



# BARRE TOWN MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER

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## TOWN CLERK OPPORTUNITY

Donna Kelty is retiring from the Town Clerk-Treasurer position. She does not plan to seek re-election in May 2021. Due to voter approved Town Charter amendments the position will be changed to elected Town Clerk. A part-time Treasurer will be appointed by the Selectboard. The Treasurer will assume those duties after the election next May. The Town Clerk is an important position in Barre Town government operations and works cooperatively with other elected officials (Selectboard, Board of Civil Authority) and with the Town's department heads.

Any registered Town voter may seek the position next May. The only mandatory qualification is the Clerk must be a registered Town voter. Of course, knowledge of and skills in using Microsoft Office and Excel are needed. Donna Kelty advises a successful Town Clerk will have good interpersonal and communication skills, and will be a team player.

Pursuant to a Selectboard adopted policy the elected Town Clerk is expected to work full-time and follow Town employment and work policies. In return the Clerk receives a comparable full-time salary and the same benefits (insurances, pension, and paid time-off) as other management staff.

The Clerk position is non-partisan. To seek election in May an interested person must submit a petition listing at least 30 Town registered voters' signatures. The petition must be submitted to the Town Clerk's Office by a certain date in late March. Contact Donna Kelty (479-9391) for details. The new Clerk will assume the position and duties the day after the election. The election is for a 3-year term. The new Clerk would seek re-election in May 2024.

Primary duties and responsibilities of the Town Clerk are described in the Town Charter (Section 16, but other duties are sprink-



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led throughout the Charter) and in state statutes. Examples of these primary responsibilities are: elections and voter registration, filing and maintaining vital records (birth and death certificates, marriage licenses and others), maintaining land records (deeds, easements, mortgages), maintaining Town documents (agreements, contracts, some permits), helping the new Finance Office, issuing dog and marriage licenses, processing motor vehicle registrations, Green Mountain Passports and fire-works permits, and serving as clerk to the Selectboard and Board of Civil Authority. In Barre Town the Clerk's Office produces and mails water bills to the Town water system users.

According to Donna the wide variety of duties make the Clerk's work interesting. The list above may seem overwhelming but there is support. Most important, at least two experienced Town Clerk's Office staff members will continue work after Mrs. Kelty's retirement. There are many support and training resources including: the Secretary of State's Office, the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, the VT Municipal Town Clerks' and Treasurers' Association, the New England Municipal Clerks' Association, the International Institute of Municipal Clerks, and the UVM Extension Service. Historically, the Town Budget Committee has supported the Town Clerk's professional association memberships and training. Association dues have been paid by the Town. Ample money has been budgeted to attend trainings in Vermont and other New England states.

Donna Kelty was hired as an Assistant Town Clerk in February, 1989. She was elected Town Clerk-Treasurer in 2000 when former Town Clerk-Treasurer Ruth Finn retired. Kelty's tenure as Town Clerk-Treasurer is the second longest in Barre Town's history. Since 1969 Barre Town has had 4 Town Clerk-Treasurers. One of those was appointed and served 4 months to fill out a term. Really, Barre Town has had 3 clerks in 52 years, when Kelty retires.

For more information read about the Town Clerk's Office on the Town website, peruse the Town Charter (available on the website) and take in a few Selectboard meetings on cable local access tv or through the Town website. Interested residents

*(Continued on Page 2)*

### Dates & Events:

**November 1 - April 1:** Winter Ban on Street Parking Begins  
**November 26:** 5K Walk/Run (Turkey Trot)  
**December 31:** Budget Committee Letter Due  
**January 4:** Budget Committee Appointed  
**January 4th - 15th:** Christmas Tree Collections  
**January 26:** Budget Review Begins  
**February 16:** Property and Sewer Taxes Due

### (Cont'd - Town Clerk Opportunity)

also may call Donna Kelty at 479-9391.

As noted in this article the Town Charter amendments are making some changes. The Treasurer will be a part-time position. The day-to-day financial duties will be assigned to a Director of Finance. Applications for the new position will be accepted until November 13. The Town plans to have the new Finance Director start work in mid-February to receive some on-the-job training from Kelty. Recruitment of Treasurer applications is expected to start in a few months.

*By Carl Rogers, Town Manager*

### Employee Changes

Public Works was fortunate to fill its last vacancy with **Tyler Spooner**. He grew up in Central Vermont and is an army veteran. Tyler has a background in trucking and heavy equipment that will be good for the town. If you see a new face in a green Town of Barre truck, give him a wave!

Paramedic **Michelle Brock** resigned in October after almost three years with Barre Town EMS. Certified Paramedics are able to provide more complex care to patients than Advanced EMTs or EMTs, undergoing about 1,000 hours more training than AEMTs. Barre Town staffs its ambulance service so that it can have a paramedic on nearly every call. BTEMS is recruiting internally first to fill this position.

*By Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Manager*

### Seeking Volunteers

**CV Fiber Board:** The Town is a member of CV Fiber, a communications union district (CUD) organized under VT state law. CV Fiber's mission is bringing fast, dependable, community-owned internet service to the region. CV Fiber has 20 municipal members. The CV Fiber board meets the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00pm in the Berlin Elementary School. Meetings are held on the last Tuesday, if needed.

Barre Town's alternate board member position is vacant and letters of interest in serving in the position are requested. Letters of interest (or email) in serving may be sent to [offices@barretown.org](mailto:offices@barretown.org). For more information call the Town Manager's Office at 479-9331 or visit [www.cvfiber.net](http://www.cvfiber.net).

*By Carl Rogers, Town Manager*

### All Town Offices Will Be Closed:

Thursday, November 26th  
Friday, November 27th  
Friday, December 25th  
Friday, January 1, 2021



### Budget Committee Appointments

The Town Selectboard is seeking registered Barre Town voters to serve on the Barre Town Budget Committee between January 26<sup>th</sup> and March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The town budget is what allows all the various plans for the town to become reality. Serving on the Budget Committee gives you a say in what Barre Town will look like and what it will do in fiscal year 2021 to 2022. It is also a great opportunity to learn about town operations in detail.

The Budget Committee reviews the Town Manager's proposed budgets for nine different funds. The General Fund covers a wide variety of departments like Elections, Emergency Management, Planning & Zoning, Police, Fire, Recreation, and more. The other eight funds are specific, with the purpose indicated by their name: Highway, Equipment, Ambulance, Water, Building, Cemetery, Sewer, and Sewer Capital Improvement. The General and Highway Fund budgets approved by the Budget Committee go to the voters. The other seven fund budgets are set by the Budget Committee.

The Budget Committee is comprised of ten members whose votes count equally. Five of these are the current Selectboard members. Two are appointed by the Selectboard. One member is appointed by the Town Clerk-Treasurer. These three appointees then appoint the remaining two members.

The Committee meets mostly on Tuesday nights starting at 6pm for two months. Two or three other days may be required. Attending by videoconference will be offered, and is encouraged, due to the pandemic. Those who attend the meetings in person at the municipal building will be required to wear a face covering. The meeting room's "COVID-19 capacity" is 12 people.

If interested, please send your letter or email of interest by 12:00 p.m., Thursday, December 31st to the Town Manager's office, PO Box 116, Websterville VT 05678 or [offices@barretown.org](mailto:offices@barretown.org). If you have questions, contact the Town Manager at 479-9331 or one of the Selectboard members. Their contact information is at: [www.barretown.org/boards\\_and\\_commissions/selectboard/members](http://www.barretown.org/boards_and_commissions/selectboard/members).

*By Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Manager*

### Reappraisal Update

Exterior inspections of residential properties continues. At the end of October the interim town assessor (Russ Beaudoin) and 2 assistants had completed about 2,250 residential inspections. As October closed, the team was working in the Trow Hill neighborhood. After that neighborhood the assessor and inspectors had 472 more properties in the East Barre and Quarry Hill/Sterling Hill neighborhoods to inspect. Russ Beaudoin anticipates finishing the residential exterior inspections by mid-December.

Beaudoin will inspect the commercial and industrial properties. He has about 200 of those properties to inspect.

Because of COVID-19 concerns the team will not perform in-person interior home inspections. Instead the Assessor's Office will mail a letter to every residential property owner. The letter asks owners to review 13 points of information about the house/property and to answer 6 questions. After confirming or correcting the points of information and answering the questions the owner will mail the letter back. The 13 points of information verify the number of rooms, bedrooms, full baths, half-baths, and fireplaces. Other information requested includes square footage, type of heat, attic, basement and finished basement. Beaudoin thinks these letters will be mailed around

the end of November. If the letters will go out en masse or by section of Town has not been decided.

The Town intends for the reappraisal to be completed and used for the 2021 Grand List. Next May or June every owner will receive a Notice of Change in Appraisal and have an opportunity to grieve the assessment. The reappraisal will increase the Town's Grand List causing the property tax rate to decrease. An individual property owners' tax bill may go up or go down depending on his/her's percent change in assessed value compared to the overall Grand List. Watch for more information in the February and April newsletters.

*By Carl Rogers, Town Manager*

### Trash and Recycling Depot

On October 27 the Selectboard approved and signed a Lease Agreement and Service Contract with Casella Waste Management, Inc. The Agreement and Contract is for three years, November 1, 2020 to October 31, 2023. The Agreement and Contract are for the Wilson Depot located on Pitman Road in the Wilson Industrial Park.



New England Quality Service (NEQS) had operated the Depot since early 2010. In August this year NEQS notified the Town it would not seek renewal of its Agreement and Contract. The Town solicited proposals for a new operator. Every trash hauler or collector licensed by the C.V. Solid Waste Management District received the request for proposals. Casella submitted the only proposal.

Casella will provide service (service is not limited to Barre Town residents) on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays between the hours of 8:00am to 4:00pm. Casella will accept the same type of trash and recyclables NEQS accepted, except Casella will accept co-mingled recyclables. There will be a fee of \$2.50 per 30 gallon bag of recyclables. Casella's other fees are comparable to NEQS'. The traffic pattern may be different than NEQS used.

Barre Town will receive the same benefit for leasing its land for use as a trash and recycling depot. The DPW vehicle shop receives free trash and recycling disposal. The Town may drop-off at no charge all tires removed from Town vehicles and equipment and up to 250 Green Up Day tires.

For more information contact Casella at (888) 852-2151, visit <https://www.casella.com/locations/wilson-depot>, or check the Town website ([www.barretown.org](http://www.barretown.org)) and follow Departments, Solid Waste, Wilson Depot.

*By Carl Rogers, Town Manager*

### Thanksgiving 5K

Thanksgiving morning runners and walkers will be on Websterville Road and Graniteville Road participating in the Barre Congregational Church's 18th Gobble Wobble Turkey Trot. The Church is conducting the race in compliance with VT state guidelines for outdoor recreation. There are changes from prior years.

Registration through the Church's website closes November 20. Due to COVID concerns all aspects of the race, including race packet pick up will be outside in front of the Barre Town Middle and Elementary School (BTMES) or in the parking lot. Instead of one mass start, this year participants will be assigned a start time. A limited number of partici-



pants will be in each group. The first group will start at 8am and the last group at 10am. There will be no awards presentation on race day. Participants are asked to leave when finished running or walking.

The course is the same as the past several years. Participants enter Websterville Road at the BTMES and proceed down to the 4-way intersection by the cemetery. The course turns left onto Graniteville Road and extends out to Rock of Ages' Visitor Center. From there participants follow the bike path back to the school, if there is not too much snow or ice on the path. If there is too much snow or ice, participants reverse course back to the school.

Drivers, please note the staggered start times. It means there could be participants (runners, walkers, adults and children) on the course from 8am to 10:45am. Unlike with the mass start, there will be single participants or small groups of participants scattered along the course from 8am to 10:45am. Please drive cautiously on the course during the event.

For more information about the Gobble Wobble check out [www.barrecongregational.org/gobble-wobble](http://www.barrecongregational.org/gobble-wobble).

*By Carl Rogers, Town Manager*

### Recreation

**Town Forest Logging:** Working through its forester, Jeff Smith of Butternut Hollow Forestry, in late October and early November the Town was seeking bids for a logging contract. Six loggers attended a site visit on October 21. Award of the contract was slated for the November 17 Selectboard meeting.

In keeping with the Town Forest Management Plan, this is the third contract for logging specified sections of the town forest. The first contract had the area north (East Barre side) of Littlejohn Road logged. The second contract saw the area immediately south of Littlejohn harvested. The new contract is for 93 acres. The larger tract encompasses the easterly side (Donahue Road side) and the center of the forest. Trails in the eastern side include Heiffer Pasture and TNT. The Locomotion trail is in the center section. The other tract in the new contract is the southwesterly corner of the forest, which is behind the St. Sylvester Church.

The logger may start cutting trees December 15, 2020, if weather and ground conditions allow. The contract term is through the 2021-2022 winter. If the logger plans to perform the work over two winters the forester will coordinate the work to minimize trail restoration, i.e. all logging in an area will be done one winter. (Trails near the landings or log loading locations would be disturbed both winters.) The logger will harvest trees for sawlogs, pallet quality boards, pulpwood, chipwood and firewood. The Town will be paid the bid amount for sawlogs, pallet boards, pulp wood, etc.

After December 15 town forest users should be aware of the logging operation and not venture into an area where chainsaws or heavy equipment are being used. Trails may be blocked by felled tree tops, or obscured by equipment tracks in the snow. The logger will minimize slash (tree tops) and attempt to clear trails. In the spring, however, MTA and its volunteers will clear the trails.

Jeff Smith again will lead a free logging workshop. The

*(Continued on Page 4)*

**(Cont'd - Town Forest Logging)**

workshop will be on site during the logging operation. Anyone interested in logging (such as for having their wooded land logged) is welcome to attend. Watch the Town website for an announcement of the workshop or contact the Town Manager's Office (479-9331) and ask to be notified of the date, time and place.

*By Carl Rogers, Town Manager*

**Outdoor Recreation:**

Although there is no indoor pickleball in Barre Town this year due to the pandemic, otherwise the usual outdoor opportunities are still available. The Barre Town Forest will be groomed for skiing, snowshoeing, and fatbiking by the Millstone Trails Association. MTA will also groom an easy trail in the Rec Area. Keep in mind hunting is

allowed in the Town Forest, as are pedestrian uses during hunting season. Please exercise mutual respect and be responsible for your own safety—wear bright orange. Dogs are supposed to be leashed year-round, but it's even more important during hunting season. If you choose to walk your dog in the town forest during hunting season, consider tying something orange on their collar. Mountain biking is prohibited during the rifle deer season, November 14-29 this year.

The three Barre Town bike paths will also be available, but be prepared for conditions, as they are not groomed. Access for the Millstone West Bike Path is from the Barre Town School parking lot or Compo Street. Access for the South Barre Bike Path is on Bridge Street on the uphill side of the bridge, but as there is no parking there users could park in the park-in-ride on Rt. 14 and use the sidewalk to reach the bike path, or, park at the Barre City School on Parkside Terrace. Access for the East Barre Path is at 449 Websterville Road. There is public parking a short walk away along Mill Street and Websterville Road near the East Barre Post Office.

*By Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Manager*

**Christmas Tree Collection**

The Department of Public Works (DPW) will pick up discarded Christmas trees during the first two full weeks of January. See the schedule shown below. Pick up service is suspended temporarily if DPW has to plow snow or salt and sand roads.

Completely remove all lights, decorations, string and garland before placing the tree by the street or road side. Put the tree out for collection before the end of the collection week for your neighborhood. If the tree is along the road after the collection week call the DPW (476-3522) or Town Manager's Office (479-9331).

The service is offered to help residents dispose of a large and eventually unsightly item. The Town is interested in keeping ditches and waterways clear. Trees tossed over the bank of a drainageway or brook could cause minor isolated flooding. The Town also is interested in reducing outdoor fires. Landfilling organics such as a Christmas tree is not a legal alternative.

Trees collected by DPW are added to the brush pile at the lawn waste site and chipped for wood mulch. If residents don't have their tree collected in January they may take the tree to the lawn waste site next spring.

**January 4 - 8:** North of 302, including Richardson Road,

Beckley Hill Road, Camp Street, Windywood Road, East Hill, Trow Hill and Cobble Hill.

**January 11 - 15:** South of 302, including East Barre, Websterville, Graniteville, Quarry Hill, Sterling Hill, South Barre, and West Hill.

*By Carl Rogers, Town Manager*

**Cemeteries Closed**

Cemetery operations have been suspended for the winter, as usual. The Cemetery Division, led by the Cemetery Sexton, will return to work late next April. During the winter questions about the cemeteries may be directed to the Town

Manager's Office at 479-9331.

Barre Town maintains three cemeteries: West Hill Cemetery on Perry Road, Maplewood Cemetery at the corner of Farwell Street and Nichols Road, and Wilson Cemetery at the corner of Quarry Hill Road and Websterville Road. Lots in the Maplewood and Wilson Cemeteries are for sale. Columbarium niches are available at Wilson. Lots for mini family columbaria are laid out and are for sale in Maplewood.

*By Carl Rogers, Town Manager.*

**Snow Under, Around Mailboxes**

Covid-19 has changed the way we spend time with friends and family. As we draw near the holiday seasons, we all start to crave our favorite treats that we might have at a holiday feast. Although this year we may not get to spend time with the person that brings your favorite treat, they may like to mail

your favorite chocolate chip cookies to you. So, if you want to get those yummy delicious cookies or that package you ordered in the mail, be sure your mailbox is standing. It is true sometimes the plow strikes and knocks off a mailbox. More often mailbox damage is caused by the snow. Owners can help themselves by keeping the area under and immediately around the box cleared of snow. The open space can take snow so the snow doesn't build up to mailbox height. Your mail deliverer will appreciate it, too. Enjoy those cookies!

*By Josh Martineau, Town Engineer*

**Housing Rehab and Weatherization**

Do you own and live in a Washington County home that needs major repairs, weatherization, or accessibility changes for elderly or disabled household members?

Know that a low-cost Green Mountain Home Repair loan from Downstreet Housing may be an option for you. Barre Town has its own share of money in this program that is allocated to Barre Town residents to help make your home safe, healthy, warmer or all three. To be eligible, your income must be less than 80% of the Washington Area Median Income, or less than \$45,000 for 1-person households, \$51,400 for 2-person households, \$57,850 for 3 person households, \$64,250 for 4-person households, or \$69,400 for 5-person households. Find out more from Pattie Dupuis: pdupuis@downstreet.org or (802) 477-1343. Dropping in is temporarily not an option during the pandemic.

*By Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Manager*



### Snow in Road Way

Winter is upon us and snow already has fallen from the sky, blanketing the landscape. Plow drivers will be getting their coffee and heading out in the wee hours of the morning to clean driveways. Some driveways will get cleaned before the Town truck has gone by, and some will not. But in either case, please refrain from illegally pushing snow across the road or leaving snow in the roadway from your driveway. It is dangerous for the motoring public and can cause unnecessary accidents.

*By Josh Martineau, Town Engineer*



### Winter Sand Policy

The Barre Town Public Works Department makes winter sand available free to town residents for use on their home driveway or walkway to make them safer. The pile is maintained outside of the public works fence at 129 Websterville Road. Please be thoughtful of others and take a reasonable amount, about a couple of five-gallon buckets full. Plan ahead, because when you need it, most everyone else will, too! Not only that, Public Works will be least available to top up the pile when conditions are bad - that's when they'll need to focus on keeping roads clear and safe. These rules are posted at the sand pile.

*By Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Manager*



### Winter Parking Ban

Barre Town's winter parking ban takes effect November 1<sup>st</sup> and runs through April 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. During this time, the parking of vehicles within the right-of-way of public roads between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. is prohibited. Vehicles found in violation of this ordinance may be ticketed and towed at the owner's expense. The violation itself is a \$10.00 penalty for each offense. Each night constitutes a new offense. Let's help our highway workers keep the road clean by making sure they can maneuver the plow trucks safely.

*By Bill Dodge, Chief of Police*



### Winter Driving Safety

Winter months bring cold weather and more hazardous driving conditions. Before the snow makes its way here, take the time to prepare your vehicle for winter driving. Good winter tires, winter grade wiper blades and a good battery are essential. Before you start driving be sure to remove all the snow and ice from your windows and mirrors, and any back up cameras as well as the rest of your vehicle. Snow and ice on your roof can break free and strike vehicles behind you. Most importantly, slow down. Decreasing your speed during winter driving can greatly decrease your chances of losing control. Accelerate and decelerate slowly, increase the distance between you and other vehicles, and most importantly, if you don't need to be on the roads during winter storms, stay home!

*By Bill Dodge, Chief of Police*



### Project Updates

**Ash Tree Removal:** During 2018 and 2019 the CV Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) inventoried the ash trees within Barre Town's road right-of-ways. Over 3,600 ash trees were counted. The emerald ash borer (EAB), an invasive insect, will kill all ash trees. The EAB has been found in Barre Town. It was identified first in the northeast corner of the Town. Last winter the Town Department of Public Works (DPW) began removing ash trees the crew could handle. They completed Curtis, Barclay, and upper Sunset Roads. Neddo Road is partially complete. This winter, when the DPW is not performing road maintenance, they will resume ash tree removal on Neddo Road. When it is completed the crew will move to upper Phelps, Cummings, Ladd, Cutler Corner, lower Phelps, and upper Osborne. Property owners will receive a letter and are given the option of keeping the ash wood. All over Town, Green Mountain Power cut down ash trees that were a threat to its lines. GMP's work is a big help to the Town. For information about the EAB go to <http://vtinvasive.org/land/emerald-ash-borer-vermont>.



**Rt. 110 Bridge:** In September the VT Agency of Transportation informed the Town the bridge replacement project had advanced to the Preliminary Plan Development phase. As a result of the Preliminary Plan Development work AOT concluded it could construct sidewalk on both sides of the bridge, which will be safer for pedestrians. Construction is estimated to happen in 2023. The bridge will be closed during construction and a signed detour route will be set-up. There will not be a temporary pedestrian bridge. The Town's 8" waterline will be connected underneath the bridge. This section of pipe will complete the extension of 8" water pipe from Mill Street to East Cobble Hill Road. The state will pay for the bridge construction. The Town will be responsible for the expense of suspending its water line underneath the bridge.

**RT 110 Paving:** There is frost on the pumpkins in the morning and the days are getting shorter. That can only mean one thing, summer construction is coming to an end. Vermont Route 110 paving project is nearly done with only a few finishing touches needed to complete it.

**Gravel Road Work:** The Town is working on grading and surfacing some of our gravel roads this fall and will continue to do so as long as weather and time are in our favor. Following is a list of gravel roads where you might see DPW grading out new gravel and performing other gravel road maintenance activities: Barre Gun Club, Mitchell Nursery, Breer, Swift, Sunset, Partridge, and Mitchell Roads.

*By Carl Rogers, Town Manager and Josh Martineau, Town Engineer*



### Library Service during COVID-19

As of this writing, there are many **free** COVID-safe services provided by the Aldrich Library, many unique to the pandemic. *(Continued on Page 6)*

### **(Cont'd - Library Service During COVID-19)**

By advance reservation:



**Curbside pickup for books:** You can reserve physical books online or by calling. Pickup hours are at the Barre City branch, Mondays through Fridays 11am to 6pm and Saturdays 10am to 2pm.

**Computer sessions:** You can reserve to use a Barre City branch public computer for one hour at a time.

**Wi-fi sessions:** You can reserve to use wifi at the Barre City branch from your own wifi-enabled device, such as a smartphone, laptop, or tablet, at a table inside the library. The maximum occupancy is two visitors per one table.

**Virtual meeting space:** Need to have a COVID-19-safe meeting but don't have an account with a paid service? Two-hour slots can be booked.

**Socially-distanced storytime:** Up to 8 children and parents can attend each Barre City branch storytime, held Tuesdays 10:30am-11:30am.

No reservation needed:

**Virtual storytime:** These are available live and on-demand. Visit the library website, Facebook page, or Youtube channel.

**Digital books:** For those of you with e-readers or don't mind reading a book on your computer, tablet, or smartphone, a large digital collection is available.

To make reservations or for more information, visit [www.aldrichpubliclibrary.org](http://www.aldrichpubliclibrary.org) or call (802) 476-7550.

*By Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Manager*

### **Avoiding an Emergency This Winter**

This edition's emergency management topic is tips to prepare for winter, including staying alert for icy ground, heating safety, winterizing your unattended house, and emergency shelter information if you lose heat.

**Icy ground:** We've all done it – our feet slide out from under us and down we go on an icy walk. Stay alert especially in shady spots. Try to avoid carrying a lot of heavy bags at one time. Keep your hands free for balance, not in your pockets. When you are getting into and out of a vehicle, hold onto it! And of course, walk slowly, with flat feet. When driving, keep in mind the possibility of black ice – ice you can't see. Go slow and steady. If you do start to skid, lift your foot off the gas, avoid braking and gently turn your steering wheel in the same direction you are skidding until you recover traction.

**Heating safety:** Keep all heating vents clear of snow and other obstructions. Blocked vents can lead to carbon monoxide levels increasing inside your home. Have your furnace or chimney maintained each year.

**Winterize:** If you'll be traveling, consider turning off your water supply at the main shutoff. If you do this, drain your pipes too by opening faucets (indoor and outdoor) and flush the toilet. If you don't, set the room temperature to at least 55 degrees and prop open doors to rooms and spaces with water fixtures. Unplug appliances, including the stove or microwave, before you leave. (Reference: Travelers.com) Generally, your pipes should be insulated, which will reduce the amount of energy you use, too.

**Emergency shelter:** If you lose heat at home and need temporary, overnight emergency shelter, call (802) 479-0508 and go to the East Barre Fire Station at 119 Mill St. If more than one family needs shelter on the same night, the Town Manager's Office will help make arrangements elsewhere for the add -

ditional families due to the pandemic.

*By Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Manager*

### **COVID Update**

All departments continue to do their usual (and COVID-unusual) work, and all town buildings continue to be closed to the public. Tax payments, permits, and other paperwork may be deposited in either drop box at the town offices at 149 Websterville Road. The new, standalone drop box is at the start of the walkway.

The town offices, including Town Clerk, Planning & Zoning, Engineering, and Assessing, will help drop-ins at the door. Once the weather worsens, the back lobby will be available for this purpose. Title searches require an advanced appointment to ensure social distancing and enough time for staff to sanitize between searchers. Call the Town Clerk's Office at (802) 479-9391 to make an appointment. The Planning & Zoning, Engineering, and Assessor's Offices may be reached at (802) 479-2595. The Town Manager's Office may be reached at (802) 479-9331. Email addresses for each office may be found at [www.barretown.org](http://www.barretown.org), as well as any changes to municipal operations due to the pandemic.

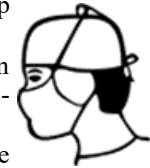


To help the town cover its COVID-19-related expenses, the town has applied for and received grants totaling \$213,960 for unbudgeted COVID-19 expenses. These grants will reimburse the purchase of COVID-19 necessitated personal protective equipment, sanitation products and services, sick wages, overtime compensation, software, hazard pay for first responders, IT support, signage, and extra materials needed to hold elections during the pandemic, such as expenses associated with livestreaming vote tabulation, postcards to encourage mail-in voting, the new drop box, and a letter opener to process the unusually high number of mail-in ballots.

Please continue to wear a face covering while in public spaces indoors, and outdoors when around people you don't live with.

**Free Face Masks:** Masks provided by the State of Vermont are still available, while supplies last. Up to 3 cloth masks per person two years and older can be picked up at:

- Barre Town EMS Station, 4 McLaughlin Road, when the station is staffed. Call 476-3147 *before* you arrive.
- Every Mon. - Fri., 8am-4pm at the Barre Town Police Department at 149 Websterville Road. Call 479-0509 when you arrive



*By Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Manager*

### **Vermont Department of Health COVID-19 Information and Testing**

For the most up-to-date information on COVID Testing and symptoms go the Vermont Department of Health's webpage: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/coronavirus-covid-19/about-coronavirus-disease-covid-19>.

Barre Town EMS will continue to assist the Vermont De-

partment of Health’s local COVID pop-up-testing. Testing is being held at the Barre Auditorium (16 Auditorium Hill, Barre, VT) on :

- Tuesday, November 24th
- Thursday, December 3rd
- Thursday, December 10th
- Thursday, December 17th
- Tuesday, December 22nd
- Tuesday, December 29th



To register for testing go to:  
<https://vermont.force.com/events/s/selfregistration>

By Chris LaMonda, EMS Director



A very common and simple thing overlooked when thinking about fire safety is how do I get out of my house? This seems simple right? But, in an emergency like a fire, you may be dis-

oriented first, and second, the way you would normally go out could be blocked. When teaching fire safety to children, we often talk to them about how they would get out of their house if there was a fire. Then we have them think about how they would get out a second way if they could not get out the usual way. We tell them to go home and talk to the adults they live with about this. Obviously, this is a discussion they need to have with adults, all ways out may not be practical or safe. But it is something we should all think about and practice. Ensure that all safe ways out are accessible, meaning not blocked, like windows and doors.

A few other things to think about regarding fire safety:

- Practice a fire escape and have a meeting place outside.
- Make sure your children know what a smoke detector sounds like and what to do if it sounds.
- Make sure they understand that if there is a fire, get out. Talk to them about whether they need permission to go outside if truly a fire.
- Practice opening windows if practical.
- Once out, STAY OUT!

By Chris Violette, Fire Chief

### Pedestrian Safety

With more people choosing to walk, either to/from work or just for exercise, it’s more important than ever to be safe. With winter fast approaching, roadways could be narrower than normal, leaving less space for pedestrians. When you’re walking, use sidewalks and crosswalks when available. Always try to wear bright colors. Wear a reflective vest or belt, a flashing light and carry a flashlight when it’s dark. Always be attentive to your surroundings and vehicles on the roadways. Electronic devices can take your concentration and headphones can make it difficult to hear vehicles approaching. For drivers, slow down when approaching crosswalks, schools



and never pass a school bus with flashing lights.

By Bill Dodge, Chief of Police

### Dump Truck For Sale

2011 Freightliner M210 6-wheeled dump truck. 38,620 lb. GVWR. Cummings 350 horsepower diesel engine. Allison automatic transmission, 10’ Everest side dump body. 11’one-way front plow; 10’ side wing plow. Salt/sand spreader, 60,000 miles. Price \$38,000. Contact Department of Public Works (476-3522) for more information. Truck is parked by the gate at DPW Yard, 129 Websterville Road.

### Employment Opportunities

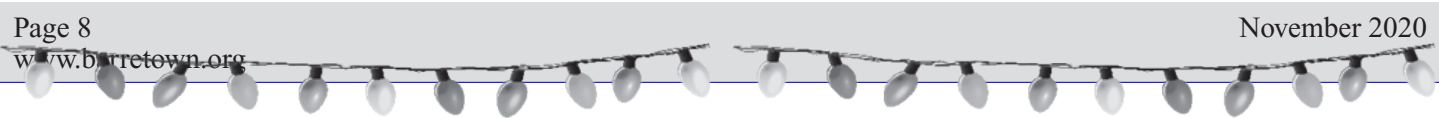
**Police Officer Full-Time and Per Diem:** Applications for a vacant full-time position and for per diem (part-time) positions are being accepted until filled. Vermont law enforcement certification and law enforcement experience are preferred, but applications from adults with no prior experience will be considered. The full-time position requires having or obtaining Level 3 certification from the VT Criminal Justice Training Council (VCJTC). Full-time officers work 4 10-hour shifts per week alternating quarterly between day, evening and night shifts. Weekend and holiday work is required. Current starting rate is \$21.98 (less \$1.50 per hour until completing the academy certification). Benefits include pension, paid time-off, health, dental, life and short term disability insurance.

Per diem officers may fill vacant full-time officer shifts and work as an additional officer on duty. Schedule is flexible. During the summer special details, especially Thunder Road, are available. School Resource Officer shifts at the Barre Town School are available for properly trained officers. Pay range is \$14.50 (for non-certified staff during the training period) to \$20.00 per hour depending on certification and experience.

Full-time officers must successfully complete the 16 week VCJTC academy in Pittsfield, VT and then complete 60 to 150 hours of field training with the Town Police Department (BTPD). Per diem officers must complete the 2-week level 2 certification course at the academy followed by 60 hours of classroom training. After that training, 60 to 150 hours of full-time training is required.

**Emergency Medical Technicians:** Barre Town EMS is always accepting applications for per diem Advanced EMTs and paramedics. Work opportunities for per diems include 2 positions (one paramedic, one A-EMT) M - F, 9:00am to 5:00pm, and two 24-hour positions every Saturday and every Sunday. The 24-hour weekend slots may be broken down to 2, 12-hour shifts. Per diems also have first choice to fill full-timers’ open 24-hour shifts. Pay rates are \$15.00 to \$20.94 depending on certification and relevant experience. For more information and to receive an employment application contact the EMS Director at 476-3147 or email [clamonda@barretown.org](mailto:clamonda@barretown.org).

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager



### Board and Commission Reports

**Development Review Board** – *By Cindy Spaulding; Members: M. Reaves, C. Sanborn, C. Thygesen, C. Neddo, J. Valsangiacomo, A. Valentinetti, and J. Fecteau, C. Chase, M. Gilbar.*

**AUD=Allowed Use Determination; CUP=Conditional Use Permit; SD=Subdivision; BLA=Boundary Line Adjustment**

**August 2020:** No business. Meeting cancelled.

**September 2020:** Approved Variances (2) on Graniteville Road.

**October 2020:** Approv. CUP on W. Cobble Hill; Approv. BLA on Garden/Summer Streets; Approv. Variance on McHugh Rd.

**Planning Commission** – *By Cindy Spaulding; Members: C. Sanborn, C. Thygesen, C. Violette, D. Pierce, B. Atwood, G. Clain, M. Gilbar.*

**AUD=Allowed Use Determination; CUP=Conditional Use Permit**

**August 2020:** No business. Meeting cancelled.

**September 2020:** Attended Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission meetings on Barre Town Plan approval; regular monthly meeting, round table discussion of Town Plan adoption and next steps for implementation.

**October 2020:** Approv. AUD on Miller Road; Approv. AUD for second driveway on Windridge Drive; Began discussion of possible zone change.

**Traffic Safety Advisory Committee** - *By Josh Martineau; Members: W. Kirby J. Blow, S. Corbett, D. Freeman, and B. Meyer.*

**August 2020:** Voted to change painted lane widths on Hill Street, Cassie Street and Camp Street from 11’ wide to 10’ wide.

**September 2020:** Vermont Agency of Transportation agreed to install “North” signs on VT 63, instead of “Quarry” and two oversized Legal Load signs gated at the bottom of Middle Road.

**October 2020:** No meeting.

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**LOOK FOR THE NEXT EDITION .....of the Barre Town newsletter in February, 2021!**