



WINDHAM NEWS & NOTES



Window Dressers Project a Triple-Win

by Bill Dunkel

This past November 17-21, 2021 the Windham Energy Committee hosted a three town community build of Window Dressers storm window inserts at the Windham Meeting House. Window Dressers is a non-profit organization based in Maine which specializes in producing inexpensive, attractive, energy efficient storm windows made of wood and two layers of heavy duty plastic. The windows are inserted from the inside of one's home and are easily removable when spring arrives. Volunteers make the windows using simple tools and an assembly line process that Window Dressers has fine-tuned over the course of a decade or more.

Prior to the community build, Ned O'Rourke and Jeff Young of Wardsboro, Bruce Frauman of Londonderry, and Vance Bell and Bill Dunkel of Windham, measured the windows of prospective customers in their respective towns. Then about two dozen volunteers from the three towns produced over 180 storm window inserts

for 21 households, plus the Methodist Church and the public school in Wardsboro. Nearly 85 inserts were assembled for eleven homes in Windham.

The Windham Energy Committee wishes to thank everyone who participated in, and supported, the community build. In addition to the people mentioned above, who devoted many hours to this cause, we especially wish to recognize several other Windham volunteers. Special thanks to Ron Phillips for the many hours he spent smoothing out wrinkles in the plastic window coverings with his magic air gun. Thanks to Gail Wyman for providing a delicious chili lunch, and kudos to Tom Widger for the time he devoted to assembling inserts and helping us clean up the mess we made in the Meeting House. The storm window inserts which were created will keep customers warm, save them money and reduce our collective output of greenhouse gasses. A triple-win made possible by goodwill and cooperation between citizens of three towns!

Your Generosity Helps Many

from Ellen McDuffie, WCO president



I can't thank our supporters enough for your amazing generosity to *Windham News & Notes* and the Windham Community Organization during the current COVID-19 pandemic. We have certainly missed being able to gather as a community for our annual fundraising events; however, thanks to you, we have been able to raise over \$8,000 during the past two years. We have very few expenses except for those associated with printing and distributing *News & Notes*, which run approximately \$1,500 per year.

In December of 2021, we were able to donate \$3,400 to the following social services organizations in our immediate area: Chester Helping Hands, Vermont Food Bank, Townshend Community Food Shelf, Londonderry Neighbor's Pantry and Neighborhood Connections, and \$600 directly to needy families. Earlier in 2021, we made donations totaling almost \$600 to Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) and Senior Solutions. We have held enough in reserve to support those in need through this winter.

Thank you for making this possible. All of us in the Windham Community Organization wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

News from the Selectboard

Here we are, about to embark on a new year. COVID is raging, and unfortunately, some of our friends and neighbors have recently been infected; we wish them all an easy time and speedy recoveries. This turn of events, coupled with guidance from the medical profession and much public support, has led us to enact a face covering rule at the Town Office and The Meeting House. Currently, public access to the Town Office is restricted to appointments only. [Editor's Note: The Library is also operating on an appointment only basis, until further notice.]

We await word from the Legislature that we can once again use Australian ballots for Town Meeting Day, rather than in-person voting from the floor. Unfortunately, we just don't have a space large enough to hold a safely-distanced in-person meeting.

We continue to think about how we can use the American Rescue Plan Act money that's been allotted to Windham. We have a few ideas; if you also have any, let us know, and we'll see if the idea fits a need and meets the criteria for use of these funds.

The Highway Department, as usual, has been very active. They finished up lots of culvert and ditching projects before the freezing weather. They are replacing the fuel tank and its housing at the Town Garage, which was causing damage to the salt shed. The salt shed itself is getting some needed TLC in the way of new gussets for stabilization. They have also been applying for grants to assist us with projects and equipment purchases. Of course, there is always the plowing. While many of us were snuggled up at home on Christmas Day, the roads still needed tending. We thank you gentlemen, for keeping us mobile and safe.

The Municipal and Highway budgets for 2022 are almost complete and will be featured in the Town Report which will be mailed to registered voters and available in the Town Office in February.

As we turn to 2022 with hope in our hearts, we wish you a Happy New Year. Please stay safe.

Maureen, Kord and George



To reach the Road Crew, call the Town Garage at 802-874-7025, or Richard Paré at 802-379-5647 (cell) or 802-874-4971 (home). You may also call or email Kord, Maureen or

George to let us know if there's a tree down or any other unsafe road situation. Thank you in advance for notifying the Road Crew.

Bye-bye from Maureen

Please know that I will not be running again for the Windham Selectboard. Though this work has been a highlight of my life for which I am deeply thankful, it is time to step aside and pursue other things.

I am grateful for having had the opportunity to serve you the last six years. Getting to know and work with so many of you has been an absolute pleasure. Thanks to all my colleagues, the Town Clerk, the Treasurer and their Assistants, Road Crews, Commissioners and Committee Members, and other departments. Your dedication to, and concern for, Windham is remarkable. I wish you all continued success.

If you're interested in being on the Selectboard, may I suggest you read the Town Plan? The VLCT Selectboard Handbook is also interesting and insightful. If you have questions about the position, please let me know - I'd be happy to speak with you.

Thank you all for this opportunity. Please, take care and stay healthy. Maureen Bell

All Dogs Must Be Registered in the Town Office by April 1 and Current Proof of Rabies Vaccination Must Be on File.

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. (Must have proof of spay or neuter from your veterinarian.)
Intact males, females, and all wolf hybrids, \$14; after April 1, \$18.**

You may mail in your registration fee or drop it by the office. If you send in your payment by mail or by using the secure drop box, your registration, tag and original vaccination certificate will be mailed to you. For more information, you may call the office at 802-874-

4211 during office hours; however, the office is currently closed to in-person interactions except by appointment, so you will need to come to the front window or knock at the door. A mask is required to enter the building, even if you have an appointment.





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 legal resident, it is important that you file form HS-122 so that you are correctly assessed the homestead tax rate on your property. Depending on your income level, the homestead exemption may reduce your education property taxes. All property in Vermont is subject to education property tax to fund 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 the property 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, used exclusively for commercial or rental purposes, OR is a second home, camp, vacation home or summer cottage.

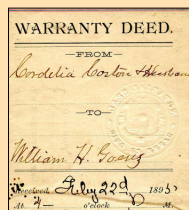
The HS-122 form must be filed with your Vermont Income Tax forms by April 15. If you are not filing Vermont Income Tax forms, or are filing late, you still **MUST FILE the HS-122 form by the April 15 deadline. If you have an accountant who files your tax return, be sure they file the HS-122 form with your Vermont tax return.** Remember, your education property taxes are calculated based on your property status as homestead or non-homestead. If you file this 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 therefore, a revised bill does not have to be issued, and penalties assessed.

Windham Land Records Are Available On-Line

by Mike McLaine

You can search the town Land Records data online. Some records include scanned documents that may be purchased for print / download from the Town Clerk. The fee to print / download documents is \$2.50 per page. If you have further questions, you can reach the Windham Town Clerk's Office at 5976 Windham Hill Road, Windham, Vermont 05359 or by phone at (802) 874-4211. Prices for records research and copies may differ in person, and are usually less.

Windham Land Records are available using the following link: <https://windham.lr-1.com/> or through the Town of Windham website: www.townofwindhamvt.com under Documents, Land Records.



WINDHAM NEWS & NOTES

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

N&N Team

Maureen Bell Dawn Bower
Mary Boyer Pat Cherry
Chris Dunkel Leila Erhardt
Louise Johnson Kathy Jungermann
Imme Maurath Ellen McDuffie
Philip McDuffie Pat McLaine
Barbara Jean Quinn Carolyn Rubin
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, 2022

Town Office Hours

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Monday Noon- 8 PM
Tuesday 6 AM - 10 AM
Wednesday 10AM - 2 PM
Fourth Saturday of the Month
8 AM - Noon
CLOSED Wed., Thurs., Fri.
& ALL Federal Holidays

802-874-4211 or 802-875-1550
or email
windham.town@gmail.com.

FACE MASK REQUIRED.

To Join A Zoom Selectboard Meeting:

The Selectboard meeting information is available from the printed agendas that are posted throughout town on Saturdays before meetings, and are also posted on the town website, or you may email Maureen Bell for an invite at: mbellselectboard@gmail.com.

Officers to be Elected at Town Meeting on March 1, 2022

By Kathy Jungermann and Ellen McDuffie

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

<u>Position Available</u>	<u>Term Length</u>	<u>Current Holder of Position</u>
Town Moderator	1 year term	Michael McLaine
Town Clerk	3 year term	Michael McLaine (Not running for re-election)
Town Treasurer	3 year term	Kathleen Scott
Selectboard	3 year term	Maureen Bell (Not running for re-election)
Lister	3 year term	Meredith Tips-McLaine
Auditor	3 year term	Pat McLaine
Constable	2 year term	Joseph Lamson
Delinquent Tax Collector	1 year term	Paul Wyman
Windham Center	5 year term	Deanna Parker
Cemetery Commission		
West Windham	5 year term	Peter Newton
Cemetery Commission		
North Windham	5 year term	Carol C. Merritt
Cemetery Commission		
Library Trustee	5 year term	Maureen Bell
Windham School Director	3 year term	Carolyn Partridge

**TOWN MEETING IS
TUESDAY,
MARCH 1**

**Watch for news about
probable changes
from in-person floor
voting to Australian
ballot and remote
informational meeting
due to COVID-19.**

If you would like to become more involved in serving Windham, please consider running for office. At the time of printing this issue, for any *elected* position, you must be nominated from the floor at Town Meeting. However, the Vermont House and Senate, the Governor and the Windham Selectboard may vote in the next week to authorize changes for Town Meeting to move to Australian ballot for this year due to the high number of COVID-19 cases in the state. Depending on the legislation, you may be required to submit a Consent of Candidate Form and a petition, which must be signed and submitted *possibly* as early as January 24, 2022 at 5:00 PM, to have your name placed on the ballot. This form should be available at the Town Office. If your name is not on the ballot, you may receive write-in votes if we move to Australian ballot. This is all conjecture at this time, based on the changes and requirements of 2021, and should be resolved by the second week of January, 2022.

There are also appointed positions to be filled by the Selectboard at 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, which will be mailed to registered voters no less than 10 days prior to the Town Meeting on Tuesday, March 1, 2022.

At present, the Town Office is open by appointment only. Please contact the Town Clerk at 802-874-4211 or at windham.town@gmail.com with any specific questions you may have about the process.

Duties and responsibilities of all town officers are accessible on the Vermont League of Cities and Towns website: www.vlct.org. There are many state-required duties for each position, and no position should be entered into without a full understanding of the responsibilities.



Happy Trails from Mike McLaine

I have had the pleasure of serving as Windham's Town Clerk since 2017, and I have decided not to run again at Town Meeting this year. During my time in office I have gotten to know many of you, and I have been able to complete many projects in my efforts to preserve and make accessible the town land records. Thank you for your support and confidence in my ability. Mike McLaine

2022 Annual LTS Permits On Sale



Londonderry Transfer Station Annual Permits for 2022 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 trash disposal and recycling. The annual permit fee is \$10 per year and **must be paid in cash or by check made payable to: Town of Windham.**

In addition to the annual permit, a punch card must also be purchased for garbage and trash disposal, \$10 for five punches and \$20 for ten punches.

Because the Town Office is currently closed to in-person interactions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, you will need to come to the front window, knock at the door, or make an appointment. A mask is required to enter the building, even if you have an appointment, and please be respectful of your distance from others.

A HUGE THANK YOU from the Fire Company!

The Windham Fire Company wishes to thank all who responded to the annual end-of-the-year appeal for support. We are overwhelmed by your generosity and wish to send out a huge THANK YOU!!

The Fire Company is changing systems for calls and reporting. This includes the entire tri-mountain area.

When the new system is up and running, reporting on the fire calls for Windham will resume.



MOUNTAIN MARKETPLACE

Junction Route 11 & 100 Londonderry

Winter Roads Policy - Windham, VT

Plow routes are set up to open the school routes and major traffic routes first. Operations usually begin at 4:00 AM to have the bus route and major roads cleared by 7:00 AM. After 16 hours on the job, the Road Crew is required to stop operations and get a minimum of 6 hours of rest. In extreme weather, a third part-time employee is available to accommodate this requirement. In most cases, there will be no maintenance between 10:00 PM and 4:00 AM.

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

From the public, we ask the following:

- All turn-around areas should be kept clear of vehicles.
- Park your vehicles in your driveways, back from where snow will be thrown, 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. The resulting piles on our roads are dangerous to passing traffic and can lead to accidents.
- When the plows are on the road, please be patient. Don't pass unless necessary.

The Road Crew will make every reasonable effort to plow close to mailboxes, but not so close as to take them down – sometimes this is a balancing act. The more thoughtfully your mailbox is located and maintained, the less likely it will be damaged by the weight of the snow, or by the plow wing itself. The town cannot be responsible for mailbox damage.

Remember, the plow drivers are up high above the road and their primary attention is on the road and the plow, not on passing vehicles.

We anticipate a safe winter for everyone and thank you for your thoughtfulness.



EVERYONE EATS !

UPDATE: VERMONT EVERYONE EATS has been approved to continue through April 1, 2022. You may call 2-1-1 for the most up to date information on meal availability. Meals are distributed nearby at the Newfane Congregational Church and in Londonderry at Neighborhood Connections. The program is administered by SEVCA. For more information, you may also call SEVCA at 1-802-722-4575 or go to: www.vteveryoneeats.org.

Reforging the Alliance, Part 2

by Michael Pelton

Our town has been divided by the recent votes on wind power and the elementary school closure. We need, as a community, to heal and learn to live and play together again, to reforge our community into a productive and welcoming town. We must fortify our resolve to call each other friends and neighbors, where we can be civil with each other. One of the ways to do this and to continue to build our community is to enjoy each other's company. This will likewise draw like-minded people to our town.

Commons, parks and community gardens where people can gather, relax and play have long been touted as a huge boon for community cohesiveness and prosperity. Some communities have placed small signs in designated areas indicating distance to trails, benches, signs indicating school bus stops, natural habitats, and historic sights, all to encourage community cohesiveness, walking and biking, exploration, and safety, in their towns. Certainly, we can ponder steps such as this, and have the ability to create a town sponsored park or recreation area with hiking trails, picnic tables and other cost-efficient options.

Environmental revivals have also been illustrated as successes, bringing towns into the forefront. Some towns and states have long pushed for investments and partnerships with corporations to forge these paths. A town with a sincere push to support environmental sustainment is clearly a draw for those with a goal of environmental stewardship.

A community farmers market or town swap has gone a long way in other towns to bring people together. We might be small, but similar strategies might be a way for us to tap a larger pool of people and encourage our own local community agri-business. Perhaps we could utilize a community garden to produce a crop for a community canning class. This class could produce products for sales at other local markets, to help another community, and at the same time produce a small amount of community revenue for Windham. These revenues could be channeled for investment in that pop-up university I mentioned in Part 1.

Although our town has clearly spoken regarding an industrial sized wind project, and there are reservations regarding fields of solar panels, simple things like a panel on every roof would go a long way toward reducing our impact on the fossil-fuel economy and the environment. A small grid tied system can cost as little as \$500. Is this something that our town could find grants, or other ways to

fund? Now, I am not naively saying that we can replace our power with solar for as little as \$500. Inclement weather and modern electrical demands tend to make a true replacement cost prohibitive for most individuals, but small steps can help to reduce grid pressures, and can make a difference environmentally. Perhaps there are more things that our town could do as a community, which could help put our town on the map, and attract those with similar goals to join our community?



Regardless of your individual views on any one subject, I suggest that it is our town's residents' responsibility to look to our future and contemplate what our collective vision is for the future. It is time to start thinking about what your vision of the town includes, and take your ideas and ways to achieve them, to the Selectboard. Start committees, collaborate to fundraise for common goals, and think about ways the community can get **together**. **Let's reforge this alliance.** Let's reflect upon the past, and future, together. To get a sense of where this town has been, and can go in the future, check out the town website. Watch "Wandering through Windham" [a DVD by Chris Fisher] or read some of the writings about Windham's history. Explore the community of the past, and dream of the future of our town. It is now time for us, the community of the 2020's, to write our history of the town of Windham. Let's write a happy and vibrant one, let us make history!

WCO Cookie Plates

On December 15, a small group of the Windham Community Organization (WCO) gathered at the Meeting House to assemble 19 cookie and fruit plates as a "Thank you" to members of our community who provide town services, and for those who are quite elderly or have trouble preparing special holiday treats for themselves. The cookies were baked and delivered by many members of WCO. Fruit was provided by Cindy Kehoe, and supplies

were provided by Kathy Jungermann. Due to the pandemic, this year only five members were responsible for preparing the festive plates: Barbara Jean Quinn, Cindy Kehoe, Leila Erhardt, Pat McLaine and Kathy Jungermann.



Important Vermont Tax Forms to be Filed Annually

by Russ Cumming

Happy New Year! As this New Year begins and you are getting ready to file your Vermont income tax return for 2021, the Listers would like to remind you to complete your Vermont HS-122 Homestead Declaration and Schedule HI-144 Household Income Schedule forms. These forms must be completed annually on or before April 15th. If the federal tax filing deadline is extended, then the same deadline applies to the Vermont filings.

The Listers have an additional responsibility to keep track of the Vermont Homestead Declaration and Property Tax Credit Claim forms. Every week beginning in January, the Listers download a digital file from the Vermont Department of Taxes that indicates who has filed the form HS-122 and the Household Income form HI-144. These digital files are loaded directly into the Windham Grand List and determine who is or is not a Homestead taxpayer.

The form HI-144 is an important form for income tax filers to complete. If you are a renter and your household income is \$47,000 or less, you may be eligible for a renter rebate. Claims are due by April 15th but may be filed as late as October 15 of the same year. If your household income is less than \$138,000, you may be eligible for a property tax credit. The form HI-144 must be filed with the HS-122 by April 15th, or as late as October 15th of the tax year. The property tax credit earned in 2021 will apply to your education and municipal tax bills issued by the town in August 2022. (Credit earned in the 2021 tax year, based on your 2021 income and applied to your 2022 bill, is reflected in the amount of the state payment on your 2022 tax bill). Property taxes will be due Monday, October 31, 2022.

The designation of being a Homestead filer is important as the local school tax is assessed only to Homestead tax payers. Vermont has a two tiered tax rate, one rate for Homestead filers and a separate rate for Non-Homestead filers. Once the school budget is decided, the Homestead tax rate is established by the Chief Financial Officer of the West River Supervisory Union. That tax rate applies only to the Homestead taxpayers within the town. All Non-Homestead taxpayers pay a fixed rate that is not impacted by the school budget, but is set by the State as a statewide rate, adjusted by each town's Common Level of Appraisal (CLA). This year the CLA has been set at 83.75% or 0.8375.

So remember to file:

HS-122 by April 15th 2022, last late filing Oct. 15th 2022

HI-144 by April 15th 2022, last late filing Oct. 15th 2022

<https://tax.vermont.gov/content/2021-form-hs-122>

In the Service

by Asa Goodband

Lifelong resident of Windham, Fireman Apprentice Aubrey Goodband of the United States Coast Guard, graduated from boot camp at Training Center, Cape May, NJ on September 17, 2021. He is currently stationed at Fairport Harbor, a small boat station on Lake Erie. At Station Fairport, Aubrey is



Aubrey Goodband, Fireman Apprentice, U.S. Coast Guard

working towards earning his boat crew qualifications. After only three weeks at Station Fairport, he was recommended by his command for Boatswain's Mate (BM) Advanced Training School, or "A" school, a process that normally takes upwards of a year and a half. After fourteen weeks of intensive training at BM "A" school in Yorktown, Virginia, Aubrey will again graduate, this time rated as a BM3; a BM3 is a Petty Officer Third Class. Fireman Apprentice Goodband has also shown interest in Surfman training. Surfmen are a select group of women and men who facilitate high risk rescues in rough and often challenging seas. Upon completion of "A" school, he will continue his training and receive his Coxswain qualifications. We thank him for his service and wish him the best of luck in his career with the United States.

Editor's Note: Aubrey, all of Windham is so proud to call you one of ours! Thank you for serving.



Finally! Live symphonic music

in Windham County is back. The Windham Philharmonic performed two concerts in November and December at the historic Latchis Theatre in Brattleboro. The next concert is scheduled for Monday, February 28th at the Latchis at 7:00 PM. This concert will feature works by Bruckner and Jerod Tate. Jerod Tate is a contemporary Native American composer from the Chickasaw Nation in Oklahoma.

Ride with a neighbor to enjoy and support this orchestra. Concerts are free, and attendees need to show proof of vaccination and wear masks for everyone's safety. Hope to see you there!

Check out www.windhamphilharmonic.org for more information and updates. Al McLaine

Dedication of Veterans Memorial and Honorarium

by Mary Boyer

On a cold, wet Sunday afternoon in November, one hundred twenty Windham folks came out to the dedication of our Veterans Memorial Plaque honoring more than 150 Veterans who have served our country in wartime since 1917. The dedication was heartwarming and memorable from the moment the Color Guard marched in, accompanied by the bag pipes played by Ben Partridge to the final haunting notes of the trumpeter's TAPS. Speakers addressed their comments to the history of the plaque itself, and of its importance to the community and to a large number of families who had three and even four family members memorialized.

The audience raised their voices in songs accompanied by a string band, a brass band and the Windham Elementary School children's chorus. People were invited into the Meeting House to warm up, and enjoy light snacks in celebration.

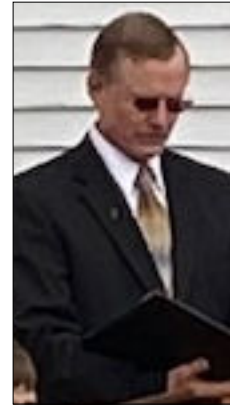
The committee hopes that remembering our veterans will be a living process. Susan Persa is asking everyone to submit memories and stories of veterans you have known for a Memorial Book she will put together. And veterans, please submit your own reflections of your time in service. Names of future veterans, and those who were inadvertently omitted from the plaque, will be written in calligraphy and placed in a framed Honorarium in the Town Office. Please notify Susan Persa at spersavt@gmail.com and she will advise you on how to proceed.

It has been a privilege for us to participate in the completion of the Windham Veterans Memorial and Honorarium. We thank everyone who gave their time and energy to see it finalized. And we greatly appreciate all of you who supported it financially from the very beginning, four years ago.

Susan Persa

Walt Woodruff

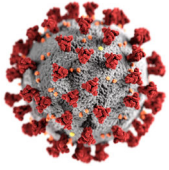
Mary Boyer



Photos from top, left to right: Memorial Plaque; Ben Partridge on bag pipes; Color Guard, Marcia Clinton & Leon Gibbs; Peter Carlson; Walter Woodruff, speaks of history of plaques; Mary Boyer; Windham School Chorus sings "My Country 'Tis of Thee" with Sally Newton; Mark Griffin delivering invocation, with Leon Gibbs, Walter Woodruff, Peter Carlson, Mary Boyer and Marcia Clinton to the right; the brass band.

COVID-19: Keep your seatbelts fastened!

by Pat McLaine



It is hard to believe that we are entering into year three of the COVID-19 pandemic. What more can we expect? Unless our efforts to vaccinate larger percentages of the world's peoples are more successful, we will continue to see more change, including new variants and new patterns of disease with differences in the contagiousness and severity of new variants, measured by number and percent hospitalized, and number and percent died.

We will need to continue to stay vigilant and continue taking common sense actions to protect ourselves and each other. Some of these include getting adults and kids 5 years of age and older vaccinated, getting booster shots for individuals age 16 and older (and younger when approved), wearing a mask when in indoor public spaces or when traveling on public transportation, washing hands regularly, getting flu shots (if you haven't already), keeping social get-togethers small, practicing social distancing, and choosing safer activities.

If get-togethers are planned, talk before you go – find out if people you will be with have been fully vaccinated or if extra precautions are needed for high-risk persons. Get tested before you gather. Get tested 5-7 days after a holiday gathering even if you feel fine and are vaccinated.

If you feel sick, stay home and send regrets – your friends and colleagues will appreciate you not sharing. Communicate by text or phone or zoom – where you can't spread whatever you have to others. If you have COVID-19 symptoms, get tested.

If you test positive for COVID-19, isolate yourself and contact your primary care provider right away. You may benefit from medical treatments that are now available. If you don't have a primary care provider, call 2-1-1 to be connected to care. The people who have been around you should all get tested. Follow current Vermont Department of Health advice about how long you should isolate and when you can return safely to regular daily activities.

Home testing kits for COVID-19 have started to be available across Vermont, although they are currently in short supply. These will be another tool to help with long-term management of COVID-19.

Continue to stay safe and keep up to-date with the changing face of COVID-19 in Vermont at www.healthvermont.gov. And remember – as with all long journeys – keep those seatbelts fastened: we'll get there eventually!

Slippery Falls Ahead

by Marcia Clinton, Health Officer

Keeping on your toes can be no easy fete, especially come winter. So far this winter there has been more ice than snow outside. There are ways to prevent sudden falls and unwanted injuries.



Weather changes can affect your ability to see. Grey days without bright sunlight means less contrast, so people can't see as well under such circumstances. Adding lighting to dark passageways and stairwells is more important during the winter months.

Make your walkways safe by using calcium chloride, the component of Ice Melt, which is at a premium now, sand, or kitty litter. Sand without the salt can be obtained at the town garage. Non-clumping, natural clay kitty litter, stored in an empty laundry detergent container by the front door, is an easy way to make walkways safer.

There are many traction devices that fit over boots or shoes to make it safer to walk on an icy driveway. Less expensive ones can be found in local hardware stores. But from my experience, the best grips, which provide excellent traction for ice, are made by Kahtoola. Their nano-spikes or micro-spikes are more expensive, but are designed to fit onto any style of footwear to provide security and grip on icy ground. Whatever grip devices you have for safe walking, consider keeping them permanently on a pair of old boots so they are easy to put on as you go out to the mailbox.

Improving balance and gait will increase your mobility. Practice standing on one foot frequently, and walking in a straight line as though it's a balance beam.

These self-defense strategies can give you a measure of control in lowering your risk for falling and in being able to confidently enjoy the great outdoors in winter.

LARSON ELECTRIC LLC
 Licensed & Insured

Emmett Larson
larsonelectric1@gmail.com
 tel. (802) 380-4620

Newfane, VT

Thank you for the gifts!

from the School Board

Dear Community,

The Windham Elementary School Board would like to thank Louise Johnson for the beautiful cloth-bound journals she created for the older Windham students for the holidays! I also want to thank Aurel and Louiselle Giguere for the beautiful birdhouses gifted to the Windham Elementary School children. I've seen one of them displayed proudly on the front porch of the bus driver's house! These gifts show Windham has not only an abundance of artistic talent but also a tremendous wealth of community spirit. Thank you all for your gifts, your generosity, and your time participating in Windham Elementary School. You are very much appreciated.

As always, the School Board will meet again the 3rd Tuesday of the month, January 16 at 6 PM in-person at the school or on Zoom.

Wishing you a calm and peaceful 2022.

Kindly, Beth McDonald



Photos: top, journals from Louise Johnson; middle two photos, bird houses from Aurel and Louiselle Giguere; bottom left, Louiselle, Kord Scott and Aurel.

A New Boiler Needed for Windham Elementary

The following information was prepared for the Windham School Board by Greg Frost, Windham Central Supervisory Union Director of Operations

The issues with the boiler are as follows. The in-ground oil tank is dated and either needs to be replaced or no longer used, and removed. There is an issue with make up air* in the boiler room which has caused too much condensation to remain present in the boiler room, resulting in rusting of parts and early failure.

We had a preliminary discussion with an engineer and decided that we could make a reasonable plan forward without the need for a full specification from an engineer. We learned that the current boiler is substantially larger than it needs to be, so we decided between that knowledge, and the knowledge of Kord Scott and Russell Cumming and myself that we could make a reasonable plan forward and save the high cost of the engineer.

We are planning to install two 200,000 BTU liquid propane boilers. The plan is to install two smaller, higher efficiency units that can run in a 'lead/lag' system. The 'lead' unit is the primary boiler and the 'lag' supports the 'lead' when it is needed. This type of scheduling allows for the 'lag' boiler to only kick on to support the 'lead' during start-up, or high-demand times. We will also use the control system to switch which boiler is the 'lead' and which is the 'lag', every three to four weeks. This will result in lower overall costs to heat, and also lengthens the lifespan of the boilers. A new variable speed pump will be installed as well to allow only the necessary amount of hot water to be distributed to the heating system, also resulting in increased efficiency.

There will also be an indirect hot water heater installed to provide domestic hot water.

A new make up air unit will also be installed in the boiler room to better control the moisture in that space and in turn to better protect the equipment in the boiler room.

[* Make up air is designed to "make up" for the air in your interior space that has been removed due to process exhaust fans. This type of HVAC solution pulls in fresh, tempered air from outside your building to replace existing air that cannot be recirculated. It is recommended for buildings where environmental conditions warrant a greater need for ventilation, not only to improve the quality of air within the building, but also protects the health of those inside.]

News from Windham Elementary

by Sara Wunderle

Happy New Year from the Windham Elementary students and staff!

In November, our K-1st grade students learned about Veterans Day. At the end of our study, the students made thank you cards and we sent them off to the West River Junction VA Medical Center for them to display for the veterans. A returned thank you from the VA was received and read to the students.

Windham Elementary School (WES) was selected to name a VTrans Plow truck for this winter season. On Wednesday, November 17th at 9:00 AM, one of the 250 full-size VTrans orange snow plows came to visit WES. The students' alliteration plow truck name was displayed on the side of the truck - "Slip Sliding Safety Service!"

WES students continue to visit the Meadows Bee Farm (MBF) every Thursday morning to assist with the farm chores and learn more about farming at MBF. The hours that the WES students had contributed through November earned them their

Level One livestock and farming badge. Just before the holiday break the WES students began the activities needed to earn their Sheep Badge.

Although Mother Nature has not delivered the amount of snow the students are yearning for; they have still taken advantage of the few storms we did have.

The four days right before holiday break were filled with lots of fun and creativity! Dress-up days that included: Holiday Cheer Day, Grinch Day, Candy Cane Day and Pj Day. Trips were made to the Brattleboro Museum Art Center and the Edgar May Recreation Center for swimming. An afternoon visit was paid by Ron and Michele Boslun, who spent time teaching the students numbers, colors and songs in French and Chinese. Holiday crafts were led by some amazing Windham parent/family volunteers! And to culminate the week; they had a gift exchange with some holiday treats and a movie.

We look forward to updating you all in the spring on our next adventures here at Windham Elementary!

SLIP SLIDING SAFETY SERVICE
Windham Elementary School



Profiles In Community

Edited by Carolyn Rubin

This column has reached a one year anniversary, highlighting our friends and neighbors who live and/or work in our community so we can get to know each other better. More than ever, we rely on each other as neighbors, committee members and providers of services, and hopefully we will be welcoming to folks who are new in town. Please stay well, and I hope that you continue to enjoy reading these personal essays!

Bill Casey, Windham Resident

written by Bill Casey

I was born in the town of Amherst in central Massachusetts. I did farm work as long as I can remember. I did all the repair work on the farm vehicles, as I had a knack for all things mechanical. After graduation from high school, I started at Lowell Tech and majored in their specialized Plastics program. After two years, money ran out, and the Army called. For my stint in the Army, I was sent to New Mexico to work on a missile range. After leaving the Army, I returned to school at Lowell Tech, got married, and bought a used Porsche. I worked part time as a Volkswagen (VW) mechanic to pay the bills.

I managed to get degrees in Polymer Science and Polymer Physics (plastics). Upon graduating, I took a job at a new start-up polymer plant in Delaware. I had a side business buying and fixing used VW's and Porsches which supported my other business (hobby) of amateur race car driving. After several years, I decided to change from racing cars to racing motorcycles, as they were cheaper and easier to work on.

For a job expansion project, the polymer plant sent me to Southern California for a short time. There we ran into problems with air emissions, and I could see a bleak future ahead for the plant. Because of this, I took a job in NJ that was part of a large French oil company. This position led me to managing their worldwide plastics business, and to an office in Paris. I traveled all over Europe and the Far East, and got to see most of the world. During this time I managed to complete my MBA, as well.

After my contract time was up, I came back to NJ and became disillusioned with the direction the company was headed, so I took a severance package and set up my own business in corporate plastics recycling. My venture was ahead of its time, so I returned back into the industry. There, I developed the plastic liner used in screw top wine bottles and

one of the types of synthetic corks also used for wine.

I have always had a soft spot in my heart for Vermont as we had relatives who lived here. Later, we bought a cabin on Tinmouth Mountain near Danby and Pawlet, which was later sold to finance my business. In retirement, the urge to get out of NJ and back to VT

resurfaced. After searching in both western and eastern VT last year, we saw the property at 185 Burbee Pond Road and made an offer.

My wife and I have two daughters and five grandchildren who all live in NJ at this time. My wife is a devoted grandmother and spends most of her time helping with the kids. She comes here with the kids over holidays and in the summer.

One of my hobbies is gardening, so I set out to plant flowers and vegetables, and put up lots of jellies and relishes for the winter. I'm a home brewer as well. I also enjoy hunting and fishing as well as hiking. If you are on Burbee Pond Road, Old Cheney Road or West Windham, you likely have passed me on the road. I have also done pottery for a number of years, and along the way got a degree in fine arts (pottery). I hope to build a wood fired kiln this spring so I can set up a little studio. I also enjoy reading and cooking.

Since I was a member of the local fire company in NJ, I decided to join the Windham Fire Company as I know most local companies are short staffed, especially during the day. This is a great group of people who give a lot of their time to serve and take care of the community. I enjoy the people I have met and who have helped me when I needed a hand or tool.

Editors Note: Bill moved to Windham just as the COVID-19 pandemic was building up steam, so his wife has been spending much of her time in NJ helping their grandchildren with remote learning, and with their childcare. We hope she will be able to spend more time in Windham in this upcoming year.



Bill Casey, Windham Resident

Vermont Legislature Has Convened

by Caroline Partridge, Representative



The 2022 Legislative Session convened on January 4, 2022. We met in person at 10 AM in order to pass the Resolutions necessary to be able to meet remotely. Our hope was to meet in person, but the Omicron variant threw a monkey wrench in those plans. It is hoped that we will be able to get back to in-person meetings when the Omicron surge is over, and will reassess the situation in a couple of weeks.

Major work to be done this year includes reapportionment; investing Vermont's remaining federal ARPA funds; education finance revision, in regard to the weighting study; rural broadband buildout; addressing the childcare and housing crises; increasing access to healthcare, mental health, and substance use disorder treatment services; and the pension liability challenge, to name a few.

In my House Agriculture and Forestry Committee, I am excited to work on a forthcoming bill that will apply the same process to our forestry and forest products sector as we did for agriculture with Farm to Plate a decade or more ago. I like to think of it as the Forest to Table Bill.

Given everything mentioned above, we have our work cut out for us. During the Legislative Session, I can be reached at home by phone at 802-874-4182 or by email at cpartridge@leg.state.vt.us. If we do get back to the State House in person, I can be reached by phone toll free at 800-828-5616. The Sergeant at Arms office will answer and deliver your message to me, and I will get back to you as soon as possible. You may also follow along with legislative action by going to www.legislature.vermont.gov and searching for committee or Floor action that is livestreamed on YouTube.

If you have questions, concerns, or ideas, please don't hesitate to contact me. Together, we govern!



Finch Chow Time on the Railing in the Snow!

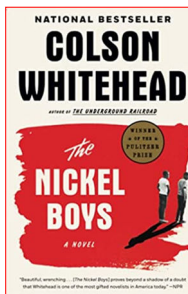
Windham Library News

The Windham Town Library has been forced to close once again due to the huge increase in COVID-19 cases. If you would like a book, please call one of the Library Trustees. Book Club will meet on Zoom at 3:30 PM on Wednesday, February 2.

Wednesday, February 2, 2022 - 3:30 PM

The Nickel Boys

by Colson Whitehead



In this Pulitzer Prize-winning, *New York Times* bestselling follow-up to *The Underground Railroad*, Colson Whitehead brilliantly dramatizes another strand of American history through the story of two boys unjustly sentenced to a hellish

reform school in Jim Crow-era Florida. When Elwood Curtis, a black boy growing up in 1960s Tallahassee, is unfairly sentenced to a juvenile reformatory, he finds himself trapped in a grotesque chamber of horrors. Elwood's only salvation is his friendship with fellow "delinquent" Turner, which deepens despite Turner's conviction that Elwood is hopelessly naive, that the world is crooked, and that the only way to survive is to scheme and avoid trouble. As life at the Academy becomes ever more perilous, the tension between Elwood's ideals and Turner's skepticism leads to a decision whose repercussions will echo down the decades. Based on the real story of a reform school that operated for 111 years and warped the lives of thousands of children, *The Nickel Boys* is a devastating, driven narrative.

Contact Maureen Bell at 802-875-1024, for more information and/or for the Book Club Zoom link.

Safety First! Be sure to Check Your Smoke Detectors

Smoke detectors and fire alarms may be some of the most important items in your home when it comes to your family's safety. These early warning devices may help alert your family to fire and dangerous smoke while there is still time to evacuate, but they need to be periodically tested to help ensure proper function.

According to the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), smoke detectors should be tested at least once a month and batteries should be replaced at least once or twice a year. A good way to remember to do this is to change your batteries when you change your clocks for daylight saving time or at the beginning of the new year. Make sure to review your smoke detector's user manual and test your detectors regularly.

FNP Juliette Carr Joins Grace Cottage Family Health

by C. J. King

Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) Juliette Carr has joined the primary care staff at Grace Cottage Family Health in Townshend.

Carr holds a Master of Science-FNP degree from Georgetown University and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is Board Certified as an FNP and as a Maternal & Newborn RN. In addition, she is a Registered Herbalist with the American Herbalists Guild and holds an LGBTQ+ SafeZone Certification. She provides gender-affirming, holistic care to adults and children.

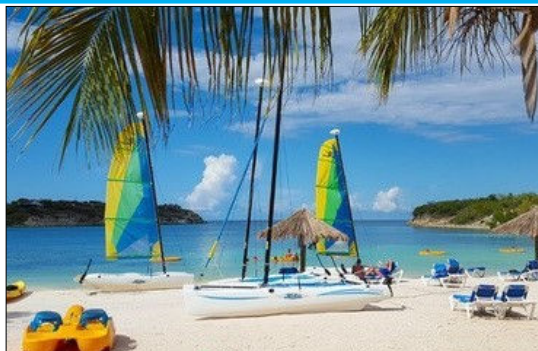
In addition to seeing patients for general primary care and family medicine, Carr also has a subspecialty in Integrative Medicine and is a nationally recognized speaker and writer on holistic medicine. She is Co-Chair of the American Nurses Association of Vermont's Legislative Advocacy Committee and is a member of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners and Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society of Nursing. She is the recipient of both a Southern Vermont "Emerging Leader Award" and a "Rising Stars Award for Top 40 under 40" for community service in 2021.



Juliette Carr, Family Nurse Practitioner

Before joining the Grace Cottage staff, Juliette worked as an Adjunct Professor at University of Massachusetts-Amherst College of Nursing and as an RN at Brattleboro Memorial Hospital.

Carr says that, "Working at Grace Cottage allows me to serve my neighbors as part of the best primary



Grace Cottage's Cabin Fever Auction: February 14 – 23

from Andrea Seton, (802)365-9109

Grace Cottage's Cabin Fever Online Auction is a perfect way to bring fun and joy to your winter. With a wide selection to choose from, it's a great source for something practical, delectable, delightful, and inspirational! Bidding takes place February 14-23, 2022.

Each year, Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital's Cabin Fever Auction includes exotic vacations, Vermont foods, local gift certificates, handcrafted items, jewelry, and art. With a wide variety of offerings, there's something for everyone, whatever your interests or budget. Pictured above is an offering of a seven-night stay at a Caribbean destination.

Generous local businesses and individuals donate this awesome array of items. All proceeds benefit the Grace Cottage Patient Care Fund.

To learn more, see items, and register to bid, visit <https://www.32auctions.com/CabinFeverAuction2022>.

care team in Windham County, which is a wonderful feeling."

She lives on a farm in Newfane with her family. In her free time, she enjoys hiking, gardening and skiing.

Juliette Carr is accepting new patients. To schedule an appointment with her, call 802-365-4331.

 **GraceCottage**
HOSPITAL
We Go Beyond Patient Care

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



News from Londonderry Transfer Station

Transfer Station and Recycling Center Hours:

Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri, Sat. 9 AM to 4 PM

Closed Wednesday & Sunday

An annual permit is required to use the transfer station for trash and recycling. A punch card is needed to leave trash.

You must be a Windham property owner or resident to purchase an annual permit at the Windham Town Office. The fee is \$10 and it is valid for calendar year 2022. A punch card may be purchased at the town office, or at Londonderry Hardware, for \$10 for 5 punches or \$20 for 10 punches, There is no expiration date on a punch card.

For questions or more information about the Transfer Station, please contact Esther Fishman at: fishman.esther@gmail.com.

TAKE-IT OR LEAVE-IT SHED IS OPEN!

The Take-it or Leave-it Shed has re-opened from 12 Noon – 3 PM each day the transfer station is open.

NO ELECTRONIC DEVICES

NO BEDDING

NO VHS TAPES

NO BROKEN/UNUSABLE ITEMS

NO CLOTHING or SHOES - bring to the Thrifty Attic or place in the One World bins in plastic bags.

ALL ITEMS SHOULD BE IN GOOD WORKING CONDITION

When in doubt, ask the attendant.

For extensive information on use of the Transfer Station facilities, go to the Town of Londonderry's website and click on Recycle/Transfer, www.londonderryvt.org.

TOWN WEBSITE: TOWNOFWINDHAMVT.COM

Town Clerk: Michael McLaine, phone: 802-874-4211; email: windham.town@gmail.com

Town Treasurer: Kathy Scott, phone: 802-874-4211; email: windham.towntreasurer@gmail.com

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

Lister and Zoning: Alison Cummings, 802-874-7223; cobbbrookfarm@gmail.com; Lister: Russ Cumming, 802-874-7011

E911 Coordinator and Lister: Meredith Tips-McLaine, 802-875-1550; meredithtipsmclaine@gmail.com

Select Board: Maureen Bell, chair, phone: 802-875-1024; email: mbellselectboard@gmail.com

School Board: Beth McDonald, chair, phone: 802-874-4015; email: 219woodburn@gmail.com

Windham Community Organization: Ellen McDuffie, phone: 802-874-8183; email: eflockwood@aol.com

Windham Fire Warden: Rick Weitzel, phone: 802-874-4104; Ralph Wyman, phone: 802-875-3373

Health Officer: Marcia Clinton, phone: 802-875-3531; email: mclinton@vermontel.net

Planning and Energy Commission: Bill Dunkel, phone: 802-874-4131; email: bdunkel1455@gmail.com (lower case L, then number 1455)



Professional Real Estate Services for WINDHAM & the Surrounding Areas! We Are Your Local Market Experts!

With 4 Convenient Office Locations

GRAFTON · NEWFANE · CHESTER · SPRINGFIELD

843-2390 365-4311 875-2323 885-8282

www.barrettandvalley.com

CUMMINGS & CO



REAL ESTATE
MANAGEMENT SERVICES

2226 W. Windham Rd.
Windham, VT 05359
(802) 874-7081

info@cummingsvt.com
www.cummingsvt.com

Your local source for connecting buyers and sellers
to the true Vermont lifestyle!

Forging Relationships Throughout Vermont

Country Living
ROY "Coby"
MECHANIC OWNED & OPERATED
50 YEARS EXPERIENCE

**POWER EQUIPMENT
SALES & SERVICE**



TRIMMER · CHAINSAW
MOWER · TRACTOR · SNOWMOBILE

MSD · POULAN · JONSERED

424 ABBOTT ROAD
WINDHAM VT 05359-9507

802-874-4298

Londonderry Hardware

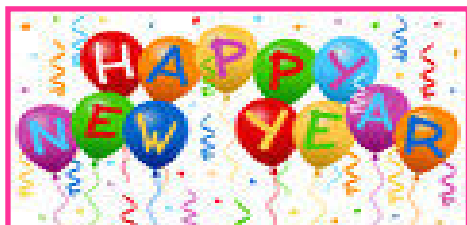


We're more than a hardware store...

Did you know we have—

- Pet Food & Supplies • Small Appliances
- Automotive • Window & Screen Repair
- PLUS — Paint • Plumbing • Tools
- Lawn & Garden • Electrical

Mountain Marketplace 824-3926



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

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

Non-Profit
Organization
U. S. Postage
PAID
Jamaica, VT 05343
Permit #1

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 CALL CONTACT TO CONFIRM

Citizens Advisory Committee:
Second Tuesday of
Feb., May, Aug. & Nov. at
5:00 PM. Contact Marcia
Clinton at 802-875-3531.

Energy Committee:
3rd Thursday of the month,
at 4:30 PM on Zoom, Contact
Bill Dunkel 802-874-4131.

**Windham Community
Organization:**
Last Wednesday of most
months at the Meeting House
at 5:15 PM. Contact Ellen
McDuffie at 802-874-8183.

Town Clerk: 802-874-4211
By Appointment Only. Masks
required. Monday: Noon - 8 PM;
Tuesday: 6:00 AM - 10:00 AM
Wednesday: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Closed all Thursdays, Fridays,
and Federal Holidays. Open
fourth Saturday, 8AM-Noon.

Planning and Zoning:
Second Wednesday of the
month at 6:30 PM usually at
the Town Office. Open
meetings. Agenda posted.
Contact Bill Dunkel at 802-
874-4131.

Conservation Committee:
Third Tuesday of the month
usually at 7 PM. Contact
Alison Trowbridge at 802-
874-7050 for information.

Select Board:
1st & 3rd Mondays at
5:30 PM at the Meeting
House or on Zoom. Open
meetings. Agenda posted.
Check website:
townofwindhamvt.com

Library:
By Appointment Only
Book Group 3:30 PM, 1st
Wednesdays on Zoom or at
Meeting House. Contact
Maureen Bell at 802-875-
1024.

Valley Bible Church:
Sundays: Sunday School,
10 AM; Morning Worship,
11 AM; No potluck due to
COVID. Wednesdays, Bible
Study/ Prayer, 7 PM. Call
802-874-7267 for more info.

Windham School Board:
Third Tuesday of the
month at 6 PM. Contact
Beth McDonald 802-874-
4015 or Russ Cumming 802-
874-7011 for information.

Volunteer Fire Company:
First Thursday of the
month at 6 PM. Contact
Jan Wyman at 802-875-
3373 for information.

Listers: Every Wednesday,
9 AM- Noon at the Town
Office. 802-874-4211

**West River Education Dis-
trict:** Third Mondays at 7 PM
at Leland & Gray. Call Leland &
Gray 802-365-7355 for info.

SAVE THESE DATES! ALL DOGS MUST BE REGISTERED for 2022 by April 1

2022 Annual Transfer Station Permits are on sale at the Town Office.

Consider Running for Office - Call the Town Office for info

February 14 - Valentine's Day

February 14 - 23 Grace Cottage Cabin Fever Online Auction

February 28 - Windham Philharmonic at Latchis Theatre at 7 PM.

March 1 - Town Meeting Day - If voting by Australian ballot, polls are open from 10 AM to 7 PM at the Meeting House.

