



# Windham News & Notes

*Volume IX, Issue I*

*July/Aug 2011*

## Congrats to Windham Grads



Windham had one student graduating this year and that was Erika Mae Van Alstyne. She says she will miss having very little homework. I guess her older sister has already shown her that.

She will be going to Green Mountain High School following in the footsteps of family members, and of course, her older sister. She's looking forward to making more friends, well duh, she's been the only one in the sixth grade.

Congratulations and best of luck Erika.

**Double Grads** - Bill and Puddy Clark, of Cross Road, have a lot to be proud of this June. Not one, but two of their children graduated from law school. Miles, the older of the two by 18 months, graduated from Cornell. His sister, Julia, graduated from Drexel Law with cum laude honors. Miles is currently in DC and will be returning in August to clerk in the Vermont District Court in Brattleboro. Julie will continue working at the Delaware County DA's office in Pennsylvania.

They will both be taking the Bar exam in late July. We wish them success on the exam and in their future careers. Congratulations to Bill and Puddy.

John C. Lingley, 91, has passed on in peace. A reception to celebrate his life will be held at Tater Hill Golf Club in Windham on Saturday, July 2nd from 4 to 7. RSVP's are appreciated.  
(802)875-4959.

## WCO Chicken BBQ and Raffle

### Come Hungry

This year's Chicken BBQ sponsored by the Windham Community Organization will be held on Saturday, July 16th at 5 PM at the Windham Meeting House.

You know the "can't go wrong" menu... Walter's chicken from the Barbie...potato salad, baked beans, and sweet breads made fresh by our members, and strawberry shortcake picked at a local farm topped with fresh whipped cream - \$12.00/adult, \$6.00/child and \$30.00/family.

This year we have a very special raffle. All the prizes are made or donated from our multi-talented Windham residents.

So far we have:

Embroidered Wall Hanging - Louise Johnson  
Table Runner with tropical birds - Lydia Pope France  
Holiday Table Runner - Gina Noel  
Table Runner - Cindy Kehoe  
Plate with pressed flowers on it and pillar candle with pressed flowers - Marcia Clinton  
Woven scarf - Ginny Crittenden  
Yarn spun from VT organic wool - Bev Carmichael  
Square Table Runner - Mary Boyer  
Reiki session and Asho Tarot Reading - Mary McCoy  
Bowl turned from Meeting House maple - Heath Boyer  
And More

A bucket will be placed in front of each item so YOU get to pick which prize(s) you'd like to win. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. There will also be a 50/50 raffle for \$1 per ticket.

Come, join us for the fun.



## Select Board News

To the relief of many, Broadband coverage is creeping across Windham. More homes are now on Fair-Point's fiber optic line with full coverage expected by the fall.

We have been updating our forms and permits. We remind you that all loggers and truckers must have permits to use our roads and provide a Certificate of Insurance at the office. Trucking is allowed Monday thru Friday from 6 AM to 7 PM. We have also adopted the Standards for Roads and Bridges as published by the State of Vermont.

FWW Paving out of Walpole, NH will be doing our repaving. Sections of Windham Hill Road and Route 121 will be resurfaced to repair winter and heavy vehicle damage over the last two years. Please drive carefully, watch for bumps and pavement changes and pay attention to flagmen.

As mentioned at Town Meeting we have been planning to replace our seventeen year old loader/grader this year. It was delivered the end of May and is already in heavy use. Because we have two large expenses this year with a bituminous retreatment and the purchase of a new piece of equipment, we have decided to lease the loader over a term of seven years. The State of Vermont sponsors a program for municipalities that reduces the financing costs considerably and we have taken advantage of this.

Several harsh winters have left our town yard building in need of roof repairs and fresh paint. This is now complete and the road crew will be continuing clean up and regular summer maintenance. Please be mindful of their safety, especially on dirt roads.

Enjoy your summer! Your Select Board, Mary Boyer, Walt Woodruff and Margaret Dwyer

## Home Owner Alert *by Mary Boyer*

We have had reports of several break-ins in Windham and the surrounding towns. Homes that are vacant for extended periods are vulnerable, and second home owners should take extra precautions.

Lieutenant Rick Hopkins of Vermont State Police, Rockingham Station Commander reports that this year Windham had nine burglaries, all to second homes. The Lieutenant has been on the force for 24 years and says it is a fact of life that people steal and, overall, the average numbers are consistent year after year. Amateur thieves are looking for alcohol, drugs and "objects of opportunity", items they can easily convert to cash. Professionals are looking for gold, silver and jewelry and possibly antiques if they are not identifiable.

In terms of precautions second home owners can take, Lt. Hopkins suggests some common sense measures:

- . Do everything possible to make it look as if there is steady activity around your home. Ask caretakers to check your property more frequently than once a week. Activity in a driveway indicates someone is going in and out.
- . Know your neighbors and ask them to keep an eye out on your property and walk around it once in awhile. It is for their safety as well.
- . Install an alarm connected to a security service. Check with your insurance company; many give a discount for taking extra safety precautions.
- . Install motion sensor lights outside your home. Install an audible alarm; even if your neighbors can't hear it thieves certainly will.

Lieutenant Hopkins said the best source of information for law enforcement officials comes from the people in the community. Any suspicious activity should be reported immediately. It will be helpful if everyone in Windham is alert and reports any unfamiliar activity, cars or people that seem strange directly to 911.

## Windham Meeting House

For the benefit of all concerned, both the Council of the Windham Congregational Church and the Select Board of the Town of Windham ask your cooperation in the use of the building. It is a joy to see a variety of groups using the Meeting House which has become an important gathering place for the community.

With the support of the various groups that use the building, the taxpayers of the Town of Windham and the Society of the Friends of the Windham Meeting House, the property has been maintained under the direction of the Windham Congregational Church through two committees: one for Building & Grounds, the other for use of the Kitchen. If anyone in the community wishes to participate or make suggestions to either of these committees, please feel free to contact the Chairpersons.

Building & Grounds – Jerry Dyke – 874-4428

Kitchen – Dawn Bower - 874-4850

To schedule use of the building - Ginny Crittenden - 874-4049.

For Pastoral concerns – Nancy Dyke – 874-4428

**The Windham Meeting House is seeking a Janitor on a very short weekly basis. For further details, contact Jerry Dyke at 874-4428.**

## Terrific Response to Green-Up Day

We had an amazing turnout for Green-Up Day on Saturday, May 7th! 34 people of all ages dragged neon green bags around town filling them with an assortment of garbage. Just about everyone had picked up their bags at the Town Office the week before and signed up for the roads they wanted to clean. This year the school kids were given activity books from Green Up Vermont in Montpelier and this lead to some school kids volunteering for the first time. 70 bags were filled and left by the side of the road for the town road crew to pick up. Thank you Rodney and Bill.

At noon Gina Noel, Dawn Bower and Edith Serke prepared the Workers' Appreciation lunch at the Meeting House funded by the WCO. By that time everyone was starved. Hot dogs, chips, soda and desserts of cookies, cupcakes and brownies were quickly devoured. Awards were given for the most bags filled (5 1/2), longest distance (2 miles), most disgusting (bags of diapers), weirdest object (torn love letter), most unique object (small Christmas tree), and I spy (jacket). This year there was a raffle and all who worked were entered. Ralph Wyman won the Green Up day t-shirt. Every year more people turn out to clean up Windham on this day and this year about 90% of the roads in town were cleaned. A huge "thank you" to all the workers from Marcia Clinton.



## WINDHAM

### NEWS & NOTES

Is a publication of the Windham Community Organization

Published six times a year

Send donations to address below

#### THE WN&N TEAM

Dawn Bower

Mary Boyer

Jean Coburn

Bev Carmichael

Leila Erhardt

Imme Maurath

Mary McCoy

Gina Noel

Edith Serke

#### 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

August 17, 2011

**Dawn Bower Keeps An Eye On Burbee Pond And Windham** *by Mary McCoy*

None of us is likely to see Dawn Bower sitting still with idle hands. "I don't like doing nothing," she says. As a result, her activity earns her the names Flower Lady, Knitting Queen, The Secretary, and Nature Girl.

This time of year, she is busiest with flowers, which gives her great pleasure. The grounds of the home she shares with Al, her husband of 55 years, are covered with various plants. You get a taste of her green thumb if you drive by their home on Burbee Pond Road, just north of West Windham Road. Dawn is also responsible for the flowers outside the Town Office and the Meeting House. Although one of her few regrets in life is that she did not study floristry, it seems she has taught herself quite well.

Al and Dawn bought their property in 1980. They had wanted a fixer-upper, but as soon as they saw the vacant lot on Burbee Pond, they decided to build there instead. Al and their three sons constructed a cottage with help from friends. They planned to use the place for family getaways and to rent to others, but grew to love it here. They more than doubled the size of the place and moved permanently in 1993.

"We'd lived on the Jersey Shore for 37 years," Dawn says. "But I drove away with no tears. I was glad to leave. It was farmland when we moved in and all asphalt and crowds when we left. It's so nice now to have no traffic lights."

Another advantage of their Windham home is all the wildlife Dawn sees. With a beaver lodge near their house, they are frequently entertained by the rodents. When the Bowers had dogs that swam in the pond, beavers swam alongside and slapped the water with their tails, splashing the hounds. Sometimes, however, the beaver can be annoying. One morning the Bowers awoke to find all signs of a 20-foot-high beech tree gone except the gnawed stump. Now they protect their trees by wrapping the trunks in wire.

Other mammals Dawn has seen include minks, weasels, otters, deer, moose, and bears. Birds include mallards, ring neck ducks, mergansers, wood ducks, geese, herons, egrets, ospreys, hawks, and once an eagle. They even rescued a loon from the frozen pond. Whether she is cooking, on the computer, knitting or whatever, Dawn keeps an eye out the window toward the pond.

Although she has always enjoyed the great outdoors, before moving here, Dawn had a different kind of life. A New Jersey native with no interest in college, she worked in an office as a mail person and married Al, her high school sweetheart. After the reception on their wedding night, they were in their car headed for their honeymoon when they were side-swiped by a car that did not stop. Al took after the car and wound up rear-ending it, sending Dawn to the hospital and him to the police station. "That's how our marriage started," Dawn said. "We knew each other well, but that sealed it for us."

When Dawn and Al's children were born, Dawn became a stay-at-home mom. But when she felt the youngest of their four children was old enough, she went back to work, first as an office manager and then as a department head's secretary. Although she enjoyed knitting, sewing, and other crafts, as she still does now, she was an urban person with a closet full of business attire and little time for community involvement.

**Dawn Bower** (Continued)

Things changed when she moved to Windham. Dawn switched to wearing casual clothes and went to work for the town. For many years, she has been on the Planning Board, serving as its secretary. She is also the long-standing secretary of the Windham Community Organization and the chair and moderator of the Congregational Church Council. She's a town election official and a member of the *News & Notes* team. For ten years, she also served as a town auditor, a post she resigned in order to become an assistant to Town Clerk, Carol Merritt. That job she says is her favorite, explaining, "I love working with Carol and having contact with the community."

For one who gives so much of her time, Dawn says she is spoiled. "I was an only child and got whatever I wanted, and Al spoils me too. I always want something new, even now. Life is short, and it's going faster now than ever."

Perhaps Dawn's experience in 2004 contributes to her outlook. During the week of Christmas her jaw hurt, and she felt tired and achy. She took aspirin, which may have saved her life. By New Year's Eve, Dawn felt terrible and, remembering that her friend Ann Garrett had said her symptoms could indicate a heart attack, she told Al to take her to Grace Cottage Hospital. There, her doctor repeatedly told her, "Stay with us, Dawn, stay with us." They sent her by ambulance to Dartmouth Medical Center, where a stint was placed into an artery that was 95% closed. Although she had always thought of herself as healthy, Dawn recognized a family tendency of early death due to heart disease. "I'm careful now," she says. "I watch what I eat, use less fat and salt, and get lots of exercise. My cardiologist says all's well."

Dawn's family is very important to her, and she wants to see her grandchildren grow up. She has nine of them, including two sets of twins born within two months of each other. They visit her here and she visits them. Her son Keith lives down Burbee Pond Road, Scott is in North Carolina and Jill is in Virginia. Dale died eight years ago at age 44, while living with Dawn and Al.

"It was a terrible blow to us," Dawn says. "But in our time of sorrow, the people of Windham reached out to us and offered support." This is what Dawn appreciates most about our town. "There are many helpful people here, and someone is always there for you. I haven't seen that elsewhere. People here are closer to each other. They have the time, and they are generous."

Al would like to go south in the winter, but Dawn says, "What would I do with myself?" This is where she belongs, and the license plates on the Bowers' cars declare her point of view. One says, "Liv N" and the other says, "Hev N". She explains, "It is like living in heaven here."

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## Firemen's House Burns Down *by John Bland*

Vermont is the perfect destination for skiing and, in the fall of 1979, three New York City firemen purchased a house and trailer on Windham Hill Road. We were fortunate, initially, to have had an extraordinarily hospitable neighbor, Mrs. Carlson and our plumber, Richard Robarge who not only was our plumber but a trusted friend as well. To our chagrin that first year rendered us a puny amount of snow.

Over the next few years skiing conditions were exceptional and we were not exclusive. We skied all over the US, Canada, and Europe.

During those fun skiing years we did experience some troublesome occurrences. Our house was broken into many times and we considered resettling. Lucky for us, the perpetrators were apprehended by our local state policemen.

In 2003, we purchased a new house and continued to ski. Though a knee replacement for me and both knees for my partner, Ralph, kicked our decline in skiing ability into overdrive. I really got the message while skiing in Canada with my son when he asked, "Dad, do you mind if I leave you?"

Thus, downturn in skiing but upturn in enjoying other Vermont activities. We enjoyed the shopping in Manchester. But nothing can measure up to the disco dancing at "Alfies". When we walked in, the DJ would announce, "It's time for the Motown sound".

On April 4, 2011, I received the call that our house had burned down to the ground. We were devastated. Investigators suspect arson since the house across the road from us and other houses in the area had been broken into as well.

Everything has an end. But, I am going to try and fix my knee; without a replacement and return to the baby slopes. I have a new partner, so we may rebuild next year. I really enjoy the folks and everything about Vermont.

John Bland, Retired Captain, NYFD; Allen Travers, Retired Chief, NYFD; Rudolph Dick (Deceased 2000),

Retired Fire Marshall, NYFD; Ralph Palmer (Deceased 2009). Retired Assistant Chief of Department, NYFD



**John Bland**



**Ralph Palmer**



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## Grace Cottage Hospital Fair Day

Townshend -- The Grace Cottage Hospital Fair Day Auction is held annually on Hospital Fair Day, the first Saturday in August, on the Townshend Common and is sponsored by the Grace Cottage Hospital Auxiliary. The Auxiliary is seeking donations for the auction.

Now Accepting:

• Used Furniture • Costume Jewelry • Household Odds n' Ends • Artwork • Used Cars

All proceeds benefit Grace Cottage Hospital. For more information or to arrange a free pick-up of items, call Stan Holt, 365-4455.

Come & enjoy Fair Day, **Saturday, August 6, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.** It's fun for the whole family, with free admission, free parking, free pony rides, entertainment, bargain booths, Bingo, gourmet food, chicken BBQ, and more. Held annually for over 60 Years!

## Shop Local at Southern Vermont's Farmers Markets *by Mary Boyer*

With over 85 farmers markets, Vermont has the largest number of farmers markets in the country. Over eight million dollars worth of greens and goods were sold at the state's markets in 2010. This year more Vermonters will be able to shop at farmers markets. That is because 37% of the markets will accept food stamps so people on 3 Squares/SNAP can buy veggies as well.

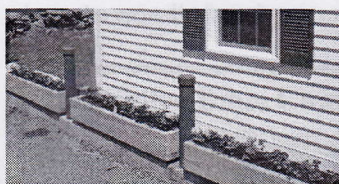
Visiting a Farmers Market in southern Vermont is a great way to shop local and discover some of the amazing Vermont products that are being produced in the Green Mountain State. The Farmers Market is a meeting place and many feature live entertainment. Markets are open on a rotating basis and below is a list of times and places for your shopping convenience:

Londonderry: Routes 11 & 100, Memorial Day to Columbus Day weekend, Saturdays 9:00 - 1:00pm

Townshend: Route 35, May 2 to October 13, Thursdays 3:30 - 6:30.

Chester: Zachary's Pizza parking lot, Routes 11 & 103, Sundays through October 11, 11:00 - 2:00pm

**Volunteer wanted to help publish the Windham News & Notes. Must have working knowledge of the Microsoft Office Suite and be willing to commit to one week every other month for approximately 20 hours. If interested please contact Gina Noel at 874-7198.**



Please stop by Town Office and check out the beautiful new flower boxes built by Jerry Dyke according to Dawn Bower's specifications. Dawn is our Town Gardner and plants those boxes every year. She used a beautiful color combination this year of red purple and yellow.

Thank you Dawn and Jerry for beautifying our town.



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## **The Yankee Male Chorus 2011 Concert Tour**

The highly renowned men's singing group, the "Yankee Male Chorus", returns for their 58<sup>th</sup> tour.

The four concerts they give each year consist of from 55 to 65+ men singing in four-part harmony songs from the sacred, popular, spiritual, Broadway, and novelty areas of music. All men are volunteers from choirs and choral groups throughout the New England region, New York State and other areas. Several local men are members of the chorus.

The chorus gets together on Wednesday afternoon for their only rehearsal and goes public that night to begin four consecutive evening concerts.

The wonderful sound this year will be heard first on Wednesday, August 10th, at the First Congregational Church in Charlestown, N.H.; Thursday, the 11th, at the Congregational Church in Windham, Vt.; Friday, the 12th, at the Town Hall in Walpole, N.H. sponsored by Walpole's St. John's Episcopal Church; and Saturday night the 13th, the finale, as always, at the White Church in Grafton, Vt.

All concerts begin at 7:30 PM.

The Yankee Chorus is a delight to those listening and a joy to those performing. So come enjoy the wonderful sound of this 58th tour.

For additional information call Pete Harrison at 802-722-3080.

## **Windham Town Library News**

### **New Books This Month:**

- "The River Cottage Preserves Handbook," by Pam Corbin, Hugh Feamley
- "Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet," by Jamie Ford
- "The Finkler Question," by Howard Jacobson
- "Triangle, The Fire That Changed America," by David Von Drehle
- "Manhunt," James L. Swanson
- "Sarah's Key," by Tatiana deRosnay
- "Caleb's Crossing," by Geraldine Brooks
- "The Land of Painted Caves," by Jean M. Auel (her first book in 20 years)
- "Sanibel Flats," by Randy Wayne White
- "A Knitter's Home Companion," by Michelle Edwards
- "We'll Always Have Summer," by Jenny Han

Our library is open every Wednesday afternoon 3 – 5 pm. Come in and sign out a new book for your summer reading enjoyment. We have applied for and received a movie license for 2011. If there are any movies you would be interested in seeing, please contact Bev Carmichael or Cindy Kehoe with a list of titles. We would like to show a movie once a month and will post a schedule in front of the library with time and movie title listed. This and all library activities are free to the public.

We also have free passes for Vermont State Parks and Historic Sites available. They can be signed out any Wednesday afternoon.

## Windham youngsters learn and share while putting on a show *by Mary McCoy*



On the evenings of May 26 and 27, the Windham School children in Sally Newton's K-3 classroom treated the community to an original performance entitled "The Special Place" which referred to a natural wildlife setting. The show was presented in the school's all purpose room to large and enthusiastic audiences.

The play was the culmination of a month's work by the students which involved researching information, writing the script, developing public speaking skills, and other related lessons. The children had help from Sally Newton, Cate Kelley, Sarah Beagan, and Jane

Newton to adapt and expand scenery from previous productions and to recycle and create puppets, masks, and costumes that represented animals and birds.

Each student researched a wild creature, using books and the Internet. They used the information to prepare posters about the creatures and to create dialogue and action for the play. They learned some amazing facts, demonstrated in the play. For example, the audience saw that one-day-old wood ducks throw themselves out of their tree trunk nests, sometimes falling as far as 30 feet, before they make their way to water.

The play was not only informative, it carried a message. When human children disturbed the wildlife and left behind the litter from their lunches, the wildlife was none too pleased. Litter, the animals exclaimed, can destroy their habitat and even kill them if they eat it.

When I interviewed the children before the play, they told me they were putting on the show to share their knowledge about animals, to encourage people not to litter, and to have fun. One told me preparing for the show was both a lot of work and a lot of fun, and the rest of the students quickly agreed. I couldn't help but wish that all children had an opportunity at such a young age to equate enjoyment with hard work.

But these children, ages 6 - 10, learned even more. They said the experience taught them to slow down, to think before doing, to do as good a job as they can, to concentrate and focus, and to take their best guess if they are not certain.

The students were Mary McDonald, Lillie Beshay, Ella Goodband, Dakota Smith, Ayla Ryan, MacKenzie Peters, Cameron Peters, Aubrey Goodband, and Alex Beshay.

For the audience, however, it was all fun. The scenery wonderfully depicted a forest and even included a stream with hungry trout. The costumes were delightful. The Thursday night audience broke into applause when the child-sized box turtle lumbered onto the stage, and they clapped for each additional animal. My personal favorites were the three hopping rabbits. The puppets were also terrific. Perhaps the crowd's favorite was the slithering milk snake that scared away the litterbugs. All in all, a great time was had by everyone!

The Valley Bible Church invites you to check out their updated website at [www.valleybibleVT.com](http://www.valleybibleVT.com) for more information and a calendar of upcoming events.



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## **My Personal Rapture** *by Lydia Pope France*

According to the media and others who were inclined to believe in such things, May 21<sup>st</sup> was meant to be the beginning of the end of the world. True believers were going to be taken to heaven for their Rapture, while the rest of us would be left behind to witness four months or so of disasters that would ultimately end with, well, the world ending. Turned out that actually wasn't the case. Maybe the calculations were wrong, or maybe there was some other confusion. But for me it was extra good news, as we were booked to get our high speed internet hookup on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, and I would have hated if the beginning of the end of the world had intervened.

I awoke extra early that day, in part from the sheer excitement and gravitas of the day, and in part as FairPoint will only give a nine hour window (anywhere between 8 AM and 5 PM). I wanted to get things done so I could give my full attention to the installer when he arrived. Turned out he didn't get here till half past three, but that was just fine, he was here and it would not be long. I knew that a few folks out in West Windham had already been connected, so it was really happening, how amazing!

There were some hiccups -- right to the end, of course. We were offered a 15 mbps hookup by the sales department, but when the installer came he said it wouldn't go above 7 mbps. Now 7 is just dandy, but 15 is even dandier. A few days later I checked with the office and they had made a mistake on the order, so we are now running at 15. It is lightning fast and will support anything that is out there today. We had a few days of intermittent service, but that was cleared up after they reworked some corroded wiring in the box out on Golding Road -- fiber optics spliced to corroding wiring, go figure!

An unexpected benefit of waiting what seemed like a lifetime for DSL is that FairPoint is now installing state-of-the art fiber optics in all new locations, so we got what is pretty much as fast as there is out there, albeit 6 or 7 years later than the other end of town that is serviced by V-Tel. Given a choice, I would have happily traded something not quite as lightning speed for those years. Some locations are maxing out at 7 mbps, but that is still super fast.

So now it is in and it is like a new lease on life! What took hours to do a week and a half ago is now just a minute here and there. As websites became more sophisticated, with more graphics and embedded security and who knows what else, things that used to be doable online -- even simple things like ordering from Netflix -- had become painfully slow with our 44 to 50 kbps dial-up connection. I truly notice the time savings. (I believe there are 1000 kbs in 1 mb -- you can do the math, but it is a huge jump to be sure.)

We have also hooked up a video on demand option, and can download movies and other programming. My personal favorite addition is a wifi radio, which can be run anywhere in the house, without the computer turned on, and which *clearly* (as in no static) pulls in over 16,000+ stations from every spot on the globe. After years of fiddling with a variety of antennae in hopes of a better signal, we now have crystal clear reception on all 16,000+ stations! As I listened to Radio Goa while I was setting it up I thought this is *absolute magic* -- like a shortwave radio on steroids! It made me think about the page from the 1920 NYC census I had seen where one of the defining questions was: "does the household own a radio"? Just having a radio was a good predictor of household standing 90 years ago. And now you can be in a tiny little spot on the globe, in tiny little Windham VT, listening to any streaming station from anywhere on earth, and no crackling. Yes, things certainly have changed ...

**Rapture** (Continued). FairPoint has not finished with their commitment here. Parts of Old Cheney Road and even Windham Hill Road in South Windham have not yet been given a date for installs. FairPoint's contractual agreement with the state specifies 100% of 50% of their exchanges must be done by June 30<sup>th</sup>. This includes (all of) the 874 exchange. They do have some wiggle room in that 5% can be addressed within 90 days after the big due date. So some *could* have to wait until September. Anyone who falls into that 5% (and we do not know if anyone in Windham will be in that group – unfortunately, FairPoint will not disclose that info) will receive a letter some time in July to follow up on specifics. My understanding is that if you do not respond to that letter, they will not build out to your location, so do watch your mail should this happen!

It has been a long and pretty painful struggle at times, just getting FairPoint to even include Windham, and then waiting for the day to *finally* come. But I must say, life in the fast lane on a dirt road is really quite wonderful, so a big thank you to the guys who were out working on those poles all through the coldest days of January and February. Their effort is finally paying off, and at long last we are on level ground with the rest of the world ...

**Correction and Request** - The last WNN issue ran an article about bird feeders attracting bears. It omitted mentioning that it was excerpted from the Vermont Fish & Wildlife announcement. We apologize for that. Local VT news recently reported on Vermont Fish & Wildlife's request that people report bear sightings. They are especially concerned with bears who come around during daylight and/or those who do not seem bothered by people. Please report all sightings through the link below. Given a number of recent sightings in Windham this year, during the day in yards and on porches, down the middle of Windham Hill Road, Cross Road and Burbee Pond Road, the bears seem unconcerned with people being nearby, it would be good for The Department to have accurate data on our bear population.

When using the link below, just follow the additional links re: reporting a bear incident:  
[www.vtfishandwildlife.com/wildlife\\_living\\_with\\_bears.cfm](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/wildlife_living_with_bears.cfm)

### **New Leadership at the Windham Volunteer Fire Company**

After years of service Rick Weitzel has retired as Windham's Fire Chief. Nathan Boynton is the new Chief. Rick will serve as his assistant for one year to ease the transition to new leadership. New officers were elected and Michael McLaine is now President with Meredith Tips, secretary and Jan Wyman continuing as Treasurer.

Thank you, Rick, for your many years of service and good luck to the new officers.

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## 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, July 11 and 18 and Aug. 8 and 22 - **Select Board** meets at 6:30 PM at the Town Office. Public Invited.

Thursdays, July 14 - **Planning Board** meets at 7:00 PM at the Town Office. Public Invited.

Wednesday, July 27 and Aug 31 - **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.

### Save the Date!

**WCO Chicken BBQ & Handmade Craft Raffle—Sat. July 16, 2011**

**Yankee Male Chorus—Thurs. August 11, 2011**

**Firehouse Auction and BBQ—Sat. August 13, 2011**