



WINDHAM NEWS & NOTES

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 4

WINDHAM, VERMONT

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2007

Many Windham voters turn out for November 7 elections

by Edith Serke

On November 7, 191 of the 310 registered voters in Windham – which is 62 percent – exercised their right to vote.

Of the ten candidates for the local positions of justice of the peace, the town elected Colin Blazej, Carolyn Partridge, Donna Koutrakos, Marcia Clinton, and Michael Simonds. They will take office in February and serve for two years.

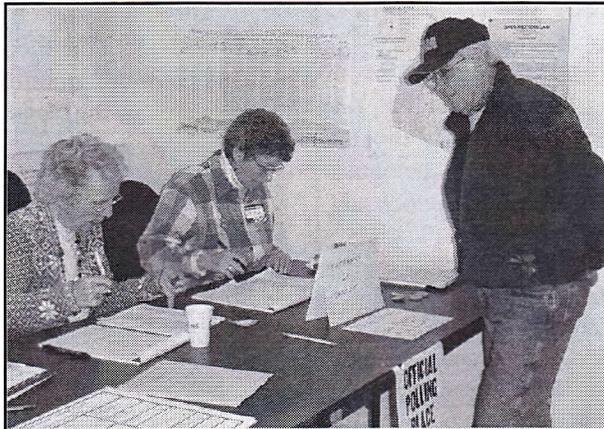
The successful candidates for congressional and state representatives included Bernard Sanders for U.S. senator, Peter Welch for representative to Congress, and Jim Douglas for governor. Jeanette White was re-elected to the state senate, and Peter Shumlin was returned to the seat in the state senate he had held in the past. Windham's two state representatives, Carolyn Partridge and Michael Obuchowski, who ran unopposed, were also re-elected.

Windham voters picked

nearly all the statewide winners, although for lieutenant governor, Brian Dubie was elected, and Windham's choice was Matt Dunne with 56 percent of the votes here to Dubie's 37 percent. The town's vote for governor was 46.6 percent for Douglas and 41.8 for Scudder Parker. Sanders received

69 percent of Windham's votes for U.S. senator. In the vote for auditor of accounts, which was recounted, Thomas Salmon got 65 percent of the Windham votes to Randy Brock's 25 percent.

The proposed addition/renovation of Leland and Gray Union High School in Townshend was defeated in the school district. Votes in each of the participating towns were counted together, and there is no record of how Windham voters felt about the issue. At first, there was discussion of a re-vote, but that idea has not moved forward.



On November 7, 2006, Alan Bower states his name for election officials, Helen George and Mary McCoy, who record him on the checklist.

Winter social events return to help fight cabin fever

by Imme Maurath

This year Bunco and Bingo will get people in town together and out of the house.

The first event will be hosted by the Windham Community Organization. It will take place on Saturday, January 27, at 7:30 PM at the Windham Meeting House. There we will be playing what I hear is the fun, action-packed game of Bunco. It's played with dice at tables of four. The intent

is to get the lowest number and move to the next table. Don't worry about the rules just yet. Just show up and have some fun. Refreshments and desserts will be served.

Then on Saturday, March 10, the Windham Volunteer Fire Company will host another Bingo Night. We've been asked by many, "When are you going to have Bingo again?" Well, here it is! Refreshments will also be served this night.

Happy New Year!

The Windham News & Notes team wishes you the very best for the coming year.

We've enclosed a bookmark for you which we hope you will find useful.

Preparations begin for 2007 Town Meeting

by Edith Serke

Although we are just getting into the new year, it is not too early to start thinking about the annual Town Meeting, which will be Tuesday, March 6, 2007.

Local issues, budgets, and various resolutions will be discussed and voted upon, and local officials will be elected. Petitions for the articles to be determined at Town Meeting must be received 40 days before March 6.

Several town offices have terms that end in 2007, and these will be filled by the voters at Town Meeting. Incumbents may run again for these offices or not, and others may choose to challenge them. A listing of these positions is in

the box to the left below.

There are also several positions filled by the select board on the first Monday after Town Meeting, which is March 12. These positions will be listed in the town report, which is mailed to everyone on the checklist.

Duties and responsibilities of all town officers are described in the Vermont State Statutes, and anyone who is interested in serving in any of the elected or appointed positions is encouraged to look them up in the statute books at the Town Office.

Positions determined at 2007 town meeting

The positions, terms of office, and incumbents:

Town Clerk, 3 years, Carol Merritt
 Town Treasurer, 3 years, Carol Merritt
 Selectman, 3 years, Helen George
 Lister, 3 years, Michael Simonds
 Auditor, 3 years, Regina Noel
 Constable, 1 year, David Crittenden
 Collector of Delinquent Taxes, 1 year, Ernest Friedli
 Grand Juror, 1 year, James Scott
 Town Agent, 1 year, James Scott
 Windham Ctr. Cemetery Commission, 5 yrs, Helen George
 W. Windham Cemetery Commission, 5 yrs, Peter Newton
 N. Windham Cemetery Commission, 5 yrs, Carol Merritt
 Library Trustee, 5 years, Beverly Carmichael
 Windham School Director, 3 years, Alison Trowbridge

Candidates, let's hear from you

At town meeting, there is no opportunity to discuss why candidates are running for office or what their qualifications are. So the *News & Notes* invites all those who are interested in running for elected positions to submit their reasons and qualifications.

These will be published in the March/April issue, which will reach all town residents about a week before town meeting, giving them a chance to evaluate the candidates and cast better informed votes on town meeting day.

Candidates, please keep your responses to 50 words or less and send them by February 2, 2007, to the *News and Notes*, 5976 Windham Hill Road, Windham, VT 05359 or email them to wmandn@vermontel.net.

Town Library conducts first annual calendar fundraiser

by Beverly Carmichael

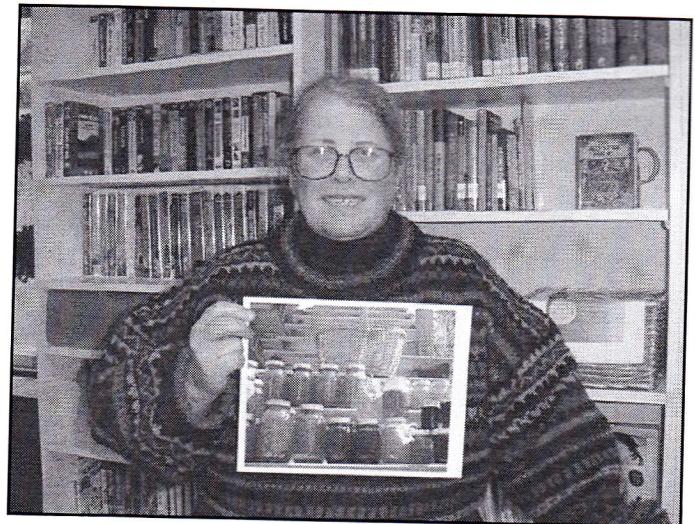
Congratulations to Lydia Pope France, winner of the first annual photo contest sponsored by the Windham Town Library. Second place winner is Peg Grimm with a wintry view of the mountains, and third place winner is Nancy Dyke with her autumn foliage photo overlooking Burbee Pond.

There were 38 photos entered this year, and more than 150 cast votes making the contest unexpectedly popular among residents. We will be pleased to repeat the contest next year.

Desk calendars will be on sale at the library and Town Office through the month of January or until the supply is exhausted. The cost per calendar is \$10.

The goal of the fundraiser is to raise enough money to purchase a DVD projector for the library so that movies can be shown to a large audience. The state of Vermont already pays for the license we need to show the films, now all we need are the mechanics.

Thanks go out to all town residents who participated and made this contest an overwhelming success!



Lydia Pope France presents her awarding winning photograph. She is an avid photographer, and another of her pictures appears on page 10 with her article about snow.

Residents create emergency plan

Several months ago at one of the monthly Brown Bag Lunches hosted at the Meeting House by Edith Serke for the Windham Community Organization (WCO), the discussion turned to emergency preparedness. What are the advantages and disadvantages of living in a small town when natural disasters occur? If a shelter were needed, or our roads made impassable, how would we manage to take care of each other?

The discussion was soon taken up by the WCO which reached out to Fire Chief Rick Weitzel, who also serves as the emergency management coordinator for Windham. The WCO wanted Rick to know they were interested in being of help, if needed.

Eventually a committee was formed under the leadership of Jim Scott. Other members included Rick, Edith Serke, Imme Maurath, Marcia Clinton, Dawn Bower, Mary and Heath Boyer, and Helen George.

It was soon learned that the Windham Regional Commission offers professional staff support to towns working on emergency planning. There is also underway a statewide initiative to get towns thinking about what their needs might be in the event of the arrival of a flu pandemic.

Medical authorities think the current strain of "bird flu" virus, which can only be caught by humans who handle infected birds, might eventually mutate into a form that will be easily transmitted between humans. Such an epidemic could impact up to 40% of the population. With so many people unavailable for their usual jobs and activities, many essential services would grind to a halt unless plans were in place to provide

alternates in key positions. A planning process with three components has resulted.

The Rapid Response Plan is intended to provide all potential responders, such as the select board, fire company, town health officer, and constable, with a ready reference sheet containing important names and phone numbers. This will speed communication in any emergency.

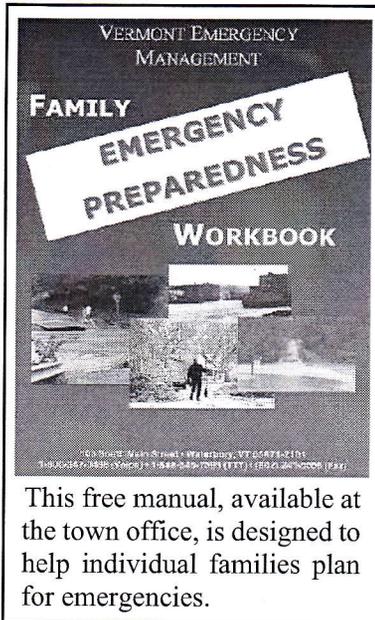
The Continuity of Government Plan is prepared with an eye to the possibility of widespread illness from the pandemic. This plan provides for emergency successors to be called to serve if people holding critical jobs in town are incapacitated.

The Continuity of Operations Plan is an extension of the Continuity of Government Plan and provides official authority to certain people to authorize expenditures and make certain kinds of decisions in the event the designated officials are incapacitated.

Although it may seem like an unnecessarily "big deal" over a distant possibility, those who have worked on the project

say the process of thinking about these issues has been useful not only to prepare for a pandemic, but also for other kinds of public emergencies. Windham has always "taken care of its own," and the plans make sure we continue to do so now that there are more newcomers than in years past.

The preparation of these plans and their adoption is nearly complete at this writing. The next issue of the *WN&N* will take a closer look at the plans and their implementation.



This free manual, available at the town office, is designed to help individual families plan for emergencies.



WINDHAM NEWS & NOTES

is a publication of the Windham Community Organization

Published six times a year, the basic membership \$10. 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 around 300 words to the address below. We prefer emailed submissions.

**Next deadline
February 9, 2007**

**Windham News & Notes
5976 Windham Hill Road
Windham, VT 05359
802-875-4874
wnandn@vermontel.net**

Verizon responds to town request for better service

by Heath Boyer

Residents driving up and down the Windham Road in recent weeks in the vicinity of Burbee Pond Road have noticed large cable reels, cherry-picker trucks, and other construction equipment along the road. If they were very sharp-eyed they might have seen the horse-drawn equipment used for pulling telephone cable through terrain inaccessible by other methods.

This flurry of activity followed a letter from the Windham Select Board to the Vermont Public Service Board, requesting attention to the continued unreliability of Verizon telephone service in town. On October 27, a formal reply to the letter came from Pamela Porell, vice president of Verizon Vermont.

Ms. Porell's letter opens with an apology to the select board and the Windham customers affected by frequent telephone outages and admits that Verizon has been aware of the problem and is committed to its correction. The letter explains that the "vast majority" of the problems were being caused by a remote terminal in the town's service area. It said the solution requires completely replacing the equipment and its cabinet and then transferring existing customers to the new system.

The letter acknowledges that the first attempted remedy had relied on reusing existing, old, copper cable with the new equipment. According to Ms. Porell, "That solution is not working, and we have redesigned the project using fiber optic cable. Although this solution is more time consuming, in the long run it will provide the most reliable service and may position the community for future broadband development."

According to the letter, trees would be trimmed to clear a path for the new cable, the fiber cable would be installed, and the old system would be replaced by a new one. Ms.



Porell expected the work to be completed in early January, if all goes as planned. The letter also said, "Once the work is completed, the ongoing system outages should cease, and we expect customers served by this remote terminal should experience greatly improved service."

Local residents, who stopped to ask the workers what was going on learned that the work involved 32,000 feet of fiber cable. One workman said, "This job was made a rush priority. We're working without an order number because the paperwork hasn't been processed yet."

Verizon installation and repair employees who have spent countless hours trying to patch together the old equipment have long expressed to Windham customers their wish that the problem be addressed with fiber cable. One of the men installing the new cable said, "I don't know what you people did to get this going, but it was a minor miracle."

Roaring Windham mouse produces results

Verizon's response to its Windham customers' complaints is a good example of what can happen when community members act together to bring attention to important issues.

Dissatisfaction with the phone service in the southern half of our town, which is provided by Verizon, has been percolating for years. A number of citizens were diligent in filing their trouble reports, calling, writing, emailing, and talking face-to-face with company employees and state regulators.

Howie Ires, Dan Reilly, Brenda Bingham, Bill Koutrakos, Roberta Stradling, Lydia Pope France, Michael Simonds, and many others were vocal about the problems. State Representative Carolyn Partridge made

personal contact with a senior Verizon executive. Jim Scott wrote a letter asking the Windham Select Board to raise the issue with the Public Service Board on behalf of the town, and the select board acted upon that request.

The select board's letter may well have represented the "final straw". A Verizon public relations person said that when it gets to the point that a town has to write a letter, a problem has gone too long without a solution. Verizon had been working on several less costly solutions and weren't getting the right results. So they decided on the installation of the fiber optic cable.

Evidently, Verizon realized it was facing a mighty roar of customer unhappiness. Even though our town is tiny, together we are one mighty mouse!

Broadband possibilities might include DSL

by Mary McCoy

Efforts continue to bring faster internet access to the southern half of Windham. We now have three possibilities – wireless, satellite, and DSL. Each has its challenges in our sparsely populated and mountainous town.

The Windham Broadband Project has focused so far on bringing wireless service here, which is the route most rural Vermont communities pursue. However, our recent grant proposal to the state's Department of Innovation and Information to support wireless service was not chosen to be funded. It was explained that while we were among the top of the 13 applications considered, the four selected will serve larger populations.

Wireless from Great Auk (a division of Optima) continues to be an option. Without grant support, installation is \$200 or more per household, monthly service a minimum of \$40, and many households will probably not be reachable.

Some residents who were eager for faster access have signed up for satellite service and report that it is a big improvement over a dial-up connection. Satellite service is available from several providers, including WildBlue, and DISH and Direct TV are reported to be offering it too. The satellite connection is not as fast or as reliable as wireless, but it is available to most households. The cost for satellite installation and service is slightly less than wireless.

With the recent installation of fiber optic cable by Verizon to improve our telephone service, there is now a possibility that Verizon will deliver DSL to its customers here. This service would be considerably less expensive than the other options, with no installation costs and monthly service of about \$20. The DSL connection would probably be more reliable and might reach more households.

Windham's elementary school and town office are

especially handicapped by their lack of high-speed access, and Verizon's public relations person has said that the installation of the fiber cable makes it possible for a T-1 line to be run to serve these vital locations.

The likelihood of getting DSL to the rest of Windham without it is uncertain. Some Verizon employees say it is definitely in the plan for us, while others with more official public positions say it is not. According to the letter sent to our select board from Pamela Porell, vice president for Vermont Verizon, the fact that they have chosen to install fiber cable to the new equipment box on Windham Hill Road "may increase the likelihood of Verizon providing DSL to some areas of Windham in the future."

Verizon has a commitment to bring high-speed capability to 80% of its Vermont customers by 2010. To bring DSL to Windham requires that they upgrade three hubs in our town. The equipment for each is estimated to be around \$35,000 plus installation time. Verizon has already spent an estimated \$200,000 to install the fiber cable.

To a large extent, the likelihood of the additional equipment being installed for DSL is a function of demand, as Verizon needs to know it can expect a reasonable return on its investment. Thus, showing Verizon that Windham has a substantial number of potential customers is key to convincing them to provide DSL here. The Windham Broadband Project is urging residents in the Verizon service area to express their interest in having DSL. To sign up or to get more information, go to www.WindhamBroadband.org.

We've already seen how results were produced by our concerted efforts to improve our phone connections. At this time, our chances of getting broadband access seem better than ever. Let's see what else we can make happen!

Windham fire company shows pride in its firefighters

by Janice Wyman

At the fireman's ball, hosted by Tom and Susan Pease, Rick Weitzel, Windham's volunteer fire chief, and Nathan Boynton, Windham's volunteer fire president, were given a certificate of appreciation from Ralph Wyman, member of the Windham Volunteer Fire Company, for completing two very important courses.

The courses they successfully completed were Fire Fighter One and Fire Fighter Two. The fire department is very proud of them for putting in all of their hard work, time, and effort. If you see them, they should be congratulated for their huge success.

John Boynton, assistant chief of the Windham Volunteer Fire Company, has also successfully completed the Fire Fighter One course and should be congratulated for his huge success. The fire company is very proud of him.

Another acknowledgment presented by Ralph Wyman

was for Marcia Clinton. She was given a gift for all of the hard work and time she has put into the events and fundraisers for the fire company. Marcia always with a smile on her face is willing to help anyone with anything. The fire company is very delighted to have someone so dedicated in town.

Quality Workmanship for over 40 years

PETER THE PAINTER

Interior and Exterior Painting
Wallpapering

Peter Chamberlain

Telephone: 802-874-4342

544 Burbee Pond Road, Windham, VT 05359



Services offered for alcohol and drug abuse problems

by Beverly D. Scott

No youth, parent, relative, friend, or neighbor needs to feel overwhelmed by alcohol and/or drug abuse problems. There are several organizations that provide a range of services and programs for Windham residents. From a 24-hour crisis hotline, to treatment and counseling, to preventive measures, assistance can be found. The following is a partial list of the organizations and agencies that provide help.

Health Care and Rehabilitation Services of Southern Vermont (HCRS) provides services to youth, adults, and family members who are adversely affected by the use of alcohol or drugs. The agency offers a comprehensive program of assessment, inpatient referral, outreach, outpatient treatment and aftercare. In addition, school-based services, CRASH programs, pharmaco-therapy, community consultations, and education are available.

The programs' goal is to aid in the recovery from chemical dependency and its effects. HCRS's address and telephone number are 1 Hospital Court, Suite 410, Bellows Falls, VT 05101, 802-463-3947 or 888-888-5144. Hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. Fees are determined by an income-based sliding scale. The agency accepts various insurances.

Alcoholics Anonymous is an informal fellowship of men and women who are alcoholics and who meet together in order to help each other abstain from alcohol. AA meetings in Vermont are located at Parks Place, Bellows Falls, Monday-Friday, 12 noon and Sunday, 10:00 AM; Bellows Falls Health Center, Wednesday, 6:30 PM; Christ's Church, Saxtons River, Saturday, 7:00 PM; special men's meeting, Friday, 7:00 PM at Parks Place, Bellows Falls. For

more information, contact Alcoholics Anonymous answering service at 800-593-3330 or 802-257-5801

Al-Anon, Alateen, and ACOA Answering Service provides information about meeting places and times for friends and families of alcoholics (Al-Anon), teenage alcoholics or children of alcoholics (Alateen) and adult children of alcoholics (ACOA).

Current meeting sites, dates and time are North Springfield Baptist Church, Sunday, 7:30 PM; St. Joseph's Church Family Room, Chester, Monday, 7:00 PM; Congregational Church of Springfield, Tuesday, 12 noon; Immanuel Episcopal Church, Bellows Falls, Wednesday, 7:00 PM; Federated Church, Putney, 7:30 PM; United Church, School St. (rear door), Bellows Falls, Thursday, 7:00 PM.

The telephone number of the answering service is 802-254-3361. There is no fee for this service.

Phoenix House Behavioral Treatment Center of Keene is open to adolescent and adult residents of Vermont and New Hampshire who are abusing and dependent on alcohol or drugs. The Center offers an array of services ranging from outpatient treatment to residential services. Outpatient services include assessment, individual and group therapies as well as psycho-education. The residential programs include detoxification/crisis intervention, sobriety maintenance and transitional living.

Their newest dual-focus program serves those with both chemical dependency and secondary mental health issues. The Center's address and telephone number are 106 Roxbury Street, Keene, NH, 03431, 603-358-404.

(continued next page)

Strong Living gains new leaders, invites new members

by Mary Boyer

Now in addition to Nancy Dyke, two more of us are certified to help you get in shape. In November, Ginny Crittenden and I (Mary Boyer) attended a day-long Strong Living interactive training seminar sponsored by Tufts University to learn the ins and outs of teaching exercise to people who wish to maintain or increase their physical strength, endurance, flexibility and balance.

Ginny and I are committed to the program because we have seen such great personal results. After two years Ginny is lifting 80% more arm and leg weight. In my one year involvement, I've doubled my arm weights and am lifting about 60% more leg weight. Others in the class are also gradually increasing weights. And we are all gaining without strain or sore muscles.

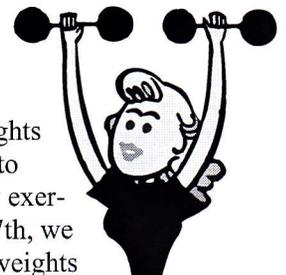
Nancy, Ginny and I are very excited to introduce some refinements in mid-January and start a fresh cycle. We will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:30 to 2:30 in the Meeting House. There is no fee.

On Monday, January 15, we will collect paperwork and

walk through the program without weights to introduce it to new participants and to refresh the correct form for the already exercising members. On Wednesday the 17th, we will set everyone up with appropriate weights and begin the program. We have a sizeable collection of weights, but if you have your own, we suggest that you bring them.

If you are interested, call one of us anytime after the holidays. We will be happy to explain more about what is involved and mail you the forms. Our numbers are Nancy at 874-4428, Ginny at 874-4049, and Mary at 875-5242

In the past, exercise programs have failed for me because of lack of discipline or boredom. Or I overdo it, have to take a break, and then lose my momentum and move on to other things. I think I can safely say for all of us doing it, that this program is fun, inspiring and produces results. What better reasons for sticking to it? Won't you come and join us?



Services offered for drug & alcohol abuse problems *(continued for previous page)*

Starting Now/Retreat Health Care is open to anyone 18 years or older who wants to recover from alcohol or drug dependency and lives within a 50-mile radius of Brattleboro. Specializing in psychiatric and addiction services, Starting Now/Retreat Health Care provides assessment, individual counseling, intensive day/evening treatment, evaluation, intervention, early recovery group, training and consultation. In addition, educational presentations and workshops are available.

The address and telephone number are Anna Marsh Lane, Brattleboro, VT 05302, 802-258-3705. Office hours are Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. There is a sliding fee scale based on income.

Vermont Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program is a state health agency which provides information and referral service for assessment, treatment and support groups for alcohol and drug dependency and addiction including tobacco. The address and telephone number are 89 Putney Road, North Brattleboro, VT 05304, 802-257-2885. Days and hours are Monday-Thursday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

Youth Services offers assessment, treatment and referral services for any youth living in Windham County and concerned about alcohol and/or drug addiction problems. It has five services/programs.

Student Assistant Counselors provide help in most middle schools and all high schools in Windham County. The

counselors focus on prevention and intervention and will screen youth to determine the need for additional services.

The **24 Hour Crisis Line** (802-257-0361) is open to anyone whose parent or guardian has either an alcohol or drug abuse problem and seeks advice or referral.

The **Alcohol Safety** program serves any youth who has received a ticket for drinking while driving. Youth Services contacts the youth to come to the agency for screening and determination of the next steps to be taken to prevent future occurrences.

The **Treatment Specialists** program helps youth and adults for short-term, intensive treatment for alcohol and drug abuse.

The **Big Brother and Big Sister** program provides mentoring and companionship for youth with the hope of preventing substance abuse.

Youth Service's address and phone are 32 Walnut Street, Brattleboro, VT, 802-257-0361. The office is open 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday-Friday and some evenings. Fees for service may be met by health insurance or Medicaid; however, no one is turned away for inability to pay.

Another key phone number to know and dial is **2-1-1**. This number connects you to the statewide information and referral service. You will reach a live person who will listen and help you find government, community, and faith-based programs for your everyday needs and difficult times.

Harvest Supper provides great food & company

by Nancy Dyke

If you attended the Harvest Supper, you know that the food was superb. The ham, scalloped potatoes, squash, and baked beans were never better. Many thanks to Carolyn Partridge for organizing the kitchen and doing much of the cooking.

After the meal, the square dancers worked off some of the food to the cadence of John Newton's skillful calling. He also shared some memories and anecdotes about Windham in earlier days.

Besides the food and dancing, it was a great chance to connect with other community members. Thanks to all the

Windham Community Organization members who prepared food and helped with the serving. Special thanks to everyone who attended to help the WCO raise money to give assistance to those in need.



WCO members Imme Maurath, Carolyn Partridge, and Jean Coburn (left to right) prepare to serve a hungry crowd at the 2006 Harvest Supper.



FRESH FOOD MARKET
Fresh Produce, Deli, Bakery, Meat
Beer, Wine, Natural and Gourmet Foods

MOUNTAIN MARKETPLACE
Jct. Route 100 and Route 11 in Londonderry

Jim Scott embraces life's challenges

by Mary McCoy

We all know Jim and Beverly Scott's home just south of the elementary school on Windham Hill Road. In summer it turns into a showplace with nearly 500 blooming perennials. As Jan Wyman says, "The work and pride Mr. Scott puts into his plants are unbelievable. You can tell by the way his house and yard are so colorful and cheerful."

The oldest of three children raised in suburban Philadelphia, Jim was required by his father during World War II to tend the family's victory garden. He decided to get the best of this chore by enjoying it and, thus, his love of gardening began. The childhood incident says a lot about Jim.

When Jim and Beverly first tried to buy their Windham property back in 1963, they were denied a mortgage by a Brattleboro bank. With the help of a Newfane realtor, they were able to reverse the decision. Like other second-home owners, they had a place where they and their two daughters could escape the city.

Six months after they had settled into the house, someone from Windham asked if the NAACP had sent them here. Jim thought it was hilarious and replied, "If they did send us here, they aren't paying the mortgage!"

Jim is reluctant to talk about himself, but it was learned that he and Beverly met at Yale University where they were both graduate students. After marrying in 1957, they lived in New York City for seven years, while Jim worked for the American Baptist Association. In addition to a degree in divinity, he picked up a doctorate in urban planning to pursue his interest in the social aspects of community.

Then for 37 years, Jim served as pastor of the Bethany Baptist Church in downtown Newark, New Jersey, and for 30 years worked as an associate professor at Rutgers University. Teaching in the Department of Education, his goal was to train teachers to make city schools better and more effective. He also provided research for nonprofit organizations to improve educational systems of accountability.

When Jim became the pastor of his church, it had 250 active members, as many of the members had moved to the suburbs. By the time he retired, the church had grown to 2,200 members. They were mainly African American, from 21 countries and all social classes – people who lived in suburban mansions to those in low-income housing projects.

Being a mission-oriented church, the members contributed generously to help others. They acquired four acres of land in downtown Newark and built facilities worth \$11 million to accommodate their membership and their missions. They sponsored community clean-ups, health clinics,

AIDS ministries, workshops to encourage thrift and first-home buying, and the like. Low-income students were helped through more than \$350,000 in scholarships, with a similar amount going to colleges and seminaries.

"I tried not to be too identified with any cause," Jim says, "but to be there to assist when asked, to provide resources, and to keep our constituency active and involved."

Yet under his leadership, the congregation took some strong stands. They were in charge of VISTA (the domestic peace corps) in the Newark area, who were viewed as trouble makers by the Newark police. The church opposed the War in Vietnam, worked for the passage of Medicare, and challenged developers who were destroying neighborhood communities. Working in coalition with others, the church helped to topple the corrupt machine that controlled Newark's city government.

The church also had an international view. They helped a "sister" church in Cuba and gave annual scholarships to educate young pastors in Russia. They also provided the funding for the establishment of the first multi-racial church in post-apartheid Johannesburg, South Africa. Jim has met Nobel Peace Prize awardees, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Bishop Desmond

Tutu, and President Nelson Mandela, and he was a colleague of Andrew Young, former ambassador to the UN.

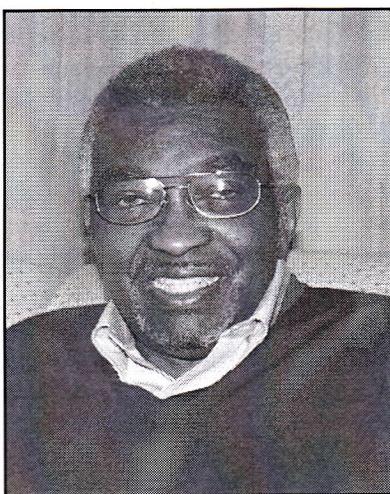
All this transpired for our mild-mannered neighbor before he and his wife moved here permanently in 2003. He explains, "I've had my share of meetings. I told myself that when I retire, I'm going to sit back and observe."

And what has he observed about life in Vermont? "Beverly and I enjoy town meeting day and look forward to it. There's something to be said for democratic open government."

Does he have any concerns about Windham? "Our community has little or no affordable housing. Young people can't settle here, and that's a big issue. I'd really feel good if there were some public land here, and the select board got grants and built affordable housing, as was done in Chester."

Is there anything he would like to see changed? "We really need a town center, a focal point. It would be a park-like area where people could gather, with perhaps a pond for skating and a small hill for skate boarding, and shade trees and picnic tables for summertime use. Nothing formal, just something comparable to a town green."

(continued next page)



Jim Scott embraces life's challenges *(continued from previous page)*

Although Jim now prefers that others lead the way, he is unlikely to ever stop thinking about the state of his community and the world. An appreciation for different points of view causes Jim and Beverly to read three different newspapers daily and to subscribe to 40 magazines of varied views.

Jim and Beverly have traveled widely in Africa, Europe, and Central and South America, as well as in Australia, Tasmania, New Zealand, and China. These weren't pleasure tours, rather they were related to Jim's work as a minister or to his research in education and urban studies.

"As we traveled, we saw that the missionary movement

has been interpreted as being imperialistic. People in other countries like Americans as individuals, but they despise our national sense of superiority, the way we act like we know what's best for everyone else in the world. We Americans need to have our arrogance knocked out of us."

There's clearly still fire in this man. Yet his main goal these days is "to be a good husband, father, and grandfather" and "to grow things that shouldn't grow here." His biggest enemy now just might be raccoons. "They're Rhodes scholars," Jim says. "They determine when my corn is absolutely ready to be picked before they devour the crop."

Halloween party is good time for all

by Dan Reilly

Special thanks to the Windham Volunteer Fire Company for hosting a terrific Halloween party. It was well attended. The children and observers had smiles on their faces. Marsha Clinton decorated the pumpkins that were given as prizes for best, spookiest, ugliest, etc. Even Imme's dog had a costume.

Children played musical chairs, bobbed for apples, snapped at donuts tied from the ceiling with a string, and went on a hay ride. No one left hungry, given the hot dogs, cake, and cookies.



Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year
See you next issue,
Margaret Woodruff

-----**Windham Congregational Church News**-----

by Nancy Dyke

Members participate in workshops

Leadership and vital churches are the topics for a series of workshops attended by the Crittendens, Dykes and Trasks. Windham Congregational Church is participating in these seminars sponsored by the United Church of Christ in Vermont. The series began in September, October, and November and will conclude in March, April and May. Doug Walrath, an experienced group facilitator, professor, church leader and sociologist is helping participants to better understand the culture and communities in which they find themselves.

Monday school begins for children

The Meeting House will be a great place for children to be on Monday afternoons. Bible stories, songs and crafts will be part of the fun sponsored by the Windham Congregational Church. On Monday, January 22 the activities begin and will continue each Monday that school is in session through March 26. All children in grades 1-6 are invited to join Claire Trask, Beverly Carmichael, Dave Crittenden and Nancy Dyke from 3:10 to 4:10.



Windham Country House
vacation rental

**The perfect place for friends
or family visiting you**

1113 Old Cheney Road ~ 802-874-4790
www.WindhamCountryHouse.com
Michael Simonds and Mary McCoy, hosts

Valley Bible Church Service Times

SUNDAYS

10:00 AM - Sunday School
11:00 AM - Morning Worship Service
6:00 PM - Evening Bible Study

THURSDAYS

7:00 PM - Prayer Meeting & Bible Study
(meeting in homes through the winter)

NEW YEAR'S EVE
6:00 PM - December 31

Windham can expect plenty of snow events

by Lydia Pope France

A few years ago, I was in the Vermont Country Store over in Weston, probably some time in early February. It began to snow. A woman who worked there and I both noticed it about the same time and started to chat. She then said, "Well, we have 27 more snow events to come this season."

That sounded like a lot, and I asked her what she meant. Turns out she had what she promised to be the foolproof method of predicting how many times it would snow around here in a given winter. She told me that this had been worked out over the years by a woman in Middlebury who was an avid weather watcher, and that she herself had been doing it in Weston for years and found it really worked. Naturally, I was hooked, ready to try this myself the following winter, which I did, last year.

Here is how it goes. You take the date of the first snowfall, not just a flurry, but something where you can actually leave footprints in the snow. Count from that date until Christmas, and you have the number of "snow events". We didn't get too technical in our discussion (what exactly is a "snow event"?), so I decided to count anything more than minor flurries.

Last year, the first real snow was on October 23 (interestingly enough, the same date that our first real snow came for the two previous years as well). That meant 63 "snow events", a number that sounded a little amazing at the beginning of the season. But you know, in the end we actually had 67 – not perfect, but amazingly close, I thought. I chalked the difference up to my counting just about every time a flake fell as a snow event.

My newfound friend in the Country Store said that she used to hang lollipops, one for each "event", and her kids would get to take turns having a lollipop when it snowed. We weren't really up for 63 lollipops at our house, so I made a little chart, counting down, and then each time it snowed, I filled in the date, amount and any other details – squalls, sleet, strong winds, thunder snow, etc.

My experience last year said that maybe we were on to something. Of course, this year has been a pretty weird winter so far, but we all know what can happen around here in March, not to mention April, or May for that matter.



Our first snow (kind of our only snow until the last week or so) came on November 2, which means 53 "snow events" for this season. This past week, the first week in December, saw flurries and dustings on four days, so I guess that means we have 49 to go. Oddly enough, by the same date last year, we also had 49 remaining "snow events" based on this formula!

I'll report back once spring arrives, and we'll see how accurate this tried and true method is in the time of global warming, El Nino and La Nina.

Until then, *think snow* ...



Londonderry Hardware

The Mountain Marketplace
Jct Rtes 11 & 100 Londonderry

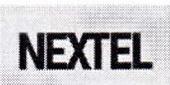
SATELLITE DISHES • NEXTEL CELLULAR PHONES •
LAWN & GARDEN SUPPLIES • TOOLS • HOUSEWARES •
• WILD BIRD SEED • PLUMBING & ELECTRICAL •
PAINT, STAIN & PAINT SUNDRIES

WERE HERE TO SERVE YOU 7 DAYS A WEEK

MON- SAT	7:00AM-5:30PM
SUN	9:30AM-2:30PM

COME IN AND LET US SURPRISE YOU TODAY!!!
802-824-3928




TIMBER RIDGE RESORT
and
MOUNTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING
P.O. Box 687
Manchester, VT 0525

TIM WAKER
KEVIN CASEY

24 HOUR SERVICE
802-362-2215

Country Living
Power Equipment Sales and Service

Trimmer - Chainsaw - Mower - Tractor - Snowmobiles

Authorized Dealer for
Poulan - Jansered - Oregon - Maruyama

Roy "Coby" Coburn
424 Abbott Rd., Windham, VT - 802-874-4298

Goshawk enjoys Thanksgiving feast

by Ginny & Dave Crittenden

Ida Dutton, our neighbor just down the road, rarely calls unless there's a mystery. This time it was something white in her Gravenstein apple tree almost on our property line. A plastic bag blown up there? Early snow? No, Ida had gone over to check and had found a pair of Polish Buff Lace chickens, a rooster and a hen, pure white and shivering.

That's when Ida called us, thinking we could catch them and see if we could find the owners. Dave got his apple picker on a long pole, Ida got a grain bag, and the two of us set off to see what we could do. Not much.

We did get them both out of the tree, and while the hen disappeared into the woods, we got the rooster tangled up in Ida's quince, and grabbed him. We hoped that with all the squawking, the hen would be drawn in. No luck.

A few days later, Dave's sisters – Mary Aller and Jane Sommers – spotted the hen in the same Gravenstein tree. The rooster had escaped by this time, and we set out again, this time with Ginny, figuring that we might bag them both. Fat chance.

Mice find shelter in home

by Elisabeth Robinson

When the weather turns cold, mice invade my kitchen, and although they are cute they can be destructive. Fringes on curtains and carpets have disappeared. Friends who found baby mice in a drawer thought they were too sweet to destroy until volumes of their books became nibbled.

My grandson, age one, would love to play with the wonderful scurrying creatures, like the one that ran under the clothes washer. Danger seemed averted until I realized there was no way to move the washing machine. The mouse could die there, leaving an awful smell for months.

One year we had a vole popping out from under the dishwasher, and he had to go to mice heaven. DeCON works well, and when I go away for the winter, I store it under my pillow to protect the bed.

Harry Hall, the previous owner of our house, used to pepper rats with his shotgun as they appeared in the kitchen. Harry had an ingenious solution for covering U-shaped mouse holes. A round lid from a tin can would be folded at a 90 degree angle, placed over the mouse hole, and nailed into place. No more nibbling in that area.

The night of the big windstorm on October 29, we lost power at our house for nine hours. Once in bed, my thoughts of a peaceful dark night vanished, as the whistling wind and total blackout created a field day for all household creatures. They scurried about the attic, making for a restless sleep. Would the mice be drawn to my pillow where DeCON formerly lured them? And if they did, where would I go in the total dark?

At 4:00 when the lights blazed on, silence prevailed.

What did bag them was a goshawk, providing plenty of white evidence in my sisters' front yard and returning at dusk for several days to feast.

Ginny sent photos to Chris Petrak, author of "Tailfeathers," a birding column in the *Brattleboro Reformer*, and he said, "definitely a goshawk." He recalled helping a friend with some goshawk banding on Putney Ridge a few years ago. He said, "One adult had an attitude the entire time, angry about the affront." He said, "Goshawks are powerful predators, but not averse to taking easy prey, like a chicken."

We never did find the owners of the Polish Buff Lace chickens. If you're reading this and have recently lost a pair, oh well.



We extend warm greetings to Windham's new property owners:

Daniel & Shauna Fitzgerald

Lisa Piehler

Evan J. & Carol M. Werner

Dayle R. McLean

Joseph W. Reider Jr.

Alicia W. Merinoff



-Established in 1970-
802-843-2390
www.vermontpropertyforsale.com

205 Main Street
 Grafton VT, 05146

Barrett & Company proudly presents this custom built, reproduction circa 1850 cape on 21 serene and private acres on Ingalls Road in Windham. Bright, quality home with open floor plan perfect for today's family lifestyle. Kitchen/dining area open to large living room with fireplace. First floor master bedroom suite with French doors to a private deck. A small orchard, pond site and views of the surrounding mountains complete this beautiful property. Priced at: \$695,000.

When experience matters, contact Barrett & Company



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 at 11:00 and 6:00 on Sundays and a Bible study and prayer meeting at 7:00 on Thursdays.

Every Wednesday – **Windham Town Library** open at Meeting House from 3:00 to 5:00 PM. Also at that time: reading group on first Weds, quilting class on the second Weds, writing group on third Weds, and knitting group on fourth Weds. All invited to join.

Every Monday & Wednesday, starting January 15 – **Strong Living Class** at 1:30 PM at the Meeting House (*see page 6*).

Wednesday, January 17 – **Brown Bag Chat Group** at noon at the Meeting House.

Thursday, January 11 – **Windham Planning Commission** at 7:00 PM at Town Office; public is invited.

Mondays, beginning January 22 – **Monday School** with the Congregational Church at 3:10 (*see page 9*).

Saturday, January 27 – **Town Social Event** sponsored by the WCO at 7:30 PM at Meeting House (*see page 1*).

Wednesday, January 31 – **Windham Community Organization** at 7:00 PM at the Meeting House; all invited.

Thursday, February 8 – **Windham Planning Commission** meets at 7:00 PM at Town Office; public invited.

Friday, February 9 – **Deadline** for submissions for next *Windham News and Notes*.

Monday-Friday, February 19-23 – **February Vacation** for Windham Elementary School.

Wednesday, February 21 – **Brown Bag Chat Group** at noon at the Meeting House.

Wednesday, February 28 – **Windham Community Organization** at 7:00 PM at the Meeting House; all invited.

