



# WINDHAM NEWS & NOTES

## Voting is a Right, Privilege and Duty

by Maggie Newton [from *Windham News & Notes*, Volume 1, Issue 5, March - April 2004, Page 1]

In 1776, our founding fathers declared, "All men are created equal...." Yet they denied voting rights to women, people of color, and non-property owners. The long hard battle for women's voting rights was finally won in 1920 (19th Constitutional Amendment). The Voting Rights Acts of 1965 and 1970 finally gave voting rights to citizens of all racial and ethnic groups. (Citizens convicted of certain crimes still cannot vote.)

Nearly 200 years of civil strife, including terrorism, violence and murder, as well as nonviolent civil disobedience, preceded the achievement of full voting rights for all. Still, nearly half of our citizens fail to exercise this hard won right, privilege and responsibility to vote. This is one reason why our democracy is in trouble. **Non-voters are as responsible for election outcomes as voters. Primary contests are as important as final elections. We urge all citizens age 18 and older to cast their important votes on [March 3].**

## Voter Registration by Ellen McDuffie

If you are a legal resident of Windham, you may register to vote at any time, up to and including Election Day. Registration is available online at: <https://www.olvr.sec.state.vt.us/>, or at the Town Office during all normal business hours on the days preceding the election and during polling hours at the Meeting House on Election Day. If you are registering to vote in Vermont for the first time, you must include a photocopy of an acceptable form of ID: • Valid photo ID (driver's license or passport) • Current utility bill • Current bank statement • Another government document containing your residential address. First time registrants in Vermont must take the voter's oath. The oath may be self-administered, but you must be 18 to take the oath and vote in Vermont elections. However, **if you are turning 18 prior to the Presidential Election in November, you may register and vote in the Presidential Primary on March 3.**

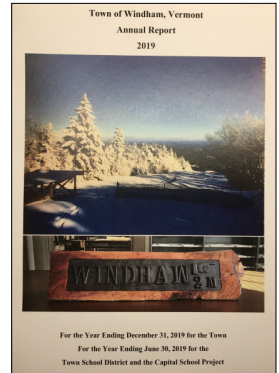
## Let Us Hear Your Voice!

by News & Notes Staff

It's time for Town Meeting! This is **your** opportunity to come together with neighbors to discuss and vote on matters concerning **your** town.

If you are registered to vote in Windham, you should have received your copy of the Town Report for the year 2019. At Town Meeting, we will be addressing articles concerning the Town and the Windham School, see pages 4-6, with discussions of each article, followed by a vote. Town and School officers will also be elected. Our big budget items are our roads and our school. Please look over the Balance Sheet, page 15; Revenue and Expenses, pages 16-17; and General Accounts with proposed budget amounts for 2020, pages 18-20. The Highway Budget of \$482,520 is summarized on page 21, with an additional \$90,000 for Repaving, \$15,000 for Bridges/Large Structures and \$30,000 for New Road Machinery Fund. These amounts are equal to or slightly less than those approved for 2019. The Windham School Budget is on pages 34-35, and indicates a significant increase again this coming year over last year, due to rising health insurance costs and special education expenses. This will affect our education taxes for 2020-2021. You are urged to read the entire report before Town Meeting, especially the reports from your town officers, so you will have a better understanding of where your tax dollars are being spent.

As Helen George, a past Selectboard Chair, once said, "It's at Town Meeting that people get clarity on the issues." And to quote Mary McCoy (*WN&N*, Vol. 1, Issue 5), "The vast majority of governmental decisions are made in our nation by politicians. Yet, we in Windham have the good fortune of deciding directly, matters of importance to us. Our Town Meeting is truly democracy in action." ***Your voice matters!***



## Town Meeting, Tuesday, March 3, 2020

### 10 AM at the Meeting House

**Bring your Annual Report** (which will be coming to you by mail), 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

by Maureen Bell, Kord Scott and Peter Chamberlain

We are gearing up for Town Meeting 2020. Everyone worked hard to keep the budgets as low as possible and still get the Town's work done. Thanks to all who put in many long hours to get the budget done: the Town Clerk, the Listers, the Auditors, the Planning Commission, the Road Commissioner, the Social Services Committee, the Selectboard Clerk and especially the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer.

In other news, folks in Town are getting more and more educated about the Emerald Ash Borer. It's been found nearby and is expected to decimate up to 99% of our ash trees. Together with the Conservation Commission and various State and Local agencies, we are going to formulate a plan to deal with this impending disaster. See Ginny Crittenden's related article elsewhere in this issue.

In yet other news, the Windham Regional Commission (WRC) is conducting a feasibility study about bringing broadband internet service to unserved (think Southern Windham) parts of the region. When the survey is available, hopefully by Town Meeting, please take a few moments to fill it out – even if you already have high speed internet. As much information as the WRC can get from us, the better. Also, see Dave Cherry's related article on the topic in this newsletter.

A representative from the US Census addressed a Selectboard meeting recently. He reminded us of the importance of filling out the census form: our representation in Congress, as well as funding of Federal programs, are based on this. A short form consisting of only nine questions is what you will see this time around. Residents on a mail delivery route will receive a letter in mid-March inviting them to take the census online; two reminders will follow at one week intervals, if a response was not yet received. In early April, a fourth mailing - including a paper census form - will be sent to anyone who has not yet responded, as well as residents who utilize a post office box. It will be so easy to participate and it is **so important to not be under-counted.**

See you March 3 at Town Meeting!



To reach the Road Crew, call the Town Garage at 874-7025, or Richard Paré at 802-379-5647 (cell) or 874-4971 (home). You may also call or email Kord (875-3725), Maureen (875-1024) or Peter (874-4342) to let us know if there's a tree or powerline down, or any other unsafe road situation.



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

**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.**



## Responding to the 2020 Census - What You Need to Know

by Kathy Jungermann

The census is a count of *every* person who lives in the United States and its territories.

It happens every 10 years. In early 2020, you will be asked to count everyone who lives in your home as of April 1. Every household in America will receive a notice to complete the census online, by phone, or by mail. Choose the option that works best for you. Your responses to the 2020 Census are safe, secure, and protected by federal law. You will be asked a few simple questions, like age, sex, and the number of people who live in your home, including children. The census will *never* ask for Social Security numbers, bank or credit card numbers, money or donations, or anything related to political parties. Federal funding is distributed to communities, like Windham, based on census data. The number and districts for house representatives are based on the census data as well as grant funding for things like education programs, libraries, community centers, school meal programs, public transportation assistance and accessible quality healthcare. Your participation is important for our community - **every person counts!**

## Don't Forget to Vote!

The Presidential Primary Election will be held at the Meeting House, March 3, Town Meeting Day. Poles open 10 AM to 7 PM. You must declare your party.





## Vermont Homestead Exemption

By Vermont law, property owners whose homes meet the definition of a "Homestead", an individual's recognized place of residence, **must file a Homestead Declaration, HS-122 Form, EACH YEAR BY THE APRIL 15 filing deadline with your Vermont Income Tax Return.** This form must be filed for you to receive a state payment on your education property taxes based on income sensitivity, and for your tax bill to reflect the proper amount of education taxes due on your Windham property.

## Election of Town Officers

*by Ellen McDuffie*

The Windham Community Organization was prepared to host a "Meet the Candidates" event prior to Town Meeting; however, we have not received information that any of the elected positions for town office will be contested, and have not been notified by candidates of any interest in such an event.

Positions to be elected at Town Meeting this year are listed below, along with the term of office and the incumbent. (See Candidate Statements on page 4.)

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, Vacant  
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  
Windham School Director, 3 years, Incumbent, Carolyn Partridge

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. They are listed on pages 12-14 of your 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-office-descriptions.aspx>.

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!

*Concurrently with Town Meeting, we will be voting in the 2020 Presidential Primary. You may only vote a Democratic or Republican ballot. On March 25, we will vote on the Leland & Gray Budget and our Leland & Gray Representative, 3 years, Incumbent, Howard Ires. Then, on August 11, will be the State Primaries, and on November 3 will be the Presidential, State and local Justices of the Peace elections.*



## 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 Barbara Jean Quinn

Many thanks to all who contribute. Send articles of around 300 words to the address on the last page or email to: [windhamnews@hotmail.com](mailto:windhamnews@hotmail.com).

**Next deadline: April 17, 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**  
**March 28**  
**April 25**  
**CLOSED Thursday, Friday & for ALL Federal Holidays**  
**802-874-4211**  
**[windham.town@gmail.com](mailto:windham.town@gmail.com)**



**MARCH 8, 2020 at 2 AM**

## Town Office Candidates' Statements



### Candidate for Selectboard, Kord Scott

Town meeting day is fast approaching and I would like to express my appreciation to the residents who elected me previously and hope I have served to your satisfaction. I also want to thank all my town official teammates for helping to create a functional and constructive working environment. I'm sorry they are not all still with us. I especially would like to express how rewarding it has been to meet, listen to, and get to know so many wonderful people who love and care about the town as much as my family & I have for many years.

I am willing and interested in continuing to serve as a selectperson. We face some significant issues in addition to the ongoing work of running the town, but I look forward to the challenge of helping to address them. Working together as a community, I am confident we can face them effectively.

I would appreciate your vote.

Thanks,

Kord Scott

### Candidate for North Windham Cemetery Commission, Eileen Widger

I plan to run again for the North Windham Cemetery Commission.

Eileen Widger

### Candidate for Windham School Director, Carolyn Partridge

I would greatly appreciate your support as I run for another 3-year term to serve on the Windham Elementary School Board. At this time I am, perhaps, uniquely positioned to represent Windham and work hard on education funding legislation in Montpelier that will, if enacted, benefit our taxpayers. I have served on the School Board for 20+ years and look forward to working on the challenges we continue to face. I am dedicated to the job because I believe that education is the most important investment we make in our collective future. I humbly ask for your vote on March 3 and thank you in advance for your support.

Carolyn Partridge

## Planning Commission and Energy Committee News

by Bill Dunkel

As many of you know, the Planning Commission updated the Windham Town Plan and the town's Energy Plan last fall. As I reported in the last issue of the *News & Notes*, the Selectboard held public hearings on both plans and formally approved them at its regular meeting on December 16th, 2019. On February 3, 2020 the Windham Regional Commission (WRC) held two public hearings at our Town Office, one on the Town Plan and one on the Energy Plan, as required by Vermont statute. I am pleased to announce that on February 12 the WRC Executive Committee approved our Town Plan and the process the town followed in updating and adopting it. The new Town Plan will remain in effect for eight years. The WRC Executive Committee also affirmed that our Energy Plan is in compliance with the Windham Regional Energy Plan. Based upon that determination of energy compliance, Windham's Town Plan will receive "substantial deference" at any future Public Utility Commission (PUC) hearings related to commercial energy development in our town. Although it remains to be seen exactly what weight "substantial deference" may have in a PUC hearing, Windham is in a stronger position to have its interests heard and considered than we were prior to receiving this designation from the WRC.

Switching to Energy Committee (EC) news, I would like to mention that the EC is investigating the possibility of participating in the Window Dressers program next fall. Window Dressers is a non-profit organization that has been producing inexpensive, custom made, energy efficient storm window inserts for homes in Maine for about a decade. The program is expanding into Vermont, and I attended one of their workshops in January.

Window Dressers accurately measures each window in a participating household with a laser tool, and then pre-cuts, and pre-drills all the frames. The windows are built during a one day community work session, using an assembly line process that allows people with no carpentry skills (like me) to participate. The prices of the windows vary according to size, but they are far less expensive than conventional storm windows. The largest windows cost about \$50, smaller ones are roughly \$25, but due to donations and grants, it is possible to get the windows for as little as \$5 each, or less. This spring, the Energy Committee will determine whether there are enough households in town that are interested in this program to move ahead with it. Keep an eye on the *Windham News & Notes* and the town website for further information. If you have questions or want to affirm your desire to participate in Window Dressers, you may contact Bill Dunkel, town Energy Coordinator, at [bdunkel1455@gmail.com](mailto:bdunkel1455@gmail.com).





## Community Values Mapping Project

by Alison Trowbridge

In 2019, the Windham Conservation Commission facilitated a Community Values Mapping Project with Monica Przyperhart of the Community Wildlife Program of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. The idea of the Community Values Mapping (CVM) is to put on maps, places in town that people have identified as significant.

## New Fire Truck Arrives at the Firehouse

by Marcia Clinton

Fire Calls:

February 7 – Route 11, car accident. 4 responded.

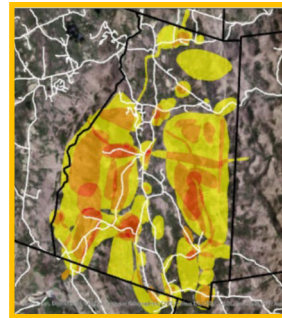
February 7 - Mutual aid to Jamaica to direct traffic on Windham Hill Road. 4 responded.

February 8 - Power lines down on Windham Hill Road. 3 responded.

On January 24<sup>th</sup>, the new fire truck, ordered last year, was delivered to the Windham Fire Company Firehouse on White Road. It is a 2019 International pumper which holds 1500 gallons of water. Its pumping capacity from tank and/or outside sources is 1250 gallons per minute. The new truck replaces the twenty year old 1990 International pumper which has already been sold. The truck is completely paid for thanks to Reggie Fleer, who left his estate to the Windham Volunteer Fire Company. On each side of the truck, just behind the cab, a memorial is inscribed to Reggie. It states: "In Memory of REGGIE FLEER, 1917-2016, Never Forgotten!"

The new truck, Engine #1, will be parked outside the Meeting House on Town Meeting Day, weather permitting, for all to see.

The members of the Fire Company wish to thank everyone who answered our annual appeal in December and sent in donations. All are greatly appreciated.



There were two work sessions with Monica. The first held at the Town Office in early April, was a practice session enabling participants to get an idea of the mapping procedure. The actual mapping event happened several weeks later with about 20

residents at the Meeting House. Participants were asked to think about two questions:

- 1) "What places in Windham do you love?" and
- 2) "What do you value about these places?"

The mapping was done in small groups. Each group was given a set of colored markers and an aerial photo map with the town boundaries clearly delineated on it. Each group identified its own categories to put on their map, chose the colors to signify those features and created a color-coded legend for interpretation. There was much discussion, story-telling and reminiscing within and between the groups, and a good deal of laughter.

Monica took the maps back to her office and digitized the information to create a number of maps, each one containing related features. The maps created include: scenery, recreation, high quality and protected lands and waters, history, natural resources, farms, wildlife and community. Places where 1-4 features overlap are presented in a final community values map. This overlap map, in large size, is available for viewing at the Town Office along with the written report featuring smaller sizes of the different individual maps.

The idea of the project is for people in Town to start to think about what features about Windham are important to them. Areas where numerous features overlap, stand out as places to look at in future Town planning efforts.

## What is the Emerald Ash Borer and Why Do We Need to Know?



by Ginny Crittenden, Conservation Commission

For some years we in Vermont have been hearing about an invasive insect called the Emerald Ash Borer. It has bored its way through the ash trees in the Midwest, but hadn't been seen in New England until recently. It was spotted in northern Vermont in 2018 and in Bennington County in 2019. The insect has now made it to Londonderry, just over the hill from Windham. Towns in Vermont are now dealing with the inevitable arrival of this ½" long emerald green flying beetle. There are many white ash trees in Windham, and when the beetle

infests those trees they will likely die within 5 years, creating public safety issues along the roadsides. We will work with the road crew, the Selectboard and the town's Tree Warden to find ways to manage the problem.

There have been two workshops in February, sponsored by the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program. Some Windham Conservation Commissioners and Selectboard members have attended, to learn more about the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Other towns in Windham County have begun inventories of roadside ash trees, as a beginning step in how to deal with the likely demise of the beloved trees.

Members of the Windham Conservation Commission would like to recruit volunteers from neighborhoods in town who are willing to learn how to do an inventory, so that the Selectboard can decide on a management plan for the coming years. We will have some training sessions, probably this coming spring, and get started on an inventory project that might take a year or two.

Helpful information is at: [VTinvasives.org](http://VTinvasives.org) and [VTcommunityforestry.org](http://VTcommunityforestry.org) where you can find photos and important suggestions for ways to deal with the arrival of EAB. We will post information about future strategies, and you are welcome at the regular meetings of the Conservation Commission, the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

## Yes - This Is It!

by Barbara Jean Quinn

I have been asked to write a little something about Joseph (Monroe) and I, who we are and how we got here, so here it is.

About 16 years ago we came to Vermont to visit my daughter Katie and her now husband Pete, when she was attending Green Mountain College. At the time, they lived in Ludlow-our first introduction to the glorious Green Mountains. We hiked up a mountain and stood at the top in absolute awe of the stunning view. We were hooked. On the drive back home to CT, we looked at each other and said "Yes-this is it". We are going back. Vermont is in our future.

We went back to CT-to our lives - to our careers but never let go of where we knew we would retire.

Fast forward to 2012, we were setting our retirement plan in motion. We found three properties online we wanted to look at. We wanted to stay in southern Vermont as Katie, Pete and our first granddaughter Sage, had moved to Burlington and we had other adult children and grandbabies in CT, NJ and NY. This was midway. Perfect. We met with real estate agent Marcia Jansen who arrived in jeans and hiking boots - she was the best. Our first stop was in Westminster. As we walked that property, we came upon a remnant from Irene - a refrigerator (with bullet holes) in the brook running through the land. Next stop, Jamaica. You could hear the traffic on Route 30. Both of those were



not going to work for us. Final stop, Windham. As we hiked through the woods, there it was, a single beam of light shining on a solitary Pink Lady Slipper. We knew this was it. Pink was a thing for us. I had recently completed treatment for breast cancer. Pink meant something to us.

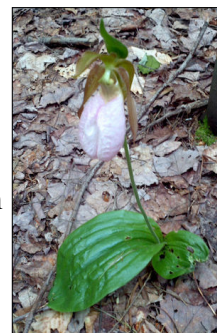
The building process began in 2016. In 2017, 421 Hitchcock Hill Road was our permanent home. Joseph retired from his honorable 28-year career with The Danbury Police Department, as a uniformed Police Officer, then as a Detective. He was also a member of the Dive Team which he thoroughly enjoyed. Every day was an adventure. He came home safe every night and that's what mattered!

I followed in 2018, after spending 30 years in social services, with the last 20 as a Criminal Court Victim Advocate in Waterbury Superior Court. We were more than ready for a life of peace and quiet - no crime, no broken lives, no more tears. I know for me, I had no idea how heart-heavy my job was until it wasn't.

We are both extremely grateful for the careers we had and the opportunity we had to serve our community. It was time to pass the torch on to the next generation of public servants.

To wake up every morning in this amazing place is a huge blessing. No matter what window you look out of in our home, you see trees. We could not ask for a more peaceful place to spend the rest of our lives.

(Continued on Page 7.)





## Windham School Board

by Carolyn Partridge, Antje Ruppert,  
and Beth McDonald

The Windham School Board will be presenting the FY2021 budget for the Windham Elementary School at our Town Meeting on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Our Budget Information Meeting was February 3<sup>rd</sup> and there have been subsequent meetings held by the ad hoc committee exploring future opportunities for the school.

We have been made aware of misconceptions on the parts of some Windham taxpayers and feel it's important to clarify the points of confusion. For instance, one of the major drivers of the increased budget and resulting taxes is our Pre-K Special Education expenditure. This is something mandated by the federal government and over which we have no control. It has not been made clear that if we were to close the school and tuition our students to other schools, Windham taxpayers would still be responsible for Special Education costs for any child residing in Windham. We are, indeed, responsible for these costs which have been accrued, as well as all future Special Education costs.

We have also been made aware of confusion regarding the tax rate if we were to close and tuition our students to other schools. The assertion being made is that our tax rate would be substantially lower. Several months ago, we asked Laurie Garland, Business Manager for the Windham Central Supervisory Union, to run the numbers for such a scenario, and what she found is that if we were to tuition our students to other schools, our tax rate would be a mere four cents less than the anticipated tax rate to run our current elementary school. It should also be noted that if we were to close our school, then down the road determine that we had made a mistake and wanted to reopen it, we would not be able to do so because the building would not meet today's school building codes.

We have also heard that there are 13-14 children who could be attending Windham Elementary who are not. This is not accurate, and to the best of our knowledge believe that there are four children who are elementary age students who are either being home-schooled or attending another school.

We, like many others, are concerned about the spike we've seen in property taxes. This spike is due, as mentioned above, to Pre-K Special Education costs and to increased health care costs. The following is a table that Heath Boyer prepared, and we will include his comments below, in quotes, from a recent email:



### Homestead Tax Rate

2014	\$381,000	1.7153%
2015	\$358,000	1.4283%
2016	\$367,000	1.5487%
2017	\$388,000	1.6666%
2018	\$377,000	1.7808%
2019	\$387,000	1.7403%
2020	\$450,000	2.3037%
2021	\$545,000	2.8442%

“So, it looks like a \$6,000 spending increase from 2014 to 2019 (or about 2%) and a total increase of \$158,000 in the last two years, including penalties. We should show the amount of the penalties. It's my understanding that the increase is due in greatest measure to the Pre-K Special Ed and the consequent overspending [per pupil] penalties. The increase in healthcare costs also contributed.” Heath also commented, “As for the tax rate, I think it's an oversimplification to say it's a 73% increase over 5 years. In fact, the homestead rate was 1.7153 in 2014 and 1.7403 in 2019, with a five-year average of 1.6275, and virtually no real increase. The low point was 2015 with [a rate of] 1.4283%. An increase of 76% represents the increase of the last two years over the average of the prior 6 years. Average it any way you want to, but the significant increase is in 2020 and 2021.”

Recently, an email from Carolyn Partridge was sent out with information about two efforts being made in the Vermont Legislature. One includes four bills, H.909, H.910, H.911, and H. 912, that would correct the injustice of the current education funding formula that has shortchanged our students and overtaxed our taxpayers.

On March 11, there will be a meeting at the State House in Montpelier regarding the Weighting Study. [You can read the results of the Pupil Weighting Factor Report in its entirety at the following website. The Executive Summary is on pages 2 - 6: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Legislative-Reports/edu-legislative-report-pupil-weighting-factors-2019.pdf>.] One of the authors, Tammy Kolbe, will be present with legislators, including Carolyn Partridge. Due to constituent pressure, this meeting will now be a public hearing of the Senate Education Committee. Attendees may sign up to testify and will probably be given 1-3 minutes each, depending on attendance. This would be an important time to express your support for implementing the recommendations of the Weighting Study. Windham's students have been shortchanged, and our taxpayers overtaxed due to the unconstitutional state education funding formula. Please consider coming to Montpelier on March 11, Room 11, 4-6 PM to express your views. We know it's a long trip, but we strongly urge you to attend to learn more and express your concerns. For more information, call Carolyn Partridge at 874-4182 over the weekend.

In addition, it is really important to contact legislators regarding H.661, which is Carolyn's bill that would require that Pre-K Special Education be state reimbursed at the same level as K-12 Special Ed. You can also refer to the email sent out for contact information for the pertinent legislators. If you have questions, please contact Carolyn Partridge, Antje Ruppert, or Beth McDonald.

### Yes - This Is It! Continued from page 6

The folks in this small town have been so welcoming. To a person, we have been made to feel a part of the community. We thank you for this and look forward to the next chapter of our lives here in Windham, Vermont.





## Lettering Error Carries Us Back in Time

by Mary McCoy

When you enter Windham's town office, you will see directly in front of you by the door to the meeting room a nearly black sign beautifully mounted on a slice of cherry wood. Take a good look, and it will carry you back in time.

You are in Windham a little more than a century ago. The center of our town is near the Meeting House, and there you can buy your groceries, visit a blacksmith, and conduct other business. Windham has around 860 residents who move from here to there on foot, horseback, wagon, or bicycle. Conditions on Windham Hill Road create tough challenges from October to April.

If you don't know the area, you depend on guide posts. At road intersections, they inform you of the distance and direction to various destinations. A sign is made for an intersection two miles from the town center. Like most guide post signs of the time, it is made of a metal that does not rust, probably contains lead, and has letters of cast iron that are riveted to the plate. It tells travelers to turn right with a finger pointing from a fist, which is the commonly used directional symbol of the time, easily seen by slow-moving travelers.

But the sign has a flaw, for the "m" in Windham is turned upside down, so the town's name appears to be "Windhaw." To discard items like this that cannot be reused, composted, or burned as fuel, the people in the town center on Windham Hill Road throw them into scrape heaps, down the bank behind their houses and barns on the east side of the road.

Fast forward to 1950. The population of Windham is 145, as many have moved away to flatter land for farming. With the town too small to support local businesses, residents travel to larger towns to

buy their supplies. Although they have motorized vehicles, they still find conditions on Windham Hill Road troublesome for half the year. Many in Windham have other challenges too, finding it hard to make a living.

A man named Duane Clark, known as "Clarky," earns money by digging in the old scrape piles for anything of value that he can sell. He looks for bottles of various colors and shapes and other objects from the past. Clarky sells the "Windhaw" sign to Stockton Woodruff (or so it is later believed by Stockton's son, Walter).

Travel forward to 1980, the year Windham Hill Road first gets paved. The town has a population of 225, the increase due in part to young back-to-the-landers moving here. Walter Woodruff is elected to the Selectboard, and to honor the occasion, Stockton and his wife, Margaret, give the old sign to their son. He treasures it and uses it as a back splash for his kitchen sink where he sees it every day and puts it to good use.

Now return to 2020 with Windham's population of around 350, as many retirees have settled here. After 30 years of service, Walter has been retired from town government for 10 years. He decides to give the sign to the town and finds the right piece of wood on which to mount it, one from a cherry tree with burl. Walter cuts out a wedge for the sign, sands the wood, but leaves some of its roughness, and he adds a felt backing. Originally, the sign was painted with the black or green letters on a white background. Walter leaves the sign unpainted to honor its 100+ years of age.

Walter presents the sign to our Selectboard, much to their delight. A place of honor is provided for it in the Town Office. When you see it there, take a good, long look. You may not be able to imagine, as Walter does, that your great-great-grandfather saw this sign, but try letting it be your time machine, taking you into Windham's past.

*Thanks to Ed Brown for dating the sign by knowing that finger-pointing hands were used on guide posts from 1885 to 1918, and especially to Walter Woodruff for providing the details that create the likely history of the sign and for giving the town this look at the past.*

## Green Up Day, Saturday, May 2

Green Up Day, always the first Saturday in May, was launched as a state initiative in 1970 by Governor Deane Davis. In 1979, the non-profit organization Green Up Vermont was formed to carry on the tradition of Green Up Day. It is an annual statewide event, with over 22,000 volunteers who come together to remove litter from Vermont's roadsides

and public spaces. This year marks its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of promoting stewardship of our state's natural landscape and waterways.

**Windham will kick-off Green Up Day, offering coffee, juice, scones and crumb cake on Saturday, May 2 from 9-11 AM at the Town Office. Sign-up and get your green bags at the Town Office.**





## Windham Meeting House Upcoming Events

by Louise Johnson

### PANCAKE BREAKFAST

**Saturday, April 4, 8:30 - 11AM**

Adults. \$8; children 4-12, \$4;  
under 4, Free.



Serving Buttermilk, Blueberry or Gluten-free Pancakes, Bacon or Sausage, Orange Juice, Coffee /Tea.

### TAG/CRAFT SALE **Saturday, May 23,**

**9AM - 3PM.** Reserve a table for \$10 and donate 15% of your sales to the Meeting House. A good chance to get rid of all those things you no longer need or want, and support the Meeting House at the same time. Call Louise Johnson at 875-4149.



**CARD NIGHT** **Soon:** Dates and time to be determined. Poker or Cribbage. No experience necessary for Cribbage, we will teach you. Free-will donation.

All proceeds from these events are to help offset the operating expenses of the Meeting House.

## Food Scrap Ban, July 1, 2020

**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.

### **Why is it bad to put food scraps in the trash?**

When organic materials, like food and food scraps, end up in a landfill, they give off methane, a potent greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change. The resources and nutrients in the food scraps are buried and will never be used again. When organic materials are composted, they do not produce methane and their nutrients are recovered and turned into a beneficial soil amendment. By composting food scraps, you reduce the impacts of climate change, save landfill space, and promote the re-use of valuable resources. Contact Esther Fishman, [recycle@londonderryvt.org](mailto:recycle@londonderryvt.org) for info.



**MOUNTAIN MARKETPLACE**

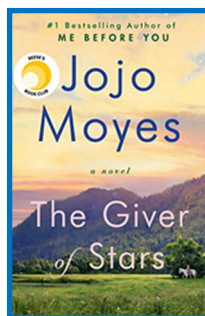
**Junction Route 11 & 100 Londonderry**

## Windham Library Book Club

**Books are available in the library  
Wednesday, March 4, 2020 - 3:30 PM**

*The Giver of Stars*

by Jojo Moyes



Alice Wright marries handsome American Bennett Van Cleve hoping to escape her stifling life in England. But small-town Kentucky quickly proves equally claustrophobic, especially living alongside her overbearing father-in-law. So when a call goes out for a team of women to deliver books as part of Eleanor Roosevelt's new traveling library, Alice signs on enthusiastically.

What happens to the group and to the men they love, becomes an unforgettable drama of loyalty, justice, humanity and passion. These heroic women refuse to be cowed by men or by convention. Based on a true story.

**Wednesday, April 1, 2020 - 3:30 PM**

*The German Girl*

by Armando Lucas Correa

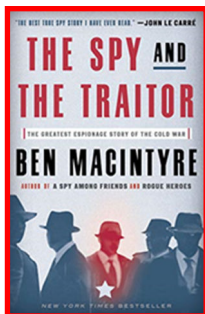


Berlin, 1939. Before everything changed, Hannah Rosenthal lived a charmed life. But now the streets of Berlin are draped in ominous flags; her family's fine possessions are hauled away; and they are no longer welcome in the places they once considered home. A glimmer of hope appears in the shape of the *St. Louis*, a transatlantic ocean liner promising Jews safe passage to Cuba. At first, the liner feels like a luxury, but as they travel, the circumstances of war change, and the ship that was to be their salvation seems likely to become their doom. New York, 2014. On her twelfth birthday, Anna Rosen receives a mysterious package from an unknown relative in Cuba, her great-aunt Hannah. Its contents inspire Anna and her mother to travel to Havana to learn the truth about their family's mysterious and tragic past. Weaving dual time frames, and based on a true story, *The German Girl* is a beautifully written and deeply poignant story about generations of exiles seeking a place to call home.

**Wednesday, May 6, 2020 - 3:30 PM**

*The Spy and The Traitor*

by Ben MacIntyre



The son of two KGB agents and the product of the best Soviet institutions, the savvy, sophisticated Gordievsky grew to see his nation's communism as both criminal and philistine. He took his first posting for Russian intelligence in 1968 and eventually became the Soviet Union's top man in London, but from 1973 on, he was secretly working for MI6. It brings readers deep into a world of treachery and betrayal, where the lines bleed between the personal and the professional, and one man's hatred of communism had the power to change the future of nations.

## Farrell and Kalchthaler Join Grace Cottage Hospital Board

from C. J. King, Grace Cottage Healthcare

Lucas Farrell, of Townshend, VT, and Dr. Thomas Kalchthaler, of Jamaica, VT, have joined the Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital Board of Trustees.

Farrell and his wife own and operate Big Picture Farm, a hillside goat dairy farm known for its award-winning farmstead caramels and cheeses, sold in stores across the country. Farrell earned his BA in Environmental Studies and English from Middlebury College, and his MFA in Poetry from the University of Montana. His poetry book *The Many Woods of Grief* was awarded the Juniper Prize in Poetry and was published by the University of Massachusetts Press. His writing has appeared in various national publications. Prior to moving to Townshend in 2010, he taught creative writing at Middlebury College. Lately, Farrell and his wife Louisa have been enjoying doing their farm chores alongside their 3-year-old daughter.

Dr. Kalchthaler is a graduate of the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine. After completing a residency in Internal Medicine at the Mount Sinai City Hospital Center at Elmhurst, Queens, he became the second physician nationwide to be trained in Geriatric Medicine. He was subsequently inducted as a Fellow in the American College of Physicians. A lifelong avid skier and cyclist, Dr. Kalchthaler spent many weekends and vacations at Stratton Mountain. After retiring from an active medical practice that involved teaching and patient care, Dr. Kalchthaler and his wife Mary Lynne purchased a home in Jamaica, to better enjoy the seasons of Vermont with their children and grandchildren.

"We are very happy to have Dr. Kalchthaler, a medical provider with such a wealth of experience, and Lucas Farrell, a highly successful local entrepreneur, on our board. We are grateful for their service," said Kevin Meyer, Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital Board President, and President of Mary Meyer Stuffed Toys.

Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital includes

an award-winning 19-bed hospital and ER, a primary care clinic, a full-service lab and radiology department, and both inpatient and outpatient physical, occupational, and speech therapy. The Messenger Valley Pharmacy, a full retail pharmacy owned by Grace Cottage, is located across the street from the hospital. For more information, go to [www.gracecottage.org](http://www.gracecottage.org) or call (802) 365-7357.



### Annabel's Dishwashing Block Soap \$8.00 Gift Set \$15.00

Old fashion dishwashing block soap  
Ingredients: Distilled H2O, Lye, Coconut Oil, Lard, Peppermint Essential Oil. Handmade Washcloth included in Gift Set, 100% USA cotton.

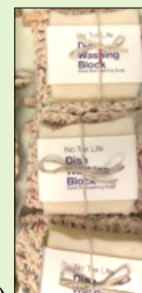
Each block of soap can replace one or more plastic bottles filled with liquid dish soap, cutting back on landfill waste. Contact Annabel Carson, 874-4057, [carsonstownshend@aol.com](mailto:carsonstownshend@aol.com).

My name is Annabel Carson, I am 10 years old, in 6th grade, and homeschooled by my Grandmother.

I have been nominated to represent Windham, Vermont at the National Youth Leadership Forum (NYLF): Explore STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) in Boston, MA, June 21-26. I will be staying at Babson College. This program explores the frontiers of science and technology with hands-on simulations, workshops, and competitions.

I have applied for scholarships and am also making soaps for sale, in efforts to raise the tuition goal of \$2,395.00. By attending the NYLF, I will join other motivated students from around the country for an experiential (leadership/career exploration) program. Attending this program will enable me to further my interest in the field of mechatronics and reach my career goals of working in the field of robotics.

Your support for my sponsorship request would be greatly appreciated. Please contact me if you would like any further information.



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## Education District Merger Raises Taxes

by Howard Ires, Windham Representative to the WRED

Down at the newly merged West River Education District (WRED) (Formerly the West River Modified Union Education District), painful reality has overtaken the rosy predictions of merger. Enrollments are down. Costs per student are up, well over the state mandated level. Overall costs have risen. Tax incentives that were taken to encourage merger are sun setting, and so taxes in the district are once again going up, up, up. How much, is still a guess due to the byzantine funding formulas the State has patched together, which depends on how much OTHER districts spend, combined with Common Level of Appraisal differences between the towns. So stay tuned to the budget explanations that should be arriving in the mail before the **district wide budget vote on March 25. [Budget Information Meeting is March 24 at Leland & Gray.]**

Since Windham kept our local School Board, we are only obligated to send our kids to Leland and Gray

for grades 7-12, and we are only responsible for a percentage of the overall district budget, which complicates matters further. Our percentage will be determined by the State, based on how many of our students actually attend Leland and Gray, and which way the wind is blowing. They will inform us of their decision, and that will factor into our final property tax figure.

Since misery loves company, I'll say that education taxes are going up, not only in Windham, but in the newly merged West River Education District, and in merged districts across the state. This is a statewide problem and the state has continued to kick-the-can down the road with patchwork, and short term solutions that create an ever more complicated system. If the state doesn't do something, the West River Board will be forced to make some big changes to educate our kids without paying tax penalties. Changes could mean closing facilities, or tuitioning kids out, or both.

**The next WRED Board Meeting is February 24 at Leland and Gray, 7 PM. Please come and voice your opinion!**

### TOWN CONTACTS

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

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

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

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

Lister and Zoning: Alison Cummings, 874-7223; [cobbbrookfarm@gmail.com](mailto:cobbbrookfarm@gmail.com); Lister: Russ Cumming, 874-7011

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

to:

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

#### OFFICIAL TOWN WEBSITE

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

#### REGULARLY SCHEDULED WINDHAM MEETINGS

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

**Energy Committee:**  
3rd Thursday of the month,  
March 19 & April 16  
at 4:30 PM at Town Office,

**Windham Community  
Organization:**  
No February Meeting. Annual  
Meeting, March 25 at 5 PM,  
and April 29 at the Meeting  
House. Please join us! 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, March 28 &  
April 25, 8 AM - Noon.

**Planning and Zoning:**  
Second Wednesday of the  
month, March 11 & April 8  
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, March 17 & April  
21. Open meetings. Call  
Alison Trowbridge at  
874-7050 for information.

**Select Board:**  
1st & 3rd Mondays, March 2  
& 16 and April 6 & 20 at  
5:30 PM at the Town Office.  
Open meetings. Agenda  
posted. Check website:  
[townofwindhamvt.com](http://townofwindhamvt.com)

**Library:**  
Every Wednesday, 3-5 PM  
at the Meeting House,  
**Book Group** at 3:30 PM,  
1st Wednesdays, March 4 &  
April 1, at the Meeting  
House.

**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, March 2 &  
April 6 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, March 5 & April 2  
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.

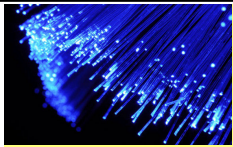
**West River Education Dis-**  
**trict:** Third Mondays at 7 PM  
at Leland & Gray. Call Leland &  
Gray 365-7355 for info

#### SAVE THESE DATES!

March 3 - TOWN MEETING & POTLUCK LUNCH, 10AM - ~3PM, Windham Meeting House  
March 3 - PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY, 10 AM - 7 PM, Vote at Windham Meeting House  
March 11 - SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE HEARING in Montpelier, 4 - 6 PM  
April 1 - ALL DOGS MUST BE REGISTERED, Windham Town Office  
April 4 - PANCAKE BREAKFAST, 8:30 - 11 AM at the Meeting House  
April 15 - Deadline to FILE HOMESTEAD DECLARATION, Form HS-122







## Broadband Survey

The state of Vermont has a Broadband Innovation Grant (BIG) that will fund a project to assess the need and implement detailed plans to bring broadband to Windham County where it is not currently available. It is fiber optic broadband with speeds up to 100 MPS. It costs the town tax payer nothing and the build out will be paid for by bonds and private funds. There is no downside for the town residents. Homes that have broadband on the street usually sell for 3% more and 5% if installed in the home.

In order to be part of this project our town (and adjacent interested towns) needs to have homeowners submit a survey by March 17th, 2020. This can be done online at: <http://www.windhamregional.org/broadband>. Hand written forms will be available at the town office and at the town meeting on March 3rd. It is preferred the form be done online.

Please spread the word. Even if you have cable broadband now, please fill out the survey. A town that has broadband everywhere will benefit us all.

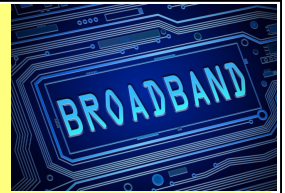
Thank you,

David Cherry, Town Representative for Windham County Broadband

[If you have already received this notice, please know that it is **extremely important that you complete the survey at:** <http://www.windhamregional.org/broadband> .

Even if you already have fiber optic cable available in your area of Windham, please complete the survey. The entire town would benefit greatly by having the upload and download speed of fiber optic. Currently, only the northern section of town has this option. If you live south of the Meeting House, only DSL is available, which besides much slower speeds, there is no cable TV service available, only satellite. So even if you have no plans to subscribe to a fiber optic service, please help your neighbors have this option.

**It is important that the survey be submitted by March 17. Second home owners' voices need to be heard as well as residents. ]**



## Matt Trieber Resigns from Vermont House

*by Susan Smallheer, Brattleboro Reformer .]*

State Representative Matt Trieber, D-Rockingham, has resigned his seat in the Vermont House of Representatives.

Trieber, 39, who has represented the six-town district [of Windham-3] since 2011, said his responsibilities as a youth counselor for disabled students served by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation made it impossible for him to continue his legislative duties.

"I work as a counselor for high school students with disabilities. I take great pride in the on-the-ground work of interacting with my students and helping them to take steps to achieve their dreams," he told his fellow House members. "This year, when looking at how long service in this body would require being away from my students, essentially missing out on helping an entire class, I had to make the difficult decision to leave this body."

Trieber, who lives in Bellows Falls, said he started working for the state full-time last summer, and the state requires, that while state employees can be elected to the Legislature and serve, they must take an unpaid leave of absence for the legislative session.

Matt [was] one of two Democrats that serve the towns of Rockingham, Grafton, Athens, Windham,

Brookline, and a tiny slice of Westminster. The other is Representative Carolyn Partridge, D-Windham.

Trieber was appointed to the Vermont House by former Governor Peter Shumlin [after he tapped the serving representative for his administration.] Trieber went on to be re-elected four times, most recently in 2018.

He said it was his appointment by former House Speaker Shap Smith to the House Human Services Committee that set him on his new career. Previously, Trieber was an environmental consultant, working on things such as oil spill cleanups. He said he majored in geology in college.

But, he said the Human Services Committee work opened his eyes to the needs of people with disabilities. "I felt a real calling," he said. He now works with students at Springfield High School, the Kindle School, Leland & Gray Union High School, Black River High School in Ludlow, Bellows Falls Union High School and the Compass School in Westminster.

Trieber, who moved to Bellows Falls in 2005, said he will remain a Rockingham resident.

[The complete article is available at: <https://www.reformer.com/stories/matt-trieber-resigns-from-vermont-house,597106> .]

## News from Windham Elementary

by Sara Wunderle

The students participated in the ceramics program at the Field House in conjunction with Meadow's Bee Farm this winter. Brittany and Gosia worked with the students to further their coil building techniques, slab building, and pinch pots. The older students also received time on the wheel every week in an attempt to bolster their skills with throwing pots, cups, or bowls. The students wrote out goals for their work and presented them to the instructor, who helped guide them towards the completion of the pieces. Many of them made gifts to be given to family members for the holidays.

We have been enjoying the winter weather since returning from the holiday break. Mr. Bailes invited the entire school, and any parents available, for a snowshoe hike on his property. We hiked to a stone bridge enjoying the beautiful winter landscape, and finished with a fire and hot cocoa supplied by Mr. B.



The K-1st graders have participated in the Grafton Nature Museum Mighty Acorn program on the first Friday of every month. Recently, we have learned about winter animals and their tracks. Many used snowshoes for the first time as we made our own tracks through the fresh snow.



The students have been enjoying downhill skiing/snowboarding at Stratton Mountain or cross country skiing at Wild Wings in Peru as part of the Junior Instructional Sports Program (JISP) on Wednesdays from January to March. We thank the many parent volunteers that help to make this program possible for all our students, from driving to providing snacks and hot cocoa!

*(Continued at top of next page.)*





The younger students celebrated the 100th day of school on February 11th. Hair ties, pennies, pretzels, scrabble pieces, dog food, popcorn kernels, scarlet runner beans, legos, mini dice, valentine hearts and a collection of pins were all represented at the 100th-day celebration. It was wonderful to see all the collections together and to see the kids sort and count by 5's or 10's to show that they did indeed bring in 100 items!

The upper-grade class has begun working on some Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) practice tests in preparation for that assessment in the spring. These practice tests are online, and are comprised of performance tasks that have the students working on much longer multi-step problems. The performance tasks test their endurance as much as their mathematical knowledge.

Preparations are about to begin with the process of hiring a new teacher to replace Sally Newton. Mr. PJ hopes to repeat the process of last year, which went very well, with the hiring of Sara to replace Gail Wyman. Sally has submitted her retirement letter to the School Board, so as soon as the Town Meeting is over and the budget passes, we will place an ad for a new elementary teacher. The goal is to have the process completed before the end of the school year.

## More Pictures of Emerald Ash Borer



*Photos, clockwise from top left: D-shaped larva exit hole; Adult with leaf damage; Larva creating gallery; White Ash leaves; Bark splitting; Woodpecker flecking;*





**2020 CENSUS TIMELINE**

# What to expect in the mail

**When it's time to respond, most households will receive an invitation in the mail. Every household will have the option of responding online, by phone, or by mail.**

Depending on how likely your area is to respond online, you'll receive either an invitation encouraging you to respond online or an invitation along with a paper questionnaire.

## Letter invitation

- Most areas of the country are likely to respond online, so most households will receive a letter asking them to go online to complete the census questionnaire.
- We are working with the U.S. Postal Service to stagger the delivery of these invitations over several days. This way we can spread out the number of users responding online, and we'll be able to serve you better if you need help over the phone.

## Letter invitation and paper questionnaire

- Areas that are less likely to respond online will receive a paper questionnaire along with their package. The package will also include information about how to respond online or by phone.

## We understand that you might miss our initial letter in the mail.

- Every household that hasn't responded will receive reminders and will eventually receive a paper questionnaire.
- If you don't respond online, by phone, or by mail, we will follow up in person.

## What we will send you in the mail:



### March 12-20

An invitation to respond online to the 2020 Census.

(Some households will also receive paper questionnaires.)



### March 16-24

A reminder letter.



### March 26-April 3

A reminder postcard.



### April 8-16

A reminder letter and paper questionnaire.



### April 20-27

A final reminder postcard before we follow up in person.

For more information, visit:

**2020CENSUS.GOV**

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your future  
START HERE >**

**United States  
Census  
2020**





*Photos: left, Barbara Jean Quinn and Joe Monroe on their first visit to Vermont about 16 years ago  
right: Barbara Jean and Joe years later on Church Street in Burlington*

*below: The Infamous Pink Lady Slipper, “a single beam of light shining on a solitary Pink Lady Slipper. We knew this was it.” They were captured by the Beauty of Windham!*



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

Strong Living is a group exercise program developed through research by Tufts University to assist older adults with health and wellness. Classes are designed for active and sedentary adults, and focus on light weight training, stretching, and balance exercises to improve fitness, mobility, and strength.

### **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.

If you have a story or a picture to share, we would love to hear from you. Please send text as a Word document and any pictures in .jpeg format to [windhamnews@hotmail.com](mailto:windhamnews@hotmail.com).