



# PAWLET NEWSLETTER

TOWN OF PAWLET IN VERMONT'S METTAWEE VALLEY

VOLUME 8, NUMBER 1

WINTER 2012

## INTRODUCTION

Winter is sometimes quieter than the busy months of warmer weather, but this year is different – milder and full of events and changes. Much is happening at Mettawee Community School, with the retirement of Principal Nancy Mark and the board's efforts to engage the community-at-large in planning for the education of our children. Town elections will be held March 6, and citizens are encouraged to learn about the choices they will be making at the polls (see page 5). West Pawlet is hosting a winter farmers market and is welcoming the rebuilding of Dutchies Store. The West Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department recently celebrated winter with its annual Woodchuck Festival and Firemen's Games.

The purpose of this newsletter is to make town news available and encourage community involvement. Comments are appreciated; see page 16. The newsletter may be viewed online at the Town of Pawlet web site (<http://pawlet.vt.gov>; under "Town News" click on "Newsletter") and at the Rutland Regional Planning Commission web site ("Town News" at [www.rutlandrpc.org](http://www.rutlandrpc.org)). The editor also maintains an e-mail group list for updates on local events. To receive Pawlet eNews, send a request to Elizabeth Gibson at [egib@vermontel.net](mailto:egib@vermontel.net).

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## PRINCIPAL NANCY MARK TO RETIRE AFTER 24 YEARS IN PAWLET *by Elizabeth Gibson*

*Nancy Mark has announced that she will retire from her position as Principal at Mettawee Community School at the end of the school year in June. For more than two decades she has supported the education of local children, in partnership with their families and teachers. The Town extends its sincere thanks to Nancy Mark for all she has done to strengthen our community.*

A plaque on the wall in Principal Nancy Mark's office reads "Relax, Reflect, Recharge." As she reflects on her years in Pawlet, this reminder seems an important part of the foundation for all she has accomplished.

*How many years have you been principal in Pawlet?* I was principal of Pawlet for 10 years starting in 1988 and have been the founding principal of the Mettawee Community School for 14 years – so it has been 24 years. And it still feels new and fresh and exciting.

*How did you come to be principal at Mettawee?* Bob Forest, a Castleton professor in the Education Department, told me about the position at the Pawlet School — which later merged with Rupert to become Mettawee Community School.

When my husband and I were first married, I was director of an early childhood center in Geneva, New York. Working with the community was important even at that time in my life. It was a job that had a lot



of meaning for me. After that we moved to Claremont, California, and I taught there.

When we came to Vermont, I enrolled our daughter in the Castleton Early Childhood Center. The director was leaving, and he encouraged me to apply for that position, which I did take. Just before I started as the principal in Pawlet, I had taken a break from education. I had always had an interest in pursuing

*Nancy Mark, continued on page 6*

## COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR: FEBRUARY – APRIL 2012

### February

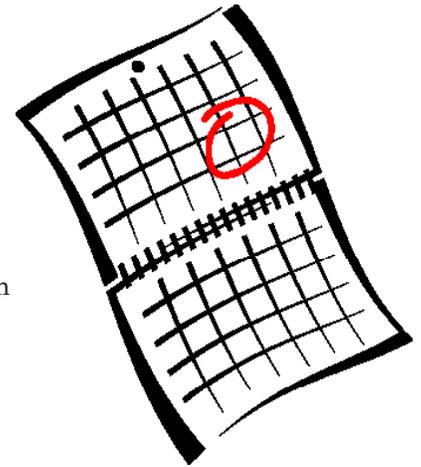
- 2/4, Saturday, West Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department (WPVFD) Woodchuck Festival, Metawee School  
 2/6, Monday, 7:30 PM. WPVFD  
 2/7, Tuesday, 7 PM. Select Board, Town Hall  
     7 PM. Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department (PVFD)  
 2/8, Wednesday, Four Winds Workshop  
     7 PM. UD #47 School Board meeting, Mettawee Community School (MCS)  
 2/9, Thursday, 2 PM. Stone Valley Byway Committee meeting, Town Hall  
 2/10, Friday. Town of Pawlet property taxes due to Town Treasurer  
 2/13, Monday, 7 PM. Pawlet Energy Group program, Sustainable Communities by Bill Laberge, Town Hall  
 2/14, Tuesday, 12 PM. Haystack Hustlers seniors potluck lunch, Pawlet Church  
 2/15, Wednesday, 6:30 – 8:30 PM. Community “ends policy” forum on education goals, MCS  
 2/20, Monday. Town offices closed for Presidents Day  
 2/21, Tuesday, 5 PM. Fat Tuesday Mardi Gras Fund-raiser for Pawlet Library, Barn Restaurant, 325-3123  
     7 PM. Select Board, Town Hall  
 2/24, Friday, 9 – 11 AM. Food Pantry, Pawlet parsonage barn  
 2/27, Monday, 7:30 PM. Planning Commission, Town Hall  
 2/28, Tuesday, 12 PM. Haystack Hustlers seniors lunch, MCS. Call 325-3196 for reservations.  
 2/29, Wednesday, 7:30 P.M. UD #47 School Board annual meeting, MCS

### March

- 3/1, Thursday, 6:30 – 8 PM. School Report Night, MCS  
 3/5, Monday, 7:30 PM. Annual Town Meeting, MCS  
     7:30 PM. WPVFD  
 3/6, Tuesday, 9 AM – 7 PM. Town elections, Town Hall  
     7 PM. PVFD  
 3/7, Wednesday, 7 PM. Select Board organizational meeting, Town Hall  
 3/10, Saturday, 7 PM. Mettawee Mania talent show, MCS  
 3/13, Tuesday, 12 PM. Haystack Hustlers seniors potluck lunch, Pawlet Church  
 3/14, Wednesday Four Winds Workshop  
     7 PM. UD #47 School Board meeting, MCS  
 3/20, Tuesday, 7 PM. Select Board, Town Hall  
 3/23, Friday, 9 – 11 AM. Food Pantry, Pawlet parsonage barn  
 3/24, Saturday, 9 AM – 12 PM. Cleveland pancake breakfast, 325-3312  
 3/26, Monday, 7:30 PM. Planning Commission, Town Hall  
 3/27, Tuesday, 12 PM. Haystack Hustlers seniors lunch, MCS. Call 325-3196 for reservations.

### April

- 4/2, Monday, 7:30 PM. WPVFD  
 4/3, Tuesday, 7 PM. Select Board, Town Hall  
     7 PM. PVFD  
 4/4, Wednesday. Chili Mac ‘N Cheese Cook-Off, MCS  
 4/10, Tuesday, 12 PM. Haystack Hustlers seniors potluck lunch, Pawlet Church  
 4/11, Wednesday, 7 PM. UD #47 School Board meeting, MCS  
 4/17, Tuesday, 7 PM. Select Board, Town Hall  
 4/18, Wednesday, Four Winds workshop  
 4/19, Thursday, 7:30 PM. Pawlett Historical Society program, Barns of Vermont and New York, MCS  
 4/23, Monday, 7:30 PM. Planning Commission, Town Hall  
 4/24, Tuesday, 12 PM. Haystack Hustlers seniors lunch, MCS. Call 325-3196 for reservations.  
 4/27, Friday, 9 – 11 AM. Food Pantry, Pawlet parsonage barn  
 4/28, Saturday, 8 – 9:30 AM. Household Hazardous Waste Collection, Mettawee School parking lot



#### REMINDERS!

*Granville, NY, transfer station is open Tuesday, Friday & Saturday, 6:30 AM - 4:30 PM.  
 Closed Tuesday, February 21 for Presidents Day.  
 Household hazardous waste collection, April 28, 8 – 9:30 AM, Mettawee School parking lot  
 No fee; proof of residency required*

## TOWN OFFICE NEWS

### *Town Clerk, Deb Hawkins*

**Town Meeting Day Reminders:** Town Meeting is on March 5, 7:30 PM at the Mettawee Community School; town elections are March 6, 9 AM – 7 PM at the Town Hall. February 29 is the last day to apply for addition to the checklist to vote at town meeting; this office will be open until 5 PM to accept applications. March 5 is the last day to request early or absentee ballots. *Note that the UD #47 Annual Meeting will be held February 29, 7:30 PM at the Mettawee Community School. The MCS budget will not be addressed at Town Meeting.* For more information on Town Meeting, see page 5.

**Dog Licenses:** Vermont law requires all dogs over 6 months old to be licensed with the town clerk. Owners must present a current rabies certificate to the town clerk by April 1 each year. If the dog has been spayed or neutered, the certificate for that must also be presented to pay a reduced license fee. Before April 1 the fee for spayed/neutered dogs is \$9 and \$13 for dogs that have not been spayed/neutered. After April 1 the fees increase to \$13 and \$19, respectively.

VSA Title 20 §3621 states “the legislative body of a municipality may at any time issue a warrant to one or more police officers, or constables, or pound keepers, directing them to proceed forthwith to destroy in a humane way or cause to be destroyed in a humane way all dogs or wolf hybrids within the town or city not licensed ...”

**Holiday closing:** Town offices will be closed on Monday, February 20, for Presidents Day.

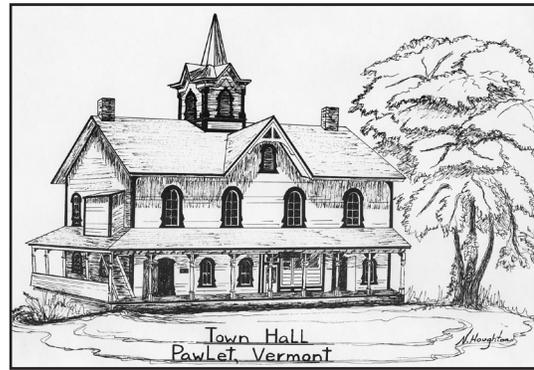
**E-mail notices:** Anyone wishing to receive e-mails from this office regarding elections, office closures, deadlines for dog licenses, voter registration, absentee ballot requests and special notices should e-mail Deb Hawkins at pawletclerk@vermontel.net; please put “add me to e-mail list” in the subject line.

**Town Clerk office hours:** Monday & Wednesday, 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM; Tuesday, 11 AM – 6 PM; Thursday, 9 AM – 12 PM. Closed Friday. Contact: 325-3309, pawletclerk@vermontel.net.

### **Town Treasurer, Judy Coolidge**

**Property Taxes Due:** The second payment of 2011 property taxes is due February 10. I will be available to accept property tax payments Monday through Friday, February 6 – 10, 9 AM to 4 PM. Unpaid accounts will be turned over to the delinquent tax collector on February 11.

**Tax Bills Confidential:** The Vermont Supreme Court has ruled that the property tax adjustment information on a tax bill is to be kept confidential and therefore is not a public record. The Town is now unable to give out tax bills containing income-sensitive information to anyone other than the taxpayer, without autho-



*Town Hall, by Nancy Offensend Houghton*

rization from the taxpayer. The authorization form is available from me and can also be downloaded from the Town’s Web site, <http://pawlet.vt.gov/town-offices/treasurer/>.

**Treasurer office hours:** Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 9 AM – 12 PM & 1 – 4 PM. Contact: 325-3309, pawlettreas@vermontel.net.

**Planning Commission:** The Planning Commission will revise the Zoning Ordinance to have more local jurisdiction when property is subdivided. It desires citizen input regarding changes. A survey in the next issue of this newsletter will solicit your ideas. Meanwhile, please bring your thoughts and questions to any regular meeting of the Commission, held on the 4th Monday of each month, 7:30 PM, at the Town Hall. Written comments can be e-mailed to Fred Stone, Chair, at stonbrok@vermontel.net or mailed to: Planning Commission, Town Hall, School Street, Pawlet, VT 05761.

The Commission has received an \$8000 grant from the Agency of Commerce & Community Development for this project. The Rutland Regional Planning Commission will be the Town’s consultant, with project completion scheduled for May 2013.

Meeting minutes are posted at the post offices in Pawlet and West Pawlet and on the town web site <http://pawlet.vt.gov/>; see “Planning Commission” page.

**Select Board:** The Pawlet Select Board meets at 7 PM every other Tuesday at the Town Hall. The public is encouraged to attend. Meeting minutes are posted at the post offices in Pawlet and West Pawlet and also on the town web site <http://pawlet.vt.gov/>; click on “Select Board” page.

### ***Voters Pass Wastewater Treatment Plant Bond***

By more than a four-to-one margin, Pawlet voters approved a \$1.25-million bond for renovating the West Pawlet wastewater treatment plant. Results from the special vote on November 8 were: 131 - Yes, 27 - No. The bond amount is subject to significant reduction from the state and federal grants-in-aid. Work on the plant will begin in the spring.

## STATE HOUSE UPDATE *by John Malcolm, Representative for Pawlet, Middletown Springs, Rupert, and Wells*

The Vermont Legislature has returned to Montpelier for the second year of its two-year session. In the first weeks Governor Shumlin has presented his state-of-the-state address and his budget address. House and Senate committees have been busy since the first day working on the more than 800 bills that have been introduced so far.

Active topics early in the session include the state's continuing response to the effects of tropical storm Irene on towns, businesses, and individuals; reapportionment of the state's legislative districts; and mid-year adjustments to the state's budget.

I have a new committee assignment to fill a vacancy on the House Natural Resources and Energy Committee. I have also been busy with the Biomass Energy Development Working Group and other issues such as net metering and pricing of electricity, renewable energy, and solid waste management. I will continue to be active with agricultural and forestry issues and

will contribute that perspective and background to the Legislature.

The Legislature's Web site [www.leg.state.vt.us](http://www.leg.state.vt.us) offers information about the Legislature's daily activities, such as the daily calendars and journals of the House and the Senate, the text and status of bills that have been introduced, reports of study groups presented to the Legislature, the tentative weekly schedules of legislative committees, and the text of Vermont statutes.

Please contact me with your concerns, ideas and questions by e-mail [JMalcolm@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:JMalcolm@leg.state.vt.us), at the statehouse (800 322-5616) or at home (325-3424; 1822 Rupert Mountain Road, Pawlet, VT 05761).

Thank you. — *Representative John Malcolm*



## ENERGY GROUP HOSTS TALK ON SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES



*Todd Kowalczyk & John Cadoret of CVPS explain the utility's SmartPower program to a Pawlet audience last month.*

The Pawlet Energy Group is hosting a presentation on the Transition Towns Initiative by Bill Laberge on Monday, February 13, 7 PM at the Town Hall, School Street, Pawlet. The Transition Town model originated in Totnes in the U.K. It encourages communities to confront the challenges of climate change by creating a fulfilling and sustainable economy. Bill Laberge, the presenter, is a furniture maker in Dorset and a founding member of Transition Town Manchester.

Earlier talks in the energy group series have included the NeighborWorks energy challenge program, CVPS SmartPower, and Efficiency Vermont's Button Up Vermont initiative.

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**NEWS FOR TOWN MEETING DAY  
MARCH 6, 2012**

*From the Vermont Secretary of State:*

On Town Meeting Day, the first Tuesday in March, citizens across Vermont come together in their communities to discuss the business of their towns. For over 200 years Town Meeting Day has been an important political event as Vermonters elect local officers and vote on budgets. It has also been a time for neighbors to discuss the civic issues of their community, state, and nation.

**Important Town Meeting Dates**  
 Register to vote by February 29  
 Obtain absentee ballots by March 5  
 Attend UD #47 Annual Meeting: February 29, 7:30 PM, Mettawee Community School  
 Attend Town Meeting: March 5, 7:30 PM, Mettawee Community School  
 Vote: March 6, 9 AM – 7 PM, Town Hall

**TOWN OFFICE POSITIONS AND CANDIDATES, TOWN OF PAWLET**

Moderator (Town) (1 year)  
 Vote for not more than 1  
 John C. Thrasher

Moderator (School) (1 year)  
 Vote for not more than 1  
 John C. Thrasher

Selectboard (1 year)  
 Vote for not more than 2  
 Joseph Clark

Selectboard (3 years)  
 Vote for not more than 1  
 Clarence Decker

Lister (3 years)  
 Vote for not more than 1  
 Charles R. Mason

Second Constable (2 years)  
 Vote for not more than 1  
 William T. Humphries

Delinquent Tax Collector (1 year)  
 Vote for not more than 1  
 Kim L. Jones

Town Agent (1 year)  
 Vote for not more than 1  
 John C. Thrasher

Grand Juror (1 year)  
 Vote for not more than 1  
 John C. Thrasher

Pawlet School Director (3 years)  
 Vote for not more than 1  
 Susan Ceglowski

UD #47 (Mettawee) School Director  
 (1 year of a 3 year term)  
 Vote for not more than 1  
 Raymond C. Foster

UD #47 (Mettawee) School Director  
 (3 years)  
 Vote for not more than 2  
 Susan Ceglowski  
 Phoebe P. McChesney  
 Library Trustee (3 years)  
 Vote for not more the 1  
 Glenn Munson  
 Paul Turnley

Proposed General Fund Budget: \$334,756  
 Proposed Highway Budget: \$378,786

*Note: The warnings for the Town of Pawlet, the Union School District #47, and the Pawlet Town School District are posted at the Town Hall and post offices and online at <http://pawlet.vt.gov/town-offices/town-clerk/>.*



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*Nancy Mark, continued from page 1*

business. My grandfather had been a businessman in New York City, where he started the desk calendar business. I was his only granddaughter, and we were very close. That was my link to business. I became a real estate broker in Castleton, which gave me a lot of flexibility while raising our daughters Rachel and Molly. Real estate was a great experience, yet I always knew I would go back into education sometime. At that point I was looking for a part-time kindergarten job, as I had taught kindergarten in California. But Bob Forest encouraged me, saying, "I can really see you at this job in Pawlet."

I had previously been on the Fair Haven Union High School board, where I learned how important it is to work as a team and understand everyone's perspective — tax payers, the community, teachers, students — when trying to solve problems. I saw that people are eager to contribute in the best way they can. I also respected the principal, Peter Aiken, at Fair Haven. He inspired me. When Bob Forest mentioned the principal position in Pawlet, I had a vision from Peter's example of what this might look like for me.

I realized I also could bring practical, real-world, business skills to the position in Pawlet. My father used to say, "Every teacher needs to know what it's like in the real world," and I think that's true. So I talked to the Pawlet school board members. They were very supportive and thought I could make a contribution — so that's how I came to Pawlet 24 years ago.

*What do you recall of the early years in Pawlet, before we had the union school with Rupert?* I always felt very welcome and supported by the board, the teachers and the PTO. And I was gratified to see the Pawlet schools strengthen their connections with the community. Many things were ready to sprout. The time was ripe for programs like JISP (Junior Instructional Ski Program) and ELF (Environmental Learning for the Future). I wrote our first all-school play honoring people in Pawlet and the founding of the town. We did a lot to bring the community into the school.

And the Pawlet schools became recognized for looking at ways to conduct standards-based education in

a small rural setting. Our school was on the cover of a Vermont Department of Education report one year. People came from the U.S. Department of Education to visit us.

*How did the merger of the Pawlet and Rupert elementary schools happen?* It was such a team effort — community members worked with the board, and we really communicated every aspect of the plan. It passed on the first ballot. The community was proud of our children and committed to them. And the students here get it. They know they have something very special. The building is beautiful. The teachers are amazing; they are so committed.

I remember the first day in 1998 when we opened the doors of the new school. We always have a big, first-day celebration, but that year there was a wonderful buzz. Of all the comments I remember a fourth grade boy looking around and saying, "They did this for us? This is for us?" The children know they are honored.

*Please say more about community involvement and teamwork at Mettawee.* Community members feel a tremendous sense of ownership for this school — I hope they do! At one of our spaghetti suppers a few years ago an elderly gentleman was talking to his family — someone I didn't recognize — and I heard him say "I am so glad you could come and see my school." That's something we hope for, something always to be cultivated, with our annual Thanksgiving feast, monthly lunches for senior citizens, and our open-door policy for parents.

It's so important that parents see themselves as an equally important part of the team. We have a tradition of student-led, parent-teacher conferences. The student talks about his or her accomplishments, and the parents and teacher become a supportive team. So instead of a one-way conference where the teacher tells the parent how the student is doing, the dynamic shifts — and the student takes ownership for learning.

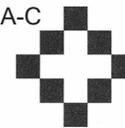
There is a strong sense of pride in the school and commitment from the teachers, with tremendous board support to maintain the success we have seen for our students. Our school has the highest scores in the



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*Nancy Mark, continued from previous page*



whole supervisory union in all of the NECAP (New England Common Assessment Program) tests, known as the nation's report card. We also have the highest level of poverty, which often presents challenges for learning. Our teachers are so dedicated. They go above and beyond whatever needs to be done.

*What is your vision for the future of Mettawee?* I will leave it open for the next person to carry the torch in their own way. The basic principles of respect, communication and teamwork are inherent in the school, and I have no doubt that those principles will continue. Our mission has been mutually supported by the teachers, board and community, and our principles translate into all students getting what they need and receiving that in the most respectful way. Our expectation for them is equally high, and they need that. They feel that support and they give it back.

Our world is changing so quickly. Education needs to be nimble and flexible. Any new principal will understand the need to respond to that changing world. We don't even know what that world will be — but we do know that our students must be innovative and creative citizens of the world.

*What are your plans for retirement?* My husband Joe Mark is retiring this year from his position as Academic Dean at Castleton College, so we are very fortunate that we can give ourselves the gift of time and do this together. We have grandchildren here in East Dorset and Washington, D. C., and we are looking forward to more time with them. We'd like to travel and also be more involved with our own community in Castleton. It's been a joy, truly. I feel so fortunate to have had a position that I've looked forward to every day, with a dedicated staff, supportive community and wonderful board.

*Mission Statement: Mettawee Community School welcomes students, parents, teachers, and the community as essential members of our school. We are committed to treating one another and our surroundings with respect, caring, and equity, and to communicating and acting with honesty, kindness, integrity and responsibility. At Mettawee we have set clear goals and high expectations. We honor individual learning styles and abilities and are determined to find ways to support all students and parents while working together as partners to meet these goals.*

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## METTAWEE COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWS *by Linda Maness*

**An Invitation:** The Mettawee Community School invites parents, students and community members to 2012 School Report Night on Thursday, March 1 from 6:30 — 8 PM. This annual event is an opportunity for the school to share with the community some examples of the many exciting learning opportunities that are taking place in our classrooms. This year we will focus on ways in which we honor the humanities. Generally we think of the humanities as the study of history, literature, the arts and ideas; and at school we are celebrating the humanities and their relevance to our past and our future. Our students and teachers are eager to share their accomplishments with community members.

**Snow Biz Musical:** In December the school presented a holiday production of Snow Biz (created by John Jacobson and Mac Hoff). This delightful musical featured the talents of all students. Mettawee staff Lisa Hoyt (music), Amy Helmetag (art) and Kelli Lewis (costumes) contributed many hours to the production, along with parents Susan Knapp, Jennifer Paige, Ellen Russell, Cori Rail, Heidi Hammell and Katrina Farrell. Additional parents and students created props and scenery during weekly after-school workshops.

**School-Level Geography Bee:** On Tuesday, January 10, MCS held the school-level round of the 2012 National Geographic Geography Bee for finalists from



*Teacher Mark Rampone and Principal Nancy Mark flank 2012 School-Level National Geographic Geography Bee winner Tessa Georgeson of Rupert.*

*Photo: Kelly Ahlfeld*

the previous classroom-level Geo Bee rounds. The nine finalists answered many challenging geography questions. Third-place finisher was Trinity Delano, and Catherine Thrasher was the second-place finisher. Tessa Georgeson was the winner of this year's school-level Geo Bee, and she has taken the placement exam to determine if she will participate in the 2012 state-level Geo Bee this spring in Montpelier. Congratulations to Tessa and all of the finalists!

## METTAWEE COMMUNITY PTO

**Mettawee Mania 2012, A Talent Extravaganza,** will be presented by the PTO on Saturday, March 10, 7 PM at the school. Miss Vermont 2011, Katie Levasseur, is scheduled to emcee this community-wide, all-ages talent show. Tickets go on sale February 8 and may be purchased at the school during school hours 8 AM – 3 PM; or at the door the night of the show. Tickets are \$7 Adults and \$5 Seniors/Students (18 and under); children 3 and under are free. For more information call the school at 645-9009.

**2nd Annual Chili and Mac N' Cheese Cook-Off** will be held on Wednesday, April 4, at the school. All are invited (no cook-off entry-fee) to enter an original chili and/or mac n' cheese dish to be judged by the community-at-large. A \$5 fee will gain "tasters" entrance to the cook-off and the right to vote in such categories as most original, spiciest and flavorful chili; as well as most original and cheesiest mac n' cheese. Entrants will also be judged on their presentation. Contact Brooke Burnham or Linda Maness at 645-9009, or [bburnham@mettaweeschool.org](mailto:bburnham@mettaweeschool.org) or [lmaness@mettaweeschool.org](mailto:lmaness@mettaweeschool.org).

**Purchase programs for Mettawee:** If you have a Price Chopper AdvantEdge card and registered your card number to support the school in the Tools for School program before August 2010, your number must be re-registered. Visit [www2.pricechopper.com/toolsforschools/single.shtml](http://www2.pricechopper.com/toolsforschools/single.shtml) to register your number or e-mail your AdvantEdge number to PTO Coordinator Linda Maness at [lmaness@mettaweeschool.org](mailto:lmaness@mettaweeschool.org) and she will register it for you.

Another way you can help the Mettawee Community School/PTO earn points and therefore school equipment is just by going grocery shopping – and without clipping labels. Visit [www.elabelsforeducation.com/Sites/Campbells\\_eLabels/Page/HomePage](http://www.elabelsforeducation.com/Sites/Campbells_eLabels/Page/HomePage) and register your Price Chopper and Shaw's shopping card number. There are other store rewards cards; see site for complete list.

Every time you use your store's registered rewards card when purchasing a qualifying Labels for Education item, one point will automatically be added to our e-labels for education account.

The PTO thanks everyone for supporting the school and its students.

## METTAWEE SCHOOL BOARD

**Thanks to Principal Nancy Mark:** The Mettawee Community School Board extends sincere gratitude to Nancy Mark who will be retiring in June after fourteen years as our school's Principal and ten years as Principal of the Pawlet Schools. Mettawee has been fortunate to have Mrs. Mark as our educational leader, and we will miss her immensely. Mrs. Mark has high expectations for all students and a commitment to equity that prevails throughout the school. Her leadership has provided the foundation on which the culture of the school has been built, where teachers, parents and community members work together in support of our students. We thank Mrs. Mark for instilling strong educational values and true community spirit which will continue to guide us into the future.

The Board has formed a Principal Search Committee consisting of three board members, two teachers

and two community members. We anticipate that the search committee will make recommendations to the Board at different stages of the search process and that the full Board will participate in interviewing candidates. We are on track to make a hiring decision this spring in order to ensure a smooth transition.

**Community invited to discuss education goals:** Other important Board work involves the development of ends policies. Ends policies describe the essential purposes of an organization, who will benefit from the organization's services, and at what cost. We invite the community to an ends policy forum to be held at the school on February 15, 2012 at 6:30 PM. This promises to be an engaging and thought-provoking evening. Please inform the school if you plan to attend by calling 645-9009.

Thank you. — *Susan Ceglowski, Chair MCS Board*

### Dear Community Members of Pawlet and Rupert,

What should our children know when they graduate from the Mettawee Community School? How do we prepare them to success in Vermont, the nation, the world? What might the classroom of tomorrow look like? What should it cost to educate our community's children?

**Please join us in exploring these questions as we consider the possibilities for public education in a community-wide forum on Wednesday, February 15, 6:30 to 8:30 PM.**

The purpose of this gathering is to generate thought, ideas and inspiration to help develop a further understanding of what our big-picture goals or "ends policies" might be for educating the children at Mettawee Community School. We ask you to bring your energy, ideas, creativity and curiosity as we explore the concept of "ends policies." We will screen several brief videos to inspire you and stimulate conversation. We will then break into small discussion groups, each with a scribe to record your ideas.

Please join us as we work together to achieve a deeper understanding of how we, as a community, can prepare our children for the challenges and opportunities that they will face in the coming decades.

In the spirit of broadening participation among those with children, complimentary childcare can be made available at the school during the event. Please contact the school at 645-9009 to reserve a space for your child.

Looking forward to seeing you, Mettawee Community School Board

*Susan Ceglowski, Arlene Bentley, Eugene Ceglowski, Scarlett Duncan, Ray Foster, Pat Fry, Sue LaPorte, Jed Mayer, Phoebe McChesney*

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## VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

**West Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department:** Since 2004 the WPVFD has hosted the winter Woodchuck Festival and Firemen's Games, a major community event and fund-raiser. The festival includes a market-place, food served by the Ladies Auxiliary, and many activities for children.

This year marked the 9th Annual Woodchuck Festival and Fireman's Games on Saturday, February 4, at the Mettawee Community School. Whether or not WP Woodchuck saw his shadow this year, many others came out of winter hibernation to watch the fire departments tackle the obstacle course, enjoy some tasty food and fine wares, warm up with some dancing, or try their hand at cow plop bingo.

"It's good fun and lots of excitement," says West Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department Chief Dave Hosley. For more information contact Chief Dave Hosley at 645-0158.

**Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department:** The Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department meets the first Tuesday of each month, 7 PM at the firehouse, to attend to department business. All members are encouraged to attend, and new volunteers are always welcome.



*Tyler Mullen, Harley Stearns, Blizzard, 'WP' Woodchuck, Jesse Mead and Antonio Lannon enjoy the Woodchuck Festival and Firemen's Games*

Other Tuesdays of the month the department meets at 7 PM to drill, train, and perform equipment maintenance. Members are encouraged to attend as their schedules allow. For prospective volunteers, these meetings provide an excellent opportunity to learn more about the department.

For more information about the Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department, visit [www.pawletfire.org](http://www.pawletfire.org) or contact Chief Jim Andrus at 325-3714.

*Reminder to all: Call 911 in an emergency!*

## NOTES FROM THE PAWLETT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Society's first event of 2012 will be a presentation on the barns of New York and Vermont by Bill Krattinger, Historic Preservation Program Analyst, New York State Historic Preservation Office; and Joshua Phillips, Barn Census Director, Vermont Division for Historic Preservation. The program will be held at 7.30 PM, Thursday, April 19, at the Mettawee Community School (please note change of venue from that normally used for Society programs).

Other events in the planning stage are a yard and bake sale on June 23, 2012, a community event during the summer and a program on an aspect of Vermont history in October.

Previously announced and now being placed is a historic marker at the Braintree School. The marker will commemorate the school's inclusion in the National Register of Historic Buildings and will also provide a summary of the School's history.

The Pawlett Historical Society is grateful to all who have signed its petition to the Town for funding. We hope that readers of this newsletter will, once again, be equally supportive when they vote on the matter. The Society is very appreciative of any support it receives from the Town towards its mission of preserving Pawlet's history.

Thank you. *Steve Williams, President, PHS*

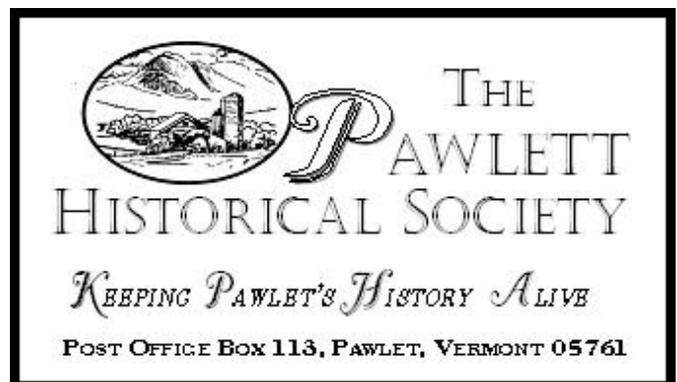


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## PAWLET PUBLIC LIBRARY

**From Beth Kashner, Library Director:** We now have automated library cards with barcodes. Please get your updated card; you need it to check out books. It also gives you access to free, online courses and other benefits, such as downloadable audio books, through the Listen UP! Vermont program. We are grateful for the donation that made this possible.

Note that our hours have been updated:

Sunday and Monday, closed  
 Tuesday, 11 AM – 7 PM  
 Wednesday, 12 PM – 6 PM  
 Thursday, 11:30 AM – 5 PM  
 Friday, 11:30 AM – 3 PM  
 Saturday, 10:30 – 1 PM

We have many classes and activities, including our weekly Tuesday story hour (9:30 AM), bone builders exercise, tai chi, kids kung fu, Dot's dance, yoga, dream circle and more. Heidi Hammell will be offering a spring Zen doodle art class for seniors.

Call the library at 325-3123 for information, e-mail pawlet\_pub@vals.state.vt.us, find us on Facebook or visit [www.pawletlibrary.blogspot.com](http://www.pawletlibrary.blogspot.com).



*Pawlet Library by Matt Solon*

**Book Sorters Wanted:** Help sort books this spring for the library's 45th annual summer book sale, to be held at the Mettawee Community School July 28 – 29. We welcome book sorters from March 6 through July 10. We sort once a week for two to three hours. We work hard, have fun and raise lots of money for the library.

Volunteers come from Pawlet, North Pawlet and West Pawlet as well as other Vermont and New York towns. We'd love to have you help us. Call Dolores Luebke at 645-0109 or the Pawlet Public Library at 325-3123.

### *Mysterious Scroll Found in the Library*

A scrolled note addressed to Miss Amanda Gray was recently discovered in the Pawlet Library folded between the pages of a rare copy of "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court" by Mark Twain.

The anonymous message reads:

*Miss Gray, if you wish to escape your drab and tedious fate as caretaker at your family mansion, meet me at the Mardi Gras celebration on February 21. I will reveal myself to you at 7 PM. Our paths cross frequently. Yet you fail to recognize that it is I who hold the key to our ancestor's locked jewelry chest ... and your future!*

The library invites you to solve the mystery and celebrate Fat Tuesday on February 21 at The Barn Restaurant. A cocktail social at 5 PM will precede a savory New Orleans Mardi Gras buffet, to begin at 6 PM. The price is \$20 per person until February 13; last-minute tickets will be \$25. Tickets are on sale at the library and available through library board members. For tickets or further information, call the library at 325-3123.

*Fat Tuesday Mardi Gras Mystery*



February 21, 2012

Cocktails 5:00 pm  
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**DUTCHIES STORE RISES FROM THE ASHES**



Work has begun on a new Dutchies Country Store in West Pawlet. The previous structure was lost in a tragic and fatal fire on March 26, 2011. Store owners Eric Kuban-Swanson and Will Swanson-Kuban are looking forward to opening their new store sometime later this spring, and the community is eager to welcome them back.

**Pawlet Community Church**  
 Sunday Worship: 9:30 AM  
 38 VT Rte 133, PO Box 116, Pawlet, VT 05761  
 Rev. John Sanborn, Pastor  
 revjohnnwheels@gmail.com

**St. Frances Cabrini Church**  
 Sunday Mass: 11:15 AM  
 Rte 153, West Pawlet, VT 05775  
 Fr. James Lawrence, Pastor  
 (802) 265-3135; sfcabriniwpawlet@gmail.com

**TOWN TRUCK FOR SALE**

1999 Ford F-550, 7.3-L diesel, 6-speed standard, central hydraulic system, 9' all angle plow, as is, with approximately 115,000 miles. The vehicle may be seen at the Pawlet Town Garage on the Pawlet-Danby Road.

Send bids no later than 6 PM February 21, 2012 to the Pawlet Select Board, C/O Town Clerk, PO Box 128, Pawlet, VT 05761. Please mark "BID" on the outside of the envelope. Bids will be opened at the Select Board meeting on February 21, which begins at 7 PM at the Pawlet Town Hall. The Pawlet Select Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Please contact Keith Mason, Road Foreman, at 325-3467 for more information.



You've probably seen it around town (Keith Mason photo)

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## FRIENDS OF HAYSTACK ORGANIZATION SEEKS SUPPORT

We are a newly formed, community non-profit based in Pawlet — local residents and neighbors dedicated to our community, our natural landscape, and to preserving and enhancing the connection between the two for the benefit of all.

Our immediate goal is to purchase the 65.5 acres of privately-held land atop Haystack, securing its recreational public use for future generations. Our mission is to promote a range of outdoor pursuits such as hiking and birding, support conservation and stewardship, and enrich the community experience throughout the North Pawlet Hills.

For more information and to make a donation, visit [www.friendsofhaystack.org/](http://www.friendsofhaystack.org/). Donations payable to “Friends of Haystack” may be sent to Friends of Haystack, PO Box 201, Pawlet, VT 05761. Thank you.



*View from top of Haystack Mountain: The panoramic view at the top is a great reward for the relatively easy hike.  
Photo: Elizabeth Gibson*



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## STORY OF A WEST PAWLET BUILDING

If buildings could speak, the former West Pawlet Fish & Game Club would have lots of interesting stories to tell. Built in 1896 by the Burdick family, it has been at the heart of the village center for well over a century and was home to West Pawlet's original department, drug, and grocery store. It has also housed a barbershop, doctor's office and poker room.

In the 1950s the Burdick family gave the building to the West Pawlet Fish & Game Club, and for the next half century or so it continued to serve as a place for people to gather – not just the club members, but other groups as well, such as the Boy Scouts. More recently, in 2003 and 2004 it enjoyed a stint as a cafe operated by Angela Miller, where people gathered on weekends for a leisurely breakfast or brunch.

The latest chapter in the story began this summer, when Angela and her husband Rusell Glover, who own and operate Consider Bardwell Farm, purchased the building from the Fish & Game Club. Their vision is to restore it and make it available to the community so that it can continue in its traditional role as a place for local activities. Eventually they would like to bring in “some ambitious young chef to operate a restaurant or maybe a wine bar,” says Angela.

In the meantime, it's doing quite well as the home for the indoor Pawlet Farmers Market, every Friday, from 4 – 7 PM. “Lots of young families have moved into West Pawlet,” explains Angela. People can



*Jessi Wood and Addison Comar invite you to the indoor Farmers Market, Fish & Game Club building, West Pawlet*

support local farmers and caterers. They can walk here, and enjoy something to eat, too.”

And now on Wednesday evenings, a hula hooping group has started up. Inspired by Dawn Smith-Pliner, they meet weekly at 5 PM for some fun exercise, music, and camaraderie. So hop on over to West Pawlet for some excitement this winter!



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## EVENTS FOR LOCAL AREA HAYSTACK HUSTLER SENIORS

The Haystack Hustlers invite all area seniors to our upcoming activities. Bring a friend and enjoy educational programs, entertainment and fellowship. We have lunches together every other Tuesday at noon: a potluck lunch at the Pawlet Church on the second Tuesday of each month, and a hot lunch at the Mettawee School on every fourth Tuesday during the school year. At each gathering we collect food for the Pawlet Food Pantry and hold a 50/50 raffle. School lunches are by reservation; suggested cost is \$3.50.

Our schedule of upcoming events is:

- February 3, Lunch at Castleton Senior Center.
- February 14, 12 PM, Potluck lunch at Pawlet Church followed by BAYADA home care/hospice presentation.
- February 28, 12 PM, Lunch at Mettawee Community school.

All seniors are welcome. Meet new people and enjoy a great meal! Contact Phyllis Mason at 325-3196.

### **Pawlet Food Pantry News**

*The food pantry serves residents of Pawlet, West Pawlet and Wells and seeks donations of non-perishable food items. Collection boxes are at the Pawlet post office and the library. The food pantry is open for pickups the 4th Friday of each month, 9 - 11 AM at the red barn behind the parsonage on Route 30 in Pawlet Village. Thanks for your support!*

### **June Rentals Sought for Art Students**

*Tom and Elizabeth Torak are looking for anyone with rooms, apartments, or houses to rent for students studying landscape painting during June. Rentals are needed for all or part of the month of June. For more details please contact Tom or Elizabeth at 325-6428 or torak@vermontel.net.*

### **1st Annual Pancake Breakfast Maple Sugar Open House Weekend**



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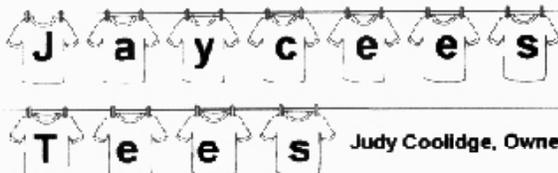
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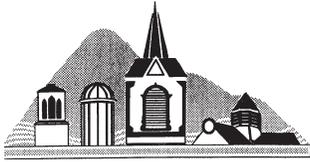
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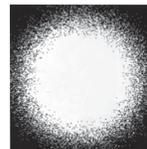
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*Town of Pawlet Newsletter, PO Box 128, Pawlet, VT 05761.*

*Deadline for ads & news for the spring issue: April 3, 2012.*

*Ads: Business Card \$25 (4 issues, 20% discount: \$80); Double Business Card \$50 (4 issues, 20% discount: \$160)*

*Ads to Barry Schoenwetter, 561 North Pawlet Road, Wells, VT 05774; bartsky@together.net or 645-0654.*

*News to: Elizabeth Gibson, Editor, 128 Solar Park, Pawlet, VT 05761; 325-3619, egib@vermontel.net.*