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Presumpscot River Revival Races returns to Dundee Park

By Abby Wilson

Ready, Set, Paddle! The Presumpscot River Revival Race is returning after an absence of three decades.

Join the Friends of the Presumpscot River (FOPR) on Saturday, Oct. 18 at Dundee Park for a day of friendly paddle competition and celebration. The 2.5-mile race is set to commence at 10 a.m. but the festivities at the river will span several hours to include paddling, food trucks, leaf-peeping,

The goal of the event is to "bring awareness and community to the river" says Leah Zwain of FOPR.

She is a FOPR intern who is enrolled in the master's program for Policy, Planning, and Management, with a focus on sustainability, at the University of Southern Maine. As a registered Maine Guide and experienced whitewater paddler, Zwain is enthusiastic about getting people on

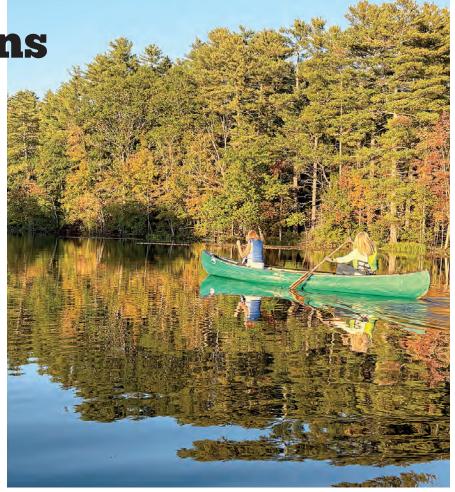
FOPR have been increasing their outreach efforts to help build connection with the river and to each other. The organization provides that opportunity to connect through Community Paddle and Grill events and Evening Paddles on the Presumpscot. They also host conversations and presentations at local libraries or yacht clubs, partnering with other nonprofits such as Friends of Casco Bay.

This event is part of that larger effort to focus more on community outreach.

Stephanie Noyes, a FOPR Board Member of two years, says, "Any profits will go back into the community."

Some of the proceeds from the races will help with the FOPR school outreach program. It is designed to get students in Gorham, Westbrook, Windham, Portland, and Falmouth out on the water, and the program introduces children to the river. Students are taught paddling techniques and learn about the Wabanaki and industrial history of the waterway, while also discussing the future of the

While funds are being raised for see CANOE RACE Page 4



Friends of the Presumpscot River are sponsoring the Presumpscot River Revival Races for canoes, kayaks and paddleboards at 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 18 at Dundee Park in Windham. The public is welcome to attend, and festivities will include paddling, food trucks, leafpeeping and more with a goal of bringing awareness and community to the river. PHOTO BY LEAH ZWAIN

Towns consider how to repurpose middle schools

By Dina Mendros

STAFF WRITER

Towns consider how to repurpose middle schools

In September 2027, the new Windham Raymond Middle School is set to open, welcoming about 1,000 students from Windham and Raymond fifth to eighth grades. Not only is the new school exciting for students and staff of RSU 14, but it also creates an opportunity for both towns to repurpose the two schools that will be closing to provide benefits for local

Committees have been set up and are mulling over ideas for how to best use these spaces. Proposals range from a community center, a rec center, a new library, moving town hall there and a combination of these and

In Raymond, a Jordan-Small Middle School Visioning Committee was formed and came up with a slew of

"The JSMS Visioning Committee is recommending to the Select Board and the future Building Development Committee to use the school building to house the Parks and Recreation Department, the Library, Town Hall Offices and Community Services," Committee Chair Peter Lockwood said in an email earlier this year. "Our focus is to create a Community



Repurposing committees for the towns of Windham and Raymond will make recommendations about the best uses for Jordan-Small Middle School and Windham Middle School once the new Windham Raymond Middle school opens in September 2027. Ownership of both properties will be transferred to the towns at that time. PHOTOS BY ED PIERCE

idents of Raymond."

After the work that committee was tasked with was completed, the committee assembled a report, presented it to the Select Board and was disbanded. The town is in the process of creating another committee, and on Sept. 16, it asked Raymond Town Manager Joseph Crocker to come up with a plan to form a new committee to move the process forward.

Select Board member Kayla Gonzalez asked Crocker to come up with a plan on what the committee should look like, such as the number of members and who should be included along with a timeline.

The formation of a new committee

a Select Board workshop and again later that day during the board's regular meeting, but they ran out of time. Instead, it will be taken as an agenda item during a future meeting.

"It's going to be important to speak I think publicly on how we want to move forward with it," Raymond Select Board Denis Morse said when postponing the discussion.

He did say that "a lot of the Jordan-Small Middle School could be used immediately without spending a lot of money because the town already has to start to absorb all the utilities and expenses."

The town of Windham is also working toward a plan on how to

Center that supports all ages and res- was to be taken up on Sept. 16 during reuse the Windham Middle School once the new school opens and the old one is no longer needed by the RSU 14 School District.

> The Middle School Repurpose Advisory Committee serves as an advisory body to the Town Council and to analyze the potential re-uses for the school and a potential benefit as a community center.

The 20-member committee charged with, during its deliberations, to use a community engage-→ see SCHOOLS Page 28



Yard Sale Confidential

Sometime around 2003, my life took a radical turn when I discovered a new way to save money, explore my surroundings, meet new people and acquire treasures I could only dream about finding previously. For the first five decades of my existence on this planet, I had never attended a yard sale, garage sale, church rummage sale or stepped inside of a thrift shop and was proud of my choice to avoid such a thing.

But 22 years ago in October, a friend asked if I would go to a neighborhood sale and help carry items that she was going to purchase to her car. My first impression of walking through this massive sale was sheer astonishment about what some people were selling and the next-to-nothing amount that people were paying for what they were buying.

I made my first purchase for just \$2, and it was a nice working wristwatch easily worth 50 times what I paid for it. I asked my friend if this neighborhood sale took place every weekend and she said no, this was an annual event. But she did inform me that just about every weekend, people hosted various yard sales and garage sales throughout the county we lived in.

On the following weekend, I drove to a different town after seeing an ad in the newspaper for a "Huge Sale." This one wasn't like the neighborhood sale at all. The driveway was strewn with baby clothes, children's toys, cat perches and an old set of encyclopedias from the 1950s. I went through everything, said thank you to the seller, and left.

OCTOBER 10
1845 - The United States
Naval Academy opens in
Annapolis, Maryland with 50
midshipmen in the first class.
1846 - Triton, the largest
moon of the planet Neptune,
is discovered by English

1887 – Thomas A. Edison of New Jersey establishes the Edison Phonograph Company.

astronomer William Lassell.

1913 – Construction of the Panama Canal is completed with U.S. President Woodrow Wilson in attendance to witness the event.

1933 – The first synthetic laundry detergent "Dreft," by Procter & Gamble, goes on sale in America.

1959 – Pan American World Airways announces the creation of the first global airline service.

1964 – NBC airs the 1964 Summer Olympics opening ceremony from Tokyo, marking the first time that the Olympics has been broadcast live.

1965 – The Red Baron makes his first appearance in the "Peanuts" comic strip in newspapers across the U.S. Once more a week later, I was driving to Dunkin Donuts when I saw a sign tacked up on a telephone pole advertising a garage sale on the next street over. I stopped and could not believe what the guy who lived there was selling. It was a bunch of men's argyle sweaters in just my size, and he only wanted \$3 for each one. Because I wanted three of them, he told me I could take the fourth and last one he was selling for just \$1. I walked away from there thinking it was a steal and perhaps the best \$10 that I had ever spent.

After years of paying full price for clothing, I decided that if I could find those nice sweaters, there must be other available bargains out there. Lo and behold, I discovered \$4 pairs of pants, \$3 men's dress shirts, \$3 leather belts and an array of like-new jackets and coats substantially less expensive than when purchased brand new. Years later I can confess that most of my wardrobe comes from this method and the only new clothing items in my closet are either Christmas or birthday gifts from my wife and family.

When I tried to explain my yard sale excursions on Saturday morning to my elderly mother, she looked at me quizzically and asked, "Why would you want someone else's used underwear?" I explained that I wasn't looking to purchase anyone else's underwear, but I was turning up some interesting things at these types of sales.

For example, have you seen how much retailers want for new table lamps these days? When my wife and I had purchased a home and were setting about to furnish it, we went to many different furniture stores and department stores trying to find just the right one for several different spots both upstairs and downstairs. Nothing was to our liking, and the cost we were looking at was exceeding \$100 – for a small lamp.

Our next trip to the Habitat for Humanity Restore used furniture store was successful and we found just what we wanted for a fraction of what we would have paid for a new lamp. The same thing happened when we found a like-new 20,000 BTU large window air conditioner in the box there for just \$20, or a slightly used Amana microwave that has served us admirably since 2018 for \$25.

The real clincher for me was when I visited a church rummage sale and found a shoebox full of more than 200 Topps baseball cards from 1963 in excellent condition for \$6. This year my wife Nancy and I went back to that same church rummage sale, and she found a large box of fabric and sewing patterns. None of the items at this year's sale were individually priced, so you had to make an offer for things you wanted to buy. I suggested to Nancy that she start by offering \$5. She did and the seller accepted. We walked away with a treasure trove of fabric, some of which have already been transformed by Nancy and her sewing machine in clothing for the grandchildren.

We've found so many used books, dog toys, Christmas and Halloween decorations, an antique soup tureen and record albums in fantastic shape this way. Two

weekends ago, I found a brand-new Mac Davis album from the 1970s for \$2.

And after years of bargain-bin shopping, I can honestly say having visited garage sales, yard sales, rummage sales, thrift and discount shops that I have never even once spotted someone's used underwear up for sale. < ~ Ed Pierce





When you went
Trick-or-Treating,
what was your
favorite and
least favorite
Halloween candy?

"My favorite was/is Reese's cups and my least favorite was any hard candy and apples."

Miki Mayberry

"Some gave pennies, and you realize the bag of candy those pennies would buy the next day." – Cora Sullivan

"Hated candy corn, still do today." – Rob Juergens

"Best: full-size candy bars. Worst: circus peanuts; no, no, and no." – Francesco Paredon

"My favorite was Smarties and least favorite was anything with marshmallow."

– Stephen Signor

"Full-sized candies always won but the one never traded with my brother was Nestle Crunch bars." – William D. Reiner

"Favorite obviously full-size candy bars at that one house that must save all year to spoil the neighborhood kids! Least favorite raisins! Not candy, but they always were given out!"

– Tarsha Richmond

"A neighbor would give out Hershey bars with a ruler or pencil, favorite. Circus Peanuts least favorite." – Julie Mallett

"My brother and I both loved the Reese's peanut butter cups but hated Good and Plenty."

– Jennifer Harmon

"My favorite was anything chocolate and least favorite was an apple. They were mushy by the end of the night." – Denise M. Levasseur

"I hate anything with peanut butter, but my all-time favorite was always the Almond Joys."

– Laura Burrill Fletcher

"We hid the chocolate from Mom and gave Dad all the Good and Plenty."

Brandy Goodwin

"I never liked getting
Bit-o-Honeys or hard-as-arock stale Bazooka bubble
gum. But I did enjoy it when
homes would hand out Nestle
Chunky bars, Black Jack gum
or Butterfingers."

– Anne Glotchshuk

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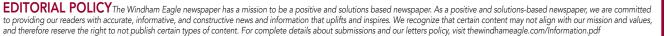




THIS WEEK'S STAFF WRITERS:
Dina Mendros, Kira Pilot, Matt Pascarella,
Kendra Raymond, Erin Rose,
& Lorraine Glowczak



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The Windham Eagle — Page 3



VFW's essay contests now open for area students

By Ed Pierce

Two popular student essay and audio contests are back and looking for local participants except this year there's a new twist to the competition.

Sponsored by Windham Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10643, the Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy contests will be accepting entries from students through Oct. 31 and for the first time ever, participants will be able to submit their essays and audio recordings digitally.

VFW Post 10643 Commander Jeff Cook says that any students in grades 6 to 12, including those who are home-schooled, are eligible to enter and express themselves on this year's topics for the Patriot's Pen or Voice of Democracy contests with cash prizes and scholarships given to the winners.

The Patriot's Pen topic for student essays and Voice of Democracy audio recordings is "How are you showing patriotism and support of our country?"

Cook is the new commander of VFW Post 10643 and assumed leadership duties this past summer.

"I feel it's extremely important for

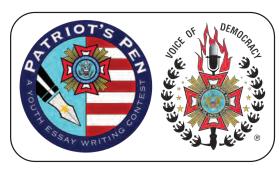
young people to be involved in creative writing and the chances to express patriotism through writing can be very fulfilling," he said. "As the new commander of the post taking over for Willie Goodman has not been easy. He was an icon to the town, and everyone knows the big smile and his infectious attitude to help make the community know about all veterans and want to help."

According to Cook, these contests are one of the top items that the VFW works on each year.

"The membership always looks forward to sitting around the table listening and reading entries and judging," Cook said. "Windham has done very well over the years with most winners coming from Windham Christian Academy. I would like to see a wider range of contestants from more schools. I don't understand sometimes why there can be a struggle to get every school involved. Why couldn't there be extra credit for students who enter?"

Serving as the Post 10643 Commander means a lot to Cook and he says it helps him be involved with the community in his own way.

"As a combat veteran who served in



Afghanistan, I still continue to serve for our local veterans," he said. "Getting young people to research and learn about past wars and the service and sacrifices made hopefully could change a young person's life to have an impact upon their community or if they choose to serve in the military."

Last year more than 60,000 students participated in these VFW contests nationwide. Local winners advance to district and if successful there, go on to state-level and national competition. The first-place VFW state winner for Maine in each competition receives a four-day trip to Washington, D.C.

Students participating in the Patriot's Pen contest must submit a 300- to 400-word essay about this year's topic. The National Patriot's Pen Prize is \$5,000 and local winners also will re-

ceive cash prizes and gifts from Post 10643. Voice of Democracy contest participants must submit a 3- to 5-minute audio recording about this year's topic. The National Voice of Democracy Prize is \$35,000 and local winners also will receive cash prizes and gifts from Post 10643.

The VFW established the Patriot's Pen program in 1995 to foster good citizenship and patriotism in young people. In 1947, the VFW's Voice of Democracy audio-essay was created to provide high school students with a special opportunity to express themselves in a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay.

For complete details and to enter the Patriot's Pen contest, go to bit. ly/3MiZI54 and for details and to enter the Voice of Democracy contest, go to bit.ly/3MgcRf2

The deadline for all student essay entries in Windham this year is Oct. 31, Cook said.

Local winners will be announced during the annual Veterans Day Observance hosted by VFW Post 10643 at the Windham Veterans Center on Tuesday, Nov. 11. <



CANOE RACE Cont. from page 1

outreach, Noyes says the true focus of the event is "everyone coming out and having a good time. Start your Saturday off with forest bathing and a few hours of fun on the water." She said that families, children, and people of all levels of canoeing experience are

If you are not an avid paddler and prefer to watch the races, bring your lawn chair, sit on the beach, and join in on the fun. The Ugly Dumpling and Fred's Fried Dough will be serving delicious sweet and savory foods there.

For those looking to compete, pre-registration on Eventbrite is encouraged. However, you can also register at Dundee Park starting at 8 a.m. Oct. 18.

It costs \$25 per boat, and you can choose to canoe, kayak, or compete in stand-up paddleboard. There are multiple divisions with winners in all three categories.

Salmon Stew Outdoors, a paddle powered recreation company, is generously sponsoring the safety crew and providing the equipment needed to patrol the river. Certified Maine Guides make up the volunteer crew.

Other partners for the event in-



clude the Town of Windham who are reopening the park specifically for the race

At the event, you can browse the FOPR information table where you can learn more about Dundee Park, the river, and the organization. Merchandise such as t-shirts, dry bags, books, and more will be available for purchase.

"We are excited to celebrate the

ongoing revival of the Presumpscot," Zwain said. "The event is an opportunity to celebrate 33 years of restoration efforts made by FOPR."

It is also a celebration of change. This race was last held 30 years ago in 1995. Originally an event hosted by the owner of Maine Path & Paddle Guides, Master Recreational Maine Guide, and FOPR board member, David Butler, the event has returned 30 years later bigger and better than ever.

Competitors will be paddling the same exact route as in 1995.

We are coming back to the event to see what's changed," Zwain said. "It's an opportunity to celebrate 30-plus years of restoration but also to notice the river's rewilding."

Many of us remember that Dundee Park taught us a lesson last summer after a malfunction at Dundee Dam in Windham led to the draining of Dundee Pond and an ancient and dam-less river returned.

The disappearance of the pond came as a total shock to everyone, but the formation of this river and what was revealed below, even more so. Last year, standing at Dundee Park and looking out over the lost river, it was difficult not to notice its dramatic features.

Stumps that were hundreds of years old were revealed and plants which were dormant for just as long began to see the sun once again. Birds

foraging in the barren pond bed triggered the memory that riparian life once thrived among the shores of the river.

After experiencing this rapid rewilding and a dam-less Presumpscot River, we can all rejoice in the river's restoration while also enjoying the recreational benefits of Dundee Pond.

Zwain says, "Bringing more of these events to southern Maine is important for the health of the river and the health of our community." The more that these places are valued, the more they will be protected.

"Healthy waters equal healthy communities," says Zwain. It is important to appreciate the asset but also to have fun and celebrate what an amazing resource the river is.

River enthusiasts are encouraged to connect with FOPR at this event. You can chat with volunteers at the FOPR table about ways to get involved such as assisting with as in water quality monitoring, advocating for dam removal, helping school groups on the river, or joining a committee.

Fish biologists are particularly wanted as well as those with expertise on rivers, ecology, and history. However, "any skills can be put to use," says Noyes.

Stay tuned for opportunities to get involved, sign up for email newsletter, and learn more about FOPR at www. presumpscotriver.org. <



for the State Referendum & Municipal Ballot for the November 4, 2025 Elections

You can vote absentee by:

- 1). Coming into the Clerk's Office during business hours*
- 2). Calling 892-1900 to have a ballot mailed to you,
- 3). Have a family member sign out your ballots

IF YOU NEED TO REGISTER TO VOTE:

the Registrar of Voters is available at Town Hall during regular business hours*, & at the polls on Election Day from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Please bring your I.D. & proof of residency. If your address or name has changed, you must update it before voting.

OUR LATE NIGHT & LAST DAY TO ABSENTEE VOTE WILL BE THURS., OCTOBER 30 UNTIL 7:00 P.M.

All ballots must be returned to the Clerk's Office no later than 8:00 p.m. on November 4 to be counted.

For your convenience you may deposit your absentee ballot envelopes in the Secure Ballot Drop Box at the Town Hall's front entrance, bring them inside or mail them back to us using one postage stamp

Election Day voting will take place at the Windham High School, 406 Gray Road in the Auxiliary Gym. The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

*CLERK'S HOURS: Monday/Wednesday 7am - 5pm, Tuesday 7am - 6pm & Thursday 7am - 4pm Closed Friday

For more info call the Town Clerk's Office at 892-1900. Thank you, Linda Morrell - Town Clerk





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WINDHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Compiled by Ed Pierce, Editor

The Windham Town Council has seven members, three are elected atlarge and four are elected from the four defined geographic areas of the town (north, south, east, and west). Voters throughout the town elect all members of the Council, both at-large and area (or district) members.

A town councilor's responsibilities include:

★ Legislative and Policy Making: The Council is the primary legislative body, responsible for enacting ordinances and setting town policies.

★ Budget and Finance: They approve the annual budget and set the town's tax rates. They also provide for an annual audit.

- ★ Planning and Development: Councilors approve, reject, or modify plans proposed by the Planning Board.
- ★ Direction to Town Manager: They provide direction and oversight for the Town Manager and town staff
- ★ Appointments: The Council appoints members and residents to serve on various town committees and boards.

power to conduct investigations into the affairs of the town and its departments.

- ★ Exercise of Statutory Powers: The Council exercises all legislative, financial, borrowing, and other powers given by statute to towns and municipal officers.
- ★ Representation: Councilors act as leaders who represent the will of the people, setting the agenda and policies for the Town Manager and staff to implement.

CANDIDATE PROFILES

(Three-year terms)

North District

MARGARET 'MAGGIE' TERRY



Occupation: Business Owner of Legal Label Inc. and Seahorse Alley LLC

Previous elected experience: None

you running for this position and please be specific:

I am running for town council to address Windham's increasing property tax burden and the challenges posed by rapid growth. I am particularly concerned about the impact of new state housing mandates on our infrastructure and community character. My goal is to promote responsible development, preserve Windham's heritage, and pursue alternative revenue strategies that reduce reliance on property taxes while maintaining essential services.

In your opinion, what is the most pressing issue currently facing the Town of Windham and how would you resolve it?

Windham faces growing pressure from rapid development, rising property taxes, and new state mandates like LD 1829. I'm running to ensure growth is guided by local values, not outside directives. We must protect our rural character, invest in infrastructure, and explore creative revenue solutions beyond property taxes. I'll work to keep Windham livable, affordable, and responsive to residents – not just compliant with state mandates.

What three things have you accomplished to benefit this community in the past three years?

Over the past three years, I've served on Windham's Economic Development Committee, gaining insight into the town's challenges and opportunities. While the committee hasn't met recently, I've stayed engaged with local issues, listening to residents and studying how growth and taxes affect our community. I'm

see Q&A Page 7







ready to turn that awareness into action – bringing fresh energy, accountability, and a commitment to responsible planning that reflects Windham's values.

What do you think that you will do differently than other councilors during this term if you are elected?

If elected, I'll bring a fresh, outsidethe-box approach to town leadership. I'll ask hard questions, challenge assumptions, and explore creative solutions—like alternative revenue sources, regional partnerships, and community-driven planning. I won't settle for "how it's always been done." I'll prioritize transparency, listen to residents, and push for smart, sustainable growth that protects Windham's character while preparing for its future. I'll be a proactive, engaged voice for the people – not just another vote.

What are the greatest economic, cultural, and social strengths of this community in your opinion, and how will you support those strengths if elected?

Windham's greatest strengths are its natural beauty, recreational opportunities, and strong sense of community. From lakes and trails to local events, these assets attract visitors and enrich residents' lives. If elected, I'll work to better promote Windham as a recreational destination, support local businesses that serve this sector, and invest in infrastructure that enhances access to outdoor spaces – helping grow our economy while preserving what makes Windham special.

If elected, which council committees would you like to serve on?

If elected, I'd like to serve on committees that focus on planning, economic development, and community engagement. Most importantly, I'd advocate for creating a Historical Preservation Committee to protect Windham's rich heritage. Preserving our historical sites and stories is essential as we grow. I believe honoring our past strengthens our identity and helps guide thoughtful, balanced development that respects what makes Windham unique.

What specific ideas and proposals do you have to address Windham's rapid growth?

To address Windham's rapid growth, I'll advocate for updating our Comprehensive Plan, expanding infrastructure planning, and promoting smart, mixed-use development. I'll propose a Historical Preservation Committee to protect our heritage and explore creative revenue sources to ease the tax burden. I'll also push to better leverage Windham's recreational appeal – supporting local businesses and tourism. Growth is inevitable, but with thoughtful planning, we can shape it to reflect our values and protect our community's character.



DEBORAH DEVOU



Occupation: Retired Previous elected experience: None

Why are you running for this position and please be specific:

I am passionate about preserving the charm and affordability of my town while making sure that local government stays accountable and balanced. The rising cost, particularly with property taxes and assessments, can definitely make it hard for residents, especially as wages and real estate values aren't rising at the same rate. We have to make sure that we are not pricing people out of being able to stay in their homes.

In your opinion, what is the most pressing issue currently facing the Town of Windham and how would you resolve it?

There is a disconnect at the council level regarding residents' quality of life verses future planning. I believe our councilors should put existing taxpayers' ability to afford their

homes ahead of trying to lure new residents. We need to appropriately fund our public services, schools, fire, and police departments, to attain a higher standard of quality, rather than burdening them with uncontrolled growth and higher taxes.

What three things have you accomplished to benefit this community in the past three years?

I am active in serving my community through my local church. I volunteer at my granddaughter's school regularly. I am a mentor to friends and neighbors. When I see people are in need, I instinctively fill it.

What do you think that you will do differently than other councilors during this term if you are elected?

I will continue to actively reach out to Windham citizens and pay attention to their viewpoints and concerns. I will endeavor to engage more people in our town governance. After all we work for them, the government is the vehicle, and the people are the driver. I believe this has been forgotten at the state and local level.

What are the greatest economic, cultural, and social strengths of this community in your opinion, and how will you support those strengths if

elected?

Economic: Without a doubt tourism and recreation

Cultural: Lake activity, farming, sports

Social strengths: Churches, schools, new business community, and our greatest asset our children.

We need to demonstrate our commitment to our most loyal citizens, the elderly. We need to make Windham affordable once again. Working together, we in Windham can and must protect the quality of life we have always known. "The way life should be."

If elected, which council committees would you like to serve on?

Substance Prevention: My experience at CCJ showed me that the recovery of an addict affects their family, friends, and neighbors and ultimately benefits the entire community. The firsthand experience of two members of the Windham PD with addicts and prevention is an invaluable asset to this committee.

Parks and Recreation: Tourism one of Windham strengths. Offering safe beaches, camp rental, and hiking trails, and we must work to

→ see **Q&A** Page 8



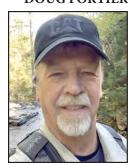


attract more businesses that support tourism.

What specific ideas and proposals do you have to address Windham's rapid growth?

Slow down. Count the costs of this rapid growth on our roads, traffic, taxes, schools, residents and resources. Who is really paying for this rapid growth? We need to have priorities, and those priorities are the residents of Windham and not anyone else. We work for them. Let's get this right for the "people" and our children who are our future. We are a great town, not a city, let's keep that way of life.

South District DOUG FORTIER



Occupation: Retired/ Christmas Tree Farm Owner

Previous elected experience: Board of Directors, Maine Christ-

mas Tree Association

Why are you running for this position and please be specific:

I grew up and have lived in Windham since 1970. I worked for the Town of Windham Public Works since 1992 and was the Director of Public Works for the last 20 years before retiring in 2023. I feel working for the town has given me insight of how the town works and what it's needs are and help move it forward.

In your opinion, what is the most pressing issue currently facing the Town of Windham and how would you resolve it?

I feel taxes and growth are two pressing issues the town is facing. Talking to residents to gauge how they are feeling about the level of service they receive from town departments. Also, direct growth to the areas the town wants it in.

What three things have you accomplished to benefit this community in the past three years?

Before I retired as Public Works Director, I worked with the DOT and wrote grants to help fund road and drainage projects/River Road - 202 intersection with pedestrian safety issues addressed and access to South Windham Village, along with other road projects around town. Being retired for the last two years, I have been out of the public sector and have concentrated on running our Christmas tree farm with my wife.

What do you think that you will do differently than other councilors during this term if you are elected?

There is no way to say what I would do differently. I would work with all counselors to resolve differences of opinions to come to a consensus. I would also listen to Windham voters on their opinions.

What are the greatest economic, cultural, and social strengths of this community in your opinion, and how will you support those strengths if elected?

The greatest economic, cultural and social strengths are North Windham's business district along with numerous farms and small family businesses. The North Windham sewer system will be coming into service soon and we will have new businesses coming to the area. We must work with all businesses to help with their success and to ensure the needs of the residents of Windham are being met.

If elected, which council committees would you like to serve on?

I would like to work on the Finance Committee and Windham Economic Development Corporation.

What specific ideas and proposals do you have to address Windham's rapid growth?

We can't stop growth, so I believe we need to direct it to the areas that have been designated as growth districts. MICHAEL RUSSIN



Occupation:
Entrepreneur
and business
owner; currently leading multiple ventures
in insurance,
staffing, and
technology.

Previous elected experi-

ence: None; background is in business leadership, community development, and mentorship.

Why are you running for this position and please be specific:

Windham is growing quickly, and decisions made now will define our future. As a father and business owner, I want to preserve our town's character while strengthening infrastructure and budgets. I bring an entrepreneurial mindset – disciplined, efficient, and results-driven – that will help shape Windham into a place where families thrive, businesses succeed, and growth is managed responsibly.

In your opinion, what is the most pressing issue currently facing the Town of Windham and how would you resolve it?

Rapid growth is the biggest challenge. I'll focus on infrastructure before large developments, balance housing needs, and encourage growth in designated hubs like Route 302. By requiring developers to contribute to public improvements and using smart zoning, we can protect Windham's character while meeting demand. Growth is inevitable, but unmanaged

see Q&A Page 9

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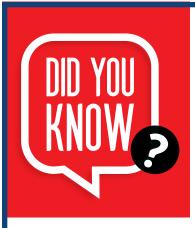
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O&A Cont. from page 8

growth isn't. With planning and accountability, we can thrive without overburdening residents.

What three things have you accomplished to benefit this community in *the past three years?*

I've created jobs through my businesses, providing career opportunities to local residents. I've launched family support initiatives like Fatherhood Forward and Hand to Hold. I've also engaged directly with neighbors and businesses to address community needs. My focus has been building strong families, empowering local workers, and ensuring Windham continues to thrive both socially and economically.

What do you think that you will do differently than other councilors during this term if you are elected?

I'll bring a builder's mindset - focused on efficiency, accountability, and results. I ask tough questions about return on investment, design systems to prevent problems, and communicate clearly with residents about both the "what" and the "why" of decisions. I'm not a politician; I'm a neighbor and problem-solver who will always put Windham families first.

What are the greatest economic, cultural, and social strengths of this community in your opinion, and how will you support those strengths if elected?

Windham's strengths are clear: a strong homeowner base, natural beauty, and a family-centered culture. I'll support economic development to create local jobs, protect open spaces to preserve rural charm, and invest

in recreation, schools, and safety so families can continue to flourish. My goal is to strengthen what makes Windham special while preparing for

If elected, which council committees would you like to serve on?

Finance, to ensure fiscal responsibility. Land Use and Zoning, to shape smart growth. Economic Development, to attract investment and cre-

What specific ideas and proposals do you have to address Windham's rapid growth?

Require developers to fund infrastructure improvements.

Use impact fees to support schools and services.

Concentrate growth in village centers to avoid sprawl. Protect open space with conserva-

tion tools. Balance housing so families and

seniors aren't priced out. Windham's growth isn't the problem - unmanaged growth is. With planning and accountability, we can thrive without losing our identity.

At-Large **CLAYTON W. HASKELL**



Occupation: Owner of Pleasant River Farm

Previous elected experience: Member of the Windham Town Council from 2017 to 2020.

He served as Council Chair from

2018 to 2019. Served on the Windham Planning Board from 1981 to 1991 and was Planning Board Chairman from 1990 to 1991. Participated in the Windham Comprehensive Planning Committee from 1981 to 1983. He was a member of the Community Development Block Grant Agriculture Incubator Study Advisory Committee from 2003 to 2004.

Why are you running for this position and please be specific:

Spending needs to be cut to keep taxes under control. Windham citizens need to be able to have a voice so I can work toward their needs.

In your opinion, what is the most pressing issue currently facing the Town of Windham and how would you resolve it?

There are several pressing issues - High taxes and rapid growth. We need to cut wasteful spending and put the major projects out to bid. The council needs to look closely at Planning Board approvals with the possibility of revisions to curb rapid

What three things have you accomplished to benefit this community in *the past three years?*

My last term on the council was the last time the tax rate was lowered.

What do you think that you will do differently than other councilors during this term if you are elected?

I will speak for the citizens of Windham, not my own agenda.

What are the greatest economic,

→ see **Q&A** Page 10





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cultural, and social strengths of this community in your opinion, and how will you support those strengths if elected?

No response submitted.

If elected, which council committees would you like to serve on?

Finance

What specific ideas and proposals do you have to address Windham's rapid growth?

We need to limit the zoning changes. We need to follow the Comprehensive Plan and let it run its time frame

KATIE COOK



Occupation: IT and Litigation Support Manager

Previous elected experience: None

Why are you running for this position and please be specific:

I grew up in Windham. I attended our schools, walked our streets, and watched this town grow. I'm running for town council because I believe Windham deserves leadership that listens, plans wisely, and protects taxpayers.

I'm not here to play politics – I'm here to serve. I want to make sure every decision made at Town Hall reflects the values and priorities of the people who live here. That means clear communication, smart budgeting, and a commitment to keeping Windham a place we're proud to call

home.

In your opinion, what is the most pressing issue currently facing the Town of Windham and how would you resolve it?

I believe responsible growth is the most pressing issue facing Windham today. As our town continues to expand, we must ensure that development is thoughtful, sustainable, and aligned with the needs of our residents. That means investing in infrastructure, protecting our natural resources, and maintaining the character of our community—without overburdening taxpayers. Growth should benefit everyone, not just a few, and I'm committed to making sure Windham's future is built on smart planning and shared prosperity.

What three things have you accomplished to benefit this community in the past three years?

Over the past three years, I've proudly served on the Windham Youth Soccer Association board in multiple roles, helping the town's largest youth sports organization - and the largest soccer program in Maine - grow alongside our expanding community. I've also partnered with the town to provide resident feedback on development plans for a park project, working to enhance public spaces and ensure they meet the evolving needs of Windham's residents. These experiences reflect my commitment to collaboration, growth, and community-focused leadership.

What do you think that you will do differently than other councilors during this term if you are elected?

I have deep respect for those who've served Windham on the town

council, and I'm grateful for their dedication. What I bring is a fresh perspective and a renewed focus on outreach and communication. I want to make it easier for residents to understand what's happening in town government and to feel confident that their voices are being heard. By prioritizing transparency, proactive engagement, and responsible growth, I'll work to ensure that every decision reflects the values of our community – and that no one feels left out of the conversation.

What are the greatest economic, cultural, and social strengths of this community in your opinion, and how will you support those strengths if elected?

Windham's strengths lie in its business-friendly environment, strong civic engagement, and commitment to preserving its rural character. The town supports responsible development, invests in infrastructure, and values transparency. Residents are actively involved in shaping Windham's future, and community events reflect a deep sense of pride and connection. With a balance of economic opportunity and a focus on quality of life, Windham continues to thrive as a place where people feel heard, supported, and at home.

If elected, which council committees would you like to serve on?

I'm ready to serve on any committee where I can contribute meaningfully and bring energy, dedication, and a collaborative spirit. That said, the Council Finance Subcommittee is where my background and education would be most valuable – helping ensure fiscal responsibility and transparency in town spending. I'm also deeply interested in the future-focused work of the Energy Advisory Committee and the WMS Repurpose Advisory Committee, both of which play a vital role in shaping Windham's long-term sustainability and community development.

What specific ideas and proposals do you have to address Windham's rapid growth?

Windham is growing quickly, and that brings both opportunity and responsibility. I believe we must manage this growth with careful planning that protects our infrastructure, preserves our rural charm, and keeps housing affordable. I'll advocate for development that serves residents – not just developers – and ensure that community voices are part of every decision. Growth should enhance our quality of life, not overwhelm it.

JOSEPH CAMPBELL



Occupation: Long-term Substitute at Gray/ New Gloucester High School and Graduate Student at UMaine

Previous elected experience: None

Why are you running for this position and please be specific:

I am running for town council because I see the challenges Windham faces every day. As my wife and I plan for our future and to buy our first home, I understand how both renters and homeowners feel priced out.

→ see **Q&A** Page 12



The Windham Eagle Page 11

Maine Maple Fall Festival Weekend



The Fall Maple Fest, started in 2020 is a two-day Maine Maple Producers Association event where sugar houses across Maine open their doors to the public to celebrate fall foliage and showcase a variety of maple products. Please go out and support these local producers this weekend and savor all things maple!





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I believe Windham's unprecedented growth can strengthen our community, improve livability, and improve affordability for everyone if managed thoughtfully and responsibly.

In your opinion, what is the most pressing issue currently facing the Town of Windham and how would you resolve it?

Growth: Windham is expanding, taxes are going up, and 302 is creaking at the seams. I will work to increase the supply of housing, both to spread the tax burden, and to moderate rental costs. I would also like to pursue more creative approaches to Windham's

growth, hopefully easing the pressure on 302, and looking into mixed-use development where possible.

What three things have you accomplished to benefit this community in the past three years?

Last year I worked on the Maine Democratic Party's coordinated campaign, aiding in the re-election of Windham's own State Senator Tim Nangle, among other Maine legislators. I have also been an active member in the Windham Democratic Town Committee, focused mainly on communications. Finally, I am currently spending time spreading awareness of voter suppression which would affect Windham as a part of the

upcoming ballot Question One.

What do you think that you will do differently than other councilors during this term if you are elected?

On the council, I'll bring the perspective of someone who understands how hard it is for young people to find housing and build a life here. I'll work to harness Windham's growth so it creates opportunity for everyone from renters to homeowners, making sure seniors can afford to stay in their homes, and the next generation can afford to buy their own.

What are the greatest economic, cultural, and social strengths of this community in your opinion, and how will you support those strengths if elected?

Windham is at a unique point between rural and denser suburban development, with a great deal of diversity in background and diversity in thoughts. We are also blessed with being a community in growth, during a moment where deaths outpace births statewide. As a council member, I will work to balance these diverse needs and desires for what Windham should become in the years ahead of us.

If elected, which council committees would you like to serve on?

As it stands, the appointments subcommittee, the council ordinance committee, and the economic development corporation speak to me the loudest.

What specific ideas and proposals do you have to address Windham's rapid growth?

First, we need creative solutions to building housing in Windham. Single-family homes, mixed-use developments, and apartment complexes all have a place in serving the needs of townspeople. If we encourage responsible building, we can spread the tax burden, reduce housing costs, and do so while preserving livability. I would also like to contribute to development spread out from Roosevelt Trail, at least while we find solutions to the congestion the road already suffers from. <

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RSU 14 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Compiled by Ed Pierce, Editor

RSU 14 Board of Director duties

Candidate

There are two vacancies for threeyear terms representing Windham on the RSU 14 Board of Directors to be filled during the Nov. 4 election. Candidate Bradley Youngs withdrew from the race in September.

The RSU 14 Board of Directors concerns itself primarily with broad questions of policy rather than with administrative details. The application of policies is an administrative task to be performed by the Superintendent of Schools and his/her staff, who shall be held responsible for the effective administration and supervision of the entire school system. Members of the RSU 14 board have authority only when acting as a board legally in session. Board members are involved in policy making; choosing the superintendent; planning, setting goals, and appraising results; approving and adopting financial resources; negotiating and approving collective bargaining agreements.

Board members also set clear expectations/standards and adopt policies regarding instructional pro-

grams; determine school building needs; communicate with various constituencies; advocate for the needs of the students; establish procedures for the operation of the board; review and evaluate board operations and performance; choose board officers; approve the annual school calendar; establish and maintain effective board-superintendent relations; and work with along with authorizing school administration to work with town, county, and other government and non-government officials and agencies.

CANDIDATE PROFILES MATTHEW IRVING



Occupation: Stay-at-home Dad

Previous Elected Experience: None

Why are you running for this position and *please be specific:* I am running

for School Board because I want the best future possible for our children. I am a graduate of public schools and a first-generation public univer-

sity graduate, so I can vouch for the value of public education. Our kids need relevant skills and confidence in their ability to think critically in a tumultuous world. Our board needs people who engage respectfully with our community and contribute with well-researched ideas, which I will do.

In your opinion, what is the most pressing issue currently facing RSU 14 right now?

Taxes. As I speak with people in the community several issues have come up repeatedly including taxes, transportation, and test scores. It's impossible to talk about our schools' ability to function without discussing taxes. The cost of living is rising rapidly. Our schools are paying higher prices for goods, energy, and everything else just to maintain current function. Our teachers and residents are also paying more just to live. Our budget needs to be mindful of that.

What three things have you accomplished to benefit this community in the past three years?

I currently serve on two volunteer committees here in Windham, the parks advisory committee and the middle school repurposing committee. Both have been incredibly interesting and given me an opportunity to

→ see **Q&A** Page 14







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CLAYTON HASKELL

"When I served as Windham Town Council Chair from 2018 to 2019, I was proud that we lowered the mil rate to relieve the property tax burden. If re-elected, I intend to work closely and cooperatively with all councilors to find ways to drastically slow tax increases or to reduce taxes." (207) 831-1836



DEB DEVOU

"I'm a citizen not a politician. We cannot tax people out of their homes. There is power in unity, and we must come together to fix this."

shiloh1227@aol.com





MICHAEL RUSSIN

"Windham families deserve predictable, fair taxes without hollowing out the services we rely on. My plan is simple: audit spending, protect seniors with targeted relief, grow the tax base smartly,not wildly, and bring outside dollars home so your property tax bill isn't the only piggy bank in town." mrussin@outlook.com

(716)581-3941



learn more about what our community values. Through this work I have had the privilege to tour and learn about everything from our fantastic outdoor opportunities to our community supports like the food pantry and healthy aging programs.

What do you think you will do better or differently than your opponents if you are elected?

As a former classroom counselor and community mental health worker, I have been on both sides of the table with schools many times. This experience also includes working to advocate for families from all backgrounds and belief systems. The unifying idea was and is that I am here to get the best outcome for children and families. I know I can work respect-

fully with anyone to find solutions because I have already done it.

What are the greatest economic, cultural, and social strengths of this community in your opinion, and how will you support those strengths if elected?

Windham's greatest strength is its connectedness. Economically, we are a huge draw with folks coming to enjoy the lakes, river, and outdoors. Culturally and socially, we are fortunate to have residents who feel so invested in our community, whether through organizing youth sports, volunteering, or just taking an interest in our schools and town. Go to any sports game, Summerfest or parks and rec event and take the time to appreciate the fact that every part of our town is represented.

How would you rate the caliber of

education currently offered to students by RSU 14?

The district has many great professionals and does provide a number of opportunities to learn practical skills and training. However, my conversations in the community tell me that many parents feel the district could do more to support students academically as well as behaviorally. We need to focus on early interventions and create more continuous support and communication as students move up.

What steps would you take on the RSU 14 Board of Directors to make eighth graders proficient in math and fourth graders proficient in reading for standardized testing?

If we want to see fourth and eighth graders succeed, we need to support the third and seventh graders that need it. Early and consistent intervention, attention, and support is an investment in any student's future success. For instance, pre-k participation is one of the best indicators of fourth grade reading proficiency. Our solutions should be proactive and focused on better identifying those students who are at risk of stumbling.

What would you do if elected to support teachers and school administrators at RSU 14 schools to ensure that they give the best possible education to the students of this community?

I want to ensure that our teachers and administrators are able to show us the best of their abilities. That means ensuring a safe, adequately staffed, and supportive work environment, clear guidelines and roles, and good pay for good work. It also means that we must invest in their ability to keep their skills sharp through relevant and

proven training. Everyone works best when they are set up to succeed.

ADAM ZAJAC



Occupation:
Business owner
Previous
Elected Experience: None

Why are you running for this position and please be specific:

P o s t

COVID, our kids' education is slipping. Test scores prove fourth and eighth graders are reading and doing math below grade level. Meanwhile, the board protects sexualized books like "Gender Queer" even though parents want it out. Rather than complain, I built a shop and taught welding classes for free. I'm running to make schools focus on real life success, not agendas. Reward our great teachers. Kids deserve skills, not gender ideology.

In your opinion, what is the most pressing issue currently facing RSU 14 right now?

The most pressing issue? We're not educating kids, we're indoctrinating them. While fourth and eighth graders tank on reading and math, the system keeps shoving identity politics down their throats. Great teachers are exhausted from bureaucracy and the lousy ones? They stick around forever. I want shop class over gender class, algebra over activism. Let's spice up their future with actual skills, not social experiments.

What three things have you accom-

→ see **Q&A** Page 15





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plished to benefit this community in the past three years?

1: Raised three sharp, funny, empathetic kids thriving in RSU 14. 2: Rallied parents and students to end mandatory masking. I helped give a voice to kids when the administration wouldn't listen. 3: Built a full welding and machining shop that offered free classes, showing kids how to use real tools, learning real skills. Parents love it, kids are learning to weld, not just read about pronouns. That's impact.

What do you think you will do better or differently than your opponents if you are elected?

I'll bring math, reading, and common sense back. No more DEI, no boys crowding girls' spaces. I'll make sure buses run safely and on time. Drivers get respect, kids get order. I'll tie teacher pay to results, not years. I don't know all the reasons things are broken, but I won't stop until I fix them. They talk. I act. And I won't quit until it works. That's my promise.

What are the greatest economic, cultural, and social strengths of this community in your opinion, and how will you support those strengths if elected?

Economically, we have owners of machine shops, auto garages, electrical outfits ... Folks who sign real paychecks. Culturally, we're direct, we're loyal, we're not afraid to work weekends. Socially, if someone's dog is missing, the whole community is on high alert. If elected, I'll get those garage owners into school with the kids, let them show what success looks like. We'll honor the path that stays here in Maine, just as much as the one that leaves. No shame, no hierarchy, just pride. That's our strength.

How would you rate the caliber of education currently offered to students by RSU 14?

4 out of 10 kids aren't reading or adding at grade level. Buses are unreliable. Good teachers are leaving. We're letting boys compete in girls' sports and share bathrooms. And the school board pretends it's all fine. It's not. It's failing. Plain and simple.

What steps would you take on the RSU 14 Board of Directors to make eighth graders proficient in math and fourth graders proficient in reading for standardized testing?

To fix those test scores: cut three overpaid admins – that's nearly \$1 million – and hand it straight to teachers who hit targets. \$10K bonus for every teacher whose class jumps reading or math by 25 percent. If principals don't show gains in two years, they're gone – no golden parachute. Lock in daily math block, daily reading block, keep recess intact. Parents get live scores every week. No tax hikes. Just smarter money for smarter kids.

What would you do if elected to support teachers and school administrators at RSU 14 schools to ensure that they give the best possible education to the students of this community?

I'd back teachers by trimming admin fat-free up \$1 million without touching taxes – and dump it into cash bonuses for real gains. Good admins get rewarded only if scores rise and halls stay safe. No more busy work forms. Let the best teachers design their own lessons. Remove the rest. That's real support. Resources, respect, and a boot for the lazy. No hikes. No excuses. Just better schools.

MEGAN POTTER



Occupation: VA Team Lead at Jackson and MacNichol

Previous Elected Experience: None

Why are you running for this position and please be specific:

I love this community, want to give back, and want every child to have the chance to thrive. As a parent of two students and someone shaped by my own challenges, I bring compassion, perspective, and resilience. Professionally, I lead a team at a local law firm, giving me strong leadership and problem-solving skills. I'll listen, stay open-minded, and put students first while balancing families, teachers, and taxpayers.

In your opinion, what is the most pressing issue currently facing RSU 14 right now?

I think the budget is the biggest issue right now. The last one barely passed, higher property taxes are tough on families, mine included. We need to go line by line, cut where we can without hurting kids, and be open with the community about where the money goes. Good schools are important as is keeping it affordable. I want to help find that balance.

What three things have you accomplished to benefit this community in the past three years?

- 1. Organized and led a furniture drive through church to support Furniture Friends, an organization that provides gently used furniture to individuals and families in need.
- 2. Participated in PowerServe for the past two years, contributing to service projects that support the community.
- 3. Coordinated a holiday donation drive through church to support women and children residing at Crossroads in Windham, a rehabilitation center in the state that allows mothers to stay with their children during treatment.

What do you think you will do better or differently than your opponents if you are elected?

I believe what sets me apart is my willingness to listen and keep an open

mind. I'm not a black-and-white thinker, and I don't make decisions based on feelings or agendas. I look at all sides and work toward fair, thoughtful solutions. I bring a fresh perspective, a servant's heart, and a clear focus on what matters most – our kids.

What are the greatest economic, cultural, and social strengths of this community in your opinion, and how will you support those strengths if elected?

I think our community's biggest strengths are our people, our history, and our ability to be flexible. Economically, we've grown and welcomed new businesses while keeping our small-town feel. Culturally, we value our history, and socially, we take care of each other, neighbors show up when it matters. If I'm elected, I'll work to support these strengths while keeping students and families at the center.

How would you rate the caliber of education currently offered to students by RSU 14?

RSU 14 provides a solid education, ranking 20th out of 100 Maine districts (Niche.com). However, Maine ranks 41st in the nation for K-12 education (U.S. News & World Report), and Windham High is 12,628 out of about 18,000 public high schools nationwide (U.S. News & World Re-

→ see **Q&A** Page 17







SALUTE TO SERVICE PROFILES OF THOSE WHO SERVE OUR COMMUNITIES

Every shift different for Windham Police patrol officer

By Ed Pierce

Editor's Note: This is another in an ongoing series of Windham and Raymond town employee profiles.

As a patrol officer for the Windham Police Department, Officer Tim Denman knows that each time he puts on his uniform, he is taking on risks to protect others in the community and it's a huge responsibility that he's willing to accept.

Denman has been a member of the Windham Police for three years and his duties involve the protection of life and property by responding to calls for service and patrol throughout the town of Windham. He is involved in crime prevention, the apprehension of crime suspects and performs public service duties involving non-criminal calls for service, the preservation of peace and working with the community. He also conducts preliminary investigations, enforces traffic regulations, is one of the police department's Taser instructors, and an aspiring firearms instructor.

"The best thing about what I do are the times where I have felt that my presence and response to a call have truly helped someone or kept them safe," Denman said. "I also enjoy interacting with members of the community and learning about the area as I am not originally a Mainer."

According to Denman, the most challenging aspect of his work is answering calls that might have little to

nothing to do with typical police issues and trying to give someone the proper direction and resources to help them without seeming dismissive.

"I believe the biggest misconception people may have about this line of work is thinking that all police do revolves around traffic stops and writing tickets," he said. "There is a multitude in types of calls and tasks that we are responsible for, and no shift is ever the same."

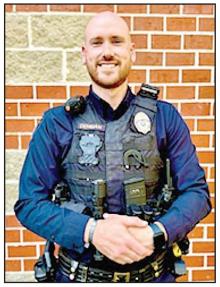
He was born and raised in Springfield, New Hampshire with a population of 1,259.

"A fun fact, growing up, Springfield's town office, public library, kindergarten, and police department were all located in one small building," Denman said. "I attended Kearsarge Regional High School and later attended New Hampshire Technical Institute (NHTI). I have an associate's degree in criminal justice and am working on finishing a bachelor's degree in criminology."

Always having had an interest in law enforcement, Denman worked at an internship while attending NHTI for the Claremont, New Hampshire Police Department and was later hired as a part-time dispatcher there.

"After dispatching for two years, I then joined the U.S. Army and served six years active duty with the military police serving mostly at Fort Campbell, Kentucky and Kaiserslautern, Germany."

When Denman left military service



Patrol Officer Tim Denman has been a member of the Windham Police Department for three years and is originally from Springfield, New Hampshire. He is also a U.S. Army veteran, serving six years on active duty with the military police at Fort Campbell, Kentucky and Kaiserslautern, Germany. SUBMITTED PHOTO

and moved to Maine, he says that one of the first towns he became familiar with was Windham.

"During my hiring process, I had a 'warm and fuzzy' feeling about the department overall and I felt like it was a good fit for me," he said. "I was impressed by the Public Safety Building and thought the department was well equipped." His most memorable moments working for the Windham Police Department are numerous.

"What I reflect on most are the calls that both the Windham Fire Department and the Windham Police Department work together on," Denman said. "I truly believe we have some of the best first responders in Windham and there isn't much we can't handle."

One thing that the public may not know about his job, Denman said, is that there are many misconceptions about police work and there are very few times where things are "black and white."

"There are many 'gray' areas and technicalities that need to be recognized," he said. "Also, policing has changed drastically over the past few decades and is constantly evolving. It's the kind of job that you need to do to truly experience what modern police deal with day to day. I think my family and friends are proud of me for doing the job. They give me a lot of support and have always kept me motivated."

He says that of everything he has learned while working for the Windham Police Department, one aspect stands out above the rest.

"The most important thing I've learned while working for Windham Police Department is to remember my training and to retain as much as I can from my peers and superiors. There is a ton of experience within. <

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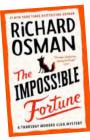
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port). While we're doing okay locally, these numbers show we need to raise the caliber of education, so our students can compete nationally.

What steps would you take on the RSU 14 Board of Directors to make eighth graders proficient in math and fourth graders proficient in reading for standardized testing?

I believe catching struggles early is key. If a student needs help or is identified as someone who should have an IEP or 504 plan, that should be addressed quickly so they don't fall behind. With timely support, whether small group help, tutoring, or stronger basics in reading and math - students have a better chance to succeed. Partnering with teachers and parents to spot challenges early will help more students reach grade level.

What would you do if elected to support teachers and school administrators at RSU 14 schools to ensure that they give the best possible education to the students of this community?

I believe the best way to support teachers and administrators is by truly listening to them. They know what they need to succeed, and we should create a space where they feel seen and valued. Competitive wages, strong benefits, and a positive work environment are also key. When teachers feel supported and happy in their roles, they can give students the best possible education.

DESTINY JOHNSON



Occupation: ness co-owner, Youth assistant coach, and a mother of two.

Previous Elected Experience: First time candidate, active community

Why are you running for this position and please be specific:

I'm running to protect students' safety, fairness, and educational opportunities. As a mom and coach, I've

seen firsthand how families feel left out when raising district concerns. I will not stand on the sidelines. Our children's innocence, privacy, and safety are vital for our community's future. I will work with the school board to restore trust, ensure parental voices are heard, and make sure academic priorities focus on every student being prepared for college or are career ready.

In your opinion, what is the most pressing issue currently facing RSU 14 right now?

The most pressing issue is restoring trust between all families and the district. Parents must have reasonable time to decide if school material is violating their sincerely held beliefs and they must know their girls' rights to sports and privacy are secure. I will work with our school board to emphasize transparency, respect parental rights, and prioritize policies that put students' safety, privacy, and education first.

What three things have you accomplished to benefit this community in the past three years?

- Volunteered as a youth sports assistant coach in Windham, teaching kids teamwork, resilience, and confi-
- Supported small business growth through my family's independent business in Windham, strengthening the local economy.
- For the last five years we have been part of Haven. During our time there, we taught various subjects including Reading, Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, Science, Fine

→ see Q&A Page 18



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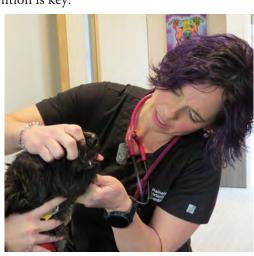
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Dental disease is one of the most common yet overlooked health issues in pets. By age three, many dogs and cats already show signs of periodontal disease, which causes inflammation and damage to the gums, teeth, and supporting structures. Left untreated, the infection can enter the bloodstream, affecting the heart, liver, and kidneys, and even leading to life-threatening complications. Pets can also develop painful conditions like tooth resorption, broken teeth, abscesses, or oral tumors, which can make eating difficult and reduce their quality of life. Because pets often hide discomfort, early intervention is key.

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pets benefit from their first COHAT between one and two years of age, with follow-ups scheduled based on breed, size, and risk factors.

Anesthesia is carefully tailored to each pet's individual needs. Before the procedure, pets receive a thorough physical evaluation to ensure they are healthy enough for anesthesia. Owners can expect clear instructions on fasting, medications, and post-procedure care, and the team communicates updates throughout the process to provide peace of mind and transparency.

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When Erin brought her 13-year-old dog, Cooper, to Mainely Veterinary Dentistry, she was deeply concerned. Cooper had been struggling with bad breath, difficulty eating, and lethargy. After a thorough examination, it was discovered that Cooper had several severely infected teeth that needed to be extracted. Erin recalls the experience fondly: "They called and updated me when they said they would, they sent pictures, and just from start to finish, I felt like he was really well cared for!" Following the procedure, Cooper's health improved dramatically, and he regained his playful energy.

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What do you think you will do better or differently than your opponents if you are elected?

I will

- Bring independence and transparency while working great as a teammate with the full board.
- Actively listen to parents, vote to protect fairness in girls' sports, and prioritize school safety procedures.
- Prioritize students so they are college and/or are career ready.

What are the greatest economic, cultural, and social strengths of this community in your opinion, and how will you support those strengths if elected?

Windham is strong because of its families, small businesses, and community strength. We are parents dedicated to our children, as neighbors we support each other and local, small businesses drive our economy. As a board member, I'll strengthen school-parent relations, optimize our local business leaders, and maintain policies that reflect community values.

How would you rate the caliber of education currently offered to students

RSU 14 has many talented teachers and staff committed to students, but overall performance is uneven.

Some families feel academics are being overshadowed by social priorities. Stakeholders are providing feedback that indicates students are graduating unprepared for college or career. With better focus on core academics, less social programming, and respecting families' independence in their values, RSU 14 can provide an opportunity for an excellent education to every student.

What steps would you take on the RSU 14 Board of Directors to make eighth graders proficient in math and fourth graders proficient in reading for standardized testing?

I will advocate for program reviews for math and reading, increase support for instruction development, and end failing forward. Providing parents with direct input and transparency about our educational materials will increase their engagement. By using outcome-based instruction like phonics, we can raise proficiency rates and prepare students for college or career readiness.

What would you do if elected to support teachers and school administrators at RSU 14 schools to ensure that they give the best possible education to the students of this community?

I will fairly negotiate with the Maine Education Association for proper teacher support. I will work with the school board to build a vision and goals that guide administra-

tors toward prioritizing safety, fairness, and educational outcomes. By restoring trust with all parents, teachers, and administrators, we can work together to provide safe, fair, and excellent education for every student.

CHRISTINA SMALL



Occupation: Stay-at-home mom

Previous Elected Experience: Five years served on RSU 14 Board of Directors

Why are you running for this

position and please be specific:

I'm running for reelection because I care deeply about this community and public education. My goal has only ever been to support the staff and students of RSU 14.

In your opinion, what is the most pressing issue currently facing RSU 14 right now?

Staffing remains an issue statewide as well as in our district. The public might be most aware of the struggle to hire bus drivers. There also are a dwindling pool of special education teachers in the area and less are entering the workforce each year.

What three things have you accomplished to benefit this community in *the past three years?*

I have donated hundreds of hours of my time to Windham Primary School in the last three years supporting both students and staff also participating in fundraising efforts. I coached three seasons of Girls on the Run which is an organization that teaches girls confidence building, goal setting and healthy relationships while encouraging physical activity. Currently I am working to implement a process to enhance communication between the board and community with the goal of a more transparent, collaborative budget process.

What do you think you will do better or differently than your opponents *if you are elected?*

I have an institutional knowledge and deep understanding of board role and responsibility that no one else running has. Through years of service, I've made significant connections within schools that help me gain insight into some of the challenges our district faces. More importantly, I don't utilize this position as a tool to accomplish my own ends. School board work is public service, and I treat it as such making all decisions in line with what is best for all students.

What are the greatest economic, cultural, and social strengths of this community in your opinion, and how will you support those strengths if elected?

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Editor,

As I took care of my mother in her dying years, one of our biggest disappointments was how she lost access to the community as she lost mobility. However, she refused to let her condition steal her ability to vote. Using absentee voting procedures that have been around for decades, she continued to share her political opinions through fair and free elections long after she lost the ability to freely leave our home. This story is in no way unique. Maine has an aging population, and many folks have had to help their loved ones access their right to vote through absentee procedures. Voting NO on 1 will allow Mainers to continue to enjoy their full rights as Americans despite changing mobility needs. Absentee ballots are available for request through Windham Town Hall now!

~ Kate Turpen, Windham

Editor,

I recently met Deborah Devou, who is a candidate for Town Council, and I was quite impressed with her very genuine concern for the immediate future of our fine community.

She feels growth is important, but rapid growth and change should be guided more and perhaps moderated first and foremost by the concerns of the citizens of Windham. She feels that "government is the vehicle, but the people should be the driver!" She supports small businesses and hopes for responsible government.

Deborah is a mother, a grandmother and a retired successful professional.

I am a senior citizen on a fixed income and am concerned about ever-increasing taxes. She will have my vote, and hopefully yours.

~ Bernard Wall, Windham

Editor,

Christina Small is well known in the Windham community, for all of the best reasons. One is simple – she shows up. She is a consistent presence in our schools with countless volunteer hours. Christina doesn't talk the talk; she walks the walk.

With five years of experience, Christina Small understands the realities of being a school board member. Our board has benefitted immensely from her comprehensive knowledge of policies and procedures. She has proven herself as a reasonable and collaborative voice among members who may not always agree. Anyone who knows Christina can see that she is an exceptional, calm, and controlled teammate. I fear that polarizing board members may lead to stalemate instead of progress.

I believe it's important to recognize that the school board position is not a partisan role. We will not see any R's or D's next to these names on the ballot, for good reason. Unlike a politi-

cally motivated candidate, Christina is not making unrealistic campaign promises. Her promise is simple – to continue working hard for the betterment of our RSU 14 schools. She's a clear top choice for this election and has certainly earned her place on the board.

~ Tina Webber, Windham

Editor, Sometimes there is a candidate

who has the best qualifications for a town office. Why? Katie Cook is one of them, I believe. She is running for the Town Council seat. Katie has been a resident as an adult for 16 years, but when growing up she attended Windham schools until 10th grade when her family moved to Falmouth where she graduated. But she emphasizes that Windham is truly

see LETTERS Page 21



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Grade: 4 **Teacher:** Ms. Goddard **Parents' names:** Deke and Jennifer Gillies

Favorite subject: Her favorite subject in school is reading because she enjoys learning about various topics. She loves all books, from non-fiction to fiction. Her favorite book is "I Survived D-Day" because it's written from a kid's perspective, and she enjoys learning about history. **Reason for selection:** Reagan is a fantastic community member. She offers insight, leadership, and participa-

tion in all cross-curricular disciplines can often be seen being a friend to anybody in our school, from helping the littlest ones find their way in the school assemblies, empowering younger students to tie their shoes, to her can-do attitude that extends to her athletic teams in Raymond. Throughout the building, her teachers have noticed her leadership and positivity. She is admired and respected across our school and community.

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Tricia Zwirner, Agent

Keep up the good work students!



O&A Cont. from page 18

Windham has a thriving commercial sector with both large and small businesses actively engaged in our community by regularly hosting fundraisers and sponsoring youth sports. I support the inclusion of curriculum skills that are relevant to today's job market so that Windham High School graduates become the next generation of workers and entrepreneurs.

How would you rate the caliber of education currently offered to students by RSU 14?

Our high school graduation rate has been consistently higher than state average which is made more impressive given that we have set a higher bar than many other schools for number of credits needed to receive a diploma. We have expanded pathways to success by accepting vocational programming as relevant class credits, creating more opportunities for students pursuing career and technical education. Additionally, Windham High School students can participate in Extended Learning Opportunities, which provide real-world experiences and meaningful career exploration. Given these strengths and strong outcomes, I would rate RSU 14's education as high-quality.

What steps would you take on the RSU 14 Board of Directors to make eighth graders proficient in math and fourth graders proficient in reading for standardized testing?

It's important to understand standardized test scores in context. They can be useful in identifying potential areas that need additional focus in the curriculum, however they don't measure crucial life skills like resilience, collaboration, communication and critical thinking. Statewide, overall academic achievement is negatively impacted by an increase in student mental health challenges, increase in classroom behaviors and continued chronic absenteeism. Many parents no longer have the time or resources to support their students at home, leaving schools to address these complex societal problems. Recognizing that improving test scores requires addressing these underlying issues, I have supported additional funds for BARR implementation which is a model that actively engages families and improves student connection in school which has shown to reduce absenteeism, disruptive behaviors and academic failures. I also support continued funding for instructional interventionists who provide the individualized support students need.

What would you do if elected to support teachers and school administrators at RSU 14 schools to ensure that they give the best possible education to the students of this community?

Respect goes a long way. Recognizing that more than half of RSU 14's teachers and administrators hold master's degrees or higher, I treat them as the experts they are in their respective fields. Rather than micromanaging them, I work to understand how each position contributes to student learning and overall school operations. My primary responsibility as a board member is to ensure our educators have access to the tools, resources, and support systems they need to excel at what they do best: educate our children. <



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Copy of the submitted application is available for review at the Town Office (401 Webbs Mills Road) by appointment during regular business hours. Please call 207-655-4742 x134 to schedule an appointment. Documents are also on the Town's website.

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LETTERS Cont. from page 19

her hometown. Her education and work experience are impressive. She worked in retail for a while before going back to school and earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration. Next Katie began her internship with a position in federal government, leading to legal technology. She earned a second BA degree in Criminology and a Master's degree in Criminal Justice. She now works in the U.S. Attorney's office in Portland. Katie, in the past, for the town, was a member of the town's Youth Soccer Association Board. She wants to use her education, business experience, and legal skills to move our town forward and to ensure resident intervention. My vote will be for Katie Cook!

~ Barbara Mailey, Windham Editor,

I am writing in support of Margaret "Maggie" Terry for Windham Town Council in the upcoming November election. Margaret (I know her as "Maggie") is exactly the kind of leader our community needs. She is a successful small business owner who has launched and managed several different enterprises. Each of the small businesses she has launched have been quite varied and required creativity, persistence, and a deep understanding of people. She brings that same drive and commitment to her role as

a neighbor and community member.

As a longtime Windham resident and adoptive mother, Maggie understands both the opportunities and challenges facing families here. She is a great neighbor, approachable, fun-loving, and genuinely cares about others – the kind of person who shows up, listens, and rolls up her sleeves to get things done.

Windham deserves leaders who combine practical & creative experience with a genuine love for our community. Margaret Terry is that leader.

I urge my fellow residents to join me in voting for her for Windham Town Council.

~ Sylvia Mannino, Windham Editor,

I am doing my research. Quite honestly, I used to go to the polls, unprepared for things like Town Council and School Board. I'm embarrassed to say I would just check names. Now I understand it would've been better if I just left the ones that I didn't have time to research blank. I'm doing my research. I'm looking up the candidates listening to what they say, looking at all of my friends' lawns, and if I see one particular name or two, I then look further into those candidates. Two of those names that

made my decision when they both appeared at my door. They will both have my vote. Please look into them and consider joining me in supporting them. We need change.

~ Monica Atkinson, Windham Editor,

The RSU 14 School Board has seats that need to be filled by people who truly care about the children and how the school system continues to educate them. I am writing this letter in support of Adam Zajac, who is one of those people running for a seat on the RSU 14 School Board.

Adam has been in the fight to clean up the libraries of inappropriate, sexually explicit books from the beginning. I know because he attended one of the initial meetings in Raymond that I also attended, when the book "Gender Queer" was first brought to the attention of the community and parents.

Adam's own son, then 11 years old, brought home another book of concern, "Nick and Charlie," full of graphic sexual acts between two boys that he later read a portion of at a subsequent school board meeting. This reading by Adam's son soon went viral on social media, helping to bolster the Windham/Raymond community's awareness of just how bad these books in the school libraries were. At another meeting, Adam himself read from the book "Identical," which is about an incestuous rape.

Adam will make sure that the RSU 14 schools will pursue changes to their bathroom policy of allowing boys into the girls' bathrooms and locker rooms, and he also believes that Maine needs to comply with the federal enforcement of the original Title IX which prevents biological boys from competing in girls' sports.

Consider the effectiveness of someone who has had a passion for these issues for the past five years, attended numerous school board meetings and has promised to focus on bringing back core learning and hands-on industrial arts classes - if all of that matters to you, vote for Adam Zajac.

~ Maria Clark, Windham

see LETTERS Page 24



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Eagle SIPORSIES BY EAGLES

WHS football falls to South Portland in homecoming game

By Matt Pascarella

STAFF WRITER

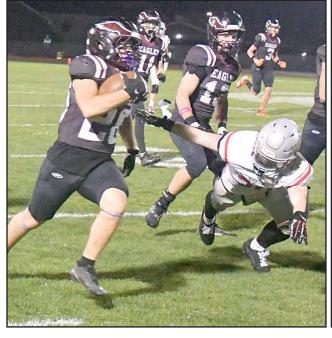
Windham High varsity football's annual homecoming game against South Portland on Friday, Oct. 4 began with a powerful start in the first half. It was back-and-forth with the game tied at 19-19 at halftime but Windham lost some momentum in the second half while South Portland found the end zone twice and won, 33-19.

"The bigger picture here is not wins and losses ... the season is not over," said Windham varsity football coach Matt Perkins. "Our plan is to continue to get better. We've got guys who still are green and are trying to figure it out. We saw some major steps; we just got to continue to push and grind and get better. We've got a lot of guys who have grown up and are playing the game the right way. I'm proud of our guys and how we responded."

Perkins said Windham swarmed to the ball well; they got in the red zone three or four times but needed to finish. The Eagles had some costly mistakes that caught up to them in the first half; they need to clean up those mistakes. It takes reps and time to work out those things.

Early in the game, on a first-and-10 for Windham from the 33-yard line, sophomore Patrick Davenport completed a pass to junior Tegan Perkins putting Windham on the 50-yard line for a first down. Another competed pass to Tegan Perkins and it's first and goal. Windham attempted a field goal, which failed.

The Eagles' defense didn't let the



(Clockwise from top left) Windham sophomore Jordan Pastore intercepts a South Portland pass and rushes up the field during a homecoming football game at Windham High School. Senior Mason Arbour lands in the end zone. Sophomore Patrick Davenport hands the ball off to a teammate. PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA

Red Riots near their end zone early in the first quarter.

Junior Parker Sperry scored a touchdown. The extra point was good and Windham led, 7-0.

South Portland tied the game at 7-7 in the second quarter.

Following a completed pass from South Portland, they now led 13-7 after the extra point failed.

Senior Mason Arbour scored a touchdown and tied the game at 13-13 with less than a minute left in the first half.

"I thought we played a good game, came out strong, it's not an effort issue it's more cleaning up mistakes and trying to get our stuff right," said Davenport, who threw for 138 yards and had 32 rushing yards. "I thought we did great with not getting bad calls and flagrant fouls, keeping our mouths shut, that helps a lot when we're not losing yards on stupid penalties."

Jordan Pastore, a sophomore, intercepted a pass with 20 seconds left in the second quarter. Arbour scored again and Windham led by six. Moments before the end of the first half, South Portland tied the game, 19-19.

Pastore said they need to keep their momentum up and stay focused. He was at the right place at the right time, and it felt really good to get that pick.

"In the second half I think some kids were just waiting and expecting things," said Tegan Perkins, who had three catches for 41 yards. "I saw after the interception where we just broke down and (South Portland) got the touchdown on the kick-return. Little things like that we just got to clean up. We got to know our roles and do them consistently and we'll be good."

The Red Riot offense scored two more times. Windham stayed in it, but did not score.

"We came out fighting in the first half, the second half was pretty slow; that's something we just got to work on," said Arbour, who had three catches for 25 yards and two TDs. "South Portland is a tough opponent, and we always got to fight against them. We had some great passing, obviously from Pat. We had some great defensive plays like Jordan's interception. We defended the pass really well. We just got to work on the run a little bit. We got to work on everybody doing their own thing and once we do that as a team we will come together." <



Hunior Parker Sperry heads toward the end zone.

Ethan Clarke

Age: 11

Team: Windham Little League Fall Baseball Swing Away **Coach:** Jason Sun

Parents' names: Kristina and Ben Clarke

Reason for selection: Ethan loves baseball. He is usually the first one to arrive for practices and is always the first one to be ready for any practice drills with his favorite being fly balls. Ethan has openly

shared that he has been diagnosed with Autism and Tourette's but does not let it define him. Ethan puts in the work to do his part to make the team better. Without fail, after one of his coach's post-game analytical talks, Ethan brings us back with his emotional intelligence and makes sure to give positive praise to all his teammates. I appreciate how he's able to lighten the mood for a better experience for all. His courage and his willingness to just play are improvements seen over the season. No complaints, he just goes and fills in wherever the team needs him to.



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Raymond Parks and Recreation cross country club teaches kids importance of fitness through running

By Matt Pascarella

Raymond Parks and Recreation's kindergarten through fourth grade cross country club have established a goal of helping young runners to understand the basics of running.

Aside from weekly practices, the team runs in four cross country races during the 10-week program. During the races, they can run a half-mile or a 1-mile run. They ran their most recent race at the Poland Spring Resort in Poland on Saturday, Oct. 4.

"A lot of the kids think running is just running hard," said co-coach Sukie Dean. From a distance running perspective, we teach basic fundamentals. Making sure we're nurturing their desire to run, they're young enough where ... if it's not nurtured, you get tired of running. It's about building up a foundation."

Raymond Parks and Recreation kindergarten through fourth grade cross country coaches Dean and Chanelle Sheridan said that they've seen immense improvements in the time since they began teaching the kids how to run most effectively. The focus for the club is on long-distance running.

There's been growth in everyone's confidence. Sheridan's child, Bennett, went from running a half-mile to running a mile. She said they are all stepping up and wanting to do more than they did at first.

Also, there's been a big improvement in the team environment. They cheer each other on during the races and are aware that each runner is at a different skill level. The runners who finish early wait for the rest of their team and high-five each other once







(L to R) Raymond Parks and Recreation kindergarten through fourth grade cross country club runner and third grader Chase Nelsen runs a 1-mile race at Poland Spring Resort in Poland on Saturday, Oct. 4. Second grader Ben Cyr keeps up a good pace during the race. First grader Charlotte McLamb practices her skills at Tassel Top Park in Raymond during a club practice on Wednesday, Oct. 1.. PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA

they've completed the race.

Although running can be an individual sport, Dean said the kids are starting to build and understand what it means to be on a team.

Third grader Chase Nelsen said he joined running club because it makes him feel good to run. He really likes it.

"It was very hot ... it was mostly downhill and uphill; the race was fast, but ... I was thinking of that candy and popcorn that awaited me (at the end)," said Nelsen after running the 1-mile race on Oct. 4. "I did amazing. I can't wait to find out what the next race is going to be like."

First grader Olive Theriault said her favorite thing is to run because it makes her feel happy inside and she likes it a lot. "The trail was good. It was shady and a little sunny," said second grader Ben Cyr about running the 1-mile race on Oct. 4. "I felt good about the race because it's going to be really helpful for

soccer – it'll be better for stamina, and it'll give you more power running."

Errol Bortles, a first grader, joined the Raymond Parks and Recreation cross country club because his favorite thing is running and he wanted to run more.

"We work really hard in practice to talk about that stamina and the endurance and to try to keep ... some fuel in the tank," said Raymond Parks and Recreation kindergarten through fourth grade cross country co-coach Abby Feather Nelsen. "The energy at the meets is totally different so they're excited to run and compete. We try to meet them on the trail and remind them of that stamina; here they are very determined and in the zone throughout the whole race."

Feather Nelsen said everyone did so amazing, and they tried their hardest during the Oct. 4 race. A lot of them have a goal of trying to do better than they did in the last race. She said she was proud of how everyone did on Oct. 4. <



First grader Olive Theriault runs in the half-mile race at Poland Spring Resort.



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~ Carrie B.

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LETTERS Cont. from page 21

Editor,

With 14,000 registered voters in the town of Windham, the time has come to modernize our system of voter identification at the polls. Question 1 is not about finger pointing or discrediting our town officials or poll workers. The work they do is truly heroic. This is about tightening up a system which has grown beyond the small town and actually small state system which has been in place since I was a young voter 50 years ago.

There seems to be some misunderstanding about the lack of absentee voting. Absentee voting will still be available. Registering by phone will not be available. Also, having ballots automatically mailed in each voting cycle to people who have registered to do that will not continue. Neither of these changes seems unreasonable to me. The Voter ID referendum is to tighten up procedures which could even appear to be inappropriate. It is not about voter suppression or loss of voting privileges. In my opinion, it is exactly the opposite. I will be identified with my photo ID when I present myself to vote either at the polls or when I apply for an absentee ballot. I feel that this will be liberating and will remove the undercurrent of possible fraud. I will be voting "Yes" on question 1.

~ Ginny Woodman, Windham

Editor,

Living in a state with one of the highest voter participation percentages has always been a source of pride. Question One would put an end to that era of high civic involvement.

There is no good reason to do this. Casting a fraudulent vote has always been difficult and complicated, but Question One would make voting more difficult and complicated for ordinary, law-abiding citizens. The inconvenience won't be limited to people who currently vote early. People who have always voted in person on the last day of voting would also be affected, by a more complex voting process, by overworked election officials, and slower, crowded polling places as the result of fewer people able to vote early.

Please vote no on Question One. It would not make voting any more secure, only harder.

~ Bob Wake, Windham

Editor,

Those of us who have gone to and participated in the town budget meeting realize that this process needs to change. Not only is 11.5 percent increase in spending and taxes incredible, but it is also not sustainable. It

makes no sense that approximately 150 people, in a town of almost 20,000 people, vote on a budget that exceeded \$39 million. Where is the representation or logic in that process?

Deb Devou, who is running for Town Council, recognizes this and wants to change this process. She believes in listening to the people, being available, and transparent. She proposes to prioritize spending to what we need, not what certain constituents or town employees want. Making property taxes reasonable for all is her goal. She also supports policies that encourage business growth that will in turn help to keep taxes in check. And, she believes in having a balanced long-term growth plan that doesn't overload our schools or town services, while still keeping Windham family-friendly, our natural resources preserved, and the character of town still rooted in our Maine past.

We need reasonable and accountable people on our town council. For that reason, I am supporting and voting for Deb Devou. If you believe Windham's taxes are increasing too quickly and the nature of our town is being lost, I urge you to vote for Deb Devou for Town Council too.

~ Carolyn Brodsky, Windham

-BRIEFS-

Peony Sale

The Raymond Village Library, 3 Meadow Road, is conducting a Peony Sale from 8 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 11. FMI, call 207-655-4283.

Bottle Drive

Windham Cub Scout Pack 805 will be at the North Windham Fire Station, 718 Roosevelt Trail, for a Bottle Drive Fundraiser between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 11. You can bring your returnable bottles there which will help the scouts raise money for future activities or call 207-239-9099 and scouts will stop by for pickup.

Haddock Dinner

The Knights of Columbus will host a Fresh Baked Haddock Dinner from 5 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 11 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 919 Roosevelt Trail in Windham. Menu includes: haddock, mashed potatoes, carrots, rolls and butter, coleslaw, coffee, tea, punch, and a dessert bar. Cost: \$15, \$6 for kids 12 and under. Pizza dinner available for \$6. Meals are available to-go also. Proceeds benefit the church's fuel/energy assistance program. FMI, call 207-892-8288.

Blood Drive

American Legion Field-Allen Post 148 will conduct its monthly Red Cross Blood Drive from noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 15 at the Windham Veterans Center, 35 Veterans Memorial Drive, Windham. To register, please call 1-800 RED CROSS or go to your Red Cross app to give the gift of life. FMI-call 207-892-1306.

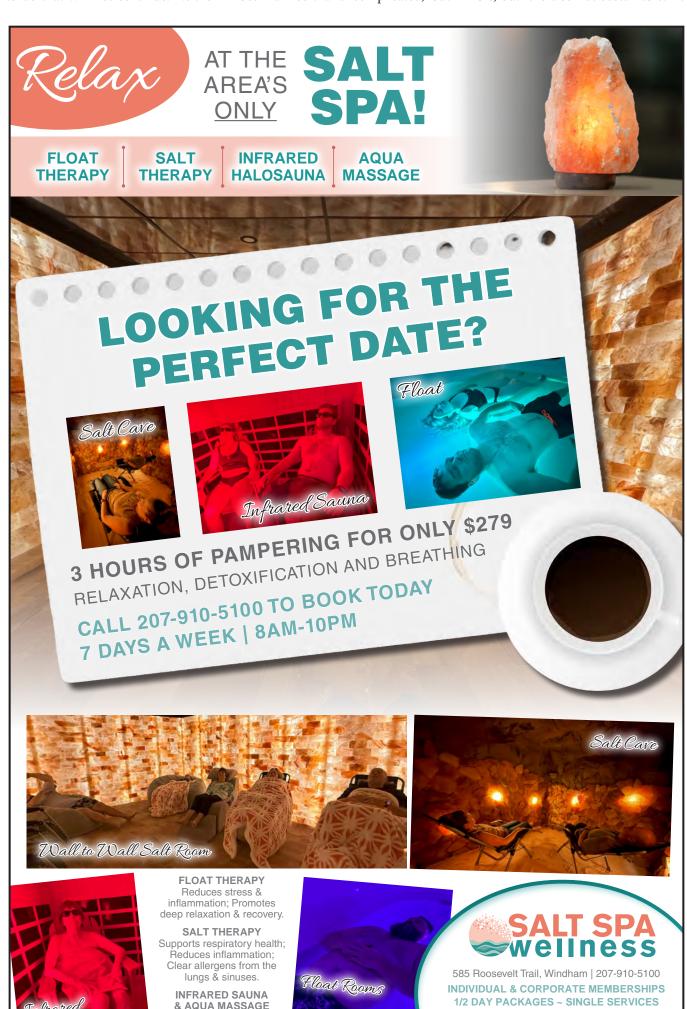
Craft Fair

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The Windham Lions Club will host a Craft Fair from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 18 at the North Windham Union Church, 723 Roosevelt Trail. There will be crafts galore and a fantastic raffle with items from local businesses. Lunch will be available from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. FMI, call 207-776-0469.



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The Windham Eagle Page 25

What makes a strong offer (beyond just the price)

By Lisa DiBiase SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE



If you're planning to buy a home this fall or winter, you've probably heard that you need to "come in strong" with your offer. But what Lisa DiBiase, Broker/Owner Landing Real Estate does this actually

Most assume it's all about price, but when inventory is tight and multiple offers are still on the table, sellers (and their agents) are looking for more than just the dollar amount. A strong offer isn't always the highest one; it could feel the most solid, the least risky, and the most likely to close smoothly. That's especially true in today's real estate market, where many sellers are balancing tight timelines, rising costs, or even trying to coordinate a move across seasons. A thoughtful, well-structured offer can stand out, even if it isn't the biggest number on paper.

Here are the key elements we see every day that make an offer stand out in Maine's real estate market.

Solid Financing

If you're financing your purchase, getting pre-approved (not just pre-qualified) is essential. Sellers want to know you've already done the financial legwork, and that a lender has reviewed your income, credit, and debt. A pre-approval letter from a reputable local lender goes a long way. Even better: if you're flexible on your financing options, your REALTOR®

can tailor your offer to appeal to the seller's timeline and needs.

A Clean Inspection Window

Most buyers want a home inspection...as they should! However, a lengthy inspection period or a vague list of potential repair demands can deter sellers. A strong offer keeps the inspection timeline short (usually 5 to 7 days) and clarifies your intentions. Are you just looking for major structural or safety issues? Are you asking for only health and safety repairs? Putting this in writing helps the seller feel more comfortable and less likely to be surprised later.

Earnest Money That Shows You're Serious

An earnest money deposit is your way of showing the seller you're committed. It's typically 1 to 3 percent of the purchase price and gets credited to your closing costs. The higher the deposit, the greater the seller's confidence that you won't walk away without cause. It's not required to be large, but offering a little more can sometimes give you an edge, especially if other terms are similar to competing

Flexibility With the Close Date

Sometimes it's not about how fast you can close; it's about what works best for the seller. A family trying to line up their next move might need a few extra weeks. A vacant home might be ready to go. If you're able to be flexible with your timeline, your RE-ALTOR® can offer that on your terms. Sellers appreciate buyers who are willing to work with their schedule, and that can make your offer more attrac-



tive than one with a rigid closing date. **Fewer Contingencies**

The fewer roadblocks you add to your offer, the more appealing it becomes. That doesn't mean you should give up protections but it does mean you should approach them thoughtfully. Contingencies for selling another home, long appraisal gaps, or unclear financing clauses can sometimes raise red flags and cause a seller to become hesitant. Your REALTOR® can help you decide what's truly necessary and what can be streamlined to help your offer come across as clean and reliable. It's all about reducing uncertainty for the seller. When your offer feels easy to work with, it's more likely to rise to the top, especially if other offers come with more unknowns.

A Personal Touch (Sometimes)

Some sellers appreciate a short, kind note from the buyer, especially if the home has been in the family a long time. Others prefer to keep it business-only. Your REALTOR® will know what's appropriate for the situation, but if the sellers are emotionally connected to the home, a personal letter can help your offer stand out.

A Strong Offer is a Smart Offer

It's really easy to get caught up in numbers but remember sellers want to feel confident and comfortable that the offer they accept will result in a smooth closing. When you put thought into your financing, flexibility, and how you structure your terms, you're already ahead of the game!

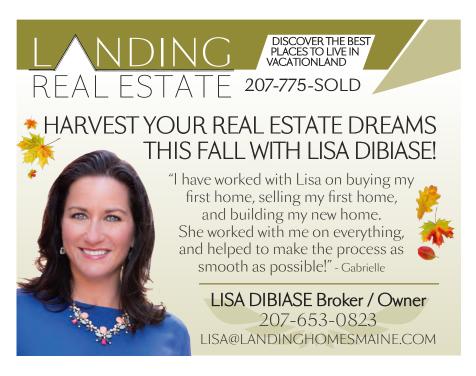
As I have said before, please call a local REALTOR® for all your real estate needs no matter how big or small. We are trained professionals here to make your life easier. It's best to surround yourself with the right team of professionals that can continuously give you the right advice for all your circumstances.

This article was brought to you by Lisa DiBiase, Broker/Co-Owner of Landing Real Estate. Lisa and her team proudly represent buyers and sellers across the Greater Portland, Lakes Region, and beyond. For all your real estate needs, contact Lisa at Lisa@ LandingHomesMaine.com or call 207-775-SOLD. <



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THE WINDHAM EAGLE'S

By Angela Paris SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE • JUGGLINGACTMAMA.COM

Apple Bread with Cinnamon Brown Sugar & Oat Topping

Our apple streusel bread recipe makes one loaf of the most tender, moist and delicious apple bread you have ever tasted. With a caramelized brown sugar oat topping, this quick bread is a family favorite.

INGREDIENTS

2 apples peeled and grated 2/3 cup sugar 10 tablespoons butter room temperature 2 eggs room temperature 1 teaspoon vanilla

1 cup all-purpose flour 1 teaspoon baking soda 1 teaspoon baking powder 1/2 teaspoon cardamom 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon

pinch salt

Cinnamon Brown Sugar & Oat Topping

2/3 cup rolled oats 1/3 cup brown sugar lightly packed 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

INSTRUCTIONS

In a mixing bowl, combine the dry ingredients for the chicken. Preheat the oven to 350° F. Butter and flour the pan really well! This bread tends to stick for sure. Cream the butter and sugar until fluffy. Beat in the eggs and vanilla. Sift the dry ingredients into the bowl and mix them until just combined – do not overmix. Fold in the grated apple.

Pour into the pan. Mix the topping ingredients together (do not add butter!) and gently press the topping down on the batter.

Bake for 45 minute, check the bread after 30 minutes or so and cover the top with foil if it seems to be getting too brown. It is finished when the top is crusty and a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.

Let the bread rest for 5-10 minutes before removing from the pan. Wait until the bread cools before cutting.

Cooking Corner proudly sponsored by Mills & Co.



LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

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15 16 17 18 19 23 24 33 36 38 41 42 45 49 53 56 52 CROSSWORD PUZZLE 59 62 63 **CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Baby or infant
- 5. Common Indian weaverbird
- 14. Shiite spiritual leader's title
- 15. Mirish
- 16. Nostrils
- 17. Confiscate
- 18. Powder mineral
- 19. Moss, lace or banded stone
- 20. Doyle detective
- 23. New Rochelle college
- 24. "Case of the Ex" singer
- 25. Rays or devilfish
- 28. Cutting implements for sewing
- 33. Two-toed sloth
- 34. Lightly fry
- 35. Japanese apricot
- 36. Gargle
- 38. Consumed food

CLUES DOWN

- 2. Indian wet nurse
- 4. Retired with honorary title 5. Conductor's instrument

- and SE

- 26. Colorful Japanese animation
- 28. Fully satisfied
- 29. Billiards sticks

- 39. Swats
- 41. Doctors' group
- 42. Baseball teams
- 44. Japanese waist pouch
- 45. Impaired by diminution
- 47. A fixed portion of food
- 49. Gall
- 50. A block of soap or wax
- 51. Polite phrase for "What?"
- 58. Blackberry drupelets
- 59. Wild sheep of Northern Africa
- 60. River in Florence
- 61. Carried
- 62. Was visualized
- 63. Giant armadillo 64. Dwarf buffaloes
- 65. An account of events
- 66. Avery dark black

- 1. Morsels
- 3. Cook a cake
- 6. Manila hemp
- 7. Yellow portion of an egg
- 8. Curved support structure
- 9. Reasonings
- 10. Molten rocks
- 11. Hillside (Scot.)
- 12. Leases
- 13. Point midway between E
- 21. Mauna __, HI, volcano
- 22. Leave out
- 25. Wall painting
- 27. Grandmothers

- 30. A citizen of Oman
- 31. Duplicate or copy
- 32. Municipality in Philippines
- 34. Mentally healthy
- 37. Capacities for work or activity
- 40. Able to read and write 43. Dark bluish black
- 46. Loudenville college
- 47. Seizure of property by force
- 48. Alias 50. Showing no mercy or pity
- 51. Sacred picture 52. Hungarian pen inventor
- 53. Hops kiln
- 54. Carbamide
- 55. Dull in color
- 56. Upon
- 57. Person, place or thing word 58. Sleeveless Arab garment

HOW TO SOLVE:

Each row must contain the numbers 1 to 9; each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9; and each set of 3 by 3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

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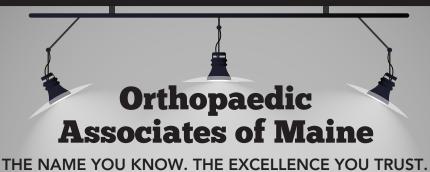


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Orthopaedic Associates of Maine (OAM) has proudly returned to its original name in 2025 – a return that reaffirms its commitment to the people of Maine. As the state's largest independent, physician-led orthopaedics practice, OAM continues to deliver advanced, patient-centered care with deep community roots.

OA of Maine is home to a team of board-certified, fellowship-trained physicians whose specialties include sports medicine, joint replacement, hand and upper extremity surgery, foot and ankle care, and physiatry. This depth of expertise allows the practice to treat even the most complex injuries and conditions. Because the practice is physician-led, the focus remains squarely on quality, patient experience, and clinical innovation. Patients can expect care that is both highly specialized and deeply personal.

In 2025, OA of Maine welcomed Dr. Zachary Abbott, a board-certified physiatrist specializing in non-surgical spine and musculoskeletal care. Dr. Abbott develops personalized, evidence-based treatment plans to help patients manage pain, recover from injury, and return to the activities that matter most. With expertise in advanced, non-invasive treatments such as spine injections, radiofrequency ablation, ultrasound-guided procedures, and regenerative therapies like platelet-rich plasma (PRP), Dr. Abbott offers patients more options for relief without surgery. He is now seeing patients in OAM's Portland and Bruns-



wick offices.

What truly sets OA of Maine apart, however, is its surgical team. The practice's orthopaedic surgeons are among the top in their fields – fellowship-trained experts who bring world-class skill and innovation directly to Maine. Patients no longer need to travel to Boston for expert orthopaedic care; the highest level of surgical and non-surgical treatment is available right here, close to home.

The physical therapy program at OA goes far beyond standard rehabilitation. Many therapists hold advanced certifications in dry needling, concussion management, and sport-specific assessments, including golf swing, throwing, and running mechanics. Therapists and physicians work hand in hand under one roof, ensuring seamless, coordinated care from diagnosis through recovery. This team-based model minimizes handoffs, strengthens communication, and helps patients return to activity with confidence.

For patients needing immediate care, OA of Maine offers the OrthoAc-

expert care—all under one roof.

cess Walk-In Clinic in Portland. Open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., the clinic provides same-day treatment for sprains, strains, minor fractures, dislocations, and other activity-related injuries. Unlike a traditional emergency room visit, patients at OrthoAccess are seen directly by orthopaedic specialists. The clinic also provides onsite casting and bracing, faster turnaround times, and lower costs, with follow-up care seamlessly arranged within OA of Maine if needed.

OA of Maine's commitment extends far beyond the walls of its clinics. This summer, the team proudly sponsored and supported several community events across Maine, combining medical expertise with meaningful engagement. At Tri for a Cure, Maine's largest all-women's triathlon, OA of Maine staffed the on-site medical tent, ensuring athletes had expert support throughout the event. More than 1,000 women participated, raising \$2.2 million for the Maine Cancer Foundation. During the Yarmouth Clam Festival Bike Race,

OA of Maine served as the official medical sponsor. Fellowship-trained sports medicine surgeon Dr. Thomas Murray was on site as event doctor, ensuring riders had immediate access to medical support. The practice also participated in the Westbrook Strong 5K, an event honoring the memory of Matthew Rairdon. Laurie and Gary Rairdon founded the road race in 2013 after their son, Matthew, was killed by his ex-partner in what investigators determined was domestic violence. Employees ran and walked in support of the scholarship fund established in his name, which benefits future healthcare professionals.

For OA of Maine, these events are about more than sponsorship – they are about showing up, supporting neighbors, and reinforcing the belief that health and community go hand in hand. With offices in Portland, Brunswick, and Windham, OA of Maine offers full-service orthopaedic care, including imaging, physical and occupational therapy, and ambulatory surgery. The practice also provides 24/7 emergency coverage at local hospitals, ensuring patients have access to expert care whenever it's needed. From diagnosis to recovery, OA of Maine is built to help patients move forward with confidence, compassion, and clinical excellence.

Orthopaedic Associates of Maine: Helping you get back to what you love.

For more info. or to make an appointment visit orthoassociates.com or call 207-828-2100. <

orthoassociates.com



SCHOOLS Cont. from page 1

ment study conducted in August 2019 "which identified the need to create a multigenerational home for all residents, that enhances the quality of life for Windham, provides flexible spaces for a range of activities, and is a self-sustaining business practice that fosters fun," according to the committee webpage on the town's website.

Also during the process, committee members are to "incorporate the migration of the services and space required for the Windham Public Library, Windham Parks and Recreation Department, Windham Social Services/Food Pantry facility and the Windham Medical Loan Closet facility into the new spaces as well as

flexible spaces for the community to engage in various activities," the webpage says.

The committee was also established to review the condition of the building and improvements that would be needed to accommodate new uses and come up with a budget and then report back to the Windham Town Council.

Windham Town Manager Robert Burns said the Town Council "is interested in the use of that facility" and is considering many different purposes such as a community center or for

Moving the Windham Parks and Recreation Department to the building is another possibility, Burns said.

"It has a fair amount of some ath-

letic opportunities over there. There's a basketball court inside," he said, saying that the large rooms at the school would be useful for that department.

He said the committee is about halfway through the process of coming up with a conceptual design along with an estimated cost.

He said an architect is looking at the square footage and to see how many different departments and functions the building could serve as home for.

"We're excited to see where this leads," Burns said.

Both towns will need support by their respective town council and select board as well as approval by residents before moving forward with any plan that committees develop.

"There's a lot of steps yet to go through," Burns said. He added, "it's a very exciting opportunity for Windham residents." <

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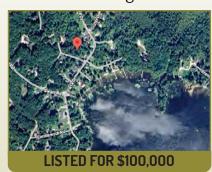


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