

# Westminster Gazette



po box 147 westminster vt 05158

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

Vol. 7, No.11 November 2011

## WESTMINSTER CENTER SCHOOL CELEBRATES THE GARDENING LIFE FROM OUR GARDEN TO YOUR GARDEN: THANK YOU HARLOW'S



### From the STUDENTS AND STAFF at WESTMINSTER CENTER SCHOOL

Too bad it took a devastating storm to inspire the school community to pull together a big party for the Harlows.

Even without flooding and crop losses, Paul and Elizabeth earned our support long ago. Our 23-year partnership in garden education, and down and dirty gardening, has benefitted more than a generation of Westminster students. The program began as a way to keep kids in touch with the land, develop an interest in farming, and raise food for healthy school snacks. The idea expanded from snacks for two classrooms to a school-wide healthy fruit and vegetable program and a big All School garden that also provides produce for school lunches.

The Center School community fundraiser for Harlow Farm on Oct. 15 was a huge success. Families donated spaghetti dinner fixin's and deserts, the Collins farm donated salad greens, staff and T.E.A.M. parents rustled up dinner, and Version 6, teacher Paul Kohler's band, rocked the gym. The event fed a couple hundred folks and raised just over \$1,000. Most importantly, we had a blast!

Thanks again, Paul and Elizabeth, for a great excuse to party.

It seems fitting, as the harvest season ends, that this month's front page of The Gazette honor one of the outstanding aspects of the Westminster community, the close connection of our schools and local agriculture. The two contributions below explain the events celebrated in these photos submitted by Paul Kohler, Liz Bourne and Jen Cravinho.

### By ELIZABETH MAHONE HARLOW

Ahhhh, the harvest is in. Garden color, flavor and fun has been devoured by all classes, and the harvest is being enjoyed through lunch, snack, and/or class projects. The First and Second graders recently finished putting the garden to bed, sowing rye seed for a cover crop blanket. We'll be checking in another week to see the reddish sprouts foretelling the thick green blanket to come. In the spring the rye cover crop will be turned under to feed the soil, which in turn will feed next year's crops.

Westminster Schools thank the Community Feed Store for donating the rye seed and Paul Harlow for harrowing it in. As the trees lose their leaves and all you home gardeners are putting your gardens to bed, now is a good time to sing lullabies to the land. We look forward to your spring awakening. For now, rest and dream of the possibilities.

# October Mystery Photo



The item on the flatbed is a hearse, and it was moved into the upper floor of the Westminster Town Hall. For the extra bonus points: The people in the picture are, from left, Ernest Norman, Ward Stanton, Forest Abild and Scott West. We had two correct answers to this Mystery Photo.

Have any old, local photos to share with The Gazette? If so, see page 5.



**Let The Current take you there!**  
 We have a new look, but we're the same safe, reliable service you've come to depend on. When you call **The Current**, you'll get the same helpful, professional staff answering the phone. When you board **The Current** buses, the same professional drivers will take you where you need to go.



**Why change the look?**  
 In a rural region, many residents don't know public transit exists! The goal of **The Current's** look is to make it difficult NOT to notice us. The more people notice public transit, the more they are likely to get out of their cars and onto a bus!  
 When you leave your car behind and ride **The Current**, you decrease your energy consumption, improve environmental quality, and save commuting costs. If you are unable to drive or don't have transportation, you can benefit by riding on our Dial-a-Ride and volunteer network.  
 We Provide the Ride... so please tell us how we can improve to make that happen for you. Thank you for riding Connecticut River Transit last year and **The Current** this year.

**Bellows Falls - Brattleboro Commuter Schedule**

Route	10/26	10/27	10/28	10/29	10/30	10/31	11/1	11/2	11/3	11/4	11/5	11/6	11/7	11/8	11/9	11/10	11/11	11/12	11/13	11/14	11/15	11/16	11/17	11/18	11/19	11/20	11/21	11/22	11/23	11/24	11/25	11/26	11/27	11/28	11/29	11/30	
Bellows Falls to Brattleboro	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00
Brattleboro to Bellows Falls	6:30	6:30	6:30	6:30	6:30	6:30	6:30	6:30	6:30	6:30	6:30	6:30	6:30	6:30	6:30	6:30	6:30	6:30	6:30	6:30	6:30	6:30	6:30	6:30	6:30	6:30	6:30	6:30	6:30	6:30	6:30	6:30	6:30	6:30	6:30	6:30	6:30

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\$150 for 12 months (page 8)  
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The Pharmacy is now open until 5 pm on Saturdays!  
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## NEWS FROM THE WESTMINSTER WEST PUBLIC LIBRARY

Wednesday Afterschool Program. The Wednesday afternoon Afterschool program for elementary age children in grades one through four has begun at the library. Everyone -- Westminster West School students, Green Valley School students, homeschoolers, or any other -- is welcome. It is a free program, run cooperatively by parents and the library, with the parents taking turns helping to supervise and provide refreshments.

The program begins when children arrive, generally about 2:40 and goes to about 4:30, although it is often possible for students to stay longer with permission of the librarian. The program begins with a brief outdoor recess, weather permitting, then continues with a healthy snack. The snack is followed by a storytime, with the librarian reading, and then by an organized activity, which may be board games, group games, or a craft of some sort.

Please contact librarian Bev Major if you and your child are interested at the library (387-4682) or at home (387-5737).

Writing Historical Fiction; An Evening with Dennis MacFarland. On Wednesday, Nov. 16 at 7 the library will present author Dennis MacFarland, a local writer with many books to his credit. He will talk about the process of creating historical fiction from the research to the actual writing. The library is handicapped accessible and refreshments will be served. Please contact the librarian or the library (phone numbers above) for more information.

Board Games Afternoon. Beginning on the first Saturday in November and continuing once a month thereafter, running from 1 to 4 in the afternoon, the library will offer a chance to play advanced board games for those 10 and over. Kathy Mazziott and Nicholas Mitchell are coordinating. For further information, or to sign up, please contact Kathy or Bev Major at the library.

New Reading Discussion Program. This year the library is organizing its own Reading Discussion Program, once a month on Wednesday evenings at 7. The books are currently being selected from suggestions made by the group; they are largely historical fiction. Leadership of the discussion and presentations will be shared among the group, as will the provision of refreshments. The group is open to anyone who is interested. Please contact Librarian Bev Major for more details, or to sign up.

## News from Westminster Cares

The Westminster Cares, Inc. Board of Directors met Oct. 5 at the Westminster Fire House. 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 -10 people are now on meals. Over the summer 4 new volunteers have begun delivering meals on wheels.

Transportation – During the month of September, 5 different volunteers provided 20 rides for 5 different people for a total of 430 miles.

Nursing program: No September numbers to date.

Equipment loan – several pieces of medical equipment loaned and many pieces donated to us this month.

Meetings attended in September: bookkeeper, Gazette, Windham County Cares, Putney Cares.

Programs in September: 2 Secrets of Healthy Aging session, 4 Yoga classes, 24 Strength Training classes held, 4 Artist in Each of Us classes.

Upcoming Events: Our annual meeting and celebration of our treasured 90 year olds will be held at the Westminster Fire House on Sunday, Nov. 6 from 2 to 4 p.m. If you are 90 or if you will be 90 this year, this party is for you. Get in touch with us so we can get some information. Or if you know someone who fits this category, let us know so we can get some information from them and possibly some pictures. The event is open to the public.

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](mailto:wecares@sover.net).

We wish to sincerely thank those who have given Westminster Cares equipment over the years, but currently we are temporarily out of storage space and can no longer accept any more items. If you have something you no longer need, let us know what you have so we can loan it out upon request.

Equipment available: Wheelchair, walkers, hospital bed, commodes, shower chairs, etc.

Westminster Cares welcomes donations throughout the year from anyone wishing to memorialize a loved one or a friend. Send to:

Westminster Cares, PO Box 312, Westminster, VT 05158.

**The 2nd Annual Children's Haunted Graveyard would like to thank the following people ...**

**Westminster Fire & Rescue  
and participating Members**

**Allen Bros  
Dascomb Fund  
Holton Farms  
Kurn Hattin School  
Mr G's Liquidation  
Muddy Paws  
Spaulding & Madden Tax Services  
Westminster Activities Committee  
Westminster Cares  
Westminster Girl Scouts  
Shannon Fuller  
Sara Lawrence  
Michelle Lopez  
Babs Lynde  
Doreen Moran**

**and all the many other people who helped!**

**A REMINDER:  
THE  
DEADLINE  
FOR  
DECEMBER  
IS  
MONDAY  
DECEMBER 26.**

**THIS IS EARLIER  
THAN NORMAL,  
AND FOR  
DECEMBER  
ONLY!  
THANK YOU!**

## Kurn Hattin's New Benefit Event Nets New Supporters and Funds

On Oct. 6, at the Keene Country Club, Kurn Hattin held a new benefit event, A Taste of Hope to support The Healthy Children Program, a program which encompasses all aspects of the children's health and also covers the children's uninsured medical needs.

Over 130 people from Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts attended the first annual A Taste of Hope, an early autumn evening of delectable food and drink, a 50/50 raffle, silent auction, and dozens of door prizes ranging from dinner certificates to area gourmet restaurants to massages and products from the areas best shops and service providers.

Silent auction items included rare fine wines, Boston Bruins tickets, highly sought after autographed sports memorabilia, a five-star inn and golf package get-a-ways, pop icon, Katy Perry's current tour crew jacket and artist prints.

In a very poignant moment, the winner of the 50/50 raffle gave half of his winnings back to Kurn Hattin. He won over \$400. It was a lovely evening and everyone had a great time. Kurn Hattin thanks the vendors, sponsors, in-kind supporters, the Keene Country Club and everyone who made this event a success. Hope to see many of you again next year. Mark your calendars, Thursday, October 4, 2012!

Kurn Hattin Homes is a charitable, year-round, residential home and school, serving in-need and at-risk children, ages 6-15, from throughout the Northeast.

### TIM JONES IS STUDENT OF MONTH

It is a pleasure to announce that Tim Jones has been named the September Elks Student of the Month for Bellows Falls Union High School. Tim, a sophomore, is the son of Peter and Donna Jones of Rockingham.

Tim is very involved in different aspects of the BFUHS community. He's a well-rounded student who runs cross country, plays basketball, does track, plays in the band and works hard in his classes. He balances his sports, activities and academics well and is proactive in planning for any conflicts in his schedule. Always interested in learning and doing well, Tim brings a positive attitude and a terrific work ethic that often inspires his fellow students. Not only does he come to events, class and music rehearsals prepared and on-time, he always expresses a willingness to sit down and provide help to his classmates in need. As a dedicated student, Tim is always in school, ready to give 100 percent.



Recently, Tim was selected as the principal alto saxophonist in the Connecticut Valley District Band for the fall and will be auditioning for the All-State Music Festival in December. As a result of his distinction in music, Tim will be featured as a soloist with the BFUHS concert band this winter on December 8, performing the Louis Armstrong standard "What a Wonderful World."

Congratulations, Tim. BFUHS is proud to have you represent us with this award.



Above, Bill and Lori Putnam and Steve and Doreen Durand are enjoying themselves at Kurn Hattin Homes' benefit event, A Taste of Hope.

### CELEBRATION OF AGING

Please come to the annual meeting and celebration of aging on Sunday, Nov. 6 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Westminster Fire Station on Grout Ave. in Westminster. There will be refreshments and a celebration of Westminster residents who are 90 years of age and older.

### NOV. NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER SCHOOLS

- \*\* Friday, Nov. 11: no school; Parent Conferences  
Sign up with your child's teacher or call 722-3241 for an appointment.
- \*\* Nov. 10 to 16: Book Fair at the Center School Library  
Students scheduled to visit on Thursday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday;  
Fair open to all families on Friday, Nov. 11.
- \*\* Tuesday, Nov. 22: Westminster Schools Community Feast in the Center School gym from noon to 1:30.

### A TASTE OF WINTER FOODS

On Thursday, Nov. 17 from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Harlow Farmstand on Route 5 in Westminster, Nancy Gilman from Provisions International is offering a free tasting of soups and several dishes made from fresh winter produce.

Stop by and get some great ideas for Thanksgiving dinner. Nancy will have copies of recipes available. Call the farmstand at 722-3515 for details.

### KIRKPATRICK INDUCTED INTO PHI ETA SIGMA

On Sept. 23, Rachael Kirkpatrick was inducted into the Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society at Castleton State College.

The Society's goal is to encourage and reward high scholastic attainment. Students honored at this ceremony earned averages of 3.5 or better.

Rachael is a 2010 graduate of Bellows Falls Union High School. She is the daughter of Robert and Jane Kirkpatrick of North Westminster.

## Yikes! Look at all the Cones!

by Babs Lynde, a Vermont Master Gardener

Have you noticed the amount of cones hanging from your conifers this year? Some evergreens are so full of cones that their tops and upper branches seem to pitch slightly to one side or another from the massive quantities!

Over 600 species of trees and shrubs are classified as conifers which are woody evergreen plants that produce cones as a method of reproduction, a successful method that has been around for over 200 million years. These trees and shrubs include arborvitae, cedars, firs, junipers, spruces, yews, and of course, pines. In our area, some cones are several inches long while others are barely the size of a pencil eraser.

The cone itself is neither a fruit nor a seed but simply a cluster of woody scales that develop for the sole purpose of protecting the real seeds of the parent tree. Cones are gender-specific in that they are either male or female with the female cones usually much larger than the males. Some trees produce both male and female cones, but other trees and shrubs, most notably junipers and yews, will only produce one or the other. If you are buying a conifer because you enjoy the look of the cones, you may want to buy more than one if that species is gender-typed.

In most cases, the cones ripen and dry, opening their many scales for the seeds to escape, at just the right time for seed dispersal. The maturing rate differs in various conifers - some cones may be mature in six to eight months, while others take nearly three years to mature. A few conifers wait for certain events to occur before they open, such as cool, blustery days in the late autumn to blow the cones away from the overshadowing canopy of the mother plant.

The Pitch Pines, as well as some other larger conifers, need temperatures of over 130 degrees before the cones will open - a temperature that usually

doesn't happen weather-wise. It takes a real forest fire to come through and clean up the leaves and debris on the ground floor, leaving a place for the new seeds to grow. Sometimes conifers will purposely have bumper crops of cones in one year while hardly a handful will produce in another to throw off the insect predator population that can impede their growth.

This natural selection in reproduction helps to keep down many marauding tree insects from population explosions and decimating many evergreen varieties.

Cones are used for so many different things. The pinyon pine gives us delicious pine seeds for salads, desserts and other cooking mediums, juniper seeds provide the distinctive taste of gin, and the resin on many young cones has been used for glues and protective coverings. The cones are used as seasonal brooches, wreaths and garlands. They are also broken down and used as mulch to discourage growth around bushes and gardening areas or as an additive to many compost piles.

Larger cones can be used upside down for thistle or other small seeds as winter bird feeders, and most commonly, children love to collect and play with them as toys. Cone cows are a traditional child's toy with sticks or twigs used for legs. In Finland, where cone cows are very popular, there is a fair-ground with cone cow sculptures large enough for children to ride on!

*Would you like more information concerning conifers and cones? The Master Gardeners of Vermont are trained to help you for all your needs. Call their Helpline toll-free at 1-800-639-2230, send questions by email to mastergardener@uvm.edu or visit their website at <http://www.uvm.edu/mastergardener/> for extensive information.*

# Aged in Vermont

Westminster Cares, Inc.

**FEEL BETTER WITH A FREE WORKSHOP**

If you're interested in feeling as well as possible and doing more of the things you love to do, then you should know about the free Healthier Living Workshop. This six-week program is amazingly helpful to anyone with a long-term health challenge.

While this free workshop is valuable for a great many seniors, adults of every age with chronic conditions can do it. Caregivers are welcome too. Based on research by Stanford University, the Healthier Living Workshop has been proven to reduce the need for doctor visits and to improve people's health by several measures.

It is being held all over Vermont throughout the year, and will continue into the foreseeable future. These free six-session workshops are part of Vermont's Blueprint for Health plan to prevent illness and complications. If it seems difficult to find time to attend, think of it as an investment in your well-being.

In the Healthier Living Workshop you discover we're all in good company when it comes to most of our challenges, feelings and frustrations. And whether we have arthritis, high blood pressure, asthma, depression, heart disease, fibromyalgia, COPD or anything else chronic, there is hope. In the supportive setting of the Healthier Living Workshop, you explore new directions, set your own goals, and solve problems with the help of other participants. It is fun, at times inspiring, and always gives you power to move forward and improve your daily life.

The Healthier Living Workshop encourages self-directed problem-solving in the face of long-term health conditions, with the help of a supportive small group. It's not an exercise program, but will help you set realistic goals for your physical activity and nutrition. The leaders have been through the workshop because they have a chronic condition or care for someone who does, so they know what they're talking about.

There is a lot of good information and practice on reducing stress, changing negative thinking, reducing pain and many other helpful strategies. There is a free book and relaxation CD. There is no bias against alternative or mainstream care. You learn techniques for setting achievable goals, asking for help, communication, and other valuable skills as they relate to your health.

The workshop is routinely held at local hospitals, senior centers and other public places. Contact a local coordinator to ask questions or sign up.

The coordinator for the greater Bellows Falls area is Nancy Schaefer of Springfield Medical Care Systems, [inmotion@vermontel.net](mailto:inmotion@vermontel.net) 802-869-3053.

The coordinator for Brattleboro and West River Valley is Jessie Casella at Brattleboro Memorial Hospital, [jcasella@bmhvt.org](mailto:jcasella@bmhvt.org) or call 257-8357.

You may also pick up a flyer at Sojourns Community Health Clinic on Route 5 in Westminster.

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

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

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

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

*Ideas for future columns? Would you like to write one? We'd like to hear from you. E-mail Ronnie Friedman at [wecares@sover.net](mailto:wecares@sover.net).*

**Send Your News To:**

**[westminsternews@gmail.com](mailto:westminsternews@gmail.com)**

**or check us out on the Town's Web site**

## WESTMINSTER MYSTERY PHOTO



**Where is this house located?**

**What year did this flood occur?**

You may e-mail your answer to [westminsternews@gmail.com](mailto:westminsternews@gmail.com) or [wminster@comcast.net](mailto:wminster@comcast.net) or phone Babs Lynde at 722-9516.

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

**October Answer: On Page (2)**

**October Winners:** Taryn Darrell, age 8, grade 3 at Westminster Central Elementary and Norm Wright

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?**

### NEWS FROM THE WESTMINSTER VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE

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

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

November meetings: 7th & 21st

Number of calls in September: 30

Number of man hours spent: 9,504

Number of calls through October 25th : 26

Number of man hours spent: 3,990

Number of calls calendar year to Date: 341

Number of calls fiscal year to date: 153

Association Meeting: The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association met for their regular meeting October 1st with 28 members present and 4 members excused. Currently there are 43 members of the volunteer fire department. Upon successfully completing her 6 month probation period, Beth Lynde was accepted as a full member. The idea of a Muster Team putting on an event sometime in the future was presented by Alana Mammone. Association Vice President Heather Kampfner presided over the meeting in the absence of President Greg Holton.

Events: The Westminster Fire Department hosted the 2nd annual Halloween Party and Haunted House Graveyard on Oct. 29.

Hot coals and ashes: When removing hot coals and ashes from a wood stove or fireplace, first put them in a covered metal container. Then put them outside away from the house or other buildings. Several homes are lost each year when hot ashes are left in a container on a wood floor porch or deck or left too close to a building that a spark could reach.

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

Vehicle kits: During the cold whether it makes sense to carry some items in your vehicle in case of an emergency. A blanket, a small shovel, jumper cables, a flashlight, and small amount of sand are a few examples. Always keep your fuel tank at least half full to avoid condensation and the chance of running out if you get stranded.

The Westminster Fire & Rescue Association welcomes donations throughout the year from anyone wishing to remember or honor 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.

# 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 Lunch

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

### Bellows Falls GalleryWalk

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.

## Faith Community

### The First Congregational Church of Westminster United Church of Christ

The Rev. Sami Jones McRae, Pastor. Main Street, Route 5, P.O. Box 122, Westminster, 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 First Congregational Church of Westminster

### The Congregational Church of Westminster West (UCC Church)

Sunday Worship is at 10 a.m. Holy Communion service is held on the first Sunday of every month. Prayer service is held on Thursdays, 12:30 to 12:50 p.m. Child care and Sunday School are available during worship hour. Choir meets most Sundays at 9 a.m. Fully wheelchair accessible. Open and affirming. Susie Webster-Toleno, minister.

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

## Meetings

**Selectboard** 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7 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

Thursday, Nov. 17 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

## MISLETOE MART

Mistletoe Mart will be held on Saturday, Nov. 19 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Congregational Church on The Common in Walpole, N.H.

There will be coffee time, a luncheon, candy, baked goods, crafts, white elephants, gifts and trims.

Handicap accessible.

## ATTENTION HUNTERS & FISHERMEN!

On Thursday, Nov. 10 there will be a meeting at 7 p.m. at the Westminster Fire House on Grout Avenue in Westminster to see if there is incentive for starting a local Rod & Gun club.

Call Bob Lynde at 236-4710 for details and questions.

## NEASC ACCREDITORS TO VISIT BFUHS PARENTS OF STUDENTS NEEDED

For the past 18 months, the faculty and staff at the Bellows Falls Union High School has been preparing for the New England Association of Schools and Colleges's visit in November.

The administration is very excited about having the opportunity to impress this visiting team with the wide array of programs, activities, courses, academic supports, and quality teaching and support staff members as this team evaluates every aspect of the school and, ultimately, approves the school for accreditation.

"There is no truth to the growing misconception that Bellows Falls Union High School ever lost its accreditation. In fact, approximately ten years ago, a decision was made to not go through the re-accreditation process because of the time and money the process entails," said Christopher Hodsden, Principal.

Becoming accredited by NEASC is one way to verify that BFUHS is doing quality work. The process helps teachers and administrators learn best practices for instructional learning.

The staff has spent the past year-and-a-half conducting a self study and associated reports to guide the visiting team in their work. This process has also helped the school identify the things they do well and the areas for improvement. One concrete result of this process has been the creation of both a two-year and five-year plan for addressing any identified needs for the school.

The visit will take place beginning with a reception for the visiting team on Sunday, Nov. 6 and will continue through Wednesday, Nov. 9. During that time, the team will spend time visiting classes, reviewing the reports from our self-study committees, and interviewing staff, students, parents, board members, and faculty members as they come to understand what a BFUHS education has to offer.

If you are the parent of a current BFUHS student and might be available to be a part of this process, please contact either me or John Broadley at 463-3944.

**The Deadline for The December 2011, Issue of the Westminster Gazette is Monday, December 26th by 5 p.m. Publish Date Tuesday January 3rd**

**\* Please note the deadline date is the last Monday of the Month, not Wednesday, just for the December Issue.**

**Volunteers Needed** to deliver the Westminster Gazette to local designated drop off locations. **Must have your own transportation.** & **Qualifies for Community Service Hours**

**THE GAZETTE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT OF ITS UNDERWRITERS:**

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# BETSY JAFFE JOINS COMPASS SCHOOL



**Betsy Jaffe**

Compass School is thrilled to welcome Betsy Jaffe as the school's first Director of Admissions and Development. Betsy comes with a wealth of educational and leadership experience. She has a Masters in Education from Columbia University and teaching certification from University of Colorado, and most recently served as Manager for Vermont Independent Media, publisher of *The Commons*.

In her new role at Compass, Betsy is actively sharing the many accomplishments of the school with the larger community. Some of her initial efforts include outreach to schools in the area, creating a Compass presence on Facebook, reworking the school Web site, and organizing the annual appeal to support scholarships to keep Compass accessible to all students regardless of economic circumstances.

Betsy is also helping promote Director Rick Gordon's newbook, *Transforming School Climate and Learning: Beyond Bullying and Compliance*. Published by Corwin Press, this book builds the case for Respectful Schools, where students and teachers work together to develop positive school climate that, in turn, improves academic performance while lessening discipline problems.

Many of the examples in this book are taken from Compass, where personalization, relationships and empowerment are the keys to engagement of students and teachers in the learning process.

Betsy comes to Compass at a great time for the school. Now in its 13th year, Compass embodies the founders' vision to serve a diverse population of learners in grades 7-12 representative of the local demographic. With all returning staff and a solid student enrollment, Compass is focusing efforts this year to further enhance academic clarity with thoughtful differentiation of learning to help every student find success.

Betsy will be sharing stories of the many elements at Compass that, as the school's mission statement states, help students "to gain the knowledge, skill and personal qualities essential to pursuing their dreams and having a positive impact on the world."

Compass is hosting an Open House for prospective students, parents, and other friends of Compass on Tuesday, Nov. 15 from 6 to 8 p.m. to share more about the great things happening at the school.

Dinner will be provided from 6 to 7 and a discussion on 21st Century learning and tours of the school will be held following.

To RSVP, call the school at 463-2525 or e-mail [admissions@compass-school.org](mailto:admissions@compass-school.org). Come by to visit sometime—we think you will like what you see.

## NEWS FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WESTMINSTER

The First Congregational Church of Westminster, United Church of Christ with The Rev. Sami Jones McRae, Pastor is located on Main Street, Route 5 in Westminster.

Sunday worship is 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.

### Important Nov. Dates:

Nov. 6 - Worship, Communion 10 a.m. (Trustees meet after church)

Nov. 12 - Chicken Pie Supper 5 to 7 p.m.

Nov. 13 - Worship 10 a.m.

Nov. 20 - Worship 10 a.m. (Deacons meet after coffee hour)

Nov. 26 - Christmas Bazaar 9-2 (Lunch Cafe 11-2)

Nov. 27 - Worship 10 a.m.

On Saturday, Nov. 12, the Woman's Fellowship of The First Congregational Church of Westminster will host their annual Chicken Pie Supper from 5 to 7 p.m. The menu will include chicken pie with biscuit, mashed potatoes, squash, and onions. Dessert will be fresh homemade apple pie. The cost will be \$9 for adults, \$4 for children and under 3 free. This is a great chance to catch up with friends and family, share a good meal with no dishes.

On Saturday, Nov. 26, the Woman's Fellowship will hold their annual Christmas Bazaar at the church. The Christmas Shop will be open all day and will include crafts, gifts, collectable, handmade items and homemade baked goods. At 11 Santa will visit and children of all ages are invited to do a craft project and take photos with Santa. Prints will be available for a donation. The Christmas Café will be open from 11 to 2.

The menu will include soup, sandwiches, chips, coffee, tea, cocoa and punch served by some enthusiastic local elves!

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Our Monthly Community Newspaper November 2011 Vol. 7, No. 11

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