

Barre Town Newsletter

Municipal News

National Volunteer Week Observed



April 10-16 was National Volunteer Week. On April 12, the Selectboard extended the town's appreciation to 69 volunteers who filled 87 positions from May 2010 to April 2011. The volunteers served on 19 boards, committees, or services. Volunteers are essential in giving popular services such as the bulk trash collections and lawn waste site. They provide guidance and help set policy for

important current topics like the town forest and regional public safety consolidation. Their role on year-to-year boards and commissions make Barre Town government work.

Every volunteer receives a small token of the Town's appreciation. Last year volunteers were given a reusable grocery bag featuring the town seal. This year they received a key chain. Volunteers receive extra recognition for 5, 10, and 20 years continuous service. This year, Dwight Harrington was honored for 10 years of work on the Cemetery Commission. Patricia Dessureau (Housing Advisory Committee) and Alice Cloud (bulk trash service) were recognized for 5 years service.

The Selectboard uses Volunteer Week to recognize the free help of 6 stores. These stores help the town distribute town reports, budget booklets, and post notices and agenda. The stores are: Hannaford's, Brookside Country, Trow Hill Grocery, Graniteville General, Lawson's, and Quarry Hill Quick Stop.

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ANNUAL TOWN MEETING DATE CHANGES

Town Charter amendments approved by voters last May were signed into law by Gov. Shumlin. The 2011 Annual Town Meeting will be held on a new date, according to the new Charter amendments. The Annual (Open) Town Meeting will be held the Wednesday night before the Annual Election. This year, the Annual Town Meeting will be on May 4 at 7:30 p.m. The location has changed also; the Town Meeting will be held in the Municipal Building. The Meeting will be played on CVTV, Channel 7 on the following Friday night and Saturday morning.

PROPERTY TAXES DUE!

Property taxes are due Monday, May 16. A drop box to the left of the front door of the Municipal Building is available for your after-business-hours convenience. On the 16th, the box contents will be removed at midnight. After that time, a payment is considered late and a 5% late charge will be assessed.

National Recognition Weeks

National Public Works Week: May 15-21, 2011

National Public Works Week is observed each year during the third full week of May. NPWW calls attention to the importance of public works in community life by recognizing the professionals who serve the public good every day.

Barre Town is fortunate to have public works employees who are dedicated to improving the quality of life by constructing and maintaining the highways, water, sewage, and stormwater runoff systems. Often their accomplishments are particularly noteworthy in relation to the limited manpower and financial resources available to them.



Take the opportunity to listen to some of the stories these employees have to tell, and get to know some of the people always in the background keeping this town running.

National EMS Week: May 15-21, 2011

National Emergency Medical Services Week is a way to recognize the dedication of the EMTs who provide the day-to-day lifesaving services of medicine's "front line". This year's theme underscores that commitment: Anytime. Anywhere. We'll be there.

People know when they dial 911 they'll get help, no matter what their circumstance. It's also true that much of what an EMT does isn't nearly as dramatic as a car crash, but just as important to a patient or family who are facing the unknown with fear and pain ... the EMT's presence and caring can have an impact far beyond the clinical care they provide.



As part of EMS Week, Barre Town EMS will be holding an open house at the East Barre Station on McLaughlin Road from 12 noon to 3 p.m., Saturday, May 21. Please stop by and talk with the staff, tour the vehicles and building, ask about equipment demonstrations, and have a good time.

- Dave Jennings, EMS Director

2011 Paved Road Construction

Hot Mix Asphalt Paving Contract #1 (June 27-July 8):

Countryside Dr., Fieldstone Ln., Smith Farm Rd., Lisa Dr., Ledge Dr., Central St., Carnes Rd., Bianchi St., Prospect St., Pleasant St., Irving St.

Nova Chip Sealing (July 11-22):

Lisa Dr., Sparrow Dr., Robin Dr., Skylark Ter., Cardinal Cir., W. Skylark Ter., Goodhue Ln.

Pavement Milling (July 25-August 5):

W. Cobble Hill Rd. (Tamarack to Cobble Hill Meadows), Church Hill Rd. (Littlejohn Rd. to top of hill)

Hot Mix Asphalt Paving Contract #2 (August 8-26):

Tamarack Ln., Tanglewood Dr., W. Cobble Hill Rd. (Tamarack to Cobble Hill Meadows), Cobble Hill Meadows, Sierra-Lavin Rd. (#383 to end of pavement), Church Hill Rd. (Websterville Rd. to top of hill), Cassie St. (Valley View to Plainfield Brook Rd.)

Reclaim (Crushing) Asphalt (August 8-17):

Plainfield Brook Rd. (mid station to Mitchell Rd.)

Chip Seal (August 29-September 9):

Plainfield Brook Rd. (mid station to Mitchell Rd.)

CALL BEFORE YOU WORK ON YOUR DRIVEWAY OR IN THE ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY

You may need a permit if you are re-paving or constructing your driveway this summer. It is the responsibility of the property owner to obtain a permit to work in the road right-of-way prior to doing work with any equipment or contractor. Please consult the Planning & Zoning Office or the Town Engineer before scheduling any work.

Fireworks Permits - It's The Law

Fireworks are highly explosive and governed by law (State and local) to ensure public safety.

To hold a display in Barre Town, you will need a fireworks permit – an easy process. Call the Town Clerk's office for an application or download it from our website (www.barretown.org/ forms). Information required includes: date of display, where the fireworks will be stored, type of fireworks, your physical location, and a sketch detailing locations to neighbors, highways, overhead telephone lines, and buildings.

Applications must be submitted at least 15 days in advance of the date of the display. The cost is \$15.00.

Be sure to get a fireworks permit – it's the law.

- Donna Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

----- *Clip and Save* -----

BARRE TOWN 2011 ELECTION CALENDAR

Election	Date	Petition Deadline		Voter Reg.
		5:00 pm	5:00 pm	
Open Town Meeting	5/4/11	n/a		5/4/11
Annual Town Mtg.	5/10/11	4/1/11		5/4/11

Open Town Meeting will be held on Wed., May 4, 7:30 p.m. at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard meeting room. To view items that will be voted on from the floor, visit the town website or contact the Clerk's Office.

Election of Officers: Australian Ballot voting will take place at the B.T. Elementary School gymnasium. Polls will be open 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Handicap services are available. If you require assistance from the school parking lot, contact the Clerk's Office at 479-9391 prior to the election.

Early Voting Ballots: Are available for the May 10 election. There are NO standing orders; you must make your ballot request for each election. Call 802-479-9391, stop by the office, or email dkelty@barretown.org.

Checklist Applications: Call 802-479-9391, stop by the office, or email dkelty@barretown.org for an application.

For up-to-date election information, visit the website at www.barretown.org.

May Election: Budgets



Barre Town voters can step up to the plate and take two swings. The Town's Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 4, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. On Tuesday, May 10, the polling place (Barre Town School) will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. for election of officers and voting on financial questions.

On election day, voters will elect two Selectboard members, the constable, the moderator, and an auditor. Voters will give a thumbs-up or thumbs-down to the General Fund and Highway Fund budgets. Thirteen not-for-profit agencies have donation questions on the ballot.

See the article above for more details about registering to vote, early (absentee) voting, voting hours, and inspecting the ballot.

Budgets

The proposed General Fund (GF) and Highway Fund (HF) budgets for fiscal year 2012 total \$5,709,251, which is \$259,195 or 4.75% more than the current (FY '11) year budgets. The combined tax rates for these budgets would increase 2.44¢ or 3% over the current tax rates. The yearly tax bill increase would be: \$24.40 for property assessed at \$100,000; \$36.60 for property assessed at \$150,000; \$48.80 for property assessed at \$200,000; \$61.00 for

property assessed at \$250,000; and \$73.20 for property assessed at \$300,000.

General Fund: The proposed FY '12 GF budget total is \$3,005,136 – a figure \$72,100 or 2.45% greater than the current year budget. Non-tax revenues are increasing \$39,795; and \$32,500 of designated fund reserves will be used for a major purchase. Growth in the Grand List is anticipated to bring in \$500 more per penny of tax rate. The result is the GF budget tax rate should decrease .34¢.

The single largest new expense in the proposed GF budget is the purchase of 17-20 sets of firefighter turnout (protective) gear at a cost of \$32,500. The Town has had a turnout gear replacement account for more than 10 years. FY '12 is a year turnout gear is scheduled to be purchased, and the money will be taken from designated fund reserves. The second largest increase or new expense is the installation of security cameras in the police station and town offices. This capital equipment purchase is budgeted to cost \$18,575. The third biggest spending increase is for converting the Management Internship position to a fulltime Assistant Town Manager (ATM). In total, the conversion is budgeted to cost \$13,285 more; most of the increase is for a higher salary, but the ATM will participate in the pension plan (something the interns were not eligible for) adding a little to the cost.

The Recreation Board requested money for several capital improvements. At the end of its deliberations, the Budget Committee increased the Recreation budget capital improvements account \$11,300. The Recreation Board will decide how to use the money for three items (Wilson St. playground, baseball field scoreboard, and new bleachers) on its drawing board.

If the budget is approved, the Police Department will get two in-car digital cameras (\$8,950).

The Cemetery Division is getting a bigger slice of the pie. Tax support of the Cemetery Fund budget (a transfer from the General Fund) is going up \$7,955. \$5,000 of that amount will be placed in reserve. The Budget Committee's plan is to save (set aside) \$5,000 each year for 3 years to pay for paving a road in the Wilson Cemetery.

Last, the Fire Department will have 3 increases totaling \$11,100. The account (for things such as nozzles, hose, and hydrant gates) will rise \$6,100. The Budget Committee created a new reserve account for replacing breathing apparatus and jaws of life; they put \$2,000 in this account. The account used to set aside money for turnout gear was increased \$3,000; the life cycle for the gear was stretched to 7 years.

Six noticeable cost reductions offset the increases in spending. The six major reductions are: \$10,435 in the per capita payment to the Ambulance Fund; \$9,955 for the Washington County tax bill; \$9,000 for police and fire departments' share of dispatching contract; \$8,805 for CV Solid Waste Management District assessment; \$8,600 for health insurance premiums; \$7,350 for debt service.

(Continued on page 4)

May Election: Budgets (continued from page 3)

Highway Fund - The proposed FY '12 HF budget is \$2,704,115 – an increase of 7.43% or \$187,095 above the current budget. Taxes and State Aid for Highways provide 99.7% of HF revenues. State Aid is level-funded, so tax revenue is climbing \$185,780 requiring a 2.78¢ tax rate increase.

Two budget items account for \$141,410 of the increase. The current budget is \$49,185 or 1.9% less than the prior year budget. The decrease for the current year budget was possible because the winter of '09-'10 required using about half a typical winter's salt usage. Last year's Budget Committee decided to use the excess money in the '09-'10 HF budget to fill the salt storage building. That action saved \$60,000 in the FY '10-'11 HF budget. For FY '12 the amount for salt purchase must be restored resulting in a \$81,410 budget increase.

The 14-year average for the amount of road salt used each winter is 2,383 tons. Since 2004-2005, the price of salt has increased 58% from \$38.57 per ton to \$61.05 per ton for 2010-2011. For 2011-2012 the price is estimated to be \$65/ton.

The second item is the local share of the Bridge Street bridge project. Barre Town is responsible for 10% of the bridge, estimated to cost \$2.4 million. Many years ago, the Selectboard earmarked \$80,000 of fund reserves for the bridge. Therefore, the Town needs to raise \$160,000 more (\$240,000 - \$80,000) for its share. This year's Budget Committee would like to avoid borrowing money for the bridge. The Committee budgeted \$60,000 to be raised by taxes and put in reserve until 2012 when the bridge will be replaced.

Without these two changes, the HF is increasing \$45,685 or 1.8%. The paved road project expenses are going up \$19,710, and HF health insurance premiums are budgeted \$14,890 higher than the current year. The paved and gravel road work will continue at the same level. (See article on page 2 for a list of projects.)

All 13 agencies that have funding requests on May's ballot won voter approval last year. No organization petitioned for an increase. The agencies submitted a report confirming they provide services that eligible Barre Town residents could use.

More information about the budgets will be presented not less than 10 days before elections in a booklet distributed at stores around town and at the Municipal Building. The booklet includes the complete warnings for the Annual Meeting and the Elections. A video presentation will be played on CVTV, Charter cable channel 7, the week before the election. **Please vote!**

- Carl Rogers, Town Manager

Assistant Clerk Moving On

Kathie Felch, an assistant town clerk with the Town since 2001, is leaving Barre Town on April 29. Ms. Felch has a new opportunity for advancement in her hometown of Orange. She has accepted the Assistant Town Clerk position there, and starts her new job May 2.



When Felch announced her resignation, she thanked the residents of Barre Town for the opportunity to work here. She said she gained invaluable experience and made wonderful friends over 10 years. Felch said she is, "proud to say I have worked for a community like Barre Town".

In her announcement, Felch wished the Town of Barre well. Everyone involved with the Town of Barre wishes her the best of luck with the Town of Orange.

Board and Committee Appointments

Board, commission, and committee members' terms expire May 31. Every May, the Selectboard re-appoints some members and appoint some new members. If you would like to be considered for appointment to a town board, committee or commission, it is time to submit your letter of interest.

Appointments will be made to the following boards, etc. (the term length and current meeting night are listed in parentheses): Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (3 years, 3rd Wed.); Development Review Board (3 years, 2nd Wed.); Cemetery Commission (5 years, 4th Wed.); Housing Advisory Committee (3 years, when needed); Planning Commission (4 years, 3rd Wed.); and Recreation Board (3 years, 1st Wed.). More information about these boards, etc. is available on the town website – www.barretown.org. Click on Boards and Commissions, then select the group in which you are interested.

Application can be made by a "letter of interest". A model letter of interest is provided on the website. Click on Permits and Forms, then scroll down the list to find the model letter. Interested citizens may submit their letter electronically to crogers@barretown.org or by mail to: Town Manager's Office, PO Box 116, Websterville, VT 05678. The cut-off date for letters is Thursday, May 19.

PICNIC SHELTER RESERVATIONS

The picnic shelter at the recreation complex is available for group functions. Contact Rec. Supervisor Don Gainey at 476-6174 for availability. The fee is \$50 per group less than 50 people; \$1/person charge for groups over 50.

SOLID WASTE NEWS

BULK TRASH SERVICE

May 14, 2011

A bulk trash drop-off service is offered to residents twice a year. The first service is held on the second Saturday of May. The second service is provided on the third Saturday of September.

The service is offered for two reasons. The drop-off collection is an inexpensive option to illegal dumping of large trash items. When people dump along a road or over a bank, the Public Works Department (DPW) cleans it up, taking the crew away from their planned projects. The Town pays for disposal of the debris. Second reason, sometimes bulky items or building demolition material are stockpiled on the owner's lot, possibly (not always) creating an eyesore for neighbors and making cover for rodents. By offering the service, the Town hopes the roadsides will be cleaner, the DPW can stick to its primary duties, and private properties will be neater. The service costs about \$14,500 per year and is paid from the General Fund.

This Spring, the bulk trash drop-off day is Saturday, May 14. Operation hours are 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The service is held at the DPW yard, 129 Websterville Road and is for town residents' home use (no waste from businesses). Bring a tax bill or utility bill to verify residency.

Items or materials residents can bring include: mattresses; carpeting; wooden, plastic or upholstered furniture; large plastic toys; pool liners; and building demolition materials such as doors, windows, siding, roofing (must be in buckets or boxes), porcelain fixtures, sheetrock and plaster (in buckets or boxes), and lumber cut to reasonable lengths. Loads of roofing shingles that are not in containers may be directed for off-loading as time permits.

Fees are charged for the service. (We said it's inexpensive, not free!) See the box below.

Many things are **not** accepted at the service; read this list before loading your car or truck:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Take To</u>
Household trash & recyclables	Wilson Depot
Consumer electronics (TVs, computers, etc.)	Wilson Depot
Tires	Wilson Depot
Appliances, large metal objects	Wilson Depot
Household hazardous wastes	See article on back
Grass clippings, tree limbs	Holden Rd. lawn waste site
Concrete, bricks, asphalt	Where clean fill is accepted

This Spring, Spaulding High School seniors representing Project Graduation will help unload vehicles. Please give Project Graduation a generous donation at the check-in.

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.	

LAWN WASTE SITE

Town residents may drop off organic lawn and garden waste at the town's lot near the top of Holden Road. The top of Holden Road intersects with Graniteville Road in front of Rock of Ages Craftsmen's Center. The bottom of Holden intersects with Route 14. The site will be open Saturday mornings from 8:00 a.m. to noon, on Wednesdays from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m., and on Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Opening day is April 27.

Residents may drop off leaves, grass clippings, flower and vegetable garden plants, tree branches, twigs, and hedge clippings. Tree branches or trunks larger than 5" in diameter must be placed in the firewood area. Follow the monitor's instructions. Don't leave bags, boxes, rope, plastic, or buckets. Building lumber is not accepted (residents can take it to the Spring or Fall bulk trash collection). No stumps, please.



The tree branches and twigs are ground up, and the wood grindings are available free for town residents to load and haul away. Town employees will not use equipment to load trucks. The larger wood placed in the firewood area is free on a first-come-first-served basis. Leaves, grass, and other vegetation is composted. Residents may take that, if interested.

Volunteers monitor the site during weekday hours. More volunteers are always accepted. Contact the Town Manager's Office at 479-9331 to volunteer or ask questions. Monitors are not expected to unload cars or trucks. They can volunteer for 2-4 hour blocks of time and should have a team so there is back-up available to open the site.

GREEN UP DAY 2011

When you look out your windows and see all the snow and feel the cold temperatures, it is hard to believe that Green Up Day is coming! Green Up Day is May 7th this year. This will be our 7th year coordinating Green Up in Barre Town, and over these years we have seen a lot of changes. We have seen more businesses make generous donations, more student participation in the poster and writing contests, and more people volunteering to help clean up on Green Up Day. Over the past six years we have had the elementary school students participate in the poster contest. The first year we had a handful of students participate, and we had the overall poster winner. This year we had 611 students submit posters in the contest, and we had 11 winners!

This year we will be having our 5th Annual Volunteers BBQ at lunchtime for participants. Every person/family who picks up bags from the Town Office or calls us to get bags – along with people we see cleaning on that day – will receive a ticket for the BBQ. This is our way of saying *Thank You* for helping us make Green Up Day in Barre Town a success. We were thrilled that last year the Boy Scouts from Troop 714 were able to come and help us with serving and cleaning up. We were honored to have Jeff Blow, Jeff Newton, and Jeff Gagne (all members of the Barre Town Selectboard) there to help us with the cooking.

We are looking for individuals, groups, or organizations in Barre Town to help with cleaning up our roadsides and/or with financial help to cover the expense of items such as food for the BBQ, T-shirts, or postage.

There are several roads (such as Holden Road, Littlejohn Road, and the Cobble Hill area) where trash has accumulated over the years.

The adoption of these areas by a group or organization would be extremely helpful. If you know of a road or an area in Barre Town that fits this description and you wish to clean up part or all of it, please contact the Town Office at 479-9331 or

offices@barretown.org. If you just wish to help out but are unsure of where in the town you would like to help, please contact the Town Office and they will let you know where there are areas that need the most attention or if there is someone in your neighborhood who may need your help. You can pick up bags at the Town Offices Monday through Friday.

We hope with your help, and the help of many others, we can keep Barre Town looking cleaner and more viable to visitors and those wishing to move here. Thank you.

- Danette & Jeff Gagne
Barre Town Green Up Day Coordinators



The Barre Town Middle & Elementary School had 11 winners in Vermont Green Up's 2011 poster contest. The winners are: Kindergarten - 1st Grade: Paige Allen, Rayna Long, Rebecca McKelvey, Benjamin Barber, and Riley Brown; 2nd-3rd Grades: Jake Darling, Natalie Taylor, Beth Poirier; 4th-5th Grades: Cheyenne Schoenig; and 8th Grade: Sarah Bellavance and Rose Meriam. The children shown above were recognized at the April 5 Selectboard meeting. From the left, the young graphic designers are Rayna Long, Riley Brown, Sarah Bellavance, Cheyenne Schoenig, Natalie Taylor, Jake Darling, and Paige Allen. Congratulations!

SOLID WASTE DISTRICT SERVICES

The Central VT Solid Waste Management District (CVSWMD) is providing a household hazardous waste (HHW) collection at the Barre Town DPW yard on Saturday, May 21 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. HHW include oil-based paints, gasoline, cleaners, thinners (solvents), household chemicals, herbicides, insecticides, and pesticides. A fee of \$15 per vehicle is charged for most loads. Small businesses may use the service but must pre-register (call the CVSWMD at 229-9383).

The District is offering a number of other collections this year. Barre Town residents may utilize any of the following collection services (9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.):
May 14 Electronics, textiles, books - National Life
May 21 HHW - Barre Town DPW garage
June 11 HHW & electronics - Goddard College
July 9 HHW & electronics - Tunbridge Depot
July 16 Electronics, textiles, books - Williamstown DPW
Aug. 13 Electronics, textiles, books - National Life
Aug. 27 HHW & electronics - Hardwick DPW
Sept. 10 HHW & electronics - Bradford DPW
Sept. 24 HHW - Dept. of Labor parking lot, Montpelier
Oct. 8 Electronics, textiles, books - Chelsea Depot

Fees from \$2 to \$20 are charged for electronics. For more information, call CVSWMD or check their website: www.cvswmd.com.

Appealing Your Property Value Assessment

Every Spring the assessor updates the Grand List. When the Grand List is completed (lodged), the assessor sends a Notice Of Change In Appraisal to owners whose property value assessment was changed. At about the same time, the assessor publishes a notice in the local newspaper and posts the notice at public places around town. This notice advises all property owners of their once-per-year opportunity to question the value of their property as listed in the Grand List.

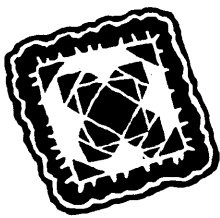


Within 14 days of the date of Notice Of Change and from the notice to all owners being published, owners must write to the Assessor's Office and request a grievance hearing, which will start after the 14-day notice period. Property owners will meet with the assessor to grieve, question, or request clarification of their property value assessment. The assessor will provide a written response. Owners who are not satisfied with the assessor's adjustment (if any is made) may appeal the assessed value to the Barre Town Board of Tax Appeals.

Property owners should stop by the town offices and ask the Assessor's Office to see their property card. Owners should confirm the information is correct. Because permits are not needed to remove porches, decks, and outbuildings, the assessor might not know those structures were removed.

Selling Your Property: If you sell your property after April 1, you will receive the tax bill in mid-summer. Your name will be on the tax list, including delinquent tax lists. Sellers can try protecting themselves by talking to their realtor and attorney about this detail.

CENTRAL VT QUILT SHOW 2011



The Central VT Quilt Show is being held on Friday, May 6 (2:00-7:00 pm) and Saturday, May 7 (9:00 am-5:00 pm) at the Old Labor Hall, 46 Granite St., in Barre. There will be exhibits by area quilters, vendors, and demonstrations on the hour on Saturday. For more information, visit their website at

www.centralvermontquiltshow.com. Admission is \$5.

Smokey Bear says:

"Only YOU Can Prevent Forest Fires"

Well, it's time for another burn season in the Town of Barre! I'd like to thank all Barre Town residents for a safe burn season last year. We did not have any issues with out-of-control burns. We did, however, have a few issues with illegal burning of trash. Please remember it is **ILLEGAL** in Vermont to burn any kind of trash, and that this is a serious issue. Local police will take notice of trash burning. If I happen to stop by for a smoke complaint and find trash being burned, you can expect the town police will be arriving shortly to have a friendly talk with you. A possible penalty for illegal burning is loss of driving, hunting, and fishing privileges. Don't burn trash in Vermont; it's not worth all the fines and other consequences.

You need a permit to burn legal material and bonfires in the Town of Barre. For a list of what is legal and not legal, go to the Town of Barre website (www.barretown.org),



click on Barre Town Fire Department, then click on the Fire Warden box. You will see all the legal and illegal stuff for our area. Or if you are still not sure, please feel free to call the Fire Warden phone at 498-8694. Leave me a message, and I will return your call as soon as I can and will try to

answer your questions. Reminder: cardboard, plywood, stained wood, painted wood, and pressure treated wood cannot be burned! Burn barrels are also not allowed to be used in Vermont for the use of burning material.

What Can I Burn? Vermont law permits the burning of brush, natural yard debris, and unpainted clean legal wood. But you are required to get a permit for fires. So before burning, please call your Town Fire Warden for permits and permit information. Even paper when burned emits dioxins and other harmful substances because of the inks and chemicals used in making paper from wood. It's much better to recycle paper.

Be A Good Neighbor, Don't Burn. Burning trash is illegal in Vermont for good reason. Burning trash emits many nasty chemicals and particles into the air. Backyard burning hurts us, our children, our neighbors, and our natural surroundings. You can be part of the solution. Stop illegal burning of trash in Vermont.

Thank you!

- Christopher C. Day, Fire Warden

Local Events


- May 14 Flags For Veterans - placing flags on veterans' graves in Town and City cemeteries. Volunteers welcome. Meet at any cemetery at 8:00 a.m. Rain date May 21.
- May 21 Family Fun Day - sponsored by Barre Town School PSTL. At Barre Town park, track, and soccer field. Rain date May 28.
- May 21 B.T. Spring Run 5K - sponsored by Barre Town School's Girls On The Run. At town park. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m.
- June 19 B.T.F.D. Father's Day Chicken BBQ - at the East Barre fire station from noon - 2 p.m.
- July 9 Good Samaritan Haven Walk-A-Thon - at Barre Town park from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Barre Town: Right Time, Right Place for Home Sharing

Home Share Now has expanded its mission, and that's good news for Barre Town! The program now matches people of all ages throughout Central Vermont. Since their headquarters are right in downtown Barre (115 N. Main Street), working with the friendly Home Share folks is really convenient.

As gas prices continue to rise and the economy remains sluggish, it's a good time to look into Home Sharing as a practical and even fun way to keep your spending under control. If you have a home with extra space, a Home Share partner can help share the costs of heating your home – or help in the vegetable garden, if you'd like. If you're looking for a place to live, consider this: one participant last year saved more than \$10,000 because she reduced her daily commute from over 90 miles to less than 2 miles per day.

By its very nature, Home Sharing means different things to different people – but in every case, live-in matches capitalize on Vermont's independent spirit to improve lives, without relying on costly bureaucratic solutions. Learn more at www.homesharenow.org or call 479-8544.



TOWN OFFICES CLOSED

Monday, May 30 - Memorial Day
Monday, July 4 - Independence Day

1-888-DIG-SAFE

The first step to a safe and successful construction project is a call to Dig Safe. This call can help avoid delays with a project, the disruption of services for abutting property owners, and may even save a life. A call to their toll free number, 1-888-DIG-SAFE, Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., is all that is needed to request a utility marking. They will notify their member utilities, which then come out for any necessary marking of their services and/or equipment. Call at least 48 hours in advance of any digging, trenching, blasting, etc. in public ways, right-of-ways, and easements.

THE NEXT EDITION ...

... of the Barre Town Newsletter will be published in August 2011.

Youth Track Program

Does your child enjoy running and jumping? Would you like to introduce your child to a physical activity he/she can follow throughout their life? Would you like to see your child make new friends and burn off a little energy?



The Barre Town Recreation Board and the Barre City Recreation Department are co-sponsoring a Youth Track & Field Program for girls and boys ages 7-14 (as of December 31, 2011). This is the third year for the program.

Children will practice at the Spaulding High School track on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. starting June 13 and finishing July 20. Children ages 9-14 will be eligible to participate in a Hershey's National qualifying meet on July 9. All youth may participate in the Vermont Recreation & Parks Association Track Meet on July 23.

A \$25 registration fee is required until June 6. After that, the fee is \$30. Contact the Barre City Recreation Department at 476-0257 for more information.

DPW Superintendent Blondin Retiring



Steve Blondin, Superintendent of the Department of Public Works since April 1995, is retiring the end of April 2011. Steve began his career with Barre Town DPW in March 1984 as an Assistant Water & Sewer Operator. At that time, Barre Town operated two small wastewater treatment plants (in East Barre and Lower Websterville). The town water system served Sterling Hill, the industrial park, and the school. In May 1989, he was hired as Assistant Superintendent.

As Steve retires, he is in charge of 16 other people making the DPW the town's largest department. The budgets under the Public Works umbrella (water, sewer, highways, equipment) are more than one-half of the total town spending.

Barre Town's public works has changed greatly during Blondin's 27+ year career. He recently told about how, when he was newly hired, he was told to fix a sinkhole in the road. He was instructed to get a hub cap, bend it to fit over a culvert, place it over the hole in the culvert, and then backfill the road!

During Blondin's time as Superintendent, the town built the new salt storage building and created the new vehicle maintenance shop. Blondin improved the quality of the dump truck fleet by specifying more rugged trucks, and he suggested adding 10-wheeled dump trucks that made hauling more efficient.

He mentioned a big change over 27 years was the increased emphasis on safety in all aspects of public works. Blondin saw the value in training the staff and for himself. He was a graduate of the Vermont Local Roads Program's first Management Academy.

Improving the quality of town roads was a priority before Steve became superintendent; but in 1995 the town was still learning what worked, what didn't, and how to efficiently complete an ambitious road project plan. Town Manager Carl Rogers said, "Steve was an essential part of

a team that improved our roads over the last 15 years. He always was receptive to new ideas, materials, and processes. He made suggestions and voiced his opinion when discussing plans or job-specific remedies. He gave helpful operational tips to make plans better; and when the plans were set, he kept a can-do attitude."

Blondin said he would like to say, "Thank you to the Barre Town taxpayers for the opportunity to serve them." He said he found Barre Town residents to be very gracious and appreciative.

Everyone involved in town government or working for the town wishes Steve the best as he enjoys his family, his cars, his dogs, and hunting!

Project Updates

■ **Town Forest:** Applications for membership on the committee writing the Forest Management Plan were due April 8. The Selectboard interviewed more than 10 candidates and are planning to appoint the 7-member

committee before the end of April. The committee will get help from the Trust for Public Land (TPL), the Washington County forester, and Town staff. The TPL is working on grant applications and other details on behalf of the Town. Property acquisition is not expected until Spring, 2012.

■ **Town Charter:** On April 4, Governor Shumlin signed into law the five Town Charter amendments voters approved last May. The amendments are in effect. The first impact of the amendments is the Open Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 4 – not on the Monday night before the annual election. (See page 1.) The Charter amendments will be sent to the codifier for revising the Charter document. The Charter is accessible via the Town website: www.barretown.org.

■ **Bridge Street Bridge:** According to Kristin Higgins, project manager from AOT's Structures Division, the project is moving forward. AOT officials have met with property owners, and the right-of-way acquisition work has begun. Very soon after this newsletter arrives AOT should be doing boring on the east side of the bridge. All permits are in hand, according to Higgins. The project should be released for bidding next winter. Construction is slated for the 2012 season.

■ **East Barre Sidewalk:** AOT has given clearance for the Town to approach property owners for rights-of-way or easements.



Boards and Commissions - Summary Report

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BRD (*M. Nicholson, P. Malone, M. Reaves, C. Sanborn, C. Thygesen, S. Driscoll, E. Bancroft, J. Fecteau, J. Valsangiacomo*)

Feb. 2011: Approved request by Fecteau Residential for revised final approval to eliminate approved cul-de-sac and replace with hammerhead turnaround, plus 4 lots sizes altered, on Daniels Dr.; approved request by Fecteau Residential for site plan approval to add approx. 8,000 cu. yds. of fill on Rudd Farm Rd. and Daniels Dr.

Mar. 2011: Request by Northeast Materials for site plan approval to allow construction of asphalt plant on property at Rock of Ages, Graniteville Rd. - continued until April 13, 2011; request by Washington County Mental Health Services for conditional use approval to operate school serving adolescents pre-school-grade 12 on Beckley Hill Rd. - continued until May 11, 2011.

PLANNING COMMISSION (*C. Sanborn, C. Thygesen, C. Violette, K. Yearman, C. Duke, D. Wilson, J. Hamelin*)

Feb. 2011: Approved request by D & P Maurice for additional curb cut on Brook St.; approved request by RG Gosselin for allowed use determination to convert existing allowed industrial use to commercial/industrial use with a manufacturing component on Snowbridge Rd.

Mar. 2011: No action taken.

TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (*D. Newhall, P. White, V. Vallerand, C. Liese, J. VanGuilder*)

Feb. 2011: Discussed removal/relocation of town streetlights; reviewed stop sign locations at Granview/Ledge and at Sunset/Phelps/Barclay.

Mar. 2011: Discussed speed limit on Sierra-Lavin; recommended having speed study done on Lague/Woodland and set date of May 18, 2011 for public hearing; recommended E. Cobble Hill, Middle Rd., and Miller Rd. as High Risk Rural Road candidates; accepted resignation of Jon VanGuilder, wishing him well in his new job and thanking him for his time on the TSAC.

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