

Westminster Gazette



po box 147 westminster vt 05158

Our Community Newspaper @ www.westminstervt.org

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PAUL HARLOW NAMED 2018 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR



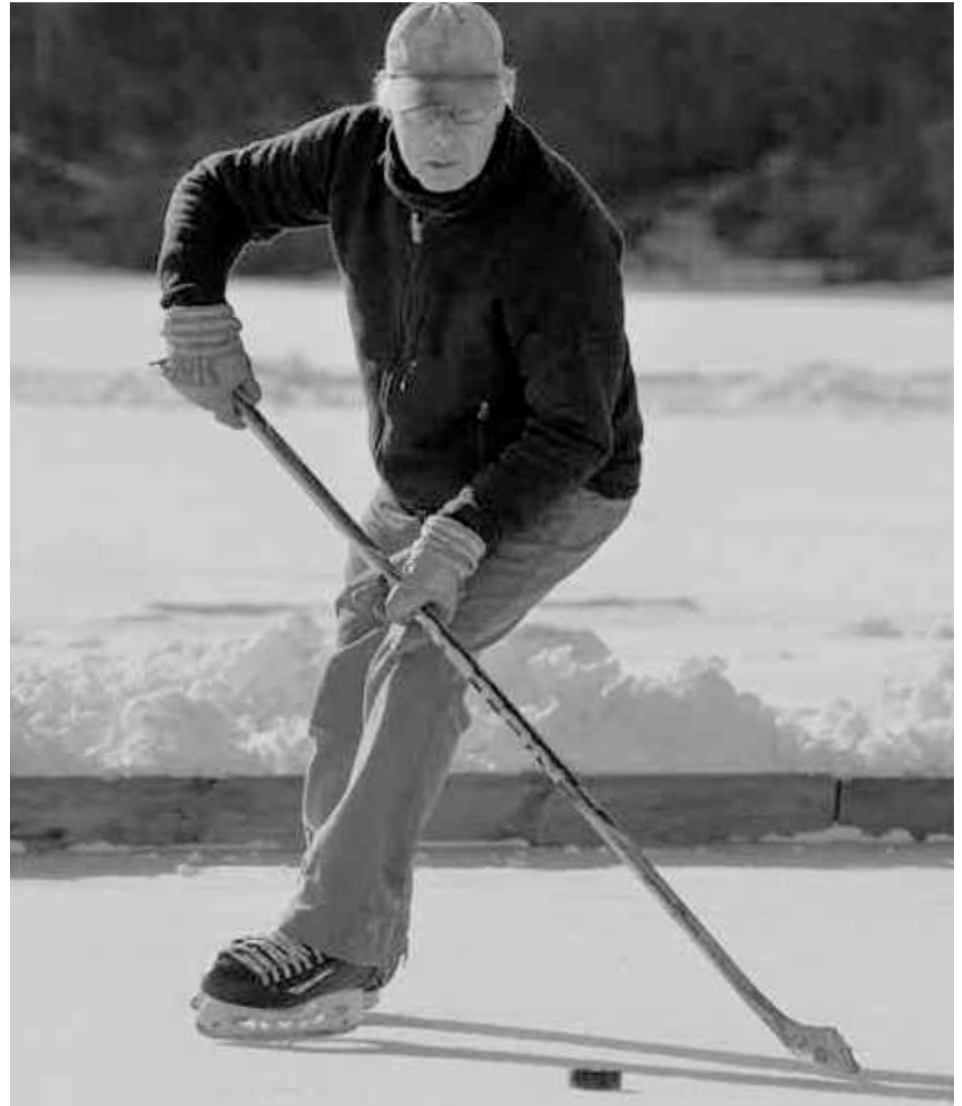
Paul Harlow was named the 2018 Citizen of the Year by the Westminster Selectboard, at this year's Town Meeting.

Paul, born and raised in Westminster, is an organic vegetable farmer who served on the Selectboard from 1997 to 2013. He was instrumental in starting the Westminster Center School garden, and for many years has organized and inspired pond hockey for the community on his farm.

Over more than 40 years of farming, Paul has employed many local workers, including youth, in his operation. He was a member of the Vermont Agricultural and Forest Products Board for five years, and given the Governor's Award for Outstanding Community Service in 1995.

Harlow Farm was named the Vermont Sustainable Farm of the Year in 1998, the second year the award was given.

Photo above courtesy of Lori Larue.



MAIN STREET ARTS PRESENTS JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR

The Main Street Arts production of the rock musical *Jesus Christ Superstar* is in its second weekend at the Bellows Falls Opera House, with performances Friday and Saturday, April 6 and 7 at 7:30 p.m. and a Saturday matinee at 2 p.m.

Theatergoers will notice a few Westminster residents among those involved, including director David Stern. Ron Bos-Lun plays a priest in a really big hat, and Ira Wilner can be spotted among the mob. He also designed the lighting. Ronnie Friedman is behind the scenes as one of the stage managers.

With music by Andrew Lloyd Webber and lyrics by Tim Rice in what *Rolling Stone* magazine readers called "one of the ten best musicals of all time," the production is a modern telling of the passion of Christ as seen through the eyes of his betrayer, Judas Iscariot.



The MSA production features a cast of 50 who work against a dramatic but pared down backdrop that suggests the power of the authorities, the rugged terrain and the horror of the coming crucifixion.

Tickets, with reserved seating, range from \$10 to \$40, depending on the performance and whether student or adult. There is a 10 percent discount for purchases of 10 or more tickets, and 20 percent for purchases of 20 or more.

Reservations can be made and seating selected at www.mainstreetarts.org or by calling 869-2960.

In photo, Westminster's Ron Bos-Lun plays a priest in Jesus Christ Superstar.

HELP YOUR NEIGHBORS GREEN UP ON MAY 5

Green Up Day is coming up soon--Saturday, May 5. Please consider cleaning up a Westminster road or street near you. Every little bit helps to keep Westminster clean.

Green Up bags will be available at the Town Hall in Westminster and the Westminster West Library (check in with them mid-April). You may also pick up bags at the Westminster Center School on Green Up Day, Saturday, May 5, from 7 to 11 a.m. The Vermont Coffee Company is donating hot coffee that morning.

Please take just one Green Up bag, if possible, and use some trash bags of your own. We are very short of bags. The town will pick up any bags on Monday morning, as long as they are left beside a Green Up bag on the side of a town

road. Please do not leave them on private roads.

Here's a safety reminder: Do not remove dead animals or suspected toxic/hazardous waste. Don't disturb needles or questionable debris. And the Health Department tells us that ticks are a year-round threat now in Vermont, so take the necessary precautions of long pants, shoes, and bug spray.

If you have a safety concern, please inform the Town Manager at 722-4225. Or contact VT State Road maintenance personnel or the State Police.

You can find more safety guidelines at www.greenupvermont.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Safety-Brochure.pdf.

For more information call Susan Harlow, Green Up Day coordinator, at 722-3373. Thank you for helping to make your town green!

WESTMINSTER CARES WELCOMES NEW COMMUNITY NURSE & NEW BOARD MEMBER

Westminster Cares welcomes its new community nurse, Debbie Brookes, RN who will provide basic nursing services free to Westminster residents who have difficulty accessing in-office medical care and may not be eligible for home-based services from other agencies, such as the Visiting Nurse Association.

The community nurse provides direct home care visits and assessments including blood pressure checks, foot care, oxygen levels and lung function checks, uncomplicated wound care, education on nutrition, self-care and prevention; and other non-emergency needs.

"We provide help to maximize self-care and natural supports," Brooks said. "We are also a resource to outside assistance as needed and support to other health services being received. Promoting personal preference and well-being, I can help support or identify factors which put at risk a healthy balance. During short and long transitions which stress health, or in acute health events, a visit might help to identify and get needed support."

Isabelle Abramson, Westminster Cares' former community nurse, served for four years before leaving to pursue her career as an artist working in ceramics.

Anyone who would like a nursing visit, or knows of someone who might need a visit, call Westminster Cares at 722-3607 to set up an appointment.

Doug Oftedahl is the newest member of the Westminster Cares Board of Directors. Doug grew up in Chicago, graduated from North Park University, and moved to Westminster in 1991 with his wife, Nita, who is a member of the extensive Westminster Allen family, and their two children.

When Doug retired as a network engineer in 2015, he found he had time to devote to volunteering. "Westminster Cares does a lot of good through the community, and I was pleasantly surprised to be asked to join the board," he said. "I'm a doer and fixer; I'm a person who does what needs to be done."

He's a member of the Public Relations Committee and the Policies and Procedures Committee.

PINNACLE ASSOCIATION PROGRAMS FOR APRIL

Celebrate spring by learning about the special creatures that herald it and the natural systems that allow wildlife, gardens, and wild landscapes to flourish. The Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association [WHPA] is offering two pertinent free programs in April. Anyone interested in the latest details and directions should log onto www.windmillhillpinnacle.org or visit them on Facebook.

April 21, Saturday, 10 a.m. to noon. Vernal Pool Walk on Earth Day. Becky Chalmers, Wetland Ecologist for the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, will discuss the life cycles of animals found in vernal pools and Vermont's rules to protect those special places and their inhabitants. All ages are welcome. Wear waterproof boots. Meet at Westminster West Church to carpool to the secret spot. Do not allow bug repellent on your hands if you wish to handle creatures we find. Register at 869-1166 or at chalmers-becky@yahoo.com or wilsonupaul@gmail.com. Please check Pinnacle's website or Facebook closer to the event to make sure there is no change in the meeting location.

April 29, Sunday, 4 to 6 p.m. Pinnacle Association Annual Meeting and Program: "Cool the Planet: Food, Water, Soil, Climate, Hope." In an engaging PowerPoint presentation, followed by a question-and-answer session, Henry Swayze and Cat Buxton will discuss the natural systems that allow for planetary cooling and the factors that contribute to understanding healthy soil and watershed functions, as well as how the average person can effect positive change in the backyard and marketplace.

Swayze has worked in sustainable agriculture and sustainable living for 40+ years. In the 1970-80s he and his wife, Cornelia, resurrected a nearly abandoned Tunbridge, Vermont, dairy farm, tripling the land's productivity and enabling it to offset the carbon footprint of approximately 10 Vermont households. He now co-hosts a weekly environmental program called "Vermont GreenZine," which is available online through Royalton Community Radio.

The program will take place at Main Street Arts, 35 Main Street in Saxtons River.

Prior to the program, there will be a brief WHPA business meeting, which members and the public are encouraged to attend to learn about plans the Pinnacle Association has for the coming year. Come early to enjoy refreshments and view maps and other materials.

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Thank You!



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UPCOMING EVENTS AT COMPASS SCHOOL

Compass School always has a busy, productive, and exciting last few months of school. We invite the community to join us for some of our upcoming events.

Admissions Visiting Day, April 5th

We invite anyone interested in seeing Compass in action to come visit classes, join us for another of Chef Cher's award winning lunches, and participate in after school exploratory classes.

14th Annual Compass Student Film Festival, Thursday, April 12: 7 p.m.

Roll out the red carpet for impressive student films written and produced by our 11th and 12th grade class.

1920's Decade Museum, May 3rd: 6 p.m.

The 9th and 10th grade will turn the school into a living museum of the 1920's, with food, movies, displays, and interactive exhibits.

Senior Project Presentations, May 18th: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Each graduating senior undertakes a significant independent project to culminate their high school experience and shares this in a museum format where you can discuss their learning with them.

Project Week Exhibitions, June 6th 3-6 p.m.

The year concludes with every student completing an independent project around an area of personal interest. Come see their projects displayed on this last night before the school year ends.

Compass College Acceptances and Merit Based Aid

We are thrilled to again see the tremendously positive response from colleges for Compass seniors. It is clear that colleges value the wide-ranging experiences and abilities Compass students have had, knowing that this prepares them well for college and that these students will contribute greatly to the community they join. One reflection of this appreciation for the students' achievements is the significant merit based aid offered to our students, sometimes over \$50,000 per year, often under the title of a "President's Award" or "Community Scholarship" or "Leadership Recognition."

Compass is somewhat unique in the breadth of experiences and proficiencies we expect from every student. This is valued by colleges and employers (and valued by teachers in having interesting and interested students to interact with every day).

Compass Fiesta Nicaragua Thanks

A big thank you to all who attended our very successful Fiesta Fundraiser



and all the local businesses who donated to the silent auction. We raised over \$5000 towards the 11th grade Global Connections trip to Nicaragua in May. This support is to enable every 11th grader, regardless of family income, to have this travel experience. We welcome donations to support our students sent to the school or through the Compass site at crowdrise.com.

In photo, the 20's museum two years ago featuring Julia and Sophie Taylor.

WHAT'S UP AT TOWN HALL? - BOARD & COMMISSION OPENINGS

OPENINGS ON TOWN BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS: The Town of Westminster has immediate openings on many boards and commissions and they are as follows:

The Planning Commission (PC) has three openings on its Commission. The PC meets once a month and their main duty is to maintain the Town Plan, Zoning Bylaws, Village Designations, Act 250 reviews, and Public Service Board reviews. This Commission is vital in the future planning of our Town and its compliance to the constant changes to the environment that we live in.

The Activities Commission has immediate openings for energetic individuals that want to create and administer to activities within our community. This is a great way to meet people and get involved in our Town.

The Conservation Committee has immediate openings for people interested in the Town's Trail System, Town Forests, and even Energy Conservation enhancements.

Development Review Board (DRB) has an opening on its Board. The DRB hears and decides on applications for development/land use in our community. They meet once a month and are a very important part of keeping our Town healthy & vibrant as it pertains to development.

Re-appointments of all Commissions, Committees, Boards, etc. are being held this month. Please let us know if you are interested in becoming a part of one of these groups. Just an FYI: The Shopper is the Town's official newspaper and all postings of legal obligation are published there such as Hearing notices for zoning, public hearings, and even events that are coming up.

MUD SEASON: Mud season is coming to a close but the Town of Westminster has a policy in place for heavy vehicles traveling during mud season. The quick version is that you need to call for permission to travel our Town Roads with vehicles of substance (excavation equipment, dump trucks, concrete trucks, furniture deliveries, etc...). Permission is needed every day of the proposed delivery because conditions of roads change that fast. You can call the Town Garage or the Town Hall for permission. The phone numbers are as follows:

Town Garage (Ron Clace) 722-4349; Town Hall (Russell Hodgkins) 722-4255

VT-ALERT (second notice): Some of you may already be aware of the VT-ALERT system that the Division of Emergency Management offers to all Vermont Residents. We would like to encourage all of you to sign up for this FREE alert system. This system has reliable information from the Town, State



and Federal Agencies, and it allows you to receive alerts of current situations such as; weather, floods, traffic situations, and any emergencies that may affect you or your loved ones current location. You can receive these alerts via phone, text, or e-mail. Signing up is easy and you can do this by going to their website at www.vtalert.gov. If you have any questions, feel free to call us at 722-4255.

SECOND EGRESS IS COMPLETED (see photo): The back door and steps are completed at the Town Hall. The contractor was All Seasons Construction and they did a very nice job for the Town. They received the job through a competitive bidding process. I would like to thank Roy Williams who was the lead on this project. He followed the project to the end and made sure that everything was completed to everyone's satisfaction.

After Hour Appointments: Please feel free, if you have the need to make an appointment for either the Town Manager, Zoning Administer, or the Town Clerk after or before normal business hours. Both Alison Bigwood and Russell Hodgkins are willing to make these arrangements with you if needed. Please feel free to call us and we will set up your meeting.

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

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER CARES

The Westminster Cares, Inc. Board of Directors met March 14th at the Westminster Institute with Vice President Lori Larue presiding and the following board members attending: Miriam Lanata, Treasurer, Doug Oftedahl, Sally Ryea, Don Dawson, Heidi Anderson, Robin Lawrence, Donna Dawson, director. Pete Harrison, President and Regina Borden, Secretary were unable to attend.

Westminster Cares creates opportunities for seniors and disabled adults to live with independence and dignity in the community. Your support to this care-giving organization is a way for all of us to take care of our friends.

Anyone interested in learning more about Westminster Cares, volunteer-

ing to deliver meals on wheels or driving neighbors to doctor appointments, working on a committee, making a contribution or attending a workshop may contact Donna Dawson at 722-3607 or by e-mail at wecares@sover.net. Check us out at www.westminstercares.org and like us on Facebook.

Memorial & Honor Donations for March 2018:

In memory of Joan Smidutz from David and Mary Jo Robbin; and from Bill Smidutz.

In memory of Debra Muzzey Mann from Jane French; and from the First Baptist Church of Bellows Falls.

In honor of Richard and Beth Orlan on the occasion of their anniversary.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE

The Westminster Fire and Rescue Department holds their monthly meetings at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every month and a combined drill on the third Tuesday of every month. Rescue training is the second Tuesday of the month.

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

Number of calls in February: 22

Number of calls through March 29th: 18

Number of calls calendar year to Date: 67

Number of calls fiscal year to date: 262

Association Meeting: The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association met for their regular meeting March 6th with President Greg Holton presiding. There were 24 members present and seven members excused. Currently there are 37 members of the volunteer fire department. Next Association meeting April 3rd at 7 p.m.

911 Signs: There are many places out there that do not have 911 address signs to identify the location for emergency responders, whether it is for a fire or a medical emergency. Please be sure you have one and it is fully visible for year round viewing day and night. The signs are \$20 and can be obtained by contacting the town manager's office at 722-4091. If you have a fire or need an ambulance and your location is difficult to find, valuable time could be taken up trying to figure out where the emergency is.

Hot coals and ashes: When removing hot coals and ashes from a wood stove or fireplace, first put them in a covered metal container. Then put them outside away from the house or other buildings. Several homes are lost each year when hot ashes are left in a container on a wood floor porch or deck or left too close to a building that a spark could reach. Also, be careful not to spread them in an area where there is dry leaves or dry grass that may ignite.

Mud Season: Although the worst of mud season is yet to come, it is always a good idea to limit travel on muddy roads as much as possible, giving them a chance to dry out. If using a muddy road in unavoidable, be sure to drive toward

the center when possible. The shoulders are apt to be very soft, adding to the chances of getting stuck or tipping over.

Burn Permit Alert: We have had an abundance of snow this year and doing an outside burn may seem to be permissible, but things can dry out very quickly in the spring especially if we have a lot of wind. Anyone wishing to do an outside burn must get verbal permission from one of the fire wardens before starting a fire. You must speak with one of the wardens. Leaving an answering machine message will not count as a permit.

When calling for your permit, be sure to ask what materials are acceptable and which ones are unacceptable to burn. If the Fire Department is called to respond and the fire ends out being an illegal burn, the fire will be extinguished and a fine may be imposed. In case there is a complaint from someone about the fire, the fire department is available to investigate and extinguish the fire if necessary. All burn piles should be a least 100 feet from any building.

Some of the items not allowed are: Trash, building material, anything with paint on it, cardboard. Keep in mind that there may be times when permits are not given out due to sudden changes in the dryness and wind conditions. Always be aware of open dry areas and windy conditions before considering a burn.

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

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

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

Check us out on our Web site www.westminsterfireandrescue.org.

The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association, Inc. operates independently

LOCAL AUTHOR BILL LOCKWOOD PREMIERS THIRD NOVEL ON APRIL 20TH

Local author Bill Lockwood's third novel, "Ms Anna" will have its local premier reading and book signing event at Village Square Booksellers, 34 The Square, in Bellows Falls at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 20.

A resident of southeastern Vermont and Bellows Falls since 1992 he has recently moved to North Walpole. His first two novels "Buried Gold" and "Megan of the Mists" were sell out events when they were also premiered at Village Square Booksellers.

His first novel was set in rural Long Island, NY in the 1980s when a granddaughter tracks down a fortune in gold coins buried in a raid during Prohibition times of the 1920s. His second is set first in the completely different world of Northern Ireland during "the troubles" of the 1970s and later in a Long Island Irish bar. The new book is set mostly in early 1990s Puerto Rico.

Anna, a twenty-something college graduate, is without a job comparable to her education. She works as a part-time bartender and also as pilot of her

father's fishing boat in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, a city proclaiming itself "the tuna canning capital of the world" in the 1990s. Max is an academic who was maybe once in the CIA. He is a member of a staid, wealthy New England lobstering family that has branched out to buy one of the Mayaguez tuna plants.

When word reaches them (thanks to Anna) of some "fishy" activities regarding their latest acquisition, they send Max to investigate. Anna and Max would rather find out more about each other, but in no time they are embroiled in a high-seas smuggling run, tracked by the U.S. Coast Guard. The bad guy has an assault rifle in his trombone case, so it's not your parents' Caribbean cruise—romance will have to wait.

A dollar from each book sold at the reading will be donated to Puerto Rico hurricane relief. Call ahead and reserve copies - 463-9404. Paperback and electronic reader copies can be ordered through the publisher, The Wild Rose Press, thewildrosepress.com or through Amazon.com .

Greenhouses, Potting Sheds & Tables

by Alma Beals, Vermont Master Gardener and Naturalist

When I started writing this, we were in the middle of our third nor'easter. I was looking at the birds at the feeder and at the snow covering my flower gardens and dreaming about gardening, greenhouses and potting sheds. This white stuff can't last forever.

Many years ago, maybe 30, my late husband and I bought a greenhouse kit from Garden Supply. It was the first one they sold and we found several problems with the design. We contacted Garden Supply as we worked through the problems and each time we gave them directions on what changes we made. Eventually we had it together and they gave us a donation for our help.

When we moved almost 20 years ago, we took it apart, moved it and with Tony's help, put it back together again. The greenhouse is way past its guarantee. Winters have been hard on it and I have to decide whether to repair it or tear it down.

At the time that we bought the kit, we weren't sure whether to have a greenhouse or a sunroom but decided on the greenhouse. For the first few years, I did grow a lot of small plants to sell but eventually I only used it spring and fall to stretch the season. Now it is only used to store stuff. With 20/20 hindsight, I think we would have been better off with a sunroom.

If I tear down the greenhouse, I will seriously think about a potting shed. I've looked at magazines and books on different styles. I borrowed a book from the library called "She Sheds" which turned out to be fantastic sheds at fantastic prices. Not wanting a "She Shed" more expensive than my



home, I didn't follow up on their designs but how I loved to dream.

Anyone thinking about a potting shed needs to think about what size is needed, how many windows, location in sun or shade, floor space and headroom and work table. Then start thinking about water, electricity and a ramp or wide door if you hope to store a large item like a tractor. Then continue dreaming about how much you want to spend for a kit or whether to build it yourself with new or recycled materials.

My dreaming continued as I started thinking about potting shed tables which can be placed inside a greenhouse, sunroom or garage. They can be placed outside in a garden, on a porch, deck or patio. They can also be placed under an overhanging roof or under a deck.

There are many choices depending on whether you are handy or not. You can use pallets, old doors, windows, tables and dressers.

A good idea is to include an old sink using a garden hose and a 5 gallon bucket underneath which would also be handy for rinsing off veggies from your garden. By building the table yourself, you can adjust it to your space and add shelves, hooks to hang small tools and whatever else you want.

I recently attended the Boston Flower Show hoping to get ideas. I saw one table with the top made out of lobster trap wire which would be handy if the table was outdoors to let the dirt fall through when potting plants.

My final suggestion is to "dream big but then be realistic."

Aged in Vermont

Westminster Cares, Inc.

SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS

By Susan Harlow

Volunteers have all kinds of reasons for giving their time. Sarah Waldo, one of Westminster Cares' longest serving volunteers, was looking for connection with her community.

In 2006, Sarah had moved to Westminster West, from France. "I was new in town and I thought it could be a way of getting connected, a way to check in." She responded to a notice from Ronnie Friedman, Westminster Cares' then-director, looking for volunteers, and began driving Meals on Wheels to some of the town's elderly residents.

"I get to see different parts of town, and that has been an eye opener for me," she said. "Westminster is a huge town, with many different roads. And having contact with a different kind of community was interesting to me." As a bonus, she became friends with Ronnie and with many of Westminster Cares' other volunteers.

To deliver meals and check on someone who lives alone, perhaps with little social contact, is a good feeling. "Many of them are frail and live in their house alone. To be able to deliver them a meal, to let them know that somebody is there, and to know that they're doing OK—I do worry—so I have a little conversation and bring a little smile into their day."

And as for many Westminster Cares volunteers, there's plenty in it for Sarah. "I feel like I'm giving back to my community and supporting elders, because most people want to stay in their homes and I can be part of that possibility. And also to feel like I'm part of a greater good. It's kind of a Vermont thing—you're part of something but still independent."

When Artie Aiken was alive, Sarah would make his lunch delivery the last of the day. "Knowing Artie Aiken was a big deal for me. I would hang out with him and it was such a gift." (Long-time resident Artie Aiken died last year, at age 104.)

"People are lovely and so grateful. It's an easy thing to do," Sarah said.

She also regularly volunteers with the Westminster Cares annual Garden Tour, which is coming up this year on June 30 & July 1.

In fact, there are all sorts of ways to volunteer for Westminster Cares. You can drive Meals on Wheels, a once-a-month commitment. You can offer to drive people to medical appointments or to stop in for friendly visits on occasion. An elderly or disabled person living in a rural town such as Westminster can often feel isolated, lonely, and helpless. You can help alleviate that.

You can volunteer to help with fund raisers such as the Garden Tour, the bake sale at Town meeting, or at the Welcome Center in the fall.

If you're interested in volunteering, call Donna Dawson at 722-3607.

UNITARIAN SPIRITUAL DISCUSSION

The Walpole Unitarian Spiritual Discussion Series meets every other Tuesday from 10:30 to noon at Hastings House, behind the Walpole Unitarian Church on Union St. in Walpole, NH. Bring your own lunch for after the discussion.

We meet to discuss a program drawn from the online archives of "On Being" with Krista Tippett.

Contact Karen Walter at 802-460-0498 for more information.

CRISIS FUEL ASSISTANCE STILL AVAILABLE

SEVCA announced that Crisis Fuel assistance is available through the second week in April (for most types of heat) to households in Southeastern Vermont facing a heating emergency. In addition, the state of Vermont has decided to allow people who have already received Crisis Fuel assistance and have household incomes up to 150% of the Federal Poverty Level to apply for a second assist if circumstances warrant it.

For more information, call SEVCA toll-free at (800) 464-9951 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday.

BUTTERFIELD LIBRARY BEGINS AUTOMATION

The Butterfield Library is finally beginning the automation process! Every book is being entered into the online Library World system. Eventually we will be scanning all our books like other larger libraries. This will allow books to be available through the state system for interlibrary loan.

We have done our bi-annual discarding of books and are hoping to have a book sale sometime in September. If you have books to donate, we will be accepting books until then. (No text books please.) We may also, weather permitting, combine the book sale with a yard sale on the grounds of the Institute. Spaces will be available for tables; more on that later.

Also, don't forget to come in and get information on Overdrive – a service where you can download eBooks and audiobooks for free through the Green Mt. Library Consortium.

SOUPER WEDNESDAY AT THE CHURCH

Every Wednesday through May 2nd from noon to 2 p.m., the First Congregational Church of Westminster will serve at least two choices of soup (including a vegetarian choice) and warm bread. Take-outs will be available.

Donations are appreciated but not required. Last Souper Wednesday of the season – Wednesday, May 2 – will be a cookout and potluck.

Come and celebrate Spring!

WESTMINSTER MYSTERY PHOTO



We had no responses to last month's photo, so we'll try again with another photo of the same place, only this one is a little clearer and with more information.

What is this building and where was it located?

Please, continue to feel free to send any information you may have regarding any of these photos. Thank you!

Photos courtesy the Westminster Historical Society.

Please contact the Gazette if you have photos that we might use for this regular feature.

E-mail westminsternews@gmail.com.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT RFPL

"1964: A Watershed Year in Vermont's Political (and Cultural) History," will be the subject of a program Monday, April 9, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Rockingham Free Public Library. In 1964, the Republican Party lost its tight-fisted grasp on Vermont politics, starting the swing of the political pendulum from Vermont as a bastion of conservative republicanism to a state with a highly diversified political climate featuring progressive and even radical politics. Speaker will be novelist Deborah Luskin, who will discuss the complexities and nuances of Vermont's transformation from red state to blue.

Learn all about the emerald ash borer on Thursday, April 12 at 4 p.m. at the library. Volunteers play a critical role in early detection of the emerald ash borer which has recently been discovered in Vermont. Our state has been surrounded by the pest for the last few years which destroys our ash trees. The workshop will be presented by Jim Esden, a forester from the State of Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. After learning what to look for, Jim Esden and Alma Beals, from the Rockingham Tree Committee, will guide participants in finding ash trees in Bellows Falls and looking for signs of the emerald ash borers' presence.

This event is sponsored by Vermont State Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, UVM Extension Master Gardener Program, Rockingham Tree Committee and the Rockingham Conservation Committee.

RFPL will host their annual book sale on Saturday, April 14 through Saturday, April 28 and donations are welcome now. The Friends of the Library will be hosting a special Book Sale on Friday, April 13 from 5 to 8 p.m. just for Friends' members. Donations can be made during library hours. Books of all kinds are welcome, with the exception of encyclopedias, textbooks and musty books. DVDs and audiobooks are also welcome. All proceeds from the book sale will benefit the Rockingham Free Public Library.

Pick up a copy of Maeve Binchys "Quentins" today at the Rockingham Library's front desk. Then join the library's book discussion on Monday, April 30 at 4 p.m.

Maureen Corrigan, NPR's Fresh Air calls this novel set in Dublin Ireland "a gift to the reader...For sheer, curl-up, good-bye-real-world storytelling pleasure, it's hard to beat Maeve Binchy."

Set in Dublin Ireland, every table at Quentins Restaurant has a thousand stories to tell: tales of love, betrayal and revenge. Ella Brady wants to make a documentary about the renowned Dublin restaurant that has captured the spirit of a generation and a city in the years it has been open.

For more information on any event, call 463-4270, e-mail programming@rockinghamlibrary.org, go to rockinghamlibrary.org, or stop by the Library at 65 Westminster St. in Bellows Falls. Library hours are: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Thursday and Friday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday.

GRIEF, LOSS & BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Parks Place is offering an opportunity for the public to come together to discuss and process recent community losses in a supportive setting. The Grief, Loss, and Bereavement Support Group will be offered at Parks Place Community Resource Center on Thursday, April 5 at 7 p.m.

This event will be facilitated by HCRS clinician, Jennifer Chambers, and is designed to offer individuals a safe environment to come together with others who may also be struggling with similar experiences around grief and loss.

For more information contact Chambers at 886-4567 ext. 2124 or Parks Place Community Resource Center at 463-9927.

WESTMINSTER HAPPENINGS

Activities

Scottish Country Dance Classes

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

Putney Contra Dance

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

Senior Potluck Lunch

Every 2nd Thursday of the month at noon. All Westminster seniors are invited to attend a potluck lunch at the First Congregational Church on Route 5.

Bellows Falls Gallery Walk

Downtown at 5:30 p.m. every 3rd Friday of the month.

Secrets of Healthy Aging

A facilitated discussion group and pot-luck. The 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at the Westminster Fire Station from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Call Westminster Cares at 722-3607 for more information.

Contra Dance

Every 3rd Saturday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall in Walpole, N.H.

Gentle Yoga

Every Monday at 10 a.m. at the Westminster Institute. Call Westminster Cares at 722-3607 for more information.

Senior Walking Group

Tuesdays at 9 a.m. Meet at the Park & Ride on Westminster Heights Rd. Call the Westminster Cares office for more information; 722-3607.

Chair Yoga

Every Friday from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at the First Congregational Church in Westminster. Call Westminster Cares at 722-3607 for more information.

Living Strong Classes

Mondays and Thursdays: at the First Congregational Church in Westminster from 9-10 a.m.; at the Westminster West Church from 6-7 p.m.; or at Greater Rock Fitness in Bellows Falls from 11-12. Call Westminster Cares for more information at 722-3607.

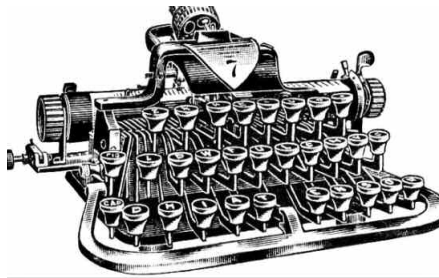
Knitting Together

Join us every Wednesday, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Village Square Booksellers, downtown Bellows Falls. Bring your knitting needles, we have the yarn and casual instruction if needed to knit hats, mittens and sweaters for area kids.

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

Westminster West Public Library Trustees

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



Faith Community

The First Congregational Church of Westminster

Rev. Sami Jones McRae, Pastor. 3470 Route 5, Westminster, 722-4148.

The church is handicapped accessible. Sunday School is available; call to register your children. We are an Open and Affirming church; all welcome.

Wednesday, April 4, Noon to 2 p.m. Souper Wednesday.

Sunday, April 8, 10 a.m. – Worship, Holy Hilarity Sunday

Wednesday, April 11, Noon to 2 p.m. Souper Wednesday.

Sunday, April 15, 10 a.m. – Worship and Communion

Wednesday, April 18, Noon to 2 p.m. Souper Wednesday.

Sunday, April 22, 10 a.m., Worship

Wednesday, April 25, Noon to 2 p.m. Souper Wednesday.

Saturday, April 28, 5 and 6:15 p.m., Roast Pork Supper

Sunday, April 29, 10 a.m., Worship

Tuesday, May 2, 11 a.m. Women's Fellowship. Meet at the First Congregational Church; Bring a sandwich, our hostess will serve drink and desserts.

Wednesday, May 3, Noon to 2, Cookout and Potluck to end Souper Wednesday this year

The Congregational Church of Westminster West

The Congregational Church of Westminster West worships every Sunday at 10 a.m. The pick-up choir meets most Sundays at 9 to rehearse.

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

The church building is wheelchair accessible, and the congregation is Open and Affirming. Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno is the pastor.

Rev. Webster-Toleno currently holds office hours on Monday and Thursday afternoons, and people are welcome to drop by. She can be reached at 387-2334, via cell phone at 579-8356 or e-mail susiewt@gmail.com.

Walpole Bible Church

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

More www.walpolebiblechurch.org.

Walpole Unitarian Church

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

Meetings

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

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

Conservation Commission meets every 4th Thursday at Town Hall at 7:15

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

Westminster School Board 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at the Westminster Center School Library.

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

Westminster West Public Library Board 1st Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Westminster West Public Library.

Development Review Board 1st Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Community Improvement Program Committee meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

Westminster Cares Board - No Summer Meetings 1st Wednesday of every month, at the Westminster Institute at 4:30 p.m.

911 Committee as needed.

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


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

Westminster Gazette Meeting Monday, April 23 at 5 p.m. at the Westminster Institute

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

**THE GAZETTE
GRATEFULLY
ACKNOWLEDGES
THE SUPPORT
OF ITS UNDERWRITERS:**
Kurn Hattin Homes
Westminster School District
Town of Westminster
Westminster Activities Commission
Sojourns Community Health Clinic
Westminster Cares
Westminster Fire and Rescue
Association
Burtco Inc.
The Dascomb Trust
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BELLOWS FALLS ROTARY CLUB



For more information about Rotary, contact Alma Beals at almabeals@gmail.com or 722-3355

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- Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- Is it BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

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

WESTMINSTER GAZETTE

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SUGARING TIME AT KURN HATTIN HOMES

Nothing quite compares to the sweet smell of bubbling maple syrup inside a sugar house! Children of all ages are able to have this classic New England experience at Kurn Hattin Homes. An even bigger treat is the sample of golden syrup that each child gets to taste after they learn about the process of maple sugaring from Real Bazin, Director of Farm and Fleet at Kurn Hattin.

Of course, there is a lot of hard work that goes into maple sugaring to achieve the tasty reward at the end. The children help Assistant Farm Manager Conor Fitzgerald with the tapping of trees, collecting the sap from buckets, and even stacking wood to keep the fire under the sap evaporator going.

The entire process is an excellent opportunity for science teacher Thomas Fontaine to give a hands-on lesson; the children learn tree identification, talk about how plants photosynthesize, and see chemistry in action as the sap boils down into syrup. They even experiment with the placement of the buckets on the trees (north side versus south side, east side versus west side, etc.) to find out which direction will produce the greatest amount of sap.

The children also learn about the history of maple sugaring in New England. In particular, they discuss the differences in sugaring technology from the early days of Kurn Hattin Homes to what is used now. New taps, plastic buckets



backed with stainless steel, and sap lines make the process cleaner and more efficient. Despite the convenience of no longer needing to go into the woods daily to collect sap, it still takes 40 gallons to produce just one gallon of maple syrup! So far, over 25 gallons of syrup have been produced. The syrup from the farm is enjoyed all year long in delicious meals prepared by the Kurn Hattin kitchen.

Above, Real Bazin explains the sugaring process to the children at Kurn Hattin Homes.

WESTMINSTER VILLAGE MODEL ON DISPLAY



Come see the beautiful model of the Village of Westminster on display at the Rockingham Library. It is on loan from Mary Brandt.

ROAST PORK SUPPER, PLANT SALE

The First Congregational Church will hold its Roast Pork Supper on Saturday, April 28th. Dinner includes Roast Pork, mashed potatoes, carrots, gravy, applesauce, rolls, coffee, tea, milk, and dessert. There will be two sittings, one at 5 p.m. and one at 6:15. This fundraiser supper will be \$11 for adults, \$5 for children and those under 5 eat free. Come, bring the family and enjoy.

The Women's Fellowship will host its annual Plant Sale on Saturday, May 21. Besides plants we will have baked goods for sale, a cookout and a white elephant sale.

We are looking for items for our white elephant sale (NO clothes, please). Bring the items to the church on or after April 29.

GRAFTON CORNET BAND SEEKS PLAYERS

The Grafton Cornet Band welcomes all band players with any experience to play with the band this spring. Several current players come from Westminster to enjoy the friendly informality.

The band is proud of its 152-year tradition and keeps its original name, even though all band instruments are included now. The rehearsal schedule with more information is on the website, GraftonBand.org.

This year is the 150th anniversary of Memorial Day as a national holiday. The Grafton Cornet Band has never missed a year. This parade and commemoration in Grafton is at 1:00 on Wednesday, May 30.

All players are welcome to play along with the simple hymns and marches on the band wagon.

WESTMINSTER CARES UPCOMING EVENTS: 30TH ANNIVERSARY & GARDEN TOUR

In honor of Westminster Cares' 30th anniversary, several activities are planned throughout 2018. Coming up on Wednesday, April 11, we are underwriting one of the Classic Movie Nights at the Bellows Falls Opera House.

As a thank you to the surrounding communities for many years of support, Westminster Cares is thrilled to present the beloved classic "Driving Miss Daisy" at 7:30 p.m. All tickets are \$5.

Please come out and join us to enjoy this wonderful film.

On June 30 and July 1 Westminster Cares will be sponsoring the Westminster Garden Tour highlighting the gardens of Gordon and Mary Hayward; Julie Moir Messervy; Virginia and Lonnie Lisai; and Joshua Gold's Pottery Gardens. More details to follow!

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April Business of the Month: Genius Loci



Sustainable Landscape Design, Installation & Stewardship
By Cyndy Fine, Landscape Designer, Gardener & Owner
Genius Loci (pronounced genius low-sigh), is based out of my home and one acre property in the village of Westminister. Many of you have walked through my gardens during a Westminister Cares Garden Tour, or perhaps noticed the spring bulb display as you drove or peddled by on Route 5. I have lived in Westminister for over 40 years, 22 of those in business as a landscape designer and gardener.

Genius Loci has designed, installed and maintained over 100 gardens throughout New England, and continue to work with many of our original clients from 1996.

Genius Loci is a Latin term meaning “essence or spirit of place”, and the basis of all my landscape design. I am a graduate of the masters degree program at The Conway School of Landscape Design + Planning, and am trained in whole systems, ecological design and practices. This translates as using the history, context of the bigger picture, and existing natural systems as a guide in designing a low maintenance landscape for you, local wildlife, bees, birds and butterflies.

When you hire Genius Loci you can rest assured that we are highly trained and experienced in designing and planting beautiful and ecologically healthy gardens. With extensive training and education in sustainable design and practices, we offer you the opportunity to effect change in your landscape and in turn, promote and protect biodiversity for the planet.

Are you dreaming of a stone terrace, or perhaps a swimming pool for our increasingly hot summers? A butterfly garden? Or might your drive and entry-way be more welcoming?

We offer a wide range of services from designing acres of property to jazzing up your landscape for one special event. If you’re a gardener yourself, and need a fresh perspective or inspiration, we’re happy to help with a consultation.

Genius Loci also supports the local economy by purchasing trees, shrubs and plants from nearby growers whenever possible, and hiring specialized local contractors.

To learn more about Genius Loci, call us at 802/376-7275, visit our soon to be launched NEW website www.geniuslocidesign.com, or my own gardens for an event on June 22nd to benefit Brattleboro Area Hospice. We will also be presenting a dramatic “Before + After” landscape design talk in Saxtons River on the Westminister Cares Garden Tour the following weekend.

As always, we offer a 20% discount on your first hour of consultation...look for our promotional postcards at Café Loco in Harlow’s Farm Stand.

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