



# BARRE TOWN MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER

Volume 22, No. 5

February 2015



### UPCOMING EVENTS & DATES:

- 2/17 - Property & Sewer Taxes Due
- 2/21 - Annual Budget Tour
- 3/02 - School Districts Open Meeting
- 3/03 - BTMES & SHS Annual Meeting
- 3/06 - FFFF Winter Softball Tournament
- 3/14 - Rabies Clinic
- 3/28 - Tree Pruning Workshop
- 4/01 - Deadline to License Dogs
- 4/01 - Winter Street Parking Ban Ends

**LOOK FOR THE NEXT EDITION** .....  
of the town newsletter in April, 2015.

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### Road Paving Plan

An article in the last newsletter described the paved road evaluation process and considerations in putting together a 5-year road paving plan. The plan was completed and adopted by the selectboard late November to mid December. The plan for fiscal year '15-'16 has been built into the Highway Fund budget under review right now.

For information and planning purposes town staff placed all town roads into one of 6 categories - highest priority to lowest priority. The highest priority roads have the heaviest amounts of traffic and are designated truck routes. Lowest priority streets are very short, dead-end, residential street with just a handful of homes. The length of all roads in each category was summed to get a category total mileage. Based on actual intervals between resurfacing staff determined the expected duration of pavement in each category. Pavement in categories 1, 2 and 3 is expected to last 10 years. For categories 4, 5 and 6 pavement duration was placed at 12 years. The category total mileage was divided by pavement duration to determine the approximate miles of road that should be resurfaced each year.



Following this process, Barre Town should pave 6 1/2 miles (34,320') of road each year to keep roads in good condition. In the new 5-year plan, the number of feet to be paved each year are: Yr. 1 - 39,291, Yr. 2 - 28,543, Yr. 3 - 32,715, Yr. 4 - 39,288 and Yr. 5 - 37,006.

The current year budget for paved road work is \$683,165. The estimate for Yr. 1 is \$768,445, a 12.4% increase. The amount for other years and change from the preceding year are: Yr. 2 - \$769,128 (.08%); Yr. 3 - \$781,047 (1.5%); Yr. 4 - \$786,977 (.7%); and Yr. 5 - \$782,672 (-.5%).

It is not known yet how the steep decrease in cost of crude oil will effect cost of asphalt. That question will be answered about the first of May when paving bids are opened.

*By Carl Rogers, Town Manager*

### **IMPORTANT!** File Homestead Declaration

Every Vermont homeowner must file the Homestead Declaration, HS-122, every year, regardless of whether they file a state income tax return. The *deadline* to file HS-122 with the Vermont Department of Taxes is *April 15*. If you or a family member own and occupy a home as of April 1, 2015 file the HS-122 to avoid a penalty. The elderly might still be living in their home but not need to file a state income tax return. Check to see if they are submitting the HS-122 form.

The form is available from the state's website: [www.tax.vermont.gov](http://www.tax.vermont.gov) to print or to file on-line. (Continued on page 6)

### Police Department: News

Speeding and general motor vehicle complaints continue to be one of the most reported complaints within Barre Town. The police department continues to make traffic enforcement a priority. We keep track of the areas where speeding and other offenses occur, and assign officers to patrol these areas on a weekly basis. If you notice a speeding problem on your street or in another area of town, contact Sgt. William Dodge at [William.dodge@state.vt.us](mailto:William.dodge@state.vt.us) to have your street added to the enforcement list.

Speeding and driving too fast for road conditions remains a prevalent factor in many crashes, particularly this time of year. Remember to be mindful of black ice. Many accidents can be avoided by having appropriate tires, slowing down, allowing extra distance between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you, and using your turn signals.

We also wish to remind you that any vehicle parked on the street, or within the town right-of-way between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. is prohibited between November 1<sup>st</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Vehicles may be ticketed and towed at the owners expense.

The police department also wants to remind citizens to be vigilant against crimes of opportunity. Many times thieves will pass by vehicles that are locked, especially if they can't see any valuables through the windows. To reduce your risk of becoming a victim of theft, make the following a habit:

- ▶ *Lock your vehicle, home and garage*
- ▶ *Remove all valuables. Remember "out of sight is out of mind" and place valuables in the trunk or under the seat*
- ▶ *Do not leave your keys in the vehicle, and don't leave the vehicle running unattended, even if you're only running in somewhere for a quick minute*
- ▶ *Install motion lighting*
- ▶ *Let your neighbors know when you will be away. Be vigilant and watch your neighbor's property*

***Most importantly, call the police when you see something suspicious!***

*By Sgt. William Dodge, Police Officer*

### World's Largest Snow Softball Tournament

Freezing Fun for Families (FFFF) is at it again for the 17<sup>th</sup> time! The event that set a Guinness World Record for largest snow softball tournament in 2009 will be at the town park and ball fields. Tournament dates are *Friday, March 6, and Saturday-Sunday, March 7 & 8*. Bring your friends, family, neighbors and acquaintances and lets break the record again!

Games start Friday evening and run to about midnight. Play re-st arts Saturday morning and ends about 9:00 p.m. By Sunday morning the field in the double elimination tournament has been pared down. Games begin about 8:00 a.m. The Championship round is played at noon or early afternoon.

In past years 60, give or take, teams of men and women have braved the cold to have fun and contribute to families in need. FFFF raises \$20,000 - \$25,000 each year. In the past 15 years

FFFF has raised over \$300,000. The earnings are donated to families in need because of a critically ill child.

So far, FFFF has helped 20 VT families. This year proceeds will be donated to 14 year old Jacob Gorton (Bristol, VT) and 5 month old Micha Legacy (Morrisville, VT). Jacob has had a long 3 year battle with T-Cell A.L.L. and is currently in Tennessee receiving a second bone marrow transplant. Micah is just about to start his journey. He was diagnosed with X-linked Lymphoproliferative disease, a rare form of cancer and he is scheduled for a bone marrow transplant this June.

For more information, including tournament rules and team registration, see the website: [www.freezingfunforfamilies.com](http://www.freezingfunforfamilies.com), or by contacting Cory Touchette at (802) 279-3632.



People who don't play softball can contribute by attending one of FFFF events such as dinner dance, raffle and auction. The annual kickoff celebration will be at *Gusto's* on *Saturday, February 7* and the dinner and dance is *Saturday, February 28* at the *Barre Elks Club*. Tickets are \$25 per person. Tournament spectators are welcome and can contribute by buying raffle tickets, food and beverages at the concession stands.

*By Andrew Dorsette, Assistant Town Manager*

### Lamoille Dispatch

In the last edition I wrote about Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP's) which are an intergral part of the enhanced 911 system the we benefit from here in Vermont. This time I'm going to talk about the Lamoille County Sheriff's Department (LCSD) located in Hyde Park.

In June of 2011 Barre Town contracted with LCSD for emergency service dispatching. In 2014 LCSD dispatched Barre Town Police, EMS, and Fire Departments to a total of 8,556 incidents. LCSD also dispatches for 5 other police departments, 10 fire departments, and 7 EMS squads. Barre Town Emergency Services account for the highest call volume for LCSD.

As I mentioned in the last edition, Barre Town is in a unique position compared to most towns n Vermont in that our PSAP (LCSD) is also our emergency service dispatch center. In most cases when calling from Barre Town you're talking to the same person that our emergency responders are talking to as well.

At the head of the LCSD is Sheriff Roger Marcoux, Jr. Sheriff Marcoux leads an organization that provides not only dispatching services but 24/7 police protection to Hyde Park, Johnson, and Wolcott. Sheriff Marcoux recently made substantial upgrades to the building they are located in with likely the most significant enhancement being to the dispatch center. As part of renovations, the dispatch center was moved

*(Continued on page 3)*

**Lamoille Dispatch - Con't**

upstairs removing it from the daily flow of activity enabling dispatchers to focus on their jobs better. State of the art consoles and equipment were installed and four dispatch stations created. These stations are staffed by at least two dispatchers/911 call takers at all times. Many times there are three and could be four if needed. There are a total of 11 dispatchers that work 12 hour rotating shifts. The dispatchers at LCSO are very familiar with what we do in the field because most, if not all, are currently working in the emergency service business or have in the past. Two of the dispatchers have been with the LCSO for over 30 years.

When considering how important getting help when needed is, having well-equipped, well-staffed, and well-trained personnel on either end of the phone or radio is vital. The Lamoille County Sheriff Department provides that type of service to Barre Town residents and responders every day.

*By Chris Violette, Fire Chief*

**Annual Town Budget Tour**



**On Saturday, February 21** the Town will host its annual Budget Tour. Join your neighbors, friends, budget committee and town staff for this community event. The tour is at no charge and includes coffee, juice doughnuts and great conversation. An engaging question and answer session will grow your understanding of Town operations and their relationship to budget requests. All ages are welcome! The Tour bus starts at 8:00 a.m., so plan on arriving **at the Municipal Building (149 Websterville Road) between 7:30 and 8:00 a.m.** For more information contact the Town Manager's Office at 479-9331.

*By Andrew Dorsett, Assistant. Town Manager*

**Campaign Finance Requirements for Local Officials**

As we approach town meeting in May, there are several changes to the campaign finance law that local candidates should be aware of. The biggest change is candidates must register and submit reports via the Secretary of State's Campaign Finance website (<http://campaignfinance.sec.state.vt.us/>). Previously, local reports were sent to town clerks. All reporting for campaign finance can be found on this website.

Local candidates for office who spend or raise over \$500 are required to register with the Secretary of State. Candidates who reach this threshold must submit reports of expenditures and contributions 30 days prior, 10 days prior, and two weeks after the local election. A final report must be filed within 40 days of

the election, but can be filed at any time. So the report due 10 days after the election could be a candidate's final report. Candidates who do not spend or raise over \$500 are not required to report.

Local candidates may only accept \$1,000 from a single source (individual or PAC). Political parties are allowed to donate unlimited amounts to candidates.

A person or group that spends over \$1,000 to influence the outcome of a public question are also required to register and report expenditures to the Secretary of State. These reports are due 30 days prior, 10 days prior, and two weeks after the local election.

In addition to campaign finance reports, anybody that spends over \$500 on a "mass media activity" (newspaper ad, radio or TV ad, or electronic communication or mailing) must file a Mass Media report. These reports can also be filed on the Secretary of State's Campaign Finance website.

Any questions about campaign finance or elections in general should be directed to the Secretary of State Elections Division at 802-828-2363

*By J.P. Isabelle, Justice of Peace*

✂ *Clip N' Save* ✂

TOWN AND SCHOOL ELECTION CALENDAR			
For 2015			
2015 Election	Event Date	Petition Deadline Date - 5:00 p.m.	Voter Registration Date - 5:00 p.m.
Annual School Election	March 3, 2015	January 26, 2015	February 25, 2015
Non-Partisan Caucus	March 16, 2015	N/A	N/A
Open Town Meeting	May 6, 2015	N/A	May 6, 2015
Annual Town Meeting	May 12, 2015	March 30, 2015	May 6, 2015

*Petition Deadline for School Board* Directors is Monday, January 26, 2015, 5:00 p.m.

*The Non-Partisan Caucus* meeting is to ensure there is at least one candidate for each municipal office. This meeting holds no "official standing" in law. Nominations and voting are done from the floor.

*Petition Deadline for Elected Town Officers* (Selectboard, Town Clerk-Treasurer, Auditor, Constable, and Moderator) is Monday, March 30, 2015, 5:00 p.m.

*Election Information* is available at the Barre Town Municipal Building, various local markets, and on the Town website ([www.barretown.org](http://www.barretown.org)).

*Hours:* Australian ballot voting will take place at the Barre Town Elementary School gymnasium. The polls will be open 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. for all elections. Handicap services are available. If you require assistance from the school parking lot area to the gymnasium contact the Town Clerk's Office at 479-9391 prior to each election.

*Early Voting Ballots:* There are NO standing orders - you must make your ballot request for each election. To make a request call 802-479-9391, stop by the office, or email [dkelty@barretown.org](mailto:dkelty@barretown.org).

**2013 - 2014 Town Reports**

The 2013-2014 Annual Report of the Town Officers will be available for pick up at the following locations:

- Brookside Country Store*
- Graniteville General Store*
- Lawson's Store*
- Trow Hill Grovery*
- East Barre Market*
- Hannafords*
- Quarry Hill Quick Stop*
- Town Offices Building*

### Winter Recreation in the Barre Town Forest



The Millstone Trails Association has been very busy over the past few months. After a very successful summer season their winter trail crew is focusing on a machine-groomed loop through the Barre Town Forest which makes contact with two parking lots and several points of interest. The loop connects to both Town Forest parking lots (Brook St. and Barclay Quarry Rd.) and covers some nicely varying terrain, with gentler terrain on the “left” side and more challenging hills on the “right.” There have been all sorts of people out on the trails – skiing, snowshoeing and fat tire mountain biking have been very popular and the conditions are great right now.

As the MTA’s development of the loop improves and in case of any changes, all updates will be made on MTA’s website at <http://www.millstonetrails.com>, maps are available at the website or by visiting Lawson’s store. You can also like their Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/millstonetrails>, where new information regarding trail conditions, events and other exciting news about the upcoming summer season will be posted.

A reminder that although the trails are free for use this Winter, please consider making a tax-deductible donation on the MTA’s website to support the volunteer-based trail maintenance efforts this season and keep fuel in the groomer!

*By Andrew Dorsett, Assistant Town Manager*

### Vacancy: Seasonal

A total of five seasonal positions are available for the summer months. Get paid while enjoying the outdoors and productively contributing to the Town!

#### **Department of Public Works:**

As a seasonal DPW support person you’ll be providing assistance on a variety of tasks maintaining and improving Barre’s Town’s roads and utilities, with a schedule that leaves plenty of afternoon sunshine for your own adventures. The schedule is M-F, 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

#### **Parks and Recreation & Cemetery:**

If the long winters have you wanting to take every opportunity to enjoy Vermont’s summer outdoors, but you need cash in your pocket, the Recreation and Cemetery position may be for you. Typical duties include mowing, trimming and many other landscaping tasks as well as some light building or painting activities.

Selected candidates for Recreation & Cemetery and DPW positions will have a starting wage of \$9.90 an hour, and available end of season attendance bonus. Typically individuals return for additional seasons. Several of the positions were manned by college students who recently graduated, opening the door for a new group of energetic applicants.

Applications are available for pick up at the Town Manager’s office or are downloadable from the Town’s website:

<http://www.barretown.org/pages/gen/employment.html>. Applications can be submitted by email to [offices@barretown.org](mailto:offices@barretown.org) or mailed to, Town of Barre, PO Box 116, Websterville, VT 05678. Application reviews will begin on March 16<sup>th</sup>.

*By Andrew Dorsett, Assistant Town Manager*

### New Employees

Last fall one full-time public works employee retired and another resigned when he moved out of state. Both positions were filled effective December 1.

The two new employees are Edward LaPan and Jesse LePage. Both men are Barre natives and attended Spaulding High School. Mr. LaPan’s name may be familiar due to his work with the Spaulding wrestling team. Mr. LePage is from the family that owns the LePage Sand and Gravel Pit, where he gained much experience driving truck and operating equipment.

Full-time paramedic April Johns left the town’s employ December 7. Devin Krevetski was hired January 5 to replace Ms. Johns. Mr. Krevetski was working full-time with Upper Valley Ambulance Service when hired. He has 4 ½ years of emergency medical work experience, 2 1/4 as a paramedic.

*By Carl Rogers, Town Manager*

### Needed: Deputy Health Officer

Deputy health officer Gary Isham announced he is resigning from the position effective June 1, 2015. His abilities and service is appreciated. The Selectboard is accepting letters as application for the part-time (very, very part-time) position.

The town has a health officer. The deputy may accompany the health officer on some cases and would respond to calls when the health officer is not available. In response to a report or complaint the deputy would gather information and apply the appropriate set of regulations to the situation. The VT Department of Health provides a helpful handbook for health officers.

Health officers have responsibilities for enforcing VT’s rental housing code, answering dog bite cases, and enforcing the law about improper disposal or storage of trash. The health officer could be called to duty if Vermont experienced a health emergency. Over the years the health officers and deputy have averaged less than 5 cases a year that needed to be documented in the town offices. The health officer answers more calls that don’t require reports and documentation.

A competent health officer should be able to apply policies, regulation and laws to a situation; communicate effectively with the public; and write clear, brief reports.

Town residents interested in this important but not too demanding position should submit a letter of application addressed to: Selectboard, c/o Town Manager’s Office, P.O. Box 116, Websterville, VT 05678 by noon, Friday, March 6. A short resume would be appreciated. The Selectboard will decide how it will screen the applications. When the board chooses a candidate, the Town submits the name and

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**Needed: Deputy Health Officer - Con't**

background information to the VT Department of Health, which officially appoints the deputy.

The deputy health officer is paid a stipend of \$100 per quarter. For more information visit the Department of Health website [www.healthvermont.gov/local/tho/tho.aspx](http://www.healthvermont.gov/local/tho/tho.aspx).

*By Carl Rogers, Town Manager*

**Annual Dog License(s) are Due**

Do you own a dog? Does the dog live in Barre Town? If you answered yes to both questions then by Vermont law (20 VSA Sections 3541-3591, 3801-3813) you are required to license your dog/wolf-hybrid annually in the Town of Barre.

What do I need to license my pet?

1. Have a current rabies certificate on file with the Town Clerk's Office or provide the office with a copy of the certificate at the time you license.
2. Pay the license fee (\$9.00 for a spayed or neutered animal and \$13.00 for an animal that is not fixed)
3. Remember the deadline to license your dog(s) is April 1, 2015. If your pet is found to be unlicensed after April 1, 2015 you can be fined (\$35.00).

The Town Clerk's Office has mailed a postcard reminder to the pet owners who have a rabies certificate on file but will expire before April 1, 2015.

Dog license renewals will be mailed by the end of January for the calendar year 2015. Be sure to check the license information carefully (make corrections if necessary), sign, enclose your payment, and return to the Town Clerk's Office in the envelope which is provided.

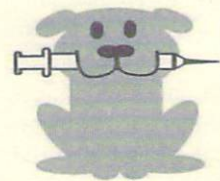
If you have animal complaints contact the Barre Town Police Department. A copy of the Animal Control Ordinance, which includes leash restrictions, can be obtained from the Town Clerk's Office at 479-9391 or by visiting the website at [www.barretown.org](http://www.barretown.org). (Click on the button "Charter, Ordinances & Policies").

**Be a responsible pet owner!** Make sure your pet is licensed, has a current rabies vaccination, and the current year license tag is affixed to your pets collar.

*By Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer*

**Rabies Clinic**

The Town of Barre will be hosting a dog and cat rabies clinic at the South Barre Fire Station (528 South Barre Road) on Saturday, March 14, 2015. This clinic is an affordable way to protect your pets from getting rabies. All dogs and cats are welcome at the clinic but for Barre Town residents' convenience, the



Town Clerk will be available to register dogs that reside in Barre Town. The clinic will be offered from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at a cost of \$14.00 per vaccination. We ask that all dogs be on a leash and that cats are secured in a carrier. For more information contact 802-479-2595. All proceeds benefit the

Barre Town Fire Department.

*By Chris Violette, Fire Chief*

**Apple Tree Pruning Workshop**

Unpruned fruit trees lead to poor quality fruit yields and can be frustrating, unsightly and encourage air borne diseases. Pruning fruit trees allows for increased light channels throughout the tree, improving tree health, fruit yields and quality.



Learn how to keep fruit trees in balance. On Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Washington County Forester Dan Singleton will host an Apple Tree pruning workshop in the Barre Town Forest.

To reserve your space in this community workshop email the Assistant Town Manager, [adorsett@barretown.org](mailto:adorsett@barretown.org).

*By Andrew Dorsett, Assistant Town Manager*

**Budget Committee Work**

The five citizen members of the budget committee were appointed in January. Town clerk-treasurer Donna Kelty appointed J.P. Isabelle. The Selectboard appointed Paul Malone and Scott Hutchins. Those three appointees selected Chris Day and Jaime Fewer to complete the committee.

Committee meetings are held from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Tuesday nights in the municipal building. The public is welcome to attend these important deliberations. As written in the Town Charter the Committee has the final word on the eight budgets reviewed and adopted every year.

The budget topics for every meeting are listed on the Selectboard's meeting agenda, which are posted at the Trow Hill Grocery, Hannafords and Graniteville General Store bulletin boards. Agendas also are available for reading on the town website. As budgets are completed information is posted on the website at: [www.barretown.org/Pages/gen/budgetin](http://www.barretown.org/Pages/gen/budgetin).

The Committee meetings started January 27 and will continue at least until March 24. See the Budget Tour article on page 3 for an invitation to spend a very informative Saturday morning with town staff and the committee.

*By Carl Rogers, Town Manager*

**Proposed Zoning Bylaw Amendments**

Upon completion and approval of the Town Plan, the Planning Commission began discussing and drafting Zoning Bylaw Amendments. It is likely that there will be a few different rounds of changes as we move forward. On January 21, 2015 the Commission held a public hearing on the first round of proposed amendments. These proposed amendments will now be sent to the Selectboard for public hearings and consideration for adoption.

The proposed changes to the Zoning Bylaw are as follows:

- Changing heavy industrial uses from a permitted use to

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### Proposed Zoning Bylaw Amendments - Con't

a conditional use.

- Exempting increased setback requirements for commercial and industrial uses that abut a residential zone when the abutting property is a cemetery.
- Changing the zoning designation of a portion of the Wilson Industrial Park from office building retail to industrial, which will now mean that the entire industrial park is zoned industrial.
- Change the zoning designation of 33, 47 (Reynolds & Sons) and 59 (Isabelle) Bridge Street from high density residential to highway commercial.

The first three amendment proposals are all suggested in the Town Plan while the last one allows two existing commercial properties to not worry about being grandfathered and potential problems that could arise in the future as a result.

Selectboard public hearings will be forthcoming so be sure to keep an eye on the local newspaper or on the Town website for meeting dates and times. If there are questions regarding these proposed amendments, feel free to contact me at 802-479-2595 for details.

*By Chris Violette, Planning & Zoning Director*

### Universal Recycling Law and Composting



By now you've probably heard about Vermont's Universal Recycling law, also known as Act 148. This new law was passed unanimously in the legislature in 2012, and dramatically changes the way Vermonters will handle waste. Some of the biggest changes include landfill bans on recyclables and organics (meaning food scraps).

What does that mean for residents? For one thing, you won't be able to throw away recyclables starting this *July 1, 2015*. For another thing, by *2020*, food scraps will no longer be accepted in the trash. They will have to be managed in some other manner, either fed to animals or composted, or – if high quality edible food – given to the food shelf.

Many Vermonters can compost at home in their back yards. This is a simple process that requires only a pile, or a bin, or multiple bins. It can be as simple or as complicated as you want it to be. Some people like to get their compost piles hot by turning the materials and adding water on a regular basis; doing so will compost food scraps very quickly. Some people would rather be more hands-off, and just dump their scraps into the compost bin or pile until they appear to melt away. Both methods will turn food scraps into compost, the first is quicker, the second might take a year or more.

Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District provides troubleshooting and equipment sold at cost to residents of its 18 member towns. Call CVSWMD offices for information about backyard composting at 802-229-9383 or check out the composting tips and guides at [www.cvswwmd.org](http://www.cvswwmd.org).

For people who are ready to get started now, we can help! For people who don't have space to compost, but are ready to divert food scraps out of the trash now, CVSWMD provides a food-scrap drop off point at its Additional Recyclable Collection Center at 540 Main Street in Barre City. The ARCC accepts over three dozen hard-to-recycle materials, including food scraps. The cost is *\$1.00 per car load of material*, and the hours are *Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, noon - 6:00 p.m. and every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.* More information is available about the ARCC at the CVSWMD website as well.

Universal Recycling requires that restaurants, businesses and large organizations start diverting their food scraps starting now (actually, the largest food scrap generators, such as Price Chopper on the Barre-Montpelier Road started last year). Householders aren't required by law to begin until 2020, but many people are excited to get composting right away. If you have any questions or concerns, CVSWMD staff is happy to talk with you and further explain the law, and give you help and tips about how to do your own home composting.

For more information about Universal Recycling, go to [www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/wastediv/solid/act148](http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/wastediv/solid/act148).

*By Cassandra Hemenway*

*Zero Waste Outreach CVSWMD Coordinator*

### File Homestead Declaration- Con't

If you miss the April 15 deadline, file anyway. Not filing the form at all means you will be charged the higher non-residential tax rate for the state education tax part of the tax bill. Barre Town's non-residential tax rate this year is \$1.7328, while the residential or homestead rate is \$1.39930 in Barre Town.

*By Carl Rogers, Town Manager*

### Public Notices Page

The town website offers a Public Notices and Postings Page. The page is easily accessible using a link featured prominently on the website homepage. The page is divided in three sections: Local Government, State Notices, and Other Items (schools, fire districts and county). All notices and warnings the town is required by state law to publish "in a newspaper having general circulation within the Town" are posted to the web page. Examples of notices listed on the web page are public hearing notices, special meeting notices, assessor's annual notice of right to grieve (property assessment), and winter regulations. Ads or notices that are not required, such as vacancy announcements, also are listed.

Barre Town School and Spaulding High School notices are posted, as well as any state notices sent to the town office. If you are interested in an issue (like the zoning by-law amendments) or if you just are curious check the page periodically.

*By Carl Rogers, Town Manager*

## Project Updates

**Bridge Street Sidewalk** - A couple of years ago the town received a Transportation Enhancement (T.E.) Grant for construction of a sidewalk on the north side of Bridge Street (South Barre) from Rt. 14 to the bridge. A request for proposals (RFP) to supply the engineering planning and design work was released in late January. Proposals are due February 12. A group including some town staff and a representative from the regional planning commission and VTrans will analyze the proposals. Proposal review completion and recommendation to the selectboard is expected about mid-March. The sidewalk is 735 feet long. It will be 5 feet wide. The T.E. pays 80% of the project cost; the Town is responsible for the remaining 20%. Engineering work could take a full year or more.

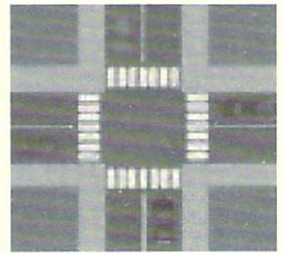
**Town Forest: Consulting Forester** - A RFP for forest management consulting services has been written. The Recreation Board and Selectboard will review and discuss it early in February. The Town Forest Management Plan includes an extensive section on managing the forest - the trees. The section was written by former Washington County forester Russ Barrett. The section includes suggestions for timber management work that should be done soon. The knowledge and services of a certified consulting forester is needed to carry-out the work. The Recreation Board oversees the town forest, thus its role in reviewing the RFP. The town owns at least 7 lots that have some potential for timber. The selectboard will be asked if it wants to expand the scope of services to include other town properties. Depending on board direction, proposals could be due in March.

**Solar Farm (#1)** - The 500,000 kw net metering array located on the former Pike Industries' granite crushing site was completed in December. The project was commercially operational December 28 and producing electricity to be fed into GMP's grid. In January the Town received the 2015 lease payment of \$7,000. Owners of the project began billing the town \$3,492 per month (monthly average for town's year round electricity needs). At year's end the solar farm's electricity produced and town's electricity consumed will be tallied. The owner and town will "true up". The town is supposed to save 10% on its electricity.

**Solar Farm (#2)** - Novus Energy Development continues to search out a site for a second 500,000 kw net metering project. This one would benefit Spaulding High School. A representative from the VT Public Service Board visited the large parcel on which farm #1 is located. The PSB decided it wouldn't permit a second net-metering array on that land. At the selectboard's suggestion, Novus Energy checked the Town's 20 acre lot at the corner of Lowery and Waterman. Novus

reported that most of the lot is covered with soils indicative of wetlands, therefore PSB wouldn't approve that site. No other Town land outside the Wilson Industrial Park appears to be viable. Novus has proposed use of several locations in the W.I.P. The Selectboard countered with a suggestion for a less desirable section of land. Novus is interested in that area. Use of W.I.P. and the annual lease payment will be considered and negotiated soon.

**Rt. 14/Bridge Street Intersection** - According to a VTrans project manager the extensive Rt. 14/Bridge Street/Sterling Hill Road intersection project is slated for construction in 2017. The project will add left turn lanes on Rt. 14 on both sides of the intersection. A traffic light will control traffic. Because of the possibility of stopped traffic on Rt. 14 the crest of the hill near Christie Street will be shaved down. Existing sidewalk in the immediate area will be replaced. The intersection project is funded 100% by the federal and state government. The town will replace a small amount of sewer pipe and a manhole.



**Quarry Street/Rt. 14 Intersection** - VTrans also reports this project will have two contracts. The first contract will commence in 2016. It will involve earthwork and grading on the south side of Quarry Street from Rt. 14 to the railroad tracks. The remainder of the project will be contracted for work in 2017. The intersection is in Barre City, but the project work crosses the city-town line into the town's Quarry Hill Road to make the transition from the town's wide road and to adjust drainage. The town is responsible for a very small part of the local share of this project.

*By Carl Rogers, Town Manager*

## Housing Upgrades

House cold? Huge heating bills taking all your money? The Barre Town housing rehabilitation loan program might help with energy efficiency improvements. You might make your home more comfortable and save some heating cost. Contact the Central Vermont Community Land Trust (476-4493) and ask about the Barre Town housing rehabilitation loan program. If your grandparents, parents, daughter or other family member who owns their Barre Town home are struggling with heating, suggest they call CVCLT.

## FRONT PORCH FORUM REMINDER:

A place for the community to buy, sell and chat about anything and everything. Go to [www.frontporchforum.com](http://www.frontporchforum.com) to find out what's happening in Barre Town! 588 Barre Town residents subscribe to Front Porch Forum. *Service is Free!*


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**Traffic Safety Advisory Committee Meeting Notes:** By Harry Hinrichsen, Town Engineer

November 2014: Voted to set date of March 18, 2015 for Public Hearing on establishing new "Stop" sign for Carnes Road at intersection with Bianchi Street; Town Engineer informed committee of VTrans updated plans for bridge project on Rt. 14 and Rt. 2 in East Montpelier. Construction will start in 2017 and continue into 2018.

December 2014: No meeting.

January 2015: Listened to presentation by Paul Keegan & Kevin Gadapee from VT Local Rural Roads Program; recommended Selectboard approve reinstatement of LED streetlight near #201 East Cobble Hill Road.

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

November 2014: Approved Pro Signs for a larger sign than allowed.

December 2014: No meeting.

January 2015: Granted preliminary approval to Al Monty for 2-lot subdivision with minor road extension; heard conceptual plans from Windy Wood Housing and George Abrams.

**Planning Commission Meeting Notes:** By Heidi Bennett (C. Sanborn, C. Thygesen, C. Violette, K. Yearman, C. Duke, J. Hameline, G. Clain)

November 2014: Approved D. Chaloux to operate small eatery at 21 Clark Rd.; continued work on zoning amendments.

December 2014: Reviewed zoning amendment report for changing industrial uses to conditional use, changing zoning of Wilson Industrial Park and changing requirements for set backs from cemeteries.

January 2015: Public Hearing on changing industrial uses to conditional uses, changing zoning in Wilson Industrial Park, and set backs from cemeteries, as well as rezoning Bridge Street near Isabelle Electric and Reynolds & Sons; approved J. Gagne to operate a part-time auto repair business at 232 Miller Road.