



WINDHAM NEWS & NOTES



Important Upcoming Windham School Votes

by Carolyn Partridge, Chair, Windham School Board

The Windham School Board thanks everyone who attended our meeting on November 26th and voted in support of our motion to authorize the School Board to sell the school building to the town, close the school, and tuition our students to other public schools or approved independent schools. It is our hope that this will not be necessary, as a result of either legal or legislative action that may occur in the next few months, but it is good to have this authorization.

At the meeting on November 26th, we expressed our desire to extend the date of that authorization (from June 30, 2019) into the future, to allow us a little more flexibility in case legal or legislative action proves fruitful. Also, at the meeting on November 26th, a petition was circulated that asked for a vote to withdraw from the Leland and Gray Union District. As a result, we will be bringing two articles to be voted on by Australian ballot on Town Meeting Day, March 5, 2019. The article regarding the extension of authorization requires a special meeting to vote to have an Australian ballot on March 5 (since our meetings are normally voted from the floor). The article to withdraw from the Leland and Gray Union District does not need a special vote for Australian ballot because an Australian ballot is already required by law.

We thought it might be helpful to provide you with a timeline for these events. It is as follows:

- **January 3, 2019** – Special School Board meeting at the Windham School at 5 PM to

warn a meeting for meeting February 2, 2019 to approve the Australian ballot vote

- **February 2, 2019** – Special School Board meeting at the Windham School at 10 AM to vote to have an Australian ballot for the article regarding the extension of School Board authorization until June 30, 2020, to close the school, sell it to the town, and tuition students to other public schools or approved independent schools.

- **February 4, 2019** - Annual Budget Information Meeting at the Windham School at 5 PM.

- **March 4, 2019** – Informational meeting at the Windham School at 5 PM regarding the article to close the school, sell it to the town, and tuition students elsewhere. Much of this information was covered at the November 26th meeting, we are just asking to extend it a year; but a vote to change the date to June 30, 2020 is required by law.

- **March 5, 2019** – If an Australian ballot is approved at the February 2nd meeting, the legal voters of Windham may vote on Town Meeting Day on the above-referenced article. Also, to be voted that day is the article to withdraw from the Leland and Gray Union District.

We'll also take this opportunity to invite you to our annual Budget Information Meeting on February 4th, 2019, at 5 PM (see above). This is a great chance to learn about the FY2019-2020 school budget and ask questions of the Windham Central Supervisory Union Business Manager, Laurie Garland, as well as Superintendent, Bill Anton.

Town Meeting, Tuesday, March 5, 2019

10 AM at the Meeting House

Bring your Annual Report (which will be coming to you by mail in late February), a Potluck dish to share for lunch at Noon, and \$1 for paper goods. Please read your Annual Report ahead so you can ask questions and make informed decisions.





News from the West River Modified Union Education District

by Howard Ires, Windham Representative

As this issue of News and Notes goes to press, we are still waiting to hear from the Vermont Superior Court ruling regarding the forced merger of our K-6 town school district into the newly formed West River Modified Union Education District (WRMUED), which is the new entity responsible for our Windham grade 7-12 students at Leland & Gray.

The proposed budget for the new district has not been finalized, but looks to be an overall increase of at least 6%. Part of this increase is the cost of adding 6th grade classes to Leland and Gray. [This board voted 6-3 in September, 2018, to have sixth-graders from the Jamaica, NewBrook and Townshend elementary schools start attending Leland & Gray Union Middle School in the fall of 2019.] It remains to be seen what portion of this budget Windham will be responsible for, as well as vote approval for, as we do not currently send 6th grade children to Leland & Gray, and never elected to be part of this new entity. In addition to a budget vote this year, we may expect to see a vote coming up to become a full member of this new district, and/or a vote to withdraw completely from this new district.

One possible outcome for our town and our school children would be to keep our local district, withdraw completely from the newly formed union district, and go back to a K-12 Windham district, as we are permitted to vote on by state statute. This would return control of our school and the education of our children, kindergarten through high school, to our Windham School Board. How, or if, we proceed to achieve this, depends on how the Superior Court rules on our case in the next couple of weeks. By the time you read this, things should be a little clearer.

Following is the upcoming meeting schedule for the Board of Directors of the WRMUED. All meetings are in the Leland & Gray Library:

January 14, 2019 at 7 PM

January 21, 2019 at 7 PM Approve Budget for FY 2019-2020 and Sign Warning for Vote

February 4, 2019 at 7 PM

February 18, 2019 at 7 PM

March 5, 2019 No meeting (Town Meeting day)

March 18, 2019 at 7 PM Budget Information Night

March 26, 2019 at 7 PM Annual Board Meeting

March 27, 2019 Budget Vote for FY 2019-2020 by Australian ballot in each member town



Tree down across VT Route 121. Photo by Imme Maurath



Looking north on Windham Hill Road after November storm. If you zoom in you can see the downed power lines. The tree was blocking the road just south of the southern intersection with Burbee Pond Road. Photo by Ellen McDuffie

November Storm by Imme Maurath

The last week of November brought well over a foot of heavy, wet snow to Windham, causing many downed trees, outages, and road closures. Some residents didn't have power for five days, and many people in town don't have generators. A warming station was opened for those five days at the Town Office. We had several visitors come in for soup, a cup of tea, for internet access, to make a phone call or to charge their cell phones. Socialization was also a key. Thanks to Maureen Bell, Kathy Jungermann and Imme Maurath for manning the office.

If you have Vermontel (Vtel) as your phone provider, please know that during a power outage, after about 8-12 hours, the back-up battery to your landline phone will run out, and will need to be plugged in for a short time to recharge it. If you don't have a generator, you can bring your box (not just the battery) into the Town Office to recharge it. Having access to 911 can be crucial.

If you had any issues that we might address in the future, please call Imme at 875-8755.

From the Selectboard

by Maureen Bell

So much has happened since our last column! As this is being written, there are yet several more inches of snow falling down. Even though we had a warm and rainy holiday week, winter now is back. As always, use caution out there on the roads and driveways.

We are pleased to welcome our newest member of the Windham Road Crew – Kurt Bostrom. Kurt comes to us with much hands-on experience in municipal road work. If you see him, please give him a wave.

We are in continuing talks with folks from The Meeting House (Congregational Church) about if, and how, the Town should take full ownership of the building and property. A committee on how to proceed may be formed. If you are interested in contributing to this, please let us know. When any decisions on how to move forward are made, you will be fully informed.

With the Town Report currently being worked on, all Municipal departments have been hard at work putting together their annual budget proposals for 2019. These will be voted on at Town Meeting on March 5. So far, we have finished the general budget, leaving the next two Selectboard meetings to firm up the Roads budget.

Last, but certainly not least, the big storm event of November 26 & 27 left Windham in the dark for at least three days, but many residents were without power for up to five full days. While this storm was destructive and devastating in many ways, it was heart-warming to see Windham in action. As we often do, we saw neighbors helping neighbors, people with generators/water opening their homes to those without, volunteers removing trees and brush from the roads, and much, much more. This event showed Windham at its finest. Bravo!

Since the Town Office can run on a generator, it was used as an independent warming site. People came in to warm up, use the phone, charge devices, use the microwave and bathroom facilities, converse with neighbors, etc. Soup, tea and coffee were served. Our Emergency Management Team is becoming stronger. They will make every attempt to open the building again, should a future situation warrant it. Suggestions to help improve things are welcomed.

The EM team, Road Crew, Treasurer's office and Selectboard are working with FEMA to get assistance with clean-up and material expenses from this storm. Thank you to all who sent in pictures of the damage. Hopefully FEMA will be able to provide us with some financial relief.

See you at Town Meeting!



WINDHAM NEWS & NOTES

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

N&N Team

Maureen Bell Dawn Bower
Mary Boyer Pat Cherry Mia Clark
Leila Erhardt Louise Johnson
Kathy Jungermann Imme Maurath
Ellen McDuffie Philip McDuffie
Frank Seawright

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: February 16, 2018

Listers' Winter Hours

Wednesday, January 23rd, and February 20th, 9 AM - 12 PM. In March, we will return to our regular hours of 9 AM - 12 PM every Wednesday.

We also have an email address, to which we all have access from home:

windham.listers@gmail.com. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Positions to be elected at Town Meeting are listed below along with the term of office and the incumbent:

Moderator, 1 year, Mike McLaine
Town Clerk, 3 years, Mike McLaine
Treasurer, 3 years, Incumbent Peter Chamberlain is retiring
Selectman, 3 years, Maureen Bell
Lister, 3 years, Meredith Tips-McLaine
Auditor, 3 years, Sally Hoover
Constable, 2 years, Joseph Lamson
Delinquent Tax Collector, 1 year, Erin Kehoe
Grand Juror, 1 year, James Scott
Town Agent, 1 year, Michael Simonds
Windham Center Cemetery Comm., 5 years, Walter Woodruff
West Windham Cemetery Comm., 5 years, Dave Crittenden
North Windham Cemetery Commission, 5 years, Ralph Wyman
Library Trustee, 5 years, Eileen Widger
Windham School Director, 3 years, Antje Ruppert

Duties and responsibilities of all town officers are described in the Vermont State Statutes and are summarized by the Secretary of State at: <https://www.sec.state.vt.us/elections/candidates/local-office-descriptions.aspx>. There are many state required duties for each position, and none should be entered without a full understanding of the responsibilities. If you plan to run for office, please submit a short candidate's statement for the office to be published in the next edition of the *Windham News & Notes* by February 16th to windhamnews@hotmail.com.

A potluck lunch, always delicious, is served around noon. Please bring a dish to share and \$1 to defray paper goods expense. Town Meeting is a unique opportunity to participate in the democratic process, visit with friends and neighbors, and have a great lunch. We hope you will attend.

Windham Conservation Commission

by Hal Wilkins

Summary of 2018 Activities

- Site visits, culvert, and roadside invasive plant inspections
- Meeting / culvert inspection / pond habitat discussion at Burbee Pond with Skip Lisle of Grafton – developer of the “Beaver Deceiver” and consultant to the town on the installation of the device at the outfall of the pond – and with VT DEC pond biologist Josh Mulhollem to discuss the overall health and habitat of the pond
- Meeting with Joan Weir – Vermont Land Trust (VLT) Discussed the activities of the VLT, their regional projects, potential role in Windham, etc.
- Presentation by Jon Binhammer – Vermont Director, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Described the McGraw / Glebe Mountain tracts and discussed the leading role that TNC is playing in the purchase and preservation of the McGraw lands in Windham and Londonderry
- Monica Przyperhart - VT ANR Fish & Wildlife / Community Forestry Specialist Conducted an introductory workshop on community values – in the context of developing an understanding of just what environmental, social, recreational, etc. values are of

most importance to a given town. Monica may return to Windham to present the full workshop to Windham residents and to facilitate the identification of our principal community values

2019 Activities (Proposed)

- Inspection of beaver activity around Burbee Pond and stream quality at Cobb and Turkey Mountain Brooks; meetings and field trips with VT DEC lake and stream specialists
- Hiking at Glebe Mountain / future Nature Conservancy property
- Investigation into and inventory of the existing trail network in Windham; discussion of mapping, possible trail expansions and regional connections, etc.
- Presentation of little known but interesting sites in Windham, by local deed and genealogical researchers and authors Jonathan and Elizabeth Stevens
- Community Values Mapping Workshop – with Monica Przyperhart

The WCC usually meets at 7 PM on the second Tuesday of the month in the Town Office (unless there is a conflict) – but please check the town website or contact a Conservation Committee member beforehand, as site visits occasionally precede the regular meeting.

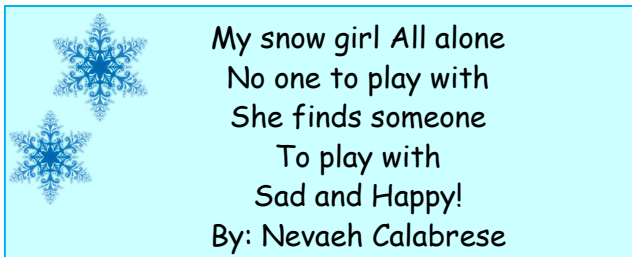
Windham Fire Company News

Fire Calls by Jon Gordon and News & Notes Staff

- 10/20/18 Good intent call on Birch Hill Road.
4 responders
- 10/28/18 Car accident on Horsenail Hill Road.
5 responders
- 11/05/18 Power line down on Windham Hill Road.
4 responders
- 11/07/18 Assist Londonderry Rescue with landing zone for DHART helicopter. 5 responders
- 11/13/18 Structure fire on Windham Hill Road.
9 responders
- 11/27/18 Power line down on Horsenail Hill Road.
3 responders
- 11/27/18 Power lines and tree down on Route 121.
4 responders
- 11/30/18 Motor vehicle accident on Route 121.
4 responders



On Tuesday, November 13, crews from Windham, Londonderry, South Londonderry, Weston, Jamaica and Townshend responded to a house fire on Windham Hill Road, while Peru crews covered at the Windham station. A passerby reported flames at the back of the structure around 2 PM. By 3:30 PM, the flames were under control. No one was at home at the time and there were no injuries. The cause of the fire was determined to be faulty heat tape around pipes. A source reported that the heat was so intense that glass and plastic inside the house were melted.



My snow girl All alone
No one to play with
She finds someone
To play with
Sad and Happy!
By: Nevaeh Calabrese

West Townshend Post Office Update

The West River Community Project (WRCP) grew out of our community's efforts to keep the West Townshend Post Office open at a time when the building's owner was set to close it. Fast forward eleven years, and once again, our post office was on the brink of closing, as Kelly Millette wanted to retire, and there was no one in place to take over the contract.



We are pleased to announce that the WRCP has signed a one-year contract with the United States Postal Service (USPS), and thus has ensured the preservation of the West Townshend Post Office for another year. A contract post office is a supplier-leased site that is subject to USPS oversight, and USPS's determination that there is a need in the community. We urge you to continue to support WRCP's efforts by purchasing stamps, sending packages, and/or renting a post office box - every purchase at the West Townshend Post Office will help to ensure its continued existence!

Linda and Joann will continue their excellent service, and the hours will remain the same.

Monday - Friday, 8:00 - 11:00 AM and 3:30 - 4:45 PM

Saturday, 8:00 - 11:00 AM

Sunday, Closed

THANK YOU, KELLY, for your service to our community!!



*House fire on Windham Hill Road,
November 13*

Sad to See You Go! *by Mary Boyer*

Windham's friends Mia and John Clark have recently moved from town to a larger house in Manchester, Vermont, in order to host their growing number of grandchildren, other family members and friends who want to pay a visit to beautiful southern Vermont.

Mia and John have both been active volunteers in the community and their contributions will be missed. Mia was chairman of Green Up Day, was a frequent contributor to *Windham News & Notes* and took charge of mailing out each issue. She chaired the Good Neighbors Committee for the Windham Community Organization, and took a turn organizing the WCO Chicken Barbecue. An avid reader, she offered her valuable insights to the monthly Windham Book Club discussions. As a Master Gardener, she recently offered landscaping ideas for the design of our Veterans Memorial site. She even found time to volunteer at Brattleboro Area Hospice.

John, though still working full-time, is on the Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital Board, and also was a trustee of The Mountain School at Winhall.

Both John and Mia are athletes, and bike (pedal), ski, hike and sail. They travel as often as possible. Mia returns to her native Sweden to visit family and they have travelled to France, Spain, Puerto Rico and Panama in recent years.

We wish them well, along with a house full of the love of family and friends. Please know you are missed!

Becky and Jordan "Ourstory"

by Jordan Eliastam

Originally, from the Boston area, Becky and I actually lived in Vermont before we became, "Becky and Jordan". Becky lived in Burlington while attending UVM, and I slept on the floor in my friends' house while working at Mount Snow as a snowboard instructor. While we had many friends in common, we had only briefly met a couple times. After Becky graduated from UVM, she decided to return to the Boston area. I had done the same not long before her, and at a gathering of our communal friend group, we connected and, well, the rest, as you might say, is "ourstory".

Becky was offered a chance to work at an educational organic farm in San Jose del Cabo, Mexico and we jumped at the opportunity to live somewhere interesting. And that it was! We found our first child there, Lola; a sweet-tempered black and brown Labrador mix. After all this time, she still melts our hearts. Then, once we had our fill of living in Cabo, we moved back to the Boston area. We decided it was time to expand the family once again, and found Marlo, the rambunctious, snuggle bug of a dog with whom some of you may already be familiar! At this point, Boston was starting to feel a bit claustrophobic and we longed for a bit more room with which to spread our wings. Vermont was the obvious choice. We were also pregnant at this point, and couldn't think of a better place to raise a child.

We found a property we loved, and made it happen. Neither of us had ever heard of the town of Windham before and didn't know much about it when deciding to live here. It wasn't until we started exploring the area and interacting with some of our neighbors that the feeling began to creep in, that we might have stumbled on to something special. Around that time, our son was born, Theodore (Theo) Eliastam on September 7th, 2018.

Every day we spend in Windham is better than the last. We spent the end of fall taking leisurely walks with Theo and the dogs, and even exploring the area a bit on our mountain bikes. As avid winter lovers, we have already purchased our first pair of snowshoes and have even taken a couple runs down Timber Ridge. We know we have only scratched the surface of what Windham has to offer and we are very excited for the future!



Jordan, Becky and Theo Eliastam

Ernie Friedli Is Honored by Senior Solutions

by News & Notes Staff

Ernie Friedli has been honored by Senior Solutions - Council on Aging for Southeastern Vermont, Inc. at their annual meeting on October 31, in Springfield, VT. Nominations were sought for its Successful Aging Award. "This award recognizes the accomplishments of a senior who is at least eighty years old and who has demonstrated through deeds and leadership, the fostering of strong communities that ... support all ages." This award was also given to Windham resident Dawn Bower. (See previous edition of WN&N.)

Ernie was nominated for his years of dedication to our community. He is a prime example of "Successful Aging" and is currently our most elder Windham resident at age 93. He has contributed unselfishly to our community for several decades. Ernie has served as a volunteer, and as an appointed and elected officer in Windham, and was very involved in the building of the current Town Office. Some of the positions he has held include Tax Collector, Treasurer, Auditor, to list just a few. He has been an active supporter of the Windham Congregational Church and the Meeting House, and also of Grace Cottage Hospital.

Ernie is a shining example of a supportive community member who exhibits involvement and participation - "Successful Aging".

Congratulations, Ernie!



David's Snowman Poem

I made my snowman
With a gigantic
Snow ball

And littler one
And then a little bigger one
And then a hat.

I did eyes and eye brows,
And arm,
And a mouth,
And buttons

He is happy.

By: David Baxter

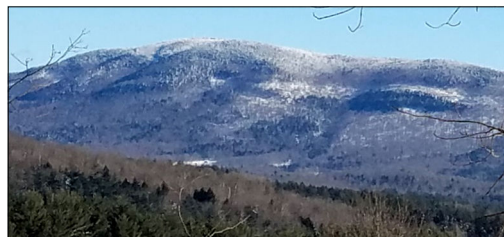


Everything Old.....Is New Again!

by Kathy Jungermann

2018 brought some changes to the annual Holiday Caroling and Tree Lighting at the Meeting house. This event usually features Nancy Dyke on piano and her daughter Christine leading the vocals. Nancy has moved to Iowa and Christine to Maine, so Diane and Chris Fisher stepped up to lead the sing-a-long. With Chris on piano and Diane as choral leader, we happily covered all of our favorite Holiday songs. Keeping with tradition, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" gave everyone a chance to stand up and participate. This year the entire group sang each of the days, so we all got the chance to drum, dance, swim and leap! Megan and Anna donned reindeer antlers and bright noses to accompany our rendition of "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer". Thirsty singers were treated to cider, hot chocolate and homemade cookies. After dark, it was time to go outside, in the 17 degree chill, and count-down to the tree lighting. With the tree shining brightly, we sang "We wish you a Merry Christmas", exchanged season's greetings, and left full of holiday spirit.

Thank you, Diane and Chris, for keeping this lovely tradition going and adding some new twists! Mark your calendars now, and join us in 2019.



The Future of Glebe Mountain

by Wantastiquet Rotary

Wantastiquet Rotary of Londonderry, is a proud sponsor of the Nature Conservancy of Vermont, in regard to the acquiring of Glebe Mountain. Peter Isakson and Helen Hamman, friends of the Nature Conservancy, invite you to an informational evening to discuss the permanent conservation of Glebe Mountain. Please join us, **Friday, January 18, 2019 for drinks and hors d'oeuvres from 6 PM to 8 PM at Magic Mountain Resort, 495 Magic Mountain Access, Londonderry, Vermont.**

On December 7th, the Londonderry Annual Tree Lighting took place at Mountain Marketplace. Arriving by horse drawn wagon, Santa and Mrs. Claus helped to light the dual Christmas trees in the plaza. Susie Wyman organized the event, Rotary provided traffic control, and Neighborhood Connections served cookies and hot chocolate while Santa and Mrs. Claus greeted the children. Thanks to all who came to this annual event.

On Friday December 14, the Rotary participated in the annual Christmas Gift distribution. Rotarians were charged with distributing boxwood Christmas trees produced by the Green Mountain Gardeners, cookies made by the loving hands of the Weston Women's Club, and poinsettias donated by the Second Congregational Church of Londonderry.

Wantastiquet Rotary continues to take an active role in creating the best environment for our present mountain neighbors, and future generations.

News from Windham Elementary

by Gail Wyman

In November, for Leigh Merinoff's birthday (Meadow's Bee Farm founder), in appreciation for all she does for the kids and the school, the students made cards, writing about and drawing all the activities the farm offers to our students. They had countless choices, from the children's bee suits Leigh purchased for them, to beekeeping; to feeding the cows, chickens, and sheep, to helping plant and harvest the garden, to collecting maple sap for sugaring, to feeding and trying to entice the chickens so they might pat them, to becoming familiar with the peacocks that roam the farm, to throwing hay down to the farm animals, to scooping grain for the farm fowl, to collecting leaves and herbs, to checking out the fresh growth in the greenhouse in the springtime. It is endless, what the farm offers. Our school is very lucky to have the farm.

Our pasta dinner was a huge success. Standing room only, and we made eight hundred dollars for our Camp Keewaydin trip!!! Good food, sweet desserts and lots of chatting and smiles. We had big plans of feeding the kids leftovers on Friday, but for the first time, there was nothing left. Thank you everyone who attended and supported the students. It was a first time experience for some of the older students for waiting on tables and serving. It takes a little building up of nerve for them to take an order and wait on a table.

Friday morning, December 21st, we skated at Vermont Academy. Skating is fun, but cold. Helmets were required because of all the potential falls. We only skated for an hour, but in that hour's time, with the aid of milk cartons tied together, all of the kids got to skate around the rink. Some of the taller ones held onto the side, and were eventually skating around without any support.

Our holiday concert went off well without having to use a snow date. Sally's and Mr. P-J's class sang several traditional songs for Christmas and Hanukkah. Mr. P-J's class also sang a beautiful round from the Renaissance and a newly composed, spirited song, with the Chorus singing three songs in two-part harmony. One of the absolute



Holiday Concert at Windham Elementary

Starting with back row from left :Kylie, Jack, Davin, Carson, Jake. Middle row: Nevaeh, James, Ivy, Shep, David. Banjo's: Gracie, Kyleigh, Rihanna, Lucca

"must do's" for our school is singing at Valley Cares at Christmas time, and at the end of the school year. This year Kathy Jungermann dropped by some reindeer caps and holiday bells so the kids could dress up their singing a little. The younger kids sang and each danced a solo, with one child jumping up and down dancing, another one doing a slow swaying back and forth. Their audience loved them.

On Wednesday, January 9th, winter sports started. It is a half day each Wednesday afternoon. There is a choice of either skiing/snowboarding at Stratton, or cross country at Grafton Ponds. To attend at Stratton, you must be in third grade and be chaperoned by an adult. Years ago Dan Riley raised money so the school could buy 25 sets of cross country skis, poles and boots. So there is no cost other than paying four dollars per week for the kids to cross country ski. Beginners learn how to climb up a small hill, ski back down, and get back up on their own when they fall. While Sally is teaching them, the other kids go off with another adult to the bigger fields and hills. We have had children graduate out of cross country skiing, and the first season at Stratton, they advance very quickly due to the excellent techniques they learned in cross country.

Sledding and skiing

Skiing and sledding

We ski and sled

We sled and we ski

By: Lilian Newton



I am racing
in a car
It is
very fun
To drive
In a car



By: James Carson



I AM SLEDDING

Fast

So fun

CRASH!

by: Shep Finch

Bobcat Sighting

by Ellen McDuffie

About 2:15 PM, on the afternoon of January 3, my husband called me to come quick!

Within the past hour, he had commented that there must be a hawk or barred owl in the vicinity because all the squirrels that are usually under our bird feeders eating seed from the ground, had disappeared. Then as he was standing at our kitchen sink, he looked up and there was a bobcat sitting sedately on the edge of our stonewall, only about 20 feet from the house, in broad daylight, surveying the area. No wonder the squirrels were hiding! He/she stayed long enough for my hubby to take a few pictures on his cell phone, and then to get our digital camera and snap a few, as the cat was slowly walking away into the woods.

It seemed highly unusual to us to see a bobcat this close to the house and in the middle of the day. I reported the sighting to the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) and asked if there were any chance the bobcat might be rabid. It looked very healthy though. The ANR responded, "A rabid bobcat would be very obvious and not look healthy at all. This sounds more like a great sighting and it is pretty common this time of year to see bobcats near a bird feeder; it is without a doubt a food source [the small animals that come to feed on the seed] for [the bobcat]. He will likely move along pretty quickly, but if you would like him gone for sure, you would want to remove the food source, being the bird feeder."

We do feel very lucky to have had the opportunity to see this beautiful cat!



Thank You All for a Fun and Successful Harvest Supper!

Windham Community Organization wants to thank all of those who helped in any way with the Harvest Supper, and we also thank those who supported our organization by attending. A special thanks to Sally Newton and her Ukulele Group. It was definitely a crowd pleaser to have her students play for us. Anna Carson also played the violin. Thank you to Sally, family and friends for the music, and calling the always-fun square dance.



Green-Up Day

Windham is looking for a volunteer to help coordinate Green Up Day 2019 on Saturday, May 4. with the non-profit, state-wide organization that runs it. Some of the duties are ordering and distributing bags, and submitting an annual report. For further information go to greenupvermont.org and see the Green Up Guide for Coordinators. To volunteer, please contact Maureen Bell at 875-1024.



All Dogs Must Be Registered by April 1 in the Town Office and Current Rabies Vaccination Must Be on File. This is State Law!



Ice skating

By: Lydia Dutton

I am wearing skates,
Purple skates with
gray.

I am skating on the
ice,
With the whole school.

The ice is cold and
hard
But it is fun

I like my turquoise
Helmet.

Lillian and me
Are skating
All day.

We will not stop
Until the day
Is done.

Skating on the Volga
by Ivy Packard



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Downy Woodpecker Photo by Phil McDuffie



Hairy Woodpecker Photo by Phil McDuffie

Woodpecker Lore by Philip McDuffie

One of my favorite winter pastimes is feeding and observing the birds who've chosen to spend Windham's cold season with us. Each year brings something new and different, and this one is no exception. Usually, we have one or two pairs of Evening Grosbeaks that come by and graze, but this year we've seen a flock of over thirty visit us on multiple occasions. Many times, a smaller group of American Goldfinches will accompany them, and at first glance, the finches look like they're tiny grosbeaks-- which isn't too surprising because they all belong to the same family (*Fringillidae*) and have somewhat similar colorings and bill shapes. Interestingly, both species seem to get along, despite their size difference.

Speaking of families, two species of woodpeckers that visit us, never cease to amaze me. For the little Downy, and its larger cousin the Hairy Woodpecker, always seem to come together to feed on the suet we offer. To be honest, I haven't figured out who's following whom. I'm beginning to wonder if the Downy, being the smaller of the two, is somewhat confused, and thinks that the Hairy Woodpecker is just a bigger version of himself that he'll grow into someday. Or perhaps, the Hairy Woodpecker thinks that the little Downy is a lost child that needs someone bigger to look out for it. Who knows? For other than size and relative bill length, the two species are hard to tell apart, and I'm betting that neither bird has referred to a reputable bird guide and come to the realization that they're different species within the woodpecker family (*Picidae*).

We have two different sized suet feeders, and one day not long ago, I saw both birds feeding at the same time, while being only a foot apart from each other (the Downy on the smaller of the two feeders, of course). However, today, I saw the Downy outside our kitchen window slowly coming down a tree trunk, while checking out the backyard for unwelcomed visitors (grackles and crows come to my mind, but perhaps that's just my prejudice). In less than a minute, he flew down to the large suet feeder, no less, and began pecking away. I got distracted for a couple of seconds by an arriving Blue Jay, and when I looked back at the suet feeder, low and behold, the Hairy Woodpecker had taken the smaller bird's place. Sure enough, I looked up and found the Downy was back on the tree trunk, now waiting his turn. Perhaps size does have its privilege, for as soon the Hairy Woodpecker finished feeding, the little Downy immediately dropped back down and started feeding on the large feeder again. I wonder if the Downy thinks that if he feeds on the same feeder that the Hairy Woodpecker does, maybe he'll grow bigger? Don't know, but then again, each of the feeders has slightly different flavored suet bars, so maybe he just wanted some variety in his diet. Regardless, I'm always amazed that when one of them is outside our window, a further inspection almost invariably reveals the other one hanging around on a nearby tree. I guess with all the finches, doves, jays and chickadees flying around, the woodpeckers have decided to close ranks and look out for each other, regardless of who they may think they are. Wish we could all be more like them!

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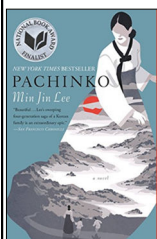
A Great Way to Support Neighborhood Connections

Did you know that when you shop on Amazon through [Smile.Amazon.Com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) the Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of your purchase price to your selected charitable organization? Neighborhood Connections is one of the eligible charitable organizations listed under the name "Green Mountain Community Medical & Social Services, Inc." Neighborhood Connections works hard to connect the community with needed resources, including health education, counseling and social service programs, and hopes you find this a convenient way to support their efforts.

Windham Library Book Club Selections

Wednesday, February 6, 2019 - 3:30 PM

Pachinko by Min Jin Lee

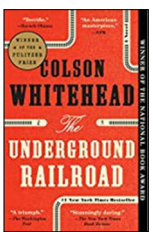


In the early 1900s, teenaged Sunja, the adored daughter of a crippled fisherman, falls for a wealthy stranger at the seashore near her home in Korea. He promises her the world, but when she discovers she is pregnant--and that her lover is married--she refuses to be bought. Instead, she accepts an offer of marriage from a gentle, sickly minister passing through on his way to Japan. But her decision to abandon her home, and to reject her son's powerful father, sets off a dramatic saga that will echo down through the generations.

Pachinko is a story of love, sacrifice, ambition, and loyalty. From bustling street markets to the halls of Japan's finest universities to the pachinko parlors of the criminal underworld, Lee's complex and passionate characters shaken by moral crisis--survive and thrive against the indifferent arc of history.

Wednesday, March 6, 2019 – 3:30 PM

The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead



Cora is a slave on a cotton plantation in Georgia. Life is hell for all the slaves, but especially bad for Cora; an outcast even among her fellow Africans, she is coming into womanhood--where even greater pain awaits. When Caesar, a recent arrival from Virginia, tells her about the Underground Railroad, they decide to take a terrifying risk and escape. Matters do not go as planned--Cora kills a young white boy who tries to capture her. Though they manage to find a station and head north, they are being hunted. As Whitehead brilliantly re-creates the unique terrors for black people in the pre-Civil War era, his narrative seamlessly weaves the saga of America from the brutal importation of Africans to the unfulfilled promises of the present day.

Men's Coffee Club at Grace Cottage

Men of all ages are invited to Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital for coffee and a series of casual lectures on Tuesday mornings, January 8 to March 26. The group will be led by Grace Cottage Community Outreach Coordinator Bill Monahan, RN. Each week's gathering will have a health-related theme, with presentations, short videos, and time for discussion and friendly banter. Coffee provided. The program is free. The Men's Coffee Hour will be held from 8 to 9 AM in the Grace Cottage Community Wellness Center (Heins Building), 133 Grafton Road, Townshend. To register, or for more information, contact Bill Monahan, RN, at WMonahan@gracecottage.org or at 365-3762.

NAMI VT Offers Family Support Group in Townshend

Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital will host a Mental Illness Family Support Group on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM at the Grace Cottage Wellness Center, 133 Grafton Road, Townshend. The next meeting is on February 13. The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Family Support Group meetings are monthly 90-minute support groups of family and friends of individuals living with a mental illness. Participants can talk frankly about their challenges and help one another by sharing their learned wisdom and coping strategies. The meetings offer a safe and confidential place to give family members and friends the support they need. With their shared experiences, family members can better understand and support their loved ones who are living with mental illness, while maintaining their own well-being. All meetings are facilitated by trained NAMI family members and are free. For more information, call 713-591-2857. To find a complete list of all NAMI offerings, visit www.namivt.org.

Snippets About Winter from Louise Johnson

One kind word can warm three winter months. Japanese Proverb

Winter is not a season, it's an occupation. Sinclair Lewis
There are two seasonal diversions that can ease the bite of winter. One is the January thaw.
The other is seed catalogues. Hal Borland

Winter is the time of promise because there is so little to do--or because you can now and then permit yourself the luxury of thinking so. Stanley Crawford.

People don't notice whether it is winter or summer when they are happy. Anton Chekov



185 Grafton Road
(Route 35)
Townshend, VT
www.gracecottage.org
802-365-7357

Mexican Cornbread Recipe *from Maureen Bell*

1 can each (16 oz.) red and black kidney beans
 1 cup chopped green pepper
 1 cup corn kernels
 1 can (14.5 oz.) chunky tomatoes, chili style
 1 cup cheese and salsa dip
 1/4 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
 1 tsp. chili powder
 1/4 tsp. cumin
 1 package cornbread mix
 1 egg
 1/3 cup milk
 1 Tbsp. canola oil



Preheat oven to 400F. Rinse beans with cold water and drain. In a bowl or directly into a 9x13" baking dish, combine beans with peppers, corn, tomatoes, dip, cheese, chili powder and cumin.

In a medium bowl, stir together cornbread mix, egg, milk and oil. Spoon evenly over bean mixture. Bake until heated thoroughly and cornbread topping is lightly browned, 23-30 minutes. ENJOY!

Tri-Mountain Lions *by Randi Keith*

Londonderry Area Tri-Mountain Lions have donated \$200 to local student Olav Pajala for his tuition for Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) Camp at Babson College in Wellesley, MA this coming summer. The Flood Brook 6th grade student gave a presentation describing his past experience, and what he is looking forward to at this summer's STEM Camp. When a student is accepted to the program, they are responsible for the tuition. He has been baking and selling Star Wars cookies, and reaching out to friends and relatives to help reach his goal.

The National Youth Leadership Forum: Explore STEM is a unique learning experience for bright, forward-thinking middle school students who will become our next generation of innovators, engineers, doctors, forensic scientists, mathematicians, and physicists. During this six-day immersive experience, students learn by doing, as they take part in hands-on simulations, workshops, and competitions, making new friends and having unforgettable adventures as they plan for a "Mission to Mars", the theme for this year's camp. Few fields are more important to the future of mankind than STEM, and few show as much promise for future career opportunities. STEM professionals are in the highest demand throughout the world.

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 Commissioner: Richard Paré, cell phone: 802-379-5647 or call the Town Garage, 874-7025

Lister and Zoning: Alison Cummings, 874-7223; cobbbrookfarm@gmail.com; **Lister:** Russ Cumming, 874-7011

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

Select Board: Maureen Bell, chair, phone: 875-1024; email: mbellselectboard@gmail.com

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

Windham Community Organization: Ellen McDuffie, phone: 874-8183; email: eflockwood@aol.com

Windham Fire Warden: 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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*Please keep us informed of any
name or address changes.*

OFFICIAL TOWN WEBSITE

Be sure to use the Official Windham Town
Website: **TOWNOFWINDHAMVT.COM**
for warnings, meeting schedules and
minutes, events, town information. Please
contact the webmaster, Vance Bell, with
input: webmaster@townofwindhamvt.com.

REGULARLY SCHEDULED WINDHAM MEETINGS

**Citizens Advisory
Committee**, Second
Tuesday of Feb, May, Aug
& Nov. Feb 12 at 6:30 PM
at Town Office.

Energy Committee:
3rd Thursday, Jan 17 & Feb 21
at 4:30 PM at Town Office,

**Windham Community
Organization:**
NO Meeting in January.
Feb 27 at 7 PM at the Meeting
House. Call Ellen McDuffie at
874-8183.

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 every
fourth Saturday, Jan 26 & Feb
23, 8 AM - Noon.

Planning and Zoning:
Second Wednesday of the
month, Jan 9 & Feb 13 at
6:30 PM at the Town
Office. Open meetings.
Agenda posted.
Call Bill Dunkel at 874-4131.

Conservation Committee:
Second Tuesday of the
month at 7:00 PM, Feb 12 &
Mar 12 usually at the Town
Office. Open meetings. Call
Alison Trowbridge at
874-7050 for information.

Select Board:
1st & 3rd Mondays, Jan 21,
Feb 4 & 18, Mar 4 & 18
at 6:30 PM at the Town
Office. Open meetings.
Agenda posted. Check web-
site: townofwindhamvt.com

Library:
Every Wednesday, 3-5 PM
at the Meeting House,
Book Group at 3:30 PM,
1st Wednesdays, Feb 6 &
Mar 6 at the Meeting
House.

Valley Bible Church:
Sundays: Sunday School,
10 AM; Morning Worship,
11 AM; Potluck following;
Sun. Afternoon Service,
1:15 PM; Wednesdays, Bible
Study/ Prayer, 7 PM.

School Board:
First Mondays, Feb 4 &
Mar 4 at the Elementary
School at 4 PM. Special
Meeting & Vote Feb 2 at
10 AM. Call Antje Rupert
at 874-4759 for info.

Volunteer Fire Company:
First Thursday of the
month, at Feb 7 & Mar 7 at
6 PM at the Firehouse.
Heavy refreshments/dinner
served.

Listers: Wednesdays,
Jan 23 & Feb 20, 9 AM-
Noon at the Town Office.

WRMU Union School District:
Third Mondays at 7 PM at
Leland & Gray. Call Leland &
Gray for confirmation.

SAVE THESE DATES!

January 19 - Acquisition of Glebe Mountain Property, 6-8 PM, Magic Mountain Resort
January 21 - Martin Luther King Day
February 2 - Special Windham School Board Meeting, 10 AM at Windham Elementary
February 4 - Annual Windham Elementary Budget Informational Meeting, 5 PM at School
February 18 - Presidents' Day
March 4 - Informational Mtg on School Article to be Voted on at Town Mtg, 5 PM at School
March 5 - TOWN MEETING, Begins at 10 AM at the Meeting House





LONDONDERRY TRI-MOUNTAIN LIONS CLUB

When you were a child, did you look forward to weekends and school vacations? Unfortunately, a small group of local kids do not. Why? They will be not be getting the free breakfasts and free or reduced cost lunches provided by their schools. They are going to be hungry. In Londonderry, the school nurse, working with the local food shelf, packs food in backpacks for these kids to take home over weekends and school vacations. Once a month Tri-Mtn Lions are providing fresh fruit, granola bars and fruit cups for these backpacks.

Most towns in Southern Vermont have a free Senior luncheon at least once a month. Tri-Mtn Lions are providing rides to these luncheons for the seniors who would not be able to attend as they have no transportation. We also put our baking talents to good use and provide homemade cookies for them to take home and enjoy after the luncheon.

On Wednesday, November 14th, Tri-Mtn Lions sponsored the first Soup Social at Neighborhood Connections. We prepared homemade corn chowder, chicken noodle soup, muffins, bread & butter and dessert. These meals are important to help supplement the nutritional needs of many.



Londonderry Area Tri-Mtn Lion Joan Dayton helping at Soup/Social at The Meeting Place.



Londonderry Area Tri-Mtn Lion Randee Keith delivering fresh fruit for backpacks to Flood Brook School nurse Laurie Distasio.



Volunteering at the Soup/Social (left to right), Lion Joan Dayton, Lion Randee Keith, volunteer Kathy Kuperberg, Lion-on-deck Deb Wade, and Lion Andie Fusco.



Harvest Supper Crew

From Left: Mary Boyer, Leila Erhardt, Dawn Bower, Pat Cherry, Gail Wyman, Ellen McDuffie, Kathy Jungermann, Maureen Bell, and Carolyn Partridge

WCO
HARVEST SUPPER,
November 12, 2018



Harvest Supper

Above: Ukelele players

Left: Anna Carson on violin

Renting - Airbnb or Short Term ???

from John Fay, Permit Specialist, Environmental Assistance Office

I have gotten a couple Airbnb questions lately, so I did some research on the subject. Renting out an Airbnb or other short term rental can trigger state oversight from Health, Fire Safety, Tax, and Environmental departments. Although the situation is fluid, and changes may soon come from the Legislature, I have put together a little blurb that I will use for inquiries made to my office. I thought I would share this with you in case you have questions also.

If you rent out a room or space for sleeping accommodations:

Your facility is considered a public building and is subject to fire safety requirements. Contact Fire Safety at 802-885-8883.

You will need to collect state meals and rooms tax <<https://tax.vermont.gov/business-and-corp/meals-and-rooms-tax/short-term-rentals>> (unless paid by a third party).

If you are serving any food other than pre-packaged, you will need a food and lodging license <<http://www.healthvermont.gov/health-environment/food-lodging/lodging-licensing>>. Contact Gordon.Lodewyk@vermont.gov <mailto:Gordon.Lodewyk@vermont.gov> 802-296-5562.

If you have 3 or more units, you will need a food and lodging license <<http://www.healthvermont.gov/health-environment/food-lodging/lodging-licensing>>. Contact Gordon.Lodewyk@vermont.gov <mailto:Gordon.Lodewyk@vermont.gov> 802-296-5562.

If you have only 1 or 2 units:

You must post a Vermont Meals and Rooms Tax account number on any advertisement.

You should complete and keep on-site a self-certification form prior to renting a unit <http://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/ENV_FL_ShortTermRentalObligations.pdf> You must post certain information in the units (see the self-certification form).

If you are effectively creating a new bedroom or an apartment, you will need a Wastewater permit as well. Contact a Licensed Designer <<https://dec.vermont.gov/water/licensed-designers>> (look down the page for "Finding a Designer").

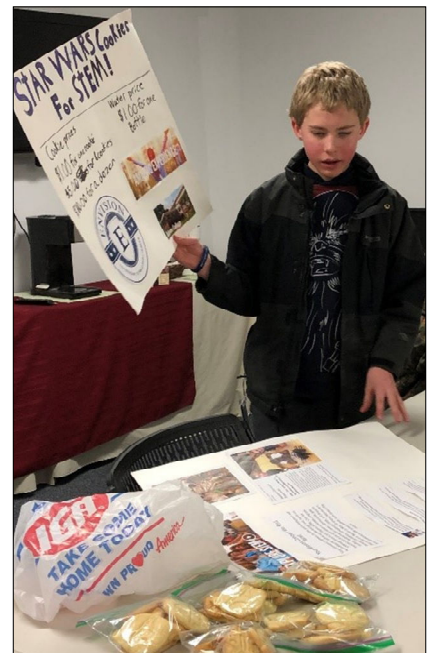
As always, contact your town office to see if there are any local requirements.

And, be sure to register with the Secretary of State <<https://www.sec.state.vt.us/corporationsbusiness-services/business-nonprofit-services/start-a-vermont-business.aspx>> if necessary.

John Fay

Permit Specialist, Environmental Assistance Office
Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation
100 Mineral St, Suite 303
Springfield, VT 05156
802-279-4747

Londonderry Annual Tree Lighting, December 7th, at Mountain Marketplace. Arriving by horse drawn wagon, Santa and Mrs. Claus helped to light the dual Christmas trees.



Flood Brook 6th grade student Olav Pajala giving his presentation on this summer's STEM Camp at Babson College in Wellesley, MA

Annual Carol Sing and Tree Lighting
Friday, November 23, 2018





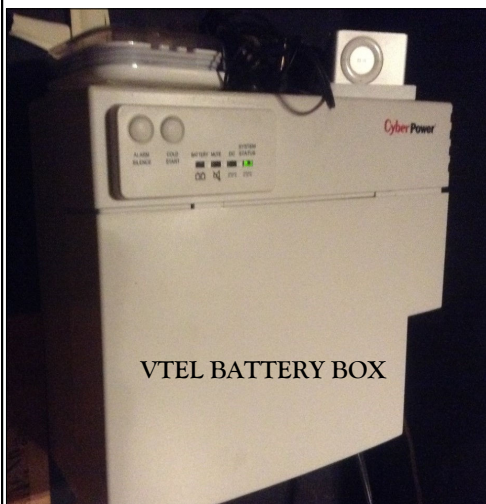
Beautiful Windham, January 9, 2019

Harrington Road and Windham Hill Road (or Windham Hill Road and Harrington Road) Both looking like a winter wonderland!

Photos by Mary Boyer



READ CAREFULLY IF YOU HAVE VTEL FIBER OPTIC SERVICE



What are the differences in home equipment between copper and fiber networks?

First, the traditional square phone box known as a NID (Network Interface Device) which was the termination for the traditional copper network, has been replaced by a larger new housing which contains your ONT (Optical Network Terminal). This one unit provides each customer with dial-tone, as well as Internet and television if the customer chooses.

Second, each customer location requires a power supply to the ONT. This unit serves two functions: it provides a regulated power supply to the ONT, and also provides back-up power to the ONT in case there is a loss of commercial power. This is a major difference from the traditional copper network which received its power from a Central Office or remote terminal. **Without a back-up battery or alternative back-up electrical source, such as a generator, customers will not be able to make any calls, including emergency calls to 911, during a power outage. In order to preserve the life of the battery during a power outage, internet and television services are not powered by the back-up battery.** The power supply consists of two parts, including the power supply itself and an enclosed battery. (Please note that your particular power supply may appear slightly different from the one shown here, but the battery is the same.)

The battery can provide about 8 hours of service under normal continued use, which is the time the battery remains connected to your ONT, not the time you spend using your phone, Internet, or television. Please note that aged batteries may need replacement. Environmental factors, such as temperature, can shorten your battery's useful life. Batteries will not last forever and should be replaced periodically according to the manufacturer's recommendation. It is the customer's responsibility alone to maintain the battery and purchase replacements as needed. The battery that we install with your fiber connection is a VRLA Rechargeable BP7.2, 12-Volt unit. During an outage, one thing you can do is temporarily

disconnect the battery, preserving its power until you reconnect it to make a call or when you expect a call to come in, similar to how you deal with nearly every other device in your home during a power outage, such as not using a water faucet or flushing the toilet unless absolutely necessary, or turning off your cell phone to preserve power until you know you can charge it again.

Another option is to have replacement batteries on hand to swap out after the connected battery runs out of power. 8-hour replacement models similar to the one we provided are available for purchase from many retailers.

Additionally, External Battery Packs (EBP) with a 20-hour rating are available for purchase, which can be attached to your 8-hour unit to provide longer continuous service. The model is CyberPower CS20A-EBP and it takes a 20Ah VRLA battery. Up to three 20-hour battery units can be added on to your standard 8-hour unit, providing up to 68 hours of uninterrupted telephone service. The 20-hour EBP is simply hung on the wall next to your 8-hour unit, and connected with a single cord. Just one cord also connects additional 20-hour EBP's together.

While your connection is running off the battery during a commercial power outage, you will only have access to telephone services, not the Internet or television, because your Internet modem, VTelevision set-top box, and TV set require electricity to run. However, if you use a generator to power your home's electricity during a commercial power outage, you will be able to use your telephone, Internet, and television.



How do I disconnect and reconnect the battery?

DISCONNECT

1. Go to the location of the battery in your home or business.
2. Open the cover and pull the battery out of the casing.
3. Disconnect either the black or red wire (or both)

from the battery to stop the power supply.

RECONNECT

1. Reconnect the red and/or black wires that you previously disconnected, and secure the battery back in its original place.
2. Press the Cold Start button on the front of the casing to get your fiber connection running again.

After your commercial power is restored, the battery will begin to recharge.

BUZZER SILENCING

If you decide to keep your battery connected during a loss of commercial power, a buzzing sound will emit from the unit. You can silence this sound by pressing the Alarm Silence button on the front of the casing.

For more information go to www.vermontel.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Battery-Info-Updated.pdf or call Imme Maurath at 875-55