

WINDHAM NEWS & NOTES

2023 Town Meeting Combines Old and New

by Mary McCoy

This year, Windham's Town Meeting will combine past tradition with updates to address ongoing COVID concerns. After the state passed legislation that made it possible for towns to delay annual town meetings until a safer time than early March, our Selectboard decided to hold our Town Meeting on May 20. This not only moved the meeting out of the wintertime when COVID occurs more often, but it also allows us to have Town Meeting on a Saturday, making it possible for more working people to attend.

At first the Selectboard voted to hold Town Meeting outside, but a recommendation from the Windham Community Organization (WCO) prompted them to revisit that decision. Now Town Meeting will be held in the upstairs (the former church sanctuary) of the Meeting House. This will allow everyone to spread out, and it will also make it easier to set up microphones and speakers so that everyone can hear.

As is our town custom, there will be a potluck lunch. This is a long-standing tradition with wonderful food being shared. For many of us, it is one of the few times we sit down with our neighbors to break bread. It is also a good time to taste some new dishes and get some new recipes. If a potluck is not your thing, you can bring a brown bag lunch that suits your needs.

Unlike in the past, when we break for lunch, we will not have to move the chairs to the side, set up the tables, and move the chairs to the tables. Nor will we have to reverse that process after we have eaten and before the meeting begins again. This year, tables will be set up in advance with some inside on the main floor and some outside for those who want fresh air. You can also eat your meal upstairs if you want. Please

see recommendations related to COVID below.

On the agenda for this year's meeting are votes on the town's general budget and road budget and the school's operating budget, as well as on appropriations for the Town Garage, the Meeting House, a required townwide reappraisal of properties, and a NEMRC fund for accounting software and services. Budgetary items are stated in detail in the Auditors' Annual Report that all voters will receive by May 10 with additional copies available in the Town Office.

We will also have the election of town Officers. To be elected this year are: Moderator (Michael McLaine, incumbent), Selectperson (Kord Scott, incumbent), Lister (Alison Cumming, incumbent), Auditor (open), Delinquent Tax Collector (Paul Wyman, incumbent), Windham Center Cemetery Commissioner (Margaret Dwyer, incumbent), West Windham Cemetery Commissioner (Diane Newton, incumbent), North Windham Cemetery Commissioner, (Paul Wyman, incumbent), Library Trustee (Cynthia Kehoe, incumbent), and Windham School District Director (Russell Cumming, incumbent).

Volunteers are needed for setting up, serving lunch, and cleaning up. We also need "fire watchers" who will help folks exit the building in case of fire, which is now required by the state's Fire Marshal. You can sign up to help at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6R8PPDY or leave a message for Mac at the Windham Town Office at 802-875-4211.

Vermont's annual town meeting is a rare example of democracy in action. Please come and let your voice be

Recommendations to Stay Safe from COVID During Town Meeting

- If you feel sick (cough, upper respiratory symptoms, chills, flu-like symptoms, etc.), check for COVID using a home test kit. If your test is positive, stay home. Call your health care provider, quarantine and keep your friends and neighbors safe. If your test is negative and you want to come, wear a mask and keep your distance from others inside the building.
- * If you are at higher risk, consider wearing a mask and keeping your distance from others.
- * If you don't wear a mask, be respectful of those who have decided to wear one.
- * Masks and sanitizer will be available at the Meeting House.

Selectboard Report

In many ways, the past two months have been business as usual for the Selectboard. We responded to folks' complaints and thanks, conducted regular and special meetings, reviewed and acted on payments from the town treasurer, heard reports from other town staff, and kept up with the ordinary business of the town.

That included making some appointments. We nominated Cathy Edgerly Fales to the Planning Commission, and appointed Pat McLaine to replace Marcia Clinton as Windham's Health Officer. After learning that a state statute prohibits Bill Dunkel from serving as chair of both the Planning Commission and the Energy Committee, we changed his status to "ex-officio chair" of the Planning Commission. He still chairs it, but he can no longer vote. We established a new position of "Grant Administrator" to complete all the required reports for various grants we have received, and we appointed Imme Maurath to the role.

But there have also been significant changes in our routine. As you know from the article on Town Meeting, it will be different this year, held more than 10 weeks later than usual and on a Saturday, with the meeting conducted in the former sanctuary of the Meeting House and with lunch tables on the main floor and outside.

New action is happening around the Meeting House. On April 1, we participated in the tour of the building that focused on aspects inside and outside that need updating. We support a process that will garner townwide input to set priorities and planning to address the needs there. The Selectboard provided support for an application submitted by The Friends of the Meeting House for a Paul Bruhn Preservation grant. These funds would be used for the front of the building to meet access, safety, and preservation standards.

A major topic of conversation for many months has been the speed limits in town. This was motivated by the many complaints we have received from residents about the high rate of speed of vehicles, especially on Windham Hill Road and West Windham Road. A new ordinance has been drafted that will set the speed limit for on all town roads at 35 mph. There are a few exceptions. The paved part of Route 121 will remain at 40, and three areas of town will be below 35 mph – South Windham which is already set at 30, the area near the school and town office which is already 25, and a new area of 30 that will be set on Windham Hill Road between the town garage and just past Carlton's Corner (that sharp turn north of the Meeting House). There will be two public meetings for your input before this ordinance is passed.

The selectboard will be working on getting a "village center designation" for South, Center, and North

Windham. This will allow these areas to receive grant funding the town would otherwise not be qualified to receive. This and other grant opportunities have come to our attention from research Cathy Fales has conducted.

Another subject under consideration for some time is the creation of a registry of the short-term rentals in Windham. This is something other towns have established to clarify who owns and manages the rentals, so they can be contacted in case of problems, and to make sure the rentals are safe for visitors. Michael has acquired the ordinances of three other towns, and the zoning administrator from Chester attended one of our meetings to tell us how it works there.

Recently, we sent out an email explaining the town's need for property for our road maintenance needs. We have received a grant for a new salt shed, but the current location is not ideal. We would like enough land for the shed, a new garage (in the future), and all of our road equipment and material stockpiles. If you know of land that would be appropriate, please let us know. We would gladly accept a donation of four or five acres, but realize we may need to establish a fund for this purpose.

The burned home at the corner of Abbott and Windham Hill Roads has been another frequent topic at our meetings. We have had official contact with the owners, and they are planning to demolish the house. They hope to rebuild on the same site, but it will require them to meet zoning regulations for new construction related to the location being in a floodplain.

Another new development is a switch we approved for Windham's treasurer to move from Quickbooks to a NEMRC system that is designed specifically for town finances. Town Treasurer Kathy Scott and her assistant Gail Wyman have received training from NEMRC, which will also provide ongoing support. Kathy has also switched our town banking from M&T to TD Bank. The town will now be able to conduct more of our banking electronically.

We have been pleased to have many residents in attendance at our meetings, usually 12 to 20 folks. We are again meeting by Zoom only due to a resurgence in Covid. When we tried hybrid meetings (at the Town Office and on Zoom), the in-person attendees were next to none. Clearly, folks like to participate from the comfort of their homes. Whether we will be able to continue meeting only by Zoom is up to the state.

Whatever is decided, we encourage everyone to participate as we move forward with our activities, old and new.

Kord, George, Michael, and Mac



ALL DOGS MUST BE REGISTERED!

From the Town Clerk, Ellen McDuffie

Due to an increasing number of animal complaints in town, it is imperative that you register your dogs in the Town Office. Registration was due April 1, so late fees apply. Windham now has an Animal Control Officer who is a Windham County Sheriff's Deputy, and we have an active Town Constable, Jim Lawler, who will be enforcing this state law. All dogs and wolf-hybrids must be registered by six months of age and must have a current rabies vaccination certificate from your veterinarian on file in the town office. If you live out of town and visit Windham regularly with your pets, I urge you to register them in Windham in addition to registering in your hometown. Please be aware that all dogs must be on a leash or under strict, direct voice control when off your property. Dogs are not allowed to roam freely when on public roads or off their owners' property.

The fees are \$12 for a neutered pet and \$18 for a reproductively intact animal. Please contact the Town Clerk's office at 802-874-4211 to make arrangements if you are not able to come in during regular office hours (Monday, noon to 6PM, Wednesday and Thursday, 10AM to 4 PM and the third Saturday of the month, 11AM to 2 PM). Thank you for your attention to this matter.



Green-Up Day—May 6th

Green Up day is here and bags are available outside the Town Office. Please indicate where you will be working on the clipboard located with the Green-Up day bags.

Town of Windham Looking for Property

The Windham Selectboard is planning for the future of the town. One of the most pressing needs is that our town's highway department needs more space to store materials and to build a new salt shed. To ensure that we are efficient, we are looking at ways to fulfill the town's immediate and future needs. We are considering lots in the 3-acre range for material storage which would allow us to buy sand and other materials at bulk pricing. Land in the 5-acre range would provide space for a new garage, salt shed and stockpiling. Ultimately it would be nice to have a property large enough to suit the highway department's needs and to allow for additional land for the town's future needs. If you have any property that you would be interested in selling to the town, please contact the Selectboard or Michael Pelton at Michael.herbert.pelton@gmail.com with your property information.



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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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.

Update from Senator Nader Hashim

Hello Windham County! It's amazing to think that the ensuring we have a fair and equitable judiciary session is only several weeks away from being completed, and I've nearly finished my first year as a state senator! It has certainly flown by. I consider myself very fortunate to have had my experience as a state representative; re-entering the statehouse with that knowledge has proven useful and has helped with crafting good legislation.

I currently serve as the vice-chair of the Judiciary committee, and as a member of the Education committee. In Judiciary we have taken multiple steps to help relieve the court backlog through a number of different bills. Specifically, we have passed out two bills related to mental health and healthcare facilities, which includes allowing psychologists to perform competency screenings instead of just psychiatrists. This will significantly alleviate the backlog for mental health cases because it is challenging to find psychiatrists who are not already extremely busy.

We've also passed out S.4 which contains several provisions that aim to reduce violence in Vermont. One of these provisions reduces the number of hearings that are necessary for individuals who go through the Youthful Offender Program, which is a large source of the court backlogs. The reduction of hearings was an agreed upon compromise between prosecutors, defenders and other affected stakeholders.

I'm proud of the work we've done in this committee, and I look forward to continuing work on improving court efficiency, increasing access to justice, and

Correction

The link at the bottom of **Putting Windham on the** Map by Frank Seawright (March-April News and *Notes*, page 4) was not visible and did not work.

You can view the entire series of ten maps referred to in Frank's article and some interesting information on Windham's population at this link: https://www.eustabee.blog

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.

system.

In Education, we are focusing on school construction, PCB remediation, universal school meals, and school safety. In the following weeks we will be working on the challenges presented by public tax payer dollars going to private education institutions that condone discriminatory practices in enrollment and staff treatment. This is going to be a challenging problem to resolve because we must balance allowing students in rural areas to access education, but we cannot allow for discriminatory practices in enrollment or staff treatment.

Outside of my committees, the senate has recently passed some impactful legislation. This included major bills that substantially invest in housing, childcare, divesting our pensions from fossil fuels, and strengthening unions. Many of these bills relate directly to the top priorities I voiced during my campaign: developing housing, supporting our workforce, and reducing our carbon emissions.

This has been an incredibly rewarding experience, and I am very proud to serve as a senator for Windham County. Beyond legislation, I am also available to support constituents with their needs or concerns. If you have questions or need guidance related to our state government, or if you'd like to join my monthly newsletter, please don't hesitate to contact me at nhashim@leg.state.vt.us or naderhashim.vt@gmail.com. Thank you!

Town Treasurer's Update

By Kathy Scott

Taxes for 2022 are closed out. Delinquent taxes are approximately \$93,000 as of April 1, 2023. However, seven to eight properties are seriously delinquent. Another tax sale is being scheduled for early fall. Property owners involved will receive a letter from the Delinquent Tax Collector advising them to get caught up to avoid legal and other fees associated with the tax sale. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. For more information, contact Paul Wyman at 802-874-4211.

From September 2022 until now, the Town of Windham has received approximately \$435,000 in highway grant money.

The town is in the process of changing over from the Quick Books Accounting Program to NEMRC (New England Municipal Resource Center). We think this will be a more efficient and transparent program for Windham.

Listers Corner

Now that the snow has melted, the New England Municipal Resource Center (NEMRC) reappraisal team is beginning the home inspection process in Windham. They will be starting on a specific road and work their way toward the center of town. The Listers will be sending out postcards to the owners of properties to be reappraised about one to two weeks before the NEMRC appraisers are expected to arrive.

If you are not a full time resident and have someone who may allow the Appraiser to have entry into your property, please share the date and time with that person and advise the town office by email or voicemail. If you do not have someone who may assist you, please call the town office at 802-874-4211 and schedule a time to meet the appraisers. They work from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.

For those owners who have completed a Zoning Application for such items as building a home, adding a porch or deck, building a garage or barn, or adding a shed or out building the Listers will be making site visits to access the percentage completed as of April 1, 2023. They will knock on your door and ask permission to measure the outside of the

structure to see if it complies with the zoning application. If you are not at home they will measure and leave a card advising you that they were there. They may ask questions concerning the progress made towards completion to assess the value as of April 1st.

For projects that take longer than one year, the Listers will revisit the parcel the following April 1st (2024) to reassess the percentage completed. Once all the change in value has been determined, you will be sent a notice of change of value. The grievance process will be explained in the letter.

Please note that there are two different valuations being made this year. One is the assessment of the Zoning Application improvements as of April 1st. These valuations will be included in your 2023 tax bills. The second is the town wide reappraisal of ALL parcels in Windham. Once reappraisals of ALL the parcels in Windham have been completed, owners will be sent notices of the revaluations and these will be reflected in the subsequent tax bills.

Windham Listers,

Ali Cummings, Russ Cumming, William Casey

Emergency Questionnaire Update – Your Help is Needed

by Emergency Management Directors, Kathy Jungermann and Imme Maurath

Every few years we send out a new questionnaire and ask people to update their emergency information because we know how things can change, especially during these last three years of the pandemic. We include a form for your updated emergency information in this mailing. You can send the form back in the envelope provided along with your subscription to the *News and Notes*. Your information will be kept confidential and will be used exclusively by the team responsible for emergency response.

In Windham, three types of emergencies would most likely to require activation of an emergency team:

- 1) Extended power outages, defined as more than 48 hours. In addition to the usual weather-driven outages, there also exists the possibility of a general system failure similar to the one that blanketed the Northeast in 2003. In all power outages, water supplies are the first concern. One of the questions pertains to this.
- 2) **Physical isolation** due to road washouts or snow and ice combined with downed trees. Windham was relatively fortunate during Tropical Storm Irene in that we did not lose access in and out of town. Windham could have easily been isolated, as Wardsboro and Grafton were, if the rain had continued. In such circumstances, emergency communications and knowledge of special needs would be critical.
- 3) Outbreak of virtual viral or bacterial disease (like the one we've just experienced). Public health experts advise that this should be a part of all comprehensive emergency plans. In the event of an outbreak, Windham should be prepared for those stricken by illnesses, as well as to prevent further spread of the disease.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to return your completed questionnaire.

West River Education District Update

by Crystal Corriveau

The budget vote was on March 22. Not many participants but the budget passed. Thank you to those who voted.

As you know William Anton is leaving his position as superintendent in the Windham Central Supervisory Union and moving on. We don't know exactly where he is going but we will miss him terribly. Bob Thibault the current Leland and Gray High School principal will be the new superintendent. I cannot think of a better person to step into that role. This opened up the principal position that was filled by Dana Aquadro. Dana is a good fit and will be a great asset to Leland and Gray.

Long term planning continues and the board has discussed the need for some action to take place in the near future. Meetings have been changed to the second Monday of the month. They can be attended via zoom or in person in the Leland and Gray library on B Level.

New Floor Celebration!

by Sally Newton, the Friends of the Windham School House

The new hardwood floor in the multipurpose room is finally finished, and spring is here! Please come to the school on Thursday, May 4, from 6:00 to 7:30 pm to celebrate with us. There will be a short presentation to thank all the wonderful people who gave time, money and lots of hard work to make the new floor happen. That will be followed by a short square dance, (traditional on new floors in VT... beginners welcome, all dances are taught) and a potluck dessert. If you can bring a favorite dessert, or some juice, that would be wonderful. If you can't bring something, please come anyhow!

This is a wonderful chance to check out the new floor and the kids' artwork on the wall, do some dancing, if you like (it's ok to watch) and see friends and neighbors after a long winter. We hope you can come! Invite those friends and neighbors too!

If you can bring shoes to wear inside or clean yours off before coming in the multipurpose room, that would be wonderful, but not required. It would be great to keep our new floor beautiful!

Windham Community Organization Asks for Your Support!

The next issue of the Windham News & Notes begins our 21st year of Windham's bi-monthly publication. We have an all-volunteer staff and depend on your annual support to cover the cost of production and mailing. We ask you to contribute whatever you are able with the usual contribution being \$15 or more. All property owners and subscribers receive our May-June subscription issue free of charge. As a service to the community, we send a copy of all issues to Windham residents, whether they subscribe or not. If you are not interested in receiving the paper, please email us at windhamnews@hotmail.com. If you do not reside in Windham, a donation is necessary to cover the additional expenses of sending the other five issues per year out of town.

Windham Community Organization (WCO) is the non-profit organization under which Windham News & Notes operates. Your support also allows us to fulfill our mission of helping Windham residents with heating fuel, gasoline, rent, groceries and other assistance. Our budget is small, so your support goes a long way.

We welcome new members and can always use more participation from the community. For more information, please call Ellen McDuffie at 874-8183 or Kathy Jungermann at 874-4606.

Huge Tag Sale at the Meeting House on May 27th

Don't forget to check out our Huge Tag Sale on Saturday, May 27th from 9am-2pm at the Meeting House (Memorial Day Weekend). A few tables are still available to rent for \$10 each, and we ask that you donate 15% of your sales to the Meeting House Committee.

For more information, please contact Imme Maurath at 802-875-8755 or by email at ism777oth@yahoo.com.





Buy Local-Eat Fresh Vermont Farmers Markets Summer 2023

Brattleboro: Opens for the summer beginning Saturday, May 6 through October 28 every Saturday from 9AM-2PM at 570 Western Ave (Rt. 9) near the covered bridge. No pets. 802-254-8885. www.brattleboroareafarmersmarket.com.

<u>Dorset:</u> Summer market begins Sunday May 14 through October 8, outside on the green at H.N. Williams store 2732 Rt. 30. No pets. 802-353-9656. Preorder at www.dorsetfarmersmarket.com.

<u>Ludlow:</u> Friday 4PM-7PM beginning on Friday June 2 through October 6 on the front lawn of Okemo Mountain School at 53 Main Street. No pets. 802-230-7706. www.ludlowfarmersmarket.org

<u>Manchester:</u> Summer market begins Sunday, May 25 through October 12 from 3PM-6PM at Adams Park, Rt. 7A in Manchester Center. No pets. 802-447-1472. To preorder visit www.manchesterFarmers.org..

Townshend: Opening on Friday, May 26 and continuing till October 6. Open shopping from 4:30PM-6:30PM at West Townshend Country Store at the junction of Rt. 30 and Windham Hill Road. 802-874-4800. www.westtownshend.org.

Londonderry: The West River Farmers Market is opening on Saturday May 27 through October 7 from 9AM-1PM and is located at the junction of Routes 11 and 100. No pets. 802-297-7775. www.westriverfarmersmarket.com.

Springfield: Summer market starts on Saturday June 3 and continues till October 7. Located at 280 Clinton Street at the head of the Toonerville Trail. www.springfieldvtfarmersmarket.com. 802-885-4096.

Additional information available at www.nofavt.org or 802-434-4122.

Leland and Gray Students Speak Out Against Flavored Tobacco Products and E-cigarettes

by Elisha Underwood, West River Valley Thrives

At this year's Take Down Tobacco Day, Leland & Gray students learned about the dangers of e-cigarettes from peers who are active in West River Valley Thrives' Vermont Kids Against Tobacco (VKAT) and Our Voices Xposed (OVX). The tobacco industry targets teens through flavors and youth-specific marketing, knowingly using the addictive substance nicotine to establish lifelong customers and make large profits from hooking youth on new tobacco products. This has resulted in a national crisis among youth and at schools. Schools have been hard hit. Even schools with the best intentions do not have the capacity to tackle a problem of this magnitude alone.

On April 6, the OVX student group attended Prevention Day, a Legislators' Breakfast and a OVX Rally at the Vermont Statehouse in Montpelier to create dialogue and ask for Legislators' support to protect youth from these harmful substances. The students joined high school groups from across Vermont to share their stories about youth vaping in schools and communities with legislators and each other. Leland & Gray ninth grader Jacob Howe and Student Assistance Professional Luis Vargas spoke to the Committee for Human Services about S.18, a bill related to prohibiting flavored tobacco and e-liquid products, including menthol. Jacob Howe said, "It's important that these flavored products that cause heavy addictions stay out of our schools. Tobacco cigarettes can cause you to cough and are nasty, but vaping is tasty and entices youth to use it. It's a gateway to other substances."

If you would like to learn more about our OVX and VKAT groups, current efforts to address vaping at the State and/or local levels and how you can get involved, contact Kayla Jager: wrvtworks@gmail.com



For more information, visit: www.wrvthrives.org.

PROFILES IN COMMUNITY Ginny Crittenden: How I got to Windham Vermont

edited by Carolyn Rubin

I was born and grew up in Northern California, graduated from the University of California at Davis with a major in Biology. When I was 19 years old I was hired at a children's summer camp, 100 miles north of San Francisco, a mile and a half from the Pacific Ocean. It was a farm, and I had a wonderful experience. Also working as a counselor was a young guy who had grown up in Vermont, in West Windham. David was a student at St. Lawrence University, upstate New York, many miles from California. He sang and played guitar and won this girl's heart! Many letters and a couple of summers later, after graduation in 1964 we were married in my home church and lived in a studio apartment in San Francisco for two years. It was the first time living in a city for both of us, an adventure! Dave was working towards his Master's Degree in English Literature and I studied Medical Technology, getting my license after a year at Kaiser Hospital.. I remember our favorite treat was fresh Dungeness crab and Sourdough French Bread.

Dave joined the U.S. Navy in 1966, so for the next few years he was on an aircraft carrier and I stayed in California. Our son was born in Oakland and Dave met him at 4 months old. It was a hard time for me, but it was good that my parents were nearby. Dave put in his time on the ship, and then he was able to finish his Master's Degree and start a teaching job. We also had two more babies, twin girls! A busy time, with three kids under three years old. We moved to the farm where we had first met and took over the summer camp business. Our next eleven years were there, farming and providing a farm summer camp experience for kids from the city who didn't know where their milk and eggs came from. It was a wonderful experience for our own kids, who thrived in that rural community with its two-room school. For me it was a dream come true, milking goats, cows, riding horses, just living among beautiful redwoods and a stone's throw from the Pacific Ocean.



The next adventure took us for 6 months to Europe with our kids, a first for us all. We did home schooling in a medieval stone village with a Roman road to walk on. We also stayed in Youth Hostels since it wasn't tourist season and families were welcomed. We had leased a VW bus and drove it about 20,000 kilometers before we turned it back. I was truly a wonderful education for our family.

Now it was time for high school for the kids, so we came to New England, got jobs in New Hampshire and Vermont. Dave's parents were living in the house they built in West Windham when they retired, down the road from the house where Dave grew up. We were able to visit them and help get in firewood, mow the fields and enjoy this beautiful place. The house was empty after both parents passed away in 2001, and we moved in!

Between 1991 and 2001 we did a lot of moving and when our kids were in college Dave and I had the opportunity to teach English in Istanbul, Turkey. I taught refugee children from Iraq and Iran and Dave taught Turkish middle school students. We both loved the two years there and explored the country whenever we had the chance. I will never forget the friendly Turks we met and the ancient cultures that have existed going back to the Romans.

continues top of page 9

After two years in Turkey, we moved to jobs in South Our kids gave Dave and me an 80th birthday party Korea, also teaching English but to university students. They wanted us to experience their culture and what is ahead for us, but I look forward to the next took us sightseeing. There were trips to festivals, like adventure. After 20 years in Windham, it is the Ginseng Festival and traditional musical dramas. Like the Turks the Koreans were very good to us.

I feel like a very lucky person to have lived these 80 years in good health, able to see a lot of the world. Now, life seems to be slowing down. I am happy taking walks, dreaming of next year's garden, weaving on my loom, exercising with my friends at the Meeting House and staying warm by the fire.



last October, a great family gathering. Who knows beginning to feel like home!

The warm weather is finally here! Time for outdoor activities, cleaning up from the winter, planning gardens, barbecuing or just getting warm in the sun. It's also time or reconnecting with old friends and neighbors and taking part in Windham community events. This column provides a space for our friends and neighbors to share information about themselves so we can get to know each other better. If interested in writing or dictating your essay, email me at izrubin@comcast.net.



Strawberry Social July 1st 2023, 5 – 7 PM at Valley Bible Church

by Susan Persa

Come enjoy some luscious strawberry shortcake and other delights at Valley Bible Church in South Windham. Watch a slideshow of historical pictures from our churches and from around the town. This event is free of charge and all are welcome. For more information: 802-874-4057 or 802-380-4511.

Vermont Open Studio Weekend 2023 by Kathy Jungermann

The Annual Vermont Spring Open Studio Weekend is held during Saturday and Sunday of Memorial Day Weekend, May 27 & 28, from 10-5 each day. This is a celebration of the creation of craft and artwork and the work life of Vermont artists. Studios are places of production and inspiration found in downtowns as well as at the ends of dirt roads. Over 155 artists and galleries are participating this year.

The self-guided Open Studio Tour features the work of glassblowers, jewelers, printmakers, potters, furniture makers, weavers, ironworkers, painters, sculptors, quilt makers, and wood carvers. Many artists will have demonstrations, work not available in the gallery, and special sales.

In our area the following studios are participating: The River Artisans Cooperative in Bellows Falls, Clayshare in Londonderry, Epoch Vermont Artisans in Manchester and Carol Violanda Art in Dummerston. In Townshend the following artists will participate: MRH Goldsmith-Michael Hunter, Jim Jackson, Kim Eng Yeo, and Robert Du Grenier Glass Art Gallery. Follow the yellow wayfinder signs during the Open Studios Weekend to guide you to the studios.

For more information, and to plan your tour, order a free map booklet with directions to participating sites from the Vermont Crafts Council website www.vermontcrafts.com . You can also view and download a PDF of the booklet there.

ARPA Committee Moves Forward

by Mary McCoy, ARPA clerk

On April 1, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Committee met at the Meeting House to better understand the building's needs and what might be required from the ARPA funds. With us were nine others involved with the Meeting House, along with two representatives from government-funded agencies that are providing us with helpful services. It was a rainy Saturday morning, but when we began our tour by going outside, the rain stopped.

Pete Newton indicated that the structure of the building is completely sound, as it was well built with massive timber beams. He told us about the changes needed for the front of the building to meet accessibility and safety standards. Of equal importance is the need to preserve the historic value of the building, the 220-year-old marvel at the heart of our town. Pete has served with the Friends of the Meeting House for more than 20 years, and as a carpenter by trade, he understands how new doors can be built to address safety and accessibility issues and at the same time look like they did two centuries ago. It takes extra effort, but modern standards can co-exist with historic beauty.

Inside the building, Tom Widger showed us the issues that are problematic there. Tom heads the town's Meeting House Committee, which focuses on the building's interior and uses. Volunteers have already addressed some issues that are not costly, but turning the Meeting House into a warm building will be expensive. Bill Dunkel, head of the Energy Committee, told us about possibilities for insulating the main floor. Then Tom showed us the oil burners that cost way too much to run when often all they do is provide hot water. We went upstairs to the former

sanctuary. It is a beautiful, large space, as everyone will see on Town Meeting day.

The ARPA Committee imagines that the largest share of the \$118,380 the town received from ARPA will be used to help meet the needs of the Meeting House. Next steps include coordinating townwide meetings to set priorities and creating a concrete plan for the renewal of the Meeting House.

The ARPA Committee is moving forward with other recommendations. The Selectboard voted to approve our recommendation that \$10,849 be provided to the Windham Volunteer Fire Company to buy new protective gear for firefighters that meet state standards. Many thanks to Jan Wyman for her guidance on this. The Selectboard has also approved our recommendations of \$14,600 for connections to DVFiber and \$4,000 for a town grant administrator, a new position filled by Imme Maurath.

We are still gathering information on the other projects we have identified. Cathy Fales has found possible support for grant researching and grant writing. Michael Simonds has received another bid for the solar array on the Town Office roof. Ellen McDuffie is getting estimates for improved Town Office equipment, and George Dutton is finding out about audio-visual equipment. In addition, Cathy Fales has been exploring what other towns are doing, making contacts with state officials, researching and finding resources on-line and identifying new possibilities for Windham.

With any luck, the ARPA Committee will help turn our \$118,380 into twice that much. The ARPA Committee's work is about benefitting our town's buildings and equipment and strengthening our community connections.

With Sadness in Our Hearts

By Ellen McDuffie

For almost 20 years, Claudia Voight called Windham her home. On February 21, 2023, Claudia died at her beloved home on Windham Hill Road. Her death was sudden and unexpected. She was 73 years old. The Voight family has owned the property in Windham since 1986. Claudia had been the owner since 1996.

Claudia Voight was born November 29, 1949, in Bridgeport, Connecticut to Lawrence and Apolonia (Zysk) Williams. She was one of six children raised in Milford, Connecticut where she also raised her five children.

After going back to school to obtain a degree in Business Administration in 2003, Claudia worked for many years as a conference and wedding sales manager at several southern Vermont resorts. In the past several years, Claudia was very active in the West River Community Project in West Townshend and also served Windham as Selectboard clerk.

Claudia's daughter, Heidi Voight, a news anchor for NBC Connecticut Today and a former Miss Connecticut, has said that memorial service will be held for her mother in Milford, Connecticut, and later this year in Windham, Vermont. Claudia will be missed dearly by her friends and family and by all those whose lives she touched.

Winter Fire Safety

Portable Generators and Winter Storms



Portable generators are useful during winter storms, but if not used safely, they can cause injuries and death.

- Use portable generators outdoors in well-ventilated areas away from all doors, windows and vents.
- Make sure you have carbon monoxide alarms in your home.
- Do not use a generator in a wet area. This can cause shock or electrocution.
- Connect appliances to the generator with heavy-duty extension cords.
- Do not fuel your generator when it is running. Spilling gas on a hot engine can cause a fire.



For more information and free resources, visit www.usfa.fema.gov.







Chester Plant Sale May 26-28

By Marcia Clinton

The annual Chester Plant Sale at St. Luke's Church, the gray church at 313 Main Street near the Village Green in Chester, Vermont, provides a marvelous opportunity for the public to purchase an impressive selection of proven, large, healthy, hardy plants at bargain prices. Well-groomed plants with helpful labels make garden additions easy; experienced gardeners will be on hand to give advice about planting and garden design.

The sale is scheduled to run on Friday May 26 and Saturday May 27, 9-3 both days; and on Sunday May 28, 12 noon-3. The later timing of this annual event allows for larger and more attractive plants – all organized by kind and growing needs on the side lawn of the church. People who have perennials to contribute in advance or plants to suggest or who need more information are encouraged to contact Lillian Willis at 802-875-1340 or lbwillisct@comcast.net.

The Windham Center Cemetery Stone Wall: Rocks of Ages

by Mark Emmons

For years, maybe four or five, The Windham Center Cemetery Commission had been contemplating what to do about the rust ridden fence at the Eastern border of the Windham Center Cemetery. The old fence that borders Windham Hill Road was showing its age after many years, many coats of hunter green paint, and many repairs, finally succumbing to rust from the inside out. The commission was forced to seek a suitable replacement. Windham's beloved former resident Heath Boyer, gathered information on a good-looking black aluminum fence but somehow it just didn't look Windham enough. I proposed that we replace the rusty fence with a good old New England stone wall to match the existing walls on the sides and the back of the cemetery. Alan Partridge liked the idea but had some concerns about securing wall stone that would match the look of the existing side walls. Walter Woodruff proposed that we dismantle the wall at the back of the cemetery, move it to the front and rebuild it. Initially I was a little troubled with the thought of dismantling a beautiful existing wall that was in good shape. Allen then proposed going with

the old stone post look with rope or chain between the posts. We proceeded to research available stone post options only to be disappointed again, because it just looked too new, modern, and un-Windham. After all the "beating around the old green fence", we as a commission unanimously agreed that moving the rear wall to the front would certainly be, most appropriately, Windham! Alan proposed that I take on the wall project, knowing I had the skill and the equipment to get-er done. I had some serious reservations about taking on the project due to a debilitating flair up of Lyme disease that incapacitated me for about two months. After getting through that, I began working on the wall in the fall of 2021. My son Joel helped me at the onset before moving to Manchester. My beloved wife Linda also helped me on the wall project, (she is such a good helper). Starting in the fall of 2022 my grandson Tye joined the team, he too is a good worker, and should be able to learn the art of building an old New England stone wall by the time the project is completed, thus helping to keep the tradition alive. I expect to have the four hundred foot long wall completed by November 2023, the Good Lord Willing!!!!



Be Tick Safe!

by Pat McLaine

It's early May in Windham – almost all the snow has melted, spring is here and all thoughts are on being out of doors in the garden, in the woods and on the trails. But those hungry ticks are out and about, just like we are, looking for a meal! Ticks are found in wooded areas and fields with tall grasses or brush, so many Vermonters are at high risk for exposure: hikers, campers, hunters, farmers, gardeners, landscapers - anyone who loves to be outdoors!

Tick-borne disease is a serious problem in Vermont, particularly Southern Vermont. Vermont tracks reported cases of tick-borne disease in people and conducts regular surveillance of ticks in the outdoor environment to determine what ticks and diseases will likely be found in Vermont. Although Vermont has fifteen species of ticks, only six bite people and only one – the blacklegged tick – is responsible for more than 99% of tick-borne disease here. Vermont has a number of tick-borne diseases but the two most common are Lyme Disease and Anaplasmosis.

Lyme Disease is the most common tick-borne disease in Vermont. In 2017, Vermont had the highest rate of new Lyme disease cases among US states. In recent testing, over half of the blacklegged ticks collected by the Health Department tested positive for the bacteria that causes Lyme Disease. Men get Lyme Disease more frequently than women. Boys age 5-14 and older men are at highest risk. Although identified throughout the year, April through July appears to be the time of highest risk for Lyme Disease. Southern Vermont has the highest incidence of cases. Windham County is one of three counties with the highest case rate in our state.

Anaplasmosis is the second most common tick-borne disease in Vermont. Since 2015, Vermont has had the highest rate of new Anaplasmosis cases among US states. It can be serious; more than one third of cases in Vermont are hospitalized. It more often affects older people and males. Risk is highest in the summer and also high in the fall. The highest incidence of cases is in Southern Vermont with 30% of all cases reported from Bennington County.

Treatment for both diseases is typically with antibiotics. Most individuals who are seen and begin treatment early fully recover. But some people with Lyme Disease experience serious symptoms long after treatment and it is not clear why.

The best way to prevent tick bites and tick-borne diseases is to **BE TICK SMART**:

- PROTECT avoid areas where ticks live, use EPAregistered tick repellents, cover up
- CHECK don't let ticks hitchhike; check your whole body
- REMOVE remove unattached and attached ticks as soon as you can
- WATCH talk with your provider if a tick has bitten you or a family member or if you get sick.

Walk in the center of trails, not through brush or grassy areas; be extra careful spring to fall. Use an EPA-registered insect repellent on your skin. Many repellents are available: find one right for you: https://www.epa.gov/insect-repellents/find-repellent-right-you. Consider treating clothing with permethrin – do NOT use permethrin on your skin. Talk with your vet about tick prevention products for your pets. Wear long pants, long sleeved shirts, long socks and light colored clothing (easier to spot ticks!).

Check clothing, gear and pets before you go inside; put clothes in the dryer on high heat for 10 minutes when you come in; check your body and children's bodies: scalp and neck, behind ears, back, under arms, belly button, around waist and hips, between legs, pelvic area, behind knees; take a shower to wash off unattached ticks and help find ticks easily.

Remove ticks as soon as possible using fine-tipped tweezers or tick removal tool; grasp tick low on body, pull straight up until removed — don't twist or jerk; dispose of tick in alcohol, in a sealed bag or container, or wrap tightly in tape or flush down the toilet. Do not crush tick with your fingers. Watch a video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oGrK4ZKUfhQ&t=3s. Don't use petroleum jelly, a hot match, nail polish or similar products to remove the tick; these do not work.

Ticks are a fact of life in Windham. But you can protect yourself and your family by being tick smart. For more information, https://www.healthvermont.gov/disease-control/tickborne-diseases/information-ticks-vermont or at the Town Office.



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, June 7, 2023, 3:30 PM



Growing up in the 1930s, there is no more magical place than Palisades Amusement Park in New Jersey, especially for seven-year-old Antoinette, who horrifies her mother by insisting on the unladylike nickname Toni, and her brother, Jack. Toni helps her parents, Eddie and Adele Stopka, at the stand where they sell homemade French fries amid the roar of the Cyclone roller coaster. There is also the lure of the world's biggest salt-water pool, complete with divers whose astonishing stunts inspire Toni, despite her mother's insistence that girls can't be high divers.

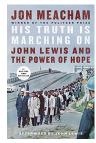
But a family of dreamers doesn't always share the same dreams, and then the world intrudes: There's the Great Depression, and Pearl Harbor, which hits home in ways that will split the family apart; and perils like fire and race riots in the park. Both Eddie and Jack face the dangers of war, while Adele has ambitions of her own—and Toni is determined to take on a very different kind of danger in impossible feats as a high diver. Yet they are all drawn back to each other—and to Palisades Park—until the park closes forever in 1971.

Evocative and moving, with the trademark brilliance at transforming historical events into irresistible fiction that made Alan Brennert's *Moloka'i* and *Honolulu* into reading group favorites, *Palisades Park* takes us back to a time when life seemed simpler—except, of course, it wasn't.

Annual Chicken Barbeque – Saturday, July 15th at 5 PM

The Windham Community Organization (WCO) would like to invite you to our annual chicken BBQ on Saturday, July 15th at 5PM at the Meeting House. We were so pleased with the support we got last year as we all try to return to some sense of normalcy. Watch for more details in our next issue.

Windham Library Book Club Selection Wednesday, July 5, 2023, 3:30 PM



John Lewis, who at age twenty-five marched in Selma, Alabama, and was beaten on the Edmund Pettus Bridge, was a visionary and a man of faith. Drawing on decades of wide-ranging interviews with Lewis, Jon Meacham writes of how this greatgrandson of a slave and son of an Alabama tenant farmer was inspired by the Bible and his teachers in nonviolence, Reverend James Lawson and Martin Luther King, Jr., to put his life on the line in the service of what Abraham Lincoln called "the better angels of our nature." From an early age, Lewis learned that nonviolence was not only a tactic but a philosophy, a biblical imperative, and a transforming reality. At the age of four, Lewis, ambitious to become a minister, practiced by preaching to his family's chickens. When his mother cooked one of the chickens, the boy refused to eat it—his first act, he wryly recalled, of nonviolent protest. Integral to Lewis's commitment to bettering the nation was his faith in humanity and in God—and an unshakable belief in the power of hope.

Meacham calls Lewis "as important to the founding of a modern and multiethnic twentieth- and twenty-first-century America as Thomas Jefferson and James Madison and Samuel Adams were to the initial creation of the Republic itself in the eight-eenth century." A believer in the injunction that one should love one's neighbor as oneself, Lewis was arguably a saint in our time, risking limb and life to bear witness for the powerless in the face of the powerful. In many ways he brought a still-evolving nation closer to realizing its ideals, and his story offers inspiration and illumination for Americans today who are working for social & political change

Windham Library Book Club Selection Wednesday, May 3, 2023 at 3:30 PM <u>Mistress of the Art of Death</u> By Ariana Franklin

Grace Cottage's Family-Friendly 5K—May 13 at 8 AM

It's Spring - time to get moving!

Join us on the Townshend Town Common for the Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital 5K, Saturday, May 13, with an 8:00AM shotgun start.

You can run, walk, roll, stroll, or push your baby carriage for this fun, family-friendly event!

Registration is \$20 per participant; children younger than 18 are free with signed parent/guardian permission. Registration is open at gracecottage.org/events.

A virtual option is also available. Register at the same link.

Second Wind will provide official timing. Last year's winners were Al Claussen of Townshend, with a time of 18:49, and Kelsey Taddei of Townshend, at 24:44 – while pushing two children in a stroller, and while supervising another child next to her on a bicycle!

For more information, contact Grace Cottage Foundation at info@gracecottage.org or call 802-365-9109. All proceeds from this event will benefit healthcare services at Grace Cottage.

ELECTRONICS COLLECTION EVENT

SATURDAY, May 20, 2023, 9 AM - 1 PM

Flood Brook Union School 91 Route 11, Londonderry VT

FREE to residents and charities
Businesses must call ahead to make arrangements



WHAT TO BRING:

*Computers * Monitors * Televisions

*Microwaves, FAX Machines

*Typewriters *VCRs

Remain in your vehicle at all times during collection. Electronics must be in the vehicle trunk or truck bed.



We Go Beyond Patient Care

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

HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION SATURDAY, June 3, 2023, 9 AM - 1 PM FLOOD BROOK UNION SCHOOL

Route 11, Londonderry

Free to residents

WHAT TO BRING:

Any substance with a label that says:
"Caustic, Toxic, Corrosive, Poison, Combustible,
Warning, Danger or Caution"
Both LATEX and OIL BASED PAINT

For information call 824-3306.

WHAT **NOT** TO BRING:

Electronics - Saturday, May 20 2023 event

Empty Aerosol cans - recycle with scrap metal at Londonderry Transfer Station (LTS)

Rechargeable and Primary Batteries (AA, AAA, C, D etc.) Bring to Londonderry Hardware, Londonderry Town Office, LTS Automotive Batteries - exchange at or give to local garages and auto parts stores

What NOT to Bring, continued

Used Clean Motor Oil - bring to West River Auto or Hunter Excavating

Fluorescent Light Tubes/Bulbs—take to Londonderry Hardware Ammunition & Explosives - contact your local police Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Propane Tanks—exchange or refill at propane distributors or Londonderry Hardware

Medical sharps (needles) - place in a rigid, puncture-resistant container such as a detergent bottle, seal with duct tape.

Label "Do Not Recycle, Sharps". Dispose in trash.

Asbestos in any form— contact an asbestos abatement company.

Prescription Drugs - bring to Derry Pharmacy, Manchester,

Ludlow or Winhall Police Departments

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: Pat McLaine, phone: 802-875-3312; email: patmclaine@gmail.com

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

ber 1455)



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Happy Spring!

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

windhamnews@hotmail.com.

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 posted. 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 District: Third Mondays at 7 PM at Leland & Gray. Call Leland & Gray 802-365-7355 for info.

SAVE THESE DATES! May 3—Book Club, Windham Meeting House, 3:30 PM(Mistress.of the art of Death)

May 4—New floor celebration, Windham Elementary School, 6-7:30 PM

May 6—Green-Up Day (bags and sign-up outside Town Office)

May 20—Electronics Collection, Floodbrook Union School, 9AM-1 PM

May 20—Windham Town Meeting, Windham Meeting House, 10AM Start

May 27—HUGE Tag Sale, Windham Meeting House, 9AM—2 PM

June 3—Hazardous Waste Collection, Floodbrook Union School, 9AM—1 PM

June 7—Book Club, Windham Meeting House, 3:30 PM (July 1—Strawberry Social, Valley Bible Church, 5-7PM) July 15—Chicken Barbeque, Meeting House, 5PM