

# Westminster Gazette



po box 147 westminster vt 05158

Our Community Newspaper @ www.westminstervt.org

Vol. 11, No. 5 May 2015

## LATE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL HONORED AT CONCERT

Local talented young musicians came out in force to participate in the Annual Jazz Invitational, hosted by Kurn Hattin Homes for Children on April 8th.

The public event featured riveting performances by the Bellows Falls Union High School Jazz Ensemble, Director Nick Pelton; The Putney School Jazz Combo, Director Rob Freeberg; Vermont Academy Jazz Ensemble, Director Steve Cady; and the Kurn Hattin Select Jazz Ensemble and Bands, Director Lisa Bianconi. Jazz groups from area schools, with students from a variety of age groups, are invited each year to showcase their unique musical skills and styles on stage.

The event was kicked off by composer and Master of Ceremonies Eugene Uman, Director of the Vermont Jazz Center. Uman, a pianist, dedicated his piece, "Wheel of Time" to Kurn Hattin's late Principal and mentor, Thomas Fahner, who helped to launch the annual concert eight years ago.

He described Fahner as "the most amazing man I have ever met...a committed ambassador of goodwill." He praised the residential home and school for recognizing the importance of music in building community relationships, as well as providing opportunities for healing and growth.

The evening program revealed a rich and diverse variety of musical selec-



Kurn Hattin hosted several area bands at its annual Jazz Festival.

tions including songs with doo-wop and scat vocals, latin jazz, modern compositions, and bluesy classics. The night concluded with an exciting performance by the Keene Jazz Orchestra under the direction of saxophonist, Scott Mullett.

## YOU'RE INVITED TO WESTMINSTER CARES' OPEN HOUSE MAY 7

The community is invited to an open house and volunteer recognition in Westminster Cares' new office in the Westminster Institute, from 2 to 6 p.m., Thursday, May 7.

You will also be able see and bid on, an original Vermont Botanical by Putney artist Maggie Lake, which is being sold at silent auction to benefit Westminster Cares. The "Jack in the Pulpit" piece was donated by Maggie's family and a close friend.

Donna Dawson, director of Westminster Cares, and members of the board of directors will be at the open house to meet guests. Share some light refreshments, and take a look around our new space. We will also be celebrating our incredible volunteers, those generous folks who make our organization run.

The auction of Maggie Lake's artwork will run through the Westminster Cares Garden Tour, July 11 and 12. The piece will go to the highest bid received by the end of the garden tour, 3 p.m., Sunday, July 12. Emailed bids will be accepted through July 9. The minimum bid is \$150. See photos of the print on our website, [www.westminstercares.org](http://www.westminstercares.org).

At the open house, the film "Alive Inside," which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and documents the transformative power of reaching people with dementia thru music, will be shown at 2:30 and 4:30 p.m.

Just drop in—no RSVP required. The Institute is located at 3534 Route 5, in Westminster Village. From the front lobby of the Institute, turn left and go down the stairs. Our office is on the left at the bottom of the stairs. From the back



entrance of the Institute, go straight down the hall to the end, make a right and a quick left past the kitchen. This entrance is handicapped accessible.

For more information, contact Donna Dawson at 722-3607 or [wcares@sover.net](mailto:wcares@sover.net). Stop by during office hours, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Thursday, or by appointment on Fridays.

Westminster Cares is a nonprofit organization, formed in 1988, that works with seniors and disabled adults in Westminster, Vermont, to help them remain healthy and independent in the community. Call us at 722-3607 or visit our Website, [westminstercares.org](http://westminstercares.org). Like us on Facebook!

## KEEPING THE LIGHT BURNING IN THE WAR ON POVERTY

Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) is excited to announce the celebration of SEVCA's 50th anniversary of working to combat poverty in southeastern Vermont with a commemorative dinner at the VFW in Brattleboro on May 12 from 5 to 8 p.m.

SEVCA was created as part of the national "War on Poverty" and incorporated as a Community Action Agency in 1965. Believing that the strength of our communities is measured by the quality of life of everyone within them, SEVCA has worked to reduce hardships for the most vulnerable Windham and Windsor County residents for 50 years.

The organization is taking this opportunity to recognize those who have been part of that struggle throughout its history...Board members, staff, volunteers, and other key participants in that history; community leaders and activists who have addressed the causes and effects of poverty; and people who have lifted themselves out of poverty and toward self-reliance.

It is also a way for SEVCA to thank the residents of Windham and Windsor counties for their support throughout its 50 years of meeting needs and changing lives, and it looks forward to seeing many of its supporters at the celebration.

Dartmouth Professor Annelise Orleck, noted author of *Storming Caesar's Palace: How Black Mothers Fought Their Own War on Poverty*, and expert on the War on Poverty, will be the keynote speaker for the evening. Dr. Orleck will speak about "The War on the War on Poverty," highlighting its many successes despite being under fire for most of its 50 years.

Dinner will be provided, and a cash bar will be available. The public is invited and encouraged to join the celebration, but everyone must register to attend.

A suggested donation of \$10 is requested to help defray the cost of dinner, but everyone is welcome regardless of their ability to donate. The registration deadline is Tuesday, April 28 or until the event reaches capacity.

You may register through a convenient electronic registration form available via SEVCA's home page: ([www.sevca.org](http://www.sevca.org)). Alternatively, you may RSVP to Linda Brooks at 1-800-464-9951.

SEVCA is also appealing to anyone with information about people and events important to its history, or about someone who deserves special recognition for their role in helping people overcome poverty, to please contact Linda Brooks at the above number as soon as possible.

**WILDFLOWERS, BIRDS, AND CHAMPION WHITE ASH**

The Pinnacle Association's free programs in May feature three favorite spring events. Visit [www.windmillhillpinnacle.org](http://www.windmillhillpinnacle.org) for more information, directions to meeting sites, and any last-minute changes.

On Sunday May 10, 7 a.m., Richard Foye, birder extraordinaire, will help fine-tune birding-by-ear skills on a loop walk from Holden Trail to the Pinnacle cabin and back. Meet at the Holden Trail kiosk. Bring binoculars. Register with Sarah Waldo at 387-6036 or [sarah\\_waldo@hotmail.com](mailto:sarah_waldo@hotmail.com).

Lastly, on Saturday May 16, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Forester Arthur Westing will lead a walk to the largest White Ash in Vermont and discuss the factors that make its success possible. Meet at Westminster West Church to carpool. Register with Arthur Westing at 387-2152 or [westing@sover.net](mailto:westing@sover.net). Rain date is Sunday May 17.

**WESTMINSTER WEDNESDAY WALKERS**

Beginning May 13 we plan to meet at the Park and Ride on the Westminster Heights Road at 9 a.m. to plan our walk for the morning.

There are lots of different options for our walks and maybe some hikes into interesting places. Most times the walk takes one hour to one and a half hours and we are back by 10:45. Bring water, hat, walking stick, sunscreen and wear good study shoes.

Jeff Michaud and Karen Walter have been the lead walkers for the past two years and can accommodate the walks to your ability.

We would like to know how many are expected to sign up for the program therefore please call Westminster Cares at 722-3607 and give Donna your name. She can also answer any questions you might have. All levels of walkers are welcome. Don't forget your water.

Hope you can join us for adventure, exercise and friendship.

Sponsored by Westminster Cares.

**NEEDED FOR THE CRAFT SPRING BAZAAR**

The First Congregational Church in Westminster is in need of the following to make crafts for our upcoming Spring Bazaar:

Whole slates or pieces of slate (for painting)

Old candles; any size or color or paraffin wax (to melt down to make other candles). We have molds.

Please contact any member of our craft group or bring to the church: Pat Goodell, Lucy Matteau, Mary Brandt, Lucille Donovan, Sandy Blake or Carol Ames. Thank you!

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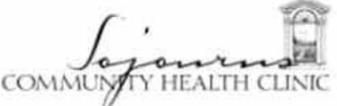
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# HEALTHY ACTIVITIES CHALLENGE AT SCHOOL

In February, March and April, the Westminster Schools Wellness Committee challenged students to participate in healthy activities every day. The February theme was Nutrition, and each week posed a different challenge, like eating breakfast daily or drinking plenty of water. Emotional and Social well being was the March focus. Students gave daily compliments, tried new skills or shared positive thoughts at dinner. The challenge for April got folks moving: walking a mile, playing a sport or limiting screen time. Participants logged activities on a Challenge Calendar, completed a minimum number of activities each month, and turned in those Calendars! On Thursday



April 16th, 26 students from the Center and West Schools were honored with certificates and a party, celebrating three months of successful wellness.

## COMPASS SCHOOL PLANS BUSY MAY

May is an incredibly busy time at Compass--Senior Project Presentations; Junior Presentations of "Comps" (competencies); Graduation Portfolio Roundtables; Spring Trips to Cape Cod, Boston and Salisbury State Park; Project Week; Graduation, and quite a bit more. It is inspiring to see students rise to the challenge of these powerful learning experiences.

These year-end events ask students to bring together a wide range of learning and skills, to reflect on their experiences, and to share their understandings with public audiences. We invite the community to join us for any of the events below. Please contact Compass at 463-2525 for more information or check our webpage at [www.compass-school.org](http://www.compass-school.org).

May 1: Parent-Student Dinner and Healthy Choices Discussion on Tech Use 6 to 8 p.m.

May 4: Health Day—Focus on physical activity, Iron Chef cooking challenge

May 15: Senior Project and Junior Comps Presentations—10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

May 17: Fun family afternoon Fiesta, 2 to 6 p.m., fundraising adventure for the next international trip

May 23-27: Graduation Portfolio Roundtables

May 28-30 Middle School Presentations of Learning

May 31: Graduation 2 p.m.

June 1-10: Project Week



Compass students at Parent-Student Dinner.

## NEW TRASH & RECYCLING PLAN: WHAT'S UP AT THE TOWN HALL

By Russ Hodgkins

The Selectboard have been working on many items this past month, but nothing as important to us all as the Trash Issue. At Town Meeting, monies were placed back into the budget for trash pickup. The Board accepted the money and with much deliberation has come up with a plan that not only meets the State mandates (Act 148), but brings back the curbside pickup in a responsible manner. The program will start on July 1st, 2015. This is just two short months away. I will try to give you the brief description of the proposal and what we as residents are going to be expected to follow.

- Trash and Recycling will be picked up weekly. We will publish a schedule soon.

- Trash and Recycling will need to be in a contained can, tote, bin etc.. with a lid before it will be picked up. This will mean that two containers are needed, one for trash and one for recycling. The containers will be supplied by you, the taxpayer, at the size that best fits your family's needs. On the containers, you will place your street number only to create accountability and to assure that we are picking up only your trash. Totes will be available for purchase at the Town Hall with an order from our new Hauler "Ruggiero Trash Removal" if desired. Prices will vary according to size needed.

- Trash only will be placed in a bag of a maximum 30 gal capacity or 30 lbs. whichever is greater and placed at the curbside in your container with a lid. Every bag will need a sticker attached to the neck of the bag. The new program starts with 52 stickers paid for through taxation. Additional stickers can be purchased at the Town Hall if needed.

- Recycling will be single stream available to be picked up every week. This means that your paper products and cans (bottles, etc.) will be placed together in the same can, tote, bin etc.. This container will need a lid, as stated before, because if the paper and cardboard gets wet, you just made it trash. Please note that the large bins at the Town Shop will remain in service for your convenience, but if they become a dumping site or contaminated, we will lose them.

- This article is the first of many informational forums that will be provided so when the program starts July 1st, we will have everyone on board with what is expected of us. The stickers will be mailed to you with a very detailed explanation of this program.

Please know that this program is a work in progress and will need tweaking as time goes by. The State of Vermont is still changing the fine details of the Universal Recycling Law (Act 148). Thank you in advance for your patience and feel free to call the Town Hall for any clarifications that you may need.

### NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER CARES

The Westminster Cares, Inc. Board of Directors met April 1 at the Westminster Institute with President Connie Sanderson presiding. The following board members attending: Kathy Elliott, Reggie Borden, Miriam Lanata, Susan Harlow, Barbara Sherrod, Sally Ryea, Heidi Anderson, Don Dawson and Director Donna Dawson.

Westminster Cares creates opportunities for seniors and disabled adults to live with independence and dignity in the community. Your support of this caregiving organization is a way for all of us to take care of our friends.

Anyone interested in learning more about Westminster Cares, volunteering to deliver meals onwheels or driving neighbors to doctor appointments, working on a committee, making a contribution or attending a workshop may contact Donna Dawson at 722-3607 or by e-mail at [wecares@sover.net](mailto:wecares@sover.net). Check us out on the web@ [www.westminstercares.org](http://www.westminstercares.org) and like.

Meals On Wheels – In March, 23 WC volunteers delivered meals one day a month to 15 different people who are now on meals. In addition, two frozen entrees were delivered to 10 people on Fridays for weekend meals (20 total per week). One new volunteer is training and two new inquiries were made by potential

Transportation – During the month of March, seven rides were provided by four different volunteers who drove two different Westminster residents to medical appointments, shopping or wellness programs for a total of 110.

Nursing Program - During March, our community nurse made four home

visits and one phone check-in calls on behalf of three seniors for medication management, blood pressure checks, foot care and hospitalization follow-up.

She also attended one blood pressure clinic at the March Senior Lunch.

Meetings Attended by Staff in March included – Attended Monthly Senior Lunch; meetings held with grant writer, nurse and treasurer; Gazette Board, graphic designer, Programs Committee, Evaluation Consultant, PR Committee, Funding Committee and Mtg. with board president.

Programs in March: Two Secrets of Healthy Aging sessions, five Gentle Yoga classes, 27 Strength Training classes, five Artist in Each of Us classes and Chair Yoga was started with three classes held.

Assistance and Referrals: Assistance provided to several Westminster residents and their families, collaborating with social service agencies, Senior Solutions, the V.A., Friends of Veterans, SEVCA, Red Cross, VCIL, the Sheriff's Dept. and the Visiting Nurses.

Friendly Visiting: Two volunteers making friendly visits to two seniors.

Medical Equipment: In March we loaned out eight pieces of equipment; 5 pieces of equipment were returned to us and three pieces were donated to us.

APRIL MEMORIAL DONATIONS: In memory of Laura Leonard from Nancy Dalzell

In memory of Clara Stuart from Miriam and Larry Lanata

In memory of Clara Stuart from the Women's Fellowship of Christ Church, Saxtons River

## 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 5 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. A warning will be posted 48 hours prior to each meeting.

Number of calls in March: 27

Number of calls through April 29th: 38

Number of calls calendar year to Date: 116

Number of calls fiscal year to date: 309

Association Meeting: The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association met for their regular meeting April 7th with President Paul Millman presiding. There were 26 members present and 8 members excused. Currently there are 44 members of the volunteer fire department. Names of two Deputy Chiefs will be given to the Chief for his consideration. They will be voted on at the next association meeting. The two Deputies will then have to be approved by the Prudential Committee. Burn Permit Alert:

Spring is always a nice time of year to do an outside burn. As the snow goes and things begin to dry out, which they are as of this writing, there will be times when no burning is allowed. Anyone wishing to do an outside burn must get verbal permission from one of the fire wardens before starting a fire. You must speak with one of the wardens. Leaving an answering machine message will not count as a permit.

The wardens are: Cole Streeter 722-3178

Mark Lund 463-9355

Pat Haas 387-5778

**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.

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

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.

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 always welcome to utilize that equipment during calls.

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

Check us out on our Website [www.westminsterfireandrescue.org](http://www.westminsterfireandrescue.org).

## WESTMINSTER STUDENTS CELEBRATE SPRING - EARTH DAY & FAIRY GARDENS

The Friday before April vacation was dark, stormy and damp, but Westminster students and staff celebrated spring, both indoors and out. Morning Enrichment activities related to Earth Day. The week before, staff designed scientific, artistic, active and creative experiences for children to sign up for. The resulting multiage groups were small and very focused on the chosen activity. Children made fairy gardens, as in the photo at right, bird feeders, kites and newspaper baskets. They rode bikes, hiked and learned to build a fire. Some conducted earth science experiments; others read *The Lorax* and made giant truffala trees. All ages had a terrific morning.

After lunch, the 26 student writers and illustrators published in this month's Imagination Soup, our literary magazine, were invited to The Literacy Cafe! Find out more about this elsewhere in the Gazette. The day closed with Jump Rope for Heart and recharged with Fruity Friday fruit salad cups. This afternoon, a long tradition at the Westminster Schools, is a celebration of healthy choices, full of enthusiastic jumpers and many active volunteers. Thank you!



## Nature Notes: Daffodils and Pansies for a Splash of Color

by Alma Beals, Vermont Master Gardener and Naturalist

Daffodils, which symbolize friendship, are one of the first signs of spring. They blossom at the same time as the forsythia does making a landscape of yellow in our gardens. They are native mainly to the Mediterranean region such as Spain or Portugal or the Middle East such as Turkey. They can be grown in most areas in North America except southern Florida. I would suspect we may appreciate seeing the blossoms after a long winter more than the southern states do.

Catalogs are arriving in our mailboxes now claiming "three months of blooms". It is true that you can extend the blooming season by planting different varieties, but isn't three months a stretch? Blooms last longer if the weather is cool while a hot spell when they are blossoming hurries them along.

Since most of my daffodils have been ordered from Breck's, I take their catalog to the garden while I look at the bare spots. I then draw a sketch so I will know where to plant new bulbs. At the same time, I will note where clumps are overcrowded and not blooming like they should so I can move them later on.

The bulbs are long-lived that thrive in sunny, well drained areas and require little care. They are hardy from zone 3 to 9. Plant good bulbs that haven't dried out and plant in the fall two to four weeks before the ground freezes. They like up to 6 hours of sunshine but will blossom in partial shade. An area that is in the sun in the spring before the leaves are out but shady later is fine. Plant large bulbs 6 to 8 inches deep, medium sized bulbs 3 to 6 inches deep and small bulbs 2 to 3 inches deep. Plant them pointed side up.

Do not use high-nitrogen fertilizer because you will get healthy looking foliage but few flowers. As an organic gardener, I use mulch from composted maple leaves and don't use any other fertilizer. Some gardeners add bone meal but I don't bother. By using mulch to keep the moisture in, watering isn't usually necessary.

Animals such as deer, rabbits, squirrels, chipmunks and rodents like voles do not like to eat them. Sometimes rodents may burrow underneath the daffodils and expose the bulbs to the air.

The most important thing is to not cut the foliage back after flowering until it turns yellow usually in late May or June because the bulbs need to store enough energy to survive the winter and flower next year. Your garden will look messy and some gardeners tie clumps of leaves together or braid them. This is not a good idea because it reduces the leaf area that is exposed to sunlight. I have many of my daffodils planted among my daylilies so that the daylilies can hide the foliage.

Sometimes we have to move daffodils when they are growing but haven't died back. If this happens, try to take a clump of dirt with them and replant. You also can dig them out, dry them and store them in onion bags in as cool a place as you can find.

Divide clumps of bulbs every 5 to 10 years. You can tell when they are overcrowded and it is time to divide if they aren't blooming like they used to. Some other reasons for not blooming are poor drainage, too little sun, too much nitrogen and if the foliage was cut back before yellowing so that the bulbs didn't store enough energy.

In many springs, we get a cold night while the daffodils are blossoming and we wonder what will happen. The blossoms look pretty sad in the morning. If the temperature doesn't go any lower than 20 degrees, they will recover.

While I am enjoying the daffodils in the garden, I am planting pansies in my window boxes on the deck. Pansies can be started in the summer and wintered over but most of us buy them in 6 packs in the spring. Your pansies will continue blossoming until hot weather if you pick the dead blossoms off. They get leggy in the heat or will rot if the stems and roots get too much water.

Last week end, Laurel Green and Steve Crofter planned their first annual Pansy Festival at Singing River Farm on Brockways Mills Road in Rockingham. Their beautiful heirloom pansies are field grown with large root systems so are sturdier than pansies grown in 6 packs.

After the winter we have just had, what greater happiness than seeing daffodils blossoming in the garden and pansies on the deck while we sit in the sun and listen to the birds sing.

# Aged in Vermont

Westminster Cares, Inc.

## ANYONE CAN GARDEN: GROWING AN ACCESSIBLE GARDEN

By Barbara Sherrod

"A garden is a lovely thing..." said poet T. E. Brown. Though scientists still do not understand exactly how gardening affects the mind, research shows accessibility to a garden: sunlight, fresh air, and growing plants, reduces stress and lowers blood pressure. A connection to nature benefits overall health and encourages a sense of well-being.

Making a garden accessible may sound like a consideration for only those with limitations born of injury, age, or infirmity. In truth, accessible gardening applies to all, as its aim is to reduce barriers and allow everyone to participate and enjoy nature regardless of one's condition, environment, or even the season.

Outdoor gardens can be created in raised beds: basic boxes that are open to the ground beneath for drainage. So that a gardener can reach across to tend plants, the raised-bed box should be an arm's length wide.

Consideration of the gardener's mobility and flexibility should determine the height of the box's sides. The sitting gardener needs a bed about 24 inches tall, while a standing gardener who has trouble bending needs a bed just above waist height.

If space is limited, an arrangement of containers provide a good alternative. Anything that holds soil can become your planters: an old tea-kettle, roaster pan, deep soup pot, or even a discarded baby bathtub. (If at all possible, make holes in the bottom to allow for drainage.)

Before filling, arrange the containers in a place that both gets adequate sunlight and is level and wide enough for the gardener to safely maneuver around its edge. In the pots, make a layer of gravel or broken bits of pottery, scoop in some rich soil, and set in seedlings or a few seeds. Both annuals and dwarf or low-growing vegetables are ideal candidates for the container garden.

Porches and railings have long provided homes for plants. Expand "garden space" here with hanging baskets or lengths of twine strung in a self-fashioned trellis for vining flowers or vegetables. A hook on a post can hold a potting pouch or a moss-lined basket. For those with limited mobility and flexibility, follow the same rules for height and width of the outdoor raised-bed garden to ease reaching and maneuvering.

The growing "season" becomes year-round when indoor space is made accessible. Expand a sunny windowsill's usefulness by training vining plants to a trellis of twine run to an empty curtain rod. A table planter—a shallow soil-filled tray atop a table tall enough to allow a gardener to sit while tending their plants—allows even those with very limited mobility to garden.

For garden-tending ease, the table should be narrow and no taller than the seated-gardener's ribcage. Be sure your plants are shallow-rooting, and allow for adequate drainage with a bottom layer of pebbles in the tray.

A garden of any sort or size is indeed "a lovely thing." With a little thought and planning, the health benefits and simple joys of gardening can be accessible to us all.

*Barbara Sherrod is a member of the Westminster Cares board of directors.*

## WCS SPRING CONCERT MAY 21ST

The Westminster Center School Spring Concert will be held on Thursday, May 21 at 6:30 p.m. in the Center School gym. The theme will be "The Superhero in Me."

## ROUNDS CELEBRATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Cheryl and Harley Rounds are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary and their family is throwing an open house/party for them on Saturday, May 30 at The Westminster Institute from 4 to 8 p.m.

Light refreshments will be served.

## TOWN OFFICES CLOSED JUNE 1-4

Due to mandatory State training for elections, the Town Clerk/Treasurer's Office will be closed from Monday to Thursday, June 1-4. The offices will be open again on Friday, June 6.

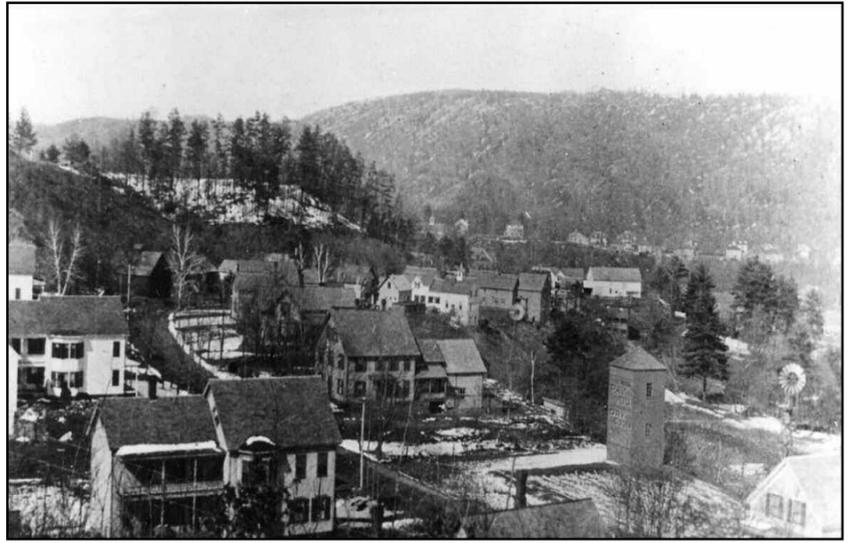
## WESTMINSTER GAZETTE SEEKS BOOK KEEPER

Join a great team in helping to spread the Town of Westminster news! This volunteer position creates financial transactions and reports to the Committee from that information.

The position includes tracking deposits, paying invoices from vendors, and issuing advertising and underwriting invoices to the Gazette's customers. Other duties include; reconciling the sole bank account, attending the monthly planning meeting, and participating from time to time in fundraising activities.

This role is a chance to participate locally, and there are always opportunities to mold it as you see fit. Members of the Gazette Committee look forward to hearing from you, please e-mail [westminsternews@gmail.com](mailto:westminsternews@gmail.com) with any questions, and your interest in the position.

## WESTMINSTER MYSTERY PHOTO



**What part of Westminster is shown in the above photo? What building stands today where the wind pump and tower on the right are?**

**When Mystery Photos are available, E-mail your answer to [westminsternews@gmail.com](mailto:westminsternews@gmail.com)  
The answer and the winners are announced in the next issue, page 3.**

## GOAT FARM TOUR & MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH

AlpineGlo Farm will be promising a weekend of fun for all May 9 and 10 with an open goat farm tour on Saturday and a Mother's Day Brunch Fundraiser on Sunday. The farm is conveniently located between Bellows Falls and Saxtons River, just off of Route 121.

Join us Saturday, May 9 for our second annual open house and free farm tour from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Have a chance to play with this year's baby Alpine dairy goats, visit the completed milking parlor, see baby chicks, and more. We will have goat's milk to sample and free popcorn. This is a great opportunity to get up close and personal with the goats and find out everything you ever wanted to know about them (and no, they really don't eat tin cans).

On Sunday, May 10 we will be hosting a Mother's Day Brunch Fundraiser from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. This will be a farm-to-plate brunch buffet served outdoors under a party tent with live music by local favorites The Milkhouse Heaters. We will be offering many of our farmer's market favorites, including sausage scrambled eggs, biscuits'n'gravy, roasted potatoes, lunch wraps, coffee, desserts, and more. Proceeds will benefit the AlpineGlo Farm cheeseroom build project. Reservations are required, call 463-2018. For further details visit [www.vthorse-shoer.com/events](http://www.vthorse-shoer.com/events)

For prices and more information visit [www.vthorse-shoer.com/events](http://www.vthorse-shoer.com/events), find AlpineGlo Farm on Facebook, or give us a call 463-2018.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

### TOWN OF WESTMINSTER TOWN LISTERS

The Town of Westminster, Select Board is soliciting resumes to fill positions of three vacant Lister positions.

Elected positions are defined by statute. Following appointment by the Select Board the successful candidate(s) will be required to run for election on the ballot in March 2016.

Candidates must be Westminster residents. Please submit a resume or letter of interest to Russell R. Hodgkins, Town Manager, Town of Westminster, P.O. Box 147, Westminster, VT 05158. Deadline for receiving resumes is May 1, 2015.

For detailed job descriptions, see the Town's Web site at [www.westminstervt.org](http://www.westminstervt.org) or contact Karen Astley, Administrative Assistant at 722-4255 for a copy.

## OPEN YOUR HEART & HOME TO A NYC CHILD

Fresh Air volunteers need your help to create another fun-filled summer for children from New York City! Each summer, nearly 4,000 children visit volunteer host families in rural, suburban, and small town communities across 13 states from Virginia to Maine and Canada. Host families simply want to share their homes with city children and the pure joys of summertime outside of the city. Families find hosting so rewarding that more than 65 percent of all Fresh Air children are reinvented to visit the same host families year after year. First-time Fresh Air visitors are six to 12 years old, and Fresh Air hosts range from young families to grandparents. All it takes is the willingness to welcome a New York City child to your community.

"Our Fresh Air child loves hanging out on the front lawn and jumping in the pool. Honestly, she enjoys the simple things the most," says a Fresh Air host.

For more information about hosting a Fresh Air child this summer, please contact Tom Kosiba at 802-282-9933 or visit The Fresh Air Fund online at [www.freshair.org](http://www.freshair.org).

# 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 and Thursdays: at the First Congregational Church in Westminster from 9-10 a.m.; at the Westminster West Church from 6-7 p.m.; or at Greater Rock Fitness in Bellows Falls from 11-12. 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.

### Westminster West Public Library Trustees

The Westminster West Public Library Trustees meet on the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the library. They welcome visits from the public, but it would be best to check times with Bev Major at 387-5737 before coming.

### Bellows Falls Farmers' Market

Stop by the Train Station in Bellows Falls every Friday from 4 to 7 p.m., for our Farmers Market. For details visit [www.bffarmersmarket.com](http://www.bffarmersmarket.com) or call 463-2018.

## 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

The Congregational Church of Westminster West 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](mailto: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.gbf4hisglory.com/](http://www.gbf4hisglory.com/).

## Meetings

**Selectboard** 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall.

**Planning 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 - No Summer Meetings** 1st Wednesday of every month, at the Westminster Institute at 4:30 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** Monday, May 25 at 4:30 p.m. at the Westminster Institute

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



**THE GAZETTE  
GRATEFULLY  
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Westminster School District  
Town of Westminster  
Westminster Activities Commission  
Sojourns Community Health Clinic  
Westminster Cares  
Westminster Fire & Rescue  
Association  
Burtco Inc.  
The Dascomb Trust

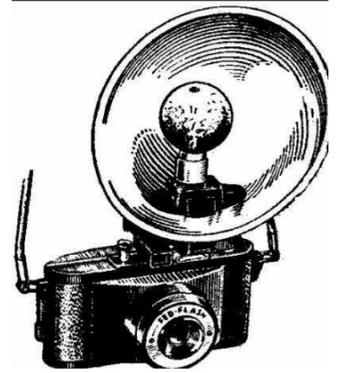
## GMP WARNS CUSTOMERS OF PHONE SCAM

Green Mountain Power is warning customers about a phone scam. The caller claims to be representing Green Mountain Power from the billing and disconnect division and demands payment.

This is definitely a phone scam. Green Mountain Power follows very clear state rules when working with customers about paying past due bills. Green Mountain Power advises customers that it does not demand credit card information or alternate payment mechanisms from a customer for any purpose.

Any customer receiving such a call should not provide the caller with any personal information, including account and credit card numbers. If you have any doubt about the source of the call, you should hang up and call Green Mountain Power's toll free customer service line at 1-888-835-4672 to verify the caller's identity.

The Vermont Attorney General's office recommends reporting these phone scam calls by calling 1-800-649-2424 outside of Chittenden County or 1-802-656-1423 if you live in Chittenden County.



**WESTMINSTER GAZETTE**  
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# MOTIVATING KIDS TO WRITE WITH A LITERACY CAFE

What motivates kids to write? Or even more mysteriously, what encourages young writers to edit and revise their work? Teachers at our elementary school are reading about and discussing writing motivation. And four times this year, a group of young writers celebrated publication success at The Literacy Cafe!

The Literacy Cafe is a literary salon which meets in the magically transformed Center School Library after each publication of Imagination Soup. Imagination Soup is an online magazine, featuring “the fabulous and inventive work of student authors and illustrators.” Student writers, artists and word savvy students published in the current issue of the magazine are invited to attend the Literacy Cafe, as well as kids who use The Illuminators’ chosen words in written work or daily conversation. Cafe staff and an unexpected visitor entertain the young writers at each Cafe, serving delectable appetisers and desserts.

How do participants feel about the experience?

“This is the best cafe I’ve ever been to in France.”

“This is the best thing that has ever happened to me.”

“I love writing and I love the Cafe. I love to write poems, and I love the hot cider and slushy cider, too.”

“I like that there’s a lot of food and they only serve healthy treats.”

“To get in, I wrote about a glowing orb. I like working on my writing now... when I was little, I didn’t like writing because I wasn’t good at it. Now I feel like I’m learning and getting better at it.”

“In writers’ workshop we can write whatever we want.”

“I really like how you can make things that are true or not true in your writing.”

“I like that you get to use your imagination - you can make it funny or serious.”

Find all four issues of this unique, colorful, surprising and imaginative publication through the Westminster Community Schools webpage at [www.wnesu.org/wcs/](http://www.wnesu.org/wcs/). The first option under “Class Pages” is Studio Y. Once there, click the Literacy Cafe button to find the Illuminators and editions of Imagination Soup. These programs are the brainchild of art and drama teacher, Janelle Beard, supported by teacher editors and the school librarian.



Westminster students enjoy their Literacy Cafe, complete with candles.

## EVENTS AT 1ST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

The First Congregational Church of Westminster, Inc. on Main Street, Route 5 has Sunday worship at 10 a.m.

Communion is the first Sunday of each month. The church has a ramp and lift for wheelchair access as well as a handicapped bathroom. Sunday School is available, call the church to register your children. The Church is an open and affirming church, all are welcome.

### Important Dates

- May 5 - Woman's Fellowship - noon
- May 6 - Last Souper Wed, potluck cookout - noon
- May 10 - Worship 10 a.m. - Happy Mother's Day
- May 11 - Standing Committee meeting - 6 p.m.
- May 14 - Senior Lunch
- May 17 - Worship 10 a.m. - Trustee's meeting afterwards
- May 23 - Women's Fellowship outdoor sale and cookout - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- May 24 - Worship 10 a.m.
- May 31 - Worship 10 a.m. - Deacon's meeting afterwards

Westminster Birthday Calendar for 2016. Regular canvassing of neighborhoods will happen in May. Calendars will be \$10 which includes having the birthdays of your immediate family published as well as receiving the calendar sometime late in 2015. If by the middle of June, you have not been contacted and would like to sign up for the calendar, please call Lucy Matteau at 722-9040.

As anyone who bought last year’s calendar noted, a picture of the North Westminster School from around 1914 was the picture. The intention is to publish pictures of all the “one-room” school houses in Westminster, one each year. With the help of the Westminster Historical Society, we hope to locate pictures of all the schools and publish them on the calendar over the next few years. If you have a picture of a school house that might be suitable to publish, please contact Lucy Matteau.

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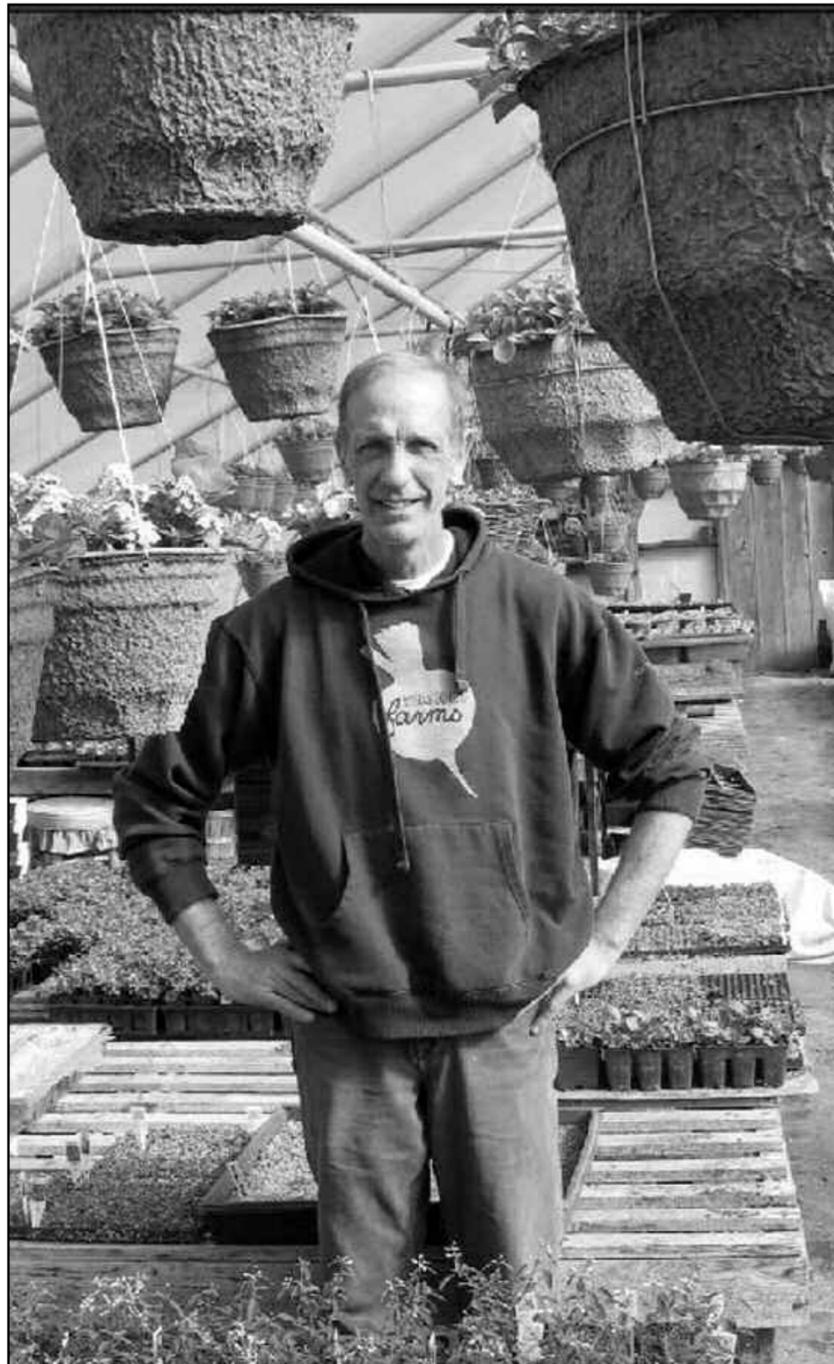
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## May Business of the Month: Harlow Farmstand



Welcome back to Harlow Farmstand, open May 1 for our twenty-fifth year. Come by and say hello to Dan Harlow and his staff: Dee Morse, Becky Johnson, Kim Foltz, Liz Forbush, and Sue Adams.

When you shop for your early bedding plants, we'll also have many early greens and herbs, grown in our high-tunnel greenhouse. Besides a wide variety of organic vegetables and fruit, we have beef, pork, and eggs from our farm. Fresh chickens will be available in June.

As always, we offer dairy products, both organic and conventional – milk, cheeses, butter, and ice cream. We sell Harlow Farm-made jams, pickles, chutney and condiments, as well as our own frozen vegetables, and much more.

Michael Lenox has Café Loco in full swing for that early cup of joe, a full breakfast, or lunch out on the back porch.

Visit our Website, harlowfarm.com, to learn more or join us on Facebook. Or call us at 722-3515.

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