



Windham News & Notes

2013 Town Meeting — Tuesday, March 5, 10 AM

MEET THE CANDIDATES

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 7 PM AT THE MEETING HOUSE

WCO is sponsoring a "Meet the Candidates" night to give Windham voters the chance to hear from all candidates for the offices of Town Clerk and Town Treasurer. The format will be casual and each candidate will speak briefly.

CANDIDATES FOR TOWN OFFICE SEEK YOUR VOTE *by News and Notes Staff*

After thirty-two years in office, Carol Merritt, our Town Clerk and Treasurer will not be running for these positions. Several people have declared their candidacy and their statements are presented here:

Candidates for Town Clerk and/or Town Treasurer

Peter Chamberlain: Peter's statement was published in the previous issue of the News & Notes which is available at the Town Office.

Bill Lyons: Hello, my name is Bill Lyons and I am running for Town Clerk & Treasurer. I have been a Windham land owner for more than 15 years and now reside full time in Windham. I am a motivated business professional with a 20+ year track record of outstanding sales results & running a profitable branch in two of world's largest companies (GE & Transamerica). I have a talent for quickly mastering technology. I have demonstrated a history of producing accurate, timely reports and many awards for outstanding sales.

I have been a 4 year Board of Director of the Belchertown, MA Land Trust. Presently I am a member of the Windham Emergency Management Organization and have been in charge of creating & maintaining an Access Database to track necessary information needed in a community wide emergency. With my extensive business background, college education, and broad knowledge of computer software, I feel I can make a valuable contribution to the Town of Windham.

Mary McCoy: I'm Mary McCoy, and I'd like to be your town treasurer. You might know me as a long-time contributor to the News and Notes or as an organizer for high-speed internet. But much of my employment experience has included budgeting and financial record-keeping, and I'm familiar with the computer programs used for the town's bookkeeping. I also know how our town functions, having served as an election official, an assistant town clerk, and an assistant town treasurer. Currently, I'm interim town clerk, and as such I participated in the town's annual budgetary process. I know I would serve Windham's taxpayers well, and if elected, some of the changes I'd implement include reporting the town's finances more frequently for review and looking diligently for ways to reduce town expenses. I'd be honored to have your vote.

Alison Trowbridge: I am Alison Trowbridge and I am running for Windham Town Clerk because I would like to work serving the Town. For years Carol Merritt has created a very friendly and welcoming atmosphere for everyone doing business at the Town Office. If elected, I would endeavor to continue this tradition while attending to all the details of running a town in the 21st century.

As a twenty-year resident of Windham I have served as Chair of the Conservation Commission, was on the Windham School Board, and acted as the Town representative in the proceedings for the wind power project proposed for Glebe Mountain. I welcome the opportunity to continue my service to the Town by becoming Town Clerk and would appreciate your vote at Town Meeting.

(Continued on page 7)

SELECTBOARD NEWS *by Mary Boyer, Margaret Dwyer, and Frank Seawright*

We are half way through the winter 2013 in Windham and what a winter it is. Fluctuations in temperatures and weather conditions have made for varying road conditions that have kept our road crew very busy. You may have noticed Rodney and Bill at the garage more often this winter: we changed their winter hours to a more traditional 40-hour work week, in addition to their time spent covering storms that occur on weekends. When winter is over, we will review the total costs of having them on a 40-hour week with overtime for storms, to determine if this is the best way to manage their hours.

The Regional Commission recently examined all our roads and prepared a culvert inventory listing every culvert and bridge along with its state of repair. We received the report and map which are available for review in the Town Office.

We met with representatives from VTrans on January 22 to work on a report for FEMA. Our purpose was to review the expenses related to rebuilding the large culvert on Popple Dungeon and the bridge on Toad Road, and to ask for an extension of the rest of the reimbursement due us from the State.

The Selectboard met weekly (some weeks more than once) during the month of January in order to work on the budget for FY 2013. The process was very labor-intensive because we were trying to prepare a budget that would cover all our expenses while reflecting our sensitivity to the impact on our

taxpayers. Cuts had to be made, and although two pieces of town equipment are in need of replacement, we could not find space in our budget for additional expense while we are still paying on the dump truck and loader.

The sudden illness of our Town Clerk and Treasurer, Carol Merritt, was a shock to everyone in town. She had to undergo quadruple by-pass surgery which left her unable to continue her duties, so she resigned. She is home now and we are all wishing her a very speedy recovery. Fortunately Carol had assistants trained to help with various duties. They rallied and have been able to keep the Town Office open and functioning during this very busy time. There are revised office hours and you will find Mary McCoy and Dawn Bower at the Town Office during the week, covering the duties of Town Clerk. Ernie Friedli is fulfilling his duties as Assistant Treasurer and is making sure that the bills are paid and there is no interruption of service. We want to thank everyone who pitched in and devoted so much time and effort to keeping Town business running so smoothly during this difficult time.

We are getting ready for Town Meeting Day, Tuesday, March 5, 2013. The Articles have been posted and we hope for a good turnout. Please bring your thoughts, Town Report and your appetite!

That is all for now.

AROUND WINDHAM



Windham Fireco tanker responding to Mo's Marketplace fire in Jamaica, August 2012. Photo: Christian Avard, Rutland Herald



Town Meeting—March 6, 2012. Photo: Nancy Tips

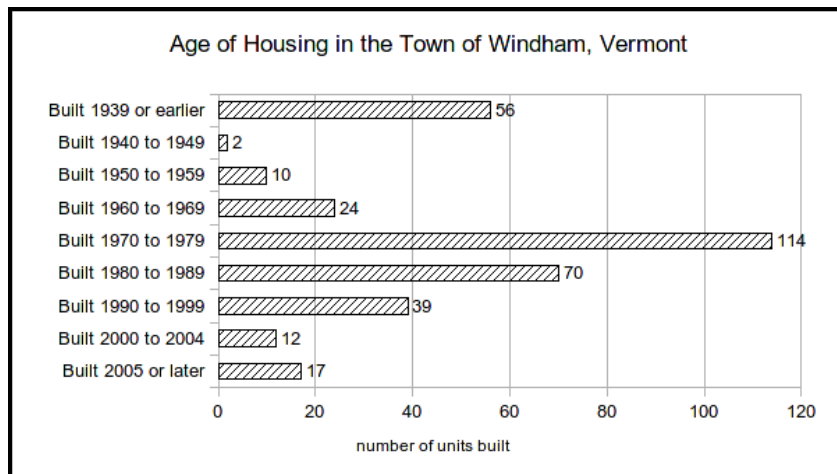
WINDHAM BY THE NUMBERS *by Frank Seawright*

Age of Housing in Windham

The US Census Bureau has lots of interesting data. Much of it is not of particular use to most of us and the folks at the Bureau realize that. So they've created something called the American FactFinder.

To use it go to this URL: <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>. In the search window type in whatever community you're curious about; in this case I typed in Windham town, Windham county, Vermont. A window will pop up, and from that you can pick from several data presentations.

I decided to look at housing age in Windham, and subsequently made the bar chart below from the spreadsheet data. Be aware that the data you download into your spreadsheet will have some formatting that interferes with chart making. You'll need to clear that. Here's the chart I created and it explains itself.



WINDHAM NEWS & NOTES

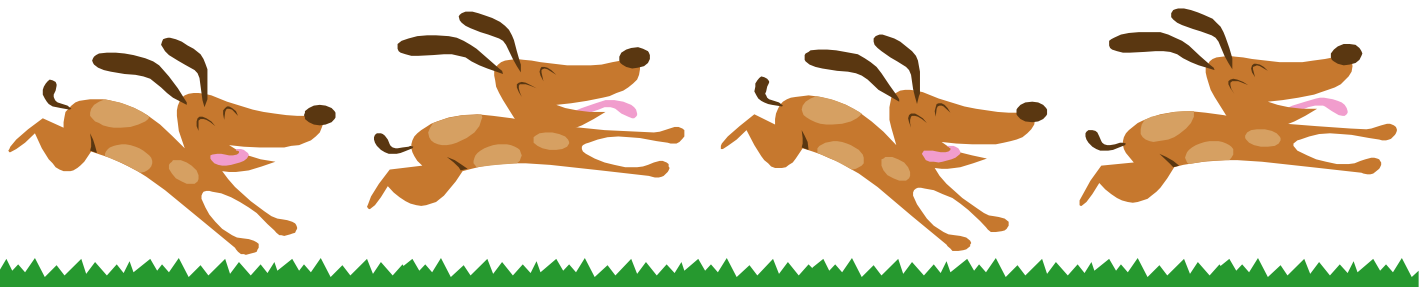
is a publication of the Windham Community Organization, published six times a year. Please send donations to the address on the last page.

CONTRIBUTORS

Dawn Bower
Heath Boyer
Mary Boyer
Bev Carmichael
Marcia Clinton
Margaret Dwyer
Leila Erhardt
Mary McCoy
Imme Maurath
Lydia Pope France
Carolyn Partridge
Dona Robinson
Frank Seawright
Edith Serke
Nancy Tips

Thanks to all who provided articles. Send articles of around 300 words to the address on the last page or email to:
windhamnews@hotmail.com

Next deadline: April 15, 2013



Remember: April 1 is the deadline for licensing your dog!

All dogs and wolf-hybrids, 6 months or older, must be licensed before April 1 2013. It's easy to do. Simply go to the Town Office during regular business hours with vet certifications of rabies vaccination and neuter/spay (if applicable). Registration is required by state law.

License costs for 2013:

Females, males, wolf hybrids \$12. After April 1, \$16.

Neutered or spayed dogs, \$8. After April 1, \$10.

PROFILE *by Mary McCoy*

Ralph Grouse Defies Expectations

During the ten years I've written profiles of my Windham neighbors, I've never encountered anyone like Ralph Grouse. I met him last spring when I arrived home in our car. I opened the door, and he was there, pacing back and forth in the driveway as if I had invaded his space. He refused to speak to me, but strutted boldly behind me as I walked to the house as if forcing me inside.

Over the next several days, he reappeared each time I weeded our flower gardens, apparently living somewhere nearby. One day as I fought with gout weed, he rushed at me, frightening me. When I shouted at him, he shuffled shyly away. This strange native Vermonter fascinated me.

The last time I saw Ralph was the day he followed me while I was on our lawn tractor. He strutted beside the mower, back just far enough to avoid the flow of cut grass. I had my eye on him and didn't know I'd hit a patch of dirt until I saw him engulfed in a big cloud of dust. He went sulking into the woods, chalking me off his list of folks to follow.

He next set his sights on my husband, Michael Simonds. All summer as Michael worked in our vegetable garden, Ralph followed him, overseeing the plants' care. He also joined Michael in the rebuilding of a stonewall. At one end, Ralph seemed only to observe. But as Michael neared the other end, Ralph became disapproving, trying to interfere with the work and at last speaking, but in a strange, guttural language. Michael had to push him away with a shovel before he backed off.

Yet Ralph continued to seek Michael's company. When Michael walked in the woods, Ralph followed him off to the side of the trail and a few feet behind. If Michael stopped, Ralph stopped and looked away, pretending to see something else of interest. In the autumn, when Michael burned piles of wood debris, Ralph showed up. One pile was particularly large, and when Michael set it ablaze, Ralph emerged from within. He didn't complain that his home for the night had been ignited. Instead, he watched it, standing surprisingly near the blaze as it popped and hissed. Last January, Michael was out cross-country skiing near the house when Ralph rushed across his trail. We saw his tracks in the snow, and it appeared that he had been staying under a spruce tree in our yard near where a car is parked.

I've learned that members of the Grouse family are attracted to loud sounds like motors. This may be due to

their own noise-making. Like many young men who rev their car engines to attract the ladies, the males of the Grouse family puff up and flap when they want a little nooky. We'd heard their resulting motor-like sound in the spring, thinking it was some sort of logging equipment on Turkey Mountain. It resembled a machine starting up, then abruptly stopping. Alan Partridge said it came from a drumming Grouse – we suspect it was Ralph.

There are many documented cases of odd behavior in this wild family. Grouses often seek the company of individuals far larger than themselves, including big people carrying rifles. During hunting season, they die by the droves as they fail to move from the line of fire. Sometimes many sit together in leafless trees like the damned before a firing squad. Perhaps their desire for companionship and love of loud noises overpowers their sense of fear.

Years ago when I interviewed Ned Caron for a *News & Notes* profile, he told me about a Partridge who had befriended him. I'm sure this was a relative of Ralph's, as his family is known locally by the name Partridge, even though my research shows there are no Partridges in New England, except of the Al and Carolyn variety. Ned said his friend would eat pieces of apple off his lap, but had his limits, refusing to be touched.

Unlike most Windham residents I've interviewed, Ralph isn't an interesting human being. I can't tell you how smart he is or what talents he displays. But I can say I'm very glad he made it through last year's hunting season. I hope to hear him revving his engines in the spring. Perhaps this year he'll find a mate more suitable than Michael.



Ralph Grouse

photo: Mary McCoy

WIND UPDATE *by News and Notes Staff*

- **PSB Decision on Wind Measurement in Windham and Grafton**
- **Wind Moratorium Bill in the Vermont Senate**
- **Vermont League of Cities and Towns Asks PSB to Consider Towns**

In late December, the Vermont Public Service Board (PSB) granted permission to Iberdrola to place wind measuring towers in Windham and Grafton. The Windham Town Plan prohibits industrial wind installations in Windham, and our Town Plan was widely regarded as having the potential to forestall wind development. Nonetheless, the PSB, while acknowledging the clarity of the Town Plan, ruled in favor of the developer. Pertinent documents are available on our community website, windhamvt.info.

Opposition to rapid build out of utility-scale wind installations is growing in organization and visibility across Vermont, as demonstrated by increased frequency and depth of media coverage of the activities of those in opposition. Windham's Senator Peter Galbraith co-sponsored the Wind Moratorium bill, calling for a timeout on new wind installations until important questions can be answered. Mary Boyer, Windham Selectboard chair, testified before the Vermont Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee on the proposed Wind

Moratorium. (Testimony at windhamvt.info.)

In January Ms Boyer, acting on behalf of the Windham Selectboard, requested that the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) change its policy of silence on the siting of industrial wind installations, in order to improve its representation of the interests of municipalities in legislative discussion and PSB proceedings. She stated, "...one of Vermont's most cherished values, municipal authority, is in serious jeopardy." After lengthy discussion, the VLCT reversed its previous policy, calling on the PSB to consider the interests of municipalities by holding hearings in potentially affected towns; by including within the PSB docket all local decisions concerning the project; and by formulating areas of inquiry based on concerns raised in local hearings. The new policy is widely considered to be an enhancement of the VLCT's role as an advocate for Vermont towns, especially small towns like Windham.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT *by Carolyn Partridge, Beth McDonald, and Antje Ruppert*

The Windham School Board held its FY2014 Budget Information Meeting on Feb. 4 at 7 p.m. More people attended than usual, which was gratifying. Presenting at the meeting were Frank Rucker, Chief Financial Officer of the Windham Central Supervisory Union (WCSU), and Abby Dillon, Coordinator of Special Education for the district. Steven John, WCSU Superintendent, was also there to answer questions.

Some of the major cost drivers for the FY2014 budget include special education, a 12.9% increase in health insurance costs, and a professional audit. Included in the Health and Unemployment Insurance Benefits line item is a \$2,500 payment in lieu of benefits for one of our teachers because we do not provide health care coverage for that person. With the inclusion of that payment, the actual increase is 29.6%. Another increase is

the result of the recommendation that we hire a licensed Pre-kindergarten teacher for the four anticipated Pre-K students next year. This is the state of Vermont's preferred requirement for reimbursement for that position. A question was asked about this line item because it represented a large increase. To clarify, part of the \$20,242 is for the licensed Pre-K teacher (\$15,288) and part is for the teachers' salary increases for FY2013 and FY2014 - \$2,040 and \$2,914 respectively.

We are very fortunate to have a wonderful staff that is very dedicated to the students in our school. We are also fortunate to have a supportive community that values the presence of our school and appreciates the quality education that our children receive here. We thank everyone who attended the budget meeting, asked good questions, and made helpful suggestions.

WINDHAM TOWN NOTES

EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE *by Heath Boyer and Imme Maurath*

The next issue of the News and Notes will enclose an update of the Emergency Information Survey. When you receive the survey, you can help strengthen Windham's preparedness by completing and returning it, either as a first-time respondent or to update information you have previously provided. We pledge that all information is held in confidence and used only to plan and deliver emergency assistance.

Last year nearly 80 surveys were completed and returned. The results were compiled to form a cross-referenced directory of special needs and assets in the community, improving the ability of emergency volunteers to assist when they are needed. The survey revealed that nearly one hundred percent of respondents require electricity to pump water; some twenty percent have no way to cook without electricity; and twenty percent have no means of heating any portion of their homes without electricity. Depending on outside temperatures and ease of access, a power outage of longer than 48 hours could be more than merely inconvenient for many of our residents.

Severe weather, which experts tell us to expect with increasing frequency, is the cause of our two most likely emergencies: extended power outages and physical isolation due to road impassibility from either flooding or snowfall. These two emergencies are the focus of most of Vermont's weather-related emergency planning.

Underscoring the importance of such planning, there were two prolonged weather-related emergencies in our region in the last 18 months. Connecticut experienced a snowfall so heavy that crews could not get to downed lines even in urban and suburban areas. And in the aftermath of Sandy many coastal residents spent days without the ability to buy gasoline for either cars or portable gen-

erators – and this occurred in areas where gas stations are more plentiful than they are in Vermont.

Preparedness starts at home, especially when resources are limited and physical isolation a possibility. The emergency team is working to devise a plan for dividing the community into zones so that we can quickly and easily identify those most in need of assistance and establish sensible priorities for relief or evacuation.

The Windham Emergency Planning Committee usually meets on the second Monday of the month. Meetings are open and those interested should check with the Town Clerk to learn if a meeting is scheduled, or call Imme Maurath (875-1709) or Heath Boyer (875-5242) for information or to volunteer.

WINDHAM LIBRARY NEWS *by Beverly Carmichael*

Our book club discussion group met in February and discussed, "The White Tiger," by Aravind Adiga, winner of the Man Booker Prize. The story was a darkly comic debut novel set in India. Next month we will discuss "At Home," by Bill Bryson. We meet on the first Wednesday of each month and all are welcome to join us.

We also had two movie nights last month sponsored by Chris Fisher. The first was a slide presentation on "Birding" and the second was the Oscar-nominated "Mama Mia," starring Meryl Streep. Both were enjoyed by all who attended.

New books this month are:

"The Misremembered Man," by Christina McKenna;
 "Threat Vector," by Tom Clancy and Mark Greany;
 "Hitmaker: The Man and His Music," by Tommy Mattonla
 "The Very Thought of You," a novel by Rosie Alison.

We add new books to our shelves often. If you would like us to order a title, please let us know. We are open every Wednesday afternoon from 3-5.

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

GIVE YOURSELF A ONCE-A-WEEK TREAT! Unimaginably delicious home-cooked Indian food

- Delivered in a tiffin to your home each week
- Made with local and organic ingredients
- Includes 2 portions of 5 different dishes
- With meat \$40, Vegetarian \$30
- Special offer: free delivery to Windham residents
- Small-event catering & Ayurvedic Nutritional Counseling also available.

Call or email Lini Mazumdar to sign up.
 802-824-4658 / linimazumdar@yahoo.com

CANDIDATES FOR TOWN OFFICE SEEK YOUR VOTE *(Continued from page 1)*

In addition to Town Clerk and Town Treasurer, we will elect other town officers at Town Meeting on March 5th. All incumbents whose terms expire in 2013 are up for reelection and may be challenged from the floor. Positions to be determined include Moderator, Selectboard member,

Lister, Auditor, Collector of Delinquent Taxes, Grand Juror, Town Agent, Library Trustee, Windham School Director, Constable, and one Commissioner each for North, East, and West Windham cemeteries.

We wish all the candidates good luck. Many people contribute to the smooth functioning of Windham town government. We appreciate everyone who holds an office and gives of their time, talent and energy.

MUD SEASON *by Mary Boyer*

Who can forget last year's mud season? It took days to make our thirty-five miles of roads passable and caused major inconvenience to everyone living on a dirt road; many of you were concerned about getting to and from work as well as your ability to get out in an emergency.

We're all familiar with what causes the annual problem: during winter the ground freezes down 2-4 feet or more, with the depth depending largely on the date of the winter's first snow. Because snow insulates the soil, the earlier the first snow the shallower the freeze. When warmer weather returns, the ground slowly thaws from the top down and the bottom layer of frozen soil becomes a giant saucer,

trapping water above it. Meanwhile snow is melting and spring rains are pounding, and the combo produces a tremendous amount of water with nowhere to go. When it mixes with our fine-grained soil, the result is serious mud.

There is no way to predict what the season will bring, so we all need to be mindful of the following:

- **The most effective way to lower the impact of mud season is to reduce the amount of traffic on dirt roads as much as possible:** Take one trip when you would normally take two or three.—Plan ahead so that oil and gas deliveries are not done during mud season.—Telecommute or carpool whenever possible.—Be prepared to park at the beginning of the road and walk in if conditions are poor.
- **Be prepared:** Keep bags of sand in the trunk along with a shovel and a couple of 2x6 boards.
- **Report deliberate harm:** Immediately report to the sheriff any instances of deliberate harm to our roads by "mudboggers." Get a license number if possible!

To report on road conditions, call one of the Selectboard members and leave a phone number. To report a potential emergency, call an Emergency Director.

Selectboard: Mary Boyer: 875-5242, Margaret Dwyer: 874-4756, Frank Seawright: 875-1555

Emergency Directors: Imme Maurath: 875-1709, Heath Boyer: 875-5242

Sheriff: 808-365-4949

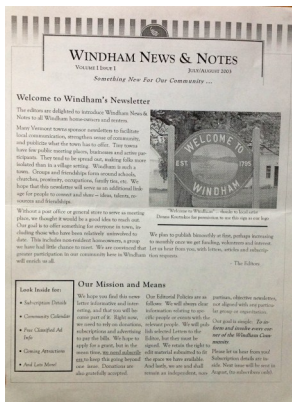
Not much pleasant to say about mud season except that it does mean spring is coming!



 **GraceCottage**
HOSPITAL
We Go Beyond Patient Care

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

AND IN THE BEGINNING ... *by Lydia Pope France* Part 1 of a two-part article on the history of the Windham News and Notes



Someone was recently asking about the early days of Windham News & Notes. I realized, a tad surprised, that the ten year anniversary is coming up. I also realized that there are many new people in town who didn't live through this "birth," so thought it might make interesting reading.

I was still fairly new in town, having arrived full time in late 2001. At the end of the following year, I was invited to the re-

viving Windham Community Organization. They had been meeting sporadically but were getting back into the routine with the December cookie festivities. A few months later, as we were leaving a meeting at Helen George's house, Margaret Woodruff asked to speak to me. She said that she and another woman (Maggie Newton) were interested in starting a newsletter and asked if I would like to join them.

I didn't know Margaret -- or anyone else -- very well, but that was right up my alley. We had been long time visitors to Grafton and had always gotten their newsletter. When we bought our house in Windham we didn't know a soul, and as part timers never had a clue about what was going on. Combine that with the fact that we don't have a community hub and I could really appreciate the value of something like this.

Both Margaret and Maggie were eager, and we began meeting at Margaret's house. She lives down Windham Hill Road, in the log cabin that now has eggs for sale. We sat at a large square table by the window in her enchanted cottage, drinking peach iced tea while her cat Kiko kept an eye on us. After one of those meetings I stopped to snap a picture of the "Welcome to Windham" sign in South Windham, and that has been a part of the newsletter ever since. I hunted down Ed Brown to talk to him about the font he had used for the Windham Town Office, to keep a consistent look for "brand Windham."

Early discussions focused on what was possible and how we might do things. How often, what would we charge,

what sort of content, what would we call it? Looming in the back of our heads were much tougher questions: would people embrace it, would anyone subscribe, would they submit articles? But we were gung ho, so we just stuck to our knitting ...

We presented our plans to various groups in town, the WCO, Friends of the Meeting House, the Windham Community Church Council, etc. People expressed a lot of interest. Our hope was that it was genuine and they weren't just being polite.

By May we were pretty much working on this full time. We had our ideas for the first issue fleshed out, and were dealing with trickier things like lists of property owners and mailing labels! I was also grappling with a new-to-me program, Windows Publisher, to develop a layout and format. We decided to send the first issue to all home owners in Windham, anyone else on the checklist, former residents, local businesses, most of the libraries in surrounding towns, state and local politicians, etc. Somehow, that came out to an initial run of 600 copies.

Our plan was to do six issues a year, and to ask \$10 for subscriptions. We were set to issue the July/August installment in late June. The cover stories included a Welcome to Windham's Newsletter piece and a statement of our Means and Mission. Other articles included a note from the Lister's office, School News for the Leyland & Gray Class of 2003, something about the Summer Day Camp, a piece on Windham's population trends, details about the new Strong Living Program, an article on farming in Windham in the 1800s, news from both churches, Nature Notes and a lot of calendar info.

Looking at it now, two items are amusing. One announced that DSL was coming to town. Of course that was only for Vtel customers north of the Town Office, those of us with FairPoint waited another eight years! And then there was the little blurb about trying to increase community use of the Meeting House. Thankfully for both we can now declare Mission Accomplished.

To be continued ...

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



Donna and Bill Koutrakos



Family portrait



Windham residents turned out in force!

All photos: Chris Fisher

WCO HONORS OUTSTANDING "CITIZENS OF THE YEAR"

By Dona Robinson, President WCO

Windham residents, family, and good friends turned out in force on Saturday, Feb. 2 to honor Donna and Bill Koutrakos as Windham's Outstanding Citizens of the Year.

The event was a big success and sent a Windham style thank you to Donna and Bill for their 40+ years of service to the Town of Windham, the Windham Elementary School, the Church, and the Meeting House.

Donna and Bill have been good for Windham and we hope Windham has been equally good to them. They have left a lasting impression on the Town and we are honored to have them as our Outstanding Citizens of The Year.

Thank you to the many who helped make this night such a success.

In many ways this event allowed the Town of Windham to shine and show at its best.

See more wonderful photos of this event at <http://koutrakasfarewell.shutterfly.com>*

*be sure to use the spelling given here, or the website address won't work.



FRESH FOOD MARKET

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

**MOUNTAIN MARKETPLACE
Jct. Route 100 and Route 11 in Londonderry**

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 HAS TALENT *by Imme Maurath***Multiple Talents on Hitchcock Hill Road**

Steve Maurath hopes you enjoy his themed banners as you drive down Hitchcock Hill Road. The one pictured here is an airbrushed picture of the Iditerod in Alaska, which I recently read might not happen because of lack of snow. Some of his other themes include Old Man Winter, Super Bowl, and Mud Season, just to name a few.

Steve also tinkers with chain saw carving. He did one of a hawk that made me do a double take in the beginning. His latest endeavor is wood burning outdoor scenes on a 5 inch board that will go around the new garage he built with his wife. The molding will separate the first and second floor. Total footage needed? We're not saying. Will tell you though that he's got almost 30 feet of it finished.

**GET IN SHAPE FOR SPRING!**

For anyone desiring the relaxation, strengthening and stretching that yoga provides, there will be an hour long class Monday mornings at 8:30 taught by Bonnie Bokencamp, and one on Thursdays at 8:30 taught by Victoria Tompkinson.

If you prefer a structured program of bone building, muscle strengthening, stretching, and balancing, then Strong Living is for you. The hour and a half class meets twice a week on Mondays and Thursdays at 10:00 immediately following the yoga class. All levels of experience are welcome in all of the classes.

For more information call Mary Boyer 875-5242 or Ginny Crittenden 874-4049.



OUR RECYCLING FOLKS NEED TO HEAR FROM US!!
GO TO LONDONDERRYVT.ORG. CLICK ON RECYCLE/TRANSFER STATION.
TAKE THE RECYCLING SURVEY TODAY!

Early reminder : 2013 GREEN-UP DAY IN WINDHAM—Saturday, May 4.

Look for details in the next issue of the News and Notes!!

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.

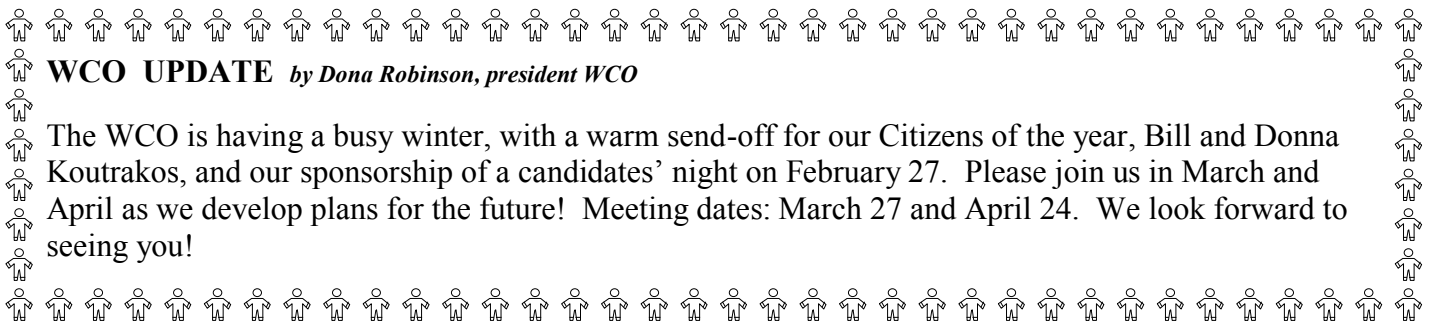
**Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market**

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 UPDATE *by Dona Robinson, president WCO*

The WCO is having a busy winter, with a warm send-off for our Citizens of the year, Bill and Donna Koutrakos, and our sponsorship of a candidates' night on February 27. Please join us in March and April as we develop plans for the future! Meeting dates: March 27 and April 24. We look forward to seeing you!

FROM THE FIRECO *by Marcia Clinton*

The Windham Volunteer Fire Company has responded to two chimney fires so far this winter season, and received the following note from one grateful household: "We would like to thank the Windham & Londonderry Volunteer fire companies for their quick response to our bad chimney fire on January 14, 2013 at 6:23 am. What would we do without our volunteers who take the time and are on call 24/7 for everyone? You all should be very proud of yourselves for what you do. We would like to also thank our family and friends for stopping by or calling to see if there was anything they could do for us and to see if we were ok. It is so nice to live in a community where so many people care about you. Thank you all and remember you are the best—Ralph & Jan Wyman"



Fireco President, Mike McLaine, inspects burning chimney
photo: Meredith Tips-McLaine

As a reminder to everyone, we're providing the following information from the Chimney Safety Institute of America csia.org.

Fireplaces and wood stoves are designed to safely contain wood fires while providing heat for a home. Chimneys have the job of expelling combustion by-products, the substances produced when wood burns. These include smoke, water vapor, gases, unburned wood particles, hydrocarbon, tar fog, and assorted minerals. As these substances exit the fireplace or wood stove and flow up into the relatively cooler chimney, condensation occurs. The resulting residue that sticks to the inner walls of the chimney is called creosote.

Creosote is highly combustible. If it builds up in sufficient quantity and the internal flue temperature is high enough, the result could be a chimney fire. Certain conditions encourage the buildup of creosote. Restricted air supply, unseasoned wood, and cooler-than-normal chimney temperatures are all factors that can accelerate the buildup of creosote on chimney flue walls. Air supply may be restricted in several ways: by closing the glass doors; by failing to open the damper wide enough; and by the lack of sufficient make-up air to move heated smoke up the chimney rapidly. A wood stove's air supply can be limited by closing down the stove damper or air inlets too soon or too much. Burning unseasoned rather than seasoned wood results in cooler smoke, because so much energy is used initially to drive water from the cells of unseasoned logs. In the case of wood stoves, overloading the firebox with wood in an attempt to get a longer burn time also contributes

to creosote buildup.

When a chimney fire occurs in a masonry chimney, whether the flue is an older unlined type or tile-lined to meet current safety codes, the high temperature (around 2000 degrees F) can melt mortar, crack tiles, cause liners to collapse, and damage the outer masonry material. Most often, thermal shock occurs: tiles crack and mortar is displaced, providing a pathway for flames to reach the combustible wood frame of the house.

Wood stoves are made to contain hot fires. The connector pipes that run from the stove to the chimney are another matter. They cannot withstand the high temperatures produced during a chimney fire and can warp, buckle, and even separate from the vibrations created by air turbulence during a fire. If damaged by a chimney fire, they must be replaced.

A chimney fire in action can be impressive. Indications of a chimney fire have been described as creating a loud cracking and popping noise, a lot of dense smoke, and an intense, hot smell.

With proper chimney system care chimney fires are entirely preventable. Clean chimneys don't catch fire. Make sure a CSIA Certified Chimney Sweep inspects your solid fuel venting system annually, and cleans and repairs it when necessary.



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.

Selectboard: First and third Mondays of every month, 6:30 p.m. at the Town Office. Open meeting.

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

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

Planning Commission: Second Thursday of every month, 6:30 p.m. at the Town Office. Open meeting.

Emergency Planning Committee: Usually second Monday of every month. Check with Town Clerk for meeting dates.

Library: Wednesdays, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Meeting House. Reading Group first Wednesday of the month.

Windham Volunteer Fire Company: First Thursday of every month, 6:00 p.m. at the Firehouse. Heavy refreshments served!

Windham Community Organization: Last Wednesday of every month, 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!

WCO-sponsored event "Meet the Candidates:" Wednesday, February 27, 7 p.m. at the Meeting House

Town Meeting: Tuesday, March 5, 2013: 10 a.m. at the Meeting House. Potluck Lunch around noon.