



HARLOW FARM CELEBRATES JAMAICAN WORKERS' 20TH

Jamaican farm workers from around New England come to Harlow Farm in Westminster on the first Sunday of August each year to celebrate Jamaican Independence Day (August 6) and Emancipation Day (August 1), with a party. For the last few years, Western Union has sponsored the party, providing food and entertainment.

The Jamaican workers come to the U.S. through the federal H-2A program, which provides visas to foreign workers to fill seasonal agricultural jobs. Farm owner Paul Harlow, second from right, recognized three Jamaican employees who have worked at the farm for 20 years, from left: Renford Henderson, Leroy Campbell, and Gerald Berry.

"I couldn't run this farm without these employees from Jamaica," Harlow said. "Along with our many local workers, they have really made this farm what it is today. They are more than just employees—they are good friends."

Harlow Farm employs about 18 Jamaican workers from Jamaica each year, along with an equal number of employees from the local area.



SENIOR PROJECT HONORS ONCE UNMARKED GRAVES



by Chuck Lawrence

For years, six graves were all but forgotten at the far end of the field to the right of the new cemetery, when Emma Lawrence, above and at right, a senior at Bellows Falls Union High School, got wind of them three years ago. She decided to make them her senior project and find out who the folks were and get them a proper stone.

For years, the urban legend behind the graves was that they were slaves, but after talking with Artie Aiken (the town's oldest resident at the time) who thought they were paupers' graves, suggested that she get in touch with Chris Potter, the man in charge of all the town's cemeteries. When Emma went to see Chris he was more than enthusiastic with the idea and offered to mentor Emma through the project. He pointed her in the direction of the town hall.

Emma didn't have much luck researching there until one of the ladies at the town hall suggested she see Alice Caggiano, a historian of the town who was thrilled to help with hours of digging through the town hall the archives. Her guidance paid off when they found the names of all but one of the persons buried there, and the causes of death.

So, on Aug. 1, 2019, with a gracious gift from Potters Memorials, a stone was placed on the graves with the names of the deceased.



FIRE & RESCUE SUMMER PICNIC



During the regular monthly Westminster Fire and Rescue Association meeting on June 4th, Jon Parker announced that a donation had been received from Sue Lober in memory of her husband Bob, who was a past fire chief and longtime member of the department.

Jon said he would like to do a summer picnic for current and past volunteers with the money. So Saturday, Aug. 17 over 50 people, consisting of active members, former members, spouses, friends, children and other guests gathered at the home of Judy and Pete Harrison for a barbeque and social time.

Jon Parker (above) brought his giant charcoal grill and along with several qualified volunteers, applied his fantastic cooking skills and prepared chicken and steak that were out of this world. A variety of drinks and salads were also served.

It was nice to have everyone mingle and catch up on other people's lives and even meet some for the first time. Swimming and games were enjoyed by some and others were happy just socializing and reminiscing.

Chief Cole Streeter appeared in a fireman's Class A dress uniform (above right) and jokingly said he "thought it was supposed to be a formal gathering". The real story was that the Class A uniform belonged to Bob Lober and just happened to fit Cole, so he wore it in Bob's honor and memory.

Literally less than 5 minutes after everyone had packed up and left, the rain, wind, lightning and thunder consumed the area. Did Bob ask that it hold off until we were finished? If he did, the timing was impeccable. Thanks, Jonny and Sue.

WESTMINSTER WEST COMMUNITY FAIR SEPTEMBER 7TH



This year the Westminster West Community Fair is on Saturday, Sept. 7, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., in and around the church in Westminster West. The theme of the fair this year is "All Roads Lead to Westminster West!" The Grand Marshals this year are the good folk on the Westminster Road Crew who help keep us on the right path, or, at least, keep the path maintained.



Other events include: A bake sale, a parade through the village (meet at the school at 10 AM to decorate your bike or to check out the fun), live old-timey music, an exclusive veggie chop-o-matic (you think it's easy? – go ahead and try!), a fun run for kids and a 5K running race for adults, a silent auction, a talent show, an art show, a delicious chicken BBQ or equally yummy vegetarian option, Face Painting, various crafts and booths and an awesome Golden elephant sale. Wow! See the full schedule for the day at www.westwestfair.info

We also have a raffle – tickets on sale at the fair or contact a church member. Our 3 prizes this year are a beautiful oil painting by Tim Cowles (invaluable), a hand-made wooden bench by Nick Keil (the wood came from a pine tree that fell in our own cemetery), and a packet of 4 single day Mount Snow Ski Passes, valued at \$400. For more raffle info, call Alison at 387-5711 or Cheryl at 536-5035.

It's fun for the whole family and the biggest fundraiser of the year for the little village church in Westminster West – a wonderful resource that serves our whole community. Come on out and chat with your neighbors, share a laugh or a talent, enjoy a delicious meal or pick up a treasure that you never before knew you needed!

And, as you clean out your attic, basement, or garage, please keep the fair in mind. Set aside treasures to donate for both the silent auction and the tag sale. Please no computers, TVs (they cost money to get rid of), or clothes. The Golden Rule of donating is, "Donate unto others as you would have others donate unto you". Quality items may be dropped off at the church from 6 to 8 p.m. on August 26 - 30 and Sept 3 - 5.

Questions about delivery or pick-up? Email tgriffith@hilltopmontessori.org. We also appreciate donations of baked goods for the bake sale or contributions from your garden for the delicious meal (too many tomatoes, zucchini or basil? We can help!)

Our Monthly Community Newspaper September 2019 Vol. 15 No. 9

Westminster Gazette

Town of Westminster
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ADVANCE CARE PLANNING VOLUNTEERS WANTED

On Saturday, Oct. 5 and Saturday, Oct. 19 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Brattleboro Area Hospice's Taking Steps Brattleboro Program will host a two-day ACP Facilitator/Volunteer Training at Brattleboro Area Hospice, 191 Canal Street in Brattleboro. Applications are due by Monday, Sept. 16.

The training is offered to anyone who would like to learn how to assist people in completing and registering their Advance Directive. Advance Care Planning ensures that a person's loved ones and health professionals know what a person wants in case of a medical emergency or illness when a person cannot communicate.

For more information about this training, to receive an application and to schedule an interview with Don Freeman, Taking Steps Brattleboro Program Coordinator, call 257-0775 ext 101. don.freeman@brattleborohospice.org



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WHS CHRISTMAS IN SEPTEMBER

The Walpole Historical Society will hold its annual Christmas In September on Saturday, Sept. 21, at the museum on Main Street.

On the lawn, outside will be tables of special sale items. These will include selected Caspari napkins and Christmas cards, lavender candles and soaps, children's books and puzzles. Inside will be new Christmas cards, taper candles, scarves and beaded necklaces for the ladies.

In addition, books about Walpole, framed pictures, tiny windchimes, stained glass ornaments, as well as hand crafted cedar magnets and ornaments. There will be local honey and maple products, too. There is a good selection of Fravessi greeting cards, wooden bookmarks and maps of Walpole. Check out our interesting snowflake catchers. These are great stocking stuffers for any age.

The museum and gift shop will be open from noon to 4 p.m. and tables will be outside, weather permitting. Plan to bring the kids and your friends. View the exhibits and video of Walpole's Town History. Coffee and refreshments will be available.

Parking is available behind the museum or on the street.

WW LIBRARY BOOK SALE, SEPTEMBER 7TH



Come one, come all, to the Westminster West Public Library Book Sale! This year's book sale, on Saturday, Sept. 7, is dedicated to Ellen Zimmerman, a loyal and missed volunteer and lover of the library. We hope to see you from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Westminster West!

"WHAT'S UP AT THE TOWN HALL"

TOWN HALL: The renovations for Phase III (the final phase) has been given to Brennan Builders and will start this fall. This last phase of work will reconfigure the office space to make it more user friendly for you the tax payer. It also will allow all of the storage needs for the Town's archives to be here at the Town Hall versus a mini-storage unit that we have been renting.

LAND FOR SALE: The Town has 19.1 acres of land for sale off of Pine Banks Road. If you are interested, please contact the Town Hall or Buffum Realty. 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., which includes swimming pools and the deck. If you have questions please feel free to call us. We are here to help not hinder your home improvement requests.

PAVING: The Town will be paving approximately 1 mile from Route 121 up Back Westminster Road this summer. The road will be ground and then overlaid with 1.5" of new pavement. Once the project starts, please understand that there will be delays and one lane passage.

We will also be paving a section of Westminster West Road from the Putney line with the same type of delays. The last feature this year, as it pertains to pavement, is that we are going to try crack sealing a short section of road to see if this practice will save us money in the longevity of the tar roads in our Town.

The State of Vermont feels that this tactic saves them money so we are going to try a very limited section to prove the theory before sinking too much money into this option.

TAX BILLS: By now, we all have received our tax bills and have seen that the invoice says "INTERIM" on it. This was because the school budget was not settled in time to receive our tax rate from the State of Vermont.

We have used the best information available to create this "interim" rate but we are assured that it is going to change a little. Your second payment will be based on the final decision from the State as to our rate and we will adjust up or down to assure you paid the correct total amount needed.

If you haven't received your tax bill yet, the Town needs to hear from you immediately. Either you changed your address, you're a new resident, or we have incorrect data in our system. Either way we need to hear from you promptly. Thank you for this.

This new final bill with a payment date of Feb. 10th will be bright yellow. We wanted to make sure you didn't confuse it with the first bill sent.

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 THE TOWN GARAGE

Hello Neighbors,

August has been yet another busy month with the prepping of Back Westminster Road for paving, and we will be working on the Westminster West Road getting a section of that road ready for paving from the Putney line to South Valley Road.

Seems like my lawn roadside mowing is a never ending battle. We have been working on the shoulders adding material where it is needed, and repairing and cleaning culverts through out the town. Ben and Carson have done quite a bit of work on Picknell Hill dealing with some water issues. Dave and I cut the shoulder and cleaned the ditch by Benware's in Westminster West, in hopes that this will take care of the ice and water issues of the past.

We will be routing traffic through McKinnon Road in the next couple weeks while we do some pre-paving culvert work on Westminster West Road.

Thanks for your support!
Chuck and Crew

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER CARES

The Westminster Cares, Inc. Board of Directors did not meet in August. The next meeting will be Wednesday September 4th at the Institute at 4:30 p.m..

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

Anyone interested in learning more about Westminster Cares, 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.

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, September 4th

Thank you to our past and present donors. Westminster Cares welcomes donations throughout the year from anyone wishing to remember or honor a loved one or friend.

MEMORIAL & HONORARY DONATIONS RECEIVED IN AUGUST:

In honor of Westminster Cares and the good work they do, from Bill Smidutz

In loving memory of Joan Smidutz from David and Mary Jo Robbin

In memory of Wellman (Bud) Muzzey from:

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New & Seasonal Businesses Section

\$200 for 3 months

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!

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Great Blue Herons Nesting at Allen's Marsh

by Alma Beals, Vermont Master Gardener and Naturalist

This month's column is the story of a pair of Great Blue Herons nesting at Allen's marsh. To the best of my knowledge, this is the first observed nesting at the marsh. Three of us, Allison, Martha and I, have either talked or emailed daily with heron updates. Many others have also kept track of them. Drivers using the road have been very careful of the geese and ducks in the road while watching the nest.

Early in the spring, we saw the pair building the nest. The male brought the sticks and the female built the nest. They didn't weave or shape the nest but just left them in piles in the fork of branches in a dead tree several feet high over the water. We watched daily as more sticks were added.

Eventually the eggs were laid and were incubated for 26 to 29 days. Herons lay 3 to 5 eggs and have only one brood. The eggs are laid two days apart, so there can be quite a difference in the size of the young. When the eggs hatched, two of the young were much bigger than the third. The little one was so small that for many days we thought there were only two in the nest. Often what happens when there is such a size difference, the larger heron gets most of the food and the little one doesn't survive, either getting pushed out of the nest by the larger aggressive one or starving.

By mid-July, the two larger herons had fledged, returning to the nest each day to be fed. It was almost to the end of July before the small heron left the nest, and like the others, returned to the nest to be fed. What a ruckus when the parents came back to the nest to feed them.

One day I was amused to watch the two older ones together trying to learn how to fish. Instead of patiently waiting for a fish, one was like a sandpiper jabbing his bill constantly into the grassy water. Then he would pick up a piece of vegetation, shake it and drop it. The other would pick it up, shake it and drop it.

Great Blue Herons are the largest and most widespread herons in North America. Their head-to-tail length is 36 to 54 inches, their wingspan is 66 to 79 inches, their height is 45 to 54 inches and they weigh 4 to 8 pounds. They are aggressive only when cornered and if their young are threatened. They are such common birds that we can identify them instantly.

They are grayish blue with a white head and a black stripe over the eye. Immatures look similar except they have a black head that gradually changes to white. The immatures keep their same plumage for two years. Who could miss that long, sharp bill that is used to spear a



fish or frog? While small fish are the primary food, they also eat a wide range of shrimp, crabs and aquatic insects, small mammals, amphibians and reptiles.

Herons are socially monogamous (faithful to their mate) during a single breeding season, but individuals usually choose new mates each year. They nest in colonies from a few to several dozen pair and nest throughout New England. They can adapt to almost any wetlands, fresh or saltwater marshes, mangrove swamps, flooded meadows, lake edges and shorelines. After our enjoyment of watching "our" Great Blue Herons all spring and summer, how we hope for another nest next year.

Photos by Martha Adams.



A WESTMINSTER SAMPLER:

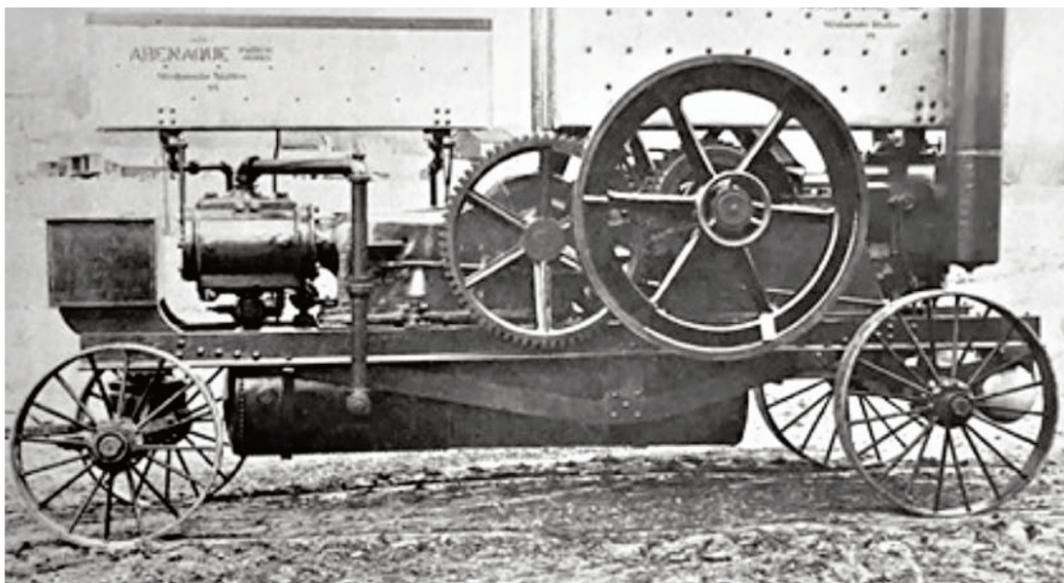
WESTMINSTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY HOSTS ANNETTE SPAULDING

"What Lies Underwater In the Connecticut River in the Westminster Area?" A good question, that will receive some answers on September 16, when local diver Annette Spaulding speaks at the Westminster Historical Society's annual meeting. Spaulding, a master diver, will share underwater video of her newest adventures diving in the Connecticut River in and near Westminster. Abenague engine enthusiasts will want to hear about an Abbie in an unusual location! Annette has had 5 historic discoveries in the past few years in our beautiful river, with her most recent find only a few weeks ago.

The Historical Society meeting is September 16 at 7 p.m. at the Fire Station. Refreshments will be served, and there will be time after the talk for questions.

For more information call Pat Haas at 387-5778.

At right, an old Abenague engine.



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 September 3 at 7 p.m. 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 July: 44

Number of calls through August 22nd : 22

Number of calls calendar year to Date: 261

Number of calls fiscal year to date: 66

Association Meeting: The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association met for their regular meeting August 3rd with President Greg Holton presiding. There were 19 members present and seven members excused. Currently there are 30 members of the volunteer fire department.

Truck Show: The annual truck show was held behind the high school in Westminster on August 3rd. The Fire Department has catered the event for several years for the truck club. We fed several spectators and vendors and it was a successful and fun day for all.

We would like to thank the following businesses for donating food for the event: Allen Brothers, C&S wholesale grocers, Richard and Melanie from Kurn Hattin, Brian McAllister, Jim DeBell and Reinhart Foods.

Back to School: Now that school is back in session there will be a lot of students walking to and from school and to and from their busses. There are no sidewalks in many areas forcing students to walk in the roadways.

Walkers should remember to always walk on the left side of the road facing traffic and bike riders need to be riding with the flow of traffic on the right side. As it is get-

ting darker earlier each day, walkers and bikers will need to wear light colored clothing and reflective vests when traveling in the dark or diminished light. Drivers should be extra cautious with more pedestrians on the roads.

Chimneys: Before you fire up your wood stove or furnace, take a look up the chimney to be sure it doesn't need cleaning or that something has built a nest inside and plugged it up.

Firewood: It's not too soon to be thinking about the next heating season. If you burn wood, be sure the wood is properly cured.

Unseasoned wood can cause creosote which is very apt to plug up the chimney and cause a chimney fire. And the chimney fire can lead to a partition fire and the home could be lost or severely damaged.

Have the chimney cleaned before starting a wood fire in the stove or furnace and have it checked regularly throughout the heating season.

Emergency responses: We have had another busy month in August with 21 total calls through the 21st. The breakdown goes like this: one first alarm; one vehicle fire; 10 rescue /medical calls; three motor vehicle accidents; two mutual aid calls, one to Bellows Falls, one to Springfield; two for trees on wires or wires down; and two accidental alarm activations.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: From time to time there is a need for food to be brought to the Fire House, like the one mentioned in the previous paragraph. During calls when the fire fighters are out for an extended period of time, having something to eat and drink when they return is a huge compliment. Also, once in a great while there are special events which require feeding a large number of people.

If you are available and are willing to be on a call list

for these occasions or if you just want more information, call Chief Cole Streeter or June Streeter or any one of the members you may know and let them know. This is a great way to help the people who help the community in so many ways. Thanks in advance.

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

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

Memorial donations for August: From Kay Lou Miller in memory of Jeff and Bruce Miller.

Donations received in August: Mary and John Gregg; All Seasons Construction; Kandace James; Dan Harlow.

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.westminsterfireandrescue.org.

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

Aged in Vermont

Westminster Cares, Inc.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT - SALLY RYEA

By Susan Harlow

Sally Ryea began delivering Meals on Wheels so she could see a dear friend. "She was receiving Meals on Wheels," Sally said. "I kept meaning to see her and eventually I said, I'm going to deliver Meals on Wheels, so at least I'll get to see her once a month!"

Lucky for Westminster Cares. That was 26 years ago, and Sally has been driving ever since. "It can be a challenge, like winter roads, and the worst thing is especially in the spring, you get your car all muddy."

But it's worth it, she said. "I feel good after delivering Meals on Wheels. I feel sorry for the shut-ins; they're lonely. They like a little bit of contact. And it's a welfare check: I always ask if there's something they need." Sometimes Sally drops off books for a client or picks up their mail. She might bring them some medical equipment from Westminster Cares storage.

Meals on Wheels isn't Sally's only contribution to Westminster Cares. She has been on the organization's board of directors for eight years and has served on the Fundraising and Garden Tour committees.

You can always find her at a Westminster Cares activity, especially if it involves cooking. "Anything that has to do with food, I'm in the middle of it," she said.

She has coordinated the food for the Garden Tour

luncheon for the past several years, and bakes for the Town Meeting bake sale, the Celebration of Aging (where she is famous for her corn chowder) and the Welcome Center fundraising event. When Kurn Hattin, which prepares the Meals on Wheels meals is closed, Sally fills in as cook.

Giving back to the community is a family affair in the Ryea household. Sally's husband, Hollis, made and donated a wooden garden bench for the Garden Tour raffle. He also donated fans over the last two summers, so that anyone in need would have one.

Hollis and Sally moved from Montgomery to Brattleboro and then to Westminster West in 1967. Sally drove a school bus for 32 years until she retired eight years ago. Or did she? As a "spare driver" these days, she's always being called upon.

"Sally is more than an amazing volunteer; she's an amazing person," said Donna Dawson, Westminster Cares director. "She embodies the slogan, 'Neighbors helping neighbors.' Although her job has been transporting our community's children to and from school for nearly 40 years, off hours she's not only raised her own family, but also cared for extended family, neighbors, friends, and those less fortunate. Selfless, kind and caring, Sally is always willing to pitch in, and always has a positive attitude."

TRAINING WEEK MARKS END OF SUMMER AT KH

As summer comes to a close, Kurn Hattin staff prepare for the new school year. As with previous years, houseparents, teachers, houseparents, and other staff come together to participate in Training Week. Training Week is the only time when Kurn Hattin has no children on campus.

The week long schedule begins at 8 a.m. and typically continues until 4 p.m. The days are filled with presentations, discussions on safety measures and precautions, emergency drills, and training for counselors. Outside professionals join the staff in discussions regarding the care and emotional healing of the children using Restorative Practices methods.

One afternoon during Training Week is dedicated to an All Staff Meeting which began this year with a lunch followed by welcome remarks by Steve Harrison, Kurn Hattin's Executive Director. "It's an honor to care for the children that parents have entrusted to us to...and we all need to live up to that trust," he remarked.

Next on the agenda were new staff introductions, which included several new Residential Life members and recognizing Sue Kessler, previously Director of Admissions, who was recently promoted to the position of Assistant Executive Director.

Plans for the upcoming 125th Anniversary Fall Festival Celebration, on Sept. 21, were discussed, as were updates to our Community Handbook and PBiS (Positive Behavioral interventions and Support) practices at the school.

"We are excited to be entering our 3rd year as a formally recognized PBiS School," said Sergio Sergio Simunovic, School Principal. "PBiS is normally thought of as behavior, conduct, and a method of problem solving. But above all else, PBiS is another way to approach community where students, faculty, and staff feel a part of something."

Keri Newton, Dean of Students, was proud to an-



nounce that Kurn Hattin was being recognized as a VTPBIS School of Merit, which means PBiS is used as a school-wide evaluation tool by at least 80 percent of the staff (95 percent at Kurn Hattin) with improving outcomes for the majority of students.

Before continuing with the final portion of the agenda, there were games with prizes. And Jacob Stoddard, in Maintenance, was awarded with the Above and Beyond Award for doing just that.

The afternoon ended with remarks by Board of Trustees President, Mark Bodin, and a Q&A with the Leadership Panel, consisting of Board President, Mark Bodin and Trustees Chris Hackett and Jim Lynch, Executive Director Steve Harrison and Assistant Executive Director Sue Kessler.

We all are now ready to welcome our students return.

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

In photo, Kurn Hattin Maintenance staff member, Jacob Stoddard, being awarded the Above and Beyond Award by Executive Director Steve Harrison.

SEVCA FINANCIAL FITNESS FREE WORKSHOP SERIES

SEVCA is inviting participants to register for its upcoming "Financial Fitness" workshop series, to be held in Brattleboro starting September 10. 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 Red Clover Commons, 30 Fairground Rd., Brattleboro from 5:30-7 p.m. from Sept. 10 through Oct. 22. Pre-registration is required.

ARTIST & ACTIVIST DISCUSSES HER WORK

On Wednesday, Sept. 2 at 5 p.m. artist and social activist Mary Ann Damato will speak with visitors about her work at an informal reception at Flat Iron Exchange on The Square in Bellows Falls.

Since childhood, Damato has been fascinated by faces. In a recent interview, she said, "I've always been enchanted by faces. Each face tells its own story."

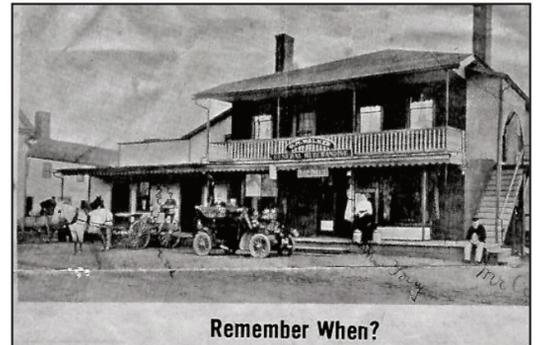
Damato noted that during her extensive travels she is never bored waiting for a bus, a train, or a plane be-

cause of the people she finds around her, many who become the subjects of her paintings.

This exhibit primarily focuses on the faces, families, and culture of the people of San Cristobal de Las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico, where she lives, part of the year, and where she paints and teaches English and Art to street children.

For more information, call 732-8726 or email treiskennedy@gmail.com

WESTMINSTER MYSTERY PHOTO



Remember When?

This photo was discovered by a reader in an old, local newspaper. Can anyone identify or provide any details about where this building was located and what the building was? Thank you!

REMEMBRANCES

Wellman "Bud" Muzzey 3/6/1933 - 8/6/2019
Eric Streeter 6/3/1967 - 8/8/2019

NANCY DREW QUILT WINNER



Barb Hodgkins, lucky winner of the Butterfield Library's Nancy Drew Quilt Raffle is shown along with Linda Fawcett and Ann Ashcroft, librarians. The 53" x 66" quilt featured covers and book spines with titles from more than 55 books in the beloved Nancy Drew series. The celebration and drawing were held on August 15th and included a table filled with baked goods, refreshments and "props" that were clues from some of the books. Congratulations Barb!

SEPT. SR. LUNCH POSTPONED

The September Senior Lunch has been postponed one week. It will be held on Thursday, Sept. 19 at the First Congregational Church on Route 5 in Westminster from noon to 1:30 p.m.

Bring a side dish or dessert; or make a suggested donation of \$3.50. Everyone is welcome – please join!

RETIRED EDUCATORS MEET

On Monday, Sept. 9 the Windham County Retired Educators will meet from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Rockingham Free Public Library second floor meeting room.

Contact Joyce Sullivan at 722-4109, or joycesullivan@myfairpoint.net by Sept. 5.

FREE PROGRAM ON

ADVANCE CARE PLANNING

Taking Steps Brattleboro and Westminster Cares invites you to a free question and answer workshop titled, "Advance Care Planning – The Basics," on Tuesday, Sept. 24 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the The Westminster Institute at 3534 U.S. Route 5,

If someone you love had a serious illness or accident and couldn't communicate do you know what care s/he would want? What if it were you? What would you want?

Heart-rending decisions must be made. It's an act of caring when people have discussed and mapped out their wishes ahead of time.

Learn how an Advanced Care Directive can help.

Leave the workshop:

Knowing what you need to complete an Advance Care Directive

With your questions answered

And your next steps planned

The presenter will be Don Freeman, Advance Care Planning Facilitator and Program Coordinator.

For more information contact Donna Dawson, Westminster Cares, at 722-3607.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR RAFFLE

The First Congregational Church of Westminster is pleased to announce that the Christmas Bazaar Raffle for 2019 is a quilt that was started by Regina Cote, a member of our congregation, who passed away in 2016.

Recently, Linda Fawcett, a friend and neighbor, agreed to finish it, and Julie Patrick of Bellows Falls quilted the "October Afternoon" quilt.

We will be selling raffle tickets to this red, green and beige quilt at the Bellows Falls Farmers Market on Sept. 27, and at two events at the church before the Bazaar: the Fall Crockpot Supper, Saturday, Oct. 5, and the Chicken and Biscuit Supper, Saturday, Nov. 9.

Many members and friends of the Church also have tickets. The winner of the raffle will be drawn at the end of the Women's Fellowship Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 23, where you will have the last chance to buy the tickets. Tickets are one for \$2, three for \$5 and seven for \$10.

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.

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, Sept 1 at 10 a.m., Worship Service and Communion
Sun, Sept 8 at 10 a.m., Worship Service
Sun, Sept 15, 10 a.m., Worship Service.
Sun, Sept 22, 10 a.m., Worship Service.
Fri, Sept 27, 4 to 7 p.m. Table at Bellows Falls Farmers Market to sell tickets for the Christmas Bazaar Raffle Quilt.
Sun, Sept 29, 10 a.m., Worship Service.
Sat, Oct 5, Crockpot Supper, 5 to 7 p.m.. Look for more details in the October Gazette.

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.

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 Sept. 16 at 5 p.m. at the Rockingham Library.

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

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Please Note: The Gazette Deadline has changed from the last Wednesday of the month to the next to last Wednesday

The Deadline for the October Issue of the Westminster Gazette is Wednesday, Sept. 18th

Publication Date is Wednesday, Sept. 25th

To Contact the Westminster Gazette
E-mail:
westminsternews@gmail.com

NEW TAI CHI CLASS



Tai chi, the Chinese method of slow, fluid exercise, can improve your balance and coordination, keep you flexible, improve your mood, and ease the symptoms of chronic conditions like arthritis and Parkinson's Disease. It's been called the perfect exercise for people over 60.

Want to see what tai chi can do for you? A new course for beginners will start on Tuesday, October 8, at 11 a.m. at the Westminster Institute on Route 5 in Westminster. The group will meet weekly for an hour. The cost is \$5 for each session you attend but the introductory class on Oct. 8 is free. You don't need to make a long-term commitment.

The course will be taught by Ben Daviss, a senior instructor with the New Hampshire-based, nonprofit Oriental Healing Arts Association.

If enough people are interested, we also may offer a course in seated tai chi or a late-day or early-evening class.

To learn more or to register, contact Donna Dawson, director of Westminster Cares, at 722-3607 or email wecares@sover.net.

FOOD CONNECTS CONSTRUCTING COOLER/ FREEZER SPACE

Food Connects began construction of their 1,200 square-foot cooler and freezer space in mid-August. The expanded operational space triples the available volume of cold and frozen storage space available to Food Connects to aggregate and distribute local foods.

In November of 2018, Food Connects moved to their new facility at the Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation's (BDCC) Business Park. This large space offers many benefits—access to a loading dock for their fleet, increased office and storage space, and most importantly, room to move and store more food. The latter is essential to Food Connects' future as they work toward building more market opportunities for local producers of refrigerated, frozen, and shelf-stable foods.

Food Connects' new cooler and freezer will allow them to offer their wholesale customers—including schools, hospitals, independent groceries, and business food programs—more options for using local products in place of commodity foods. This increase in capacity, along with an addition to their vehicle fleet, will allow them to build market channels for more producers and consumers in the Upper Valley, Western Vermont, and Western Massachusetts regions. Currently, Food Connects primarily serves customers in the Windham County and Monadnock Region areas.

"Operational efficiencies will dramatically increase with our loading docks, offices, and storage space all under one roof—increasing ease of access for drop-offs and pick-ups," says Alex McCullough, Food Hub Manager. "We are excited about what this new space will mean for our local producers."

The project is projected to cost \$200,000 in total. Food Connects secured \$150,000 in grant funding from High Meadows Fund, Sandy River Charitable Foundation, and the You Have Our Trust Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation. These grants provide partial funding for the layout design and construction of the cooler space by ARC Mechanical. With \$50,000 left to reach their goal, Food Connects now looks towards the community to help fund the remainder.

"We are so grateful for the support from our grant funders," says Richard Berkfield, Executive Director. "We now need the community's help to reach our goal. Supporting our cooler expansion is supporting the growth of local food producers and our local food economy."

If you would like to know more about the Cooler Campaign, please be sure to check out expansion page at <https://www.foodconnects.org/were-expanding>. All donations to the Cooler Campaign are tax-deductible.

Food Connects is an entrepreneurial non-profit that delivers locally produced food as well as educational and consulting services aimed at transforming local food systems. The Food Hub aggregates and delivers from over 60 local farms and food producers to over 120 buyers in southeast Vermont, southwest New Hampshire, and western Massachusetts. Our educational services focus on a Farm to School program. The program supports over 30 schools to increase local food purchasing, school meal participation, and food, farm, and nutrition education. Additionally, Food Connects is frequently hired to provide leadership and consulting services for efforts aimed at transforming local food systems in the New England region.

SICK BODY, HEALTHY MIND HOSPICE PROGRAM

On four consecutive Wednesdays: Sept. 18, 25, Oct. 2, and 9 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Brattleboro Area Hospice will host Sick Body-Healthy Mind at 191 Canal Street in Brattleboro.

This is a free, four-week book discussion group based on Cheryl Wilfong's book *Breast Cancer Meets Mindfulness: Surrendering to Life*. When our body experiences grief, pain, or disease, how do we tap into a calm mind?

We will discuss the remedies for fear and worry, and practice sticking close to the here and the now. (Spoiler alert: Peace is in the present moment.) Target audience: people learning to live fully with a serious illness or a significant loss.

Class size is limited to 12. RSVP to Hilary at BAH at 257-0775, ext. 105.

Brattleboro Area Hospice (BAH) is an independent, non-profit organization that provides non-medical support to dying and grieving community members and volunteer-staffed assistance with Advance Care Planning. BAH is 100% locally funded.

For more information or to RSVP please contact Patty Dunn, Hospice Program Coordinator at 257-0775 ext. 102 or email patty.dunn@brattleborohospice.org.

GMP WARNS CUSTOMERS ABOUT SCAMS

Green Mountain Power is warning customers about a rise in scam calls after dozens of recent reports. The scammers are claiming to be from GMP and threatening to cut off power within just 30 minutes if you don't pay immediately. GMP would never do that. If you receive a call like that, just hang up - it is a scam.

"We got flooded with calls starting this afternoon - customers alerting us, and wanting to let other customers know that a scammer is calling Vermonters," said Mary Morris, Manager of Customer Care for Green Mountain Power. "GMP does not threaten immediate shut off or demand immediate payment by credit card or pre-paid cards. If someone does this - it is a scam," she said.

These calls are not from Green Mountain Power. If you get a call like this you should hang up. Also remember:

- Do not provide payment or personal information**
- Do not engage with the caller**
- Do not call that number back**

Call GMP Customer Service at 888-835-4672 to report the call, and any details about it, like the number it came from, the caller's name, and what the caller said.

Customers are also encouraged to report this scam to the Vermont Attorney General's Consumer Assistance Program at 800-649-2424 (in state) or 802-656-3183 or online at <https://ago.vermont.gov/cap/>.

HAND CARVED BIRD DISPLAY AT RFPL



Adam Wetzel's collection of hand carved wooden birds is currently on display on the Main Floor of Rockingham Library. Wetzel, a resident of Saxtons River, has been carving as a hobby for 40 years. His self-taught process begins with studying which bird he would like to devote time to. Then a roughed-out bass wood form is shaped with various knives and chisels. Feather detail is defined by a wood burning tool and many layers of acrylic paint washes to bring life to the wood. Museum quality glass eyes are the only non-carved feature.

BENEFIT CONCERT FOR RFPL AUG. 31ST

Don't miss out on the "Zookeepers" Benefit Concert for the Friends of the Rockingham Library at Stage 33 Live (33 Bridge St, just past the post office) on Aug. 31 at 7 p.m. The "Zookeepers" spent this summer raising money for over a dozen other Vermont libraries through their donation-based concerts. Now it's time for the Rockingham community to come together for some great music for a great cause. The band's tour title is "Across the Zoo-niverse" paralleling this year's Summer Reading Program theme of "A Universe of Stories."

In their second summer of fundraising for libraries, "Zookeepers" has won the support of the Vermont Department of Libraries. The band was also awarded the 2019 Tammie Award "Best Vermont Rock Album".

In addition, musicians Patty Carpenter and Owen Nied will play some shorts sets. Area poet Verandah Porch along with Vermont Poet Laureate Chard deNiord will read some of their poems. And cast members from World Under Wonder Playhouse will perform a medley from their upcoming show "Beauty and the Beast."

Tickets can be obtained at the Rockingham Library's front desk at 65 Westminster St, online at stage33live.com or at the door on August 31. The suggested donation is \$20 per ticket. All proceeds go directly to the Friends of the Rockingham Library to help support the Library's mission. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the show starts at 7. For more information, call 463-4270, email programming@rockinghamlibrary.org or go to rockinghamlibrary.org.

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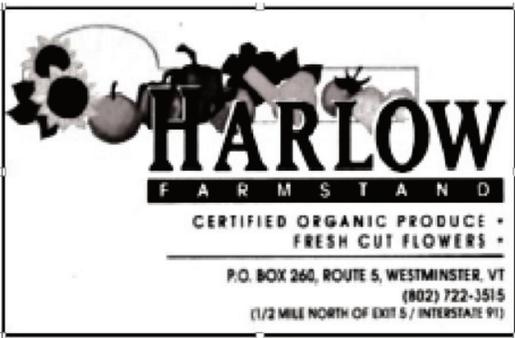
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Auctioneer Sharon Boccelli of S.B. & Company Auctioneers is a fully licensed and bonded auctioneer in both Vermont and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

This year S.B. and Company Auctioneers celebrated their 40th year in business. Sharon graduated from the International Auction School, which provides an intensive course of study in auction methodology and psychology. This training combined with Boccelli's sense of integrity has resulted in S. B. & Company Auctioneers becoming one of the best organized and most successful auction houses in New England.

S. B. & Company Auctioneers was chosen as one of the five auction houses to be featured in The Journal of Antiques and Collectibles "Women in Auctioneering". The company applies an honest approach to auctioning. We are praised by both buyers and sellers for our above-board practice, our accurate researching, and comprehensive representation of the goods being sold.

We stand behind our word, which engenders trust with our new and returning buyers who learn to trust the quality and characterization of the merchandise sold. All items are cataloged and advertised extensively, thus attracting competitive bidders.

S.B. and Company Auctioneers policy of handling estate merchandise has also contributed to the success of the auctions. A majority of the items in our auctions come from private homes. Thus, our customers know that the goods are fresh to the antique market. This results in stronger bidding.

We welcome you to visit our next auction and compare our company with other auction houses. If you prefer, we are also pleased to supply references from former clients.

Customers often find attending an auction to be an educational introduction to the antique world. We feel this is the best way to judge the caliber and competence of our organization. Feel free to contact me directly with further questions at sbuctioneers.com, located at 46 Canal Street in Bellows Falls, 802-460-1190.

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