



Volume 12, No. 4



January-February 2015



# Windham News & Notes

## REMEMBERING SHEILA FRIEDLI

### Sheila's Secret Recipe

by Lydia Pope France

At the service for Sheila Friedli last week, it was surprising how many of the remembrances involved food -- her cooking and baking, eating out with Sheila and Ernie, etc. Well, I intend to keep that theme going! I didn't spend a lot of time with Sheila, but many of my memories involve Sheila and food.

On our first Christmas here, when we knew absolutely no one in town, the phone rang. It was Sheila, explaining that she lived next door and was inviting us for tea and cookies. The spread was worthy of any fancy afternoon tea in London, all made by Sheila!

In later years, we picked blueberries on a few sunny summer afternoons, or she might come walking down my driveway with some of her homegrown tomatoes. She brought us special tea from a trip to Chicago. Once we found her some Scottish meat pies in Bennington, something she had talked about liking.



*Cont'd on page 3*



**REMINDER: TOWN MEETING MARCH 3 at 10 AM**



## Select Board News

by Mary Boyer, Frank Seawright,  
Kord Scott

2014 has been a good year for the Select Board. Our work load has increased, but we have been supported by a group of dedicated town officials who are working hard, using good judgment, and paying attention to how your tax money is spent. Enthusiasm is high, and everyone seems to be enjoying themselves. There are several people we would like to acknowledge publicly for their quiet dedication and the high level of skill they bring to their jobs.

Mary McCoy, the assistant town clerk, makes herself available for whatever is needed and functions in a variety of roles. In addition to her flexibility, she has responsibility for our extensive land records which she maintains meticulously.

Kathy Scott, assistant treasurer, has brought her bookkeeping skills and financial experience in a family business to our accounting practices. Largely due to her knowledge base, all our financial records are now computerized. This has increased the level of accuracy and made possible the ongoing budget reports which guide our decisions.

Lister, Jerry Dyke, has used his computer wizardry to enter the records generated by Green Mountain Appraisal into our computer programs. He has spent long hours in the office by himself hunched over the listers' computer entering the data which will improve the accuracy of our property assessments and facilitate their use.

Bill Roberts and Josh Dryden, our roads crew, have had many challenges this year but they have received our frequent questions and feedback with patience and good humor. They have attended several workshops and seminars to increase their skills and bring to us new technical information for improving our roads.

The Planning Commission has worked many long hours to produce a Town Plan that is comprehensive and clear.

Heath Boyer donates his time to serve as our representative to the Windham Regional Commission and brings us a steady stream of information regarding their resources which we have used extensively.

We also would like to acknowledge those who donated time to serve at the polls for our elections.

We could go on. We are extremely grateful to all of you who serve in any capacity to make Windham the wonderful place it is to live. If your name is not here or if we fail to acknowledge someone you think deserves recognition just drop Alison a note at [windham.town@gmail.com](mailto:windham.town@gmail.com) and we will correct our omission in a future issue.

We wish each and every one of you the best in 2015. We look forward to working together in the new year.

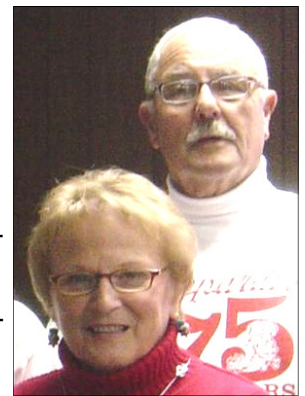
And PS: We appreciate each other: Mary's hand on the helm, Frank's creation of computerized roads and road equipment inventories and GPS information about Windham, and Kord's role as roads commissioner, coaching and improving our connections with our roads crew.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!**

## BIDDING A FOND FAREWELL

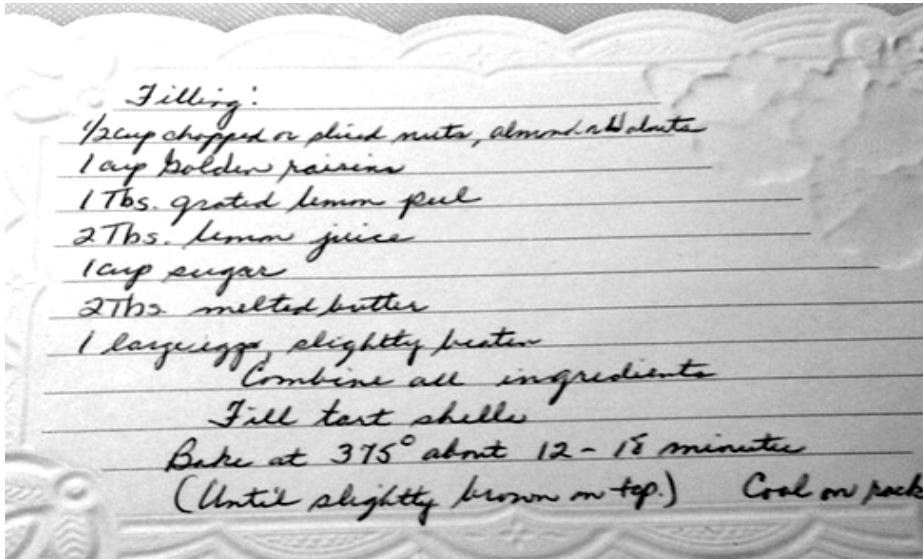
By Ellen McDuffie

Dona and Paul Robinson have been a part of our community for over 20 years, as second home owners and then as full time residents. But Dona and Paul have sold their home here in Windham and are moving on to Maine and Florida. They have both given so much of their time and of themselves to Windham. Paul has worked countless hours as a member of the Planning Commission, drafting our new Town Plan, and Dona assisted the committee by typing the lengthy plan. Since moving here full time a little over 3 years ago, Paul and Dona have been an integral part of the Windham Community Organization, with Dona serving as its president for the past two years and Paul as an active member always ready to help with our events and fundraising. Both have been contributors to *News and Notes*, and Dona has been instrumental in getting issues of our newsletter published, including the layout for the past two issues. In addition to volunteering in Windham, Dona and Paul have made numerous deliveries for Meals On Wheels and they are both very active in volunteering and fundraising at Grace Cottage in Townshend. And as if that weren't enough, Dona also volunteered at the front desk at Neighborhood Connections in Londonderry. I'm sure I have missed numerous other things that Dona and Paul have accomplished for our community and I thank them for all! Please join with me in wishing them all the best in this new phase of their lives. Dona and Paul, know that you will be dearly missed, and you are always welcome in Windham!



*Remembering Sheila Friedli from page 1*

Sheila and Ernie came for tea at our house, and she brought us these dainty little tarts. They were absolutely delicious. I asked for the recipe, and it appears here now for everyone to enjoy. I had said when she gave it to me I wouldn't splash it all over town, as it was truly "hers", but now that she won't be making them for us, and with Ernie's blessing, I give you Sheila's Chess Tarts on the cards she prepared. Enjoy!



### 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

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Ellen McDuffie Nancy Tips

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

**Next deadline: February 15, 2015**

### Town Meeting Set for Tuesday, March 3, 2015

*by News and Notes Staff*

Town Meeting Day, the first Tuesday in March, is everyone's opportunity to participate in town governance. It's our collective way to maintain control of our local issues. Those in attendance discuss and vote on articles that include both the budget and issues raised by voters.

Both elected and appointed positions will be listed in the Town Report, which will be mailed to everyone on the voter checklist in late February. If you would like to become more involved in serving the town and its people, please consider running for office. You must be nominated for any elected position, so contact the Town Office as to the procedure. There are also appointed positions to be filled by the Select Board on March 16, the first Monday after Town Meeting. Please contact the Select Board if you would like to serve in one of these positions.

Duties and responsibilities of all town officers are described in the Vermont State Statutes. Easily accessible information is

also available from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns at [www.vlct.org](http://www.vlct.org). Click on "Vermont Local Government".

Positions to be elected are listed below along with the term of office and the incumbent:

Moderator, 1 year, Mike McLaine  
Selectman, 3 years, Frank Seawright  
Lister, 3 years, Jerry Dyke  
Auditor, 3 years, Ginny Crittenden  
Constable, 2 years, Billy Jean Clay  
Delinquent Tax Collector, 1 year, Ernie Friedli  
Grand Juror, 1 year, Jim Scott  
Town Agent, 1 year, Michael Simonds  
Windham Center Cemetery Commission,  
5 years, Alan Partridge  
West Windham Cemetery Commission,  
5 years, Jeff Riley  
North Windham Cemetery Commission,  
5 years, Cathy Clay Prouty  
Library Trustee, 5 years, Radina Welton  
Windham School Director, 3 years, Beth McDonald

**Property owners wishing to file for the Homestead Tax Exemption MUST file on or before April 15th, tax day. If you are filing for an extension of your taxes you still must file for the Homestead Tax Exemption by that deadline, April 15. Failure to do so incurs rather substantial fines.**



## Weather ... A Big Box of Tricks

by Lydia Pope France

Benjamin Franklin said guests and fish start to stink after three days. I think we can add to that list Nor'easters.

A week or so ago I had a note from the *WN&N* crew, asking for an article about the weather. Having been an uneventful season so far, with a fairly late date for our first "real snowfall" (an inch and a half on November 17th with a mere few flurries prior), I asked if something about our spectacular foliage season would be apropos, given that we have moved into the season of dancing sugar plums and such.

Ah, but the universe had other plans for us. There would be something wintry to talk about before the deadline!

This week a Nor'easter bolted into the forecast, with the weather folk saying it would be slow moving. Yes, I think a storm that is with us for five days qualifies as slow moving. It began early on Tuesday with a bit of sleety, icy rain. By mid morning it was coming down harder, and even harder as the day progressed. Heavy and wet they warned, and they were right. We had about 14 inches at our house, and it was the densest, wettest, most packable snow I can remember. Had it been cold and dry, we likely would have had more like three feet, and it would have been a lot easier to deal with.

In the 15 or so years that we have been in Windham, I have come to learn that there are nice storms and nasty ones. This one quickly moved into the nasty column when the power went out at around 6:00 PM on Tuesday. Wednesday saw more heavy snowfall with trees and shrubs bending to the ground under all the weight. Power came back for many by midday on Wednesday, only to go out again for another 16 or so hours for some.



On the plus side, it was absolutely beautiful everywhere you went. A glorious fairy tale come to life, like inside a snow globe. But it was hard not to think about all the people who after three and four days were still without power and were pretty much told it would be several more days, at least.

The state has said that the storm was unprecedented in terms of damage, going wider and deeper than many other significant events. You can check the photos and videos on Green Mountain Power's page on Facebook to see what their crews have had to deal with. I have nothing but admiration and great appreciation for all of those brave enough to work through the storm, day and night, in harsh and hazardous conditions, to get us up and running again.

But back to what was going to be the original thrust of this piece. We had a *most spectacular* foliage season. That was the opinion of newcomers and old timers alike. After a beautiful summer with temps never hitting 90, we were treated to a few weeks of the most amazing color. Photos don't do it justice, but they aren't all bad, and in fact, they look like someone went mad in Photoshop, when in actual fact, this is what it really looked like.

The digital version of the newsletter is the place to see them best, along with a few pictures of this week's snowfall. The latter makes fall colors and last summer seem like quite the distant memory.



### WINDHAM COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION NEWS

by Ellen McDuffie

We were all taken by surprise by the resignation of our fearless leader Dona Robinson on October 29. As the vice president, I have taken over the helm as Interim President until elections are held in March.

We had a very successful Harvest Dinner and Square Dance in November. Good food, good music, good people all added up to a very fun evening. I want to send a HUGE THANK YOU to all who contributed to this evening, especially Imme Maurath, Carolyn Partridge and the women of WCO for a delicious meal and THE BAND for lots of wonderful music and square dancing.

In December we had a fun meeting, making cookie plates for our town employees and our elderly residents, followed by a Yankee Swap around the library Christmas tree. Thank you to all who participated.

WCO appreciates all of the community support we receive from you and we hope to come up with new ways to bring the community of Windham together. We welcome new members and look forward to continuing to "make a difference" in the coming year.





## Carol Sing And Tree Lighting 2014

by Nancy Dyke

Energy and exuberance would be the best words to describe this year's Carol Sing. At 4:00 PM, the appointed hour, it looked as if few people remembered the date, but by 4:15 the lower level of the Meeting House was full. Energy seemed to bounce off the walls. Visiting relatives, part-time residents and, of course, Windhamites of all ages were eagerly waiting to begin.

Traditional carols as well as favorites like "Frosty The Snowman" and "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" were part of the repertoire. A group of eight people known for their outstanding voices sang an impromptu song, "It Came Upon A Midnight Clear". Then there were two especially notable songs sung by the whole group. The first was "Deck The Halls" which involved some smooth dance steps. The entire group of 64 people formed a huge circle to do justice to the choreography. The song that best highlighted the outstanding talents in the room, however, was "The Twelve Days of Christmas". Everyone was assigned one of the "days of Christmas" and was required to jump up and act the part as it was sung. The gusto with which this was performed topped any performance in recent memory.

Cider and cookies followed and were welcome refreshment after the enthusiastic activity. Then the group reassembled outdoors around the huge tree for the countdown to the tree lighting. Lucy Hoover, granddaughter of John and Sally Hoover, was given the honor of throwing the switch.



### Legislative Report *by Rep. Carolyn Partridge*

The first thing I would like to do is thank the voters of Windham for electing me to another term in the Vermont Legislature. I am humbled by the trust you place in me, and it is an honor to serve you.

The Legislative Session starts at 10 AM on Wednesday, January 7, 2015. One of the first orders of business the next day will be to elect the governor since neither candidate received more than 50% of the votes. I will be voting for Gov. Peter Shumlin because he received the most votes statewide. In 2002, I had the opportunity to vote in a similar election when no candidate (Douglas, Racine, or Hogan) received more than 50% of the vote. Even though my district voted for Doug Racine, Jim Douglas received the most votes statewide, and I felt it was only right for the person

with the most votes to win the position.

Perhaps, the greatest challenge this year will be to construct the FY2016 budget. We are anticipating a \$100 million shortfall this year, so after seven to eight years of budget cuts, we will once again have to cut the budget unless there is a proposal to raise revenue. In Vermont we always pass a balanced budget though there is no constitutional requirement to do so, and that is not going to change! Other areas that will get a lot of attention are health care, education funding/property tax, and economic development.

If you need to contact me while I am at the State House (Monday – Friday night), please call the toll free number 1-800-322-5616 and leave a message with the Sergeant at Arms or email me at [cpatridge@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:cpatridge@leg.state.vt.us). The mailing address is 115 State St., Drawer 33, Montpelier, VT 05633-5201. On the weekends, you can call me at home at 802-874-4182.

**MEADOWS BEE FARM EXPERIMENTS WITH SMALL SCALE FARMING***by Leigh Merinoff*

Meadows Bee Farm had a very productive year in 2014, focused on our raw milk dairy, some experimental farm and garden techniques, and the sharing of our agricultural style with numerous young farmers, schoolchildren, and other visitors.

Milk is a large part of what we produce at MBF. Our cows like to be milked and fed early, before they head out into the pastures for the day with the young calves. Following the milking, we tend to chores throughout the early morning. A visitor or two can often be found at the farm learning the ways of the dairy, and we look forward to children from Windham Elementary School assisting at the dairy in the new year.



Our small raw milk dairy has grown, as last summer we welcomed two new calves. Clover, our youngest cow, had her first calf, Violet, and Mercy gave birth to Mabel. Clementine, our very first cow and the mother to Clover and Celeste, is expecting another calf just before Christmas. As the cows at MBF have only birthed females, we are hoping for Clementine to have a male, whom we expect to name Claude.

We keep accurate records at MBF, as breeding livestock compounds yearly, and it is nearly impossible to mentally keep track of lineage. A detailed book of charts and dates is indispensable to understanding the lineage of each calf.

While we are now only milking Clementine, Clover and Mercy, we hope to be milking five cows once their offspring mature. We provide raw milk to about 25 families now and hope to be able to supply even more local communities with milk, yogurt and cheese in the future. One goal at MBF is to create a raw milk yogurt filled with fruits grown on the farm. Persimmons, paw paws, currents and more will fill these yogurts, sweetened by our own maple syrup.

Among the experiments in our garden is the Edible Forest Garden (EFG). An EFG is a diverse mixture of trees, shrubs and ground-level herbs and plants, all growing together in layered combinations. These typically are fruit, nut and berry along with assorted veggies like in any garden bed. An EFG resembles a loose forest more than a conventional garden, though it can be organized or free flowing. There is much insect life, as the bees and butterflies tend to love this type of gardening.

The top layer of Meadows Bee Farm's largest EFG consists of fruit and nut trees, including apple, pear and linden, chestnut, bur oak and walnut. Beneath the top layer, the middle layer is primarily berry-yielding bushes, including the Siberian pea shrub, jostaberry, gooseberry, sea buckthorn, elderberries, nanny berries and black currants. Beneath this layer still is another lower area with herbs and raised planting beds called "Hügelkulturs" interspersed throughout.

A Hügelkultur is a tall raised bed, typically built when we clean up our wood lots. In an effort to mimic the natural, nutritious decay that occurs in a forest, fallen tree trunks are arranged log cabin style to form the outer structure of the Hügelkultur. Branches and leaf debris are then piled high, filling this structure to the brim and forming a garden bed. This is topped with some soil and may be planted with varying combinations of seedlings, young bushes and trees.

Each year this bed will partially decompose, slowly breaking down soil-enriching organic matter, as in a forest. This natural decay results in a long-term supply of fertile soil above, as well as greatly increased conservation of the water supply below. A working Hügelkultur can last for years and needs very little watering or attention. Even better, the shady sides can be inoculated with oyster and shiitake mushrooms providing us with choice edible mushrooms throughout the season as well.

In terms of education, MBF actively offers young people the chance to acquire farming skills – learning to milk cows, to rotationally graze animals, and to grow, harvest and process an array of crops.

Meadows Bee Farm looks forward to continually evolving – growing excellent herbs and crops, raising heritage breed livestock, and sharing our practices to encourage love of land and small-scale farming.

P.S. As *News and Notes* went to press Clementine calved another beautiful heifer (girl)! Named Claudette maybe?

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## Windham Firefighters Take Firefighter I *by Mike McLaine*

Three volunteer firefighters from Windham (Jon Gordon, Josh Dryden, and Mike McLaine) are currently taking Firefighter I, an intensive months-long course that teaches the basics of firefighting and fire theory. Classes are being held once per week at the fire house in Springfield, VT. There are practical exams approximately once per month. To date there have been three practicals: Wildland Fires; Search and Rescue/Draeger Trailer; and Ladders/Extinguishers. The course will last until the spring. The next few classes will deal with Hazardous Materials. Because the classes are held on Thursdays, the monthly fire meeting will be held on the first Wednesday of the month until the course is over.



## Elementary Students Receive Abundant Support *by Gail Wyman*

The Parent Group put on a Thanksgiving hot lunch that was wonderful. The children may not have been stuffed, but the adults were. Claudia made pumpkin pies from the pumpkins we had left over from the Halloween gathering. Amy, Lisa and Claudia put a lot of work and time into serving us all. That included clean up too. Ladies, we appreciate all the work and time you give for our school.

The entire Parent Group has provided wonderful service to our school. Their Friday lunches are awesome! They found and installed a newer stove and refrigerator. The list goes on and on. They are like our genie in a pot -- we wave our arms over the pot, we tell them what we need, and voila it appears.

Thanks to all who came to Open House. The children

enjoyed showing their parents all their school work.


More help has come from our citizens. In last week's newsletter, we wrote we needed a new flag. Susan Persa donated one to the school. Thank you, Susan. On November 12, we had an all day visit from Charlie Paquin. Charlie has an extensive knowledge of geology and archeology. He taught us how the early inhabitants of this area made tools from rocks and trees. On November 14, Sally Newton's class went on a field trip to the Nature Museum and the Museum of Mining and Minerals in Grafton, as part of our unit on rocks and minerals. Thanks to the parents who volunteered to drive.

On the Monday before Thanksgiving, we had a wonderful craft afternoon. Mr. Parker-Jennings made bows and arrows outside with students. Crafts, happening inside, were weaving with the art teacher or writing a story using Indian sign language. Others were outside in the tepee with Sally cooking deer and bear meat over a fire with a side of corn bread. The kids loved the bear meat and kept running back into the kitchen to grab more chunks to eat.


Along with the usual reading, writing and arithmetic, our teachers and helpers are doing a wonderful job of teaching our school children about their culture.

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## Plan Prepares Windham to Mitigate Natural Hazards

by Heath Boyer

Since midsummer of 2014 an ad hoc committee in town has been working with the Windham Regional Commission to update our Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP). The update is needed because of a change in FEMA regulations affecting reimbursement eligibility for disaster recovery. Unless the LHMP meets a very strict set of standards, the town could lose its ability to qualify for reimbursements for expenses such as were incurred during Irene and more recently during the “microburst” that inundated parts of White Road and Horsenail Hill Road in September of 2014.

Until this year Vermont towns, including Windham, had LHMPs that were “annexed” to the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. The new FEMA rules, however, require that each town create its own, stand-alone plan. Further, the rules require that the plan be developed using widespread community input and that the process be well documented regarding public participation.

On July 14 a diverse group of Windham residents met with the Select Board, Co-Emergency Management Directors Imme Maurath and Heath Boyer, and Alyssa Sabetto, the staff support person from the Windham Regional Commission. In a round-table exercise the group identified major potential hazards based on their personal observations and local knowledge of hazards and historical occurrences. This information has now been incorporated into the LHMP draft.

The principle hazards identified in the exercise were the familiar ones -- flash floods, winter storms, wildfire and structure fire, power failure, and high wind. There were also two other potential hazards added to the list -- landslides and beaver dams. These items were included because of our recent experiences with extremely heavy rainfall, well beyond what has been normal in the past. We are told that climate change will result in more and more occurrences of this type, and the group felt that saturated ground in mountainous areas could be destabilized and create slides. Two occurrences of large beaver dam failures in nearby towns following heavy rainfall and the identification of some large beaver impoundments in Windham led to that addition to the list.

Residents who participated in the initial meeting included Bob Bingham and John Lingley of the Planning Commission; Marcia Clinton, town health officer; Paul Wyman and Michael McLain of the Windham Volunteer Fire Company; Peter Chamberlain, town treasurer; Alison Trowbridge, town clerk; and Dona Robinson, Windham Community Organization.

Any residents or property owners who have an interest in identifying and mitigating potential hazards of any kind are welcome to participate in future meetings or to express their views or ideas by contacting anyone on the committee or by emailing the town clerk at [windham.town@gmail.com](mailto:windham.town@gmail.com) with the subject ‘Hazard Mitigation’.



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**Effective January 1, 2015****Transfer Station *and* Recycling Center Hours****Mon., Tue., Thur., Fri., Sat. 9am to 4pm****Closed Jan.1, Jan.19, Feb.16****Pilot program – Sundays 10am to 2pm**

The Transfer Station is starting a pilot project to open the Transfer Station and Recycling Center on Sundays beginning January 1, 2015 from 10am to 2pm. An attendant will be running the trash collection. They are looking for volunteers to man the Recycling portion. Training will be available. If you can help, please call 824-3306 or email: [londonrecycle@vermontel.net](mailto:londonrecycle@vermontel.net).

**Do you have any paint, stain and varnish to recycle?**

Many paint stores now take back house paint (including stain and varnish) during their regular business hours as part of the **Paint-Care** program. [Note: these sites do not accept non-paint products such as thinner, solvents, spackle, pesticides, or cleaning chemicals.]

The Vermont Paint Stewardship Program is run by PaintCare, a nonprofit organization. PaintCare also offers a pick-up service if you have at least 300 gallons of unwanted paint. There is no charge. For more information please visit [www.paintcare.org](http://www.paintcare.org) or call (855) 724-6809.



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**NEW WINDHAM RESIDENTS** *by Alison Trowbridge*

In 2014, there were a total of 57 Property Transfer Return (PTRs) forms filed in Windham. Not all of these PTRs were for home sales. PTRs must be filed for sales of homes and land and also for transfers of property within families. Some of these transfers did result in new residents in Windham. Among some of the new homeowners in town are: Chris and Bill Dunkel, Burbee Pond Road; Andrew and Bridgette Blanchard, Lower Birch Circle; Holly and Peter Rosati, Farr Lane; Brennan and Yolanda Fusco, Hitchcock Hill Road; Amy and David Baxter, Rt. 121; Michael and Abigail Pelton, West Windham Road; Ricky Crossman, Burbee Pond Road; Emily Forbes and Kyle Goyette, Glebe Mountain Road; Erik Mialkowski and Alexis Johnson, Harrington Road; Daniel and Nancy Sahin, Glebe Mountain Road; Harold Bruder, Abbott Road; Alan and Patricia McLaine, Rt. 121; and Tara and Todd Barros, Glebe Mountain Road.

We welcome these new residents to Windham and hope to make their acquaintance soon!

**ANY SITINGS OF OUR LUCKY FLAMINGOS?**E-mail: [WindhamNews@hotmail.com](mailto:WindhamNews@hotmail.com)

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**ELLEN MCDUFFIE ROLLS UP HER SLEEVES** *by Mary McCoy*

Like many among us, Ellen McDuffie visited Vermont, fell in love with it, and decided to settle here. But she moved here, with her husband Phil, all the way from Texas, and she quickly committed herself to our community. She is the interim president of the Windham Community Organization, the new layout designer of the *News & Notes*, a volunteer with Neighborhood Connections, and a member of the Manchester Garden Club.

To meet and talk with her, one can almost imagine Ellen as a Southern belle from the past in a hoop skirt, broad hat, and gloves. She is fair-skinned, has a soft-spoken Southern lilt, and is genuinely gracious – a Southern lady in the best sense. Yet this is a woman who likes nothing better than working in the earth and getting dirty. “I’m happiest on my hands and knees in the muck,” she says.

Born in Houston, Ellen moved frequently as a child, never at the same school for more than two years. When she went to Atlanta to attend Emory University, she settled in, staying there for 40 years. But those early moves contributed to the easy way in which she has quickly become a part of our Windham community.

Ellen worked in biomedical research at Emory, focusing on drug studies in pathology and infectious diseases. She helped develop vaccines, therapeutic drugs, and contact lens implants. She got married and had two daughters. “I had married for life,” she says, “but over the years we grew in different directions.”

She’d been single for seven years when in 2000 she returned to Houston to help prepare her parents’ home for sale. Phil McDuffie had grown up across the street and happened to be visiting at the same time from his home in Austin. They had been good friends when Ellen lived there and now reconnected after 30 years and started dating long-distance. Phil wanted her to see Vermont, a place he loved. Ellen came here and loved it too, and eventually the couple decided to make it their future home.

They liked southern Vermont best, seeing autumn as most colorful here, and they looked for property in a small town while staying at the Windham Hill Inn. In January 2008, they bought their land on the east side of Windham Hill Road just below and across from the southern end of Burbee Pond Road.

Their visits here began with building campfires, purchasing his and her chainsaws, clearing, and wood cutting. Ellen enjoyed the physical labor. After moving here in 2011, she and Phil worked for two years as breakfast servers at the Windham Hill Inn. “It brought in a little money before we went on Social Security,” she says, “but then I wanted to spend more time traveling and working outside on our property.”

Ellen says, “I love the winters here. The summer I lived in Austin, we had 100 days that were 100 degrees or higher. Our first winter here was mild, and we were disappointed. Last winter we liked, even though it was long. We’re not skiers, but we love to snowshoe on our land.”

Windham also provided a welcomed release from city life. Ellen explains, “Here people value what is natural. They appreciate the land and want to protect it. You might have to drive to shop, but the drives are beautiful, and there isn’t bad traffic here like there is in Atlanta and Austin. The last time I went back, I knew I could never live there again.”

Since first buying property here, Ellen has subscribed to the *News & Notes*, receiving it in Atlanta and then Austin. She says, “I learned about Windham that way.” When Dona Robinson resigned as designer of the newsletter and president of the WCO, Ellen, who was the WCO’s vice president, agreed to fill both slots.

“I don’t feel connected enough to be leader,” she says, “but everyone chips in to make it work.” Yet she is clear about what she’d like to see for the WCO – more people involved, more than just business at meetings, and more success helping Windham residents who are in financial need. “The WCO is about community, and I welcome suggestions from others.”

Ellen’s sense of community, her readiness to help her neighbors when needed, her love of the land, and her desire to roll up her sleeves and get dirty make her a good fit here. She says, “We know we’ll always be flat-landers, but Vermonters are so ready to teach you how to live here, if you only listen.”

She may be a flat-lander and a Southern one at that, but Ellen McDuffie already makes a darn good Vermonter.





**WINDHAM LIBRARY NEWS***by Beverly Carmichael*

We are happy to announce the winners for the Windham Town Library Photo Contest.

First place goes to Philip McDuffie for his photo "Hoo! R U?".

Second place goes to Mary McCoy for her photo "Smiling Angora Goats".

Third place goes to Susan Persa for her photo "Milfred's Back Door".

Thanks to all participation in the are available for Wednesday.



who participated in this annual event. Your contest supports our local library. Calendars \$10 at the Town Office or at the Library any

**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; phone: 874-7025

**Town Listers:** Michael Simonds, chair; phone: 874-4790, email: [Michael@windhamcountryhouse.com](mailto:Michael@windhamcountryhouse.com)

**Select Board:** Mary Boyer, chair; phone: 875-5242, email: [mfb@vermontel.net](mailto:mfb@vermontel.net)

**School Board:** Beth McDonald; phone: 874-4015, email: [219woodburn@gmail.com](mailto:219woodburn@gmail.com)

**Windham Community Organization:** Ellen McDuffie; phone: 874-8183, email: [eflockwood@aol.com](mailto:eflockwood@aol.com)

**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](mailto: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 Helpline at 1-800-642-5119.

**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? People from Windham Congregational Church are willing to help. **Please call 874-4428.**

**West Townshend Country Store and Café** are open & will be serving Breakfast and Lunch through early evening and offering live music 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. **Café phone: 874-4800.**



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5976 Windham Hill Road  
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submissions. Send articles of about  
300 words to the Editor at the  
above address or by email to:  
[windhamnews@hotmail.com](mailto:windhamnews@hotmail.com)

Please keep us informed of any  
address changes

## REGULAR MEETINGS & SCHEDULES

**Town Clerk:** 874-4211  
Mondays, 12-6; Tuesdays. 8  
-12; Thursdays 12-4. Third  
Sat. of month 9-12. **Closed:**  
**Jan.1, Jan.19, Feb.16**

**Select Board:** Mondays:  
**All** Mondays in January,  
February 2 & 16 at 6:30 pm  
at the Town Office. Open  
meetings.

**School Board:** Elementary  
School at 4:00 pm, Jan. 5  
and Feb. 2. Open meetings.



**Planning and Zoning:** 2nd  
Wednesdays, January 14  
and February 11, 6 pm at  
the Town Office.

**Library:** 1st Wednesdays,  
3-5 pm. No Book Group in  
January. Book Group Feb. 4  
at the Meeting House dur-  
ing library hours.

**Volunteer Fire Company:**  
1st Wednesdays: January 7  
and February 11 at 6 pm at  
the Firehouse. Heavy  
refreshments served.

**Windham Community Or-  
ganization:** No Meeting in  
January  
Wednesday, Feb.25, 7 pm at  
Meeting House. Everyone  
invited. Call Ellen McDuffie  
for info. 874-8183.

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

**Valley Bible Church:** Sun-  
days: Sunday School, 9:55 am;  
Morning Worship, 11 a.m.; Pot-  
luck, 12:10 pm; Sun. Afternoon  
Service, 1:10 pm. Tuesdays:  
Bible study/ Prayer, 7 pm.

**Listers:** Wednesdays, 9 am-  
noon at the Town Office.  
**No Office Hours Dec. 31**

## SAVE THE DATES

March 3: TOWN MEETING DAY 10 AM  
April 15: Deadline for Filing HOMESTEAD TAX  
EXEMPTION







### **WINDHAM SPINNERS' GUILD**

Spinners of all levels and types come together once a month to spin and share techniques and ideas. The Guild meets from 1 - 4 pm, usually on the first Saturday of the month. Whether you're a seasoned spinner or have an urge to learn, you're encouraged to join us. The Guild can make available to you spindles for drop-spindle spinning, but if you want to spin using a spinning wheel, you'll need to have your own.

Email Bev Carmichael at [carmichaelbev@hotmail.com](mailto:carmichaelbev@hotmail.com) for more information.







At Meadows Bee Farm, once the cows are milked, it is put into mason jars which are then transferred immediately to a cold water bath. The milk must be chilled to 40 degrees before freezing for pick-up.

Soon after Clementine's little heifer was born, Clementine was put back into the milk production program, therefore more raw milk will be available for sale. MBF only milks once a day, so Clementine will have plenty of milk left for her new little one.






















Recipe Cheese Tarts  
From the kitchen of \_\_\_\_\_

3 oz. package cream cheese, softened  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup butter, softened  
1 cup flour

Cream cream cheese and butter softened at room temperature. Stir in flour, mix well. Place some pastry in ungreased  $1\frac{3}{4}$ " muffin cups. Press dough against bottom and sides.

Filling:

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup chopped or sliced nuts, almonds or walnuts  
1 cup Golden raisins  
1 Tbs. grated lemon peel  
2 Tbs. lemon juice  
1 cup sugar  
2 Tbs. melted butter  
1 large egg, slightly beaten

Combine all ingredients

Fill tart shells

Bake at  $375^{\circ}$  about 12 - 15 minutes  
(Until slightly brown on top.) Cool on rack.

# “Hoo! R U ?”







