

# Westminster Gazette



po box 147 westminster vt 05158 Our Community Newspaper @ <http://westminster.govoffice.com>

Vol. 6, No.2 February 2010

**WARNING FOR ANNUAL MEETING  
WESTMINSTER, VERMONT TOWN FIRE DISTRICT NUMBER 3  
TOWN OF WESTMINSTER, VERMONT  
WESTMINSTER, VERMONT TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**2010**

The legal voters of the Westminster Town Fire District #3, the Town of Westminster and the Westminster School District, are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Bellows Falls Union High School Auditorium in Westminster, Vermont on Saturday February 27, 2010 at ten o'clock in the morning (10:00A.M.) to take action on the Articles following Article 1.

The meeting will be recessed to the Westminster Institute, East Parish, Westminster, Vermont to meet at eight o'clock in the forenoon (8:00 A.M.) on Tuesday, March 2, 2010 for the consideration of Articles 1 by Australian Ballot. The polls shall remain open until seven o'clock in the evening (7:00 P.M.) at which time the meeting will recess to meet at the Bellows Falls Union High School Auditorium at eight o'clock in the evening (8:00 P.M.) on Tuesday, March 2, 2010 to consider any remaining articles, if necessary.

- Article 1:** To choose all Town Fire District Number 3 Officers, Town Officers, and Town School District Officers. (Australian ballot, Tuesday, March 2, 2010 from eight o'clock in the forenoon (8:00 A.M.) until seven o'clock in the evening (7:00 P.M.).
- Article 2:** To hear the reports of the Town Fire District Number 3, and to take action thereupon.
- Article 3:** To see whether Town Fire District Number 3 shall raise and appropriate money to pay the indebtedness and other general expenses of the District for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1st 2010 and ending June 30th 2011 and if so, how much?
- Article 4:** To see whether Town Fire District Number 3 shall authorize the expenditure of a sum not to exceed \$280,000 for the purchase of a new fire engine, said purchase to be financed in part by the withdrawal of \$240,000 from Fire District Number 3's Capital Reserve Fund.
- Article 5:** Should Warning Article 4 be passed, to see whether Town Fire District Number 3 shall authorize its Prudential Committee to borrow a sum not to exceed \$40,000 for a period not to exceed 5 years, said sum required so as to complete the financing of the just approved purchase of a new fire engine.
- Article 6:** To see whether Town Fire District Number 3 shall authorize and instruct its Prudential Committee and Treasurer to borrow money, if necessary to meet current expenses, on the credit of the District, in anticipation of the collection of taxes and/or the receipt of any Federal Funds?
- Article 7:** To transact any other business proper to be brought before the Town Fire District #3 Meeting.
- Article 8:** To hear the reports of the Town Officers and to take action thereon.
- Article 9:** To see if the voters of the Town will authorize its Selectboard to use any Federal or State funds received to provide basic services to the Town as outlined in the Federal or State regulations and to enter into and approve any contract or regulation called for by the Federal or State Agency to properly implement the use of said funds.
- Article 10:** To see if the voters of the Town will authorize and instruct its Selectboard and Treasurer to borrow money on the credit of the Town for its current expenses in anticipation of the collection of taxes, or payment to the Town of money due it from the State of Vermont or payment to the Town of money due it from Federal Funds.
- Article 11:** To see if the voters of the Town of Westminster will raise and appropriate the sum of \$11,500 to support the home health, maternal and child health, and hospice care provided in patients' homes by the Visiting Nurse Alliance of Vermont and New Hampshire, Inc.
- Article 12:** To see if the voters of the Town of Westminster will raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 for Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) to assist Westminster in responding to the emergency needs of the community and providing all available and applicable services.
- Article 13:** To see if the voters of the Town of Westminster will raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,210 for Health Care Rehabilitation Services to assist Westminster in responding to the mental health services needs of the community.
- Article 14:** To see if the voters of the Town of Westminster will raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 for Our Place Drop-In Center to assist Westminster in responding to the emergency needs of the community and providing all available and applicable services.
- Article 15:** To see if the Town will vote to establish a Town Highway Equipment Reserve Fund to be used for the purchase of Town Highway Equipment.
- Article 16:** Should Article 9 be approved – To see if the Town of Westminster will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$130,000 for the Town Highway Equipment Reserve Fund.
- Article 17:** To see if the Town will vote to establish a Bridge Rehabilitation Reserve Fund to be used for the rehabilitation or replacement of town bridges.
- Article 18:** Should Article 11 be approved- To see if the Town of Westminster will raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 for the Bridge Rehabilitation Reserve Fund.
- Article 19:** To hear the report of the Solid Waste Management Committee relative to recycling and pay as you throw (PAYT).
- Article 20:** To see if the Town will provide notice that the town report is available, in lieu of mailing or otherwise distributing the report itself, as authorized by 24 V.S.A. § 1682: Said notice of availability to be provided by publication in the Westminster Gazette, the Brattleboro Reformer, on the Westminster website <http://westminster.govoffice.com>, and posted in the office of the Town Clerk. Copies of the report will be available at the Westminster Town Hall, Westminster West School, Westminster West Library, Westminster Center School, and Butterfield Library. The town shall mail or distribute a copy of the report to any voter or resident upon request.
- Article 21:** To see if the voters of the Town of Westminster will raise and appropriate money to pay the indebtedness of the Town, repair highways and other general expenses of the Town beginning July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010; and if so, how much?
- Article 22:** To see if the Town will vote to designate the Town of Westminster as a Clean Energy Assessment District, as authorized by 24 V.S.A. § 3261a, allowing the Town to operate a program enabling participating property owners to access funding for eligible energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, with the costs repaid as a regular municipal assessment on that property owner's property tax bill.
- Article 23:** To transact any other proper business to be brought before the Town Meeting.
- Article 24:** To hear the reports of the Town School District Officers for the last year and to take action thereon.
- Article 25:** To see if the Town School Directors will authorize and instruct its School Directors and Treasurer to borrow money, if necessary, on the credit of the Town School District for its current expenses in anticipation of the collection of taxes and receipt of money due from state aid.
- Article 26:** To see if the Town School District will vote to pay its District Officers compensation, and if so, how much.
- Article 27:** To see if the Town School District will raise money for the maintenance of its schools for the period of July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011; and if so, how much?
- Article 28:** To transact any other proper business to be brought before the Town School District Meeting.

Dated at Westminster, Vermont, this 27th day of January, 2010.

TOWN OF WESTMINSTER  
FIRE DISTRICT NUMBER 3  
David W. Wright, Chair  
Robert J. Haas  
Christopher J. Hackett

TOWN OF WESTMINSTER  
SELECTBOARD  
Paul M. Harlow, Chair  
Craig Allen  
Peter Barrett  
K. Sheldon Beebe  
Toby Young, Clerk

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Richard Miller, Chair  
Robert Wickberg, Vice Chair  
Jackie Trepanier, Clerk  
Dan Axtell  
Rick Gordon

Doreen Woodward, Town Clerk

**Scheduled  
Annual  
Meeting Times  
& Childcare Info  
page (8)**

**Petitions that have  
been filed for  
Vacancies  
page (5)**

**Write-In Candidate  
K. Sheldon Beebe  
Selectman, 2 year term  
I would  
appreciate  
your vote!**

**Rabies Clinic Saturday,  
March 27, 2010  
10 a.m. – 12 noon  
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**2010  
DOG LICENSES  
ARE AVAILABLE  
AT THE TOWN  
CLERK'S OFFICE**

**2ND AND FINAL  
PROPERTY TAX  
INSTALLMENT  
IS DUE  
February 10, 2009.**

**THE GAZETTE GRATEFULLY  
ACKNOWLEDGES  
THE SUPPORT  
OF IT'S UNDERWRITERS:**

- Kurn Hattin Homes
- Westminster School District
- Town of Westminster
- Durand Automotive Group
- Westminster Activities Commission
- Sojourns Community Health Clinic
- The Current operated by the  
Connecticut River Transit

**WESTMINSTER  
GAZETTE**

**Editor:** Peggy Porter  
**Board of Directors:**  
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Cynthia Stoddard

**Pictures and Articles  
Provided by the Community=  
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Bellows Falls to Brattleboro											Brattleboro to Bellows Falls												
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21			
5:45	6:00	6:02	—	6:07	6:09	6:12	6:25	6:27	6:37	6:44	7:00	7:00	7:02	7:12	7:17	7:26	7:28	7:40	7:44	7:47	7:50	8:00	—
—	8:00	8:02	—	8:07	8:09	8:12	8:25	8:27	8:37	8:44	9:00	9:00	9:02	9:12	9:17	9:26	9:28	9:40	9:44	9:47	9:50	10:00	10:15
1:55	2:30	2:32	2:35	2:37	2:39	2:42	2:55	2:57	2:67	2:74	2:90	2:90	2:92	3:02	3:07	3:16	3:18	3:30	3:34	3:37	3:40	—	—
—	4:30	4:32	4:35	4:37	4:39	4:42	4:55	4:57	4:67	4:74	4:90	4:90	4:92	5:02	5:07	5:16	5:18	5:30	5:34	5:37	5:40	—	—

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## Green Mountain Power Files Alternative Regulation Plan

Green Mountain Power has filed with the Vermont Public Services Board a new alternative regulation plan that continues the benefits of the existing plan for another three years, and introduces new measures to encourage additional efficiency. The plan is the result of months of negotiations with the Department of Public Service.

"We look forward to how this new model of regulation will help us live up to our mission to become the country's premier utility in providing outstanding service at the lowest cost possible," said Mary Powell, president and chief executive officer of Green Mountain Power. "We believe that by setting the performance bar very high, we will create new ways to leverage technology and provide superior service to our customers."

The new alternative regulation plan includes a mechanism by which Green Mountain Power will be compared to other utilities from around the country. Currently the company operates in one of the top tiers of performance and strives to make it to the very top of the list of performance benchmarked against utilities from all over the country.

David O'Brien, Commissioner of the Department of Public Service, explained, "Under the new alternative regulation plan, GMP will have even stronger incentives to maintain and improve its efficiency and cost-effectiveness in delivering service to its customers."

The existing alternative regulation plan has saved customers money by streamlining regulation and reducing GMP's costs of capital. The plan also advances conservation efforts by reducing utility incentives to increase electricity sales.

The filing also assures that Green Mountain Power will continue to match customer donations to WARMTH, the non-profit that helps families experiencing heating emergencies, and it will continue to fund its Power Partners program, which assists low-income customers who have difficulty paying bills.

Green Mountain Power and the Department of Public Service have asked the Vermont Public Service Board to approve the new plan, to be effective October 1, 2010. In 2006, Green Mountain Power was the first electric utility in Vermont to file a new regulatory framework, as encouraged by the Legislature. In 2005, the General Assembly passed legislation (Act 61) that established a public policy goal of separating the financial success of a utility from increased electricity sales, thereby removing potential barriers to energy conservation.

For more information, please call Dorothy Schnure  
Manager, Corporate Communications  
(802) 655-8418

## Volunteers Wanted for Reception Center

Volunteers are being sought to staff the Reception Center at Bellows Falls Union High School in Westminster which has been operated by area emergency management personnel and local citizens for many years. This Reception Center would be used to provide assistance to individuals during an emergency including registration, reuniting parents with children who have been evacuated from area schools and child care facilities, as well as placement in congregate care facilities if necessary. Jobs range from Section Chief to Greeter, so all skill sets are welcome. Depending on position, training takes anywhere from a few hours to one day. Volunteers must be available for occasional drills and are paid for their time.

To volunteer, contact Doreen Woodward at (802) 722-4091 or by e-mail at westmntc@com-cast.net.

## WESTMINSTER WEST LIBRARY'S FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT -- 2/19/10

Get together once again with friends and neighbors for warm-hearted entertainment on a cold winter's night. The program begins at 6:30PM with a selection of live-action and animated shorts. Then, at 7:00PM we present ICE AGE, a wonderful animated tale with an engaging trio of mismatched prehistoric critters -- Manny the woolly mammoth, Diego the saber-toothed tiger, and Sid the giant sloth. With the impending ice age almost upon them, they stumble upon a lost baby and decide to return it to its human parents. Along the way, the unlikely allies become friends. But when enemies attack, their quest takes on far nobler aims. Admission is free, everyone's invited, plenty of popcorn. For info, email westwestflicks@gmail dot com, or call David at 802-869-2697. See you there!



## WESTMINSTER RESIDENTS IN "GONDOLIERS"

Photo: ALL ABOARD – Westminster residents Ira Wilner, Tom Griffith, Jenny Holan and Adrienne Major get ready for a gondola ride on the Venetian canals in the Main Street Arts production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Gondoliers*, which opens Friday, March 5 for a two-week run.

**SAXTONS RIVER** – This year's 11th Gilbert and Sullivan production at Main Street Arts once again features a number of Westminster residents who have caught the theater bug.

The *Gondoliers* opens Friday, March 5 for a two-week run with a cast that includes Ira Wilner, Tom Griffith, Jenny Holan and Adrienne Major. Lynn Wickberg is stage manager.

Directed by Anesa Hartman, with musical direction by Ken Olsson, the show has performances Fridays and Saturdays, March 5, 6, 12, and 13 at 8 p.m., Sundays, March 7 and 14 at 3 p.m., and an extra performance Thursday, March 11, also at 8 p.m.

Tickets for adults are \$15 in advance and \$17 at the door. Student tickets are \$10 and \$12. They will be on sale at Village Square Booksellers, Brattleboro Books, Putney Books and Misty Valley Bookstore in Chester or online at [www.MainStreetArts.org/tickets](http://www.MainStreetArts.org/tickets).

The *Gondoliers*, or, *The King of Barataria*, was the twelfth opera written together by Gilbert and Sullivan and follows their usual pattern of satirizing the snobbery of class distinctions with rollicking songs and an improbable story line.

Two just-married Venetian gondoliers are informed that one of them has just become the King of Barataria. But, which one? Only their absent foster mother knows which. When they travel together to take up the new kingship, they discover they must deal with the complications of bigamy, a complicated love affair and two wives vying to wear the queen's crown. As always in G & S, everything works out in the end, with mischief, miscues and mis-identities littering the way.

**DON'T FORGET TO VOTE !!!**

## Rotary Spaghetti Dinner Coming Up Soon

The Bellows Falls Rotary Club will be holding its Annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser on Saturday Feb. 27 at the Bellows Falls Moose Club on Westminster Street.

Each year the food is prepared by local Rotary Club members. The proceeds of this year's event will benefit both local projects and the Haiti relief effort.

Dinner will be served from 5:30 to 7 pm. And will include spaghetti and homemade meatballs, salad, bread, dessert and beverage.

**Ticket prices are \$6 for adults and takeout; \$3 for children 8 and under.**

They will be available at the door or from local Rotary Club members. This year's event is being coordinated by club member Raynie Laware.



## VERNON TORNADES COME TO KURN HATTIN by Kim Fine

Nineteen of the 55 members the Vernon Tornadoes, Vernon Elementary school's jump rope team, accompanied by their physical education teacher, John Stetzel and his wife, Peggy Stezel, kindergarten para professional teacher, joined the Kurn Hattin children for lunch and a jump rope demonstration of their varied routines. After their performance, many of the Kurn Hattin children paired up with one the Tornadoes for a one on one workshop. Kurn Hattin focuses on healthy lifestyles and exercise including jumping rope and this was a very special treat for all.

Kurn Hattin Homes is a year-round, charitable home and school for in-need and at-risk boys and girls, ages 6-15, from throughout the Northeast.



Moonlight and Morning Star, with Miro Sprague at the piano, entertaining the Kurn Hattin children on Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

## Kurn Hattin Celebrates Peace and Tolerance on MLK Day by Kim Fine

Martin Luther King Jr. Day was a celebration of love, peace, courage and tolerance. Several of the children read essays they wrote about heroes in their lives. They wrote about family members, President Obama, Ruby Bridges and Rosa Parks, all who showed courage in the face of adversity. They also watched an animated video of two boys who become time travelers and met and learned from Martin Luther King Jr. at the different stages in his life. The children read poems they wrote. One girl pledged always to be a friend and racist-free. For their third annual visit on this occasion, Moonlight and Morning Star engaged the Kurn Hattin children with story, song about peace and love. Miro Sprague, jazz pianist and Moonlight and Morning Star's son sang and accompanied the duo on piano. Moonlight Davis and Morning Star Chenven, have been performing together since 1992. They all share an intimate and rich harmony with many powerful messages including to always work hard to get what you want in life. The day culminated with a sing-a-long on "This Little Light of Mine" and "We Shall Overcome." Together the children and staff sang and danced full with emotion and conviction. Kurn Hattin Homes is a residential year-round home and school for in-need and at-risk children, ages 6-15, from throughout the Northeast.

[westminsternews@gmail.com](mailto:westminsternews@gmail.com)

## Vermont Executives Support Wind Power, GMP Survey Finds

Green Mountain Power today announced results of a customer survey indicating strong support for wind power among Vermont business leaders.

The telephone survey took place this fall among GMP's largest commercial customers. Fifty-four of 85 customers contacted completed the survey.

The survey sought customers' feedback on a variety of issues including Vermont's current energy picture, energy challenges facing the state in the next few years, the business and economic climate, Vermont Yankee and wind and solar power. It also gave customers an opportunity to rate GMP on its performance, its vision and its ability to successfully manage the state's energy challenges.

Most significant among the findings was respondents' support for wind energy in Vermont, and specifically for GMP's plans to build, own and operate a wind plant in northern Vermont.

GMP, in partnership with Vermont Electric Cooperative, has proposed a wind farm on a mountain ridge in Lowell, Vermont with 16 to 24 wind turbines. The project has the potential to meet the annual electrical needs of approximately 20,000 average households in Vermont.

The survey found 68 percent strongly support GMP's plans to build, own and operate the wind farm. When asked why they support it, customers said they believed this type of energy should be explored, has no adverse environmental impact and is a good alternative in the energy mix.

"We are pleased and excited to see this amount of support and encouragement for wind development in our state," said Mary Powell, Green Mountain Power president and chief executive officer. "By harnessing the clean, renewable power of wind, we have the opportunity to provide environmental and economic value for our customers, especially with utility ownership of the plant, while helping to create a green energy economy in our state."

The survey also found nearly two-thirds of those responding -- 63 percent -- strongly supported the relicensing of the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant when it comes up for renewal in 2012. They gave it high rankings on the cost of power, reliability and plant safety. Respondents also cited cost, reliability, safety and a low environmental impact as reasons for GMP to continue purchasing power from Vermont Yankee. A July 2009 survey of 400 GMP residential customers also found support for Vermont Yankee, with a plurality supporting relicensing.

Lastly in the energy issues survey, customers provided feedback about GMP itself, giving the Vermont utility a vote of confidence for its vision and its ability to manage the energy challenges facing the state. Eighty-seven percent said they were very satisfied with GMP and gave the utility high performance rankings in a number of areas, including customer service, competent management and responsiveness.

The survey was conducted by RKS Research & Consulting of Brewster, N.Y., a marketing research and opinion polling firm.

About Green Mountain Power

Green Mountain Power ([www.greenmountainpower.com](http://www.greenmountainpower.com)) transmits, distributes and sells electricity and utility construction services in the State of Vermont in a service territory with approximately one quarter of Vermont's population. It serves more than 200,000 people and businesses.

For further information, please contact

Dorothy Schnure

Green Mountain Power Manager of Corporate Communications

802-655-8418

## CARING FOR OUR HOUSEPLANTS by Babs Lynde, a Vermont Master Gardener

I have found that mid-winter is a great time for repotting my plants if they need it. January or February is usually when they've finally recovered from the shock of staying inside all day instead of enjoying the fresh air and sunshine, and they are now showing signs of improvements, or least resignation, to their indoor environment.

Houseplants give more to their owners than what they ask for in return. The greenery reminds us of warmer days yet to come, the flowers provide us with eye-pleasing colors, plus they have a tendency of making a home feel inviting with that lived-in feeling. In return, most houseplants only need a little water now and then and an occasional plucking of a dead leaf. However, if we want our plants to stay healthy and vibrant, we also need to do some heavy maintenance once a year or so, and that usually includes repotting the plants.

Plants need to be repotted for a variety of reasons. The biggest reason is because the plant is outgrowing its present container and needs more space for its root system. Plants can become "root-bound," a term that is used for roots that have no place else to grow and are tightly packed with little soil or air between them. Sometimes these cramped roots will entwine and choke off other roots or even eventually kill off the whole plant.

The second reason for repotting is because the soil is becoming old or with too few nutrients to keep the plant healthy. Always, always use potting soil for houseplants or with any plant that will be placed in a container that requires watering. Even good soil from the garden, will eventually harden and crack in a container, making it tough for tender roots to spread out. Plus, garden soil is filled with

## SEVCA and United Way Offer Free Community Tax Service

Westminister, VT – With tax season approaching, Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) and the United Way of Windham County have announced their collaboration again in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program. In addition to helping people prepare their tax returns, an objective of the program is to support individuals who qualify for Earned Income Tax Credit to realize that benefit.

The EITC not only can reduce, dollar-for-dollar, the amount of taxes an individual or a couple would otherwise owe, but it also provides for eligible taxpayers to receive a check, sometimes thousands of dollars, if the amount of the credit to which they are entitled exceeds the amount of tax owed. "It is ironic that many low-income workers are eligible for this crucial economic benefit yet are entirely unaware of the program, and countless others wrongly assume they earn too much to qualify," stated Carmen Derby, Executive Director of the United Way of Windham County. Attorney Michael Hertz, who is back volunteering for a fourth year, declared "I hope that as many people as possible will take advantage of our program and get the tax bene-

fits they're entitled to receive."

To be eligible for this free service, household income must be at or below \$49,000. The volunteer tax preparers will help taxpayers recover the following tax benefits by preparation of several different credits; Earned Income Credit, Child Tax Credit, Child and Dependent Care Credits, Education Credits and Retirement Savings Contribution Credits. New for 2009 are Making Work Pay and First Time Homebuyer Credits. Vermont residents will also be assisted with the Vermont Property Tax Rebate Adjustment and Renter Rebates.

Taxes will be prepared by VITA volunteers on Wednesdays in Brattleboro at the Marlboro College Graduate Center starting January 27th and ending on April 7th. The Marlboro College Graduate Center is located at 28 Vernon Street in Brattleboro. Starting February 3 through April 7th at SEVCA, located at 91 Buck Drive in Westminister.

To schedule an appointment for either location, please call 2-1-1. For more information on Southeastern Vermont Community Action visit [www.sevca.org](http://www.sevca.org). For more information on United Way of Windham County visit [www.unitedway-windham.org](http://www.unitedway-windham.org).

## Bring your Dancing Shoes ----- DANCE Music by the Illusions

Free Community Event  
Westminister Institute  
Sat. Feb. 27, 8 - 11 pm



\*Cash Bar - PK's Pub

\*can not bring your own beverages - beer, wine and soda available

-----  
Sponsored by the Westminister Activities Commission  
Your Donations are appreciated

insects and bacteria that could potentially create diseases and other pathogens from lack of room, sunshine, and rain. Potting soil is baked at extreme high temperatures, making the soil sterile and weed seed-free. A good potting soil mixture contains several elements, including such things as bark, bone meal, compost, greensand, peat moss, perlite, and vermiculite. Perlite and vermiculite help to keep the soil light and not clump or harden while bark, bone meal and compost slowly break down to add the needed nutrients.

When you are ready to repot your houseplant, use a new container not more than a couple inches larger in circumference than the old pot. Some plants will not spread out properly if given too much room at one time. This also helps to control plant growth from becoming too large too fast. First, place enough potting soil on the bottom of the new pot to keep the top of the roots about an inch from the lip of the container. Then gently tamp or squeeze on the old pot to loosen the soil and allow the plant to be removed without damage. After the plant has been removed, I always "fluff" the roots. Sometimes plants need encouragement to loosen and spread into their new environment. If the root growth is tiny, thin or spindly, don't ruffle them too much or not at all. The thicker or clumping roots can take a more abuse and need to be spread a little to relieve some of the tightness. After you have placed the plant into the new pot, gently fill it around the sides with your good quality potting mix. A thorough watering is about all that's left, and be sure to give your houseplants the right amount of sunshine, too. Some plants need just a little or shaded light, while others thrive on all day sunshine.

Would you like more information regarding houseplants and their care? 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](mailto:mastergardener@uvm.edu) or visit their website at <http://www.uvm.edu/mastergardener/> for extensive information.

## WESTMINSTER CARES, INC.

The Westminster Cares, Inc. Board of Directors met on January 6, 2010. 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 elders.

The Programs and Services committee has been discussing the programs they offer and looking at the possibility of beginning new ones. At a future date a workshop will be scheduled for preparing healthy food.

Westminster Cares wishes to thank the residents who donated Christmas cookies in tins, hams and eggs during the holiday season. These were given to the recipients of the meals-on-wheels program and homebound residents.

In December Westminster Cares began their Annual Fundraising Appeal. Contributions enable us to continue providing many needed services including delivering Meals-On-Wheels, Living Strong classes, providing rides for medical appointments, visiting with homebound residents, and to provide various activities and healthy workshops.

Services Provided Include: Meals-on-Wheels to 13 people; 10 rides for 5 different people by 4 volunteers for a total of 150 miles; 2 pieces of medical equipment were loaned out; and volunteers visited three people. Meetings attended by the Director in December: Bookkeeper, Gazette, meetings with the Development Director. Programs in December included 2 Secrets of Healthy Aging sessions, 3 Yoga classes, 4 Artist in Each of Us classes and 18 Strong Living classes.

Anyone interested in learning more about Westminster Cares, working on a committee, making a contribution or attending a workshop may contact Ronnie Friedman at 722-3607 or by email at wecares@sover.net.

Westminster Cares welcomes donations throughout the year from anyone wishing to memorialize a loved one or a friend. Send to: Westminster Cares, PO Box 312, Westminster, VT 05158.

Westminster Cares has received the following memorial gifts during January: From Rich and Susan Talbot in honor of Faith Pepe; From Paul Harlow in honor of Ralph Harlow; From Jane Fitzwilliam in memory of her mother; From Ila Mitchell in memory of Bernice Cook and Bill Holton; From Douglas Sherwin and Yvette Durell in memory Rick Sherwin; From Jan and Heiner Sussebach in memory of Ruth Ursull

## WESTMINSTER MYSTERY PHOTO



**Who is this monument dedicated to and where is it located?**

**Extra bonus points: What event is this monument associated with??**

**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 winner/s will be announced in the Next Issue.*

**January Answer:** The pile of scrap and metals was generously donated by the citizens of Westminster to the United States government in an effort to help support World War II. This particular pile was located on the corner of Route 121 and Gage St.

**January Winners:** Greg Gay; The purpose of the scrap pile was to gather up iron for the war effort (World War II). The pile was located where the memorial now stands on the Common in Gageville. The picture was taken from right in front of the Gay's house, or where Clarence Harlow used to live. My father, Gibby Gay, says he can remember it like it was yesterday. I think he even said that the car was a Buick. Don Nowers, Bob Gay, Howie Rice, Evelyn Rhoades, Greg Gay and David Wright. Also, Evelyn Rhoades told me that her father-in-law, Lester Rhoades, was the person responsible for starting this particular project.

*If you have picture's you think would make a great mystery photo please stop by the town office and see Bab Lyndes. **We are in search of Pictures..***



**TOWN OF WESTMINSTER**  
OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK/TREASURER  
P.O. BOX 147 WESTMINSTER, VT 05158  
Tel. 802-722-4091 Fax 802-722-9816  
[westmntc@comcast.net](mailto:westmntc@comcast.net)

**ANNUAL TOWN , SCHOOL & FIRE DISTRICT MEETING - FEBRUARY 27, 2010**  
**VOTING BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT - MARCH 2, 2010**  
**BELLOWS FALLS UNION HIGH SCHOOL ANNUAL MEETING - FEBRUARY 24, 2010**

**PETITIONS HAVE BEEN FILED FOR THE FOLLOWING VACANCIES**

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>LENGTH OF TERM</u>	<u>PRESENTLY HELD BY</u>
MODERATOR	1 Year	Fletcher D. Proctor
SELECTMAN	3 Years	Paul M. Harlow
SELECTMAN	2 Years	Vacant
LISTER	3 Years	Harland "Harley" Rounds, Jr.
TOWN GRAND JUROR	1 Year	Margaret "Peggy" O'Toole
TOWN GRAND JUROR	1 Year	Malcolm "Sam" Streeter
TOWN AGENT	1 Year	Fletcher D. Proctor
TRUSTEE, CAMPBELL FUND	3 Years	Vacant
COMMISSIONER, CAMPBELL FUND	1 Year	Karen Walter
COMMISSIONER, CAMPBELL FUND	1 Year	Ila Mitchell
COMMISSIONER, CAMPBELL FUND	1 Year	Phyllis Anderson
TRUSTEE OF PUBLIC FUNDS	3 Years	Vacant
TOWN SCHOOL DIRECTOR	3 Years	Vacant
TOWN SCHOOL DIRECTOR	2 Years	Richard "Dick" Miller
UHS DISTRICT #27 DIRECTOR	3 Years	Vacant
FIRE DISTRICT #3 PRUDENTIAL	3 Years	David W. Wright

Anyone whose name does not appear on the voter checklist should register at the Town Clerk's Office. The last day to register before Town Meeting is Wednesday, February 24, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. The last day to register before the Bellows Falls Union High School Annual Meeting is Wednesday, February 17, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.

**DON'T FORGET  
TO  
VOTE !!!!!**

## 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 February 2nd, 2010

The Prudential Committee meets twice a month on the first and third Monday after the first Tuesday at 7:00 PM  
February meetings: 8th & 22nd

Number of calls in December: 32  
Number of man hours spent: 11,655 hours

Number of calls through January 28: 28  
Number of man hours spent: 8,640 hours  
Number of calls calendar year to Date: 28  
Number of calls fiscal year to date: 196

**Hot coals and ashes:** When removing hot coals and ashes from a wood stove or fireplace, first put them in a covered metal container. Then put them outside away from the house or other buildings. Several homes are lost each year when hot ashes are left in a container on a wood floor porch or deck or left too close to a building that a spark could reach.

**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 ordinary vehicles and need wider pathways. Ambulances are usually not 4-wheel drive nor do they carry chains. Extra effort should be used when removing snow and ice. Roofs, porches and decks should be shoveled off as early as possible after the snow stops falling. Excess weight from the snow can cause costly damage. Falling snow and ice cycles can be very dangerous and have been known to cause serious injury.

**Portable Heaters:** Read all warnings on heater labels and in the instructions. Keep them a proper distance from flammable materials. Use extra caution with electric heaters that could overload the circuits. Be careful not to store items on the top of a **wall mounted gas heater.**

**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.

**Thin Ice:** Because of the recent heavy rain, be careful when using ponds and lakes for skating. The ice is very thin now and could be unsafe for skating or for walking. Be very sure of the thickness before venturing out on them. Inform and educate your children often about the dangers. Also, ice hiding under a cover of snow is extremely slippery. Walk with extra caution.

**Burn Permit Alert:**  
Anyone wishing to do an outside burn must get ver-

bal permission from one of the fire wardens before starting a fire. You must speak with one of the wardens. Leaving an answering machine message will not count as a permit. Repeat: You must speak with one of the wardens. When calling for your permit, be sure to ask what materials are acceptable and which ones are unacceptable to burn. If the Fire Department is called to respond and the fire ends out being an illegal burn, the fire will be extinguished and a fine may be imposed. Fires must be at least 100 feet from any structure

**The wardens are:** **Cole Streeter 722-3178**  
**Mark Lund 463-9355**  
**Pat Haas 387-5778**

**Association Meeting:** The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association met for their regular meeting January 5th with 27 members present and 7 members excused. After the meeting some rescue equipment was put into the Utility so it can be used for some of the rescue house calls. This will ease some of the use of Rescue 1 and allow both vehicles some exposure. Lack of use often brings on mechanical failures.

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

**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

### ScottishCountryDance

#### Classes

Every Wednesday @ 7:30 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. All Westminster seniors are invited to attend. Join us at the First Congregational Church on Route 5

#### Bellows Falls Gallery

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

**Secrets of Health Aging** – a facilitated discussion group and potluck. The 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of

each month at the Westminster Fire Station. Call Westminster Cares at 722-3607 for more information

#### Contra Dance

Every 3rd Saturday of month at 7:30 @ 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 StrongClasses

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

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

Call Westminster Cares for more information:

722-3607

#### Yoga Class with Lisa Nigro-15

**weejs**

begins September 9 and ends

December 23.

Wednesdays 7 - 8:30 p.m. at the

Westminster Institute. All levels

welcomed. Drop ins welcomed.

Call 722-4249 for more informa-

tion.

## Local Sports

### WAYSAs (Westminster Area Youth Sports

**Association)** is a volunteer run organization that provides the opportunity to elementary aged children in Westminster, VT to play soccer, basketball, softball and baseball. We have grown over the past 3 years. With the growth of enrollment we have the growing need for more volunteers to help coach, referee and umpire.

We are currently finishing up the basketball season. This is the second year we have had a 1st and 2nd grade team. This is only possible because we have had a volunteer coach step up to run it. We also have two 3rd and 4th grade teams this year, with only one coach, Melissa Nowers did a great job with them. WAYSAs also has a boy's and a girl's 5th and 6th grade basketball team. Sign-ups for the baseball and softball season this spring is just around the corner. Again we will be looking for help with these teams. If you are interested in volunteering please feel free to contact Jeremy Mager, at 722-9610, Donnie Fullam at 722-3900 or Debbie Austin at 463-9982.

WAYSAs has meetings the 1st Monday of the month at 6:00 pm, the next meeting will be on Feb 1st at 6:00 pm. It is held at the firehouse.

## Faith Community

### The First Congregational Church of Westminster United Church of Christ

The Rev. Sami Jones McRae, Pastor Main Street, Route 5, Westminster, Vermont 05158, 802-722-4148

Sunday Worship at 10:00AM

Communion is the first Sunday of each month. Sunday School is held at 10:00am from September to May. The church has a ramp and lift for wheelchair access. 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](mailto:ccww@sover.net)

## INDOOR WINTER WALKING

**WALKING at the Westminster Center School. The gymnasium at the Westminster Center School will be open every weekday morning from 7 am to 8 am and will be available until the end of school. The walk is open to anyone who has interest in exercising early in the morning, either before you go off to work or to get a healthy start on the day. If you are interested, just come to the gym at 7 am and wear appropriate shoes. If you have any questions, please call Ronnie at Westminster Cares - 722-3607.**

### Stone Church Arts presents...

Photography Juried Invitational Show

Currently Showing at the Chapel Gallery at Immanuel Episcopal Church

The show runs through February 28.

View the work of photographers from around the region at the Chapel Gallery, part of the Stone Church Arts Program at Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church St., Bellows Falls, Vermont.

The Stone Church Arts program consists of a concert series as well as an art gallery at Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church St., Bellows Falls, Vermont.

For more information call

802-463-3100 or email [sca@sover.net](mailto:sca@sover.net) <<mailto:sca@sover.net>>.

## Meetings

**Selectboard** meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7PM in the Town Hall.

### Planning and Development

**Commission** meets the 2nd Monday at 7:00 in the Town Hall.

### Westminster Activitie

#### Commission

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

### Westminster School Board

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

### Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association

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

### Westminster West Public Library Board

2nd Mondays at 7:00 at the Westminster West Public Library

### Development Review Board

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

### Community Improvement

**Program Committee** meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:00PM.

**Westminster Cares Board** meets the 1st Wednesday of every month at the Westminster Fire Station.

### Westminster Institute Board

meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Institute.

**911 Committee** meets as needed.

### The Westminster Fire & Rescue

**Dept** holds their monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of every month and a combined drill on the 3rd Tuesday of every month.

### Westminster Historical Society

meets the third Tuesday, monthly, at 7:00 pm at the Westminster Institute.

### Westminster Gazette Meeting,

Fiancial Meeting, Thursday, February 11th at 4:00pm - Westminster Cares Gazette Meeting Thursday, February 25th at 4:00pm

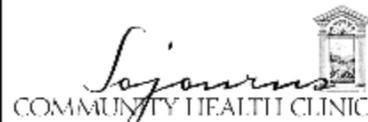
#### Volunteer/s Needed

to Distribute the Westminster Gazette to Local Establishments.

Usually, the 1st Tuesday of the Month

#### The Deadline for The March 2010 Issue of the Westminster Gazette is.

Thursday, February 25th by 5:00pm



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- Sound Therapy
- Immune Support
- Sauna
- Yoga Therapy
- Apothecary

**Send Submissions to:** [westminsternews@gmail.com](mailto:westminsternews@gmail.com)



**It is a pleasure to announce that Codi-Ann Hindes has been named the 2009 Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen for Bellows Falls Union High School.** Codi-Ann, a senior, is the daughter of Bernie and Sue-Ann Hindes of Bellows Falls. The criterion for this award includes dependability, service, leadership and patriotism and Codi-Ann demonstrates them all well.

Codi-Ann is one of the top students in her class and one of the most dependable students at the school. Her cooperation with other students and with staff members is incredible and she is always willing to help out in any situation. She is always prepared for class, often volunteers to help and is more than willing to assist staff and students without being asked. Codi has proven to be a tremendously dependable, truthful student and individual and someone that people can on. Both in class and outside of class, she is willing to work with others to get tasks accomplished. She is a great team player and knows the value of having everyone's voice heard.

As a member of the BFUHS Girls Tennis, Scholars' Bowl, Band, Math Team, the Environmental Club, National Honor Society, St. Charles and numerous other activities she has provided service to her school and community. Last summer Codi-Ann spent the summer in Japan through the Janeway Scholarship Program.

Codi-Ann has a great personality both in and out of school. She loves learning and has a great attitude when it comes to class and school in general. She is a mature, responsible person.

This year, Codi-Ann took on the role of leading the band during the football games, which is a high honor and shows how the band and Mr. Burke feel about her skills and leadership. Codi leads by example every day with her attitude and approach towards school and life in general.

Codi's contributions to the BFUHS community are invaluable to the success of the school. Codi contributes to all aspects of the school in an effort to help the school, from helping students study for a test to volunteering to help out at a class fundraiser, she makes BFUHS and its community a better place.

**It is a pleasure to announce that Anne- Sophie Geha has been chosen the November Elk's Student of the Month for Bellows Falls Union High School.** Sophie, a senior, is the daughter of Mary Westbrook Geha of Westminster and William Geha of Arlington, Mass.



Sophie is a delightful student who works hard in her classes. She is a pleasure to have in the classroom as she takes her education seriously and strives to improve her skills. Always willing to participate and be an active member of a group, she is a great student to work with. Sophie works hard in her classes and is willing to help other students as well.

Sophie serves the BFUHS school community in a number of capacities. She is involved in school government as the President of the BFUHS Student Council and she is a very active member of the BFUHS Drama Club. A talented actress in a number of roles, Sophie has appeared in many performances in the past few years. Another area in which Sophie is dedicatedly involved is the music program at BFUHS. She has represented the school in three different District Music Festivals, been a part of the BFUHS Marching/Pep Band and Concert Band and the Madrigal Singers.

Congratulations Sophie. BFUHS is proud to have you represent us with this award.

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**Dr. Vernon Temple Expands Practice to Brattleboro**

Dr. Vernon Temple and Dr. Marcy Caulkins wish to congratulate Dr. Marcy Jones on his retirement after 27 years of practice in Brattleboro. Dr. Temple and Dr. Caulkins will now be providing chiropractic services in Dr. Jones' former office on the second floor of the Merchant's Bank building at 205 Main Street, Brattleboro. They will continue to offer care in their Bellows Falls office as well.

Dr. Temple is a chiropractic orthopedist who has been in practice for over 30 years in Bellows Falls. He is currently serving as President of the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners. He is past president of the Vermont Board of Chiropractic Examination and Registration. Dr. Temple was also instrumental in the development of the chiropractic outpatient program at Grace Cottage Hospital in Townshend, VT.

Dr. Caulkins graduated Magna Cum Laude from New York Chiropractic College in 2002, and has been practicing with Dr. Temple in Bellows Falls since. She is an active member of the Bellows Falls Rotary club, and has served as club president. She is also a member of the Vermont Chiropractic Association.

Appointments for office visits are now available. Please call 802-257-5177 for Brattleboro, or 802-463-9522 for the Bellows Falls office.

**Scholarship Fund in Memory of Local Teen...**



In the memory of my son Luke Alderman, who passed away October 3, 2009 at the age of 17 & a senior year at the Windham Regional Career Center in Brattleboro, VT. I worked with the Career Center to develop a scholarship fund which will provide scholarships for the protective services classes (fire & law) as Luke was enrolled in both, & the automotive class, as Luke was such a car enthusiast. Luke finally found happiness in his school environment, & this scholarship is a perfect way to honor Luke, & to give back to the school which gave him so much.

Donations should be made out to the "Luke Alderman Memorial Scholarship", & may be sent to:

Joyce Rathbun  
Windham Regional Career Center  
80 Atwood Street  
Brattleboro, VT 05301

Thank you,  
Luke's mom, Amy

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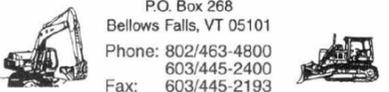
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**February's BUSINESS OF THE MONTH**

**Lawrence and Lober Electric, Inc.** is co-owned and operated by James Lober and Rick Hamm. Rick Hamm is a new co-owner after recently buying out Thomas Lawrence in October of 2009. Rick is a master electrician, and has been an electrician for twelve years. The company policies are still the same "the customer comes first". It is our customers who keep us in business, and it is them we need to be thankful for.

If it were not for our customers Lawrence and Lober Electric, Inc. would not be in business now for over fifteen years. We pride ourselves on our quality of work, our competitive rates, and our qualified electricians.

There are no substitutions when it comes to quality!  
 Small job, large job, odd job, residential, commercial, industrial,  
**GIVE US A CALL AND WE WILL BE THERE!**  
 Thanks, from everyone at Lawrence and Lober Electric, Inc.

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**LIST OF SCHEDULED ANNUAL MEETINGS**

**UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 27 (BELLOWS FALLS UNION HIGH SCHOOL) ANNUAL MEETING**  
 Wednesday, February 24, 2010 at 7:00pm in the BFUHS Auditorium

**ANNUAL TOWN, SCHOOL & FIRE DISTRICT #3 MEETING**  
 Saturday February 27, 2010 at 10:00am in the BFUHS Auditorium (Free Child Care Available)

**TOWN MEETING DAY**  
 Vote on Australian ballot articles on Tuesday, March 2, 2010 from 8:00am to 7:00pm at the Westminster Institute

**LAST DAY TO BE ADDED TO THE CHECKLIST TO VOTE**  
**Union High School District No. 27 Meeting-** 5:00pm on February 17, 2010 at 5:00pm.  
**Annual Town Meeting-** 5:00pm on Wednesday, February 25, 2010

**FREE Child Care for Annual Town Meeting**  
 Sponsored by the Selectboard of the Town of Westminster.  
 Child Care provided by the Meeting Waters YMCA

What: Fun, enriching activities for Westminster children ages 6 months and up.  
 Please send bag lunch or plan to attend the luncheon with your child. Snack will be provided in the afternoon  
 When: Saturday February 27, 2010 from 9:45am-end of meeting  
 Where: Bellows Falls Union High School  
 How: In order for the Meeting Waters YMCA to plan its staffing, activities and snack, **Pre-registration is required.** You can pick up a form at the town hall or contact: Bellows Falls YMCA at 802-463-4769.

The Forms are also going to be available at the Westminster Schools  
 Send them or Fax them to:  
 Meetings Waters YMCA  
 66 Atkinson Street  
 Bellows Falls, VT 05101  
 Or Fax (802) 463-3347

**School Board Blog**

In an effort to increase transparency and communication with the public about the school board, Westminster Board member Rick Gordon has been keeping a blog at <http://www.rickwestboard.blogspot.com/>. Please keep track of this site for information and reflections on the workings of the school board.

**DON'T FORGET TO VOTE !!**

**Westminster Gazette**

TOWN OF WESTMINSTER  
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