



# Windham News & Notes



*Left to right: Samantha Field, Ivy Packard, Lilian Newton, Jocelyn Blanchard*

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆  
 ☆ Happy ☆  
 ☆ Windham ☆  
 ☆ Campers! ☆  
 ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆



*Gracie Packard wins Scavenger Hunt*

by Kathy Jungermann

Windham Summer Day Camp was the place for summer fun! A total of 20 children, ages three and up, were enrolled. This was my first year at the camp, and I want to thank Cindy Kehoe, Hayley Hescocock, and the campers for making me feel welcome.

Under the direction of Cindy, activities included making beaded bracelets and necklaces, Popsicle stick picture frames, acrylic “stained glass” light catchers, face painting by the very artistic Kylie Kehoe, and carpentry projects at the wood table. Crochet lessons, also given by Cindy, got many started on their first crochet creations. We enjoyed our time outside on the swings and making castles in the sandbox. A spur of the moment scavenger hunt to find a pair of lost glasses was a success. Congratulations to Gracie for finding them. We had a wonderful time swimming, playing in the sand, and hiking at Hapgood Pond.

Cindy and I would like to thank the many members of the Windham community that helped to make Summer Camp 2017 so successful. Gail Wyman stopped in to lead a fun project with straws and marshmallows. Ginny Crittenden came by to lend a helping hand. Russ Cumming repaired the outdoor swing AND put up a new



*Ivy Newton and Jocelyn Blanchard*

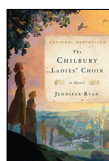
one for the campers. Susan Persa brought two baby bunnies for the children to pet, and also returned with Ezekiel, the kitten, for a visit. We were also fortunate to have Hayley, our junior counselor, on hand to help things run smoothly. She made delicious fruit-filled yogurt pops, and helped the children create unique tie-dyed T-shirts.

Finally, thanks to the Windham Congregational Church, the sponsor of the summer day camp. We ALL (young and “somewhat” older) had a great time!

## Windham Library Book Club Selection

Wednesday, September 6, 2017 – 3:30 PM

*The Chilbury Ladies' Choir* unfolds the struggles, affairs, deceptions, and triumphs of a village choir during World War II. *Lilac Girls*, October 4. Please join us!



## Trash Dumped in Windham

by Frank Seawright

In late July an unsightly collection of items was illegally dumped on undeveloped property on Hitchcock Hill Road near Lawrence Four Corners unbeknownst to the owner. One of the Selectboard members photographed the site and combed through it to find anything that might identify the owner of the trash. A document with a name and address was found and photographed. Several photographs were taken and sent to the State Police. A trooper subsequently informed us that the address on the document was a vacant apartment in Chester. A letter was sent to the out-of-town property owner regarding the situation, and an offer was made to assist in finding a local hauler to properly dispose of the trash. Mike McLaine stepped up as a good Samaritan and took the trash to the dump for the landowner.

Municipalities are responsible for the management and regulation of the storage, collection, processing, and disposal of solid waste within their jurisdiction, in conformance with the State Solid Waste Management Plan, 24 V.S.A. § 2202a. Municipalities may, but not must, adopt ordinances to manage the storage, collection, processing and disposal of solid waste materials, provided the town ordinances are consistent with state law. The Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) tells us that as a very general matter, the most efficient way to deal with trash issues is to have a municipal ordinance on the subject. An ordinance, once duly-adopted by the Selectboard, becomes local law and may be enforced by local officials empowered (by the ordinance) to issue tickets that impose fines. A person can contest such fines by demanding a hearing in the Vermont Judicial Bureau (formerly Traffic Court). Without a municipal ordinance on the subject, the town must rely on state law and a law enforcement officer to issue a ticket for the violation of this law.

The Selectboard will be developing an ordinance concerning disposal of solid waste in Windham. The Selectboard is well aware that Windham residents do care about our town and already manage solid waste without an ordinance, and we do not intend to alter or constrain current local practices. We do intend to make it possible for the town to intercede should it become necessary. The VLCT is currently updating their model solid-waste ordinance, but it does not deal with a situation like the recent dump on Hitchcock Hill Road. In this instance it appears that someone was hired to remove trash from a vacated apartment in Chester, and the hauler simply avoided a transfer station fee by dumping it in Windham.

For now we encourage the following:

If you own property that is situated such that a scoundrel can easily throw trash onto it, please place a barrier of some discouraging kind across the entrance to your property, and perhaps place a sign on it stating that it is illegal to dump trash. Also, out of town property owners may wish to provide the town office with contact information (phone or email) in order to expedite notification in the event of future illegal trash dumping. Please send contact information to the Windham Town Office by email to: [windham.town@gmail.com](mailto:windham.town@gmail.com) or call 802-874-4211.

## More Selectboard News *by Kord Scott*

The sheriff is back in town! The annual contract with the Windham County Sheriff's Department was renewed over the summer and, as you may have noticed, they are stepping up speeding enforcement. There have been a number of resident complaints regarding speeding in South Windham, on areas of Windham Hill Road, along Route 121, and in front the elementary school – so they will be focusing on those areas using both officers and the speed cart. This is not intended to penalize local residents, but we are all subject to ticketing, so please keep in mind that the general speed limit on those roads is 40 mph. However, in **South Windham the limit is 30 mph, and near the school the limit is 25 mph, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.** So be careful and slow down!!

Regarding the Highway Department, as you may or may not have noticed, we ordered and have received a new tandem rear axle International Plow/Dump Truck. Josh did a great job specifying and comparing the various models, pricing, availability, warranty, and service capabilities with the potential manufacturers & vendors. There are many beneficial features and options on the new truck that will offer a return to the town including: an increased hauling capacity, more efficient application of salt, a different main plow design, and many others. There will also be a significant savings in reduced parts and labor costs, which had risen to an unacceptable level on the old truck. Please feel free to stop in and check out the new truck with Josh and Jon at the town garage.

Regarding the Horsenail Hill/White Road chip sealing, it was determined by the vendor and the engineer that the mixture that was applied last year was defective in some areas. They came out over the summer and reworked those areas at no cost to the town.

Regarding both registered and unregistered dogs who wander off their owner's property and cause problems for other residents, the town is looking for an Animal Control officer. The town would appreciate suggestions or volunteers for the position.

## Windham Solar Project Update

by Maureen Bell and Bill Dunkel

The Windham Energy Committee (EC) has been working to meet the requirements of Vermont Act 174. That act states that a town's plan will be given "substantial deference" when the Public Utility Commission (PUC), formerly known as the Public Service Board, makes decisions about siting of future renewable energy projects. The targets for renewable energy for each town have been set by each Vermont Regional Commission.

Windham can meet its required targets through 2050 with seven acres of solar generation within our town's borders. The Energy Committee has been active in bringing together a Windham property owner and a solar developer. That project appears to be on track, while another property owner is also engaged in discussions with a solar developer. So it appears that Windham will easily exceed the 2050 target set by the Windham Regional Commission, if these two projects become a reality.

The Energy Committee is also interested in using about one-half of the town property behind the Windham Center Cemetery for a town solar array project, ideally having it offset electricity costs for the Town Office, Meeting House and Town Garage. Since that property is owned by the town, a town-wide vote on using the property for that purpose will be necessary. Several procedural hurdles – environmental studies, town approval, and a PUC review and evaluation before granting a certificate of public good- must be fulfilled first. The Agency of Natural Resources limits conducting the environmental studies to certain times of the year, and the cutoff date for this year is mid-October. The developer has reminded us that the window for conducting environmental studies this year is closing fast.



## From Mike's Desk

by Mike McLaine, Town Clerk

**As of October 2, the Londonderry Transfer Station will no longer accept any cash or checks,** and annual stickers will no longer be available for purchase at the Transfer Station. **PLEASE NOTE: Your 2017 annual sticker is valid through December 31, 2017.** The annual stickers for 2018, which allow people to use the transfer station, will **only be sold at the Londonderry Town Office** by appearing in person, or by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope with payment to the Londonderry Town Office. Stickers for 2018 will be available beginning November, 2017 (date TBD), and will be valid from January 1 through December 31, 2018. The permit cost will be \$10 for residential and \$25 for commercial.

**Also as of October 2, the Transfer Station will no longer be accepting cash or checks for disposal of your rubbish,** as I'm sure you have already heard or read (see previous N&N or Londonderry's

website at: <http://www.londonderryvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Punch-card-web-site-info-NEW.pdf> ). So don't forget your punch card!!!

One important change that is not shown on the website or in the flyer that you received with your tax bill, is that **punch cards WILL be available for purchase at the Windham Town Office.** The punch cards should be in the office by September 11, and will be available in 5-punch cards (\$10) or 10-punch cards (\$20).

Household trash disposal will be priced as follows:

- 1 punch-up to 13 gallon bag;
- 2 punches-14 to 33 gallon bag;
- 3 punches-34 to 50 gallon bag.

Another addition, is that the Windham Town Office will also sell the commercial/caretaker/contractor punch cards which will cost \$120 for four \$10 punches and four \$20 punches per card.

If you have questions, please call the Town Office at 874 4211, or the Londonderry Town Office at 824-3356.



## WINDHAM NEWS & NOTES

A publication of the Windham Community Organization, published six times a year. Please send donations to the address on the last page.

### N&N Team

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Many thanks to all who contribute. Send articles of around 300 words to the address on the last page or email to: [windhamnews@hotmail.com](mailto:windhamnews@hotmail.com).

**Next deadline: October 15, 2017**

## Town Office Hours

**Monday 12 PM - 8 PM**

**Tuesday 6 AM - 10 AM**

**Wednesday 10 AM - 2 PM**

**Saturday, September 7 and  
October 5, 8 AM-12 PM**

Call Town Office at 874-4211  
for special arrangements.



## Property Tax Information - Taxes Due Tuesday, October 31

*from Peter Chamberlain*

Property tax bills have been mailed out. Please contact the Town Office at 874-4211 if you have not received your bill. Taxes are due on October 31, 2017. Interest will be assessed monthly beginning on November 1. A postmark of October 31, 2017, will be accepted as on-time payment. **The Town Office will be open on October 31 from 6 AM - 10 AM for all town business, and for tax payments only from 10 AM - 5 PM.** If you have any questions about your Homestead Declaration and State Exemption or Current Use, please contact the State of Vermont at 802-828-2505 or 866-828-2865. If you have questions about the assessed value of your property, please contact the Windham Listers on Wednesdays from 9 AM – Noon at the Town Office.

## Christopher Cummings and Vance Bell Are Appointed to the Planning Commission

*from Chris Cummings*

Like many other Windham citizens, I was initially drawn into town government by the debate over the recently proposed wind turbine project on Stiles Brook. Throughout that process I was fortunate to be introduced to several people actively involved in town politics, including Planning Commission members Bob Bingham, Bob Kehoe and Bill Dunkel. The more I learned about them, the more inspired I became by their selfless dedication and commitment to building a better Windham today, and for the future. Between Bob Bingham and Bob Kehoe alone, they account for over 35 years of dedicated service to Windham. As a new Planning Commission member, I certainly don't expect to fill their very substantial shoes, but I hope to be able to contribute in some small way.

Living on a small farm in Windham, VT, with my wife, Alison, I divide my time between working as a financial adviser and a real estate professional. I serve as the principal of Cummings Financial Services, LLC whose financial advisers assist individuals, families, retirees and business owners, in safeguarding their retirement investments.

My spare time hobbies include building stone walls, coaching at Stratton in one of the Seasonal Ski programs, playing golf and spending as much time as possible with family. I have two daughters who both live in Charlotte, NC.

*from Vance Bell*

My appointment to the Windham Planning Commission and Zoning Board is something I take very seriously. The design of the Town Plan and its Zoning Regulations affect the look of our town now and for the future. The past and current members of the commission have always worked with extreme diligence to ensure the character of Windham remains intact, while maintaining a high standard of quality of life for our citizens. I want to see this high quality maintained, and I believe that with my assistance, along with that of the current members of the Planning Commission and Zoning



Board, we will continue to preserve that quality of life.

With the new state and federal regulations being placed on the towns of Vermont, there have been many hours of work by the members of the Zoning Board, both new and old, to incorporate the numerous new guidelines into the Windham Zoning Regulations. This has almost doubled the length of the regulations which, for the large part, are due to the devastation caused by Hurricane Irene. It defines in detail the requirements within the Windham flood plains and flood hazard areas. My respect for the depth of detail necessary in our regulations has grown significantly while working on the new zoning rules. To provide the best practices for the town, much research on the various guidelines has been necessary.

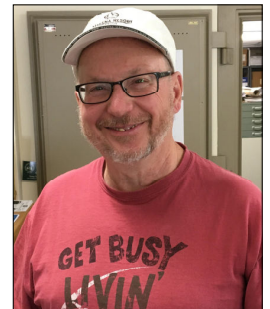
Previously, as a member of the Timber Ridge Board, I have had similar responsibilities related to the Timber Ridge development, such as resolving issues concerning the maintenance of roads, the modification of the by-laws governing the group and collection of fees. I am currently working to persuade the board to undergo an update of the Timber Ridge covenants, since the last review was several years ago.

Before retirement, I worked a few years for the University of Pittsburgh, and for 34 years before that with a major pharmaceutical company, Hoffmann-LaRoche.

There I was a research leader heading a group of scientists. We worked together to determine and develop new chemical structures.

Learning to work with a variety of people involved with various research projects, and with other companies on a range of issues, purchasing and maintaining major equipment and designing new laboratories, taught me how to design a plan, and work with others toward the end point of a project.

Before joining the Planning and Zoning Commission, I had read the complete Windham Town Plan and our Zoning Regulations. I now have a much greater appreciation for the work and dedication required to develop these resulting works. The privilege of working in such a devoted group is an honor. Now as the completion of the update of the Zoning Regulations nears, I raise my glass to looking forward to starting the rewrite of the Town Plan, which is mandated by the State to be revised again in 2020.



## Windham Fire Company Auction and BBQ Broke All Records!!!

by Marcia Clinton

Fire Calls:

June 19 - Mutual aid to cover Londonderry station for Landgrove fire. 4 responded.

July 2 - Mutual aid to Chester for structure fire. 3 responded.

July 16 - Mutual aid to Townshend for structure fire. 4 responded.



Mother Nature gave Windham a gift of a glorious day for the annual Fire Company Auction and BBQ on Saturday, August 14. Many people came to volunteer their time before, during and after the day's event, to make it a huge success. The auctioneer, John Hall, kept the bidding going strong for four hours as all the participants emptied their wallets, but took home some real bargains. Four tents covered all the flea market tables loaded with treasures, and action in that area continued all day and into the evening.



One white, fearless chicken offered comic relief as it strolled through the area all day. She didn't seem afraid for herself considering that many of her cousins were on the menu for the evening BBQ.

After the BBQ, the auctioneer, John, despite having episodes of laryngitis, had lots of fun playing one bidder against another to bring in astonishing prices for the pies, cakes and leftover food. The carrot cake went for the highest amount at \$390.00!



It was a day of fun for everyone. A chance to catch up with old friends, an opportunity to make new ones, and raise funds for the Fire Company. The members of the Fire Company are extremely appreciative of all the community support and wish to thank everyone who participated in any way to make this such a grand success. A picture of Reggie Fleece hung inside the tent as a tribute and remembrance of his generosity to the Windham Fire Company. For more photos go to: <http://townofwindhamvt.com/galleries/fire-company-auction-bbq/>.



**On Friday, October 27, 2017, all the miniature ghosts, goblins and other assorted trick-or-treaters are invited to the annual Halloween party at the Firehouse in North Windham beginning at 5:45 PM.** Judging of the costume parade will be at 6 PM, so don't be late! Hot dogs, maybe chili, cider and seasonal treats will be there for the hungry kids and adults. Parents are encouraged to come, dressed in costume if they wish, and bring a treat (healthy or otherwise) to share. There will be lots of games, prizes and a hay ride. So start designing your costumes now!!



**Windham Fire Company Halloween Party  
Friday, October 27, 5:45 PM  
6 PM Costume Parade!**



## School Days, Golden Rule Days

by Gail Wyman

Well, summer is almost over, and it is back to school time. There will be a new atmosphere, with five kindergarten students starting their first year of all-day school. Hmmm, wonder what this does for our soccer and baseball teams??? Pretty small, but maybe pretty tough?? What happens at Windham Elementary right off, is that the older students include the younger ones in outdoor games, and pretty soon they are excellent at hula hoops, throwing the ball, and playing soccer. They might be out on the stone wall making stone stores, stone homes, or just sitting on a rock having a social time. There are strict rules about the boundaries where they are to play. They have to stay within eye sight of the teachers. No playing in the tall grass during tick season either!

If you have never been to our First Day Potluck Breakfast, you have missed out on a very fun morning. Every year we start back to school with a potluck, this year our first day was Wednesday, August 30. Each family brings some sort of hot breakfast food, rolls, juice, or fruit. It is a fun, noisy time of everyone getting back together, and the new students being introduced. After breakfast we have circle time in the gym, everyone introduces themselves, we sing a few songs and then we play a game.

Change will happen a lot in the first weeks. There will be the first days with five kindergartners nervous about SCHOOL! Then they will be wanting to ride the bus like the big kids do. They will find new buddies. We spend a lot of time helping kids get reacquainted with each other and school routines and expectations.



## Windham Elementary School Board

by Carolyn Partridge

Things are gearing up at the Windham School as the first day of school, August 30, draws near. This will have occurred by the time you receive *News and Notes*. Our first morning is celebrated by a traditional potluck breakfast starting at 8 AM. The entire community is always welcome to come. We have several new students this year, including a large kindergarten class, and we look forward to welcoming them and making them part of the Windham School family.

The Local Act 46 Study Committee continues its work, meeting right after the regularly scheduled School Board meetings. This month, due to Labor Day, our School Board meeting will be on September 11 at 4 PM, with the Local Act 46 Study Committee following. We are working on developing a survey to gauge the value community members place on the school, and local control of the school budget and administrative decisions. Our sincere hope is that a large number of Windham residents will respond to the survey.

Our job is to make a good case for why we should be allowed to form an Alternative Governance Structure and maintain our own budget and school board. Even though we voted against Act 46, we anticipate that the state will try to force us to become part of the West River Modified Unified Union School District (WRMUUSD). We need to prove why that should not happen, and how we can meet the goals of Act 46 without being part of the WRMUUSD.

We are also very interested in having thoughtful conversations with people who supported Act 46. In a recent conversation with someone who did not declare themselves, but I suspect voted for it, it was suggested that many of the folks who have moved to Windham are retired and not particularly interested in the activities at the school – its presence is not something that touches their lives. Some have moved to town and may want to be somewhat reclusive. As someone who has been very actively involved in community life for more than 30 years, it was very helpful to hear their perspective.

The larger and underlying question is what we want our community to look like going forward? Some of the questions that have been raised include, do we want Windham to be a retirement community? What young families will move to Windham when the nearest school is eleven miles away, down a steep and sometimes, treacherous hill? Given transportation and other constraints, what are the actual realistic opportunities offered by Act 46 for Windham students?

Proponents of Act 46 say that they are not talking about closing our school, but that possibility is clearly the elephant in the room. With one vote on a nine (or eventually, an eleven) member board, Windham has very little power to avoid budget cuts and, potentially, diminished resources for our school. With a combined budget for the four elementary schools and the high school, spending transparency would be eliminated, and it would be hard to tell what was being spent on our school. While townspeople would have a vote before the school could be closed, a lack of funding for the Windham School would most likely produce a poorer quality of education than the excellent opportunities our students have now.

Our goal is to have meetings that are respectful, honest, reality-based, and civil. We appreciate and encourage the attendance of community members who are interested in educational opportunity for Windham children. Please feel free to join us at the school. Local Act 46 meetings generally start an hour after the regular school board meeting starts – approximately 5 PM.

## Chocolate, Cheese, and Chili Fest

by Caroline Partridge

A wonderful time was had by all at the Chocolate, Cheese, and Chili Fest on August 7, one of the major fundraisers for Neighborhood Connections. The weather held out for us and the food was scrumptious.



A huge hit, as always, was the table sponsored by the Windham Community Organization. I always hear feedback about how wonderful all the goodies are. Claudia Holmes' cupcakes, from her business Cupcakes and More, are always a huge hit. Also representing Windham was Brenda Coolbeth and her Windham Sweets bakery business – her cakes were delicious! Thanks to all, including Pat Cherry, Gail Wyman, Ellen McDuffie, Kathy Jungermann, Mia Clark and Carolyn Partridge, who contributed baked goods for the Windham WCO table.

The event was a great success. Preliminary results indicate that Neighborhood Connections raised nearly \$18,000 on ticket sales, silent auction items, and raffles. This will help Neighborhood Connections continue its work connecting community members with the health care and social services they need.

A big thanks to all who participated!!

## WATER TESTING - WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

by Marcia Clinton

In Vermont, many people believe that pure, safe drinking water is naturally abundant. Although this is true in many cases, homeowners cannot afford to take safe drinking water for granted. Springs and wells can easily become contaminated with bacteria if they are not constructed and maintained properly.

The Vermont Department of Health advises that coliform/*E.coli* bacterial testing (Kit A) be done annually. When total coliform bacteria are found in your drinking water sample, a test for *E.coli* will also be performed. The presence of *E.coli* in drinking water is serious because these bacteria are usually associated with sewage or animal waste, and can cause serious illness. The test done by the state lab costs \$14.00 and can be ordered by downloading the form online at [www.healthvermont.gov](http://www.healthvermont.gov), printing the order form and sending it in with payment. Kit A can also be ordered by phone at 802-338-4736, Mon - Fri, 7:45 AM - 4:30 PM.

Instructions for collection and packaging of drinking water samples can be found online. Testing must begin within 30 hours of collection. The sample can be shipped by FedEx or UPS. The Post Office in West Townshend offers an express/overnight delivery service for \$23.75. The package must be at the post office by 4:45 PM, and will arrive at the lab by noon the next day.

Northeast Environmental Labs in Hartland, VT ([www.northeastlabs.com](http://www.northeastlabs.com)) offers Total Coliform Bacteria testing for \$30.00 which includes a pre-paid mailing envelope. This can easily be ordered by phone at 802 436-1085.

Both laboratories offer more extensive water testing for chemicals, pesticides, PCB's and other contaminants. That information is available on their websites. You may want to consider additional tests.

Water is vital to life, and we depend on it for maintenance, replacement, fitness, performance, as well as basic cleansing. Without water we would die within a matter of days. Clean, safe water truly is the most essential nutrient.



## New Unified WRMUED Board Meets

by Nancy Dyke

The official name of the new unified school district for the towns of Brookline, Jamaica, Newfane and Townshend is the West River Modified Union Education District (WRMUED). Obviously this is quite a mouthful so unofficially, it will probably be known as the West River Education District. Windham remains a separate district.

Members of the Board are: Al Claussen - Townshend, Patti Dickson - Jamaica, Nancy Dyke - Windham (grades 7-12, Leland and Gray), Drew Hazelton - Jamaica, Emily Long - Newfane, Ken McFadden - Brookline, Alecia O'Donnel - Newfane, Joe Winrich - Townshend (chair).

The following actions are highlights of the August 21 meeting. Of course, much groundwork needs to be laid before the new school board begins to govern. To accomplish this the Board looks forward to working with a consultant beginning in October. Dates for these meetings were established.

The Board has begun reviewing required district policies. For those who are interested, they appear on the Supervisory Union website.

Two subcommittees were also formed. First, a Negotiations Council was established for the purpose of negotiating contracts with district employees. Also, a Buildings and Grounds Committee was formed to begin evaluating the assets of the new district, including the current state of its buildings.

Windham's "rights" on the West River Education District School Board were clarified. First, Windham has the right to have a member on the new Board with voting rights for grades 7-12 issues, since Windham sends most of its junior and senior high school students to Leland and Gray. Second, the possibility of Windham requesting membership in the West River Education District was also discussed. Windham is allowed to do this through



March 31, 2018, without necessitating the approval of the current member towns.

Superintendent, Bill Anton reported that the Supervisory Union Leadership Team has completed a study that continued for several months. The study asked the question, "Why aren't 100% of students demonstrating academic proficiency?" Students, staff and the community were involved. As a result, a detailed improvement plan has been developed.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 18.

## Windham Congregational Church

Submitted by Ginny Crittenden



Windham Congregational Church has held two ice cream socials this summer, and we thank everyone who came to eat their fill of sundaes, banana splits, cones and creations of their own. People seemed to enjoy the conversation with their neighbors, and their donations are used to support the Windham Community Summer Day Camp.

We welcome all to our church service, each Sunday at 9:30 AM.



First day of school for Windham Kindergarten-ers, in front of Town Office for fire drill.

## Say Goodbye to our Amazing Hummingbirds

(Till Next Year, That Is) by Philip McDuffie



During the last week in August, our flying acrobats, known as the ruby-throated hummingbirds (*Archilochus colubris*), will start leaving Windham, and

will individually begin their incredible journeys to South Florida, the Yucatan in Mexico, and various parts of Central America.

Though the smallest of all birds in North America, and the only hummingbird species that breeds east of the Mississippi River, the ruby-throated hummer leaves every other species in the dust when it comes to maneuverability. As shown in the picture on the right, they can practically stop on a dime from a flight speed that can range anywhere from 30 to 60 miles per hour. They are the only species that can hover-in-place, fly side to side without turning, and literally fly backwards when the need arises.

Those of you who have feeders have probably noticed that there's been a lot of activity around them of late, and if the feeders at our home are any indication, you're likely having to refill them at least every other day. The reason for this frenzy is that they are trying to double their weights from a fit and trim 3-grams, on average, to a hefty but still flyable weight of about 6-grams. Though they'll try to maintain their weight, while flying down to Florida, by feeding when the opportunity arises, they'll consume almost 50% of their weight on their 500-mile non-stop flight to Mexico (which takes them about 20 hours to complete). That's a spectacular feat when you realize that during the daylight hours our hummingbirds need to feed themselves about every 10 minutes to sustain

their incredibly high metabolism that supports a heart rate that ranges from 250 beats per minute (bpm) at rest, to 1200-bpm while hovering and feeding.

Even though most of the hummers will vanish in a relative flash, you should leave your feeders out for at least a couple more weeks. There's likely going to be a few birds, i.e. the "stragglers", including the less dominant individuals and mothers who are trying to recover from producing a second brood, that haven't "tanked up" enough to make the journey. You can also expect to see the occasional traveler, from areas north of here, that will likely drop by for a quick pick-me-up, or even an overnight stay, if your garden or feeders offer some enticing energy treats.

For those who aren't into setting up and maintaining feeders, you can still make your yard into an oasis for these birds. They are attracted to all sorts of tubular flowers, especially red ones. Beebalm, columbine, honeysuckle and salvia are some of their favorites.

So, adios my little friends; as always you continue to amaze me. We'll expect to see you again, on or about May 5, 2018. Until then, take care and may the winds be with you!



*A female hummer deploying her spoiler (tail) during a high-speed landing approach on a feeder*

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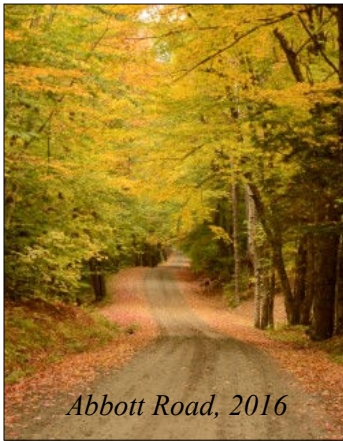
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## Walking Windham *by Maureen Bell*



As so many of you know, the best way to get to know a place is on foot. That's why I recently decided to walk all the roads of Windham. You just can't see all the beautiful features of a place driving by in a car.

On just the few roads I've already walked, I've noticed gazebos, ponds, floral and veggie gardens, golfers on Tater Hill, a cemetery, hidden drives, forests, a mine, steep hills,

ski trails, birds and dogs. Lots of dogs! I hope they're all properly restrained, licensed and sheltered from the weather!

People have been scarce, but I've seen a few. Carolyn P. stopped to chat with me once. I recognized Bob B. waving as he drove by. Talked with Ralph W. and met Vinnie! Arf, arf! Met second-homeowner Jim R. as he was about to cut the grass. And of course, I wave to all who pass me - even the guys from Green Mountain Power and the ones in the cement mixer.

So far I haven't done any loops, so I get to walk the roads twice - out and back, up and down.

It'll take me a while to walk all the roads. Walking at 2-4 mph (depending on terrain) doesn't get me anywhere quickly. So if you see me walking past your house, don't be shy - say hello. If you want to join me, even better. Just put your sneakers on and start walking. If you want to arrange a walk in advance, that's great too. Let me know; you can show me your favorite spot!

And if my calves and thighs benefit from all this, I'll be better off!

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## What's New at Meadows Bee Farm

*by Leigh Merinoff and Beth McDonald*

It's been a very busy and productive spring and summer on the Meadows Bee Farm (MBF). We've had lots of help from our Wwoofers (World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms) and Interns who came to us from Texas, New York, Massachusetts and Paris, France. There were many opportunities to participate in different aspects of the farm, like sugaring in early spring, getting hands on experience helping our cow, Coral, calve a large bull calf, lambing, starting seeds, planting and harvesting.

The gardens and orchards are expanding every season, and to keep them growing, MBF is happy to have Toni Kessler and Ben Farrell join the crew. Toni has taught agriculture and managed farm education programs at Kindle Farm in Townshend and at the Linus Pauling Institute in Oregon, among other accomplishments. Ben and his family farm land in Townshend, growing greens and produce for sale in local stores. We are thankful to have them onboard.

Many of you have heard of and/or participated at the ceramic studio located at the Field House in West Townshend. Now we have a blacksmith shop also nestled in the same location. Bob Ray, a talented local craftsman, has been leading a 6-week course for the beginner blacksmith in a fantastic refurbished sugar house. And finally, we have created a craft space in the upper part of our beautiful barn located at the MBF yellow house (intern house). We had fun with wool crafts during our summer farm camp program, and squeezed in a leather tooling class before our intern from Texas headed home.

We look forward to growing our farming and education mission by offering a place to gather and learn, and utilizing the many talented, creative and knowledgeable people of our community. Please call the farm at 874-4092 to find out about classes, or if you have a skill/craft you would like to share.



**STRONG LIVING, Monday & Thursday  
10 AM at the Meeting House**



**FRESH FOOD MARKET**  
Fresh Produce, Deli, Bakery, Meat  
Beer, Wine, Natural and Gourmet Foods

MOUNTAIN MARKETPLACE  
Jct. Route 100 and Route 11 in Londonderry



*WCO BBQ Chicken Chefs: (Left to right) Kord Scott, Josh Dryden, Keith Jungermann, Dennis Fahey, Walter Woodruff, Jonathan Gordon, Russell Cumming*

## Another Successful WCO BBQ

by Mia Clark

Rain was forecasted for July 15, the day of Windham Community Organization's annual barbecue. Luckily, all that happened was a very light sprinkling in the late afternoon. Many lined up well before the five o'clock start of the barbecue, purchasing tickets and participating in the raffle, all for the benefit of Windham Community Organization (WCO). This is one of two major fundraisers by WCO, the other being the Harvest Supper and Square Dance evening in the fall. These events provide financial support to local residents that have come upon hard times. This is truly a community event, where many hands are involved in planning, preparing and cooking for an evening for all to enjoy. Diane and Pete Newton, along with Alan Partridge, provided us with musical entertainment that helped make the line seem to move along much faster. Thank you all for entertaining us! About 150 dinners were served to, not only locals, but also many part-time residents and folks from other towns. Praises were offered for Walter Woodruff's superbly grilled chicken, served along with side dishes of baked beans and salads, followed by dessert of fresh strawberry shortcake with fresh whipped cream. Special thanks to Walter and his crew, as well as the many volunteers that cooked and baked, or made handmade crafts for the raffle. This evening was so successful and fun because of the large community involvement. Thank you all!

## November Brings Harvest Supper with Square Dance and Photo Contest

by Imme Maurath

This year's **Harvest Supper** will be held on **Saturday, November 11 at 5:00 PM at the Meeting House**. The traditional dinner will consist of ham, butternut squash, baked beans, scalloped potatoes (a gluten-free version will be offered as well), sweet breads, rolls and assorted homemade pies. The cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids, or \$25 per family. We will be asking for donations for the band which will provide the music for the square dance that follows the dinner. Sally Newton will call the square dance.

All are welcome to submit photos for the ever popular Windham Photo Contest. The theme of the contest is "Capturing the Beauty of Windham". All photos must be taken within the town of Windham. The only other rule is "no people." Photos (8X10) will be displayed on the walls of the Meeting House for Harvest Supper patrons to vote on their favorites. The twelve winning photos will appear in the 2018 Windham Library Calendar, which is a fund-raiser for the library. Calendars will be on sale at the end of November



for \$10 each. See the attached insert for entering your photographs. The deadline is Wednesday, November 8.

It will be a night to send you home smiling, for sure!

## Transfer Station Reminders

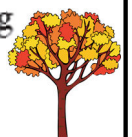
**Hazardous Waste Collection on Saturday October 7, 9 AM - 1 PM at Flood Brook School on Route 11.**

Go to: [www.londonderryvt.org/recycletransfer/hazardous-special-waste/](http://www.londonderryvt.org/recycletransfer/hazardous-special-waste/) for information.

**Punch cards for trash disposal go on sale at the Town Office on September 11. These will be required as of October 2 for trash disposal at the Londonderry Transfer Station.**

  
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 802-365-7357



## "Forks over Knives" Movie at the Grafton Inn, September 19



It's no secret that diabetes is now occurring in epic numbers. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that over 9 percent of Americans are affected. Other chronic diseases are also on the rise. Could it be due to what we eat?

The documentary "Forks Over Knives" examines the theory that most, if not all, chronic diseases that afflict us today can be controlled, or even reversed, by changes in our diet.

The film chronicles the pioneering research of two doctors, a nutrition scientist from Cornell and a surgeon from Cleveland Clinic. It also shows the real-life experiences of patients who followed their recommended whole-food, plant-based diet.

"Forks over Knives" will be shown Tuesday morning, September 19, 9:00 – 10:30 AM in the Homestead Room at the Grafton Inn, 92 Main Street, Grafton. The movie will be followed by a brief discussion and presentation on diabetes by two members of the Grace Cottage Community Health Team: Health Coach Liz Harrison, CCN, and Diabetes Educator Deb Brown, RN. RSVP requested but not required.. For more information, call 843-2346 or email [graftonchurch@gmail.com](mailto:graftonchurch@gmail.com).



## Windham Democratic Caucus

### Meeting Thursday, September 21 at 5 PM

at the Windham Town Office. Reorganization meeting held every two years. Please join us! Call Carol Bellucci at 874-4413 for more information.

## Progressive Party Caucus Meetings

Dummerston Town Office, Friday, September 15  
at 4:45 - 5:15 PM

Brattleboro Brooks Memorial Library, Tuesday,  
September 26 at 6 PM

We will elect new Progressive town committees, discuss our priorities, and discuss growing our Party. If you are interested in organizing a Progressive committee in Windham, call Eesha Williams at 802-254-2531.

## Republican Party Caucus, September 13

In odd numbered years, political parties in Vermont go through a process known as "re-organization." All towns and counties in Vermont have the opportunity to come together to form a local Republican Party via a caucus. If you are interested in organizing a town GOP committee in Windham, please call 802-223-3411.

### Town Contacts

Town Clerk: Michael McLaine, phone: 874-4211; email: [windham.town@gmail.com](mailto:windham.town@gmail.com)  
Town Treasurer: Peter Chamberlain, phone: 874-4211; email: [windham.towntreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:windham.towntreasurer@gmail.com)  
Town Road Crew: Josh Dryden and Jon Gordon, phone: 874-7025 at the Town Garage  
Lister and Zoning: Alison Cummings, 874-7223; [cobbbrookfarm@gmail.com](mailto:cobbbrookfarm@gmail.com); John Hoover, 875-6224; [johnjhover@vermontel.net](mailto:johnjhover@vermontel.net)  
E911 Coordinator and Lister: Meredith Tips-McLaine, 875-1550; [meredithtipsmcclaine@gmail.com](mailto:meredithtipsmcclaine@gmail.com)  
Select Board: Frank Seawright, chair, phone: 875-1555; email: [fseawright@vermontel.net](mailto:fseawright@vermontel.net)  
School Board: Antje Ruppert, phone: 874-4759; email: [antje@sover.net](mailto:antje@sover.net)  
Windham Community Organization: Ellen McDuffie, phone: 874-8183; email: [eflockwood@aol.com](mailto:eflockwood@aol.com)  
Windham Volunteer Fire and Rescue: Rick Weitzel, phone: 874-4104; Ralph Wyman, phone: 875-3373  
Health Officer: Marcia Clinton, phone: 875-3531; email: [mcclinton@vermontel.net](mailto:mcclinton@vermontel.net)  
Planning and Energy Commission: Bill Dunkel, phone: 874-4131; email: [bdunkel1455@gmail.com](mailto:bdunkel1455@gmail.com) (lower case L, then number 1455)



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## Harvest Supper, November 11

Windham News & Notes  
5976 Windham Hill Road  
Windham, VT 05359

Windham News & Notes  
welcomes submissions. Send  
articles of about 300 words to the  
above address or by email to:  
[windhamnews@hotmail.com](mailto:windhamnews@hotmail.com).

Please keep us informed of any  
name or address changes.



### **REGULARLY SCHEDULED WINDHAM TOWN MEETINGS**



*Imme's two baby robins*

#### **Town Clerk:**

Monday: Noon - 8:00 PM  
Tuesday: 6:00 AM - 10:00 AM  
Wednesday: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM  
**Closed September 4,  
October 9 and all Thursdays,  
Fridays and Federal Holidays.**  
Open Sept 7 & Oct 21, 8 AM-12

#### **Planning and Zoning:**

Second Wednesday of the  
month at 6:30 PM at the  
Town Office; Sept 13 &  
Oct 11. Open Meetings.  
Agenda posted. Call Bill  
Dunkel at 874-4131 for info

#### **Select Board:**

1st & 3rd Mondays,  
including Labor Day, Sept 4  
& 18, Oct 2 & 16 at 6:30 PM  
at the Town Office. Open  
meetings. Agenda posted.

#### **Library:**

Every Wednesday, 3-5 PM  
at the Meeting House.  
Book Group: 1st Wednesday  
Sept 6 & Oct 4 at 3:30 PM  
at the Meeting House.

#### **School Board:**

1st Mondays, (except not  
on Labor Day!)  
September 11 & October 2  
at 4 PM at the Elementary  
School. Call Antje Rupert  
at 874-4759 to confirm.

#### **Volunteer Fire Company:**

First Thursday of the  
month, Sept 7 & Oct 5  
at 6 PM at the Firehouse.  
Heavy refreshments  
served.

#### **Windham Community Organization:**

Last Wednesday of the month  
at 7 PM at the Meeting House,  
Sept. 27 & Oct. 25.  
Call Ellen McDuffie at  
874-8183 for information.

#### **Windham Congregational Church (UCC):**

Sundays: Worship Services  
at 9:30 AM at the Meeting  
House. Call Dave Crittenden  
at 874-4049 for more  
information.

#### **Valley Bible Church:**

Sundays: Sunday School,  
9:55 AM; Morning Worship,  
11 AM; Potluck, 12:10 PM;  
Sun. Afternoon Service,  
1:10 PM; Tuesdays, Bible  
Study/ Prayer, 7 PM.

#### **Listers:**

Every Wednesday 9 AM-  
Noon at the Town Office.

#### **WRMU Union School District:**

Third Mondays, Sept 18 &  
Oct 16 at 7 PM at Leland &  
Gray.



### **SAVE THESE DATES!**

September 6 - Windham Library Book Club, Library, 3:30 PM (and October 4)  
September 21 - Democratic Caucus at Town Office, 5 PM  
October 2 - Punch card required at Transfer Station  
October 7 - Hazardous Waste, Flood Brook, 9 AM - 1 PM  
October 27 - Fire Company Halloween Party, 5:45 PM  
October 31 - Property Taxes Due at Town Office, 6 AM - 5 PM

## Scott Covered Bridge

### A Night to Remember! *by Rebecca Keppler*

It was a hot and lovely mid-summer evening when about 150 members of the West River community, and beyond, gathered to celebrate restoration of the Scott Covered Bridge in Townshend. They enjoyed delicious food, live music and square dancing, and a wonderful time was had by all.

In 2012 the bridge was closed, even to pedestrians, due to its worsening condition. Following the \$2.35 million restoration that took nearly two years, it is now open to them once again. (Motorized vehicles are still prohibited.)

It was a night to remember; a celebration of a bridge of the ages, that will now live to receive the footsteps of our future generations.

*Editor's note:* Thanks go out from our community to WRVT for sponsoring this celebration!



*Ava Keppler of Newbrook School*





## ANNUAL WINDHAM PHOTO CONTEST “CAPTURING THE BEAUTY OF WINDHAM”



Limit of 3 photos per person. Originals preferred.  
8” X 10” photos are best for display and judging.

Please do not mount or frame your photos.

Only photos taken in Windham, with no people, will be considered for  
Prizes and for the 2018 Windham Town Library Calendar.

Photos can be left at or mailed to the Windham Town Office:

5976 Windham Hill Road

Windham, VT 05359

Or deliver to the Library during library hours, Wednesdays, 3-5 PM.

**All photos must be submitted by Wednesday, November 8.**

Photos will be exhibited in the library at the Harvest Supper on  
November 11 and will be judged by attendees that evening. Windham calendars will be ready  
for Christmas gift giving and can be purchased at the Windham Library or the Town Office.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE OF PHOTO (required) \_\_\_\_\_

### **Please read and sign below:**

I understand that contest photos become the property of the Windham Town Library and income derived from the use of the photos will go to the Windham Town Library for the betterment of the library. Any use of a photo will credit the photographer. The photo may be included in the 2018 Windham Town Library Calendar.

I understand that this photo will be exhibited for public viewing in the Windham Town Library. I further understand that only photos of Windham will be considered for prizes and for the Windham Town Library Calendar.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE TURN IN PHOTOS BY WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8**

## Old Fashioned Swedish Apple Cake

*Recipe from Mia Clark*

This cake is often served in Sweden, both at home and in restaurants. It is a lot like a coffee cake, and makes good use of the abundance of apples we hope to harvest this season. The cake is traditionally baked in a cast iron frying pan. If you don't have one, any regular cake pan will do.

1 stick of butter  
2 eggs  
1 ¼ cup sugar  
1 ¼ cup flour  
2 tsp Baking powder  
3 apples, peeled, cored and cut into wedges  
Brown sugar  
Cinnamon  
Chopped hazelnuts or sliced almonds (optional) I don't use nuts, but many do.

Melt the butter in the pan over low heat. (If you don't have a cast iron pan, use a small sauce pan). Whip the eggs and sugar until fluffy and light in color.

Mix the baking powder with the flour, and add to egg and sugar mix.

Use a pastry brush and spread the melted butter all around the pan and up the sides.

Add the rest of the melted butter to the egg, sugar, and flour mix.

In addition to the butter, prepare the pan you are using with fine breadcrumbs.

Stir the batter and fill pan, then layer the apples on top, and sprinkle with brown sugar, cinnamon and nuts, if using them.

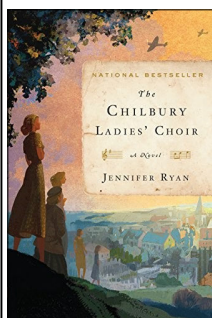
Bake at 200 degrees for 30 minutes. Enjoy!



## Windham Library Book Club Selection

**Wednesday, September 6, 2017 – 3:30 PM**

### *The Chilbury Ladies' Choir*



For readers of *Lilac Girls* and *The Nightingale*, *The Chilbury Ladies' Choir* unfolds the struggles, affairs, deceptions, and triumphs of a village choir during World War II.

As England becomes enmeshed in the early days of World War II and the men are away fighting, the women of Chilbury village forge an uncommon bond. They defy the Vicar's stuffy edict to close the choir and instead "carry on singing," resurrecting themselves as the

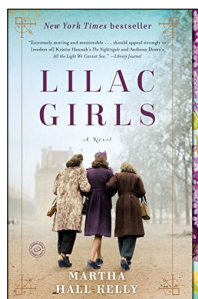
Chilbury Ladies' Choir. We come to know the home-front struggles of five unforgettable choir members: a timid widow devastated when her only son goes to fight; the older daughter of a local scion drawn to a mysterious artist; her younger sister pining over an impossible crush; a Jewish refugee from Czechoslovakia hiding a family secret; and a conniving midwife plotting to outrun her seedy past.

An enchanting ensemble story that shuttles from village intrigue to romance to the heartbreaking matters of life and death, Jennifer Ryan's debut novel thrillingly illuminates the true strength of the women on the home front in a village of indomitable spirit.

**Wednesday, October 4, 2017 – 3:30 PM**  
*Lilac Girls*

For readers of *The Nightingale* and *Sarah's Key*, inspired by the life of a real World War II heroine, this remarkable debut novel reveals the power of unsung women to change history in their quest for love, freedom, and second chances.

New York socialite Caroline Ferriday has her hands full with her post



at the French consulate and a new love on the horizon. But Caroline's world is forever changed when Hitler's army invades Poland in September 1939—and then sets its sights on France.

An ocean away from Caroline, Kasia Kuzmerick, a Polish teenager, senses her carefree youth disappearing as she is drawn deeper into her role as courier for the underground resistance movement. In a tense atmosphere of watchful eyes and suspecting neighbors, one false move can have dire consequences.

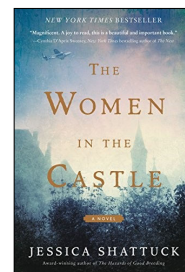
For the ambitious young German doctor, Herta Oberheuser, an ad for a government medical position seems her ticket out of a desolate life. Once hired, though, she finds herself trapped in a male-dominated realm of Nazi secrets and power.

The lives of these three women are set on a collision course when the unthinkable happens and Kasia is sent to Ravensbrück, the notorious Nazi concentration camp for women. Their stories cross continents—from New York to Paris, Germany, and Poland—as Caroline and Kasia strive to bring justice to those whom history has forgotten.

**Wednesday, November 1, 2017 – 3:30 PM**  
*The Women in the Castle*

Three women haunted by the past, and the secrets they hold. Set at the end of World War II, in a crumbling Bavarian castle that once played host to all of German high society, a powerful and propulsive story of three widows whose lives and fates become intertwined—an affecting, shocking, and ultimately redemptive novel from the author of the *The Hazards of Good Breeding*.

Amid the ashes of Nazi Germany's defeat, Marianne von Lingenfels returns to the once-grand castle of her husband's ancestors, an imposing stone fortress now fallen  
(Continued on page 16)



*The Women in the Castle (continued from page 15)*

into ruin following years of war. The widow of a resister murdered in the failed July 20, 1944, plot to assassinate Adolf Hitler, Marianne plans to uphold the promise she made to her husband's brave conspirators: to find and protect their wives, her fellow resistance widows.

First Marianne rescues six-year-old Martin, the son of her dearest childhood friend, from a Nazi reeducation home. Together, they make their way across the smoldering wreckage of their homeland to Berlin, where Martin's mother, the beautiful and naive Benita, has fallen into the hands of occupying Red Army soldiers. Then she locates Ania, another resister's wife, and her two boys, now refugees languishing in one of the many camps that house the millions displaced by the war.

As Marianne assembles this makeshift family from the ruins of her husband's resistance movement, she is certain their shared pain and circumstances will hold them together. But she quickly discovers that the black-and-white, highly principled world of her privileged past has become infinitely more complicated, filled with secrets and dark passions that threaten to tear them apart. Eventually, all three women must come to terms with the choices that have defined their lives before, during, and after the war—each with their own unique share of challenges.

Written with the devastating emotional power of *The Nightingale*, *Sarah's Key*, and *The Light Between Oceans*, Jessica Shattuck's evocative and utterly enthralling novel offers a fresh perspective on one of the most tumultuous periods in history. Combining piercing social insight and vivid historical atmosphere, *The Women in the Castle* is a dramatic yet nuanced portrait of war and its repercussions that explores what it means to survive, love, and, ultimately, to forgive in the wake of unimaginable hardship.



*Gracie Packard wins Scavenger Hunt*



*First day of school for Windham students, Grades 1-6, in front of Town Office for fire drill*



***Oh, to be in Kindergarten Again!***

*First day of school for Windham Kindergarteners, in front of Town Office for their first fire drill.*



*James, Megan and Anna Carson at Windham Summer Camp*



*Gracie and Ivy Packard, and Luke Chila at Summer Camp*



***Girls Just Having Fun!***

*Left: Samantha Field, Ivy Packard, Lilian Newton and Jocelyn Blanchard at Windham Summer Camp*

*Below: Ivy Packard and Jocelyn Blanchard with Painted Faces at Windham Summer Camp*



# Brown Bag Lunch Series

## Tues 9.12 @ Noon



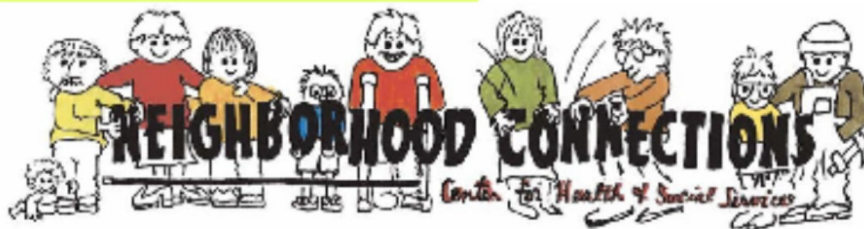
### **New Procedures for Trash Disposal**

Esther Fishman from The Londonderry Recycle Group will discuss new procedures for trash disposal at the Londonderry Transfer Station that go into effect October 2nd.

Beginning that day cash will no longer be accepted at the Transfer Station. Esther will explain how and where punch cards for trash disposal can be purchased.

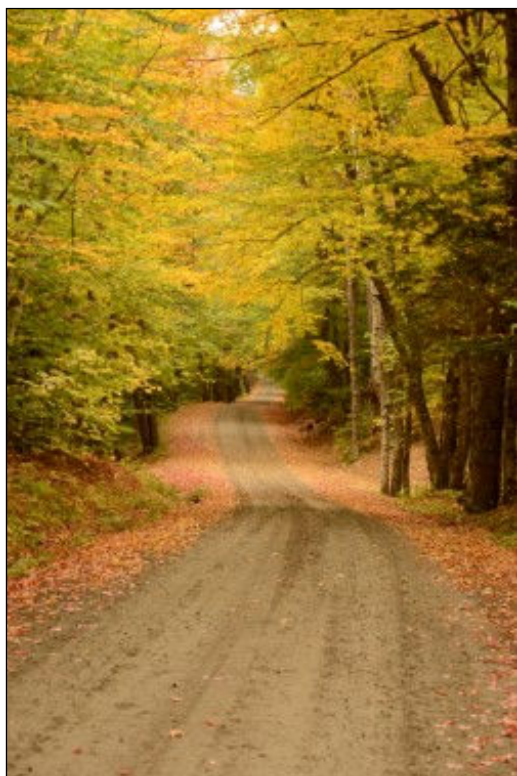
Counter-top compost bins will also be for sale for \$4.25.

The Meeting Place is located in Londonderry's Mountain Marketplace, next to the Post Office.





*Imme and Steve Maurath's Baby Robins, White Road*



***Take a Walk in  
Windham!***

*Left: Abbott Road*

*Right: Wheeler Road*

