

# Westminster Gazette



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Our Community Newspaper @ www.westminstervt.org

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## Kurn Hattin Honors Alumni at 120th Anniversary

Kurn Hattin Homes for Children hosted a weekend of special events August 1-3 to celebrate the 120th year of the school's founding and the centennial anniversary of its Alumni Association. Kurn Hattin, located in Westminster, is a year-round home and school serving boys and girls in grades K-8 who are from disadvantaged backgrounds. Graduates from as far back as the early 1940s returned to the Westminster campus to reunite and reminisce with classmates, friends, and staff.

Among the alums in attendance was Kurn Hattin graduate and renowned jazz trombonist, Dick Nash (Class of 1942), along with his two sons—Grammy-nominated saxophonist, Ted Nash, and founder of Nash Guitars, Bill Nash—and several members of the extended family.

Dick Nash grew up in Boston and came to Kurn Hattin Homes for Children at the age of 11 after losing both parents to illness. He picked up his first trombone in the Kurn Hattin band and upon graduating, returned to Boston to study under the legendary John Coffey of the Boston Symphony Orchestra and finish his degree at Berklee School of Music.

He eventually went on to become one of the most recorded trombonists in history.

His unmistakable, smooth trombone sound is featured on all of Henry Mancini's albums, as well as thousands of motion picture and television soundtracks, including *Breakfast at Tiffany's* and the John Wayne film *Hatari*. His son, Ted Nash, is a New York-based jazz saxophonist whose 2010 album *Portrait in*

*Seven Shades* garnered two Grammy nominations.

The 86-year-old Nash made the trip to Vermont from his home in Los Angeles to accept Kurn Hattin's Alumni Lifetime Achievement Award at a special ceremony Saturday evening at the Saxton's River Inn. The award honors a Kurn Hattin graduate who has gone on to make significant, lasting positive contributions to his or her community and to the world.

The school's Development Director, Kim Fine, presented the award, saying "Dick Nash is a wonderful personification of the values and principles that are the cornerstones of our mission at Kurn Hattin—resilience, hard work, dedica-



Famed trombonist Dick Nash, center, accepts a life time achievement award at Kurn Hattin Homes.

tion, self-reliance, humility, and generosity, to name a few."

Nash's son Ted, who took time out from his busy tour schedule with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra to attend the ceremony, presented the elder Nash with a bound book of letters written in the 1930s between Kurn Hattin's then director, W.I. Mayo and Dick Nash's guardians, as well as original letters written by Nash as a young man. The letters, which had been preserved in Kurn Hattin's archives, thanked Kurn Hattin for having given Nash his start in music.

Upon accepting the Kurn Hattin Lifetime Achievement award, Nash said, "This award means more than all the others because this is where it all began."

## SOLARIZATION PROGRAM COMES TO WESTMINSTER

At their Aug. 12 meeting the Selectboard formally acknowledged a Solarize program for Westminster. Solarize is a phenomenon that is sweeping the country by bringing discounted solar energy systems to homeowners and businesses.

The way it works is this: a town decides to do a Solarize program and a solar installation company offers a limited-time discount price. The more people who sign up for the program, the cheaper it is for everyone involved.

"Solar is popping up everywhere, and why not benefit from your Town's participation as a whole" said Town Manager Russ Hodgkins. "This is a way for a lot of homeowners to make it happen for themselves and participate in a Statewide program which promotes renewable energy resources."

The Westminster Solarize program will formally launch on Thursday, Sept. 11 at 6 p. with a kickoff event at the Westminster Institute. Representatives from the company involved – RGS Energy – and Solarize Windham County will be there to describe the program in detail and answer questions.

"This first Solarize program in Westminster will formally end on December 31st," said Tad Montgomery, founder of Solarize Windham. "That is the final deadline for residents to be eligible for the Vermont state solar incentive, which can be up to \$2,500 for a household."

The tiered structure works like this: the first nine or so households sign up at the Tier 1 price. As soon as the 10th household signs up the price for everyone drops to the Tier 2 level. When it gets to the 20th household the price drops again to the Tier 3 level, then Tier 4 at 30 households and Tier 5 at 50 households.

"We are able to offer these great prices through the power of bulk purchasing," says Eric Wilson, Western New England director for RGS Energy. "When there are a lot of solar installations in one town it makes our job much easier. We pass those savings on to our customers. At the same time, our company has a policy of using high-quality American-made components, some of which are manufactured right here in Vermont. RGS is the result of Real Goods Solar from California merging with Solar Works, founded in Montpelier in 1980. We are proud of our local roots."

"The Solarize process starts with people signing up for a free site visit," said Montgomery, "and Toby Young was the first person to get a Solarize site visit in Westminster. A solar expert will come to your house and help you to assess whether solar would be effective on your roof or in your yard. They will present you with a proposal, discuss all of the pertinent details and talk with you about different financing options." To schedule a site visit go to the [www.SolarizeWindham.com](http://www.SolarizeWindham.com) Web site and click on the 'Sign Up' page.



The September kickoff event will have refreshments, be a chance for people in town to get to know the program and possibly volunteer to be a part of the Solarize campaign. "The greatest success for a Solarize program comes when a few people step forward from the local community to help orchestrate it," said Montgomery. "It can really have a barn-raising feel. One person will be connected to a church where they can announce the program, another to the local business community. A third person will know how to plug the Solarize into a harvest festival or a Christmas bazaar, and a fourth will have an idea for organizing solar house parties. Then the whole thing takes on a life of its own." The kickoff event will include other home energy experts as well as representatives from financial institutions that specialize in loans for home energy projects.

Montgomery is helping towns throughout Windham County to launch Solarize programs and is working with the Clean Energy Collective to offer a Community Solar option for people who cannot put solar at their homes for one reason or another. He sits on the Brattleboro Energy Committee and works with both the Windham Regional Commission and Windham Solid Waste Management District to develop renewable energy projects. Other towns that are considering Solarize programs include Townshend (adopted Aug. 18th), Dummerston, Newfane and Windham.

## SPECIAL EDUCATOR KELLIE CROWDER JOINS COMPASS SCHOOL FACULTY

Director Rick Gordon has announced the appointment of Kellie Crowder as Compass School's new Director of Student Support Services. An experienced and energetic educator, Kellie has previously served as a special education teacher at Leland and Gray High School and as learning skills and math instructor at Vermont Academy. Kellie holds a BA in Biology from University of Colorado, Boulder and an MA Secondary School Science and Special Education from Mercy College in New York.

Reflecting on her career, Kelly writes, "In the seven years I have lived in southern Vermont, I have enjoyed the lifestyle and natural beauty that I missed from my time in Colorado, and equally value being close to family for frequent visits. My diverse experience in education has allowed me to gain a unique perspective and to gather a hefty toolbox of teaching strategies. I look forward to bringing all of this and more to the Compass community."

Former colleagues praise her energy and enthusiasm as well as her ability to build trust and individualize instructional modes to fit a student's learning profile. "Kellie is deeply invested in the success and personal growth of her students," says Matt Dall who worked with her at Vermont Academy.

Kellie will carry on Compass's tradition of providing outstanding learning skills support, building on the work of the school's previous special educator, Janet VanAlstyne. After many years of guiding and inspiring Compass students, Janet will be moving on to Green Mountain Middle and High School. Kellie and Janet have been working together to ensure a smooth transition.

To learn more about educational opportunities for 7-12th graders, contact Brian Whitehouse, Director of Admission at 463-2525.



Compass School's Kellie Crowder Backpacking with a friend.

### LAST MONTH'S MYSTERY PHOTO

Last month's picture was correctly answered by Connie Sanderson and Ruth Grandy.

It was a picture showing the burned ruins of the old Mathey Building at the New England Kurn Hattin School for Boys on Kurn Hattin Road. The fire took place in 1908, and a new building was erected in its same place.

Grandy sent along this note: "I consulted the new Westminster history book and found that the main building at Kurn Hattin caught fire on Feb. 28, 1907, destroying almost everything. This view appears to show the picture of the fire aftermath, with the Kurn Hattin Road in the far background. If one looks carefully, the two maple trees along the road that were recently removed can be seen. I believe that the building in the picture is the former Dickey building that was used by the fire department as a practice fire site a number of years ago. If I am right, the present school building is in the area where the Dickey building was."

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# TOWN HALL PAINT JOB NEARS COMPLETION



At right is the nearly completed paintjob on the Westminster Town Hall, and above is the crew who did a fantastic job painting with owner/operator Mitch Momaney. Photos are courtesy of Babs Lynde.



## MEET THE NEW STAFF AT WESTMINSTER'S SCHOOLS

Emily Clark is our new first grade teacher and will be at the West School this year. She previously worked with us as a kindergarten paraprofessional and before that she worked for Brattleboro Town School District - Early Education Services. She is a graduate of Keene State College with a Bachelor's Degree. She was a dual major: Early Childhood and English. Emily lives in Keene with her husband and two children.

Patrick Cafferky joins our school community as our fourth grade teacher. Cafferky is a graduate of the University of Vermont - majoring in Elementary Education. He brings many interests and skills to our school. He has experience teaching for the Laraway Youth and Family Services. Cafferky has also worked in "alternative transportation" for Virginia Tech and is an experienced bicycle mechanic.

During college Cafferky was a Wilderness Orientation Leader in the Trek Program. In this position he took first year students on bike and/or canoe trips. You will be hearing from Cafferky as he gets settled in the area.

Maria Harlow is our new school nurse. Harlow is a graduate of the Thompson School of Nursing, part of the Vermont Technical College. Previously, she graduated from Nizhny Novgorod State University (Russia) with a BA in Journalism.

She has interest in children's health by creating a welcoming, comfortable environment where children know they will receive care and support. She stated on her application, "I am a strong follower of a children first philosophy, as I believe that when we put the children first everything else follows." She has recently moved to the area with her husband and daughter.

Joseph Smith is our new school counselor. Mr. Smith joins us from the Monadnock Regional School District in Swanzey, NH, where he worked as a guidance counselor at the high school and served as the principal at the high school and at the elementary school. He received his Masters in Counseling from Keene State College in 1988 and his Advanced Certificate in Education Leadership from Keene State College in 2003. Smith will be working with all students and classrooms throughout the year.

Trish Adams is our new Administrative Assistant - moving over from the Afterschool Program Director position. Trish is a graduate of Bellows Falls High School and has her Associates Degree from the Community College of VT.

She brings a wealth of community knowledge with her - having strong connections with students, staff and many parents. Trish will be the voice you hear

when you call the school with questions, and be the one to greet you when you arrive at the Center School. We are so fortunate to have her and encourage you to welcome her to her new position.

Shirley Bishop joins us as a special education teacher moving over from Central Elementary School in Bellows Falls. Shirley brings great experience and a thoughtful caring approach to her work with children. A graduate of Granite State College with a BS, she went on to Plymouth State University Graduate School to get her MEds. in Special Education and a CAGS in Leadership. We look forward to Shirley beginning her work in Westminster.

Heidi Lauracelli joins us as our new Afterschool Program Director. Heidi previously worked as the afterschool coordinator for the Main Street Arts Afterschool Program in Saxtons River. She is a certified biology teacher and has worked in Springfield.

John Donaldson joins us as a paraprofessionals working at the West School. John is a former Westminster teacher - having taught kindergarten and multiage classrooms in the 1990s. He recently returned from Thailand where he spent time helping people learn English.

Cagney Brigham will work with 4th grade and the upper team at the Center School. Cagney is a graduate of Johnson State College with a BA. Cagney has worked as a behavior interventionist in northern Vermont. Cagney has been a baseball coach at various levels - from camps to high school (he played semi-pro ball himself in Linz, Australia).

Chelsea Burke is a graduate of Keene State College and joins us as a one-to-one paraprofessional. She has a background in early education and has worked as a camp counselor.

Lynn Latulippe is a graduate of Union Institute with a BA. She previously worked in the Monadnock Regional School District in Swanzey, NH. She spent six years in the Monadnock schools in various positions; she was a pre-school teacher, Title One Literacy Specialist, Director of READY! and as a speech language pathologist assistant.

Melissa Haskell is rejoining us for special education support of students in our primary classrooms. Melissa is a graduate of American Intercontinental University with her Associates Degree. She left Westminster Schools to start her family and now that her youngest is in school we were fortunate enough to get her to come back! Melissa ran an in-home daycare for the past 8 years.

We look forward to having all of these people on our staff.

## NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER CARES

Anyone interested in learning more about Westminster Cares, volunteering to deliver meals on wheels or driving neighbors to doctor appointments, working on a committee, making a contribution or attending a workshop may contact Donna Dawson at 722-3607 or by e-mail at [wecares@sover.net](mailto:wecares@sover.net). Check us out on the web@ [www.westminstercares.org](http://www.westminstercares.org) and like us on Facebook. There was no board meeting in August. Next board meeting Sept. 3 at the Westminster Fire House .Services provided:

Meals on Wheels – In August, 27 different WC volunteers delivered meals one day a month to 18 different people who are now on meals. In addition, two frozen entrees were delivered to nine people on Fridays for weekend meals. (18 total)

Transportation – During the month of August, eight rides were provided by six different volunteers who drove seven different Westminster residents to medical appointments, shopping or programs for a total of 207 miles.

Nursing program: During August, our community nurse made 12 visits to eight seniors for medication management, blood pressure checks and foot care. She also attended Senior Lunch for a blood pressure clinic.

Meetings attended by staff in August included: Treasurer, Windham Cares group, Gazette, computer/website, graphic designer, Senior Lunch, and

Committees.

Programs in August: two Secrets of Healthy Aging sessions, four Yoga classes, three Wednesday Walkers, 12 Strength Training classes, four Artist in Each of Us classes.

Assistance and referrals: Assistance provided to several Westminster residents and their families, and several motel residents, collaborating with social service agencies, Bellows Falls Senior Center, Senior Solutions, the VA, Friends of Veterans, SEVCA, Red Cross, VCIL, Adult Protective Services and the Visiting Nurses.

Friendly visiting: four volunteers making friendly visits to five seniors.

Medical equipment: In August we received several donations of equipment and several pieces of equipment were returned.

Memorial and honorary donations for August 2014: In memory of Melanie Anderson DeLonge from: Heidi and Lee Anderson, Patricia Noble, Susan Harlow. In memory of Fred Robling from: Alma Beals, Regena Cote, Bob and Pat Haas, Pete and Judy Harrison, Nancy Dalzell and Laura Leonard, Kathy Shuster, Laurie Webb and Bruce Moore, his nephew Sam Anastasia, Phyllis Q. Anderson. In honor of Joan and Bill Smidutz 60th wedding anniversary from: Joan Larkin.

## NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE

The Westminster Fire & Rescue Department holds their monthly meetings at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every month and a combined drill on the third Tuesday of every month. Rescue training is the second Tuesday of the month.

Next association meeting is Sept 2. 5 at 7 p.m.

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

Next Prudential meetings: 8th and 22nd

Number of calls in July: 52 [a record]

Number of calls through Aug 30th: 30

Number of calls calendar year to Date: 254

Number of calls fiscal year to date: 79

**Association Meeting:** The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association met for their regular meeting August 5th with President Paul Millman presiding. There were 18 members present and 6 members excused. Currently there are 42 members of the volunteer fire department.

Two new applications for membership were voted on. Ben Masure and Dan Caccoccio were welcomed as new members of the fire department under the 6 month probation rules.

**Firewood:** It's not too soon to be thinking about the next heating season. If you burn wood, be sure the wood is properly cured. Unseasoned wood can cause creosote which is very apt to plug up the chimney and cause a chimney fire. And the chimney fire can lead to a partition fire and the home could be lost or severely damaged. Have the chimney cleaned before starting a wood fire in the stove or furnace and have it checked regularly throughout the heating season.

**Back to School:** Now that school is back in session there will be a lot of students walking to and from school and to and from their busses. There are no sidewalks in many areas forcing students to walk in the roadways. Walkers

should remember to always walk on the left side of the road facing traffic and bike riders need to be riding with the flow of traffic on the right side. As it is getting darker earlier each day, walkers and bikers will need to wear light colored clothing and reflective vests when traveling in the dark or diminished light. Drivers should be extra cautious with more pedestrians on the roads.

**Truck Show:** The annual truck show was held behind the high school in Westminster August 2nd. The Fire Department has catered the event for several years for the truck club. We fed several spectators and vendors and it was a successful and warm day for all.

**Picnic:** The 6th annual Fire and Rescue Department picnic was held at Pete and Judy Harrison's home on Sunday August 10th under sunny skies. It was a good afternoon with activities such as swimming, corn toss game and horse shoes with plenty of food and socializing. Around 25 attended. The Westminster Fire & Rescue Association welcomes donations throughout the year from anyone wishing to remember a loved one or a friend. Donations for August: Heather Patrick

We are always looking for new members: Anyone interested in volunteering their time to help the community in a time of need, please contact Chief Cole Streeter at 722-3178 or stop by the Firehouse any Sunday morning and pick up an application.

We would like to have additional volunteers from Westminster West.

There is a Fire House, an engine and a rescue vehicle located in Westminster West and more help is always welcome to utilize that equipment during calls.

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

Check us out at [www.westminsterfireandrescue.org](http://www.westminsterfireandrescue.org).

### WESTMINSTER WEST COMMUNITY FAIR, SATURDAY, SEPT. 6

The Westminster West Community Fair is coming right up on Saturday Sept. 6, and we hope you'll join in the fun! The fair runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., in and around the church in Westminster West, and there are activities for the whole family to enjoy.

The bake sale, golden elephant sale and silent auction run for the whole day, along with a gallery of local art work on display in the church sanctuary. The day begins with a 5K run on a shady, dirt road loop. Later in the morning kids up to 12 year old can participate in a fun run at and prizes from local businesses for winners in both races.

The parade through the village begins at 10:30 at the Westminster West School, led by kids on decorated bikes. The theme of this year's parade is "Local and Global Peacemakers" to pay tribute to those in our community who help with peacemaking close to home and far beyond our borders. Fletcher Proctor and Patti Whalen are the Grand Marshals, in recognition

their significant contributions to peacemaking here and abroad.

Other events include: A chicken barbeque, music on the lawn by the Grafton Cornet Band, a veggie chop-o-matic, a talent show, a Fortune Teller and Face Painting, and various crafts and booths. See the full schedule for the day at [www.westminsterwest.org](http://www.westminsterwest.org).

This event is the biggest fundraiser of the year for the little village church in Westminster West: not only utilized as a place for worship, but also for many classes, as well as other cultural and community events that serve our whole community.

Donations can be dropped off at the church Tuesday through Friday, Sept. 2 to 5, from 6 to 8 p.m. Baked good are also welcome and can be brought Friday night or Saturday morning. If you want to make a donation, volunteer to help or you just have other questions call Nick Keil at 387-4555 or Laura Williams at 387-2765.

### HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING & BRADLEY LAW OFFICE TREASURES

The Westminster Historical Society Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, Sept. 15 at 7 p.m. at the fire house on Grout Avenue. The public is invited.

There will be a brief meeting and raffle drawing followed by the program. Raffle tickets are available before the meeting.

"Bradley Law Office Treasures" will be the topic of the program led by Richard Michelman and illustrated by Dan Axtel.

The law office contains many interesting artifacts from the 1800s other than those pertaining to the law. The family stored many items they couldn't part with in the building after it stopped being used as a law office.

## "Are We There Yet?"

by Babs Lynde, a Vermont Master Gardener

Boy, those were words that used to drive my folks crazy whenever my little brother and I were taking Sunday drives with them – are we there yet, are we there?? "There" could have been anywhere – my grandmother's house, the ice cream stand, the state park – it didn't matter except we could never understand why it always took so long to get "there!!" So if you are wondering if it's time to plant or relocate your bushes, shrubs or trees – yes, now's the time, "we're there!"

September is a good month for planting anything that won't do well in the heat of summer while adjusting to a new environment or surroundings. Bulbs are best set in the ground towards the latter part of September into October, while bushes and trees should be done shortly after the heat of summer has passed. For this year, that could have been most of the summer due to the cool, damp season we've had in 2014!

Buying a bush or tree from a lawn 'n garden or nursery might be best when closer to the time you're ready to plant it. Some flowering bushes, such as the hydrangea, are particularly attractive around Mother's Day, and a huge seller in the spring, but they frequently need extra care and water, especially if the weather turns hot and humid. If you can resist the urge to buy early, buying any plant around the time you intend to plant it is always best.

So, what's the rule of thumb for planting shrubs, bushes and trees? The size of the hole depends on what you're planting. A small bush does well when the hole is about the same perimeter as its branches, while larger bushes and trees shouldn't have quite so much distance, especially if they're being planted in an area that's prone to strong winds.

The faster their roots begin to penetrate into undisturbed soil, the better grip they have on solid or steady ground. Very few trees or bushes require deeply

dug holes because most of them have root systems that spread throughout the top few inches below the soil line. Oak trees are one of the few trees that have a genuine "taproot" system that grows deep into the ground (remember the saying "strong as an oak?") which gives it fantastic anchoring, but unless the tree has roots trying to grow straight down, it's not necessary to dig more than a few inches deeper than the roots or the pot that they're growing in.

In any case, always check with an expert where you have purchased your plants or carefully read any instructions provided for the best results.

Once you have dug the hole, prepare the new bed with good compost. Home compost is always the best, but there are many good brands available as well. Thoroughly drench the hole before and after the planting is completed. A good watering afterwards helps to move soil in and around the roots. Whether or not you will need to water again depends on the weather and condition of the bush or tree a few days after it's in the ground.

And should you help your new tree with a supportive system to keep it straight and strong against the upcoming wintery snow and wind? If the plant is delicate or thin and already bends easily under the slightest breeze, you might want to add a pole (bamboo is great,) but a tree will not acclimate to its surroundings adequately if you constantly provide it with something to lean on, so be sure to remove the pole(s) in the spring and let it stand on its own.

Would you like more information concerning fall planting of bushes and trees? 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 e-mail to [master.gardener@uvm.edu](mailto:master.gardener@uvm.edu) or visit their Web site at [www.uvm.edu/mastergardener/](http://www.uvm.edu/mastergardener/) for extensive information.

# Aged in Vermont

Westminster Cares, Inc.

## STRONG LIVING PROGRAM PROMOTES HEALTHY AGING

By Ronnie Friedman

Want to have more energy? Interested in exercise but don't know how to get started? Women and men ages 40 and over – the Strong Living Program can help.

The Strong Living Program was developed by researchers and exercise physiologists at Tufts University and incorporates years of scientific research and practical field experience in effective exercise techniques for older adults. Recent research has shown that strength training can help older adults to live healthy, independent lives.

Strength and balance training can improve fitness, mobility, strength and balance, emotional well-being, bone health and help to reduce falls in adults 40 years of age and older. The Strong Living Program is appropriate for both sedentary and active individuals.

Westminster Cares sponsors three Strong Living Program. All the classes are on Mondays and Thursdays. From 9 to 10 a.m. at the First Congregational Church on Route 5 in Westminster, from 11 a.m. to noon at the Health Center in Bellows Falls and 6 to 7 p.m. at the Westminster West Congregation Church.

Strong Living is a safe and effective way to increase strength, improve balance and maintain healthy. Classes meet twice a week and dumbbells and weights are provided. There is a \$2.50 donation for each class.

When Sandy Hartley found out she was starting to lose bone density, she knew that she was going to have to do more than take calcium supplements. "I was really concerned. I did some research and found out that unless you do weight bearing exercises, your bones won't absorb the calcium and it won't do you any good."

Judie Condon says: "I have been attending the Strong Living exercise class for four months now and enjoy it very much. The exercises are not difficult and they allow you to go at your own pace, doing only what you feel you can. It's a great way to get out of the house and be with other people for any hour of exercise and a little time before and after for chatting. It's a small but great group."

The Strong Living Program is a strength training program that includes weight lifting, balance and stretching exercises. Strength training exercises are progressive which means that participants are encouraged to increase the amount of weight they lift as they become stronger.

"I just returned to Westminster West and re-joined the strong living group – it is still going strong; strong community, strong limbs and great laughs – come join us." Patty Whalen.

## REMEMBERING LONG TIME WESTMINSTER RESIDENT DAVID WRIGHT

David Wright was born on Nov. 18, 1940 in Short Hills, NJ, the only son of Alfred and Margaret (Potter) Wright. He died at his home in Westminster on Dec. 29, 2013.

David grew up in New Jersey, attended Bard College in New York and later travelled to Paris to study piano with the world renowned French composer, conductor, teacher and pianist Nadia Boulanger. He subsequently became a friend and assistant to Madame Boulanger and remained in Paris for 19 years, after which he returned to the United States and a family home in Westminster to care for an ill parent.

David was a studied eccentric and a delighted contrarian with a well honed sense of humor. He loved to recount boyhood practical jokes and experiments gone awry and among his favorites was the black powder in the oven story. He was making black powder and had placed the mixture in the oven to dry, on very low heat, but had neglected to mention the experiment to his mother who was preparing for a dinner party. He was in the living room with his father watching a ball game when his mother turned up the heat, in preparation for baking. The explosion blew the door clear off the oven. "Fortunately," recalled David, "Mother had already exited and gone upstairs to change."

A descendant of a Walpole, NH and Westminster, ancestry that hearkened back to the 1700s, David was intensely interested in history and was a vehement

## FREE FINANCIAL FITNESS CLASSES

Southeastern Vermont Community Action – announced that it has space available in its upcoming free financial fitness workshop.

This eight part workshop series will help participants discover how to use the money they have and take steps towards prosperity. Participants will learn to improve their relationship with money, increase cash flow and experience financial security.

Other topics covered include; saving, spending, credit, paying for college, purchasing a home, purchasing a car, insurance and retirement. Your credit report can be reviewed with you and recommendations provided to take steps to build healthy credit or resolve credit issues. This financial coaching will help you and your family develop strong financial habits.

The workshop will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 10 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., and continue each Wednesday night thru Oct. 29. at Marlboro College Graduate School, 28 Vernon Street in Brattleboro. Pre-registration is required. Please call to register at 722-4575, ext. 151, or e-mail [kperlberg@sevca.org](mailto:kperlberg@sevca.org).

## WESTMINSTER MYSTERY PHOTO



**WHERE WAS THIS BRIDGE LOCATED, AND WHEN WAS IT REMOVED?**

**E-mail your answer to [westminsternews@gmail.com](mailto:westminsternews@gmail.com) or [blynde@westminstervt.org](mailto:blynde@westminstervt.org), or phone Babs Lynde at 722-9516.**

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

**Last Month's Answer: On Page 3.**

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

## Town Offices Closed

The Westminster Town Clerk/Treasurers office will be closed Monday, Sept. 15 and Tuesday, Sept. 16, reopening Wednesday, Sept. 17.

## QUALIFY YOUR CHILD FOR FREE MEALS

Many Vermonters worry about being able to afford the things they need. 3SquaresVT (formerly food stamps) may be able to help.

3SquaresVT is more than just food. Getting benefits means your children can get free school meals, too. It also means that you will not have to complete the school meal application form.

Once you are receiving a 3SquaresVT benefit, you may enroll your child for free school meals any time during the school year just by asking the Food Service Director at your child's school.

For more information about the program visit [www.vermontfoodhelp.com](http://www.vermontfoodhelp.com) or call SEVCA at 722-4575 and ask for Family Services.

advocate for preservation and authentic restoration, with a particular passion for covered bridges. David had served as the president of the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges of North America since 1989.

The Town of Westminster, dedicating its 2013 annual report to David, paid tribute to his hard work and dedication and described him as a solitary man who cared deeply about his community. The report noted his long hours of work in the preservation and renovation of the Westminster Town Hall, and also his memberships on the Fire District #3 Prudential Committee, the Westminster East Parish Board for the Westminster Institute, the Westminster Historic Preservation Committee and his contribution as a Trustee of the Westminster Aqueduct Society.

David delighted in his cats, classical music and early recordings, vegetable gardens, orchards, the making of period paint, history, politics, and old film classics, and in his writing, in the extravagant use of exclamation points, frequently punctuating a sentence with as many as five.

Early morning breakfasts with his good friend Charlie Kelton had long been a favorite part of David's daily routine.

A memorial service will be held on Sept. 4 at 1 p.m. at the Westminster New Cemetery on Kurn Hattin Road. A reception following the graveside service will be held at the Westminster Butterfield Institute.

## DEATH & DYING FOR BEGINNERS

Brattleboro Area Hospice is pleased to announce that they will offer the popular Death and Dying for Beginners class on four consecutive Tuesday evenings from 6 to 8:30 p.m. beginning Sept. 16 thru Oct. 7 at Park's Place, 44 School St. Ext. in Bellows Falls. This offering is free.

The class will provide opportunities for individuals to explore awareness, attitudes and feelings about death and dying. Participants will learn how to provide emotional and practical support to individuals and families who are facing or grieving a death.

Class size is limited and a pre-course conversation with one of leaders is required.

To register or for more information call Patty Dunn, Hospice Program Coordinator at 802-257-0775 ext. 102 or Ryan Murphy at 802-257-0775 ext. 105. Registration deadline is Sept. 9.

# WESTMINSTER HAPPENINGS

## Activities

### Scottish Country Dance Classes

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

### Putney Contra Dance

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

### Senior Potluck Lunch

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

### Bellows Falls Gallery Walk

Downtown at 5:30 p.m. every 3rd Friday of the month.

### Secrets of Healthy Aging

A facilitated discussion group and pot-luck. The 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at the Westminster Fire Station from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Call Westminster Cares at 722-3607 for more information.

### Contra Dance

Every 3rd Saturday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall in Walpole, N.H.

### Gentle Yoga

Every Monday at 10 a.m. at the Westminster Institute. Call Westminster Cares at 722-3607 for more information.

### Living Strong Classes

Mondays and Thursdays: at the First Congregational Church in Westminster from 9-10 a.m.; at the Westminster West Church from 6-7 p.m.; or at Greater Rock Fitness in Bellows Falls from 11-12. Call Westminster Cares for more information at 722-3607.

### Knitting Together

Join us every Wednesday, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Village Square Booksellers, downtown Bellows Falls. Bring your knitting needles, we have the yarn and casual instruction if needed to knit hats, mittens and sweaters for area kids.

All our yarn is from community donation and we distribute our completed work to all area schools and Parks Place. More knitters at all skill levels are wanted and we can promise you an enjoyable experience. For details or to donate yarn contact Caroline at 463-4653.

### Zumba Class - Basic Level 1 (B1)

Every Sunday from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Westminster Institute. Suggested minimum donation.

Please call 376-5397 or e-mail paulinebob@hotmail.com to register or for more information.

### Westminster West Public Library Trustees

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

### Bellows Falls Farmers' Market

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

**Walking:** Meet at the Westminster Heights Park and Ride on Wednesday mornings at 9am and carpool to walking site. Most times the walk takes one hour and we are back by 10:30. Bring water, hat, walking stick, (if desired), sun screen and wear good sturdy shoes. We can walk at different speeds depending on the group. Call the Westminster Cares Office to find out more: 722-3607 or email [wecares@sover.net](mailto:wecares@sover.net)."

## Faith Community

### The First Congregational Church of Westminster

The Rev. Sami Jones McRae, Pastor. Main Street, Route 5, P.O. Box 122, Westminster, 722-4148. Sunday worship at 10 a.m. Communion is the first Sunday of each month.

Sunday School is held at 10 a.m. from September to May. The church has a ramp and lift for wheelchair access as well as a handicapped bathroom. Westminster First Congregational is an open and affirming church, all are welcome.

### The Congregational Church of Westminster West

The Congregational Church of Westminster West worships every Sunday at 10 a.m. The pick-up choir meets most Sundays at 9 to rehearse for that morning's anthem; newcomers to choir are always welcome!

Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of every month, and on the Second Sunday the church collects a special offering that goes to Our Place in Bellows Falls to help fund their food shelf.

The church building is fully wheelchair accessible, and the congregation is Open and Affirming. Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno is the pastor, and musicians are Jennifer Hed and Margit Lilly.

Rev. Webster-Toleno currently holds office hours on Monday and Thursday afternoons, and people are welcome to drop by. However, since "office hours" sometimes means she's out visiting people in their homes, it's a good idea to make an appointment if you really want to catch her.

She can be reached at the church on those days at 387-2334, via cell phone at 579-8356 or e-mail [susiewt@gmail.com](mailto:susiewt@gmail.com).

### Grace Bible Fellowship Services

The Grace Bible Fellowship holds its Sunday Worship Service at 9:15 a.m. at 38 Elm Street in Walpole, NH.

Find out more about the church at its Web site, [www.gbf4hisglory.com/](http://www.gbf4hisglory.com/).

## Meetings

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

**Planning Commission** 2nd Monday at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall.

**Westminster Activities Commission** 2nd Monday of the Month at 6 p.m. at the Westminster Institute.

**Westminster School Board** 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Westminster Center School Library.

**Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association** 3rd Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Westminster West Congregational Church.

**Westminster West Public Library Board** 2nd Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Westminster West Public Library.

**Development Review Board** 1st Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall.

**Community Improvement Program Committee** meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

**Westminster Cares Board - No Summer Meetings** 1st Wednesday of every month, at the Westminster Fire Station at 4 p.m.

**911 Committee** as needed.

**The Westminster Fire & Rescue Dept.** holds their monthly meetings on the 1st Tuesday of every month, at 7 p.m. and a combined drill on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at the Westminster Fire Station.

**Westminster Historical Society** 2nd Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Westminster Institute.

**Westminster Gazette Meeting** Monday, Sept. 29 at 4:30 p.m. at the Town Hall

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

## GAZETTE BOARD SEEKS SECRETARY

The Westminster Gazette Board is seeking a new board member to serve as Secretary. There is only one meeting per month, usually the last Monday at 4:30 p.m. at the Town Hall, and limited to about an hour.

Anyone interested can contact the Gazette at [westminsternews@gmail.com](mailto:westminsternews@gmail.com).



**The Deadline for the October 2014 Issue of the Westminster Gazette is Wednesday, Oct. 1. Publish Date is Tuesday, Oct. 7 To Contact the Westminster Gazette E-mail: [westminsternews@gmail.com](mailto:westminsternews@gmail.com)**

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

- Kurn Hattin Homes
- Westminster School District
- Town of Westminster
- Westminster Activities Commission
- Sojourns Community Health Clinic
- Westminster Cares
- Westminster Fire & Rescue Association

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**PINNACLE ASSOCIATION'S ACCESSIBILITY DAY PROGRAM IS SEPTEMBER 20**

Once a year, those who need some physical help in getting to a most spectacular view of Vermont can take advantage of the Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association's Accessibility Day on Saturday, Sept. 20.

Scheduled from 10:45 or 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in order to allow enough time for the logistics, this is a once-a-year opportunity for a vehicle ride via the often-rough road leading to Paul's Ledges, where participants will gather for lunch and a most outstanding view of the countryside. Program Leaders will be Tony Coven and Bev Major.

The popularity of this program and the need for several four-wheel-drive vehicles to transport participants make advance registrations a must for riders.

Hikers do not need to pre-register.

Participants should bring water, a bag lunch, snack, and sweater or jacket for possible chilly weather. They should meet promptly at Westminster West Church at 10:45 or at the Athens Dome Trailhead on Route 35, opposite Sleepy Valley Road, at 11 to carpool.

All riding participants must register in advance with Bev Major at 387-5737.

Directions to the Westminster West Church and information about other upcoming Pinnacle programs may be found under events at [www.windmill-hillpinnacle.org](http://www.windmill-hillpinnacle.org).

**SEEKING PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES (AHS) & THE DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES (DCF)**

The Governor's Council on Pathways from Poverty, in collaboration with AHS Secretary Doug Racine and DCF Commissioner Dave Yacovone, is seeking public comments on ways the Agency of Human Services can improve the delivery of services to families with children served by the Department for Children and Families.

There are three ways to provide your comments:

1. Attend a Public Hearing:

Hearings will be held on two dates: August 28, 2014 at 6:00 PM and September 5, 2014 at 2PM. You can attend at any of the 13 Vermont Interactive Television sites located around the state. For a complete list of VIT sites go to <http://www.vitlink.org/location> or call (802) 728-1455.

2. Mail your comments:

You can mail your comments to the following address through September 30, 2014: Agency of Human Services, Secretary Doug Racine, 208 Hurricane Lane, Suite 103, Williston, VT 05495.

3. Complete an online survey:

Complete the survey (anonymously if you wish) at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/L3J2T56>. The survey has the same key questions discussed below as well as space for additional comments.

Key Questions to Consider:

These questions are only intended to stimulate discussion. Feel free to raise your own questions and provide any suggestions.

1. How can DCF better serve Vermont families with children?

2. How can AHS and DCF avoid duplication of administrative functions and fragmentation of services for individuals and families?

3. Do AHS and DCF have the resources needed to be most effective? Are existing resources allocated properly? How could resources be better employed?

4. What is the most efficient use of state resources in serving families? For example, should divisions and/or functions be separate or integrated? How can communication within DCF be improved to better serve families?

5. How can DCF build stronger relationships between the families it serves and staff working with those families? For example, should enforcement capability be separated from day-to-day case management (that is, should sanction or removal powers be exercised by different people within the department)? Would that help or hinder the department?

6. Are there particular laws, rules, or policies that should be changed to improve outcomes for families? If so, what are they?

7. What is the agency or department doing well; are there existing areas of success the agency can and should build on?

The Governor's Council on Pathways from Poverty is a 30-member advisory body. It is made up exclusively of volunteers, including advocates, direct service providers, housing and development experts and low-income Vermonters.

The Agency of Human Services includes several departments that work with low-income and vulnerable Vermonters including the Department for Children and Families.

**RAFFLE WILL HELP SUPPORT GAZETTE**

While many folks enjoy the Westminster Gazette, not many realize that we operate on a very tight budget - too tight it seems. While we have several advertisers and underwriters, that income still doesn't bring in quite enough money to cover our operating costs.

In brainstorming ways that we might raise some money to give us a bit of an operating cushion, we thought one of the best ways would be to have a Gazette Raffle, with a drawing in early December, just before the holidays.

So we're asking for donations of goods and services valued at \$25 and up toward the raffle. Could you donate a massage, an oil change, a 100 gallons of fuel oil, a cord of wood in support of this community newspaper?

We'll be accepting raffle prizes and donations until Oct. 1, and raffle tickets will be on sale through to the drawing, \$1 each or 10 for \$5.

Thanks for supporting your community newspaper!



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## September Business of the Month: S.B. & Company Auctioneers, Antiques

Auctioneer Sharon Boccelli of S.B. and Company Auctioneers is a fully licensed and bonded auctioneer in both Vermont and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

She graduated from the International Auction School, which provides an intensive course of study in auction methodology and psychology. This training combined with Boccelli's sense of integrity has resulted in S. B. & Company Auctioneers becoming one of the best organized and most successful auction houses in New England.

S. B. & Company Auctioneers was chosen as one of the five auction houses to be featured in The Journal of Antiques and Collectibles "Women in Auctioneering".

S. B. and Company Auctioneers applies an honest approach to auctioning. We are praised by both buyers and sellers for our above-board practice, our accurate researching, and comprehensive representation of the goods being sold.

We stand behind our word, which engenders trust with our new and returning buyers who learn to trust the quality and characterization of the merchandise sold. All items are cataloged and advertised extensively, thus attracting competitive bidders.

S.B. and Company Auctioneers policy of handling estate merchandise has also contributed to the success of the auctions. A majority of the items in our auctions come from private homes. Thus, our customers know that the goods are fresh to the antique market. This results in stronger bidding.

We welcome you to visit our next auction and compare our company with other auction houses. If you prefer, we are also pleased to supply references from former clients.

Customers often find attending an auction to be an educational introduction to the antique world. We feel this is the best way to judge the caliber and competence of our organization. Feel free to contact me directly with further questions.

We are located at 46 Canal St. in Bellows Falls and can be reached at 460-1190.

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## SIXTH ANNUAL CONNECTICUT RIVER PADDLE BATTLE

The 6th Annual Connecticut River Paddle Battle will be held on Sunday, Sept. 21, at Herrick's Cove in Rockingham, three miles north of exit six off I-91 on Vermont Rt. 5, with registration from 8:30 to 10 a.m. and the race start at 10:30.

This is a 7.5 mile race with a 2 mile recreational canoe and kayak paddle.

There will be all standard NECKRA classes for canoes and kayaks, including adult/youth, C-2 youth, C-1 and K-1 youth.

There will be cash prizes and trophies for 1st place racing classes, and awards for 2nd and 3rd places.

The fees are \$20 per paddler, youths under 16 free. The fee includes music and a barbecue lunch.

A great place to spend the day!

Proceeds will benefit the Bellow Falls Rotary Club Scholarship Fund.

To Pre-register and for more information visit [www.ctrpaddlebattle.com](http://www.ctrpaddlebattle.com).

Our Monthly Community Newspaper September 2014 Vol. 10, No. 9

# Westminster Gazette

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