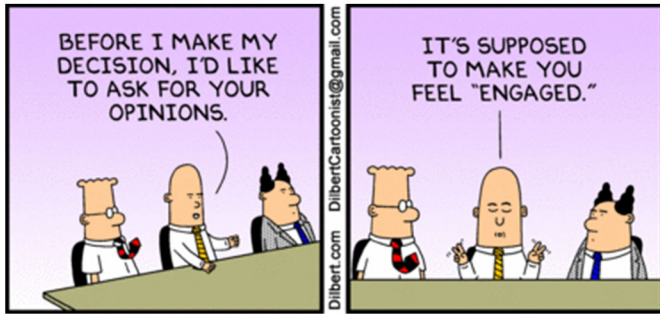




# WINDHAM NEWS & NOTES



## Roberts Rules Help Manage Town Meeting

*from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns*

On Tuesday, March 5, you can visit almost any town in Vermont and witness the same parliamentary procedures being utilized to conduct Town Meeting. Roberts Rules of Order provides a systematic way to conduct meetings, which enables all to be heard without interruption, all sides of an issue to be voiced, and allows informed decisions to be made in a timely fashion.

The prime value of parliamentary procedure is that it provides the process through which an organization, large or small, can work out satisfactory solutions to the greatest number of questions in the least amount of time. At least that was the idea when Henry Robert envisioned his meeting guidelines. A set of procedures, agreed to by all participants, helps meetings go smoothly and allows the group to come to decisions fairly - even when issues are bitterly contested.

The guiding principles of Roberts Rules of Order are:

- 1) *Everyone has a right to participate in discussions if they wish, before anyone may speak a second time.*
- 2) *Everyone has the right to know what is going on at all times.*
- 3) *Only very urgent matters may interrupt a speaker.*
- 4) *Only one motion can be discussed at a time.*
- 5) *Once you have been recognized by the moderator, all comments must be directed to him/her.*

The role of the moderator is to help you accomplish the business you intend to do. Raise your hand and ask questions if you do not understand what is happening, or if you think what is happening is incorrect for some reason, or if you want to do something, but don't know how to do it.

Although originally derived from practices in the English Parliament, parliamentary procedure as it exists in America today has gradually evolved somewhat differently. Henry Martyn Robert (1837-1923), a distinguished engineer who retired from the U.S. Army as a brigadier general, had considerable influence on parliamentary development in the United States. When Henry first conceived of his book of guidelines, he envisioned 50 pages or less, to be useable by every meeting-goer, no matter what the size of the meeting. However, the first edition, published in 1876, had 176 pages. The latest edition, the eleventh edition, has over 700 pages. The book's length is due to the number of questions about procedures that have continued to arise since its original publication.

Town Meeting is a unique day of direct democracy in action, and is your opportunity to participate in Windham's governance. Your vote counts! Be there, be prepared (by reading your Town Report before arriving), stay alert, be courteous and enjoy the day!

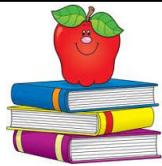
## Windham School District Informational Annual Meeting Monday, March 4, at 5 PM at the Windham School

We will be voting on six articles from the floor at Town Meeting. (See the warning on page 6 of your Annual Town Report, 2018.) We will also be voting by Australian ballot to: 1) authorize the School Board to sell the school and its assets to the Town, and to close the school as of June 30, 2020 (one year later than the previous vote) and pay tuition for school choice, and 2) withdraw from the Leland and Gray Union Middle/High School District and pay tuition for school choice.

## Town Meeting, Tuesday, March 5, 2019

**10 AM at the Meeting House**

**Bring your Annual Report, 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.**



## Be Informed!

### Important School Meetings & Votes

**March 4, 2019 at 5 PM**— Informational meeting at the **Windham School** regarding the articles 1) to close the school, sell it to the town, and tuition students elsewhere; and 2) to withdraw from the Leland and Gray Union Middle/High School District. Much of this information was covered at the November 26th meeting. The first article just asks to delay the date of closing by a year; however, a vote to change the closing date to June 30, 2020 is required by law. Also, to be discussed is the article to withdraw from the Leland and Gray Union Middle/High School District. There may be some financial costs related to withdrawal. (More information on Page 5)

**March 5, 2019 at Town Meeting** – An Australian ballot was approved at the February 2nd School Board meeting; therefore, the legal voters of Windham will be voting by Australian ballot on Town Meeting Day on the above-referenced articles. If we vote to withdraw from the Leland and Gray Union Middle/High School District, the other towns in the district will each then have to vote in favor of Windham leaving the union. (More info on Page 5)

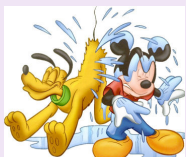
**March 26, 2019 at 7 PM** - West River Modified Union Education District (WRMUED) Annual Meeting to be held in the **Leland & Gray High School Library** in Townshend, VT to elect a moderator and officers, and to act on school district reports. It will also serve as an informational meeting for Articles 5-12 which are warned and will be voted on by Australian Ballot on March 27. For the complete warning go to:

[www.brooklinevt.com/sites/default/files/documents/warnings/West%20River%20Modified%20Union%20Education%20District%20Warning%20Final%20version.pdf](http://www.brooklinevt.com/sites/default/files/documents/warnings/West%20River%20Modified%20Union%20Education%20District%20Warning%20Final%20version.pdf).

**March 27, 2019 10 AM - 7 PM at the Windham Town Office.** Vote by Australian ballot on WRMEUD Articles 5 - 12, and for Windham's representative to the WRMEUD school board for grades 7 - 12. Articles concern pay for officers and directors, the union's budgets for 2019-2020, and a new boiler system. See the link above for more info.

### The Dog *by Ogden Nash*

The truth I do not stretch or shove  
When I state that the dog is full of love.  
I've also found, by actual test  
A wet dog is the lovingest.



### Selectboard Notes *from the Selectboard*

Hello, everyone – aside from its normal activities, the Selectboard has been busy getting ready for Town Meeting on Tuesday, March 5. We hope everyone will read through the Town's Annual Report and come spend the day with us at the Meeting House. The meeting starts at 10AM and will last into the afternoon, with an adjournment for a potluck lunch near noon.

Aside from the elected positions, which you can read about on page 3 in this newsletter, there are many appointed positions that help guide our town. They are generally filled by the Selectboard at their first organizational meeting after Town Meeting, which this year is Monday, March 18. The positions are listed in the Annual Report on pages 11-13, and have 2019 in the term expiration (right) column. Descriptions can be found at [https://www.sec.state.vt.us/media/258683/your\\_turn.pdf](https://www.sec.state.vt.us/media/258683/your_turn.pdf) or check at the Town Office. If you are interested and/or have questions about this, let a Selectboard member or the Town Clerk know.

The Road Crew, of course, has been very busy sanding, salting and plowing. When they get a break in the action, there are many other things to be done. One of those things is marking trees that were damaged in the November storm, or for other reasons must come down once the weather breaks. If you see a tree that's tagged along the road (with brightly colored tape) and feel there's a reason it should not be taken down, it is important to let the Road Crew know about it, at 874-7025. Please don't remove the tape yourself, as that will not necessarily protect the tree from being taken down later.

On the subject of the November storm, please know that we are in negotiations with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), for financial relief. We will keep you posted on how things go.

We hope you are staying warm and dry! Please continue to drive carefully this winter. We look forward to seeing you at Town Meeting.

### File for Homestead Exemption Form HS-122 by April 15.



**All Dogs Must Be  
Registered by April 1  
in the Town Office.**

**Current Rabies  
Vaccination Must Be on File.  
This is State Law!**

## Candidate Statements

### Maureen Bell for Selectboard, 3 year term

It has been my honor to serve as your Selectboard member for the past 3 years, including this last year as Chairperson. Getting to know so many of you, hearing your concerns and advocating for you has been a privilege. My colleagues and I take your input very seriously as we work to continually improve life here in Windham. Some recent examples of this are the Vicious Dog Ordinance, fixing culverts and other road improvements, the use of the Town Office as a warming station during power outages, and putting together a new Road Crew.

I'm energetic and enthusiastic about this job. I attend meetings, webinars and workshops, both locally and around the State, in an effort to improve how our Town Government functions. There are many aspects to this job; for me it is exciting and rewarding. I would like to continue working for you. As I ask for your vote on Town Meeting Day, I hope you can tell how passionate I am about Windham - after all, I chose, very specifically, to live here.

### Hal Wilkins for Selectboard, 2 year term

Hal Wilkins, a resident at 7038 Windham Hill Road, will actively seek the remaining two-year term of Selectboard member Robert Kehoe, who has indicated that he will retire from that position after the 2019 Town Meeting.

Hal is the municipal administrator for several, similarly small, Vermont towns and is responsible for planning, zoning, enforcement and related town issues, as well as, revising their zoning bylaws and working with Selectboards for adoption of bylaws and readopting Town Plans.

He is the co-chair of the Windham Conservation Commission, serves on the Executive Board of the Vermont Planner's Association, and is a principal in the environmental consulting firm of Ramsey, McClaren - Planning + Engineering - that has been providing comprehensive land planning, permitting, and advocacy counsel to Vermont and New Hampshire businesses for over 40 years.

Hal is extremely interested in maintaining Windham's rural character, its quality of life, and in protecting and preserving the working landscape of the town. Hal would appreciate your support at Town Meeting Day to maintain these critical (and too often vanishing) values.

### Antje Ruppert for School Board Director, 3 year term

I have served on the Windham School Board for several terms and presented the school budget these many years at Town Meeting. Up for reelection this year, I would gladly like to continue my work and am proud and very pleased to be part of a great team, alongside Carolyn Partridge and Beth McDonald.

In the course of the rather arduous Act 46 debates and study group meetings, we were often asked why we are so adamant in protecting and defending our school. This is because it is our job, and what we are and were elected for, and we believe in our school as a valuable institution in our town.



## 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](mailto:windhamnews@hotmail.com).

**Next deadline: April 15, 2018**

## Town Office Hours

**Monday Noon - 8 PM**  
**Tuesday 6 AM - 10 AM**  
**Wednesday 10 AM - 2 PM**

**Fourth Saturday of the Month**  
**8 AM - Noon**  
**March 23**  
**April 27**

**802-874-4211**  
**[windham.town@gmail.com](mailto:windham.town@gmail.com)**

## CORRECTED LIST: 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  
Selectman, 3 years, Maureen Bell  
Selectman, 2 years, to fill remainder of Bob Kehoe's term  
Treasurer, 3 years, Incumbent Peter Chamberlain is retiring  
Lister, 3 years, Meredith Tips-McLaine  
Auditor, 3 years, Sally Hoover  
Delinquent Tax Collector, 1 year, Erin Kehoe  
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 Treasurer, 1 year, Peter Chamberlain retiring  
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.

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

**your VOTE  
is your VOICE**



## Some Crash Statistics from VTrans

by Frank Seawright

The School Director's Report for 2019 contains a sentence asserting that one reason for Windham Elementary School (WES) being designated as rural and isolated is "...because of our high risk Windham Hill Road."

I had already been looking at vehicle crash data to see if that would lead to an interesting *News and Notes* article, when the School Director's 2019 report came my way. And when I read the sentence mentioned above, I focused on the Windham Hill Road (WHR) crashes to see if that statement was supported by crash data found on the VT Open Geodata Portal (<http://geodata.vermont.gov/>) The vehicle crash data covers the years 2014, 15, 16, 17, and 18. Below is a table of the data. (Note that this table above does not include approximately six crashes during that time in Weston, Peru and Landgrove.)

Within the borders of Windham, seven crashes happened between VT Route 121 (Lawrence Four

Corners) and the southernmost border of Windham. Along the entire length of WHR (Route 121 down to Route 30), eleven crashes happened during that five year time frame; therefore, only five crashes occurred on WHR south of Windham. And looking at the intersection of WHR and VT Route 30, one can see that about five crashes were near that intersection on Route 30. Two of those reported crashes were related (reported within 15 minutes of each other, one was a car being rear-ended while turning onto WHR or into the post office parking lot. Whether these other crashes involved folks entering or leaving the Post Office is not clear from the data, but the date and time suggests that snow and ice on WHR was not a factor.

One further bit of information from VTrans, where they report what they adjudge to be high crash location in the state, no location in Windham or the WHR/RTE 30 intersection is considered by VTrans to be a high crash area.

If crashes are used to determine the relative risk of a road or intersection, WHR is not especially risky according to VTrans data.

| Year         | Crashes | Andover | Chester | Grafton | Londonderry | Jamaica | Townshend | Windham |
|--------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------------|---------|-----------|---------|
| 2014         | 133     | 8       | 50      | 5       | 33          | 14      | 19        | 3       |
| 2015         | 153     | 8       | 51      | 6       | 31          | 34      | 18        | 4       |
| 2016         | 152     | 12      | 44      | 6       | 40          | 28      | 19        | 2       |
| 2017         | 171     | 10      | 27      | 8       | 51          | 30      | 41        | 4       |
| 2018         | 125     | 11      | 35      | 6       | 28          | 20      | 20        | 2       |
| Total        | 734     | 49      | 207     | 31      | 183         | 126     | 117       | 15      |
| Average/year | 146.8   | 9.8     | 41.4    | 6.2     | 36.6        | 25.2    | 23.4      | 3       |



Accidents at Intersection of Windham Hill Road and VT Route 30

Symbol Legend: Red Dots = 2014, Squares = 2015 (zero), Triangles = 2016 (zero), Yellow Stars = 2017 and Blue Diamonds = 2018

## Job Opportunity at Neighborhood Connections

We are accepting resumes for the position of Program Coordinator. The ideal candidate will be tasked with generating a wide range of programs for the general public in The Meeting Place - the organization's community room. The goal is to generate a high level of attendance to create goodwill and the opportunity to inform the community about services provided at the agency.

Primary duties include initiating and organizing lectures from start to finish; promoting individual programs through newspapers, list serves, websites and social media; and keeping an accurate report on attendance.

Please submit your resume to Trish Paradis, Neighborhood Connections, P.O. Box 207, Londonderry, VT 05148.



## News from the Windham School Board

*by Carolyn Partridge*

The Windham School Board has warned two articles for your consideration and vote by Australian Ballot on Town Meeting Day, March 5, 2019. There will be an informational meeting on March 4 at 5 PM at the school.

One of the articles extends the authorization that you overwhelmingly voted for on November 26, 2018. As you may remember, it would allow the Windham School Board to sell the Windham Elementary School building, associated land, and all associated school-related personal property, including the school bus, to the Town of Windham, and close Windham Elementary School, and provide for the elementary education of the District's students by paying tuition, in accordance with law, to any public elementary school, or to any approved independent elementary school of the students' parents' choice. The authorization would be extended to June 30, 2020.

It is our hope that you will vote for this article in order to give us as much latitude as possible as we chart the course for the future of the education of Windham students. We are currently plaintiffs in a legal complaint regarding Act 46, and having as much flexibility as possible will help us navigate in order to put Windham in the most favorable position for our students and taxpayers.

The other article, which we warned as a result of a petition that was distributed at the November 26, 2018, meeting asks "Shall the Windham School District

withdraw from the Leland and Gray Union Middle/High School District #34?"

If the vote is supported in the affirmative, the question will then go to the other towns in the Leland and Gray Middle/High School District. They include Brookline, Jamaica, Newfane, and Townshend. If they vote to let us out of the district, we will then be a "choice" town, and we will tuition our students to a public or approved independent middle/high school of the students' parents' choice. It should be noted that unless the townspeople vote otherwise, the amount paid to any school will be at the tuition level allowed by the state for public schools.

If we are released from the district and we choose to move forward, there will be a one-time cost of approximately \$50,000 to pay off our share of the Leland and Gray debt. The Windham School Board is not taking an official position on this, but strongly encourages you to educate yourselves by attending the meeting on March 4<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM. It is hard to predict what will happen in the future, but if we are paying the state tuition rate, it should have a lowering effect on our tax rate. It should also be noted, however, that we will still be responsible for any Special Education costs, which will be added to our tuition costs.

If you have questions, please call Carolyn Partridge at 874-4182 or text her at 802-258-7047.



## Thank You From the Fire Company!

Fire Calls:

December 29 - North Windham - good intent call for loud explosion. No exploding targets found. 2 responded.

January 4 - Chester - mutual aid to Potash Brood Road. Structure fire, tanker to supply water. 3 responded.

January 11 - Harrington Rd. - automatic alarm. 2 responded.

January 22 - Townshend - mutual aid for structure fire. 2 responded with tanker.

At the February meeting of the Fire Company, the members received a surprise gift of homemade cookies given in appreciation from the River Riders II 4H Club. The members of the 4H Club recognized the Rescue Squads and Fire Companies in all the surrounding towns with these delicious cookies. It was a welcome treat and the Windham Fire Company members send them a loud "Thank You".



As we battle through the snow, ice and rain of winter; we remind you of the importance of keeping all your utility vents clean and clear of obstructions from snow and ice build-up.

## Windham Thanks Town Treasurer Peter Chamberlain

Peter Chamberlain, who has served two terms as Treasurer for the Town of Windham, will not run for the position in 2019. Elected in 2013, our departing treasurer has played a vital role in the management of the finances of Windham. In addition to his duties of financial management and oversight, Peter's position also required him to interact with other town officials to insure that the town finances ran smoothly. In order to achieve that goal, Peter was present at both the Selectboard and School Board meetings to answer questions regarding the towns' revenue, spending, and overall municipal funds.

We appreciate the many hours that Peter has spent preparing budgets, organizing the finances of the town for its annual report, and his willingness to track down the information needed to make an informed decision.

We can't thank you enough for your dedication and hope that retirement brings you fun, relaxation and enjoyment.

## A Glimpse into the History of Missions

by Susan Persa

The South Windham Baptist Church was founded in 1807 - 212 years ago. The Windham Congregational Church was erected in 1802. Both of these places were the earliest places of worship in Windham. Both were undoubtedly formed as a result of people praying together in other locales, where our forefathers had lived, before they came to make their homes here in Windham. These churches were the result of home missions which were formed to spread the word of the gospel to all.

Over in Williamstown, Massachusetts, at Williams College in August 1806, an historical event occurred that marked what is viewed by many religious scholars as the most significant development in American Protestant missionary work. This was a prayer meeting held by five young Williams College students under a haystack!

Samuel John Mills, Jr. and four other young friends met in a field [then known as Sloan's Meadow near the Hoosic River] to discuss and pray that the gospel be taken to other nations. Up until this time, missionary work was solely dedicated to this country, mainly to the Native American Indians. They had a larger vision and wanted to see the gospel spread to Asia. It is called the Haystack Prayer Meeting because their meeting was interrupted by a thunderstorm and they took shelter under a haystack.

Samuel Mills was the most influential among the Haystack group to direct the modern mission movement. He played a role in the founding of the American Bible Society and the United Foreign Missionary Society. Under his team in 1812, the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (created in 1810) sent its first missionaries to India. Samuel himself made many trips to West Africa and died at sea in 1818 of malaria on a return trip from Ghana at the age of 35.

Williams College later erected the Haystack Monument in the hayfield where these young men first met for their prayer meeting.

The Valley Bible Church in South Windham is beginning a study of the history of missions and missionaries supported by the church during the Wednesday night prayer meeting at 7 PM. Everyone is cordially invited to attend. A possible day trip to Williamstown may be in the picture for later in the spring or summer.

### Valley Bible Easter Services April 21, 2019

Sunrise Service 7 AM  
Potluck Breakfast 7:30 – 9 AM  
Sunday School 9 – 10 AM  
Morning Services 10 – 11 AM



## In Memorium

### Robert Walter Styles

Born January 1, 1943 in Brattleboro, died October 29, 2018 of pneumonia at the VA Medical Center in White River Junction at age 75. Lived on Abbott Rd for over 15 years. Robert served in the U.S. Navy in Korea. After service he worked at Mount Snow for over thirty years, where he was known as "Beagle Bob", and later worked as a heavy equipment operator. He leaves behind three children, son Jeb who lives in Jamaica, VT, Orren and Lydia, and four grandchildren.

### Sherrie Rice

Sherrie Rice, 71, of Bondville, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, January 27, 2019 in Winhall. She was born in Philadelphia, PA on June 1, 1947. Sherrie enjoyed a 23 year long career as an elementary school teacher in Connecticut. She was very active with the arts in the communities where she lived including The Dorset Players in Dorset, VT. Sherrie was an active member and choir member at both the 1st Congregational Church in Manchester and 2nd Congregational Church in Londonderry, and she volunteered as a docent at Hildene. Sherrie leaves behind her husband Robert Rice in Bondville, two children and four grand-children. A service to celebrate her life will be held June 2, 2019 at 5:30 PM on the Hildene property in Manchester, VT.

*Do Not Stand at My Grave and Weep*

*Do not stand at my grave and weep*

*I am not there. I do not sleep.*

*I am a thousand winds that blow.*

*I am the diamond glints on snow.*

*I am the sunlight on ripened grain.*

*I am the gentle autumn rain.*

*When you awaken in the morning's hush*

*I am the swift uplifting rush*

*Of quiet birds in circled flight.*

*I am the soft stars that shine at night.*

*Do not stand at my grave and cry;*

*I am not there. I did not die.*



Mary Elizabeth Frye



## WINDHAM HONORS OUR VETERANS

### World War I

George Warren Abbott  
Harold Merle Eddy  
Loren Ellery Giles  
Harry Leroy Hall  
Charles Herbert Hamilton  
Malcolm A. Hawkins  
Daniel Woodbury Holt  
George Ernest Lawrence  
Neal O. Leary  
Clarence Richard Longe  
Franklin Lester Mattison  
Jesse Homer McKellip  
Frank Godfrey Michelson  
Stephen Henry Morgan  
Clyde James Perkins  
Clarence Fred Rhoades  
Rolla Frank Smith  
Ernest Francis St. Mary  
Albert Stentiford  
George Elliot Vaughn

### World War II Era

Harry Carl Anderson  
Sherwood Badmington  
Jonathan Bayliss  
Henry Richard Beigert  
Ernest John Bratton  
Robert Lewis Bratton  
George Gilbert Carleton

\*(KIA)

Maurice Alexander Onsruth  
Benjamin Waring Partridge Jr.  
Howard Goodell Chapman  
Mary Jane (Ryan) Chapman  
Earl Herbert Chase  
Daniel Paul Giaschini  
Harvey Lamont Corbett  
David Benton Crittenden  
George Augustus Dutton  
Herbert Howard Dutton  
Stephen Alonzo Dutton  
Donald Merle Eddy  
Ernest Raymond Eddy  
Reginald W. Fleer  
Robert Warren George  
Glen Clifton Gibbs  
Samuel Rounds Gibbs\*  
Ellery George Giles  
Merrill James Gordon Jr.  
Sherburne Gibbs Hall  
John Hallenan  
James R. Hendry  
Harold Ernest Hussey  
Ronald Brian Hussey Jr.  
Raymond Lewis Jenison  
William Henry Jungermann  
Jules Xavier Junker III  
William Patton Kinsey  
Henri Lambert  
Ralph Larrabee  
Glenn Robert Lawrence  
Edward Wilbur LeMay  
John Cameron Lingley  
Robert Rae MacDonald

Lawrence J. Malouin Sr.  
Melvin Farmer Merrill  
Thomas Charles Merritt  
Donald James Merrow  
Peter Stuart Hay Moore  
William C. Moore  
Maurice Alexander Onsruth  
Benjamin Waring Partridge Jr.  
Aaron Paul Pratt Jr.  
Frank Prenis  
Elmer Gordon Rice  
Richard Henry Robarge  
Malcolm Roberts  
Timothy A. Root  
Arnold J. Smith  
Sterling C. Smith  
Prentiss Leroy Smith  
William Russell Stone  
Ripley Alton Swan  
James D. Trusty

### Korean War Era

Donald Francis Coburn  
Leon Erwin Gibbs  
Leslie Gordon  
George Frederick Havell Jr.  
Jules Xavier Junker III  
Henry Leffert  
Merle Carl Laramie Jr.  
Harry Merrill  
John Newton  
Michael Newton  
Benjamin Waring Partridge  
Robert William Rawson

Richard Henry Robarge  
Stephen T. Serke  
Robert Walter Styles  
Clarence Wallace

### Vietnam War Era

Donald Julius Beers  
Ernest John Bratton Jr.  
Lanny Irving Bratton  
Robert William Bratton  
Thomas Howard Chapman  
Gary Alan Cheney  
Gary Levi Clay Sr.  
Marcia E. Clinton  
Alan Ray Coburn Sr.  
Roy Douglas Coburn  
David Benton Crittenden III  
Russell P. Cumming Jr.  
Sherburne Harry Hall  
Jules Xavier Junker III  
Keith Anderson Jungermann  
Harold George Leamey  
Leonard J. McCormick  
Richard Bradley Washburn

### Post-Vietnam Conflicts

Michael Ryan Amsden  
Donald Francis Giles  
Benjamin Carl Robarge  
Clifford Anthony Robarge Sr.  
Lawrence Robert Robarge  
Thomas Andrew Robarge

## Veterans Memorial Moves Closer to Reality

by Susan Persa and Mary Boyer

The committee has chosen a final design for the Veterans Memorial out of nine that were presented by Bronze & Granite Company in Miami, FL. The cast bronze plaque will measure 40 x 28 inches, listing 111 veterans' names in raised lettering, recorded under the war heading during which they served.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Windham Conservation Commission

by Hal Wilkins

The Conservation Commission (CC) is preparing for Spring with a wide range of natural resource conservation, education, and recreation projects.

In addition to supporting the purchase by the Nature Conservancy of the 3000+ acre McGraw forest and scheduling exploratory hikes there, the CC will encourage the proper treatment and timely eradication of roadside invasive plants, provide information on local resources - (the good, the bad, and the really ugly such as Japanese Knotweed), and looks forward to visiting Frank Seawright's high elevation woodland/wildlife management project. Check the town's website for specific information on dates and times for these and other activities.

Of primary importance to Windham residents will be the *Community Values Mapping* (CVM) project, facilitated by the VT Agency of Natural Resources (ANR), Department of Forests and Parks. This is a program that maps resources – environmental, social, recreational, forest and agricultural, economic, educational, etc. – that are

The list starts with World War I and includes Post-Vietnam conflicts. Our researcher, Jonathan Stevens, compiled more than one hundred fifty names. The names of individuals who served in conflicts prior to World War I will appear in a framed plaque in the Town Office.

We thank everyone who submitted names, edits and donations to make this memorial possible. And special thanks to Jonathan for all the time put into his detective work.

identified as being of greatest value. The resulting “map” provides town organizations, i.e. the Selectboard, Planning Commission, Conservation Commission, Windham Regional Planning Commission, etc. with a more accurate indication as to just where and how Windham residents want the town to evolve.

A letter that thoroughly explains the CVM project, the schedule, etc. will be sent to all Windham residents.

In conjunction with our neighboring towns, the Conservation Commission will participate in the public comment phase of the Lowell Lake State Park Long Range Management Plan (LRMP). This has the potential to bring some major changes (overnight accommodations, camping, boat launch, etc.) – and thus increased impacts, traffic, etc. – to what has been a somewhat overlooked recreational jewel in our region.

Additional information on the LRMP may be found by contacting the Springfield ANR office at 802.289.8603 or by speaking with any member of the Windham Conservation Commission. The CC meets at 7 PM on the third Tuesday of the month at the Town Office, unless otherwise noted on our agenda posted on the town website.



## Windham has Talent

by Heath Boyer

Brian Newton and Lizzie Rubel arrived as new residents in Windham last Fall, from southern Indiana, not far from Louisville, KY. In addition to their household, they also brought a business, one based on skills, knowledge and machinery dating to around the time of Windham's founding. As the 18<sup>th</sup> century gave way to the 19<sup>th</sup>, the Industrial Revolution was rumbling and bumping its way into the American economy, and its landscape. Among the first everyday products to be manufactured using machines were brooms.

For the last ten years Brian and Lizzie have had a business based on the manufacture of brooms, using machines that date from the 1880s. Other machinery in the shop dates from closer to 1800, but is used today mostly for demonstrations.

Having grown up in a farming family that supported itself through what he calls "a make-and-sell" approach involving spinning, weaving, chair caning and basketry, Brian started acquiring manual skills at an early age. The machinery used in the broom business was bought from descendants of an "Old Brethren" German Baptist Community near his family home in Indiana. He began making brooms in small numbers, and as his work drew local admirers, demand spread and he decided to leave his "day job" as an engineer and return to his roots in manual arts and crafts.

Although they are called "corn brooms" the working end of the brooms are made not from the corn plant as we think of it, but from the top growth of a special variety of sorghum. (The other varieties are familiar as sources of molasses and animal feeds.)



Brian Newton and Lizzie Rubel

Brian and Lizzie's business is called Broomcorn Johnny's, because historically the cultivation, harvesting and processing of the materials for brooms required an extensive set of special skills. The plants grow head-high and are crowned with a straw-like, "seed head" which must be de-seeded, dried, treated and often dyed before being made into brooms. The men and women who did this work were often migrants and travelled throughout the sorghum-growing sections of the nation's Grain Belt on a seasonal route. They became known as Broomcorn Johnnies (and Janes). Brian says he learned all those same skills, and has in fact grown and processed his own materials, so feels fully entitled to name his business as he has.

Although Brian is the principle Broomcorn Johnny, Lizzie is a talented crafter in her own right, skilled in needle felting, spinning, weaving, basketry, and punched tin.

These days brooms of the kind made by the Newtons are often "boutique" items and are considered decorative and collectible. Brian's brooms are sold nationally through retailers, locally in galleries and on line through websites like Etsy.com. They are also sought by museums, historical collections and colonial preservationists. Since arriving in Windham, the couple's products have appeared in the Epoch Gallery in Manchester as well as galleries in Grafton and Woodstock. Eventually a drop-in show room is planned for the workshop on Windham Hill Road so people can see both the products and the process. In the meantime, you can get a sense of the product line by visiting [www.broomcornjohnnys.com](http://www.broomcornjohnnys.com).

The shop, at 5622 Windham Hill Road, will be open to the public during Open Studio Weekend, May 25-26, sponsored by the Vermont Crafts Council. If you haven't introduced yourselves to Lizzie and Brian by then, drop by for a visit that weekend and see just how talented they are.



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## Alex Beshay and Gracie Packard

from Gail Wyman

I am including this at the top of Windham School news because of its importance. Alex attended school here and is now in High School. Gracie, and now Ivy, attend Windham Elementary. Their mother wanted to drop a note in the *News and Notes* about Alex and Gracie.

Lisa writes: "Alex Beshay and Gracie Packard will be attending and performing in the 2019 OAKE National Conference Choirs in Columbus, Ohio this year from March 20-23. This is an exciting opportunity for them to interact and sing with other aspiring young musicians from all over the country, and to learn from world-renowned directors, composers and musicians. It is an honor to be selected for this opportunity, as the audition process is highly competitive. This is Alex's 6th National Choir concert, and Gracie's 2nd. **We will be hosting a fundraiser at the Windham Meeting House on Saturday, March 9, from 3-6 PM.** Gracie and Alex will perform a free concert followed by an open jam, in which everyone is welcome to participate. In addition there will be a sale of delicious baked goods and a raffle featuring fantastic local prizes. All proceeds to benefit Alex and Gracie's participation in this prestigious event. Donations are welcome at the door. Please come by and meet these wonderful singers."

## What's Happening at Windham Elementary

by Gail Wyman

Our cross country skiers are skiing at Wild Wings, in Peru, this year. Where the kids ski is much more protected from the wind than at Grafton Ponds, and since the beginners never really get off the beginners area, they are not so beaten up and cold from the wind. Each Wednesday, just as soon as the more experienced skiers are buckled up, they head out for a four mile loop, return, get refreshed with food and drink, and off they go again. After an afternoon of skiing downhill at Stratton and cross country in Peru, the next morning they compare notes on what the day before was like.

The older kids built their first tinker crate from Kiwi Co. (We received a grant from REAP, Rural Education Achievement Program). Sally's class will get the Kiwi crates and the older class the Tinker crates. They will be receiving one crate per child every month through the end of the school year. The kits include everything in the box they will need for that month's project. The one for February is building a hydraulic claw.

Sally's class have "choice time" each day from

## Green-Up Day, May 4

### Mark Your Calendars Now!

Launched in 1970 by Governor Deane Davis, Green Up Day is celebrating 49 years! In 1979, Green Up Vermont became a non-profit organization responsible for the continuing success of Green Up Day. Seventy-five percent of their budget comes from the private sector. Green Up Day is an annual statewide event, when people of all ages come together to remove litter from Vermont's roadsides and streams. Please sign up to participate and pick-up your green bags in the Town Office. To donate or for further information go to [greenupvermont.org](http://greenupvermont.org).



2:30 PM until bus time. They have not started on their Kiwi kits yet, and we have a tentative plan that when our fifth graders go to Camp Keewaydin in May, the sixth graders left here, will help the younger children put together their Kiwi kits. It will be a very pleasant time; the little kids look up to the older ones, and the older kids take care of the younger kids.

Sally teaches science every Thursday afternoon to the older class. For three weeks, they have been working with a partner on the different ways to generate power. Over a period of two days before February break, students presented their designs with the little kids in attendance. One was a presentation about coal and electric generation, another was a five gallon pail of water and waterwheel demonstration of how a dam generates power. Next, a demonstration of how a solar field works. Then, a wind turbine with a fan as the wind to make it turn. Still more, was a power point presentation of a nuclear plant, how it generates power and re-generates itself. They all spoke clearly and were able to answer all questions asked after their presentations.

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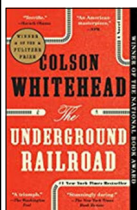
## Russ Cumming Expands Sugaring

by Russ Cumming

This year, 2019, I will have 250 taps, and will boil on a wood-fired "steam-a-way evaporator" in Chester with my friend Dick Jewett. The sap is concentrated by passing through a reverse osmosis process before being reduced to syrup. Again this year I will be offering quarts for \$12 and will ship four quarts for \$55 to any address in the USA. Interested persons may visit the Sugar House March 24 & 25 on sugar open house weekend.

To acquire syrup email: [rpcumming@snet.net](mailto:rpcumming@snet.net).

## Windham Library Book Club Wednesday, March 6, 2019 - 3:30 PM



### *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead

**Pulitzer Prize Winner** 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. When Caesar, a recent arrival from Virginia, tells her about the Underground Railroad, they decide to escape. As Whitehead brilliantly recreates the unique terrors for black people in the pre-Civil War era, his narrative weaves the saga of America from the brutal importation of Africans to the unfulfilled promises of the present.

Wednesday, April 3, 2019 - 3:30 PM



### *The Improbability of Love* by Hannah Rothschild

Wickedly funny, this totally engaging first novel by Hannah Rothschild is a tour de force. Its sweeping narrative and cast of wildly colorful characters takes you behind the scenes of a London auction house, into the secret operations of a powerful art dealer, to a flamboyant eighteenth-century-style dinner party, and into a modest living room in Berlin, among many other unexpected settings. Irreverent, witty, bittersweet, *The Improbability of Love* draws an unforgettable portrait of the London art scene, but it is also an unexpected journey through life's highs and lows, and the complexities of love and loss.

Wednesday, May 1, 2019 - 3:30 PM

### *Circling the Sun* by Paula McLain

## Community Hope and Action March 16 Event

Community Hope and Action will host its monthly **free** community dinner and event on **Saturday, March 16, at the Townshend Town Hall**. This month's event will be a contra dance with Sally Newton and Friends. Dinner will be from 5-6 PM, and dancing will be from 6-8 PM. This event is open to all ages and all communities. Please come join us for an evening of delicious home-cooked food. Community Hope and Action will provide much of the food for the event but we encourage you to bring a potluck item if you are able (it is not required). For more information, call West River Valley Thrives at 365-4700, or email Steve at [wrvtdirector@gmail.com](mailto:wrvtdirector@gmail.com).

## Mary and Heath Boyer's Grandson Makes News In Virginia

Excerpt from the *Virginia Gazette*, January 24, 2019

After missing at least one full paycheck, federal workers have faced the challenge of meeting their basic needs - food, rent and gas money - while attending to their duties. Federal employees worked for 35 days without pay.

Two College of William and Mary sophomores said the idea that federal workers could go home hungry and without a dime after their shifts was "morally wrong" and they wanted to do something about it.

Matthew Boyer and Alhassan "Gabe" Ouf had just returned from winter break when they decided to organize a mass food donation for TSA agents who work at Newport News/Williamsburg International Airport. Four days later, the pair loaded up Boyer's SUV and a friend's Toyota with 60 care packages and hot meals for federal employees.

For Matt, the crisis federal workers face is a personal one. "My mother was Navy for eight years and U.S. Public Health Service for another 12," Boyer said. "She's worked in government her entire career. One of the basic

tenets she learned from her military service is that you look out for your own."

Boyer and Ouf organized a four-day food drive where fraternities, sororities and other social organizations at William and Mary donated items for TSA workers. The two students used their own money to pay for the remaining care package items. A local restaurant donated two trays of baked penne, garlic knots and a tray of salad for the pair to take to the airport. Their project coordinated with other Williamsburg restaurants for future food donations. The next night, the two returned to the airport with trays of pork barbecue, coleslaw, macaroni and cheese and green beans donated by another local restaurant.

### From the News & Notes Staff:

*When we heard about Matthew Boyer, it occurred to us that it might make a good News & Notes story. A lot of us have far flung and/or near-by families that are doing interesting things. We would love to run a series of articles about your family. If you have a family story, person or experience that you think the Windham community might enjoy reading about, please let us know. We will provide a writer if you desire, or just email a story with a picture to:*

[winhamnews@hotmail.com](mailto:winhamnews@hotmail.com).

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## Traditional Seder Meal

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, located at 313 Main St. in Chester, would like to welcome you to attend a traditional **Passover Seder on Wednesday evening, April 17 at 6 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 this program will be the symbolic meal of roast lamb and goat, chicken, roasted potatoes, vegetables, tossed salad and macaroons and meringue cookies.

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. You can make reservations with Marti Assenza at [stlukes@vermontel.net](mailto:stlukes@vermontel.net).

## Game of Logging

by Toni Kessler

The crew at Meadows Bee Farm have been enjoying the quiet time at the farm. We thought this down time was a great opportunity to hone our chainsaw skills. So we called up Northeast Woodland Training and offered the Game of Logging Level 1 and 2 for our crew and community. Al Sands was our instructor and he did a fantastic job showing us how to safely fell a tree, maintain and sharpen our saws, and make a variety of cuts for tree release. Walter VanNess from West Townshend was the GOL champion, winning the coveted upside down t-shirt!

One interesting fact we learned from our classmates was that one gallon of spilled gas can ruin 1,000,000 gallons of our drinking water. Leigh, Meadows Bee Farm Owner, also said "I own an electric chainsaw because it's lighter, easy to handle and good for small to medium sized trees, limbing and all kinds of tasks around the farm, ... but it is just as dangerous so I still wear steel tip boots, chaps, helmet and ear protection. Now that I've taken Game of Logging, I understand how to prepare my saw so that I get the best cuts..." Beth McDonald from Windham said, "Participating in this course helped me get over my fear of this loud, powerful tool and learn how to respect it, maintain it, and use it safely."

If you want to learn more about the Game of Logging, go to <https://woodlandtraining.com>. We highly recommend this training, and look forward practicing our new skills in our wood lot this winter.

### TOWN CONTACTS

TOWN WEBSITE: [TOWNOFWINDHAMVT.COM](http://TOWNOFWINDHAMVT.COM)

Town Clerk: Michael McLaine, phone: 874-4211; email: [windham.town@gmail.com](mailto:windham.town@gmail.com)

Town Treasurer: Peter Chamberlain, phone: 874-4211; email: [windham.towntreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:windham.towntreasurer@gmail.com)

Town Road 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](mailto:cobbbrookfarm@gmail.com); Lister: Russ Cumming, 874-7011

E911 Coordinator and Lister: Meredith Tips-McLaine, 875-1550; [meredithtipsmclaine@gmail.com](mailto:meredithtipsmclaine@gmail.com)

Select Board: Maureen Bell, chair, phone: 875-1024; email: [mbellselectboard@gmail.com](mailto:mbellselectboard@gmail.com)

School Board: Antje Ruppert, phone: 874-4759; email: [antje@sover.net](mailto:antje@sover.net)

Windham Community Organization: Ellen McDuffie, phone: 874-8183; email: [eflockwood@aol.com](mailto:eflockwood@aol.com)

Windham Fire Warden: Rick Weitzel, phone: 874-4104; Ralph Wyman, phone: 875-3373

Health Officer: Marcia Clinton, phone: 875-3531; email: [mclinton@vermontel.net](mailto:mclinton@vermontel.net)

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



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*Please keep us informed of any  
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#### 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](mailto:webmaster@townofwindhamvt.com).

#### REGULARLY SCHEDULED WINDHAM MEETINGS

**Citizens Advisory  
Committee**, Second  
Tuesday of Feb, May, Aug  
& Nov; May 14 at 6:30 PM  
at Town Office.

**Energy Committee:**  
3rd Thursday of the month,  
Mar 21 & Apr 18 at 4:30 PM at  
Town Office,

**Windham Community  
Organization:**  
Last Wednesday of the month,  
Mar 27 & Apr 24 at 7 PM at  
the Meeting House. Call Ellen  
McDuffie at 874-8183 for  
more info. Join us!

**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, Mar 23 &  
Apr 27, 8 AM - Noon.

**Planning and Zoning:**  
Second Wednesday of the  
month, Mar 13 & Apr 10 at  
6:30 PM at the Town  
Office. Open meetings.  
Agenda posted.  
Call Bill Dunkel at 874-4131.

**Conservation Committee:**  
Third Tuesday of the  
month at 7:00 PM, Mar 19 &  
Apr 16, usually at the Town  
Office. Open meetings. Call  
Alison Trowbridge at  
874-7050 for information.

**Select Board:**  
1st & 3rd Mondays,  
Mar 4 & 18 and Apr 1 & 15  
at 6:30 PM at the Town  
Office. Open meetings.  
Agenda posted. Check web-  
site: [townofwindhamvt.com](http://townofwindhamvt.com)

**Library:**  
Every Wednesday, 3-5 PM  
at the Meeting House,  
**Book Group** at 3:30 PM,  
1st Wednesdays, Mar 6 &  
Apr 3 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, Mar 4 &  
Apr 1 at the Elementary  
School at 4 PM. Mar 4 at  
5 PM Info meeting. Annual  
Meeting and Vote March 5.  
Call Antje at 874-4759.

**Volunteer Fire Company:**  
First Thursday of the  
month, Mar 7 & Apr 4 at  
6 PM at the Firehouse.  
Heavy refreshments/dinner  
served.

**Listers:** Beginning March 6,  
every Wednesday, 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!



#### EASTER APRIL 21

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| March 4  | - Informational Mtg on School Article to be Voted at Town Mtg, 5 PM at School   |
| March 5  | - TOWN MEETING, Begins at 10 AM at the Meeting House                            |
| March 5  | - Annual School Board Meeting and Vote at the Meeting House during Town Meeting |
| March 9  | - Performance by Alex Beshay and Gracie Packard 3 PM at the Meeting House       |
| March 26 | - Informational Mtg for WRMUED at 7 PM Leland & Gray Library                    |
| March 27 | - WRMUED Vote for Budget and Representative 10 AM-& PM Town Office              |



## Grace Cottage Family Health Welcomes Two New Primary Care Doctors

by Jacki Brown

In order to satisfy the demand for quality primary care in the region, Grace Cottage Family Health is quite pleased to announce the hiring of two new family doctors into the Townshend medical practice.

**Dr. Ronald Vallario** is now seeing patients at Grace Cottage Family Health. A native of New Jersey, Dr. Vallario is a graduate of Rutgers University, University of South Carolina, and Robert Wood Johnson Medical School; he completed his family medicine residency at North Carolina Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill. Before joining Grace Cottage, he was Associate Medical Director/Geriatician at Summit Eldercare/Fallon Health in Worcester, MA and, prior to that, he was the Medical Director and a primary care physician at Mountain Valley Medical Clinic in Londonderry, VT, and an Emergency Department physician at Brattleboro Memorial.

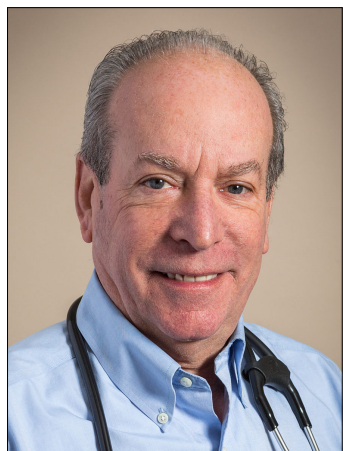
**Dr. Ted Lefer** is now accepting new patients at Grace Cottage Family Health four days a week. For the

past three years, he has been a family medicine physician in Talent, Oregon. A native of New York City, Dr. Lefer graduated from Vassar College in 1998 and received his Medical Doctor degree from American University of the Caribbean. He completed his family medicine residency at University Hospitals Case Medical Center at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio in 2015.

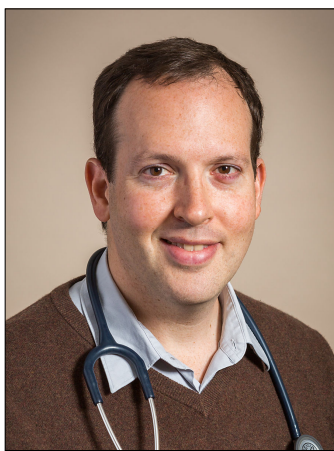
One of Dr. Lefer's specific areas of interest is in helping patients of all ages to overcome obesity and learn to practice healthy lifestyles with confidence. "I realize that poor health habits are not just the result of lack of willpower," he said. "Factors such as knowledge, environment, and mental health issues all come into play with a patient's overall health and fitness. Instead of just chasing the problem, I like to build relationships and address underlying causes."

Also accepting new patients at Grace Cottage Family Health are Family Nurse Practitioner David McCormack, Physicians' Assistant Natalie Harding, and Pediatrician Elizabeth Linder.

For more on the practice and providers, visit [www.gracecottage.org](http://www.gracecottage.org).



Dr. Ronald Vallario



Dr. Ted Lefer

## Pizza Night, Friday, March 1 Pizza Starts at 5 PM, Music at 6 PM

by Sally Newton

The Buzzards will be playing bluegrass, country, folk and more at the West Townshend Country Store this Friday, March 1, at 6 PM. The outdoor oven will be ready to bake pizza at 5 PM. Choose from a number of tasty toppings to customize your pie. Pizza night is a fundraiser for the West River Community Project. Suggested donation is \$12.00 a pie. Take your pizza home or, better yet, enjoy it in good company, listening to the lively tunes and great songs of the Buzzards. Our remodeled cafe has more space for indoor seating. Come and check it out!

## Free Tobacco Cessation Group at Grace Cottage

by Jacki Brown

Ready to quit smoking or chewing tobacco for good? The Grace Cottage "Quitters Win" tobacco cessation group can help. The free group will run for eight weeks, from March 4 – April 22 on Mondays from 4 – 5 PM.

If you want to enjoy the health, social and economic benefits of being tobacco-free, get the help you need. The group, led by Community Health Team Member Bill Monahan, RN, will provide tips, tools, and motivational counseling to improve chances of success.

The group will meet in the Grace Cottage Community Wellness Center, Heins Home, 133 Grafton Road/Route 35, Townshend. Registration is required. Prior to attending a first class, contact Bill at 365-3762 or at [WMonahan@gracecottage.org](mailto:WMonahan@gracecottage.org).

### Tobacco Cessation Group

Free. Tips and tools to help smokers quit.  
Mondays, March 4 – April 22  
4:00-5:00 pm

Grace Cottage Community Wellness Center  
133 Grafton Rd/Route 35, Townshend  
More info: 365-3762

## West River Valley Thrives Goes to Washington

by Steve Tavella, Director

From February 4 – 7, 2019, West River Valley Thrives (WRVT), a substance use education and prevention organization based in Townshend and primarily focused on youth, attended CADCA's (Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America) 29<sup>th</sup> annual National Leadership Forum, including SAMSHA's (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) 15<sup>th</sup> annual Prevention Day.

A visit to Capitol Hill takes place on the second day of the forum. It provides participants from across the country with an opportunity to educate policymakers in Congress about the importance of substance use and misuse prevention. Ten Vermont coalitions, social service agencies, school representatives, and healthcare agencies from throughout Vermont (12 youth and 19 adults) met with Congressman Peter Welch, Senator Patrick Leahy, and the staff of Senator Bernie Sanders.

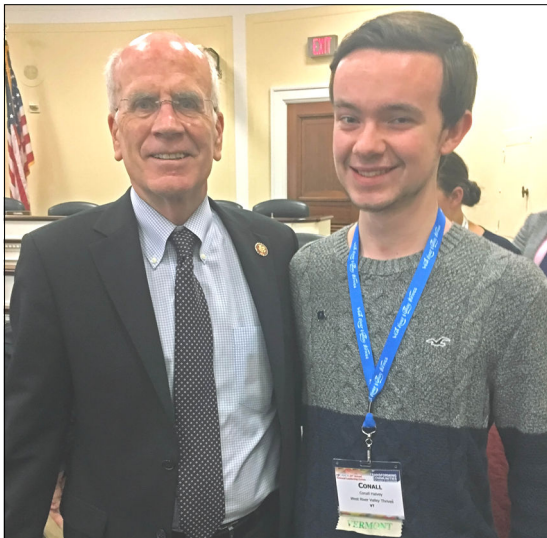
WRVT also invited them to our presentation area to see first-hand the work we do, the successes we have achieved, and the challenges we continue to face. In preparation for our meetings, the adults mentored our youth representatives to be the spokespersons for our group. Leland & Gray 11<sup>th</sup> grade student, and West River Valley Thrives advisory board member, Conall Halvey, took a leading role to make two presentations during each of our respective meetings. You may watch

Conall's presentation to Senator Patrick Leahy as he highlights one of our most successful programs offered in communities of northern Windham County, southern Windsor County, and northern Bennington County, in collaboration with one of our coalition partners, The Collaborative. Visit [wrvthrives.com](http://wrvthrives.com) to view the video.

Youth are an essential part of the coalition building process. Youth bring critical insight to what they are facing every day in their communities. CADCA and WRVT's mission is to build the capacity of community coalitions and one of the ways we accomplish that is through the development of youth leaders. All of our partners have witnessed youth leaders accomplishing great things in our communities. They are the central focus of the work we do and those we seek to involve in our work.

Vermont's Congressional Delegation listens and understands the issues, challenges, and successes of the work of the prevention coalitions, community groups, social service agencies, and many other partners in our state. Not only that, they strongly support the funding that helps make the local work we do in our communities in substance use education and prevention possible!

It takes a whole community approach to make and keep our youth, community members, and towns healthy! Join us in our work. Contact West River Valley Thrives at 802-365-4700, or email Steve Tavella at [wrvtdirector@gmail.com](mailto:wrvtdirector@gmail.com).



*Photo on left is Conall Halvey of West River Valley Thrives Advisory Board and Leland & Gray 11<sup>th</sup> Grader, with Vermont Representative Peter Welch.*

*Photo below is the entire Vermont delegation with Representative Peter Welch, front row, 5<sup>th</sup> from right.*







*Pictured in the photo, from left, are: Joel Kuhlberg, Treasurer of Wantastiquet Rotary, Trisha Paradis, Executive Director of Neighborhood Connections, Regina Downer, Community Nurse of Neighborhood Connections and Tom Widger President of Wantastiquet Rotary.*

## Wantastiquet Rotary Open Meeting at Magic Mountain Resort

*by Bob Rice*

Recently, at Magic Mountain, the Wantastiquet Rotary had an open meeting with many invited guests to hear from guest speakers, Trisha Paradis and Regina Downer, from Neighborhood Connections of Londonderry, Vermont.

Trisha has been the Executive Director of Neighborhood Connections since last March. This year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the organization, serving nine surrounding towns - including Windham. In 2018, over 1100 individuals were, one way or another, assisted through this organization.

Neighborhood Connections depends heavily on volunteers. We thank Neighborhood Connections for everything they do for our communities. Wantastiquet Rotary will continue to be a source for volunteers for this very viable organization.

We meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 8 AM at the Second Congregational Church, 2051 N. Main Street (on Routes 11 & 100), in Londonderry.

## Crowell Gallery Exhibit

by Stephen Tavella

The Crowell Gallery invites you to take a photographic journey through the Republic of Georgia with Dummerston photographer Stephen Tavella. With sixteen select images, Steve hopes to convey a sense of that which is uniquely Georgian, despite Greek, Roman, Arab, Persian, Mongol, Turkish, Russian, Christian, Muslim, eastern and now western invasions and influences spanning over two millennia.

Steve has been exploring and photographing landscapes and cultures from around the world since he served in the Peace Corp in the 1980s, spending four years in the Solomon Islands and the Republic of Kiribati. His most recent work reflects six months in 2016 in the Republic of Georgia, where he was strategic management adviser to the peace institute, The International Center for Peace and Integration.

The exhibit is on display through March. An artist "Meet-and-Greet" will be held at the **Crowell Gallery on Saturday, March 2 from 1 - 3 PM.** Experience the magic! The gallery is located at 23 West Street, Moore Free Library, Newfane, Vermont,

[www.moorefreelibrary.org](http://www.moorefreelibrary.org). Hours are: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 1-5 PM; Thursday 2-7 PM; Saturday 10 - 1 PM. Free and open to the public!

*Enjoy the beauty of the Republic of Georgia, photo by Stephen Tavella, Crowell Gallery.*



# LONDONDERRY TRANSFER STATION NOW ACCEPTS:

Look For the Following Sign at the Transfer Station

## Special Recycling for Plastic Bags & Film

Bring materials to the Londonderry Transfer Station - **Not in mixed recyclables!**  
5070 Route 100, Londonderry VT 05148

We accept **EMPTY, CLEAN, and DRY:**



Grocery bags



Produce bags



Newspaper bags



Food storage bags



Dry cleaning bags



Case wrap



Shipping envelopes



Bread bags



Product overwrap



Air pillows & bubble wrap



Stretch wrap & plastic wrap



Cereal bags



Pellet bags

Cut off ends and  
turn inside out to  
remove residue



Salt bags



Ice bags



Items with these labels  
(#2 or #4 plastic films)

These materials (except wood pellet bags) are also collected at many grocery stores.

**NOT ACCEPTED:** salad mix bags, grape bags, chip bags, candy wrappers, biodegradable materials, pet food bags, grain & feed bags, frozen food bags, cellophane, metallic/foil packaging, six-pack rings, agricultural films.

Londonderry Solid Waste Group | 802-824-3306 | [recycle@londonderryvt.org](mailto:recycle@londonderryvt.org)



## Ash Tree Owners Urged to Vaccinate

by Bob Audette, Brattleboro Reformer

**BRATTLEBORO** — Now is the time to treat your ash tree with a pesticide to protect it from the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB).

According to a fact sheet provided by Don Adams, Brattleboro Town Tree Warden, products that contain emamectin benzoate and azadirachtin are recommended. Emamectin benzoate, which is generally more effective for large ash trees, last longer and controls EAB for at least two years. Azadirachtin is effective for two years when EAB populations are low but must be injected yearly when EAB populations are high. “Infestation has been verified 20 miles away,” wrote Adams in an email to the Reformer. “Now is the time to vaccinate any ash trees you want to save, because by the time you find the pretty green insect on your tree, or notice the damage, it will be too late. Infested trees die from the top of the crown down; by the time you can see from the ground that you have damage, the tree will be too far gone to save.”

The cost of a pesticide application depends on the size of the tree. To protect a 19-inch tree, one that you can get your arms around, expect to pay between \$190 and \$285. An arborist certified to apply pesticides can provide an accurate estimate.

EAB larvae kill ash trees by tunneling under the bark and feeding on the part of the tree that moves water and sugars up and down the trunk. It was first discovered in North America in the Detroit area in 2002, and over the past 16 years it has decimated ash populations. EAB has been detected in all of the New England states. Ash trees comprise approximately 5 percent of Vermont forests and are also a very common and important urban tree. EAB threatens white ash, green ash and black ash in Vermont and could have significant ecological, cultural and economic impacts.

In July 2018, the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service alerted state officials that an emerald ash borer beetle was captured on a purple detection trap in the town of Stamford. This location is within five miles of another recent EAB detection in the town of North Adams, Mass. This invasive insect was first discovered in Vermont in February 2018, and has also been confirmed in Orange, Washington and Caledonia counties.

**The emerald ash borer has been found in all six New England states.** As part of an ongoing effort to detect EAB, the USDA has already deployed purple detection traps at 609 locations throughout Vermont.

Although it may be hard to see, EAB is likely to be present within 10 miles of known infestations. In southwestern Vermont, this includes all of Stamford and Readsboro, as well as parts of Pownal, Woodford, Bennington, Searsburg, Whitingham and Wilmington.

Moving any infested material, especially ash firewood, logs and pruning debris, can quickly expand the infestation, so it is critical Vermonters follow

the “slow-the-spread” recommendations, available at [vtinvasives.org/land/emerald-ash-borer](http://vtinvasives.org/land/emerald-ash-borer). One important recommendation is to only buy local firewood.

Emamectin benzoate and imidacloprid are injected directly into the base of the tree trunk. They are systemic insecticides, transported within the vascular system of the tree from the roots and trunk to the branches and leaves. This reduces hazards such as drift of pesticide to non-target sites and applicator exposure that can be associated with spraying trees with broad-spectrum insecticides, and has less impact on beneficial insects and other non-target organisms.

According to the fact sheet provided by Adams, it can cost up to \$1,000 to have a medium-sized tree removed and the stump ground up.

It is recommended that infested wood be dealt with promptly, on site: burned, chipped, or buried, as the chance of spreading the infestation is great. Infested ash firewood should not be moved.

Brattleboro’s Tree Advisory Board, in conjunction with Vermont’s Department of Urban and Community Forestry have located and noted ash trees on public property and within the town’s right of way for the downtown and some of the urban sections of Brattleboro. Many of the more important ash trees were treated last spring to protect them from the emerald ash borer.

More public ash trees will be vaccinated this coming spring. Meanwhile, the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program is partnering with the Young Writers Project to raise awareness about emerald ash borer and its impact on Vermont forests and communities. Youth are encouraged to submit an original work of 750 words as a persuasive essay, piece of prose or poetry that aligns with the Invasives-Challenge prompts.

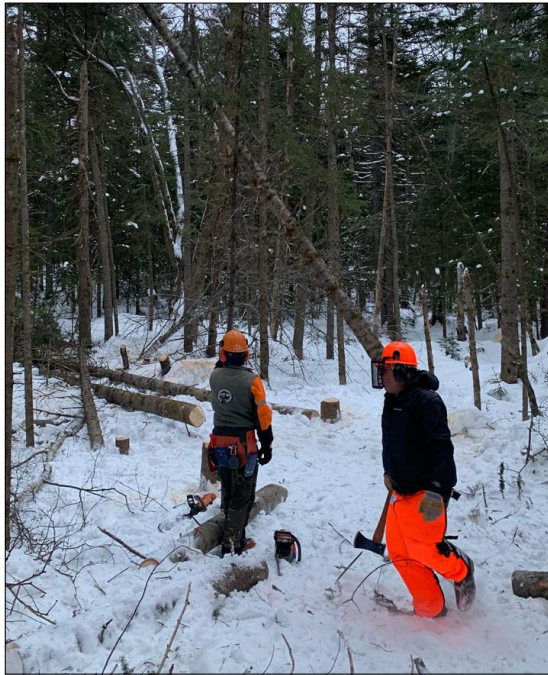
Submissions are due Friday, March 15. Winners will receive a cash prize and are invited to read their work at the annual Vermont Arbor Day Conference. For more information, visit [youngwritersproject.org/node/26361](http://youngwritersproject.org/node/26361).

The cost of tree removal is variable depending on accessibility, obstacles, tree condition, and other characteristics. To determine how much it might cost to have a dead or dying ash tree removed, visit [www.urbantreealliance.org/eabcosts](http://www.urbantreealliance.org/eabcosts). Search for a Certified Arborist at [treesaregood.org/findanarborist/findanarborist](http://treesaregood.org/findanarborist/findanarborist). To contact Adam, email [Dan-Adams@comcast.net](mailto:Dan-Adams@comcast.net). Bob Audette can be contacted at 802-254-2311, ext. 151, or [raudette@reformer.com](mailto:raudette@reformer.com).

**Moving any infested material, especially ash firewood, logs and pruning debris, can quickly expand the infestation, so it is critical Vermonters follow the “slow-the-spread” recommendations. One important recommendation is to only buy local firewood.**







*Photos from Game of Logging*

## THE FIELD HOUSE BOOK CLUB

1276 Windham Hill Road, 6-8 PM  
[leigh@meadowsbee.com](mailto:leigh@meadowsbee.com) or  
[cindy@sover.net](mailto:cindy@sover.net) 802-874-4172  
**JOIN US!**

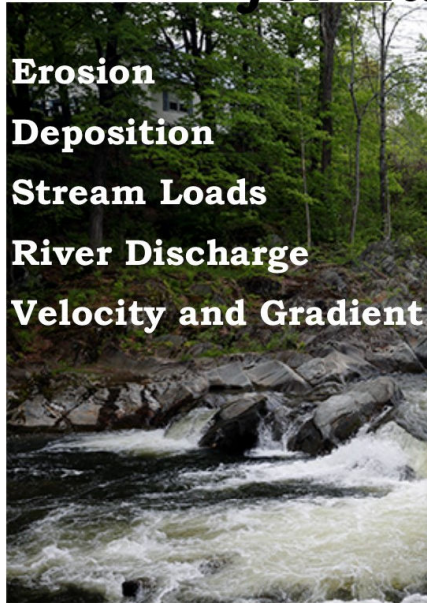
**MONDAY MARCH 25TH**  
 HOW TO CHANGE YOUR MIND  
 BY MICHAEL POLLAN

**MONDAY APRIL 22ND**  
 RADICAL HOMEMAKERS:  
 RECLAIMING DOMESTICITY  
 FROM A CONSUMER CULTURE  
 BY SHANNON HAYES

**MONDAY MAY 20TH**  
 FOOD FROM THE RADICAL  
 CENTER: HEALING OUR LAND  
 AND COMMUNITIES  
 BY GARY PAUL NABHAN

## Stream Table Workshop for Educators

**Erosion**  
**Deposition**  
**Stream Loads**  
**River Discharge**  
**Velocity and Gradient**



Learn how to use this valuable teaching tool in your classroom. Provided curriculum geared towards middle school, however stream table lessons can be adapted as appropriate.

**Thursday, March 14**  
**3:45-6:30pm**

**Bellows Falls Middle School**  
 15 School Street, Bellows Falls, VT

**Free Workshop**  
**Pre Registration Required**  
**#802-689-3024 or**  
**windhamcountynrccd@gmail.com**



This project was funded in part by a  
 Vermont Watershed Grant



Sponsored by the Saxtons River Watershed Collaborative  
 and the Windham County Conservation District



## NICKSTRONG

from Leila Erhardt

Hello friends, attached is a story about my grandson, Nick, who has been fighting cancer the past 9 years. We have a great team and we ski for cancer every March for the American Cancer Society's Hope on the Slopes at Jay Peak.

All donations go to the American Cancer Society.

Nick is strong and fighting this. Please pray for him, it helps!

Thanks,

Leila

This is what Sherrie Ruschmeyer, Leila's daughter's page on the American Cancer Society's website says:

In 2010 my son Nicholas heard the words "You have cancer." He was only 20 years old and a sophomore in college. Nick was diagnosed with an extremely rare form of cancer, an ocular melanoma. The biopsy indicated that his left eye had to be removed; the following year the cancer spread to his lungs. He faced this challenge with courage, strength, determination, and hope. Unfortunately in December, he was diagnosed with two brain tumors, that were immediately removed, and he is currently undergoing aggressive immunotherapy treatment at Yale New Haven Hospital, which has an excellent melanoma center. Nick is the strongest, bravest man I know. He will beat this cancer back once again so he can get back to his mountains in VT!

Nick graduated from Johnson State College in 2012 with a degree in Outdoor Education - Adventure Leadership, spent a month in Alaska taking courses in Heli-skiing and Winter Expedition, and spent a summer as a rock climbing instructor. He is a very active young man who enjoys all that the outdoors has to offer: snowboarding, skiing, rock climbing, hiking, and backpacking.

Nicholas is employed by Jay Peak and is also co-owner of Lynx Mountain Guides of Vermont. Lynx Mountain Guides offers a diverse mix of guided outdoor experiences. Nothing beats exploring a new sport or landscape with a local expert. If you are looking for an adventure in the mountains of Vermont, contact Nick, your guide to the exciting side of life!

Nick continues to be an inspiration to all who know him! His love of life, family, and friends is apparent to everyone. The money that Team

NickStrong raises at the Hope on the Slopes event at Jay Peak helps the American Cancer Society fund research for metastatic ocular melanoma. The American Cancer Society saves lives and creates more birthdays by helping people stay well, helping people get well, by finding cures, and by fighting back.

Please help support Team NickStrong! We Ski/Ride for NICK!! Go to [http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?px=18789551&fr\\_id=93906&pg=personal](http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?px=18789551&fr_id=93906&pg=personal)

**GO TEAM NICKSTRONG!!!**



*Photo, top: Nick on the slopes for Team Nickstrong!*

*Photo, bottom: Sherrie, Larry and Nick Ruschmeyer, will participate in the American Cancer Society's Hope on the Slopes event held at Jay Peak, VT, March 2. The Ruschmeyers reside in Brookfield, VT.*

## Open Letter from West River Community Project

On Saturday, February 16, 2019, Andrew Clark wrote:

Happy Saturday,

I just wanted to share with the West River Valley community that we have something to truly celebrate on this beautiful Saturday afternoon. We have raised over \$5,000 in less than a couple weeks for our little non-profit community center at the bottom of the hill in West Townshend. Guys, this is really something. I wanted to put out a very sincere thank you to everyone who has contributed money or volunteered their time in any way to help the West River Community Project (WRCP) over the past year, and especially this last month. So thank you!

I want to get real with you guys for a moment. We are living in some crazy, crazy times. I read the news most days, and feel lost. But then I think about where I live and who my neighbors are. I think most of you really understand how special our community is in this valley. People are still getting together and having REAL social interactions with each other. They come to the farmers' market on Fridays and spend their hard-earned dollars on vegetables that are grown and wares that are made by their friends and neighbors. That is so incredibly rare. We have the incredibly precious gift of going and listening to live music, basically whenever we feel like it. Maggie and I are so proud to live here, and YOU are the reason we want to continue doing so!

And we are incredibly fortunate to have the West River Community Project and the store. This central hub: the thrift store, the cafe, the farmers' market and the pizza oven are SO critical to the community we have formed. Where would we be without it?

But the truth of the matter is, it can't continue to survive without donations and without volunteer help from the community.

As of Thursday evening, we began our transition to a donation-based model. During our "Love Your Community" event, we served out food made from local ingredients to anyone in exchange for a suggested donation. The WRCP is truly fortunate to have even gotten to this point, and the future is bright indeed. But if we are going to keep it going, to continue offering meals for a suggested donation, to continue hosting the farmers' market and pizza night, to continue having live music on Fridays and Sundays, to continue having harvest festivals and fundraisers for locals in need, we need a COLOSSAL community effort.

Although the cafe pulls in some money, it is no way enough to keep the entire operation going.

But ya know what the best thing about that is? When we all chip in *what we can*, then it is truly **our community project**.

So, how can you get involved?

Donate. Anything will help and we are trying to reach **at least** \$7500 by the end of this month. \$5, \$10, \$20 is wonderful. The most incredible thing about what we have done this month is not how much we've raised, but how many people have contributed. 44 community members have given so far. I'd love to see us get to 100-150 donors.

Here is the link. Don't worry, this is a safe way to donate to the WRCP. And remember, this is an "all or nothing" campaign; <https://startsomegood.com/the-west-river-community-project>

Offer to volunteer, if you can. We need people who will work hard on the various committees (fundraising, cafe, grant writing, marketing, volunteer (!), farmers' market, commercial kitchen, etc.) and we need dedicated people to be on the board. Caroline, Sandy and the crew need lots of help making the WRCP the best that it can possibly be. If you would like to volunteer, contact me and I will put you in touch with the right peeps.

Share this link on your social media and emails. If you feel okay with it, ask your friends and family **directly** and tell them how meaningful the WRCP is to you and your family. They will listen to you.

Show up, participate. Probably the MOST important.

Again, I want to say how in awe I am of you all, and really impressed with what we've been able to accomplish. Looking forward to being a part of your community now and always.

Sincerely,

Drew

