

# WINDHAM NEWS & NOTES

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3

WINDHAM, VERMONT

NOV - DEC 2004

## Justices of peace to be elected November 2

On Election Day (Tuesday, November 2) Windham voters will select individuals to serve as justices of the peace. The candidates are: Colin Blazej, Helen George, Howard Ires, Donna L. Koutrakos, Clarence W. H. Merritt, Carolyn Partridge, and Michael Simonds.

Of these seven candidates, five will be selected. You can check up to five names on the ballot. If you check fewer than five names, you give more weight to the votes for the candidates you choose.

Justices of the peace have both

mandatory and discretionary duties. The mandatory ones include duties related to elections and tax abatements.

As members of the town's board of civil authority, justices review the voter checklist, serve as officials on election days, and deliver absentee ballots to voters.

As members of the town board of tax abatement, justices determine whether a taxpayer's tax obligation should be forgiven under certain circumstances. Justices also serve an important role in the town's tax appeal process. Furthermore, they hear and

decide appeals when citizens do not agree with the final decisions of the town's listers.

The discretionary duties of the justices of the peace are ones they can choose to perform as long as their decisions to not perform these duties are in no way discriminatory. These duties include performing marriages and civil unions, administering oaths, serving as a notary public, registering voters, and acting as a magistrate when so commissioned by the supreme court.

The job of justice of the peace is very important to our community!

## Property taxes due by Nov. 1

Property taxes are due and payable to the Town Treasurer Carol Merritt on or before Monday, November 1. Payments can be mailed to the Town Office, or you can pay them there in person during the regular hours of 10:00 to 3:00 Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. The Town Office also will be open Monday, November 1 from 10:00 to 3:00. Taxes become delinquent with interest and penalty due if not in the office prior to November 2.

Michael Simonds, Windham's collector of delinquent taxes, reminds property owners that the penalty for being delinquent as of November 2 is 8%. Interest is 1% per month or fraction of month for November, December and January and 1.5% for each month or fraction of month thereafter. The date, penalty and interest are set by law, and town officials have no discretion to make exceptions.

### **A reminder from the Town Health Officer**

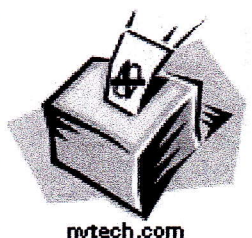
Despite the shortage of vaccine, people are advised to check with their doctors about getting flu shots.



Helen George (right) hand delivers her property tax payment to Town Clerk Carol Merritt (left).

## *Don't forget to vote on November 2*

This Election Day, voters will select 13 individuals to represent our town and state, as well as the president and vice president of our nation. The polls, at our Town Office, will be open on that Tuesday from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM. For a full listing of the candidates, see page 7 of this newsletter.





## Fire Company receives defibrillator and training

by Marcia Clinton

On Thursday, September 23, members of the Windham Fire Company assembled at the firehouse for instruction in the use of the new AED (Automated External Defibrillator).

The Londonderry Rescue Squad has given our fire company a Lifepak 500 Biphasic model AED, which will be located in the firehouse. Bob Fish, an instructor and member of the rescue squad presented a session on CPR

(cardio-pulmonary resuscitation), obstructed airway and use of the AED.

The AED guides the operator through operating procedures with a combination of voice prompts, tones, flashing LEDs and screen messages. The Lifepak 500 AED operates in two modes: ECG analysis and Continuous Patient Surveillance System (CPSS).

During the analysis, the AED indicates if it detects a shockable or

non-shockable rhythm. The CPSS automatically monitors for a potentially shockable rhythm. The AED performs an automatic self-test every 24 hours.

The AED will be kept in the firehouse, hung on the wall for easy access, and will be taken on every fire call. The Windham Fire Company thanks the Londonderry Rescue Squad for this generous donation.

## Spirits soar on soccer field

by Kathy Campbell

For those who love sports, fall at Windham Elementary meant one thing. Soccer! Every afternoon at about 3:00, the soccer field filled with kids of all ages. They all had one goal – to kick a soccer ball.

These kids played soccer every chance they got. They played in the morning before school and then again at recess. After school, there were so many kids that we had two teams. This is pretty amazing considering we're such a small school.

One of our teams was kindergarten through third grade, and the other team was fourth through sixth grade. While we lost a couple of close games, it was really exciting when we beat Jamaica at the Mountain School Tournament on Saturday, October 9.

All of the schools we played against were considerably bigger than us, but the kids at Windham have such great attitudes, and they never gave up. They all worked very hard, and best of all, they had a lot of fun.

Next year, if you happen to drive by the school and notice a sea of blue shirts running around, stop by. Watching all of these kids having fun can put a smile on anyone's face.



Photo by Kathy Campbell

## WCO hosts Harvest Supper

by Lydia Pope France

Come spend an evening in the historic Windham Meeting House -- enjoy good food, great music, and the happy company of friends and neighbors. The Windham Community Organization (WCO) will host a Harvest Supper with live music on Saturday, November 13. Dinner will be served starting at 5:30 PM -- ham, side dishes, desert and music are all on the menu, with our local musicians playing for our entertainment.

Last year we had a full house, and we expect this year to be just as lively. We hope to see you there, but be sure to come early, since our suppers often sell out quickly. The price of the dinner is \$9.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children.

The WCO helps neighbors in time of need, and supports a number of other community events, including the summer day camp, etc. Money raised will be used by the WCO for fuel assistance, donations to the local food pantry, and emergency funding.

The group would like to welcome new member Bonnie Chamberlain, who recently relocated to Burbee Pond Road from Connecticut with her husband Peter. We are always happy to have new members, whether you are new to town or have been here for many years.

If you would like to become a member, please contact Donna Koutrakos at 874-4131. We generally meet once a month. It's a great way to get to know people around town and to give back to this wonderful place where we are fortunate to live.



*Emily de Coninck*  
*Real Estate*

309 Old Route 8  
Jamaica, VT 05343  
Phone: 802-874-4956  
Email: emilyre@sover.net



# Windham calls for involvement

by Edith Serke

It was my first Town Meeting in March of 2001, having moved here permanently the previous summer. It was also the year we had a huge snowstorm on the morning of the first Tuesday in March, and the Town meeting was postponed to the following Monday. Because I had a previous commitment, I missed the morning activities and arrived just in time for lunch, only to learn that all business had been taken care of before noon. I was really disappointed, because I had looked forward to seeing "real democracy in action".

After lunch, while people were still milling around, Carol Merritt, our Town Clerk and Treasurer, casually asked me if I would be willing to serve as a Town Auditor. I was completely taken aback, since no one had ever asked me for my resume or inquired into my education or background. As it happens, both would have qualified me as an auditor, but how did they know? Before we all left the Meeting House, I was also asked to represent the Town of Windham on the Windham Regional Commission. Was my husband ever surprised when I got home and told him about my new responsibilities!

We also started wondering how people get picked to serve on the many boards and commissions, since we weren't aware of any formalized recruitment process. As a longtime volunteer and officeholder in my former hometown, I wanted to learn as much as possible about my new hometown, and I had attended several

meetings of the Select Board, as a quiet observer. Apparently, my obvious interest had earned me my two new positions.

If you look at the annual Town Report, you'll see that there are some ninety elected and appointed positions. That's an astonishing number for a town of this size, or about one third of all registered voters. Upon closer inspection, one finds that the same names appear over and over again, many of them having served for a very long time. In the absence of any job descriptions, minimum requirements, or any kind of recruitment process, it is truly amazing and admirable that the town is run so efficiently. We are fortunate, indeed, to have such dedicated public servants.

However, the same people, no matter how dedicated, should not be asked year after year to fill several positions. There are many people in Windham, both long time residents and newcomers, who may have the interest, time, and talent to serve the Town. (I was surprised that some of these positions actually pay a very small salary, unlike in Connecticut.)

How can you decide which spot is right for you? Read the Town Report to find out what these boards and commissions do, and attend their meetings to find out if there could be a match. Let the Select Board or the Town Clerk know that you may be interested in serving in some capacity. And then, be sure to attend the Town Meeting on the first Tuesday in March.



## WINDHAM NEWS & NOTES

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### The WN&N Team

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### Acknowledgments

Thanks to all who provided articles and photos – their names are noted with their submissions

Thanks also to our advertisers.  
Additional ads are welcomed.

### Submissions

Windham News & Notes  
welcomes submissions.

Send articles and signed "letters to the editors" of 100 to 300 words to the address below.  
We prefer emailed submissions.

**Next deadline**  
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**Windham News & Notes**  
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The record of Vermont as a resolute champion of individual freedom, as a true interpreter of our fundamental law, as a defender of religious faith, as an unselfish but independent and uncompromising commonwealth of liberty-loving patriots, is not only unsurpassed, but unmatched by any other state in the union.

George Harvey, Ambassador to Great Britain, 1921



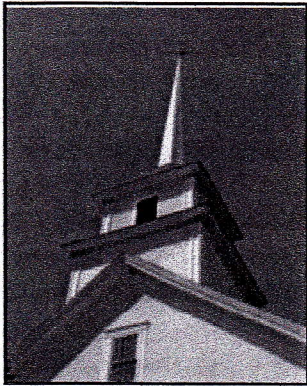
## Windham Church is on the move – join the journey!

by Nancy Dyke

We are asking questions like "Into what new directions could the church move?" and "How can the warmth and caring shown among members be shared with the larger community?" A team has been formed to lead a study and to plan for the church's future.

One meeting has taken place and has generated new energy for innovation and action. Suggestions for answers to the above questions or any other helpful comments regarding the church's place in the community, would be very much appreciated and can be given to any team member: Kathy Campbell, Carolyn Chase, Nancy Dyke, Ernie and Sheila Friedli, Billy Koutrakos, Claire Trask.

The team is in the process of collecting information from church members and would especially appreciate comments from community members so that we can benefit from your unique perspectives. We welcome comments from part-time residents also.



### Imagine

by Carolyn Chase

Old Jack was busy  
all through the night  
brushing the trees  
with frosty delight  
'til they stood all ice  
in the early light.  
And now as the sun  
rises over the hill  
setting its beams on  
the meadow and rill  
with morning hushed  
and silent still,  
see sparkling crystal  
and sapphire blues  
a shimmering spectrum  
of rainbow hues.  
Nature is painting  
a Tiffany scene  
on the frosted maples  
and the evergreens.

## Library offers you new options

by Beverly Carmichael

The Windham Town Library is pleased to announce it is now open every Wednesday from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. We are currently offering a book-reading group the first Wednesday of each month. The members of our group choose their own books, then get together and discuss each monthly selection. New members are always welcome, so please join us for tea, cookies and a lively discussion. New books will be passed out at this time.

Our library is also offering free knitting classes on the second, third and

fourth Wednesday of each month. If you are interested in learning to knit, please join us for lots of laughter and fun as we all learn to knit.

We, the library trustees, are hoping to expand the use of our library with these new hours. You are welcome to sign out or return books any Wednesday afternoon. We have a large selection of new books for your enjoyment and hope you will stop by to see our new expanded book collection.

Support your local library; its free, convenient, and now open once a week.

### A friendly reminder from the librarian

Please return all books to the library which have been out more than one month, since we have had a lot of requests for books which are currently out.

If Wednesday from 3:00 to 5:00 is not convenient for you, return books to the Town Office during regular hours, or call Bev Carmichael at 875-4874 to make other arrangements.

We are trying to avoid charging late fees, so please help us keep this service working smoothly for all who use it.

### We welcome these new property owners:

Peter H. & Elizabeth Schryer  
Joseph M. & Patricia H. Morris  
Asa Goodband & Rebecca A.  
Stratton-Goodband  
Regina C. Perris & Gregory C.  
Noel



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## Principal Stradling loves joyous hard work

by Mary McCoy

For Roberta Stradling, Windham Elementary School's new principal, every day is an adventure. Take October 6. Our fire department gave a presentation on safety to the school's 31 students. Then a child threw up. Later a large dog arrived and stayed for hours. The phone rang during it all, with only the principal to answer it.

Roberta (known to her students as Mrs. Stradling) took all this with a smile. She is not one who expects things to be routine. The journey she took to her current job is proof of that.

She went to college to be a scientist like her older sister. As one of nine children, Roberta was putting herself through Northeastern when she realized she was wasting her money. Art, not science, was her passion.

She entered Massachusetts College of Art and pursued a teacher's license as well. Roberta had always had an interest in

education. As a high school student, she

had been spokesperson for a student organization aimed at improving the quality of education.

When she completed her student teaching, she realized the state of art education was unacceptable to her. Art teachers had no classrooms and meager supplies. They had as many as 600 students and were required to travel to five or six schools.

So she pursued various jobs in the private sector and studied the healing arts. While working for a natural foods distributor, she met her husband Mark. They moved to Colorado where their three sons were born. Roberta ran a health food business out of their home.

In 1987, Mark took a job in Brattleboro, and they moved to Grafton. Says Roberta, "I loved my sons' teachers and Vermont's style of education. It was cutting edge, and I wanted to be

involved." She became president of the PTA and friends with the principal, who inspired her interest in someday becoming a principal herself.

She began by substitute teaching. Ironically, the first teacher she filled in for was Madeline Rice, whom she has now replaced as our principal. Roberta returned to college, renewed her art teacher's license and worked toward a license in special education. At 40, she began teaching art at Riverside Middle School in Springfield.

"The kids there taught me a lot, probably more than I taught them," she says. She worked with a another supportive principal and was again inspired to follow in those footsteps. Her teaching situation was not easy, with a sometimes crazy schedule, challenging students, and a system that didn't always support the arts.

"I learned that even if all they gave me were students and a tree to sit under, I could teach art. I'm not suggesting that is how it should be done, only that I learned I could do it."

In 2000, Roberta received her graduate degree from Antioch where her work was "transformational." She explains, "They helped me realize that education is all about the relationship between a teacher and her students. When students know their teacher is supportive, they have the confidence to explore, and that's how they learn."

At Windham Elementary, Roberta spends 50% of her time as principal and 50% as special education teacher. In all her work, she honors the student-teacher relationship.

Much emphasis is placed these days on testing, as promoted by No Child Left Behind. Roberta sees these tests as useful, for they pinpoint what students are learning. "Any good teacher uses



tests to see what students know and don't know. That information is the basis of our goals and action plans." But she acknowledges a danger if tests are used to define students, teachers or schools. "It's not about anyone's scores," she says. "It's about learning."

While Roberta is getting a sense of Windham, her feelings about our children are certain. "These kids are great. They're nice, which says a lot about their parents and community. These kids make me really happy."

Roberta admits to being one who looks for the good in life, and she wants that attitude to spread. "I want joy to be the pervasive attitude here, that and the desire to discover. We can work hard and have fun, too."

She sees many benefits to being in a small school. "There is more time for one-on-one interaction and less competition for the teacher's attention. It's like a private school. And as principal, I can get to know every student."

Do not mistake Roberta Stradling for someone who is so upbeat and flexible that she believes things take care of themselves. This is a hardworking woman who clears her desk at the end of each day, making sure she has tended to every detail.

At the end of her day of October 6, Cindy Kehoe, the pre-school teacher, told her goodnight, adding, "I hope you don't stay here until 9:00 like last night." Roberta smiled, but she made no promise about her departure time.



# Cemetery's size expands with recent clearing

by Bill Koutrakos



Photo by Bill Koutrakos

A few years ago, the Windham Center Cemetery was gifted a parcel of land directly behind the present cemetery. It was decided to have the land timbered and last year, before scrub started to rise, it was cleared of all stumps and debris.

This past year it was smoothed, then seeded by Rodney and Bill, our employees of the highway department. The expense of completing this project was paid from the funds of the Windham Center Cemetery Commission. From this point on until needed, it will be mowed a few times during the year to maintain a grassy area.

As you can see from the photograph, Rodney and Bill are quite proud of the work they did opening the area for a beautiful eastern view.

# Crossing the Isthmus - right here in Windham!

by Margaret Woodruff

As a young child I remember someone coming to the house and asking my father to hitch up his horses and go get something for them. Out here in the country, we didn't have all that many unexpected visitors, and I guess you could say that I was just naturally curious. So I listened in, although I don't remember what it was that they wanted him to get. But I do remember that it was a cold and snowy time of year,

His answer to them was: "I would have to go over the Isthmus, and I don't think I can make it?" So in the end, he didn't go.

The piece of road between Lawrence Four Corners and the former Hawkins house (heading toward Grafton on Rt. 121 to the house that now has a sign naming it "Goodly Heritage") was nicknamed the "Isthmus" by Lewis Woodward, because of the difficulty in crossing this strip of road in the winter. No attempt was made then to open the road along here, but a temporary road was made in the field so as to go around it. Those who live in this area can still attest to the snow drifts that blow and gather there even now.

I have since read that a Mr. Woodward went to the California gold

mines with a party of friends in 1851. He had boots made with leather tops to reach nearly to his body, and a carpet bag that was a yard or more long with a leather bottom in which to carry his belongings. His route took him across the Isthmus of Panama.

So the connection between Mr. Woodward and Windham and the actual Isthmus -- along with the conditions it offered to travelers -- was quite real! We all laughed at first, but eventually came to naturally call that section of road by that name, as did others.



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# Wind Power Proposal for Glebe Mountain Continues

by Alison Trowbridge

As most of you probably know by now, a large industrial wind project for Glebe Mountain has been proposed by the Catamount Corporation. This project could see 27 windmills, each approximately 280-300 feet high, built along the ridge line.

In Vermont, the system of regulations that governs the review process for wind project applications was established in 1969. Because they are projects of a utility, wind power applications are exempt from Act 250 and instead are reviewed under the provisions of Section 248.

Over the last year, representatives from the Catamount Corporation started a collaborative process, where people with different viewpoints regarding the project could meet to

identify their differences and possibly find common ground. Collaborative meetings were held monthly in Londonderry in preparation for the company filing for the permits necessary to build the project.

In July, Governor Douglas appointed a commission to examine whether Section 248, established 35 years ago, provides an adequate review process for modern industrial wind projects. It was decided by the Catamount Corporation and other involved parties to put the collaborative process on hold until the commission finishes its work in December. Some of the studies started by the Catamount Corporation to look at impacts from the project such as noise, wildlife concerns and economic effects, have been

suspended pending the commission's recommendations.

In mid-October, the Catamount Corporation received a permit under Section 248 from the Public Service Board to build two meteorological monitoring towers to study wind and weather conditions on Glebe Mountain. According to the Catamount Corporation, these towers are necessary to secure funding for the project.

It is not known at this time if Catamount will go ahead with the proposed project. Its future will probably only be decided once the commission makes public its findings and any recommendations it may make to the general assembly and the governor have been either adopted or not.

## Candidates for November 2, 2004 Election

### U. S. President & Vice President

Michael Badnarik &  
Richard Campagna (L)  
George W. Bush &  
Dick Cheney(R)  
Roger Calero &  
Arrin Hawkins (SW)  
John F. Kerry &  
John Edwards (D)  
Ralph Nader &  
Peter Miguel Camejo (I)  
John Thompson Parker &  
Teresa Gutierrez (LU)

### U.S. Senator

Cris Ericson (M)  
Craig Hill (VG)  
Patrick Leahy (D)  
Jack McMullen (R)  
Ben Mitchell (LU)  
Keith Stern (I)

### U.S. Representative

Larry Brown (D)  
Jane Newton (LU)  
Greg Parke (R)  
Bernie Sanders (I)

### Governor

Peter Clavelle (D)  
Peter Diamondstone (LU)  
Jim Douglas (R)  
Cris Ericson (M)  
Patricia Heiny (I)  
Hardy Machia (L)

### Lieutenant Governor

Brian E. Dubie (R)  
Steve Hingtgen (P)  
Cheryl Pratt Rivers (D)  
Peter Stevenson (LU)

### State Treasurer

Jeb Spaulding (D/R)

### Secretary of State

Deb Markowitz (D/R)

### Auditor of Accounts

Randy Brock (R)  
Jerry Levy (LU)  
Elizabeth Ready (D)

### Attorney General

Dennis Carver (R)  
Susan A. Davis (P)  
Karen A. Kerin (L)  
James Marcleas (VG)  
William H. Sorrell (D)  
Boots Wardinski (LU)

### State Senator

(pick two)  
Aaron Diamondstone (LU)  
Rod Gander (D)  
Mike Hebert (R)  
Jeanette K. White (D)

### State Representative

(pick two)  
George M. Kuusela (R)  
Michael J. Obuchowski (D)  
Carolyn W. Partridge (D)  
Lawrence G. Slason (R)

### High Bailiff

Robert W. Backus (R/D)

### Party Key:

(D) Democrat  
(I) Independent  
(L) Libertarian  
(LU) Liberty Union  
(M) Marijuana  
(P) Progressive  
(R) Republican  
(SW) Socialist Workers  
(VG) Vermont Green





## WINDHAM NEWS & NOTES

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IN WINDHAM!

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# Windham Community Calendar

Every Sunday – **Windham Congregational Church** has worship services; everyone is invited. Beginning November 7, the winter schedule of services resumes, starting at 10:00 AM. (Oct. 31 service begins at 9:00 AM.)

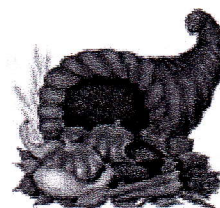
Friday, October 29 – **Windham Elementary** students will attend a musical performance at Leland & Grey, presented by students from Inner Mongolia.



Friday, October 29 – **Windham Fire Company** hosts Halloween Costume Party at the Fire House on White Road near Horsenail Hill. The annual event begins at 6:00 PM, and all children are welcome.

Thursday, November 11 – **Windham Elementary** conducts Parent-Teacher Conferences at the school house. Parents are encouraged to make appointments with their children's teachers.

Saturday, November 13 – **Windham Community Organization** hosts Harvest Supper with live music, 5:30 PM at the Windham Meeting House (corner of Windham Hill and Harrington Roads).



Friday, November 26 – **Windham Congregational Church** invites everyone to the Lighting of the Christmas Tree at the Meeting House. The time will be announced in *The Message* and on a sign on the corner by Meeting House.



Friday, December 24 – **Windham Congregational Church** offers a Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 PM with a social hour afterwards. All are welcome.