

Westminster Gazette



po box 147 westminster vt 05158

Our Community Newspaper

Vol. 5, No. 4 April 2009

The Agency of Natural Resources is offering rebates to Vermonters who own older woodstoves to upgrade them to new, clean-burning, fuel efficient ones. Vermonters can save \$450 toward the purchase of a new woodstove or \$100 towards a new woodstove catalyst.

VERMONT
BURN CLEAN
WOODSTOVE CHANGEOUT
PROGRAM

REBATES of \$450 will be available to change out old woodstoves with a new, efficient and clean burning certified* wood, pellet or gas stoves.

Who's eligible?
Any Vermonter who is currently utilizing an EPA uncertified wood burning appliance and who is willing to have their old stove destroyed.

Process?
Call **888-520-4879** or email Heidi Hales at heidi.hales@state.vt.us with your questions about replacing your woodstove.

Please visit our website for more information:
<http://www.anr.state.vt.us/air/hm/woodstoverebate.htm>

When?
Voucher application forms will be available on our website on March 9, 2009. Funding is limited and vouchers will be available from March 9, 2009- April 30, 2009.

* Talk to a participating VT retailer to find out which stoves qualify.

VERMONT BURN CLEAN
WOODSTOVE CATALYST
CHANGEOUT PROGRAM

Funding is available to replace your catalyst in your EPA-certified catalytic woodstove!

REBATES of \$75-\$100 will be available to replace old catalysts in EPA-certified catalytic woodstoves. Catalysts should typically be replaced every 5 years for the stoves to reduce emissions and burn **efficiently**.

Who's eligible?
Any Vermonter who is currently utilizing an EPA-certified catalytic woodstove.

Process?
Call **888-520-4879** or email Heidi Hales at heidi.hales@state.vt.us with your questions.

For more information, please visit our website:
<http://www.anr.state.vt.us/air/hm/woodstoverebate.htm>

When?
Rebates will be available beginning March 9, 2009. Funding is limited.

Greater Falls Insurance and Concord Group Insurance Distribute Fuel Assistance

By Bridget Kelly

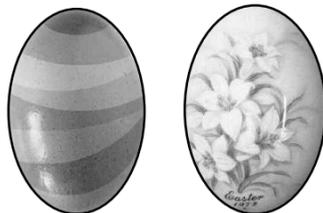


Linda Parzych was awarded \$250 in fuel assistance from Concord Group Insurance's \$500,000 Fuel Assistance Lottery Program. Presenting the check to Linda for her fuel provider was Margaret Stevens, Owner, who said "This check represents a commitment from Concord Group and Greater Falls Insurance to provide the support our customers need during this difficult economic period. We are very much aware of the potential hazards with the use of supplemental heat, such as space heater, and have witness many tragedies where these heating appliances contributed to loss of property and loss of life. "

Greater Falls Insurance is located at 7190 US Rte 5 and has served the Westminster and the surrounding area for 13 years. Concord Group Insurance is a leading provider of personal and business insurance and has been serving the needs of New Englanders since 1928.

Thank You, Westminster residents, for the honor of being re-elected to the offices of Town Clerk and Treasurer. I look forward to serving you.

Doreen Woodward



Happy Pets Hotel

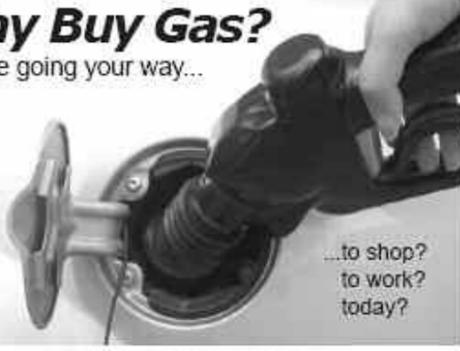
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2009

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The Amazing Race



Around the World

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of
Kurn Hattin
Homes

A free performance, open to the public
Wednesday, April 15th at 10:05 am

Backyard Compost Bins for Sale!

The Windham Solid Waste Management District is once again selling backyard compost bins at a reduced price! Composting food waste can reduce your household trash by 25% and the waste turns into soil amendment for lawns and gardens.

The bins are available only while supplies last and can be purchased at the WSWMD office on Old Ferry Rd, Brattleboro, VT, Monday - Friday, 9AM - 2PM. Checks and cash are accepted. If you want to ensure getting a bin this year, payment can be mailed to: WSWMD, 327 Old Ferry Rd, Brattleboro, VT, 05301 Attention: Kristen.



Only \$50

The Soil Saver has a \$99. retail value and is being sold for only \$50 while supplies last! It is approximately 3 ft x 3 ft, has an 80-gallon capacity and is large enough for a family of five. It is lightweight, easy to assemble, tight lid, and made of 100% recycled plastic! No Turning, No Hassle. 10 year warranty. A 96-page composting guide is included

CONNECTICUT RIVER TRANSIT
885-5162 or 1-888-869-6287
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BELLOWS FALLS, PAGE 1 OF 2: COMMUTER ROUTES
BELLOWS FALLS TO BRATTLEBORO: COMMUTERS M-F

Read Down All Columns

	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

	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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ADVERTISE IN THE GAZETTE

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- \$125 for 6 months
- \$250 for 12 months

\$150 12 months (page 8)
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changing to
Business of the Month

\$10 Box Ad on Bottom Front

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Green Mountain Power's Environmental Commitment Rolls On With Its First Hybrid Bucket Truck

COLCHESTER, Vt.... Green Mountain Power is taking another step in its campaign to operate with the lowest possible environmental impact by placing the company's first hybrid bucket truck into service. The vehicle runs on a combination of biodiesel and batteries, and will dramatically cut emissions and fuel usage.

The addition of the hybrid truck to its fleet underscores GMP's ongoing commitment to reducing its carbon footprint and embracing clean energy technologies.

Rebecca Towne, Green Mountain Power's fleet manager, said, "The new truck will help us meet our ambitious green transportation goals at GMP. In the last three years we've improved fuel mileage 25% through the purchase of smaller vehicles and hybrids, and two conversions of hybrids to plug-in hybrid vehicles. We also encourage our employees to reduce idle time, plan routes carefully and use the most efficient vehicle for each trip."

Here are the operating expectations of the new hybrid technology:

- Ø lowers fuel usage up to 60%
- Ø lowers idling time by 87%, saving fuel and reducing noise
- Ø lowers maintenance costs due to reduced use of the diesel engine

"Our customers will immediately notice the difference if the hybrid truck is operating in their neighborhood," Ms. Towne said. "Lineworkers generally need to run the truck motor to use equipment on the truck. But the hybrid can run off batteries for up to 20 minutes when the truck is parked and the bucket is in operation. This reduces inefficient idling, noise and exhaust at the jobsite."

The hybrid system recovers and stores energy normally lost during braking by charging batteries. At low speeds, the charged batteries power an electric motor that assists the diesel engine to increase fuel economy and reduce emissions.

Head Lineworker Fran Racicot is impressed with what the truck has to offer. "The lower noise level is one of the biggest benefits for both the workers and our customers. I operated the boom on this truck for nearly an hour, and the engine kicked on briefly just a few times. When you add in the positives of less exhaust and better mileage, I think this is going to be a nice truck for us," said Mr. Racicot.

GMP continues to add hybrid vehicles to its fleet as older trucks and cars need replacement.

"This cutting edge technology is a great step for Vermonters. It reduces our operating costs, which ultimately benefits customers, and also directly contributes to the improvement of Vermont's carbon footprint. This is an important investment in the future of transportation," said Ms. Towne.

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, at 802-655-8418. Photo available. Please email schnure@greenmountainpower.com.

Westminster's Scenic Ridgeline Protection Ordinance

by Rick Cowan

Was chosen by the American Planning Association (APA) for national distribution. It has been included as a model zoning approach in the APA's most recent Planning Advisory Service Essential Information Packet entitled "Preserving Rural Character." Recent planning movements have enshrined the characteristics of the traditional village: compact, mixed use, pedestrian-friendly settlements built at a human scale. Yet while these principles have been applied to urban redevelopment and green-field construction, rural villages themselves are being threatened by sprawling development from nearby metropolitan regions. This Essential Info Packet provides reports and sample ordinances from across the country that can help planners protect existing communities from uncontrolled development while preserving the surrounding open landscape. Topics covered include zoning for village and rural activity centers, transfer of development rights programs, conservation subdivision design, and ridgeline and scenic corridor protection regulations.

DISCOUNTED LUNCH FOR SENIORS

Seniors will now be able to enjoy a monthly discounted lunch at the Golden Egg restaurant thanks to a program being offered by the Council on Aging for Southeastern Vermont. The Council and Main Street Arts are collaborating with the Golden Egg to offer a meal off the restaurant's Deluxe Luncheon menu for a donation of \$3.50. Tickets for the lunch are only available at Main Street Arts during regular hours and are non-refundable. The special discount is offered the fourth Thurs. of each month, with seating between noon and 12:30.

WINTER SPORTS AWARD BANQUET HELD AT KURN HATTIN

by Kim Fine

Kurn Hattin Homes in Westminster, Vermont held its Annual Winter Sports Award Banquet to honor the children participating in the various sports. All the children were praised for their sportsmanship and the fact that they didn't quit – not the game nor their home or school responsibilities.

The Coaches were Sierra Sylvester for Dance, Sara Stine, Horse Program, Bob Anderson and Keegan LaPlante for Co-ed 3rd/4th Grade Basketball, Sara Frantz, Girls Basketball "B" Team, Dean Kinville and James Perez, Boys 5th/6th Grade Basketball, Tom Fahner, Girls 7th/8th Grade Basketball "A" Team, Dave Brodeur, Cody Lackey and James Perez, Boys 7th/8th Grade Basketball, and Carol Bazin and Donna Fahner for the Ski & Snow Board Program. All the children received certificates and medals for participation.

Assistant Principal, David Baldasaro was awarded for his continued leadership and flexibility in the demands of the

game schedule. A very special award was given to houseparent and basketball coach, Dave Brodeur for his 300th win. Dave has been coaching at the Homes for 30 years.



(l-r) Kurn Hattin Assistant Principal and Athletic Director, Dave Baldasaro, Houseparent and Coach Dave Brodeur and Tom Fahner, Director of Educational and Residential Services and Coach at the Winter Sports Award Banquet.

Others were thanked too from the houseparents who always had clean uniforms for the students to the kitchen staff who prepared many box lunches and the wonderful meal for the banquet. The many volunteers were also appreciated. Special thanks went to them and the volunteer chaperones Donna Aldrich, Jeff Bianconi, Ed Dinnany, Chris Fahner, Tom Fahner, Sara Frantz, Elizabeth Hickin, Christopher Jones, Joseph Newton, Keri Newton, and George Ruhe.

Physically activity and sportsmanship are a very important part of the Kurn Hattin program. Kurn Hattin is a non-profit, residential home and school for in-need and at-risk children, ages 6-15, from throughout the Northeast.

KURN HATTIN CELEBRATES THEIR VOLUNTEERS

by Kim Fine



overall good behavior of the children at Kurn Hattin.

Though volunteering can be challenging at times, it is quite often the high point of the volunteer's day. The children know that they are fortunate to have someone interested in them. The staff truly appreciates the volunteers' help whether they're working with a student one on one or there are multiple tasks and all the students are seeking attention. The positive effects of volunteering are clearly evident for everyone involved.

Kurn Hattin is truly fortunate to have so many enthusiastic and dedicated people from Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut and New York contributing their time, talent and energy to school and recreational programs. "Volunteers offer so much individual support and positive adult interaction for our children," says Tom Fahner, Director of Educational and Residential Services, "We couldn't do what we do without our volunteers."

Kurn Hattin holds its volunteers in high esteem. Every year, the volunteers are recognized at a special dinner in their honor. Hats off to all of you who volunteer at Kurn Hattin Homes. To Bill Abbott, Donna Aldrich, Carol Bazin, Luke & Diane Bazin, Ted Benoit, Jeff Bianconi, Fran & Michael Cheslock, Carolyn Blake-Deyo, Bill & Barbara Brackett, Dave Brodeur, Darrel & Marianne Daley, Gordon Dansereau, Jamie Dansereau, Ed Dinnany, Tim & Brenda Eno, Tom & Donna Fahner, Sara Frantz, Justin Fuller, Charles Fuqua, Paul Gamache, Amanda Gilbert-Hodgson, Gary Carrier, Amanda Gilbert-Hodson, Chris Goding, Jacky Goodrich, Paul Gordon, Father Lance Harlow, Elizabeth Hickin, John & Carol Hubbard, Priscilla Kenny-Brand, Charles P. Kelsey, Dean Kinville, Rich & Theresa Kuhn, Chris Jones, Bill Luring, Kristin McGee, Tim Maney, David J. & Barbara Maysilles, Francese Mills, Joseph & Keri Newton, George & Sue Nostrand, Pastor Gary Orr, Hugh Perkins, Mrs. Frank J. Prindl, George Ruhe, Karen Rumrill, Renee Simoneau, Julie Smith, Robert & Tina Smith, Annette Spaulding & Patrick Madden, Merrill Mundell, Kathy Seamans, Mia Seamans, Peter Stickney, Robert & Susan Tidlund, Michael Todd, Vern & Roberta Violette, Trudy Walker, Frank Walters, Barbara & Gary West, Nancy & Joseph Wettach, Ron & Pat Williams, Janet Wilson, and Larry & Bette Wunderle, We can't thank you enough. Kurn Hattin is a non-profit, residential home and school for in-need and at-risk children, ages 6-15, from throughout the Northeast.

Back by popular demand: LET THEM EAT CAKE!

On Wednesday, April 15th the Center School will fill up with the most amazing confections seen – since last year! We hope this year's PLAYGROUND cake theme inspires great baking and decorating. Let Them Eat Cake, 2009, will celebrate our bigger and better playground coming later this spring.

Cake drop off begins at 6:00. Between 6:30 and 7:00, judges do the hard work of picking winners in these categories: funniest, BIGGEST, smallest, most original, most musical, most realistic, most colorful, healthiest, fanciest, least likely to be a cake and special for 2009: PLAYGROUND! During judging, there will be a Gallery Walk, storytelling and other activities. At 7:00 the cake auction begins, so everyone can have (buy) their cake and eat it, too. This annual event supports the Music and Arts programs at our elementary schools.



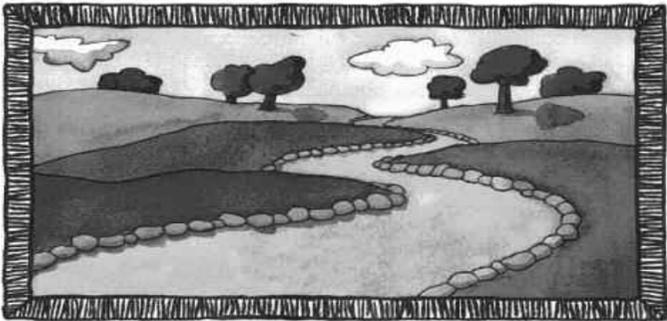
Kindergartners Visit V.A. Sugarhouse

by Liz Bourne

Thanks to Mike Ghia, Westminster's three dozen kindergartners sampled maple sap and syrup when they visited the Vermont Academy Sugarhouse. On Friday, March 20th, students toured the VA sugaring operation, from trees, to tubing and the steamy evaporator.

Saturday May 2nd is GREEN UP DAY

Bags can be picked up at the
Town Hall beginning the week of
April 20th.



If you have any questions please call
Ginger Cook 802-722-9778

NATURE'S SPRINGTIME BLOSSOMS By Babs Lynde, a Vermont Master Gardener

During the earliest days of springtime, I am constantly checking out the flower gardens that I have close to the house in an effort to spot the first signs of flowers such as crocuses or snowdrops. Seeing that tiny bit of purple, yellow or green trying to poke its way through the last snow or matted grasses is always exciting to me. There are other flowers, though, planted by Nature, that can be found in our back woods or pastures that are equally thrilling to see as our days grow longer and warmer. Here are some of the most common wildflowers that we will find blossoming first.

Wild columbine looks quite similar to its cultivated cousins except that the flower is usually a reddish color with inner yellow petals. One plant may produce several stems with a number of flowers on each, making it between 1 and 3 feet tall. This plant has several nicknames including American columbine, dancing fairies, Grannies bonnets, rock lily and wild honeysuckle to name a few. Although this plant prefers moist shaded areas, it is easily transplanted to other environments except extreme sunny and dry spots. Hummingbirds and early butterflies love these tubular flowers. Columbine was once used as a medicinal plant for many ailments such as fever or heart disorders.

From a distance, coltsfoot is often mistaken for dandelion blossoms. They have the same bright yellow flower head except the coltsfoot flower is usually flatter on the top with spiked-like petals while the dandelion head has broader, softer petals. Coltsfoot also grows in clumps with several flowers and stems whereas dandelions like to spread out and give each plant individual growing space. A dandelion's leaves are long and deeply serrated while the coltsfoot is shaped more like the gentle curve of a horse's foot; thus its name. Both plants grow from 2 to 4 inches and are most likely to be found in sunny locations, but instead of competing with the meadowlands, the coltsfoot prefers the dryer and sandier areas like those found on roadsides. Also, dandelions are not out as early as coltsfoot as they like warmer ground.

The WRITE stuff! by Liz Bourne

Literacy Week, 2009, filled our schools with even more writers and readers than usual. Local poet, Verandah Porch, began her writing residency at the West School on Monday. On Thursday, Westminster's own authors, Michael Daley and Jessie Haas talked with 5th and 6th graders about their writing process and latest books. We listened to stories read by community visitors from the Superintendent and Town Manager to parents, grandparents and community volunteers. Student authors shared books they'd written with other kids and visitors. Literacy Night opened school doors to about 120 people, and featured a variety of community writing projects, including this Circular Story, which had 16 contributors:

Farewell, Old Man Winter! Welcome even mud season, with its muddy ruts and squishy slop and melting snow, frosty mornings and cold evenings. The warmth of the sun warms your cold winter bones and when spring comes, you will go home! The days are warm and the sap runs. Yum! I can't wait for maple syrup. The soil beckons to feel the warmth of the warm sun. I hope your vacation is fun! At the beach, play on the swings and fly – fly over the hill on your bicycle. Let's go swimming! I like to have my birthday.



Greater Falls Serve has moved the distribution of food from the Canal House to Westminster Fire Station. We appreciate the welcome we have received from the community. The men are there to help with set up and unloading the truck, this is so appreciated.

Greater Falls Serve celebrated it's 17th year anniversary in February.

Serve is a community service, food purchase program. Payment is made when the food is ordered. Delivery is always a Saturday, two weeks after placing the order. Family packets of 4 meat products, potatoes, carrots and other fruits and vegetables are included in each package. Special meat products, ham, turkey, steak, ribs etc. are offered each month. A family unit is \$26.00 which includes one dollar toward trucking costs.

The food is picked up in Hatfield, MA. You may call Jane French 463-4311 or Marie Benway for more information, or to order.

' IF YOU EAT, YOU QUALIFY'

Although blood-red is the most common color for trilliums, there are also species that have pale pink to white blossoms. All have a whorl of three large leaves just below the flower and can be found in shady wooded areas from April to June. They are low growing plants, about 6 to 18 inches, and generally found thrusting their way through layers of old leaves. The red trillium has an unpleasant odor which is why it is commonly referred to as stinking Benjamin. The root of this plant was frequently boiled in a tea generations ago by Native Americans to induce childbirth, giving it the nickname of birthroot.

The trout lily, sometimes referred to as Adder's tongue, blossoms from late March to May. A single flower grows 4 to 10 inches from each corm and is usually yellow, although some species are cream colored, with one of two mottled or speckled sword-shaped leaves of green and brown which is similar to the coloring on the back of our common brook trout. These lonely flowers also like the cooler, moist earth in shaded areas around streams and run-offs.

Wild violets are the surest sign of spring when they start blossoming in April. Usually no more than 2 or 3 inches high, their bluish-violet and white colors pop up by the hundreds in our pastures and back yards. They can be found growing in clumps with their heart shaped leaves outnumbering their blossoms. Violets are actually classified as a broadleaved weed because once they appear in a lawn, they spread quickly through their rhizome root system, making them difficult to control. However, despite their tenacious behavior, they are also the state flower for four of our northern States which just goes to show how much we love this early sign of spring.

Would you like more information about springtime wildflowers? The Master Gardeners of Vermont are trained to help you with all your needs. Call their Helpline toll-tree at 1-800-639-2230, send questions by email to master.gardener@uvm.edu or visit their website at <http://www.uvm.edu/mastergardener/> for extensive information.



It is a pleasure to announce that junior, Aaron Morton has been chosen the February Elks Student of the Month for Bellows Falls Union High School.

Aaron is the son of Anne and Tim Morton of Rockingham.

Aaron is a dedicated student who works hard. He takes challenging classes and maintains a high rank in the junior class. Aaron is attentive to detail, responsible and takes his education seriously. He works well with other students, is well liked by the staff and is always willing to help. He gets actively

involved in his classes, asks good questions and often goes above and beyond the requirements of any assignment.

Always friendly, polite and willing to help, Aaron is a pleasure to work with. He is actively involved in the school through the student government. He has served as a class officer and as a member of the BFUHS Student Council for three years, a group for which he is an officer as well. Aaron is a good role model, a quiet leader and is a positive contributor to any group. He is a member of the BFUHS band as well.

Aaron is one of the founding and more active members of the BFUHS Environmental Group which manages and operates the school paper recycling program. Due to schedule conflicts with students, the group has had some trouble surviving but Aaron has been a dedicated member of the group and works on the recycling every week.

In addition to recycling, he has worked at a local theater camp and has helped at the Saxtons River School and at the Saxtons River Recreation Center.

Congratulations Aaron. BFUHS is proud to have you represent us with this award.

Celebrate Youth and Healthy Choices at the Fourth Annual Spring Fling

Westminster – On May 9, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Kurn Hattin Homes will be hosting the 4th Annual Spring Fling. Kurn Hattin Homes established this event to promote positive activities for youth in Vermont and neighboring states. Spring Fling celebrates youth by promoting fun, healthy, and drug-free choices. The community has become an integral part of this daylong, youth-centered event with their donation of goods, services and their time. Friesians of Majesty and the 4-H River Riders Horse Demonstrations and the River Valley Ridge Riders Motorcycle Display.

Schedule & Events:

9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Baseball & Softball Tournament, Inflatable Rides (\$1.00), Concession Stand, Springfield Hospital Health Fair, Westminster Fire Department Display, VT Kids Against Tobacco Booth

9:15 a.m. Mountain Bike Race
 9:30 a.m. B.F.U.H.S. Jazz Band*
 10:00 a.m. 4-H Kurn Hattin Horse Demonstration
 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Windham County Sheriff's Bike Rodeo
 10:30 a.m. Children's Choir*
 Westminster Central School & Kurn Hattin
 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Face Painting sponsored by Rotary Interact Club
 11:00 a.m. Todd Brodeur - World Freestyle Frisbee Champion Demonstration and Playshops
 11:00 a.m. Music by Matt Hunter (guitarist)*
 12:30 p.m. Magic Show performed by Bill Scarlett*
 1:00 p.m. Horse Demonstration by "Friesians of Majesty"
 1:00 p.m. River Valley Ridge Riders Motorcycle Display
 1:30 p.m. "Early Times Band" - Country & Rock*
 2:00 p.m. 4-H River Riders Horse Demonstration
 2:00 p.m. 50/50 Drawing*
 2:30 p.m. Youth Games

*Held under the big tent Baseball/Softball Tournament

9:20 A.M. NATIONAL ANTHEM AND COLORS PRESENTED BY DELTA COMPANY 3-172 IN INFANTRY MTN

SOFTBALL

9:30 a.m. Kurn Hattin vs. Bellows Falls
 10:30 a.m. Leland & Gray vs. Windsor
 11:30 a.m. Claremont vs. Bellows Falls
 12:30 p.m. Windsor vs. Kurn Hattin
 1:30 p.m. Claremont vs. Leland & Gray
 2:30 p.m. Bellows Falls vs. Leland & Gray
 3:30 p.m. Windsor vs. Claremont

BASEBALL

9:30 a.m. Kurn Hattin vs. Bellows Falls
 10:30 a.m. Leland & Gray vs. Windsor
 11:30 a.m. Claremont vs. Bellows Falls
 12:30 p.m. Windsor vs. Kurn Hattin
 1:30 p.m. Claremont vs. Leland & Gray
 2:30 p.m. Bellows Falls vs. Leland & Gray
 3:30 p.m. Windsor vs. Claremont

Spring Fling is free and open to the public. A free-will offering will be graciously accepted to benefit the Kurn Hattin H'Olympic fund. Come celebrate the arrival of spring, youth and good health! Kurn Hattin is Exit 5 off I-91 in Vermont. From there, follow the signs. For more information call Tom at (802) 721-6918.

So gather up your friends and family and see you at Spring Fling! Canceled in the event of rain.

WESTMINSTER MYSTERY PHOTO



Where are these water falls located and what is the name?

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

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

March Answer: It's the William Czar Bradley House and the World War Memorial that they used to have set up next to the house which is located on the corners of Main & School Streets in the center of town.

March Winners: Don Nowers, Christian Blake, Hank Anderson, Barbara Greenough, Howie Rice and Marty Collins.

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 on the 1st Tuesday of every month and a combined drill on the 3rd Tuesday of every month.

Number of calls in February: 25
 Number of man hours spent: 7,398

Number of calls in March 1st through 26th: 24
 Number of man hours spent: 4,338
 Number of calls calendar year to Date: 77

Mud Season:

Fire trucks are very heavy and they do not do well in mud. They must travel in the middle of the road and in some cases they will not be able to make it through some of the worse sections. Try to avoid traveling on muddy roads whenever possible so as to minimize the ruts and softening of the surface.

Flooding:

Because of the excessive amounts of snow this winter, dangers of high water and flooded cellars becomes an issue. Residents should check the workability of sump pumps and drains. Be sure to keep watch of the cellar for incoming water. Water in the cellar can be very dangerous, especially if it comes in contact with anything electrical. The Fire Department does not have the equipment to pump water that is less than 4 inches deep.

Fallen Trees and Limbs:

The ice storm and high winds this year have left many areas with fallen trees and limbs that need to be cleaned up. Many of them have fallen close to buildings and may be tangled. Be careful with removal. Understand chain saw safety and watch when cutting that the limbs or trees don't fall on you or your house. Serious injury or loss of life are not uncommon when working in areas where trees and limbs need to be removed. Hiring a professional may make sense.

Burn Permit Alert: With spring upon us, it is usually a good time to do an outside burn, however there may be times when burning is not allowed because of wind or sudden dry spells. Be careful to burn in open areas away from other buildings. Remember only unfinished wood or brush is permissible to burn. Anything else is not allowed.

Anyone wishing to do an outside burn must get verbal permission from one of the fire wardens before starting a fire. You must talk with one of the wardens. Leaving an answering machine message will not count as a permit.

AS OF THIS WRITING THERE ARE MANY AREAS WHERE THERE WILL BE NO PERMITS ISSUED UNTIL WE GET SOME RAIN AND THINGS GREEN UP.

The wardens are: Cole Streeter 722-3178
 Mark Lund 463-9355
 Pat Haas 387-5778

Studebaker Fund-Raiser: Work is continuing on the restoration of the 1953 Studebaker Fire Engine. The chassis has been sandblasted and painted and is now sitting at the Fire Station awaiting the rest of the panels and the wheels and cab to be finished. Funds are still needed to complete the project. After the fund-raiser is over, we are going to generate a chart listing the names of the donors. If anyone wishes to give money in memory of or in honor of a friend or loved one, please include the information when you send in your donation.

Those wishing to give money send to:

Westminster Fire and Rescue Association
 Studebaker Fund
 PO Box 111
 Westminster, Vt. 05158
 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.

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

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.Nocharge.

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:

Calling all volunteers!! The Westminster Afterschool Program is launching a new program to connect students with community members for academic support on Tuesdays from 3:30-4:15. Up to 35 students attend the Afterschool Program each day and for many families this is the best time of day for homework to get done. We need additional help from community members to work with individuals or small groups in math, reading, and writing. Students range from 6-12 years old and our needs range from reading to children, being read to, helping with basic or advanced math homework and playing math games. We have the plan and we need increased people power to implement it. We can accommodate volunteers on a drop-in or long-term basis. Contact Elaine Gordon at egordon@wnesu.net or 722-3241 for more information or come to school at 3:15 any Tuesday starting March 9, 2009. When communities work together, everyone benefits.~

There has been continued success at the Westminster Schools Afterschool program. The success is evident through improvements in the students across the board. The students are forming long lasting trusting relationships, increasing their social skills, learning to cooperate and gain self respect. The Afterschool environment offers a predictable climate with enrichment in academics, cooperative sports and a wide variety of extracurricular activities. From crafts to yoga, Yu-Gi-Oh to piano the students have a lot of opportunity to explore their interests. Most recently some of the staff have been trained in a low traverse climbing wall. This will add to the opportunity to build trusting relationships and cooperation among the staff and students.

Children are under the direct supervision of Nicole Brayton, and Jackie Georgina, with assistance from other staff and community members. We have started a separate program for younger students where children in kindergarten and first grade are getting important needs met through smaller numbers of children, and more one on one interactions as they grow into their independence. This program is supervised by Jodi Milko and Chelsea Milko. The entire afterschool staff does a wonderful job at creating a safe, fun and exciting environment.

We owe special thanks for our success to many people in our community. The Westminster Fire Department for taking care of the ice rink and lots of fun skating for the kids. All of the support from Westminster School staff that makes our work with these children possible, and Steve Tullar for his tremendous support of staff and students after the regular school day ends.



Fancy Fillies RedHatters

meet on the second Wednesday each month. The March outing was at the Front Porch Cafe in Putney.

Connie Harlow was the birthday gal. April will find the group headed for Claremont for lunch and some thrift shop visits and May will be to Brattleboro for a tour of the Estey Organ museum and lunch out. This group believes in fun and friendship. For information call the Queen Mother at 722-9006.

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 10:00 AM

Communion is the first Sunday of each month. The church has a ramp and lift for wheelchair access. All are welcome. 802-722-4148

In April, our pastor, Rev. Sami will be away April 26 as part of the Windham Association's "Pulpit Exchange." Rev. Sami will be leading worship in another church in our area and in exchange another minister from the Windham Association will lead our worship service.

PLEASE JOIN US DURING HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday, April 5th 10:00 am
Maundy Thursday, April 9, 6:00 pm Supper and Communion
Good Friday, April 10 – 12-3 pm Music & Meditation
Good Friday, April 10 – 6:30 pm service
EASTER Sunrise Service, April 12 – 6:00 am at Kurn Hattin
Easter Breakfast following Sunrise Service back at Church
Easter Service, April 12 – 10:00 am

Other Dates

April 7 Woman's Fellowship meeting- 7pm
April 8, Trustees meeting – 7pm
April 19, Worship and Sunday School
April 19th Deacons meeting after coffee hour
April 20, Standing committee – 7pm
April 26, Worship and Sunday School -10:00 am (Pulpit Exchange Sunday)

Sunday School this month will be April 5, 19 and 26 starting at 10:00 upstairs in church and reconvening in the fellowship room after the children's story.

Thanks to all for joining us for SOUPer Wednesdays. Look for more soup kitchen days next winter.

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 Monday1-4pm 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.

North Westminster Trustees

meet the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:00pm at the Community House.

North Westminster Community House

Annual Meeting First Monday of May

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

Thursday, April 16th at 12:30 at Westminster Cares

90th

Birthday Celebration open house at the Westminster Fire House

on April 26 from 2 to 5,

for

Evelyn Rhoades.

VT Army National Guard Delta Company Armory Lane-Westminster

Annual Open House APRIL 11TH---10am to 4pm

Climbing wall, HUMVEES and other local supporters will be on display.

Family Readiness Group will have baskets & an Easter basket to raffle off.

Come Support Your Troops & their Families.

Any questions, contact Marcy Smith---722-9034

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

May 9th - Spring Fling @ Kurn Hattin 9-3

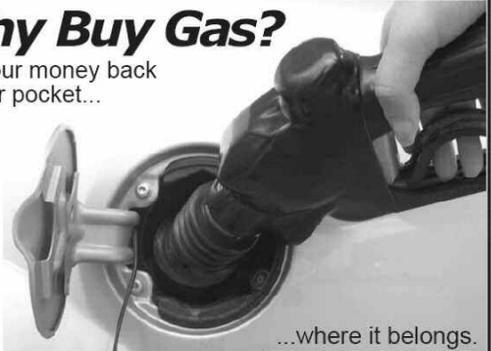
July 25th - Community Picnic * tentative date

If you would like to help out on any of these events please contact A Westminster Activities Commission board member - Ginger Cook, Doreen Kelton, Mark McAllister Amy Sciacca, Craig Allen. Russ Hodgkins

THE GAZETTE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT OF IT'S UNDERWRITERS:

Kurn Hattin Homes
Westminster School District
Town of Westminster
Durand Automotive Group
Father's Restaurant
Westminster Activities Commission

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May's Submissions are due by: Thursday, April, 30th at 5:00pm

westminsternews@gmail.com

Peggy Porter @ 802-722-4521

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Jazz Invitational To Be Hosted At Kurn Hattin
by Kim Fine

Westminster, VT - On Wednesday, April 8 at 7:00 pm, jazz bands from four local schools and the Keene Jazz Orchestra will participate in the 3rd Annual Kurn Hattin Jazz Invitational. The event will be held in the Higbie Auditorium in the Mayo Memorial Center at Kurn Hattin Homes. The schools participating are Bellows Falls Union High School, Bellows Falls Middle School, Vermont Academy and Kurn Hattin Homes. Tenor saxophonist, Scott Mullett, who is an alumnus of many world-class touring bands, including Woody Herman and Artie Shaw, leads the Keene Jazz Orchestra. Scott teaches privately, plays throughout New England, and is adjunct faculty member at Keene State College. The members of this 18-piece orchestra are a unique blend of local talents between the ages of 17 and 55. Many of Keene's finest instrumentalists are involved with the Orchestra. Together, they will be sharing with the audience the big band sounds that are one of America's great contributions to world culture. The public is invited and there is no admission being charged for the concert. Guests are asked to bring a non-perishable item to be donated to the local food shelf. For more information, please contact Lisa Bianconi at (802) 721-6931. Kurn Hattin Homes is a charitable, residential, year-round home and school for in-need and at-risk children, ages 6-15, from throughout the Northeast.

WESTMINSTER CARES, INC.

The Westminster Cares, Inc. Board of Directors met on March 4, 2009. Final preparations are being made for the annual Garden Tours to be held on June 27 and 28, 2009. More information will be provided in the next news release. Plans continue to be made for the Westminster Quilt Show to be held on October 17 and 18, 2009, in the Westminster Center School. This "Natural World in Quilts" will feature over 100 antique and contemporary quilts from local quilters. As in past years, there will be door prizes, a quilt raffle, a Treasure Trove, vendors and food. New brochures are now available and will be distributed to local hospitals, doctor and dentist offices. Services provided include 13 people being delivered Meals on Wheels. 26 rides for 8 different people by 7 volunteers for a total of 365 miles. Programs provided in February include 2 Secrets of Healthy Aging sessions, 2 Yoga classes, 4 Artist in Each of Us classes, 23 Living Strong classes. Anyone interested in learning more about Westminster Cares, working on a committee, making a contribution or attending a workshop may contact Ronnie Friedman at 722-3607 or by email at wecares@sover.net.

Westminster Cares welcomes donations throughout the year from anyone wishing to memorialize a loved one or a friend. Send to:

Westminster Cares
PO Box 312
Westminster, Vt. 05158

Creative Aging for Seniors and Senior-Soon-to-Be's! by Ronnie Friedman

Westminster Cares will be offering a free 8 week discussion series facilitated by Cheryl M. Richards about the dreams, fantasies, fears, myths, expectations and realities of aging in today's world. The series will take place in the North Room of the Westminster Institute, Westminster, VT beginning on Thursday, April 9th and continuing through Thursday, May 28th from 4:30 to 6 pm. Participants will share their wisdom, ideas, discoveries, concerns, experiences and perceptions about "getting old." They will also receive information that will help dispell the myths and misinformation that abound around the aging process. Throughout the series a light-hearted ambiance will help encourage participants to re-create their personal aging realities. Some of the topics to be discussed will be: Changing Bodies, changing selves; Community connection vs. isolation; learning to live with dementia, yours or a loved one. For information call Westminster Cares at 722-3607 or email: wecares@sover.net

Cheryl M. Richards, MA, CT, is a grief counselor and end of life specialist. She works with families facing severe chronic or terminal illness; provides support in death preparation and transition; counsels individuals during their journey into dementia; facilitates discussion groups for elders dealing with the multiple losses (and gains) of the aging experience and offers workshops and trainings in conscious living and dying.

Ecological Agriculture: The Art and Science of Gardening with Nature in Mind

An ecological gardening intensive will be offered at Sowing Peace Farm in Westminster West village over a full season of twelve classes, taking place every other Tuesday, 9:30 - Noon, from April 14th through September 22nd, 2009. The class is limited to six students. Each class will include lecture, discussion, demonstration, and hands-on activities. Students will design and carry out agricultural experiments of their choosing. The class is subject to a deposit and tuition fee.

For more information, contact: Tatiana Schreiber, Phone (802) 387-2781, Email: tatianas@sover.net

"Charles Andros, former NH/VT Apiary Inspector, will hold a **Beekeeping Workshop** from 1-3:30 PM on Saturday, April 25, at 18 MacLean Road, Alstead, NH 03602. Look for the "BEE" sign on the south side of Walpole Valley Road. Topics of discussion will be early spring management: locating apiaries, equipment, handling bees, feeding syrup and supplements, making nuclei, reversing, and queening. Bring a veil, if you have one, as we shall be opening some colonies. We'll be inside if it is a rainy day. **Registration required.** email: lindena@sover.net or call 603-756-9056."

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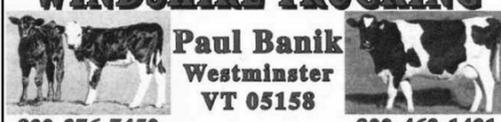
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School Board Blog

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.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS QUESTIONNAIRE

Please watch your mail for your emergency preparedness questionnaire. The Fire Dept and Westminster Cares are coordinating this effort to make sure everyone in town is safe in the event of an emergency.

Return the questionnaire to Westminster Cares, PO Box, Westminster, VT 05158. If you do not receive one, call Westminster Cares at 722-3607.

Westminster Gazette

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