



# BARRE TOWN MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER

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## TOWN CLERK-TREASURER RETIRING AFTER 32-YEARS WITH THE TOWN

After serving Barre Town with integrity, diligence, and courtesy for more than three decades, Donna Keltz will retire at the end of her current term as elected Town Clerk-Treasurer on May 11. Donna was appointed Assistant Town Clerk-Treasurer on February 1, 1989, back when a US postage stamp cost 25 cents! After serving in that role for 11 years, she was elected on May 10, 2000 to the first of her seven, three-year terms as the town's Clerk-Treasurer. Throughout that time, Donna has set the expectation and example for respectful treatment of anyone communicating with her office. She has streamlined processes, increased use of technology, managed and enhanced physical and digital capacity for all the town's records, been a team player with other departments, and developed new skills within herself and her staff to meet the changing needs of the town. Her commitment to expertise was evident not long after her first election when she undertook the three-year New England Municipal Clerk's Institute program and completed it in 2005. She then earned her VTCMA Town Clerk Certification in 2006 and Town Treasurer Certification in 2008.



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### *Inserts:*

*Solid Waste & Recyclables Services  
Recreation News*

Donna's commitment to public service has also been evident from the beginning. In her first year as Town Clerk-Treasurer, she had her office stagger lunchtimes so someone in the office was always available to the public through the noon hour. This sometimes means she has not eaten lunch until two or three in the afternoon during especially busy days. Also early on, in 2006, she started the dog licensing by mail program. The popularity of the program speaks for itself as to the convenience it has provided residents. Donna's efforts have not gone unnoticed by the community. The Times Argus Reader's Choice Award voted her Best Town Clerk at least 4 years in a row until the paper discontinued the category in 2016.

Donna's professionalism and expertise has also had an impact statewide. She has been an active member of the Vermont Municipal Clerks and Treasurer Association (VMCTA) for over 20 years, serving on many of its committees that have helped many a new and experienced clerk and treasurer around the state. VMCTA awarded her Treasurer of the Year and Clerk of the Year in 2011.

Known for her excellent procedures, the Vermont Secretary of State Elections Division often refers other town clerks who have questions to Donna. She certainly has plenty of experience and expertise – after the May 11, 2021 election, Donna will have presided over no less than 73 elections! Recently she has not only had the voice of experience to offer, but that of a pioneer. In 2017, Donna developed the procedure for, and implemented, perhaps the first election in Vermont allowing same day voter registration. The Secretary of State consulted her on what worked and did not work, and with her input they were better able to help other towns going forward. Then just last year, at the start of the pandemic, Donna organized and carried out perhaps the first drive-through polling place in the state on June 2. As in 2017, she was consulted by the Secretary of State and town clerks on how to conduct later drive-through polling places for the state primaries and general elections. Unsurprisingly, Donna's public service will not end with her retirement. She is running for Justice of the Peace so that, if she is elected, she can be a resource on elections for the next Barre Town Clerk.

*(Continued on page 5)*

### Dates & Events:

- Apr. 24 - Household Hazardous Waste Collection at Barre Town DPW Yard
- May 1 - Cemeteries Open
- May 1 - Green Up Day
- May 8 - Spring Bulk Trash Collection
- May 11 - Annual Town Elections
- May 17 - Property Taxes Due
- May 20 - Board and Commission letters of interest due

### PERMITS

**Working in Town Right-of-Way:** Are you working near the road? Do you know where your property ends, and the Town's begins? You may need a working in the right-of-way permit. Working in the right-of-way permits are issued by the Town Engineer in an effort to ensure that the Town's infrastructure remains in working order. It is important to know that the right-of-way extends beyond the traveled portion of a road. How far beyond depends on several factors, but if you are close to the road, contact the Town Engineer at 802-479-2595 to ask for help.

**Driveway:** Driveway permits are issued by the Town Engineer. A driveway permit protects the Town's interest in the road it connects to. It is also intended to ensure that the driveway's location is in a safe place regarding how visible it is to the traveling public and how well a person exiting the driveway can see approaching traffic. Driveway permits are required for almost anything you may do to your driveway in the vicinity of where it meets the town road. This includes paving a gravel driveway or existing paved driveway. If you are having your driveway paved, you need a driveway permit and should contact the Zoning Office at 479-2595 to obtain a permit application.

**Fireworks:** To hold a display in Barre Town a fireworks permit is required. Call the Town Clerk's Office for an application or download it from the website ([www.barretown.org/Forms](http://www.barretown.org/Forms)). It is very easy to complete. Some of the required information includes: date of display, where you are going to store your fireworks, what type of fireworks you will have, your physical location, and a sketch detailing proximity to neighbors, highways, and overhead utility lines and buildings. Applications must be submitted at least fifteen (15) days in advance of the date of the display. The cost of the application is \$25.00.

**Burning:** If you're going to have an outside fire you may need a burn permit. Fires that are larger than an ordinary backyard campfire will need a permit. It is also important to remember that you can burn ONLY legal material such as natural untreated wood and leaves. The Fire Warden can be reached by calling (802) 498-8694 and leaving a message. The Warden will call back to discuss your plans and may require a site visit before he issues the permit. The burning of trash is never legal and is enforced by the Police Department with steep fines.

**Building:** Are you looking to build a shed, a deck, a garage, or pretty much anything else outside that is more than 64 sf in size? It is likely that you need a building permit. A valid building permit takes about 25 days to obtain so you should plan and allow ample time before you begin your project. Projects 64 square foot or less do not need a building permit.

A building permit application can be obtained at [barretown.org](http://barretown.org), Permits and Forms or by calling 479-2595.

*By Josh Martineau, Donna Kelty, Chris Violette*

### CHARTER AMENDMENT UPDATE

Barre Town's Charter is the framework for Barre Town local government operations. The process to make changes (amendments) to the Charter is two-part – have the Barre Town voters approve the amendments and then forward those changes to the State Legislature where they are enacted as law.

On June 2, 2020, Barre Town voters, during a very unusual Annual Town Meeting election, approved four Charter Amendments. Those amendments are: 1) Removing the Justice of the Peace as backup Presiding Officer at Elections and to have the Assistant Town Clerk (if a registered voter) as backup, but if not qualified then the BCA will appoint a registered voter; 2) Eliminate a Lister Reference because on June 1, 1976 the voters eliminated the Listers and allowed the appointment of an Assessor; 3) Remove the Personnel Policy from the Code of Ordinance to make it a stand-alone Policy for easier amendments; and 4) Divide the position of Clerk-Treasurer to elected Clerk and appointed Treasurer.

House Bill 127 (our amendments) has passed the House of Representatives (3 readings) and currently resides in the Senate Government Operations Committee, awaiting a third reading. Once the Senate approves the Bill it will be forwarded to the Governor for signing, at which time it will immediately become law.

*By Donna Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer*

### TOWN TREASURER

During April the Town has been advertising for employment applications to fill this new part-time position. The town treasurer position is part of the re-organization that is separating finance and treasurer duties from the elected town clerk position.

Applications for the approximate 15 hours per week position are due April 23. If there is interest in the position after April 23 contact the Town Manager's Office at 479-9331 to inquire of the status.

The position requires 10 scheduled and posted office hours per week. The treasurer will be the signer on all Town bank, investment and other financial accounts. The treasurer will be responsible for all matters involving receipt of monies and depositing revenues in the bank, among other duties. The full-time director of finance and Finance Office will handle most daily duties. A town treasurer job description is on the town website. Pay rate is around \$26.00 per hour. Applicants need to have an Associates degree in a closely related field, accounting experience and working knowledge of computerized accounting.

*By Carl Rogers, Town Manager*



Kindergarten! ... her! I come!



### **BUUSD**

### **PRE-K & KINDERGARTEN SCREENING**

Pre-kindergarten Screening - May 5 & May 12, 2021

Kindergarten Screening - May 20 & 21, 2021

For children ages 3, 4 or 5 years of age on or before September 1, 2021. For more information to sign up call:

Barre Town - Betsy Pearce at 476-6617 (x6306)  
Barre City - Andra Holbrook at 476-6541 (x4318)



On May 11 Barre Towners will go to the polls (*see article on page 8*) to elect Town officials and vote on: the Barre Unified Union School District

budget, the Town's General and Highway Fund budgets, 20 not for profit agencies' donation requests, and several Town procedural matters. The purpose of this article is to offer highlights of the General Fund (GF) and Highway Fund (HF) budgets. More detailed and complete budget information is available in the annual budget booklet that will be available for pick-up at the: Trow Hill Market, Gunner Brook Store and Deli, Graniteville General Store, Lawson's Store, Quarry Hill Quick Stop, and the Municipal Building. The booklet also is posted on the Town website. On the homepage, click on Publications and Budget.

Nine Town fund budgets are reviewed and acted upon by the Budget Committee, which is comprised of 5 citizens and the Selectboard. This year the Town Clerk Treasurer appointed Phil Cecchini to the Committee. The Selectboard appointed Mike Gilbar and Cedric Sanborn. Those 3 citizen members appointed Terry Reil and James West to fill out the Committee.

The Committee met 10 times from January 26 to March 23. The Committee made changes to four of the budgets presented by the Town Manager. On March 23 the Committee voted to set the amount of the GF and HF budgets to be presented to voters for approval. The Committee adopted the 7 other fund budgets. A brief description of those is provided in the budget booklet. The 5 citizens' time, talents and work reviewing the 9 budgets and 9 finance related appendices is greatly appreciated.

The proposed GF and HF budgets total \$7,381,821, which is an increase of \$153,625 or 2.12% over the current budgets. Not counting the soon-to-come reappraisal Grand List, in other words using the current Grand List for comparison purposes, the tax rate would increase half a cent (.49 cent).

The proposed GF budget amount is \$4,244,116, which is an increase of \$196,295 or 4.84%. Based on the current Grand List the tax rate would increase 1.12 cents to support this unbalanced budget. 85.55% of revenues would come from property taxes, a slight decrease from the current and past years. No changes in full-time staffing are planned. One part-time position (for accounts payable) would be dropped; the part-time town treasurer would be added.

There are 25 departments in the GF budget. The five largest department budgets are: 1) Police (\$945,840); 2) Employee Benefits (\$579,515); 3) Ambulance (\$573,100); 4) Fire (\$400,255); and 5) Finance Office (\$227,705).

The top 5 department budget changes in terms of dollars, this year are: 1) Finance Office (+ \$156,065); 2) Employee Benefits (+\$77,250); 3) Town Clerk's Office (-\$74,280); 4) Ambulance (+\$27,265); and 5) Emergency Management (+\$19,930). By percentage the biggest changes are in: 1) Finance Office (+217%); 2) Emergency Management (+180%); 3) Debt (-100%); 4) Municipal Building (+31.06%); and 5) Town Clerk's Office (-30.75%). These lists suggest what changes need explaining.

The transition from an elected Town Clerk-Treasurer to elected Town Clerk and appointed Finance Director started in the '20-'21 budget. The transition still is underway in the '21-'22 budget. Before '21-'22 the GF 412 department was called Auditing. The wages (\$350) in the Auditing department budg-

et were for the elected auditors. The major expenses in the budget were for the GF's share of the audit contract and contracted bookkeeping/accounting services. Now 412 is called Finance Office. Expenses for the audit and contracted bookkeeping/accounting remain in the department budget. Pay for the Finance Director, a finance clerk, the part-time treasurer and the accounts payable (AP) work are in the department budget. The increase in the Finance Office budget allows for reduction to the Town Manager's Office (TMO), Town Clerk's Office (TCO), and Planning & Zoning budgets.

Before the pandemic the Town employed a part-time AP clerk whose pay came out of the TMO budget. Pay for that work was shifted to the Finance Office allowing for a \$8,530 reduction to the TMO budget. Since the pandemic started the Planning & Zoning administrative assistant has been performing the AP work and will continue to do so. 25% of the pay for that position was re-assigned to the Finance Office contributing to the \$4,760 reduction in the P&Z budget. One of the assistant town clerk-treasurers will be assigned to the Finance Office moving 100% of that position's pay from the TCO. The '20-'21 budget planned for hiring the Finance Director in February created an overlap with the Town Clerk-Treasurer. The removal of the Finance Director's pay and moving one assistant town clerk's pay help the TCO budget decrease \$74,280.

The transition to elected Town Clerk and separate Finance Office with all accounting done in-house continues into '21-'22. The Finance Office budget includes \$48,000 to phase all bookkeeping, accounting and audit preparation work in house. That \$48,000 should not be repeated in '22-'23.

The GF Employee Benefits section is increasing \$77,250, due to a \$55,835 increase in the health insurance premium account. Employee turnover is expected to result in more individuals being covered by the Town's policy. Also a 10% premium increase on January 1, 2022 is budgeted.

The Emergency Management budget is \$11,020 in FY '20-'21. That budget is rising 180% because the lease finance payment for the new school/emergency shelter generator is added. The Town will make the \$24,350 finance payment for 5 years, after which the Emergency Management budget should fall back to its usual \$5,500 - \$7,000 amount.

The Debt Service department budget is seeing a 100% drop off. In December, 2020 the GF made its last bond payment and has no more debt. The reduction is \$9,555.

The Municipal Building budget is going up 31.06% or \$18,095. Capital maintenance work items in the budget come and go. Two principal maintenance items in the proposed budget are: 1) replacing 7 security cameras (\$3,675); and 2) adding boiler equipment that adjusts the boiler water temperature based on the outside temperature (\$2,500). The major new expense for the Municipal Building is acquiring a digital audio/visual or teleconferencing system for the large meeting room (\$15,000). The Budget Committee decided to pay for this non-recurring improvement with fund balance, thus the GF budget is not balanced (revenues are less than expenses).

The proposed Highway Fund (HF) budget for '21-'22 is \$3,137,705, which is \$42,670 or 1.34% less than the current budget. Property taxes provide 93.23% of the HF revenues. The tax rate for the HF would fall .63 of a cent. The HF budget is balanced. No changes in full-time employment are planned. A summer-time supervisor position in the '20-'21 budget (\$14,000) was not filled and has been dropped from

### (Cont'd - Budget)

The HF has 9 departments. The 5 largest department budgets in '21-'22 are: 1) Winter Maintenance (\$811,475); 2) Summer Maintenance (\$592,230); 3) Retreatment (\$510,440); 4) Employee Benefits (\$438,755); and 5) Summer Construction (\$371,815). The 5 largest department changes by dollar amount are: 1) Summer Construction (-\$190,390); 2) Retreatment (+\$154,595); 3) Summer Maintenance (-\$47,450); 4) Employee Benefits (+\$35,465); and 5) Grant Projects (+\$8,300). By percentage the 5 biggest changes are: 1) Grant (+70.94%); 2) Retreatment (+43.44%); 3) Summer Construction (-33.86%); 4) Employee Benefits (+8.79%); and 5) Gravel Pit (+8.28%).

The Grants (setting aside Town's share of grant funded projects) is increased \$8,300. Starting in '21-'22 \$10,000 will be transferred into the Construction Fund for an anticipated project to shore up Holden Road. The other money in this department is the final set aside for AOT's Quarry Street/Rt. 14 intersection project, which will extend into Barre Town.

Retreatment and Summer Construction are departments used for road paving. If a road is milled or reconstructed the expenses are placed in Summer Construction. The road work changes year to year. In '21-'22 less milling is planned, and, unlike '20-'21, very little reconstruction work is planned.

In all, the usual amount of road paving is planned. The total number of linear feet to be paved is within the range determined necessary to keep roads in satisfactory condition. (See article on page 6 for list of roads to be paved.) Employee Benefits is going up because of health insurance premium (\$30,810). Like the GF, the sharp increase is due to employee turnover resulting in one more employee using the Town's health insurance.

Other noteworthy budget changes include a \$30,000 reduction in the road salt purchase account. This reduction is possible because of the easy '20-'21 winter and the DPW's greater use of new equipment, especially the road temperature sensors. The HF had been paying a share of the contracted bookkeeping service (\$10,160). That amount was shifted completely to the GF. The Town holds state stormwater permits for many residential subdivisions. Because of new stormwater regulations these systems must be re-permitted. Engineering work (\$8,750) is needed to produce plans bringing the systems up to new standards.

For more budget information look at the budget booklet or call the Town Manager's Office at 479-9331.

*By Carl Rogers, Town Manager*

### May 16 -- 22 is NATIONAL EMS WEEK

This year lets all take a moment to celebrate the work the Barre Town EMS providers have done over the past year. They continued to provide service to patients seamlessly every hour of every day during the pandemic.

It is especially noteworthy the work many Barre Town EMS providers did and continue to do on COVID testing and vaccines. Barre Town EMS has participated in COVID testing and vaccine administration both at centralized locations and patients' homes. They have supported and continue to support the Vermont Department of

Health's COVID fight in Central Vermont and beyond.

In the coming weeks, the Vermont Department of Health will be announcing events scheduled for the week of May 16-22 to celebrate all Vermont EMS providers and services.

### COVID-19 VACCINE AND TESTING UPDATES

Barre Town EMS continues to work with the Vermont Department of Health with both the vaccine and testing efforts. For the most current eligibility and registration information visit the Vermont Department of Health webpage: [www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/getting-covid-19-vaccine](http://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/getting-covid-19-vaccine) or call (855) 722-7878 (Monday - Friday, 8:15 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. You can also contact your local pharmacy for specific eligibility and registration. For local pharmacy online registration, you can follow the above link on the Vermont Department of Health webpage.

Vermont still has ample COVID-19 testing availability. To get more information on testing go to the Vermont Department of Health webpage at: [www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/testing](http://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/testing) or call (802) 863-7240.

Barre Town EMS and the Town of Barre support keeping all Vermonters and state visitors safe. The following link has the current safety and travel guidelines. [www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/travel-quarantine](http://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/travel-quarantine).

*By Chris LaMonda, EMS Director*

### SECURING YOUR HOME

Thankfully, Spring is here. Summer is just around the corner. Now is as good a time as any to brush up on security tips for your home, vehicles and outbuildings. Oftentimes our calls involve "crimes of opportunity," such as items being stolen from unlocked vehicles or buildings. Be sure to remove your keys from your vehicle, lock the doors, and go one step further and lock the doors even if you park inside a garage. Remove valuables from your vehicle when you can, and remember, "out of sight out of mind."

With a myriad of social media platforms, people often post information that is better left unsaid. Instead of posting while you are on vacation, wait until you return home to post your pictures.

As with your vehicles, lock the doors and windows to your house and garage. Having ample exterior lighting is a plus, as are security cameras if you choose. Locking up firearms, medication and other valuables is always a good idea. And last, having documentation such as receipts, photos, or at the very least the make, model and serial number help us prove ownership if the items are recovered.

*By Bill Dodge, Police Chief*

### ALL TOWN OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED:

Monday, May 31 - Memorial Day Holiday  
Monday, July 5 - 4th of July Holiday

**Due to COVID-19 concerns the Fire Department's East Barre Father's Day Chicken BBQ is Canceled.**



## REAPPRAISAL

The reappraisal of property values that began in the fall of 2019 will be finished this spring. The new property values will be used for setting the tax rate and calculating tax bills this summer.

Exterior residential property inspections resumed in late March. As of early April interim assessor Russ Beaudoin and the property inspectors had fewer than 200 properties to inspect. Beaudoin expects the inspections to be completed by the end of April. Home interior questionnaires are being mailed to owners. The mailing pattern is the same as the property inspection plan. Owners who answered the questions with the property inspector will not receive a letter. The questionnaire asks owners to review 13 points of information and to answer 6 questions. Please mail it back to the Assessor's Office.

Beaudoin is performing the business property inspections. At early April, over 100 inspections had been done and 95 remained to be completed. He planned to resume those inspections the week of April 5 and to be done by April 30.

Performing a reappraisal does not cancel the need to inspect properties that might have been changed after taking out a Town building permit during 2020. Owners who received a 2020 building permit or perhaps had an unfinished 2019 home improvement project will see the assessor again.

Rock of Ages is a unique industrial property. On advice from Beaudoin the Selectboard hired Resource Technologies Corporation to inspect ROA, collect information and supply an assessed value. RTC is an experienced appraisal company specializing in mineral-based companies. Their fee is \$17,000.

In late May or June a Notice of Change in Appraisal (NOC) will be mailed to every owner. The Notice will state the property's former value and the new, post-reappraisal assessed value. The Notice will inform the owner what to do if dissatisfied with the new assessed value. Beaudoin plans to offer a pre-grievance, informal meeting, which will be an opportunity for the owner to verify information and ask questions. The standard grievance procedure will be followed. Owners must file their grievance with the Assessor's Office in writing within 14 days of receiving the NOC. The assessor will meet with every owner and respond in writing. Owners not satisfied with the assessor's response may appeal to the Town Board of Tax Appeals (BCA). Appeals must be filed with the Town Clerk within 14 days of receiving the assessor's response. The BCA will meet shortly afterwards. Owners not satisfied with the BCA's decision may appeal to the state Division of Property Valuation and Review or to Washington County Superior Court.

The assessor is not planning to produce a booklet listing every property, its owner, the former value and the new assessed value. A list of all properties, the owner's name and new assessed value will be provided via the Town website and be available through the Assessor's Office.

With very few exceptions, property values will go up. The Grand List (the sum of property values) will be greater. Because the Grand List will increase the property tax rate will fall. How much the tax bill for a specific property changes depends on how the change in value for the property compares to the percent growth in the Grand List.

A residential property with a pre-reappraisal value of \$200,000 will be used in the illustrations below. The actual current homestead tax rate is \$2.6212. A 20% increase in the Grand List is assumed for this purpose. If the amount of property taxes needed does not change the new tax rate would be \$2.1843.

The current tax bill for the \$200,000 home is \$5,242.40 [ $\$2,000 (\$200,000 \div \$100) \times \$2.6212$ ].

**A.** If the property value increases 35% due to the reappraisal the new assessed value would be \$270,000 ( $1.35 \times \$200,000$ ). The new tax bill would be \$2,700 ( $\$270,000 \div 100$ )  $\times \$2.1843$  or \$5,897.61; an increase.

**B.** If the property value increases 15% due to the reappraisal the assessed value would be \$230,000 ( $1.15 \times \$200,000$ ). The new tax bill would be \$2,300 ( $\$230,000 \div 100$ )  $\times \$2.1843$  or \$5,023.89; a decrease.

When the Notices of Change are mailed, look for information on the Grand List increase. Compare your property's percent change in assessed value to the Grand List increase. The Town's budgets are projected to need a half cent tax rate increase - based on the current Grand List. (See article on page 3).

*By Carl Rogers, Town Manager*

## DISABLED VETERAN TAX EXEMPTION

If you are a disabled veteran, a surviving spouse of a qualifying veteran, or a child of a disabled veteran, you may be eligible for \$40,000 off the assessed value of your Barre Town primary residence. This means if an eligible veteran lives in a home valued at, for example, \$200,000, then that veteran's home will be taxed at \$160,000.

Veterans are eligible if they have:

- Disability compensation for 50% or higher disability;
- Veterans Pension for Non-Service Connected Disability (also called V.A. Pension); or
- Military retirement pay for a permanent medical military retirement.

The federal Department of Veterans Affairs issues a Summary of Benefits Letter to qualifying veterans. To receive the exemption, submit the application available at [veterans.vermont.gov](https://veterans.vermont.gov) to the Vermont Office of Veterans Affairs by May 1<sup>st</sup> each year.

State law mandates a minimum \$10,000 exemption. The law also gives towns the option to increase the exemption to \$40,000, with remaining town taxpayers sharing the cost of the remaining \$30,000 in value per residence. In recognition of veterans who have sacrificed so much, Barre Town voted to increase its exemption to \$40,000 (from \$20,000) in 2007. This share appears as the "local agreement rate" on our tax bills.

*Editor's note: The content for this article was largely borrowed from <https://tax.vermont.gov/sites/tax/files/documents/FS-1003.pdf>*

*By Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Manager*

## (Cont'd - Town Clerk-Treasurer Retiring)

She also has big plans with the VMCTA's curriculum committee to offer web trainings, ensuring that clerks and treasurers will have the benefit of her accumulated knowledge for years to come.

Donna's colleagues will miss her boundless energy, good nature, and knowledge. Here's wishing you a wonderful retirement!

*By Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Manager*

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**Property Taxes Due  
May 17, 2021**

## SUMMER ROAD WORK JULY 19 - SEPTEMBER 17 AND OTHER CONSTRUCTION



**Pavement Milling:** Morrison Road (entire length), Snowbridge Road (entire length), Crescent Lane (entire length), West Cobble Hill (West Tamarack to East Cobble Hill), Fisher Road (entire length).

**Hot-Mix Asphalt Paving:** Morrison Road (entire length), Quarry Hill Road (Town line to Beede Circle), Cummings Road (entire length), Upper Prospect Street (entire length), Jensen Road (paved apron), Meadowbrook Road (entire length), Snowbridge Road (entire length of pavement), Wildersburg Common (entire length), Osborne Road (Hill Street to house #165), Crescent Lane (entire length), Tanglewood Drive (entire length), Tamarack Lane (entire length), Cobble Hill Meadows (entire length), West Cobble Hill (West Tamarack to East Cobble Hill), Fisher Road (entire length), Patch Road (entire length)

**Waterline Projects:** There will be several waterline projects happening this summer. We will be continuing the waterline upgrades on Littlejohn Road. This includes extending the waterline another 500' from the waterline that was install last fall. Once that is complete, we will be upgrading another 500' of waterline up Libercent Street into Brook Street. This work is all a part of a 5-year plan to upgrade the water lines in the Websterville area.

In March the bond vote for the Wilson Industrial Park waterline project passed. This vote was needed to apply for special funding through the State of Vermont. If the Town receives the funding, there would be a 75% loan forgiveness, meaning the Town would only have to pay for 25% of the overall project. Once the Town receives the funding then construction could potentially start this fall.

*By Josh Martineau, Town Engineer*

## TRANSFORMER SUPERLOAD

Back in 2007 VELCO moved several transformers through Barre Town to their home in Williamstown. The transformer, truck, and trailer weighed over 900,000 lbs. and was 250 feet long. When it was last moved, the trucking company used Middle Road to Graniteville Road to Baptist Street to complete the transformers journey. This spring one of the transformers needs to be moved from Williamstown to Milton, VT. The trucking company plans to use the same route as back in 2007. VELCO recently informed the Town it would like to move the transformer on Sunday, May 9. They said it would leave the Williamstown site between 6:30 and 7:00 am. The estimated travel time from the substation to Rt. 63 is one hour. Rain will delay the move. The first back-up date is May 16.

*By Josh Martineau, Town Engineer*

## PROJECT UPDATES

**Wilson Industrial Park:** At Town Meeting on March 2 voters approved borrowing up to \$450,000 for the waterline extension that would connect the waterline in the WIP to the waterline at the bottom of Bolster Road.

**Ash Tree Removal:** Since January the public works department (DPW) finished ash tree removal on Cummings Road, upper Phelps and Ladd Road. DPW is working on Cutler Corner Road now. The Town's contractor removed large

trees on Barclay Road. Property owner notifications were sent to owners along lower Phelps Road.

As the weather warms DPW can restart more typical tasks on gravel roads, paved swale cleaning, sewer line cleaning and signs. There will be fewer opportunities to be cutting ash trees. It is doubtful the DPW will get to lower Phelps before the fall of 2021.

After Phelps Road next fall or winter, the next roads will be upper half of Osborne, Belding, Maplecrest, Jalbert and Anderson (from Phelps to Jalbert). Letters will be mailed to property owners.

**Town Forest Logging:** A competitive bid contract was awarded to Limlaw Pulpwood in November. Limlaw started logging in very early January and has completed logging in Area #1, an approximate 72 acre tract. This month the Town was paid \$32,037, less the forester's fees of \$9,015. In late May or June, when the ground dries out, Limlaw will return to fill and smooth ruts on the skid trails used.

The Town's forester is Jeff Smith of Butternut Hollow Forestry. He expressed his satisfaction with this winter's logging. He said the timber harvest based on his lay-out and tree selection, "has set the forest in a good direction." The forest was a young, recovering (from quarrying) forest yielding mostly low value (economically) trees. He said the logging, "has released many good quality trees, primarily sugar maples," to grow. Under Smith's direction the logger removed many but not all white ash trees. Smith marked ash trees near trails for removal to reduce future trail hazards. Some ash trees further from trails were left. The logging plan also protects wildlife habitat and tree diversity.

Millstone Trails Association (MTA) is responsible for trail maintenance including clearing tree tops and branches from trails. MTA has trail clearing work bees scheduled for April 11, 18, 25 and May 2. Meet at 44 Brook Street parking area at 8:00 am to volunteer. Everyone is welcome. Visit [millstonetrails.org](http://millstonetrails.org) for details.

This summer Smith will offer another free logging workshop. The workshop will be in the area Limlaw just logged. Check the Town website in mid-June through July for date and details.

Next winter Limlaw will return to log Area #2, a 20 acre plot behind St. Sylvester's Church.

*By Carl Rogers, Town Manager*

## SUGGESTION: CONSERVE WATER

During the winter the Town receives bi-weekly ice jam/spring flooding briefings from the National Weather Service (NWS). This year the briefings scored ground water levels, and rivers and stream levels as below normal. The below normal levels were not surprising considering how dry 2020 was. The winter and spring weather, so far, hasn't helped replenish ground water.

Residents using a private well as well as public water system customers should consider reducing water useage during everyday in-house activities. During spring people might use extra water for washing down driveways, filling swimming or landscaping pools, and to water gardens.

The NWS has not issued a warning or an advisory. This is just a suggestion. Think about how you are using water and how water consumption could be reduced. Consider collecting rain water to water gardens. Instead of filling a swimming pool from your house water supply, contact the Town fire department about filling the pool.

*By Carl Rogers, Town Manager*



## BOARD, COMMISSION AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

The last Tuesday of May the Selectboard appoints volunteer citizen members to the seven boards, commissions and committees (BCCs) that help the Town operate. As required by the Town Charter, every year a notice that applications are requested is published. Notice is given for all seats up for re-appointment even if the current member wants to be re-appointed. The terms that are expiring in 2021 are shown below.

In addition to these 13 positions there are 4 open positions. The vacancies and the year the term ends are: DRB (2022), Housing Adv. Comm. (2024), Planning Commission (2025), and Recreation Board (2024). The quick application form shown below may be used to apply for any position. Citizens may apply for more than one position.



BCCs meet in the evenings in the Municipal Building. A staff member is assigned to each. Meeting material is sent to the members before the meeting. Except for the Cemetery Commission, staff prepares the agenda and writes the minutes. Occasionally training opportunities are available. The Town will pay registration fees. BCC members learn much about their area of responsibility and have an impact on town services and life in Barre Town. Learn more about the BCCs by visiting the town website and clicking on Boards and Commissions. A description of each BCC, past agendas and minutes are available. Another option is calling the Town Manager's Office at 479-9331.

To be considered for one of the BCC seats listed below cut out the quick application form and mail to the Town Manager's Office, P.O. 116, Websterville, VT, 05678 or drop 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 <http://www.barretown.org/BoardCommissionLetterOfInterest.docx>.

The LOI would be mailed to the same address listed above. **Applications are due by noon on Thursday, May 20, 2021.**

*By Carl Rogers, Town Mgr.*

### Application for Board, Commission or Committee

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H): \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell): \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Board, Commission</u>	<u>I am interested in being a member of:</u> <u>Meeting Night</u>	<u>Members Total</u>	<u>#Positions Due</u>	<u>Term</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Cemetery Commission	4th Wednesday	5	1	5 yrs.
<input type="checkbox"/> Development Review Board	2nd Wednesday	7	2	3 yrs.
<input type="checkbox"/> DRB Alternate members	2nd Wednesday	2	2	1 yr.
<input type="checkbox"/> Housing Advisory Committee	as needed	5	1	3 yrs.
<input type="checkbox"/> Planning Commission	3rd Wednesday	7	1	4 yrs.
<input type="checkbox"/> Recreation Board	1st Monday	7	2	3 yrs.
<input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Safety Advisory Comm.	3rd Wednesday	5	2	3 yrs.
<input type="checkbox"/> CVRPC Transportation Adv. Comm.	4th Tuesday	2	2	1 yr.

## BOARD AND COMMISSION REPORTS

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

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

**February 2021:** Approved 3-lot SD Nichols Rd.; approved CUP on Beckley Road; Denied Variance East Barre Road; Baptist Street SD continued.

**March 2021:** Approved 2-lot SD Baptist Street; Approved 2-lot SD Silver Cir.; Approved BLA (reapproval) East Montpelier Road.

**Planning Commission** – By Chris Violette; Members: C. Sanborn, C. Violette, D. Pierce, B. Atwood, G. Clain, and M. Gilbar  
**AUD=Allowed Use Determination**

**February 2021:** Approved “preferred site” status for NOVUS Energy 500 kW Allen Street solar project.

**March 2021:** Approved Websterville Baptist School AUD for St. Sylvester Church; Denied AUD (w/o prejudice) on Bianchi Street.

**Traffic Safety Advisory Committee** – By Josh Martineau; Members: S. Corbett, J. Blow, W. Kirby, Dave Freeman, Bret Meyer  
**January 2021:** No Meeting.

**February 2021:** Approved Speed Humps, Bumps and Tables Policy for Selectboard approval; Discussed Town sign policies.

**March 2021:** Discussed Speed Humps, Bumps and Tables Policy; reviewed request for No Truck sign on West Road; reviewed Bridge Street signage for truck traffic.

TOWN OF BARRE  
PO BOX 116  
WEBSTERVILLE VT 05678

PRESORTED STANDARD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
THE MAILING CENTER  
05641

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www.barretown.org

April 2021

### ELECTION INFO

Last year everything with our Annual Meeting and Election changed; the date was moved to June. There was no “from the floor Open Meeting voting”; all articles were placed on the Australian ballot. We used the DPW Garage as a drive-thru polling place, and even live-streamed the all-day “counting of the ballots” which took place in the Municipal Building, Selectboard meeting room.



As the COVID-19 pandemic continues into 2021, I find myself once again, informing you that our Annual Elections will not be conducted as usual. During January 2021, State lawmakers passed Emergency Election Legislation which has impacted Town Meetings all over the State. This legislation allows for the postponing and rescheduling of Town Meetings, abolished the requirement of petition signatures for elected offices (only consent forms needed), and put strict requirements on “from the floor” voting. This legislation also gave the Secretary of State’s Office authority and flexibility to allow elections to be conducted in a not so customary manner which could include using a vote by mail only (if the municipal body agreed), utilizing drive-thru polling places, holding meetings outdoors (for smaller Towns) under tents, and more.

So what will Barre Town Annual Elections look like?

1. First, there will be no Open Town meeting (usually held the Wednesday night before the Tuesday vote). All articles that are customarily voted on will be placed on the Australian Ballot. Those items include setting the due dates for property taxes and sewer charges, how we apply the state tax credit, and authorizing the Selectboard to sell properties owned by the Town.
2. While the Town is encouraging early ballot voting, we will still have a physical polling place located at the Barre Town Middle & Elementary School gymnasium. Polling hours will be 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. All ACCD guidelines will be followed which do include a maximum capacity of 75, social distancing, sanitizing, and mask wearing.
3. Australian Ballot articles will include Elected Offices (Selectboard, Town Clerk, Moderator, Auditor, and Constable), budgets (General and Highway Funds), an allocation for the Cemetery Fund, and the not-for-profit requests. There will also be a Barre Unified Union School District Budget revote.

One note of interest: Last year a Charter Change approved by the voters, split the office of Town Clerk-Treasurer creating a full-time elected Clerk and a part-time appointed Treasurer. On your ballot this year you will only be voting for position of Town Clerk.

4. Early ballots can be requested at any time by calling/emailing the Clerk’s Office or requesting one on the My Voter Page (<https://mvp.vermont.gov/>).

*By Donna Keltz, Town Clerk-Treasurer*

**SAVE THE DATE FOR BARRE TOWN ANNUAL ELECTIONS**  
**Tuesday, May 11, 2021, 7:00 am - 7:00 pm**



# RECREATION NEWS



## Tennis Lessons

July 20-30: Barre Town Recreation will again offer summer tennis lessons for beginners and intermediate players. This year lessons will be for ages 8 and up.

- Beginners: 1 or 2 weeks, Tues. - Fri., 2:30pm-4pm
  - Intermediates: 1 or 2 weeks, Tues. - Fri., 5:30pm-7pm
- Fees are \$45 for 1 week or \$60 for 2 weeks.

All participants are to wear masks. Rackets are available to loan. Hand sanitizer will be provided. Social distancing will be required during breaks. For questions about lessons, contact this year's instructor, Lee Wilschek, at [leewilschek@yahoo.com](mailto:leewilschek@yahoo.com). Visit [www.barretown.org](http://www.barretown.org) for more information and to register.



## Ice Cream Events

The Barre Town Recreation Board does plan to offer some type of COVID-safe event with ice cream. Stay tuned to [www.barretown.org](http://www.barretown.org), the Barre Town Recreation Facebook page, or the Barre Town Front Porch Forum for details!



## Swim Lesson Reimbursements

To promote water safety, the town provides swim lesson reimbursements of up to \$25 per child with proof of residency. Call the town at 802-479-9331 or visit [www.barretown.org](http://www.barretown.org) for the form and instructions. Remember that swimming in the quarries is prohibited for everyone's safety!



## Town Forest Trail Clean Up Days

If you enjoy the town forest trails, please join Millstone Trails Association volunteers to clean up the trails of logging debris. Remaining dates are Sundays, April 18, April 25, and May 2, 8am-11:30am. No experience is necessary. Bring a mask and water, and dress for the weather. Meet at 44 Brook St in Websterville.



## Rockfire

June 25-26: Fans will be happy to hear Rockfire is planned for 2021. Can you believe this will be the tenth anniversary of the event? The organizers are still working on the details given the pandemic, so stay tuned for COVID-safe protocols and other specifics. Visit [www.rockfirevt.com](http://www.rockfirevt.com) for the schedule of events and other announcements.



## Dog Park Yard Sale Fundraiser

Sat. Jun 19, 8am-4pm. Organized by dog park volunteers. Donators: Drop off donations that day at 8am of small household items, books, toys, pet supplies and more to the Dog Park Organizers at the auxiliary parking area across from the dog park. No clothing. Please check back by 3pm to remove unsold items. Shoppers: Arrive between 8:30am and 3pm. If you are only going to the fundraiser, please park in the auxiliary parking area. Wear a mask and maintain social distancing. Cash and checks will be accepted.



## Ballfield Lights For Sale

With the completion of the softball field lighting update project, Barre Town now has thirty-two, 1500-watt metal halide softball lights to sell, pictured below. The fixtures are about 30 years old. The bulbs vary in age as they have been replaced over the years. All lights worked when they were taken down. The fixtures come with mounting brackets. The price is \$50 per light and bracket or best offer. Pickup, or the cost of packaging and shipping, is the responsibility of the buyer. For more information or bigger pictures, contact Elaine Wang at [ewang@barretown.org](mailto:ewang@barretown.org) or call (802) 479-9331.



## Take note:

No Spring Into Summer Festival this year  
But stay tuned for details for Fall Festival, September 25!

## Youth Soccer Camp

Barre Amateur Soccer Association Soccer Camp, Aug. 16 to 20. Ages 3-16 on the upper soccer field.

- 3-5 year-olds: 8a-9a. Fee: \$95
- 5-16 year-olds: 9a-12p or 1p-4p. Fee: \$180
- 7-16 year-olds: 9a-4p. Fee: \$250

Fees increase by \$10 after Aug. 6. Register at [Challenger Sports](http://ChallengerSports.com) or go to [www.barresoccer.com](http://www.barresoccer.com).



## Disc Golf Course Event

Sat. & Sun., May 22-23, 8am-6pm: The Annual Quarries Throwdown Disc Golf Tournament, point series for members only. The course will be closed to the public. For membership and tournament information email [events@discgolfvermont.com](mailto:events@discgolfvermont.com).



# RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

*All ages welcome!*



## Town Forest



The 350-acre Barre Town forest welcomes you for COVID-safe recreation year-round on 20 miles of trails. In the spring through fall, enjoy its scenic quarrying history by walking, taking photos, running, mountain biking, or horseback riding. Play disc golf on the volunteer-maintained the Quarries Disc Golf Course. Parking areas are

at 44 Brook St and at the top of Barclay Quarry Rd. Kiosks at the parking areas are updated seasonally with nature trivia and safety information.

The volunteer-run Millstone Trails Association (MTA) maintains the Town Forest trails and trail maps. You can pick up a hard copy map from the town offices or Lawson's Store. View the map on the MTA website at [www.millstonetrails.com](http://www.millstonetrails.com), or access the map on the Trailhub app by following "Millstone Trails." Mountain bikers are asked to buy a MTA membership or a day pass to help with trails maintenance costs. Memberships and day passes can be purchased at Lawson's Store.

The Barre Town Forest Friends will not be leading nature walks this year.

**Forest Recreation Rules:** The rules below relate to safety, stewardship, or both.

- Camping and fires are not allowed in the town forest.
- Take your trash out of the forest with you.
- Horses not allowed on the Rauli's Run trail.
- Mountain bikers, please abide by trail closures.
- No swimming or jumping into quarry holes for everyone's safety.
- No flagging, signing or marking without authorization

## Pickleball

Have you tried pickleball yet? This increasingly popular sport for all ages is like a combination of tennis and ping-pong. It can be played as doubles or singles. The town has 6 outdoor pickleball courts at the Rec Area (at 46 Websterville Rd, behind the school). During beginner Open Play you can usually drop in, borrow equipment, and learn from a regular. Regulars organize Open Play using <https://barrepickleball.playerlineup.com>; you can view the schedule without creating

an account.

Mask-wearing is recommended. Please bring your own sanitizer if you need to borrow equipment.



## Town Playground Guide

All six town playgrounds have swings, slides, climbing structures, and a picnic shelter. Some have pieces unique in the region, like the net climber at Upper Websterville, the cruise line at Trow Hill, and the rocket ship at Lower Graniteville. All playgrounds are open dawn to dusk.

Playground, Street	Shelter	Basketball	Equipment	Field
E. Barre Park, Pleasant St.	Y	Y	Y	Y
Upp. Websterville, Brook St.	Y	Y	Y	
Upp. Graniteville, Park St.	Y	Y	Y	
Lwr. Graniteville, Baptist St.	Y	Y	Y	
Trow Hill, Hill Street	Y	Y	Y	
S. Barre Park, Wilson St.	Y		Y	Y

If you see a maintenance problem at a playground, please report it to the town office at 479-9331.

## Reserving the Picnic Shelter

The large picnic shelter in the Recreation Area (behind the school) can be reserved for events.

Call 479-9331 to request a time and/or reservation. The fee is \$50 for up to 50 people, plus \$1 per person over 50. Until pandemic emergency orders allow, reservations cannot be made within two days of an existing reservation to allow natural disinfection to occur. Social distancing and masking is strongly recommended during use.

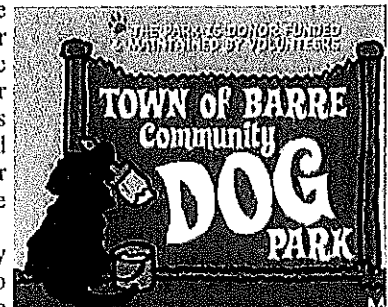
Outside of reservation days, the tables will be stacked. For everyone's safety, please do not use the picnic shelter unless you have a reservation.



## Dog Park

The Town of Barre Community Dog Park is at the main Rec Area at 46 Websterville Road. Please keep your dog leashed from the Rec Area gate until the outer gate of the dog park is latched behind you and your dog. Pick up after your dog whether in the dog park or not.

Those looking for doggy playmates and ways to help out can join the group's Facebook page. Find them by searching for "Town of Barre Community Dog Park" on Facebook.



# SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING SERVICES

## Bulk Trash Collection



The spring bulk trash collection will be held on its regularly scheduled date. The service is for disposal of large (bulky) items that won't fit into a trash bag. The service is for town residents to clean up around their home. It is not intended for business use nor for landlords to clean up rental property. Residents must bring a tax or utility bill or this newsletter with mailing label, and a driver's license to verify residency.

Items or materials accepted are listed below. Extra explanation or instructions are needed for some items.

**When:** Saturday, May 8, 2021  
**Time:** 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
**Place:** DPW Yard, 129 Websterville Road  
**Cost:** See below

- **Roofing shingles** – No vans or box trailers with loose shingles will be accepted. Shingles must be in containers -- boxes, buckets, bags or tubs. Loose loads (in cars, pick-up trucks, or open trailer) will be directed to the side and unloaded when no other user is waiting for service. The per vehicle prices listed below are doubled for all loads containing shingles.
- **Concrete, asphalt, bricks, blocks, large stones** – These items are set aside for recycling. Don't mix in with other materials. Concrete must be free of wire and rebar.
- **Building demo** – Small pieces of sheetrock, plaster, tile, wood scraps, etc. must be in buckets, boxes, barrels or other containers for ease of unloading. Loose loads will be directed to wait for a break in the line. Larger pieces of lumber, vinyl siding, wood siding, gutters and the like must be cut to easily handled lengths and bundled.

### Examples of Accepted Items

Mattresses, box springs, furniture  
 Large plastic toys, porcelain fixtures  
 Carpets, pool liners and covers  
 Building demolition materials such as siding, windows, doors and lumber, roofing shingles  
 Concrete, asphalt, bricks, blocks and large stones.

For COVID-19 safety, please wear a mask at the check-in station and when someone at the unloading station approaches your vehicle window. At the unloading station please stay in your vehicle, unless the workers ask for your help with the tailgate or straps. Salvaging is permitted. Volunteers will place items with potential for re-use outside the front gate. Wear a mask when checking out these items and be careful with traffic.

### Price List

Car.....	\$10
Pickup Truck.....	\$15
Unloaded car or truck w/loaded trailer.....	\$15
Loaded car and trailer.....	\$20
Loaded pickup and trailer.....	\$25
Truck larger than pickup (1-ton max).....	\$20
Loaded large truck and trailer.....	\$25
Van, box truck, (10' max).....	\$25

***Cash only Town can't accept credit or debit cards at this service***  
**ROOFING SHINGLES CHARGED DOUBLE**

### Items Not Accepted

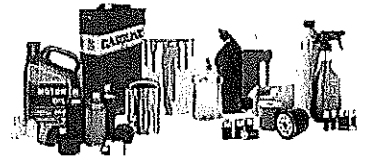
Lawn waste  
 Hazardous materials  
 Tires  
 Large metal, metal furniture, appliances, lawn mowers, gas grills, bicycles, exercise machines, aluminum siding  
 Electronics, tvs, computers, monitors, stereos  
 Household trash and common recyclables

### Can Be Taken to

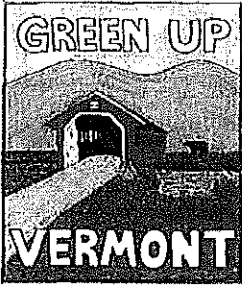
Holden Road site  
 CVSMD HHW collections  
 Wilson Depot; District ARCC  
 Wilson Depot  
  
 District ARCC  
 Wilson Depot, other licensed collectors

***Spanulling High School Project Graduation will provide volunteer assistance again.*** The Project Graduation volunteers and citizen volunteers make the service possible at a reasonable price. Please donate to Project Graduation and tell the other volunteers thank you. Volunteers always are welcome. For more information contact the Town Manager's Office (479-9331) about volunteering part of the day or the entire day.  
*By Carl Rogers, Town Manager*

Did you know that you can recycle your fluorescent bulbs, computers, TVs, batteries, household paint and stain, microwaves, air conditioners/dehumidifiers, tires, pellet bags (cut open and shaken clean), cell phones, books, shoes, among several other hard-to-recycle items like toothbrushes, skis and floppy disks at the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management's ARCC? The ARCC is located at 540 N. Main Street, Barre, behind the Dollar General. They are open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 10:30 am – 5:30 pm and every 3rd Saturday of the month 9 am – 1 pm. Fees apply for most items. Please see the complete list of accepted items, fees, hours and details about how to recycle at the ARCC at [cvswwd.org/ARCC](http://cvswwd.org/ARCC).



**GREEN UP** It's official: Green Up Day is back to the first Saturday of May this year! When you know what roadside(s) you'd like to clean up, please sign up by calling the town manager's office at 479-9331, 8:00am - 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. You can also arrange to pick up Green Up supplies: bags, gloves, and safety information (related to COVID-19 and other topics).



Greening Up in Barre Town can begin anytime and run through the first few days of May. Once you've filled a bag, tie it shut and leave it by the roadside. Large items can be left or brought close to the roadside. Town DPW employees will collect the bags and large items for disposal.

*By Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Manager*

A black and white line drawing of three children. On the left, a girl with pigtails stands holding a ball. In the center, a boy is crouching down. On the right, another boy is sitting on the ground, also holding a ball. They appear to be playing together outdoors.

*By Carl Rogers, Town Manager*