

# Westminster Gazette



po box 147 westminster vt 05158

Our Community Newspaper @ www.westminstervt.org

Vol. 10, No.2 February 2014

## Town Hall Improvement Project Update



By Lindy Larson

If you have driven by the Town Hall recently you could not help but notice the large dumpster, scaffolding, ladders, trucks and crew of workers surrounding the building. If you were wondering exactly what is going on, here are the details.

On June 6, 1888 lightning struck the Old Meeting House and burned it to the ground on which it had been sitting since 1770. In 1890 a new Town Hall was dedicated. In the 124 years since that dedication, the building has had almost nothing added to it in the form of any type of insulation, and that is what is happening now.

When Russ Hodgkins was hired as Town Manager in September he says the select board had a list of priority projects that they wanted him to tackle and the top two were to get the building weatherized and to then have it repainted.

Actually, the weatherization project was voted on and approved by the town several years ago and the funds have been set aside but the work was never started for several reasons, including a turnover in town managers and the fact that the hurricane Irene recovery effort required much immediate attention and time.

In December an energy audit was done on the building. This consisted of, among other things, a blower door test and an infra-red scan. The blower door test measures the total amount of air flow throughout the building. It is like finding all those little drafts in your entire house and adding them all together to get one number. From that information a plan was formed to get the best weatherization value for the dollars spent. Thermal House of Brattleboro was hired to do the work and that is the crew you have been seeing in front of the building.

The walls are now filled with cellulose which was blown in from the exterior with considerable care taken to find all structural cross members to avoid leaving any gaps in the coverage. The attic now has a thick level of blown cellulose on the floor and closed cell foam sealing any gaps, resulting in a building which now should be much more efficient to operate both summer and winter. When the project is completed, the energy audit team will return and do a second blower door test to find out what reduction in air flow volume was achieved by the insulation and sealing.

As of this writing the project is still in progress, but even at this stage Russ and the staff say that the the positive results were felt immediately. It is expected that the cost payback time with the savings on heating fuel and air conditioning will be fairly rapid. Another hoped for savings is that the exterior paint will now last longer by having more moderate temperature fluctuations and water vapor containment.

The project was coordinated with the help of Efficiency Vermont who are able to assist with partial funding. When the results of the second blower door test are known, that will determine the long term expected energy savings and that will determine how much Efficiency Vermont will pay toward the project. It is hoped that will be in the neighborhood of 20%. Efficiency Vermont is able offer the same help and possible financial assistance to individual homeowners. To find out how you may benefit from this program visit [www.encyvermont.com](http://www.encyvermont.com)

The repainting of the Town Hall is scheduled for this spring.

## GRAMMY-NOMINATED TEACHER'S STORY GETS NATIONAL ATTENTION



Lisa Bianconi, left, with CBS News correspondent, Michelle Miller.

Kurn Hattin Homes for Children, a charitable Vermont residential school for disadvantaged children, gained national media attention recently after its Music Director, Lisa Bianconi, was named a top-ten finalist for the inaugural Grammy Music Educator award.

Bianconi was featured on CBS Evening News. She was one of only two music teacher-nominees to be profiled on the program, which has 8 million viewers. After viewing her story on WCAX in Burlington, CBS News producer Alex Romano contacted Kurn Hattin directly earlier this month and requested a visit to the school and an interview with Bianconi. CBS correspondent Michelle Miller made the trip from New York to Kurn Hattin's campus in Westminster last week and sat down with Bianconi and several of her students to find out what makes her so special.

"When I first came here, I had an attitude," 12-year-old Ethiopian orphan Emebet Stott told Miller during the interview, "Ms. Bianconi talked to me. The fact that she was right there and listened to me--She felt like the mother I never had."

Bianconi, a 30-year employee of Kurn Hattin Homes, says she is grateful for the attention her story has brought to the school, a non-profit which relies on private philanthropic donations to support its operations. Last year, the school launched an official campaign to raise public awareness and understanding of Kurn Hattin and its mission. "Kurn Hattin has been here for 120 years," said Bianconi, "and there's a surprising number of people who either don't know about us or have the wrong idea about what we do." Immediately following the CBS airing, Kurn Hattin's website saw a marked increase in traffic, including a

number of online donations.

Representatives from the Grammy Foundation will visit Kurn Hattin's campus April 24 to present Bianconi with the \$1,000 honorarium she won for making it to the final round. Kurn Hattin Homes will also receive a matching \$1,000 honorarium. Although another educator, Kent Knappenberger of Westfield, NY, was ultimately named the Grammy recipient, Bianconi has said she already feels like a winner. In a recent interview on New England Cable News, she said, "If I can make even one child's life better through the work that I do, that's as good as a Grammy."

Bianconi's students can certainly vouch for that. As Emebet Stott told CBS, "There will never be something big enough for what she does, even a Grammy. She's bigger than that."

### WHO'S RUNNING FOR WHAT?

Below is the slate of candidates for Westminster:

Office - Term (Years)	Incumbent	Candidates
Moderator (1)		
Town	Fletcher D. Proctor	Fletcher D. Proctor
School	Fletcher D. Proctor	Fletcher D. Proctor
Fire District	Fletcher D. Proctor	Fletcher D. Proctor
Selectman (3)	Toby Young	Toby Young
Selectman (2)	Peter E. Barrett	Peter E. Barrett
Lister (3)	Babetta (Babs) Lynde	Babetta (Babs) Lynde
Town Grand Juror (1)	M L (Sam) Streeter	
Town Grand Juror (1)	Robert Lober	Robert Lober
Town Agent (1)	Fletcher D. Proctor	Fletcher D. Proctor
Trustee, Campbell Fund (3)	Barbara A. Taylor	Barbara A. Taylor
Commissioner, Campbell Fund (1)	Ila Mitchell	Ila Mitchell
Commissioner, Campbell Fund (1)	Karen Walter	Karen Walter
Commissioner, Campbell Fund (1)	Vacant	
Trustee, Public Funds (3)	Barbara A. Taylor	Barbara A. Taylor
Town School Director (3)	Rick Gordon	Rick Gordon
		Peter Terrell
Town School Director (2)	Tammy Kissell	Ian Sbardellati
		John Sciacca
Union High School #27 Director	Dan Axtell	Dan Axtell
Fire District #3 Prudential (3)	Robert Haas	Robert Haas
Fire District #3 Prudential (2 yrs remaining of a 3 yr term)	David Wright	Daniel Green

The last day to register to vote before Town Meeting is Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2014 at 5 p.m.

## Last Month's Mystery Photo

Winners identifying last month's mystery photo were Christian Blake, Reggie Cote, Richard Morse, Wanda West and Bob and Pat Haas. Sorry, Mark and Jon! Picture was supplied by Joan Morse.

## FOOD FUNDRAISERS AT TOWN MEETING

Bring your appetite to Town Meeting and support the following local organizations:

Bake Sale and Refreshments will benefit Westminster Cares, Inc. Hot coffee and tea; breakfast breads, muffins, scones, fruit cups and plenty of sweet treats will be offered.

Lunch is provided by the T.E.A.M. Parent-Teacher Group, (Together Everyone Achieves More), of Westminster Center School. Chili, hot dogs and a variety of sandwiches will be offered. Proceeds will benefit the whole school.

Child Care will not be provided for Town Meeting this year.

## PROPERTY TAX INSTALLMENT DUE, DOG LICENSES, RABIES CLINIC

The second and final Property Tax installment is due on Monday, Feb. 10.

Dog license renewals are due by April 1.

There will be a rabies clinic on March 29 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Highway Garage.

The cost is \$10 and licenses will be available.

## NEWS FROM THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

The First Congregational Church of Westminster on Main Street, Route 5, has the following events.

Sunday worship at 10 a.m.

Communion is the first Sunday of each month. The church has a ramp and lift for wheelchair access as well as a handicapped bathroom. Westminster First Congregational is an open and affirming church, all are welcome.

Important Dates

Feb 4 Women's Fellowship - noon

Feb 5 Souper Wed 12-2

Feb 9 Worship

Feb 12 Souper Wed 12-2

Feb 16 Worship 10 am

Feb 17 Standing Committee meeting 6 pm

Feb 19 Souper Wed 12-2

Feb 23 Worship 10:00 am afterward healing service

Feb 26 Souper Wed 12-2

**Souper Wednesday**

Every Wed during the winter months the community is invited to Souper Wed from 12 to 2 p.m. Two different soups are made each Wednesday by church and community members. We even have a few local chefs lined up to cook.

All community members are welcome to share a warm space and a warm meal of soup and bread. A free will donation will be collected to defray the costs but no one will be turned away.

For more information or to help out by serving or cooking please contact Doug Smith 376-8979!



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# Warning for Westminster Annual Meeting

The legal voters of the Westminster Town Fire District Number 3, Westminster Town School District, and the Town of Westminster, are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Bellows Falls Union High School Auditorium in Westminster on Saturday March 1 at 10 a.m. to take action on the Articles following Article 1.

The meeting will be recessed to the Westminster Institute, East Parish, Westminster to meet at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, March 4 for the consideration of Article 1 by Australian Ballot. The polls shall remain open until 7 p.m. at which time the meeting will recess to meet at the Bellows Falls Union High School Auditorium at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, March 4 to consider any remaining articles, if necessary.

**Article 1:** To choose all Town Fire District Number 3 Officers, Town School District Officers and all Town Officers by Australian ballot on Tuesday, March 4 from 8 a.m. to 7 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 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 State or Federal Funds.

**Article 4:** 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 1, 2014 and ending June 30, 2014, and if so, how much?

**Article 5:** To transact any other business proper to be brought before the Town Fire District Number 3 meeting.

**Article 6:** To hear the reports of the Town School District Officers for the last year and to take action thereon.

**Article 7:** To see if the Town School District 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 8:** To see if the Town School District will vote to pay its District Officers compensation, and if so, how much?

**Article 9:** To see if the Town School District will vote to release fourteen thousand, five dollars (\$14,500), currently held in a Solar Feasibility Study reserve fund, to the general fund to be used to offset expenses in the proposed FY15 school budget.

**Article 10:** To see if the Town School District will raise money for the maintenance of its schools for the period of July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015; and if so, how much?

**Article 11:** To transact any other proper business to be brought before the Town School District Meeting.

**Article 12:** To hear the reports of the Town Officers and to take action thereupon.

**Article 13:** To see if the voters of the Town of Westminster will raise and appropriate the sum of \$130,000 for the Town Highway Equipment Reserve Fund.

**Article 14:** To see if the voters of the Town of Westminster will raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 for the Bridge Rehabilitation Reserve Fund.

**Article 15:** To see whether the voters of the Town of Westminster will raise and appropriate money to pay the indebtedness of the Town, repair highways and pay general expenses of the Town for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2014 and ending June 30, 2015, and if so, how much?

**Article 16:** To transact any other proper business to be brought before the Town Meeting.

## COMPASS SCHOOL: APPLYING LEARNING TO REAL WORLD PROBLEMS

By Rick Gordon, Director of Compass School

Kids often ask of teachers, "When are we going to use this stuff?" At Compass School, students get to apply their academic learning to real world needs during Community Service Winter Term.

Compass' Community Service Winter Term is organized around requests for assistance from community organizations in the region. As students address these real world needs, they develop and extend 21st Century skills of problem solving, adaptability, and the ability to work with others to make a real difference in the community.

This year's projects are expected to include: creating science exhibits for the Nature Museum at Grafton, storytelling in local elementary schools, helping SEVCA with management efficiency at the Green Island Project in Bellows Falls, developing historical interpretation proposals for the Saxtons River Park Committee, leading grant development around teen health and wellness and undertaking projects with the local Boys and Girls Club

Working in small groups with a teacher-coach, students meet with the partner organization sponsoring the project to clarify expectations and organize themselves to help address the community need. This work asks students to take knowledge and skills developed in their classes and apply it to real world problems. This transfer of academic learning to new contexts is one of the most elusive goals in education. Winter Term at Compass gives students the chance to work together to apply their learning outside school in service to the community.



Above, Compass students working with Bonnie Anderson, left, the director of the Bellows Falls Community Bike Project.

If you see a need that Compass 7-12th grade students could address, please contact the school at 463-2525 to discuss what might be possible.

## NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER CARES

The Westminster Cares, Inc. Board of Directors met January 8 with President Pete Harrison presiding. The following board members were present: Heidi Anderson, Don Dawson, Kathy Elliot, Susan Harlow, Miriam Lanata, Sally Ryea and Director Donna Dawson. Reggie Borden Karen Walter and Barbara Carey were excused. Westminster Cares creates opportunities for seniors and disabled adults to live with independence and dignity in the community. Your support to this care-giving organization is a way for all of us to take care of our friends.

Services provided: Meals on Wheels - 21 different WC volunteers delivered meals throughout the month to 16 people on a daily basis. In addition seven people receive frozen meals on Fridays for the weekend. Transportation - During the month of December, four different volunteers provided rides for two different people for a total of 40 miles driven Nursing program: During December, our community nurse made eight visits to six different homes in Westminster for a total of 5.25 hours.

Meetings attended by staff in December included: bookkeeper, Gazette, grant writing, home visits, committees.

Programs during the December included: one Secrets of Healthy Aging session, three Yoga classes, 18 Strength Training classes held and three Artist in Each of Us classes. Friendly Visits: new volunteer making friendly visits. Anyone interested in learning more about Westminster Cares, volunteering to deliver meals on wheels or driving neighbors to doctor appointments, working on a committee, making a contribution or attending a workshop may contact Donna Dawson at 722-3607 or by e-mail at [wecares@sover.net](mailto:wecares@sover.net). Check us out on the web @ [www.westminstercares.org](http://www.westminstercares.org).

Equipment available: Walkers, commodes, shower chairs, wheel chairs, hospital beds, scooters and electric wheel chair. Equipment loan - several pieces of equipment loaned out in December.

Equipment needed. Currently we are overstocked and we are out of storage. Thank you to our past and present donors.

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

Donations for December (continued), and January:

In honor of Bill and Harriet Connor from Rebecca McKenny. In memory of Richard Morse from Richard License. In memory of Richard Morse from Bill and Joan Smidutz. In memory of Richard Morse from Peter and Judy Harrison. In memory of Theresa Hodgkins and Richard Morse from Barbara Comtois. In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Victor Harrison from Peter and Judy Harrison. In memory of Bernice Cook from Lester Cook. In memory of Pat Jennison from Cheryl Jennison. In memory of Charles Edson from Richard Michelman. In memory of Clarence Woodard from Lois Woodard. In memory of Brad Ryea from Kathleen Pirruccello. In memory of Marie Wright from Norm Wright. In memory of Norah Payne from Laurie Alberts and Tom O'Neill. In honor of Ronnie and Karen on behalf of the Sojourns' Staff. In memory of Marguerite and Clifford Dawson from Don and Donna Dawson. In memory of Robert E. Nelson from Jeanette Nelson. In honor of Ronnie Friedman from Fred and Mary Robling.

In honor of Ronnie Friedman and her great spirit and years of dedication to this wonderful organization from Sarah Waldo. In memory of Doris Bowen from Mary and Dan Davis. In memory of Ed Shore from Joan Shore. In memory of Jim Grandy from Ruth Grandy. In honor of Susan Clifford from Patrick Clark. In memory of David Wright from Trudy and Bob Byington. In honor of Ronnie Friedman from Carol and David Buchdahl. In memory of Norah Payne from Jim and Colleen Grout. In memory of Jean K. Schreiber from Tatiana Schreiber. In memory of Lee Sanderson and Brad Ryea from Kathy and Tony Elliott. In memory of Ralph Harlow and Jean Harlow Larue from Lori Larue. In memory of Rosalie Coven from Judy and Tony Coven. In memory of Giles Friedman from Ronnie and Richard Friedman. In memory of Richard Morse from Chroma Technology Corporation. In memory of Peter Keil from Jack and Barbara Keil. In honor of Ronnie Friedman from Heidi Anderson. In memory of Phyllis Norman from Scott and Wanda West. In memory of Harry "Bud" Weiser from Elsie Weiser. In memory of Richard W. Goodell from Claire Goodell. In memory of Richard Morse from Clifford Funeral Home. In honor of Susan Clifford from Anonymous.

## NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE

The Westminster Fire & Rescue Department holds their monthly meetings at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every month and a combined drill on the third Tuesday of every month. Rescue training is the second Tuesday of the month.

Next association meeting is Feb. 4 at 7 p.m.

The Prudential Committee meets twice a month on the first and third Monday after the first Tuesday at 7 p.m.

February Prudential meetings: 13th and 24th

Number of calls in December: 37

Number of calls through January 29th: 37

Number of calls calendar year to Date: 37

Number of calls fiscal year to date: 287

**Association Meeting:** The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association met for their regular meeting January 7th with President Greg Holton presiding. There were 26 members present and 3 members excused. Currently there are 40 members of the volunteer fire department. Chief Streeter noted that there had been several fire calls recently and he thanked all those involved for an outstanding job. The beginning of the Chief's report was a presentation of a jacket to Ernie Norman for almost 50 years of dedicated service. The jacket is inscribed with "Ernie" on the front, "Norman" on the back, the date he joined "February 2, 1965" on one of the sleeves and "still going strong" on the other sleeve. Ernie received a round of applause from those attending.

**Chimney Fires:** Because of the usually high number of chimney fires this winter, we thought it would make sense to mention some prevention techniques. Take down your stove every week or so to clean out the buildup of soot. While the pipe is down and during daylight hours, take a mirror that can fit into the hole where the pipe goes and look up into the flue. It should be wide open and clear of any buildup. If not, get it professionally cleaned or do it yourself if you have the equipment and the expertise. Many fires where houses are lost or severely damaged by a fire start out as chimney fires and work their way into the partitions. The fire department is always available for information and inspections.

**Caution:** Please remove any ice or snow from your roofs. There are two reasons. One, the weight of the snow and ice could cause your roof to collapse and two, when it slides off the roof it

could do damage or hurt someone including a pet.

Batteries should be changed in smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. Also, check the back of the carbon monoxide detector for operation instructions and alarm function. You may be able to avoid an unnecessary call to the Fire Department.

**Ice Skating Rink:** The ice skating rink on the East Side of the Westminster Central School is ready for use. Some of the volunteers of the Westminster Fire Department have been busy flooding the area. The rink is open to the public.

**Scholarship Fund:** The members of the association decided they would like repeat last year's idea of setting up a scholarship fund to be given to a Westminster resident who graduates from the Bellows Falls Union High School. The amount of the scholarship is \$500. To qualify, the student must be pursuing a career in some area of emergency work. Check with any member of the department for particulars.

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

Donations received in January:

Donation for Regina Cote

Memorial donations:

In memory of David Wright from Regina Cote

Donations given in January:

Gift basket for a relative of one of the volunteers

We are always looking for new members: Anyone interested in volunteering their time to help the community in a time of need, please contact Chief Cole Streeter at 722-3178 or stop by the Firehouse any Sunday morning and pick up an application.

We would like to have additional volunteers from the Westminster West area.

There is a Fire House, an engine and a rescue vehicle located in Westminster West and more help is always welcome to utilize that equipment during calls. As always, we would like to thank the members of the community for its continued support of the fire department.

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

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

### FROM THE TOWN MANAGER'S DESK: TAKE CARE OF YOUR CATS & DOGS

With the start of the New Year, we all want to remember our dog and cats and make sure that they have had all their shots and most of all, that the dogs are registered.

Towns, under State guidance, are mandated to register dogs for public safety. It does not matter that your dog doesn't leave your property or that public encounters with your dog are very few. It is mandatory to register your dogs under Vermont State law.

The cost of a registration is \$8. Registrations are due at the beginning of the

year. Late fees and Vermont municipal tickets will be written as we find unregistered dogs after April 1st. Be smart and get it done.

We are hosting a rabies clinic on March 29 from 10 a.m. until noon at the Town Garage. The cost of the clinic is \$10 and the Clerk will be there to register dog(s). Be a good neighbor and protect your pet.

Thanks in advance.

*Russell R. Hodgkins – Town Manager*  
722-4255

## Indoor Winter Gardening

by Babs Lynde, a Vermont Master Gardener

Usually about this time of the year, those of us who love gardening are missing the satisfaction of picking the first young lettuce leaves or opening the first pea pod and gulping down the sweet, tender peas. Because I only have a small garden myself, most of my winter squash and any frozen vegetables are usually gone by January or February. But you don't have to be completely without any fresh greenery if you have a good spot indoors to set up small plants.

If you have room in your kitchen, consider adding a grow light (unless you have a good southern exposure) and grow some fresh, aromatic herbs that add wonderful and savory flavors to our foods. Herbs are easy to grow during the summer months, and some of them can be just as easy to grow indoors.

Chives, parsley, rosemary and thyme are simple to transfer directly from your garden and into your home if you don't wait until there is a dramatic change in the temperatures. They are also easy to start by seeds if you prefer starting from scratch. Oregano, mint and tarragon will grow fairly trouble-free as well. Some herbs, such as basil and sage, are more difficult to keep alive indoors, plus they tend to be bushy and need more room to spread out, but if you choose varieties that stay small and not allow them to get "leggy," you might be successful.

For the most part, fruit and vegetable plants should be grown indoors only 4 to 8 weeks before transplanting them outdoors. This is because most of them require far more garden space and light than what is normally available in your home. If eaten early enough, you might be able to grow a variety of springmix lettuces, green onions, or radishes. A large, draft-free window with excellent light may do well for a cherry or grape tomato plant.

Grow lights are not difficult to find. Most nurseries or lawn

and garden stores have a large assortment of contraptions for growing plants indoors so do a little research first to determine what it is that you need. Look for the best place to grow plants in your home. Herbs should be in the kitchen area or easily accessed from the kitchen, such as in a pantry, because, like dried herbs in the cupboards, we want them close to our cooking areas. Be sure that you can forfeit this counter or sill space for the several wintery or cooler months. Measure the area that you are planning to give up so you won't accidentally purchase a unit that is too large or too small.

Also, choose your spot where there won't be any sudden and direct drafts like from an outside door or a window that you might like to open now and then for fresh air. "Grow" lights and "full spectrum" lights are a little different from one another and can be found as fluorescent or incandescent, but either will do nicely for keeping your plants lively. Some grow lights are already affixed to a handy stand with a drip-plate for your pots underneath it while other lights can be hung from wood frames or ceilings.

When bringing mature plants in from outside, remember not to use the soil from the garden in the pots. Keep the garden soil around the roots, but fill the rest of the pot with a good compost or potting soil that has the nutrients and looseness that is needed for indoor plants. You might also want to buy a liquid nutrient supplement that can be added occasionally by drops to replace what the plants have absorbed from the soil.

Would you like more information concerning growing herbs indoors? 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 e-mail to [master.gardener@uvm.edu](mailto:master.gardener@uvm.edu) or visit [www.uvm.edu/mastergardener/](http://www.uvm.edu/mastergardener/) for extensive information.

# Aged in Vermont

Westminster Cares, Inc.

**HELP YOUR TOWN – DRIVE FOR  
MEALS ON WHEELS**



Westminster Cares is in need of drivers to deliver Meals on Wheels to home-bound and elderly people in town once a month. "Many of our drivers have been volunteering for years, and people have had illness, work or family commitments come up - we need to let them retire from delivering!" said Donna Dawson, director of Westminster Cares. "At the end of the day, many volunteers say they get far more than they give to Meals on Wheels."

Lori Miller has been driving for Meals on Wheels since the program started; she and her husband, Dick, split the route. "I've got a strong sense of volunteering," Lori said. "I like to help people and give them a visit. You meet so many people and they're so appreciative. Sometimes I think we may be the only people they see all week."

"The nice thing is if you're in a bind, you can swap with someone. It's just a nice family of people. All you have to do is know how to drive and enjoy people."

Neil Metrick wanted to do some service for the community so he started driving eight years ago. "I enjoy it, I'm providing a service and it makes me feel good," he said.

Neil, who also drives people to medical appointments, brings dog treats on his route. "I just started bringing along cat treats. Some of the pets know my vehicle, so when I pull up they're ready for their Meal on Wheels."

"I just get such a kick out of seeing the people; it's a joy for me."

Pete Harrison is president of the Westminster Cares board of directors. But his most important job for the organization is as Artie Aiken's driver. He began driving for Meals on Wheels about eight years ago, and a few years later started taking Artie with him. That's when the real fun began.

Sure, it gives Artie a chance to get out. But it gives Pete a great deal, too. "I get the pleasure of riding around with a 100-year-old historian," he said. "If there's a new stop, he remembers before I do. And people wave to him—they're so glad to see him now."

Pete says it's good to say hello to people for whom you may be their only social contact. "It's not just giving a meal - that's the smallest part of it. It gives a person a sense of security to know someone will check in on them. And it gives me the pleasure of just volunteering."

Driving for Meals on Wheels takes one-and-a-half to two hours in the spring, summer and fall, a bit longer in the winter with messy roads. "We ask for one time per month and can work with your schedule if you go out of town in the winter or summer," Donna said. "You'll be given training on doing the route and will deliver with a partner until you feel comfortable on your own."

Interested? Call us at 722-3607.

"Aged in Vermont" is a monthly article on aging issues, organized by Westminster Cares. It's not only for the "aged" but for anyone with an elderly parent, relative, or friend, or who just wants to learn about these important issues. If you have ideas for an article or would like to write one, email Donna Dawson, [wecares@sover.net](mailto:wecares@sover.net).

Check out our website at [Westminstercares.org](http://Westminstercares.org), and like us on Facebook. Listen to our radio spot on WOOL-100.1FM, during "B Side" with Dickie Colo, on the first Thursday of each month, at 7:10 p.m. Or call us at 722-3607.

## COPIES OF THE TOWN REPORT AVAILABLE ON FEBRUARY 18

Copies of the Town Report will be available Feb. 18 at the Westminster Town Hall, Westminster West and/or Westminster Center Schools, Butterfield and/or Westminster West Libraries and the Health Center in Bellows Falls.

The Town will mail or distribute a copy of the report to any voter or resident upon request.

To do so, please contact the Town office at 722-4255, no later than Feb. 12.

## WESTMINSTER MYSTERY PHOTO



**What is this a picture of and what time period does it represent?**

E-mail your answer to [westminsternews@gmail.com](mailto:westminsternews@gmail.com) or [blynde@westminstervt.org](mailto:blynde@westminstervt.org), or phone Babs Lynde at 722-9516. The answer and the winners will be announced in the next issue.

Last Month's Answer: On Page 3.

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

## NOT YOUR GRANDFATHER'S LIBRARY

By *Lindy Larson*

Quite a few years ago I went into a library and looked for that oak cabinet with drawers holding those 3 x 5 file cards, one for each book available. You know, the old Dewey Decimal System for sorting things out and locating a particular book. I was embarrassingly set straight by a kindly older lady who showed me how to use the computer to do my search. She probably walked away shaking her head and making those tsk, tsk sounds at my electronically challenged condition.

The library has changed for many of us and it now provides much more than simply books to be borrowed. If you have not visited Westminster's Butterfield Library for a while, you really should because it is a great resource at a great price. Where can you go in these economic times and find something that provides so much and is absolutely free? Hard to believe, but it operates without one dime of assistance from the town or taxpayers. The operating costs are primarily covered by private funds from various benefactors and it has been that way since the library was established nearly 100 years ago.

When you do visit the Butterfield and meet Linda Fawcett, who has been the librarian since 1987, you will find the books that you expected - all 12,294 of them (yes, they were manually counted for the latest inventory). Along with the latest best sellers, Linda also likes to keep a good selection of local authors represented with books by Archer Mayor and the Joe Gunther series, sustainable living books by Deborah Krasner, gardening books by Gordon Hayward and Julie Messervy plus the many children's and Westminster history books by Jesse Haas: "Saige", "Revolutionary Westminster" and the 500 page hardcover "Westminster Vermont 1735-2000" to mention a few. The history books are still available for sale at the library if you wish to have your own. If any book you are looking for is not in stock, Linda can quickly get it for you through inter-library loan.

In addition, you will also find 22 current magazines so you can save some money and let your subscriptions lapse when you read them at the library while catching up with folks you have not seen in a while.

There is a large, quiet children's section upstairs. I take my grandkids there all the time to make sure they know there is a world beyond playing Minecraft on their Tablets. The children's section also has 100 selections on tape and CD and they might provide you with a solution to the "Are we there yet" chorus while traveling.

There are also 197 adult books on tape and CD. I find them to wonderfully make the miles go by when I am on a long trip, though they can work too well sometimes. Once, driving east on I-80 in Pennsylvania, I wanted to get off where I would take the scenic route up through the Delaware Water Gap. I was engrossed in the book and the next thing I know, I am looking at an exit sign for some town I have never heard of in New Jersey. "New Jersey!? What the heck am I doing in New Jersey?" I had overshot my exit by more than a few miles. Not the first time. Not the last.

The library also offers free wi-fi access both inside and out plus a few videos and movies on DVD.

Every year many people look forward to and enjoy the large book sale held at the library. Last April the sale netted \$525 and another sale will happen this spring though the date has not been determined yet. This will be a great way for you to create some space in your bookshelves while helping a worthy cause. Recycle is good. Reuse is better.

So, start picking out those books you could donate for the sale. They can be dropped off anytime during the regular library hours of 1-4 on Mondays and 1-7 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The only books the library does not need are text books and Readers Digest condensed books. Paperbacks are fine.

Here's the plan. One day just decide to turn off the tube, take a short ride or pleasant walk and visit with friends while you check out the Butterfield Library in the center of town. And guess what? That oak file cabinet with the multi drawers filled with those 3 x 5 file cards? It is still there, giving proof to dinosaurs like me that we have not gone extinct yet.

# WESTMINSTER HAPPENINGS

## Activities

### Scottish Country Dance Classes

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

### Putney Contra Dance

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

### Senior Potluck Lunch

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

### Bellows Falls Gallery Walk

Downtown at 5:30 p.m. every 3rd Friday of the month.

### Secrets of Healthy Aging

A facilitated discussion group and pot-luck. The 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at the Westminster Fire Station from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Call Westminster Cares at 722-3607 for more information.

### Contra Dance

Every 3rd Saturday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall in Walpole, N.H.

**THE GAZETTE  
GRATEFULLY  
ACKNOWLEDGES  
THE SUPPORT  
OF ITS UNDERWRITERS:**  
Kurn Hattin Homes  
Westminster School District  
Town of Westminster  
Westminster Activities Commission  
Sojourns Community Health Clinic  
Westminster Cares  
Westminster Fire & Rescue  
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Angie Dodd  
Donna Dawson  
Sophie Guerrina  
Babs Lynde

**Pictures and Articles  
Provided by the Community**  
westminsternews@gmail.com

**The Deadline for  
the March 2014 Issue of the  
Westminster Gazette is Wednesday,  
February 26.  
Publish Date is Tuesday,  
March 3.  
To Contact the  
Westminster Gazette E-mail:  
westminsternews  
@gmail.com**

### Gentle Yoga

Every Monday at 10 a.m. at the Westminster Institute. Call Westminster Cares at 722-3607 for more information.

### Living Strong Classes

Mondays and Thursdays: at the First Congregational Church in Westminster from 9-10 a.m.; at the Westminster West Church from 6-7 p.m.; or at Greater Rock Fitness in Bellows Falls from 11-12. Call Westminster Cares for more information at 722-3607.

### Knitting Together

Join us every Wednesday, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Village Square Booksellers, downtown Bellows Falls. Bring your knitting needles, we have the yarn and casual instruction if needed to knit hats, mittens and sweaters for area kids.

All our yarn is from community donation and we distribute our completed work to all area schools and Parks Place. More knitters at all skill levels are wanted and we can promise you an enjoyable experience. For details or to donate yarn contact Caroline at 463-4653.

### Zumba Class - Basic Level 1 (B1)

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

### Westminster West Public Library Trustees

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

### Bellows Falls Farmers' Market

Stop by the Train Station in Bellows Falls the third Friday of each month, through March, 4 to 7 p.m., for our indoor Winter Farmers Market. We are able to supply local vegetables throughout the winter as well as breads, cheeses, canned goods, meats, prepared foods, crafts and more! For details visit [www.bffarmersmarket.com](http://www.bffarmersmarket.com) or call 463-2018.

## THANKS FROM WESTMINSTER CARES

The members of the Westminster Cares Board of Directors would like to express their gratitude to the community of Westminster for another successful Annual Appeal. Friends, neighbors and many community members made contributions to support the healthy aging programs and services of Westminster Cares.

Many donations were made to honor or memorialize individuals; those donations are listed monthly in the Gazette. Your gifts are deeply appreciated and we are grateful for having such a caring community.

You can support us further by attending the 2014 Westminster Garden Tour on Saturday, June 28 and Sunday, 29.

For more information go to [www.westminstercares.org](http://www.westminstercares.org) or call the office, 802-722-3607.

## Faith Community

### The First Congregational Church of Westminster

The Rev. Sami Jones McRae, Pastor. Main Street, Route 5, P.O. Box 122, Westminster, 722-4148. Sunday worship at 10 a.m. Communion is the first Sunday of each month.

Sunday School is held at 10 a.m. from September to May. The church has a ramp and lift for wheelchair access as well as a handicapped bathroom. Westminster First Congregational is an open and affirming church, all are welcome.

### The Congregational Church of Westminster West

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

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

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

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

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

### Grace Bible Fellowship Services

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

Find out more about the church at its Web site, [www.gb4hisglory.com/](http://www.gb4hisglory.com/).

## Meetings

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

### **Planning and Development**

**Commission** 2nd Monday at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall.

### **Westminster Activities Commission**

2nd Monday of the Month at 6 p.m. at the Westminster Institute.

### **Westminster School Board**

1st and 3rd Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Westminster Center School Library.

### **Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association**

3rd Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Westminster West Congregational Church.

### **Westminster West Public Library Board**

2nd Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Westminster West Public Library.

### **Development Review Board**

1st Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall.

### **Community Improvement Program Committee**

meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

### **Westminster Cares Board**

1st Wednesday of every month, at the Westminster Fire Station at 4 p.m.

**911 Committee** as needed.

### **The Westminster Fire & Rescue Dept.**

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

### **Westminster Historical Society**

2nd Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Westminster Institute.

### **Westminster Gazette Meeting**

Monday, Feb. 24 at 4:30 p.m. at the Town Hall

### **Westminster Recycling Committee**

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

**CHECK THIS PAGE IN  
YOUR GAZETTE FOR  
ALL OF THE  
REGULAR EVENTS IN  
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## CELEBRATING WINTER AT THE WESTMINSTER SCHOOLS CONCERT



"Oh, the weather outside [may be] frightful," but inside the Westminster School gym it was "delightful!" On Thursday, Jan. 23, the gym was packed with family, friends, student singers, musicians and staff for the school's Winter Concert.

The 5th and 6th grade band opened the show with "Jingle Bells" and "The Mickey Mouse Club." Fifth and 6th grade Chorus sang an original song by teacher, Paul Kohler. "I Believe I Can Fly" was a beautiful solo by 6th grader, Abby Lowell.

Other songs, sung by individual classes and groups, ranged from "Let it Snow" to "Amani Ututpe Astawi" [Swahili for "grant us peace, grant us courage"].

As a new feature, Principal Steve Tuller narrated a Ukrainian folktale, "The Mitten," while images from the book, illustrated by Jan Brett, were projected above. The story paused for many songs, including "Fox Went Out on a Chilly Night" and "I Can't Wait to Hibernate."

Kindergarteners closed by singing "The Mitten in the Snow," to the tune and style of "The Farmer in the Dell."

Thanks to everyone who joined the celebration, and to director Ashley Paine, who taught everyone the music!

## WESTMINSTER RESIDENTS IN "PIRATES OF PENZANCE" AT MSA



Clockwise from top right, Westminster resident David Stern, right, is directing the Main Street Arts production of *The Pirates of Penzance*, assisted by Mary Hepburn, left, as producer and Gretchen Abendschein as choreographer. Former Westminster resident Libby McCawley practices her lines for the role of Ruth. Westminster resident Steve Griffiths, center, and fellow pirates in rehearsal.

Westminster residents will recognize three of their own in Main Street Arts' production of *The Pirates of Penzance*, which opens for one weekend only Friday, March 7 through Sunday, March 9 at Vermont Academy's Horowitz Hall.

Steve Griffiths, Ira Wilner and Elle Jamieson are polishing their "arghs" for their role as pirates in Gilbert and Sullivan's rollicking musical about a band of inept pirates and their encounter with a bevy of young beauties and their father, a "modern major general."

Directed by Westminster resident David Stern, the cast also includes former Westminster residents Libby McCawley and Rick Cowan.

Performances are Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children and are on sale at MSA, Village Square Booksellers, Misty Valley Books or online at [brattleborotix.org](http://brattleborotix.org).

Further information is available by calling MSA at 869-2960, e-mailing [info@mainstreetarts.org](mailto:info@mainstreetarts.org), on the MSA Web site [www.mainstreetarts.org](http://www.mainstreetarts.org) or on Facebook.

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## February Business of the Month: Lawrence & Lober Electric

Lawrence & Lober Electric, Inc. is co-owned and operated by Rick Hamm and James Lober.

Our number one policy is “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 & Lober Electric, Inc. would not be in business now for over 15 years.

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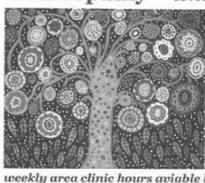
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## February Business of the Month: Greater Falls Insurance

Greater Falls Insurance, Inc is starting its 19th year of business here in Westminster, Vermont. We have always prided ourselves on being small and very customer service oriented. Our staff is involved in many community sponsored events and boards and we look forward to another great year of serving our area!

Bridget Kelly, owner, specializes in the Commercial and Farm Insurance, while Gloria Vancor specializes in the Personal Lines side of the business. Brenda Breslend is our friendly Customer Service Representative who will answer the phone when you call our office, no voice mail for our agency.

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### OFFICIAL TOWN MEETING SCHEDULE FOR MEETINGS AND VOTING

UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 27 (BELLOWS FALLS UNION HIGH SCHOOL) ANNUAL MEETING – Wednesday, February 26, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the BFUHS Auditorium

ANNUAL TOWN, SCHOOL, & FIRE DISTRICT#3 MEETINGS – Saturday, March 1, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. in the BFUHS Auditorium

TOWN MEETING DAY – Vote on Australian ballot articles on Tuesday, March 4, 2014 from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Westminster Institute

LAST DAY TO BE ADDED TO THE CHECKLIST TO VOTE – Union High School District No. 27 Meeting: 5 p.m. on Wednesday, February 19, 2014

Annual Town Meeting: 5 p.m. on Wednesday, February 26, 2014

As authorized by 24 VSA § 1682, copies of the July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013 Financial Audit are now available at the Westminster Town Hall, Westminster West Library, Butterfield Library, and on the Westminster Web site at www.westminstervt.org.

**TOWN MEETING DAY IS MARCH 4 - GET OUT & VOTE!**

Our Monthly Community Newspaper February 2014 Vol. 10, No. 2

# Westminster Gazette

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