



WINDHAM NEWS & NOTES

Why Should You Run for Town Office?

By Nancy Tips

It may seem early for you to start considering running for town office next March. In reality, now is the time to inform yourself about the duties of Windham's various elected officials, and to decide whether you want to bring your skills and energy to managing the town's business and guiding the town's future. You will also have the time to attend meetings of town officials, as you ponder where you might fit in.

Here's something new to Windham: Australian Ballot for voting for town officers. At our most recent town meeting, voters approved Australian ballot for voting for town officers. Starting in March 2025, voters who don't attend town meeting can still vote for town officers, either by requesting a mail-in ballot, or by voting at any time during voting hours on town meeting day. As usual, a regular town meeting will be held for discussion and floor voting on all other town business.

Why does Australian ballot matter to you, as a candidate for town office? Australian ballot means you need to declare your candidacy to the voters before town meeting instead of being nominated from the floor on town meeting day, as frequently happened in the past. While voters will be able to write in an undeclared candidate, it's best to let people know that you're running and what you bring to the office you seek.

Opportunity to campaign, discuss, and debate: You will be able to make the case for your candidacy and debate important issues at a "candidates' night." While possibilities for such campaigning have always existed, in reality most candidates tended to be nominated from the floor during town meeting. Also, voting took place from the floor (except when Australian ballot was mandated during the pandemic). Candidates were only allowed to speak for a very limited time. People who might have supported a candidacy, had they known who was running, might not have attended town meeting.

Personal benefits of holding town office: In giving your best effort to the town, you will be helping us all. In addition, you will learn new skills, grow as a person, and develop relationships with people who live/own property in Windham, with other town officials, with officials in other towns, and with people in statewide organizations. In the future, if you are applying for jobs or educational opportunities, your service to the town will likely be seen as a definite plus.

Find out more: The more you learn about the various town offices, the more likely you are to identify roles that suit you and allow you to contribute to the life of Windham. In future editions of the *News and Notes*, we will detail the responsibilities of the various elected town offices, and hear from current and past officials about what you might expect. Lists of the responsibilities for each elective position will also be posted on our town website, <https://townofwindhamvt.com/>.

Property Taxes Are Due Thursday, October 31, 2024

Property tax bills have been mailed out. Please contact the Town Office at 802-874-4211 if you have **not** received your bill.

If you have questions about your specific property tax bill or the impacts of the reappraisal on your bill, please contact the Town Office.

A postmark of October 31 2024 will be accepted as an on-time payment. The Town Office will be open on October 31 from 9:00AM to 5:00 PM for collection of tax payments. To be considered on time, payment must be delivered to the office by 5:00 PM.

Interest will be assessed on unpaid property tax bills at 1% per month on the first of every month, beginning on November 1, with a 3% penalty added on January 1,

2025 and an additional 5% penalty added on July 1, 2025.

If you have any questions about your Homestead Declaration and State Exemption or Current Use, please contact the State of Vermont at 802-828-2505 or 866-828-2865.

Individuals with low incomes may be eligible for tax credit. If this might apply to you, please review information about the Vermont property tax credit program: [Property Tax Credit | Department of Taxes \(vermont.gov\)](https://tax.vermont.gov/property/property-tax-credit) (<https://tax.vermont.gov/property/property-tax-credit>). If you have questions about the property tax credit program, you may call the Taxpayer Services Division at 802-828-2865.

Representative Heather Chase will be scheduling one-on-one meetings in September at the Town Office with homeowners to help with tax concerns. Look for a schedule to be posted soon.

Selectboard Report

Windham has many hard-working and skillful people. Among them are the various committee chairs and other town staff who now provide reports at our meetings. These reports help us to be more fully informed and to provide better support, creating improved teamwork for the town. We are pleased with this exchange and with the number of residents who attend our biweekly meetings to offer their ideas.

Our town roads are always a primary concern, and we are grateful for the ongoing maintenance work from our road crew, Richard Paré and Kurt Bostrom. Work also continues with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) support to repair storm damage, now focused on erosion issues in West Windham. Also in the process are the purchase of a new truck and the plans for repairs on Route 121.

Imme Maurath and Cathy Fales continue to do the work needed to provide grant funds for the town. Imme is focused on funding for our roads, and Cathy is pursuing a variety of other grant possibilities. Town Clerk Ellen McDuffie has been busy managing a number of activities, including running elections. The selectboard is working with her to upgrade the internet and phone services at the Town Office. Bill Dunkel is leading the Planning Commission as it revises parts of the town plan and the Energy Committee as it prepares for another year of Window Dressers. Bea Eliastam is supervising the updates of our town website. Zoning Administrator Michael Simonds is reviewing zoning permit applications, including visiting all sites and working with home owners. Recent blasting at a house site on Wheeler Road has brought to light that the town currently has no restrictions on blasting.

In the past months, the listers have been focused on finalizing the grand list, sending out property assessments, and responding to grievances, with Antje Ruppert providing the complicated computer work. Many of us were pleased to see that our homes had increased in value. But because Vermont's tax rates for education are based on the "wealth" of each town's residents, property taxes in Windham have increased significantly. The selectboard is looking for any way to challenge and improve this situation.

The impact of tuitioning our students and closing our school was not a key factor in the tax increases. We are beginning to work with the school board to determine the future of the school house. For now, the Windham Historical Society is using a room to display their photos and relics.

We have also been working with Maureen Bell, chair of the Meeting House Committee. We ordered and received new audio-visual equipment for regular meetings and larger events like Town Meeting. We received updated guidelines from the fire marshal regarding the Meeting House, and as a result, we've purchased a new fire extinguisher for the kitchen, and we will upgrade the electrical outlets there. We were told that the exhaust hood we purchased, as had been previously advised, will not be necessary, and we will be selling that.

The use of Windham's beautiful land is an ongoing issue. On July 18, a meeting was held regarding Hamilton Falls. The selectboard has stated in writing our view that the area around the falls should not be developed in ways that alter the natural surroundings. Our view is in agreement with all residents who spoke at the meeting. The selectboard also supports residents who have volunteered as "friends" to advise U.S. Fish and Wildlife as they make plans for the Conte Wildlife Refuge on Glebe Mountain.

We have been asked by representatives of the Friendly Gathering to write a letter of support for their plan to hold a weekend event at Timber Ridge in July 2025. This event will be on private property, so we have little jurisdiction. Our support is contingent on the event planners doing all they can to limit late night amplified music and to control traffic on our roads.

Recent discussion has focused on the fulfillment of four town jobs. Kathy Scott will not be running for reelection in 2025, so a new town treasurer with accounting experience will be needed. We will need a new lister when Ron Cohen leaves Windham, and a new zoning administrator at year's end when Michael Simonds retires. The selectboard is considering the job of town constable – what should be that person's duties, qualifications, and compensation – and who might fill the job.

Windham is fortunate to have many talented, skillful, and active citizens. We've already got a great town team, and we look forward to working with more of you who can lend a hand. We urge all *News & Notes* readers to consider offering your skills and time. We would like to know as soon as possible if you are interested in a job, so you can participate in the New England Municipal Resource Center (NEMRC) job training that is being offered now. If interested, contact Michael Pelton (michael.herbert.pelton@gmail.com).

Kord, George, Michael, and Mac

Important Election News from Your Town Clerk

By Ellen McDuffie

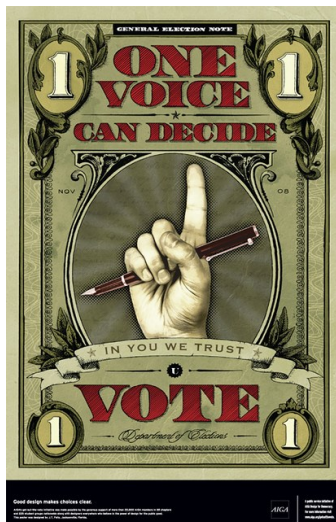
We have a very important General Election 2024 coming up on Tuesday, November 3, 2024. The offices up for election are: US President, US Vice-President, US Senator, US Representative, Vermont (VT) Governor, VT Lieutenant Governor, VT State Treasurer, VT Secretary of State, VT Auditor of Accounts, VT Attorney General, VT State Senators (2), VT State Representative, VT High Bailiff, and Town of Windham Justices of the Peace (5).

The State of Vermont will be mailing out ballots to all voters who are registered to vote as of early September. I do not have all the information currently. You are urged to register or to correct your mailing address as soon as possible at: <https://mvp.vermont.gov/> On this state website you can check on your voter status or register online. You may also register by mail (form is online at this site) or come to the town office during the clerk's hours and fill out your registration. If you register after the state sends out ballots, your ballot will be mailed to you by the town clerk if you register far enough in advance prior to the election. Otherwise, you will need to come into the office for a ballot or show up at the polls on election day.

Once you receive and mark your ballot, you may return it to the town office secure drop box (located on the left side of the front door) or mail it to the town office by US mail in time for it to be received prior to election day, or you may come to the polls at the Windham Meeting House on Tuesday, November 5 between 10 AM and 7 PM with your ballot. The address of the Meeting House is 26 Harrington Road, on the corner of Windham Hill Road and Harrington Road.

When voting, please note how many candidates you may vote for each position; most are for no more than one, but you can vote for up to two state senators and up to five Windham Justices of the Peace. The Justices of the Peace will be printed on the back of your ballot, so be sure to turn it over and continue voting. If you make a mistake, you may request a new ballot from the town clerk after signing an affidavit. If you need assistance with your ballot or need a ride to the polls, please call the town clerk at 802-874-4211.

This election is so important, and I will do everything in my legal authority to assist you in the process. Please 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.

N&N Team

Maureen Bell Dawn Bower
 Pat Cherry Chris Dunkel
 Leila Erhardt Louise Johnson
 Kathy Jungermann
 Ellen McDuffie Philip McDuffie
 Pat McLaine Susan Persa
 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: October 18, 2024

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.

Windham Energy Committee Update

By Bill Dunkel, Town Energy Coordinator

Time is running out to order low cost, attractive, energy efficient storm window inserts for your home. If you want to reduce your heating bills, lower your carbon footprint and be warmer this winter, I urge you to consider ordering Window Dressers storm window inserts for your home as soon as possible. These inserts are easy to install from inside your home, and easy to take down and safely store in the spring. The Windham Energy Committee and leaders in Londonderry and Landgrove are organizing a community-build which is scheduled for the first week of November.

September 30th is the deadline for us to measure all windows and submit all orders.

Each insert is custom-priced based on the exact measurements of your window. Inserts generally pay for themselves in one or two heating seasons. Below are sample prices. Your exact price may vary slightly. Depending upon one’s circumstances, very significant discounts also may be available.

Window Size	Cost for Pine	Cost for White
Small: 20” x 36”	\$35.28	\$43.91
Medium: 30” x 52”	\$48.06	\$61.06
Large: 44” x 68”	\$65.30	83.38

Contact me if you are interested in having storm window inserts made for your home, or if you have questions about the Window Dressers program (bdunkel1455@gmail.com, 802-874-4131). More information also is available at www.WindowDressers.org. Don’t wait! Cold weather is just around the corner!

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.

Update From The Meeting House Committee

By Maureen Bell

Other than hosting Vermont Forest, Parks and Recreation's community discussion about Hamilton Falls and the Ice Cream Social sponsored by the Windham Community Organization (WCO) and Windham Historical Society in July, it was business as usual at The Meeting House. Come join us at the Library on Wednesday afternoons, for Living Strong on Monday and Thursday mornings and for Game Days on the first and third Wednesday afternoons. The Selectboard Meetings take place on the first and third Monday evenings, with the exception of Labor Day, when the meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 3, instead.

Elsewhere in this issue you'll read about a piano concert on September 14 (page 8) and save the date for the WCO Harvest Supper and Dance on October 26 (page 9).

Update on Town Website

By Bea Eliastam

The Windham Selectboard and Webmasters have been working with local partner, Curly Sprout Creative, to redesign the Town of Windham website. Our goal is to create a user-friendly, accessible, and dynamic online hub that reflects our small but active community.

Based in Newfane, Curly Sprout is led by husband and wife duo, Katie Murtaugh and Grant Johnson. They're bringing a fresh and innovative approach to our town website, balancing design with function. Katie and Grant have worked on a number of other local projects including websites for the VT 30 Collective initiative and the reopening of the Newfane Inn. With their help, the new Windham website will be easy to use, offering residents and visitors a simplified experience with access to vital community resources.

Part of our design process involves connecting with town members to gain insights from a diverse group of residents, ensuring the new site meets our collective needs. Thank you to those who have already shared their thoughts. If you have specific suggestions to contribute, please contact Bea at webmaster@townofwindhamvt.com.

We are excited to share the new website with you all in the coming months! If you're interested in learning more about our creative partners, check them out at curlysproutcreative.com

Ice Cream Social is a Sweet Success!

By Kathy Jungermann

A large crowd, approximately 106 people, attended this end of the summer fundraiser to provide support for The Windham Community Organization and the newly formed Windham Historical Society. Folks arrived eager to explore Windham’s history and to sample a cone, sundae, or banana split featuring Wilcox Ice Cream. A slide-show presentation prepared by the Historical Society ran continuously throughout the event. Everyone watched in anticipation of spotting a house, barn, or road they were familiar with! Pete Newton, Susan Persa and members of the Historical Society were on hand to provide additional information on the history of each slide. Tables were set up with artifacts, picture albums, newspaper clippings and documents focusing on Windham history.

The Windham Community Organization and The Windham Historical Society want to express their sincere appreciation to Wilcox Dairy for their contribution to the event. We are also grateful for the large turnout and the very generous contributions, both for the ice cream and the 50/50 raffle.

Thanks to all the WCO volunteers who set up, served the ice cream, and then returned the meeting house to good working order.

We hope to see you all again next summer!



Enjoying the slide show.

Photo albums, artifacts and newspaper clippings gathered by the Historical Society on display.



Enjoying the ice cream!



Pictured WCO members Joyce Cumming, Dawn Bower, Ellen McDuffie, Becky Phillips, and Kathy Jungermann (not pictured Maureen Bell, Pat Cherry, Pat McLaine and Barbara Jean Quinn)

How Did Windham Vote in the August Primary?

By Ellen McDuffie

Position	Democratic Party	Votes	Progressive Party	Votes	Republican Party	Votes
US Senator	Bernie Sanders	54			Gerald Malloy	21
US Representative	Becca Balint	56			Mark Coester	19
Governor	Esther Charlestin	21			Phil Scott	23
	Peter K. Duval	11				
Lt.Governor	Thomas Renner	21	Zoraya Hightower	1	John Rogers	13
	David Zuckerman	31			Gregory M. Thayer	9
State Treasurer	Mike Pieciak	54			Joshua Bechhoeffer	18
Secretary of State	Sarah C Hanzas	47			<u>H Brooke Paige</u>	20
State Auditor	Doug Hoffer	50			H Brooke Paige	18
Attorney General	Charity R Clark	50			H Brooke Paige	19
State Senator	Wendy Harrison	43			Dale L Gasset	17
	Nader Hashim	44			Richard Morton	14
State Representative	Heather Chase	55			Thomas F Charlton	20

On Tuesday, August 13, Vermont held the state primary. Windham had 327 registered voters including challenged voters on our checklist. Eighty-two votes were cast for a participation rate just shy of 25%. Voter turnout across the state was low, partly due to many uncontested positions in each party. Only 17 voters voted Early/Absentee. Windham ballots cast were 57 Democratic, one Progressive, and 24 Republican . Windham results shown above. There were eleven write-in votes and all other votes were left blank. Thank you, Windham, for letting your voices be heard!

Farm Camp at Meadows Bee Farm

By Raquel Master

For the ninth year, Meadows Bee Farm has hosted their annual July Farm Camp. An increasingly popular summer event, all 75 spots for this camp sold out in under one hour! The theme of this year’s camp was “bravery”. Campers earned their Homesteading Badge by caring for orchard trees, harvesting blueberries and gooseberries, and baking sourdough turnovers in a handmade cobb oven built by last year’s campers. Between tending to the gardens and the farm animals, campers assisted in constructing a bridge strong enough for a tractor to drive over! The sound of fifteen children simultaneously banging hammers was comparable to hearing a round of applause for their hard work and bravery! A big thank you to town residents for slowing down past the farm while parents dropped-off and picked-up their children for camp.

Meadows Bee Farm has been working with local youth as a part of the Windham community since it

was created by Leigh Merinoff in 2007. Meadows Bee’s mission is to reinvigorate curiosity and educate about the joy of food, farming, and forestry. We do this through our Young Farmers Badge Program, where children learn 30 different subjects at three different levels, all within three categories: regenerative agriculture, animal husbandry, and the farm arts. Meadows Bee offers this program by hosting homeschool days, intensive learning workshops, and working closely with local public schools. If you have any questions about the farm or would like a tour, please contact us at our website at Meadowsbee.com. You may also follow us on Instagram at [Meadows_Bee_Farm](https://www.instagram.com/Meadows_Bee_Farm).

Test Your Knowledge: When is Canadian Thanksgiving?

- a. September 2 (Labor Day)
- b. October 7
- c. October 14 (USA Indigenous Peoples Day)
- d. November 28 (USA Thanksgiving Day)

Answer: see page 14

Windham Fire Company: Another Successful Fundraiser

By Marcia Clinton

Mother Nature gave the Windham Fire Company a perfect summer day for its annual fundraiser on August 10th. The all-day event offered breakfast, lunch, and the BBQ in the evening. Over 90 baskets of treasures were out for folks to drop in their raffle tickets. The silent raffle beckoned people to bid on a variety of items. The corn hole tournament was there for the athletes.

Later in the day hungry folks lined up for the chicken BBQ with all the fixins'. Bidding continued for the silent auction and 50/50 raffle tickets were still being snapped up. The grill with accessories was on display and tickets for that were being sold. After the BBQ, the winners of the 50/50, the grill and the silent auctions were announced. Then came the notorious Pie Auction! Bidding was fierce for the homemade pies, cakes, donuts and dinner boxes.

The members of the Fire Company are grateful for the support of all the people who helped in any way to make this day successful. We had lots of fun bringing this day of activity to all of you. And we are looking forward to seeing you all next year.



Events In and Around Windham

Community Lunches at Neighborhood Connections

The next community meals will be held on Tuesday September 10, Tuesday October 8 and Tuesday November 12 at 12:00. Come join your neighbors and friends for a delicious meal and lively community conversation. Look for flyers posted at the Town Office and Meeting House with the monthly menu.



Fall Festival—September 14, 2024 Featuring David Feurzeig in Concert at the Meeting House

By Cathy Edgerly Fales

The Fall Festival will begin at 2:00 PM with fall treats and eats on the first floor of the Meeting House. The concert will begin at 3:00 PM on the second floor (former sanctuary), featuring composer and pianist David Feurzeig performing a special concert tailored to Windham. David will accompany Dan Roth performing a selection by Ralph Vaughn Williams.

This concert is part of Feurzeig's personal project, Play Every Town, to play a piano concert in every one of our 252 Vermont towns. Every program is different. You can learn more about David and this undertaking [here \(https://dfeurzei.w3.uvm.edu/PlayEveryTown/about/\)](https://dfeurzei.w3.uvm.edu/PlayEveryTown/about/) and on his Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/playeverytownvt/>.

The Fall Festival promises to be a wonderful way to start the fall season; we hope you can join us!



The 2024 Chester Festival on the Green September 21-22, 2024 Celebrating 50 years!

By Kathy Jungermann

This annual event organized by the local non-profit Chester Community Events Committee has been the hallmark kick off to the beginning of fall foliage season in Chester for 50 years. Vendors and exhibits will be open on Saturday from 9am-5pm and on Sunday from 9am-4pm, rain or shine. Held on the Town Commons, this is a free outdoor event. You will find the center of town lined with 70+ artisans and 100% handmade products including pottery, fine woodworking, fiber art, photography, glass and much more: something of interest for everyone. Food and beverages may be purchased from over 15 food vendors. The festival will feature live music, street performers, historical tours, artisan demonstrations, games, agricultural education, raffle prizes and lots of family fun activities. New this year are a Maker's Space for live art shows and a maple syrup boiling station. More information and a Festival Directory are available on the website: chesterfestival.org.



Events In and Around Windham

Windham Philharmonic Concerts Begin October 14, 2024

By Alan McLaine

The Windham Philharmonic kicks off its 2024-2025 season with a concert in October which takes its inspiration from Indigenous People's Day. Celebrated the second Monday in October, Indigenous Peoples' Day honors the histories, cultures, and perspectives of Indigenous peoples and their ancestors who lived on the land now known as North America.

The concert features Bassoonist Diane Lipartito in Jerod Impichchachaaha' Tate's *Ghost of the White Deer*, an animal sacred to the Chickasaw People. Diane Lipartito has been an orchestra member since 2006, is a Keene State College faculty member and plays with orchestras and ensembles throughout the area.

Also on the program is Bruce Ruddell's *The Healing Heart of the First People of This Land*, which was commissioned by Upper Skagit elder Vi Hilbert shortly after the 9/11 terrorist attacks as a vehicle for, in Hilbert's words, "bringing healing to a sick world."

The concert is on Monday, October 14, 2024 at 7pm at the Latchis Theatre in Brattleboro, VT. Come and enjoy live music and support local musicians. Admission is by donation.

Harvest Supper & Square Dance Saturday, October 26th at 4 PM The Windham Meeting House

After a four-year break, Windham's Harvest Supper and Square Dance are back, sponsored by the Windham Community Organization. Sally Newton will call, accompanied by musician family and friends.

The dinner menu includes:

- Delicious spiral-cut ham
- Scalloped potatoes
- Butternut squash
- Baked beans
- Rolls/Sweet breads
- Tossed green salad
- Vegetarian option
- Home baked desserts

Cost is \$15.00 per adult, \$5.00 per child under 12, or \$35.00 per family



Mountain Town Circus: November 10, 2024

By Pat Cherry

Come one, Come all to the Mountain Town Circus!! Troy Wunderle's Big Top Adventures will return on Sunday, November 10 at Flood Brook School, 91 VT-11, Londonderry, Vermont. Enjoy the high-wire performance, unicycle shenanigans, juggling show, balancing tricks and stunts, lots of clowns, audience participation, children's face-painting, hula hoops, and animal balloons. Bring the whole family!! Save the Date and purchase advance tickets online at

www.neighborhoodconnectionsvt.org.



Meredith Nevins Mayer Recalls Her Early Years in Windham

The Windham Historical Society

Today, Windham is home to many second-home owners and others who come here on getaways. But that was not the case in the past. Most folks lived here year-round and made their livings from the land. The Nevins family was an exception.

In 1930, when Meredith Nevins was four, her parents bought a home on West Windham Road as a summer retreat from New York City (NYC) where Meredith's father was a professor at Columbia University. Infantile paralysis (later called polio) was rampant in NYC, and Vermont was a safe haven. This was during The Depression, and the house and 104 acres cost \$1,000.

Meredith loved being in Windham which she recalled as a "special place." She liked watching chipmunks and woodchucks, seeing her family's garden grow, and swimming in the nearby brook and at Hamilton Falls. Meredith made friends with the children of West Windham, including those named Richardson and Dutton. A few years later, the Newtons arrived, and Meredith became life-long friends with Margaret Newton, whom she called Marg but was also known as Maggie and eventually became Dr. Newton. (Years later, Maggie founded the *News & Notes* along with Margaret Woodruff and Lydia Pope France.)

The Nevins chose Windham for their summer home because Meredith's mother's aunt, Mary Richardson, lived in a brick house down the road from the house they purchased. Aunt Mary ran a camp that catered to girls from NYC which Meredith and her sister attended as "day campers." It was a way for city girls to become acquainted with country life. The Newton School for boys which operated in West Windham for 25 years had a similar theme and focus for boys.

Although girls and boys were offered gender-based training and activities, they all spent time hiking. Meredith recalled many hikes to Cobb Rock which had a terrific view to the west. It was a flat rock that you could sit on and see as far as Manchester. (Unfortunately, the trail and rock are overgrown now. A recent attempt by Pastor Mark Griffin to find it was unsuccessful.)

Meredith enjoyed many good times during her summers in Windham. She and her sister wrote and performed plays, inspiring the Newtons, who came to the first performance, to create their own plays too. Meredith's sister saved up and bought a horse named Dash for \$65, which everyone rode. She recalled that the Newtons had four cows, named Madly, Gladly, Sadly, and South Hadley. They also had a large cat that often had a mouse in its mouth.

Meredith remembered the Dutton family, headed by George (the great grandfather of current selectboard members George Dutton and Michael Pelton). She described George as a good farmer, "hard-working himself and hard on his kids, especially Herbert, the youngest." His wife Clara died of pneumonia, and one of the daughters, Helen, ran the house and raised her younger siblings, including Herbert who won a prize because he could name all 48 states in the order they joined the union. The Duttons supplied milk for the Nevins and other families.

At the beginning of each summer, the Nevins bought a pig which they fattened and later had butchered. They also had a small garden which Meredith and her sister weeded. They spent their Thanksgivings here, purchasing domestic turkeys, as there were few wild ones to be found.

Kids bought candy and toys at the town store located near the Meeting House. Meredith said the owner, Elias Stowell, ran the town along with Paul Jones, who was a representative in the state legislature and Windham town clerk. Paul shared a home with his mother, Hatty P. Jones, who kept a library with a loan arrangement for the town's kids. The Jones were considered Windham's intellectuals.

After Meredith entered her teens, she went to square dances in Londonderry with the Newtons. There were also dances and concerts at "the music house" which David Newton built for his mother. The windows there were from the Windham Meeting House, after those had been replaced. Meredith and Marg worked, helping out the Hamiltons who had a grand piano and a grand house with many windows that was built out of wood from a barn. It still stands near the Meeting House.

This article is continued on Page 11→

Meredith Nevins Mayer Recalls Her Early Years in Windham - continued from page 10

Meredith enjoyed singing in the church choir. Like other families, in warm weather, the Nevins attended the Congregational Church, located at the Meeting House, but in the winter, they attended the warmer church in South Windham. For a while, the Congregational Church had a minister from England with a cockney accent.

As a professor at Columbia University, her father knew Dwight Eisenhower, who was president of the college after World War II and before he became president. Ike and Mamie were also friends of Meredith's uncle and aunt. One summer Ike and Mamie visited Windham, staying with her aunt and uncle at a place they rented on Ingalls Road. Meredith recalled meeting them when she was in her early 20s and described them as "very pleasant people."

Said Meredith, "I loved the people in Vermont. There was something so real about Windham." Although it was hard to make a living here, people helped each other. Farming was a lonely life, but people found ways to socialize, like hiking to South Londonderry (on the road that no longer exists). She added, "Windham was a wonderful place to grow up."

Meredith chose to return to southern Vermont in her elder years, and she hired a companion who is Susan Persa's niece. This has prompted a renewed connection for her with Windham. Perhaps you met her at the ice cream social or at another town event. Meredith Nevins Mayer is still active and vibrant at 98, for which she credits having had an easy life filled with fun.



Meredith with copy of article she wrote in 1988.

WCO is Here to Help!

By Ellen McDuffie

Windham Community Organization (WCO) is here for you. The property tax increases have hit us all very hard. We understand how difficult the times are, especially for those with fixed or low income. WCO does not assist with tax payments, but we can assist with your financial needs in other ways. We also do not make payments directly to individuals, but we can pay an occasional utility bill, a car repair bill, a medical bill, or other bill directly to the payee. We also have helped with groceries, fuel bills and gasoline cards. Our policy is for all requests to remain confidential, among a small committee of three. Please reach out to Pat Cherry at 802-874-7094, Kathy Jungermann at 802-874-4606, Pat McLaine at 802-875-3312 or Ellen McDuffie at 802-874-8183. We are committed to doing what we can to help you or find someone who can help. Other local organizations that may be able to assist include: Neighborhood Connections in Londonderry at 802-824-4343 or SEVCA in Westminster at 802-722-4575 or Senior Solutions in Springfield at 802-885-2669.

For questions about your property taxes or if you just need to know what options you may have, please call the Vermont State Taxpayer Advocate at 802-828-6848 or email tax.taxpayeradvocate@vermont.gov. If we find additional information that might be helpful, we will send it out by email.



My Support for ACT 76

*By Heather Chase, VT State Representative,
Windham-Windsor District*

As I am out and about in the community, talking with constituents, many have asked about the new payroll tax, ACT 76.

In the 2023 legislative session the legislature passed Act 76. This Act is already helping to ease the Child Care Crisis that Vermont is facing. I voted for this because I see it through the lens of a small business owner and a working mother who needed childcare for my children. Unemployment is historically low; Vermont businesses need workers. When quality childcare is available, we have a larger workforce. That larger workforce also pays income tax which provides taxpayers with a return on their investment - more people working means more tax revenue. More tax revenues mean the cost of running our government for the provision of necessary services is spread across more individuals.

Higher quality childcare translates to Vermont children being better prepared for school which provides for even more return on our investment because children who are school ready demand less resources. Children who have learning disabilities when identified early have better outcomes. All of this is a win-win situation for Vermont's working families, for the childcare industry and for our schools.

I was proud to vote for ACT 76 and will continue to support working families.

We have already heard from working families and community leaders that this investment is making a positive impact on our communities.

This initiative has been paid for by a nominal statewide payroll tax of 0.44% starting as of July 1, 2024. Employers are responsible for 0.33% and employees 0.11%. Employers do have the option to cover the full amount if they so desire. The funds are invested in a Child Care Contribution Special Fund. We will see more families able to access these funds in October when the program is further expanded.

I'm always appreciative to hear your perspectives and look forward to meeting with more of you over the course of the next few months. Please contact me by email at hchase@leg.state.vt.us or by phone at 802-875-4663 if you have legislative concerns.

COVID, Influenza and RSV: Keep Safe from Respiratory Illness

By Pat McLaine

Despite vaccine availability, the number of COVID cases remains high and current variants are highly contagious. Historical data shows that COVID does peak in the winter (December and January) but also in the hot summer months (July and August). Influenza viruses begin to increase in October and flu activity often peaks between December and February, although flu can be active until May. Other respiratory viruses also spread during flu season including the common cold and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), the most common cause of severe respiratory illness in young children and the leading cause of death from respiratory illness among adults aged 65 and older.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) external advisory panel (The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices or ACIP) has recommended that everyone six months of age and older be vaccinated this fall with the new 2024-2025 COVID vaccine. This vaccine will use the KP.2 variant of the JN.1 lineage, to more closely match variants that are now circulating in the population. Vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna should be available in early September.

ACIP is also recommending influenza vaccination every year for all people aged six months and older with rare exceptions. The updated vaccines for 2024-2025 will protect against three strains of influenza: A(H1N1), A(H3N2) and B/Victoria lineage virus. Talk with your health care provider if you have received a solid organ transplant, are taking immunosuppressive medications, or have questions about what vaccine is right for you.

COVID and influenza vaccines may be given at the same time so sign up to get both!

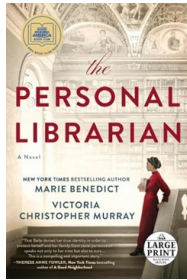
Vaccination for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) for older adults became available last year. It is currently recommended as a one-time dose, so if you were vaccinated last year, you do not need another RSV vaccine. If you were not vaccinated last year, CDC recommends you be vaccinated if you are 75 and older and if you are aged 60-74 and at increased risk because you have heart or lung disease or live in a nursing home or long-term care facility. CDC continues to recommend that all babies also receive RSV vaccine.

Without vaccination, the risk of serious illness remains highest for: people aged 65 and older, people living in long-term care facilities, pregnant people and people living in rural areas. So, lower your risk and the risk for your loved ones: sign up for COVID and influenza vaccines now! And get an RSV vaccine if you missed out last year and are at-risk.

Windham Library

The Windham Library is open every Wednesday from 3-5 PM.. Book Club meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 3:30 PM..

Windham Library Book Club Selection Wednesday, October 2, 2024, 3:30 PM



A remarkable novel about J. P. Morgan's personal librarian, Belle da Costa Greene, the Black American woman who was forced to hide her true identity and pass as white in order to leave a lasting legacy that enriched our nation, from New York Times bestselling authors Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray.

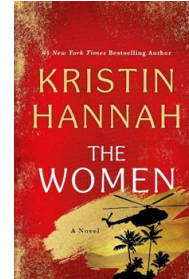
In her twenties, Belle da Costa Greene is hired by J. P. Morgan to curate a collection of rare manuscripts, books, and artwork for his newly built Pierpont Morgan Library. Belle becomes a fixture in New York City society and one of the most powerful people in the art and book world, known for her impeccable taste and shrewd negotiating for critical works as she helps create a world-class collection.

But Belle has a secret, one she must protect at all costs. She was born not Belle da Costa Greene but Belle Marion Greener. She is the daughter of Richard Greener, the first Black graduate of Harvard and a well-known advocate for equality. Belle's complexion isn't dark because of her alleged Portuguese heritage that lets her pass as white—her complexion is dark because she is African American.

The Personal Librarian tells the story of an extraordinary woman, famous for her intellect, style, and wit, and shares the lengths she must go to—for the protection of her family and her legacy—to preserve her carefully crafted white identity in the racist world in which she lives.

Windham Library Book Club Selection
Wednesday, September 3, 2024 at 3:30 PM
The Wind Knows My Name
By Isabel Allende

Windham Library Book Club Selection Wednesday, November 6, 2024, 3:30 PM



From the celebrated author of *The Nightingale* and *The Four Winds* comes Kristin Hannah's *The Women*—at once an intimate portrait of coming of age in a dangerous time and an epic tale of a nation divided.

Women can be heroes. When twenty-year-old nursing student Frances "Frankie" McGrath hears these words, it is a revelation. Raised in the sun-drenched, idyllic world of Southern California and sheltered by her conservative parents, she has always prided herself on doing the right thing. But in 1965, the world is changing, and she suddenly dares to imagine a different future for herself. When her brother ships out to serve in Vietnam, she joins the Army Nurse Corps and follows his path.

As green and inexperienced as the men sent to Vietnam to fight, Frankie is over-whelmed by the chaos and destruction of war. Each day is a gamble of life and death, hope and betrayal; friendships run deep and can be shattered in an instant. In war, she meets—and becomes one of—the lucky, the brave, the broken, and the lost.

But war is just the beginning for Frankie and her veteran friends. The real battle lies in coming home to a changed and divided America, to angry protesters, and to a country that wants to forget Vietnam.

The Women is the story of one woman gone to war, but it shines a light on all women who put themselves in harm's way and whose sacrifice and commitment to their country has too often been forgotten. A novel about deep friendships and bold patriotism, *The Women* is a richly drawn story with a memorable heroine whose idealism and courage under fire will come to define an era.

**Grace Cottage Wins
“Best of Brattleboro 2024”
in All Eligible Categories!**

By C.J. King

Grace Cottage was a big winner in this year’s *Brattleboro Reformer* Readers’ Choice Awards poll. The winners were announced by the *Reformer* on Saturday, August 3.

Grace Cottage won in every category for which it was eligible, including:

- * Best Hospital
- * Best Pharmacy
- * Best Place to Work
- * Best Physical Therapy
- * Best Emergency Care
- * Best Doctors: Dr. Ewa Arnold;
runner-up Dr. Moss Linder
- * Best Pediatricians: Cynthia Howes, CPNP;
runner-up Dr. Elizabeth Linder

Commenting on these awards, Grace Cottage CEO Olivia Sweetnam said, “I have worked in many hospitals and other organizations throughout my career, but I have never experienced an organization as unique and with employees as caring as at Grace Cottage. I am constantly impressed and amazed by the fact that everyone at Grace Cottage goes the extra mile to help patients, co-workers, and community members. There really is no place like it!”

Grace Cottage has consistently won awards in this contest over the years. This is the eighth year in a row that Grace Cottage has won Best Place to Work and Best Physical Therapy, and the sixth year in a row for Best Hospital, Best Emergency Care, Best Doctor, and Best Pharmacy.

For more information about Grace Cottage, visit gracecottage.org or call 802-365-9109.



**Tri- Mtn Londonderry Lions Club
Duck Derby News**

By Randee Keith

Thanks go out to Homestead Landscaping who sponsored the First prize of \$200.00 won by Frank Blake’s Duck #76.

Thank you, Londonderry Builders, for sponsoring Second Prize \$150.00 won by Pam Nichol’s Duck #96.

Londonderry Builder’s also sponsored Third Prize \$75.00 won by Missi Hart’s Duck #328.

Big Thank you to all who bought tickets, the support from our communities is heartwarming.

Where there’s a need, there’s a Lion!

**Test Your Knowledge Answer
(from page 6):**

Canadian Thanksgiving has been officially celebrated in Canada since 1879 on the second Monday in October. It is related the traditional harvest festivals celebrated historically in Britain and France. Join your Canadian friends: enjoy a meal of turkey and all the trimmings on October 14th!

Bear Alert!



Bear hunting season begins September 1st. Wear orange when you and your pet are in the woods.



We Go Beyond Patient Care

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

Londonderry Transfer Station and Recycling Center Hours

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

Recycle What? *By Esther Fishman*

If you are wondering what to do with items that might, or might not be recycled, check out the searchable A-Z list at <https://www.londonderryvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/A-Z-202-new-pricinb-2.pdf> for more information.

HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY
Saturday October 5, 2024
9am – 1pm
Flood Brook Union School on Route 11, Londonderry, Vermont

Residents & Businesses of the following towns only:
Landgrove Londonderry Peru Weston Windham

Free to Households.

Businesses Must Pre-register and Pay for Disposal

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: Lister and E-911 Coordinator: Bill Casey, 802-874-7012; Lister: Anteje Rupert, phone 802-874-4759
 School Board: Abigail Pelton, chair, phone: 802-874-4246; email: apelton@windhamcentralboard.org
 Windham Meeting House Committee, Maureen Bell, Chair; phone: 802-875-1024; email: maureenbell@gmail.com
 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 number 1455)

Proudly Serving Windham and Surrounding Towns for Over 50 Years!




Real Estate
Sales & Services
 802-843-2390

With 4 Office Locations
 Grafton - Chester
 Springfield - Newfane




www.barrettandvalley.com



MOUNTAIN MARKETPLACE
Junction Route 11 & 100 Londonderry

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



POWER EQUIPMENT
SALES & SERVICE

TRIMMER - CHAINSAW
MOWER - TRACTOR - SNOWMOBILE

MSD • POULAN • JONSERED

424 ABBOTT ROAD
WINDHAM VT 05359-9507 **802-874-4298**

LONDONDERRY
LH
 Est. 1978
 HARDWARE

MORE THAN JUST A HARDWARE STORE!
 MOUNTAIN MARKETPLACE
 LONDONDERRY, VT 802-824-3926



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

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

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

OFFICIAL TOWN WEBSITE

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

<p>REGULARLY SCHEDULED WINDHAM MEETINGS CALL CONTACT TO CONFIRM</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Select Board: 1st & 3rd Mondays at 5:30 PM—On Zoom. Open meetings. Agenda posted. Check website: townofwindhamvt.com</p>	<p>Windham School Board: Third Tuesday of the month at 6 PM. Contact Abigail Pelton 802-874- 4246 for information.</p>
<p>Citizens Advisory Committee, Second Tuesday of Feb., May, Aug. & Nov. at 5:00 PM. Contact Marcia Clinton at 802-875-3531.</p>	<p>Planning and Zoning: Second Monday of the month at 6:30 PM Zoom. Open meetings. Agenda posted. Contact Bill Dunkel at 802-874-4131.</p>	<p>Library: Wednesdays, 3-5 PM Book Club 3:30 PM, 1st Wednesdays at Meeting House. Contact Maureen Bell at 802-875-1024.</p>	<p>Volunteer Fire Company: First Thursday of the month at 6 PM. Contact Jan Wyman at 802-875- 3373 for information.</p>
<p>Energy Committee: 3rd Thursday of the month, at 4:30 PM on Zoom, Contact Bill Dunkel 802-874-4131.</p>	<p>Conservation Commission: Contact Alison Trowbridge at 802-874-7050 for infor- mation.</p>	<p>Valley Bible Church: Sundays: Sunday School, 10 AM; Morning Worship, 11 AM; Followed by potluck. Wednesdays, Bible Study/ Prayer, 7 PM. Call 802-302-6047 for more info.</p>	<p>Listers: Every Wednesday, 9 AM- Noon at the Town Office. 802-874-4211</p>
<p>Windham Community Organization: Last Friday of most months at the Meeting House at 1:00 PM. Contact Ellen McDuffie at 802-874-8183.</p>			<p>West River Education Dis- trict: Third Mondays at 7 PM at Leland & Gray. Call Leland & Gray 802-365-7355 for info.</p>

SAVE THESE DATES!

- Sept 4 Game Afternoon 12:30-3:00PM and Book Club 3:30PM (*The Wind Knows My Name*) at the Meeting House
- Sept 10 Community Lunch 12:00noon at Neighborhood Connections in Londonderry
- Sept 14 Fall Festival 2:00PM David Feurzeig in Concert at the Meeting House
- Sept 18 Game Afternoon 12:30-3:00 at the Meeting House
- Sept 21-22 Chester Festival on the Green in Chester
- Oct 2 Game Afternoon 12:30-3:00PM and Book Club 3:30PM (*Personal Librarian*) at the Meeting House
- Oct 16 Game Afternoon 12:30-3:00PM at the Meeting House
- Oct 26 Harvest Supper 4:00-7:00PM at the Meeting House