Volume 12, No. 3



November-December 2014



Windham News & Notes

TIME FOR THE HARVEST SUPPER AND SQUARE DANCE! by Imme Maurath

Mark your calendar for the annual Harvest Supper and Square Dance, Saturday, November 8th at 5 PM at the Meeting House. The traditional dinner will consist of ham, butternut squash, baked beans, scalloped potatoes (a wheat free version will be offered as well), sweet breads, rolls, and assorted home made pies. The cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids, or \$25 per family. We will be asking for donations for the band. Hope to see everyone there. It is a fun night!

The ever popular **Photo Contest** will take place during the evening. Eight-by-ten photos are submitted and displayed on the walls for the dinner patrons to vote on. The winners become a part of the 2015 calendar which is sold by the Windham Library as a fund raiser. The theme of the contest is "Capturing the Beauty of Windham," therefore all photos have to be taken in Windham. The only other rule is "no people." See the attached insert and drop your entries off at the Library between 3 PM and 5 PM on Wednesday. Deadline is Wednesday November 5.

November 5 — Deadline for entries, "Capturing the Beauty of Windham"

WCO — 2014 WINDHAM CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

On Saturday night September WCO hosted a pot luck at The Meeting House to honor Carol Mer-



ritt as Windham Citizen Of The Year 2014. WCO President Dona Robinson presented Carol with a Certificate of Recognition in light of Carol's outstanding service to Windham as Town Clerk and Treasurer for a record 32 years. In this capacity Carol was the warm & welcoming face of Windham to anyone visiting the Town Office. Carol also served Windham as the Clerk for the Select Board for 39 years. Other positions Carol held include the North Windham Cemetery Commissioner and Library Trustee.

The Community turned out in force to honor Carol, several members made comments of the quality and character of Carol's personality & work style and the evening concluded with a standing ovation in Carol's honor.

Carol was joined at the celebration by several of her family members. Carol Merritt is Windham's fifth recipient of this prestigious award.



Congratulations to Carol and special thanks to Alan Partridge, Diane and Pete Newton for dinner music and all who helped make this a night a special Windham experience.

REMINDER: Taxes due Oct. 31 — Town Office hours — 9-5

SELECTBOARD NEWS

By Mary Boyer, Frank Seawright, Kord Scott.

Ester Fishman of the Londonderry Transfer Station recently attended a meeting to explain the new Vermont recycling law which will be going into effect by July 2015. All public places will be required to have recycling containers next to trash cans; a unit based pricing system will charge users based on the amount of waste they bring in for disposal; and new requirements must be in place for haulers and property caretakers.

Sheriff Keith Clark also paid us a visit to discuss the reduced speed limit in South Windham and to discuss other areas of concern. Although we decided not to increase the hours in our con-tract with the sheriffs department, we did point out several locations where traffic can pick up speeds above the posted limit. The long hill coming up Route 121 from #11and the school zone will be the focus of officer attention. So be mindful of your speeds in these areas and through-out town.

FEMA has denied our application for reimbursement for the costs of the micro burst in September. However, the state has an Emergency Fund for situations like this and we are currently negotiating for reimbursement of 90% of the \$210,000 in expenses due to storm damage.

Over the summer we rebuilt and enlarged to 48 inches the culvert on Wheeler and replaced five smaller ones in various places around town. As we utilize the culvert inventory done for us by the Windham Regional Commission we can plan and budget for annual replacements of the ones in poorest condition and hopefully have less damage to our roads from the unexpected and unusual storms that are predicted to increase in frequency.

Our records vault is bursting at the seams and in serious need of document back up. Taking advantage of a State Archives program Alison will be sending out our land records for transcribing onto microfiche which is the state's preferred method of retaining documents for the distant future.

By now your wood is stacked and those flower beds have been prepared for winter. Our sheds are full and we are as ready as a small town can be. We look forward to that first snow fall and a good skiing season.

••••••

WINTER ROADS POLICY By the Select Board

Another severe winter is predicted and we want it to be safe for everyone as we attempt to meet the challenges of snow removal. In order for residents and visitors to manage expectations the Board and Road Crew have agreed on the following winter policy:

- Plow routes are set up to open the school routes and major traffic routes first.
- Operations usually begin at 4:00 A.M. to have the bus route and major roads cleared by 7:00 A.M.
- After 16 hours on the job, the road crew is required to stop operations and get a minimum of 6 hours of rest. In extreme weather a third part-time employee is available to accommodate this requirement.
- Salt will be applied to paved roads, with sand added as necessary. Salt is not effective when road temperatures are below 20 degrees.
- Sand will be applied to the gravel roads.
- In most cases, there will be no maintenance between 10:00 P.M and 4:00 A.M.

cont'd on page 3

FLU ALERT By Marcia Clinton, Health Officer

Even if you're healthy, a case of the flu can make you miserable for a week or longer. If you are elderly or have other chronic conditions such as diabetes, asthma, emphysema and heart disease, the flu can be even more dangerous.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) urges those 6 months and older to get the current season's flu vaccine as soon as it's available in the fall. Those who work in health care or are around sick patients, children or the elderly especially should be vaccinated.

It's best to get the vaccine at the start of the flu season. Seasonal flu mostly peaks in January or February, and you can still be vaccinated then. It takes about two weeks to develop the antibodies that will protect you. Even if you are vaccinated, you still can get the flu, but your symptoms will not be as intense.

Flu viruses spread mainly from person to person when someone coughs, sneezes or talks. The germs can land on a doorknob, telephone or keyboard. By touching something that someone with the flu has just touched and unknowingly touching your mouth, eyes or nose, you can get their germs.



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: December 15, 2014

Wash your hands often with soap and water or use a hand sanitizer. Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Or cough or sneeze into the crease of your elbow. If you do not feel well stay home. Try to avoid contact with people you know are sick or have the flu.

Winter Road Policy cont'd from page 2

For your part we would ask that:

- All turn-around areas be kept clear of vehicles.
- Keep the vehicles in your driveways back from where snow will be thrown so they don't get damaged or buried.
- When removing snow from your property please make sure it does not get plowed or thrown into the plowed road. The resulting piles or windrows are dangerous to passing traffic and can lead to accidents
- The crew will make every reasonable effort to plow close to mailboxes, but not so close as to take them down sometimes a balancing act. The more thoughtfully your mailbox is located and maintained, the less likely it will be damaged by the weight of the snow or the plow wing itself. The town cannot be responsible for mailbox damage.
- When the plows are on the road please be patient. Don't pass unless necessary. Remember, the drivers are up high above the road and their primary attention is on the road and the plow, not passing vehicles.

We anticipate a safe winter for everyone

Colin & Joinery make magical music from Windham by Mary McCoy

Sometimes one can only be amazed at one's unexpected good fortune. Such is the case for Colin Blazej. A carpenter by trade, he decided to learn to play guitar about a dozen years ago when he heard his wife, Alison Trowbridge (our town clerk), playing and singing at bedtime to their daughters, Amy and Kit.. Colin wanted to be able to do the same thing.

Soon he began playing guitar for fun with local musicians, but Alan Partridge told him that what they really needed was a stand-up bass player. So Colin kept a lookout for one, and eventually it appeared and was affordable. He took a few lessons, and before he knew it, he was jamming with local musicians and playing with one band and then another.

One of those he played with was Chuck Davison, on lead guitar, and later singer and rhythm guitar player, John Pozzi. About three years ago, he, Chuck, John, and lap-steel guitar player, Andy Foster, started a band, now called Joinery, as they are all carpenters.

Colin says, "We had no intention of making an album. We played because it was fun. But a record producer, Felix McTeigue, heard them and encouraged them to record. Later Felix moved to Vermont from Brooklyn. In exchange for the band member's work at a reduced rate on his house, he offered to produce a record for them.

More amazing things happened, as Felix recruited some well-known musicians and backup singers to add to Joinery's recording. A professional photographer took photos for the CD cover. They chose one with the band above Ed Brown's sign in South Windham, later photo-shopped to say "Joinery".

A native of Vermont, Colin grew up in Brookline and went to college at UVM where he met Alison his first week here. They married in 1989, and in the mid 1990s, they built their home on Ingalls Road.

Colin's father was a carpenter, and Colin had picked up skills from him "by osmosis," Colin says. His real training came working with John Newton and his sons, Pete and Jim, at the Newton's former saw mill on West Windham Road. Colin also learned other building trades -- roofing, insulation, framing, and remodeling, etc.

But when he entered his 50s, Colin decided to become a science teacher to use his mind more than his body. He went back to college to get certification and did a long-term substitution in Winhall. But a full-time job has eluded him. He doesn't want to move, and there are only five schools in the area with possible positions. None are hiring. Colin says, "It seems I'm fated to be a carpenter and musician."

Windham is a great place to be a music-maker, Colin says. "There are excellent musicians here -- Pete and Diane (Newton), Alan (Partridge), Antje (Ruppert), Heath (Boyer), Howie (Ires) the list doesn't stop. I've always associated music with Windham. People come from all over to play together in Windham. There is almost always music at any event."

Recently, Joinery added a drummer, Michael Zimmer, and counting him, four of the five Joinery members now live in our town. John Pozzi is on Old Cheney Road, and Chuck and Zimmer (as his band mates call him) are renting Jean Coburn's home on Burbee Pond Road, which has become the band house, a place to create and practice. "When someone has a musical idea, we can get it down now quickly." Andy lives nearby in Londonderry. *cont'd. on page 5*

Colin and Joinery cont'd.

Colin says, "At this point, we can listen to each other and do new work even without rehearsal. We're on a roll and just getting better. It's all unheard of at our ages." Zimmer and Chuck are in their 40s, Colin and John in their 50s, and Alan in his early 60s.

Most bands start young with dreams of stardom. Not these men. Colin says, "Felix said we probably would have screwed it up earlier. In our 20s, we weren't focused or committed." While Colin acknowledges their image and their style of



music (a mixture of Americana) might not appeal as much to the younger set, they have seen all ages in their audiences, and recently they were encouraged to perform at the Frendly Gathering, which has a young crowd.

If you'd like to hear the band in person, they will be at the Pizza Stone in Chester on November 8 and December 6. Their CD is available on iTunes andAmazon and at the West Townshend Country Store, along with other places. For a full listing of their gigs and CD locations and a sample of their music, visit their website, *www.joinerymusic.com*. Rest assured, the band's good fortune comes from the outstanding quality of their music. from left to right, Chuck Davison, Colin Blazej, John Pozzi, and Andy Foster. Not shown is Michael Zimmer.

Final property inspections underway for town-wide reappraisal by the Windham Listers

You've been hearing for many months about the town-wide reappraisal of all Windham properties based upon their actual market values. Every property owners has received a letter, and there have been several articles here in the *News & Notes*, all asking owners to schedule an appointment with Green Mountain Appraisals (GMA), the company that is conducting the town-wide reassessment.

On three Saturdays in September, listers went to a total of 180 properties where no response has been received, and they either spoke with owners or left a card asking to schedule a time for an inspection. Most property owners have responded to this or the earlier outreach. We are very grateful for the cooperation we have received from the Windham property owners whose properties have been or will be inspected. However, there currently are about 60 owners we have not been able to schedule because they have not responded to us, and we do not know how to call or email them directly. There are another 40 whom we have contacted by phone or email but who have not replied to us. And there are about a dozen who have stated a refusal to allow the appraisers on their property. In total, there are less than 120 properties left to inspect.

Those of you who have been or will be inspected have the advantage of knowing that your properties will be appraised by the same standard as everyone else who has been inspected. You will also receive a free, professional appraisal of your property stating its market value.

Those of you who have not been inspected will receive our best estimate of your property's value. To be fair to those who have been inspected, we may assume that your lack of participation is due to increased value to your property that you do not want to reveal. Owners of uninspected properties who later contest their new property values will need to prove the market value of their property. The way to do that will be to pay from their own pockets to have a professional appraisal.

It is not too late to have your property inspected by GMA, as site visits will continue until the end of the year. A final letter will be sent out to the owners of those 120 properties left to be inspected. Owners can also call GMA at (802) 362-4274 to schedule an inspection.

From January through April 2015, GMA will use the information from each inspected property and compare it to similar properties that have sold recently in our area. From this and our estimates of uninspected properties' values, we will send in June to each property owner a letter with their reappraisal re-

WINDHAM HAS TALENT by Imme Maurath

A few weeks ago I found a dead hawk in the middle of Hitchcock Hill Rd. It was probably hit by a car because it's neck was broken. I thought how cool would it be to have a stuffed hawk on display so I called Walter Woodruff, a taxidermist. Well, he told me it's actually illegal to be in possession of a 'bird of prey' in VT and that I should call Fish and Wildlife to see what I should do with the bird. I buried it in the woods.

That sort of sparked my interest in the art of taxidermy. The word taxidermy is of Greek origin 'taxi' and 'derma' which means arrangement of skin. It is a common term that describes the methods and techniques to mount 3 dimensional representations of dead animals for the purpose of study or exhibition.

So Walter, how long have you been a taxidermist?

Since 1976. In 1976 I shot a big deer and couldn't afford to have it professionally mounted, so I decided to give it a try. The deer came out pretty well. My hunting friends thought it turned out good enough to warrant doing their next deer. Word got out so that I was soon taking in 20 to 30 deer a year.

Can you do all sorts of mammals/fish/birds...or do you have a specialty?

I have done fox, fisher, coyote, bear, moose, elk, bobcat, deer, skunk, squirrel, and a few birds. I try to do only deer now as this keeps me as busy as I want to be.

Explain the process to us, in layman's terms.

Simply put, you remove the skin and measure the body. You then obtain a mannequin with

those same measure-ments. I flesh and preserve the hide before it is fitted to the mannequin with glass eyes and the ant-lers.



Do you hire out, or is it just a personal hobby.

It's just a hobby. It is very rewarding for me to take a beautiful animal that has been reduced to a pile of skin and bones and make it beautiful again.



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WINDHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

By Carolyn Partridge, Beth McDonald, and Antje Ruppert

The school year got off to a great start with our traditional Welcome Back Community Breakfast on the first day of school. One pleasant surprise was that we have several more students than anticipated!

Our teachers, Mickey Parker –Jennings and Sally Newton, have attended the Balanced Literacy and Fountas and Pinnell math trainings, adding to their skills. Mickey is finalizing his Master's degree at New England College in order to obtain his principal's certification.

We have already had Parents' night, which gives parents presentations about our programs and what our expectations are.

Speaking of parents, one of our student's fathers was kind enough to bush hog the area around the soccer field and garden. Thanks to Andrew Dryden – what a great improvement giving us more room for recess!

A big thank you goes to the Parent Group for all the work they are doing. Lisa Beshay recently spearheaded a bake sale that raised \$220 to help fund our Parent Group's hot lunch program – thanks to all who helped! Thanks also to Brigett Coolbeth who organized a Halloween Fundraising Event at the school on Oct. 19th. The children went on their back to school hike on a very hot day at Jamaica State Park and have gone apple picking at Green Mountain Orchards. This balances nicely their school work and Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing, which was just completed.

The School Board will be starting work on the FY2016 budget in the next month or so and invite all to attend our meetings regularly scheduled for the first Monday of the month at 4 PM at the school

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WINDHAM FIRE COMPANY NEWS by Marcia Clinton

Because 3 fire fighters - Mike McLaine, Jon Gordon, and Josh Dryden are attending Fire Fighter #1 school, the monthly meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of the month. The course requires 188 hours and will last into the summer. When finished, monthly meetings will resume on the first Thursday.

At the October meeting Alan Partridge was voted in as a member of the Fire Co.

The annual Halloween party for all kids in Windham and surrounding towns will be Friday, October 24th at the firehouse. Judging of the costumes will begin at 6 p.m. and then there will be

games, a hay ride, and a hot dog supper.

During Fire Prevention Week the Fire Co. responded to a fire drill at the Windham school Wednesday, Oct. 8th. The fire truck arrived with sirens blaring and 4 firemen in their turnout gear who explained the equipment on the truck. There was a lively question and answer discussion about safety precautions in the home. The fire hose was unwound from the truck



and each child had a chance to hold the hose and spray water into the woods. They also viewed a short movie about fire fighting and then received a packet of stickers, pencil, bracelet and a Windham Fire Co. t-shirt.

WINDHAM FIRE COMPANY CALLS

9/28/14 Golden Rd. brush fire with hay bailer involved. 6 firemen responded.

A big thank you to the Windham Fire Department!

Alan and I would like to thank the folks at the Fire Department for their quick response when one of our hay wagons caught fire at Williamson's field. We believe that there must have been a spark in the kicker that



caught a bale on fire. Alan valiantly fought the blaze but gave in to my suggestion that we call 911. Because of their quick response time, the wagon was saved, though 30 bales of hay went up in smoke and the floorboards will need replacing.

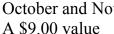
Thanks to all who showed up to help! Windham is very fortunate to have such a dedicated group of people who will show up on a Sunday afternoon to put out a fire. Alan and I have always supported the Windham Fire Department but it's an experience like this that drives home the importance and value of that support.

Sincerely, Carolyn and Alan Partridge

RECYCLING From Esther Fishman

Recycling Coordinator, Londonderry Sold Waste Group

Large 5 gallon, food scrap pails will be on sale at The Londonderry Transfer Station and Londonderry Town Office for \$5.00 during the months of October and November.





HALLOWEEN PARTY by Marcia Clinton

A host of characters gathered at the Windham Firehouse Friday, October 24th. About 20 kids dressed in costumes of firemen, owl, spacemen, frog, snow queen, princess, ninja turtles, chainsaw murderer paraded before the judges vying for prizes. There were contests of musical chairs, eating donuts hung from strings, how many candies in a jar, and smacking a candy-filled piñata. The first hayride was so much fun, that the kids elected to go again! Tables were laden with hot dogs, drinks and all kinds of Halloween treats. The members of the Fire Co. who put this event on every year always have as much fun as the kids!



Be on the look out for this unusual couple!

They may end up in your front yard.

They are self sustainable. Don't be afraid as they will bring you good luck.

Let them visit a while then pass them along.

Where will they end up next?

Stay tuned we will report in the next issue of News & Note.





WINDHAM CEMETERY COMMISSION by Margaret Dwyer

The Windham Cemetery Commission is responsible for the maintenance and management of the cemetery located next to the Town Office. This historical site has a prominent location in our Town and it is important to the community that it is well maintained. It is the resting place for many of our loved ones, neighbors and people from our past that have made Windham the town it is today.

The Commission meets several times a year to review the financials, discuss recent activities and plan for the maintenance of the property. This year, people from our town were hired to keep our cemetery looking its best. Richard Pare has been tasked with mowing the grounds and doing general cleanup. Mark Emmons has been working on fixing the fence line and the stone walls. He has also been locating and raising corner markers. New flags are put on all of the veterans' graves every year to show our respect for those who served. We also found a company that can repair headstones that are cracked or have been broken over the years. John Stevens has been cleaning headstones to rid them of moss and dirt that have accumulated over time. He came up with a solution that does a great job of cleaning without harming the surface of the stones.

John is also our local historian who has been hired to update the cemetery plot maps. Using old documents, letters, maps and his extensive knowledge of the history of the town, John has been able to map out the rows in both the old and new sections of the cemetery. He is creating an index to make future plotting easier.

The cemetery has never looked better and it is all the result of the hard work of our friends and neighbors. We thank you for electing us to be stewards of this beloved site and for trusting us with the care of such a meaningful place in our town.

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BRATTLEBORO'S WINTER FARMERS MARKET

Winter Framers Market returns to the River Garden Saturdays starting November 1 from 10-2 through March 28. Each week the River Garden is transformed into a warm indoor marketplace with over 30 venders. Along with fresh produce, syrup, local meats, eggs and other farm products, you'll find yummy sweets or savory baked treats, great lunch offerings, delicious pies, preserves and beautiful handmade gifts. Come for the local farm produce, homemade foods, or holiday gift shopping and stay for a tasty lunch and live music. There is something at the market for everyone.

Extended hours for your Holiday shopping on December 6, 13 & 20 from 10-3. The River Garden is located 153 Main Street, Brattleboro.

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

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.

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 Help-

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.

West Townshend Farmer's Market is closed for the winter. The Café will be serving Soup and Bread on Friday nights through the Winter. Come and warm up with some soup and local entertainment. Don't forget to visit the thrift shop above the café.



Windham News & Notes 5976 Windham Hill Road Windham VT 05359

Windham News & Notes welcomes submissions. Send articles of about 300 words to the Editor at the above address or by email to windhamnews@ hotmail.com

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REGULAR MEETINGS &

SCHEDULES

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

Windham Community Organization: Wednesday, Oct. 29, 7 p.m. Nov. 8 at 5 p.m. Harvest Supper & Dec. 10 at 7:00 Cookie Exchange. Meeting House. Everyone invited. Town Clerk: Mondays, 12-6; Tuesdays. 8-12; Thursdays 12-4. Every third Sat. 9-12. Closed: Nov. 27; Dec 25: Jan. 1.— 874-4211

December 10 at 6:00 p.m. At the Town Office. Open meeting.

Planning and Zoning:

Windham Congregational Church (UCC) Sundays: Worship Services at 9:30a.m. **Selectboard:** Mondays, November 3 & 17; December 1 & 15 at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Office. Open meeting.

Library: Wednesdays, 3-5. Book Group will meet November 5 and December 3 at the Meeting House during library hours.

Valley Bible Church: Sundays: Sunday School, 9:55; Morning Worship, 11 a.m.; Potluck, 12:10; Afternoon Service, 1:10. Tuesdays: Bible study/Prayer, 7 p.m. School Board: Elementary School. November 3 and December 1 at 4:00. Open meeting.

Volunteer Fire Company: Thursdays: November 6 & December 4 at 6 p.m. at the Firehouse. Heavy refreshments served.



SAVE THE DATES

November 4: Don't forget to VOTE

November 5: Deadline for "Capturing the Beauty of Windham" Photo Contest

November 8: 5p.m. Harvest Supper and Dance, Meeting House

November 28: 4p.m. Tree Lighting and Carol Sing, Meeting House