



# WALLINGFORD NEWS

FEBRUARY 2019

## TOWN CLERK & TREASURER'S OFFICE NEWS

**Town Clerk & Treasurer's Office Hours:**  
Monday-Thursday-8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Friday 8:00-11:30 a.m.  
802-446-2336  
townclerk@wallingfordvt.com  
**The front door has an after-hours mail slot.**  
(Please do not leave cash)

***The Town Hall will be closed on Monday, February 18th in observance of President's Day. The Transfer Station will be open.***

### **ANNUAL SCHOOL MEETING**

Thursday, February 21  
7 p.m.

MRUHS library at 2321 Middle Road,  
N. Clarendon  
View the school warning at  
<http://www.wallingfordvt.com/town-meeting>.

### **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

Monday, March 4  
7 p.m.

Wallingford Elementary School  
View the town warning at  
<http://www.wallingfordvt.com/town-meeting>.

### **VOTING**

Polls Open—Tuesday, March 5  
10 a.m.—7 p.m.  
Wallingford Town Hall

### **VOTER INFORMATION**

For March 5, Same Day voter registration is now in effect in Vermont allowing voters to register when they go to the polls. New voters are required by the "Help America Vote Act" to show a driver's license or provide the last four digits of their social security number. Voters must be 18 years old by March 5. Absentee Ballots are available. Ballots can be picked up in person (by the voter only) or mailed to you. To be counted, completed ballots must be dropped off at the Town Office by the close of the office on March 4, or they can be delivered to the poll site on Election Day by 7 p.m. closing. Vote on Tuesday, March 5, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Call the Town Office at 446-2336 with questions.



***The Highway Department would like to remind residents they are welcome to take a bucket of sand from the municipal sand pile at the Town Garage on River Street for use on their own driveways and walkways. However, the municipal sand pile is not for commercial use or resale.***



### **It's Time to Register Your Dog for 2019**

All dogs, six months of age or older, must be registered annually at the Town Clerk's Office by April 1<sup>st</sup>. A valid rabies certificate must be submitted, and we're happy to issue licenses through the mail. Fees are \$10 for spayed/neutered; otherwise, it's \$14.

We'll be holding our annual dog/cat rabies clinic in March. Watch for further details.

Cut off date for submissions will be the 23rd of each month.

Editor: Julie Sharon  
Town Clerk & Treasurer  
75 School Street  
Wallingford VT 05773

Conservation Commission	4th Monday	6:30 p.m. Town Hall
Energy Committee	1st Tuesday	6:30 p.m. Town Hall
Planning Commission	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m. Town Hall
Prudential Committee	2nd & 4th Wednesday	6:00 p.m. Town Hall
Recreation Committee	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m. Town Hall
Selectboard	1st & 3rd Monday	6:30 p.m. Town Hall
Mill River Unified S.D. Board	1st Wednesday 3rd Wednesday	7:00 p.m. Mill River Union H.S. 7:00 p.m. school rotation
Wallingford Rotary	Every Monday except holidays	7:00 a.m. Rotary
Bone Builders	Every Tuesday & Thursday	8:30 a.m. Library
Wallingford Vol Fire Dept. Training	Every Tuesday	6:30 p.m. Wallingford Fire Station
\$1.00 Community Breakfast	Last Friday of every month	6:30 a.m. Wallingford Cong. Church
Wallingford Food Shelf	Every Tuesday & Thursday	9 a.m.-Noon Town Hall
EW Vol Fire Dept. Training	First Monday of every month	8:00 p.m. EW Fire Station
Bingo	First Sunday of every month	11:00 a.m. open/Bingo @ 1:00 p.m. Maple Valley Grange
Lego Club	Every Saturday	10:00 a.m. Gilbert Hart Library
Library Board	2nd Tuesday	7 p.m. Gilbert Hart Library
Friends Meeting	2nd Thursday of every month	9:30 a.m. Gilbert Hart Library
Foot & BP Clinic	1st Wednesday of every month	10:30 a.m. Wallingford House
Knitting Club	Every Friday	10:00 a.m. Gilbert Hart Library
<b>Children's Story Time</b>	<b>Every Wednesday-NEW DAY</b>	<b>10:30 a.m. Gilbert Hart Library</b>
Free Acupuncture	4th Tuesday of every month	5:30 p.m. The Thrive Center
Seniors Lunch	Every Monday except holidays	12:00 p.m. Wallingford Rotary Club
Yoga-\$12 per session	Every Wednesday	9:00 a.m. Gilbert Hart Library

## FEBRUARY'S GOINGS ON

Whist	Friday	8th	1:00 p.m. Wallingford House
Friends Meeting	Thursday	14th	9:30 a.m. Gilbert Hart Library
Family Fun Day	Sunday	17th	Noon—Stone Meadow
President's Day Holiday	Monday	18th	Town Hall closed
Whist	Friday	22nd	1:00 p.m. Wallingford House
Dinner & Move Night	Saturday	23rd	5:00 p.m. Rotary



Read the Wallingford meetings minutes at [www.wallingfordvt.com](http://www.wallingfordvt.com)

- **Development Review Board**
- **Energy Committee**
- **Planning Commission**
- **Recreation Committee**
- **Board of Civil Authority/Abatement**
- **Prudential Committee**

Seeking new ideas for the monthly town newsletter, i.e. recipes, poems, articles from town committees, book recommendations, volunteer needs/opportunities? What do you want to read about?



Would you have any interest in submitting a quarterly article on cooking, gardening, wildlife sightings, outdoor recreational favorites in Wallingford, Wallingford historical facts, fun hobbies, etc.? If so, please submit by the 23rd of each month to [townclerk@wallingfordvt.com](mailto:townclerk@wallingfordvt.com). Thank you!

## Vermont Notaries Public— Notary Law is Changing

Pursuant to Act 160, 2018, notaries public will be licensed by the Secretary of State's Office of Professional Regulation (OPR), effective December 1, 2018. This change from the county assistant judges allows notaries public to join other licensed professionals—from accountants to veterinarians—under a unified licensing system with a common interface and common administrative processes. OPR professions are served by a state-of-the-art online licensing system built to make licensing fast, convenient, transparent, and accessible from almost any web-connected device. Notary Public commission licenses will now renew on a fixed two (2) year cycle with a \$15 application fee. Some professions are exempt from fee or other requirements if acting within the scope of their official duties.

Applications must be submitted online by 1/31/19. Current commissions expire on 2/10/19.

Visit <https://www.sec.state.vt.us/professional-regulation/list-of-professions/notaries-public.aspx>.

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- Water Pumps
- Hot Air Furnaces
- Wood Boilers

### Homestead Declaration

Don't forget to file your annual Homestead Declaration Form HS-122 by April 15, regardless if you file for an extension!

### Property Tax Adjustment

You may be eligible for a property tax adjustment on your 18/19 property taxes if your property qualifies as a homestead and you meet the eligibility requirements. The Property Tax Adjustment Claim Form HS-122 is due April 15. Late filers are charged a late fee.

Don't forget to file your 2018 Property Tax Exemption for Disabled Veterans and Their Survivors, if needed, by May 1st.

Rutland County Sheriff Stephen Benard urges citizens with non-emergency concerns, such as motorists speeding, to call or email his office detailing those concerns.

His email is [Stephen.benard@vermont.gov](mailto:Stephen.benard@vermont.gov) and the Rutland County Sheriff's Department non-emergency telephone is (802)775-8002.

Reminder, for emergency calls dial 911.

TOWN & SCHOOL WEBSITES: [wallingfordvt.com](http://wallingfordvt.com) [millriverschools.org](http://millriverschools.org)

## **GILBERT HART LIBRARY NEWS** by Wendy Savery

Exciting month at the library, with an early start to the Vermont Humanities Council VT READS title for this year. The graphic novel, *March* by John Lewis, will help us commemorate African-American History month. Copies are available NOW for readers at the circulation desk, and the discussion will take place Monday, February 25 at 3:30 p.m. Get a copy, read along with others in the community this month, and come out to share your thoughts and reactions. See you soon!

Mon, Thurs & Fri: 10 – 5:00  
Wed: 10 – 8:00  
Saturday: 9 – 12:00  
Librarian Wendy Savery  
Asst. Librarian Angela French  
Telephone: 446-2685

## **HART LINES** by Nan Dubin

The Friends of Gilbert Hart Library will be holding our annual Dinner and a Movie Night on Saturday, February 23 at the Wallingford Memorial Rotary Building. Dinner will begin at 5:00 p.m., and the movie at 6:00 p.m. The menu includes meat loaf, mac and cheese, roasted vegetables, salad and rolls, plus homemade brownies, cookies and cupcakes. The evening's feature will be *How to Train Your Dragon*, a child-friendly film the whole family will enjoy! Dinner is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Come enjoy a delicious dinner and stay for some great entertainment!

Whist parties will be held at the Wallingford House at 1:00 p.m. on February 8 and 22. For more information, call Carol Pratt at 446-2843.

The next meeting of the Friends of Gilbert Hart Library will be held on February 14 at 9:30 a.m. in the Klock Room. Please join us!

The Vermont Council on Rural Development was invited by the Town of Wallingford in April of 2018 to facilitate a Community Visit in order to bring residents together to review issues and develop strategies. From that meeting, the "Communications and Events" committee was formed. It is the committee's goal to make Wallingford residents aware of happenings around town through a Facebook page, on the town website, bulletin boards and this newsletter. We are going to conduct a town wide mailing of the newsletter over the next three months to determine whether it is an important means of distributing information. We also posted a large calendar at Town Hall that shows upcoming events. You are welcome to add your organization's events to the calendar by contacting Julie or Sandi at Town Hall. Once it's on the calendar, Julie and Sandi will incorporate it into our town newsletter and on the website. Please send us your suggestions for other ways we can communicate with you.

The Communication and Events Committee will be organizing various events throughout the year. One major event we are working on is the revival of "Wallingford Day" scheduled for Saturday, July 20, 2019. We will incorporate events from past Wallingford Days and introduce some new ones. We have a large committee working very hard to put the day together for more than just Wallingford residents to enjoy. A list of the day's possibilities include: Demonstrations, Crafters, Food vendors, Children's activities, Artist's displays, Local clubs and organizations, Dance, and Fireworks. Your suggestions or ideas to make this a successful day would be appreciated. We also need volunteers and donations. See the list of contacts at the end of this article.

To be sure our residents know what is going on in Town, we are planning to erect a bulletin board on the corner of Route 7 & 140 in front of Sal's Restaurant. If you know of anyone willing to help with construction or donate the wood, please contact a member of the Communications Committee.

Finally, we need assistance with producing this newsletter so if you can make a donation or if you have an idea for articles, please let us know. Thank you for your kind assistance, and we look forward to working with you to achieve our goals.

Contacts: Barb Kaminski ([newfacefurniture@aol.com](mailto:newfacefurniture@aol.com))  
Maria French ([french.maria@gmail.com](mailto:french.maria@gmail.com))  
Barb Boucher ([barbjwb47@aol.com](mailto:barbjwb47@aol.com))  
Jennifer Galusha ([j.galusha@live.com](mailto:j.galusha@live.com))  
Sandi Switzer ([townadmin@wallingfordvt.com](mailto:townadmin@wallingfordvt.com))  
Julie Sharon ([townclerk@wallingfordvt.com](mailto:townclerk@wallingfordvt.com))

## Wallingford Day 2019

The Wallingford Events, Communications, and Engagement task force is organizing a Wallingford Day celebration on July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019! The day will bring our community and neighbors together for a celebration of our area, with vendors, non-profit organizations, music, food, activities, and fun for all.

Most of the day's events will take place at the Wallingford Recreational Area and fields. Over the next month we will be approaching local individuals, groups, organizations, and businesses to invite them to be involved in the day, through monetary and in-kind sponsorship, leading activities, demonstrating skills, offering services, selling food or crafts, etc. Anyone who is interested in participating or has questions should contact us at [wallingfordday@gmail.com](mailto:wallingfordday@gmail.com).

Our planning process is still in the very early stages but we have valuable input from residents who were involved in planning Wallingford Days in years past and from the organizers of Chittenden Day, who have generously shared their promotional material and experiences. We are also grateful for support from the Recreation Committee.

## Wallingford Winter Fun Day

Sunday 2/17

(alternate Sunday 2/24)

See Conservation Commission Facebook page for updates  
<https://www.facebook.com/Wallingford-Conservation-Commission>

12 noon - 2 pm (welcome early, stay late!)

Stone Meadow Conservation Area

Parking on Waldo Lane (or walk from Recreation Field parking)

Wallingford Conservation will be providing free hot dogs, hot chocolate, roasted marshmallows and a fire pit, sledding, cross-country skiing & snow shoeing, and a fire for warming up as part of our annual Winter Fun Day at Stone Meadow! Mark the date! Please bring your own equipment.



Enjoy the beauty of Stone Meadow  
and escape from cabin fever!  
Bring the whole family - leashed dogs welcome!

### VERMONT INCOME TAX FORMS

3 easy ways to get your forms from the  
VT Dept of Taxes

**Online**—Print forms from the Vermont  
Department of Taxes website at <https://tax.vermont.gov/tax-forms-and-publications>

**Telephone**—Order forms by calling the  
department's direct line, toll-free (855) 297-  
5600

**Email**—Order forms by  
emailing [taxforms@state.vt.us](mailto:taxforms@state.vt.us). When ordering,  
taxpayers should include full name, daytime  
phone number, mailing address, form number(s)  
and quantity needed. The average turnaround  
time for delivery of forms is about 7 to 10  
business days.

HAPPY  
PRESIDENTS  
DAY

## ROADS

**Road Commissioner:** Philip Baker (802)  
446-2131

**Town Garage Phone Number:** (802) 446-  
2472

**Road Crew Members:** Road Foreman  
Steve Lanfear, Charlie Woods and Kyle  
Eastman

### Snowplowing Reminders

Reminder - **Winter Parking Ban in effect November 15 through March 31.** No parking allowed on Wallingford roads between the hours of 11 p.m. and 7 a.m.

It is unlawful to plow snow across a town highway or street in a way that leaves snow in the roadway. Violation of this law may result in a \$100.00 fine plus the actual costs of repairing any damage resulting from such obstruction of the highway. (Title 19 V.S.A. 1105)

It is unlawful to cause water or ice to run onto a town highway or street in such a way that it causes damage to the highway or street, obstructs traffic, or creates unsafe conditions. (Title 19 V.S.A. 1111)

The Town of Wallingford is not responsible for vegetation, structures, fences, or mailboxes within town highway rights-of-way damaged during snowplowing. (Title 19 V.S.A. 904, 1111)

**Food Cupboard at  
Wallingford Town Hall**

**75 School Street**

**(446-2336)**

**Open Tuesdays and Thursdays**

**9 a.m. to Noon.**

Our only request is that you use it to 'help get by' and limit visits to once per month.



**BINGO**

**MAPLE VALLEY GRANGE #318**

**31 Dugway Road**

**South Wallingford**

~ Bingo-now the first Sunday of each month @ 1 p.m. Doors open at 11 a.m.

Contact Dennis Stocker at 802-353-4651 for more

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**Join Front Porch Forum ...** see what you've been missing. Wallingford's Forum started September 10, 2013. Since then, 564 Members from 880 Households have posted 4,156 Postings. It's free. It's local. And it's friendly.

Check it out at <http://FrontPorchForum.com>.

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## **WALLINGFORD SENIORS**

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

The Wallingford Senior's lunch are held weekly on Mondays at noon. Meals are served at the Wallingford Memorial Rotary building at 96 North Main Street. Reservations are required each week. Suggested donation is \$3.50. Contact Arlene Santor at 779-2258 to reserve your meal each week. She needs to hear from you by Wednesday of the preceding week. Come out and socialize with your Wallingford neighbors.

<http://www.wallingfordvt.com/wallingford-merchant-map>

**Congratulations to:**

Angela Seward and Casey Hodge who welcomed Ivy Hazel-Rose on December 28th.



**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



**VeggieVanGo**, a mobile nutrition program, will be coming to Rutland Regional Medical Center once a month to provide FREE fresh produce for people facing hunger. So if you know of an individual or family who might benefit from receiving a delivery of fresh, healthy veggies, you can help by reminding them to pick up their FREE vegetables. And if you, or members of your family could benefit from the program, we hope you'll come too.

**VeggieVanGo** will be distributing produce at the Rutland Regional Medical Center on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month from 9-10 a.m. Look for their VeggieVanGo signs to find out where to go!

**Wallingford Volunteer Fire Department**

**Non-emergency phone #446-2295**

Jr. Firefighters – Age 13-18 –

Senior Firefighters – Age 18 - ? **NEEDED.**

*We will train. Volunteers needed!*

Age 16- seniors needed for work details, etc.

Call 446-2295 for details.



Seniors are certainly welcome to join.

**Property Transfers**

Seller: Yvette Thurber, 415 North End Drive, Buyer: Alfred St. Onge, Purchase Price: \$0, Assessed Value: \$27,900.

Seller: Town of Wallingford, 1631 Vt Rte 103, Buyer: Keith Hawkins, Purchase Price: \$1,500, Assessed Value: \$18,100.

Sellers: Bruce & Lisa Eells, 1221 US Rte 7, Buyers: Keith & Rebecca Robertson, Purchase Price: \$200,000, Assessed Value: \$231,000.

Sellers: Richard & Patricia Smith, 69 Church Street, Buyer: The 1840 House Inc., Purchase Price: \$165,000, Assessed Value: \$182,700.

**HOME FOR SALE-SHREWSBURY**

Three bedroom, full bath, large country kitchen, two car attached garage, separate single garage, town maintained road 1.8 acres \$119,900 (802) 492-3466

**BURN PERMITS**

Fire Warden Dave Gilman 446-3100

Deputy Fire Warden Art Seward 259-2277

By State statute, a permit from the Fire Warden is needed for all open fires. Burning of garbage is prohibited by law. For general questions about open burning, please contact Dave Shepard at (802) 272-4088.

## Our School Taxes

By Andy Richards-Peele, Mill River School Board Finance Committee Chair

This is really about our schools, taxes, a bond issue, continuous improvement, and what the Mill River School Board will have on the Town Meeting Day ballot. There is a good deal to discuss, please read on because this all comes down to the check we write and give to our Town Clerk and Treasurer, Julie Sharon this year.

We have reduced staffing over the last three years to reflect the decrease in enrollment and have consolidated services. These actions have allowed our budgets to stay fairly level. We have also benefited from the declining tax rate reduction we received for stepping up to Act 46 and merging promptly. This year it is only two cents on the tax rate. The school board and administrators are committed to making our district schools some of the best in the state. If you look at realtors' ads, houses in our district are frequently noted as being in the "Mill River School District" which is an indicator of the recognition we are starting to receive.

Working toward excellence, the board and administrators made two decisions which have a direct impact upon the 2019-2020 budget. First is an expansion of our PreK (Pre-kindergarten) programming for three- and four-year-olds at all four elementary schools. This will include the option of after school childcare for families that need it. Research has documented early education increases success for all students. Many working families with three- and four-year-olds have not been able to take advantage of Pre-K because our three-year-old program ends at 12:30 and is only for three days. Many four-year-olds need after school for 3 to 5:30. By adding the childcare component (for which fees will be charged to those who can afford them) we look forward to making this programming available to more of our families.

We are also enhancing our focus on the arts at Mill River Union High School. In addition to the immediate benefit of more arts-related courses for Mill River students, this will continue to solidify the recognition of Mill River as being the premier arts school of the region. The reality of decreasing student enrollment in Vermont is that area high schools are in competition for students from tuition-paying high school choice towns. Steps we take now to move our schools toward recognition as the schools to attend will help us if local enrollment decreases.

The school board is also asking voters to approve a bond for \$2.3 million to fund energy efficiency upgrades. This bond, called a Performance Contract bond, will be tax neutral, meaning it will have no impact upon taxes. The savings and built-in efficiencies from the performance contract are guaranteed by the contractor to equal the cost of the bond. If it doesn't, the contractor must pay the shortfall. The bond will allow us to replace and upgrade heating and ventilation systems, install solar panels at Mill River, and reduce lighting costs. Yes, the district voters did pass a bond for \$3.5 million just last year, so why the 2nd bond? The first bond only covered the biggest and most immediately needed building maintenance work (primarily roofing, siding, insulation, and building envelope). Frankly we did not think voters were prepared to shoulder the full cost of \$6 million in repairs. We knew that either we would do the remainder with annual budgets, or perhaps we could make a performance contract work – as we are now ready to do. This second bond allows us to continue with the important

and necessary improvements (which must be addressed and paid for at some point) while not increasing taxes.

## The Numbers

Now the numbers. These numbers are for the budget lines with the largest changes. With a budget this size, there are so many changes it would take pages to list them all.

## Staffing changes

-6.5 positions are being eliminated  
+5.45 positions added for the expanded pre-K program and childcare  
+1.5 positions added for the expanded arts focus at Mill River

There are other staffing changes which include combining positions and reassignment of duties but defy a simple + or - symbols and classification

+ 4.60 is the TOTAL change in staffing positions (not including special education)

## Other changes

+ \$295,000 for contractual salary increases  
+\$150,000 for increased health insurance premiums  
- \$68,154 in energy efficiency savings if the bond passes, which would pay for...  
+\$68,154 in bond expense if the bond passes  
\$17,686,679 is the TOTAL of the district budget, this is an increase of \$859,453 from the current year, which is an increase of 5.11%

The State establishes our tax rate after the Legislature goes home in June. We can only estimate it. The tax rate for the District is the same in each town. However, the state applies a number called "Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) to account for different assessment practices in each town. If property in a town is underassessed (worth more), the CLA will raise the school tax rate. If it is worth less than the assessment, the CLA will lower the rate. After the state completes its calculations, we ESTIMATE tax rates by town are potentially impacted as follows:

Clarendon	4.32%
Shrewsbury	6.78%
Tinmouth	4.19%
Wallingford	8.31%

Despite the difference in tax rates, a house actually worth \$200,000 will pay the same amount in each town. The state changes the tax rate rather than assessments.

If you have questions, please come to the Mill River annual meeting or contact any of your Wallingford School Board representatives, Bjorn Behrendt, Maria French, Tammy Heffernan or Paul Rondinone. The Annual Meeting is 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 28th at the Mill River High School library. That meeting will include an informational meeting about the bond issue.

Patricia A. Pranger, CPA, MBA  
Certified Public Accountant

1044 Sugar Hill Road  
Wallingford, VT 05773

802-446-2066 • cpapat@together.net  
vermontel



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Connie K. Berger  
Manager

802-446-2355  
info@roaringbrookfurniture.com  
www.roaringbrookfurniture.com



### Christopher J. Book Aldous Funeral Home

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802-773-6252  fax 802-773-9393  
cell 802-770-3707 - aldousfh@comcast.net  
www.aldousfuneralhome.com

### ALTERATIONS

### MENDING

### GENERAL SEWING

### BONNIE GAINER

### 446-2290



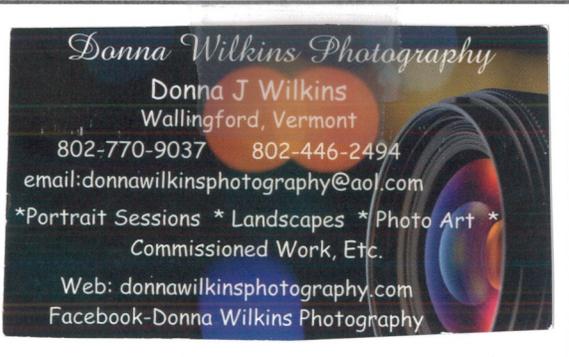
### Donna Wilkins Photography

Donna J Wilkins  
Wallingford, Vermont

802-770-9037 802-446-2494  
email: donnawilkinsphotography@aol.com

\*Portrait Sessions \* Landscapes \* Photo Art \*  
Commissioned Work, Etc.

Web: donnawilkinsphotography.com  
Facebook-Donna Wilkins Photography



### Tammy Ann Heffernan Esq.

Wills - Estate Planning - Probate - Guardianship  
Small Business Formation - Real Estate  
Veterans Administration Accredited Attorney

tammy.heffernan@mac.com  
802-779-0457

P.O. Box 284  
8 Centerville Road  
E. Wallingford, VT 05742

Advertise for a year for only \$50! Contact Town Clerk Julie Sharon at 446-2336.