



Westminster Gazette

po box 147 westminster vt 05158

Our Community Newspaper @ www.westminstervt.org

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Soup Ladies Hang Up Their Ladles

Some 11,000 bowls of soup later, Laura Leonard and Nancy Dalzell are hanging up their ladles and doffing their aprons.

For the past four winters, the two women have prepared and served three soups each Wednesday at the Westminster Congregational Church, welcoming all comers for a simple soup and bread lunch for a freewill donation. Most recently, the soup slurpers have numbered 40 or 50 a week, coming from surrounding towns as word of the good, homemade soups and the convivial atmosphere have filtered out into the community.

Dalzell explained that the soup Wednesday began when the women became aware that Our Place Drop-in Center in Bellows Falls was not open on Wednesdays, a situation that has since changed as Our Place is now open every day. But the habit of Wednesday soup in Westminster kept the crowds coming.

This year's Wednesday lunches ended March 27 with a potluck lunch and a hearty thank you to both the women and their helpers, Sierra Sylvester and Karen Rumrill. Dalzell and Leonard were also recently honored by their hometown as Westminster Citizens of the Year.

The women plan to share their soup knowledge with a few members of the community who have come forward to keep the Wednesday soup tradition stirring.

"There's a plan in the works to have others continue next year," Dalzell said. "And we hope to be able to make a soup each month."

Tomato cheddar, Italian wedding, corn chowder, French onion, chicken stewper, tortellini, split pea...the memories will be savored until next November.



Left to right, Laura Leonard, Nancy Dalzell, Sierra Sylvester and Karen Rumrill celebrate the end of the fourth year of Wednesday soup lunches in Westminster.

SZUCH'S SUSHI BRINGS IN THE GOLD



Katherine Szuch of Westminster, and a first year culinary student at River Valley Technical Center in Springfield, took the gold medal at the April 4th Skills USA competition in Burlington.

Hundreds of students from all over Vermont competed by demonstrating skills they've been acquiring at different tech schools. Demonstrations ranged from electrical to health care, engineering to culinary. The students were given time limits in which to "strut their stuff" in front of the judges.

Katherine ambitiously chose to make sushi for her demonstration. Her skills and professionalism not only helped her to bring home the gold but also up to a \$15,000 scholarship to be used at culinary school. She will be moving on to nationals in Kansas City in June.

Anyone wishing to help her go for the national gold and put Westminster VT on the map, could send a donation to the River Valley Tech center in Springfield, VT 05156 care of her advisor, Chef Donna Vargas.

Congratulations Katherine!

submitted by her proud mom Julie Szuch

MYSTERY CLASSROOM GEOGRAPHY

Since January, Westminster Center School fifth graders have been participating in an online project of Journey North called Mystery Classroom. We have been collaborating with a fifth grade class at Green Street School in Brattleboro as we post our predictions on a shared web page and via video conferencing.

Ten mystery sites around the world were chosen. For the first month we only received sunrise and sunset times. From this we had to calculate photoperiod, which gave us an indication of which hemisphere our mystery locations are in.

On the spring equinox we were able to calculate our latitude, which gave us an indication of continent. Then as we began to receive interdisciplinary clues of physical geography, cultural geography, and climate, we were able to narrow down country then eventually city or region. Last Friday the fifth graders submitted their final predictions of their Mystery Classrooms to the Journey North web site.

Our predictions are that our Mystery Classrooms are in:

- Hong Kong, independent region of China, Asia
- Port Louis, Mauritius, Africa
- Captain Arturo Prat Base, Antarctica
- Aberdeen, Scotland, Europe
- Reykjavik, Iceland, Europe
- Kaiserslautern, Germany, Europe
- Dar es Salaam, Pwani, Tanzania, Africa
- San Sebastian, Gomera, Canary Islands, Europe
- Antananarivo, Madagascar, Africa
- Birmingham, Alabama, USA, North America

We queried students on what they learned during this project. Some of their responses are as follows:

Tanzania is where Jane Goodall studied chimps.

I learned that the U.K. has over 5000 islands in a 200 mile radius of Aberdeen, Scotland.

Iceland is a part of Europe.

Birmingham, Alabama was one of the first places in the U.S. to have open heart surgery.

I learned how to calculate longitude.

Mauritius has a lost sunken continent near by in the water.

Kaiserslautern, Germany was one of the 12 cities in Germany to host the 2006 World Cup.

When our photoperiod grows, the southern hemisphere's shrinks.

On Friday, May 3 Journey North will have exposed the Big Reveal and we can see how close our predictions were.

Last Month's Mystery Photo



This monument is located at the corners of School and Main Streets in Westminster Center. It is a war monument that bears the names of the World War I casualties from Westminster. It was dedicated on July 4th, 1920 with a bronze plaque on a granite slab.

The picture had only one correct guess – Barb Greenough.

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BELLOWS FALLS

Kurn Hattin Gives a Big Thanks to Volunteers

Just in time for Volunteer Recognition Day, Kurn Hattin Homes held its Annual Volunteer Recognition Banquet on March 26th to honor the many people who volunteer at the Homes. The team of dedicated volunteers helps with governance, school, sports, music and special events.

Volunteering is quite often the high point of a volunteer's day and children truly appreciate having someone take a special interest in them. Kurn Hattin is very fortunate to have over one hundred volunteers who dedicate their time, talent and care for the children in a variety of programs. Their positive impact on campus is huge. Gandhi wrote 'You must be the change you wish to see in the world.' Our volunteers help make that change happen one child at a time.

Every year, the Kurn Hattin volunteers are recognized at a special dinner in their honor.

Honored this year were: Bill Abbott, David Adams, Laurie Alberts, Donna Aldrich, Danny Bacigalupo, David Baldasaro, Jerry L. Bardwell, Julie Barry, Mildred Barry, Carol Bazin, Diane Bazin, Jeff Bianconi, Sue Bingaman, Carolyn Blake-Deyo, John Bohannon, Bill & Barbara Brackett, Carol Brennan-Johnson, Gordon Bristol, Donald Campbell, Gary Carrier, Fran Cheslock, Edward Clark, Sheriff Keith Clark, Gary Cobb, Pat Crotty, Vincent Cutrona, Marion Daley, Jamie Dansereau, Elizabeth David, Mary Davis, Edward Dinnany, Tim Eno, Tom & Donna Fahner, Carol Failla, Deborah Fajans Michael Fawcett, Sarah Fonseca, Justin & Shannon Fuller, Shari Gladman, Chris Goding, Father Lance W. Harlow, Elizabeth Henry, Elizabeth Hickin, John & Carol Hubbard, Elliott Hunnewell, Matt Hunter, Geoffrey Illingworth, Lyssa Jackson, Tim Janis, Charles P. Kelsey, Kay Kloppenburg, Michelle Knight, Jon Korpela, Bertha Lawrence, Steve H. Lee, Dorriane Lescord, Abigail Littlefield, Richard Long, James A. Lynch, Reverend Sami MacRae, Elizabeth Maiola, Jackie Mallory, Rick Manson, David Maysilles, Tammy Mellish, Michelle Menegaz, Kathleen Michel, Sally Motzer,



Volunteers attending the 2013 Kurn Hattin Homes' Volunteer Recognition Dinner.

Merrill Mundell, Keri Newton, Sue Nostrand, Michael J. Obuchowski, Sara & Ben Olson, Virginia Onorato, Frank Patterson, Hugh Perkins, Mary Kay Pfadenhauer, Mrs. Frank J. Prindl, Jasmin Queen, Caryl Richardson, Marilyn Roberts, Daniel Roden, Karen & Stan Rumrill, Carmen Sanderson, Catherine Semans, Donald Shaughnessy, Susie Smith, Tina Smith, Lindsey Soboleski, Annette Spaulding & Patrick Madden, Judy Spinella, Malcolm Streeter, Janice Sussebach, Scotty Tabachnick, Polly Thompson, Susan Tidlund, Matt Tomberg, Brenda Turner, Vern & Roberta (Bobbi) Violette, Trudy Walker, Gary West, Ronald M. Williams, Janet Wilson, Larry & Bette Wunderle.

A place of hope since 1894, Kurn Hattin Homes for Children provides a safe home and quality education for boys and girls, ages 6-15, whose families are experiencing a time of personal or financial need. Kurn Hattin Homes is entirely funded by private donations.

For more information, visit www.kurnhattin.org

COME CELEBRATE WHEN... PHYLLIS ANDERSON TURNS 90...

The family of Phyllis Q Anderson of Westminster is inviting friends and neighbors to a celebration of her 90th birthday on May 18, at the Westminster Institute in Westminster.

It will be an open house from noon until 4 p.m. All are welcome.
No gifts please.

...AND ARTIE & LOUISE REACH 100!

On Sunday, June 9 friends of Artie Aiken will gather at his home at 79 School St. to celebrate his 100th birthday from 12 to 4 p.m. Refreshments and light food will be provided; guests are welcome to bring a side dish or dessert. The public is invited to stop by and wish Artie a Happy Birthday!

On June 13, Artie will be honored by the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board. To commemorate his 100th birthday a District Manager will visit him at home to personally deliver a letter of congratulations. Artie worked for the railroad for nearly 20 years.

Another longtime resident of Westminster, Louise Morse, also turns 100 on May 20.

SEEKING CITIZENS FOR PLANNING COMMISSION

Westminster is looking for people willing work on the town's Planning Commission.

Community members interested in serving are encouraged to send a letter of interest to Westminster Planning Commission, P O Box 147, Westminster, VT 05158, or by e-mail with "Planning Commission" in the subject line, to dwoodward@westminstervt.org.

WESTMINSTER WALKING GROUP RESUMES

Westminster Cares Walking Group resumes in May!

Wednesdays at 9 a.m. meet at the park and ride on the Westminster Heights Road.

All are welcome and don't forget your water.

Call 722-3607 for more information.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER CARES

The Westminster Cares, Inc. Board of Directors met May 1st at the Westminster Fire House at 4:30 PM with Vice President Kathy Elliot presiding. The following board members were present: Pete Harrison, Heidi Anderson, Nan Blanchard, Reggie Borden, Barbara Carey, Susan Harlow, Sally Ryea, Director Ronnie Friedman and Assistant Director Donna Dawson. Connie Sanderson, Don Dawson, Miriam Lanata and Susan Clifford were excused. Westminster Cares creates opportunities for seniors and disabled adults to live with independence and dignity in the community. Your support to this care-giving organization is a way for all of us to take care of our friends.

Services provided: Meals on Wheels -23 different WC volunteers delivered meals throughout the month to 15 people who are now on meals, in addition to frozen meals to 8 people on Fridays for weekend meals.

Transportation - During the month of April, 6 rides were provided by 3 different volunteers who drove 3 different Westminster residents to medical appointments, shopping or programs for a total of 100 miles. There is a new volunteer driver thanks to Susan Harlow.

Nursing program: During April our nurse continued to visit two Westminster residents, who she will assist until a new nurse is hired.

Equipment loan - several pieces of equipment loaned out in February and several pieces were donated. We have received donations of an electric wheel chair and an electric scooter which we would be happy to lend to someone who

could make use of it [batteries will be needed for both]

Thank you to our past and present donors.

Equipment available: Walkers, commodes, shower chairs, wheel chairs, hospital beds, electric wheel chair and electric scooter. Thanks to all who have donated equipment in the past, but we are currently out of storage. If anyone would like to donate equipment to us, we will gladly accept it if you can store it for us.

Meetings attended in April included: Speaker series, bookkeeper, Gazette, Web site, committees, Springfield Cares group, potential volunteers and home visits.

Programs during the April included: 2 Secrets of Healthy Aging session, 5 Yoga classes, 27 Strength Training classes held and 4 Artist in Each of Us classes.

Assistance and Referrals: Many hours of assistance to Westminster residents and their families, working with social services agencies, Senior Solutions, the VA, Red Cross, Adult Protective Services and the Visiting Nurses.

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

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE

The Westminster Fire & Rescue Department holds their monthly meetings at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every month and a combined drill on the third Tuesday of every month. Rescue training is the second Tuesday of the month.

Next association meeting is May 7 at 7 p.m.

The Prudential Committee meets twice a month on the first and third Monday after the first Tuesday at 7 p.m.

May Prudential meetings: 13th & 27th.

Number of calls in March: 10

Number of calls in April: 24

Number of calls calendar year to Date: 146

Number of calls fiscal year to date: 254

Association Meeting: The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association met for their regular monthly meeting April 2nd with President Greg Holton presiding. There were 28 members present and 4 members excused. Currently there are 43 members of the volunteer fire department. Barbara Greenough presented Real Bazin with a portrait she did of him and read a letter she composed thanking and complimenting the volunteer fire department for their contribution to the Town of Westminster.

Water Concerns: Ponds and streams are very low this spring and caution should be taken. The water is more than likely high in algae and general contamination. Drinking the water or swimming should be avoided. Also, if there is a fire, the Fire Department will be looking for water anyplace they can find it so the levels should be maintained as deep as possible.

Burn Permits: As of this writing, the forest fire danger is quite high due to the lack of rain. Recent brush fires have contained underground fire as much as two feet deep. Call one of the wardens to see if permits are being given out.

Warden: Cole Streeter 722-3178

Deputy Warden: Mark Lund 463-9355

Deputy Warden: Pat Haas 387-5778

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.

Air Conditioners: It is a good idea when plugging in air conditioning units to have a designated circuit specifically for that unit. This will avoid overloading the circuit and possibly over-

heating the wiring and causing a fire. Never use an extension cord when plugging in an A/C. It is often a temptation to leave the A/C on round the clock. It is better to shut them off for a couple of hours each day or night and always shut them off when not at home. The cords heat up over time and could cause a fire. Keeping filters clean and vacuuming out the unit periodically never hurts.

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. Nests are apt to be made in an idle grill and could be a big and unsuspected surprise when the cover is removed.

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

Donations received in April:

Diane and John O'Brien, Jr.

Myra Ashcroft to the Studebaker Fund

Ken Derby A

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: From time to time there is a need for food to be brought to the Fire House. During calls when the fire fighters are out for an extended period of time, having something to eat or drink when they return is a huge compliment. Also, once in a great while there are special events which require feeding a large number of people.

If you are available and are willing to be on a call list for these occasions or if you just want more information, call Chief Cole Streeter or June Streeter at 722-3178 and let them know. This is a great way to help the people who help the community in so many ways. Thanks in advance.

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.

Phoenix Rising

by Babs Lynde, a Vermont Master Gardener

There are many ways that a story is told, and few are told with more differences as the one about the legendary Phoenix bird, but there is always one main theme in how it was fire that brought about its spectacular rebirth. In many ways, fire is certainly devastating, but we humans often replace that which was burned to something bigger or better. Mother Nature is capable of that same feat.

A friend of mine had a bad fire in her back yard last year due to her grandchildren finding a book of matches and setting dandelion heads on fire. Fortunately, her house and garage was untouched, but she lost her beautiful perennial garden that she had spent many years cultivating and nurturing. When she called me for help in replacing some of her plants, I told her to wait a year and see what comes up before she starts digging around and removing roots and tubers.

Well, she called me just a few days ago to say that number one, all matches have been removed from the premises (yeah!) and secondly, with very few exceptions, almost all of her perennials survived the fire (double yeah!) The crocuses and daffodils are in bloom, and most of the tulips and irises are awakening and several inches above ground now. Most of the bushes were scorched and cut down to ground level after the fire, but some of those are also showing signs

of life this spring. The surprising news is that the scorched part of the back yard lawn seems to have regenerated itself and is in better than the rest of the lawn.

Although I would never encourage anyone to set fire to their lawns without checking with our fire chief first to ensure all safety concerns, many years ago our parents and grandparents would set fire to their lawns knowing that from the death of old stock would rise better and thicker grass stock. The fire would burn off the old thatch which is the remnants of previous year's lawn that

can often interfere in new growth if allowed to become too thick. It was also a method in controlling many destructive insects such as aphids, grasshoppers, and plant-sucking beetles as well as insects that were harmful to animals and humans like ticks and fleas.

Today we have many other ways of improving the growth of our lawns. Yearly raking and adding lime to the ground in the early spring helps to break up any real thatch problems and actually the cleaning up of old, dead organic materials is also a good way of keeping down many of our problematic insects that love to hide and grow in the litter. Adding small amounts of last year's woodstove ashes to your lawn is a great way of providing the nutrients that grasses absorb from fire ash. Keeping your grass cut to manageable lengths discourages grasshoppers and ticks, plus most beetles that are harmful to plants have no effect on humans so collecting them in bottles of warm, soapy water is usually all that's necessary to keep their populations down.

In order for any accidents of this sort to happen to you, I would highly recommend that you keep all matches and match-less lighting sticks in very secure and safe places, well away from little prying and exploratory fingers, always remembering that children's safety is our first concern, but if you should ever have a fire within your garden areas, wait a year or two before digging everything up and replacing your plants. Many of them have ways of regenerating and reproducing just as beautifully as before any unfortunate fires.

Would you like more information on fire-damaged lawns and gardens? The Master Gardeners of Vermont are trained to help you with all your gardening needs. Call their Helpline toll-free at 1-800-639-2230, send questions by e-mail to master.gardener@uvm.edu or visit their Web site at www.uvm.edu/mastergardener.

Aged in Vermont

Westminster Cares, Inc.

HOW TO LIVE BETTER AND SMARTER: EXERCISE YOUR BRAIN

Walking, stretching, jumping jacks – we all know that getting the circulation moving in your body makes you feel better and maybe live longer. But it's just as important to get the blood moving through your brain, says Vickie Wilk, a psychiatric nurse practitioner.

Improving vascularity in the brain can help stall cognitive decline and dementia, and help keep your mind sharp long into old age. Vickie will speak about "Helping Prevent and Living with Cognitive Decline" on Tuesday, May 28, 5:30 p.m. at the Westminster Institute. It's the second in Westminster Cares' Speaking of Aging series.

She will explain exercises that can keep your mind nimble, and how and why they work. She'll discuss recent research into prevention of dementia, and the difference between depression and dementia and how important it is to recognize that difference. She'll also have tips on how to interact with a family member or significant other who has cognitive decline. Bring your questions about any of these aging issues.

Exercise can help slow the potential onset of dementia, research shows. "I don't expect people to get out there and run a marathon," Vickie said. "But 20 minutes, three times a week can improve vascularity, even if it means getting on the stationary bike and getting your heart to pound a little. All of it helps."

Mental exercise, good for neurological and physiological growth of the brain, is just as important. So give your brain something new and different to do, Vickie suggests. Learn a new language. Play a number puzzle, like sudoku – especially if you're used to doing crosswords or other word puzzles—and vice versa.

Another area that interests Vickie is the difference between depression and dementia. Depression is often mistaken for dementia, particularly in the elderly, she said. The usual barometers she uses to measure for depression are things like lack of focus and concentration, loss of appetite and poor sleep habits. "But in an older person, those tend to be there anyway. So I'm more apt to look at their mood, their feeling state and level of anxiety.

It's crucial to diagnose depression early to help prevent dementia," she said.

Vickie became a nurse because of her godmother, Anna Booniarz, known as "Hanti," Polish for "Anna." Hanti was a nurse, who developed Alzheimer's disease in her seventies. "I used to take her out to lunch, and I began to see signs of decline," Vickie said. "So I had first-hand experience. And it really stimulated my curiosity."

One of Vickie's first jobs was on a research unit, studying the neuropsychological underpinnings of depression. Immersion in the professional world of biological psychiatry and her aunt's decline both led to her current interest "Geriatric psychiatry is the last challenge in my professional life, and I really want to stimulate myself."

Vickie is a married mother of two daughters and two grandchildren, and is in a small private group practice, Otter Creek Associates /Matrix Health System, in Brattleboro. She has worked in psychiatry since the days of state hospitals. She received both her BS and MS degrees from Boston College School of Nursing, and has worked at McLean hospital in Belmont, Mass., along with other hospitals in Massachusetts, and has taught psychopharmacology.

Vickie is also the founding mother of an Indochinese psychiatry clinic in the Boston area, started in the early 1980s, when many Cambodian refugees from the Khmer Rouge regime settled in Boston.

To thank the community for 25 years of support, Westminster Cares is presenting a series of speakers to explore key issues in aging. Speaking of Aging is sponsored by the Fanny Holt Ames & Edna Louise Holt Fund, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee.

Two more Speaker Series events are schedule: Dennis McCullough, M.D., on Tuesday, Aug. 6, and Willem Lang, author and VPR commentator, on Tuesday, Sept. 17. Find more at www.westminstercares.org.

"Aged in Vermont" is a monthly article on aging issues, organized by Westminster Cares. Ideas for future columns? Would you like to write one?

We'd like to hear from you. E-mail Ronnie Friedman at wecares@sover.net.

BF FARMER'S MARKET OPENS MAY 10

The Bellows Falls Farmer's Market is getting ready for its 10th season of locally grown agricultural products, prepared foods, crafts and free music. The market will run each Friday from 4 to 7 p.m., May 10 to October 11 at the Waypoint Center overlooking the river on Depot Street in Bellows Falls.

In the past nine summers, the Bellows Falls Farmer's Market has become a staple weekly community event, where village residents, visitors, shoppers and families can mingle with local growers, crafts people and community organizations. Community people have a place to be social and find healthy foods, the town feels a financial boost, and farmers are able to make a decent living and create a loyal customer base.

Among this year's vendors are farmers, crafters and prepared-foods vendors from New Hampshire and Vermont. Look for your favorite produce from Harlow Farm and Guerilla Grown Produce.

Special events this year will include two youth markets, Dairy Day, and a National Farmers Market Week Celebration. In addition to our weekly live music local handicrafts will be represented at the market the third Friday of each month, tying in with BF3F taking place at galleries and shops downtown.

For additional information about the Bellows Falls Farmer's Market, contact market manager Rachel Ware at bellowsfallsmarket@gmail.com or 463-2018.

WESTMINSTER MYSTERY PHOTO



This was Westminster's old fire house as stated on the front of the building, but where was it located and what happened to it?

You may e-mail your answer to westminsternews@gmail.com or wminster@comcast.net or phone Babs Lynde at 722-9516. The answer and the winners will be announced in the next issue.

Last Month's Answer: On Page 3.

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

We are looking for more mystery pictures. Have any?

**Send Your News To:
westminsternews@gmail.com**

WESTMINSTER CARES 25TH ANNUAL GARDEN TOUR, JUNE 29 AND 30

Westminster Cares will hold its 12th Annual Garden Tour on Saturday and Sunday, June 29 and 30. The tour will again feature the gardens of Mary and Gordon Hayward, nationally known garden designer, writer and lecturer.

Several other beautiful Westminster gardens will also be on the tour. The tour will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. People's United Bank, Chroma Technology and C & S Wholesale Grocers have generously sponsored this event.

Come celebrate with us – this is Westminster Cares' 25th anniversary year! For more information on the tour, check out our Web site for updates at www.westminstercares.org or call the office at 722-3607.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION MAY 17

Kindergarten registration will be on Friday, May 17 at the Westminster Center School. Morning and afternoon registration sessions will be available. Information will be sent to parents of incoming kindergartners we have in our database.

To request a registration packet please call or email Anne Briccetti, Westminster Early Childhood Outreach Coordinator, abricce@wnesu.net.

BRANDON NAMED STUDENT OF THE MONTH

McKenzie Brandon has been chosen the March Elks Student of the Month for Bellows Falls Union High School. McKenzie, a sophomore, is the daughter of Alicia and Scott Brandon of Saxtons River.

Described by her teachers as a kind-hearted young lady, she is a pleasure to work with and always comes to class prepared and willing to work and learn. A quiet leader, who leads by example, McKenzie is a pleasure to have in class and a good role model for others. She is willing to help other students when they have questions, and she regularly volunteers in class.

Attentive to academic growth, she takes challenging classes and balances a busy schedule. She is interested in getting as much out of her classes as she can, and she puts in the extra effort to do well. McKenzie tries to fit as much as she can into her school day. She is currently taking honors classes, and an on-line class so she could still take band.

Not only is McKenzie interested in her academics, but she is interested in developing her musical skills as well. She is an active member of the BFUHS concert band, jazz ensemble, pit band, and community band. Plus, she was accepted into the 2013 VT All State Band. She is also an athlete and plays tennis and field hockey.



WESTMINSTER HAPPENINGS

Activities

Scottish Country Dance Classes

Every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. 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 beginner's workshop is taught at 8 p.m., and the regular dance goes from 8:30 to 11. A donation at the door will benefit the Pierce's Hall Building Fund. For more information call 387-5985.

Senior Potluck Lunch

Every 2nd Thursday of the month at noon. All Westminster seniors are invited to attend a potluck lunch at the First Congregational Church on Route 5.

Bellows Falls Gallery Walk

Downtown at 5:30 p.m. every 3rd Friday of the month.

Secrets of Healthy Aging

A facilitated discussion group and pot-luck. The 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at the Westminster Fire Station from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Call Westminster Cares at 722-3607 for more information.

Contra Dance

Every 3rd Saturday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall in Walpole, N.H.

Gentle Yoga

Every Monday at 10 a.m. at the Westminster Institute. Call Westminster Cares at 722-3607 for more information.

Living Strong Classes

Mondays & Thursdays at the First Congregational Church in Westminster from 9 to 10 a.m. or at the Westminster West Church from 6 to 7 p.m. Call Westminster Cares for more information at 722-3607.

Knitting Together

Join us every Wednesday, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Village Square Booksellers, downtown Bellows Falls. Bring your knitting needles, we have the yarn and casual instruction if needed to knit hats, mittens and sweaters for area kids.

All our yarn is from community donation and we distribute our completed work to all area schools and Parks Place. More knitters at all skill levels are wanted and we can promise you an enjoyable experience. For details or to donate yarn contact Caroline at 463-4653.

Zumba Class - Basic Level 1 (B1)

Every Sunday from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Westminster Institute, beginning April 7. Suggested minimum donation. Please call 376-5397 or e-mail paulinebob@hotmail.com to register or for more information.

Faith Community

The First Congregational Church of Westminster

The Rev. Sami Jones McRae, Pastor. Main Street, Route 5, P.O. Box 122, Westminster, 722-4148. Sunday worship at 10 a.m. Communion is the first Sunday of each month.

Sunday School is held at 10 a.m. from September to May. The church has a ramp and lift for wheelchair access as well as a handicapped bathroom. Westminster First Congregational is an open and affirming church, all are welcome.

The Congregational Church of Westminster West (UCC Church)

The Congregational Church of Westminster West (United Church of Christ) worships every Sunday at 10 a.m. The pick-up choir meets most Sundays at 9 to rehearse for that morning's anthem; newcomers to choir are always welcome!

Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of every month, and on the Second Sunday the church collects a special offering that goes to Our Place in Bellows Falls to help fund their food shelf.

The church building is fully wheelchair accessible, and the congregation is Open and Affirming. Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno is the pastor, and musicians are Jennifer Hed and Margit Lilly.

Rev. Webster-Toleno currently holds office hours on Monday and Thursday afternoons, and people are welcome to drop by. However, since "office hours" sometimes means she's out visiting people in their homes, it's a good idea to make an appointment if you really want to catch her.

She can be reached at the church on those days at 387-2334, via cell phone at 579-8356 or e-mail susiewt@gmail.com.

Grace Bible Fellowship Services

The Grace Bible Fellowship holds its Sunday Worship Service at 9:15 a.m. at 38 Elm Street in Walpole, NH.

Find out more about the church at its Web site, www.gbff4hisglory.com/.

Meetings

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

Planning and Development

Commission 2nd Monday at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall.

Westminster Activities Commission

2nd Monday of the Month at 6 p.m. at the Westminster Institute.

Westminster School Board

1st and 3rd Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Westminster Center School Library.

Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association

3rd Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Westminster West Congregational Church.

Westminster West Public Library Board

2nd Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Westminster West Public Library.

Development Review Board

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

Community Improvement Program Committee

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

Westminster Cares Board

1st Wednesday of every month, at the Westminster Fire Station at 4 p.m.

911 Committee as needed.

The Westminster Fire & Rescue Dept.

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

Westminster Historical Society

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

Westminster Gazette Meeting

Tuesday, May 28 at 7:30 a.m.

Westminster Recycling Committee

Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Westminster Fire Station.

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

GOT ANY INTERESTING STORIES ABOUT WESTMINSTER AND THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE HERE? WANT TO SHARE SOME LOCAL HISTORY, OR REMINISCE ABOUT SOME OF OUR TOWN'S PEOPLE? THE GAZETTE IS LOOKING FOR CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OUR READERS, AND IF YOU HAD PHOTOS TO GO WITH THE STORY, ALL THE BETTER. CONTACT US BY E-MAIL AT WESTMINSTERNEWS@GMAIL.COM.

CIRCUS TERRIFICUS ON MAY 25

Memorial Day week-end will feature a special event for the young and young at heart. Circus Terrificus will be performing at the Bellows Falls Opera House on Saturday, May 25, sponsored by the Women's Community Club of Grafton.

A matinee at 2 p.m. for children and adults, and an adults only performance at 7:30 p.m. will feature circus acts that have performed around the world. A trapeze duo that starred with Cirque du Soleil, a clown from Ringling Bros., an award-winning gymnastic duo, a gold medalist in aerial hoop and four renown jugglers headline the show. The evening's entertainment is organized by Troy Wunderle's Big Top Adventures of Rockingham.

Tickets for the matinee are \$15 for children under 12 (children under 6 must be accompanied by an adult), adults \$25 ahead of time, \$30 at the door. The adults only 7:30 p.m. evening performance is \$25 ahead of time, \$30 at the door. VIP tickets with preferred seating are \$50. VIPs will have a cocktail party before the evening performance and meet the artists after the show.

Advance tickets are available from www.brattleborotix.com, wcctickets@aol.com, 843-1180, or at Misty Valley Books in Chester, Village Square Books in Bellows Falls, Ruggles & Hunt in Walpole, NH, and Gallery North Star in Grafton.

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The Deadline for The June 2013 Issue of the Westminster Gazette is Wednesday, May 29 by 5 p.m. Publish Date is Tuesday, June 4

To Contact the Westminster Gazette E-mail:
westminsternews@gmail.com

Kurn Hattin's Select Choir is Top Performer



At WGBY's live TV Together In Song showcase, Kurn Hattin Select Choir enjoying the afterglow. Photo by Jeff Woodward.

The Kurn Hattin Homes Select Choir was named Top Performer in the children's gospel category after making it through the final round of the choral competition series "Together in Song".

The show is produced and aired by Public Television member station WGBY in Western New England and highlights non-professional children's and adults' choirs in various musical genres. The 40-member ensemble from Kurn Hattin Homes for Children was the first Vermont chorus chosen to compete in the series.

The children competed against 35 ensembles for a chance to perform live on stage in the finale showcase held at the Paramount Theater in Springfield, MA. Sunday, April 28. Their performance, a gospel medley arranged by Kurn Hattin's Music Director Lisa Bianconi, was broadcast live along with the final performances of nine other ensembles.

Kurn Hattin Homes was awarded the "Top Performer Children's Gospel" honor following the show.

TAKE A KID FOR A HIKE DAY

On June 1 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., it's Take a Kid for a Hike Day, a yearly program offered by the Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association to children and their families.

Tony Coven will lead a hike to the panoramic Pinnacle lookout in Westminster, and the Pinnacle Association will provide participants with a mid-hike snack and special sticker to mark the occasion. Hikers should wear sturdy sneakers or walking shoes, and long pants to ward off ticks. Also bring water, bag lunch, insect repellent, and sunscreen. Meet at the Westminster West Church to carpool to the Holden Trail Kiosk. Please contact Bev Major at 387-5737 or bevm@dishmail.net for information and registration.

Visit www.windmillhillpinnacle.org for the Access Map and other trail maps and information, as well as for directions to the Westminster West Church. The website also lists information about other upcoming Pinnacle programs, projects, and volunteer opportunities.

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May Business of the Month The Chimney Doctor

This is our 27th year serving the chimney service needs of the Connecticut River Valley. I can't think of a more gracious and friendly place to conduct business.

We sweep, cap, reline and repair chimneys and service dryer vents. We sell and service high efficiency wood and pellet appliances. We also do internal video and real estate inspections.

My son Luke has been working in the field with me sweeping and relining chimneys, it has been a real joy to be able to spend time with my son sharing a trade that he grew up around.

We recently attended the National Chimney Sweep Guild Convention in Branson, MO, where Luke passed his Chimney Safety Institute Certified Sweep exam. Alas, for me, Luke is leaving in the fall to pursue a degree in nutrition at the University of Pittsburgh. Needless to say we are very happy for him.

The search is on for an individual who has the unique combination of customer service skills and technical aptitude to fill his place.

We have combined the Vermont and New Hampshire Sweep Guilds to form an organization called the Northeast Association of Chimney and Hearth Professionals, of which I am honored to be the current vice president.

At 56, I continue to enjoy diagnosing and solving chimney and venting issues in an increasingly technical world. I especially like educating customers on efficient woodstove operation and the benefits of newer EPA certified units. Remember, now is the best time to have your chimney and stove looked at before the heating season comes around and you really need them!

Soot and Salutations!

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KURN HATTIN HONORS ITS DEDICATED, LONGTIME STAFF

Thomas Fahner, Co-Executive Director of Kurn Hattin Homes for Children honored the dedicated staff at Kurn Hattin Homes with Years of Service Awards during the May 1st, All Staff Meeting. Staff members receiving five-year awards were Candace Caggiano, Human Resources Coordinator and Sara Stine, Equestrian Program Instructor.

Ten-year awards were given to Kim Fine, Senior Development Officer; William McHugh, Houseparent; and Sierra Sylvester, Houseparent.

Fifteen-year awards were presented to Kristie Lisai, teacher; and Darlene Pecor, Admissions Assistant.

A 20-year award was given to Richard Johnson,



Director of Food Services.

Richard stated, "I feel great satisfaction serving good food to the children and staff." And a 30-year award was presented to Ann Hadley, teacher. "It's great to be part of a loving, caring and extraordinary community", she proudly quoted.

All the honored staff received a framed certificate of appreciation and an extra paid day off to use in the new fiscal year. The twenty-year honoree also received a Kurn Hattin rocking chair which he donated to the Kurn Hattin library for the children to use while reading. Tom Fahner concluded the award ceremony with his praises to all the staff for their dedication.

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