display of the squashes they grow, which was one of the highlights of the event. Aew Ladd demonstrated her delicious steamed custard-filled winter squash which was enjoyed by all, and cookbook author Crescent Dragonwagon wrapped up the event with equally delicious squash poetry.

This event could not have happened without the generosity of many friends and the library is most grateful for their help! Thanks are due to all of the creative cooks in our community who donated dishes for the café, and very special thanks to Susan Talbot and Mary Ceglarski who co-managed the café. Dan Savel, Rachael Shaw, Carlene Raper and Elena and Priscilla Tansley were vendors at the event, and Peter Stamm prepared specialty coffees for the café. Donations of squash, cider and other ingredients came in from Harlow Farm, Allen Brothers, Holton Farm, Green Mountain Orchards, Walker Farm, High Meadows Farm, Old Athens Farm, and Livewater Farm. All this was a great help to the library.

While waiting for next year's event, the beautiful 2010 Squash Festival T-shirts designed by Carlene Raper are still available! There are many sizes to choose from, especially kid's sizes. The T-shirts are \$15.00 each, and can be hand-colored, OR, you can pay \$20.00 and have a volunteer artist color your t-shirts for you! For t-shirts, or to provide feedback to squash festival organizers, please contact Carlene at 387-8505.



THE COMPASS CHORUS PERFORMING DURING HEALTH WEEK IN NOVEMBER

GRANDMA'S FAVORITE - CHRISTMAS CACTUS

by Babs Lynde, a Vermont Master Gardener

My grandmother left her favorite houseplant to my mother - a Christmas cactus. No one really knows how old it is, but she had possession of it for many years before I came along. It was her favorite plant partly because there was so little maintenance involved in its care, and partly because the blossoms that emanate from this fascinating plant are brilliant red.

What is truly remarkable is that these plants are not the same as the cactus that we are familiar with that grows in the desert environment. The Zygocactus, or Christmas cactus, is more like the orchid because it can be found growing in the fork of a tree or some other area filled with decaying leaves and other matter in its native lands of Central and South America. Although red and fuchsia are the most popular blossom colors, they can also be found in deep purple, peach, cream and white.

Because they prefer warm, moist, shady areas, we should try to keep them in similar places within our own homes. Keep your Christmas cactus in a well-lit area, but not direct sunlight, as this plant can easily burn. Keep it out of any drafty spots, including near heat or a/c vents. It can be moved outdoors in the summer, but place it in a shady area where temperatures will stay between 65 to 80 degrees. Take care not to overwater this plant as too much water will cause white spotting and leaves or joints to rot and fall off, but it can be misted every day which simulates its native habitat. Also, this cactus actually prefers to be pot-bound, so refrain from repotting it as often as your other houseplants. In fact, my grandmother's cactus is still in the same pot when it was passed on to my mother over 45 years ago, and its blossoms are still spectacular!

Record Number of Vermont Households Receiving Home Heating Assistance This Winter

Richard Moffi, Fuel Assistance Program Chief

Waterbury, VT— More Vermont households than ever before will be receiving home heating assistance (also known as fuel assistance) this heating season. By November 9, over 18,700 Vermont households will have received a fuel assistance benefit, compared to 15,900 households at the same time last year.

Income limits were increased this year — from 155% of the federal poverty level to 185% of FPL — to provide heating assistance to more Vermont households, especially needed during these difficult economic times. Because there is a fixed amount of money available, this means that more households will get a smaller benefit. Benefit amounts are also lower this year because federal funding has decreased.

The U.S. Congress approved \$15 million for Vermont's Fuel Assistance Program, substantially less than the \$25.6 million the state received last year. While congress can change this decision at anytime during the heating season, the state cannot assume more funding will be available. If additional funds are approved, households that have already been determined eligible will receive a supplemental payment — with no further action required on their part.

Throughout the month of November, the Department for Children and Families (DCF) will be sending fuel assistance payments directly to fuel dealers for people who applied by September 30th. The department will notify recipients by mail as soon as their benefits have been sent to their fuel dealers.

"Fuel assistance applicants can also go to our benefits website (www.mybenefits.vt.gov) to find out about their benefits," said DCF Commissioner Steve Dale. "They can set up an account and access information about their benefits 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They can also call 1-800-479-6151 and use our automated phone system to get this information."

Westminster Schools News

What a Feast!

Two days before the whole country sat down to turkey, the Westminster School community gathered together for our first-ever all-school family feast. On Tuesday, November 23rd, 6th graders spent their morning setting up the dining areas along with maintenance staff and volunteers (and tables and chairs) from the Fire Department and Kurn Hattin. Parents cooked and prepped vegetables the day before. On the morning of the feast, students, staff and more volunteers cooked vegetables and roasted turkeys — both in the school and firehouse kitchens.

About noon, families of preschoolers, kindergartners, West School kids, and everyone

else joined together in the gym for a Thanksgiving sing-along. Then the youngest students and their families moved to the school dining room, where lunch was served to about 80 people. In the gym, approximately 300 students, parents, grandparents, staff, neighbors and friends filled the room to capacity.

We ate about 100 pounds of potatoes, 50 pounds of squash, huge mounds of stuffing and 14 turkeys. Families contributed fixings like pickles, salads, and desserts. We were all thankful for each other's company and excited about our own celebrations coming up. Many, many thanks also went to this Feast's planning queens and worker bees, June Streeter, Mollie Banik and Kathy Maziott. Thanks also to Kim Kinney and the school kitchen staff along with all the parents who pitched in.



We call it the "Christmas" cactus, but it can actually be taught to blossom at any time of the year, although it is easier to simulate flowering conditions during the coolest parts of the year, including Thanksgiving, Christmas or Easter. In its native lands, the budding process is set up by day and night hours being approximately the same, a drop in the temperatures and less rain. In your home, about 2 to 2 1/2 months before you want it to blossom, stick your plant in a room where the temperature will stay at 50 degrees, and it will receive 12 to 14 hours of total darkness per day - no artificial lighting! Water it a little less frequently. There are also specific varieties available that already blossom in late fall, mid-winter or mid-spring. Just follow the directions that come with your plant to keep it blossoming at the correct time of the year.

When your cactus is large enough to "pass on the tradition," wait a good month or two after it has finished blossoming, and carefully cut off a piece with at least 2 or 3 sections, or joints, and bury at least one or two sections into a small pot with a good, rich compost. In a couple of months, new growth should be seen sprouting from the top or between one of the joints. This pruning also encourages the "mother" plant to branch out and produce more blossoms the following year.

Would you like more information about the Christmas cactus? 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 <http://www.uvm.edu/mastergardener/> for extensive information.

Aged in Vermont

Westminster Cares, Inc.

Going My Way

By Pete Harrison

I believe there is an opportunity to make someone's day a little brighter simply by offering to take them for a ride.

I deliver Meals on Wheels at least twice a month and take a local 97-year-old, Artie Aiken, with me. We deliver lunches to between 10 and 14 people, covering around 30 miles each trip. Artie not only gets to see the sights, but he gets a big wave and a smile from some people he has known for years and would not otherwise come in contact with.

I'll bet if you look around and think about it, there is someone out there who would love to be asked to go for a ride. I don't mean to just jump in the car and do a scenic tour – I'm talking about having someone accompany you when you have a specific errand to do. Maybe you're just going out to mail your Christmas cards. Heading to recycling, running basic errands, banking, or making quick trips to the grocery store are other examples.

If you have a specific task in mind, it might make the person riding with you feel less of a burden and more like they are keeping you company. But try to avoid being in a situation where there is any waiting time for your passenger. That could turn out to be painful – you wouldn't want your friend to wish they had stayed home.

Some of these people may even have a car and be able to drive, but going for a ride alone is not a pleasant thought for them. We all understand the value of having someone to talk with. Just getting out with another person for a short ride would more than likely make that person's day.

Give it a try. You may get more pleasure out of the experience than you had imagined.

Pete Harrison, president of the Westminster Cares board of directors, has been delivering Meals on Wheels for nearly seven years.

"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? We'd like to hear from you. Email Ronnie Friedman at wecares@sover.net.

Westminster Cares, Inc.

President Peter Harrison called this Annual Meeting of Westminster Cares, Inc. to order at 2:10 PM at the Westminster Fire Station.

Pete announced that this is the twenty-second anniversary of the Westminster Cares annual meeting and the third annual celebration of our most treasured 90 plus year olds.

Westminster Cares dedicated the afternoon to Marie Wright who passed away this past summer. Marie served on the board from 2007 until she passed away last summer. For many years Marie did meals-on-wheels and transported people to doctor appointments. She was on the Board of Directors, Nominating Committee, Finance Committee, Garden Tour and Quilt Show Committees and was in the Strong Living class. We truly lost a great person.

Business Meeting:

The Nominating Committee of Westminster Cares is composed of Susan Clifford and Connie Sanderson with assistance from Pete Harrison and Ronnie Friedman.

At this time there is a need to fill two 3-year positions on the Board of Directors:

The nominees are: 1) Mildred Barry of Bellows Falls, VT. Millie is the Chair of the Garden Tour Committee; and 2) Nancy Blanchard of Westminster, VT. Nancy is a meals and transportation volunteer.

Connie Sanderson moved the election of Mildred Barry and Nancy Blanchard to the two 3-year positions on the Board of Directors. Arnie Knowlton seconded the motion. There were no other nominees. With all in favor, the motion was approved.

The Nominating Committee nominated the following as officers for one year terms:

Connie Sanderson – President
Susan Clifford – Vice-President
Pete Harrison – Treasurer
Regina Borden – Secretary

Don Dawson moved the election of the above named individuals. Kathy Elliott seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion was approved.

The newly elected officers and members of the Board of Directors will assume their positions on January 1st, 2011. This concluded the report of the Nominating Committee.

Out-Going Board Members:

Pete Harrison announced that Elise Manning-Sterling served two terms on the Board of Directors. She was on the Finance Committee, did fundraising and was very instrumental in the Quilt Show. Nancy Dalzell served one term on the Board of Directors. She was a member of the Finance Committee and the Nominating Committee. Neil Metrick, who had been the Treasurer, still does meals-on-wheels and will transport anyone anytime. He was also the Chairperson of the Welcome Center fundraiser.

Pete thanked them for their contributions, work done on various committees and many years of service.

Retiring President: Connie Sanderson recognized Pete Harrison as the out-going President and said "we are keeping him close as the newly elected

Treasurer". She presented him with a gift in appreciation of his many years of service. The gift was a lunch box containing several humorous items such as a box of dog bones, a container of Ensure, a health bar, chocolates and a map of his route to carry with him while he continues to deliver meals-on-wheels. Pete thanked everyone. He reminisced about taking over the position as President from Karen Walter and now will be moving on to the Treasurer's position. He said that is grateful for the opportunity to continue to be involved.

Pete introduced Ronnie Friedman, Director, and the other members of the Board of Directors who were present:

Connie Sanderson - has served as the Vice-President and is Chair of the Nominating Committee and the Finance Committee.

Susan Clifford – has served as the Secretary and is on the

Nominating Committee.

Regina Borden – has served as Secretary and member of the Programs and Services Committee and Finance Committee.

Susan Harlow – has served as the Chair of the Publicity Committee, is a member of Fundraising Committee and Programs and Services Committee.

Don Dawson – has served as the Chair of the Fundraising Committee and the Publicity Committee. He

was also Chair of the Welcome Center fundraiser this year.

Arnie Knowlton – has served as a member of the Fundraising Committee.

Kathy Elliott – has served as chair of the Programs and Services Committee.

Karen Walter is a member emeritus and is on the Programs and Services Committee.

Phyllis Anderson is a member emeritus.

Non Board Members:

Pete advised that the following non board member volunteers for various committees and works diligently on all fundraisers. Amie Walter is a member on the Publicity Committee and does a lot of the design work for brochures, etc.

Trudy Byington is our newest staff member heading up the Nursing Program. Trudy is available to Westminster seniors and disabled adults for non-emergency medical needs.

Ronnie Friedman serves as our Director and we wonder what we would do without her guidance. She organizes volunteers for many events such as meals-on-wheels, arranges for transportation of people to doctor appointments, etc., home visits and fundraising events such as the Garden Tour, Quilt Show, and the Welcome Center. Ronnie also participates in these events. She manages donations and loaning of equipment, assists families with issues of aging and oversees the healthy aging programs such as Yoga, Strong Living classes, Secrets of Healthy Aging, Arts Programs, and Healthy Food Workshops. A Big Thank You was extended to Ronnie. She lights up our lives and makes it a pleasure to be a volunteer. She is the wheels that make us go round-and-round. **Continued on Page (6)**

WESTMINSTER MYSTERY PHOTO



Where was this building located, and what was it used for?

You may email your answer to the westminsternews@gmail.com or wminster@comcast.net Phone: Babs Lynde at 802-722-9516
The answer and the winners will be announced in the next issue.

November Answer: The building is located on Granger Street and it was part of a paper mill. It's been called Northern States Paper Co, but it was originally the Fall Mountain Paper Co.

November Winners: Al Southwick, Ernie Hogan and Kathy Lisai.

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

News from Westminster Volunteer Fire and Rescue

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

Next association meeting December 7th 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 13th & 27th.

Number of calls in October: 34

Number of man hours spent: 11,739

Number of calls through November 30th: 38

Number of man hours spent: 8,528

Number of calls calendar year to Date: 334

Number of calls fiscal year to date: 163

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.

Thin Ice: Be careful when using ponds and lakes for skating. The ice will be very thin at first and unsafe for skating or walking on. Be very sure of the thickness before venturing out on them. Inform and educate your children often about the dangers.

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 will not become dry and be a fire hazard. Always keep the tree away from open fires and heating appliances.

Vehicle kits: During the cold whether 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 and the chance of running out if you get stranded.

Stacking Wood: When stacking wood close to your heat source always allow 2 to 3 feet of air space between your stove and your wood. A hot stove can ignite a stack of wood if piled too close.

Association Meeting: The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association met for their regular meeting November 2nd with 30 members present and 4 members excused. Currently there are 43 members of the volunteer fire department. The success of the Halloween Party was mentioned along with a big note of appreciation to the many volunteers who helped with the event.

THANK YOU: Chief Streeter wishes to extend a special thank you to the volunteers of the Westminster Fire & Rescue Department. November was an unusually busy month with 38 calls. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

Shelter:

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

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

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

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

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

WESTMINSTER HAPPENINGS

Activities

Scottish Country Dance

Classes

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

Putney Contra Dance

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

Senior Lunch

Every 2nd Thursday of the month. @ 12:00 pm. All Westminster seniors are invited to attend. Join us at the First Congregational Church on Route 5

Bellows Falls GalleryWalk

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

Secrets of Healthy Aging

A facilitated discussion group and potluck. The 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each

month at the Westminster Fire Station at 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Call Westminster Cares at 722-3607 for more information

Contra Dance

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

Gentle Yoga

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

Living Strong Classes

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

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

Call Westminster Cares for more Information: 722-3607.

Knitting Together

Every Wednesday from 1-3 p.m. at the Saxtons River Inn. For more information or if you would like to donate yarn please contact Caroline at (802)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, Vermont 05158, 802-722-4148

Sunday worship at 10:00 AM

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

The Congregational Church of Westminster West (UCC Church)

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

Open and Affirming Susie Webster-Toleno, Minister
New Church Office Hours:

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

Meetings

Selectboard meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7:00 pm in the Town Hall.

Planning and Development Commission meets the 2nd Monday at 7:00 pm in the Town Hall.

Westminster Activities Commission

2nd Monday of the Month at 6:00 pm at the Westminster Institute.

Westminster School Board

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

Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association

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

Westminster West Public Library Board

2nd Monday at 7:00 pm at the Westminster West Public Library

Development Review Board

meets the 1st Monday of each month at 7:00 pm. at the Town Hall

Community Improvement Program Committee

meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm.

Westminster Cares Board

1st Wednesday of every month, at the Westminster Fire Station at 4:00 pm.

Westminster Institute Board

1st Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm. at the Institute.

911 Committee meets as needed.

The Westminster Fire & Rescue Dept

holds their monthly meetings on the 1st Tuesday of every month, @ 7:00 pm and a combined drill on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at the Westminster Fire Station.

Westminster Historical Society

3rd Tuesday at 7:00 pm at the Westminster Institute.

Westminster Gazette Meeting

Thursday, December 23rd @7:30am at Westminster Cares.

Westminster Recycling Committee

Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm at the Westminster Fire Station

Business Beat

Woodstone

Architectural woodworking firm fortifies its sales and customer service departments around veterans and enhanced processes.

Woodstone, the leading specialist manufacturer of custom fenestration, architectural millwork for historic restoration and properties of distinction, is enlarging the sales and customer service departments. "For the past two years we have focused on improving operational efficiency, now we are focusing on our sales team and sales process," said Jay Eshelman, President of Woodstone.

The Sales and Customer Service Department will fall under the management of COO and co-owner, Tony Elliott. "Our sales process is highly interactive. Our customers, sales team estimators and support staff work collaboratively to assure a complex job progresses smoothly from design and specification through completion," said Elliott.

The outside sales force is composed of two industry veterans: Hank Bishop and Bill Ringwall. Hank Bishop returns to Woodstone, where he led the sales effort for 12 years. Bill Ringwall is joining the outside sales team from Georgia-Pacific, where he served in a number of sales and sales-management roles.

The inside sales team includes two of Woodstone's most experienced estimators. Sandy Furlong has been with Woodstone for 23 years and Anne Hill for 20. Sandy and Anne work with our

customers to turn their needs into operational plans and help to optimize the customer's value by customizing the components, materials and options. Assisting the entire process and heading follow-up customer support and service is Robin Lawrence, a five year veteran staff member.

"The key to making our sales force work efficiently is an improvement in our internal and external communication process," said Elliott. "More people don't bring better results, better coordination brings better results."

About Woodstone

WOODSTONE specializes in historic replication of period architectural detail in new and old buildings. The company uses a unique blend of Tradition & Technology™ to replicate molding profiles, antique and restoration glass, traditional operating functions and finishes, yet benefit from 21st Century high performance technologies.

Since 1978 the company has specialized in producing the finest, custom, pegged mortise & tenon wooden windows, doors and associated architectural woodwork for large and small projects. WOODSTONE's blend of Tradition & Technology includes specification procedures and comprehensive elevation drawings and section details of individual windows, doors and the most complex wooden trim packages for planning, pricing and final approval. For further information about Woodstone, visit the company's Web site at www.woodstone.com.

Westminster Cares, Inc (continued)

Postpone Any Other Business:

Susan Harlow moved to postpone any other business until the December meeting. Kathy. Elliott seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion was approved.

Westminster Residents – 90+ Years of Age:

Pete Harrison announced that we have representatives present from each year, 1913 through 1920. While introducing them he read a brief history of their lives:

Richard Morse – Born: March 31, 1912

Louise Morse – Born: May 20, 1913

WC Annual Meeting – November 14, 2010 – Page 3

Artie Aiken – Born: June 10, 1913

Everett Reed – Born: July 20, 1916

Frank Walter – Born: January 11, 1917

Helen Aiken – Born: March 22, 1917

Millie Ward – Born: September 3, 1918

Evelyn Rhoades – Born: April 26, 1919

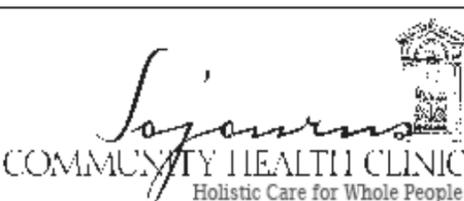
Arlene Reed – Born: December 22, 1920.

Don Dawson did a slide presentation with pictures of the residents while they were being introduced.

Closing Remarks:

Pete thanked the Board members past and present, the staff and the many volunteers who make Westminster Cares a success. He thanked everyone for attending and supporting Westminster Cares and our Westminster Treasures, the 90 year olds.

Refreshments were served. The meeting adjourned at 2:46 PM.



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Come get your beets, potatoes, onions, carrots, apples, chard, kale, chicken, pork, beef, sauerkraut or maple syrup to make a meal or keep for the winter. Pick out a holiday gift of soap or jewelry. Order pies for your special occasion, snack on a sweet treat. Stay for dinner and listen to some music.

FREE HARVEST PIZZA AND EQUAL COFFEE TO THE FIRST 100 SHOPPERS.

**The Deadline for
The January 2011,
Issue of the Westminster
Thursday, December 30, 2010
by 5:00 pm**

WESTMINSTER'S 1ST ANNUAL CHILDREN'S HALLOWEEN PARTY

The first Children's Halloween Party and Haunted Graveyard was a smashing success! In fact, we had so many parents and children show up for the Graveyard tour, that the waiting line went straight up Grout Avenue to Route 5! Sadly, we heard that some people decided not to stay due to the long lines, but we're hoping they will return next year! We were so successful that we are already making plans for next year, and we guarantee that it will be bigger and better!

We have many people that we would like to thank for their donations and time, for without them, we never would have made it this far. Our sincerest apologies if we've forgotten anyone!

Allen Bros
Community Feed Store
Dunkin' Donuts of Westminster
Greater Falls Insurance
Holton Farms
Kurn Hattin Schools
Mr. G's Liquidation
Spaulding & Madden Tax Services
Westminster Center School
Westminster Girl Scouts
Charlie Aron
Molly & Megan Banik
John & Jocelyn Benzaia
Jamey Dansereau
Becky Noyes

Sara Crosby
Nyoka Cushman
Deb Davey
Ruth Grandy
Caitlin Harris
Ian Harris
Tonja & Chris Kendall
Sara Lawrence
Michelle Lopez
Chace Perkins
Ashley Weiss
Ed & Dawn Wright
Lenny Farrar
Bethanny Harris

And of course, an enormous "Thank You" to all of our outstanding and dedicated Westminster Fire Department members and spouses who took the time from their busy schedules to make this endeavor the giant success that it was! I would like to also thank Shannon Fuller for organizing the children's games area, Lenny & Alana Derby for supplying most of our crafts, and Chief Cole Streeter for the use of the fire station.

Hope to scare, I mean, see more children next year!

Babs Lynde, your Graveyard Tour Guide

It is a pleasure to announce that Ryan Hayward has been chosen the Bellows Falls Union High School Elks Student of the Month for October.



Ryan, a senior, is the son of Lianne Hayward and Bill Borchers of Rockingham

Ryan is tireless in his academic effort this year. He seeks perfection and often asks for clarification to ensure his work meets the teacher's standards. Through careful editing, sound organization, and careful planning his work is commendable.

Over these past years Ryan has shown increasing maturity in his relationships with peers as well as his ability to accept constructive criticism. Ryan is thoughtful and introspective. He is honest and reflective with his peers

and he is a good role model.

Ryan's attendance is excellent; despite not feeling well some days, he makes school a priority.

As a dedicated athlete, Ryan has represented BFUHS well. He is a standout football player and has greatly impacted the success of this year's football team. He has great respect for his coach and school ensuring good sportsmanship and tireless effort. Recently Ryan was honored with a spot on the roster for the North- South Vermont All Star Team.

One of Ryan's greatest contributions, aside from academic and athletic, are his sense of right and wrong and the values he places on loyalty, fair play and personal integrity. He is an exemplary emissary of Bellows Falls Union High School we were proud to have him represent us with this award.

Thank You

From: The Payne Family

Early in July, our Mom was diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer. As you can imagine, we were devastated. Her Prognosis was grim, and the thought of treatment was overwhelming. As everyone knows illness can be all consuming. This leads me to the reason for this letter.

The community of Westminster has been wonderful. As the disease engulfed our family, the outpouring from friends was amazing. Mom's flowers were always watered and cared for, the lawn was mowed, homemade soups and desserts arrived. Taking a walk meant people coming out of their homes and cars stopping to discuss her progress and express their concerns. People would stop by just to say hello. And the cards, so many cards lined the shelves, tables and hutches with get well wishes. No kidding, somewhere around 100 cards.

Westminster Cares was always there. People volunteered their time to drive her to appointments and treatments. Equipment was loaned to her, and their nurse's expertise was just a phone call away and her professionalism and empathy were truly reassuring and calming.

We would like to thank everyone by name, but there were so many we were afraid we would miss someone. So "THANK YOU" to all the wonderful people who got involved in our Mom's care and recovery.

Just to let you know she completed her treatment, and at this time the prognosis has changed from grim to hopeful with the expectation of long term remission.

Again, we want to express our sincere and heartfelt thanks to the caring and gracious people who make up the community of Westminster.

Help Your Neighbors Access Earned Income Tax Credit

by Susan Brace

United Way and Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) will be working in partnership in the upcoming tax season to help lower income households in Windham County. Many people will be helped to realize tax benefits available to them and in turn have increased dollars to meet the financial needs of their families.

United Way and SEVCA will again offer free tax preparation. Not only will individuals have access to increased tax refund dollars through the Earned Income Tax Credit, but many will save money that they might otherwise have spent on tax preparation. It is estimated by the IRS that 4 million eligible individuals annually fail to file for the tax credit, forfeiting \$2.9 billion in tax refunds. As the issue of poverty increases we feel this simple gesture is one way to intervene in a constructive way.

We need 10 – 12 community volunteers in order to reach our goals. We hope people will commit to a minimum of half-day slots for the ten week season from February to early April 2011. People need not have tax preparation experience, however, a commitment to training and simple certification is required. Training for new and returning volunteers will be held in Brattleboro in December. If you think you can help provide this valuable service, please e-mail kate@unitedwaywindham.org or call Kate John at the United Way office at 257-4011, Ext. 114.

SPRINGFIELD AREA ADULT DAY SERVICES OFFERS NUTRITIOUS MEALS TO PARTICIPANTS

By Anna Smith

Springfield, VT — Springfield Area Adult Day Services, located in Springfield, VT, announces its participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program. The goal of this program is to improve the diets of both children and adults. Meals and snacks meet standards established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

As part of the Adult Day Services Program, meals are provided to all enrolled participants at no additional charge. Meals are available to all Adult Day Service participants, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

A Department of Springfield Hospital, the Springfield Area Adult Day Services Program serves 38 - 40 participants daily, many of whom would otherwise face the challenge of losing their independence. An alternative to residential care, the Adult Day Program provides a structured setting and ongoing activities, needed healthcare, and social support.

"An important part of our services is making sure our participants receive proper nutrition, in a friendly, social environment," comments JoAnne Bohen, Director of the Adult Day Service. "Many of our participants have special needs, including Alzheimer's, ambulatory restrictions, confusion, dementia, frailty, incontinence, Parkinson's, and the after effects of strokes and heart attack. Helping to provide nutritious meals, suited to participants' individual needs, is an essential component to maintaining their health and well-being."

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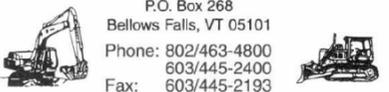
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December Businesses of the Month
RUGGIERO TRASH REMOVAL
&
BEST SEPTIC TANKS AND TOILETS

Happy fall to all, That is right fall is here and you must get the summer projects done and the Ruggiero family knows that all to well. Everyone is cleaning up and doing the big hoe out to get room to store fire wood and the summer toys and furniture into storage. We are running a fall special for our open truck. From one small item like that old Television to that old chair or broken toy that "I DON'T KNOW"broke we can come by and just pick up that pile and save you on the trucking cost call us for details.....

It is also very important to make sure your septic tank is not forgotten. I know that the smell in the winter is not so strong because your noise freezes closed in the cold but you will still have to dig it up . So check us out on are fall rates for your septic pumping. You should also make sure if you have a filter that you check and clean it out so you can avoid the chance of freezing. Also check when you had it pumped and clean out last so you can not worry about digging when the ground freezes. **Jeff Ruggiero 1-603-209-4441**

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The time of year is once again here for **THE LUMINARY CANDLE DISPLAY IN THE VILLAGE OF WESTMINSTER**, for those of you who got the Nov./ Dec issue of **Yankee Magazine** there was a wonderful write-up about the Luminaries a must read. <http://www.yankeemagazine.com>

The schedule of event are being held once again at the Westminster Fire Station

- Dec 23rd** at 6:00pm to fill the 2000 bags with sand and a candle
- Dec 24th** at 8:45am to set out all the bags along main street
- Dec 25th** meet at the Fire Station to pick up bags at 7:00am.

Once again we are looking for donations to help out with the cost .

You can send your contributions to:
Diane Bazin
P.O.Box 12
Westminster Vt 05158

Thanks for all those who make this an amazing joyful Holiday season

Diane Bazin and Chris Hackett

Westminster Gazette

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