



# WINDHAM NEWS & NOTES

*Volume II ... Issue I*

*July/August 2004*

## IT'S SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL TIME

It has been one year since the first issue of WN&N  
hit mailboxes, and renewals are now due.

Please fill in the form and send to the PO Box listed below,  
along with your check for \$10

The Council on Aging Grant, which funded some subscriptions during the first year, is now expiring. After this issue, only those who are paid up for Year Two will continue to receive WN&N

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***We hope to hear from you soon!***



## Windham Musicians Perform at July BBQ

Come to the Windham Community Organization BBQ Fundraiser on July 24, and you'll receive a big serving of great music as well as great food. Local musicians from the Partridge, Newton, and Trowbridge-Blazej families will dish up melodies that are sure to make you tap your toes.

The musicians play old time music with such favorites as "Golden Slippers," "Soldier's Joy," and "Red River Valley." Rooted in the Appalachian mountains, old time tunes feature acoustic string instruments with fiddles playing the main melody. Rhythm dominates, making old time music, in the words of Alan Partridge, "absolutely dance music."

Alan, the group's leader, plays guitar, mandolin, banjo, and bozouki. Pete and Diane Newton play fiddle and guitar, respectively. The instruments of choice for Colin Blazej is the stand-up bass, and for Alison Trowbridge, it is the fiddle. Alan's son, Ben, plays accordion and Scottish small pipes.

On some tunes, Pete and Diane's daughter Jenny plays fiddle or piano, and their son Jesse occasionally adds drums to the mix. Colin and Alison's daughter Amy also joins some songs on fiddle. Howie Iris and other Windham residents have been known to sit in as well.

The group has remained nameless, although it could certainly be called the Windham Family Band, for it is comprised primarily of three Windham families. What's more, all of us in Windham who have heard them are quick to claim them as our own.

Does the group have dreams of cutting CDs and getting rich? Such a question makes Alan laugh. "We have no aspirations," he says, "except that our kids follow in our footsteps and find as much joy in making music as we do."

All the younger musicians have been taking music lessons for years, most since they were five years old. "Learning the songs is still work for them," Alan explains, "but for the rest of us, it's just fun. We love to rehearse and play for others."

Hearing Windham's own comes with the price of the meal at the July 24<sup>th</sup> BBQ. Be prepared — their joy is contagious. You'll go home with a full tummy and a light heart.

- Mary McCoy

## Summer Camp Fundraiser

On a chilly morning in May, Kathy, Jimmy, Joey and Jenny Campbell manned the bake sale table, outside the Windham Meeting House. Many residents contributed a wide variety of baked goods, and the community and passers-by were generous in their purchases and donations. The event raised \$230, which will help defray costs at the Summer Day Camp. Camp will be held at the Meeting House from June 28<sup>th</sup> to July 16<sup>th</sup>, between the hours of 9AM and 1PM. All children ages 4 to 12 are welcome. Suggested donation for the day is \$5, or \$20 for the week, but no one should stay at home for lack of money or lack of a ride. Contact Kathy Campbell at 874.4970 for more information





## The Hazards of Pressure Treated Wood

Since the 1940's, chromated copper arsenate (CCA) has been used to pressure treat wood to make it resistant to insects and rot, and to prolong the life of structures. Recent studies have shown that arsenic from CCA can leach from the wood at dangerously elevated levels.

Arsenic can be picked up from surfaces of CCA treated wood structures as well as from the soil beneath these structures. Young children who play on or under these structures are at the greatest risk of exposure.

CCA-treated wood is being (voluntarily) phased out by the wood industry, although retailers are able to sell remaining supplies.

Health Department recommendations for CCA-treated wood are:

- Seal existing surfaces every year with a sealant such as oil-based stain. Do not sand before sealing
- Keep children, pets, garden tools and storage items out

from under CCA-treated deck areas

- Do not burn CCA-treated wood. Smoke and ash contain toxins
- Do not use deck washes or bleaches. These products may speed the release of arsenic
- Use a tablecloth when eating on CCA-treated wood
- Always wash hands thoroughly after contact
- Do not use to frame vegetable garden beds or to construct dug well covers or spring boxes
- Seek alternatives for new outdoor structures

Arsenic is a natural element, present in soil, water, air, plants and animals, but exposure to elevated levels of arsenic can be poisonous. More information is available at [www.healthyvermonters.info](http://www.healthyvermonters.info).

-Marcia Clinton

## Windham Library News

The Windham Town Library is pleased to announce that our Town Library will be receiving a grant from the **Vermont Public Library Foundation**. This (VPLF) Freeman grant will allow us to build our library's collection of books by adding new titles for both children and adults in our community. We plan to rearrange and add new shelving to our existing space thus increasing its use and visibility. We also applied for and will be receiving a grant from the USDA, Rural Development, Vermont Public Television for a copy of **Vermont Youth Orchestra: Peter and the Wolf** as well as all ten of **VPT's Outdoor Journal** programs highlighting hunting, fishing, adventure, and conservation efforts in Vermont, produced by VPT. These VHS tapes will be available on a lending basis to residents of our community.

Our summer reading program for children will begin on Wednesday, June 30, from 12 noon to 1:00 during children's camp. Children attending camp will be allowed to sign out books at this time. This year's program is called "Telling Tails." We plan to celebrate all those great creatures that kids love: dogs, cats, horses, guinea pigs and fish. Maintaining good reading habits during summer vacation helps students maintain the skills learned during the school year so let's all support our children by bringing them to the library during their summer school break.

Our adult reading group will continue during July and August. Our June reading selection is "Mistress of Spices." We can order extra copies if anyone is interested in joining our group. Please contact Beverly Carmichael, 875-4874, for more details.

We continue to accept donations of new or slightly used, hard cover books. Our library is also in need of reference books at this time. All donations are tax deductible.

- Bev Carmichael



## South Windham — A Photogenic Spot

Behind the "Welcome to Windham" sign in South Windham is a picturesque view. Every year, people stop outside our house to take a picture of the church. And since our house is next to the church, it also gets included in their photograph. They always park in the same place and say the same thing. "Beautiful place you have here." Rarely do they ask questions about the age of the church or its history. I am hoping to one day see our village in a photograph for sale locally. This may sound like an awful thing to say, but many Vermont villages do look the same from a distance. Couple that with the size of a postcard and you have a group of postcards on the rack looking remarkably alike. When we write postcards to our friends abroad, the text invariably starts: Our village looks somewhat like this.



We did have a chance some years ago to reverse all this when a neighbour who owns a small plane which he keeps on a field nearby — not too near — flew over our house and took aerial photographs. He then proceeded to sell them to us "as a once in a lifetime opportunity." Although a fairly expensive proposition, it seemed like a good idea at the time. After all, how many people are going to fly over your house taking pictures from the air? When the postcards arrived, although the view was fine, they were printed on quite flimsy paper, and not quite postcard size. It was all a bit of a disappointment. They were stamped "postcard" on the back but ...

Another time the church was being painted. It has to be done every few years as the climate is so extreme. To reach the steeple a cherry picker had to be brought in. The steeple is about 100 feet high and my husband was lucky enough to be able to go up and take some aerial

views on his own. How often does that happen?

While the church was being painted and repaired, the question of the church bell was raised. The old beam holding it was unstable and the rope pulling the bell had frayed. The cheapest solution was to remove the bell (in case it came crashing down on someone's head). How-

ever, my husband and I felt that it would be a shame to lose this bit of history, not to mention the joy of hearing the bell on Sundays. Definitely not one of those electric bells that peal out hymns and other melodies. This is one single bell — bong, bong, bong.

Fortunately the bell was secured but the old bell pull, a handmade rope at least 2 1/2 inches thick went into the dumpster. We dragged it out

and hung it in our mud room without having any use for it, but we knew it would come in handy one day. It did. A friend sleeping in the chicken loft had a nasty fall one night coming down the stairs in the dark, so we created a rope handrail, such as you see on boats to steady visitors. Of course it meant another trip to the hardware store to find the correct boat part.

The rope has an unusual but not unpleasant odor of old hemp, plus oil from the bell works and incense. This is surprising as I cannot believe the church ever used incense. It must be one of those mystical smells you find in old churches, the odor of sanctity?

Elizabeth. Robinson  
South Windham and Cambridge, England

## A Note from the Listers

The Town of Windham Listers would like to remind everyone of the Town's zoning regulations, which can be obtained at the Town Office. If you intend to make any changes to your property or residence, please inquire about a permit. Call the Town Office during normal business hours at 874.4211, or stop by. Timely filing of appropriate paperwork saves hassles for everyone.



## 2004 Legislative Session Update from Carolyn Partridge

The 2004 Vermont Legislative session ended on Thursday, May 20. Due to the fact that the two major political parties were represented in similar numbers and neither had a clear majority, it was necessary to work more cooperatively. While good work was done on some issues, there were several disappointments.

Healthcare is one of the most important issues identified by Vermonters, but it was not addressed in any substantive way. We are aware of the fact that currently 63,000 Vermonters are without health insurance, a rise of 13,000 in 3 years. Prescription drug prices spiral out of control and more Vermonters are not able to afford their medications. Some, especially the elderly, make choices between buying their drugs and paying the electric bill, buying food, or purchasing heating fuel. As drug prices rose at 3 times the rate of inflation, the pharmaceutical companies saw record profits, and more and more Vermonters found it difficult to pay for their medications.

As Chair of the Healthcare Working Group, these issues are of primary concern to me. Our group worked hard, on our own time, to create a package of initiatives that would have lowered the cost of prescription drugs and educated the consumer about the true cost of these medications. We also worked on legislation that would have provided healthcare coverage to more Vermonters, in particular, people who work for small businesses who presently don't have health insurance. It was disappointing that these pieces of legislation did not pass, or were watered down to the point of being ineffective.

One of the pharmaceutical initiatives would have facilitated the reimportation of drugs from Canada. Another would have regulated the pharmacy benefit managers to ensure that any savings negotiated by the PBM would be passed on to the consumer. The Healthy Vermonters drug discount would have provided drugs at greatly reduced prices to lower income consumers. All of these bills would have saved Vermonters a significant amount of money but were severely weakened by the end of the process.

Our Vermont Small Business Plan (VSBP), a premium-funded initiative, would have covered 9,500 Vermonters who are currently uninsured. The start-up cost of the program would have been repaid to the State over a three-year period, so the net cost of the program would be zero to

Vermont taxpayers. The Governor's plan to give tax credits to companies that provide their employees with Health Savings Accounts (HSA) would have cost taxpayers an estimated \$2-\$4 million a year and would have covered an estimated 4,500 people. Because of the cost, and its late arrival to the Senate, the Governor's plan was not considered.

The lack of leadership on the part of the Administration to do anything substantive about the healthcare crisis is profoundly disappointing. This is the issue I heard about from the majority of my constituents as I went campaigning door to door in 2002. Everyone seems to be touched by the issue, whether it's the high cost of insurance, the stonewalling on benefit coverage, or the inability to pay for medications that improve quality of life, to name just a few. The Healthcare Working Group will continue its work through the summer and fall to find an answer to this crisis. For instance, we know that when 31 cents of every healthcare dollar is spent on administrative costs, something is seriously wrong.

Several of the other issues addressed during the last session were permit reform, worker's compensation, and farming issues. While I supported the permit reform legislation, I am concerned that the changes will not streamline or consolidate the permit process, which was the stated goal of the legislation. I also have concerns that because all appeals will go through an expanded, though potentially understaffed, Environmental Court, the permit process may become more litigious. My hope is that there is an accountability process in place to assess the actual performance of these changes. Worker's Compensation was addressed due to the high cost of premiums. The actual cause of those high prices is the hard insurance market, the flagging stock market, and Sept. 11, and I am doubtful that the cost of premiums will be affected by the legislation passed. One of the bright spots was the requirement that genetically-modified seeds be labeled so that consumers know what they are growing.

I am honored to serve as your State Representative and encourage you to contact me during the coming months at 1612 Old Cheney Rd., Windham, VT, 05359. My telephone number is 802 874-4182 and my email is [hparwel@sover.net](mailto:hparwel@sover.net). My website is [www.carolynpartridge.com](http://www.carolynpartridge.com).



## Zoning News

Please be advised that the regulations by the State of Vermont regarding SUBDIVISIONS & WASTEWATER SYSTEMS AND POTABLE WATER SUPPLY PERMIT are changing.

In short, if a new residence on a previously exempt, unimproved lot is not substantially completed by 1 November 2004, the wastewater system and water supply must be designed and certified by a licensed engineer. Subdivision of any type requires a permit from the State of Vermont.

As of 1 July 2007, rules require permits for new and replacement water supplies and wastewater systems. Technical standards of municipal ordinances are superseded by the rules. Many exemptions terminate.

These are only part of the changes that have come forth. For further information, please call the Regional District Office in Springfield VT. For a Permit Specialist, call 1.802.885.8850. For a Regional Engineer, call 1.802.885.8855

These changes and regulations are administered by the State of Vermont. The Town of Windham does not have control over them. Anyone who is contemplating subdivision of property or building on an existing property should seek legal advice as soon as possible.

-Town of Windham  
Zoning Administrative Officer

## Senior Lunches and Simple Suppers — All are Welcome

### Chester Congregational Church

Second Tuesday of the month/11:30AM

Call 802.875.2524 to reserve a place by the first Thursday of the month

### Londonderry Congregational Church

Second Thursday of the month/11:30AM Call 802.824.6521 to reserve a place by the second Monday

### Grafton Cares

Every Wednesday, noon at the chapel, call Marjorie Heindel (802.843.2461) for information

### Townshend Congregational Church

First and third Thursday at noon. Call Ardis Smith at 824.6521 for reservations

### Newfane Congregational Church

Second Thursday at noon. Call Barbara Brooks at 365.7045 for information

**Suggested Donation:** Age 60 and over — \$2.50  
Under 60 — \$4.00

### Free Simple Suppers

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Willard Hall, Main Street  
Chester ... Every Monday evening, 6 PM

## Windham Congregational Church

Sunday Service 9 AM

Pastors Reverend Fran Hakenson & Margaret Woodruff  
Communion — First Sunday of each month

## Old Home Day

August 8th at 11 AM, followed by luncheon.  
Reverend Vern Stanley speaker, special music program.  
For information call 1.802.874.4302

***Chip's***

**Property Maintenance**

**Caretaking  
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**Plowing  
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802.874.4517**



## Firehouse Auction and BBQ

The Windham Fire Company annual auction will be held on Saturday August 14, with auctioneer Rod Woods. There will be an auction preview and a Flea Market beginning at 9 AM. The auction starts at 10 AM with many new items and gift certificates from local businesses. During the auction hamburgers, hot dogs, condiments, soda and coffee will be available. The BBQ will be an all-you-can-eat buffet of grilled chicken, roasted corn on the cob, hamburgers, hot dogs, salads, and beverages. It begins at 5 PM – price is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children. At 7 PM there will be the Pie Auction. Donations of baked goods would be gratefully appreciated and can be left at the firehouse after 4 p.m. Windham residents are encouraged to clean out their attics, garages, cellars and give their no-longer-used items to the firemen for the auction. But please, no junk. We will accept items in good useable condition. Contact Rick Weitzel to leave items at the firehouse. Rick can also schedule a pick-up if items are too large. He can be reached at 874-4104. The auction and BBQ will be held at the Firehouse in North Windham, rain or shine, under a tent with plenty of seating.

## Come Celebrate the Fourth with the FoWMH

The Friends of Windham Meeting House invite all comers to their annual 4th of July Picnic Celebration at the Windham Meeting House (corner of Windham Hill and Harrington Roads)

### Sunday 4th of July beginning at 4PM

Hot dogs, buns and soft drinks will be provided by the Friends. You are asked to bring a potluck salad or desert to share

The Friends extend an especially warm invitation to non-resident homeowners and other summer visitors whom we'd like to know better



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Michael Simonds and Mary McCoy, hosts

## Weigher of Coal???

A subscriber wrote and asked, "What about these strange jobs listed in the town report?" What do they do ~ fence viewer, surveyors of wood, lumber and shingles, the weigher of coal? Perhaps antiquated today, these positions were very important in days past.

Two landowners might have a dispute as to where a fence was placed so the fence viewer was called in to settle the matter. The inspectors of wood, shingles and lumber arbitrated in matters of quantity and quality of firewood, shingles and lumber. The weigher of coal was called in when the delivery was believed to have arrived not as billed. Maybe we should call on these people when next we have something delivered we feel isn't quite the best of quality.

I remember as a small child, I was out with my father while he was digging a new spring for water for our animals. It was located near our neighbor's property. He came out to see what was happening and became a bit disturbed when he noticed that some of the water for the spring was coming off his land. He thought that he was entitled to water rent, and they agreed upon a fee. Once a year we would see him coming down the road for his 25 cent annual water rent. You may chuckle, but in those days 25 cents would buy a quart of maple syrup or a couple of dozen eggs.

Margaret Woodruff



## Critters

Walking "with reverent feet" ... this notion from the twentieth century Irish naturalist Robert Lloyd Praeger seems especially fitting in Windham, where abundant wildlife and natural beauty amply reward us for time spent watching and listening to the world around us. Here are some of the latest reportings, a combination of *walking* with reverent feet, *driving* with reverent wheels, or just plain *looking around* with reverent eyes ...

Carolyn Chase (Chase Road) wrote to tell us of a young, male moose who crossed the road from their pasture to eat at the Choke Cherry bush in their barnyard. He was a hungry fellow, going on to a small maple before ambling off across the hayfield into the woods. And some years ago, they were amused to see a young baby fox and a young porcupine in the road, caught sitting nose to nose, an inch apart, caught in their headlights, amicably checking one another out.

And from Louise Johnson, in Pluckemin NJ, this note: "Last September my friends and I had a bit of excitement – at least it was exciting for us suburbanites. A bear and her two cubs walked up our driveway and into the woods. I wasn't fast enough to get my camera and take a picture. We were all indoors, so we felt safe, but it occurred to me that we had no clue what to do if we ever encountered a bear while outside. Then I thought I would write to *WN&N* and suggest an article for us newcomers on the do's and don'ts of encounters with wildlife".

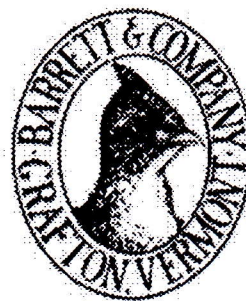
We'd love to hear from more of you about your life in and among the wild things, and any thoughts you might have for Louise and others ...

## Windham Community Organization News

The big news is the Chicken BBQ and fundraiser, which has been scheduled for Saturday July 24th. Should be another evening of fun under the big tent, with live country music and an exciting raffle slated for this year. We hope that everyone comes out to join in the fun, but come early, this is always a "sold out" event. Supper will be served beginning at 5 PM. And our local musicians (see page 2) will be playing during the supper.

The club held annual elections at their March meeting. Carolyn Chase declined to run for chairperson after serving for several years in that post. Donna Koutrakos has agreed to become chairperson for the coming year. All other officers remained in place: Dawn Bower, secretary; Margaret Woodruff, treasurer; Lydia Pope France, publicist. The group would like to thank Carolyn for her dedication over the years, and would like to also thank Donna for agreeing to take up the mantle for one year.

There are several projects under discussion ~ as they become more definite you will hear specifics. As always, we welcome other Windham residents and homeowners to join our group. We meet in the evening on the last Wednesday of each month. If you are interested in becoming part of this group dedicated to helping neighbors in time of need, please contact Donna Koutrakos at 802.874.4131.



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## A Warm Windham Welcome!

Welcome to the following new property owners in the Town of Windham. We hope you will find WN&N useful, and hope you will subscribe for the coming year!

Richard and Linda Griswold  
Betsyan Bowes  
Peter and Jeannette Bergamo  
Rick Stromoski and Dana Gauntner  
Charles Cavanagh  
Philip and Alfred Santini  
Erik Von Ranson  
Joan Di Monda  
Scott and Lenore Henderson  
Joseph and Patricia Morris  
Peter and Elizabeth Schryver  
Antal & Doris Persa  
Paul & Lynn Mullaney  
David and Laura Martell  
Vance and Maureen Bell  
Robert and Nalattapron Furstoss  
Scott and Susan Ownes  
Joseph and Patricia Pawelczyk  
Scott & Susan Vinci

Michael Zadrosny & Jeanne Lipsey  
Cheryl Petruzzi  
Jean Guy and Nicole Beaudoin  
Henry E. Kaplan  
Kenneth and Judith Kempe  
George and Kerrie Heslin  
Marina Belica  
Gary and Debra Vogel  
Pamela Richard  
Bryan and Susanne Light  
Jaqueline Pare  
Mark and Brenda Coolbeth  
John Norton, Jr.  
Don and Douglas Fischer  
Robert Smith and Kathleen Grima

And welcome, also to Okemo Golf, Inc., new owners of Tater Hill Golf Club

## The WN&N Team

Thanks to:

Dawn Bower  
Bev Carmichael  
William Koutrakos  
Mary McCoy  
Lydia Pope France  
Edith Serke  
Margaret Woodruff

... for making this issue of WN&N possible.

If you'd like to help on a future issue, get in touch.  
(E-mail and  
PO Box addresses below)

## We 'd Love to Hear from You

Please send us comments, letters, suggestions, ideas, whatever. You can use the post office box or phone number below, or our new e-mail address, all listed below

**Write to us:** PO Box 1068, Windham VT 05359

**E-Mail:** [wnandn@vermontel.net](mailto:wnandn@vermontel.net)

**Call:** 874.4302

This issue funded in part by a  
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the Council on Aging

### Town Office

Carol Merritt – Town Clerk

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, from 10AM to 3PM, or by appointment

Thank you to all who contributed a story or letter to this month's WN&N – keep them coming!



*Emily de Coninck  
Real Estate*

Emily de Coninck  
309 Old Route 8  
Jamaica, VT 05343  
Tel. 802-874-4956  
Fax 802-874-4957  
email [emilyre@sover.net](mailto:emilyre@sover.net)





**TO:**

***Windham News & Notes***  
***PO Box 1068***  
***Windham VT 05359***

*Windham News & Notes welcomes submissions*  
*... Send articles of 75 to 225 words and*  
*Signed Letters to the Editor at the*  
*above address*

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**GET INVOLVED  
 IN WINDHAM!**

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## **COMMUNITY CALENDAR — Summer 2004**

Friends of the Meeting House Community Picnic

4 PM July 4th, at the Meeting House

Windham Community Organization Chicken BBQ  
 and Raffle

5PM July 24th, at the Meeting House

Fire Company Auction and BBQ

9 AM August 14th — Auction

5PM August 14th —BBQ

All at the Fire House/White Road

Summer Camp

9AM to 1PM — June 28th—July 16th

Library

Wednesday's from 7 to 9 PM, at the  
 Meeting House

Book Club

First Wednesday of each month, 3:30 to  
 4:30, at the Meeting House

Londonderry 4th of July Parade

Noontime, Saturday July 3rd  
 Main Street, Londonderry

Old Home Day

11AM August 8th, Windham Congrega-  
 tional Church