



# WALLINGFORD NEWS



128TH Edition

FEBRUARY 2016

## TOWN CLERK & TREASURER'S OFFICE NEWS

**Town Clerk & Treasurer's Office Hours:**  
Monday-Thursday-8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.,  
Friday 8 a.m. to Noon.  
446-2336/townclerk@wallingfordvt.com

The front door has an after-hours mail slot.

The Town Clerk & Fire District offices will be closed on Monday, 2/15 in observance of President's Day. The Transfer Station & Town Administrator's Office will be open.

### 2016 MILL RIVER UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT #40 ANNUAL MEETING

The legal voters of the Mill River Union School District # 40, which consists of the Town School Districts of Clarendon, Shrewsbury and Wallingford, are hereby warned to meet at the Library of the Mill River Union High School in Clarendon, on 2/10 at 7:00 p.m.

### 2016 TOWN MEETING

Town meeting is 2/29 at 7 p.m. at the Wallingford Elementary School. Articles including the town budget will be voted from the floor. The high school budget and

elementary school budget as well as officers will be voted by Australian Ballot on Tuesday, 3/01 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Wallingford Town Hall.

You can vote early at the town office any time after February 10th, or by requesting a ballot online. Go to <https://mvp.sec.state.vt.us> - "My Voter Page". You may use this system to check your: voter registration status, absentee ballot status, ballot status, elected officials, registration information on file with the Town Office, sample ballot for the upcoming election, and more. The deadline for requests is Monday, 2/29 by 4:30 p.m. Voted ballots must be returned by Tuesday, 3/1 at 7 p.m. The last day to register to vote for Town Meeting is Wednesday, 2/24.

The Town Report will be mailed by 2/19. Please bring it with you to Town Meeting.

### Vermonters can now register to vote online!

For a quick and easy way to register to vote, go to <https://olvr.sec.state.vt.us> and follow the simple steps.



### Second Tuesday Open Mic

will be Tuesday, February 9. Sound system available. Contact the Town Administrator at 4 4 6 - 2 8 7 2 or [townadmin@wallingfordvt.com](mailto:townadmin@wallingfordvt.com) for more information. If your non profit group would like to raise some funds, contact Sandi at 446-2872.

Deadline for submission to the Wallingford News is the 23rd of each month.

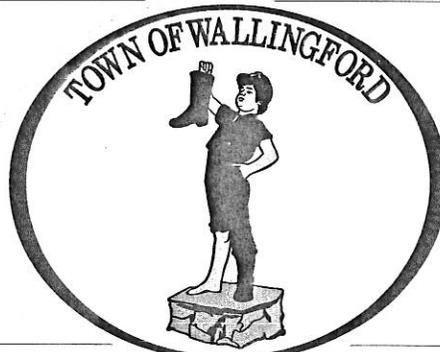
Editor: Julie Sharon  
Town Clerk & Treasurer  
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Wallingford News is online at town's website  
@ [www.wallingfordvt.com](http://www.wallingfordvt.com).

### STICKERS (4") FOR SALE

\$3.50 EACH—AT TOWN HALL

Put it on your car window, your home window, your school book, etc.

NET PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT "2016 WALLINGFORD RECREATION PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIPS"



# February 2016

Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

	1	2	3	4	5	6
	7:00am Rotary 12:00pm Seniors Meal 6:30pm Selectboard 8:00pm EW Fire Dept. Selectboard 6:00 pm	8:30am Bone Bldrs 6:30pm WFD Jr/Sr Training 6:30pm Energy Comm  	10:30am BP & Foot Clinic 7:00pm MRU Board	8:30am Bone Builders 6:30pm WES School Board	10:30am Children's Story Hour 1:00pm Whist 7:00pm DRB HEARING	
2:30pm YOGA CLASSES & WORKSHOPS  	7:00am Rotary 12:00pm Seniors Meal 6:30pm WFD Officers 7:00pm Planning Commission	8:30am Bone Bldrs 6:30pm WFD Bus. Meeting 6:30pm School Board Consolidation Forum 7:00pm Open Mic Night	1:00pm Library Friends 6:00pm Prudential Committee 7:00pm MRUSD #40 ANNUAL MEETING	8:30am Bone Builders	10:30am Children's Story Hour	
	7:00am Rotary 12:00pm Seniors Meal 6:30pm Selectboard Town Clerk & Fire District Office Closed  <b>PRESIDENT'S DAY</b>	8:30am Bone Bldrs 6:30pm WFD Training 6:30pm WES School Board	7:00pm MRU Board	8:30am Bone Builders 6:30pm WES School Board	10:30am Children's Story Hour 1:00pm Whist	
	7:00am Rotary 12:00pm Seniors Meal 6:30pm Conservation Commission	8:30am Bone Bldrs 6:30pm WFD Work Detail 6:30pm School Board Consolidation Forum	6:00pm Prudential Committee	8:30am Bone Builders	10:30am Children's Story Hour	5:30pm "FREE" WALLINGFORD FRIENDSHIP DINNER
2:30pm YOGA CLASSES & WORKSHOPS	7:00am Rotary 12:00pm Seniors Meal 7:00pm TOWN MEETING  					

## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

*(Please note that these meeting minutes are a brief summary and are not the final approved version.)*

## SELECTBOARD

**1/03/16.** Present: N. Tift, R. Regula, G. Fredette, and B. Brooks

Road Commissioner Phil Baker relayed a concern from a citizen regarding West Hill Road; reported that the box was being installed on the 2016 Kenworth soon; the gate at Elfin Lake could be relocated closer to Route 140W by the road crew labor; agreed that a Sugar Hill Road culvert replacement project may fit the requirements for a Better Backroads grant. There was a brief discussion about Tift Road and whether action needed to be taken to secure the bank or relocate a small section of road about a third of a mile up the road from Route 7.

Town Administrator Sandi Switzer indicated she would be attending a VOSHA Compliance training workshop with Mr. Lanfear. She has been compiling Safety Data Sheets for the town garage.

The FY'17 Lister, Revenues, Administration, and Insurance Budgets were discussed.

Troy Minerals, Inc. owner Stephen Chmielewski distributed a preliminary draft of screening for the ground mounted solar array project proposed for his property in South Wallingford.

The Selectboard voted to have the town offer the minimum bid, if necessary, at the tax sales on 1/19, at the request of Delinquent Tax Collector Lee Perry.

There was a brief discussion regarding a dog bite incident in Wallingford. The board agreed to address the matter further if a written complaint was filed.

Vermont Coverts was given approval to use the upstairs for a climate change workshop on January 27.

The board approved drafts of the annual Town Report Dedication and the Selectboard Report, and the road crew's credit application for Pete's Tire Barn. The Board directed the Planning Commission to research the history of the Industrial Zone in South Wallingford per Joyce Barbieri's letter. The board declined a request by Zoning Administrator Jeff Biasuzzi to have Wallingford share the cost of his training in safety compliance matters with two other towns. The Judicial Bureau will be asked to schedule a hearing on the long-standing dog barking complaints.

**1/18/16.** Present: N. Tift, R. Regula, M. Tessier, G. Fredette, and B. Brooks

The 2016 VTrans Certificate of Highway Miles was signed.

The FY17 Budget was approved along with the Town Warning.

Quarterly financials were reviewed with no significant variances noted.

A hearing will be scheduled regarding the dog bite incident.

The Selectboard approved the grand list extension request by Assessor Lisa W. Garcia.

Safety compliance was discussed. Fire Chief M. Hughes inspected the garage and found several issues that need to be corrected. The road crew will begin working on these this week.

The Selectboard approved the Prudential Committee's recommendation to appoint Charlie Gauthier to the vacancy.

N. Tift requested \$300 of his annual Select Board stipend be sent to Wallingford Elementary to be used for the winter ski program.

The board requested S. Switzer seek further information from assessor Lisa Wright Garcia regarding a tablet she offered to sell the town to be used during the next reappraisal and for property inspections.

The board approved J. Sharon's request to sell Boy With the Leaking Boot stickers with net proceeds going to the town's summer recreation program.

The board reviewed VLCT's opinion regarding setting employee salaries in Open rather than Executive Session unless discussion involved employee performances.

The Selectboard met in Executive Session to discuss the superior court cases.



## **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

January minutes not available at this time.

## **PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE**

1/11/16. Present: S. Sendra and K. Stocker

The board reviewed the Secretary of State's response to whether a person can serve on both the Prudential Committee and Selectboard at the same time. Maureen will prepare a letter to the Selectboard explaining the Committee's reasons for the decision in filling the vacancy.

The board reviewed the monthly financials and signed off on them.

Maureen showed the board photos that were sent by a resident that showed what the sidewalk plow did to the resident's lawn. Scott prepared a letter explaining why the plow was purchased vs. the snow blower. Maureen reported that the letter is at the post office, the town hall, and on the Town's website. We will try our best not to damage anyone's personal property next time as the ground should be frozen when we plow again.

Maureen asked if the lodge and general budget meeting could be done during our regular meetings in February and the board agreed that it would be fine.

### **An Open Letter to the Residents of the Wallingford Village**

The Fire district Office has fielded a complaint with a consequence of our new V-Plow on the lawns bordering the sidewalks in the village.

As you may have noticed, Fire District #1 purchased a new V-Plow and retired the snow blower for emergencies. The VPlow is a bit wider than our old snow blower and the grass on each side of the side of the sidewalks is being peeled back by the V-plow.

The old snow blower was 47" wide and the new V-Plow is 48". So yes, it is a bit wider and will likely peel a bit of lawn up as we begin the season with this new equipment and as the operator acquires more skills in plowing with a new piece of equipment.

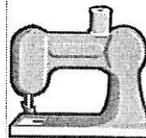
The new equipment has a larger foot print and has a wider arc as it maneuvers around corners, compared to the snow blower we used it the past.

We apologize for any lawn damage that may occur, but please understand, our primary objective is the safety of

residents and children walking on the sidewalks in the winter. Our winter this year has been unusual and the ground hadn't frozen solid yet and has led to some turf rollback. Again, our apologies.

The Prudential Committee felt the need to upgrade our equipment to deal with several issues we encountered over the last few years. 1) Local plowing contractors were repeatedly blocking sidewalks with large compressed and icy piles of snow. In some cases, our snow blower was unable to clear these obstacles and in other cases, the snow blower was sustaining sever damage as it combatted this situation. 2) The Vermont DOT was causing a similar problem. As the large plows swept through Main Street (RT 7), the sidewalks that were cleared only hours before were once again filled with compacted, slushy, or icy snow. The snow blower had to be called back out to SLOWLY creep through town trying to clear this debris from the sidewalks. 3) The snow blower had difficulty blowing slushy snow or ice and the snow blower clogs up repeatedly, hindering timely progress getting the sidewalks cleared. Our first snowstorm of 2015-2016 is such a storm. 4) The severe damage affecting the snow blower put the equipment out of commission for days at a time. Refer to last year, as damage was incurred, all progress of snowplowing has to be suspended. Disassembly of the equipment was required, damaged parts were cataloged and compiled and in some cases replacements couldn't be ordered until the next day. As we waited, the town 'enjoyed' additional snowfall amounts. Replacement parts for the snow blower have become prohibitively expensive. 5) The Prudential Committee hopes the V-Plow will clear the sidewalks faster, Reduce fuel consumption, minimize operator interaction with moving parts and lessen component replacement.

## **ALTERATIONS**



### **MENDING**

### **GENERAL SEWING**

**BONNIE GAINER**

**446-2290**

So as we try to find a better and more efficient solution to keep the sidewalks in the village clear, we appreciate your concern, but safety above all else is our goal! Thank You for your Continued Support. The Prudential Committee

**WALLINGFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

1/07/16. Present: P. Rondinone, S. Pytlik, J. Rodgers, and T. Lidstone

Principal Richards-Peelle updated the board on the last issues being dealt with to complete the building project, new curriculum, and MAPS testing. There will be three staff positions to fill for FY'17, and the process will begin soon. The Winter Sports Program begins 1-21. Helen also shared a letter from a parent praising the Winter Concert.

Superintendent Younce updated the board on Act 46 and negotiations.

Business Manager Pawlaczyk reviewed the latest budget draft with the board. The proposed increase in expenditures is still well below our Act 46 threshold for allowable growth.

Shannon proposed adding to the budget to support the Winter Sports Program and Four Winds instead of relying solely on fundraising. \$7,500 was added to Activities.

Paul asked about our principal's contract. Dave advised we should finalize that at our next regular meeting.

The budget of \$2,373,069 was adopted along with the warning that includes an article for an additional \$25,000 for the Building Sinking Fund. The Act 153 Unified School District warning was approved and the FY'17 tuition rate was set at \$14,652.

Tara asked what happened with the collaboration with the Tarrant Institute. Dave explained dynamics at RSSU and the Institute did not provide for an ideal fit for a full program at this time, but concepts were still being employed.

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&  
COMMERCIAL

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Wallingford, VT 05773  
(802) 446-2931

- Oil Burners
- Water Pumps
- Hot Air Furnaces
- Wood Boilers

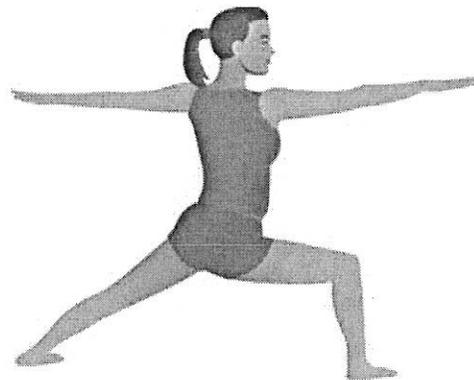
**Experience the Region's Dim Sum of Yoga: Thrive Center Sponsors "A Winter ~ Spring ~ Sampler: Yoga Classes & Workshops"**

Experience the joy of restoring movement to all areas of your body while learning how to unravel the restrictions produced from daily life; with six different yoga instructors, on the following Sundays: 1/31, 2/7, 2/28, 3/6, 3/13, 3/20\*. The classes and workshops of "The Sampler" are open to those who are new to yoga, as well as, those who are looking to grow an experienced practice.

The YOGA sessions will start at 2:30 p.m. (unless otherwise noted\*), and will be held at the Wallingford Elementary School, 126 School Street, Wallingford. The investment fee is either: \$10 per class and \$20 per workshop. Pricing subject to change. \*Our Sunday (3/20) workshop will be a "field trip" held at Therapydia, 155 Woodstock Avenue, #2, Rutland, from 10 a.m. - Noon.

For further detailed information and to register call 802-446-2499 or email: [uthrive@vermontel.net](mailto:uthrive@vermontel.net), today! Dress WARMLY for movement; bring a mat, blanket, and water. A portion of the proceeds will directly benefit the: Wallingford Elementary School's Winter Sports Program, as well as the Gilbert Hart Library.

Payments can be brought day of, dropped off, or mailed to: Thrive Center, c/o: Lisa Donohue, 68 South Main Street, P.O. Box 539, Wallingford, VT 05773 ~ (with checks payable directly to each instructor.) [Please denote the date(s) you are registering for. Refundability on checks paid, will be the discretion of the instructor.] Inclement weather potentials ~ If you do not hear from us directly ~ the workshop or class is still being held!



### WALLINGFORD FIRE DISTRICT #1 RESIDENTS

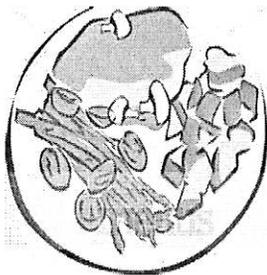
The Prudential Committee is offering to issue quarterly bills by email. Not only will this save paper, postage, reduce land fill waste and associated resources, it will also offer increased security as only you will see your bill. No need to tear your bill into tiny pieces or shred your bill for secure recycling! Simply send the office an email to wallfired1@vermontel.net and just say you'd like to join!

In addition, the clerk/ treasurer will send out reminders to all participants before the due date who may have forgotten the due date, misplaced their printed bill or deleted the original email.

Either email or call the office (802-446-2964) and Maureen will send you another email with your bill attached. This is totally a voluntary service.

### CONSERVATION COMMISSION

No meeting held in December.



### Wallingford Friendship Dinner

Saturday-February 27th from 5:30-7:00 p.m.  
At First Congregational Church, South Main Street

The menu will be meatloaf, macaroni and cheese, donated sides and sweet desserts.

This is not a fundraiser, just an evening of light and warmth, laughter and conversation.

Volunteers are welcome to help us make this a wonderful community event.

Call Cindy at 446-2412.

### ENERGY COMMITTEE

Read them online at [www.wallingfordvt.com](http://www.wallingfordvt.com).

### BURIAL LOTS FOR SALE

By Time Sale; Interest Free  
GREEN HILL CEMETERY

South Main Street ~ Wallingford, VT

Call Charles Gauthier at 802-353-0996. Terms: 20% down; balance paid in 10 monthly payments. Deed will be written when last payment is made. If APPLICANT FAILS TO MAKE FINAL PAYMENT AS AGREED, APPLICANT WILL FORFEIT 20% DOWN PAYMENT. ANY ADDITIONAL MONEY PAID WILL BE RETURNED TO APPLICANT.

### 3 Easy Ways to Get Your Vermont Income Tax Forms

#### 1. Download fillable PDF forms from the web

Download, complete, and print forms at [www.bit.ly/vttaxforms](http://www.bit.ly/vttaxforms)

#### 2. Order forms by email

Email your request to [tax.formsrequest@vermont.gov](mailto:tax.formsrequest@vermont.gov).

#### 3. Order forms by phone

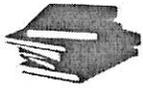
802-828-2515  
855-297-5600 (toll-free in U.S.)

### When ordering, tell us:

1. Your name
2. Mailing address
3. Form number or form name
4. Daytime phone number

### Quick Tips:

- Order your paper forms early for timely delivery • Use current year forms from the same source • Do not use photocopied forms For more information, visit [www.tax.vermont.gov](http://www.tax.vermont.gov)



## GILBERT HART LIBRARY NEWS

### GILBERT HART LIBRARY

This is a great month to visit the library and fall in love with a new author, series, or genre. We've got many of the most popular titles in print and can place holds on what you want so that you can get the item soon after its return! Several new movies are arriving including *The Martian*. Read the book, watch the movie, and decide which you like the best.

On February 10th, the Friends will host a showing of a romantic movie in the early afternoon upstairs in our warm, inviting children's space.

Preschool children and their caregivers are welcome to attend programming each Friday of February beginning at 10:30 a.m. And with the new book bins now in place, children can really take a look at our wonderful selection as well as relax and read on the rug or in a comfy chair. If you haven't been by in a while, or ventured up the stairs, please come take a peek!

Gilbert Hart sure loved his hometown and the extension of that affection is the wonderful library that invites all ages to come and explore all there is to offer. And you can explore online at [ghlib.wordpress.com](http://ghlib.wordpress.com) from the comfort of your home anytime.

### Library Hours

Sun: Closed

Mon: 10 – 5:00

Tues: Closed

Wed: 10 – 8:00

Thurs & Fri: 10 – 5:00

Saturday: 9 – 12:00

Librarian – Wendy Savery

Telephone: 446-2685

### HART LINES

The Friends of the Gilbert Hart Library took a mid-winter break, and will meet again on February 10 at 1:00 PM in the Klock Room. This will be more social event than meeting, since we'll be showing a movie and having popcorn! Please come join us for some light entertainment.

Whist parties will be held on February 5 and 19 at 1:00 PM in the Klock Room. If you would like to join in, please contact Carol Pratt at 446-2843 for more information.

Stay tuned for more information as our annual events unfold. These will include our fundraising dinner, spring plant sale and book sale. Thank you for supporting your local library!

### Arctic Wildlife and Climate Change Program

Join us on Wednesday, January 27th at 7:00 p.m. for a presentation on "Arctic Wildlife and Climate Change", presented by Sue Morse. This free event will be held at the Wallingford Town Hall at 75 School Street.

Vermont Coverts: Woodlands for Wildlife, Inc. is dedicated to educating landowners in sound forest management practices and the principles of stewardship for the enhancement of wildlife. The goal is to help woodland owners become aware that sound forest management includes much more than timber, pulp and firewood production. Over the years, Coverts management practices have benefited over 200,000 acres of Vermont forests demonstrating that well-planned forest management and the enhancement of wildlife habitat can go hand in hand.

## Maple Grove Cemetery East Wallingford, Vermont

A Lovely Historic Cemetery  
Landscaped With The Charm Of Old  
Majestic Maple Trees.

Established More Than 200 Years Ago.  
Residents and Neighbors are Welcome  
To Come and Wander The Grounds.

Many Lots Available  
1 Person \$450 - 2 Person \$900  
Ask about Cremation Lots  
For More Information, call 802-259-2810

### Do you own a home in Vermont as your primary residence?

Each Vermont resident homeowner must *annually file* a Homestead Declaration. Depending on household income, the homeowner may be eligible to file for a Property Tax Adjustment. Use these forms to file:

- Form HS-122 Homestead Declaration (Sect. A) & Property Tax Adjustment Claim (Sect. B) **AND**
- Schedule HI-144 Household Income

**This includes all persons living with you.**



Raffle Tickets Available from  
any Wallingford Volunteer  
Fireman.

Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for  
\$5.

**Drawing will be held January 30.**

Prizes: 1 ton of wood pellets, \$200 cash for use at a fuel company of your choice, or 1 cord of fire wood.

### WALLINGFORD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

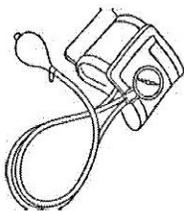
Jr. Firefighters – Age 13-18 – Senior Firefighters – Age 18 - ? *We will train.* Volunteers needed

Age 16- seniors for work details, etc. Contact John Thomson at 353-0996 for details.

Seniors are certainly welcome to join. Contact Charlie Gauthier at 353-0996.

### CONSTABLE JERRY TIFT – ON FACEBOOK AT "WALLINGFORD CONSTABLES OFFICE"

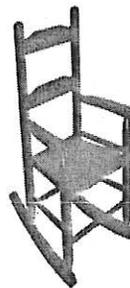
Wallingford's Animal Control Officer is Constable Jerry Tift. You can reach him at 802-353-2378. The ACO handles calls concerning domesticated animals, and farm animals, to include animals running at large, animal cruelty, aggressive dogs, dog bites, etc. Wallingford's Animal Control Ordinance can be viewed at [wallingfordvt.com](http://wallingfordvt.com).



### WALLINGFORD SENIORS

Foot and blood pressure clinic on the first  
Wednesdays of each month at 10:30 a.m.  
at the Wallingford House, 10 North Main  
Street, Wallingford.

Remember the Seniors' lunch every Monday at Noon at the  
Rotary. Contact Linda Weightman at 446-2301.



Join Front Porch Forum ... see what  
you've been missing.

Wallingford's Forum started September  
10, 2013. Since then, 382 Members  
from 880 Households have posted  
1,951 Postings. It's free. It's local. And  
it's friendly.

Check it out at [http://  
FrontPorchForum.com](http://FrontPorchForum.com).

## PROPERTY TRANSFERS

Sellers: Jason & Jennifer Beamis; Buyers: Paul Gustafson & Kendra Parker; 340 Hawkins Road; Assessed value: \$244,700; Purchase price: \$200,000.

Seller: 1st Congregational Church of Wallingford; Buyers: Warren & Laurie Bombardier; 24 Shedd Place; Assessed value: \$185,700; Purchase price: \$152,000.

Sellers: John & Connie Potter; Buyer: Bruce Lockerby; 6129 Route 7E Assessed value: \$108,800; Purchase price: \$80,000.

Seller: Randy Hutchins; Buyer: Douglas Edwards; 751 Ice Bed Road, Assessed value: \$285,200; Purchase price: \$200,000.

## ZONING PERMITS

None

Patricia A. Pranger, CPA, MBA  
Certified Public Accountant

1044 Sugar Hill Road  
Wallingford, VT 05773

802-446-2066 • cpapat@together.net



## Therapeutic Massage

Lisa Marie Donohue, MA, LMT

The Thrive Center of the Green Mountains  
68 South Main Street • Wallingford, VT 05773

t: 802.446.2499



Gabriella Netsch  
802-558-2897

yankeedrivingschool.com  
yankeedrivingschool@comcast.net

Wallingford Country Store & Deli  
137C North Main Street  
P.O. Box 364

Wallingford, VT 05773  
(802) 446-2352

[wallingfordcountrystore@netzero.com](mailto:wallingfordcountrystore@netzero.com)

State Liquor Store  
Full Deli - Cold Cuts  
Catering

Owner: Evelyn Gould



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Gaetan Turgeon

Phone/Fax: 802-446-2916 Cell: 802-353-6531  
P.O. Box 70, Wallingford, VT 05773  
versatiledrywall@gmail.com



**Sponsor a Wallingford Student**  
Wallingford Elementary School  
(WES) Winter Sports Program

Wallingford Elementary has established a wonderful Winter Sports Program that is now part of the winter physical education curriculum at our school. The program consists of a 6-week learn to ski, snowboard or cross country ski package for all of our 1st through 6th graders. (102 students this year).

Killington/Pico Resort & Mountain Meadows Resort gave us the greatly reduced rate of \$60/\$30 respectively per student for the entire 6 week program which includes lessons, lift tickets and equipment rentals.

Even with this very reduced rate, some families in our school are still unable to afford this opportunity. We are looking for community members to "Sponsor a Child" to make this program available to every student! We appreciate the community support we've received the past two years; Together we can work to keep our families healthy, happy, and active during our long Vermont Winters. Participating in the great abundance of available winter sports helps our local children be able to do that.

If you are willing and able to support the WES Winter Sports Program, please send a check for \$30 per student (cross country skiing) or \$60 per student (ski/snowboarding) to WES at P.O. Box 309, Wallingford, VT 05773.



**Wallingford Wrestling Club has Arrived**

Wallingford resident Tom Jones is working on starting a wrestling club here in town. Tom's mission is to generate support and interest in wrestling which he believes is one of the purest form of sport. Participants will learn not only wrestling techniques but also learn life skills such as discipline, responsibility, dedication and interest. It will be operated as a USAW Association Club; it will be located at 34 Maple Street next to Family Dollar and open to all ages from Monday-Friday 3-7 p.m. and Sunday 8-11 a.m. At this time, donations are being sought in the form of cash, time, equipment, building materials, etc. You can reach Tom at 802-558-2024 or thomasjones2010@hotmail.com.

**Annual Rotary Pork Dinner Community Fundraiser**

Saturday, January 30th 5-7 p.m. at the Rotary building on Main Street

We will again be serving our roast pork dinner with garlic mashed potatoes, sauerkraut, spinach/red beet salad, assorted breads, beverages and home-made pies. Doors open at 5 p.m., and we will serve until 7 p.m. Adult dinner are \$12 and children \$6. Take-outs will also be available.

We hope you come out and support this benefit dinner which helps fund our Mill River scholarships efforts.

**Lights on for Safety**

I wanted to speak to you today about a program that a large number of communities have found very beneficial in assisting emergency services in finding your homes in time of need.

As you can imagine, it is sometimes difficult for emergency crews to find your address in inclement weather, in the darkness of night, and sometimes even during the day. If you could make sure that your house number is prominently displayed so it may be seen from the street easily by incoming emergency services that would be of great help.

The program "Lights on for Safety", will also help us find your house when seconds count, the program is very simple, after you call 911 and request assistance, if you could turn on every light that you can get to in your house safely, this will make your house stand out as we approach. A couple of rules we need to be careful of, if there is any smell of gas, DO NOT turn on or shut off any lights, just evacuate the building, also do not re-enter the building to turn lights on, if you can just turn lights on, on your way out of the building, this will help us to great deal in finding your house more quickly.

Another part of the program as well, is if you do not have the chance to turn on lights inside your house, if you could turn the four way flashers on in your car or cars, this will also help us find your house in the dark and make your house stand out to the emergency workers who are doing their best to assist you in your time of need.

Anything you can do to help us help you, is greatly appreciated by your Fire Department. Again as always thank you for your time and please be safe

Michael Hughes, Fire Chief

**NOTICE of NEW DATE for WALLINGFORD DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD (DRB) PUBLIC HEARING**

On Friday FEBRUARY 5, 2016 the DRB will review Application #16-01 by Cumberland Farms Inc., to demolish their existing facility and rebuild a new convenience store and gasoline station at 309 N. Main St. (US Rt.7) in Wallingford Village. The Hearing will start at 7:00 pm, and any Interested Parties are to be in attendance; or have submitted written testimony; by 7:15 pm or they may forfeit their right to appeal the decision of the DRB in VT Environmental Court. A complete copy of the Application is available for review or purchase at the Hearing Location: Town Clerk's Office, 75 School St. Wallingford.

**Green Mountain Conservation Camp**

Green Mountain Conservation Camp is turning 50 this year! The mission of GMCC is to educate youth about Vermont's natural resources. Campers participate in hands-on activities that teach them about wildlife, safe use of firearms, fishing, and other related outdoor activities. Our camps are for children 12-14, with advanced sessions for children up to age 16.

Enrollment can be done online at <http://tinyurl.com/GMCCcampinfo-EPR>, or by contacting Jan Finn, the Education Programs Registrar at (802) 828-1460 to request a paper application. Tuition is \$250 per youth. A limited number of scholarships are available based on financial need. For scholarship information, visit the above website.

2016 Work Weekend-May 14 & 15,  
Edward F. Kehoe Camp, 636 Point of Pines Road,  
Castleton. For more information, call 802-461-6487  
or email [FWGMCC@vermont.gov](mailto:FWGMCC@vermont.gov).

**Dear Wallingford Families and Friends,**

In mid-December, the Vermont Board of Education approved the proposal to merge Tinmouth, Wallingford, Shrewsbury, Clarendon, and Mill River School Districts into a regional educational district. This is not a merger of schools, it's a merger of school boards, with six becoming one. I encourage you to review the details of the proposal on the Rutland South Supervisory Union website ([www.rssu.org](http://www.rssu.org)). There will also be an informational forum in **Wallingford at the Elementary School on February 9 and 23 from 6:30-7:30 pm** that will provide you with the opportunity to ask questions of the Study Committee members who designed the merger proposal.

The impact of this merger on the Wallingford Community as a whole is positive. The benefits realized by our students include centralized finance, transportation, special education and curriculum. Additionally, the State of Vermont will support this merger through tax incentives for the community and by covering the expenses associated with the merger.

Under the leadership of Superintendent, David Younce and with guidance and support from Asst. Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, Brooke Farrell, Director of Technology, Brian Hill and the other building administrators, we have already begun the work of "**acting as a single, unified school district**", and have seen the benefits. The potential for realizing even more benefits is great." and already see great benefits and the potential for more is great.

- Grade or content level teachers meeting and working on data driven instruction to improve learning for all RSSU students.

- SU committees working to choose a common curriculum to meet the expectations of the common core standards. Providing uniform professional development on the common curriculum to maximize implementation and fidelity of the new programs.

- Centralized and coordinated technology plan, professional development and support for implementation of using technology to differentiate instruction, engage our learners and maximize each students potential with the implementation of act 77, personalized learning plans.

- Part time employees in our schools could have a full time position in different schools for greater consistency of implementation of the new national Art, PE and Music standards.

- Consistency and support of Act 166 which supports publicly funded PREK programs.

- In the words of Dr. David Hargreaves - "Today, most innovation is the activity of networked teams, not individuals." In regards to networking he says: "Teachers need to share good practice and transfer it rapidly." Teachers will have opportunity, structure, and a guidance to share what works best for students. A common, high level of expectations to prepare students for life benefits all stakeholders. Doing this with schools that share a common vision and know one another allows for individual differences and nuances.

Having the united Supervisory Union's support and cooperation is essential to our operation and stability. The centralization of transportation has lessened the

burden on our school and lowered the overall cost to the whole district. The collaboration in academic areas has provided a clear and sound educationally researched based direction; this alone helps to ensure that all of our kids have an equal opportunity to a high quality education and improved learning.

The law, Act 46, that is driving district mergers throughout Vermont provides that in 2018 the state will produce a mandatory school district merger plan. If Wallingford residents do not approve this merger, we are at the mercy of the state and we must join a state-designated district. If this were to transpire, Wallingford would have no voice in the decision.

The communities of Wallingford, Tinmouth, Shrewsbury, and Clarendon will decide on the merger proposal on March 1, 2016. In the interim, I urge you to read the proposal and attend the forum on February 9 or 23rd and the information meeting at the school town meeting on February 29. Your vote matters to the students at Wallingford!

Sincerely,  
Helen Richards-Peelle  
Principal  
Wallingford Elementary School

#### Points from the Pastor's Pen

-Dave Bentley, Wallingford Baptist Church

#### Why does being a part of a church family make a difference?

I love the church. It's the center of my life and has been since childhood. I grew up in the church. Every time the doors were open I was there. It's the place where I was led to the knowledge of God, where I learned about the life and death of Jesus Christ, and where I gained the knowledge of salvation and eternal life through faith. It's where I learned how to pray, how to sing, how to worship, how to love, and how to serve. It is where as a young man I experienced the leading of the Spirit of God directing me to a life of ministry. I met my wife through youth activities in church. We raised our children in the church, and now our grandchildren, too. The church touches every part of my life—in fact you could say it is my life.

People tell me that they are glad that has worked out for me, but it's not for them. Many claim that they can't find any relevance in the church to their life. I wonder, however, if people have really explored what is available to them through participation in the life of the church. Here are just a few things that the church offers, and that most people I know can benefit from:

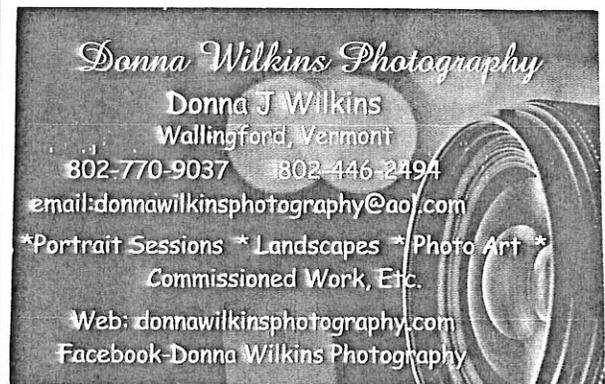
- ~A family to belong to.
- ~Wisdom to live by.
- ~Help in times of need.
- ~Lessons that impact life.
- ~Connection with something greater.
- ~Knowledge of life and eternity.

People spend so much time and effort finding reasons and excuses for not being part of a church family. If only they could invest a portion of that energy in looking for a church to connect with in their life, I am convinced that they would find a place to belong and a mission in which they could participate.

Perhaps First Baptist Church of Wallingford is not the church they would choose. Believe it or not, that is not my purpose. My goal is that people would find a place where they can connect with God and with other believers. On the other hand, perhaps FBCW is exactly that church for you. You will never know until you step out and try. Find the church in your area where you can connect, and commit to attending for a period of time, at least one or two months consistently. I know you will locate a family of God where you will be welcome and where you can connect and serve the living God.

Blessings,

Dave Bentley, Pastor  
First Baptist of Wallingford  
446-2020



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## Report from the School Board

It is again my pleasure to issue a brief report on behalf of the Wallingford School Board. I say brief because time and space will only allow for a quick overview of everything that has transpired over the past year.

The building project is very nearly completed. At the time of this writing there is still a problem with one of the heat recovery units on the roof. It is functional, but the automatic controls are not working properly. Our contractors are working with engineers to resolve the issue, and hopefully we can report all is well by the time Town Meeting rolls around.

The rest of the building improvements are serving us well, but of course we will still be in need of doing something with the heating system in the near future. As promised, the board pursued grant monies to support installation of a pellet boiler system to work in concert with one of our oil-fired boilers. We did have an opportunity to receive up to \$75,000 from the Vermont Clean Energy Development Fund, but it required us to have at least 70% of the total project costs in hand before applying. A special vote to that end was held in the fall, but the proposal failed to pass muster coming in with 90 in favor and 97 opposed. A disappointment, to be sure...but the good news is a mild December and low fuel oil prices have helped keep us well within our heating budget so far this winter. And speaking of saving tax dollars, we discovered whilst reviewing pay orders at a recent board meeting that our electric bill now shows how much our solar panels are producing. For that month the building consumed just about 9,400 kilowatt-hours, but we produced over 500 of that ourselves! That savings will only increase as the sun climbs higher in the sky. Factoring in converting our kitchen appliances from electric to propane, installing heat recovery units and more efficient controls for our heating system, and adding insulation to the roof and entire exterior of the building should result in some good news for Wallingford taxpayers when we report out next year.

Of course one of the biggest challenges...or perhaps opportunities, depending upon your point of view...school boards are currently working with is Act 46. Under the law, boards are required to either come up with a plan for a new governance structure or have the state come up with a plan for us. In Rutland South we have opted to design our own plan, which turns out to be quite similar to a plan for voluntary consolidation in 2007. Two very important pieces Act 46 allows for, which were not available in '07, are protection for our small schools and some level of tax relief. We also now have the town of Tinmouth in our supervisory union...a happy addition to our community of schools.

At the polls you will be voting on all of the usual items...mainly Wallingford and Mill River budgets and board members...as well as a couple of articles on Act 46. For the latter, the questions will be on forming a new union school district and who will sit on that board of directors (Wallingford would have four seats on the eleven-member board). We are calling the new district the "White Rocks Unified School District" as a place-holder for the ballot; if the merger is approved the final name will be selected by the new board from suggestions from citizens of Clarendon, Shrewsbury, Tinmouth and Wallingford. Full details on the proposal can be found at [www.rssu.org](http://www.rssu.org) under "RSSU Act 153 Merger - Public Meetings and Resources". I am also available to answer any questions you may have; you can e-mail me at [kfredette@rssu.org](mailto:kfredette@rssu.org) or call me at 446-3108.

Wallingford Elementary has seen some changes to staff over the year, with more to come. At the end last school year we bade fond adieus to special education paraeducator Nancy Seward, administrative assistant Kelly Shannon, and custodial assistant Dan Tatro. All provided outstanding service in their times here, and we wish them all the best in the future. We now welcome Melissa Rosato, Susan Dixon and Rodney Stork to WES.

At the end of this school year we will say farewell to Charlene Lundeen, who has served as our School Nurse for 16 years, and Carie Dinnan, our Librarian and Tech/Media Specialist who also served previously as a classroom teacher, and as chair of the school board before that!

And last but certainly not least, Mary Grabowski has decided it's time to move on after 41 years of service to Wallingford and all of Rutland South. Not only has Mary been instrumental in helping countless students and families over the years, but she also takes on overseeing the day-to-day operations of the school whenever our building principal has business elsewhere. That's five principals over the years, by the way. I'm sure we will find someone to take Mary's space, but we can never find someone to take her place. We wish her and Charlene and Carie happy and healthy futures.

On the board side, Tara Lidstone has announced that she will not be seeking reelection. Tara will be embarking on a new career and worries that the demands of that will not let her focus appropriate energies on board work. While we appreciate that, we will certainly miss her thoughtfulness and balance during our deliberations. She has been a solid board member, and we of course wish her well.

The proposed FY'17 expenditure budget we present to voters for approval is \$2,398,065, including a request for \$25,000 for our Building Sinking Fund. This is up \$86,334, or 3.73% from the current fiscal year, and still \$134,076 less than our peak expenditures of FY'09. The board decided to ask for an additional \$7,000 for the sinking fund to shore up that reserve, again knowing that our boilers are approaching the end of their anticipated life spans. We also opted to add a total of \$7,500 into Activities: \$6,000 to support our Winter Sports Program and \$1,500 for the Four Winds program. The rest of the increase is to cover a 7.9% jump in health insurance costs, and contractual raises for staff and administrators that are anticipated to end up around 3.0%.

We enjoy a benefit this year of counting a few more pupils...preschoolers who have moved up into Kindergarten and hence weigh in to the calculation more...and the Mill River Board has once again made hard decisions to push their portion of the Wallingford tax down slightly. We anticipate a residential tax rate increase of just under two cents. Should the Act 46 merger be approved we should see a decrease. Please see the 10-Year Tax Comparison chart in the Town Report for estimates of these figures...as always, subject to last-minute changes from Montpelier.

We look forward to seeing you at Town Meeting to answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Fredette, for the Wallingford Board

\* \* \* For Sale \* \* \*

Eastlake Caning Chairs

Call Joan Kelley at 446-2691