

# Westminster Gazette

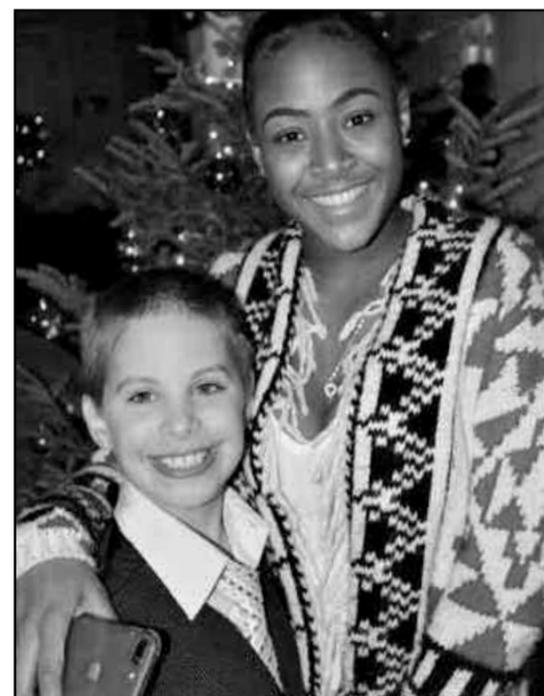


po box 147 westminster vt 05158

Our Community Newspaper @ www.westminstervt.org

Vol. 15, No. 1 January 2019

## IT WAS A BOUNTIFUL KURN HATTIN CHRISTMAS



The Christmas season is a very special time at Kurn Hattin Homes for Children. In November, the children selected Christmas trees donated by Christmas Trees of Vermont. The trees were placed around the campus and decorated with traditional and handmade ornaments.

Santa Claus was seen several times this year in Bellows Falls and at the Kurn Hattin cottages. Chester Rotary Club came along with Mr. and Mrs. Claus and The Grinch to deliver gifts to all our residents.

Vermont Academy students hosted the children for a Christmas dinner. Keene Elm City Rotary Club and Savings Bank of Walpole both visited the cottages they sponsor through Adopt-A-Cottage. Walgreens employees came to stuff stockings full of items donated by their generous customers.

Caroling in the nearby community took place and was reciprocated by Landmark College students caroling on the Kurn Hattin campus. The Select choir took a trip to Burlington to perform. Two holiday events were performed this year by our students at the Mayo school.

The children participated in a Night of Giving dinner to take pride in what they have given back to the community. The children and staff at Kurn Hattin would like to wish each of our friends, supporters, and families a bright and merry Holiday Season and a Happy New Year!

## EAT HEALTHIER THIS WINTER: 3SQUARESVT CAN HELP!

We all know that eating right is critical to good health, but with the high cost of food, fuel, housing, and health care, a lot of people can't afford to buy enough nutritious food for themselves and their families. This can be especially challenging with the added pressure of the holidays. 3SquaresVT can help families, seniors, and others in need to stretch their budgets and put more healthy food on the table.

3SquaresVT is Vermont's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, designed to help households who can't afford their monthly food expenses. Whether they are experiencing a short-term financial crisis or longer-term challenges, 3SquaresVT helps seniors, families, and individuals with lower incomes make ends meet.

In fact, 1 in 8 Vermonters already receive 3SquaresVT benefits. Monthly benefits come on a debit card accepted at most grocery stores and many farmers' markets, making it easy for households to use them. Having 3SquaresVT enables families to buy enough food, which is good for them and good for the local businesses they shop at, too.

Many people don't know they qualify for 3SquaresVT. A family of four earning up to \$3,871 per month (gross) may be eligible, and households can have a

savings account or an asset like a car or home and still qualify. There are special rules that make it easier for households that include a senior or a person with a disability to receive benefits.

For more information on whether you might qualify for this assistance, visit: <https://www.vermontfoodhelp.com/do-i-qualify>

Households that qualify for 3SquaresVT benefits can access many other programs to make life more manageable, such as free school meals for children and the VT Earned Income Tax Credit. Households may also use 3SquaresVT at many farmers' market locations, including many Winter Farmers Markets, and double their money with "crop cash"-- households can use their EBT card at the market and get \$1 worth of "crop cash" for every \$1 they spend in 3SquaresVT benefits, up to \$10 in free crop cash per market/per customer.

Households may also receive crop cash if they receive cash assistance. Shoppers should visit the Manager's Table at the market prior to making their purchases.

SEVCA's Family Services staff are available by appointment to assist households to apply for 3SquaresVT. For more information, call SEVCA at 1-800-464-9951. Households can also apply online at [www.vermontfoodhelp.com](http://www.vermontfoodhelp.com).

### REMINDER

**THE 2019 DOG LICENSES ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE. PLEASE REMEMBER THAT ALL DOGS MUST BE LICENSED BEFORE APRIL 1, 2019.**

### Want to Help Your Community Paper?

The Westminster Gazette operates on a shoestring budget. Just a handful more of community underwriters, donations or advertisers would make a big difference.

Any individuals or businesses interested in helping us out in any of these ways should contact the Westminster Gazette at: [westminsternews@gmail.com](mailto:westminsternews@gmail.com).

Thank You!

## EXPERT TRAIL BUILDER ROGER HAYDOCK TALKS TRAIL LAYOUT AND CONSTRUCTION

On Sunday, Jan. 6, from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. in the dining room of the Saxtons River Inn at 27 Main Street in Saxtons River, Roger Haydock, in photo, will give the first in a series of Fireside Chats. These popular informal talks are sponsored by Main Street Arts and the Saxtons River Historical Society and will focus on nature trails, youthful memories, and beavers. Haydock's talk is entitled "Out for a Hike: Building and Exploring Trails in Our Area."

Haydock has been an avid trail builder since he helped lay out the long, steep trail up Black Mountain in Dummerston 30 years ago. Since then, he has laid out trails for the Putney Mountain Association, the Dummerston Nature Reserve and Trails Committee, Scott Farm, and the Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association [WHPA]. He has planned and constructed numerous trails for WHPA – sometimes on very challenging landscapes – and recently completed WHPA's Radford-Smith Trail, which opened in September.

He is presently working on a two-mile trail for Dummerston's proposed Deer Run Preserve. For 40 years, prior to his retirement, Haydock was a freelance camera-crew member who worked on documentaries for PBS, including 60 episodes of Nova; the 1980 Winter Olympics, for ABC; 60 Minutes for CBS; and baseball, jazz, and national parks films with Ken Burns.

The three different January Fireside Chats are offered at no charge, although donations are accepted. Those attending the informal programs are invited to bring their own memories, photos, artifacts, and stories related to the topic of the evening.

The Inn's dining room will be open for dinner after the presentation for further socializing. Reservations are appreciated by calling the Inn at 869-2110.

In case of inclement weather, cancellation information will be available by contacting Main Street Arts at 869-2960.



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## WALGREENS SUPPORTS KURN HATTIN'S CHILDREN



Children residing at The New England Kurn Hattin Homes for Children had delightful Christmas stockings this year thanks to the generosity of Walgreens employees and customers from 20 Walgreens stores.

Kylie Gould, District Manager of the Rutland Walgreens, along with her team of store managers, gathered to fill a Christmas stocking for each Kurn Hattin child.

Particular care was given so that each stocking was age appropriate and contained everything from Christmas treats to small toys, socks, art supplies and

hygiene items.

The stockings were distributed before Christmas to each cottage as the children celebrated the holiday before the school vacation break. Five Vermont stores participated in the event and 15 stores from Massachusetts.

Since 1894, Kurn Hattin Homes for Children has helped thousands of children and their families by offering a safe home and quality education in a nurturing environment. Its mission: Kurn Hattin transforms the lives of children and their families forever. Follow their journey: [kurnhattin.org](http://kurnhattin.org).

### WHAT'S UP AT TOWN HALL? - TOWN BUDGET INFORMATIONAL MEETING JAN 9TH

**HAPPY NEW YEAR:** Wow! Another year flies by. We hope this year brings you and your family happiness, peace, and fulfillment.

**TOWN BUDGET: REMINDER** - The Selectboard will be hosting a "Public Informational Hearing" to discuss their recent approval of the FY20 budget before Town Meeting. Please bring your questions and/or concerns to this meeting and the Board will address each of the budget line items that are brought up.

This is a great opportunity to understand where the numbers come from and why they are needed. This Hearing will take place at the State Police Facility on the Heights Road before the regular Selectboard meeting on Jan. 9, at 6 p.m. The location will be confirmed and announced on the website and sandwich boards the week before the Hearing.

**TOWN HALL PROGRESS:** The platform lift is in and received its first approval on Nov. 27th and we are now waiting for the last touches before it will be open to the public. The contractor is now finishing the woodwork on the lift with the front doors being next on the list, ending with the handicap bathroom. While the front doors are being worked on, the back door will be the temporary entrance along with the lift for those who need help. This process should only be approximately a week or so.

The next step in the construction phasing will be the enhancement and improvement to the heating system. Bids are due for this phase on Feb. 22, and

if you know of anybody that would be interested in bidding, please have them call the Town Hall for further information.

**LAND FOR SALE:** The Town has 19.1 acres of land for sale off of Pine Banks Road. If you are interested, please contact the Town Hall immediately and we will give you all of the information that you need to purchase this great opportunity.

**UNWANTED PRESCRIPTION DRUGS:** The State Police Facility has installed a drop off box for our unwanted and unused prescription drugs. The news is always warning people about just throwing these unwanted prescriptions in the trash, or even worse, flushing them. For the area's convenience we have a location in Westminster on the Heights Road to fix this problem that we have all had at one time or another. Please feel free to call the Town Hall with questions about this service.

**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 Board of Directors met Dec. 5 at the Westminster Institute with President Pete Harrison presiding.

The board thanked Robin Lawrence for her years of service on the board and volunteering in several different areas. Robin completed her three year term in December and will not be renewing her board term. We look forward to having her as a volunteer for events throughout the year. At the same time Pat Goodell was welcomed as a new board member.

The following board members attended: Vice President Lori Larue, Treasurer Miriam Lanata, Doug Oftedahl, Sally Ryea, Heidi Anderson, Robin Lawrence, Karen Walter, Don Dawson and Director Donna Dawson. Pat Goodell attended as a guest and as a future board member as of Jan. 1, 2019. Regina Borden and Kathy Elliot were unable to attend.

Westminster Cares creates opportunities for seniors and adults with disabilities to live with independence and dignity in the community. Next board meeting Jan. 8 at the Institute at 4:30 p.m. Anyone interested in learning more about Westminster Cares, volunteering to deliver meals on wheels or driving neighbors to doctor appointments, working on a committee, making a contribution or attending a workshop may contact Donna Dawson at 722-3607 or by e-mail at [wecares@sover.net](mailto:wecares@sover.net). Check us out on the web@ [www.westminstercares.org](http://www.westminstercares.org) and like us on Facebook.

#### HONORARY DONATIONS RECEIVED THROUGH DEC. 20:

In honor of the following: Of all your good works from Anonymous; Donna Dawson from Susan Auslander; Westminster Cares from Bill Smidutz; Phyllis Anderson from Bonnie Anderson, Don Anderson and Robert Rhodes; Don and Donna Dawson from Gina Carucci; Susan Clifford from Reilly Clark; Donna

Dawson for all your hard work and caring from Kevin and Beth Shrader; Alma Beals from Allison and David Deen; In honor and memory of the founders of Westminster Cares.

#### MEMORIAL DONATIONS RECEIVED THROUGH DEC. 20:

In memory of the following: Friends in Westminster who have recently passed from Mary Brandt; Ralph and Signa Buck from Don and Nancy Adams; Germaine (Gerri) Palmer from Nancy and Leonard Farrar; Hocker and Connie Harlow from Susan J. Harlow; Gordon "Buddy" Toussaint and Joanne Cordano from Sharon Boccelli; Phillip Wilson from Linda Wilson; Ralph Harlow from Bettina Berg and Chris Harlow; Joanne Scoppa Cordano from Don and Donna Dawson; Joyce L. Gay from Sandra Gaspardino; Jacqueline S. Johnson from Lisa and Jim Calchera; Bob Davis from John Benzaia; "Fallen Firefighters" from Sheldon and Betsy Beebe; Lester Cook from Miriam and Larry Lanata; Jamie C. Latham from Alison Latham; Janet Young from Francis Rogenski; Leslie Avis and Harold Dodge from Verna Newcomb; Jay and Larry Hammond from Marty Hammond; Joan Smidutz from David and MaryJo Robbins; Dorothy Palumbo from Susan Colby; Clifton N. Cooke from Lyn Cooke; Walter J. Kurkul, Sr. from Charlotte Kurkul; Lloyd E. Church from Carol Church; Walt and Pat Jennison from Janet Manzolillo and Linda Jennison; Harold F. Angers from Barbara Angers; Charles and Elizabeth Langmuir from Peggy and Dirk Jager; Bruce Miller from Joyce H. Miller; Dot and Ernie Hogan from Ed Hindes; David L. Williams from Elizabeth K. Williams; Ralph Harlow from Lori Larue; Paul Chaffee from Lillian Chaffee; Jim Grandy from Ruth Grandy; departed friends, neighbors and classmates from Peter and Judy Harrison; Alfred Pucci from Norma Pucci.

## 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. Next association meeting Jan. 8 at 7 p.m.

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

Number of calls in November: 31

Number of calls through December 28th: 32

Number of calls calendar year to Date: 401

Number of calls fiscal year to date: 222

**Association Meeting:** The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association met for their regular meeting December 4th with President Greg Holton presiding. There were 26 members present and five member excused. Currently there are 38 members of the volunteer fire department.

The department welcomed Austin Taylor as a full member having turned 18 in November.

**Emergency responses:** We have had another busy month in December with 32 total calls through the 28th. The breakdown goes like this: 18 rescue/medical calls; 7 motor vehicle accidents, 2 alarm activations; 1 mutual aid 1 chimney fire; 1 CO detector activation; 2 fire/smoke investigations.

**Ice Skating Rink:** The ice skating rink on the East Side of the Westminster Central School will be ready for use soon. Some volunteers of the Westminster Fire Department will be busy flooding the area as soon as the weather stays cold. The rink is open to the public.

**CO detectors:** Because houses are closed up more tightly in the winter, CO detectors need to be checked more frequently.

**Smoke Alarms:** It's always a good idea to put new batteries in the smoke alarms on January 1st and double check to be sure they are operating properly.

**Vents:** Check vents for heating appliances regularly to be sure they are free from ice and snow. A plugged vent can cause a fire.

**Driveways and Right of Ways:** Please be sure that private roads leading to your home are plowed wide enough so a large fire truck can pass through easily. Also, be sure brush and any other obstacles are not hindering an emergency vehicle from getting to a scene where they may be needed.

**Lifeline:** The holidays are upon us and it is a time when many people travel. If you have a Lifeline or a Lifeline type system in your home, it is a good idea to contact the provider to let them know if you are going to be away from home. There should be a telephone number listed for contacting them. If there is an accidental trip of the alarm, the provider will know if the residence is unoccupied or not. This will save the responding agencies from going out for a false alarm.

**FIRE EXTINGUISHERS FOR SALE:** Anyone want to buy a fire extinguisher? We have them for sale and there are four sizes available. See the Chief or stop by the fire station for more information if interested.

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

**Donation received in December:** Alice Cobb Rogers, Heather Kampf, Ruth Grandy in memory of Jim Grandy; Leonard and Nancy Farrar in memory of Germaine Palmer; Jonathan Jesup.

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

There is a Fire House, an engine and a rescue vehicle located in Westminster West and more help is always welcome to utilize that equipment during calls.

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

Check us out on our web-site [www.westminsterfireandrescue.org](http://www.westminsterfireandrescue.org).

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

## BELLOWS FALLS WOMAN'S CLUB PRESENTS MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM FEATURING DR. WALTER GRIFFITHS

The January 8th meeting of the Bellows Falls Woman's Club will feature a program on women's mental health issues, presented by Dr. Walter Griffiths. The meeting will be held at the United Church, School St., beginning at 1:30 p.m.

At the Dec. 11 meeting, members enjoyed making a cone ornament or bird feeder, under the leadership of Dianne Potter. Club members participated in several community events during December. They provided cookies for the Rotary Cub sponsored family movie and visit with Santa.

Several members attended the holiday concert and luncheon at Kurn Hattin, at which time a donation was made to the school. Members helped the children

of Central Elementary School wrap the gifts they chose for the family members.

The club provided holiday decorations for the Health Center waiting room. Donations were made to the Rockingham Christmas Fund and the Adopt an Angel project of the BF Police Department.

Club members are reminded to bring their 2018 volunteer hours recording sheets to the January meeting. Statistics will be compiled for volunteering in several community service categories and sent to the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

The local club is a member of the GFWC, which strives for community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service.

## From One of the Smallest to One of the Largest

by Alma Beals, Vermont Master Gardener and Naturalist

Many people are not familiar with the brown creeper because the small bird is difficult to spot with its colors making it look like a piece of bark.

Creepers start at the base of trees and spiral up looking for insects and insect eggs. When they reach the top, they fly down to the base of another tree and spiral up again with their long, stiff tails supporting them. They eat suet as well as insects and their eggs. Occasionally I have seen them picking up pieces of suet from the ground underneath suet feeders that are near the trunks of trees.

Creepers have mottled brown upper parts and white under parts, a white streak over the eye, a long curved bill and pink/buff legs and feet. Unlike most birds, the young look like the adults after they are six months old. I see creepers on the trunks of trees but they also can be seen on the underside of branches.

Only the male sings on the breeding ground, although both male and female use a single high call all year long while foraging for insects. Their call can be confused with golden-crowned kinglets. They are known as solitary birds but during the winter may join flocks of chickadees, nuthatches, titmice, kinglets and woodpeckers. As varied as these flocks may be, the chickadees are the core of the flocks. I no longer can hear the creepers because I have lost my hearing of high notes.

There appears to be confusion as to whether they are permanent residents here or whether they migrate. Some information says that eastern and northern creeper populations, particularly those breeding across eastern Canada, seem to migrate. Other information calls them permanent residents. Some information says they migrate in small flocks in April and again in late September and October.

They nest behind a large strip of bark still attached to a tree, using spider webs to bind twigs, moss, leaves and bark strips to form an oval nest. I have never seen a creeper nest and doubt that many people have since the nests are so camouflaged. Their 4 to 8 eggs are white speckled with brown and are incubated for two weeks. The young fledge two weeks after hatching.

As I'm sitting here enjoying the birds at my feeder, I'm thinking about the last time I saw a creeper under the feeder picking up scraps of suet. Then I started thinking about bird irruptions.

Each winter, birders wonder if this is a year for a bird irruption which is



described as large numbers of unexpected birds in our area. When that happens, the previous year will have had an abundance of lemmings for snowy owls to eat or conifer seeds for birds like redpolls and crossbills. That leads to a successful breeding season. If the following year doesn't have enough food, some of the birds will head south.

Snowie males are almost pure white; females, which are larger, have a white face with dark flecks on their wings. They are about 23 inches long with a wingspan of about 52 inches. Compare that size to a creeper's 5 inches.

What a thrill to see redpolls and crossbills but few birds make the headlines like snowy owls (snowies). Every winter will see a small irruption of snowies with a large irruption occurring every few years, such as in the 2013 to 2014 winter. Look for a white lump on the ground or on a fence post because snowies won't be high up in a tree. Please report any sighting of a snowie to me and my next article will cover snowies.

# Aged in Vermont

Westminster Cares, Inc.

## THANK YOU & LOOKING AHEAD WITH WESTMINSTER CARES

As 2018 draws to a close and 2019 gets underway, we want to express our appreciation for everyone who has contributed to our current Annual Appeal, and to all those who have supported Westminster Cares since 1988.

Although the Annual Appeal is our major fundraising source, we are also supported by town funds; individual, corporate and memorial donations throughout the year; several fundraising events and grants through Senior Solutions and private family foundations. We are extremely appreciative of all the financial support that enables us to fulfill our mission. We also appreciate the thousands of hours volunteers donate each year to our carry out programs and services.

At this time we'd like to remind our community of the many initiatives their support allows Westminster Cares to implement and execute. In 2018, our core services included: Meals-On-Wheels, the Community Nurse, transportation, home medical equipment loans, visiting and information and referral.

Over 2,500 nutritious meals were distributed throughout the year; all were prepared by the Kitchen Staff of Kurn Hattin Homes. Volunteers delivered Meals-On-Wheels five days a week to between 8-14 individuals daily.

Due to the generosity of a community member, over 600 frozen entrees were provided on Fridays to those needing weekend meals.

Transportation is another service offered – volunteers gave 223 rides, driving 2600 miles transporting those who no longer drive to medical appointments, physical therapy, grocery stores, pharmacies and other essential services.

Through our equipment loan program, multiple pieces of durable home medical equipment were loaned each month to community members who were recuperating from surgery or in need of medical accommodation; this totaled 104 pieces loaned out throughout the year.

Volunteers also made home visits to those in need of company and visited several Westminster residents who are isolated in their homes or now reside in assisted living residences and local nursing homes.

The Butterfield Library partnered with Westminster Cares to select books for those who can't access the library and volunteers delivered and picked up books from residents at their homes.

There has been an increasing demand for our Community Nurse, Debbie Brookes. Debbie continued to make in-home visits, assist with medication management and pill planning, blood pressure checks, preventive foot care and other non-invasive medical services. Her one-on-one consultations help to address concerns and educate seniors and their families about a variety of issues. In 2018 our nurse made approximately 124 visits to seniors in our town and met with an additional 75 community members during nine Blood Pressure Clinics held at the monthly Senior Lunches.

Westminster Cares continues to host many healthy aging programs, including three "Living Strong" weight training classes; two weekly "Tai Chi for Falls Prevention" classes; one weekly "Gentle Yoga" class, and one "Chair Yoga" class; a twice monthly discussion group and pot-luck called, "Secrets of Healthy Aging;" a monthly senior lunch; an art class co-hosted with Putney Cares called, "The Artist in Each of Us" and a seasonal Wednesday Walking group.

WC also works closely with Senior Solutions/Southeast Council on Aging, the Visiting Nurse Association, the Bellows Falls Senior Center, the V.A., SEVCA and the other Cares organizations in Windham County.

We celebrated our 30th anniversary throughout 2018! A Volunteer Appreciation & Movie Night was held in April and Smartphone workshops were held in May and June. Additional speakers and workshops are being planned for 2019 including technology for older adults; advance directives; bereavement and pet loss discussion groups; and health-related topics. Westminster Cares will continue offering high-quality programs and services that meet the needs of our aging population in Westminster.

*With much appreciation, thank you for your continued support!  
Board of Directors, Westminster Cares*

### RITE AID PROVIDES KIDCENTS GRANT

Community support is the life blood for Kurn Hattin Homes for Children and we are grateful for the recent Rite Aid Foundation's KidCents Thanks For Giving Grant of \$5,000. The grant was awarded to Kurn Hattin in recognition of the great work Kurn Hattin does throughout the year to make a difference in lives of children in the community.

The Rite Aid Foundation's KidCents program allows Rite Aid customers to round up their purchases to the nearest dollar and donate their change to a fund that supports kid-focused charities.

In addition, Rite Aid wellness+ members can log in to their online wellness+ account at KidCents.com to elect to automatically round up all of their purchases and donate the change to KidCents, or designate those funds to an approved KidCents charity (such as New England Kurn Hattin Homes) every time they shop at Rite Aid.

The change you donate turns into dollars which supports the efforts to improve the health and welfare of the children at Kurn Hattin.

### WESTMINSTER MYSTERY PHOTO



**What is this village? And what major difference do we see today in the landscape of this region, as is true of most of Vermont? Please email us with your answers, and any more information you might have. Thanks!**

**Last week's photo was correctly identified by Charlie Hutchison, who wrote: "This is a photo of the Westminster West community store. The current address is 3523 Westminster West Road and has been occupied by my family — the Hutchisons — since 2016. We have a print of this picture in our kitchen, and though you can't see it in this reproduction of the picture, but there is a sign hanging from the right hand end of the porch that says 'Post Office.' The main sign above the porch says I.P. Ranney. The picture must have been taken before 1899 because in that year Frank Chapman took over the running of the store. The store itself is still largely intact — with counters, glass cases, weighing machine and shelves much as they might have been when the photo was taken."**

**Anyone with Westminster photos that would like to share them in our Mystery Photo feature, please send them to [westminsternews@gmail.com](mailto:westminsternews@gmail.com).**

### VITA TAX ASSISTANCE RECRUITING

Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) and Granite United Way of NH are partnering to offer the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program in upper Windham County and Windsor County, VT. VITA helps low- to moderate- income households by providing free federal and state income tax return preparation services. SEVCA is now recruiting volunteers for the upcoming 2019 tax filing season to help as many families as possible claim the tax credits and refunds available to them.

We are looking for individuals who are willing and able to commit 3 to 4 hours per week from January 29 – April 15, 2019. Prior tax preparation experience is not necessary, but a commitment to training and certification is required. You'll receive specialized training from a certified VITA instructor, plus IRS online courses. SEVCA provides all needed materials and software, along with a very supportive training structure. Continuing on-site training and supervision is provided during the tax season.

SEVCA operates VITA sites in:

- \* Westminster – SEVCA's offices at 91 Buck Drive, Westminster, VT
- \* White River Junction – St Paul's Episcopal Church, 749 Hartford Ave, White River Junction, VT
- \* Windsor – The Windsor Resource Center, 1 Railroad Ave, Windsor, VT 05089

We can meet your schedule and needs! We are most in need of volunteers in Westminster, but could use more volunteers at any of the sites.

There are two volunteer positions. Both work under the supervision of a local Site Coordinator. Our specific needs are for:

- \* Intake Specialists—Greet tax filers, conduct an intake review to make sure all documents are present for a complete and accurate tax return, and offer resources for other financial needs filers may have.
- \* Tax Preparers—Interview taxpayers using standardized IRS forms and prepare and submit relevant returns. No previous tax or finance experience necessary, just general computer aptitude and a willingness to learn.

To learn how you can make a difference in your community by becoming a VITA volunteer please contact Leslie Wood at (802) 722-4575, ext. 199 or [lwood@sevca.org](mailto:lwood@sevca.org) or. Please put VITA VOLUNTEER in the subject line of your email.

### THANKS FOR THE HELP

A special thank you to all that helped with the luminaries in Westminster:  
Luke & Diane Basin for the trailers.  
Westminster Fire Dept. for a warm space and help  
Westminster Activities for materials  
And all the volunteers who made this years project a success.

*KS Beebe*

## HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE WESTMINSTER GAZETTE!

# 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.

### 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 and 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 Book Group

The Westminster West Library has a book group meeting every third Monday from 7-9. Call the library if you are interested in getting a list of the books we are reading. Contact Lise Cavanaugh at 387-4682.

### Tai Chi Classes

Wednesday's at the Institute  
Beginner Class 9:45 - 10:45 a.m.  
Intermediate Class 11 a.m.- noon

**The Living Earth Action Group** meets most Fridays at 5 p.m. at the Westminster West Congregational Church. For actual schedule e-mail Caitlin Adair at [pcadair@sover.net](mailto:pcadair@sover.net).

### Souper Wednesday

Every Wednesday May 1st from noon to 2 pm, 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.

## 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.  
Wed., Jan 2, 12 noon to 2 p.m. Souper Wednesday begins. (See article)  
Sun., Jan 6, Epiphany Sunday, Worship and Communion, 10 a.m.  
Tues. Jan 8, Women's Fellowship Meeting, Bring a sandwich. Our hostess will serve beverage and dessert.  
Sun., Jan 13, Worship, 10 a.m.  
Sun., Jan 20, Worship, 10 a.m.  
Sun., Jan 27, 10 a.m., Worship. 11:15 a.m., POTLUCK AND ANNUAL MEETING

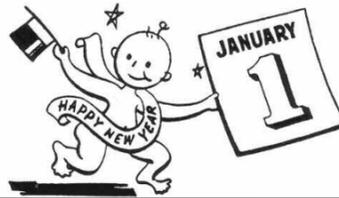
### The Congregational Church of Westminster West

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](mailto:susiewt@gmail.com).



## BELLOWS FALLS ROTARY CLUB



For more information about Rotary, contact Alma Beals at [almabeals@gmail.com](mailto:almabeals@gmail.com) or 722-3355

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### The FOUR WAY Test

Of the things we think, say or do

- Is it the TRUTH?
- 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.

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

### Walpole Unitarian Church

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

## Meetings

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

**Planning Commission** 2nd Monday at 6:30 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** 2nd Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Westminster West Public Library.

**Development Review Board** 1st Monday of each month at 6:30 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, Jan. 28 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  
Town of Westminster  
Westminster Activities Commission  
Sojourns Community Health Clinic  
Westminster Cares  
Westminster Fire and Rescue  
Association  
Burtco Inc.  
The Dascomb Trust  
K Beebe Inc.

## WESTMINSTER GAZETTE

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**The Deadline for  
the January Issue of the  
Westminster Gazette is  
Wednesday, Jan. 30  
Publication Date is  
Tuesday, Feb. 5**

To Contact the  
Westminster Gazette  
E-mail:  
[westminsternews@gmail.com](mailto:westminsternews@gmail.com)



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## RFPL Hosts Documentary

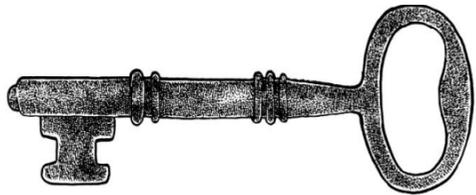
On Thursday, Jan. 10 at 6:30 p.m. the Women's Freedom Center presents the documentary film "Lane 1974" at the Rockingham Library. Based on Clane Hayward's memoir *The Hypocrisy of Disco*, "Lane 1974" tells a true coming of age survival story.

It's 1974. 13-year-old Lane lives on a beautiful Northern California commune until her mother alienates their family from the security and safety of the community. They begin moving from one unlikely situation to another. After a series of dangerous events, Lane must decide how to survive.

"Lane 1974" is the fifth in a series of six films by and about women, sponsored by the Women's Freedom Center, running the second Thursday of each month, September 2018 through February 2019 at Rockingham Library. If you were not able to make it to Brattleboro to the Women's Film Festival, The Women's Freedom Center is bringing the Festival films to you.

The Women's Freedom Center is the local non-profit organization working to end domestic and sexual violence in Windham and Southern Windsor Counties. They are a feminist organization committed to offering support and advocacy to all survivors of violence, as well as prevention and educational activities to help create a community in which violence is not tolerated. The Center's 24/7 Hotline number is 1-802-885-2050.

For more information, go to [rockinghamlibrary.org](http://rockinghamlibrary.org), email [programming@rockinghamlibrary.org](mailto:programming@rockinghamlibrary.org), call 463-4270 or stop by the Library at 65 Westminster St. in Bellows Falls.



## LOCAL FAMILIES SOUGHT TO HOST FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS

If you are wondering after this holiday season, what you can do here in Vermont to make a positive impact towards spreading global peace and understanding, have you considered hosting a high school foreign exchange student? Bellows Falls is looking for families to volunteer to return this wonderful program to our local community.

Did you know, the US State Department sponsors two high school exchange student scholarship programs? These programs bring students from countries with predominantly Muslim populations (the YES program) and countries that were formerly under Soviet influence (the FLEX program). The students go through a rigorous application process, including academic and character testing, and a formal interview.

The acceptance rate for one of these scholarships is lower than Harvard! Their alumni include 565 heads of government around the world. That is approximately 75 percent of the world foreign leadership influenced by foreign exchange! Just imagine, this is an opportunity to provide a future foreign leader access to see firsthand that our country, our home, is not what they see on the news, but so much more!

Sharing your world is simpler than you imagine. Could you provide a student with any of these amazing opportunities: first taste of maple syrup, the chance to learn to ride a bicycle, all of the fun activities that go along with their

## TOWN MEETING INFORMATION

TOWN MEETING – FLOOR VOTE

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2019

10:00 AM

AT BELLOWS FALLS UNION HIGH SCHOOL

AUSTRALIAN BALLOT VOTE

TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2019

8:00AM to 7:00PM

AT THE WESTMINSTER INSTITUTE

LAST DAY TO FILE PETITIONS FOR ELECTED OFFICES

MONDAY JANUARY 28, 2019

AND MUST BE SIGNED BY 1% (25) OF REGISTERED VOTERS

LAST DAY TO FILE PETITIONS FOR ARTICLES TO BE INCLUDED ON THE WARNING FOR TOWN MEETING (FLOOR VOTE) IS

MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2019

AND MUST BE SIGNED BY 5%(125) OF REGISTERED VOTERS

first snowfall, their first pet, or the knowledge to create a better local community through volunteering?

Students want to experience our home, and our communities. They take this knowledge home, and as scholarship program alumni, they help others see the world outside their borders as generous and supportive.

Host families come in all shapes and sizes, with children or without. But one thing they do have in common is an open mind, loving heart, and an enthusiasm to learn about a new culture.

Founded in 1990, PAX is a not-for-profit educational organization and one of a select few U.S. Department of State designated Exchange Visitor Program's chosen to participate in its prestigious U.S. government-sponsored FLEX and YES programs.

If you would like more information on hosting, please contact Kimberly Eckhardt at [keckhardt08@gmail.com](mailto:keckhardt08@gmail.com) or 802-824-3792.



### HARLOW FARM WINTER MARKET

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## January Business of the Month: Allen Bros. Oil Co.

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In 2004, Tim turned the business into a full service heating company offering pre-buy and budget plans, and partnered with the State to offer fuel assistance/crisis fuel deliveries, as well as 24 hour emergency service calls.

We now have three delivery trucks, three service vehicles, and a client base of over 3500 customers, serving Cheshire, Windham and Windsor counties.

Tim and Stacey's oldest son Matthew is doing an excellent job of running our service department and is committed to making sure every customer has a safe and efficient heating system.

We are very excited about the future of the company, and have a wonderful staff in place to insure that all of our customers are kept warm, and receive the best possible service we can provide.

We continue to offer low pricing, as well as small minimum deliveries, and we strive to support those in need in any way we can.

Thank you to all our customers for your business, trust and success of our company. We hope you have a blessed 2019!

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## WALPOLE PLAYERS ANNOUNCE AUDITIONS FOR "LOST IN YONKERS"

The Walpole Players will hold auditions for their coming spring production of "Lost in Yonkers" at the Helen Miller Theater in the Walpole Town Hall on Sunday, Jan. 13 from 4:30 to 6 p.m., and Tuesday, Jan. 15 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

The play will be presented on two weekends in April. It is being directed by Mike Wright. Auditions will be readings from the script.

The Pulitzer Prize winning play "Lost in Yonkers" is a heartfelt and hilarious coming-of-age story about a very eccentric family by America's great comic playwright, Neil Simon.

Like many of Simon's plays, "Lost in Yonkers" is drawn from his experiences growing up in New York City. Set during World War II, two young brothers, Arty and Jay, are sent to live with their formidable German Jewish immigrant grandmother, the sweet but mentally challenged Aunt Bella, and Uncle Louie, a small-time hoodlum running away from gangsters. "Lost in Yonkers" tells the story of a family coping with the challenges of keeping together during World War II and the struggles to balance love, duty, devotion, and trust with tough times.

There are seven parts that span three generations from the brothers age about 15 and 13 to their father, aunts, and uncle all in the 30s age range, and Grandma, who is about 70. Rehearsals will be at the theater in the Walpole Town Hall in February, March, and April.

If you have questions or are not available on the audition dates please contact Mike Wright at mikey2573@comcast.net .

*Happy New Year!*

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# Westminster Gazette

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