

# Westminster Gazette



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

Vol. 6, No.7 July 2010

## SIXTEEN GRADUATE KURN HATTIN HOMES

by Kim FIne



**The Kurn Hattin Class of 2010**

Westminster – Saturday, June 12 2010 was Graduation Day at Kurn Hattin Homes. It was a very important day and milestone for the 16 graduates. Before the ceremony, Gabrielle Knight, Valedictorian declared, "I truly have changed for the better since I came here. I've grown up." She added, "To the future graduates I say, take advantage of all your time here. It really does go by so fast." All the graduates really do accomplish so much while living at the Homes.

After all the students were in place on the stage, Executive Director, Christopher

Barry welcomed everyone and congratulated the students and encouraged them to continue making good choices throughout high school and their adult lives. Zoe Fleming, Salutatorian, then welcomed the students in her address. Pastor Sami Jones McRae of the First United Church in Westminster gave the Invocation. Then, several students received one or more prizes from the nine categories of awards which included: academic, cottage, sports, the Massachusetts Board of Directors, alumni, music, scholarship, and awards for showing the greatest improvement. Prizes were also given for good citizenship and greatest aptitude in the field of agriculture.

Gabrielle Knight, Valedictorian, bid a heartfelt farewell before the presentation of diplomas by Mr. David J. Maysilles, President of the Board of Trustees and Mr. Tom Fahner, Director of Residential and Educational Services. Pastor Sami Jones McRae gave the Benediction and then everyone sang the "Kurn Hattin Alma Mater" written by Westminster resident, Margaret Wright Bent (1888-1985). As it's been sung for well over a century, "There's a sense of joy and cheer, that surrounds us at Kurn Hattin, Makes us thankful to be here. Cheer for Kurn Hattin!" Our cheers go out to the Class of 2010: (pictured front row, l-r) Gabrielle Mary Knight, Jessica Anna Ulch, Katherine Louis Bort, Harmonie Fawn Cosgrove, Aaliyah Keenu Olmo-Gilmore, Zoe Rose Fleming (second row, l-r) Efrain Anthony Martinez, Savannah Rose Marie Benoit, Jeffrey Lee Matteson II, Russell Francis Gilbert III, Jennica-Lyn Muriel Skidmore (back row, l-r) Dylan James Bussino, Justice Marie Savoie, Stephyn Shawn O'Leary, Myles Zev Moreno, Hannah Elizabeth Perry.

After graduating, many of the students will stay on campus for part of the summer in the ninth grade transition program. Then they will rejoin their families and attend their local high schools in the fall. Others will go to the Milton Hershey School in Pennsylvania, Rock Point School in Burlington and Vermont Academy in Saxtons River. Wherever they go, Kurn Hattin will always be their home.

Kurn Hattin Homes is a charitable, year-round, residential home and school serving in-need and at-risk children, ages 6-15, from throughout the Northeast. Since 1894, over 8000 children have called Kurn Hattin home.

### Westminster

**The Butterfield Library has begun its Summer Reading Program sponsored by the Vermont Dept. of Libraries. The theme this year is 'Make a splash! Read' The program will run until August 11. We will also have a Story Hour on July 8, 22,29 and August 5 (Thursdays) beginning at 10:00.**

### **THE GAZETTE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT OF ITS UNDERWRITERS:**

Kurn Hattin Homes  
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The Current operated by the  
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### Compass Founding Director Returns to the Helm

As Compass School enters its 12th year, Founding Director Dr. Rick Gordon returns to the leadership role. Gordon will succeed Nelson Richter who served as Executive Director this past year and is retiring due to health reasons.

Gordon's arrival signals a recommitment to the school's founding principles of rigorous learning, belief in the success of every child, active student involvement in the leadership of the school, and strong learning connections with the community. Since leaving Compass six years ago, Gordon has served as Co-Director of the Center for School Climate and Learning, taught principal leadership courses for Antioch University and New England College, consulted with schools throughout the US and traveled around the world with his family. He is currently working on a book for Corwin Press entitled Transforming School Climate and Learning: The Key to School Safety, Student Motivation, and Academic Learning. This is an exciting time at Compass as the school builds on a now well established program dedicated to creating strong students and committed community members.

"It is great to return when we have so many effective structures in place," comments Dr. Gordon. "From the strong curriculum to student portfolios to the many special learning experiences such as Project Week, Community Service Winter Term, Senior Projects, and the Junior Class International Trip, Compass has created a balance that challenges and supports each student to be successful in college and life beyond the high school walls."

While Compass has demonstrated great success over the years, with over 90% of its graduates going on to college, this transition has been an ideal opportunity for the school to look at further improvements. Through meetings of teachers, students and parents since the end of the school year, some noteworthy changes have been made to increase rigor, consistency, and clarity in the school program.

Last week, more than a dozen students joined with the Compass teachers for two days of planning for the coming year. All agreed that many of the learning experiences at Compass were extraordinarily challenging, rewarding, and often life transforming. The 11th grade trip to Ecuador, Filmmaking Class, Winter Term service in North Carolina, Giving Day, and the Urban Exchange Program were all cited as powerful learning for students.

All agreed the school should strive to assure this level of learning on a more consistent basis. Through a week of concentrated work, the teachers and students made some insightful changes in the schedule and curriculum that will increase consistency and up the rigor of the overall school program.

Assistant Director Eric Rhomberg explains, "One of the unique advantages of a small school is the ability to be more flexible and innovative. For example, we will have a slightly different

schedule in each semester. In the fall, the high school will have more traditional hour-long "core courses" in Science, Social Studies, English, along with their year-long classes in Math and Spanish. The second semester will follow the same schedule Compass has used for years, with longer blocks for

Humanities and Science, allowing for more in-depth courses and electives that touch upon multiple disciplines."

Another change includes instituting a "seminar" period each Wednesday where students meet by class to support grade specific needs. Seniors will use this time for College and Senior Project Planning, juniors for international trip development, and ninth and tenth graders will work on Leadership Development. The middle school, which has the staffing to control their own schedule, can use this time to enhance their program around the evolving needs of the 7th and 8th graders. Required after school exploratories, intended to expand student learning through exposure to the arts, music, physical activity, and other well rounded live experiences, are being modified to increase focus. Based on a proposal generated by students, the offerings will be limited to two day "intensives" that offer continuity and higher expectations for student learning.

These and other changes, Gordon says, will markedly increase consistency and intentionality at Compass. As he wrote in a recent letter to Compass families, "I am confident these changes will facilitate more of the high quality and purposeful learning for which Compass is known."

Matt Peake, Compass Board President, says everyone at Compass is excited about the coming school year. "Rick provided strong leadership and direction as the Founding Director. He has a clear vision for the purpose of every aspect of the Compass program. Just in the meetings last week, it is great to see the level of focus and energy from the faculty and students in looking ahead to next year."

Compass continues to accept applications for the fall from students in grades 7-12. More detailed information about the school is available at [www.compass-school.org](http://www.compass-school.org).



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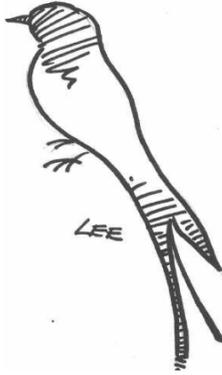
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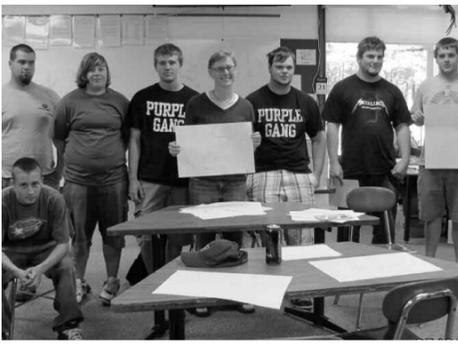
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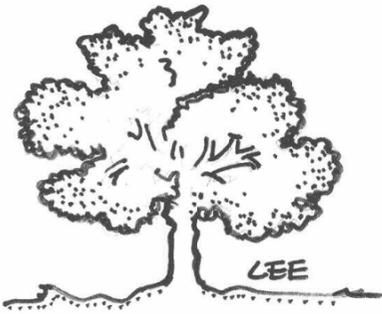




**Hillary Price's visits the Media class at BFUHS** by Holly Falzo

Award winning syndicated comic strip creator Hillary Price recently spent some time with the students in the Bellows Falls Union High School Print and Broadcast Media class. Price, creator of the strip Rhymes with Orange, spoke about her experiences as a syndicated comic strip creator, the opportunities it has afforded for her as well as how she gets inspiration for her work. She and the students spent time creating a comic, as well as working on some basic artistic techniques.

When Rhymes with Orange made its debut in June 1995, Price became the youngest woman with a syndicated daily comic strip. Rhymes with Orange appears in 150 newspapers nationwide, and been published in People magazine, Forbes, Glamour, and The Funny Times. Price, a resident of North Hampton, Ma, told the students that one of the highlights of her career was the opportunity to meet Peanuts creator, Charles Schultz and later to travel to Cuba with his wife to meet with animators and comic artists in that country.



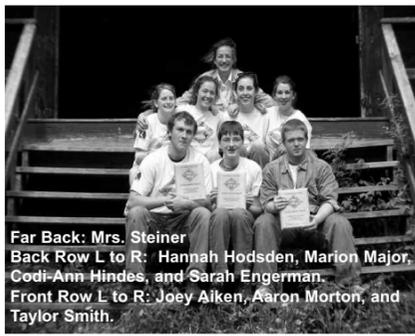
**TWO GRANTS WILL CONSERVE ATHENS DOME LAND SOON YOU CAN WALK FROM PUTNEY TO GRAFTON**

The Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB) awarded two significant grants to local organizations, The Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association (WHPA) and The Vermont Land Trust (VLT). Both grants will conserve two unique parcels in the Athens Dome and Ledge Road area in Grafton. The Athens Dome is located along the high area stretching on both sides of the Athens/Grafton town line. "The vision for the project includes a nature reserve and trails connecting the WHPA trail system with the Grafton Ponds trails complex."

One VHCB grant allows the VLT to conserve as farm land the former Sleepy Valley Farm on Route 35, a property that adjoins the northern end of the WHPA trail system. The transaction includes an easement which allows WHPA to extend its trail west to Grafton. The other grant funds WHPA's purchase from the Lake Trust of an abutting 195 acre parcel. This property is a well managed forest which includes an old soapstone quarry, a house-sized glacial erratic and a tumbling brook with a good population of Eastern Brook Trout.

The Lake parcel connects with other lands owned and protected by groups including the Grafton Improvement Association, the Windham Foundation and the State of Vermont, all of which adds up to a significant block of conserved lands. With this purchase, the trail can connect all the way from Putney to the Townshend Road in Grafton.

The two grants give a huge head start to VLT's and WHPA's joint effort to fund the twin projects; that must be complete by the end of 2010.



Far Back: Mrs. Steiner  
Back Row L to R: Hannah Hodsdon, Marion Major, Codi-Ann Hinds, and Sarah Engerman.  
Front Row L to R: Joey Aiken, Aaron Morton, and Taylor Smith.

**BFUHS Student Environmentalists place in State Competition**

Submitted by:  
Suzanne Groenewold

This is the first year that Bellows Falls Union High School has competed in the Vermont State annual Envirothon Competition. The competition was held at Farm and Wilderness Camp in Plymouth, Vermont in May.

It was a full day of events in which students were tested on their knowledge in 5 categories of Vermont's environment: wildlife, forests, soils, aquatics, and a current environmental issue in which students were required to do research, present their findings and state any recommendations they had in an oral presentation. The team consisted of five main members and two alternates: Codi-Ann Hinds, Taylor Smith, Marion Major, Joey Aiken, Aaron Morton, Hannah Hodsdon, and Sarah Engerman, respectively. Susan Steiner, the team's coach, trained with the students throughout year in preparation for the event.

The Bellows Falls team took 1st in the Aquatics division with a score of a 93. It not only was the top score of the day, the only time a team has scored higher than this was 3 years ago in 2007 and 9 years ago in 2001. Bellows Falls also took 1st place in the oral presentation with a score of 185.6, the only event that counted for double points. The last time a team has scored higher than this was 9 years ago in 2001 with a score of 192. By the end of the day the Bellows Falls team ended up tying for 2nd place overall. To top off the day of events, the Bellows Falls alternate team members scored 1st place with their alternates group.

"The work was quite challenging for all of us, in fact, quite overwhelming at times - however, this group had such positive energy and the students enjoyed being together which consequently resulted in quite an accomplishment." said Susan Steiner, Science Educator and Envirothon coach. Steiner added, "We are very lucky here in Bellows Falls to have a great pool of professional people in the area in which to draw from, who have been more than willing to share in their knowledge and take the time to work with the students." Mrs. Steiner said she looked forward to coaching another team for next year's competition. Congratulations 2010 BFUHS Envirothon team!

**WESTMINSTER GAZETTE**

**Editor:** Peggy Porter  
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**Pictures and Articles Provided by the Community westminsternews@gmail.com**

**Health Care Reform and a 411 for Vermonters**

BY: Susan Besio, Commissioner of the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) and the Office of Health Care Reform a division of DVHA

Federal health care reform known as the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act became law on March 23 and will be phased in over the next five years. Vermonters can be proud of the fact that consumer protections found in the new law have been in place in Vermont for several years. Many states are scrambling to develop plans like those we offer under Green Mountain Care (See below).

The first real change impacts how private insurance works for young adults who just graduated, are no longer a full-time student, or turned 19 years of age. Starting September 23, health plans must begin allowing young adults up to age 26 to continue to be covered on their parents' plans if they so choose.

The start date varies depending upon when the family plan renews after September 23, 2010. For many the renewal date will occur January 1, 2011. For others it could take up to a year. Even before the law takes effect, some plans are allowing dependents under age 26, who are currently on their parents' plan, to remain on their parents' plans. Check with your health plan to learn how this provision affects you and visit [www.GreenMountainCare.org/updates](http://www.GreenMountainCare.org/updates) for more information.

Green Mountain Care is a family of low-cost and free health insurance plans for uninsured Vermonters offered by the state of Vermont and its partners. Plan eligibility and cost is based on household size and income. Typically there is a 12-month waiting period for these plans, but there are exceptions.

1. Catamount Health – There is no upper income limit for Catamount Health but Vermonters earning roughly \$20,000 to \$32,000 may be eligible for premium assistance. Catamount Health is offered through BlueCross BlueShield or MVP Health Care. However, premium assistance to help pay for Catamount is available through Green Mountain Care making premiums as low as \$60 per month.

2. Premium Assistance for Employer-Sponsored Insurance is also for Vermonters earning roughly \$20,000 to \$32,000 per year. If you have access to insurance at work, but are not yet enrolled you may be eligible for assistance, making your premium as low as \$60 per month.

If you think you may be eligible for premium assistance to help pay for either Catamount Health or Employer-Sponsored Insurance, start by applying through Green Mountain Care.

3. Vermont Health Access Plan (VHAP) is for Vermonters earning around \$20,000 or less per year, and the cost is less than \$50 per month.

If you are age 21 and older, the state does not consider your parents' income when determining your eligibility for these plans even if you live at home. If you are under 21, and need information about how your income is calculated, call 1-800-250-8427 or visit [www.GreenMountainCare.org](http://www.GreenMountainCare.org).

4. Green Mountain Care also has several prescription assistance programs as well as plans for children, teenagers, pregnant women and people with disabilities.

With over 47,000 of our friends and neighbors living without health insurance, there is more work to be done because the state of Vermont believes every Vermonter should have access to the coverage they need to stay healthy.



Pictured (l-r): Kurn Hattin Homes' Executive Director, Chris Barry with Bellows Falls Rite Aid Store Manager, Rick Urato

**Rite Aid Foundation Supports Healthy Children**

by Kim Fine

Westminster, VT - Kurn Hattin Homes has received a \$10,000 grant from The Rite Aid Foundation to help support the Healthy Children Program, a program which funds the children's medical and dental expenses not covered by insurance. Kurn Hattin provides all routine and necessary medical treatments for children regardless of the children's insurance coverage status. Kurn Hattin's Family Outreach Department works with families to obtain and remain insured but sometimes the policies lapse, or the families are ineligible or have lost their jobs. And children from neighboring states often don't have insurance coverage that crosses state lines.

We truly thank the Rite Aid Foundation for partnering with us on this effort. The Rite Aid Foundation is a not-for-profit foundation dedicated to helping people in the communities Rite Aid serves lead happier, healthier lives. Kurn Hattin Homes is a residential, year-round, charitable home and school for in-need and at-risk children, ages 6-15, from throughout the Northeast.

**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**

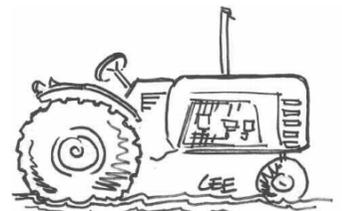
Farm to Family Coupons Available: Helping Vermonters Eat Healthy, Helping Vermont Farmers

WATERBURY, VT – Starting today, \$167,000 in coupons are available to help eligible Vermonters buy locally grown, fresh fruits and vegetables at participating farmers' markets. The coupons are issued on a first come, first served basis and may be used at any of the 59 markets enrolled in the program this summer.

Community Action Agencies issue about half the coupons. To be eligible, income must be below a certain limit based on household size. For example, current limits are \$1,670 a month for a single person and \$3,400 for a family of four. Some of these coupons are reserved for households that include someone age 60 or older. To find a local community action agency, dial 2-1-1 or go to [http://dcf.vermont.gov/community\\_action\\_agencies](http://dcf.vermont.gov/community_action_agencies).

The remaining coupons are issued by the Vermont Department of Health to participants in the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (or WIC) program.

"Farm to Family is a terrific way to encourage Vermonters to eat more fruits and vegetables and buy local at the same time," said Mary Carlson, Food and Nutrition Coordinator for the Department for Children and Families, which manages the program. "We expect over 300 produce growers to accept coupons at farmers' markets this season. Each coupon is worth \$3, so every coupon spent puts \$3 directly into the pocket of a Vermont farmer. This helps Vermont's farm economy while putting great local food on family dinner tables."



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**Bellows Falls Farmers Market**

It's not too soon to expect tomatoes, peppers, strawberries, beets and onions at the Bellows Falls Farmers Market. In addition to these early favorites you can find greens, herbs, plant starts and perennials, meats, cheese, maple syrup and sweet treats, soaps and market bags. Come have dinner made by one of our four prepared food vendors and listen to live music under the pavilion. The BFFM is held every Friday from 4-7 pm.

Featured Producer – Grace and Miss Mouse Soaps – BFFM member since 2006.

Judy's soaps are hand-crafted using local ingredients such as goat milk, sheep milk, maple syrup and herbs. These vegetable based soaps are exceptionally mild, moisturizing and have delightful scents. They make great gifts or can be added to your own natural body care products.

Spread the word about EBT/3SquaresVT and Debit cards at the Market. The BFFM is fortunate to have the technological capabilities to securely accept these cards. The machine is located at the Manager's booth and quickly dispenses the currency needed to shop at the Market. Farm to Family matching coupons start in July.

Looking for Volunteers – On September 26, 2010 the BFFM will be hosting a "Safety Coffee Break" at the Vermont Welcome Center on I-91 in Brattleboro. This event will be our biggest fundraiser yet and we need your help. If you are interested in offering a few hours of your time to make this event a success please contact Mandy at [bellowsfallsmarket@gmail.com](mailto:bellowsfallsmarket@gmail.com).

The Bellows Falls Farmers Market is located at The Waypoint Center, on the Island in Bellows Falls, Vermont.

Underwriting support from Bellows Falls Downtown Development Alliance, Springfield Hospital, Chittenden Bank, Village Square Booksellers, NOFA, Boccelli's on the Canal, SoverNet, Flying Under Radar, LLC, Vermonts Local Banquet and Hunter Studio.

**LAWN MUSHROOMS**

by Babs Lynde, a Vermont Master Gardener

This past month, we noticed a lot of mushrooms popping out in our lawn. Several years ago, we removed a damaged tree in the backyard, and now there are tiny grayish brown mushrooms growing in little circles where the trunk used to be, with a chain of more mushrooms growing like spider webs across the lawn where the roots of the old tree are beginning to decompose beneath the soil. Although my husband enjoys having his steak piled high with buttered mushrooms, he wasn't particularly happy about them spreading on the lawn!

"Lawn mushrooms" is simply a catch-all name for several different varieties, but all of them are caused due to an abundance of moisture and composting material or wood fibers for nourishment. If you have taken down a tree or used wood chips or sawdust in your gardens, chances are you are inviting a host of lawn mushrooms. Some can be the size of saucers, while others are barely discernable with the naked eye. Mushroom spores are always present in the air from spring to fall, and they will land and grab hold of anything, no matter how small, that will sustain their growth and life cycle. One small chip of wood or one tiny morsel of compost is all they need to get started.

Mushrooms, which are fungi, will not hurt your lawn, but like anything else in nature, there is good news and bad news. Depending on where they grow, they can be unsightly, especially if they take over your lawn area, but several gardeners enjoy the unusual character and/or colors that the many varieties have to offer in flower gardens. Some people also encourage their growth to assist in the decomposition of organic matter such as left-over wood chip or composting piles, or they may grow them as part of a meal. But be very aware that not all mushrooms are edible – many



2010 Winners Kinney Pike



2010 Chroma team



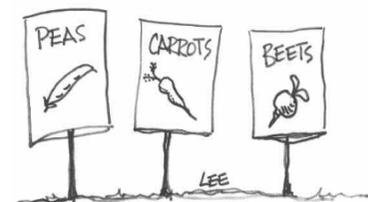
**Westminster School Garden Update**

by Elizabeth Harlow

The school garden is getting a terrific boost of kind care this summer, thanks to the students involved in the summer Youth Services agricultural work program. These students will be in our school garden every Monday morning, 9-noon. This is super help for keeping on top of the weeding work. There will be plenty to do and all community members are invited to join in the fun. See what's happening with the crops, help weed and mulch, and help collect Japanese beetles from the raspberry patch and potato beetle larvae from the rows of potatoes growing.

There will also be summer campers in the garden this month to tend the crops and taste the first cherry tomatoes as they ripen. They will help plant, weed, harvest and eat the harvest throughout the weeks of camp.

As always, families are welcome to come enjoy the garden. Come learn about the stages of growth and help tend the crops. It's a great place to experience summer! Thanks again to All the helpers who come and go and look out for the school garden!!



**SEVCA'S 9TH ANNUAL "CHIPPING AWAY AT POVERTY" BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT HITS A 'HOLE-IN-ONE'**

by Lisa Jane Clarke, Director of Planning and Development Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA)

WESTMINSTER – On June 3rd, Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) held its 9th Annual "Chipping Away at Poverty" Benefit Golf Tournament at the Crown Point Country Club in Springfield. The Tournament Co-Sponsors were Don's Heating, LLC, and National Fiber. With 80 golfers and 50 sponsors / donors, it was an outstanding day for all, especially for the families and individuals who will benefit from the \$11,000 that was raised to support programs serving low income people in Windham and Windsor counties.

Weatherization and Crisis Fuel Program vendors, other businesses, local service providers, other community action agencies, and other SEVCA friends and supporters sponsored and/or engaged in friendly competition to raise money for the anti-poverty agency, many returning from previous years. A Hole-In-One Contest sponsored by Durand Toyota Ford gave participants the chance to win a new Toyota Corolla and other valuable prizes. Although there were some close calls, there were no winners. There was also a Putting Contest for a possible \$5,000 cash prize. Although no one sank the 80-foot putt for the grand prize this year, Jeff Kellar won a smaller cash prize for getting closest to the cup. Players also enjoyed participating in a 50/50 raffle and a 'Vegas Hole' competition, in addition to the team and individual golfing competitions.

Tournament winners were: 1st Place Team – Kinney-Pike Insurance; 2nd Place – Westview Terrace Apts.; 3rd Place – N.E.T.O.; Men's Closest to the Pin – Bill Sovie; Women's Longest Drive – Julie Bastille; Men's Longest Drive – John Lehmann.

In addition to the above major sponsors, SEVCA wishes to thank the following businesses, organizations and individuals for their sponsorships and other support: 'Double Eagle' Level Sponsors – Bellows Falls Moose Family Center, Cota & Cota, Kinney-Pike Insurance, NETO, and Westview Terrace Apartments; 'Eagle' Level Sponsors – EFI and Simon

Operations Inc., Hole Sponsors – Clark's Quality Foods; Fleming Oil, IPG Benefits Specialists, J&W Auto Repair, Merrill Gas Co., Northeast Delta Dental, Sasser, Sefton, Connally, Tipton, & Davis, P.C. and W.W. Building Supply; Team Sponsors –Bellows Falls Polish-American Club, Chroma Technology Corp., Magee Office Plus, Océ Imagistics, and SNHS Management Corp.; General Supporters –Black River Produce, Cocoplum Appliance, Eugene Guy, Hugh Haggerty, Leone, McDonnell, & Roberts, P.A., Lucas Industries, Parker and Ankuda, P.C., Power Survey & Control Corp., The Richards Group, and SCS Housing, Inc; In-Kind Contributors – C.E. Bradley Labs, Crumpin-Fox Club, Dick's Sports, Grafton Village Cheese, Gone Golfing, Hooper Golf Club, McKinley's Restaurant, Okemo Valley Golf Club, Paul Politano, Pine Grove Springs Country Club, Price Chopper, Putney Food Co-op, United Natural Foods, Vermont T's and Walmart.

SEVCA also acknowledges the local businesses who contributed to the event's success by providing quality products and services at reasonable prices: Crown Point Country Club, The Hartness House, and Kaotik Graffiti.

SEVCA is the Community Action Agency created in 1965 to address the needs of low-income residents of Windham and Windsor Counties. It is perhaps best known for its assistance to families and individuals experiencing health- or even life-threatening emergencies, through crisis resolution programs that provide financial assistance, case management, service linkage, and advocacy to low-income households facing lack of food or heat, eviction, foreclosure, illness, vehicle breakdown, and other serious emergencies.

But beyond providing the "safety net" for households in financial crisis, SEVCA services also help them stabilize their lives, make their homes safe and energy-efficient, take steps to become self-reliant, and enable their children to escape the generational cycle of poverty. These goals are achieved through such programs as Crisis Fuel Assistance, Housing Stabilization, Food Stamp Outreach, Weatherization, Micro Business Development, Individual Development (Matched Savings) Accounts, Tax Preparation Assistance, Thrift Stores, Parent Education, and Head Start. Additional information about SEVCA may be obtained from its web site ([www.sevca.org](http://www.sevca.org)) or by emailing [lbrooks@sevca.org](mailto:lbrooks@sevca.org).

are severely poisonous and can even cause death. Never eat a mushroom of any size unless you have had good training in identifying the many varieties available.

Unfortunately, no matter how hard you try, you will never be able to rid the air of the hundreds of thousands of spores that are floating around you every day, but there are many ways of ridding your lawn of the unwanted mushrooms that you can see. The most popular way seems to be spreading specialized chemicals throughout the grasses, but it may not always be the best method. Chemicals can be very dangerous to your skin, your breathing, children, pets and birds as well as burning the grass and any other nearby plants if you spread the chemicals too thickly. If you decide to use chemicals, read all the information on the container and follow the instructions to the letter.

You could pop off each mushroom cap by hand, especially before it throws off its spores, but some mushrooms are able to mature in a matter of a few days, and you might not spot it until it's too late. It can also be hard on the hands and knees to keep getting up and down as you check out your lawn or garden area. Use a specially mounted lawn bag or catcher with your lawn mower or lawn tractor if you have one as these will catch and keep many of the spores that are thrown into the air by simply cutting the mushrooms. You can also mix one tablespoon of baking soda to a quart of water and spray or sprinkle it on the lawn or plant beds. Baking soda acts as a fungicide, but it will only last as long as the area is dry, so you will have to reapply the mixture after every rain or heavy dewy morning.

Would you like more information about lawn mushrooms? The Master Gardeners of Vermont are trained to help you with all your needs. Call their Helpline toll-free at 1-800-639-2230, send questions by email to [master.gardener@uvm.edu](mailto:master.gardener@uvm.edu) or visit their website at <http://www.uvm.edu/mastergardener/> for extensive information.

# Aged in Vermont

Westminster Cares, Inc.

## IDEAS FOR FUTURE COLUMNS?

We plan to address such topics as losing a pet, sleeping problems, supplements, advanced directives and creativity. We'll explore questions such as should I move to town? And, decision making: whose life is this anyway?

We'd like to hear from you. Email Ronnie Friedman at [wecares@sover.net](mailto:wecares@sover.net).

## WESTMINSTER CARES, INC.

The Westminster Cares, Inc. Board of Directors met on June 2, 2010. Westminster Cares creates opportunities for seniors and disabled adults to live with independence and dignity in the community. Your support to this care-giving organization is a way for all of us to take care of our elders.

**Programs:** Programs held in May: Two Secrets of Healthy Aging session, Four Yoga classes, Four Artist in Each of Us classes, Twenty-three People Exercising classes held.

**Nursing Program:** Director Ronnie Friedman reported that the nursing program is well on its way – with community nurse Trudy Byington acquiring equipment (blood pressure cuffs, etc.) in order to give care. Discussed letting doctors offices know about the program so that they can share the information with their patients, and use of fliers to let people know about the program.

Services Provided Include: Meals-on-Wheels to 11 people; 24 rides for 9 different people by 7 volunteers for a total of 440 miles; several pieces of medical equipment were loaned out; and volunteers visited three people.

Anyone interested in learning more about Westminster Cares, volunteering to deliver meals on wheels or driving neighbors to doctors appointments, working on a committee, making a contribution or attending a workshop may contact Ronnie Friedman at 722-3607 or by email at [wecares@sover.net](mailto:wecares@sover.net).

**Equipment needed:** Westminster Cares is in need of wheel chairs and walkers with seats and brakes. We get several calls for these items. If anyone has either of these in good condition we would love to have them to loan out. Or loan them to us.

Programs and Services –K. Elliott- Healthy Foods Workshop: Kathy reported that the committee met and talked about the pro-active checklist. She is meeting with Ruth Grandy to identify over 62 aged residents. The committee will send out letters with a brochure to make them aware of the services that Westminster Cares offers. A Healthy Foods Workshop "Cooking On A Tight Budget" is scheduled for June 9th.

### Memorial donations received for the month of June:

From Kit Bowry in honor of her dad Don Bowry and his 90th birthday.  
From Doreen Branford in memory of Dorothy E. Green

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

**WESTMINSTERNEWS@GMAIL.COM**

## WESTMINSTER MYSTERY PHOTO

**Where was this train wreck and what year did it happen?**



You may email your answer to the [westminsternews@gmail.com](mailto:westminsternews@gmail.com) or [wminster@com-cast.net](mailto:wminster@com-cast.net) Phone: Babs Lynde at 802-722-9516

The answer and the winners will be announced in the next issue.

**June Answer:** It was Metcalf's store and the post office located on U S Route 5 in the center of town.

**June Winners:** Bernie Lawrence, David Wright, Howie Rice, Pete Harrison, Marty Collins, Pat Haas, Reggie Cote, and Donald Gregg. Side note: There was a lot of confusion about whether the building in the background was in the middle of the Westminster East Parish or West Parish, and it was finally decided that the building was in fact in the West, so as far as I was concerned, everyone was at least mostly right! If you have pictures you think would make a great mystery photo stop by the town office and see Babs Lynde.

**We are in search of pictures.**

## News from Westminster Volunteer Fire and Rescue

The Westminster Fire & Rescue Department holds their monthly meetings at 7:00 PM on the 1st Tuesday of every month and a combined drill on the 3rd Tuesday of every month. Next association meeting July 6th 7:00 PM  
The Prudential Committee meets twice a month on the first and third Monday after the first Tuesday at 7:00 PM  
July meetings: July 12th & 26st

Number of calls in May: 33  
Number of man hours spent: 10,106

Number of calls through June 28th: 15  
Number of man hours spent: 4,444  
Number of calls calendar year to Date: 170  
Number of calls fiscal year to date: 338  
Missing Items: There is currently a tent, 1 large wooden table and some chairs missing from the Fire House. If anyone has borrowed them it is not too late to return them. Anyone who may know where some of these things might be, contact any member of the department.

**Volunteers Needed:** From time to time there is a need for food to be taken to the Fire House. Calls where the fire fighters are out for an extended period of time, having some prepared food to eat and something to drink when they return is a huge compliment. Also, once in a great while there are special events which require feeding a large number of people. If you are available and are willing to be on a call list for these occasions or if you just want more information, call Chief Cole Streeter or June Streeter at 802-722-3178 and let one of them know. This is a great way to help the people who help the community in so many ways. Thanks in advance.

### Swimming Safety and Thunder Storms:

Now that summer weather has arrived, caution is urged for those swimming in pools, lakes and brooks. It is recommended that if you hear thunder you should vacate the pool for 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder. There is a rule of thumb for figuring how far away a storm is. If you see lightning, every second before you hear thunder is a mile. For example, if you see lightning and can count 5 seconds before you hear the thunder, the storm is 5 miles away. Also, be sure to have a good supply of life preservers on hand and "swimmies" for the little people. Watch for hazards such as low water, slippery decks and rocks. Be extra careful when diving to insure the water is deep enough and there is nothing in the water that could cause injury. Never swim alone and be sure there is ample supervision at all times, especially when little children are around.

### Association Meeting:

The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association met for their annual meeting June 1st with 30 members present and 5 members excused. Elections for Captains and Lieutenants, association officers and one trustee were held. The following department officers were elected for the coming year: Captain, Tim Wilder; Lieutenant, Bob Lynde; Rescue Captain, Wanda West; Rescue Lieutenant, Jon Parker. Jeff Ruggiero was appointed Safety Officer which is the rank of Captain. The Association officers and trustees are as follows: President, Greg Holton, Vice President, Kevin Shrader, Secretary/ Treasurer, Pete Harrison, Third Trustee, Heather Kampfner. The First trustee Pat Moran is finishing a three year term and the second trustee Jon Taylor is finishing a two year term. At the annual meeting in June 2011, all three trustee terms will be up. All officers are for a one year term including the captains and lieutenants.

The department welcomed Justin Fuller as a new member.

Ally Talbot, a member of the rescue team was congratulated for graduating from Vermont Academy May 29th and for receiving the Bernice B. and Olin D. Gay Award.

Glenn Rogers and George James have successfully completed the Firefighter 1 Course. The course requires over 120 hours of classes. Congratulations George and Glenn.

### Shelter:

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

Donations received for the month of May:

1. From Nathan and Cynthia Stoddard and Family in memory of Don Fullam
2. From Bruce and Elise Manning-Sterling one set of pet oxygen masks.
3. From Alma Beals one set of pet masks.

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

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

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

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

# WESTMINSTER HAPPENINGS

## Activities

### Scottish Country Dance

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

### Putney Contra Dance

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

### Senior Lunch

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

### Bellows Falls Gallery

Downtown @ 5:30pm 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 at 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Call Westminster Cares at 722-3607 for more information

### Contra Dance

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

### Gentle Yoga

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

### Living Strong Classes

Mondays & Thursdays @The First Congregational Church in Westminster 9:00 to 10:00 am @The Westminster West Church 6:00 to 7:00 pm. Call Westminster Cares for more Information: 722-3607.

## Faith Community

The First Congregational Church of Westminster

United Church of Christ

The Rev. Sami Jones McRae, Pastor  
samimcrae@gmail.com

Main Street, Route 5, P.O. Box 122, Westminster, Vermont 05158, 802-722-4148

Westminstercongoline@yahoo.com

Sunday worship at 10:00 AM

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

### Important Dates

July 4 - No service (We worshiped July 1 with the Westminster West & Saxtons River churches)

July 6 - Women's Fellowship - 12:00 noon

July 11 Music in the Meadow \_HYMN sing -No church service - Prayer service at 10:00 Motel in the Meadow -Chester VT

July 18 - Worship 10:00 am

July 25 - Worship 10:00 am

Aug 1 - Worship and communion 10:00 am

### SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES IN JULY

Please note NO church service on Sunday, July 4 or Sunday July 11 AT the church in Westminster.

### NO SERVICE ON SUNDAY JULY 4

For the second weekend in July:

Sunday, July 11th, 10 am at the Motel in the Meadow, Chester. 875-2626Prayer service, Hymn Sing and Free Breakfast

Please join us at the Music in the Meadow Hymn sing on Sunday JULY 11 at 10:00. This event is the second day of Music in the Meadow and all the money donated will go to the Susan G Komen For the Cure <http://www.vtnhcure.org/index.html>

The Prayer service will start at 10:00 and then breakfast and a hymn sing will follow. All are invited. If you have someone in your family who has been affected by breast cancer this is a great way for you to help out. Need more info check out <http://www.motelinthemeadow.com/>

### The Congregational Church of Westminster West (UCC Church)

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

Open and Affirming Susie Webster-Toleno, Minister

New Church Office Hours:

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

## Meetings

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

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

### Westminster Activities Commission

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

### Westminster School Board

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

### Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association

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

### Westminster West Public Library Board

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

### Development Review Board

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

### Community Improvement Program Committee

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

### Westminster Cares Board

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

### Westminster Institute Board

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

911 Committee meets as needed.

### The Westminster Fire & Rescue Dept

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

### Westminster Historical Society

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

### Westminster Gazette Meeting,

Friday, June 23rd @7:30 am at Westminster Cares.

### Westminster Recycling Committee

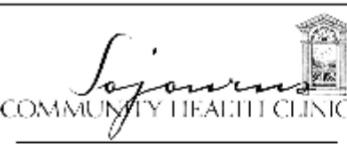
Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm at the Westminster Fire Station

## Bellows Falls Area Senior Center

### UPCOMING TRIPS

- July 19 Moyhegan Sun \$35 7:00am**
- Aug 5 Weston Playhouse - Evening Performance "Damn Yankees" Center Van \$39**
- Aug 16 Moyhegan Sun \$35 7:00am**
- Sept 7-8 Whale-Watching - Salem, MA Overnight \$249 double**
- Sept 30 Day trip to Ogunquit Playhouse "Chicago" Lunch Included \$129**
- Oct 3-4 Indian Head \$229 double Conway Scenic RR, Dinner, Show, Clark's Trading, Hart's Turkey Farm Lunch**
- Nov 16-17 Overnight to NY - Radio City Show & King Tut Exhibit \$269**
- Dec 2 Best of Times 3 Swingin'Tenors Holiday Show/Westborough, MA**

**Yes, Paul's Mystery Trip is "ON" for either Late September or Early October!**



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- Massage Therapy
- Nutrition & Cleansing
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Sound Therapy
- Immune Support
- Sauna
- Yoga Therapy
- Apothecary

### Special Thank yous From Women's Fellowship of the Westminster Congregational Church

A very belated THANK YOU to our wonderful Soup Chefs, Laura and Nancy, who kept us guessing each week as to "What are they going to have this time?" Every Wednesday from April through November they made three delicious soups. Then to top it all off, the last Wednesday they had a special menu of hotdogs, Laura's popular chili, sauerkraut and soup!! What a wonderful time everyone had. Also the Gas Card Raffle was drawn with Polly Kissell being the big \$100 winner. We also extend our thanks to Allen Brothers for their donation towards the Gas Card and to all the people who supported Souper Wednesday which Nancy and Laura have started. We hope to see you on the first Wednesday in December when the snow flies!



**The Deadline for The August 2010 Issue of the Westminster Gazette is: Thursday, July 29th by 5:00 pm**



**It is a pleasure to announce that Codi-Ann Hides, has been chosen the June Elk's Student of the Month for Bellows Falls Union High School.** Codi-Ann, a senior, is the daughter of Sue Ann and Bernie Hides of Bellows Falls.

Enough can't be said about Codi-Ann. One of the top students in her class, she is an intelligent, driven student who works hard in her classes. She is attentive, interested in learning all that she can and very active in the school.

One thing that stands out for Codi-Ann is her compassion for others and her character. She is genuinely interested in helping others and has a sincere compassion for those in need. Always friendly and outgoing, she is helpful, responsible and attentive to the needs of others. Whether it's a friendly hello or a physical action of assistance, Codi-Ann is always there for others and unselfishly serves. Codi-Ann is just an all around great person who has had a positive influence on BFUHS and the community at large.

Over the past four years, Codi-Ann has proven to be a tremendously dependable, truthful student and individual and someone that people can count on. Her outgoing personality and friendliness make her an asset to every class or group.

Not only a great student but Cody-Ann is involved in many aspects of life at BFUHS. She is an active member of the drama club and the band. She is a member of the Jesse A. Judd Chapter of the National Honor Society, the BFUHS 2009-2010 Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen and she received Student of the Month recognition last year as well.

**Small Business Finance Workshops Planned at SEVCA**

Westminster. Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA), in conjunction with the Vermont Women's Business Center (VWBC), will hold a series of business finance workshops for women entrepreneurs on three Thursdays in July from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the SEVCA office, located at 91 Buck Drive in Westminster.

Join SEVCA's new business technical assistant Susan Brace on July 15 for a workshop on "Keeping Your Business Organized" and learn how to how to set up an effective, user-friendly, record keeping system. What books and records do you need to keep for your business? What type of accounting system will work best for your business? There will be hands-on practice and demonstration of various bookkeeping systems.

On July 22, the topic is "Getting a Grip on Your Business Finances". Learn the basic vocabulary of accounting – the language of business. You will learn how financial statements are put together from accounting records and find out what financial statements can tell you about how your business is doing. Both workshops will be led by Susan Brace, who has more than 25 years experience in the financial management of small businesses and non-profit organizations and has taught managerial accounting and financial management courses at Southern New Hampshire University's School of Community Economic Development.

"Tax Filing Responsibilities for Your Business" is the topic of the final workshop of this series on July 29. Local tax accountant Annette Spaulding, of Spaulding & Madden Tax Services, LLC, is the presenter. In addition to being an owner of her own business, Ms. Spaulding is an instructor for the University of Vermont Extension System Income Tax School.

Learn how to get and stay in compliance with Federal and state tax regulations and deadlines. Tax planning is a year round activity for small business owners, so get a jump on what you need to do to make this important part of your business run more smoothly.

To register for one or all of these FREE workshops, call Susan Brace at 802-722-4575 ext. 199. The Vermont Women's Business Center is a project of Central Vermont Community Action Council, Inc., funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made, if requested at least two weeks in advance. The Vermont Women's Business Center is a project of the Central Vermont Community Action Council, Inc. They can be reached at 800-266-4062.

**Extensions Extensions Extensions**

Have you filed your 2009 Tax Return? If not, we are here to help you get it done.

We are here year round for all your tax planning and preparation needs.

Monday - Thursday 9-5

Call now and make an appointment  
**(802-722-4500)**

**SPAULDING & MADDEN TAX SERVICES  
5111 US RTE 5 IN WESTMINSTER STATION**

**Thank You**

The Abenaki Rod & Gun Club Kids Fish Derby held at the Westminster Pool May 22, was a success. It would have been more exciting if the fish had cooperated a little more. We had a total of 135 boys and girls.

The winners of the derby were; Anthony Steele for largest fish, Reis Jones for first three fish, for the boys and Gabriela Beayon won largest and first three fish for the girls.

We wish to thank the following people and businesses for their most generous contributions:

Durand Toyota Ford, General Truck and Equipment, McDonald's in Brattleboro, Real to Reel, Pit Stop Smokehouse, Jim's Arcade, Friendly's, Pizza Hut, Wendy's, Dari-Joy, Final Cut Video, Famous Pizza, Joy Wah, Hannafords in Claremont, China Garden, Walpole Creamery, Pizza Palace, Burtco Self Storage, Diamond Pizza, The Real Twist, T-Bird Mini Mart, Walpole Valley Tire, Walgreens, K-Mart, Mr. G's Liquidation, Pinnacleview Equipment, R.N. Johnson's, Bellows Falls Cash Market, Five Star Beverage Discount, Food Discount Warehouse, LaValley's Building Supply, Sam's Outfitters, Subway, Anthony Spaulding, Lorraine Spaulding, Jane King, and anyone else we forgot to mention.

A special thank you to Lorraine Spaulding and Jane King for taking the time to collect the donations for the Kids Fish Derby, David Dupuis for his help before and during the derby and for letting us use his tank of gas when we ran out. And Best Septic for getting the porta potty there in time.



**The Chorale Cantoria**



**House Blend**

**French Choral Exchange**

The local singing group House Blend welcomes the Chorale Cantoria from central France for a 12-day, 6-concert visit, including a joint a cappella concert in the Westminster West Church on Wednesday, July 21 at 7:30 P.M.

23 veteran singers: Dan Axtell, Charlotte Gifford, Bill LaCour, and Alicia Law. The group was hosted by Cantoria in France in 2008; now it's House Blend's turn to be the host, with about 40 visitors staying in area homes. In between the concerts, the French guests will learn about our area's history, government, products, environment and agriculture.

House Blend includes four Westminsterites among the

See [www.houseblend.org](http://www.houseblend.org) for more information.

**Westminster Recycling Committee**

New members: Jeff Ruggiero, Nathan Stoddard, Sam Streeter, David Timmons, Eben Gilkenson, and Kathy Kingston.

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

NEWS: Free Hazardous Waste Collection on July 24 at the Westminster Center School.

The recycling bins located at the Town Garage are open 6:00 am. – 3:00 pm  
Monday – Friday  
and **SATURDAY** 6:00 am- 3:00 pm

**accept on holidays**

The Recycling Committee invites all Westminster residents to attend these meetings and ask for your help and input.

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**Apply now to see if you qualify!**

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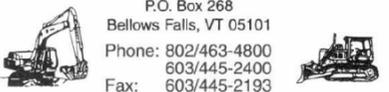
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Yellow Barn to Perform Free Concert at Kurn Hattin Homes

On Monday, July 19 at 1 p.m., the Yellow Barn musicians will perform their Family Concert at Kurn Hattin Homes in Westminster, VT. This interactive program features works from the 2010 Festival. The concert is free and open to the public.

Yellow Barn Music School and Festival was founded in 1969 and is the summer destination for many of the best young string, piano, woodwind and percussion players anywhere. Yellow Barn offers a uniquely collaborative learning environment in which students and teachers study and perform together, exploring the great chamber music literature from the Baroque to the contemporary. It is also a vibrant summer festival presenting nearly three dozen public chamber music events in southeastern Vermont and environs each year.

The musicians who perform at Yellow Barn each summer include many of today's leading figures in chamber music as well as young professionals whose stars are on the rise.

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

**School Board Blog**

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

**COMMUNITY**  
**JULY 24TH PICNIC**  
6-11 Behind Westminster Institute  
**Music by "Intercept"**  
Intercepts starts at 8:00

Bring your own picnic or purchase a hamburger or hotdog cooked by the volunteers of the Westminster Fire Department.

\*\*\*Alcohol of any sort will not be permitted on the premises!

**Don't forget your chair or blanket!** Sponsored by the Westminster Activities Commission



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