

# Westminster Gazette



po box 147 westminster vt 05158

Our Community Newspaper

Vol. 5, No. 11 November 2009



## WESTMINSTER QUILT SHOW REPORT

"People's Choice" Quilt & Raffle Winners Announced

Westminster, VT - Close to 500 people from near and afar visited and enjoyed the 2009 Westminster Quilt Show the weekend of October 17th-18th.

The Westminster Quilt Show is Westminster Cares' largest fundraising event and takes place every other year. More than 90 volunteers contributed to the undertaking, ranging from young students selling baked goods in "The Quilter's Café" to community members washing dishes, hanging quilts, and selling tickets and merchandise. Nearly 100 antique, contemporary, art, and mini-quilts made and/or owned by mostly local people were exhibited at the 2009 show that took place at the Westminster Center School.

Local quilter and quilt show volunteer Kate Nerrie's "Earth Tone Trip Around the World" (machine-quilted by local Quilt-a-way) won the "People's Choice" award for favorite quilt. Other crowd favorites included "Variegated Circles" owned and made by Janet Broad and cus-

tom quilted by Hen House Quilts locally, a 1914 Pennsylvania Dutch Quilt owned by Lili Walsh, and an interesting Hawaiian appliqué quilt commissioned by current owner Linda Dixon's great-aunt, Ruth McDonald when she was principal of a military school in Honolulu in the 1930s.

Chosen from over 1800 entries, Dan Farrar of Chester was the fortunate winner of the splendid raffle quilt created by local quilt-maker Judith Petry (<http://www.tummytimequilts.com/index.htm>) and quilted by Carol Coski, proprietor of Quilt-a-way (<http://www.quilt-away.com/store.htm>). Other raffle prize winners included Gerry Harty, Leona Tabell, Joan Wells, Kathleen Pirruccello, Glenda Snyder, Miki Wasung, and Linda Lynch.

The 2009 Westminster Quilt Show major sponsors were Chroma Technology, C & S Wholesale Grocers, The Vermont Country Store, Council on Aging of Southeastern Vermont, Hartgen Archeological Associates, and P&B Textiles.

Full lists of the raffle prize winners and the nearly 70 local sponsors, raffle donors, and program advertisers can be found on the quilt show website: <http://www.westminstercares.org/wqs09/>. For more information about Westminster Cares, call 802-722-3607. The organization's mission is to create opportunities for seniors and disabled adults to live with independence and dignity in the community.

## The First Congregational Church of Westminster is looking good.

Rev. Sami Jones McCrae the Pastor of the First Congregational Church of Westminster is literally overseeing the church. Reverend Jones McCrae went up to the spire in the cherry picker with Mitch, the Boss of the Southern Vermont Painters, who by the way are doing a top notch job. And while up there she was able to see and photograph the Church bell, casted in 1853, in Medway, Mass. She also took some great pictures from her "Perch". And while there, she touched the weather vane.



## HALLOWEEN PREVIEW!!!!

by Liz Bourne

Ghosts, goblins, pirates, angels, butterflies, bees and princesses paraded from the Center School to the Post Office and back this Friday afternoon, October 30th. Students and families from the West and the High Schools joined Center School kids, parents, little sisters and grandparents for our annual costume craziness. The Kurn Hattin Band gave the event plenty of rhythm and everyone joined in SPIRITED fun and games back at school to end the festivities.



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Christmas is just 7 weeks away and we need your help.

Plans are in the works for this year's Luminaries and we need donations. If you would like to contribute to the fund please send your checks to Diane Bazin Box 12 Westminster, VT 05158 or TD Bank North C/O Chris Hackett P. O. Box 689 Bellows Falls, VT 05101

This is a town tradition enjoyed by folks from all over - please send in your donations so that we can continue.

### Volunteers Wanted for Reception Center

Volunteers are being sought to staff the Reception Center at Bellows Falls Union High School in Westminster which has been operated by area emergency management personnel and local citizens for many years. This Reception Center would be used to provide assistance to individuals during an emergency including registration, reuniting parents with children who have been evacuated from area schools and child care facilities, as well as placement in congregate care facilities if necessary. Jobs range from Section Chief to Greeter, so all skill sets are welcome. Depending on position, training takes anywhere from a few hours to one day. Volunteers must be available for occasional drills and are paid for their time.

To volunteer, contact Doreen Woodward at (802) 722-4091 or by e-mail at [westmntc@comcast.net](mailto:westmntc@comcast.net).



**KURN HATTIN SENIOR DEVELOPMENT OFFICER RECEIVES AWARD**

CFRE International has re-certified Kim Fine for the professional designation of Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE). Kim, who was initially awarded the CFRE in September 2006, has demonstrated on-going practice and achievement as a professional fundraiser, continued professional education, and service to the profession and other not-for-profit organizations.

Fine, Senior Development Officer for Kurn Hattin Homes joins over 5,300 professionals, in all corners of the world, who hold the CFRE designation and continue the advancement of philanthropy through this program in its 28th year. She has been employed at Kurn Hattin Homes since 2002 and resides in West Chesterfield, NH with her husband, John Keppler.

Kurn Hattin Homes is a non-profit, charitable home and school in Westminster, Vermont for in-need and at-risk children, ages 6 through 15, from throughout the Northeast.

**THE GAZETTE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT OF IT'S UNDERWRITERS:**

- Kurn Hattin Homes
- Westminster School District
- Town of Westminster
- Durand Automotive Group
- Westminster Activities Commission
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**BELLOWS FALLS, PAGE 1 OF 2: COMMUTER ROUTES**  
BelloWS Falls To Brattleboro: COMMUTERS M-F

	Read Down All Columns			
	Morning	Afternoon		
BF T-Bird/Rockingham St.	6:00	8:00	2:10	4:10
BelloWS Falls Square	6:02	8:02	2:12	4:12
Compass School, Westm.	—	—	2:15	4:15
Allen Brothers, Westminster: W	6:07	8:07	2:17	4:17
Westminster Station: W	6:09	8:09	2:19	4:19
Westminster Town Hall: W	6:12	8:12	2:22	4:22
Basketville: W	6:25	8:25	2:35	4:35
Putney Meadows	6:27	8:27	2:37	4:37
Old Ferry Rd./C & S	6:37	8:37	2:47	4:47
VT Transit	W	W	2:51	4:51
Hannafords, Brattleboro	6:44	8:44	2:54	4:54
Brattleboro Transit Center	7:00	9:00	3:10	5:10

**BRATTLEBORO To BELLOWS FALLS: COMMUTERS M-F**

	Read Down All Columns			
	Morning	Afternoon		
Brattleboro Transit Center	7:00	9:00	3:10	5:10
Main St. Gallery, Brattleboro	7:02	9:02	—	5:12
Hannafords, Brattleboro	7:12	9:12	3:22	5:22
Old Ferry Rd./C & S	7:17	9:17	3:27	5:27
Putney Meadows	7:26	9:26	3:36	5:36
Basketville: W	7:28	9:28	3:38	5:38
Westminster Town Hall: W	7:40	9:40	3:50	5:50
Westm. Station: W	7:44	9:44	3:54	5:54
Allen Brothers, Westm.: W	7:47	9:47	3:57	5:57
Compass School, Westm.	7:50	9:50	W	W
BF T-Bird/Rockingham St.	8:00	10:00	4:10	6:05

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## Compass Learning Opens Bald Hill to the Community

by Rick Gordon

Compass School middle school students continue their "learning for the real world" as they work on the Bald Hill Conservation Area as a central part of their Fall Science and Humanities curriculum. Partnering with the Bald Hill Conservation Committee of the Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association, Compass is addressing a need for mapping the trail system and developing a nature trail guide that will benefit the local community.

This project follows the format of community based learning for Compass middle schoolers that has included nature trail signage for the Pinnacle Association, developing a trail system behind the Nature Museum in Grafton, and creating a theater presentation on the history of agriculture in Windham County. In each of these projects, students engaged in a field based study that helped them develop a sense of place, address essential content in a hands-on manner, and work together with new classmates.

"This place based learning really gets at our curricular goals," explains Science teacher Louise Hodsen. "In Science, we are teaching forest ecology, using local author Tom Wessel's book *Reading the Forested Landscape*, using technology with GPS devices and google maps, and developing observational skills through analysis of the history of the forest." By integrating this unit with Humanities, the middle school students are able to spend almost 3 hours at a time out in the woods, with plenty of time to get in depth in their field studies. Students work together in teams, getting to know their peers and learning how to be stronger collaborators as they investigate their own team's trail in the Bald Hill or connecting BFUHS trails.

For Humanities class, students are studying nature writing, using these outdoor experiences as inspiration for their own writing and as a way of better appreciating the writing of more famous chroniclers of the natural world.

"This is a great chance for our kids to contribute to the local community," observes Middle School Humanities teacher Lauren Beigel. "Having a real purpose for their work, the kids take this seriously and do really high quality work."

Bald Hill Conservation Committee Chairperson Elizabeth Harlow gushes about the value of this project, "We needed these trails mapped to be of real use to the community. We are thrilled to have students involved in caring for this conserved land. Their work is a terrific asset to welcome and guide visitors to Bald Hill."

"We have always felt students learn best when they see the value of their learning for the real world," says Compass Founding Director Rick Gordon. "This is just one example of connecting Compass learning to the world beyond the classroom walls. Along with Community Service Winter Term, school and class wide travel experiences, and Junior and Senior Projects, Compass students see the many ways their learning relates to their lives outside of school."

Maps of the Bald Hill trails will be available in a brochure form at trailheads as well as in PDF form on the Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association's website, [www.whpa.org](http://www.whpa.org). The Compass students will also be creating trail signs and large format maps to post at the Bald Hill site. The community is encouraged to go out and enjoy this great local resource.



**Two Compass School Middle School Students Gathering GPS Mapping Data at Bald Hill.**

## Green Mountain Power Celebrates First Methane Plant at Westminster Farms

### Fixed Price Agreement Provides Renewable Power for GMP and Stable Revenue for Farm

COLCHESTER, VT--(Marketwire - October 20, 2009) - Green Mountain Power (GMP) has added farm methane to its portfolio of renewable energy sources, which includes hydro, wind, landfill methane and a planned solar plant, with the commissioning of the Westminster Farms plant. About 1,200 cows will provide enough manure to produce about 225 kw of electricity. That's enough electricity to power about 250 homes.

"This arrangement is a winner for all involved. I want to congratulate Green Mountain Power and Westminster Farms for working together to make this project possible," said Governor Jim Douglas. "Not only does this allow Green Mountain Power to provide low cost alternative energy to their customers, but it also gives the farm a much needed revenue boost."

While generating power from manure is not a new concept in Vermont, the arrangement represents an important step toward creating a sustainable model for farmers. The farm will receive a fixed price per kilowattour generated that will ensure that it gets enough money to keep the project profitable.

"This kind of pricing arrangement makes it possible for the farmers to count on this revenue for their operations," said Mary Powell, Green Mountain Power president and chief executive officer. "Our customers are choosing to buy renewable energy for a lot of reasons, but we often hear that helping preserve the local economy and way of life is an important factor. With so many Vermont farms closing shop, diversifying with the addition of electrical generation will help increase their chances of survival."

An added benefit, according to Shawn Goodell, one of the owners of Westminster Farms, "is the \$80,000 per year savings in operation costs that we'll have. That's the amount of money we spend on bedding for the cows. The revenue stream from producing milk, electricity and offsets for operational cost will help ensure the viability for the farm for future generations of our family."

The project is the result of collaboration between Green Mountain Power, Westminster Farms and a number of State and Federal agencies. Westminster Farms made a significant investment of nearly \$700,000 in the project. The U.S. Department of Agriculture provided \$358,993 in rural development grants and \$348,268 in loan guarantees. The Vermont Clean Energy Development Fund of \$250,000 was also crucial to the undertaking. GMP committed \$175,000. The Vermont Department of Agriculture provided a \$50,000 grant as well as \$10,000 from the Renewable Energy for America Program.

The Vermont Agricultural Credit Corporation (VACC), the agricultural financing program of the Vermont Economic Development Authority (VEDA), approved \$348,268 to support the digester project. "We were very pleased to help the Westminster Energy Group bring this project to fruition," said Jo Bradley, VEDA's Chief Executive Officer. "VACC has supported several anaerobic digester projects in recent years, helping Vermont farmers realize their renewable energy goals."

Green Mountain Power customers will also help with the ongoing payment to Westminster Farms. Green Mountain Power customers have the option of choosing to purchase renewable energy through GreenerGMP. Customers opting to pay an additional 3 cents per kwh support projects like Westminster Farms, as well as power from the Moretown Landfill methane plant. In the near future solar will be added to the list as Green Mountain Power is in the permitting process for a 200 kw solar plant.

About Green Mountain Power  
Green Mountain Power ([www.greenmountainpower.com](http://www.greenmountainpower.com)) transmits, distributes and sells electricity and utility construction services in the State of Vermont in a service territory with approximately one quarter of Vermont's population. It serves more than 200,000 people and businesses.

For further information, please contact:  
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802-655-8418

## Northern Stage Presents

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## Kevin Creeden Delivers at Kurn Hattin's 2009 Annual Conference

by Kim Fine

Westminster, VT – Kevin Creeden engaged over 250 attendees on The Impact of Trauma on Attachment at Kurn Hattin's Annual Conference on October 9th. Kevin Creeden, M.A., LMHC, is Director of Assessment and Research at the Whitney Academy in East Freetown, MA and has authored numerous articles and chapters on the behavioral difficulties of youth who have experienced trauma.

The audience all had positive remarks about the practicality of the conference. They commented on their heightened ability to identify behavioral issues that are often directly related to trauma and attachment problems in children and to better facilitate treatment planning and behavioral management.

Two Lebanon, New Hampshire School Psychologists, Mark Coates, and David Smith both commented on Mr. Creeden's expertise. "He's really on top of his game," praised Mark Coates. "The Conference is excellent. His clinical examples nicely integrate with current brain research," David Smith added. Jenny Lane, School Counselor in South Royalton, Vermont will use what she's learned in her daily work. "The conference speaker is wonderful. He's giving me a lot of ideas about how to approach children in a more effective way."

The Annual Conference also includes a luncheon, tour of the campus, and childcare related books for purchase and exhibits.

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



## GOLF TOURNAMENT SCORES BIG FOR SPRINGFIELD HOSPITAL

by Anna Smith

SPRINGFIELD, VT — The 9th annual Springfield Hospital Challenge took place on Thursday, September 24, 2009, at Okemo Valley Golf Club in Ludlow. 113 golfers competed for team and individual awards, raffle prizes, and auction items, and raised nearly \$15,000 at the annual fundraising event.

More than 50 sponsoring organizations underwrote the tournament, which included a box lunch, complimentary refreshments on the course, and an attaché/laptop case. Tournament sponsors were Black River Produce, Comtu Falls Corp, HB Fuels, IPG Employee Benefits Specialists, Richard Marasa, MD, Springfield Health & Rehab Center, Springfield Printing Corp, TD Bank, USI / Liberty Mutual.

## Call for Entries for Ralph Nading Hill, Jr., Literary Prize

COLCHESTER, VT--(Marketwire - October 15, 2009) - Entries are now being accepted for the 21st annual Ralph Nading Hill, Jr., Literary Prize. The contest was established to memorialize the literary contributions of Ralph Nading Hill, Jr., one of Vermont's best known writers and historians, who died at the age of 70 in December 1987. The contest is sponsored by Green Mountain Power Corporation and Vermont Life magazine. Mr. Hill was a long time member of GMP's Board of Directors and the Vermont Life Editorial Board.

The Ralph Nading Hill, Jr., Literary Prize is now considered by Vermont writers to be one of the state's premier literary prizes. Entry for the prize, as in past years, may be an essay, short story, play or poetry. The focus of the literary work must be "Vermont -- Its People, the Place, Its History or Its Values." It must be unpublished. The maximum length is 3,000 words. The winner will be selected on the basis of literary merit and suitability for publication in Vermont Life. The deadline for this year's contest is November 16, 2009.

A \$1,500 cash prize is awarded annually to the winner, and the winning work will be published in a future issue of Vermont Life. The most recent winner was "The Paper Cutter" by Sherry Olson of Plainfield, Vermont.

The Ralph Nading Hill, Jr., Literary Prize Board of Judges consists of Mary Hegarty Nowlan, editor of Vermont Life; Tom Slayton, past editor of Vermont Life; Tony Marro, retired executive editor of Newsday; Alison Freeland, a 1994 winner of the Ralph Nading Hill, Jr., award for her story, "Shadbush"; Brian Vachon, retired vice president of communications at National Life of Vermont and a former Vermont Life editor; and Steve Terry, retired Green Mountain Power senior executive.

The contest is open to all residents of Vermont, including students enrolled in Vermont colleges and seasonal residents. Entrants may be professional writers as well as amateurs. Green Mountain Power employees and their immediate families are not eligible, nor is the immediate family of any member of Green Mountain Power's Board of Directors. Please send two copies of your entry to the Corporate Relations Department at Green Mountain Power, 163 Acorn Lane, Colchester, VT 05446. Please provide entrant's name, address and phone on a separate sheet of paper. Do not mention the entrant's name on the entry itself.

For further information, please contact:  
Dorothy Schnure  
Manager of Communications  
802-655-8418

Club professional, Michael Santa Maria, and the excellent Okemo staff took very good care of the golfers and made the event an overall success.

### Team winners were:

**1st place, gross:** Tim Kangas, Rich Lane, Rick Marasa, Rick Spence  
**2nd place, gross:** Steve Birge, Jack Cassidy, Rich Skrocki, Dan Tricarico  
**3rd place, gross:** Greg Burdett, Jeffrey King, Todd Roberts, Richard Slusky,

**1st place, net:** Mark Blanchard, Mark Devarney, Joe Green, Brian Tarbox

**2nd place, net:** Bill Anderson, Bill Brown, Jeff Smith, Jeff Wallin  
**3rd place, net:** Peter Annis, Dan Patria, Mary Patria, Peter Svendsen

### Individual winners were:

**Closest to the line:** Ron Ferro

**Longest putt:** Dan Tricarico

**Pre tournament putting contest:** Mike Martin



(l-r) Kurn Hattin, President, David J. Maysilles '43 and Trustee, Bill Abbott (missing from photo, Trustee, Leslie Vander Meulen Canavan).

## INCORPORATOR, TRUSTEE AND NEW PRESIDENT ELECTED AT KURN HATTIN

Westminster, Vermont - On September 23rd, Kurn Hattin held its 114th Annual Meeting of the Corporation. During the business meeting, an election was held to fill a vacancy for one Incorporator. Mrs. Leslie Vander Meulen Canavan will serve for a term of three years. Leslie was born in St. Louis, Missouri and attended the University of Missouri, St. Louis. She is the past President of the National Society of New England Women and currently President of Alexis Antiques, Inc., [www.alexisantiques.com](http://www.alexisantiques.com), an international mail order business specializing in Wedgwood, ceramics and decorative items; appraisals, illustrated talks on Wedgwood, and estate dispersal services are offered. A genealogy expert, she also runs Leslie's Lineages, genealogy and family search services specializing in New England and Missouri research. From 1983-1994 Leslie was a manager at McDonnell-Douglas, computer division. She has two grown children, and she and husband, Paul, reside in Clayton, Missouri. As President of NSNEW, Leslie traveled extensively on behalf of Kurn Hattin raising funds for several projects.

Sixteen Incorporators were re-elected for terms of three years. They are Jerry Bardwell, John Barry, Diane Bazin, Scott Bundy, Patrick Crotty, Elizabeth David, Charles Kelsey, Elizabeth Maiola, Barbara Matteson, Marilyn Moore, James Robertson, Connie Sanderson, Merton Snow, Malcolm Streeter, Peter Svendsen, and Joan Woodhull Willey.

Bill Abbott was elected to the Board of Trustees of a term of three years. A graduate

of Boston University, Bill earned his CPA certification while with the public accounting firm of Harris, Kerr, Forster & Co. in Boston, Massachusetts. In 1974, he moved to Keene, New Hampshire to join the corporate finance staff of MPB Corporation and came to Kurn Hattin Homes in 1990, serving as Financial Manager until retirement in 2003. Positions held with not-for-profit organizations include Treasurer of Prospect Place, The Woodward Home and the United Church of Christ in Keene, Treasurer and Chairperson of Home Health Care & Community Services and Chairperson of the Cheshire Medical Center. He resides in Keene, New Hampshire with his wife, Margot. They have two sons and five grandchildren.

Re-elected as Trustees to terms of three years were: Jeffrey Hatch, David J. Maysilles, George W. Nostrand, Malcolm Streeter and Janet Wilson.

The Board re-elected the following officers for a term of one year: Secretary, Elizabeth Maiola, of Newport, New Hampshire, Assistant Secretary, George W. Nostrand of Bellows Falls, Vermont, and Treasurer, Janet Wilson of Walpole, New Hampshire.

Elected as officers and members of the Executive Committee for a term of one year were: President, David J. Maysilles '43 of Walpole, New Hampshire, Vice President, Ronald Williams of Madison, Connecticut, Vice President, Trudy Walker of Hudson, New York, Member at Large, George W. Nostrand of Bellows Falls, Vermont, and Member at Large, John Hubbard of Walpole, New Hampshire.

Roberta Violette, outgoing President of the Board, was honored for her many years of dedicated service with a plaque and certificate of appreciation, a crystal clock and a dozen long-stem roses. She was elected President Emerita. She gave a heart-felt speech about her father and the several other family members who lived at Kurn Hattin. It is very meaningful to her and her extended family to be a part of the mission of Kurn Hattin.

Preceding the Annual Meeting, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held to dedicate the Lewis Cottage's opening. With a contribution from Trustee Emerita, Janet M. Lewis, renovations for the Lewis Cottage were completed this summer. The Lewis Cottage is a place of solace for children who are in crisis and require short-term emergency care to regain their safety, health, and dignity, enabling them to return to their cottage.

Kurn Hattin is a year-round, charitable home and school located in Westminster, Vermont serving in-need and at-risk children, ages 6-15, from throughout the northeast.

## Vermont Country Store and others to be celebrated on National Philanthropy Day

by Kim Fine

The Association of Fundraising Professionals Northern New England Chapter invites you to celebrate the 2009 outstanding and distinguished philanthropists and volunteers on National Philanthropy Day®. NPD is a special day set aside to recognize the great contributions of philanthropy—and those people active in the philanthropic community—to the enrichment of our world. This year the celebration will be held at the Hilton Waterfront Hotel in Burlington, Vermont on Thursday, November 5, 2009.

AFP Northern New England Chapter provides ethical expertise and guidance to practitioners of philanthropy through education, training, mentoring, networking and advocacy. The local chapter is comprised of 250+ members from the states of Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. The chapter organizes a conference every November (which rotates among the three states) and NPD is held one evening during the conference.

The 2009 celebration will honor: Outstanding Corporation, The Vermont Country Store, Manchester Center, VT; Outstanding Foundation,

The Gibney Family Foundation, South Burlington, VT; Outstanding Philanthropist, Jude Blake, Portsmouth, NH; Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser, W. John Funk, of Gilmanton, NH; and the AFP Northern New England—Demont Scholarship for Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy, Rachel Blair Friedman, Portland, ME. Rachel will be receiving a \$10,000 college scholarship. Come hear their wonderful stories of dedication and support to our communities. We're proud to have Demont & Associates of Portland, ME sponsoring NPD.

There's also a great opportunity available to recognize your special volunteer or supporter by bringing him or her to the dinner with you—Your Distinguished Honoree. This is not a competitive award and any non-profit organization may recognize and honor an individual or family for his/her exceptional generosity and leadership to his/her organization. You need only bring your Distinguished Honoree as your guest to the dinner (cost of dinner only) and he/she will be recognized during the National Philanthropy Day® celebration.

Please join us in celebrating the spirit of giving. Kim Fine, CFRE, who is serving as the 2009 National Philanthropy Day® Chair, is Senior Development Officer for Kurn Hattin Homes in Westminster, Vermont. For more information, contact Kim @ [kimfine@sover.net](mailto:kimfine@sover.net) or (802) 721-6914 or go to: [www.afp-nne.org](http://www.afp-nne.org)

## Open House Days at Saxtons River Montessori School

The Saxtons River Montessori School invites parents of prospective preschoolers to visit the classroom in session and learn how the unique environment sparks a child's curiosity. Open House Days are scheduled the first Thursday of the month, beginning November 5th. Visiting time is from 9:15 to 10:00 AM. All visits must be scheduled in advance.

Since 1991 SRMS has been a parent-run cooperative and community school for children from 3 to 6 years of age. SRMS follows the philosophy of Dr. Maria Montessori advocating for the development of the whole child while fostering a respect for self, others and the greater community. At SRMS, our students prepare for a lifetime of joyful learning! SRMS seeks to accommodate every family with flexible scheduling including half-day or full-day options and reasonable tuition rates. Town grants may be available. Applications are currently being accepted for January 2010 admission.

Open House Days are free. All are welcome, but space is limited so please make arrangements in advance. The school is located at 14 Westminster Street in Saxtons River. More information is available by calling the school or online at [www.SaxtonsRiverMontessoriSchool.org](http://www.SaxtonsRiverMontessoriSchool.org). To schedule a visit, please call Becky at 869-3349.

## WHERE DID THE SUMMER GO?

By Babs Lynde, a Vermont Master Gardener

Almost everyone in our community has expressed that we've been cheated out of summertime this year. It rained for weeks in the late spring into early summer, and then the mosquitoes and black gnats flourished from the extra wetness and succeeded in ruining what few days of warm sun we could have enjoyed. Now, here we are at the threshold of another winter. The long range predictions from most almanacs say that our region will have a colder winter this year with only brief thaws but with less precipitation. I didn't really get the chance to enjoy my gardens this year, but as unfair as that may seem, I still need to prepare them for the freezing temperatures.

Although some tropical plants are inexpensive to purchase nowadays, it is not that difficult to save them for another year. These are plants that we enjoy during the summer or early fall that need to be removed from the ground or plant pots before freezing temperatures set in, including begonias, caladiums, cannas, dahlias and gladiolas. For most of them, you simply need to loosen the soil around the bulbs, corms, rhizomes or tubers and then gently pull them out. Hopefully the leaves or stems have begun to brown which means the nourishment collected by the plant is being absorbed by its specialized root system. The longer you allow the nutrients to be absorbed, the stronger the bulb or corm will be for the following year. Gently shake or remove whatever soil that is clinging to the roots and let them air dry on newspapers or paper bags outdoors in a sunny area for a couple of days – just long enough for most of the moisture to evaporate.

Once the last remnants of soil have dried, use a sharp pair of scissors (chicken scissors are the best!) to remove the leaves and stems from two to four inches above the bulb or rhizome as well as most of the long hanging roots. Use paper bags, never plastic, and use a black marker to identify the contents. Although you may be able to recognize which plant is which in the spring, it's so much easier to

have this already done. Store the paper bags in a larger box and put them in a cool, dark area such as a basement or root cellar. If there is no way to avoid household moisture, then pack them in shipping peanuts or other materials to help absorb the dampness.

Now that you've removed the summer roots that cannot withstand the winter, you need to replace them with the bulbs that will hibernate such as crocuses, daffodils, and tulips. These plants need to be placed into the soil at least three to four times deeper than the bulb itself - so a bulb that measures two inches from one end to the other should be planted a minimum of six inches. The tapered point on the bulb or corm is usually the top where the leaves or stem will grow, whereas the roots will emerge from the flatter end that sometimes has a small dark ring.

Clip back any dead or diseased branches on your shrubbery or trees, taking care not to clip off areas that may already be supporting next year's flower heads such as found on hydrangeas. If you have been careful to select bushes or shrubs that can survive our bitter winter, then only new or small bushes in danger of continuous freezing and thawing temperatures or debilitating snow need to be covered. Specially designed protection bags and framework can be purchased at local nurseries or lawn and garden stores, or you can use old fashioned burlap bags and hand constructed framing if you have the desire to build it yourself. Don't forget that leaves can also be used to cover tender areas or thin bark, but sometimes critters like field mice and insects will also use this protection for the winter. Mixing mothball chips and strips of strong smelling bar soaps will sometimes keep them away.

Would you like more ideas on preparing your gardens for the winter? The Master Gardeners of Vermont are trained to help you with all your needs. Call their Helpline toll-free at 1-800-639-2230, send questions by email to [master.gardener@uvm.edu](mailto:master.gardener@uvm.edu) or visit their website at <http://www.uvm.edu/mastergardener/> for extensive information.

## H1N1 INFLUENZA -- HOW TO STAY HEALTHY AND FLU FREE THIS WINTER

SPRINGFIELD, VT —This year, with the emergence of the H1N1 influenza virus, the flu season that generally lasts from October through May never really ended. H1N1 infections were first identified in April of 2009 in the United States and Mexico as seasonal influenza infections were beginning to ebb. Since then the virus has traveled around the globe and is now making an encore appearance in the United States, hand and hand with the old faithful seasonal influenza.

As the season continues, it can be expected that more influenza-type illness than usual will occur due to the fact that many people have not been vaccinated against, or had prior exposure to, the new H1N1.

Fortunately, the severity of illness caused by H1N1 does not appear to have increased. Most people infected with H1N1 have symptoms similar to seasonal influenza. Though these symptoms are in no way pleasant, they are well tolerated by most healthy people.

For: **SYMPTOMS OF H1N1, HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF, WHEN TO SEEK MEDICAL CARE, GROUPS RECOMMENDED BY THE CDC TO RECEIVE H1N1 VACCINE**

Go to: **[www.springfieldhospital.org](http://www.springfieldhospital.org)** for Complete Information

## School Garden Harvest is All In!

by Elizabeth Harlow



FIRST GRADE CARROT HARVEST



FOURTH GRADE



POPCORN HARVEST

The last of the garden crops are in as of the last week of October! First graders harvested their carrots, delighting in the colorful harvest, working together to carry the heavy loads, taking a turn at the raspberry patch and also making carrot juice, which everyone tried with enthusiasm. Fourth Graders brought in the popcorn which stayed in the field to dry as long as possible. Most students took home an ear to experiment with at home with their families. The rest of the harvest is used for the regular Wednesday all school snack. Fifth graders shared together a baked potato snack from their harvest this past week. All month students have enjoyed the continuing raspberry bounty while visiting the garden, as well as eating some of the third grader's butternut squash harvest during lunch. Many thanks to our Chef Manager Kim Kinney and her crew for serving up our home grown veggies with smiles! Enjoy your harvest meals this Fall!

## WESTMINSTER CARES, INC.

The annual meeting for Westminster Cares will be held Saturday December 5th from 2 PM to 4 PM. We will be honoring the 90 year olds who live in Westminster. Anyone who is 90 or knows someone who is 90 is urged to contact us at 802-722 3607 for more information.

The Westminster Cares, Inc. Board of Directors met on October 7, 2009. 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 elderly.

Westminster Cares and the United Church of Bellows Falls continue to move forward with their elder housing project in Westminster. The Steering Committee meets at least once a month. Several committee members have been attending Westminster Planning Board meetings for preliminary consultations with the anticipation that the required permits will be approved.

The 2009 Westminster Quilt Show was held on October 17-18, 2009, at the Westminster Center School. There were over 100 quilts on display as well as several vendors displaying their goods.

Services provided include: 14 people on Meals on Wheels, 22 rides for 8 different people by 6 volunteers for a total of 275 miles; 3 pieces of medical equipment loaned. Volunteers visited three people plus one-on-one assistance for an elderly couple. Meetings attended in September: Bookkeeper, Gazette, Quilt Show, meetings with the Development Director. Programs in September: 2 Secrets of Healthy Aging sessions, 5 Yoga classes, 4 Artist in Each of Us classes, 18 Living Strong classes were held, one localvore lunch. Anyone interested in learning more about Westminster Cares, working on a committee, making a contribution or attending a workshop may contact Ronnie Friedman at 722-3607 or by email at [wecares@sover.net](mailto:wecares@sover.net).

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.

## WESTMINSTER MYSTERY PHOTO



### What was produced by this factory, and where was it located?

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

The answer and the winner/s will be announced in the Next Issue.

**October Answer: First Congregational Church of Westminster, on Main Street - Route 5**  
**October Winners: Ginger Cook, Howie Rice, David Wright, Hank Anderson, Christian Blake, Audrey Gochey, and Gerald LeFerve.**

If you have picture's you think would make a great mystery photo please stop by the town office and see Bab Lyndes. **We are in search of Pictures..**

## News from Westminster Volunteer Fire and Rescue

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

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

Number of calls in September: 31  
Number of man hours spent: 16,560

Number of calls through October 28th: 27  
Number of man hours spent: 3,572  
Number of calls calendar year to Date: 248

**Lightning:** During the lightning storm last month the fire house got struck taking out the outside alarm system and 2 of the radios used for dispatching. Repairs and replacements are expected soon.

**Tips For Winter:** Close or install storm windows and install storm doors. Close cellar windows, check weather stripping, and latch windows. Every little bit helps to keep your house warm during the winter months. Also remove and drain outside hoses and faucets. Don't forget the cobwebs. They can be a fire hazard.

**911 versus 1-603-352-1100:** In some cases dialing 911 in an emergency can take longer than is comfortable. It is optional for Westminster residents to call emergency dispatch directly at 1-603-352-1100. One suggestion is to program the number in your phone as a second emergency number. Dialing 911 is still a good number, but the 603 number should be a little faster. If you dial 911 from your cell phone there are 2 more steps to go through resulting in more questions asked and ultimately a time delay. Dialing the 603 number from your cell should shorten up the response time.

**Association Meeting:** The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association met for their regular meeting October 6th with 31 members present and 3 members excused. Discussion items included plans for Fire Prevention Week and the demonstrations for the kids from Kurn Hattin, Westminster West School and the Central School and an open house for Halloween to hand out candy and serve cider, coffee, and popcorn to anyone who shows up.

### 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.

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

We are looking for help. 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 and an engine located there and more help is needed to utilize the equipment during calls.

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

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

# WESTMINSTER HAPPENINGS

## Activities

### ScottishCountryDance

#### Classes

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

#### Putney Contra Dance

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

#### Senior Lunch

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

#### Bellows Falls Gallery

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

### Contra Dance

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

#### Gentle Yoga

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

#### Living StrongClasses

Mondays & Thursdays @The First Congregational Church in Westminster

9:00am to 10:00am

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

Call Westminster Cares

for more information:

722-3607

#### Yoga Class with Lisa Nigro-15

#### weejs

begins September 9 and ends December 23.

Wednesdays 7 - 8:30 p.m. at the Westminster Institute. All levels welcomed. Drop ins welcomed. Call 722-4249 for more information.

## Faith Community

### The First Congregational Church of Westminster

United Church of Christ

The Rev. Sami Jones McRae, Pastor

Main Street, Route 5, Westminster, Vermont 05158, 802-722-4148

#### Sunday worship at 10:00 AM

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

Rev. Sami will be leading a bible study every Tuesday evening this fall at 7:00. The topic will be "Living the Questions"

Important Dates

Nov 1 - Worship, Communion and Sunday School 10:00 am

Nov. 3 - Women's Fellowship 12:00 noon - Bible Study 7:00 pm

Nov. 7 - Chicken Pie Supper 5-7 pm

Nov. 8 - Worship and Sunday School 10:00 am

Nov. 10 - Bible Study 7:00 pm

Nov. 15 - Worship and Sunday School 10:00 am

Nov. 16 - Standing committee - 7:00 pm

Nov. 21 - Hunter's Breakfast 4:30-10:00

Nov. 22 - Worship and NO Sunday School 10:00 am

Nov. 28 - Christmas Bazaar 9-2

Nov. 29 - Worship and Sunday School 10:00 am

Advent starts Sunday, Nov. 29. Each of the 4 Sundays will feature a different theme as we prepare for Christmas, come check it out.

**Sunday School** has started up and all children are invited to attend. In Nov. Sunday School will be held on Nov. 8, 15, 29. Students start at 10:00 upstairs in church with the rest of the congregation. After the children's story children are invited to join the teachers down in the fellowship hall for the remainder of the lesson. Students will hear stories, play games, and work together on projects. If you are interested in Sunday school call church for more info or to register your children.

#### Chicken Pie supper

On Saturday, Nov. 7, the Woman's Fellowship of The First Congregational Church of Westminster will host their annual Chicken Pie Supper from 5-7pm. The menu will include chicken pie, mashed potatoes, winter squash, and onions. For dessert there will be homemade apple pie. The cost will be \$8 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.

#### Hunter's Breakfast

On Saturday, Nov. 21 there will be a HUNTER'S BREAKFAST at the Westminster First Congregational Church, from 4:00 am to 10:00 pm. The menu will include, scrambled eggs, French toast, bacon, sausage, fried potatoes, juice and coffee. Breakfast will be served for both hunters early as well as be open for the rest of the community until 10:00.

Breakfast will be \$7.00 for adult and \$4.00 for children.

#### Christmas Bazaar

The Women's Fellowship of Westminster First Congregational Church will hold its annual Christmas Bazaar at the church on Saturday, November 28, from 9-2.

Crafts, Gifts, white elephant table, Photos with Santa and Kids projects.

The Christmas Café open from 11-2. The menu will include soup, sandwiches, chips, pickles, coffee, tea, cocoa and punch served by some enthusiastic local elves!!

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

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

Open and Affirming Susie Webster-Toleno, Minister

New Church Office Hours:

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

### WESTMINSTER HISTORY BLOG

www.westminsterhistory.net

Dan Axtell has generously created an internet blog with the express purpose of gathering memories and information that Jessie Haas may use in researching and writing our new history book. You can help with the new town history of Westminster, Vermont by looking through these articles and adding your personal knowledge and stories. There's a spot to post comments at the bottom of every page. If there's a Westminster story you think should be included, just add a comment at the bottom of this page. Use the "Search" box at right to find articles that mention a particular name or place. Not only informative, but loads of fun!

## Meetings

**Selectboard** meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7PM in the Town Hall.

### Planning and Development

**Commission** meets the 2nd Monday at 7:00 in the Town Hall.

### Westminster Activities

#### Commission

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

### Westminster School Board

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

### Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association

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

### Westminster West Public Library

Board 2nd Mondays at 7:00 at the Westminster West Public Library

### Development Review Board

meets the 1st Monday of each month at 7:00PM. at the Town Hall

### Community Improvement

**Program Committee** meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:00PM.

### Westminster Cares Board

meets the 1st Wednesday of every month at the Westminster Fire Station.

### Westminster Institute Board

meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Institute.

**911 Committee** meets as needed.

### The Westminster Fire & Rescue

**Dept** holds their monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of every month and a combined drill on the 3rd Tuesday of every month.

### Westminster Historical Society

meets the third Tuesday, monthly, at 7:30 pm at the Westminster Institute.

### Westminster Gazette Meeting,

Tuesday, November 17th @ 7:30am at the Westminster Cares Office.

**Watch for up coming events from the Westminster Activities Commission!**

**Dec - Kids Christmas workshop  
Feb. - Dance**

**Volunteer/s Needed**  
to Distribute the Westminster Gazette to Local Establishments.

Usually, the 1st Tuesday of the Month

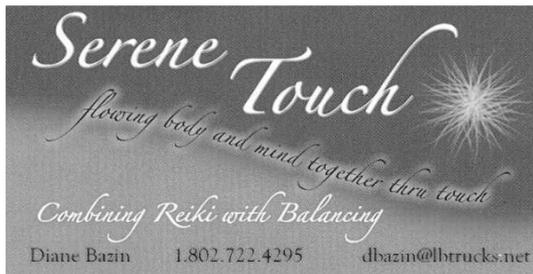
**The Deadline for The December Issue of the Westminster Gazette is. Tuesday, November 24th by 5:00pm**

## Business Beat

### Serene Touch

Diane Bazin

*Serene Touch - an amazing way to become one with yourself, a spiritual journey within....*



*I have been studying and practicing Reiki for 6 years and studying Zero Balancing for 2 years.*

*I work out of my home in the village of Westminster, where my husband Luke and myself have lived for 31 years.*

*I invite you to set up an appointment and enjoy the Serenity of Touch and connecting with your inner self.*

**722-4295 Tuesday - Friday 10:00 till 4:30**

**Reiki** - Spiritual energy drawn from divine life force energy

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**As a parent of a student at Westminster Schools** you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers who instruct your child. Federal law allows you to ask for certain information about your child's classroom teachers, and requires us to give you this information in a timely manner, if you ask for it. Specifically, you have the right to ask for the following information about each of your child's classroom teachers:

Whether the Vermont Department of Education has decided that the teacher can teach in a classroom without being licensed or qualified under state regulations because of special circumstances.

The teacher's college major; whether the teacher has any advanced degrees and, if so, the subject of the degrees.

Whether any paraprofessionals provide services to your child and, if they do, their qualifications.

If you would like to receive any of this information, please call Steve Tullar, Principal, at 722-3241.

## What do we learn at Keewaydin?

### Westminster Center School

Steven Tullar, Principal

This past week our family was at the Rockingham Library for a presentation called "Skulls and Bones." My two children were sitting on either side of me. The presenter was showing us her collection of animal skulls, saying, "When an animal dies in the woods it does not just lie there untouched..." when I heard in stereo, "FBI". Well, I had no idea what that meant, but since both of my boys were saying it simultaneously I figured I was the one needed to get with the program. The younger son elaborated, "Fungus, bacteria, and insects."

This, as you may know, was a lesson from Keewaydin. The Keewaydin trip was a very rich experience for both of my boys. I hear more about it than most other school events because of times like this when the boys make connections between what they learned there and

what they are encountering in their world. This story was shared with the principal and fifth grade teachers at Westminster Center School. It exemplifies the kind of learning that has taken place at Keewaydin Environmental Education Center for Westminster students. This September the fifth graders spent five days at Keewaydin Environmental Education Center learning about cycles that occur in nature: the food chain, the water cycle, the soil cycle, the air cycle, and photosynthesis. Students learned about and enacted the five basic needs of life.

While the curricular focus is on ecosystems, the students are building their fifth grade community while going on explorations together and doing chores together. Some of the students' favorite activities were canoeing, hiking, rock wall climbing, and general mucking about in ponds and streams. Throughout the year the fifth graders will build on their experiences of both community building and environmental education. We truly are an interdependent community.

## Westminster Afterschool Program enters its 4th year

by Elaine Gordon

When the school day ends at 3:00, the day isn't over for the 40-50 students that participate in a variety of enrichment activities as part of the Westminster Afterschool Program. Westminster families have come to rely on this high quality program to provide a safe, active place for children between the end of the school day and the end of the work day. Each day students get a healthy dose of physical activity, healthy snacks and time for games and socializing with friends. During the week students can participate in piano lessons, cooking class and Tuesday Homework Help. A big thank you to high school students who volunteer as part of community service or Senoir Project. Returning from last year are Emily Gehly and Matt Martineau. Joining to help out with academic support and other projects this year are Daniel Osterholt and Angus Gunn.

We are in the process of applying for federal funding to become a 21st Century Learning Center. This funding would allow us to expand on our current programming for students and families. The grant application process encourages us to work with community members to develop a comprehensive plan for a program that promotes academic achievement, enrichment and lifelong learning and provides physical activity that promotes healthy lifestyles. Please contact Elaine Gordon at 722-3241 if you are interested in volunteering with the Afterschool Program or developing the application for the 21st Century Learning Center Grant.

Volunteer needed Thursdays from 3:30-4:30 to work with individual 5th and 6th grade students on spelling.

## EXTENSIONS EXTENSIONS EXTENSIONS

Have you filed your 2008 Tax Return?  
If not, we are here to help you get it done.

We are here year round for all your tax planning and preparation needs.

Monday - Thursday 9-5

Call now and make an appointment  
**(802-722-4500)**

**SPAULDING & MADDEN TAX SERVICES**  
**5111 US Rte 5 in Westminster Station**

### Mistletoe Mart

**Saturday, November 21st - 9:00am to 2:00pm**  
**Congregational Church,**  
**on the Common, Walpole, NH**

**Coffee Time, Luncheon, Candy, Baked Goods,**  
**Crafts, White Elephants, Gifts and Trims**

*Handicap Accessible*

### "Walking Toward Vermont's Energy Future"

Westminster residents have been invited, along with people in nearby towns, to join Vermont's Safe and Green campaign.

If you have questions about the event, would consider walking one or more days or helping with stopover events or accommodations, contact Betsy Williams at [laladust@gmail.com](mailto:laladust@gmail.com) or via phone at 387-2765



## VERMONT ACADEMY PERFORMS THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

SAXTONS RIVER —The Vermont Academy Theater Program will present the musical *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, conceived by Rebecca Feldman, Friday and Saturday November 13th and 14th at 7:30pm, and Sunday November 15th at 2:30pm. Shows will take place in the Nita Choukas Theater located in Vermont Academy's new Horowitz Performing Arts Center in Saxtons River, Vermont. This show is rated PG-13.

The Putnam County Spelling Bee is a hysterical and touching story about a spelling bee, its contestants, and the drama that ensues. The Putnam County Spelling Bee was on Broadway just last year, and this will be the first ever amateur production of the show in the state of Vermont!

Jonathan Maloney, Director of The Putnam County Spelling Bee invites the public: "Spelling Bee, it's a fantastic ensemble show. It has everything; great comedy, tragic events, nail-biting suspense, even audience participation!"

An ensemble cast of 10 talented students from all over the United States perform in this play. Along with many new faces, audiences may recognize the growth of many students who also participated in *Little Shop of Horrors* and *For Heaven's Sake* last year at Vermont Academy. Several students have also helped to build the incredible set.

The production team includes Betsy Giguere as the Musical Director and the three founders of GUTWorks, a theater and multimedia company: Daniel Burmester (Set Design & Construction), Jonathan Maloney (Director) and Kali Quinn (Costume Design). This production is the trio's third at Vermont Academy as their residency continues.

For more info about the performance, visit [www.vermontacademy.org](http://www.vermontacademy.org)! Tickets are \$10 general admission and will be sold at the door. The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is presented through a special arrangement with Music Theater International



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Russ Hodgkins, Pres.

**November Business of the Month WESTMINSTER AUTO**

Westminster Auto on Route 5 in Westminster has been selling cars and trucks for 20 years. Westminster Auto has built a strong reputation for not only just a reputable used car dealership, but also a full service garage. Before we sell a vehicle we service it in the garage. Sending it through a full service check, where technicians check all the normal wear-and-tear items. We are proud of the quality of the pre-owned vehicles we sell. We work hard everyday to maintain the high standard of customer service ensuring our customers are always Happy.



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**Instrumental at the Center School**

by Jared Stolper, band teacher

We are in the exciting process of building a band program here at the Center School. We are using the services of Ellis Music Company to help us get going. This creates an expense for the school and many families to cover instrument rental and other related equipment.

If you have an instrument in the house that is not being used, and may not be part of your musical future, please consider lending or giving that instrument to the new band program here at WCS. This would put the instrument to good use and help some students have more options when choosing which instrument to play. I know many students would be grateful for this kind of help, and it would be nice for you to see your instrument up on stage being played!

Our greatest need is for guitars, but we could use any playable flutes, clarinets, saxophones, trumpets, trombones, snare drums or keyboards. Thanks for considering the WCS Band as a possible home for your unused instruments.

**School Board Blog**

In an effort to increase transparency and communication with the public about the school board, Westminster Board member Rick Gordon has been keeping a blog at <http://www.rickwestboard.blogspot.com/>. Please keep track of this site for information and reflections on the workings of the school board.



**The Warner Cottage children at Kurn Hattin Holmes created a "Small People in a Big World pumpkin."**

**Early Childhood Open Gym**

Toddlers and Preschoolers

**Westminster Center School**

Monday Mornings 8:30-9:45 AM

Beginning November 2nd, 2009

**Come play, run around and meet new friends!**

For more info call  
**Anne Briccetti, Early Childhood Outreach Coordinator,**  
 802-579-3061 or [abricce@wnesu.net](mailto:abricce@wnesu.net)

**Westminster Gazette**

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