

Volume 11, No. 4



January-February 2014

# Windham News & Notes

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year*

## PICTURE WINDHAM WITHOUT THE MEETING HOUSE...

*by Lydia Pope France on behalf of the Friends of the Meeting House*

It's a terrible thought. The Meeting House is the visual focal point of our town, and more and more, a center for community activities.

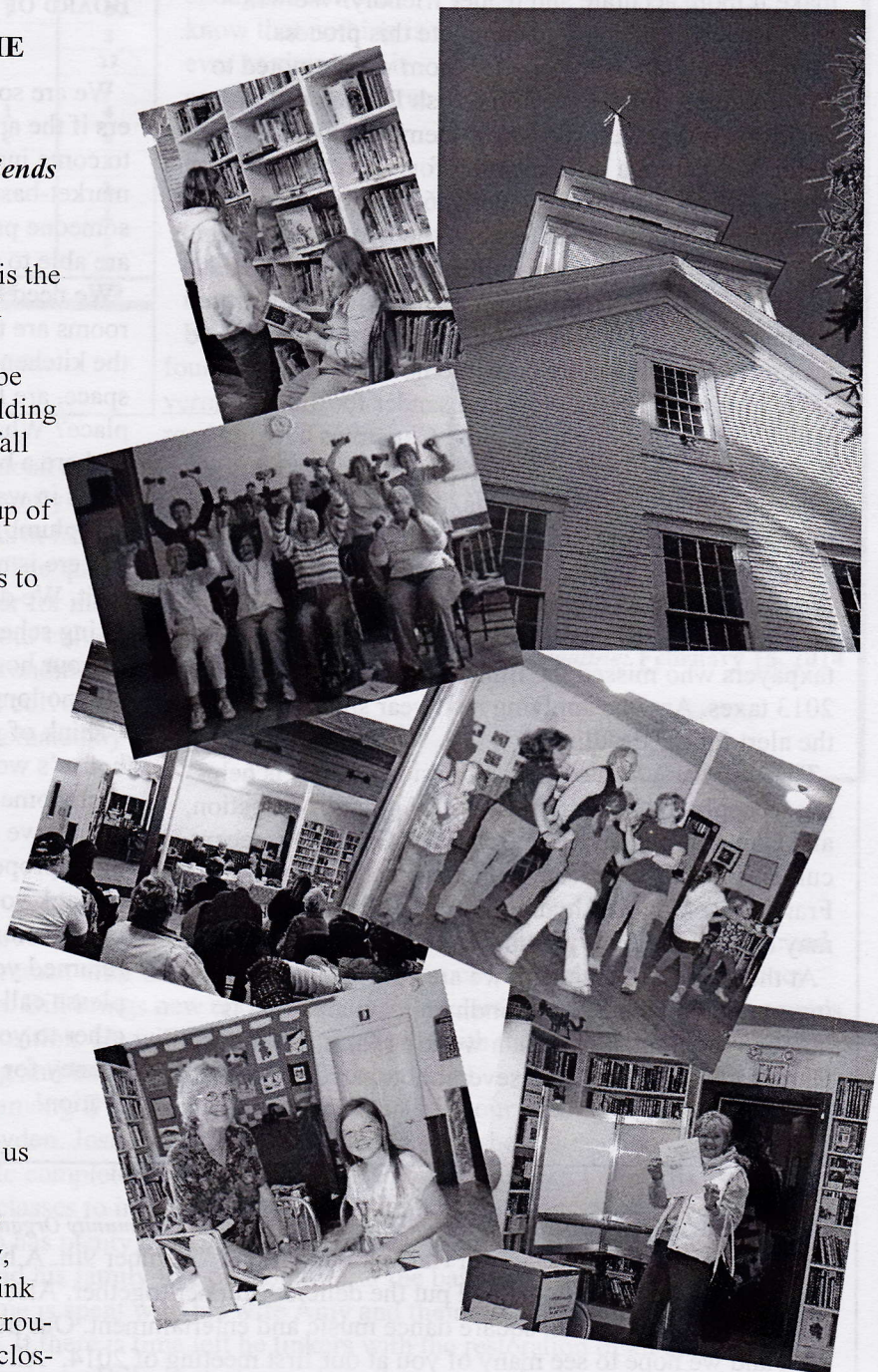
While nothing is imminent, we do have to be honest with ourselves. It is a huge, older building with a lot of special needs. And not a lot to fall back on at the moment.

The Friends of the Meeting House is a group of Windham residents dedicated to keeping the building alive and well for future generations to enjoy. They are going to present a series of articles in the next several issues of Windham News and Notes, culminating with a very special open house sometime this summer.

Currently the group is comprised of Heath Boyer, Beverly Carmichael, Jerry Dyke, John Hoover, Peter Newton and Gregory Noel. Peter Newton is the long-standing president of the group, and he has not only a great love of the building, but also an intimate understanding of its construction and upkeep needs.

The group is hoping to find more members to help plan and work for the future. Ongoing fundraising will definitely be in the plans. They need ideas and energy that all of us can bring.

We hope that you will read with interest the coming articles about the building, its history, current uses, the Friends, etc. and begin to think what you might do to help insure a vital and trouble-free future for this glorious building, the closest thing we have to a "hub" in our tiny town! Because none of us wants to picture Windham without it ...



*If you would be willing to help in this noble cause, please leave your name and contact info with the town clerk. Someone will be in touch before the next meeting.*



## TOWN OF WINDHAM BUSINESS

### SELECTBOARD NEWS

*Mary Boyer, Margaret Dwyer, Frank Seawright*

For the last two months we have been preparing budgets for the annual meeting, having started the budgeting process early this year. Our new treasurer, Peter Chamberlain, is diligently leading us through accounts for all departments. We are refining the reporting format to make it more accurate and reader friendly. We will meet weekly in January to complete this process.

We congratulate Bill Roberts whom we promoted to road foreman, and we welcome Josh Dryden of Londonderry, our newest road crew member. We hired Ralph Wyman as a third member for when the crew needs extra help. The crew works 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will continue these hours through the winter. We meet regularly with Bill to receive the team's feedback and suggestions. Our clerk, Alison Trowbridge, valiantly navigated VT Heath Connect to secure health insurance for our two fulltime road crew members.

We have purchased a plow and sander for the Town pickup truck, enabling us to plow Christmas Tree Road, Old Farm Road, the church, the school, the Fire Company, and our fire hydrants, instead of continuing to contract that work out.

The state of VT gave inadequate notification regarding the deadline change for filing the Homestead Tax Declaration, so we voted to waive the late penalty for taxpayers who missed the filing date, applicable only to 2013 taxes. Anyone applying next year should be on the alert for the deadline.

The Windham Regional Commission (WRC) is helping us apply for Phase 6 of two state grants, Mitigation, and Community Development Block Grant. Our recent culvert inventory indicates some critical ones, and Frank is looking into hydraulic studies for culverts that may qualify for these grants.

At the request of a citizen, we are considering reducing speed limits in South Windham in an area that is home to the Baptist church, a working farm, Griffith Gardens, a deaf child, and several houses very close to

the road. We agree reducing the speed limit and posting warning signs would alert drivers to activity in the village. We are required to hold a public hearing to amend traffic ordinances, and will keep you posted.

That is all for now. Winter is here so enjoy the snow and we wish you all a happy, safe holiday season!

### BOARD OF LISTERS NEWS

*Michael Simonds, Jerry Dyke, John Lingley*

We are sometimes asked by Windham property owners if the appraisers for our town-wide reappraisal have to come inside their homes. The answer is: "yes." The market-based approach we're using asks, "What would someone pay for this property?" By going inside we are able to determine a property's accurate value.

We need to see the home's layout. How many bedrooms are there? How many bathrooms? What about the kitchen – how many cabinets, how much counter space, are large appliances old or new? Is there a fireplace? What kind of wood or covering is on the floors? Is there a basement? Are there cracks in concrete or holes in walls? What is the state of the electrical system and plumbing? What is the view from the house?

There is nothing you need to do to prepare for the visit. We don't care about your housekeeping or decorating scheme, neither of which affects the basic value of your home. So relax. It only takes a short time, usually no longer than 20 minutes.

Think of yourself as a buyer. You wouldn't know a house's worth if you couldn't see inside. By going into each home and using the same market-based standards for all, we can fairly and equitably determine the value of all properties.

Thank you to those who have sent in contact-information cards. We urge those of you who have not returned your cards to do so. If you have lost your card, please call the office at 874-4211 and we will send another to you. Your help in this way saves time and money for the town. We appreciate everyone's cooperation!

### FROM THE WCO *by Dona Robinson, President, Windham Community Organization*

WCO hosted a very successful Harvest Supper on November 9th. A huge thank you to Imme Maurath, Carolyn Partridge and everyone who helped put the delicious dinner together. Also, special thanks to Sally Newton and the band for providing wonderful square dance music and entertainment. Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 29th and we hope to see many of you at our first meeting of 2014. All are invited.

We wish everyone Happy Holidays and Happy New Year from the Windham Community Organization.

*WCO is a not-for-profit organization that provides financial and other assistance to Windham-area residents. With News and Notes subscriptions and our WCO fund raising events, we are able to provide for our residents in need. If you or anyone you know could use some assistance please let us know. Call Dona at 874-7242. We are here to help. Confidentiality is honored.*



**WINDHAM BY THE NUMBERS: KNOW YOUR CULVERTS** *by Frank Seawright*

The topic is culverts. Are your eyes glazing over yet? Culverts might best be described in the immortal words of singer Joni Mitchell: "You don't know what you've got 'til it's gone."

Width (in.)	Critical	Excellent	Fair	Good	Poor	Total
6			1			1
12	1		1			2
15	1	5	33	66	26	131
18	1	20	19	78	3	121
24	2	18	5	12	3	40
30		15	1	5		21
36		1		4	1	6
40		3				3
48		13	1	3		17
54			1			1
60		1	2		1	4
72				3	2	5
96		1	1	1		3
108		1				1
192		1				1
240		1				1
288		1				1
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>359</b>

*Town of Windham Culverts by Size and Condition*

must adhere to these standards to receive financial assistance for culvert installation and maintenance. The standards are constantly changing; numerous changes were triggered in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Irene, as towns all over VT were forced to deal with washed-out culverts. The question of right-sizing replacement culverts was, and is, front and center for many decision-makers.

Periodically, we conduct an inventory of all our culverts. Our most recent one was in 2012. The table above shows size and condition of Windham's culverts. It's interesting to note that Windham has about 10 culverts per mile of road.

A cool web resource, should you become fascinated by this topic, is VTculverts.org.

These big, and not so big, pipes exist to carry water under roads and driveways. Sounds simple enough, but we all know that nothing is ever as simple as it seems, and that's true for culverts too. A good place to begin learning about the complexity of these critters is the Vermont Town Road & Bridge Standards,

found at <http://vermontlocal-roads.org>. Towns



## 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.

### N&N Team

Dawn Bower Mary Boyer  
Bev Carmichael Leila Erhardt  
Imme Maurath Dona Robinson  
Nancy Tips

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: February 15, 2014**

**WINDHAM'S ROAD CREW** *by Mary Boyer*

Bill Roberts (on the right in photo) has been promoted to the position of road crew foreman after the September resignation of longtime employee Rodney Watkins. Bill brings new enthusiasm and six years of familiarity with our roads to the position. He will be meeting regularly with the Selectboard to facilitate the planning and budgeting of our roads department.

From among five very qualified applicants for our road crew vacancy, we hired Josh Dryden. Josh has worked thirteen years for the Londonderry roads department. He completed the Roads Scholar Program through Level I and continues to take classes to increase his skills. He thinks of himself as a lifelong learner and also has plenty of experience maintaining equipment similar to Windham's.

Josh and his family live on Route 11 at the base of Route 121. Most of his spare time is spent with his wife Amy and their two children, Abby, 11, and Ethan, 6. If there is time left he tinkers with the restoration of an old jeep.

When you see Bill out on the roads in the blue truck give a wave to congratulate him. Josh will be driving the big red "monster" truck. Introduce yourself. We guarantee you will be greeted with a big smile.

Best of luck, Bill and welcome aboard, Josh!



# CIVIL WAR HERO BORN AND BURIED IN WINDHAM *by Mary McCoy*

Windham in the mid-1800s was no place for the weak. Life was filled with routine, hard work, a difficult environment, and limited options. Some historians suggest that might be why so many young Vermonters enlisted to fight in the Civil War. As one put it, they were eager to get out from behind the back end of a pair of horses.

Whatever the motivation, our state sent young men from every town who were already experienced with shooting a gun, walking long distances, and enduring the elements. They made excellent soldiers. According to one historian, Frank VanDiver, "Those good Vermont men who stood firm on every field should be the envy of every soldier of every war.... Although there may be units better known, few outfits have such an unblemished record as the Vermont Brigade."

One such soldier was Charles Gilbert Gould, born in Windham in 1844. As a two-year-old, he fell into a vat of hot apple sauce, which left him badly scared and unable to walk until he was six. He attended Windham's schools, where he was considered a daredevil, until he enlisted in the Vermont Volunteers at age 18. Quickly, his leadership abilities were recognized, and he rose from the rank of private to major in three years.

Meanwhile at home, the women and older men struggled to keep their farms and businesses running without their young sons. They worked and worried and did their best to send supplies, like those requested in 1864 by then Captain Gould. He wrote asking for cough medicine, cloth to mend his shirts, little cloth bags to keep small items, sealing wax, and ginger.

On April 2, 1865, Gould was in a front rank of soldiers to move against Robert E. Lee's lines around Petersburg, VA, which the Confederacy had held for eight months, and he was the very first man in the assaulting mass to enter the opposing works. He received a bayonet wound through his face, yet killed his assailant. He took another cut in the head, another bayonet wound in the back that entered the spine, and a sever clubbing with muskets.

Gould was rescued by another soldier, and the Union broke the Confederate lines. Lee surrendered one week later to Ulysses Grant. From his hospital bed, Gould wrote, "Yesterday our misguided brother Lee turned over command of his army to old Useless." For his bravery, Gould was awarded the Medal of Honor and the rank of major.

Disabled by his wounds, he fought off tuberculosis shortly after the war, then settled into a career of administrative work in Washington, DC, where he expanded his education through private tutors and study at Columbian University.

He also invented and patented an improved gun-cleaner. The last 39 years of the 50 years he spent in DC were at the U.S. Patent Office, from which he retired in 1916.

Gould maintained his ties to Vermont, probably traveling by train and then carriage to Windham. In 1871, he married Ella Cobb Harris, whose parents were from two notable Windham families named Harris and Cobb (featured in the last issue of the WN&N). Their daughter Myra was born in DC a year later. Another daughter was born in DC in 1883 and died there four days later. In 1890, Ella died in Windham from complications with a premature birth, and just 20 days later Myra died in Windham of typhoid fever.

Three years later, Gould married Ella's first cousin, Frances Lucy Davis of Cavendish, VT, who was 16 years his junior. Their daughter, Margaret Davis Gould was born in DC in 1901. Gould died December 6, 1916 in Cavendish at age 73, about a year after his retirement.

According to local genealogist Jonathan Stevens, it was common practice at the time to be buried in the family plot where one was born. He said, "There are quite a few people buried in Windham that did not die in town." Charles Gould has three markers on this resting place in our Center Cemetery next to the town office – his family tombstone, his Vermont Volunteers marker, and his Medal of Honor tribute.





**WINDHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS** by Carolyn Partridge, Beth McDonald, and Antje Ruppert

The School Board is currently constructing the FY 2015 budget. We are cautiously optimistic that we may actually see a slight decrease in the budget, despite some increased costs. This pleases us because, after all, we are taxpayers too! We anticipate that our Annual Budget Information Meeting will take place on Feb. 3 at 6:30 p.m. Our regular February meeting will be that same day at 4 p.m.

WES students have had the opportunity to enjoy a real teepee as they study Native Americans. Thanks to Alan Partridge and Mark Emmons for setting the teepee up. Years ago, Alan collected bottles and cans and used the proceeds to buy the teepee.

The recent Pasta Supper and Art Gala were a huge success, raising approximately \$600. The Pasta Supper will

help pay for our students to attend Camp Keewaydin, and the Art Gala benefited the Parents of Windham Elementary Raising Funds. Thanks to Lisa Beshay for her leadership and Claudia Holmes for her yummy baked goods, as well as all the other parents who pitched in. Thanks to Antje Ruppert for sharing Zentangle with the kids. Items for sale included wreathes decorated by the students, donated knitted items, and students' artwork. Everyone had a great time and the sense of community was strong!

At the time of this writing, we are still looking forward to the holiday concert, skating at Vermont Academy, and the always fun crafts afternoon of holiday creativity, at which the students make presents for their friends and family.

**FROM THE WES NEWSLETTER** by Gail Wyman

*Oct 25, 2013...We had a potato and carrot soup lunch this week. Of course, the soup ingredients came from the garden... There was tossed salad with grated carrots, baked kale chips and rolls mixed and shaped by the students. Sally's class picked, cleaned, chopped and cooked the carrot/potato soup. Mr. PJ's class made the rolls from scratch...*

*Nov 8... Needed: does anyone have unused bird feeders they would like to donate to the school so we can feed the birds this winter? Our kids will be learning how to find and identify them in bird books, counting the different species, counting birds per day, in good weather, bad weather, seeing the difference in a bird that is fluffed in the cold and how it looks when it is warm. Checking out the different personality trait, who hogs the feeders first, listening to the different bird calls, it is unending what they can learn that will last them a lifetime.*

*Nov 15... Today, (Friday) we made our annual winter trip to Valley Cares to sing to the residents... They so appreciate seeing the kids. Actually, even if the kids did not sing and just stood and smiled they would be just as big a hit...*

*...Mr. PJ's classroom is reading **If you Lived in Colonial Times** by Ann McGovern. So far this book has been an eye opener for them. Examples: What did people eat? Corn, corn, corn and more corn. . Children went to school, but*

*schooling was only really important for boys...*

*Nov 22...Alan Partridge has his tipi up out back of the school and Thursday afternoon there was a fire in the tipi, giving the kids an idea of what it was like with a fire inside...*

*Nov 26...Short week for school time this week. Tuesday was Native American day... the whole school went to the woods to cut saplings for bows and arrows. Back inside the children went to different centers to make a Native American vest from a paper bag, to another to make a bow and arrow, another to pound corn on a rock into smaller corn for the bird feeder...The end of the Native American time was cooking moose meat and corn cakes over the fire in the tipi during noon recess time.*

*Dec 13...what a huge success last night at the pasta dinner/Art Gala. The parents group did it again. The pasta was delicious and plentiful, salads were great and of course, per usual, we had some yummy desserts. It was pleasant to see parents and towns people checking out the crafts and art the kids had made, and nice to see kids pulling their family and friends to check out what they had made... Many parents worked to make this happen and we want to extend our heartfelt thanks for your support of the school.*

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**UPDATE: VT HEALTH CONNECT** *by Carol Belucci, "Navigator"*

Private insurers have extended coverage for individual, family and small businesses to March 31, 2014, in response to initial difficulties that Vermonters had in gaining access to the VT Health Connect website. Public insurance, including Catamount and VHAP have also been extended for people who have not already completed an application. So far, 12,000 people in VT have signed up for coverage. Those who have applied and chosen a plan should get a bill within 10 days of completing the application. For January coverage, the payment must be received no later than Jan. 7 with a postmark of Jan. 1.

The website is working much better now, and hours of operation have been extended: 8a.m. to 8p.m. Mon-Fri and 8a.m. to 1p.m. Saturday.

**For information:**

**Website:** [VermontHealthConnect.gov](http://VermontHealthConnect.gov)

**Individual/Family Support:** 855 899-9600

**Small Business Hotline:** 855 499-9800.

**Town of Windham Navigator:** Carol Bellucci, 874-4413

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**RADON** *by Marcia Clinton, Windham Health Officer*

Although you cannot see, smell, or taste radon, it might be a problem in your home. Radon results from decay, over billions of years, of uranium in the earth's crust. When you breathe air containing radon, your risk of lung cancer is increased, especially if you smoke. For more information about radon risks, see: <http://www.epa.gov/radon/healthrisks.html>.

Radon testing is suggested for VT homes every 5 years. The VT Health Department offers free long-term (3 to 12 months) test kits. To receive a kit, call 800-439-8550 or visit: <http://healthvermont.gov/enviro/rad/Radon.aspx>.

The sub-slab depressurization system, a vent pipe and fan installed after a hole is drilled in the basement floor, is used to reduce elevated radon levels. Sealing holes and cracks in the foundation helps, but is not an adequate strategy for radon reduction.

The VT Health Department maintains a list of VT ra-

don-mitigation professionals. Installing a mitigation system can cost from \$800 to \$2500 depending on type of house and choice of system.

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**WINTER DRIVING SAFETY TIPS FROM VTRANS**

During the winter months Vermont's Snow and Ice control Plan calls for "safe roads at safe speeds," not "bare roads." So during a storm, roads are plowed, sanded and salted to keep them open for traffic, but road surfaces may not always be snow free. Most travel occurs between 4 a.m. and 10 p.m. and most resources are deployed during that time. So at night, drivers should anticipate reduced coverage and varying road conditions.

Good driving habits will help keep us all safe:

**Speed:** Slow down. Driving too fast is the leading cause of winter crashes.

**Distance:** Leave more room than usual between cars.

**Brake:** Brake early and slowly to prevent skidding.

Never slam on brakes on winter roads.

**Control:** Do not use cruise control during a storm; don't overestimate the ability of four-wheel or all-wheel drive; watch for black ice on what appears to be bare pavement.

**Focus:** Stay off the cell phone and minimize other distractions. You need added reaction time to respond to an unforeseen situation.

**Know before you go:** Dial 511 for information on road conditions including construction, accidents, and delays.

**Don't crowd the plow:** Do not travel beside a snowplow for long periods. The impact of plowing snow drifts or packed snow can jostle the plow sideways without warning. Snowplows can create a snow cloud that reduces visibility to zero; don't drive into a snow cloud or pass a snowplow when visibility is severely reduced. When you do pass, be sure you can see clearly ahead and allow plenty of room. Be aware that a snowplow driver's vision is quite restricted: you may see the driver but the driver may not see you.



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## WINDHAM VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY APPEALS FOR DONATIONS *by Marcia Clinton*

The monthly meeting of the Windham Fire Co. in early December was the Christmas pot luck dinner, enjoyed by all.

After the dinner everyone got to work stuffing envelopes with the letter of the annual appeal for donations to the Fire Co. This letter is one of a multitude of requests we all receive at this time of year. Please don't just toss it out. Your donation helps us pay the bills for heat, insurance, required Workmans' Compensation, along with replacing necessary equipment that we need to be prepared to fight any fires in Windham. Your donation doesn't have to be large, but if everyone gave something, all those small donations can add up.

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## ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FORMATION OF A NEW ADVOCACY GROUP

### FRIENDS OF WINDHAM'S WOODLANDS

There is a movement underway to form a new organization whose mission is to support the preservation of the integrity of our woodlands and to oppose any installation of wind turbines on Windham's ridge lines. For a second time, the town is facing threats: to the ecology of our mountains; to the quality of our lives, including possible health impacts; to property values and economic security; to Windham's appeal to second home owners.

The specific structure and activities of this organization will be worked out in a meeting at the Windham Meeting House on Wednesday, January 8, 6 to 8 p.m. All who are interested in joining or just keeping in touch with this organization are invited to attend. For more information, please contact Donn Welton at [blueowl@vermontel.net](mailto:blueowl@vermontel.net) or 802 258 1745.

## WINDHAM WOODLANDS DEFENSE FUND

If you support Windham's Town Plan and oppose industrial development in Windham's woodlands, make a tax-deductible contribution to help pay for attorneys and experts in land-use issues, noise and light pollution, surface and ground water management, and wildlife protection.

Send tax-deductible contributions to the Windham Woodlands Defense Fund, 5976 Windham Hill Road, Windham VT 05359.

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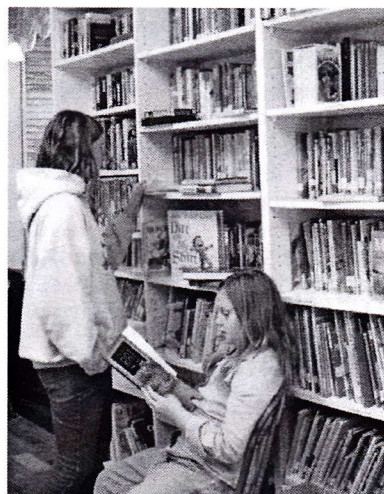
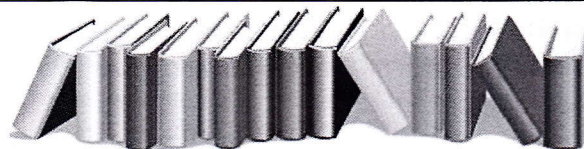
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INVITATION TO THE LIBRARY *by John Hoover*

Dictionary.com defines a library as a place set apart to contain books to be read and borrowed, a definition that aptly describes the Windham Town Library. The library contains hundreds and hundreds of books covering a wide range of topics and genres, books that see a lot of use. In the past three years alone the library has added 334 books to its collection, some newly purchased and others that were donated. So if you're interested in a book that would entertain you or enlighten you we most likely can provide it to you.

While lending books is a primary function of the library a lot more than that happens on Wednesday afternoons. In the last year we have had 393 individual visits to the library. What folks find there, in addition to books, is a warm welcome, a cup of coffee or tea and, usually, a freshly baked treat to snack on. They also find someone who will give them a sympathetic ear or someone to help with knit-

ting or quilting problems. So there is a social function the library fulfills as well being a place of books.

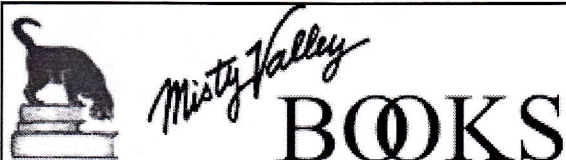
Once a month a group gathers to discuss a book that all have read. On January 8, 2014, at 3:30, the group will gather to discuss "Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker" by Jennifer Chiaverini. Anyone can join the group and contribute to the discussion. In addition to lending out books and fulfilling social functions the Windham Town Library provides intellectual stimulation as well.

Besides purchasing new books, the library gladly accepts donations of gently read books. If you wish to donate books we will accept hardcover and trade paperbacks (please, no mass market paperbacks) that are fairly new and in good condition. We prefer to receive the books in person during library hours so we know for sure they are intended as donations.



The library is open from 3 to 5 on most Wednesdays (Note: we'll be closed on January 1) and we would be delighted to have more people utilize this wonderful community resource. If you're the type that needs an invitation, please consider yourself invited to the library. See you there.

\*\*\*\*\*



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**PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS!** *By Bev Carmichael*

Our 2014 calendar photos have been judged and the winner is Chris Fisher for "Windham Sunset." Second prize went to Beverly Carmichael for "Christmas in the Mountains" and third went to Amy Carson for "Little Peep." We have successfully sold all calendars for another year. Your library staff would like to thank all who participated and all who support this fund-raiser for our library.





## WINTER CASSEROLES



### ***Turnip and Applesauce Bake***

(serves 6-7)

*Note: this is Mary McCoy's deliciously altered "Tastebook" recipe*

4 cups Gilfeather turnips, regular turnips, or rutabegas, peeled and cut into 1" dice  
1 cup applesauce, preferable homemade, with cinnamon, nutmeg, and honey  
2 tbsp butter  
1 tsp salt  
1/8 tsp pepper  
1 egg, beaten

#### **Topping:**

1 cup crushed rice or corn chex, panko, or bread crumbs  
2 tbsp olive oil or melted butter

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Place turnips in a saucepan, cover with water, and cook until soft. In large bowl, mash turnips and mix with remaining ingredients. Turn into a 6-cup (approximately) lightly greased casserole. Top with crushed chex, panko, or bread crumbs and drizzle with olive oil or butter. Bake for 30-45 minutes. This casserole is excellent if baked in advance and warmed up for serving.

*Mary McCoy*

### ***Imme's Leek Casserole***

(serves 4-6)

5 to 6 leeks, about 1 1/2 lbs.  
2 tsp cooking oil  
1/2 cup sliced mushrooms  
1/2 cup dry white wine  
3/4 cup whipping cream  
1/4 tsp. salt  
dash nutmeg  
1 10 oz bag of fresh spinach  
1/4 cup bread crumbs  
1/4 cup shredded parmesan cheese

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Cut cleaned leeks into 1/4 " slices, then chop. Saute in oil for 2-3 minutes. Remove and set aside. Cook mushrooms in same pan 3-

5 minutes. Add wine and spinach. Cook covered until spinach has cooked down a bit, then cook uncovered until most of liquid has evaporated, stirring occasionally. Add whipping cream, salt and nutmeg, and cook another 3-5 minutes. Add leeks and pour into lightly greased 1 qt. casserole dish. Top with bread crumbs and parmesan. Bake 20 to 25 minutes.

*Imme Maurath*

### ***Casserole Rice***

(serves 4)

1/2 medium onion, sliced thin  
1/2 tsp salt  
1 tbsp oil  
1 cup uncooked rice, any type, brown or white.

Put the rice in a medium saucepan and cover with 3 inches of cold water. Bring to a boil and boil uncovered over medium heat, for 5 minutes for white rice, and 10-15 minutes for brown rice. Test the rice: it should be almost tender, but not fully cooked. When it reaches this point, drain it. You can do this early in the day for rice you will serve in the evening.

About an hour before you plan to serve the rice, preheat the oven to 375 degrees. In a heavy 4-cup or larger casserole, saute the onion in the oil over medium heat for 5 minutes. Add salt and the partially cooked rice. (If you partly cooked the rice earlier in the day, rinse and drain it now so that it is wet.) Cover the casserole and bake for 30- 40 minutes. The rice will steam and become fluffy and flavorful. If you don't like onions, leave them out. The rice will be perfect anyway. Just add a tablespoon or so of water to replace the moisture in the onions.

*Note: this recipe might look a little complicated, but once you try it, you will find that you can handily bake the parboiled rice alongside anything else you are roasting. I like to bake it in a covered Le Creuset casserole alongside a baking sheet with roasting root vegetables or a mix of broccoli, cauliflower, and brussels sprouts, lightly coated with oil, salt, and pepper.*

*Nancy Tips*



# *AUTUMN/WINTER FESTIVITIES IN WINDHAM*



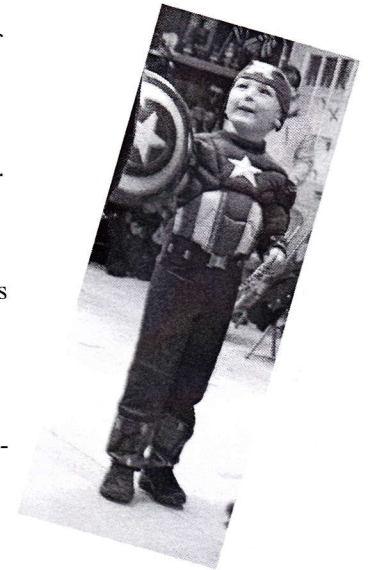
**FIRECO HALLOWEEN** *by Marcia Clinton*  
Frigid temperatures did not deter Captain America, Bob the Builder, the vampire, princess, gypsy, bear, monkey, bubble wrapped snow mobiler, witch, MD, wolf, and many others from taking a hayride. Most went twice into the inky blackness not afraid of any ghosts or goblins lurking about.

The snake wrapped door handle greeted the kids as they stepped into the Halloween party hosted by the Windham Fire Co. Oct. 25th.

Tough decisions for the judges as the kids paraded by, but 6 were given awards and prizes for their costumes. More prizes were bestowed on the winners for musical

chairs, bobbing for apples and eating donuts hung on strings.

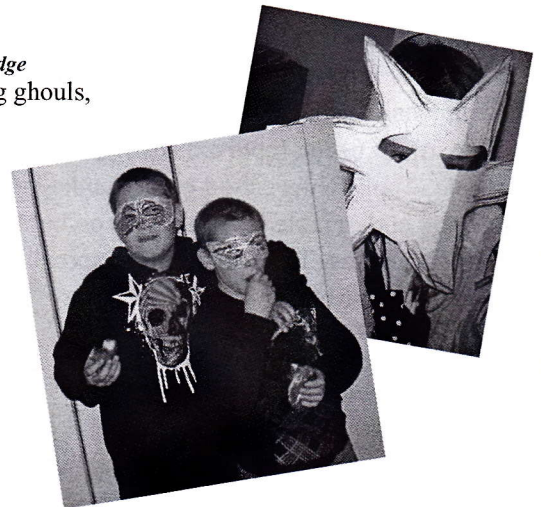
A long table decorated with monster feet, jars of eyeballs, skulls and pumpkins offered treats to all participants. Hot dogs and chili to start, and then a selection of ghoulish desserts including a variety of edible eyeballs. A jar of mixed candy enticed everyone to guess the number inside. At the end of the evening each child was given a bag of treats and bid farewell until next year.



*MORE PIX IN OUR PDF! ASK FOR  
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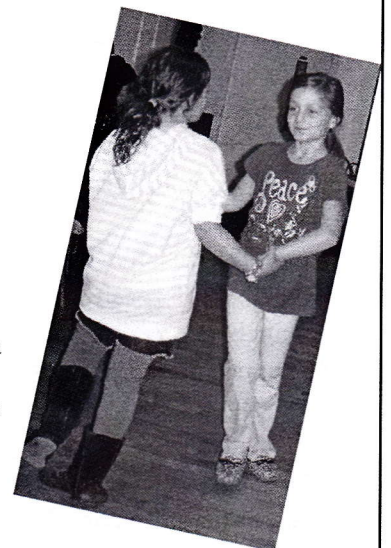
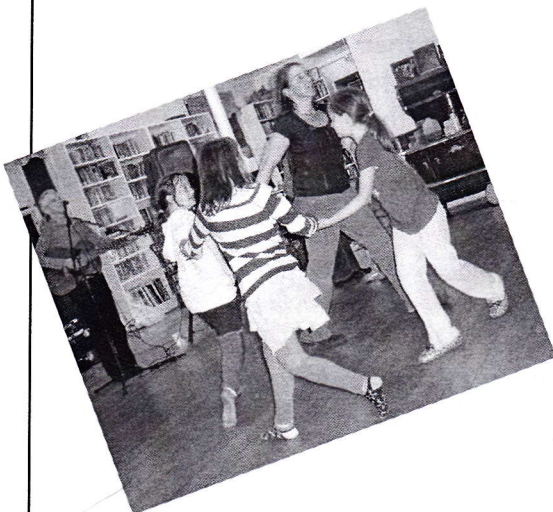
## **TERROR AT THE TOWN OFFICE** *by Alison Trowbridge*

On Halloween, a mass of assorted creatures including ghouls, pumpkins and spirits descended upon the Town Office. This teeming horde originated from the Windham Elementary School with intricately decorated masks made by each wearer. Upon their arrival at the Town Office, they were greeted by Kathy Scott and Alison Trowbridge who were bearing cookies, donuts and candy, treats which quickly pacified the pack so there were no tricks involved that day. It was great to see the masks that kids made and hear about some of the different Halloween plans they had. Thanks to Mickey, Sally, Cindy and Gail for allowing this fun tradition to continue and for giving us an entertaining break from collecting taxes! The photos show some of the highlights from this visit.



## **HARVEST SUPPER FOOD AND DANCING** *by Imme Maurath*

The Harvest Supper/Square Dance held in November had an awesome turnout. We were so happy to see the amount of families that came to enjoy the food and then the dance. Sally Newton as caller is certainly walking in her father's shoes. Sally also teaches the children in the elementary school, so there were a lot of kids out there that knew what they were doing. Thank you Sally and your band for donating your time and helping make this a memorable occasion. I'd also like to thank all the members of the WCO that volunteer to help me pull this event off without a hitch. Thanks also to Harlow Farm in Westminster, that every year donates 40 pounds of peeled squash. See you next year!





**WCO COOKIES AND YANKEE SWAP** *by Gina Noel*

The WCO held its annual holiday meeting on December 11th. A brief agenda was dealt with before we moved on to the real matter at hand - cookies and mystery gifts.

Each member brought in several dozen home made cookies to build tasty plates to be distributed to Town employees, shut-ins and elderly residents. A total of 17 decoratively wrapped plates were made.

After we sampled the treats, we brushed the cookie crumbs off our lips and headed over to the Christmas tree where our mystery gifts awaited. The Yankee Swap then ensued with its usual "ohs" and "ahs" in the midst of stealing gifts and laughter.

At the end of the evening, we left with our gifts and cookie plates to distribute, wishing to all a "Good Night"!

**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING AND CAROL SING** *by Ginny Crittenden*

The fifth annual community gathering to sing songs of the Christmas season took place on the Friday after Thanksgiving at the Meeting House, followed by the lighting of the big fir tree in front of the building. Fifty people, including several large family groups were there, to be led in song by the energetic Christine Dyke, with piano accompaniment by her mother, Nancy. One of the highlights every year has been "The Twelve Days of Christmas", with each part acted out by members of the group, always quite hilarious. After about 20 songs, we were all ready to have some hot cocoa (made by Beverly Carmichael and her sons) and cookies. The group then trooped out into the dark and counted down to zero, when the tree was magically lit (by elves?), and we sang "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" before we all headed home for supper. It is a wonderful way to usher in the Christmas season and we pe that if you missed it this year, you will join us after Thanksgiving 2014!

**BULLETIN BOARD****WINDHAM SPINNERS' GUILD**

Spinners of all levels and types come together once a month to spin and share techniques and ideas. The Guild meets from 1 - 4 pm, usually on the first Saturday of the month. Whether

you're a seasoned spinner or have an urge to learn, you're encouraged to join us. The Guild can make available to you spindles for drop-spindle spinning, but if you want to spin using a spinning wheel, you'll need to have your own. Email Bev Carmichael at [carmichaelbev@hotmail.com](mailto:carmichaelbev@hotmail.com) for more information.

**ZUMBA GOLD AT WINDHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5 p.m. Fun and invigorating dance-fitness program providing low-impact and easy-to-follow moves. Latin-infused music and dance routines by ZIN certified instructor. \$8 for Windham residents, \$10 for the general public. Multi-class discounts available.

More info: Pauline O'Brien at 802-376-5397 or [paulinebob@hotmail.com](mailto:paulinebob@hotmail.com)

**WINTER MORNING FITNESS AT THE MEETING HOUSE**

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

Mon., noon, (after Strong Living): Yoga with Liza Eaton. **Note time change.**

All levels welcome in all classes. **More information:** Mary Boyer, 875-5242 or Ginny Crittenden, 874-4049.

**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.

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





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Please keep us informed of any  
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<p><b>REGULAR MEETINGS &amp; SCHEDULES</b></p>	<p><b>Town Clerk:</b> Mondays, 12-6 (closed Jan 20, Feb 17); Tuesdays, 8:45-2:45; Thursdays, 12-3 ; Satur- days, Jan 18 &amp; Feb 15, 9- noon.</p>	<p><b>Selectboard:</b> Mondays, Jan 6, 13, 20, 27, and Feb 3 &amp; 17, 6:30 p.m. at the Town Office. Open meeting.</p>	<p><b>School Board:</b> Mondays, Jan 6 &amp; Feb 3, 4 p.m. at Elementary School. Open mtg.</p>
<p><b>Listers:</b> Wednesdays, 9- noon at the Town Office. Closed Jan 1.</p>	<p><b>Planning and Zoning:</b> Thursdays, Jan 9 &amp; Feb 13, 6 p.m. at the Town Of- fice. Open meeting.</p>	<p><b>Library:</b> Wednesdays, 3-5. Book Group will meet Jan 8 &amp; Feb 5 at the Meeting House during library hours. Closed Jan 1.</p>	<p><b>Volunteer Fire Company:</b> Thursdays: Jan 2 &amp; Feb 6, 6 p.m. at the Fire- house. Heavy refresh- ments served.</p>
<p><b>Windham Community Or- ganization:</b> Wednesdays, Jan 29 and Feb 26, 7 p.m. and at the Meeting House. Everyone invited.</p>	<p><b>Windham Congregational Church (UCC)</b> Sundays: Wor- ship Services at 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p><b>Valley Bible Church:</b> Sun- days: Sunday School, 9:55; Morning Worship, 11 a.m.; Pot- luck, 12:10; Afternoon Service, 1:10. Tuesdays: Bible study/ Prayer, 7 p.m.</p>	

### SAVE THE DATES

**FRIENDS OF WINDHAM'S WOODLANDS ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING: WEDS., JAN 8, 6-8 P.M., MEETING HOUSE**  
**ANNUAL SCHOOL BOARD BUDGET INFORMATION MEETING: MON., FEB 3, 6:30 P.M., WINDHAM ELEM. SCHOOL**  
**TOWN MEETING: TUESDAY, MARCH 4**