

Westminster Gazette



po box 147 westminster vt 05158

Our Community Newspaper @ www.westminstervt.org

Vol. 11, No. 2 February 2015

THANK YOU BERNIE! ENJOY YOUR RETIREMENT!

Bernie Lawrence retires Feb. 6, after nearly 47 years as postmaster of the Westminster Station Post Office.

Bernie was working on the rivet machine at Northeast Culvert Co., when the political party in power at the time, the Democrats, asked for nominees for acting postmaster.

Bernie was the only one who showed up at the meeting, and he was duly appointed, on April 28, 1968. Three years later he was made postmaster. And he's had a simple motto since then: "Treat people like you would yourself and you've got it made."

When Bernie started, there were just 48 boxes; now, he puts the mail into 160. He's seen a lot of other changes over the years and a lot of action at the station—a train derailment, tractor-trailers stuck under the underpass. The store across the road, which was an Atlantic gas station in 1968, changed hands several times and was an auction barn at one point.

There will be changes to the hours and the operation of the post office, too. The counter will only be open 1 to 5 p.m. during the week; regular hours on Saturday. The lobby will be open 24 hours a day.

Stop in to wish Bernie a well-deserved retirement...or whatever you call it. He plans to get a part-time job. "I can't just sit around," he said. "I'll find something to do."



Bernie Lawrence, with his ever present smile, at the Westminster Station Post Office. Lawrence will be retiring after nearly half a century serving the community. Photo courtesy of Lori Larue.

KURN HATTIN CHOIR & BAND PLAY WITH WINDHAM ORCHESTRA



On January 23rd, the Kurn Hattin Homes' Select Choir and Concert Band joined Maestro Hugh Keelan and the Windham Orchestra in Keelan's "English Delights" concert held at Kurn Hattin Homes for Children.

SCHEDULE & LOCATIONS OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETINGS

LIST OF SCHEDULED ANNUAL MEETINGS

UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 27
(BELLOWS FALLS UNION HIGH SCHOOL)
ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, February 25, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.
in the BFUHS Auditorium

ANNUAL TOWN, SCHOOL & FIRE DISTRICT #3 MEETING

Saturday, February 28, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.
in the BFUHS Auditorium

Town Meeting Day

Vote on Australian ballot articles on Tuesday, March 3, 2015 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
5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 18, 2015

SEE PAGE 7 FOR THE FULL TEXT OF THE 2015 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARNING ARTICLES

THINK SPRING! GARDEN PLANNING AT WCS

While our Westminster Center School garden sleeps under a blanket of deep snow, the children at school are creating their dream designs for Planting Day, 2015.

We're also incorporating the wishes of our kitchen chef, Kim Kinney. She'd like more onions, peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers, lettuce, spinach, beets and summer squash.

Each developmental age brings its own special style of dreams to our garden planning. Older students made a list of vegetables on a white board for younger students to copy.

We're hoping to enlist as many classes as possible in the planning process. For older children there are opportunities to plan for space and graph to scale.

For younger students, thinking about whether to draw vegetables growing above or under the ground might be challenge enough. For all children this presents a real world chance to create a dream plan in written form and to share it with their peers.

Students are using a variety of garden winter vegetables for cooking projects.

After school, children are preparing soup with the help of a future nutrition student intern, Casie Reynolds, from Keene State College. Find more about this, including a recipe for winter lentil soup, at: vermontschoolgarden.com.



Master Gardener candidate Kathleen Hacker, helps a student with her garden plan.



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LAST MONTH'S MYSTERY PHOTO

Last month's photo of the present day BDR trucking terminal and still used for trucking purposes was correctly identified by Christian Blake, Barb Greenough, Marty Collins, Susie Williams, Wanda West, Audrey Gochey, Sue Barnett, Dick Miller, Bob Goodel, Greg Gayl and Muriel Benware.

The photo was donated by Robert Gay.

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BELLOWS FALLS

IT'S A BUSY WINTER FOR WESTMINSTER'S SCHOOL CHILDREN



Clockwise from above, Westminister students in concert, swimming in Springfield, and skating at Vermont Academy.

The parking lot was full, the audience engaged, the students entertaining! On Jan. 21, students from the Westminister Center and West Schools put on a terrific show, Songs of Strength and Courage. The varied program featured everything from a musical rendition of the picture book, Owl Moon, sung by kindergarteners and 1st and 2nd graders, to "The Star Spangled Banner" performed by students in 2nd, 3rd and 4th grades, to Civil Rights songs passionately sung by 5th and 6th graders.

Individual soloists and small groups sang and performed original compositions and old favorites. The school band, Beginning and Advanced ensembles, opened the performance. All students and the audience joined in for a spirited finale, singing Pete Seeger's "We Shall Overcome."

Between December and February vacations, children at the Westminister Schools spend Monday afternoons skating, swimming, skiing, snowboarding and otherwise enjoying winter activities. The Winter Sports program is a perennial favorite among students, parents and staff. Although the program is no longer funded through the school budget, its popularity brings out community volunteers and local support through the Dascomb fund.

This year, kindergarteners and all 1st graders go skating at the Vermont Academy rink. Students in 2nd through 6th grade can choose to go skiing or snowboarding at Okemo, swimming at the Edgar May Rec Center in Springfield, or stay at school for a variety of outdoor (& indoor) adventures. All programs get underway late in the morning; skiers and snowboarders stay at the



mountain until late in the afternoon, while skaters, swimmers and participants in Outdoor Adventure take the regular bus home.

Sometimes the Outdoor Adventurers - and kids out for recess or in Phys Ed classes, too! - skate right here at home, thanks to the Center School's rink, created and maintained by the Westminister Fire Department.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER CARES AND THE ANNUAL APPEAL

The Westminister Cares, Inc. Board of Directors met Jan. 7 at the Westminister Institute with President Connie Sanderson presiding. The following board members were present: Don Dawson, Reggie Borden, Susan Harlow, Heidi Anderson, Sally Ryea, Pete Harrison, Kathy Elliot, Barbara Sherrod and Director Donna Dawson. Miriam Lanata was excused.

Westminister Cares creates opportunities for seniors and disabled adults to live with independence and dignity in the community. Your support to this caregiving organization is a way for all of us to take care of our friends.

Anyone interested in learning more about Westminister 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 email at wecares@sover.net. Check us out on the web at www.westminstercares.org and like us on Facebook.

Services provided:

Meals On Wheels - In December, 25 WC volunteers delivered meals one day a month to 16 different people who are now on meals. In addition, two frozen entrees were delivered to nine people on Fridays for weekend meals (18 total per week). One new volunteer was trained and one board member rode along for meals this month.

Transportation - During the month of December, 10 rides were provided by five different volunteers who drove four different Westminister residents to medical appointments, shopping or programs for a total of 120 miles.

Nursing Program - During December, our community nurse made six visits and several phone calls on behalf of five seniors for medication management, blood pressure checks, foot care and hospitalization follow-up.

Meetings Attended by Staff in December included -Treasurer, PR Committee; Gazette Board, Emergency Preparedness Drill, photographer, graphic designer, Programs Committee and Mtg. with incoming board president.

Programs in December - one Secrets of Healthy Aging session, five Yoga classes, 24 Strength Training classes, four Artist in Each of Us classes.

Assistance and Referrals - Assistance provided to several Westminister residents and their families, collaborating with social service agencies, Walpole Valley Heating, Bellows Falls Senior Center, Senior Solutions, the V.A., Friends of Veterans, SEVCA, Red Cross, VCIL, Adult Protective Services, the Sheriff's Dept. and the Visiting Nurses.

Friendly Visiting - Three volunteers making friendly visits to two seniors.

Medical Equipment - In December we loaned out one piece of equipment and various pieces of equipment were returned and/or donated back to us.

MEMORIAL & HONOR GIFTS RECEIVED

JANUARY 2015

In Honor Of:

In honor of Isabelle Abramson from Aunt Jean and Deb Abramson

In honor of Susan Clifford from Patrick Clark

In honor of my children and grandchildren from Susan Clifford

In honor of Sally and Hollis Ryea from Debbie Bump, Diane Brown, Alex and Jesse Bump

In honor of all the volunteers - thank you from Susan and Richard Talbot

In honor of Harry Peterson - thanks for ALL you do, from Anonymous

In Memory Of:

In memory of my mother, Marian Schulman from Priscilla Tansley

In memory of Ed Shore from Joan Shore

In memory of Paul Chaffee from Tim and Dori Seamans

In memory of Rosalie Coven from Judy and Tony Coven

In memory of Phyllis Norman from Scott and Wanda West

In memory of Malcolm Guild from Patra Attig

In memory of Fred Robling from Joseph Valaske

In memory of Jim Grandy from Ruth S. Grandy

In memory of William Schreiber from Tatiana Schreiber

In memory of Doris Bowen from Mary and Dan Davis

In memory of loved ones from Yvette Durell and Doug Sherwin

In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Victor B. Harrison, Sr. and Mr. Ralph Aubuchont from Pete and Judy Harrison

In memory of Ralph Harlow and Jean Harlow Larue from Lori Larue

In memory of Harold Angers from Barbara Angers

In memory of Ryan Ostebo from Rachael Shaw

In memory of Norah Payne from Jim and Colleen Grout

In memory of Hollis Cobb and Evelyn Rhoades from Alice Cobb Rogers

In memory of loved ones from Kathy and Tony Elliott

In memory of Maggie Lake from Marni Rosner and Carl Crook

Next meeting: Feb. 4

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. 3 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. A warning will be posted 48 hours prior to each meeting.

Number of calls in December: 25

Number of calls through January 27th: 27

Number of calls calendar year to Date: 27

Number of calls fiscal year to date: 221

Association Meeting: The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association met for their regular meeting January 5th with President Paul Millman presiding. There were 27 members present and four members excused. Currently there are 40 members of the volunteer fire department.

Chief Streeter thanked all those who helped with the mutual aid call to Grafton for a house fire. The attendance was high and the fire fighting went very well. Also the members voted to purchase an additional tub to be put in the off road trailer.

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.

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.

Vents: With the recent heavy snow fall, check vents for heating appliances to be sure they are free from ice and snow. A plugged vent can cause a fire.

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

We would like to have additional volunteers from Westminster West.

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

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

Check us out at www.westminsterfireandrescue.org.

1920'S MUSEUM, GLOBAL CONNECTIONS & COMMUNITY SERVICE - NEWS FROM COMPASS SCHOOL

1920's Museum—Wednesday, 2/11/15 6:30-8:00 p.m.: Students in the 9th and 10th grade are preparing a living museum exploring the 1920s, and the public is invited to come and experience this transformative decade interpreted by Compass students.

To prepare this extensive and detailed exhibition, students work in small groups to transform several classrooms into the era, including taking on roles of fictional and historical figures.

Background knowledge of the era, including how politics, culture and artistic aspects are connected, precedes research on independently chosen topics. Their goal is to show that history is more than facts in a textbook. The event will include music, dance, food, costumes, displays—a "speakeasy," a "Gatsby" party, and other interactive components.

Applications Due for 2015-16: Compass will be doing its first round of application review in early March. We encourage all to complete applications for enrollment by the end of February, including requests for financial aid.

Global Connections Program off to the Dominican Republic: 12 Compass juniors, together with teachers Ryan Hockertlotz and Anna Kristensen, will be heading to the Dominican Republic at the end of February for 16 days of cultural immersion and service.

The group starts in Santiago, where they will work in a school in the barrio and take part in Independence Day celebrations. After a jungle expedition to the development project, 27 Waterfalls, the group will be in the very rural village of Tres Ceibas for family stays and service planting cacao.

The group will be in Cabarete for a couple days of beach time and study of the more tourist side of the economy, before concluding in the historic center of Santo Domingo.

We thank all who have supported this program with our fundraising efforts to assure every student can participate regardless of economic circumstance.

Community Service Winter Term: During the last week of the month, Compass students will be working in consulting teams in service of community clients in a variety of projects.

The possibilities include: developing science units for Westminster Schools, doing economic analysis of project for the island in Bellows Falls, and helping the Westminster Gazette with profiles of local businesses and individuals that can be used for future issues.

We welcome projects from the community for future years—please contact us with ideas and needs.

Vermont Master Gardeners

by Babs Lynde, a Vermont Master Gardener

Master Gardeners are everywhere in the United States, and we have them right here in your own neighborhood!

The Master Gardener program was founded by the Washington State University Cooperative Extension in 1972. It was created to assist the University in helping farmers and home horticulturists to grow better and safer fruits and vegetables as well as a means to developing a faster warning system in spreading the word about pests, invasive plants and insects.

The program was so successful that eventually all 50 states had a curriculum for Master Gardeners which has now spread to several Canadian provinces. Today there are more than 100,000 active Extension Master Gardeners who serve over 5 million volunteer hours per year to their communities.

The goal of a Master Gardener is to promote successful, safe and environmentally prudent home horticulture practices. We can assist both the farmers and the home gardener with tried and true methods, knowledge, and information from a combination of gathering facts, research and growing technology which has been taught to us by our state or university extension facilities.

Each state has its own set of programs for training their Master Gardeners as every part of the country has its own unique qualities and local needs, in addition to teaching the many hundreds of subjects that we all share. Regardless of where we receive our certification, we are a part of a huge network of people, sharing our knowledge with others in our community and throughout the U.S.

To become a certified Master Gardener in Vermont, you must complete a course which covers the basic essentials of home gardening, plant and soil sci-

ences, pests and diseases, fruit and vegetable production, the growing and caring for annual and perennial flowers, shrubs and trees, landscape design, invasive plants, plant identification, and integrated garden management, just to mention some of the many subjects.

There are several teaching locations available throughout the State which you can find on their website. The cost of the program is minimal because we pass on this education to the public.

Once you have completed your training, you will spend a minimum of 40 volunteer hours in serving your community. These 40 hours can be obtained in many ways, including helping with the Master Gardener Helpline in the South Burlington Extension office, staffing educational exhibits at various local events, writing a column in a newspaper, collecting valuable information in the field, or sharing your knowledge by working with several state programs designed for young gardeners.

To remain certified, each year you must continue to work voluntarily with events, workshops or community projects in an effort to support and uphold the purpose of being a Master Gardener.

Who can be a Master Gardener in Vermont? Anyone willing to commit to the training and volunteer hours set by the UVM Extension office. No previous or related education is required. Would you like more information about the program or becoming a Master Gardener yourself? Call our Helpline toll-free at 1-800-639-2230, or send questions by e-mail to master.gardener@uvm.edu or visit their Website at www.uvm.edu/mastergardener/ for extensive information.

Aged in Vermont

Westminster Cares, Inc.

FOOTCARE AND AGING

By Isabelle Abramson, RN

Some seniors will glide through their golden years with nary a concern for their hard-worked tootsies. The rest of us may notice a few normal changes in our feet as we get older. As we age our circulation can decrease, our skin becomes drier and thinner, and reduced sensitivity can lessen our awareness of injury or temperature extremes. Over the years it can become more challenging to reach our feet, and once we've reached them it may be harder to see what's going on down there.

It is important for seniors to pay special attention to their feet since the natural process of aging can increase risk of injury, infection, and other problems such as bunions, corns, or bone spurs. Foot problems can also lead to changes in gait that increase the risk of falls. Like a canary in a coal mine, foot problems are sometimes the first sign of other health issues such as diabetes, nerve problems, circulatory issues, or arthritis so it is important to pay attention to your feet and get them checked by your physician when there is a problem. Here is a short list of basics for maintaining foot health:

It is important to wear comfortable, well-fitting shoes. When trying on new shoes make sure they are supportive but don't rub or compress your foot. When your foot is pressing down in the shoe, you should have a little bit of room beyond your toes so that your shoes don't put too much pressure on your toes when you walk.

It is important to keep feet clean and trim nails regularly. Soaking your feet in warm soapy water before cutting nails them can help improve circulation, makes it easier to cut the nails, and can prevent accidentally cracking your nails when you cut them. When trimming your nails it is important to leave a little bit of the nail protruding beyond each side of the nail bed. This reduces the risk of accidentally cutting the skin around the nail and helps prevent the nail from growing back into the skin and causing an ingrown toenail.

Fungal and bacterial infections thrive in warm, moist, dark places (like between our toes and under our toenails). Keeping your feet clean, warm, and dry will help prevent infection and helps keep blood moving through those tiniest capillaries that want to close up when they get cold.

Keeping feet clean, changing socks regularly, and using foot powder if necessary, can help reduce infections. For minor fungal infections you can use anti-fungal sprays or powders available over-the-counter, but it is worth making an appointment to see your doctor if the skin becomes open or if the infection does not resolve within a couple weeks.

Propping your feet up while sitting can also help improve circulation, as well as prevent swelling.

Due to further decreased sensitivity and circulation, and greater risk of infection, seniors with diabetes must be especially mindful about foot health and see their physician promptly when issues arise. If you or someone you know has any trouble safely and comfortably managing foot care (and does not require special care because of a health issue), a neighbor, family member, or friend may be happy to help. Many physicians' offices provide footcare, so it's worth asking if there are services available from your primary care clinic.

Regular footcare is available by appointment from the Bellows Falls Senior Center at 18 Tuttle Street in Bellows Falls 463-3907. Westminster Cares also provides free, in-home footcare for seniors in need. Call Donna Dawson at the Westminster Cares office at 722-3607 to arrange for an appointment.

Isabelle Abramson, RN, is the Westminster Community Nurse. Westminster Cares provides basic nursing services free to Westminster residents who may not be eligible for home-based services from other agencies and organizations.

Care includes blood pressure checks, foot care, oxygen levels and lung function checks, medication instruction, set-up and occasional administration, i.e. instruction in disease process, self-care and prevention; uncomplicated wound care, and other non-emergency needs.

PINNACLE ASC. EARLY SPRING PROGRAMS

As imminent snowstorms promise more of the white stuff, it may be exciting to think about very early spring and some seemingly delicate, but extremely hardy, creatures that will visit vernal pools to breed and lay their eggs.

The Pinnacle Association, Putney Mountain Association, and Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center [BEEC] have teamed up to co-sponsor a vernal pool program at the Putney Library from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on March 23. BEEC naturalist Patti Smith will show slides to introduce these very important, specialized nursery areas and the organisms that depend upon them.

This introduction will be especially helpful to volunteers who may want to consider participating in the vernal-pool monitoring project. More information is available on www.windmillhillpinnacle.org and also from Catherine Cooper-Ellis at ccoopere@gmail.com.

Basic information about the Pinnacle's Art Show and Annual Meeting scheduled for April 26 at the newly renovated Main Street Arts facility in Saxtons River is also posted on the Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association Website. Artists are encouraged to submit their works, which must be associated with Pinnacle properties, and leave them up for the month's exhibit.

Because winter weather poses additional painting challenges, this early notice should help artists plan their entries. Interested artists may also contact Camilla Roberts at camil@vermontel.net or 869-1388.

WESTMINSTER MYSTERY PHOTO



WHERE IS THIS BUILDING LOCATED AND WHAT WAS IT USED FOR?

E-mail your answer to westminsternews@gmail.com or 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.

FINAL PROPERTY TAX INSTALLMENT, DOG LICENSES & RABIES CLINIC

The second and final Property Tax installment is due on Tuesday, Feb. 10. Dog license renewals are due by April 1. There will be a rabies clinic on Saturday, March 28 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Town Highway Garage. The cost is \$10 and licenses will be available.

HERE'S WHERE YOU CAN GET COPIES OF THE TOWN REPORT

Copies of the Town Report will be available February 13, 2015 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.

THANKS FROM WESTMINSTER CARES

Westminster Cares would like to thank the friends, neighbors, businesses and community members whose contributions have made our 2014-2015 Annual Appeal a success!

Your donations support the healthy aging programs and services of Westminster Cares.

Donations that were made to honor or memorialize individuals will be listed in the Gazette each month. The Annual Appeal will continue throughout the winter; donations are always appreciated at any time of year.

THANKS FOR DONATIONS TO THE GAZETTE

The Westminster Gazette would like to give a big thanks to Tom and Shelia Banik and to Friends of the Westminster Institute for their donations to your community paper.

Donations are always welcome!

CHAIR YOGA CLASSES - INTERESTED?

Are you interested in attending a Chair Yoga class?

Westminster Cares is considering hosting a new Chair Yoga class for seniors.

If you have interest, please contact Donna at Westminster Cares to get more information and put your name on the list. (802) 722-3607.

WRITER SEEKS OLD PHOTOS AND FIRST HAND INFORMATION

Do you have old photographs of the Sojourns Community Clinic building (the Seth Arnold House) on Route 5 in Westminster? Or photographs of the farming operations and farm stands of the Nelson and Skrocki families when they lived there?

Did you work at the farm stand or shop there? If so, I would like to hear from you. I am writing a history of the place. Please contact me at 802-869-2711 or richgaelen2@gmail.com.

Thank you! - Richard Ewald, Westminster West.

WESTMINSTER HAPPENINGS

Activities

Scottish Country Dance Classes

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

Putney Contra Dance

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

Senior Potluck Lunch

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

Bellows Falls Gallery Walk

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

Secrets of Healthy Aging

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

Contra Dance

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

Gentle Yoga

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

Living Strong Classes

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

Knitting Together

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

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

Zumba Class - Basic Level 1 (B1)

Every Sunday from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Westminster Institute. Suggested minimum donation.

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

Westminster West Public Library Trustees

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

Bellows Falls Farmers' Market

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



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.

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.gbff4hisglory.com/.

Meetings

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

Planning Commission 2nd Monday at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall.

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

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

Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association 3rd Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Westminster West Congregational Church.

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

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

Community Improvement Program Committee meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

Westminster Cares Board - No Summer Meetings 1st Wednesday of every month, at the Westminster Institute at 4:30 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. 23 at 4:30 p.m. at the Westminster Institute

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



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Westminster School District
Town of Westminster
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MONTESSORI SCHOOL HOSTS FUNDRAISER

The Saxtons River Montessori School will hold its annual fundraiser on Saturday, February 7 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Chivers Center, Vermont Academy, 56 Shepherd Lane, in Saxtons River. This year's theme is "Parents' Night Out" featuring a homemade pasta dinner, a silent auction, entertainment by the Ben Carr Music Project, and free babysitting!

The dinner will have both wheat and gluten free pasta paired with a variety of home cooked sauces, salads, and desserts.

The silent auction features two season passes to Grafton Ponds Outdoor Center (retail value of \$200), a romantic overnight stay with breakfast at the Grafton Inn, lift tickets to Bromley and Okemo Mountains, an 'ukulele with a beginner lesson, jewelry by Rebecca Haas, photography by Drew Kauffman, artwork by Ailyn Hoey, blown glass Tsuga Studios, a case of Tablas Creek wine, gift certificates to local stores, and much more.

For more information, advance tickets, and reservations for babysitting please contact the SRMS at 869-3349. Tickets can also be purchased at <http://saxton-rivermontessorischool.bigcartel.com/product/parents-night-out>.

**The Deadline for
the March Issue of the
Westminster Gazette is
Wednesday,
February 25
Publish Date is
Tuesday, March 3**

**To Contact the
Westminster Gazette
E-mail:
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WARNING FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 2015: TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT, TOWN OF WESTMINSTER AND TOWN FIRE DISTRICT

The legal voters of the Westminster Town School District, Town of Westminster, and the Town Fire District Number 3, are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Bellows Falls Union High School Auditorium in Westminster, Vermont on Saturday February 28, 2015 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 3, 2015 for the consideration of Article 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 3, 2015 to consider any remaining articles, if necessary.

Article 1: To choose all Town School District Officers, Town Officers, and Town Fire District Number 3 Officers. (Australian ballot, Tuesday, March 3, 2015 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 School District Officers for the last year and to take action thereon.

Article 3: 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 4: To see if the Town School District will vote to pay its District Officers compensation, and if so, how much?

Article 5: To see if the Town School District will raise money for the maintenance of its schools for the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016; and if so, how much?

Article 6: To see if the Town School District will vote to adopt its budget article or articles by Australian ballot. [included by petition]

Article 7: To transact any other proper business to be brought before the Town School District Meeting.

Article 8: To hear the reports of the Town Officers and to take action thereupon.

Article 9: 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 10: 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 11: To see if the voters of the Town of Westminster will vote pursuant to 32 VSA § 3832(7) to exempt from taxation for a period of five (5) years, the real estate of the Westminster Aqueduct Society.

Article 12: To see if the voters of the Town of Westminster will vote pursuant to 32 VSA § 3840 to exempt from taxation for a period of five (5) years, the real estate of the Westminster Fire District #3.

Article 13: To see if the voters of the Town of Westminster will vote pursuant to 32 VSA § 3832(7) to exempt from taxation for a period of five (5) years, the real estate of the Westminster Recreation Club, Inc.

Article 14: To see if the voters of the Town of Westminster will vote to purchase a parcel of land located off Goldies Road in Westminster for the purpose of supplying the Town with stone aggregate for the highway department at a sum of \$130,000 for approximately 53.4 acres.

Article 15: 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 pay general expenses of the Town for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016, and if so, how much?

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

Article 17: To hear the reports of the Town Fire District Number 3, and to take action thereupon.

Article 18: 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 19: 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, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016, and if so, how much?

Article 20: To transact any other business proper to be brought before the Town Fire District Number 3 meeting.

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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 they are the ones 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. We pride ourselves on our quality of work, our competitive rates and our qualified electricians. There are no substitutes when it comes to quality!

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KURN HATTIN CHOIR PERFORMS AT INAUGURATION

The Kurn Hattin Homes Select Choir performed a moving rendition of the Vermont State Song, "These Green Mountains" for Gov. Peter Shumlin at the Vermont Gubernatorial Inauguration on Jan. 8. In his opening remarks, Shumlin described the young Kurn Hattin children as a "tough act to follow." Shumlin, who had invited the choir to sing at the ceremony, explained that it was "a special moment for me, as they were able to knock it out of the park". Shumlin noted that the late grandmother of his daughters had attended Kurn Hattin Homes for Children with her three brothers, years ago.



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Westminster Gazette

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