



Windham News & Notes

Volume X, No. 3

November-December 2012

Windham Gets Support for its Town Plan **from the Vermont Public Service Department** *by Heath Boyer*

Windham has found itself in the center of two distinct but related statewide controversies over the course of the summer. One debate involves whether utility scale wind developments are appropriate for Vermont's mountainous terrain. The second debate, discussed here, centers on the venerated tradition of local control. Towns are empowered and encouraged to write Town Plans that describe in detail the kind of town they want to be. The resulting plans are binding on developers and development activities, with the exception of commercial-scale projects intended to generate or transmit electrical power. State law empowers the Public Service Board (PSB) to make the ultimate decision in those cases, and to set aside Town Plans if they find it would be in the Public Good to do so.

Iberdrola, trading as Atlantic Wind, applied to the PSB for a permit to erect two wind measurement (MET) towers on the Stiles Brook Ridge in Windham. The Town of Windham has opposed the application citing the strength and clarity of our Town Plan, which prohibits most commercial development, and commercial-scale wind in particular, in the forest districts of the town.

The Windham Planning Commission and Selectboard jointly responded to the Atlantic Wind application with the help of our attorney, Gerry Tarrant. The Windham Regional Commission and the Agency of Natural Resources also submitted documentation in support of the Town of Windham. All documentation regarding the Atlantic Wind application and Windham's response has been studied by the Public Service Department, which acts as the investigative and advisory body for the PSB.

On October 8th the Public Service Department sent a

letter to the PSB strongly advising that the Board honor the Windham Town Plan. That letter, along with all other correspondence related to this issue can be seen on our community web site, www.windhamvt.info. The principal sections of the Public Service Department's letter are quoted here to give a sense of the strength of their position:

- *The Public Service Board Should Defer to the Windham Town Plan's Intent to Prevent the Temporary Citing of MET Towers Within the Town.*
- *The Intent of the Town Plan is to Include MET Tower Installations in Its Prohibition on Commercial Wind Development within Windham*
- *The Construction of MET Towers is Incompatible with the Activities Allowed in the Windham Forest Resource District Under the Town Plan*

In response to the Department's letter, attorneys for Iberdrola/AtlanticWind asked for and were granted permission by the PSB to file a response to the Department's letter. (Their letter is posted at windhamvt.info.) Their letter challenges the Department's support of our Town Plan as being unprecedented. The Board may take several weeks for their deliberations.

The statewide press continues to follow the story, and we hope News and Notes readers will stay abreast of developments. For now the controversy over industrial wind development in Vermont has gained a great deal of attention because more than 20 towns are trying to come to terms with proposals for big wind developments on their ridgelines. Windham will remain very much a part of that discussion.

Selectboard News *by Mary Boyer, Margaret Dwyer, and Frank Seawright*

Summer 2012 is over and the fall colors are already fading quickly. The past two months have been full of special meetings and activities to respond to the application by Atlantic Wind (Iberdrola) to place temporary meteorological (MET) towers on Stiles Brook Ridge. More discussion of this issue is on page 1 and at our community website, www.windhamvt.info.

Our Town Plan, which prohibits development on our mountain ridges, has held up very well under scrutiny by the Public Service Department. The Plan needs to be updated and renewed in 2013, and we met with John Bennett of the Windham Regional Commission who will help us apply for a Municipal Grant which will enable us to cover the cost of \$8,000. John will also act as our consultant during the re-writing process.

The Selectboard approved expanding the Planning Commission from seven members to nine, the limit set by the state. We also filled three recent vacancies: Bill Koutrakos and Ernie Friedli resigned and Mike Bober moved out of town. New members of the Commission are John Lingley, who has been elected to serve as chair, Ken Grimm, Jim Morey, and Paul Robinson. We have posted an additional open position; anyone interested is asked to write a brief letter to the Selectboard requesting consideration for the position. We are grateful to Bill and Ernie for their years of dedicated service and leadership on the Commission, and we welcome the new members and hope you enjoy serving Windham in this capacity.

In an effort to improve communications with residents and property owners we contracted Bill Lyons

to assemble and digitize various existing contact lists and correspondence. Bill's participation will enable us to streamline communications, especially in times of emergency. Particularly important is a complete list of email addresses. **Please help by emailing Selectboard@windhamvt.info. In the subject line, put "here is my email address."**

Bonnie Batchelder and her staff have nearly completed their professional audit and we eagerly await the final report. Bonnie is very pleased with the cooperation she received from our clerk/treasurer and auditors. We appreciate the time and effort they spent in supplying the professional auditors with the necessary information.

FEMA-funded repairs of damage from last year's Tropical Storm Irene continue. Gurney Brothers won the bids to rebuild a bridge on Popple Dungeon Road and replace a culvert with a bridge on Toad Road. Work has begun and temporary bridges have been proposed to keep traffic flowing while the permanent bridges are constructed.

The total for Irene related work was \$834,874, of which we have paid out \$552,874; we have been reimbursed for most of that figure. Our best estimate at this time is that Irene will have cost the town \$70-80,000, amounting to the 10% share for which towns are responsible. The two large bridge projects mentioned above will cost an additional \$282,000, funded by a combination of FEMA and state highway money.

That's all for now. Get your wood piles stacked, button up your gardens and look forward to winter in Windham!

FLU SHOT CLINIC IN LONDONDERRY

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 9-11 AM
TOWN OFFICE IN SOUTH LONDONDERRY
FOR PEOPLE 18 AND OVER
WITH MEDICARE CARD—NO COST TO YOU
OTHERWISE, \$25

WHO SHOULD GET A FLU SHOT?

Anyone 6 months of age and older.
Adults with chronic health conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, kidney disease, or asthma.
Adults with weakened immune systems.
Adults who live with, or provide care for children and adults.
Women who will be pregnant during the flu season.



**TUESDAY, NOV. 6
IS ELECTION DAY**



**POLLS OPEN FROM 10 A.M. TO 7 P.M.
AT THE TOWN OFFICE
DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!**

Windham by the Numbers: Winter Roads *by Frank Seawright*

Roads are the Town of Windham's most valuable asset, essential for practically every part of daily life. We spend a large part of our tax money to keep the roads properly maintained. But how many of us actually know what goes into keeping the roads passable in winter? Below, you can test your "Windham's Winter Roads IQ:"

1. How many miles of road does Windham have?
a. 54.2 b. 35.16 c. 72 d. 28.1
2. During how many months is salt spreading required?
a. 4 b. 2 c. 5 d. 8
3. How much does a ton of road salt cost?
a. \$15 b. \$95 c. \$60 d. \$45
4. How many pounds of salt are spread on our roads during a single snow event?
a. 4.4 tons b. 2 tons c. 1800 d. 12 tons
5. How many tons of salt are we planning to spread this winter?
a. 800 b. 400 c. 250 d. 500

Answers:

1. b. Windham has 35.16 miles of roads.
2. a. Salt is spread usually during December, January, February, and March.
3. c. This year salt will cost \$60/ton.
4. a. About 4.4 tons. The Vermont Agency for Transportation (VTRANS) has established guidelines for the application of salt and the conditions under which using salt is appropriate. The recommendation is that salt be applied at a rate of 250 to 300 lbs/ lane mile. Therefore, covering all 35.16 lane miles of Windham's roads will require about 4.4 tons during a single snow event.
5. d. We have a contract to buy 500 tons.

For additional information, take a look at this link to the VTRANS Winter Services Guide: http://www.aot.state.vt.us/ops/Documents/AOT-OPS_Winter_services_guide.pdf

**WINDHAM
NEWS & NOTES**

is a publication of the Windham Community Organization, published six times a year. Please send donations to the address on the last page.

THE WN&N TEAM

Dawn Bower
Mary Boyer
Bev Carmichael
Leila Erhardt
Mary McCoy
Imme Maurath
Frank Seawright
Edith Serke
Nancy Tips

Thanks to all who provided articles. Their names are noted with their submissions. Send articles of around 300 words to the address on the last page or email to: windhamnews@hotmail.com

Next deadline: Dec. 15, 2012

Vote for Justice of the Peace

by Mary Boyer

Windham votes for five Justices of the Peace in the election on November 6, for a term of two years. For many years Windham has elected the same five people. This year Donna Koutrakos has removed her name from the ballot because she and her husband Bill plan to move to Charlottesville, VA to be near family. Both have devoted many years of service to Windham in a variety of capacities and we will miss them.

On election day you will see the names of four candidates for Justice of the Peace on the ballot. You may vote for them by marking an X in the appropriate space. You may also

write in a fifth name. In fact, you may write in up to five names on the appropriate lines, but ***be sure that you have voted for only five names in total whether you choose to write in candidates or to vote for those whose names are already printed on the ballot.***

The Justices have a number of duties:

Elections-they serve as election officials at town and statewide elections, and deliver absentee ballots at election time.

Tax Abatement and Appeals-as members of the Board of Civil Authority they help determine whether a taxpayer's tax obligation should be forgiven under certain circumstances. The Justices also hear and

decide appeals when citizens do not agree with the final decision of the listers.

Oaths and Notary-they administer oaths and serve as notaries.

Magistrate-Justices of the Peace may administer the law (for example, conduct a court for minor offenses) when so commissioned by the Supreme Court.

Perform Marriages-one of the more delightful powers of a Justice is the authority to perform marriages anywhere in the state. State law is silent on the mechanics of wedding ceremonies, which are left to the discretion of the couple and the Justice.



Profile *by Mary McCoy*

Kelly Wicker uses her lifetime of learning to help others heal

When I arrive at the home Kelly Wicker shares with her husband and son, Mace and David, I am greeted by a barking dog. Kelly tries to quiet him, explaining that he was just adopted. Kelly says she must train him not to bark, as she will not allow a pet to frighten people.

Kelly values peace and calm. She loves that about the natural environment of Vermont, and as a professional counselor, she helps others achieve inner peace. She calls herself an "integrative mental health counselor" for she brings to her work with clients a wide variety of approaches to understanding people and how they heal.

A native Vermonter who grew up as Kelly Brooks in West Dummerston, she enlisted in the Air Force at 17, where she served as a mechanic and electrician on B-52 bombers and worked on her college degree in Education, taking courses at night. She married a military man, and they lived in several states during and after her four-year term of duty, before divorcing. The breakup and soul-searching that followed eventually led her to switch majors to Psychology.

By then, Kelly was back in Vermont, taking classes at Keene State and working in a gift shop in Brattleboro. That's where she met Mace who worked nearby at Friends of the Sun. He became a frequent customer, although he didn't buy much. They began dating, and both knew they'd found what they wanted. Six weeks later, they married. Mace had two children, Zech and Abby, then aged 5 and 7. Kelly had always wanted to have a child and became pregnant with David. Dr. Mulhern in Townshend, who delivered David, told her about a vacant house he owned in



Windham on Abbott Road. The Wickers fell in love with it, and the family has lived there now for 22 years.

Kelly became a stay-at-home mom, connecting with the Windham community through the elementary school, the congregational church, and a local food co-op active at that time. She ran a home-based fiber business and raised sheep, angora goats, angora rabbits, chickens (egg and meat), and turkeys. In addition to canine and feline pets, there were 72 animals at one point. "It was tough but fun," Kelly says, until her sheep jumped the fence and ate her neighbor's new landscaping. With no good solution for fencing, the animal-raising business ended.

Kelly's interest in the human body, mind and spirit remained ever present. Fueled by her lifelong love of learning, she pursued an understanding of human healing. She studied Iridology (a technique for assessing health by examining the iris), Shiatsu (body work that balances energy using acupuncture points) and, like her grandmother, Astrology (the relationship between astronomical phenomena and events in human life).

Kelly also studied herbal medicine and for two years she ran another business from her home, growing,

marketing, and selling herbal remedies. But she became concerned about people's expectations. They came to her with cancer and other illnesses, eager for a cure. Should her remedies fail them, she could face legal ramifications, so she let the business go.

Other experiences added to her knowledge and skills. She volunteered as a visiting nurse and hospice helper. For eight years, she assisted her neighbors, the Neidlingers, first as a volunteer and eventually as a paid helper, providing daily support which allowed Dorothy to live at home until she passed. Clearly, helping others was Kelly's life work.

So she decided to get her Masters degree in counseling, as the certification that came with it provided the authority she needed. She enrolled at Antioch College and helped pay for her studies by serving as the librarian at the Jamaica Library. In 2006, she graduated with an MA in Counseling Psychology with a concentration in substance abuse and addiction.

A series of internship-type jobs followed before she went into private practice. Kelly worked for the local community mental health agency, Health Care and Rehabilitation Services, helping children in crisis and adults in addiction. She provided hospice care at Grace Cottage Hospital, ran programs for seniors, and served as an addiction counselor. At the Council on Aging, she helped elders deal with their emotional issues.

Now in her private practice, she serves adolescents and adults, dealing mostly with substance abuse, depression, and anxiety. Although these problems are common everywhere, Kelly sees how a rural life style can sometimes contribute to them. She said, "Distances and transportation issues often times isolate people here. They can feel less connected and

(Continued on page 10)

COMMUNITY MEETS TO DISCUSS REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL DISTRICT (RED) MERGER by Carolyn Partridge

At the meeting on Sept. 10, the Windham community discussed many questions regarding Windham's participation in the RED study. School Board member Antje Ruppert gave highlights of Windham's involvement, some of which are described here.

In January of 2012, the RED Study group came to the conclusion that merely forming a RED would not achieve anything that couldn't already be done. A member from Jamaica suggested the concept of a new unified school located somewhere equidistant from Townshend, Jamaica, and Windham. Such a possibility was particularly interesting to Townshend and Jamaica because of serious structural problems with their existing schools that will have to be addressed in the near future, and the RED Study group considered the idea for several months.

However, after discussion at our regular School Board meeting on July 2nd the Windham School Board unanimously decided to withdraw from the RED Study group discussion, for several reasons. The RED Study group had already decided that simply forming a RED would not improve education for our students; most importantly, building a new school didn't make sense for Windham at this time. It is part of the responsibility of the School Board, as elected officials, to make decisions on behalf of the community. After a year of study, weighing



photo: Bev Carmichael

all of the information, and given the timeline for the RED Study group, we felt it best for Windham to withdraw.

(John Everitt, facilitator for the RED discussion, also pointed out at the RED meeting on Oct. 3, 2012 that we could move forward with the formation of the RED with the intention of building a new school, and the new school might never be built.)

The Articles of Agreement that the School Board was being asked to sign violated one of our guiding principles. It would allow the proposed 11-member RED Board, on which Windham would have only one representative, to vote to close our school. While it would require a unanimous vote of RED Board members, there was no requirement in the Articles for a vote of the Town of Windham. We asked that such a requirement be included but were told that if it were, the Vermont School Board would most likely reject the Articles of Agreement.

We rejected the idea of a unified school for several reasons. We have carefully maintained our building, with the result that we do not have the same problems that the two other towns have. A new school would take 4-5 years to build and during that time we would have to fund our own school *and* pay construction costs, which would increase our taxes perhaps even into the penalty zone. Our student population is projected to increase, unlike the other two schools. Our test scores are very good, our staff is excellent, and our students do well when they move to the high school.

Additionally, it is well-known that parental involvement and Pre-K are both critical to a good education. We have students living on the north end of town who would have to make a 30-mile trip twice a day in order to attend Pre-K. Participation in extra-curricular activities (concerts, sports, parent/teacher conferences) would be negatively affected. At this point in time and for all of these reasons, the potential benefits of a unified school did not outweigh the negative effect it would have on our students and it didn't make sense for Windham to proceed with these discussions.

If you were unable to attend the community meeting or have additional questions, please feel free to contact Carolyn Partridge at 874-4182, Beth McDonald at 874-4015, or Antje Ruppert at 874-4759.

John Lingley

Sales Associate
Vermont Country Properties
Sotheby's International Realty
Route 30, P.O. Box 8
Bondville, VT 05340
t 802.297.1100 x 208 f 802.297.3299
john.lingley@sothebysrealty.com
vermontcountryproperties.com

Each Office Is Independently Owned And Operated

Quality Workmanship for over 40 years

PETER THE PAINTER

Interior and Exterior Painting
Wallpapering

Peter Chamberlain
Telephone: 802-874-4342
544 Burbee Pond Road, Windham, VT 05359



Windham Town Notes

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE PREPARES TO CONTRIBUTE TO UPDATE OF TOWN PLAN

by News and Notes Staff

The Town of Windham Conservation Commission met in October to hear a presentation on conservation planning from Jens Hilke, biologist with the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. The Commission, which has been active in town planning since 1994, is preparing to offer its assistance in the Town's update of its current Plan.

The speaker emphasized looking at Windham from the perspective of various "scales." Especially conspicuous at the "landscape scale" is Windham's situation between two immense forested areas. The town is also at a crossroads for many cherished species including moose and black bear, as they engage in migration patterns that are essential to their survival.

If you are interested in joining the Conservation Commission as it enters an exciting phase of service to the Town of Windham and its many species (including humans) contact the Selectboard. Their email address is selectboard@windhamvt.info.

DON'T MISS OUT ON WINDHAM LIBRARY'S ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST! *by Bev Carmichael*

Deadline for entries is November 5

Time flies when we are having fun. I hope your fun this year has included taking pictures for the Windham Library's annual photo contest, "Capturing the Beauty of Windham." Please submit your 8 1/2 x 11" photos to Library staff by November 5. Each person may enter as many as three choices to be judged at our Harvest Supper on November 10. Each person in attendance at the supper may vote for his or her favorite photo that evening. Calendars will cost \$10 and be available for sale at the Library and Town Office on December 1, in plenty of time for your Christmas gift giving. Please support your local Library in this once-a-year fund-raising event.

New books added to our shelves this month include:



FROM THE HEALTH OFFICER

by Marcia Clinton and News and Notes staff

HEPATITIS C TESTS

The Vermont Health Department is urging that anyone born between 1945 and 1965 get tested for hepatitis C. People born during these years account for 75 percent of the hepatitis C cases in the U.S., even though they make up only 27 percent of the population. Most people with hepatitis C don't know they have it, and may have no symptoms of the disease for many years, sometimes even decades. About 1 to 2 percent of the U.S. population is living with chronic hepatitis C, the number one cause of liver cancer and liver transplants.

People can be exposed to the virus

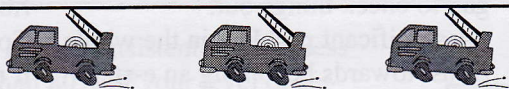
that causes hepatitis C through sharing syringes or other drug injection equipment, blood transfusions or organ donations before 1992, and unsafe tattooing or body piercing. Some 45 percent of infected people don't report a known exposure risk. The only way to know for sure is with a simple blood test. People who are infected may receive anti-viral drugs that will help some people get rid of the virus completely. Other people don't need treatment, and can stay healthy by taking good care of their livers by avoiding alcohol and acetaminophen.

"GET SMART ABOUT ANTIBIOTICS" WEEK IS NOVEMBER 14-18*
4 things you need to know about us-

ing antibiotics:

1. Antibiotics do not cure viral infections like the common cold or flu.
2. Antibiotics can cure bacterial infections like strep throat or common tooth and skin infections. However, more than half of antibiotics prescribed are for ailments that won't be helped by them, like colds and coughs caused by viruses.
3. When too many antibiotics are prescribed, bacteria can become resistant. Then the diseases they cause become harder to treat.
4. You can help: don't pressure your doctor to prescribe antibiotics for common ailments that won't be helped by them.

** Adapted from the CDC*



FIRECO GOES TO SCOOL

by Marcia Clinton

During the monthly fire drill at the Windham Elementary School in October, the kids had a visit by the Windham Fire Co. to recognize Fire Prevention Week. Despite the rain, the children were eager to see all the equipment on the fire truck and learn how it operates. Mike McLaine demonstrated the self-contained breathing apparatus while Paul Wyman and Fire Chief Rick Weitzel fielded questions. After a movie, there was a discussion of the importance of fire safety in the home and each child received a bag with safety information and treats, as well as stickers for bedroom windows. Other members of the Fire Co. assisting with the presentation were Leila Erhardt, Meredith Tips-McLaine, Jan Wyman, and Marcia Clinton.

Photos: Meredith Tips-McLaine



 **GraceCottage**
HOSPITAL
We Go Beyond Patient Care

185 Grafton Road
(Route 35)
Townshend, VT
www.gracecottage.org
802-365-7357

DSL – Are You Getting What You Pay For?

by Lydia Pope France

If your provider is FairPoint, the answer is -- maybe! After My Personal Rapture (see WN&N July/August 2011) and the wonderful rush of *finally* getting broadband internet, there have been a few bumps in the road, starting this summer. Back in July it seemed that things were running quite slowly. Even worse, we had several complete outages. As far as what we were actually running, speed checks confirmed my suspicions. While we subscribe to 7 Mbps service, we were often getting only 2.3, 3.1, etc., and sometimes it ran as low as 0.04. Dial-up was faster than that, or maybe my ability to watch the screen while nothing is happening has atrophied in the past year or so ...

In calling FairPoint Technical Services, I was told that they open a repair ticket for anything less than 80% of your designated speed. For us that would be 5.6 (if you run 3 then it should be above 2.6, for 15 that would be 12 or better). While we should be able to run 15 here, based on our distance from the service box, that has been a problem since DSL was first installed. So we agreed to go with 7, which truly is sufficient for everything including downloading movies, large files, etc. Parts of town that were "wired" earlier can only get a max of 3, in fact. Since we were consistently running so much slower than even 5.6, I be-

gan to check things out.

A significant problem in the whole thrust towards becoming an e-state as two administrations have now promised is the fact that broadband services are unregulated. Not just in Vermont, but nationally. This is thanks to an FCC ruling. Now, there are some businesses and even some entire *categories* that can likely operate just fine in an unregulated environment. I am just not convinced that telecommunications has proven worthy of that privilege. In talking with the VT Department of Public Service, I found that while they can *request* and *suggest*, they cannot enforce anything when it comes to DSL. So while there is a ceiling above which your service will not run, there is no lower limit. Kind of scary when you are trying to connect to online resources and running less than 1 Mbps ...

Back in May, we received a mailer from V-Tel announcing their new fiber optic service that is in the works. It talks about super high speed wireless internet, telephone and television packages. I had tucked it away for safe keeping, so got that out and gave V-Tel a call. Up until now we have not had a choice in local telephone providers, so I was hoping that might be about to change. Turns out that if you are not in V-Tel geography currently, you will not be eligible to switch to them for phone service or TV, but we are actually going to be able to buy internet service from them when the

fiber optics program is complete. Competition, at last! Looks like most if not all of Windham will be covered by V-Tel's new wireless service, but if you are curious and want to confirm for your address, call V-Tel at 1.802.885.9000. Unfortunately, date for completion is end of 2013, but the good news is that it is happening.

I also got the governor involved (this went on a long, long time, and I was getting more and more frustrated by FairPoint's inability to find a solution!) ... His office also confirmed that our address will be covered by V-Tel's Wireless Open World Project. Again, three cheers for coming competition! He also mentioned something I had not heard of, so will include that here in case anyone is currently in an area not otherwise serviced by DSL. *If* (a big if, but for what it's worth) you have sufficient mobile signal strength at your location, you can create a MiFi spot through AT&T and Verizon. Anyone interested should Google MiFi and the carriers and you will find information to get you started.

The FairPoint Customer Excellence Group says that demand has exceeded what was anticipated when they began installing DSL around the state. Not so much the number of households, but how people use broadband and how much bandwidth that requires. As a result, they are seeing a lot of congestion problems, which can occur at many points

(Continued on page 9)

Londonderry Hardware



We're more than a hardware store...

Did you know we have—

- Pet Food & Supplies • Small Appliances
- Automotive • Window & Screen Repair
- PLUS — Paint • Plumbing • Tools
- Lawn & Garden • Electrical

Mountain Marketplace 824-3926

.Jonsered

PoulanPRO

OREGON

Maruyama

Country Living

ROY "Coby"

MECHANIC OWNED & OPERATED

35 YEARS EXPERIENCE

POWER EQUIPMENT

SALES & SERVICE

TRIMMER • CHAINSAW

MOWER • TRACTOR • SNOWMOBILE

AUTHORIZED

MSD • POULAN • JONSERED

424 ABBOTT ROAD

WINDHAM VT 05359-9507

802-874-4298

(DSL, continued from page 8)

along the way. Service to our house on Burbee Pond Road actually goes from here to the box on Golding Road, then through Jamaica and down to Brattleboro before going up to a server in Burlington and then coming back into our line as internet ready.

Bottom line with the problems we had – it took two months and a lot of phone calls, e-mails and promised but missed appointments on the part of FairPoint. They finally came in early September and checked things inside and outside our house. Some work was done at the service box. Eventually they checked our path up to the server in Burlington and made some adjustments to get us out of highly congested paths. So far things seem to be improved. But this is bound to happen to anyone of us at any time. So it is important to check if you think your speed is not quite what you remembered. Two places to do that are www.speedtest.net and www.speakeasy.org. I suggest doing several tests in a row, as you often get wildly different numbers from one minute to the next. Jot down the numbers if they are below what they should be.

If you consistently run at less than 80% of your level of service, you need to call FairPoint Technical Support to document the problem and so that they can try to remedy it. They can be reached at [1.800.240.5019](tel:18002405019). Repair will then call with an appointment. In my experience, they mostly work at the service box and rarely need to enter your home. If it does not get resolved, please drop me an e-mail with details -- liddiepf@hotmail.com -- so that we can get a handle on any town-wide problems. I will get that to the right group at FairPoint. This is important – a recent press release talks about upgrades that are underway in many Vermont towns. As we found with getting DSL service *at all* from FairPoint, the squeaky wheel gets the grease. And we want to be sure that if it is necessary, Windham makes it onto that upgrade list. Someday when I have the time I plan to contact our representatives in DC to see if there is anything that can be done about the FCC policy that allows broadband and internet services to be unregulated. But that feels like a battle for another day ...

RED CROSS SHELTER TRAINING ON NOVEMBER 5 by John Lingley

The Windham Emergency Planning group will hold a Red Cross training session on the shelter initiative at the Meeting House on Monday, November 5th at 6:30 p.m.

All who want to be certified to volunteer in emergencies at the Red Cross-sponsored Town of Windham Emergency Shelter should attend. The training is not expected to last later than 9 p.m.



FRESH FOOD MARKET

**Fresh Produce, Deli, Bakery, Meat
Beer, Wine, Natural and Gourmet Foods**

MOUNTAIN MARKETPLACE

Jct. Route 100 and Route 11 in Londonderry

The Valley Bible Church invites you to check out their updated website at www.valleybibleVT.com for more information and a calendar of upcoming events.

(Kelly Wicker, continued from page 4)

can't always access services. This seems especially true of older adults. Depression can be common among them."

Yet in most ways, Kelly loves the Vermont life style. "I'm grounded and centered here," she said. "I love the peace and quiet, the clear water, the fresh air, the wildlife, and the variety of trees." It's not just the natural environment she treasures and wants to protect. Kelly also loves the attitude of rugged individualism here and the emphasis on being a good neighbor. One needs to do for oneself *and* get along with the guy down the road. "Both are needed to survive here," she said. A similar balance is seen in Kelly's life. She satisfies her personal love of learning and actively devotes her life to helping others.

There's also balance in her past-time pleasures. While she sews, quilts, knits, weaves, reads novels, and watches old movies, she also loves far less quiet endeavors. Fast

cars and motorcycles at high speed give her a thrill. She attends "hill climb" races and car rallies with Dave, and they volunteered last summer at the Climb to the Clouds auto race on Mt. Washington. "My life is just one adventure after another," Kelly said, "and there's always something to learn along the way."

The new dog barked again as a neighbor knocked on her door. Kelly did her best to quiet him and assure the visitor that all was well. She said to me with a smile, "Maybe I need to study canine psychology next and become a dog whisperer."

I'm not sure if she is kidding. But I am sure of this – Kelly Wicker brings a broad wealth of knowledge and experience to her private practice as a counselor. She combines all from her lifetime of learning in traditional and alternative practices to provide "integrative" services. If you or someone you know could benefit from counsel with this Vermonter, call 365-7001. Her office is in Newfane on Route 30.

A Change in the Weather ... by Lydia Pope France
Sitting here on this rainy evening at just before 7 p.m. on the first day of October, I can't help but wonder how we went so quickly from *hot to cold*, from *dry to wet* and from *light to dark*. But the season has changed, and seemingly in a flash ...

We had a lot of heat and humidity this summer, but the big difference was the rain. We had roughly half the amount of last year. Even if we discount the ten inches Irene dumped on us, we are still well behind. July and August of this year were particularly dry, as we all know from the constant watering that was needed.

Here are the numbers at our house. Rain seems to have picked up these past few weeks, so maybe things are balancing out. Right now the leaves are falling fast, probably due at least in part to the lack of water. But they are pretty spectacular if you get the right spot and the right light ... never ceases to amaze, does it?

Month	2011	2012
May	1.60	8.75
June	7.80	3.70
July	3.95	2.80
August	18.20 *	2.20
Septem-	11.25	7.20
5 Month	42.80	24.65

* Ten inches on Aug. 28th/Tropical Storm Irene

ONGOING FITNESS CLASSES AT THE WINDHAM MEETINGHOUSE/WINDHAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Yoga classes:

Mondays, 8:30 to 9:45 a.m. - Yoga with Bonnie Bokenkamp.
Fee: \$15 per class, \$72 for 6 consecutive classes. More info: e-mail Bonnie at bbboke@myfairpoint.net

Thursdays, 8:30 to 9:45 a.m. - Yoga with Victoria Tomkinson. Fee: \$12 per class. More info: e-mail Victoria at vt.livingyoga@yahoo.com or call (802)345-0590.

"Living Strong:"

Monday and Thursday mornings, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.
Weight-bearing exercises for stronger bones. Weights provided. No fee. All welcome! More info: call Ginny Crittenden at 874-4049 or Mary Boyer at 875-5242.



Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market

Saturdays 10-2, November 3-March 30

At the River Garden, 153 Main St. downtown Brattleboro

Warm indoor marketplace with 30+ vendors:

Orchards, farms, pottery, bakery, lunch, pies, preserves, wine, soap, gifts, and live music.

WCO HOLIDAY FUN AT THE MEETING HOUSE!**HARVEST SUPPER ON NOVEMBER 10, 5 P.M.****CHRISTMAS PARTY AND COOKIE EXCHANGE ON DECEMBER 12, 7 P.M.***By Dona Robinson, President Windham Community Organization*

Windham Community Organization is busy getting ready for the Holidays that are rapidly approaching. We are looking forward to a large turnout at the Harvest Supper on Saturday, November 10 at 5 p.m. at the Meeting House. It promises to be a fun-filled evening with good food, music, and dancing. Featured will be ham, squash, scalloped potatoes, baked beans, sweet breads, and home baked pies. Afterwards we will have a square dance, a tradition we hope to carry on for a long time to come.

Our Christmas Party and Cookie exchange will be on Wednesday, December 12th at 7 p.m. at the Meeting House. Please bring a small (\$5) gift wrapped to exchange in "Yankee Swap" fashion, and three dozen cookies to exchange. We look forward to seeing everyone there!! Please call Dona Robinson at 874-7242 with any questions.

Cranberry Citrus Cookies *by Bev Carmichael*

I found a cookie on the grocery store shelves that has become a favorite in the past few years...a combination of lemon and cranberries and a little crunch. Here's my Koppi Kat version...a little different but with the same flavors. Warning: These are addictive!

½ cup sugar
 ½ cup confectioner's sugar
 ½ cup butter
 ½ cup vegetable shortening
 1 egg
 1 teaspoon vanilla
 2 cups flour
 ½ teaspoon baking soda
 1 teaspoon lemon zest
 ¼ teaspoon salt
 1/3 cup chopped dried cranberries

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine granulated sugar, confectioner's sugar, butter, and shortening in mixing bowl and beat until combined. Add egg and vanilla. Beat at high speed until light and fluffy. Whisk together flour, baking soda, lemon zest and salt. Add to mixing bowl and beat on low speed until soft dough forms. Stir in cranberries and chill dough until firm. Shape dough into ¾ inch balls and place 2" apart on ungreased cookie sheet. Flatten balls with bottom of a drinking glass. Dip glass into granulated sugar to prevent sticking. Bake at 350 degrees for 8 – 10 minutes, or until edges begin to brown.

Yield: 3 ½ dozen cookies. (These cookies can also be made in a food processor.)

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING AND CAROL SINGING
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23 AT 4:30 P.M., AT THE MEETING HOUSE.
EVERYONE INVITED!



Windham News & Notes
5976 Windham Hill Road
Windham VT 05359

Windham News & Notes welcomes
submissions. Send articles of up to
300 words to the Editor at the
above address or preferably by
email to [windhamnews@
hotmail.com](mailto:windhamnews@hotmail.com)

Please keep us informed of any
address changes

Non-Profit
Organization
U. S. Postage
PAID
Jamaica, VT 05343
Permit #1

Regular Meetings and Schedules

Town Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Select Board: Mondays, November 12 and 19; December 3 and 17, at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Office. Open meeting.

School Board: First Monday of every month at 4 p.m. at the Elementary School. Open meeting.

Listers: Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Town Office.

Planning Commission: Thursday, November 8, and Thursday, December 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Office. Open meeting.

Library: Wednesdays, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Meeting House. Reading Group first Wednesday of the month. Note: Library will be closed the day before Thanksgiving and the day after Christmas.

Emergency Planning Committee: Monday, November 5, 6 p.m. at the Town Office.

Windham Volunteer Fire Company: First Thursday of every month, 7:00 p.m. at the Firehouse.

Windham Community Organization: Wednesdays, November 28 and December 12, at 7 p.m. at the Meeting House

Windham Congregational Church (UCC): Sundays, Worship Services at 9:30 a.m. Everyone invited.

Valley Bible Church: Sundays, Worship Services at 11:00 a.m. Tuesdays, Bible Study and Prayer at 7:00 p.m.

Save the Dates!

Monday, November 5, 6:30-9p.m. Red Cross emergency shelter training at the Meeting House.

Tuesday, November 6, 10a.m. to 7 p.m. Election Day. Polls open at the Town Office.

Friday, November 9, 9-11 a.m. Flu-shot clinic at the Londonderry Town Office in South Londonderry

Saturday, November 10, 5 p.m. W.C.O. annual Harvest Supper at the Meeting House.

Friday, November 23, 4:30 p.m. Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Singing at the Meeting House.