



WINDHAM NEWS & NOTES

Volume VII - Issue 6

May / June 2010

The Town Meeting did not Bring Major Changes *by Edith Serke*

This year's Town Meeting on March 2 was attended by 97 voters, but did not result in any major changes. The one contested item was the re-election of Town Clerk Carol Merritt by Donna Koutrakos. Carol Merritt has served Windham as its Town Clerk since 1980, and will continue to do so for another three years. Because Donna was running for that office, she stepped down as Moderator and was replaced by Michael McLaine of 130 Dillon Drive. Merritt was also reelected as Town Treasurer for another three years.

Other elected positions filled were: Mary Boyer as Selectman, Michael Simonds as Lister. Regina Noel did not seek reelection as Auditor, and was replaced by Sally Hoover for a three year term. Billie Jean Van Alstyne was reelected for two years as Town Constable, the voters having extended the term of that office from one to two years. Ernest Friedli was reelected as Delinquent Tax Collector for one year. James Scott was reelected as Grand Juror as well as Town Agent for a one year term.

Alan Partridge was reelected to the Windham Center Cemetery Commission for five years; Jeff Riley to the West Windham Cemetery Commission for five years; and Cathy Clay Prouty to the North Windham Cemetery Commission for five years. Gail Wyman was elected as a Library Board Trustee for five years, replacing Carol Merritt. Alison Trowbridge did not seek reelection as a Windham School Director, and her seat was filled by Antje Ruppert. Robert Kehoe was reelected to the Town Planning Commission & Zoning Board of Adjustments for four years. (continued page 5)

Windham's Winter Weather -- So Much for "So Far"... *by Lydia Pope France*

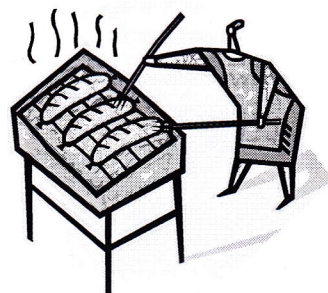


I seem to remember writing something in the last issue about how winter had been pretty benign up to that point. It was about mid February when I wrote that, and I guess I hadn't seen any long term forecasts ... Fortunately, I couched it all in the fact that often we have a very snowy month in March, so I kept repeating, here's what we've had *so far*.

Well, I can report for those of you who weren't on the ground in Windham during March that it was pretty unremarkable, more a combination of unseasonable warmth and sunny days than anything terribly wintry. The second half of February, though? That was a different story.

After four pleasant spring-like days with temps over 40, it started snowing here -- very lightly -- on Tuesday the 23rd. It snowed all day but didn't amount to much, until after dark. Suddenly, when I looked out at about 6 or 7, it was piling up, in fact, we had a good 6 inches on our porch railings that hadn't been there at 5PM! Wednesday was really the brunt of the storm, with snow piling up faster than anyone could move it. Between Tuesday and Saturday we got a total of 42 inches of snow, this in addition to that so-called "benign" 43 inches that we had for the entire season up until then brought our total for the season to a more usual sort of figure. (continued on page 10)

Join us for the
WCO's Annual Chicken BBQ
Saturday, July 17 at 5 pm



Busy Time for Select Board

Attendance at our Town Meeting was unusually high this year and we appreciate all of you who came out to participate in your town's government and have a delicious meal. As we discussed that day, changes in our '09 Annual Report led to some confusion. We are in the first year of a three year project to revise our accounting methods with the goals of achieving greater transparency and conforming to newly mandated principles of municipal accounting. Thanks to everyone for your patience as we work to comply with the new rules.

The meeting following Town Meeting we appointed many residents to official town positions. See related article below. Time and effort goes into filling most of these positions and we thank all of you who volunteer to participate in Windham's operation.

Windham is moving toward a final agreement with US Talc in regard to the overflow of the old talc mine onto White Road. Remediation of the mine's flooding has been ordered by the VT Environmental Courts and will be paid for by US Talc. Our attorney, Bob Fisher has been active in securing for Windham the installation of a properly engineered siphon and drainage system, maintenance of the system and the posting a sizeable financial assurance instrument if the system ever needs replacing. We are committed to getting the best protection possible for Windham.

The Windham website continues to be developed by Frank Seawright and we suggest you check it out at: townofwindhamvermont.org. If you have any suggestions for Frank or want to participate in any way please contact him at 875-1555.

As all of you know, it has been a hard winter on our roads, equipment, personnel and budget. Just when we thought our winter roads allowance was under budget the late February storm struck. We had to hire extra equipment and supplies to keep our roads passable. You were all very patient and tolerant of some bad conditions that were beyond anyone's control. We hope spring comes soon (more than just a teaser) and look forward to the road crew turning their attention to normal spring and summer repairing, ditching and mowing. We thank Rodney and Bill for their hard work to make our roads passable and safe under very extreme conditions.

Please note we have changed our meetings to 6:30 PM the 1st and 3rd Monday of every month throughout the year instead of changing meeting dates twice a year. Our meetings are open to all. If you wish to be on the agenda please let Carol Merritt or Mary Boyer know by the Friday previous to the meeting you want to attend.

Your Select Board: Mary Boyer, Walter Woodruff, Margaret Dwyer

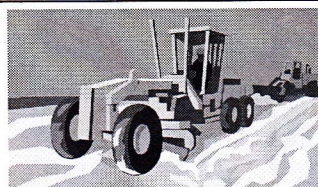
Select Board Makes Appointments

by Edith Serke

At its first meeting after the annual Town Meeting, the Select Board made a number of appointments, as required by state statutes: Carolyn Partridge and Heath Boyer were re-appointed as representatives to the Windham Regional Commission for a one-year term. All current Fence Viewers, Steven L. Amsden, Walter Woodruff, Richard Pare, and Lawrence Worden were reappointed for another year. Vincent Di Bernardo, DVM will be Pound Keeper for another year, and Billie Jean Van Alstyne will serve as Dog Counter for another year. Lawrence Worden and Robert Bingham will be Surveyors of Wood, Lumber, and Shingles for another year, and Ernest Friedli as Weigher of Coal, also for another year. Walter Woodruff was reappointed as Tree Worden for another year.

Virginia Crittenden will be Town Service Officer for one year. Regina Noel will continue to represent Windham on the Council of Aging for Southeastern Vermont. Marcia Clinton and Edith Serke were re-appointed for three years to the Citizens Advisory Committee for the Housing Rehabilitation Development Grant Program. Alison Trowbridge and Barbara Davis were reappointed to the Conservation Commission until 2014. Peter McDonald will continue as Energy Coordinator for another year.

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



CONGRATULATIONS TO RODNEY WATKINS, ROAD FOREMAN

FOR 20 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE.

WE THANK YOU RODNEY.

WCO Holds Annual Meeting *by Edith Serke*

The Windham Community Organization (WCO) held its Annual Meeting on March 31. After a very interesting presentation on "Outsmarting Investment Fraud" by Jeremy Schrauf, Economist, the group proceeded with the main item on the agenda - the election of officers. Edith Serke was reelected for another term as President, Donna Koutra-kos as Vice President, and Dawn Bower as Secretary, all for one year. Greg Noel did not wish to serve as Treasurer for another year, and Cindy Kehoe was elected to that office.

Since one of the main purposes of WCO is to offer help in the community, it was decided to give \$300 to three sixth grade boys to help them attend camp Keywaydin. The boys had written a very nice letter requesting assistance from WCO. The WCO will pay for the lunch on Green Up Day. After lengthy discussion, it was decided to create a "Citizen's Award" and present it to Norman Bills for his outstanding service to the community. Most of know him as our friendly mail carrier, .

WCO has two primary fundraising activities: the Annual Chicken Barbeque in the summer and the annual Harvest Dinner in the fall. This year, there will be a raffle of items made by community members at the BBQ.

WCO has now completed four years since its incorporation. The biggest project of the corporation is the publishing of the Windham News and Notes, which also brings in the most revenue. The News and Notes is now seven years old, and according to feedback is greatly appreciated. Both full time and part time residents look forward to receiving news about the community, glimpses of Windham's history and reading about interesting residents. In this issue, there is a subscription notice. We hope you will subscribe so that we will be able to continue to provide this vital service to the community.

WCO is also looking for new members. There are no membership dues, and all Windham residents are eligible. WCO meets on the last Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Meeting House. All are welcome. We look forward to your attendance and participation.

Windham Town Library News *by Beverly Carmichael*

Winter is slow at the library so we do not have a lot of news this month. Coming up soon is our annual trustees meeting. This year we welcome Gail Wyman to our staff. Other business at hand is making a decision about the summer reading program for our children. In past years we have had poor attendance so if you would like this program continued, please let us know. We need some local support on this. The kids will have a chance to sign out books and watch a movie on our "big" screen. If there is enough interest, we will continue this program. It should be a fun evening every Tuesday at 6:30 pm.

Also please note our website address is: www.windhamtownlibrary.com and it is updated regularly to inform you of new books in the library. There is a Book Blog on page 3 for members of our book club. It can be printed and brought to the meeting the first Wednesday of the month. Our next selection is, "The Piano Tuner," by Daniel Mason. There are copies available at the library. This program and all programs are free to Windham residents.

Please support your local library.



WINDHAM NEWS & NOTES

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below

THE WN&N TEAM

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Mary McCoy

Gina Noel

Edith Serke

Margaret Woodruff

Acknowledgements

Thanks to all who provided arti-
cles. 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

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Windham News & Notes

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Antje brings diverse background to new school role

by Mary McCoy



"She has great energy, is eager to learn, and wants to maintain our level of excellent education," says Carolyn Partridge about Antje Ruppert, who recently joined Carolyn and Beth McDonald on the Windham School Board.

Born in Germany, Antje studied in a system different from our own, raising questions for her of what best creates a good education. Says Antje, "When I first entered Windham Elementary, I was shocked. My own grade school was traditional and large. There were no pillows for relaxing. No critters and aquariums. But I've come to appreciate our school so much. In Germany, elementary school ends at 4th grade, and then one must decide which of three school forms to follow. I can see the drawbacks to that now. At Windham Elementary the whole individual is nurtured, and there is more flexibility."

Antje first came to the U.S. in 1989, working short-term at a center near Rutland. She began exploring Vermont and attended dances at the Newton's here in Windham where she met Paul Bousquet. They married in 1990. After receiving her official "green card", she worked in crafts – airbrushing, jewelry making, and pottery. She had no background in these areas, just natural ability.

Antje knew what work she preferred. "I've always wanted to be a translator," she says. "I love languages and am excited by them." In fact, she has studied eight languages, including English, which all German children began learning in 5th grade. Putting her own words on paper was frightening to her, but translating the words of others was a pleasure. Steered in the wrong direction by an employment counselor, she earned her degree in history and political science at the University of Konstanz.

Antje and Paul purchased land on Old Cheney Road from Alan Partridge's father and went to work expanding the small cottage there. Antje loved the freedom here to do what they wanted with the house. In Germany, building is strictly controlled by codes with permits required even to add a window. She also liked building with wood, which only the more wealthy can afford in Germany.

In 1996, Antje and Paul's son Olin was born, but six months later the couple's relationship "ran its course" and mother and son were living alone. Antje got a computer and pursued English-German translation work, which took off quickly. Paul helped with Olin to give her time to work, and she was able to balance her life as mother and translator.

Years earlier, she had met John Pozzi, a carpenter, and a relationship developed between them when Olin was four. Around that time, she also became a naturalized U.S. citizen. Committed to her life here, she and John expanded the house further to make room for John and his twin sons, Johnny and Gabe, then aged 12. An additional unexpected but dearly loved member of the family arrived in 2007, when Antje and John's son Lucca was born, leading to further expansion of the house. "I'm blessed," says Antje, "with four boys and John and work I love."

While every translation job is different and exciting to her, Antje admits people's eyes glaze over when she describes her work, most of which involves translating technical, medical, and business information. Every job, especially highly technical ones, requires much research to understand exactly what is being said. This is especially crucial with medical information, as inaccuracy could cause people to be hurt. On occasion Antje also enjoys translating into subtitles the dialogue to TV shows, such as *The Sopranos* and *ER*. "The lingo can be challenging," she says.

Life is not all work for Antje, who likes a balance between brain and hand activities. The hands-on ones are usually creative – everything from woodcarving to making Ukrainian Easter eggs. When cooking, she doesn't follow a recipe, creating instead from whatever she has, including the vegetables and fruits she grows in her large garden. She has enjoyed designing her house, although she admits her unusual ideas can be a challenge for John.

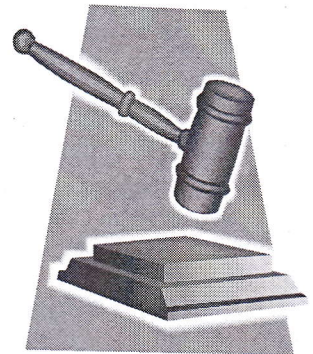
Of her various artistic expressions, the one that means the most to her is music. She played recorder as a child, taught herself flute after settling here, then moved to mandolin. But her current love is the fiddle/violin. She takes Celtic fiddle classes, and she studies classical violin as a member of the Brattleboro Music Center's Junior Orchestra. "Playing music is a great way to round off the day," she says, "giving me some 'me' time." (continued next page)

Town Meeting (continued from Page 1)

There were a couple of changes in the budget: the general fund appropriation was reduced from \$173,000 to \$158,000 by reallocating \$1,210 from the broadband account and \$13,000 from the generator account and using these to reduce taxes.

A welcome change was introduced at Town Meeting this year by voting on all social service organization requests in one article, there being no changes in the amounts requested. However, there were two new requests, both approved unanimously: The town voted to appropriate \$1,000 for Leland and Gray Educational Foundation, and \$500 to Neighborhood Connections, operating from Londonderry and serving Windham, among other communities.

As usual, the meeting was stopped at noon to enjoy the fabulous potluck lunch made by local residents, and did not fail to live up to its reputation as the best in the area. Our two representatives to the State Legislature, Carolyn Partridge of Windham, and Michael Obuchowski of Rockingham arrived after lunch to give us an update on what is happening in Montpelier. As expected, the legislature is busy trying to deal with the budget shortfall without causing too much pain in any one area. Windham voters thanked them for their hard work and for keeping us informed.



Antje Ruppert (continued from previous page)

Antje is pleased to now serve her community as a member of the Windham School Board and a representative to the Supervisory Board made up of all the district boards. She has already spoken to Superintendent Steven John about one issue of concern to her, the block curriculum at Leland & Gray. With this structure, students do not take subjects continuously, but rather in blocks of time. Recently Olin took three weeks of Spanish followed by three weeks of French with nothing ongoing afterwards, which Antje finds a waste of time, knowing that to learn a language, one must study it continuously.

She says, "I think we should pursue a well-rounded education based on common knowledge. Leland and Gray students take as few as five subjects at a time, including Physical Education. Theirs is not a challenging or continuous learning environment."

As for our town's elementary school, Antje is concerned about it closing. "That's one reason I wanted to be on the board, to make sure Lucca can attend there and not be bussed elsewhere. I oppose tuitioning or joining other schools. As it stands, those options don't reduce the price per student or our taxes. Also, if we close our school now, we can't reopen it later, because it doesn't meet updated school building codes." Antje thinks one possible avenue to deal with the cost challenges caused by our declining student population is to actively recruit more families with young children to our town. She sees ours as an unusual location, beautiful and remote, which has strong appeal for some parents.

When Antje returns to Germany to visit, she feels culture shock, because it seems so crowded there. But she likes their community gathering places that people can walk to. Our school serves a similar community purpose, and Antje is committed to protecting it. Based on her many talents and abilities, Windham Elementary School has a very able advocate.

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2010 Vermont Primaries

In consideration of our troops overseas, this
year's primaries are moved from September to

Tuesday, August 24, 2010

to allow for more time for absentee ballots

Law Requires Listers to Visit Some Properties this Spring

Every spring Vermont listers intensify their work to prepare their town's Grand List. This requires making arrangements to visit properties which might have changed in value since the appraisals for the previous Grand List. Consequently, the Windham listers will be contacting some property owners to schedule a time to visit.

Vermont listers are required by law to assess all properties using the standards formulated by the state. We see the state standards as a good way to ensure that everyone is assessed in the same manner, thus making our evaluations fair and equitable for all. Key to our assessments are the property visits.

We will request a visit with property owners who have made recent renovations that increased the footprint of their homesteads, such as adding an outbuilding, building an addition onto the house, adding a deck, or creating a pond. We will also contact those who have made significant changes to their homes without changing the footprint, such as converting space into a bathroom or renovating a basement or attic into living space. In addition, we will contact those with outdoor units used for storage, such as sea containers, storage trailers, and other storage structures, if these have not been previously assessed. (Please note that all of these changes to your property require that you get a zoning permit from the town zoning officer.)

We appreciate the cooperation Windham homeowners have given us listers over the years. We know our visits can be an inconvenience, and we try to make them as short as possible. After the visit, we take the measurements and details we have gathered and enter that data into the computer program dictated by the state for listers. Everyone is treated the same way as we work to create the Grand List.

If we know we need to visit you, a letter in that regard is being sent to you. If you do not hear from us about a visit but have made changes to your property as described above, we appreciate your contacting us at the town office at 874-4211.

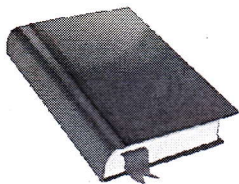
The Town of Windham Listers

Jerry Dyke, John Lingley, and Michael Simonds

School Meeting Well Attended *by Carolyn Partridge*

On March, 22, we were fortunate to have Deputy Secretary of Education, Bill Talbott, and Brad James, also employed by the Dept. of Education, give a comprehensive presentation on education finance. Their presentation made it very clear how a slight shift in several factors, including the number of students attending the school, local education revenue, funding for the Education Fund, and the Common Level of Appraisal, to name a few, can change our tax rate.

It was extremely gratifying that so many people attended and that they came from several different towns including Windham, Dover, Winhall, Marlboro, and Londonderry. It is clear that many of the challenges we are facing in this region are being faced across the state and that understanding how the system works is critical if we want to find solutions to our concerns. Thanks to all who attended!



FIND YOUR VOICE IN WRITING AND ART JOURNALING

Tuesday, June 8 9AM-4 PM. Save this date for an adventure in creativity. Eileen Sottovia (artist) and Kathy Kane (writer and creativity coach) will lead you through a day of writing/art journaling, sharing and, most of all, fun.

No experience necessary. All supplies will be provided. Cost: \$50.00. Enrollment limited. Sign up at the Library. For more information call Nancy Dyke 874-4428, Mary Boyer 875-5242 or Louise Johnson 875-4149 (after May 23).

First Annual Grace Cottage Hospital Golf Benefit

TOWNSHEND – The first annual Grace Cottage Hospital “Tee Up for Health” Golf Benefit will take place at Tater Hill Golf Club in Windham, VT on Sunday, June 13, with a shotgun start at 11 a.m.

The registration fee per golfer is \$100, which includes greens fees, golf cart, and a complete steak dinner (cash bar) at the evening awards ceremony at Tater Hill (non-golfers are welcome to join us at the dinner for just \$25). Prizes will be given for longest drive, closest to the pin, and other notable events.

Early sponsors for this event include The Richards Group (Platinum) and Primmer, Piper, Eggleston & Cramer, P.C., and Howard Printing (Hole Sponsors). Brown Motors of Greenfield, MA, is a hole-in-one sponsor – the lucky (or talented!) winner takes home a brand new 2010 Jeep.

If you or your company would like to help sponsor this event, please call Director of Pharmacy, Jim Heal, at Grace Cottage Hospital, (802) 365-3624 or e-mail jheal@gracecottage.org. If you would like to register to golf at this event, go to www.gracecottage.org and click on Events and Golf. All proceeds benefit patient care at Grace Cottage Hospital and a great time is guaranteed!

Come to Grace Cottage Community Health Fair on May 15th

The third annual “Spring into Health” Community Health Fair, in Townshend, Saturday, May 15 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., is a great event for fun, food, and fabulous ideas for improving your health.

Over 45 health, safety, and social service agencies will provide demonstrations and information about a wide variety of health and safety issues. Inside the Leland and Gray gym, learn how to reduce stress, improve nutrition, obtain food and fuel assistance, deal with chronic health conditions, lower your blood pressure, increase your level of fitness, and learn about health insurance options for the uninsured or underinsured. A wide variety of non-profit health and safety organizations will present games, information, and/or mini-workshops like tai chi and yoga. Free blood pressure, blood glucose, glaucoma and Body Mass Index (BMI) tests are available to all. Your whole family can do wonders for your health, learn to live more safely, and have lots of fun besides!

The NewBrook Fire Department Auxiliary will sell a healthy lunch, so bring your appetite! Barring emergencies or inclement weather, the Dartmouth-Hitchcock DHART emergency helicopter will land on the Leland & Gray High School soccer field, giving fair-goers a chance to see this lifesaving equipment up close. Kids of all ages are invited to take on the challenge of the Vermont National Guard's inflatable obstacle course and climbing wall on the Townshend Common. Watch the Sheriff's Rollover Demonstrator to see how seat belts save lives. Learn outdoor safety skills from Rescue Inc. and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive at the Fair, and the Rutland Regional Medical Center's marrow donor program will sign up potential donors. Grace Cottage Hospital is offering low-cost lab tests in advance of the Health Fair – call (802) 365-3639 for more information about these tests and dates.

The event is open to everyone but please leave pets at home. Come join the fun, rain or shine, on May 15, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., inside Leland and Gray High School's gym and on the Townshend Common. Call 365-9109 or visit www.gracecottage.org for more information about the third annual “Spring Into Health” Community Health Fair.



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NEXTEL



PRATT & LAMBERT PRINTS

A Bubbly Summer 2009 *by Elizabeth Robinson*

Another wet summer last year, and I was beginning to worry about global warming. Bubbling brooks were on the point of overflow, and gurgling drains were carrying gallons of water off the roof at our house in South Windham. A small sink hole on our hill was covered with foaming white frog spawn which would soon bubble up and overflow into the still darkness of our pond below.

I was stuck inside unable to get any gardening done for about three weeks. I decided to use some of this time to perfect my bread making skills, in particular sourdough bread. I tried unsuccessfully to make a sourdough starter, a natural yeast fermentation which miraculously draws spores from the air, and is supposed to form a bloom of bubbles. I had nearly given up. No matter what the mixture, the air was too pure on the top of Windham Hill, to cause any fermentation. Around this time some friends came for the weekend; it still was raining. She suggested a ride to the nearby King Arthur Flour Mill. It was there I purchased my starter, a very small pot of grey glue, for what seemed a large amount of dollars. It came with detailed instructions on two pages. I added it to some flour and water, and behold the bubbles surfaced. I soon had several cups of starter for my bread which turned out with a fine glossy crust.

To maintain your starter you have to keep adding more flour and water. The recipe said to throw away half the old starter, but I could not bear to do this. Even with ten people in the house eating up all the bread I made I still had jars of the stuff bubbling away in the frig. I considered putting it down the sink but with all the rain and visitors, our septic was what you might call "delicate". I hated to think what effect the yeast would have down there. Next summer I hope to give some away to aspiring bread makers.

During my baking activities, my grandson came for a visit and was insistent that we blow bubbles off the porch from one of those little containers with a plastic wand that create the bubbles. We really could not go outside to do it as the rain was bucketing down. A strange thing occurred. The bubbles started out quite small, but as they floated up the hill they gained more water and became larger and larger and lower and lower till they popped. It was an awesome few minutes. We both stood there rooted to the spot with our mouths open in amazement. "How'd you do that, Nana?" Sometimes things can work out remarkably well.

May 1st Is Green-Up Day In Windham

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 1st 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!

For those who wish to do a collection of trash before May 1st, bags are available in the Town Office. Just leave a message of those areas you will be cleaning early so I know what areas still need to be covered on May 1.

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, largest number of bags collected, longest distance covered, etc.

We who live here think Windham is a special place. Green-Up Day is a chance to show our pride for our town by pitching in and cleaning up the roadways.

Submitted by Marcia Clinton, chair 875-3531



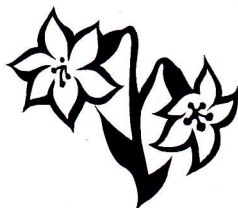
Windham Congregational Church News



PALM SUNDAY CELEBRATION

Music was an important part of the Palm Sunday celebration and was enhanced by the trumpet of Fred Belec. Participants, Claire and Bob Trask, marched outside in the annual "Parade of the Palms", ignoring the chilly weather.

EASTER SERVICE



Music was also the dominant feature of the Easter service.

A number of Easter songs were sung and Sabine Rhyne from the Brattleboro Music Center contributed to the joy of the day with her cello selections.

tions.

After the service members and guests enjoyed a delicious Easter Brunch.



The Valley Bible Church invites you to check out their updated website at www.valleybibleVT.com for more information and a calendar of upcoming events.



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Theater Comes To Windham



Mud Time Theater of Bellows Falls will perform an original play, *Mildred Taken Crazy*, at the Windham Congregational Church on Sunday June 6 at 3:00 PM. Tickets are available at the door. Suggested donation is \$5 for adults and \$3 for seniors and students. No one will be turned away for lack of funds!

Mildred Taken Crazy is an original two-person play about a Vermont crime of 1897: the killing of one young lady by another over a man they were both engaged to. The case was a sensation throughout the eastern US, then disappeared from the public record for many decades. Only now has the eventual fate of its perpetrator come to light.

Mildred Taken Crazy has toured Vermont for the past two years, to theaters, churches, libraries, a bakery, a café, and two correctional facilities. The play is 40 minutes long and

spans five decades in epic fashion with two actors and a single chair. It uses a fresh combination of song, drama and storytelling to help the audience feel and think its way through a moment of violence with far reaching consequences.

The writer-performers of *Mildred Taken Crazy*, Denny Partridge and Steve Friedman, have worked together since 1970, first in San Francisco, and later in New York City. They have performed in 40-some states as well as in Europe, Asia, and Central America. They retired to Vermont in 2007 and founded Mud Time Theater in order to bring high-quality original plays to year-round Vermonters.

Denny (Irene) Partridge did much of her growing up in Windham, along with her brother Alan, who still resides here. She hopes to see old friends and neighbors at the show. There will be refreshments, and a Q and A after the performance. Please note: The play is not suitable for children under 12 years of age.

Windham's Winter Weather (continued from page 1)

It actually snowed every day for an entire week, but the days before and after the height of the storm were more like heavy flurries, and while a little snow accumulated from them, it really didn't matter with the amount we had blanketing our little part of the planet by then. It crashed down from roofs all over town, blocking windows and doors, and it turned even main roads into a "sort of a luge run", according to one friend who was out and about in Windham County all day during the height of the storm doing Census work ...

A round of applause is well deserved for all the folks who plow here in town. They were working around the clock, doing driveways over and over, quickly running out of places to put the white stuff. Once driveways were finished they had to deal with roofs and decks. The Town Crew went non stop, and I even heard that we hired people with bucket loaders to help push it back on some of the roads. A few weeks after the storm our neighbors -- the Chamberlains -- gave us a photo of our driveway taken on the second day. Looking at it made me realize just how bad it actually had been.



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Porcupine Ears: Life In Windham for an 8-Year-Old in 1950

by David Crittenden



I was interested in easy money when I was eight, and instead of cutting brush for Mr. Golding or haying with Herb Dutton, either job paying 10 cents an hour, I decided to go into the business of porcupine ears.

In 1950 there was a bounty on porcupines: they overpopulated southern Vermont and were destroying the forests by girdling young trees – hard and soft maple, ash, oak, yellow birch, hop hornbeam, beech – mostly hardwoods.

To collect the 40-cent bounty, you had to prove to Windham's town clerk that you had killed a porcupine. The proof was a pair of ears that the hunter cut off the dead porcupine and took in to Harry Hall, the town clerk, who lived in the house next to the South Windham church where the town office was then.

Harry Hall was also the postmaster, and his house was both the town clerk's office and the post office. He was a sociable, talkative man, probably in his 60s or 70s then, and quite nearsighted.

I wasn't allowed to have a .22 until I was 10, so my four foot long ash stick had to do the job. If you smack a porcupine just above its nose, not even very hard, you will kill it. But you have to hit it just right. Ash was the right wood, about an inch and a half in diameter, 4 feet long so you could get a good hit without getting too close to the quills.

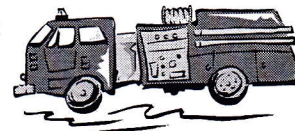
School for me was a one-room, wood-heated building just down the road from the church. Now it's the home of Kathy and Mark Griffin and their kids, and is no longer a school. My teacher was Miss Glynn (her first name was Blanche, but we never, ever called her that. She was Miss Glynn.) and she taught all eight grades. Most years we had 12 or 13 kids in school. Caitlan and Andrew Persa's grandmother was a schoolmate of mine; she is Susan LeMay Persa. So was Tressa McKinney and Tyler Beebe's grandmother; she was Sandra Perry Corriveau.

My family lived in West Windham, about three miles from school. Some days I'd take my porcupine stick and Boy Scout jack knife (that kind of knife was OK in school then) and walk home, cutting off Burpee Pond Road where Ernie and Sheila Friedli now live, and climbing over the top of Turkey Mountain, dropping down to our place below. Although that route took me longer to get home, it would take me through the woods where there'd be good chances of snagging a porcupine. When I came upon one, it'd usually climb a tree, forcing me to go up after it and either shake it down or get close enough to give it a good swat with my stick. If only I had been allowed to have a .22, I could have popped them out of trees with no trouble at all.

Up the road from our house was a private boys' high school, the Newton School, and some of those guys knew about the porcupine bounty. There were a couple of them who told me how to make easy money by cutting fake ears – as many as six pairs – out the stomach skin of the porcupines I'd kill. Knowing that Harry Hall, the town clerk, was nearsighted, I was tempted, but I never had the guts to try it.

Windham Firehouse Auction

The Windham Firehouse is now accepting donations for their annual auction to be held Saturday, August 14th. Please call 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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along with a return envelope.

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Windham Meeting House



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submissions ... Send articles up to 300 words
to the Editor at the
above address or preferably by email to
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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; 11:00 AM Worship, followed by pot luck lunch at 12:15 and 1:00 PM Afternoon 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 at the Town Office

Mondays, May 3 and 17 and June 7 and 21 - **Select Board** meets at 6:30 PM at the Town Office. Public Invited.

Thursdays, May 13 and June 10 - **Planning Board** meets at 7:00 PM at the Town Office. Public Invited

Wednesday, May 26 and June 30 - **Windham Community Organization Meeting** at 7:00 PM at the Meeting House

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

SUMMER DATES TO SAVE

Sunday, June 6 - Play *Mildred Taken Crazy* - 7:30 pm

Saturday, August 14 - Firehouse Auction

Saturday, July 17 - WCO Chicken BBQ - 5:00 pm

Tuesday, August 24 - Vermont Primaries

Sunday, July 4 - Hot Dog Picnic



WINDHAM NEWS & NOTES

Support the Windham News & Notes

This issue of the News & Notes ends our seventh year of bi-monthly publication. Although we have an all volunteer staff, we depend on your annual support to cover the cost of production and mailing. Like public radio and public TV, we ask you to contribute whatever you can, with the usual contributions being \$10. Your support will ensure that you and others receive Windham's own news source for another year.

**Please fill out the form below and mail it in the enclosed envelope to:
Windham Community Organization, 5976 Windham Hill Road, Windham, VT 05359.
Include your check or money order made payable to the Windham Community Organization.
*Please note on your check memo line: News & Notes.***

Name:

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We have left room below on this form for comments and suggestions, which are always welcomed.

THANK YOU. YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED
YOUR NEWS & NOTES STAFF.

Windham News & Notes
c/o Windham Town Office
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