



WINDHAM NEWS & NOTES

Windham Wants You!

By Nancy Tips

The good news is that you still have plenty of time to decide to become part of Windham's leadership. To run for election, you need to declare your candidacy by January 27, 2025. Go to the Vermont Secretary of State website <https://sos.vermont.gov/elections/election-info-resources/candidates/> for more information, including local office descriptions, details about how to declare your candidacy, and forms you will need to fill out.

Elective Offices: In March, when we hold our town meeting, Windham will have lots of open positions, including: Moderator, Town Clerk, Town Treasurer, Selectboard member, Auditor, Lister, School Board member, Cemetery Commissioner, Delinquent tax collector, Library Trustee, and representative to West River Modified Union Education District board. See Secretary of State website (link above) for descriptions of what these office-holders do. Then talk to the incumbents for a clearer picture.

Running for elective office: By January 27 you will need to submit materials to the Town Clerk. You will need a petition with the names and signatures of at least 4 Windham voters (1% of our voter checklist), and a consent form. Details and forms are at the web address given above. Remember that voting will be by Australian Ballot, no longer by floor vote at Town Meeting.

Appointed Positions: (Note: most appointments are made at the first Select Board meeting after town meeting.) Appointments are made by the Selectboard or, in the case of assistant positions, by the incumbent office holders. Positions include: Windham Planning Commissioner, representative to the Windham Regional Commission, Zoning Administrator, Selectboard Clerk, Assistant Town Clerk, and Assistant Town Treasurer. To learn more about these positions, talk with incumbents and attend meetings.

What incumbents and past Windham office holders have to say: These folks shared some thoughts about their experiences. Here are excerpts:

Selectboard: "Town officers are elected to a three-year term. During that term you see most of the routine activities and obstacles of the office. Trying to build institutional memory by staying in office beyond your "best-by date" can lock you into reliving out-of-date ideas, so knowing when to step aside is important. For the

first year or two I learned things about how town government works that were new to me. After that non-routine matters did crop up, but the mechanics of coping with them followed a standard format. The job requires a great deal of human interaction and is probably best for folks who are naturally helpful. If this sounds like you, you might be an excellent fit for this job."

Selectboard Clerk: "I take minutes at selectboard meetings and keep track of the selectboard's activities and calendar. There's always more to do on the weeks of Selectboard meetings. If you don't like to write or to organize information and people, don't consider being selectboard clerk. [All local jobs I've held] provided satisfaction => getting good work done while working with good people."

Auditor: "Keeping an eye on town expenditures has given me a greater appreciation of what it takes to run our town. We provide oversight throughout the year and prepare the Annual Report for Town Meeting. The job requires familiarity with financial processes, attention to detail, good computer skills, & ability to work well with others."

Lister: "I learned a lot about the town, its folks, and its properties. I felt supported in the job and enjoyed it. The work was somewhat sporadic, at times requiring a fair amount of my time and at other times, much less."

Zoning Administrator (ZA): "I see the ZA's job as helping homeowners do what they want to do to their homes while abiding by the town's zoning regulations. I think it is especially important to help homeowners who are new to Windham to feel welcomed here. The ZA's hours vary, with most time spent in the spring and summer during building season. At most, it requires 10 hours of work a week. Many other weeks, there is little to do. The ZA attends the Planning Commission meetings, which occur twice a month. [There is lots of record-keeping, which I don't enjoy.] The ZA must be or become familiar with the Town Plan and its zoning regulations. The job requires some understanding of home construction and some computer skills for maintaining the records. It also requires the desire to be helpful and the ability to work cooperatively."

Where do you fit in? Please ponder this question. Then get on your feet and join our town's leadership!



Selectboard Report

Happy Fall, Windham Residents!
As the leaves change and we embrace the cooler weather, it's a wonderful time to reflect on our community's progress and look forward to the future.

Community Facilities Assessment and Master Plan

Windham Selectboard has requested help from the Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) through their Municipal Technical Assistance Program to create a Community Facilities Assessment and Master Plan. VCRD is committing both financial and staff resources to support a process based on input for Windham's citizens. The goal is to plan for our town's future, assessing the best uses of current properties and identifying resources to meet our needs.

Tax Relief Efforts

The Town of Windham, like many others in Vermont, faces rising property taxes, sparking concern among citizens. A significant portion of these increases is tied to state education spending. We urge all residents to engage with state senators, representatives, and the commission currently studying this issue to ensure your perspectives are heard. Heather Chase has coordinated calls and visits with state tax officials on behalf of Windham residents. She worked with a Legal Aid attorney to send a letter to the tax commissioners, supporting "Extraordinary Relief" for lower-income individuals in our town. We will update you as we learn more. It's crucial that those who qualify for income sensitivity and need relief apply for it. Heather has met with multiple citizens with tax issues and will present their cases to the state's tax advocate.

New Town Truck

The Selectboard is in the process of purchasing a new town truck funded in part by monies allocated at town meeting last year. The contract is progressing, and we look forward to trading in our current truck before its trade in value depreciates.

Road Safety Concerns

There have been reports of dangerous driving behaviors, particularly in the late afternoon and evening. The Selectboard is working with the Windham County Sheriff's Department to help reduce these practices. We encourage everyone to practice safe driving habits and remain aware of road conditions and other drivers.

Winter Meetings

As we approach fall and winter, we are looking to ensure transparent meetings at the Meeting House while minimizing heating costs. We are exploring moving meetings to the smaller upstairs meeting room, which can be heated quickly and efficiently. We will continue to offer hybrid zoom options as well.

Climate Preparedness

Reflecting on recent storms nationwide, we need to continue to prepare Windham for adverse weather, as climate change brings more frequent and intense weather events. We are looking forward to meeting with officials who have assisted in recovery efforts in the South to gain insights and better prepare our community. We encourage all residents to participate in these conversations to enhance our community's readiness.

Vacancies

As we have noted before, we are facing several openings in town positions, including lister, zoning administrator, and town treasurer. It's essential to fill these roles as soon as possible, allowing for smooth transitions and participation in VLCT trainings. If you're interested in running for a position, trying out a role, or learning more about it, please reach out to one of us.

Grants

Imme Maurath and Cathy Fales continue to work on grants to benefit the town. Imme is focused on grants for our roads. Cathy recently submitted a proposal for the Municipal Energy Resilience Project for nearly half a million dollars for improvements to the Meeting House. Cathy was also appointed to head a group focused on the 225th anniversary of the Meeting House, and she will pursue grants to create a celebration worthy of the occasion.

Respectfully,
Kord, George, Michael and Mac

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 them know of a tree down or any other unsafe road conditions. Thank you in advance for notifying the Road Crew.

From the Town Clerk's Desk

by Ellen McDuffie

The 2024 General Election is upon us. The state sent out ballots to all registered voters. If you have not received your ballot, please call the Town Office at 802-874-4211 ASAP. Voted ballots can be deposited at the Town Office in the drop box to the left of the front door at any time up until 6 PM on Monday, November 4. **If you plan to vote in person, please bring your ballot with you to the Meeting House on November 5.** I have limited supplies from the state for in-person voting. The drop box will be checked at 6 PM on election day, but it is preferable that you drop your ballot at the Meeting House on Tuesday, November 5. The polls open at 10AM on Tuesday, November 5 at the Meeting House and they close promptly at 7 PM. **All ballots must be at the Meeting House by 7PM. Do not leave a ballot at the Town Office after 6PM on Election Day.**

If you have lost your ballot, or forget to bring it with you, you may sign an affidavit that you have not voted, and you will be issued another ballot. Also, if you have made a mistake and have not yet turned in your ballot, you may sign an affidavit and receive another ballot. If you are not yet registered to vote in Windham and you meet all the qualifications, you may bring ID to the polls and register on election day. If you need assistance getting to the polls or due to health issues, need to have your ballot picked up, or are in the hospital, please call the Town Clerk at 802-874-4211 ASAP.

Renters Reminder: If you rent your property, either short- or long-term, please be sure that your renters are informed of the Windham dog ordinance that requires all dogs to have proof of rabies vaccination and requires dogs to be on a leash when off property or in the road. This means the owner must always have control of the dog. The ordinance also requires limiting the pet's barking so as not to disturb neighbors.

Drivers' Reminder: The speed limit on Windham Hill Road in front of the Town Office and the closed Windham Elementary School is still 25 mph, 24 hours per day, 7 days a week. This cannot be arbitrarily changed by the Selectboard. A traffic study and public hearing must first be conducted. The speed limit through South Windham is 30 mph at all times. Speeding tickets are being issued.

Transfer Station: Annual Permits for 2025 for the Transfer Station will be available for sale at the Windham Town Office for \$10 around the first of December. As of January 2, 2025, a 2025 permit will be required to use the Londonderry Transfer Station.

Property Tax Update: Our representative, Heather Chase, met with nine Windham property owners about their increase in property taxes. She has contacted many officials in the state in an effort to provide some relief from the steep increases many are facing this year. The Windham Tax Abatement Board has heard five cases and several more will be scheduled. A "perfect storm" was created by our town-wide reassessment of property values which had not been updated since 2014, an increase in our local municipal and school budgets, and the increase in the state education taxes all hitting us at once. This is especially hard on our residents with household incomes below \$47,000. Payment plans are available.



WINDHAM NEWS & NOTES

A publication of the Windham Community Organization, published six times a year. Please send donations to defray publication expenses to the address on the back.

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

Next deadline: December 13, 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.

Listers Corner

The town listers continue to be busy at the Town Office on Wednesdays from 9 to noon. Please reach out to us if you have any questions during this time or call the office at 802-874-4211.

We completed the equalization study before the October 15 deadline. The results of these state-wide studies will determine the CLA (Common Level of Appraisal) which has a substantial bearing on the equalized property tax rate across towns. The State will publish the study results in December.

With the tax bills due on October 31, the listers have had frequent visitors inquiring about their taxes and understanding the calculations of their increased property values. We urge all residents to watch out for mailings pertaining to property and town business in order to comply with the required deadlines for

hearings! The listers attended several tax abatement hearings at which requests and issues about reappraisals were presented that should have been brought before the grievance hearings held in May.

We appreciate all inquiries and do our best to answer all emails in a timely fashion. We also once again like to thank the Select Board, the Planning Commission, the Zoning Administrator, and above all, our Town Clerk, for the great cooperation at the office.

And last but not least, we'd like to give the highest credit to Carol Merritt who ran our Town Office for decades covering all of these different tasks (town clerk, lister, treasurer) all by herself, and always with a beautiful smile on her face (and a jar full of tasty candies)!

Bill Casey and Anteje Rupert

Flood-Ready Windham: The Role of Our Culverts

By Frank Seawright

Windham has few tools for combating future flooding events. Foremost among these tools is the simple culvert. The value of the culvert in protecting our roads is widely recognized; in 2005 the Vermont legislature directed the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTTrans) to create and maintain a database of culverts in Vermont. These data are supplied by locales, and are available here: <https://www.vtculverts.org>.

I haven't been able to locate the exact language of the legislature's directive, but I have learned an interesting fact about funding for culvert maintenance from Flood Ready Vermont. Their website (<https://floodreadyfloodready.vermont.gov/>) tells us that "To qualify for a Town Highway Structures grant the community must have [a highway-infrastructure] inventory not more than three years old. The inventory should identify all town culverts, bridges, and known road problems. The inventory includes the location, size, deficiency/condition, and estimated cost of repair (where the condition is less than acceptable)." (Italics mine.)

Windham's culvert inventory is more than three years old and it does not include all of our culverts; private culverts are not inventoried. Thus, our inventory does not include culverts in Timber Ridge or driveway culverts along our roads. I asked the folks at Flood Ready Vermont about the importance of private culverts and this was their reply: "You are right that private culverts are a problem. They are often

under-sized, poorly maintained, and frequently contribute to public road damage."

Our densest and highest elevation housing is on Timber Ridge. A large part of the terrain there, with approximately 50 houses, drains north into Williams river, potentially sending water over Rte 121. In fact, an August 2003 flash flood damaged this state road so badly that it was closed for repairs for nearly a year. I recall that our municipal taxes were raised to pay our share of the cost of repair.

So what should we do? An important first step is that we should inventory all Windham culverts, private as well as public, and we should update the inventory as work is completed. Next, we need to identify those culverts whose failure is most likely to cause flood damage to our roads. Then, assuming we all agree that it is cheaper to prevent flood damage to our roads rather than to repair such damage, we need to budget for replacing some number of deficient culverts each year. We need to search out and apply for grant funding from programs that incentivize flood readiness.

Preparation is underway to place before the voters at Town Meeting next March, an article regarding our culvert inventory. Please think carefully about this issue, which could save your tax dollars in the aftermath of Windham's next flood event.



Rick Weitzel Honored for Forty Years of Service

By Marcia Clinton



Sunday, October 12, 2024 was Rick Weitzel Day at the Windham Firehouse. Rick was celebrated at a non-surprise party for 40+ years of service as a member of the Windham Fire Company. The party featured tons of food for 40 guests and everyone signed a fire-fighting helmet for him.

For many of those 40+ years Rick was the Fire Chief, the one in charge who makes the decisions when the fire fighters are combating a structure fire, chimney fire, forest fire or grass fire. Rick was also involved with the monthly Fire Company training sessions to maintain skills and teach new members. Rick will be missed. His years of experience and guidance were of great value especially as he mentored new members. In the future he may not be the first one on the scene of a fire. But we are sure he will show up often to assist or just to shoot the breeze.

In addition to structure fires, chimney fires, forest fires and grass fires, the Windham Fire Company is called out for other emergencies such as car accidents, missing persons, and snow mobile accidents where the fire fighters assist the Londonderry Rescue Squad. The Fire Company will also coordinate with the

Rescue Squad to set up a landing zone for the DART helicopter. Windham Fire Company is one of eight towns that are a member of the Southern Vermont Tri-Mountain Fire/Rescue/EMS , also called to assist in mutual aid.



Stay warm this winter. It's time to apply for Seasonal Fuel Assistance

The Vermont Seasonal Fuel Assistance program can provide any eligible person with fuel assistance by paying their heat directly to a fuel supplier, or by giving assistance to people whose rent includes the cost of heat.

Senior Solutions will be on location throughout Windham and Windsor Counties to assist with applications and answer any questions. Please don't hesitate to contact our HelpLine for more information. [866-673-8376](tel:866-673-8376) or info@seniorsolutionsvt.org.



REMINDER:

Prevent chimney fires! Have your flue or chimney inspected and cleaned by a professional chimney sweep annually.

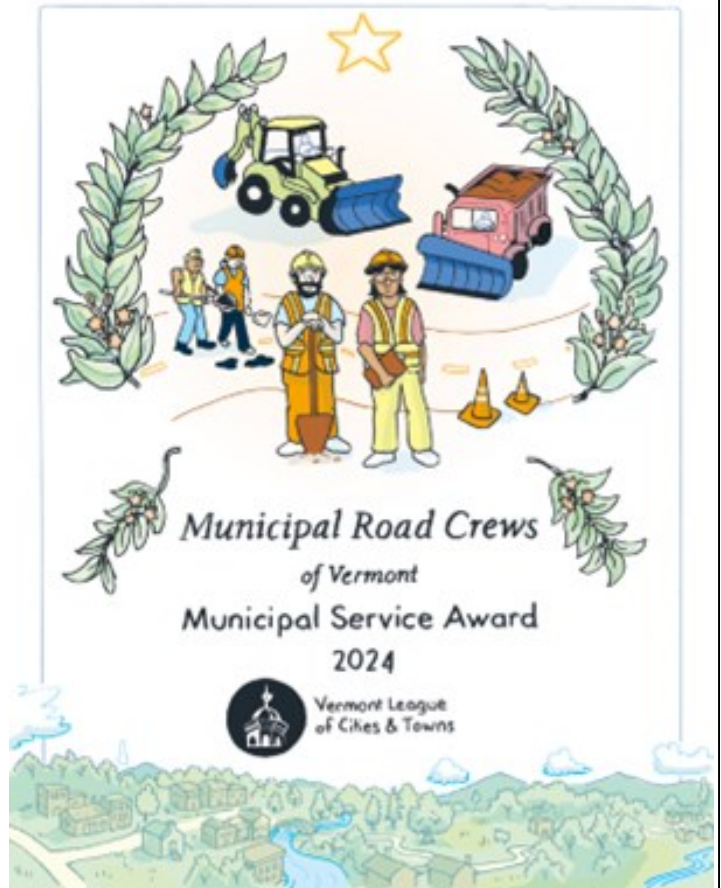
Vermont Highway Crews Honored with Municipal Service Award

At Town Fair in Killington on October 2, the Vermont League of Cities and Towns honored municipal highway crews for their work putting our communities back together after the floods of 2023 and 2024 by presenting them with a 2024 VLCT Municipal Service Award.

During the presentation of the award, VLCT President and Montpelier City Manager Bill Fraser said: “The July 2024 flooding resulted in more than \$116 million in road and bridge damage to municipal roads in 133 of our cities and towns. The July 2024 hit 42 percent of our municipalities, impacting roads and bridges in 66 municipalities, including many that felt the wrath of the 2023 flooding. In the hours, days, and months following these floods, you could hardly turn your head without seeing a news story about a town’s road crew rushing to reconnect a Vermonter to civilization, replacing a culvert, or miraculously making tons of dirt and stone appear where gaping holes existed just hours before. VLCT is pleased to present a 2024 Municipal Service Award to our road crews.”

Killington Selectboard Chair Jim Haff and Killington Public Works employee Gerald Pfeifenberger accepted the award on behalf of all municipal road crews in Vermont.

A big thank you to our Windham Road Crew!



West River Thrives Update

By Katlyn Sherman

West River Valley Thrives is a local coalition whose mission is to support and promote healthy lifestyle choices with an emphasis on preventing alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use by young people. Thrives serves seven towns in the West River Valley that are part of the Windham Central Supervisory Union: Brookline, Jamaica, Marlboro, Newfane, Townshend, Wardsboro, and Windham.

Thrives provides information, trains leaders, organizes activities, and addresses community norms, design, and policies. We foster collaboration among youth, parents, educators, coaches, and community leaders to help develop a unified approach. Thrives works hard to increase awareness about issues like substance misuse and mental health. Empowering youth and inviting youth voices to become involved in decision making enables them to take ownership of their environment and contribute in a positive way. We also advocate for policies that support youth

well-being at the local and state levels.

Thrives has recently become an official Narcan distribution site. Narcan (Naloxone) is a life-saving medication that can potentially reverse opioid overdoses. It is a crucial resource in combating the opioid crisis. Thrives can provide training on how to use Narcan and empower community members to act in emergencies. By becoming a Narcan distribution site, we hope to increase awareness about the dangers of opioids, normalize conversations about substance use and encourage individuals to seek help.

We welcome members of the community to join us for our Community Forum and free dinner on Thursday, November 14th, 2024, starting at 5:30 PM at Vermont EMS Academy in Townshend, Vermont. The Community Forum is a great opportunity to share knowledge, ideas, questions, and concerns. This event is expected to last until 7:00pm. Please RSVP to Katelyn Sherman at wrvtcomms@gmail.com. We hope to see you there!

Welcome Jack Edward Larson!

Jack Edward Larson was born September 17, 2024 at 11:22 pm in his family's home in Windham. His parents are Caitlin and Emmett Larson and his big sister is Evelyn Larson (age 22 months). He was 8lbs 8oz, a healthy boy. He's been given the name Jack in honor of his late paternal great grandfather John (Jack) Greene who was a US Navy veteran, an avid gardener, a talented potter and who resided for many years on Grassy Brook Rd in Brookline, Vermont with his wife Sherry Greene. His middle name, Edward, was given in remembrance of his late maternal great-great grandfather Edward LeMay, father of Susan Persa and resident of 911 Chase Rd Windham, a farmer and WWII veteran. His family is so grateful for his peaceful and safe emergence.



Paying for Vermont Schools: A Little Bit of History

By Russ Cumming

In the late 1700's and throughout much of the 1800's, rural schools were in local farm houses or community buildings such as churches, all within walking distance for the students. Often parents provided the lessons, but gradually teachers were employed for larger classes in multi-grade schools. The curriculum was not consistent, even among schools in the same community. With time, widespread consolidation of smaller schools into larger buildings took place, the curriculum became more structured, and more professional teachers were hired.

Windham was no exception. In the early 1960's, a local family donated the land on which the current Windham school building sits. By taxing all Windham property owners, the town was able to build a two-room school; in the 1970's, tax payers paid for the addition of an "activity" room. In those days, Windham's school taxes tended to be fairly low. As the years passed, the composition of Windham's housing stock had begun to change from farm houses to second homes, as the roads improved and the automobile became more prevalent. In the late 1950's and early 1960's, the Timber Ridge ski area was developed, more properties became second homes, and Windham's housing stock and grand list grew rapidly.

The same thing was happening throughout Vermont. As towns' grand lists grew in value, the education tax was spread out over more homes and was, for many towns, lower each year. Major additions to existing

housing stock took place in the 1960's and 1970's in towns that had ski areas and lakes where second homes became prevalent; those towns experienced low education tax rates. Meanwhile, communities that did not experience a real-estate explosion, saw their education tax continue to rise sharply. Many Vermonters thought this discrepancy was unfair, and a resulting lawsuit culminated in a change in the way education taxes were determined.

Act 60 became law in June of 1997, fundamentally changing the way Vermont property owners pay for public education. Act 60 created two classifications, homesteaders and non-homesteaders, with two different tax rates that exist today. Nine years later, Act 68 made changes to the terms of Act 60. There is a lot of information on both Act 60 and Act 68 on the web. A good place to learn the details is at A Citizens Guide to School Funding at the link below:

https://publicassets.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/05/act68_2006.pdf

Please take a look at this link and join the discussion on education funding in Vermont.





Farmers Markets Move Indoors

By Kathy Jungermann

Bellows Falls: The 3rd Friday in November and December from 4 PM to 7PM located at 33 Bridge Street.

Brattleboro: The 19th season begins on Saturday, November 2 through March from 9AM-2PM at 60 Austine Drive, Winston Prouty Campus. www.brattleboroareafarmersmarket.com. No pets. 802-490-4371.

Dorset: Winter market begins on October 20 and runs through May 4, 2025 from 10 AM to 2 PM. Winter location is at the JK Adams store, 1430 VT Route 30. marketmanager@dorsetfarmersmarket.com No pets. 802-353-9656.

Putney: The annual winter market resumes on November 24 and continues thru December 22, 11AM to 3PM on Sundays. Held indoors at the Green Mountain Orchard Farmstore, 130 West Hill Road. 802-387-4052.

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

Lunch at Neighborhood Connections

By Becky Phillips

Just a reminder that the next Neighborhood Connections lunch will be on Tuesday, November 12th at 12:00 noon. On the menu are turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy and carrots. A vegetarian option will also be available. Take away meals may be ordered. The meal is free; please call and reserve a seat ahead of time so we can plan the room layout to fit you in! Lunch will also be served at 12 noon on Tuesday, December 10 and Tuesday January 14.

A big thank you to our Windham volunteers Leila Erhardt, Barbara Jean Quinn, Joseph Monroe and Bill Casey whose contributions make this event a success every month!



Meals on Wheels Expanding: Could This Benefit You?

On April 1, Neighborhood Connections assumed responsibility for delivery of meals to seniors in Andover, Londonderry, Weston, and Windham who are unable to obtain groceries or prepare meals without assistance. Meals on Wheels menus are professionally designed to meet all of the nutritional requirements of the Older Americans Act, and their delivery provides an opportunity for frequent contact with some of our most vulnerable residents. This fall, Neighborhood Connections expects to expand delivery operations to Jamaica, Stratton, West Townshend, Wardsboro, and Winhall. If you or someone you know could use this benefit, call Neighborhood Connections at 802-824-4343 or email Thom@ncvermont.org.

Neighborhood Connections Presents

MOUNTAIN TOWN CIRCUS

Featuring . . . WUNDERLE'S BIG TOP ADVENTURES

Circus Show
Workshops
Face Painting
Balloon Twisting
Food

November 10, 2024

TIME: 11:00pm - 3:00pm
CIRCUS SHOW: 1:00pm - 2:00pm
LOCATION: Flood Brook School, 91 VT Route 11, Londonderry, VT 05148
ADVANCE TICKETS: Neighborhood Connections
COST: \$35.00 for a family up to four / \$20 Adults / \$5 Children under eighteen

INTERACTIVE CIRCUS FUN AND ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY
www.bigtopadventures.com
Spread Joy
Create Memories
Inspire Dreams
www.neighborhoodconnectionsvt.org



It's Time to FALL BACK!

TURN BACK YOUR
CLOCKS ONE HOUR

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3 at 2 AM.

Holiday Wreaths: Support Boy Scout Troop 428's Summer Adventure!

Troop 428 is crafting beautiful wreaths to raise funds for their **Summer 2025 trip to Oregon!** Choose from a variety of **sizes and shapes**, available **decorated or plain** to match your holiday style. **Order by November 7th** - delivery will be in late November—just in time to add a festive touch to your home!

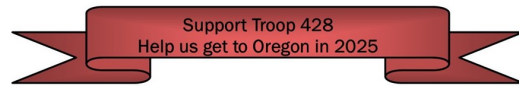
- * Scan the QR code or go to <https://forms.gle/WqZRdhgfixs8RXUDA> to order online
- * Contact Rory Rosselot: roryr2482@gmail.com

Thank you for helping Troop 428 make memories on their next big adventure!

**Get ready for the holidays with
handmade wreaths by
Scout Troop 428—Pre-Order Now**



Please scan the QR code and complete the form.



Contact Scoutmaster Jennifer Matheson for questions
802-490-4711 or jmatheson1971@gmail.com

Exhibition at 4th Corner Foundation

By Cindy Smith

2 Chairs and the 4th Corner Foundation are pleased to present: ***Stream, Chapter 7: Object/Hyperobject/Human (We're in this thing together!)***. The exhibition will be on view through December 1, 2024 in the 4th Corner Foundation Gallery, 578 Hitchcock Hill Road, in Windham, Vermont 05359. Gallery hours are Wednesday–Friday from 10AM – 4PM and weekends by appointment (802-875-2194).

This year we will explore the idea of the *hyperobject* coined by cultural theorist Timothy Morton: “A hyperobject is a thing so vast in both temporal and spatial terms that we can only see slices of it at a time; hyperobjects come in and out of phase with human time; they end up ‘contaminating’ everything, if we find ourselves inside them.”



This exhibition began by considering artists whose work evokes the uncanny scale of a hyperobject, especially as a way of reckoning with global warming and understanding ecological connections in nature. Our aim was to build upon our series of exhibitions titled *Stream* that have traditionally taken place in and around a local stream and have investigated the effects of human activity on the natural environment since 2014. We also took this occasion to bring back a few artists whose work has been significant in defining our curatorial project. If we are, as Morton says, caught in the hyperobject called global warming, what additional physical or social entities might be contributing to the formation of further hyperobjects? Or

as Bruno Latour asks, what can we do to “bring the solid objects of today into the fluid states where their connections with humans may make sense?” Moving from hyperobject to specific object, the exhibition considers the way objects connect us locally and globally to history, war, labor, community, care and empathy.

An exhibition directs the viewer towards a community of objects. From there each viewer can assemble a sort of meaning. Can a community of objects address contemporary environmental and social crises in a meaningful way? Art objects are traditionally saturated with excessive monetary and cultural value that transcends that of everyday objects such as a door, a newspaper or a mason jar. In considering both objects and hyperobjects, theorists like Morton strive to “displace the human from the center of meaning-making” or according to Katherine Behar to “treat humans as objects like any other, rather than privileged subjects.” By advocating for the vitality of non-human objects we become attentive to needs beyond our narrow selves. We are prompted to take actions in the present for the future preservation of a healthy biosphere.

From Bruno Latour: “Finally, when everything else has failed, the resource of fiction can bring-through the use of counterfactual history, thought experiments and ‘scientification’—the solid objects of today into the fluid states where their connections with humans may make sense. Here again, sociologists have a lot to learn from artists.”

Artists whose works are included in this exhibit include Hannah Brontë, Harun Farocki, Juneau Projects, Liu Yujia, Long Pan, Debra Priestly, Patricia Thornley, Tomoe Tsutsumi, and Erin Turner.



Windham Solar Generates Energy Seven Years After Inception

By Mary McCoy

Windham Solar will soon produce electricity from its 92.7 kW ground-mounted solar net-metered system located on Old Cheney Road. It's been a long journey. My husband Michael Simonds first decided in 2018 that he wanted to fight climate change by producing solar-generated electricity on our land. I readily agreed, and Michael began preparing a field for an array.

We didn't have the capital to build the array ourselves, and we liked the idea of community solar, a government-backed way to increase solar production. People with money profited by financing community solar arrays on the land of people like us to whom they paid rent. People without a good site for solar production on their own property signed up as subscribers (also called off-takers) of the community array. Their stated support earned them five percent off the cost of the electricity they used.

Michael and I imagined that other property owners who were land-rich and money-poor would follow our example, with many smaller arrays scattered on various properties, rather than massive arrays on single sites. In 2020, Michael and Bill Dunkel, both on Windham's Energy Committee, joined West River Valley 100% Renewable, an organization that supported the idea of community solar and other ways to advance green energy in our region.

Through WRV 100%, they met Ned O'Rourke from Wardsboro's Energy Committee who shared their vision. In 2021, Ned found an investor, a developer, and an installer to create community solar fields in Windham and Wardsboro. The developer began the complicated permitting process with Vermont's Public Service Board and Green Mountain Power.

Then came Covid and difficult supply chain issues, as well as challenges in the permitting process, causing the investor and the developer to back out. In early 2023, the installer, Jonathan Nelson, agreed to take on the entire project, using the permit that had been approved. Not being a wealthy man, Jonathan had to raise the needed funds, which took months. Meanwhile, outreach happened to sign up the subscribers. Finally, this June, everything was in place, and the installation began!

New community solar fields, as described above, will not be possible after the end of this year. Vermont H.289, the Renewable Energy Standard Reform Act, is good legislation in most ways, but the act gave the axe to community solar, saying it had not reached its potential. Michael said, "Considering the costs, permitting process, supply problems, and work involved by many people, it's no surprise there wasn't more community solar." Windham Solar and Wardsboro Solar are not affected, and the legislation calls for consideration of another way to provide off-site net-metered solar.

Windham Solar has 18 subscribing households; all but two are in Windham. Several subscribers attended a Solarbration in early October at the solar site at 1275 Old Cheney Road. You can come by and take a look—there are parking spaces by the road, and the array is down the hillside. If you are not a subscriber and would like to be, contact me at marymac4solar@gmail.com to put you on the waiting list.



West Townshend Stone Arch Bridge Restoration Compete

From Townshend Historical Society

Neighbors of this bridge on Back Windham Road, including Windham residents, will officially celebrate the completion of its restoration and open the bridge at 1:30 PM on Sunday, November 3, 2024, starting at the West Townshend Country Store. You can watch the restoration project from start to finish in photographs, commentaries and time-lapse videos at <https://www.youtube.com/@standingstonellc/featured>.



Harry Luther Chapman, 1875-1967

The Town of Windham Historical Society

Harry Luther Chapman and his wife May (Goodell) Marchant lived in Windham for most of their lives. Harry grew up in his father's home at 12 Corn Hill Road and later built a home at 99 Old Farm Road. All of the family were active in church, town, school and in community musical activities. Harry was a violinist and Pete Newton now uses the violin that once belong to Harry!

Besides being an old-fashioned naturalist and conservationist, Harry was an avid hunter and fisherman, who also wrote for *Field and Stream*. He and May had one son Howard Goodell who attended the Center Windham School through the eighth grade. Harry and May lived a modest life supporting themselves on their small farm. Harry served several terms in the Vermont legislature.

Harry's famous postcard business took off from about 1905-1930. He developed his prints in his home on Old Farm Road and sold them on consignment at local stores. His original wooden, large format view

camera with adjustable bellows and over 4,000 glass plate negatives were given to George Havill (Allison Cumming's uncle). Bob LeBlond and Charlie Marchant were given these negatives to develop and now they are at the Windham County Historical Society. Views from many area towns representing life during 1909-1930 are now preserved.

The Windham Historical Society has been privileged to scan Charles Marchant's collection of Windham prints taken by Harry Chapman. We will share a slide show of these prints on November 16 starting at 3 PM at the Windham Elementary School; a square dance with live music will follow. Please join us!

Harry Chapman
Slide Show and Square Dance
November 16, 2024 3-5PM
at Windham Elementary School

Return of the WCO Harvest Supper

By Kathy Jungermann

After a hiatus of nearly four years due to COVID, approximately 60 folks turned out to celebrate the return of the Harvest Supper and Square Dance to the Windham Meeting House on Saturday, October 26, 2024. Diners feasted on all the traditional favorites, enjoyed delicious desserts, and voted on photographs submitted for the "Capturing the Beauty of Windham" 2025 Town Library Calendar. After eating, the tables were cleared for the square dance. We are so grateful to Pete and Diane Newton for providing the great music and Sally Newton for guiding the dancers through the calls.

Many thanks also to the volunteers who contributed side dishes and desserts, helped to prepare the scalloped potatoes, hams, and salad, and then once the dinner was over restored order to the Meeting House.

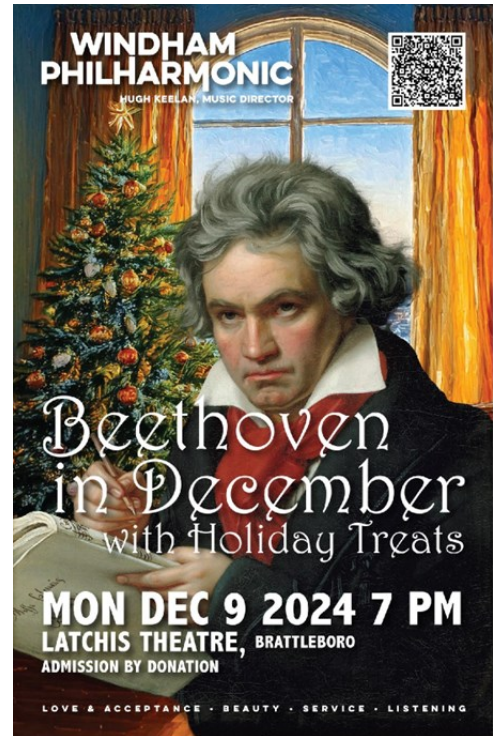
The Windham Community Organization would like to thank all who attended this event and helped to make it a success. We are looking forward to seeing you all next year!



Beethoven in December with Holiday Treats

By Al McLaine

What better way to kick off the holiday season than a festive concert by The Windham Philharmonic Orchestra! The concert will feature Beethoven's cheerful 8th symphony in F Major. Added musical and gustatory treats will delight your senses. The concert takes place on December 9th at the Latchis Theater in Brattleboro at 7:00 PM. Come and support your local musicians. Admission is by donation.



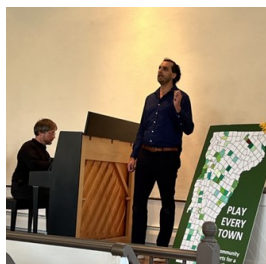
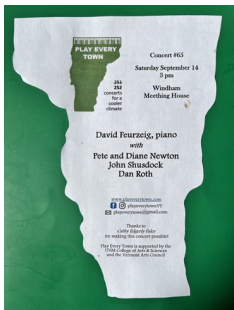
Hold the Date!

February 17th 2025 - The Windham Philharmonic's Winter Carnival Concert will be held at 7PM at the Latchis Theater in Brattleboro.



Play Every Town Concert A Windham Success

By Cathy Edgerly Fales



pianist. The selections were fascinating and David taught us all a history lesson. It was a beautiful day, and the sun was streaming in through the Meeting House windows. Susan Persa supplied the beautiful sunflowers, and the atmosphere created was idyllic for the first concert in what used to be the church sanctuary, now owned wholly by the town.

David used the program to share some of the events happening in the music world that paralleled our own Windham History. While the Meeting House was being constructed in 1802 Ludwig van Beethoven was publishing the beautiful Sonata in C-sharp minor. David played the Adagio Sostenuto that we call his Moonlight Sonata.

Our own local talent was showcased: Pete and Diane Newton, John and Emily Shusdock and Dan Roth. Who knew we had such beautiful and entertaining voices right in our midst?

Donations raised exceeded \$350 and we were able to cover the cost of a professional piano tuning for both Meeting House pianos. Over 70 people attended.

If you have ideas for a concert or a lecture series as we advance to the 225th Anniversary of the Meeting House in 2027, please let Cathy know (cathyedgerly@gmail.com).

Concert number 65 in the Play Every Town concert series was held September 14, 2024 at the Windham Meeting House. Play Every Town is supported by the UVM College of Arts and Sciences and the Vermont Art Council. David Feurzeig is hoping to perform 252 concerts for a cooler climate as part of this initiative.

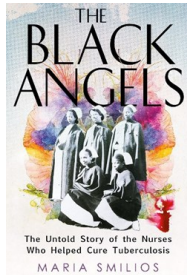
It was a great concert and exceeded all our expectations! David Feurzeig was a magnificent



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, December 4, 2024, 3:30 PM



Gotham Book Finalist 2024

**NPR Science Friday Best Summer Beach Reads
2024**

Winner of the Christopher Award 2024

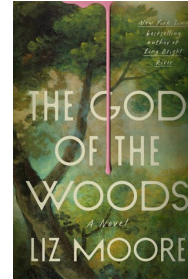
**New York City, 1929. A sanatorium, a deadly
disease, and a dire nursing shortage.**

In the pre-antibiotic days when tuberculosis stirred people's darkest fears, killing one in seven, white nurses at Sea View, New York's largest municipal hospital, began quitting en masse. Desperate to avert a public health crisis, city officials summoned Black southern nurses, luring them with promises of good pay, a career, and an escape from the strictures of Jim Crow. But after arriving, they found themselves on an isolated hilltop in the remote borough of Staten Island, yet again confronting racism and consigned to a woefully understaffed sanatorium, dubbed "the pest house," where it was said that "no one left alive."

Spanning the Great Depression and moving through World War II and beyond, this remarkable true story follows the intrepid young women known by their patients as the "Black Angels." For twenty years, they risked their lives working under appalling conditions while caring for New York's poorest residents, who languished in wards, waiting to die, or became guinea pigs for experimental surgeries and often deadly drugs. But despite their major role in desegregating the New York City hospital system—and their vital work in helping to find the cure for tuberculosis at Sea View—these nurses were completely erased from history. *The Black Angels* recovers the voices of these extraordinary women and puts them at the center of this riveting story, celebrating their legacy and spirit of survival.



Windham Library Book Club Selection Wednesday, January 8, 2024, 3:30 PM



**When a teenager vanishes from her
Adirondack summer camp,
two worlds collide**

Early morning, August 1975: a camp counselor discovers an empty bunk. Its occupant, Barbara Van Laar, has gone missing. Barbara isn't just any thirteen-year-old: she's the daughter of the family that owns the summer camp and employs most of the region's residents. And this isn't the first time a Van Laar child has disappeared. Barbara's older brother similarly vanished fourteen years ago, never to be found.

As a panicked search begins, a thrilling drama unfolds. Chasing down the layered secrets of the Van Laar family and the blue-collar community working in its shadow, Moore's multi-threaded story invites listeners into a rich and gripping dynasty of secrets and second chances. It is Liz Moore's most ambitious and wide-reaching novel yet.

Valley Bible Church 2024 Holiday Services

November 27 @ 7PM-Pie and Praise

December 1 @ 11AM-Sunday Service followed by turkey dinner and potluck

December 22 @ 11AM-Sunday Service with Christmas Concert followed by caroling in the community

December 24 @ 7PM-Christmas Eve Service

**Windham Library Book Club will meet on
Wednesday, February 5, 2025 at 3:30 PM
The book has not yet been selected**

Giving Tuesday at Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital

By Alysabeth Simon

After Black Friday and Cyber Monday comes Giving Tuesday, a worldwide day of philanthropy during the season of gratitude. This year, Giving Tuesday falls on December 3.

Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital is asking for Giving Tuesday donations for the purchase of two pieces of equipment for their newly renovated Outpatient Rehab clinic building: a Biodex Gait Trainer and NxSTEP Unweighing System. This state-of-the-art equipment is designed to help patients return to optimal health faster.

With the number of patients seeking physical and occupational therapy growing, Grace Cottage is in the final stages of renovating the Heins Building on its campus to become the new Outpatient Rehab clinic, featuring more treatment rooms and an expanded gym.

Community support will help to get this expanded space up and running at full capacity. Checks payable to Grace Cottage with “Giving Tuesday” on the memo line may be sent to PO Box 1, Townshend, VT 05353. For details on the equipment and more information, visit gracecottage.org/givingtuesday or call 802-365-9109.

Courageous Conversations

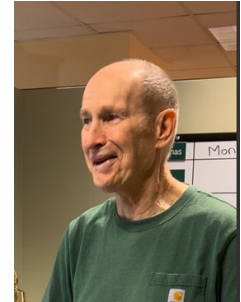
By Cathy Edgerly Fales

You may not be facing a cancer challenge, but all of us have difficult conversations we don't want to have.

Hunt Fales, Windham resident, has written a small book about going through a cancer challenge. It's called *Navigating Prostate Cancer: Five*

Courageous Conversations with Your Partner. This little book chronicles Hunt's journey with the intent to share some hard-found wisdom in the hope it will help others. Each chapter ends with a small prescription for how the reader might navigate the waters of their own tough conversations.

Hunt's book was reviewed in August in the Brattleboro Reformer. The [article \(https://www.reformer.com/community-news/j-h-fales-difficult-conversations-in-the-wake-of-a-life-changing-diagnosis/article_4ae389fc-6a45-11ef-b71c-93a412b66b4a.html\)](https://www.reformer.com/community-news/j-h-fales-difficult-conversations-in-the-wake-of-a-life-changing-diagnosis/article_4ae389fc-6a45-11ef-b71c-93a412b66b4a.html) describes the book and shares a bit about Hunt's own journey. The book is available at The Northshire Bookstore, Manchester, Everyone's Books, Brattleboro as well as Amazon Books.



Preparing for Winter

By Pat McLaine

Late fall is a great time to prepare yourself and your family for the many respiratory illnesses that show up in winter. If you haven't gotten your COVID and flu vaccines, it's not too late and you can get both shots at the same time. Both vaccines are re-formulated every year to target newer strains, so they are not another dose of the protection you got last year. Every US household is eligible to order four free at-home COVID tests. Visit [COVIDTests.gov](https://www.cdc.gov/covid/tests) for information and to apply. If you haven't been vaccinated against the RSV virus, add that to your

winter preparations .

The CDC is now recommending that adults aged fifty and over should get pneumococcal vaccine to protect them against more than 100 types of bacteria that can cause pneumonia and other dangerous illnesses (based on extent of pneumonia in the 50-65 year age group).

And keep a mask ready for the times you don't feel well – we are all exposed to many viruses (e.g. the “common cold”) for which we don't have a vaccine. No need to share these organisms with family and friends with whom you spend time! And if you're feeling sick, consider staying home and taking advantage of a good book!

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IMPORTANT CHANGES TO TRASH & RECYCLING AT THE LONDONDERRY TRANSFER STATION

By Esther Fishman

Beginning December 15, 2024, Londonderry Hardware will no longer sell Londonderry Transfer Station Punch Cards. Annual Stickers and Punch Cards are available at the Landgrove, Londonderry, Peru, Weston and Windham Town Offices.

Annual sticker price January 1 to December 31, 2025 - \$20 for residents and \$40 for businesses.

New location for purchasing Punch Cards for Trash and Recycling Disposal will be from a vending machine at The Londonderry Village Market in the Londonderry Plaza. The vending machine will only accept Credit Cards for 5-Punch Cards @ \$10, 10-Punch Cards @\$20, and Bulk Punch Cards @ \$120.

As of December 15th, 2024 each trip to the Recycling Center at The Londonderry Transfer Station will cost **one Punch**. Let the attendant know you will be recycling.

The Transfer Station paid more than \$69,000 in 2023 to recycle but there was no charge to people who bought recycling to the Transfer Station. These costs came from collecting, hauling, and processing the materials. Charging one Punch or the equivalent of \$2 will help defer some of those costs. Any expenses that are not covered by trash disposal or soon to be recycling fees will end up in the taxes of the five towns.

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)

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Happy Holidays!



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OFFICIAL TOWN WEBSITE

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

REGULARLY
SCHEDULED WINDHAM
MEETINGS
CALL CONTACT TO
CONFIRM

Citizens Advisory Commit-
tee, Second Tuesday of
Feb., May, Aug. & Nov. at
5:00 PM. Contact Marcia
Clinton at 802-875-3531.

Energy Committee:
3rd Thursday of the month,
at 4:30 PM on Zoom, Contact
Bill Dunkel 802-874-4131.

Windham Community
Organization:
Last Friday of most months at
the Meeting House at 1:00 PM.
Contact Ellen McDuffie at
802-874-8183.

Town Clerk: 802-874-4211
Monday: Noon - 6 PM;
Wednesday: 10 AM - 4 PM
Thursday: 10 AM - 4 PM
Closed all Tuesdays, Fridays,
and Federal Holidays. Open
third Saturday, 11 AM-2 PM.

Planning and Zoning:
Second Monday of the
month at 6:30 PM Zoom.
Open meetings. Agenda
posted. Contact Bill Dunkel
at 802-874-4131.

Conservation Commission:
Contact Alison Trowbridge
at 802-874-7050.

Windham Historical
Society: First Wednesday of
month at Windham Elementary
School. Contact Susan Persa at
802-380-4511.

Select Board:
1st & 3rd Mondays at
5:30 PM—On Zoom and at
Meeting House. Open meet-
ings. Agenda posted. Check
website-townofwinhamvt.com

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

Valley Bible Church:
Sundays: Sunday School,
10 AM; Morning Worship,
11 AM; Followed by potluck.
Wednesdays, Bible Study/
Prayer, 7 PM. Call
802-302-6047 for more info.

Windham School Board:
Third Tuesday of the
month at 6 PM. Contact
Abigail Pelton 802-874-
4246 for information.

Volunteer Fire Company:
First Thursday of the
month at 6 PM. Contact
Jan Wyman at 802-875-
3373 for information.

Listers: Every Wednesday,
9 AM- Noon at the Town
Office. 802-874-4211

West River Education Dis-
trict: Third Mondays at 7 PM
at Leland & Gray. Call Leland &
Gray 802-365-7355 for info.

SAVE THESE DATES! Nov 6 Game Afternoon 12:30-3:00PM and Book Club 3:30PM (The Women) at the Meeting House
Nov 12 Community Lunch 12:00 noon at Neighborhood Connections in Londonderry
Nov 16 Chapman Slide Show and Square Dance 3:00-5:00PM at Windham School
Nov 20 Game Afternoon 12:30-3:00PM at the Meeting House
Dec 4 Game Afternoon 12:30-3:00PM and Book Club 3:30PM (The Black Angels) at the Meeting House
Dec 9 Windham Philharmonic Concert 7:00PM at the Latchis Theatre in Brattleboro
Dec 10 Community Lunch 12:00 noon at Neighborhood Connections in Londonderry
Dec 18 Game Afternoon 12:30-3:00PM at the Meeting House
Jan 8 Book Club 3:30PM (The God of the Woods) at the Meeting House

