



Volume 13, No. 6



May - June 2016



# Windham News & Notes

## *are learning to* IN WINDHAM, WE ^ TRUST EACH OTHER.

*Is this article about the wind turbines?* Not exactly.

*Who wrote it?* Wait and see.

*Are they FOR or AGAINST?* Hard to say.

Thursday evening, April 21, 2016 was the first of many lovely spring evenings in Windham. Twenty-one people sat in the Town Office. Each one would have liked to be home. Each one was a little bit scared.

They were there at that particular moment, or so it seemed, because the Windham Selectboard had called a special meeting to discuss a citizens' request relating to information and action around the wind turbines.

But it turned out they were actually there for a different reason: each one of them had the tiniest hope that they might be heard. That other people might be willing to listen to them. No, REALLY listen. They didn't actually believe that such a thing could happen, though. A lot like you.

Anyhow, it turned out that they did listen to each other. They talked about the wind turbines, and they weren't angry or afraid. Each person spoke. What each person eventually said was, more or less: I feel like you are really listening to me. I thought you were mad at me, and had no interest in what I want to say. But now it looks to me like that's not so.

So they did what anybody would do under the circumstances. They said: maybe everybody else would like to come and do this too. Maybe everybody else in Windham would like to move forward in a community where we trust each other.

Not: "we trust each other like before."

But instead: "we trust each other *like never before.*"

We trust that whatever we as a community eventually decide about the wind turbines, the actions of each one of us will have reflected this and only this: *I genuinely believe that what I do is in the best interests of my community as a whole and of all its citizens.*

Can you bear to take part in such a group? If you can, come to the Windham Elementary School at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, May 10, 2016. The only thing you need to bring is your willingness to speak your heart. And to listen to the other hearts.

*Kathy Scott, Nancy Tips, Gail Wyman*

## Select Board News

*from Windham's Selectboard*

Windham's newest Selectboard member, Maureen Bell, along with the two incumbents attended the spring Selectboard Institute, a workshop held shortly after every town meeting day. The workshop was conducted by staff members of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (<http://VLCT.org>) who are well-trained with subspecialty expertise in various aspects of local and state government. The morning session covered information needed by newly-elected Selectboard members, and the afternoon session was broken into workshops of topical interest.

It is eye-opening to the newly elected to learn about the quasi-judicial role in which a selectboard must sometimes function, since we are the executive, legislative and judicial branches of local government. Examples of when the board might act like a court are in a vicious dog hearing, an employment termination, or as part the Boards of Health, Civil Authority and Abatement. New selectboard members are usually surprised at the responsibilities they have.

Of course, no session of the Vermont Legislature goes by without causing some changes for Vermont towns. Several appointed town offices have little or no function now. For example, the Weigher of Coal could only carry out that function if the municipality had a scale, but no town in Vermont has such a scale, and we have discontinued that office.

The Senate Health and Welfare Committee passed out H.575, which made one very basic but significant change to the role of Town Service Officer – it eliminated the role that officer plays in administering

general assistance benefits on behalf of the state. The town service officer currently is responsible for assisting individuals within the town who require emergency food, fuel, or shelter under Vermont's Economic Services Divisions' General Assistance Program. This usually happens after normal business hours. As state services have modernized and technology has progressed, specifically with the services Vermont's 211 information and referral services provides, the need for the Town Service Officer to administer the General Assistance Program has essentially been eliminated.

The bill is expected to pass out of the Senate, and make its way to the governor's desk for signature in the near future. Initially, the selectboard decided not to appoint a Town Service Officer, but we will consider at our next meeting whether to continue that office until we are comfortable that the 211 informational and referral service is well known.

On another topic, a contract is in place to replace the large culvert near the intersection of White Road and Hitchcock Hill Road. The work is to be completed by the end of May. Bids to carry out paving on White Road from Route 11 to the talc mine, and on Route 121 have been received, and contractors will be selected in the coming days.

### Thank You!

I'm delighted to have been elected to Windham's Selectboard on Town Meeting Day.

It means a lot to me! I am already fully ensconced in the business of the town - and loving it. There is so much to read, learn, ponder and know. I will do my best! *Maureen Bell*

## Windham Community Organization Asks for Your Support!

The next issue of the *Windham News & Notes* begins our 14th year of Windham's bi-monthly publication. We have an all-volunteer staff and depend on your annual support to cover the cost of production and mailing. We ask you to contribute whatever you can, just like public radio and TV, with the usual contribution being \$10. Your support will ensure that you and others receive Windham's own news source for another year. All property owners and subscribers receive our May-June subscription issue free of charge. If you are a non-resident of Windham, a donation is necessary to receive the additional five issues per year.

Windham Community Organization is the non-profit organization under which *News & Notes* operates. Your support also allows us to fulfill our mission of helping Windham residents with heating fuel, gasoline, rent, and food assistance. Our budget is small, so your support goes a long way.

We welcome new members and can always use help with events. For more information, please call Ellen McDuffie at 874-8183 or Kathy Jungermann, our newly elected vice-president, at 874-4606.

## Town Meeting, March 1, 2016

*from Minutes of Town Meeting submitted by Alison Trowbridge*

Town Meeting was called to order by moderator, Michael McLaine, at 10:05 AM. Michael reviewed Robert's Rules of Order, and we were off on an exciting day of government by the people!

Mike McLaine was elected as Town and School Meeting moderator. Then several corrections and inconsistencies to the Town Report were noted before Mary Boyer called the question to a vote. Voters accepted the Town Report for 2015 unanimously.

Dr. Roger Fox and Mrs. Bickford from the Mount Valley Clinic in Londonderry stopped by and informed us that Mountain Valley is now partnering with Springfield Medical.

Election of officers followed. There was a significant delay on the first vote which was for town clerk. The number of ballots cast did not match the number of voters checked off the voter checklist. After tedious rechecking, the moderator moved that we move forward because the number of votes in question would not change the outcome. Those present voted all in favor, and a new town clerk was elected. Results for all positions are listed below.

During the lunch recess, Bill Dunkel announced that an incentive fund is available for former CVPS customers to pay for electrical improvements to reduce usage. Our state representatives, Carolyn Partridge and Matt Trieber, updated us on happenings in Montpelier, along with discussion of VT Health Connect and Act 46. Elections continued until 2:10 PM when Town Meeting recessed to move to the School District Meeting. Voters approved expenditures for school directors' salaries and for the school budget as proposed.

Town Meeting resumed at 2:56 PM. The voters approved all other requested expenditures: \$186,105 for the general fund, \$192,476.50 for summer roads, \$210,493.50 for winter roads, \$95,000 for repaving and structure repair/replacement, \$20,000 to the Windham Volunteer Fire Company, \$250 to the West River Community Project, and \$5,000 for the Windham Weatherization Fund.

Article 14 proposed that the town clerk be paid a salary with no benefits rather than the previous method of salary plus recording fees. Those present voted all in favor. Before adjournment, Lydia Pope France recommended the town consider ways to make the voting process more efficient, and Jerry Dyke suggested meeting upstairs and having lunch downstairs to eliminate time for setting up and breaking down tables for lunch. The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 PM.

### 2016 Officers Elected at Town Meeting:

Moderator, 1 year, Michael McLaine  
 Town Clerk, 3 years, Jo-Jo Chlebogiannis  
 Selectman, 3 years, Maureen Bell  
 Town Treasurer, 3 years, Peter Chamberlain  
 Lister, 3 years, Michael Simonds  
 Auditor, 3 years, Sally Hoover  
 Constable, 2 years, Joe Lamson  
 Delinquent Tax Collector, 1 year, Ernie Friedli  
 Grand Juror, 1 year, Jim Scott  
 Town Agent, 1 year, Michael Simonds  
 Windham Center Cemetery Commission, 5 yrs, Mark Emmons  
 West Windham Cemetery Commission, 5 years, Michael Pelton  
 North Windham Cemetery commission, 5 years, Jon Gordon  
 Library Trustee, 5 years, John Hoover  
 Windham School Director, 3 years, Antje Rupert



### 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](mailto:windhamnews@hotmail.com).

**Next deadline: June 15, 2016**

### 2016 Officers Appointed by the Selectboard:

Road Commissioner, Kord Scott  
 Planning Commissioner, Kate Wright  
 Planning Commissioner, Bob Bingham  
 Planning Commissioner, Bill Dunkel  
 Planning Commissioner, Jeff Wheeler  
 Rep. to Windham Regional Commission, Carolyn Partridge  
 Rep. to Windham Regional Commission, Bill Dunkel  
 Dog Counter, Ellen McDuffie  
 Tree Warden, Walter Woodruff  
 Zoning Administrator, Michael Simonds  
 Rep. to Senior Solutions, Jo-Jo Chlebogiannis  
 Assistant Town Clerk, Ellen McDuffie  
 Assistant Town Treasurer, Kathy Scott  
 Emergency Management Coordinator, Imme Maurath  
 Energy Coordinator, Michael Simonds  
 Citizens Advisory Committee, Marcia Clinton

## WCO CHICKEN BARBEQUE Set for JULY 17



Walter Woodruff, head grill master, has picked **July 17th** for this year's annual **CHICKEN BBQ**, hosted by the Windham Community Organization. **Mark your calendar NOW!** The party starts at 5 PM on the dot at the Meeting House. \$10/adult, \$5/child and \$25/family. There is also a raffle of treasures, hand-crafted by Windham residents. All proceeds benefit Windham residents and the community. If you would like to help with the event or contribute to the auction, please contact Imme Maurath at 875-1357 or Ellen McDuffie at 874-8183. Thank you !

## 25 Properties Will Have New Assessed Values

by Michael Simonds

The listers spent the first two weeks of April inspecting 25 properties which will be changing value due to work on them that was completed since April 1st of last year. That work included internal renovations, additions, sheds, garages, and new houses.

Twenty-five is a typical number of properties for the listers to review in April. Getting back to a normal number was a relief for the listers who had to deal with a town-wide reappraisal of 500 properties in 2015.

On May 18th, change of appraisal letters will go out to those property owners whose values have changed. If you receive a letter and are satisfied with the new value, you needn't do anything further, and this will become your property's new assessed worth.

If you do not agree with the new value, you have the opportunity to grieve the value on June 3rd or 4th. Please make an appointment. To present a strong grievance case, you will need to present a recent appraisal from a licensed appraiser. Upon review, the listers will then mail a response to those who have grieved, indicating the results of their grievance.

If you are still not satisfied, you can request a hearing before Windham's Board of Civil Authority. Steps after that would be a hearing before a state appraiser, and then a hearing before the Supreme Court of Vermont. More complete information about the grievance process is available at:

[www.sec.state.vt.us/258632/appealing.pdf](http://www.sec.state.vt.us/258632/appealing.pdf).



## Energy Committee Continues Work toward Goals

by Michael Simonds

Windham's Energy Committee has been meeting biweekly to work toward our

goal of reducing the amount of fossil fuels used in our homes and public buildings in Windham.

We seek to accomplish our goal through weatherization, energy efficiency, and the production of local solar energy. We want to thank the voters at Town Meeting for supporting our efforts by voting for a \$5,000 energy fund.

This summer, we hope to sponsor an energy fair at a Windham location with a solar array and a home under construction that is being built to achieve Vermont's silver certification for an energy-efficient house.

Also at the fair will be speakers from nearby solar installers and Efficiency Vermont, covering such topics as how to weatherize your home to make it more energy efficient and more comfortable year-round.

More information about the energy fair will be announced within the next few weeks. If you have questions or suggestions, contact one of the committee's members: Buddy Behrendt, Bill Dunkel, Pete McDonald, Phil McDuffie, Cathy Stover, or Michael Simonds.





# Green Up Vermont

## Green Up Day ~ May 7th, 2016 ~ 46th Year!

### Help Needed for Green Up Day, May 7

by Marcia Clinton

The first Saturday of May is Green Up Day all over Vermont. Green Up's mission is to promote the stewardship of our state's natural landscape and waterways and the livability of our communities. This is accomplished by involving people in Green Up Day and raising public awareness about the benefits of a litter-free environment. Last year 21,000 volunteers collected more than 40,000 bags of trash statewide!

On May 7th, everyone, from the very young to the mature, are invited to meet at the Windham Town Office at 9 AM to pick up collection bags and decide on assignments around the town. The bags are available now at the Town Office for those who wish to do some trash picking early, at their convenience. Just note on the clipboard the roads you are cleaning and how many bags you are taking. The filled green bags can be left at the side of the road for pick up later by the town road crew.

For tramping through the high grass and brush along the roadsides, it is imperative that everyone wear clothing that completely covers the arms and legs. Wear boots and heavy duty gloves, and use an insect repellent to protect against ticks.

At 12 noon that Saturday, there will be a Worker Appreciation Lunch at the Windham Meeting House for all volunteers, compliments of the Windham Community Organization. Hot dogs, chips, soda and cookies will be served. After the lunch the "Bragging Rights" prizes will be awarded. Some of the categories are for the weirdest item found, largest number of bags collected, and longest distance covered.

We who live here believe Windham is a special place, so Green Up Day is a chance to show our pride for our town when we all pitch in and clean up the roadways. If you have questions, call Marcia Clinton, chair, at 875-3531. Come out and help!

### Here's How to Avoid Ticks & Lyme Disease

by Marcia Clinton

Ticks, which can transmit Lyme disease, are becoming more common in Vermont. Ticks hide out in high grass, bushy vegetation and leaf litter through the warm season waiting for a warm body to pass by that can provide a blood meal. Although deer get most of the blame for the Lyme epidemic, the most important players in the disease cycle are white-footed mice and chipmunks.

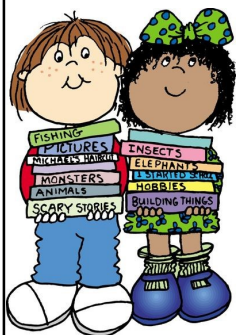
Before heading outside, apply insect repellent with up to 30% DEET. Treat clothes with permethrin. Wear light-colored clothing (the better to spot ticks), long sleeves and long pants. Tuck pants into socks or wear gaiters to keep ticks away from skin. Do a daily head-to-toe tick check on yourself, children, and pets.

Divide your property into tick-safe and wildlife zones. Keep patios and play areas away from woodland edges and tall grass. Keep brush and wood piles away from your house.

For serious tick problems, there are bait boxes designed to brush a small amount of fipronil onto mice and chipmunks that move through the boxes unharmed. The new biopesticide, Met52, is lethal to ticks but non-toxic to bees and birds. Used in conjunction with the rodent-treatment boxes, spraying Met52 in the late spring and early summer to kill tick nymphs has shown to have a reduction rate of more than 78%.

An informational booklet about Lyme disease prevention and a tick card for tick identification are available in the Town Office and Library.





## Library Bestseller List

by John Hoover

Sometime ago I saw a tote bag with the inscription, "So many books, so little time!" This is much the way the trustees at the Windham Town Library feel; there are so many good books being published, but rather than time, it's the constraints of budget and space that preclude our purchasing more than a small fraction of them. What we try to do when ordering books is to first respond to individual requests. If someone comes to us and asks for a particular title we'll try really hard to get it for them, especially if we think others might be interested in it. Secondly, we look at the best-seller lists and try to find books that we think people in Windham will borrow, and thirdly, we try to keep our collection up-to-date with some of the most recent bestsellers.

For this article, I took a look at the *New York Times* hardcover and paperback fiction and non-fiction bestseller lists to see how we are doing. While we come nowhere close to having all the bestselling books, I was surprised at

the number and range of bestsellers we do have on our shelves. The Windham Library "Best Sellers" list includes:

*11/23/63* by Stephen King; *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr; *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande; *Finders Keepers* by Stephen King; *I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai; *Me Before You* by JoJo Moyes; *Memory Man* by David Baldacci; *The Boys In the Boat* by Daniel James Brown; *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins; *The Guilty* by David Baldacci; *The Little Paris Bookshop* by Nina George; *The Martian* by Andrew Weir; *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah (our book club selection for May); *The Rainbow Comes and Goes* by Anderson Cooper and Gloria Vanderbilt; *The Summer Before the War* by Helen Simonson.

Stop by the library any Wednesday from 3 PM to 5 PM to borrow any of these bestsellers, to browse the shelves to see what else we have in our collection or just to have a cup of coffee or tea, a treat, or some good conversation. You can also sign on to our fiber optic internet connection. And if you want us to order something you can't find on our shelves, please discuss it with us.

## ICE CREAM SOCIAL!

Come and celebrate summer with an ice cream sundae, banana split, or other frozen creation on **Sunday, June 26 from 6-8 PM at the Windham Meeting House**. Donations are welcome at this very popular event that helps to support the Windham Summer Day Camp. There will be a second ice cream social on August 14, same time and place. Contact Dave Crittenden to volunteer or for more information at 874-4049. Hope to see you all there!



## News from Windham School Board

by Caroline Partridge

The members of the Windham School Board thank the voters of the Town of Windham for their strong support of our FY2017 budget. The school continues to flourish with wonderful opportunities for our students. We may be small in size but that also allows us to do things other schools might not have the chance to do.

We have been participating in the Act 46 conversation, though it is hard to know what the path forward will be. The Windham Central Supervisory Union has a very diverse group of schools regarding grade levels and school choice, and Act 46 generally requires that every member of a consolidated district have the same parameters. It should be noted that Windham Elementary School is "geographically necessary" according to the Agency of Education, and technically we don't need to participate.

The role school boards play as a liaison to the community is very important and should continue. The school board should also be instrumental in building the school budget and making a recommendation to the larger board were this act to go forward. After all, how would a Newfane resident know what the Windham School needs and vice-versa?

There is also a strong feeling that the only people who should be able to close the school are the voters of Windham. We have been told that that can be written into

the Articles of Agreement, but our understanding is that once the new governance board is formed, that board could vote to close the school after five years. That is an area where we need clarification because that would not be acceptable.

We will be developing a list of educational opportunities that our students have currently. Since the goal of Act 46 is to increase educational opportunity, any change in governance would have to assure that our students continue to have the same opportunities, as well as others.

Our meetings are usually on the first Monday of the month at 4 PM, and our next two meetings will be on May 2 and June 6. Meetings during the summer may vary, so make sure to touch base before coming.

## Vacation Bible School

June 27 - July 1

Monday- Friday 9:30 AM - 12 Noon

Ages 4 - 12

Theme "Cowabunga!"

All are welcome! Come join the fun!

Crafts\* Music\* Puppets\* Games\* Skits\* Snacks

Call Valley Bible Church at 874-7267

or Susan Persa at 874-4057 for information.

## Windham School Children Learn about Farming and Much More

by Gail Wyman and Sally Newton

We are coming towards the end of our first full year of the Farm School Program with Meadows Bee Farm. It has been an exciting, learning experience for the students involved. We have been going to the farm once a week to help with the farm chores: feeding, watering and caring for the animals, collecting eggs, and milking the cows.



We have also been involved in a number of interesting projects at the farm. We planted garlic in the fall, greens in the green house, and clover in the fields. We watched sheep be shorn, and we cleaned, carded and spun the wool. We shucked corn off the husks, ground it by hand, baked delicious corn muffins, and planted the corn seed that was saved. We also observed bees, examined hives, and helped to harvest honey.

The children have kept farm journals, writing and drawing about their experiences. They researched about animals and plants and shared their new knowledge through making their own books and posters. They also had fun writing stories from the point of view of farm animals. The children worked hard to learn about certain animals or aspects of farming and earned badges in recognition of their accomplishments.



Right now the primary class is working on a puppet show about farming and pollinators that will be performed on two different dates: **Thursday, May 12 at 7:00 PM and Saturday, May 14 at 4:00 PM.** Please come and enjoy the show.

Mr. PJ'S fifth graders will be going to Keewaydin the week of May 2nd. Keewaydin is a camp where their time away from home is far too short. For four days, they will eat three meals family style. Each night they will sit around a campfire, sing songs, and tell and listen to stories. They will also splash in a large mud hole for frogs (which will get released), canoe, and climb a mountain. Keewaydin will be one of their major school experiences.

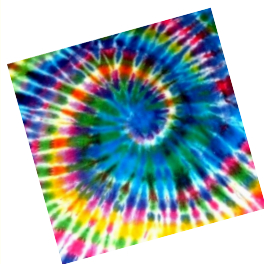


One day per week on Tuesdays, we have a hot lunch at the school. It can be an enjoyable gourmet experience: awesome chicken tacos with rice, freshly made salsa, lettuce, sour cream, cheese, and lettuce; blood oranges; cheese quesadillas; chicken parmesan; hot soups; veggie sticks; and mandarin oranges. Even the grilled cheese sandwiches made with French bread are a delight.

Almost every other Friday night at West Townshend Country Store, there is some sort of event our students participate in. It could be a poetry or reading night. They might play their ukuleles or sing for the audience. (Sally has ukulele classes for students after school every Tuesday and Thursday.) These kids do not seem to know about stage fright.

## Windham Summer Day Camp

by Cindy Kehoe



The Windham Meeting House will be the site of all kinds of fun again this summer. I will be back to lead the group in many fun and exciting activities.

The dates are July 11-15 and July 18-22. Children three years (who are willing to leave Mom) and older are invited to join us. The hours are Monday through Thursday 9 AM to 1 PM and Fridays 9 AM to 12:30 PM. The registration fees per week are as follows: \$20 for the first child in a family; \$10 for the second child in the same family; \$5 for the third child in the same family. Fees are payable on Monday of each week. All children are welcome to attend. Children can come for a whole week or just a day or two. On Fridays we go swimming and welcome parents' help with transportation.

Some of the favorite activities are hula hoop and loom/chair mats, tie-dying t-shirts, building, painting and planting flower boxes, making bead and macramé

bracelets and necklaces, gluing and painting popsicle stick creations, scrap wood creations, face painting, small projects with fleece, creations from recyclables, playing with bubbles, nature walks and scavenger hunts, and kickball or whiffle ball outside.

The sandbox is an outside favorite. Does anyone have any sand toys to donate? This summer I hope to make mini-terrariums (didn't get to them last summer) and sewing or crochet projects. The children love cooking and baking and making their own nutritious snacks and lunch each day.

If you have any ideas or special projects you might like to share with us, please let me know. Or just join us for a day. The more adults, the more projects get done. Does anyone have any small wood scraps, yarn or fabric to share? The children love to glue and paint their own projects.



Any questions? Call me at 874-7028. See you in July!



## For Michael, It's All About the Journey

by Mary McCoy

Throughout my years of writing features of town residents, there's one person I've avoided having as my topic. I've been saving him for a time like now when my plans to interview someone else have been postponed, and the deadline looms. I don't even need to interview this subject. He's my husband, Michael Simonds.

I'll stick with the usual background info and throw in some insights only a wife can have, like how our phone rings frequently with calls related to his work as Windham's head lister, zoning administrator, 911 coordinator, energy coordinator, and justice of the peace, and how he provides clear and thorough information, often touched with humor and always with respect.

Michael is the oldest of eight children, born and raised near Allentown/Bethlehem, PA. He was president of his senior class and held the school record for free-throw shooting. His dream of playing in the NBA was dashed when he went to the University of Pennsylvania and didn't make the team. He grew long hair and a beard, like others in the late 1960s, although that look stood out among his fellow engineering students. Michael found his niche in a group of fun-loving hippies who remain his close friends to this day.

He next earned a Masters Degree in Social Restoration and spent three years working with emotionally disturbed teens. That work, he realized, fit him no better than engineering had. To gain deeper insight into himself, he turned a van into a home and traveled for three years throughout the U.S. and Mexico.

During a summer off from teaching, Michael had learned carpentry skills when he and his brother built a house for their parents. He realized he loved working with his hands. So after his odyssey, he settled in Boston and made his living doing home renovations. He also bought a dilapidated house for next to nothing in Jamaica Plain, a run-down area that was beginning to come back, and later sold it at what seemed to him a fortune.

Gardening has been a passion of Michael's since he was 12 and spent 25 cents on a stack of old *Organic Gardening* magazines. He and others started a community garden in Jamaica Plain, including a man looking for a partner for a landscaping business. That resulted in Michael pursuing another occupation for 12 years. Eventually, city life got to him, and he followed a long-held dream to live in rural Vermont.

In 1996, he started construction on his current home on Old Cheney Road and entered yet another profession, hospitality. He got a job at the Windham Hill Inn and also turned his home into a B&B. That lasted until I came along.

We had first met through mutual friends in the 1980s. He'd visited my home in Cincinnati, but there had been no romantic sparks. We didn't see each other again until 2002

when we visited our friends on the same weekend. That time the sparks flew! Eight months and several visits later, I moved here.

Michael had built the house on Old Cheney as a one-family, then converted the lower level into an apartment for an income source. When I joined him, he was ready to get out of the B&B business, tired of getting up at 6:00 to prepare breakfast, as he was also working at the inn and as a carpenter and town official. So he turned the main part of the house into a rental and added a new apartment for us.

Now we're onto another building adventure that combines our strong commitments to conservation and green energy and our desire for an elder-friendly home. Michael has playfully named it "Geezers' Palace." Solar generators have been installed, and construction of a barn-house nears completion. Next up is building our final, super energy-efficient home.

Geezers' Palace will also be completely wheelchair accessible. We're both determined to live at home until our deaths, and we know most people go to nursing homes because their houses aren't accommodating. Geezers' Palace will have extra rooms for a few other older folks to join us who share our determination to stay independent.

I'm amazed by all Michael knows how to do and how flexible and able he is. I wonder what he'll tackle after Geezers' Palace is completed. One thing is certain, it's the journey and not the destination that matters most to him, and I'm mighty glad I've joined him for this adventure.



Michael Simonds

### NEW TOWN OFFICE HOURS !

MONDAY 12 NOON - 4:00 PM

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY

8:30 AM - 12 and 12:30 - 4:30 PM

CLOSED THURSDAY & FRIDAY

& FEDERAL HOLIDAYS





## Remembering Edna

by Mary Chittenden Aller

*The Brattleboro Reformer* and its companion weekly, *The Vermont Phoenix*, like many small-town newspapers, published columns of

local news from surrounding towns and villages for more than half of the last century. (*The Phoenix* folded in 1955.) Every week, towns in the West River Valley had columns in the paper with news of town events including who was visiting from out of town and whose garden was producing vegetables and flowers. It made for pleasant reading for folks who knew and frequently were related to just about everyone who was mentioned.

Miss Edna Winship was the correspondent for Windham during the 1950s. She was well qualified for the job as she came from a noted newspaper family: she was related to Thomas Winship, who was editor of *The Boston Globe* from 1965 through 1984. Not only was she deeply involved in the activities of the town, but she also served two terms in the state legislature as Windham's representative, starting at age 74.

Edna brought a clear understanding of town events, as

well as an exceptional appreciation of the surrounding natural world, to her columns. Here are a few examples:

*October 19, 1951* – On Sunday, with no service at the church, several people went down to Townshend to church, and others, including David Newton and the boys from the [Newton] School, aided by Duane Clarke, had a wood-cutting bee for the Center Church and the library.

*November 2, 1951* – Bob Stowell killed seven 'coons last week. Many of his neighbors have been enjoying the roasts, accompanied by cranberry sauce made from berries from the few remaining wild cranberry bogs on the mountain.

*November 9, 1951* – The school population has been increased by six new pupils recently, children of loggers' families. This brings the registration to 25.

*December, 1951* – The pine grosbeaks enjoy the weather this week, with good digging on soft, green grass. When the clouds get off the mountain at about 5 o'clock in the morning, we can see the three stars in Orion's belt, resting on the tops of the spruces on the ridge, just before they drop down into 'Derry. It's worth getting up to see.

Edna died in 1966. We miss her and we miss reading about our town of Windham as seen through her eyes.

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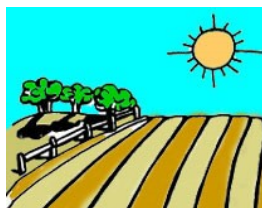
## Vermont Legislature Approaches Session's End

by Carolyn Partridge

We are coming down the homestretch of the legislative session. With any luck, we will be done by May 7th. The most important bill – the Budget or “Big” Bill – and the associated bills that fund it – the Fee and Tax Bills – were passed by the House and are being worked on by the Senate.

The House Agriculture and Forest Products Committee was very happy that the Working Lands Enterprise Initiative, initially funded at \$711,000, was given a \$189,000 bump up to \$900,000. This is all State money and does not include the very generous gift made recently by Charlie and Leigh Merinoff – thank you Charlie and Leigh!

The Working Lands Enterprise Initiative has been a very effective program that has a fabulous track record at creating jobs and increasing economic output. It is one of the shining stars of Results-Based Accountability (RBA), which is one of the reasons it was appropriated additional



funding. Hopefully, it will make it through the Senate with at least the same amount of money.

There are a number of other bills still in play, and the hope is that they will be finalized before the session ends. When this year comes to a close,

all the bills that haven't made it will be dead until next year when the process of bill drafting starts over again.

For the rest of the session, I can be reached at the State House by calling toll-free 1-800-322-5616. The sergeant at arms will deliver a message to me, and I will get back to you as soon as possible. I can also be reached via email at [cpartridge@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:cpartridge@leg.state.vt.us). Once the session ends, I am available by telephone at home at 802-874-4182. During the session, I write a weekly column that is usually printed in the *Brattleboro Reformer* on Mondays, or you can visit my website to read them – [www.carolynpartridge.com](http://www.carolynpartridge.com). Please do not hesitate to contact me with concerns, thoughts, and ideas. Together, we govern!

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## The Beaver Deceiver at Burbee Pond

by Skip Lisle

Windham recently purchased a Beaver Deceiver™ (BD) to control damming behavior at the Burbee Pond bridge. This site has been a longstanding conflict point that likely started when beavers began to recover from the fur trade (ca. 1600-1900) in the mid - 1900s. Since then, history has followed the classic, recurrent “boom and exhume” cycle - kill the beavers, dig the culvert out with a backhoe. It’s an inefficient process and, because beavers are a keystone species (uniquely valuable ecologically), it’s also poor stewardship. Furthermore, an effective extirpation policy eliminates a fascinating species that many people enjoy watching.



The problem has been ongoing partly because of the common misconception that “killing” is an enduring remedy. Humans frequently seem unaware that the beavers they eliminate are not the last ones on earth. Particularly in good habitat, replacement animals usually arrive fairly soon.

Another factor delaying a true solution is that effective, high quality “flow devices,” or BDs, have not been available until recently.

Windham’s new strategy began last year when Josh Dryden and Jon Gordon of the road crew wisely built a rock wall at the mouth of the bridge to encourage the beavers to build a dam there instead of inside the culvert where it’s difficult to remove. However, the beavers would continue to dam the wall until water levels threatened the West Windham Road. So the dam would have to be removed intermittently. Acting in conjunction with the wall, the BD is meant to sneak water away from the beavers through a pipe with a large filter (beaver out, water in) on the end of it. By holding water at a lower average level, the pipe system will help control damming behavior and thus might eliminate the need to ever have to clean the wall. Through this elimination of maintenance and need to kill beavers, taxpayers will save money while one of Windham’s ecological gems - Burbee Pond - will be a richer, more interesting habitat.

## Fire Company Responds to Calls, Hosts Open House

by Marcia Clinton



The Windham Volunteer Fire Company recently responded to the following calls:

March 27 - Rt. 121 motor vehicle accident - 4 responded.

March 31 - West Townshend mutual aid - 2 responded.

April 7 - Windham Hill Rd. chimney fire - 8 responded.

April 8 - Burpee Pond Rd. automatic fire alarm - 5 responded

The term “wildland fire” includes all brush, grass and forest fires. The majority of these fires burn in the spring after snowmelt when weather conditions are favorable for drying wildland fuels – dead grasses, leaves and twigs. Burning debris is the most common cause of wildland fires in Vermont.

**Open burning is only allowed in Windham with a permit from the Town Forest Fire Warden.** In Windham the fire wardens who can issue permits are Rick Weitzel at 874-4104 and Ralph Wyman at 875-3373.

**On Saturday, May 21st the Windham Fire Co. is having an open house in North Windham from 1 to 4 PM.** All are invited to come see the new fire truck and learn about the equipment on board to fight fires. The firemen will show and explain the gear they wear, and equipment they use in fire fighting.

Fire Co. members will also offer all you need to make-your-own sundaes that day. Stop by, check out the new fire truck, and have some ice cream.



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## Spring Festival on May 7th at the West Townshend Store

The West River Community Project will be holding a spring festival behind the West Townshend Country Store on Saturday, May 7 from 2-5 PM.

There will be delicious food, old time and bluegrass music, a raffle, and activities for kids. Plants will be for sale to help get your garden started, and a seed swap. At 3 PM there will be a Maypole dance. Instructions will be given. Kids and adults are encouraged to participate. Come join the fun. (Date moved from May 1)



### WARNING!

It's time to take in your bird feeders! **The bears are hungry,** and they find an easy meal at your feeders. Vermont fines anyone whose bird feeder causes a bear to be killed because they have become a danger or a nuisance. Take in the seed and hang out your hummingbird feeders instead. The hummers should be arriving any day now!



## Summer Events from Grace Cottage Hospital

### May 7, "Spring into Health" 5K to benefit Grace Cottage Hospital.

8:30 AM start at the Townshend Common (famous for being the filming location for the Chevy Chase movie *Funny Farm*). Participants are welcome to run, walk, or stroll in this family-friendly fund-raiser for the local hospital. \$20 for 13 & up. Free for 12 & under. Free "Fun Run" for ages 8 and under at 9:15 AM. Performance T-shirts for first 100 registrants. Rain or shine. Same day registration allowed at 8:00 AM. Pre-register online at [www.gracecottage.org/events](http://www.gracecottage.org/events) or call 802-365-9109.

### June 11, "Tee It Up for Health" Golf Tournament to benefit Grace Cottage Hospital.

Enjoy a spectacular afternoon of golf at the exclusive Hermitage Club at Haystack Mountain in Wilmington. 12:00 lunch, 1:00 shotgun start. A player fee of \$150 includes lunch, greens fees, golf cart, logo wear, contests, and an awards dinner served in the clubhouse following the tournament. Register online at [www.gracecottage.org/events](http://www.gracecottage.org/events) or call 802-365-9109.

### July 9, Tour de Grace Bicycle Rally benefit Grace Cottage Hospital

Start 8-10AM from Stratton Mountain base. For more info call 365-9109.

### August 6, Grace Cottage Hospital Fair Day, 9 AM to 5 PM

## Haiku

When my life-companion is in the  
woods, cutting trees

I hear tree fall. THUD.  
I hear chain saw start again.  
Ahh! Not dead.

by Nancy Tips



## ELECTRONICS COLLECTION EVENT SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2016 9 AM - 1 PM FLOOD BROOK UNION SCHOOL WHAT TO BRING:

\*Computers \*Monitors \*Televisions \*Copiers  
\*Microwaves \*FAX Machines \*Typewriters  
\*VCRs and anything else with a cord  
For information call 824-3306.

## HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2016 9 AM - 1 PM FLOOD BROOK UNION SCHOOL WHAT TO BRING:

Any substance with a label that says:  
Caustic\*Toxic\*Corrosive\*Poison\*Combustible  
\*Warning \*Danger \*Caution  
BOTH LATEX and OIL BASED PAINT  
Officer Greg Gould will be on site to collect  
PRESCRIPTION DRUGS.  
No liquid drugs and no sharps (needles).  
For information call 824-3306.

### Town Contacts

Town Clerk: Jo-Jo Chlebogiannis, 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 Road Crew: Josh Dryden and Jon Gordon, phone: 874-7025 at the Town Garage  
Town Listers: Michael Simonds, chair, phone: 874-4790; email: [michael@windhamcountryhouse.com](mailto:michael@windhamcountryhouse.com)  
Select Board: Frank Seawright, chair, phone: 875-1555; email: [fseawright@vermontel.net](mailto:fseawright@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)  
Windham Volunteer Fire and Rescue: Rick Weitzel, phone: 874-4104; Ralph Wyman, phone: 875-3373  
Health Officer: Marcia Clinton; phone: 875-3531; email: [mcClinton@vermontel.net](mailto:mcClinton@vermontel.net)



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submissions. Send articles of about  
300 words to 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:**  
Monday: Noon - 4:00 PM  
Tuesday & Wednesday: 8  
8:30 AM - Noon and  
12:30 PM - 4:30 PM  
**Closed - Thursday, Friday,  
and Holidays** Call 874-4211.

**Planning and Zoning:**  
Second Wednesday of the  
month at 6 PM at the Town  
Office: May 11 & June 8.  
Call Bob Bingham at  
874-9934 to confirm.

**Windham Community  
Organization:**  
Apr 28, May 25, June 29  
7 PM at the Meeting  
House. Call Ellen McDuffie  
at 874-8183 to confirm.

**Windham Congregational  
Church (UCC):**  
Sundays: Worship Services  
at 9:30 AM at the Meeting  
House (downstairs).

**Select Board:**  
1st & 3rd Mondays  
May 2 & 16,  
June 6 & 20 at 6:30 PM at  
the Town Office; Open  
meetings. Agenda posted.

**Library:**  
Every Wednesday, 3-5 PM  
at the Meeting House.  
Book Group: 1st Wednesday  
May 4 & June 1 at 3 PM at  
the Meeting House.

**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.

**School Board:**  
First Monday of the month,  
May 2 & June 6 at 4 PM at  
the Elementary School.  
Call Antje at 874-4759.

**Volunteer Fire Company:**  
First Thursday of the  
month at 6 PM at the  
Firehouse;  
May 5 & June 2  
Heavy refreshments  
served.

**Listers:**  
Every Wednesday  
9 AM- Noon at the Town  
Office.

**May 1 : West Townshend Spring Festival 2-5 PM**

**May 7 : Green Up Day 9 AM Lunch at Noon**

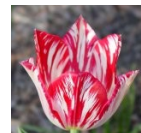
**May 10 : Windham Community-Wide Meeting 6:30 PM**

**May 12 & 14 : Windham School Puppet Show May 12, 7 PM; May 14, 4 PM**

**May 21 : Fire Company Open House 1-4 PM**

**June 26 : Ice Cream Social 6-8 PM**

**SAVE THE DATES**





# How do you get Windham's news?



## By supporting the *Windham News & Notes*

The next issue of the *News & Notes* begins our **14th** year of bi-monthly publication. We have an all-volunteer staff and depend on your annual support to cover the cost of production and mailing. Like public radio and public TV, we ask you to contribute whatever you can, with the usual contribution being \$10. Your support will ensure that you and others receive Windham's own news source for another year. We appreciate your support!

**Print this page, fill it out completely and mail to:**

**Windham Community Organization, 5976 Windham Hill Road, Windham, VT 05359.**

**Include your check or money order made payable to the Windham Community Organization.**

*Please note on the memo line: News & Notes.*

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(Town)

(State/Zip)

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I want to receive emailed notices of events in Windham and nearby towns.

☐

I want to receive emailed notices from the town office regarding town government.

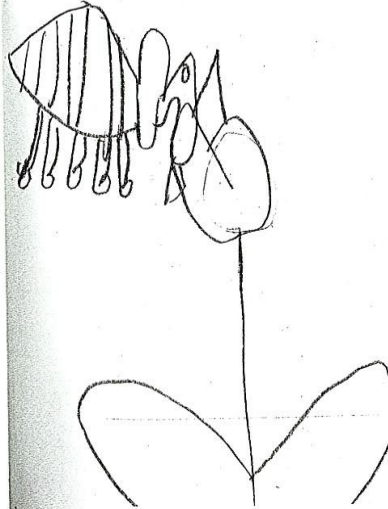
**My email address is:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Farm Drawings

by WES Students



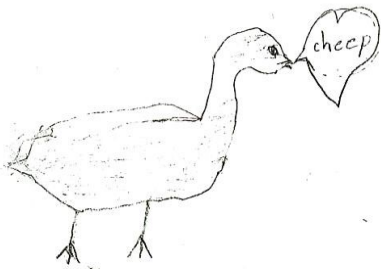
A black and yellow bee.  
On a flower.  
collecting nectar.  
And bringing it in the hive.  
By Anna.



Helena

Helena

This baby turkey is 4/12/16  
named Dopy Bones. He is  
my favorite. He is two weeks  
old.



MEADOWS Bee farm  
the  
Jersey cow.

Celeste By Lucca





*Installation of Beaver Deceiver*





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**ELECTRONICS  
COLLECTION EVENT**  
**SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2016 9AM - 1PM**



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[www.londonderryvt.org](http://www.londonderryvt.org) (click on link)**

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- \*Microwaves \*FAX Machines \*Typewriters**
- \*VCRs and anything else with a cord**



## **HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY**



**Saturday, June 4, 2016 and  
Saturday, October 1, 2016  
9am – 1pm**



**Flood Brook Union School  
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*Residents & Businesses of the following towns only:*

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**Free to Households, Businesses Must Pre-register and Pay for Disposal**

### **WHAT TO BRING**

**ANY SUBSTANCE WITH A LABEL THAT SAYS "CAUSTIC, TOXIC, CORROSIVE, POISON, COMBUSTIBLE, WARNING, DANGER OR CAUTION"**

**FROM THE GARAGE:** Antifreeze, Brake Fluid, Transmission Fluid, Engine Degreaser, Carburetor Cleaner, Gas Treatments, Creosote, Radiator Flusher, Roofing Tar, Asphalt and A/C Refrigerants.

**FROM THE WORKBENCH:** Rust proofer, Paint Thinners, Degreaser, Lead & Oil based Paints, Sealants, Solvents, Varnish, Wood Preservatives, W/Polish, Wood Stripers and Stains, Deck Wash.

**FROM THE GARDEN SHED:** Pesticides, Insect Sprays, Pool Chemicals, Flea Powder, Fertilizers, Herbicides, Rodent Killers, Muriatic Acid, No-Pest Strips, Lighter Fluid.

**FROM THE HOUSE:** Drain Cleaner, Floor Cleaner, Furniture Polish, Arts & Craft Chemicals, Mercury Batteries, Photo Chemicals, Oven Cleaner, Chemistry Kits, Metal Polish, Moth Balls, Toilet Cleaner, Rug & Upholstery Cleaners.

\*\*Both latex and oil based paints will be accepted at the collection

\*\*\*June 4<sup>th</sup> - Officer Greg Gould will be at the collection to take your prescription drugs  
(No liquids or sharps/needles)

### **WHAT NOT TO BRING**

**Electronics** check the web site for dates of electronics collection

**Empty Aerosol cans** can be recycle with scrap metal at the Transfer Station

**Rechargeable and Primary Batteries** (AA, AAA, C, D etc) Bring to Londonderry Hardware, Sigda's Hardware, Londonderry Town Office, Londonderry Transfer Station Recycle Center

**Automotive Batteries** can be exchanged at or given to local garages and auto parts stores

**Used Clean Motor Oil** Can be brought to West River Auto or Hunter Excavating

**Fluorescent Light Tubes/Bulbs** can be taken to Londonderry Hardware Store or Sigda's Servistar

**Ammunition & Explosives** contact your local police department

**Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Detectors**

**Propane Tanks** can be exchanged or refilled at propane distributors or Londonderry Hardware

**Medical sharps (needles)** place in rigid, puncture-resistant container such as a detergent bottle with cap sealed with duct tape. Label container "Not For Recycling, Sharps". Dispose of in trash.

**Asbestos** in any form. You will need to contact an asbestos abatement company.

For information email [londonrecycle@vermontel.net](mailto:londonrecycle@vermontel.net)  
Call Esther Fishman 824-3306 or visit [www.londonderryvt.org](http://www.londonderryvt.org)