

Volume 14, No. 5



March - April 2017



Windham News & Notes



IT'S TIME FOR TOWN MEETING DAY!



From Jo-Jo's Desk

Greetings, Windhamites, on this glorious snowy day (*when written*), which never fails to make me feel like a kid again!

Well, it has been quite the introduction for me, to life as Town Clerk, this past year. Busy, busy, busy! I have learned so much and continue to do so. I hope I am servicing your needs well.

The ACT 46 Proposal vote will be voted by Australian ballot (pre-printed paper ballot) on Town Meeting Day, March 7. The polls will open at 9 AM for this vote, and will remain open until 7 PM at the Meeting House. You may vote early/absentee on this issue at the Town Office prior to March 7.

The procedure for voting at Town Meeting, both for ACT 46 and for any paper ballot votes, will be the same as it was for the General Election in November. You will begin Check-In by stating your full name and physical address. You will then receive a ballot and go to the voting booth to mark your ballot, fold the ballot in half, proceed to the Check-Out poll worker, state your name and address again, and then deposit your ballot in the locked ballot box. Please be sure the poll worker checks off your name.

During Town Meeting, I would like to verify your correct mailing address. In order for you to access the state elections website, I must also verify and update your date of birth, drivers license and social security number. Without this pertinent information, you cannot access the state elections

website for yourself. It gives you more control, ultimately, of your voter registration, if ALL of your information is correctly entered into the state registration system.

I will also be registering dogs at Town Meeting as a convenience for you. Give me a call, email or stop by the Town Office to see if your dog's rabies vaccination is still valid. If so, you can register your pet on Town Meeting Day. Or if you have an updated vaccination receipt, bring that with you, along with your check book or cash. Fees are: neutered or spayed, \$10; intact males, females and wolf hybrids, \$14. Penalties are assessed after April 1. By Vermont state law, ALL dogs, including kenneled dogs and wolf hybrids, MUST be vaccinated for rabies and MUST be registered each year in the Town Office, April 1 - March 31. If your dog has recently been spayed or neutered, please bring the certificate from your veterinarian. It must be kept on file in the Town Office.

My hours have changed in order to best serve you. The Town Office is now open Monday afternoons from noon until 4 PM, Tuesday evenings from 4 PM - 8 PM, and Wednesday mornings from 8 AM until noon. Remember, I can always meet you after hours at a mutually agreeable time if you need my services. I am still closed on Thursday and Friday and all federally observed holidays.

Be well all, and enjoy the remaining winter. Summer will be here before you know it!

Jo-Jo

TOWN MEETING, TUESDAY, MARCH 7, at 10 AM

at the MEETING HOUSE

VOTE on TOWN OFFICERS, ARTICLES and ACT 46 PROPOSAL

Please Bring a Potluck Dish to Share and \$1 for Drinks & Paper Goods

House and Senate Bills of Interest to Windham

from Frank Seawright

The House Government Operations Committee has taken testimony on H.42, a bill that would let voters authorize selectboards to appoint town clerks and treasurers. State law currently only allows for town clerks and treasurers to be elected. In recent years, several towns have had to go through the long and cumbersome process of adopting or amending their municipal charter to secure the authority to appoint either a clerk or treasurer, whose positions are becoming more professional, and their workloads more demanding. Most municipal operations today approach or exceed the \$1 million mark, and the related fiscal responsibilities have grown equally in complexity. Smaller communities also have the additional problem of finding willing and qualified candidates to fill these positions. Read about H.42 at: <http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.42>.

Also in this session, two bills – S.13 in the Senate and H.13 in the House – have been introduced to allow municipalities to recover the costs of remediating an abandoned property. After discussion with representatives from the Vermont Bankers

Association in the Senate, S.13 was amended to specify which costs would be allowed in the case of a property going forward to tax sale for non-payment of taxes. The bill voted out of the Senate Government Operations Committee would provide for towns to recover “expenses actually and reasonably incurred by the town in securing a property for which property taxes are delinquent against illegal activity and fire hazards, to be paid to the town clerk, provided that the expenses shall not exceed 20 percent of the uncollected tax.” S.13 also stipulates that the municipality “may secure the property against illegal activity and potential fire hazards after giving the mortgagee or lien holder of record written notice at least ten days prior to such action.” That would give the lien holder ten days to secure the property on their own.

This legislation may be of particular interest to Windham just now, and one can read about and track these bills online as follows, S.13 at: <http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/S.13>; and H.13 at: <http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.13>.



Road/Highway Garage Comments

from Kord Scott

* Due to the icy conditions this winter, many residents have stopped by the highway garage for sand. Just a reminder, the town has a policy that covers this issue.

Residents are welcome to take a reasonable quantity of sand for personal, not commercial, use. Josh has a copy of the policy and will post and/or hand it out as necessary.

* Mailboxes are always at risk during plowing season. The road crew tries their best to avoid damaging them, but sometimes it cannot be avoided. The town is not responsible for that damage or the cost of replacement.

* There have been a few problems with residents leaving personal property in the “Right of Way”. So everyone understands, the state and/or town has the legal right to utilize the area adjacent to the road on both sides – in order to maintain safe roadways. While the actual dimensions of that area may vary somewhat, it is safe to assume that approximately the first 12 feet from the edge of a two lane paved road, is the area that needs to be kept clear. Unpaved roads are slightly different, but using a similar assumption of 12 feet from the road side, would be a safe



assumption.

* It is obvious that Windham Hill Road from the school to Wheeler Road, and again in South Windham has some serious frost heaving and asphalt problems. Our engineer is aware of this, and is working on refining the paving plans and timetable for these areas.

...and from Frank Seawright

Another bill which will have an effect on our roads is House bill H.148. To read more about this bill go to: <http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.148>.

H.148 would increase from 99,000 pounds to 107,000 pounds, the maximum authorized weight of truck combinations with six or more axles, that may lawfully operate on Vermont highways under a special DMV annual overweight permit. This would allow an extra 8,000 pounds of weight on our roads. It would specify a \$700 fee for vehicles to be permitted for a weight from 99,000 pounds to 107,000 pounds, due to the damage these heavy trucks have on our roads statewide. The state fee for the annual permit shall be \$415 for vehicles bearing up to 90,000 pounds, and \$560 for vehicles bearing 90,000 to 99,000 pounds. If passed as introduced, this act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.



Tuning-Up for Town Meeting *from Maureen Bell*

Recently our Town and School Meeting Moderator, Michael McLaine, and I had the opportunity to attend a workshop entitled Town Meeting Tune-up. At the workshop, I learned (and Mike was reminded) about Parliamentary Procedure and Robert's Rules of Order. These are the basic rules under which Town Meeting takes place.

We learned the ins/outs of running a successful Town Meeting from long-serving Moderators, the State's Director of Elections, and even from a former Governor.

Town Meeting is everyone's meeting - the Moderator is there to keep it on topic, orderly and legitimate- but the meeting belongs to the people. We, in Vermont, are so fortunate to still be able to participate in Town Meeting, as it is one of the simplest and purest forms of democracy. So please, when the Town's Annual Report arrives, read it, be ready to ask questions, and come prepared to be a part of Town Meeting on Tuesday, March 7.

Editor's Note: Please notice in your Town Report that we will be voting for two Listers and two School Board Directors, but each position has a different term length. The shorter term represents a resignation from office by an official who did not serve out their full term. Alison Cumming is running for re-election as Lister for a full 3-year term and Meredith Tips-McLaine is running to serve out a vacated 2-year term. Carolyn Partridge is running for re-election as School Director for a full 3-year term and Barbara Davis is running to serve out a vacated 2-year term.

Hi to all,

Regretfully, after 15 years of service, I must resign from the Library Trustee position. My health is the only consideration here. I have enjoyed my time at the library immensely and will miss it. It was my good habit every Wednesday, to bake cookies and recommend great books. What could be better than that?

I would like to recommend Maureen Bell to replace me, should she choose to pursue the position. She is at the library every week, and loves it as much as I do.

Thanks! Bev Carmichael



Maureen Bell for Library Trustee

What's the best-kept secret in Windham? It very well could be the Windham Library! Housed on the main floor of the Meeting House, and open only two short hours a week, the library is the place to be on Wednesday afternoons.

It's not your typical library where the staff shushes you all the time. In fact, it is a wonderful gathering place for friends and neighbors, where thinking and conversation, as well as reading, are encouraged. There is something for everyone.

I feel a much deeper connection to our community when I spend time there. I would be honored to serve as a Library Trustee, and perhaps bring this connection to others. The Windham Library is a gem, not to be missed!

FILE FOR YOUR HOMESTEAD TAX EXEMPTION

Resident property owners **MUST** file **EACH YEAR** for the **HOMESTEAD TAX EXEMPTION (FORM HS-122). THIS MUST BE FILED ON OR BEFORE APRIL 15 (Income Tax Day).**

This form is usually filed each year with your Vermont State Income Tax return. However, if you do not file income taxes or are filing for an extension, you must still file for the Homestead Tax Exemption every year by the deadline of April 15. Failure to do so incurs substantial penalties and/or loss of homestead status on your property taxes.



WINDHAM NEWS & NOTES

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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: April 15, 2016

**ALL DOGS MUST BE REGISTERED IN
THE TOWN OFFICE BY APRIL 1**

More Candidates Announce For Windham Town Office

(Office listed in order, as on page 3 of Town Report, and then alphabetically by candidate)

Chris Cummings for Selectman

I am declaring my intention to run for the town Selectboard. I've lived in Windham for the last 14 years with my wife, Alison, and her mom, Margaret, and until the past 12 months have been concentrating on maintaining our property and trying to be a good neighbor. With the controversy we've all faced over the last several months, I've had the good fortune to get to know many more townspeople who love our town and feel passionate about where we live and what happens to our community. Several of you have committed significant time and effort to make our town a better place to live, and I have tremendous respect for your work. I'm hopeful to have the opportunity to follow in your footsteps.

As many of you know, I have supported Windham's Planning Commission as liaison between the commission, the town's land-use lawyer, and the Selectboard. In this capacity, I've learned a great deal about the major issues facing the town and its people.

Perhaps fewer know that I am a professional Financial Planner, and have owned my own business for the past 13 years. I work with many local clients to help them plan for their financial future, while avoiding tax and market risk. In my role as adviser, I have fiduciary responsibility to my clients, which simply stated, means I am required to put the client's best interests ahead of my own. It is this same level of commitment to fiduciary responsibility that I wish to bring to the position of Selectboard member. I firmly believe putting the town's best interests ahead of my own is fundamental to being a successful Selectboard member, and I respectfully ask for your support.

Kord Scott for Selectman (Incumbent)

Having served one term on the Selectboard, I seek reelection. I'm honored to serve this town where I have spent so much of my life and that I care about so much. My goal for getting involved in town government was simple - to help the town by using my life's experiences. I am retired from a 40-year career that included owning and managing a business that serviced equipment for commercial, municipal, and industrial organizations.

As select person, I was appointed to be the Road Commissioner, which allowed me to focus attention on road operations and expenses. I am happy to say that Josh, Jon, and Ralph make an excellent road crew team, and I have a good working relationship with them, which is one reason I ask you to support me as

select person. More information about the road work is in the Town Report.

I have heard many residents express concern regarding their property taxes and the quality of town services, and receiving monetary grants helps with both of these. In the past two years, we have received over \$300,000 in road-related grant awards, with a projected commitment for an additional \$700,000. If reelected, I will continue to pursue available grant awards. During my time on the Selectboard, we have made other budget-related progress. In the last two years, we have saved \$66,000 and put \$150,000 into restricted accounts for potential large capital expenditures.

I've also participated in the town's normal business activities, as well as special issues that have come up. I believe it helps to have continuity in town leadership, and if reelected, I will continue to do my best, while following my personal philosophy of listening, respecting differing opinions, and treating all town residents equally and fairly.

Alison Cummings for Lister (3 year term)

I was asked to fill in for a Lister giving up his term several years ago. I have served the town as a Lister since that time, during which I have enjoyed working with and learning from John Hoover and Michael Simonds. I would like to ask for your support as I throw my name into the ring for another term. I believe keeping some continuity in the Listers office allows us to do our best for the town of Windham. Thank you in advance for your support.

Meredith Tips-McLaine for Lister (2 year term)

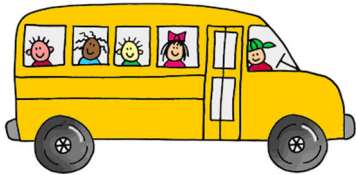
Hi! I'm Meredith Tips-McLaine, and I'm interested in becoming a Lister for the Town of Windham. I moved to Windham in January of 2005 with my husband Mike. I've worked at Springfield (Vermont) Medical Care Systems as a registered nurse for almost twelve years. In 2014, Mike and I were joined by our son Frederick, who is now three, and full of beans. We have a very small farm, two big, hairy, slobbery dogs, and an eye towards being self-sustained. I have also been the secretary for the Windham Fire Company for several years. The recent election got me thinking about my duty to serve my community, and when I learned of the Lister vacancy, I felt that my organizational skills and responsible attitude could benefit my neighbors.

Sincerely, Meredith Tips-McLaine

Maureen Bell for Library Trustee*(See page 3 for Maureen's statement)***Carolyn Partridge for Windham School Director (3 year term)**

I am running for another term on the School Board because I continue to believe that education is the most important investment we make in our children, community, state, and country.

Building a responsible budget that offers excellent educational opportunity while being mindful of the taxpayers' pocketbooks is an important part of the job. I offer my long-term experience on the School Board to help take the Windham School into the future, and would appreciate your vote. If anyone has questions, please call me at 874-4182, Saturday-Monday.

**Windham School Board News***from Carolyn Partridge*

The Windham School Board worked hard to construct a responsible budget that takes into consideration the educational quality for our students, as well as our taxpayers' pocketbooks.

One of the factors driving our budget this year is the purchase of a new school bus. The bus we owned previously was extremely problematic, with costly repair and maintenance expenses from the beginning of its service. The dealer ultimately admitted that the braking system was not geared for the Vermont climate, so we decided to cut our losses and trade it in. Because it did not last as long as we had hoped, it was necessary to take out a loan to cover the cost of the new bus. We are also now planning ahead and making a more realistic yearly contribution to the capital fund for the next new bus, when that time comes around again in the future.

Before we purchased the new bus, we did extensive research regarding bus type and size, and decided that this model was our best investment. I would like to thank Kord Scott for all of his help as we went through this process, especially at the end.

While our proposed budget actually shows a 2.5% decrease, our per pupil spending is increasing due to the way for which special education funds are accounted, and the resulting decreased revenues. The good news is that we are still more than \$1,600 less than the state Excess Spending Threshold.

One question that has come up, is the need to

Barbara Davis for Windham School Director (2 year term)

I have recently taken Beth McDonald's place on the Windham School Board and am now hoping to be elected to this position for the remainder of the term.

I have lived in Windham for over 20 years, and retired a few years ago. Now having the time and desire, I wish to give back to my community by being a member of the Windham School Board.

Through my work experience as a manager at the Brattleboro Food Co-op, I have gained a working knowledge of budgets, spread sheets and the importance of good planning. My team started the Co-op's Education/Outreach Program that teaches good nutrition and food prep for preschoolers through adults.

I have always been interested in education, starting a neighborhood Montessori preschool when my boys were young, to working in Special Education at Marlboro Elementary School years later. I hope to bring my varied experience to the Windham School Board.

Final Informational Meeting on Act 46**Wednesday, March 1 at 7 PM****At Leland and Gray School, Townshend**

elect two School Board Directors this year at Town Meeting. First, my three-year term is up, and I would like to run for another term. *(See Carolyn's statement above.)* Secondly, after years of service, Beth McDonald decided to resign her School Board position mid-term. We sincerely thank her for her dedicated service and wish her well. The School Board appointed Barbara (BJ) Davis to fill in, and it is her intention to run for the School Director position vacated by Beth (2 year term) at Town Meeting. Barbara has experience in marketing, as well as education, and has agreed to work on a brochure for the school, which we are very excited about.

The Act 46 proposal is being voted on by Australian ballot on Town Meeting Day, as well. None of our current School Board members support the proposal and, hence, were not interested in running for the one position afforded Windham by the Articles of Agreement. If the Articles are approved by Windham, the write-in candidate that voters elect on the Act 46 ballot will be your new School Board representative to the Unified District, and the current three person Windham School Board will remain in existence and governance until July 1, 2019, when the new district begins operations. The opportunity to write-in a candidate for the Act 46 Unified District is available on the ballot, but there is no guarantee that the person elected will be willing to serve.



David and Pat Cherry

The Cherrys Move to Vermont

David and Pat Cherry bought their home on Windham Hill Road on Valentines Day, 2000, exactly 17 years ago. Their complete restoration kept the historical character of the old Georgian brick house, while adding a post-and-beam barn. The barn building and much of the restoration was done by the couple. They love winter sports - skiing, snowshoeing, and snowmobiling. In the summer months, they are often in the gardens, picking blueberries, asparagus, salad greens and digging potatoes. David mows the fields, and splits wood, and slowly is working on the stone walls and grounds. Pat has a sewing room and works on quilts. Their new outdoor sport is fly-fishing. They both enjoy entertaining, which sometimes includes a pig roast, lamb roast, or even a fireworks display.

David and Pat met in Montreal at McGill University. Pat is a native Canadian and David was born and raised in Connecticut. They went on ski dates in the Laurentian mountains, dinner dates in restaurants in Montreal, and were married 33 years ago. David finished medical school and surgical residency in Montreal. Pat finished a masters in nursing education, taught at McGill, and also worked at the Montreal General Hospital. Then they moved to Minnesota where David completed a fellowship and research in colon and rectal surgery. Their daughter Erica was born in Minneapolis shortly before they moved to West Hartford, Connecticut.

Since retiring 3 years ago, they have relocated from Connecticut to Windham permanently. David left the surgical practice in Hartford, and Pat finished teaching nursing students. They celebrated the marriage of their daughter Erica to Vincent, last June. Erica is a nurse practitioner and Vincent has a masters in internet security. They have settled in West Hartford, Connecticut.

Pat and David are enjoying meeting neighbors, and the wonderful friendships found in Windham.

Voters Pass Leland & Gray Budget

by News & Notes Staff

Despite planned staff cuts and a tax hike, the Leland & Gray budget passed easily on February 7. The middle and high schools' \$6.3 million spending plan was approved by nearly a 2-to-1 margin, with a total of 276 "yes" votes and 139 "no" votes.

The fiscal budget-planning process of 2018 was not easy, in large part due to the efforts to reduce the number of "phantom students" in Vermont.

As part of Act 46, the state is transitioning away from a statutory provision that has protected school districts from the effects of declining enrollment. Vermont uses "equalized pupils" rather than strict head count to calculate spending per student. The formula is based on enrollment, but also incorporates factors like poverty and the number of students enrolled in pre-kindergarten and secondary grades. Because of the emphasis on equalized pupil counts for school funding and taxes, the change has big financial implications for districts like Leland & Gray where enrollment has been falling.

There was large participation at the December School Board meeting, when cuts proposed by the Board, were presented to the public. Following lengthy testimony from the crowd, the school board voted to preserve the music and cooperative teaching positions, and to restore funding for snowboarding and technical education equipment. Other cuts remained but they weren't enough to keep L&G from expected tax hikes. Majorities in each of the five towns favored the spending plan. The largest margin was in Newfane where the vote was 126 - 38: the smallest was in Brookline where the vote was 25 - 23. Windham voted 22 "for" and 19 "against".

L&G's new principal, Bob Thibault, believes the vote was "an outpouring of support for small, effective schooling." He went on to add, "This is challenging but important work. The students of the West River Valley deserve a high-quality and rigorous curriculum that prepares them for both college and the workforce." Thibault promised to engage the school and community to "investigate what L&G will look like, educationally, moving forward."



Fire Company News

from Marcia Clinton

In 2016, the Windham Fire Company welcomed four new firefighters, increasing the number of members to 25 people. Besides the monthly meeting, the Fire Chief conducts an all-day

training session each month, which is well attended. The newest fire hydrant on Chase Road is functioning, and every fire fighter has been trained in its operation.

At the 2017 Town Meeting in March, one of the articles up for vote, is for the town to authorize \$30,000 for the Windham Fire Company. It is very costly to maintain an efficient fire company and comply with all regulations. To outfit each firefighter in turn-out gear costs \$2,000 each. The Fire Company has five self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), and these have to be replaced every 5 years at a cost of \$5,000 each. They are all due to be replaced this year. Also this year, the old radios will be replaced, as they are often ineffective due to the mountainous terrain of this town. The new hand-held radios will cost \$4,000 each. The annual bill for Workmans' Compensation of \$1,465, was recently paid to the state. These are only a few costs of maintaining our Fire Company. A full report can be found in the 2016 Annual Report of Windham (pages 48 - 50).

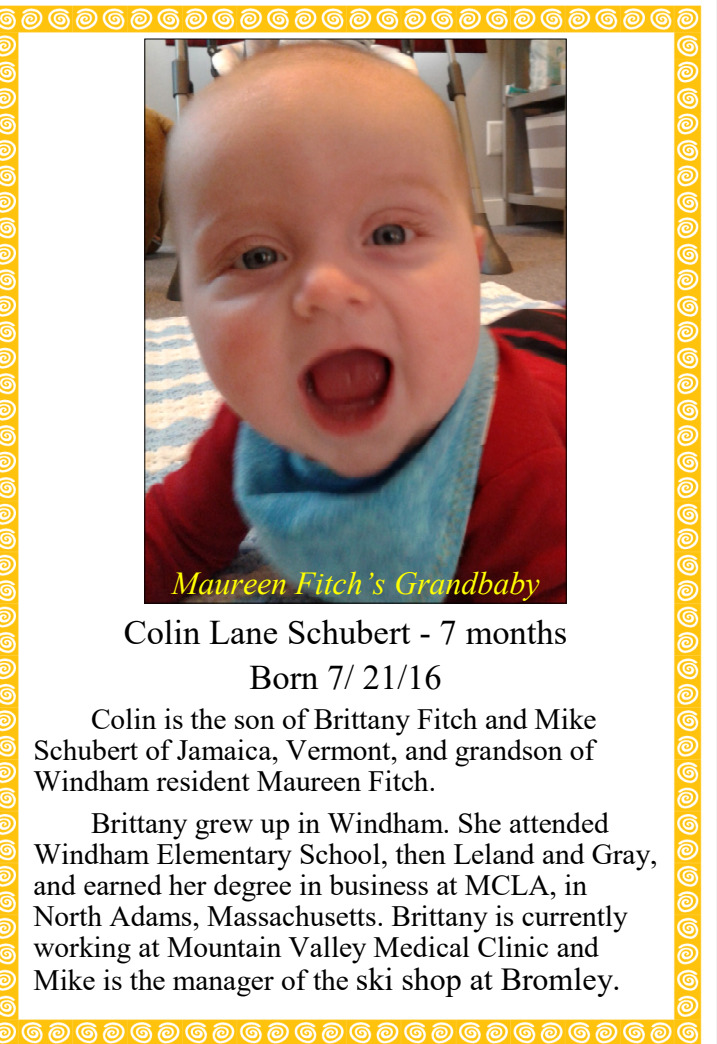
News from Montpelier

from Carolyn Partridge

It's hard to believe that we are one-third of the way through the 2017 Legislative Session. All fourteen standing committees are hard at work on the issues under their purview.

The Appropriations Committee has quite a task on its hands, because the budget that was proposed by the governor does not balance. In Vermont, we always pass a balanced budget despite the fact that we are not constitutionally required to do so.

Governor Scott played a bit of a shell game by shifting costs to the Education Fund without covering these costs. He did shift \$86 million from the General Fund, but the total cost of his programmatic shift amounted to \$136 million. He relied on level-funded school budgets in order to cover the difference. That was not a reasonable request since most school boards had finalized their budgets, and costs that increased their budgets were, in many cases, unavoidable. Also, there was little appetite on the parts of school boards to go back to the drawing



Maureen Fitch's Grandbaby

Colin Lane Schubert - 7 months

Born 7/ 21/16

Colin is the son of Brittany Fitch and Mike Schubert of Jamaica, Vermont, and grandson of Windham resident Maureen Fitch.

Brittany grew up in Windham. She attended Windham Elementary School, then Leland and Gray, and earned her degree in business at MCLA, in North Adams, Massachusetts. Brittany is currently working at Mountain Valley Medical Clinic and Mike is the manager of the ski shop at Bromley.

board and start over.

For those of us who are acutely aware of the property tax issue, there is deep concern about shifting any costs to the Education Fund, in part, because it drives property taxes up, and also because over the years, the General Fund transfer to the Education Fund has been shortchanged, which has the same effect on property taxes.

For those of you who like to follow legislative action, House and Senate proceedings are streamed via Vermont Public Radio at www.vpr.net. You can also access my weekly column that typically appears in the Brattleboro Reformer on Mondays at www.carolynpartridge.com. If you wish to contact me Tuesday-Friday during the Legislative Session, you can phone the State House toll free at 1-800-322-5616. The Sergeant at Arms office will answer, send me a message, and I will return your call as soon as possible. My email is cpartridge@leg.state.vt.us, and my home phone is 874-4182, where you can reach me Saturday-Monday. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions, thoughts, or concerns.

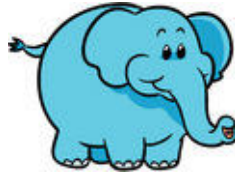
Together, we govern!

Poetry from Windham Elementary

Peace

Peace is Love
Peace is peace
Peace is everything
Peace is calm
Peace is coming
I love peace

By: Gracie Packard



ABY
ELEPHANT

Baby
elephAnt
is
Blue
As
The
sky
and
I
love
Him
Alot
Because
He
Is
blue
And
He
Hugs
me!
BY
CARSON

happy
Birthday



My Birthday Is A
Mess!!!

My birthday is a mess,
The girls made me wear a dress!
We have the cake,
But where is the milk shake?
I don't like my gifts at all,
Gosh my friends have made such a
fall.
My mom had me do the dishes,
That, I do not like,
The horror is stabbing into my back
With an invisible spike!
Finally my friends have gone home.
Oh no, one of them took my comb!
And another broke my game of chess!
I tell you,
My birthday is a mess!

By Lucca Pozzi

I was skiing
Down the hill.
And I saw that
Something was in
My way!
I screamed
I yelled
I could not turn.
I'm going to
DIE!
Why why why?
But I love my life
At least i'm not
Stabbed by a knife.
I smell pie
wait
I'm going to die!
My whole body
Banged on a tree.
And banged my head
Then I said...
I want to be free!!

By Nyah Ryan



Annoying Nephews
Nephews are annoying
Nephews are mean
Nephews are cute
Nephews are cuddly
Nephews are playful
But they are mostly Annoying!

By: Kyleigh Corriveau

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Remembering Our Veterans *by Susan Persa*

When I was growing up in South Windham, I always remember a white wooden World War II memorial in front of the South Windham brick church, now Valley Bible Church. It was similar to the plaque in front of the Calvary Chapel in West Townshend. About 20 years ago, the wooden memorial in Windham fell apart.

It has been my goal to see if it could be replaced and updated with the names of all veterans who enlisted from our town. The Vermont Office of Veterans Affairs were able to supply the names listed below. We are currently researching our town records with the help of genealogists Jonathan and Elizabeth Stevens, for more names of people from Windham who enlisted in the various wars. It would be a great help if anyone reading this could help with the verification of names. We want to honor all of those who have served from Windham.



The site by the side of Valley Bible Church is no longer available for a monument because of the new septic system and parking space. Perhaps, we as a town, could decide to place a tribute in front of the Meeting House, by the Town Office, or near the Windham Center Cemetery. Other nearby towns, like Londonderry and Weston, have plaques attached to large boulders in view for all to see.

Abi Monument in Brattleboro has suggested that we might want to consider a granite monument. They cannot quote a price for such a memorial until we know how many names are to be listed on the monument, and what type of stone we choose to use.

We, as a town, will need to discuss and vote to allocate funds for this project. Donations would be welcome for this worthy cause. I would like to form a committee to help pool ideas concerning the replacement of this important memorial. If anyone has questions or ideas, or wants to serve on this committee, please call Susan Persa at 874-4057.

Windham Veterans

World War I	World War II	Korean War	Viet Nam
Abbott, George W.	Beigert, Henry R.	Gibbs, Leon E.	Bratton, Earnest J.
Eddy, Harold M.	Bratton, Robert L.	Gordon, Harry L.	Coburn, Alan R.
Giles, Loren E.	Carlton, George G.	Laffert, Henry	Coburn, Roy D.
Hamilton, Charles W.	Chase, Earl	Larmie, Jr., Merl C.	Hall, Sherburne H.
Holt, Daniel W.	Dutton, Herbert H.	Newton, John	Leamey, Harold G.
Mattison, Franklin L.	*Gibbs, Samuel R.	Newton, Michael	
McKellip, Jesse H.	Gordon, Jr., Merrill J.		
Morgan, Stephen H.	Hall, Sherburne G.		
Stentiford, Albert	Hallenan, John		Desert Storm
Vaughn, George E.	Hussey, Jr., Ronald B.		Fraser, Charles L.
	Merrill, Melvin F.		
	Onsruth, Maurice A.		
	Pratt, Jr., Aaron P.		
	Stone, William R.		*Killed in Action

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Stone wall by Dan Field

Windham Has Talent *by Imme Maurath*

Dan Field of DRC Stone Design is a Windham resident and has been designing and installing stone creations for over 28 years. He creates everything from walkways and steps to fire pits and stone veneers, stone tables and benches to basic retaining walls.

Dan, what got you interested in working with stone?

I always had an interest in stone, and liked working with it. But after college, I just accidentally found my niche by doing various projects. Before I knew it, I had a career and something that I totally loved to do.

Where do you come up with your designs? Or is a lot of that experience? Most of my design work is hands-on with each client, as I try to get them involved in the process. So we create something together that we're both proud of.

Do you work alone, or do you have a crew? I work alone most of the time, but occasionally I bring in another mason if I am really busy. I'm very hands-on and would never have someone else do my work.

I'm sure some of that rock is pretty heavy. Do you use machinery? Most of the time I do my installs with my tractor/loader/backhoe. For larger projects, I bring in an excavator.

Do you like to work with a particular type of stone?

Like flat ones? My personal favorite stone to work with is rustic fieldstone, as I think it best suits the aesthetics in Vermont. Also, I love the challenge of getting it precise in applications, as it is less forgiving than quarry stone.

Are you sure it's not because your last name is Field?

Hah, Hah, Hah!

To see more of Dan's stone work visit him online at drcstonedesign.com or contact him at stoneart49@gmail.com.

Grace Cottage Offers Fall Prevention Program *from C. J. King*

It's true that advancing age increases one's risk of falling, but falling does not have to be a normal part of aging. If you or someone you know has fallen or had an "almost" fall, then Grace Cottage's Fall Prevention Program may be beneficial.



The Fall Prevention Program begins with an initial assessment to determine one's risk factors. Licensed professionals gather information about any previous falls, changes in medication, and potential hazards in the home. The assessment also involves pertinent medical history, evaluating mobility, sensation, cognitive ability, and simple movements to test balance, muscle strength, and gait. This initial assessment takes about 2 ½ hours.

Participants need a referral from a primary care provider, or other physician. The risk assessment summary and any treatment plans that are developed will be sent to the referring provider so that he or she will be fully informed and involved. Most insurance carriers will cover fall risk assessments and fall prevention therapeutic visits.

To learn more about the Grace Cottage Fall Prevention Program, or to make an appointment, call 802-365-3637.

Planning Commission Update

by Bob Bingham

The Planning Commission has received back from Attorney Gerry Tarrant, our first working draft of the update to the Windham Zoning Regulations. The attorney's returned work product includes edits, changes and legal advice on the many questions we posed when we submitted the draft to him.



We will review his comments and suggestions, and address any new questions we may have, back to him for further clarification and comment.

Attorney Tarrant's expertise in this field has been most helpful as we work toward completing Windham's Zoning Regulations update.



GREEN-UP DAY

Saturday, May 7, 2017

Stop by the Town Office in April to pick up your green trash bags

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West River Valley Thrives Honored

On February 7, 2017, West River Valley Thrives was one of 171 community coalitions honored during a graduation ceremony at CADCA's (Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America) National Leadership Forum, just outside of Washington, D.C. Participating coalitions received a graduation certificate for completing CADCA's National Coalition Academy, a rigorous training program designed to increase the effectiveness of community drug prevention leaders.

For the rescue drug Narcan and training in its use, call Habit OpCo in Brattleboro at 802-258-4623.

Townshend Farmers Market

The Townshend Farmers Market planning has now kicked off, and we are now accepting vendor applications for the 2017 Farmers Market at the West Townshend Country Store. **Applications are due by April 1, 2017.** Questions can be directed to Judy Harrigan: farmers@westtownshend.org. Applications and policies are available at www.westtownshend.org.

**STRONG LIVING, Monday & Thursday,
10 AM at the Meeting House**

The Field House Book Club

Join in the discussion of:

1421; The Year China Discovered America by Gavin Menzies on Monday, March 6 at 6 PM. Books are available at the Field House Library, 1276 Windham Hill Road, West Townshend, 802-874-4172.

Open reading hours: Wednesday 3 - 5 PM
Rethinking Food, Farm and Forest
Leigh Merinoff, Meadows Bee Farm and Leigh's Bees

Latin Dance Party at Up the Hill Yoga



Starts Wednesday, March 8 at 6 PM
No prior experience needed. Learn Salsa, Mambo, Cumbia, Cha Cha and Merengue steps. For more info call 802-348-4064.

From the Transfer Station

Unfortunately, Goodwill will no longer collect our textiles. Please use our local thrift stores. Following is a link to the A to Z List which is a 33 page reference of what to do with almost everything you may want to dispose of: <http://www.londonderryvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/A-Z-list.pdf>.

Town Contacts

Town Clerk: Jo-Jo Chlebogiannis, phone: 874-4211; email: windham.town@gmail.com
Town Treasurer: Peter Chamberlain, phone: 874-4211; email: windham.towntreasurer@gmail.com
Town Road Crew: Josh Dryden and Jon Gordon, phone: 874-7025 at the Town Garage
Town Lister: Alison Cummings, 874-7223; cobbbrookfarm@gmail.com; John Hoover, 875-6224, johnjhoover@vermontel.net
Select Board: Frank Seawright, chair, phone: 875-1555; email: fseawright@vermontel.net
School Board: Antje Ruppert, phone: 874-4759; email: antje@sover.net
Windham Community Organization: Ellen McDuffie, phone: 874-8183; email: 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: mclinton@vermontel.net



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Spring is on the way!



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

Please keep us informed of any
name or address changes.

REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS



Town Clerk:

Monday: Noon - 4:00 PM
Tuesday: 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Wednesday: 8:00 AM - Noon
Closed Thursdays, Fridays,
and Federal Holidays. Call
874-4211..

Select Board:

1st & 3rd Mondays,
Mar 6 & 20, Apr 3 & 17 at
6:30 PM at the Town
Office; Open meetings.
Agenda posted.

School Board:

1st Mondays,
Mar 6 & Apr 3 at 4 PM at
the Elementary School.
Call Antje Rupert at
874-4759 to confirm.

Planning and Zoning:

Second Wednesday of the
month at 6 PM at the Town
Office; Special Mar 1;
Mar 8; Apr 12.
Call Bob Bingham at
874-9934.

Library:

Every Wednesday, 3-5 PM
at the Meeting House.
Book Group: 1st Wednesday
Mar 1 & Apr 5 at 3 PM at
the Meeting House.

Volunteer Fire Company:

First Wednesday of the
month through March, then
first Thurs. at 6 PM at the
Firehouse; Mar 1 & Apr 6.
Heavy refreshments
served.

Windham Community Organization:

Last Wed. of the month at
7 PM at the Meeting House,
Mar 29 & Apr 26. Call Ellen
McDuffie at 874-8183 for
information.

Windham Congregational Church (UCC):

Sundays: Worship Services
at 9:30 AM at the Meeting
House. Call Dave Crittenden
at 874-4049 for more info.

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:

Every Wednesday
9 AM- Noon at the Town
Office.



SAVE THESE DATES!

March 1 - Final Info Meeting on Act 46 Articles, Leland & Gray, 7 PM
March 7 - Town Meeting Day and Potluck Lunch, 10 AM at the Meeting House
March 7 - Ballot Vote on ACT 46 Articles at the Meeting House, 9 AM-7 PM
April 1 - Deadline to Register your Canine Friends
April 15 - Deadline to File for Homestead Tax Exemption
May 7 - Green-Up Day



WEST RIVER VALLEY THRIVES HONORED AT CADCA'S NATIONAL LEADERSHIP FORUM

Townshend - On Feb. 7, West River Valley Thrives was one of 171 community coalitions honored Forum, just outside of Washington, D.C. The coalitions received a graduation certificate for completing CADCA's National Coalition Academy, a rigorous training program designed to increase the effectiveness of community drug prevention leaders.

"We are so proud of our coalition for investing the time and resources to take advantage of the best community coalition training in the world. To graduate from this year-long intensive course is no small feat and West River Valley Thrives is more prepared today to be an effective, sustainable coalition because of this training," said Kristin Cox, Program Director of Thrives. "We look forward to applying our knowledge and strategies to ensure the youth in our community live drug free."

The coalition currently assists in the coordination of the Refuse to Use program at Leland & Gray, and runs a youth group called "Above the Influence" at the school. One of its current goals is to find ways to support parents in their efforts to communicate with their teens about tough topics. Thrives looks forward to kicking off a parent workshop series.

CADCA's National Coalition Academy (NCA) is a comprehensive, year-long training program developed by CADCA's National Coalition Institute. The NCA incorporates three, week-long classroom sessions, a web-based distance learning component, an online workstation where participants network and share planning products, and free ongoing technical assistance. To graduate, coalitions must complete a rigorous curriculum. They must participate in all components of the NCA and complete five essential planning products that serve as the foundation of their comprehensive plan for community change.

West River Valley Thrives' mission is to "support and promote healthy lifestyle choices with an emphasis on the prevention of alcohol, tobacco and other drug use by young people".

Kristin Cox (Program Director), Kate Venne (Project Coordinator)



**Grace Cottage Fall Prevention Program team members Ruth Fleming, PT;
Diane Bousquet, COTA; Wendy Stone, OTR/L**



Gold Finch Winter Feeding Frenzy!



THE TOWN IS “STICKERED” ONCE AGAIN*from Kate Venne*

The Leland & Gray middle school Above the Influence group was at it again, plastering the town with stickers! Each school year, local liquor retailers welcome our group into their stores to put stickers on their alcohol stock that remind folks not to provide to minors. This winter, our stickers read, “Don’t let this be the most expensive drink you will never have. Keep alcohol out of the hands of minors”. This year, we are fortunate to have more than 10 middle school members who are dedicated to living above the influence of drugs and alcohol, as well as educating their peers about the risks associated with substance use.

While traveling from store to store, the group interviewed one another about why they choose to participate in Above the Influence. Abbie Hazelton, an 8th grade student, explained that she is in the group because she’s seen what drug use and addiction can do to a person’s life and wants to ensure that her own life doesn’t follow that path. Another 8th grader, Tiffany Cullum, said that she feels participation in the group

has given her the skills to teach her peers about the dangers of drug use. Cyrus Black, 7th grade, remarked “I want to change the world”.

As the current Above the Influence advisor, I am often humbled by the answers I get to these questions. The students work very hard during the school year to address many important teen health concerns, and not only do they live above the influence, but they encourage their peers to do the same. Up next on their agenda? They will facilitate a community dialogue in Townshend about the results of their Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

Thanks to the Newfane Market, River Bend, the Harmonyville Store, D&K’s and the Wardsboro Country Store for welcoming us into their stores, and for their continuous support of our work! Thanks to the Windham County Partnership for Success for funding this project.

Author – Kate Venne, Project Coordinator, West River Valley Thrives.



The West River Community Project

Is a nonprofit community center dedicated to promoting local agricultural, economic and social activities.

Through participation and contribution, we seek to improve lives and strengthen our community as a whole.

**Join us for Soup Night the third Wednesday of every month.
Stop by for free soup!**

WRCP Community Update Community | Agriculture | Education

Greetings, and welcome to the inaugural edition of the **WRCP Community Update**, a monthly newsletter designed to keep you informed of the activities sponsored and supported by the **West River Community Project**, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the agricultural, economic and social activities of the West River Valley! Here, you'll find news from the **West Townshend Country Store and Thrift Shop**, the **West Townshend Community Kitchen**, the **Townshend Farmer's Market** and news from local businesses and other non-profits. Please email us with ideas, suggestions, feedback and/or submissions, or if you'd like to learn how to get more involved! To subscribe send email to: info@westtownshend.org.



West River Community Project

PO BOX 1066

6573 VT-RT 30

West Townshend, VT 05359
(at the foot of Windham Hill Road)

info@westtownshend.org



West Townshend Country Store - open 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM, 7 days a week -- Cafe w/ great coffee, fresh baked goods, delicious soups and sandwiches, and a selection of locally and regionally produced foods. Call us at 802.874.4800, **email** and visit us on **Facebook**.

West Townshend Community Kitchen -- Located in the basement of the West Townshend Country Store, the WRCP Community Kitchen is a commercial kitchen space that was built with the goal of supporting local growers and food producers in starting up and expanding their businesses. The community kitchen provides an accessible commercial kitchen where producers can be licensed by the State of Vermont Department of Health and make products that can be sold more widely than products produced in home kitchens. It also offers a space for individuals and families to process bulk quantities of produce and other goods for their own consumption. **Email** for more information.

West Townshend Thrift Store is open Tuesday - Sunday, 10:00 AM- 5:00 PM and offers good quality second-hand clothes that were gently loved by their previous owners and are now in need of new homes. Our selection includes men's & women's, children & infants, maternity, warm winter coats & sunny bathing suits, our Sunday best and our Halloween worst. We can cover you from head to toe with our hats and shoes, and even offer some kitchen & household goods. Contact: **Hedy Harris** at 802.221.0483

The Townshend Farmers Market at The West Townshend Country Store happens every Friday from 4:00 - 7:00 PM throughout the summer. Plan on visiting weekly to get your local produce, meats, breads, ferments, maple syrup and other groceries. Crafts and local treats to surprise you as well. Live music, food vendors, hearth-baked pizza, kids activities and more! Contact: **Judy Harrigan**.