

WINDHAM NEWS & NOTES

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2

WINDHAM, VERMONT

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2006

Listers complete property reappraisal

by Bill Koutrakos

By the time you receive this newsletter, you should have received your Real Estate Tax Bill. If you have not, contact the Town Office immediately at 802-874-4211. Payment is due at the Town Office on or before November 1, 2006.

Your listers (myself, Jerry Dyke and Michael Simonds) were able to establish a firm Grand List by August 1, and we are very pleased with the results. We had less than 50 property owners grieve their assessment -- some in need of further explanation, some finding errors in need of correction, and very few just unhappy with the assessment. We are pleased to report

that no one grieved further to the Board of Civil Authority.

As noted and explained on your tax bill, the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) was 1.08 percent. This is calculated by the State of Vermont, considering sales over the past three years. At present, some sales are indicating an increase in values, and the CLA for next year may be lower. There are a few sales that we believe to be overvalued, and we will attempt to prove that to the state.

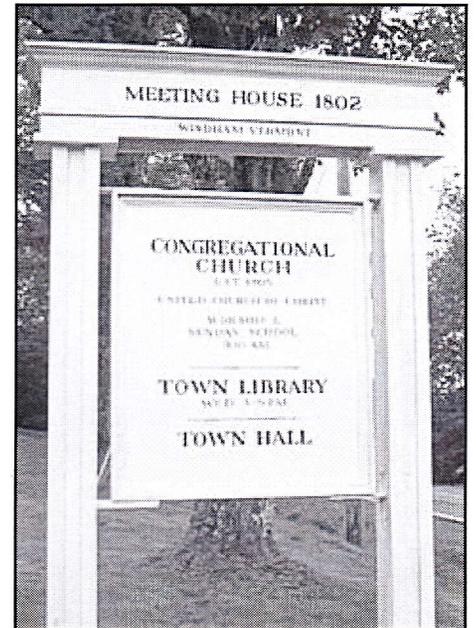
We cannot predict the future, yet we will continue to do our best for all of the property owners of the Town of Windham.

Appointments made for town jobs

With the recent death of Clarence Merritt, eight town positions were left vacant. The Windham Select Board has appointed residents to fulfill these roles.

The assignments are: David Crit-

tenden, constable; James Scott, grand juror and town agent; Marcia Clinton, North Windham Cemetary commissioner; Mary McCoy, assistant town treasurer; Richard Pare, fence viewer; Robert Bingham, surveyor of wood,



The Meeting House has a new sign, initiated by Jerry Dyke and artistically modified and constructed by Ed Brown. Many thanks to both residents.

lumber and shingles, and Rick Weitzel, town forest fire warden. Ralph Wyman was appointed to fulfill the role of deputy forest fire warden, previously held by Rick Weitzel.

Primary election set for September 12

By Carol Merritt & Mary McCoy

On Tuesday, September 12, a state-wide primary election will be held to select the candidates from four parties for 13 positions. Voting in Windham will take place from 10:00 AM until 7:00 PM at the Town Office.

If you are not currently on the checklist and would like to register to vote, you may do so at the Town Office. Registration closes at noon on Tuesday, September 5. Call the office

to make sure it is open at 874-4211. You may also register after that in order to vote in the November election.

A new "vote-by-telephone" system for voters who are blind is being initiated with the election on September 12. Blind voters are encouraged to contact the town clerk prior to the election to receive instructions. By calling a toll free number from their homes, blind persons will be able to

practice using the new system. This practice will shorten the time it takes to vote on election day.

All other voters will receive a ballot on election day with the primary candidates for the Democratic, Republican, Progressive, and Liberty Union parties. The ballot comes in four parts, one part for each party. You will use the part for the party of your choice *(continued next page)*

Primary election set for September 12 *(continued from page 1)*

and discard the three parts for the other parties. This ensures that your party of choice remains unknown to others.

The positions on the ballots are

U.S. senator, U.S. representative, governor, lieutenant governor, state treasurer, secretary of state, auditor of accounts, attorney general, state sena-

tor, state representatives, probate judge, assistant judges, state's attorney, sheriff, and high bailiff. A copy of the ballot is posted at the Town Office.

Partridge & Obuchowski seek re-election to VT House

The *Windham News & Notes* received press releases from Carolyn Partridge and Michael Obuchowski, announcing



their intentions to seek re-election. If elected, it will be Carolyn's fifth term and Michael's seventeenth in the Vermont State House.

Carolyn listed the areas she would like to focus on in the coming biennium as universal health care, a more income-based property tax, Vermont's energy future, affordable housing, and economic development. An over-arching concern of hers is the state budget.

Carolyn is a resident of Windham, a mother, small farmer, seamstress, and the chair of the Windham school board. During the past biennium, she served as leader of the State House Democratic Caucus.

Michael's legislative priorities were stated as access to affordable health care, reduced property taxes, economic development, budget priorities, energy future, clean government, and consumer protection.

Michael, who is a Democrat, served for six years as Speaker of the House and currently chairs the House Ways and Means Committee. He lives in Rockingham and works at Basketville in Putney.

Two representatives will be elected from our district. The Republican, Progressive, and Liberty Union parties have no candidates running for these positions. No other Democrats oppose Carolyn and Michael in the primary. However, voters can write in other choices.

West River Habitat seeks land

by Janet Kierys

Can anyone in Windham donate land so that a house can be built here for a lower-income family? West River Habitat for Humanity is looking for land on which to build its third habitat house.

The size of the land must be at least a buildable lot that passes a perk test as suitable for a septic system. In most cases, Windham's zoning laws require a minimum of one acre per house.

West River Habitat will also consider property that already has a dwelling on it that is substandard. A new house could be built on the site utilizing the existing well and septic system. Also, if there are any developers who have a commitment to building affordable housing and would be willing to donate land, West River Habitat could build the house.

West River Habitat for Humanity serves 13 towns and can build in any one of them -- Athens, Brookline, Dover, Jamaica, Londonderry, Newfane, Somerset, Stratton, Townshend, Wardsboro, Whitingham, Wilmington and Windham. The organization is a non-profit organization so any land donated is tax deductible.

For more info, please call Bette Parsons at 802-896-6010.

Need a Notary for Legal Documents?

The Town of Windham has at least four notaries. They are Town Clerk Carol Merritt, Carol Bellucci, Marcia Clinton, and Mary McCoy. These four can notarize any document from Vermont. However, documents from other states often require a notary's seal, which only Carol Merritt is able to provide.

From Windham's Vital Records

The following are recorded so far in 2006:

Isabella Erin Bush born on March 15 to
Melissa Marie and Ethan Charles Bush.

**Jared Douglas Smith and Christina Mae
Griswold** married on June 17.

Clarence W. H. Merritt died on June 5.

Henry Bieringer died on June 30.

Squeaky wheel could get grease

Daniel Reilly

My phone has lost service about 20 times in the last year. I recently called Verizon about my phone being out and also complained about static on the phone line.

I spoke to a supervisor and was told that they have not had many complaints. Basically, I was told that the more complaints they get, the better our chances are of having our phone lines updated.

That would also mean the lines could handle DSL for faster Internet service. Currently, I connect with dial-up at 56k, which is slow, but I know others get only 28k. I sure could use a faster connection for my business. Per-

haps a class action suit would stir up Verizon to upgrade our lines.

Letters seem to have an impact. Jim Scott wrote the Public Service Board a letter that resulted in a new box being installed near his house that is capable of high-speed if the lines are improved. Mary McCoy wrote a letter to the PSB and Verizon, and both contacted her saying they were investigating the poor service here.

My request is to call or write Verizon every time you have static and make a complaint. We shouldn't have to pay a fortune to get a decent connection when it's offered everywhere else equally.

Broadband Project seeks funding

by Mary McCoy

The Windham Broadband Project submitted a grant proposal to the State of Vermont's Department of Information & Innovation for funds to cover much of the initial costs for bringing broadband internet access to the area.

Our proposed plan combines fixed wireless transmission and/or shared WiFi service for buildings clustered near each other, and satellite service for locations that are more remote. This hybrid approach is unlike any other known in Vermont, which we hope will appeal to the state's interest in finding innovative solutions for the lack of high-speed internet access.

Optima would provide the fixed wireless and/or WiFi connections, and

WildBlue would provide the satellite service. Both companies have agreed to discount their installation fees. If we make it through the first round of the application process, we will finalize details for a plan that includes homes and offices without access to broadband in Windham and adjoining areas of Jamaica, Townshend, and Londonderry.

We could receive as much as \$40,000 to offset the cost of installing the wireless system and some of the cost of the satellite system. Even if we don't get the grant, the application process has been useful in focusing the Windham Broadband Project's plan of action.

Spooky characters wanted

by Imme Maurath

On Friday, October 27 at 5:30 PM, the Fire Company will hold its annual Halloween Party. Costume judging will be at 6:00 with fun and

games to follow. We'll also be serving hot dogs again, so moms can focus on getting the kids ready instead of preparing dinner. Parents are invited to come dressed up as well. The kids really enjoy it. See you at the Fire House on October 27!



**WINDHAM
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Send to address below.

The WN&N Team

Mary Boyer
Carolyn Chase
Jean Coburn
Dawn Bower
Bev Carmichael
Bill Koutrakos
Mary McCoy
Imme Maurath
Edith Serke
Margaret Woodruff

Acknowledgments

Thanks to all who provided
articles -- their names are noted
with their submissions.

Submissions

Windham News & Notes
welcomes submissions.

Send articles of 100 to 300
words to the address below.
We prefer emailed submissions.

**Next deadline
October 13, 2006**

**WINDHAM
NEWS & NOTES**
c/o Windham Community
Organization
5976 Windham Hill Road
Windham, VT 05359
802-875-4874
wnandn@vermontel.net



WCO event provides food, raffle, exhibit

by Mary Boyer

Despite the smell of rain in the air, more than 130 people enjoyed a tasty barbecued chicken dinner on July 15 on the Meeting House lawn. The chicken was cooked under the able direction of Walter Woodruff, and the rest of the meal was prepared and served by the Windham Community Organization members.

This annual event is a significant fund-raiser for the WCO and between the dinner and the accompanying raffle, we raised over \$1,000. These funds will be used to help



Rebecca Stratton-Goodband feeds her daughter Ella strained vegetables. Ella was the only one at the BBQ who preferred smashed carrots to chicken, baked beans & potato salad.

News & Notes thanks contributors

by Mary McCoy

The *Windham News & Notes* team received many contributions as a result of our request for support in the July-August issue. We thank you for your generosity and for your many encouraging words of support provided on the surveys you returned with your contributions.

You might be interested in knowing what we learned about you readers from the surveys. Your favorite articles are tales of Windham, reports of wildlife sightings, stories about Windham's history, and news of unusual happenings here. High also among your preferences are articles about town government and wind turbines and features on local residents. Nearly one-third of those who responded said they enjoyed *all* of the topics covered in the *News & Notes*.

We also know that more than half of our readers live out-of-town. You are second home owners, previous residents, and others with affection for Windham. The rest of you live right here. Typical comments told us that our publication is "a link to Windham" and that you "love the

neighbors in need.

This year we enlarged the event to include an arts and crafts exhibit of work from people in town. The beautiful items were a treat to the eyes and evidence of many talented hands right here in Windham. Eighteen people offered items for display, and we thank you all for sharing your handiwork.

We are grateful to all the businesses and people who give so generously to the raffle. This year the grand prize -- dinner for two at the Windham Hill Inn -- was won by a very excited Chris Fisher. The lovely Vermont palette, painted and donated by Donna Koutrakis, was won by Jan Wyman.

We acknowledge all the donors of raffle gifts and ask you to support their businesses: Windham Hill Inn (West Townshend), Glebe Mountain Gardens (Londonderry), Misty Valley Books (Chester), Joy of Junque (Londonderry), New American Grill (Londonderry), Jamaica General Store, and Windham's own Tater Hill Golf.

In addition to Donna, we also thank Margaret Woodruff for donating her quilt, Chris Fisher for his photograph, Marcia Clinton for her handmade candle, and Ann Garrett for the collection of toiletries.

Use of the festive tent was donated by Bob and Cindy Kehoe, and toe-tapping music was provided by Alan Partridge, Pete Newton and Colin Blazej. Imme Maurath, WCO event coordinator, kept us all on task.

We thank each and every one who helped make the event a success and most especially our guests. We hope to see ya'll next year.

local news." The most common remark was: "Keep up the good work!"

It is gratifying to know that our newsletter is appreciated and that for many of you we have accomplished our goals. When the paper was started in 2003 by Margaret Woodruff, Maggie Newton, and Lydia Pope France, the goal was "to involve and inform every corner of the Windham community." We owe these three women big thanks for initiating this publication.

Now operating as a committee of the Windham Community Organization, we embrace the WCO goal of providing the community with information about resources, town activities, and town government that foster active involvement in the affairs of the community.

If you have not yet sent your annual contribution, it is never too late. Please send whatever you can afford (with the basic contribution being \$10) to Windham News & Notes, 5976 Windham Hill Road, Windham, VT 05359.

School starts August 30

According to Principal Roberta Stradling, 29 students were expected when the bell rang on Wednesday, August 30 to start the new year at Windham Elementary School. Enrolled were 12 students in the primary class, including two kindergartners, and 13 students in the 4th through 6th grade class.

Sally Newton again teaches the younger children with assistance from Cindy Kehoe, and Mickey Parker-Jennings (known as Mr. P-J) returns for the older students. Also returning is Gail Wyman, who does office work and serves as a para-educator. This year there will be a student teacher in Mr. P-J's class.

Dave Crittenden (pictured here) serves as bus driver again, making two runs to deliver kids before and after school. This year his route has been extended down Abbott Road for the expanded student population there.

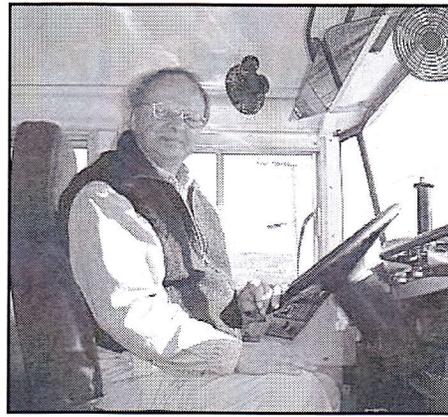
Congregational Church celebrates Old Home Day

by Nancy Dyke

Old and new friends of the Windham Congregational Church gathered for Old Home Day on Sunday, August 27. We also honored the team of Margaret Woodruff and Rev. Fran Hakenson.

Margaret has recently retired, and August 27 was Fran's last day with us. Rev. Hal Harrison, past Vermont Conference Pastor of the United Church of Christ and friend and teacher of both Margaret and Fran was present to conduct a time of farewell in the service. Also present was Jeremy Schrauf representing the Windham Union of the UCC.

Margaret delivered the message and shared reminiscences. Eric Johansson played the harp and sang some of his original songs well suited to the occasion. At the luncheon following the service, the two pastors were presented with gifts. The congregation reluctantly bids them farewell, and our best wishes go with them in any new ventures they undertake.



provided the only bid for the job, completed the painting.

School is in operation from 8:30 until 2:55 each day. Please slow down when driving by the school.

A "big" change this year is the new paint on the school building. The stark white has been replaced with a soft yellow. Coincidentally, the shade of paint is called "Windham Cream."

Alan Partridge, who

Ice cream social promotes raw milk

by Beverly Carmichael

In an effort to raise awareness of the advantages and availability of raw milk in our state, Rural Vermont invited anyone interested to a free ice cream social Saturday night, August 19 at the Windham Meeting House.

Farmers in Vermont are currently allowed to sell 25 quarts of raw milk a day, but they cannot advertise or deliver their milk to nearby homes. This puts them at a disadvantage for getting the word out that raw milk is available for sale along with the advantages of adding raw milk and milk products to your diet.

If you missed this excellent presentation, Rural Vermont would like to invite you to their next one on September 10 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at Hope Roots Farm in Westminster. For more information, folks can contact Rural Vermont at 802-223-7222 or www.ruralvermont.org.

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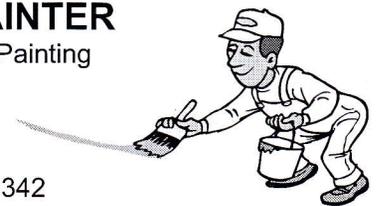
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They hewed this state [Vermont] out of the wilderness, they held it against a foreign foe, they laid deep and stable the foundation of our state life, because they sought not the life of ease, but the life of effort for a worthy end.

-- President Theodore Roosevelt, 1902

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Fire Company raises \$7,500

by Imme Maurath

Three weddings and an auction took place on August 12, with the nuptials taking residents out of town. Turnout at the firehouse for the annual Fire Company Auction and BBQ was a little low, but certainly not due to the

weather -- clear blue skies with temps in the upper 60's.

Our auctioneer this year was our favorite Ron Wood, who can get you to pay \$14 for a dozen eggs. A record was set this year with a blueberry pie

selling for \$275 to Tom Pease. Congratulations! Thanks to the generosity of the community -- for donating auction items, volunteering at the event, and paying record prices for pies -- we were able to raise over \$7,500 for the Fire Company.

Special thanks to Marcia Clinton, who is not a fire member, but who spends weeks collecting gift certificates and new items for the auction. She also spends hours cutting up her garden to make the most beautiful flower arrangements for our chicken BBQ. They are then sold at the pie auction.

Next year's auction is the second Saturday in August. So people, please, schedule your events accordingly. (Truly kidding, and congratulations to all the new newlyweds.)



Brown Bag Chat Group reaches out

by Edith Serke

About a year ago, we started a monthly meeting, tentatively dubbed the "Senior Brown Bag Chat Group". The idea was to give seniors and others an opportunity to get together once a month to discuss issues and concerns. Our hope was to bring out seniors and other Windham residents who were isolated or dealing with the problems that occur as we age.

We are pleased to report that about a dozen men and women get together on the third Wednesday of each month at noon at the Windham Meeting House and have a lively discussion about a wide variety of subjects. The meetings are very informal, and everyone is invited to attend.

At first, people wanted to know what constitutes a "senior". Good question! There is no standard definition -- it could be anyone over the age of sixty -- but it doesn't matter. If you have an issue you'd like to discuss with your neighbors, you are welcome to attend and bring it up.

We've had a presentation by the Visiting Nurses Association about the risk of falling, and we've discussed the proposed wind mills on Glebe Mountain, the need for a town-wide emergency plan, and some more mundane, but no less vital, concerns such as the flies and mosquitoes, visits by bears, sightings of fishers and other animals, taxes, and the recent property re-appraisal.

However, we had hoped to bring out some of our more isolated citizens, and that has not happened. During a focus group discussion we had about the pros and cons of growing older in Windham, we realized that isolation can be a problem, even while we treasure our privacy and rural environment. We know that some older folks are reluctant to ask for help and manage to get by, sometimes with the help of friends and neighbors. There is also a strong feeling of independence and a hesitation to discuss one's private issues.

But how do we know that everyone has help available when needed? For instance, in the event of a natural or man-made disaster, can we be sure that everyone is safe? Could we compile a list of vulnerable persons of any age who need to be contacted in the event of a major storm or utility failure (which is not uncommon in Windham)? These are some of the issues we'd like to address.

So, once again, we invite one and all to come to our Chat Group on the third Wednesday of each month at noon at the Meeting House. Please bring your own brown bag lunch; coffee and tea will be provided. If you cannot attend because of a lack of transportation, please call me, Edith Serke at 874-4812, and someone will pick you up. We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on September 20.

Susanna Grannis speaks at Community Organization meeting

by Nancy Dyke

Windham Community Organization members learned about a unique effort in our own community to help African children orphaned by HIV-AIDS. At the regular WCO meeting on Wednesday, August 30, Susanna Grannis presented information about CHABHA, an organization she founded to help these children.

After her retirement, Susanna became concerned about

the overwhelming numbers of people dying in Africa of AIDS. Especially distressing to her was the fact that many children are the heads of households because both parents have died. Her organization raises money to help these children, and she returns to Africa each year to oversee the efforts. Susanna is our close neighbor on Windham Hill Road in Jamaica and was happy to share her work with us.

125 lbs strawberries grace social event

by Rev. Mark Griffin

South Windham celebrated God's goodness with a strawberry social on Saturday, June 24, 2006. The rain clouds that saturated the village in the morning disappeared in the afternoon as we enjoyed all things strawberry.

One of the purposes for having the social this year was to give the town a chance to see the renovation work that has been done on the Valley Bible Church vestry and kitchen over the last few years. We are grateful for the past generations of town residents who contributed to the ministry of the church here through many means, including strawberry socials in years gone by.

The greatest blessing of the day was the return of Keegan Ewens (pictured to the right) who joined us after spending many weeks at Dartmouth-Hitchcock recovering from an accident. Attendees gave \$560 as a special offering for Keegan and his family to help them with their future needs.

And just for the record, we only picked 124.98 pounds of strawberries.

Valley Bible Church invites you

Rev. Mark Griffin, pastor of the Valley Bible Church, located in South Windham, offers an open invitation for the church's activities. Sunday services begin at 9:55 AM with Sunday school, followed by the morning worship service at 11:00. At 6:00 PM, an evening bible study takes place.

A bible study-prayer meeting is also held every Thursday at 7:00 PM. In addition, a men's breakfast will be held at the church on Saturday, September 16 at 7:30 AM. On Friday, October 13 beginning at 6:00 PM, there will be a fall picnic and hayride at the LeMay farm.

Both the men's fellowship and the picnic-hayride include food, so please RSVP Rev. Griffin at 874-7287 or at pastor@valleybibleVT.com.

You can visit www.valleybibleVT.com for information about other special events scheduled for September and October.



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 Michael Simonds and Mary McCoy, hosts

Bob Kehoe protects nature of Windham

by Mary McCoy

Has anyone seen 8,000 honeybees? If so, Bob Kehoe would like to know. They swarmed from his hives when a new queen was created and roosted in the top of a tree in his yard. Bob tried to capture them, using the hydraulic lift of his company, Sparky Electric, but he couldn't get the bucket high enough.

In the morning they were gone, perhaps to your property. They are Italian bees, bred to be disease and mite resistant, and not as aggressive as Bob's Russian bees. Bob has 40,000 bees remaining, and the "escape" of the Italians hasn't dampened his enthusiasm for his new hobby.

Three years ago, he began reading books about beekeeping, then he ordered the hives and bees this year. He's been stung three or four times so far, but that is nothing compared to other beekeepers. Bob said, "Bee-keepers are exotic people," explaining that he has seen beekeepers with bees inside their protective helmets and driving with them loose inside their cars.

The sting of a honeybee doesn't hurt like a yellow jacket's, yet honeybees have the same venom as a cobra snake, just much weaker. "Multiple stings can take you down,"

Bob said. "If you get one sting, other bees will want to sting the same spot. The smell of a dead bee will also activate bees to sting."

Bob's interest in honeybees came from a desire to fertilize the pear and apple trees in his yard so that there is fruit to attract deer and other wildlife. Previously an active hunter, he prefers shooting wildlife these days with a camera. He has a wonderful collection of photos, videos, and tales of visitors to his yard – bears, deer, coyotes, raccoons, turkeys, moose, and foxes. He took a prize in a photo contest with a shot of two red foxes.

Once he and his wife Cindy provided the equivalent of hospice for a moose yearling with brainworm (from deer feces). Separated from his mother and immobilized by the parasite, the moose found refuge in the Kehoe's yard where Bob and Cindy petted and comforted him while he died.

Bob had a moose permit one year through the state lottery, and he says the power line on the Meadowsend property is a likely location for moose. But not long ago, while scouting for moose before the season, he spotted an

18-pointer, but his excitement was limited to photographing it. "I'm more of a naturalist now," he explained.

Bob and Cindy, who is a teacher at Windham Elementary School, were both born and raised in Vermont. Bob lived in several towns before moving to Chester where he met Cindy in high school. Moving frequently was "a lesson in survival" that taught him to get along with others.

Bob's family didn't have much money, and his father was frequently ill. Throughout high school, Bob had to work. During his last two years at Chester High, he worked as a butcher at a local grocery store while learning the electrician's trade at Crawford Electric.

"My inspirational experience was basketball," Bob added. He was in the varsity starting line-up beginning in 10th grade. Playing center, with a great ability to jump, Bob averaged around 25 points and 20 rebounds per game. Being a star player built his self-confidence.

Bob and Cindy married in 1972, and Bob continued at Crawford Electric until 1979. A 16-year stint working at Stratton followed where he was in charge of plumbing, carpentry and various forms of maintenance.

Then in 1995, as director of resort services, Bob's job was eliminated due to corporate downsizing. Bob worked at Mt. Snow while he and his son Kirk began plans to start their own business.

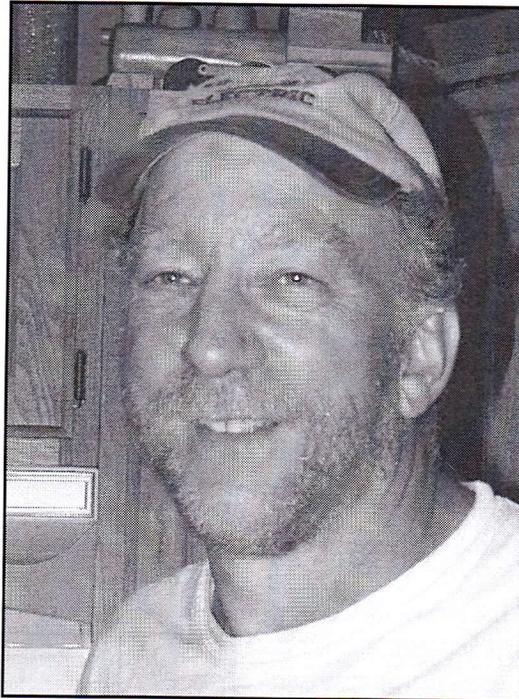
"We were nervous about it," Bob said. There were many times in the beginning when it seemed there was no work, but then people always called. "Losing my job at Stratton was really a blessing," Bob said. "If you have faith, God provides."

His business has flourished, although the only advertising is word of mouth and the signage for Sparky on the company trucks. Sparky Electric was a name that Bob had thought of years earlier, and it has worked out well. "Now people call all of us 'Sparky,' as if that were our names."

The business is a family affair. Cindy does the bookkeeping, and their sons Kirk and Nate and son-in-law Bob Hescocock work with Bob as master electricians. "It's my highest value," Bob said, "working each day with my sons." The business also has two apprentices.

Bob says he's actually busier than he'd like -- he has no

(continued on next page)



Bob Kehoe protects nature of Windham *(continue from page 8)*

time to go fishing. But he does have time for another family hobby, stock car racing. Bob is crew chief, Nate is driver, and the rest of the family members are fans. You can see them in action at the Twin State Speedway in Claremont, New Hampshire.

Wanting more young people to be able to live in our town, Bob questions the state's view of Windham as a "gold town." He explained, "We don't have the tax base that other towns have. We pay more because we don't have a large population or any big businesses. Young people can't afford to live here. We're an aging community."

In addition to all of his other activities, Bob finds time to serve as current chair of the Windham Planning Commission. He was a commission member from 1983 to 1993.

Then he returned to the group in 2003. The current town plan is different than the one he worked with previously. It still focuses on preserving our natural environment, but the language is changed, more specific and written to stand up in court.

Like our town plan, Bob is committed to protecting Windham's wildlife, our natural beauty, our quiet peacefulness, and the historic character of our town.

Before they moved here in 1980, Bob and Cindy had never heard of Windham. "Even now," he said, "people from Chester consider it rugged and undisturbed here. They call it God's country. That's what we need to preserve," he said. "That's why we all live here."

Ladies Aide Society books give insight to past

by Margaret Woodruff

As historian of the Windham Congregational Church, I came across a couple of handwritten notebooks regarding "The Ladies Aid Society Of Windham," and I thought folks would find what they tell us about that time interesting.

The first book was dated May 18, 1908. It notes that 19 ladies were present at this first meeting, and further tells us, "An annual fee of twenty-five cents is to be charged as dues if one wishes to carry one's own work. Those who wish to do no work at these Meetings may do so on payment of five cents."

Attendance rose over the months. At the July meeting, it was voted to buy a barrel of salt to be sold to the members with the profits going to the Society. They also braided palm hats to earn money. I would like to see one!

I know that my grandmother and great grandmother who grew up in West Townshend also braided hats. But the Windham Ladies Aid Society mostly made aprons, quilts and potholders, charging 5 cents each for the potholders and anywhere from 25 cents to 60 cents for the aprons. They sewed shirts, skirts, pants, pajamas, etc. for some of the

children in larger families. Two quilts were tied for 50 cents each at one meeting.

Many suppers were held during this period with the fee usually of 10 cents for the children and 15 cents for the adults.

Now let's jump ahead to the 1930s, where I found some food prices. On August 13 in 1936, general store owner E. L. Stowell was paid 30 cents for three packages of napkins, 34 cents for one pound of coffee, \$1.29 for three pounds of butter, and \$1.80 for 18 dozen rolls, making a total of \$3.73. In 1937, two gallons of oysters were purchased for \$4.20, four boxes of crackers for 76 cents, and two pounds of sugar for 12 cents. Unfortunately, there was no mention of what the tickets cost for what sounds like a pretty fancy supper.

This group did so many good things: White Cross Mission work, Red Cross, dental clinics, community work, Christmas festivities, and gifts for the children, much as the Windham Community Organization does to this day.

I will continue reading to see what else I can find to share. So long for this time,

Margaret Woodruff



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Memories abound from school days

by Susan Lemay Persa (second row, third from left in photo)

Do you recognize anyone in this picture? It was taken during the school year of 1952 and 1953 when the South Windham School students were bused to the Newton School for one year.

Miss Glynn (on the left) taught the younger children and Mom Newton (on the right) taught the older children. What wonderful memories we have of the fresh baked bread from her kitchen and her guidance in planting a flower garden around the school in the spring.

We had a special privilege of having a RBT (Rural Bible Teacher) come to our school every two weeks. The picture

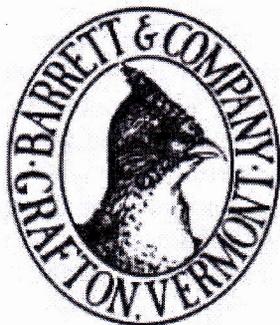


was taken by Miss Joyce Fuller, one of the teachers who taught us exciting flannel graph bible stories, bible verses, and songs. There was a closing program each spring in the South Windham Baptist Church.

In the village, we would walk to bible classes at Harry Hall's house (now the Robinson's), the Warden's house (now the Smith's), or the Carvage's house (now Ed Brown's). I have never forgotten, a song that Miss Connie Grossman taught us by Charles Wesley as she played on her accordion. Do you remember these words that she taught us over fifty years ago?

O, for a thousand tongues to sing, my great Redeemer's praise, the glories of my God and King, the triumph of his grace. My gracious Master and my God, my great Redeemer's praise, to spread thro'all the earth abroad, the honors of thy name. Jesus! The name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease; tis music in the sinner's ears; tis life and health and peace. He breaks the power of canceled sin. He sets the prisoner free. His blood can make the foulest clean. His blood availed for me. Hear Him, ye deaf; His praise, ye dumb. Your loosened tongues employ. Ye blind, behold your Savior come, and leap, ye lame for joy. AMEN.

Pastor Mary Griffin of Valley Bible Church started teaching us this same hymn each Sunday this January. I know from experience how these words have popped up in my head at different times in my life. Are there any other memories or pictures anyone has from our school days?



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Autumn Tapestry

by Carolyn Chase

The fields lay green beneath the mist,

Framed by the trees, all color kissed,

The early morning mists withhold

The scene of orange, red and gold.

Until the rising sun sifts through,

To focus on the lovely view.

Nature with mystical artistry

Is weaving her Autumn tapestry.

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Last printing of Stowell Family Windham Cookbook. They make great gifts \$20 + \$2.50 postage. John Malone, 223 Parker Farm Rd, Franklin, NC 28734.

Volunteering is a two-way gift

by Mary McCallum

Frank found himself a widower at 70 when he lost his wife and best friend of fifty years. He kept to himself as he grieved for nearly a year until he got a phone call one day.

"It was my wife's friend Lizzie. They volunteered together for years in a local mentoring program for kids who had difficulty reading," says Frank. "Lizzie asked me if I'd help out, since I'd been an English teacher for thirty years. In a moment of weakness I said yes," he laughs. "It was the beginning of a renewed interest in the world around me."

Frank's experience mirrors that of many of the 26 million senior volunteers across the country -- the realization that helping others is a two-way exchange that often benefits the giver as much as the receiver. By reaching out to others in need, Frank was able to re-engage with his community, make new friends, and derive great satisfaction through service to others.

Through his volunteer work, Frank made social connections that led him back to his church, one of the biggest sources of volunteer opportunities. Frank's parish had links with the local Council on Aging's Senior Companion Program. Now Frank also spends time each week helping homebound seniors with chores and errands. He even earns a small but welcome stipend.

"My life is different now that I'm alone, but it's full in other ways I never would have imagined," he says. "I feel connected, busy, useful and stimulated. I've got a few new friends and I'm off the antidepressants."

Frank's bouncing back is no coincidence, as there is evidence of strong ties between increased volunteer activity and good health. No doubt about it, there is healing power in doing good.

"I can easily list the benefits," says Frank. "I have structure to my week, a reason to get up and out the door, and more physical energy and clearer thinking because I'm stimulated by problem solving. And I'm learning things I didn't know before, especially about today's adolescents." He adds with a smile, "I really believe they are keeping me young."

Frank's volunteerism is connected to organized groups. But there are countless ways for people of all ages to volunteer. Talking with someone in need of a friend, walking a neighbor's dog, spending time with a child, babysitting for no pay -- these are all opportunities to give and receive. You can find out about volunteer opportunities through local schools, hospitals, churches, libraries, and other volunteer groups.

If you're a senior, the Council on Aging has many opportunities, including their Meals on Wheels and Senior Companion programs. Another choice is to contact RSVP, which has volunteer opportunities such as museum guides, tutors, library aides, drivers and more.

Whatever your age, you don't have to look far to find a need to answer. By giving the gift of time, you will experience the benefits of doing good.



We extend greetings to
Windham's new
property owners:
Brewster Holmes
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John & Deborah Pawlak
Daniel & Shanna

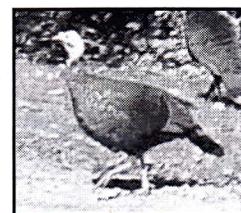
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Facts about wild turkeys



- The wild turkey is native to Northern Mexico and the Eastern United States. They have existed 10 million years.
- Wild turkeys were almost wiped out in the early 1900's. Today there are wild turkeys in every state except Alaska.
- Wild turkeys can fly for short distances up to 55 miles per hour. They can run 20 miles per hour.
- Turkeys can see movement almost a hundred yards away. They can see in color, but they do not see well at night.
- Male turkeys (toms) gobble. Hens do not. They make a clicking noise. Gobbling toms can be heard a mile away.
- Turkeys have no ears like ours, but they hear very well.
- Wild turkeys spend the night in trees. They prefer oaks.
- Turkeys' heads change colors when they become excited.
- Turkeys have heart attacks. When some Air Force planes broke the sound barrier, nearby turkeys dropped dead.
- The American Indians hunted wild turkey as early as 1000 A.D. Turkey feathers were used to stabilize arrows and adorn ceremonial dress, and the spurs on the legs of wild tom turkeys were used as projectiles on arrowheads.



WINDHAM NEWS & NOTES

Windham Community Organization
5976 Windham Hill Road
Windham, VT 05359

The WN&N Team welcomes your signed letters and articles (approx 300 words). Send them to the address above or preferably by email to wnandn@vermontel.net

GET INVOLVED IN WINDHAM!

--Windham Community Calendar --

Every Sunday -- **Windham Congregational Church (UCC)** has worship services at 9:30 AM; everyone invited.

Every Sunday and Thursday -- **Valley Bible Church** has services (*see page 7*).

Every Wednesday -- **Windham Town Library** open at Meeting House from 3 to 5 PM. Also at that time: reading group on first Weds, knitting group on second and third Weds, and writing group on fourth Weds. All invited to join.

Sunday, September 10 -- **Ice Cream Social** at 6:00 PM in Westminster (*see page 5*).

Tuesday, September 12 -- **Statewide Primary Election** (*see pages 1 and 2*).

Saturday, September 16 -- **Men's Breakfast and Fellowship** at 7:30 AM at Valley Bible Church (*see page 7*).

Wednesday, September 20 -- **Senior Brown Bag Chat Group** at 12 noon at the Meeting House (*see page 6*)

Wednesday, September 27 -- **Windham Community Organization** meets at 7:00 PM at the Meeting House. All welcomed.

Friday, October 13 -- **Deadline for WN&N submissions.**

Friday, October 13 -- **Picnic and Hayride** at LeMay farm, starting at 6:00 PM, hosted by Valley Bible Church (*see page 7*).

Wednesday, October 18 -- **Senior Brown Bag Chat Group** at 12 noon at the Meeting House (*see page 6*).

Wednesday, October 25 -- **Windham Community Organization** meets at 7:00 PM at the Meeting House. All welcomed.

Friday, October 27 -- **Halloween Party** at 5:30 PM at Fire House, hosted by Fire Company (*see page 3*).

*Come one and all --
enjoy our wonderful town!*

