

# Westminster Gazette



po box 147 westminster vt 05158

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

Vol. 6, No.5 May 2010

## Spring is a busy time at the Westminster Schools!

by Liz Bourne, Librarian



On April 12th, we celebrated MATH NIGHT with Mahesh Sharma. After gathering for dinner in the Center School dining room, families joined their children in classrooms. Children showed parents math concepts and tools they've been working with this year: colored Cuisenaire rods, dominoes, and special decks of cards without numbers. In Mr. Sharma's talk at the end of the evening, he spoke about the different ways we know about math and how we learn it. He gave parents pointers on how they can help their children practice the skills they're learning in school.

On April 14th, groups of very quiet and nearly invisible 6th graders traveled through the school as if they were runaway slaves, slave hunters or conductors on the Underground Railroad.



On April 15th, the school community visited Westminsterville! Culminating studies of Colonial America, 5th graders reenacted life in an early American village. They answered visitor questions in character, as if they really were a chandler, blacksmith or other villager of the period. Students did an excellent job, showing understanding of their jobs and their historical time period, and they seemed proud to share their knowledge with others. As a kindergarten was heard to remark, visiting Westminsterville was the best part of his day!



Busy Spring Continued



After vacation, from April 26th to 30th, master drummer, composer and educator Steve Leicach performed and taught during a weeklong residency. He has studied, taught, and performed in Africa and the United States, and is an expert in Ghanaian drumming, African and Caribbean hand-drumming techniques. Steve's demonstrations of a wide range of drums included congas, djembe, balafon, and the shekere. At our All School Meeting, he had the whole school dancing! During the week, each class met with him twice, and students learned how to play many of these instruments, as well as how to participate as a member of a musical ensemble.



On April 28th, children at the West School and in kindergarten, 5th & 3rd grades met a Masai warrior! William is visiting Vermont and staying in Brattleboro for a week before heading back to Kenya. He shared a wonderful presentation, which included tales of the traditional Masai life in his village, many photographs, stories of lion hunting, enthralling imitations of animal sounds, and songs in Masai.

On Wednesday, April 28th, students at the Westminster West School wrapped up their poetry residency with Verandah Porche by presenting an evening of poetry readings. Verandah visited the school weekly from February till mid April. During this time, students learned about and wrote many different kinds of poems. Each child picked a few favorites to recite and share with the community in a gala event held at the West Community Church.

## Public Notice

At the March 30, 2010 Selectboard meeting, during discussion of petition for reconsideration of Town Meeting vote, residents in attendance asked many questions about PAYT and recycling. Residents were asked to convey questions they would like answered prior to the Special Town Meeting to the manager's office no later than April 16th. The questions and their answers will be printed on the town website (<http://westminster@govoffice.com>) by April 23, 2010, along with other PAYT and recycling information. Copies of the information may be picked up at the Westminster Town Hall Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 4:00 P.M.

**Don't forget to come to the Special Town Meeting being held at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, May 4, 2010 at Bellows Falls Union High School Auditorium.**



## DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY WITH 3RD RAIL BELLOWS FALLS HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS BENEFIT

The 2010 BFUHS Alumni Weekend is just around the corner, and the Alumni Association will be kicking the year off with a fun-filled evening of dancing to the music of 3rd Rail at the Moose Family Lodge in Bellows Falls on Saturday, May 8, from 8:00 to 12:00pm.

All ages are welcome, and there will be a cover charge of \$5.00 per person at the door. Positive ID will be required for patrons 21 years of age and older who wish to purchase alcoholic beverages.

Proceeds from the event will help to defray expenses of the Alumni weekend. Mark your calendar now and **come join the fun!**

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**Bellows Falls - Brattleboro Commuter Schedule**

Time	101 Bellows Falls	102 Bellows Falls	103 Bellows Falls	104 Bellows Falls	105 Bellows Falls	106 Bellows Falls	107 Bellows Falls	108 Bellows Falls	109 Bellows Falls	110 Bellows Falls	111 Bellows Falls	112 Bellows Falls	113 Bellows Falls	114 Bellows Falls	115 Bellows Falls	116 Bellows Falls	117 Bellows Falls	118 Bellows Falls	119 Bellows Falls	120 Bellows Falls
5:45	6:00	6:02	6:04	6:06	6:08	6:10	6:12	6:14	6:16	6:18	6:20	6:22	6:24	6:26	6:28	6:30	6:32	6:34	6:36	6:38
1:55	2:10	2:12	2:14	2:16	2:18	2:20	2:22	2:24	2:26	2:28	2:30	2:32	2:34	2:36	2:38	2:40	2:42	2:44	2:46	2:48
4:10	4:12	4:14	4:16	4:18	4:20	4:22	4:24	4:26	4:28	4:30	4:32	4:34	4:36	4:38	4:40	4:42	4:44	4:46	4:48	4:50

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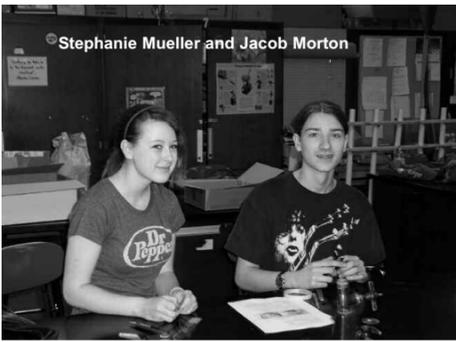
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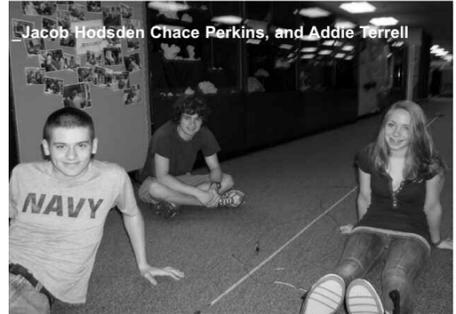
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Stephanie Mueller and Jacob Morton



Jacob Hodsdon, Chace Perkins, and Addie Terrell



Ben Hewitt and Stewart Shaughnessy

**BFUHS students construct a radio telescope to communicate with the sun**

by Suzanne Groenewold

Communication with the sun and Jupiter is closer than you'd think. The Radio JOVE project at the Bellows Falls Union High School is off to a good start. Physics teacher Harvey Nystrom applied for and received a \$5,000 grant award from the Vermont Department of Education through a federal stimulus grant last fall. With funding and materials now in place, honors physics student Nick Edwards, who hopes to become an electrical engineer after he graduates this year, is building the receiver from scratch. Ben Hewitt, a tech student who also took honors physics, is constructing the masts to support the antenna. In addition, several students from Mike Norkun's Honors Earth Science class are constructing an antenna and sign cables, which requires attention to detail and careful measurements. The group hopes to have these three pieces completed by the end of April so that in May when the weather is calmer they can assemble and test the entire radio telescope. Once tested, Nystrom and the students can start making observations of the sun. Activity on the sun has been increasing slowly over the past few months. The last solar burst happened March 28th of this year. The students hope to detect something before the end of the school year.

Teachers Nystrom and Norkun recently made a presentation of the project to other science teachers at the Vermont Science Teachers Conference held in Burlington. Mr. Nystrom has been invited to give a presentation at the Dynamic Landscapes 2.0 technology conference held on May 13th and 14th at Champlain College in Burlington. The Vermont Information Technology Association for the Advancement of Learning (VITA-Learn) and the Vermont School Library Association (VSLA) jointly sponsor this conference.



**Westminster Women's Fellowship Gas Card Winners**

- \$100 Mobil Card
- Polly Kissell Westminster
- \$ 50 Citgo Card
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- \$ 50 Irving Card
- Louise Luring Saxtons River



Volunteers attending the 2010 Kurn Hattin Homes' Volunteer Recognition Dinner.

**KURN HATTIN CELEBRATES THEIR VOLUNTEERS** by Kim Fine

Kurn Hattin Homes in Westminster, Vermont held its Annual Volunteer Recognition Banquet on March 11, 2010 to honor the many people who volunteer at the Homes. Many of the volunteers help with school, sports, music and special events. Whatever the reason or venue they appreciate the overall good behavior of the children at Kurn Hattin.

Volunteering is quite often the high point of the volunteer's day. The children know that they are fortunate to have someone interested in them. "Volunteers offer so much individual support and positive adult interaction for our children," says Tom Fahner, Director of Educational and Residential Services. "We couldn't do what we do without our volunteers. Some programs just wouldn't exist without them."

Every year, the Kurn Hattin volunteers are recognized at a special dinner in their honor. Hats off to all of you who volunteer at Kurn Hattin Homes. To Bill Abbott, Laurie Alberts, Donna Aldrich, Danny Bacigalupo, Shari Gladman Baker, Jerry L. Bardwell, Carol Bazin, Diane Bazin, Lisa & Jeff Bianconi, Fran & Michael Cheslock, Carolyn Blake-Deyo, Bill & Barbara Brackett, Dave Brodeur, Darrel & Marianne Daley, Gordon Dansereau, Jamie Dansereau, Ed Dinnany, Tim & Brenda Eno, Tom & Donna Fahner, Sara Frantz, Justin Fuller, Charles Fuqua, Gary Carrier, Chris Goding, Jacky Goodrich, Paul Gordon, Father Lance Harlow, Jeffrey B. Hatch, John & Carol Hubbard, Priscilla Kenny-Brand, Charles P. Kelsey, Dean Kinville, Rich Kuhn, Sean Long, Bill & Louise Luring, Pastor Sami Macrae, Elizabeth Maiola, Tim Maney, Rick Manson, David J. & Barbara Maysilles, Francese Mills, Jacky Mallory, Walter B. Menzel, Sally Motzer, Joseph & Kerri Newton, George & Sue Nostrand, Michael J. Obuchowski, Hugh Perkins, Ann Reed Prager, Mrs. Frank J. Prindl, Jasmin Queen, George Ruhe, Karen Rumrill, Tina Smith, Merton Snow, Annette Spaulding & Patrick Madden, Sally & Merrill Mundell, Malcolm Streeter, Robert & Susan Tidlund, Michael Todd, Vern & Roberta Violette, Trudy Walker, Barbara & Gary West, Ron & Pat Williams, Janet Wilson, and Larry & Bette Wunderle. We can't thank you enough. Kurn Hattin is a non-profit, residential home and school for in-need and at-risk children, ages 6-15, from throughout the Northeast.



**Keene State College Awards Craig Divis 2010 Holocaust Studies Award**

Bellows Falls Union High School Social Studies teacher and Vermont's 2010 teacher of the year, Craig Divis, was awarded the 2010 Charles A. Hildebrandt Holocaust Studies Community Award from Keene State College. The award is part of Keene State College's Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. It is given in recognition of excellence in Holocaust Studies. Mr. Divis' research and presentation on "Anti-Nazi Dissent, Opposition, and Resistance" was what he was given the award for. He created the presentation for a unit in his World History and A.P. European History courses he teaches at the high school.



**Westminster Cares celebrated our volunteers at a party on April 24 at the Westminster Institute. April was National Volunteer Month.**



(l-r) Kristie Lisai, Aaliyah Olmo-Gilmore, Gabrielle Knight and Barbara K. Luff at the Kurn Hattin Homes' Ziggy Ostrowski Writing Contest Banquet.

**Author attends Kurn Hattin Mystery Writing Contest Banquet** by Kim Fine

Vermont author, Barbara K. Luff was the special guest speaker at the 2010 Mystery Writers' Contest Banquet at Kurn Hattin Homes. This year's contest was to read the first four chapters of the book, Tea Time, by Barbara Luff, and rewrite the fifth chapter to the story, or write the Epilogue. The contest was Kurn Hattin Homes' writing and processing coach, Ziggy Ostrowski's idea in 2001 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 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 Troy Davis, grade 6, Erica Tirado-Cuebas, grade 7, Courtney Bussino, grade 7, Dylan Conklin, grade 7, Gabrielle Knight, grade 8, and Aaliyah Olmo-Gilmore, grade 8. The two winners were Aaliyah Olmo-Gilmore and Gabrielle Knight. They were awarded a cash gift and all of the contestants were recognized at the banquet with the author. This year, a new prize, The Paul Gordon Memorial Prize, was awarded. Paul had been a long-time judge and admirer of the contest. Paul, a cook at Kurn Hattin, recently passed away and the prize was generously funded by his good friend, Richard Johnson, Director of Food Services at the Homes. The prize was given to the student who shares the love that Paul had for reading mysteries and writing. The recipient this year was 8th grader, Stephyn O'Leary. He was awarded with the book, Heart-Shaped Box, by Joe Hill.

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.

Ms. Luff was very impressed by the creativity and imagination of the Kurn Hattin students. Since the contest's inception, authors Archer Mayor, Karen Hesse, Jesse Haas, Castle Freeman, Doug Wilhelm, Katherine Patterson, Sarah Stewart Taylor, Nancy Means Wright, Jennifer McMahon, and this year, Barbara Luff 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.

**Students for Social Action**

A team of fifth and sixth grade students at Westminster Center School has been advocating all year for a good cause: to improve school climate and help all students feel included. These students are part of a new group called the Student Social Action Committee (SSAC). Last fall the students received two half days of training in learning how to address and resolve social conflicts. So far this year the SSAC members have coordinated recess games for kindergarten students, hosted "Little Buddy" lunches for younger peers in need of social support, and provided friendship and problem solving approaches for girls in the third grade.

In addition to the SSAC, the Westminster Schools continue to devote professional development efforts to make our school a place where social learning exists side by side with academic progress. The entire staff has worked with Kim John Payne and The Center for Social Sustainability to integrate a social inclusion approach to interpersonal conflicts. Social inclusion provides a preventative measure to help reduce any teasing or bullying in the schools.

In the 2010 school climate survey, completed by students in the 3rd through 6th grades, nearly three-quarters of the students (74%) responded that school is either "always or usually" safe and friendly. The survey also indicates that over the past three years, the level of teasing or bullying has remained relatively low. From 2008 to 2010, less than 1 in 10 students report that they are faced with teasing or bullying on a regular basis. The Westminster Schools continue to implement the Responsive Classroom approach to promote a strong sense of community, significance and belonging in the classroom. A consultant from the Northeast Foundation for Children, Paula Dento



**Price Chopper's Golub Foundation Supports Kurn Hattin's Healthy Children Program** by Kim Fine

The Price Chopper's Golub Foundation recently contributed a generous grant to Kurn Hattin Homes' Healthy Children Program, a special program which provides the necessary coverage of medical expenses for underinsured and uninsured children. The cost for annual physicals, dental exams, corrective lenses, speech therapy and medical prescriptions have risen exponentially and many families just aren't able to keep up with the insurance costs and application procedures. Supporting this program is a great help to these children and their families. We thank the Price Chopper Golub Foundation for their continued support to Kurn Hattin. Price Chopper is a third generation, family owned business and the Golub Foundation supports projects that improve the quality of life in the community.

**Kurn Hattin Homes' Principal Receives Rotary's Highest Honor** by Kim Fine

Tom Fahner recently received the prestigious Paul Harris Fellowship Award from the Bellows Falls Rotary Club. Paul Harris Fellow recognition was created in memory of Paul Harris, the founder of Rotary. The Bellows Falls Rotary awards the Paul Harris Fellowship to select members in appreciation of his or her service to the club.

The Paul Harris Fellowship Award is one of the highest honors Rotary can bestow upon a person. Recipients are Rotarians and community professionals in recognition of their outstanding contributions, exemplifying the highest ideal in Rotary in placing "SERVICE ABOVE SELF." Each new Paul Harris Fellow receives a commemorative certificate and a pin. This honor accompanies a donation of \$1,000 or more, in the recipient's name, to Rotary International's "Annual Program Fund," which supports Rotary's world-wide programs. These programs include Ambassadorial Scholars, Rotary World Peace Fellows, Group Study Exchange team leaders and members, Rotary Peace and Conflict Studies Program participants and recipients of Rotary Grants for University Teachers and Volunteer Service Grants. Since 1947, more than 105,000 people have received program awards from Rotary Foundation.

**Westminster West Library's popular Family Movie Night**

series continues on May 14th with comedy animation and a dramatic feature. The program begins at 6:30PM with the barnyard antics of SHAUN THE SHEEP, another hilarious creation by the same team that brought us Wallace & Gromit. At 7:00PM we present THE SECRET GARDEN (1993), Polish director Agnieszka Holland's adaptation of Frances Hodgson Burnett's beloved children's novel. It's the story of a strong-willed English girl, Mary, orphaned by an earthquake in India and sent to live at her uncle's oppressive country mansion. When Mary discovers a beautiful but neglected garden, hidden behind high walls and memories of loss, everything and everyone around her begins to come to life. Another great film for audiences of all ages. Admission is free, everyone's invited, plenty of popcorn. For more information, email westwestflicks at gmail dot com, or call David at 802-869-2697.

See you there!

**WESTMINSTER GAZETTE**

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Pictures and Articles

Provided by the Community

westminsternews@gmail.com



Front row: Barb Comtois, Regina Borden, Bill Luring and Cheryl Baxley. Back row: Karen Walter, Audrey Boerum, Kay Hult and Joyce Lemire. Front row: Barb Comtois, Regina Borden, Bill Luring and Cheryl Baxley.

### Marks Meadow Senior Living – an elder housing project planned for North Westminster

– passed several milestones this spring. In March, the Westminster selectboard approved a zoning change for density requirements, opening the way for the project to eventually build 56 units. And the Westminster-Rockingham Elder Housing Project committee hired Bob Crego as pre-development director to guide the project through the next phase, including securing grants and hiring an architect.

The first phase of Marks Meadows – 28 units of independent housing for all income levels – is projected to be ready for occupation in 2012. The other 28 units, for assisted living, will be built later.

The need for senior housing is urgent. "The demographics for the state of Vermont show that we have an annual growth of 12% of people turning 65 years old," said committee member Joyce Lemire, executive director of the Council on Aging. "And most of the them aren't choosing to move to warmer climates."

Most seniors want to remain in their hometowns, surrounded by family and friends and helped by the community's strong social network. A survey of residents in surrounding towns found a strong majority that would like to have such an option.

The project began to sprout five years ago when an elderly parishioner at the Bellows Falls United Church of Christ (UCC) was forced to move to Windsor, against her wishes, because there was no assisted living space in Bellows Falls. "She was our force," said Barb Comtois, a committee and UCC member. "We have six or eight people who will be in that situation soon, and we're committed to having assisted living."

Meanwhile, Westminster Cares was working on its own senior housing project.

Four years ago, the two organizations joined forces with other social service groups from Rockingham and Westminster, and began planning.

"Everyone's dream is that it doesn't look like a standard home for the elderly," Lemire said. "Every one of us wants to feel that we would be proud to move in."

The project will include a kitchen, an amenity dear to the heart of Cheryl Baxley, nutrition director for the Council on Aging. "We want to make sure that as our residents age in place, their nutritional needs are well-met," she said.

The kitchen will be one of the features that other agencies can share. The project will offer space to other support services that have shown interest, including Sojourns, the Council on Aging, Connecticut River Transit and Land for Good.

The 16-acre site will also be welcoming to housing residents and local people alike with walking trails and perhaps a playground.

Meanwhile, there's much to do. Raising the estimated \$9 million for the total project will take state and federal grants and private funds. By August, the group will find out if it will receive a \$2 million federal Housing and Urban Development grant to get the project off the ground.

Marks Meadows Senior Living won't be the only senior housing project in the area, the committee hopes. "With so many small towns and older people in Vermont, we want to be a model for other elder housing projects like this," said UCC pastor Kay Hult.

### DOING IT RIGHT THE FIRST TIME by Babs Lynde, a Vermont Master Gardener

I think most of us have been astounded by the super warm temperatures we've been experiencing this spring. The snow was all but gone by the time the crocuses and daffodils blossomed, and our springtime peepers were singing their songs almost a month premature. Even the birds are early in their springtime rituals - I've already got a nest full of baby robins squeaking above my wisteria!

Springtime also means preparing our soil and getting it ready for our vegetable gardens. Regardless of whether or not it's a new or old garden, there are several steps that should be taken in order to have prosperous and healthy fruits, vegetables and herbs. The danger for us this year is that the air temperature has risen so fast that many home gardeners may decide to skip the required basics in order to take advantage of this unusual warmth. Resist the urge, or you may find yourself doing a second planting later!

First, get rid of those pesky weeds. Rototilling may be faster, but chopping up several big weeds into hundreds of little pieces will produce a mature plant from each piece. Pulling weeds by hand may be a lot longer and harder on the hands and knees, but removing each plant in whole will keep the weeds at bay for a much longer period of time. After you have removed most or all of the weeds, turn the soil over. This accomplishes two things: one, it loosens the soil so that young and tender seedlings can take root easier, and two, if your garden is full of insect larvae, it's a great way of exposing them to the surface. Birds will feast on them, and if there's a quick night freeze, it will kill off many more.

Most important: be aware that the temperature of the soil is not always the same as the air. Soil is denser than air and so therefore takes a longer period of time to warm up. Some crops will do well with the cooler temperatures, but other plants will dampen off or wither if they are planted too soon in cold soil. A great way to know the temperature is by purchasing an inexpensive soil thermometer which can be found at

### Planning Westminster: The Town's Plan

\* Reviewing and re-writing the Town Plan is intended to result in the Town's Plan, meaning the limits on development and patterns of development desired by the residents, not just a vision in the mind of an elected official.

\* The Planning Commission is in the process of producing a survey that we hope every resident will complete and submit, so that we will have the wishes of Westminster residents well-documented.

\* Any resident can also communicate their wishes regarding the Town Plan by individual postal mail, email, or a phone call.

\* At this time we expect the survey to be available for distribution sometime between June and September.

Change can be like a tsunami, a sudden and destructive flood of water. But the changes we and our children will have to cope with might include the opposite: a sudden fall in the groundwater level or "water table." What should we do if a certain percentage of private wells fail? When might this happen? In fifty years, in twenty-five years, or in five years? Or, the water might be there, just down 600 to 800 feet. That would mean more expensive drilling and more expense to pump the water to the surface. What would we need to do if we wanted to have a "Plan B" in place for the day when private drilled wells are no longer an effective method to meet household water needs? Will sources from abutting towns be available? Affordable? Or should we just wait?

\* Do some residents want a grocery store in Westminster Village? Do some residents want a factory that employs a hundred people?

\* Do some residents want everything to stay the same, just stand still with no new development?

\* How do we include every preference and opinion? We will make our best effort and we hope every resident will communicate what they want and don't want for Westminster's future.

\* I was elected to be the Chair of the Westminster Planning Commission at the April 12th meeting and I am very concerned that Westminster residents be as specific as possible when they state what they want and don't want.

I am familiar, as we all are, with the desire for "quality of life" or "small town atmosphere" or "rural character," but these phrases are not specific. One person's "small town atmosphere" might be another person's "children of the corn." Often people say they don't want a fast-food chain restaurant in town, but then, when one does open up, everybody is there to get a triple-bypass burger or a pizza with alien toppings. Maybe most Westminster residents want to continue supporting the "home in the country" model of development, and maybe the majority want to make a transition back to the "walkable village" with large tracts of undeveloped land in between.

If we write the Town Plan to support village living and neighborhood living, then our zoning ordinances will have to be revised to include a form of "mixed use" or "planned unit district." That is what we would have to do, for example, to make it possible to permit a small grocery store (commercial use) in what is otherwise a residential district. Yes we can, if that is what we want.

Visit the Town website ([Westminster.gov/office.com/](http://Westminster.gov/office.com/)) or call 802-722-4524 with your questions or suggestions. The Planning Commission meets at the Town Hall, 7:00 pm, the second Monday of the month. Visitors welcome.

### SEVCA "CHIPPING AWAY AT POVERTY" WITH 9TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT ON JUNE 3RD

WESTMINSTER – Southeastern Vermont Community Action's (SEVCA's) 2010 Benefit Golf Tournament will be held on Thursday, June 3rd, at the Crown Point Country Club in Springfield. Once again, the theme is "Chipping Away at Poverty," reflecting the work SEVCA does day after day to help people cope with and reduce the hardships of poverty while helping them move toward economic security and self-sufficiency.

"The proceeds from the tournament are essential to SEVCA's ability to help our clients resolve the many issues they face," according to Executive Director Steve Geller. "We need these funds to make sure families have heat, are not evicted from their homes, can put food on their table and resolve other crises, especially in light of the insanely high cost of fuel, housing, food and other basic needs over the past few years."

SEVCA is seeking broad involvement by local businesses and individuals in this event, one of the organization's most important annual fundraisers. Participation can take the form of being a sponsor, playing in the tournament or sponsoring a golfer or a foursome. National Fiber of Belchertown, MA has already signed on as a Tournament Co-Sponsor, but there are still opportunities for a Tournament Sponsor

and additional Co-Sponsors. All sponsorships are tax-deductible. All of the event's sponsors will receive recognition in the program and at the luncheon, signs at the event, and in local newspapers and on SEVCA's website and networking pages. Players will get a fun day of golf on an excellent course. And everyone will have the satisfaction of contributing to the health, well-being and quality of life for some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

To make it even more enticing, there are great prizes, including: 1st, 2nd & 3rd place teams, Longest Drive and Closest to the Pin for men and women; four great Hole-in-One prizes, which include a brand new 2010 Toyota Corolla LE from Durand Ford Toyota of Westminster, a Royal Caribbean cruise, a \$500 pro shop gift certificate, and a set of golf clubs. In addition, there will be a Putting Contest with a \$5,000 prize for sinking the putt.

Call SEVCA at (800) 464-9951 or send an email to [lbrooks@sevca.org](mailto:lbrooks@sevca.org) to request sponsorship and/or registration forms or to get more information. For more information about the Tournament Co-Sponsor, go to National Fiber's website at [www.nationalfiber.com](http://www.nationalfiber.com).

most nurseries or lawn and garden stores. Simply stick the prod into the ground and wait the amount of time prescribed on the directions. Be sure to check

in several places as one spot in your garden may not get the same amount of sun or air circulation as another. If you cannot find a soil thermometer, Heather from Allen Brothers Nursery says that a meat thermometer will do just as well - just stick it in the soil and wait for about a minute!

Here's a good temperature guide for home gardeners to know when to plant the right crops.

For soil temperatures up to 50° - Beets, carrots, lettuce, parsley, peas, radishes, spinach

For soil temperatures at 50° to 60° - Cabbage, cauliflower, leeks, onions, turnips

For soil temperatures at 60° to 70° - Broccoli, cantaloupes, cucumbers, sweet corn, tomatoes

For soil temperatures 70° and above - Beans, peppers, squash, watermelons

One way to raise the temperature of the soil a bit faster for warm-loving crops is to cover it with clear or black plastic for a few days. Clear plastic will warm the soil much faster than black plastic, but black plastic will block out the sun and kill any remaining weeds. The choice is yours as far as how long you are willing to wait before planting your crops. Check the soil temperature every couple of days until you've reached the desired degree.

Would you like more information about springtime soil preparation? 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.

## Aged in Vermont

Westminster Cares, Inc.

### The Fine Line

This article is directed toward the adults who have parents or loved ones in their life who have shown signs of giving up on the future.

There is a fine line between wanting to help someone stay active and positive and allowing them to be comfortable with their position in life. It's not unusual to hear someone complain because their elderly parents have become uninterested in life. "All they want to do is sit around and watch TV" "They never want to go anywhere", "They won't leave the house." "What's the matter with them?" To the active adults in the family this seems to be intolerable, and the nagging can't be much fun for the elders. Obviously it is very unhealthy to be idle and to be disconnected socially. Depression sets in. Physical health is impaired. So we try to encourage activity. We try to encourage socializing within or outside the family. We do it with the best intentions. However, is this in the best interest of "Mom and Dad"? Every family is different. Every situation requires thoughtful consideration. In some cases magic can be performed and the parents can become happier and healthier with the smallest amount of encouragement. In other cases we could be adding to the pain of growing old that many are experiencing. So what is the answer? There isn't a one size fits all conclusion, but here is a suggestion. Have you noticed how much more improved parenting has become over the years? Today's parents are masters at disciplining their children while at the same time, considering the child's self esteem. Try it on the elderly. Give them your best advice. Share with them all you know. Gently remind them how important they are and how valuable their lives are, not only to themselves, but to others. But be careful not to take away any more of their self esteem than the aging process has. Remember, many of their friends are gone, much of their energy has diminished, and the horizon is getting closer and closer. Encourage positive living while maintaining understanding and dignity.

Written by Pete Harrison has been a resident of Westminster for approx. 40 years. Pete is President of the Westminster Cares Board and an active community member.

"Old age ain't no place for sissies," Bette Davis said. Well, sissies or not, we're all headed for that place. And the better we know the geography, the easier it will be to navigate.

"Aged in Vermont" is a monthly article on aging issues, organized by Westminster Cares. We're asking local professionals and residents with an interest in these issues to write them.

The articles are not just reading material for the "aged". Young, old and middle-aged readers — anyone with an elderly parent, relative or friend, or who just wants to learn about these important issues that affect us all — is invited to take a look. Remember: "It's not how old you are; it's how you are old."

We will address such topics as losing a pet, sleeping problems, supplements, advanced directives and creativity. We'll explore questions such as should I move to town? and decision making: whose life is this anyway?

Ideas for future columns? We'd like to hear from you. Email Ronnie Friedman at [wecares@sover.net](mailto:wecares@sover.net).

### WESTMINSTER CARES, INC.

The Westminster Cares, Inc. Board of Directors met on April 8, 2010. 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 elders.

**Programs:** Programs attended in March: Two Secrets of Healthy Aging session, Five Yoga classes, Five Artist in Each of Us classes, Twenty-two People Exercising classes held.

**Garden Tour:** The Garden Tour is planned for Saturday and Sunday June 26th and 27th.

**Volunteer Recognition Party:** April is Volunteer Month and Westminster Cares decided to honor its volunteers by holding a reception. The event took place on Saturday, April 24 from 4 to 6 pm at the Westminster Institute. Food and gifts were provided for the volunteers. It was well attended and a good time was enjoyed by all.

**Nursing Program:** Ronnie reported that the nursing program is well on its way — with Trudy acquiring equipment (blood pressure cuffs, etc.) in order to give care. Discussed letting doctors offices know about the program so that they can share the information with their patients, and use of fliers to let people know about the program.

**Services Provided Include:** Meals-on-Wheels to 13 people; 25 rides for 8 different people by 7 volunteers for a total of 390 miles; 2 pieces of medical equipment were loaned out; and volunteers visited three people. Recent help with a client includes a new furnace and volunteer support. A 3 wheel bike was loaned to another client. Meetings attended by the Director in March: Bookkeeper, Gazette and Art program.

Anyone interested in learning more about Westminster 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).

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 Cares has received the following memorial gifts during the month of April:  
From Verna and Donald Newcomb in memory of Avis and Leslie Dodge  
From Susan Harlow in memory of Ralph Harlow  
From Laurie Larue in memory of Jean Harlow and Ralph Harlow  
From Samuel Bunker in memory of Marge Bunker  
From the Westminster Fire and Rescue Association in memory of Phyllis Norman  
From Barbara Greenough in memory of Phyllis Norman  
From Peggy and Mark Porter in memory of Phyllis Norman  
From Daniel and Kelly Green in memory of Phyllis Norman  
From the 5 Lawrence brothers, Bernie, Dan, Jim, David and Dana in memory of Phyllis Norman

**WESTMINSTERNEWS@GMAIL.COM**

## WESTMINSTER MYSTERY PHOTO



**Where is this building 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 802-722-9518**  
**The answer and the winners will be announced in the next issue.**

**April Answer:** The building was located on U S Route 5 across the street from the Westminster Station Market, and it was used for many years as a blacksmith shop. The building has changed hands and uses many times since, including being a shelter for young cattle.

**April Winners:** Bernie Lawrence, Don Nowers, and David Wright.

If you have picture's 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. Next association meeting May 3rd 7:00 PM [Monday because of the special town meeting on Tuesday May 4th]  
The Prudential Committee meets twice a month on the first and third Monday after the first Tuesday at 7:00 PM

May meetings: 10th & 24th  
Number of calls in March: 15  
Number of man hours spent: 1,572

Number of calls through April 29th: 28

Number of man hours spent: 5,272  
Number of calls calendar year to Date: 112  
Number of calls fiscal year to date: 280

**Department News:** The members were saddened by the loss of two people in April, Don Fullam, past member of the fire department and longtime former resident of Westminster and Phyllis Norman, wife of longtime member Ernie Norman and the mother of rescue captain Wanda West. Also, Association President and member Greg Holton and his wife Joan became grandparents of a son born April 5th to Chris and Megan Holton.  
**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. And watch out for bees. Nest are apt to be made in an idle grill and could be a big and unsuspected surprise when the cover is removed.

**Caution, Bee's Nests:** With the ground drying out there are many in-ground bee's nest as well as above ground nests. These nests are often unnoticed until someone steps on one or they are driven over by a lawn mower or other vehicle. Be especially cautious if there is someone in the family who is allergic to bee stings. If that is the case, make sure the proper first aid equipment is with them or readily available at all times.

#### Pet Masks and File of Life:

The Westminster Fire and Rescue Department and Association is constantly working in conjunction with Westminster Cares to distribute the File of Life refrigerator magnets. The File of Life refrigerator magnets are small files that can be filled in with important information regarding contact names and medical conditions as well as a list of current prescribed medications. This could all be very pertinent information for an emergency person who is called to the house. The Pet Masks, or Animal Oxygen Recovery Masks, come in sets with three sizes of masks. The Fire Department has one set for the Rescue truck. It is the hope of the Fire Department to have a set on each fire and rescue vehicle in the future. Anyone interested in learning more about either project, contact Westminster Cares @ 722 3607 or Pete Harrison @722-3080

**Association Meeting:** The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association met for their regular meeting April 6th with 27 members present and 6 members excused. The member voted to approve the purchase of two tents, a 20x20 and a 10x20. The association members also voted to become an Underwriter for the Gazette at a cost of \$400. Regular training and rescue training will be April 20th at 7PM. Other events the association members will be participating in for May are: Kurn Hattin Spring Fling May 1st, Armory Open House May 8th.

#### 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.  
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

Faith Community

Meetings

## Scottish Country Dance

### Classes

Every Wednesday  
@ 7:30 pm 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.  
All Westminster seniors are invited  
to attend. Join us at the First Con-  
gregational Church on Route 5

### Bellows Falls Gallery

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

## Secrets of Health Aging

A facilitated discussion group and  
pot-luck. The 2nd and 4th Tues-  
days of each month at the West-  
minster 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 7:30pm @ The Town  
Hall in Walpole, NH.

### Gentle Yoga

Every Monday at 10:00am @ The  
Westminster Institute: Call West-  
minster 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.

## The First Congregational Church of Westminster

United Church of Christ

The Rev. Sami Jones McRae, Pastor samimcrae@gmail.com  
Main Street, Route 5, P.O. Box 122, Westminster, Vermont 05158,  
802-722-4148 Westminstercongoline@yahoo.com

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 wheel-  
chair access as well as a handicapped bathroom. Westminster First  
Congregational is an Open and Affirming church, all are welcome.

### Important Dates

May 2 Worship, communion, Sunday School and GREEN Up Day after  
church

May 4 - Women's Fellowship - 12:00 noon

May 9, Worship NO Sunday School

May 15, Roast Pork Supper 5-7

May 15 - Trustees - 9:00 am

May 16 - Worship and Sunday School

May 16 - Deacons meeting after coffee hour

May 17 - Standing committee - 7:00 pm

May 23 - Worship and Sunday School

May 29 - Women's Fellowship Book, Bake, Plant and Odds and Ends  
Sale 10 am - 3 pm

May 30 - Worship

On Saturday, May 15 there will be a Roast Pork Supper from 5-7 at the  
church. The menu will include Roast Pork and Gravy, Mashed  
Potatoes, Maple Carrots, Rolls, Coffee and Tea. For dessert the now  
famous Homemade Bread Pudding will be served. Dinner will cost \$9  
and \$4 for Children under 12. If you want a relaxing evening to spend  
with friends and family then this event is for you.

On Saturday, May 29 the Women's Fellowship will host a Book, Bake,  
Plant and Odds and Ends Sale from 10 - 3. This event will be held rain  
or shine and will feature a variety of items including books, fabric, bulbs,  
plants and plant starts as well as quality odds and ends. Summer Bulbs  
will be for sale for \$4.00. Refreshments will be served and baked goods  
will be for sale. Come and browse the tables and enjoy a hotdog or  
chili for lunch.

Women's Fellowship will be having a summer bulb sale toward the end  
of April. There will be packages in the Fellowship Hall. \$4.00 a pkg.  
Come check them out.

## 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 wor-  
ship 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

**SAVE THE DATE: WESTMINSTER CARES' 9TH  
ANNUAL GARDEN TOUR – Saturday, June 26th  
and Sunday, June 27th.**

## OPEN HOUSE @ THE WESTMINSTER NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY

SATURDAY, MAY 8TH

10AM-4PM

BRING AN ITEM TO GO INTO THE TROOP BOX TO  
SEND OFF TO DEPLOYED SOLDIERS.  
HUMVEE RIDES, ROCK CLIMBING WALL, OTHER  
LOCAL DISPLAYS, BAKE SALE TABLE BY THE FAMI-  
LY READINESS GROUP.

Any questions, please contact  
Marcy Smith at 802-722-9034

## "BUSINESS BEAT" THE BEST SEPTIC SERVICE



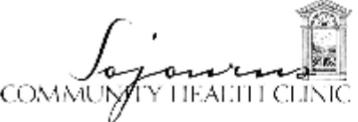
**RUGGIERO'S RUBBISH REMOVAL** has expanded its services  
to include **BEST SEPTIC SERVICE**.

Steve Goodell comes to us with 15 years of service, providing  
septic cleaning and portable toilets. Best Septic can clean,  
locate, and maintain septic needs. Best Septic also has  
portable toilets.

Please call for our Mothers Day special during the month of May  
to clean Mom's septic tank, or dumpster for spring cleaning.  
Also, find out about our blue ribbon service @ (802)463-9444  
or (802)869-2235 or email: bestseptic@gmail.com

Special thanks to Buck Adams Excavating, and All Seasons  
Tree Service for all the help and support. Steve, the Ruggiero  
boys, Bucky Adams, and Kevin Shrader worked nights and  
weekends for over two months. And a very special thank you to  
Steve's fiancée, Marsha Ruby for all the late night dinners, help  
and support.

**Correction to the Jeff Ruggiero Thank You in our April  
2010 Issue. The (g) was omitted from the email address.  
Correct email: jeffaruggiero@gmail.com**



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Massage Therapy  
Nutrition & Cleansing  
Occupational Therapy  
Physical Therapy  
Sound Therapy  
Immune Support  
Sauna  
Yoga Therapy  
Apothecary

Celebration of  
Paul Gordon's life:  
When: Sunday May 23, 2010  
Where: Kurn Hattin Homes  
Time: 2pm  
Everyone invited  
Contact: Shelley Jones  
3836 S. 575 E.  
Bringhurst, IN 46913  
home - 765-566-2184  
cell 765-419-5021

The Deadline for  
The June 2010 Issue of the  
Westminster Gazette is:  
Thursday, May 27th  
by 5:00 pm



**It is a pleasure to announce that Marissa Smith has been named the February Elk's Student of the Month for Bellows Falls Union High School.** Marissa, a senior, is the daughter of Doug and Christina Smith of Bellows Falls.

Always polite and respectful, Marissa is a hard working student who cares about doing well. She completes detailed work in a timely manner, and even goes above and beyond by investigating honors assignments and academic opportunities. Her outgoing personality and positive attitude make her a great addition to any class or group.

Throughout her high school career, Marissa has actively participated in three sports, soccer, basketball and track and as a senior, served as captain on all of these teams. She has been a member of the BFUHS Drama Club, the Jesse A. Judd Chapter of the National Honor Society and the chorus. Clearly her responsibility and hard work doesn't end in the classroom.

Always conscientious about serving others, Marissa continues to work with the local Girl Scout troop and played a vital role in planning their trip to New York City in June 2008. She also helps out at her church by volunteering at church dinners and in years past has helped out with Sunday school. Over the past five years, she has been a volunteer at a benefit concert "Music in the Meadow" in Chester which raises money for the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure for breast cancer research. Last summer the concert raised \$5000.

Marissa is a positive role model to others and BFUHS is proud to have her represent us with this award.

### The Value of Trees

Westminster, VT- Imagine a world without trees. It's virtually impossible, because without trees we can't survive. Trees are essential to life and yet, they are taken for granted. Unfortunately, one million acres of forest are lost to city growth each year.

Trees offer many benefits that are obscure to many, which include:

- Air Filtration- filters out particulate matter and absorbs harmful gases
- Purifies Water- improves water quality by slowing and filtering rain water
- Cost Reduction- provides shade and shelter, reducing yearly heating and cooling costs by 2.1 billion dollars
- Climate Control- obtained by moderating the effects of sun, wind, and rain
- Increase Property Value- well-cared landscape properties are 5-20% more valuable than non-landscaped estates
- Protection- from downward fall of rain, sleet, and hail, as well as reducing storm run-off, and the possibility of flooding
- Glare and Reflection Control
- Wind Break, Deflection, and Filtration
- Sound Barrier

"Since trees are a growing asset to any property, maintenance of the trees is crucial for long-term health, safety, and aesthetic value," says Kevin Shrader owner of All Seasons Trees Service of Westminster, and an ISA Certified Arborist. Many people do not realize that trees have a dollar value of their own. However, the best way to prepare for an unfortunate, unexpected loss is to take precautionary measures. Even though trees provide many values, hazardous trees can cause significant damage to people's homes if the conditions exist. Shrader advises taking the following simple preventive steps that can improve the value of your trees, and might prevent financial loss in the future.

- Plan your landscape for both beauty and functional value.
- Protect and preserve to maintain worth.
- Take pictures of trees and other landscape plants while they are healthy.
- Check your insurance.
- Keep accurate records of your landscape and real estate appraisals.
- Consult an ISA Certified Arborist at every stage in the life of your landscape to prevent unnecessary financial loss when casualty strikes.

Trees are alive, like us, and require an investment and continuous maintenance. Take the above preventative measures to protect your trees.

**For more information, contact All Seasons Tree Service's Kevin Shrader, a local ISA Certified Arborist at 802-722-3008 or visit our website [www.allseasonsvt.net](http://www.allseasonsvt.net). To learn more about the benefits of hiring a International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist visit [www.isa-arbor.com](http://www.isa-arbor.com).**

## Extensions Extensions Extensions

**Annette Spaulding & Patrick Madden**

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Saturday 9:00am to 5:00pm  
Sunday by appointment**

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(802-722-4500)**

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**Vermont's Teacher of the Year Nominates Bellows Falls Union High School Senior Kayla Coburn for Full-Tuition Scholarship to University of Phoenix**

Teachers understand how education can change lives. Thanks to Craig Divis,

Vermont's Teacher of the Year, one promising local student now has the opportunity to take their education to new heights—through a full-tuition undergraduate scholarship at University of Phoenix. He selected senior Kayla Coburn from Bellows Falls Union High School for this full-tuition scholarship. "Kayla deserves the Teaching It Forward scholarship because of her academic promise, her interest in continuing her education, and her career, personal, and life goals that she clearly sees a college degree an essential part of," said Divis. "She deserves this scholarship and will thrive with this amazing opportunity." Kayla said in one of her application essays that she "was not even thinking about continuing with any sort of college education" before she heard about this opportunity, and she emphasized the fact that a college degree would change her life. "This scholarship could open new doors that I can benefit from for the rest of my life," she wrote. She also spoke passionately about this degree providing her the ability "to create a fulfilling life for myself."

Craig Divis is one of more than 50 educators recognized by the Council of Chief State School Officers as a local Teacher of the Year. Each year since 1952, students, teachers and administrators nominate their favorite educators for this award, which is considered the oldest and most prestigious national program recognizing excellence in teaching. "We applaud the commitment to student success that every Teacher of the Year demonstrates," said William Pepicello, Ph.D., President of University of Phoenix. "Our Teaching It ForwardSM scholarship program was developed to give these local champions of education an opportunity to put a student of their choice on track to earning their college degree."

University of Phoenix is a leading provider of higher education for P-12 teachers, suppling their learning lifecycle—from initial, teacher-preparation degree programs, to advanced degrees and continuing education for experienced educators. The University further demonstrates its advocacy for educators through this scholarship program. Each Teacher of the Year can "teach forward" their award by nominating a deserving high school senior for the opportunity to continue their own education.

University of Phoenix was founded on the belief that anyone with a passion to pursue a college degree should have access to higher education. More than 34 years later, the University's model of inclusiveness has helped nearly a half-million students improve their lives through education. Through flexible schedules, challenging courses and interactive learning, students can achieve their personal and career aspirations without putting their lives on hold. As the largest private university in North America, University of Phoenix serves a diverse student population, offering associate's, bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs at locations across the U.S., as well as online throughout the world.

### North Westminster News

Jeanette Staley

#### SELECTBOARD SEEK VOLUNTEERS

- Trustee of Public Funds (1 year)
- Trustee of Campbell Funds (1 year)
- Development Review Board (3 years)
- Alternate to Dev. Review Board (DRB) 1 Vacancy (1 year)
- Friends of the Westminster West Town Hall (1 year)
- CRVC Wantastiquet Region River Subcommittee (1 year)
- Town Health Officer (1 year)
- Town Service Officer (1 year)

Interested persons are encouraged to call Sonia Alexander at 722-4255 or to write to the Westminster Selectboard, PO Box 147, Westminster, VT 05158

You may have noticed the slow and steady de-construction of the little round water house on route 121 in North Westminster. Under the tutelage of 18th and 19th century construction builder, Jonathon Jesup, a small band of volunteers and town employees have systematically worked to take the water housing apart carefully and restoratively. We hope to save and store as many reusable bricks as we can, and any of the inner water works in the hope of one day rebuilding this late 18th century structure. It is one of the earliest buildings in the area, a rare gem, supplying water to 48 residents at its peak. A few decades ago it was repaired contributing to it's demise. We are working Saturday mornings as we can, if you are interested in joining in this archeological project, please call Jeanette Staley at 463 9530, we'd appreciate the help.

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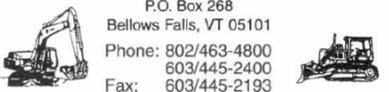
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**BUSINESS OF THE MONTH**  
"THE CHIMNEY DOCTOR"

For 21 years now I have maintained the alter ego of "The Chimney Doctor" . I took over the operation from Steve Anderson PHD ( thus the title "Doctor" , I technically only made it to BS .....that is Bachelor of Science !) and have been certified with the Chimney Safety Institute of America and a member of the National Chimney Sweep Guild ever since. Steve was a great teacher as he had previously made his living as a professor at Windham College. He took his vocation as a sweep and my apprenticeship very seriously. Although chimney sweeping is a relatively new trade in this country ( about 35 years ) it retains a venerable history in Europe . English sweeps are often hired to officiate at weddings and to kiss the bride. Swiss sweeps are often hailed as a sign of good luck. The trade is literally centuries old with an annual festival commemorating chimney sweeps in the Italian/ Swiss Alps at Lake Magggiore that I hope to attend some day . It is an unusual trade that requires a rather odd skill set .I've compared cleaning a fireplace to doing a muffler replacement in someone's living room. You must be unafraid of heights and physical work but must also be meticulous in your cleanliness and respect for your customer's hearth and home. You must also be familiar with fire codes and safety standards. I continue my search for an apprentice sweep and a part time office manager. Seems I keep adding services ; dryer vent cleaning , flue relining and resurfacing , pellet stove cleaning and masonry repair to name a few . The trouble is I haven't managed to grow a new pair of hands yet. However , I am always willing to take on new patients and seldom have a dull day . I enjoy talking with people and keeping their heating systems operating reliably. Plus, the views from the rooftops can't be beat !

Soot and Salutations!  
Ian Conway- The Chimney Doctor

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**"Simplicity Parenting"**  
Lecture and Book Signing

Noted author Kim John Payne will be presenting an evening program on his latest book *Simplicity Parenting: How To Raise Calmer, Happier and More Secure Kids in Westminster, VT.* This special program will take place on Tuesday, May 25th at the Westminster Center School from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

With his awareness of the challenges of our times, Kim Payne provides practical tools to help us understand our children and enjoy our lives together. He has worked for 24 years as a counselor, educator and consultant/researcher helping children, adolescents and families explore social difficulties, attention and behavioral issues at home and school.

Kim Payne regularly consults in colleges, clinics and schools throughout the United States and abroad, focusing especially on helping teachers and parents remove emotional and social obstacles from the paths of their children. For more information on Kim John Payne visit [www.simplicitytoday.com](http://www.simplicitytoday.com).

Following the lecture there will be a book signing and brief reception with refreshments and delicious treats. Free childcare will be provided at the Center School. For more information and to register for childcare, please contact school counselor Jon Schottland (722-3241, ext. 101).



**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 <http://www.rick-westboard.blogspot.com/>. Please keep track of this site for information and reflections on the workings of the school board.

**Tim Janis Concert to Benefit Kurn Hattin Homes**

Tim Janis, internationally acclaimed musician and composer, will perform BEAUTIFUL AMERICA, Music with a Mission, at the United Church of Christ, On the Square, in Keene, New Hampshire on Friday, May 21 at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door. Tickets may be purchased in advance with cash or check at United Church of Christ, Keene, NH; Kristin's Bistro, Keene, NH; or Vermont Artisan Designs, Brattleboro, VT. Credit card purchases may be made by calling Martha at (802) 721-6935. Visa, MC and AMEX are accepted. Proceeds from the event will benefit the children of New England Kurn Hattin Homes. 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. This event is made possible by the following sponsors: Savings Bank of Walpole, Spaulding and Madden Tax Services, Kristin's Bistro and George and Marsha Dubois. For more information or to hear Tim Janis go to: [www.timjanis.com](http://www.timjanis.com)

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