



Windham News & Notes

LET'S BE "WINDHAM STRONG" *by the Windham Listers*

People living in Vermont – full-time or part-time – know the expression "Vermont Strong". Whether responding to flood damage or simply helping a neighbor, we understand the necessity of pulling together. Well, neighbors, necessity is calling you.

Windham is in the middle of a town-wide reappraisal of property values that requires every property owner's help. On average, a town-wide reappraisal happens every six years. Windham is overdue and really needs to get this done because our current property values are not accurate – often higher or lower than the actual selling prices of individual properties.

The listers recommended that Windham switch from the old cost-based approach to a market-based approach in order to get a more accurate assessment. This was discussed at three town meetings, and residents approved the necessary funding. The town has hired Green Mountain Appraisers (GMA) to visit each property and determine its value by comparing it to similar nearby properties that have recently sold.

Last year at this time, we began the process by sending out a letter with a return card for property owners to let us know the best way to contact them about seeing their home. Since then, GMA has inspected 80 properties and has been contacted by another 48 property owners to schedule a visit. However, there are still about 150 property owners who have not responded.

We understand there may be reasons that some of you don't like the idea of an appraiser coming inside your home. Maybe you don't like strangers. Maybe you're afraid that your property won't be clean and tidy enough. Maybe you're doing something in your home you don't want others to know about. We'd like to ease those concerns.

The folks from GMA are there to value your property, not to judge you. They don't care about your housekeeping or decorating. They are legally prohibited from reporting to anyone anything they see you doing inside your home. They just need to get accurate information about your home's size, construction materials, number of bathrooms, etc., the kinds of things they can only determine by seeing your place.

This is one of those times we all need to pull together to get this job done. Our hats are off to those 128 owners who have cooperated, and we eagerly encourage the rest of you to do your part. Failure to help causes the town additional time and expense. And it might have a negative impact on your property value. When anyone makes it impossible to appraise their home, the assumption can be made that the property must be far more valuable than currently assessed. If that assumption is made and is wrong, we're back where we started with inaccurate property values.

During the next several weeks, the Windham listers will be distributing postcard notices to the property owners who have not participated so far. If you get one of these cards, please call GMA at 802-362-4274 or email them at bdecesare@greenmountainappraisals.com. Just give your phone number or email address so they can contact you to schedule a visit. Let's all work together on this necessary project!

**NOTE: THE TOWN OFFICE WILL BE OPEN 9:00 to 5:00 ON OCTOBER 31, THE
LAST DAY TO PAY TAXES**

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

Town Treasurer Peter chamberlain and our road crew have been focusing on expense reduction by increasing our buying power with vendors, and sometimes changing vendors. Their efforts are paying off and all departments, including roads continue to operate under budget. All loans have been paid off except for payments on the truck and backhoe. Sand and salt are being stockpiled for the winter months while the prices are still reasonably low. We are pleased to say the Fire Co. has offered to help the road crew clean culverts and bridges with water pressure from their trucks.

The micro-burst of rain on July 27th caused about \$210,000 worth of damage to several of our roads, with a major washout to Horsenail Hill Road. We are currently working through the application process with VTrans to participate in the state funding for emergency repairs. Unfortunately, the incident was too small to trigger FEMA reimbursement.

We are still working with various agencies to implement a motion to reduce the speed limit in the hamlet of South Windham to 30 mph. The reduced speed will be from the southern boundary with Jamaica which runs through Ed Brown's barn to a northern boundary of just south of Wheeler Road. Warning signs of the speed change will be posted in both directions.

The Planning Commission will be completing their work on the Town Plan by the end of August and will be sending it to us for review and additional hearings. This comprehensive document is an important statement of the goals, policies and community standards of the Town of Windham. Community participation is an important component of a Town Plan and we encourage all residents and property owners to attend the hearings or write to us with comments. Copies of the Commission's final draft plan are available at the town office.

Updating our Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan to conform to new FEMA standards is well un-

derway. We greatly appreciate the work of the committee of volunteers. Imme Maurath, Emergency Co-Director has taken on the task of working with the Regional Commission to report out the work of the committee and articulate a plan that adequately identifies potential hazards and action steps to prevent future damage to our roads and homes.

We are also attempting to codify some of the policies that have been in place a long time but which have never been officially written down and available in one location. This situation has led to some inconsistencies, confusion, and misunderstandings. Please note that the following is the official policy of the town regarding resident usage of road materials stockpiled in the town shed:

POLICY: Use of Road Materials

Road materials, including sand, salt, gravel, shur-pak, and stone are for the maintenance of Town roads and rights of way. These materials are not for the use of residents for maintenance of their driveways. Sand may be used for sidewalk and driveway safety. Buckets or pails of sand may be taken. Filling up pickup trucks and other vehicles is not allowed.

The arrival of the electronic age has brought with it many challenges and opportunities. All town employees are required to improve their computer skills to meet the new demands. Frank has been creating a computer program that will enable us to keep track of all our roads, their surface conditions, when they were last maintained/repared, materials used, man hours spent, equipment used, etc. This computerization will enable us to budget more accurately, and will help the road crew to plan their work schedules more efficiently.

As summer draws to an end, we hope that you have enjoyed the long days, that your gardens have been prolific, and that you have stacked that firewood.

SAFER MOUSE REPELLENT*by Marcia Clinton, Town Health Officer*

With cooler weather approaching, it is a given that every house will have an influx of mice seeking shelter. If you don't have a cat that is a good "mouser," you most likely set out traps or poisonous baits. Anticoagulant rodent poisons work by causing internal bleeding which takes two to six days to kill the mouse. In addition to being inhumane, these poisons have an unfortunate result: the mouse will end up dying in an isolated spot in your home or return outside to seek water. Wildlife will eat the rodents that contain these poisons. Many species are affected: owls, hawks and eagles, along with other birds, bobcats, coyotes, skunks, raccoons, squirrels, and deer have all died from ingesting poisoned small rodents. Bait traps are also dangerous in homes with children and curious pets, as the poison looks like candy and tastes sweet.

A simple, safe new invention called Fresh Cab Rodent Repellent makes it so mice have no desire to go near your property or possessions in the first place. The repellent is non-toxic and bio-based and works because mice have extremely poor eyesight and are heavily dependent on their sense of smell, especially in dark areas. Fresh Cab pouches contain natural oils that compromise the rodent's sense of smell causing them to feel "blind," confused, and unsafe, so they avoid areas where the pouches are placed. There are four pouches to a box; in non-living areas such as a basement, you should place one pouch per 8 square feet. You'll notice a natural balsam scent and you should replace pouches when the scent has diminished. The length of time of effectiveness depends on air exchange rates and temperature. Fresh Cab is available in hardware stores and has a money back guarantee.

**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

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

Next deadline: October 15, 2014**WINDHAM FIRE COMPANY CALLS:**

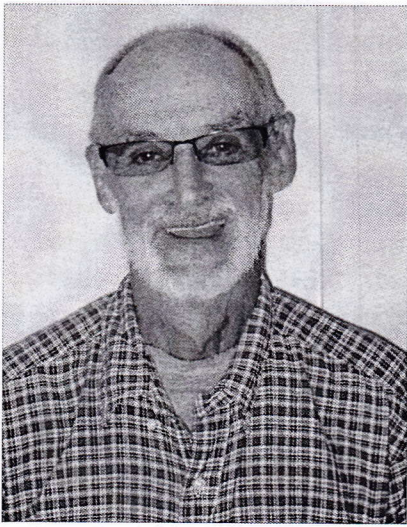
6/22/14 Carbon monoxide problem at Timber Ridge. 4 responders found a faulty detector and left a temporary detector for the family.

6/25/14 Mutual aid to Middletown Rd., Londonderry. 4 responders with engine and tanker. Water from tanker delivered.

7/3/14 Mutual aid to River Rd., Winhall for a structure fire. 3 responders with tanker left 2 loads of water.

7/3/14 Electric wires on fire during a thunder storm on Horsenail Hill Rd. 5 responders put the fire out.

7/27/14 Mutual aid to Chester for assistance of a woman trapped in her home surrounded by rising water and flooding of Rt 11 and Andover/Weston Rd. 4 responders worked for 4 hours with crews from neighboring towns.



PETER CHAMBERLAIN LIKES TO WORK *by Mary McCoy*

When I interviewed Town Treasurer Peter Chamberlain, he was getting ready to prepare the tax bills that all Windham property owners recently received, and he commented that his plate was full. In addition to being town treasurer/tax collector, he has a painting business, tends his vegetable garden, maintains his own property, and helps others with their projects.

"I like working because it provides new challenges and introduces me to new people," he says. "I want to work until I die." Peter retired in 2002 from working 35 years as a middle school teacher in Wallingford, CT. His role there changed regularly – he worked with 6th, 7th, and 8th graders, teaching mostly English, but also science, geography, and history. He loved this variety and the newness it provided.

Born and raised in Connecticut, Peter was the only boy of five children. There was play time, but the kids always had jobs to do. "The reason I like to work is cultural. All the adults in my life worked hard. Or maybe it's a genetic thing. Some people are inclined to sit. Others have to keep active."

Peter met his wife, Bonnie, on a blind date in 1976, and they married a year later. She now does administrative work in Brattleboro. They have two grown kids, Barbara in Texas and Sam in Boston. Before marrying, Peter frequently came to Vermont with male buddies to help a friend who was building a cabin and to hunt and ski. When the men married, they brought their wives and kids here.

In 2001, Bonnie found their current home on Burbee Pond Road for sale online. It was a fixer-upper, but by then Peter had the skills needed to transform the place. He had put a lot of work into their Connecticut homes, building on skills he had and learning more by trial and error. Peter says, "My father was a teacher too, but he could do it all. He and an uncle taught me a lot, including painting. After I started teaching, I got part-time work roofing. I worked with painters and carpenters, and they taught me more skills."

When Sam left for college in 2004, Peter and Bonnie moved to Windham, which Peter describes as a "quiet, friendly place with helpful people where it's safe and the nights are dark." Peter found work in our area as a painter through word-of-mouth and his ad in the *News & Notes*. But Bonnie worried about his climbing tall ladders to paint and urged him to find other work. So in March of 2013, Peter ran for town clerk and town treasurer, winning the latter position. "The treasurer's job was bigger than I thought," he says after 17 months on the job. He explained that Carol Merritt and her assistant Ernie Friedli made the job seem simple since they had done it for so long. "But I enjoy it," he says, mentioning all the other people who work in the office – his assistant (Kathy Scott), the clerk and her assistant, the Selectboard, the auditors, and the listers. "Everyone is helpful and agreeable. We all contribute to the well-being of the office, which is good, because our goal is to serve the public."

A key focus of Peter is to cut costs. He is reviewing information about past purchasing and looking for new vendors with good products and services who are less expensive. "The economy is tough now, so every penny we save impacts the budget." The budget, of course, impacts property owners' taxes.

In what spare time he has, Peter enjoys working crossword puzzles and reading detective stories, activities that require his involvement. Even when he goes to visit his family, he insists that they have projects for him

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4) **PETER CHAMBERLAIN LIKES TO WORK**

to do. "I like to get things done," he says.

Curious about this, I ask Peter how he would define work. He says work is not necessarily something one does for money. It can be helping a friend or completing any task that needs to get done. "Work," he says, "is waking up with a purpose. I ask myself: Who am I going to meet today and what am I going to learn?"

In a world where many people see work as what they have to do to get by, it is fortunate for Windham that our finances are in the hands of a man who embraces his job with such enthusiasm. Thank you, Peter, for the example you set for us all.

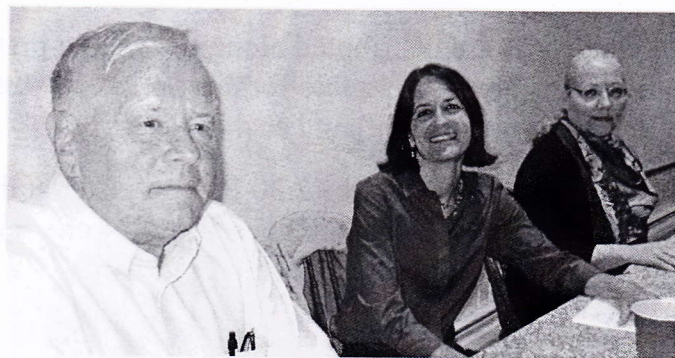
CANDIDATES NIGHT IN WINDHAM *by News & Notes Staff*

The WCO hosted a "Meet the Candidates Night" on Wednesday August 13th at the Meeting House for Windham and Grafton residents. The event was sponsored to provide area residents the first-hand opportunity to meet and greet the Democratic party candidates running for the two Vermont Senate seats in Windham County in the upcoming primary. WCO's Dona Robinson opened the evening by saying: "this is a big deal for Windham as the town is usually peaceful and quiet and flies below the radar screen. However, there are currently several issues in the forefront of consequence to Windham & Windham County."

In attendance were candidates Roger Albee of Brookline, Becca Balint of Brattleboro, and Joan Bowman of Putney. Incumbent Jeanette White was unable to attend and provided a statement that was read aloud. Incumbent Senator Peter Galbraith, who is not running for reelection, was also present and offered a brief comment. Windham's Mike McLaine moderated the evening which consisted of opening candidate comments, questions submitted by attendees, and final closing remarks.

The event was well attended and highly successful in introducing the candidates and providing their respective positions on wind energy, health care, education, and other contemporary issues.

The primary was held on Tuesday, August 26.



Live entertainment, health and demonstrations, dance, music, featured at the Wellness in



Wellness in Windham
Health Festival

wellness activities, fitness demonstrations, prizes, and giveaways will be part of the Windham Health Festival on

Saturday, September 20, from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. on the front lawn of the Brattleboro Retreat. Mark your calendar and bring your family and friends for the festivities, free and open to the public, sponsored by Brattleboro Memorial Hospital, the Brattleboro Retreat, and Grace Cottage Hospital. Fun for all ages is guaranteed at the third annual Wellness in Windham Health Festival, which includes a variety of live entertainment, as well as demonstrations of a variety of fun fitness activities. Healthy snacks and lunch will be available for sale, prepared by Sodexo Foods. Free health screenings will also be available, and over 50 area health organizations will be demonstrating and sharing information about many of the services available locally for physical and mental health and wellness for all ages, including fitness programs and activities, safe driving, stress management, programs for area teens, eldercare, and many more offerings. Looking for more information? Call 802-365-9109 or go to www.wellnessinwindham.org.



GRACE COTTAGE HOSPITAL HOSTS ANNUAL POKER WALK



TOWNSHEND -- October is National Physical Therapy Month. To encourage everyone to get out and exercise, Grace Cottage Hospital's Rehabilitation Department will hold its 16th Annual Poker Walk on Wednesday, Oct. 15.

This free, fun, two-mile walk/run is held each year, rain or shine. No pre-registration is required.

Playing cards are distributed along the way; a prize for the best poker hand is awarded at the end. All participants are also eligible for door prize drawings. You may do the course as often as you wish, collecting a new poker hand each time.

Start any time 10:30 AM - 2:30 PM. Register at the Grace Cottage Wolff Outpatient Building, Route 35, Townshend. The course goes north for one mile on Route 35, then back again to the Wolff Building. It's relatively flat by Vermont standards!

The event draws as many as 200 walkers. Join in – it's fun! Put on your walking shoes and come out for a healthy, good time. For more information, call 365-3637.

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SUMMER CAMP by *Beverly Carmichael*

Every year I volunteer to help with the Windham Day Camp. How fun for me to realize a life-long dream of going to camp. When I was much younger, all of my friends went to camp and it's all they talked about when school commenced in the fall. They talked about learning to swim or a first kiss or being incredibly homesick. I never got to go to camp...until now...

This year as I sat playing with the campers, it occurred to me that I am finally getting my chance to go to camp. How fun to learn macramé. Lillie was my teacher (wow, she's good), Kylie under my arm learning too. Ginny joined us and, along

with our children, learned to make paper beads and felted bead necklaces. We made flower boxes and helped with tie-dye t-shirts. At times I forgot who was the teacher as I melted into their playful group.

As I write this, I realize that 60 years later I can cross "camp" off my bucket list. And kudos to Cindy Kehoe for her excellent patience and guidance again this year making camp fun for all of us.

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WCO's ANNUAL CHICKEN BBQ

This year's BBQ was another big success and many thanks to everyone who attended and to all those who helped make it happen. The weather turned out just fine and some 100+ chicken dinners were served, along with baked beans and potato salad, sweet breads, and fresh strawberry shortcake for dessert. Extra special thanks go out to Imme and Steve for all their effort, to Walter and his hand-picked pit crew, to Sparky Electric for donating the tent, and to our talented Town musicians. Also, thanks to all who made & donated crafts to the raffle.



Outside of the people, this year's MVP was Walter's "Special Recipe" Chicken which he watches carefully, marinates frequently with his secret sauce and cooks-to-perfection over a wood fire. The close runner-up was the shortcake served with real whipped cream.

Windham's Beverly Carmichael summed up the event best by saying: "this is the perfect old-fashion community BBQ with really good food, great friends and neighbors and nice country

music. It couldn't be any better."

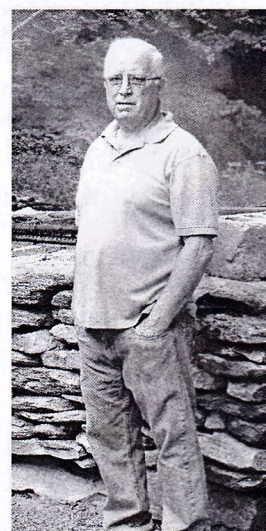
WCO hopes everyone enjoyed themselves and looks forward



to
ing



ward
host-
next
year's
event.



FROM ESTHER FISHMAN Recycling Coordinator, Londonderry Solid Waste Group

Congratulations to The Londonderry Group, Landgrove, Londonderry, Peru, Weston and **Windham**. You brought 1250 pounds of food scraps to The Transfer Station during the first month of this new program. Keep up the great work. For information on "How it works", "What to (and not to) Compost", and "Compost Pails" go to:

<http://londonderryvt.org/recycletransfer/composting/>

A VIEW OF THE RED PROCESS FROM THE GALLERY *by Nancy Dyke*

What did the RED (Regional Education District) process accomplish? What is its current status? What is the future of Supervisory Unions in Vermont?

The RED Study Group began meeting in 2011 and in 2012 and 2013 articles were developed for a possible unified district. A partial list follows of issues involved: understanding the RED legislation, understanding the awkwardness, inefficiency, and weak collaboration of the current governance model (supervisory unions), increased opportunities for students in a unified district, possible RED Board structure and representation, financial issues, implications if some districts opted out (this came to the forefront when Windham opted out in 2012).

Early in the process an idea was introduced regarding a new elementary building for Townshend, Jamaica and Windham school districts. Townshend and Jamaica continue to discuss this issue. After the Articles were developed, they were presented to the State Board of Education, and then presented to the towns in 2013, but were put on hold in January of 2014 because of planned legislation from the State House Education Committee which was later defeated. In May of 2014 the Committee decided to terminate the study for the following reasons:

- Conversation regarding governance and consolidation continues at the State level.
- The Committee preferred that consolidation efforts be voluntary, as in the case of Newfane and Brookline.

The Committee continued to affirm the primary purpose of forming a RED: improved opportunities for students. Some of the opportunities are: improved student outcomes, curriculum alignment, technology, staffing, student data collection and reporting, and financial accounting. (*See Appendix A of the Articles for a complete list*).

What did the RED Study Committee accomplish? It brought together board members from several school districts in the Supervisory Union for brainstorming, problem solving and collaboration far beyond that which takes place in regular SU meetings and laid the foundation for better collaboration in the future. An important question continues to resurface, "How long can the present schools and opportunities for students be sustained in the current and projected economic situation and in the face of student enrollment decline?"



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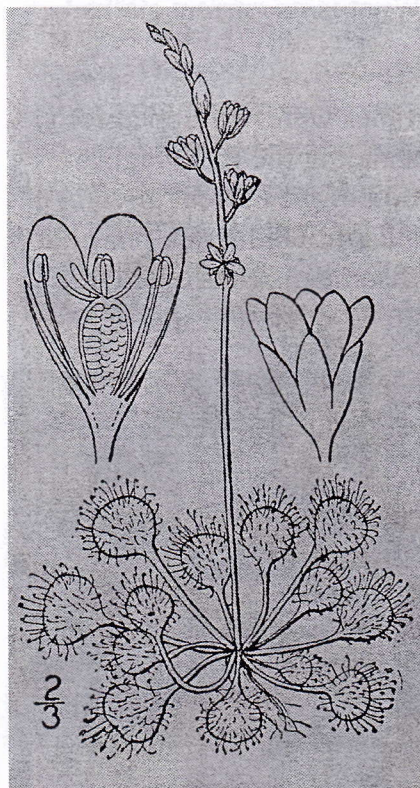


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COUNTRY DIARY - Carnivorous Plants in Windham*by Frank Seawright*

Carnivorous plants can be found in abundance here in Windham. But these are not like the one in “Little Shop of Horrors” that ate Seymour. You may have actually stepped over some without even knowing it. I’ve found several fairly large colonies growing on the north-facing side of ditches along Route 121 and was lucky enough to catch some in flower. The literature says that the species living here in New New England can be found *only* in wetlands, but I’m not sure I’d think of Route 121 as a wetland.

These plants actually do catch and “eat” insects. The leaves have little whiskers with a drop of sticky stuff that attracts and holds insects. While an insect-eating plant is pretty novel in itself I found some other interesting facts about this little curiosity.

The leaves of the one I’ve found – *Drosera rotundifolia* – has the highest concentration of vitamin C of any known plant. And, herbalists consider it to be, “(an) Effective remedy for respiratory ailments and chest problems, including coughs, asthma, whooping cough, catarrh, arteriosclerosis, and bronchitis. It is taken to help counteract nausea and upset stomach. The plant contains an antibiotic substance that, in pure form, is effective against *Streptococcus*, *Staphylococcus*, and *Pneumococcus*. In European folk medicine, the fresh juice is used for warts and corns, and is taken internally as an aphrodisiac. Also, used to help curdle milk.”

(Drawing from the 1913 edition of Britton and Brown)

WINDHAM VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT AUCTION and BBQ by Marcia Clinton

Mother Nature gave us a glorious day for the annual auction and BBQ. The auction, flea market, 50/50 raffle, concession stand, BBQ and the pie auction all made more money than in previous years. The members of the Fire Company wish to thank everyone who participated in any way to make this event such success.



FARMERS' MARKETS CONTINUE

West Townshend Farmers' Market open on Fridays 4-7 until October 10th.

Brattleboro's Winter Farmers' Market Winter Market opens on November 1 for the 2014/2015 season and will be open every Saturday through March 28, 2015. The regular market hours for the Winter will be 10am to 2 pm with hours extended to 3 pm for holiday Shopping on the three December markets before Christmas.



Town Contacts:

Town Office: Alison Trowbridge, Town Clerk. phone: 874-4211 email: windham.town@gmail.com

Town Treasurer: Peter Chamberlain: phone, 874-4211 email: 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

Selectboard: Mary Boyer, chair. phone: 875-5242; email: mfb@vermontel.net

School Board: Beth McDonald phone: 874-4015; email: 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 Farmer's Market: Open Fridays, 4-7pm until Oct. 10th. Rain or shine. Come try homemade soda, organic produce, garlic pesto, kombucha candy, hummus, plants, ceramics, handblown glass gingered carrots, and wood fired-pizza, Thai food and music. Don't forget to visit the thrift shop above the café.

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. Donations can be sent to the Treasurer at the above address.

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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above address or preferably by
email to windhamnews@
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*Please keep us informed of any
address changes*

<p>REGULAR MEETINGS & SCHEDULES</p>	<p>Town Clerk: Note Fall Hours: Check at the Town Office— 874-4211</p>	<p>Selectboard: Tuesday, Sep- tember 2; Mondays, Sep- tember 15, October 6 & 20 at 6 p.m. at the Town Of- fice. Open meeting.</p>	<p>School Board: Mondays, Sept. 8 & Oct. 6 at 4 p.m. At the Elementary School. Open meeting.</p>
<p>Listers: Wednesdays, 9- noon at the Town Office.</p>	<p>Planning and Zoning: Wednesday, Sept 10 6 p.m. At the Town Office. Open meeting.</p>	<p>Library: Wednesdays, 3-5. Book Group will meet Sept. 3 and Oct.1 at the Meeting House during library hours.</p>	<p>Volunteer Fire Company: Thursdays: September 4 & October 2, 6 p.m. At the Firehouse. Heavy refresh- ments served.</p>
<p>Windham Community Or- ganization: Wednesday,, Oct. 29 , 7 p.m. at the Meeting House. Everyone invited.</p>	<p>Windham Congregational Church (UCC) Sundays: Worship Services at 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p>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.</p>	

— SAVE THE DATE —

- * "OUTSTANDING CITIZEN OF THE YEAR" POT LUCK—HONORING CAROL MERRITT
SAT. SEPTEMBER 27 6PM AT THE MEETING HOUSE
- * HARVEST SUPPER - SATURDAY NOVEMBER 8TH