

Barre Town Newsletter

Municipal News

Barre Town Responds To Flood!

By Joe Colangelo, Management Intern



The July 11th storm will be remembered for years to come for its force and destruction. The earth -- already saturated from a few days of rain -- was not able to absorb much (if any) of the 5-7" of rain that fell that evening. The rain event did extensive damage to our roads and left varying degrees of damage to personal property.

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The Fire Department responded to flooding calls in Lower Graniteville, South Barre, and Route 302 near East Barre where firefighters physically helped people get out of flooded houses.

The Public Works crew immediately placed caution signs out on the roads to keep motorists safely at bay from the washed out shoulders and roadways. Crews worked long into the night in an effort to mitigate the storm's damage. A shelter was set up at the Barre Town Elementary School which housed 6 people that night who were unable to enter their homes. At 5 a.m. the next morning, Town personnel did a drive-around in order to survey damage and come up with a plan to repair the damaged infrastructure. After an 8:30 a.m. meeting with representatives from the State, Town staff, and a few private contractors, a work plan was developed and put into action.

Priority #1 was to divert and confine the open septic running down Sterling Hill. After about 4 hours, the septic was channeled away from yards; with 24 hours an entire line of temporary sewer pipe was placed from the top to the bottom of Sterling Hill, and by early Monday new permanent sewer pipe was installed and buried into place. "The Town's timely repair of the sewer line was remarkable," stated the Director of Wastewater Management for the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, in a letter addressed to the Town Manager. All in all, Public Works crews were able to re-build the most severely washed out roads, repair numerous damaged shoulders, and allowed people access once again to their driveways and homes, with amazing efficiency.

Besides the repair of infrastructure, Town staff had some financial management issues to address. Being that the storm hit just 11 days into the 2008 fiscal year, and the first installment of property tax revenues still two months away, a cash flow problem presented itself. The storm damage was estimated in the ballpark of \$750,000. The Town was able to smooth some of the cash shortfall by dipping into its fund balance. Furthermore, the Town Clerk also moved a little quicker than normal in securing

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Fire Prevention Week



As has been the case for over 80 years, people across America will celebrate Fire Prevention Week on October 7 - 13. This year's theme will be "Practice Your Escape Plan". It is imperative that everybody in a house knows two ways to get out in the event of a fire or emergency and to have a meeting place so everybody can be accounted for. Our children practice this all the time at school and can truly relate. What better way to make them feel safe at home than for them to know Mom and Dad have thought about this. For more information, go to the Fire Prevention Week web site at www.firepreventionweek.org.

- Fire Chief Chris Violette

Municipal Bank Deposits Go High Tech

I am pleased to announce that Barre Town will begin using a remote check image deposit service called "Digital Express". Using a personal computer and special scanner, checks are scanned, balanced, and electronically submitted to a designated bank account.

Why is using the electronic image deposit system important to the Town? Prior to the events of 9/11, paper checks were air transported daily to the Federal Reserve. During the two days after 9/11, air traffic was halted and no checks processed by the Federal Reserve, resulting in some banks

wondering if they may have to close their doors. To further protect the U.S. economy, the Federal Government passed legislation on October 28, 2004 (Check 21) which allows paper checks to be converted to image replacement documents (electronic photocopies). This will mean that Barre Town will be able to access our funds during a time of crisis even though our local banks may not be open to the public.

The advantages of using an electronic system include: same day deposit; deposit capability 7 days a week including holidays; reduction in staff time to prepare the daily deposit; reducing the number of trips to the bank and time away from the office; having a copy of the check for our records.

One disadvantage is the possibility that *your* check may clear *your* bank account one or two days sooner.

For those individuals who receive their canceled checks back from the bank, you will notice the check looks different -- it will be a copy of the original. The original check is kept by the Town in a secure location and will be shredded 14 days after the deposit.

The Digital Express system will be installed very soon. For more information, contact me at 479-9391 or email me at dkelty@barretown.org.

- Donna Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer



OFFICES CLOSED

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**September 3 - Labor Day
November 11 - Veterans Day**



Raffle To Honor Veterans

Flags For Veterans announces that a raffle is now underway, with the drawing to be held on Veterans Day, November 11. Funds raised will purchase metal flag standards for veterans buried in Barre Town and City cemeteries.

Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5, and may be purchased from Flags For Veterans members and associates. You may also enter by mailing your donation to: Flags For Veterans, Town Manager's Office, P.O. Box 116, Websterville, VT 05678. Your name will be placed on the appropriate number of tickets and be entered into the drawing.

We are very proud of past community response to assist in the restoration of the graves of our veterans. Let us never forget what each of these veterans has done for all of us.

- Doug Nadeau, Committee Chairman

BYSA Basketball



The Barre Youth Sports Association is holding registration on October 2, 4, and 6 between 6 and 8 p.m. The registration locations are not determined yet. Check www.bysa.basketball.com for registration locations. BYSA basketball is offered to Barre Town boys and girls in grades 3 through 6.

2nd Graders Donate Bench



The Millstone West Bike Path is a point of pride for the entire Barre Town community. Thanks to the hard work and vision of some of our local 2nd graders (3rd graders in just a week) from the Barre Town Elementary School, the bike path looks better than ever.

Just moments before school let out for summer vacation this past June, the 2nd graders from Mrs. Wiggins' and Mrs. Battistoni's classes officially dedicated the granite bench for which they raised money. According to Mrs. Wiggins, "Each year the class does a community service project. This year, the students wanted to donate something to the bike path."

The class raised more than \$400 for the bench by finding sponsors willing to support their hike up Spruce Mountain. Paul Bombard, one of the 2nd graders from Mrs. Wiggins' class, believed that the ascent up Spruce Mountain was "kind of hard, but pretty fun".

The granite bench -- manufactured by Joe's Custom Polishing -- has a unique curved design which sets it apart from the other benches along the bike path. It is located towards the beginning of the path (on the school side) with a nice view of the entire recreation field area.

Mrs. Wiggins told her class, "Twenty years from now you will be able to visit and your granite bench will still be there." According to Mrs. Wiggins, the kids in her class told her that she will now have a place to sit down when she gets old.

The Town of Barre would like to praise Mrs. Wiggins and Mrs. Battistoni for implementing a community service project as part of the education their 2nd graders receive. Not only did the Town benefit from a nice addition to its bike path, but the spirit of community involvement will no doubt be a lesson their students will hold onto for their lifetime.

Teddy Roosevelt declared, "This country will not be a good place for any of us to live in unless we make it a good place for all of us to live in." Thanks to the efforts of some local 2nd graders and their teachers, Barre Town continues to be a good place for all of us.

- Joe Colangelo, Management Intern

-- Clip and Save --

BARRE TOWN DUE DATES HAVE CHANGED for fiscal year 2007-2008

Property Taxes

September 4, 2007
December 3, 2007
March 3, 2008
June 2, 2008

Sewer Use Charge

September 4, 2007
None due
March 3, 2008
None due

Important: Only one property tax and sewer disposal charge bill is sent each fiscal year to the owner of record as of April 1st. If you sold your property since April 1, please forward the bill(s) to the new owner. If you have an escrow account, you are responsible to see that your bank obtains this bill. Please make checks payable to Town of Barre. Payments may be mailed to P.O. Box 124, Websterville, VT 05678.



Upcoming Road Projects

The following roadways are to be worked on after Labor Day in September. The target dates are September 4-14 for paving work. The DPW will work on these roads off and on throughout September. Road lines will be painted this Fall.

- Windywood Road from Hill Street to Windywood Orchard (resurfaced)
- Camp Street from the brook to the City line (resurfaced)
- East Cobble Hill Road from West Cobble Hill Road to the Blakeney property (repaved)
- Valley View Circle (resurfaced)

- Harry Hinrichsen, Town Engineer



Members of the Barre Town Fire Department improved nearly a half-mile section of the East Barre bike and pedestrian path. The firefighters removed tree stumps, installed and cleaned culverts, and spread gravel. Milton Cat, Inc. provided the equipment. Bellavance Trucking trucked the equipment at no cost. Jeff Blow lent use of his tractor and stone rake. The Town supplied gravel and culvert. The path section is on an old railbed between Millstone Boulevard and Gerard Street.

Leaves: Lawn Waste Site



The Holden Road Lawn Waste Site is open Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon and Wednesdays from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. The Wednesday afternoon hours are provided thanks to the volunteer work of Wayne

Pelkey, Dick Jensen, and John Pellon. These volunteers regularly see 40 loads of brush, grass clippings, and other lawn waste brought to the site on a Wednesday evening. Their community service is greatly appreciated.

During leaf removal season the lawn waste site hours will be expanded. The site will be open 8 hours on Saturdays and 4 hours on Sundays. The Wednesday afternoon hours will continue. The expanded weekend hours will be offered on 3 weekends in October. The exact dates will be determined and announced at Selectboard meetings and on the web site later. The Wednesday afternoon/evening hours probably will be adjusted as the days grow shorter.

The lawn waste site is a preferred alternative to burning leaves or raking them into a drainageway or stream. Save space and haul more leaves by chopping the leaves with a lawn mower. Please do not leave plastic, bags, or boxes at the site.

School Is Open!



On August 27th with the start of the school year, everyone will be rushing. Children are trying to get to school on time. Parents are trying to get them ready. This is a critical time for everyone.

Remember that children are going to be on or near the road during the school year. They will be walking to or standing at the bus stops – not always attentive to what is going on around them. We, as motorists, must be attentive. Driving defensively is the first step in keeping our children safe. Anticipate if a child might dart out into traffic or is not watching carefully before starting to cross the road. These things can and do happen.

Drivers should leave earlier to give yourself more time. School buses are out traveling our roads. There may be more than one bus on the road, so frequent stops should be expected. Slow down in the school zones even if it is not required; remember the faster the vehicle is going, the farther the distance it takes to stop. Slow down on all roads. Not all town roads are equipped with sidewalks, and children tend to stand close to the roadway while waiting for the bus. Also remember that the Barre Town Elementary School has several gardens across the street, so please make sure you are watchful at all times while driving past the school on Websterville Road. Remember that driving 5 mph over the posted speed limit increases the chance of hitting a child and increases the injury to that child.

Stop for the school buses when the red lights are flashing. It's the law! Keep in mind that when the sun is shining the red flashing lights may not be visible to you. When you see a school bus stop, anticipate that the red lights are on. When the buses stop, they are letting the children on and off and they will become pedestrians.

Let's all do our part in making this new school year another great year.

- Police Chief Michael Stevens

DID YOU KNOW . . .

that the Barre Town web site (www.barretown.org) contains weekly announcements, 4-week calendar, budget information, voting dates, etc.? Check it out to keep current on local policies, events, and issues!

FALL BULK TRASH COLLECTION

The Fall Bulk Trash Collection is always the third Saturday of September; this year that date is September 15. Use this quick and low-cost option to prepare for winter. If you completed or are working on a home improvement project, the building demolition material or old carpets can be disposed of through this service. If you have unneeded items around the yard, garage or house, now is the time to dispose of the bulk trash items. Clutter is fuel for fire and impedes firefighting. Outside storage of bulk trash items provides cover for rodents and makes disposal in the future more difficult. (Ever try lifting a water-soaked mattress? A piece of plywood today rots into dozens of pieces.) Don't store the trash material in the basement, garage or outside. On Saturday, September 15, clean up before winter.

The service is provided at the Department of Public Works garage on Websterville Road from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and is offered to Barre Town residents for their home use only. Bring a tax bill or utility bill to confirm residency. The boxes below list the fees, acceptable and unacceptable items, and where those items can be taken. **Scraps of building demolition material such as wood, sheetrock, plaster, and especially roof shingles must be in boxes, buckets or barrels. Lumber must be cut down to easily-handled lengths; don't bring a shed roof in one piece please!**

BRING	FEE
• Wooden and upholstered furniture	Car \$4.00
• Large plastic toys	Pickup truck \$6.00
• Swimming pool liners	Unloaded car or truck w/loaded trailer \$6.00
• Porcelain fixtures	Loaded car or pickup w/loaded trailer \$10.00
• Carpet, mattresses	Truck larger than pickup (1-ton max.) \$10.00
• Building materials - doors, windows, vinyl siding	Loaded large truck w/loaded trailer \$15.00

DON'T BRING	TAKE TO
■ Tires	CVSWMD Wilson Depot
■ Computers	CVSWMD Wilson Depot
■ Consumer electronics - TVs, stereos, copiers	CVSWMD Wilson Depot
■ Metal, including appliances	CVSWMD Wilson Depot
■ Household trash, recyclables	CVSWMD Wilson Depot
■ Household hazardous wastes: pesticides, oil-based paint	CVSWMD household hazardous waste collection - October 20
■ Tree branches, leaves	Holden Road lawn waste site

The C.V. Solid Waste Management District's Wilson Depot is open Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For more information, contact the CVSWMD at 229-9383 or visit their web site at www.cvswwmd.com.

Mercury Products Disposal

Mercury is very detrimental to the environment and public health. Thermostats, fluorescent lights, and button cell batteries all contain mercury. The Central VT Solid Waste Management District is encouraging residents to bring those items to one of their waste collection sites or area businesses participating in the take-back program.

The CVSWMD is holding just 3 more collections this year: September 8 in Hardwick, September 29 in Bradford, and October 20 in Montpelier. Collection hours are from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. In Barre, Nelson's Hardware is participating all year long in the free fluorescent light take-back program. Brooks Pharmacy,

The Medicine Shoppe, Harry's Discount Pharmacy, and Kinney Drugs are participating in the free button cell battery take-back program. Mercury thermostats are collected for free at the CVSWMD Wilson Depot, Capital Plumbing & Heating, and Hulbert Supply.

Package your fluorescent bulbs carefully when transporting them. Wrap them in bubble wrap or other packaging material and place them in a container so they will not roll around. Do not tape them together, and keep them as far away from passengers as possible for the trip.

Contact the CVSWMD at 229-9383 if you have further questions.

- Joe Colangelo, Management Intern

Woodstove Changeout Program

If you are soon to be in the market for a new woodstove, you should be aware of the Vermont Woodstove Changeout Program. This grant/rebate program is sponsored by the Air Pollution Control Division of the VT Department of Environmental Conservation.



The goal of the program is to replace old woodstoves that were not certified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with brand new EPA-certified wood burning appliances. Wood burning stoves manufactured before 1988 were not built to EPA certification standards.

The main purpose for the program is to improve air quality. A non-EPA certified (pre-1988) wood burning stove can produce between 30-50 grams of particle emissions in one hour, while the certified models only produce between 2-7 grams.

While smoke from a fireplace may look nice and smell pleasant, the particle matter (PM) in the smoke is bad news. These microscopic particles can get into your eyes and respiratory system causing health problems like irritated eyes, runny nose, and illnesses like pneumonia and bronchitis. PM is even linked to premature death in people with chronic heart and lung disease.

Replacing your old stove with a new EPA-certified one has other benefits including a considerable reduction in the amount of creosote that builds up in your chimney, significantly decreasing the likelihood of a chimney fire. They are also much more efficient than the old non-certified stoves; you will use approximately 30% less wood during the winter months. This is bound to save at least a trip or two to the chiropractor from chopping and hauling firewood.

Right now these grants are only available to the citizens of Rutland. But the goal is to have these grants available to residents all over Vermont by early 2008.

If you have been thinking it is about time to buy a new stove and you would like more information on this program, please call 1-888-520-4879.

- Joe Colangelo, Management Intern

NOTICE

- (1) No street openings or work in the right-of-way will be allowed after November 1.
- (2) No connections to water or sewer mains will be made between November 1 and April 15.



Watch your toes! This is what 400,000 lbs. on wheels looks like. On August 8, Mammoet, Inc. moved this 400,000 lbs. electrical transformer to the substation in Williamstown through the Town of Barre. This picture is taken at the intersection of Routes 63/14 as it starts its ascent up Middle Rd. The last superload will be around Sept. 15.

Burn Permits

In May the Selectboard tabled final action on a proposed ordinance regulating outdoor burning. The Selectboard directed staff to develop and try out administrative and enforcement procedures. The ordinance and procedures that support the proposed ordinance make several changes regarding outdoor burning.

The draft ordinance under consideration would: a) prohibit open (outdoor) burning of solid waste (trash); b) require a burn permit even when there is snow on the ground; c) require a permit for backyard campfires but allow for an annual permit. The ordinance and administration procedures are intended to maintain public service for acquiring a burn permit, while better managing outdoor burning.

Concerns about public health and safety prompted consideration of this ordinance. Currently, State law prohibits the outdoor burning of trash, but the State has very few enforcement personnel. The proposed ordinance authorizes a number of Town officials to enforce the ban on burning trash. Many Barre Town neighborhoods have small lots and little distance between campfires and neighboring houses. Smoke and hot sparks from campfires are health and safety concerns. Efficiency of and expenses for Town departments is also

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BURN PERMITS *(cont'd. from p. 6)*

a concern. Incomplete permit lists sometimes cause unnecessary police and fire department responses.

In the future, the Fire Warden would have two deputies. One of the three would always be on-call and carry the Fire Warden's cell phone. Residents and property owners would call that cell phone to request a burn permit, ask a question, or report a problem with outdoor burning. (Fire emergencies will still be reported by calling 911.) Watch for announcements about the new cell phone number. If you have backyard campfires with family and friends, you will need a Town burn permit.

The next issue of the Barre Town Newsletter will be in November 2007.

FLOOD *(cont'd. from p. 1)*

a \$1.3 million Tax Anticipation Note for the year. At the end of the day, FEMA will reimburse the Town for 75% and the State 12.5% of the total storm-related expenses, leaving the Town 12.5% of the total bill to shoulder. However, the reimbursement money from FEMA and the State will most likely not come in for a few months. As this article is being written, the total costs are over \$200,000 with some of the larger material costs still to come.

After recovery from the storm settled, Town staff was able to de-brief and reflect on the response and action to this disaster. One area of concern was communication during the storm. Radio frequencies were overly congested and information was not able to flow smoothly in certain instances. This could be improved upon in the future by a second municipal channel. Mostly, the Town staff's rapid response and determination to work through the weekend was hailed as keys to a successful recovery.

Barre Town should not see another storm like this for quite some time, but I think we all have a vivid enough memory of this one to last for a while.

Visit us at our web site:
www.barretown.org

PROJECT UPDATES

- **Websterville-Graniteville Sidewalks:** AOT reviewed the right-of-way (r.o.w.) agreements before issuing a R.O.W. Certificate. The agency's review prompted a request to re-do several of the r.o.w. documents. Those changes were made; the railroad crossing agreement was completed, and AOT issued a R.O.W. Certificate. The project is out to bid! The pre-bid conference was August 23, with bid opening slated for September 11. The contract should be awarded around October 1. The contractor will have latitude about working this Fall; it is possible the contractor will do no work. On the other hand, the company could install all drainage changes, construct the small retaining wall (by Hebert Drive), or start the excavation and gravel base for the Websterville Road sidewalk, among other details. The construction completion deadline is July 31, 2008. Lamoureux & Dickinson, of Essex, were selected (from a field of 4 proposers) to provide resident engineer (inspector services). Their contract is for \$38,698.
- **Routes 302/110 Roundabout:** On August 21, the Selectboard postponed approving the Maintenance Agreement until the State answers the Board's request for lower speed limits. (The Town will maintain the landscaping.) AOT is planning to release the project for bidding around December 1. Construction should start in Spring 2008. Construction completion deadline is in 2009, but the roundabout should be done in 2008. This is an AOT project with 100% Federal funding.
- **Quarry Hill Road Culvert:** On July 10 the Selectboard extended the completion deadline to August 1 and approved a \$21,000 change order that covers: 1) replacing the poured concrete headwall with 2'x2'x4" concrete blocks; 2) replacing a 20' section of 18" culvert; 3) installing 4'x20' culvert with concrete block headwalls to allow for a permanent access road; 4) re-shaping and stone lining washed out ditches. Hebert Excavation completed the project before the new deadline. The new project total (\$60,000) is \$12,000 under the grant allowance. The Town paid 10% of the project cost.
- **East Barre Sidewalk:** Kevin Russell, the municipal project manager (MPM), solicited for design engineer proposals. The 5 proposals submitted were reviewed. Interviews with several of the firms are scheduled for August 28. The scope of services for this contract has 2 parts starting with a feasibility study. Every proposer indicated they could start the study in September. The process should take 4 months. The study will include a meeting with concerned parties (property owners and business owners) along Mill Street in East Barre.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS - SUMMARY REPORT

PLANNING COMMISSION (M. Nicholson, H. Miller, C. Thygesen, C. Sanborn, E. Bancroft, Jr., M. Hutchins, J. FitzGerald)

May 2007: Approved request by R. Owen/D. Slayton for 2-lot merger on Cutler Corner Rd.; approved request by M. & L. Lajeunesse for revised final for re-approval plat not filed in timely manner on E. Cobble Hill Rd.; approved request by L. & M. Lessard for allowed use determination to put industrial use on commercial lot on Don Camp Dr.

June 2007: Approved request by J. & K. Blow for 2-lot subdivision w/2-lot merger on Orchard Terrace and Highland Crofts; approved request by Couture Family Trust for 2-lot subdivision on Miller Rd.; approved request by P. Couture for 6-lot subdivision for purpose of lot-line adjustments on Littlejohn Rd., Gregoire St. and Websterville Rd.; approved request by J. & C. Smith for deferral lifting on Upper Usle Rd.

July 2007: Approved request by P. Couture for revised final for re-approval plat not filed in timely manner on Websterville Rd.

August 2007: Approved request by McHay Dev. for lot line adjustment, merger and deferral lifting on Waterman St. & Washington Rd.

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT (P. Malone, P. Badger, R. Jensen, M. Reaves, M. Gallo)

May 2007: Approved request by D. & H. Dwyer for 6' variance from side yard setback on Granview Dr.

June 2007: Approved requests by J. & C. Eno for 40' variance from road right-of-way on Birchwood Park.

July 2007: Approved request by J. & R. Howard for approval to change existing single-family dwelling into 3-family dwelling on So. Barre Rd.; approved request by C. Guillette for 21' variance from side-yard setback on Farwell St.; approved request by Covenant Presbyterian Church for size deviation from §3.5E of zoning ordinance for a new sign.

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

April 2007: No meeting.

May 2007: Discussed Trow Hill intersection.

June 2007: Welcomed new board member Val Vallerand; reviewed 2007 speed study results for Trow Hill area.

July 2007: Approved extension of existing guardrail on Farwell St. and replacing damaged sections; approved new streetlight on Phil St.; recommended brush cutting on Middle Rd.

TOWN OF BARRE

P.O. Box 116

Websterville, VT 05678-0116

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