

Westminster Gazette



po box 147 westminster vt 05158

Our Community Newspaper @ www.westminstervt.org

Vol. 15, No. 2 February 2019

20TH ANNIVERSARY FIESTA AT COMPASS

On Saturday, March 2, Compass School will host a Spanish inspired dinner and a musical performance by Eugene and Julian's Latin Party Band featuring renowned musicians Eugene Uman and Julian Gerstin.

All proceeds of the evening benefit the Compass junior class Global Connections trip to Spain, ensuring every 11th grader can have this experience regardless of family economic circumstance.

Events begin at 6 p.m with a fabulous, multi-course dinner, along with a silent auction including gift certificates to area businesses, fine arts, furniture, clothing, and much more.

This year's Fiesta is a special celebration of Compass School's milestone 20th Anniversary! The school will be decorated with photos and materials from the past two decades, and founding board members Bob Ross and Matt Peake will share some remarks.

The music features Eugene Uman, a pianist and composer who has performed with greats Sheila Jordan, Jay Clayton, George Mraz, Jimmy Heath, Donald Byrd, and many others. Eugene and Julian will bring their 6-piece Latin Jazz Party Band to the Fiesta where they will surely be ripping it up!

The Global Connections Program focuses on cultural immersion, social justice, and international understanding. It is an integral part of the junior class curriculum, inspiring students to broaden their horizons as global citizens. The Global Connections Program began in 2003 and since then Compass has had over 150 students travel to locations including Cuba, Nicaragua, Mexico, India, Ecuador, the Dominican Republic, and Peru.

This fundraising dinner and concert is key to making this travel program affordable to all 11th graders regardless of family income. Come celebrate the school's 20th Anniversary, hear some great music, enjoy a gala meal, and support this



unique opportunity. Tickets will be available at the door or can be purchased ahead of time from Compass School (802-463-2525), or can be reserved by emailing maera@compass-school.org.

The Compass School is an innovative, nonprofit, nonsectarian independent day school in Westminster, Vermont founded in 1999. It offers an engaging educational option for area students in grades 7 – 12.

All-inclusive tickets for dinner and music are just \$18 for adults and \$10 for students (and \$48 for a family) – a fun and very affordable night out.

WESTMINSTER CARES RECEIVES DONATION

Westminster Cares would like to express sincere appreciation for the contributions of so many members of the community—individuals, neighbors, families and businesses—towards our 2018-2019 Annual Appeal. Director Donna Dawson noted, "Every single donation is important to us. These funds will help to provide much needed programs and services for our seniors and adults with disabilities who need assistance. Each week we get closer to reaching our fundraising goal. Thank you!"

Several local organizations contributed to making the holidays brighter for older members of our community: the Women's Fellowship group of the First Congregational Church of Westminster donated holiday boxes filled with treats, decorations; non-perishable food and small gifts for Meals-on-Wheels recipients. The Congregational Church of Westminster West donated gift cards from local grocery stores and gas stations so that those in need would not have to go without. We are so fortunate to live in a community that cares about seniors and those who may be vulnerable and in crisis.

It's not too late to make a contribution! The Annual Appeal will continue throughout the winter. Donations are appreciated at any time of year. Donations that are made to honor or memorialize individuals will continue to be listed monthly in the Westminster Gazette.



WESTMINSTER INSTITUTE & BUTTERFIELD LIBRARY FAQs

As people become familiar with the Westminster Institute and Butterfield Library, they sometimes wonder what the facility is and how it functions, how it came into being, etc. We gathered some questions that we most often hear and offer some information about them.

What, exactly, is the Westminster Institute?

The Westminster Institute is a community center that was built in the early 1920's, and dedicated on July 30, 1924. It was intended to provide a public library and a facility to be used for "institutional and educational purposes", according to a news article at the time. The acquisition of land and then building the Institute took place largely through the generosity and leadership of George Dascomb. It was built and continues to be operated by the Westminster East Parish, Mr. Dascomb having been the original president of the organization, and although primarily serving the east parish at the outset it soon evolved to serve the entire town as it does today. Specific uses changed over the years

as did people's needs and desires, but the general purpose has continued for nearly 100 years.

What is the "Westminster East Parish"?

The Town of Westminster was subdivided into east & west parishes by an act of the Legislature in 1787, the reasons for which are not clear to us. The dividing line is illustrated on a map produced in 1869, which exists at the Town Office and at the Institute. In later amendments the State Legislature gave the East Parish limited municipal authorities (to own property, establish a public library, collect and spend funds, etc), and set procedures for meetings and for electing a "board of managers".

Is the Institute owned by the Town?

No, it's not. The Institute is owned by the Westminster East Parish, which maintains the Institute and its grounds for the benefit of the Town.

(Continued on Page 2 - "FAQs")

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.

FAQS - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

But following long standing tradition, the Institute is operated for the benefit of the entire Town of Westminster and privileges to use the Institute and the Butterfield Library extend to all Westminster residents.

The Institute serves a number of Town functions in addition to providing a public library. Importantly, use is free for public meetings and hearings by any Town of Westminster boards & commissions, other public meetings for Westminster residents, use by Westminster Schools (Center School, Kurn Hattin and Compass School), and for meetings of other community groups; all of those are at no fee.

How are the Westminster Institute and Butterfield Library funded?

Funds that were originally received from George Dascomb and Isaac Butterfield, and augmented with other gifts over the years, were invested and the proceeds used to offset expenses. That investment fund still exists and offsets over 80% of expenses in a given budget year. But we must use the fund earnings carefully and protect the principal so that it will be there to support the Institute for the next 100 years as well. In 2019 the East parish will request modest Town funding to help support the Butterfield Library, the first time such a request is made.

Modest fees were established in the past for some uses, including private parties and similar functions, classes or public events for which attendance fees are charged, etc. Those have been raised a bit in recent years to keep up with costs, and they have been adjusted so that non-residents and commercial activities—of which there are very few—pay a significantly higher fee than residents.

Is the Butterfield Library part of the Westminster Institute?

Yes. Funds were left in the will of Isaac Butterfield, an early resident of Westminster living in Boston at the time of his death, to establish a public library in Westminster; hence the name. There were some 20 or more years between the time of Butterfield's death and when the funds were actually received, but they formed "the nucleus for this undertaking...(and) the balance of the funds were furnished by George A. Dascomb", according to the Rutland Herald in 1924.

Is the Butterfield Library a public library?

Yes, it is a public library, established for that purpose nearly 100 years ago. Residents from all parts of town can and do use the Butterfield Library to borrow books and tapes, obtain books through inter-library loan, borrow free 'eBooks' from the Green Mountain Library Consortium, use free day passes to many Vermont state parks & historic sites, and more. There is no fee for Westminster residents to have a library card and access to these services.

Are future changes planned for the Institute?

Yes, there are plans and projects underway to strengthen the Institute and improve it and the Library in coming years. A community forum was held a few years ago to gather ideas and suggestions, and a more formal strategic planning process helped the board identify and prioritize possible improvements.

Primary among those were improvements to the North Room to make it a better and more attractive meeting space for various small groups. With additional support from The Dascomb Trust the fluorescent lights that had been installed in the North Room were replaced with appropriate period lighting and rugs were installed to make the room more comfortable. Other improvements to the entry way also are in progress, and upgrades in the gym and library are on the horizon.

Regarding infrastructure, new boilers were installed several years ago and electrical upgrades continue, both to conserve energy and reduce future costs, and we hope to pave the driveway and rear parking area in 2019.

Do you have any questions or suggestions about the Institute or the Butterfield Library? We'd be happy to hear from you, and when we don't know the answer we learn a lot finding it out. Please email those to jimmat-teau@gmail.com.




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WARNING FOR THE 2019 ANNUAL MEETING - PART 1**TOWN OF WESTMINSTER, TOWN FIRE DISTRICT NUMBER 3 and
TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT****2019**

The legal voters of the Town of Westminster, Town Fire District Number 3, and Westminster Town School District are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Bellows Falls Union High School Auditorium in Westminster, Vermont on **Saturday March 2, 2019** at ten o'clock in the morning (10:00A.M.) to take action on the Articles following Article 1.

The meeting will be recessed to the Westminster Institute, East Parish, Westminster, Vermont to meet at eight o'clock in the forenoon (8:00 A.M.) on **Tuesday, March 5, 2019** for the consideration of Article 1, by Australian Ballot. The polls shall remain open until seven o'clock in the evening (7:00 P.M.) at which time the meeting will recess to meet at the Bellows Falls Union High School Auditorium at eight o'clock in the evening (8:00 P.M.) on **Tuesday, March 5, 2019** to consider any remaining articles, if necessary.

Article 1: To choose all Town Officers, Town Fire District Number 3 Officers, and Town School District Officers, by Australian ballot, Tuesday, March 5, 2019 from eight o'clock in the forenoon (8:00 A.M.) until seven o'clock in the evening (7:00 P.M.).

Article 2: **To hear the reports of the Town Officers and to take action thereupon.**

Article 3: To see if the voters of the Town of Westminster will raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,025,130 to pay the indebtedness of the Town, repair highways and pay general expenses of the Town for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020.

Article 4: To see if the voters of the Town of Westminster will raise and appropriate the sum of \$130,000 for the Town Highway Equipment Reserve Fund.

Article 5: To see if the voters of the Town of Westminster will raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 for the Bridge Rehabilitation Reserve Fund.

Article 6: To see if the voters of the Town of Westminster will raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,200 in addition to the sum (\$4,200) included in the budget proposed by the Selectboard making the total \$8,400, for the support of the Westminster West Public Library.

ARTICLE CONTINUED ON PAGE 7**WESTMINSTER
GAZETTE UPDATE**

The Westminster Gazette would like to express it's appreciation to all of our underwriters, advertisers, donors and volunteers who serve on our board and deliver the paper to local businesses.

The Gazette is a free, monthly paper that reaches close to 1,400 households and businesses in the greater Westminster area, including Bellows Falls and Walpole, NH, reporting on news and events submitted by community members.

The Gazette runs on a very modest budget and is facing additional expenses due to postage and the recent loss of our long time printer. We will be presenting at Town Meeting a request to increase our town funding from \$4,600 to \$5,400 to help offset the anticipated shortfall.

We are also expanding our request to the community for donations, whether as an advertiser, underwriter or volunteer, to ensure that we can continue to provide this paper to Westminster residents.

We are asking for your support and hope you have enjoyed the Gazette.

If you would like to help, please contact us at westminsternews@gmail.com.

On behalf of the Gazette Board, it's been wonderful to be a part of such a great paper.

*Charmion Handy, Board
Chairwoman*

WHAT'S UP AT TOWN HALL? - PROPERTY TAXES DUE, TOWN MEETING MARCH 2ND

PROPERTY TAXES DUE: The second installment of property taxes are due Monday, February 11th. For your convenience, the Town Hall will remain open until 6:00 p.m. on that day.

TOWN MEETING: Town Meeting is Saturday March 2nd starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Bellows Falls Union High School. The Selectboard has agreed to 15 Articles this year to be heard and voted on by our tax payers.

A quick breakdown: Three Articles are housekeeping; One is the proposed budget; Two are the Equipment Reserve Fund and the Bridge Reserve Fund that we are accustomed to; one is a new policy adoption request regarding "Reserve Fund Balance Policy" as discussed and requested from the floor last year at Town Meeting; and the rest (8) are requests for money (appropriations). A complete list of the Warning and the new draft policy are on the website. Any questions about any of the Articles, please feel free to call the Town Manager or any Selectboard member.

TOWN'S PORTION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET: The Selectboard is pleased to announce that this year's expenditure budget went up marginally and was offset by the Grand List Values as well as the Non-taxable Revenues, which both went up. These two factors will actually reduce our taxes this year if the appropriations stay as they are now. If we pass all of the Articles with the 8 new appropriation requests (\$27,114), we will go up by .0058 on the tax rate. This means an increase of \$5.80 on a \$100,000 home. Feel free to call with questions

and Please come to Town Meeting and participate in a great Vermont tradition.

TOWN HALL PROGRESS: The platform lift is in and operational. We have received all of the approvals needed and it is now open to anyone who may need it. The contractor is currently working on the handicap bathroom. The bathroom is framed, wired, plumbed, and sheet rocked. Weather permitting, the front doors will be started soon and complete this phase of the construction. The new concrete stairs will be done in the spring.

The next step in the construction phasing will be the enhancement and improvement to the heating system. Bids are due for this phase on February 22, 2019 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 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.

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 Care. Board of Directors met January 9th at the Westminster Institute at with President Pete Harrison presiding. The following board members attended: Vice President Lori Larue, Treasurer Miriam Lanata, Doug Oftedahl, Sally Ryea, Heidi Anderson, Pat Goodell, Don Dawson and Director Donna Dawson. Regina Borden was 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 February 6th 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 email at wecares@sover.net. Check us out on the web@ www.westminstercares.org and like us on Facebook.

Memorial & Honor Donations: December 20th- January 30th
In honor of Pete Harrison from Doug Sherwin and Yvette Durell.
In honor of Sarah Waldo from Oliver Brody.
In honor of Karen Walter from Abigail Golde.
In honor of Phyllis Anderson from John and Theresa Anderson.

In honor and memory of Westminster Cares Founders from Sarah Waldo
MEMORIAL DONATIONS RECEIVED AFTER DECEMBER 20, 2018
through January 30th:

In memory of David Kissell from: Valerie and Steve Barry, Joe Madore and Arthur Madore, Jr.

In memory of the Wajdowicz and Pulaski families from Matt and Terry Wajdowicz.

In memory of Doris Bowen from Mary and Dan Davis.

In memory of Ernie and Phyllis Norman from Scott and Wanda West.

In memory of Joanne Duval; Caro Duval; Staci-Jones Maly and Genevieve Farnsworth from Tonia and Lester White.

In memory of Joanne Cordano from Kerry and Steve Mills; Don Cordano.

In memory of Justin Beebe; Lolo Hotshots, from Ally, Susan and Rich Talbot.

In memory of Russell and Florence Blodgett from Lyanne Woodward.

In memory of Artie Aiken from Libby Mills.

In memory of Martha Howell, my mother, from Kathleen Pirruccell.

In memory of Anne Lund from the Westminster Fire & Rescue Association.

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 Feb. 5 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 December: 32

Number of calls through January 31st: 33

Number of calls calendar year to Date: 33

Number of calls fiscal year to date: 258

Association Meeting: The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association met for their regular meeting January 8th with President Greg Holton presiding. There were 18 members present and eight member excused. Currently there are 36 members of the volunteer fire department.

Water supply for Westminster West: There is discussion on removing the small dam just south of the Beebe Road. This dam is crucial to the proper operation of our very reliable dry hydrant that is at the corner of the Beebe road and the Westminster West Road. This dry hydrant is our main source of water for fighting fires on the West side of town. Not having a reliable water source in that area will be detrimental to the Fire Dept. and its ability to have an adequate water source for fighting fires. For questions, comments or more information contact the town managers office at 722-4255.

Vents: People should check their vents and make sure they are clear of ice and snow.

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. And please keep them well sanded when icy.

Sump pumps: Check to see that sump pumps are operating properly so any adjustments, repairs or replacements can take place before they are needed.

Emergency responses: We have had another busy month in January with 32 total calls through the 31st. The breakdown goes like this: 15 rescue /medical calls, five motor vehicle accidents, one alarm activations, two mutual aid calls, three tree on wires, three lift assists, two stand by and one case of rescuing a horse

that had fallen on the ice.

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.

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

Donations received in January: Jeffrey Shumlin and Evelyn Lovett, Peter Lefcort, Sandra and Andrew Furlong, Westminster Care,s Pat Laroche.

In memory of David Kissell: from Donna and Don Dawson.

In memory of Bob Lober from the following: Claudia and Dave Allbee, Allison and David Deen, Mike Lowe, Kathleen Babbitt, Brian and Phyllis Parker, Don and Ethel Pike.

Donations Given in January: To Westminster Cares in memory of Anne Lund. To Westminster Congregational Church in memory of Bob Lober.

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

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

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

Check us out on our web-site www.westminsterfireandrescue.org.

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

Bald & Beautiful

by Alma Beals, Vermont Master Gardener and Naturalist

Few birds excite people more than the sighting of a Bald Eagle overhead. Living near the Connecticut River, as I do, I often see them. Perhaps I see them more often because, as a birder, I am always looking around and up. The Bald Eagle is the symbol of our nation.

From the tip of the beak to the end of the tail, eagles are more than 3 feet long. Their wing span can be more than 7 feet from tip to tip. The average wing span can be greater than the average height of a human. They weigh from 8 to 14 pounds with the females larger than the males. They fly with deep strokes and soar with wings nearly flat. On Putney Mountain, we describe them as "flying planks."

Between the first and fourth years, the dark brown immatures become more mottled with white, particularly on the belly, under wings and tail. They get their distinct plumage of white head and tail by their 5th year.

Bald Eagles build the largest nest of any North American bird. The nest must be not only large and built in a sturdy tree but also near a lake or river as a source of food (usually fish). The nest is often in a branched crotch near the top of the tree. The bulky nest is made up of stacked and interwoven sticks and branches. Softer material like grass, bark, vines, moss and twigs line the nest. A first year nest is often one foot deep and three feet across. Because eagles will return to the same nest year after year, adding new sticks, the nest can grow to an enormous size. I read that one nest was occupied by eagles for 35 years and was thought to weigh close to two tons when it fell to the ground.

Following courtship, even by previously mated pairs, eagles are incubating by the end of March. The female usually lays 2 eggs, sometimes 1, sometimes 3. Both male and female stay together through the incubation period. The eggs hatch after 35 days. The young stay in the nest for 10 or 12 weeks or until they can fly. Then they stay in the general area of the nest before leaving to wander for the next 4 or 5 years.

An eagle has extraordinary eyesight which is the most keenly developed of all the eagle's senses; hearing and smell are not that important. Picture an eagle a thousand feet in the air, spotting a fish in the river, and diving at 50 miles an hour. With just inches and in a split second before crashing into the water, the eagle adjusts its flight, extends feet and talons, striking the startled fish. This requires not only strength but skills of talon/eye coordination. The size of an eagle eyeball is huge when compared to its skull and body. It is almost as large as the eyeball of a human. What they get with such large eyes is magnified vision.

Even though eagles locate their prey by sight, they kill with their talons. Each foot has four toes, three to the front and one to the rear ending with a 2 inch long, black, razor-sharp talon. They have pads on the bottom of their feet to get a firm grip on a slippery fish. When an eagle's foot feels the prey, the powerful tendons in the legs snap shut so that the eagle can lift the prey. The beak is used for tearing and shredding the food but is not used for killing, fighting or defense.

Driven to the brink of extinction by pesticides, especially DDT, which was



being sprayed on farmland, forests shade trees and even ornamental shrubs. Many towns and cities sprayed DDT on their elms hoping to control Dutch elm disease. The spray washed into the rivers and collected in the fish bodies. As eagles ate the fish, DDT entered their bodies and was stored in their fat. Each spring the females would burn their fat reserves to provide the energy needed for migration, nest building and egg-laying.

The DDT accumulated in the circulatory system resulting in thin-shelled eggs that couldn't support the weight of the incubating eagle. Because the results weren't immediate, it took time after the spraying to realize something was wrong. It wasn't just fish in the rivers; bark and aerial insects, as well as earthworms, led to the death of many birds. DDT was banned in the United States in 1972.

Slowly the eagles recovered. But only a little over 10 years ago, Vermont was the only state in the nation without a nesting pair. Eagles were seen over the Connecticut River but they were nesting on the New Hampshire side. I read that the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife reported 23 nesting pairs with at least 33 successful young in 2018. Things are looking good for our eagles.

Aged in Vermont

Westminster Cares, Inc.

STAY WARM & SAFE THIS WINTER

By Wanda West and Heidi Anderson

Winter is well underway, along with the wondrous Vermont bounty that comes with living here: beautiful scenery and quiet peaceful snowfalls. Of course this also means slippery walkways, icy steps and frosty, cold weather. It can also mean power outages. All of this is part of our New England weather, which some may find difficult. But being prepared will make it a much more manageable season. Now is the time to check to make sure that you have all the items you will need to be ready for whatever weather comes.

Always dress warmly and wear gloves outside, no matter what. If you get stuck for even a short period of time, or fall, it will be cold. It's important to have a warm coat, hat, and mittens or gloves. A scarf is good to cover your mouth and nose, protecting them from the wind. Warm, sturdy boots are a must. Lace-up ones are best, as they provide support for your feet and ankles and keep them from sliding around inside the boot. They also provide better stability when you are walking. Always bring a phone and/or lifeline.

Cleats or traction devices are a great idea. Some of the most common are Yaktrax, Stabilicers, and microspikes. They go over your boots, much like old-fashion galoshes that slipped over your shoes. These devices have small metal spikes or cleats on them to make walking more secure on ice and slippery surfaces. A walking stick can also help your balance, as well as having a cane fitted with a removable ice pick or old ski poles; perfect additions when tackling walking in the wintry weather.

Keeping a supply of sand and/or salt by the door will go a long way towards minimizing slippery walkways. Stand at your door and throw some on the path, then give it a chance to work before you head out. Then you can go out and safely cover the rest of your path or walkway.

Use caution when going in and out of driveways and parking lots. Snowbanks block your vision. Carry a bag for mail or errands. Try to be hands-free whenever you can, and use the handrails. Take your time!

It's also a good idea to put together an emergency kit should you lose power over the winter months. There are numerous things that you can put in your winter kit but a few essentials are: a flashlight with extra batteries, flameless candles, and extra blankets. You should have several days' supply of food that doesn't require refrigeration or need to be heated to be eaten. Having several gallons of water for drinking on-hand, is a great idea, regardless of the time of year.

Although cell phones have become ubiquitous, during a power outage a land-line can outshine a cell. Corded telephones don't need power to function nor do they need charging. When the power goes out, this type of phone will usually work. You'll be able to contact someone to let them know if you need anything or more importantly, just let someone know that you are safe.

Some additional ideas for your emergency kit are: a battery-operated radio or one that runs by hand crank so that you'll be able to stay informed. Include a good book, some crossword puzzles, or a deck of cards to pass the time, making a hazardous winter day as enjoyable as you possibly can. And of course, it is a good idea to have a neighbor or friend who can check in on you, even if it is just by phone. Stay warm!

REMEMBRANCES

Westminster Remembers:

- * Barbara Jean Blodgett, d. 12/21/18
- * David P. Kissell, 1960-2108

(Donations can be sent to the Connecticut Valley Pee-Wee Football League, P.O. Box 703, Bellows Falls.)

- * Anne M. Lund, 1961-2019

(Donations can be sent to the Westminster Fire Dept.)

- * Robert Lober, 1950-2019

(Donations can be sent to the Westminster Fire Dept. and/or the First Congregational Church of Westminster)



What is the building in the left of this photo, and where is it located? Please email us with your answers, and any more information you might have. Thanks! Last month's photo was of the Village of Westminster West a century or more ago, when Vermont had around 80% of the land cleared of forest. Much of that cleared land was used for raising sheep, where Vermont was a world leader. the Westminster West Library and the Westminster Historical Society

Anyone with Westminster photos that would like to share them in our Mystery Photo feature, please send them to westminsternews@gmail.com.

WESTMINSTER HISTORICAL SOC. EXPLAINS

To the voters of the Town of Westminster, Vermont regarding the request at Town Meeting for funds for the Westminster Historical Society:

HISTORY: The voters of Westminster have consistently voted not to fund a new building for the business of running our town. The area in the present town hall is not sufficient to house the necessary records and offices needed in the 21st century.

Over the past few years your Select Board has planned and begun the execution of remaking that space comply with required handicap and record retention laws. An emergency exit has been created at the back of the first floor office space; a "lift" has been installed to allow those who need it, to enter the building and move to the second floor with ease. A handicap accessible bathroom will be completed in the near future.

With these additions, space has been lost from the meeting room. The new space for our Select Board's and other town committees' meetings will now be located in the south half of the room on the second floor of our town hall.

NEED: We, the Trustees of Westminster Historical Society, understand. We do appreciate the generosity of the Select Board and voters which has allowed the society the use of the room on the second floor as a Westminster historical museum without a fee for a bit over forty years.

This recent expansion by the town has caused a serious hardship for our society. We now have less than half the previous space for exhibiting our artifacts, which include many large items. We may have to find a new "home" for the early horse drawn hearse. No longer will we be able to use all the display cases. Much of our collection will have to go into storage.

We are anticipating moving our archives, that is, photos, documents, manuscripts, books, other ephemera and supplies, along with our work space furniture to an offsite location to make room for more storage.

We come to you with our hat and hearts in our hands, asking you to vote "YES" for funding our request of \$3,000.00 to help purchase shelving units and to create a new, appealing exhibit space for your interest and education. This is your town's history.

We will use your financial help wisely. Please read our report in this year's Annual Town Report.

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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.

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.

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.
Sun., Feb 3, Worship & Communion, 10 am
Tues. Feb 5, Women's Fellowship Meeting, Bring a sandwich. Our hostess will serve beverage and dessert.
Wed., Feb 6, 13, 20 & 27 noon to 2 pm. Souper Wednesday
Sat., Feb 9, 5:00-7:0 pm. Crock-pot Supper. Come celebrate for Valentine's Day with us.
Sun., Feb 10, Worship, 10 am
Sun., Feb 17, Worship, 10 am
Sun., Feb 24, 10 am, Worship.

The Congregational Church of Westminster West

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

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

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

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

Walpole Bible Church

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

More www.walpolebiblechurch.org.

Walpole Unitarian Church

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

Meetings

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

Planning Commission 2nd Monday at 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, Feb. 25 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
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Town of Westminster
Westminster Activities Commission
Sojourns Community Health Clinic
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Westminster Fire and Rescue
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- Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- Is it BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

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

WESTMINSTER GAZETTE

Editor: Robert Smith

Board of Directors:
Charmion Handy -
Chairwoman
Donna Dawson
Alma Beals
Joyce Sullivan

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westminsternews@gmail.com

**The Deadline for
the March Issue of the
Westminster Gazette is
Wednesday, Feb. 27th
Publication Date is
Tuesday, March 5th**

**To Contact the
Westminster Gazette
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WARNING FOR THE 2019 ANNUAL MEETING - PART 2

- Article 7:** To see if the voters of the Town of Westminster will raise and appropriate the sum of \$500 in addition to the sum (\$2,500) included in the budget proposed by the Selectboard making the total \$3,000 for the support of Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) to assist Westminster in responding to the emergency needs of the community, and providing all available and applicable services to families and individuals in need.
- Article 8:** To see if the voters of the Town of Westminster will raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 for the support of the Senior Solutions (Council on Aging) to provide all available and applicable services to families and aging individuals in need in the Town of Westminster.
- Article 9:** To see if the voters of the Town of Westminster will raise and appropriate the sum of \$800 in addition to the sum (\$4,600) included in the budget proposed by the Selectboard making the total \$5,400, for the support of the Westminster Gazette.
- Article 10:** To see if the voters of the Town of Westminster will raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,580 for the support of the Westminster Institute / Butterfield Library to provide help with the cost of books and library supplies for residents of the Town.
- Article 11:** To see if the voters of the Town of Westminster will raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000 for the support of the Westminster Historical Society to provide all services needed to preserve the Town's historical archives.
- Article 12:** To see if the voters of the Town of Westminster will raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 for the support of Greater Falls Connection to provide substance abuse prevention programs to the residents of the Town of Westminster.
- Article 13:** To see if the voters of the Town of Westminster will raise and appropriate the sum of \$9,534 for the support of Southeastern Vermont Economic Development (SeVEDS) to provide workforce and economic coordination services to the Windham Region.
- Article 14:** To see if the voters of the Town of Westminster will adopt the "Reserve Fund Balance Policy" as presented.
- Article 15:** To transact any other proper business to be brought before the Town of Westminster Meeting
- Article 16:** **To hear the reports of the Town Fire District Number 3 and to take action thereupon**
- Article 17:** To see whether Town Fire District Number 3 shall authorize and instruct its Prudential Committee and Treasurer to borrow money, if necessary, to meet current expenses, on the credit of the District, in anticipation of the collection of taxes and/or the receipt of any State or Federal Funds.
- Article 18:** To see whether Town Fire District Number 3 shall raise and appropriate money to pay the indebtedness and other general expenses of the District for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020, and if so, how much?
- Article 19:** To transact any other business proper to be brought before the Town Fire District Number 3 meeting.
- Article 20:** **To hear the reports of the Westminster Town School District Officers for the last year and to take action thereon.**
- Article 21** Shall the Westminster Town School District authorize and instruct its School Directors and Treasurer to borrow money, if necessary, on the credit of the Town School District for its current expenses in anticipation of the collection of taxes and receipt of money due from state aid.
- Article 22:** Shall the Westminster Town School District vote to pay its District Officers compensation in the amounts of: Board Chair - \$1,100.00 per year; Board Members - \$800.00 per year; Clerk - \$125.00 per district meeting and; Treasurer - \$1,000.00 per year.
- Article 23:** Shall the voters of the Westminster Town School District approve the school board to expend \$4,890,882.39 (four million, eight hundred ninety thousand, eight hundred eighty-two dollars and thirty-nine cents), which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year.? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$17,887.81 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 5.7% higher than spending for the current year
- Article 24:** To transact any other proper business to be brought before the Town School District Meeting

TREE OF WARMTH NEEDS KNITTERS

Winter got you down & stuck in the house? Do you knit/crochet??

Pierce Lawton Unit #37 American Legion Auxiliary needs your help!

We have five bags of yarn that needs a home to anyone that can crochet and/or knit. Hats, scarves, socks, mittens for men/women and children are needed for the upcoming 3rd annual Tree of Warmth project that will be held in November 2019.

We anticipate this will be a four day event like 2018 where over 250 Veterans and their families were served by being the recipients of these hand knitted items.

This is a Department of Vermont State Auxiliary project and you do not need to be an Auxiliary member to participate.

If you would like to participate in this wonderful gift giving project or would like more information, please contact Unit #37 President Marcy Smith at 722-9034.

THANKS FROM FAMILY OF ANNE LUND

Thank you to every person who was able to send notes, messages and visit in person for Anne's 'Celebration of Life' that was held at the Westminster Fire House on Jan. 19.

Almost 200 people stopped by throughout the day to share their condolences, a funny story, cry and laugh with us. We appreciate you and know that your friendship and support during this time has and will continue to mean more than you may know to get us thru this difficult time.

Thank you to Donna and the staff of Westminster Cares for always being flexible, understanding our personal needs, navigating this unexpected journey that started 2 1/2 years ago, assisting us with your knowledge, countless hours of meal prep and Meals On Wheels.

Thank you to the Westminster Fire & Rescue and Golden Cross Ambulance.

Thank you to the Westminster Fire Dept for the use of the facility to host this wonderful Celebration of Life.

Most of all, thank you to all of you who opened up your hearts and understood that animals need love too and supported a donation directly aiding the Springfield Humane Society (animals were her favorite) that was set up in memory of Anne by her family, and graciously raised over \$1800 in her memory along with pet food being brought by visitors and then delivered to the Humane Society.

If we have missed anyone by name, please know we thank you as well. She will be truly missed by all.

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February Business of the Month: The Chimney Doctor

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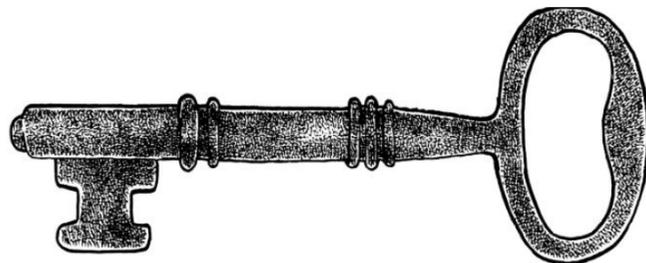
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TOWN MEETING – FLOOR VOTE
SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2019
10:00 AM
AT BELLOWS FALLS UNION HIGH SCHOOL

AUSTRALIAN BALLOT VOTE
TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2019
8:00AM to 7:00PM
AT THE WESTMINSTER INSTITUTE



Our Monthly Community Newspaper February 2019 Vol. 15, No. 2

Westminster Gazette

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