



# WINDHAM NEWS & NOTES

## TOWN MEETING, SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2024

by Ellen McDuffie

Town Meeting Day is our opportunity as voters to participate in town governance. It's our collective way to discuss Windham's local issues. Those in attendance hash out the issues and vote on warned articles and budgets that affect both Town and School. Articles to be voted upon will be warned no less than 30 days prior to Town Meeting and will be posted at the Town Office and the Meeting House. The Annual Town Report will be mailed to registered voters no less than 10 days prior to Town Meeting. Voters can request to add an article to the Town Meeting Warning by presenting a petition signed by at least five percent of the registered voters of Windham (approximately 16 – 17 voters) and filed with the Town Clerk no less than 40 days (January 29) before the day of the meeting. Please read the Vermont statutes for wording and format of the petition.

If you would like to become more involved in serving Windham, please consider running for office. For any elected position, you must be nominated from the floor at Town Meeting. The Selectboard will also fill appointed positions on March 18, the first Selectboard meeting after Town Meeting. Please contact the Selectboard if you would like to serve in an appointed position. Both elected and appointed positions will be listed in the Town Report. Duties and responsibilities of all town officers are described in the Vermont State Statutes and are summarized by the Secretary of State at: <https://www.sec.state.vt.us/elections/candidates/local-office-descriptions.aspx>. There are many state required duties for each position, and no position should be entered without a full understanding of the responsibilities. If you

plan to run for elected office, please educate yourself as to the duties, and please submit a short candidate's statement for publication in the next edition of the *News & Notes*, by February 12 to: [windhamnews@hotmail.com](mailto:windhamnews@hotmail.com).

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

Moderator, 1 year, Incumbent - Michael McLaine

Selectman, 3 years, Incumbent – George Dutton

Lister, 3 years, Incumbent – Russell Cumming

Auditor, 3 years, Incumbent – Kathaleen Jungermann

Constable, 2 years, Incumbent – James Lawler

Delinquent Tax Collector, 1 year, Incumbent – Paul Wyman

Windham Center Cemetery Commission, 5 years,

Incumbent – Walter Woodruff

West Windham Cemetery Commission, 5 years,

Incumbent – Colin Blazej

North Windham Cemetery Commission, 5 years,

Incumbent – Ralph Wyman

Library Trustee, 5 years, Incumbent – Eileen Widger

Leland & Gray Representative, 3 years, Incumbent – Vacant  
(as of 1/9/2024—was Crystal Corriveau)

Windham School Director, 3 years, Incumbent - Daniel Roth

A potluck lunch - always delicious - is served around noon. Please bring a dish to share and \$1 to defray paper goods expenses. WCO will once again sponsor the potluck. Town Meeting is a unique opportunity to participate in the democratic process, visit with friends and neighbors, and have a great lunch. We hope you will attend, share your views and vote!



## Windham Community Organization Delivers Season's Greetings

On December 15, members of the Windham Community Organization (WCO) gathered at the Meeting House to assemble plates filled with home-made cookies and fresh fruit. The plates were then delivered to Windham residents in need of some Holiday cheer and those who work hard to help keep our town operating efficiently. Members taking part in this yearly tradition baked cookies and purchased fruit to fill the plates, then assembled, wrapped and decorated each of the 18 plates with a festive bow. Recipients were overjoyed and so appreciative!

Thank you to Barbara Jean Quinn, Pat Cherry, Cindy Kehoe, Ellen McDuffie, Pat McLaine, Kathy Jungermann, Maureen Bell, Susan Persa and Alden Wicker for participating in the WCO cookie plate tradition.



### News from the Selectboard

This is the time of year when we hold our annual meeting and evaluation with our road crew, a task made easy by having a great crew – Richard Paré and Kurt Bostrom. At recent Selectboard meetings, residents added their praises for the very good condition of our roads. Thanks, Richard and Kurt!

The work to keep our roads in great shape included a major project on Wheeler Road with the installation of a large culvert there. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursed most of the project expenses, providing \$284,000. Thanks to Imme Maurath for her work as the administrator of our road-related grants, providing the necessary reports that secured these funds. Imme’s job was created with funds from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Also funded by ARPA is a position held by Cathy Edgerly Fales to pursue grants related to our Meeting House. So far, grants have been received to help provide engineering designs for the building, to buy an exhaust hood for the stove in the kitchen, to conduct a series of culinary events there, and to have a thorough energy audit conducted. Additional grants are in the works to restore the front outside entrance of the Meeting House and to receive some technical municipal assistance.

The Meeting House has received additional attention. Along with the town’s Meeting House Committee and the Friends of the Meeting House, we are working to improve the fire monitoring system to ensure the building and those in it are safe. We also worked recently with these groups to have the oil tank inspected, which first required finding it!

There’s news about the land owned by the Nature Conservancy (and previously by the McGraw family) which is located in the northwest part of town (crosshatched area in map →). With a total of 2,292 acres in Windham and less acreage in Londonderry, it is being sold to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to become part of the West River Conservation District. It will be used as a wildlife preserve with some park-like features. With this sale, the town will lose annual tax revenue of \$8,400, but we expect this loss will be mitigated. We will also be able to apply for federal block grants related to our roads, which we previously were not qualified to receive. A public meeting will be held



Map by Frank Seawright

later this year to review what this sale means for Windham.

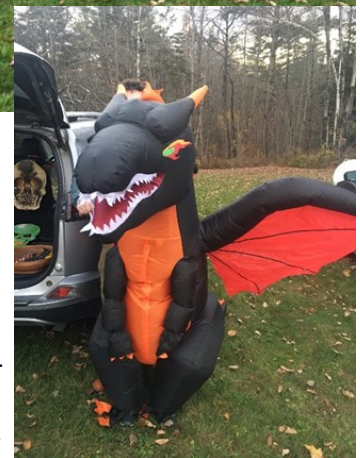
In addition to these developments in town, there are other signs of growth. The Planning Commission is gaining a paid clerk to help keep up with its activities. We have new webmasters, Jordan and Becky Eliastam, who will maintain our ever-expanding website. Talks continue about a different location to accommodate our new salt shed & a new town garage.

There have been some recent tough issues related to complaints from town residents about the conduct of some town officials. While the Selectboard does not have authority over other elected town officials, we want our town to be a place where everyone feels respected. We have discussed the issues with those in question, which is as much as we can do. It is up to town voters to elect, retain, or remove town officials.

We hope all of you reading this and everyone in town had a joyous holiday season. Please join us as we strive to make 2024 a great year for Windham!

Respectfully,  
Kord, George, Michael, and Mac

### Fire Company Trunk or Treat



The third annual Windham Fire Company Trunk or Treat was held on October 27, 2023. This year’s event featured eight decorated vehicles loaded with Halloween treats. More than a dozen costumed children accompanied by their parents and grandparents collected compliments and treats as they made their rounds. A fun time was had by all until the growing darkness and cold temperature made it easy to decide it was time to go home.



**News from the Town Office**

*From Ellen McDuffie, Town Clerk*

**2024 Presidential Primary, Tuesday, March 5, 2024**

Vermont Secretary of State Sarah Copeland Hanzas has announced six Republican and six Democratic candidates who have qualified to be on Vermont’s primary ballot, which is March 5, 2024. State law required each candidate to file a petition signed by at least 1,000 registered Vermont voters by the December 15 deadline. Hanzas reminds voters they must declare which ballot, Democratic or Republican, they wish to vote when voting in the Presidential Primary, and that choice will be recorded. **Primary ballots will not be mailed out to Vermont voters, but voters can request absentee ballots through the [My Voter Page at mvp.vermont.gov](https://mvp.vermont.gov) or by contacting the Windham Town Clerk by phone (802)874-4211, by email at [windham.town@gmail.com](mailto:windham.town@gmail.com) or by stopping by the office.**

Once you receive your ballot, **follow the directions carefully and mail it back promptly.** The U.S. Postal Service advises that you mail your completed ballot, as directed, at least 7 to 10 days before Election Day. Or you may return it to the Town Office by March 4, or drop it by the polling place (Meeting House) on Election Day, Tuesday, March 5.

If this is your first time voting by mail, keep the following in mind:

- 1) Use **black or blue ink** when marking your ballot. Remove stray marks and only vote for one candidate, unless otherwise noted on the ballot. Review your ballot to be sure there will be no question as to your vote by the person counting the vote.
- 2) **Follow all directions carefully.** You don’t want to have your vote “spoiled” or invalidated.
- 3) **Sign the affidavit on the outside of the sealed envelope** containing your ballot, affirming your identity and eligibility to vote. Make sure you sign in every place that requires a signature. Every state requires this affidavit. **The most common reason for rejection of a ballot is that people forget to sign their ballot envelope, or do not enclose their ballot in the signed and sealed envelope.**

If you are not registered to vote in Windham, please go online at <https://sos.vermont.gov/elections/voters> to register, or to obtain more voting information. There is no deadline to register in Vermont. You may register to vote up to and including the day of the election. However, **if you register online the day before the election or on Election Day, your application may not be processed and your name may not appear on the voter checklist,** and you may be asked to fill out another application at the polls. To be sure your name appears on the checklist, **please register by the Friday before the election, March 1, 2024.**

In-person voting will be at the Meeting House (26 Harrington Road), with polls open from 10 AM to 7 PM. Please contact the Town Clerk at (802)874-4211 with any specific questions or concerns you may have about the process.



**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 Imme Maurat
- 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](mailto:windhamnews@hotmail.com).

**Next deadline: February 13, 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](mailto: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](http://townofwindhamvt.org).



**To the Windham Road Crew:  
 GOOD LUCK!**

**Thank you for keeping our roads  
 PLOWED AND CLEAR!**

## Listers Corner: What is a Town-wide Reappraisal?

In practice, a revaluation of all land parcels in Windham should reflect current fair market values for inclusion on the Taxable Grand List. That reads easily enough, but putting it into practice is another story. Looking at Windham as an outsider, one would think Windham is a typical southern Vermont town, but is it really?

The Listers are working with the New England Municipal Resource Center (NEMRC) appraisers to iron out some of the inconsistencies between values in Windham and neighboring towns. Just as Vermont is almost two different states, i.e. the Burlington region and southern Vermont, so is Windham unique. We have no town center, no gas station or grocery store, and no restaurants or retail businesses. Are Windham home values comparable with other towns where these amenities exist? Bear with us as we seek reasonable estimates of fair market value in the town-wide revaluation.

Over the past three years, there have been 60 property transfers. Only five of these properties are now owned by homestead filers. Turnover in Windham is very low compared with surrounding towns where the inventory is much larger.

Our Grand List (GL) also includes two public utilities, Green Mountain Power and Transco (9.5% of GL). Windham also has large tracts of land for logging and recreation such as Meadowsend Timber and Nature Conservancy (7% of GL). Then there are the two types of homeowners: homestead filers (27% of GL) and non-homestead filers or second-home owners (55% of GL). Among the 235 homestead filers, only 17 (7.2%) have school-age children. Retired or semi-retired persons account for 52% of homestead filers.

Then one looks at the recent prices of valid sales within the town. There are not that many sales to use for estimating the fair market value. Over the past three years, the majority of sales are within the vacation or second homeowner category, with 88% of parcels purchased by non-homestead buyers. Many of these buyers based their estimate of fair market values on the values of housing from their prior home state.

If an individual wants to buy 20 acres of land for \$180,000 or \$9,000 per acre, is the parcel next to them also worth \$9,000/acre? If a house sells for \$700,000 on less than 2 acres and is 2,500 square feet @ \$280/square foot., are similar houses also worth \$280/square foot? How does a view factor into the property's value? How does a paved road, electric, telephone and internet access calculate into the values?

From a town point of view, does a one quarter (¼) acre lot in the center of Grafton village, or a two (2) acre lot off Under the Mountain Road in Londonderry with a panoramic view have a correlation of values to a two (2) acre parcel in Windham? How well a property is maintained, how much of a parcel of land is buildable, how much is swampy land, and factors such as loud road noise all have an impact on values.

Since the majority of property sales have been to non-homesteaders, the revaluations are tilted to a set of values in contrast to what many long-term homesteaders feel is valid and affordable come October. The Listers are working with NEMRC to bring Windham's land values in line with reasonable fair market value.

Windham Listers:  
Russ Cumming, Bill Casey, Ron Cohen

**Windham Community Organization  
is prepared to host a  
MEET THE CANDIDATES event  
prior to Town Meeting if there is  
interest to do so by the candidates.**

**Interested candidates please contact:**

**Ellen McDuffie 802-874-8183 or**

**Kathy Jungermann 802-874-4606**

**All Dogs Must Be Registered by April 1, 2024.  
Current Rabies Vaccination Must Be on File.  
This is State Law!**



All dogs and wolf hybrids 6 months or older must be licensed at the Town Office. Bring certification of rabies vaccination and proof of neuter/spay, if applicable. Fees are: neutered or spayed dogs, \$10; after April 1, \$12. Male and female dogs or wolf hybrids, \$14; after April 1, \$18. If you have any questions about registering your dog, please call the office at 802-874-4211.



## 2023 Window Dressers Summary

*By Bill Dunkle, Town Energy Coordinator*

For a variety of reasons, 2023 was a bit of an off year for the Windham, Wardsboro, Londonderry community-build of Window Dressers storm window inserts. Illness sidelined several of our most stalwart organizers and participants. We also had difficulty recruiting customers who wanted inserts and were willing and able to help build them. Nonetheless, we soldiered on and constructed 80 window inserts and rewrapped four damaged ones at the Meeting House between October 27 and October 29th. Some of us also helped build more inserts at Bellows Falls the following week, including a dozen windows for Windham residents that had to be assembled over there. So, all told, the Windham, Wardsboro, Londonderry community-build assembled or repaired 96 storm window inserts for our customers.

Although that number pales in comparison to the 164 inserts we built last year and about 180 that we made in 2021, there are at least fifteen households in our service area that will be warmer this winter, will save money and will burn less fossil fuel due to our efforts. Sincere thanks to everyone who helped build these windows, especially those of you who did not order inserts for yourselves and worked purely to help others. A big thank you also to Kathy Jungermann and all of the members of the Windham Community Organization who made such delicious lunches for us.

There already are some hopeful signs that next year we may see a substantial infusion of new, eager volunteers from several nearby towns who will rejuvenate and expand our community-build, and enable us to do more than ever to help our neighbors stay warm and fight climate change. If you want to join us, please get in touch: [bdunkel1455@gmail.com](mailto:bdunkel1455@gmail.com).

## Let the Sun Shine!

*By Mary McCoy*

Windham will soon begin generating electricity to benefit our three town buildings and the firehouse. The project was recommended by the American Rescue Plan Act Committee and approved by the Selectboard. The solar panels were installed on the Town Office roof by Southern Vermont Solar. The electrical inspector from the state has inspected the system, and the energizing permit has been obtained.

Next, Southern Vermont Solar completed the meter request paperwork and submitted it to Green Mountain Power (GMP). By the time you read this, GMP will have installed what is called a gross solar generation meter to record our total solar generation. Our existing meter will become our net meter, moving

backwards and forwards depending on whether the Town Office is using electricity from the grid or generating solar energy and sending it back to the grid. One final inspection was needed to ensure that the array met fire safety standards. That happened December 19, so we are set to go!

An event to kick off our town's production of solar energy will be held on January 6 at 9:30 AM at the Town Office, and everyone interested in the workings of the array is invited. Simon Piluski from Southern Vermont Solar will provide us with a customized packet about our array's workings. He will also answer questions about our array or an array you might want for your home. There is no need to register for this event. Just show up and join the celebration of the start of Windham's green energy production!

## Dry January Encourages Substance Over Substances in 2024

*By Connor Cavanaugh, West River Valley Thrives*

Windham County Prevention Partnerships (WCPP) is encouraging everyone in our community to go Substance Free in January 2024. Substances can be anything we use out of habit to comfort ourselves in times of stress, uncertainty, loneliness, or boredom. Examples include alcohol, cannabis, sugar, technology or caffeine. To participate, an individual pledges to abstain from alcohol, cannabis, caffeine, other substances, or technology (the individual's choice) throughout the month of January. Hence the name: Dry January. Each week the campaign will send encouraging emails with tips to help participants

succeed. The campaign is open to anyone as we head into the new year.

Why should you take part? Because this is a fantastic way to reclaim your mental and physical well-being, boost your energy and attention, discover new interests and activities, and create healthy habits for long-term wellness. Substance Over Substances is your resource for creating a life full of meaningful experiences without reliance on substances. By participating in this campaign, you will become a part of a caring community that understands your challenges, offers encouragement, and celebrates every step along the road.

For additional information and to sign up for Dry January, please visit: [wcpp.link/sos](https://wcpp.link/sos)



**Living Strong in Windham 2023**

**The Home Act: A Windham Perspective**

*By Frank Seawright*

The Home Act signed into law this year is to “...enable new opportunities for housing development within state, regional, and local planning and development regulations.” Numerous stories in the news this year have been about homelessness here in Vermont, but my reading of the act leaves me wondering just how this act will benefit people with precarious income status.

One part of the act describes how the regional planning commissions will use state data and augment it with whatever other data they feel has a bearing on the current lack of affordable housing to determine needs for each town.

Just looking at the population for Windham County and each town might give a clue about what they might suggest for us. I’ve created a map showing the town name and location within Windham County. And then another cartogram showing each town enlarged or shrunk relative to the population in each town.

Here’s Windham County without any distortion left and distorted right (see above, right):

And seeing that Windham (with only 2% of Windham County population) nearly shrinks out of view, we might imagine that very few new developments would be suggested for us.



**Windham County Population\*:**

<b>Athens</b>	<b>380</b>
<b>Brattleboro</b>	<b>12184</b>
<b>Brookline</b>	<b>540</b>
<b>Dover</b>	<b>1798</b>
<b>Dummerston</b>	<b>1865</b>
<b>Grafton</b>	<b>645</b>
<b>Guilford</b>	<b>2120</b>
<b>Halifax</b>	<b>771</b>
<b>Jamaica</b>	<b>1005</b>
<b>Londonderry</b>	<b>1919</b>
<b>Marlboro</b>	<b>1722</b>
<b>Newfane</b>	<b>1645</b>
<b>Putney</b>	<b>2617</b>
<b>Rockingham</b>	<b>4832</b>
<b>Stratton</b>	<b>440</b>
<b>Townshend</b>	<b>1291</b>
<b>Vernon</b>	<b>2192</b>
<b>Wardsboro</b>	<b>869</b>
<b>Westminster</b>	<b>3016</b>
<b>Whitingham</b>	<b>1344</b>
<b>Wilmington</b>	<b>2255</b>
<b>Windham</b>	<b>449</b>

\* Population estimates from Windham Regional Commission



## Living Strong

By *Mary Boyer and Ginny Crittenden*

The Living Strong group has been one of the steadiest and most regular users of the Windham Meeting House for the last twenty years. The first small group of women met the week of Labor Day in 2003 to start a twelve-week exercise program designed for people over fifty.

Originally named Strong Living it was designed not only as a research project to demonstrate that exercise can improve the health and well-being of seniors, but that activities begun at the grass roots level can have a significant and lasting impact.

The program was the brainchild of Jennifer Layne, an exercise physiologist, based on the research being done at the Jean Meyer Center on Aging at Tufts University.

What made the Strong Living Program special was its reliance on volunteers—a network of committed people throughout Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont. The programs all took place in donated spaces and were led by volunteer facilitators trained by a team from Tufts that traveled to the communities where there was an interest.

In Windham, Dr. Maggie Newton, a gerontologist who grew up here, learned about the program and believed it would serve the people in town who were aging and be a very good community activity. As luck would have it her interest occurred simultaneously with the birthing of the *News and Notes*. Maggie reported the start of the Strong Living Program in Volume 1, Issue 2. The fourth issue noted the twelve-week program ended in December and would be taking a winter break. The brief article reported some members felt the program so beneficial they would be meeting in their homes for maintenance exercises throughout the winter months. She invited anyone interested to contact her and she would resume classes in the spring if warranted. Classes resumed in the Meeting House in the spring of 2004. Several years later Nancy Dyke took over the volunteer leadership position. Classes have been held weekly ever since with a brief intermission during Covid.

The Tufts University Strong Living Program was the first research project to establish that older adults feel better both physically and psychologically when they are getting regular exercise. The focus of the program

is on strength training using free weights and body weight for bone building. Balance exercises improve agility and decrease the likelihood of falls; flexibility exercises enhance joint mobility and reduce the risk of injury. There is no set fee, donations to help pay for the heat in the Meeting House are encouraged. We are well supplied with both leg and hand weights from grants and donors.

Maureen Bell started about a year ago and has this to say about Living Strong: “When my friend said her whole body just felt better after about 6 months of Living Strong, I decided to give it a try last year. Now I love the way I feel after we do our stretches, weights and balancing. The camaraderie is great, too!”

When the research was concluded several years ago Tufts moved on to other projects. The University encouraged the grass roots local chapters to continue the exercises but to change the name. Ginny Crittenden and Mary Boyer, both trained by Tufts, in consultation with other facilitators in nearby towns, decided to use the name “Living Strong” and to continue the program. The same basic program is still also available in Chester and Putney.

After many years Mary and Ginny have moved into retirement from the leadership positions and trained Imme Maurath to facilitate classes while they continue to participate and serve as substitutes when needed.

Recently, Louise Johnson had this to say about her return after a break: “At first, I did not notice any obvious improvement in strength or mobility. I took a six-month break and it became clear there had been positive movement. In my absence (from class), aches and pains returned; balance and endurance definitely went downhill. So I’m back!”

We have room for anyone who would like to join this incredible program that has kept a countless number of women healthy and well as we have aged. We meet on Monday and Thursday mornings from 10:00 to 11:00. Anyone interested should call Imme Maurath at 802- 875-8755 or leave a message at the Windham town office.



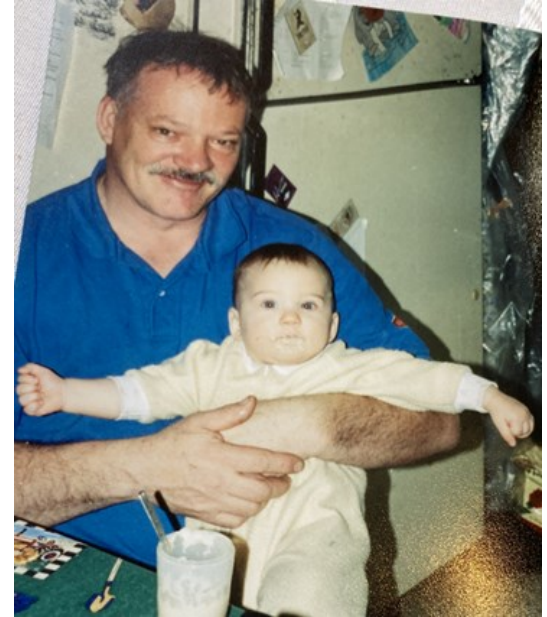


## Windham Remembers

### Lyndon Ernest Corriveau

Lyndon Corriveau, South Windham resident, passed away on December 3, 2023 at age 73. Lyndon grew up in Brattleboro. He spent many years at the Brattleboro Reformer, worked in the housekeeping department at Stratton Mountain and also worked for the Town of Windham as part of the road crew. He was a member of Valley Bible Church in Windham and cherished time worshipping there.

One of his favorite hobbies was being outside and cutting up logs with his chainsaw. He tried to make this into a fun family activity. His daughter Linda recalled that in the evenings after their homework was done, he often played board games with them. One very special tradition he did with Linda was to ride his mountain bike up over Acton down to Leland and Gray's softball field for the first practice and cleanup. People also remember him biking up Windham Hill Road. Lyndon loved his grand-children and was proud of their accomplishments. Later on in retirement, he loved attending an art group in Brattleboro, working on adult coloring projects.



Friend Reggie Hughes of Jamaica related that although neither of them drove, he and Lyndon spoke on the phone two or three times a day. Lyndon was interested in what people were doing and wanted to help others when he could. This last July, Reggie and his brother stayed with Lyndon for a couple of days after they were forced to evacuate their home that had flooded.

Lyndon Corriveau will be remembered for his love, dedication, and the impact he had on the lives of those around him. He will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and all in our community of Windham who knew him. Windham's deepest condolences to his family, particularly James and Crystal Corriveau who live in South Windham.

### Staying Safe This Winter By Pat McLaine, Town Health Officer

As we near the end of the 2023, cases of influenza (flu) and Covid still appear to be on the rise nationally. Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) cases appear to have peaked. This means that it is still important to take measures to protect yourself and your loved ones from flu and Covid. Big gatherings and travel can be problematic and some of the factors that help determine if flu or Covid will be transmitted include length in time of one's contact with an infected individual, proximity in space to an infected individual, and infectiousness of that individual.

Covid boosters are recommended and appear to help protect against the JN.1 variant in circulation now. People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised may need additional doses of vaccine. The CDC estimates that nationally this year only 18% of adults and 8% of children six months and older have received the updated Covid vaccines. The Vermont Department of Health estimates are higher: 20% of all Vermonters have received Covid vaccine since September 12, 2023, 42% of adults age 65 and older. In Windham County, only 17% of all residents and 33% of adults aged 65 and over

have received the new Covid vaccine, less than the rates reported for Vermont.

Nationally, 42% of adults and 43% of children have received flu shots, less than the previous flu season. In Vermont, 33% of residents have received flu shots since July 1 of this year, 58% of those aged 65 and over. In Windham County, only 25% of residents and 43% of adults aged 65 and over have received flu shots since July 1, 2023. The population in our county is not well protected from flu by vaccination and is below both the US and Vermont state rates.

So, if you haven't done so already, consider getting flu and Covid boosters. If you have symptoms, test yourself for Covid. If you don't feel well, stay home. Consider wearing a mask if you attend large gatherings or spend much time with people whose health is unknown to you. CDC also suggests that with regards to travel and gatherings, individuals consider both their own individual infection risk and the risks of people with whom they plan to spend time. Staying safe takes work and means paying attention. We all have a role to play to keep ourselves and each other healthy.



## Windham Remembers

### Louiselle Giguere

Long-time Windham resident Louiselle Giguere passed away on June 30, 2023 at the age of 74. An accomplished seamstress and artist, she loved to sew crafts and to bake pies. In 2021, she and husband Aurelien gifted the Windham Elementary School children with beautiful, bright-colored bird houses that they had made and decorated. She loved traveling, gardening, and hosting an annual pig roast in Windham.

Louiselle grew up on a family farm in Saint Georges, Quebec in Canada. She married Aurelien Giguere and they moved to the United States, settling in Hartford Connecticut where they raised three children, later moving to Windham, Vermont. Windham's sincere condolences to Aurelien Giguere and the extended family.



### J. Kevin O'Shaughnessy

Windham resident J. Kevin O'Shaughnessy passed away on Thanksgiving Day, November 23, 2023 at the age of 85. A teacher and scholar, Kevin earned advanced degrees from Georgetown University and was a Fulbright Scholar. He was fluent in several languages, a world traveler, and interested in natural sciences and world history. He taught biology and earth sciences in a number of states, ending his career in Vermont Public Schools. He loved the outdoors and was an avid hiker, skier and blue water sailor, enthusiasms that he shared with many students and friends. He resided in Windham for more than ten years. Clever with words, he often left the ones he loved with this remark: "If I don't see you in the future, I will see you in the pasture." (The Berkshire Eagle, December 6, 2023).



### Neighborhood Connections News

*By Pat Cherry and Pat McLaine*

After the Londonderry Tractor Parade and Tree Lighting on Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, Neighborhood Connections hosted many residents of the community for cocoa, cookies (more than 20 dozen!), crafts and a visit from Santa Claus at the Meeting Place. At the Community Meal on December 12<sup>th</sup>, the Meeting Place at Neighborhood Connections was again bursting with happy people who arrived for dinner; more than 100 meals were

distributed including meals delivered to residents who were not able to physically join in the fun. Windham resident Becky Phillips organizes volunteers for the monthly meals and Windham is well-represented among the regular volunteers.

Community Meals continue on the second Tuesday of every month; dinner is served at noon. Mark your calendars! Call Neighborhood Connections at 802-824-4343 to reserve your place, and/or to order a meal to take home, and to request a ride if you need one. We hope to see you at the Meeting Place!



## Legislative Updates in Windham

By Pat McLaine

On Saturday, November 4, 2023, fourteen voters met with Windham's representative Heather Chase and two senators Nader Hashim and Wendy Harrison for an update on Vermont legislative issues sponsored by the Windham Community Organization (WCO). Senator Hashim stated concerns about mental health and the criminal justice system, testing and remediation of PCBs in schools and discrimination in private and public schools. He will be sending out a weekly newsletter during the legislative session. Senator Harrison spoke about the need to do more about housing, a major workforce issue for our state, and the need for more skilled trades persons, as

evidenced by the workload generated by the flood damage this past summer. Representative Chase spoke about the need for workforce development and housing, and reported on a celebration of peace accords with Northern Ireland that she had attended this fall representing Vermont. Issues raised by the audience included how to increase resources for food insecure Vermonters, concerns about short term rentals, Australian Ballot, solar energy in Vermont and funding for education in Vermont.

WCO's next Legislative Update is scheduled for Saturday, February 23 at 10 AM at the Windham Meeting House. The coffee pot will be on and we look forward to seeing you there!

### Legislative Update from Senator Nader Hashim

Hello Windham! We are gearing up for another session and I'm looking forward to returning to Montpelier. I currently serve as the vice-chair of the judiciary committee and as a member of the education committee. In order to keep things short for the newsletter space, I'll provide highlights about some topics I'm working on in my committees.

Judiciary: My top priorities involve addressing the backlog through numerous technical changes, as well as supporting workforce development in the judiciary branch. Additionally, I am working on legislation related to fixing inconsistencies in evidentiary standards between different courts. Some of these inconsistencies will allow cases to progress more quickly without sacrificing the due diligence required of attorneys and will also aid victims of violent crimes.

I've also started the process of creating two new judge positions, one of which will support a statewide drug docket. This type of docket is an essential tool to reduce recidivism, provide counseling, heal addiction, and provide people who are in recovery with the skills to support themselves and their families. I am also working on legislation that will create more transparency in the judicial nominating process, and require the Director of the Office of Racial Equity, or their designee, to serve on the board.

Education: I recently attended a superintendent's

meeting in Springfield for the southeast corner of Vermont. I received some sobering data about student mental health and the challenges ahead for school construction. Our education committee started the process earlier this year to create a school construction task force, collaborate with our federal delegation to seek federal assistance for construction funds, and learn from other states such as Rhode Island that have developed successful infrastructure plans. The process of addressing our infrastructure also involves addressing the PCB issue and replenishing the funds so that towns can test and remediate.

Additionally, I will be working on legislation that will make the State Board of Education a non-partisan entity (currently, all members of the board are appointed by the governor). I will also be making some technical changes to job training grants to allow refugees to access these opportunities; in my conversation with employers around Windham County, refugees have been filling many vacant positions in a variety of sectors.

All the information above is just a partial glimpse into the work in front of me for this upcoming session. If you're curious about any other areas, or if you'd like to join my newsletter for more comprehensive updates, please feel free to email me at [nhashim@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:nhashim@leg.state.vt.us) or [naderhashim.vt@gmail.com](mailto:naderhashim.vt@gmail.com)

Thank you!

**The Windham Community Organization (WCO)** now meets on the last Friday of each month, except for January, August and December, at 1 PM at the Town Office. Please join us whenever you are available. There are no membership requirements.



## Legislative Update from Senator Wendy Harrison

I enjoyed the discussion with Town of Windham residents in November. The discussion about housing, and specifically short-term rentals, was helpful for me. I generally hear from Towns that they want more authority over various types of regulation, but in this case there was a good reason to ask that the State further regulate short-term rentals. I'm sure there will be a healthy discussion of short-term rentals this legislative session and I'll keep in mind these comments.

Last year, as part of Act 47 (the HOME bill) we expanded some of the rights of property owners. An important example is what's known as "duplex by right." This right is in effect now, even if the Town codes have not yet been updated. Duplex by right means that the owner of a lot in an area that permits single-family homes is also permitted to build a duplex or to modify a single-family home to be a two-family home. Duplexes are an effective way to increase the amount of housing while keeping the overall feel of the community. By adding a unit, Vermonters have the flexibility to provide a home for a family member, which is important in a housing shortage. Multi-generational housing is a traditional way to share costs and child care, but has been not permitted in some places. The additional unit can also be rented (as regulated by the town and/or state) which could be helpful income.

We'll be looking at major changes to Act 250 this

year to further generate more housing without causing sprawl. Housing impacts almost everything, from medical care (no housing for nurses and doctors) to education (teachers need housing), to addressing homelessness and general affordability.

We need to help our towns become more resilient to flooding and one way to do that is restoration of floodplains. An example of this is Melrose Place in Brattleboro, just off Route 9, and you can see the newly restored area surrounding the Whetstone Brook. The floodplain is engineered so that flood waters slow down, allowing debris to settle and not cause problems downstream. I'm working on legislation to help the state and the towns restore floodplains to protect their residents, businesses and properties. The bill will include financial incentives for small towns to work together, sharing the costs to establish these fairer funding mechanisms.

I hope that this is helpful.  
Please feel free to reach out anytime.

Thanks,  
Wendy

*Wendy Harrison*  
**Senator, Windham District**  
[WHarrison@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:WHarrison@leg.state.vt.us)

**Clerk, Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs Committee**  
**Vice Chair, Institutions Committee**  
**Senate Member of Public Transit Advisory Committee**

## Letter from Representative Heather Chase Windsor-Windham District

Dear Residents of Windham, Grafton, Chester, and Athens,

I hope this letter finds everyone preparing for and enjoying this busy holiday season. During this time of year as a legislator, there are many meetings preparing for the upcoming legislative session which will start the first of January.

To that end, I've attended the Springfield Regional Development Corporations annual meeting. I have met with the Career Technical Center to discuss a recent study on the Funding and Governance of Career Technical Education in Vermont. Springfield Hospital had a Legislative Representative meeting discussing their vision, current performance, and future strategic planning. In addition to meeting with key stakeholders I also am fielding constituents calls

and emails during the "off season".

Furthermore, I will be attending the National Association of Insurance Commissioners National Conference in Florida in early December, representing Vermont, and reporting back to the House Commerce and Economic Development Committee.

I am planning to meet with my constituents on a routine basis throughout the legislative session so please keep an eye out for those announcements. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me by email at [hchase@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:hchase@leg.state.vt.us) or by phone at 802-875-4663.

Gratefully,

Heather Chase  
State Representative, Windsor-Windham District



## You're Invited! Winter's Table 2024 Windham Culinary Workshop Series

*By Cathy Fales*

Windham has received a grant from the AARP of Vermont to help us restore our kitchen and to fund monthly cooking and eating events throughout the Winter of 2024. This is a direct outcome of our Brunch and Brainstorm. At that get together, several groups of issues emerged. One of them was cooking, baking, and all things food – elevating the need to seek funding to update the kitchen equipment in the Meeting House.

Using the desire generated by the Brunch and Brainstorm to see action (one of the stickies said "No more meetings, we want action!"), local volunteer Cathy Fales saw an opportunity to apply for funding from AARP for a Winter Placemaking grant of \$4000 that would allow the town to make some of the kitchen improvements and set up a series of culinary events over the winter (for more information: <https://states.aarp.org/vermont/6-vt-communities-awarded-grant-funds>).

For Windham community members, this grant award shows a direct link from gathering people's ideas to moving ahead with implementation – a small win that we can build on. It also demonstrates strategic community planning in action: having a list of identified goals and community priorities in hand is

half the battle when quick turnaround funding opportunities pop up!

This will be a chance for Windham residents and friends to gather, learn some cooking tips and share what we make. Each event will feature a chef or baking expert. All food and tools will be supplied. You can enjoy what you've made around the table and take any extras home or share with others.

All this is free! Thanks to AARP!

### Dates and Featured Food:

**Saturday, January 20, 11:00 AM- 1:30 PM**

National Cheese Lovers Day, Grafton Cheese Expert

**Tuesday, February 13, 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

Bring Your Sweetheart to lunch, local surprise Chef

**Tuesday, March 19, 11:00 AM – 2 :00 PM**

First Day of Spring – Goodbye to Winter, your favorite Windham recipes with help from Chef June, Grafton Market

To give us an idea of how many will be joining, please RSVP to [info@Winterstable.com](mailto:info@Winterstable.com). For more information and photos of the events as we move through winter, please check out the website [www.Winterstable.com](http://www.Winterstable.com).

## Live Symphony Music in Windham County

*By Al McLaine*

Residents of Windham are discovering a unique way to spend Monday evenings—live symphonic music in Brattleboro! The last concert on December 18<sup>th</sup> featured Beethoven's Fifth Symphony had more than 200 people in attendance.

Join your neighbors for the next concert as part of the annual Brattleboro Winter Carnival. It will take place on Monday, February 19th at the Latchis Theater in Brattleboro at 7:00 P.M. Admission is by donation. The program includes:

Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 1, "Winter Day-dreams": this mesmerizing symphony paints a vivid musical landscape of winter's many moods, from tranquil snowy scenes to lively dances.

"Winter" from Vivaldi's "The Four Seasons": step into a Baroque winter wonderland with this concerto. The solo violin weaves a tapestry of frosty landscapes and cozy hearthside gatherings.

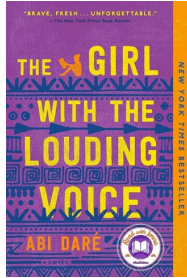
Waldteufel's "Les Patineurs" (The Skaters Waltz): embrace the festive spirit of the season! This joyful composition whisks you away to the joyous world of ice-skating on a frozen pond, with its spirited waltz rhythms and vibrant melodies.

Join the orchestra for a night of melodies that bring to life the diverse emotions and experiences that winter has to offer. We look forward to seeing you at the Latchis and sharing this musical journey with you! Visit [windhamphilharmonic.org](http://windhamphilharmonic.org) for more information, including a review of the last concert.

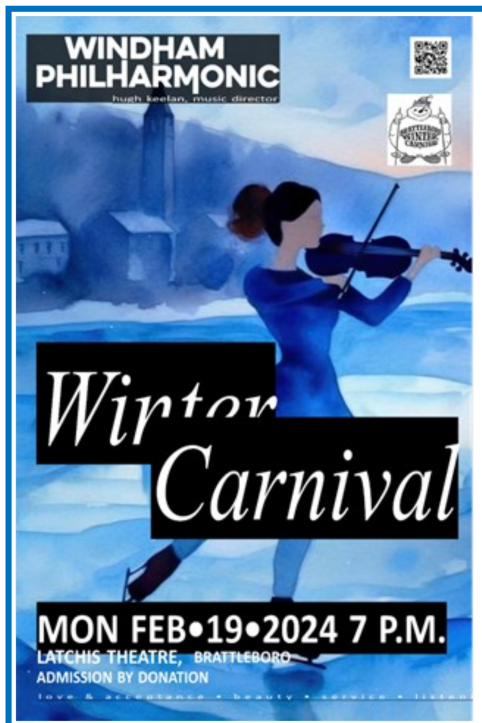
**Windham Library**

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..

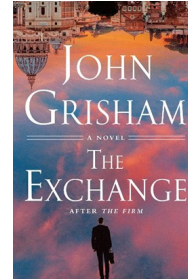
**Windham Library Book Club Selection  
Wednesday, February 7, 2024, 3:30 PM**



The unforgettable, inspiring story of a teenage girl growing up in a rural Nigerian village who longs to get an education so that she can find her “louding voice” and speak up for herself, *The Girl with the Louding Voice* is a simultaneously heartbreaking and triumphant tale about the power of fighting for your dreams. Despite the seemingly insurmountable obstacles in her path, Adunni never loses sight of her goal of escaping the life of poverty she was born into so that she can build the future she chooses for herself and help other girls like her do the same. Her spirited determination to find joy and hope in even the most difficult circumstances imaginable will “break your heart and then put it back together again” even as Adunni shows us how one courageous young girl can inspire us all to reach for our dreams...and maybe even change the world.



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



What became of Mitch and Abby McDeere after they exposed the crimes of Memphis law firm Bendini, Lambert & Locke and fled the country? The answer is in *The Exchange*, the riveting sequel to *The Firm*, the blockbuster thriller that launched the career of America’s favorite storyteller. It is now fifteen years later, and Mitch and Abby are living in Manhattan, where Mitch is a partner at the largest law firm in the world. When a mentor in Rome asks him for a favor that will take him far from home, Mitch finds himself at the center of a sinister plot that has world-wide implications—and once again endangers his colleagues, friends, and family. Mitch has become a master at staying one step ahead of his adversaries, but this time there’s nowhere to hide.

**Windham Library Book Club Selection  
Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at 3:30 PM  
The Silent Patient  
By Alex Michaelides**

**Town Meeting, Saturday,  
March 9, 2024**

**10 AM at the Meeting House**

**Bring your Annual Report (which will be coming to you by mail in late February), a potluck dish to share for lunch at noon, and \$1 for paper goods.**

**PLEASE READ YOUR ANNUAL REPORT BEFORE THE MEETING so you can ask questions and make informed decisions.**



## Make Tracks for Health

*By C. J. King*

Enjoy the beauty and joy of winter, while helping Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital in its mission to provide vital healthcare to our communities. Grace Cottage will host its first annual Snowshoe/Cross-Country Ski event at the Nordic Center at Stratton Resort on Saturday, March 2, from 1-3 p.m.

Participants can snowshoe or cross-country ski on the Nordic Center's beautifully groomed trails. Rental equipment is available for an additional charge by advance registration.

Afterward, reward yourself with Grace-Cottage-supplied treats by the fire! It's sure to be a fun time for the whole family!

To sign up, visit [gracecottage/events](http://gracecottage/events). For more information, email [info@gracecottage.org](mailto:info@gracecottage.org), or call 802-365-9109.



**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.

## Donations Wanted for Grace Cottage's Cabin Fever Auction

*By C.J. King*

Okay, let's talk – just between us. What are you going to do with your unwanted holiday gifts? You could regift them, sure, but maybe they're the perfect donation for Grace Cottage's Cabin Fever Auction?

The Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital Annual Cabin Fever Auction will be held online from February 14-27, 2024. The auction offers over 150 items donated by generous local businesses and individuals. Art, jewelry, antiques, household items, gift certificates, other items you've collected, or gifts you'll never use can all help Grace Cottage build its new primary care clinic building. All proceeds from the auction benefit Grace Cottage.

E-mail [info@gracecottage.org](mailto:info@gracecottage.org), or call Andrea, Charma, or C.J. at 802-365-9109 to discuss your potential donation. Visit [gracecottage/events](http://gracecottage/events) to see the auction items and to sign up for bidding.



## Londonderry Transfer Station Reminder

Starting January 1, 2024, you will need a new 2024 Londonderry Transfer Station Sticker to enter the Transfer Station. The 2024 Sticker (\$10) and punch cards (\$10 and \$20 cards - payment for disposal) are available for purchase from the Windham Town Clerk. The Sticker can be used from January 1st through December 31<sup>st</sup> of 2024; the punch cards do not expire. Punch cards can also be purchased from the Londonderry Hardware Store.



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## Mercury-containing Lightbulbs Banned from Sale in Vermont

By Esther Fishman

Banned bulbs include screw-based Compact Fluorescent Lightbulbs (CFLs) and four foot (4') General-Purpose Linear Fluorescent Tubes.

### When will the ban on selling these lightbulbs in Vermont start?

Screw based - Compact Fluorescent Lightbulbs (CFLs) were banned from sale starting February 17, 2023

General-purpose – Four Foot (4') Linear Fluorescent Tubes will be banned from sale starting January 1, 2024

### Why are these lightbulbs banned from sale?

Energy-efficient alternatives to mercury-containing lightbulbs are widely available. Mercury is a highly toxic heavy metal that is released into the environment when these lightbulbs are broken or discarded. Although bulbs contain a relatively small amount of mercury, Vermonters

use so many of these bulbs each year that they contribute to mercury contamination, particularly in fish and wildlife. State and federal fish advisories restrict consumption of certain freshwater and marine fish (see: [www.mercvt.org](http://www.mercvt.org) and click on “mercury in fish”).

### What are my options if I am unable to purchase these bulbs?

Screw-based LED bulbs are comparably priced and more energy-efficient than CFLs.

Three major options are available for linear tube replacement:

- (1) Replace with tubular LED (TLED) replacement bulbs.
- (2) Replace the bulbs and other components with an LED retrofit kit.
- (3) Replace the luminaire (fixture).

Efficiency Vermont is currently offering a variety of rebates on LEDs. To learn more about Efficiency Vermont’s lighting offers, visit: [www.encyvermont.com/rebates](http://www.encyvermont.com/rebates)



#### 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](mailto:windham.towntreasurer@gmail.com)

Town Clerk: Ellen McDuffie, phone: 802-874-4211; email: [windham.town@gmail.com](mailto: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: Russ Cumming, 802-874-7011; E-911 Coordinator and Lister: Bill Casey, 802-874-7012;

Lister: Ron Cohen, 802-875-1551

School Board: Abigail Pelton, chair, phone: 802-874-4246; email: [apelton@windhamcentralboard.org](mailto:apelton@windhamcentralboard.org)

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](mailto:patmclaine@gmail.com)

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

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**OFFICIAL TOWN WEBSITE**

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

<b>REGULARLY SCHEDULED WINDHAM MEETINGS CALL CONTACT TO CONFIRM</b>	<b>Town Clerk: 802-874-4211</b> 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.	<b>Select Board:</b> 1st & 3rd Mondays at 5:30 PM—On Zoom. Open meetings. Agenda posted. Check website: <a href="http://townofwindhamvt.com">townofwindhamvt.com</a>	<b>Windham School Board:</b> Third Tuesday of the month at 6 PM. Contact Abigail Pelton 802-874-4246 for information.
<b>Citizens Advisory Committee,</b> Second Tuesday of Feb., May, Aug. & Nov. at 5:00 PM. Contact Marcia Clinton at 802-875-3531.	<b>Planning and Zoning:</b> 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.	<b>Library:</b> <b>Wednesdays, 3-5 PM</b> <b>Book Club 3:30 PM, 1st</b> Wednesdays at Meeting House. Contact Maureen Bell at 802-875-1024.	<b>Volunteer Fire Company:</b> First Thursday of the month at 6 PM. Contact Jan Wyman at 802-875-3373 for information.
<b>Energy Committee:</b> 3rd Thursday of the month, at 4:30 PM on Zoom, Contact Bill Dunkel 802-874-4131.	<b>Conservation Committee:</b> Third Tuesday of the month usually at 7 PM. Contact Alison Trowbridge at 802-874-7050 for information.	<b>Valley Bible Church:</b> 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.	<b>Listers:</b> Every Wednesday, 9 AM- Noon at the Town Office. 802-874-4211  <b>West River Education District:</b> Third Mondays at 7 PM at Leland & Gray. Call Leland & Gray 802-365-7355 for info.

**SAVE THESE DATES!** January 3, 2024 Book Club 3:30 PM at the Meeting House (Lessons in Chemistry)  
January 6, 2024 Windham Solar Energy Kick Off Event 9:30 AM at the Town Office  
January 20, 2024 Windham Culinary Workshop 11AM-1:30PM at the Meeting House (Cheese Lovers Day)  
February 7, 2024 Book Club 3:30 PM at the Meeting House (The Girl with the Louding Voice)  
February 13, 2024 Windham Culinary Workshop 11AM-2:00PM at the Meeting House (Your Sweetheart to Lunch)  
February 23, 2024 Windham Community Organization 1:00 PM at the Town Office  
February 24, 2024 Legislative Update 10 AM at the Meeting House  
March 5, 2024 Primary Elections 10AM—7 PM at the Meeting House  
March 6, 2024 Book Club 3:30 PM at the Meeting House (The Exchange)  
March 9, 2024 TOWN MEETING at Meeting House **HOLD THE DATE!**

