

Westminster Gazette



po box 147 westminster vt 05158

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

Vol. 7, No. May 2011

Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS 2011

Weekend Strolls and View Clearings

- May 8 Wildflower Walk** with Libby Mills and Carol Westing
A favorite stroll to see the ephemeral delicate flowers of the hardwood forest
Meet at the WW Church at 2PM.
- June 5 Ledge Road Brook** with David Deen and Camilla Roberts
This stroll will feature Trout habitat with waterfalls in the Athens Dome area.
Meet at 2 PM; for directions email camil@vermontel.net or call 869-1388
- June 18 Wolf Trees** with Michael Gaige,
This special event will be a guided tour of "Wolf Trees" on the Windmill Ridge
Co-sponsored with Putney Mountain Association
Meet at WW Church at 1PM, walk until 4PM
- July 2 Bald Hill, hike and celebration** with Randy Major, David and Vanessa Stern.
Discover new trails and this beautiful area so near to Bellows Falls.
Meet at 2PM; for directions email major@dishmail.net or call 387-5737
- August 6 Clearing at the Pinnacle** with Camilla Roberts
Please help to keep the spectacular view at the Pinnacle open! Bring loppers and gloves with you, water and some lunch or snack.
Meet at 10AM at the Pinnacle shelter.
- September 18 Accessibility Day** with Rebecca Nixon
This is a special once-a-year opportunity for a vehicle ride to a special site for those who cannot hike, along with those who can hike to be led by Arthur and Carol Westing.
Vehicle generously provided by Durand Motors.
Meet at 2PM at the WW Church, please call 722-9047 to register for a vehicle ride.
- October 16 Long Distance Hike** with Rebecca Nixon
Day hike to traverse a large chunk of the ridgeline trail. Bring water and food and good footwear for 4 to 5 hours of walking. A shuttle will be provided back to your car.
Meet at 10AM Call 722-9047 to register and get directions to starting point.
- October 29 Clearing at Paul's Ledges**
Please help to keep the beautiful view open at Paul's Ledges in Athens. Bring loppers and gloves, water and some lunch or snack.
Meet at 10AM at Paul's Ledges
- November 5 Martin Sanctuary on Bemis Hill to northern trailhead** with Kath Martin or Camilla Roberts
This lovely northern ridgeline walk without the leaves is open to views both east and west. A shuttle will be provided back to the starting point.
Meet at 1PM at the Bemis Hill trailhead for the Martin Sanctuary

Westminster Schools **SPRING CONCERT,**



*Center School Gym on Thursday
May 26th at 6:30. The concert
will feature solo performances by
students and the first appearance
of the 2010-2011 5th and 6th
grade band!*

Town Manager Update

The Selectboard is actively searching for a Town Manager who will replace Sonia Alexander when she retires at the end of June. We have solicited the assistance of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns who have a great deal of experience in this area. We received 61 applications, some local some from other states. We began first interviews, by telephone, on April 25th.



Favorite Book



Fanciest



Most Realistic



Most Colorful

THEY Designed, Baked, Frosted and ATE CAKE!

Once again, Let Them Eat Cake exceeded expectations. **The Westminster Schools community came together and raised \$1767.91 to support music and art performances and residencies.** (See the article about Kali Quinn's theater, dance and movement residency as an example.) The event, on April 13th, featured dinner for all participants, about 65 cakes, two new auctioneers, and assistants for "Miss Cupcake:" The Sprinkles! Feast your eyes on the many works of art, from prize-winning cakes to amazing student art, lining the halls for the evening's Gallery Walk. Many thanks to T.E.A.M. members, parents and staff, who helped make the night a success, and to everyone who baked, bought or simply came to enjoy the spectacle.

PRACTICE for VACATION– Jump Rope for Heart

On the last afternoon of the last day before April vacation, Westminster kids and their families raised money for the American Heart Association and had a great send-off to a week away from school. Westminster students have bounced through Jump Rope For Heart for decades. Children bring home envelopes describing the event, and families and friends pledged support. Students from the Westminster West School bused over to participate; everyone jumped to the beat of great music, turned rope ends, or helped put together a giant fruit salad for snack.

ARTIST RESIDENCY at the WESTMINSTER SCHOOLS

– Kali Quinn

Welcome back from vacation! From April 26 – 28th, Kali Quinn led Westminster students through a series of games, improvisations and movement activities. Kali is a physical theater artist, movement designer and performer. Her Westminster visit centered on how our bodies can tell stories. Students experimented with having conversations entirely through body language. They imagined encountering an obstacle and reacting with tense or calm bodies. Some of the activities used masks or props, and they all encouraged lots of movement and laughter. The fabulous and ever-entertaining Let Them Eat Cake Fundraiser funded Kali's residency.

New Electronic Waste Law

The State of Vermont's new Electronics Law has gone into effect as of January 1, 2011. The law bans the disposal of many electronic devices in Vermont effective 1/11/11. Effective July 1, 2011 specific electronic items can be brought to the following collection centers for recycling, at no cost to the consumer.

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. Rockingham/Westminster Transfer Station, 7446 US | Route 5, Bellows Falls; |
| 2. Windham Solid Waste Management District, 327 Old | Ferry Road, Brattleboro; |
| 3. Staples Store in Brattleboro. Staples does not accept | televisions. |

Please abide by the conditions of this new law and if you have any questions, please call the Windham Solid Waste District at 802-257-0272. There is also a wealth of information about the program on the Vermont State website – <http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/e-waste/>

If you should need to dispose of E-Waste before 7/1/11 when free collections begin, existing collection sites can be found at <http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/e-waste/>

You may also call the office of the Westminster Town Manager at 722-4255.

Electronic items that cannot be put in the trash are: computers, fax machines, peripherals (keyboards, mice, etc.), computer monitors, telephones, VCR's, CRT's (cathode ray tubes), DVD players, printers (all types, including all in 1), answering machines, electronic game consoles, stereo equipment, E-device power cords & chargers, wireless (cell) phones, PDAs, MP3 players (& other personal e-devices).



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**April Mystery Picture
Answer**

This bridge was brought in by Preston James when he bought it in Canada for \$1 to use as a farm bridge on his land which is better known today as the Basin Farm. At the time of its purchase, it was used as a railroad trestle. Preston added the sides and roof at a later time.



Connecticut River Transit is now...

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Why change the look?

In a rural region, many residents don't know public transit exists! The goal of **The Current's** look is to make it difficult NOT to notice us. The more people notice public transit, the more they are likely to get out of their cars and onto a bus!

When you leave your car behind and ride **The Current**, you decrease your energy consumption, improve environmental quality, and save commuting costs. If you are unable to drive or don't have transportation, you can benefit by riding on our Dial-a-Ride and volunteer network.

We Provide the Ride... so please tell us how we can improve to make that happen for you. Thank you for riding Connecticut River Transit last year and **The Current** this year.

Bellows Falls - Brattleboro Commuter Schedule

Bellows Falls to Brattleboro											Brattleboro to Bellows Falls										
Time	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	16th	17th	18th	19th	20th	
5:45	6:00	6:15	6:30	6:45	7:00	7:15	7:30	7:45	8:00	8:15	7:00	7:15	7:30	7:45	8:00	8:15	8:30	8:45	9:00	9:15	
8:15	8:30	8:45	9:00	9:15	9:30	9:45	10:00	10:15	10:30	10:45	9:00	9:15	9:30	9:45	10:00	10:15	10:30	10:45	11:00	11:15	
1:05	1:20	1:35	1:50	2:05	2:20	2:35	2:50	3:05	3:20	3:35	7:00	7:15	7:30	7:45	8:00	8:15	8:30	8:45	9:00	9:15	
4:10	4:25	4:40	4:55	5:10	5:25	5:40	5:55	6:10	6:25	6:40	5:10	5:25	5:40	5:55	6:10	6:25	6:40	6:55	7:10	7:25	

* - Bus does not stop at this time. † - Effective March 30, 2010

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L to R
Stephanie Mueller
Lauren Rowell
Brittany Moyna

Japanese Drumming group visits Bellows Falls Union High School

Submitted by:
Suzanne Groenewold

The auditorium resonated with the deep sounds of Japanese taiko drums as a folk arts drumming group from Hokkaido, Japan performed at the Bellows Falls Union High School to celebrate Japanese culture and music, on April 7th, 2011. For nearly an hour, musicians played, danced, and performed theater acts to bring attention to the effects of the earthquake and tsunami disaster in Japan. A Japanese interpreter helped the folk group communicate with the high school students, but songs and chants were otherwise all in Japanese. The students had an opportunity to join the musicians on stage to try their hands at drumming. The BFUHS Student Council wanted to get the high school involved in a fundraiser for Japan and were looking for ideas. They decided on the idea of students making paper cranes through a project that the University of Vermont is coordinating. For every paper crane a student makes, Student Rebuild, an organization promoting the Paper Cranes for Japan project working with the Bezos Family Foundation, will donate \$2 to Architecture for Humanity's reconstruction efforts in Japan up to \$200,000. Bellows Falls students began making paper cranes right after the assembly and have over 1,200 cranes ready to be delivered to the UVM.



Over \$7,000 Raised by making Paper Cranes to help Rebuild Japan

Submitted by:
Suzanne Groenewold

Bellows Falls Union High School students made a total of 3,505 paper cranes for the rebuilding efforts in Japan. The cranes will be taken up to UVM, and then sent to Student Rebuild, where \$2 is being donated to Architecture for Humanity's reconstruction efforts for each crane made. The students raised \$7,010 in total.

Governor's Institutes of Vermont Now Accepting Applications

Submitted by:
Suzanne Groenewold

Applications for the Governor's Institutes 2011 are now available at the Bellows Falls Union High School. The Governor's Institutes offer highly motivated 9th, 10th and 11th grade students the opportunity to participate in educational programs on Vermont college campuses every summer. Up to 400 students participate in the Institutes each summer. About 35% of the students receive financial aid.

The Institute on the Arts will be at Castleton State College from June 26-July 10. Four Institutes will be hosted at the University of Vermont campus. They are: Institute on Environmental Science and Technology, June 19-June 25; Institute on Engineering, July 23-July 30, Institute on Asian Cultures, June 26-July 2; and Institute in the Mathematical Sciences, June 19-24. Current Issues and Youth Activism will be located at the School for International Training in Brattleboro from June 28-July 9. The Institute on Information Technology will be at Champlain College from June 25 to July 3.

The Governor's Institutes of Vermont offer outstanding learning opportunities for high school students in Vermont. Over 8,800 highly motivated students have participated since 1983. Scholarship assistance is available. Applications had to be submitted by March 18th. Students and parents interested in finding out more should contact Craig Divis in the Social Studies Department at Bellows Falls Union High School at 463-3944 ext. 263.

**WOOL ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AUDIO DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION
KATY HAAS AND MARK PIEPKORN AWARDED TROPHIES AND CASH AWARDS**

BELLOWS FALLS, VT - Katy Haas of South Acworth, NH, and Mark Piepkorn of Bellows Falls, VT, are the winners of community radio station WOOL's first audio documentary competition. The two documentarians were presented with trophies at WOOL's popular Radioke performance on Saturday, March 26, and will receive cash awards of \$50.00 each for their success in the competition. The trophies were crafted and donated by area glass artisan Chris Sherwin.

Ms. Haas, an associate at Ken Burns' Florentine Films took first place in the thirty minute category for her production of The Acadia, the story of a couple's search for the perfect engine for their homemade boat. The audio-only piece gives a keyhole view of the surprising happenings in the workshop of a New Hampshire couple who find a one-of-a-kind solution to their hobbyist dreams.

Mr. Piepkorn, an author and veteran of the periodical publishing industry who settled in the area a few years ago, was awarded first place in the fifteen-minute category for his documentary, Spaceflight Analyst. Mr. Piepkorn's interview with NASA engineer Joe Hashmall, whose job it is to improve the accuracy of spacecraft travel, shows a bit of Mr. Hashmall's similar desire to improve the accuracy of his industry.

Coincidentally, both documentaries highlight the extraordinary efforts of seemingly ordinary people as they struggle to find the best solutions to the problems they encounter. In doing so, the productions cast an approving light on the charming and sometimes deceiving simplicity of human endeavors.

An interview with the documentarians and the full broadcast of their pieces will first air on Thursday, April 14th at 5pm and then replay several times in April and May.

For more information about the winners, their documentaries, and the rebroadcast times, go to: www.wool.fm/audiodocs

Kurn Hattin Homes Presented With Youth Activities Award By The Ladies Auxiliary To The Veterans Of Foreign Wars Of The United States

Submitted by:
Amber Cutler

Westminster, Vermont – On Monday, April 5, 2011, New England Kurn Hattin Homes was presented with the Youth Activities Award by the National Headquarters of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States in recognition of their 2010-2011 youth group support of the US Military and their families.

There are three regular patriotic activities that Kurn Hattin has incorporated into their school curriculum that extends into community participation and in part has led to this award. We The People is a text book curriculum based around the Constitution and Bill of Rights, the systems of government, democracy and how our freedom is provided to us by defending our country. Secondly, many of the Kurn Hattin children participate in the annual Patriot's Pen Essay Contest, sponsored by the VFW, for which the goal is to promote Patriotism and understanding of the value and importance of the military in our lives in the past, present and future. And lastly, an annual event that Kurn Hattin is very proud of that is given in honor of Veterans' Day, is a beautiful hour-long presentation, led by Kurn Hattin's Richard Long, honoring our Veterans with a program which helps the audience to understand the importance of Patriotism and the support of our country, followed by a luncheon with the staff and children of Kurn Hattin.

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.

Best in Show Quilts "Patchwork"



Women's Club hosts 35th Annual Student Art Show featuring: Art, Family & Consumer Science Luncheon, Choral and Instrumental Music

Bellows Falls Union High School students displayed their art and held a musical performance for the annual Women's Club Art show held at the high school. The afternoon began with a luncheon provided by the family and consumer science students. Women's Club members enjoyed seeing the students work and chose the best in show in two categories. They also awarded prizes to all students who placed first in their category. In addition, the Women's Club made a donation to the choral music and band programs at the high school. The following students received placed first in their category; Emily DuFault - Watercolors, Meghan Hilow - Oils, Rachel Greenberg - Acrylics, Michael Webster - Dobson - Abstract Marker Drawing, Rachel Hollar - 2D - Mixed Media Collage, Lydia Pedigo - Floor Cloths, Megan Lawrence - Calligraphy, Kassie Childs - Digital Photography - Animal Category, Carissa Neathawk - Digital Photography - Misc. Category, Kyle O'Rourke - Paper-Mache, Danielle Chiu - Metal/Wire Sculpture, Ryan Hayward - Ceramics/Clay Sculpture, Danielle Chiu - 3D-Mixed Media, Kayla Gilchrist - Digital Photography - Outdoor Category, Kristi Rumrill - Digital Photography - Graphic Design Category, Darion James - Quilts. Best in show awards in fine arts went to Colin Johnson for his oil painting, Beautiful Sky, and best in show for quilts went to Darion James for his quilt, Patchwork.

Wall of Art



First Place Student Art Winners



Best in Show fine arts "Beautiful Sky"





(l-r) Author Archer Mayor, students, Raven Stanhope, Danielle Labrecque, and teacher, Kristie Lisai at the Kurn Hattin Homes'

Archer Mayor Intrigues at Kurn Hattin Mystery Writing Contest Banquet

Westminster - Renowned author, Archer Mayor was the special guest at the 11th Annual Ziggy Ostrowski Mystery Writers' Contest Banquet at Kurn Hattin Homes. Using a picture of Archer Mayor as young boy dressed in a police uniform, the students were asked to write about the boy's future in a writing contest. This contest was started in 2001 by Kurn Hattin Homes' writing and processing coach, Ziggy Ostrowski and 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 in the 7th and 8th grades compete.

The 8th grade finalists were Dylan Conklin, Raven Stanhope and Jessica Cormia. The seventh grade finalists were Austin Ladd, Danielle Labrecque, Dylan Avery, and Zoey Anderson. The first place winner was Raven Stanhope, who wrote about a policeman who comes to a crime scene only to discover his loved ones are the victims. The second place winner was Danielle Labrecque, who wrote about a serial killer targeting teenage girls, and the policeman motivated to solve the crimes.

The two winners were awarded a cash gift of \$25 and all of the contestants were recognized at the banquet with the author. In addition, The Paul Gordon Memorial Prize was awarded to Dylan Conklin. Paul, a cook at Kurn Hattin, had been a long-time judge and supporter of the contest. Paul passed away last year and the prize of a book, which the winner wants, is funded by Richard Johnson, Director of Food Services at the Homes. The prize is given to the student who shares the love that Paul had for reading and writing mysteries. 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.



Community Invited to Compass Senior Projects and Roundtables

At Compass School, the end of the school year can be among the most vibrant times of the calendar. With all school trips, Junior and Senior Projects, Project Week, and Graduation Portfolio Roundtables, this is a period of great energy and learning.

In preparing for graduation, Compass seniors complete their high school experience with a flourish, facing two big challenges—Senior Project and Graduation Portfolio Roundtables.

Senior Project requires students to apply knowledge and skills to a significant independent learning experience. During the year, seniors plan their project, developing research questions and making contacts to pursue an interest outside the typical confines of school. For three weeks in April and May, when many seniors around the US are plodding towards the end of high school, Compass students are out in the world exploring how to apply their learning outside the walls of the school.

Senior Project gives students a taste of the field they may study in college or for a career. This year's projects include: Lena Glickman studying Virginia Woolf, Jake White exploring Herbal Healing, Sean Hennigan creating a documentary film about Haiti based on a service trip he made earlier in the year, Maggie Bernhard pursuing her talents by creating and performing music and Josh Ramsey confronting rock climbing and the psychology of fear of heights.

Through their independent project 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."

Seniors return in May with renewed energy and great stories of discovery to share for the end of the school year. Senior Project culminates with public presentations at Compass School on Friday, May 13th that are open to the public.

Compass seniors will also be hard at work readying themselves for their Graduation Portfolio Roundtables scheduled for May 23-26th. To graduate, each senior must demonstrate readiness to graduate by presenting a collection of his or her work to a panel made up of parents, teachers, a student peer, and an outside community member. This always very personal event has become a meaningful rite of passage to the world beyond the school walls.

Compass graduation is scheduled for June 4th, sending off another successful class being recognized by colleges with generous merit based scholarships for academic excellence, leadership, and community involvement. Community members are invited to contact the school (rick@compass-school.org, 802-463-2525) about attending Senior Projects, serving as a community member evaluating at portfolio roundtables, or joining us for graduation.

WATERY INVADER by Babs Lynde, a Vermont Master Gardener

Part of my job as a Master Gardener is to inform the public when an invasive anomaly, such as a plant or insect, is spreading in our area. A particularly nasty type of invasion has begun to take over our local streams and rivers, and hopefully by spreading the word, we may be able to slow down its progress before it's able to completely cover our riverbeds. It is commonly known as didymo or rock snot (nice, huh?) that has become so threatening to our ecological water environment that our Governor signed into law a ban on the use of felt-soled waders in Vermont waters effective April 1st, 2011.

Didymosphenia geminata is a freshwater diatom, or microscopic alga, that can form enormous "blooms" on the bottoms of rocky river and stream beds, essentially smothering all forms of water life such as aquatic insects which include mayflies and caddisflies that are important food for our trout, native algae and other organisms necessary in river life. Although these diatoms are impossible to see with the naked eye, they form stalks that attach to rocks and other plants, eventually shaping masses of 3 to 5 inches thick on the river bottom.

Didymo is generally found in far northern regions where the streams are very cold, low in nutrients and high in clarity. In their native regions, these diatoms don't take over the river beds as they do in slightly warmer areas where they are appearing in devastating masses in lower Canada, Washington, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming and Colorado. Worse hit is New Zealand where didymo is so prolific that it is literally choking streams to their death.

Like most invasives, it is thought that didymo has been introduced to Vermont and other states through human carelessness. In this case, it is contaminated fishing gear and waders as well as water shoes or sandals, rubber tire tubes, small kayaks and canoes that are the culprits for transporting this algae from one state or area to another. In 2007, significant masses were identified in the Connecticut River near Pittsburg which is located in extreme northern New Hampshire. Since then, didymo has spread to many of our Vermont streams, including the Gihon, Passumpsic, Mad, White and Batten Kill Rivers.

2011 KURN HATTIN SUMMER SPORTS CAMPS

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

Girls Softball Camp—Ages 11-14

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

Girls Basketball Camp—Ages 11-14

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

COED Basketball Camp—Ages 8-10

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

Boys Basketball Camp—Ages 11-14

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

COED Soccer Camp—Ages 11-14

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

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

Aged in Vermont

Westminster Cares, Inc.

A Care Giver and End of Life Experience

In the middle of 2010 my husband's health began to decline. He was using a cane and walker most of the time but fell often and needed help to get up. I began to depend on family, neighbors, Westminster Fire and Rescue, and the Westminster Cares nurse to help.

His decline was slow but progressive. I wanted to continue working part time but felt that my husband shouldn't be alone. We tried Life Line but it was difficult for him to understand and he was rarely alone for more than an hour or two. So I hired someone to stay with him while I was at work to also give me time to run errands. Life Line and caregiver were the first paid expenses.

We bought a walker with handlebars and a seat, which was great to use at the table, around the house and walking on the street. However, it wasn't long before he needed a wheelchair because walking was painful. It became very difficult to transfer him from the car to the wheelchair for a weekly doctor's appointment. He was also having difficulty swallowing because of an atrophied epiglottis.

This was a big change because we couldn't go out any longer. The Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) nurse came to the house to check my husband's vital signs and take blood. She set up a schedule with the occupational, physical and speech therapists. The nurses were caring and professional. Medicare covered eighty percent of the expense. The deductibles in our supplemental insurance had not been met.

I learned how to prepare special foods. A home health aide came daily to help with showering. We had a ramp built to our front door; before long we were using a wheel chair all the time.

I signed up my husband to attend The Gathering Place Adult Day Center in Brattleboro twice a week. Connecticut River Transit picked him up and brought him home. This was a wonderful service for four months. He enjoyed it and it gave me time to shop, work in the yard or just be alone. I knew he was trying his best to help himself - he knew that I was tired and wanted to give me time alone.

We could still communicate about day-to-day activities. But we got little sleep and finally hired help for one overnight a week, paying for these services out of our pocket. Our daughter, son and son-in-law were also helping in many ways.

Although the services were helpful and necessary, people were now in and out of our house constantly. Sometimes there were four or five visits a day and many phone calls. We were trying to complete the exercises from the speech and physical therapist. Furniture had to be moved to fit the wheelchair through the house. Special food needed to be prepared to prevent choking, because if he ingested food into his lungs he would get pneumonia. I had to do a lot of lifting.

It all became overwhelming, and exhausting. We needed all the help we could get. (Next month: Hospice care)

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

Ideas for future columns? Would you like to write one? We'd like to hear from you. Email Ronnie Friedman at wecares@sover.net.

THANK YOU!

Volunteers are Westminster Cares!!!! Many, many people spend hours volunteering their time for Westminster Cares we thank you all for your time. So many people volunteer that it would be hard to list everyone individually but we would like to take the time to thank those volunteers who have delivered meals and driven Westminster residents to various places over the last year.

MEALS ON WHEELS:

Lori Miller
Dick Miller
Pete Harrison
Artie Aiken
Sally Ryea
Jessie Haas
Michael Daly
John Barnett

Libby Mills
Marge Demos
Sarah Waldo
Neil Metrick
Nan Blanchard
Tom Walsh
Kathleen Pirruccello
Ann Kebbell
Don Dawson
Donna Dawson
Jeff Michaud
Verna Newcomb
Karen Walter
Walt Jennison
Joan Smidutz
Bill Smidutz
Kathy Elliott
Jackie Connors
John Connors
Char Aldrich
Phyllis Anderson

TRANSPORTATION:

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Karen Walter
Judy Harrison
Pete Harrison
Jeff Michaud
Sarah Waldo
Barbara Dyer
Don Broad

Nan Blanchard
Reg Cote
Yvette Durrell
Nancy Dalzell
Laura Leonard
Alice Cobb
Alice Caggiano
Susan Clifford
Joan Smidutz
Susan Zimmerman

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Don Dawson
Kathy Elliott
Susan Harlow
Arnie Knowlton

WESTMINSTER MYSTERY PHOTO



What is this and where is it located?

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

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

April Answer: On Page (2)

April Winners: If you have pictures you think would make a great mystery photo stop by the town office and see Babs Lynde.

We are in search of pictures.

News from Westminster Volunteer Fire and Rescue

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

Next association meeting May 3rd at 7:00 PM

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

May meetings: May 9th & 23rd

Number of calls in March: 35

Number of man hours spent: 14,391

Number of calls through April 26th: 26

Number of man hours spent: 11,000

Number of calls calendar year to Date: 140

Number of calls fiscal year to date: 348

Monitoring Alarms: The Keene Fire Mutual Aid is offering a service to monitor your home system could eliminate a step when the system is activated. For more information and pricing call Keene Mutual Aid at 1-603-352-1291.

Fire Extinguishers: Check dates and gauges on a regular basis to be sure they are ready to use. The gauge needs to be in the green. Once a year, tip the extinguisher upside down to be sure the contents haven't dried up and it still moves. Remember that the extinguisher can only do its job for the first 30 seconds of the fire and will operate for only 10 seconds. Be prepared to call 911. Know how to operate the extinguisher. Learn the word PASS. P means pull the pin, A means aim the nozzle, S means squeeze the trigger, and the second S means sweep as in moving over the fire. Fire department personnel are always available for advice.

Window, Screens & Rain Gutters: With the warm weather approaching, windows tend to be open more often. Be sure to watch children around open windows especially those above ground level. Make sure screens are secure and in good condition. Every year there seems to be avoidable accidents where a child gets seriously or fatally injured from a fall from a window. Also, rain gutters tend to be plugged up with leaves and debris and should be cleaned out so they will drain properly and not cause a backup.

Association Meeting: The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association met for their regular meeting April 5th with 30 members present and 2 members excused. Currently there are 41 members of the volunteer fire department. Candidates for Captains and Lieutenants must apply in May and be voted on in June. The association officers and trustees will be voted on at the annual meeting in June. Any member who would like to be considered for one of the association positions should come forward by the May meeting. All positions of officers and trustees are up for reelection in June. The officers are always elected for a one year term and the trustees have one person for each of the one, two and three year terms.

Longevity pins and certificates will be handed out at the May 3rd meeting honoring members at 5 year intervals. This year's awards range from 5 years to 35 years of service. Next month's report will have the list of names of those being recognized.

Studebaker: The 2nd Sunday of each month has been designated as Studebaker restoration work day. Gradually, the old fire truck will get restored.

THANK YOU: Chief Streeter praised the members of the department for their good work and loyalty during another busy month. Turnout was strong despite the bad weather and challenging conditions. The fire in Brattleboro at the Brooks House Hotel was especially well done and was a long night.

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

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

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

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

WESTMINSTER HAPPENINGS

Activities

Scottish Country Dance

Classes

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

Putney Contra Dance

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

Senior Lunch

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

Bellows Falls GalleryWalk

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

Secrets of Healthy Aging

A facilitated discussion group and potluck. The 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at the Westminster Fire Station at 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Call Westminster Cares at 722-3607 for more information

Contra Dance

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

Gentle Yoga

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

Living Strong Classes

Mondays & Thursdays @The First Congregational Church in Westminster

9:00 to 10:00 am

@The Westminster West Church 6:00 to 7:00 pm.

Call Westminster Cares

for more Information:

722-3607.

Knitting Together

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

Westminster Center School

Success Night/6th grade graduation is Thursday June 9th. West School Success Night is Tuesday, June 14th, and the last student day for all Westminster Schools is Thursday, June 16th.

Faith Community

The First Congregational Church of Westminster

United Church of Christ

The Rev. Sami Jones McRae, Pastor

Main Street, Route 5, P.O. Box 122, Westminster, Vermont 05158, 802-722-4148

Sunday worship at 10:00 AM

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

The Congregational Church of Westminster West (UCC Church)

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

Open and Affirming Susie Webster-Toleno, Minister

New Church Office Hours:

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

Meetings

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

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

Westminster Activities Commission

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

Westminster School Board

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

Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association

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

Westminster West Public Library Board

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

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

Community Improvement Program Committee

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

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

Westminster Institute Board NEXT MEETING FOR WESTMINSTER INSTITUTE: Thursday, May 5 @ 7:00 pm. at the Institute.

911 Committee as needed.

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

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

Westminster Gazette Meeting Thursday, May 26th at 7:30 am @ Westminster Cares Office.

Westminster Recycling Committee

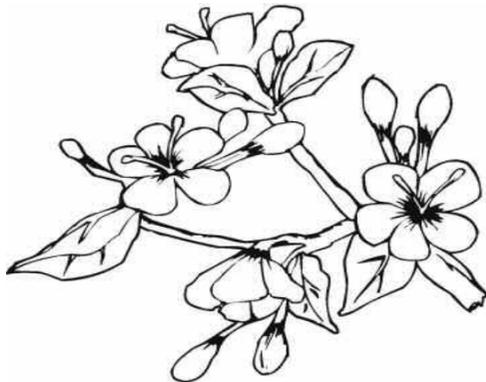
Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm at the Westminster Fire Station

The Deadline for The June 2011, Issue of the Westminster Gazette is Wednesday, June 1st by 5:00pm

*** Please note the deadline date has been changed to the last Wednesday of the month**

Volunteers Needed to deliver the Westminster Gazette to local designated drop off locations. **Must have your own transportation.**

WESTMINSTER GAZETTE
Editor: Peggy Porter
Board of Directors:
 Elizabeth Harlow - Chairwoman
 Ronnie Friedman
 Toby Young
 Cynthia Stoddard
Pictures and Articles
 Provided by the Community
 westminsternews@gmail.com



THE GAZETTE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT OF ITS UNDERWRITERS:

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

Westminster Volunteer Positions Available
 The Westminster Selectboard is seeking persons to fill the following positions:
Planning Commission: 1 position available
 The Planning Commission meets the second Monday of every month. Term is for 3 years.
Energy Coordinator: 1 year position
 Friends of the Westminster West Town Hall: 1 position available
 Term is for 1 year.
Recycling Committee: 1 position available
 Term is for 1 year.
Conservation Committee: 3 positions available
 This is a new Committee
 One term is for 2 years and 2 terms are for 3 years.

If you are interested in applying for any of these positions, please write or email your response to Sonia Alexander, P.O. Box 147, Westminster VT 05158, or email westmin@sover.net

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It is a pleasure to announce that Paige Thibodeau was chosen the March Elk's Student of the Month for Bellows Falls Union High School. Paige, a junior, is the daughter of Regina Thibodeau of Bellows Falls.

Paige works hard in her classes and this past year has discovered a new-found confidence in her academic abilities. She strives to do her best and she works to motivate others. Paige demonstrates care and concern for her grades and is willing to work hard to improve them often going above and beyond the expectations of the assignments.

Always positive and enthusiastic, Paige displays an excellent attitude, not only towards her academics but towards her peers and staff members at BFUHS. She has excellent attendance and if she is going to be absent or tardy she shows initiative and contacts her teachers to let them know.

A positive role model for her classmates, Paige motivates those around her and will do anything that is asked of her for the good of the class.

In addition to working hard in her classes and doing well, Paige also has a part-time job in the community where she works hard and is a well-respected employee.

Congratulations go to Paige. BFUHS is proud to have her represent us with this award.

Westminster West Library Celebrates Spring with Gala Fundraiser

The Westminster West Public Library will host a talk by naturalist and educator Patti Smith, a full course dinner by noted local chef Sharon Boccelli, and a concert with the "Bluebird Duo" (Donald Saaf and Mathew Sharff) on Sunday, May 22nd beginning at 5 PM at the library in Westminster West village.

The library had its beginnings as a collection of reading material kept in people's homes in the late 1800s. In 1936, a one-room building was constructed with funds from the Wilcox family by a Bellows Falls contractor, O.H. Riley of Riley Lumber and Supply for a cost of \$1500. Since that time, the library has served and been supported by the community and in 2003 a second room was added along with running water, a bathroom, and a septic system.

Now the library serves over 1000 patrons, who made almost 3000 visits to the library last year, and circulated 1800 items from the library's collection of about 9000 books, videos, CDs, DVDs and other resources. There's a monthly "Family Flicks" film series, a weekly afterschool program, an adult reading group, and, of course, computer access and free wireless internet.

To support all this, the library Board of Trustees looks for grants, sends out an annual appeal, and comes up with a variety of events (such as last year's squash festival, and previous farm and garden tours) to raise money, but also

to celebrate the community spirit which keeps this operation afloat. This year's fundraiser is about enjoying the delights of spring through learning about our wild neighbors, the beavers, partaking of a delicious meal, and listening to delightful music. The details: Patti Smith has worked for the Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center since its beginnings, and brings a wealth of knowledge to share. For the past three years she has been spending many evenings (and not a few nights) with a family of beavers at a remote pond in the woods of Marlboro. In this presentation Patti will share slides and talk about her adventures with beavers and some of the other wild creatures she has become acquainted with in the process. The talk will take place at the library at 5:00 PM. This part of the event is free and open to the public. Following the talk, renowned chef Sharon Boccelli, who recently closed the restaurant portion of her Bellows Falls business Boccelli's on the Canal, will cater a multi-course meal with meat and vegetarian options, as well as delicious deserts. This part of the event begins at 6:00 in the Westminster West Church. The concert with the Bluebird Duo follows. Donald Saaf and Matthew Scharff's genre-spanning music includes original songs as well as some old-timey tunes and ballads from across the ages. The price for the dinner and concert is \$35.00 (\$75 maximum per family.) For information, call the library at (802) 387-4682, or call Alison Taylor at (802) 387-2781.



WESTMINSTER CARES' HEALTHY FOODS WORKSHOP

Wednesday, May 25th, 2011

"MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR FOOD DOLLARS"

Chris Ellis, nutritionist, will help us get the most nutritional value from low cost recipes, including egg and bean dishes that taste great and can be prepared for one. All the recipes will use most ingredients that can be purchased locally and are easy to use.

Come and watch the food being prepared, receive recipes and enjoy a healthy lunch.

Cooking will begin at 10:30 followed by lunch
Donations are appreciated.

Please sign up for the workshop - space is limited.

Location: The First Congregational Church of Westminster, Route 5, Westminster
To sign up, please call 722-3607 or email: wecares@sover.net

Survey Data from Town Planning Survey 4/20/11 (from Westminster Planning Commission)

If online survey not practical due to dialup service, please request a paper survey (Town Hall 722-4255). It will cost only 64 cents to mail it back to Town, PO Box 147.

The Planning Commission thanks the 26 residents who have submitted their survey responses for the Town Plan Review of 2011. See details of the survey data to date on the Town website. Some interesting trends are listed below. Residents can submit their survey responses online or request a paper copy of the survey.

Westminster West Village has the highest level of participation. A CHEER FOR WEST WEST! Total of 26 surveys submitted, 85% over 45 years old. Employed in Vermont but outside Westminster: 46%. Support both commercial and residential development: 69%. Quality of life is extremely important: 96%. Internet access and cell phone coverage is a problem: 70%. Recommend single-family homes: 90%. Multi-family homes recommended/not recommended: 50/50 even split; low/moderate income homes recommended: 73%; elderly housing recommended: 83%. Rental units not recommended: 52%. Light industry recommended: 79%. Heavy manufacturing not recommended: 65%. Tourism-related business recommended: 96%. Development Review Board should consider the impact of a development project on adjacent properties and the natural environment: 92%. Groundwater pollution is a problem: 58%. Destruction of natural/wildlife areas is a problem: 70%. Feel that zoning ordinances are too restrictive: 70%. Bicycle lanes and sidewalks or walkways need improvement: 68%. Public transportation needs improvement 40%. Will support for public transportation increase with increase in gas prices? Access to natural gas not needed: 54%. Find more details of survey results date on the Town website. Submit your survey responses soon!

Send your Submissions to:

westminsternews@gmail.com

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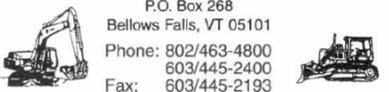
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May's Business of the Month
The Chimney Doctor

After twenty two years The Chimney Doctor has doubled it's work force. We are proud to have Andy Westover on board as a Chimney Safety Institute certified Chimney Sweep. He has ten months on the job training and has recently attended the National Chimney Sweep Guild convention in Hartford CT. Andy comes to us from Great Brook Farm in Walpole and brings a dairy farmer's sensibility to solving chimney and venting problems. The search continues for a part time staffer to field calls and perform bookkeeping tasks. Inquiries welcome. With fuel prices on the rise wood heat appears to be making a resurgence. Pellet and high efficiency oil systems are also new areas of service. It sure is great to operate a service oriented business in a friendly town such as Westminster and to keep folks chimneys and appliances functioning reliably. And after all "It's a dirty job but somebody has to do it!"

Soot and Salutations
The Chimney Doctor
(aka Ian Conway)

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6th Annual Spring Fling
Where & When:
Kurn Hattin Homes
Westminster, Vermont
I-91, Exit 5 - Follow the signs
Saturday, May 7, 2011 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Abeniqui Rod & Gun Club Inc.

KIDS
FISH DERBY

May 21, 2011 --- starting at 10:00 AM
Westminster Swimming Pool
Morse Brook Rd., Westminster, VT
Age Limit : 14 and under

(MUST land their own fish)
(Handicap Access)
Free Refreshments
4 Prize & Trophy Categories
THREE FISH LIMIT

First 3 fish - boy & girl
Largest fish- boy & girl

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SAVE THE DATE:

10th Annual Westminster
Garden Tour -
ART IN THE GARDEN -
will be held on Saturday,
June 25th and Sunday,
June 26th. There will be a
reception on Friday
evening, June 24th with
guest speaker Michaela
Medina, Landscape

MAIN SCHEDULE

9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	Baseball & Softball Tournament, Concession Stand, Inflatable Rides (\$1), Westminster Fire Department Display, Windham County Sheriff's Display, VT Kids Against Tobacco Booth, West River Radio Club Display
9:30 a.m.	Friesians of Majesty - Horse Demonstration**
10:00 a.m.	Kurn Hattin and Westminster Center School Choir*
10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	Face Painting sponsored by Rotary Interact Club
10:45-11:45 a.m.	Line Dancing with Dorianne*
11:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Kurn Hattin Riding Demonstration**
11:30 a.m.	NY Capital District Corvette Club Display
12:00-12:45 p.m.	The Amazing Bill - Magician*
1:00-3:00 p.m.	"Early Times Band" - Country & Rock*
1:00-3:00 p.m.	Putney School Farm Animal Petting Area**
2:00 p.m.	50/50 Drawing*

* Held under the big tent
** Held in horse riding rink

Westminster Gazette

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