

# The Wintonbury Drummer



## ***Newsletter of the Wintonbury Historical Society***

***Bloomfield, Connecticut***

***June 2002***

***Next meeting: June 5, 2002 6:00 p.m.***

***Location: Sacred Heart Church, Father Picher Community Room, Wintonbury Avenue.***

***Program: Pot Luck Diner, Annual Meeting with Election of Officers & Board Members***

### ***President's Message:***

This is being written on a sunny Sunday, May 19th. I had hoped to be able to give an early report on the Flea Market/Tag Sale on the 18th, but the wash-out means a hope for a success on the 25th which had been advertised as the RAIN date (how little we knew). I commend Ralph Schmoll and Charlie Regini, who must have put their heads together at 5:30 A.M. on the 18th, for the agreed upon 6:00 A.M. cancellation time.

On page 2 of this newsletter is the report on the Societies three properties.

Our Society has sponsored an American flag, I trust all agree, the center of town looks great. Memorial Day, we will be marching in the parade join us 11:00 A.M. in the parking lot of the Sacred Heart Church.

Several Society members attended the May 14th service for Marion Filley. WHS members Ken and Rae Caswell worked out the service with O.D. It was a lovely service; and the respect in which Marion's friends held her in their thoughts, was and continues to be expressed by the gifts to the Society for the Filley Restoration project.

Congratulations to Ed Stanley who received his graduate degree from B.U. and to Carrie Allison upon being elected Vice President of the United Church women. We were sorry to read of the passing of Elizabeth Pitt.

As noted above, our June meeting on the 5th, will be our Annual Pot Luck Dinner at the Sacred Heart Community Room with election of officers and annual reports. Bea Shea and Mae DiFabio are in charge of the hospitality that evening.

Fannie R. Gabriel, President

## UMBRELLA COMMITTEE REPORT

Date: May 8, 2002  
To: WHS Board of Directors

It is a pleasure to report that by the end of 2001 three important plans were completed, namely, the roof installation at the Southwest District School, the repair of the roof and cover on the chimney at the Filley House, and the roof and ceiling repairs at the Old Farm School. A special thanks to Mary Murray for her dedication and care at the Old Farm School.

Let me now take you through a status report on various funding and work plans for the future.

### 1. Southwest District School

(a) Closeout for the \$18,000 Connecticut Historic Commission Grant is neither easy or simple as it requires time for all documentation to arrive. It requires: (a Cancellation of all insurance for project without any pending claims. Completed in January).

(b) Payment of all bills for this project with copies of the cancelled checks. Last week we received and paid the \$7,054.21 architects bill and \$456.50 Moore's Sawmill bill which will now closeout the financial requirements.

(c) The Town must then receive the closeout report and release any liens on the property for the project. The report for closeout will then be sent by the Town to the Commission, with a copy for WHS. The Historic Commission will review it and issue our funds shortly thereafter.

### 2. \$200,000 Urban Action Grant

This grant is administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD). They require acceptance resolutions to be less than one year old. Therefore the Town Council had to pass a new resolution which was approved at the April 22 Town Council meeting. The Town Manager must sign it and mail it back to DECD, hopefully this week. Then DECD will issue a letter for acceptance of funds which the Town Manager must sign and return. After all of this has been completed, the Town and State legal processes (like a closing) will commence. If all goes well, we hope to draw first \$50,000 of these funds, based on our financial plan, by the end of this year.

### 3. Challenge Fund

This fund is between the Wintonbury Historical Society and the Town wherein the Town matches Society funds and in-kind services and deposits match in the Filley House Trust Account. A \$50,000 match of funds the Town received during the past few months is due. The request for this match was presented to Council at the April meeting. It is being reviewed by the Council's budget committee so that the match can be added to the current budget and deposited into the Filley Trust Account. Approval should be given at the May Council meeting.

### 4. Filley House Project

(a) **Utilities.** The Umbrella Committee asked CL&P for help bringing utilities to the house. In response, the Simsbury Director of CL&P has been assigned to help us. However, we must have a project electrician. This will require the architect to prepare and commence the public bid process, which will be an expense in time and money. The Town also participates in this process. The Umbrella Committee recommends that utilities be our first priority for the next group of expenditures on this project. Little can be done until we have electricity at this site. CL&P hopefully will absorb most of the start up costs and the Town will dig the utility trench.

(b) **Volunteers.** Volunteers are needed on Saturdays for painting and carpenter work on the well house. Bob Stiles and Bruce Hale are coordinating the well house work. Volunteers and donated plants are needed to beautify a few places on the site. Sharon Steinberg and Virginia Hallisey are coordinating these needs.

## FLEA MARKET/BAKE SALE

Thankfully May 25th had perfect weather (sunny with a good breeze), for the postponed Flea Market/Tag Sale.

Thanks for the tremendous WHS support \$739.26 (gross) was realized from the Flea Market/Bake Sale combination; \$200 from Vendor spaces; \$10 for one mug - giving a total of \$949.26 (gross) for the Challenge Fund and \$67 for WHS publications. There were some early expenses for advertising the vendor spaces and for coffee supplies for the event.

Our thanks to Louise Schmoll for taking vendor reservations; Ralph Schmoll and Charlie Regini for yeoman's service preparing the vendor spaces; and on the 25th for general lugging - as well as helping at the Parking site. Others who also acted as "luggers" were Bob Stiles, Rich Dudenhofer and Bruce Hale; Winnie Granger for being willing to "spell anyone"; Mary Murray for buying our needed supplies and general OFS overseer; Doris Jordan for manning the WHS publications table; Janis Langston for assisting Doris, taking photographs of the sale and as Event treasurer overseer; Carrie Allison for manning the bake goods table; to Marissa Walls for her pop corn machine (she came to our April Meeting with speaker Ruth Douglas) and all those who donated tag sale items and baked goods; and Toni Stiles for making the sandwiches. My thanks to Angela Hauptman, Betty Doherty, Helen Cross, Jean Buscarello and Alice Hendrickson for their skillful movement of merchandise from background to display on the tables.

The reason for all these thank yous — the sale's **SUCCESS**.



## EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Education Committee was a bit slow to reorganize this year after the former Chairperson, Judy Sitkin, left for Florida.

The Bloomfield public schools have been contacted to offer our services and we hope for further communication and interaction in the early fall.

The Connecticut Historical Society through Judi Sitkin has given our Historical Society a group of slide programs developed by the Connecticut Historical Society's Education Department, copyright 1985. These programs have been reviewed and are ready for lending use. Topics cover a variety of historical areas such as: The Amistad, Connecticut's Women, Connecticut and the Revolutionary War, The Holocaust, Hartford Changes, World War II, One Room Schoolhouse, Connecticut Shakers, Connecticut Irish, Wampum, etc., and Immigration. Some of these are geared for the classroom, and others would be interesting for adults who might want to refresh their historical knowledge. Perhaps we could sponsor slide programs for those so inclined. Let us know if you are interested.

Do you have an idea or favorite project for the Education Committee? We'd love to hear from you, or better yet, please join us.

Libby Merrow, Lucy Wursul, Co-Chairman

*Address Service Requested*

**Wintonbury Historical Society**  
**P.O. Box 7454**  
**Bloomfield, CT 06002**

### Calendar of Events

- 5/30-6/1 **Prosser Library Book Sale**
- June 5 **Annual Meeting & Pot Luck Supper**  
Election of Officers & Annual Reports
- Sept 11 **WHS Regular Meeting**
- Sept 21 **WHS Auction**
- Sept 21 Descendants/Founders Ancient Windsor;  
Fred Hesketh speaker
- Oct 5 **Drum Festival**



Visit the WHS website at: [www.bloomfieldhistory.org](http://www.bloomfieldhistory.org)

*Submit articles for The Wintonbury Drummer,  
the Newsletter of the Wintonbury Historical Society of Bloomfield, to:  
Sharon Steinberg, Editor, 12 Regency Drive, #7, Bloomfield, CT 06002; or to  
Fannie Gabriel, President, 400 Seabury Drive, #5158, Bloomfield, CT 06002.*