

Westminster Gazette



po box 147 westminster vt 05158

Our Community Newspaper

Vol. 5, No. 3 March 2009

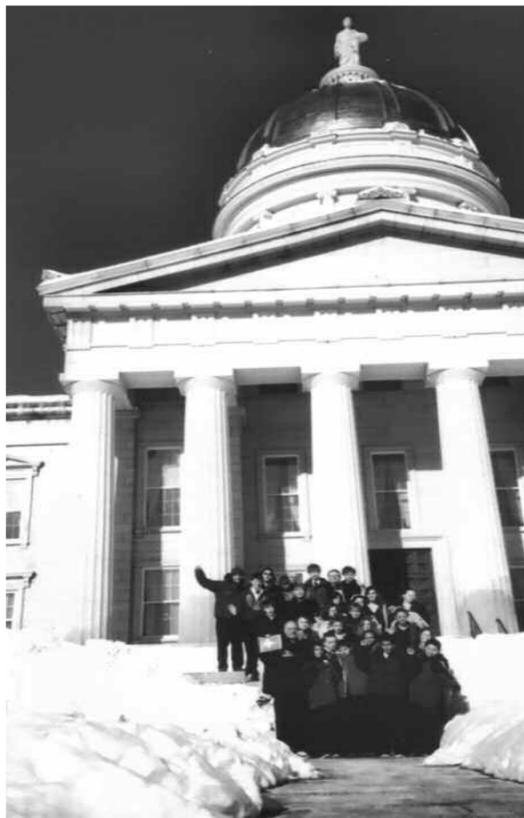
Kurn Hattin Performs at the Vermont State House

by Kim Fine

On Wednesday evenings throughout the winter, the Vermont Legislature hosts the Farmers' Night concert series in the rotunda of the Statehouse. Kurn Hattin children have had the honor of being invited to perform at these concerts for many decades. In fact, there isn't a graduate who doesn't hold this opportunity in high esteem. Kurn Hattin's Jazz Ensemble and Select Choir (30 children and several volunteers) performed 16 selections for an audience of 50 or more. They opened with a beautiful solo of the Star Spangled Banner and closed with a sing-a-long on May You Always Have A Song. In the beautifully ornate room with a portrait of George Washington behind them, the children gave a performance to remember.

Farmers' Night originated as a meeting of farm-legislators with the interest of securing better legislation for farm interests in Vermont. Over time, the meetings evolved into a performance series for lawmakers staying in Montpelier all week during the winter and early spring legislative sessions and the public. Though now many commute, the Farmers' Night tradition (A tradition dating back to the Civil War) continues and the event is open to all.

Kurn Hattin has a very strong music program and the children play daily. 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.



Community Spirit and Community Power

by John Medeiros

Any resident of Westminster who generates electric power at home, such as by means of solar panels or a windmill, can help their community simply by sharing the story of how they came to use such an "alternative" energy source. What is alternative today will probably be considered standard tomorrow. As the wheel of fortune turns we revisit places we have been before. The power lines and power stations that have become so familiar to us were once the "new alternatives" to whale oil, tallow and cordwood. We used to produce our own "power" in the form of firewood for winter heat, wood or charcoal to cook, whale oil and tallow for light at night. We used horses and oxen to work in the fields, water wheels to run industrial machines. A few years ago my wife and I stopped at a sawmill in New Hampshire that still ran on the power of a water wheel that operated a reciprocating saw. We were amazed at the effectiveness of that machine. It did the job very well, cutting boards from a log without producing any smoke, ash or carbon dioxide. Wood and animal fats, and the animals themselves, were our original home power generators. Because coal and oil are polluting and running out, we are going back to the old local ways but with new technology to produce home power.

We need to produce a record of homestead power generators in our town. This is town history in the making. Solar panels are power generators, just as windmills and manure digesters are power generators. If you have a type of generator that produces electric power only for your own home, please tell us about it. How was it installed? How much did it cost? Where should a person look to find out more about your home power device? How does it work? What were the obstacles to your home-power project?

Please send your story about your home-generated power to the Westminster Energy Committee at energy.at.westminster@comcast.net, or by a phone call to Committee Chair Michael Daley at 802-387-2601, or if you prefer we would be happy to interview you on the subject and write up the piece for the Gazette. This project will also help the Planning and Development Commission implement renewable resource energy goals in the Westminster Town Plan. Thank you!

Westminster Schools NECAP Results

Steven Tullar, Principal

The State of Vermont released the results of the New England Comprehensive Assessment Program recently. The NECAP evaluates all third through eighth graders (and high school tenth graders) in reading and mathematics, with fifth and eighth graders also being assessed in writing. The test is given in October of each year and the results are used under the No Child Left Behind Act to measure student achievement in schools in Vermont, New Hampshire and Rhode Island. (Maine will join the group for the next round of testing.) The results have value for schools to examine programs, longitudinal patterns, and cohorts of students. It is not the best test for monitoring individual student progress, although it can be used as a snapshot of student performance in combination with various other assessments used at the local school and classroom level. The information is reported to schools in two ways - teaching year data (those students who attended our school the prior year) and testing year data (those students who were enrolled in our school during the testing window). We use the teaching year data for our analysis, as it connects to our instructional programs.

There is much talk these days about accountability versus teaching to the test. We are doing our best to balance our use of assessments to plan

appropriate instruction targeted to individual student needs, and analyzing the results of assessments such as the NECAP in order to make program adjustments schoolwide. The NECAP was created with the help of Vermont teachers and is based on the state Grade Expectations. In essence it is testing what we are supposed to be teaching. During the time since the NECAP results were released, and during the March in-service day, the teachers and administration will spend time discussing the results, looking at trends, and making plans for instructional practices at various grades.

Our results on the NECAP were mixed again this year. There are a few positive notes - an increase of about ten percentage points in the percentage of fifth grade students proficient or above in writing- up to 38%. Our students in sixth grade were near the state average in reading. Westminster had 69% of the students we taught in fifth grade proficient or above while the statewide number was 71%. The results in mathematics for this same group was above the state (72% to 66%).

However, our other grades did not fare as well. We had 52% of the students we taught in second grade score proficient or above in both reading and math compared to state average of 71% and 66% respectively. Similarly our fourth graders - students we taught in third grade scored well

below the state numbers in both reading and mathematics with 57% of Westminster students scoring proficient or above in both reading and mathematics compared to 69% of the fourth graders in the state of Vermont. Finally, in looking at our fifth graders, 54% of our students scored in the proficient range in reading compared to 70% at the state level. These students were also below the state numbers in mathematics with 50% of our students scoring proficient or above compared to the state number of 68%. The chart below compares the percentage of our students at each grade level who scored proficient or above on the 2008-09 NECAP to the state.

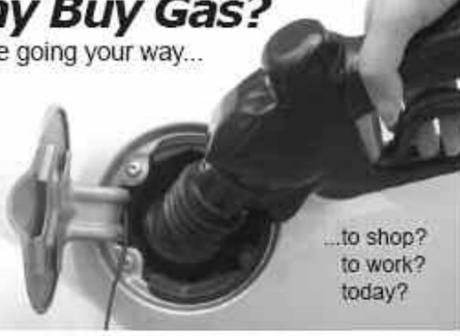
Proficient or above in **Reading**
Grade Westminster State
Three 52%71%
Four 57%69%
Five 54%70%
Six 69%71%
Seven 60%76%

Proficient or above in **Mathematics**
Grade Westminster State
Three 52%66%
Four 57%69%
Five 59%68%
Six 73%66%
Seven 40%63%

**2009
Dog
Licenses are
available at the
Town Clerks's
Office**

Dr. Vincent DiBernardo (Rockingham Veterinary Clinic) will host a **Rabies Clinic** on Saturday, March 28, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Westminster Town Garage. The cost per rabies shot will be \$8.00. 2009 Westminster Dog Licenses will be available for sale during the clinic; \$8.00 for spayed/neutered pets and \$12.00 non-spayed/neutered.

Why Buy Gas?
Are we going your way...



...to shop?
...to work?
...today?

Connecticut River Transit
Connecting you to where you need to go...



www.crrtransit.org Toll-free: 1-888-869-6287 Springfield: 802-885-5162

CONNECTICUT RIVER TRANSIT
885-5162 or 1-888-869-6287
www.crrtransit.org

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

Easter Scavenger Hunt

Saturday April 4th

10-11 AM

Bring your baskets!



Bring your camera - have your picture taken with Mr. Bunny



inside if rains

Behind the Westminster Institute
Main St. Westminster
sponsored by the Westminster Activities Commission

Compass School
Westminster, Vermont



OPEN HOUSE
Thursday, March 26
7:00pm - 8:30pm

Students in grades 7 - 12 enjoy:

- * Rigorous & Relevant Instruction
- * Individual Student Attention
- * 90% + College Attendance
- * 100% Graduation Rate

Phone: 802.463.2525
www.compass-school.org



Motel Westminster

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

HAPPY PETS HOTEL

Loving Pet Care in my Home

I welcome friendly dogs into my home, as well as small caged animals, like mice and gerbils. Drop off and be worry-free! I have had animals all my life, including dogs, cats, horses, a variety of rodents, fish, birds...and can give special medications and supplements as needed. I require current vaccinations, including kennel cough. There are miles of trails for walking and always treats in the kitchen.



Location is in Westminster West.

Please visit my website:

<http://www.freewebs.com/happypetshotel>
or call: 802-376-9449 for more information

I look forward to helping you and your pet.

Yanmar Charlie Thomas

GENERAL TRUCK & EQUIPMENT

Sales • Service
Just Off I-91 Exit 5
Westminster Station, Vermont 05159
Tel: 802-722-3100 Fax: 802-722-3600

Mahindra Tractors Terex Const. Equipment

"Sam" Streeter L.L.C.

Licensed Electrician
Box 206, Westminster, Vt. 05158
Tel: (802) 722-3748

(Buildings, Remodeling, and Repair)

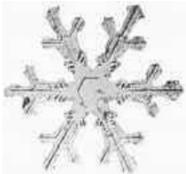
Cole Streeter
(802) 722-3178

Box 103
Westminster, VT 05158

Vermont Hillside Lawn Services, Inc.
PO Box 174
Westminster, VT 05158
Phone: (802)463-9500
or (800) 463-8808
www.VermontHillside.com

Winter Services:

- Plowing
- Sanding
- Shoveling
- & Odd Jobs



ALL SEASONS TREE SERVICE

Eco-Friendly
Plant
Healthcare



- *PRUNING
- *REMOVALS
- *STUMP GRINDING
- *SPRAYING & FEEDING
- *MAINTENANCE

FULL SERVICE
FULLY INSURED

KEVIN SHRADER
802.722.3008
802.376.4909

WESTMINSTER AUTO

Exit 5, I-91
Rt. 5, Westminster

We buy and sell pre-owned vehicles.
Servicing all makes and models.

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

David Lynde Computer Service and Repair

PC Hardware and Software

Phone: 802-275-6169

Email: davidlyndecomputers@yahoo.com



WATER CONDITIONING

K. BEEBE, INC

CABLE TOOL WELL DRILLING
PUMP SERVICE
Plumbing & Heating

Established 1946
FULLY INSURED * ESTIMATES GIVEN
CALL 463-3725

51 SAXTONS RIVER ROAD*BELLOWS



GREEN MOUNTAIN COFFEE ROASTERS, INC. TO BUILD VERMONT'S LARGEST SOLAR POWER ARRAY

WATERBURY, VERMONT (February 11, 2009) - One Vermont business has taken its environmental commitment to a new level—all the way to the roof!

Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, Inc. (NASDAQ: GMCR) will build Vermont's largest solar array on top of the distribution center of its Green Mountain Coffee facility in Waterbury. Construction of the 100 kW photovoltaic array is expected to begin in the spring of 2009 and be completed by summer.

The solar array is the result of an innovative partnership between the coffee company, the State of Vermont, Green Mountain Power, and groSolar, North America's premier provider of solar energy solutions. The electricity generated by the approximately 530 solar panels will produce a small percentage of the total electricity Green Mountain Coffee needs for its production facilities in Waterbury. Company officials say the greater benefit is in showing what is possible for the future.

"Renewable energy must be a part of our overall energy strategy," says Paul Comey, Vice President of Environmental Affairs for Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, Inc. "We want to show our state and federal governments that solar energy works, and that we need a policy that provides a broad-reaching structure for renewable energy."

The array will produce its power during the day, when Green Mountain Power needs it most. Solar power offers a unique value to the electric grid, as most of the power is generated during hot summer days, when the system is strained and other sources are expensive. GMCR will benefit from Green Mountain Power's groundbreaking SolarGMP program, which provides financial incentives to its customers to install solar generation at their homes and businesses.

"We're excited to help one of our largest customers embrace solar generation in a meaningful way," says Mary Powell, President and Chief Executive Officer of Green Mountain Power. "We believe solar power will play an important role in Vermont's energy future. By working with GMCR on this project, and by creating SolarGMP, we hope to encourage more solar generation in Vermont. We expect other customers will follow soon."

groSolar was selected to design and install the solar arrays at Green Mountain Coffee. As one of the largest solar installation companies in the US, groSolar is dedicated to energy independence and fighting global warming. CEO Jeff Wolfe says Vermont's tax incentives for commercial solar systems, coupled with grants from the Vermont Department of Public Service's Clean Energy Development Fund and Green Mountain Power, made the economics of the system very attractive. "Vermont has a great solar resource and great incentives for commercial solar energy. Green Mountain Power, GMCR, Vermont's Department of Public Service, and groSolar have shown that solar will be part of Vermont's energy solution," he says.

"We are very pleased to see this solar installation become a reality," says David

O'Brien, Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Public Service. "Governor Douglas places a high value on commercial-level solar applications. We commend GMCR for taking this step."

About Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, Inc.

Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, Inc. (NASDAQ: GMCR) is recognized as a leader in the specialty coffee industry for its award-winning coffees, innovative brewing technology and socially responsible business practices. GMCR manages its operations through two wholly owned business units: Green Mountain Coffee and Keurig. Its Green Mountain Coffee business unit sells more than 100 high-quality coffee selections, including Fair Trade Certified™ organic coffees, under the Green Mountain Coffee® and Newman's Own® Organics brands through its wholesale, direct mail and e-commerce operations (www.GreenMountainCoffee.com). Green Mountain Coffee also produces its coffee as well as hot cocoa and tea in K-Cup® portion packs for Keurig® single-cup brewers. Keurig, Incorporated is a pioneer and leading manufacturer of gourmet single-cup coffee brewing systems for offices, homes and hotel rooms. Keurig markets its patented brewers and K-Cups® through office distributors, retail and direct channels (www.Keurig.com). K-Cups are produced by a variety of licensed roasters including Green Mountain Coffee. Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, Inc. has been recognized repeatedly by CRO Magazine, Forbes and SustainableBusiness.com as a good corporate citizen and an innovative, high-growth company.

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 approximately 94,000 customers.

About groSolar

groSolar is North America's premier provider of solar energy solutions focused on designing, distributing and installing high quality solar electric and solar hot water systems. groSolar provides residential installation in the northeast and mid-Atlantic states and commercial installation in California as well as the eastern US, serving other areas through an extensive dealer network. groSolar was recently recognized as the second fastest growing company in Vermont and one of the best places to work in Vermont. For information, contact Kevin Ellis 1-800-498-5390 or Kelli Pippin at 1-800-374-4494 x3085. groSolar.com.

About the Vermont Clean Energy Development Fund

The Clean Energy Development Fund (CEDF), administered by the Vermont Department of Public Service, was established in 2005 through ACT 74 and is currently funded through proceeds to the state from Entergy. The CEDF will receive payments from Entergy through 2012. The CEDF offers a portfolio of funding opportunities to accelerate the development, commercialization, and production of clean energy in Vermont including: grants and contracts; loans; equity investments; and direct incentive payments through the Vermont Small-Scale Renewable Energy Incentive Program. Additional information on the CEDF and current funding opportunities is available on the Department of Public Service website at: <http://publicservice.vermont.gov/energy/energy-efficiency.html>.

Price Chopper's Golub Foundation Helps Keep Kurn Hattin Children Warm

The Price Chopper's Golub Foundation awarded Kurn Hattin Homes a grant for warm winter clothing for five children in need.

The families of the Kurn Hattin children receive a special newsletter called, Kurn Hattin Connection. In the newsletter, the families are notified of the seasonal appropriate clothing that the children will need. This year, many families do not have the resources or ability to obtain these items. Kurn Hattin has a clothes locker of donated clothing and hand knit items but the need is great and not all sizes or items are available.

The Price Chopper's Golub Foundation's grant will provide warm and weather-proof ski jackets and pants, gloves, boots, fleece zip jackets and neck warmers for five of the twenty-five children without family resources for these needed items. Kurn Hattin thanks the Price Chopper's Golub Foundation for their commitment to helping the children and the families at Kurn Hattin and in our community. 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.

SAXTONS RIVER MONTESSORI SPONSORS 5TH ANNUAL MAGIC CIRCUS SHOW

Saxton's River Montessori School invites all to the Magical Circus at the Bellows Falls Opera House on Sunday, March 8th at 1:00! Troy Wunderle and Bill Scarlett (formerly known as The Amazing Bill) star in this sensational collaboration of time-treasured circus delights and mind boggling magic, with guitarist Ben Mitchell providing a musical interlude during intermission.

Troy Wunderle, founder of Wunderle's Big Top Adventures and Artistic Director of Circus Smirkus, will present an enthusiastic performance sure to entertain the entire family. His antics include expert juggling, ladder balancing, diablo manipulation, plate spinning, rhythmic ball bouncing, teetering rola bolas, unicycle stunts, rolling globe tricks, hysterical buffoonery and more. Laugh aloud as Troy comically astounds young and old alike.

Bill Scarlett has been doing magic his whole life, and likes to weave stories around magical

WESTMINSTER RESIDENT ADRIENNE MAJOR DIRECTS GILBERT & SULLIVAN'S THE SORCERER

Phyllis Isaacson is musical director for MSA's 10th G & S production.

The musical comedy is the tale of John Wellington Wells, "a dealer in magic and spells," who travels the English countryside with a magic philtre that is guaranteed to turn the village of Ploverleigh into a "liquid lake of love" by having everyone fall in love with the first person of the opposite sex he or she sees upon awakening from an elixir-induced spell. Needless to say, chaos follows.

Tickets are available in advance at \$15 for adults and \$10 for students or at the door for \$17 and \$12, respectively. Tickets can be purchased locally at Brattleboro Books, Putney Books, Village Square Booksellers or at Main Street Arts, or online at MainStreetArts.org/tickets. Seating is limited, and most performances sell out. No reservations will be taken.

In addition to March 6, performances are March 7, 13, and 14 at 8 p.m., with an additional performance Thursday, March 12, also at 8 p.m. Sunday matinees are March 8 and 15 at 3 p.m.

"The Sorcerer" is one of the early G & S collaborations, opening in London in November 1877 two years after the success of their first effort, "Trial by Jury," and followed with even more success by "H.M.S. Pinafore," MSA's 2008 production. "The Sorcerer" satirizes early Victorian customs and offers a light-hearted look at the follies of fooling with the natural course of love whether young or old.

Further information is available at the MSA Web site MainStreetArts.org or by calling (802) 869-2960.

happenings. Bill is not afraid to be silly and invites his audience to join in the fun and help out onstage. Bill is also experienced as a school counselor and often uses his act to illustrate the benefits of sharing, cooperation, and helping others.

Join us for an afternoon of fun as this dynamic duo aims to exhilarate the heart and inspire the mind! Tickets are \$5 per person with a family maximum cost of \$20. Tickets can be purchased at the Village Square Booksellers and at the door the day of the performance. Refreshments will be available

The Saxtons River Montessori school is a non-profit parent cooperative that has been a vital part of the Saxtons River community for over 17 years. Our school nurtures a love a learning, and emphasizes caring for each other and respecting the environment. Visit us online at www.SaxtonsRiverMontessoriSchool.org or call 802-869-3349.

We thank our sponsors, Greater Falls Dentistry and Cota & Cota for their generous support!



Westminster resident Adrienne Major takes her cast through its paces during a rehearsal for Main Street Arts' production of Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Sorcerer*. SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. - Westminster resident Adrienne Major is directing the Main Street Arts production of Gilbert & Sullivan's comic operetta "The Sorcerer" that opens Friday, March 6 for a two-week run at the community arts center in Saxtons River.

WESTMINSTER CHURCH OFFERS SOUP AND WARMTH

by Louise Luring

WESTMINSTER, Vt. - The soup's on every Wednesday at the First Congregational Church on Route 5 in Westminster, thanks to the efforts of a couple of the church members.

Laura Leonard and Nancy Dalzell have joined forces to cook up a homemade soup and serve it with donated bread to a crowd that has increased each week since they began serving in January. They plan to continue until the end of March.

"We started as a way to get seniors out of their homes for a while because of the high oil prices, but now we welcome everybody," Dalzell explained. She said Wednesday was picked because Our Place Drop-in Center in Bellows Falls is closed that day. Our Place has been sharing its extra bread donations with the lunch.

The simple meal is free, with donations accepted, and, judging by the fullness of the donation jar, Leonard's repertoire of corn chowder, chicken vegetable, minestrone and pasta e fagioli has been much appreciated.

The hours of the meal are noon to 2 p.m., with Dalzell noting that many folks stay on to socialize during the entire period.

More information is available by calling the church at (802) 722-4148.



EMERGENCY HOME HEAT RESOURCES

by Michael J. Daley

If you are finding it difficult to keep heating oil in the tank this winter, there are a number of assistance projects that can help you.

The Drop In Center in Brattleboro
60 Main St.
802-257-2005

They have emergency diesel fuel vouchers for a free supply of about 10 gallons. Diesel can be used in home furnaces. This is a one-time, no fuss stop gap.

The Windham County heating project
Richard Davis
802-254-2240

A home grown project to help people in our area purchase heating oil.

Vermont Home Heating Fuel Assistance Program
State of Vermont
1-800-479-6151

Citizens Energy

The national project started by Rep. Joe Kennedy
Provides 100 gallons of free fuel to qualifying citizens.
call 1-877-joe-4oil (1-877-563-4645)
or online
www.citizensenergy.com
click on the Oil Assistance Program link

Especially for the Elderly (age 60+)

Westminster Cares
802-722-3607
Roni has a variety of ways to help, including W-Cares own heating fund.

So please don't go cold this winter! Take advantage of these many neighbor helping neighbor efforts!

Westminster Schools News from Steven Tullar, Principal

Teacher Qualifications

Title I (1111)(h) of the NCLB requires Local Education Authorities to publicly report the percentage of core academic classes NOT taught by highly qualified teachers, the percentage of teachers teaching on emergency credentials by LEA and school, and the professional qualifications of their teachers.

Last year (2007-08), 0% of Westminster Schools core academic classes were taught by teachers who were not highly qualified. Also, last year, 0% of our teachers were teaching under emergency licensure.

The Westminster Schools continue to develop and retain quality teachers. The current staff consists of twenty-eight licensed professionals with 22% holding Level One licenses, 64% holding Level Two licenses and 14% holding provisional licenses. When looking at degrees held by the professional staff, 36% have a Bachelor's degree and 64% have Master's degrees. We have a very qualified group of educators dedicated to the children of the community. Especially noteworthy is the longevity of service to the community as eight of the twenty-eight professionals have over twenty years of service to the Westminster Schools.

Looking for a Night Out?

by Liz Bourne

Come to the Center School on Wednesday, March 18th, for Literacy Night. Between 5:30 and 7:30 pm, students and staff will feed and entertain you. Watch fairytale and readers' theater skits. Check out ongoing writing projects in the classrooms. Participate in community writing projects, storytelling, and "freeze frame" writing sessions. We hope you can join us.

Literacy in the Schools

Since a Vermont March often brings too much winter or not enough spring, it is a great month for reading. The Westminster Schools traditionally celebrate reading for a special week, coinciding with Windham County Reads' March Reading Challenge. This year's Literacy Week, March 16 – 20, features a new twist –writing!

The schools' 2006 – 2009 Action Plan zeroed in on writing as a particular learning focus. Over the last year, writing consultant and author, Cyrene Wells, has shared her knowledge and enthusiasm with students and staff. She'll return during Literacy week to check in with all classrooms, listen to students' latest stories and tell a few of her own. During the week, area writers will also visit, sharing their books and personal writing hints and habits. And each day will feature Drop Everything and WRITE sessions.

Where there's writing, there's reading, too. Community readers will bring favorite stories to students. Children and their families will be reading together every evening, filling in the March Reading Challenge Logs. But the night of March 18th is special: we'll celebrate our reading and writing explorations at the annual Literacy Night. That's 5:30 – 7:30 at the Center School,

GMP Seeks 25% Reduction in Renewable Energy Rate for Customers Change Lowers Cost to Ratepayers Choosing to Support Green Energy

COLCHESTER, Vt. --- Green Mountain Power has filed a request with the Public Service Board to lower the premium its customers can choose to pay to support the development of renewable energy in Vermont. Currently, under the GreenerGMP program, customers can opt to pay four cents per kilowatt hour more than their normal rate to help GMP support renewable energy projects. The company is requesting the fee be lowered to three cents per kWh.

"GreenerGMP gives our customers a way to act on their own commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. By making it less expensive for them to participate, we hope more customers will join us in supporting new renewable projects right here in Vermont," said GMP president and chief executive officer Mary Powell.

Green Mountain Power supports renewable projects by purchasing the power and the Renewable Energy Credits they generate. "Because the cost to buy RECs has dropped, we want our GreenerGMP rate to reflect that," Ms. Powell said.

Funds generated by GreenerGMP are used to support the methane gas project at the Moretown Landfill and biomass at the McNeil plant. In addition, beginning this spring, funds will support a farm-based methane digester in Westminster, Vermont.

Under the GreenerGMP program, the Company purchases certified renewable Vermont resources equal to 25%, 50%, 75% or 100% of a customer's electricity use as directed by the customer. Under the requested renewable energy rate of three cents per kWh, a residential customer with a \$75 monthly bill would pay an additional \$7.38 per month to have half his or her usage come from renewable energy.

The Public Service Board is expected to make a decision on the request this spring.

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.

BFUHS STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL MATHEMATICS COMPETITION by Suzanne Groenewold

Eight students from Bellows Falls Union High School participated in the 60th annual American Mathematics Contest 12, and the 10th annual American Mathematics Contest. The students competed for local, regional and national student and school awards. The contest, which covers high school mathematics, is given in participating schools. Its purpose is to spur interest in mathematics and develop talent through the excitement of friendly competition at problem solving in a timed format. According to Prof. Steven Dunbar, who serves as Director of the

American Mathematics Competitions, the AMC 12, first offered in 1950, and the AMC 10, first offered in 2000, are part of a series of contests sponsored each year by The Mathematical Association of America, through their program, the American Mathematics Competitions. The AMC offers the only math competition series in the country leading to the United States of America Mathematical Olympiad (USAMO) and the Mathematical Olympiad Summer Program (MOSP). From this group of students, the AMC sends the highly competitive USA Team to the prestigious annual International Mathematical Olympiad. Competing in the AMC 10 from BFUHS were; Alina Semenovitch, Jed Bisignano, and Courtney Perry. In the AMC 12, BFUHS students Tyler Tyrell, Aaron Morton, Hannah Hodsden, Kara Chaffee, and Kyle Gage competed.

PERFORMING DAMAGE CONTROL by Babs Lynde, a Vermont Master Gardener

As I was writing this, I was looking out the window and watching huge gobs of snow falling from the tree branches and plopping onto the snowdrifts below. It is a pretty sight, especially when everything is fresh and white, but this winter has not been kind to our trees and shrubs. It has left many branches cracked, twisted, snapped and broken. Everywhere I look, there are branches and limbs lying on the ground or hanging from a strip of bark. I've got some pruning to do!

Pruning is usually a good thing to keep our trees, bushes and shrubs healthy and vigorous. Most trees and shrubs can endure pruning during the late winter or very early spring, referred to as the dormant season. March and April are the best months for our area. Fruit trees and spring blossoming trees and shrubs are normally pruned during the dormant season before the beginning of their active growth period which can be in the months of April or May.

Dead and dying branches should be your first concern. The longer you allow these problems to remain unchecked, the greater the chances that diseases or parasites have of moving in and creating additional troubles. Although many native trees, such as birch, hemlock, maple, oak, and pine have natural defenses to keep most of these problems at bay, doing damage control can certainly help them as well. Most fruit and blossoming ornamentals are not native to our area, so they can be the most susceptible to parasites and insects.

If you need to remove a whole branch, look carefully where the branch meets the main trunk of the tree, and you will see a "collar" or a thick flare. This branch collar should never be cut as it contains a special chemical that will cause a natural healing process where the branch was removed. If this section is cut off, then the tree will not heal properly and will be susceptible to serious disease and decaying fungi.

If the branch you are cutting is an inch and a half or less, cut the branch cleanly at the same angle as the branch collar and as close to the collar as possible without damaging it. If the branch is larger, you need to remove it using the 3-part or 3-cut method. This method is used to prevent accidental cracking or breaking of the branch before you can finish. The first cut is made to the underside of the branch, about a foot away from the trunk and about a third of the way up through the branch. The second cut is made from the top about three or four inches further out from the first cut. Cut the branch all the way down through until the branch falls off. Now that the pressure of the branch has been removed, the third cut can be made safely at the branch collar.

As long as you have the pruning shears out, check for branches and limbs that should be thinned out. If you notice branches that are rubbing onto other branches, or limbs and twigs that seem to be growing in the opposite direction from the rest, these would be good candidates to remove. Also, most of us pick up the branches and twigs that have fallen to the ground from the ice and snow storms and pruning for aesthetic purposes, but taking these damaged parts away keeps insects and diseases from moving in as well.

Finally, many folks seem to feel that wound dressings or tree paint is necessary after pruning. Recent research has suggested that this practice actually ends up giving a safe haven to many diseases and parasites. The natural healing process of the tree or shrub, sometimes called "callusing," is often quicker and less destructive without either.

Would you like more information about proper spring pruning? 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 master.gardener@uvm.edu or visit their website at <http://www.uvm.edu/mastergardener/> for extensive information.

Compass School Winterm at Our Place

by Louise Luring



Compass School students, left to right, Julian Bloch, Miah Finke, Manya Gordon and Rebecca Ruskin help prepare the noon meal at Our Place Drop-in Center during the school's two-week service learning program.

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The small, warm kitchen at Our Place Drop-in Center is jam packed these days with Compass School students wielding vegetable graters, chopping knives and cutting boards as they help prepare the noon meal.

Students from the Westminster school in grades 7-12 are spending the two-week Winterm applying their learning inside school to service to the community.

"Even after spending just a day here I already feel so connected," senior Rebecca Ruskin said. As the students mixed and stirred the various local and organic ingredients together to form a winter slaw, chili and fruit salad, the clients watched appreciatively.

"Everyone looks out for each other and there is a very respectful atmosphere," Julian Bloch, a seventh grader, notes. The students have noticed that the demographic that visits Our Place is varied, including a range at the lunch table of people from middle aged adults wearing Calvin Klein to young adults in ripped jeans.

"Everyone is welcome," Our Place cook Ana Porteur said encouragingly.

"It's a good free lunch and would definitely help with a family budget," Manya Gordon, a freshman, shares. "I was surprised by how many families in Vermont are food insecure. If these statistics hold true, that means 13 kids at our school go hungry."

"I've visited Our Place with my grandmother before, but volunteering is such a different feeling," eighth grader Miah Fiske says. "It's better."

Science teacher Beth White, who is working side by side with the students, explained that the students had 13 choices of activities for the Winterm, including exploring social change in art, an intensive French course with a trip to Montreal, and traveling minstrels performing for local school children. The junior class is making a trip to the Mexican border to study immigration issues.

White said she was drawn to the Our Place opportunity because she is "passionate about food," and really likes agriculture, including its cultural component.

White emphasized that the school prides itself on using the democratic process to allow students to almost always have their first choice in activity. Each small group works with a teacher-leader. Students meet with the community partner sponsoring the project, clarify expectations, and organize themselves to help address the community need.

"This work asks students to take knowledge and skills developed in their classes and apply it to real world problems," added White.

The 21st Annual March Reading Challenge Begins

Read a good book lately? Want to explore more of the many places books can take you? Readers take note: Windham County kids, parents, and seniors are invited to join the 21st annual Reading Challenge. The 2009 program begins on Monday, March 9th and runs until Friday, April 3rd. Participants challenge themselves to read every day during the month, set reading goals for the period and log daily reading. Prizes are available! Children and adults who read together count those times on both logs, so sign up with a family member or neighbor. School and public libraries have more information. Contracts will go home with students by March 6th.

Calling all readers!

During the Westminster Schools' Literacy Week, March 16 – 20, we invite community members to read a favorite story with children at the Center or West Schools. Call Liz Bourne, Librarian, for information, read-aloud suggestions, or to sign up: 722-3241.

Compass Graduates Awarded College Scholarships, Engineering Award, and Honors

by Rick Gordon
Compass School graduates continue to be recognized for their many accomplishments in college and beyond.

Just this past week, Wilson Schreiber of Westminster and currently a student at Vermont Technical College, was selected as Student Engineering Technician of the Year by the Vermont Society of Professional Engineers (VSPE). This award recognizes Wilson's many engineering accomplishments, from his Compass senior project on Electromyography to his work at Chroma to his membership in Phi Theta Kappa - International Honor Society. Wilson was joined by his family at the State House in Montpelier for the award presentation by Governor Douglas and again at the VSPE annual banquet in Burlington.

Again this year, colleges are valuing the wide range of educational experiences for Compass graduates with generous scholarship awards. Kelly Wilton was awarded the prestigious Harold F. Johnson Scholarship from Hampshire College for superior academic achievement, Max Schadt was awarded Hampshire's Non Satis Scire Scholarship for "academic achievement and the capacity to pursue original work and activism," and Alison Appel received an equally impressive (but not as neatly named) award from Bennington College.

We have been hearing about so many Compass graduates making a difference in the world. Katelin Wilton, who graduated from Compass in 2004, has spent the better part of the past 4 years in Africa working with children affected by HIV/Aids. Katelin has been nominated for the Rhodes and Marshall Scholarships, the most esteemed recognition for college graduates who have "embodied the spirit of public duty and academic accomplishment."

Emma Mullen spent a year of service in Africa and Latin America, Jake Ballard and Ryan Jacobs proudly serve in the US military, Willow Holden was an honors graduate from UVM and has moved on to graduate school and Zach Stevens graduated with honors from University of Chicago with a dissertation on the "Culture of Second Life" that tells us much about this on-line community.

Compass is often known for its many unique learning experiences such as the junior trip to Mexico, the middle school exchange program with the urban Connexions School in Baltimore, and Community Service Winter Term. These immersion experiences are balanced by challenging academic classes where every student develops the essential knowledge and skills in Math, Science, Humanities, and Spanish to be successful in school and the world beyond.

Since its founding 10 years ago, Compass School has aimed to offer an innovative educational option accessible to all students regardless of economic circumstance or prior academic record. Compass continues to accept applications for the next school year. For more information, go to www.compass-school.org or call the school at 463-2525 or just stop in to see the exciting work at the school.

Wilson Schreiber (sans hat!) accepting the award for Student Engineering Technician of the Year from Gov. Douglas.



WESTMINSTER MYSTERY PHOTO



Where is this house located and where is the stone and cannon presently located?

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.

February Answer: *There were actually 3 buildings in the pictures, from left to right: Westminster West Church, meeting house and school all located on Church Street in Westminster West.*

February Winners: *Hank Anderson, Marty Collins and Richard Brown, who lives in Florida now.* If you have picture's you think would make a great mystery photo please stop by the town office and see Bab Lyndes.

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 January: 27
Number of man hours spent: 7,560

Number of calls in February 1st through 26th: 25
Number of man hours spent: 7,398
Number of calls calendar year to Date: 53

Thin Ice: Be careful when using ponds and lakes for skating. The ice is very thin now and unsafe for skating or walking on. Be very sure of the thickness before venturing out on them. Inform and educate your children often about the dangers.

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.

Caution:

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.

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.

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

Wood advisory: With fuel prices expected to be high again this coming year, many people will want to be burning wood. This might be the last thing on your mind this time of year, but now would be a good time to order or cut your wood for the upcoming season. We have done a good job in reducing chimney fires over the last year and burning properly cured wood makes a big difference. Wood that is not sufficiently dry makes creosote and is a major cause for chimney fire.

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.

Donation received in the month of February:
From George and Joanne Hurlburt in memory of:

Charles Goldsmith
George Cote
David Coburn
Cliff Morris
Albert Sumner

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:

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. Sunday School is held at 10:00 am from Sept to May. The church has a ramp and lift for wheelchair access. All are welcome.

802-722-4148

In March....

Worship - Mar.1, 10:00 am

Women's Fellowship meeting - Mar. 3, 12:00 pm

Trustee's meeting - Mar. 4, 7:00 pm

Worship, Communion and Sunday School - Mar. 8, 10:00 am

Pork Roast Supper - Mar. 14, 5:00 -7:00 pm

Worship and Sunday School - Mar. 15, 10:00 am

Standing Committee meeting - Mar. 16, 7:00 pm

Worship and Sunday School - Mar. 22, 10:00 am

Worship and Sunday School - Mar. 29, 10:00 am

Soup Kitchen - Wednesday's in March

Turn off your heat and come and eat. You are cordially invited for Soup and Bread at noon on Wednesdays. Come to eat, come for the fellowship, come for a warm lunch break. Lunch is free but donations will be accepted. Bring a friend, tell your neighbors, all are welcome!!!

Its official! The Rev. Sami Jones McRae has been called as our settled pastor! Please join us sometime to meet and greet her.

Roast Pork Supper

On Saturday, March 14th, the Westminster First Congregational Church will hold a Roast Pork supper from 5-7 pm. Tickets are available at the door and from church members; \$8 for Adults and \$4 for Children. The menu will include roast pork, gravy, mashed potatoes, maple carrots, apple sauce, and home made bread pudding for dessert. Please join us for a great meal and some quality family time.

Bible Study

A Lenten bible study will begin on Tuesday, March 10th. Everyone is invited to meet with Rev. Sami from 7-8pm for 4 Tuesdays. If you would like more information please talk to Rev. Sami, a deacon or call the church.

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

The Gazette always welcomes donations...

Send donations to:
**Town Office
PO Box 147
Westminster, VT
05158**

Farm Manager Real Bazin Teaches Cheese Making at Kurn Hattin by Kim Fine

The Kurn Hattin children have several Farm Weeks throughout the year. In January, they study cheese-making. From videos and discussions, they learn where milk comes from and how to make cheese. Then they have real hands-on experience making a cheddar cheese. After following all the directions, the cheese is waxed and set to age for two months. The children are looking forward to sampling the fruit of their labor at the end of March. 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.



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 Gazette Meeting

Cares..Thursday, March 19th !12:30 @ Westminster Cares Office..

Choral Invitational To Be Hosted At Kurn Hattin

Westminster - On Wednesday, March 18th at 7:00 pm, students from six local schools will participate in the 17th Annual Choral Invitational. The event will be held in the Higbie Auditorium in the Mayo Memorial Center at Kurn Hattin. The schools participating are: Bellows Falls Middle School, Walpole Middle School, Leland & Gray Middle School, Leland & Gray Union High School, Fall Mountain Regional High School, and Kurn Hattin Homes. The choral groups will perform a wide variety of repertoire including folk, classical, jazz, gospel, pop and funk music. The public is invited free of charge. Guests are encouraged to bring a non-perishable item to be donated to the food bank at Our Place. For more information, please contact Lisa Bianconi at (802) 721-6921.

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

VT Army National Guard Delta Company Armory Lane-Westminster

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

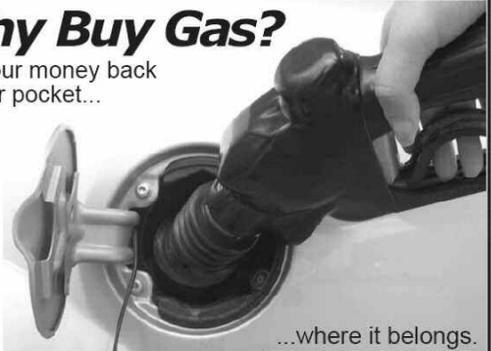
Climbing wall, HUMVEES and other local supporters will be on display.

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**

Why Buy Gas?
Put your money back in your pocket...



...where it belongs.

Connecticut River Transit
Connecting you to where you need to go...



www.crtransit.org Toll-free: 1-888-869-6287 Springfield: 802-885-5162

April's Submissions are due by: Thursday, March 26th by 5:00pm

westminsternews@gmail.com

Peggy Porter @ 802-722-4521

SPAULDING & MADDEN TAX SERVICES
"TAX TIME IS HERE AND SO ARE WE"

Annette Spaulding & Patrick Madden and staff look forward to helping you again in this "Taxing Time"

We offer **FREE** Electronic Filing Services
Convenient Access & Plenty of Parking

Monday - Friday 8:30am to 8:00pm
Saturday 9:00am to 5:00pm
Sunday by appointment

Call now and make an appointment
(802-722-4500)

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

It is a pleasure to announce that **Codi-Ann Hindes has been chosen the January Elk's Student of the Month for Bellows Falls Union High School.**

Codi-Ann, a junior, is the daughter of Sue Ann and Bernie Hindes of Bellows Falls.

Mr. Divis, her history teacher, describes Codi as "an extremely intelligent, driven student who puts forth her best effort on every homework assignment and in every class." She has a genuine interest in the modern world and what is happening around the world and works hard to learn as much as she can. Always wanting to broaden her horizons, Codi is in the process of applying for an international exchange program for this summer.



Codi is positive both in and out of class. She is always willing to help out other students and staff when they need it or add comments for class discussions. She asks insightful questions and is an active listener and thinker. Codi is interested in other people's opinions, even when they differ from her own and she works hard to encourage people to share their ideas. Outside of class Codi has a great attitude as well. She always has a smile on her face and just enjoys learning. She is always willing to offer a friendly hello or help in any way she can.

Always dedicated, Codi's attendance is perfect.

Codi brings her positive attitude to outside events as well as she is an active participant in the band and the tennis team.

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

WESTMINSTER CARES, INC.

The Westminster Cares, Inc. Board of Directors met on February 4, 2009. Plans continue to be made for the Quilt Show to be held on October 17 and 18, 2009, in the Westminster Center School. Over 100 antique and contemporary quilts from local quilters will be displayed. As in past years, the 2009 Westminster Quilt Show will feature door prizes, a quilt raffle, a Treasure Trove, vendors and food. Preparations are being made to mail out an Emergency Preparedness form and cover letter to everyone on the Town of Westminster E-9-1-1 list. This registry information will be kept in the Fire Station. Westminster Cares will be in charge of the bake sale during the Annual Town Meeting on Saturday, February 28th. The new brochures are now available. Services provided include 13 people being delivered Meals on Wheels. 13 rides for 6 different people by 5 volunteers for a total of 285 miles. Programs provided in January include 2 Secrets of Healthy Aging sessions, 3 Yoga classes, 4 Artist in Each of Us Classes, 23 Living Strong classes. A "Preserving Memories" workshop was held with 8 people attending. 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

Westminster Cares has received the following memorial gifts during the month of February 2009:

In memory of Jamie C. Latham from Alison M. Latham, In memory of Roy Lewando from Faith Pepe, In memory of Rose DeRancy from Connie and Lee Sanderson and In memory of Bernie Golec from Julie Szuch.

BEST ENERGY SAVINGS TECHNOLOGIES



91 Buck Drive
Westminster, VT 05158
Phone: (802) 722-4575
Fax: (802) 722-4509

SERVING SOUTHEASTERN VT. & THE LOCAL KEENE AREAS.

Energy Improvements for New Construction and Existing Homes.

How Would You Like to:

- Save on Heat Costs for the Long Term?
- Reduce Air Infiltration and Leakage?
- Increase Comfort Levels of Your Home?

SERVICES OFFERED: Energy Auditing & Consulting, Blower Door Testing to insure indoor air quality, Infrared Camera Scan, Air-Sealing, insulation (dense pack and spray applied cellulose applications). It's never too late to make your home energy efficient. *It's Your BEST bet.*

OPEN HOUSE AT SAXTONS RIVER MONTESSORI SCHOOL

The Saxtons River Montessori School is a non-profit school for children ages 3 to 6. An Open House will be held on Sunday, March 29th from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Come explore the classrooms, meet our faculty, and speak with students and their families. Learn first-hand how our Montessori program fosters self-confidence and independence while respecting the unique qualities of each child.

SRMS offers full day kindergarten and half-day or full-day preschool. Applications are currently being accepted for the 2009/2010 school year. The school is located at 14 Westminster Street in Saxtons River and on the Web at www.SaxtonsRiverMontessoriSchool.org.

SRMS now also has an exciting new partnership with Westminster Schools. Thanks to generous funding from the Vermont Community Preschool Collaborative (VCPC), Saxtons River Montessori has made reduced tuition slots available to Westminster Families and some spaces are available.

For more information, please call Barbara at (802) 869-3349.

Parks Place... helping keep kids warm this winter

Bellows Falls, VT - Parks Place Community Resource Center has been collecting mittens, scarves and hats for children of all ages this winter season. Hundreds of children and families have directly benefitted from the generous donations of individuals and local organizations. Many have been homemade and some purchased, but all have warmed the hands of many in our community and all have been free! We thank everyone who made this idea a true success. There are still many to choose from, so feel free to stop by Parks Place.

Parks Place is a welcoming resource center that is home to health, education, employment and social service programs, providing community members a convenient and safe location to make lasting, positive changes in their lives.

For more information or to donate, please contact Parks Place at 802.463.9927, or stop by at 44 School Street, Bellows Falls. On the web at www.parksplacevt.org.

Photo caption: Ashley Trevorrow's children Aubri and Sky-lee look through a collection of mittens, scarves and hats for their favorite colors.



FATHER'S RESTAURANT
Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner
Buy (1) entree and receive another entree of equal or lesser value for half (1/2) price.

(Not to be used with any other discount or offer)

Must present this coupon to receive this Westminster Gazette Exclusive Offer to:
Westminster Residents Only

High Quality Pet Foods Dog Grooming Homeopathic Remedies
 Behavior Management Agility Training Pet Supplies
 & other gifts for your Muddy Pawed Friends!

802-463-4778
 6643 US Rt. 5
 Westminster, VT 05158
 www.MyMuddyPaws.com
 Email: fleabegone@msn.com



GINGER & TRAVIS COOK



Tue. & Thur. 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Cook's Tae Kwon Do
 Westminster Institute
 1-802/722-9778



HARLOW FARM STAND

CERTIFIED ORGANIC PRODUCE • FRESH CUT FLOWERS •

P.O. BOX 260, ROUTE 5, WESTMINSTER, VT (802) 722-3515 (1/2 MILE NORTH OF EXIT 5 / INTERSTATE 91)

MC/VISA Discover Brian McAllister Owner/Operator

Father's
 Restaurant & Catering Service

The areas best in casual dining since 1988
 Open 7 days a week

P.O. Box 317 Bellows Falls, VT 05101 Tel: 1-802-463-3909 Fax: 1-802-463-3906

HODGKINS & SONS, INC.
 Earth Movers

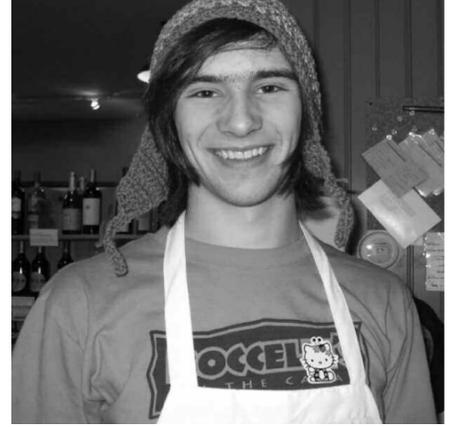
Commercial & Home Excavation
 Septic Systems • Sand, Gravel & Loam

P.O. Box 268
 Bellows Falls, VT 05101

Phone: 802/463-4800
 Fax: 603/445-2193
 hnsinc@verizon.net Russ Hodgkins, Pres.



This month **BOCCELLI'S ON THE CANAL** is sponsoring Alex Swanson as our student of the month.



Alex is a senior at the Compass School who is a talented photographer, great with computers and a champion Ultimate Frisbee player. At Boccelli's he's always on the go, staying on top of the mounting pile of dishes, helping out with the cooking and running up and down the stairs to bring Sharon whatever she needs, and through all the chaos never losing his cool. His friendly manner and easy smile charms all of our customers.

WESTMINSTER AUTO Ext 5, I-91 Rt. 5, Westminster

Vernon & Doreen Kelton
 PO Box 94, Westminster Station, VT 05159
 (802) 722-4722

Check us out on our website: www.westminster-auto.com

BOCCELLI'S ON THE CANAL HOURS !!

46 Canal St., Bellows Falls VT (802) 460-1190

Fine dining in a casual friendly atmosphere

Italian-based dishes made fresh to order using local organic and imported ingredients

www.boccellisonthecanal.com

Weds-Sat 11-9 lunch, dinner and takeout anytime !



Perfect Creations
 Tanning and Hair Salon
 Route 123
 802-722-4322
 Owner: Tammy Kjesell

**\$5.00 Off any Chemical Service
 \$3.00 Off all Hair Cuts**

Residential * Commercial Bench Work

LAWRENCE & LOBER ELECTRIC

154 Westminster St Bellows Falls, VT 05101 Tel: 802-460-3479 Fax: 802-460-3480

THE CHIMNEY DOCTOR
 Ian Conway
 Chimney & Stove Care
 Cleaning, Repair, Installation & Relining
 Authorized Dealer - Regency & Waterford Wood & Gas Stoves

273 Earthbridge Rd., Putney, VT 05346 (802) 387-6037 chimdoc@saver.net CSIA Cert. #1725 VT Labor & Industry Lic. #T4-24 Member National & Vermont Chimney Sweep Guilds

OVERCOMING MATH ANXIETY
 A CONSULTING & TRAINING PROGRAM

SUSAN B. AUSLANDER, M.A.

Tutoring in Mathematics
 Statistics & Computers
 (All ages and Levels)

Diagnostic Evaluation
 Remedial Instruction
 Standardized Test Preparation
 susan314@verizon.net

(914) 376-4537 • (802) 722-9200
 Cell (914) 262-7423

WINDSHIRE TRUCKING

Paul Banik
 Westminister VT 05158
 802-376-7452 802-463-1431

Livestock Hauling
 Dedicated runs to
 Northampton Cooperative Auctions Inc.
 every Tuesday.

The Westminister 6th grade would like to thank the Westminister Fire department for all their help and donations at our ice skating party.

The night was a great success we couldn't have done it without them.



School Board Blog

In an effort to increase transparency and communication with the public about the school board, Westminister 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.

"Think Spring~Go Green" Fashion Show on Sunday, March 8th, 1 PM at the Putney Comm. Center will benefit the Center's Children's Programs.

Our 20 local runway models will feature:

- Storkwear
- Career/Business
- Casual
- Bridal
- Evening
- Prom
- Loungewear
- Retro/Vintage

"For the gal who dares to be different"

Swirl's Lisa Taylor will be the fashion coordinator for top labels like Jones of New York, Armani, Talbots, Liz Clairborne and much more. Jewelry is provided by Offerrings. Our entertaining MC's are Senator Jeanette White and Judy Wagenbach. There will be complimentary refreshments and a 50/50 raffle all for a donation at the door. Come, bring a friend (or two) and enjoy the show!

Westminster Gazette

TOWN OF WESTMINSTER
 PO BOX 147
 WESTMINSTER, VT 05158

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

