

Historians ready to serve town

By **DAVID HINCHEY**
Chronicle Staff Writer

WINDHAM — After being vacant for six years, former Windham First Selectman Jean de Smet appointed two co-town historians to preserve and share their knowledge about the town.

William McMunn, chairman of the Windham Center Historic District Commission, will specialize in the history of the Windham Villages (Windham Center, North Windham and South Windham).

The co-town historian is Jamie Eves, vice president of the Windham Textile & History Museum, who will offer his expertise on Willimantic.

"It is exciting and a little bit challenging," McMunn said, adding he is looking forward to sharing his knowledge and working to preserve the town's history.

McMunn said both he and Eves look forward to supporting local organizations that also preserve the town's history, such as the Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum and the Victorian Neighborhood Association.

McMunn, who has lived in Windham Center since 1971, lives in a home built in 1773 and he said it's "really exciting" to live in a historic house and enjoy the town's history.

He offered a few facts about the town this morning and said Windham Center was originally the business center of the town until the rise of water power.

McMunn said after the rise of water power, industry shifted to Willimantic due to its location near the Willimantic River.

He said during the late 1800s, industrial workers from South Windham viewed Windham Center as a "vacation area" and would travel to Windham Center to relax.

"It's something I've been interested in for a long time," he said, of the town's history.

Eves could not be reached for comment this morning.

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