



# WINDHAM NEWS & NOTES

*Volume V — Issue 6*

*May/June 2008*

## Appointments Made by Select Board

*By Edith Serke*

On the Monday following the Town Meeting, the Select Board made the following appointments:

Robert Bingham, Ernest Friedli, Cara Cain, and William Koutrakos to another four-year term on the Planning Commission;

Carolyn Partridge and Heath Boyer for a one-year term to represent Windham on the Windham Regional Planning Commission;

Walter Woodruff, Richard Pare, and Lawrence Worden as Fence Viewers for one year;

Vincent DiBernardo DVM, as Pound Keeper for one year;

Ann Garrett as Dog Counter for one year;

Lawrence Worden and Robert Bingham as surveyors of Wood, Lumber, and Shingles for one year;

Ernest Friedli, Weigher of Coal for one year;

Walter Woodruff, Tree Warden for one year;

Michael Simonds as Zoning Administrative Officer for one year;

Helen George, as Town Service Officer for one year;

Regina Noel to represent Windham on the Council of Aging for Southeastern Vermont;

Edward Caron, Jr. and Alice Worden to the Citizens Advisory Committee for the Housing Rehabilitation Development Grant Program for 3 years;

Donna Koutrakos and John Krisher for four years to the Conservation Commission; and Peter McDonald as Energy Coordinator for one year.

The position of 911 Coordinator will be filled by the Zoning Administrative Officer.

## Green Up Day in Windham

*By Marcia Clinton*

On Saturday, May 3rd the Windham Community Organization is encouraging everyone in town to come out for GREEN-UP DAY. Everyone, young, old and in-between will meet at 9 a.m. at the Town Office to receive assignments and sturdy plastic bags to fill. This year filled bags can be left alongside the road for pick-up. No more worries about smelly, leaky bags in your own cars.

A Worker Appreciation Lunch will take place at noon at the Windham Meeting House. The WCO will offer hot dogs, soda, and cookies for lunch. At that time the "Bragging Rights Prizes" will be awarded. Categories for the ribbon awards are: the weirdest, the largest number of bags collected, the longest distance cleaned.

All are welcome to come Saturday morning after 9 a.m. to get a bag and clean up part of Windham so that all can enjoy its beauty as spring unfolds.



**Elected Officers Sworn in at Town Meeting**



## Rabies Encounter

By Kathy Griffin

Friday, March 7, 2008 is a memorable day for me. I bundled up and headed out to the barn to feed my horse as usual. When I reached the barn, I noticed several things out of place. Most noticeably a plastic bag of shavings which had been dragged from the sawdust bin ripped open and poked full of holes. I thought it was strange, but I thought perhaps the stray tomcat that hangs around occasionally was attacking our cat again and maybe there was a struggle. I had noticed our cat in the rafters when I came out. I walked into the tack room to get the horse's grain and saw that our cat was looking at something below him. I assumed it was another cat and looked to see a fox with quills all over his face looking at me. I'm not sure at that point exactly what happened next. I remember thinking, "One of us needs to leave!" The fox looked furtively at me and looked like he would leave, but instead came towards me. I quickly moved towards the doorway.

On the way out of the tack room he grabbed my pant leg. I started screaming and kicking. I remember hitting him with my gloved hand and then running to the house not sure if he were attached, chasing me or running the other way. When I got into the house, I removed my boots and pants and inspected my leg for scratches or bites. I could feel the point of contact just above my ankle bone, but could see nothing. I washed the area, re-dressed, and called a family friend, Bob Bingham, who happens to be a former game warden. He promised to come over a little while later with a rifle. My husband Mark went outside to see if the fox was still in the barn. He was. Bob came and went with Mark to the barn and Mark pointed to where the fox had been. As Bob approached, the fox came out and attacked him! Bob, not certain where Mark was, did not shoot at first and fought off the fox with the butt of the rifle and his foot. He was finally able to kick the fox clear and shoot it. The fox died in our barn. He had quills all over his nose, in his ears and all around his face. He had a beautiful coat and a thick full tail. After thanking Bob, I went into the house and called the State Police who called the Game Warden. He promised to come pick up the fox that day and suggested I call Dr. Johnson in Burlington.

Dr. Johnson told me that he was quite certain, by my description of the fox and its actions, that the animal was rabid. (Marcia Clinton, Town Health Officer, confirmed later that the fox was rabid.) He would receive the fox later that day and call me by Monday with the results. He explained that without a bite or scratch that I should be safe from the disease, but that he would check with the Center for Disease Control to be absolutely sure. The CDC concurred with his assessment and I have not received treatment.

It was encouraging to have such a network in place to deal quickly and professionally with the situation. I am thankful to God for his protection for all involved and for those He had in place to help me. The entire situation could have been much worse. Rabies is a scary disease because most of us know little about it but imagine much. Dr. Johnson was able to explain the disease and how it travels as well as how it affects the animals. My veterinarian was able to explain further how quickly the saliva dissipates on contamination sites. Since that day, my cat has had a rabies booster shot and the horse received his annual rabies shot. I would encourage all who have pets to make sure their animals are vaccinated for rabies. Be sure to ask your vet the questions you may have about the disease and don't depend on old wives tales for your knowledge. I discovered that "common knowledge" differed greatly from the advice and information I received from professionals.

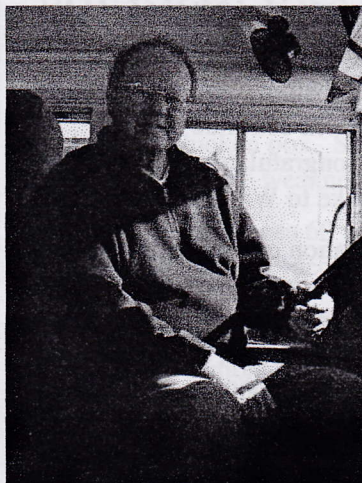


## Primary Election Results in Windham By Edith Serke

On March 4, 106 voters cast their ballots for their preferred presidential candidate. Ninety-five Democrats voted, and eleven Republicans. There were no votes cast for the Liberty Union party. Of the Democrats, 38 Voted for Clinton and 56 for Obama. Of the Republicans, 10 voted for McCain and one for Paul. Countywide, 60.7% of the Democrats preferred Obama to Clinton's 36.9%. On the Republican side, 70.1% voted for McCain, 13.4% for Huckabee, 7.4% each for Paul and Romney.



## Farewell to Dave The Bus Driver *By Mary Boyer*



In good and bad weather Dave Crittenden has been getting our children to school for the last four and a half years. Dave loves kids and says this is the best job he has ever had. He chuckles as he explains that to see the unrepeatable world through the eyes of a child is a real treat.

Each school day Dave cheerfully drives the seventy five mile round trip with its endless stops and starts. His "smart bus" has an automatic transmission to prevent the burning out of a clutch on the many hills on his route. We have roughly 25 kids in the Windham school and another 25 at Leland and Gray. Dave believes he is the one responsible for the safe delivery of each

of his charges. "It's just me and kids, the only hard part is remembering the big yellow box that follows behind me."

Occasionally Dave drives the children to special events. They have attended Windham Orchestra Concerts and have been to Rye Beach, in NH, the Rudyard Kipling Home in Dummerston, and VINS Raptor Center in Ascutney.

Dave will be retiring at the end of the school year. We are sorry to see such a valued employee move on. To have our schoolchildren in the hands of someone who not only takes his job seriously but enjoys it is a gift to the community.

Thank you, Dave, for your years of dedicated service to the Windham School children. We wish you the best in your new pursuits.

## Windham Community Organization Annual Meeting

*By Gina Noel*

The annual meeting of the Windham Community Organization was held on March 26, 2008. We are pleased to announce that at that time the current slate of Officers was re-elected: Mary Boyer, President; Regina Noel, Vice-President, Edith Serke, Treasurer and Dawn Bower, Secretary. Also, happily continuing are Peter and Bonnie Chamberlain as co-chairs of the Good Neighbor Committee and Imme Maurath as chair of the Events Committee.

We are happy to report that it has been a successful year for the WCO. Among other efforts, we were able to assist some local residents with utility debts, fund school related efforts, give aid to families with special life events and support nearby food banks.

We are looking forward to the upcoming year and making even greater strides. The WCO has joined with the area "Windham Cares" group in developing a multi-community brochure and an upcoming county health fair. We are hoping that this new participation will give us more visibility and will encourage people to contact us for assistance or support.

Thank you to the entire community for making this year both special and meaningful to those we serve. Your participation at our Annual Chicken Barbeque, Harvest Dinner and other events makes it possible to help where help is needed.



## 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

Dawn Bower

Mary Boyer

Carolyn Chase

Jean Coburn

Bev Carmichael

Imme Maurath

Gina Noel

Edith Serke

Margaret Woodruff

### Acknowledgements

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

We welcome submissions.

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

### Next deadline

**June 13, 2008**

Windham News & Notes

5976 Windham Hill Rd.

Windham, VT 05359

802-875-4874

windhamnews@hotmail.com



## SELECT BOARD

In the meeting of March 10th, the Select Board elected Margaret Dwyer to serve as its chairman. We feel that rotating this position will enrich our experience on the board and will offer differing perspectives to town residents and property owners. Margaret brings a wealth of experience and calm personality to this position. Walter's broad perspective, long history in town government and ability to see both sides of any situation will continue to influence the board. We also filled the various appointed positions that help us function. We congratulate all those newly elected officials and thank you and all appointees for the huge contributions you make to Windham.

At Town Meeting you were told that we were awarded a grant of \$7,000 toward the installation of our emergency generator and were requested to approve another \$10,000 for its purchase. Shortly after that meeting we were notified in a surprise phone call from Vermont Emergency Management that they had \$10,000 in additional funds available and were awarding it to Windham. VEM also encouraged us to apply again in the later part of this fiscal year for possible further funding. The additional funding means we may not need to use the \$10,000 appropriated at Town Meeting. Work will begin on the installation of the generator as soon as the snow melts.

As part of our emergency preparedness planning, we are seeking a volunteer with a HAM operator license or someone who would like to take the training to get a Beginners Level License. We also need several people in town to be trained in the National Incident Management System (NIMS). The Select Board will be trained and several volunteers in the Fire Department are already certified. If anyone is interested in getting the license and/or taking the training please call the office and let Carol Merritt know. The training will consist of two 4 hour sessions on evenings or a Saturday day class.

The condition of our roads after a long hard winter continues to be a concern. We recently met with the District 2 Transportation Administrator and a DOT Transportation Technician to discuss grant opportunities and to get guidance about how best to proceed with the necessary paperwork. They were very helpful in explaining a somewhat complicated allocation system and very encouraging about Windham's place on the list of the many towns that will be seeking assistance this year. Rodney and Bill kept our roads clear under very erratic weather conditions. The shortage of road salt and sand this year made their job all the more difficult. We appreciate all that they did and will do to get us through their next challenge — mud season.

The Select Board will be meeting May 12, 26 and June 9, 30. All meetings are at 6:30 at the Town Office and everyone is welcome.

Margaret Dwyer, Walter Woodruff, Mary Boyer

### TOWN-WIDE TAG AND BAKE SALE

Windham Community Association is sponsoring its first annual Town of Windham tag sale and bake sale on June 21, 2008 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. This is a great time to clean out the attic, cellar, and garage and earn some money. Craft items are also welcome. Tables will be provided for the cost of a \$20.00 donation to the WCO and will be moved indoors in the event of rain.

Call Beverly Carmichael at 875-4874 to reserve your table for the day. Come and have fun at this community-sponsored activity.

### Windham School Nature Trail

The Windham School has just received a small grant from the Strolling of the Heifers Foundation to create a nature trail. We would like to build it in the woods behind the school. The length and the exact location of the trail will depend on our resources and the willingness of adjacent land owners to allow the trail to cross their property. We hope to make it long enough to be used for walking, running and cross country skiing, as well as nature study. We would like to have it used by school and community members. We are looking for community members who might like to be involved in the project. If you are interested, please call the school at 874-4159.



## SHINGLES VACCINE AVAILABLE FOR VERMONTERS

Shingles can be a painful disease that may affect anyone who has had chicken pox. Shingles can cause scarring, hearing loss, muscle weakness and long-term nerve pain.

Vermont residents, ages 60 years and older, can now receive a recommended vaccine to help prevent shingles.

For an appointment, please call:

Vermont Dept. of Health (VDH)

Springfield Office

toll-free 888 296-8151

*This vaccine is available free of charge from VDH for a limited time and in limited quantities. Please check with your health care provider to see if the shingles vaccine is available to you through another source.*

## Walk and Dance for Healthy Aging

**The Council on Aging for Southeastern Vermont urges working together for strong, healthy and supportive communities.** That is the theme for this year's Older Americans Month, May. Now is the time to get involved. You can make a commitment to: Walk and/or dance for the health of it, raise awareness about living well, and at the same time raise funds to support seniors in our communities.

The walking events are scheduled for:

In **Putney** on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. Contact Putney Cares at 387- 5593.

In **Dummerston** on Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am, contact. Dummerston Cares at 254-2703.

In **Townshend** on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am. Contact Townshend Senior Meals at 824-6521.

In **Windsor** on Wednesday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at 11am. Contact Volunteers in Action at 674-5971.

In **Springfield** also on Wednesday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at noon. Contact the Southern Vermont Recreation Center at 885-2568.

In **Bellows Falls** on Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> from 1 – 6, a Jamboree Dance for Healthy Aging! Contact the Bellows Falls Area Senior Center at 463-3907.

## Grant Available for Caregivers

The Council on Aging for Southeastern Vermont, Inc. has available grant funds for a family member or friend who is caring for an elder with a diagnosis of Dementia.

The income guidelines are:

Single, less than \$2,552.50 per month

Couple, less than \$3,422.50

The goals of the grant are to increase elder's ability to remain in their community, delay or prevent nursing home placement and support family in continuing to care for a loved one at home.

A Council on Aging Case Manager will meet with the elder and family or member to complete the application process. Inquiries can be directed to the Windham case Manager, Jesse Webster at 365-7706

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## SAVE THE DATE!

Windham Community Organization Annual

**CHICKEN BBQ & CRAFT EXHIBIT**

**SAT JULY 19TH 5 PM**

**WINDHAM MEETING HOUSE**



## Sugaring Poems

### Sugar House

The pan is bubbling,  
The sap is boiling,  
Oh, how good it smells!  
For you who haven't been in a sugar house,  
You should!

By Levi Clay

### Maple Syrup

Sap is running,  
Syrup is boiling,  
Children shouting for more.  
Yummy! Yummy! Yummy!  
Exploding in your mouth!  
Golden brown, thick and sweet!

By Kit Blazej

### Maple Sugaring

Warm, sunny days and cold nights,  
Make the sap run.  
Boiling the sap in a big pan,  
To make it sweet.

By Anna Lehmann

### Just a Little More

Making maple sugar is hard work,  
Because you have to collect the sap,  
And boil the sap,  
And then comes the tasty part!  
The kids are begging for more, at the store.  
They beg for more.  
Their moms say just a little more.

By Joel Emmons

## SUGARING ON A SMALL SCALE

Tom Carmichael and Heath Boyer collected about 200 gallons of sap from trees on their property and here you see them boiling it down. They amused each other during the long process by telling jokes, car stories and shared some "can you top this" events of their lives. They even produced some mighty fine maple syrup. At least enough for grandkids to have on their pancakes.

### Maple Sugaring

The pan is bubbling.  
You must love maple sugaring.  
You must need a lot of wood!

By Rheanna Pare

### Maple, Maple

Maple, maple sugaring,  
I like to maple sugar,  
And you like to maple sugar.  
I like the bubbles,  
And you like the bubbles.  
I like the steam,  
And you like the steam.  
I like the smell,  
And you like the smell.  
I like the taste,  
And you like the taste.  
Everyone likes to maple sugar!

By Jake Ires

### Sugaring

Working in the sugarhouse,  
Boiling the sap into syrup,  
Burning the wood,  
I can't wait to taste it!

By Patrick McDonald

(These poems were written by Windham School students who were inspired by a visit to the Coleman's sugar house in Rawsonville).





## Back to a Real-Deal Winter! *By Lydia Pope France*

As I sit and write this, the sun is shining, the sky is as blue as can be, and the thermometer is well above 50 ... it seems like winter is on the way out, but then again, this is Windham, and we all know that April is the cruelest month, or can be. That tease of warm weather one day, and then a Nor'easter with a foot of snow the next ...

This year saw a return to what was once a more "normal" winter for these parts, if there truly is anything such as "normal" when it comes to weather. "A good old fashioned winter" said some, while others lamented the constant snow and its accompanying chores. But in reality, it wasn't exceptional even by the standards of my record keeping, which only goes back to the winter of 2002 - 2003. What was different were the few years in between when our numbers dipped, but more on that to come.

If we go back to that home-spun method for predicting the number of "snow events" that I wrote about last year, we were off (over) once again this winter. The method begins with the first real snowfall, that is, one where you can at least leave footprints (or as some call it, "cat print snow"). Count the number of days between that date and Christmas, and you have the predicted number of "snow events" to come for that season. In the three years since I began keeping track this way, we have always been over in Windham. But I am not *totally* giving up yet - maybe we just need our own version of the formula, perhaps number of days between that first cat print snow and Christmas *plus* some factor (probably + six or +seven given the data I have so far).

2002-2003	177 Inches
2003-2004	153
2004-2005	118
2005-2006	84
2006-2007	105
2007-2008	136

So how does our snow total for this year stack up to other, recent years? We are kind of in the middle, so far ...

The reality of this winter was that we *should have had* a lot more snow than we had. We had several pretty heavy rain storms in between the snow, and the result was a lot more ice. Unfortunately, I don't keep a rain gauge out in the winter, as they always freeze and break, but my guess is that those rain storms could have been counted in inches, which would have easily translated to several more feet of snow had conditions been right.

For me, it was those nuisance storms of rain and ice that made it less than pleasant. But the snow was fantastic, and we had so many truly gorgeous

days of living inside a snow globe one day and then white trees against such blue, blue skies the next. How do people live in Florida, you have to wonder?!

And as for cold, this certainly wasn't the coldest winter we've had by a long shot, but I haven't really played with those numbers. However, *subjectively speaking*, we have had *much colder winters even in the eight years that we have been here*. One January or February it was regularly 10 to 15 below in the morning and then never got above freezing once the entire month!

One last set of interesting figures -- the "last day" for snow over the past few years ... that has ranged anywhere from March 18<sup>th</sup> (2004) through May 18<sup>th</sup> (2002), so quite a lot of variation there. But no matter when the snowfall ends, and despite how eager we may be, we do know better than to plant tomatoes earlier than after the full moon in June, unless we are willing to go out and cover them up at night from time to time!

Just as the stock market has ways of correcting excesses and things that are off kilter, maybe mother nature's throwing us a strong reminder of what winter can be. It is her way of letting us know that we can't always control everything in our lives, and that there are times when we will just be put in our place, waiting for the plow to come or the sun to come out or the temperature to go up. In other words, maybe it's the planet's way of forcing us to curb our carbon footprint.

Whatever the case, I for one am so glad that we get to enjoy (at least!) four distinct seasons here ... and right about now, I am so ready to hear the drip-drip-drip that is spring, not to mention the peepers!



## Valley Bible Church

South Windham, Vermont  
802-874-7267

[www.valleybibleVT.com](http://www.valleybibleVT.com)

### Service Times

Sunday School - 9:45 am

Morning Worship - 11:00 am

Evening Bible Study - 6:00 pm

Bible Study & Prayer Meeting  
7:00 pm Thursday

## Open House at Senior Housing

By Edith Serke

The West River Valley Senior Housing in Townshend will host an Open House on Sunday, May 4, from noon to 3:00 p.m. The public is invited to tour the 24 unit independent housing and the 28 unit assisted living facility just north of Grace Cottage Hospital. Some of the residents have graciously agreed to show their apartments during the Open House. Tours of the buildings will be conducted. There will be refreshments, music, and lots of fun. Valley Cares, Inc. developed the project in partnership with Housing Vermont, and funding from a variety of federal, state, and private sources, at a cost of over nine million dollars. The project is the result of about four years of planning and lots of community support. Construction on the former Kronmeyer property began in October, 2006, and was completed just a year later. Both buildings are fully occupied, and there is a waiting list. The residents are very pleased with the facility and the services, and are eager to show off their new home during the Open House.

## Energy Fair by Pete McDonald

The Windham Energy fair scheduled for May 31, at 219 Woodburn Rd will bring together many local business professionals to share their knowledge of home energy-related topics. Attendees will include Phil Rickel of Efficiency Vermont, Derek Young of CET Solar, Rob Roy of Fairwinds Vermont, Eric Browne of Friends of the Sun and representatives of the Stove Depot. A combined discussion and presentation with Keith Abbott of Thermal House and Bill Calfee of Peak Energy is also in the works. I have seen their work and they will astound you with thermal images of homes they have retrofitted. They make a very solid case for the need for home performance upgrades.

The time of this year's ENERGY FAIR is tentatively planned for 2:00-5:00 with a potluck dinner and celebration to follow. Many other events and participants are anticipated but the exact logistics as of this issue's deadline have not been finalized. Anyone with any suggestions concerning potential attendees or topics are encouraged to contact me at [pbmcdonald@earthlink.net](mailto:pbmcdonald@earthlink.net). I hope to see you all on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Please try to be prompt as the first year's activities have been purposely tightly scheduled out of respect for our presenters.

## GENTLE TOUCH

By Carolyn Heidel Chase

Moss covered rocks, like

Emerald jewels

Surround the placid forest

Pools

And pretty wild flowers poke

Their heads,

From out their leafy winter

Beds.

Spring has touched with gentle

Grace

This quiet, lovely, woodland

Place.

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NEXTEL





## Congregational Church News *by Nancy Dyke*

### EASTER 2008

Most people were not quite ready for our early Easter this year, especially with the snow two feet deep up on our mountain. The last time Easter fell on March 23 was in 1913 and it will not do so again until 2160. Despite the early date, Easter was a special day thanks to the inspirational music of Alison Schantz. She played three clarinet numbers, Pie Jesu by Gabriel Faure, As the Deer by Martin Nystrom, and He Shall Feed His Flock by Handel in addition to playing with some of the hymns. After the service the annual brunch was served and was delicious as always, thanks to Bill Koutrakos, Carolyn Partridge and many others.

### NEW MEMBERS

Ian Bailes and Diane Fama were baptized and welcomed as new members into the congregation in February. Ian has been a Windham resident for four years and Diane moved from Bristol, Connecticut last September. Ian leads a weekly prayer and meditation circle. We warmly welcome them into our family of faith.

### DISMAS HOUSE

Members of Windham Church have been volunteering at Dismas House in Rutland by cooking meals and visiting with residents. Dismas House is a half-way house for recently released prisoners and is considered to be a bright spot in efforts to help them put their lives together again. For a detailed article about Dismas House, see the last issue of News & Notes. Anyone in the community who is interested in participating in this ministry is welcome to do so. For more information, contact Dave Crittenden at 874-4049.

### MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

Windham Church is planning its annual Memorial Service to be held in the cemetery at 9:30 AM on Sunday, May 25. Participants will remember those who have gone on before who were important in their lives in some way. Dave Crittenden will lead singing with his guitar. Last year members of the armed services were honored who were killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. In the event of rain, the service will be held at the church.

### ICE CREAM SOCIALS

Windham Church is planning to host a Community Ice Cream Social on two holiday weekends as it did last year. The first will take place on Sunday, May 25 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM and the second is scheduled for Labor Day Weekend on Sunday, August 31. Bring the whole family and your holiday guests!

## Kids Thank Community *by Owen McDonald and Andrew Persa, Windham Elementary School*

Thank you for the generous donations for our Pasta Suppers!!! We appreciate your coming and supporting us. We have raised almost enough money to cover the cost of our trip. There is a chance that we will have one more supper before the end of the school year. If you are interested in making a donation before then, please contact Mr. PJ at the school. The trip we have been raising money for is to Lake Dunmore for Camp Keewaydin. The 5th and 6th graders will be going there for a week from May 5th-May 9th. While there, "...students will actively learn about the environment and their role in it on both a local and global level." Windham students have been going to Camp Keewaydin for many years and we hope many years to come. Thanks for your support.



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## Town Meeting O.K.'s Budgets, Elects Officials *By Edith Serke*



About sixty Windham citizens attended the Annual Town Meeting on March 4 to discuss and vote on the 2008 budgets and elect town officials. Although the meeting went on into the early afternoon, the proceedings were amicable and non-contentious. Both the town and school budgets showed only slight increases, and were approved as presented. Donna Koutrakos, as Moderator, kept the meeting on track.

Of the many elected positions, only one was contested, that of Lister, to fill the vacancy created by Bill Koutrakos' resignation. John Lingley, Jr. won the three year position. The other positions were filled without a challenge: Margaret

**M. Obuchowski, D. Koutrakos, C. Partridge** Dwyer for another 3-year position on the Select Board; Imme Maurath won another 3-year term as Auditor; Billie VanAlstyne was elected Constable for one year; Ernest Friedli was re-elected as Tax Collector for another year; James A. Scott was re-elected as Grand Juror and Town Agent; Howard Ires was elected to serve on the Windham Center Cemetery Commission for 5 years; Diane Newton was re-elected to the West Windham Cemetery Commission for 5 years; and Paul Wyman was returned to the North Windham Cemetery Commission for 5 years. Cynthia Kehoe will continue as a Library Trustee for another 5 years; Howard Ires will continue to represent Windham on the Leland & Gray Union High School Board; Carolyn Partridge was re-elected to another 3-year term as a Windham School Director, and Elizabeth McDonald was elected to the School Board for one year to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Diane Newton in June, 2007.

Voters decided to continue the requirement that taxes be paid on or before October 31, 2008, and be delinquent on November 1. The proposal that the Town utilize the \$1,210.12 in the Broadband account to reduce taxes was defeated, thus that amount remains available for trying to bring broadband into town. It was voted to appropriate up to \$10,000 to complete the purchase and installation of an emergency generator, having received \$7,000 from the State. Once again, Dr. Roger Fox of the Mountain Valley Medical Center in Londonderry appeared at the Town Meeting to express his thanks for Windham's continued support of the clinic. During the ensuing voting, an unsuccessful attempt was made to double Windham's contribution of \$566, with the comment that individuals were free to contribute on their own. All other agencies and organizations had their requests approved.

As usual, our State Representatives, Carolyn Partridge and Michael Obuchowski, attended the meeting and gave an update on the proceedings at the State Legislature. There are many needs and challenges, particularly in the area of school funding and the need to address the deteriorating transportation infrastructure. Once again, our Windham cooks distinguished themselves by a fabulous pot-luck lunch, enjoyed by all.

writer, editor, layout designer

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## What a Winter ... *by Margaret Woodruff*

... What a beautiful, wonderful winter! For the past three years I have been away, south of here, first in Connecticut, and then, the last two, in Williamsburg, Virginia. It was great, but *oh* how I missed the snow in Vermont! I remember last winter down in Virginia, I was sitting in front of a picture window sewing, when very large flakes of snow started falling. I was thrilled! They landed on the green bushes, but when I looked down at the ground, none of them had landed there -- what a disappointment!

The boys built me a new 12 X 12 room this past fall, on the north end of my house, overlooking the pond. It has lots of light and a gas heater, so it is cozy and warm. I decided to stay here for the winter, to hopefully get to see some snow. I have not been disappointed, and I have enjoyed every flake of it. It has been so beautiful. Thank you, Lord.

Now for a bit of winter history ... I remember when I was in one of the lower grades in the South Windham School. It was probably in the early 30's and I walked to and from school. It was almost a mile each way. The road over by the South Windham cemetery had drifts about 7 feet high. Neither the snow roller nor any sort of other plow could get thru to open the roads. The school teacher made it in, as well as the minister's son who lived by the Baptist Church. And also one tough little girl by the name of Margaret Chase (me) who was light enough so that the snow supported her. We three had school alone that entire week.

The other snow story happened, I believe, around mid 50's. I was married by then, and we were living in the South Windham house across from where Ed Brown lives now. At that time plows were opening the roads. Word was circulated in town for all able-bodied men to show up on the flats in North Windham with a snow shovel to work ahead of the plow so the plow could open the road -- there was that much snow that the plow alone couldn't do it! It was all along from the end of Hitchcock Hill Road to the potato farm up where Tater Hill is today. Stockton, my husband, reported that the snow had blown in so deep that you were working at the height of the telephone wires and had to be careful not to get tangled in them!

But now it is time for the spring plants to return. I am looking forward to that, too. Mine are still buried under the snow.

Lydia will tell you elsewhere in the newsletter just how much snow has fallen this season. I am so happy to have gotten the chance to enjoy it, as I said above, every single flake of it ... That's all for now.

## Annual Firehouse Auction

*Always the second Sat. in August. That would make it the 9th. Accepting donations after June 1st. Please call Steve @ 875-1709 to arrange a drop off time. If you need a pick-up you can also call Steve.*



Susan LeCours broker/owner of Barrett & Company has purchased Valley Real Estate Group and proudly introduces Barrett & Valley Associates Inc. Providing professional real estate service to Windham and the surrounding area. With 4 conveniently located offices in Grafton, Chester, Springfield and Bellows Falls. 802-843-2390.

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Every Sunday - **Windham Congregational Church (UCC)** has worship services at 9:30 AM; everyone invited.  
May 25- Memorial Day Service at 9:30 at Windham Center Cemetery, Ice Cream Social from 6-8

Every Sunday and Thursday - **Valley Bible Church** has services: *Sunday* - 9:45 AM Sunday School, 11 AM  
Worship, and 6 PM Bible Study; *Thursday* - 7:00 PM Prayer Meeting and Bible Study

Every Wednesday - **Windham Town Library** is open at Meeting House from 3:00 to 5:00 PM. Also at that time:  
reading group on first Wednesday of the month.

Saturday, May 3 - **Green Up Day** 9:00 Town Office, 12:00-appreciation lunch at the Meeting House

Sunday, May 4 - **Open House -West River Valley Senior Housing**, 12:00 to 3:00 Townshend

Thursday, May 8 and June 12 - **Windham Planning Commission** at 7:00 PM at the Town Office

Monday, May 12 and 26, and June 9 and 30 - **Select Board** meets at 6:30 PM at the Town Office; public invited.

Monday, May 19 and June 16 - **Writing Group** 11:30 at Meeting House

Wednesday, May 21 and June 18 - **Brown Bag Chat Group** at noon at the Meeting House

Wednesday, May 28 and June 25 - **Windham Community Organization** meets at 7:00 PM at the Meeting House

Saturday, May 31-**Windham Energy Fair**- 219 Woodburn Road 2-5. Potluck dinner to follow. See article page 8.

Wednesday, June 18 - **Annual Meeting Friends of the Meeting House** 7:15 PM at the Meeting House

Saturday, June 21 - **Tag and Bake Sale** 8:00 to 4:00 Meeting House

### SAVE THE DATES:

Friday July 4 - **Hot Dog Picnic**

Saturday July 19 - **Chicken Barbeque and Craft Show**

Saturday August 9 - **Firehouse Auction**