

Westminster Gazette



po box 147 westminster vt 05158

Our Community Newspaper @ www.westminstervt.org

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STUDENTS TOUCH THE LIVES OF TROOPS OVERSEAS

The Kurn Hattin Homes children have discovered how to positively impact the lives of others on a global scale with the "Tip of the Spear" community service project.

"Tip of the Spear" is a national non-profit organization that seeks to bring comfort and support to military personnel who are in harm's way, serving on the front lines in hostile surroundings. These outposts, carved out in dangerous and unforgiving terrain, are located in the most remote regions of rural Afghanistan.

The platoons stationed there face daily threats such as snipers, firefights, and roadside bombs. Many of the soldiers survive on dated, pre-packaged C-rations; and have little or no access to showers, clean clothes, or utilities. Through "Tip of the Spear", local groups can form a "Boots on the Ground" chapter to sponsor a particular platoon, and commit to establishing a long-term relationship that meets the specific needs of that platoon until they come home.

In Kennebunkport, Me., The Village Baptist Church has a "Boots on the Ground" chapter, coordinated by parishioner John Zimmerman. The group gets together once a month to pack the items they have collected, as well as cards and letters written by children and other supporters.

These items include non-perishable food and treats, toiletries, hygiene products, baby wipes, books, socks, board games, mouse traps, and hot sauce. "The C-rations are very bland," notes Zimmerman. A close friend of the Kurn Hattin staff and children, Zimmerman launched the collaboration with the residential school and home two years ago, when he asked the students to make handmade cards for the troops.

The response was so positive that the Kurn Hattin Homes children continued to write. They also began to focus on more personal initiatives: sending cards to a church member with cancer; writing letters and sending dog biscuits



Packages from Kurn Hattin students ready to be mailed to US Troops serving in Afghanistan.

to the military working dog, Dumo; making videos for injured troops; and singing holiday carols. In anticipation of the Select Choir's annual spring performance at the church, the 8th grade class began a fundraising drive. The students collected change and donations on campus and presented a check for \$200 to Zimmerman for more supplies, which he agreed to match.

Throughout the evening, the choir sang to the troops, volunteers read letters of appreciation from the soldiers, and everyone gathered together to pack the boxes.

Kurn Hattin Residential Director, Karen Lansberry said "This is very special. When the kids heard how much their letters meant to these men and women, I think they really understood the impact that they had on the lives of others."

The event was so moving and successful, that John Zimmerman will be coming to visit Kurn Hattin Homes in May for a special packing session of locally purchased items. According to Zimmerman, each shipment provides approximately \$3,000 worth of goods.

SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION COMMITTEE PLANS INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

The Windham Northeast Supervisory Union Consolidation Committee, which began to meet in January of this year, will be hosting a series of informational meetings for all residents in May.

There will be a meeting in each of the four towns that comprise the WNESU—Athens, Grafton, Westminster, and Rockingham. Residents from any of the four towns are welcome to attend any meeting that they wish. The information presented at each meeting will be generic in nature, not specific to the town in which the meeting is taking place.

Dr. Wayne Gersen, former Superintendent of Schools of the Dresden Interstate district in Hanover NH and Norwich VT, is serving as a consultant to the Consolidation Committee, and will be presenting basic information about the school consolidation laws including Act 46.

The town school districts of the WNESU have unique grade configurations compared to other districts in Vermont, which may limit the possibilities for consolidation. The Committee has narrowed the list to realistic possibilities, and these will be the ones that will be the subject of discussion at the meetings.

An additional option is for the WNESU to apply to the Vermont State Board of Education to remain in its current form as a supervisory union. The legal and

procedural steps to continue any of these processes will be another subject of the presentation.

In addition, the Committee has begun to gather the required information concerning various aspects of the school districts, which will be shared. Following the presentation there will be a period for residents to ask questions about any of the aspects of school consolidation.

The schedule for the community meetings is as follows. Each meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 4, at the Grafton Elementary School

Thursday, May 5, at the Athens School Building

Tuesday, May 10, at the Westminster Center School

Wednesday, May 11, at the Bellows Falls Middle School

Anyone who would like more information about school consolidation or the upcoming meetings is invited to call the Superintendent, Chris Kibbe, at 463-9958.

In addition, all Consolidation Committee meeting are warned public meetings and everyone is invited to attend. Check the WNESU.org Web site for meeting warnings and minutes of past meetings.

TOWN OF WESTMINSTER TAX GRIEVANCE MEETINGS

Grievance Meetings, Town of Westminster, Conducted June 3rd, 2016 as follows:

Title 32, Vermont Statutes Annotated, section 4111 (g) reads as follows: A person who feels aggrieved by the action of the listers and desires to be heard by them, shall, on or before the day of the grievance meeting, file with them his objections in writing and may appear at such grievance meeting in person or by his agents or attorneys. Upon the hearing of such grievance the parties thereto may submit such documentary or sworn evidence as shall be pertinent thereto.

Also note that Section 64 of Act 71 requires notification of value on home-

stead, for appeal purposes.

Grievances will be held: WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL on Friday June 3rd, 2016, 11am-7pm.

Please call for appointment at 722-4255.

Written appeals received after 12:00 noon on 6/2/2016, even if postmarked by 6/2/2016, are considered untimely and cannot be heard.

WESTMINSTER BOARD OF LISTERS:
Jackie Atwood, David Mulholland, Bruce Sterling

WESTMINSTER CARES HONORS HARLOW



Westminster Cares acknowledges outgoing board member Susan Harlow for her work during six-plus years on the board, and welcomes new members Robin Lawrence and Lori Larue.

Standing, from left, are Sally Ryea, Susan Harlow, Connie Sanderson, Donna Dawson and Lori Larue, and seated are Robin Lawrence, Barbara Sherrod, Pete Harrison and Reggie Borden.

Missing from the photo are Heidi Anderson, Don Dawson, and Miriam Lanata.

On May 15th there will be an Art Show & Sale at the Institute with 10% of proceeds donated to WeCares, and the 15th Annual Westminster Garden Tour will be held on July 9 and 10.



MYSTERY PHOTO

Last month's Mystery Photo was of one of the tractors made at the Abenague Machine Works founded by Frederick M. Gilbert in Westminster in the late 1800's. It was located where Burtco operates currently in Westminster Station. Correct answers were sent in by David L Deen, Wanda West and others.

Do you have more information about the Abenague Machine Works or another part of Westminster's history that you'd like to share? Please contact us if you do!



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WCS SPRING CONCERT & CAKE FUNDRAISER

Westminster's famed Arts Fundraiser is back with a splash in 2016! The event will be held on Wednesday, May 25 at 5:30 p.m., just before the Spring Concert at 6:30!

The Cake viewing and raffle will be held in the dining room, the Spring Concert/Musical in the gymnasium. Each individual classroom will be working together to design, bake, and decorate an extraordinary cake with "The Ocean" in mind.

There will also be 10 spots open for cakes baked, designed, and decorated by community members, individual students, or families. These spots are first come, first served so please sign up early!

All proceeds will benefit The Arts Programs at Westminster Community School. You may recall that in the past, cakes were sold at auction to the highest bidder. This year, we're trying something a little different. Each cake will be raffled off - raffle tickets will be on sale starting Wednesday, May 11 and again that evening.

Raffle sales will end at 6:20 p.m. and winners will be announced during the Spring Musical "The Ocean." You must be present at the musical to collect your cake.



JAZZ NIGHT AT KH



Blues and jazz vocalist Samirah Evans headlined at Kurn Hattin Homes' recent Annual Jazz Invitational.

WHAT'S UP AT THE TOWN HALL: RECYCLING PROGRAM UPDATE

In the last two weeks, I have received many calls regarding the Trash Hauler not separating the recyclables from the trash. Joe Ruggiero has assured me that the truck that is being used right now is just temporary while the two sectioned truck is being repaired. It does look like they are not separating, but they are at their own facility.

Be assured that your efforts are not being ignored and that all is being separated appropriately as per our contract with Ruggiero Trash Removal. The program is working and it is because of everyone's dedication to the program. Thanks for your concerns and I hope by the time you read this, it will be old news.

Dates to Remember:

- May 7th is "Green Up Day"
- May 14th is the Planting of New Growth on the bank of the Saxtons River where the river crosses under the Route 121 Bridge. The activity starts at 9 a.m. Many hands will make short work of this opportunity to make a difference in the rivers containment.
- May 25th is a Public Hearing on the adoption of the "Debris Management Plan" for the Town of Westminster

- June 3rd is Grievance Day for property values. Please call for an appointment to the Listers Office at 722-9516. The office hours are on Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Boards and Commissions:

- Selectboard Meetings are on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month.
- Development Review Board meets on the first Monday of every month when there is business before them.
- Planning Commission meets on the 2nd Monday of the month.

Please remember to register your dog(s). This was due on April 1st, but is not too late. The Town of Westminster registers approximately 1/3 of its dog population. This is a health violation at the State level. All dogs need to be registered because of public safety. It does not matter if your dog stays home or is on a run. They all need to be registered for documentation of the dog's shots for public safety and your own. This fee is marginal and is based on whether the dog is neutered or spayed. Please take a moment and get your dog registered.

As always, please feel free to call the Town Manager's Office regarding concerns, issues or comments.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER CARES

The Westminster Cares, Inc. Board of Directors met April 6th at the Westminster Institute with President Connie Sanderson, presiding.

The following board members attended: Reggie Borden, Robin Lawrence, Sally Ryea, Barbara Sherrod, Don Dawson, Pete Harrison, Lori Larue, and Director Donna Dawson. Heidi Anderson and Miriam Lanata were unable to attend.

Westminster Cares creates opportunities for seniors and disabled adults to live with independence and dignity in the community. Your support to 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 on wheels 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.

Check us out on the web@ www.westminstercares.org and like us on Facebook.

Services Provided in March:

Meals On Wheels – March: WC volunteers delivered meals five days a week to 12 different people. In addition, two frozen entrees were delivered each Friday to seven people on Fridays for weekend meals (14 total weekend meals).

Transportation – During the month of March, four rides were provided by two volunteers who drove seniors to medical appointments.

Nursing Program – During March, our community nurse made seven home visits on behalf of six seniors for medication management, blood pressure checks, foot care and hospitalization follow-ups. Isabelle saw an additional seven seniors at the monthly Blood Pressure Clinic at Senior Lunch.

Meetings Attended by Staff in March – Attended two Healthy Aging groups.

Met with our nurse, treasurer, and board president. Also met with Garden Tour committee, Fundraising Committee, Gazette Board, and Programs Committee.

Programs in March – two Secrets of Healthy Aging session, four Gentle Yoga classes, 27 Strength Training classes, five Artist in Each of Us classes; four Chair Yoga classes and one Senior Lunch.

Assistance and Referrals in March: Assisted clients with referrals to housing requests; medication payment assistance; transportation options; caregiving and housekeeping services; library book delivery. Made one house visit to complete M.O.W. intake.

Friendly Visiting – Volunteers made five friendly visits in March.

Medical Equipment – In March we loaned out nine pieces of equipment. One piece of equipment was donated to us.

Westminster Cares welcomes donations throughout the year from anyone wishing to remember or honor a loved one or friend.

Memorial and Honorary Donations

APRIL 2016

In memory of Barbara Stebbins, a former resident of Westminster, from Joan and Bill Smidutz

In honor of Westminster "peeps" from Carol Sevick

In memory of Dr. Ralph Buck from Lori and Dick Miller

In memory of Regena "Reggie" Cote from the following:

Lori and Dick Miller

Ila Mitchell

Lisa and Jim Calchera

Wendy, James, Patrick and Kayden Speid

Marcia and John Buckman

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 3 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: 29

Number of calls through April 26th: 41

Number of calls calendar year to Date: 118

Number of calls fiscal year to date: 309

Association Meeting: The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association met for their regular meeting April 5th with President Greg Holton presiding. There were 27 members present and 5 members excused. Currently there are 41 members of the volunteer fire department.

Fire Calls: April has been a busy month for the fire department volunteers. An almost record shattering 41 calls as of April 26th kept the department apparatus and personnel on the go. Out of the 41, locally there were 15 rescue calls, 2 structure fires, 2 brush fires, 1 motor vehicle accident, 4 false alarms [usually alarm systems activated by accident], 2 miscellaneous, 1 illegal burn, plus 14 mutual aid calls where we went to another town to assist them and provide them with equipment and manpower.

The 14 mutual aid calls, with the exception of one structure fire, were all brush fires and required many hours of our volunteer's time away from their jobs. With the lack of snow this winter and very little rain, brush fires have

been a huge problem for the area. We can't stress enough the importance of getting a burn permit before and using common sense when doing an outside burn. You must speak with one of the wardens before a permit will be issued.

The wardens are: Warden : Cole Streeter 722-3178

Deputy Warden: Mark Lund 463-9355

Deputy Warden: Pat Haas 387-5778

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

Donations received : Westminster Cares, Westminster East Parish [Library and Institute], Patricia LaRoche, Jim and Arlene Scully

Memorial donations:

In memory of Reg Cote: Marilyn Loomis, Margaret O'Brien, Carol Coski

In memory of Harold and Alice Shattuck from Barbara Greenough

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 web-site www.westminsterfireandrescue.org

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

HIKE TO VERMONT'S LARGEST WHITE ASH TREE MAY 21

By popular request, there will be a springtime hike to the largest White Ash in Vermont on Saturday, May 21 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The rain date is Sunday May 22.

The tree is located on Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association property off Headwaters Trail in Westminster. Since the tree is not easy to find – unless one has been there before – Forester Arthur Westing will lead hikers right to it. During this free program Westing will discuss the characteristics of a Vermont forest and the factors that affect the health of this truly remarkable specimen, which should be on display in all its leafy glory.

Re-verified at the beginning of 2014 by Windham County Forester Bill Guenther of the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation, the tree grew in the 10 years since its last measurement and charted a circumference of 205.2 inches and a height of 113 feet, thereby beating out two other Westminster giants for the honor of being the largest White Ash in Vermont.

Participants should wear hiking shoes, bring water, and meet at the Westminster

West Church to carpool to the trailhead.

Please visit www.windmillhillpinnacle.org for directions to the church and information about other upcoming Pinnacle programs.

Contact Arthur Westing at 387-2152 or westing@sover.net for further details and registration.

ANNUAL SPRING PLANT SALE

The Westminster West School invites you to its annual Spring Plant Sale, on Saturday, May 14 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Come early for the best selection, including a wide variety of annuals, perennials, and vegetable starts from some of the area's finest gardeners and farmers. All proceeds support Westminster West School and the Westminster West Public Library. Rain date is Sunday, May 15.

My Field Trip to VINS

by Alma Beals, Vermont Master Gardener and Naturalist

Recently we visited the Vermont Institute of Natural Science in Quechee. How that took me back many years to the days I volunteered at VINS when it was in Woodstock.

One of the things I did was help band birds which meant putting up and later taking down the mist nets, taking the birds that had flown in out of the nets, putting each in a separate cloth bag and taking the bags back to the banding station. After taking their information, we released them.

If the early morning was chilly, and many times it was, we had to be careful the birds didn't get cold. If we had too many bags lined up, and especially if the bags were damp, we would release them without recording them. What a great way to get familiar with birds. Many that are fairly drab to look at have beautiful colors in your hand.

We explored the raptor enclosures to see a Snowy Owl, two Turkey Vultures, an American Kestrel, a Merlin, a Peregrine Falcon, a Golden Eagle, a Bald Eagle, a Northern Harrier and several other hawks. Every fall I count migrating hawks over Putney Mountain looking at silhouettes overhead but it is entirely different seeing them up close.

We watched a presentation of "birds in hand." The trainer took an American Kestrel, a Rough-legged Hawk and a Barred Owl out of their cages. The Barred Owl and the Rough-legged Hawk flew from his hand to the perch but the American Kestrel apparently had filled up on insects and wasn't interested in flying.

From the ice age mammals display in the outside yard to the dinosaur display inside, what a great place to spend a warm, sunny day. We hiked the trails through the woods.

Thinking about hiking, Lynn Morgan and I hope to do some bird "sits" this spring for adults and kids. We are both on the Ascutney Mountain Audubon Society Board. Last fall, we scheduled weekly "sits" at Herricks Cove. We would sit quietly in one spot for about 20 minutes and listen and watch. Then we would move to another spot and keep repeating that for a couple hours. Right after we set the day and time, my working hours changed so that I couldn't go with her.

We plan to try the "sits" again this spring. We are thinking of Mondays or Tuesdays from 9 to 11 a.m. but we both have jobs where our working hours are subject to change and of course, the weather may not cooperate.

Be sure to call us if you would like to join us. My telephone number is 722-3355. We have several pairs of kid binoculars and can take small groups out. We will introduce them to the use and care of binoculars, the need to be quiet and observe birds or other wildlife.

We are not expert birders. We just enjoy birding so grab your



binoculars, a water bottle and comfortable shoes and join us.

Above, a barred owl.

Aged in Vermont

Westminster Cares, Inc.

BULLYING - NOT JUST A TEENAGE PROBLEM

We hear a lot about bullying among youth, but did you know it occurs among elders as well? In recent years experts have recognized and studied bullying behaviors in assisted living and other senior community settings.

It is important to recognize and intervene in cases of senior bullying, because the person being bullied may experience social isolation, feel powerless, become depressed or anxious, sleep poorly, or avoid doing the activities that they enjoy. All of these factors have been linked with poorer health. Furthermore, in some cases bullying has escalated into serious violence or even murder.

Late-life bullying may occur in various settings such as senior centers, nursing homes, senior apartment complexes, assisted living residences, or adult day care centers. Both women and men engage in bullying.

Bullying behaviors can be verbal, physical, or anti-social. Verbal bullying may include teasing, name-calling, threats or insults. Physical bullying may appear as hitting, shoving, or stealing or damaging the victim's belongings. Anti-social bullying may consist of spreading rumors, shunning or excluding the victim from group activities.

According to Marsha Frankel, LICSW, Clinical Director of Senior Services at Jewish Family & Children's Services, it is important to remember that not all cases of bad or mean behavior are bullying. Some of these behaviors can result from dementia or mental illness.

In other cases, the person who acts out has another issue that needs attention, or might not have any other way to communicate. A big clue that a behavior is bullying: it's directed at a specific person, not just anyone who happens along.

Frankel says, "Most bullies put others down in order to build themselves up...they may be seeking control at a time in their life when they feel pretty powerless." They may choose to pick on someone who represents a prejudice they have – such as a difference in religion or sexual orientation – or they may become controlling over an individual who is weaker, less confident, or new to the group.

Family members or friends who see a potential problem should report it to the staff. Managers and staff of senior facilities need to actively address bullying. They can assess the extent of the problem, and participate in training to learn how to improve matters.

The person being bullied will appreciate being heard and supported. He or she may also benefit from training in skills to help them speak their mind and stand up for their rights. Residents have been able to address the problem in some cases by welcoming and affirming anyone who is being picked on, and making it clear that the bully does not represent the community as a whole.

The good news is, bullying can be stopped. The simple act of a bystander saying something will halt it about 50% of the time. A little bit of empathy and courage can go a long way.

This information about senior bullying was previously published in the *Rutland Herald*, in the "60-Plus" column authored by Senior Solutions and the Southwestern Vermont Council On Aging. It is re-printed with permission.

ROTARY CLUB PENNY SALE

The Bellows Falls Rotary Club is planning their annual Penny Sale for Saturday, May 7 at the Bellows Falls Union High School Auditorium. The doors open at 5:30 pm and the sale starts at 6. Free admission. Refreshments available, raffle and prizes.

GAZETTE SEEKS NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The Westminster Gazette Board is seeking a few new members, and in particular a board secretary would be greatly appreciated. Board membership requires attending a one hour meeting each month, and some time spent on Gazette issues at home.

Also, if anyone would like to donate toward Gazette expenses, all contributions are greatly appreciated. They can be sent in care of the Town Offices.

GREEN UP DAY UPDATE

Green Up Day is Saturday, May 7.

A cautionary reminder about drug paraphernalia: If ANY drug paraphernalia is found, leave it where it is and call the Town Hall to report where it was found. Please do not touch or pick this stuff up. The Town Hall phone number is 722-4255. If you reach a voice message, leave the specific location where item was found.

Bags are available at this time at the Town Hall. Bags may be picked up at 74 School Street at any hour.

On May 7 bags will be available at the Center School from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the same hours at the Westminster West School.

CELEBRATING CREATIVITY IN WESTMINSTER

On Sunday, May 15 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. an event celebrating the creativity of Westminster residents will be held at the Westminster Institute located on Route 5 in the village of Westminster.

The purpose of the event is to showcase the diversity and range of creativity in our town and spread awareness of the artists and crafts people who live here. Individuals will have their work on display with 10% of sales being donated to Westminster Cares. There will be a "café" offering baked goods, coffee, tea and more for sale with all proceeds benefiting Westminster Cares.

WESTMINSTER MYSTERY PHOTO

WE NEED MORE WESTMINSTER MYSTERY PHOTOS, AND WOULD ALSO BE INTERESTED IN SUBMISSIONS ABOUT SOME OF WESTMINSTER'S INTERESTING HISTORY, SUCH AS ABOUT LAST MONTH'S ABENAQUE MACHINE WORKS PHOTO. FEEL FREE TO SUBMIT YOUR IDEAS AND PROPOSALS!

E-mail your answer to westminsternews@gmail.com.

The answer and the winners are announced in the next issue, page 3.

SENIORS: APPLICATIONS FOR EILEEN AUSTIN NEAL NURSING SCHOLARSHIP

Applications are being accepted for the 11th annual Eileen Austin Neal Nursing Scholarship of \$1,000. This scholarship is open to any student who has been accepted into a nursing program of study. Applicants will be judged on interest in and commitment to the field of nursing. Determination will be based on merit and need.

Application forms are available in high school guidance offices and from the Development Office of Springfield Medical Care Systems. Deadline is May 27.

Neal was a registered nurse at Springfield Hospital for 64 years, retiring in 2005. She was the first recipient of the Hospital's Community Health Award in 2003. In 2004, the Hospital established the Spirit of Nursing Award in recognition of her many years of dedicated service.

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

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

For more information, contact Larry Kraft, Director of Development, at 885-7644 or lkraft@springfieldmed.org.



MAY EVENTS AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

The First Congregational Church of Westminster on Main Street, 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.

Sun., May 1 - Worship and Communion, 10 a.m.

Tues., May 3 - Women's Fellowship Meeting, noon. Bring a lunch. Dessert will be served by hostess.

Wed, May 4 - Souper Wed ends with a Pot Luck barbeque at the church (held rain or shine). Noon to 2 pm

Sun., May 8 - Worship, 10 a.m.

Sat., May 14 - Roast Pork Supper, sittings, 5 p.m. and 6:15 p.m.

Sun., May 15 - Worship, 10 a.m.

Sun., May 22 - Worship, 10 a.m.

Sat., May 28 - Women's Fellowship Memorial Day Outdoor Sale, 9 to 2 p.m.

Sun., May 29 - Worship, 10 a.m.

Souper Wednesday ends on Wed, May 4th with a potluck barbeque at the church (held rain or shine), noon to 2 p.m.

An article about the Birthday Calendar, our supper on May 14th and our Outdoor Sale on May 28th

Regular canvassing of neighborhoods for the Westminster Birthday Calendar for 2017 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 2016. 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.

2017 is the 250th anniversary for the First Congregational Church of Westminster, Inc. The picture this year will depict our church and its history. Stay tuned for events in 2017 to celebrate this milestone. We will continue our school series in 2018.

Roast Pork Supper

On Saturday, May 14, the Church will hold their Roast Pork Supper. Dinner includes roast pork, stuffing, mashed potatoes, green beans, gravy, applesauce, pickles, rolls, coffee, tea, milk, and brownie with a raspberry drizzle for dessert. There will be two sittings, one at 5 and one at 6:15 p.m. This fundraiser supper will be \$11 for adults, \$5 for children and those under 5 eat free.

Women's Fellowship Outdoor Sale

On Saturday, May 28, the Women's Fellowship of the First Congregational Church will hold their Outdoor Sale and Cookout. Tables include Crafts, Plants, Westminster T-shirts, White Elephant, Food including baked goods and Lunch items. Also available are flea market spaces where you can sell your items. Cost: A donation to the Fellowship for the use of the space.

WESTMINSTER HAPPENINGS

Activities

Scottish Country Dance Classes

Every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Westminster Center School Gym. 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.

Chair Yoga

Every Friday from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at the First Congregational Church in Westminster. 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 first Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the library. They welcome visits from the public. Contact Lisa Cavanaugh at 387-4682.

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 or call 463-2018.

Souper Wednesday

Souper Wednesday is held every Wednesday at the 1st Congregational Church from noon to 2 p.m., January through April. There are choices of three soups including a vegetarian choice. Wed, May 4th will end the soup season with a barbeque outside the church.

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 Fred Gray and Malcolm Toleno.

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.gbf4hisglory.com/.

Walpole Unitarian Church

Services are presented by Rev. Lisa Mobayed M.Div. Worship services are at 10 a.m. Children's Religious Education begins at 10 a.m. with the adults and moves to Hastings House at 10:15. Refreshments and conversation are held after the service with the children included. www.walpoleunitarian.org.

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

1st 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 23 at 4:30 p.m. at the Westminster Institute

Westminster Institute Board

will meet on Tuesday, May 10 at 7 p.m. in the Institute.

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HOLIDAY FLAG DISPLAY PLANS COMPLETE

You may recall that last November, on Veterans Day, we re-dedicated a World War II plaque that had hung inside the Westminster Institute and placed it outside on a beautiful granite stone along with a new flagpole.

A few months ago we proposed a new idea that has another patriotic theme: mounting flags on the utility poles in the village on Rt.5 (plans for Westminster West are still pending) on Memorial Day, July 4th and Veterans Day.

There are 30 poles in the village and 10 in the West. The flag would be approximately 10 feet off the ground on each pole and hang on a slight angle making for a striking display. The Select Board and Green Mountain Power have approved this project.

We had originally planned to solicit various donations. However, we are very excited to announce that Kevin Hughes, CEO of American Wealth Administration Group, has generously donated the full costs for this project. Kevin and his family live in the village of Westminster.

Also, thank you to LaValley Building Supply of Walpole for their donation of various hardware items. Our first display will happen on Memorial Day. So, at Christmas we have our annual display of luminaries and now we will have another tradition with our flag display. We may be a small town but we have a big heart!

Greg Holton and the Westminster Flag Committee

**The Deadline for
the June Issue of the
Westminster Gazette is
Wednesday,
May 25
Publish Date is
Tuesday, June 7**

**To Contact the
Westminster Gazette
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ARTIST OF THE MONTH TOM GOLDSCHMID

Westminster Woodworker Tom Goldschmid is the Artist of the Month for May at River Artisans Cooperative in Saxtons River

Tom has always enjoyed working with wood. He spent over 30 years designing and building timber frame structures. In recent years his interest in woodworking has expanded to include turning wooden bowls.

He explains his process and inspiration: "Every species of wood has it's own unique quality and for that reason, every bowl I make takes on a unique style and shape. In contrast to my work as an architect, the creation of a bowl tends to be a spontaneous and intuitive design process; as the proportions and curve of a bowl are often revealed as the wood is turning on my lathe. I draw inspiration from working and walking in our native hardwood forest here in Southern Vermont."

Recently he was asked to make a series of bowls for his friend River, when a particularly beautiful old white birch tree on her property had to be cut. She gave the bowls as gifts, in tribute to a lovely tree that held so many fond memories for family members.

Tom's bowls and other turnings are available through the River Artisan's Cooperative in Saxton's River as well as at seasonal craft fairs. For more information about his work feel free to contact him at tomgoldschmid@gmail.com or call 802 579 2207.

The River Artisans Cooperative is located in the center of Saxtons River on Main Street, across from the Saxtons River Inn. The shop displays the work of about 50 local artisans and new craftspeople are always welcome.

For more information, visit riverartisans.com, call 869-2099 - or stop by and say "Hello!"



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Andrea Neiley, DVM Megan Peddigree, VMD
Kristin Anderson, DVM Susan Oswald, DVM

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For more information about Rotary, contact Alma Beals at almabeals@gmail.com or 722-3355

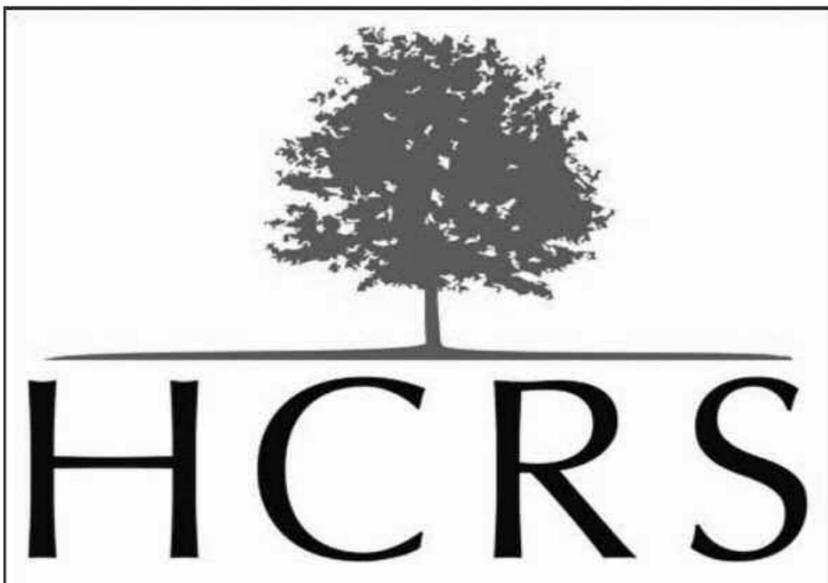
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- Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- Is it BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

We meet most Thursdays, 7:30 a.m. at Kurn Hattin School in the Mayo Center, Westminster, Vermont. New members welcome.



Home Providers Needed

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May Business of the Month: Harlow Farmstand



Thank You for 25 Great Years!
We're celebrating 25 years of serving our local customers at Harlow Farmstand. We opened April 30, so stop by, say hello to Dan Harlow and his staff, and tell us about your garden plans for 2016.

We have a great selection of bedding plants and hanging baskets to make Mom happy on Mother's Day. We have fresh greens, spinach and a few herbs from our high-tunnel house just behind the farmstand, and will soon have our own field-grown asparagus, lettuce, kale, collards, and other early produce. We'll offer produce from other local farms, Old Athens Farm and Guerilla Greens.

We sell our own beef, pork, and eggs at the farmstand. We have frozen chickens, as well, and will start to offer fresh chickens in June.

You can find organic and conventional dairy products—milk, butter, and more, along with local cheeses from Sawyer's Artisanal Cheese, Grafton Village Cheese, West River Creamery, and Maple Brook Farm. We have Harlow Farm-made jams, pickles, chutney and condiments, as well as our own frozen vegetables. We offer many snacks, drinks, and specialty products, too.

We are open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.
Michael Lenox holds forth at Café Loco for the 14th year, with delicious breakfast and lunch, and bakery goods available, as always. Stop by and ask him how his winter in Florida went and what great new items he's offering. Café Loco is open from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day, except 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday.

You'll find more on our Web site, harlowfarm.com, and please like us on Facebook. Or call us at 722-3515.

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