

Winsted community lawyer releases new pamphlets on town government

By ANNE SAUNDERS

Register Citizen Staff

WINSTED — Two new pamphlets on local government were released by the office of the community lawyer this week.

The series, paid for by the Shafeek Nader Trust for the Community Interest, outlines the basics of town government and provides information for citizens to work within the political system.

The first of the two pamphlets explains the ideas behind the home rule system for local government. It describes different forms of local government and how the town charter can be changed. It also outlines the areas of government where state laws will override local rule.

In the second pamphlet Winsted's town government is outlined along with information about when selectmen meet and how to bring a matter of concern

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before them. Departments and phone numbers for various government functions are listed for easy reference.

The series of pamphlets was started last year by the town's first community lawyer Ellen K. Thomas. Charlene LaVoie, currently filling the role, picked up where Thomas left off in putting together the pamphlets.

"It's to encourage participation," she said. By helping citizens understand the process of getting involved in local government, she hopes more people will participate in the democratic process.

Last winter, the first two pamphlets in the series were released covering freedom of information

laws and how citizens can propose laws according to a process outlined by the town charter.

In the future LaVoie said she hopes to come out with pamphlets on the functioning of the various town boards and commissions.

The two recently produced pamphlets along with the two issued last winter are available at the town clerk's office, the Beardsley and Memorial Library, the Northwestern Connecticut Community College library, The Gilbert School library and the Corner Bookstore.

Copies are also available through the office of the community lawyer, P. O. Box 1044, Winsted, 06098.