



ANDERSON NAMED 2018 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

By Susan Harlow

This year's Citizen of the Year Award was given to Don Anderson. The award was started in 2007 and honors a community member who goes above and beyond in their service to the town.

Each year, residents submit nominations and the winner is chosen by the Select Board. This year was a first...as Don's father, Hank Anderson, was also a recipient of the award.

Don is involved in many things in Westminster. He works tirelessly for his church, the First Congregational Church of Westminster. He does a variety of tasks such as building maintenance, transporting of church members, singing in the choir, and volunteering for fundraising events.

Don does the same for the Westminster Institute. He's frequently being asked to help out in many ways and is always available to lend a hand or take on a project. He's in charge of trash and recycling, works

on building maintenance, and often shovels entrances and steps to the building, insuring library patrons and class participants have safe access during winter.

Recently Don has served the town directly as a Justice of the Peace and was appointed to the town's Development Review Board in 2018. He assists a group of residents with the annual installation and removal of flags on poles throughout Westminster, North Westminster and Westminster West.

Don also volunteers for Westminster Cares in a number of ways including delivering Meals-On-Wheels. And he is part of the Bellows Falls Bike Project team, repairing bicycles and helping students learn about bicycle repair.

We thank you for your service and commitment to the community of Westminster!

At right, Don Anderson, recipient of the 2018 Citizen of the Year Award from the Town of Westminster.



14TH ANNUAL COMPASS STUDENT FILM FESTIVAL THURSDAY, APRIL 11



We invite the community to see some of the most creative and high quality work from Compass 11-12th graders at the 14th Annual Compass Film Festival.

In a six-week cross-disciplinary course, students devote their science and humanities class time to creating their own original films. Early in the course, students produce silent shorts. Later, every student writes a screenplay and the class picks the best ones to work into fully realized short films.

Both the silent and short films are presented in a gala evening on the red carpet starting at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 11 at Compass School.

Everyone is invited to join us for this fun and art filled evening. The films have gotten better every year and are now of amazing quality in terms of story-telling and technical direction. Please join us.

GREEN UP DAY IS MAY 4 — WE NEED YOU!

Green Up Day is coming up soon—Saturday, May 4. Westminster residents, please clean up a Westminster road or street near you. A group effort is always fun!

Green Up bags will be available at the Town Hall in Westminster and the Westminster West Library, later in April. You may also pick up bags at the Westminster Center School on Green Up Day, Saturday, May 4, from 7 to 10 a.m.

Please take just one Green Up bag, if possible, and use some trash bags of your own. 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. If you have a safety concern, please inform the proper local authorities. Or contact VT State Road maintenance personnel (www.vtrans.vermont.gov) or the State Police www.vsp.vermont.gov/

Also remember that you can donate to Green Up Vermont on Line 29 of your Vermont tax return.

Questions? Call Susan Harlow, Green Up Day coordinator, at 722-3373.

Thank you for helping to make your town green!



LOCAL STUDENT CHOSEN FOR 4H SHOOTING TEAM NATIONAL EVENT

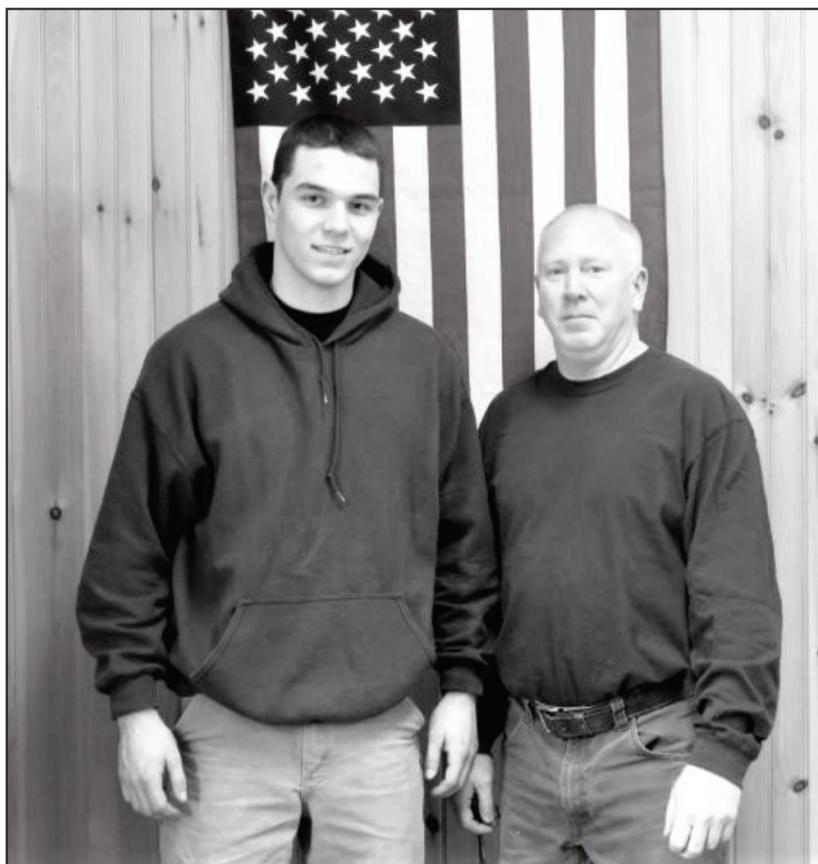
Seven Vermont 4-H club members are Nebraska-bound this summer to compete at the 4-H Shooting Sports National Championships.

The annual event, which attracts nearly 800 participants, ages 14-18, from throughout the country, will be held June 23-28 in Grand Island. Vermont will send both a muzzleloader and .22 smallbore pistol team to this year's event. Practices began in January and will continue until the 4-H'ers depart for Nebraska where each team will compete in three different events.

Competing for Vermont on the muzzleloader team are Audrey Chairvolotti, Grand Isle (Champlain Shamrocks 4-H Club, Grand Isle, and Mount Mansfield Pioneers, Jericho); Colton Masure, St. Johnsbury (Green Mountain 4-H Shooting Sports Club, Lyndonville) and Taylor Tetreault, Groton (Green Mountain 4-H Shooting Sports Club, Lyndonville). Their coaches are Doug and Kandy Petty, St. Johnsbury.

Four 4-H'ers earned a spot on the .22 smallbore pistol team, which is coached by Paul Muzzey, Rockingham, and David Hale, East Hardwick. They are Kenneth Beaupre, Orford, NH (Upper Valley Bulleyes 4-H Club, Bradford); Jackson Chairvolotti, Grand Isle (Champlain Shamrocks 4-H Club, Grand Isle, and Mount Mansfield Pioneers, Jericho); Luke McReynolds, North Danville (Green Mountain 4-H Shooting Sports Club, Lyndonville) and Hunter Smith, Westminster (Green Mountain 4-H Club, Springfield). Both Kenneth and Jackson competed at nationals last year on Vermont's muzzleloader team.

To qualify for a team, interested individuals were asked to submit an application for a specific team and explain why they want to compete both at the national level and on that team. Selection also was based on recommendations from 4-H club leaders and scores from



past Vermont 4-H Shooting Sports Jamborees. In addition, applicants need to be active in 4-H and in good standing in their club.

To help fund the trip, the 4-H'ers and their families will organize community spaghetti and chicken pie suppers and raffles for a muzzleloader and two sides of beef. They also will seek donations from local businesses and their county 4-H foundations.

For details on the local, Saturday, April 13 chicken dinner fundraiser at American Legion Post #37 in Bellows Falls, please see the article on page 2.

Anyone wishing to make a donation toward trip expenses may send a check to Vermont 4-H Shooting Sports, c/o Lisa Muzzey, University of Vermont Extension, 307 South St., Springfield, VT 05156. Checks should be made payable to UVM Extension.

For more information about the 4-H shooting sports program in Vermont, contact Lisa Muzzey, UVM Extension 4-H shooting sports coordinator, at lisa.muzzey@uvm.edu.

Above, BFUHS student Hunter Smith, left, and Coach Paul Muzzey.

Want to Help Your Community Paper?

The Westminster Gazette operates on a minimal budget. A handful more of community underwriters, donations or advertisers would make a big difference in keeping this paper in print.

Any individuals, organizations, or businesses interested in helping us out in any of these ways should contact the Westminster Gazette at: westminsternews@gmail.com. Thank You!

Our Monthly Community Newspaper April 2019 Vol. 15 No. 4

Westminster Gazette

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EASTER EGG HUNT AT THE INSTITUTE APRIL 13



An Easter egg hunt will be held on Saturday, April 13 from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Westminster Institute.

GET YOUR FINANCES IN SHAPE THIS SPRING!

SEVCA is inviting participants to register for its upcoming "Financial Fitness" workshop series, to be held in Brattleboro starting April 2.

This 7-part workshop series will help participants improve their relationship with money, develop strong financial habits, and take steps toward prosperity. SEVCA's instructors will utilize tools from the acclaimed Your Money Your Goals curriculum developed by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Topics covered include: saving, budgeting, credit, home buying, insurance, purchasing a car, and saving for college. The instructor will also provide individualized financial coaching, as needed, to help participants and their families become more financially secure.

The workshop series is free and open to the public. It will be held every Tuesday at Vermont Adult Learning, 90 Birge Street, Brattleboro from 5:30-7 p.m. from April 2 through May 14. Pre-registration is required. Please call to register at 722-4575, ext. 151, or email sdillon@sevca.org.

Those who complete the course may be eligible to join SEVCA's SaVermont matched savings program. Participants earn a match for every \$1 they save (up to \$1,000) if they save a minimum of \$25 each month toward home purchases or repairs, obtaining education or job training, starting or enhancing their own business, or car purchases or repairs needed for transportation to work.

SEVCA has served as the federally-designated anti-poverty agency in Windsor and Windham Counties for more than 50 years. In the past year, SEVCA served over 7,000 people in Windham and Windsor counties through a range of programs such as crisis fuel assistance, homelessness prevention, weatherization, home repair, business start-up and support, job readiness and skills training, financial fitness, asset building, Head Start, food stamp outreach, access to affordable health care, budgeting/savings, information and referral, and thrift stores.

REMEMBRANCES:

Lorraine Hodsdon, 1936 – 2019
Wayne Landry, 1967 – 2019
Cynthia Payne-Meyer, 1958 - 2019
Ellen Augusta Dunn Zimmerman, 1940 – 2019

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Page 8
approx. 1.5"x2.5"
\$175 a year
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Underwriting Support is a donation of at least \$300 annually and does not include advertising. Underwriters are listed in the box on page 6 each month.

We also welcome article submissions that would be of interest to the community. We ask for a maximum size limit of 500 words, and reserve the right to edit for content and length. Thank you!

On-line at:
www.westminstervt.org

APRIL 1 WAS DOG LICENSE DEADLINE - NO FOOLING!



Dr. Vincent DiBernardo of Rockingham Veterinary Clinic gives Chester his rabies vaccination, at the annual rabies clinic at the Westminster Town Garage last

month. The clinic is held each spring to encourage dog and cat owners to get their pets vaccinated, and to obtain dog licenses by the April 1 deadline.

CHICKEN DINNER FUNDRAISER TO SUPPORT HUNTER SMITH & 4H SHOOTING TEAM

On Saturday, April 13 at American Legion Post #37 in Bellows Falls, there will be a chicken dinner fundraiser for local Bellows Falls Union High School student Hunter Smith of the Green Mountain 4-H Club and six other participants from the Northern Vermont 4-H Shooting Sports Clubs.

The dinner is intended to raise funds to send all seven students to the 4-H Shooting Sports National Championships in Grand Island, Nebraska on June 21. The cost of attending the national championships is \$3000 per participant.

Doors open at 5 p.m. for the fundraising dinner, and cost of the meal is by donation.

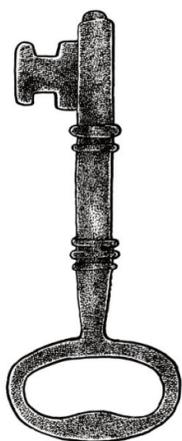
There will be a 50/50 raffle drawn at 7. Tickets will be sold only at the dinner

There will also be a cord of firewood raffle and 100 gallons of heating oil raffle, both also drawn at 7.

You do not have to be present to win the firewood or heating oil

If you would like to donate at any time, sponsor this team of 7 or simply cannot make this event, please consider sending a check payable to:

VT 4-H Shooting Sports
c/o Lisa Muzzey
307 South Street
Springfield, VT 05156



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THANKING OUR MUD SEASON WARRIORS

Living in Vermont is often not for the faint of heart, and this seems particularly true for anyone who has to travel our backroads during Vermont's infamous early Spring 'Mud Season.' So this shout out from Road Foreman Chuck Lawrence to his crew, and the citizens they serve, seems especially appropriate and timely for our April issue, and we agree with it wholeheartedly!

"I would like to start by thanking all of our fellow residents for their patience and understanding, which is helping us to get through this non-typical mud season.

"I would also like to thank our guys who have worked night and day without a single complaint to help ensure that the majority of Westminster's roads would stay open and passable."

*Chuck Lawrence
Road Foreman, Westminster*



GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER URGES CUSTOMERS TO GO PAPERLESS

Green Mountain Power is launching a new contest to encourage more customers to switch their paper energy statements for electronic ones. Going paperless is a simple choice that helps fight climate change, and then customers who sign up could win an iPad or an e-bike.

GMP already has about 57,000 customers enrolled in eBilling. Now, each time 5,000 new customers sign up, GMP will give away an iPad to a randomly selected eBilling customer until 100,000 customers are enrolled in eBilling. A winner will then be selected for a grand prize of an e-bike.

"It is such a simple way to cut your carbon footprint! GMP mails 225,000 energy statements every month, and each one is multiple pages of paper. Experts say on average, that each multi-page letter sent by regular mail generates more than 25 grams of carbon emissions. Going paperless and getting your energy statement over

email has many benefits," said GMP Vice President Robert Dostis, who leads the company's billing team. "It cuts carbon, cuts clutter, and saves trees. Plus, eBilling is convenient."

It is easy to sign up for eBilling if you have an online account, and you can set one up by using your GMP account number. With an online account and eBilling, you get an online energy statement and a convenient no-waste way to pay.

To add even more convenience, you can set up automatic, recurring payments. Plus, GMP's app makes all of this mobile. You can find it in the Apple Store or on Google Play.

You can sign up for eBilling here: <https://greenmountainpower.com/help/billing-payments/how-do-i-switch-to-paperless-billing/> and if you have questions, you can call GMP at 888-835-4672.

WESTMINSTER DENTAL

HYGIENIST JOINS ROCKINGHAM DENTAL CENTER



Rockingham Dental Center is pleased to welcome our new dental hygienist Julie Szuch of Westminster. Julie grew up in the area graduating from BFUHS in 1986 and received her hygiene degree from New Hampshire Technical Institute in 1988.

"I'm happy to be working back in the area and look forward to reconnecting with old acquaintances and meeting new faces. Dr Alabbadi and I share the same philosophy in that we want to provide excellent quality dental care while remaining mindful of the needs of the individual."

The dental center is located downstairs from the Rockingham Medical Group but is an independently owned practice. They are currently welcoming new patients.

BF WOMAN'S CLUB'S ANNUAL BFUHS ART SHOW

Members of the Bellows Falls Woman's Club will gather at Bellows Falls Union High School on April 9 for the annual club sponsored arts show.

They will view the student art in many categories as well as quilt entries and vote on the Club Favorite piece of art and quilting.

The art will be prejudged and ribbons awarded by the club for Honorable Mention, Third, Second, and First place. At noon, a luncheon will be served by the students in a Family and Consumer Science class.

Following this, club members will go to the auditorium to hear band and choral music. Announcement of art winners will be given, along with monetary prizes for the Club Favorites.

The club also gives a monetary honorarium to the school Family and Consumer Science, band, and choral departments. The club has sponsored this event for over forty years.

Tom Fontaine was the speaker at the March 12 club meeting. He is a teacher at Kurn Hattin and has written and published three books of historical fiction for middle school students.

Tom gave a snapshot of his personal life growing up and living in and near Bellows Falls, before retelling the story of the subject of his first book, a native Grafton boy who served in the Civil War as a messenger boy.

During the business meeting, plans for the May 5 high tea, a major fundraiser for the club, were outlined. Members signed up to help on the various committees. Tickets at \$20 will be available soon at Village Square Booksellers.

The tea will be held at the Masonic Temple, Westminister Street, from 3-5 p.m. Proceeds will help underwrite the club's high school scholarship.

GUESS WHO'S GOT A NEW FACEBOOK PAGE?

The Westminister Institute and the Butterfield Library now have a Facebook page!

Please visit our new page out and "like" us.

DISCUSSION OF FILM ON CHILDHOOD STRESS AT RFPL

Join us at the Rockingham Library Tuesday, April 9 at 6 p.m. for viewing and discussion of the film "Resilience: The Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope," the 2016 documentary about the Adverse Childhood Experiences study.

The ACE study was conducted by the CDC and Kaiser-Permanente from 1995-1997. Now ACEs are known to be one of the leading causes of everything from cancer, diabetes, addiction, and depression. Results of the ACE study have led to a change in the

WHAT'S UP AT TOWN HALL? - MUD SEASON

MUD SEASON: Mud season is almost over as I am writing this article and I just want to thank the Road Crew for their outstanding work on what turned out to be a severe mud season this year. Chuck Lawrence (our new Road Foreman) determined that running two shifts would be beneficial to keeping the ruts and mud at bay. For the most part, it turned out to the right decision. Thanks again to Chuck, Dan, Carson, Jason, Ben, and David.

TOWN HALL PROGRESS: In the next two weeks, the front steps on the Town Hall will be removed and a new set prepped and poured. This will push the access to the Town Hall to the platform lift or the back door. This work will be in coordination with the front doors also being replaced. These two projects are the last of Brennan's contract and it will lead us into adding heat and cooling to the upstairs. John T Stoodley received this bid and will start the week of April 14th. The final phase will be put out to bid in May.

NORTH WESTMINSTER COMMUNITY HOUSE: The Community House will be getting a new roof shortly. The bid went to Jones Brothers and I would expect them to get started when the weather breaks.

LAND FOR SALE: The Town has 19.1 acres of land for sale off of Pine Banks Road. If you are inter-

ested, please contact the Town Hall or Buffum Reality. This is a great opportunity at a great price.

ZONING IN OUR TOWN: Please remember that any exterior home improvements in the Historic Village needs a permit such as window replacement, removing trees, sheds, etc. The other Zoning Districts require a permit for any out building or addition equal to or greater than 150 sq. ft. If you have questions please feel free to call us. We are here to help not hinder your home improvement requests.

COMPOSTING: Just a quick reminder that you should be returning your attention to your composting. You will be needing it soon and it's time to rejuvenate it by stirring and adding a touch of water if it's under cover. This process will jump start the activity in the composted material which in turn will get it ready for when the garden work begins. Happy Spring.

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 Westminister Cares, Inc. Board of Directors met March 6th at the Westminister Institute with Vice President Lori Larue presiding. The following board members attended: Regina Borden (Secretary), Doug Oftedahl, Don Dawson, Pat Goodell, Sally Ryea, Heidi Anderson and Director Donna Dawson. Pete Harrison (President) and Miriam Lanata (Treasurer) were unable to attend.

Westminister 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 Westminister Cares, volunteering to deliver meals on wheels or driving neighbors to doctor appointments, working on a committee, or making a contribution can contact Donna Dawson at 722-3607 or by email at wecares@sover.net. Check us out online at www.westminstercares.org and like us on Face book.

Programs & Services Provided in February 2019

Meals-on-Wheels: WC volunteers delivered meals five days a week to 12 different people. In addition, two frozen entrees were delivered each Friday to eight people for weekend meals (16 total weekend meals). One new recipients started in January.

Transportation: During the month, 12 rides were provided by four volunteers who drove seniors to/from doctors, pharmacies, grocery shopping, the bank and our Healthy Aging Group.

Programs: Two Secrets of Healthy Aging group, two Gentle Yoga classes, 21 Strength Training classes, four Artist in Each of Us classes; four Chair Yoga classes; four Intermediate Tai Chi classes and four Beginner Tai Chi classes.

Assistance and Referrals: One Meals-on-Wheels intake/home visit was completed by Donna. Referred several clients to Senior Solutions for Medicare/Choices for Care information.

Medical Equipment – In February we loaned out four pieces of equipment; six pieces of equipment were returned to us and two pieces of equipment were donated to us.

Community Nurse Program – In February our Nurse was away.

Westminister Cares welcomes donations throughout the year from anyone wishing to remember or honor a loved one or friend.

Memorial and honorary donations for March 2019:

In memory of my sister and brother-in-law, Pat and Walt Jennison, from Betty Miller.

In memory of my wife, Joan Smidutz, from Bill Smidutz.

In memory of David Kissell from Mary Jo and David Robbin.

In memory of Bob Lober from Ila Mitchell.

In memory of Fred Robling Jr., (who would have been turning 90 this year), from Deb and Fred Robling III.

A Taste of Spring

by Alma Beals, Vermont Master Gardener and Naturalist

My friend, Gloria, and I attended the Boston Flower Show in March. She and I worked together at Hubbard Farms in Walpole, NH 30 years ago and we do this every year. We are tired of winter and need a “breath of spring.”

Years ago, the show was mostly displays of trees, shrubs and flowers with few vendors. Over the years, there have been more vendors and fewer flower displays. There are always lectures and we choose what lectures to attend.

This year we chose the herb lecture. Many of us grow herbs to be used fresh but another reason is to help pollinators. We use the leaves when they are ready and then let them flower. Pollinators are necessary to support the world’s food production.

As another “breath of spring,” my friend, Stephanie, and I attended the Botanic Garden of Smith College in Northampton for their spring bulb show. The first two greenhouses we entered were masses of blossoms which they called an explosion of color.

One of the volunteers explained how the bulbs required a period of cold. They were planted in pots by horticulture students last October and then placed in cold storage. In January, the pots of bulbs were moved into the warm greenhouses. Through careful timing and temperature control, the bulbs bloomed at the same time. Using this same method, many of us force bulbs to bloom early by storing pots of bulbs in a cellar or refrigerator.

Outside there is a rock garden that is the oldest rock garden in North America. The garden was modeled after the Rock Garden at the Royal Botanic Gardens in London in 1897, renovated in 1937 and again in 1983. The garden is an educational resource because it was designed as an extension of the teaching facilities. We did walk through it but being March, nothing was blooming. The garden will be well worth visiting in a few weeks. There is also a pond and a walking trail to enjoy.

I read in their last spring newsletter that Chief Arborist, John Berryhill, pointed out that a dawn redwood is their most admired and best known champion tree of several large trees that they have. An article that he wrote stated that to agree on a tree’s size as a champion, the three components of a tree’s size are the height, the girth of the trunk, and the canopy spread. On the Massachusetts state list of 31 champion trees, four have been found



at Smith. They are the dawn redwood, a Jersey elm, a London plane and a ginko. They are hoping to add their European linden to the list.

Now that I’ve had my “breath of spring,” and can actually see bare ground, I’m ready for birding. The water is opening up at Allen’s Swamp and I’m back to stopping every morning after my walk to observe the Canada geese flying in and out.



The weekend of July 20 and 21 is the Annual Westminster Cares Garden Tour. This fundraiser for Westminster Cares features the gardens of Gordon and Mary Hayward, and Cyndy Fine’s Kismet Garden. Watch the pages of the Gazette for more information as the event nears.

RFPL ANNUAL BOOK SALE - DONATIONS ACCEPTED

The Rockingham Free Public Library will be hosting their annual book sale on Saturday, April 6 through Saturday, May 11, and donations are welcome now.

Relieve those overflowing shelves, free up some space and support your local library. The Friends of the Library will be hosting a special Book Sale on Friday, April 5 from 5 to 8 p.m. just for Friends’ members. Join the Friends to get early access to the Library book sale.



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.

For more information, call the Library at 463-4270, visit rockinghamlibrary.org or stop by the Library at 65 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls.

SEVCA SEEKS DONATIONS TO HELP THE HOMELESS

Homelessness, or the imminent threat of homelessness, is a persistent problem affecting hundreds of area households annually, yet the funding required to address it doesn’t come close to matching the need.

Affordable housing is scarce, and housing costs routinely far exceed the recommended 30 percent of income for many Windham and Windsor County households, putting pressure on scarce resources and leading to a housing crisis for many.

SEVCA is currently seeking private donations for its eviction-prevention and rehousing work, as most of this year’s program funding has been exhausted.

According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, from 2007 – 2017 in Vermont, the number of severely cost-burdened households (paying over 50 percent of their income on housing) increased by 28 percent, coinciding with an 18 percent increase in homelessness over the period (including a 21 percent increase in family homelessness and a 47 percent increase in homelessness among veterans).

The most recent report by the National Low Income Housing Coalition (2018) found Vermont to have the 6th most expensive housing in non-metro areas in the nation.

SEVCA helps re-house or prevent homelessness for over 400 Windham and Windsor County households annually through a combination of private and public resources, providing crisis intervention, counseling, case management, and financial assistance to help them secure or maintain a safe, affordable place to live. The organization also provides budget counseling and follow-up services to improve the financial stability of these low-income households, and works closely with local coalitions of service providers to effectively coordinate services.

Donations from the public, businesses, and other non-governmental sources are critically important because they give SEVCA the flexibility to meet the complex needs of those who might not qualify for help from more restrictive funding sources. To donate to SEVCA’s Housing Assistance Fund, visit www.sevca.org and click on the DONATE button, or send checks to SEVCA Housing Assistance, 91 Buck Drive, Westminster, VT 05158. For more information contact Becky Himlin, Director of Planning and Development, at bhimlin@sevca.org.

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 April 2nd at 7:00 PM The Prudential Committee normally meets once or twice a month. A warning will be posted 48 hours prior to each meeting.

- Number of calls in February: 39
- Number of calls through March 28th: 32
- Number of calls calendar year to Date: 104
- Number of calls fiscal year to date: 329

Association Meeting: The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association met for their regular meeting March 5th with Vice President Mike Fawcett presiding. There were 19 members present and six member excused. Currently there are 37 members of the volunteer fire department.

Emergency responses: We have had another busy month in March with 32 total calls through the 27th. The breakdown goes like this: 21 rescue/medical calls; five motor vehicle accidents; one alarm activation; one mutual aid call to Springfield; one flooded cellar; one lift assist; one for wires down and one propane odor investigation.

Mud Season: Although the worst of mud season may be behind us or not, 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 is unavoidable, be sure to drive toward the center when possible. The shoulders

are apt to 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.

The wardens are: Warden Cole Streeter 722-3178; Deputy Warden Mark Lund 463-9355; Deputy Warden Pat Haas 387-57789.

Signs: There are many places out there that do not have 911 address sign 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 managers office at 722-4255. If you have a fire or need of an ambulance and your location is difficult to find, valuable time could be taken up trying to figure out where the emergency is.

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.

Dishes: Several dishes and platters have been left behind at the fire house from functions using the facility. Stop by and claim yours. We need to return them to the rightful owners.

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 website www.westminsterfire-andrescue.org.

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

Aged in Vermont

Westminster Cares, Inc.

AN EPIDEMIC OF LONELINESS: NOT JUST AN ISSUE FOR THE ELDERLY

by Frank A. Bures

An unsolicited email I received from a medical site about current “news” featured an article about the epidemic of loneliness. Who’d a thunk?

I perused it patiently, went to the references, then “googled” the topic. Voila! There’s a flood of writing about the idea and issue. It’s not new either. Without exhausting the resources, I found papers on it from the late 1990s, beginning in England. British Prime Minister Theresa May just appointed a minister of loneliness (a lonely job?).

The present piece stated loneliness affects 47 percent of adults, double the number a few decades ago. It is associated with a 26 percent increased risk of early mortality, aka dying, equivalent to smoking 15 cigarettes a day or being obese. It is also associated with increased body mass index, higher blood pressure, more risk for depression or personality disorders, psychoses and suicide.

Published in 2018 by Cigna, a mammoth medical insurance company, a survey was done of more 20,000 adults 18 years or older utilizing a UCLA Loneliness Scale, a 20-question questionnaire to assess subjective feelings of loneliness, as well as social isolation. Some positive findings from the study reinforced the social nature of human and the importance of having communities.

People who are less lonely are more likely to have regular, meaningful, in-person relations; are in good overall physical and mental health; have achieved balance in daily activities; are employed and have good coworker relationships.

The lonely side findings show:

1. 46 percent report feeling alone, or 47 percent left out;
2. 27 percent rarely feel there are people who understand them;
3. 43 percent feel their relationships aren’t meaningful and they are isolated from others;
4. 20 percent rarely feel close to people or that they have people they can talk to;
5. 48 percent of single parents or guardians feel lonely even though they live with children;
6. 53 percent have meaningful in-person social interactions, being able to have a conversation with a friend or spending quality time with family on a regular basis; 18-22 year olds, labeled Generation Z, claim to be loneliest and in worse health than their elders; 43.5

percent of heavy social media users report the lonelies, but 41.7 percent who never use it also have the lonelies. The survey offers ideas to remedy loneliness as well.

Former Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, M.D., has been a champion of promoting awareness of the idea of loneliness being an epidemic since he was a general internal medicine doctor in Boston.

He said in a *Washington Post* article that in medicine we get very little guidance on how to approach emotional well-being. I would add that aspect is shunted off to other social disciplines because it is so difficult to test and treat. It is not sexy, dramatic, or worth a TV series like ER.

One study showed clearly that loneliness is linked to increased doctor visits. Joke (or not): “All the names in my address book end in M.D.” The difficulty is you can’t prescribe a pill or procedure for it.

John Cacioppo, a prominent psychologist, has written extensively about loneliness and has a book out “Human Nature and the Need for Social Connection.” He says there is today a worldwide epidemic of disconnection that until now has been regarded as little different than a personal weakness or a distressing state with no redeeming features, in other words not to be discussed in public. This is much like depression’s history in all societies over centuries. There is nothing trivial, comical or poignantly romantic about being lonely.

Other opinions wax that loneliness comes from a loss of self-worth and being valued by someone. I would side with that. This is a tough subject to define, discuss, and treat or help. Many social networks like churches, clubs or lodges are support groups for folks, but maybe not as much today as in the past. Calling someone, writing a note, or now sending an email can be significant therapy.

My opinion is that we should recall front porches on summer nights. How well I remember after supper in the twilight, folks and families coming out to perch on porches until other neighbors appeared. Then one or the other would wander over to chat about stuff. You kept in touch. You learned things about your neighbors — even if you didn’t always agree. But you belonged to and cared for each other.

We’re not going back to those hot summer nights and root beer floats. But we need a modern version of front porch communication, not electronic isolation. My opinion. Your opinion?

Frank A. Bures is a semi-retired dermatologist.

FILM EXPLORES LIFE OF LOCAL CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST

Keene State College Emeritus Professor Larry Benaquist presents the documentary film *Here Am I, Send Me: The Journey of Jonathan Daniels* on April 3 at 7 p.m. at the Rockingham Library.

This is the true story of a young man from Keene, N.H. who interrupted his studies for the Episcopal ministry to go south in March 1965 to work with Martin Luther King and Stokely Carmichael to assist with voter registration efforts in central Alabama.

Extremely dangerous work, Jonathan stayed when others left. On August 20, 1965 he died while pulling a young African-American woman out of the line of fire of a deputy sheriff’s gun.

This film was made over a period of years by Larry Benaquist in collaboration with William Sullivan (also a retired KSC faculty member) and with the assistance of students from the KSC Film Studies program.

Aired nationally on PBS, it continues to raise public awareness of the role northerners played in the civil rights movement.

Larry Benaquist will introduce the film and be available for questions after the film.

For more information, call the Library at 463-4270, visit rockinghamlibrary.org, email programming@rockinghamlibrary.org or stop by the Library at 65 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls.

ADDITIONAL FUEL ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE

This winter has seen some extended cold snaps and spikes in the price of fuel, and many households with low income are at the point when they no longer have resources to keep the heat on.

In fact, heating/energy costs for households with low income average about \$2,000 more than they can afford every year. Most households eligible for Seasonal Fuel Assistance have used up their benefit and many have come to SEVCA for Crisis Fuel Assistance, which in most cases is limited to one assist. SEVCA has begun to see many desperate families who still need emergency fuel assistance but don’t qualify for a second assist.

Fortunately, the state has now provided additional funding to provide further assistance this winter for some of the most vulnerable families—those whose income is at or below 150 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and including households with a disabled or elderly member, a young child, or a compelling situation, such as a death in the family, illness, or an unanticipated expense causing extenuating circumstances.

“Staff members have recently been reporting a large increase in households who have exhausted their fuel benefit and simply don’t have the funds to continue to heat their homes,” said Pat Burke, Director of SEVCA’s Family Services Program, which provides Crisis Fuel Assistance. “We’re thrilled that more local residents in need will now have the opportunity for a second Crisis Fuel assist.”

The Crisis Fuel program is available through the second week in April for those facing a heating emergency. To be eligible for Crisis Fuel assistance, households must

have had extenuating circumstances that led to the heating emergency (defined as being very close to being out of fuel or out of fuel without money to buy more), and income at or below 200 percent of the FPL, which is based on household size; e.g., \$4,184/month (gross) for a family of four.

Most households must first apply for and receive Seasonal Fuel Assistance before they can be considered for Crisis Fuel, which SEVCA can assist with. SEVCA may also be able to arrange an emergency furnace repair or replacement for qualified homeowners whose furnaces stop working or become unsafe to operate. Households facing a heating emergency that don’t fit the criteria for the Crisis Fuel program should still contact SEVCA, as there may be other funds raised from private sources that can be used to help them.

For more information, call SEVCA toll-free at (800) 464-9951 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday. Applicants in northern Windham County may also call that number to schedule an appointment. Brattleboro area applicants should call 254-2795; Springfield area applicants, 885-6153; and White River Junction area applicants, 295-5215. Applicants must bring paystubs or other proof of income, know how much fuel is left in their tank, and provide information about their fuel dealer. Crisis Fuel Assistance is available until the second Friday in April (or until funding is depleted).

For Crisis Fuel Assistance on weekends and holidays ONLY, call 1-866-331-7741, and for furnace repair or replacement assistance on weekends, holidays, or for after-hours emergencies, call 1-877-295-7998.

COMPASS SCHOOL BINGO : THURSDAY, APRIL 25

Last Thursday of the Month Bingo has been great fun and a good fundraiser for the Compass School 11th grade Global Connections travels to Spain. We’ve had good crowds for this lively and inexpensive night out.

Please tell your friends and neighbors about this. It is really a fun evening out and everyone seems to enjoy

the experience. We will be having Bingo the last Thursday of every month to support the junior class trip. We plan to continue Bingo into June, take July off, and start back up in August.

Cash prizes, only 50 cents per card, refreshments and food on sale. Please join us.

WESTMINSTER MYSTERY PHOTO



We had a couple of interesting responses to last month’s Mystery Photo (above). So, we’re running the photo again, along with the information we received.

Ann and Frank Kebbell wrote: “That’s, our house! The little white house at the end of Shattuck Road at the north end of the village East Parish. We were given a copy of the photo by the Anderson’s when we bought the house from them in 1985.

“I remember they thought the people may be ancestors of Barbara Greenwood who grew up in the house when it was owned by her grandparents the Shattucks, who also owned and ran the store in the middle of town. Possibly the people were members of the Barbour family? Since this picture was taken, a room was added on the end of the house where the woman and child stand. We changed the pitch of the front porch and that of the shed roof of the barn in the rear.”

We also received this letter, though we are not exactly sure who it is from. If the writer would like to identify themselves, that would be nice. But here is the fascinating note we received about the photo;

“This old house is the house of Rowland and Lillian Barber. That is their daughter Linn with them and also their horse Gus. Mr. and Mrs. Barber were married May 9, 1897 in Jewett City, Ct. and bought the house that Judy and Pete Harrison live in now in Westminster. He was a mail carrier with his horse, Morgan Gus, and wagon and she worked at Kurn Hattin. I was to understand that he delivered the mail for 25 years without missing a day. A family story that I can’t prove.

“After living there for awhile, they were approached and told that they had been swindled and that they had bought a house that did not belong to the person that they had bought it from. A hard story to tell, and hard for them to accept; they had to move to the oldest and poorest house in town, which is the house that you see in this picture.

I was brought up in that house until I got married and moved out in 1959. It was a happy house. My parents, Alice and Harold Shattuck, were social people. Many a party or get-together was held in that house. In the barn there was a pool hall that was the local get-together place in my teen years.

Family gathered there at the house all the time along with many friends. Alice and Harold Shattuck were owners of Shattuck’s IGA Store. I never knew my grandfather. I was born in June and he died in August. Gus was a mean ornery horse, and his three daughters had plenty of horse stories to tell about their father and the mail route.

AN EVENING OF POETRY & SONG

Main Street Arts presents The Wound Dresser plus additional works for voice and piano. An evening filled with the poetry of Walt Whitman and the music of John Adam’s.

Paul Soper, Baritone and Hugh Keelan on piano. Sunday, April 14 at 3 p.m. at Main Street Arts in Saxtons River. All tickets \$17.

Go to www.mainstreetarts.org for additional information and to purchase tickets.

SINGING WORKSHOP FOR BEGINNERS & NON-SINGERS

A Fear of Singing Breakthrough Workshop: For “Non-Singers” and Beginners will be held on Sunday, April 7 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Stone Church Center in Bellows Falls.

Nancy Salwen, of The Fear of Singing Breakthrough Program, is offering a full-day singing workshop/retreat for adults and teens, with a special focus on beginners called, Fear of Singing: Learn to Sing Even If You Think You Can’t Carry a Tune!

“I believe that singing is the birthright of absolutely everybody — even people who don’t have tons of natural, obvious aptitude can learn, and experience tremendous joy,” says Salwen. “I see this happen all the time in workshops and lessons — beginners, and even people who think of themselves as “non-singers,” need to be given the right kind of support, feedback, and guidance. It is an extraordinary privilege for me to accompany people in this process.”

This workshop is an opportunity for anyone who wishes they could sing to take the first steps, as well as for people with some singing experience who would like to feel more comfortable and expressive with their voice. Participants will explore their voices in supportive and fun ways, using games, improvisations and accessible songs from around the world, taking away useful techniques to help them practice at home if they wish.

Salwen is a certified Music Together teacher and a graduate of Music for People’s Musicianship and Leadership program.

Registration is required. To sign up or learn more, contact Salwen at 603-721-1492, nancy@salwen.net or through her website <https://fearofsingings.com/bellows-falls-april-2019/>.

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.

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.

Souper Wednesday

Every Wednesday 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.

APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE FOR FREE TAX RETURN PREP

Income-eligible Windsor and Windham County residents can now schedule an appointment for free tax preparation assistance through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, offered by SEVCA in collaboration with Granite United Way. SEVCA has experienced IRS-certified volunteers trained and ready to prepare tax returns for area taxpayers with household income up to \$54,000.

Appointments are available on select dates in Westminster, White River Junction, and Windsor through the second week of April. Residents of nearby communities in New Hampshire may also make appointments.

VITA volunteers can help with special credits, such as the Earned Income Tax and the Affordable Care Act's Premium Tax Credits. They also prepare Vermont income tax returns, Homestead Declarations for property tax adjustments, and Renter's Rebate claims. In addition to free tax return assistance, VITA sites offer free electronic filing.

SEVCA will provide free tax assistance by appointment only at the following locations:

SEVCA's main office in Westminster on Tuesdays (8:45 am - 4 pm)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church in White River Junction on Mondays (10:45 am - 7:30 pm)

Windsor Resource Connection Center on select Thursdays (9 am - 3:30 pm)

Appointments in Westminster can be made by calling 800-464-9951. For appointments at White River Junction or Windsor locations, call 866-444-4211 (or simply 2-1-1 from a NH phone), or use the online scheduling system at <http://nhtaxhelp.org>. Provide your contact information, including address, email and phone number in case of weather cancellations.

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.
Sunday, April 7, 10 am - Worship and Communion - Fifth Sunday of Lent
Wednesday, April 3, 10, 17, 24, Noon to 2 p.m.. Souper Wednesday.
Sunday, April 14, 10 am - Worship, Palm Sunday.
Thursday, April 18, Maundy Thursday. Stone Soup, served at 5:30 pm.
Service and Communion begins at 6:00 pm.
Friday, April 19, 6 p.m., Good Friday Service.
Sunday, April 21, 6 a.m.. Easter Sunrise Service at Kurn Hattin, Breakfast after at the church.
Sunday, April 21, 10 am, Worship, Easter Sunday
Saturday, April 27, 5:00 pm and 6:15 pm, Roast Pork Supper
Sunday, April 28, 10:00 am, Worship.
Wednesday, May 1, Noon to 2 p.m., Cookout and Potluck to end Souper Wednesdays

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. She 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 information at www.walpolebiblechurch.org.

Walpole Unitarian Church

The corner of Union and Main Streets, Walpole, NH
Services begin at 10:am with Rev. Elaine Bomford.
First Sunday of each month is Circle Sunday with visiting presenters.
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, April 22 at 5 p.m. at the Rockingham Library.

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.



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Joyce Sullivan

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The Deadline for the May Issue of the Westminster Gazette is Wednesday, April 24th Publication Date is Tuesday, April 30th To Contact the Westminster Gazette E-mail: westminsternews@gmail.com

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- Apothecary

BELLOWS FALLS ROTARY CLUB

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

Service above self throughout our community and world.

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.

CIVIL WAR SONGS PROGRAM IN WALPOLE



Rally 'Round the Flag: the American Civil War Through Folksong at the Walpole Town Hall

The Hardtacks, a musical duo, will present Rally 'Round the Flag: the American Civil War Through Folksong at a Walpole Historical Society event on Friday, April 26, in the Walpole Town Hall at 7 p.m.

Woody Pringle and Marek Bennett present an overview of the American Civil War through the lens of period music. Audience members participate and sing along as the presenters explore lyrics, documents, and visual images.

Through camp songs, parlor music, hymns, battlefield rallying cries, and fiddle tunes, Pringle and Bennett examine the folksong as a means to enact living history, share perspectives and influence public perceptions of events. Showcasing numerous instruments, the presenters challenge participants to find new connections between song, art, and politics in American history.

This event is funded courtesy of the New Hampshire Humanities Council. Refreshments will be available.

WHPA ANNUAL MEETING & UPCOMING EVENTS

On Sunday, April 28, from 4 to 6 p.m. the Windham Hill Pinnacle Association will hold its Annual Meeting and Program: The Ecology of Hope, at Main Street Arts at 35 Main Street in Saxtons River.

WHPA members and the public are encouraged to come early and attend the brief business meeting. Also the volunteer of the year award will be announced.

Our speaker is Dr. Cheryl Charles who will draw on her work to connect children with nature in their everyday lives. Her topic is: "The Ecology of Hope: How Connecting with Nature Helps Us Care for Ourselves and the Earth."

Pinnacle Programs coming up include:

May 4, Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to noon. Spring Wildflower Walk. (Rain date May 5th) Libby Mills and Sarah Waldo will lead this stroll to discover the flowers of the hardwood forest. Meet at Westminster West Church to carpool to the mystery site. To register contact sarah_waldo@hotmail.com or 387-6036.

May 5, Sunday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.. Herricks Cove Activity. Rain or shine. Vanessa Stern and Rick Cowan will host a table at the Herricks Cove Wildlife Festival with maps, program information, and a nature-based craft project for children. Herricks Cove is off Missing Link Road (Route 5) in Rockingham. Visit Pinnacle's website for more information closer to the event.

May 5, Sunday, 10 a.m. to noon. The Mysterious Lives of Trees: How trees help us mitigate global warming. Tim Morton Vermont State Forester and Silas Robert from WHPA, will lead this walk in the woods. Meet at the Holden Kiosk. For more details and registration, contact Tony Coven at 387-6650.

CLIMATE WORKSHOP & FILM

The Westminster West Library will host a Drawdown Workshop and film, presented by Laurel Green on Friday, April 5 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Local farmer and activist Laurel Green will lead this workshop, which is designed to shift the conversation around global warming and is useful to anyone interested in climate crisis issues.

It is meant to give people an encouraging place to stand and a clear idea of what actions they can take to contribute to reversing global warming. Laurel would especially like to have young people and adults of all ages participate.

The workshop, developed by the Pachmama Alliance in collaboration with the Drawdown Project, includes several short videos, listening exchanges, and group activities. A handout with 100 Drawdown Solutions will be available to take home.

RETIRING LEGISLATOR HONORED

By Susan Harlow

David L. Deen of Westminster, who just retired after 30 years serving in the Vermont Legislature, has been honored with two distinguished awards:

* The Sierra Club Distinguished Service Award, given by the Sierra Club, honors people in public service for their long-term commitment to conservation.

* The Vermont Conservation Voters Lifetime Achievement Award was created

to recognize an individual who has demonstrated a long history of commitment to the protection of Vermont's environment and communities, and to the careful stewardship of the state's natural resources. It also notes that Deen's commitment resulted in significant advances in public policy to achieve those goals.

Deen was the first Democrat ever elected to the Vermont Senate from Windham County, and he served from 1987-1988. He was then elected to the Vermont House in 1991.

In the House he served as vice-chair of the Ways and Means committee; and chair of the Fish and Wildlife;



the Natural Resources and Energy; the Fish, Wildlife and Water Resources; and the Natural Resource, Fish and Wildlife committees.

The Democratic Caucus elected him at-large member of the House Rules Committee for ten bienniums.

Deen worked for 19 years as river steward in the upper Connecticut River watershed for the Connecticut River Watershed Council. He is now an honorary member of the board of trustees of the Watershed Council, newly renamed the Connecticut River Conservancy.

Deen, who loves flyfishing and the outdoors, owned and operated STRICTLY TROUT Flyfishing Guide Service, the oldest professional flyfishing guide service in Vermont, from 1983 to 2010. Previous to that, he worked as executive director of the Southern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) program for nine years.

Now he volunteers for the Vermont Community Foundation, the Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center, the Connecticut River chapter of Trout Unlimited, and the Science Museum at Grafton.

WESTMINSTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY THANKS VOLUNTEERS



Above, Alice Caggiano and Racheal Scott, who do most of WHS's accessioning and curating. Photo by Obe Lisai.

The Westminster Historical Society thanks the voters for their support of our first-ever request to the town for supplemental funding.

You have supported us for many years by housing the museum on the upper floor of the Town Hall, and we remain grateful for that continued support as well.

We also extend thanks to the Institute, which has rented us a spacious room to house our archives and conduct research. The space is beautiful, and will be a pleasure to work in. Rent and insurance have been funded by a generous grant from the Dascomb Charitable Trust.

Finally, our heartfelt gratitude goes to Gary and Shane Lisai, and Travis (who works at the Bellows Falls store), for facilitating the move of the archives.

Lisai's Market took delivery of new shelving, Gary and Travis brought it to the Institute, and later Gary and Shane Lisai carried many heavy boxes down the Town Hall stairs, and up the Institute elevator to their new home. It was hard work and those guys were tired that evening.

We thank them for their dedication to conserving Westminster history, and for making the move easy for us.

IT'S SUGAR SEASON AT KURN HATTIN

The cold temps caused Kurn Hattin Homes to get a late start in maple sugaring this year.

All students help in the sugaring process.

Pictured are farm managers Real Bazin and Conor Fitzgerald with some of our youngest helpers.

End result? An appreciation of where real food comes from, and pancakes with syrup they helped make!



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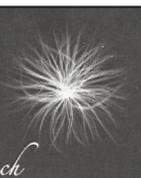
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BEEKEEPING WORKSHOPS
 Charles Andros, former NH/VT Apiary Inspector, will hold beekeeping workshops from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 27, Saturday, May 18, Saturday, July 13 and Saturday, September 7.
 Topics of discussion in the spring workwhops will be early spring management: locating apiaries, equipment, handling bees, feeding syrup and supplements, making nuclei, reversing, and requeening. Registration is required by emailing lindenap@gmail.com or calling 603-756-9056.
 Topics of discussion in the fall event will include treatment of nosema and mites (including using oxalic acid), winter preparations, winter protein and carbohydrate supplements, and making beeswax hand creams.
 The cost is \$35 each for any workshop, children under 18 attend for free when accompanied by a parent. The workshops are held at 18 MacLean Road in Alstead, NH.

**April Business of the Month:
 Genius Loci, LLC**



Genius Loci, LLC
 Ecological Landscape Design, Installation & Stewardship
 By Cyndy Fine, Landscape Designer, Gardener and 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 47 years, 23 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 or pond for our increasingly hot summers? A butterfly garden? Or maybe your drive and entryway could 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 plant material from nearby growers whenever possible, and hiring specialized local contractors.

To learn more about Genius Loci, call us at 802/376-7275, visit our website www.geniuslocidesign.com, or my own gardens on the Westminister Cares Garden Tour, July 20th and 21st.

I will also be hosting a benefit for Brattleboro Area Hospice in my gardens on Friday, July 26th.

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

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