

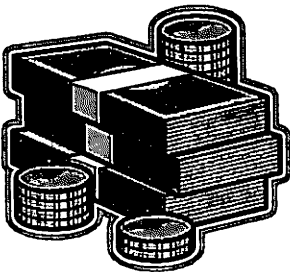
# Barre Town Newsletter

## Municipal News

Vol. 19, No. 2

April 2014

## TOWN BUDGET



On May 13 Barre Town voters will go to the town school gym to elect town officials and to vote on 20 financial articles. Headlining the list of financial articles are the General Fund (GF) and Highway Fund (HF) budget proposals.

For more information about registering to vote, early voting ballots, sample ballots and to

learn about the election of town officials, see the articles on page 3.

The budget committee (5 selectmen and 5 citizens) met every Tuesday night from January 28 to March 25. During this 9 week span the committee reviewed the town manager's proposed budgets for the GF, HF, Sewer, Water, Equipment, Ambulance, Cemetery and Building Funds. In the course of studying these budgets the committee heard from department heads, Barre Area Development and Aldrich Library.

The GF(83%) and HF (92.1%) are supported mostly by property taxes, thus these budgets are presented to voters for approval. The 6 other budgets are supported by utility customers (S,W), are internal service funds (E, B), or are

special revenue funds (A, C).

Together the proposed GF and HF budgets equal \$5,925,716, which is \$165,335 or 2.87% more than the current budgets. Both proposed budgets are balanced - new revenues equal proposed spending. The Grand List (source of property tax revenue) is expected to grow .66%. With this scant growth in tax base the tax rate will increase 3.88¢.

The current year budgets are not balanced. The Selectboard applied \$72,120 cash balance to the GF and used a \$72,000 grant award for the HF. Offsetting these non-tax revenues is equivalent to a 2.4¢ tax rate. Comparing current budgets to proposed budgets, a 1.48¢ tax increase would be needed.

The proposed fiscal year '14-'15 GF is \$3,316,816, a figure \$91,965 or 2.85% greater than the current year. The GF tax rate would increase 2.35¢. No major changes in town operations or services are planned. Staffing would stay the same (total of 48 full-time town employees). Spending changes in the 3 major divisions of the GF are similar: Administration and Finance (+ 2.29%), Public Safety (+ 3.46%), and All Other Departments (+ 2.36%).

Biggest changes in the proposed GF budget are: 1) + \$51,160 in the per capita fee paid to the Ambulance Fund; 2) - \$30,486 in debt service due to payoff of the library bond; 3) - \$25,000 in fire department capital improvements; 4) + \$24,340 for health insurance premiums; and 5) - \$14,270 for Cemetery Fund transfer (tax subsidy). Not surprisingly, the department totals with the largest changes are: Ambulance (+ \$51,160, + 14.5%); 2) Employee Benefits (+ \$36,460, + 8.5%); 3) Debt Service (- \$31,680, - 43.6%); 4) Inter fund Transfers (- \$13,585, - 2.6%); and 5) Fire (- \$14,385, - 4.2%).

Notable items in the budget are \$15,000 to complete rebuilding the Upper Websterville Playground, \$4,700 to start improving the East Barre Bike Path from Millstone Boulevard toward the town office; and \$1,130 to offer payment by credit card, debit card or e-check.

The HF total is \$2,608,900 which is an increase of \$73,370 or 2.89%. The tax rate would increase 1.53¢ for this balanced budget. No staffing changes are planned. Special projects of note are: 1) Pelouin Road (and vicinity) drainage improvement, \$8,451; 2) local share of Quarry Street/Rt. 14 intersection project, \$8,000; and 3) guardrail installation along a section of Richardson Road and section

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*(Cont'd - Town Budget)*

of Clark Road, \$5,000.

For a list of the paved road projects planned in this budget see the article on page 7.

Major changes in spending are: 1) paving program (+ \$63,300, + 10.2%); worker's comp insurance (+ \$11,610, + 4.3%); 3) salt purchase (- \$8,400, - 5.39%); and streetlights (- \$6,835, - 7.4%).

A budget booklet featuring more explanation, summaries of the GF and HF, Warnings for the Town Meeting and Annual Election of Officers, and the budget tour guide will be available soon. Look for it at the town offices, Hannaford's, Quarry Hill Quick Stop, Graniteville General Store, Lawson's Store, Trow Hill Grocery, Morgan's East Barre Market, and Brookside Country Store. It will be posted on the town website under Publications. Be on the lookout for the Selectboards budget presentation on CVTV the week of May 5.

Three new non-profits petitioned to be on the Annual Election ballot: Washington County Diversion Program (\$2,500); Prevent Child Abuse Vermont (\$1,200); and Vermont Center for Independent Living (\$2,000). Last, the Selectboard proposes to increase the elected auditors' wage rate from \$10 to \$13 per hour. This increase is projected to cost \$225 per year.

***Have a say, vote on May 13<sup>th</sup>!***

### Green Up Day



A Vermont tradition, Green Up Day is *May 3*, the *first Saturday of May*. Individuals, businesses, scout troops, clubs, church organizations, families and neighborhoods can participate when it is convenient for them.

Volunteer coordination is handled by the town manager's office. Stop by, call (479-9331) or email ([offices@barretown.org](mailto:offices@barretown.org)) the manager's office, which keeps a list of volunteers and a map showing areas where volunteers intend to clean up. The VT Green Up bags, latex gloves and tickets to the free BBQ are available in the office. The volunteer sign-in sheet is posted on the website ([www.barretown.org/Pages/dept/waste.html](http://www.barretown.org/Pages/dept/waste.html)).

Last year volunteers collected 3.4 tons of litter (that is a lot of lottery tickets, candy wrappers and water bottles!) and 119 tires. A small contribution from many people makes a difference.

Green Up work can be done to fit the volunteer's schedule. Some volunteers start before Green Up Day and might work on their selected area over several days. Some are busy on Saturday and prefer to work on Sunday.

Green Up Coordinator Brenda LaFirira and Girl Scout Troops 30568 and 3357 organize and offer the BBQ

lunch. For information about donating to the lunch or the town's Green Up Day effort contact Brenda at 461-5806.

### Open House - Public Works Garage

Last fall the Selectboard appointed a committee of 6 town residents to research the feasibility of moving the entire public works operation (maintenance garage, truck garage, fuel tanks, salt and sand storage) plus the Wilson Recycling Depot and lawn waste site to the former Pike land across from the Wells-Lamson Quarry. The board also asked the committee to make a recommendation for using the current DPW yard at 129 Websterville Road, if the former Pike property isn't feasible.

The committee determined the former Pike property isn't feasible because of costs. Bringing utilities to the site would be expensive. Re-building assets (fuel pumps, salt building, sand storage, fencing) the town has at 129 Websterville would add on a large amount. Vehicle storage and vehicle maintenance buildings also would have to be built. The committee developed a plan for 129 Websterville Road such that a new maintenance garage could be built there and the recycling center could be moved to that lot. That plan would accomplish two of the board's objectives - sell the existing vehicle maintenance shop at 79 Pitman Road and sell the lot used for the recycling center. The plan also includes (possibly as the last step) replacement of the existing truck garage at 129 Websterville Road.

To acquaint residents with conditions in the truck garage the selectboard is holding two Open Houses coinciding with events at 129 Websterville Road. On *April 26<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 1 pm* while the household hazardous waste collection is underway, residents may go in the garage to learn more about the building and the possible DPW facilities project. The same opportunity will be offered on *Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> from 8 am to 2 pm* during the bulk trash collection. You do not have to use either service to visit during the Open House.

The board plans to hold a public hearing about the possible project during its meeting on *May 20, 2014*.

### Retiring & New Town Employees

Ed Lindgren retired on March 31<sup>st</sup> after 6 years as the bookkeeper for the Town of Barre. Ed was quickly able to learn the accounts payable, payroll and accounting systems. He devoted many hours to streamlining the procedures needed to make the system much more efficient. He also created several new data bases that allow for much easier and quicker access to financial information.

He will continue on in a part-time capacity to train the new bookkeeper. After that, his next goal is to log as many hours as possible touring on his motorcycle.

*(Continued on page 7)*

### Annual Town Elections

As is customary in Barre Town our annual elections are held the first *Wednesday* in *May* (Open Town Meeting) and the *second Tuesday* in *May* for the Election of Officers and Voting by Australian ballot.



The Open Town Meeting (*Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>*) is held at the Selectboard Meeting Room in the Municipal Building and begins at 7:30 pm. This year the items being voted on include: setting the property tax and sewer due dates; asking for approval to apply the State tax credits pro-rata (deduct the credit amount from the total amount and divide the remaining balance into 4 installments); to seek approval for the Selectboard to sell real estate; and present the Wendell F. Pelkey Citizenship & Service Award. Immediately following the Open Meeting there will be a presentation/overview of the proposed budget.

The Annual Election of Officers and Voting by Australian ballot will be held on *Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>* at the Barre Town Middle & Elementary School Gymnasium. Polling hours are 7:00 am to 7:00 pm.

The items appearing on the ballot include the usual: Election of Selectboard members, Town Auditor, Moderator, and Town Constable; voting on budgets (General Fund/Highway Fund); a Cemetery appropriation; elected officer wages; and numerous not-for profit entities.

There was a last minute wrinkle this year when preparing the warning for ballot voting. Selectboard member Jeff Newton (term to expire May 2015) resigned. Our Town Charter has a law instructing how to fill a vacancy. The Town Attorney was consulted and I was advised to place this vacant seat on the ballot. Therefore, when you review the ballot please note there are 3 Selectboard seats available. However, only 2 seats will have a candidate name. The third, vacant, seat could be decided by write-in votes. I say could because the law is clear that in order to win the seat a person must receive at least 30 votes. So if no write-in candidate receives 30 votes then there will be no winner declared for that seat. If that should happen the Selectboard would appoint an individual to fill the vacant seat. Otherwise, the write-in candidate who receives the most votes, over 30, will win the race.

The deadline to register to vote is *Wednesday, May 7, 2014* at 5:00 pm. Early ballots are available. To request an early ballot telephone the office at 479-9391 or email [dkelty@barretown.org](mailto:dkelty@barretown.org). Visit our website ([www.barretown.org](http://www.barretown.org)) to view the ballot.

By Donna Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

### LOOK FOR THE NEXT EDITION

.... of the Barre Town newsletter  
to be published in August, 2014

Clip n' Save

## BARRE TOWN ELECTION CALENDAR For 2014

2014 Election	Event Date	Petition Deadline Date - 5:00 p.m.	Voter Registration Date - 5:00 pm.
Open Twn.Mtg.	May 7, 2014	N/A	May 7, 2014
Annual Twn.Mtg.	May 13, 2014	March 31, 2014	May 7, 2014
Primary Elect.	Aug. 26, 2014		Aug. 20, 2014
General Elect.	Nov. 4, 2014		Oct. 29, 2014

**Petition Deadline for Elected Town Officers** (Selectboard, Auditor, and Moderator) is Monday, March 31, 2014, 5:00 p.m. **Election Information** is available at the Barre Town Municipal Building, various local markets, and on the Town website ([www.barretown.org](http://www.barretown.org)).

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

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

**Checklist Applications** – Checklist applications are available at the Town Clerk's Office. Telephone 802-479-9391 or email: [dkelty@barretown.org](mailto:dkelty@barretown.org).

### House Number Signs Available

Barre Town emergency services are in the process of heightening the awareness about the importance of having easily identifiable house numbers. A house number is often referred to as an E911 number. Having a house number that is 4" high and located where it can be seen day or night from the road can mean the difference between life and death. We ask that everybody consider the location of their house number and ask yourself, would I be able to see this number if I didn't know where it was located?

Too often critical time is lost due to numbers: not being there, hung too far from the road to read, being covered by something, or being on a mailbox either grouped with other mailboxes or the mailbox is not easily associated with a house. Shared driveways are another area of potential confusion. Please check your number and make sure it can be seen and that it is big enough. Properly displaying your house number not only makes sense, it is required by Town Ordinance.

As part of our effort, the Town is now able to supply  
(Continued on page 4)

*(Con't - House Number Signs)*

4" x12" green reflective signs with your house number on it using white reflective numbers. Holes can be drilled if desired.

The cost of the sign is \$10.00 and can be ordered through the Town Manager's Office. You can call for a form (479-9331) or print one off from the Town website, [www.barretown.org](http://www.barretown.org). All forms should be turned into the Town Manager's Office by mail at P.O. Box 116, Websterville, VT 05678, or dropped off. If you are not sure what your house number is you can contact the assessor's office at 479-2595.

*By Chris Violette, Planning & Zoning Director and Fire Chief*

**Cycling on Vermont Roads**

It may be annoying to share the road, but it's the law. Perhaps it is partially so because those of us who live and drive on Vermont roads are often challenged by limited space, potholes and unmarked or undesignated shoulders or bike and pedestrian lanes.

However, rules in our state, and therefore community, mandate that we learn to be good neighbors. Rights and responsibilities of both drivers and cyclists are clearly defined in enforceable laws. Courtesy may be the bottom line, but accepting and protecting each other transcends ethics.

Drivers have an obligation to use care and defer to vulnerable users. This is defined as pedestrian, wheelchair, bicycle or other non-motorized means of transportation, equestrian or those driving or herding animals. Drivers are to slow down until it is appropriate to pass the vulnerable user safely. Failure to do so results in a penalty of 4 points and \$156 fine. Furthermore, drivers are prohibited by law from any form of harassment, threat or intimidation. The penalty for following too closely is 4 points and \$271 fine; for throwing objects is 4 points and \$386 fine.

Cyclists, on the other hand, have equally designated rules of the road. While it is permissible for cyclists to travel in a traffic lane, they must do so with consideration of and for the traffic. Cyclists should ride to the right (but not squeezed onto the shoulder of the road unless there is a specific bike lane), should ride two-abreast only when traffic permits and never going up a hill with poor visibility for oncoming traffic cresting the hill, use approved lights at night including a highly visible flashing red light from the rear, employ hand signals and obey traffic laws. A cyclist failing to comply with Vermont Bicycling Laws is subject to fines from \$70 to \$214 depending on the infraction.

There is some misunderstanding about bicyclist and bike paths. Cyclists are NOT required to use bike paths and are, in many cases, prohibited from riding on sidewalks.

Cycling is increasing in popularity both as a sport and as a means of transportation. A bicycle friendly municipality invites visitors who in turn leave behind tourist dollars.

It is in the best interest of our community to share the road, and to do so safely. For more information go to [www.vtbikeped.org](http://www.vtbikeped.org).

*By Linda Freeman*

**Boards and Commissions Report**

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

**February 2014:** Continued request by J&A Akers minor site plan approval to construct addition on 929 South Barre Road.

**March 2014:** Continued request by J&A Akers minor site plan approval to construct addition on 929 South Barre Road; continued request by J&A Akers for conditional use review of Barre Town Zoning Bylaw, Article 5, section 5.8 Flood Hazard Area Development for proposed addition to existing building located at 929 South Barre Road.

**Planning Commission** - (C. Sanborn, C. Thygesen, C. Violette, K. Yearman, C. Duke, D. Wilson, J. Hameline)

**February & March 2014:** Public meeting with resident submission for Town Plan changes.

*By Heidi Bennett*

**Traffic Safety Advisory Committee** - *By Harry Hinrichsen*

**February 2014:** Committee voted to recommend Selectboard consider installing advanced intersection advisory signs indicating a side road left or right for both the outbound and inbound traffic on Plainfield Brook Road. There should also be 18" x 24" distance advisory placard for 250' mounted below the intersection sign.

**March 2014:** Committee proposed revisions to the current Guardrail Policy. The policy would upgrade the language to include construction standards relating to State of Vermont (VTRANS) and ASSHTO standards. Additional review will follow at the April meeting.





# SPRING BULK TRASH COLLECTION

Saturday, May 10 from 8 am to 2 pm at the DPW Yard, 129 Websterville Road the town is offering a bulk trash drop-off service. The service is for town residents serving their home. The kind of debris or junk accepted are: mattresses, plastic toys, porcelain fixtures, carpets, pool liners and covers, siding, windows and doors, wooden and plastic furniture, home remodeling demolition material, and shingles. Small pieces of sheetrock, plaster and roofing shingles must be in containers. Siding and lumber must be in easily handled lengths. Loads of loose (not in containers) roofing shingles will be parked at the side and unloaded when no one is in line to be off-loaded.

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

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
<i>Loads of roofing shingles charged double</i>	

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

## Items Not Accepted

Household trash, recycling  
Electronics  
Tires  
Large Metal/appliances  
Hazardous Materials  
Lawn Waste

## Take To

Wilson Depot or other licensed collectors  
Wilson Depot, CVSWMD ARCC  
Wilson Depot, CVSWMD ARCC  
Wilson Depot  
CVSWMD collection  
Holden Road site

## Lawn Waste Site Leaf Disposal

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



The site is open *Wednesdays 3 pm – 6pm; Thursday 9am – noon and Saturdays 8 am – noon*. Volunteers monitor the site on Wednesdays and Thursdays. More volunteers are welcome; contact the town manager's office about volunteering.

The brush is chipped into wood mulch and is free for residents to take. The grass, leaves and other vegetation is composted and is free for the taking.

Look for the site to open Wednesday, April 30. Usually it is open through the first week of November.

The monitors are there to prevent improper dumping and to answer questions, not necessarily to unload user's car or truck. Bring tools to load mulch or compost. Take bags, boxes and plastic home. **Lumber and building demolition materials are not accepted.**



## **CVSWMD Collection in Barre Town**

*By Cassandra Hemenway, CVSWMD Coordinator*



The Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District is kicking off our 2014 special collection season in Barre Town again this year, with a household hazardous waste collection at the Barre Town Garage on *Saturday, April 26, 9 am - 1 pm*. A fee of \$15 per carload for district residents, or \$75/carload for out-of-district residents will be charged.

Things are a little different this year, thanks to a recently passed paint stewardship bill, which puts the job of collecting unused paint in the hands of its manufacturers. That means, paint is no longer collected as a household hazardous waste, so you can leave it at home during the April 26 collection, and bring it to the ARCC (Additional Recyclables Collections Center, 540 North Main Street, Barre). See our website for details, [www.cvswwmd.org/arcc-additional-recyclables-collection-center](http://www.cvswwmd.org/arcc-additional-recyclables-collection-center).

*What is hazardous waste?* Examples include: Bleach products (including tub, tile & toilet cleaners and laundry soaps), drain openers, oven cleaners, floor wax, solvents, tar, adhesives, pesticides, aerosols, moth balls, spray paints, gasoline, kerosene, used or contaminated oil, degreasers, polishes, transmission fluid, and brake fluid.

*Some notes on what to expect at the hazardous waste collection:* Please remember that the items in your car may seem like normal household items to you, but they are indeed hazardous wastes, and are treated as such. That means, for everyone's safety, please remain in your car, and let our specially trained contracted crew handle all materials.

*Why is there a fee?* Our fee represents a small fraction of what it costs CVSWMD to collect hazardous material. We offer the reduced fee as a service to our residents. Out of district residents must pay a much higher fee because they do not contribute to the cost through their tax dollars. Any resident of any district town may attend our special collections.

*District towns include:* Barre City, Barre Town, Berlin, Bradford, Calais, Chelsea, East Montpelier, Fairlee, Hardwick, Middlesex, Montpelier, Orange, Plainfield, Tunbridge, Walden, Washington, Williamstown, and Woodbury.

As always CVSWMD encourages people to get together with friends and family to share carloads in order to save on the fee, gas and mileage.

Listed below are some upcoming collections in the surrounding areas:

*All events are held 9 am - 1 pm*

*PBF = Paint, Batteries, Fluorescent & CFL bulbs    HHW = Household Hazardous Waste*

May 31	-	Tunbridge Town Garage/PBF
June 7	-	Tunbridge Town Garage/HHW
August 2	-	Hardwick Town Garage/PBF
August 23	-	Hardwick Town Garage/HHW
September 6	-	Bradford Town Garage/PBF
September 27	-	Bradford Town Garage/HHW
October 11	-	Montpelier, Vermont Dept. Of Labor/HHW

District resident fee \$15/carload. Non-residents fee is \$75/carload.

*Please call us with any questions at 802-229-9383, or go to [www.cvswwmd.org](http://www.cvswwmd.org).*

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## **WILSON RECYCLING CENTER**



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

In addition to trash and recyclables, numerous other items such as carpeting, mattresses, computers, televisions, metal, appliances, and tires are accepted for an extra fee.

*Call Earth Waste Systems (not the Town Offices) at 802-775-7722 for more information.*



# BARRE TOWN RECREATION NEWS



## 5 Kilometer Races

Two Central Vermont Runners 5K (3.1 miles) races will be offered again this year. On *Saturday, May 17* the Barre Town Spring Run will be held in the town recreation area. Registration is at the picnic shelter. The course covers the entire length of the bike path and finishes on the track. Registration begins at 8:30; race time is 9:00. The registration fee is \$5.00.

On *Sunday, July 27* the Barre Heritage Festival 5K Trail Run will be held. Registration is held on the field across from the Millstone Lodge on Littlejohn Road. The course uses town forest trails. Registration starts at 10:00; race time is 10:30.

Information about the registration fee is not available at this time.

For more information about both races visit the CV Runners website at [www.cvrunters.org/cvraces.html](http://www.cvrunters.org/cvraces.html).

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## Millstone Trails RockFire Festival

The Millstone Trails Association will be sponsoring the third annual RockFire festival on the Millstone Hill Trail network the weekend of *June 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>*. Part of the Festival will be held on the Town of Barre Forest. Throughout the weekend the trail network will be featuring 8 to 12 art installations. Several new granite sculptures adding to those produced as part of the last two Festivals, will be unveiled up at The Grand Lookout. On both Saturday and Sunday there will be guided nature walks and historic walking and tractor/wagon tours as well as free admission to the Vermont Granite Museum at Millstone Hill.

The highlight of the festival will once again be the 2 mile FireWalk, with the designated trail being lit by over 1000 luminaries and over 40 bonfires as well as over a dozen live performances. The FireWalk will be held from *9:30 to midnight on Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup>* and will be preceded by a concert held on the grounds of the Lodge at Millstone Hill starting at *7 pm*.

The admission to the concert is \$10 and to the FireWalk \$20 or \$25 for both. To compensate for any inconvenience, all Websterville residents will be offered up to three tickets at half price. To take advantage of this we ask Websterville residents to pre-buy their tickets by visiting the Touring Center at 34 Church Hill Road. You will need to bring a copy of your Websterville Fire District bill to show proof of residency – M.T.A.

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## Tennis Lessons

The town Recreation Board is offering tennis lessons this summer. Three, 2-week sessions for children (grades 4 – 12) and for adults will be offered. Kelly Cleveland, Spaulding High School's Girls Tennis coach, will be the instructor.

The first 2-week session starts *June 24*; the second starts *July 8*; and the final session starts *July 22*. Student's lessons are in the morning from *9:00 – 10:30*. Adult lessons are from *5:30 pm – 7:00 pm*. All lessons will be on the courts in the town's recreation area.

The fee is \$60 for a full 2-week session. Registration for just one week is possible, in which case the fee is \$35. The registration form is available via a link in an Announcement on the town website homepage. Residents and non-residents may register. Print out the form, or go to the town manager's office for a form. Ms. Cleveland asks that people bring the form and meet her at the tennis courts on *Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 7:00 pm*.



For more information contact Ms. Cleveland at [krc67stang@gmail.com](mailto:krc67stang@gmail.com).



## Reserving Picnic Shelter



The picnic shelter in the recreation area is a popular spot for reunions, parties, showers and club or business picnics. It is reserved most weekends during the summer; calls already have been coming in. If you are thinking of using the picnic shelter for an event call *Tina Thurston* at 479-9331 or email [offices@barretown.org](mailto:offices@barretown.org) to check availability and reserve the facility.

New this year, the town will send a reservation confirmation (certificate) to groups that reserve the shelter. Groups are advised to take the confirmation certificate to the event with them, in case another group claims to have a reservation.

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

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## Youth Track Team

Barre Town and Barre City Recreation Departments once again are jointly sponsoring the Barre Youth Track Team. The team is growing each year. Last year's team did very well at the state meet in St. Johnsbury. The team is for boys and girls age 7 – 14. At the meets young athletes can compete in both track (running) and appropriate field events – softball throw, running long jump, and others.

Practices will be on *Monday and Wednesday nights from June 11<sup>th</sup> to July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm at the Barre Town track.* Team registration fee is \$30 to June 4<sup>th</sup> and \$35 after June 4<sup>th</sup>. Contact the city Recreation Department (476-0257) for more registration information. Experienced coaching is provided.

The team competes in two meets. The Hershey's meet in on *July 12<sup>th</sup>.* This meet is for children *age 9 – 14.* The athletes compete for the chance to represent Vermont at the national meet in Hershey, PA. The Vermont state Meet is *July 26<sup>th</sup>.*

Parents can volunteer to help at practices, with registering and preparing for meets and with fundraising. Call the city Recreation Department for more information.



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## Skatepark Event



Did you know Barre Town has a large skateboard park in the recreation area? The park is named in memory of Travis Mercy. Last year his mother, Linda Mercy, organized a 2-day event at the park. She is planning a similar event for this *June.*

Last year, on day one free learn to skateboard lessons were given to people of all ages. The second day was billed a Fun Day at the Skatepark. From 10 am – 3 pm skateboarders of ages and ability could visit and skate. Food and prizes were provided.

***The dates for this year's event has not been set yet. Check the town website for an announcement of the dates, times and other details.***

Skateboarding is another fun sport that can motivate physical activity. Parents can skate with their children. Linda's event is a good way to get started.

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## Grand Opening – Disc Golf Course

Last year local disc golf enthusiasts created an impressive 18 hole (basket) disc golf course in the town forest. The course starts and ends near the Brookside Street parking area. On *Sunday, May 18 from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm* the local disc golf players will host a Grand Opening of the Quarries Disc Golf Course. The disc golfers invite the public to come check out the game and see the course. Instructions on how to play will be given. Discs will be available.

Organizers are arranging for other groups and vendors to attend. Guided nature walks (10:30 and 12:30) and mountain bike vendors will be there as will groups such as the town recreation board, MTA, and the town fire department. The Upper Websterville Playground Fund-Raiser Committee will sell food.

***Come check out this new community asset!***



### Municipal Building Access For Those With Disabilities

In accordance with State and Federal law the Barre Town Municipal Building is equipped with an elevator to help persons with disabilities access the following municipal offices: Manager, Clerk/Treasurer, Zoning, Assessing and Engineering. This elevator also provides access to the meeting room and is located in the white Annex portion to the rear of the building. There are two handicap parking spaces directly in front of the Annex rear entrance. When you enter the hallway the elevator is the door on the left of the stairs and clearly marked.



Instructions for use of the elevator: Push and hold the call button to summon the elevator to your location. Once inside, push and hold the call button until you arrive to the second floor. These instructions are also posted in the elevator.

Section 504, Regulations of the Americans with Disabilities Act requires that all law enforcement agencies install a TTY (teletypewriter) device so that the deaf and hard of hearing individuals should be able to make both incoming and outgoing calls to police agencies, if hearing persons are permitted to make such calls. The TTY device enables the hearing impaired to use the phone by reading what is being typed by the caller on a small screen and to respond by typing back. In accordance with this regulation the Barre Town Police Department is equipped with a TTY device. Part of this Section also requires public entities which provide emergency telephone service to be accessible to deaf callers. Telephone emergency services, including 911 services, shall provide direct access to individuals who use TTY and computer modems. In accordance with this regulation, 911 is equipped to help the deaf and hard of hearing people.

*For administrative issues please call 479-0509. For emergencies call 911.*

*By Nicole Poulin, Police Department*

### Barre Town Police Department

We are starting a police department series in the newsletter. Since the idea came up, I decided it is good to have everyone learn more about our community police department. I will have a series of articles in the upcoming newsletters about the police department.

To start with let me give you a little information on the department:

We are staffed *24 hours a day*. We have one officer on each shift except for overlap once a week where two officers are on duty.

The Police Department is made up of the Chief, the sergeant, and six full-time officers. We have eleven part-time officers. The animal control officer is attached and supervised by the police department as a separate unit.

To become a police officer a person must submit an

application, pass the written test, take the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory test at the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council (VCJTC) before advancing in the application process. A committee reviews the applications to make sure they meet the requirements set to become an officer. Those requirements are a high school diploma, the ability to pass the VCJTC physical fitness test, hold a valid drivers license, and have no felony convictions. An oral board is set up to interview the candidates. Upon completion of the oral board, the top three candidates will be selected to be interviewed by the Town Manager and Chief of Police, who will select a candidate to be the new full-time police officer. Before finalizing the hiring the candidate must take and successfully pass a physical exam, polygraph and psychological test.

It can take a considerable amount of time to hire a new police officer, but it is important that the right person is selected for this position.

In the August edition of the newsletter we will be talking about training at the full-time police academy.

*By Michael Stevens, Chief of Police*

### **PROPERTY TAX REMINDER**

The fourth and final installment of property tax for this fiscal year is due **May 15, 2014**. Special office hours:

On Wednesday, May 14 and Thursday, May 15 the Town Clerk's Office will be open 7:30 am - 4:30 pm

### Town Plan Hearings

Before voting to adopt the Town Plan the Selectboard must hold two public hearings. The hearings are warned for *April 29, 2014 and May 20, 2014*. Both hearings will be held during the Selectboard meetings that start at 7:00 p.m.

Residents can view the Plan in the Town Manager's Office and on-line at [www.barretown.org/Pages/gen/pubnotice/2014townplan.pdf](http://www.barretown.org/Pages/gen/pubnotice/2014townplan.pdf).

Final action on adoption of the Plan is tentatively scheduled for *May 27, 2014*.

### Town Playgrounds & Bike Paths

- \* East Barre, Pleasant Street
- \* South Barre, Wilson Street
- \* Upper Graniteville, Park Street
- \* Lower Graniteville, Baptist Street
- \* Trow Hill, Hill Street
- \* Upper Websterville, Brook Street
- \*\*Millstone Hill West Bike Path - town school to Campo St., Lower Grantieville
- \*\*South Barre Bike Path - Bridge St., to Fairview St. (Barre City)
- \*\*East Barre Bike Path - Websterville Road to Millstone Blvd.

### Property Value Assessments

This is the time of year for the town assessor to begin determining the new property values of those properties that have been modified since April 1, 2013. Modifications are determined based on building permits, owner notifications, and visual inspections. The assessor will visit those properties to determine the change in value. Property owners should take the opportunity to confirm that the information on their property card is accurate. Owners should verify building dimensions and lot size for example. Notify the assessor when sheds, decks, and porches have been removed because building permits are not required for removal.

The 2014 abstract of individual lists (proposed Grand List) will be lodged (filed) with the Barre Town Clerk in June and change of appraisal notices will be sent that same day. Notices must be sent to each property owner whose value has changed since the previous year. The notice will include information on the grievance process and the deadline for filing a written grievance. A written grievance must be received by the Assessor's Office *within 14 days* from the date the abstract of individual lists is lodged with the town clerk.

Taxpayers are encouraged to contact the Assessor's Office during the *fourteen-day period* to arrange an informal meeting to hear an explanation of the methods used in establishing values, and to ask questions. *Please call 479-2595 to make an appointment.*

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

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

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

*By Dave Jennings, EMS Director*

### Payments by Credit Card is Coming!

Annually, provided all the budgets (school and town) have passed, property tax and sewer bills are mailed to property owners no later than July 14<sup>th</sup>. With the release of

the bill(s) comes the same question with more frequency each year.....Can I pay by credit card? Now, I can finally say yes!



*Beginning July 1, 2014*, you will not only be able to pay by credit card but also be able to do it 24 hours a day via the Barre Town website ([www.barretown.org](http://www.barretown.org)) using a new on-line payment system.

There are *fees* (see table below) *for using* the credit card or on-line payment method. They are based on the dollar amount paid and the type of payment method selected. There will also be a service charge assessed for insufficient funds and/or returned items.

Payment Type	Fee per transaction
E-check	\$1.00 per transaction
Debit/Credit Cards	2.75% or if under \$100 = \$2.75 + 50¢
NSF/returned items	Charged an additional \$35.00

The payment amount will show up on your monthly credit card statement and will include the transaction fee. The Town will accept credit card or on-line payment for items such as property taxes, sewer charges, water bills, ambulance billings, permits, licenses, and much, much more. When making a payment(s) on the due date be sure to do it *before midnight*. Any payment made after that time will be considered *late* and assessed a late charge in accordance with the Town Charter.

For those of you who chose not to use a credit card or the on-line payment services the Town will continue to collect taxes using our current methods: 1) paying in person, 2) mailing your payment, 3) depositing your payment in the drop box located at the front of the building, or 4) by using our Direct Debit program.

Paying on line is definitely convenient and easy. Just a few clicks and you are done. Remember the service does not start until July 1, 2014.

*By Donna Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer*

### FRONT PORCH FORUM REMINDER:

*A place for the community to buy, sell and chat about anything and everything.*

*Go to [www.frontporchforum.com](http://www.frontporchforum.com)*

*to find out what's happening in Barre Town!*

*Service is free!*

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*All Town Offices will be closed on:*

*- May 26<sup>th</sup> - Memorial Day*

*- July 4<sup>th</sup> - Independence Day*



*(Con't - Retiring & New Town Employees)*

Cemetery Sexton/Recreation Maintenance Supervisor Don Gainey announced this March that he would not be returning to Vermont from his "winter quarters" in Hawaii. Don took excellent care of the cemeteries and helped develop the columbaria site, and also developed good working relationships with the local funeral directors. In 1996 the Town combined the jobs of Sexton and Recreation Maintenance with Don as the supervisor. While he continued to care for the cemeteries, he was also involved in many other projects as well as overseeing the town's three playgrounds, two bike paths, and the town recreation area which included maintaining the fields, track, tennis courts, and picnic shelter.

Paul Aja announced this winter that he would be retiring from the Cemetery and Recreation Departments this spring. Paul started working for the town in May of 1986 as a seasonal employee. His co-workers say that Paul is easy to work with and is well-liked. He was known for wearing long-sleeve shirts and the ever present Red Sox ballcap, for which, he remarked, he trades in after October for a Celtics cap. Paul was known for his dislike of riding mowers and noted that riding mowers should never be used on the infield; he could be seen even on the hottest summer day crisscrossing the infield pushing a hand mower. Did I mention that Paul is 93 years old and has been working steadily for more than 70 years? Maybe he will actually retire this time. Thank you Paul for who you are and all that you have done for the Town of Barre!

Andrew Dorsett has been hired to fill the vacant Assistant Town Manager position. He is a resident of Groton where he lives with his wife and three children. Since graduating from the University of New Hampshire, Plymouth State and Manatee College in Sarasota, FL he has worked as Town Administrator for both the Town of Bradford, VT and the Town of Warren, NH. Andrew will begin working here at the Town Office starting April 21, 2014

*By Dave Jennings, EMS Director*

**What Not to Flush!**

It is important to note that disposable does *not* mean flushable. Even the cleaning wipes and baby wipes that are described as "flushable" *do not dissolve*. These disposable or flushable wipes instead are likely to accumulate in the sewer lines which cause clogs and back-ups.

Other items which can cause clogs are: dental floss, paper towels, feminine hygiene products, cotton balls, bandages, syringes, chewing gum and unused or out of date medicine. Please do not flush these above mentioned items, but instead place them in the trash.

When emptying heavy grease or oils from frying pans or other cooking and baking pans pour it into a small metal can and then through it in the trash. This will help avoid sewer plugs and clogging the sewer line in your house trap or downstream once it has cooled off.

Please consider this information when using any of these products and dispose of the waste properly in the trash rather than flushing it down the toilet or the drain.

*By Harry Hinrichsen, Town Engineer*

**2014 Paved Road Project Schedule**

- Milling Green Mtn. View	May 12 - 23
- Paving Green Mtn. View	milling - June 13
- Reclaiming Cutler Corner Rd.	July 7 - 18
- Paving Contract #2	July 28 - Aug. 8
Cutler Corner Rd.	spot on Philbrook
Sierra-Lavin/Pierce Intersection	spot on E. Cobble Hill
Paving Contract #3	Aug. 11 - Sept. 5
Cheney Rd. (gravel)	shim spots on Miller
Stevens Ln.	Seagar Ln.
Wilson St.	Wilmuth St.
Maple St.	Henry St.
Donahue St.	Terry Court
shim spot on Graniteville Rd.	
Millstone Blvd. (end of pavement to bike path)	
Violette St.	Casanova St.
Milano St.	Brook St.
Libercent St.	Sabetto St.
Littlejohn (paved section)	Gregoire St.
West Road (if awarded a state grant)	

**Gravel Road Projects (sections of these roads)**

Littlejohn Rd.	School Rd.
Belding Rd.	Taplin Rd.
Clark Rd.	Miller Woods Rd.

***VTrans will replace a large box culvert on Rt. 14 near the former Jockey Hollow Restaurant.***

*By Harry Hinrichsen, Town Engineer*

**Important Upcoming Dates/Events**

■ April 26 <sup>th</sup>	CVSWMD Collection Truck garage Open House
■ April 29 <sup>th</sup>	Hearing for Town Plan
■ April 30 <sup>th</sup>	Lawn Waste Site Opens
■ May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Green Up Day, Volunteer BBQ
■ May 7 <sup>th</sup>	Open Town Meeting
■ May 10 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Bulk Trash Collection Open House at Town Garage
■ May 13 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Election
■ May 15 <sup>th</sup>	Property Taxes Due
■ May 17 <sup>th</sup>	CV Runners 5K Race
■ May 18 <sup>th</sup>	Grand Opening - Quarries Disc Golf
■ May 20 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Hearing for Town Plan
■ June 27 <sup>th</sup> - 29 <sup>th</sup>	Millstone RockFire Festival
■ July 27 <sup>th</sup>	Barre Heritage 5K Trail Run

TOWN OF BARRE  
P.O. BOX 116  
WEBSTERVILLE, VT 05678

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**Boards and Commission Membership**

If you would like to serve your town or give back something to your community, or if you have a special interest, consider volunteering to serve on one of the town's boards, commissions and committees. Volunteer service on a board or commission is an excellent means to contribute. Members learn a lot about their board or commission subject and get some exposure to overall town operations. Members get involved in important matters that make a difference to town citizens.

The boards and commissions are listed below with the number of seats up for re-appointment and the standard meeting night. The terms expire at the end of *May*. The selectboard usually makes board and commission appointments on the last *Tuesday* (27<sup>th</sup>) of *May*.

To apply, residents can complete, clip and mail the abbreviated application form shown below. It is suggested residents submit a letter of interest. A sample LOI is posted at [www.barretown.org/Pages/boards/interest.pdf](http://www.barretown.org/Pages/boards/interest.pdf). The abbreviated form or LOI could be mailed to the Town Manager's Office, P.O. Box 116, Websterville, VT 05678 or emailed to [crogers@barretown.org](mailto:crogers@barretown.org). Applications are due before noon, *Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup>*

**Application for Board or Commission**

(Please Print)

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

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

Phone #: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in serving on:

- ☐ Cemetery Commission; 1 seat; 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday
- ☐ Development Review Board; 5 seats; 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday
- ☐ Housing Advisory Committee; 1 seat; as needed
- ☐ Planning Commission; 1 seat; 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday
- ☐ Recreation Board; 2 seats; 1<sup>st</sup> Monday
- ☐ Traffic Safety Advisory Comm.; 1 seat; 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday