

TOWN OF PAWLET, IN VERMONT'S METTOWEE VALLEY

PAWLET NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 7, NUMBER 2

SPRING 2011

INTRODUCTION

This issue of the Pawlet Newsletter features two major events that both reflect the community spirit of our small town. The Dutchie's Aid event, organized in response to the tragic and fatal fire at Dutchie's Store in West Pawlet on March 26, prompted this comment on FaceBook from David Hosley: "The village of West Pawlet and her surrounding communities can be very proud of themselves today. What a group of people put together in two weeks to help out their neighbors was truly amazing." When asked why she got involved in helping to organize the benefit event, Rhonda Schlangen Park said, "I helped because this is my community. I have a personal connection ... because a community once helped out when my family needed it."

Pawlet is celebrating 250 years of community this summer. The Town of Pawlet was chartered on August 26, 1761. To honor that date the Town is holding a big party throughout the weekend of August 26 - 28, 2011. Planning meetings for this historic weekend are held monthly at the Town Hall. All are welcome!

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 website (<http://pawlet.vt.gov>; under "Town News" click on "Newsletter") and also at the Rutland Regional Planning Commission website ("Town News" at www.rutlandrpc.org). The editor also maintains an email group list for updates on local events. To receive Pawlet eNews, send a request to Elizabeth Gibson at egib@vermontel.net.

A COMMUNITY & BEYOND COMES TOGETHER FOR DUTCHIES STORE by Linda Maness

Dutchies Aid, a benefit for Will and Eric and Dutchies Store, was an amazing afternoon of community support and love – and sunshine! At least 1,000 people attended the pig roast, chicken BBQ, bake sale and silent auction, with toe-tapping music by the band Gold Town. Dozens of volunteers made the event successful, with Hadley and Mike Stock, Eric Brown, Katrina Farrell, Sarah Post and Rhonda Schlangen Park leading the way. Many thanks to them and to the West Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department and the Ladies Auxiliary of WPVFD for tons of support.

Current owners of Dutchies Store Will Kuban and Eric Swanson, along with their dog Molly, spent the afternoon visiting with community members. Addressing the crowd the two men expressed their gratitude for all the outpouring of support since the fire.

Eric said, "We are overwhelmed! We knew we had close friends and family, but we didn't know we were a part of this big a family! It's just incredible. Thank you so much." Will added, "If we could we would start tomorrow building the new Dutchies. It will be a next generation store with old country store charm!" This statement was met with huge applause.

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Three "generations" of Dutchies Store owners at the benefit (L-R) Will Kuban (with Molly), Eric Swanson, Joan Kurjiaka & Charles Lynn Fenton. Shown far left, Lynn's friend Michael Moslack. Photo: Linda Maness

Update from Sarah Post: "We are thrilled to share the total from the fund-raiser and related donations. Over \$28,000 has been raised in support of Dutchies, Will & Eric!"

- Benefit, continued on page 13

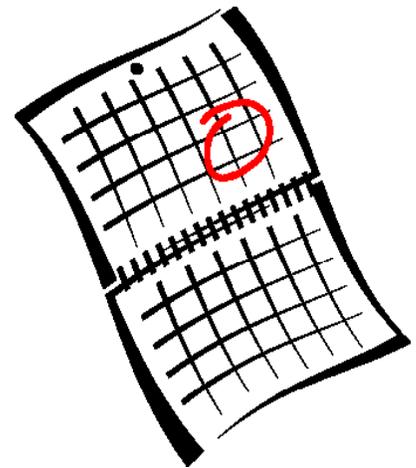
COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR: APRIL - JUNE 2011

April

- 4/22, Friday, 9 - 11 AM. Food Pantry, Pawlet parsonage barn
 4/23, Saturday, 8 - 9:30 AM. Hazardous waste collection, Mettawee School parking lot
 11 AM - 3 PM. Dog Show & Family Fun Day Homeschooler Benefit, 1146 Danby-Pawlet Road
 4/25, Monday, 7:30 PM. Planning Commission, Town Hall
 4/26, Tuesday, 6:30 PM. Development Review Board (former Zoning Board of Adjustment), Town Hall

May

- 5/2, Monday, 7:30 PM. West Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department
 5/3, Tuesday, 7 PM. Select Board, Town Hall
 7 PM. Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department
 5/7, Saturday, 5 PM. Roast Pork Supper, Pawlet Community Church
 5/8, Sunday, 8 AM - 12 PM. PVFD Mother's Day Brunch, Pawlet Firehouse
 5/9, Monday, 7 PM. Club 2011 for Pawlet's 250th, Town Hall
 5/10, Tuesday, Wastewater User Fees (second installment) due
 12 PM. Haystack Hustlers seniors potluck lunch, Pawlet Community Church
 5/11, Wednesday, Four Winds Workshop
 7 PM. UD #47 Board, Rupert Town Hall
 5/17, Tuesday, 7 PM. Select Board, Town Hall
 5/18, Wednesday, 1 PM. Crescent Valley Homemakers public bake and plant
 sale, Pawlet Church, to benefit local charities
 5/23, Monday, 7:30 PM. Planning Commission, Town Hall
 5/27, Friday, 9 - 11 AM. Food Pantry, Pawlet parsonage barn
 5/30, Monday, Town offices closed for Memorial Day
 5/31, Tuesday, 7 PM. Select Board, Town Hall



June

- 6/4, Saturday, 5 PM. Roast Pork Supper, Pawlet Community Church
 6/6, Monday, 7:30 PM. West Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department
 6/7, Tuesday, 7 PM. Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department
 6/8, Wednesday, 6 PM. Pawlet School Board, Mettawee Community School
 7 PM. UD #47 Board, Mettawee Community School
 6/13, Monday, 7 PM. Club 2011 for Pawlet's 250th, Town Hall
 6/14, Tuesday, 12 PM. Haystack Hustlers seniors potluck lunch, Pawlet Community Church
 7 PM. Select Board, Town Hall
 6/16, Thursday. Pawlett Historical Society Yard and Bake Sale, Pawlet Fire House
 6/24, Friday, 9 - 11 AM. Food Pantry, Pawlet parsonage barn
 6/27, Monday, 7:30 PM. Planning Commission, Town Hall
 6/28, Tuesday, 7 PM. Select Board, Town Hall

Reminders!

Hazardous waste collection: April 23, Saturday, 8-9:30 AM, Mettawee School parking lot.

No fee; proof of residency required.

Hours for Washington County Transfer Station

Granville station is open Tuesday, Friday & Saturday, 6:30 AM - 4:30 PM.

Closed holidays: Saturday, May 28 (for Memorial Day)

Trash stickers are available from town clerk; the price has increased to \$2 per sticker.

TOWN OFFICE NEWS

Town Clerk, Deb Hawkins

Green Up Day: Saturday, May 1 is Green Up Day. This event takes place all over the state and would not be possible without the dedicated help of all the town coordinators. This year Ray Duquette, Sr., is Pawlet's Town Coordinator for Green Up Day. Green Up Day is set aside to pick up litter. Green bags can be picked up at the Town Hall, the Pawlet and West Pawlet post offices, and the library. Take an hour from your day to pick up our beautiful neighborhoods! For more information call coordinator Ray Duquette at 645-0398 or visit www.greenupvermont.org/.

Poultney parade invite: In celebration of town birthdays, Poultney is inviting Pawlet to participate in its Fourth of July parade. Entries of all kinds are welcome – marchers, cars, floats, bands. Anyone interested in putting something together for Pawlet with the 2011 theme “Happy Birthday” can contact Jaime Lee at Poultney4th@gmail.com or see me during office hours to fill out a form for participating in the parade.

Dog licenses: Vermont Statute Title 20 §3581 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 be presented to pay a lesser license fee. After April 1 the fee is \$19 for male or female dogs that have not been spayed/neutered and \$13 for dogs that have been spayed/neutered.

Automobile registration: Renewals can be done at the town clerk's office if the renewal is less than two months overdue. Please bring a check or money order (no cash) payable to “DMV” for the amount of the renewal fee, the renewal form and \$3 (cash or check) to the town for processing.

Upcoming holidays: Town offices will be closed on the following holidays: Monday, May 30 (Memorial Day); Monday, July 4 (Independence Day); Monday, September 5 (Labor Day).

Town Treasurer, Judy Coolidge: Wastewater user fees (second installment) are due May 10.

Planning Commission: The commission has been considering adopting local subdivision regulations and is investigating how they would relate to Act 250. The commission thanks James Glick for his service and is seeking a new member. Members must be willing to attend monthly meetings, committed to the purposes of planning and zoning, and concerned about

Development Review Board hearing (former Zoning Board of Adjustment), Tuesday, April 26, 6:30 PM, Town Hall, to discuss an application for a parking lot zoning permit



Town Hall, by Nancy Offensend Houghton

supporting the Town's values in a world that moves ever faster. Please submit a letter stating your interest to Deb Hawkins, Town Clerk.

The Planning Commission usually meets on the fourth Monday of each month at 7:30; meetings are open to the public.

Town Office Contacts/Hours

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

Judy Coolidge, Treasurer: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 9 AM - 12 PM & 1 - 4 PM. Contact: 325-3309, pawlettreas@vermontel.net.

TOWN ELECTION RESULTS, MARCH 1, 2011

Moderator, one year, John Thrasher; town clerk, three years, Debra Hawkins; town treasurer, three years, Judith Coolidge; Select Board, one year, Joe Clark and Susan LaPorte, three years, Robert Jones; lister, two years remaining of three-year term, Raymond Duquette Sr., three years, Elaine Decker; first constable, two years, David Ricard Sr.; tax collector, one year, Kim Jones; agent/grand juror, one year, John Thrasher; town school director, three years, Norma Weeden; union school director, three years, Scarlett Duncan and Patricia Fry; library trustee, three years, Jay Luebke and Eve Schaub; school budget passed; town and highway budget passed.

Participation in Town Elections 2011

Pawlet registered voters: 997

Absentee ballots: 19

Votes cast at poll: 289

Total votes cast: 308, 31% of registered voters

Select Board: The board would like to thank retiring member Tim Waite for serving and welcomes new member Bob Jones. After town elections, the board held its annual organizational meeting. See page 5 for the appointments and areas of responsibilities.

Select Board, continued on page 5

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

The Legislature's 71st biennial session has been very busy and productive, with many new members. Shap Smith continues as Speaker of the House, and members have been assigned to their committee positions. I have again been appointed to the House Agriculture Committee as Ranking member. With our new Governor and new administration, we have many changes in key personnel at state agencies.

In the House we have passed out to the Senate a balanced state budget for FY 2012 of \$4.69 billion, a reduction of 3.6 percent from 2011. Many spending programs were cut, cigarettes were taxed more as well as some health care providers and health claims, and the education fund transfer was reduced. Pay for state workers and legislators continues to be reduced, but programs for the elderly and disabled and for mental health services were reduced by a lesser amount than in the governor's proposal.

We also passed a health care reform bill that is the first step in a multiyear process toward a more unified and comprehensive system where the escalating costs to families, businesses and municipalities can be better controlled with overall lower administration costs. As a result, better care will be provided. There will be many details to be completed with public oversight in the years ahead. But it is important to get started because Vermonters are projected to pay \$2,500 more per person in the next 4 years for health care – over 20

percent of their earnings – and the state spends almost 25 percent of the budget on health care right now.

The budgets for the state highway and rail programs will be considered, and so far the state aid to towns for local roads looks to not be reduced from the previous year. Budgets for improvements to state facilities like prisons and court houses and state parks are also on schedule, and the bonding needed for financing is on an approved level to maintain Vermont's very high bond rating, so our borrowing can be secured at the best rates.

We have also passed bills concerning consumer protection, increased use of local produce, and strengthening our laws relating to DUI repeat offenders.

Please contact me about these or any other legislative issues at JMalcolm@leg.state.vt.us, 325-3424, and 1822 Rupert Mountain Road, Pawlet, VT 05761. You can also leave me a message at the State House in Montpelier (802-322-5616). The Legislature's website has lots of useful information about specific bills, state statutes, and weekly schedules. Thank you!

Representative John Malcolm



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ORGANIZATION OF THE PAWLET SELECT BOARD, MARCH 2011

Board Chair: Mike Beecher
 Board Vice Chair: Sue LaPorte
 Board Liaisons for Town Buildings: Sue LaPorte, Joe Clark
 Board Liaisons for Highways, Clarence Decker assisted by Joe Clark
 Board Liaisons for West Pawlet Wastewater Treatment Plant: Mike Beecher, Bob Jones
 Energy Coordinator: Gib Mach Fence Viewer: Platt Herrick
 Inspector of Coal, Wood, Shingles and Lumber: Tim Waite
 Liquor Control Board: Pawlet Select Board
 Pound Keeper, Large and Small Animals: David Ricard and Bill Humphries
 Rutland Regional Planning Commission (Commissioner and Representative): Eric Mach
 Sewer Commissioners: Pawlet Select board
 Solid Waste Alliance Communities Representative: Lenny Gibson
 Tax Collector: Judy Coolidge
 Town Attorney: John Thrasher
 Town Service Officer: Bob Schoenemann
 Weigher of Coal and Tree Warden: Tim Waite
 Zoning Administrator: Eric Mach

The Board has regretfully accepted Phyllis Mason's resignation as Clerk of the Board, with thanks for her years of service. The Board welcomes Karen Folger as its new clerk. The Pawlet Select Board meets at 7 PM every other Tuesday at the Town Hall. The public is encouraged to attend.

HELP HOMESCHOOLERS COMPETE IN ODYSSEY OF THE MIND WORLD FINAL

In March seven homeschoolers from Pawlet, Middletown Springs and Poultney won first place in Division II as the Hayes Foundation team in the statewide Odyssey of the Mind competition. The group is now invited to participate in the world final competition in Maryland. We must raise the necessary funds to participate! To help, please contact team coach Zohara Zarfati at 325-3679 or B1WithBrainGym@gmail.com.

Come to our benefit dog show and family fun day on Saturday, April 23, 11 AM to 3 PM, 1146 Danby-Pawlet Road in Pawlet. Classes, prizes, puppy social, demonstrations, food, face painting, pony rides, raffle. Proceeds will benefit the Hayes Foundation Odyssey of the Mind Team. For more information and entry form contact: www.clickforconfidence.com @ Windsong Hill, Inc (802) 325-2297.

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TOWN HALL MARKS 130TH BIRTHDAY WITH RESTORATION PROGRESS

The Town of Pawlet has been awarded a historic preservation grant from The Vermont Division for Historic Preservation for stabilizing and repairing the ceiling in the Town Hall auditorium. The \$15,000 award requires matching funds, which have been raised through the generosity of private donors. The Town would like to thank all donors who have made this important phase of the restoration project possible.

On April 20, Karen Folger, who successfully applied for this grant on behalf of Pawlet, and Sue LaPorte of the Pawlet Select Board attended the grant award ceremony at the State House in Montpelier. The Vermont Division for Historic Preservation noted, "As every organization is required to match dollar-for-dollar the



Pawlet Town Hall around 1950. Photo provided by J. Waite

*Happy 130th Birthday,
Pawlet Town Hall!
April 22, 1881 - April 22, 2011*



amount of their grant award, we believe your commitment to saving the historic resources of our state deserves recognition."

Construction of the Pawlet Town Hall began 130 years ago on April 22, 1881, and the building has housed the town offices continuously since then. The restoration project began in 2003 when the voters of Pawlet decided by a margin of 3:1 not to investigate construction of a new town office building. The overall restoration is now about 75 percent complete. Most recently the entire building was made ADA-compliant, with a handicap-accessible entrance on each floor, and a three-stop accessible full-service elevator. The cupola has also been fully restored.

The ceiling will be stabilized over the next few months. While the town has sufficient funds for this repair, additional monies are sought to infill the missing plaster areas. Ideally this work should be done while the scaffolding is in place for the ceiling repair. Please send tax-deductible donations payable to "Town of Pawlet Town Hall Restoration" to Judy Coolidge, Treasurer, Town of Pawlet, Pawlet VT 05761.

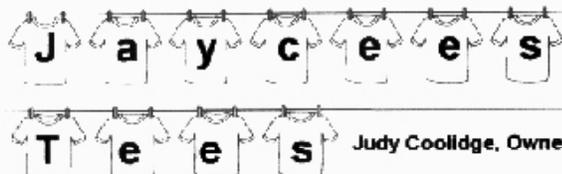
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CLUB 2011 PLANS FOR PAWLET'S 250TH CELEBRATION FOR AUGUST 26-28, 2011

In 2011 half of the towns in Rutland County will be celebrating their 250th birthdays. The Town of Pawlet was chartered on August 26, 1761. To honor that date we will be holding a big party throughout the weekend of August 26 - 28, 2011.

The celebration starts Friday with a fairy tale performance by the "infamous" Pawlet Players Group. Saturday will be a full day of activities: art show, craft demonstrations, activities for children at the library, a display of Pawlet treasures at the Town Hall, open house at the Mettowee Chapel and Masonic Hall, stamp cancellation at both post offices, display of antique vehicles and farm machinery at Edie Mach's field, ghost walks at Mettowee Cemetery, open house at Braintree School. At 1:30 PM one of our students will read the town charter, and Jim Cooke will portray Daniel Webster on the front porch of the Town Hall.

At 3 PM we will gather in West Pawlet for a parade through the village. We invite everyone to participate by marching, building a float, walking or riding an animal, or driving an antique vehicle. We have three bands lined up. After the parade there will be a barbecue prepared by Mark & Margaret McChesney followed by a street dance from 7 - 9 PM in front of the Town Hall featuring the music of Honky Tonk Express. Topping off this fun-filled day will be a huge fireworks display. The only charge will be for food.

On Sunday we are encouraging the local churches to participate with a "1761" worship service.

We ask residents and businesses to be thinking of ways to decorate your properties. Photographs of previous celebrations here show lots of flags and bunting, making for a very festive atmosphere.



Watch for a mailing soon with an application for participating in the various activities. We will also put together a souvenir program of the birthday weekend and are seeking businesses and patrons to help with the cost of putting it together.

Our group meets the second Monday of each month at 7 PM at the Town Hall. Please join us as we plan activities that will become part of Pawlet's history.

For more information or to offer help, please call Phyllis Mason at 325-3196 or Judy Coolidge at 325-3073.

Phyllis Mason & Judy Coolidge for Club 2011

Club 2011 seeks old photos: Do you have photos of Pawlet's 1961 Bicentennial Celebration? Club 2011 is making a display for the 250th celebration. Please loan us your old photos. Contact Judy Coolidge at 325-3073.

Mettawee Mania 2011, A Talent Extravaganza
to be aired on PEG-TV April 20, 9:00 AM and
April 23, 1:30 PM. Also now available at
www.pegtv.com under Channel 15 special events.



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METTAWEE COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWS *by Linda Maness*

Giant Map of Asia: Did you know that 384 Vermonts would fit inside China or that 60 percent of the world's population lives in Asia? These are some of the facts that Mettawee Community School (MCS) students learned during their National Geographic Giant Map of Asia experience on March 16-17. The Giant Asia map is one of several National Geographic giant maps that tour schools throughout the United States each year. The map measures 26' x 33' and was laid out on the floor of the school's multi-purpose room.

Fourth grade teacher Dawn Robertson said, "I thought the giant map of Asia was a fun, unique way for students to practice map skills. It was incredibly powerful to have a huge map of the island of Japan for students to stand around as we discussed the recent tragedy of the tsunami."

Technology: In 2010 MCS was very pleased to receive the following generous donations: \$10,000 from the Windham Foundation; \$3,000 from Ben & Jerry's and \$100 from Omya, Inc. These monies enabled the school to expand their 1:1 netbook initiative that had started when MCS was recognized as one of four pilot schools for the Vermont School Modernization Project. With the added support of the Windham Foundation as well as Ben and Jerry's and Omya and some federal grant funds, all fifth and sixth-graders now have a netbook for their own personalized learning. Principal Nancy Mark said, "By being able to equip each of the 58 fifth



Students in grades K-6 stand on the National Geographic Society's traveling giant map of Asia during its temporary installation at the school. Source: Stephen Schaub

and sixth grade students with a laptop, the school is providing equitable access to the world of information technology and supporting their pursuit of 21st century skills in their daily learning."

Sixth-Graders Break School Record on World Math Day: On March 1, World Math Day, students all over the world competed to solve math problems online. The global population of 1,180,272 participating students represented 32,513 schools from 191

- School news continued next page

From Nancy Mark, Principal, Mettawee Community School



Our school has been selected to participate in the 2011 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), known as the nation's report card. From NAEP we will be able to see how students in our state perform compared to students in other states and across the country. The reading and math assessments were given to fourth-graders on February 9.

Students are engaging in interactive, web-based foreign language instruction through the BRSU pilot of the software program, Rosetta Stone. Our plan is to give our students a choice of languages, including Spanish, Russian and others. The curriculum can be individualized according to each student's level of proficiency and pace and can be personalized to match student and classroom interest. With this pilot we will gain a sense of the variety of the languages and cultures offered and will broaden our opportunities for community building.

An analysis of our performance data both for the 2011 New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) as well as a review of our results over time show that Mettawee students have consistently exceeded the state averages in all areas tested. The tests were most recently administered in grades 3-6 throughout Vermont in fall of 2010.

Through the generosity of the Matt Waite Memorial Fund, we have purchased three Kindle e-book readers. The readers allow us to have multiple copies of a book for students, as well as a different reading experience. The reader can change the font size for bigger text and less overwhelming amount of text on screen; many book titles have a 'text-to-speech' feature where the book can be read aloud; a built-in dictionary can be accessed while reading to define words; and students can make notes on books they read and read other people's notes on a passage as well. We are very excited to take advantage of these e-readers with our students, and we thank Kelli Waite for her great idea and generosity.

Mettawee Community School News, continued

countries. Together they solved 428,598,214 math problems. Mettawee sixth-graders broke last year's school record for solving problems by solving 94,277 math problems correctly. The following day, World Spelling Day, the sixth-graders spelled 31,600 words correctly – and for a time during the contest, they held 10th place in the world for their spelling!

Odyssey of the Mind 2011: Four teams represented the Mettawee Community School at the 2011 Odyssey of the Mind state level competition held on March 19 at Champlain Valley Union High School. Odyssey of the Mind is an international creative problem-solving tournament focusing on team-building skills.

Coach Lindsay Scarboro, Mettawee's guidance counselor, worked with first and second-grade students, who were challenged to devise four original ideas that a character could invent or create to make money.

Coach Leslie Mazzucco, Mettawee parent and paraeducator, worked with third through fifth-grade students on the "Unhinged Structure" problem. Mazzucco said,

Phoebe McChesney has been appointed to the Union District #47 board to fill the position vacated by Henry Schauer. UD #47 is the union school district composed of the Pawlet and Rupert town school districts for resident pupils in grades K-6. It operates the Mettawee Community School (K-6).

METTAWEE COMMUNITY PTO

Kindle raffle: The PTO is running a 3G wireless Kindle (electronic reading device) raffle. The drawing will be held on May 5 (visiting author week) at the chili/mac n' cheese bake-off & tasting. Raffle tickets are 1 for \$1 or 6 for \$5. Tickets are on sale at the school. For more information, see the school's website www.mettaweeschool.org.

School activities: Girls on the Run, a national program, is in its sixth year at Mettawee. Coached by school nurse Mandy Mayer and music teacher Lisa Hoyt, girls in grades 3-5 meet twice a week for a variety of confidence-building activities and fitness training culminating in a 5K-run in May. Additionally, Girls on Track for girls in grades 6-8 is being led by MCS paraeducator Kelli Lewis and MCS parent Marcy Lopez.

The Hundred-Year Snooze was presented by the sixth grade on April 5 under the direction of teachers Patty Lea and Diane Mach, assisted by music teacher Lisa Hoyt and parent Susan Knapp-Wilson. A variety of student art created by students in grades K-6 was displayed at the Southern Vermont Art Center as part of the annual Art from the Schools Exhibit.

The whole school celebrated Read Across America Day on March 29 by reading "I Am America" by Charles R. Smith, Jr. Media Specialist/Librarian Kelly Ahlfeld and Reading Teacher Kim Donaldson gave media presentations related to the theme of the book.

"It was fun, a lot of hard work and time. I am very proud of the team."

Coach Eve Schaub, Mettawee parent, worked with a team consisting of fifth-graders and one fourth-grader. This team addressed the problem "Le Tour Guide."

Coach Heather Lund, Mettawee Special Educator and parent, coached a team of sixth-graders. Their problem was "Full Circle." Lund commented, "The Mettawee teams worked hard and put on great performances for their long-term projects!"

National Geography Contest: School-level champion Catherine Thrasher represented MCS at the Vermont State Championship of the National Geographic Society Geo Bee held at Middlebury College on April 1.

Pre-school screenings: Screenings will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 3-4, for students ages 3 and 4 years. Call the school at 645-9009 to schedule.

School website: For events, PTO news, photos and videos, lunch menus and K-6 classroom news please visit the school website at www.mettaweeschool.org.

With the onset of spring, a big thank-you goes out to all the coaches/volunteers who made the winter basketball season run smoothly and another huge thank you to the volunteers who drove students to the JISP and ice-skating programs; extra huge thanks to parents Wendy Chilkott (ice-skating) and Lars Lund (JISP) for heading up these programs. Many thanks to music teacher Lisa Hoyt and congratulations to all the band students (grades 4-6) taking part in the winter band concert on February 17.

The fourth grade continues to lead the school's Pennies for Peace effort, which teaches the rewards of sharing and collaborating to bring hope and educational opportunities to children in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Books and Beyond: By the end of March 124 students had completed a minimum of 3 reading stations and 82+ students have completed a minimum of 6 stations (the goal for March 25). Note that May 27 is the program's final date for submitting reading logs, in order to complete the 8 stations for the Books and Beyond program.

DVDs for sale: Mettawee Mania 2011 DVDs are on sale for \$15 per copy. To place an order, contact Linda Maness at lmaness@mettaweeschool.org or call the school at 645-9009. DVD copies of the all-school winter musical "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" can be purchased for \$6 per copy through the school. To order call 645-9009.

VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS



Jimmy Jo Lewis, Rupert Department, at the Woodchuck Festival

West Pawlet Fire Department: Recently the WPVFD helped support the Dutchie's Aid event after the tragic fire in West Pawlet (see story on page 1).

Since 2004 the WPVFD has hosted the winter Woodchuck Festival and Firemen's Games, a major community event. The festival includes a marketplace, food

served by the Ladies Auxiliary, and many activities for children. This year's outdoor activity was action-packed at the 8th annual festival. Seven fire department teams competed in the obstacle course. Dave Hosley, West Pawlet Chief, said; "The challenge reinforces the importance of teamwork. It's a day where the departments get together for fun and camaraderie."

The WPVFD thanks the Ladies Auxiliary, which has been raising money and working with the department for 41 years.

For more information contact Chief Dave Hosley at 645-0158.

Pawlet Fire Department: The PVFD will hold its annual Mother's Day Brunch on Sunday, May 8, from 8 AM - 12 PM at the fire house, 155 Rte. 133. Enjoy a full breakfast of eggs, pancakes, home fries, bacon, coffee, and juice, prepared and served by your local firefighters. All proceeds benefit the Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department.

The department has a new website, thanks to member Jon Weiss. For more information about the department, visit www.pawletfire.org or contact Chief Jim Andrus at 325-3714.

LETTER FROM PAWLETT HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESIDENT STEVE WILLIAMS

Our first program of 2011 was on April 14. Chris Hadsel, director of the Vermont Theater Curtain Project and Suki Fredericks, conservator, visited us to talk about the Town's recently restored theater curtain, which was on display in the Town Hall auditorium. On June 16, we plan our annual yard and bake sale at the Pawlet fire house – an opportunity for readers to find a good home for some of their excess treasures while at the same time acquiring some new ones, plus some of the fine products of town bakers.

In late August, the Society will support Pawlet's 250th anniversary celebration by repeating the popular ghost walks in the cemetery and offering programs at the Braintree School. Also planned are anniversary exhibits: materials from the Town's 200th anniversary

celebration in 1961 and the Town's celebration of the U.S. Bicentennial in 1976. On October 20 our program, sponsored by the Vermont Humanities Council, will feature a reenactment of Susan B. Anthony, one of the first and most successful women's rights campaigners, who had a Vermont connection.

Meanwhile we continue our stewardship of the North Pawlet and Braintree Schools and of the more than four thousand items in our growing collection.

On behalf of our Board of Trustees I wish to thank all those who so generously responded to the Society's last appeal letter. These donations mean much to fulfilling our objectives of maintaining Pawlet's history and presenting informative programs.

Steve Williams, President, PHS

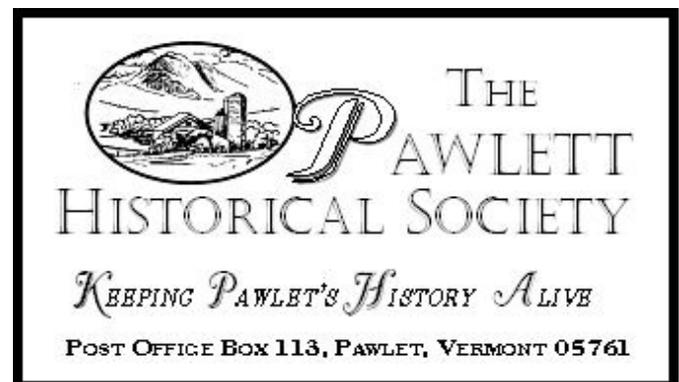


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PAWLET PUBLIC LIBRARY

April brings us out of hibernation. Here at the Library we are kicking off spring with many weekly activities:

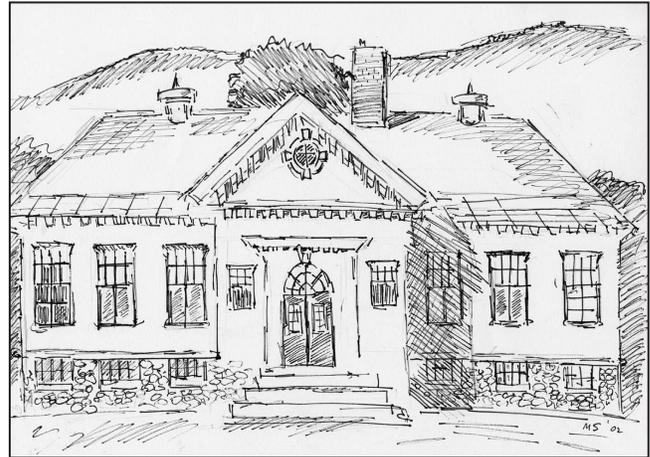
- Kids Kung Fu with Rich Marantz (645-1960), Saturday, 9:30 - 10:30 AM.
- Art classes with Heidi Hammell (645-9051), Monday afternoon.
- Chat and Craft, Thursday, 1:00 PM. Do you knit, crochet, quilt or sew? Join us to share projects and community. So far 20 squares have been sold to make a beautiful quilt that will be displayed at the August celebration of Pawlet's 250th anniversary of charter.
- Exercise, Monday & Friday, 9 - 10 AM.
- Yoga, Wednesday, 9 - 10 AM.
- Bone-builders program, Monday, 10:15 - 11:30 AM. and Thursday, 9 - 11:15 AM.
- Yoga with Carli Wolf (carliwolf@hotmail.com), Monday and Thursday, 5:30 PM.
- Great books discussion group with Errol & Anita Pomerance (325-3786), Wednesday, 7:30 PM.
- Tea reading group, every third Tuesday at 1 PM.

Join the Pawlet Public Library on Facebook for updates and watch for news in the local papers. For more details call us at 325-3123.

Thanks! *Beth Kashner, Pawlet Library Director*

Update on Pawlet 250th birthday quilt:

The Chat and Craft group is creating a town quilt, with the help of 20 community quilters who prepared 20 blocks to be arranged around the center appliqué of the town hall. The response to this project has been tremendous. The finished blocks have been delivered to the library to be assembled into the quilt, which will be displayed at the library and town hall.



Pawlet Library by Matt Solon

Calling volunteers for July 30 - 31 book sale:

The 44th Annual Pawlet Public Library Book Sale be held at Mettawee Community School. Volunteers are already classifying books, organizing food, baked goods and raffle prizes. Join in the fun of helping! The schedule for volunteer opportunities is:

April - July: sort books, solicit sponsors, organize raffle, manage publicity.

July 25 - July 31: set up at school, move books, help at sale, clean up after sale.

Food and community included! A potluck picnic for all the library sale volunteers, past and present, will be held at Emerald Lake State Park in August.

Volunteers come from Pawlet, North Pawlet, West Pawlet and neighboring towns in Vermont and New York. To volunteer or for information, call Dolores Luebke at 645-0109 or the Pawlet Public Library at 325-3123. Thank you, *Dolores Luebke, Chair*

STAY INFORMED - GET PAWLET ENEWS AND VISIT YOUR TOWN'S WEBSITE!

The editor of the Pawlet Newsletter is compiling an email group list to distribute updates on local events via email. To receive Pawlet eNews, contact Elizabeth Gibson at egib@vermontel.net.

Check out the new website for the Town of Pawlet at <http://pawlet.vt.gov/>.

Leave comments, suggestions, news and updates at the site or email egib@vermontel.net.

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PROFILE OF A PAWLET BUSINESS: MARLEE FARM ALPACAS

Pawlet resident Barry Meinerth became acquainted with alpacas in the late 1990s when he visited a farm near Northfield, Vermont. He was immediately struck by the alpacas' docile, playful nature and became interested in the prospect of raising them himself.

A few years later he purchased the Pawlet hilltop property that had previously been home to the Callen's alpacas, and today Marlee Farm Alpacas is a thriving enterprise that supports 94 alpacas, not to mention his very active flock of tumbler pigeons.

The farm offers three commodities: alpacas, alpaca products and stud services. The animals are sold at auction, and a small store on the farm carries yarn for knitting, weaving and crocheting; rove for spinning; and a variety of finished products, including hats, scarves, shawls and blankets.

Barry, who worked for decades at Time Warner, is a relative newcomer to running a farm. Originally he envisioned his retirement as having a small herd of perhaps ten alpacas, a large library, and "taking it easy."

Now he realizes he is running another business, and one that keeps him just as busy as his previous career. He continues to invest in his new enterprise and recently added a new vehicle barn with a hay loft and looks to develop new alpaca fiber products.

Even though the reality of farm life is different from what he had anticipated, Barry clearly enjoys his



Barry Meinerth and friends of Marlee Farm Alpacas. The farm perches on a hilltop off Rupert Mountain Road and slopes down to the Mettowee River.

"retirement" and the chance to realize his lifelong dream of working with animals. Speaking fondly of his alpacas, he says, "They've got these huge brown eyes and very inquisitive personalities."

Assisted by farm manager Jan Pressler, Barry makes time for the occasional trout fishing or ski expedition with family and friends. "It's a pretty nice life," he says. "I work hard, but I'm not punching a clock like I did at Time Warner all those years."

As for upcoming events, Barry notes that the farm's annual shearing day is scheduled for late May. "We're also preparing for two clinics we are hosting this summer, taught by Marty McGee Bennett who is an expert on alpaca dispositions and appropriate handling techniques."

Beyond that Barry will be busy making repairs after a pretty strenuous winter. Some roads and fences were damaged, and a tent was destroyed in the pasture along the river. Last – but definitely not least – "I'm turning in my skis for my fly rod!"

Marlee Farm Alpacas is located on Rupert Mountain Road in Pawlet. Visitors are welcome throughout the year. Please call 325-2668 to make an appointment for a tour of the farm. The farm store is open 9 AM – 5 PM every day, "sometimes on an honor system," Barry explains.

Editor's note: This is part of a series profiling local businesses. If you run a business in Pawlet and would like to have it featured in a future issue, please contact Elizabeth Gibson, newsletter editor, egib@vermontel.net or 325-3619.



Barry Meinerth

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Dutchies Aid event, continued from page 1

More than 100 donations poured in for the silent auction, and the four bake sale tables were loaded with more than 400 tempting items. A raffle was underway for a Telescope patio set and a swing set handmade by Mike Stock. Brown and the Stocks headed up the BBQ, which saw 300 pounds of chicken, a 120-pound pig and an additional 165 pounds of pork butts. The pig was donated by Brown Boar Farm of Wells and the other pork and chicken were sold at cost by Green Mountain Market Place of Whitehall, NY. Additional chicken was donated by DeAnna Mach and Mach's Brick Oven Wood Fired Pizza.

Other food and table donations of ice (Maplewood Ice of Whitehall, NY), ice cream (Wilcox Dairy, Manchester) and cheese (Consider Bardwell, Southwind and Maplebrook Farms), bread (Rupert Rising Bread, Rupert) and other beverage and grocery items (Capital Candy, Burlington) rounded out the meal.

Hadley created an event logo and Judy Coolidge donated her time to create tee-shirts that were sold all afternoon. Logo stickers were created by Bruce and Shannon. Stephen Schaub set up a donation link on his website www.pawletvermont.com and announced that \$1,885 had been received to date.

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

Pawlet Community Church
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 38 VT Rte 133, PO Box 116, Pawlet, VT 05761
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From Morning Flower Lodge #71, Free and Accepted Masons: We are happy to offer two \$500-scholarships to any senior in the Pawlet, Rupert area who has been accepted to a school for post-secondary education. Applications are available at the Pawlet Public Library and Pawlet Post Office. The deadline to apply is April 29, 2011. Please mail completed application to Robert Bryant, 3449 VT Rte 133, Pawlet, VT 05761. For more information contact Robert Bryant at 325-3172.

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR CHAPEL

Cemetery Hill Road chapel, a landmark of our town available to all, is receiving much-needed renovations. Please contribute skills or tax-deductible funds payable to the Mettowee Valley and Northeast Cemetery Association. Mail checks to Charles Mason, Treasurer, Mettowee Valley and Northeast Cemetery Association, 458 Maple Grove, Pawlet, VT 05761. For information, call Myron Waite at 325-3052. Thank you!
Mettowee Valley and Northeast Cemetery Association



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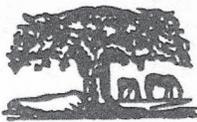
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EVENTS FOR LOCAL AREA "HAYSTACK HUSTLER" SENIORS

The Haystack Hustler Seniors are into their spring schedule — a great time to join them for their monthly pot luck lunches at the Pawlet Church (second Tuesday, noon) and monthly lunches at the Mettawee Community School.

All area seniors are invited to come for their next lunch at noon on Tuesday, April 26 at the Mettawee School. The suggested cost of this meal is \$3.50. Please make reservations by calling Phyllis before April 20

at 325-3196. We never know what the students have in store for us for the program, but it is always wonderful to interact with the students and faculty. The meals are prepared by the hot lunch cooks and are always nutritious and delicious. We also collect food for the Pawlet Food Pantry and hold a 50/50 raffle.

Watch also for other special activities and trips. For more information contact Phyllis Mason at 325-3196 or Elaine Decker at 325-3121.

PAWLET FOOD PANTRY THANKS JACKIE PERRY by Ginny Daring

The Pawlet Food Pantry would like to let the town know of an "angel" in our midst. For many years Jackie Perry has spent hours and money in gas every month shopping for food for our food pantry.

Jackie has found the best buys all over southern Vermont, which she has used to stock our shelves and make sure that the food pantry always has not only enough food, but the right mix of healthy food for our recipients. She has secured free bread from Stewarts, items from the dollar stores, and even saved up goodies to fill stockings at Christmas.

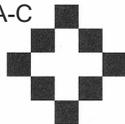
Many times we have arrived to open the pantry and found the bags already filled and waiting, making the early morning waiting line much more efficient. On top of this, she carefully saves all receipts and

turns them in to Tim Bryant, treasurer of the Pawlet Church, who handles all financial transactions for the food pantry. Tim is amazed at how much she can purchase with the money he furnishes her.

Jackie, all of us at the food pantry thank you! We are so grateful for your loving care. The Pawlet Food Pantry could not exist as it does without you.

The Pawlet Food Pantry serves residents of Pawlet, West Pawlet and Wells. The food pantry appreciates donations of non-perishable food items. Collection boxes are located at the Pawlet post office and the library. The food pantry is open for pickups on the fourth Friday of each month, 9 - 11 AM at the red barn behind the parsonage on Route 30 in Pawlet Village. Thanks for supporting the Pawlet Food Pantry.

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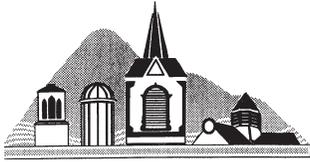
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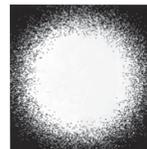
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Town of Pawlet Newsletter, PO Box 128, Pawlet, VT 05761.

Deadline for ads & news for the summer issue: June 1, 2011.

Ads: Business Card \$25 (4 issues, 25% discount: \$75); Double Business Card \$50 (4 issues, 25% discount: \$150)

Ads to Barry Schoenwetter, 561 North Pawlet Rd, 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.