

# Westminster Gazette



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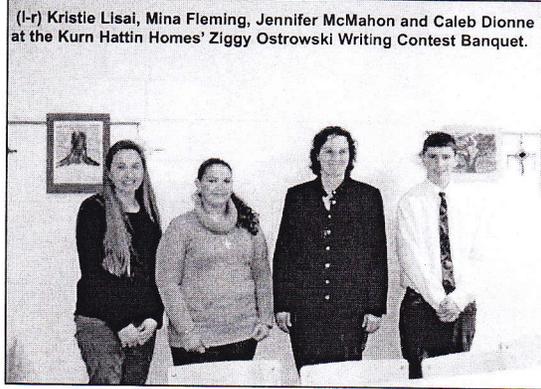
Our Community Newspaper

Vol. 5, No. 5 May 2009

## Author attends Kurn Hattin

### Mystery Writing Contest Banquet by Kim Fine

(l-r) Kristie Lisai, Mina Fleming, Jennifer McMahon and Caleb Dionne at the Kurn Hattin Homes' Ziggy Ostrowski Writing Contest Banquet.



Westminster –Vermont author, Jennifer McMahon was the special guest speaker at the 2009 Mystery Writers' Contest Banquet at Kurn Hattin Homes. This years' contest was to read the prologue to the book, *The Island of Lost Girls*, by Jennifer McMahon. Then write either the first chapter or the last chapter using the characters mentioned in the prologue, as well as specific details, and imagination. The contest was Kurn Hattin Homes' writing and processing coach, Ziggy Ostrowski's idea nine years ago and put to life by English teacher, Kristie Lisai. It was named in Ziggy's memory after he passed away in 2005. The students at Kurn Hattin study in groups according to ability and the highest two groups, 'Maine' and 'Vermont' compete in the contest.

The judges, Kurn Hattin staff and family members, chose the six finalists and final two winners of the contest. The finalists were Kyle Bussino, grade 8, Shania Caswell, grade 8, Dylan Conklin, grade 6, Caleb Dionne, grade 8, Mina Fleming, grade 8, and Raven Stanhope, grade 6. The two winners were Caleb Dionne and Mina Fleming. They were awarded a cash gift and all of the contestants were recognized at the banquet with the author.

The author grew up at her grandmother's house in Connecticut and was convinced that a ghost named Virgil lived in the attic. She says still loves a good ghost story. She wrote her first short story in the third grade, her second novel is due out in June and she has a contract for a book a year.

Jennifer McMahon was very impressed by the creativity and imagination of the Kurn Hattin students. She shared her inspirations and gave the students advice about writing and publishing. Since the contest's inception, authors Archer Mayor, Karen Hesse, Jesse Haass, Castle Freeman, Doug Wilhelm, Katherine Patterson, Sarah Stewart Taylor, Nancy Means Wright and this year, Jennifer McMahon have generously given their time to speak to the students and their quest to become great story writers. Kurn Hattin Homes is a charitable, year-round home and school for in-need and at-risk children, ages 6-15, from throughout the Northeast.

## Celebrate at the 4th Annual Spring Fling

Westminster, VT – On May 9, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Kurn Hattin Homes will be hosting the 4th Annual Spring Fling. Spring Fling celebrates youth by promoting fun, healthy, and drug-free choices. This year's event features: Todd Brodeur, World Class Frisbee Show, 11:00 a.m., Bill Scarlett Magic Show, 12:30 p.m., Friesians of Majesty, Horse Demonstration, 1:00 p.m. and the Early Times Country & Rock Band, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Main Schedule:

9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Baseball & Softball Tournament, Inflatable Rides (\$1.00), Concession Stand, Springfield Hospital Health Fair, Westminster Fire Department Display, VT Kids Against Tobacco Booth

- 9:15 a.m. Mountain Bike Race
- 9:30 a.m. B.F.U.H.S. Jazz Band\*
- 10:00 a.m. 4-H Kurn Hattin Horse Demonstration
- 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Windham County Sheriff's Bike Rodeo
- 10:30 a.m. Children's Choir\*

Westminster Central School & Kurn Hattin

11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Face Painting sponsored by Rotary Interact Club

11:00 a.m. Todd Brodeur - World Freestyle Frisbee Champion Demonstration and Playshops

11:00 a.m. Music by Matt Hunter (guitarist)\*

12:30 p.m. Magic Show performed by Bill Scarlett\*

1:00 p.m. Horse Demonstration by "Friesians of Majesty"

1:00 p.m. River Valley Ridge Riders Motorcycle Display

1:30 p.m. "Early Times Band" - Country & Rock\*

2:00 p.m. 4-H River Riders Horse Demonstration

2:00 p.m. 50/50 Drawing\*

2:30 p.m. Youth Games

Come and enjoy...

Entertainment & live music

Mountain Bike Race

Baseball & Softball Tournaments

Inflatable Rides

Health Fair presented by Springfield Hospital 4-H Horse Demonstration

River Valley Ridge Riders Motorcycle Display

Westminster Fire Dept. Display

Face painting & MORE!

**Spring Fling is free and open to the public. A free-will offering will be graciously accepted to benefit the Kurn Hattin H'Olympic fund. Come celebrate the arrival of spring, youth and good health! Kurn Hattin is Exit 5 off I-91 in Vermont. From there, follow the signs. For more information call Tom Fahner at (802) 721-6918.**

**So gather up your friends and family and see you at Spring Fling!**

*The Westminster Gazette is NOW on-line !!*

*Town of Westminster's Website*

<http://westminster.govoffice.com>

The Westminster West Library Board is searching for an individual interested in serving as the bookkeeper for the library. Basic knowledge of paying bills is all that's needed and 2 hours per month of time. Information and training will be provided by the retiring bookkeeper. For more information, contact Jan Ameen at 722-3743 or at [aurora2@sover.net](mailto:aurora2@sover.net).

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### News From Westminister Cares

The Westminister Cares, Inc. Board of Directors met on April 1, 2009. Westminister 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 elderly.

The Annual Garden Tours will be held on June 20 and 21, 2009. Plans continue to be made to tour five gardens in Westminister. The Westminister Quilt Show will be held on October 17 and 18, 2009, in the Westminister Center School. The "Natural World in Quilts" will feature over 100 antique and contemporary quilts from local quilters. A free 8-week session "Creative Aging For Seniors and Seniors-Soon-To-Be" is being sponsored by Westminister Cares and facilitated by Cheryl M. Richards, MA, CT. These are held on Thursdays from 4 pm to 6:30 pm starting May 9th at the Westminister Institute.

Westminister Cares wishes to extend a special "thank you" to Peter and Barb Bazin for their donation of two storage spaces that were needed and are greatly appreciated

Services provided include 13 people being delivered Meals on Wheels. 18 rides for 4 different people by 4 volunteers for a total of 80 miles. Meetings attended in March: Bookkeeper, Gazette, Quilt Show, Garden Tour and meetings with the Development Director. Programs in March: 2 Secrets of Healthy Aging sessions, 4 Yoga classes, 4 Artist in Each of Us classes, 27 Living Strong classes were held. Anyone interested in learning more about Westminister Cares, 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](mailto:wecares@sover.net).

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

Westminister Cares has received the following memorial gifts during the month of March 2009.

In memory of: From:  
Joyce Rayner Ellen Krietmeier  
Eugene Metcalf Hank & Phyllis Anderson

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Read Down All Columns

BF T-Bird/Rockingham St.	8:00	8:00	2:10	4:10
Bellows Falls Square	8:02	8:02	2:12	4:12
Compass School, Westm.	—	—	2:15	4:15
Allen Brothers, Westminister, W	8:07	8:07	2:17	4:17
Westminister Station, W	8:08	8:08	2:18	4:18
Westminister Town Hall, W	8:12	8:12	2:22	4:22
Basketville, W	8:25	8:25	2:35	4:35
Putney Meadows	8:27	8:27	2:37	4:37
Old Ferry Rd./J.C. & S	8:37	8:37	2:47	4:47
VT Transit	W	W	2:51	4:51
Hannafords, Brattleboro	8:44	8:44	2:54	4:54
Brattleboro Transit Center	7:00	9:00	3:10	5:10

Read Down All Columns

Brattleboro Transit Center	7:00	9:00	3:10	5:10
Main St. Gallery, Brattleboro	7:02	9:02	—	4:12
Hannafords, Brattleboro	7:12	9:12	3:22	5:22
Old Ferry Rd./J.C. & S	7:17	9:17	3:27	5:27
Putney Meadows	7:26	9:26	3:36	5:36
Basketville, W	7:28	9:28	3:38	5:38
Westminister Town Hall, W	7:40	9:40	3:50	5:50
Westm. Station, W	7:44	9:44	3:54	5:54
Allen Brothers, Westm. W	7:47	9:47	3:57	5:57
Compass School, Westm.	7:50	9:50	W	W
BF T-Bird/Rockingham St.	8:00	10:00	4:10	6:05

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## Community Invited to Celebrate Compass Seniors and 10th Anniversary

While the end of the school year can drag for students throughout the country, at Compass School this is often the most vibrant time of the year. With all school trips, Junior and Senior Projects, Project Week, and Graduation Portfolio Roundtables, this is a period of great energy and learning. And this year this is augmented by the Compass 10th Anniversary Celebration Dinner on Sunday, May 31st.

As Compass School seniors prepare for graduation, they complete their high school years with a flourish, facing two big challenges—Senior Project and Graduation Portfolio Roundtables.

Senior Project asks students to apply knowledge and skills they have developed in their years of high school to a significant independent learning experience. Throughout the year, seniors plan this project, developing essential research questions and making contacts to pursue an interest beyond the typical confines of school. And then, for three weeks in April, when many other seniors around the country are plodding along to the end of high school, Compass students are out in the world seeing what they can do with all their school learning when they get outside the walls of the school.

Senior project gives students a taste of the field they may pursue in college or for a career. Some of this year's projects include Rebecca Ruskin studying "Faces of Poverty" through volunteering at various shelters and outreach programs in Boston, Hannah Venman-Clay working on "Teens and HIV" through a two week internship at Metro Teen Aids in DC, Alex Swanson exploring "Social Injustice and Photojournalism" with creation of a photo-journal website to tell the story of poverty in Vermont, Soo Mi Park creating "Art Against Racism" by studying public art and creating pieces that speak out against injustice and racism, and Jamie Hargreaves following his passion for "Rally Racing" with a job shadow at a Driving School in NH. Seniors return to school in May with renewed energy and great stories of discovery to share with each other and the rest of

the school. From this work, students learn that they can shape their own direction. Between the planning and carrying out the project, senior advisor Julia Taylor observes, "students realize they can make things happen." Senior Project culminates with public presentations on Friday, May 15, from 10:30-2:00.

Compass seniors will also be hard at work readying themselves for their Graduation Portfolio Roundtables scheduled for May 27, 28, 29. To graduate, each senior must present a collection of their work to a panel made up of their parents, teachers, a student peer, and an outside community member. This is the final process for seniors to show their readiness to graduate and move on to the world beyond the school walls.

It is hard to believe Compass has been in existence for 10 years! It seems just yesterday when the idea of providing a high school and middle school option where every child could find success was being presented at a school board meeting. After beginning with 47 students in grades 7-9, Compass is proud of its many successes, with its 7th graduating class this June, with over 90% of its students going on to college. Colleges recognize the power of a Compass education, with this year's seniors being awarded hundreds of thousands of dollars of merit based scholarships for academic excellence, leadership, and community involvement. The community is invited to celebrate this important anniversary at Compass with a dinner and open mike at the school on Sunday, May 31st starting at 5:00 p.m.

Compass invites interested community members to contact the school about attending Senior Projects, serving as a community member evaluating at portfolio roundtables, or joining for the 10th anniversary celebration.

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best potential.

Craig is a high-achieving, motivated student who has a sincere interest in his education. On top of taking many AP-level courses during his high school career, Craig is a very accomplished writer, too, as evidenced through his success in the UVM Writing Contest.

Continuously maintaining perfect attendance, Craig is an active member of any class who asks good questions, offers good insight and thoroughly examines the work presented to him.

He has been an active member of the band and drama club where he has worked hard as well. Additionally, Craig has participated on both the Boys Soccer and Scholars' Bowl teams over the last four years. On the Scholars' Bowl team, Craig has stood out as a strong competitor who thrives in academic competitions. Craig helped lead BFUHS to a first-round victory at the State Tournament in both of the last two years.

Craig is a positive role model who leads by example and BFUHS is proud to have him represent us with this award. Congratulations, Craig.

It is a pleasure to announce that **Craig Guild has been named the March Elk's Student of the Month for Bellows Falls Union High School.** Craig, a senior, is the son of Matt and Carol Guild of Bellows Falls.

Craig has been a positive role model for all over the course of his high school career and it nice to recognize him for it.

Not only a dedicated student, but Craig is a delight to work with as well. He is attentive, responsible and always works actively to improve his skills. Through determination and hard work throughout his career at BFUHS he has maintained a very high rank in his class. He goes above and beyond the expectations of any assignment and works to his

## OPEN HOUSE TOUR for The Grades Program at Green Valley School by DOMENICA PERO COGER

Westminster West: The Grades Program at Green Valley School in Westminster West will hold its monthly open house tour on Wednesday, April 15th and Wednesday, May 20th from 10 to 10:30am followed by a 1/2 hour Q&A tea hosted by the teacher. The Grades

Program at GVS offers a rare opportunity for homeschooled children in the Saxtons River, Bellow Falls, Westminster, Putney, VT and Walpole, NH area. And for those that wouldn't mind traveling 3 days a week, far further.

The Grades Program located in the hills of Westminster West, just a 1/2 mile from the Westminster West Congregational Church, is a small initiative steered by and for families that homeschool or would like to, using a Waldorf

curriculum base. The Grades Program is multi aged (7-9) and concentrates on grades 1-3. It is taught by Michele Turner, a certified Waldorf teacher, whom has been contracted by several families to teach from 8:30am-2:30pm on Mon, Tues and Wed from

September '09 until June '10. The Open House Tour will give parents as well as their children the opportunity to feel the rhythm of the day as well as ask questions during the Q&A session at the end.

This program is in its second year and thriving all it needs, is a few more students to round out the experience. To make a reservation for an open house tour or to inquire about the program, please contact: Domenica Coger 802.875.4319. We look forward to hearing from you.



## Neal Scholarship In Memory of Eileen Austin Neal

Springfield, VT — Eileen Austin Neal was a registered nurse at Springfield Hospital for 64 years, retiring in 2005. She was the first recipient of the hospital's George F. Leland Community Health Award in 2003. In 2004, the hospital established the Eileen Austin Neal Spirit of Nursing Award in recognition of

her many years of dedicated service.

Upon her death in February 2006, at the request of Neal's family, Springfield Hospital Foundation established a nursing scholarship fund in her name with the gifts received in her memory.

"Springfield Hospital is a better place for Eileen having worked here," says Larry Kraft, Director of Springfield Hospital Foundation. "This scholarship continues her positive influence on both nursing and the community."

The 4th annual Eileen Neal Nursing Scholarship of \$1,000 will be awarded in June 2009. It is open to any Springfield-area high school student who is planning a career in nursing and has been accepted into a nursing program of study. Applicants will be judged on interest in and commitment to the field of nursing. Determination will be based on merit and need.



## Kurn Hattin Travels the World Through Music

by Kim Fine

The Kurn Hattin children entered a contest and traveled the world by hot-air balloon during this year's school musical. The children learned much about the culture and languages of several countries along the way. Kurn Hattin Homes is a year-round, non-profit, charitable home and school for in-need and at-risk children, ages 6-15, from throughout the Northeast.

Photo:  
Kurn Hattin children singing in their school musical

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**LETTER OF APPRECIATION**

Julie Torres  
Spanish Teacher  
Bellows Falls Union High School

I would like to commend the local Moose Family Center in Bellows Falls for all they do for our community. I am not sure if the people of Bellows Falls are aware of all that the Men and Women of the Moose do to contribute to our community in positive ways.

I am a Spanish Teacher at the Bellows Falls Union High School, and this April we are taking a group of 16 students to Costa Rica. The trip is a costly endeavor and the students and their families rely on help from local businesses to help offset the costs of the trip. Last month the Moose Family Center allowed my group of students to hold a Teen Dance that would benefit our upcoming trip to Costa Rica.

At the end of each month the Women of the Moose hold a Teen Dance for the local teenagers to attend. There is a wide range of youth that attend these dances, ranging in age from ten to fourteen years of age. These dances are a wonderful way for our area youth to have a fun and safe night out. They are reasonably priced, at \$3 per child, and they provide the kids with a healthy, safe and fun way to spend their Friday night! These Dances are run in such a way that they are very structured and orderly. The kids have a very strict set of guidelines to follow in order to attend and stay at the dance. They must sign-in and sign-out, so there is a record of who is there and who has left, they have to follow basic rules, such as "no food or drinks on the dance floor", "no chewing gum", and "no swearing".

Not only do the kids enjoy a reasonably priced night out, but the Moose also provides great snacks for the kids to enjoy while at the dance. Kids that bring in a non perishable item are also entered in to a drawing at the end of the night. Kids can win gift certificates and cash just by donating a non-perishable item, which in turn, the Moose donates to area food shelves in need of donations.

In addition to these dances, the Moose allows groups to hold various types of dinners that are reasonably priced for the members of our community. One weekend it may be a Spaghetti Dinner, the next weekend it may be a Ham Dinner, and the next a Pork Roast Dinner. These dinners are often put on by various clubs in the area, whether it be my group raising funds to go to Costa Rica, the Junior Class raising money for their Prom, Project Grad, or the Cub Scouts. The Moose generously donates the food, and often times, cooks the meal, with help from whatever group or organization will be receiving the funds.

I would like to commend the Moose Family Center, both the Men and the Women of the Moose for all that they do. Their generosity has been remarkable, and so very much appreciated!

**IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR...**

By Westminster Board of Listers: Babs Lynde, Ernie Norman and Mike Fawcett

It's that time of year when the Town Listers are out in full force to make sure that properties are properly assessed in Westminster's Grand List. Unfortunately, Ruth Grandy has retired from our Board, so we would like to welcome our newest member, Mike Fawcett, who will be helping to gather much needed information. Although we are likely to be calling on you at any time of the year, spring is when we make our biggest push to ensure we have taken care of property changes from April 2nd of the previous year to April 1st of the current year.

Unless we are doing a town-wide reappraisal, we normally visit about twenty percent of the town, including any properties that have acquired zoning permits during that year. If there are changes within your house or building or if we have additional questions, we will leave you a business card to let you know we were at your property. Please give us a call as soon as possible so we can set up an appointment with you.

These changes are then set into a State-driven software called the Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal program, or CAMA as it is more commonly known. This program is set up by Vermont's Property Valuation and Review with material costs and land schedules that are derived from a combination of research and sales from our area. The listers then plug in such factors as building square footage, number of plumbing fixtures, type of heating and flooring along with the year of construction to name only a few of the components needed.

This CAMA program produces an assessment, which should reflect the fair market value of your property as defined by Vermont State Statute Title 32 - 3481. This value is entered into the Grand List, which is then applied to the tax rate as set by the Selectboard. A tax bill is then generated and sent out to you by the Town Treasurer.

All property owners are welcome to call or come in any time during the year so we can show you how your assessment was produced. We believe that owning real estate can be your single largest investment, and it is important that you know how your value came to be. Please call us at the Westminster Town Hall from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Friday at 722-9516.

**Westminster Animal Control Officer**

The Westminster Selectboard is pleased to announce their appointment of Anne M. Eddy to the position of Westminster Animal Control Officer. Eddy, who has a BS in psychology, is also Animal Control Officer for the Town of Rockingham and Bellows Falls Village. Eddy has extensive animal control training and has worked as animal control officer and animal health inspector in several towns in Massachusetts and for eight years was founder and president of an all-volunteer animal rescue group.

**If you have an animal complaint,  
please call Anne Eddy at 376-5496.**

**The WESTMINSTER AREA YOUTH SPORTS ASSOCIATION (WAYS) would like to thank everyone for helping out at field day on April 18, 2009. We especially appreciate the help and/or donations from the following businesses:**

**GRC ENTERPRISE  
SAM STREETER BUILDERS  
WINDHAM GROWERS**

**Once again, THANKS.**

**PINK IN THE WILD**

**By Babs Lynde, a Vermont Master Gardener**

There are few flowers that we can find in the wild anymore that cause us to catch our breath and "ooh and ahhh" when we find them. Sometime between May and June, depending on the coolness of the season, if you take a walk into the woods and look carefully in the shady areas, near the pines and fallen leaves, you may be fortunate enough to catch a glimpse of the most talked about springtime wildflower, the pink lady slipper.

Their Latin name is *Cypripedium*, which sounds as exotic as the flower itself. This wild flower is actually an orchid, and like most orchids, it is very picky about its growing environment. It starts out as one seed of thousands that are no larger than a spec of dust, at the mercy of the wind and sometimes traveling great distances from its parent plant before it hits the ground. This tiny seed must land on just the right kind of soil that is acidic and well drained with just the right amount of sun mixed with shade.

On top of all those demands, because the orchid seed has no endosperm, a starchy nutrition required by most seeds as a source of food, it must land in an area where a special type of fungus is present. This microscopic fungus, known as endophyte, creates a type of symbiotic relationship with the helpless seed, providing a replacement root system for the first 3 to 7 years of the orchid's life. During this time period, the plant will finally produce its first green leaf and then rely on photosynthesis for all its future growth, completely rejecting the fungus. Then, it can take an additional 5 to 10 years for the orchid to produce its flower, which means the pink lady slipper can be 10 to 17 years old before you see its first bloom!

The pink and whites, also known as the showy lady slippers, can be found in the mid-northern regions of the U S into Canada and have been known to live as long as 50 years! The pink and white lady slipper has been the state flower for Minnesota since 1902. The pink lady slipper, also known as the moccasin flower, camels foot, steeple cap and whippoorwill shoes, can be found from the southern Appalachians to as far north as Newfoundland and Saskatchewan, Canada. In 1991, it became the official state flower for New Hampshire. In days gone by, the pink lady slipper roots were used medicinally for nervousness, tooth pain and muscle spasms. Even rarer is the yellow lady slipper, often referred to as the American Valerian for its stronger properties used as a mild stimulant and was regularly used to treat depression from female problems. Native Americans used this plant with regularity and between them and the colonists who came later, its therapeutic properties almost wiped this poor flower from the face of the earth.

Understanding these facts makes it less difficult to realize why we need to resist the temptation to pick or transplant an orchid found in the wild, be it pink or yellow. They deserve our respect and reverence, and the closest we need to tread near them should be to snap their picture, not their stem. If you have the right growing environment at your home, and you really want to try your hand with these wild orchids, there are a few successful growers that sell mature lady slippers and can be found online or through your local nurseries.

Would you like more information concerning wild lady slippers? 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 [master.gardener@uvm.edu](mailto:master.gardener@uvm.edu) or visit their website at <http://www.uvm.edu/mastergardener/> for extensive information.

**2009 KURN HATTIN SUMMER SPORTS CAMP**

Westminster - 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. Area coaches instruct in all facets of basic skills and strategies. Each camper has an opportunity to participate in skill development and game competition. The camp schedule is as follows.

<b>Girls Basketball Camp</b> - Ages 11-14 Camp Director: Tom Fahner	July 6-14	9:00-noon Cost \$70.00
<b>COED Basketball Camp</b> - Ages 8-10 Camp Director: Sara Frantz	July 13-17	9:00-noon Cost: \$70.00
<b>Boys Basketball Camp</b> - Ages 11-14 Swimming and lunch included. Camp Director: Dave Brodeur	July 20-24	9:00-3:30 p.m. Cost: \$125.00
<b>COED Soccer Camp</b> - Ages 11-14 Camp Director: Dean Kinville	August 10-14	9:00-noon Cost: \$70.00

For additional information, a camp brochure or to register, contact Sonja At (802) 722-3336.

### Upcoming Early Childhood Events At The Westminster Center School

#### Incoming Kindergarteners Playgroup

Wednesday, May 6th, 5 pm-6:30pm

Pizza dinner provided for families, play in the kindergarten classrooms. Meet the teachers and new friends!

#### Teddy Bear Tea

Monday, May 11, 9:45 am

In the Westminster Center School Library. For children birth through preschool. Hear a story, have some snack, bring a snugly! Sponsored by Early Education Services.

#### Kindergarten Screening

Friday, May 29th, morning and afternoon sessions

Registration packets will be mailed to families in early May.

### WINDMILL HILL PINNACLE ASSOCIATION WEEKEND STROLLS

Westminster West, VT-- This spring, the Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association will again sponsor Weekend Strolls, featuring guided walks through various parts of its conserved lands. These strolls are free and open to the public. The 2009 schedule is as follows:

#### SUNDAY STROLLS

**May 9** -- Wild Flower Walk -- Carol Westing and Libby Mills, Meet at W W Church, 2pm.

**June 14** -- Bald Hill, Randy Major - meet at end of Cemetery Rd (off entrance to BFUHS at 2pm (info: Randy 387-5737)

**July 12** -- Dunne Nature Trail- Philip Odegard. Meet at 2PM at W.W. Church.

**September 19** - Paul's Ledges-- For a vehicle ride to the top, please contact Rebecca Nixon 722-9047. Riders should rendezvous at noon at the Westminster West Church. Walkers meet at WW Church at 11:30am, guided by Arthur and Carol Westing

**October 10** -- Ridgeline --. Meeting place and time to be announced

**November 7** -- Northern trailhead to Martin Sanctuary -- Camilla

Roberts, Meet at northern kiosk on Sleepy Valley Road at 2pm (call 869-1388 for directions)

**PEAK CLEAN UP**- all are welcome, bring your loppers:

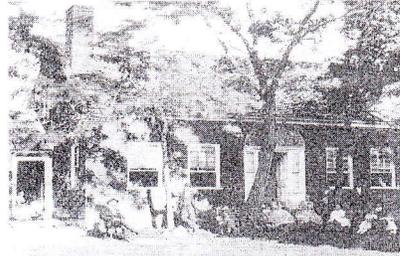
**August 9** -- Pinnacle -- starting at 10am, meet at the Pinnacle

**October 24** -- Paul's Ledges --- starting at 10 am, meet at Paul's Ledges

Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association (WHPA) was formally registered in 1993 as a Vermont non-profit corporation. The organization's mission is to acquire, conserve, and/or make accessible a portion of the scenic rural lands of Windmill Ridge and neighboring areas. The Pinnacle is the highest and most scenic peak (+/-1683 feet) in Westminster, Vermont. It is located on the Windmill Ridge, straddling the Brookline/Westminster line. The view from the Pinnacle overlooks Hedgehog Gulf in Brookline and westward to Mount Snow and Stratton Mountain, over 20 miles away.

WHPA lands now consist of 1,660 +/- acres in Rockingham, Athens, Brookline, and Westminster. These publicly-accessible lands include an extensive hiking trail system and wildlife sanctuary.

## WESTMINSTER MYSTERY PHOTO



### Where is this house presently located and how was it used?

You may email your answer to the [westminsternews@gmail.com](mailto:westminsternews@gmail.com) or [wminster@comcast.net](mailto:wminster@comcast.net) Phone: Babs Lynde at 802-722-9516  
The answer and the winner/s will be announced in the Next Issue.

**April Answer:** These water falls are a part of the Saxtons River located off from Forest Road. They are commonly referred to as the Twin Falls.

**April Winners:** Audrey Gouchy, Heaven McGivern, Marty Collins, Christian Blake, and Tom English.

If you have picture's you think would make a great mystery photo please stop by the town office and see Bab Lyndes. We are in search of Pictures..

In March's Mystery Photo, one of the questions asked was what happened to the cannon that once sat on the side lawn of the William Bradley house as displayed by the Westminster Historical Society. In 1942, the American general public was asked to donate all the metal they could find for the World War II movement, to which the town of Westminster donated its share. Sadly, included in this town's particular mound of scrap, as witnessed by several of our present citizens, was the cannon as were many other household belongings and person treasures. Thank you to Don Nowers and Howie Rice for this information.

#### News from Westminster Volunteer Fire and Rescue

The Westminster Fire & Rescue Department holds their monthly meetings on the 1st Tuesday of every month and a combined drill on the 3rd Tuesday of every month.

Number of calls in March: 30  
Number of man hours spent: 6956

Number of calls in April 1st through 28th: 17  
Number of man hours spent: 5372  
Number of calls calendar year to Date: 101

**Thanks:** On behalf of Chief Streeter and the fire personnel a big thank you to the many people who brought in food during the house fire call on Tuesday the 28th. There were many hungry firefighters at the end of the day that were delighted to return to the fire station to such a welcoming array of food. Thanks also to those who contributed food for the Carol Lawrence and Eugene Metcalf gatherings after their funerals. This is a huge support system that takes place simply by June Streeter making phone calls to various people in town and it is very much appreciated. June would like more names of people she can contact. Anyone interested in being on the call list, give June a call at 722-3178

**Thanks again:** To all the non member volunteers who helped during our recent fires. We appreciate you and need you.

**Beautification:** Work has begun on sprucing up the grounds of the fire station. A couple of new lengths of fencing have been added along with flowers and shrubs. The area around the stone that displays the charter members plaque had been dressed up and some loam and surepack have been brought in. This is a project of the association is being funded solely by association money and donations.

**Gas Grill Safety:** Keep your gas grill clean and in good condition. There is a vent at the back of the grill that releases head smoke and at times, flames. There have been cases where vinyl siding has melted because the grill is positioned too close to a wall. Many grills will have a label listing clearance recommendations. If not, 24 inches is a good standard. Propane cylinders can also be dangerous. Be sure they are not stored indoors, but outside in a well ventilated area.

**Live Burn:** There was live burn training an April 19th that went well and was well attended.

**Burn Permit Alert:** With spring upon us, it is usually a good time to do an outside burn, however there may be times when burning is not allowed because of wind or sudden dry spells. Be careful to burn in open areas away from other buildings. Remember only unfinished wood or brush is permissible to burn. Anything else is not allowed.

Anyone wishing to do an outside burn must get verbal permission from one of the fire wardens before starting a fire. You must talk with one of the wardens. Leaving an answering machine message will not count as a permit.

**AS OF THIS WRITING THERE ARE MANY AREAS WHERE THERE WILL BE NO PERMITS ISSUED UNTIL WE GET SOME RAIN.**

The wardens are: Cole Streeter 722-3178  
Mark Lund 463-9355  
Pat Haas 387-5778

**Studebaker Fund-Raiser:** Work is continuing on the restoration of the 1953 Studebaker Fire Engine. The chassis has been sandblasted and painted and is now sitting at the Fire Station awaiting the rest of the panels and the wheels and cab to be finished. Funds are still needed to complete the project. After the fund-raiser is over, we are going to generate a chart listing the names of the donors. If anyone wishes to give money in memory of or in honor of a friend or loved one, please include the information when you send in your donation.

Memorial donations received in April:  
From Marion Wilder in memory of William R. Wilder, Sr.  
From Pete and Judy Harrison in memory of Eugene Metcalf

Those wishing to give money send to:  
Westminster Fire and Rescue Association  
Studebaker Fund

PO Box 111  
Westminster, Vt. 05158

#### Shelter:

The Fire Station will be open for shelter in case an event occurs where shelter is needed. Contact the Chief or any member of the department in case of any emergency needs.

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 located there and more help is needed to utilize the equipment during calls.

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

# WESTMINSTER HAPPENINGS

## Activities

### Scottish Country Dance Classes

Every Wednesday @ 7:30 in the Westminster Center School Gym. Bernard McGrath, instructor. All skill levels welcome. Contact Michael Daley

### 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. All Westminster

seniors are invited to attend. Join us at the First Congregational Church on Route 5

### Bellows Falls Gallery

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

### Contra Dance

Every 3rd Saturday of month at 7:30 @ 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 9:00am to 10:00am @ The Westminster West Church 6:00pm to 7:00pm Call Westminster Cares for more information:

## Faith Community

### The First Congregational Church of Westminster

United Church of Christ  
The Rev. Sami Jones McRae, Pastor  
Main Street, Route 5, Westminster, Vermont 05158, 802-722-4148  
Sunday worship at 10:00 AM  
Communion is the first Sunday of each month. The church has a ramp and lift for wheelchair access. All are welcome. 802-722-4148

May's Sunday School: May 3, 10, 24 & 31

Green Up Day: May 17th

Women's Fellowship Fundraiser - Plant, Book & Food Sale May 30th

### Save the Dates:

Saturday, August 22nd - Summerfest

Rain Date: Sunday, August 23rd

### The Congregational Church of Westminster West

Sunday Worship at the Congregational Church of Westminster West (a UCC church) is at 10am. 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 9am. 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

## Meetings

**Selectboard** meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7PM in the Town Hall.

### Planning and Development

**Commission** meets the 2nd Monday at 7:00 in the Town Hall.

### Westminster Activities Commission

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

### Westminster School Board

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

### Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association

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

### Westminster West Public Library Board

2nd Mondays at 7:00 at the Westminster West Public Library

### Development Review Board

meets the 1st Monday of each month at 7:00PM. at the Town Hall

### Community Improvement Program

**Committee** meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:00PM.

### Westminster Cares Board

meets the 1st Wednesday of every month at the Westminster Fire Station.

### Westminster Institute Board

meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Institute.

### North Westminster Trustees

meet the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:00pm at the Community House.

### North Westminster Community House

**Annual Meeting** First Monday of May

**911 Committee** meets as needed.

### The Westminster Fire & Rescue Dept

holds their monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of every month and a combined drill on the 3rd Tuesday of every month.

### Westminster Historical Society

meets the third Tuesday, monthly, at 7:30 pm at the Westminster Institute.

### Westminster Gazette Meeting

Thursday, May 21st at 12:30 at Westminster Cares

## Looking for Host Families

The Bellows Falls Rotary Club is in search of three host families for the 09/10 school year. Host times are approximate - from late Aug. - Dec., Jan. - mid April, Mid April until departure sometime late June early July.

We are expecting to receive Shari Kiessling, from Germany in late August early Sept. Shari will be 16 when she arrives, she likes drama, music and loves reading. At home she has a brother Lukas 13, Mom, Anja Puchta, Dad, Walter Kiessling and Zisko the family dachshund. Shari is allergic to cats and nuts.

The Rotary Exchange Program is support by ESSEX and info can be found at [www.exchanges-tudent.org](http://www.exchanges-tudent.org)

If you are interested or know of anyone the WNESU district please contact Ginger Cook 802-289-1239.

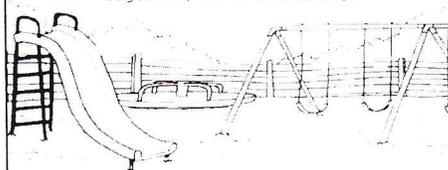
Send your News to:

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

Looking for volunteers to help install the New Westminster Community Playground, June 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> 7:00 AM start time, at the Westminster Center School. This is a rain or shine event so please be prepared. We will provide food and drinks and free childcare. Inquire at the school or call:

The Westminster Center School at 802-722-3241.

Help make this dream possible, together, as a community.



### RE-SCHEDULED

CREATIVE AGING - for Seniors & Senior Soon to Be's!

Free 8 week discussion series offered by Westminster Cares facilitated by Cheryl Richards

Starting Thursday, May 7, 4:30 - 6pm @ the Westminster Institute

A serious and light-hearted examination of the wisdom, concerns, experiences, perceptions and discoveries of "BEING or GETTING OLD."

Possible topics to include:  
changing bodies, changing selves  
living with loneliness  
multiple life losses, learning to love and let go  
creating your personal journey into the sunset  
self identity - are you more than your circumstances?

For more information or to sign up, call Westminster Cares @ 722-3607 or email [wecares@sover.net](mailto:wecares@sover.net)

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

May 9th - Spring Fling @ Kurn Hattin 9-3

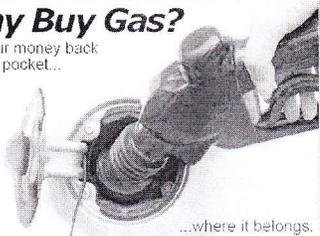
July 25th - Community Picnic \* tentative date

If you would like to help out on any of these events please contact A Westminster Activities Commission board member - Ginger Cook, Doreen Kelton, Mark McAllister Amy Sciacca, Craig Allen, Russ Hodgkins

### THE GAZETTE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT OF IT'S UNDERWRITERS:

Kurn Hattin Homes  
Westminster School District  
Town of Westminster  
Durand Automotive Group  
Father's Restaurant  
Westminster Activities Commission

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**Junes  
Submissions are  
due by:  
Thursday, May 28th  
by**

**5:00pm**

westminsternews  
@gmail.com

**Peggy Porter  
@ 802-722-4521**

## EXTENSIONS EXTENSIONS EXTENSIONS

Have you filed your 2008 Tax Return?  
If not, we are here to help you get it done.

We are here year round for all your  
tax planning and preparation needs.

Monday - Thursday 9-5

Call now and make an appointment  
**(802-722-4500)**

## SPAULDING & MADDEN TAX SERVICES 5111 US Rte 5 in Westminster Station

### Level 1 and Level 2 Yoga Classes Wednesdays at the Westminster Institute

Instructor: Lisa Nigro  
Call Stacie at 722-4249 for more information.

Level 1 fundamentals classes include more instruction and a slower pace for brand new beginners and those who are experiencing any physical challenges. This class also can be very helpful for experienced practitioners to re-enter beginners mind and work on form and alignment, or who just want a less vigorous class (though you can always do more challenging variations!). Level 1 students are always welcome to stay and check out the level 2 class which follows, subject to space availability.

Level 2 classes include more challenging asanas, including handstands and other strength and stamina building postures; beginners with no physical challenges and who do not need extensive instruction are also welcome to try it out...or come to both and see which one fits your needs better.

Lisa teaches a heart centered yet challenging class which has careful attention to alignment and form in the Anusara tradition. Her detailed teaching style and hands-on assists guide you into the best alignment for your body, respecting its limits and intuiting its possibilities.

"Charles Andros, former NH/VT Apiary Inspector, will hold a **BEEKEEPING WORKSHOP** from 1-3:30 PM on Saturday, May 9, at 18 MacLean Road, Alstead, NH 03602. Look for the "BEE" sign on the south side of Walpole Valley Road. Topics of discussion: finding queens, requeening and 2-queen colonies, pollen collection, swarm control, supering, and bee venom therapy. Bring a veil, if you have one, as we shall be opening some colonies. We'll be inside if it is a rainy day. Registration required. email: lindena@sover.net or call 603-756-9056."

## SAVE THE DATES

**WESTMINSTER GARDEN TOUR**  
Saturday, June 20 from 10 am to 3 pm  
Sunday, June 21 from noon to 3 pm

For info: call Westminster Cares at 722-3607, email  
wecares@sover.net or go to our website:  
www.westminstercares.org

**FATHER'S RESTAURANT**  
Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner  
Buy (1) entree and receive another  
entree of equal or lesser value  
for half ( 1/2 ) price.

(Not to be used with any other discount or offer)

Must present this coupon to receive this  
Westminster Gazette Exclusive Offer to:  
**Westminster Residents Only**

### Cotillion Provides Scholarships For Health Careers

Springfield, VT — Scholarships totaling at least \$10,000 will be awarded to area high school seniors who are interested in a career in health care. These scholarships are made possible by the funds raised at Springfield Hospital Foundation's annual Apple Blossom Cotillion.

According to Larry Kraft, Director of the Foundation, for the past four years all the proceeds from the Cotillion have been used for scholarships. Previously, he states, proceeds had also purchased equipment for the hospital. "The shortage of health care workers and the increasing cost of college education convinced us to use all the proceeds for scholarships," says Kraft. "It would be nice," he adds, "if some of these students would return to Springfield with their degrees and work here."

The number and amount of individual scholarships awarded will depend on the revenues generated by this year's Cotillion. Scholarships will be awarded based on: acceptance to a medical-based program of study, high school grades, personal character, and financial need.

Application forms are available in school guidance offices. Deadline is (today) May 4, the Monday after the 53rd annual Apple Blossom Cotillion, at which last year's scholarship recipients will be recognized.

### Local outpouring of generosity makes SEVCA's 2nd annual "Share the Warmth" Fuel Fund campaign an overwhelming success

SPRINGFIELD — Generous donors came through to truly "Share the Warmth" this year as the local fuel fund of that name raised over \$46,000 in its second year, more than double last year's total, to help local residents keep their homes heated.

The idea for the "Share the Warmth" campaign was born in October 2007, when WCFR's new Station Manager Ray Kimball and members of Southeastern Vermont Community Action's management team first met to discuss the impending crisis they feared would occur in the upcoming winter. As fuel prices escalated and winter loomed, the steady stream of anxious phone calls to SEVCA requesting fuel assistance had begun to reach panic proportions. "More and more working people couldn't afford to heat their homes," noted SEVCA's Executive Director Stephen Geller. In response to this crisis, "Share the Warmth" was created by Kimball and SEVCA to raise money for fuel funds to help the families who might not be eligible for state or federal fuel assistance, yet could not afford heating fuel on their own.

The campaign was launched with a series of interviews with SEVCA staff to educate people about the programs available to low and moderate income households, and focused on the tremendous need for help to pay for fuel. At that time, the Vermont Fuel Assistance program had an increase in applications from approximately 25,000 in the 2005-06 heating season to 32,790 in 2007-08. "We ended up raising over \$18,000 to keep people in this area warm that year," said Kimball. "It feels very good to know that those donations saved peoples' lives." The season ended with oil and kerosene prices as high as \$4.89 and \$5.79 per gallon respectively.

Anticipating a new avalanche of need, higher goals were set for this winter. "We were hoping to at least double last year's total," stated Geller. "We knew we would probably need even more than that, but with the economy doing so poorly, we didn't want to be unrealistic." As it turned out, the campaign did more than double, increasing by 155%.

The 2008-09 campaign was initially

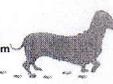
kicked off by a Bellows Falls Moose Family Center fundraising event, and then officially at the Springfield Royal Diner on October 16th by Gov. Jim Douglas, Lt. Gov. Brian Dubie, and Sean Cota (of Cota & Cota Oil), with promos by Sen. Patrick Leahy and Reps. Kathy Pellet and Mike Obuchowski. This year, thank-you letters to the agency were read over the air on WCFR, to express the variety of people's experiences in their own words. Listeners were able to hear for themselves how their help had impacted people's lives. The community responded with enormous compassion and generosity, raising over \$46,000, aided by a \$10,000 private gift, to keep local families from the cold.

"We couldn't have imagined that so many businesses and individuals would open their hearts that way. One woman even sent us her Bingo money!" said Geller incredulously. "We can't thank WCFR station manager Ray Kimball enough. He approached us, and has committed himself to raising local awareness about this problem. Without Ray, there would be no Share the Warmth." Geller notes that the need is still deep and ongoing, as evidenced by the fact that the VT Fuel Assistance Office reported processing nearly 41,000 applications this winter.

Special thanks go to the campaign's sponsors: Cota & Cota, Stephen Seitz and the Black River Tribune, Lee Johndrow and Photofields.com, Walnut Hill Realty, Merchants Bank, Bellows Falls Moose Family Center, Bellows Falls Sunrise Rotary, Emergency Services of New England, Vermont State Employees Credit Union, The Upper Valley WARM Coalition Fund, Independent Ryders, The Upper Valley Interfaith Project, Association of Springfield Area Churches, Woodstock Area Jewish Community, Newfane Congregational Church, Hartland Congregational Church, North Springfield Baptist Church, St. Paul's Episcopal, First Baptist Church of Saxton's River, Norwich Congregational Church, First Universalist Parish, St. Barnabas Church, Beaver Meadow Union Chapel, Valley Bible Church, First Baptist Church of White River Junction, and many individuals, too numerous to list here.

Anyone wishing to donate to SEVCA to help keep people from "falling through the cracks" may send a check to SEVCA, 91 Buck Drive, Westminster, VT 05158, charge via PayPal at www.sevca.org, or call 1-800-464-9951 to get more information. All contributions to SEVCA are 100% tax deductible.

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 Email: flabegone@msn.com



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 Hodgkins, Press



**Business Sponsor of the Month**  
**The Chimney Doctor**

My name is Ian Conway and I have had the privilege of serving the greater Westminster area as "The Chimney Doctor" for 21 years. I bought the business from Steve Anderson, who was my neighbor at the time. The name originated from the fact that Steve is a Phd from Harvard who had been teaching at Windham College. My travels as a chimney sweep take me to a very diverse clientele. Among my clients have been, Tasha Tudor, John Kenneth Gailbraith and Michael Eisner. I often get the most prized views of the Connecticut river valley from the rooftops as well as conversations with many enlightened and entertaining local characters. Spanning more than two decades, many of my annual service calls have become cherished visits with old friends.

And occasionally, I am saddened by the passing on of a valued friend and customer. My range of services seems to be ever increasing. I reline flues for oil gas and wood, service pellet stoves and dryer vents and minor masonry repair. With only a part time helper I stay pretty busy! This February, I travelled to North Carolina to attend the National Chimney Sweep Convention. In March I trained and was certified as a Heatsield (TM) masonry flue repair technician. This is the only UL listed repair process for damaged masonry liners. It's "flue season" now, which for a chimney sweep means annual sweeping for the many stove and fire-place chimneys that are done smoking after a long and hard winter season. So, if you see a slightly sooty personage in a black cap and a red truck give a wave and good luck will be sure to rub off on you!!!

Soot and Salutations from The Chimney Doctor  
 Ian Conway

**WESTMINSTER AUTO**  
 East 5, 101  
 Rt. 5, Westminster  
 Vernon & Doreen Kelton  
 PO Box 94, Westminster Station, VT 05159  
 (802) 722-4722  
 Check us out on our website:  
[www.westminsterauto.com](http://www.westminsterauto.com)

**BOCELLI'S ON THE CANAL**  
 44 Canal St., Bellows Falls VT  
 (802) 460-1190  
 Fine dining in a casual friendly atmosphere  
 Italian-based dishes made fresh to order using local organic and imported ingredients  
[www.boccellisonthecanal.com](http://www.boccellisonthecanal.com)

**HOURS !!**  
 Weds-Sat 11-9  
 lunch, dinner and  
 takeout anytime!



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 VT 05158  
 802-376-7452 802-463-1431  
 Livestock Handling  
 Dedicated runs to  
 Northampton Cooperative Auctions Inc.  
 every Tuesday.

**BF Alumni Weekend NEWS**  
**June 19-21, 2009**

The 104th Bellows Falls Alumni Association's three day weekend celebration will be held Friday, June 19 to Sunday, June 21. Dances will be held Friday evening from 8 pm to 12 am at the Waypoint Center with music by Intercept and at American Legion Post 37 with S&M Productions. Paid dues and a \$5.00 cover charge are necessary or admission to any of the dances. Alumni may purchase one guest ticket. Dues should be paid by mail, but dues may also be paid at the Dari Joy the night of the dance from noon to 8 pm or the immediately preceding Wednesday and Thursday from 5 to 8 pm.

Class reunions will be held Saturday, including the fiftieth reunion of the Class of 1959 at Vermont Academy as guests of the Association.

**Perfect Creations**  
 Tanning and Hair Salon  
 Krasner 129  
 Westminster, VT  
 802-722-4322  
 Owner: Janmy Krasner



**THE CHIMNEY DOCTOR**  
 Ian Conway  
 Chimney & Stove Care  
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 Authorized Installer - Regions of Vermont  
 West of Green Mountains  
 100 N. Main St., Westminster, VT 05158  
 (802) 722-3818  
 100 N. Main St., Westminster, VT 05158  
 (802) 722-3818



The gala alumni parade will kick off at 1 pm sharp Sunday from the Morgan's field area, south on Atkinson Street, then north on Westminster Street thru the Square to Rockingham Street. Please register your entry by calling 802-376-5099 or emailing julietorres75@hotmail.com.

Prior to the start of the parade, the Alumni Queen, selected by the 2009 graduating class, will be crowned in the Square at 12:30 pm.

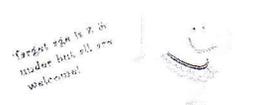
A collection for the 51 year old scholarship fund and the general support of the weekend will be conducted during the parade; please be as generous as possible. Over 223 graduates have received \$114,500 in scholarship awards since 1958.

The annual business meeting will be held at 4 pm Sunday at the Bellows Falls Middle School. Awards will be presented for class attendance, long distance, floats and bands.

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**Family Music and Dance Time**  
 Saturday May 16, 6-7:30  
 Westminster Institute  
 Sponsored by the Westminster Activities Commission



**School Board Blog**  
 In an effort to increase transparency and communication with the public about the school board, Westminster Board member Rick Gordon has been keeping a blog at <http://www.rickwestboard.blogspot.com/>. Please keep track of this site for information and reflections on the workings of the school board.

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