

WINDHAM NEWS & NOTES

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 5

WINDHAM, VERMONT

MARCH-APRIL 2007

Town voters make many decisions March 6

by Edith Serke

The annual Town Meeting this year will be held on Tuesday, March 6, starting at 10:00 AM at the Meeting House. Windham voters will have an opportunity to exercise their rights and obligations under our participatory, democratic government.

Voters will elect local officials, vote on the town and school budget, and determine several issues or "articles." Details are found in the 2006 Town Report, mailed to all registered voters by the end of February. All voters are encouraged to read the report carefully and to bring it with them to the Town Meeting.

The elected positions to be filled are listed in the accompanying article on page 2. Nominations will be made from the floor, with the consent of the nominees. Other positions are filled by the select board on the Monday following the Town Meeting.

Voters will be asked to approve a town budget of \$850,601 for the 2007 year. Of this amount, \$422,179 is for the school budget, an increase of \$50,527, or 14 percent. The general fund, or select board budget, of \$100,493 shows a 12 percent increase over last year. Summer and winter road maintenance will cost the town \$235,000. The town budget of \$850,601 does not represent the total cost of running the town. There are additional state funds for education expenses and for road maintenance.

There are also the usual articles to fund waste disposal, town office and garage maintenance and equipment, the listers' expenses, and the Windham Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company. In addition, several service organizations that provide assistance to Windham residents have requests.

A new item among the articles this year requests \$20,000 to match an anticipated grant from the Vermont Emergency Management Agency to purchase an emergency



At lunchtime during the 2006 Town Meeting, Dan and Jenny Reilly, Rusty Priggen, Margaret Dwyer, and others pile their plates with delicious food. Town residents are reminded to bring to Town Meeting 2007 a potluck dish to share and a dollar to cover costs (paper plates, beverages, etc.). The Town Meeting feast is a wonderful Windham tradition!

generator for the school and town office buildings.

Furthermore, three articles will be considered to change the way delinquent taxes are handled and the collector of these taxes is paid. One article would change the delinquent tax penalty to 3 percent on the unpaid principal as of January 2008, and an additional 5 percent on unpaid principal as of June 30, 2008. Currently, there is an 8 percent penalty starting on the day after taxes are due.

Voters are also asked to set the delinquent tax interest at 1 percent per month, or 12 percent per annum, on unpaid principal, beginning April 1, 2007. Currently, there is a 1 percent interest for the first three months, which goes up to 1½ percent after that.

The third article proposes that the tax collector be paid on an hourly rate, the same as some other town officials, such as the auditors and listers. That hourly rate is now \$12.50. Currently, the delinquent tax collector is paid the penalty fees collected.

BINGO!

The Windham Fire Company will host Bingo Night Saturday, March 10 at 7:00 PM at the Windham Meeting House. Refreshments will be served, and a good time is guaranteed for all. The cards are \$1.00 each, with the money going toward the prizes. If we get as large a showing as last year, we'll be able to raise the prizes a bit since the cage & cards are now paid for.

Candidates for town office seek your vote

by Mary Boyer

During Town Meeting, March 6, we will elect various town officers. All incumbents whose terms expire in 2007 are up for reelection and may be challenged from the floor.

Positions that are up for a vote are moderator, select board member, town clerk, town treasurer, lister, auditor (two people), collector of delinquent taxes, grand juror, town agent, library trustee, Windham School director, constable, and one commissioners each for North, Center, and West Windham cemeteries.

The *News & Notes* invited everyone interested in holding an office to make a statement in 50 words or less about their interest in the position. We received these responses.

Town Moderator - Donna Koutrakos: The reason I first ran for Moderator for the Town of Windham was that I could serve my community with experience I gained as Chairperson of the Leland & Gray Union High School Board of Directors and President of the Vermont School Boards Association. Both positions required me to learn and know "Robert's Rules of Order". I feel it is very important that our town meeting is run in a fair and efficient manner.

Town Clerk and Town Treasurer - Carol Merritt: I am very grateful to the voters of Windham for allowing me to serve as town clerk and town treasurer.

With 26 years of on-the-job experience, I still learn something new every day. I feel qualified to fulfill these positions and would be honored to continue serving you.

Lister - Michael Simonds: Thank you, Windham voters, for electing me as a lister last year. Veteran listers Bill Koutrakos and Jerry Dyke sought fair and accurate treatment for all during our town-wide reappraisal. With their guidance, I was also able to contribute toward this goal. I'd appreciate your vote to continue to serve.

Auditor - Regina Noel: I'm interested in running for Town Auditor lending continued support and commitment to the community. I have 20+ years experience in management at large universities. This has proved useful in per-

forming my current duties as Auditor and, I hope that the voters of Windham will again allow me to serve.

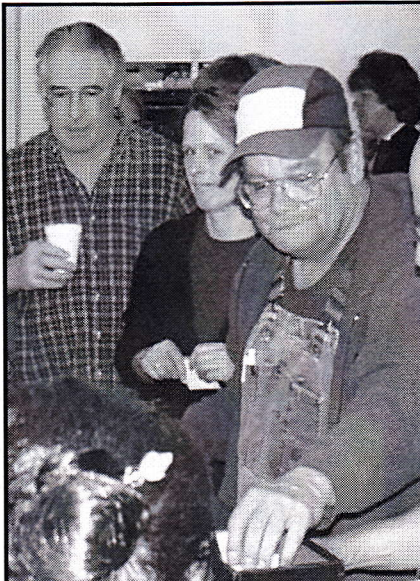
Collector of Delinquent Taxes - Ernie Friedli: I feel I've been able to make some improvements in the way delinquent taxes are collected. I'd like to continue in office while these changes are implemented.

Town Agent and Grand Juror - Jim Scott: I am a candidate for Town Agent and Grand Juror because these offices assure stability and order for the community. As a citizen, there is nothing more precious to democracy than stability and order.

Library Trustee - Beverly Carmichael: After five busy years as library trustee, I feel that my job is just beginning. Stop by the library any Wednesday to see our progress: I welcome any suggestions you may have for improvements. If elected to another five year term, I will continue to improve your space to the best of my ability.

Constable - David Crittenden: I would be honored to continue as Windham's constable as long as I do not have to exercise law enforcement powers. Rather, I would prefer the alternative option for Vermont constables and serve in an advisory and referral capacity: explaining the town's dog ordinance, recommending action to the select board, dealing with injured deer, assisting the health officer, and serving as a district court officer.

We wish all the candidates good luck. Many people contribute to the smooth functioning of Windham town government. We appreciate all of you who hold offices and give of your time, talent and energy.



During last year's Town Meeting, Tom Price casts his ballot as Maureen Fitch and Michael France wait their turns.

Leland & Gray's budget approved

by Edith Serke

On February 7, voters in the Leland and Gray Union High School district approved a budget of \$6,030,100 for Fiscal Year 2008. Of the total of 371 voters, 200 cast ballots in favor, and 171 voted against. In Windham, the vote was 24 in favor and 8 against.

Windham's assessment for 2008 is \$290,284, a 26 percent increase over the current year. The other four member towns all saw a decrease in their assessment. There is a projected increase of 26.7 percent in Windham's equalized pupils, from 19.45 to 24.64. Windham makes up 6.8 percent of L&G's total assessment.

The overall increase in L&G's expenditures for the coming year is 2 percent. While there are modest increases in most functional categories, such as English, foreign languages, physical and health education, family and consumer science, technology education, math, and music, there are decreases in science, social studies, and special education. There is a 35.3 percent increase in the school administration budget, due in part to the changes in the organizational structure.

Changes on horizon for Verizon

By Mary McCoy

The southern half of Windham might get a new phone company. FairPoint Communications and Verizon have entered an agreement to give FairPoint control of Verizon's holdings in Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine.

According to the Steve Wark, public affairs director for Vermont's Department of Public Services, this proposed complex merger would create a third yet unnamed company. The \$2.72 billion transaction will be investigated by his department which will recommend to the Public Service Board whether the new parent company can provide a high level of services.

FairPoint currently operates several small companies in the three states, including Northland Telephone Co. in Vermont. It provides service to about 5,000 Vermonters. If the deal goes through, it will have about 400,000 customers in Vermont and about 600,000 in the other two states. The new company will retain Verizon's 3,000 Vermont employees, and another 600 will be added, according to FairPoint.

The IBEW, which represents most of Verizon's Vermont workers, opposes the change. According to Mike Spillane, the union's area business manager, FairPoint is already \$2 billion in debt, and it will more than double that debt with the merger. He said, "Financially, it's an unhealthy deal." The union is concerned about the company going bankrupt and workers losing their jobs and benefits. Verizon's workers think consumers should be worried too, as the new company will be so strapped for money, it will not be able to deliver on its promises.

One key promise in FairPoint's plan is to "significantly increase broadband availability in the region within the first 12 months" by investing \$200 million on infrastructure improvements across the three states. That promise is quite attractive to all those who currently are without high speed Internet.

The process to approve the new

company will take the Public Service Board up to a year. Input from the union and consumers will be invited and considered.

DSL remains a possibility

Despite its pending transaction with FairPoint Communications, Verizon is still obligated to pursue its goal of offering DSL to 80 percent of its customers. If the deal goes through, FairPoint claims it will expand this goal to near universal coverage.

The new fiber cable recently installed up Windham Hill Road improves our chances for DSL from Verizon, although additional equipment would also be required. According to Verizon spokesperson's Beth Fastigg, that is not currently in Verizon's plan for 2007. However, she added that Verizon is continuing to expand its DSL services in Vermont and, "It helps that Windham has no cable or other broadband options, because then we know we can sell you more of our service."

DSL remains the best way to get the fastest Internet connection at the lowest price for the most people. So the Windham Broadband Project is planning to assess the interest in DSL by sending a letter with a return card to homeowners in Verizon territory. We hope to present Verizon (or whatever company becomes the service provider) with many names of potential DSL customers.

The Broadband Project's efforts have certainly been an uphill struggle. We have not succeeded yet in bringing broadband to the southern half of Windham, but we have made our need well known to Verizon, wireless vendors, our legislators, the Public Service Board, and the state agencies working to expand broadband.

We're pleased to report that the new fiber cable makes it possible for Windham Elementary School to get an affordable and reliable T-1 line. Our students will soon have better access to the learning opportunities on the Web.



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with their submissions.

Submissions

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welcomes submissions.

Send articles of around 300
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We prefer emailed submissions.

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Efforts continue to prepare Windham for emergencies

by Heath Boyer

As previously reported in the *News and Notes*, Windham now has an Emergency Plan which includes details for rapid response, continuity of government, and continuity of operations. Town voters will be asked to make a decision related to emergency preparedness at our upcoming Town Meeting.

Events in our nation such as the attack on the World Trade Towers and Hurricanes Katrina and Rita have caused communities, even those far removed from such events, to begin thinking about how they would cope with a disaster. Leaders everywhere are saying, in effect, "We need to think through some of the risks we face and some of the ways that

we can cope with catastrophic events when they occur."

Historically, small rural towns like Windham were self-sustaining and could exist almost indefinitely without help from the outside world. If something happened that caused one of us to need serious help, we knew our neighbors would provide the necessary support. There are a number of people living in Windham today who remember those times, and, quite properly, cherish them. But things are not so simple today. We are vulnerable now to food shortages, massive transportation breakdowns, disastrous weather events, large-scale power failures, and widespread illness.

The good news is that virtually all of us are still committed to the tradition of "taking care of our own." It's just that now we may need to be a bit more thoughtful of what that might involve. Consequently, the Emergency Preparedness Committee has taken three more steps to insure that Windham has the resources to take care of itself in an emergency.

First, we have begun to gather information from residents, both full-time and part-time, about what their special needs may be in an emergency and what resources they might share if circumstances required it. If you haven't completed the questionnaire that has been distributed, we ask that you return it, and encourage your neighbors to do the same.

Second, we applied to the American Red Cross and have recently been told that the elementary school building is now a Qualified Red Cross Shelter. This official status means that if the shelter is pressed into service the Red Cross will provide staff and material support.

Although the need for a shelter is occasionally questioned, it is worth noting that during a recent ice storm and power outage, both Londonderry and Townsend put their

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Valentine blizzard warms Windham hearts

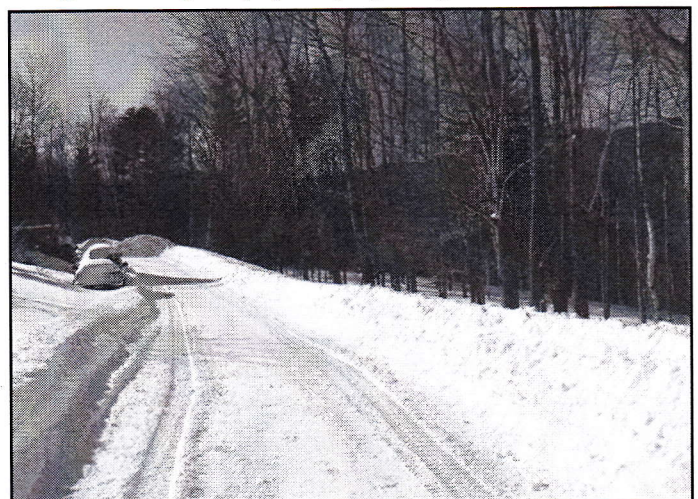
On February 14, long-awaited snow finally arrived in Windham, with wind so fierce it was hard to calculate the amount that fell. Estimates ranged from 20 to 25 inches, as indicated by this measurement at the Koutrakos home.



The following day, the wind continued, as shown below, sculpting this table top and causing snow to dance in the air.



Many thanks to Windham's road crew, Rodney and Bill, for doing a terrific job by quickly opening our roads.



Efforts for emergencies *(continued from previous page)*

shelters to use. Windham Elementary School is large enough to house and feed 50 to 60 people, and the Town Office next door could house a few more and act as an Emergency Operations Center. The one difficulty is that neither building has any emergency power.

The third step taken by the Emergency Preparedness Committee, therefore, has been to apply, with the support of the select board, for a 50 percent matching grant from the Vermont Emergency Management Agency to purchase an

emergency generator to serve both the school and the Town Office. Our application is contingent on being able to raise our half of the money.

The cost of a propane-fired 60 kilowatt generator and the required electrical work and additional equipment has been estimated at between \$35,000 and \$40,000. Accordingly, an article for these funds will be discussed and voted on at Town Meeting, March 6.

Elementary school students invited to join Monday School

by Nancy Dyke

Games, stories, crafts and songs! These are some of the activities enjoyed by boys and girls every Monday afternoon at the Windham Meeting House from 3:15 to 4:15.

The Windham Congregational Church has organized a Monday School as an alternative to Sunday School. Claire Trask, Beverly Carmichael, Dave Crittenden and Nancy Dyke are organizing the activities and invite those in grades 1-6 to join the fun already in progress.

For more information call 874-4428..

Library calendars raise \$680

by Beverly Carmichael

The Windham Library's first annual photo contest was a smashing success. Not only did we have 32 entries capturing the beauty of Windham, but a lovely calendar was created, and the sale of them went well.

Calendars were sold at the Town Office and at the library during the month of December. We ordered 100 calendars, and by Christmas, there were only 10 left. After expenses, we raised \$680. We thank all those who participated in our contest and also all those who bought our calendars.

All other library activities continue through the winter. If there is a cancellation, I will notify everyone either through email or telephone. Again, thank you for your continued support.

Safe Steps helps prevent falls

Free home safety visits designed to help people prevent falling at home are now available through the Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice of Vermont and New Hampshire. They will show you how most falls occur and what you can do to prevent them.

Up to \$75 worth of free materials are provided including grab bars and handrails (installed), non slip rugs, power failure lights, reacher sticks, tub seats, toilet risers, shower hoses and much more. For an appointment call Eileen Katchen at 1-800-858-1696.



Catherine Drohan and Becca Clay smile for the camera, while making beaded bracelets during Monday School.

Bunco pleases participants

by Imme Maurath

Some people were not sure what to expect when we held our first night of Bunco on January 27. Thanks to Nancy Dyke for showing us the game and coaching us to make sure we understood.

The game is played with four people at a table, and we had one extra player. So Heath Boyer and Steve Maurath took turns. You would think that might have increased their chances at winning, but no. I mean, how much bad luck can two people have?

The game turned out to be quite the social event. When table #1 rolls to 21, everyone at the other tables adds up their score, and those with the highest score move on to the next table. There they change partners and start again. Not only do you move around all night, you're always playing with different people.

Thanks to everyone who brought refreshments and booby prizes.

Margaret Dwyer runs at bold and steady pace

by Mary McCoy

Residents in the southern half of Windham will attest to seeing Margaret Dwyer running frequently on the roads. In winter, they see her Yaktrak prints far apart in the snow. She runs at least five days out of every seven, with a goal of 40 miles a week. Becoming a runner at age 14 to lose weight, she has completed 19 marathon races. Only once in her life has she not run – when she had a broken leg. She says, “I have to do it, or I’ll go insane.”

Being a high-energy person with a lot of discipline, she had dreams when she was younger of being a pilot. So following high school, she went to the Air Force Academy. After two years, however, she was told that her eyesight was not good enough to be a flyer. So she returned to her home state of New York, where she graduated from Syracuse University with a forestry degree in biology.

Although there were no forestry jobs to be found, an environmental position was available at Bromley Mountain. Her education helped her earn five licenses in her three years there. Then in 1992, she was offered a job at Stratton as assistant chief operator of the water department. Within a year, she took over the chief’s job.

Today Margaret serves as community services director for the Stratton Corporation, doing what others do for municipalities as the head of public works. She oversees water, sewage, roads, and security. She also works on-the-side for Magic Mountain and Pinnacle Lodge, managing their water treatment.

Most Windham residents know Margaret, however, as one of our three select board members, a job she has held for five years. Margaret likes being involved in her community and had previously served on Windham’s planning commission.

Dealing with Route 121 after the flood in 2003 was the biggest issue she has faced on the select board, and she enjoyed setting things right by acquiring the governmental aid needed for the repairs. Recently, she was one of 19 who completed the Management Academy sponsored by the Vermont Local Roads Program, furthering her knowledge

of road work.

She and the other select board members are currently contacting Londonderry to repave the east end of Route 121 and Townshend to repair the south end of Windham Hill Road. Two problems remain, Margaret says, the increased traffic on Windham Hill Road, especially truck traffic, and the high speed at which many travel it. But, she adds, “We can’t stop that.”

With her environmental background, Margaret has deep

concerns about global warming and our dependence on oil. “We need to explore other options,” she says. While she respected Windham residents’ opposition to the wind turbines on Glebe Mountain, she has not dismissed the idea of wind power here, and she regrets that the studies being done related to the wind turbines were not completed.

She further explains, “It bothers me when people’s only reason for opposing

wind power is fear that their property values will be affected. We have to do something to get away from oil. Solar is limited here. Maybe small scale windmills would work. Hydro is good, but we didn’t take advantage of that when we had the chance, and now the permits aren’t viable. Nuclear scares me, although it could be okay *if* there were a safe way to deal with the waste. I don’t know what the answer is, but something has to be done.”

If you conclude that Margaret Dwyer is an all-work and no-play person, you’d be wrong. A self-proclaimed nut, she admits to watching too much TV and to being hooked on reality, game, and animal shows. “With my schedule,” she says, “I can’t live without Tevo.”

She also is a collector of model horses, a hobby she started at age 10. “My pony room shows how crazy I am,” she says referring to the room in her home where more than 1,000 little horses – each of a different size, color, and stance – are displayed on shelves.

Margaret’s home of 10 years is on Windham Hill Road. When she first moved to Vermont, she lived with her sister

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Margaret Dwyer *(continued from previous page)*

in nearby towns. Then she ended her first engagement to be married and decided to buy a house, so she could have a place of her own where she could keep dogs.

Two more broken engagements followed. Margaret explains, "I'm afraid of losing my independence." She adds, "I'm 42 now, and I always thought I'd be married with kids by this age. But I cherish my freedom, and I just haven't met the right guy. Sometimes it's tough being alone, although I feel very safe in Windham. People look out for each other here, and at the same time they respect each other's privacy."

Margaret and Cathy Stover walk their dogs together

each day in the summer and a few times a week in the winter. Cathy says, "She's always on the go – a very high-energy, independent woman. She's taught me a lot about dogs, and she's very generous. She walks my dog when I'm not around."

Margaret has two golden retrievers, one red and one blond, whom she adores. But until four years ago, she had two hybrid wolf-dogs that died in their elder years. Like the hybrids, Margaret is a bit untamed, yet a member of the pack. As she puts it, "The goldens have my heart, but the hybrids have my soul."

Andria Pare chosen as student ambassador

by Edith Serke

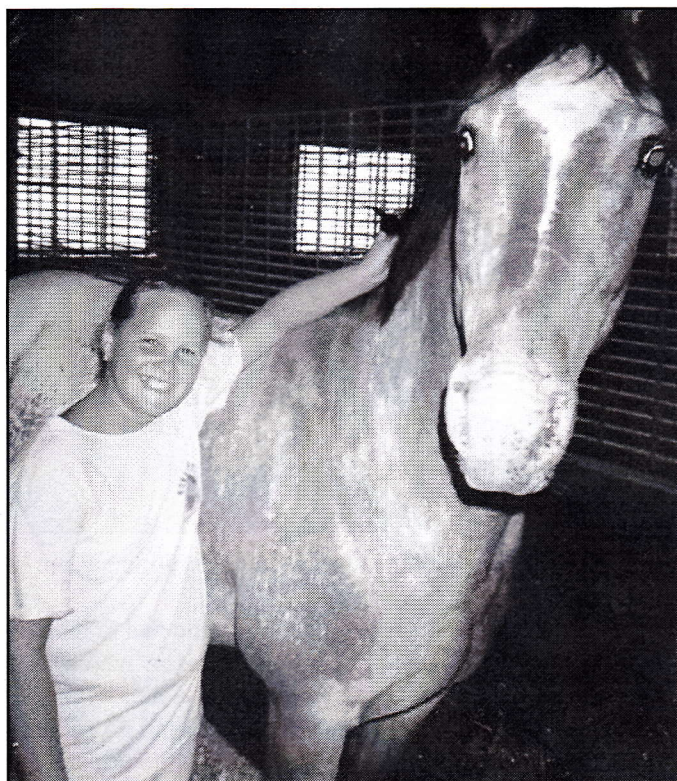
Andria Pare, a 4th grade student at Windham Elementary School, will be going to Hawaii this summer. She was interviewed and accepted to participate as a member of the People to People Student Ambassador program.

The objective of the program is to promote international understanding while building leadership skills among America's youth. The 14-day experience will include meeting with government officials, interaction with other students her age from around the country, educational activities, and home stays with host families.

People to People was founded by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956. He believed that if people from different cultures could come together in peace and friendship so eventually would countries. Since its founding People to People has launched many international programs, including Sister Cities and Project HOPE. All U.S. presidents since Eisenhower have served as honorary chairmen of the program.

Andria came to the January meeting of the Windham Community Organization to give a presentation. She needs to raise \$4,000 to be able to participate in this exciting adventure. The WCO voted to help Andria in this endeavor by awarding her \$300, with the hope that her friends and neighbors in Windham will also support her.

To help Andria, send a check to her via her parents, Richard and Sue Pare, at 355 Woodburn Road, Windham, VT 05359. Make the check out to People to People.



Andria Pare pets her beloved pony, Cisco.



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NEXTEL



WCO extends helping hand

The Windham Community Organization reminds town residents that it has funds available to help you or anyone you know who needs assistance this winter.

All requests are confidential.

Please call Mary Boyer at 874-5242 or Beverly Scott at 874-4064.

Jenny Newton seizes opportunity to go to China

by Mary Boyer

Her bright and engaging smile is an immediate clue as to why Jenny Newton, age 14 and a freshman, is among the students chosen to represent Leland & Gray High School and Vermont in a performing arts exchange with China.

Since its inception in 2000, "Journey East" has traveled to China on four occasions involving over a hundred students, and it has in turn hosted four delegations from the University of Inner Mongolia. When Jenny saw the performances of the

prior groups, she sat in the audience and told herself, "I want to be up there."

Jenny became increasingly curious about China when her family hosted two exchange students from the University in Mongolia. In addition, China seemed to be present in so many news stories, and its manufactured products seem to be everywhere she went.

Before being selected to go to China, she had to maneuver through a strenuous application process in which only 50% of the applicants would be chosen. She had to answer 10 essay questions, pass several interviews, and do an audition in which she sang and played guitar. Although she has studied piano and violin since she was 5 years old, the guitar is a much more recent interest. Her audition went well even so, and soon she was notified of her acceptance in the program. Now the real work began.

In preparation for their trip, Jenny and her fellow students have been immersed in a semester-long Asian Studies Program at Leland & Gray. The material includes classes in Chinese culture, history, philosophy, geography and politics, Chinese language and Asian literature. Each of her school days finishes with a performing arts section. The group of 30 students is creating a music-theater-arts piece to be presented at various venues in China. The focus of the production is what each ensemble chooses to relate about American culture through the arts.

Always an excellent student Jenny is undaunted by the amount of work involved. She likes having to stretch aca-

demically and is proud of the fact that the intellectual level of the work has to engage the juniors and seniors as well as the freshmen. She also loves the fact that she is learning so much about theater production.

On March 21, Jenny and the other students will have a dress rehearsal for Leland & Gray. On the 25th, they are off to Beijing to begin a month-long tour of China learning about the culture first-hand and seeing the Great Wall in

Beijing and the ancient army of Terra Cotta Warriors at Xian. As they travel, they will share their performance with thousands of high school students.

Their final destination is the University of Inner Mongolia at Hohhot. In collaboration with the students of the Performing Arts College, there they will teach and learn songs and dances from each other's culture. Those pieces then become part of a final performance program for the combined groups.

In addition to learning and performing, Jenny and her travel mates are to be good will ambassadors for the United States and for Vermont. Not only will she

represent us to the Chinese, but she will also bring home some thoughts and reflections on China for us. Once home, she and the other students will be resources to other Vermont schools where they will perform, answer questions, and visit classrooms.

Following her return, Jenny will have one more assignment to complete. She must select one area of Chinese culture that is of particular interest to her and give a fifteen minute presentation to the public on that topic. At this point, she confesses to being excited about so many areas that she is unclear what her topic will be. She is contemplating the subject of food, but she says that could change as she learns and experiences more about China in the weeks ahead.

Jenny, for those few who may not know it, is a member of the very accomplished Newton family of "Olde Windham". Her parents, Diane and Peter are understandably proud of what she has achieved. To a new acquaintance, her determination and evident self-discipline make her seem mature beyond her years.

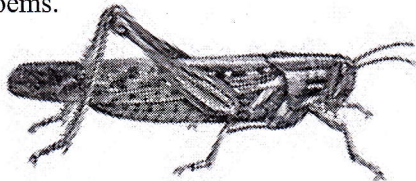
All of us wish Jenny a safe journey, a powerful learning experience, and loads of fun. We look forward to hearing about her experience after her return in May.



Student poets describe bugs soon to return in spring

from Sally Newton, teacher

In the primary room at the Windham School, we did a unit on insects and spiders last fall. We watched monarch caterpillars eat lots of milkweed, grow, and form their pupa state in the beautiful green and gold chrysalis. Eight of them emerged successfully and were released to fly south for the winter. During our unit, the children wrote these poems.



The grasshopper hops
All day long
In the grass
As they sing their song.
by Kit Blazej

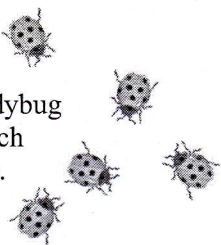
A very green grasshopper
Hopping in the long green grass
Likes to eat plants.
by Patrick McDonald



One black and golden honeybee
On a blue or yellow flower
Sucking sweet nectar.
by Marcus Hilliger

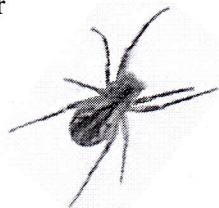
Insects creep
Insects climb
Insects hop in the grass
They hop in the grass
Because they are green
Insects, insects creep and crawl.
by Anna Lehman

Red and yellow ladybug
Outside on my porch
Eating little aphids.
by Ona Pare



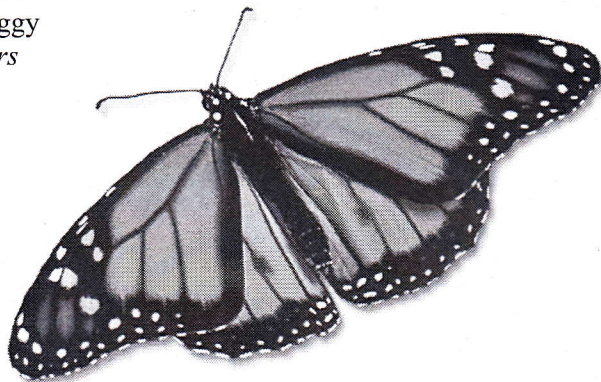
It is fall
And grasshoppers jump
And I like to rake
I ask the leaves
Do you like to fall?
And do you have pockets?
I ask the bird
How does it stay up in the air?
And if it likes to catch insects.
I ask the bees
How they carry their honey
By their feeo or their heads
Or their necks or their heads.
by Levi Clay

Spider, spider
How do you make your web?
Do you use silk or thread?
by Jake Ires



Spider spider
Waiting waiting
All day long
An insect
Passes by
The door opens
Bye bye buggy
by Hunter Peters

Butterfly, butterfly
Fly, fly, fly
Butterfly, butterfly
High, high, high
In the beautiful
Sky, sky, sky.
by Erika Van Alstyne



A shiny cricket
On an old stump
Making a perfect sound.
by Andrew Persa



A shiny green cricket
In the sharp yellow grass
Hopping up and down.
by Joel Emmons



Green stinging hornets
Up in the tree
Are waiting to sting me
by Owen McDonald

*Stay tuned for more from
Windham's promising young
poets, now aged 5-9.*

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South Windham, Vermont
874-7267

www.valleybibleVT.com

Pastor Mark W. Griffin
pastor@valleybibleVT.com

Sunday

10:00 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship
6:00 PM Bible Study

Thursday

7:00 PM Prayer Mtg & Bible Study
(meeting in homes through March)

Upcoming Events

Hymn Sing - Sunday, Feb 25 at 6:00

Speaker: Dave Byron of Camp
Northfield - Sunday, March 11

Men's Breakfast - Saturday,
March 17 at 7:30 AM

Midwinter Musings

by Margaret Woodruff

For many years now, sometime after Christmas and before the New Year, I would get out my card table and put a jig saw puzzle together. This was a respite for me, as I had always handmade most of the Christmas gifts, so this time provided a needed rest from busyness. This is still a ritual for me, except that this year, my puzzle is still only partly together at the beginning of February. But, there is no rush. That is one of the advantages of being a senior citizen!

I have lived my life with age old rhythms, but things changed in an instant when my husband Stockton died unexpectedly in 1984. We had always enjoyed going to auctions and antique shops, buying things, adding to our collections. After his death, they began to feel meaningless, and suddenly I was the "keeper" of all this "stuff". I had always been a very spiritual person, and after Stockton's death, I began to develop a completely new life for myself. As I focused on my spirituality, these various collections began to feel like a giant albatross in my life. It has taken me many, many hours to rid myself of them.

With the wisdom acquired during my lifetime, and the added spirituality, I have come to realize the important things in life – sitting by an un-curtained window in a favorite rocking chair watching the birds and the squirrels in the backyard, or strolling in the garden seeing new flowers as they open.

I guess I found out too late what an albatross a collection of "unnecessary things" are in your life. Too late, perhaps, but now the term "Simplify, Simplify" really means something to me. But then again, it is never too late to have that phrase guide how we live ...

That's all for now!

Margaret Woodruff

Al-Anon meeting times updated

by Beverly D. Scott

One of our readers was kind enough to provide the following updated information about local Al-Anon meetings.

Sunday: Claremont, N.H. - Valley Regional Hospital, Buckley Conference Room at 7:00 PM. Alateen also meets at the same time and place. Also on **Sunday:** North Springfield - Precision Valley Baptist Church on Route 106 at 7:00 PM.

Monday: Chester - First Baptist Church on Main Street at 7:00 PM. Also on **Monday:** Newfane - First Congregational Church on Route 30 at 7:30 PM.

Tuesday: Springfield - Congregational Church on Main Street at 12 noon.

Wednesday: Putney - Federated Church at 7:30 PM. Also on **Wednesday:** South Londonderry Baptist Church at 7:00 PM.

Thursday: Springfield - Congregational Church on Main Street at 12 noon.

Friday: Manchester Center - St. Paul's Church at 298 Bonnet St. at 1:00 PM.

There is no longer a special men's AA meeting, Friday, 7:00 PM at Parks Place in Bellow Falls.

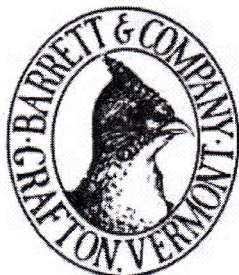
For up-to-date information, call toll free in Vermont, 1-866-972-5266 or visit www.vermontalananonlateen.org. The local answering service for Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) is 802-885-8281. The Vermont area website is www.aavt.org.



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**Windham welcomes
these new property owners:**
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Ada M. & Jerry L. Abernathy
Jeff Larvia & Kelly Murphy

Wildlife abounds near Burbee Pond

by Dawn Bower

I would like to take a few minutes to share with you the wonderful world of wild life in Windham. Our backyard happens to be on Burbee Pond, which is totally incredible not only for what it is, but for the many species of nature that surrounds it.

My husband (Alan) and I have the pleasure of sitting at the dining room table for our meals, always looking for something unusual. One morning we had a spike horn deer swim across the pond while we were having breakfast, and it continued toward our house and came right up past our window to greet us, as well.

Another morning, we had four black and white pheasants, which we had never seen before on our deck feasting with our beautiful assortment of birds. On another occasion, we were having dinner when a young bull moose decided to join us right outside the window. He stood there as if to say, "What's for dinner, it sure looks good."

I also have the habit of flipping on the outside lights several times after dark to see what might be out there, and one evening there at the same spot as the others was a beautiful black bear. It was incredible. My 10-year-old granddaughter was visiting us at the time, and when she saw him standing there, she was in awe.

It's not every day that this happens, but there are so many episodes that I could go on and describe them all, but I will not. I would like to mention a few of the other animals



This unidentified breed of pheasant visits the Bower's home.

and birds that we do have pleasure watching out of our backyard. They are the fox, otters, beavers, mink, blue herons, American tern, osprey and, yes, the great bald eagle and many species of duck and hawks. Also, we have the sound of the frogs in season, and I do not want to forget the snapping turtle that laid her eggs in my garden.

I could go on and on, but I think it is time to stop. I am sure you all realize by now that I am quite a wildlife lover. Thank you for your few minutes. And in ending, I would like to say, "This is the Wonderful World of Windham."

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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 9*).

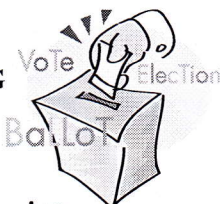
Every Monday - **Monday School** with the Congregational
Church from 3:15 to 4:15 (*see page 5*).

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 - **Strong Living** exercise
class at 1:30 PM at the Meeting House.

Tuesday, March 6 - **TOWN MEETING**
at 10:00 AM at the Meeting House (*see*
pages 1 and 2).

Thursday, March 8 - **Windham Planning
Commission** at 7:00 PM at Town Office; public is invited.



Saturday, March 10 - **Bingo Night** at Meeting House at 7:00
PM (*see page 1*).

Wednesday, March 14 - **Brown Bag Chat Group** at noon
at the Meeting House.

Wednesday, March 28 - **Windham Community Organiza-
tion** at 7:00 PM at the Meeting House; annual meeting with
election of officers and chicken dinner.

Thursday, April 12 - **Windham Planning Commission**
meets at 7:00 PM at Town Office; public invited.

Friday, April 13 - **Deadline** for submissions for next issue
of *Windham News and Notes*.

Monday-Friday, April 16-20 - **Spring Vacation** for Wind-
ham Elementary School.

Wednesday, April 18 - **Brown Bag Chat Group** at noon at
the Meeting House.

Wednesday, April 25 - **Windham Community Organiza-
tion** at 7:00 PM at the Meeting House.



TOWN OF WINDHAM

--- EMERGENCY NUMBERS ---

**Fire, Ambulance, Police
911**

**Londonderry Volunteer
Rescue Squad
824-3165**

**Poison Control Center
1-800-222-1222**

**Mental Health Emergency
1-800-622-4235**

--- LOCAL SERVICES ---

**Windham Town Office
874-4211**

**Elementary School
874-4159**

**Leland & Gray Union H.S.
874-7651**

**Carlos Otis Health Center
365-7920**

**Grace Cottage Hospital
365-7676**

**Mt. Valley Medical Center
824-6901**

**Road Condition Info
1-800-429-7623**

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Get Connected/Get Answers
(helps you find the right resources)
211

Connecticut River Transit
(provides free or discounted rides)
1-802-885-5162

**Health Care &
Rehabilitation Service**
(offers mental health services)
1-802-463-3947

Safe Steps Home
(helps make homes safe)
1-800-858-1696

Senior Help Line
(assists seniors & their care givers)
1-800-642-5119

SE Vermont Community Action
(helps low-income people)
1-800-464-9951

Valley Health Care
(helps elderly & disabled stay home)
1-802-365-4910

Women's Crisis Center
(offers protection from abuse)
1-802-254-6954

Visiting Nurses Assoc/Hospice
(helps during final days of life)
1-802-575-5162

**Vermont Alcohol & Drug
Abuse Program**
(gives info and referrals)
1-802-257-2885

**Windham Community
Organization**
(assists neighbors in need)
875-5242