

Westminster Gazette



po box 147 westminster vt 05158

Our Community Newspaper @ www.westminstervt.org

Vol. 9, No.7 July 2013

Historic Westminster Institute Needs Some Loving Care

The Westminster Institute, a community building listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is located in the village of Westminster, part of which is a National Historic District.

This building, constructed by George Dascomb in 1923, and left with an endowment to enhance the culture of the community, is managed by a seven-person Board of Directors. The responsibility of the Board is to oversee the promotion of health, recreation, education and good citizenship of the inhabitants of the Town of Westminster, more generally, the East Parish of Westminster Village Corporation.

The building is classic in design and houses a library with a unique children's room, a gymnasium with a stage, three meeting rooms, and a projector room. There is also a game room and kitchen in the basement. The beautiful grounds provide space for an athletic field (that local schools call their "home field"), community events, and a children's playground constructed by residents.

As stated in The Westminster Town Plan "to protect natural areas and resources of special educational, scientific, historical, architectural, and/or archaeological significance", the Board is committed to developing and supporting a variety of interests and events for the community. In the past, the board has helped to raise funds to secure 50 acres of agricultural land, in conjunction with the Vermont Land Trust, and has brought voting for the community into the main hall.

The Board has faced substantial financial challenges. Following a state inspection in 2000, the Institute building was found to be out of compliance with certain state and federal standards. Bringing the building up to code has been extremely costly, yet the various mandated improvements have provided improved accessibility to the structure for all members of the community.

Among the improvements, were the following:

1. Installation of a lift running from the basement to the second floor.
2. Creation of a new rear entrance to the Institute building
3. Installation of a lift at the rear of the Institute building which runs from the basement to the floor level of the new entrance.
4. Installation of a fire escape leading from the second floor of the Institute building to ground level.
5. Installation of a stairway linking between the main library to the children's library.
6. Installation of exterior drains around the Institute building so as to prevent moisture from penetrating the basement walls, thereby causing the basement to be unduly humid.
7. Rewiring of the entire Institute building.

SCHOOL YEAR ENDS WITH A BANG



The last week of the school year was wet, but did not dampen Westminster's elementary school community from Field Day Fun - inside. Students and staff Captured the Flag in the gym, and discovered how teamwork - and a parachute - could create a huge nylon tent in the dining room.

Kids tossed bean bags, got faces painted, and laughed their way through 3-legged and sack races. Traditionally, the generous Westminster Fire Department caps the fun with a soaking laugh-and-shriek event under a fire hose. With the skies providing a cool rain, that hilarity is postponed till June 2014.

Center and West Schools culminated this academic year with Success Night and 6th grade Celebration on June 10. Classrooms were filled with eager students sharing school work with families. As the community bade farewell to its 6th graders, they also recognized and thanked retiring teachers Barb Whitehead and Marge Ladd.

Although the custodial staff filled the school with a flurry of activity after the last day of classes, June 14, kids and staff return soon when Westminster's Summer Program - a combination of camp fun and academic support - starts on July 8! Call the school office for more information at 722-3241.



8. Installing period appropriate pole lighting at the front, sides, and back of the Institute building.

In 2004, restoration of the wooden floors, and the repainting of many rooms in their original colors was completed. Along with the annual maintenance of the building, there are several other projects on our wish list, including:

- Repairing the front steps
- Window repairs
- Front entry painting
- Kitchen upgrade
- Larger water tanks
- Generator

The Westminster Institute was once the centerpoint of activities in the community and a coordinator oversaw events including silent movies, plays, dances, boxing, basketball, horseshoe tournaments, and card-game groups. There was even a men's smoking room along with community showers for men and women! There are many interesting stories about the Westminster Institute that the board would like to share with you in a future open house. We would like to hear from our community about their past experiences and participation at the Institute over the years, especially their early years.

It is the hope of the Board that interested community members will participate more fully in planning and creating activities that will fit the needs of the 21st century. The board would like to work with non-profit organizations and individuals to this end, so that all ages, for years to come, will continue to enjoy the Westminster Institute.

A REMARKABLE 200 YEARS!



Kim Grall of Westminster Station provided us with this photo from Artie Aiken's 100th birthday party last month. Artie is at left, above, with Dick Morse, who also turned 100 this year.

WESTMINSTER'S NEW POLICE PROTECTION

The Windham County Sheriff's Department has announced that the Town of Westminster has entered into a contract for 40 hours a week of patrol services in the town beginning July 1 for the entire 2013/14 fiscal year.

The Windham County Sheriff's Department will assign a deputy on a full-time basis to fulfill the contract requirement. Deputy Ian Tuttle has been selected to fill the position. Deputy Tuttle will be conducting general presence patrols, targeted patrols, and answering calls for police services. He and the department will be working with the citizens and business in town to develop crime prevention programs to help protect the community from victimization.

For more information call Sheriff Keith Clark at 365-4942.

Last Month's Mystery Photo



This building is located on U S Route 5 (Main St.) in the center of Westminster, and it is the Butterfield Library/Westminster Institute. It was built in 1922, and not only is a portion used as our town library, but it is the community house for everyone in the East Parish area of Westminster. It has been used for multiple purposes including polling, voting, Scouts, ceremonies and festive occasions. Also, it used to be a place for the poor to shower and rest as many people did not have running water in their homes back then. Correct guesses for the photo were David Wright, Evelyn Rhoades, Paul Thomas, Brenda Breslend and Anne Collins.

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KURN HATTIN GRADUATES 14

Saturday, June 8 was Graduation Day at Kurn Hattin Homes—a very important milestone for the 14 eighth grade graduates.

Graduation proceedings began with Charles P. Kelsey, President of the Board welcoming everyone and congratulating the students. Reverend Father Lance W. Harlow, a long-time music program volunteer and friend gave the Invocation and the Benediction.

After Jenitza Fernandez gave a welcoming Salutation, several students received one or more prizes from the eleven categories of awards which included: Academic, Residential, the Massachusetts Board of Directors, Alumni Association, Woodhull Music, Maiola Athletic, Eleanor Ward Achievement, John P. Barry & Christopher W. Barry, W.I. Mayo Memorial, and Michael Bouvier Scholarship Award Scholarship. Jahyde Bullard, Valedictorian, bid a heartfelt and moving farewell before the presentation of diplomas by Charles P. Kelsey, President of the Board of Trustees and Scott Tabachnick, School Principal.

To the Class of 2013—Jahyde Bullard (Camden, NJ), Thomas Taylor (Ludlow, VT), Christopher Hopkins (Springfield, VT), David Curtis (Langdon, NH), Montana Fellows (Wilder, VT), Krista Gottfried (Milton, VT), Jonathan Ortiz (Leominster, MA), Bryce Butler (Springfield, VT), Logen Dion (Lebanon, NH), Dominic Cherbonneau (Claremont, NH), Jenitza Fernandez (Holyoke, MA), Andrea Turner (Westminster, VT), Evany Rodriguez (Bronx, NY) and D'Leanne Solovei (Peterborough, NH)—We love you and are so proud of you. Be well, do good work and visit often.

After graduating, most of the students will stay on campus for the summer in

WESTMINSTER WEST COMMUNITY FAIR ON SEPT. 7

This year the Westminster West Community Fair is on Saturday, Sept. 7 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Events include: a 5K fun run, parade, chicken barbeque, music on the lawn, the veggie chop-o-matic, face painting, a silent auction, the talent show, the awesome Golden elephant sale and more.

It's fun for the whole family and the biggest fundraiser of the year for the little village church in Westminster West — a wonderful resource that serves



the ninth grade transition program. Then they will rejoin their families and attend their local high schools in the fall. One will go to the Vermont Academy in Saxtons River, and several of the other graduates will go the Milton Hershey School in Pennsylvania.

Wherever they go, Kurn Hattin will always be their home. Since 1894, thousands of children have called Kurn Hattin home.

our whole community.

So, as you clean out your attic, basement, or garage please keep the fair in mind. Set aside treasures to donate for both the silent auction and the tag sale. Please no computers or TVs. Come join in the fun!

If you want to make a donation, get involved or have other questions call Nick Keil at 387-4555 or Laura Williams at 387-2765.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER CARES

The Westminster Cares, Inc. Board of Directors met June 5 House with President Connie Sanderson presiding. The following board members were present: Kathy Elliot, Heidi Anderson, Nan Blanchard, Reggie Borden, Miriam Lanata, Susan Clifford, Don Dawson, Susan Harlow, Sally Ryea, and Assistant Director Donna Dawson. Director Ronnie Friedman, Pete Harrison and Barbara Carey were excused. Westminster Cares creates opportunities for seniors and disabled adults to live with independence and dignity in the community. Your support to this care-giving organization is a way for all of us to take care of our friends.

Services provided: Meals on Wheels - 22 different WC volunteers delivered meals throughout the month to 15 people who are now on meals, in addition to frozen meals to eight people on Fridays for weekend meals.

Transportation – During the month of May, six rides were provided by three different volunteers who drove three different Westminster residents to medical appointments, shopping or programs for a

Nursing program: During May our nurse continued to visit two Westminster residents, who she will assist with the newly hired nurse.

Equipment available: Walkers, commodes, shower chairs, wheel chairs, hospital beds, electric wheel chair and an electric scooter. Thanks to all who have donated equipment in the past, but we are currently out of storage. If anyone would like to donate equipment to us, we will gladly accept it if

you can store it for us.

Meetings attended in May included: Speaker series, bookkeeper, Gazette, website, various committees, potential volunteers and home visits.

Programs during the May included: two Secrets of Healthy Aging session, three Yoga classes, 24 Strength Training classes held and five Artist in Each of Us classes.

Assistance and Referrals: Many hours of assistance to Westminster residents and their families, working with social services agencies, Senior Solutions, the VA, Red Cross, Adult Protective Services and the Visiting Nurses.

Anyone interested in learning more about Westminster Cares, volunteering to deliver meals on wheels or driving neighbors to doctor appointments, working on a committee, making a contribution or attending a workshop may contact Ronnie Friedman at 722-3607 or by e-mail at wecares@sover.net.

Memorial Donations for May and June

In memory of Elaine Twiss from Lynn Twiss

Honorary Donations for May and June

In honor of Phyllis Anderson's 90

In honor of Artie Aiken's 100

In honor of Dick Morse and Artie Aiken for their 100th at the Westminster Fire from Fred and Mary Robling, Bis and Kandy Bisbee and Pete and Judy Harrison

KURN HATTIN HOSTS MAJOR FUNDRAISER

Kurn Hattin Homes invites golfers of all skill levels to enjoy a fun day of golf, great food, contests and prizes while helping to improve the lives of children in need. The 22nd Annual Kurn Hattin Golf Classic will be held on Wednesday, July 17 at the Keene Country Club. The event benefits children at Kurn Hattin Homes in Westminster, a year-round home and school for boys and girls in need of temporary care as a result of family tragedy, or social or economic hardship.

Registration (\$135/golfer) includes golf, cart, lunch, and dinner. There are three hole-in-one prizes: a 2013 Toyota Camry donated by Durand Toyota Ford, a \$10,000 Certificate of Deposit donated by People's United Bank, and a \$5,000 gift certificate donated by MJ Harrington Jewelers. First, second, and third place tournament winners (gross and net) receive Pro Shop gift certificates for their whole team. Additional individual prizes include closest to pin and longest drive.

The day concludes with dinner and an auction, with items such as an all-inclusive trip to Puerto Rico, a Colorado ski resort package, a Boston Symphony Orchestra package, local dining and recreation packages, and more. Auction items are listed online and bidding is open to the public at <https://kurnhattin.org/auction>

Tournament and hole sponsorship packages are available for businesses interested in supporting the event. Long-time sponsor, Steve Durand of Durand Toyota Ford said, "It's all about the children. Kurn Hattin helps them to succeed in life. When you give kids a chance, they make the best of it." Tournament corporate sponsors to date include Alburg Golf Links/Luke and Diane Bazin, IPG, Darlton W Cenate & Sons Inc., Discount Oil, Prime Buchholz, Sovernet Communications, Summit Distributing, LLC, and Whitney Blake Company. Kurn Hattin Homes also thanks putting contest sponsor, Savings Bank of Walpole, and hole sponsors, Charles Kelsey, Peerless Insurance Company, WKVT, and Yankee Signs.

Event begins at 10 a.m., with barbeque lunch at 11, and tee-off at noon. Keene Country Club, 755 West Hill Road, Keene, NH. For more information or to register, visit golf.kurnhattin.org or contact Kim Fine at 721-6914.

AQUEDUCT SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

The Westminster Aqueduct Society's Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, July 15 at the Westminster Institute beginning at 7 p.m.

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 July 2 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.

July Prudential meetings: 8th & 22th.

Number of calls in May: 18

Number of calls through June 25: 20

Number of calls calendar year to Date: 188

Number of calls fiscal year to date: 296

Association Meeting: The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association met for their Annual Meeting June 6th with President Greg Holton presiding. There were 26 members present and 6 members excused. Currently there are 41 members of the volunteer fire department. Elections were held for one department officer and all association officers and trustees.

The results are as follows: Bill Muzzey was elected department Lieutenant, Greg Holton, association President; Mike Fawcett, association Vice President; Pete Harrison, association Secretary/treasurer; Matt Cook 1st trustee, Heather Kampfer 2nd trustee and Alana Mammone 3rd trustee. 1st trustee is for a 3 year term, 2nd trustee is for a 2 year term and all other officers and trustees are for 1 year. The following is a list of current members in the Westminster Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department.

The current members of the Westminster Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department are as follows:

Chief Cole Streeter, First Deputy Chief Mark Lund, Second Deputy Chief Real Bazin, Captain Tim Wilder, Captain and Safety Officer Jeff Ruggiero, Lieutenant Bill Muzzey, Rescue Captain Wanda West, Rescue Lieutenant Jon Parker, Christina Aguire, Paul Banik, Dan Bibeau, Matt Cook [association 1st trustee], Paul Cote, Tony Coven, Matt Daskal, Brandon Derby [Jr. Member], Lenny Derby, Mike Fawcett [association vice president], Justin Fuller, Mike Ghia, Steve Goodell, Dan Green, Pat Haas, Fire Warden, Pete Harrison [association secretary/treasurer], Greg Holton [association president], George James, Heather Kampfer [association 2nd trustee], David Lynde, Bob Lynde, Alana Mammone [association 3rd trustee],

SUMMER READING PROGRAM AT BUTTERFIELD LIBRARY IN WESTMINSTER

The Summer Reading Program, Dig Into Reading, sponsored by the Vermont Dept. of Libraries will run thru Aug. 14 at the Butterfield Library on Route 5 in Westminster.

We have all of the new Red Clover, DCF and Green Mt. Book Awards as well as our regular selections.

Stacie Illingworth will run the Story Hour on Thursday, July 18 and 25 at 10 a.m. She will also have one on July 10 at 10 before the American Girl party. Bring lunch and stay for a talk by author Jessie Haas. She was asked to write the

Paul Millman, Pat Moran, Ernie Norman over 48 years of devoted and dedicated service, Billy Nowers, Josh Perry, Glenn Rogers, Kevin Shrader, Jason Smith, Ally Talbot, Jon Taylor, Kevin Ticino and Roy William.

In addition there are eight people who make up the off road team: Leonard Farrar, Donnie Fullam, Randy Illingworth, Jim Kilburn, Greg Lovell, Nate Stoddard, Jim Lober and Tim Harty

There are also several people in town who make up the auxiliary.

Raffle: Isabelle Croteau made and donated a quilt and baby blanket to the fire department to be raffled off as a fund raiser. The plan is to have the quilt and blanket on display and raffle tickets for sale at the July 20 community picnic behind the institute and at the Aug. 3 truck show behind the high school. Tickets will be \$1 each or six for \$5. Tickets are available anytime by contacting one of the members of the fire department. The quilt and blanket are on display at the fire house on Grout Ave.

Tips for sunscreen and insect repellent: Apply sunscreen 30 minutes before going outside, reapply every 2 hours, unprotected skin starts turning red in 20 minutes, insect repellent is handy to have and apply before going into buggy areas. Also bugs and mosquitoes like dusk so just sitting outside can make you a target. Always read and adhere to label directions and warnings to use products safely.

Be aware of ticks and do a body check for ticks each night if you have been a possible tick infested area

Air Conditioners: It is a good idea when plugging in air conditioning units to have a designated circuit specifically for that unit. This will avoid overloading the circuit and possibly overheating the wiring and causing a fire. Never use an extension cord when plugging in an A/C. It is often a temptation to leave the A/C on round the clock. It is better to shut them off for a couple of hours each day or night and always shut them off when not at home. The cords heat up over time and could cause a fire. Keeping filters clean and vacuuming out the unit periodically never hurts.

Bicycles: This time of year with school is out of session, there will be an increased number of young people riding bikes on the roads. Watch out for them, they can be difficult to see. Bike riders should wear colorful clothing and have proper lights and reflectors when riding where there is diminished light and darkness. Riding in fog or rain storms or dusk would be examples of diminished light.

books to go with the newest American Girl Doll Saige.

We will also be raffling off the Saige doll, provided by the American Girl company. Tickets are \$5 each at the door so that the winner will be present. Money raised will go to children's books at the library. We hope to have some pictures to send to the papers.

You can buy American Girl books at the Village Square Bookstore in Bellows Falls. Haas will have a book signing there on Friday, July 20 for the Saige books.

Plead for the Monarch

by Babs Lynde, a Vermont Master Gardener

Butterflies are truly beautiful to watch. They are graceful, delicate, and very colorful, and if you've ever taken the time to observe one, you can almost feel your own breathing begin to slow down while watching the nimble ballet that it performs as it flies seemingly carelessly from one flower to another.

Many gardeners plant tall bloomers in the hopes of catching the eye (or scent gland) of as many butterflies as possible.

Although many butterflies are indiscriminate about what blossoms they visit, the Monarch butterfly is very specific about the plant it needs in order to become a butterfly in the first place. Most of us are familiar with the large green caterpillar that will eventually create a chrysalis and later emerge to spread its wings for the first time, but did you know that the Monarch is beginning to disappear from our planet because the one food it will eat, the common milkweed, is disappearing as well?

The common milkweed, also known as common silkweed, cottonweed or wild cotton, is a native plant of North America that can be found as far south as northern Georgia, west to the Rockies and north into Canada. It mainly grows along roadsides, fields and pastures and is usually easy to identify from its dull purplish-pink ball of tightly packed flowers which generally start to show up from late July through September.

It grows from 3 to 6 feet tall, has very broad green leaves, and if you damage or break the stem or leaves, it oozes a milky-white fluid that becomes very sticky as it dries. We may think of the milkweed as a weed or pesky plant, but besides being the only food source for the Monarch caterpillar, it has been used for many purposes including medicinal.

Native Americans used the white sap for a variety of skin ailments such as warts and poison ivy. The roots were boiled and used for bowel and kidney disorders. In the 1880's, the sap and root were used for asthma and other respiratory diseases. A tea was sometimes made for a sedative.

Milkweed also produces large pods from its flowerheads that start

out as green and eventually turn a light or dark brown color as the seeds mature inside of it. These seeds have very soft, white feathery filaments attached to them which are meant to catch the wind and disperse the seeds, much like dandelions. Not so long ago, the contents of these pods were collected by the hundreds of thousands to fill bedding, pillows, and in World War II, they were used to stuff life jackets for our troops.

Despite the collection of seeds over the past generations, the milkweed was able to continue by the spreading of its rhizomes, similar to many types of grasses and irises. However, as the population of man has increased, like all things in nature, the milkweed is becoming less and less "common." Fields and pastures are plowed under for food or development and the plant itself is looked upon as a weed, so people tend to mow or otherwise remove them. Because the

Monarch butterfly needs this plant to lay its eggs, if you find a milkweed growing on your bank or amidst your gardens, try to leave it alone. It is not an aggressive grower, it won't take over your garden, and the flower-heads are actually quite attractive if you look at them carefully. Once the pods have matured and are beginning to show signs of splitting, gently remove them and open them or toss the entire pod in sunny areas where they are not likely to be disturbed such as the side of a bank.

If you are a lover of butterflies, watch the milkweed plants throughout the summer and hopefully you will have the genuine pleasure of seeing a caterpillar grow, build its green and gold chrysalis, and eventually to open and reveal the stunning black and orange wings of a true Monarch!

Would you like more information on the common milkweed? The Master Gardeners of Vermont are trained to help you with all your gardening needs. Call the Ar Helpline toll-free at 1-800-639-2230, e-mail to master.gardener@uvm.edu or visit www.uvm.edu/mastergardener/ for extensive information.

Aged in Vermont

Westminster Cares, Inc.

YOU CAN PRACTICE 'SLOW MEDICINE' IN YOUR LIFE

Dr. Dennis McCullough, a geriatrician at Dartmouth Medical School and the first to write about and champion the concept of "slow medicine," will speak on Tuesday, Aug. 6 at the Westminster Institute in Westminster at 6 p.m. His appearance is part of the Speaking of Aging series, presented by Westminster Cares to celebrate its 25th anniversary.

Sometimes his focus is mistaken for palliative or hospice care, Dr. McCullough said. Yet aging is a longer and broader process. "I'm going to talk about aging from where we are right now, each of us aging and how we relate to people who are older. It's the breadth of the experience."

Slow medicine, he said, is medicine that is "respectful of people and is just – in which everybody gets a fair share of what is important in health care."

Dr. McCullough explains what that means in his 2008 book, *My Mother, Your Mother*. Slow medicine asks us to resist the frantic pressure of the modern medical approach that demands we keep our dying loved ones alive, at any emotional and financial cost – even to a grueling end.

Instead, "Slow Medicine embraces the unsung work of daily attention that is the greatest need and firmest foundation for longevity and quality of life at the farthest reach of age," he writes. It is, he says, a "caring process of slowing down, being patient, coordinating care and remaining faithful to the end."

What does he hope people take home from his discussion? "How you can practice slow medicine in your life from the moment you leave this talk – concrete things to apply in your life. That includes beginning to understand yourself, your family and your friends, the context you have to learn to work with," he said.

Even though "slow medicine" has entered the lexicon, along with other, similar concepts such as "slow food," not much has changed in the medical profession's approach to the elderly and the dying, Dr. McCullough said.

But he has hope. "There is a slow, evolving presence," he said. "People are more comfortable with the term, and 'slow' has become synonymous with 'quality' in contemporary life... I think there are a lot of health care professionals who would like to practice this way." There is even a "glimmer of counterculture" among health care professionals that bodes well.

Expect that glimmer to spread. With two other writers who have also been discussing the issue, Dr. Victoria Sweet and Katy Butler, Dr. McCullough is planning a national conference about slow medicine.

The talk is free; but donations are appreciated. Light refreshments will be served at 5:30.

Westminster Cares is presenting Speaking Aging, a series of speakers to explore key issues in aging, to thank the community for 25 years of support.

Speaking of Aging is sponsored by the Fanny Holt Ames & Edna Louise Holt Fund, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee.

One more Speaker Series event will be held: Willem Lang, author and Vermont Public Radio commentator, on Tuesday, Sept. 17. Find more at www.westminstercares.org.

THE GAZETTE NEEDS DELIVERY DRIVERS

The Westminster Gazette could use some volunteer delivery drivers the first Tuesday of the month when the paper is delivered to the Westminster Town Hall. Bundles need to be dropped at various locations around the community.

Anyone interested in helping out should contact us at westminsternews@gmail.com.

WESTMINSTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY SUMMER EXHIBIT & PROGRAMS

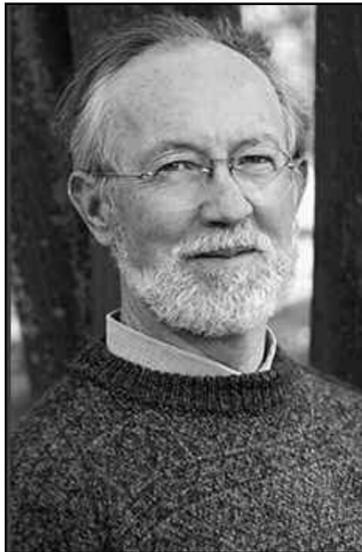
Each Sunday through August the Westminster Historical Society will be open for viewing from 2 to 4 p.m. The museum holds many informative and unique items from the by gone days in Westminster. As far back as items from the Westminster Massacre and on into the 20th century. Remember we are making history today for our museum to display in the future.

Please join us this summer to see our special exhibit "Growing Up in Westminster," created by Racheal Scott. Most Sundays, Karen Walter has arranged to have friends bring and share their items from childhood.

Beginning Sunday, July 7 Racheal Scott and Alice Caggiano will host a show of children's clothing. Racheal and Alice have some knowledge of vintage clothing, sewing and preserving textiles. You will have an opportunity to look at clothing from our collection that was worn by children of Westminster families. You may be surprised by the expertise of the hand sewing.

If you have children's clothing from the past to show and tell us about, please bring it along with your curiosity and any questions you may have

The Bradley Law Office of 1756 will be open for viewing on July 7 as well.



Dr. Dennis McCullough

WESTMINSTER MYSTERY PHOTO



Where was this photo taken and what building is in the background?

You may e-mail your answer to westminsternews@gmail.com or wminster@comcast.net 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.

We are looking for more mystery pictures. Have any?

HISTORICAL SOCIETY RAFFLE WINNERS

The Westminster Historical Society drew the winners of the first Spring Fundraiser Raffle at its meeting on May 14. Barbara Rogers won the lap quilt, Sandra Furlong won the month gift certificate to Greater Rock Fitness and Lori Larue won the gift basket full of wonderful items. Overall \$625 was raised!

The funds raised will be put towards preserving some of Westminster's Oral History. I would like to thank everyone who took chances, Greater Rock Fitness for donating the gift certificate, Alice Caggiano, Linda Fawcett and Racheal Scott for donating items to the gift basket. Thank you all.

We have now begun to sell tickets for our Fall Fundraiser held at the annual meeting in September.

They are available at the Museum or you can contact me (Lisa Calchera at 722-9790) and I will gladly sell you some. There are six prizes including a \$50 gift certificate to Lisai's Market, \$25 dollar gift certificate to Perfect Creations, \$30 in tokens to Abenaki Car Wash, one month gift certificate to Greater Rock Fitness, a knitted afghan handmade by Jackie Johnson and a lap quilt made by Julie Patrick.

On Sunday, July 7 the Bradley Law Office will be open from 2 and 4 p.m. and the Museum is opening for the summer.

Interested in becoming member of the Society? Dues are very reasonable at \$10 an individual, \$20 for a family \$50 for a business or \$200 for an individual (lifetime). You can sign up at the museum when it is open too.

Meetings are held at the Butterfield Library at 7 on the second Tuesday of the month.

COMMUNITY PICNIC FEATURING INTERCEPT

There will be a Community Picnic on Saturday, July 20 from 6 to 10 p.m. behind the Westminster Institute with Intercept playing from 7 to 10.

The Fire Department will be selling hamburgers and hotdogs.

No pets or alcohol.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL EVENTS

Sunday worship is at 10 a.m. Communion is the first Sunday of each month. Sunday School is 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.

Important Dates:

July 6 - Strawberry Supper two sittings 5 and 6:15 p.m. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$4 for children.

July 7 - Worship, Communion, No Sunday School, 10 a.m.

July 14 - Worship, No Sunday School, 10 a.m.

July 21 - Worship, No Sunday School, 10 a.m.

July 28 - Worship, No Sunday School, 10 a.m.

The Strawberry Supper menu is Vermont baked ham, potato salad, 3-bean salad, coleslaw, and drinks. Dessert will feature fresh strawberry short cake. Take out is available. The dinning room is wheelchair accessible. If you want a relaxing evening to spend with friends and family then this event is for you.

Richard Michelman, retired history teacher and antique collector extraordinaire, will be hosting the law office.

On Sunday, July 14 Bob Haas and Don Anderson will bring old trains they have used and loved and will show and talk about their trains of yester year. The trains will be set up for display and operation.

Sunday, July 21 Richard Taylor and Barbara Taylor will host the museum and Richard will demonstrate the art of whittling. Whittling was a pastime for many in the old days but some items were made out of necessity. Come and watch a master at work and enjoy seeing many of the wooden items we have in our exhibit.

On Sunday, July 28 we will feature children's books and games. Books will be available to peruse and games will be set up for playing. You may know that we have several famous children's book authors in our town. Join Karen Walter and Shannon Fuller for an afternoon of fun.

For more information or questions contact Karen Walter at 460-0498.

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 & Thursdays at the First Congregational Church in Westminster from 9 to 10 a.m. or at the Westminster West Church from 6 to 7 p.m. Call Westminster Cares for more information at 722-3607.

Knitting Together

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

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

Zumba Class - Basic Level 1 (B1)

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

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 (UCC Church)

The Congregational Church of Westminster West (United Church of Christ) 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 and Development

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

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

911 Committee as needed.

The Westminster Fire & Rescue Dept.

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

Westminster Historical Society

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

Westminster Gazette Meeting

Tuesday, July 29 at 7:30 a.m.

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 Activities Commission
Sojourns Community Health Clinic
Westminster Cares
Westminster Fire & Rescue
Association

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STORY, ALL THE BETTER.
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GROUP HIKE TO THE PINNACLE

The Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association's hike on Saturday, July 6 is literally and figuratively Over the Top! Pinnacle Board Members and hike leaders Sarah Waldo and Kath Martin will guide hikers up Holden Trail to the panoramic view from the Pinnacle lookout for lunch, then south on Ridgeline Trail and down sometimes steep Cascade Trail to Hedgehog Gulf in Brookline. Hikers will be ferried back to the start at the Holden Trail Kiosk.

At 1,683 feet, the Pinnacle is Westminster's highest peak in a 16-mile-long ridge that stretches from Athens to Dummerston; and the lookout offers spectacular views to Mount Snow and Stratton Mountain over 20 miles away.

Hikers should wear sturdy walking shoes, and long pants to ward off ticks, and bring water, a bag lunch, insect repellent, and sunscreen. They should meet at the Holden Trail Kiosk.

Directions to the kiosk (Trailhead #5) are on the downloadable WHPA Access Points Map found at www.windmillhillpinnacle.org. The Web site also lists information about other upcoming Pinnacle Association programs and projects. For registration and additional information about the hike, please contact Sarah Waldo at 387-6036 or sarah_waldo@hotmail.com.

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Gazette is
Wednesday,
July 31
by 5 p.m.
Publish Date is
Tuesday,
August 5**

**To Contact the
Westminster
Gazette E-mail:**

**westminsternews
@gmail.com**

Love and Confidence: Compass School Graduation Celebrates Accomplishment

“There are two qualities apparent here I haven’t seen in all the other graduations I have attended: love and confidence,” remarked one audience member during the Open Forum part of Compass School’s graduation ceremony. Words cannot capture the soulful spirit of the afternoon, as over 150 teachers, graduates, family, and friends all had a part in celebrating the graduates.

The love and admiration for each senior was evident in the remarks from teachers, family members, friends and classmates. Equally moving was witnessing the confidence of the graduates as they each had the opportunity to speak to the audience, showing poise, insight, and pride in the many ways they had already made an impact in school and the larger world.

Compass Director Dr. Rick Gordon offered opening remarks about the exceptional accomplishments of this class. As a reflection of the tremendous depth and breadth of educational experiences for Compass students, Gordon read off a lengthy list of academic and non-academic achievements that challenged every student including writing plays, producing a science journal, making movies, analyzing global development organizations, helping lead health week, traveling overseas, and serving the community in numerous ways.

More important than all this schoolwork, Gordon concluded, “is that through all these experiences and through the embrace of the community that surrounds you here, you were able to find your true self and let that shine through in all you do.”

When it came time for the graduates to speak, one after another moved the audience to laughter and tears as they shared their learning from their high school experience. Isaac Shaw, the winner of the Vermont Scholar Award, explained how Compass promoted the kind of safe risk taking students need to



learn and grow and make their education their own. Chris Diak concluded the student portion of the program encouraging his classmates to aim high, embracing “epic failures” as a route to also realizing major successes. Julia Taylor, the senior class advisor, quoted the poet Mary Oliver, telling these graduates to “Pay Attention. Be astonished. Tell about it.”

Despite the heat, no one seemed weary as the ceremony climaxed with the awarding of diplomas by Board President Matt Peake. The artistic handmade diplomas, created by Compass students, represent the distinctive qualities of each recipient. The graduates first see these personalized diplomas when they come on stage—a truly special moment that recognizes their personal accomplishments and the unique gifts they take with them from their high school experience.

SEVCA Hosts Successful “CHIPPING AWAY AT POVERTY” BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT

On June 21, Southeastern Vermont Community Action held its 12th Annual “Chipping Away at Poverty” Benefit Golf Tournament at the Brattleboro Country Club. The six Tournament Co-Sponsors were IPG Benefits, New Chapter, Black River Produce CIGNA Healthcare, Westview Terrace Apartments, and National Fiber. Over \$11,000 was raised to support SEVCA’s essential anti-poverty programs serving low income individuals and families in Windham and Windsor counties.

Weatherization and Crisis Fuel Program vendors, regional businesses, local service providers, and other SEVCA friends and supporters sponsored and/or engaged in friendly competition to raise money for the 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. There were close calls, but 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, Harald Schmidtke won a smaller cash prize for getting closest to the cup and donated it back to SEVCA. Players enjoyed participating in a 50/50 raffle and a ‘Vegas Hole’ competition in addition to the team and individual golfing competitions. This was the first time the twelve year fundraiser was held in Brattleboro. “The location search took some time, but it was worth it,” noted Development Director Lisa Bloch. “It was a perfect day, and the golfers raved about the Brattleboro Country Club course.”

Tournament winners were: 1st Place Team – Raven Bay Associates; 2nd Place – Kinney Pike Insurance; 3rd Place – Mutual of America; Men’s Closest to the Pin – Peter Burke; Women’s Longest Drive – Peg Maxfield; Men’s Longest Drive – Steve Ward; and Women’s Closest to the Pin: Margo Bryce. The winner of the Vegas Hole Contest and Raffle was Kathryn Burke; and the winner of the 50/50 Raffle was also Margo Bryce.

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 –Kinney-Pike Insurance and



Tournament winning team Raven Bay Associates, from left, Sam Brackett, Joe Shaw, Steve Buskey and Steve Ward.

Simon Operation Services; Putting Contest Sponsor: National Fiber and Westview Terrace Apts; Golfer Gift Bag Sponsor: Clark-Mortenson; Hole Sponsors– Cocoplum Appliance, Clark’s I.G.A., Cota & Cota, Northeast Delta Dental, and W.W. Building Supply; Team Sponsors –B. F. Family Moose Center, Farnum Insulators, Fiber America, J & W Auto, Mutual of America, Office of Economic Opportunity, Perkins Home Center, Raven Bay Associates, Sunset Tools Inc., and Whitney Blake Company; General Supporters –Leone, McDonnell, and Roberts; Lucas Industries, Magee Office Plus, and Smith Electric; In-Kind Contributors – C.E. Bradley Labs, Bellows Falls Country Club, Brattleboro Country Club, Hooper Golf Club, Killington Resort Golf Club, Okemo Golf Club, Pine Grove Springs Country Club, Putney Co-op, Harald Schmidtke, United Natural Foods, and Walmart. SEVCA also thanks Brattleboro Country Club and Kaotik Graffiti for contributing to the event’s success. Special thanks go to volunteers Billie Heller, Allison St. Aubin, and Bryanne Kingsbury; there to help on behalf of Clark-Mortenson Insurance, who had named SEVCA their “Charity of Choice” for the year.

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July Business of the Month: Attorney J. Eric Anderson

I have been practicing law in Vermont for just about 40 years, and am now making house calls from my home in Westminster. I also have an office in Brattleboro.

Consulting with a lawyer does not have to be either anxiety producing or expensive, and can result in significant savings in taxes and in unanticipated expenses. One of the big problems we face is the question of what to do with our property when we no longer are able to use and enjoy it. These family oriented issues are a large part of my practice.

You can contact me at home at 722-3249, at my office at 257-4747 or by e-mail at eanderson@archstlaw.com.

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STEWART SHAUGHNESSY NAMED ELKS BFUHS STUDENT OF THE MONTH

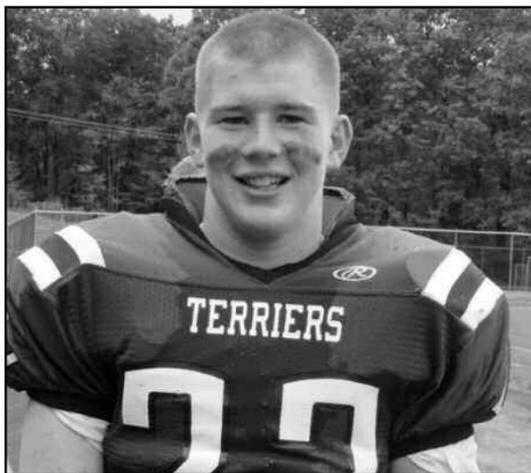
It is a pleasure to announce that Stewart Shaughnessy has been named the June Elks Student of the Month for Bellows Falls Union High School.

Stewart epitomizes what this award stands for. Part of his opening comments in his Senior Project practice presentation were, "I love this community and can't wait to give back to it." He is a good student, a good role model, and he is dedicated to helping others.

Always attentive in class, Stewart works hard. He is determined to do well and is willing to put in the extra time to achieve the high standards he sets for himself. Stewart's general attitude and personality are a contribution to school life. He is a positive role model who leads by example.

Friendly and always positive, Stewart has a great personality and is an asset to any group. Stewart doesn't sit and wait to be asked for assistance, he's the first to volunteer to help, often encouraging other students to get involved as well.

He has given countless hours of his time to improve the school and commu-



nity and he clearly deserves recognition for doing so. Stewart has consistently shown an unselfish willingness to get involved in all aspects of the BFUHS community and Rockingham community as well. He is President of the BFUHS Class of 2013, a member of the Marilee Huntoon Jesse A. Judd Chapter of the National Honor Society, an active member of the BFUHS Student Council and he was one of the Captains for the BFUHS Football team. As a reliable and trustworthy young man, he has served as a valued employee at the Rockingham Recreation Department, and has been an Alter Server at Saint Charles Church since 3rd Grade. He is so highly respected in this venue that many parishioners request him as an alter server for special masses (i.e. funerals, weddings, etc.). In addition, he has many other church and/or commu-

nity service related activities, including coaching pee wee football, coaching basketball and other activities at Kurn Hattin Homes.

Congratulations go to Stewart. BFUHS is proud to have him represent us with this award.

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Westminster Gazette

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