



WINDHAM NEWS & NOTES

Windham Holds Successful Candidates Forum

By Pat McLaine

Residents of Windham and nearby towns turned out on a wet and stormy Tuesday evening, September 13, for the Candidates Forum, held at the Windham Meeting House. Sponsored and organized by the Windham Community Organization (WCO), the Forum featured both of our Vermont House candidates (Heather Chase (D), Eva Ryan (R)) and five of our six Vermont Senate candidates (Mark Coester (I), Wendy Harrison (D), Nader Hashim (D), Richard Morton (R) and Tim Wessel (I)). This is the first time in twenty years that both Windham Senate seats are open; Becca Balint stepped down this year to run for US Congress and Jeanette White is retiring after 20 years of service. And this is the first time Vermont House candidates are running for the newly formed Windsor-Windham district that includes Athens, Chester, Grafton and Windham. Windham's Candidates Forum was the first held in our area and the only area Forum featuring both House and Senate candidates. The *Chester Telegraph* was a media sponsor of this event and published an article on September 14, 2022 about the House candidates written by Cynthia Prairie.

Windham's Town Moderator Mike McLaine did a superb job chairing the Forum, introducing the candidates, asking

them questions provided in advance and questions offered from the floor, keeping everything moving forward and on schedule. The candidates engaged in a very rich discussion of issues with a number of different points of view. Somehow Mike managed to do all that and keep up with two-minute timings for each speaker who answered each question!

Thanks to the skill and work of Becky Eliastam we were able to also offer the Forum live via Zoom and with candidate permission make the presentation available later at our Town Website (www.townofwindhamvt.com). We piloted the set-up a week in advance and Becky managed the Zoom meeting on her computer in real time at the Meeting House. About 20 individuals showed up in person at the Meeting House and more than 30 parties joined by Zoom. Questions came from both participants in the Meeting House and on-line. The candidates' remarks provided attendees with a better understanding of how each candidate's interests and positions on key issues aligned with their own.

The evening was informative: Democracy at work. As Barbara Jean Quinn noted: "Information is power and it is so important now, more than ever, with so much at stake." Thank you to all the members of WCO who worked hard to orchestrate this successful civic forum; the teamwork paid off.



DONT
COMPLAIN.
VOTE

Select Board Moves Forward on Several Issues

Property Tax time is here. This is no fun for any of us. Please note that the Select Board is doing our best to keep our hands on the reins and keep the town budget as reasonable as possible. It should be noted that the increases that most of us saw are because of the increases related to Education Funding. The majority of this tax money goes to Montpelier and not to our local school's budget. It is recommended that you, the residents of the town, reach out to your representatives and ask them to review the Education Funding model so that it doesn't penalize small towns such as ours.

We are proud to announce that the new AV equipment Becky Eliastam was so graciously able to secure for the town has been very helpful. Thanks Becky! We still will need to make several purchases in the near future, but for the time being, the donated equipment will serve us well. Recently, it was used to great success at the WCO Candidates Forum. Thanks to the WCO for setting up that event. Our AV equipment will make future hybrid meetings possible, and we look forward to seeing you there.

In addition, the Timber Harvest Ordinance changes have been accepted. These changes are to rectify access and overweight permitting issues. Please review the changes on the town website or at the town office.

To increase efficiency and fix some overdue issues, we are moving forward on insulating the Town Office. The office will be insulated in the later part of December and will be closed during that time. Stay tuned for the dates as they solidify. We are also looking at ways to improve the town office's ventilation that was pointed out because of the onset of the pandemic.

In other news, the Select Board has reviewed applications for the town properties that were submitted for sale. All three properties have offers approved, and the town lawyer is currently working on sales agreements. Congratulations to the selected new owners.

With the recent acquisition of the conservation land by the Dept. of Wildlife, construction requirements on town culverts, and requests by many town residents, the board is reviewing the town's current speed limits. We have had the Windham County Sheriff's Department conduct speed studies and have had many residents express their concerns and thoughts regarding current speed limits and enforcement. We look forward to addressing this issue soon. If you have any questions or comments, please let us know as we contemplate the options before us.

Recently, Maureen Bell submitted an AARP Sense of Place Application to support our residents with programs at the Meeting House. The board signed a letter of support for her to submit with the application. Thanks, Maureen, for all your hard work and good luck!

The Select Board is honored to represent you and your concerns. Please feel free to reach out to any of us should you have issues to report or thoughts that might help us make our community stronger.

Respectfully,
Kord, George, Michael and Mac



Winter Roads Policy

Town of Windham, Vermont

Originally adopted on October 17, 2016
By the Town of Windham Selectboard

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 operation 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.

The 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 the plow wing itself. The town cannot be responsible for mailbox damage.

When the plows are on the road, please be patient. Don't pass unless necessary.

Remember, the drivers are up high above the road and their primary attention is on the road and the plow, not passing vehicles. We anticipate a safe winter for everyone and thank you for your thoughtfulness.

General Election - Tuesday, November 8, 2022

Polls Open 10 AM – 6 PM

Windham Meeting House

From Ellen McDuffie, Town Clerk

If you are a registered voter in the Town of Windham, you should have received your ballot for the November 8 General Election in the mail by now. Ballots were sent out by the state Elections Division on September 30. If you have not received a ballot, please contact the Town Office right away at 802-874-4211.

Please learn about the candidates running for each position prior to casting your vote. The video from the Windham VT Senate and House Candidates' Forum is available on the homepage of the town website: townofwindhamvt.com. Other information can be found in local newspapers and at: VTDigger.org.

Our Windham ballot continues onto the back, so please continue voting both sides of your ballot and clearly mark the candidates of your choice. Tracking of your ballot is available online at the [VT My Voter Page](#). Voters can correct a ballot if the clerk finds an error, such as a missing signature on the certificate envelope. The clerk will notify you if your ballot was returned incorrectly and you will be able to "Cure" your ballot. Also, the clerk can replace your ballot if it is lost, damaged, never received, or you have made an error you would like to correct. You must return the original ballot if you made an error.

After voting, you must place your completed ballot inside the voted ballot envelope, **and sign and date the affidavit statement on the outside of the voted ballot envelope**. Return the sealed ballot and outer envelope by mail (postage is prepaid by the state) or in-person to the Town Office by Monday, November 7, or by 7 PM Tuesday, November 8 at the polls at the Windham Meeting House, 26 Harrington Road. (You may deposit your ballot in the secure drop box to the left of the office door if the office is closed.) If you prefer to vote in-person on Election Day, please bring your ballot with you to the Meeting House, or you will have to sign a legal affidavit stating that you have not voted by any other means.

If you are not registered to vote in Windham and are a resident, you may register 1) online at [VT My Voter Page](#), 2) in person at the Town Office, or 3) at the polls on Election Day. Proof of identity and residency are required. You may also request your ballot electronically but only if you're ill, injured or have a disability. Or you can have a ballot delivered to your home on Election Day and submitted for you, if you are ill or disabled.

Vermont is one of the top five easiest states in the country in which to cast your ballot. Please let your voice be heard, and **VOTE!**



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.

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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: December 13, 2022

Town Office Hours

Monday Noon - 6 PM
Wednesday 10AM - 4 PM
Thursday 10 AM - 4 PM

Third Saturday of the Month
11 AM - 2 PM

CLOSED Tuesday, Friday
& ALL Federal Holidays
For an appointment at another time, please call
802-874-4211 or email
windham.town@gmail.com.

Face Mask Optional

To Join A Zoom Selectboard Meeting:

The Selectboard meeting information is available from the printed agendas that are posted at the Town Office, Meeting House, and Fire House on Saturdays before meetings, and are also posted on the town website at: townofwindhamvt.org.

Justice of the Peace Candidate Statements

Marcia Clinton

I have been a justice of the peace for a number of years for the town of Windham and would appreciate your vote for me in the November election. Besides performing a marriage ceremony a justice of the peace is a member of the Board of Civil Authority (BCA) which serve as election official for the town. Justices of the peace sit as members of the town board for abatement of taxes. As a member of the BCA justices sit to hear and decide appeals when citizens do not agree with the final decision of the listers.

John Hoover

I am running for election as a Justice of the Peace in the Town of Windham. As a Justice of the Peace for the last 10 years I have actively fulfilled the duties assigned to the office. I have participated in meetings of the Board of Civil Authority and Board of Tax Abatement, served as an election official and notary public and officiated at weddings. If reelected to another two year term I will continue to serve the Town of Windham and its residents to the best of my ability.

Phil McDuffie

For several years now, I have volunteered as an election worker in Windham, and have helped to conduct a number of our elections and town votes, both as a poll worker and ballot counter. I'm always proud to be a member of a group of volunteers from all sides of the political spectrum that come together to ensure that the outcome of each election is fair and accurate.

Becoming a justice of the peace will allow me the honor and privilege of sitting on the Board of Civil Authority, whose primary purpose is to assure the accuracy of the list of registered and legal voters in Windham. It is a list that is constantly changing, but if elected, I can assure you that I will faithfully execute my responsibilities, to ensure that those who vote in Windham's elections are legally entitled to do so. Thank you.

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 Scott, George Dutton or Michael Pelton to let us know if there's a tree down or any other unsafe road conditions. Thank you in advance for notifying the Road Crew.

Carolyn Partridge

I would like to continue to serve as a Justice of the Peace in Windham because it is a way to serve and contribute to the community. After many years of service, I am familiar with the required duties and enjoy working with the other members of the Board of Civil Authority. I would greatly appreciate your vote for Justice of the Peace on November 8th.

Michael Simonds

When I brought property on Old Cheney Road and started building in 1997, most of my neighbors warmly welcomed me. They thought it was a bit odd that I was living in a tent while I was building my house and that I brought a truckload of paving stones with me from Boston, but they accepted me. I hope we can all be as open and kind to new and old neighbors who have different ways of doing things than our own. Perhaps it is a reflection of the current national divisiveness, but there have been ugly words between residents at public meetings, and that is disconcerting to me and others. For more than 200 years, folks in Windham have held strong opinions, but they have disagreed without being disagreeable. I want to serve as Justice of the Peace to keep alive a tradition of respect and acceptance.

Meredith Tips-McLaine

I wish to be a Justice of the Peace because it is my way of contributing to my community. It is also my intention to become a notary while I am a Justice of the Peace. Both seem to me to be useful roles.



Windham's new plow truck, a 2023 Western Star, replaces a 2011 truck that had many mechanical problems and had reached the end of its useful life. The new truck came with a good warranty and guaranteed trade in value, both of value to the town. It's a plow truck in the winter and an all-purpose dump truck during the rest of the year.

Listers Corner

Since the tax bills have been sent out there have been several questions about the Vermont forms HS-122 and HI-144, as they pertain to rental or business use of property. Indicating that a percentage (%) portion of the property is used for either business or rental moves the respective value from the Homestead tax rate to the non-homestead tax rate.

Look on the front of the form 122 at box's A1, A2 and A3. The A1 & A2 are for business and rental use of the primary dwelling (home). A3 is for business or rental use of out buildings. To clarify how we calculate the values here is an example. The parcel has 20 acres (\$75,000) and consists of a house (\$200,000) and an out building (a barn or garage) valued at \$25,000. The total value is \$300,000 on the grand list. The house site value is the House + barn and 2 acres of land (\$20,000) for a total of \$245,000. This is the basis for calculating the homestead education tax. This value is indicated on the top right side of your tax bill opposite your name and address as "Housesite" Tax value.

If the form 122 indicates a business or rental use at 20% for the house, we move 20% of the value of the house to the non-homestead category or \$40,000.

That would reduce the education tax valuation by \$40,000 to \$205,000. If the form 122 indicated 20% business or rental use for the out building, the reduction would be 20% of the barn at \$5,000 and reduce the education tax value to \$240,000. The municipal tax is based on the total grand list value of \$300,000.

The key point here is that each year you file the form 122 you will need to indicate the proper percentage

for rental, business or out building use so the correct credit can be given. Each week from January to October 15, the Listers download the Homestead report from the state into the as billed grand list. Many professional tax preparers may not remember what you specified last year and often we need to call or remind residents to refile or adjust their form 122.

While we are on the subject of completing forms the HI-144 which documents the household income to determine the amount of either education tax credit (max \$5,600) or the municipal tax credit (max \$2,400) a filer may receive, must be completed and filed with the state. Depending on the amount of income the household has, the credit will be calculated by the state. As an example, a family has two adult children living at home, and both of them are employed. The parents both work and file a Vermont income tax return. The two adult children also file a Vermont income tax return. The household income is the sum of the parent's income plus the income of the two adult children. That total household income would be reported on the HI-144. Income earned by a tenant is NOT included in the household income form HI-144.

For more information and guidance on estimating the amount of tax credit you may be eligible for please consult this Vermont.gov web address: <https://tax.vermont.gov/document/2022-property-tax-credit-calculator>.

Windham Listers,
Ali Cummings, Russ Cumming, William Casey

Valley Bible News *By Susan Persa*

All are invited to join the regular weekly services at Valley Bible Church in South Windham Village. Sunday school starts each Sunday at 10 AM for all ages followed by the morning service at 11. A delicious potluck lunch is enjoyed at 12:15 before the afternoon Bible study from 1 to 2 PM. Special music with various instruments is always heard. Currently Pastor Griffin is teaching the New Testament Book of Acts which covers the history of the early church. On Wednesday nights at 7 PM the multiple attributes of God are being explored.

Other activities include youth group fellowship as well as trips of interest. Ladies Bible Study on Friday mornings, led by Sally Cutts is currently studying a book by John Piper and Justin Taylor: The Power of Words and the Wonder of God. Monthly on a

Saturday, the men and boys meet for a hearty prayer breakfast and do repair and outside work around the church.

Before Thanksgiving Pie and Praise is always a special time of enjoyment - Wednesday, November 23 at 7 PM. A candlelight service will be held 7 PM on Christmas Eve, December 24. Christmas caroling from house to house is also planned for December. Questions—call the church number at 802-874-7267 or email Pastor Griffin at pastor@valleybible.com.

Window Dressers' Community Build November 11-16

Interested in volunteering this year? Join residents from three towns in a community-sponsored build at the Windham Meeting House. Help assemble custom-fitted interior storm windows made of wood and heavy plastic. Contact Bill Dunkel, town energy coordinator, at 802-874-4131 or send an email to bdunkel1455@gmail.com.

Windham Elementary School Update

By Bridget Corby

WES started off the year with some new faces in the building. Ms. Natalie Beckstrom joined us as our new K-2 Classroom Teacher. She graduated from Western Governors University in Arizona and now resides here in Vermont. Ms. Natalie came with experience working in a multi-aged classroom and has been a great addition to our team! Through the use of grants we also welcomed Casey Bailey our new Art teacher. Casey most recently worked at Flood Brook for over 25 years, and before that in a variety of schools throughout Southern Vermont including Windham.

Another exciting addition to Windham Elementary School this year is our brand-new food program. Every child eats for free in Vermont for the 2022-2023 school year, and Windham is able to provide this service through a Vended Meal Program with Leland and Gray. Erin Kehoe picks up lunches for the day as well as breakfast for the next morning and transports it up to our school where the food is reheated as needed and served. It has been a big success and great service for our families. When we asked Erin what she thought of the program, she shared this:

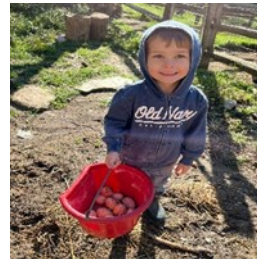
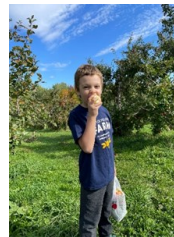
“The kids are all enjoying lunch. They are always excited to see what the meal is going to be for the day. They even try new things and some love it. Some prefer not to but it is always encouraged. The kids are smiling and they’re happy. It started out a little rocky, but every day it gets better from everyone sitting down, waiting for their table to be called and cleaning up, using the compost system as well as recycling. Favorite foods are of course chicken nuggets and tater tots, but they also get to try new things like hummus, and a nice Bolognese sauce that went over very well. We are still overcoming opening the milks in the condiment packages, but will get there.”

Our students have had a great start to the year which has included our continued partnership with Meadows Bee Farm, some really fun field trips, and most recently our Fire Prevention Day with the Windham Fire Department.

At the Farm everyone works together to collect eggs, move hay, sweep the barn, and hang out with baby turkeys! Back in September we kicked off our school year with the annual Putney Mountain Hike, where we hiked to the top, ate some lunch, and then made our way back down. Mr. PJ’s class enjoyed the Brattleboro Art Museum where they were able to touch and feel the art exhibit - a very unique experience.



Our most recent field trip to Green Mountain Orchard in Putney was a great day for apple picking. Everyone went home with their own bag of apples, and all of the kids had a fresh cider donut along with cider that they made as a team. This was something very special for our school, as many field trip groups are too large to be able to enjoy cider making. On our way out all of our Windham students thanked the employees from the Orchard, and we were told that it is very unique to have such a polite group of kids.



Thank you to the Windham Fire Department for joining us for Fire Prevention Week! We had a successful fire drill, followed by a lesson from our Fire Department on all aspects of the fire trucks, fire safety, and prevention. Everyone went home with their very own Windham Fire Department T-shirt so keep an eye out for some mini-fire fighters around town!



More About Prop 5/Article 22

By Carolyn Partridge

I think it is important for citizens to have a clear understanding of what they are voting on regarding Prop 5/Article 22, which appears on the Nov. 8th ballot. I am condensing an article written by Rep. George Till, MD, and want to focus on misinformation that is being circulated pertaining to so-called “late-term abortion.” Aside from serving in the Vermont Legislature, George is a physician who has practiced obstetrics and gynecology (OB/GYN) for the past 40 years. He also serves as the Division Chief of General OB/GYN at University of Vermont Medical Center (UVMHC), the Division responsible for providing termination of pregnancy services at UVMHC.

Passage of Article 22 by popular vote on November 8 would be the final step of a multi-stage/year process to amend the Vermont State Constitution. The measure was originally approved by the House and Senate in the 2019-2020 legislative biennium and, as required, was passed again by both chambers in the 2021-2022 biennium. These were critical steps to protect the right to access reproductive services in our state, the final step being an affirmative vote by the citizens of Vermont.

Some Vermonters may wonder: Why is it important to make this constitutional change if we already have laws protecting reproductive rights in Vermont? In the last legislative session, there were no less than five proposed bills that would have restricted reproductive rights in Vermont. One, in the intent section of the bill, stated specifically: “This bill proposes to narrow the right to reproductive choice.” Without a public vote supporting the proposed constitutional amendment, there could be continued attempts to restrict reproductive rights in every legislative session. One of the most common pieces of misinformation surrounding Article 22 is the idea that it will remove all restrictions on abortion and “enshrine elective pregnancy termination up to the time of birth.” This is blatantly untrue. There currently are and there will remain restrictions on abortion procedures in Vermont. What will be enshrined in our Constitution is that politicians, the legislature, and governor will not determine what restrictions should be placed on abortion procedures, but rather that these restrictions will be left, as they are now, and as they should be, to the hospitals, professional medical organizations, and the Board of Medical Practice, who set standards of care with which providers must comply in Vermont. The Board of Medical Practice can revoke a physician’s license

for a single episode of “failure to conform to the essential standards of acceptable and prevailing practice.” As such, practitioners are held to evidence-based standards. Additionally, state regulations require that every termination of pregnancy be reported to the state, and if beyond 20 weeks, with a completed death certificate which requires extensive background information about the parents and medical situation.

There is not currently, nor will there be due to Article 22, any provider or facility in Vermont doing elective terminations beyond the gestational age of 21 weeks, six days: 22 weeks being the currently accepted threshold of viability. Very rarely are terminations done after 21 weeks, six days, and those are done only in the hospital setting at UVMHC. Hospitals are very highly regulated and the UVMHC maintains clear guidelines prohibiting elective terminations from 22 weeks onward.

A pregnancy termination beyond 21 weeks, 6 days is rare and would only occur in very specific circumstances, including for severe fetal anomaly, a fetal condition incompatible with life, or a dangerous, possibly life-threatening maternal health reason. If a termination is requested beyond 21 weeks 6 days, an ethics consultation must be obtained to review the indications before the induction of labor or termination can be done. If the Ethics Committee does not agree, the termination is not done. Three to five terminations after 21 weeks, 6 days are done per year at UVMHC.

The important point is that a woman who is beyond 21 weeks, 6 days pregnant can’t capriciously decide to have an abortion. There is a process that needs to happen to assure the necessity for the procedure. It is done rarely and for often tragic, heartbreaking reasons. It is important that we continue to allow for the procedure to occur to protect the health of Vermont women.



Profiles in Community

Edited by Carolyn Rubin

This column highlights our new and old friends and neighbors who live and/or work in our community so we can get to know each other better. More than ever, as we try to reestablish our social connections, we become more aware of what we have missed and lost during the last two years. Please let me know if you'd like to write your essay! jzrubin@comcast.net

Carrie Tintle, Windham Resident

Written by Carrie Tintle

My journey to making Vermont a permanent home or forever home has been a little bit of a long road. I've been coming to Vermont for most of my life. My Aunt May had a cabin on Lake St. Catherine, such wonderful memories of summer days on the lake. My husband Bill had a ski house in South Londonderry when we met. I never really liked that house much and wanted to remodel it. He said why don't we just find a house we like, something with more land. It took us six years but we finally purchased a sad house on White Road in 1998 and set about restoring it. It was a true labor of love, unfortunately, he passed away from cancer in 2003 just shortly after the house was completed. I continued to come to Vermont with my family, but as time went on, the kids grew up, had their own families, and I found Vermont to be a little lonely by myself. I put the house on the market, took it off again a few times. Seems I just couldn't part with it!

Twelve years later, when I had given up on ever meeting someone to spend my life with, I sat down next to a man at Love Lane Kitchen in Mattituck, Long Island, New York. Mattituck was my hometown and I was running into Love Lane Kitchen for a quick bite for lunch. It was rather busy at the restaurant, and I took the only seat left at the counter. I said hello to everyone, placed my order, and while waiting, I started chatting with this man in the seat next to me. Two hours later, we finally got up to leave and he walked me to my car. Oh, I was pretty sure I wanted to see this man again and didn't know how to tell him so I kissed him. And now he'll tell you that that kiss involved a little tongue, but it did not!!! With that he laughed and said well I better get your number now. Twenty minutes later he called and made plans for a real date. I haven't been able to shake him ever since, lol!

The first time I ever brought Ron to Vermont, he fell in love instantly. He knew that work got in the way of us spending more time here. We thought that in five years we would retire and move to Windham full time. Then Covid came along and everything changed. My business, a fashion boutique, was forced to close its doors and Ron's construction projects were shuttered. While we waited out what was supposed to be two weeks...then months we spent here in Windham. When we went back to New York nothing was the same. My business was all but ruined, Ron was only working three days a week. I'm pretty sure I was on the verge of a nervous breakdown.

One day I called a lovely friend of mine who is a real estate agent. I talked to her about putting my house in Mattituck up for sale. I went home and asked Ron how he would feel about living in Vermont full-time. He thought it would be a wonderful idea. I said that's great cause I put the house on the market. Again, he started laughing, he always laughs at me. We packed up the dog, cat and chickens and moved north. My friends thought I was crazy: "It's so cold, move south!" But it was the right decision and I think we work harder now than we ever did before. We've never been the kind of people that sit still for very long so we decided to start a farm. Right now it's a vegetable farm, in the future we hope to be completely self-sufficient. It's been a hit and miss process, but I think we're getting there, hopefully...lol.

P.S. I thank God every day that I just happened to sit down next to a truly amazing man for lunch!!



How Would YOU Spend \$118,380 for the Benefit of Windham?

*By The Windham ARPA Advisory Committee**

Windham's ARPA Advisory Committee has chosen eight possible projects that might be funded with the \$118,380 the town has received from the American Rescue Plan Act. That is not enough money to do everything needed, and we want input from all town's people to help how the funds should be spent.

The ARPA Committee has set up an online system for you to express your opinions, using Survey Monkey, a simple system to rate your view of the eight possible projects. Your input will help to guide the committee, which will make a recommendation to the Select Board. Please go to the town's website <https://townofwindhamvt.com> and click on the link there to the survey. Also on the town's website are more detailed descriptions of the eight options. You can access our survey beginning November 1 and ending November 15.

The purpose of the ARPA funds is to help the town recover from the Covid pandemic. We have worked with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns to understand the government's directives and to select projects that fulfill them. These eight options meet the requirements.

Audio-Visual Equipment – Life is easier when we can participate in town meetings from home or watch the recordings of them at our convenience. Good AV equipment makes this possible, and we need a fund to upgrade ours.

Beautify Windham Properties – Let's enhance our beautiful town by planting unusual perennials and trees at the Town Office, Meeting House, Garage, and Cemeteries. These can commemorate important Windham individuals or events.

Broadband Connections – Broadband will be coming to Windham through DVFiber. Users must pay to install the fiber optic wire that extends more than 40 feet from a utility pole. Let's help pay this cost, so everyone can get high speed.

Firefighters Gear – We want Windham's volunteer firefighters to have the best protection. Insurance won't cover any injuries if their gear is out-of-date. They need new sets of gear for two firefighters and five new protective masks.

Grant Writer(s) – More funds that would benefit Windham are available through grants, but grant writing takes skillful research, writing, and follow-through. We need to pay for this time-consuming work to get more funds for Windham.

Meeting House Renovations – Let's make our Meeting House a more vibrant community center. It needs improved insulation and heating, changes to meet fire codes, a generator and showers to become an emergency site, and more.

Solar Array – By putting a solar array on the Town Office roof, we can generate enough power to cover all town GMP bills and contribute to a cleaner planet. Partial funds might come from other sources, but ARPA support is needed too.

Town Office Updates – We need upgrades for accessing and copying town records, with a digitized record index system for remote access, a terminal for researchers in the office, a color copier, and a wide-format scanner/copier.

*The Windham ARPA Advisory Committee: Kermit Blackwood, Bill Dunkle, George Dutton, Cathy Fales, David Lewis, Ellen McDuffie, Michael Simonds, Jan Wyman, Tom Widger, and Mary McCoy (committee clerk)

Meeting House Update October 2022

By Tom Widger

Over the spring, summer, and fall of 2022, work has been done on the rear annex of the building to repair damage to the building caused by water. There was a lot of rot below the windows and corners of the structure. Work was done with the help of The Friends of The Meeting House and Town Meeting House Committee.

With the help and volunteer labor of Pete Newton, Tom Johnson and myself, the rear west side deck has been rebuilt with a new metal drainage grate installed to prevent water damage and rot to the siding. Also the

corners of the building and clap board up to the windows have been replaced.

Imme Maurath and members of the Strong Living Group have raised money for the Meeting House through two tag sales and hosting a rest station for a dirt road bike race.

A lot more work is needed to bring the building up to code. The list includes: the front doors need to be replaced to swing out; the heating system needs to be up-graded to save money on heating; and fire-retardant sheet rock needs to be installed in the storage room under the stairs. And, there is much more.

New Grant Will Enhance Efforts to Reduce Vaping by County Youth

By Elisha Underwood

West River Valley Thrives (Thrives) and Building A Positive Community (BAPC), substance use prevention coalitions in Windham County, have jointly received a \$26,500 grant from the Vermont Department of Health's Youth Vaping Prevention and Treatment Enhancement Fund. This funding will allow Thrives and BAPC to expand their work with community partners to prevent and reduce vaping by local teens and young adults.

Vaping is the inhaling of an aerosol created by an electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) that heats a liquid until it becomes an aerosol. The liquid can contain nicotine, marijuana and other compounds such as vitamin E, all of which have been shown to cause serious health issues, especially in teens and young adults whose bodies and brains are still developing.

While vaping is a problem nationwide and here in Windham County, according to the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) in 2019, 87% of Windham County middle school students and 73% of Windham County high school students reported *not actively* using electronic vaping products. Of the high school

students who reported vaping nicotine products, 51% stated they have tried to quit. The goal of the funding is to increase the percentage of youth living vape-free and the coalitions feel positive it can be done.

Thrives Director, Meg Gonzalez says, "This new funding will facilitate regional collaboration between Thrives and BAPC, as well as support coalition-specific interventions to reduce youth vaping. Specifically, we will continue our work with Leland & Gray Union Middle and High School, while expanding our reach to include 4th and 5th graders and their families. We will be taking a deeper dive into our local conditions to find out not just why our young people are vaping, but why here? That key information will help us to work more effectively within our communities to reduce the rate of vaping and enhance overall protection against controlled substances. But as they say, it takes a village. We need your help in discerning "why here" and steps to make it "not here"."

To help in this effort and for more information about Thrives, contact us at wrvtthrives.org.

Get Help Staying Warm This Winter With Fuel Assistance

Worried about heating costs this coming winter? Sign up now for Fuel Assistance from the State of Vermont.

New Fuel Assistance customers can sign up online at <https://dcf.vermont.gov/benefits>. You can apply for 3 Squares, Fuel Assistance, Reach Up and Essential Person benefits on the same application. If you received Fuel Assistance last winter, be sure to complete your annual review.

Southeast Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) or any of the Economic offices in Brattleboro,

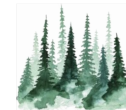


Springfield, or Hartford can provide help with the application if necessary. Call the main office at 802-722-4575 or toll free at 800-464-9951 and speak with your local Family Services office.

In addition to this program, if you find yourself needing assistance the WCO is here to help. Please contact Pat Cherry at 874-7094, Kathy Jungermann at 874-4606 or Imme Maurath at 875-8755. If your needs are ongoing or beyond our scope, we can direct you to other social service organizations.

9-1-1 Update

By Bill Casey, 9-1-1 Coordinator



The Enhanced 9-1-1 system that Windham is a part of requires locatable addresses. The 9-1-1 coordinator ensures that the physical address matches the state 9-1-1 maps and database. Once the address is a part of this database, 9-1-1 can route the call to the correct EMS service and emergency services can find the location.

Windham's 9-1-1 list has been updated and is hopefully current. If you stop by the town office, ask Ellen McDuffie to show it to you and please note if it is correct. Also if you need a street number, please leave a message with the Town Clerk and we will get you one.

Winter Farmers Market Roundup

By Kathy Jungermann

Our local farmers markets have either already closed or will be closing on October 30. West River Farmers Market in Londonderry, Townshend Farmers Market, and the Greater Falls Farmers Market in Bellows Falls will not be open.

Here are some options for winter farmers markets that will be moving indoors in the Fall:

Brattleboro: This market is opening its 17th season in Croker Hall at the Winston Prouty campus located at 60 Austine Drive every Saturday beginning November 5-through March from 10-2. There is ample free parking and a lunch café with live music each week. Rain or shine, sleet or snow! 802-869-2141

Dorset: Located inside at J.K. Adams Kitchen Store at 1430 Vt. Route 30 every Sunday from 10-2 beginning on 10/16/22. 802-353-9656

Putney: The Winter Holiday Market starts on Sunday, November 20 and runs through December 18. Located indoors at The Green Mountain Orchard, 130 West Hill Road.

To verify or get directions and further information go online to www.nofavt.org and www.vtfarmersmarket.org

Support our local farmers-shop local!



Robert William Rawson

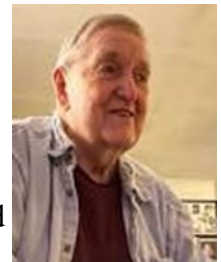
July 12, 1937 – July 3, 2022

(from an obituary in the Chester Telegraph)

Robert “Bobbie” Rawson, 84, of Windham, passed away at Grace Cottage Hospital on July 3, 2022. Bob was born July 12, 1937, in South Londonderry to Ethelbert and Cecil (Capen) Rawson. He was one of ten children. Bob lived most of his life in North Windham on Horsenail Hill Road. He was married for 42 years to Beverly (West) Rawson who predeceased him in 2012.

Bob joined the U.S. Air Force in 1954, serving four years as a medic. He also worked in construction for several years as a blaster. Bob was a snowmaker at Stratton Mountain then at Bromley Mountain and, following that, he ran the plant at Bromley Village until he retired in 2012. He helped found and was an active member for many years of the Windham Volunteer Fire Department.

Bob loved to hunt and watch the Red Sox play. He liked playing golf with his friends at Tater Hill and playing with his grandchildren. He also loved cooking after he retired and would bring people his famous meatloaf and baked beans.



He was predeceased by his wife Beverly and daughter Sheila, and by two brothers and four sisters. His sister Christie Hidy who died October 1, 2017, was also a longtime resident of North Windham. His sister Ruth and brothers Ralph and Hugh survive him as do his children Rodney, Shelley, Gregory and Cecelia. He also leaves behind six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

The graveside service was held on July 16, 2022 at Rawsonville Cemetery. A memorial picnic is planned for July 2023.

A bit of Windham humor ...Over the October holiday weekend I came upon five cars parked on the side of the road and several people were out of their cars and looking at a large flock of wild turkeys. The leader of the group asked me if I knew what the birds were. I replied turkeys. He asked if I was sure and I said yes. Two more times he asked again and I said yes for sure! He said: “I thought turkeys were white”. Having had enough I replied that they change to white after the first snow. He thanked me and the group all continued on their way. None of the cars were from Vermont.

Labor Day Tag Sale

By Imme Maurath

This was our third fundraising sale to benefit the Meeting House. The turnout was impressive and most of us went home with a few empty boxes.

Chances are good we will have another tag sale during Memorial Day Weekend in May 2023. So if any of you regulars still have STUFF, or if any newcomers would like to start rounding up things you would like to part with, winter is a great time to do so. Reserving tables won't happen though until early spring.



Horsewoman Represents Vermont at 4H Eastern States Exposition

By Susan Persa

Megan Carson had the privilege of representing the state of Vermont at the 4H Eastern States Exposition (the Big E) in Springfield Mass on September 22-24. She and her horse Little were part of a team of six 4H delegates showing their horses for three days. On Saturday it was a special honor to have Governor Phil Scott come by the 4H barn to visit the kids and their horses.

Megan has been a member of the local River Riders II 4H Club for eight years. For more about this amazing program for Vermont youth ages 5 to 18 go to www.uvm.edu/extension/youth or www.facebook.com/Vermont4H.



Ladies and Gentlemen!

By Pat Cherry

The Mountain Town Circus was a great success! Held at Flood Brook School by Neighborhood Connections on Sunday, September 11, it attracted people of all ages. Troy Wunderle and his team from Big Top Adventures captivated the audience with amazing juggling, magic and balancing performances. Between shows, children in face paint were encouraged to try walking on stilts, juggling, and playing with hula hoops. The circus is bound to be an annual event!



Londonderry Tri-Mtn Lions

Lions Gail Wyman (left) and Patti Greene shown making and serving popcorn at Neighborhood Connections' The Mountain Circus fundraiser on

September 11 at Flood Brook School. Thank you Peggy Merrow for the use of your popcorn machine, thank you Terry Merrow for donating the popcorn.



Tri-Mtn Lions also manned water table #2 at the Maple Leaf Marathon in Manchester on September 10th. The runners and walkers were very appreciative of the cool water and Gatorade provided at the tables.

Tri-Mtn Lions had their booth at the Bondville Fair this year and provided earplugs for all attending the truck and tractor pull. We also drew the winning tickets for our raffle at the fair. Winner of the Solo Bonfire Stove- Lion Betsy Magee, Essex Jct, Vt.; two one day ski passes at Bromley prize to Terry Bennette, Putney Vt.; a large gift Basket of goodies from the Vt. Country to Chris Glabach, Winhall, Vt.

Now that the school year has started, the Local Lion's Club in Vt will be doing vision screenings in our schools. Where there's a need, there's a Lion

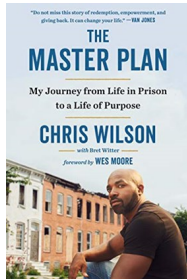
Information: Pam Nichols 802-384-0033 Randee Keith 802-379-8663

Meetings: 2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings @7:00 PM Neighborhood Connections, Londonderry

Windham Library

The Windham Library is open every Wednesday from 3-5 PM. You are kindly asked to wear a mask when inside the building. Book Club meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 3:30 PM.

Windham Library Book Club Selection Wednesday, December 7, 2022, 3:30 PM



Growing up in a tough Washington, D.C., neighborhood, Chris Wilson was so afraid for his life he wouldn't leave the house without a gun. One night, defending himself, he killed a man. At eighteen, he was sentenced to life in prison with no hope of parole.

But what should have been the end of his story became the beginning. Deciding to make something of his life, Chris embarked on a journey of self-improvement--reading, working out, learning languages, even starting a business. He wrote his Master Plan: a list of all he expected to accomplish or acquire. He worked his plan every day for years, and in his mid-thirties he did the impossible: he convinced a judge to reduce his sentence and became a free man. Today Chris is a successful social entrepreneur who employs returning citizens; a mentor; and a public speaker. He is the embodiment of second chances, and this is his unforgettable story.

Locally Made Christmas Wreaths

The Carson and Persa families again will be making wreaths during the last week of November. They will be ready for pick up or delivery by November 27 for \$20 each. The wreaths are 15 inches wide with a red bow and two clusters of pinecones. Call 802-874-4057 or 802-380-4511 to place an order. This project helps Megan with her 4H project horses. She recently was a delegate for Vermont for 4H at the Big E and in November will travel to Kentucky to compete nationally on the Hippology team.



Windham Library Book Club Selection Wednesday, January 4, 2023, 3:30 PM



Chicago may be the city of broad shoulders, but its political law is "Pay to Play." Money changes hands in the middle of the night, and by morning, buildings and parks are replaced by billion-dollar projects.

Chicago PI V.I. Warshawski gets pulled into one of these clandestine deals through her impetuous goddaughter, Bernie Fouchard. Bernie tries to rescue Lydia Zamir, a famed singer-songwriter now living on the streets; Zamir's life fell apart when her lover was murdered next to her in a mass shooting at an outdoor concert. Not only does Bernie plunge her and V.I. headlong into the path of some ruthless developers, they lead to the murder of the young man Bernie is dating. He's a computer geek working for a community group called SLICK.

V.I. is desperate to find a mysterious man named Coop, who roams the lakefront in the middle of the night with his dog. She's sure he holds the key to the mounting body count within SLICK. Coop may even know why an international law firm is representing the mass murderer responsible for Lydia's lover's death. Instead, the detective finds a terrifying conspiracy stretching from Chicago's parks to a cover-up of the dark chapters in America's meddling in South American politics. Before she finds answers, this electrifying novel pushes V.I. close to the breaking point: People who pay to play take no prisoners.

Windham Library Book Club Selection Wednesday, February 1, 2023 at 3:30 PM Small Great Things By Jodi Picoult

Grace Cottage Family Health Adds Three Providers

by C.J.King

Three new providers are now seeing patients at Grace Cottage Family Health in Townshend.



Nurse Practitioner Caroline (Carly) Dormer is accepting new patients 18 and older. A graduate of St. Lawrence University and State University of New York-Binghamton's Decker College of Nursing and Health Sciences, Dormer graduated with a Master of Science as an Adult Gerontological Nurse Practitioner with a Forensic Health Advanced Certificate. Dormer was a clinical and charge nurse at Binghamton General Hospital and Decker Health Services & Department of Emergency Management prior to moving to Vermont in 2021, where she's most recently worked as a Nurse Practitioner at Savida Health in Brattleboro. She enjoys snowboarding, hiking, painting, and gardening.



Dr. Wyll Everett received his M.D. from the University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine and completed his residency in 2022. He also holds a B.A. in neuroscience from Wheaton College in Norton, MA. He was a Research Assistant in the Department of Bariatric Surgery at the University of Vermont Medical Center, and also in the Department of Anesthesiology. He chose to pursue a career in family medicine while working at Grace Cottage with Dr. Tim Shafer during his fourth year of medical school. Dr. Everett is Board Certified with the American Board of Family Medicine and is a board member of the Vermont Academy of Family Physicians. He grew up in southwestern Vermont.



Dr. Marc-Olivier Ratte received his Bachelor and Master of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology from University Laval in Quebec, Canada, and his M.D. from St. George's University School of Medicine in Granada. His residency was at Stamford Hospital/Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, and he has been a primary care physician at Brattleboro Memorial Hospital since 2018. He is Board Certified with the American Board of Family Medicine. Dr. Ratte's hobbies include traveling, hiking, skiing, and attending concerts.

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Londonderry Transfer Station and Recycling Center Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

TOWN WEBSITE: TOWNOFWINDHAMVT.COM

Select Board: Kord Scott, 802-875-3725; George Dutton, 802-874-4426; Michael Pelton, 802-874-4246

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

Town Clerk: Ellen McDuffie, phone: 802-874-4211; email: windham.town@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;

E-911 Coordinator and Lister: Bill Casey, 802-874-7012

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

Windham Meeting House Committee, Co-Chairs: Tom & Eileen Widger, 802-875-4604

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)



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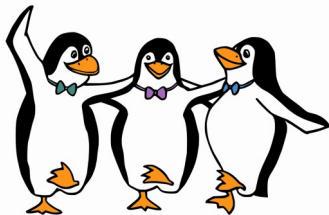


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OFFICIAL TOWN WEBSITE

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

REGULARLY SCHEDULED WINDHAM MEETINGS 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
Monday: Noon - 6 PM;
Wednesday: 10 AM - 4 PM
Thursday: 10 AM - 4 PM
Closed all Tuesdays, Fridays, and
Federal Holidays. Open third
Saturday, 11 AM - 2 PM.

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—Hybrid: at the
Meeting House and on Zoom.
Open meetings. Agenda post-
ed. Check website:
townofwindhamvt.com

Library:
Wednesdays, 3-5 PM
Book Club 3:30 PM, 1st
Wednesdays at Meeting
House. Contact Maureen
Bell at 802-875-1024.

Valley Bible Church:
Sundays: Sunday School,
10 AM; Morning Worship,
11 AM; Followed by potluck.
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 Of-
fice. 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!

Nov. 2—Book Club, Windham Meeting House, 3:30 PM (The Alice Network)
Nov. 8—General Election, Windham Meeting House, 10 AM—6 PM—VOTE
Nov. 11-16—Window Dressers Community Build, Windham Meeting House
Nov. 23—Pie and Praise, Valley Bible Church, 7 PM
Nov. 24—Happy Thanksgiving!
Nov. 30—Windham Community Organization, Windham Meeting House, 5:15 PM
Dec. 7—Book Club, Windham Meeting House, 3:30 PM (The Master Plan)
Dec. 24—Candlelight service, Valley Bible Church, 7 PM
Jan. 4—Book Club, Windham Meeting House, 3:30 PM (Dead Land)

