

# Arlington Community House

*"There will always be a library in Arlington, but without this building there will not be a community center"*

Dorothy Canfield Fisher

Built in 1829, the Arlington Community House at 3854 Main Street is managed by a volunteer Board of Trustees and is a 501-c3 non-profit. Author Dorothy Canfield Fisher deeded the house to the Board in 1947 for the purpose of charging them with its care. As a condition of the gift a portion of the house must be used as a meeting place for citizens of Arlington and surrounding communities, as well as space for the Martha Canfield Library. Since construction of the new library the former library is now occupied as a used book store for the benefit of the library. Use of the house by various groups in the communities is free of charge; therefore donations only are accepted. The house has two rental units on the second and third floors which help defray the costs of fuel and maintenance.

As with any old house, renovations and necessary repairs remain an important focus of the Board. Fundraising events such as a spring bazaar, Christmas tree and wreath sales, and a concert with the John Davis Band helped to provide funds for maintenance and repair. The board continues to pay down the loan for recent extensive brick work and thanks the generous donations from the towns, private individuals, and organizations such as Stewarts Shops.

The Board wishes to again thank the students at Arlington Memorial High School for their help with fall clean-up. The Garden Club of Arlington has developed and maintains a lovely garden, bench, and memorial tree on the north side of the house.

This past year saw many groups and individuals make use of the house and outdoor areas: Library Book Sale, Burdett Commons, The Garden Club, Battenkill Runners, AA, Arlington Nursing Service, and Overeaters Anonymous among others. A total of 23 users averaged 17 per month for a total of 204 uses. The building is available for use free of charge. We only ask for a donation to help defray our utility costs. Meeting time may be reserved by calling Lynn Williams at 375-6119.

Visit the new website, [arlingtoncommunityhouse.com](http://arlingtoncommunityhouse.com) as well as the Facebook page for information and events. Many thanks go to Jessica Roberts for developing these pages.

The Arlington Community House greatly appreciates the support of the community and its citizens as our mission continues to protect, manage, and maintain this fine old building so it may continue to serve our towns. I also want to thank the board members for their continued service and dedication.

Finally, the board wishes to acknowledge the passing of member Judy Werner. She is missed by all.

Respectfully submitted,  
Charles Webster, President of the Board of Trustees