



Windham News & Notes



Thank you, Alison !

Windham Town Clerk Changes *by News & Notes Staff*

Windham has been fortunate to have had good people serving as town clerk. After Carol Merritt left, Alison Trowbridge was elected and moved into that position with competence and enthusiasm. But circumstances have made it necessary for her to resign.

The select board has appointed another capable person, Bonnie Chamberlain, to complete Alison's term. Bonnie brings a wealth of useful experience with her to the job. Bonnie will serve as interim clerk until the town's people elect a town clerk for a 3-year term at the next town meeting in March 2016.

We asked Alison and Bonnie to share their thoughts about this transition.

Alison says goodbye...

I have resigned as town clerk due to a pressing situation with my family that requires me to be at home more, especially during the day. I have really enjoyed the job, and it has been great meeting so many of Windham's residents. In my time as clerk, I have really been impressed by the high number of very kind, helpful and interesting people who live here.

Bonnie Chamberlain has been appointed as the new clerk, and she brings much relevant experience to the job which, along with her friendly disposition and hard working nature, promise to make her an ideal candidate for clerk. Ellen McDuffie is our new assistant town clerk and is growing into the position with great ease and competence. She was appointed in April to replace Mary (Mac) McCoy who resigned earlier this year, but now has returned to help as needed. I am thankful to both Mac and Ellen for their dedication and helpfulness as assistant clerks.

I am not completely out of the town government picture. I will remain the select board clerk and in that position will continue to take minutes at select board meetings. So if you come to those meetings, I will see you there.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your town clerk and thank you for your courtesy and friendliness when you have come into the office or called. While I will miss the job and the camaraderie of our great town office team (especially Peter Chamberlain and Kathy Scott, our very competent wizards of high finance), I am thankful to be more available at home where my attention is needed at this time.

(Continued Page 2)



Alison Trowbridge

Local Residents Suck Life from Neighbors *by Mary McCoy*



Over the years, I've written features for the *News & Notes* on more than 50 Windham residents. All were interesting individuals, and I had no trouble singing their praises. But I can find nothing nice to say about this issue's featured resident. In fact, I don't like this resident one bit, nor anyone in its family. You probably feel the same way.

I'm talking about those sneaky, selfish, blood-sucking black flies. I call them BF's for short, but they are also known as buffalo gnats, turkey gnats, and white socks. They are members of the family *Simuliidae* and are recognizable by their dark color, arched back, and tiny size (only 1/6th of an inch long). They attack us during what some call "black fly season" which follows mud season and typically runs between Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day.

(Continued Page 10)

(Continued from Page 1)

Welcome, Bonnie!

Bonnie says hello...

My husband Peter and I purchased our home in Windham in 2001, and 14 years later still love where we ended up.

We have two grown children. Barbara is married and lives in Texas with her husband E.J. and our beautiful granddaughter Kathryn, age 5. We enjoy our annual trips to Texas and their visits to Vermont. Our son Sam lives and works in Boston, but comes home quite often, as he enjoys all that Vermont has to offer year-round and helps with projects on the house.

An opportunity for change sometimes comes when we least expect it. When the town clerk interim position became available, I decided to apply. The challenge of learning a new job, serving the community, and driving to work in five minutes (versus my daily drive to Brattleboro where I was employed since 2005) sounded perfect.

I believe my varied work experience over the years with important judicial documents, facilities management, insurance claims and customer service, administrative duties in a nursing home office, and a supervisory role in a transportation office will serve me well in the position of town clerk. There is a lot to learn and do, and I have readily rolled up my sleeves and started.

The town clerk's new weekly business hours have increased as of June 15th and run Monday through Thursday. I'll post the office hours each month and that will include holiday closings. You can find the monthly hours posting inside the glassed-in bulletin board to the right of the front door. If you would like to be notified of closings by email, please send your request to: windham.town@gmail.com.

For the next eight months I have the best of both worlds. I get to live *and* work in Windham. Please bear with me over the next couple of months while I learn the ropes. Any suggestions are welcome.



Bonnie Chamberlain

NEW TOWN OFFICE HOURS

Monday Noon - 4:30 PM

Tuesday 8:30 AM - Noon

Wednesday 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Thursday 11:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Friday, Saturday and Sunday CLOSED



EMR Course Starts Sept 7 by Sally Hoover

The Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad is starting an Emergency Medical Responder Course in the fall. Classes will begin on September 7 and end October 26. This is a basic emergency care/first responder course, and I have a copy of the course outline that can be emailed to anyone who may be interested. The course will have a limited number of spaces, and it would be good to fill some of them with Windham residents.

Some of you may remember about a year ago when I asked for people to take a course so that Windham would have a quicker response time in an emergency. At that time my certification was due to expire March of 2015, and I was not planning to renew. Since no one showed an interest in taking the EMR course, I recertified for two more years. But this will *definitely* be my last time.

The Rescue Squad could not only use more members, but especially would like to have not just one, but several members in Windham for a quicker response time here. Please let me hear from you at sallyrhoover@vermontel.net. I'm glad to answer any questions you might have.

Select Board News

from Mary Boyer, Frank Seawright and Kord Scott

Windham has been awarded one highway and two structures grants from VTTrans totaling \$307,000. The highway grant is for repaving and the structures grants are for a bridge repair, culvert replacement, and required engineering studies on five bridges and culverts. This infusion will help us complete some of the projects we have been delaying since Tropical Storm Irene.

You may have noticed the two new pieces of equipment in the town shed. The old bucket-loader and the grader were well past their useful lives and were going to require costly repairs. We were able to negotiate a very



Josh Dryden

good deal with Nortrax in Springfield to trade in the old equipment and make a combined purchase of the new loader and grader. The loans for one of the plow/dump trucks and the backhoe are being retired this year. The annual payments on the new agreements will be \$4000 less than the retiring loans, and the payments do not begin until May of 2016. The loader is a new 2015 model and the grader is a slightly used 2013 demo, which reduced the price. The combined total cost was \$326,000 which includes a substantial reduction for the trade-ins.

We are currently receiving bids for sand, gravel and roadside mowing. In addition, the town garage needs attention. The roof is leaking badly and the exterior paint is failing, especially on the south side. We are looking into having the work done this summer. Bill has identified 11 culverts that are priorities for replacement, and he and Josh will be using the new grader to begin the long process of re-grading all our roads with an increased focus on the crowning and de-berming.

The Board of Tax Abatement is meeting to establish a policy for tax abatement. Presently it is difficult for the board to make decisions without the guidance of an established, fair and consistent framework for evaluating requests. The Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) provides assistance in this area, and we will be modifying their suggestions to tailor them to the needs of Windham.

It is with great sadness that we have accepted Alison Trowbridge's resignation as town clerk. Alison has been a joy to work with and has contributed in a variety of ways. Her perspective has been invaluable, her sense of humor refreshing, and her work ethic a steadying force. She will continue as the select board clerk in order to maintain continuity. At the same time, we are very pleased to appoint Bonnie Chamberlain as the interim clerk until town meeting in March. Bonnie submitted a very impressive resume and has jumped right in with an inquisitive mind and enough office experience to quickly grasp the many tidbits of information being fired at her.

With Bonnie at the helm, Ellen McDuffie serving as her assistant, and Mary McCoy returning as needed, we are looking forward to a smooth transition.

We hope you are enjoying the intermittent signs of summer.



Bill Roberts

WINDHAM NEWS & NOTES

A publication of the Windham Community Organization, published six times a year. Please send donations to the address on the last page.

N&N Team

Dawn Bower Mary Boyer
Bev Carmichael Mia Clark
Leila Erhardt

Imme Maurath Mary McCoy
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

Next deadline:

August 15, 2015

Windham Meeting House Needs Your Help

by Peter Chamberlain

The Society of Friends of the Windham Meeting House has held several meetings this past spring, which resulted in plans for several remediation projects and a request for donations. A fundraising letter was sent out to Windham property owners and

we are starting to receive responses, which are tax deductible. If you have not received a request and would like to contribute, donations can be mailed to the Windham Town Office, 5976 Windham Hill Rd., Windham, VT 05350. Please make checks out to The Society of Friends of the Windham Meeting House. Thank you for your support.



It's Time for WCO's Chicken BBQ! *by Imme Maurath*

This year's chicken BBQ sponsored by the Windham Community Organization will be held on **Saturday, July 18th at 5 PM at the Windham Meeting House**. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year ... and it's lots of fun! Good food, good music, good people!

By now you know the "can't go wrong" menu...Walter Woodruff's chicken from the barbee, potato salad, baked beans, salad, sweet breads made fresh by our members and strawberry shortcake made from hand-picked local strawberries topped with fresh whipped cream. \$10/adult, \$6/child under 12, or \$25/family. Dinner music from our own Windham musicians ...could be Diane, Pete, Alan, Colin, Sally...

We will also be having our ever popular raffle of locally made items, and you get to choose which item you would like to win. \$1 each for a ticket or \$5/6 tickets.

Come, join us for the fun! And help support the Windham community!

Listers Praise Property Owners and Appraisers

by Windham's Listers

Once again we thank all Windham home owners for their cooperation during the recent town-wide reappraisal. We also send a big thank you to the folks at Green Mountain Appraisals who established the market value of all of Windham's properties.

Of the 494 residences, second homes, camps, and lands in our town, we had 12 formal grievances. That's only 2.4%. In some other towns, as many as 30% of the property owners have protested the changes in their properties' values after a town-wide reappraisal. We applaud Green Mountain Appraisals' staff, especially Brian DeCesare, for their excellent work.

There were also some property owners who did not officially grieve but pointed out errors in the property information upon which their values were based. We are confident that we can correct these mistakes and also those pointed out by land owners who grieved.

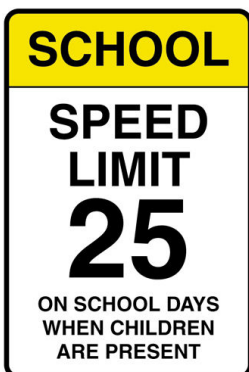
We thank the *News & Notes* team for providing us with a way to explain the reappraisal each step along its way. In the next issue of the *News & Notes*, we will present data about the property values overall. We have not had time as yet to gather and interpret that info.

We still will not be able to answer the most frequently asked question: "How will this affect my taxes?" Once we prepare the 2015 Grand List, we will pass the sum of everyone's appraised values to Town Treasurer Peter Chamberlain. He will determine the municipal tax rate based on the budget passed at town meeting and the total value of all Windham properties. The school tax rate is determined by the state. These two rates will determine all owners' taxes.

Once more, as we can't say it enough, THANK YOU, Windham property owners for your cooperation and patience during this reappraisal. We hope you all feel as proud of our town as we do.



Speed Limit Change *by the Select Board*



Recently we were notified by the sheriff's department that our 20 mph speed limit in the school zone is unenforceable. State regulations set the limit at 25 mph unless we enforce it ourselves. We hate to raise the limit but feel a limit is useless if it is unenforceable. We have posted a warning of the impending change. If anyone would like

a town vote on this issue, you have until July 1st to collect signatures from 5% of the registered voters. The proposed change will become an ordinance as of July 17, unless petitioned.

Windham has been assigned a new patrolman, Captain John Lakin, and his responsibilities include traffic enforcement for the sheriff's department. Recently a speed cart was placed just south of Lawrence Four Corners. He has indicated he is quite eager to address our concerns about speeding on Windham Hill Road and Route 121. So be forewarned. When you least expect it, he may be around the next bend!

Windham Regional Commission Approves Town Plan

from Windham Select Board

The Windham Regional Commission (WRC) has approved our Windham Town Plan. WRC's approval is a condition for receiving almost all grants, and it assures that our plan is compatible with state regulations, other towns' plans, and the WRC's plan for the region. A copy of the WRC letter of approval is available in the town office.

The WRC approval followed a thorough review process of our proposed plan. This included public hearings for Windham residents, approval by our select board, review by a WRC peer panel, a public hearing by that panel, a panel report to the WRC Planning Coordination Committee, and finally approval by WRC itself.

The approval letter from WRC said our plan meets state and regional requirements and is compatible with adjacent towns' plans and the WRC's plan. It also noted the following strengths of our plan: "The plan conveys a deep understanding of and provides thorough explanations of issues. The plan provides clarity about the vision for the future of the town, which is supported by the 'Policies and Actions'. The plan contains clear directive language. The Energy and Natural Resources chapters are exceptionally extensive and thorough."

The Planning Commission members are to be congratulated for their dedication, commitment and completion of this important task.



Legislative News

by Carolyn Partridge

This was, perhaps, the most difficult legislative session I can remember. The hardest task was constructing a balanced budget. For eight or nine years, we have faced a budget shortfall and because we always pass a balanced budget, we have had to make more and more painful cuts.

This year the shortfall was \$113 million, which was made up with \$56 million in cuts, \$32 million in revenue, and \$25 million in one-time money. A strong effort was made to institute more structural changes in order to bring spending in line with revenue projections. At the same time, we did our best to consider the needs of Vermont's most vulnerable citizens.

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) that helps keep Vermonters warm was funded, which is reassuring after this last winter. We also fully funded the General Fund transfer to the Education Fund, which will lower the Property Tax.

Members of the House Agriculture and Forest Products Committee were very pleased that the

Working Lands Enterprise Initiative ended up with \$700,000. Funding was in question, so we are pleased that we can continue to make these important investments that have increased economic output and created jobs.

I am particularly proud of the work we did on the Water Quality bill. It is hoped that it will go a long way toward fulfilling the Environmental Protection Agency's requirements regarding a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) plan for cleaning up the Lake Champlain watershed.

The Education Bill, H.361, was a real challenge for many of us, and I question whether it will achieve its goals. There may be areas in the state that need to start a conversation about the quality and cost-effectiveness of their schools, in particular high schools, and this might get them started. However, one of the major reasons we initiated this conversation was concern on the part of some regarding property taxes. This proposal is estimated to potentially save \$25-50 million, or two and a half to five cents on the tax rate, which will not satisfy those who were complaining.



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Library Adds New Books *by John Hoover*

Upon entering the Windham Town Library, one of the first things you see is a table displaying books newly added to the library's collection. Included in these new acquisitions are a number of titles that, as I write this, are on the Independent Booksellers' Best Sellers list. Additionally, there are a number of books that, while not recent issues, are new to us.

All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr is the story of a blind French girl and a German youth during World War II. Newly added is *At the Water's Edge* by Sara Gruen, the author of the best-selling *Water for Elephants*. Set in Scotland in the 1940s, *At the Water's Edge* is a story of a family adjusting to a radically new environment.

Paula Hawkin's *The Girl on the Train* is a tale full

Don't Miss Windham Summer Camp July 6-10 and July 13-17

Children 3 (who are eager to leave Mom) & older. Mon-Thurs 9 AM - 1 PM; Fri 9 AM - 12:30 PM. \$20 for first child; \$10 for second child; \$5 for third child in same family. Fees payable on Mondays. Call Cindy Kehoe for more info 874-7028.

Uncle Buzzy's Comedy Show Performs at Windham School July 15 at 7:00 PM

from News & Notes Staff

If laughter is the best medicine, then Mike Sommers has got the cure for whatever ails you. He'll be back in town as part of Uncle Buzzy's Comedy Show which includes Mike and his best friends and comedy co-conspirators, Lawrence Radecker and Teddy Wee. Perhaps you saw Mike's one-man show "Hick in the Hood" in Windham a few years back. What a hoot!

Mike has an uncle and two aunts who live in Windham— Dave & Ginny Crittenden and Mary Aller. His grandparents, Ben and Pinky Crittenden also lived here. He says his comedy has a Vermont feel, although he is based in California. One director from there said, "These guys are the most fun sketch-comedy troupe in San Francisco!"

Their comedy is similar to "Saturday Night Live" with comedic music like "Flight of the Conchords" or "The Smothers Brothers" all with a hometown feel like "A Prairie Home Companion". It's an adult

of "Hitchcockian" suspense. *Memory Man*, by David Baldacci, has to be one of the best mysteries I've ever read. Filled with very unusual characters, it is a compulsively readable book that I couldn't put down. Rounding out a look at best-sellers is Atul Gawand's *Being Mortal*, a book that deals with a subject we often don't like to talk about, but for which we all should make plans.

We've also added the first two books in Diana Gabaldon's *Outlander* series, *Outlander* and *Dragonfly in Amber*, Rachel Joyce's *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*, Stephen King's recent hit *Revival*, and Phil Klay's novel of the Iraq War, *Redeployment*. Two recent acquisitions by John Grisham, *Sycamore Row* and *Grey Mountain*, are legal thrillers written in Grisham's extremely popular style.

If any of these titles piques your interest, we hope that you'll stop by the library and check them out. The library is at the Meeting House, and it's open Wednesdays 3:00 to 5:00. Also, if there are titles that you would like to see us acquire for our collection, we hope you'll let us know – no promises but your suggestion just might find its way onto our shelves.

Chocolate Fest - Monday, August 3

Area food lovers will not want to miss the 6th Annual Chocolate (and Cheese) Fest scheduled for Monday, August 3 from 5-8 PM at the Landgrove Inn. This popular event is the largest fundraiser for Neighborhood Connections. Windham Community Organization is a participating vendor! Be sure to stop by our table. Mark your calendar now!

show that children will enjoy as well. No swearing and no violence.

Their Vermont tour marks 11 years that Uncle Buzzy has been together. Come help them celebrate.

In the process, you will see the world's greatest chicken impression and meet the Secret Asian Man!

The show starts at 7:00 PM at the Windham Elementary School. It will last just over an hour. There is no cover charge, but donations are accepted.

If you would like to make a brief, fun, and easy appearance in this show, please email Mike at michaelxsommers@gmail.com.





Green Up Day in Windham *by Marcia Clinton*

For Green Up Day in Vermont on May 2nd volunteers in Windham worked the preceding week and that Saturday to clean up the roadways of town. Twenty-five adults and 14 kids participated and filled 68 bags of garbage. At noon Gina Noel and Lydia Pope-France prepared and served lunch at the Meeting House to 15 participants. A coupon for a pound of Vermont Coffee was pulled as the door prize and awards were given for the longest distance, most bags filled, weirdest object, etc. Carson Gordon, while picking up trash, discovered a killdeer bird nest with spotted eggs in it. He was the grand winner of two awards that day.

Library Shows *The Vermont Movie* *by Beverly Carmichael*

The Windham Library has purchased *Freedom and Unity: The Vermont Movie* by Nora Jacobson and will show this six-part series at the library, beginning on July 28 and continuing on consecutive Tuesdays in August. As always, popcorn and lemonade will be served and everyone is welcome. **Look for the movie sign in front of the library for times and dates for the series.**

July 28 Part One ("A Very New Idea") explores the roots from which the future state of Vermont grew. It looks at early settlement, native peoples' resistance, and the little-known history of African American settlers. The struggle for independence resulted in Vermont's radical constitution, the first to outlaw slavery. Finally, Vermont's heroic role in the Civil War charts the state's course into the present.

Part Two ("Under the Surface") digs beneath the surface of Vermont's bucolic image to explore labor wars, eugenics experiments, the McCarthy era, and progressive Republicanism. Covering pre-Civil War to 2009, it includes the "back-to-the-landers" from urban areas, including the filmmaker's father, Nicholas Jacobson, who came to Vermont in search of an alternative lifestyle.

Part Three ("Refuge, Reinvention and Revolution") looks at the mid-20th Century when political pioneers set the stage for historic change. Innovation was everywhere, including the creation of the interstate highways with its "eminent domain." Rare archival footage provides a vivid look at the "hippies" who established roots in Vermont.

Part Four ("Doers and Shapers") explores the people and institutions that push boundaries. Starting with education and its connection to democracy, it looks at Vermont's cultural movements and our legislative actions, including our billboard law, Act 250, and our groundbreaking civil union law. Democracy at work—differing voices, different points of view.

Part Five ("Ceres' Children") takes a deeper look at Vermont's cherished traditions of participatory democracy and conservation. The film captures 21st Century debates over natural resources and the disappearance of dairy farms. It asks the question: Can Vermont be a model for small, local and self-sufficient farming?

Part Six ("People's Power") tackles contemporary tensions over energy, independence, the environment, and the state's future. It looks at the struggle to close the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant, the battle over wind-mills in Lowell, and thorny questions about economics, sovereignty and climate change. Finally, the devastating impacts of Hurricane Irene reveal the power not only of nature, but also of people and community.

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Fire Company Has Been Busy!

by Marcia Clinton

The Windham Fire Company responded to five calls in the month of May alone. One was on Windham Hill Road and four were assisting neighboring towns.

After 190 hours of classroom and practical training, plus study, three fire fighters of the Windham Fire Company passed their exams and are now certified as VT Firefighters Level 1. Congratulations to Josh Dryden, Jon Gordon, and Mike McLaine who all worked very hard to accomplish this. When you see them out and about, congratulate them for their success and service.

On June 11th elections were held for the Windham Fire Co. The new officers are: President Mike McLaine, Secretary Meredith Tipps-McLaine, Treasurer Jan Wyman, Chief Rick Weitzel, Assistant Chief Ralph Wyman, 1st Captain Jon Gordon, 2nd Captain Josh Dryden, Safety Officer Paul Wyman, and Board of Directors, Jarrod Smith, Dale McLean, Phil Talbot, and Stormy Morse.

On **Saturday, August 8th**, the **Windham Fire Co.** will present the **Annual Auction and BBQ** at the firehouse in North Windham, rain or shine. This is an all-day event **beginning at 9 AM** with the auction preview, a flea market and breakfast. Bob Arbuckle will start the **auction at 10 AM** under the big tent. Some new items and gift certificates will also be available for bidding. The 50/50 raffle will be pulled at noon and you need not be present to win. During the auction, hot dogs, hamburgers, sides and desserts will be for sale.



At 5 PM the BBQ will begin under the big tent offering all you can eat chicken, corn on the cob, salads, baked beans, homemade rolls, dessert and beverages - all for \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids under 12. Take-out is available. **Around 7 PM Bob will start the infamous pie and sweets auction.**

If you have items to donate, new or old, in good condition, call Mike McLaine at 875-1550 for drop off or pick-up. Please, no clothes, mattresses, books, TV's, or exercise equipment. This is the only fundraiser for the Windham Fire Co. We are calling out for auction items, assistance with food prep, pies or cakes for the pie auction, and many other volunteer opportunities. Call either Mike McLaine at 475-1550 or Jan Wyman at 875-3373 if you have time to give. This event is to raise funds for equipment and training and is also a great time to have some fun, meet your neighbors, and support a good cause!

Residents Hear Update on Wind Turbines

by Mary McCoy

On June 17, Meadowsend Timberlands Limited (MTL) hosted a meeting to update Windham residents on the exploration into installing wind turbines in their Stiles Brook Forest area. About 75 people attended with most folks being from Windham.

Representatives from MTL restated their intention to use their land in a renewable way. Representatives from Iberdrola Renewables, the international company that would construct and operate the site, reported on what they have learned and what they will do next.

They said the two years of information from their met towers provided promising but not conclusive results. The presumed area for the turbines is on a plateau, so there is turbulence which could be problematic. They need more info on the topography and will have maps made from airplane sitings. These also will help determine where roads would need to be built and where a power substation might be located.



Various studies are being conducted in cooperation with Vermont's Agency for Natural Resources, including surveys that look at sound/acoustics, visibility/lights/shadows, raptor migration, breeding bird patterns, bat patterns, rare plant protection, animal habitats, wetlands, and historic preservations.

Jenny Briot, Iberdrola's project manager for this proposed installation, said their goal is to have a preliminary study layout by this autumn. If they decide to move forward with the project, they will present their findings to Windham residents. Also included would be proposed economic benefits for residents. A series of meetings with the town's people would then take place, each considering a specific aspect of the proposed installation.

Jenny stated that if the town voted against the development, Iberdrola would not submit an application for a Certificate of Public Good from Vermont's Public Service Board. It was not clear if MTL would move forward with a different energy company than Iberdrola if the town votes against the installation.

A question and answer period followed.



Firefly

*Beautiful as a star shining in the night
Soft as a pussy willow blooming in sight
Graceful as a swan swimming in the light*

Maia Lincks
2nd Grade

Thank Goodness It's Summer!

by Gail Wyman

Well, here at Windham Elementary, we have finished out our school year on Thursday, June 11, after a fun and rewarding Awards Night.

The Friday before Memorial Day our students replaced the flags at the Windham Center Cemetery. This is a respectful time for them. Taking a flag, replacing it with a new one, going on to another and repeating the process. This is such a good way to reinforce the meaning of Memorial Day.

Next to last day was our annual Walkathon with the kids walking up to four miles round trip from our school out to Colin and Alison Blazej's on the other side of Burbee Pond. This is an interesting head-set for some of the kids, making up their minds that their little legs will go two miles out and two miles back. Believe me, they do it.

Every year we have our last day picnic at

Hapgood Pond. Over the years, whether it has been drizzling or cold, no one is upset. They just settle in building mud castles, mini-ponds and filling them with pond water, chasing and catching salamanders. Nothing deters them from having a good time.

For residents who do not know about the Bonneyvale Environmental Education Center (BEEC) in Brattleboro, we are giving you a heads up to check it out. Patti Smith did a Power Point presentation at school. Ninety-five percent of the show was a picture show of animals she has watched, rescued and rehabilitated. At the very end she brought in two rescue squirrels, showing the kids how she feeds them with a very thin medicine dropper. It was like the night before Christmas, not a peep out of the children was to be heard.



More Families Sought for Windham

by Carolyn Partridge



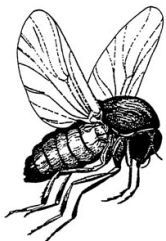
The Windham School Board has initiated a conversation with Windham residents and the Windham Select Board to discuss ways to attract people to the Town of Windham. We are particularly interested in families with small children, for school purposes, but the overall vitality of our community is a concern as well.

During the last couple of years, potential residents who want their children to attend Windham Elementary because of its educational quality have contacted school board members about rental property opportunities. While it appears there are a number of homes for sale, with a few exceptions, it is hard to know if rentals exist. Our general answer to potential residents is to contact a real estate agent.

One thought has been to contact the owners of homes that seem to be vacant most of the year to see if there is interest in renting. If a good match is made, the rental income would contribute to the cost of maintaining the house (insurance, taxes, etc.), and it would be occupied, which is a real plus. Another thought has been to contact real estate agents.

We welcome your input and ideas. If you know of a home that might be for rent or if you are interested in renting, please contact us. Our meetings are generally before or after our regularly scheduled school board meetings, which are the first Monday of the month at 4 PM. During the summer, we sometimes meet in the morning, as in July when our meeting will be on July 6 at 10 AM. To find out when we will meet to continue this conversation, you may contact Carolyn Partridge at 874-4182, Beth McDonald at 874-4015 or Antje Ruppert at 874-4759.

*(Continued from Page 1) Local Residents Suck
Life from Neighbors*



There are about 40 species of blackflies in Vermont, four or five of which bite humans. It is the female who is the vampire. She drinks our blood to nourish the eggs she will lay. Some might say she's just protecting her family line, but does she have a right to seek out our most tender skin and leave us with welts that itch like crazy? No! Why can't she stick to nectar like the males do and like she does at other times?

Ah, but there are ways to avoid her bite. First and foremost, do not go outside. Many who study BFs say the blood-suckers will not go inside a house or other enclosure, so you're safe inside. If you have to go out, do so at night. BFs use their eyesight to find us and can't see us in the dark. BFs also detect the carbon dioxide we expel with each breath, so if you must go outside during the day, hold your breath. If you are short-winded and have to go out, go when it is least humid, which means don't go out near sunrise nor sunset. Always wait until the air is cool and dry or until a wind comes along. BFs don't like dry heat and don't fly well in breezy conditions. They also don't like rain, so you can enjoy the great outdoors when it pours.

Some say that insecticides with DEET will protect you from BFs, but others say no bug repellants work. This may be because BFs chomp on places you wouldn't want to spray, like your face. I know two women in Windham who have been bitten on their eyelids, causing much discomfort and requiring them to explain that they had not been boxing.

Sitting by a smoky fire is also said to be good protection, although there's always the danger of setting our forests aflame. And sitting in general makes one an easy target for BFs. If you have to go outside, it is best to keep moving. Try going for a walk while pushing a smoking Webber on wheels.

I prefer the cover-up approach. For years, when I go outside, I've put on gloves, a long sleeved shirt, long pants, and netting over a broad hat. But they still get me. So lately I've added rubber bands around my sleeves and pant cuffs to prevent the BFs from climbing up my arms

and legs. That has decreased my endless itches only slightly. I just read about someone who uses wide masking tape to seal the clothing connections at her wrists, ankles, and neck. I haven't tried that yet, but am sure wrapping myself up with duct tape will work best.

Other recommended approaches to avoid getting bitten include putting out feeders to attract birds that eat BFs (although bears will be attracted too), wearing dark clothing which is less appealing to BFs (although you then can't see the deer ticks crawling on your clothes), and avoiding all perfumed products as these attract BFs (but your natural smell might scare away other humans).

Another approach might be to pollute our local streams. Years ago when there were mills on Windham's streams and brooks, we had no problem with BFs because the mills, especially the tanneries, made them unsuitable for BF breeding. You see, females lay their eggs (200-500 in a mass) on vegetation in clean running water. BFs demand a clean maternity ward! When the eggs hatch, the larvae attach to submerged rocks and vegetation. The mature larvae pupate underwater, emerging as the adult BFs we know by riding bubbles of air to the surface and flying away. This life cycle will end if we dump garbage into our flowing waters. No organic garbage – toxins only.

When it's time to start the cycle again, females look for tender human flesh. They rip our skin with barbed incisors, and they don't bite just once, but rip and suck repeatedly. However, we usually aren't even aware we're being bitten because there is a powerful anticoagulant in BFs' saliva which partially numbs the bite. That explains those wicked welts we don't know when or how we got.



Some of us are more susceptible than others, and many claim that they develop an immunity each year after the first bites. Not me. As I write this, Fathers' Day is approaching, and my arms, legs, and neck are covered with annoying whelps, as they have been for a month. But the BFs are fading in number. Perhaps these new bites are from my other least favorite neighbor – those blood-sucking mosquitoes!

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BULLETIN BOARD
**Grace Cottage Hospital Fair Day
Saturday, August 1 9 AM - 6 PM**

The Grace Cottage Hospital Fair Day is held annually on the first Saturday in August on the Townshend Common. It is a Townshend tradition for over 60 years. Organized by the Grace Cottage Hospital Auxiliary, the Boston Globe has called this event "New England at its best." The fair features a live auction, bargain booths, bingo, pony rides, face painting, jewelry, plants, food, games, a kids costume booth, a dunking booth, the Baby Parade for those born at Grace Cottage (led by bagpipers and the Grace Cottage stork), a chicken barbecue dinner and music by the Bills Band.

This year's fair will include an Arts & Crafts Show, which will be held in the Townshend Church. All fine art and crafts pieces in the show will be for sale, with a portion of the proceeds going to benefit Grace Cottage Hospital. Exhibitors may also donate a piece to be sold with full proceeds going to Grace Cottage. For more information about the art show call Lois Phoenix, 365-7568. For information about Fair Day call 365-4455 or 365-9109.

**By state law as of JULY 1, 2015
BANNED FROM THE LANDFILL
MUST BE RECYCLED:**

- Aluminum and steel cans
- Aluminum foil and aluminum pie pans – clean please
- Glass bottles and jars from foods and beverages
- Plastics #1 and #2 (PET and HDPE resin types)
- Corrugated cardboard
- White and mixed paper
- Newspaper, magazines, catalogues, paper mail, envelopes
- Box board – cereal boxes and such but not the inserts


4th of July Fireworks & Parade!


JULY 3 Fireworks at dusk at Magic Mountain

JULY 4 Parade at noon beginning at the Londonderry Town Garage along Route 11 to Mountain Marketplace on Route 100 S. Floats, firetrucks, bagpipers, bands, horses, antique cars. What a tradition, right in Londonderry!



July 11, Tour de Grace Bicycle Rally benefits Grace Cottage Hospital. Start 8-10 AM.

A scenic ride, fun for all ages, from Stratton Base Lodge parking lot to Grace Cottage Hospital, Townshend, 17.7 miles. Transport back to Stratton provided. Helmet required; sturdy tires strongly recommended. \$25 in advance; \$30 after July 8. Online registration at www.gracecottage.org/events or at the Stratton parking lot. Call 365-9109 for information.

The WEST RIVER COMMUNITY PROJECT is having its annual **Farm to Table Dinner on August 29**. The Windham Hill Inn is preparing locally sourced food to serve at this fundraiser dinner and silent auction held in a huge tent on the grassy lawn of the West Townshend Country Store and Café. Call 874-4800 or go online at info@westtowhshend.org for information.

PAX (Program of Academic Exchange) Wants You to Host a Student for the 2015-2016 School Year

You can host a student for the entire school year or just a semester. Share your life, culture, language with a young adventurer from one of over 80 countries. You provide meals, a bed and school transportation while learning about another culture and helping a teenager adapt to life in Vermont. If you are interested or to learn more, please call Kimberly Eckhardt at 824-3792.

Town Contacts:

Town Office: Bonnie Chamberlain, 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; phone: 874-7025
Town Listers: Michael Simonds, Chair; phone: 874-4790, email: michael@windhamcountryhouse.com
Select Board: Mary Boyer, Chair; phone: 875-5242, email: mfb@vermontel.net
School Board: Beth McDonald; phone: 874-4015, email: 219woodburn@gmail.com
Windham Community Organization: Ellen McDuffie; phone: 874-8183, email: eflockwood@aol.com
Windham Volunteer Fire and Rescue: phone: 875-5332

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

Please keep us informed of any
address changes

REGULAR MEETINGS & SCHEDULES	Town Clerk: Monday Noon - 4:30 Tuesday 8:30 - Noon Wednesday 8:30 - 4:30 Thursday 11:30 - 4:30 Closed - Friday, Saturday, Sunday. Call 874-4211.	Select Board: Alternate Mondays at 6:30 PM at the Town Office, July 6 & 20, August 3 & 17. Open meetings.	School Board: First Monday of the month at the Elementary School, July 6 at 10 AM, August -TBD. Call Antje at 874-4759 for date & time. Open meetings.
	Planning and Zoning: Second Wednesdays at 6 PM at the Town Office, July 8 & August 12. Call Bob Bingham at 874-9934 to confirm.	Library: Wednesdays, 3-5 PM at the Meeting House. Book Group: 1st Wednesday July 8 & August 5 3 PM at the Meeting House.	Volunteer Fire Company: 1st Thursdays, July 2 & August 6 at 6 PM at the Firehouse. Heavy refreshments served.
Windham Community Organization: Last Wednesday at 7 PM at the Meeting House, July 29 & August 26. Call Ellen McDuffie at 874-8183 to confirm.	Windham Congregational Church (UCC): Sundays: Worship Services at 9:30 AM.	Valley Bible Church: Sundays: Sunday School, 9:55 AM; Morning Worship, 11 AM.; Potluck, 12:10 PM; Sun. Afternoon Service, 1:10 PM. Tuesdays: Bible study/ Prayer, 7 PM.	Listers: Wednesdays, 9 AM- Noon at the Town Office.

SAVE THE DATES:



July 15: COMEDY SHOW
July 18: WCO CHICKEN BBQ
August 1: GRACE COTTAGE HOSPITAL FAIR DAY
August 3: Neighborhood Connections' CHOCOLATE FEST
August 8: FIRE CO. ANNUAL AUCTION AND BBQ