

Westminster Gazette



po box 147 westminster vt 05158

Our Community Newspaper @ www.westminstervt.org

Vol. 12, No. 6 June 2016

WESTMINSTER'S ANNUAL SCHOOL SPRING CONCERT



Westminister School's annual spring concert entertained the community with edible, musical, multimedia and visual arts. Participants entered the school through a display of 17 cakes in the Center School dining room. These were designed, baked and decorated by individual classrooms, each creating an extraordinary cake with "The Ocean" in mind. Community members and families also contributed cakes. All were raffled off to lucky participants; proceeds will benefit The School Arts Programs. During this Let Them Eat Cake Raffle, the school band played for arriving families. Raffle winners were announced before the concert.

At 6:15, students gathered in classrooms before everyone moved to the art installation and performance. The gym lobby had been transformed into a coral reef, complete with ocean art of all types and even a mermaid. The Octopus's Garden, an Undersea Musical Adventure began with sailors singing shanties, interrupted by a newscast warning of a terrible storm, a shipwreck, and then the action shifted under water. Songs described the creatures of the sea and the Octopus's Garden. Finally, the voyagers journeyed home, and the evening closed with an all-voices finale, Vermont's state song, These Green Mountains. However, the night was not over for 17 lucky winners who picked up their cakes before heading home.



15TH ANNIVERSARY WESTMINSTER GARDEN TOUR, JULY 9 & 10

Westminster Cares will hold its 15th annual Garden Tour from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, July 9 and 10, in Westminster.

This year's event will feature the gardens of internationally known garden designers Gordon and Mary Hayward and Julie Moir Messervy; the gardens of Vanessa and David Stern will also be on the tour. Special activities are planned throughout the weekend to celebrate our 15th Garden Tour.

Admission for one or both days is \$15; two for \$25. Discounted tickets can be purchased online through our website as of June 1st. Group discounts for 6 or more are also available. The event is held rain or shine.

Day of event tickets, lunch and refreshments will be available at the Westminster Institute on Route 5 or at the Hayward Garden. Morning Star Perennials will hold a plant sale at the Hayward Garden during the event.

Westminster artist, David Stern, has donated an original watercolor of Twin Falls in North Westminster to Westminster Cares. We will be accepting silent auction bids on the painting throughout June with final bids accepted during the Garden Tour. See our website for more info.

In conjunction with the Garden Tour there will be a Raffle. Tickets can be purchased for a chance to win ten fabulous prizes including a garden trellis, a wooden outdoor bench, and a one-night stay at the Grafton Inn with breakfast and dinner at the Phelps Barn included.

Special 15th Anniversary Events (see event program for times)

Saturday 7/9 only

- Private End-of-Day Tour of their gardens with Gordon & Mary Hayward, (separate ticket needed).

Sat. 7/9 and Sun. 7/10

- Julie Moir Messervy, JMMDS, will give a talk on "Your Garden Style: Making a Landscape That Fits You and Your Property". (Sat. and Sun.)

- Cyndy Fine, Genius Loci, will lead a walking tour and talk through her garden on "Creating Biodiversity in Your Gardens". (Sat. and Sun.)

Sunday 7/10 only

- Tour the oldest organic farm in Vermont, High Meadows Farm, with Howard & Lisa Prussack.

Visit a Greenhouse and hike to Berry Fields.

Please patronize our generous event sponsors: Durand Toyota/Ford, Chroma, Silver Forest of VT, Mascoma Savings Bank, C & S Wholesale Grocers, Vermont Country Store, BurtCo, Inc. Savings Bank of Walpole, Brattleboro Ford/Subaru, and People's United Bank

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

15th Annual

Westminster, VT Garden Tour



Saturday, July 9th 10am–3pm
Sunday, July 10th 10am–3pm

Featuring the Gardens of Gordon & Mary Hayward, Julie Moir Messervy, and Vanessa & David Stern

Special Events Saturday 7/9 & Sunday 7/10:
Private End-of-Day Tour of their gardens with Gordon & Mary Hayward (Sat. only, separate ticket needed).
Julie Moir Messervy, JMMDS, will give a talk on "Making a Landscape That Fits You and Your Property".
Cyndy Fine, Genius Loci, will lead a walking tour/talk on "Creating Biodiversity in Your Gardens".

Special Event Sunday 7/10 only:
Tour the oldest organic farm in Vermont, High Meadows Farm, with Howard & Lisa Prussack.

Rain or shine. Admission \$15 or 2 for \$25

Buy early for discounted tickets and group discounts on our website:
www.westminstercare.org / email: wecares@sover.net

Tickets available both days of the the tour in Westminster, Vermont at:
The Westminster Institute, Route 5, Westminster and the Haywards, McKinnon Road, Westminster West

Sponsored by Chroma, C&S Wholesale Grocers, Durand Toyota Ford, Silver Forest, Mascoma Savings Bank
Burtco, Inc., Vermont Country Store, Savings Bank of Walpole, Brattleboro Ford Subaru

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.

CREATIVITY EVENT SUCCESS



On Sunday, May 15, 18 artists from our town participated in the first "Westminster Creativity Event" held at the Institute. The event was organized by two of the artists, Kim Grall and Colleen Grout and featured artists and craftspeople showing and selling their work.

A diverse range of incredible talent was displayed including: jewelry; paintings (pastels, acrylics, watercolors); photography (prints and cards), mixed media; gourd work; knitting; and floral arrangements.

Westminster Cares would like to thank all the artists who donated ten percent of their proceeds; and to all those who purchased raffle tickets for the painting of Artie Aiken, donated by Colleen Grout. The lucky winner of the painting was Dempsey Potter!

ADVERTISE IN THE GAZETTE! Note New Rates

Annual Rates:
Pages 2-3
approx. 2.5"x3"
\$275 a year
\$30 for one month

Pages 4-7
approx. 3.5"x4"
\$525 a year
\$80 for one month

Page 8
approx. 1.5"x2.5"
\$175 a year
No one time ads

Underwriting Support is a donation of at least \$300 annually and does not include advertising. Underwriters are listed in the box on page 6 each month.

On-line at:
www.westminstervt.org



Home Providers Needed
HCRS is seeking individuals, couples and families willing to open their home to an adult or child with Developmental Disabilities. Providers are responsible for providing a safe, nurturing home and for role modeling positive behaviors. No experience is necessary. HCRS will provide training and support. Work from home and receive a generous tax-free stipend and respite budget. For more information, contact Corey Wilkinson at 802-886-4567 ext. 2781.



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**GENERAL PRACTICE, ESTATE PLANNING & ADMINISTRATION,
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MEMORIAL PLANTING SERVICE JUNE 5

The 18th annual Memorial Planting Service sponsored by Brattleboro Area Hospice will be on Sunday, June 5 at 4 p.m. at the Brattleboro Area Hospice Memorial Garden, Living Memorial Park, Guilford Street in Brattleboro.

Please join us as we gather to plant flowers, write and draw memorial messages on stones, and listen to beautiful music, all to honor and remember loved ones who have died. Flowers for planting and stones and materials for decorating them are provided. Names of those who have died in the past year will be read. Everyone is invited, so encourage family members and friends to come with you. This service can be an especially meaningful experience for children.

The service lasts less than an hour. A few chairs will be available for those who need them, otherwise, bring your own or a blanket to sit on if you want to sit. Afterwards we'll enjoy light refreshments. The service will be held if there's light rain. If it's raining heavily the event will be postponed until Tuesday, June 7 at 5 p.m. If in doubt about rain call the hospice office after 2 p.m. on June 5th at 257-0775 and press 4 for a special message.

ARTIE AIKEN TURNS 103 - COME CELEBRATE!



Westminster's oldest citizen, Artie Aiken, turns 103 this month.

Join the Celebration on Thursday, June 9th, gather on Route 5 at 6 p.m. to wave as Artie is driven through the village in an antique convertible. After a short ride the procession will head to the firehouse for cake and ice cream - everyone is welcome.

On Friday, June 10th, his actual birthday, Artie welcomes visitors to stop by his home and deliver birthday greetings. (79 School St.)

WHAT'S UP AT THE TOWN HALL: SETTING THE STORY STRAIGHT

Please make note: The Selectboard has changed the town's "newspaper of record" to the Shopper and as a second choice the Brattleboro Reformer. This change came because of the increases in cost for the town to post the "legal notices" for zoning permits, notices of tax sales etc. in the Brattleboro Reformer.

The rates have increased substantially in the past two years and the town is joining many neighbors in changing to a weekly paper for the savings. The only difference you will see immediately is the fact that zoning applications will be due by the first Monday of the month so that the administrators can process the application and get out the legal notice in time for proper notification.

Set the Story Straight: Many stories have been told and shared about the new Public Safety Facility on the Westminster Heights Road. The Town of Westminster was cited for a violation along with three other parties (Roger Farnsworth, Naylor & Breen, and Fitzpatrick Excavating) for dumping loose material near Newcomb Brook to which ran eventually in to the brook when water was introduced to it through rain and runoff.

Roger Farnsworth and Fitzpatrick Excavation have been mitigating the washouts as they were involved placing the fill there without the town's knowledge. The runoff that was mentioned earlier is from the state facility's land. The state's stormwater plan has failed and now the solution is to run it over the town's land to Newcomb Brook.

The Selectboard are in negotiations with the state through legal counsel to

hash out an agreement that all parties can live with, not only now, but in the future years with probable large storms are the reality. The town has placed a legal document to halt occupancy until this item is resolved. Due to the changes on the site plan, not only is the stormwater permit being revised, but the town's DRB permit, and possibly the Act 250 permit with the "Clean Water Act" criteria being reevaluated.

The town tried to expedite the process with simple requests but came up short of an agreement. The state is now saying that a July opening is slowly slipping away and it could be as late as fall before doors open.

Last Request: Please remember to register your dog(s). This was due on April 1st, but is not too late. The Town of Westminster registers approximately 1/3 of its dog population. This is a health violation at the state level.

All dogs need to be registered because of public safety. It does not matter if your dog stays home or is on a run. They all need to be registered for documentation of the dog's shots for public safety and your own. This fee is marginal and is based on whether the dog is neutered or spayed. Please take a moment and get your dog registered, it's the law.

The town has installed a new parking area for the Town Hall. It is behind the Post Office and is ready for use. Please do not park on our neighbors' lawn anymore, but use the new parking area. There are signs to help guide you. Thanks to the road crew for a great job as usual in creating this new facility.

As always, please feel free to call the Town Manager's Office regarding concerns, issues or comments.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER CARES

The Westminster Cares, Inc. Board of Directors met May 4th at the Westminster Institute with President Connie Sanderson presiding. The following board members attending: Reggie Borden, Robin Lawrence, Sally Ryea, Lori Larue, Don Dawson, Pete Harrison, Heidi Anderson and Director Donna Dawson. Barbara Sherrod and Miriam Lanata were unable to attend.

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

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

Services Provided in April:

Meals On Wheels - April: WC volunteers delivered meals five days a week to 13 different people. In addition, two frozen entrees were delivered each Friday to seven people on Fridays for weekend meals (14 total weekend meals).

Transportation - During the month of April, 27 rides were provided by nine volunteers who drove seniors to medical appointments; shopping and rehab appointments.

Nursing Program - During April, our community nurse made eight home visits on behalf of six seniors for medication management, blood pressure checks, foot care and hospitalization follow-ups. Isabelle saw an additional six seniors at the monthly Blood Pressure Clinic at Senior Lunch.

Meetings Attended by Staff in April - Attended two Healthy Aging groups. Met with our the new Hospice Care Coordinator, our nurse, vice-president and board president. Also met with Garden Tour committee, Gazette Board, Search Committee and Executive Committee.

Programs in April - Two Secrets of Healthy Aging session, three Gentle Yoga classes, 24 Strength Training classes, three Artist in Each of Us classes; five Chair Yoga classes and one Senior Lunch.

Assistance and Referrals in April: Assisted clients with referrals to disability agencies; DAV transportation options; caregiving and housekeeping services; library book delivery. Distribution of canned goods from WCS. Made one house visit to complete two M.O.W. intakes.

Medical Equipment - In April we loaned out six pieces of equipment. Four pieces of equipment were donated to us. Through a generous donor, we now have an additional storage shed to store larger pieces of equipment such as wheelchairs, hospital beds and the motorized scooter.

Westminster Cares welcomes donations throughout the year from anyone wishing to remember or honor a loved one or friend.

Memorial and Honorary Donations for April and May 2016

In memory of Barbara Stebbins, a former resident of Westminster, from Bill and Joan Smidutz

In memory of Reggie and George Cote from Stuart and Ellen Archambault

In memory of my mother, Pat Jennison, for Mother's Day from Cheryl Jennison

In memory of Reggie Cote from Miriam and Larry Lanata

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.

The Prudential Committee meets twice a month on the first and third Monday after the first Tuesday at 7 p.m. A warning will be posted 48 hours prior to each meeting.

Number of calls in April: 48 - a record

Number of calls through May 25th: 27

Number of calls calendar year to Date: 153

Number of calls fiscal year to date: 339

Association Meeting: The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association met for their regular meeting May 3rd with President Greg Holton presiding. There were 27 members present and 6 members excused. Currently there are 36 members of the volunteer fire department. Melissa Green of North Westminster was voted in as a new member. Melissa is a paramedic and will bring good skills to the department.

Awards: Each year during the association meetings in May, the chief hands out pins and certificates recognizing the members for their service at 5 year intervals.

Receiving pins and certificates this year were the following: Tony Coven and Pat Haas, 35 years Fire Chief Cole Streeter, Deputy Chief Mark Lund and Gary Cobb, 30 years Captain Tim Wilder, Rescue Lieutenant Jon Parker and Bill Muzzey, 25 years Pete Harrison and Kevin Shrader, 10 years

BENCHES: The Fire Department is looking for a couple of benches to put outside the front doorway of the Fire House. If anyone has any they would like to donate, contact Greg Holton 376-3334 or Pete Harrison 722-3080. We will be happy to pick them up.

POWER EQUIPMENT: A tip for those who still mow their own lawns, do

PLANT, CRAFTS, BAKED GOODS SALE

On Saturday, May 28 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. the Women's Fellowship of the Westminster First Congregational Church on Route 5 in Westminster, will host a plant, baked goods, crafts and white elephant sale.

There will also be pulled pork sandwiches, hotdogs & kraut, chips and drinks for sale. To go's will also be available.

their own rototilling, leaf blowing, cut their own wood or use other motorized power tools. After use, let the engines and mufflers cool down for awhile before storing them, especially in a wooden structure. Buildings have been known to catch fire when tools are put away before having time to cool off. Mufflers can stay hot for quite awhile after being shut off.

Swimming Safety: Now that summer weather has finally arrived, caution is urged for those swimming in pools, lakes and brooks. Be sure to have a good supply of life preservers on hand and "swimmies" for the little people. Watch for hazards such as low water, slippery decks and rocks. Be extra careful when diving to insure the water is deep enough and there is nothing in the water that could cause injury. Never swim alone and be sure there is ample supervision at all times, especially when little children are around.

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

Donations received : In memory of Reg Cote from Janice Wojcik

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.

THANK YOU!

Colleen Grout and I would like to thank the Westminster community for their over whelming support of our first ever event Celebrating Creativity In Westminster. We had a wonderful response by people who wanted to participate and a wonderful turnout on the day of the event. It was a lot of fun and something we can be really proud of our town for supporting.

Kim Grall

Herricks Cove Wildlife Festival

by Alma Beals, Vermont Master Gardener and Naturalist

For the past 17 years, our committee of 6 has planned the Herricks Cove Wildlife Festival in Rockingham on the first Sunday in May drawing in over 2500 people. This year our attendance was down by about half due to the rain but still people came. One advantage of keeping the date of the first Sunday in May is that we sign up most of our exhibitors for the following year at the Festival.

The Festival was started by Ascutney Mountain Audubon Society as a day of fun and education. We have kept the suggested donation at \$2 a person or \$5 a family so that everyone can afford the Festival.

We do not charge anyone for setting up. While many of our exhibits are free, many others are expensive. That is why we depend on our loyal sponsors. We have 8 sponsors: TransCanada, Imery's Talc, Ben & Jerry's, the Vermont Country Store, HB Energy Solutions, Bellows Falls Rotary, Mascoma Savings Bank and Eagle Optics. We have a local lady who gives us a nice donation each year which is much appreciated.

The day starts with a bird walk at 7 with Don Clark. He is one of the best birders in the area. This year a flush of birds arrived a day after the walk but usually the birds arrive on schedule. Many years we have observed a bald eagle overhead, almost as if we had ordered one to appear. Everyone always gets excited to see an eagle so close.

The exhibits and programs open at 10 and end at 4. One big hit is Jerry Schneider, our Monarch Butterfly expert. He can be seen with T-shirts laid out on the grass with kids painting designs on the shirts. Jerry has been with us since the first Festival and every year our Festival covers the expense of the shirts which now stand at 200. After 200, he charges \$4 a shirt.

A couple more hits with the kids are the large tortoise that is seen walking around and Smokey the bear. It's a tie whether the tortoise or Smokey get more pictures taken of them. There is also a kids' tent with crafts and face painting. What is a Festival without face painting! Lindsay and her puppet pals do a puppet show that the kids love. This is the fourth year she has been with us.

We try to find a live animal, such as a wolf, that we have had for several years to close out the Festival. When we couldn't get an animal, we tried Troy Wunderle's Big Top Adventures for the 3 to 4 spot last year and Troy was such a hit that this year we had his circus all day. Even with the rain pouring down, kids were still doing tricks. We have signed him up for next year so if you missed him this year, watch for next year.

Jim Andrews, Vermont's herpetologist, is always popular with his turtle walks. He can be seen with as many as 40 people trailing along behind him. He puts a turtle trap in the river and the trap catches fish as well as turtles. After looking at and discussing what is in the trap, they are released back into the river.

The Vermont Institute of Natural Science show draws in a big crowd



each year. People never get tired of watching the hawks and owls doing "bird on hand" presentations. This year they had two presentations as well as being there all day.

Mike Clough, the assistant director of the Southern Vermont Natural History Museum, gives a presentation each year as well as being with us all day. What he brings are hawks, owls and an assortment of little critters

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife has a tent full of information for adults if you are thinking the Festival is for kids only. New this year were Trout Unlimited and the Connecticut River Watershed Council. I hope you didn't miss Annette Spaulding with items she found while scuba diving.

After the Festival is over, we critique it, not only seeing what went well but also what needs improvement. We then rest for the summer. In September we start planning the next Festival.

Aged in Vermont

Westminster Cares, Inc.

FILE OF LIFE

The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association and Westminster Cares are continuing a program to distribute the File of Life refrigerator magnets to senior residents of Westminster.

The File of Life is a pouch containing vital medical information for an emergency person to access when entering someone's house. The card that goes into the pocket has sections for information regarding doctor's names, medicine currently taking, allergies to medicines, general medical history, diseases and emergency contact people.

It is the hope of the rescue personnel that every home they enter will have a File of Life on the refrigerator. There is also a sticker that can be placed on or by the entrance door signifying the presence of the File of Life.

Having the File of Life will benefit the first responders and the ambulance people by giving them immediate access to medical history. It could be especially useful in a case where someone is unconscious when medical assistance arrives or their information is too complicated for the patient to share. In an emergency situation, every minute counts.

There will be no charge for the File of life for Westminster Residents.

For more information or assistance in filling out the information card, please contact Westminster Cares at 722-3607 and someone will deliver a packet to you and help you fill in the information, or we can help update your current information.

BUTTERFIELD LIBRARY SUMMER READING

The theme this year is 'On your mark, get set ...READ' The Olympics are this Summer after all.

The program runs from June 13th through August 10th. We have all of the Red Clover, Dorothy Canfield Fisher and Green Mountain Book Awards. Bookmarks, reading logs and certificates will be given out at the party on August 10th.

The program is sponsored by the Vermont Department of Libraries

NEXT YEAR'S TRASH TAGS INFORMATION

Next year's trash tags will be mailed out mid-June and can be used immediately if needed. They are green in color this year and come in 10 sheets of five with two of the silver tags from last year.

This makes 52 new tags for the fiscal year starting July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017. Please note that either style tag will be acceptable to use in the coming year. They do not expire.

Please note that they are given out, like last year, one parcel with one residence. Renters or landlords may purchase the stickers at the Town Hall for additional users. Commercial users are not able to use this curbside service.

EXCURSIONS WITH PINNACLE ASSOCIATION

June will see two very different free excursions offered by the Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association.

On Saturday, June 4 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., long-time Grafton resident Richard Warren will lead a walk to some intriguing ruins from the small settlement of Old Grafton. Cellar holes are excavated pits that retain the foundation stones of their previous structures. A favorite key to the cultural history of an area, they also reveal a lot about the people who made them and used them in their daily lives.

A good explanation of them and other cultural and historic resources may be found online in a 49-page booklet by Robert Sanford and Don and Nina Huffer entitled Stonewalls & Cellarholes: A Guide for Landowners on Historic Features and Landscapes in Vermont's Forests and is published by the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation.

Participants are encouraged to wear waterproof shoes and bring along a camera and water. They should meet at the parking lot opposite The Nature Museum, 176 Townshend Road in Grafton, to carpool to the start. Register for the cellar hole program by calling Beverly Major at 387-5737.

Then on Sunday June 26 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Pinnacle Board Member Tony Coven will lead his famous Over the Hill Hike. Following the wilder route to lesser-known Latham Trail, hikers will go over the ridge and past an abandoned beaver pond, then briefly linger at the Pinnacle Cabin with its magnificent western view, before proceeding via more familiar Holden Trail to its kiosk and parking area for a return ride back to the original meeting place. Hikers should call Tony Coven at 387-6650 to register or receive additional information.

Participants on this longer hike should meet promptly at 9:30 a.m. at Westminster West Church to split cars and carpools between the start at Latham Trail and finish at the Holden Trail kiosk. They should bring water, lunch, snack, insect repellent, and sunscreen.

Visit www.windmillhillpinnacle.org for directions to the church, along with information about other upcoming Pinnacle Association programs.

CELEBRATE LESTER COOKS' 80TH

There will be an Open House to celebrate Lester Cooks 80th birthday. Come wish him "Happy Birthday" and enjoy some refreshments at The First Congregational Church in Westminster from 2 to 4 on June 25.

WESTMINSTER MYSTERY PHOTO

WE NEED MORE WESTMINSTER MYSTERY PHOTOS, AND WOULD ALSO BE INTERESTED IN SUBMISSIONS ABOUT SOME OF WESTMINSTER'S INTERESTING HISTORY, SUCH AS ABOUT LAST MONTH'S ABENAQUE MACHINE WORKS PHOTO. FEEL FREE TO SUBMIT YOUR IDEAS AND PROPOSALS!

**E-mail your answer to westminsternews@gmail.com.
The answer and the winners are announced in the next issue, page 3.**

KURN HATTIN HONORS VOLUNTEERS



Kurn Hattin Homes for Children celebrated its 123 volunteers at the May 4, 2016 Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon.

School Principal Noah Noyes thanked the volunteers, "Kurn Hattin is so fortunate to have so many kind, generous, and dedicated volunteers. In addition to their commitment to deserving children, they are excellent role models of community service. They are truly an integral part of Kurn Hattin."

The children gave their thanks as well and presented the volunteers with a handmade thank you card and a Kurn Hattin pen.

Volunteers being celebrated are: William Abbott, Donna Aldrich, Daniel Antosiewicz, Jean Anderson, Jerry & Linda Bardwell, Christopher W. Barry, Diane Bazin, Jeff Bianconi, Michael Blau, Mark Bodin, John Bohannon, Barbara Brackett, Gordon Bristol, Stephanie Brown, Scott Bundy, Deborah Burrows, Phil Caliendo, Fran Cheslock, Keith Clark, Paul Clough, Pat Crotty, Darrel and Marion Daley, Jaime Dansereau, Sr., Ruth DeMone, Shirley Doyle, Tim Eno, Deborah Fajans, Michael Fawcett, Bill Fenn, Amy Fletcher, Justin Fuller, Chris Goding, Terry Gulick, Christopher Hackett, Nancy Hamblet, Deb Hamel, Father Lance W. Harlow, Martha Harrington, Elizabeth and Mike Henry, Chris and Jean Hodsden, Marya Holcombe, John A. Hubbard, Geoffrey Illingworth, Stacey Illingworth, Lyssa Jackson, Carol Johnson, Barbara Joy, Charles P. Kelsey, Doreen Kelton, Kenneth King, Kay Kloppenburg, Jon Korpela, Michelle Laurendeau, Bertha Lawrence, Abigail Littlefield, James A. Lynch, Reverend Sami McRae, Elizabeth Maiola, Jackie Mallory, Jimmy Malley, Rick Manson, Bruce Martin, Barbara Matteson, Taylor Maynard, Walter B. Menzel, Kathleen Michel, Corey Mitchell, Jeanne Moore, Marilyn E. Moore, David Morse, Rhonda Nolan, George Nostrand, Sue Nostrand, Michael J. Obuchowski, Frank Patterson, Rebecca Pedigo, Phil Perlah, Mrs. Frank J. Prindl, Rita Ramirez, John and Laura Reed, Leslie Vander Meuler Richards, Caryl Richardson, James Robertson, Anita Roy, William J. Scarlett, IV, Amy Sciacca, Sheldon Scott, Donald Shaughnessy, Robert & Elaine Sinclair, Tina Smith, Merton Snow, Lindsey Soboleski, Janice Sussebach, Dr. Vernon Temple, Polly Thompson, Matt Tomberg, Roberta Violette, Virginia Watson, Joan Willey, Janet Wilson, Greg Worden, and Bette Wunderle.

Also recognized were numerous dedicated staff members who volunteer during their free time.

If you would like more information on volunteer opportunities at Kurn Hattin Homes, please call 721-6924 and speak with Martha Ruffle.

Pictured above, volunteers at the 2016 Kurn Hattin Homes' Volunteer Recognition Luncheon (l-r) Betty Maiola, Newport, NH; Terry Gulick, Springfield, VT; Doreen Kelton, Westminster, VT; Nancy Hamblet, Walpole, NH; Janet Wilson, Walpole, NH; Ginger Cook, Westminster, VT; Sue Nostrand, Putney, VT; Jean Anderson, Charlestown, NH; Howard & Judy Putnam, Walpole, NH; Anita Roy, Springfield, VT; Jean Hodsden, Bellows Falls, VT; Barbara Brackett, Walpole, NH; Chris Hodsden, Bellows Falls, VT; Mike Fawcett, Westminster, VT; Sally Mundell, Wilmington, VT; and Marya Holcombe, Walpole, NH.

WESTMINSTER HAPPENINGS

Activities

Scottish Country Dance Classes

Every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Westminster Center School Gym. 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.

Chair Yoga

Every Friday from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at the First Congregational Church in Westminster. 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 first Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the library. They welcome visits from the public. Contact Lisa Cavanaugh at 387-4682.

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.

Souper Wednesday

Souper Wednesday is held every Wednesday at the 1st Congregational Church from noon to 2 p.m., January through April. There are choices of three soups including a vegetarian choice. Wed, May 4th will end the soup season with a barbeque outside the church.

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 Malcolm Toleno.

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/.

Walpole Unitarian Church

Services are presented by Rev. Lisa Mobayed M.Div. Worship services are at 10 a.m. Children's Religious Education begins at 10 a.m. with the adults and moves to Hastings House at 10:15. Refreshments and conversation are held after the service with the children included. www.walpoleunitarian.org.

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 6:30 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

1st Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Westminster West Public Library.

Development Review Board

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

Community Improvement Program Committee

meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

Westminster Cares Board - No Summer Meetings

1st Wednesday of every month, at the Westminster Institute at 4:30 p.m.

911 Committee

as needed.

The Westminster Fire & Rescue Dept.

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

Westminster Historical Society

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

Westminster Gazette Meeting

Monday, June 27 at 4:30 p.m. at the Westminster Institute

Westminster Institute Board

will meet on Tuesday, May 10 at 7 p.m. in the Institute.

**THE GAZETTE
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THE SUPPORT
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Kurn Hattin Homes
Westminster School District
Town of Westminster
Westminster Activities Commission
Sojourns Community Health Clinic
Westminster Cares
Westminster Fire & Rescue
Association
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WESTMINSTER GAZETTE

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**The Deadline for
the July Issue of the
Westminster Gazette is
Wednesday,
June 29
Publish Date is
Tuesday, July 5**

**To Contact the
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AMBITIOUS ADVENTURES FROM COMPASS SCHOOL

I sit in the hostel in Lima, Peru beside Mathew Sawyer marveling at how far, literally, he has come. Not able to even attend school in 5th and 6th grade due to health issues, he finds himself, now in 11th grade, 8,000 miles from his family in Westminster, along with 10 of his classmates equally far from home.

So, what are these students learning?

How good it is to have clean water? The value of a hot shower, how to wash clothes in the sink, how to buy fruit from a cart on the street (in Spanish, no less), how to find the street vendors selling bread, why earplugs are helpful in the city, how to use the subway, what it feels like to squish in a bus with a hundred sweaty fellow humans, how to stand in the shade, to stop and appreciate the view, the thrill of ordering in a foreign restaurant and actually getting the chicken and rice you expected, when it is right to take a break, how to care about others, how to take care of yourself?

Or meeting world travelers backpacking throughout South America for a year (or more), playing guitar and singing with people from Germany, Ireland, England, Sweden, and Holland, cooking over a tiny gas stove, riding an overnight bus, keeping track of everything you need to live that fits in a small duffel, keeping open to new experiences, tasting new food, jumping in when your initial inclination is to back away?

And although "everything" is so different this far from home, there is real learning in coming to realize so much is the same. Seeing that we are all human, trying to lead worthy lives where we are healthy, can take care of family, have good relations with others, and contribute to our community. That we all thrive on clean air and water, good food, beautiful scenery, and safe surroundings. That the world is huge and full of wonder, but small and amazingly accessible. That I am capable of feeling at home wherever I lay my head. Learning about yourself and your place in the world.

In an era where so much in education seems to be about ever-longer lists of what kids need to know, it is moving to see this deep, profound, completely immersive learning for our students on their Global Connections journey.

As important as it is to understand Manifest Destiny or how to use the Pythagorean theorem or the function of Boyle's Law, it is equally valuable to know oneself. What are your strengths and areas for growth? How do you function in difficult circumstances? What are your limits, and what is your potential? How do you push your boundaries and how willing are you to explore new horizons? How do you shape your experiences to enhance your life, and hopefully the lives of others?

These are the kind of questions students begin to address on the 11th grade Global Connections trip. Compass is unique in its commitment to making this life changing experience accessible to all its students. And although this travel is not always easy for every student (some of whom have never been away from home before, let alone on a plane, let alone 8,000 miles from home), the experience demands that students reach deep inside themselves to understand themselves and their place in the larger world.

The Global Connections experience is certainly not the only place we engage students with these important life challenges. Spring trips to New York or Boston or Cape Cod push younger students to navigate the world beyond the school walls, to exercise self-care, to explore new places, and to expand their horizons outside Vermont.

Portfolio work asks students to reflect on themselves as learners, to document their developing proficiencies, to identify strengths and areas for growth, and to celebrate accomplishments while setting future direction.

Virtually every experience at Compass contributes to greater self-understanding for our Compass students. From Giving Day to Project Week to Community Service Winter Term, students shape their identity in relation to the world around them. In academic assignments such as the 60's museum or 10 minute plays or, perhaps most powerfully, for the capstone Student Film Festival, students demonstrate skills such as creative thinking, problem solving, decision making, persistence, collaboration, communication, and respect for themselves and the learning process.

It is hard enough to teach students how to read primary source documents or factor polynomial equations or apply the scientific method or conjugate Spanish verbs. But when we set our sights only on these academic goals, we aim much too low for what our children need to be prepared for the dynamic world of the 21st century. Engaging stu-



Above, Westminster resident Mathew Sawyer at Machu Picchu in Peru.

dents in the complexity of the world outside of school, with all its uncertainties, imperfections and wonder, provides a context in which each student can develop the knowledge, skills, and personal qualities essential to pursuing their dreams and having a positive impact on the world.

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For more information about Rotary, contact Alma Beals at almabeals@gmail.com or 722-3355

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