

# Westminster Gazette



po box 147 westminster vt 05158

Our Community Newspaper @ www.westminstervt.org

Vol. 12, No. 9 September 2016

## SAFE, KIND & WELCOMING: NEW SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS



Westminster Community Schools opened their doors for the 2016-2017 school year on Wednesday August 31st. The faculty and staff are excited and proud to serve the students of Westminster and believe that things are shaping up for an excellent year!

The first few weeks of school are all about building community and routines here at Westminster —so that we are all the more productive when the heavy academic load revs up. Students began this community building process with Open House at the Westminster West School and the traditional beginning of the year potluck picnic and Open House at the Center School. This work will continue as we learn each other's names and work to build again our safe, caring, and welcoming learning environment where we can all do our personal best!

To help us we are practicing four new school wide agreements this year:

- 1) We agree to make our school a safe, kind, and welcoming place to be.
- 2) We agree to make our school clean and green.
- 3) We agree to do our best learning.
- 4) We agree to help others do their best learning.

We encourage everyone to check out our Website at [www.wnesu.org/wcs](http://www.wnesu.org/wcs) and our new Facebook page [www.facebook.com/westminstercommunityschools](http://www.facebook.com/westminstercommunityschools).

For Information about Bus Schedules, go to the 2016 -2017 Bus Lists on the Web page. Daily lunch menus are linked under the School Info tab.

**September Back To School Dates:**

- Monday, Sept 5: Labor Day No School
- Tuesday, Sept 6: School Board Mtg 6:30
- Monday Sept 12: T.E.A.M. Mtg 6:00
- Sept. 19 - 23: 6th grade trip to Camp Keewayden



Tuesday, Sept 20: School Board Mtg 6:30

*Be well and happy,  
Doug Kussius  
Principal Westminster Community Schools*

## STAFF STABILITY: EVERY TEACHER RETURNS TO COMPASS SCHOOL FOR NEW YEAR

It is not common in any school to have every member of the staff returning for a new school year, but that is the wonderful situation at Compass School for 2016-17. As veteran teacher Ron Boslun often says, "Compass is a great place to be a kid and a great place to be an adult."

Compass has always been proud of the expertise of its teachers, almost all of whom have advanced degrees and years of experience working with youth in a diversity of settings. Not only are all the teachers back at Compass this year, but even the newly hired classroom aide, Angela Fish, is a returning Compass teacher who taught Spanish and worked in student support services four years ago.

This stability among the staff helps Compass build on the consistency of its program developed over its 17 years of operation. Some of the more recent initiatives at Compass that are now well established parts of the program include: 1-1 computing to assure each student has equal access to technology to enhance learning, a meaningful proficiency based portfolio process for each grade to reflect on learning and celebrate individual's growth, an engaging, independent learning structure for 11th and 12th graders, and grade level seminars to help students develop age level appropriate skills beyond their academi-



ic learning.

While Compass still has the dynamism of a new school, it has developed systems and structures that support student learning and create a culture reflected in the stability of the teachers and staff. The teachers are bringing positive energy into the new school year at Compass. Compass invites anyone to stop in to see the school in action.

## BACKPACKS FOR KH KIDS

It's a new school year, and Lisa Palmer and Father Lance Harlow delivered colorful new backpacks to the students at Kurn Hattin Homes for Children to help them carry their textbooks and school supplies in style. Lisa is a parishioner of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Windsor, and Father Harlow is the Rector at St. Joseph's Co-Cathedral in Burlington. The two coordinated the effort as a part of the St. Nicholas Project, a statewide collaborative of Vermont Catholic parishes that organized to provide resources to the Kurn Hattin children.



## PINNACLE CABIN RESTORATION BEGINS

The rustic stone-and-wood cabin at the Pinnacle overlook – a favorite attraction on the 20+-mile Pinnacle trail system that runs from Putney Mountain to Grafton – is getting a facelift.

After many years of providing a unique spot for overnights, family reunions, school excursions, and shelter from inclement weather, time and the elements have taken their toll. The Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association [WHPA] knew it was time to make some essential repairs.

Planned work includes rebuilding the west stone wall and two corner foundations, reframing and replacing all windows; welding steel patches into the fireplace insert; affixing a ladder to the east wall as a fire escape from the loft window; and removing and replacing the roof of the nearby out-house.

With the promise of help from volunteers and initial support from some enthusiastic donors, WHPA has taken a giant leap of faith and decided to proceed immediately with the necessary repairs by master builder Phil Pellerin, who has already replaced a makeshift log seat at the overlook with a long-lasting granite bench. Pinnacle's approval is allowing Pellerin to take advantage of the season's dry weather while WHPA seeks additional funds to meet its goal for the project.

Sure of the appeal of its iconic cabin, the Pinnacle Association is asking anyone who has enjoyed the cabin or appreciates its existence to contribute to the Cabin Renovation Campaign and help Pinnacle complete the repairs this fall.

The public is invited to contribute online at [www.windmillhillpinnacle.org](http://www.windmillhillpinnacle.org) or to mail a check to WHPA (noting Cabin Campaign in the memo section) at PO Box 584, Saxtons River, VT 05154. Every contribution will be appreciated and will make this unique structure improved and secure for generations to come. As progress is made, pictures will be posted on the Pinnacle Web site at [www.windmillhillpinnacle.org](http://www.windmillhillpinnacle.org).



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## NOMINATE WESTMINSTER'S CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Dear Residents of Westminster:

It is that time again to start thinking about town meeting. Many Westminster citizens contribute their time, skills, and effort to make this a great community. The Selectboard would like to recognize one of these outstanding citizens as "Westminster's Citizen of the Year" at our next Town Meeting.

Is there someone you would like to nominate for this award? If you know someone who has worked to make Westminster a better community, please let us know.

Simply send us a letter letting us know who you would like to nominate along with a brief statement as to why you feel they should be Westminster's Citizen of the Year.

Please send your nomination in a sealed envelope to:

Town of Westminster, Select Board  
P.O. Box 147  
Westminster, VT 05158  
Citizen of the Year Nomination

Nominations must be received by December 2, 2016 no later than 4:00 PM. All nominations will be held in the strictest confidence. The honoree will be announced during Town Meeting at BFUHS on March 4, 2017.

*Thank You,  
Westminster Selectboard*

## WHAT'S UP AT THE TOWN HALL: TOWN BUDGET, FACILITIES, VACANCIES

**Town Budget vs. Facilities:** The Selectboard has started the delicate conversation of capitol budgeting of our Town owned buildings. The Town owns the following buildings:

1. The Historic Town Hall
2. The Post Office on Route 5
3. The Town Garage off Morse Brook Road
4. The Westminster West Town Hall
5. The North Westminster Community House

As with any building, the maintenance is catching up with us and the need for repairs are upon us. Some of the buildings needs and or uses have changed in the past 10-15 years. These changes are where the delicate conversations are heating up. Discussions so far have been directed at the Historic Town Hall and the Westminster West Town Hall.

- The Historic Town Hall has been voted on and approved for a renovation since 2008. Architectural plans have been received and are being looked at for the most affordable, spacious and functional option possible.

Some of the stumbling stones are: second form of egress, handicap accessibility that meets the modern day requirements for both floors, handicap bathrooms that meet code, storage space for new files and for retention files, reconfiguration of office spaces to help with public access, and all the while keeping enough room for the Historical Society to remain vibrant with one of our Towns largest assets, our History and its artifacts.

Estimates for this endeavor have been received and the Selectboard must choose which way to proceed.

- The Westminster West Town Hall has been recently closed by the Town's insurance carrier because of some deficiencies that deem the building unsafe as per modern municipal rules.

The building needs to be updated electrically, egresses marked by lit signs, handicap accessibility looked at in regards to door openings and ramps, exterior handrails repaired, existing furnace dismantled for non-use, clapboard repairs and a good old coat of paint. Structurally the building needs to be shimmed and new footings placed under the building's columns.

Pricing is being sought for these items so that a reasonable decision can be made about the future of this building and how much money does the Town place in the budget for next year.

**Town Positions:** We still have vacancies on a few of our boards and committees. The openings are as follows:

**Activities Committee:** Two open seats – Purpose is to identify the different recreational activities available to residents both in town and in surrounding areas, develop and maintain a list of such activities, conduct a program designed to inform residents of the recreational opportunities available to them, facilitate

coordination among various private and public organizations that provide recreational opportunities to residents, develop and present to the Selectboard for approval a three year recreation plan that provides for recreational opportunities to town residents of all ages and allows for funding of such opportunities. Committee meets on the second Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Westminster Institute.

**Community Improvement Committee:** One open seat – Is responsible for managing the Town's home improvement revolving loan fund. Under this program, qualified residents can apply for low interest home improvement loans. This committee reviews applications, assists homeowners in preparing loan materials, and presents lending proposals to the Selectboard for action. This committee meets when there is a need for assistance.

**Conservation Committee:** Three open seats – Acts as an advisory panel, but is empowered to conduct research and investigations, on behalf of the Town, into any matters that are pertinent to the goals and policies in the Town Plan that address Natural Resources, Water Resources, agricultural lands, conservation districts, and energy resources to the extent that energy resources and energy systems impact the natural environment. Committee meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall.

**Development Review Board:** One open seat – Is the local land use board that holds quasi-judicial proceedings (hearings) to review land use applications. The board meets on the 1st Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall.

**Planning Commission:** One open seat – Has broad authority to plan for the future needs of their community, which may be addressed in drafting and maintaining of the Town Plan, subdivision regulations, zoning bylaws/ordinances which are required to be reviewed and updated every five years, and identifying tools, regulatory and non-regulatory, to implement the Town Plan. Committee meets on the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall.

**Historic Review Board:** One open seat - Purpose is to advise the Development Review Board on applications considered within the Historical District. The Board is comprised of three members that have knowledge of and interest in design, architecture, and the historic development within this district. The Historic Review Board's objectives are to preserve, protect, and enhance the historic character of the Westminster Historical District.

The Historic Review Board meets when an application is submitted.

**Citizen of the Year:** It's hard to believe but we have already started planning for the Town Report and one of our needs from the public are nominations for "Citizen of the Year". Please get your candidates and a brief narrative about them to us no later than December 2nd.

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

## 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 caregiving 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](mailto:wecares@sover.net). Check us out on the web at [www.westminstercares.org](http://www.westminstercares.org) and like us on Facebook.

**Programs & Services Provided in July:**

**Meals On Wheels:** In July, WC volunteers delivered meals five days a week to 14 different people. In addition, two frozen entrees were delivered each Friday to 9 people on Fridays for weekend meals. One client ended M.O.W.

**Transportation –** During the month of July, nine rides were provided by three volunteers who drove seniors to medical appointments; the pharmacy, and cardio rehab appointments. In addition two deliveries of library books were dropped off to one client.

**Nursing Program –** During July, our community nurse made eight home visits on behalf of eight seniors for medication and pain management, blood pressure checks, foot care and diabetes education. Isabelle saw an additional 7 seniors at the monthly Blood Pressure Clinic at Senior Lunch.

**Meetings Attended by Staff in July –** Senior Solutions Advisory Council meeting which hosted a forum on senior issues for the candidates for Governor in VT. Attended two Healthy Aging groups and consulted with representative of

Dummerston Cares. Meetings also held with our bookkeeper, treasurer, Gazette Board and Garden Tour committee.

**Programs in July –** Two Secrets of Healthy Aging session, three Gentle Yoga classes, 12 Strength Training classes (1x week in summer), three Artist in Each of Us classes; five Chair Yoga classes and one Senior Lunch.

**Assistance and Referrals in July:** Assisted clients with information regarding application to assisted living and nursing homes; home caregivers and housekeepers and VA appointment scheduling.

**Friendly Visiting –** Volunteers made 6 friendly visits in July.

**Medical Equipment –** In July we loaned out nine pieces of equipment. One piece of equipment was returned to us and one piece of equipment was donated by us for seniors in Saxtons River.

**Next Board Meeting:** Wednesday, September 14th

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.

**Memorial Donations Received in AUGUST 2016**

In memory of Paul Ricci from:

Evelyn McLean

Juliet Bell

Allison and David Deen

Susan Roman

Roger Blacklow

Laura Blacklow and Peter Fougere

## NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE: HONORING JUSTIN BEEBE

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. 6 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. A warning will be posted 48 hours prior to each meeting.

Number of calls in July: 34

Number of calls through Aug. 30th: 28

Number of calls calendar year to Date: 247

Number of calls fiscal year to date: 62

**Association Meeting:** The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association met for their regular meeting August 2nd with President Greg Holton presiding. There were 22 members present and 5 members excused. Currently there are 41 members of the volunteer fire department.

Liam Hackett was welcomed as a full member having turned 18 and completed the 6 month probation requirement. Also, Roy Williams was promoted to Captain, C5, and Gary Cobb was made Lieutenant, C6. Don Dawson has volunteered to manage our Web site.

**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.

**Chimneys:** Before you fire up your wood stove or furnace, take a look up the chimney to be sure it doesn't need cleaning or that something has built a nest inside and plugged it up.

**Memorial service:** Several members of the fire department along with most of the apparatus participated in the homecoming event and memorial service for Justin Beebe. Some of the volunteers put the flags back up in the village and

Westminster West including purple ribbon on all the poles holding the flags.

**Truck Show:** The annual truck show was held behind the high school in Westminster on August 6th. 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. We would like to thank the following businesses for donating food to us for the event: Allen Brothers, Richard DiMuzio, Gena Goof from C&S and Mark Curran of Black River Produce.

**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.

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

**Donations in August:** From Westminster Cares in memory of Justin Beebe

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 Web site [www.westminsterfireandrescue.org](http://www.westminsterfireandrescue.org)

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

## VENTING SENSE: FROM WOOD HEATING SYSTEMS TO DRYERS & RANGE HOODS

By Ian Conway

The Chimney Doctor

Vermont is often the highest per capita wood burning state in the union. Most Vermonters have learned to make sure their wood heating systems are clean and serviced before the heating season arrives.

However, most homes have at least several other sources of exhaust that are vented outside, including but not limited to oil, gas and pellet heaters, kitchen range hoods and clothes dryer vents.

I will mention clothes dryer vents here. A dryer is a vented heating appliance fueled by either gas or electricity. Lint from the drying process can build up in the vent. This is especially true for venting runs that are long or circuitous. This can affect drying times, can lead to the back up of toxic fumes in the house and even cause a fire. Simply cleaning the lint screen is not sufficient over time to prevent accumulation of lint in the system. Improper venting materials, such as plastic can rupture and cause leaks and lint blow back.

As a precaution it is advisable to check all vented appliances in the warmer months to prevent problems in the depth of winter!

## Dragonflies and Damselflies

by Alma Beals, Vermont Master Gardener and Naturalist

Now that summer is winding down, the singing of birds has been replaced by the chirping of insects. About the middle of August, I realized with a jolt, how few birds that I have enjoyed all spring and summer are still here. Some have headed south and others are hiding while molting.

As I listen to the insects chirping, I wonder what I am hearing. My favorite sounds are birds and not insects. Recently while sitting in my yard listening, a dragonfly flew by and I thought how little I know about them. I got out my books, borrowed a few more from the library and googled dragonflies. I discovered what interesting creatures they are.

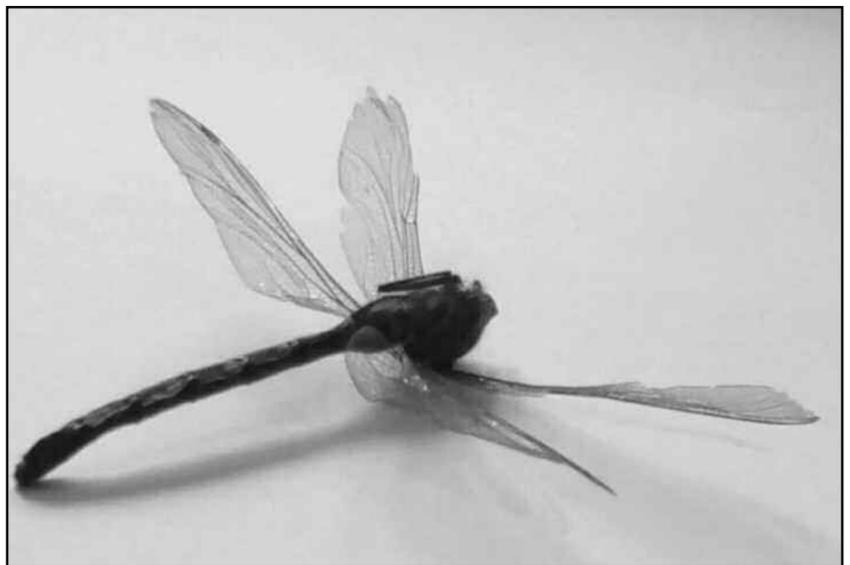
Dragonflies and damselflies are both in the order Odonata. How can we tell the difference between them? Some observations are the dragonfly's wings are held straight out to the sides while resting, the body is larger and stouter and it is a strong flier. The damselfly's wings are pressed above the body while resting, the body is delicate and it is a weak flyer.

A closer look will show a round head and huge eyes that cover much of the top and sides of the head on a dragonfly. The damselfly has a head wider than long and eyes that are separated by more than their own width. From a distance, the first thing you will notice is that dragonflies are usually flying and damselflies are usually seen perching to pick insects off leaves and flowers.

Some of my books tell us that dragonflies and damselflies are seen in New England from mid-April to mid-November but other books say June to September. I notice them mostly in late summer. Like birds, the males are more colorful than the females and are usually the ones you see flying around. Of all winged insects, the dragonflies are the only ones who don't beat their two pairs of wings up and down at the same time.

They have six legs with spines that they dangle while flying to form a basket that scoops up prey. They depend on their eyesight and strong jaws to crunch and chew insects, as well as their flight ability, to capture prey.

With their huge eyes, they can see all around, what is in front, behind, below or beside them. This ability is useful when looking for food or watching out for hungry birds or to avoid spider webs. They can rotate



A Dragonfly.

their heads almost 360 degrees and can see objects up to 30 feet away and can detect movement up to 60 feet away. They can hover and fly backward as well as dart quickly after prey.

We think of dragonflies and damselflies flying around but actually they live most of their lives in the water. After mating, the female lays eggs in the water on stems of water plants. Nymphs (larvae) emerge from the eggs and molt several times as they grow. The nymphs crawl out of the water after a couple years and attach themselves to plant stems. They become winged adults after undergoing the last molt and live only a few days or months. Have you ever observed a skeleton clinging to vegetation above a pond?

If you have a pond nearby and a little time, sit and watch the action. Binoculars and a guide will help to identify, but don't forget to bring a camera.

# Aged in Vermont

Westminster Cares, Inc.

## WESTMINSTER CARES COMMUNITY NURSE PROGRAM — A VALUABLE ASSET

Westminster Cares' Community Nurse program has been up and running for six years and many people have benefitted from the enhanced care they've received from this program. In this article, we'll give you a brief overview of the program in case you aren't sure what exactly the Community Nurse does or how to set up visits.

Isabelle Abramson, a resident of Westminster West, has been our Community Nurse since 2013 (Trudy Byington was our nurse from 2010-2013). When someone calls the Westminster Cares office to request a nurse visit they will first talk to our director who will pass their information on to Isabelle. Isabelle will then contact them to set up a visit. Along with providing some limited clinical care, such as simple wound care, foot care, medication planning, or nutritional planning, the nurse can also be a key liaison between solitary individuals and the community. The nurse may alert our director to an individual's need for fuel assistance, Meal on Wheels services, or social support from one of our many beloved volunteers.

One of the main goals of the nursing program is to help individuals manage their health at home in a way that increases comfort and decreases preventable medical problems or unplanned trips to the hospital. Isabelle says, "One of the reasons that foot care has become a large part of the nursing program is that when one of our older residents lives alone, doesn't drive, has some medical issues, and can't easily see or reach their feet, there is a good chance that medical issues or questions will naturally arise. Having a nurse check in every 4-6 weeks can usually solve or prevent a lot of problems."

During these monthly or bimonthly visits, Isabelle is able to assess whether someone has changed from their baseline, and can help the individual modify behaviors or get additional care if needed. Periodic visits can also be a valuable social experience for individuals who might feel isolated.

It is important to understand that the Community Nurse is not a resource in emergency situations. Usually initial visits take a week or two to schedule, so it is necessary that in the case of an emergency or a situation where a doctor's visit needs to happen within the next few days that you would rely on your regular health care provider (and always call 911 first in an emergency).

Although nursing is a part-time job for her, Isabelle truly enjoys home-based care and visiting seniors. "I think it's important to remember that every older person was once someone's child and (if all goes well) the rest of us will all be elderly someday too. The people that Westminster Cares helps are the ones who have been here the longest and made Westminster the place that we all love and decided to make our home. It is a pleasure to check in on them from time to time."

If you think you or a loved one could use Isabelle's services or if you would like to work with Isabelle to help provide social wellness visits to seniors, please call Westminster Cares at 722-3607 to schedule an appointment. Isabelle also attends monthly Senior Lunches held on the 2nd Thursday of the month at the First Congregational Church of Westminster between 12 to 1 p.m.

## HELP WITH WESTMINSTER'S 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 or 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.

The Campbell Fund wants to thank those who answered our call to help with our Mitten Tree this Holiday Season. We are pleased to report that we have already received some and expect more to come by December.

There is still time to finish a pair of mittens or if you can't knit or crochet, locate just the right pair to add to our collection. Linda Fawcett, our East Parish Librarian, has agreed to be a collection center for any finished items. We will have a box at the Westminster Town Hall. You may also call Mike Fawcett 722-4785, Pete Harrison 722-3080 or Barbara Taylor 722-4726, brwoodtaylor@comcast.net. Thank you for helping us with this seasonal event.

The Mitten Tree last year was truly a success. Thank you to all our volunteers, we made 103 hats, 50 pair of mittens and 14 scarves. We distributed them to Westminster organizations and the Warming Shelter.

## BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

You are invited to the First Congregational Church of Westminster at 3470 Route 5 on Sunday, Sept. 18, 10 a.m. under the tents for a Blessing of the Animals celebration.

This began as a Catholic celebration associated with St. Francis of Assisi, but has become extremely popular for people of many traditions. We are discovering more and more the benefits of pets in our lives and society so blessing them at church is not just a fun thing to do; it is acknowledging their importance to both us and God. So bring your pet fish, horse, goat, sheep, gerbil, cats and dogs or any other creature for a blessing.

On Saturday, Sept. 17 the church will hold a Pie Sale and Cookout lunch on the front lawn from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. This event will feature a variety of items for sale including homemade pies. The cook-out will include hot-dogs, sausage and pepper grinders as well as other surprises to eat. Come enjoy lunch and visit in the outdoor café and take home something hot for dinner or a pie for dessert.

## WESTMINSTER MYSTERY PHOTO

Last month's Mystery Photo was correctly identified by several readers, who provided us with the following interesting comments:

"The photo in the August Gazette is of the Bellows Falls & Saxtons River Street Railway, and it operated in the early 1900's. The Westminster connection is that the carbarn for the railway was located in Gageville in the building that is now S.L Moore Construction but was formerly Gay's Express. In the photo, the gentleman standing on the trolley third from the left with the white beard is Samuel Daggett, a resident of Gageville at that time."

Patty Mark

"The picture is of the Trolley that ran daily from Bellows Falls Depot to Saxtons River - began in 1899 with regular runs in 1900. I believe my Dad was a Conductor on same. It ended in 1924 in bankruptcy. It was well known for stopping at Barber's Park in SR".

Audrey Hinds Gochey

Other readers who identified the photo were  
John F.H.Cook and Wanda West.

Thanks, and we need more Mystery Photos and commentary!

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

## PINNACLE ASSOCIATION'S ACCESSIBILITY DAY PROGRAM IS SEPTEMBER 24

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, September 24 from 10:45 or 11 a.m., depending upon which of two start locations is chosen, to 2 p.m., this is a rare opportunity for a vehicle ride via the often-rough road leading to Paul's Ledges.

At the overlook, 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. They should meet promptly at Westminster West Church at 10:45 AM or at the Athens Dome Trailhead on Route 35, opposite Sleepy Valley Road in Athens, at 11 to carpool.

All riding participants must register in advance with Bev Major at 387-5737 or Elaine Gordon at 369-6103. In the event of inclement weather, the program will be canceled.

See the Access Points Map on the Pinnacle Web site 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](http://www.windmillhillpinnacle.org).

## BEEKEEPING WORKSHOP

Charles Andros, former NH/VT Apiary Inspector, will hold a beekeeping workshop from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, September 10. Topics of discussion will include treatment of nosema and mites (including using oxalic acid), winter preparations, protein and carbohydrate supplements, and making beeswax hand creams.

Look for the "BEE" sign on the south side of Walpole Valley Road at 18 MacLean Road in Alstead, NH. We shall be opening some colonies, so bring a veil if you wish. Water and sunscreen are also a plus. We'll be inside if it is a rainy day. Registration required. Email [lindenap@gmail.com](mailto:lindenap@gmail.com) or call 603-756-9056.

## CALLING ALL 90 YEAR OLDS!

On Sunday, Nov. 6, Westminster Cares will hold their Annual Meeting and Celebration of Aging. Residents of our town who are 90 years of age and older will be recognized and celebrated.

If you are 90 or older or know someone who is 90 or older, please call Donna Dawson at 722-3607. Help us locate as many 90+ residents as possible. We want everyone to be a part of the celebration!

## UNEXPECTED VISITOR

Westminster Cares had an unexpected visitor to the office last week. A gentleman named Jack Wagner was in the area for the first time in years, and stopped by to see the Institute and drive through town.

Although his family lived in Syracuse, N.Y., they had a connection to Richard Williams and his family. Jack spent every summer during his high school and college years living and working on the Williams Brothers Farm from 1951-1959.

Wagner said some of his most fond memories were from his time in Westminster. He had great fun living with the Williams family during his summers and also remembers "taking showers" at the Institute as a special treat! He remains in touch with Mrs. Williams, who is in her late 90's.

If you knew Jack Wagner and would like to send a note: 3404 Hammocks Dr., Apt. 302, Baldwinville, N.Y. 13027

# WESTMINSTER HAPPENINGS

## Activities

### Scottish Country Dance Classes

Every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Westminster Center School Gym. 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.

### Chair Yoga

Every Friday from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at the First Congregational Church in Westminster. 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.

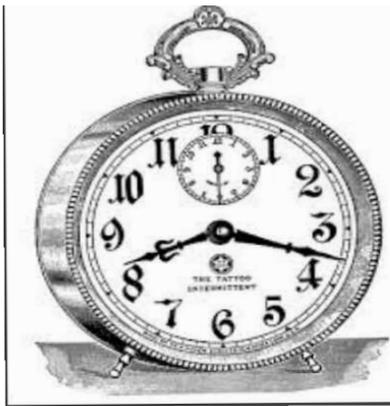
All our yarn is from community donation and we distribute our completed work to all area schools and Parks Place. More knitters at all skill levels are wanted and we can promise you an enjoyable experience. For details or to donate yarn contact Caroline at 463-4653.

### Westminster West Public Library Trustees

The Westminster West Public Library Trustees meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the library. They welcome visits from the public. Contact Lisa Cavanaugh at 387-4682.

### Bellows Falls Farmers' Market

Stop by Hetty Green Park 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).



## GRANT BRINGS DENTAL CARE INTO AREA SCHOOLS

Springfield Medical Care Systems has received a two-year \$150,000 grant from the Fanny Holt Ames and Edna Louise Holt Fund for its new Children's Dental Health Project. This project will make a dental hygienist, with portable equipment, available to provide "screening and cleaning" dental services to children in area schools, and will provide transportation from schools to dental clinics for treatment including fillings and extractions. These services will be provided at no out of pocket costs to families.

A national survey found that one in four children has tooth decay by age 5 and one in seven children ages 6-12 had suffered a toothache in the previous six months. Children with poor oral health were nearly three times more likely to miss school because of dental pain in one study.

A major factor in poor oral health is access to services. Working parents, even those with insurance coverage, are often unable to get their children to a dentist during weekday office hours.

The goals of this Children's Dental Health Project are to prevent tooth decay, to educate and encourage self-care among children and their parents, and to increase access to oral health treatment. For information on this project, contact Larry Kraft at 885-7644 or [lkrift@springfieldmed.org](mailto:lkrift@springfieldmed.org).

## Faith Community

### The First Congregational Church of Westminster

The Rev. Sami Jones McRae, Pastor. 3470 Route 5, PO Box 122, Westminster, 802-722-4148. Sunday worship is at 10 a.m. Communion is the first Sunday of each month.

The church has a ramp and lift for wheelchair access as well as a handicapped bathroom. Sunday School is available; call the church to register your children. The First Congregational Church of Westminster, Inc., 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 Malcolm Toleno.

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).

### Walpole Bible Church

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.walpolebiblechurch.org](http://www.walpolebiblechurch.org).

### Walpole Unitarian Church

Services are at 10 a.m. Children's Religious Education begins at 10 a.m. with the adults and moves to Hastings House at 10:15. Refreshments and conversation are held after the service with the children included. [www.walpoleunitarian.org](http://www.walpoleunitarian.org).

## 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 6:30 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** 1st 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 Meeting** Monday, Sept. 26 at 4:30 p.m. at the Westminster Institute

**Westminster Institute Board** will meet on Tuesday, Sept. 13 at 7 p.m. in the Institute.

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## WESTMINSTER WEST COMMUNITY FAIR SEPT. 10

The 27th annual Westminster West Community Fair will be held Saturday, Sept. 10, 2016, with a theme of "Book It to Westminster West." Admission to the fair, held in the heart of the village off Westminster West Road, is free.

It starts at 8:30 a.m. and runs until 3 p.m., and includes a fun run for kids and 5K race for adults, with prizes ranging from goat cheese and Green Mountain Orchard apples to a Hidden Springs Maple gift certificate; a bake sale; a parade through the village; and music on the church lawn by an old-time string band from Windham County.

The fair also features a talent show; a delicious chicken barbeque lunch for sale, with a vegetarian alternative; fruit and vegetable-growing contest; and a raffle for prizes ranging from a handmade bench by woodworker Nick Keil to packages from Marriott hotels and Mount Snow.

A separate silent auction also has many other valuable offerings.

Proceeds from the fair help support the community use of the Congregational Church of Westminster West building and community suppers held there.

The Grand Marshal of the annual parade will be volunteers of the Westminster West Public Library, another key institution in the small village, which is part of the town of Westminster.

"The library and the church are near each other in the village and also share a lot of common goals for community building and serving people in town," said Laura Williams, one of the fair organizers.

"The fair is a highlight of the year in Westminster West, not just for people enjoying the day together but also supporting a very important part of our community," she added.

Full details and a schedule can be found at [www.westminsterwest.org](http://www.westminsterwest.org).

## KURN HATTIN RECEIVES FUNDING FOR SMART BOARD TECHNOLOGY

As part of an initiative to support innovative teaching practices in its K-8 school curriculum, Kurn Hattin Homes for Children has received several recent awards from New England funding sources to update teaching technology tools. Kurn Hattin received three grants for its SMART Technology for Kids Project. The project was initiated to update and advance SMART Board interactive whiteboard technology at the non-profit residential school. Grants were awarded by The Pabis Foundation (\$7,000), TD Bank (\$5,000), and People's United Community Foundation (\$5,000).

The touch-sensitive whiteboards utilize software, lessons, and information that is available online or on the teacher's computer desktop. The system is easy to use, and improves self-editing, exploration, research, motivation, attention, and creativity. The touch screen offers the ability to scale to large sizes and to support multiple users. Teachers can create, deliver and manage interactive lessons within a single application.

"With the use of this technology, teachers of all age groups will have access to a powerful interactive tool that will motivate and engage our students at a level that is age-appropriate and can also be tailored to adapt to individual needs," said Principal Noah Noyes. "It will assist our educators in giving our children the confidence, skills and knowledge they need to become stable, successful adults later on." Noyes notes that there is always a great need for support for classroom technology at the school, including computer notebooks, audio-visual accessories, and software.

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We meet most Thursdays, 7:30 a.m. at Kurn Hattin School in the Mayo Center, Westminster, Vermont.  
New members welcome.



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Please direct all inquiries for the conference to Terry Andrews at (802) 721-6913, or email [tandrews@kurnhattin.org](mailto:tandrews@kurnhattin.org).

**Register now: [conference.kurnhattin.org](http://conference.kurnhattin.org)**



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**September Businesses 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 at 46 Canal Street in Bellows Falls, or call 802-460-1190.

**Karen Vedus**  
**Licensed Marriage & Family Therapy**

Karen Vedus, LMFT has been a practicing therapist for over 25 years, although she is new to Vermont. Karen is licensed in Vermont as a Marriage and Family Therapist and sees clients in her home office on Piggery Road in Westminster.

She sees individuals and couples. Individuals are provided a safe, nurturing environment where they can explore their feelings without judgment. I help my clients to become stronger and more resilient when dealing with life's stresses in order to have more emotionally connected and fulfilling lives. I do not give advice, but guide and assist clients in making their best choices.

Her goal is to help couples to reconnect and reduce the conflicts that create distance in their relationship with the most effective couples therapy approach...Emotionally Focused

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