



WINDHAM NEWS & NOTES

Volume VI – Issue 1

July/August 2008

DSL comes to central Windham

by Mary McCoy

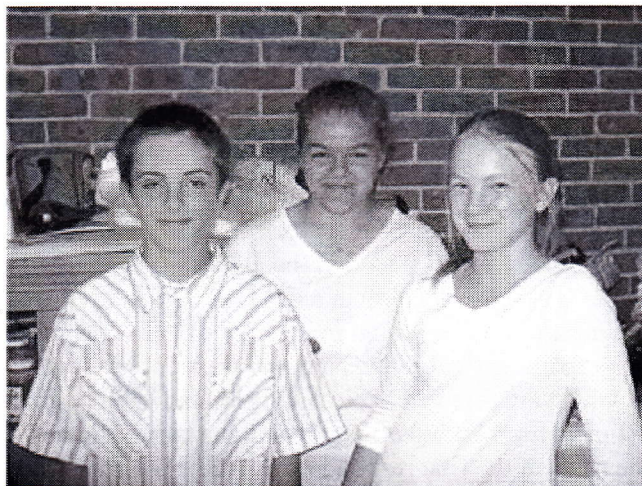
FairPoint Communications has announced its intention to provide high-speed Internet services by the end of September for locations in the central area of Windham. These locations are Abbott Road, Woodburn Road, the northern part of Burbee Pond Road, and Windham Hill Road in between VTel territory and the new phone terminal, located near the north end of Burbee Pond Road. Monthly service fees for the first year are expected to be \$19.99 for 768k download speed and \$33.99 for 3m download speed.

FairPoint has promised to further expand broadband in Vermont, including Windham, by the end of 2010, with 100% coverage guaranteed for half of the exchanges it serves. The company plans to announce by this autumn which exchanges will receive 100% coverage.

It is imperative that we keep urging FairPoint to make the 874 exchange one of those with 100% coverage. You can let FairPoint know you want broadband at your location by calling 800-585-4466. Please also send that message to Chris Campbell, director of Vermont's Public Service Department Telecommunications Division at 802-828-4074 or chris.campbell@state.vt.us.

For homes that are far from the new terminal (such as those in West Windham and many in South Windham), FairPoint is investigating wireless (WiMax) technology and has asked the town to help identify high elevation properties with buildings on which antennae can be placed to transmit high-speed signals. If you own or know of such a property, please contact me, Mary McCoy at mary@windhamcountryhouse.com.

Work to bring broadband to Windham began more than three years ago. Recent developments have resulted from the combined efforts of our Town's Select Board and the remaining members of the Windham Broadband Project. Obviously, we still have work to do! Volunteers are needed for the latter group, so to help ensure that FairPoint provides high-speed service for you, please get involved by contacting me at mary@windhamcountryhouse.com. FairPoint Communications replaced Verizon earlier this year to serve locations in about half of our town, including West Windham, South Windham, and the central part of town below the Meeting House.



Congratulations to local grads

This year these three students, Olin Ruppert-Bousquet, Rebecca Clay and Catherine Pentoney, will be graduating from the Windham Elementary School and moving on to high school. Not pictured but graduating from Leyland and Grey is David Wicker. We wish them the best of luck in all their future endeavors.

JULY 4TH 4 PM

**FREE HOT DOGS, SOFT DRINKS,
ICE CREAM**

The Society of the Friends of the Windham Meeting House wish to help start the summer season with a get-together to include all those who will be in Windham on the 4th to support the meeting house. Complementary dishes or desserts are welcome.

Primarily, we want all to come and celebrate this happy day with your neighbors. This is a rain or shine affair. Bring your own chair for your comfort.

Annual Firehouse Auction - Don't miss the fun and the pies! August 9th

Please come and support your local fire department on August 9, starting at nine o'clock with our tag sale. Ten o'clock will bring on our auctioneer Bob Arbuckle who proved to be a success for us last year. Five o'clock will be the chicken BBQ followed by the infamous pie auction. Bring your BIG BUCKS for this event if you plan on going home with a pie. Donations now being accepted. Please call Steve @ 875-1709 or Phil @ 875-2104 if you need a pick-up or would like to drop off at the firehouse. Please do not leave donations outside the door. Thanks in advance.

Select Board News *by Mary Boyer*

The process to write a new Town Plan has been a long and involved one. We are nearing its completion. As you know a hearing was held in April to review the draft. The Revised Plan has been submitted to the Select Board for approval. Before we do this, the state requires a final hearing before the Select Board votes on the Plan. We are planning our hearing on Monday, July 28 at 6:30 to be followed by the regular Select Board meeting. After the plan has been accepted by the Select Board it goes to the Windham Regional Commission where it is reviewed by a three person Committee to verify compliance to the Regional Plan. This cumbersome process is to ensure that everyone with a vested interest has had an opportunity to comment on The Plan.

The Windham Planning Commission deserves our thanks for their thoughtful and thorough job of giving us a plan that will preserve our heritage and resources and yet anticipate some development. Now that they have completed this large task, they begin another. Our Zoning Regulations need to be updated to comply with the new Town Plan.

Efforts to prepare Windham for a large scale emergency have taken a considerable amount of Select Board time. We have asked ourselves if it is worth it. After all, Windham has a reputation for being self sufficient and able to take care of its own. Both FEMA and the VT Dept. of Emergency Management are determined to help small towns like us create an umbrella of safety in a disaster. In the final analysis we have decided that we would rather be under the umbrella than outside it if an event happens. In that spirit the Select Board and most members of the Fire Company will be getting certified in the National Incident Management System. NIMS has several levels and areas of training, some of which are directed at elected officials who may not themselves be first responders. Proponents of NIMS urge town officials from various functional areas take basic training so they will understand their own roles in an emergency and the roles of the first responders as well. We are grateful that members of the Fire Company are willing to take the time to get certified and we look forward to completing our basic training together.

We are pleased to report that more of you are coming to our bi-monthly meetings to tell us what is important to you. A consequence is that it has become harder for us to get through our routine business in a timely way. Our meetings are divided between hearing from our citizens and working through the two weeks of accumulated administrative details. It would be helpful if you let Carol know on the day of the meeting that you plan to attend and have an agenda item. Our goal is to make sure there is adequate time for you to participate in Windham's governance and for us to get our ongoing chores done efficiently.

Thanks to the road crew for picking up after us on Green Up Day. The roads are looking good after a very hard winter. Summer has descended upon us with a bang. We hope you are enjoying this beautiful weather.

Your Select Board - Margaret Dwyer, Chairman, Walter Woodruff and Mary Boyer

WCO Hosts Windham's Green Up Day *by Ian Bailes*



It was a gray, rainy day on the third of May, but at least 20 go-getters showed up to do their part in saving our environment from unwanted trash. Meeting at 9am at the town clerks office, we set off with garbage bags in hand (and our rain gear) to our selected assignments. In my travels by myself along Abbott and Cross Roads, I really enjoyed the solitude of my walk as I also cleaned that part of our town. Normally walking in the rain would not be a treat, but I had a smile on my face because I knew I was a part of something greater than myself. It was really funny when I passed a couple of horses and they just stared at me in disbelief...probably wondering what in the world I was doing.

After 3 hours of getting dirty and wet, the WCO rewarded us with a hot dog lunch at the Windham Meeting House. Prizes were given in several categories...Weirdest Item Found (an American flag found by Greg Noel), Longest Distance (by Ian Bailes), Best Animal Sighting (a Bald Eagle by Peg Grimm), and Most Bags Collected (by Ken Grimm). It was a great day as well as chatting with my fellow residents. My one wish is that the next time anyone has a beer or a cigarette to please throw it away properly...then maybe next year there won't be anything to clean up...

Tips for closing down your vacation home.....

Saying good-bye to a seasonal property is an annual ritual for countless Americans, including some homeowners in Windham. Mattresses and bedding need to be protected or they'll make cozy nests for critters. Kitchenware needs to be packed up tight, away from insects and dust, and appliances unplugged to guard against lightning strikes.

Did you remember to:

Shut off the water

Unplug all appliances-especially the television-and telephones in case of a lightning strike

Turn off all circuit breakers except the ones for the alarm

Turn off the gas supply

Empty the refrigerator and cupboards: Food can attract animals, and canned goods can explode if they freeze

Put away outdoor furniture, grills, and other accessories, including garbage cans

Lock shed and garage doors

Hang a few strips of flypaper

Lock all windows and doors

Take the last load of garbage to the dump



Attention Chickens – You are invited to a barbeque!

It's that time again. Mark your calendars for July 19, 2008 for the Windham Community Organization's Annual Chicken Barbeque.

Time: 5:00 pm Cost: \$10.00 per adult/\$5.00 under 12/\$25 per family

Included in your summer feast will be delicious barbeque chicken made with Walter's famous recipe, we'll have lots of potato salad, tossed salad, baked beans, homemade sweet breads and rolls, and Windham's best strawberry shortcake. All of this will be followed by a raffle and craft show. Don't miss the fun!



WINDHAM NEWS & NOTES

Is a publication of the Windham
Community Organization

Published six times a year

Send donations to address
below

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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

August 15, 2008

Windham News & Notes

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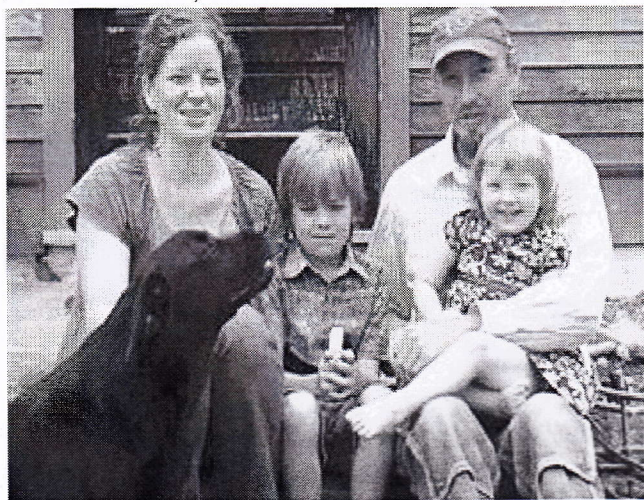
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Goodbands thrive from Vermont roots *by Mary McCoy*

With so much said these days about Vermont losing its young people, I've been delighted to see my young neighbors, Asa Goodband and Rebecca Stratton-Goodband, as they've cleared their land on Old Cheney Road, constructed their buildings, added their livestock, and walked leisurely on the road with their son and daughter, Aubrey and Ella.



Rather than escape their roots here, the Goodbands relish them. And roots they have! Asa moved with his parents to Vermont from Maine when he was 10. His father, Zeke, is a farmer and former teacher whose Scott Farm in Brattleboro grows 70 varieties of apples and has been featured on Vermont Public Radio and in *National Geographic*. Rebecca was born at Grace Cottage Hospital in Townshend, a facility that includes the former Stratton House, donated to the hospital by her great-grandmother. Her father's father, Aubrey Stratton, owned a large dairy farm on Route 30, one of the largest in the area, even before the Townshend Dam was built and the lake engulfed other large farms. The family farmhouse is now Ranney Brook B&B. Rebecca's father, Bruce, was a logger who worked in the trucking business her grandfather started. Their truck shop is now the Dam Diner.

Ten years ago, when Rebecca was 19 and Asa 21, they met in Newfane. They knew from the get-go that they were two of a kind – stubbornly independent. They lived in Brattleboro first, then bought an

apartment house in Jamaica, occupying one of the four units. Two and a half years ago, when Aubrey was three and Ella was in the womb, they sold that building and moved to Windham.

Their roots already extended to our town, especially to Old Cheney Road, which Rebecca had explored as a girl with her sister who was best friends with Ariel Cheney (Gary and Susan's daughter) and with her father, who had camped on John Able's land, the very property that she and Asa now own. Asa had Windham ties too. He had helped construct our new elementary school building and had enjoyed the friendliness of Windham residents. So it didn't take them long to decide on their homestead.

A shared passion for self-sufficiency is the Goodbands' driving force. In our uncertain world, they like knowing that they can survive with the labor of their own hands. Except for some help with the concrete and rafters, the two of them built their house and barn by themselves, with Aubrey assisting with nailing. They are adding an addition to the house now, again unaided. Their heat and hot water come from an outdoor furnace that burns wood from their property or other land nearby. They grow their own fruits and vegetables, raise turkeys and pigs for meat, and keep chickens for eggs (although a predator has recently killed most of them). In addition, Rebecca runs the household, homeschools Aubrey, and helps Asa with the bookkeeping for his construction business. Beginning at 17, he worked for others in the trade, then advanced to sub-contracting, before getting his own jobs. Two years ago, he began hiring others to work for him. Although he worries about the housing downturn, he knows there will always be a need for roofing, renovations, and energy-efficient upgrades.

In everything they do, the Goodbands consider their carbon footprint. Asa can imagine a day when the Old Cheney Road residents cooperatively buy a wind tower that provides all of their electricity. He and Rebecca see self-sufficiency not only as a matter of personal independence but also as a matter of social responsibility. "But it's more than that," Asa says with a smile. "Living this way is satisfying, it's fun." Yet many young people they know have taken another path, the one we hear about more often. Asa says, "They're making big salaries in Boston, pursuing the American dream, living in fancy houses with all the accessories." Rebecca adds, "They're sacrificing a lot," explaining that city children don't play freely outside like hers do and don't know the value of hard work by helping out at home. "We have the same hopes and dreams for our kids as any parent does," she says, "that they be educated, prosperous, and fulfilled. We just think we can pursue that right here in Vermont." What's more, she says, referring to Carolyn Partridge, "Not many kids ever have an opportunity like ours do to see their neighbor sheer sheep and to know she is a leader in the legislature."

Asa and Rebecca are passing onto Aubrey and Ella the values they were taught by their parents – the importance of family, farming, and freedom. As the price of property continues to rise, they look forward to some day passing on part of their land to their kids. Although they tend to keep to themselves, they also value the community. For the past three years, they've participated as a family in Green-up Day, and they look forward to being more involved in town affairs when they're not so consumed with their house and property.

Many people who have moved to Windham in recent years mention being drawn by the natural beauty of this place. I'm one former flatlander who marvels at this paradise. Yet the Goodbands remind me that being a Vermonter is about something else, something I get a taste of when I joyfully preserve all those vegetables my husband has grown. It's about the gratifying sense of resourcefulness. While we newcomers will never have the roots here that Asa and Rebecca have, we can be inspired by their lives, which in many ways deeply define Vermont.

Energy Fair a Great Success

by Mary Boyer

The Energy Conference that Pete McDonald sponsored in his back yard was a huge success. Over sixty people turned out on a cold rainy Saturday to learn about energy audits and how to use them to create a step-by-step plan for weatherizing and reducing the costs of heating our homes. In addition to conservation, Eric Stevens of Grafton described the generation of electricity from solar power and demonstrated an instrument that allows homeowners to see how their tree line might or might not interfere with the collection of the sun's energy.

Pete's foresight in bringing people involved in the business of energy conservation and generation directly to us in an informal setting gave all of us the opportunity to interact with the experts and have our questions answered. Most people left with more realistic ideas of what will and will not work at their own homes and with the inspiration to make needed changes.

The presentations were followed by a fabulous potluck supper and toe tapping music played by our talented locals.

We thank Pete and his wife Beth for their generosity in giving Windham such a valuable day. We look forward to the Second Annual Energy Fair next year.



Community Improvement Grant Program by Marcia Clinton

The Citizens' Advisory Committee administers the Windham Community Improvement Grant Program. The goal of the program is to promote community development and improve the economic and living conditions of the people of the town of Windham. The program began in the 1980's with the implementation of a community improvement grant from the state of Vermont. The state grant has expired, and the fund is now administered locally with no state involvement. Eligible rehabilitation projects include: exterior and interior structural, electrical, plumbing and heating repairs and improvements; fire and other safety improvements; energy conservation; septic system and water supply repairs and improvements. A priority of the housing rehabilitation program is to serve elderly, handicapped and low-income owner-occupied homes, although moderate-income owner occupied homes are also considered.

To streamline the process the Committee has appointed a Loan Officer to review the applications. A formal application is required and applications can be picked up at the Town Office. In the past the applicants met with the Citizens' Advisory Committee who reviewed the application and discussed the project. With the position of a Loan Officer, the applicant will meet with only one person to discuss the application. The Loan Officer will bring the application back to a meeting with the Committee for approval. All information will be held in confidence. Edith Serke has graciously accepted the position of the Loan Officer and can be contacted through the Town Clerk at the Town Office.

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The members of the Citizens' Advisory Committee encourage anyone in Windham who is in need of a loan for home repair to pick up an application at the Town Office. The application is easy to fill out and should answer most questions. Interest rates are low and are negotiated with the applicant along with a payment schedule.

Margaret the Bookworm ...

By Lydia Pope France

We talk about a lot of things, as good friends do, and we have often noticed how much we have in common despite the vast differences in our lives – talk about Country Mouse meets City Mouse! One recent conversation left us remarking about the irony that is sometimes a part of life.

Margaret Woodruff has told me so much about what things were like as a child, growing up in what was and of course still is a very rural place. She learned to read at a young age, and was immediately captivated -- she wanted more and more to read, and could never find enough. Her mother had a bookcase with books suitable for young girls, but she quickly got through those, and could only find some sort of western novels that she wasn't too interested in. Determined little one that she was, she trudged all the way from her home in West Townshend up to the Windham Library, only to be told she couldn't use their books, as she wasn't from the town. I can only imagine how she felt, and contrast that with my own early library adventures, in the heart of New York City, where enormous amounts of money are spent each year for public libraries, and as I recall, all I had to do to get my first library card was be able to write my own name, which then gave me access to entire buildings full of books ...

Well, perhaps that sorry turn of events is now balancing out for Margaret, as she is currently enrolled in a program for readers who need large print books. It is administered by the Special Services Unit of the Vermont Department of Libraries, and it is free. Once enrolled, they send a bundle of books right to your door. Books arrive in a canvas, courier type of bag, delivered by Norman (USPS). While you can't choose your books, you can let them know your interests, and they will select books for you accordingly. You can send them back as often as you like, or keep for as long as you need. When you are ready to return, either all or part of your delivery, you just reverse the mailing label and place the bag in the mailbox. Margaret has been very pleased with the service, and finds the large print format much more comfortable for her. Plus, she has found some new authors that she might not have actually chosen for herself, but whom she has enjoyed very much.

Nice to know that these days, no reader has to be left behind! If you are interested in the program, or know of any Vermont residents who could benefit from it, contact Bev Carmichael at the Windham Library (open Wednesday from 3 to 5). She will make sure you get the right paperwork to set you on your way.

News and Notes Begins Sixth Year

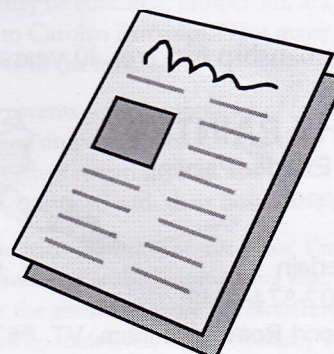
By Edith Serke

The Windham News and Notes has successfully completed five years of informing Windham residents and property owners about community events and issues. The first 8-page issue was the July-August 2003 production by the editorial staff of Maggie Newton, Lydia Pope France and Margaret Woodruff. Their stated goal was simple: To inform and involve every corner of the Windham Community. Today, five years later, our goal remains the same.

The WN&N is produced by an all volunteer team and attempts to cover news from town government, community organizations, the school, churches, with features of interesting local residents. We welcome submissions and photos as space permits, and continue to adhere to the original non-partisan, objective reporting set forth in the original issue.

We thank our subscribers and advertisers for their wonderful support and our "team" who take on the many tasks of recording subscriptions, maintaining mailing lists, writing and editing articles, interviewing people, producing the newsletter, preparing it for mailing, etc. It is truly a community effort. We also appreciate the many positive comments we have been receiving. In this issue you will find a subscription form with an envelope. If you wish to continue to receive the Windham News and Notes, please return the form with a suggested donation of at least \$10.00 before the end of July.

The WN&N is published by the Windham Community Organization, a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation whose purpose is to assist Windham area residents in times of need, by providing financial and other assistance; to provide the community with information and education about resources and town activities and government that foster active involvement in the affairs of the community; and to conduct community events that promote connections among Windham residents and a spirit of community.



Hidden danger in CFL Light Bulbs

By Mary Boyer

Did you know the U.S. Congress passed an energy bill in 2007 banning the incandescent light bulb by the year 2014? That's because the incandescent bulb, the one Thomas Edison helped perfect in the 1800's, has been superseded by the compact fluorescent light (CFL) and LED's because of their benefits to the environment.

CFLs burn longer and use less energy, saving home owners and businesses a considerable amount of money. But, each CFL contains 6 to 8 milligrams of toxic mercury. Broken bulbs, where mercury could be released into a home and even improper disposal of the bulbs present separate environmental problems.

If a CFL bulb is broken, these suggestions are offered:

- Close off the room and increase ventilation with outside air.
- Wear rubber gloves to remove debris. Do not use a vacuum or a dust brush, which could push toxic dust into the air. Use cardboard or heavy paper to scoop up pieces.
- Put all broken glass and debris into a sealed bag and place in another zip bag.
- Bring to a recycling center for proper disposal.

Research is currently being done to reduce the use of mercury in the bulbs but this first generation of bulbs will present challenges about their safe disposal and care if broken in your home.

Library News by Bev Carmichael

The children's summer library program will be on Tuesdays starting July 8th at 6:30 pm at the library. We will sign out books followed by a craft activity or a movie each week.

The theme for the 2008 program is **bugs**. The slogan for children is "Catch the Reading Bug," and for teens it is, "Metamorphosis @ Your Library." The artwork for kids was created by Vermont's own Harry Bliss and for teens by Jan Dursema.

Our goal is to provide a high-quality summer reading program for our kids. It is so important to encourage children to read during their summer break from school each year. We hope you will bring your kids for an evening of fun.

In other news, we recently showed a documentary film called, "The West River," produced by Joe DeFelice. We will continue our Friday Night at the Movies through the summer on selected Fridays. Please check "The Message," and our signboard in front of the library for future announcements. Admission is free.



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NEXTEL



Greetings from South Windham by

by Mark Griffin

Valley Bible Church will be having Vacation Bible School from Monday, July 7 through Friday, July 11, from 9:30 - 12 noon each day. Our theme this year is Dino Detectives: Digging for God's Truth. Each morning we will have a special opening to learn new songs, have a puppet show or skit, and learn about dinosaurs. We will have game time, craft time, snack time and a Bible lesson time to learn more about God's creation. At 11:45 each day we will have a special closing time together. VBS is open to all children up to 6th grade, and there is no cost. If you have any questions, or need transportation to and from the church, please call Kathy Griffin at 874-7287.



PRIMARY ELECTION COMING UP

State Primaries will be held on Tuesday, September 9, 2008 at the Windham Town Office 10:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.

The primaries are for all State Offices to be voted on at the next general election in November (except candidates for justices of the peace).

Last day to sign up for the voter checklist is September 3, 2008.

Applications for absentee ballots are available at Town Clerk's Office.

Andrea's Letter - Drive with Caution

Hi. My name is Andrea Pare. I live on Woodburn Road here in Windham.

Often times when my Mom and I are out riding we need to travel down across Windham Hill Road. More times than I care to count, people are traveling too fast.

And not all of them have green license plates.

Don't get me wrong; several of you do slow down, thank you. I just think most people are not aware of how seriously dangerous it is to be going fast past a fairly large animal. Hitting us would be like hitting a small moose, 900-1000lbs.

Yes, my pony is safe and I trust him. But he is still an animal. He could spook at the least thing at any moment.

So for my safety and yours PLEASE SLOW DOWN.

As soon as I can get to the next selectmen's meeting. I am going to ask about putting up horse crossing signs, like that of "children at play" signs.

That way hopefully It won't be such a surprise to you when you come up on a horse and rider. Please let's all be safe.

Thank you -Andrea Pare

I feel your presence

when I'm lonely

I sense your sadness

when I cry

The wind chimes ring

your spirit lingers

It's your way of

saying hi

Sometimes I see you

big as life

I reach to touch you

You're not there

Not in real life

but in spirit

You show how much

you care---

Carolyn Heidel Chase

Day Camp Scholarships

by Claire Trask

This is just a quick reminder to all Windham children and parents that since the Windham Day Camp will not be in session this summer, scholarships are being offered to the day camp of your choice. If there is a day camp you want to go to, bring the filled out application to the Windham School or contact Nancy Dyke at 874-4428 or Claire Trask at 824-6304. In addition to scholarship money there are also people willing to form car pools to drive children to and from their chosen camp.

Windham Writing Group

Have you always wanted to record your family stories for posterity?

Are you a poet? Or are you planning to write that novel you have in your head? Whatever your interest, join the writing group on the third Monday morning of the month at 11:30 AM. Often we share writing we have completed and sometimes we write about a prompt given to everyone at the meeting which we then share. Whatever your experience, we welcome your ideas!

The Yankees Are Coming!

The Yankees Are Coming!

Come hear the Yankees sing. The Yankee Male Chorus that is. This free concert has been uplifting and praised by all attending.

It will take place on August 7th at 7:30 at the Windham Meeting House. Come one, come all and enjoy!

Congregational Church News

by Nancy Dyke

GUEST TO SPEAK ABOUT THE MUSLIM FAITH

Windham Congregational Church is pleased to feature Javed Chaudhri of Brattleboro as the guest speaker at 9:30 AM on Sunday, June 29. He will talk about the similarities between the Abrahamic faiths. Everyone is invited to join us for this special event.

CEMETERY MEMORIAL SERVICE

A very special service took place on Sunday, May 25 to remember those who have passed on who have made a difference in our lives. For our third annual Memorial Remembrance Ian Bailes conducted the service and Dave Crittenden led the music. We thank Ben Partridge for adding to the spirit of the day by playing the bagpipes. Carolyn Partridge read the names of service people from Vermont who have given their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan.

DISMAS HOUSE

In June Ernie and Sheila Freidli and Jerry and Nancy Dyke prepared a meal for the residents of Dismas House and visited with them. Everyone present praised Sheila's outstanding cooking! Dismas House is a half-way residence in Rutland for those recently released from prison. Everyone is invited to be a part of this ongoing opportunity to help those attempting to rebuild their lives. For more information, call Dave Crittenden (874-4049).

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

The first Ice Cream Social of the summer took place on Memorial Day weekend. Thanks to Dawn Bower and Ernie Friedli for hosting the event. Watch for information about future opportunities to enjoy that frozen delight and the company of your neighbors.



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Dear Town of Windham:

We began our funding for Camp Keewaydin with a pasta supper in the fall. We didn't make nearly enough money then, so we had another supper later in the winter. We got closer but still needed about \$600 to pay for our trip. We thought that we wouldn't have enough money to go. So, Abagale VanAlstyne and I went and presented our problem to the Windham Community Organization with hopes that they could help us out. They were kind enough to donate \$300 to our cause after Abagale and I told them what we would learn and experience.

Camp was fun and well worth going. We learned a lot about the environment; we learned how to control our food usage by taking less than normal amounts and not wasting as much food. We learned new things like kayaking, rock-climbing, and even yoga. We got a lot of exercise with the games we played, hikes we took, and we walked in the woods a lot.

Some people got the chance to try to light a fire with no match or lighter. It was difficult, but a good learning experience in case you ever get lost. We also made small fires for which we used a can as a stove to cook our dinner. It was a good learning experience for everyone and we all had fun doing it.

It was interesting to see how much people took back with them. I looked around and I saw all the kids saving food and bringing it home instead of throwing it away, people being nicer to their classmates, people being more active and playing games. Those were things we learned at Camp.

Camp Keewaydin was a wonderful experience for everyone and everyone had fun while learning things about nature. Thanks to Windham Community Organization, the people who came to our pasta suppers and the school who donated the rest of the money, we had enough to go and we had a great time. Thank you everyone for helping.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Clay



Young moose gets the boot . Looking for a new home.

Leland and Gray has New Principal

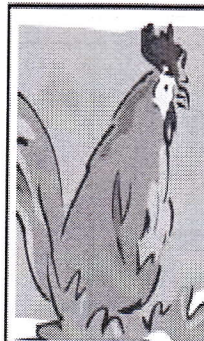
by Howie Ires

We have good news at Leland and Gray. We have hired an excellent candidate as Principal, Sikander Rashid. I was one of the board members who interviewed Sikander, and I was very impressed by his experience, his demeanor and his dedication to the good of the students. I will quote our Superintendent, Wendy Houlihan -

"Sikander (just so you know, it rhymes with thunder), is currently serving in his seventh year as principal at the Cutler School in Swanzey, NH, which is an upper elementary school with approximately 300 students. He has also served as a middle school administrator, and he began his career in education as a high school science teacher.

Sikander will develop an entry plan that he'll implement over the summer, that will provide opportunities for him to meet with staff, students, board members, parents and others. The purpose of his entry plan will be to learn about Leland and Gray from many perspectives, to understand what people's hopes are for the new principal, and to begin to develop the relationships that are critical to working collaboratively on behalf of improved student learning."

We wish the new principal many years of success.



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Salmon Stocking *by Imme Maurath*

The Fish and Wildlife Department supplied these water waders to volunteers and my husband, Steve, and I to help put salmon fry into nearby rivers. The tricky part was trying to find the most conducive conditions for these little



fry, which are only about a half inch in length. They like the water running, but not too fast. They like about 12 inches of water with small pebbles on the bottom which they burrow into during the day.

Here they will stay for about a year, keeping within about 15 feet of where you left them. Next year they venture out into the tributaries where they will stay for another year. Then it's down to the Connecticut River, then the Long Island Sound, and out to sea for the next 2-3 years. Of the million that are put out, only about 300 return to spawn. Unlike the Pacific salmon, the Atlantic salmon don't die after spawning.

Steve did get a new pair of waders for the second section we did. In total we walked about a mile and a half and put in 12,000 fry. Hope one of ours makes it back!

I Wish I Knew Who to Call . . . *By Jim Tonkovich*

In today's automated, push-button world, many Vermonters cling to human connection for information and help. This is where dialing 2-1-1 has assured and informed many hundreds in the state.

2-1-1 is a free, confidential service that provides information and referral 24/7, for questions about health, community, and human services. 2-1-1 call specialists provide answers about the everyday challenges everyone faces at some point in their lives, often the basic needs: food, shelter, transportation, financial and legal assistance, medical care, and family support services.

A program of the United Ways of Vermont, 2-1-1 has become an invaluable resource for Vermonters who would otherwise have no idea where, or to whom to turn. While 2-1-1 can't solve every problem or challenge, the call specialists will go "above and beyond" to connect a caller to help in one or two phone calls. If there is an immediate need or crisis, a caller can be transferred directly to a service provider. If a caller permits it, a follow-up call will often provide even more assistance, as the more immediate needs are taken care of and other circumstances can then be addressed. 2-1-1 is also found at www.vermont211.org.

Vermont 2-1-1 is averaging over 1,800 calls a month and the database now carries over 750 agencies and organizations, and 2,400 individual programs. 2-1-1 works closely with the Agency of Human Services, Department of Health, the Military-Family-Community Network, Vermont Emergency Management, Homeland Security, and the School Planning Crisis Team.

Asking for help is not always easy, but dialing 2-1-1 will make this as comforting and effortless as possible. Some day, you, or a family member, or a neighbor, or a co-worker, will need help --- and 2-1-1 will be there.



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GET INVOLVED
IN 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: *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** open at Meeting House from 3:00 to 5:00 PM. Also at that time: reading group on first Wednesday of the month.

Friday, July 4 - Friends of the Meeting House **Free Hot Dog Picnic** at 4:00 PM at the Meeting House

Monday, July 14 and 28, and August 11 and 25 - **Select Board** meets at 6:30 PM at the Town Office; public invited.

Monday, July 28 - **Windham Town Plan Public Hearing** at 6:30 PM at the Town Office— **Public is encouraged to attend!**

Wednesday, July 16 and August 20- **Brown Bag Chat Group** at noon at the Meeting House.

Wednesday, July 30 and August 27- **Windham Community Organization** meets at 7:00 PM at the Meeting House

Thursday, July 10 and August 14 - **Windham Planning Commission** at 7:15 PM at the Town Office

Saturday, July 19 - **Annual Chicken BBQ and Craft Show** 5:00 PM at the Meeting House —**Save the date!**

Thursday, August 7 - **Yankee Male Chorus** 7:30 PM at the Meeting House