



Progressive
Dinner
March 17

Willimantic Victorian Neighborhood Association

Winter 2018

P.O. Box 555, Willimantic, CT 06226

WWW.VictorianWillimantic.org

Neighborhood News

Winter in Willimantic

By Bob Horrocks

We thought about going on a winter vacation to Florida to be with family, or flying to England where we have friends. Both are exotic options to escape the winter doldrums, but once again we opted to stay in Romantic Willimantic. Is it any wonder? On January 20th Pam and I attended the formal Snow Ball event at Eastern's Tipton Room and danced to the big band sound of the "Red Satins." I'm happy to report that my tux still fits. This was a fundraiser for the Windham Textile and History Museum. We then were participants in the crowning of this year's "Cupid" at the town hall on February 14th.

The town has established a long tradition of each year recognizing an individual who has contributed to the positive image of Willimantic through volunteer hours. This year's selection was Jim Baran who is a local entertainer, musical event director, musician and teacher. Last year Baran wrote and directed the musical event titled "The Book of Windham." This live performance was produced to honor the town's 325th anniversary. Twenty-two past Cupids were in attendance at the surprise awarding. This event embodies the spirit of volunteerism in our town and is run in conjunction with Valentine's Day and the Main Street Chocolate Festival.

This year's Chocolate Festival on February 10th was extremely popular, attracting out-of-town visitors from Massachusetts, New York, and western Connecticut. To give you an idea of the popularity of this event, several store owners reported record crowds visiting their shops. The

owner of A Cupcake For Later reported that she distributed more than 600 free cupcakes. The annual cake baking contest included 25 entrees and an award ceremony of 70 people at the Kerri Gallery. This has become a winter "must attend event" for many in our community.

And yet the winter events are not over. Pam and I will attend the Winter Blues Fest (a fundraiser for the 3rd Thursday events) and the Soroptimist Heart-to-Heart Ball on March 3rd at the Elks Lodge. Both events reflect long traditions in Willimantic and are well attended. Also, Horizons in South Windham will host a dinner/dance on April 28th. WRAC is celebrating its 35th anniversary on the same date at the Elks Lodge. These should prove to be spectacular events.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the elation I experienced on February 4th about the triumph of my fabulous Philadelphia Eagles over the highly favored New England Patriots. If you didn't know, I grew up in "Philly," eating cheese steak sandwiches and large soft pretzels (with Plocman yellow mustard). I have attended the "Mummer's Parade" and have climbed the "Rocky" steps of the art museum. I have kept my victory gloating to a minimum, out of respect for our WVNA newsletter editor who is a Patriots fan. But to her and to others I can only offer the following: "It ain't over 'til it's over," and "Hungry dogs run faster." I do love sporting metaphors.

Member of Distinction



Hats off to active WVNA member Christel Donahue who spearheaded the recent German student exchange between Windham High School and Albert Einstein Schule in Schwalbach, Germany. Twelve German Students and 2 chaperones spent 2 weeks in town and will host some Windham youth in their European homes in April.

While here the guests were treated to a reception at ECSU, a catered meal for the people directly involved in the Exchange as well as the Windham Town Council members and other officials as honored guests. They were also treated to a visit at the State Capitol and the Mark Twain House in Hartford where, coincidentally, an official there was a former Windham High School student. Trips to Boston, New York and Newport were also on the agenda.

Christel, who is originally from Bad Soden, Germany, a town near Frankfurt, was instrumental in obtaining the formal status of Sister City between Willimantic and Bad Soden. Following that, she developed the student exchange with the teacher of English in Germany who was enthusiastic about the venture. She and Christel met in Germany where Christel also

discussed the project with the equally enthusiastic director of the regional secondary school there. After many meetings with officials of the Windham School System, the Exchange was approved. It did not take place however, through no fault of Christel's for almost 3 years after initial talks had begun.

Fortunately, Christel persisted in her dream, maintaining contact with the English teacher, and initiating meetings with Windham's administration until the go-ahead was finally given. Thank you Christel, on behalf of the fortunate young people whose lives have been forever enriched by the cultural experience, for your tenacity.

Christel, a former town council member, has been a contributing member of our community, having graciously and generously often hosted a portion of the ever popular Progressive Dinners. She and her husband Mark have also opened their handsome Prospect St. Victorian to guests on many occasions. They have especially welcomed people who share stories of visiting the house during the years it was the Taylor-Hathaway Children's Library. Some remember curling up with a good book in one of the many cozy window seats or in a quiet corner. To honor the building's former life as a haven for young readers, local artist Nicolas Khan painted a collection of faux books at the front entrance.

So, once again, distinguished member Christel, thanks for your continued service to the Willimantic Victorian Neighborhood Association and our Windham community.

TRUST FOR HISTORIC

Jennifer P. Clark, REALTOR SFR

FIRST CHOICE REALTY, LLC

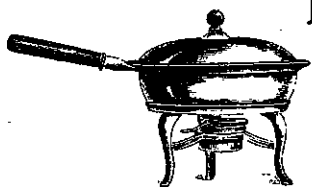
120 Wauregan Road
Danielson, CT 06239

CELL: 860.208.6257
OFFICE: 860.779.7460
FAX: 860.779.7462

jclark@firstchoicerealtyne.com
www.WindhamCountyHomes.com

CONNECTICUT PRESERVATION TRAINED REALTOR





The 17th annual Winter Progressive Dinner

Saturday, March 17, 2018



Circle your calendars, whet those hearty appetites, prepare for an evening of delectable eats, and mingle with the nicest people you'd ever meet. Need we say more? Oh, yes. You won't want to miss President Bob's annual sing-along of his latest original adapted song.

The evening gets underway at six o'clock, with guests gathering for hors d'oeuvres, champagne, greetings from President Horrocks, and singing. Randomly selected entrée sites will be given at that time. After dinner, the party reconvenes at another site for coffee, cordials and confections.

Dining Schedule for the event:

6 - 7 Hors d'oeuvres	128 Windham Street	Host: Jeff Smith
7 - 8 Soup	4 Main Street, South Windham	Hosts: DelAnne & Andy Carey
8 -9:15 Entrée	251 Walnut Street	Hosts: Delia Berlin and David Corsini
	202 Lewiston Avenue	Hosts: Pam and Bob Horrocks
	246 North Street	Hosts: Faith and Steve Kenton
	305 Prospect Street	Hosts: Barbara and Jim Lacey
	266 Walnut Street	Hosts: Shirley Mustard and Dean Williams
9:30 -? Dessert & Coffee	183 Summit Street	Hosts: Claire and Doug Lary

Still time to sign up, but the clock is ticking so sign up ASAP. We look forward to seeing you. For more information please call Bob Horrocks at 860-456-1666.

Suggested donation \$45 per person. Reservations are required. Checks made out to WVNA should be sent to P.O. Box 555, Willimantic, CT 06226. This is usually a sell-out, so reserve early to avoid disappointment.

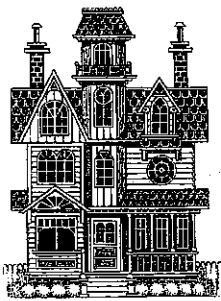
Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

E-Mail Address _____

Any Dietary Restrictions or Pet Allergies _____

Number of people attending _____ Check # _____ enclosed in the amount of \$ _____



Willimantic Victorian Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 555
Willimantic, CT 06226
Return Service Requested

NONPROFIT
PRESORT
MARKETING MAIL
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 6
WILLIMANTIC, CT
06226

Please call on the WYNA Officers & Board for Information or Assistance:

President, Bob Horrocks	456-1666
Vice President/Secretary, Barbara Lacey	456-1214
Treasurer, Claire Lary	456-3088
Membership, Pam Horrocks*	456-1666
Home Tour & Newsletter, Lynn Duval*	456-4476
Publicity, Public Relations, Newsletter Shirley Mustard	423-1481
Social, Jennifer Clark	208-6257
Legal, Charles Krich	456-8874

Board Members

Sue Humes	423-0576
James Lacey	456-1214
Gordon MacDonald	423-8845

* Non-voting members

Photos by

Mark Donahue

The Willimantic Victorian
Neighborhood Association
is the key to communication in
regard to the Hill Section,
the Home Tour, Economic
Development and a better quality of
life in our town.

Join today if you have not already
done so. Send us your ideas and
thoughts, participate in the
meetings and events.

Be a part of this wonderful
community and this extraordinary
neighborhood.

Call Bob Horrocks (860) 456-1666.

Calendar of Events

**Willimantic Victorian Neighborhood
Association**

Enjoy the Progressive Dinner

**Have you paid your membership dues?
call 860-456-1666**