

## THE COMMUNITY

With a current population of 1,298, Whitingham, chartered on March 12, 1770, is a small rural town with two centers, Whitingham Center and the Village of Jacksonville, which are approximately three miles apart. Geographically, the town lies in the southwest corner of Windham County in Deerfield Valley, is about 36 square miles, and borders Halifax, Readsboro, Wilmington, Marlboro and the Massachusetts line. Wilmington is the town nearest to Whitingham for shopping, while Brattleboro, Bennington and Greenfield, Massachusetts, are all about thirty to forty minutes away. Whitingham Center has a small general store, a church, a post office and is also where the historical society buildings are located. Jacksonville Village includes a general store, a gas station, an antique store, a small retail shop, a pottery, an automobile repair and tire business, a church, a post office and the Municipal Center in which the Library resides. Both centers are serviced by a volunteer fire department and emergency medical service. Residences and businesses in the town centers are serviced by two waste treatment plants. Forty-three percent of the population holds high school diplomas, twenty-two percent have at least two years of college and seventeen percent have undergraduate degrees. The median family income is about \$37,400.

Local newspapers, The Deerfield Valley News and The Brattleboro Reformer, along with bulletin boards around town give information to the community members. The majority of the townspeople work in retail, construction and manufacturing. There is an elementary school, Pre-k through 5, and Twin Valley Middle School, which services Whitingham and Wilmington, as well as tuition students from surrounding communities. The school system is the town's largest employer.

Halifax has no public library and is served by the Whitingham Library. It lies to the east of Whitingham and was chartered in 1750. It is about 36 square miles and has a population of approximately 800. Currently 200 of its inhabitants are registered library users, and the median family income is \$36,400. Halifax is also a rural town with a small center that includes a volunteer fire station, a community center, the historical society museum and a K-8 school with an enrollment of 57 students. The school also houses the town offices.

Statistics were compiled by the Center for Rural Studies and the 2000 Census.