

Westminster Gazette



po box 147 westminster vt 05158

Our Community Newspaper @ www.westminstervt.org

Vol. 11, No. 7 July 2015

WESTMINSTER CARES ANNUAL GARDEN TOUR, JULY 11 & 12



Westminster Cares will hold its 14th Annual Garden Tour on Saturday and Sunday, July 11 and 12, in Westminster. Come see the gardens of Mary and Gordon Hayward, nationally known garden designer, writer and lecturer, in all their July glory.

Five more fabulous gardens are on the tour as well: the gardens of Fran Renaud, Cyndy Fine, Ann Keibell and Kathy Leo, as well as the Westminster Center School Garden, on Saturday only. Food to purchase will be available and music for your enjoyment at the Haywards' garden.

An original Vermont Botanical by Putney artist Maggie Lake is being sold at silent auction to benefit Westminster Cares, and will go to the highest bid received by the end of the tour, at 3 p.m., Sunday, July 12. Emailed bids will be accepted through July 9. The current bid is \$250. You can view the piece of art at the tour or see photos of the print on our website, www.westminstercares.org.

The tour will be 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. You can purchase tickets online now or on the days of the tour at the Westminster Institute or at the Haywards' garden. Admission good for both days: \$15/ticket; two for \$25. Discounted tickets can be purchased online. The tour will be held rain or shine; tickets are not refundable.

Many thanks to our sponsors: Durand Toyota/Ford, Chroma Technology, The



Vermont Country Store, Silver Forest Jewelry, People's United Bank, BURT-CO., INC., Brattleboro Ford/Subaru, and C & S Wholesale Grocers.

For more information on the tour, check our Web site for updates: www.westminstercares.org. E-mail us at wecares@sover.net or call 722-3607.

Proceeds from the tour support the services and programs of Westminster Cares, a volunteer organization whose mission is to create opportunities for seniors and disabled adults to live with independence and dignity in the community.

Westminster Cares is a nonprofit organization, formed in 1988, that works with seniors and disabled adults in Westminster to help them remain healthy and independent in the community. Call us at 722-3607 or visit our Web site, westminstercares.org. Like us on Facebook.

LOCAL AUTHOR MICHAEL DALEY RELEASES SERIALIZED NOVEL

Westminster author Michael J. Daley's new self-publishing experiment has gained notice in *Publisher's Weekly*, one of the largest national publishing trade journals. Michael is about to release a serialized novel to readers via delivery to their emails in six weekly installments.

The story, *Racing the Blue Monarch*, is a solar powered NASCAR racing thriller. It tells the story of 16 year old Scooter Cochran whose life has been off track ever since his older brother ran away from home.

Scooter must overcome the hurt of being abandoned in order to drive the solar-powered Blue Monarch to victory and save the world from global warming. Six independent Vermont booksellers are offering subscriptions to the novel for sale in their stores. This innovative collaboration is what earned Michael notice by the publishing industry.

Local readers who wish to subscribe can visit his Web site www.michaeldaley.com or any area bookseller. Installments begin July 1, but you can sign up after that, too.

At right, cover design by Martha Haas.



TAKE A KID HIKING ON JULY 10

The Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association will offer a favorite guided hike on Friday July 10 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The leaders will be WHPA Board Members Tony Coven and Elaine Gordon. This is a good opportunity for adults and children to share an outdoor experience on a walk to the Pinnacle lookout and back via Holden Trail.

This year the program will be a joint one with the Westminster Schools Summer Camp. Non-campers are welcome, but need to bring an adult.

Participants should wear sturdy sneakers or walking shoes, and long pants; and bring water, bag lunch, snack, repellent, and sunscreen.

Interested participants should contact Elaine.gordon@wnesu.com for registration and further information on the hike and where to meet.

Maps and directions to Pinnacle Association trailheads and information about other Pinnacle programs may be found at www.windmill-hillpinnacle.org.

In photo, finding a snake on a previous hike.



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MYSTERY PHOTO IDENTIFIED

Last month's Mystery Photo was of the Westminster Store, taken on Feb 27, 1922, the day before it burned down. According to readers it was also known as Walkers Store, right in the middle of town, and Shattucks I. G. A. used to be on that spot.

Readers who correctly identified it include Dick and Lori Miller, Howard and Amy Rice, and Barb Shattuck Greenough.

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KURN HATTIN GRADUATES 26

Saturday, June 6, was Graduation Day at Kurn Hattin Homes for Children, an important and bittersweet milestone for the twenty-six 8th grade graduates.

Graduation proceedings began with Charles P. Kelsey, President of the Board welcoming all and congratulating the students. Music volunteer, Father Lance W. Harlow of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, gave the Invocation and the Benediction.

The Class of 2015 had two Salutatorians this year. Shandae Cruz and Hayley Labrecque gave a powerful welcoming Salutation, touching on their own personal experiences. Several students and alumni received one or more prizes from the categories of awards.

Reginald Watson, Valedictorian, bid an inspiring and moving farewell to all, tearfully honoring the late School Principal Thomas Fahner, Acting School Principal Tom Fontaine, and his mother. "I know that we will all see each other again," he concluded. Diplomas were then presented by Charles P. Kelsey and Tom Fontaine.

Congratulations to The Kurn Hattin Class of 2015: Hailey Bliven (Derby, VT), Maia Brow (Newport, NH), Shandae Cruz (Holyoke, MA), Christopher Deitz (Putney, VT), Arianna Delgado Noriega (Queens Village, NY), Austen Echavarría (Bronx, NY), Cole Gardner-Buisson (White River Jct., VT), Nyjah Harrell (Holyoke, MA), Robert Houston (Middletown, NY), Mikhai Howell (New York, NY), Destiny Howell (Arverne, NY), Christopher Jordan (Keene, NH), Hayley Labrecque (Peterborough, NH), Justin Lowell (Putney, VT), Lily McAllister (Putney, VT), Jaime Minor (Astoria, NY), Kivon Nasta (Jericho, VT), Davion Nieves (Mt. Arlington, NJ), Madison Ramos (West Hartford, VT), Camriell Raymond (Springfield, VT), Jayden Rogstad (Chester, VT), Rebekah Rounds (Westminster, VT), Zachary Smith (Putney, VT), David Spencer Jr. (Charlestown, RI), Takyia Squires (Westminster, VT), and Reginald Watson (Barre, VT).

Established in 1894, Kurn Hattin Homes for Children in Westminster, Vermont is a charitable home and school for children, ages 6-15, who are affected by tragedy, social or economic hardship, or other disruption in family life. Its mission: Kurn Hattin transforms the lives of children and their families forever. www.kurnhattin.org.



At top, Rebekah Rounds of Westminster receives her Kurn Hattin diploma from Board President Charles P. Kelsey and Acting Principal Tom Fontaine. Above, the Kurn Hattin Class of 2015.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER CARES

The Westminster Cares, Inc. Board of Directors met June 2nd at the Westminster Institute with Co Vice-President Kathy Elliott presiding. The following board members attended: Reggie Borden, Pete Harrison, Barbara Sherrod, Kathy Elliott, Miriam Lanata, Don Dawson, Susan Harlow, Sally Ryea, Heidi Anderson and Director Donna Dawson.

Andrea Livermore, Consultant, was in attendance as a guest presenter. 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.

Anyone interested in learning more about Westminster Cares, volunteering to deliver meals on wheels or driving neighbors to doctor appointments, working on a committee, making a contribution or attending a workshop may contact Donna Dawson at 722-3607 or by e-mail at wecares@sover.net. Check us out on the Web at www.westminstercares.org and like us on Facebook.

Services provided:

Meals On Wheels – In May, 23 WC volunteers delivered meals one day a month to 15 different people who are now on meals. In addition, two frozen entrees were delivered to 10 people on Fridays for weekend meals (20 total per week). Two new volunteers started in May and one new volunteer shadowed another volunteer for training. There was one additional meals recipient who started mid-month. [297 meals total]

Transportation – During the month of May, 13 rides were provided by six different volunteers who drove six different Westminster residents to medical appointments, shopping or wellness programs for a total of 343 miles.

Nursing Program - During May, our community nurse made seven home visits and six phone check-in calls on behalf of seven seniors for medication management, blood pressure checks, foot care and hospitalization follow-up. She also attended one blood pressure clinic at the May Senior Lunch where she saw an additional six seniors.

Meetings Attended by Staff in May included – Open House and Volunteer Celebration held at Institute on May 7th. Attended Monthly Senior Lunch; meetings held with nurse and treasurer; Gazette Board, graphic designer, Programs Committee, Evaluation Consultant, PR Committee and Garden Tour Committee.

Programs in May - two Secrets of Healthy Aging sessions, four Gentle Yoga classes, 21 Strength Training classes, four Artist in Each of Us classes and four Chair Yoga classes.

Assistance and Referrals - Assistance provided to several Westminster residents and their families, collaborating with Saxtons River Cares, social service agencies, Senior Solutions, the V.A., HCRS, SEVCA, Hospice, VCIL, and the Visiting Nurses.

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

Medical Equipment - In May we loaned out 10 pieces of equipment; two pieces of equipment were returned to us and 1 piece was donated to us.

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, Sept. 2

June Memorial and Honor Donations 2015:

In memory of Florence and Russell Blodgett from Lyne Woodward

In honor of Cheryl and Harley Rounds 50th Wedding Anniversary from Joan and Bill Smidutz

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 7 at 7 p.m.

The Prudential Committee normally meets twice a month. A warning will be posted 48 hours prior to each meeting.

Number of calls in May: 30

Number of calls through June 22nd:

Number of calls calendar year to Date: 166

Number of calls fiscal year to date: 359

Association Meeting: The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association met for their regular meeting June 2nd with Vice President Greg Holton presiding. There were 27 members present and 6 members excused. Currently there are 39 members of the volunteer fire department. Most of the meeting was devoted to the election of deputy chiefs and officers of the department as well as officers and trustees of the association. The results are as follows:

Department officers: First deputy chief, Mark Lund; Second deputy chief, Real Bazin; Captain, Tim Wilder; Lieutenant, Roy Williams.

Association officer and trustees: Greg Holton, president; Paul Millman, vice president; Pete Harrison, secretary/treasurer; Interim 1st trustee, David Russell; 2nd trustee, Gary Cobb; 3rd trustee, Mike Fawcett. All officers are elected for one year. Trustees are staggered at one, two and three year terms.

The following is the list of current members of the department.

Paul Banik

Real Bazin 2nd Deputy Chief

Dan Bibeau

Gary Cobb, association trustee

Tony Coven

Matt Daskal

Lenny Derby

Mike Fawcett, association trustee

Justin Fuller

Mike Ghia

Pat Haas, Fire Warden

Pete Harrison, association secretary/ treasurer

Greg Holton, association president

George James

Heather Kampfer

Jacob Louison

Mark Lund 1st Deputy Chief

David Lynde

Alana Mammone

Ben Masure

Laura Mayer

Paul Millman, association vice president

Pat Moran

Bill Muzzey

Ernie Norman, 50 years of devoted and dedicated service,

Billy Nowers

Jon Parker, Rescue Lieutenant

Josh Perry

Caleb Rounds

Jeff Ruggiero

David Russell, association trustee

Dan Saccoccio

Kevin Shrader

Cole Streeter, Fire Chief

Jon Taylor

Kevin Ticino

Wanda West Rescue Captain

Tim Wilder, Captain

Roy Williams, Lieutenant

In addition there are 8 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

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

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

We would like to have additional volunteers from the Westminster West area. There is a Fire House, an engine and a rescue vehicle located in Westminster West and more help is always welcome to utilize that equipment during calls.

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

Check us out on our web-site www.westminsterfireandrescue.org

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

Gardeners Do Make Mistakes

by Alma Beals, Vermont Master Gardener and Naturalist

When you buy a piece of land or buy a house, it is a good idea to do nothing to the yard for a year except observe. This way you can learn how the sun moves in all seasons.

How well I remember the vegetable garden at my first new home that we built. When I planted in the early spring, the garden was in full sunshine. By the end of the summer, too much of the garden was in the shade. Don't immediately cut back bushes and trees around the house. Observe what is there and why.

Ask yourself questions like, "do the trees protect the house from the wind, do we need the shade in the summer and do the trees hide a view I would rather not see?" Many times really nice shrubs and flowers are lost because we are too eager to hack away.

Over the last couple years, following a knee injury, kneeling on the ground to weed has been more difficult. I have been putting in more shrubs and getting away from so many flowers. A mistake is to buy shrubs that we like without thinking where they will go. Then we get home and try various spots and then think sun or shade. Yes, I've done this, too.

My greatest mistake is not pruning when I should. There is something about seeing nice healthy shrubs and not wanting to prune. For several years, I have grown rhubarb, strawberries, blueberries and raspberries. The raspberries are a fall type which means if I cut them to the ground in winter or early spring, they will produce in the fall. If they are cut halfway, they will produce in the summer. I do both but there are fewer insects and birds in the fallberries. My blueberries still need to be pruned.

For several years, I had a weekly flower swap at my house with about 10 local gardeners. We would stand in a circle with the flowers at our feet and take turns until all the flowers were gone. By taking turns and going slowly, we had time to discuss the growing conditions needed for each plant. We tried to be careful not to bring in any unwanted weeds with the plants. Two advantages of the flower swap were trying different flowers and because there were so many of a couple kinds, it gave us a chance to try some of them in conditions we wouldn't normally try.

This spring has been a terrible allergy year. The weather stayed cold for so long and then turned really hot. The trees, shrubs and flowers all bloomed at the same time. Another mistake I have made is to not pay enough attention to smell. Many people like the smell of flowers and shrubs. I have stayed away from roses for that reason but last year I tried an old fashioned rose. It is far enough away from the house but still I can't go near that area until it has fin-



ished blooming.

I can never think of roses without remembering, as a young teenager, hacking my mother's favorite red rose to the ground and how furious she was. She would never let us trim it and it was this large, sprawling mess that caught us every time we walked by. She turned my punishment over to my father and this is something every kid should learn. He said "this was your mother's and you had no right to touch it." After giving me my punishment, with a wink and a grin, he said "but I'm awfully glad you cut it down. It has needed to be cut back for years."

Most of my perennials are tough. This past spring, when it didn't rain for several weeks, I didn't water them. I only watered the transplants. I should have watered a flowering quince that was one of three that I planted last year. When I noticed it, it was crying for water. The other two were in the weeds and doing fine. It is looking better and I hope I haven't lost it due to neglect. The lesson here is that some shrubs that have been planted in the previous year may need water this year.

When selling our homes, many of us gardeners have been heartbroken to see what the new owners do to our flower beds. At my first home, the dogs were penned in what had been a prized garden and the horses in another one. The lesson learned here is to not go back and see the changes. Some mistakes we cannot control.

Aged in Vermont

Westminster Cares, Inc.

A GRIEF COUNSELOR GRIEVES

By Cheryl Richards

The death of a pet or animal companion is often an invisible loss to those who don't share a strong connection with animals. Transcendent interspecies relationships can and do occur however. What follows is a bit of my personal life enriching journey of grief when Minnie, my treasured dog companion, grief counseling partner, and hospice greeter, died two years ago.

None of my education, training and experience as a grief counselor could prevent the raw anguish I felt at having her ripped from my life. What my training and years of experience in working with people who were dying and grieving did give me however, was the willingness to pay attention and allow my own inner witness to guide my grieving journey.

Moving through deep grief irrevocably changes each one of us – with or without our permission! The intensity of our heartache leaves us barely able to function in the world much of the time let alone make cohesive decisions. However, over the years I have had many, many teachers – two legged and four legged - show me the hidden gifts of a grief lived with awareness, choice and permission.

Each time I have had to reluctantly give up a dear one to death's transition I have discovered that these three optional decisions, or gifts, were at the very foundation of my grieving heart and soul. I now recognize that allowing oneself to surrender to and wade through the anguish, despair and confusion of heart shattering loss is an act of profound courage and love. For ourselves. For our departed loved ones.

Loss is part of the universal flow of life; but each of us moves through the pain of loss in our own unique way. Becoming aware of and choosing to trust and honor our own particular grieving rhythms are the first important steps to surrendering into life's flow.

Here are some of the tools I used as I crawled out of the density of raw suffering into the lightness and gratitude of love forever shared. If any of the tools sound good to you, experiment with them and make them your own. If they don't sound like a good fit, find the nearest round file and toss them!

- Breathwork (intentionally slowing and deepening the breath) and inner contemplation of physical sensations and emotions within the body are powerful tools to focus attention, and calm, soothe and nourish body and soul.

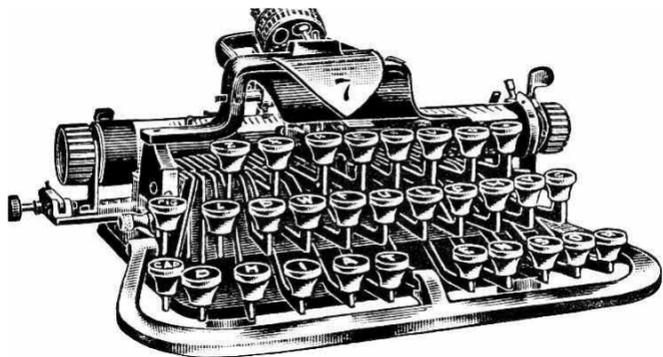
- Choose to listen to your body's wisdom. The body is adept at knowing what it needs – and when it needs it – the challenge is listening. Cry when you need to. Or rage. Or sleep, talk, watch a funny movie, take a walk, immerse yourself in music - whatever you find you're longing for. Give yourself permission to grieve your way.

- Soften. Soften. Soften. Intentional surrender to the pain helps clear the pathway to the life-giving forces within death and loss.

- For however long it takes, follow your body's rhythms – squirming in raw animal grief. At some point, as you're ready, hold yourself accountable by focusing your awareness, setting your intention and giving permission – how shall your pain change you?

Moving through some of the greatest agony life can offer is an act of re-creation. The You that was, is no more. A new You, one that has weathered great heartbreak, will emerge. How shall your life unfold now?

Cheryl Richards is the Bereavement Care Counselor at Brattleboro Area Hospice, and also has a private practice helping families, children and elders grieve and prepare for the death of an animal friend.



GAZETTE SEEKS BOOKKEEPER, DELIVERY HELP

Join a great team in helping to spread the Town of Westminster news! We need a volunteer bookkeeper, and help with delivering the paper in the Bellows Falls and Westminster areas once per month when it comes out.

The bookkeeper position includes tracking deposits, paying invoices from vendors, and issuing advertising and underwriting invoices to the Gazette's customers. Other duties include reconciling the sole bank account, attending the monthly one hour planning meeting, and participating from time to time in fundraising activities.

Here is a chance to participate locally, helping a community, non-profit paper that has been an important part of Westminster for a decade. E-mail westminsternews@gmail.com with any questions, and your interest in the positions.

WESTMINSTER MYSTERY PHOTO



**WHERE WAS THIS BRIDGE LOCATED AND
WHAT DISTINCTION DID IT HAVE?**

***If you have pictures you think would make a
great mystery photo, send them to
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**When Mystery Photos are available, E-mail your answer to
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The answer and the winners are
announced in the next issue, page 3.**

FOOD PROGRAM COUPONS AT FARMER'S MARKETS

Summer comes with various seasonal opportunities for struggling families, seniors, and others to get the food they need, including farmer's market coupons, summer meals for children, and the chance to use 3SquaresVT benefits to grow your own food. SEVCA's Family Services staff can help area residents find out about the programs they may qualify for and assist them to apply for 3SquaresVT food benefits.

Many people don't know that 3SquaresVT benefits (i.e. food stamps) can be used to buy seeds and plants to grow fresh fruits and vegetables in their own gardens. This is a great way to stretch limited food budgets. Seedlings can be purchased wherever EBT cards are accepted.

Over 40 farmers' markets across the state now accept 3SquaresVT for starter plants as well as fresh produce. For a list of participating stores and markets, visit www.vermontfoodhelp.com. Participating farmer's markets will have a special booth to assist 3SquaresVT shoppers with their purchases.

Farmer's Market Coupons are another great resource that will be available starting June 29 this year. Whether or not a household is already receiving 3SquaresVT, they may qualify for a coupon book worth \$30 to purchase fresh produce or seedlings at their local participating farmer's market. SEVCA will be distributing coupon books to qualified households on a first-come, first-served basis, with a number of coupon books set aside for seniors.

To qualify, a household's income must be no more than 185% of the Federal Poverty Level, currently \$2,456 per month for a family of two, or \$3,739 per month for a family of four. Interested households should phone SEVCA at (800) 464-9951 to find out if they qualify. Unfortunately, walk-ins cannot be accommodated.

There are a limited number of coupon books available, so interested families and individuals are urged to call as soon as possible.

With no more free school meals now that the kids are out of school, summer can be a difficult time for many families to meet their nutritional needs. Fortunately, free summer meal programs for children are offered in many communities, including Brattleboro, Westminster, Bellows Falls, Whitingham, Londonderry, Chester, Springfield, Ludlow, and many more.

People are urged to visit <http://www.hungerfreevt.org/summer-meals-sites> to find a summer meals program in their community, or call SEVCA at the above number for help locating a program.



Westminster Happenings

Activities

Scottish Country Dance Classes

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

Putney Contra Dance

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

Senior Potluck Lunch

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

Bellows Falls Gallery Walk

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

Secrets of Healthy Aging

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

Contra Dance

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

Gentle Yoga

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

Living Strong Classes

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

Knitting Together

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

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

Westminster West Public Library Trustees

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

Bellows Falls Farmers' Market

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

Faith Community

The First Congregational Church of Westminster

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

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

The Congregational Church of Westminster West

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

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

The church building is fully wheelchair accessible, and the congregation is Open and Affirming. Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno is the pastor, and musicians are Fred Gray and Mary Westbrook-Geha.

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.gb4hisglory.com/.

Meetings

Selectboard 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

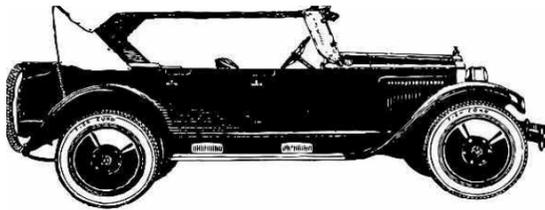
911 Committee as needed.

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

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

Westminste July 27 at 4:30 p.m. at the Westminster Institute

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



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KURN HATTIN WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Kurn Hattin Homes recently welcomed two new members to its Board.

Phil Perlah is a Member, Development Review Board, Town of Chester, Vermont; Board Member and Treasurer, Parks Place Community Center; and Member, Audit Committee, The Core Group Inc. He is employed part time by the Himalayan Cataract Project in their Finance Department. He has served as Finance Director of Amref Health Africa (USA), a \$10 million NGO until 2014. Previously, he was Chief Financial Officer and Counsel at The Seiden Group, an advertising agency that had \$50 million in gross billings. Phil has served as counsel at Sara Lee Branded Apparel (now HanesBrands International); Chesebrough-Pond's (now part of Unilever); and IBM. He has also practiced law in his own firm. He is a graduate of Fordham University School of Law and Brooklyn College. Phil lives in Chester with his wife Lois.

Jim Lynch of Walpole, NH, is a Senior Vice President of Commercial Lending with People's United Bank. Jim has worked at the Bank for 26 years, primarily in Commercial Lending and Risk Management. Jim is a long-time supporter of Kurn Hattin Homes and has served on the Board of Incorporators for 20 years. He is an avid Boston sports fan and enjoys hiking, hunting and playing golf.



**The Deadline for
the July Issue of the
Westminster Gazette is
Wednesday,
July 29
Publish Date is
Tuesday, August 4**

**To Contact the
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GRADUATE CELEBRATES KURN HATTIN IN A POEM

This is Home
by 2015 Kurn Hattin 8th Grade Graduate, Maia Brow

This is home.

This is where I've laughed.

This is where I've cried.

This is where I started to reconstruct my life.

I've walked these halls and climbed these stairs.

This is where I found out who I am.

This is home.

This is where I learned that I am perfect even with my flaws.

This is where I learned that the best memories are achieved through hard times.

This is where I learned that I am worth it.

This is where I learned to succeed.

This is where I learned to love.

This is where I live.

This Is Home.



WHAT'S UP AT TOWN HALL

The new trash program is up and running. For the most part, the response has been very positive. The informational meetings were a success seeing over thirty people at each of the meetings.

The State of Vermont expects by 2016 to see an increase in recycling to over 50% from our Towns statewide. Westminster will be ready for the challenge and has chosen a program that will place us in compliance. The Selectboard has vowed strict rules for those who do not follow the protocol that could result in fines for illegally dumping your trash.

Please follow the simple rules and police your neighborhood by contacting the Town Hall for any activity that does not comply with the program and keeping Westminster clean. Please note that our new hauler, Ruggiero Trash, has given us six major holidays that will affect service on specific days.

They are: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day. Typically this means that the week's pickup will be a day later for your neighborhood.

Example: Memorial Day fell on a Monday this year. Trash pickup went to Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. The next week goes back to normal scheduling. See our website for notices at www.westminstervt.org.

The Selectboard has purchased a new camera, as was mentioned last month that will record the Selectboard meetings. The meetings will be able to be viewed by you on the Town's Web site page. It is a work in progress, but the June 10th meeting is on the site. We will be tweaking the resolution and sound as we get better acquainted with the new system. Thank you for your patience on this matter.

The Web site will have a quick link to the meeting of choice and will help with the "Open Meeting Law" that has been a burden on our Recording Clerks. We will have the approved minutes also on the site after each meeting when they become available.

After June 1st of this year, the Town Manager will be sending out citations for every dog that is not registered in the Town of Westminster. If you have one of these, please come to the Town Hall and get your dog registered before you receive a letter.

If you have a neighbor that has a dog that is not registered, please let them know that it's the law. The State of Vermont has mandated that every dog be registered and vaccinated for the safety of you and your neighbors.

Registration means that the dog is vaccinated and is in good health and does not place the populous at risk. We have approximately 12 dog bites a year in Westminster and each of them place burden, not only

financially, but emotionally on the victim and the owner.

This will not prevent the bites but will give the victim assurance that he or she will not have to go through the hardship of rabies shots. Please know that just because your dog is home on a run or is inside, he or she is still mandated to get registered and vaccinated.

If you plan on any home improvements this year, please remember to get a zoning permit first. Not all construction needs a permit, but a quick call to the Town Hall will confirm this and will keep you from having a potential violation.

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July Business of the Month: Eric Anderson, Attorney

An appointment with an attorney does not have to seem like an appointment with a dentist for a root canal. Becoming informed of your rights and opportunities really isn't painful and can usually result in knowing that you have your affairs in better shape than they were before your conversation with an experienced and sympathetic lawyer.

I have been practicing law for more than forty years. In that time I have counseled many, many people on domestic issues, real estate questions and estate plans, such as wills, trusts, advance healthcare issues and Medicaid. Also, I try civil cases in court.

My office is in Brattleboro, but living in Westminster, I am happy to make house calls. Call 802.722.3249 or 802. 254.2345 or email jeaesq@sover.net.

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NEW STAFF AT WESTMINSTER SCHOOLS

Westminster Schools recently completed the hiring of three classroom teachers for the 2015-16 school year. Joining us will be Deborah Ruesswick, Elizabeth Wing, and Lucia Danielson. Susan Lockerby will be our new school nurse.

Ruesswick will be teaching sixth grade. She has 19 years of teaching experience in Florida and Brattleboro. Ruesswick has her Masters Degree from Nova Southeastern University, majoring in Brain Based Teaching.

She comes with a great deal of effective teaching knowledge and applies the "brain research" in her classroom. She visited this week to meet her students and begin the transition process.

Wing will be teaching fourth grade. She is switching to regular education teaching. after taking on a long term substitute teaching position in special education after graduating from Antioch with her Masters Degree in Elementary and Special Education.

Her undergraduate work was at UVM in Human Development/Family Studies. Previously, Wing founded and directed "City Potters" in New York City, a creative arts summer program for 6-11 year olds.

Danielson will be teaching the multiage K-1 at the West School. She has her Masters Degree from Antioch - majoring in Elementary and Early Childhood Education. Her undergraduate degree is from Lesley College.

Most recently Danielson was teaching preschool at the Gan Keshet Jewish Community Preschool in Northampton, MA.

She brings a strong understanding of child development, nature based learning, and a love of music.

Lockerby is a Registered Nurse, and joins us from Springfield Public Schools. She is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts, where she received her BS in Nursing.

She has a BS from Boston University in PE. She has lived in the area for years, and previously worked at BFUHS. Sue's experience in nursing in the school setting will be a great asset for our school community. We are fortunate to have brought Sue into our community school.

Please welcome these new staff members to our community when you see them.

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Westminster Gazette

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