



PAWLET NEWSLETTER

TOWN OF PAWLET IN VERMONT'S METTOWEE VALLEY

VOLUME 8, NUMBER 2

SPRING 2012

INTRODUCTION

The Town has begun the process of adopting subdivision regulations and needs community input, as explained below. Improvements have begun on the village green in Pawlet, to be maintained through the generosity of Gary Baierlein. The Town has submitted a grant application to the Vermont Arts Council to install a fire stair on the building and make the upstairs auditorium fully accessible. The grant requires a match and private donations are needed. Information is available at the Town web site <http://pawlet.vt.gov>.

The purpose of this newsletter is to make town news available and encourage community involvement. The newsletter may be viewed online at the Town's 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). The editor also maintains an e-mail group list for updates on local events. To receive Pawlet eNews, contact Elizabeth Gibson at egib@vermontel.net.

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PLANNING COMMISSION SEEKS COMMUNITY INPUT ON SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS

The Pawlet Planning Commission is in the process of adopting subdivision regulations for the Town. Presently Pawlet has a zoning ordinance that divides the Town into six different zoning districts and defines uses and lot sizes accordingly. For instance, the agricultural and rural residential district allows farming, family dwellings on five and ten-acre lots, and certain other uses. Quarrying is permitted in the industrial district. For a complete description, see the Town of Pawlet Zoning Regulations at <http://pawlet.vt.gov>.

Another aspect of Pawlet's current situation is that, under the state land use and development Act 250, Pawlet is presently considered a "one-acre" town. That means that any commercial activity proposed on more than one acre requires an Act 250 permit. The permit process includes extensive public participation. Adjoining landowners can have legal party status and appeal a permit. About 600 to 700 Act 250 applications are submitted each year throughout the state. More than 95 percent of these applications are approved.

Compared to zoning ordinances, which specify the type and density of development allowed on parcels of land within different areas of a community, subdivision regulations address the pattern of development and provision of facilities within that community. The aim is to minimize "cookie-cutter" parcels when larger parcels of land are subdivided, and thereby encourage cluster growth, such as grouping house lots close together and maintaining a large common area of land.



Adopting subdivision regulations will likely change Pawlet from being a one-acre town to being a ten-acre town – meaning that Act 250 will apply only to development undertaken on more than ten acres. It is a significant change. The burden of managing more commercial development in Pawlet will fall on the town's Development Review Board instead of being handled by the state. The extent of public participation in the decision-making process will also be impacted.

A few towns have opted to remain one-acre towns and adopt subdivision regulations, such as Benson and Brandon. This important option allows towns to retain more of a safety net in terms of Act 250 jurisdiction while realizing the advantages that subdivisions offer in terms of cluster development.

Your input in Pawlet's process of considering subdivision regulations is important. Complete the survey on pages 8-9 of this newsletter and attend the public forum Monday, June 25, 7 PM at the Pawlet Town Hall.

COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR: MAY – JULY 2012

May

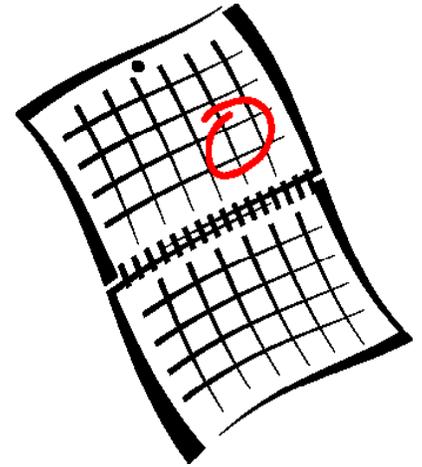
- 5/25, Friday, 9 – 11 AM. Food Pantry, Pawlet parsonage barn
 5/29, Tuesday, 7 PM. Select Board, Town Hall
 5/30, Wednesday, Parent conferences, Mettawee Community School (MCS)

June

- 6/2, Saturday, 5 PM. Roast pork dinner, Pawlet Community Church.
 6/4, Monday, 12 PM. Field Day, Mettawee Community School
 7 PM. Pawlet Energy Group hosts community conversation
 7:30 PM. West Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department (WPVFD)
 7:30 PM. Pawlet Planning Commission, Town Hall
 6/5, Tuesday, 1 PM. Books and Beyond Celebration, MCS
 7 PM. Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department (PVFD)
 6/6, Wednesday, 4 PM. Retirement reception for Principal Nancy Mark,
 MCS Library
 6/7 – 6/8, Thursday – Friday, MCS Sixth-Grade trip to Boston
 6/11, Monday, 7 PM. Sixth-Grade graduation, Mettawee Community School
 6/12, Tuesday, 7 PM. Select Board, Town Hall
 6/13, Wednesday, 6:15 PM, Pawlet School Board, Mettawee Community School
 7 PM. UD #47 School Board, Mettawee Community School
 6/16, Saturday. Rutland County 4-H Club field trip to Shelburne Museum. Contact Dolores Luebke, 645-0109.
 6/22, Friday, 9 – 11 AM. Food Pantry, Pawlet parsonage barn
 6/25, Monday, 7 PM. Public forum on subdivision regulations, Pawlet Planning Commission, Town Hall
 6/26, Tuesday, 7 PM. Select Board, Town Hall

July

- 7/2, Monday, 7:30 PM. WPVFD
 7/3, Tuesday, 7 PM. PVFD
 7/7, Saturday, 5 PM. Roast pork dinner, Pawlet Community Church.
 7/10, Tuesday, 7 PM. Select Board, Town Hall
 7/11, Wednesday. Haystack Hustler seniors Lake Sunapee boat ride and “Oklahoma” theater trip
 Contact Phyllis Mason, 325-3196
 7/23, Monday, 7:30 PM. Planning Commission, Town Hall
 7/24, Tuesday, 7 PM. Select Board, Town Hall
 7/26, Thursday, 5 PM. Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department annual auction
 7/27, Friday, 9 – 11 AM. Food Pantry, Pawlet parsonage barn
 7/28 – 7/29, Saturday – Sunday, 45th annual Pawlet Library book sale



REMINDER!

New hours for Granville, NY, transfer station

*The transfer station is now open 4 days a week – Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, 6:30 AM to 4:30 PM.
 Closed May 26 for Memorial Day and July 4 for Independence Day.*

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TOWN OFFICE NEWS

Town Clerk, Deb Hawkins

Town Clerk Tid-Bits:

Town Clerk's Office will be closed: Monday, May 28, 2012 in observance of Memorial Day; Wednesday, July 4, 2012 in observance of Independence Day; Monday, September 3rd, in observance of Labor 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

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 may not give out tax bills containing income-sensitive information to anyone other than the taxpayer, without authorization 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.

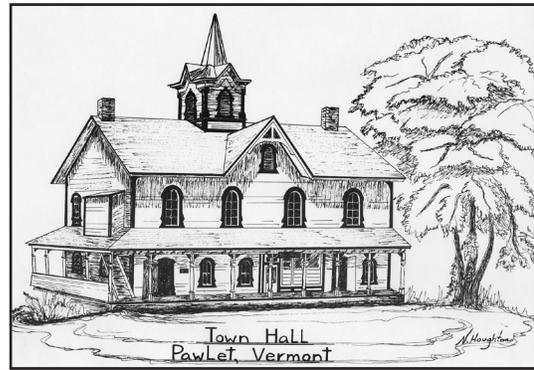
Planning Commission: The Planning Commission will revise the Zoning Ordinance to have more local jurisdiction when property is subdivided. It desires citizen input regarding changes and requests residents to fill out the survey on page 8 of this newsletter and attend the public meeting on June 25, 7 PM at the Town Hall. The survey may also be completed online; visit the Town's web site and following the link <http://pawlet.vt.gov/town-offices/planning-commission/>.

The Commission is working with the Rutland Regional Planning Commission as 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: After town elections in March, the board held its annual organizational meeting.

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 on the town web site <http://pawlet.vt.gov/>; click on "Select Board" page.



Town Hall, by Nancy Offensend Houghton

ORGANIZATION OF THE PAWLET SELECT BOARD

The board has five members: Mike Beecher, Joe Clark, Clarence Decker, Bob Jones and James Glick. Clerk of the board is Kim Ayers.

- Board Chair: Mike Beecher
- Board Vice Chair: Joe Clark
- Board Liaisons for Town Buildings: Joe Clark and James Glick
- Board Liaisons for Highways: Joe Clark and Clarence Decker
- Board Liaisons for West Pawlet Wastewater Treatment Plant: Mike Beecher and Bob Jones

OTHER TOWN OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENTS

- Town Clerk: Deb Hawkins
- Tax Collector: Judy Coolidge
- Zoning Administrator: Eric Mach
- Town Attorney: John Thrasher
- First Constable: Dave Ricard
- Second Constable: Bill Humphries
- Fence Viewer: Platt Herrick
- Town Service Officer: Bob Schoenemann
- Inspector of Coal, Wood, Shingles and Lumber: Tim Waite
- Weigher of Coal and Tree Warden: Tim Waite
- Energy Coordinator: Sue LaPorte
- Pound Keeper, Large Animals: Bob Jones
- Solid Waste Alliance Communities Representative: Lenny Gibson
- Fire Warden: Dale Decker
- Deputy Fire Warden: Dave Hosley
- Health Officer: Bob Morlino

The board gratefully acknowledges the service of retiring clerk Karen Folger and retiring health officer Liz Kurjiaka and also thanks retiring member Sue LaPorte for her years of service.

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

The Vermont Legislature has concluded this year's session and the two-year term. During this very productive session we addressed many difficult issues.

The Budget: Increased revenues from a slowly improving economy, past investments that are realizing savings, declining growth in Medicaid expenses, and good use of disaster relief funds helped build next year's budget. Although the approved budget did increase by 6.4%, one half of that increase came from continuing appropriations for recovery from tropical storm Irene.

A plan for a new mental health care system includes new facilities in Rutland, Brattleboro and central Vermont. Part of the flooded state office complex in Waterbury will be rebuilt in conjunction with office sites in Montpelier and Barre. Many state roads and bridges need follow-up repairs beyond last fall's temporary fixes. We are also committed to improving all our state roads and bridges, including Route 133, as well as increased funding for local town highways and structures. The state police ranks are full, and our courts are open for full weeks' schedules.

Investments in updated computer systems improves the efficiency of our state agencies. And support for our local area agencies on aging and visiting nurse associations continues to be a wise investment, along with additional funding for new models of services for medical addiction recovery.

Economic Development: The Vermont economy and tradition of forests and farms got a boost with the establishment of a Working Lands Enterprise Board. This board will facilitate business planning, startup and tech assistance and financial packaging for agricultural and forestry and wood products enterprises, including capital grants for business growth and infrastructure improvement. After much discussion, the Legislature chose not to intervene in the deliberations of the Public Service Board in the proposed merger of Central Vermont Public Service and Green Mountain Power.

Environment: To protect our clean water, the Legislature voted to ban the drilling technique for oil

and gas known as hydraulic fracking. And to protect Vermont from future flood damage, legislation was passed to facilitate Vermonters' ability to continue to have access to federal flood disaster assistance.

Public Health and Safety:

A bill was passed to require better coordination between state police and local entities in search and rescue cases, to avoid the tragedy of last winter when a young hiker died in Addison county from hypothermia. More funds were allocated to address crime situations such as Internet child pornography and the increasing gang presence in some areas. After much discussion, the Legislature voted to continue to allow parents to choose to not vaccinate their children before attending school, with an annual declaration of philosophical exemption, and to increase educational outreach and data collection on vaccination rates.

Redistricting: Every ten years a census is constitutionally required, and legislative districts are adjusted for equal representation. Our district's population did not change significantly, but districts to the north and south enough population that Rutland County lost a legislative district to Chittenden county, which had gained in population.

After many months of discussing proposed statewide maps, this House District, now named RUT-BEN, ended up similar to before, including the entire towns of Pawlet, Wells, Middletown Springs, now the entire town of Rupert, and a portion of Tinmouth. The district will be one of the largest in the state, with a population of 4,545.

Please contact me about these or the many other legislative issues at 325-3424, 1822 Rupert Mountain Road, Pawlet, VT 05761; JMalcolm@leg.state.vt.us. It is an honor to serve this district.

Thank you, Representative John Malcolm



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COMMUNITY ENERGY CONVERSATION JUNE 4

The Pawlet Energy Group is hosting a community conversation on local energy issues on Monday, June 4, 7 PM at the Town Hall, School Street, Pawlet. Neighboring energy groups are welcome to attend, as are all interested community members.

This year the Pawlet Energy Group has been learning about the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program, the Transition Town Initiative, the NeighborWorks energy challenge program, CVPS Smart-Power, and Efficiency Vermont's Button Up Vermont initiative. For more information contact Town Energy Coordinator Sue LaPorte at 325-3424.



Pawlet Town Hall sometime before 1940. Note slate sidewalk running parallel to School Street and some slate pieces propped against two trees. Source: Glenn Munson

PAWLET ROCKS TOWN HAS SLATE FOR SALE

During work on the town green, the Highway Crew uncovered an old slate sidewalk underneath the split rail fence.

The Town is selling the 18 pieces of gray slate; each piece is 2.5 inches thick and measures four square feet.

The slate can be viewed at the town gravel pit at Butternut Bend on Route 30. No price has been set; make an offer to the Town of Pawlet. All proceeds will benefit the restoration of the town green.



Make an offer! Slate pieces can be seen at Butternut Bend gravel pit. Photo: Keith Mason



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BROOKE DeBONIS NAMED NEXT PRINCIPAL OF METTAWEE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

by Linda Maness

The UD #47 School Board has named Brooke DeBonis as the new principal of the Mettawee Community School. DeBonis is a primary grade teacher at the K-6 elementary school for the towns of Pawlet and Rupert. Sue Ceglowski, Chair of the UD #47 School Board said, "The Board is excited to welcome Mrs. DeBonis as Mettawee's new principal. We are fortunate that such a highly capable teacher will become the new leader of our school. With her experience in the classroom, knowledge of the school's culture, commitment to equity, and service on the Supervisory Union's Instructional Leadership Team, we are confident that Mrs. DeBonis has the skills and energy to be an outstanding principal."

DeBonis received her elementary education degree at the University of Vermont and her Master's degree (in Reading/Language K-12) at the College of St. Joseph's. She lives in Poultney with her husband Brian, daughter Kaitlyn, and two sons William and Alexander. DeBonis says she enjoys spending time with, and taking pictures of, her family and friends.

Following the announcement of her selection, DeBonis acknowledged, "I have a lot of family support in taking on this administrative role. I am grateful for this support and I know will it be helpful."

DeBonis has been on the Mettawee faculty since 2004, working as a 1st - 2nd grade "looping" teacher. She said she was motivated to apply for the principal position because, "I have taken on many leadership roles while at the Mettawee Community School. I have served on the school's writing committee, been a part of the learning management system team and served on the B-RSU Instructional Leadership Team."

She explained that the supervisory union's ILT meets monthly to discuss ideas that are part of the supervisory union's plan, specifically report cards, e-portfolios and the learning management system (Haiku). DeBonis added, "I have found that I really like teaching our staff about B-RSU level initiatives. So this led to my

decision to want to lead a very successful school."

An eager learner herself, DeBonis has taken coursework and workshops and said, "I enjoy bringing information back to my fellow teachers." Some examples of this are her participation in the STAR teacher program for the past 3 years and learning teaching practices in science.

After some of these courses DeBonis showed teachers how to do inquiry based experiments. She was also chosen to be a part of Mettawee's team for NWEA math/reading assessment training. She explained, "I know how to look at the data already as a result of being on the leadership team."

The NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association) testing will be implemented in all the B-RSU schools in Fall 2012, grades K-6. In addition to her leadership roles, DeBonis has also served on the school's Technology committee, which decides where technology goes within school.

As to what she brings to the leadership of the Mettawee Community School, DeBonis notes, "Being a good communicator, as well as a great listener. I feel I also have a positive attitude, professionalism, energy and the necessary skills. I also have a commitment to the school and a vision to lead the school into an exciting future. Lastly, having grown up in this community I feel I understand and value the culture that is here."

And what does DeBonis think she will miss about leading a classroom? "I am passionate about

DeBonis, continued on next page



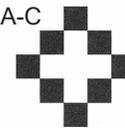
Brooke DeBonis will start her new position on July 1, 2012.



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DeBonis, continued

teaching,” she began, “I will miss getting to know one small group of students very well by being with them every day.”

She continued, “I am excited about my role of principal as it will now allow me to have a relationship with students through all grades and have a positive impact throughout their years, and have relationships with their families now too.”

Traditions are important at Mettawee, and DeBonis said she plans to continue all-school meeting and advisories, both of which allow the student body to connect and the morning flag salute that brings students and faculty together as a school unit each morning.

In response to the question of bringing about new traditions, DeBonis said she hopes to bring about more opportunities for teachers to come together and communicate through student work.

What does DeBonis believe is one of Mettawee Community School’s strongest points? She began, “One strength of Mettawee is that we have devoted teachers

who are well-educated and have high expectations for all students to be successful.”

She added, “Another strength is that we have a close connection with our community. We involve community members, families and friends in the education of the students in our school. I am excited about having the opportunity to enrich our school community and continue to build relationships which create a positive environment for all learners.”

Retiring principal Nancy Mark said, “Our school is very fortunate to have such a strong educator ready to take this next step as our new leader. I know her commitment to our school, our students and our families combined with her skills and background, will serve The Mettawee Community School with distinction.”

DeBonis said, “I want to thank Nancy Mark for spending time with me and sharing her wealth of knowledge about this school, which will help in making the transition smooth. I feel so lucky to have the opportunity to learn from such an exceptional leader.”

Retirement Reception for Nancy Mark

The Mettawee Community School invites the community-at-large to a Retirement Reception for Principal Nancy Mark on Wednesday, June 6, 2012, 4:00 - 6:30 PM. The reception will be held in the school library. Refreshments will be provided.

We hope parents, grandparents, friends and alumnae will come by to wish Mrs. Mark well as she retires after serving as principal in our community for 24 years.



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PAWLET PLANNING COMMISSION: SUBDIVISION SURVEY

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS SURVEY AND HELP PAWLET PLAN FOR ITS FUTURE

The Town of Pawlet does not currently have any subdivision regulations. Pawlet's zoning ordinance only specifies minimum lot sizes for zoning purposes. The Pawlet Planning Commission is considering creating density-based subdivision regulations to allow viable commercial and residential use of our historical village centers while protecting the natural areas, water quality, and scenic resources of the Town.

The adoption of density-based subdivision regulations will encourage a settlement pattern that reflects the needs of the Town and historic settlement patterns rather than requiring cookie-cutter 5, 10, or 25-acre lots that break up our large land tracts which have historically been used as productive agricultural and forest lands.

This year the Town is refurbishing its 30-year-old wastewater treatment plant in West Pawlet. The wastewater treatment plant has historically operated at only half-capacity because of limitations imposed by the current zoning regulations. Adopting subdivision regulations will facilitate growth in the West Pawlet village center designation and strengthen the town's commercial viability and tax base.

Adopting subdivision regulations also means that Pawlet's newly created Development Review Board — rather than the Act 250 District Commission — will conduct local Act 250 review of municipal impacts.

**To prepare a document that best represents the needs of the Town,
we need your response to following survey questions.**

Please complete this survey, pull it out of the newsletter, and drop it off or mail it to the Pawlet Planning Commission, Pawlet Town Office, PO Box 128, School Street, Pawlet, VT, 05761).

Alternatively, you may fill out the survey online by visiting the Town's web site at <http://pawlet.vt.gov/town-offices/planning-commission/> and following the link there. Please submit your responses by June 4, 2012! A public forum will be held on June 25, 2012 at 7:00 PM in the Pawlet Town Office to discuss your answers and more.

1) Please rank the importance of the following issues by checking the appropriate box:

	Not Important	Somewhat Important	Very Important
Small Town Atmosphere	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Protecting Farm Land	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Affordable Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Protection of Ridgelines	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Protection of Working Forest	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Residential Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2) Indicate how familiar you are with ...

	Unfamiliar	Familiar	Very Familiar
The Pawlet Town Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Pawlet Zoning Regulations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Act 250 Process	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Subdivision survey continued on next page

Subdivision survey continued from previous page

3) Do you believe the Town of Pawlet has ... (choose one)

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Not Enough Land
Use Regulation | Too Much Land
Use Regulation | A Perfect Amount of
Land Use Regulation | Don't Know |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

4) How do you think the following regulations impact the use of your property?

- | | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | Significant Impact | Some Impact | No Impact | Don't Know |
| Zoning Regulations | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Act 250 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

5) How do you think the following regulation would impact the use of your property?

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | Significant Impact | Some Impact | No Impact | Don't Know |
| Subdivision Regulations | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

6) What kind of Subdivision Regulations would you most like to see in the Town?

7) What type of Subdivision Regulations would you not like to see in the Town?

8) What's the best way to keep you informed about planning activities in Pawlet?

(Check all that apply)

- The Pawlet Newsletter
- The Pawlet.VT.Gov web site
- Posted information at the post offices
- Local newspapers
- Word of mouth
- Facebook
- Other (please specify): _____

9) Your name/address (optional): _____

Thanks for your help. Survey results will be reported in the Pawlet Newsletter and at the Town of Pawlet web site (<http://pawlet.vt.gov>; under "Town Offices" click on "Planning Commission").

PAWLET AND WEST PAWLET VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Due to the unusually mild winter, the danger of grass and brush fires is especially high this spring. We ask Pawlet residents to be especially cautious with fire, and we'd like to remind everyone that a permit is required to burn brush piles. To obtain a permit, please contact Dale Decker, Pawlet's forest fire warden.

The Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department would like to thank Jim Andrus for 25 years of dedicated service to our community. Jim stepped down as Chief this past month to dedicate more time to his family and allow a new generation of firefighters to take the reins. The fire department has grown tremendously during Jim's tenure as chief, and we offer him our most sincere thanks.

Dale Decker has taken over leadership of the department, Bill McKenzie is our new 1st Assistant Chief, and Josh Brooks is our new 2nd Assistant Chief. The department thanks these fine firefighters for their continuing service to the town. For more information about the Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department, visit www.pawletfire.org.

The West Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department has about 28 members and averages 50 calls per year. Officers are: David Hosley, Chief; David Ricard, 1st Assistant Chief; Ron Taylor, 2nd Assistant Chief; Joey Mullen, Captain; and Tom Best, Lieutenant. For more information contact Chief Dave Hosley at 645-0158.

Reminder to all: Call 911 in an emergency!



On May 12 fire departments from Pawlet, West Pawlet, Wells, Rupert, and Dorset conducted this controlled live burn of a structure on the Hawkins property in Pawlet. Thanks to the Hawkins family for donating the structure. Photos: Libby Panoushek



MEMORIAL TO COMMEMORATE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF KOREAN WAR ARMISTICE

Steve Leach of Pawlet, former state VFW Commander, reports that he has obtained the necessary funding and required state permits to place a granite Korean War Veterans Memorial in the State pull off located on Vermont Route 7A about 3 miles south of Manchester Center, just beyond Wilcox Dairy on the right. Vermont Route 7A was officially named the Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway back on July 27, 2003 – the 50th anniversary of the armistice.

The funds for this memorial were generously contributed by Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Posts, Ladies Auxiliaries and Men's Auxiliaries from all over Vermont.

The memorial will be in place just before July 27, 2013, which is the 60th anniversary of the armistice. The official dedication by the State of Vermont and Vermont Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Auxiliaries will be on Saturday, August 3, 2013, at 11 AM.



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PAWLET PUBLIC LIBRARY

From Beth Kashner, Library Director: The VTel community broadband team is offering free computer training sessions at the library on Tuesday afternoons. Each session is tailored to individual needs as one-on-one computer coaching. To sign up visit the VTel web site at <http://vermontel.com/tech/pawlet1> or call 885-9222.

A writers group is also starting for the aspiring writer or journalist. The group will meet every other Thursday at 4 PM. There is no charge; preregistration is required. Call 325-3123 (days) or 325-3248 (evenings).

We have many other classes and activities. 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.

Pitch in for the annual book sale July 28 to 29:

The 45th Annual Pawlet Public Library Book Sale will be held at Mettawee Community School in West Pawlet, 9 AM to 3 PM on July 28 and 10 AM to 2 PM on July 29. All proceeds from the sale are used to buy books, supplies and equipment; fund programs; and support educational and social events at the library.

It takes a small army of volunteers to run this major fund-raiser for the library. If you have some free time, love books, and enjoy team work — come join us. Please sign up early; contact Dolores Luebke, book sale chairman at 645-0109.



Private Investigator Rex Jefferson (Jay Luebke) solves the Mardi Gras mystery for the benefit of the library.

Mardi Gras Celebration: Thanks to all who supported and attended our Mardi Gras Mystery Dinner in February. Mark and Margaret McChesney of the The Barn Restaurant, along with their staff, provided a superb New Orleans buffet, a warm atmosphere and terrific service. Local musicians Marc Edwards of West Pawlet, Jack McChesney of Pawlet and Jamie Gates of Manchester enhanced the revelry with their delightful music.

We greatly appreciate our local editors whose newspapers carried the serial mystery. My sincere appreciation goes to all who joined the fun on a winter evening and chased away our cabin fever. Dolores Luebke, Mardi Gras chairman.



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FRIENDS OF HAYSTACK SEEK TO PRESERVE ICONIC SUMMIT



View of Haystack Mountain from ledge on Middle Mountain. Source: George Bouret

“Protecting Haystack is one of the most obvious and worthwhile conservation projects in the area,” says Alan Calfee, Friends of Haystack Project Coordinator, who operates a local forestry and land management business.

Haystack Mountain is a treasured landmark for residents of Pawlet and neighboring towns. Community leaders and residents have formed a non-profit organization called Friends of Haystack to conserve a 65.56 acre parcel of land that includes the summit.

Beyond its scenic beauty, Haystack is a wonderful recreational resource for the local community and vacationing visitors alike — but public access has been restricted in the past. The Friends of Haystack will maintain the summit trail for the enjoyment of community hikers and visitors.

“The opportunity to preserve the top of Haystack forever is an exciting and rare opportunity for the residents of Pawlet and Wells and other fans of this amazing mountain. The mix of acres conserved by a big national group like the Nature Conservancy, the in-state Vermont Land Trust, and now our own local community group is an ideal way to build collaborations. With the summit finally conserved, permanent public access to the peak will be secured for coming generations. We think everyone will be excited to participate in this wonderful project,” says Susan Sargent, Friends of Haystack President.

Friends of Haystack has entered into purchase agreement with the current owner of the parcel. The group

is raising funds from local supporters to cover the cost of the acquisition and to create a stewardship endowment for its care.

The primary goals are to protect the region’s scenic natural landscape, maintain perpetual public access for recreation, and preserve rare habitats for a number of rare species. “The North Pawlet Hills are an exceptionally significant area of the state with some of the best examples of many of these dry oak and pine forest types that we know of,” says Eric Sorenson, Community Ecologist for the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. The land is home to bobcats and a known nesting location of the previously listed Peregrine Falcon.

Completing the purchase of the parcel will allow Friends of Haystack to preserve Haystack’s unique summit – visible from numerous surrounding towns – for perpetuity.

With the purchase agreement in hand, Friends of Haystack has until December 31, 2012 to raise the required funds for the project and take ownership of the property.

To become involved in the project, please visit www.friendsofhaystack.org. Donations may be made on the web site or mailed to Friends of Haystack, PO Box 201, Pawlet, VT 05761.

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SUE LAPORTE RECEIVES EXCELLENCE AWARD

At a recent awards dinner for Rutland Regional Health Services, staff member Sue LaPorte of Pawlet received a 2012 Award in Excellence. Sue was recognized for her exemplary values and driven efforts in support of Rutland Regional Medical Center's Journey to Excellence. This award follows her 2010 Rutland Regional Health Services Humanitarian of the Year award for community service. Sue has been a nurse at the hospital for 25 years and is currently working on the Progressive Care Unit. She is the Energy Coordinator for the Town of Pawlet and served on the Pawlet Select Board for three years.



Sue LaPorte

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
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TERRY TYLER TO ACCOMPANY RUTLAND COUNTY 4-H TO SHELBURNE MUSEUM

The Rutland County 4-H Foundation invites Rutland County 4-H Club members and leaders to participate in an educational field trip to the Shelburne Museum on June 16, 2012. The cost for attendance will be \$5 to cover lunch on the museum grounds.

Funding for transportation and admission for 55 people is being provided by a grant from the Vermont Friends of the National Rifle Association. This is specifically funded to view the Terry Tyler, Lock, Stock and Barrel Exhibit as part of the field trip. Terry Tyler will accompany the group and conduct a personal tour of the exhibit.

Oxbow 4-H Shooting Sports Members and Leaders have the first opportunity to attend under the Friends of NRA grant. Each member must be accompanied by a parent or guardian during training meetings. Oxbow Leaders (including parent and guardians who

assist in training) are invited to sign up for this bus funded under FNRA. Any seats not filled by the Oxbow 4-H Shooting Sports Club will be open to other Rutland County 4-H Club members. Participants will be transported on a Premier Coach bus departing from and returning to West Pawlet.



Premier Coach of Milton is sponsoring part of the transportation by granting a 20 percent discount on the cost of the coach service. Marco's Pizzeria & Grill of Shelburne is offering a 30 percent discount on the food and drink for lunch. For further information, contact Dolores Luebke, President, Rutland County 4-H Foundation at luebked@aim.com or 645-0109.



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Pawlett Historical Society Events

June 23 Yard & Bake Sale, Pawlet Firehouse
September 22, Community Fund-raiser, North Rupert
October 18, Program about the Irish in Vermont

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!



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EVENTS FOR LOCAL AREA HAYSTACK HUSTLER SENIORS

The Haystack Hustler seniors are celebrating their fifth year as an organization and are getting ready for their summer season.

Area seniors are invited to participate in two bus trips hosted by Northshire Seniors: July 11 Lake Sunapee boat ride and lunch, followed by the show "Oklahoma"

at the New London Theater; September 13, 14 & 15, an overnight trip to Maine with an exciting schedule and limited walking.

Reservations for both events are due soon; please call Phyllis Mason at 325-3196. All seniors are welcome. Meet new people and enjoy a great meal!

PAWLET FAMILY RAISES FUNDS FOR DIABETES RESEARCH

Lynn and Brad Pratt of Pawlet started a non-profit charity organization called Donations for Diabetes when their six-year-old daughter Ashley was diagnosed with diabetes in 2010.

"We hope to make a difference by raising funds to help support diabetes research and ultimately find a cure for this disease. This will allow our daughter and all the others out there like her to lead normal lives," says Lynn.

In February the Pratts organized the second annual Downhill for Diabetes event at Pico Mountain Resort, which brought in more than \$13,500! Skiers, snow boarders and non-skiers alike participated by collecting donations from friends and family or having businesses sponsor them. All proceeds were donated to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

The Pratts send out a huge thank you to all who supported this event: Pico Mountain Resort, General

Electric, RLA Insurance Intermediaries, aboutFACE Orthodontics, Allen Pools and Spas, American Diabetes Wholesale, Bob Shoenemann Real Estate, Cortina Inn, Dr. Webb Eye, Family Dentistry, Inn at Long Trail, McGrath's Irish Pub, Long Trail Brewery, Marty's Budget Ski Rental, Mendon Country Store, Queensbury Family Chiropractic, Replay Sports, Machs General Store, Rutland Hospital, Sports Page Ski Shop, Sugar & Spice Restaurant, Vermont Inn, Vermont Renewable Fuels, Otter Creek Brewing Company, American Hardware True Value, Casella Construction, The Haas Group at Merrill Lynch, The Barn Restaurant, Bud Coolidge Electric, Best Western/Hogge Penny Inn, EMS, Ninety Nine Restaurant, Price Chopper, Bed bath and Beyond, Sal's Pizza of Wallingford, Weight Watchers, JK Adams, Table 24 Restaurant, Green Mountain Rock Climbing, Orvis.

For more information or to find out about next year's event, visit www.donationsfordiabetes.org.

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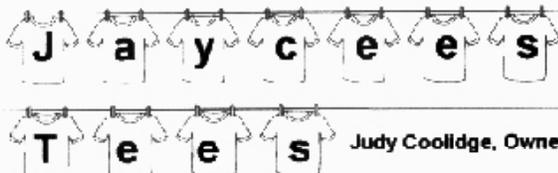
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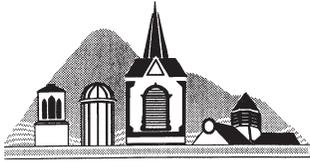
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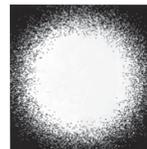
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Town of Pawlet Newsletter, PO Box 128, Pawlet, VT 05761.

Deadline for ads & news for the summer issue: June 30, 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.