

# Westminster Gazette



po box 147 westminster vt 05158

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

Vol. 6, No. 9 September 2010

## BACK TO SCHOOL !



On a warm summer evening, Westminster elementary school families joined teachers and staff at the Center School for a Welcome Back Picnic. And though it felt like more summer all week long, the school year powered up on Tuesday, August 31st.



## NewFaces at The Westminster Schools

by Liz Bourne

**Kate Conway** is the Co-Teaching Special Educator in our 1st and 2nd grade classrooms at the Center School. She's been working with schools in a variety of jobs over the last 15 years, becoming a teacher four years ago. Kate has three children who are now all out of high school. She loves being outdoors, especially bicycling and rowing.

**Ashley Rose** is our new Music Teacher. She graduated from Plymouth State University last winter, working at Pittsfield (NH) Elementary as a substitute music teacher last spring. She is also a pianist and piano teacher. And her name will change next month when she gets married!

**Paul Kohler** has taught school both in Keene and Vermont, and is happy to be back on this side of "The River." He joins us as the Co-Teaching Special Educator working with the 3rd and 4th grade classes at the Center School. Paul sings in a band, and he, his wife and young daughter are looking forward to a new baby arriving in November.

## A TRIBUTE AND THANK YOU

*On August 21st I had a fire at my home in Westminster. The volunteer firefighters from the Westminster Fire Dept, as well as those from the surrounding towns, proved to be unsung heroes in many, many ways. The service they provided went above and beyond the call of duty.*

*When a fire occurs, most people see the trucks, hear the alarm and think about the victims of that fire. Not too much thought is given to the brave men and women, who upon hearing that alarm, drop everything and put their lives on the line. I witnessed this first hand and words cannot describe my gratitude.*

*Public service is a slippery slope to navigate. Most often, those who volunteer never get to hear any applause.*

*Well, I am here to give a standing ovation to the Westminster Volunteer Fire Department, and all those wonderful individuals who gave so tirelessly on August 21. Take a bow and be proud.*

*With Sincere Thanks,  
Fran Walsh and Family  
Westminster, VT*

**REMINDER**  
THE FIRST INSTALLMENT  
OF 2010-2011  
PROPERTY TAXES  
IS SEPTEMBER 10, 2010.

**WESTMINSTER CARES** will again celebrate the lives of residents of our town who are 90 years of age and older at our Annual Meeting. The meeting will take place on Sunday, November 14th, 2010 from 2 pm to 4 pm at the Westminster Fire Station. If you are 90 or older or know someone who is 90 or older, please give us a call at 722-3607. We would love you to be a part of the celebration!



## SEVCA'S 12TH ANNUAL FLEA MARKET, SILENT AUCTION & RAFFLE: VENDOR SPOTS AVAILABLE

WESTMINSTER – On September 25th 2010 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) will hold the 12th Annual Flea Market, Silent Auction and Raffle Drawing. This annual community and fundraising event helps to support the services that SEVCA provides to low-income residents of Windham and Windsor counties.

Flea market vendors, including crafters, antique dealers, and yard sales are welcome and encouraged to reserve a space, which costs \$20 or \$25, depending on location. For non-profits the space is free for an information only booth, and \$10-15 if they wish to sell anything. To reserve your space or for more information about this event, call (802) 722-4575, ext. 105. There will also be a variety of outstanding local food vendors on hand throughout the day and fun activities for the children.

Raffle tickets can be purchased now at SEVCA's office at 91 Buck Drive in Westminster, at any of SEVCA's "Good Buy" Stores, other SEVCA offices and program sites throughout Windham and Windsor Counties (including SEVCA's Family Services office in Brattleboro at the Marlboro Technical Center), or at the Flea Market on the day of the event. The top prizes this year are: a Frigidaire 15 cubic ft. Energy Star Refrigerator donated by Central Appliance; an MI-T-M 2300 psi, 6.7 HP Pressure Washer from LaValley Building Supply; a \$500 cash prize; and a Husqvarna Lawn mower w/160 cc Honda GCV Engine donated by J&H hardware. There will be many other exciting raffle prizes and Silent Auction items including gift certificates for several local restaurants and inns, ski passes for Okemo and other ski resorts, a 3-month Ripple's gym membership, stained glass art handcrafted by Maryann Devins and Edel's Art Glass, an overnight stay package at the Lake Morey resort, a Pandora bead, gold and silver charm from Von Bargen's jewelry store, gift certificates, gas cards and much more. Silent auction items will be posted on the SEVCA website; bidders will be able to view them at [www.sevca.org](http://www.sevca.org) and make an offer, or you can also bid on-site at the event. Prize items are still needed, and any businesses and individuals wishing to make a donation are encouraged to contact Linda Brooks at (802) 722-4575, ext. 105.

SEVCA is the designated Community Action Agency that has been addressing the needs of low-income residents of Windham and Windsor counties since 1965. Its mission is to enable people to cope with and reduce the hardships of poverty, create sustainable self-sufficiency, and reduce the causes and move toward the elimination of poverty. Information about SEVCA and its programs and services will be available at the Flea Market, and may also be obtained from its website ([www.sevca.org](http://www.sevca.org)) or by emailing [lbrooks@sevca.org](mailto:lbrooks@sevca.org).

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

Kurn Hattin Homes  
Westminster School District  
Town of Westminster  
Durand Automotive Group  
Westminster Activities Commission  
Sojourns Community Health Clinic  
Westminster Cares  
Westminster Fire & Rescue Association  
Le Studio  
The Current operated by the  
Connecticut River Transit

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Gymnastics \* Ballet \* Hip-Hop \* Jazz \* Tap

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Now Accepting Registrations for Fall



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Please call us at 802-463-9010 or 603-477-9479

Stop by Sat. Sept 18th from 8 - 11  
For National Gymnastics Day Free Family Fun

Connecticut River Transit is now...

## The Current

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

Direction	1st Bellows Falls	2nd Bellows Falls	3rd Bellows Falls	4th Bellows Falls	5th Bellows Falls	6th Bellows Falls	7th Bellows Falls	8th Bellows Falls	9th Bellows Falls	10th Bellows Falls	11th Bellows Falls	12th Bellows Falls	13th Bellows Falls	14th Bellows Falls	15th Bellows Falls	16th Bellows Falls	17th Bellows Falls	18th Bellows Falls	19th Bellows Falls	20th Bellows Falls	21st Bellows Falls	22nd Bellows Falls	23rd Bellows Falls	24th Bellows Falls	25th Bellows Falls	26th Bellows Falls	27th Bellows Falls	28th Bellows Falls	29th Bellows Falls	30th Bellows Falls	31st Bellows Falls	32nd Bellows Falls	33rd Bellows Falls	34th Bellows Falls	35th Bellows Falls	36th Bellows Falls	37th Bellows Falls	38th Bellows Falls	39th Bellows Falls	40th Bellows Falls	41st Bellows Falls	42nd Bellows Falls	43rd Bellows Falls	44th Bellows Falls	45th Bellows Falls	46th Bellows Falls	47th Bellows Falls	48th Bellows Falls	49th Bellows Falls	50th Bellows Falls																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																											
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## Private-Public Partnership Helps Feed Vermont Children in Need

Waterbury, VT— The Vermont Department for Children and Families (DCF), the Vermont Foodbank, and the Vermont Community Foundation today announced two efforts to ensure children are adequately fed during these challenging economic times. These efforts are funded by over \$3 million in federal stimulus funds with matching funds supplied by the Vermont Foodbank and private donations raised through the Vermont Community Foundation.

"This joint effort to provide additional nutritious food to Vermont children comes at just the right time," said DCF Commissioner Steve Dale. "As summer ends and school begins, many Vermont families are facing added expenses they cannot afford. These funds allow us to provide extra support to children in need."

Families who participate in 3SquaresVT (formerly food stamps) and have at least one child under 18 in the home may benefit in two ways:

### 1. Back-to-School Benefit

Families who were enrolled in 3SquaresVT as of August 1, 2010 will automatically receive a one-time supplemental benefit of \$121.53 per child. This benefit can be used to purchase food from September 1 to September 30, 2010.

### 2. Enhanced Food Program

From September 1 to September 30, 2010, families enrolled in 3SquaresVT can get additional food from one of the 50 participating food shelves located throughout the state. This supplemental food includes peanut butter, spaghetti, canned fruits and vegetables, ground beef, cereal, chicken, milk, and juice. For a list of participating food shelves, dial 2-1-1 or go to [mybenefits.vt.gov](http://mybenefits.vt.gov). Call the food shelf first, before making the trip.

"The Vermont Foodbank and participating food shelves in our network are excited to be taking part in this extraordinary joint venture," said John Sayles, Vermont Foodbank CEO. "Kids can't learn on an empty stomach. The back-to-school benefit, combined with the Enhanced Food Program, will provide a much-needed boost to Vermont families and help children get back to school, ready to learn."

"Bringing donors together to support this critical need exemplifies the power of giving," said Vermont Community Foundation Vice President for Community Grantmaking Jen Peterson. "We know from working with grantees like the Vermont Foodbank the exponential benefits that nourishing Vermont's children can have. We were inspired by how quickly and generously people responded."

## Squash Festival October 16th, in Westminster West – Vendors wanted!

The Westminster West Public Library is hosting a festival of squashes this fall, on Saturday, October 16th, from 11:00 to 4:00 pm. Why squashes? Well, because they're so beautiful for one thing: winter squashes and pumpkins come in all shapes, colors and sizes; they're also delicious – and they'll be at peak flavor and sweetness by mid-October; and, the library recognizes and values the agricultural enterprises that are so important to making our community a beautiful and vibrant place to live. By celebrating squashes, we celebrate the farmers and gardeners who grow them and everyone who enjoys cooking and eating them! We hope the squash festival will give visibility to our talented farmers, cooks, and craftspeople who, we hope, will use their creativity to make this event both lively and delicious.

Just as important, of course, this is our annual summer/fall fundraiser for the "little library that could." We operate this library on a miniscule annual budget and depend on fundraising to bring in the largest portion of that budget. We will be hosting a squash café, featuring all kinds of main dishes and desserts made with squashes. We are also planning a cooking demonstration and talks on squash lore and squash growing techniques. We've created a special T-shirt, and will have markers available so you color yours in a unique way. There will also be a squash "play table," prizes for the best-dressed squash and a whole bunch of other squash-y categories, and, we'd like to have vendors selling squash, other farm products, baked goods, canned goods, and crafts. At this time we are putting out the call for vendors who would like to participate. Vendors can have a table set up in the grange building (also known as Westminster West Town Hall) or in front of the library. Vendors are asked to provide a contribution to the library in an amount they choose, or, in lieu of a contribution, we would welcome donations of squash to be used for the café, "play-table," and "best-dressed" kids' activities. Vendors who cannot be present themselves may also have library volunteers sell their products, for a 40% commission.

We are also seeking volunteers to help with the event. Volunteers can help by preparing food for the café, serving and/or cleaning up from the café, hosting vendors' tables, helping out with the kids' activities, or in any other way you can think of! To volunteer, please call the library at 387-4682, and leave a message. If you are interested in being a vendor, please contact Tatiana Schreiber at 387-2781, or [tatianas@sover.net](mailto:tatianas@sover.net), or Carlene Raper at 387-8505 or [carlene@colorquits.com](mailto:carlene@colorquits.com)

### Attention Hikers

#### Saturday September 25

Hike around Kilburn Pond in Pisgah State Park in Hinsdale, NH. The close-to-home trip is an easy 6.7 mile hike. Sponsored by the Brattleboro section of the Green Mountain Club. Free. Leader: Nick Schwab, 831-428-2719 or see [brattleborogmc.com](http://brattleborogmc.com).

## Green Mountain Power Files for Rate Adjustment of 3.1 Percent

COLCHESTER, VT--(Marketwire - July 30, 2010) - Green Mountain Power today asked the Vermont Public Service Board to authorize a 3.1 percent rate adjustment to go into effect on October 1, 2010, as part of its alternative regulation plan. The increase is primarily due to factors that affect all utilities in the region, such as the costs of reliability upgrades to the New England transmission grid.

"Our goal is to provide premier service to our customers while operating effectively to keep rates as low as possible," said Mary Powell, Green Mountain Power President and Chief Executive Officer. "We have successfully controlled operating expenses under our direct control while significantly investing in projects to benefit customers in terms of reliability and generation without compromising our ability to provide services that our customers have come to expect. In fact, GMP operations and maintenance costs have remained about flat in two years while greatly expanding our system capabilities."

More than half of the increase is due to reliability investments in the New England and Vermont transmission systems, and the rest is due to increases in taxes, depreciation and infrastructure investments.

Green Mountain Power already operates very efficiently, with the most customers served per employee of any utility in the state, and meets or exceeds very high customer service standards, such as how quickly customers' calls are answered and the reliability of the electric service.

To ensure system-wide reliability, every state pays a pro-rated share of all regional transmission reliability projects, based on its percentage of the total New England electric load. Vermont's four percent cost share requirement for the significant investments in the transmission infrastructure New England has made to meet reliability requirements contributes to this rate request. Other states, in turn, invest proportionately in Vermont transmission reliability upgrades.

Green Mountain Power's overall average rates are the lowest of the large utilities in New England and Vermont's five largest utilities, based on the most recent data available. The rate advantage is due in large part to long term contracts with Vermont Yankee and Hydro Quebec, which make up three-quarters of the Company's power supply, and to the rest of New England's heavy use of fossil fuels, which are more volatile in cost.

"We will continue to focus our efforts on delivering the most cost effective power to our customers," said Ms. Powell. "And as we work to replace expiring electric energy contracts, we are seeking the most cost competitive and reliable sources that are also low in carbon emissions and other air pollutants. This includes our preliminary agreement with Hydro Quebec, as well as our plans to purchase wind power from New Hampshire, to build a wind farm in Lowell, our investments in solar generation and upgrades to our hydro electric facilities."

Green Mountain Power has operated under an alternative regulation plan since January 2007, which streamlines regulation while retaining appropriate regulatory review. It has been effective in significantly reducing regulatory costs while offering positive risk assurances to credit rating agencies. An updated alternative regulation plan has been approved by the Vermont Public Service Board and will be in effect until September 30, 2013.

If the full rate request is approved, the monthly bill for an average residential customer using 600 kilowatt-hours would increase by \$2.91 from \$93.62 to \$96.53.

About Green Mountain Power  
Green Mountain Power (www.greenmountainpower.com) generates, transmits, distributes and sells electricity in the State of Vermont. It serves more than 175,000 people and businesses.



## Renewed Vigor and Rigor at Compass School

by Rick Gordon

Compass School has started the new year with renewed energy under the leadership of returning Director Rick Gordon. With strong enrollment filling the middle school and most high school grades, Compass has invested in developing its programs and resources to assure powerful and diverse learning experiences for all.

Two themes for the year at Compass are Quality and Consistency. The staff this year is probably the strongest overall in the school's 12 year history. In addition to all the returning teachers, Compass welcomes back math wizard Alexandra Zuser from an extended maternity leave, along with new Science-Math teacher Julian Leon who comes to us from Springfield, Bethany Hobbs returning full time after her internship last year, and two great new interns from SIT's SPARK program.

The school looks great with all sorts of fresh, new resources—10 new iMacs in our new computer lab, fancy networked printers, new carpeting, replaced water efficient toilets, and a fleet of matching new vacuums that are favorites with students who all help out with the responsibility of cleaning the building.

One of the most exciting changes for the year relate to rethinking the afterschool exploratory program to increase rigor and relevance. In a change proposed by the students, Compass will offer less options for Monday and Tuesday, which will be all quarter-long, two-day, in-depth "Intensive" courses in Art, Music, Sports, and Service. Thursday will continue as more open exploratories to allow students to try out new learning opportunities.

Compass has hired highly regarded Choral Director Julia Sloan to help create a culture of singing at Compass. Chorus will be a music intensive throughout the year, and even on the first day, the Compass community was uplifted by all school singing of a Native American song of hope.

As always, Compass is aiming to connect students to the community beyond the school walls. If there are community projects Compass could help with, please contact the school. Or come visit to check out all the great energy at the school.

**STOP  
FOR  
SCHOOL  
BUSES**

## WESTMINSTER GAZETTE

**Editor:** Peggy Porter

**Board of Directors:**

Elizabeth Harlow - Chairwoman

Ronnie Friedman

Toby Young

Cynthia Stoddard

Darlene Kelly

**Pictures and Articles  
Provided by the Community  
[westminsternews@gmail.com](mailto:westminsternews@gmail.com)**



## Bellows Falls Farmers' Market

This is the time of year when I can safely say that almost any farm raised product you could possibly want is available at your local Farmers Market – watermelons, cantaloupe, sugar babies and musk melons, tomatoes, carrots, enough summer squash to last through fall, potatoes in fantastic colors and sizes, peppers of the rainbow, beans, cabbage, artichokes, blueberries, raspberries, peaches and plums, fresh beef, chicken, pork and lamb.

As always we have maple syrup, pies, cookies, breads of all kinds, prepared foods like local sausage, Vietnamese Cuisine, Dim Sum and assorted items inspired by the seasonal bounty.

Harvest Health Coupons are here and flying out of the market. Come use your EBT/3Squares dollars and receive matching money up to \$10.00.

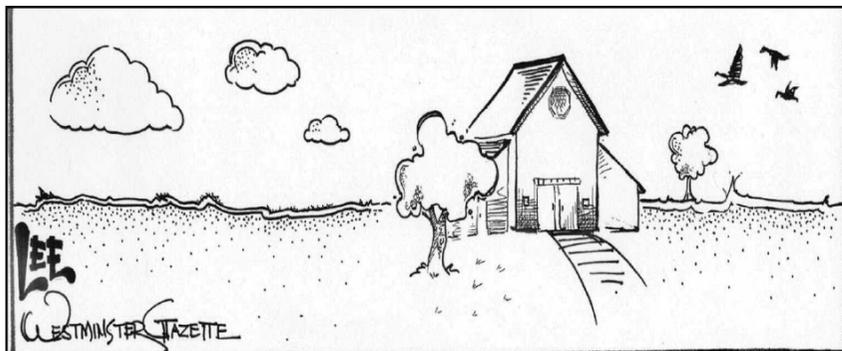
Don't Miss -September 10th Donald Saff and the Bluebird String Band and September 24th Sandglass Theatre performs at the BFFM.

FUNDRAISER – Sunday September 26th the Bellows Falls Farmers' Market will be sponsoring a "Safety Break" at the Exit 1 Welcome Center on I-91. Our goal is to raise \$500 for the BFFM. We can only accomplish this with your help so if you have ever wanted the opportunity to support your local Farmers' Market, here it is!!! We need individually wrapped baked goods (cookies, brownies, bars), snacks (gold fish, pretzels, gorp), fruit (apples, bananas, what's in season), sodas, water, cider, and coffee to be offered to Vermont travelers and tourists. As always we support the use of local products and encourage you to bake items using seasonal treats like pumpkin and apple or maple syrup and honey in place of sweeteners. – Anyone interested in baking, donating time, energy or resources please contact Mandy at the BFFM or at bellowsfallsmarket@gmail.com.

Upcoming Event -The BFFM in partnership with SoverNet will be hosting community events for this year's annual Harvest Festival. Students from area schools will be participating in a 5K walk/run to raise money for the Vermont Food Bank. The 5K will end at the Farmers' Market where the Food Bank food truck will be making veggie juice and smoothies made with local food. There will be a goat "walk" (come see it to believe it) music from the Main Street Arts string band and a Jump Rope contest.

The Bellows Falls Farmers Market is held every Friday from 4-7 pm and is located at The Waypoint Center, on the Island in Bellows Falls, Vermont.

Underwriting support from Bellows Falls Downtown Development Alliance, Springfield Hospital, Chittenden Bank, Village Square Booksellers, NOFA, Boccelli's on the Canal, SoverNet, Flying Under Radar, LLC, Vermonts Local Banquet and Hunter Studio.



## THINK LIKE A PLANT

by Babs Lynde, a Vermont Master Gardener

I've been asked many times this summer when the best time would be to separate clumping plants like daffodils, daylilies, hostas, irises and peonies. My answer is to "think like a plant!" One day your roots are all alone and free to roam in nice comfortable soil, and before you know it, all your offspring are enjoying it, too, and they refuse to move out of your space. Next thing you know, your roots are crowded, barely able to breathe, and you'd like to feel the freedom you once knew! So what do you do?

If the plant roots are so compacted that they are crammed together, then it's time to do some manual separations. You might feel some trepidation or anxiety about the process, but if you decide to leave your crowded plants alone, they may end up choking to death. Separating plants also gives you the chance to propagate and grow more plants elsewhere on your property, which is certainly much cheaper than heading to the store to buy more.

With few exceptions, most of our clumping plants can be separated in the late summer or early fall (August to September.) If you "think like a plant," then you will realize this makes the most sense because plants should not be transplanted while they are in their blooming stages because this is the period when they need their nutrition the most, and moving them in the summertime means you will be watering them every day for a longer period of time due to the heat. This summer has been unusually long and dry so wait until all plants are done blooming, and then transplant them once the high temperatures of the summer have broken and the days are cooler.

Always have their new "beds" ready and waiting for them first, even if that means preparing these spots a day or two in advance. Depending on how many plants need to be broken apart or divided, this one chore can be pretty wearisome, and you don't want to put off digging additional beds and leaving the newly exposed

## SEVCA Seeking Participants for Matched Savings Program

Brattleboro- Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) announces that it has spaces available for its matched savings program, the Vermont IDA (Individual Development Account), available for low-income residents of Windsor and Windham Counties. The program encourages participants to make regular deposits into a special savings account in order to start a small business, save for the purchase of a home or towards post-secondary education for themselves or their children. The savings deposits are matched 2:1, if a participant saves the maximum of \$1,000 over a two-year period, the savings will be matched \$2,000 and they will end up with \$3,000 to put towards their purchase.

An eight part financial literacy workshop series is required to enhance knowledge and skills pertaining to personal finance and money management in preparation for regular savings and asset ownership. Additional training for specific savings goals is provided through the following program partners: Windham Housing Trust, Rockingham Area Community Land Trust, USDA, VSAC, and VT/NH Consumer Credit Counseling and SEVCA's Micro Business Development Program. The next series of classes is scheduled to start on Wednesday, September 29th from 6 to 8 PM at the Marlboro College Technology Center in Brattleboro. Classes will be held every Wednesday night through November 17, 2010.

To see if you meet eligibility requirements for this program contact Karen Perlberg at 802-722-4575, ext. 151 (toll-free 800-464-9951, ext. 151) or e-mail kperlberg@sevca.org

## KURN HATTIN TO HOST INVITATIONAL CROSS COUNTRY MEETS

Westminster-Kurn Hattin Homes will be hosting the 2010 Invitational Cross-Country Meets in September and October. Kurn Hattin is located on Kurn Hattin Road in Westminster, Vermont.

The meets are on Wednesdays, September 29th, and October 20th. Walking the course starts at 3:30 p.m. and the meet starts at 4:00 p.m.

The events are open to girls and boys, grades 1-8 at no cost.

Division I is 6, 7, 8 year olds for a half mile course.

Division II is 9, 10, 11 year olds for a one mile course.

Division III is 12, 13 & 14 year olds for a mile and a half (dirt & grass) course.

Ribbons will be awarded for first, second and third place finishers in each division for boys and girls. All runners are given a participation ribbon.

This event is sponsored by the Kurn Hattin Athletic Department. Organizations can sign up for one, two or all three meets. Meet Director is Mrs. Donna Fahner. Contact Dave Baldasaro at (802) 721-6928 or 802-721-6946 (weekdays) for information or to register.

Food & drink concession will be available.

No Entry fee.

**Westminster  
Cares inc.**

Community Nurse

Trudy Byington, R.N.

P.O. Box 312

802-722-3607

Westminster, VT 05158 [wecares@sover.net](mailto:wecares@sover.net)

roots to the elements for any real length of time. Although it is not necessary, lining the new beds with fresh compost will give your plants an extra dose of good nutrients to encourage better growth.

Now comes the moment when you must decide how to separate them. Some plants, like bearded irises and peonies are usually not that difficult. The tubers can be easily broken apart and separated, but other plants like Siberian irises or daylilies can be a nightmare. Roots can be so entangled that they almost appear to be growing into one another. You have a few choices: you can use a pitchfork, shovel, your hands or a heavy duty pair of scissors, like chicken scissors (which are my favorite for nearly everything!) Whatever method you choose, try not to think of it as though you're damaging the plants by cutting or breaking through the roots. Most plants can handle some root damage and in a year or two, you won't even know that they were separated from their parents.

After you have transplanted your new smaller clumps or divided plants, place them in their prepared surroundings and generously water them before you finish covering them with soil. This will help to fill in any large air pockets beneath the roots that would invite cold or freezing air a few months later. Next, cover them with more soil and drench them good another time. Remember that bearded irises don't like their tubers covered or they won't bloom the following years. Water all your new beds, as well as the parent bed, for several days thereafter. Give them a little extra care before winter sets in by covering them with leaves or straw. All this good loving will give you healthier plants for many years to come.

Would you like more information about clumping plants? 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.

# Aged in Vermont

Westminster Cares, Inc.

## Our End of Life Letters

By Ray Walker

Having our life prolonged as long as possible is one thing, but having our death a prolonged event is an altogether different matter. Medical science has the ability to keep our bodies going long after our spirits have departed and our purses are empty. Protection from too much treatment is available to us through what is now called the Advance Directive, previously known as a combination of the Living Will and Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care.

Let's be clear: Advance Directives should not be thought of as legal instruments. Rather, as forms, they provide us the opportunity to state the kind of treatment we would want in our latter days. In the event we are no longer able to make health care decisions, we can name other(s) who know what we want and can act and decide on our behalf. In effect, they are letters to our family and doctors.

It has been shown that hope near life's end is a vital boost to morale, and this hope derives from having some control over events. This is what Advance Directives offer. We have the chance to choose and to limit, often, the treatments available. We can put a brake on the sheer momentum of treatment.

What is most crucial about Advance Directives is, first, they give us a way of thinking about our latter days, and second, provide us with a vehicle to talk to our family and doctor about our views. It is important not only that we make out these forms, but that we distribute them to all who have any voice or concern about our dying.

Then follows the most important element – a conversation with family members who will be involved in those latter days. It is this conversation, the conveyance of our wishes in dialogue form, that enhances the possibility our wishes will be fulfilled at life's end. If those wishes are not being fulfilled in the hospital, families have the ability to call into session the hospital's ethics committee to make clear to all our choices and wishes.

Westminster Cares has the necessary forms available for you. It is best and easiest to fill out these forms in conversation with someone. Westminster Cares can contact Ray Walker, M.D., to be available to answer your questions and help you fill out your Advance Directive. You can choose a place convenient for you. There is no charge for the service.

Dr. Ray Walker helps people in Windham County write Advance Directives. He has been a psychoanalyst in the Jungian tradition and now resides in Guilford, Vt.

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

Ideas for future columns? We'd like to hear from you. Email Ronnie Friedman at [wecares@sover.net](mailto:wecares@sover.net).

## WESTMINSTER CARES, INC.

The Westminster Cares, Inc. Board of Directors met on September 1st, 2010. 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.

**Programs:** Programs held in July and August: 4 Secrets of Healthy Aging session, 9 Yoga classes, 9 Artist in Each of Us classes, 43 People Exercising classes held.

**Services Provided Include:** Meals-on-Wheels to 13 people; 52 rides for 15 different people by 7 volunteers for a total of 860 miles; 9 clients were helped under the Nursing Program; several pieces of medical equipment were loaned out; and volunteers visited three people, arranged for house cleaning for 3 residents: youth program worker helping a couple with housework and gardening and helping another person stacking wood. Kurn Hattin students stacked wood for a neighbor.

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 email at [wecares@sover.net](mailto:wecares@sover.net).

**Equipment needed:** Westminster Cares is in need of wheel chairs and walkers with seats and brakes. We get several calls for these items. If anyone has either of these in good condition we would love to have them to loan out. Or loan them to us.

**Equipment available:** Wheel chair, walkers, hospital bed and an upholstered lift chair.

**Thank-yous:** We would like to thank Barbara and Peter Bazin for donating 3 storage bays to us each year so we can maintain a good supply of equipment to loan out.

We would also like to thank Sovernet for once again donating a year of internet service.

90 Year Olds 3rd annual celebration and Westminster Cares Annual Meeting Sunday November 14th from 2 PM to 4 PM. If you are a resident of Westminster and you are 90 years old or older, this party is for you. If anyone knows of a 90 year old from Westminster please contact them and Westminster Cares so we may get them an invitation. This is a fun filled and rewarding event. Everyone is welcome.

**Memorial donations received for the month of August:**

From Mary Brandt in memory of Eugene & Evelyn Metcalf

The following August donations have been made in memory of Pat Jennison: Phyllis and Hank Anderson, Dennis and Nora Payne, Walt Jennison, Mary Brandt, Betty Holton, Alice Cobb and the Hat Group, Lillian Austin, Mary and Fred Robling, Margery Hurd, the Westminster Living Strong Program

The following August donations have been made in memory of Marie Wright:

Walt Jennison, Susan Roman, Regena Cote, Simone and Lee Murray, Faith Pepe, Mary and Frank Mitchell, Marc Poissant, Judy and Allen Halberg, Cyndy Prozzo, Beverly Poissant & family, Heidi Meyer, Allison and David Deen, Maureen and Alan Pidgeon, Vicki Gragen, Carol Austin, Phyllis and Hank Anderson, the Windham Regional Commission, Ronnie & Richard Friedman, Caroline Wheeler, Pat and Bob Haas, Dave and Ruth Babbie, May M. Long, Rolling Wheels Sams, Joel and Arnice Long, Pat and Bob Haas, Pete and Judy Harrison, Caroline Nash, Randy and Bev Major, Richard and Nancy Guthrie, George and Susan Sumner, William Johnson, John and Mary Hackett and The Westminster Historical Society.

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



### Where is this farm located and what did it produce?

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 winners will be announced in the next issue.

**August Answer:** Was Court House Hill (area between the present day Goodell Farm & the old Court House) also known now as U S Route 5. There was a parade going on in the picture (the photo is labeled 1914) but we don't know what the occasion is, so we're hoping that someone knows that answer.

#### August Winners:

Bernie Lawrence, Don Nowers, David Wright, Hank Anderson and Artie Aiken.

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

### 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.

Next association meeting September 7th at 7:00 PM

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

September meetings: September 13th & 27th

Number of calls in July: 31

Number of man hours spent: 17,577

Number of calls through August 31st: 32

Number of man hours spent: 13,034

Number of calls calendar year to Date: 235

Number of calls fiscal year to date: 63

**Burn Permits:** As of this writing because of the lack of rain, no burn permits will be issued until a substantial amount of rain falls.

Warden : Cole Streeter 722-3178

Deputy Warden: Mark Lund 463-9355

Deputy Warden: Pat Haas 387-5778

Key Person: Jeff Ruggiero 463-3282

**Association Meeting:** The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association met for their regular meeting August 3rd with 23 members present and 9 members excused. Two new members were welcomed, Paul Millman and Beth Lynde.

**Truck Show:** The annual Truck Show was held July 31st and was very well attended. A huge thanks goes out to the members of the Fire Department who worked so hard cooking and feeding so many hungry people, both spectators and show people.

**Corn Roast:** The annual corn roast was held August 20th with over 70 people attending from 20 fire departments. The event is sponsored every year by the Westminster Fire Department as a way of getting together with men and women from neighboring departments for a purely social gathering. Chief Streeter wishes to thank the many people who contributed to the event.

#### Coming Events:

Fire Prevention Day October 8th at the fire station.

First Responders Course October 1st – December 1st at the fire station Tuesdays and Thursdays. There is limited space available. Interested parties should contact Chief Cole Streeter.

**Tips for cold weather:** It's only early September but it not too soon to think about getting furnaces and pellet stoves cleaned and stoves and chimneys for those burning wood. Hopefully the wood burners have adequately seasoned wood by now. If your wood isn't properly seasoned it will make creosote and be a potential hazard for a chimney fire.

**Back to School:** Now that school is back in session be extra cautious when driving near school zones. Always stop for buses picking up or discharging passengers. Watch for walkers and bikers as well. Driving slowly in those areas makes everyone much safer.

**THANKS:** Chief Cole Streeter wishes to thank the many people who helped in so many ways during the fire in the village last month. It was a good save. Because of the skills of the many firefighters the fire was contained to the attached barn. Departments from Walpole, Putney, Bellows Falls, Saxtons River and North Walpole were a part of the call and did a fine job. And special thanks to the many local people who brought in food to the fire station. It was very much appreciated.

#### 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.

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

Donation received for the month of August:

In memory of Pat Jennison from Walt Jennison 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 and a rescue vehicle located in Westminster West and more help is needed to utilize that equipment during calls.

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

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

**WESTMINSTERNEWS@GMAIL.COM**

# WESTMINSTER HAPPENINGS

Activities

Faith Community

Meetings

## Scottish Country Dance

### Classes

Every Wednesday @ 7:30 pm 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. @ 12:00 pm. All Westminster seniors are invited to attend. Join us at the First Congregational Church on Route 5

### Bellows Falls Gallery

Downtown @ 5:30pm 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 at 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Call Westminster Cares at 722-3607 for more information

### Contra Dance

Every 3rd Saturday of month at 7:30pm @ 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 Strong Classes

Mondays & Thursdays @The First Congregational Church in Westminster 9:00 to 10:00 am

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

Call Westminster Cares for more Information: 722-3607.

## The First Congregational Church of Westminster

United Church of Christ  
The Rev. Sami Jones McRae, Pastor  
samimcrae@gmail.com

Sunday Worship at 10:00am

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

## 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 cwww@sover.net

**Selectboard** meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7:00 pm in the Town Hall.

**Planning and Development Commission** meets the 2nd Monday at 7:00 pm in the Town Hall.

## Westminster Activities Commission

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

## Westminster School Board

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

## Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association

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

## Westminster West Public Library Board

2nd Monday at 7:00 pm at the Westminster West Public Library

## Development Review Board

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

## Community Improvement Program Committee

meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm.

**Westminster Cares Board** 1st Wednesday of every month, at the Westminster Fire Station at 4:00 pm.

**Westminster Institute Board** 1st Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm. at the Institute.

**911 Committee** meets as needed.

**The Westminster Fire & Rescue Dept** holds their monthly meetings on the 1st Tuesday of every month , @ 7:00 pm and a combined drill on the 3rd Tuesday of every month.

**Westminster Historical Society** 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 pm at the Westminster Institute.

**Westminster Gazette Meeting**, Thursday, September 23, at 7:30am @ Westminster Cares

## Westminster Recycling Committee

Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm at the Westminster Fire Station

## Preparation is Key to Preventing Storm Damage to Trees

Westminster, VT- Every time there is a wind storm in our area, friends and clients of All Seasons Tree Service ask, "Have you been busy after that last storm?". The answer is yes and no. Regular customers of All Seasons Tree Service who have a plant health care plan, often have fewer "surprises" after a storm. However, there are always new clients requesting help with storm damage. Are you and your trees safe from the possible wrath of Mother Nature? Thousands of trees and communities are damaged annually by heavy rains, wind, and ice. But yours can be spared from the worst damage by following a few practical suggestions.

"Being proactive by recognizing and reducing tree hazards in advance of a storm is important. Taking action before a storm hits not only increases the safety of your property and that of your neighbors, but also improves the tree's health and may increase its longevity," warns Kevin Shrader, ISA Certified Arborist and owner of All Seasons Tree Service.

"Beware of potential hazards" cautions Shrader. "Look for cracks in the trunk of major limbs; hollow, aged, and decayed trees; one-sided or significantly leaning trees; branches that hang over the house near the roof or in close proximity of utility lines," he advises.

Take precautions to prevent damage. Remove dead, diseased, and damaged limbs. Consider removing trees with large cavities of decay. Leaning trees may indicate a root problem; have them inspected. Branches too close to your house, a building, or the street should be pruned to provide clearance. Branches that are too close or touching utility lines need to be pruned or removed. If this work is needed, report it to your local utility company- DO NOT prune the tree yourself.

As we have seen in Vermont, heavy rains and strong wind can cause trees to crack, split, and even uproot. Severe storms with heavy rains can soak the soil so thoroughly that tree roots cannot stay fastened in the ground during strong winds. A Certified Arborist can help determine if broken trunks and limbs should be removed or if uprooted trees can be saved or replanted.

Believe it or not, most storm damaged trees can be saved with proper care. Ice storm damaged trees are dormant in the winter, so damage during this time is not as serious as in the growing season. Have your damaged trees inspected as soon as possible by a professional and pruned as needed. Limbs with open breaks and cracks should be removed.

For more information, visit All Season Tree Service at [www.allseason-vt.net](http://www.allseason-vt.net) or call 802-722-3008 to schedule an appointment. Materials for this article provided by International Society of Arboriculture, a nonprofit organization supporting tree care research around the world [www.isa-arbor.com](http://www.isa-arbor.com).

## Westminster Elementary Fall Calendar

### September 6: NOSCHOOL – Labor Day

14:West School PTO Mtg – 6:30  
20– 24: 5th grade to Camp Keewaydin  
28:Curriculum Night – 5:30 – 7:00 @ Center School  
29:NO SHOOOL – teacher Network Day  
30:5/6 to Latchis Theater to hear Katherine Paterson

### October 1:School Picture Day

19:Open House Harvest Festival – 5:30 @ West; 6:00–7:00 @ Center  
21/22:NO SCHOOL – Teacher Convention  
29:Halloween Parade – 1:30 @ Center School  
October: all month Westminster Schools student art on display at the Peoples United (formerly Chittenden) Bank In Bellows Falls

### November 3:Middle School Awareness Night – 6:00

10– 17: Book Fair @ Center School Library  
11:NO SCHOOL – Parent Conference Day  
23:All-school Thanksgiving Feast @ Center School 12:00  
24– 26: Thanksgiving Break

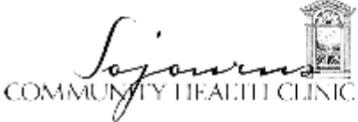
**School Board Meetings 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month  
At Center School or @ West on 1st Tuesday of the even months**

## FACT TV Annual Meeting September 8th, 2010

by: Suzanne Groenewold

Falls Area Community Television (FACT TV) is holding its annual meeting of the corporation on Wednesday, September 8th, 2010 at 6pm at Boccelli's on Canal St. Bellows Falls. This meeting is open to the public. Members of FACT TV will elect board members. Anyone interested in serving on the FACT TV board should contact FACT TV to get a Board of Director Letter of Interest form filled out and submitted no later than 2 weeks prior to the meeting. FACT TV will also acknowledge producers who have made programming possible on channels 8 and 10. For more information, call FACT TV at 463-1613 or visit us on the web at [www.fact8.com](http://www.fact8.com).

**The Deadline for The October 2010 Issue of the Westminster Gazette is: Thursday September 30th by 5:00 pm**



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**SIGN UP NOW FOR SPRINGFIELD HOSPITAL GOLF CHALLENGE, SEPTEMBER 23RD**

SPRINGFIELD, VT — 10 for the 10th in '10 is how it's being billed. To celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Springfield Hospital Challenge golf tournament in 2010, organizers have added 10 new features to what is already one of the premier benefit tournaments in the region.

Besides the excellent amenities of beautiful Okemo Valley Golf Club in Ludlow, golfers have always received a special gift in addition to a box lunch at registration, complimentary refreshments on the course, and a post-event buffet.

At this year's birthday edition each golfer will also receive a one-of-a-kind clock made of local marble by Vermont Stoneworks of Chester. Golfers will receive a sparking cider toast on the 10th tee (in preparation for having to putt with a hospital crutch on the 10th green).

There are more team prizes, separated into flights, and trophies are specially designed and donated by NBC Solid Surfaces. And of course there will be a birthday cake for all.

All of this plus the usual hole-in-one prizes on all par 3 holes, including \$25,000 cash and a new vehicle. A putting contest is a chance to win a cash prize plus there are prizes for longest putt and straightest drive. Raffles make sure that everyone goes home a winner.

A four-player scramble, the Springfield Hospital Challenge has a shotgun start at 12:30 pm on Thursday, September 23. Players can enter as a team or as individuals. The entry fee for this fundraiser is \$150 per person.

The proceeds from this year's tournament will help support Springfield Medical Care System's new Community Health Center in Springfield in the renovated Fellows Building.

To enter or sponsor the 10th annual Springfield Hospital Challenge, call Larry Kraft, Director of the SMCS Foundation, at 885-7644 or lkraft@springfieldmed.org .

**Westminster West Library's popular Family Movie Night** series continues on Friday, September 17th. The program begins at 6:30PM with short animation films from the Scholastic Video Collection, including **THE MAN WHO WALKED BETWEEN THE TOWERS**, inspired by the true story of Philippe Petit and his daring 1974 high wire walk between the twin towers of the World Trade Center. The main feature, at 7:00PM, is **FLY AWAY HOME** (PG 1996), the story of a young girl who goes to live with her estranged, eccentric father following the death of her mother. At first she's withdrawn and reclusive, but finds renewed happiness when she adopts an orphaned flock of baby geese and, later, teaches them to migrate using an ultralight aircraft. A sweet film with fantastic aerial photography. Admission is free, everyone's invited, plenty of popcorn. For more information, email westwestflicks at gmail dot com, or call David at 802-869-2697.

**See you there!**

**PVA Hockey sign-ups and family picnic**

Winter goes by fast for hockey players. Pleasant Valley Hockey Association (PVA) will be hosting a picnic for all interested boys/girls ages 4-17 and their families, on Saturday, September 11th from 4-7 p.m. at the Polish American Picnic grounds on Darby Hill in Bellows Falls, VT. We will provide hot dogs and hamburgers & soft drinks. Feel free to bring a side dish to share. New to hockey? Come meet the coaches and PVA board of directors. PVA plays hockey at Vermont Academy. Practice is two nights a week with games on weekends. The season starts in late October and runs through February. Hockey equipment is supplied for beginning players ages 4-7. PVA also has equipment swaps and trade-ups for all ages. Players will be required to register with USA Hockey, as well as PVA. For more information go to [www.pvahockey.org](http://www.pvahockey.org).



This year the **Westminster West Community Fair** is on Saturday September 11th. The theme is "If You Can't Be Nice, Get Off The Bus." Sally Ryea will be Grand Marshall and we will celebrate her retirement from school bus driving. Please join in marching in the parade. Other events include: music on the lawn, the veggie chop-o-matic, the fun run, a silent auction, the talent show, a chicken barbeque, the awesome Golden elephant sale and more!

It's fun for the whole family and the biggest fundraiser of the year for the little village church in Westminster West – a wonderful resource that serves our whole community.

So, as you clean out your attic, basement, or garage please keep the fair in mind. Set aside treasures to donate for both the silent auction and the tag sale. Please no computers or TVs. **Come join in the fun!**

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**Small Business Workshops Planned at SEVCA**

Westminster. Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA), in conjunction with the Vermont Women's Business Center (VWBC), will present two workshops in September geared toward small business owners. The workshops are open to anyone currently running or planning to start their own business.

**"Sales & Use Taxes:** What Vermont Businesses Need to Know" will be the topic of the workshop on Thursday, September 16 from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. at the Waypoint Center, 17 Depot Square, Bellows Falls. Everyone who shops in Vermont knows we pay sales tax, but do you know what you have to do as a business owner to comply with tax regulations? Learn how to collect and report sales & use, meals & lodging taxes. Annette Spaulding, of Spaulding & Madden Tax Services, LLC, explains tax issues in an engaging way to give you the information you need to get started and help you get clear answers to your specific questions from the Vermont Department of Taxes.

**"Better than Break Even: Pricing for Profit"** is the topic for the workshop on Thursday, September 23 from 4:30 – 7:30 p.m. to be held at SEVCA, 91 Buck Drive, Westminster. Figuring out what to charge for a product or service can be tricky for businesses starting out. Even small businesses that have been around for awhile may wonder if they are setting their prices correctly. How do you figure out if a new product or service will be break even? Learn how to set prices so that you can run your business profitably. Susan Brace, business counselor at SEVCA and an experienced teacher and small business manager, will lead this session.

Participants in the evening workshop are invited to bring a bag supper to enjoy while networking with other small business owners. To register for these free workshops, call Susan Brace at 802-722-4575 ext. 199. The Vermont Women's Business Center is a project of Central Vermont Community Action Council, Inc., funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made, if requested at least two weeks in advance. The Vermont Women's Business Center is a project of the Central Vermont Community Action Council, Inc. They can be reached at 800-266-4062.

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**MAPS, GEOGRAPHY and SENSE of PLACE**  
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The Westminster Historical Society Annual Meeting  
On September 20th @ 7 pm, at the Westminster Fire House on Grout Avenue.

Jeff Nugent will present a slide show and talk that looks at the quirks and nuances of how we relate to, and map our landscape. Experience how maps have changed as our society has changed over time, and discover what landmarks connect us to our communities and help to build a "sense of place." The presentation explores many special places in Windham County and beyond through maps old and new.

A brief business meeting and raffle drawing will precede the program, refreshments will follow it. Raffle tickets for our great prizes will be available before the meeting.

Everyone come and enjoy a pleasant evening.  
Information at (802) 387-5778.

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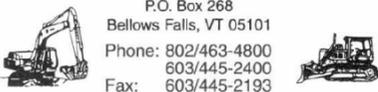
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**Business of the Month - Heidi Bernier**

As a lifelong native of Vermont, with nearly 15 years experience as a Real Estate Agent, licensed in both Vermont and New Hampshire, I offer my customers and clients a keen knowledge of the area and the local real estate market. I take pride in providing personalized service, catering to the individual requirements of my clients and customers, along with providing a creative marketing approach. Trained in representation of homebuyers as well as sellers, I earned my CBR designation (certified buyer representative) in 1996. If you are considering selling or buying property, I would be happy to be of assistance.

I've raised two children who attended both local public and private schools. I am now enjoying a granddaughter, who is enrolled at The Green Valley School in Westminister West where I reside. It's mission is to "cultivate health, freedom, and a reverence for the natural world for children,

family and the community." This program suits my sensibilities well. I never take for granted how fortunate I am to live in such a wonderful place. I come from several generations of Vermonters, most of whom live in the area. My family is comprised of Maple Sugar makers, Masons, Woodworkers, Builders and Teachers.

Some of my favorite activities include cooking and gardening. With all the terrific local farmstands and co-ops, finding local quality food is not a problem. Hiking/walking, cross-county skiing, snowshoeing, kyacking and cycling are favorite outdoor activities of mine.

I love the Real Estate business, and very much enjoy sharing my knowledge of the area and all it offers with potential clients and customers.

View my listings at: [www.berkleyveller.com](http://www.berkleyveller.com)

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**The Westminister Fire & Rescue Department is hosting a Children's Halloween Party and Haunted Graveyard on Saturday, October 30 at the Westminister Fire Station on Groat Avenue from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.**



This occasion will be FREE to all, and children must be accompanied by an adult for entry.

In order for this party to be a success for our children, we are looking for people willing to participate and/or donations of Halloween decorations in good shape, candy and other foods. We also need people willing to be part of the tour or graveyard displays.

If you are interested or have a donation to make, please contact Babs Lynde at 722-9516 or send email to [blujeens@comcast.net](mailto:blujeens@comcast.net).



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