



Windham News & Notes

CALLING ALL DOG OWNERS !



by Pat Cherry

Dogs provide companionship and security, and are considered by many to be a member of the family. Dog ownership is a significant commitment, which comes with financial responsibilities and

associated legal requirements. The Vermont State law 20 V.S.A. 3581 requires that owners of dogs more than six months old, shall register their dogs annually by April 1 to obtain a license tag to attach to their dog's collar. A copy of the certificate of current rabies vaccination is required to be presented to the Town Clerk's office, as a public health requirement, and a license fee must be paid each year. There is a decreased fee for licensing spayed or neutered dogs, in order to encourage reduction of the dog population and to also reduce safety issues associated with stray dogs. For low-income Vermonters, the Vermont Spay Neuter Incentive Program, VSNIIP.VT.gov, offers a service through participating veterinarian offices, to neuter qualifying pets, provide post-operative care, and administer rabies vaccinations for a reduced cost.

Over the past few years, the number of reports of threats or actual attacks by vicious or potentially vicious dogs has increased dramatically in Windham. The Windham Vicious Dog Ordinance was adopted on September 19, 2016 and re-posted January 17, 2017 "to regulate the keeping of dogs (and wolf hybrids) and to provide for their leashing, muzzling, restraint, impoundment and destruction, and their running at large, so as to protect the public health and

safety of the Town and the quiet enjoyment of its residents' homes and properties." See Section 2 of the Windham Vicious Dog Ordinance on the town web-site: townofwindhamvt.com.



The problem lies when a dog is "running at large, which means that a dog is **not** on a leash, in a vehicle, on the owner's premises or on the premises of another person with that person's permission, and is **not** under the verbal

or non-verbal control of the owner, or hunting with the owner." See Section 3, Windham Vicious Dog Ordinance. This means that a dog that is off the owner's property and is not restrained physically or verbally by owner's command, is considered to be "running at large" and presents a potential hazard to residents.

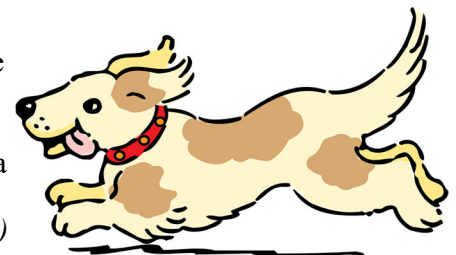
What if a dog is found *running at large*? If the owner is known, the Town Constable will follow the Ordinance procedures to return the dog to the owner. If the owner of the dog is not known, the Town Constable will post a public notice in the Town



Office with a description of the dog and location of when and where it was found. See Section 8: Notice of Impoundment and Release from Impoundment, Windham Vicious Dog Ordinance. The license tag issued by the Town Clerk allows town officers and residents to identify

dogs and contact their owners if they are found running at large or become impounded, and to determine if they have had their rabies vaccination.

What is a *potentially vicious* dog? According to Vermont State law 20 V.S.A. article 3541, a "potentially vicious dog means a dog running at large that inflicts minor injuries on a person not necessitating medical attention." This includes chasing a person, threatening to attack, or attacking another domestic pet or animal, causing damage to personal property, or causing any person to reasonably fear attack or bodily injury. There are two exceptions to these threatening canine behaviors. First, a dog that is protecting or defending itself, its offspring, another animal, or a person from attack is not considered a potentially vicious dog. Second, when a person suffers injury when teasing, tormenting, or provoking a dog, the fault does not lie with the dog. Any person that has had an experience with a



(Continued on page 2)

TOWN MEETING and TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 6, at 10 AM - 3? PM at the MEETING HOUSE

VOTE on TOWN OFFICERS, BUDGETS and SCHOOL REPS

Please Bring a Potluck Dish to Share and \$1 for Drinks and Paper Goods

(DOGS continued from page 1)

potentially vicious dog may file a written complaint with the Selectboard at the Town Office.

What is a *vicious* dog? According to Vermont State law 20 V.S.A. article 3546, a “vicious dog is when a domestic pet (or wolf hybrid) has bitten a person while the dog is off the premises of the owner or keeper, and the person bitten requires medical attention for the attack.” This is a serious offense and requires that the person file a detailed written complaint with the Selectboard at the Town Office. The Selectboard investigates all written complaints of aggressive dog behavior, regardless of whether evidence of medical attention for bodily injury is presented. A hearing between the parties involved is held to determine the facts, circumstances and appropriate penalties. See: Windham, VT Rules of Procedure for Selectboard Vicious Dog/Wolf Hybrid Hearings. If a dog is found to have bitten a victim without provocation, the dog may be ordered to be muzzled, chained, confined, or in extreme circumstances, euthanized.

Dog ownership is an emotional and financial commitment. Together, Windham residents can solve this critical public health and safety threat by licensing, monitoring and restraining their dogs appropriately. If we take our responsibility seriously, we will reach the Town of Windham’s goals to provide licenses to all dogs, and to eliminate the need for Vicious Dog Hearings.

Editor’s Note: Please remember that not all residents see your pet as innocent and friendly as do you. Some people have suffered from vicious attacks and serious bites, and are afraid of dogs not on a leash or under strict voice control. Dogs can not be allowed to dictate which roads a person can safely walk in Windham.

Happy Trails, Frank!

Thank you, Frank for your six years of diligent, dependable service on the Selectboard. Over the years, the Board has faced increasing challenges and responsibilities which you have met with clarity and determination. Your strong computer skills and lifetime interest in statistical analysis have contributed to better, more efficient record keeping, and consequently have improved our decision making process, to say nothing of shorter Selectboard meetings!

We wish you the best of luck in your retirement as you shift your priorities back to enjoying your family, building and repairing all sorts of things and taking those long walks in the woods with your dogs.



Leland & Gray Vote

The results of the February 7 vote on the Leland & Gray Budget vote for FY 2018-19 are as follows:

Town	Yeah	Nay
Brookline	27	23
Jamaica	27	5
Newfane	75	20
Townshend	38	25
Windham	34	12
Total	201	85

At Town Meeting on March 6, we will be asked to vote by Australian Ballot (polls open 10AM-7PM at the Meeting House) for **two “at-large” school directors for the West River Modified Union Education District**. The candidates must be residents of Brookline, Jamaica, Newfane, Townshend or Windham, and will serve for two and three years respectively.

Property owners wishing to file for the HOMESTEAD TAX EXEMPTION MUST FILE ON OR BEFORE APRIL 17, tax day. This is usually filed each year with your Vermont State Income Tax return. If you are filing for an extension of your taxes, you must still file for the Homestead Tax Exemption every year, by the deadline of April 17. Failure to do so incurs rather substantial fines/loss of homestead status on your property taxes.

<http://tax.vermont.gov/property-owners/homestead-declaration>





Preparing for Town Meeting

by Maureen Bell and News & Notes Staff

Town Meeting is everyone's meeting - the Moderator is there to keep it on topic, orderly and legitimate- but the meeting belongs to the people. We, in Vermont, are so fortunate to still be able to participate in Town Meeting, as it is one of the simplest and purest forms of democracy. **So please, when the Town's Annual Report arrives, read it, be ready to ask questions, and come prepared to be a part of Town Meeting on Tuesday, March 6.**

Windham conducts a floor meeting. First a moderator is elected to run the meeting. The town clerk or an appointee keeps minutes of the proceedings and records votes. Vermont law requires that *Robert's Rules of Order* be used to run the meeting. All articles must be "moved" and "seconded", then discussion can begin. A voter can make a motion to amend an article. If it is not ruled "out of order", the moderator will ask for a second on the amendment. Most votes in Windham are voice votes, but the moderator can ask for a "hand count". A motion can also be made by any voter to move to a "paper vote", in which at least six voters must also second this motion. You must be a registered voter to speak at town meeting unless the registered voters vote to allow a non-voter to speak. You must be on the Windham Voter Checklist (registered to vote) to participate in voting. However, you can register to vote at the meeting.

State law requires voters to elect certain officials at town meeting. These positions are listed below and in your Town Report. At a floor meeting, a voter may nominate any qualified candidate, and the candidate can then accept or reject the nomination. All candidates must be nominated and seconded from the floor at Town Meeting. Once nominations are closed, the election is called, and can be voted by voice, hand or paper ballot. However, if only one person is nominated for a position, a voter may move that the clerk cast a single ballot in favor of that person. It must be seconded. Be sure to follow directions carefully during a paper ballot to avoid having the ballot ruled invalid. If there is no majority vote by the third ballot, the moderator eliminates the candidate with the least votes and repeats the vote until one candidate has the majority. If no one is elected for a position, it is considered vacant, and the selectboard must appoint someone to that position at a later date.

The procedure for voting at Town Meeting, both for West River Modified Union Education District school directors (Australian printed ballot) and for any paper ballot votes, will be the same as it was for the Town Clerk position in December. You will begin Check-In by stating your full name and physical address. You will then receive a ballot and go to the voting booth to mark your ballot, fold the ballot in half, proceed to the Check-Out poll worker, state your name and address again, and then deposit your ballot in the locked ballot box. Please be sure the poll worker checks off your name at both check-in and check-out.

There are also appointed positions to be filled by the selectboard on March 19, which is the first Selectboard meeting after town meeting. Please contact the Selectboard if you would like to serve in one of these positions. They are also listed in your Town Report. Duties and responsibilities of all town officers are available in the Town Office or online from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns at www.vlct.org.

The following positions listed on the right have been warned and will be up for election at Town Meeting 2018:



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

Dawn Bower Mary Boyer

Pat Cherry Mia Clark

Louise Johnson Kathy Jungermann

Imme Maurath Ellen McDuffie

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.

Next deadline: April 15, 2017

Town Office Hours

Monday 12 PM - 8 PM

Tuesday 6 AM - 10 AM

Wednesday 10 AM - 2 PM

**Open Saturday,
March 24 & April 28
8 AM-12 PM**

Closed on Federal Holidays



To Be Elected at Town Meeting

Moderator - 1 year

Selectman - 3 years

Lister - 3 years

Auditor - 3 years

Constable - 2 years

Delinquent Tax Collector - 1 year

Grand Juror - 1 year

Town Agent - 1 year

Windham Center Cemetery

Commission - 5 years

West Windham Cemetery

Commission - 5 years

North Windham Cemetery

Commission - 5 years

Library Trustee - 5 years

Windham School Director -
3 years

**SCAM
ALERT!**

New Medicare Cards Coming Beginning in April

In April, 2018, Medicare will begin mailing every beneficiary a new card with a new unique identification number. It will no longer be your social security number. The government is gearing up for this massive transition that will involve coordination with 58 million beneficiaries and their family members, plus hospitals, doctors, insurance companies, pharmacies and state governments.

While the first mailings of new cards will begin this April, Congress has set an April, 2019, deadline for all beneficiaries to have received the new cards. **Until you receive your new card, be sure to guard your old card, and report it lost or stolen as soon as you find it missing. Cases of identity fraud are continually rising.**

An AARP fraud expert, has said, **"If anyone calls you to say you need to pay for your new Medicare card, it is a scam. If anybody calls you and asks you your social security number in order to issue your new Medicare card, it is a scam."** If you aren't sure if something is legitimate, don't disclose any information. **Don't say "yes" to anything and call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) to report the incident.**

April 1 is the Deadline for Licensing your Dog!



All dogs and wolf hybrids six months of age or older must be licensed at the Town Office. Bring certification of rabies vaccination and proof of neuter/spay if applicable. Fees are: neutered or spayed dogs, \$10 (after April 1, \$12); intact males & females, and wolf hybrids, \$14 (after April 1, \$18.)

As a convenience for you, you will be able to register your dogs at Town Meeting. Give a call, email or stop by the Town Office to see if your dog's rabies vaccination is still valid. If so, you do not need to bring anything with you on Town Meeting Day. Or, if you have an updated vaccination receipt, bring that with you, along with a check or cash. Fees are: neutered or spayed, \$10; intact males or females, \$14. Penalties are assessed after April 1. By Vermont state law, **ALL** dogs, including kenneled dogs and wolf hybrids, **MUST be vaccinated for rabies and MUST be registered each year in the Town Office.** If your dog has recently been spayed or neutered, please bring the certificate from your veterinarian. It must be kept on file in the Town Office.



Planning Commission Held Public Hearing February 28

by Bill Dunkel



The Windham Planning Commission held a duly warned public hearing at the Town Office at 6:00PM on Wednesday, February 28, 2018 for the purpose of soliciting comments from the public on proposed amendments to the town's zoning regulations. Among other things, proposed additions and changes to the bylaws pertain to Resource Protection Areas, Historic Districts, and standards for noise levels, turbine setbacks, development on ridgelines, extraction of earth resources, individual wind energy systems, solar energy systems and development within Regulated Flood Hazard Areas. A complete copy of the zoning regulations, and a report summarizing the proposed changes are available at the Town Office and on the town's website at: townofwindhamvt.com.

The hearing provided an opportunity for any member of the public to comment on our proposed changes to the zoning regulations, and for members of the Planning Commission to listen to people's thoughts and concerns. The public was encouraged to familiarize themselves with the zoning bylaws and give some thought to their comments in advance of the meeting. Results of the hearing will be discussed in a future article.

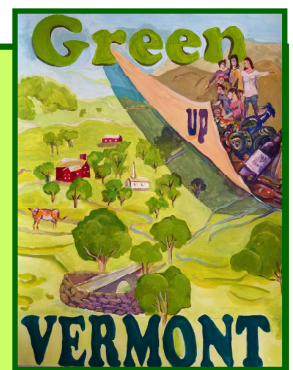
If you have questions about the zoning regulations, you may contact any of the following members of the Planning Commission: Vance Bell, Dawn Bower, Chris Cummings, Bill Dunkel (chairman), Tom Johnson, Jeff Wheeler or Kate Wright.

The Planning Commission regularly meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM in the Town Office. The Energy Committee regularly meets the third Thursday of the month in the Town Office at 4:30 PM. Occasionally we have to alter meeting dates due to conflicts that occur, or add a special meeting because of a heavy workload. Any time we have a meeting, regular or special, printed notices are posted on the bulletin boards at the Town Office, the Meeting House and the Fire Station. Meetings are also posted on the town website: townofwindhamvt.com.

GREEN-UP DAY

MAY 5

**BAGS Will Be
Available at the Town
Office**



Windham Fire Company Fire Calls:

December 16 - Windham Hill Road; assist Londonderry Rescue Squad; ambulance stuck in a driveway. 5 responded.

December 17 - Mutual aid to Bromley for a structure fire. 3 responded.

December 25 - Timber Ridge; assistance with AED. 2 responded

January 10 - Route 11; mutual aid to direct traffic for trucks vs. car accident. 4 responded.

February 8 - Windham Hill Road; possible fire. 5 responded.

February 18 - Londonderry; Powder Mill Road; mutual aid for



BARN FIRES *by Marcia Clinton*

30 seconds is all your animals have!

Barn fires can begin without warning, spread rapidly, and cause severe damage and injury in just a few minutes. Animals caught in barn fires suffer not just burns but also severe damage to the respiratory tract (from inhaling toxic fumes) and damage to the eyes. If the animal is to escape unharmed, he must be rescued from the stall in 30 seconds.

So while fire detection and rescue are important, even more important is preventing the fire. The most obvious place to start is to eliminate the source of heat/fire. Do not allow smoking within 30 feet of the barn, **and enforce it**. Wires that have lost their insulation covering due to rodent damage, or are not protected in a conduit, can provide a heat source for fires. Make sure all switches, outlets, and light bulbs are free of damage (and cobwebs!) Shut off, and unplug all electrical appliances when not in use, and try not to use extension cords. Hay and bedding ideally should be stored in a separate building, or at least not over the top of the stalls. Don't store oil and gasoline in the same building as animals, and don't store tractors or other work vehicles in barns when not in use. Often overlooked are horse products such as

liniments, cleaning products, and insecticides. These are all flammable and should be kept in metal cabinets.

There are alarms and heat sensors available which can be heard within the barn or outside the building, and remote monitoring systems which will send alerts to the home of the owner or to their cell phone.

If you are planning on building a wood barn for your animals, there are many ways to reduce fire risk. Consider using wood that has been pre-treated with a fire retardant, building with large wooden beams (which are more fire resistant than 2x4s and 2x6s), using joint straps with nails or screws instead of gusset plates, and install fire stops every 50-60 feet to stop a fire from racing from one end of the barn to the other through the open rafter space.

Have a plan in place in case of fire. Hang a halter and lead rope on each stall door. Never place a lock on a stall door. Have fire extinguishers at each barn door and by the electrical service panel, and have enough water hose to reach the entire length of the barn.

Remember, just because you have never had a fire doesn't mean the potential is not there.

Windham Veterans Memorial Update

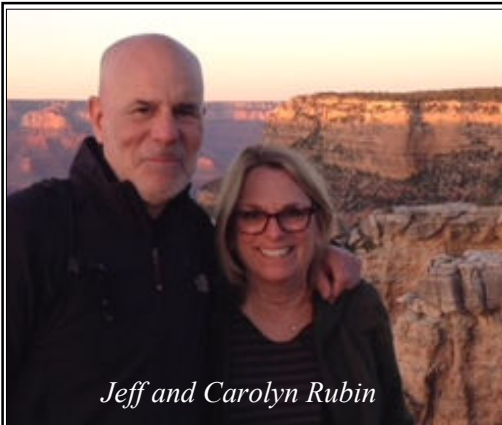
We are deeply grateful for the overwhelming financial support we have received in our efforts to establish a permanent and substantial Veterans Memorial here in Windham. Many of you told us that you made your donation with a veteran from your family in mind.

We received just short of \$5,000, and have also applied for a grant from Senator Bernie Sander's office. In addition, the local Master Gardeners Club is interested in providing plantings and landscaping around the memorial as a club project. Maintenance would then be done by the club members.

We are currently verifying names of veterans who either were born, died or registered for the military here in Windham. We have tentatively identified a location just off the road between the office and school. We are looking for a local stone about the size of a small bathtub. Anyone who sees or has a stone you would like us to consider, please let one of us know. If you send a picture, please place a ball cap or some item on the stone so we can judge its scale.

Sincere thanks to all of you who contributed. It has inspired and reminded us that we speak with one voice when we honor our veterans. Susan Persa, Walt Woodruff, Heath Boyer, Mary Boyer





Jeff and Carolyn Rubin

Dear Windham Neighbors *from Carolyn and Jeff Rubin*

Jeff and I would like to introduce ourselves to our new neighbors in Windham. We feel so blessed to have found the beautiful village of Windham and to have had the great fortune of meeting Tom and Beverly Carmichael.

Jeff and I have an old history with our love for Vermont, both individually and together. I attended Goddard College in Plainfield earning a degree in Ceramics in the late "60's", then moved to Walden in the Northeast Kingdom to build a house and "live off the land". Well, that obviously was not going to be sustainable, so after a few years, gave up my dream (and my house), moved to Boston, got a Master's degree and eventually became a Social Worker.

Jeff and I were both 35 years old when we were fixed up on a blind date in Boston. Although we attended the same high school in NJ, we amazingly never knew each other. Lo and behold, not only did we have a lot in common; mutual friends, public service careers (Jeff in Education), and our families living in the same community, which was all great, but Jeff also had 20 acres of land in Corinth, Vermont, and had built two cabins there with his brother.

Bingo!!! I not only found the love of my life, but our love for Vermont was sealed into our marriage contract. Sadly, we wound up selling the Corinth property early on so we could buy a house and start a family in Newton, Massachusetts. For over 30 years, we explored the hills of Vermont., skied and vacationed with our two boys, rented farm houses, stayed at Bed and Breakfasts, visited friends, took day trips for lunch, and sent one of our sons to UVM.

The dream to have our own place, a get away to on weekends and vacations, and to be a part of a rural community never went away. Zillow supplied us with fantasies, but the dream was elusive. We have two sons, one married and one getting married (March 17th), and we have a 2½ year old grandson and another baby on the way. Jeff is about to retire as Director of Special Education of Braintree, Massachusetts, and we were wondering if we could ever pull this off.

Then in August, driving on Windham Hill Road (Zillow peaked our interest), was a sandwich board marketing a "Farmette". It was the sign we were looking for. We drove by, drove back, knocked on the front door, and met Tom and Beverly Carmichael who showed us their home, let us into their stories, and allowed us to realize our dream of coming back to Vermont with a place of our own. We can now live the dream!!

Please come by if you see our car in the driveway and introduce yourself. We'd like to meet you.....

From the State Legislature

by Carolyn Partridge

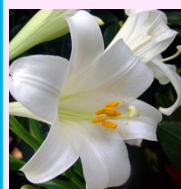
All of the committees at the State House are acutely aware of the "crossover" deadline, which is coming right up on March 2nd this year. Crossover is the day by which bills need to be out of policy committees and on to either the House Floor or a money committee (Appropriations and/or Ways and Means). If a bill does not meet that deadline, it automatically goes to the Rules Committees of the respective bodies. If the other body wants the bill, it may be released. If not, that's where it stays. Committee Chairs may ask in advance for an exemption to the rule but it is not a guarantee that the bill will be released and taken up.

Many of us are looking forward to Town Meeting week. We are not in Montpelier that week and get to visit with constituents at the various Town Meetings. This year, Brookline is starting at 9 AM, which will give us a little more time to get to Athens, Grafton, and Windham. Our other two meetings are on Saturday morning and Monday night.

The Ways and Means Committee has been working on changes to education funding that may benefit the average taxpayer. While I am not prepared to go into depth about the plan at this time, my understanding is that it relies more heavily on income tax, and lightens the load on

property tax, to raise the money we need for our education system. I will, hopefully, have more detailed information in time for Town Meeting.

For your information, I write a weekly column that appears in the Brattleboro Reformer on Mondays, and on my website the weekend before. I generally write about topics that may not be in the headlines, so if you are interested in some of the other things that are going on in Montpelier, you might want to check out www.carolynpartridge.com.



Easter Service and Brunch

The Windham Congregational Church will hold our annual Easter Service, Sunday, April 1, followed by a brunch, featuring farm fresh Eggs Benedict à la Chef Carolyn Partridge. We will have special Celtic music by Antje Ruppert, Alison Schantz and Alan Partridge. The service begins at 9:30 AM and brunch will start at 11:00 AM. All are welcome, and you may come to the brunch whether or not you join us for the Easter church celebration. There is no charge for the meal. Please join us, and if you know you will be coming to the brunch, please R.S.V.P. to Ginny Crittenden at 874-4049. Hope to see you there!

Windham Elementary School Expects Growth *by Carolyn Partridge*

The Windham School Board constructed the FY2019 budget anticipating an increased number of students at the Windham School and in Pre-K. This is counter to the state trend, which shows a decrease in population.

We are expecting and have planned for twenty children next year at the school, and six Pre-K students. This poses a challenge in terms of per pupil spending because of changes at the state level regarding the elimination of “phantom” students, the weighting of students, and the rolling average from two previous years. According to state calculations, elementary students equal one student and Pre-K students equal 0.46 of a student. If you do the math, we are planning a budget for 22.76 students, but because of the look-back rolling average, we are credited for only 16.83 students.

This only becomes a problem when equalized per pupil spending is calculated – that is where you will see a dramatic increase despite the fact that our budget has a small increase. In fact, you will see a modest 2.2% increase in our budget. Our Pre-K and Special Education spending increased almost \$10,000 each, but overall spending increased only \$8,261. We made cuts in other areas of the budget so that we did not exceed the penalty threshold.

We feel strongly that we will be able to continue to offer excellent educational opportunities to our students despite these cuts, and encourage you to read the Act 46 Alternative Governance Structure Proposal on the town website (www.townofwindhamvt.com/act46agsproposal/), that has been submitted to the Agency of Education and Vermont Board of Education. The first sixteen pages, in particular, include an exhaustive summary of the educational opportunities offered at the Windham School, in some cases exceeding those of neighboring schools.

We appreciate your support for the budget and welcome any questions that you might have. You can contact Carolyn Partridge at 874-4182 or Antje Ruppert at 874-4759. We would also like to thank Barbara Davis for her service this year on the School Board. She will not be running again because of family obligations. At this time we are aware of one candidate, Beth McDonald, who will be running for that seat.

Grace Cottage Welcomes New CEO

The Board of Trustees of Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital has appointed Douglas F. DiVello to the position of chief executive officer, effective February 12, 2018. DiVello is replacing Roger Allbee, who announced his plans last July to retire from this position as soon as a replacement was hired.

DiVello was the CEO at Alice Hyde Medical Center in Malone, NY from 2012 until May, 2017, when the hospital became part of the University of Vermont Health Network. DiVello is a graduate of Western Maryland College with an MPA in Health Administration from Long Island University.

An extensive search was launched this past fall, and DiVello was selected from over 50 applicants and five finalists. “We are honored to have someone with Doug’s impressive healthcare credentials coming to lead Grace

Windham is Well Represented

by Tom Widger

The Wantastiquet Rotary of Londonderry and the Mountain Towns elected new officers for 2018. They are: Tom Widger, President; Peter Isakson, Vice-President; Skip Raymond, Secretary; and Joel Kuhlberg, Treasurer.

The Wantastiquet Rotary serves the mountain towns of Windham, Londonderry, Weston, Jamaica, Winhall, Peru, Landgrove, and Bondville. We have 15 members and meet twice a month at the Second Congregational Church in Londonderry, on the first and third Tuesdays at 8 AM. All are welcome to attend.

Projects we have completed include a benefit for the food pantry in Londonderry where we collected 32 large boxes of food and \$590 in cash for the pantry. We also helped with the Christmas Tree Lighting in Londonderry, and distributed Christmas boxwood trees and cookies to 35 people in the area. The trees were supplied by the Green Mountain Garden Club, and the Weston Woman’s Club supplied the homemade cookies. We also have three trail projects in the works, and will be working with the Collaborative on the Rail Trail 10K race in June.

The Wantastiquet Rotary Foundation has currently been holding a “NO SHOW” dinner /dance. If you didn’t get your invitation and would like to participate in the “NO SHOW” event, you are invited to donate to the foundation, whose contributions provide Student Scholarships to senior students at Green Mountain Union High School, Leland & Gray Union High School, and Burr and Burton Academy. Donations can be sent to The Wantastiquet Rotary Foundation, PO Box 309, Londonderry, Vermont 05143. The Foundation is a 501c3 organization.



Tom Widger, President

Cottage,” offered the hospital’s Board President, Stephan Morse.

“In today’s complex and evolving healthcare landscape, Grace Cottage Hospital is remarkably unique,” said DiVello. “The organization is a national leader in providing hands-on care in a personal and compassionate manner, and I am excited and proud that Grace Cottage has chosen me to join their talented and exceptional team.”

Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital is located in Townshend, serving patients and visitors in and around Windham County. In 2017, Grace Cottage was recognized as a Top 20 Critical Access Hospital in the USA for Patient Satisfaction by the National Rural Health Association.



Douglas DiVello

As It Once Was

by Ernie Friedli

"GENTLEMEN! START YOUR ENGINES!" came the voice of Billy Koutrakos over the loud speaker system.

So started the annual drag racing on Burbee Pond, 1980 through 1986.

The phone rang at my home in Connecticut. The caller was George Havel, owner of property in West Windham.

George was a stout believer that Vermont was to be preserved in the traditions of the past. While he worked at the ski shop on the corner of Routes 30 and 100, he was found in the cross country department. No ski tows and skimobiles for him.

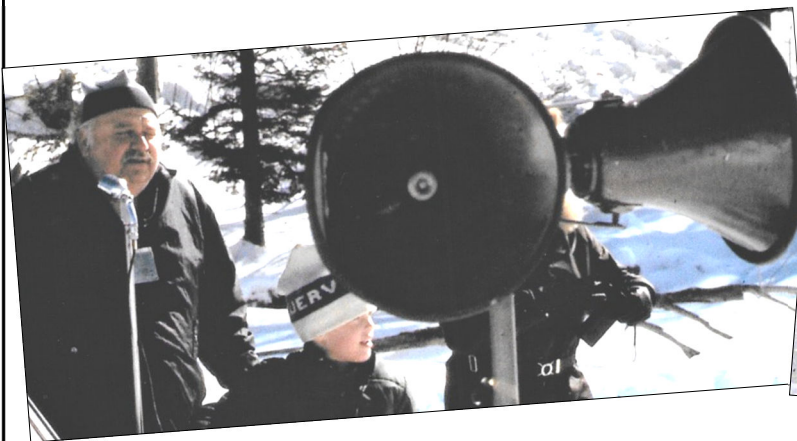
"I just heard that there is going to be drag races on the ice on Burbee Pond." Well, you can fill in the rest. The races were the idea of Paul Anderson, a good friend of Bill's, to raise funds for the Windham Volunteer Fire Company. George expressed the concern that the after effects of the races would be, besides noise and oil and gas fumes, the leftover debris of beer cans, etc. I directed him back to Paul, a resident of the town, to replace this flatlander, me, from the conversation. THE RACES WERE ON!

Two broad lanes were plowed so as to leave a high snow bank on both sides of the two lanes. A starting gate and loud speaker system were set up. In the beginning, refreshments were provided by the WCO (Windham Community Organization) off the back of a pick-up, later replaced by a rented hot dog stand serving hot drinks, hamburgers, hot dogs, etc., set up to raise funds. A fire truck and the police were in attendance, and cars were parked on the ice. The day sparkled with sunshine and several hundreds of people and children showed up.

On Saturday, the races included two-wheel drive, four-wheel drive, studded tires and whatever. There were both men and women drivers. On Sunday, the snowmobiles were out in force. Machines of that day were rather timid compared to today. But I remember one fellow showing up with a stripped down machine sans wind shield, hood and with a modified engine. He left everyone in the dust, oops, I mean snow. Loudspeakers were later used for Bill to announce the race in progress, and the winner.

At the end of the day, when all had returned to the quiet of a winter's late afternoon in the glow of the setting sun, the only vestige of the day's throngs was the two lanes of snow on the ice, and nary a slip of paper or debris. Just a pleasant memory.

Dedicated to the memory of Bill Koutrakos



DAN FIELD

PO BOX 283
LONDONDERRY, VT 05148



D.R.C. Stone Design

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What's Been Happening at WES?

by Gail Wyman

The skating before Christmas vacation at Vermont Academy was cold but great. If the kids were unsure about their proficiency, they would glide/skate/stumble around holding onto stacked milk crates. All were skating without assistance by the end. They skated hard for an hour, no one sat out, and they just kept on skating. There were plenty of snacks and apple juice to consume just before we left.

The January monthly Mighty Acorns program at Grafton Nature Museum was an indoor program on animal tracks: walkers, waddlers, hoppers and trotters. They used a recycled queen size sheet with diverse types of tracks stamped across it, from large deer tracks to very tiny mouse tracks. The kids hopped, trotted and waddled around the museum. Sally followed up by reading about animals in winter, and she has taken kids out looking for tracks, finding rabbit tracks and a cache of cones. The February Mighty Acorns had the kids snowshoeing, (many of them for the first time). They left on an extensive hike up a side trail and along the stone wall in the woods behind the museum, checking all the time for tracks. At the Museum they could watch at least forty birds feeding outside on the feeders - chickadees, cedar wax wings, cardinals and blue jays. The school also started feeding the birds, and after the first week, there were a good many birds at our feeder.

On February 12 we reached a milestone, our

hundredth day of school. Children brought in a hundred pieces of macaroni, cheerios, rocks, pennies, plastic toys, dominoes, pretzels, etc. to celebrate.

Hot lunch, supplied by the West Townshend Country Store twice a week, continues to be outstanding. From homemade soup, to exceptional macaroni and cheese, tossed salads, chicken fajitas, and plenty of fresh veggies, they are providing excellent lunches. Thank you to the store and the great cooking staff.

Students have been working on a science unit about recycling with Sally, about the importance of recycling and reusing materials as often as possible in daily life. They have all been working to find viable alternatives to plastics, and what other materials might be used instead. This study is going on in conjunction with an art unit about making reusable tote bags. These bags can be used at the grocery store, or any other store. The connection between these two classes will make the students' understanding more complete and well connected to real life. Thanks to Mrs. Kehoe, Bridget Coolbeth, Antje Ruppert, Beth McDonald, Toni Kessler from Meadows Bee Farm, and coordinator Hope Richardson for their patience, hard work and dedication

Quote from Olympic silver medal luge winner Chris Mazdzer at the Olympics, "It truly took a village to get him there."



**SPRING FORWARD
ONE HOUR,
SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 2 AM**

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



Words of Wisdom

"When life closes a door,
just open it again.
It's a door, that's how they
work." *Unknown*



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Come Join Us For A Traditional Seder Meal On March 28th

St. Luke's Church in Chester will celebrate a traditional Passover Seder on Wednesday evening, **March 28 at 5:30 PM in Willard Hall**. The text for the evening, the "Haggadah," includes songs, readings, and responses, along with explanations of the various symbolic foods that will be used to tell the Exodus story. Following will be the symbolic meal of roast lamb and goat, chicken, roasted potatoes, vegetables, tossed salad and macaroons and meringue cookies. The Haumanns of Misty Mountain Farm will again be providing the delicious lamb and goat.

The Passover Seder marks the night when the Israelites were "passed over" by the angel of death when the tenth and final plague—the death of all the firstborn—was visited upon Egypt. The angel passed over all homes marked by lamb's blood on the doorpost. The lamb, whose blood on the door posts ensured salvation, was referred to

as the paschal lamb. The paschal lamb was then eaten that night at "the Lord's Passover." The Seder is a fitting beginning for Holy Week, as the events of the week unfold in the context of the Passover.



Please come and experience this ancient tradition with us, and tell your friends about what a great experience it is for families and children. Reservations may be made through Lew and Bonnie Watters at 875-2114. A freewill offering will support **Kids4Peace**. Read more about this event on the church website, www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org.

What's the Real Story Behind the Londonderry Solid Waste Group?

The Londonderry Solid Waste Group (LSWG) is made up of the towns of Landgrove, Londonderry, Peru, Weston and Windham. The town of Londonderry owns the land where the transfer station is located, collects fees for trash disposal, pays for labor, hauling and disposal of household trash, recyclables, food scraps, construction and demolition waste, tires etc.

In addition, the LSWG:

- *Applies for grants
- *Applies for certification of the transfer station
- *Writes a Solid Waste Implementation Plan every five years <http://londonderryvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/SWIP-no-intro-or-attach.pdf>
- *Conducts required outreach to all businesses
- *Is member of Northeast Resource Recycling Association to find markets for recyclables
- *Meets with and is a member of Vermont Product Stewardship Council and Product Stewardship Institute who work to develop and promote legislation and initiatives whereby manufacturers are responsible for recycling or safely disposing of their products once consumers are done with them.
- *Reports quarterly and annually to Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
- *Plans and conducts Household Hazardous Waste Collections
- *Plans and conducts Electronics Recycling Collections
- *Meets with Recycling Coordinators, Vermont DEC, Vermont Solid Waste Managers, and Hazardous Waste Coordinators
- *Initiates Requests for Proposals for contracted work
- *Updates, adds to, improves web site information at <http://www.londonderryvt.org/recycletransfer/>
- *Writes press releases
- *Meets with Selectboards from the five towns to share information

*Conducts surveys and whatever else is mandated by the state's Materials Management Plan http://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/wmp/SolidWaste/Documents/MMP_18June2014.pdf

Solid waste is much more than having someplace to throw your trash and recyclables. It is a complicated and costly venture. It is not a money-making business for the towns that make up the LSWG. The fees collected for annual stickers and punch cards for disposal of trash etc. do not cover the costs of operating the LSWG. Although there is no charge for recyclable materials to be dropped at the transfer station, **recycling is not free**. There are costs associated with transporting and disposing of recyclable materials that is market dependent. Recycling, which is mandated by the state, cost the LSWG more than \$26,000 in 2017. That does not include the cost for labor to collect and manage the materials while still at the transfer station.

As of October 2, 2017, a punch card system of payment for disposal of trash and other materials was instituted at the transfer station. Londonderry's auditors have been asking for this change for several years. There are six outlets that sell punch cards, Londonderry, Peru, Weston and Windham town offices, Londonderry Hardware and Weston Marketplace. Annual stickers that allow Windham residents to use the transfer station are sold only at the Londonderry Town Office and the Windham Town Office, in an effort to keep a record of who is purchasing them, to ensure they are residents or renters residing in Windham. These stickers can be purchased in person or by mail with a self-addressed stamped envelope, and are made available two months in advance of each new year to give everyone a chance to purchase one at their convenience.

If you have questions or would like more information please feel free to contact me at recycle@londonderryvt.org and join my email list for notification of special collections and changes in the law.

Sincerely,
Esther Fishman Londonderry Solid Waste Coordinator

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Calling All Hungry People!!

By Annabel Carson – Club Member

When? Friday, March 16 from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM

Where? Athens Community Church
26 Brookline Rd, Athens, VT

Why? Fundraiser **Spaghetti Dinner**
for the River Riders II 4-H Club

What Is That? Good question! Well, our club is a local service and educational organization for children 5-19 years, focusing on horses and community service.

Cost? \$5.00 per person

Please come join us for some live music and good food on this cold (hopefully) Friday night.



River Riders II 4-H Club meets at the West River Stables, 102 Hill Road, Brookline, VT.

Windham members are: Annabel, Megan and James Carson, and Ella and Tikla Goodband.

TOWN CONTACTS

TOWN WEBSITE: townofwindhamvt.com

Town Clerk: Michael McLaine, phone: 874-4211; email: windham.town@gmail.com

Town Treasurer: Peter Chamberlain, phone: 874-4211; email: 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; John Hoover, 875-6224; johnjhover@vermontel.net

E911 Coordinator and Lister: Meredith Tips-McLaine, 875-1550; meredithtipsmcclaine@gmail.com

Select Board: Frank Seawright, chair, phone: 875-1555; email: fseawright@vermontel.net

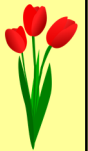
School Board: Antje Ruppert, phone: 874-4759; email: antje@sover.net

Windham Community Organization: Ellen McDuffie, phone: 874-8183; email: 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: mclinton@vermontel.net

Planning and Energy Commission: Bill Dunkel, phone: 874-4131; email: bdunkel1455@gmail.com (lower case L, then number 1455)



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Town Meeting Tuesday, March 6

Windham News & Notes
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Windham, VT 05359

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welcomes submissions. Send
articles of about 300 words to the
above address or by email to:
windhamnews@hotmail.com.

Please keep us informed of any
name or address changes.

REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS



Energy Committee:
3rd Thursday at 4:30 PM
at Town Office, March 15
& April 19

**Windham Community
Organization:**
Last Wednesday of the
month, 7 PM the Meeting
House., March 28 & April 25
Call Ellen McDuffie at
874-8183 for information.

Town Clerk: 874-4211
Monday: Noon - 8:00 PM
Tuesday: 6:00 AM - 10:00 AM
Wednesday: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM
**Closed all Thursdays, Fridays
and Federal Holidays** Open
4th Saturday, 8 AM-Noon,
March 24 & April 28.

Planning and Zoning:
2nd Wednesday of the
month, March 14 & April 11
at 6:30 PM at the Town
Office; Open Meetings.
Agenda posted. Call Bill
Dunkel at 874-4131 for info

**Windham Congregational
Church (UCC):**
Sundays: Worship Services
at 9:30 AM at the Meeting
House. Call Dave Crittenden
at 874-4049 for info.
Easter Brunch at 11 AM.

Select Board:
1st & 3rd Mondays,
March 5 & 19 & April 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
March 7 & April 4 at
3:30 PM at the Meeting
House.

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.

School Board:
1st Mondays, March 5 &
April 2 at 4 PM at the
Elementary School.
Call Antje Rupert at
874-4759 to confirm.

Volunteer Fire Company:
First **Thursdays** of the
month, March 1 & April 5 at
6 PM at the Firehouse.
Heavy refresh-
ments /dinner
served.



Listers:
Every Wednesday 9 AM-
Noon at the Town Office.

WRMU Union School District:
Third Mondays, March 19 &
April 16 at 7 PM at Leland &
Gray.

SAVE THESE DATES !

March 6 - Town Meeting Day & Potluck Lunch, 10 AM - 3? PM at the Meeting House
March 11 - Spring Forward One Hour at 2 AM
April 1 - Deadline to Register your Canine Friends in Town Office
April 17 - Deadline to File for Homestead Tax Exemption with the State of Vermont
May 5 - Green-Up Day

Calling All Hungry People!!

By Annabel Carson- club member

When? Friday, March 16th from 5:00pm to 6:30 pm

Where? Athens Community Church,
26 Brookline Rd, Athens, VT 05143

Why? Fundraiser **Spaghetti Dinner** for the River
Riders II 4-H club.

What is that? Good question, well our club is a local
service and educational organization for
children 5-19 years, focusing on horses and
community service.

Cost? \$5.00 per person

Please come join us for some live music and good
food on this cold Friday night.



New Leadership at West River Valley Thrives

West River Valley Thrives- a substance abuse prevention organization based in Townshend, VT- is pleased to announce the hiring of their new Director, Steve Tavella, and Project Coordinator, Nick Plante.

As director, Steve is primarily responsible for oversight of the coalition, grant writing and grants management, and program development. Steve has a Bachelors degree in Sociology/Anthropology from Gettysburg College, and a Masters in International Administration from the School for International Training in Brattleboro, VT. Steve has been a resident of the West River Valley for over 32 years, raising his daughter in Brattleboro. He has worked, lived, and traveled in over 50 countries and 6 continents, including longer-term stints in Afghanistan, Rakhine State Myanmar, The Republic of Georgia, Egypt, Kiribati, and the Solomon Islands, working with displaced persons, communities in distress, and youth. Steve feels it is imperative to find positive influences in our young people's lives and to create healthy lifestyles. "We must better understand substance abuse issues in our communities, and educate and support our younger generations to live healthy, substance-free lives." Steve is currently a resident of Dummerston, VT.

As coordinator, Nick oversees the majority of the organization's youth programming, including the Leland & Gray Above the Influence (ATI) group, which supports West River's mission to engage youth in developing healthy lifestyles, and educating them to the risks of substance use. Nick holds a Bachelors degree in Psychology from Clarion University, is a member of the Psi Chi National Honor Society in Psychology. He has co-authored several academic papers on self-esteem, anxiety, well-being and stress, and proxemics. Having previously worked in treatment as a Mental Health Worker at Clarion Psychiatric Center and Brattleboro Retreat, he is excited to be a part of a community effort to prevent substance abuse and encourage healthy living. Nick is currently a resident of Brattleboro, VT.

West River Valley Thrives' mission is to support and promote healthy lifestyle choices with an emphasis on the prevention of alcohol, tobacco and other drug use by young people. For more information, questions, or volunteer opportunities, contact Steve at wrvtdirector@gmail.com, Nick at wrvthrives@gmail.com, or call 802-365-4700. WRVT is located at the Leland & Gray Union Middle and High School.



*Photo left: WRVT
Director, Steve Tavella*

*Photo right: zWRVT
Project Coordinator, Nick Plante*



who can be of any age, are interested in elder and caregiver issues, and serve on our Advisory Council (AC).

The monthly meetings of the Advisory Council are a combination of business, educational and social. We have refreshments, an opportunity to network and meet other folks with similar interests, and we try to have some fun.

The role of an AC member can vary depending on the individual. Some members are not able to attend all of the meetings, but they keep in contact and receive all of the minutes and agendas. Meetings are held in Bellows Falls monthly. They feature educational speakers, updates on legislative issues and agency services, plus opportunities for AC members to network about relevant events and activities coming up in their towns.

In addition to our Board of Directors, Senior Solutions is mandated to seek representatives from throughout Windham and Windsor County. These people,

A Council member may choose to be active in outreach about our services, or in getting support for our agency. In towns that require a petition for an agency to request funds at town meeting, an Advisory Council member will often volunteer to speak in favor of the agency at town meeting.

When the legislature is considering a bill that will have an impact on seniors, Advisory Council members may be asked to contact their local representatives and explain why the bill is good or bad.

AC members also help Senior Solutions by keeping informed of our annual goals (pursuant to the area plan that we create every four years) and making suggestions for the following year's goals.

If you have an interest in issues related to seniors and their caregivers, joining the Advisory Council might be a great way for you to help with Senior Solutions' mission. To learn more, contact Janis Hall at 802-885-2714 or Carol Stamatakis at 866-673-8376.



Windham Elementary Students with Their Hand-Decorated Reusable Totes

(Photos enlarged)

Area Hospitals Launch Community Health Needs Assessment

Brattleboro Memorial Hospital, the Brattleboro Retreat, and Grace Cottage Hospital are launching a new community health needs assessment (CHNA) to engage the communities they serve and learn more about their most pressing healthcare concerns and needs. Based on the information the medical facilities receive, each will develop an implementation strategy to address prioritized healthcare needs.

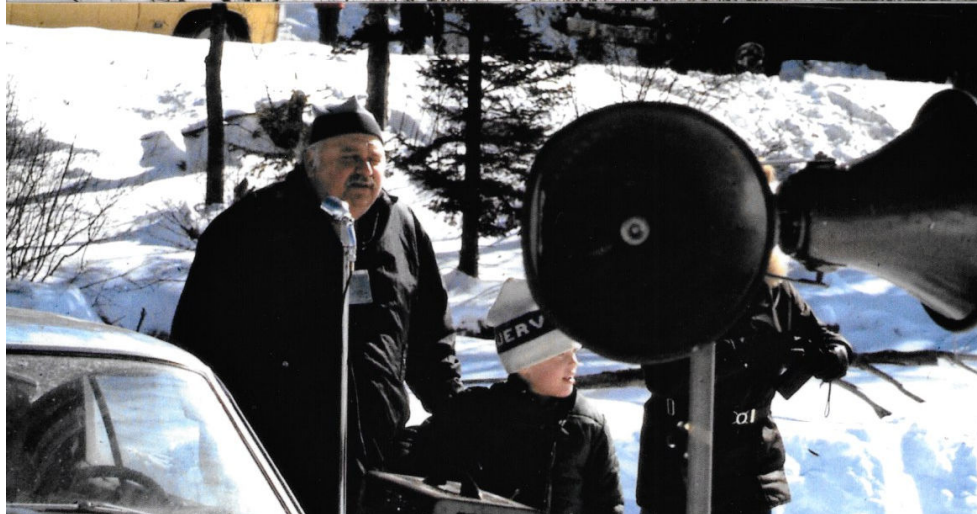
The three healthcare organizations are working collaboratively to gather information by surveying area residents and by speaking with representatives of groups that serve medically underserved populations within Windham County. The Vermont Department of Health's Brattleboro Office is participating in the process as well, by providing population health data and administrative coordination.

The information gathering process will take place from March 1 – March 31. Residents of Windham County and surrounding towns are invited to take a simple twelve

question survey regarding the health concerns they have for themselves, their families and their neighbors. The anonymous survey will be available in hard copy at many town meetings on March 6th, and throughout the month at each of the partnering medical facilities. Area residents, age 18+, can also take the survey online at www.wellnessinwindham.org.

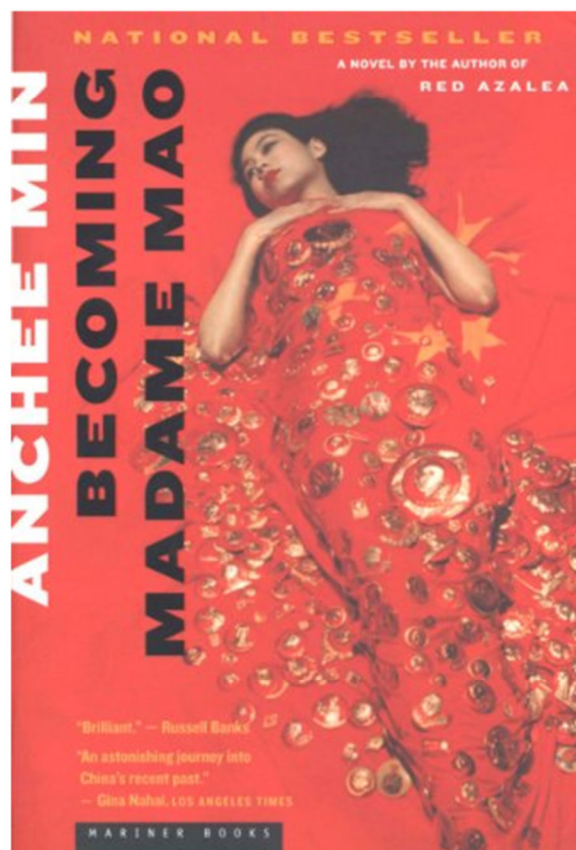
Survey results and a comprehensive CHNA Report will be made available by the end of the year on the partners' websites and at their places of business.





Windham Library Book Club Selection

Wednesday, March 7, 2018 – 3:30 PM



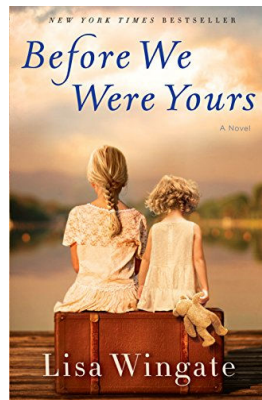
In a sweeping, erotically charged story that moves gracefully from the intimately personal to the great stage of world history, Anchee Min renders a powerful tale of passion, betrayal, and survival and creates a finely nuanced and always ambiguous portrait of one of the most fascinating, and vilified, women of the twentieth century. Madame Mao is almost universally known as the "white-boned demon" -- ambitious, vindictive, and cruel -- whose bid to succeed her husband led to the death of millions.

But Min's story begins with a young girl named Yunhe, the unwanted daughter of a concubine who ignored her mother's pleas and refused to have her feet bound. It was the first act of rebellion for this headstrong, beautiful, and charismatic girl. She later fled the miseries of her family life, first to a provincial opera troupe, then to Shanghai and fame as an actress, and finally to the arid, mountainous regions of Yenan, where she fell in love with and married Mao Zedong. The great revolutionary leader proved to be an inattentive husband with a voracious appetite for infidelity, but the couple stayed together through the Communist victory, the disastrous Great Leap Forward, and the chaos of the Cultural Revolution.

Min uses the facts of history and her lush, penetrating psychological imagination to take us beyond the myth of the person who so greatly influenced an entire generation of Chinese. The result is a complex portrait of a woman who railed against the confines of her culture, whose deep-seated insecurities propelled her to reinvent herself constantly, and whose ambition was matched only by her ferocious, never-to-be-fulfilled need to be loved. A daring narrative with all the compressed drama and high lyrical poetry of great opera, *BECOMING MADAME MAO* is the most ambitious and provocative work of Anchee Min's career.

Windham Library Book Club Selection

Wednesday, April 4, 2018 – 3:30 PM



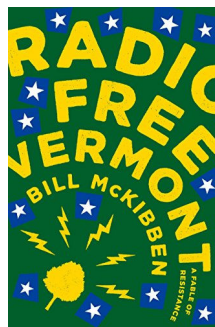
Memphis, 1939. Twelve-year-old Rill Foss and her four younger siblings live a magical life aboard their family's Mississippi River shantyboat. But when their father must rush their mother to the hospital one stormy night, Rill is left in charge—until strangers arrive in force. Wrenched from all that is familiar and thrown into a Tennessee Children's Home Society orphanage, the Foss children are assured that they will soon be returned to their parents—but they quickly realize the dark truth. At the mercy of the facility's cruel director, Rill fights to keep her sisters and brother together in a world of danger and uncertainty.

Aiken, South Carolina, present day. Born into wealth and privilege, Avery Stafford seems to have it all: a successful career as a federal prosecutor, a handsome fiancé, and a lavish wedding on the horizon. But when Avery returns home to help her father weather a health crisis, a chance encounter leaves her with uncomfortable questions and compels her to take a journey through her family's long-hidden history, on a path that will ultimately lead either to devastation or to redemption.

Based on one of America's most notorious real-life scandals—in which Georgia Tann, director of a Memphis-based adoption organization, kidnapped and sold poor children to wealthy families all over the country—Lisa Wingate's riveting, wrenching, and ultimately uplifting tale reminds us how, even though the paths we take can lead to many places, the heart never forgets where we belong.

Windham Library Book Club Selection

Wednesday, May 2, 2018 – 3:30 PM



"I hope no one secedes, but I also hope that Americans figure out creative ways to resist injustice and create communities where everybody counts. We've got a long history of resistance in Vermont and this book is testimony to that fact." –Bernie Sanders

As the host of Radio Free Vermont—"underground, underpowered, and underfoot"—seventy-two-year-old Vern Barclay is currently broadcasting from an "undisclosed and double-secret location." With the help of a young computer prodigy named Perry Alterson, Vern uses his radio show to advocate for a simple yet radical idea: an independent Vermont, one where the state secedes from the United States and operates under a free local economy. But for now, he and his radio show must remain untraceable, because in addition to being a lifelong Vermonter and concerned citizen, Vern Barclay is also a fugitive from the law.

In *Radio Free Vermont*, Bill McKibben entertains and expands upon an idea that's become more popular than ever --seceding from the United States. Along with Vern and Perry, McKibben imagines an eccentric group of activists who carry out their own version of guerilla warfare, which includes dismissing local middle school children early in honor of 'Ethan Allen Day' and hijacking a Coors Light truck and replacing the stock with local brew. Witty, biting, and terrifyingly timely, *Radio Free Vermont* is Bill McKibben's fictional response to the burgeoning resistance movement.