



# WINDHAM NEWS & NOTES

*Volume VI - Issue 6*

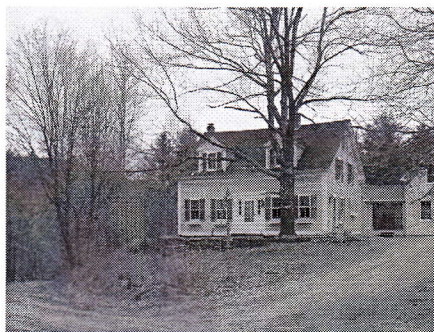
*May/June 2009*

## **The House on Burbee Pond Road** *by Margaret Woodruff*

I remember the house, now owned by Peter & Bonnie Chamberlain, from the time when I was a little girl. Once, when I was around eight years old, I went there to a Lady's Aid Meeting with my mother, but more on that later. The story always was that the house (544 Burbee Pond Road) was once a stagecoach stop. Just when it was, or when it stopped being that, I cannot say. The first photo dates back to well before my time. From this high view (I can't quite figure out where it was actually taken from) you can see the house, with its Vermont Continuous style going straight through to a very large barn. There are some fruit trees in the meadow. Leading off the back of the barn is what appears to be some fencing, perhaps to keep cows in. And I can spot what I think might be a vegetable garden, to the right of the fruit trees but left of the road. The tall wooden structure at the bottom of the picture must be on what is now Ernie & Sheila Friedli's property, but is not something I recognize. The other building to the right and more towards the center of the photo was an overflow building for the stagecoach customers, on what is now Michael & Lydia France's property. That was not in existence when I was a little girl, but the cellar hole is still there, and back when I was young, the boards from that building were all there piled up.

The second photo shows many people sitting outside the house on a summer day, quite a few people so my guess is that they were the ones who came on the stagecoach and stayed a while. As I mentioned, I know this house well. One of my early recollections of the house was going to that Lady's Aid Meeting where we ate strawberries and cream, so it had to be in the summer, and I am certain everything was raised on the property. At some point it was owned by a man named Wells, who had something to do with the Newton School, whether a student or teacher I don't know. He cleaned up many of the old out buildings. Later, it was owned by my husband's Aunt Elsie, so I was a frequent visitor, as I was when Gwen Paul and Clair Stone owned it. They were teachers from New York City who brought inner city children up for a spell in the country during the summer months. They had hoped to run a real children's camp there, which never quite happened, but they did leave an endowment for the Windham Church Summer Camp that is still in use to this day. It was during their ownership that the property was subdivided. I owned the property briefly. After that, my grandson Bruce lived in the house with his family for many years, and my other grandson Brian built the house across the road.

Many years ago, a local poet by the name of Luman Ballou (1844 - 1933) came back from the Civil War and lived in the house, I believe as a border. He published poetry under "The Bard of Chester". Back a few years on my 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, a good friend tracked down a copy of his book "Wayside Musings" for me; it's a book I remembered well from the bookshelves in my house growing up. The original 40+ acres were split into five parcels, now owned as follows: 17 remaining with the house, about 10 at the back to Rusty Priggen where he has a large barn, an acre and a half to the Friedli's, Michael and Lydia France have 11 acres across the road, and the Scott Family about 6 acres, accessed from Old Cheney Road. When my boys were little they scoured every inch of those woods, and I daresay to this day would know their way around it blindfolded! So with all that history, it gives me great pleasure to know the various people all living so happily on that little piece of our planet, it has always held a special place in my heart.





## SELECT BOARD NEWS

We thank all of you who came to Town Meeting to participate in the governing of Windham. Walter Woodruff was returned to office for another three year term as Selectman. This marks the beginning of his 28<sup>th</sup> year serving the town of Windham in this capacity.

At the next Select Board meeting appointments were made to the many town positions filled by volunteers and the Chair was rotated to Mary Boyer.

Ernie Friedli gave very generously of his time and energy to help us prepare our budget for the Annual Report. We could not have done it without his assistance. We are continuing our efforts to streamline our accounting methods and assess if we should have our first professional financial audit. After Town Meeting, another resident, Greg Noel volunteered to help Ernie and the Board prepare our records for the work we will do with a consultant from VT League of Cities and Towns. Greg has a long career in finance and auditing for large corporations. We appreciate the skills, knowledge and talent of both Ernie and Greg and thank them for their willingness to spend so much time with us.

Mother Nature has been kind to us the first quarter of this year. Although we had very low temperatures we did not have large amounts of precipitation. This, along with lower fuel prices will make our road expenses for this period more moderate. The road crew will be starting the usual winter clean up shortly followed by the repair of roads, culverts and ditches.

We were to meet with our district manager from the VT Dept of Transportation to discuss grant money available for bituminous treatment. That meeting had to be postponed but we hope that in the next issue we can report good news.

As part of our ongoing emergency planning Bruce Pollock of the American Red Cross held a day long seminar for interested residents to explain the ins and outs of opening an emergency shelter. Eighteen residents participated in a morning class session and a simulation in the afternoon. Thanks to all the participants for their interest in this important item. Anyone interested in future efforts in regard to emergency planning please contact Marcia Clinton at 875-3531.

The state requires towns to post notices of each Select Board meeting. We have redesigned these notices to make them more eye-catching and they will include the time, place and a planned agenda for each meeting. You will find these notices on the bulletin board just inside the Town Office and on the outdoor board at the Meeting House. We welcome everyone and if you have an item for the agenda please let Carol Merritt know early on the day of the meeting.

On May 6<sup>th</sup> Margaret and Mary will attend a state sponsored Annual Town Officers Education Conference. This is an opportunity for us to continue to learn what is expected of Select Board members on a variety of topics, hear what other towns are doing and serve our residents in a more informed way.

We hope you are enjoying the long awaited signs of spring.

Mary Boyer, Margaret Dwyer and Walt Woodruff



### Red Cross Emergency Training *by Imme Maurath*

The American Red Cross recently trained 18 Windham and 6 Grafton residents on shelter operations. We would still need a shelter manager, which requires further training, in order to open the Windham School as a Red Cross Shelter, but since the class was so informative, I think some of us might be interested in pursuing it further. One important reason for opening under the RC name is that they have liability insurance.

The last issue of WN&N had a questionnaire regarding the ice storm we had in December. Unfortunately the response was not definitive. It would be nice to know how the town fared overall, and would people have come if we had opened the school just for the day as a warming station. So, please get your questionnaires in.



## Well-attended Town Meeting Was Productive

by Edith Serke

The annual Town Meeting held on March 3 at the Meeting House was well attended and efficiently run by Moderator Donna Koutrakos. After accepting the Auditors' report, the voters amended the published Article which would have authorized the appropriation of \$15,000 to retain the service of a professional auditing firm. After some discussion which was generally in favor of getting professional auditing help, an amendment was offered and approved to get consulting as an interim step from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns and to spend up to \$5,000 for such services.

Walter Woodruff was once again elected to the Board of Selectmen where he has served for 28 years. Heath Boyer was elected to the Windham Center Cemetery Commission to serve until 2012, to fill out Helen George's position, since Helen has moved out of town. Herbert Dutton's position on the West Windham Cemetery Commission was filled by his daughter, Rebecca Dutton until 2011.

All proposed budgets for the 2009 year were approved as presented, as was the proposed school budget for 2009-2010. All appropriations to not-for-profit organizations which provide services to Windham residents were approved. This took a long time, since there were fourteen Articles that had to be voted on individually. It was proposed and generally supported that in the future these appropriations be combined under one Article in order to save time.

Article 40, which was a request to the Vermont State Legislature to support the termination of activities by Vermont Yankee in March 2012 and to fully fund the plant's clean-up and decommissioning, was moved toward the beginning of the meeting in order to give people who had to leave early an opportunity to vote. The article was approved on a voice vote.

Those who had to leave early missed out on a scrumptious lunch provided by the townspeople. There was lots of food, including plenty of home-made desserts. Our two State Representatives, Carolyn Partridge and Michael Obuchowski, joined us for lunch and gave us an update on activities at the State House. The State is working on a budget for the year beginning July 1, 2009; although it is uncertain as to how much of the federal stimulus money will come to Vermont. The need is great, especially for roads and bridges, and state jobs are in jeopardy.



## WINDHAM NEWS & NOTES

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Community Organization

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Send donations to address  
below

### THE WN&N TEAM

Dawn Bower

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Leila Erhardt

Imme Maurath

Mary McCoy

Gina Noel

Edith Serke

Margaret Woodruff

### Acknowledgements

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

Send articles of around 300 words to the address below. We prefer emailed submissions to [windhamnews@hotmail.com](mailto:windhamnews@hotmail.com)

### Next deadline

**June 12, 2009**

Windham News & Notes

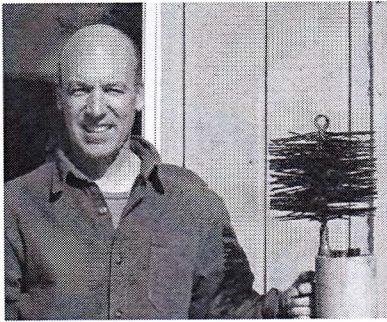
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## Pete McDonald Promotes Conservation *by Mary McCoy*



Pete McDonald did not set out to have a dirty and dangerous occupation, and 10 years from now he'll need to find other work, he says, that isn't so physically demanding. But for now, being a chimney sweep and stove installer is a way for him to walk the talk for improved energy use.

Last year, the Select Board appointed Pete to be our town's first Energy Coordinator, and he organized Windham's first Energy Fair. The 50 people who attended learned about options to make their homes more energy efficient. Information was presented by Vermont business people who provide home energy assessments or sell products like wood stoves and solar panels.

Pete is well connected to those enterprises, having worked in the field for 15 years. When he and his wife Beth moved to Windham in 1994 to be caretakers of Beth's parents' vacation home on Rt. 121, Pete took a job with Friends of the Sun in Brattleboro. Now an independent contractor, Pete continues to get referrals from them and from Stove Depot in Londonderry. The rest of his business comes from repeat customers and word of mouth.

Although he also relines chimneys and installs stoves, sweeping chimneys is his main task. "The work is nothing I ever imagined myself doing," Pete says, "but it's rewarding to provide a home safety service. Chimney fires are down as the public becomes more aware of the danger. But most people still don't know how important it is to get their chimney inspected yearly, and for those who heat with wood, cleaning is advised after every three cords of wood."

Chimney sweeping is done basically the same way as it has been for centuries – using brushes on extended rods and lots of muscle power. Long gone are the days, however, when little children climbed up the flues, scrubbing as they went and meeting early deaths from the ashen dust they inhaled. The danger for adult sweeps like Pete comes from climbing tall, pitched roofs, especially in bad weather, in order to clean from the top down. Pete avoids the dust by wearing a full respirator. Even with that, an annual chest x-ray is recommended. The work is not without surprises. It always gets Pete's blood pumping when a critter bursts out at him from a chimney – bats, birds, squirrels, even raccoons.

Shaking the hand of a chimney sweep is considered good luck -- "sweep's luck," Pete says it's called. The belief dates back to the 1700s when the horses pulling a king in his carriage were spooked and took off running. A chimney sweep managed to slow the horses and save the king. Even now in Europe, sweeps are hired to attend weddings and bring good luck.

Perhaps it was Pete's good luck – and ours – that he took that initial job as a sweep and stove installer. Although at first it was just a way to make a living, he grew to see it as a way to improve people's use of our energy resources. His concerns about energy began at Plymouth State College in New Hampshire where he graduated in 1991 with a degree in political science. During a course in geo-politics, he learned how the demands for energy drive public policies and international relations.

Another important lesson came in the early 2000s when he coordinated a company that created bio-diesel fuel, made with vegetable matter. "I learned how the fuel industry works and what we're up against trying to replace oil and gas. Bio-diesel isn't profitable in cold climates because it must be mixed with petroleum." He adds, "It really doesn't make sense in any climate to use arable land for bio-fuel. Conservation is better."

Pete has thought about this a lot. He asks himself daily, "How are we going to power our lives?" The question hit home last year when the cost of gasoline nearly put him out of business, for he drives all over southern Vermont, often with several stops each day. He says, "It's not easy being green. Most people are too constrained financially to make their homes energy efficient." New insulation, solar panels, home wind mills and the like make sense but, he points out, these products are expensive for the home owner, and even community projects can be financially prohibitive.

So Pete focuses on conservation. He, Beth, and their three children (10-year-old Owen, 9-year-old Patrick, and 4-year-old Mary) have taken many steps to preserve the resources they use at their current home on Woodburn Road. Pete downplays these efforts, as he would like to do more, but their "small steps" are ones that would save a great deal of energy if everyone took them. The McDonalds replaced their oil-fired boiler with a pellet stove and supplement that with a wood stove they use for cooking. They added structurally-insulated panels at their roof decking, and traded in their gas-guzzling van for one that gets better mileage. They dry their clothes outside on a line. They use only florescent bulbs and participate in the CVPS Cow Power program. They have water-saving shower heads and rain barrels that collect water for their gardens and livestock. The McDonalds grow vegetables and fruits and raise chickens and sheep – because they buy less food, others expend less energy to produce, ship and sell.



### Pete McDonald (continued)

As our town's Energy Coordinator, Pete would like us to consider ways we might collectively lower our energy use. "We can't sustain our current energy consumption," he says, explaining that our biggest obstacle is thinking we must have a standard of living that requires great energy consumption. He wants to organize another energy fair for this year that takes a practical look at our situation here in Windham to consider how we can cut our consumption and how we as a community can produce renewable energy.

If you'd like to help with the energy fair (or if you need to get your chimney swept), you can call Pete at 874-4015. The next time you see him, you might also want to shake his hand for good luck. Oh, and remind him to get his annual x-ray. Windham needs Pete McDonald to stay healthy and safe!

## Windham Community Organization Holds Annual Meeting

by Gina Noel

The Windham Community Organization held its Annual Meeting on March 25<sup>th</sup>. It was another terrific fund raising year for the Windham community area. Although never said well enough or often enough, the organization extends many thanks to those who gave time and/or money to assist our neighbors in need. In addition to the annual Chicken BBQ and Raffle and the Harvest Supper, the WCO raised money by selling the donated Stowell Family cookbooks and hosting a Tag and Bake Sale. The WCO was also able to provide free weight equipment and pay for heating costs through a grant obtained from the Council on Aging for the WCO's Living Strong Program.

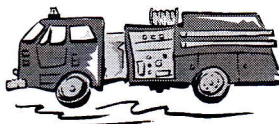
Through these efforts, the WCO was able to either provide direct aid to those in need or to groups like local food banks who supply aid to our community. These gifts became all the more important during this recession and the long winter. Your continued contributions remain important as we all struggle through this period of global economic recession.

During the meeting, the election of new officers was held. Mary Boyer stepped down as President. Edith Serke will be replacing her as President. Gina Noel stepped down as Vice President and was replaced by Donna Koutrakos. Dawn Bower was re-elected to another term as Secretary. Greg Noel was elected to the Treasurer's seat, which was vacated by Edith Serke. Leila Erhardt replaced Peter Chamberlain as Chair of the Neighbor-to-Neighbor Committee. Gina Noel remains Editor of the Windham News & Notes, Imme Maurath continues as Chair of the Events Committee as does Ian Bailes with Communications. The group expressed great appreciation for the work and efforts of the outgoing officers and the new group was overwhelmingly voted in.

The WCO meets on the last Wednesday of the month at the Meeting House at 7 pm. New members are always welcomed!

### Windham Firehouse Auction

The Windham Firehouse is now accepting donations for their annual auction to be held Saturday, August 8th. Please call Steve @ 875-1709 or Ralph @ 875-3373 if you would like to drop something off or need help with a pick-up. Only donations worth auctioning will be accepted. Thank-you in advance. And please do not leave items outside the firehouse doors.



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## Select Board Fills Town Positions

*By Edith Serke*

A week after the Town Meeting, the Windham Board of Selectmen filled a number of town posts which are not elected positions. They also elected Mary Boyer as chair of the Board. The appointments are as follows:

Michael Simonds was reappointed to a 4-year term on the Town Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Adjustments. Carolyn Partridge and Heath Boyer were reappointed to a one year term as Windham's representatives to the Windham Regional Commission.

Steven L Amsden, Walter Woodruff, Richard Pare, and Lawrence Worden were reappointed as Fence Viewers for another year. Vincent DiBernardo, DVM was reappointed as Pound Keeper for another year. Billie Jean Van Alstyne was appointed as Dog Counter for one year. Lawrence Worden and Robert Bingham were reappointed as Surveyors of Wood, Lumber, and Shingles for one year. Ernest Friedli will serve another year as Weigher of Coal, and Walter Woodruff will be Tree Warden for another year.

Michael Simonds has been appointed as Zoning Administrative Officer for a three-year term, and Jerry Dyke as Acting Zoning Administrative Officer in Michael Simond's absence. Edith Serke will serve as Town Service Officer for one year.

Regina Noel has been re-appointed as the town's representative to the Council on Aging for Southeastern Vermont for one year. Bonnie Chase and Michael Simonds have been reappointed to the Citizens Advisory Committee for the Housing Rehabilitation Development Grant Program for a three-year term, and Gregory Noel was appointed to a three-year term on the Committee to replace Helen George.

Dawn Bower and Peter Chamberlain were reappointed to another 4-year term on the Windham Conservation Commission. Peter McDonald was reappointed as the Energy Coordinator for another year, and J. Richard Weitzel will continue as the State of Vermont Civil Defense Chairman/Emergency Manager for Windham.

Town Clerk Carol Merritt appointed Dawn Bower and William Koutrakos as Assistant Town Clerks, and Ernest Friedli as Assistant Town Treasurer for one year.

## Concerning our Four-legged Friends *by Margaret Dwyer, Windham Select board*

The April 1<sup>st</sup> deadline to license your dogs with the Town has passed. As of April 1<sup>st</sup>, only 35 dogs had been registered and we all know there are almost as many dogs as registered voters in our town! Though the deadline has passed, you are still required to register your dogs, so please visit our Town Clerk, Carol Merritt as soon as possible.

We have heard complaints that registering your dog is just another example of government getting too involved in our personal business or it is just another way for the town to make money. This could not be farther from the truth. It is a State requirement that all dogs are registered with their towns and proof of rabies vaccinations is submitted at that time. Rabies has come to Windham and your pets are at risk of being exposed to it if they spend any time outside. By requiring dogs to be licensed and vaccinated, the State is trying to contain the rabies epidemic and safeguard our families and pets. Also, when you get your dog licensed, their personal information is on file with the Town and it is one more way they can be identified and returned to you if they become lost.

We have found that recently with the snows melting and the wonderful spring smells all around, many of our four legged companions have decided to go exploring. We ask that you please keep your dogs under control and know where they are at all times. Nothing is more devastating than losing an animal or having it get hit by a car. We are concerned with the increased number of loose dogs found in town recently and want to look out for their safety. Dogs are not the only companions found out wandering and we ask that you also take care of your feline friends by ensuring that they are vaccinated and fixed to keep the populations under control. We had an unfortunate incident recently where the town had to deal with a dozen stray cats that could have been avoided had they been spayed, neutered and vaccinated. We don't want to have to deal with a situation like that again, it was very heartbreaking!

We have a newly appointed Dog Counter with the Town. Our Constable Billie Jean Van Alstyne has volunteered to tackle the project and we ask that you please cooperate with her so we can get a more accurate count of our furry citizens. Let's all get on board and make our town a pet-friendly, safe environment that all of us, two and four legged can enjoy!



## A COMMENT ON MUD-TIME from the April 1987 Old Farmer's Almanac

by David Crittenden

An ill-favored back road in April is the devil's railroad yard, and the devil's a rough switchman. Rounding a bend in a dirt road, you see before you an obscene snarl of mud ruts, some of them more than hubcap deep, black, sticky, bottomless – and lying in a hellish tangle that suggests Dante's tortured dream of the track yards back of North Station following an earthquake. Enter the bad patch, and the ruts seize your vehicle and fling it back and forth, wrenching the wheel, throwing you about inside like a shuttle, forcing creaks and snaps from the structure of your car, banging and scrubbing the undercarriage brutally against the road. The experience is the equivalent of shooting whitewater rapids in a handcar.

It ought to be possible to negotiate ruts in a muddy road just as you'd ride the rails: pick a set of ruts that are the same distance apart as the wheels of your car and simply tool along. In fact, that never works. The rut your car is in will heave you out and into the next rut, which will try to hurl your car clean off the road and into the ditch. A friend of mine has the explanation. "They move, you know," he says. "The ruts. No matter how you steer, the ruts move around and get you."

Of course. The ruts move. That's why you can't avoid them. There is an intelligence at work here. Far below, in the nether world, a goatish figure takes the switch lever in his cloven hoof. The ruts shift, and you slew wildly across the road once again, bouncing helplessly among the black gullies. The devil is behind it, after all. Is it any wonder? Is it any surprise that the Prince of the Air should be drawing a railroad pension just like so many other elderly gentlemen in the country of the old Boston and Maine?



May all the rain showers wring themselves out in April, so that the sun shines on Windham on the first Saturday of May.

Regardless of the weather, **Green-Up Day** will be on May 2nd in Windham. Everyone from the very young to the mature are invited to meet at the Windham Town Office at 9 a.m. to pick up collection bags and decide on assignments around the town. The filled green bags can be left at the side of the road for pick up later by the town crew. No more leaky bags in your car!

At 12 noon there will be a Worker Appreciation Lunch at the Windham Meeting House for all, compliments of the Windham Community Organization. Hot dogs, chips, soda and cookies will be served. After the lunch the "Bragging Rights" prizes will be awarded. Some of the categories are for the weirdest, number of bags collected, longest distance, etc. We who live here think Windham is a special place, so Green-Up Day is a chance to show our pride for our town; to all pitch in and clean up the roadways.

Submitted by Marcia Clinton, chair 875-3531



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## Windham Congregational Church News *by Nancy Dyke*

### ALL INVITED TO MEMORIAL SERVICE ON MAY 24

Would you like to remember those departed who have contributed to our nation and to our lives in some way? You are invited to the Annual Memorial Service, scheduled for Sunday, May 24 at 9:30 in the Center Cemetery, weather permitting. In case of rain the service will take place at the church. Fred Belec will be playing taps and Dave Crittenden will be leading the singing with his guitar. Bring a lawn chair. (Hopefully insect spray will not be necessary).

### ICE CREAM SOCIAL ON MAY 24

Yes, it is almost time for the first of the summer Ice Cream Socials. Once again Ernie Friedli and Dawn Bower will host this event from 7:00 - 9:00 PM on Sunday, May 24 at the Meeting House. It will feature ice cream cones and "make your own" sundaes and banana splits on a donation basis. Bring your family, friends and guests! Come early and stay late to enjoy the evening with the many other Windham ice-cream lovers!

### A NEW SUMMER DAY CAMP

A newly organized Summer Day Camp under the leadership of Cindy Kehoe will take place in July. Details will be available in May.

### THE MARCH OF THE PALMS

Palm Sunday was a very special day this year. Ed Belec with his trumpet favored us with "Open the Gates of the Temple" as well as playing descants for hymns. The service ended with a march outside and back in again with palm branches waving.

### EASTER SUNDAY

The Easter Service focused on "The Coming of the Light" theme. Music included a spiritual, "My Lord What a Morning", sung by Dave and Ginny Crittenden and Jerry Dyke. We were happy to welcome a number of guests for the service and the delicious Easter Brunch following the service. Special thanks to Billy Koutrakos and Carolyn Partridge for putting together an outstanding feast. Thank you to all who helped with this day as well as the other Lenten Services.

### MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR MILFORD CHASE

A memorial service will be held at the Windham Congregational Church on May 2nd at 2:00 PM for Milford Chase, husband of Carolyn Heidel Chase, who passed away on Sunday, April 19th at Grace Cottage Hospital. Light refreshments will be served and the burial will follow at the Windham Center Cemetery next to the Town Office.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Grace Cottage Foundation, the Windham Congregational Church or a charity of your choice.

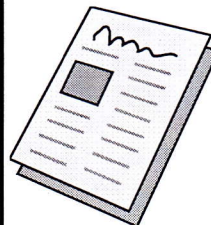


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## Valley Bible Church News *by Mark Griffin*

### Don't Despise the Small Things

Each year in February, I have the opportunity to travel south to my family's home to attend a conference for pastors at a seminary outside of Philadelphia. It is a refreshing time of instruction and catching up with friends. As we share our burdens and goals, the conversation inevitably enlivens when I mention that one of the biggest goals for our ministry at VBC for the last 7 years has been to get indoor plumbing.

Now at first, indoor plumbing may seem to be an insignificant matter in light of the needs of the world today, but as Zechariah asked the Israelites who were working on a building project of their own, "Who has despised the day of small things." Nothing that we do before God is insignificant. Instead we find God using the "insignificant" details and numerous delays to teach us. I have learned much about human folly in myself, as much as in others. I have been drawn to appreciate the irony of the state Wastewater Management Division being located in the "Hospital for the Criminally Insane." (Their words, not mine, and yes, they have heard all the jokes.) There is an entire chapter of my future biography reliving my experience in that Waterbury office. Looking back on these past years, however, I must agree with our engineer that "the Lord works in mysterious ways."

Now we are on the homestretch, and the battle for plumbing will soon be nothing but a diverting memory. The landscapers should be finishing their work by late May, and we look forward to our Open House. We invite you to come and join us as we celebrate "the day of small things" on Saturday, June 20th. As with our past events, there will be no cost to you, and you are welcome to come and enjoy a strawberry social and see what the Lord in his mysterious way has accomplished.

### Upcoming Events

Saturday, May 2, 2:00 pm - Ladies Afternoon Tea  
 Saturday, May 16, 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast  
 Saturday, June 20 - Open House & Strawberry Social  
 July 6-10, 9:30 am - Noon Vacation Bible School

### Bible Study Series (as of May 1)

Adult Sunday School - Appreciating Church History  
 AM Worship - Relief for Bruised Souls: Christ as the Wonderful Counselor (Dealing with such issues as Depression, Anger, Anxiety, Substance Abuse, etc.)  
 Afternoon Bible Study - The Book of Genesis  
 Thursday - The Book of 1 Corinthians

HOUSE WANTED TO RENT FOR ONE WEEK : Furnished and equipped house for week of July 22 -July 30 or August 1 for five adults (two couples, grandma (me), and four children (ages 7, 5, 3 and 10 months), to be near West Windham 'headquarters' for Newton/Western family reunion. I am their mother and grandmother. I guarantee advance payment and a clean house on departure. Call me at (802) 254-3484, email [cellomag@comcast.net](mailto:cellomag@comcast.net). Thank you. Maggie Newton



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## 1765 Colonial Woodworking Class *by Chris Fitch*



Before Vermont was Vermont it was known as the "Grants". Governor Benning Wentworth of New Hampshire was issuing grants of property west of the Connecticut River and East of Lake Champlain. 1768 would have been a boom time in the Grants. The Seven Years War in Europe or the French and Indian War in the colonies had been won. The British Crown now reigned supreme. Spirits were high in the colonies. The Grants offered a great opportunity, not only for settlement but also for wood. The forest was vast and many species of trees offered the prospect of material for loggers, carpenters and cabinet makers.

In 1765 the axe was a mainstay of Colonial life used by every logger, craftsman and settler. The history of the axe goes as far back in time as we humans have wanted to use wood for our warmth and our shelters. As industrious humans we have built our axes to complete many tasks like felling trees. Wood was shaped with a hewing or a broad axe. Fences, sheds, houses and barns were built with a smaller axe called a carpenter hatchet. The copper or barrel maker, the wagon or carriage shop and the shipyards were all using various types of axes to do their shaping. The tools of 1765 were crude by our standards today, but they were "State of the Art" at that time during which woodworking reached the pinnacle of artistry and quality. Our finest antique furniture, houses and barns that survive are worth much more than the craftsmen of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century would have ever believed.

Remember, no power cords, no routers, no nail guns and no pencils??

A demonstration of colonial tools and techniques will take place two weekends in May ; Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Also same time for Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup>. Place is located at Windham Center in the Old Barn just above the Congregational Church.

Donation of \$8.00 per person are appreciated.



Windham School children perform in original play about Native American Tribal Life



## Come to Grace Cottage Community Health Fair on May 16th

Free health screenings, information, and lots of fun are on tap at the second annual Grace Cottage Hospital Community Health Fair. It will be held in Townshend on Saturday, May 16, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Everyone is welcome – there's no admission charge!

There will be a climbing wall, an inflatable obstacle course, local fire and rescue squads, and the Army Corps of Engineers with games and activities on the Townshend Common. In front of Leland and Gray High School, the Windham County Sheriff's Office will organize a bike rodeo for kids, and fairgoers can watch the Rollover Demonstrator simulate the effect on passengers of being in an accident without seatbelts.

Barring emergencies or inclement weather, the Dartmouth-Hitchcock DHART emergency helicopter will land during the event, giving fair-goers a chance to see this lifesaving equipment up close. Inside Leland and Gray, a wide variety of non-profit health and safety organizations will present games, information, and/or mini-workshops like belly dancing and yoga. Free blood pressure, blood glucose, glaucoma and Body Mass Index (BMI) tests are available to all.

In conjunction with the Community Health Fair, Grace Cottage Hospital's laboratory is offering discounted rates before the fair for several blood tests, including: comprehensive metabolic and lipid profile (kidney, liver, cardiovascular system, electrolyte balance, and diabetes) for \$15; PSA (prostate) for \$15; TSH (thyroid) for \$5; and Vitamin D for \$20. Come for one or all of these tests Monday through Saturday, April 27 to May 11, 7 a.m. to 10 a.m.; pay with cash, check, or credit card (no insurance accepted for these specially-priced tests); and get your test results and a free consultation with a Grace Cottage physician at the Health Fair.

The NewBrook Fire Department will serve a healthy BBQ lunch for a nominal cost. And just for showing up, you could win one of several exciting door prizes! Don't miss this fun and informative event! Call 802-365-9109 for more information.

### ENERGY NEWS *by Peter McDonald*

On the weekend of March 7, I attended a workshop called "Training for Transition", at City Hall in Montpelier. The transition movement began in Kinsale, Ireland in 2003 in response to the looming implications of peak oil and climate change. Either of these problems alone would pose significant challenges for the earth's inhabitants but together they create the defining issues of our time. If the 20<sup>th</sup> century was one of exponential growth in the categories of population, energy use and consumption levels, this century will be characterized by declines in each. An unprecedented abundance of cheap energy enabled the extraction and transformation of natural resources at faster rates while habitat destruction, pollution and climate instability went unchecked.

Forming the back bone of the transition initiative is the concept of resilient communities. Resilience refers to the ability of a system to maintain its ability to function in the face of external threats or shocks. The larger the system (think NYC) the harder it becomes to mitigate external shocks, (think of 9/11). Therefore, Windham, with its small population, is an ideal candidate to become a transition town. I would like to encourage everyone to attend an informational gathering to further discuss this concept and collectively decide whether this is something that could be beneficial to the town. This meeting will be held on **Thursday, May 7 at 6:30 at the Windham Elementary School**, with refreshments to be served. My hope is for some lively discussion and sharing ideas for moving forward.

In the meantime, think about how you and your family would deal with the threats posed by peak oil and climate change. To be forewarned is to be forearmed.



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WINDHAM TOWN OFFICE

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**RESUBSCRIBE NOW**

**DON'T MISS A SINGLE**

## 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, 11:00 AM Worship, followed by lunch and 1:00 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.

Wednesdays, 9:00 to 12:00 - **Town Listers'** office hours

Thursday, **Transition Initiative** May 7, 6:30 at Windham Elementary School

Monday, May 11 & 25 and June 8 & 22 **Select Board** meets at 6:30 PM at the Town Office:  
Public Invited.

Wednesday, May 20 and June 17 - **Brown Bag Chat Group** at noon at the Meeting House.

Thursday, May 14 and June 11 - **Windham Planning Commission** at 7:15 PM at the Town Office

Wednesday, May 27 and June 24 - **Windham Community Organization** meets at 7:00 PM at the Meeting House

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday - **Town Office Hours** - 10:00 to 3:00

**Save the date - WCO Chicken Barbeque - Saturday 18, at 5:00PM**