



BARRE TOWN MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER

Volume 18, No. 2

April 2015

SPRING

All Town Offices Will Be Closed On:

- May 25th - Memorial Day
- July 4th - Independence Day

UPCOMING EVENTS & DATES:

- ▶ May 1st - Cemeteries Open
- ▶ May 2nd - Green Up Day
- ▶ May 6th - Town Meeting
- ▶ May 9th - Spring Bulk Trash
- ▶ May 12th - Election Day
- ▶ May 15th - Property Taxes
- ▶ May 16th - Town Forest Day
- ▶ May 16th - B.T. Spring Run

LOOK FOR THE NEXT
EDITION..... of the town
newsletter in August!

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TOWN BUDGET



Hear ye, hear ye; the good and kind citizens of the Town of Barre be Warned; notice is hereby given; you've got mail...however it is proclaimed, Barre Town's Town Meeting and Annual Election is *May 12* and that means voting on the General Fund (GF) and Highway (HF) budgets.

The budgets presented to voters were set by the Budget Committee which, is 5 citizens and the selectboard. From January 27 to March 24 the committee met every Tuesday night reviewing the town manager's proposed budgets for the GF, HF, Sewer Fund, Water Fund, Equipment Fund, Ambulance Fund, Cemetery Fund and Building Fund. The committee met with department heads, the Recreation Board and Aldrich Library Trustees.

For more information about registering to vote, early voting, sample ballots and to learn about the election of town officials see the articles on pages 2 and 8. Everyone is busy with family and work. Getting to the polls on election day might be a hassle. Early voting can help. Make a phone call (479-9391) to the town clerk's office and request an early voting ballot. Vote at home in 5-7 minutes and put the completed ballot in the mail.

The GF (83.4%) and HF (92.5%) are supported largely by property taxes, thus these budgets are presented to voters for approval. The other budgets are supported mostly by non-tax revenue. The proposed GF and HF budgets total \$6,062,181, which is \$136,465 or 2.3% more than the current budgets. Both budgets are balanced. The Grand List (source of property tax revenue) is anticipated to grow .82%. The municipal tax rate would increase 2.68¢ (3.73%) to support the proposed budgets.

The GF is larger than the HF. The proposed GF budget is \$33,145 or 1% greater than the current year. The tax rate for the GF budget would go up 1.3¢. No significant changes are proposed for fiscal year (FY) 2015-2016. Staffing levels (with exception of the bookkeeper) would remain the same. Current services would be continued. Practices such as payments to the Equipment and Building Funds for future major purchases and reserving money for expensive fire fighting equipment and gear would be continued. The amount of money for recreation improvements would be repeated. The Trow Hill playground is the next project on the board.

Spending changes in the 3 major sectors of the GF budget are: Administration and Finance +\$2,925 or .39%; Emergency Services +\$51,005 or 3.35%; and All Other Departments - \$20,785 or - 1.95%.

Employee benefits are in the All Other Departments sector. Savings on health insurance (\$29,390) and workers compensation insurance (\$6,975) help reduce spending in this sector. The recreation budget is in this sector and it includes a significant new project, \$9,600 to build a new on-lot septic system for the building at the South Barre playground.

Emergency Services are the largest sector of the GF budget. Five items from this sector are on the top ten changes list led by a \$21,265 increase in police wages. The other 4 changes range in value from \$3,870 to \$3,360.

(Continued on page 5)

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE IN MAY!

Barre Town, in accordance with our Town Charter, has two (2) Town elections (an Open Meeting and a vote by Australian ballot).



The Open Town Meeting (first Wednesday in May) is a from the floor vote. It will be held on *May 6, 2015*, in the Municipal Building, Selectboard meeting room, and begins at 7:30 p.m. Articles to be voted on will include: setting the property tax and sewer installment due dates; asking for approval to apply the State tax credits pro-rata (deduct the credit amount from the total tax amount and divide the remaining balance into 4 installments); to seek approval for the Selectboard to buy/sell real estate; and to present the Wendell F. Pelkey Citizenship & Service Award. Immediately following the Open Meeting there will be a presentation/overview of the proposed budgets.

The Annual Election of Officers and Voting by Australian ballot will be held on *Tuesday, May 12, 2015* at the Barre Town Middle & Elementary School Gymnasium. *Polling hours are 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.*

The items appearing on the ballot include: election of Town Officers (Selectboard members, Town Clerk-Treasurer, Auditor, Moderator, and Town Constable); voting on budgets (General Fund/Highway Fund); a Cemetery appropriation; some of the elected officer wages; and number of not-for-profit agency requests.

The deadline to register to vote is Wednesday, May 6, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. Early Australian ballots will be available around April 10th. *To request an early ballot telephone the office at 479-9391 or email dkelty@barretown.org.*

For additional information on the proposed budgets or to view a sample ballot visit our website homepage (www.barretown.org) and look for a link under the Announcements section.

By Donna Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

WHEN CAN I EXPECT MY NEW PROPERTY TAX/SEWER BILL?

Barre Town is on a fiscal year (July 1 - June 30). New property tax and sewer use charge bills will be mailed no later than July 15, 2015 provided all Town and School budgets have passed.

Important: Only one tax and sewer bill are sent each fiscal year to the owner of property as of April 1st. If you have a bank or other financial institution pay your property taxes, you are responsible to provide them with a copy of the tax bill. Remember to keep a copy for yourself as you will need it to file the Homestead Declaration next year. If you sell your property after April 1, 2015 know that your name will appear on the new tax bill with a "care of" address line for the new owner. Every attempt is made to provide both parties with a copy of the new tax bill.

Payment Due Dates: The due dates for property tax and sewer installments are set by vote at the Annual Barre Town Open Meeting which is held on *Wednesday, May 6, 2015, 7:30 p.m.*, at the Barre Town Municipal Building. Customary due dates for the quarterly property installments are *August 15, November 15, February 15, and May 15*; while the semi-annual sewer installment

due dates are *August 15 and February 15*. These dates may be adjusted slightly to accommodate weekends and holidays.

Remittance: Payments may be made by dropping the payment in the drop box (located at the front of the Municipal Building), in person, by mail, by pre-authorized direct withdrawal from your bank account, by credit card (processing fees apply), or online through our website portal. When paying by mail, it must be postmarked by the coupon due date or earlier to avoid a late fee of 5%. More information about the direct withdrawal from your bank account is available on the Town website (www.barretown.org), click Permits and Forms, and locate the Direct Deposit application. A check or money order should be made payable to "Town of Barre". The mailing address is: *Town of Barre, P.O. Box 124, Websterville, VT 05678-0124.*

Reviewing Your Tax Bill: The tax bill contains an abundance of information about your Barre Town property (taxable/assessed value, lot size, tax rates, state credit amount, due dates, etc). Be sure to take the time and get to know your tax bill.

For questions about your Barre Town bills do not hesitate to contact the Town Clerk-Treasurer's Office at 479-9391.

By Donna Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

POLICE NEWS

As spring has arrived there are only a few more months of school left and we would like to remind parents:

School Absences: Be sure to call the school when your child will be absent or tardy. This is very important for many reasons. If the school does not hear from you and cannot reach you they will contact the police department to locate a parent and make sure that they are aware a child is not at school. In efforts to locate the child we call or go to your home or place of work, if needed. These measures are taken because if a child is actually missing time is of the essence.

Watch for Children: Warmer weather is approaching and more children will be flocking to the local playgrounds via walking and bicycling. Please keep an eye out for the children when approaching these areas by vehicle. Children tend to dart out into traffic suddenly without looking. Also, if you see any suspicious activity in these playground areas please contact us immediately.

Sterling Hill One Way: We have been busy doing traffic enforcement on streets on which complaints have been filed. We will be patrolling Sterling Hill Road as soon as the one-way section is open as there are issues with people going the wrong way up and speeding down the hill. We will issue the operator a ticket if we catch them driving up the road. If you call in a complaint please try to provide a registration plate number and description of the vehicle and operator. *Driving up the one-way part of Sterling Hill could lead to a serious crash if two cars were to meet unexpectedly.* Crashes still happen during the warmer months, even in perfect weather.

(Continued on page 3)

(Cont'd - Police News)

Unfortunately most of these are due to the operator being distracted or not paying close enough attention. Please pay attention to your driving and double check for pedestrians, bicycles and motorcycles. **Also, remember that the use of handheld devices while driving is prohibited.**

By Nicole Poulin, Clerk

READY FOR SUMMER?**DON'T FORGET THE FIREWORKS PERMIT!**

This winter has been extremely cold and grueling. However, now that April has finally arrived we are beginning to see signs of spring. It will not be long before everyone will be outdoors enjoying all that summer offers!



Over the past few years, there has been an increase in the number of residents having a fireworks display at their homes. Fireworks are the most spectacular of special effects.

Did you know that under Vermont Statutes Title 20 and the Rules and Regulations of the State Fire Marshall, it is unlawful for any person, firm, co-partnership, or corporation to buy, transport and display fireworks in the State of Vermont without a permit?

So why is a permit needed? Fireworks are any combustible substances or combination of substances prepared for the purpose of producing a visible or an audible effect by explosion or detonation. These include, but are not limited to: firecrackers, torpedoes, sky rockets, roman candles, daygo bombs. So in essence explosives are a public safety concern.

Obtaining a fireworks permit is simple. You can acquire a permit application from the Town Clerk's Office or use the town website and look under Permits and Forms. Some of the information required includes: date of display, where are you going to store your fireworks, what type of fireworks will you have, your physical location and a sketch detailing locations to neighbors, highways, and overhead telephone lines and buildings. The Barre Town Fire Chief, Chief of Police and the Board of Selectmen will review each application and have the power to deny or place restrictions on your request. All requests must be submitted at least fifteen (15) days in advance of the display. The application fee is \$15.00

Keep your family, friends, and neighbors safe. Get a fireworks permit - it's the law!

By Donna Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

BUILDING NUMBERS REQUIRED

This is another reminder about the need to post your 911 building number where it is visible from the road. *It can't be stated strong enough as to how important it is to post your number.* I have been on emergency equipment when trying to find a location and either wasn't able to find it or was confused as to what house or business a number belongs to. This does cause delay. It may seem trivial to some, but I assure you if you or a loved one needs help, it won't be.

Barre Town's building number ordinance requires that a number be 4" high and *located where it can be seen day or night from the road.* We continue to offer easily identifiable building numbers to Town residents for a minimal cost. As part of our effort to better identify properties for emergency services, the Town is able to supply 4" x 12" green reflective signs with your building number using white reflective numbers. Holes can be drilled if desired. The cost of the sign is \$10 and can be ordered through the Town Manager's office. You can print a form from the Town website or stop by and pick one up. All forms should be turned into the Town Manager's office. Feel free to drop it off or mail it to: Town Manager's Office, PO Box 116, Websterville, VT 05678. If you are not sure what your building number is you can contact the assessor's office at 479-2595.

By Chris Violette, Fire Chief

BUILDING PERMITS

Another building season is upon us and this is a friendly reminder that if you are planning an outside building project that is *more than 64 square feet in size*, you likely will need a building permit. Building permits carry a *state mandated 15 day waiting period* when your property is posted with a big Z. This waiting period offers someone that may be considered an "interested party" an opportunity to look into your project and if they feel the Zoning Administrator erred in issuing the permit, can appeal the permit. Once the 15 days has gone by, you are good to build.



If you have any questions regarding the possible need for a building permit, you should contact the Zoning Office at 479-2595 to discuss your project with them. If submitting a permit, you should allow at least *25 days* before you plan to begin your project because of the administrative time it takes to review the permit and the *15 day appeal period* previously mentioned. Good luck on your summer project!

By Chris Violette, Planning & Zoning Director

DRIVEWAY PERMITS

Driveway Permits are issued by the Town Engineer's Office for both new and existing driveway work. The permit protects the Town's interest in the road relative to drainage

along the road, drainage from the driveway and grading at the driveway apron. Permits are required for almost any work done on an existing driveway in the vicinity of the Town road end of the property.

If you are planning to do driveway improvements such as re-graveling, regrading, culvert work, repaving or resurfacing, please contact the Town Offices at 479-2595 for a Driveway Permit. You do not need a permit if you are applying sealcoating.

By Harry Hinrichsen, Town Engineer

ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENTS

The Planning Commission and the Selectboard have been working on a few Zoning Bylaw amendments. After the Town Plan adoption last spring, the Planning Commission began the process of amending zoning based on Town Plan suggestions and known issues. Four amendments have been worked on to the point they are ready for adoption (pending approval by the Selectboard). The four amendments are as follows:

1. *Heavy industrial uses will now have to be reviewed as a conditional use instead of a permitted use.*
2. *Commercial or industrial uses will no longer have to meet the extra setback when abutting a cemetery.*
3. *Wilson Industrial Park currently zoned office building retail will now be zoned industrial matching the zoning in the rest of the park.*
4. *Four properties along Bridge Street, Isabelle, Reynolds, Lavigne, and Barre City zoning designation will change from residential to highway commercial.*

While maybe the easiest to make, the most significant change is making heavy industrial uses a conditional use instead of a permitted use. Before as a permitted use the only review a project would receive is by the Zoning Administrator based mostly on whether the use is allowed or not and on dimensional standards. That isn't much review for a big project. By making heavy industrial conditional uses, a much more thorough review is done by the Development Review Board with plenty of opportunity for the public to weigh in.

The Planning Commission is already at work on the next round of amendments. Keep an eye on the Planning Commission page of the Barre Town website for upcoming meetings.

By Chris Violette, Planning & Zoning Director

BOARD AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Development Review Board - By Heidi Bennett (M. Nicholson, M. Reaves, C. Sanborn, C. Thygesen, S. Driscoll, G. Richards, J. Valsangiacomo, J. Fecteau, J. Hameline)

February, 2015: Approved A. Monty request for a 2-lot subd. w/minor road extension.

March, 2015: Approved Wilkins' 2-lot merger for property located off S. Barre Rd.; approved Wilkins' major site plan for proposed 6,120 sq.ft. addition to existing commercial building.

Planning Commission - By Heidi Bennett (K. Yearman, C. Thygesen, C. Violette, C. Sanborn, C. Duke, J. Hameline, G. Clain)
February, 2015: Joint meeting with Selectboard for proposed AT&T tower off Fisher Road.

March, 2015: Approved Rev. Milanese for additional curb-cut for property located off Countryside Circle.

Traffic Safety Advisory Committee - By Harry Hinrichsen (D. Newall, C. Liese, P. White, V. Vallerand, W. Kirby)

February, 2015: No meeting

March, 2015: Pubic Hearing held to discuss possible Yield or Stop sign for Carnes Road at Bianchi Street; Committee recommended to Selectboard a Yield sign at Carnes Road; Committee recommended a W15-1 (advanced warning sign) for Recreation Area on Bianchi St.; Status of reinstated streetlights were reviewed by Town Engineer. The outstanding request for GMP to reinstate

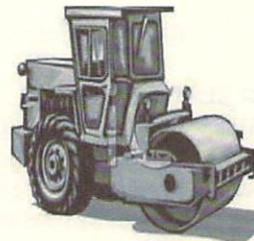
seven streetlights has been completed.

SUMMER PAVED ROAD SCHEDULE

Pavement Reclamation - July 6 to July 17

Plainfield Brk. Rd. - Mitchell Rd to Plainfield town line;

Cassie St. - an area between two ends of Valley View Cir.; Richardson Rd.- area starting below Goldsbury Hill north point near house #266



Hot Mix Paving (Contract #1) - July 27 to August 14

Spot repairs on Cummings, Nichols, Pine Hill, and

Plainfield Brk. (near Cassie St.) Roads; Plainfield Brk. Rd., - Mitchell Rd., to Plainfield town line; Cassie St., - an area between two ends of Valley View Cir.; Richardson Rd., - an area starting below Goldsbury Woods Rd. north to point near house #266; Cutler Corner Rd.; Osborne Rd. - Phelps Rd., to #165

Chip Seal Contract - August 17 to August 28

Nichols Rd., and Pine Hill Rd.; Beckley Hill Rd., - Nichols Rd., north to end of pavement; School Rd., - Beckley Hill Rd., west to end of pavement; Cummings Rd.; Richardson Rd., - house #266 to School Rd.

Hot Mix Paving (Contract #2) - September 8 to 23

Dianne Ln.; Bonnie Ln.; Judy Ln.; Holden Rd., - an area from point near Peloquin Rd., to house #28; Phil St.; Gold Spur; Silver Cir.; Parker Rd., - Pitman Rd., north to point near Highland Sugarworks; Pitman Rd., - Websterville Rd., to Parker Rd.

By Harry Hinrichsen, Town Engineer

PROJECT UPDATES

Town Charter Amendments - Last November town voters approved changes to Town Charter sections 3, 7, 33 and 34. The amendments were written up as a House Bill, H-10. H-10 was approved by the House in January and the Senate in February. Governor Shumlin signed H-10 into law February 25. The amendments and one ordinance were sent to the Municipal Code Corporation to be incorporated into the Town Charter and Town Code of Ordinances.

Solar Farm #1 - In early April the Town started receiving Green Mountain Power invoices showing a credit for electricity generated since date of operation (December 28).

Solar Farm #2 - Novus Energy Development and the Selectboard are in negotiations over lease of a site in the Wilson Industrial Park.

Bridge Street bridge - This year the Town is moving forward with a sidewalk project to connect the South Barre Bike Path to the sidewalk on Route 14. This project, while separate, is being coordinated with a State project to improve the Bridge Street/Route 14 intersection. This 750 foot long, five feet wide concrete sidewalk is being mostly funded by the Vtrans Transportation Enhancement program.

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SPRING BULK TRASH COLLECTION

Saturday, May 9 from 8 am to 2 pm at the DPW Yard, 129 Websterville Road the town is offering a bulk trash drop-off service. The service is for town residents' home clean up. The type of debris or junk accepted are: mattresses, plastic toys, porcelain fixtures, carpets, pool liners and covers, siding, windows and doors, wooden and plastic furniture, home remodeling demolition material, and shingles. Small pieces of sheetrock, plaster and roofing shingles must be in containers. Siding and lumber must be in easily handled lengths. Loads of loose (not in containers) roofing shingles will be parked at the side and unloaded when no one is in line to be off-loaded.

Fees are charged. The schedule is shown below. Residents are welcome to make multiple trips. Residents should have a tax or utility bill with them to verify residency.

Residents have options for discarding many items, therefore the following items are not accepted at bulk trash day:

FEES:	
Car.....	\$5.00
Pickup truck.....	\$8.00
Unloaded car or truck w/loaded trailer.....	\$8.00
Loaded car or truck & loaded trailer.....	\$13.00
Truck larger than pickup (1-ton max.).....	\$13.00
Loaded large truck & loaded trailer.....	\$20.00

Loads of roofing shingles charged double

Items Not Accepted:	Take To:
Household trash, recycling	Wilson Depot or other licensed collectors
Electronics - large	Wilson Depot
Electronics - small	Wilson Depot, CVSWMD ARCC
Tires	Wilson Depot, CVSWMD ARCC
Large Metal/appliances	Wilson Depot
Hazardous Materials	CVSWMD collection
Lawn Waste	Holden Road site

Questions? Call 479-9331

GREEN UP DAY



Last year more than 120 people joined Barre Town's Green Up Day effort. What an effort....they collected 3.92 tons of litter and 229 tires! Individuals, families, clubs and other organizations helped to the best of their time and ability. If you routinely walk, run or cycle a stretch of road or have a favorite picturesque section of road, participate in this Vermont tradition. Green Up Day is an excellent opportunity to show youngsters the rewards of being involved in and contributing to the community.

Green Up Day is Saturday, May 2. Barre Town's coordinator, Brenda LaFirira, and Girl Scout Troops 30568 and 3357 organize and offer volunteers a free hot picnic lunch served from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. at the picnic shelter in the town's recreation area.

Thinking about volunteering? Decide who will help. Select possible clean up sites. Check the sign-up sheet in the town manager's office (479-9331) or www.barretown.org/Pages/dept/waste.html. Go to the town manager's office to sign up and receive Green Up bags, gloves and picnic tickets. Complete the clean-up, leave filled bags, tires and large debris along the road for pick-up.

Green Up work can be done on the volunteer's schedule. Some volunteers start before Green Up Day and might work on their selected area over several days. Some volunteers are busy on Saturday and prefer to work on Sunday. A small contribution from many people produces big results.

For more information about Green Up Day contact the manager's office (479-9331). To learn more about donation to the Green Up picnic lunch, or in general, contact Brenda LaFirira at 461-5806.

LAWN WASTE SITE

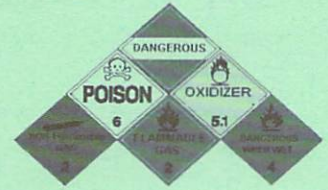
The town lawn waste site is located near the top of Holden Road, which intersects with Graniteville Road in front of Rock of Ages. Residents may take organic waste from their trees, lawns, vegetable and flower gardens, shrubbery and hedges. Examples of lawn waste include grass clippings, leaves, hedge clippings, tree branches and garden plants. Brush is piled at one end of the site. Branches or logs larger than 5" in diameter should be separated and placed in the free firewood area.



(Continued on page 6 of the Newsletter)

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

The Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District (CVSWMD) is kicking off its 2015 special collection season in Barre Town again this year. The household hazardous waste (HHW) collection will be held at the Department of Public Works Garage, 129 Websterville Road on *Saturday, May 2, from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.*



A fee of \$15 per carload is charged. The CVSWMD encourages people to get together with friends and family to share carloads and save some money. Businesses may use the service but must call ahead to register and get cost. Call 229-9383.

Paint no longer is collected as a household hazardous waste. Take it to the District's Additional Recyclables Collection Center (ARCC). See the District website (www.cvswwd.org) for more information about ARCC.

Examples of HHW include bleach products (tub, tile, toilet cleaners and laundry soaps), drain openers, oven cleaners, floor wax, solvents, tar, adhesives, pesticides, aerosols, moth balls, spray paints, used or contaminated oil, automobile fluids, fluorescent bulbs, mercury thermometer. Basically, look for the words danger, poison or caution/warning on the label.

CVSWMD Special Collections

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

HHW – household hazardous waste

PBF – paint, batteries, fluorescent & CFL bulbs

May 30	-	Tunbridge Transfer	-	PBF
June 6	-	Tunbridge Transfer	-	HHW
Aug. 1	-	Hardwick Town Garage	-	PBF
Aug. 22	-	Hardwick Town Garage	-	HHW
Aug. 27	-	Chelsea Rover (5-7 pm)*		
Sept. 12	-	Bradford Town Garage	-	PBF
Sept. 26	-	Bradford Town Garage	-	HHW
Oct. 10	-	Mont. VT Dept. of Labor	-	HHW

*Call ahead: 229-9383

CVSWMD's Additional Recyclables Collection Center:

540 N. Main Street, Barre
(behind Dollar General)

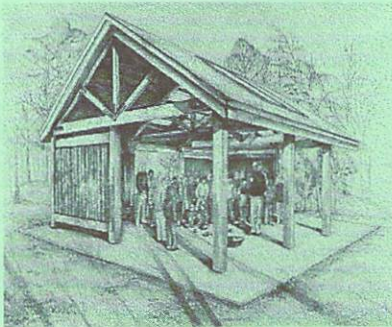
Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri., 12 pm – 6 pm
and every 3rd Saturday of the month

Fees: \$1 / visit; \$2.50/tire, \$3.00/tire on rim

Taking about 3 dozen hard to recycle items. Examples:

- beauty products packaging
- energy bar foil wrappers
- prescription bottles
- scotch tape dispensers & cores
- MP3 players, cell phones & more
- bottle caps, metal lids
- downhill skis and metal poles

For more information call the CVSWMD at 229-9383 or go to www.cvswwd.org/arcc.html.



RESERVING PICNIC SHELTER

The picnic shelter in the recreation area is a popular spot for reunions, parties, showers and club or group business.

If you are thinking of using the picnic shelter for an event call *Tina Thurston* at 479-9331 or email offices@barretown.org to check availability and reserve the facility.

For smaller gatherings, especially for younger children, two alternatives are the South Barre (Wilson Street) and East Barre (Pleasant Street) playgrounds. There are no restrooms or water at these two sites.

WILSON RECYCLING CENTER



The recycling center in the Wilson Industrial Park is operated by Earth Waste Systems and is open on *Wednesdays and Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.*

In addition to trash and recyclables, numerous other items such as carpeting, mattresses, metal, appliances, and tires are accepted for an extra fee. *Electronics are accepted free of charge. Call Earth Waste Systems (not the Town Offices) at 802-775-7722 for more information.*

BARRE TOWN RECREATION NEWS

By Andrew Dorsett, Assistant Town Manager



5 KILOMETER RACES

The ever popular Spring Run and Barre Heritage Festival 5Ks (3.1 miles) return in 2015. The Spring Run is a great way to support recreation in our community! The Barre Heritage 5K allows you to explore the Town Forest with its scenic unique forested trails while running past historical quarries.

Barre Town Spring Run - *Where:* Barre Town Recreation Facility, Barre Town; *When:* Saturday, May 16 @ 9:00 a.m.; *Directions:* Behind Barre Town School, 70 Websterville Rd.; *Registration:* Complete the entry form located at <http://www.cvrunters.org/springrun/index.html> and send with check payable to Central Vermont Runners, to: Andrea McLaughlin, 445 Cutler Corner Rd., Barre, VT 05641. Post registration will take place on Race-Day at 7:45 – 8:45 am at the Barre Town Recreational field track; *Fee:* \$5.00

For more information call Andrea at 802-476-4417 or email ajvt skier@msn.com.

Barre Heritage Festival 5K Trail Race - *Where:* Town of Barre Town Forest *When:* Sunday, July 26 @ 10:00 a.m.; *Course:* Trails and paths will take you through the Town Forest.

For more information see www.cvrunters.org/cvraces.html or contact Lori Lacroix at 802-249-8996 or email lori.lacroix21@gmail.com



PICKLEBALL

.....has come to Barre Town!



According to NBC News Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in America. The US Pickleball Association calls the game “highly contagious.” Pickleball is a fun paddle sport for all ages, has simple rules and requires little athletic ability. A cross between ping pong and tennis, it can be played at a very low, slow level or at a very high competitive level. But the point is that it is fun.

The Parks and Recreation Commission has recently purchased the equipment and already has begun to grow this great activity. The Recreation Commission sponsored free learn to play sessions at the BTMES on Sundays in March and April. Future matches and open play times are being planned.

Contact Jan Murray at (802)661-8324 or jnmrry@hotmail.com to stay informed about spring and summer pickleball activities.

BARRE TOWN TENNIS CAMP 2015



Barre Town’s Tennis Program is a well-rounded, fun summer activity. The two-week tennis sessions will focus on developing skill sets through concentrated training in a short period of time. This is a great opportunity for children and adults alike, who are looking to stay active, develop athletic skills and to make new friends.

We will have 2 two-week morning sessions for kids 3rd grade through 6th grade. We will also have a single two week evening session for beginning adults and youth 7th through 12th grade. There will be a one week evening session for adult intermediate players as well. And, *new this year*, a one week evening session for families to come and play together, have some fun and learn some skills and play a sport that the whole family can enjoy!

Youth Programs: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday (3rd grade through 6th grade)

Session I: June 16th – June 19th and June 23rd – June 26th, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Session II: June 30th – July 3rd and July 7th – July 10th, 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Adult & Family Programs: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday Evenings

Session I: (Beginning Players) June 16th – 18th and 23rd – 25th, 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Session II: (Intermediate Players) June 30th – July 2nd, 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Session III: (Family Nights) July 7th & July 9th (Tues. & Thurs.), 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

(Continued on page 6 of the Newsletter)

YOUTH TRACK TEAM

The City and Town Recreation Departments are continuing their tradition of partnership in sponsoring the Barre Youth Track Team. Barre area recreation activities have growing momentum of participation and this program is no exception. Boys and girls age 7-14 may join.

Last year's program participants had a great time and even placed well in the Hershey meet. Several of the athletes took home 1st, 2nd and 3rd place ribbons. This program isn't only for Barre City or Town residents, children from surrounding communities joined the Barre team. This year's practices will be held on Monday's and Thursdays from June 15th to July 25th from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m at the Barre Town Recreation Facility Track. Registration is \$30 if by June 4th and \$35 after.

All registrations must be submitted prior to start of the program. Registration forms are available on the Town's Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/AreteVT) or by contacting the City recreation department at (802) 476-0257.



TRAVIS MERCY SKATEPARK



Skaters Wanted: We are working with area skateboarders to continue to improve the park. Input from skateboarders that use the park is crucial! So, if you would like to help with exploring and gathering ideas, please call Linda Mercy at 479-3405. We will get a group together to find out what you think the park users would like to see as an addition.

Fund Raising Success: The fundraising event sponsored by the Barre Town Thunderchickens this past February netted \$5,100. These funds will help with the upkeep of the park and upcoming improvements! *Thank you, Thunderchickens!*

Learn to Skateboard Clinic: The Park is holding its third annual free "Learn to Skateboard" clinic again this year. As always there are free prizes for participants. The event is currently planned for the Friday after school gets out for the summer. Also, as we have done in the past, the very next day, a Fun Day offering prizes and free lunch will be offered. The dates for this year's event have not been set yet.

Stay tuned for more information in the World paper, on Froggy 100.9 and WORK, and on the town web-site.

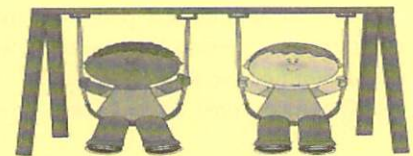
BARRE TOWN PLAYGROUNDS

Upper Websterville Playground: After a long winter, spring is in the air! The Upper Websterville Playground update is one of those projects that weather conditions forced to be put on hold. In the fall of 2014 the Town was awarded a \$24,000 grant to help defer some of the costs of the project. Last year the site was re-graded, site preparations for the remaining equipment was done, installations completed were: new multi-activity piece of equipment, a paved pathway from the parking area, and a picnic shelter (thanks to donations from Hutch Concrete and Darrell Weeks).

This spring and early summer we plan to have the picnic shelter stained, the remaining equipment installed, low maintenance landscaping completed, and fencing repaired and replaced where needed. A current planning effort is underway to hold a grand opening ceremony to recognize all those who generously contributed their time and/or resources.

Trow Hill Playground: Planning is underway to make our next playground improvement. The playground is planned to receive repairs to its picnic shelter, a paved ADA pathway, ADA accessible play equipment, resealing of the basketball court, repairing fencing and landscaping improvements.

If you live in the Trow Hill Playground area or just love playgrounds and would like to assist us, volunteers and donations are needed. *For more information or to get involved please contact Assistant Town Manager, Andrew Dorsett at (802)479-9331.*



For more recreation information see the Solid Waste Services page

(Cont'd - Project Updates)

A request for engineering services proposals (RFP) was released in early February. Five proposals were received. Town staff and representatives from Vtrans and Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission reviewed the technical proposals. After the proposals were reviewed and ranked in order of quality, the cost proposals were opened. The estimated cost proposals ranged from \$11,000 to \$133,000. The Dufresne Group was ranked highest and had the second lowest cost estimate at \$20,620. In March the Selectboard retained the Dufresne Group.

This year residents can participate, if so desired, in the project kick-off meeting and can expect to see town and engineering staff surveying and reviewing the area. Due to coordination with the State intersection project a timeline isn't certain. However, construction is not expected before 2016. *(See more project updates on page 7)*

MORE TURNOVER

.....but it is slowing down. For the second year in a row the Town must hire a cemetery sexton/recreation maintenance supervisor. After one season in the position Tim Brick decided to move out of state. Interviews for his replacement are completed, but the hiring process is not complete yet. The new sexton/supervisor should begin work by May 1.

Several months ago deputy health officer Gary Isham announced his retirement effective June 1. Applications for this as-needed position are being accepted at the town manager's office. An extensive explanation of the position was published in the February, 2015 newsletter. The newsletter and article can be read on the town website (www.barretown.org) and click on Publications. For more information contact the town manager's office at 479-9331.



Do you have a child who will be 5 years old on or before August 31, 2015? Barre Town Middle & Elementary School will be starting Kindergarten Screening/Registration beginning the month of April and on through the summer. *Please call Amy at 476-6617 (ext. 6306).*

(Cont'd - Town Budget)

Other notes: \$15,000 is budgeted for the Trow Hill Playground; \$4,700 for the East Barre bike path is in the current budget and is carried forward; the animal control budget is reduced \$11,900 because Williamstown no longer is using Barre Town's animal control officer; the ACO will be provided a town vehicle instead of being paid mileage; and \$6,000 would be spent on repairs and improvements (including security cameras) at the fire stations.

The proposed HF is \$2,712,220, an amount \$103,320 or 3.96% greater than the current budget. The tax rate would go up 1.38¢. No staff or service changes are proposed.

An increase of \$85,420 is found in the road paving accounts. See the article on page 4 for a complete list of roads to be paved.

The current budget provided for the base course of pavement on Cutler Corner Road. The proposed budget provides the money (\$91,385) to pave the top course.

Other major changes in the HF are: -\$8,455 due to elimination of the Pelouin Road area drainage project; +\$6,970 for winter maintenance equipment charges; +\$6,340 for contracted winter maintenance services; +\$6,000 road salt; and -\$5,145 for workers compensation insurance.

A budget booklet featuring more explanation, budget summaries, the Town Meeting Warnings and budget tour booklet will be available soon. Look for it on the town website (use the Publications tab) and at these locations: Brookside Country Store, Morgan's East Barre Market, Trow Hill Grocery, Lawson's Store, Graniteville General Store, Quarry Hill Quick Stop, Hannaford's and the town offices.

The 16 not-for-profit agencies on last years ballots are back. The donation amount requested by each is the same. The 16 requests total \$53,450. See list on page 7.

A new article this year is for additional financial support to the Aldrich Public Library. Article 5 asks if voters will approve \$55,000 for the Aldrich, which amount is in addition to the \$120,000 included in the GF budget.

By early-voting or going to the polls, please vote on May 12.

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

PROPERTY VALUE ASSESSMENTS

This is the time of year for the town assessor to set the assessed value of those properties that have been modified since April 1, 2014. Modifications are determined based on building permits, owner notifications, and visual inspections. The assessor will visit those properties to determine the change in value. Property owners should take the opportunity to confirm that the information on their property card is accurate. Owners should verify building dimensions and lot size, for example. Notify the assessor when sheds, decks, and porches have been removed because building permits are not required for removal.

The 2015 abstract of individual lists (proposed Grand List) will be lodged (filed) with the Barre Town Clerk in June and Change of Appraisal Notices will be sent that same day. Notices must be sent to each property owner whose value has changed since the previous year. The notice will include information on the grievance process and the deadline for filing a written grievance. A written grievance must be received by the Assessor's Office *within 14 days* from the date the abstract of individual lists is lodged with the town clerk.

Taxpayers are encouraged to contact the Assessor's Office during the fourteen-day period to arrange an informal meeting to hear an explanation of the methods used in establishing values, and to ask questions. Please call

(Continued on page 6)

(Con't - Property Value Assessment)

479-2595 to make an appointment.

The Assessor's Office will begin scheduling grievance hearings *fourteen days* after the abstract of individual lists have been lodged. Taxpayers will be allowed sufficient time to make their case during the hearing. A decision probably will not be made at that time; a Result of Grievance Notice will be mailed within *seven days* of the close of grievance hearings. It will include the decision of the assessor with respect to the grievance hearing, and instructions on appeals to the Board of Civil Authority from this decision. Property owners will have *fourteen days* from the date of mailing of the result of grievance notice in which to appeal to the Board of Civil Authority (BCA).

If the owner remains unsatisfied with the ruling of the BCA, the owner may appeal the decision to the Vermont Tax Department, Division of Property Valuation and Review. Instructions regarding the grievance and appeal process can be found in the Vermont Statutes, Title 32, Chapter 129 and 131.

Grievances and appeals are expected, and are an important part of the assessment process. They will be handled professionally and in a timely manner.

By Dave Jennings, EMS Director

(Cont'd - Lawn Waste Site)

The site will be open *Wednesdays, 3pm – 6 pm, Thursdays, 9am – noon and Saturdays, 8 am – noon*. Sadly, last fall the Wednesday afternoon volunteer passed away. One of Thursday morning volunteers offered to cover Wednesday afternoons the remainder of the season. This spring the other Thursday morning volunteer decided not to volunteer this year. At this time, one monitor has volunteered to open the site both Wednesdays and Thursdays. He needs a partner who can open the site in case he can't be there. Please contact the town manager's office (479-9331) for more information about volunteering. It is one of the most appreciated services the town offers.

Look for the site to open Wednesday, April 29. *Note: monitors are there to prevent improper dumping and to answer questions, not necessarily to unload users' cars or trucks. Likewise the DPW employee has been instructed not to load mulch or compost in a users' trucks. Bring tools to load mulch or compost.*

Take bags, boxes, and plastic home. *Lumber and building demolition material are not accepted.*

(Cont'd - Barre Tennis Camp 2015)

For more information or to register early contact Coach Kelly Cleveland at krc97stang@gmail.com or (802) 279-2679. The registration event is *Wednesday, May 27th from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.*, rain or shine at the Barre Town Recreation Tennis Courts.

If you bring a friend, who signs up with you, you will each receive a *10% discount on your registration!*

Two Week Sessions - \$60, One Week Session - \$45

Sign up early to reserve your spot!

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

*Because of volunteers....*town residents were able to make 1,486 visits to the lawn waste site last year, residents were able to discard 358 loads of bulk trash at a very reasonable cost, the public was able to vaccinate pets at a lower than usual cost, residents can enjoy a top notch disc golf course, and take guided nature walks through the town forest.

On *April 14* the Selectboard adopted a resolution extending appreciation to all volunteers - people who do free work in service of youth sports organizations, not-for-profit agencies, churches, schools, service clubs, and of course the town.

Ninety-four (94) town volunteers were recognized at the April 14 meeting. *Seven (7) stores (Lawson's Store, Hannafords, Brookside Country Store, Trow Hill Grocery, Quarry Hill Quick Stop, Graniteville General Store, Morgan's East Barre Market)* that help distribute publications and notices also were recognized. The town's volunteers serve on boards and commissions, coordinate Green Up Day activities and work at services such as the rabies clinic, and help with playground development, fund-raising and construction.

This year several town volunteers reached milestones and received special recognition at the board meeting. The volunteers are:

- * Charles Thygesen - 30 years - Planning Commission
- Development Review Bd.
- * Alan Garceau - 20 years - Cemetery Commission
- * Linda Levesque - 5 years - Recreation Board
- * Greg Richards - 5 years - Development Review Bd.
- * Claire Duke - 5 years - Planning Commission
- * Ken Yearman - 5 years - Planning Commission
- * John Hameline - 5 years - Planning Commission
- * Alan Garceau - 5 years - Bulk Trash Collection
- * Topper McFaun - 5 years - Bulk Trash Collection

The resolution "extends a resounding *THANK YOU* to the hundreds of talented, generous, hard-working and valued volunteers serving throughout the community, and most especially the Selectboard *THANKS* the citizens who volunteer to serve the Town."

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager



NOT-FOR-PROFIT DONATIONS

The May 12 Annual Election of Officers and Voting by Australian ballot lists 16 articles asking if the Town of Barre shall authorize expenditures of a stated amount of money to a certain not-for-profit agency. This year, all 16 agency funding questions were approved in the prior year. To get on this year's ballot the agencies submitted information to the Selectboard. The information confirms the agency still offers service to program eligible Barre Town residents and that the voter donation is used for those programs. The Selectboard also asks about the number of Barre Town residents assisted.

The agencies, their article number and amount requested are:

<u>Article</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Amount</u>
6	Central Home Health & Hospice	\$16,000
7	Project Independence	\$ 5,500
8	Central Vermont Council on Aging	\$ 6,000
9	Retired Senior Volunteer Program	\$ 1,000
10	Circle (formerly Battered Women's)	\$ 2,000
11	People's Health & Wellness Clinic	\$ 1,500
12	C. V. Adult Basic Education	\$ 2,900
13	Barre Heritage Festival	\$ 2,000
14	Family Center of Washington Cty.	\$ 1,500
15	Barre Area Senior Center	\$ 7,500
16	Capstone (C.V. Comm. Action)	\$ 1,000
17	Washington County Youth Service	\$ 500
18	Sexual Assault Crisis Team, Wash. Cty.	\$ 350
19	Washington Cty. Diversion Program	\$ 2,500
20	Prevent Child Abuse Vermont	\$ 1,200
21	Vermont Center for Independent Living.	\$ 2,000

The requests total \$53,450 which is about 8/10ths of a penny (.8¢) on the tax rate.

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

(Cont'd - Project Updates)

East Barre Waterline - A sum of \$25,000 was included in the FY '14-'15 Water Fund project to pay for engineering of a new 8" water line in East Barre. The new line would stretch from the Rt. 110/Mill Street intersection to the East Cobble Hill Road/Hillside Avenue intersection. At both ends the new pipe would connect to existing 8" water lines. On February 24 the Selectboard approved an engineering service agreement with Phelps Engineering. The estimated price of the services is \$22,775.

When the Rt. 302 roundabout was built an 8" water pipe in a sleeve (slightly larger pipe) was laid under Rt. 302 immediately west of the roundabout. The engineers will survey the area, collect existing utility location information, get future road and bridge project information from the State and select a location for the new pipe. Because of the existing pipe in Mill Street, under 302 and in East Cobble Hill, points A, B, C and D are known. Crossing the Jail Branch (probably an aerial crossing) will be the most challenging design feature.

Phelps Engineering might be seen in the area very soon as the survey crew collects field information. The FY '15-'16 Water Fund budget includes \$25,000 to lay the new pipe from the north side of

Rt. 302 to the existing 8" pipe near Hillside Avenue. The work is planned for the late spring of 2016.

East Barre Intersection - Nearly 15 years ago the State conducted a traffic safety study in East Barre. That study led to construction of the roundabout and recommended sidewalks. (The project is on hold pending landowner easement agreements). The study also suggested that Mill Street be re-aligned with Rt. 110 to be more of a right angle (90°). At one time Vtrans had ideas of building the intersection with its crews. Later, Vtrans decided there were more issues to be considered. Vtrans contracted with Vanasse Hangen Brustlin (VHB) to design the intersection. The project will consider the Bianchi Street and Old 302 intersections as well as Mill Street.

On April 1 a Project Kick-off meeting was held at the town offices. Staff from VHB, Vtrans and the town attended. Phelps Engineering also attended. Vtrans and VHB explained VHB's contract runs through and includes construction plans. The federal government will pay 90% of the cost; the state contributes the other 10%. VHB's timeline showed construction could start in 2019 - at the earliest. More likely, construction would be after 2020.

VHB anticipates working on conceptual plans during 2015, which means survey crews will be in the area around the intersections. Engineers will be seen as they visit the intersection to collect first hand observations.

TOWN FOREST DAY

If you've been even slightly interested in exploring the Town Forest, come see what the forest has to offer and visit with groups that provide Town Forest recreation opportunities. *On Saturday, May 16th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.*, the Recreation Commission is hosting the Barre Town Forest Day at 44 Brook Street in Websterville.

The event is free and open to all ages. Some of the activities include:-

- Fairy House Building with Story Reading & Bagpipe music by Ian Gauthier at 1:00 p.m.
- Spring Awakening Walk led by Samantha Ryan at 11:00 a.m.
- Learn to Disc Golf-Ongoing
- MTA Guided Bike Tours at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.
- Times Argus Word Scramble/Scavenger Hunt Game
- Onion River Sports Bike Inspection & Maintenance Clinic
- R&L Archery GPS Geo Caching Clinic - Ongoing

There will be cash food concessions to benefit Trow Hill Playground Restoration Project, many tables displaying activities and opportunities by various groups. Recreation groups: MTA, Recreation Comm., Thunderchickens, Quarries Disc Golf, Trust for Public Land, VT Land Trust, R&L Archery, Onion River Sports.

For more information visit our Recreation website or contact Andrew Dorsett at adorsett@barretown.org, or call 479-9331. *By Andrew Dorsett, Asst. Town Manager*

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8 Volume 18, No. 2

April 2015

Board, Commission Seats

At the end of May the Selectboard makes board, commission and committee (BCC) appointments. If you would like to be considered for one of the BBC seats listed below cut out the quick application form and mail it to the Town Manager's Office, P.O. Box 116, Websterville, VT 05678 or drop it off at the Municipal Building. Another way to apply is to submit a letter of interest. A sample letter of interest (LOI) is available on the website at www.barretown.org/Pages/boards/interest.pdf. The LOI would be mailed to the same address listed above. **Applications are due by noon on Friday, May 22, 2015.**

BCC members learn a lot about their subject through meetings. The town offers to pay League of Cities and Towns and other training fees to help members learn more about their duties. BCC members have impact on matters that make a difference to town citizens. Learn more about the BCCs by going to the website and using the Boards and Commissions button.

Application for Board, Commission or Committee

Please print:

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (H) _____ (C) _____ (W) _____

I am interested in serving on:

- | | | |
|--|---------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cemetery Commission | 1 seat | meeting 4 th Wednesday |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Development Review Board | 4 seats | meeting 2 nd Wednesday |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing Advisory Committee | 2 seats | as needed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planning Commission | 1 seat | meeting 3 rd Wednesday |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation Board | 3 seats | meeting 1 st Monday |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Safety Advisory Comm. | 2 seats | meeting 3 rd Wednesday |