



# Windham News & Notes

## WINDHAM CELEBRATES ITS NEW WES GRADUATE *by Paul Robinson*

On June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Alex Beshay graduated from WES at ceremonies held on school grounds. Windham congratulates Alex and his family on this milestone achievement.

Alex recognizes his graduation as a “big moment” in his 12 years and reflects very positively on his WES experience. Alex, an A student himself, gives WES an “A+++” report and credits the staff and teachers for their “kindness and understanding” and Mr. P.J. for “always shooting straight” and for helping him learn to better manage his time. Alex has thrived in the WES environment and appreciates the opportunity he has had to interact with younger children both in and out of school.

Alex’s motto is “live life to the fullest.” He loves being outdoors in Vermont, enjoying fishing and kayaking. He points to snowboarding and music as

his real passions. He currently sings in a local community choir and recently had the honor and distinction of participating in the Oake Youth National Honor Chorus in Atlanta.

Next year, Alex’s continuing education will include a combination of home schooling plus select course work at Leyland and Gray.

The News and Notes Staff believes Alex is a good candidate for its Talent feature and expects someday soon to include an article about him. In the meantime, readers should be on the lookout especially at Stratton Mountain, for a young man singing from the Sound of Music as he snowboards down the mountain.

Congratulations to Alex on a job well done. The Town of Windham wishes him continued success and stands very proud of his achievements.



Alex Beshay



WES Students Serenade the Graduate





**SELECTBOARD NEWS***Mary Boyer, Frank Seawright, Kord Scott*

Treasurer Peter Chamberlain reports that all departments, including roads, are operating within or just under budget. Mud season was good to us and the savings will go to replacing ten to twelve failing culverts. This will result in some slight disruption to traffic for periods of three to four hours and we ask that you please be careful near work sites and be patient with the crew as this work proceeds.

Kord, recently appointed Roads Commissioner, is working with a variety of state resources. VTrans is consulting with us on the condition of our roads and culverts and on the most efficient use of road materials. Kord is also researching the availability of grants.

FEMA policies are changing because of the increase in costly weather events. In order to qualify for reimbursement and grants from FEMA and the State we must rewrite our existing Hazard Mitigation Plan adopted in 2008. The Windham Regional Commission will assist but we provide a great deal of information about potential hazard areas plus a record of prior financial assistance from FEMA. A Citizens' Committee is being formed to help us define these areas, and volunteers are welcome. If you are interested please let one of us know or contact Alison at the Town Office.

To aid planning, save time, and support our future claims and grant applications with facts, Frank has developed a computer program to help us record road, culvert and signage inventories; surface conditions; material usage; and labor. We will be tailoring the program over the summer and entering data as time allows.

**HEADS UP:** In response to resident requests we have been studying the feasibility of reducing the speed limit on Windham Hill Road. A hearing was held June 9<sup>th</sup> and it was agreed the most troublesome spot is the hamlet of South Windham where there are children, animals, and homes very close to the road. In addition the curve as you approach to and from Jamaica provides very poor visibility. The state process for changing speed limits is lengthy, and we are nearly finished. If you would like to make comments, please submit them in writing to Alison by the end of June .


Summer did finally get here, although so far it seems to be a wet one. Enjoy your outdoor activities.

**RED UPDATE** *by Carolyn Partridge*

The Regional Education District (RED) Committee met at the end of May and decided not to continue their work. The next steps would have been to submit Articles of Agreement to the Vermont State Education Board, hold informational sessions in the five towns involved (Brookline, Jamaica, Newfane, Townshend, and Windham), and hold a vote on the matter. The Committee, however, decided not to take those steps and instead, a motion was made to encourage local boards to conduct joint meetings to increase dialogue regarding collaboration.

Windham School Board withdrew from the process approximately two years after the process began because we felt that the formation of a RED was not going to improve educational quality/opportunity for the students in Windham. This was a conclusion that the RED Committee itself had come to, but the work continued because of interest in a proposed unified school. Both Jamaica and Townshend Schools have infrastructure issues they need to deal with and the idea was of interest to them. Windham Elementary School, however, has been well-maintained; investing in new school construction while paying to support our existing one seemed like an unnecessary expense.

Emily Long, Chair of the RED Committee, expressed doubt that there would have been support for passage of the proposal, which is a major reason the initiative was abandoned by the Committee as a whole at the May meeting.



Misty Valley

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**CHANGES IN STORE FOR THE NEWS & NOTES***by News & Notes Staff*

Nancy Tips, who has served as our layout expert and deadline manager for the past two years, is stepping down with this issue of the News and Notes. We will miss her enthusiasm and creative ideas.

Many of you have commented on the “new look” of the N&N, and almost every issue results in mail complimenting the staff on the appearance and content of the paper. Many of these changes have come from Nancy’s skill and knowledge in managing design issues. We are grateful for the time and dedication Nancy has put into producing the N&N regularly and making it more interesting to you our readers.

As we move into our twelfth year of publication of the News and Notes, donations are up – Thank You! We are covering more local news and special interest stories, and our appearance has changed dramatically.

A small newsletter like the News & Notes depends on volunteers. We are in need of a more helping hands. All that is needed is a willingness to put in a few hours every other month. If you think you would enjoy working with a dedicated team on this worthy project please contact Dona Robinson at 874 7242.

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**WIND DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION MEETING** *by News and Notes staff*

On May 27th, Meadowsend Timberlands Limited (MTL) hosted an “Information Meeting” to update the status of the potential Windham/Grafton wind development project. At the meeting were representatives of MTL, Iberdrola Renewables and Windham residents. The key points of information communicated include the following:

- Three meteorological testing towers were installed in April, 2013 for purposes of assessing the potential viability of a commercial wind project on MTL’s Stiles Brook Tract.
- To date, the Met towers have been in place for one year and Iberdrola indicated that the towers are “performing as expected” and preliminary readings of average wind speed “look promising” for the project.
- Iberdrola indicated the measurements showed “wind turbulence” over the year. The engineer spokesperson was unable to explain the variance in April and characterized it as “fluky” and in “need of further review.”
- It was stated it will take 1-3 years of data measurement to make a final assessment of the potential for the project in Windham/Grafton. Accordingly, year two of the Met Tower Plan will focus on additional data collection.
- Iberdrola scaled the potential for the Windham/Grafton project at between a “minimum of 15 tur-

bines” to a “maximum of 30.” No detail was provided as to the potential sizing or placement of the turbines.

In further comments, Iberdrola outlined its next step timetable for the project:

- Step #2 would entail a “Site Selection Study” to determine the exact placement for towers.
- Step # 3 would be a comprehensive “Field Study” that could take 1 ½ years to complete, focused on assessing the impact on the terrain/environment if the project was to move forward.
- Step # 4 would be the “Application Phase” wherein filing would be submitted to the Vermont Public Service Board requesting authorization to move forward with the project.

If the project were to move forward, Iberdrola estimated it would be in a position to “commence & complete construction” in 2019.

Following Iberdrola’s presentation, An attorney with the Public Service Department spoke briefly about the application process. He indicated that input from affected communities is important and the Public Service Board welcomes public comment from individuals and/or groups.

The meeting concluded with comments from Lowell & Readsboro Town Officials, a Q&A session and MTL’s plans for additional information meetings to be announced.

**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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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: August 15, 2014*



## BIG DRAMA ON LITTLE POND *by Mary McCoy*

The pond beside our house is small, maybe a tenth the size of the Amsdens' pond near Four Corners, but it has been a large and constant source of delight for my husband, Michael Simonds, and me. He created the pond when he built our home in 1996, and frogs found it within 24 hours.

We think of it as a frog pond, due to the loudness of the frog calls near it and the abundance of frog eggs and tadpoles in it, but it also attracts birds. Mourning doves and others bathe at its edge, and ducks dabble along its perimeter. We've seen mallards mostly, but also wood ducks and once northern pintails. We even had a great blue heron one particularly dry summer. Somehow it had spotted the tadpoles in the puddle that was all that remained of the pond.

We watch the activity from our sunroom which is on the top floor of our house, giving us a clear view. The pond also tells us the weather – how hard it's raining, which way the wind is blowing, whether it's cold enough to freeze or warm enough to thaw. We spend a lot of time in our sunroom, watching the pond.

Last June we saw bold concentric ripples, moving out from the pond's center. We'd never seen this before, and both of us grabbed our binoculars. In the center of the pond were two frogs, one on top of the other, white belly to white belly, thrashing and spinning, creating the ripples. The frog on top had the frog underneath in a tight hold, its front legs wrapped tightly around the other, while the under frog was kicking frantically. We watched mesmerized, wondering if this were part of the mating process or what.

We were not the only ones to see the ripples and the two in the center, for soon a huge bird swooped down to the water and seized the frogs in its talons, then landed on a large rock at the pond's edge, its claws full of frog. It sat there motionless, as if wondering how to manage its double catch. Michael reached for our bird books as I said, "Clearly a hawk, a big one. Grey or light brown chest, darker back. Wide dark tail with a white band across. Whoa! Did you see that?!"

Evidently, the hawk's hold was firm only on the top frog. The under frog had squirmed to free itself, pushing away from both captors and the rock, still belly up, then flipping over before splashing into the pond and diving under. Immediately, the hawk flapped its wide wings, took flight with the remaining frog, and was quickly out of sight. We identified it as a rough-legged hawk or perhaps as a broad-winged hawk, as that one hunts amphibians.

Our pond was as full of tadpoles that year as every other, and we learned exactly what proceeds this, which had nothing to do with what we saw. Usually, the male frog climbs on the back of the female near the water's edge, clasps hold, his front legs around her, and waits for many hours, sometimes days. Eventually, the female releases her eggs into the water, and he releases his sperm and a substance that encases eggs and sperm where fertilization occurs and tadpoles first form.

We also learned that frogs fight, although rarely, over food or females or both. Two male frogs collide chest to chest and clasp their front legs around each other. Usually the larger of the two flips and holds the other under and tries to drown him. Although this seldom ends in death, it determines who rules.

The drama on our pond that day lasted only a few minutes, but I doubt we'll ever forget it or the fact that sometimes it pays to be the under frog.



### *Some Facts about Frogs*

- *The earliest known frogs were from the late Jurassic period, about 190 million years ago. Scientists believe frogs developed jumping legs to avoid being eaten by dinosaurs.*
- *The most common frogs in Windham County are spring peepers, gray treefrogs, wood frogs, and green frogs.*
- *Spring peepers average only 1.3 inches in length, and their voice is a high pitched whistle or trill, which is triggered by the first spring rains. They live in swampy areas.*
- *Gray treefrogs live in trees and have a resonating trill, heard through the spring and summer. They average just under 2 inches in length.*
- *Wood frogs are common throughout North America, as far north as the Arctic circle. Their average length is 2.3 inches, and their voice sounds like raspy quacks.*
- *Green frogs live in water and breed underwater. They have a voice like a repetitious banjo twang. Averaging 3.9 inches long, they are the largest common frog in our area.*
- *Most frogs do not live in the water, but in the trees and bushes nearby. Most frogs, however, mate in or near water.*
- *In winter, frogs hibernate under forest debris. Some, like the wood frogs and peepers, can freeze completely solid. Glucose from their livers acts like anti-freeze to protect their organs.*
- *Frogs can jump 20 times their length – that's like a five-foot-tall person jumping 100 feet.*
- *It typically takes 3 to 4 months from amplexus (frog's mating process) for the fertilized eggs to become tadpoles, the tadpoles to grow legs, their tails to disappear, and fully formed frogs to evolve.*
- *It is not known how long frogs live in the wild, but frogs in captivity live 4 to 15 years.*



**WINDHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL YEAR***by Mr. P.J. (Mickey Parker-Jennings)*

It is hard to believe another fun-filled and action-packed year has come to an end. In addition to the standard academic rigor and curriculum, students this year had many other stimulating extracurricular experiences. The whole school spent time at a variety of farms learning about the different activities and jobs that are required to sustain that type of lifestyle or run one as a business. They had the unique experience of watching the sheep and llama be sheared just down the road. Additionally, the whole school went on a few other trips including a fall hike to Jamaica State Park, a morning of apple picking at Green Mountain Orchards, which included participating in the making of apple cider, and the sledding party at the Kehoes' to celebrate the beads students earned in recognition for their positive behaviors here at school. Other excitement at the school this year included the Early Stages

Program which directs the students in grades 3-6 through the process of creating, writing, and performing in their own original play on the stage at the Weston Playhouse. Fortunately this year we received a grant from the Elaine Raphael Arts Fund to assist in the creation of props, as well to buy some art supplies for the classroom. The Camp Keewaydin trip also took place for the fifth and sixth graders. This is a weeklong excursion into the woods on the shores of Lake Dunmore with students from five other schools to learn about nature, conservation, and communities. These are the types of diverse opportunities that make for a complete educational experience and provide these students with increased social awareness. A big thank you goes out to all the community members and parents who volunteer to assist with these trips. Without such a supportive community, we could not provide so many wonderful horizon-broadening moments. Thank you, and see you next year!

**FROM THE WES NEWSLETTER** *by Gail Wyman*

*April 25...On Earth Day, Alan Partridge offered the whole school an interesting presentation on recycling...how to read containers for recycling, how to reuse them, what to use them for, answering some very interesting questions. Kids seem to be taking it seriously and checking the bottoms of the containers. Now when they leave the lunch table to throw away their trash, much of it is recyclable. Food goes into the compost...empty containers are recyclable and need to be washed out first, then placed in the appropriate containers. Many more children are now bringing their lunch in reusable containers to avoid using plastic bags.*

*May 2... **Recycling is going great.** These kids caught on very quickly, especially the younger ones. They are prepared for the proper recycling when excused from their table.*

*May 16...Our school trip to **Windham Solid Waste Management** plant was ... a real eye opener on how much waste there is and how much work it takes getting it sorted, bundled and ready for shipment. We all learned a lot about what happens to our trash, the things we recycle and the things we don't... We had a great time at **the Retreat Farm**, but not enough. There were so many baby goats, baby pigs and chicks*

*that slowed us down on our way through the barn.*

*June 6...Even with the high temperature and humidity we had on Tuesday, everyone on **the Walk-a-Thon** did an amazing job. Our fifth grader ran the whole four mile distance along with Mr. P.J., our graduating sixth grader rode his bicycle back and forth making sure everyone was okay, and we had more than one kindergartener walk the whole four miles...collected almost \$300, enough to buy 2 goats and a flock of chickens for families in need. **Taylor Farm** trip was informative. We started our tour admiring the four sleigh horses, went on to the chicken coop, on the way trying to pat the mini donkey as he quickly vacated the area as soon as everyone tried to pat him. He headed to pasture and stayed there. The kids patted rabbits, watched and fed the newborn goats fresh grass after their parents get moved to an outdoor pen. The same with the three new baby chicks and mom. On to the cows, calves, pigs, then circling around to the milk barn and on to the milk room, eventually to the store where we washed up and sampled tasty Gouda cheese. Lunch was at the picnic table, ending the time there playing in the play area and swinging. Thank you to all the parents who make these trips such a success. You are very, very appreciated.*

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**PREVENTING DRUG MISUSE***by Marcia Clinton, Town Health Officer*

Prescription medications are so commonly used that some mistakenly believe they are harmless. These medications are often easily accessible in the home. Twenty percent of Windham County high school students stated they have used a prescription pain reliever or prescription stimulant not prescribed for them. This is markedly higher than the statewide average of 13%. In fact, 70% of kids age 12 and older who have abused pain relievers and stimulants say they got them from their friends or relatives, typically without their knowledge.

To prevent drug misuse, approach securing your prescriptions the same way you would other valuables in your home. Safely disposing of expired or unused prescription medications is also a critical step in helping protect your teens. There is a Rx Drug Drop Box at the Windham County Sheriff Department, 11 Jail St, Newfane, VT. The hours are daily from 7a.m. -10p.m. for pills and patches only.

Collect your expired or unused Rx pills or patches, medication samples, and pet medications in their original bottles and place them in a disposable bag. Be sure to remove or cover personal information.

More information on other drop box locations can be found at [www.windhamrx.org](http://www.windhamrx.org).

**TICKS AND MOSQUITOS** *by Marcia Clinton*

As frigid as this winter was, it won't stop the ticks and mosquitoes from re-emerging and bugging us all soon enough.

Ticks that transmit Lyme disease thrive in humid wooded areas. They die quickly in sunny and dry environments. There are some simple landscaping techniques to help reduce tick populations. Remove leaf litter and clear tall grasses and brush around homes and the edges of lawns. Place wood chips or gravel between lawns and wooded areas to restrict tick migration to recreational areas. Mow the lawn and clear brush and leaf litter frequently.

Keep the ground under bird feeders clean. Stack wood neatly and in dry areas. Keep playground equipment, decks and patios away from yard edges and trees. Do not feed deer on your property. Learn about deer-resistant plants for your garden.

To prevent mosquito bites, limit the amount of time spent outdoors at dusk and dawn. Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants outside when mosquitoes are active. Use insect repellents that are labeled as being effective against mosquitoes. Effective ingredients are DEET, picaridin, and oil of lemon eucalyptus. Around your house remove or frequently change standing water, such as wading pools, wheelbarrows, and birdbaths.

The informative booklet called "Be Tick Smart" as well as tick identification cards are available in the Town Office and library. More information can also be found at <http://healthvermont.gov>.

**LIBRARY NEWS** *by Bev Carmichael*

We have lots of new books at the library this month for your summer reading enjoyment:

**"The Storied Life of A.J. Firry," by Gabriells Zevin.**

A. J. Fikry, the irascible owner of Island Books, has recently endured some tough years: his wife has died, his bookstore is experiencing the worst sales in its history, and his prized possession—a rare edition of Poe poems—has been stolen. Over time, he has given up on people, and even the books in his store, instead of offering solace, are yet another reminder of a world that is changing too rapidly. Until a most unexpected occurrence gives him the chance to make his life over and see things anew.

**"Sycamore Row," by John Grisham.**

John Grisham returns to the setting and the compelling characters that first established him as America's favorite storyteller. Here, in his most assured and thrilling novel yet, is a powerful testament to the fact that Grisham remains the master of the legal thriller, nearly twenty-five years after the publication of *A Time to Kill*.

**"The Son," by Jo Nesbo.** The author of the best-selling Harry Hole series now gives us an electrifying stand-

*(Continued on page 7)*



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(Continued from page 6)

alone novel set inside Oslo's maze of especially venal, high-level corruption.

**"The Invention of Wings," by Sue Monk Kidd.** Writing at the height of her narrative and imaginative gifts, Sue Monk Kidd presents a masterpiece of hope, daring, the quest for freedom, and the desire to have a voice in the world—and it is now the newest Oprah's Book Club 2.0 selection.

If you have any requests for additions to our library, please stop in any Wednesday and put in your request. We have shelves full of wonderful children's books. With summer vacation ahead of us, please bring your children to the library. Reading is an important skill.

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### WINDHAM VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY UPDATE

*by Marcia Clinton*

At the June 12th meeting election of officers was held. Elected were: Fire Chief -Rick Weitzel, Asst. Fire Chief - Ralph Wyman, President - Mike McLaine, Secretary - Meredith Tips-McLaine, and Treasurer - Jan Wyman.

Windham Fire Company calls:

- 4/12/14 Fuel oil leaking from unknown underground source.
- 4/20/14 Mutual aid to Chester - 5 members and a tanker to Williams Rd. for brushfire for 3 hours.

- 4/8/14 Response to CO2 detector alarm in private home.
- 5/16/14 Mutual aid to Chester for a gasoline spill of 2400+ gallons involving fire fighters for 12 hours.
- 5/18/14 Mutual aid to Londonderry for a structure fire for 4 hours.
- 6/8/14 Motor vehicle accident on Windham Hill Rd.
- 6/9/14 Mutual aid to Townshend

Over the past few months new members have joined the Fire Co. and were outfitted in the necessary gear for fire fighting. The cost of full gear for one fire fighter (helmet, coat, gloves, pants, boots, etc.) is \$2001.00. This does not include the required forest fire gear which must be purchased for each fire fighting member.

The annual Windham Fire Co. auction and BBQ will be Saturday, August 9th. We are collecting donations for the auction now. Please, no computers, TV's, exercise equipment, books or clothing; and nothing broken or with parts missing. Call Mike McLaine at 875-1550 to schedule a time to leave off items at the firehouse, or for pick-up of large items.

For both the auction and BBQ, volunteers are always needed before and on the day of the event. There are many, many jobs to choose from. Besides the warm, fuzzy feeling you will get for helping out, you will also have fun participating. To volunteer, call Jan Wyman at 875-3373. This is your fire company and as can be seen from the monthly reports, the fire fighters are an active group.

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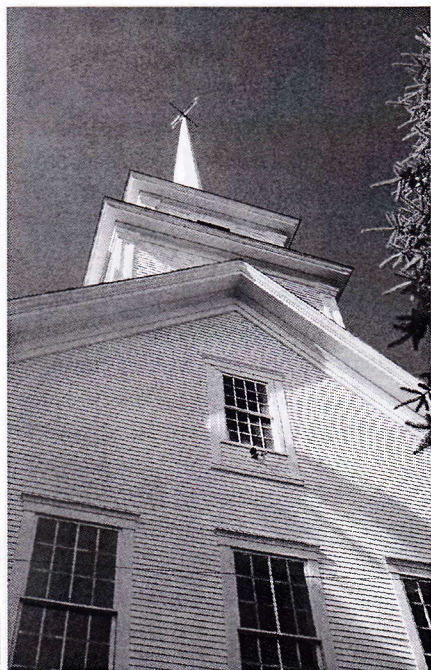
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## JULY 19: WCO ANNUAL CHICKEN BBQ AND RAFFLE

*by Imme Maurath*

The Windham Community's annual chicken BBQ will begin serving at 5pm. Our head chef will once again be heading up the grill. Thank you Walter!!! Other items on the menu will include homemade potato salad, assorted baked beans, green salad, sweet breads and rolls. For dessert our volunteers will have picked for you local strawberries served with fresh shortcake and whipped cream. Prices are \$10/adult, \$5/child, and \$25/family. Raffle tickets will be available, and locally crafted items will be raffled just after the meal. Please come be a part of our local tradition.

## OPEN DAY AT THE WINDHAM MEETING HOUSE

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

Over the past several issues of Windham News & Notes, we've been bringing you the story of the Windham Meeting House and the Society of the Friends of Windham Meeting House who diligently look after the health and well being of this spectacular building. As promised, the Friends are planning a special event to get everyone even more familiar with that grand old building on Windham Hill.

It will take place the same day as the annual WCO Chicken BBQ. Mark your calendars for July 19<sup>th</sup>, and plan to come up earlier than usual. The Friends will

hold an open house at Windham's architectural landmark from 3 to 5 p.m. It will feature a walking tour to examine many structural aspects of the Meeting House, as well as a visit to the attic to look inside the steeple to view the interesting construction methods employed by those master builders so long ago. Historical info about the evolution of the Meeting House will be discussed, including initial construction, building updates, and current maintenance. There will be a slide show of historical pictures of Windham. To demonstrate the marvelous acoustics inside the church, there will be musical entertainment before and after the walking tour. In addition, old fashioned children's games will be ongoing as well.

We hope you can make either or both events that day. Look forward to seeing you there, exploring this wonderful piece of Windham History together and then having a great meal under the tent!

## SUCCESSFUL GREEN UP DAY *by Marcia Clinton*

Once again Windham residents came out to clean up the roadsides for Green Up Day 2014. Neon green bags filled with trash began appearing along the roads 2 weeks prior to Saturday, May 3rd. In all, 37 adults and children filled 82 bags. Beer cans and bottles topped the list of trash, although also found were 4 tires and a candelabra!

After the Workers' Appreciation luncheon provided by the WCO at the Meeting House, awards were distributed

with one group of volunteers winning the award for the most bags collected with the count of 12!

Members of the Windham Fire Co. joined us for lunch and afterwards showed off the fire truck and tanker, explaining all the apparatus and working parts. There was also a demonstration of the turnout gear the fireman wears and the respirator backpack.

Picking up other peoples' trash is not much fun, but partaking of a meal together afterwards, comparing trash stories, and learning about the town fire company made for an enjoyable end of an annual event.



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## CHANGES AT THE WEST TOWNSHEND COUNTRY STORE *by Mary Boyer*

Over the last year the changes to the Old Post Office building at the bottom of Windham Hill Road have been much deeper than merely a fresh coat of paint. The vision of a few Townshend residents and friends is slowly coming into full fruition. The non-profit, West Townshend Community Project was created to “preserve and promote the West River heritage in order to sustain a healthy future full of music, the arts and local agriculture”.

At present the first floor houses the Post Office in the rear. The storefront has a lovely little café with a small but excellent menu of locally made food and baked goods. A variety of fresh, local foods and health-care products are available for purchase. Residents with an 05354 zip code can get a cup of coffee for the price of a postal stamp with their early morning scone or muffin. The café is open 7a.m. to 7p.m. seven days a week.

Upstairs is a large thrift store offering lightly used clothing for every member of the family and a small collection of household items. This is a great place to treasure hunt.

With the coming of spring the outdoor pizza oven is back in service for a real “make your own” treat on Friday nights. Frequently music accompanies the dinners and the Townshend Farmer’s Market will be held here starting June 6<sup>th</sup>. Vendor applications are available at the café.

The biggest project over the winter has been to lower the basement floor by two feet and install a commercial kitchen for community rental. The dirt removed from the floor is being used to level the store’s backyard to make a more functional space for the market. This undertaking is expensive and donations are being sought.

We encourage you to stop in and have a look. And you can check out more at their website:

<http://westtownshend.wix.com/wrcp>



## WINDHAM SUMMER DAY CAMP *by Cindy Kehoe*

The Windham Meeting House will be the site of all kinds of summer fun again this year. I will be back to lead the group in many fun and exciting activities. The dates are July 7 – 11 and July 14 – 18. Children three years (who are eager to leave Mom) and older are invited to join us. The hours are Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Fridays 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The registration fees per week are as follows:

\$20 for the first child in a family

\$10 for the second child in the same family

\$ 5 for the third child in the same family

Fees are payable on Monday of each week. Scholarships are available for those experiencing financial difficulties. All children in the area are invited to attend.

Some of the favorite activities are tie-dying t-shirts, building, painting and filling flower boxes, making bead and macramé bracelets and necklaces, drying flowers for note cards, gluing and painting popsicle stick creations, scrap wood creations, puppet making, face painting, playing with bubbles, nature walks and scavenger hunts, and kickball and whiffle ball outside. This summer I hope to make mini-terrariums and small projects with fleece. We go swimming on Fridays. The children make their own nutritious snacks and lunch each day.

If you have any ideas or special projects you might like to share with us, please let me know. Or just join us for a day, the more adults, the more projects get done. Does anyone have any small wood scraps? The children love to glue and paint their own projects. Any questions? Call me at 874-7028. See you in July!



**LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP** *by Carolyn Partridge*

The Vermont Legislature adjourned on May 9th. It was a productive session during which we constructed and passed a balanced budget that reflects our best efforts to meet the needs of our most vulnerable Vermonters while keeping in mind the realities of our taxpayers' pocketbooks.

H.112, the bill requiring the labeling of food produced with genetic engineering, now known as Act 120, was passed by the Senate and signed into law by the governor. We heard recently that the State of Vermont will be sued by a group of plaintiffs including the Grocery Manufacturer's Association, the Snack Food Association, the International Dairy Foods Association, and the Association of Manufacturers. The final version of the bill includes the creation of a special fund to which people can contribute, to be used for implementing the bill, as well as for liabilities. If anyone is interested in contributing to the special fund, please go to [www.foodfightfundvt.org](http://www.foodfightfundvt.org).

We passed an important economic development bill that focuses on three major areas: workforce development, telecommunications, and access to capital. We also passed a minimum wage bill on a strong 132-3 vote that increases wages in increments over the next four years. The increased buying power this produces will help invigorate our economy and decrease the number of people needing state assistance.

The Working Lands Enterprise Initiative made it through the entire process with the governor's recommended \$1.5 million. The investments made with this money will stimulate increased economic output and job creation. Its track record so far has been excellent and we anticipate continued great results.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any thoughts or concerns. My contact information is: 1612 Old Cheney Rd, Windham, 05359; hoparwel@sovernet; and 802-874-4182.

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**KNOW HOW TO IDENTIFY POISON HEMLOCK**

*by Ellen F. McDuffie*



Poison Hemlock can be deadly. The plant is famous for its role in the execution of Socrates. In 399 BC Socrates was sentenced to death for his impiety and corrupting the minds of young Athenians, and was given a cup of poison from this plant to drink. It is in no way related to the evergreen hemlock tree that is native to our area. Poison Hemlock can easily

be confused with wild carrot or Queen Anne's Lace, or with other members of the parsley family. Because it is acutely toxic to humans and animals it is important to know how to identify it and know its habitat.

Poison Hemlock is an invasive biennial herb in the carrot family, which can grow 3 to 8 feet. In favorable conditions it can be a perennial. It is common on roadsides, in open fields, along creek beds and at edges of cultivated fields. It is easily identified in June up and down Windham Hill Road. It has fern-like, lacy leaves, a smooth, hollow, hairless stalk often with purple or red blotches, and many umbrella-shaped white flower clusters. Individual

flowers are 1/16", with no sepals and five petals forming 1-2" compound umbels. The plant has a pungent, mouse-like odor and blooms in late spring. In contrast, Queen Anne's Lace has a flat flower head and blooms in late summer.

Poison Hemlock is acutely toxic to people and animals, with symptoms appearing 20 minutes to three hours after ingestion. All parts of the plant are poisonous and even the dead canes remain toxic for up to three years. Eating the plant is the main danger, but it is also toxic to the skin and respiratory system. When digging or mowing it is best to wear gloves, long sleeves and a mask. The toxins can be absorbed through the skin. The typical symptoms for humans include dilation of the pupils, dizziness, and trembling followed by slowing of the heartbeat, paralysis of the central nervous system, muscle paralysis, and death due to respiratory failure. But contact dermatitis is also possible. Wash well with soap and water if you come in contact with any part of this plant. For animals, symptoms include nervous trembling, salivation, lack of coordination, pupil dilation, rapid weak pulse, respiratory paralysis, coma, and sometimes death. For both people and animals, quick treatment is imperative. The toxins are quick acting. If you suspect poisoning from this plant, call for help immediately – for people: call Poison Control at 1-800-222-1222, or for animals: call your veterinarian. Poison Hemlock may eventually be eradicated by hand pulling or digging, or by multiple, close mowing before seed formation in mid to late summer.

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**GRACE COTTAGE SUMMER 2014 EVENTS**

July 12, **Tour de Grace Bicycle Rally** benefits **Grace Cottage Hospital**. Start 8-10 a.m. A beautiful, scenic ride, fun for all ages, from Stratton Base Lodge Parking Lot to Grace Cottage Hospital, Townshend. Transportation back to Stratton provided. Helmet required; dirt road tires strongly recommended. \$25 in advance; \$30 at event. Register online at [www.gracecottage.org/events](http://www.gracecottage.org/events) or at the Stratton parking lot. Info online or call 802-365-9109.

August 2, **Grace Cottage Hospital Fair Day**, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on the Townshend Common. All-day auction, bargain booths, Bingo, Baby Parade for those born at Grace Cottage, carriage and pony rides, face painting, food, games, entertainment, chicken BBQ, live music. Info: [www.gracecottage.org/events](http://www.gracecottage.org/events) or call 802-365-9109.

September 20, **Wellness in Windham Health Festival**, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. on the lawn of the Brattleboro Retreat in Brattleboro. Presented in collaboration by Grace Cottage Hospital, Brattleboro Memorial Hospital, and the Brattleboro Retreat. Free. Fun activities, live entertainment, health information. Info: [www.wellnessinwindham.org/health-festival](http://www.wellnessinwindham.org/health-festival).

**Town Contacts:**

**Town Office:** Alison Trowbridge, Town Clerk. phone: 874-4211 email: [windham.town@gmail.com](mailto:windham.town@gmail.com)  
**Town Treasurer:** Peter Chamberlain: phone, 874-4211 email: [windham.towntreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:windham.towntreasurer@gmail.com)  
**Town Garage:** Bill Roberts and Josh Dryden 874-7025  
**Town listers:** Michael Simonds, chair. phone: 802-874-4790, email: [Michael@windhamcountryhouse.com](mailto:Michael@windhamcountryhouse.com)  
**Selectboard:** Mary Boyer, chair. phone: 875-5242: email: [mfb@vermontel.net](mailto:mfb@vermontel.net)  
**School Board:** Beth McDonald phone: 874-4015; email: [220woodburn@gmail.com](mailto:220woodburn@gmail.com)  
**Windham Community Organization:** Dona Robinson, phone 874-7242

**BULLETIN BOARD****3SquaresVT**

3SquaresVT helps eligible Vermonters buy nutritious food. Open to individuals and families based on household income. Anyone over 60 or disabled may deduct many medical expenses from their income, which can help you to qualify. Benefits come as an EBT card that looks like a debit or credit card. For more information or help applying for 3SquaresVT, call the Vermont Senior Helpline at 1-800-642-5119.

**West Townshend Farmers' Market: 4-7pm Fridays**  
 Now at the market: asparagus, lettuce, greens, vegetable and flower plants, local meats, breads, soaps, pickles. Also wood-fired pizza and Thai food, and music.

The market is open weekly on Friday from 4-7 rain or shine. In stormy weather, it's on the porch of the church next door.

**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.

**JOIN THE "FRIENDS OF WINDHAM"****Our mission**

- Encourage preservation of Windham's rural heritage and woodlands ;
- Develop and publish analysis of potential effects on our community of industrial wind turbines on the ridgelines surrounding Windham;
- Raise contributions to cover cost of Newsletter.

Inquiries can be sent to Friends of Windham, Box 297, Londonderry, Vermont 05148 or email [fw@vermontel.net](mailto:fw@vermontel.net). Donations can be sent to the Treasurer at the above address.

**SUMMER FITNESS AT THE MEETING HOUSE**

Mon. and Thurs., 10 a.m.: Strong Living (bone building, muscle strengthening, stretching, balancing.)  
 All levels welcome in all classes. **More information:**  
**Mary Boyer, 875-5242 or Ginny Crittenden, 874-4049.**





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300 words to the Editor at the  
above address or preferably by  
email to windhamnews@  
hotmail.com

Please keep us informed of any  
address changes

# **REGULAR MEETINGS & SCHEDULES**

**Town Clerk: Note Summer  
Hours:** Mondays, 12-6;  
Tuesdays, 8-12; Thursdays,  
12-4 ; third Saturdays, July  
19 & August 16, 9-noon.

**Selectboard:** Mondays, July  
7 & 21 and Aug 4 & 18, 6:30  
p.m. at the Town Office.  
Open meeting.

**School Board: No July  
Meeting.**  
Friday, Aug 8, 9 a.m. at  
Elementary School. Open  
meeting.

**Listers:** Wednesdays, 9-  
noon at the Town Office.

**Planning and Zoning:**  
Wed, July 9, 6 p.m. At the  
Town Office. Open meeting.

**Library:** Wednesdays, 3-5.  
Book Group will meet July 2  
& Aug 6 at the Meeting  
House during library hours.

**Volunteer Fire Company:**  
Thursdays: July 3 & Aug 7,  
6 p.m. at the Fire-  
house. Heavy refresh-  
ments served.

**Windham Community Or-  
ganization:** Wednesdays,  
July 30 and Aug 27, 7 p.m.  
at the Meeting House. Eve-  
ryone invited.

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

**Valley Bible Church:** 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.



## **SAVE THE DATES**

**ANNUAL WCO CHICKEN BBQ AND CRAFT RAFFLE, SAT., JULY 19, 5 P.M. AT THE MEETING HOUSE**  
**ANNUAL FIRECO AUCTION AND BBQ, SAT., AUGUST 9. AUCTION STARTS AT 10 A. M. BBQ 5 P.M. AT THE FIREHOUSE**