

Volume 10, No. 6



May-June 2013

# Windham News & Notes



**WINDHAM NEWS & NOTES IS TEN YEARS OLD!**

## 2013 GREEN-UP DAY IN WINDHAM—Saturday, May 4

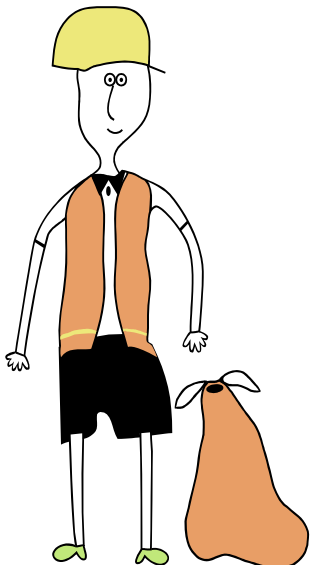
*by Marcia Clinton*

On Saturday May 4, Windham folks of all ages are invited to help clean our roads. Bright green bags will be available at the Town Office the week before if you want an early start. When you pick up your bags, please sign the clipboard and indicate which road(s) or area you will be working to help avoid duplication. For those working on May 4th, come by the Town Office at 9 a.m. to get bags and sign in. Leave filled bags by the side of the road and the road crew will pick them up later.

At noon, everyone is invited to a Workers' Appreciation Lunch: hot dogs with all the fixings, chips, soda and cookies. Each year, awards are presented for most bags filled, weirdest object found, longest distance covered, etc. Join us, rain or shine, for this one big day of cleaning up Windham, a town we are all proud to live in!

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### A LETTER FROM JOHN HOOVER (*Originally published in the Rutland Herald on Saturday, May 12, 2012*)



Recently friends and neighbors in Windham fanned out to walk the roadways and participate in Green Up Day. As I walked along picking up throw-a-ways I realized that I needed to speak to those whose trash I was picking up, and you know who you are.

I know that I am not going to change your behavior, you are most likely hard wired to believe that you have some sort of inalienable right to throw your trash anywhere you want. But perhaps you would do those of us who clean up after you a favor? Would you mind, please, throwing your trash closer to the road?

After spending a morning tromping through drainage ditches and into thick woods to pick up the empty beverage containers and other sundry unwanted items you left in your wake I was tired and dirty. It would make my job cleaning up much easier if you would not use so much force when you fling your empties out your vehicle window but rather gently toss them next to the road. Thank you for your kind consideration of this request.

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

All our town positions have been filled either through election at Town Meeting or appointment the following Monday. If you have not yet been to the office to be sworn in by the clerk, please do so as soon as possible. We thank everyone who is willing to serve Windham in an official capacity.

Our new clerk, Alison Trowbridge, and treasurer, Peter Chamberlain, have been meeting the challenges of their new positions and are making amazing headway. The office is functioning smoothly and Peter is already providing the kinds of financial information we need to help us make good decisions.

Windham has been reimbursed for all Tropical Storm Irene work projects except Popple Dungeon (\$96,000) and Toad Road (\$124,000). Our Popple Dungeon application has received FEMA and State approval, and we are expecting reimbursement soon. VT has rolled back deadlines for applications several times due both to volume and to disputes with FEMA over construction standards. Many towns have been caught in the middle: when deadlines are changed, towns must reapply. Currently our Toad Road reapplication is in the queue for consideration. In the meantime we extended our \$100,000 bank note for three months, hoping to receive at least the first of two reimbursements during that time.

We are handling law suits filed by a former and a current employee regarding retirement and health benefits that were calculated incorrectly. We have hired a CPA

to check payroll records and are informed that the amounts involved appear to be small. Our legal representation is covered by the "Errors and Omissions" clause of our liability insurance with the VT League of Cities and Towns.

The Planning Commission is making great progress updating our Town Plan. Commission members are consulting with the Windham Regional Commission to ensure our compliance with the Regional Plan and to develop language representing our values, cultural heritage, and rural atmosphere. Public hearings will begin in the early summer so that we may meet the September deadline for renewal.

On April 4<sup>th</sup> a group including the Selectboard, five members of the Planning Commission, and several town residents met with the French family, owners of Meadowsend. Family representatives spoke of family history in the lumber industry and financial difficulties faced by the industry today. They also told of their commitment to conservation causes. They were unable to answer our questions about plans for development of an industrial wind installation on the Stiles Brook Tract or address our concerns about potential ecological degradation of the property or the siting of turbines. We hope to hear more from them in the future regarding our questions.

We are eager for spring and grateful to the weather gods for a good winter and moderate mud season. Happy gardening to all!

### FROM ALISON TROWBRIDGE, TOWN CLERK

I am settling into the Town Clerk position and working to acclimate myself to my responsibilities, including record-keeping such as land records (mortgages, deeds, etc.), vital records (births, marriages and deaths), and town records (meeting postings, oaths of appointed officials, etc.). The Town Clerk also provides licenses for dogs and marriages, is in charge of elections, and issues heavy weight permits for vehicles. I'm sure this list may grow as I learn more.

To fully understand and perform these duties correctly, I have been referring to VT Statutes, Secretary of State's Office, and VT League of Cities and Towns. Our former Town Clerk, Carol Merritt, who possesses amazing memory and attention to detail, has been very helpful as well, and things have been running smoothly and pleasantly.

Thank you to the many people who have helped me, especially the voters who enabled me to take on this

challenging and interesting job! I am so appreciative to Mac (Mary McCoy) who has agreed to be the Assistant Town Clerk. She has been extremely helpful, very patient, and most generous with sharing her knowledge and experience from her time as Assistant Town Clerk and Interim Town Clerk. Thank you also to the people who have come into the Town Office and been patient with me as I figure out how to do the many different tasks associated with the job.

I am also Clerk for the Selectboard: I take minutes at their meetings and provide support for their work by scheduling meetings, making phone calls, etc. This puts me in the enviable position of getting to attend all the Selectboard meetings.

My hours at the Town Office are:

**Mondays: 11- 6**

**Tuesdays: 8:45-2:45**

**Thursdays: noon-3**

**Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday: 9-noon.**

Please call if you have any questions, 874-4211, or come visit!

## SEED LIBRARY: A SEED-SHARING PROJECT OF OUR TOWN LIBRARY

*by Beverly Carmichael*

Starting on May 1, you can get organic seeds from the library for free! Supplies are limited because we're just getting started, so we ask that you limit yourself to 6 seed packets at a time. You may check out seeds with your Windham Library card, and there are no due dates or overdue fines. At harvest time, we ask that you save seeds from the strongest, tastiest, and most vigorous of your plants and donate a portion of those seeds to ensure that the seed library will be self-sustaining. You won't be penalized if you are unable to donate seeds.

All the seeds currently available at the library are easy for beginners to harvest, and most come from plants that are self-pollinating, that is, the flowers have male and female parts and pollination occurs within the individual plant, and not as a cross between plants. Thus these seeds will grow into plants that are reliably the same as the parent plant. Eventually the seed library will have a wider range of seeds, including some that are more difficult to harvest and save.

When you grow plants and save their seeds, you develop seed stock that is well suited to our climate and you save money at the same time; when you participate in Windham's seed library, you help create a culture of sharing and abundance. We wish you happy growing!

The Windham Library is open every Wednesday from 3-5 .



## FROM PETER CHAMBERLAIN, TOWN TREASURER:

Hello to all residents of Windham. I would like to thank everyone who participated and voted during the Town Meeting on March 5<sup>th</sup>. March was certainly a busy month for me, as I became familiar with office procedures, paperwork, and processes. I want to thank all the people who have helped me, including retired and current town officials, school staff, and members of the school board and Selectboard.

I have appointed Kathy Scott as the new assistant treasurer, replacing Ernie Friedli who retired after many years of service. Kathy is an experienced bookkeeper, and together we will accurately track the income and expenses of the Town and keep all departments up to date and aware of their budgets.

Happy Spring to all.



## WINDHAM NEWS & NOTES

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

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Thanks to all who contribute. Send articles of around 300 words to the address on the last page or email to: [windhamnews@hotmail.com](mailto:windhamnews@hotmail.com)

*Next deadline:* June 15, 2013

## FROM THE WCO *by Dona Robinson*

The Windham Community Organization sponsored its first "Meet the Candidates Night" on February 28<sup>th</sup> to introduce the candidates for Town Clerk and Treasurer. The event was a big success, thanks to the candidates and the town residents who participated.

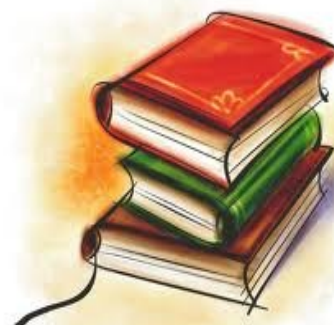
Look forward to our next major fund raising event, the annual Chicken BBQ and Craft Raffle. What about strawberry shortcake with real whip cream? Pit master Walter has picked **July 20** as the date! There's still room for crafters to donate to our raffle. Contact Im'may at 875-1709

WCO continues to support the community by providing assistance to our neighbors in need. We depend on the entire community to help us in this endeavor. Please contact Dona at 874-7242.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>. All Windham residents are invited and welcome to attend. We look forward to seeing you there.

## PROFILE *by Mary McCoy*

### Elizabeth & Jonathan Stevens uncover Windham's past



Genealogists Elizabeth and Jonathan Stevens at work in the Windham Town Office Photo: Mary McCoy

If you want to know anything about the history of Windham, your best resources are two people who have never lived here. Elizabeth and Jonathan Stevens, mother and son, reside in Chester, but once a week for many years they have dug deep into the records kept in the vault of our town office.

Elizabeth began some 30 years ago to research her family's roots, including some from Windham. "Being nosy gets you into it," she says, "and one discovery leads to another." Her family quest taught her researching skills, and soon she began inquiries for others.

Jonathan was a little boy when she first began, and as an only child, he was interested in adult activities, including his mother's research. She says, "Jonathan has now surpassed me by leaps and bounds with his youth and internet skills." Jonathan is currently president of the Genealogy Society of Vermont.

Both are excited to tell me about Windham's early days, speaking quickly and with much detail. I am amazed at how many facts from the past they carry in their heads. There is so much information that I realize I can write, with their help, several articles about Windham's past for upcoming issues of the *News and Notes*.

Currently, Elizabeth and Jonathan are researching the burials in the Windham Center Cemetery. Their work on the North Windham, West Windham, and Woodburn Cemeteries was published by the Genealogy Society of Vermont in 2003.

Cemetery research requires investigating burial deeds and permits and examining headstones. The oldest

headstone they've found in Windham is Uzziah Burnap's dated 1793. "We're waiting for the snow to clear," Elizabeth says, "to get back out into the cemetery." She smiles and says this part of their work is hindered not only by snow, but also by mud and mosquitoes.

Yet the graveyard work is particularly revealing. "You can learn a lot," Elizabeth says, "by the way people are buried, whether they are in their family plot or not, what kind of headstone they have, and what it says."

Jonathan's and Elizabeth's other research for people who want to know about their ancestors includes many hours pursuing old record books carefully written by hand in beautiful script, like those in our town office vault. They love working with these musty old documents which actually smell of the past.

Eventually, Jonathan hopes to publish a history of Windham. He says that much of what is generally known about our town is based on an article written in 1891 by local historian Lucy (Burnap) Wood. "It's not completely accurate," Jonathan says, "and the errors have been repeated again and again in each retelling."

We can look forward to Jonathan's truer account, some of which I'll write about in the *WN&N*. In the meanwhile, you can find Elizabeth and Jonathan Stevens any Monday in our town office, researching treasured details from Windham's past.

\*\*\*\*\*



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

Thank you to the community of Windham for supporting the 2013/2014 school budget. As many of you know, budget time is incredibly stressful. We are fortunate to have a wonderful group of professionals to guide us through this process so that we may do our best by both students and residents. We know the 2013/14 budget increased more than any of us would have liked, and it's a priority for us to work to remedy this for the future. In this regard, it's of immediate concern to us that we face the possibility that we will be required to have a yearly audit, at a current cost of \$8500 per year. We prefer having an audit every 3 years, as we have in the past. We have not had problems with the 3-year cycle and we see no need to change now. Our Representative, Carolyn Partridge, is raising this issue in Montpelier; Windham voters may also contact our Senators, Jeanette White and Peter Galbraith to express their concerns.

We thank parents and community members who attended the April school board meeting. It was informative for us, and we look forward to promoting communication in order to better serve our school and community. We enjoy the company, so please come to our meetings on the first Monday of the month at 4 p.m.

during the school year, and 9 a.m. during the summer. Happy Spring!



WES second-grader Mary McDonald reads to kindergartener Rihanna Dryden  
Photo: Beth McDonald

## WIND UPDATE *by News and Notes Staff*

**Key provisions were removed from a VT Senate bill that originally included a moratorium on new wind installations.** The current bill, passed by the Senate in late March, no longer includes the moratorium provision, calling instead for a study of turbine impacts and of the approval process. It leaves unchanged the controversial permitting process that makes it difficult for communities like Windham to be heard. Windham Selectboard chair, Mary Boyer, was quoted in a local newspaper: "The bill was gutted, there's no doubt about it, but we feel that there's a great deal of momentum in Vermont to look at the issue more realistically. We're not disheartened, we're disappointed."

\*\*

**Town of Windham leadership met with owners of Meadowsend Timberlands.** The Selectboard and Planning Commission met with representatives of the French family, owners of the Windham property targeted for utility-scale wind turbines. (See Selectboard News.) Windham officials received no responses to their urgent questions regarding exclusion zones, the likely number or placement of turbines on the site, or permission for ANR experts to perform a natural resources inventory. The French family had no explana-

tion for ignoring Windham's Town Plan, as well as the wishes and well-being of residents and property owners. They also gave no response to a presentation of the findings of a mapping project using 911 address locations, indicating that upwards of 80% of Windham homes and the Windham Elementary School lie within two miles of potential turbine sites. Two miles is currently considered to be the minimum set-back for industrial wind turbines, due to health and noise concerns.

\*\*

**The Governor's Energy-Siting Commission presented draft recommendations, favoring regional energy planning.** Several Windham residents gave public testimony on the recommendations, criticizing the VT Comprehensive Energy Plan and the lessened role of town planning, and adding provisions that would inform towns immediately if they are targeted by utility-scale wind or other energy developers. Selectboard member Frank Seawright called for adjusting Agency for Natural Resources timeframes for site review so that seasonally dependent natural aspects of sites, such as flowering plants and vernal pools, may be identified and confirmed.

## WES STUDENTS TO STUDY THEATER ARTS AND ROCKET SCIENCE *by Lisa Beshay*

Windham Elementary School students are achieving academic success and getting the benefit of exciting supplemental programs. Grades 4-6 teacher, "Mr. PJ" (Mickey Parker-Jennings), says that because of the "extremely high test scores" in his class, his students have time for supplemental activities on and away from the school campus, with two such programs beginning in the next two weeks.

The first, "Early Stages," is offered by the Weston Playhouse Theatre Company. Twice a week, for four weeks, a teaching artist will introduce Mr. PJ's class to theater arts. Students will write, create, and act in their own original plays, with performances June 9th at the Weston Playhouse during the annual event "Playdate at the Playhouse."

The second program, "Starbase," will be held in Rutland once a week for five weeks. Students in grades 4-6 will be exposed to Newton's Law, engineering, rocketry, robotics, circuit board geometry, chemistry, and flight simulation. Starbase is government funded and students will be assessed at the end of the session to help evaluate the program.

## EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

*by Heath Boyer and Imme Maurath*

The last issue of the N&N gave advance warning of the annual Emergency Information Survey enclosed in this issue. The survey information you supply will become a community database and reference manual organized into nine geographic zones, corresponding to main access roads and areas of population. All information will be held in confidence and used only by the emergency team and other qualified responders.

Recent weather emergencies in the region have demonstrated how vital it is for emergency teams to know people's location and needs, and in the event of extended isolation, what resources and assets are available in the community. The Windham emergency planning team meets regularly with counterparts in neighboring communities, the American Red Cross, and representatives of State and Federal emergency services agencies to discuss vulnerabilities, resources and emergency scenarios. Please help us prepare to serve you better in case of emergency by returning the survey in the envelope provided.

For more information or to volunteer, call Imme Maurath (875-1709) or Heath Boyer (875-5242).

## AROUND WINDHAM



"Meet the Candidates," February 2013

Photo: Beverly Carmichael



Town Meeting, 2013

Photo : Meredith Tips-McLaine



Jesse Newton as Sky Masterson in *Guys and Dolls*, produced by the Leland and Gray players in March. Olivia Reilly also participated in the production as part of the stage crew.

Photo: Diane Newton

**FIRE COMPANY** *by Marcia Clinton*

The Windham Volunteer Fire Company (WVFC) would like to thank Windham residents for supporting us at Town Meeting by voting to include in the town budget an additional \$10,000 for WVFC. The money will augment our existing fund for the purchase of a tanker to replace our old one, which is over thirty years old.

The Fire Company is at a critical point. At our March meeting we were pleased to vote in two new members, but we need additional new members if we are to continue to serve the community as first responders for fire and rescue emergencies. Our membership is open to all male and female residents from our community. Members may choose to perform interior or exterior duties or to take on administrative responsibilities.

Members who perform interior duties, which include firefighting within a burning building, receive comprehensive training from the Vermont Fire Academy. Those who choose exterior duties provide traffic control, air mask support, equipment driving, etc. Administrative assistants focus on day-to-day operations including accounting, planning, and record keeping.

It is imperative that the Windham community maintain a viable volunteer fire company that can respond quickly and efficiently to neighbors' emergencies, day or night. We have recently confirmed that none of the neighboring fire companies that routinely perform mutual aid for the Town of Windham is able to provide principal daily coverage.

If you would like to help sustain this vital community function, please contact any WVFC member or call the Firehouse at 875-5332 and leave us a message.

**John Lingley**

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**SUMMER MORNING FITNESS AT THE MEETING HOUSE**

Mon., 8:30: Yoga with Bonnie Bokencamp,

Mon. and Thurs., 10:00: Strong Living (bone building, muscle strengthening, stretching, and balancing.)

All levels welcome in all classes.

**More information: Mary Boyer, 875-5242 or Ginny Crittenden, 874-4049.**

The Valley Bible Church invites you to check out their updated website at [www.valleybibleVT.com](http://www.valleybibleVT.com) for more information and a calendar of upcoming events.

***New at the library this month:***

*"The Summer Guest," by Justin Cronin, "The Big Burn," by Timothy Egan, "Bad Little Falls," by Paul Doiron, and "Ghost Man," by Roger Hobbs.*

*Library is open even Wednesday between 3 and 5 pm. Join*

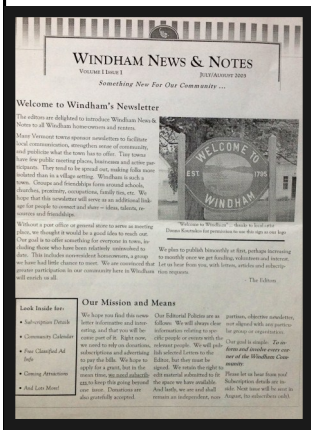
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**AND IN THE BEGINNING ...** *by Lydia Pope France,*  
*Part 2 of a two-part article on the history of the Windham News and Notes*

*Continued from last issue*



In June 2003, the first issue of the Windham News and Notes was ready to print. As we were entirely self-funded at that point, we went with the cheapest printing option. That meant the eight page document arrived to us unfolded and uncollated. We decided to meet at my house.

In addition to Margaret and Maggie, I invited Bev Carmichael, as we certainly needed help! I made scones to keep everyone's energy up. Maggie arrived from Brattleboro with boxes and boxes of flat pages, fresh from the printer. We were using old credit cards to get a crisp edge on the long fold. I still remember looking at Bev who was totally "in the zone" and folding like a demon, when I realized she had a giant blister on one finger. Sounds crazy, but it did take us hours. We finally got all of the copies stamped and ready to go. Someone took them to the post office. We were happy, our first issue was on its way.

With the first issue complete we approached local businesses in hopes they would advertise with us. By our second issue we had four: Chip's Property Maintenance (Chip Woodruff), Windham Gardens Bed & Breakfast (Mary McCoy and Michael Simmonds), Windham Hill Knittery (Bev Carmichael) and Barrett & Co. Real Estate. We were on our way. A little later we received a small grant from the Council on Aging which also helped. I remem-

ber approaching a local business and asking if they would like to advertise. They declined, saying that they had more business than they could handle, but gave me a check for \$50 for their subscription. I headed home a little teary-eyed as I knew then that people did appreciate the effort and that we were going to be ok.

On a personal level, the newsletter helped me meet many new people. I even got to meet Governor Douglas when I went to the Town Office to cover his visit after the terrible floods in August 2003. And Margaret and I became very dear friends.

I have watched as new people have touched the effort in different ways, and new teams take up the challenge of filling each issue and getting it out. At some point the WCO took the paper under its wing, which eventually led to the ability to mail at a reduced rate. To me, the great *unexpected* benefit is how it helps to fill the coffers with funds to help those in need. Our goal was always to let subscription costs cover the printing and mailing, but the ads turn out to be largely profit and are put to very good use within the community.

When I think back to our original goal: *To inform and involve every corner of the Windham Community*, it is safe to say that has pretty much happened. I recently learned that the Town Office has kept every issue, so if you ever want to look over the archives, that is the place to head. I am so heartened by those who have come after to keep it going, the various teams headed up by Mary McCoy, Gina Noel, and now Nancy Tips. While it takes a lot of effort, it connects us all and fills a gap that has no rival here. Thanks to all who have kept our dream and vision alive ...

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Photos: John and Sally Hoover

## COUNTRY DIARY: SUGARING *by John Hoover*

Rituals are a part of everyone's life. We have certain rituals without which our family celebrations wouldn't be the same. And rituals go with the changing of the seasons: putting away the outdoor furniture in the fall, getting the lawn mower ready for summer, poring over seed catalogs and ordering seeds. As winter begins to loosen its grip and daytime temperatures begin to creep above freezing, many Vermonters look to the trees and envision drilling holes and hanging buckets in preparation for another sugaring season, a uniquely Vermont ritual.

Over here on White Road we have placed 58 taps, which is the relatively simple part of sugaring. The hard part is emptying sap from the buckets hanging from the taps into 5-gallon pails, and carrying the pails up hill to the tank in the back of our pickup. At the beginning of the season we need snowshoes to move from tree to tree. We place our taps fairly close to snow level and by the time the season is over, the melting of the snow means we'll be reaching up instead of down to take the buckets off the taps.

Our use of metal taps and buckets and our hand collection are decidedly old fashioned. Technology has provided larger operations with new approaches: plastic tubing stretching from tree to tree makes collecting easier, and vacuum pumps that assist the tree's natural flow increase the amount of sap collected. But given our small number of taps, we think the simpler way is best for us.

Once the sap is in the tank, we take it to the sugarhouse of Jim and Josie Ameden on Rt. 11 west of Londonderry. They mix it with sap from other area sugar bushes and boil it into the most delicious syrup we've ever tasted. By measuring the sugar content with a hydrometer they determine how much syrup can be made from our sap. As a general rule, it takes 40 gallons of sap to make a gallon of syrup, and the Amedens split with us the amount of syrup that comes from the amount of sap we bring. Our sugaring operation is not very large; in a good year we'll collect between 350 and 400 gallons of sap. But we enjoy being a part of a Vermont springtime ritual. Oh, and the syrup really tastes good!



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## WINDHAM HAS TALENT *by Imme Maurath* *An interview with Gina Noel on her quilting*

**How long have you been sewing?** A little over 4 years but it feels like I've been sewing for decades. I'm at the machine at least weekly.

**What got you interested?** Actually, it was a "who" not a "what." Mary Boyer had discovered a new quilt shop in Londonderry called the Waterwheel House Quilt Shop. We went over there and after a few dips in the proverbial quilt pool, I was hooked.

**Are you self taught or did you take classes?** I've taken several classes, many at Waterwheel, a few at conferences and frequent tutorials on the Web.

**Do you have a mentor?** Yes, two. Both Shelley Sas and Judith Ackerman from Waterwheel. I'm usually over there once a week for open sewing or something else. Interaction with and advice from them has been invaluable. They have done so many special pieces and shared their experiences. It's great to be able to pick someone's brain and get constructive feedback, even if it's "Rip it out and start again. You're not going to like it if you don't." Always painful but always right.



Quilt Design Wall

**I see you have a wall where you pin up your project. Does that help organize the quilt?** I'm very fortunate to have a space for a "design wall." The wall helps to organize the quilt but it also

helps me to really see not only the design but also the colors/composition. Certainly quilting is about design and technique but much of what I enjoy is the play with color and fabrics. A few months ago I did a small piece with silk. Challenging but fun.

**Do you have a special sewing machine that maybe does special things for quilting?** I have a nice mid-line Bernina. I did buy an extra foot called a *stitch regulator* for it. Freemotion is a type of quilting where you sew designs into quilts such as leaves, feathers, swirls. To do this you need to disengage the fabric from the machine bed. The designs need to be clean and the stitching needs to be even. The stitch regulator helps keep the stitches even so I can concentrate on the designs. It's said that you can master anything if you do it 10,000 times. With once or twice a week for 4 years under my belt, I only have 9,400 or so more times to go.



Beach House Quilt

*Photos: Gina Noel*

## This Winter? Pretty Average ... *by Lydia Pope France*

When I got the note from *WN&N* asking for something on snow this season, I asked for the due date. Being told it was April 15<sup>th</sup>, I jokingly said something like "better wait till close to the date, just in case something sneaks up on us". Well, I waited, and it did, in the form of a winter weather advisory for April 12<sup>th</sup>. The day gave us a combination of ice, freezing pellets/sleet with a little bit of snow on top. Only an inch or so, but enough to make roads slick and driveways slushy.

Overall, it was one of those years where the snowfall got off to a slow start, but in the end made up for it nicely. October and November could have been somewhere a hundred miles south of here, but by Christmas we had

enough snow to remind us that we do truly live in a winter wonderland! Here is how the snowflakes fell:

	This Year (2012-2013)	Last Year (2011-2012)
October	0	17
November	.5	10.5
December	28	7
January	12	13
February	38.5	4
March	24	18
April	1	0
<b>Total</b>	104	69.5

While every winter is different, this year was right in the middle in terms of snow totals. I dug up some old numbers that I thought people might find interesting. We had two really heavy winters a decade ago, but since then things have been a bit more aver-

age, which is just what I would call *this* past winter.

2002-2003.....	177 inches
2003-2004.....	153
2004-2005.....	118
2005-2006.....	84
2006-2007.....	105
2007-2008.....	119
2008-2009.....	138
2009-2010.....	96
2010-2011.....	81
2011-2012.....	70
2012-2013.....	104

Guess we won't be putting the shovels away *quite yet*, but in a few weeks we'll be cooking for our little summer visitors, the hummingbirds. And as much as winter is a treat around here, it is nice to know that any snow that falls now will be pretty much here today, gone tomorrow. Happy spring!!!  
(15 April 2013)



**LEGISLATIVE NEWS** *by Carolyn Partridge*

We are coming down the homestretch of a very challenging legislative session. For the seventh year in a row, we started the year with a budgetary shortfall – this year \$50 million. The Administration proposed a budget that included \$34 million in new spending for worthy causes, such as increased childcare subsidies, but used revenue sources that the House did not favor – for example, cutting the Earned Income Tax Credit, which benefits low-income working Vermonters.

The Appropriations Committee worked very hard to strike the right balance between building a responsible, balanced budget and making investments in Vermont's future. Working with the Ways and Means Committee, they were able to determine a path that cut spending in the Administration's proposal and raised revenue to fund investments we felt were important to make. Added to the mix is uncertainty about the effect Federal se-

questration will have on the state.

The resulting H.528, an act relating to revenue changes for fiscal years 2014 and 2015, is a bill that includes a number of elements that raise \$23.1 million in General Fund money and \$4 million in the Education Fund in FY2014. The bill adjusts a variety of taxes, including increases in the cigarette tax and the meals tax. In addition, soda, candy, bottled water, dietary supplements, and clothes valued at more than \$110 will no longer be exempt from the sales tax.

For those interested in the wind issue, the House Natural Resources and Energy Committee is taking testimony on S.30 as passed by the Senate. The concept of a moratorium is no longer included in the language, and at this point, it is hard to say what S.30's prospects are.

Please don't hesitate to contact me at home 802-874-4182 or [hparwel@sover.net](mailto:hparwel@sover.net), or at the State House tollfree at 1-800-322-5616 or [cpartridge@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:cpartridge@leg.state.vt.us).

**WINDHAM BULLETIN BOARD**

**Electronics Collection: Sat., May 18, 9-1**  
**Londonderry Transfer Station**

**Hazardous Waste Collection: Sat. June 1, 9-1**  
**Flood Brook Union School**

Address change:

**William & Donna Koutrakos**  
**1630 St. Annes Rd.**  
**Charlottesville, VA 22901**

**HOW CAN WE HELP?**

Do you need a ride to the doctor's or dentist's office or a trip to the grocery store? Are you a caregiver who could use a short break? Do you need someone to stay with your loved one while you run errands? If your answer is "yes" to any of these questions, people from Windham Congregational Church are willing to help. Please call 874-4428.

**12<sup>th</sup> annual Westminster Cares Garden Tour**  
**June 29-30. For more information go to**  
**[www.westminstercares.org](http://www.westminstercares.org)**  
**or call 802-722-3607.**

**Townshend Farmers' Market, 4-7 Fridays, at the**  
**West Townshend Country Store, beginning June 7**

Now accepting applications from farmers to market local vegetables, fruits, meats, eggs, cheese, syrup, honey, and food items using local raw materials. Applications available at <http://www.postoilsolutions.org/index.php?ID=33>. Meeting for interested vendors 4 pm, May 17th at the West Townshend Country Store. Contact Sherry at (802) 869-2141 or [farmersmarket@postoilsolutions.org](mailto:farmersmarket@postoilsolutions.org).

**Grace Cottage Fun & Fitness Activities**

All events benefit Grace Cottage. Information at

[www.gracecottage.org/events](http://www.gracecottage.org/events) or call 365-9109.

**May 11, Saturday, "Spring Into Health" 5K.** Start at 8:30 a.m. at the Townshend Common, rain or shine. Open to people of all ages and abilities; run, jog, walk, stroll, or roll. Adults, \$15; age 13 and under, \$10. T-shirt for first 150. Register at [www.gracecottage.org/events](http://www.gracecottage.org/events).

**June 9, Sunday, "Tee Up for Health" Golf Benefit.** Noon start, Tater Hill Golf Club, Windham. \$125/golfer; dinner included. Prizes. Online Silent Auction April 1 to June 9: sports memorabilia, jewelry, African photo safari, Texas Gulf Coast getaway, chance to be named in an Archer Mayor book, Mount Snow season passes, much more. Visit auction site, register for golf online at [gracecottage.org/events](http://gracecottage.org/events). Proceeds from golf and Silent Auction to Grace Cottage's Patient Care Fund.

**July 13, Saturday, "Tour de Grace" Family-Friendly Bicycle Ride.** Start 8-10 a.m. at Stratton Welcome Center parking lot. Ride 19 miles, mostly downhill, to Grace Cottage Hospital, Townshend. Buses transport riders and bikes back to Stratton. Helmets required; sturdy tires and good brakes strongly recommended. Register online through July 10 (\$25) at [www.gracecottage.org/events](http://www.gracecottage.org/events) or on race day (\$30) at the Stratton parking lot.







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*

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### Regular Meetings and Schedules

**Town Clerk Hours:** Mondays: 11- 6; Tuesdays: 8:45-2:45; Thursdays: noon-3; Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday: noon.

**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; 9a.m. starting with the . 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!

**SATURDAY, MAY 4, GREEN-UP DAY. GET BAGS AT TOWN OFFICE AT 9 A.M**

**SATURDAY, JULY 20, ANNUAL WCO BBQ AND CRAFT RAFFLE.**

**DON'T FORGET TO RETURN YOUR SUBSCRIPTION FORM  
AND EMERGENCY SURVEY IN THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED!**