

Westminster Gazette



po box 147 westminster vt 05158

Our Community Newspaper @ www.westminstervt.org

Vol. 11, No. 9 September 2015

NEW SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS IN WESTMINSTER



Westminster's elementary schools welcomed many new staff members this year. What better way to get to know our town and each other than a Mystery Bus Ride!

The entire staff - armed with town maps and class lists - loaded a school bus. Their mission was to help each other locate bus routes, student homes and tour local highlights: Town Hall, the Institute, Kurn Hattin, the West School, and our scenic roads, from Pine Banks Road to Route 121 in North Westminster.



Compass School Praised in State Approval Process

Compass School was once again awarded a five year state approval at the August meeting of the State Board of Education. This rigorous process from the Vermont Department of Education requires the school to review and report on the quality of each element of the educational program.

Department of Education officials then visit the school to evaluate the school's program and give feedback on school quality.

In addition to being impressed by the new Compass building and facilities, DOE officials praised Compass for its wide range of learning experiences, the exceptional experience and expertise of faculty and staff, the level of engagement evident in the students, and the positive tone of the school culture and community.

Of particular note, the visitors noted how the commitment of teachers to the success of each individual student. Observing the many ways in which students have material presented, are allowed to demonstrate learning, and are included in varied school activities, state officials commended Compass' ability to serve a diverse student population and support each student's academic and social-emotional growth.

Based on the school's success helping so many students succeed in school, Compass was approved to expand approved special education service categories to include Other Health Impairments and High Functioning ASD. In addition to regular classes and a variety of extended learning opportunities, a strong health and wellness curriculum, powerful teacher-student relationships, and support through a school based clinician and effective advisory groups all help each stu-



dent develop the knowledge, skills and dispositions to succeed in school and the world beyond the school walls.

DOE officials continue to be impressed with how well Compass meets state approval expectations. From its inception, Compass has stood out among schools in Vermont been granted the highest level of approval at every stage of its 17-year history.

All at Compass are looking forward to a great year as the school builds on past years accomplishment and implements its 1-1 computer initiative to assure every student has a computer to enable more personalized learning.

Above, Compass student Lucas Saunders working last year.

PINNACLE ASSOCIATION'S ACCESSIBILITY DAY

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. Scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 19 from 10:45 or 11 a.m. (depending upon which of two start locations is chosen) to 4 p.m., in order to allow enough time for the logistics, this is a rare opportunity for a vehicle ride via the often-rough road leading to Paul's Ledges.

There participants will gather for lunch and a most outstanding view of the countryside. The popularity of this free 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.

Participants should meet at Westminster West Church at 10:45 a.m. or at the Athens Dome Trailhead on Route 35, opposite Sleepy Valley Road in Athens, at 11 a.m., to carpool. All riding participants must register in advance with Bev Major at 387-5737.

See the Access Points Map on the Pinnacle Website for directions to the Route 35 trailhead. Directions to the Westminster West Church and information about other upcoming Pinnacle programs may be found under Events at www.windmillhillpinnacle.org.

MYSTERY PHOTO

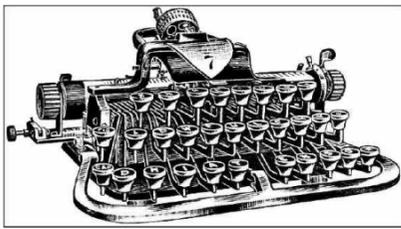
IDENTIFIED

Last month's Mystery Photo was of a concrete block factory that was on Route 121 in Gageville about where Hodgkins' (now Dave Snyder's) business was built.

You can make out two people, one in the door, the other in back, perhaps mixing cement. You can also see the Belows Falls and Saxtons River Railroad tracks.

The barn in the background was Spicer's, torn down in the 1960's. The porch on the house on the left is the blue house now for sale.

We had no correct responses.



ADVERTISE IN THE GAZETTE!

Annual Rates:
Pages 2-3
approx. 2.5"x3"
\$250 a year
\$25 for one month

Pages 4-7
approx. 3.5"x4"
\$500 a year
\$75 for one month

Page 8
approx. 1.5"x2.5"
\$150 a year
No one time ads

Underwriting Support is a donation of at least \$300 annually and does not include advertising. Underwriters are listed in the box on page 6 each month.

On-line at:
www.westminstervt.org

Need Adobe Reader to open & high speed Internet

Matthew T. BRENNAN
GENERAL BUILDING CONTRACTOR LLC
RESIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL

- ADDITIONS
- NEW HOMES
- SITE DEVELOPMENT
- RESTORATIONS
- KITCHEN & BATH
- PROJECT PLANNING

802-869-2866
www.mtbbuildingcontractor.com

Sojourns COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINIC
Holistic Care for Whole People

"Health care that cares enough to listen and treat the cause of the symptoms and not just the symptoms themselves. Also, a very pleasant staff."
Aaron, G. Springfield, VT

Our Bodies Are Ecosystems not Chemistry Sets".
4923 US Route 5 • Westminster, VT
802-722-4023
www.sojourns.org

Insurance accepted for all billable services
gift certificates available

- Primary Care
- Holistic Medicine
- Naturopathy
- Acupuncture
- Biological Medicine
- Chiropractic
- CranioSacral Therapy
- Nutritional Counseling
- Massage
- Physical Therapy
- Herbal Medicine
- Immune Support
- Apothecary

WESTMINSTER ENERGY GROUP

A Division of
WESTMINSTER FARMS

Top Soil
Compost
Dried Manure

Made in Vermont
By
Vermont Farmers
And
Vermont Cows

P.O. Box 24 4187 US Rt 5 Westminster Sta., VT 05159
Phone/Fax: 802 722 4017 Email: westfarms1@myfairpoint.net

ALL SEASONS TREE SERVICE

NOW OFFERING:

- TREE RISK ASSESSMENT
- BUCKET TRUCK SERVICES
- DEEP ROOT FERTILIZATION
- INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT
- PRUNING
- REMOVAL
- STUMP GRINDING
- CABLING
- INVASIVE PLANT REMOVAL

FULL SERVICE FULLY INSURED

KEVIN SHRADER, CERTIFIED ARBORIST
802-376-4909 allseasonsvt.net
Serving All of Windham County

COMPASS SCHOOL
LEARNING COMMUNITY DEMOCRACY DIRECTION

Now Accepting Applications

Schedule a visit and come see for yourself!

(802) 463-2517 or
brian.whitehouse@compass-school.org

7892 US Route 5 • Westminster, VT • www.compass-school.org

BEST SEPTIC

www.bestsepticvt.net
bestseptic@gmail.com
Fax: (802)-463-1523

All Septic Needs,
Portable Toilets,
Jetting and Camera Service.

It's Tough to Beat the BEST

Jeff & Lisa Ruggiero
Owners

(802)-463-9444
BIG OR SMALL WE PUMP IT ALL!

VERMONT HILLSIDE LAWN SERVICES, INC.

802-463-9500
www.VermontHillside.com
theguys@vermonthillside.com

Paul Lawrence
Travis Lawrence
PO Box 174
Westminster, VT 05158

Lawn Maintenance
Landscaping
Plowing
General Labor/Odd Jobs

TAKE YOUR WEEKEND OFF!

Motel Westminster

• Country Motel • Comfortable & Convenient •
Tel. (802) 722-3073
Wi-Fi available upon request
Westminster, VT 05158
Off I-91 Exit 5 • South on Rt. 5

Reasonable Rates

K. BEEBE, INC
CABLE TOOL WELL DRILLING
PUMP SERVICE
Plumbing & Heating

Established 1946
FULLY INSURED * ESTIMATES GIVEN
CALL 463-3725
51 SAXTONS RIVER ROAD*
BELLOWS FALLS

Summer Camp at Westminster Center School

Why were the big yellow school buses making their rounds during the heat of summer? From July 6 through Aug. 7 kids in Westminster could attend Summer Camp right here in town.

Each of the five weeks featured a theme with hands-on activities, writing, science and math connections and lots of fun - even a weekly field trip. Topics ranged from cooking and gardening to theater.

Campers hiked to the Pinnacle, visited the Boston Aquarium and the Major Sheep Farm, and enjoyed visits from dog therapy teams and the musical duo Vic N' Sticks. Each Monday children visited the school library to choose individual reading for the week.

Every morning included literacy and math blocks, and the afternoons were reserved for fun! Camp leaders, Paula Wright and Ashley Paine, designed daily schedules; current and retired Westminster teachers tutored.

Elaine Gordon orchestrated the funding, which came from a 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant, supplemented by state (child care assistance) and federal grants (tutoring), and participant fees.



WHAT'S UP AT TOWN HALL - LET'S TALK LESS TRASH

The new trash program has shown its first glimpse of our efforts and they are very good. I don't want to be over enthusiastic but we will be less than the 20% deduction for trash generation that was predicted by the State with the implementation of their Pay-As-You-Throw programs.

Our tonnages for trash are significantly lower than the 20% for July. I promise to keep you in the loop as this program gives us more information. As for the recycling tonnages they are also very good, jumping 30%+ in volume. All of this means less money spent on trash and reductions in our budget.

Requests for Proposals (RFP) have gone out for the services of an Architect to start the long process of renovating the Town Hall. The Architect will help us find funding and to make sure the renovation stays Historic as well as efficient.

The new Town Plan is being advertised to neighboring Towns, the State and Windham Regional for feedback. Our first public hearing for you, the residents of Westminster, is on September 10, 2015 at the Town Hall at 7 p.m. This is where you can voice your opinion about the future of your town. Many strong topics are addressed, like flood resiliency, economic growth, zoning districts,

and on the lighter side it looks at the "History of Westminster" and how our past is affecting our future.

The Highway Department has placed a Request for Proposal (RFP) for pavement. We are planning to overlay approximately 2.2 miles of roads this year. The worst spots that are being looked at are Kissell Hill (Coolidge St.) along with Adams Street that connects to Coolidge. The majority will be done on the Westminster Heights Road to the intersection of Piggery Road. We realize that there are many roads in need, but we can't afford to do it all at once.

We have three new Listers on board. They are Jackie Atwood, Bruce Sterling, and David Mulholland. Their hours have not been set yet, but we are going to start their training very soon with NEMRC who is the assessment firm we hired to train and watch over the town for now. The Listers will need our patience while this process gets started. Please feel free to call the Town Hall for further information.

As always, please feel free to call the Town Manager's Office at 722-4255 regarding concerns, issues or comments.

Westminster School Board Creates Community Education Support Committee

At the August 18th Westminster School Board meeting, the Board approved the creation of a Community Education Support Committee (see detailed write-up below) which will be comprised of parents, teachers and community members. Any Westminster resident interested in being involved with the committee should contact Elise Manning, Westminster School Board Member, at elise.manning@wnesu.com.

The purpose of the Community Education Support Committee (CESC) is to provide expertise and resources to support and inform the decision-making of the Westminster School Board (WSB). The focus of the committee will be to engage in discussion and research on a broad spectrum of educational issues of critical importance to the Westminster community in the effort to make our school a stronger and safer learning and social environment for our children.

The committee will assemble information, research and resources related to important educational issues and then make informed recommendations about programs or policies to the WSB for their consideration.

The committee is also designed to facilitate community volunteer activities that support the schools - its students, teachers, administration and Parent-

Teacher Organizations.

The committee will serve as an open forum for parents, teachers and community members to explore and discuss innovative, effective and affordable educational approaches, address areas of concern and pose possible solutions.

Suggested topics for discussion or areas of research for the committee, include, and are not limited to:

- How parents and the community can support teachers in their work.
- Ways of adding language and additional science and nature-based programs into the curriculum without adding great costs to the school budget.
- How other small schools in the region have been able to move successfully forward after being designated as "failing."
- Opportunities to employ multi-age teaching and learning to reduce costs, enhance teacher morale, and increase student academic achievement, emotional well-being and social skills.
- How to initiate a program that would allow community members to share their knowledge, skills and talents with Westminster students.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER CARES

The Westminster Cares, Inc. Board of Directors did not meet in August.

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.

Anyone interested in learning more about Westminster Cares, volunteering to deliver meals on wheels or driving neighbors to doctor appointments, working on a committee, making a contribution or attending a workshop may contact Donna Dawson at 722-3607 or by e-mail at wecares@sover.net. Check us out on the Web at www.westminstercares.org and like us on Facebook.

Services provided in July:

Meals On Wheels - In July, 26 WC volunteers delivered meals five days a week to 16 different people who are now on meals. In addition, two frozen entrees were delivered to nine people on Fridays for weekend meals (18 total per week). One new volunteer completed training and is now delivering. One recipient ended started meals this month. [357 meals total]

Transportation - During the month of July, four rides were provided by two different volunteers who drove two different Westminster residents to medical appointments, and a wellness program for a total of 76 miles.

Nursing Program - During July, our community nurse made eight home visits and one phone check-in calls on behalf of nine seniors for wound management, diabetes information, medication management, blood pressure checks, foot care and hospitalization follow-up. She also attended one blood

pressure clinic at the July Senior Lunch where she saw an additional six seniors.

Meetings Attended by Staff in July included - Attended Monthly Senior Lunch; meetings held with nurse and treasurer; Gazette Board, grant writer, Evaluation Consultant, Garden Tour Fundraiser held July 11 and 12.

Programs in July - Two Secrets of Healthy Aging sessions, four Gentle Yoga classes, 19 Strength Training classes, four Artist in Each of Us classes and four Chair Yoga classes.

Assistance and Referrals - Assistance provided to several Westminster residents and their families, collaborating with Vernon Hall, social service agencies, Senior Solutions, the V.A., HCRS, SEVCA, Hospice, VCIL, and the Visiting Nurses.

Friendly Visiting - One volunteer making friendly visits to one senior.

Medical Equipment - In July we loaned out seven pieces of equipment; one piece of equipment was returned and two pieces were donated to us.

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, September 2nd

Thank you to our past and present donors.

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

AUGUST 2015

In memory of Almon Flagg from Ken Flagg

In memory of Alice and Harold Shattuck from Barb Greenough

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 Sept. 1 at 7 p.m.

The Prudential Committee normally meets twice a month. A warning will be posted 48 hours prior to each meeting.

Number of calls in July: 27

Number of calls through August 25th: 25

Number of calls calendar year to Date: 227

Number of calls fiscal year to date: 52

Association Meeting: The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association met for their regular meeting August 4th with President Greg Holton presiding. There were 28 members present and 6 members excused. Currently there are 41 members of the volunteer fire department.

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 side-walks 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 was held behind the high school in Westminster August 1st. 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 fun day for all.

Cell Phone and 911: Be aware if you call 911 from your cell phone, you will be connected first to the New Hampshire State Police. They will ask you a series of questions just in case they lose your call. They will then transfer you to the Vt. 911 where you will be asked a series of questions, probably the same ones. Vt. 911 will

then transfer you to our dispatch center, the Southwestern New Hampshire Mutual Aid who needs to get the call to tone our department and an ambulance. This all takes time. Our suggestion is, if you have to call 911 using a cell phone, call Mutual Aid directly at 1-603-352-1100. This number works better and quicker from a regular phone.

Have that number in your cell phone memory. It could save a life.

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.

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

Donations received for August:

1. Hamburger from C&S groceries for the truck show
2. Use of cooking grill from Brian McAllister, Father's Restaurant
3. Allison and David Dean

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

We would like to have additional volunteers from the Westminster West area. There is a Fire House, an engine and a rescue vehicle located in Westminster West and more help is always welcome to utilize that equipment during calls.

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

Check us out on our Website at www.westminsterfireandrescue.org.

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

WALPOLE UNITARIAN CHURCH CELEBRATES INGATHERING SERVICE

The Walpole Unitarian Church will celebrate our Ingathering Service, which includes a Water Communion, on Sunday, Sept. 13, at 10 a.m.

This is a multigenerational service and after the service there will be refreshments and fellowship.

The WUC welcomes Rev. Lisa Mobayed for her second year of ministry in our church. Rev. Mobayed is a graduate of Andover Newton Theological School. She was welcomed into Ministerial Fellowship last December, and

ordained in her home church, the Peterborough Unitarian Church, in April of this year. The WUC is a Welcoming Congregation. Call Worship Committee Chair Antonia Andreoli at 603-756-9036 if you have any questions.

Westminster Institute Annual Meeting

The Board of the Westminster Institute will hold it's Annual Meeting with election of officers on Sept. 8, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at the Institute.

The Lure of the Common Loon

by Alma Beals, Vermont Master Gardener and Naturalist

I rented a camp for the first week of August on Granite Lake, a 233-acre body of water in Nelson and Stoddard, New Hampshire.

I took along my notes on daylilies as I planned to write about daylilies for my next column. I dragged a chair onto the dock in front of the camp and started writing. The lake was calm after a weekend of people and boats. A pair of Common Loons and their two chicks floated by and proceeded to spend most of the morning in front of me. Every thought of an article on daylilies vanished.

For the past few years, a pair has nested on Granite Lake on a small island in the water across from the camp raising two chicks each year. Much of my morning was spent by observing one loon feeding the chicks and calling for the mate who eventually returned. They would all peer into the water by lowering their heads beneath the surface of the water so that their eyes are below the waterline.

The adults would dive surfacing with food. They would do wing flaps which straightens the flight feathers after a dive or after preening. Occasionally one would do a foot waggle which is a comfort movement, during which the loon rolls to one side, exposing its white breast, extends a foot, and shakes it.

The chicks were about two-thirds the size of the adults and were grayish brown. When small, the chicks would ride on the adult back but were much too large now. I wondered how old they were. When I returned home, I got out my Joan Dunning book "The Loon: Voice of the Wilderness" for an answer. My guess is that they might have been about seven weeks old.

Adult loons migrate back from the ocean and start nesting in early May, the two eggs hatch after 29 days, a day apart. The chick immediately starts picking at grass and sand and by the end of the day is in the water and won't return to land. For the first eight weeks, the adults feed them.

From four to six weeks they begin to acquire their juvenile plumage. In place of the black down, a grayish brown secondary down grows in and by nine weeks they are nearly full grown. They can't fly until they are 11 weeks old. In August the adults leave the chicks alone for longer and longer periods which happened while I was there.

The fall migration begins the end of August or early September. Prior to migration, loons begin to flock to larger lakes. Unsuccessful breeding pairs and unmated loons leave first, then the adults and last the young. All the loons spend the winter at the ocean with the adults returning to land in the spring for nesting while the young stay at the ocean for at least four years. Nearly all the breeding loons in Vermont winter along the southern New England coast.

Adults acquire their winter plumage during the autumn molt and keep it



until spring. In the winter adults look like the grown young with grayish brown instead of the black and white pattern they sport during breeding season. The breast and under parts stay white.

The call of the common loon is one of the most beautifully haunting sounds in North America. Loons don't usually call in the winter on the ocean but in summer their vocalizations play an important role, making contact with one another, defending their territories and caring for the young. The wail is the most often heard call and is used when one loon is trying to contact the other. The tremolo indicates alarm, usually due to disturbance by a human, a predator or another loon. The yodel is the most complex. It actually is a song, not a call and is used to defend the territory. The hoot or "kwuk" is used by mated loons to maintain contact with each other and the chicks. The young chicks continuously peep.

Loon nests vary depending on their location and the availability of building materials. Many are built on an island near an open expanse of water and reused. I suspect this was the type nest used here but I do not know as I did not see the nest. Sometimes a nest will be a scraped depression in the sand. Another type nest in a marshy area will be on top of a muskrat house or floating bog material. In some areas where predators like raccoons are troubling, artificial platforms are used. They are built of cedar posts with a wire mesh base and anchored with cement blocks and covered with sod and vegetation.

How I would enjoy living on a lake and watching a pair of loons from their arrival in early spring through the fall migration.

Aged in Vermont

Westminster Cares, Inc.

RECIPES AND REMEMBRANCES

We all have memories that center around food - growing, cooking, preserving, eating or sharing food is an important part of who we are as individuals and as a community. Westminster Cares is looking for recipes—but not just any recipes. We want recipes that come with a story and a bit of history. We'll select a few and publish them as part of our Aged in Vermont series several times a year. They don't have to be polished; we can help with that. They just need to come with your memories.

Please send them to Donna Dawson, director, at wecares@sover.net, or mail them to PO Box 312, Westminster VT 05158.

Starting off is Susan Harlow, a member of the Westminster Cares Board of Directors:

I am a grand-niece of Margaret Bent, a long-time Westminster resident. Although I never met her, she helped me reconnect with a branch of my family, for which I will always be grateful. One terrific side benefit of that new connection was a cookbook.

Fifteen years ago, my cousin Pam O'Donnell and her two daughters came to the farm with her father, my Uncle Roger Harlow. He was getting older, was ill, and wanted to see the place where he grew up and farmed with my father, Hollis, for several years before moving to Florida.

We had a grand little reunion—I had not seen Pam for decades—and in the midst of it, Aunt Dot Perry showed up with a shopping bag full of recipes that had belonged to Aunt Margaret Bent. They were written on scraps of paper, backs of envelopes, notebook pages. Some were little works of art, with drawings and poems.

We decided to create a cookbook. For several years, we met often-- at Kestrel Farm, where Aunt Margaret had lived for many years, and at Oona's restaurant in Bellows Falls, on lake vacations and in our houses. We tried out the recipes—the brown bread, the macaroni cheese fondue, the donuts from Aunt Matty Sawyer. Not all were, shall we say, attractive. We did not make the pork cake.

We tested, we ate, we discussed. And then we published *Cooking with Aunt Margaret* in 2004. Uncle Roger had died the previous year, leaving a bequest specifically to pay for the publication.

But the best part was not the finished book. It was the time we Harlows spent together—cousins, sisters, aunts, mothers and daughters—getting to know each other again, learning our histories, telling our stories. This, from the cookbook's dedication, wraps it up nicely: "At last we had the cookbook—printed, bound and ready to go—and a bigger, closer family."

As I said, not all the recipes were useful, at least in today's kitchen. The Pineapple Dessert for 80 People, church supper fare, was included, pared down to Serves 10. Mincemeat made with suet is unlikely to be a modern favorite.

But I use several of the recipes often. Especially this one, which has few ingredients, always comes out well, and is delicious. I always add spices such as cinnamon, allspice and ginger, and sometimes walnuts:

Applesauce Cake

Ingredients:

1 cup applesauce

1/2 butter, softened

1 cup sugar

2 cups flour

1 cup raisins

1 teaspoon soda stirred into applesauce

Salt

Cream butter and sugar, then add other ingredients. Bake in 8x8 square pan, greased. at 350 F. for 45 minutes.

Westminster Cares Upcoming Events

The annual meeting and celebration of our treasured 90 year olds will be held at the Westminster Fire House on Sunday, Nov. 1 from 2 to 4 p.m.

If you are 90 or if you were born in 1925 or earlier, this party is for you. Get in touch with us so we can get some information. Or if you know someone who fits this category, let us know so we can get some information from them and possibly some pictures.

Call Pete Harrison at 722-3080 or Westminster Cares at 722-3607. The event is open to the public.

GAZETTE SEEKS TREASURER/BOOKKEEPER, DELIVERY HELP

Join a great team in helping to spread the Town of Westminster news! We need a volunteer bookkeeper, and help with delivering the paper in the Bellows Falls and Westminster areas once per month when it comes out.

The bookkeeper position includes tracking deposits, paying invoices from vendors, and issuing advertising and underwriting invoices to the Gazette's customers. Other duties include reconciling the sole bank account, attending the monthly one hour planning meeting, and participating from time to time in fundraising activities.

Here is a chance to participate locally, helping a community, non-profit paper that has been an important part of Westminster for a decade. E-mail westminsternews@gmail.com with any questions, and your interest in the positions.

WESTMINSTER MYSTERY PHOTO

HELP!
WE NEED MORE
MYSTERY PHOTOS!

If you have pictures you think would make a great mystery photo, send them to westminsternews@gmail.com

**When Mystery Photos are available, E-mail your answer to westminsternews@gmail.com
The answer and the winners are announced in the next issue, page 3.**

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL BOARD—WHAT WE'VE BEEN WORKING ON

Enrollment numbers are predicted to be up slightly with 180 total, including 31 at Westminster West School. Although teachers weren't under contract to be at school until late August, many have been in getting ready for the start of the year.

There are some new policies and procedures we will need to adopt following state legislation regarding prevention of harassment, hazing and bullying and reporting suspected child abuse.

The biggest challenge on the horizon is Act 46 which promotes consolidation of districts in Vermont. This is a very complicated act that sets limits on per pupil spending increases year to year and also offers many incentives for districts to consolidate within the next couple years (and financial disincentives if we don't).

Any consolidation plan not only has to be approved by all the boards in the supervisory union but also by the voters from each of the towns. It seems no one we know is super enthused about consolidation but we do have to explore the issue and take some action one way or another.

Less controversially, we approved purchase of a new service vehicle and established a Community Education Support Committee that will bring community members together to assemble information, research and resources to help support our schools. More detailed information about this committee and how to join can be found in this issue of the Gazette or on the school Web site at www.wnesu.org/wcs/.

BRATTLEBORO AREA HOSPICE SEEKS AUCTION DONATIONS

The Brattleboro Area Hospice is seeking donated items for its annual fundraising auction on Saturday, Oct. 17.

Items needed include antiques and good furniture, jewelry, artwork, other treasures are needed.

If you have items to donate, call 254-8174 to see whether they can be dropped off at the Hospice office on Canal Street in Brattleboro or whether a pick up is needed.

ARE YOU A KNITTER? WESTMINSTER PLANS A MITTEN TREE

The Westminster Trustees of Public Funds would like to do a Mitten Tree this year in Westminster during the Holidays. The Campbell Fund can help if anyone is interested in making some mittens, hats and scarfs and needs yarn supplies, contact Mike Fawcett 722-4785, Pete Harrison 722-3080 or Barbara Taylor 722-4726, brwoodtaylor@comcast.net We're hoping to get a good jump on the Holiday Season.

GRAFTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

The Grafton Historical Society will hold its annual fund raising event, a Bake Sale and a Silent Auction, Saturday Sept. 5 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in front of the Museum on Main St. in Grafton.

The event is held each year to raise funds for the operation of the museum and the renovation of the historic Brick Meeting House in Grafton.

The event is open to the public and will coincide with the Grafton Public Library's annual Book Sale on the same day.

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.

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 or call 463-2018.

Faith Community

The First Congregational Church of Westminster

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

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

The Congregational Church of Westminster West

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

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

The church building is fully wheelchair accessible, and the congregation is Open and Affirming. Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno is the pastor, and musicians are Fred Gray and Mary Westbrook-Geha.

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

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

Grace Bible Fellowship Services

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

Find out more about the church at its Web site, www.gbf4hisglory.com/.

Meetings

Selectboard 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall.

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

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

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

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

Westminster West Public Library Board 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 Institute at 4:30 p.m.

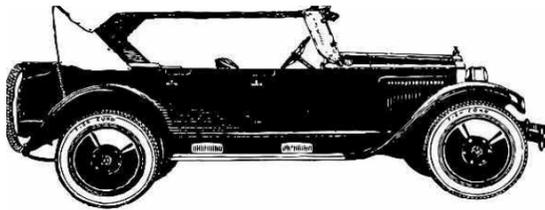
911 Committee as needed.

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

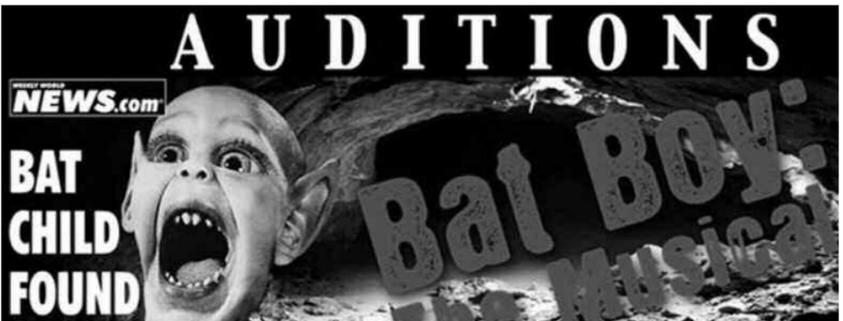
Westminster Historical Society 2nd Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Westminster Institute.

Westminster Gazette Board September 28 at 4:30 p.m. at the Westminster Institute

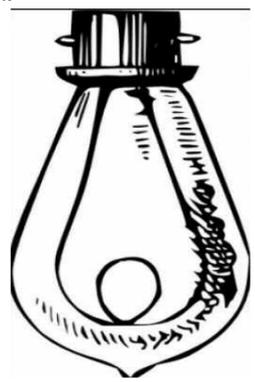
Westminster Recycling Committee Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Westminster Fire Station.



**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
Burtco Inc.
The Dascomb Trust



Auditions for Bat Boy The Musical will be held on Friday, Sept. 11 at 7 p.m. at Main Street Arts in Saxtons River.
Audition for this rock and roll comedy/"horror"/drama with a brilliant score and a lot to say about tolerance and compassion. Hysterical and poignant, with roles for people ages 12-100!



WESTMINSTER GAZETTE
Editor: Robert Smith

Board of Directors:
Charmion Handy - Chairwoman
Donna Dawson
Alma Beals

Printed by Turley Publications of
Palmer, MA

**Pictures and Articles
Provided by the Community**
westminsternews@gmail.com

**The Deadline for
the October Issue of the
Westminster Gazette is
Wednesday,
September 30
Publish Date is
Tuesday, October 6**

**To Contact the
Westminster Gazette**
E-mail:
westminsternews@gmail.com



Sojourns
COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINIC
Holistic Care for Whole People

Primary Care
Holistic Medicine
Naturopathy
Acupuncture
Biological Medicine
Chiropractic
CranioSacral Therapy
Nutritional Counseling
Massage
Physical Therapy
Herbal Medicine
Immune Support
Apothecary

"Health care that cares enough to listen and treat the cause of the symptoms and not just the symptoms themselves. Also, a very pleasant staff."
Aaron. G. Springfield, VT

Our Bodies Are Ecosystems not Chemistry Sets™.
4923 US Route 5 • Westminster, VT
802-722-4023
www.sojourns.org
Insurance accepted for all billable services
gift certificates available

WINDHAM SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT RECYCLING SERVICES

The Windham Solid Waste Management District (WSWMD) can assist Westminster residents with their trash, recycling, composting and hazardous waste needs. The WSWMD offers the following services at its facility on Old Ferry Road in Brattleboro:

Free Recycling:

- Recyclable materials listed above
- Books/Media: hard cover and soft cover books (no encyclopedias or text books), CDs, DVDs and records
- Clothing/Textiles: clean/dry clothes, coats, socks, shoes, belts, blankets & sheets, towels, curtains, and stuffed animals
- Computers/Televisions
- Paint Products: latex paint, oil based paints/stains, metal coatings, rust preventatives, shellacs, urethanes, varnishes, and waterproofing sealers. Limit: 10 cans/visit

- Universal/Hazardous Waste: rechargeable batteries, compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs), fluorescent tubes (Limit 10 tubes/visit)

- Used needles/sharps

Free Composting:

Compost now with Project C.O.W. (composting organic waste). Composting saves money on trash disposal, saves landfill space, transforms food scraps into a valuable soil amendment, and is good for the environment. WSWMD accepts the following organic materials in it's Project COW dumpster:

- Food scraps including cheese and dairy products, egg shells, coffee grounds, baked goods, meat, and bones

- Non-recyclable paper including, paper plates, paper cups, paper towels, soiled or waxed cardboard, cardboard egg cartons, frozen food containers and milk/juice cartons

- Pet waste (including cat litter)

Swap Shop

The WSWMD Swap Program is a free outlet for materials that are still usable but for which there is no traditional re-use program. Acceptable items include:

- Sports equipment;
- Construction materials (lumber, bricks, blocks, electric wire, outlet boxes)
- Non-upholstered furniture (chairs, tables, bed frames)
- Household items (dishes, kitchen ware, lamps)

- Plumbing (sinks, pipes & fittings, hoses)
- Cabinets, shelves, counters;
- Small household appliances (toaster, toaster oven, iron)
- Tools (construction - hand and power)
- Gas engine equipment (lawn mower, snow blower)
- Toys (complete and put together)
- Windows and doors
- Books (not text books or encyclopedias)

Bulky Items:

If you are able to do so, the WSWMD encourages you to recycle reusable bulky items through charitable organizations and thrift stores. If the item is in unusable condition and must be disposed of, the WSWMD accepts bulky items during normal business hours. A disposal fee may be associated with the item. Examples of bulky items include mattresses, box springs and furniture.

Recycling Locations:

The following WSWMD drop-off recycling locations offer dual-stream recycling for commingled containers (aluminum foil and steel, plastic and glass containers), mixed paper (office paper, junk mail, newspapers and magazines) and cardboard. Recycling locations include:

- Westminster Town Garage located off Route 91 access road on left before "T" at Morse Brook and Back Westminster Roads. Hours: 6 a.m. – 3 p.m./7 days a week.

- Putney Fire Department, 5 Main Street (Rt. 5), Putney. Hours: 24 hours/7 days a week.

- Rockingham/Westminster Recycling Center and Drop-off Facility: Route 5 in Westminster near Bellows Fall Union High School. Hours: Wednesdays & Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. This facility also offers a swap shop, free recycling for clothing and textiles, computer and televisions, and leaf and yard debris (leaves, grass clippings and small brush). Please visit rockbf.org for more information about the Rockingham/ Westminster Recycling Center and Drop-off Facility

- Windham Solid Waste Management District, 327 Old Ferry Road, Brattleboro. Hours: Mon. – Fri 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. & Sat. 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

For more information on the above services please call 257-0272 or visit www.windhamsolidwaste.org.

KH DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR KIM FINE CERTIFIED FUND RAISING EXECUTIVE



Kim Fine, Director of Development and Public Relations at Kurn Hattin Homes in has been recertified by CFRE International as a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE). Fine joins over 5,300 professionals around the world who hold the CFRE designation.

A West Chesterfield, NH resident who grew up in Northampton, MA, Fine joined Kurn Hattin Homes in 2002 as a Development Officer, and has been Director of Development and Public Relations since 2013. After graduating from Greenfield Community College, she received a B.A. in Education and Counseling from The University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and an M.A. in Teaching English as a Foreign Language from the School for International Training in Brattleboro.

She is a long-time volunteer for Strolling of the Heifers, a charitable organization that supports farmers

and agriculture throughout New England and a former Board member and Philanthropy Day Chair of the Association of Fundraising Professionals of Northern New England.

Individuals granted the CFRE credential have met a series of standards set by CFRE International which include tenure in the profession, education, demonstrated fundraising achievement and a commitment to service to not-for-profit organizations. They have also passed a rigorous written examination testing the knowledge, skills, and abilities required of a fundraising executive, and have agreed to uphold Accountability Standards and the Donor Bill of Rights. For information on CFRE International visit www.cfre.org.

SEVCA Weatherization 1-800-464-9951



Our guidelines have expanded to serve more homes!
Apply now to see if you qualify!

- Insulation and air sealing
- Save on heating costs
- Improve comfort level of your home
- Attention to health and safety concerns

~all at no cost to you!~

Southeastern Vermont Community Action
SERVING WINDSOR & WINDHAM COUNTIES
 SEVCA Weatherization
 91 Buck Drive
 Westminster, VT 05158





THE 2014 TAX FILING SEASON IS HERE!

Our preparers have the expertise to help you in almost every tax scenario with a specialty in business consulting.

Schedule an appointment now while they are still available.

We offer year round assistance with your tax needs as well as investments and financial planning.

Call us at (802)722-4500 to schedule your appointment.
P.O. Box 210, Westminster Station, Vermont 05159

Streeter L.L.C.
Licensed Electrician
 PO Box 206, Westminster, VT 05158
(Building, Remodeling & Repairs)
Cole Streeter Box 103
(802)722-3178 Westminster, VT 05158

HARLOW
FARM STAND
 CERTIFIED ORGANIC PRODUCE • FRESH CUT FLOWERS •
 P.O. BOX 360, ROUTE 5, WESTMINSTER, VT (802) 722-3515
 (1/2 MILE NORTH OF EXIT 9 / INTERSTATE 91)

S.B. & Company Auctioneers, Antiques
SHARON BOCCELLI & COMPANY
 Buying entire estates or single items. Probate appraisals
 46 Canal St. Bellows Falls Vt 802-460-1190

GREATER FALLS INSURANCE
 serving VT and NH since 1995
 Home • Auto • Farm • Business • Motorcycle • Recreational Vehicles
 7190 US Route 5 • Westminster, Vermont 05158
 802-463-1900 • www.greaterfallsinsurance.com

Allen Bros OIL COMPANY
 6023 U.S. Route 5 Westminster, VT 05158 allenbrosoil.com
 Phone: 802-722-3331
 Toll Free: 877-722-3331
 Fax: 802-722-9871
 info@allenbrosoil.com

Support Your Community Newspaper
Put Your Business Card Size Ad Here
\$150 for a Year

THE CHIMNEY DOCTOR
 Chimney & Stove Care
 Sweeping • Repair • Installation & Relining
 Pellet Stove & Dryer Vent Service
 Internal Video Inspection
Ian Conway - Master Sweep
 still sweeping since 1987
 273 Earthbridge Rd Westminster, VT 05346 CSIA Cert. 1725
 (802) 387-6037 Member National & NE Chimney Sweep Guilds
 chindoc@comcast.net www.VTChimneyDoctor.com

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.

Located at 46 Canal St. in Bellows Falls, call 460-1190.

WESTMINSTER WEST COMMUNITY FAIR

This year the Westminster West Community Fair is on Saturday, Sept. 12 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., in and around the church in Westminster West.

The theme this year is "Keeping the Spirit Alive", and the Grand Marshal will be Susie Webster-Toleno, pastor of the Congregational Church of Westminster West, to recognize the many ways she supports spiritual connection and internal reflection in this community.

Other events include: A bake sale, a parade through the village, music on the lawn by the Grafton Cornet Band, a veggie chop-o-matic, a fun run for kids and a 5K running race for adults, a silent auction, a talent show, a delicious chicken barbeque, a Fortune Teller and Face Painting, various crafts and booths and an awesome Golden elephant sale. See the full schedule for the day at www.westminsterwest.org.

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. Come on out and see your neighbors, share a laugh or a talent, enjoy a delicious meal or pick up a treasure that you never before knew you needed!

And, 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, TVs (they cost money to get rid of), clothes, or books (the Westminster West Library takes these for their book sale the same day). We also appreciate donations of baked goods for the bake sale or contributions from your garden for the delicious meal. Too many tomatoes, zucchini or basil? We can help!

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.

HEIDI BERNIER, CBR
 LICENSED VT & NH
Berkley & Veller Greenwood Country Realtors
 Bus. 802-254-6400 x135 • Fax. 802-254-6403
 Res. 802-869-2781 • Cell 802-380-1585
 www.berkleyveller.com
 heidi.bernier@berkleyveller.com
 119 Western Avenue, Brattleboro, VT 05301
 Offices: Brattleboro, VT • West Dover, VT • Walpole, N.H.

RUGGIERO
TRASH REMOVAL
802.869.2235
 Box 434, Saxtons River Vermont 05154 Joe 802.384.0397
 Jeff 603.209.4441

JACKLYN ATWOOD REAL ESTATE
 JACKIE ATWOOD 616 NEWCOMB ROAD WESTMINSTER, VT 05346
 VT & NH BROKER OFFICE/FAX 802-722-9296 CELL 802-236-1164
 jackieatwoodrealestate@gmail.com

LAWRENCE & LOBER ELECTRIC
 www.llelectricservices.com info@llelectricservices.com
 Tel: 802-460-3479 800-559-3479
 15 Barker St. Bellows Falls, Vt 05101 Fax: 802-460-3480

WESTMINSTER AUTO Ex 5, I-91 Rt. 5, Westminster
Vernon & Doreen Kelton
 PO Box 94, Westminster Station, VT 05159
(802) 722-4722
 Check us out on our website:
 www.westminsterauto.com

ATTORNEY ERIC ANDERSON
 Individual, Family, Business Representation
 Tel. 802.722.3249 or 802.254.2345
 eanderson@archstlaw.com
Glad to Make Housecalls.

Serene Touch
flowing body, mind, and spirit together thru touch
 Diane Bazin 24 Grout Ave. Westminster, VT 05158 413-530-5696 dbazin@sover.net www.zerobalancing.com
 Certified Zero Balancer Certified Reiki Master Massage Therapist

genius loci
 SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE DESIGN, INSTALLATION & STEWARDSHIP
 Cyndy Fine LANDSCAPE DESIGNER
 802.376.7275 | cyndy@geniuslocidesign.com

Our Monthly Community Newspaper September 2015 Vol. 11, No. 9

Westminster Gazette
 TOWN OF WESTMINSTER
 PO Box 147
 WESTMINSTER, VT 05158

Pre-Sorted Standard U.S. Postage **PAID** Westminster, VT PERMIT NO. 3