



WINDHAM NEWS & NOTES



Windham Votes Down Australian Ballot

by News & Notes Staff

In late Fall 2019, a petition was submitted to the Selectboard, by registered voters of Windham, requesting a Special Town Meeting be held to vote on four articles, all having to do with changing our form of voting from floor vote to Australian ballot. The Selectboard warned a Special Town Meeting for December 18 at 6 PM at the Meeting House to vote on three of the articles which concerned Town votes. The fourth article concerned the School Board Budget vote, and it was warned and voted on at a separate meeting held Saturday, January 11 at the Windham School.

Before voting on the petitioned articles concerning Australian ballot at the December 18 Town Meeting, much discussion ensued because of the implications Australian ballot would have on the nature of Town Meeting. It was recognized that Australian ballot would allow registered voters who would not otherwise be able to attend Town Meeting due to work, travel, sickness, etc., to be able to vote early or absentee. Others brought up the uniqueness of Town Meeting and Windham's famous potluck lunch, and how Town Meeting allows for discussion and amendments to articles prior to voting on each article. With Australian ballot, a public information meeting would be required to be held within 10 days prior to voting day, but changes to the articles could not be made at that time. The articles would have to be voted on as warned with just a "Yes" or "No" vote. Polls would be open from 10 AM - 7 PM on the first Tuesday in March for printed ballot voting, but there would be no meeting that day.

Results of the votes are as follows:

Shall the Town of Windham vote on all public questions by Australian ballot? A paper ballot was requested by more than seven voters, and the results were: 101 votes cast; 40 votes "Yes" and 61 votes "No". **The article failed.**

Shall the Town of Windham elect town officers by Australian ballot? A paper vote was once again

requested. 88 votes were cast; 39 votes "Yes", 48 votes "No" and 1 spoiled ballot. **The article failed.**

Shall the Town of Windham adopt all budget articles by Australian ballot? Motion was made for a voice vote. The motion passed. The moderator first called for a voice vote, but for further clarity, called for a show of hands. There were 20 votes "Yes" and the overwhelming remainder were "No". **The article failed.**

Peter Chamberlain had been appointed by the Selectboard to fill out the remainder of Hal Wilkins' position on the Selectboard, until the next Town Meeting, per Vermont state law. Since this was the next Town Meeting after Peter was appointed, state law required that we vote to elect a Selectboard member to fill the remainder of Hal's term, which ends at Town Meeting 2021. Peter Chamberlain was the only nominee, and he was elected by unanimous voice vote.

On January 11, 2020 a separate meeting was warned and held at the Windham Elementary School at 10 AM to vote on the following article below, which was included on the same voter petition, requesting a vote on Australian ballot for the Windham School Budget.

Shall the voters of the Windham Town School District vote on the Windham Elementary School Budget by Australian ballot? Once the motion was moved, there was another motion that the vote be by paper ballot. This motion passed. Before voting, there was discussion for and against changing to Australian ballot. Most of those who spoke were concerned about lack of participation and discussion if Windham voted to change to Australian ballot. There were 69 votes cast, 25 votes "Yes" and 44 votes "No". **The article failed.**

Town Meeting shall precede on March 3 in the same format as in past years. However, if seven or more voters request a paper ballot, it can be used as the method of floor vote for any article. Please come and participate in the discussions and vote your mind.

Town Meeting, Tuesday, March 3, 2020

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 Selectboard

Happy New Year! We hope this coming year brings you happiness and good health.



The Selectboard is finishing up the budgeting process; it started way back in October. We'll be fine-tuning all the departmental budgets at the next meeting [January 20]. Then everything is put in the hands of the Auditors, who compile and distribute the Town Report [in late February].

The Road Crew has been very busy already. We welcome Asa Goodband aboard – he'll be helping out part-time, during and after the "weather events". Good luck to you gentlemen – please stay safe out there.

In response to a voter-backed petition to adopt Australian Balloting for all town issues, we had a Special Town Meeting in mid-December. Over 100 voters came out to participate. There was a lot of discussion regarding the way we "do" Town Meeting. The three Australian Ballot items were ultimately voted down, the first two by paper ballot (Public Questions, 61-40; and To Elect Town Officers, 48-39) and the last one (Budget Articles) by a majority show of hands.

This doesn't mean the supporters' voices weren't heard. This is a complex issue worthy of more discussion. There are ways to make Town Meeting more inclusive and participatory; we

wonder if you'd be interested in joining a Citizens' committee to help us along. Please let us know if you're interested and available.

The Selectboard would like to acknowledge the Planning Commission and congratulate them on a job well-done in updating our 2020 Town Plan. After the recent required hearings, we officially adopted the Plan. There is a paper copy for you to see at the Town Office, or you can view it on the town's website: <https://www.townofwindhamvt.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Town-Plan-2020-approved.pdf>.

We would also like to thank Walter Woodruff for entrusting us with his quirky "Windhaw" sign. You can see it on display in the office, at the entrance to the Conference Room. There is a story that goes along with it - maybe in the next issue of this publication. Also, thanks to Joe Lamson for donating his time to make a shelf for the sign. A thank you goes out to Ed Brown for re-painting the Town Office sign that hangs outside the building. All your generosity is appreciated.

Selectboard Meetings are generally held bi-monthly on the first and third Mondays at 5:30 PM at the Town Office. You are all welcome to attend.

Lastly, though we had recently appointed him, we'd like to once again welcome Peter Chamberlain as our newest Selectboard member, as he was officially voted in at the recent Town Meeting [to fill the remainder of Hal Wilkins' term].

Maureen, Kord and Peter



Taken From Winter Roads Policy

Plow routes are set up to open the school routes and major traffic routes first. Operations usually begin at 4 AM, to have these routes open by 7 AM. After 16 hours on the job, the Road Crew is required to stop operations and get a minimum of 6 hours rest. In extreme weather, a third part-time employee is available to accommodate this requirement. In most cases, there will be no maintenance between 10 PM and 4 AM.

Salt will be applied to paved roads, with sand added as necessary. (Salt is not effective when road temperatures are below 20 degrees.) Sand only will be applied to gravel roads.

The Town asks that all turn-around areas be kept free of vehicles. Park your vehicles in your driveway, back from where snow will be thrown by the plow, so they don't get damaged or buried.

When removing snow from your property,

please make sure it does not get pushed or thrown into the plowed road, which can become dangerous to passing vehicles.

The Road Crew will make every reasonable effort to plow close to mailboxes, but not so close as to take them down. The more thoughtfully your mailbox is located and maintained, the less likely it will be damaged by the weight of the snow or the plow wing itself. The Town cannot be responsible for mailbox damage. It is also the property owner's responsibility to remove snow in front of the mailbox so postal deliveries can be made safely.

When the plows are on the road, please be patient. **DO NOT PASS UNNECESSARILY.** Please remember, the plow drivers are seated high above the road, and their primary focus is on the road and the plow, not on passing vehicles.

The Selectboard anticipates a safe winter for everyone and thanks you for your patience and thoughtfulness.



Vermont Homestead Exemption

By Vermont law, property owners whose homes meet the following definition of a "Homestead" **must file a Homestead Declaration EACH YEAR BY THE APRIL 15 filing deadline.**

A "Homestead" is defined as the principal dwelling and parcel of land surrounding that dwelling, owned and occupied by the resident, as the individual's recognized place of residence. If you are a resident, it is important that you file form HS-122 so that you are correctly assessed the homestead tax rate on your property. All property in Vermont is subject to education property tax to pay for the state's schools. For this purpose, property is categorized as either homestead or non-homestead.

All property is considered non-homestead unless it is declared as a homestead. As a property owner, it is your responsibility to claim the property as a homestead if you are a resident of Vermont and own and occupy a home as your place of residence, as of April 1. A property is considered a non-homestead if it is leased for more than 182 days in the year; it is used exclusively for commercial or rental purposes; OR it is a second home, camp, vacation home or summer cottage.

The HS-122 form must be filed with your Vermont Income Tax forms by April 15. If you are not filing Vermont Income Tax forms, or are filing late, you still **MUST FILE the HS-122 form by the April deadline.** Remember, your education property taxes are calculated based on your property status as homestead or non-homestead. If you file late, you may be assessed penalties of 3%-8%. Please file by the deadline, so your original Tax Bill will reflect the proper amount that you owe, and a revised bill does not have to be issued and penalties assessed.

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

All dogs and wolf hybrids 6 months or older must be licensed at the Town Office. Bring certification of rabies vaccination and proof of neuter/spay, if applicable. Fees are: neutered or spayed dogs, \$10. After April 1, \$12. Males, females, wolf hybrids, \$14. After April 1, \$18.



To reach the Road Crew, call the Town Garage at 874-7025 or Richard at 802-379-5647 (cell) or 874-4971 (home). You can also continue to call or email Kord, Maureen or Peter to let us know if there's a tree down or any other unsafe road situation.



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

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Mary Boyer Pat Cherry
Chris Dunkel Leila Erhardt
Louise Johnson Kathy Jungermann
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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 15, 2020

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
January 25
February 22
CLOSED Jan. 20 & Feb. 17
for Federal Holidays
802-874-4211
windham.town@gmail.com

2020 Annual Permits On Sale



Londonderry Transfer Station Annual Permits for 2020 are now on sale at the Town Office during office hours. One permit per family is required to use the Transfer Station for garbage and recycling. The annual permit is \$10 per year and must be paid in cash or by check.

In addition to the annual permit, a punch card must also be purchased for garbage/trash disposal.

TOWN MEETING, TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2020 *by News & Notes Staff*

Town Meeting Day, the first Tuesday in March, is our opportunity as voters to participate in town governance. It's our collective way to discuss Windham's local issues. Those in attendance hash out the issues and vote on warned articles that effect both Town and School issues and budgets. Articles to be voted upon will be warned no less than 30 days prior to Town Meeting and will be posted at the Town Office and the Meeting House. The Town Report will be mailed to registered voters no less than 10 days prior to Town Meeting. An article can be requested to be added to the Town Meeting Warning by presenting a petition signed by at least five percent of the voters of Windham (approximately 15 voters) and filed with the Town Clerk no less than 40 days (January 23).before the day of the meeting

If you would like to become more involved in serving Windham, please consider running for office. For any elected position, you must be nominated from the floor at Town Meeting. There are also appointed positions to be filled by the Selectboard on March 16, the first Selectboard meeting after Town Meeting. Please contact the Selectboard if you would like to serve in one of these positions. Both elected and appointed positions will be listed in the Town Report. 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>

Harvest Supper 2019 *by Kathy Jungermann*

The Windham Community Organization would like to thank all who attended the Harvest Supper and helped to make it a success. We appreciate the donation of the ham, salad, and vegetables from Jo-Jo and Jim Chlebogiannis. Over 65 diners feasted on ham, with all the trimmings, which included for the first time, very tasty Gilfeather turnips. Thank you, Carolyn Partridge! We are grateful to Sally Newton for calling the square dancing, the band for providing great music, and Windham Elementary students for the Ukulele concert.

Many thanks also to the volunteers who, each year, contribute desserts and side dishes, prepare the salad and scalloped potatoes, and once the supper is over, restore order to the Meeting House kitchen!



[-office-descriptions.aspx](#). There are many state required duties for each position, and no position should be entered without a full understanding of the responsibilities. If you plan to run for elected office, please educate yourself as to the duties, and please submit a short candidate's statement for publication in the next edition of the *News & Notes*, by February 15 to: windhamnews@hotmail.com.

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

Moderator, 1 year, Incumbent Michael McLaine
Selectman, 3 years, Incumbent Kord Scott
Lister, 3 years, Incumbent Alison Cummings
Auditor, 3 years, Incumbent Imme Maurath
Constable, 2 years, Incumbent Joseph Lamson
Delinquent Tax Collector, 1 year, Incumbent

Erin Kehoe

Town Agent, 1 year, Incumbent Michael
Simonds

Windham Center Cemetery Commission,
5 years, Incumbent Alan Partridge

West Windham Cemetery Commission,
5 years, Incumbent Abigail Pelton

North Windham Cemetery Commission,
5 years, Incumbent Eileen Widger

Library Trustee, 5 years, Incumbent Christine
Dunkel

Leland & Gray Representative, 3 years,
Incumbent Howard Ires

Windham School Director, 3 years,
Incumbent Carolyn Partridge

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, visit with friends and neighbors, and have a great lunch. We hope you will attend, share your views and vote!

Windham Community Organization is prepared to host a MEET THE CANDIDATES event prior to Town Meeting if there is interest to do so by the candidates. Please contact Ellen McDuffie at 874-8183 or Kathy Jungermann at 874-4606.



Left: Square Dancers ready for Sally's call
Above: Harvest Supper Band; from left, Amos Newton, Colin Blazej, Peter Newton, Sally Newton and Alan Partridge seated.

Windham Fire Company News

by Marcia Clinton

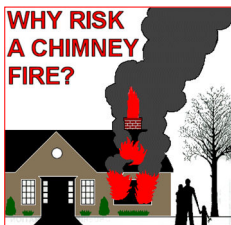
Fire Calls:

- October 21 - Route 11. Car versus bear accident.
5 responded.
- October 25 - Route 11. Automatic fire alarm. 2 responded.
- November 9 - Windham Hill Road. Automatic fire alarm.
3 responded.
- November 13 - Londonderry, Middletown Road.
Mutual aid for chimney fire. Call canceled en route.
1 responded.
- November 25 - Harrington Road. Automatic fire
alarm. 3 responded.
- November 30 - Windham. Set up landing zone for
Dartmouth - Hitchcock helicopter and assist in
extrication of injured man from the woods.
7 responded.
- December 3 - Windham Hill Road. Car accident.
5 responded.
- December 16 - Mutual aid call to cover the Chester
fire station. 4 responded.
- December 21 - Abbott Road. Report of smoke in area.
Controlled burn, no response.
- December 26 - Route 11, Andover. Mutual aid call.
Assistance provided in excavator fire. 3 responded.

The majority of chimney fires go undetected!! Creosote is a black or brown residue that can be crusty and flaky - tar-like, drippy and sticky - or shiny and hardened. All forms are highly combustible. If it builds up in sufficient quantities - and the internal flue temperature is high enough - the result could be a chimney fire. Conditions that encourage the buildup of creosote are: restricted air supply, unseasoned wood, and cooler than normal chimney temperatures.

Nine signs that you've had a chimney fire:

1. "Puffy" or "honey combed" creosote.
2. Warped metal of the damper, metal smoke chamber connector pipe or factory-built metal chimney.
3. Cracked or collapsed flue tiles, or tiles with large chunks missing.
4. Discolored and/or distorted rain cap.
5. Heat-damaged TV antenna attached to the chimney.
6. Creosote flakes and pieces found on the roof or ground.
7. Roofing material damaged from hot creosote.
8. Cracks in exterior masonry.
9. Evidence of smoke escaping through mortar joints of masonry or tile liners.



Since a chimney damaged by a chimney fire, can endanger a home and its' occupants, and chimney fires can occur without anyone being aware of them, it's important to have your chimney regularly inspected by a CSIA Certified

Chimney Sweep. Have your solid fuel venting system inspected annually. **Clean chimneys don't catch fire.**



Dartmouth-Hitchcock helicopter lands at Windham School

A Lovely Windham Tradition

by Kathy Jungermann

Once again, the carolers gathered at the Meeting House the day after Thanksgiving for the Annual Carol Sing and Tree Lighting. Diane and Chris Fisher stepped up for the second year to lead the group of very enthusiastic singers. Sharing duties at the piano, they took requests and happily guided the assembled through everyone's favorite holiday music. The crowd was on their feet for a very energetic rendition of "The Twelve Days of Christmas". This was followed by a fabulous version of "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer" complete with props and some additional funny lyrics. Cider and homemade treats were enjoyed before going out to light the tree. Outside, the countdown was started and the big tree lit up. After singing "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" and exchanging best wishes, everyone left full of holiday spirit.

Many thanks to Diane and Chris Fisher, as well as all the volunteers who work to make the evening so special.



A Successful Home Weatherization Project

by Tom Johnson



On November 14, 2019, the Windham Energy Committee held an Energy Fair to provide Town residents with information on the benefits of weatherizing their homes. To provide real world examples, five residents made presentations on work they had done on their houses, and the results. A representative from Efficiency Vermont also presented information on rebates and low interest financing to make the work more affordable. What follows is information presented by Tom Johnson describing the project done on his house and the outcome.

Before the work was done, the house was drafty and expensive to heat. An energy audit was performed by Heat Squad from Neighborhood Works of Western Vermont. The audit showed leakage equivalent to a 4 square foot hole. This is like leaving a good sized window open all winter.

We got an estimate for insulating and sealing the leaks from Vermont Foam. They proposed to apply 2.5" foam on basement walls to the frost line ($R=18.1$), 4" foam on the rim joists ($R=30$), 2" foam on the attic floor, and 15" of cellulose over the foam in the attic (Combined $R=60$). The work was done at the end of June 2018. The project cost approximately \$6,300. A follow-up audit showed leakage reduced sufficiently to allow a rebate from Efficiency Vermont of approximately \$1,100, making the net cost \$5,200.

The results were obvious. The house was noticeably less drafty, and the basement went from being the coldest place in house to the warmest place in house. I was curious about the actual savings in heating cost, so I compared cost from 1 year before 7/1/2018 and 1 year after 7/1/2018, when the work was completed, by adding up the oil bills from both time periods. This showed an apparent savings of about \$1,000 on fuel oil. But maybe the weather was warmer during the "after" period? To account for differences in weather, I decided to compare heating degree-days for both periods. This is calculated by the National Weather Service and is what your heating fuel supplier uses to estimate when to make a fuel delivery. The data showed that there were actually about 5% more heating degree days for the July 2018 – June 2019 than previous 12 months. So the "after" period was actually colder!

With these savings, project payback will be 5 years or less, shorter if the price of oil goes up. So this investment is yielding about 20% per year, not a bad return on the money. If a homeowner wants to avoid a large cash outlay like this, low or no interest loans are available from Efficiency Vermont and Neighborhood Works. Right now, it is possible to get a loan for 5 years at no interest if your household income is less than \$90,000. So our project could be financed at \$86.67 per month, or \$1,040 per year. With saving of \$1,000 per year, out of pocket cost is only \$40 per year. Do the math for your project. It is quite possible that monthly payments would be offset by fuel bill savings, and out of pocket cost would be small, or even \$0.



WCO Spreads Holiday Joy

by Kathy Jungermann



Members of the Windham Community Organization gathered for the final meeting of 2019 on December 11. Once the meeting was adjourned, we arranged homemade cookies, along with some fruit, onto holiday gift plates and wrapped them up with a festive bow. They were then delivered to Windham residents in need of some Holiday Cheer, and to those who deserved a big THANK YOU this year. The evening was filled with good friends and merriment, and topped off by a spirited Yankee Swap.

We hope you'll join us in 2020! It's lots of fun!

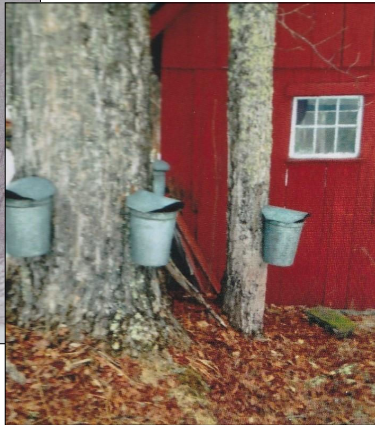


Windham Library Photo Contest

by Carolyn Rubin



Above: Meeting House Memorial, 1st Place, Carolyn Rubin Below left: Barred Owl, 2nd Place, Cindy Kehoe Below right: Sugar House, 3rd Place, James Carson



I am the recipient of first prize in the Windham Library Photo Contest and I am thrilled!! There is not a season that goes by, or a day in each season when in Windham, that I'm not looking all around me and thinking photo contest.

My introduction to the contest was the weekend of the Harvest Dinner, 2017, which was the exact weekend we passed papers on our house on Windham Hill Road with Tom and Beverly Carmichael. I was given a front row seat to the level of Bev's enthusiasm for the contest and her love for the library. There were many photos that year hanging up in the Meeting House and it was difficult to choose only three that you hoped made it into the annual Windham calendar!! Along with the Harvest Dinner, it was a fun, local, social, slightly competitive activity that, in the long run, was going to raise the funds to operate our little local volunteer library. This was Jeff's and my first community event and introduction to the village life that folks were trying to maintain in

Windham!!

So the following year of 2018, I really became, some would say, overwhelmingly spirited about taking photos that maybe could pass the "high standards" of the photo committee, and have particular meaning to me as I was experiencing Windham seasons for the first time! What fun!!! I must say that I maybe even became a bit overly enthusiastic, and talked about it quite a lot with neighbors, friends, and family. Yes, it was a constant in my mind, and as I took photos, I started a "Harvest Dinner Pics" separate album in my phone, knowing that I was going to have to be strategic when it came time to submit the photos because of "stiff competition" in the town. The fact that all photographs had to be in the Windham Town limits made the project especially challenging. I even called Maureen Bell once to find out for sure if Lowell Lake was a definite "No, not in Windham!" Sad!!! So many fine photos that could've been in the Windham calendar, if only they had been in Windham.

My efforts paid off, and all three of my entries made it into the 2019 calendar... also winning a third place prize bonus!!! Maybe making sure all my neighbors came, as well as inviting my family to the Harvest Dinner, helped. But who knows or cares!!! It's for the Library!!!

This year's winning photo was especially meaningful to me and my neighbors. The cover photo was taken during Hal Wilkin's Memorial Service held at the Meeting House on October 19, 2019. Maureen Fitch and I were seated in the pew that had that miraculous view of the colors of autumn, with the beautiful floral arrangement that Maureen had made for the occasion. As soon as I noticed it, I realized I didn't bring my phone, and Maureen doesn't have a phone, so there we were soaking in the moment, thinking that it would go undocumented. Fortunately, close friends of Hal were seated in front of us, a cell phone was borrowed, emails exchanged, and only until WiFi was available, was that photo in my phone! Phew!!! Hal is still very missed....

I'm hoping that by writing this about the Photo Contest, the Harvest Dinner, the Windham Library and the Windham Calendar, more people will share their photos for the contest for this year's November Harvest Dinner and the 2021 calendar. It would be even more fun, more competitive (only 15 photos were entered this year), if there were more entries, so the calendar truly represents the local color and the beauty all around us in Windham.

[A limited number of 2020 Windham calendars are still available at the Town Office and during Library hours for \$10 each.]

From the School Board

by Caroline Partridge and Updated by News & Notes Staff

The Windham Elementary School Board is in the process of developing our FY2021 budget, which we will hopefully approve at our January 6, 2020 meeting at 9 AM. We have been advised by Laurie Garland, the Business Manager at the Windham Central Supervisory Union (WCSU), that we will see another year of higher than average taxes, but that in coming years there will be a notable decrease.

This bubble is, in great part, due to Pre-K Special Education costs. While School Director, Antje Ruppert, has clearly explained these details at past Town Meetings, perhaps the circumstances bear repeating. Two years ago, we planned and voted our budget based on the knowledge we had at the time. During that year, we became responsible for Pre-K Special Education costs that could not have been foreseen. As a result, we have run at a deficit – something we don't like, but under the circumstances has been unavoidable. We have been absorbing these costs and they will, thankfully, be cleared up after this coming year. It should be noted that we would be responsible for these costs regardless of the status of the school, be it open, or closed and tuitioning our students elsewhere.

What this has brought to light is the unequitable way Pre-K Special Education costs are reimbursed by the State. Had these costs been associated with K-12, they would have been reimbursed at a minimum rate of 56%. The reimbursement rate for Pre-K is miniscule in comparison. Superintendent Bill Anton shared with me that Pre-K Special Education costs for the WCSU amount to \$400,000, but they are reimbursed only \$62,000 by the State – a rate of 15.5%. As a result, rather than reimbursing each town individually, they use the money to employ someone to do that work. If the reimbursement was done as it is for K-12, the WCSU would be reimbursed \$224,000. Because it is not, the local districts have to bear the additional cost, which has driven up Windham's per pupil spending and put us in the penalty zone.

Putting on my state legislator's hat, from a policy standpoint, this makes no sense. It seems to me that the focus should be on addressing Special Education needs as early as possible, to potentially nip things in the bud and save money going forward. For that reason, I am sponsoring legislation that will bring the reimbursement rate for Pre-K Special Education up to the same level as for K-12. I'm sure it will be initially sent to the House Education

Committee, and I would suggest that you weigh in your thoughts with those committee members.

On Saturday, January 11 at 10 AM at the Windham School, there was a meeting (similar to the Special Meeting of the Town on December 18) to determine if the Windham School budget should be voted on by Australian ballot. At the December 18 meeting, all three motions for Australian ballot were rejected, and the School Board encouraged the same for the school budget vote. This year, timing would be very tight for ballots to be printed, and would not allow people the opportunity to properly educate themselves in order to make an informed vote. We appreciate the desire to increase participation in town/school affairs, but that goal is not borne out in reality. The high school budget vote by Australian ballot in September 2019 saw a dismal participation rate, with only 24 Windhamites voting, for an approximate 7.5% turnout.

The Town Meeting on December 18 and the School Board Meeting on January 11 were exactly what one would hope for. People had the opportunity to speak their minds thoughtfully, and be heard respectfully, despite varying views. I have always felt that Vermont's Town Meeting is the truest form of democracy and hope that we can continue with that tradition.

If we feel that a change of day or time would help with participation, the Selectboard can warn that for next year. If people prefer to remain anonymous in their voting at Town Meeting, a paper ballot can be requested, and with proper support, be granted. In short, there are measures we can take short of eliminating Town Meeting as we know it.

We thank those who attended the January 11 meeting at the Windham School, and hope that you all have had a wonderful holiday season.



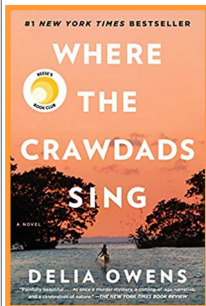
Carson Gordon, age 11, shoots his first deer during 2018 Hunting Season.

Congratulations, Young Man!

Windham Library Book Club

Books are available in the library
No Book Club in January

Wednesday, February 5, 2020 - 3:30 PM



Where the Crawdads Sing

by Delia Owens

For years, rumors of the "Marsh Girl" have haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. So in late 1969, when handsome Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya Clark, the so-called "Marsh Girl". But Kya is not what they say. Sensitive and intelligent, she has survived for years alone in the marsh that she calls home, finding friends in the gulls and lessons in the sand. Then the time comes when she yearns to be touched and loved. When two young men from town become intrigued by her wild beauty, Kya opens herself to a new life--until the unthinkable happens.

Where the Crawdads Sing is at once an ode to the natural world, a heartbreaking coming-of-age story, and a surprising tale of possible murder. Owens reminds us that we are forever shaped by the children we once were, and that we are all subject to the beautiful and violent secrets that nature keeps.

Congrats to Norm!

Congratulations go to our fearless mail carrier Norman Bills for his 25 years of dedication to the Jamaica Village Post Office! Thanks so much for all your years of giving us great service and dedication, with a smile every day! We are lucky to have you!

Many of us may think that Norm is exclusively "our Mailman". However, we were told that in addition to most of Windham, Norm also delivers mail in Jamaica, West Townshend, Wardsboro, Stratton, and Winhall. That's a huge area, but you would never guess, because Norman is very prompt, and no snow or ice prevents him from delivering our mail. He joked, "Bills always come through". Norm lives in Wardsboro with his family.



A Great Opportunity While Raising Funds for the Meeting House

by Louise Johnson

How does an indoor, multi-family, tag/craft sale at the Meeting House on Saturday, May 23 sound?

If you start now, you would have plenty of time to gather all the "treasures" you no longer need or want. Or you can finish up some of those craft projects you might want to sell. No large items (furniture, etc.) as space is limited.

Here's the deal. Reserve a table for \$10 and donate 15% of your sales. Proceeds are to benefit the Meeting House for operating expenses and future building upgrades. **Reserve a table now.** Checks should be made out to: Town of Windham, with "Meeting House Tag Sale" in the subject line, and sent to me, Louise Johnson, 7173 Windham Hill Rd., Windham 05359.

Thanks, Louise and the Meeting House Committee

P.S. A hint from someone who has been there, done that: Pack up your boxes of sellables and TAPE SECURELY so you aren't tempted to take things back out of your boxes!!



MOUNTAIN MARKETPLACE

Junction Route 11 & 100 Londonderry

Windham Source for Metal Recycling



If you have scrap metal to recycle, please contact Gerry Amsden at 875-2837. No cans or garbage! Gerry will be keeping the proceeds, in an effort to defray ongoing family medical expenses, while providing you with an easy way to get rid of your scrap metal!

And if you don't want to drive out of Windham with your **refundable bottles and cans**, his son, Evan, is doing his part by collecting clean bottles and cans for the refundable deposit. Secured bags with refundable items can be left at the bottom of their driveway, near the bicycles, at 7995 Windham Hill Road.



Grace Cottage's Online Auction Runs February 14 - 24

Wouldn't a dinner out be lovely? An African Safari?! How about a massage, or a luncheon sail on the Mystic Whaler? From February 14 through February 24, you can bid on these items and many more at Grace Cottage's annual "Cabin Fever" Online Auction. An awesome array of more than 70 items has been donated by generous businesses and individuals, with all proceeds benefitting the Grace Cottage Patient Care Fund.

There's something for every taste and budget, including treasures you can't buy anywhere else. Auction items range in value from \$20 to Priceless, including gift certificates to favorite local restaurants, practical items like an oil change for your car, theater tickets, overnight stays in area lodges, jams and syrup, a 2020/21 season ski pass to Stratton Mountain, your name in Archer Mayor's next book, and plenty more!

Bid low and get notified when someone outbids you, or "Buy Now" and make it yours right away! Either way, you can feel good supporting this annual fundraiser, which helps to provide free and reduced-cost care to those lacking adequate resources. Items are being added from now through February 14th and beyond. Check out the growing selection at www.32auctions.com/gracecottage2020, and on Valentine's Day, let the bidding begin!

Karaoke Is Calling! And Chili Cook-Off

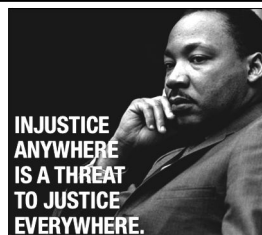
Get your Karaoke on! This month, on Saturday, January 18th, from 5-8 PM, Community Hope & Action of Townshend will be hosting a FREE supper and night of Karaoke at the Townshend Town Hall! We'll also have a Chili Cook-off with dinner served from 5-6 PM.

Karaoke will happen from 6-8 PM. If you can, please bring a side dish or dessert to share. This event is substance free and is open to people of all ages, from all towns. Please contact Community Hope & Action at 802-365-4700 if you'd like to bring a crock of chili, or cornbread. On the web: www.wrvthrives.com.

Martin Luther King Day Celebration

On Monday, January 20, at the Jamaica Town Hall, there will be a celebration of the life and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This year the event will include a showing of the recent documentary on Congressman John Lewis, who worked and marched with Dr. King. The film, *Get in the Way*, will be shown at 3 PM, followed at 4 PM by community readings, songs and discussion. We will finish the event with a Potluck Supper around 5 PM. Families with young children may want to join us at 4 PM, as the film will be difficult for those under 11 or 12 to follow. Please join us for this important celebration.

This event is sponsored by the West River Community Project and the Jamaica Community Arts Council. The Jamaica Town Hall is at 3735 Route 30, Jamaica VT.



Hatha Flow Yoga at the Meeting House with Liza Eaton

There is a new Hatha Flow Yoga Class on Thursdays, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM at The Meeting

House in Windham. It began just before Christmas and is a flowing Hatha (ha/sun, tha/moon) Yoga class for balancing body, mind and soul. In this hour long class we link movement with breath, flowing through yoga poses and sequences that restore health, peace, and energy.

For all bodies, ages and beings. No experience necessary. Do what feels good and have fun! Yoga teacher, Liza Eaton, is a resident of Windham, and a certified 500Hr E-RYT advanced yoga practitioner. Eaton has been teaching yoga to people from ages 2 - 96 for over 10 years. Drop-in \$15, four classes for \$48. Website: www.buddhafulyoga.com; phone: 518-763-1490; to get on the yoga email list, email Liza at: eaton.liza@gmail.com.



We Go Beyond Patient Care



185 Grafton Road
(Route 35)
Townshend, VT

www.gracecottage.org
802-365-7357

Legislative Article

by Caroline Partridge

The 2020 Legislative Session began on January 7 at 10 AM. It is the second year of the biennium, and for that reason we will hit the ground running, taking up legislation that wasn't completed last year, as well as any new bills being introduced.

In the broader sense, I believe there will be two priority issues that will be taken up quickly. These include a minimum wage bill that increases the minimum wage to \$15 an hour over a period of years, and a paid family and medical leave bill. An additional bill, that may or may not be taken up, is a tax and regulation bill for adult use of cannabis.

I am excited, as Chair of the Agriculture and Forestry Committee, to explore the ways our working landscape can be a part of the solution to the climate change problem. Our forests sequester carbon, as does our agriculture land on which regenerative agricultural practices are used. On December 20, I attended a

planning meeting sponsored by the Council of State Governments Eastern Regional Conference at which our working group discussed an Agriculture and Forestry Sequestration Initiative in the Northeast that might resemble the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. Representatives and senators from New York, Massachusetts, Maryland, Connecticut, and Vermont met to talk about this exciting possibility.

I encourage you to contact me with any thoughts, ideas, and concerns you might have. I can be reached at the State House by calling toll-free 1-800-322-5616, which is the number of the Sergeant at Arms. You can leave a message with them, they will deliver it to me, and I will respond as quickly as possible. My email is cpartridge@leg.state.vt.us and I suggest you take a look at the legislative (www.legislature.vermont.gov) and state (www.vermont.gov) websites, which contain a wealth of information. All of our committee documents are available on the legislative website. On the weekends, I can be reached on my home phone at 874-4182. Please do not hesitate to contact me. Together, we govern!

TOWN CONTACTS

TOWN WEBSITE: TOWNOFWINDHAMVT.COM

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

Town Treasurer: Kathy Scott, 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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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; February 11
at 6:30 PM at Town Office.

Energy Committee:
3rd Thursday of the month,
January 21 & February 18 at
4:30 PM at Town Office,

**Windham Community
Organization:**
NO Meeting in January.
February Meeting TBD.
March 25 at 5 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, January 25 &
February 22, 8 AM - Noon.

Planning and Zoning:
Second Wednesday of the
month, January 8 &
February 12 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
usually at 7 PM at the Town
Office. NO Jan. or Feb.
Meeting. Open meetings.
Call Alison Trowbridge at
874-7050 for information.

Select Board:
1st & 3rd Mondays, Jan. 6 &
20 and Feb. 3 & 17
5:30 PM at the Town Office.
Open meetings. Agenda
posted. Check website:
townofwindhamvt.com

Library:
Every Wednesday, 3-5 PM
at the Meeting House,
Book Group at 3:30 PM,
1st Wednesdays, February
5, at the Meeting House. **No
January Book Club.**

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

School Board:
First Mondays, January 6
at 9 AM & February 3 at
4 PM. Call Antje Ruppert
at 874-4759 or Carolyn
Partridge at 874-4182 for
information.

Volunteer Fire Company:
First Thursday of the
month, Jan. 2, Feb. 6 &
Mar. 5 at 6 PM at the
Firehouse. Potluck dinner
served. Call Jan Wyman at
875-3373 for information.

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

WRMU Union School District:
Third Mondays at 7 PM at
Leland & Gray. Call Leland &
Gray 365-7355 for info.

SAVE THESE DATES!

January 18 - WRVT Karaoke and Chili Cook-Off, 5 - 8 PM, Townshend Town Hall

January 20 - MLK Day Celebration, 3 - 5+ PM, Jamaica Town Hall

February 14 - 24 - Grace Cottage On-Line Auction

March 3 - TOWN MEETING & POTLUCK LUNCH, 10AM - ~3PM, Windham Meeting House

March 3 - PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY, 10 AM - 7 PM, Vote at Windham Meeting House

April 1 - ALL DOGS MUST BE REGISTERED, Windham Town Office



News from Windham Elementary

by Sara Wunderle

The students and staff at Windham Elementary have been very busy for these last few months leading into 2020!

After a generous donation from Pete's Stand in Walpole, NH, each student was able to carve their own pumpkins and have them displayed as decorations for the school's open house and pasta dinner. Thanks to the generous community, the annual pasta dinner raised over \$600 for the 5th & 6th graders class trips in the Spring.

The first few snowstorms at Windham Elementary have been great opportunities to make snow angels, forts and snowmen! The students have been also enjoying getting out the cross country skis and skiing during lunch recess.



As part of Windham Elementary's Positive Behavioral Intervention Supports program (PBIS), the students earn beads for showing one of our four main principles in action throughout the day. The four guiding ideas are being safe, respectful, responsible, and ready to learn. Once the students reach a milestone number of beads as a class, they are then rewarded with a special activity. The K-3rd grade students chose to swim today for their reward. The 5th & 6th-grade students chose a pizza, pajama and movie experience which they enjoyed while the younger students were at the pool.



Our December was filled with music, crafts and ice skating! December 16th was our Windham Elementary Winter Concert. The program was filled with beautiful vocal selections that celebrated the holiday season. The ukulele players added their talents to the program as well. The students then brought their musical concert to Valley Cares in Townshend and were welcomed and applauded by the residents there.



Ice Skating at Vermont Academy was our last outing before holiday break. During the hour we were there, young and old alike skated, laughed and even took a few spills on the ice. Students that had never skated, found themselves skating on their own at the end of the hour! It was a true joy to watch the encouragement and teamwork by the Windham Elementary students to allow the new skaters the opportunity to succeed. (Continued on page 14)

(News from Windham Elementary, continued from page 13)



With the New Year upon us, the winter sports program began on Wednesday, January 8th. For nine weeks from January-March, the students will have a half-day in the afternoon on Wednesdays to enjoy either skiing/snowboarding at Stratton or cross country skiing at Wild Wings in Peru. Thank you to all the parent volunteers/chaperones that help with the teaching/transportation that allows our Windham students this opportunity to enjoy our beautiful Vermont outdoors during the winter months.

What a wonderful week we had to finish up December, by celebrating this magical time of the year. The winter concert evening and the visit to Valley Cares to sing to the residents, was a wonderful way to celebrate the season via music. Ice skating at Vermont Academy was enjoyed by students and adults alike, we look forward to another ice skating adventure in the New Year!



Londonderry Solid Waste Group

Serving the towns of Landgrove, Londonderry, Peru, Weston, Windham

Vermont's Extended Producer Responsibility legislation makes manufacturers of products like Computers, Batteries, Paint, Mercury Light Bulbs and Mercury Thermostats take responsibility for their products at the end of their useful life. To find year-round drop-offs call 1-855-63-CYCLE or go to VTrecycles.com.

Trash and Recycling collection, processing and disposal have presented challenges. Several landfills have closed leaving fewer options of where to dispose of trash. Only one landfill remains in Vermont. In addition, the recycling commodity markets remain near all-time historical lows due to the impact of *National Sword* – an initiative imposed by the Chinese government which banned the import of Mixed Paper and Mixed Plastics, where much of the United States had been sending these materials. This presents opportunities to create recycling markets in the U.S., which may eventually enable us to recycle these materials here rather than ship them overseas.

Be Careful What You Put Down the Drain: Many materials, especially household hazardous waste, should NOT be poured down the drain, either to a septic tank or field. These chemicals are toxic, will kill the organisms that break down waste, and will enter surface and groundwater supplies. Flushing prescription drugs down the toilet should also be avoided as these have been shown to harm fish and amphibians. Visit <http://www.londonderryvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Cloggersfull-brochure-FINAL.pdf>.

Sharps: Needles, syringes and other sharps should not be thrown away loose in the trash since they could injure someone handling the trash. Follow these tips for safe disposal: Carefully put needles or syringes into an empty plastic bottle marked #2 HDPE on the bottom, and also has a screw-on lid. Laundry detergent and softener bottles are good examples. Label the container with the warning: "DO NOT RECYCLE!" Dispose of the sharps container in your household trash. DO NOT PUT THIS BOTTLE IN YOUR RECYCLING. For more information on disposal and what to do if you are pricked by a needle or syringe, download the Vermont Department of Health's sharps disposal flier http://healthvermont.gov/adap/documents/sharps_disposal_flyer.pdf.

Food Scraps: Beginning July 1, 2020 Vermont law bans food scraps from the trash. If you compost at your home, you can still put meat and bones in your trash. Food scraps, including meat and bones, are accepted at the Londonderry Transfer Station.

Outreach: The LSWG reached out to schools and businesses in 2019 providing guidance on recycling, disposal of hazardous materials and diverting food scraps and organics from the landfill. If your school or business is interested in learning about ways to handle solid waste, organics, recyclables and other materials please contact recycle@londonderryvt.org.

Esther Fishman, Recycling Coordinator
Londonderry Solid Waste Group
100 Old School Street
South Londonderry, VT 05155
PH 802-824-3356-O (sporadic)
PH 802-824-3306-H
Email: recycle@londonderryvt.org
Website: www.londonderryvt.org



Providing fresh and healthy foods at schools and hospitals around Vermont

The Vermont Foodbank's VeggieVanGo events promote health for Vermonters. VeggieVanGo events not only provide an opportunity for participants to bring home fresh produce, they also create a gathering place that offers support and conversations about healthy food. Our truck arrives with large bins of thousands of pounds of fresh food, and with the help of our amazing volunteers, we provide produce to hundreds of families and individuals in need each month. Through this program we expect to distribute two million pounds of fresh food to our neighbors facing hunger this year.



Along with healthy, fresh food, VeggieVanGo provides education and outreach to improve food security. In partnership with our VT Fresh program, we offer cooking demos, and taste tests of the vegetables available, paired with recipes and cooking tips. Our SNAP outreach team is also at-the-ready to assist participants with information about 3SquaresVT and provide application assistance.

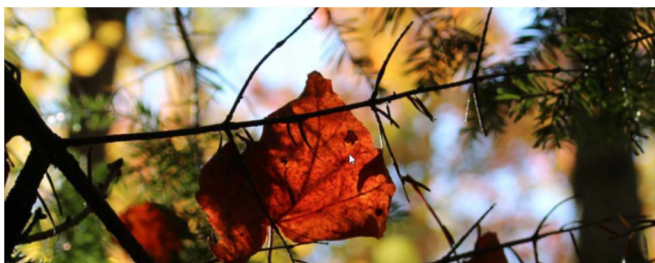
Grace Cottage hosts the monthly VeggieVanGo program. Any local resident can come on the fourth Thursday of the month and pick up a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables for free (open Noon to 1 PM). Sometimes other foods are also available. This service is provided thanks to the Vermont Foodbank. Also, the Townshend Food Shelf is open weekly, on Monday evenings, to anyone who needs food.

Thursday, January 23

Thursday, February 27

Thursday, March 26

Thursday, April 23



Forestry Licensure Is Required In Vermont As Of July 1, 2016

Any person holding himself or herself out to the public as a forester must be licensed. And regardless of title, any person practicing forestry must be licensed. The practice of forestry is defined by State statute: "Forestry" means the science, art, and practice of creating, managing, using, and conserving forests and associated resources to meet desired goals, needs, and values, including timber management, wildlife management, biodiversity management, and watershed management. Forestry science consists of those biological, physical, quantitative, managerial, and

social sciences that are applied to forest management. Forestry services include investigations, consultations, timber inventory, and appraisal, development of forest management plans, and responsible supervision of forest management or other forestry activities on public or private lands. "Forestry" does not include services for the physical implementation of cutting, hauling, handling, or processing of forest products or for the physical implementation of silvicultural treatments and practices.

Does a Forestry Business need a licensed Forester on staff? Yes. If your business is providing or advertising forestry services, or simply are using the terms *forest management*, *forestry* or *consulting forestry* in your advertising or business name or logos, you must have a licensed forester on staff.

Do loggers have to be licensed? No. Loggers are not licensed in Vermont. Loggers, haulers, and others who physically implement forest treatments and practices, but who do not engage in forestry as defined by law, are unaffected by the licensure requirement.



Emerald Ash Borer Preparedness & Management for Windham County Communities

DATE AND TIME:

January 29, 2020 - 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm

LOCATION:

Newbrook Fire & Rescue Community Room, 698 VT
Route 30, Newfane, VT

Emerald ash borer (EAB) is a destructive and invasive forest pest that feeds on all species of ash trees in North America. Over 99% of ash trees will likely succumb to EAB and die. With EAB confirmed recently in Windham and Bennington Counties (Londonderry and Stamford, VT), communities in the region are encouraged to prepare for the impacts of the pest. This training, led by staff from the Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program, will teach participants about EAB, introduce planning and management strategies, give an overview of the resources available to help towns assess risk and establish a plan, and draw from local experiences of towns that are now addressing ash tree and EAB management.

This training is intended for municipal staff and members of Selectboards, Conservation Commissions, Planning Commissions, and Tree Committees. Additionally, town Tree Wardens, Forest Pest First Detectors, and others engaged in planning for EAB at the local level in Windham County communities may also benefit from the training.

This training is free but registration is required. Space is limited and registration will close on Monday, January 27th. Go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/emerald-ash-borer-preparedness-management-for-windham-county-communities-tickets-85131134515>.

This training is being offered through a coordinated effort between the Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program and the Windham Regional Commission.

Questions? Contact Joanne Garton, Technical Assistance Coordinator with the Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program, (802) 249-4217 or joanne.garton@vermont.gov.

The Largest Desert In The World Is Covered In Snow

Think the famed Sahara desert is big? At 3.5 million square miles, it's definitely a monster, but it doesn't even compare to the Antarctic Polar Desert. It covers the continent of Antarctica and has a size of about 5.5 million square miles.

Surprised? The definition of a desert is simply a place that receives less than ten inches of precipitation per year — it doesn't have to be hot!

Polar Bears Aren't White, They're Just Glowing

Polar bears may be known as being so white they can hide in snow, but the truth is they aren't white at all.

Their skin is black and the hairs in their fur are hollow and clear. So why do they look white?

Light hits their fur and is trapped inside the hollow part of the hair, causing a reaction called luminescence. In addition, salt particles stick to the bears' fur and act as light-scattering particles.