

# Westminster Gazette



po box 147 westminster vt 05158

Our Community Newspaper @ www.westminstervt.org

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## Westminster Schools' Spring Concert: A Night at the Theater

On May 22nd, Westminster's elementary schools students rocked a full house at the Center School gym. The concert showcased songs and music from movies and musicals, ranging from *Oklahoma* and *Grease* to *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Mary Poppins*.

Kindergarten and first graders displayed plenty of *Zip-a-Dee-Do-Do*; second and third graders sang *Oh, What a Beautiful Morning* even though *Raindrops Keep Fallin'*. Fourth graders were joined by teacher Ashley Paine in a multi-part version of *I Won't Grow Up*.

Fifth and sixth graders hammed it up with *Footloose* and *We Go Together*. And if that weren't enough, there were vocal and instrumental solos, performances from Beginning and Advanced Bands, a sing along and a John Denver song with original lyrics sung by the school staff. What a night! Congratulations to all the singing children and their inspiring music teacher, Ashley Paine.



## WESTMINSTER CARES COMMUNITY NURSING PROGRAM



**Ray Hitchcock, left, holds a picture taken from Paul's Ledges, another favorite Pinnacle lookout, presented by Silos Roberts, Pinnacle Association Trustee and Assistant Treasurer.**

At its Annual Meeting on April 28, the Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association honored Ray Hitchcock of Cambridgeport as its Volunteer of the Year. Each year the Pinnacle Association recognizes one individual from among its many, essential volunteers as deserving of special attention.

In presenting the award, a framed panoramic view from Paul's Ledges, Pinnacle Association Trustee Silos Roberts of Athens mentioned a host of reasons why Hitchcock was the obvious choice this year. Besides providing Pinnacle with many excellent photos of its properties and of people enjoying them – all of which are valuable for educational and publicity purposes – Hitchcock designed the new information pages for the Athens Dome and Windmill Ridge maps, and helped write the application for the Pinnacle Association to become formally recognized in the Vermont Trail system.

Ray Hitchcock also has been very active in the Pinnacle Association's Athens Dome at Grafton Conservation Committee. He created the original brochure introducing the Athens Dome project to the public, wrote the recent Act 250 application for the new trails in the Athens Dome and Bald Hill areas, and has been a dedicated recorder of minutes for the Athens Dome at Grafton Conservation Committee. Known for his succinct and dry wit, Hitchcock has made those committee meetings a most enjoyable and informative

Along with his wife, Adrienne, who is Treasurer of the Athens Dome at Grafton Conservation Committee, Hitchcock has been a most willing and active Pinnacle supporter: doing careful and detailed research, completing complicated applications, securing supportive evidence, and arranging appropriate handicapped access to various Pinnacle properties. Dedicated volunteers, such as Ray Hitchcock, are the determining factor in enabling the Pinnacle Association both to protect large parcels of land for the benefit of people, plants, and animals and to create and maintain a growing trail system with educational programs that encourage people to enjoy, and become stewards of, the land.

For additional information about the Pinnacle Association and its programs, visit [www.windmillhillpinnacle.org](http://www.windmillhillpinnacle.org).



For the past two years, Trudy Byington has been working as Westminster Cares Community Nurse. We are very sad to announce that Trudy has retired from Westminster Cares.

During her tenure, Trudy attended the monthly Senior Meal to do blood pressure checks, and visited the homes of many seniors in the community to assist with foot care, wound care, medication instruction and a variety of health concerns. Trudy has been an important part of our organization and will be missed by us all.

We are pleased to announce that Isabelle Abramson has been hired as our new Community Nurse. Isabelle has recently moved to Westminster from Boston, where she worked as a nurse with both students and seniors. Our Community Nurse provides direct home care visits and assessments to Westminster seniors and adults with disabilities who are not eligible for VNA services. Isabelle will also continue to do blood pressure checks at the Westminster Senior Lunch every second Thursday of the month at the Congregational Church. To contact our Nurse for a home visit, call Westminster Cares at 722-3607.

## OPEN TOWN COMMITTEE POSITIONS

The following town committee positions are vacant. Interested persons can send a letter to the town at P O Box 147, Westminster 0515) or e-mail [dwoodward@westminstervt.org](mailto:dwoodward@westminstervt.org) stating their interest.

Windham Regional Commission Representative  
Development Review Board (1 Member, 2 Alternates)  
Connecticut River JC – Wantastiquet Regional River Committee

# Last Month's Mystery Photo



This was Westminster's old fire house as stated on the front of the building. It was located on Grout Ave., and it was replaced in 2004 with the present Westminster Fire and Rescue Department building. Correct guesses on the photo were received from Reggie Cote, Cheryl Rounds and David Wright.

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## KURN HATTIN'S BIANCONI SELECTED FOR GRAMMY MUSIC EDUCATOR AWARD QUARTERFINALS

Lisa Bianconi, Music Director at Kurn Hattin Homes for Children, has been chosen as one of 217 quarterfinalists from across the U.S. for the first-ever Music Educator Award presented by the Grammy Foundation and the Recording Academy. Bianconi was one of three Vermont music teachers chosen to move on to the quarterfinals round from a total of 30,000 nominations submitted from all 50 states.

The Grammy Music Educator Award was established to recognize current music educators from K-college, in both public and private schools, who have made a significant and lasting contribution to the field of music education and who demonstrate a commitment to maintaining music education in the schools. The award will have its inaugural presentation during Grammy Week in February, 2014.

Kurn Hattin Homes' Co-Executive Director, Connie Sanderson, nominated Bianconi for the award. Sanderson said, "In her 28 years here, Lisa has had an immeasurable impact on our students' lives. She doesn't stop at teaching music; she helps them see music as a way of life. Especially for children who are at-risk or in need, music provides a way for them to express themselves and to feel that they're not alone. Lisa always finds a way to recognize and nurture each child's talent; her program instills such confidence and self-esteem."

Bianconi, who has been Kurn Hattin's Music Director since 1985, is responsible for teaching general music classes, as well as directing the marching, jazz, and concert bands, and the beginning, select, and advanced choirs. She said, "It's an incredible honor to be nominated for this award. I'm very lucky to have such supportive, collaborative colleagues and to work at a place where music education is so valued. Many of the children here have not had opportunities to participate in music programs before, be it for financial or other reasons. It's fantastic to see how brightly they shine when they are given that opportunity."

This year marked several landmark performances for the Kurn Hattin Select Choir under Bianconi's direction, including appearing on stage with Grammy-winning fiddler Natalie MacMaster and winning top children's gospel performer in Western New England public television member station WGBY's "Together in Song" choral competition. The Kurn Hattin Jazz Ensemble will also perform at the Discover Jazz Festival in Burlington, VT on June 4.



**Lisa Bianconi, right, with a Kurn Hattin student.**

Music has played an essential role in life at Kurn Hattin since the school's beginnings over a century ago. Today, all 105 students participate in one or more aspects of the music program, and all students in grades 4-8 learn and perform on band instruments. The children perform over thirty public concerts in an academic year, and Kurn Hattin also hosts annual invitational concerts attended by jazz bands and choruses from area schools.

### A WORLD OF WELLNESS AT WESTMINSTER SCHOOL

One of the most important goals in the Westminster Schools is to promote health and wellness for our students, staff and the extended school community.

Starting with nutrition and making sure that children receive a healthy start to the day, there is a free breakfast program for qualifying families that serves over 500 meals per week. Many of these are able to take advantage of free and reduced meal programs for lunch as well. Nearly half of the students enrolled at the school participate in this program. All students in the school are offered a healthy snack during the school day Monday through Friday.

In addition to daily nutrition, students in the Westminster Schools are involved in a wide variety of physical activities. Every school day begins with a "Let's Move" morning ramble where students walk, run, and move for a period of twenty minutes before classes begin.

The school gym is full of activity to start the day with more than 100 students passing through in a given week. Other physical activities include family hikes, afterschool "Fun Runs" that attract 150 runners, a ten week "Girls on the Run" group, a school wide "Jump Rope for Heart" event, and a comprehensive winter sports program of ice-skating, cross-country skiing, swimming, downhill skiing and snowboarding, and outdoor adventure. In addition to these special activities, all students participate in regular physical education classes twice a week for forty-five minutes.

The Westminster Schools commitment to wellness also means making sure that children receive regular health screenings and learn about how to live a healthy lifestyle. Hearing and vision screenings are completed for all students in kindergarten, first, third and fifth grades. Additionally, 75% of families immu-

nized their children against influenza this year.

All students in grades K-6 receive oral hygiene education from our Tooth Tutor program. Many students have found a dental home through this program. Currently, ten students are on a waiting list to receive dental care from the mobile Ronald McDonald Van which will be back in the Rockingham area in the Fall.

Health education is provided at all grade levels by classroom teachers with support from the school nurse and school counselor.

Prevention efforts for students in grades 4-6 include tobacco, drug and alcohol education, while younger grades learn about safety and personal hygiene. Health classes also include units on puberty and the reproductive system for the upper grades, as well education on communicable diseases, body systems, and learning how to create healthy relationships across the school community.

Wellness in the Westminster Schools extends beyond the school walls and student population. Classroom teachers and support professionals have their own opportunities to stay physically fit through a series of Zumba, yoga and spinning classes offered throughout the year. Community members also benefit from the men's basketball league and the Scottish dancing that are offered in the school gym throughout the year. As always, the Westminster School garden provides many hours of enjoyment (and locally grown produce!) thanks to the efforts of new garden coordinator Irene Canaris.

It's a big job to focus on keeping kids healthy and physically fit, and the Westminster Schools send a big "thank you" to everyone who helped make this past year rich in Wellness activities and special events for all the children in the town of Westminster!

### KURN HATTIN'S 22ND GOLF CLASSIC

Kurn Hattin Homes for Children will hold its 22nd Annual Golf Classic on Wednesday, July 17. Registration is at 10 a.m., a Barbeque Lunch is at 11 and the Tournament starts at noon at the Keene Country Club, 755 West Hill Road, in Keene, NH.

The cost is \$135 per golfer, which includes cart, lunch, and dinner.

For more information contact Kim Fine at 721-6914, or visit [www.golf.kurnhattin.org](http://www.golf.kurnhattin.org).

### SENIOR CENTER ANNUAL JAMBOREE

The Bellows Falls Area Senior Center will hold its Annual Jamboree at the Moose Family Center, 59 Westminster Street, on Sunday, June 9, from 1 to 6 p.m. Doors open at noon. Entrance fee for this event is \$5 and is open to the public. Music by "Playin' Possum". A lunch grill and homemade goodies are available.

The event includes a 50/50 raffle, The Jamboree Cash Raffle (only 100 tickets sold and you need not be present to win) door prizes, and great raffle prizes.

Thank you to our incredible sponsors for helping to make this event happen: Moose Family Center, Rotary Club of Bellows Falls, Durand Toyota Ford, Pierce Lawton Post 37, Savings Bank of Walpole, and Silver Forest of Vermont, Inc.

Purchase of cash raffle tickets or additional information is available by calling the Center at 463-3907.

### KURN HATTIN ANNUAL MEETING

Eighth grader, Bryce Butler was Master of Ceremonies at The History of Rock n' Roll 26th Annual Kurn Hattin Day Celebration. The children's performance of song, music and dance had the audience in awe. This event held each year is welcome home the alumni and thank the many people who support Kurn Hattin Homes. Special thanks also go to volunteers Chris Goding, Judy Spinella, Lindsey Soboleski, Janet Wilson, Sierra Sylvester, Scotty Tabachnick and Jerry Bardwell '73 who performed a lovely duet with one of the children. Thanks also to David Curtis, Sound and Dave Bellimer for lighting.

The Kurn Hattin alumni also hold their Annual Meeting on this occasion. Jackie LaDue Mallory '54 of St. Petersburg, FL was re-elected as President. Jasmin Sears Queen '90 of Peterborough, NH was re-elected as Secretary. Carolyn Blake-Deyo '54 of Springfield serves as Vice President and Donald Campbell '49 of Putney serves as Treasurer.

During the alumni meeting, prizes were given to the alumnus/na who was the youngest, oldest and farthest away. Austin Ladd '12 won for the youngest. Clayton Russell '49 won for the eldest and Randy Logsdon '69 and Phil Sherrick '81 (both from VA) won for the farthest away. Some of the alumni graduated 70 years ago and some just last year. Alumni and guests came with their friends and families. The alumni gathering, the luncheon, and the children's performance—all were exceptional. It was a full house and everyone had a great time on a beautiful day.

## 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 June 4th 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.

June Prudential meetings: 10th & 24th.

Number of calls in April: 15

Number of calls in May: 18

Number of calls calendar year to Date: 166

Number of calls fiscal year to date: 274

Association Meeting: The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association met for their regular monthly meeting May 7th with President Greg Holton presiding. There were 26 members present and 2 members excused. Currently there are 43 members of the volunteer fire department. Three members were presented with length of service pins and certificates: Mike Ghia, 15 years, Bob Lynde, 15 years and Mike Fawcett 40 years. Chief Streeter thanked them all for their dedicated and faithful service.

Scholarship Fund: The fire and rescue association has established a scholarship for \$500 to be awarded to a class of 2013 graduate from the Bellow Falls Union High School. The money will go to a student pursuing a career in the emergency or medical field such as police, fire, nursing, first responder and some type of emergency management.

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 27th community picnic behind the institute and at the August 3rd truck show behind the high school. Tickets will be \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. 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.

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. When you see lightning, every five seconds before you hear thunder is one mile. For example, if you see lightning and can count 10 seconds before you hear the thunder, the storm is 2 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. If you have a pool at home, check to be sure the fence and gates are in good shape. Fences and gates should be lockable and child proof. Kids seem to be able find a way to get to the water even when the most conscientious precautions are taken. Never swim alone and be sure there is ample supervision at all times, especially when little children are around. Supervision is the best way of avoiding tragedies.

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

Donations received in May:

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**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** From time to time there is a need for food to be brought to the Fire House. During calls when the fire fighters are out for an extended period of time, having something to eat or 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 722-3178 and let them know. This is a great way to help the people who help the community in so many ways. Thanks in advance.

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 needed to utilize that equipment during calls.

## DIG INTO READING SUMMER READING PROGRAM IN WESTMINSTER

The Summer Reading Program, Dig Into Reading, sponsored by the Vermont Dept. of Libraries will run from June 17 thru Aug. 14. 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, June 27, 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 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.

## Protecting Our Impatiens

by Babs Lynde, a Vermont Master Gardener

In 2011, Florida was once again hit by horrific hurricane winds. This time, those winds caused a deadly plant pathogen to explode and spread quickly. That particular pathogen is a variety of downy mildew which is devastating to our shade-loving impatiens.

For those of us who may not be completely familiar with this plant, the impatiens are originally from East Africa with dark green leaves and blossoms of red, purple, pink, salmon or white that is considered a very common houseplant as well as a summer blooming plant transplanted in shady or semi-shady areas.

The flowers are generous and if dead-headed regularly, will produce more flowers all season long. Impatiens are popular because they are easy to care for plus there are not many other flowering plants that produce such an abundance of color in shady areas. The flower petals can be found as single or double, and it is often used as a border plant.

Although gardeners are sometimes their own worst enemy in introducing plant diseases, this time we can thank Mother Nature and her prevailing winds that took the impatiens downy mildew from our southerly States and scattered it far up the Eastern coastline. Because most of our annual stock is produced in protective nurseries and greenhouses, this disease wasn't really discovered as an aggressive infection until just recently from outside plantings. If your impatiens have always been indoors, they may be safe, but planting them outside allows them to be susceptible to whatever the winds bring to us.

Downy mildew spreads by spores that are impossible to see with the naked eye which makes them excellent candidates for spreading by even the barest of air currents. An infected plant will begin to show signs within 2 to 3 weeks of being planted out-of-doors by pale or yellowing leaves with perhaps some signs of mottling. A light gray or white fuzz can be found on the underside of the leaves which gives the disease its name of "downy." Eventually, all the

leaves will drop off, and the plant will die.

If you find signs of this disease, the only thing you can do is to immediately dig up and dispose of the infected plants. You cannot save them and leaving them to die on their own only allows the downy mildew to produce spores that will scatter to the winds and continue to infect other plants either inches or miles away. Do NOT put your infected plants into your compost or bury them in the ground. Composting only allows the pathogen to accumulate in the soil and spread the following year. The best thing is to pop them into a dark plastic bag and allow the hot sun to kill the mildew completely and dispose of the bag in your garbage.

There are a few things you can do to improve the chances of your impatiens not having contact with this disease other than keeping them indoors. Most downy mildew varieties grow rapidly in dark, moist areas so try planting your impatiens in a semi-sunny area. Allow several inches between each plant as overcrowding encourages moisture to stick around longer. If your impatiens need to be watered, keep the water close to the roots and off the leaves. Water them in the morning to let the sun and daytime air currents dry all wet areas around them before nightfall. This is actually a good practice for all garden plants including fruits and vegetables which are also susceptible to many moisture-loving diseases.

Presently, there are no varieties of impatiens that are resistant to downy mildew with the possible exception of the New Guinea variety which has larger flowers than the common impatiens so their best protection is our vigilance and diligence in eradicating the mildew as quickly as possible.

Would you like more information on impatiens downy mildew? The Master Gardeners of Vermont are trained to help you with all your gardening needs. Call their Helpline toll-free at 1-800-639-2230, send questions to master.gardener@uvm.edu or visit their www.uvm.edu/mastergardener/ for extensive information.

# Aged in Vermont

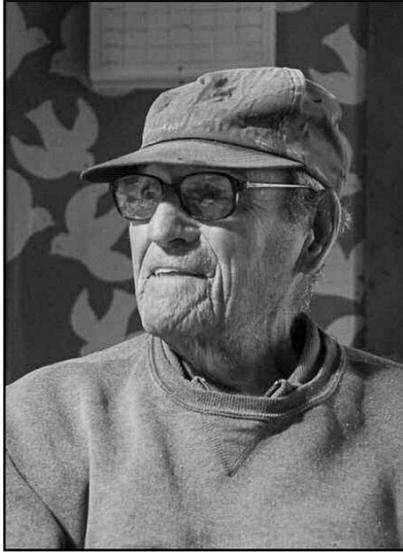
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## I\*LL KEEP GOING AS FAR AS I CAN GO: ARTIE AIKEN, ALMOST 100

By Susan J. Harlow

Artie Aiken turns 100 years old June 10, and everybody is asking him about his longevity. "I don't really know," he shrugs. "All I can lay it to is work, really hard work."

He has worked hard, all his life. As a young man, he was hired on by many of the farmers in town, first by W.H. Bent at the present Kestrel Farm and later for Charlie Holton, helping him grow potatoes., and Artie has this story about working for my grandfather, Paul G. Harlow, during the floods after the 1938 hurricane. Artie was milking cows. "The wind blew the silo roof off," Artie says. "It was pitch dark, no light out there; I kept right on milking by hand until I got them done."



Starting in 1946, after he got back from the service, Artie went to work for the Boston and Maine Railroad for twenty years, at a beginning wage of 40 cents an hour. He still often did farm work. "I'd get home from the railroad, and there would always be someone waiting in my yard, 'can you come do some work for me?'"

In the 1960s, he joined the crew that built I-91 from Brattleboro to Hartland, and after that, he built houses for Sam Streeter for 10 years. He still works, you could say - he keeps Pete Harrison company on his Meals on Wheels rounds.

Artie was born on Acton Hill in Townshend and his family moved to Hartley Hill in Westminster when he was five years old. In 1942, he moved to School Street, next door to his present house, then sold that and moved to where he lives now. Artie's wife, Mary, born a Parda in Westminster, died in 2007.

This will be the first year that Artie isn't planting a garden, he says. "It's too much for me. Just old age got against me." Except maybe he'll put in a couple of plants so he can pick tomatoes for a fresh sandwich: untoasted bread, mayo, tomato. No salt, no pepper. "It makes a good sandwich," he says. And sure enough, come May 19, Artie was planting a couple of tomato plants.

Artie is a well-known local dowser, and this is how he started: He was working on the railroad, watching for trains while a co-worker welded, down in Dummerston. "We were getting kind of dry, and I said 'If I only had a drink.'" His buddy bent each of his welding rods at one end and handed them to Artie. Artie started walking. He didn't have to go far before the moving rods told him where to dig. "I dug down with my hands and water come right up out of the ground," he said. "I've still got those rods and I've found water everywhere."

"To get to 100," he says, "it seems like it's five years. But the days come and go. I'll keep going as far as I can go."

Everyone is invited to celebrate Artie's 36,500 days, at his house, 79 School Street, Sunday, June 9, from noon to 4 p.m. Bring a side dish or dessert, if you can.

And if you haven't already, wish Dick Morse a Happy Century, too. He turned 100 this year, along with Louise Morse.

Susan Harlow is a member of the Westminster Cares Board of Directors.

"Aged in Vermont" is a monthly article on aging issues, organized by Westminster Cares. Ideas for future columns? Would you like to write one?

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

**Editor's Note: Artie Aiken is very proud to have received a card from President Barak and Michelle Obama on the occasion of his 100th birthday.**

**On Sunday, June 9 celebrate his 100th birthday from noon to 4 p.m.**

**Light food will be provided; guests are welcome to bring a side dish or dessert. The public is invited to stop by and wish Artie a Happy Birthday!**

## WESTMINSTER MYSTERY PHOTO



**Where is this building located and what is its name?**

You may e-mail your answer to [westminsternews@gmail.com](mailto:westminsternews@gmail.com) or [wminster@comcast.net](mailto: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?**

## WESTMINSTER CARES 25TH ANNUAL GARDEN TOUR, JUNE 29 AND 30

Westminster Cares will hold its 12th Annual Garden Tour on Saturday and Sunday, June 29 and 30. The tour will again feature the gardens of Mary and Gordon Hayward, nationally known garden designer, writer and lecturer.

Three other beautiful Westminster gardens will also be on the tour. The tour will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday and Sunday.

Refreshments will be available for purchase at the Hayward gardens. Tickets will be available for purchase at the Hayward's and at the Westminster Institute. Prices are \$15 or 2 for \$25. Discounted advanced sale tickets will be available for purchase on our Web site in early June.

People's United Bank, Chroma Technology, The Vermont Country Store, Durand Toyota and C & S Wholesale Grocers have generously sponsored this event.

Come celebrate with us - this is Westminster Cares' 25th anniversary year! For more information on the tour, check out our Web site for updates at [www.westminstercares.org](http://www.westminstercares.org) or call the office at 722-3607.

## IT'S PROPERTY TAX GRIEVANCE TIME

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GRIEVANCES FOR 2013 ARE SET FOR  
JUNE 19TH

9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM

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## WESTMINSTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY SUMMER EXHIBIT & PROGRAMS

Each Sunday from July 7 through August our museum in Westminster 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.

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/](http://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, June 25 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.

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

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Westminster School District  
Town of Westminster  
Durand Automotive Group  
Westminster Activities Commission  
Sojourns Community Health Clinic  
Westminster Cares  
Westminster Fire & Rescue Association

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**Editor:** Robert Smith  
**Board of Directors:**  
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Toby Young  
Charmion Handy  
Angie Dodd  
**Pictures and Articles**  
**Provided by the Community**  
[westminsternews@gmail.com](mailto:westminsternews@gmail.com)

**GOT ANY INTERESTING STORIES ABOUT WESTMINSTER AND THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE HERE? WANT TO SHARE SOME LOCAL HISTORY, OR REMINISCE ABOUT SOME OF OUR TOWN'S PEOPLE? THE GAZETTE IS LOOKING FOR CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OUR READERS, AND IF YOU HAD PHOTOS TO GO WITH THE STORY, ALL THE BETTER. CONTACT US BY E-MAIL AT WESTMINSTERNEWS@GMAIL.COM.**

## SCHOOL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: STACIE ILLINGWORTH

Thank you, thank you, Stacie Illingworth. Ever since Keigan was in kindergarten, you've been an ever-present Class Parent each year.

You're available to cook with kids, help out with winter sports, lend a hand during a creative (messy!) art class.

Since serving on the Wellness Committee, you've worked with Girls on the Run and our morning Walking Club. You spearheaded an amazing teacher appreciation week.

The list goes on! You are our Westminster Schools Volunteer of the Year, and we were proud to honor you at our Spring Concert.



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**The Deadline for The July 2013 Issue of the Westminster Gazette is Wednesday, June 26 by 5 p.m. Publish Date is Tuesday, July 2**

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

**[westminsternews@gmail.com](mailto:westminsternews@gmail.com)**

# Purposeful Learning at Compass School

By Rick Gordon

Having just completed graduation portfolio roundtables, I want to convey how impressed visiting community and board members are with the accomplishments of our students. While we are immensely proud of their personal growth, it also is noted by all that their work demonstrates exceptional academic preparedness in all subject areas. The work from Humanities, Math, Science and Spanish reflects strong content knowledge, deep understanding, thoughtful insight, and solid skills.

The outside community members who served on the roundtables were struck by how Compass so comprehensively addresses our targeted learning realms—Knowledge, Communication, Thinking and Reasoning, Personal Development, and Critical Thinking—in every experience. With the wide range of experiences required of every student—from academic classes to afterschool Exploratories to travel and service—year after year we see our seniors ready to move on with exceptionally strong academic background, great self awareness, well deserved self confidence, and an inspiring sense of direction to be positive contributors to the world.

The 11th grade Global Connections program in the Dominican Republic is an example of one experience that truly builds and tests students' capacity to succeed in a complex world. It is remarkable to see every member of this year's class (half of whom had never even flown before) appreciate every aspect of travel—being away from home, eating unusual food, living without electricity and running water, jumping off waterfalls, communicating only in Spanish, and being continually surrounded by new sights and smells and sounds that require constant adaptability.

The students were fantastic about being open to every experience, supportive of each other, responsible decision makers, and just a joy to travel with. While some of this is surely the demeanor of the individuals involved, it seems the wealth of experiences at Compass, from academic challenges to Community Service Winter Term to spring trips to advisory relations all build readiness to venture out into the world and expand our horizons.

The work the students present at their roundtables reflects the overall challenge of the Compass program that asks them to engage in tremendously diverse experiences and to think deeply and creatively to develop clearer understandings about themselves and the world we live in. The power of all this is impossible to convey in words, but I will share those of one senior that captures a sense of the value of their Compass experience:

"Compass has opened my eyes to opportunities I didn't even know existed—the idea that life doesn't have to be black and white, that maybe you can have it all, if you actually try and give it your all."

*(Editor's Note: As an example of what Rick is writing about, we'll include this information we received on a Compass student, Sophia Guerrina.)*

Congratulations to Compass 7th grader Sophie Guerrina for her award-winning piece on lunchtime at Compass School. As part of the School Meals Writing Project at Hunger Free Vermont, Sophie reflects on Compass School lunch. The prompt: Think about a time when you had an amazing school meal experience. Sophie won the prize for Windham County.



Above, Sophie Guerrina and friend Ivy Kirby at Spring Carnival.

*Time To Eat, by Sophie Guerrina*

*12:15, All the classes get out and the lunch room slowly starts to fill. The sound of laughter rises through the room like a wave in the ocean, tumbling down and taking everyone with it. I wait in line, anxious to move forward. The smell of ravioli and freshly baked bread drifts down the line, taunting us with a sneak peek of what we are about to indulge in. The line moves forward and I get my plate. A smile slowly takes over my face as the steam from the food reaches my nose, talking to me, and telling me what I am in store for. There was a slight breeze flowing through an open door, drawing us outside into the autumn air.*

*Leaving the chatter of the lunch room, we head outside, and up a hill. Sitting at the top we can finally dig in to the lunch we have been waiting so patiently for all morning. A soft cheesy filling encased in a box made of pasta fills my mouth and warms my body. Screams of laughter drift out from the building and a group of kids are running around, but we pay no attention, for we are captivated in our own conversation. I take the last bite of ravioli and wash it down with some ice cold water. My meal is done, but lunch is most definitely not over yet. We now need to get our dishes to the kitchen.*

*With just a look from one to another we race down the hill. Holding tight to our dishes, our hair flying behind us trying to keep up. Out of breath and smiles plastered to our faces we walk inside, getting ready for our next challenge to present itself. We have had our meal, but no meal is complete without a sweet treat to go along. This in mind we head to the kitchen for some tea. Black tea with cream and sugar. Warming me from head to toe. Dancing throughout my body, and lighting up my eyes. But that doesn't stop me from engaging in a deep discussion awaiting the start of my next class.*

*This lunch was a lunch filled with laughter, chatter, and a delicious plate of food, but I wouldn't want this everyday. It's these one of a kind moments that you truly remember. Lunch should be the time that you can change everyday, making it different and unique from the day before. It is the time when your schedule is thrown out the window and you just make it up as you go along, adding a different spice each day.*

## MAKING SUMMER TIME A READING TIME

In May, students at the Westminster elementary schools each selected a few books to jump-start this year's Summer Reading Program. Evidence shows that when kids are involved in choosing their own books, they are much more invested in reading. Over the summer, reading motivation is our goal, so once again the school is putting literacy funds towards vacation books.

This year, these funds are offset by Book Club bonus points generated through the school's Scholastic Book Club account. We have many thanks for the hard working parent, Amy Rounds, who organized the Book Club every month during the school year.

During the school's Summer Camp Program, students will be encouraged and supported in maintaining Reading Logs. Every week there will be raffles and incentives for summer campers using these Reading Log "tickets." At the end of the summer, there will be a Back-To-School raffle for all students with summer reading logs.

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## June Business of the Month: Harlow Farm

We look forward to seeing you at Harlow Farm, open for our twenty-third year. Spring came along right on time this year, and everything is growing well. Come and meet our newest employee, Tracy Dowd!

We are already picking strawberries, along with our own asparagus, lettuce, kale, collards and spinach, and have produce from other local farms, including Old Athens Farm and Guerilla Greens. We have a great selection of bedding plants and hanging baskets.

We offer dairy products, both organic and conventional – milk, cheeses, butter and more. We have Harlow Farm-made jams, pickles, chutney and condiments, as well as our own frozen vegetables. Chicken, beef, pork, and eggs from our farm are available.

Michael Lenox is at his Café Loco for the eleventh year, and will put on his first Farmers Rock June 9 to wind up the Roots on the River Festival. There are many other events planned this summer:

- \* July 11 and September 13, both at 6 p.m. - Nancy Gilman, Provisions International, cooking demonstrations
- \* July 18, and September 26, 5-7 p.m., Aidan Clowes, walking with plants
- \* August 14, Jayson Munn, flower arranging demonstration.
- \* September 28, Art opening, with Phyllis Rosser and Robert McBride

Visit our Web site, [www.harlowfarm.com](http://www.harlowfarm.com), to learn more, join us on Facebook, or call us at 722-3515.



In photo, Dan Harlow of Harlow Farm.

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### INCREDIBLE TEACHERS, INCREDIBLE COMMUNITY

Teacher Appreciation Week was celebrated at Westminster Schools May 6 to 10. Community members, and local businesses contributed; showing their appreciation.

All was possible because of you! Thank you! We would like to personally thank:

Chroma Technology Corp, Community Feed Store, Dr. Vernon Temple, Elizabeth Harlow Massage Therapy, Emerson Power Sports, Father's/Miss BF

Diner, Harlow Farm Stand, Homestead Farms, The Rock and Hammer, Village Square Bookseller, Walpole Creamery, Walpole Valley Tire, Westminster Auto, Windham Hill Inn, Jessica Lockerby, Nancy Harrington, Natalie & Nancy Deitz, Paqui Arroyo-Moyano, Stacie Illingworth and Westminster Schools Students for their handmade posters and cards.

To all students/families not individually listed; your treats were enjoyed by all! Thank you!

Our Monthly Community Newspaper June 2013 Vol. 9, No. 6

# Westminster Gazette

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