

Westminster Gazette



po box 147 westminster vt 05158

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

Vol. 7, No. 3 March 2011



#1 Summer Maze



The Musical, "Snow Day.."



#2 The Dragon

Winter Fun at Kurn Hattin submitted by Kim Fine

Westminster – What a winter! everyone's saying. Snow, Snow, Snow. So why not have some fun? And fun we had. The Kurn Hattin children created a snow sculpture at each of their residential cottages in a contest that resulted in two winners. The winners, Maysilles and Warner Cottages won a pizza party and the Maysilles Cottage girls, the first place winners, also won a month of Wii to play. To end the week, the children performed their musical, Snow Day, for staff and family before going home for spring break. Pictured are the winning snow sculptures, #1 Summer Maze and #2 The Dragon and children singing in Snow Day. Kurn Hattin Homes is a residential, year-round, charitable home and school for in-need and at-risk children, ages 6-15, from throughout the Northeast.

Compass School Cultural Immersion in the Dominican Republic submitted by Rick Gordon

We are far from home, more in spirit than in miles. It is hard to overstate how different the living conditions here are from life in Vermont. It is also hard to overstate how adaptable, and seemingly happy, all the Compass kids are here in Tres Ceibas, this tiny farming village in the hills of the Dominican Republic. I guess the fact that they actually have electricity, which usually works for part of every other day, maybe exceeds our expectations. Little else here raises life much beyond the poorest of communities anywhere on the planet, with little changes in lifestyle from 100 years ago.

The palm leaf huts now serve mostly as outdoor kitchens. The houses are made of concrete blocks or thin pieces of hand-cut wood with plenty of spaces for natural air conditioning that allows us to be surprisingly chilly at night. Dirt floors are as common as cement, and walls are merely dividers of small spaces that do nothing to muffle sound or promote privacy.

And yet, everyone (our kids as well as our host families) seems more than comfortable. We are active

from dawn to dark, the food is healthy and hearty, and our only means of transport is by foot—up to clear the bean field, to teach English at the school, to "town" for afternoon basketball, two miles down to the river to bathe.

Absent the comforts of home, our kids find wonder in the most simple of things—the soda from the tienda, frozen treats from the traveling ice cream cart, a stale cookie, washing clothes by hand in a bucket, finding someone who speaks a tiny bit of English, recognizing another of our many friends we have met in passing. In our last full day, the kids want to stay longer here, where they feel so comfortable and at home.

The 11th grade Global Connections Dominican Republic Program was a spectacular success in all aspects. This program has many goals. Among these are:

- * Developing cross cultural understanding
- * Learning how to be a "traveler, not a tourist"
- * Appreciation of life in less developed parts of the world
- * Engaging in service
- * Extensive practice with Spanish language
- * To assure every Compass student has an international experience, regardless of family income

Our adventures in the Dominican Republic achieved these and much more. In two weeks of cultural immersion and service, the students of the junior class experienced the wide range of life in this country that was the birthplace of Western culture in this hemisphere. Everyone returned safe, healthy, and with new appreciation for life here and the wonders of lives throughout the world.

The students on this trip deserve immense praise for their tremendous adaptability and positive attitudes. Their openness and outreach invited others to be incredibly open with them, leading to countless new friendships and experiences that most travelers will never have. While a part of this trip is direct service in Dominican communities, the real service for me is the personal connections between individuals from our country and theirs—sharing from the heart in way that makes the world a more peaceful and caring place. The power of these experiences will resonate with these students for years to come, and with those whose lives we touched.



Compass Students with Their Host Families



One of the Family Stay Homes



Compass Students Kailey Rinder and Manya Gordon walk to the River with Dominican Friend

**IT'S TIME TO PURCHASE
YOUR 2011
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**2011 Rabies Clinic
will be held at the
Town Garage
on
March 26, 2011
between
10am and 12 noon.
Cost: \$10.00 and
Dog Licenses will be
available at that time.**

**In lieu of mailing, Annual Town Reports will be available at the following locations no later than February 16, 2011:
Town Offices, Butterfield Library, Westminster West Library, Westminster West School, and Westminster Center School.**

*The editor of the Westminster Gazette
would like to apologize to our readers
for the inability to read the above announcement
in the February 2011 issue of the Westminster Gazette.*



BRATTLEBORO SUBARU

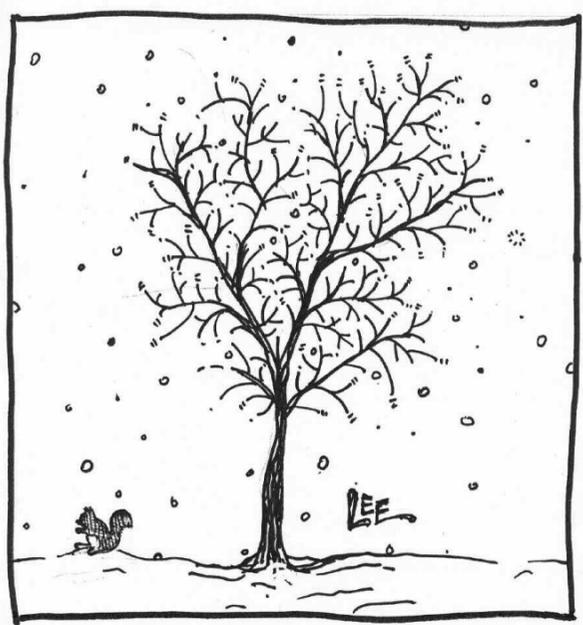
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**WESTMINSTER
GAZETTE**

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**Pictures and Articles
Provided by the
Community**
westminsternews@gmail.com

Connecticut River Transit is now...

The Current

Let The Current take you there!

*We have a new look, but we're the same safe, reliable service you've come to depend on. When you call **The Current**, you'll get the same helpful, professional staff answering the phone. When you board **The Current** buses, the same professional drivers will take you where you need to go.*



Why change the look?
*In a rural region, many residents don't know public transit exists! The goal of **The Current's** look is to make it difficult NOT to notice us. The more people notice public transit, the more they are likely to get out of their cars and onto a bus! When you leave your car behind and ride **The Current**, you decrease your energy consumption, improve environmental quality, and save commuting costs. If you are unable to drive or don't have transportation, you can benefit by riding on our Dial-a-Ride and volunteer network. We Provide the Ride... so please tell us how we can improve to make that happen for you. Thank you for riding Connecticut River Transit last year and **The Current** this year.*

Bellows Falls - Brattleboro Commuter Schedule											
Bellows Falls to Brattleboro						Brattleboro to Bellows Falls					
Time	5:45	6:00	6:15	6:30	6:45	Time	7:00	7:15	7:30	7:45	8:00
Depart	6:00	6:15	6:30	6:45	7:00	Depart	7:00	7:15	7:30	7:45	8:00
Arrive	6:15	6:30	6:45	7:00	7:15	Arrive	7:15	7:30	7:45	8:00	8:15

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\$150 12 months (page 8)
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BELLOWS FALLS





High Expectations for Westminster Students

Knowing what you want helps you get there. Educational futures are no exception. Last week, Westminster Center School's two 6th grade classes made an exciting trip to Castleton State College to learn about educational possibilities. An exuberant football coach welcomed the group to campus and had them begin their college experience by closing their eyes and picturing themselves in 10 years. Many of the students saw themselves at college. The coach reminded those gathered that they couldn't accomplish anything unless they have a mental picture of it first. Much of this day involved picture taking of one kind or another.

Students took photographs as they toured campus and ate lunch in the dining hall. After lunch, one group directed, produced, and filmed a television interview while the other group joined the college newspaper staff to interview people on campus. This group also had the opportunity to go on air² at the radio station. The Westminster students finished their day with a swim in the College's pool and a bus ride back to their school.

The trip to Castleton is part of High Expectations, a Westminster program to help students and families think about their educational futures.

³It is not about getting every one to go to Castleton, it is about having a plan, thinking about how you are going to live your life and how you are going to get there,² says Principal Steve Tullar.

THE GAZETTE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT OF ITS UNDERWRITERS:

Kurn Hattin Homes
Westminster School District
Town of Westminster
Durand Automotive Group
Westminster Activities
Commission
Sojourns Community Health
Clinic
Westminster Cares
Westminster Fire & Rescue
Association
The Current operated by the
Connecticut River Transit
Brattleboro Subaru

BELLOWS FALLS UNION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL MATHEMATICS COMPETITION

Submitted by:
Suzanne Groenewold
Public Relations

The 62nd annual American Mathematics competition was held in February with four students from the Bellows Falls Union High School competing. Emily Gehly, Courtney Perry, Chace Perkins and Stewart Shaughnessy, participated in the American Mathematics Contest (AMC). The students competed for local, regional and national student and school awards. The contest, which covers high school mathematics, is given in participating schools. Its purpose is to spur interest in mathematics and develop talent through the excitement of friendly competition at problem solving in a timed format. In 2010 over 220,000 students from 4,200 schools participated in the AMC 10 & AMC 12 contest including 8 students from BFUHS. Top scorers at BFUHS were Alyson Hewitt, Brendan Hackett, and Hannah Hodsdon. According to Prof. Steven Dunbar, who serves as Director of the American Mathematics Competitions, the AMC 12 (first offered in 1950), and the AMC 10 (first offered in 2000), are part of a series of contests sponsored each year by The Mathematical Association of America, through their program, the American Mathematics Competitions. The AMC offers the only math competition series in the country leading to the United States of America Mathematical Olympiad (USAMO) and the Mathematical Olympiad Summer Program (MOSP). From this group of students, the AMC sends the highly competitive USA Team to the prestigious annual International Mathematical Olympiad.

The AMC is located at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln and receives support from the Akamai Foundation, Academy of Applied Sciences, American Mathematical Association of Two Year Colleges, American Mathematical Society, American Statistical Association, Art of Problem Solving, Awesome Math, Canada/USA Mathcamp, Casualty Actuarial Society, IDEA Math, Institute for Operations, Research and the Management Sciences, Jane Street, MathPath, Math Zoom Academy, Mu Alpha Theta, National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, Pi Mu Epsilon, Society of Actuaries, USA Math Talent Search, W. H. Freeman and Company. The Contests are given across the U.S.A, Canada, and in many schools abroad. Details concerning the 2011 AMC 10/12 contests for High School, as well as the rest of AMC's programs are available on the AMC web site: amc.maa.org/. For further information contact the AMC -- email: amcinfo@maa.org, telephone: 800-527-3690.



Kurn Hattin Librarian, Sally Mundell with children

AWARD-WINNING LIBRARIAN RECOGNIZED FOR STUDENTS READING ACHIEVEMENT

by Kim Fine

Westminster-Kurn Hattin Homes' librarian has received national recognition for the sixth consecutive year for outstanding support of reading education. Sally Mundell, Librarian at Kurn Hattin Homes in Westminster, VT, was awarded Reading Model Library by Renaissance Learning, a Wisconsin based company. Library certification indicates that Mundell's efforts to support teachers have resulted in measurable improvements in student performance at New England Kurn Hattin Homes.

"Sally exemplifies the kind of commitment to the success of every student that is at the heart of effective schools," said Judi Paul, Co-Chair of the Board at Renaissance Learning.

To receive Renaissance Library certification as a Reading Model Library, librarians must document that their practices encourage student access to a wide variety of books as well as supporting reading practice and self-directed learning. In addition, the librarian must be actively working with individual students to meet Renaissance recommended standards for reading achievement. Kurn Hattin Homes is a year-round, residential home and school for in-need and at-risk children, ages 6-15, from throughout the Northeast.



Westminster Schools Benefit for Our Place

On Friday, February 11, students of the Westminster Schools wore their pajamas to school. It wasn't that they were still sleepy. No, they were participating in the annual "PJ Day" benefit for Our Place. Students who wished to wear their pajamas had to bring either a food item or a dollar to school. The proceeds were delivered by students who were involved in the organization of the day. Assisted by school counselor, Jon Schottland, the students delivered 45 pounds of food and \$45 to Our Place in Bellows Falls.



Natalie Kinsey-Warnock with Skye

March is LITERACY MONTH at the Westminster Schools

by Liz Bourne

In this long month, when winter's not quite gone and spring's not quite here, NOW is the time to find a few good books, snuggle down and read, read, read! Our schools celebrate this reading-est of months in many ways:

* The March Reading Challenge! – The 23rd annual Reading Challenge starts on March 7th and runs through the 31st. The 2011 program is called "Anything Is Possible!" Our goal is "to help all students discover and achieve their full potential, both in school and in life," thanks to the creativity and imagination released from the pages of books. To participate, pick up Challenge packets at your school or public library, set reading goals, and log your reading minutes every day.

* Finding Family Stories! - Natalie Kinsey-Warnock's love of reading began in her childhood on a dairy farm in the Northeast Kingdom. She's now an award-winning author of books for children, most of which are set right here in Vermont. Ms Kinsey-Warnock will drive down Rt 91 to visit us for two days, March 22nd and 23rd. Her presentation on Tuesday morning will "show how many of my stories are based on my life and my true family stories." During her visit she'll hold workshops designed "to encourage students to explore the stories in their families."

* Literacy Celebration and Open House! – Join us on the evening of Wednesday, March 23rd for a gala celebration of reading and writing. Student work will be showcased in every classroom. Much of that work will demonstrate how children use technology to learning to read and write. The keynote speaker at this event will be our visiting author, Natalie Kinsey-Warnock; her books will be on sale. Festivities will run from 5:00 – 7:00.

* Contact the school for more information on any of these topics! 722- 3241



Outdoor Adventure Program

Winter Sports at the Schools

If you attend the Westminster Schools, you will be active outdoor between December and February vacations. Students, parents and staff head for the hills, fields and rinks, participating in the Winter Sports Program. We had a lot of fun these past Mondays, and owe hearty thanks to: townsfolk who voted budget support for the program; parents who chaperoned, taught, helped out and fundraised over the years; the fire department who maintain the school

Renewable Energy Vermont Launches Premier Online Resource

Montpelier, VT, January 25, 2011 - Renewable Energy Vermont (REV), the state's leading and trade association for the renewable energy industry, announces the launch of the totally redesigned www.revermont.org website.

After a six-month-long design partnership with Washington D.C.-based firm Momenta Creative, REV is excited to offer the premier online source for information on renewable energy in Vermont. Packed with resources on renewable energy technologies, incentives, events, trainings, installer listings, and more, the new REV website features easy-to-use navigation, engaging photography, and informative video content.

"With this new website, REV set out to create 'one-stop-shopping' for everything people want to know about renewable energy," said Interim REV Executive Director Scott Merriam. "We feel confident that we've met that goal, and are eager to share the results with the Vermont public."

Key upgrades to the new site include:

All-new Technology pages with easy-to-understand explanations, FAQs, links to further resources, photos and videos; everything consumers need to understand and research renewable energy technologies, and connect to renewable energy installers, manufacturers, builders, and more

Success Stories page highlighting the important progress the renewable energy industry is making right now in Vermont
Renewable energy news, legislative updates, events and training listings all regularly updated and collected on the new REV Blog Redesigned, easy-to-use directory of REV Members, searchable by technology type, business type, area code, and more
Easy-to-use navigation, engaging photography, and informative video content

With collaborative features such as individual REV member pages and the REV Blog, REV expects the new site to become a growing and dynamic hub of renewable energy interest and action in Vermont.

About Renewable Energy Vermont, www.revermont.org

Renewable Energy Vermont (REV) is working to bring about an intelligent transformation from a foreign fossil fuel based economy to an economy increasingly based on our own renewable energy.

IN THE WINTER

by Babs Lynde, a Vermont Master Gardener

GROWING VEGGIES It's hard to eat fruits and vegetables grown half a world away in the winter time after having enjoyed your own garden just a few months before. Not only do the store veggies have a different flavor to them, but they cost more, too. Fruits and vegetables can increase in price as much as one-third during the off-season, but the real shame is that the flavor difference can be startling if you love home-grown. Tomatoes, for example, are often picked and shipped while still green. Some of them are exposed to a spray-hormone which causes them to ripen very quickly so by the time they make it to the stores, they are bright red in color, but the flavor is not nearly as satisfying as home-grown. So what other options do you have if you want your veggies garden fresh and not overly priced? Well, it's possible to grow a few of them right inside your home if you have all the right ingredients – plenty of sunshine, water, good growing soil and viable seeds.

Unfortunately, not all veggies are good for growing in the waning sunlight hours of the winter. Not only is the sun out for fewer hours, but it's also lower in the sky which means the intensity of the light is not as strong. So you need to choose your varieties wisely, especially if you also have limited space. The best crops to grow are those that require less light, shorter growing times, and cooler temperatures. These would include many herbs such as chives, oregano, parsley and some varieties of basil. You can also choose from several loose leaf varieties of lettuce, spinach, carrots, radishes, and small tomatoes including hanging cherry and grape varieties.

First you have to decide if you have a good place for growing. Bay windows with a southern exposure are the best locations. If you don't have a bay window or windows with extra wide sills, it's still possible to grow them near a window. You can either use a small, narrow table, or you can use window plant pots that are designed to hang off your window sill, but inside instead of out. You can also use hanging plant pots if they hang low enough to get plenty of sunshine.

2011 KURN HATTIN SUMMER SPORTS CAMPS

Westminster, VT— It's not too early to starting planning for your children's summer sports camps. The Kurn Hattin Summer Sports Camp provides your child with a variety of learning experiences and places an emphasis on high quality individual and small group instruction. Our philosophy is learning by doing. Trained instructors from a variety of backgrounds will instruct in all facets of basic skills and strategies. Staff evaluation through observation and constructive feedback will aid the campers in development of the target skills. The camp schedule is as follows.

Girls Softball Camp—Ages 11-14

Camp Director: Sara Frantz June 27-July 1 9:00-noon
Cost: \$70

Girls Basketball Camp—Ages 11-14

Camp Director: Tom Fahner July 11-15 9:00-noon
Cost \$70

COED Basketball Camp—Ages 8-10

Camp Director: Sara Frantz July 18-22 9:00-noon
Cost: \$70

Boys Basketball Camp—Ages 11-14

Swimming and lunch included. July 25-29 9:00-3:30 p.m.
Cost: \$125
Camp Director: Jarrod James

COED Soccer Camp—Ages 11-14

Camp Director: Dean Kinville August 8-12 9:00-noon
Cost: \$70

For additional information, a camp brochure or to register, contact Tom Fahner at (802) 721-6918.

"Arabian Nights" New England Classical Academy's Spring Play Performed at the Claremont Opera House

Claremont, NH) New England Classical Academy (NECA), in Claremont, NH will performed their spring production of "Arabian Nights" at the Claremont Opera House on Friday, March 18 at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, March 19 at 1:00 p.m.

Following last year's success of "The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe", director Heidi Fagan will again direct the cast with a magical tale of the stories "Thousand and One Arabian Nights." The King of Persia, broken-hearted after the betrayal of his first wife, has vowed to marry every evening and then kill his bride every morning. Hoping to stop the King, the daughter of the Vizier, Scheherezade, offers to marry him and tells him a story that evening, promising to tell the conclusion the next night. Fascinated by her storytelling, the King postpones her execution for one thousand and one nights, until he realizes his wrongdoing and falls in love with the clever Scheherezade.

Tickets are \$6.00 per person and can be purchased at New England Classical Academy at (603) 542-6341 as well as the Claremont Opera House at (603) 542-4433 both in Claremont, NH.

www.newenglandclassicalacademy.com

If you start your plants in the early winter, be sure to pick from seed packets that are dated for that year. If you wait until late winter, such as March, some of the earlier veggie seed packets may be out and you can have a better chance of a successful crop. Always read the information on the back of the seed packets and choose plants that require early or fewer hours of sun and ripening time. You may have to give up some of your more favorite varieties in order for your veggies to ripen quickly during the winter months.

Seedlings stand a better chance of not dampening off (molding) if you provide them with additional lighting. Many stores carry full-spectrum lighting or "grow" lights in fluorescent or incandescent bulbs, but they also tend to be a little warmer than your average light, so make sure to use the right equipment capable of using full-spectrum lights. These lights also dry out the soil a little faster, too, so check every day to ensure you have just the right amount of moisture in your pots. You don't want them to dry out and dehydrated the roots, but you also don't want the soil too wet and cause mold problems. Over-watering is typically the most frequent mistake that people make for indoor plants of any type. Try misting the soil until the plants are capable of handling poured water. Also, plant the seeds with plenty of growing room between each one, or thin out the seedlings more than you would your regular garden to give young roots plenty of growing space.

And speaking of soil, here's a situation where good quality soil or compost is an absolute must! Because you already have other limiting factors, buy soil or compost specially designed for seedlings and indoor vegetation to ensure just the right amount of nutrients for young plants.

Would you like more information about growing vegetables in the winter? The Master Gardeners of Vermont are trained to help you with all your needs. Call their Helpline toll-free at 1-800-639-2230, send questions by email to mastergardener@uvm.edu or visit their website at <http://www.uvm.edu/mastergardener/> for extensive information.

Aged in Vermont

Westminster Cares, Inc.

Peaceable Living

By Don Dawson, Westminster Cares Board Member

We had moved our mother into a new assisted living complex in early 2000. It was such a wonderful place. It gave my mother independence, yet we knew she was being watched over in the event of an emergency. My four sisters and two brothers helped with the move; as stressful as it was, it clearly took a toll on our mother as well. This wasn't what she wanted, yet she knew deep down that this was the best for her welfare. She couldn't live alone, so far from friends and family, and this was her new home. It had now been two months since that move, and this was my first visit to her new place. Imagine my shock when we walked into what looked like a complete stranger's home. All her belongings were gone, replaced with new furnishings. A few familiar pictures adorned the walls, reminders of her life well-lived. The only other remaining items that truly meant something quite powerful to my mom were our old couch and a chime clock.

The chime clock hung neatly in the dining room, as it always had but now no longer chimed (I fixed the clock later). The couch had been the centerpiece in our home for many years; lots of holiday gatherings, laughter by the fire, curled up watching Sunday football. But because a few of my family members who live nearest to my Mom didn't care for the couch (it's old and falling apart), it was placed on the screened-in porch at the new complex. Want to guess where my mother was spending nearly all of her time? My sisters had taken the lead in this effort because we were moving my Mom close by to their homes. However, my sisters did what they would have wanted for their aging years. They set up a Laura Ashley-like home, picture perfect in every way - except that it wasn't perfect for our mother.

If I had to do it all over again, I would have spoken to my mother in more detail before the move. I would have spoken to my sisters before they did what they thought was the right thing. Their hearts were in the right place but they never thought about how simply our Mother liked to live. I didn't want to chastise my sisters for turning my mother's new place into a showroom, because they did a great job. However, I did ask: "Where did her memories end up?" It wasn't a pleasant discussion.

As our parents age, let's remember that there's a balance between allowing them to live their lives in the way in which they have already lived their many years and how we'd like to see them live out their remaining years. **TALK TO THEM NOW!** Talk to your siblings. Have a plan. Reacting to circumstances is not a plan but a trap that will cause more anger, arguments and frustration at a time when you need to be compassionate, understanding and consoling.

Yes, health, memory issues and mental capacity play into all of these decisions and can certainly change decisions made previously. But starting a dialogue sooner allows everyone to better understand what to expect further down the road.

WESTMINSTER CARES, INC.

The Westminster Cares, Inc. Board of Directors met on February 9, 2011. Westminster Cares creates opportunities for seniors and disabled adults to live with independence and dignity in the community. Your support to this care-giving organization is a way for all of us to take care of our friends.

Services provided: Meals on Wheels - 16 people are receiving meals 5 days a week. Transportation: 16 rides for 6 different people by 5 volunteers for a total of 420 miles; Visiting - volunteers visiting three people; Nursing program - 12 hours; 11 visits to 6 different homes and a blood pressure clinic; Equipment loan - several pieces loaned including a lift chair and odds and ends of walkers and commodes. We have also received donations of many pieces of equipment. Legal assistance: A local volunteer lawyer is assisting a senior with her advanced directives

Meetings attended by the director in January: Development director, Executive Comm., Publicity Comm., bookkeeper, Gazette, art program, garden tour.

Programs in January: 2 Secrets of Healthy Aging session, 4 Yoga classes, 24 Strength Training classes held. The Artist in Each of Us classes have been postponed until spring.

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

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

Equipment available: Wheel chair, walkers, hospital bed, commodes, shower chairs, etc.

Memorial donations received for the month of February

From anonymous in memory of Frank Walter
 From Alma Beals in memory of Frank Walter
 From Alma Beals in memory of Hank Anderson
 From Walt Jennison in memory of Frank Walter
 From Bill and Joan Smidutz in memory of Hank Anderson
 From Pat and Bob Haas in memory of Hank Anderson
 From Shear Madness in memory of Helen Aiken
 From Isolde Parda and Peter Parda in memory of Helen Aiken
 From Robert Rhodes in memory of Hank Anderson
 From John Narkiewicz in memory of Helen Aiken
 From Barbara Dyer in memory of Hank Anderson
 From Jane Bristol in memory of Hank Anderson
 From Jane Bristol in memory of Frank Walter
 From Neil and Carroll Metrick in memory of Frank Walter
 From Neil and Carroll Metrick in memory of Hank Anderson
 From Neil and Carroll Metrick in memory of Helen Aiken
 From the Westminster Aqueduct Society in memory of Hank Anderson

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

WESTMINSTER MYSTERY PHOTO



Where is this bridge located and when was it replaced by a cement bridge?

donated by the "National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges."

You may email your answer to the westminsternews@gmail.com or wminster@comcast.net Phone: Babs Lynde at 802-722-9516

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

February Answer: Was the main street of Westminster back when we used to have sidewalks! You can see the town hall on the right side and the old Walker store on the left side before it burned down. You can also see the row of sugar maple trees that were planted along the road on both sides which are almost completely gone now..

February Winners: Pat Haas, Richard Todd and Bob Rhodes. The picture was donated by David Wright, and he says it was taken around 1895 because you can see one of the gas lights (located by the store) that used to line our streets.

If you have pictures you think would make a great mystery photo stop by the town office and see Babs Lynde. **We are in search of pictures.**

News from Westminster Volunteer Fire and Rescue

The Westminster Fire & Rescue Department holds their monthly meetings at 7:00 PM on the 1st Tuesday of every month and a combined drill on the 3rd Tuesday of every month. Rescue training is the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

Next association meeting March 1st at 7:00 PM

The Prudential Committee meets twice a month on the first and third Monday after the first Tuesday at 7:00 PM

March meetings: March 7th & 21st

Number of calls in January: 39

Number of man hours spent: 14,391

Number of calls through February 23rd: 35

Number of man hours spent: 12,530

Number of calls calendar year to Date: 74

Number of calls fiscal year to date: 281

Flooding: Because of the excessive amounts of snow this winter, dangers of high water and flooded cellars becomes an issue. Residents should check the workability of sump pumps and drains. Be sure to keep watch of the cellar for incoming water. Water in the cellar can be very dangerous, especially if it comes in contact with anything electrical. The Fire Department does not have the equipment to pump water that is less than 4 inches deep. Avoid driving through puddles on the road. Their depth could be deceiving. Watch the children around potentially deep water. And don't forget the pets.

Cell Phone and 911: Be aware if you call 911 from your cell phone, you will be connected first to the New Hampshire State Police. They will ask you a series of questions just in case they lose your call. They will then transfer you to the Vt. 911 where you will be asked a series of questions, probably the same ones. Vt. 911 will then transfer you to our dispatch center, the Southwestern New Hampshire Mutual Aid who needs to get the call to tone our department and an ambulance. This all takes time. Our suggestion is, if you have to call 911 using a cell phone, call Mutual Aid directly at 1-603-352-1100.

Have that number in your cell phone memory. It could save a life.

Exit Doors: Frequently when snow comes off a roof and lands in front of a door that is not needed as an exit or an entrance for the winter months, it seems easier to leave it, thus eliminating a way to enter or leave the building. In case of a fire or an ambulance emergency, it is good to have all options available for the emergency personnel. Smoke or fire could make it impossible to reach what would seem to be the door normally used and the availability of the door not shoveled out may be the only way in or out of the building.

Snow on Roofs: When shoveling or raking snow off your roofs, before you begin, be sure you have an escape route in mind if the snow starts sliding when you are up there on it or under it. There have been some close calls this season with people getting trapped under a pile off the roof. It is a good idea to do these projects only when someone is around, never alone.

Association Meeting: The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association met for their regular meeting February 1st with 26 members present and 6 members excused. Currently there are 42 members of the volunteer fire department. Paul Millman was voted in as a full member after having completed the required 6 month probation period. Paul is currently taking the First Responders course and has been dispatching and attending numerous calls. Welcome Paul. A 55inch big screen TV has been purchased by the association and has been mounted on the wall in the main meeting room. The new TV will be very useful for training classes and will be enjoyed for other departmental functions as well. Long time member Tom Aiken announced he would be moving to Texas the end of the month. Tom has been a loyal member of the department since he was in high school and will be missed. Good luck Tom. Nancy Schaefer from Saxton's River has been conducting Yoga Classes for the members of the fire department every Sunday from 3PM to 4PM. **Thanks Nancy.**

THANK YOU: Chief Streeter wishes to extend a special thank you to the volunteers of the Westminster Fire & Rescue Department. There was an unusually high volume of calls in January at 39 and February is at 35 as of this writing. Actually there has been higher than normal volume since October.

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

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

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

WESTMINSTER HAPPENINGS

Activities

Scottish Country Dance Classes

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

Putney Contra Dance

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

Senior Lunch

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

Bellows Falls GalleryWalk

Downtown @ 5:30pm every 3rd Friday of the Month.

Secrets of Healthy Aging

A facilitated discussion group and potluck. The 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each

month at the Westminster Fire Station at 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Call Westminster Cares at 722-3607 for more information

Contra Dance

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

Gentle Yoga

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

Living Strong Classes

Mondays & Thursdays @The First Congregational Church in Westminster 9:00 to 10:00 am

@The Westminster West Church

6:00 to 7:00 pm.

Call Westminster Cares for more Information: 722-3607.

Knitting Together

Every Wednesday from 1-3 p.m. at the Saxtons River Inn. For more information or if you would like to donate yarn please contact Caroline at (802)463-4653.

The Westminster Historical Society will be hosting a book signing for "Revolutionary Westminster"

by Jessie Haas.

Meet the author, enjoy 'revolutionary' conversation and refreshments.

Westminster Institute on Sunday, March 13 from 2 – 4pm (Blizzard date March 20)

Books can be purchased at the discounted rate of \$15.00 (regular price \$19.99). Books may also be pre-ordered at the discounted rate and either picked up at Westminster Library or mailed (\$6 postage and handling). Pre-orders will also be taken at Town Meeting.

The battles of Lexington and Concord have long been considered the beginning of the American Revolution. However, Vermonters know that the first blood was actually shed in Westminster in March 1775. Over a month before Lexington and Concord, Westminster Whigs endured an attack from their own Loyalist sheriff and his men that left two dead. In response, the county rose in revolt in what became known as the Westminster Massacre. This bloody event set the stage for Vermont's separation from New York and its position as a mainstay of American independence throughout the entire war.

After March 13, 2010, books will be sold at the cover price of \$19.95. Questions? 802-722-4891 or 802-722-4324

Name: _____ # Copies: _____

Address: _____ Mailed: _____

_____ Picked up: _____

Phone/email: _____

"Revolutionary Westminster" by Jessie Haas

Mail check for \$15.00 per book plus \$6.00 per book postage if applicable to:
Westminster Historical Society, P. O. Box 2, Westminster, VT 05158

Faith Community

The First Congregational Church of Westminster

United Church of Christ
The Rev. Sami Jones McRae, Pastor
Main Street, Route 5, P.O. Box 122, Westminster, Vermont 05158, 802-722-4148

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

Important Dates

- March 1- Woman's Fellowship - 12:00 noon
- March 2 - Souper Wed -12 to 2 pm
- March 6 - Worship and communion 10:00 am
- March 8 - Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper - 6:00 pm
- March 9 - Souper Wed -12 to 2 pm
- March 9 - Ash Wednesday Service - 6:00pm
- March 12 - Church BREAKFAST - 8-10 am \$7 all you can eat!
- March 13 - Worship and Sunday School 10:00 am
- March 13 - Deacons and Trustees meeting after service
- March 16 - Souper Wed -12 to 2 pm
- March 20 - Worship and Sunday School 10:00 am
- March 20 - After church book study - Change Your Thoughts - Change Your Life: Living the Wisdom of the Tao
- March 21 - Standing Committee meeting 7:00 pm
- March 23 - Souper Wed -12 to 2 pm
- March 27 - Worship and Sunday School (Trip to VINS after church)
- March 30 - Souper Wed -12 to 2 pm

Church BREAKFAST - March 12

On Saturday March 12, we will hold a fundraiser breakfast. This will be an all you can eat breakfast served buffet style. ALL are invited to sample our menu of French Toast with real VT maple syrup, Scrambled eggs, Bacon, Sausage, Oj and Coffee. The cost will be \$7 for adults and \$3 for children 12-4, under 3 eat free.

SOUPER Wednesdays!

Please join us for soup and bread every Wed through April from 12:00-2:00. Donations accepted but not required. Also the soup kitchen could use help putting up and taking down tables, chairs etc. and cleaning up afterwards.

Lent officially begins on WEDNESDAY, March 9. At 6:00 that evening we will have an ASH WEDNESDAY service. Please join us.

Our Lenten book study will be on three Sundays after church. March 20, April 3, and April 10. We will use lessons from the book Change Your Thoughts - Change Your Life: Living the Wisdom of the Tao. Come and find out why Jesus would agree with the Tao.

The Congregational Church of Westminster West (UCC Church)

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

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

THE WOODMAN ATHLETICS BOOSTER CLUB is a non-profit organization that supports our gymnasts with all the challenges they encounter in their quests to reach their potentials. We are selling raffle tickets to win a week at Camp Woodward in Pennsylvania. The camp has generously donated one week at any one of their exciting camps, which include gymnastics, snowboarding, skiing, cheer, skateboarding, inline skating, BMX or digital media, valued up to \$1100. To purchase these \$5 raffle tickets, please contact Daron or Priscilla Tansley @ 802-387-5654.

The drawing will held on March 6th at the Hip Hop Classic meet at Woodman Athletics. Attendance is not required to win.

Meetings

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

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

Westminster Activities Commission

2nd Monday of the Month at 6:00 pm at the Westminster Institute.

Westminster School Board

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

Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association

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

Westminster West Public Library Board

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

Development Review Board 1st Monday of each month at 7:00 pm. at the Town Hall

Community Improvement Program Committee

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

Westminster Cares Board

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

Westminster Institute Board

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

911 Committee as needed.

The Westminster Fire & Rescue Dept

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

Westminster Historical Society

2nd Tuesday at 7:00 pm at the Westminster Institute.

Westminster Gazette Meeting

Thursday, March 24th at 7:30 am. @Westminster Cares Office

Westminster Recycling Committee

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

**The Deadline for
The April 2011,
Issue of the
Westminster Gazette
Thursday, March 31st
by 5:00 pm**



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VERMONT ASSOCIATES FOR TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT, INC.

Vermont Associates for Training & Development, Inc. is a statewide nonprofit organization founded in 1983. Based in St. Albans, Vermont Associates has 10 satellite offices throughout the State and administers a variety of training and employment programs including the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP).

The mission of Vermont Associates and the SCSEP Program is to help transition older workers back into the workforce in either part or full-time employment. To accomplish this, Vermont Associates partners with other 501C) 3 non-profit organizations and public sector agencies to provide trainees with part-time workplace experience internships. By providing a much-needed community service, trainees, in return, gain essential job skills and training to better their prospects for getting unsubsidized employment in today's ever-changing labor market.

Simply put, Vermont Associates is Vermont's "Best Kept Secret." If you are age 55 or older, unemployed and meet certain income guidelines, Vermont Associates may have an opportunity for you to "Intern to Learn and Earn."

If you are interested in learning more about Vermont Associates, its training programs and its employment services, an organization that would like to be a partner with Vermont Associates, or an employer with a job opening, please contact Pam Seegraber, Training & Employment Coordinator, at (802) 885-1431 or via email at pseegraber@vermontassociates.org.

Older workers are important to the development of a diverse workforce, which helps in serving a diverse customer base that includes many older people. Mature workers serve as role models for younger people and excel in such areas as customer service. Some of the Top Qualities of Older Workers are:

Superior work ethic
Loyalty to an employer
Maturity in the workplace
Flexible schedule
Eagerness to learn new technologies

Putney Economic Summit with guest Michael Shuman March 9th & March 10th

Hosted by Transition Putney and co-sponsored by:
Christopher Irion
The Putney Planning Commission
The Putney Inn
The Marlboro College Graduate School
The Putney Central School

EVENTS:

"Vitalizing Our Local Economy"
At the Putney Central School Gymnasium, 182 Westminster Road, Putney, VT 05346
Wednesday, March 9th
7 – 8:30pm
Guest Speaker: Michael Shuman
Open to the Public.
Donations requested.

Putney Jobs Breakfast Series

At the Putney Inn, 57 Putney Landing Road, Putney, VT 05346
Thursday, March 10th
7:15 – 8:45am
Guest Speaker: Michael Shuman
Open to the Public.
Breakfast will be served. Donations requested.

On March 9th & 10th Transition Putney will host a series of events focused on "Vitalizing Our Local Economy," with Michael Shuman, one of the country's leaders in building rural economies, as the featured guest. Shuman is the Research & Economic Development Director for the Business Alliance for Local Living Economies (BALLE). The author of *The Small-Mart Revolution: How Local Businesses Are Beating the Global Competition*, which was awarded a bronze medal for best business book by the Independent Publishers' Association, and *Going Local: Creating Self-Reliant Communities in the Global Age*, he holds an A.B. with distinction in economics and international relations from Stanford University, and a J.D. from Stanford Law School.

Honored to host Michael Shuman's visit and to share his compelling visions with our communities, the folks at Transition Putney agree with him that: "In the current economic downturn, Americans are beginning to understand that their future prosperity lies in the community businesses down the street that employ their neighbors, pay the taxes, and promote local relationships and trust."

For more information see <http://transition.putney.net>, or contact Paul LeVasseur: paul@sover.net.

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Let us take away the stress
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Monday - Friday	8:30am to 8:00pm
Saturday	9:00am to 5:00pm
Sunday	by Appointment

Call now to make your appointment

(802) 722-4500

Spaulding & Madden Tax Services
5111 US Route 5
Westminster Station, VT 05159

Westminster Schools 2010 NECAP Results

submitted by Steven Tullar/Principal

The results from the October 2010 NECAP assessments are back and we are beginning our analysis in order to make decisions about program and instruction modifications that will improve outcomes for all students in the Westminster Schools. There were several highlights for our school this year. In third grade, 64% of the students were proficient or above in reading. The third grade results also found 65% of the students proficient or above in math. These results affirm our focus on early intervention, progress monitoring that leads to individualized learning plans, and developing students who are fluent in reading and math skills. We also celebrate the results of the sixth graders in reading - a whopping 86% of sixth graders were proficient in reading. Twenty-five students in this cohort improved in their performance over the previous year. Five additional students scored in the proficient or above category.

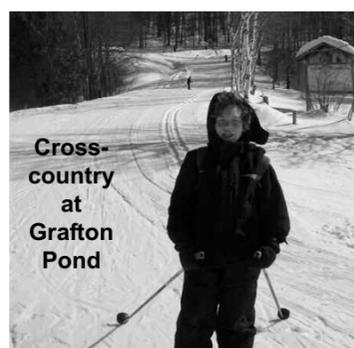
Disaggregated results over the past six years demonstrate that the percent of students taking the test who qualify for free or reduced lunch (FRL) has increased from 37% in 2005 to 49% in 2010. Over that time there has been an increasing gap between students who qualify for FRL and those students who do not. During the last year the staff identified the achievement gap between children who qualify for Free or Reduced Lunch and those students how do not as an area of focus. The work we have done has aimed intervention at any student not meeting grade level targets in reading or math. We reduced the gap in reading by 8% in reading. While in math, the gap remained consistent as both groups of students improved in percent proficient.

There is an achievement gap between students on IEPs and those students who are not that has been consistent over time. (Comparing students proficient or above.) The number of students on IEPs has decreased from 20% in 2005 to now 14%. Starting in 2005 the gap in reading results was 43% and has varied (to a low of 17% in 2008) but is now at 42%. Starting in 2005 the gap in math results was 37% and stayed consistent over time - it is now 41%. Our goal in the next year is to reduce the achievement gap further - holding the expectation that all our students can and will succeed.

The results this year are fairly consistent with past outcomes. Schoolwide results show that 64% of Westminster students are proficient or above in reading compared to the 73% of the state. When we look at the results in math 57% of Westminster students are proficient or above compared to 65% of the state.

What is clear from all this data is that we have begun showing progress - yet have lots to do. Teachers will spend our Monday, February 28th in-service developing personalized plans for students who have not achieved proficiency. Our collaborative teams will consider what children need and design instruction to meet that need. Our structures of support and co-teaching model allow this to happen seamlessly during the day. We also offer tutoring in reading and math before and after school. These opportunities are provided through our 21st Century grant. Currently we have 45 students involved in the tutoring program.

Finally, the school staff is appreciative of the parent role in our work, in the success of children, and in the support parents provide for learning. When children know we are working together, they will succeed.



Cross-country at Grafton Pond



Snowboarders head up the mountain

**More Pictures from Westminster Schools
Winter Sports (page 3)**

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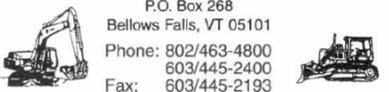
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March Business of the Month
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Meet the author, enjoy 'revolutionary' conversation and refreshments.

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Questions? 802-722-4891 or 802-722-4324

Kurn Hattin Hosts Chorale Invitational

Westminster - On Wednesday, March 16th at 7:00 pm, students from seven local schools will participate in the 19th Annual Choral Invitational. The event will be held in the Higbie Auditorium in the Mayo Memorial Center at Kurn Hattin. The schools participating are: Bellows Falls Middle School, Walpole Middle School, St. Joseph School, Leland & Gray Middle School, Leland & Gray Union High School, Fall Mountain Regional High School, and Kurn Hattin Middle School. The choral groups will perform a wide variety of songs and will conclude with all schools and the audience singing, "America, The Beautiful." Admission to the performance is a canned good or cash donation to be collected and given to Our Place, the community food shelf in Bellows Falls. Please help us celebrate "Music in Our School's Month". For more information, please contact Lisa Bianconi at (802) 732-6931.

On Wednesday, April 6, Kurn Hattin will also be hosting the Kurn Hattin Jazz Band Invitational at 7 p.m.

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

The Board & Editor of the Westminster Gazette would like to **THANK** Pete Harrison for delivering our paper to some of the distribution sights.

Our Monthly Community Newspaper MARCH 2011 Vol. 7, No. 3

Westminster Gazette

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