

# Westminster Gazette



po box 147 westminster vt 05158

Our Community Newspaper

Vol. 5, No. 9 September 2009

## KURN HATTIN PRINCIPAL RECEIVES THE JOHN WINTON MIDDLE LEVEL PRINCIPAL'S AWARD by Heather Longe

Westminster- The campus is quiet. The sun is rising over the river and the eastern hills, and the horses are starting to stir in the barn. It is 6:00 am, and Kurn Hattin's educational and residential director, Tom Fahner, has already begun his day. There are messages to respond to, mail to catch up on, paperwork to complete-all before the kitchen opens for breakfast and 105 children arrive and Tom's real day begins.

When Tom Fahner was a high school student on Long Island, he had his first taste of working with children, as a coach and with youth groups. Entering college at SUNY Brockport, he pursued a major in electrical engineering, but his heart was tugging him in another direction, and he switched his major to physical education and teaching, and received his M. Ed. at Springfield College. Along the way, he met his future wife, Donna, Kurn Hattin's physical education instructor, and their journey began, first a short stint at Islip High School on Long Island, then eight years at Austine School in Brattleboro, VT as athletic director, teacher, and assistant principal. In 1989, he came to Kurn Hattin as principal in the then brand new Mayo Memorial Center. For Tom, he had finally "come home."

"Kurn Hattin's unique challenge is its student body. Social demands for children are extreme, and in our niche, serving at-risk youth, many are stalled in their learning because of the demands," shared Tom recently during a conversation as he reflected on recently being named Middle School Principal of the Year for the State of Vermont. "And Kurn Hattin rises to the challenge every day with a qualified, dedicat-

ed staff and programs designed to enhance learning." Some examples include small class size, affording teachers and aides the opportunity to work closely, one on one with each child, and ability grouping of students.

His fingers pressed together, Tom leans into the



closed grip, and ponders for a moment. "I never know which program will turn a child around," he says, then again compliments the staff who are ever mindful of a child's emotional needs. Engaging students is key, and Tom and his staff strive to be creative, particularly with hands-on activities. Learning through doing remains an effective curriculum KurnHattin. "Education is the springboard to a child's future, it's paramount."

Fast forward to the end of a school day at Kurn Hattin... children are pouring into the school lobby, lit from above by skylights, and Tom steps away from his desk, and lands squarely in the middle of the crowd. A hand on someone's shoulders, a quick question about a test a child took that day, bending down eye level for a conversation with a shy 6-year old. "I look at myself as a father figure to these children, and my wife feels the same way. Do what it takes, form a relationship; I want the kids to know adults care."

On August 4, 2009 Tom will be recognized at the Killington Grand Hotel in Killington, VT and awarded the prestigious John Winton Middle Level Principal's Award. Concurrently, the Vermont legislature has issued House Resolution R-234 congratulating Tom in the Vermont legislature.

"Kurn Hattin is a special opportunity that I was fortunate to come to. When I see what this Kurn Hattin family does for children, it makes being here a joy. Kurn Hattin is a calling. It's what I do."

It's almost time for dinner. Children are laughing as they make their way up the hill to the dining hall. Tom rises to join them. It will be a few more hours before he makes his way to his home, which sits just below the school building. The days may be long, but he wouldn't have it any other way.

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

Saturday September 26th

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# Coffee House



## OPEN MIC NIGHT

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## SEVCA'S new mobile training unit

**The Town Clerk/Treasurer's Office will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, September 21 and 22.**

The Town of Westminster is seeking applicants for the position of **Development Review Board Alternate**. Interested persons should contact Sonia Alexander at 722-4255 or by email at westmin@sover.net.

**1st installment of the Westminster 2009-2010 property taxes are due on Thursday, September 10.**

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*The Gazette is looking for an inspired grant writer to help find grant funding that would help support the Gazette.*

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

- Kurn Hattin Homes
- Westminster School District
- Town of Westminster
- Durand Automotive Group
- Westminster Activities Commission
- Sojourns Community Health Clinic

**WARNING FOR SPECIAL MEETING**

**TOWN OF WESTMINSTER, VERMONT**

The legal voters of the Town of Westminster, Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Bellows Falls Union High School auditorium in Westminster, Vermont, on Tuesday, September 22, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. to take action on the following Articles:

**ARTICLE I** To see if the voters of the Town of Westminster will authorize its Selectboard to negotiate, contract and borrow funds for the purchase of land and Post Office building owned by Westminster Cares, Inc., located on the easterly side of US Route 5 in Westminster, Vermont, for a total purchase price of ONE HUNDRED TWELVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$112,000.00) reduced by the sum of FIFTEEN THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$15,000.00) previously advanced by the Town to Westminster Cares, Inc., with the balance of NINETY-SEVEN THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$97,000.00) to be financed for a term of four (4) years payable by current expense notes.

**ARTICLE II** To transact any other business which may be properly brought before said meeting.

DATED this 20th day of August, 2009, in the Town of Westminster, County of Windham and State of Vermont.

**WESTMINSTER BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

- Paul M. Harlow, Chair
- Craig Allen
- Peter Barrett
- Rick Cowan
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Doreen Woodward, Town Clerk

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**BELLOWS FALLS, PAGE 1 OF 2: COMMUTER ROUTES**  
BelloWS Falls To Brattleboro: Commuters M-F

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

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

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

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*Pictures and Articles Provided by the Community*

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## GOLFING FOR SPRINGFIELD HOSPITAL

by Anna Smith

The 9th annual golf tournament to benefit Springfield Hospital will be held on Thursday, September 24 at beautiful Okemo Valley Golf Club in Ludlow.

Besides the excellent amenities of this exclusive golf resort, golfers receive special gifts – this year, a handsome attaché case and Pro V1 golf ball in holder – in addition to a box lunch at registration, complimentary refreshments on the course, and a post-event awards reception.

There are hole-in-one prizes on all par 3 holes, including \$25,000 cash and a new vehicle. A pre-tournament putting contest is another chance to win a cash prize. Individual prizes are given for longest putt and straightest drive and team awards are given for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place gross and net scores. Raffles and auctions make sure that everyone goes home a winner.

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

The proceeds from this year's tournament will help support Springfield Hospital's Oncology Clinic. Tournament sponsors include Springfield Printing Corporation, Black River Produce, and TD Bank.

"We are proud that we have become one of the premier benefit events in the region," says Larry Kraft, Director, Springfield Hospital Foundation. "It's a great golf course to play and a great time to play golf – amidst the glorious fall foliage."

To enter or sponsor the 9th annual Springfield Hospital Challenge, call Kraft at 802-885-7644 or e-mail lkraft@springfieldmed.org. Entry and sponsor forms can be obtained online at [www.springfieldhospital.org](http://www.springfieldhospital.org).

## New Faces, New Roles at the Westminster Schools

by Liz Bourne

It's time to hang up the bathing suits and grab those back-to-school backpacks. The Westminster Schools' staff is excited to reconnect with all our children. Most teachers return to their same positions, but we do have some changes:

### The Arts:

Colleen Grout will teach Art this year, three days a week. She lives in Westminster, her children attended our schools, and she worked for us previously as the Afterschool Program Director.

Jared Stolper will teach Music to 5th and 6th graders, adding instrumental and band to our program. Jared has taught Music in New England since 1976 to kids from kindergarten to college. He enjoys outdoor sports and learning new music by traveling all over the world.

### On the upper team:

Margo Ghia, our wonderful kindergarten teacher last year, has moved to teach 5th grade this year. Before joining us, she worked for 11 years as the Grafton Nature Museum.

Laurie Bolotin will join us as the Special Education teacher for the 6th grade. She has just finished her Masters in Special Ed and an internship in Dummerston. You may know her as owner/operator of Morningstar Perennials.

### Kindergarten:

Our musical maestro, Valerie Kosednar, will now welcome our youngest students as a kindergarten teacher. In addition to being a music teacher for many years, she worked with this summer's kindergarten camp.

Paula Borochoff, who has worked as a special educator with the kindergarten team and Westminster West students, as well as those with autism, will also teach kindergarten this year and worked over the summer with the kindergarten camp.

### West School:

Beau Lucas, formerly a student teacher with Mrs. Miller, is the new para-educator supporting students in both Alison and Dena's classrooms.

Serving the whole school:

Kathryn Hewes will follow Paula as our special educator working with students with autism, with the kindergarten team and as the integration facilitator for other high needs students. She lives in Weathersfield and worked previously in the Fall Mountain District.

Denis Chasse' is our new Reading Coach, a grant-funded position. He has a M.Ed. in teaching reading, and has experience teaching in NH and Virginia both as a classroom teacher and reading specialist.

At the Center School, Julie Mitchell will work as a full-time support teacher with 1st and 2nd grade students. Ruth Dextrase will support 3rd and 4th grade students. Both are 50% Special Educators and 50% reading and math support.

## Westminster School District Bus Schedules

2009-2010

Modifications may have to be made and all times are approximate. All students should be at their bus stop 5 minutes prior to their scheduled pickup time. If a problem arises, please call Mac Jones, Transportation Supervisor, at the Windham Northeast Supervisory Union Office at 463-9958.

### Morning Bus Schedule

#### Bus # 8

Bus # 8 will start picking up high school and middle school students at 6:50 A.M. at the intersection of Kurn Hattin Rd. and Piggery Rd. The bus then proceeds south on the Piggery Rd. to the Pine Banks Rd. At the intersection of the Pine Banks Rd. and Route 5, the bus will head north on Route 5 picking up students along the way. There will be a stop at the Westminster Town Hall at 7:10 A.M. and at the Westminster Center School, and then continue north on Route 5 picking up students and arriving at BFUHS at 7:20 A.M., picking up middle school students from Kissell Hill at the gate to the high school and on to BFMS at 7:30 A.M.

Bus # 8 starts picking up elementary school students at the intersection of Kurn Hattin Rd. and Piggery Rd. at 7:40 A.M. The bus will travel south on Piggery Rd. to Pine Banks Rd. At 7:55 A.M. the bus will head north on Route 5 from Harlow's Sugar House, picking up students enroute to the Westminster Center School, arriving there at 8:10 A.M.

#### Bus # 4

Bus # 4 will start picking up high school/middle school students at 6:50 A.M., west of the intersection of Patch Rd. and Morse brook Rd. At the intersection of Patch Rd. and the Westminster West Rd., the bus will make a left turn and travel south on the Westminster West Rd. to the northern intersection of McKinnon Rd and turn around at 7:00 A.M. The bus will then travel north on the Westminster West rd. picking up students along the way, en route to Saxtons River Village and Route 121. In Saxtons River Village the bus will meet the Grafton # 4 bus at the Saxtons River Elementary School and transport Athens/Grafton students to BFMS & BFUHS (morning only) The bus will pick up Westminster students at Davidson Hill and North Westminster, including Church Avenue. The bus will arrive at Bellows Falls Middle School at 7:30 A.M. and at Bellows Falls Union High School at 7:35 A.M.

Bus # 4 will leave BFUHS at 7:35 A.M., picking up elementary school students at the gate to the high school, Pine St. in Bellows Falls, Route 121 and Church Ave. in North Westminster, turning onto the Back Westminster Rd at 7:45 A.M. The bus will pick up all elementary school students on the Back Westminster Rd., arriving at the Westminster Center School at 8:05 A.M.

#### Bus # 5

Bus # 5 will leave Horn Corner on the Morse Brook Rd., picking up high school and middle school students, at 7:00 A.M. and travel the length of the road picking up students along the way. At the intersection of the Morse Brook Rd. and Kurn Hattin Rd. the bus turns left onto the Kurn Hattin Rd.,

picking up students on the Kurn Hattin Rd., Westminster Heights and Back Westminster Rd., arriving at BFMS at 7:30 A.M. and at BFUHS at 7:35 A.M.

Bus # 5 will leave BFUHS at 7:35 A.M. to start picking up the elementary school students at Horn Corner on the Morse Brook Rd. at 7:40 A.M. Bus # 5 will pick up elementary students on the Morse brook Rd. and turn left onto the Kurn Hattin Rd. en route to the Westminster Center School, arriving there at 8:05 A.M.

#### Bus # 3

Bus # 3 will make its first stop at the intersection of the Westminster West Rd. and Hartley Hill at 7:05 A.M. The bus then heads south on the Westminster West Rd., picking up elementary school students only. The bus will turn around at the north end of McKinnon Rd. at 7:20 A.M. and travel north on the Westminster West Rd. to Westminster West Village where it will turn left onto West Rd. and turn around at the intersection of the Cross Rd. and Hickory Ridge Rd. The bus will unload all Westminster West students at the school at 7:40 and then travel south on the Westminster West Rd. to the Patch Rd. Bus # 3 will pick up all Westminster Center School Students on the Westminster West Rd. and Patch Rd. Arriving at the Westminster Center School at 8:00 A.M. After dropping students off at the Center School the bus will travel out the Westminster Heights Rd, down the interstate access road and travel south on Route 5, picking up elementary school students along the way, arriving back at the Center School at 8:10 A.M.

## Westminster Afternoon Bus Schedule

#### Bus # 8

Bus # 8 leaves the Bellows Falls Middle School at 2:50 P.M. and travels directly to the high school, making a stop at the gate to drop off any middle school students living on Kissell Hill. When the bus leaves the high school it will travel south on Route 5 as far as the Center School, discharging students along the way. At the Westminster Center School the bus will pick up students who live on the Kurn Hattin Rd. as far as the intersection with Piggery Rd., students living on Piggery Rd., Pine Banks Rd., and Route 5 south of the Center School

#### Bus # 4

Bus # 4 leaves the Bellows Falls Middle School at 2:50 P.M. with all students living on the Westminster Heights Rd. and the Westminster west section of town. Bus # 4 then proceeds to BFUHS where it will pickup all students living on Westminster Heights Rd. and the Westminster West section of town. The bus leaves BFUHS and travels south on Route 5 to the interstate access road, Westminster Heights Rd. to the Westminster Center School. At the Center School all students living in Westminster West transfer to bus # 3. At the Center School bus # 4 will pick up students living on Westminster Heights Rd. and Route 5 between the interstate access road and the intersection of Grout Ave. and School Street. The bus then returns to the Center School and picks up all students living on the Back Westminster Rd., Davidson Hill Rd. (off Route 121) Route 121 between the Back Westminster Rd. and Bellows Falls Village, to include students living on Church Ave. in North Westminster.

#### Bus # 5

Bus # 5 Leaves the Bellows falls Middle School at 2:50 P.M. with students going to North Westminster,

Back Westminster Rd. and Morse Brook Rd. The bus will go to Bellows Falls Union High School and pick up students living in North Westminster, Back Westminster Rd, Kurn Hattin Rd. between the Piggery Rd. and Morse Brook Rd. and the Morse Brook Rd.

The bus leaves the high school and travels north on Route 5 to "Red Light Hill" where it turns left onto Route 121 towards Saxtons River delivering students home en route to the Westminster Center School. At the Center School the bus picks up students who live on the Kurn Hattin Rd. between Piggery Rd. and Morse Brook Rd., Morse Brook Rd, Route 5 north of the interstate access road, Kissell Hill and Bellows Falls Village.

#### Bus # 3

Bus # 3 leaves the Westminster West School at 2:25 P.M. and heads north on the Westminster West Rd. towards Saxtons River, dropping off students along the way, at the intersection of Hartley Hill the bus will turn around and head south again into Westminster West Village where it will turn right onto the West Rd. and turn around at the intersection of the Cross Rd. The bus returns to Westminster West Village where it will make a right turn onto the Westminster West Rd. and travel south as far as the northern intersection of McKinnon Rd. and turn around. The bus will then travel north on the Westminster West Rd. and make a right turn onto the Patch Rd. and continue on to the Westminster Center School and transfer from Bus # 4 all BFMS, BFUHS students and pick up all Center School

Students who live on Patch Rd. and Westminster West. The bus travels over the Kurn Hattin Rd. to the Patch Rd., dropping off students along the way and will turn left onto the Westminster West Rd. and travels south as far as the northern entrance to the McKinnon Rd. where it will turn around and head back to Westminster West Village. In the Village the bus makes a left turn onto the West Rd. and will turn around at the intersection of the Cross Rd. where it will turn around and head back to Westminster West Village. In the village the bus makes a left turn and travels as far north as the intersection of Hartley Hill, which is the last stop.

**Note: All BFMS and BFUHS students who live on Davidson Hill Rd. off Route 121 will ride Rockingham Bus # 11 home in the afternoon.**

## Westminster Late Run

The bus will leave the Bellows Falls Middle School at 4:10 P.M. and go directly to Bellows Falls Union High School to pick up students. The bus leaves BFUHS at 4:20 P.M. and travels south on Route 5 to Westminster Village where it will turn right onto School St., stopping at the Center School. Upon leaving the Center School turn left onto Kurn Hattin Rd. to Patch Rd.; the bus will turn left onto the Westminster West Rd. and travel south as far as the northern intersection of the McKinnon Rd, where it turns around. The bus then travels north on the Westminster West Rd. as far as the Westminster West School where it will turn around and head back south again to the Patch Rd. to Morse Brook Rd. and over Morse Brook Rd. to Horn Corner where the bus stops. If necessary, when the bus leaves BFUHS it will travel over Route 121 in North Westminster to the Back Westminster Rd., down the interstate access road to Route 5 and then head south into Westminster Village.



The Kurn Hattin H'Olympics Team with their medals.

## KURN HATTIN H'OLYMPICS TEAM COMPETES IN TEXAS

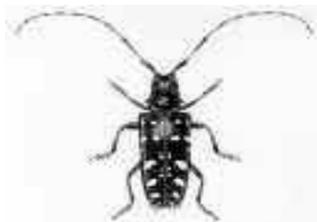
by Kim Fine

Westminster – In June, fourteen children with four chaperones traveled to Houston, Texas to represent Kurn Hattin Homes in the National Fellowship of Child Care Executives (NFCCE) H'Olympics. The H'Olympics was started in 1989 as a means of bringing children living in residential programs together to compete in athletics and to socialize. This year, the games were held at Sam Houston University, the oldest university in Texas. Children, ages 11-18, from residential homes throughout the country participated.

Kurn Hattin did very well at the games and returned with 105 medals in track & field, swimming, basketball, and softball. All the boys and girls had a wonderful time competing, experiencing a new state and culture and making new friends. Many of the Kurn Hattin team had never been on an airplane before and none of them had ever been to Texas.

Announced later: Three Kurn Hattin children won prizes in creative writing and art contests as well. Congratulations to all the children for their participation, talent, sportsmanship and a job well done! Thanks go out to all the people and foundations who helped underwrite the cost of the trip. We couldn't have done it without you.

Kurn Hattin Homes is a charitable, year-round, residential home and school serving in-need and at-risk children, ages 6-15, from throughout the Northeast. Since 1894, over 6000 children have called Kurn Hattin home.



## ASIAN LONGHORN BEETLE By Babs Lynde, a Vermont Master Gardener

Why should you be concerned about a beetle that's been reported to have destroyed trees in states south of Vermont? If you don't own any trees, or your trees are beetle-free, why should you care? Well, do you like maple syrup and other maple products? Do you love the bright reds and deep oranges of the autumn, and the shade trees that line our streets and river? Then, maybe you should concern yourself with this one particular beetle that is fiercely endangering our natural beauty that is Vermont.

The Asian longhorn beetle (ALB) originally came from China, possibly in some packing material. The ALB is a serious pest in Asia where it has already killed hundreds of thousands of hardwood trees. Unfortunately, one of its favorite trees here in the U S is the sugar maple. Other favorites include the red, silver and Norway maples, boxelders, birches, elms and willows to name a few. Occasionally, they are also found in ash, mimosa and poplars. The adult beetle is approximately an inch long with a jet black body and pure white spots on its back. It has two long, thin antennae that are roughly twice the size of the beetle and marked with black and white rings, and its feet have a slight bluish tinge. The size and unusual clear markings of this beetle make it very easy to spot if found on the outside of the tree. The larvae of the ALB are not often seen because they spend their time eating the wood within the tree, girdling both the trunk and branches, until the host tree eventually dies.

Some signs of infestation include the niche where the female chews into the tree to lay a single egg that might have a small layer of sawdust that has fallen beneath it, while thinner barked trees will show moisture or "weeping" around the area because the tree must be alive and somewhat healthy to support the larvae. Once the larvae become adults, the new beetles will chew an exit hole out of the

## Westminster West Community Fair to Be Held Saturday, September 12

Westminster West -- A focus on the environment will be the theme of the 20th annual Westminster West Community Fair, to be held Saturday, Sept. 12.

The small-town country fair features a variety of activities for all age groups, including a parade, talent show, road race and annual "whack the corn cob" game.

There is also a silent auction, golden elephant sale, art show, vegetable contest, and other activities.

The fair runs from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Westminster West. Attendance is free, and there also is a barbecue chicken dinner and other food for sale.

The parade, which starts at 10:30 a.m. and runs through the heart of the village, will play on the fair's theme, "Cleaning Up the Mess," and the grand marshal is state Rep. David Deen of Westminster West.

The 64-year-old Deen, a fly-fishing guide who has lived in the village for 37 years, is the river steward for the Connecticut River Watershed Council and has long been active in conservation issues. He also serves as chairman of the House Fish, Wildlife and Water Resources Committee in Montpelier.

Leslie Turpin, one of the fair organizers, said the event each year recognizes a local resident who has done something significant for community service.

"We are honoring David for doing all his work cleaning up the Connecticut River, and being an advocate for the river," Turpin said.

"Cleaning Up the Mess" is broadly interpreted by different people," she added. "It's really about cleaning up the environment and however anyone wants to interpret that, and we're really encouraging people to march in the parade and bring their cleaning implements for whatever messes they perceive."

Deen, who first moved to the village in 1972 when he lived in a tent with his young family that summer, said he was thrilled by the honor, and also will use the occasion to promote ongoing Connecticut River cleanup efforts.

"I love it, and I am going to be wearing my 'Source to the Sea Cleanup' T-shirt and try to put together a small banner trying to get people to join us cleaning up the Connecticut River and its tributaries in October. Hopefully, we'll get some volunteers out of this."

A full schedule of events follows.

Proceeds from the fair benefit the community newsletter The West Parish Whistler, and also help support the community use of the Congregational Church of Westminster West building and community suppers held there.

For more information, go to [www.westminsterwest.org](http://www.westminsterwest.org)

*Schedule on Page (7)*

## School Garden Update by Elizabeth Harlow

**SHUCKS.** It appears that the tomato blight that has hit so many farms regionally has finally settled into the school garden, just as the tomatoes were really looking good! We have our fingers crossed that the potatoes won't be wiped out by it as well. We are discovering what farmers everywhere know- the growing season always brings surprises as well as challenges. And there is always something new to learn!!

There is much to marvel over as students return to their outdoor classroom this week, noting the incredible changes in the garden between planting day, June 2, and the first day of school, September first. It is now filled with tall, lush, crops full of fruits and veggies. We celebrate the wonder of it as we explore, question, observe, estimate, research, draw, write, sniff, taste and harvest. There are some areas of the garden that are harvested weekly for use in the school's salad bar. But most of the crops are going to be harvested all at once by the class group that planted them last June. How satisfying to eat from the work of your own hands.

Though we may mourn the loss of the tomatoes, we celebrate a plentiful garden filled with Butternut Squash, Popcorn, Watermelon, Potatoes, Bell Peppers, Carrots, Raspberries and more. Giant Thanks, again, to all who have helped keep an eye on the garden- weeding, harvesting, plucking off bugs, smelling the flowers and cheering on the growth and wonder of it all.

tree that is about 3/8 inch wide and perfectly round. The hole will look very much as though someone had just pulled a nail out of the tree. The ALB, although quite intimidating due to its size, is harmless to humans and animals, but its destructive power to our beautiful sugar and shade trees is devastating and permanent. Currently, there are no effective predators or pesticides which can curb or control these beetles. The only known way of slowing them down is by removing the infested tree or trees and chipping or burning the wood. This can be quite costly for homeowners or sugaring stands, which is why it is so important for you keep a close eye on all our trees.

Several good pictures of these beetles and their tell-tale markings can be found on the internet, in magazines, books or newspapers. You may check the following websites for pictures and facts at: <http://www.uvm.edu/albeetle/> or <http://www.asian-longhorned-beetle.com/> If you spot the Asian longhorn beetle or suspicious signs in a tree, here are the people to contact in our area: Mark Michaelis, USDA (802)828-4490 email [mark.j.michaelis@usda.gov](mailto:mark.j.michaelis@usda.gov) or Jon Turmel, VT Department of Agriculture, (802)241-3545 email [jpn@agr.state.vt.us](mailto:jpn@agr.state.vt.us) or Scott Pfister of the VT Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation at (802)241-3676 fax (802)244-1481. Or you can contact the Vermont Master Gardeners helpline.

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

## Remembering our teacher, Claire Oglesby February 5, 1932 - August 5, 2009



Claire was a mentor, advisor, champion, and friend, but mostly she was a teacher. From the mid sixties till 2001, Claire Oglesby's classroom (stage, salon, and living room) was to the right of the Westminster West School's front door.

That door was always open. When she became Vermont's Teacher of the Year in 1970, an article noted that her classroom averaged two visitors a day. Past students returned during vacations from college, parents shared special skills, and retirees listened to learning readers. International visitors described growing up in India, Japan, or Mexico to kids who hadn't been much farther away from Westminster than grandma's house.

Claire's philosophy that everyone has something to teach, her family homework projects and the West School's small size contributed to vital PTAs and a loyal corps of students, graduates and parents who vehemently supported her small school approach, despite pressures to economize by centralizing. And then in 1990, when leaders were casting about for models of exemplary education, Westminster won a \$40,000 state grant to restructure town schools along the lines of Westminster West's two-room schoolhouse. The Westminster Center School was reorganized into "minischools" so that children could learn as members of a close community and families could become involved with a team of teachers over a several-year span. "Claire's school" was the model and Westminster Schools' vibrant and

vocal parent participation is just one of her post-retirement legacies.

In 1995, Claire masterminded the mother of all field trips, bringing a group of 40+ students and family members to Puerto Rico to see a real rainforest. A later trip explored Montreal. Honoring her "creative and unique strategies for making diversity part of the learning process," Claire received an award in 1996 from the Anti-Defamation League's World of Difference Institute.

A few years later, documentary filmmakers Lisa Merton and Alan Dater asked, "What can a classroom of first and second graders in the whitest state in the union teach us about respecting diversity and building community?" Their film, *The World in Claire's Classroom*, demonstrates how Claire prepared her young students to become global citizens. The movie, released in 1999, was celebrated at a gala community event, complete with flashbulbs and a limo. When asked, "What does it feel like to be the spouse of a celebrity?" Mac Oglesby noted, "It's not the first time."

Two years later when Claire decided to retire, her celebrity earned a lengthy proclamation from Governor Howard Dean. But at her retirement party it was a former student who summed up Claire's magic best: she "shows kids how to get to a higher level even if they don't know they want to be there." Who could resist? Claire enriched us all and we mourn her passing.

**Eat Fresh, eat local, that's the theme for students in Bellows Falls Union High School,** Bellows Falls Middle School, and the Saxtons River and Central Elementary schools in September and October. Cafe Services, the schools food service provider, is focusing on connections to local farms and locally grown foods. They will be featuring information on local farms they do business with, the national Farm to School initiative, and the locally grown produce they serve in the cafeteria throughout the school year. Cafe Services' program, Farm Fresh Focus, will feature fresh local apples in October. As part of their focus on this locally grown favorite, the cafeterias will each hold an apple festival where students will be encouraged to sample different varieties of apples grown at a nearby orchards. Information on different apple varieties, the nutritional value of apples, and information on local orchards will also be available. Cafe Services is one of the first Food Service Management Companies in the country to actively work with and support the Farm to School initiative, and have received recognition at the past two National Farm to School Conferences for their efforts.

## WESTMINSTER MYSTERY PHOTO



### What was this building used for and where was it located?

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

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

**August Answer:** The monument was located on Piggery Road next to the old Cobb residence, and the individual Henry Augustus Willard is also mentioned on the water trough in front of the Westminster Town Hall.

**August Winners:** Howie Rice

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

### News from Westminster Volunteer Fire and Rescue

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

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

Number of calls in July:22  
Number of man hours spent: 3,745

Number of calls in August 1st through 27th:25  
Number of man hours spent: 5890  
Number of calls calendar year to Date: 199

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

**Association Meeting:** The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association met for their regular meeting August 4th with 22 members present and 7 members excused. Items that were discussed included preparing for the annual corn roast that was held August 21st. The corn roast is an event where fire departments from the area as well as the local ambulance services are invited to share an evening of socializing and eating great food including, of course, corn. This year we served 58 people from 14 fire departments plus our own members. A good time was had by all.

**Thanks:** On behalf of Chief Cole Streeter and the members of the department, we wish to thank the many people and businesses who donated food and other products for the Truck Show and the Corn Roast. The support we get from our local business and farmers is very much appreciated. Thanks also to all the department members who gave up their Sunday to cover Marlboro, Vt. during the memorial service for Deputy Chief Jack Horton who died in the line of duty August 6th.

**Dry Hydrants.** We are presently going around to dry hydrants and doing yearly flushing and pumping to insure operability. If anyone sees a truck at any of these locations this is very likely the reason.

**Chimneys:** It is not too soon to be thinking about checking the condition of your chimneys and stoves for safe operation.

**Message from Chief Cole Streeter:** I would like to thank all who helped with my family and my recent loss. As many of you know it is a very difficult time and so many of you were very kind. I could not begin to name names without the fear forgetting so very many of you who helped. Thank you.

#### Shelter:

The Fire Station will be open for shelter in case an event occurs where shelter is needed. Contact the Chief or any member of the department in case of any emergency needs.

#### Memorial Donation for August:

From Jim and Barbara Holton in memory of Ralph Lawrence  
From the Wellman Muzzey Family in memory of Ralph Lawrence  
From Gary and Karleen McKenney in memory of Ralph Lawrence  
From Don and Sandra Astley, Sr. in memory of Ralph Lawrence

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

The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association operates independently from the Fire District Fire Prevention Week: Watch for dates in early October.

We are looking for help. Anyone interested in volunteering their time to help the community in a time of need, please contact Chief Cole Streeter at 722-3178 or stop by the Firehouse any Sunday morning and pick up an application. We would like to have additional volunteers from the Westminster West area. There is a Fire House and an engine located there and more help is needed to utilize the equipment during calls.

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

# WESTMINSTER HAPPENINGS

## Activities

### ScottishCountryDance Classes

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

### Putney Contra Dance

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

### Senior Lunch

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

### Bellows Falls Gallery

Downtown @ 5:30 every

3rd Friday of the Month.

### Contra Dance

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

### Gentle Yoga

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

### Living StrongClasses

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

@The Westminster West Church 6:00pm to 7:00pm Call Westminster Cares for more information: 722-3607

### Yoga Class with Lisa

#### Nigro-15 weejs

begins September 9 and ends December 23.

Wednesdays 7 - 8:30 p.m.

at the Westminster Institute. All levels welcomed. Drop ins welcomed. Call 722-4249 for more information.

## Faith Community

### The First Congregational Church of Westminster

United Church of Christ

The Rev. Sami Jones McRae, Pastor

Main Street, Route 5, Westminster, Vermont 05158

802-722-4148

Sunday Worship at 10:00am

Communion is the first Sunday of each month. Sunday School is at 10:00am

September to May. The church has a ramp and lift for wheelchair access.

All are Welcome.

### The Congregational Church of Westminster West

Sunday Worship at the Congregational Church of Westminster West (a UCC church) is at 10am. Holy Communion service is held on the first Sunday of every month.

Prayer service is held on Thursdays, 12:30 to 12:50pm. Child care and Sunday School are available during worship hour. Choir meets most Sundays at 9am. Fully wheelchair accessible.

Open and Affirming .

Susie Webster-Toleno, Minister

New Church Office Hours:

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

## Meetings

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

### Planning and Development

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

### Westminster Activities Commission

Second Monday of the Month at 6:00pm

at the Westminster Institute.

### Westminster School Board

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

### Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association

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

### Westminster West Public Library

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

### Development Review Board

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

### Community Improvement Program

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

### Westminster Cares Board

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

### Westminster Institute Board

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

### 911 Committee

meets as needed.

### The Westminster Fire & Rescue

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

### Westminster Historical Society

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

### Westminster Gazette Meeting,

September 11th, at 7:30am at Westminster Cares for financial follow up meeting and September 25th at 7:30am (place to be determined.)

## Sherry Olson of Plainfield, Vermont is the winner of the 2009 Ralph Nading Hill, Jr. literary prize awarded annually by Green Mountain Power and Vermont Life magazine.

Ms. Olson's winning poem, entitled "The Paper Cutter," describes finding a skilled tradesman who takes pride in his work and always wants to do the right thing. While looking for someone to sharpen her paper cutter, she finds more: "I imagine his heart, not the bodily pumping one, but the one folks like to say, of gold, burnished and soft, something, almost, I might carry in my pocket, reach in and touch." Mary Hegarty Nowlan, one of the judges and editor of Vermont Life commented, "Ms. Olson's poem was selected as the winner because of the simplicity of the

language, which was clear and not overwritten. Her description of Ben Corliss, who lives in East Calais, draws you in and rings true as you learn about someone who may do something simple, but whose graciousness and kindness make you think about how you approach the world."

Ms. Olson grew up in North Carolina and Kentucky and received a BA from Earlham College. She worked as a teacher and volunteer coordinator at Central Vermont Adult Basic Education for more than 15 years and now leads poetry workshops and reading discussion groups for people of all ages, some under the auspices of the Vermont Humanities Council. Her favorite assignment has been leading a weekly poetry workshop at the Dale Correctional facility, which she did for many years. She believes everyone can write poetry, and helping people discover the thrill of writing poems is very exciting to her.

Olson's first book of poetry, "Breakfast At The Wayside," came

out in 2000. She is currently putting together a second manuscript of poetry.

"The Paper Cutter" will be published in the fall issue of Vermont Life, which will be available in bookstores and on newsstands in late August.

Ms. Olson will receive a \$1,500 prize for the poem. The literary prize is named for the late Ralph Nading Hill, Jr., a Vermont historian and writer and long-time member of Green Mountain Power's Board of Directors.

This is the 20th year that the Ralph Nading Hill Literary Prize has encouraged writers in Vermont and it is now considered by Vermont writers to be one of the state's premier literary prizes. Entries may include essays, short stories and poetry.

The selection was made by an independent panel of judges: Mary Hegarty Nowlan, editor of Vermont Life; Tom Slayton, past editor of Vermont Life; Tony Marro, retired executive editor of Newsday; Alison Freeland, a 1994 winner of the Ralph Nading Hill, Jr., award

for her story, "Shadbush"; Brian Vachon, retired vice president of communications at National Life of Vermont and a former Vermont Life editor; and Steve Terry, retired Green Mountain Power senior executive.

The deadline for entries for this year's contest is November 15, 2009. The contest is open to all Vermont residents, including seasonal residents and college students enrolled in Vermont colleges. Entrants may be amateur or professional writers. The focus of the work must be "Vermont -- Its People, the Place, Its History or Its Values." Entries must be unpublished and less than 3,000 words long. Staff of Vermont Life or Green Mountain Power and previous winners are ineligible. Send entries to the Corporate Relations Department of Green Mountain Power, 163 Acorn Lane, Colchester, VT 05446.

For more information, please call: Dorothy Schnure, Manager of Corporate Communications

## Green Mountain Power Files for Rate Adjustment of 4.84 Percent

Green Mountain Power today asked the Vermont Public Service Board to authorize a 4.84 percent rate adjustment to go into effect on October 1, 2009, as part of its alternative regulation plan. The increase is primarily due to factors that affect all utilities in the region, such as the costs of reliability upgrades to the New England transmission grid.

"We continue to work hard to reduce every single controllable expense on behalf of our customers," said Mary Powell, Green Mountain Power President and Chief Executive Officer. "In fact, less than half a percent of the rate increase is due to changes in Green Mountain Power's operating costs that are under our direct control. During these challenging economic times, we know that any change in rates will be difficult for our customers, and in response we have taken extra steps to keep this increase as low as possible, including keeping payroll costs

flat and cutting other operating expenses."

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

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

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

Company's power supply, and to the rest of New England's heavy use of fossil fuels, which are more volatile in cost.

"We will continue to focus our efforts on delivering the most cost effective power to our customers," said Ms. Powell. "And as we work to replace expiring electric energy contracts, we are seeking the most cost competitive and reliable sources that are also low in carbon emissions and other air pollutants."

As is the case with many companies, Green Mountain Power has been affected financially by the recession. And because utilities need to borrow large amounts of money to maintain their generation facilities, distribution system and other infrastructure to serve customers, they need to be financially stable or risk higher borrowing charges that ultimately get passed on in higher rates.

"Customers benefit by Green Mountain Power maintaining financial stability," said Ms. Powell. "Financial markets react unfavorably when a utility's ability to earn a return on investment is greatly reduced. They see this as a risk and charge more for lending money. This, in turn, increases costs to customers."

Green Mountain Power has operated under an alternative regulation plan since January 2007, which streamlines regulation while retaining appropriate regulatory review. It has been effective in significantly reducing regulatory costs while offering positive risk assurances to credit rating agencies.

If the full rate request is approved, the monthly bill for an average residential customer using 600 kilowatt-hours would increase by \$4.32, from \$89.29 to \$93.61.

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

For further information, please contact Dorothy Schnure, Green Mountain Power Manager of Corporate Communications 802-655-8418

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

**Usually, the 1st Tuesday  
of the Month**

**October  
Submissions are  
due by:  
Thursday,  
October 1st**

**by  
5:00pm**

**westminsternews  
@gmail.com**

**Peggy Porter  
@ 802-722-4521**

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**WESTMINSTER WEST COMMUNITY FAIR  
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12th, SCHEDULE...**

8:30am Race Registration  
Coffee, drinks, donuts and cookies inside church  
9:00am Adults 5K Road Race  
Silent Auction Opens – inside the church  
Golden Elephant Opens – Old Town Hall  
Local Art Exhibit Opens – Sanctuary  
10:00am Parade Preparation at the School  
Bicycle Decorations and Drumming Rehearsal  
10:30am Parade begins - Grand Marshal – David Deen  
11:30am Serving of B B Q and other meals begins  
Kids 1.2K Fun Run  
Noon Vegetable Contest Judging  
The Amazing Bill Magic Show (upstairs)  
12:30pm Whack the Corn Cob & Face Painting  
2:15pm Talent Show begins  
2.45pm Final bidding on Silent Auction Items  
Golden Elephant Clearance Sale  
3:00pm Fair ends – pick up Silent Auction Items

**RACES:**

5K Road Race, and 1.2K Kids Fun Run. There are 3 classes for men and women in the 5K road Race: Youth (13-17), Open (18-39) and Masters (40 and older.) The Kids Fun Run is for ages up to 12, with 4 classes for boys and girls. Entry fees: 5K race - \$8 adults, \$5 for youth, and \$2 for the Fun Run (many prizes and ribbons). The bicycle race has been cancelled due to low participation and safety concerns.

**REGISTRATION**

begins at 8:30 am. The 5k Road Race at 9am, the Fun Run will begin at 11:30am, all with a mass start. The course is over relatively flat, shady dirt roads, passing through scenic countryside and apple orchards. Prizes for the 5K road Race include: Sidelands Sugarbush maple syrup, Timely Solution sling seats, Green Mountain Orchard apples, Grafton Village Cheese, and Putney Coop gift certificates. Prizes for the Fun Race are movie passes to the New Falls Cinema, Reel to Reel videos, coupons for miniature golf at Hidden Acres Campground, and ribbons.

**PARADE:**

The theme of this year's parade is WESTMINSTER WEST CLEANS UP OUR MESS". It will start at 10:30am and go from the Westminster West School to the church. The Grand Marshal is David Deen. The parade will include local fire engine(s), Ladies against Women, elected officials and other distinguished dignitaries, a drumming group on David Major's hay wagon, and

whatelse. Meet at the school by 10am if you wish to be in the parade, to rehearse with the drummers, or to decorate your bike.

**CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES:**

Tom Griffith will have his Whack the Corn Cob game and there will be face painting by Alison Latham. Kids are encouraged to enter the Veggie Contest and Talent Show. At noon The Amazing Bill Magic Show will be upstairs in the church.

**BARBEQUE CHICKEN DINNERS**

served after the parade until sold out. Dinners include 1/4 chicken, tortellini veggie salad, corn on the cob, baked beans, & a drink. Ala Carte: hot dogs & corn on the cob. Coffee, donuts, lemonade, iced tea, pies, breads & baked goods will be for sale throughout the day. ART SHOW

: Local artists and craftspeople are invited to exhibit their work in this show which will be hung in the upstairs of the church. GOLDEN ELEPHANT SALE:

held in the Old Town Hall. Stick around until the end when the real bargains begin. ?

**SILENT AUCTION:**

opens at 9am and closes 15 minutes after the Talent Show ends. Features art works, crafts, furniture, gourmet foods, services, lessons, collectible items and gift certificates or merchandise from local businesses. You may bid as many times as necessary, but the serious bidders hang out just before the bidding ends. Great source of gifts!!!

**VEGETABLE CONTEST:**

There are 4 categories, longest zucchini, heaviest tomato, vegetable sculpture, and artistic flower arrangements. Bring your entries to the church early in the day as judging will take place around noontime. Winners will be announced during the Talent Show. ENTERTAINMENT:

Local musicians will be performing on the green between 11am and 2pm. A community Talent Show will be upstairs in the church from 2 to 3pm.

**BENEFIT:**

Proceeds help fund the community newsletter The West Parish Whistler, and help support the community use of the church building and the community suppers. LOCATION:

The fair will be held at the Church on the Westminster West Road - half way between Putney and Saxtons River. People can park along the road. FAIR WEB SITE: www.westminsterwest.org

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

**SEVCA'S 11TH ANNUAL FLEA MARKET, SILENT AUCTION & RAFFLE**

WESTMINSTER – Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) will be holding its 11th Annual Flea Market, Silent Auction and Raffle Drawing on Saturday, September 26, 2009 from 9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. at its office in Westminster, just off Exit 5 from I-91. This is an annual community and fundraising event to support the services that SEVCA provides to low-income residents of Windham and Windsor counties.

This year's Flea Market includes vendors with a wide range of items for sale, including: antiques and collectibles, vintage clothing, jewelry, home décor, household goods, books, crafts, and handmade baskets. Vendor spaces are still available. In addition, there will be a Silent Auction for such items as: Overnight lodging packages at the Walpole Inn and Inn at Weathersfield; ski passes to Okemo Mountain and Mt. Snow; dinner-for-two at Peter Havens; stained glass panels from Edel's Art Glass and The Painted Window; Stone Church Arts concert tickets; memberships for Castle Inn Spa, Curves, and Ripple's Fitness Center; a hand-carved wooden bowl from Maplewing Gallery; a contemporary quilt from Ascutney Country Hair Salon; a screened gazebo from Brown & Roberts; professional tooth whitening from Jeffrey Wallace, DDS; cool clothing from Boomerang; and items from Café Loco, Staples, Magee Office Products, and many more.

Raffle tickets can be purchased now at SEVCA's office at 91 Buck Drive in Westminster, at any of SEVCA's "Good Buy" Stores, other SEVCA offices and program sites throughout Windham and Windsor Counties (including SEVCA's Family Services office in Brattleboro at the Marlboro Technical Center), or at the Flea Market on the day of the event. The top prizes this year are: a Lenovo ThinkPad R500 laptop computer from govconnection.com (valued at \$899); an Enerco / Mr. Heater Outdoor Patio and Event Tent Heater from LaValley Building Supply (valued at \$699); a \$500 cash prize; and a \$300 Wal-Mart gift card donated by Wal-Mart. Also, a microwave oven from Central Appliance; and many other exciting items from Halladay's and Woodbury's florists, Black River Produce, Biben's Home Center, Cota & Cota, MacLaomainn's Pub, Front Porch Café, Walpole Village Tavern, Killarney Pub, Unicorn Gifts, The Book Cellar, Irving Oil, Rod's Mobile, J & W Auto, Two Masters, 5-Star Beverage, Endless Creations, Walker's Hair Salon, Village Square Book Sellers, Perfect Creations, Allen Bros., and much more –will be raffled off or bid on. Silent auction items have been posted on the SEVCA website; bidders can view them at www.sevca.org and make an offer. Bidding will continue on-site at the Flea Market. Prize items are still needed, and any businesses and individuals wishing to make a donation are encouraged to contact SEVCA at 802-722-4575.

SEVCA is the Community Action Agency created in 1965 to address the needs of low-income residents of Windham and Windsor Counties. Its mission is to enable people to cope with and reduce the hardships of poverty, create sustainable self-sufficiency, and reduce the causes and move toward the elimination of poverty. It is perhaps best known for its assistance to families and individuals experiencing health- or even life-threatening emergencies, through crisis resolution programs that provide financial assistance, case management, service linkage, and advocacy to low-income households facing lack of food or heat, eviction, foreclosure, illness, vehicle breakdown, and other serious emergencies.

Beyond providing a "safety net" for households in financial crisis, SEVCA services also helps families and individuals to stabilize their lives, make their homes safe and energy-efficient, take steps to become self-reliant, and enable their children to escape the generational cycle of poverty. These goals are achieved through such programs as Crisis Fuel Assistance, Housing Stabilization, Food Stamp Outreach, Weatherization, Micro Business Development, Individual Development (Matched Savings) Accounts, Tax Preparation Assistance, Thrift Stores, Parent Education, and Head Start. Information about SEVCA and its programs and services will be available at the Flea Market, and may also be obtained from its website (www.sevca.org) or by emailing lbrooks@sevca.org.

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- Improve comfort level of your home
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## Business of the Month.... PERFECT CREATIONS

**PERFECT CREATIONS SALON** was opened in Westminster in February 2006 by local resident Tammy Kissell. Perfect Creations is a family salon specializing in coloring, highlighting, perms and haircuts for everyone. We also offer tanning. Our hours are Tuesdays through Thursdays from 10 am to 7 pm, Fridays, 9 am to 8 pm and Saturdays 8 am to 2 pm. Perfect Creations is located on Route 123 in Westminster and our phone number is 722-4322.

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**School Board Blog**

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

# Westminster Gazette

TOWN OF WESTMINSTER  
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